

# 'Kroniken'

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## Rosa Christensen given 'The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award'

Rosa Christensen has just been notified that she has been given the 'Governor General's Caring Canadian Award' - in recognition of her years of social ministry to the sick and elderly in the Danish community, in and around Montreal.

When Rosa learns that someone is sick and without anyone to care for him or her, she is the first person to visit - with food. And to help with washing clothes and dishes and, if necessary, to arrange for other parishioners to help out. But above all, to convey that the person in question is loved and important.

Also, her home is regularly the scene of elderly peoples' birthday celebrations; or lunches for lonely parishioners, visiting or brought home after church service; or a place to simply talk things over - over a cup of coffee. - Says her minister at St. Ansgar Church, Pastor King-Kabu: "Rosa is an open minded individual, who receives anyone with open arms."

Around Christmas time Rosa prepares numerous "care boxes" with assortments of her Danish 'småkager', maybe some homemade 'sylte', or liver paté and 'rødbeder' or 'asier', to give to seniors who can



no longer make these 'Christmas related essentials' themselves. - To brighten their lives!

On the third Wednesday of each month Rosa prepares and - with helpers - serves a three course dinner with wine, coffee and cake for 25 - 30 seniors at Beck Hall. It is a highly popular event and an opportunity for older members of the parish to get together. (In some cases possibly their only social event on the calendar.) Rosa prepares the food and provides the wine. The charge per person is a mere \$ 5.-, and the

accumulated funds are subsequently saved - to pay for a summer outing to the Kitzbuhl (Swiss) restaurant on L'Île Perrot - at no charge for the seniors! Another of her personal projects to care for the elderly.

Without fanfare, Rosa is also the heart and soul in organizing a number of fundraising activities for the Church in the course of the year, including, first and foremost, St. Ansgar's Christmas Bazaar - which nets a very substantial amount of money in just one day. It's an exceedingly popular event - and crowded - as people of Nordic background come to stock up of Danish food specialties and shop for Xmas presents and Xmas decorations, etc. - and enjoy Danish Smørrebrød (open faced sandwiches) with beverages and desserts.

The event is backed by lots of volunteers, who simply come "to help Rosa". And most of the articles for sale, knitted or sewn by members of the congregation, have been collected by Rosa in the course of the preceding twelve months, or made by herself, including popular food items such as large glasses of 'Asier' (Danish pickles) and 'Rødbeder' (pickled beet roots), preserved in her backyard during the summer. Or 'Sylte' (head cheese) or homemade 'Rullepølse' (Danish spiced sausage).

Other fundraisers include a "Parcel Auction", rummage sales, choir performances, card evenings and a 'Spring Luncheon' for 60 - 70 people. - Rosa prefers to stay in the background. For many years she was treasurer of the 'Ladies Aid of St. Ansgar Lutheran Church', but never headed it. Her inspiration and drive permeates it, though.

Rosa keeps tap of people's anniversaries and round birthdays and when needed arranges celebrations for them. - On Christmas Day, 2006, she drove 700 km back to Montreal to prepare for the 100-year celebration of a parishioner, Mrs. Ellen Brodahl (who would not have been able to make any arrangements on her own). The event was attended by numerous guests - and congratulations were received from the Queen, the Governor General and Quebec's Lieutenant Governor.

When someone needs friendly advice, Rosa is always available. She will listen to a person's problems. And, as the peacemaker she is, she will help straighten out differences between parties. - But if someone praises her efforts in one context or other, her standard response is: "Oh, that was nothing special."

Seemingly always in good spirits, and positive, Rosa is a friend of those in need of attention - and spreads sunshine around her. She unquestionably loves to make other people happy!

The actual presentation of the *Governor General's Caring Canadian Award* will take place at a not yet fixed date this spring.

**Congratulations, Rosa !!!!!!!**

## Så gik ....

Our Christmas Luncheon on December 12 was attended by about 75 members and guests - and was a great opportunity to meet friends, not seen for ages. Rosa received our appreciation for her wonderful Smørrebrød. And thanks to Ole Larsen there was still Akvavit (in these snaps-deprived-days) on the table. - No Xmas carols were sung but our President entertained with several Xmas related stories - and we *did* get around to sing 'Højt på en gren en krage sad', part of our Club's age-honoured Xmas tradition.

The lovely poinsettias on the tables were compliments of Peter Nissen of Dutch Greenhouses. Many thanks, Peter!

Our January Luncheon, on Wednesday the 9th, drew 25 members and guests (including Ole Larsen who, by the way, again expressed his intention to join DDK). A small crowd, but a jolly and cosy meeting. - The lovely flowers in vases on the tables were donated by Little Denmark Florists. Thanks, Leif !

Our February Luncheon Meeting, on Wednesday the 13th, was 'still in the future' at the time of writing - but it is our Valentine's Luncheon and it will also feature a short film, the Oscar award winning "The Danish Poet", by Toril Kove (who lives in Montreal - and will be present at the Luncheon). The narrator is Liv Ulmann.

## Og hvad så ? .....

In March our Luncheon Meeting will be on Wednesday, the 12th. It's still winter, so a glass of Akvavit and some delicious Smørrebrød will do wonders for your spirit.

And on March 6, the Montreal International Arts Film Festival starts - which features three Danish submissions (see details elsewhere).

In April, the date for our Luncheon Meeting is Wednesday the 9th. Old man winter is on his way out of the door and we can celebrate SPRING once again - with Smørrebrød, snaps, beer, coffee and real Danish Wienerbrød.

We should also be announcing the soccer schedule for the summer - with first match - and picnic lunch - towards the end of May.