

The Toolb

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Jukka Kettunen (Finland)



Juan Suarez (Bolivia), Fred Botti (Brazil), Sergio Alvarez (Bolivia)

International Day helps celebrate ethnic background

The Schenectady City School District is rich in diversity. There are over 29 different languages spoken by students within the district. With this in mind, an International Day seems appropriate to help students celebrate their ethnic backgrounds. To add extra flare, Rotary Exchange Students from District 7190 spent the day at Mont Pleasant Middle School on May 25th. During the day, 11 of the Rotary Exchange students traveled from room to room telling middle school students about their home country as well as their experiences this school year in the United States. Despite a very hectic schedule of class presentations, the energy of this group of Rotary Exchange students was endless as they spent time after school preparing foods from their native land to serve later that evening during the International Night activities. The students prepared rice and beans, crepes, sushi, bread from Finland and Quiche. Rotary students participated in the parade of international flags along with middle school students who carried flags representing the countries. It was a very successful day, with Juan of Bolivia making the front page of the Regional Section of the Daily Gazette. Special thanks to Blair Hartman for helping organize the students' involvement. Dodi Cechnicki, Sharon Springs Rotarian, former 1973 Exchange student to Sapporo, Japan and current Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Mont Pleasant arranged for the exchange students to spend the day at MPMS.



Hanna Jaeschke (Germany)



Natalia Rachid (Brazil)

After school break time and food preparation.



SERVICE Above Self

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CLUB NEWS

Circus in Granville

On July 18th the Granville R.C. is sponsoring the Kelly Miller Circus to a one day appearance at the Carnival Grounds on Potter Avenue in Granville where there will be shows at 4.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$9.00 for an adult and \$5.00 for a child; on day of show these will be increased to \$12.00 and \$6.00 respectively. For tickets or further information please call Steve Williams of the Granville R.C. at 802 645 9529.

Menands

Twenty-five happy boaters completed the safe boating course offered by Menands Rotary on May 20. The course was the NYS Parks and Recreation course so it gave the boaters a discount on their insurance as well as learning some tips. The course was \$30 unless a family or group and then discounted to \$25. The Ft Orange District Boy Scouts sold lunch donated by SUBWAY of Menands. Peter Mason was assisted by Peter Aiossa presenting the class held at the Menands Firehouse. A great community event.

Salem

The Salem Rotary Club has senioritis—that is the Salem Central School senior Class of 2006.

For over thirty years the Salem Rotary Club has honored the graduating class by hosting them at a dinner in the month of June. Each year the club president presents the philosophy of Rotary, especially service to one's community and the Four Way Test in dealing with people. A motivational keynote speaker is invited to address the students, specifically about what students will find when entering the adult world of work, military service, or continuing education. Furthermore, as part of their senior year, seniors have had the opportunity to experience a student relationship with a foreign student exchange student.

Salem Central and the Salem Rotary Club have supported District 7190 International Exchange program for the past 38 years, and this year is no different since one Salem student is completing her year in Belgium and a student from France is completing her school year as a member of the Salem Class of 2006.

The Senior Class dinner is always a highlight of the year for the club members who prepare dinner for the students. What better way to let the seniors know that Rotary appreciates their potential as citizens and that Rotary is an international organization awaiting open to them.

Schenectady

The Schenectady Rotary Club has adopted a portion of I-890 and does a "Clean Up" in place of a Rotary meeting at least twice a year. The Club has been doing this project for many years and began as a result of Rotarian Brian Merriam taking on the project to make the entrance into downtown Schenectady more pleasing to motorists traveling to Schenectady. It has made a significant difference in the appearance to the entry of Broadway from travelers coming off the New York State Thruway to parts of our city. This particular day (Thursday, May 25, 2006) we had 27 workers out on the highway doing a "clean up".

The Paul Harris Dinner was the brainchild of Scott Russell, The Schenectady Rotary Club Treasurer. We had many Rotarians very close to completing their donation toward their \$1,000.00 to become a PHF. Scott felt that it was such an unusual amount of our members that he encouraged each to complete their donations and planned a special dinner meeting to have the PHF Award bestowed on them. It was a wonderful evening attended by our members and their families and by Anne Cargille and her husband, Dee Pangburn and her husband, Lon and Helen Penna. A very special evening for: Richard (Dick) Blackmer, Vladia Boniewski, Fred Lee, Scott Russell, Barbara Strife and President Rowie Taylor. Wayne Brule was unable to attend due to a death in the family. We look forward to reenacting this ceremony many times in the future.



Every
Rotarian
Every
Year



May 25, 2006
Busy day for Schenectady Rotary
Chuck, Ralph and other 'convicts'
clean up I-890
Seven members become newest
Paul Harris Fellows at terrific
Stockade Inn dinner meeting



Rhawn Taylor

Scott Russell



Vladia Boniewski

Fred Lee



Dick Blackmer

Barbara Strife

Wayne Brule (missing)



Every
Rotarian
Every
Year

...with a lot more potential than when I came

Lest there ever be any doubt about the worth of the Youth Exchange program...read on...

*Lea is sponsored by the Colonie-Guilderland club.
Blair Hartman*

May 2006

Hello Hello Hello! Well, to me it seems just like yesterday when I was sitting down at this very same computer to write my very first report. Time has passed by so much, and it makes me sad just to know that I will be leaving this wonderful country in 39 days. Wow, I remembered when I first wanted to go home and I cried about a month every night asking God to just let me give in and go home. But to my surprise here I am... almost 9 months later.

It is funny because so many different things have changed with me - mentally and physically. When I arrived I was 17 and now I am 18 years old. A young woman basically, with a lot more potential than when I came. I have now grown into a totally different person. If this exchange was to make me a different, smarter, stronger and a more stable person... I DID IT!!!!!! I mean wow. I am so happy that I am different and that other people see the difference in me. It was really someone in Brazil who made me open my eyes to this. My host parents told me when I arrived I was basically TERRIBLE!!! But now, I am GREAT! Which is what makes me so happy. When someone really enjoys being around you and just talking and sharing a good conversation. Another thing that has changed is I lost some pounds!!! Wow!!! I thought they said this was impossible.

I know my mom and all my friends are patiently waiting for me to come home. It isn't that I don't want to, its just that my heart will be broken. I am such a sensitive person. But I am glad yet and still I am GROWING!!!! It really feels nice to grow. Many of my friends have gone home already and my other friend leaves in 9 days. I ask her about every day how does it feel. She always gives me the same answer..Weird. I truly agree with her. If it were my last 9 days, I would already be crying!!!! Well, that's life.

I went and visited my friends house last week and went to a motofest. And then this week my other friend came and stayed at my house. She is here right now and will leave on Mothers Days. My friend and I made a peach cobbler with the help of my mother from United States. I called her and she told me exactly what to do! It turned out great, and

Keep it fun; keep it moving; Interact!

Interact meetings need not be a group of pensive youth sitting around a table in a brainstorming session. It is better to take advantage of the resources and conditions around you or your meeting place. A good example of this is the last meeting of one of our more lively Interact groups in the District. The bright early evening sun was starting to spread long shadows and one of the Interactors just happened to have one of those flying disks that are so ubiquitous since my generation was young. The Interact meeting was a combination of community service planning, environmental observations, nominating committee and a bit of throwing class for those of us who have a generational handicap. Keep it fun; keep it moving; Interact!

According to Webster's, "inter-act (in'ter akt') vi. to act on one another; act reciprocally" When it's capitalized the word takes on a new meaning to the family of Rotary everywhere. Derived from the contraction of "International Action" it's the program for service minded youth aged 13 to 18. To others it is a highly rewarding community service project that keeps you young at heart. Now is the time to start planning your Rotary Club's endeavor for an Interact club starting up with the next school year.

For those of you that are fortunate to have an Interact club already, now is the time to complete the 'Incoming Interact Officer Data Form' which can be downloaded from Interact pages of the R I web site. When you mail it in to R I as instructed on the form, please send a copy to Eric Hamilton, Dist 7190 Interact Coordinator, P O Box 41, Clifton Park, N Y 12065."

Eric J. Hamilton

my other mother Vera loved it!! It was such a great feeling to do something for someone else! And she never had it before so it made things even better.

This Sunday is mother's day...and well, it should be nice. I am trying to live the rest of my days here in Brazil the best I can. They are the last ones I will have for a while...

THE GREATEST GIFT IN LIFE IS TO LOVE AND TO BE LOVED!!!!!!!!!!

MY LIFE HAS FILLED THIS PART!!!

Lea Misty Brice
District 4480
Rua Pelotas, 191
Ilha Solteira, Sao Paulo
Brazil 15-385-000



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SERVICE Above Self



“Lon and Helen Penna and Garry Morrow (left to right) work on squares for a Peace Quilt at the Champlain Canal Rotary meeting. The quilt will be donated to one of the villages in Pakistan.”

Wilkinson is choice for RI president in 2007-08

Wilfrid J. Wilkinson, of the Rotary Club of Trenton, Ontario, Canada, assumed the role of president-nominee on 3 January. He was the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International in 2007-08 that convened at RI World Headquarters on 5 December 2005. Wilkinson was a founding partner of Wilkinson & Company, Chartered Accountants. Since retiring in 2001, he has served as executive director of the Quinte Ballet School of Canada and Canadian coordinator for the National Association of Forensic Accountants.

A Rotarian since 1962, Wilkinson is currently a PolioPlus National Advocacy Adviser and a member at large of the PolioPlus Partners Task Force. Previously, he has served RI as district governor, International Assembly group discussion leader, consultative group member, committee member and chair, task force member, Foundation trustee, director, and vice president. Most recently, he was chair of the 2005 Chicago Convention Committee and vice chair of RI's Afghan refugee relief project.

The nominating committee members are Abraham Gordon, USA (chair); Edgar C. Hatcher Jr., USA (secretary); Gustaaf A. Annokkee, The Netherlands; Jacques Berthet, France; John T. Blount, USA; Anthony L. Brockington, USA; Hee-Byung Chae, Korea; Gustavo A. De Obaldia, Panama; Edgar D. Gifford, USA; Gerson Goncalves, Brazil; Rafael G. Hechanova, Philippines; Shizuo Imai, Japan; Masahiro Masa Kuroda, Japan; Jorma Lamp, Finland; David D. Morgan, Wales; Carl S. Rosenbaum, USA; and O.P. Vaish, India.

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Below is a note we received from Kim Comrie. Kim is the son of Ruben Comrie, long time member of Sharon Rotary.

Ruben Comrie

Kim had requested that someone from Rotary, District level speak at his father Ruben 'Rube' Comrie's wake. Bob Comins filled that request, in addition to a full showing of the Sharon Rotary Club. The Rotary Service was the only 'service' which took place for Ruben. Ruben was a long time member of Sharon Rotary, a life-long resident of Sharon Springs and SSCS alumni. Our brother Rube passed away April 2006.

Although Rube had been unable to be an active member for a few years due to health issues, Rotary remained very much a part of his life. In June 2005, Ruben was honored by the Sharon Rotary Club for his commitment and many years of service to Rotary, and his community.

The note below, from Rube's son Kim was truly one that conveyed what Rotary meant to Ruben and it is clear in Kim's word that he too has been touched by the Rotary way. Kim has granted permission to have this note printed in the Toolbox or other Rotary press items.—Pam Tichy

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the Sharon Springs Rotary for their kind and thoughtful expressions of respect for my father Reuben "Rube" Comrie.

It is not often that a community is lucky enough to have a group of individuals who band together to work for its betterment, without seeking personal or even group glorification.

I recall with great fondness a dinner and award ceremony hosted by Rotary at the Belvedere when I was a member of the Junior High Baseball Team, which had an undefeated season. There was no school or county award for this achievement. Rotary stepped up to the plate (no pun intended) and had the team as guests for dinner and presented each member with an award and the team a trophy.

I also recall being drafted for service for the Christmas cache. Avery DeLuca, Harold Dingman, Edgar Handy, Dr. Stein and many other Rotarians, whose names are lost to me in the fog of time, were always there and suffered the cold but enjoyed the camaraderie of the event.

I could go on citing many instances of service provided by Rotary (exchange students, little league fields, etc.). Suffice it to say that Rotary members have been and are examples of what a good citizen should be.

It has often been said that if you need something done, find a busy person to do it. I say find a Rotarian!

With my utmost respect and best wishes for your continued success, I remain
Kim Comrie

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