

WEEKLY MEETING AGENDA

March 3 2021– (Zoom 39)

ZOOMING: Charlotta Palm, Hugh Graham, Ann Harrison, Pat Duncan, Mike Taylor, Andy Glavac, Paul Allen, David Schulz. Bob Eamer, Heather Scott. Kevin Vallier, Paul Snack, Lance Wiebe, Mel Groom, Keith McConkey, Meghan McNaughton and Declan, Frank Adamson, Annie Holtby, John Cappa, Gail Levay. Leo/Cookie (Cameo Appearance)

1. **Open meeting:** – Welcome everyone – Charlotta Palm is here with us today all the way from Finland to be our presenter, our Youth Exchange student from 2014-15.

2. **Land Acknowledgement: Pat**

We begin this gathering by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit people and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. **Toast: Kevin**

To the Queen and Canada, To the Office of the President of United States, and To the President of Rotary International

4. **4-WAY TEST: Paul A.**

Of the things we think say or do
 Is it the truth?
 Is it fair to all concerned?
 Will it build good will and better friendships?
 Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

5. **Invocation: Pat**

Covid Poem

When this is over, may we never again take for granted	
A handshake with a stranger	Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors	A crowded theatre
Friday night out	The taste of communion
A routine checkup	The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend	The stadium roaring
Each deep breath	A boring Tuesday

Life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be we were called to be we hoped to be and may we stay that way— better for each other because of the worst. – Laura Kelley Fanucci

6. **President's Report/Correspondence/Announcements:**

- Hugh 'went' to a Virtual Bingo. There were a dozen or so players so numbers weren't what were hoped. It would take planning.
- Hugh sent greetings to the Niagara Falls Noon club on the occasion of their 100th birthday March 1. Their president was appreciative of the gesture.
- We heard from Solar Lights Project. Due to the circumstances on the other side of the world, they won't be able to do the Global Grant. Our donation is still appreciated. Hugh will forward their letter to the club.
- John spoke to the Great Lakes Watershed. Its cleanup will be the week of April 17. John asks that we think of participating as part of a team, recruit friends and family or if you'd like, lead a team. Port Colborne where there is no Rotary Club is where Frank would like us to participate. Paul S said there were 450 members in Pelham re Steve Bauer Trail – maybe we can have them join us. John –Yes! Ask them! We've let the parks, etc., in PC know and people are signing up at that end. Rotaract is involved. Dave said there's a wetlands survey out there –maybe a partnership there.
- Welcome Gail!!!!
- Arches – We have an opportunity for a Canadian community Grant. We have applied with Town and Teresa's help and will know by April 30th.
- Nicola Fyfe, host mother for Charlotta for three months, has joined us. Welcome Nicola.

7. **Speaker: Charlotta Palm – former Youth Exchange Student from Finland**

Introduction: Mike

For those here long enough, and for those who came after, Mike said it was great to introduce Charlotta Palm who was our Youth exchange student from Finland in 2014-15. She was the first YE student that Mike, Nancie and Eli hosted and Charlotta was not only a wonderful addition but also helpful to Mike in his first year as Youth Exchange Chair. They've stayed in touch over the years and he's happy to introduce her as today's speaker.

Charlotta's Presentation

Charlotta updated us as to where she is right now. Her first picture was of all the inbound students during her year here - 2014-15. She was 16 then and is 23 now. The year following YE, she spent the rest of her high school year, 2015-16 and 'graduated' in 2017 when she wrote the Finnish National exam, She studied Finnish, Swedish, German and English languages and had to apply to next school. She did lots of work to get into law school and was accepted into the 5 year law programme in Law School in Helsinki. She's been visiting her parents in Turku with Covid – about an hour from Helsinki. She has completed her 4th year. 3 years brings a Bachelor of Law and another 2 years brings a Master of Law. You can be flexible but are expected to finish within 6 years max.

Question: What are the medals you're wearing? Nordic week is celebrated in all the Scandinavian countries. You can participate in theme weeks and you get a medal for that participation, for visiting other places too. It's a fun thing and you wear the medals for fancy things. I work in the new Library right now and miss the view from the original Library right now. Here are some pictures of the centre of Helsinki. The Church is in the middle and the University buildings surround it. Many are from the early 1900s. South is Estonia. Charlotta showed us where her studio apartment is in relationship to the centre – it's a 15 minute walk to the University. She's happy she found an apartment downtown. In 2017 she came to Helsinki

Rotary Rotary Opens Opportunities

University, in 2018, she became a member of the Board at Abo Nation and Head of Events @ Codex, in 2019 she became a board member of Codex, in 2020 she was back with her thesis for Master Studies at Hankin School of Economics – a little different from Law – more practical – she'll take it on AFTER degree, in 2021 she started her Master's studies and joined the Female Academic Voice Choir, associated with the University of Helsinki.

In 2019, she realized she'd found her friends for life.

Her pre Bachelor Thesis: Sexual Violence & Consultative Law – Victims' Rights to Compensation

Her Bachelor Thesis: Evaluation of Evidences in Case of Sexual Violence

Specialised Studies: Gender and Law, Forensic Psychology, European Health Law, Covid19 & Domestic Violence

Her Master's Thesis for 2023: Legal Psychological Special Program @ Abo Academe in parents' town.

Her Female Academic Voice Choir started in 1946. It has a long tradition at Helsinki University. They've done Christmas concerts, a project on Climate Change. The choir practices on ZOOM right now – all are muted with the conductor at the piano.

The celebration of Finland's Lucia in the picture was performed at an annual ball and in 2018 was performed for the President of Finland.

Charlotta share a picture of a friend in Italy who she met on YE when she went on the US trip at the end of their year. Difficult to keep in touch but great to connect.

Some of the last photos were of Charlotta playing soccer. She wanted to share her life now with us.

Question: Frank. Did you participate in Rotary after YE? Charlotta had done her presentation to home club but then moved to Helsinki and hadn't connected because of University demands at this point.

John. What stands out about Canada for you? Comparing our social standards, Fins tend to be a quiet people. I admire the warmth of Canadians and felt very welcome. At school, Canada has lots of extra-curricular activities that you don't find in Finland.

Mike. When Charlotta was here, she played soccer, was on the honour role, very active. One of her teachers at EL Crossley took the English class to task saying that 'the Finnish student is kicking your ass in English!'

Thank You. Hugh Charlotta, you know where you are going and you'll be successful. You are welcome anytime at our Fonthill Rotary Club. Nicola told Charlotta that she missed her and that it was nice to hear how she was doing. Nicola and Craig Fyfe (past Rotarian) were YE hosts for Charlotta. Hugh concluded with our thanks in form of donation to the Pelham Library system in Charlotta's name.

8. Birthdays: None

Rotary Anniversaries: Frank (Feb 01/91); John J. (Feb 09/10)

9. Happy Loonies: Hugh

Mike had his first Covid Vaccine yesterday with a 15 minute debrief so we'd watch that there were no adverse effects. He received 'My First shot pen' that had a little Made in China label in the corner.

Andy. Great to see sunshine and great to meet this YE student and add to my contacts!

Bob. We had our largest number of participants today so you should be proud Charlotta. I've also secured a cottage to house grandkids, etc., at end of August so looking forward to that.

Rotary



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Annie. Thanks Charlotta. Really great to hear of your life since here! My mom turned 97 today.
Kevin. Charlotta, if my two 13 year old twins show the same happy, positive attitude you have, I'll be very happy.

Paul S. We had a cabinet shuffle and John Cappa joined our pod. Last week I sold my last house at the Davis site.

Lance. Great to see Charlotta! Silver lining of Covid 19. I'm happy because last week we welcomed Maverick Jones, our second grandson.

Mel. So nice to see Charlotta. Keep up studies and having fun! My son Colin is changing careers. He's headed to Paramedic College over in Stoney Creek.

Ann. Thanks Charlotta for the tour of Finland. Happy to hear Gail and see Pat!

Frank. Charlotta, wonderful to see you! On the university note, my son in law, neuroscientist, has received tenure at his University in Idaho and my daughter will follow suit in two years.

Dave. Charlotta, thanks for joining us. Great to see people travel the world. This week I'm grateful to be training in the dojo, martial arts. You do get a sense of how different things of your life give you balance

Pat. Great to see you again, Charlotta. I recognize Helsinki from your presentation from MY personal trip. Happy my own family remains healthy.

John. Charlotta, great presentation. You have a great path. Good luck! Happy that we're going to see our daughter again.

Gail. Charlotta, Congratulations. I have lots of pictures of you in our archives. Best to you and family. Everyone, see you next week and stay well.

Keith. Charlotta, you give me hope that my young daughter can do this. I'm also happy that I had the opportunity to set the alarm for the gym this morning.

Meghan. Charlotta, I was a past YE student. I hope to get to Helsinki one day. Sad Loonie – YE was put on hold another year. With vaccine, hopefully it will return the following year.

Heather, Thanks Charlotta, I feel I know you. I went to Sweden on an Adult Exchange with Rotary.

Paul A. The choir may be singing to you one day, Charlotta (President Charlotta Palm)

Hugh. Kwik Fit again; massage booked, haircut Friday.

Reminder: No meeting the week of the District Conference. Week of March 15th.

10. Action items: