

THE STANDARD

January 13, 2017

President:
Harold Aitkenhead

Editor:
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Reporter:
Harry Kim

FOUR WAY TEST

In all things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH ?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

JOHN F. GERM
2016-17 President
Rotary International



**ROTARY SERVING
HUMANITY**

Rotary

In the beginning:

Finally, some relief from the cold and nasty weather that has been plaguing our city for quite awhile. I can't remember, the last time we had the chinook winds roll in. This time last year, the average temperature was hovering around -2 degrees Celsius. This year, -20!!!

Nice to see Jim Sawers, our incoming President, filling in for our absent club President, Harold Aitkenhead. It took a couple of taps on the bell, but Jim as usual, took charge and reined in the boisterous crowd and queued up Peter Harding to lead us in the singing of O' Canada, followed by the Rotary grace from Max Patel.

A simple job for Doug Kinley as there were no visiting Rotarians or guests other than our guest speaker, Sophia Larsen Rosner & our past YEX student.

Our YEX student, Claire Hung, was picked to be the plate polisher and as a bonus, all the people at her table got to eat first.

Guest Speaker: Sophia Larsen Rosner

Brad Wellicome introduced our guest speaker, Sophia Larsen-Rosner. Sophia was our outbound student 2015/16 Rotary year. She was done with the mundane life in Canada and High School, and ready for a brand-new adventure. Sophia is currently in her first year, University of Calgary, studying International Relations. She returned from her year in Taiwan last July and is here to share her experiences with us.

Sophia started her presentation thanking our Rotary Club for inviting her today. Taiwan is a very small island off the southeast coast of China and has a population of about 23.5 million people. While there, she lived in a rural area called Yilan County.

Sophia applied twice for the Rotary YEX program. The first time was in grade 10 when a member from the Downtown club came to speak at her school. As soon as she heard about this program,

Rotary
Club of Calgary Heritage Park



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Our meeting.

she knew this was something she really wanted to do so she applied right away. She told her parents that this is a real amazing program sponsored by the Rotary International, to study abroad, and learn a new language. When she arrived at the interview with her parents, and was told it was a year long exchange, her parents just blurted out W-H-A-T??? Obviously, both Sophia and her parents were not ready to be apart for a whole year. Sophia admitted that she should have told her parents a bit more about the program before the interview. In her grade 12 year, she applied again and was accepted to live in Taiwan for a year and to learn mandarin Chinese language. When she arrived in Taiwan, she was very excited and at the same time very terrified, but she was ready to take on the challenge this time. In her own words, "I had an awesome welcome at the airport, with strangers that soon will become my family." For the first few days, I



could only speak very basic Chinese and my host family didn't speak English whatsoever. There was a bit of learning curve at first and Sophia became very good at charades.

Asia was quite challenging, in terms of food, culture, different alphabets, new names, and because of those challenges, it was so much more rewarding. Sophia felt that she grew so much from her year abroad. Learned a lot about Buddhism through her host uncle, who was very knowledgeable about its practices and teachings.

Sophia found that learning Mandarin Chinese is very challenging and difficult to learn as compared to the English language. She stayed with her first host family for 7 out of 10 months there, which is relatively a long time for an exchange student to stay with one family. However, she ended up bonding with them and they really became her extended

family to this day.

During her stay at her 2nd host family, her (real) mom sent over an artificial Christmas tree. We decorated the tree and was a good opportunity to share my culture with them. According to Sophia, the biggest part about the exchange program is not a place to go but the people you meet and the experiences you share and bonding with them.

With 2 other exchange students, Sophia started a culture class, which ran twice a week for a duration of one hour. This is a class to talk about home cultures and our languages. It was an opportunity to interact with our classmates, and to practice our Chinese language skills.

Before going to Taiwan, Sophia was a vegetarian for 10 years. When she learned that she was going to Taiwan, she wanted to fully immerse herself into the culture and Taiwan way of life. While she was, in Taiwan taking in this "amazing calorie infused experience", Sophia wanted to make sure that she stayed active. One of her friends, while staying in Taiwan gained 20 kilos. To stay in shape, Sophia rode her bike everywhere. While there, Sophia learned to play, a 2-string violin called Erhu, performed and placed first at a speech competition. She also climbed the Jade mountain which is the highest mountain in Taiwan. It's about 4000 m.



Our meeting.

Sophia ended her presentation by saying, "A huge, thank you to all of you here, for letting me have this opportunity."

Eve Robertson thanked Sophia for her presentation and being a wonderful ambassador for our club.

Sunshine Report: Phil Hochhausen

Birthdays:

Zuzana Carter- Edwards – January 13

Jackie Kinley – January 19

Jessie Zuk – January 16

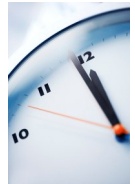
Anniversary: Jim and Norma Sawyer – January 17

There was a news report on the way to Rotary this morning that talked about how bad the economy is:

- A neighbor got a pre-declined credit card in the mail
- McDonald's is selling the ¼ ouncer
- A truckload of Americans got caught sneaking into Mexico
- Wives are having sex with their husbands because they can't afford batteries

And finally, ...

There was a guy so depressed the other night thinking about the economy, wars, jobs, his savings, retirement funds, etc., he called the Suicide Hotline. He got a call center in Pakistan and when he told them he was suicidal they got all excited and asked if he could drive a truck.



Claire's update:

Finished first semester and is off for the next 2 weeks. She would like to learn how to ski and thanked Sophia for her great presentation about Taiwan.

Happy Bucks:

Jim Coyle – a nice dinner with friends and Claire

Raju Paul – good to be back and Happy New year to everybody. Spent one week in Maui and another week in India

Brad Sewell – Thanked Sophia for her presentation

Brad Wellicome – Great YEX committee meeting @ Hochhausen and another for Sophia for her presentation

Bill Skinner – Their house is being painted and is ahead of schedule

Garry Gray – to review our bylaws on jokes

Asha Paul – Happy New Year and peaceful 2017 to everyone

Leighton Fisk – Older son coming home to attend UofC ... calculating all the money I will be saving

Daryl Luhr – for his lunch with Claire and Phil's joke is getting a little better

Din Peerani – thanked Peter for a great dinner



Sherriff: Jim Coyle

Jim Sawyer – messed up on the agenda

Brian Semeschuk – trying to extort \$10

Phil Hochhausen – as you age, filters do drop - \$3

Dennis and Mark – for being extremely knowledgeable about Marijuana growing operation

Walter Zuk – for being on the cell phone most of the meeting

Raju Paul – for talking during the meeting

John Radermacher – poor John was tied in as a forced listener to Raju will cost a buck

Cheryl Ryan – almost forgot you then realized that you were here then not...

Anyone on a warm holiday, a buck for each location

Fined himself a buck for not sending an email

50/50: Brian Semeschuk

Brian announced the size of the pot was \$364. Roger Sonntag was the lucky ticketholder but failed to pick the Joker.

Thought for the Day

People who think they know what they are doing are especially annoying to those of us who do.

Duty Roster for January 20

Greeter: Harry Kim

Door sales: Doug Kinley

50/50: Joe Klassen

Grace and Sunshine report: Christi Lange

Introduce speaker: Peter Leigh

Thank speaker: Darryl Luhr

Standard Reporter: Doug MacDonald

Duty Roster for January 27

Greeter: Raju Paul

Door sales: Din Peerani

50/50: Jamie Powell

Grace and Sunshine report: Jeanette Pyle

Introduce speaker: John Radermacher

Thank speaker: Mark Rowe

Standard Reporter: Eve Robertson

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY
HERITAE PARK**

**P.O. BOX 30261
CHINOOK RPO**

**WEAR YOUR
ROTARY PIN**



The Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park Announcements

Jan 20	Debra Armstrong—SW Community Resource Centre
Jan 27	Michelle Sterling - Friends of Science
Feb 3	Joint meeting - Todd Hirsch ATB Financial
Feb 10	Club Assembly
Feb 17	Classifications; Stan Christmas, Brian Gentles
Feb 23	Club Potluck
Feb 24	No Friday morning gathering

