

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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FEBRUARY IS PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Feb 21: Rebecca Awan
Current Property Market Trends

Feb 28:

Mar 07:

LAST WEEK'S MEETING



President **Chili** presided.

Guests:

Francis Mai – realtor/owner of Macdonald Realty Mai Dreams Group, and guest (and “boss”) of **Brenda Jenkins**.

Barbara Gardy - guests of **Lynda Lawrence**

Alex Pope and Laurel Hickman – will be inducted as our newest members next Tuesday, February 21, 2023, so mark this special occasion on your calendars.

Program: **Rebecca Arthur** - Short Term Rotary Exchange to France – Zoomed in to us from South Africa

(L: Rebecca R: Claire)

Rebecca is the daughter of Adrienne’s cousin who spoke to us about her exchange trip to France, which took place between November 21, 2022 to January 25, 2023. Rebecca together with fellow student Claire Greene (both 17 years old) are members of the Fourways Main Reef Rotary Club’s youth group.



When in France, they stayed with different foster families, and got to sightsee, attend school and attend Rotary events. Rebecca said that she had an amazing experience and was grateful for the opportunity.

She found the school system in France to be very different from that in South Africa where she was used to starting school at 7:45 AM and was out by 2:30 PM. In France, on the other hand, school was “incredibly long” and lasted from 8 AM to 5 PM. She did not learn how to speak French before leaving on her trip, and therefore found that what she could learn while attending school in France, somewhat limited. She enjoyed meeting exchange students from Spain.

She saw many exciting places and things.

She went to the Notre Dame-de-la-Treille Cathedral in the city of Lille, which is an example of Gothic Revival architecture and is considered a national monument.



She went to a Night at the Opera, visited Euro Disneyland, and had a few “cultural food shocks” of French Haute Cuisine, including, for the first (“and last time”!!) in her life munching on a land snail, aka escargot.

While not on the “haute cuisine” menu, she found that “Cheese and Crisps” always made it to the party in France (but Rebecca said she doesn’t eat much cheese at home in South Africa, so it sounded like she was not too impressed with this *aperitif*).

In addition to eating snails, another thing she experienced for the first time in her life was snow. She went snowshoeing up the mountains in the beautiful village of Samoën, and stayed in a great hotel. She said “I have no words for the great view”.



(Was it like this?)

Down at sea level again, another highlight of her trip was Cannes, and visiting the aquarium in Monaco, and the town of Grasse on the French Riviera (in the hills north of Cannes) known for its long-established perfume industry.

Back in Paris, she travelled to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower (where the view of the city is best seen).



Rebecca summed it up by saying that on the trip she “felt luxurious”. “It was an absolutely insane and amazing experience” where she “learned about different cultures”, and was able to tell those that she met in France about “what it is like in South Africa”. Also, “speaking to other exchange students was amazing”.

When asked what advice she would give to other young people considering a student exchange, she said, “**Be open to anything - if people offer to take you somewhere or to try eating something, do it**” – “Approach everything with an open mind”.

Rebecca concluded by singing a song to us which, in spite of the less-than-ideal Zoom sound connection, showed what a great talent she has.

Happy and Sad Dollars included:

Walter - who said that we collected \$6,000 for ShelterBox which was enough to purchase five shelter boxes to send to Turkey/Syria to give shelter to the victims of the terrible earthquake in those countries. Through a contact and former client of Ken Patterson (who now lives in Victoria and was a former partner of Walter), a donation of \$3,600 was received to help make up that grand total.

Anonymous - another member (who will remain unnamed to protect the identity of his young daughter) disclosed that she has a crush on a nice boy whom she met, and who was featured in a couple of ads that played on TV during the Super Bowl. Being the protective father of his young charge, our anonymous member admitted he was glad that the good-looking young lad was safely ensconced in Victoria.

Adrienne (on behalf of herself and those of us who attended the party) thanked **Mark and Pauline Forster** who outdid themselves again with the great food and hospitality at the Valentines party which was held in their home on February 10, 2023.

Fine Master – **Aimee** fined all of us who were not going to spend an exorbitant amount of money for Valentine’s Day (which left us rich enough to pay a \$1 fine).

Quote of the Day

As a man, you can be happy or you can be right - so choose wisely.



Submitted by Laurie Anderson