

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday

May 9: Walter Volpatti May 11: Dave Macpherson

Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

May 09: Chili & Chinni Yalamanchili
Arranged Marriages

May 16: Michael Von Dop
Fire Chief of Maple Ridge

May 23:

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Brenda Jenkins presided.

Guests:

Andrea Stiller, today's speaker.

Breeanna Myden – is a grade 11 French Immersion student that our club is sponsoring to go on a student exchange to France this summer (although she doesn't know her host club yet). [Our Club is also sponsoring 2 Short Term exchange students this summer.]

Garet Myden - is Breeanna's father.

Program: Andrea Stiller - Rotary Youth Exchange



Andrea is the Director of Youth Services in the Chilliwack Fraser Rotary Club, and the chair of the District 5050 Rotary Youth Exchange Committee. She joined Rotary in 2018 while her daughter was an exchange student in France. She is married and has two university-age children. She has hosted 6 Rotary Exchange students as well as numerous other international students. She loves to travel and loves to volunteer.

Long Term Exchange For over 75 years, students and host families have broadened their horizons through Rotary Youth Exchange. More than 80 countries and over 8,000 students each year participate in the program, which is administered at the regional level by Rotary districts and at the local level by Rotary clubs. Andrea suggested that because the outgoing student will be getting the benefit of the program, Clubs should encourage the out-going student to find host families who will host the incoming student.

How much does it cost?

Youth Exchange is coordinated at the regional level by Rotary districts and at the local level by Rotary clubs. Costs can vary from one area to another and one country to another. Typically, participants and their parents cover the following expenses:

- Round-trip airfare - \$1750 - \$2000
- Health and accident insurance - \$800 - \$900
- Travel documents - \$600 - \$1000
- District Fees - \$1500
- Clothing and other necessities
- Spending money
- Emergency funds for unanticipated expenses
- Ancillary travel and tours

Sharing in the costs are host families (who pay for room and board), the host community (who cover school tuition and arrangements), and the host Rotary club (which provides a small stipend of about US\$100 monthly and other support). The Rotary Youth Exchange program is valued at more than \$25,000 in most countries. Because students receive the benefit of that value, successful students are considered recipients of a Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship.

What are the responsibilities of an exchange student?

A Youth Exchange student must agree to:

- act as an ambassador for his or her home country
- Abide by all program rules of the host Rotary club and district
- Accept the supervision of the host family, club, and district
- Ask questions of the host family and local Rotarians
- Be an active participant in the exchange
- Assist with the program after returning home

Where will the exchange take place?

Exchanges can take place in more than 150 countries and geographical areas, depending on the exchanges that are available for that year. District 5050 has recently exchanged with Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Netherlands, Zimbabwe, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, Taiwan, Korea and Japan, and others are possible.

Short-term Summer Abroad Exchange Programs:

This foreign summer exchange program is ideal for students who have a spirit of adventure, but not ready to spend a whole school year abroad. Open to students ages 15-19 and ranges from several weeks to a few months, it usually takes place in the summer when school is not in session and does not include an academic program. A short-term youth exchange program typically involves a Rotary district-organized exchange of a son or daughter between two families, but they may also take the form of international youth camps or tours that bring together students from many countries. Because the time spent in the host country is relatively short, tourist visas and cheaper airfares make this extremely convenient and affordable!

Family-to-Family Exchanges

Typically, two families agree to send their son or daughter to be hosted in a foreign country by another family with a similar-aged son or daughter. This exchange starts with one student traveling to the other country and spending 3-4 weeks with their host family, and then the two students travel together to the first student's home to be hosted for the next 3-4 weeks. Both families send their child and both families host the other child. The families should plan for the total exchange period to be around 2 months. However, the timing and length of stay is decided and agreed upon by the two families.

International Youth Camps

These summer camps are mainly in Europe with camps also in India, Taiwan, Brazil, Mexico, Canada and the US. Although technically not an exchange, camps enable cultural and social exchanges between youth from many different countries. Camps normally bring together participants of similar ages from 10 to 20 different countries and cultures. Each camp's theme and focus is different – the focus may be on sports, arts, peace-building, culture or sightseeing, but most contain a mix of several areas.

Happy and Sad Dollars included:

Libby reported some sad news from **Dave Macpherson**. Upon returning from Ontario where they attended the memorial service for his wife Lisa's mother, they learned that their unborn grandson (since delivered about six weeks early by C-section) had serious medical issues, and his prognosis is not good.

Baby Wesley remains in Children's Hospital in Vancouver. Dave asked all of us "to consider lifting up in prayer Jennifer and Tom, along with their boys Ben, Theo and little Wesley".

Libby also had to report some further sad news, that **Chili's wife Chinni** is in the hospital for further tests, and are waiting for the results and prognosis.

On some happier notes, **Adrienne and Warren** are making plans to go glamping to Whistler; **Matt** and Lynda have agreed to host a bonfire fireside at their place again (probably on June 20); and (proving once again that Rotarians are a fun bunch of people with a good taste for wine and style) **Marilyn Merlot and Papa Vito** were caught in the act on their way to a Murder Mystery Party.



Adrienne is looking into changing the lunch format at our weekly Rotary Club meetings, by having a fixed menu (such as sandwiches and soup) at a fixed price, and instead of everyone ordering and paying separately, having everyone buy tickets from the Club which will in turn, pay for all our meals by one cheque. This would restore some order to our meetings, minimize interruptions, and speed up the process of ordering and paying for our meals

Libby has happily returned from family holiday in Disneyland.



Brenda with hubby Al somehow made it back safely from Germany despite travelling at a super-snail's pace of 283 km/hour (that is 175 miles/hour for us older folk) on a racetrack at a Porsche factory that they visited.

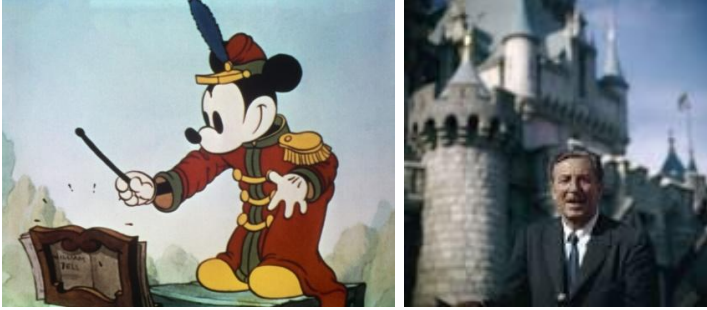


Matt says that, after a slow start, 13 applications to our club for scholarships and bursaries have now been received.

Laurie approached Bruce Fuller (of Fuller Watson Home Furniture Store) who has generously agreed to provide free storage space to our Rotary club for our records and paraphernalia (other than the Duck Race gear and equipment).

Today's Quote:

On October 27 1954 Walt Disney mused on a television program, "I only hope that we never lose sight of one thing – that it all started with a mouse".



Submitted by Laurie Anderson