



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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**SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH**

Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
Sep 03	Dave Rempel	
Sep 04	Doris Gagel	

**Upcoming Speakers:**

Sep 03: Denise Wozniak (Toastmasters) How AI can enhance your Storytelling Ability	Sep 10:	Sep 17:
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**RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



*The Magic of Rotary* is belonging, and it's a feeling that can appear when you least expect it.

Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president's representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the U.S.

It wasn't long before Cechova tracked down my grandmother's village, Jakubova Vol'a. She even organized a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome.

When I entered the community center of Jakubova Vol'a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community center and heard traditional music from my childhood — when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played — I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother's house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I burst into tears of joy at the memories.

But the magic didn't stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community center.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin's home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle, and my grandmother.

Since then, I can't stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I'm not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community center listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club — other members of our Rotary family — feel like they truly belong.

**Stephanie A. Urchick**  
President 2024-25

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Laurie Anderson** presided.

Guests (apart from our speaker): **Donald Sietz** - guest Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Cabarrus County, in the city of Concord, North Carolina. Donald and Laurie exchanged Club banners.



Donald also told us about a fund raising project called CART. The purpose of the CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) is to collect and provide dollars for leading-edge research for the cure and prevention of Alzheimer's disease. It started in 1996 with Rotarians voluntarily emptying their pockets and purses of change at weekly meetings and placing the coins in a cup put out for that purpose, and CART is now a non-profit grassroots organization which, since 1999, has given out grants, totaling more than \$13 million awarded to 62 recognized research institutions in the United States.

### 2023 – 2024 Rotary Citation

Laurie presented to past-president **Brenda Jenkins** the Rotary Citation Certificate which, under Brenda's leadership, was awarded to our Meadow Ridge Rotary Club "for helping Rotary create hope in the world" during the past Rotary year. Beginning this 2024-2025 Rotary Year, the Rotary Citation awards will be called the Club Excellence awards.



### Program: Greg Reeder - Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada (MAF)



**Greg Reeder** is a helicopter and fixed wing pilot who obtained his Commercial Pilot License in 1997. He has been with MAF for six years.

**Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada (MAF)** is a humanitarian (and religious) aviation organization that is responsible for building partnerships and supporting the humanitarian flights from MAF's full time bases at locations in 30 countries, as well as their global disaster response team.

At the beginning of his presentation, Greg posed the question: what if you need to go to the hospital or to a doctor, or to go shopping, or needed to buy a part to fix a piece of much-needed machinery, and the destination was a great distance away and there was no transportation? MAF is an aircraft organization that helps people in these very difficult circumstances throughout the world. He also gave some interesting history of MAF. It had its origins over 75 years ago when a woman pilot by the name of **Betty Greene** began her professional aviation career by serving with the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) during World War II. She flew several kinds of military planes during the war and did experimental work on high-altitude flights. After the war, Betty helped found the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship in 1945, later called Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Betty served as an MAF pilot for 16 years, flying in 12 countries and touching down in some 20 more. In 1962 she began working at MAF headquarters, and later served as an MAF advocate until her death in 1997.

**Nate Saint** was also a pilot and a missionary to remote villages in Ecuador. He knew that the best way to prove friendly intentions to new groups of Waorani, a notoriously dangerous people, was to offer gifts, but he wanted a better way of delivering them than haphazard parachute drops. So he developed what he called the "bucket drop." The bucket drop involved reeling out a basket loaded with gifts on the end of a line behind the plane, then flying in a circle so the line becomes a spiral with the basket at the center of the circle. "When enough line was extended behind the plane, the end of the line would actually hang motionless in the air. Letting out more line at that point would make the line drop straight down where it could be made to hover just above the ground." (Nate Saint and four other missionaries were murdered by the Waodani in June 1956. Amazingly, his son **Steve Saint** later befriended the Waodani, including some who killed his father but later converted to Christianity.)

**Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada** is a huge organization. It flies to more destinations than any other airline. It has 120 aircraft that interact with people in 29 countries to which it has scheduled flights. It supplies food, medicine, shelter, education, and medical aid workers, as well as emergency flights to deliver medicine and for medical evacuations. It also has a disaster response team. In 2023 alone it hauled 4,367,277 kg of cargo, carried 135,630 passengers, covered 6,369,506 km, flew 36,545 hours, and made 47,290 flights to 1049 different destinations. Over the years it has provided disaster relief to many countries including the Sudan, Nepal, Mozambique and Honduras. MAF also has a Prairie Aviation Training Centre near Three Hills, Alberta (located about 130 km north east of Calgary) where they train pilots to fulfill their mission of reaching the world's most isolated people.

The greatest need of MAF presently is that they need more pilots to fulfil their mission. One of the best ways we can help them is to share information and news about MAF.

Happy and Sad Dollars included:

**Sharon Kyle's** auntie just celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday (and still has all her own teeth!)

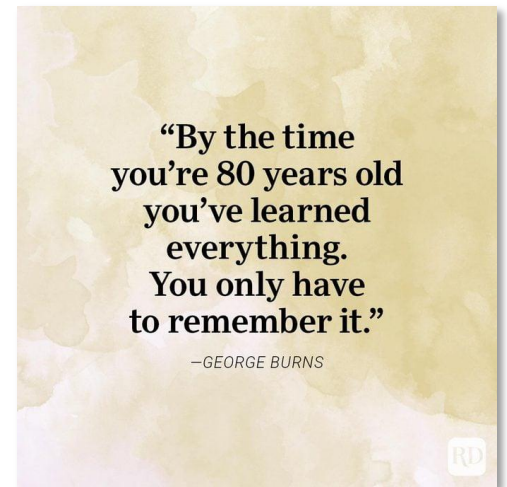
**Dave Rempel** and Sharon hosted at their home approximately 80 to 85 people on August 24, 2024 to enjoy an Adoption Celebration Concert, to celebrate the fact that it has been 31 years since the first baby was adopted from Russia, and to hear that baby now sing for those in attendance. Natasha Kozak was nine months old when she was adopted from an orphanage in Novosibirsk, Russia, by Larry and Wendy Kozak of Port Moody. Natasha was the first baby adopted from that region by Canadians in 1993. Natasha had a passion for singing since she was two years old, and she has now completed her first year of training at one of Canada's top musical theatre programs in Ontario at Sheridan College. An article in the Vancouver Sun newspaper reads:

*(Natasha's) parents found her through intermediary Dave Rempel, a now-retired elementary school teacher and principal who had organized student exchanges and orphanage visits with states in the former Soviet Union. Canadian students would bring medicine, clothes, food, vitamins, soap, anything that their counterparts in the former Soviet Union were short of. They even one year delivered three Canada geese for the Moscow Zoo. Unable to have a baby themselves, the Kozaks approached Rempel .... to see if he had any connections in Russia. Rempel turned to a Russian school principal in Novosibirsk, and she knew someone at an orphanage. After a lot of discouragement, red tape, a failed coup attempt in the Russian capital, even Thanksgiving Day in Ottawa getting in the way, Natasha arrived in Port Moody at the age of 10 months.... "I've always wanted to go back and work in an orphanage," she said. "Or, if I'm ever fortunate enough to have enough money, to build one, that would be an ultimate dream of mine."*

**Brenda Jenkins** was very happy (along with the rest of us in attendance) for the fun and fellowship our Club had at the fireside held at **Matt and Lynda's** property on August 20, 2024.



Today's Quote:



Club Announcements and happenings

- Sep. 06 – 08, 2024 - Annual Meadow Ridge Rotary Camping Weekend at Fort Langley Campground. Contact Matt for details.
- Sep. 15 – starting at 2:30/3:00 p.m. onwards – Frisbee Golf at Dave and Sharon Rempel's property.
- Oct. 18 – Adrienne is arranging a table for a group of us to attend together at the Hospice Society's Oktoberfest. Let Adrienne know if you are coming to support Hospice.



Submitted by Laurie Anderson