

Where in the world is [wah-háh-kah]?

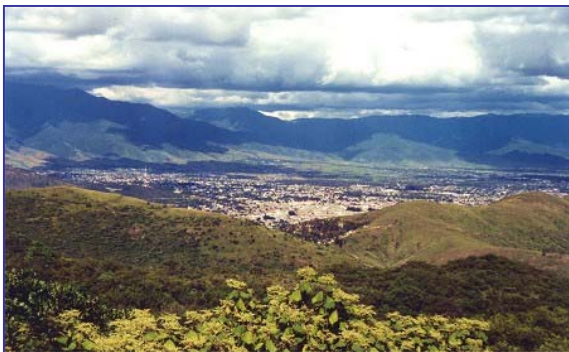
If you ever wondered where our Exchange Student Ana is from, well here is the answer. Good thing I found it on the Internet, because if I would had to ask for it in Mexico, I would have pronounced it as 'o-a-xa-ka' (I don't speak Spanish obviously!) and the only answer would have been ¿Que?

It's 500 years behind the times • four hours away by plane from New York, Chicago or San Francisco, and only two hours from Houston • 35 minutes from the beach of Huatulco • 300 miles southeast from Mexico City

It's the birthplace of Benito Juárez • the home of Zapotec culture • the center of Mexican contemporary arts and traditional crafts • the culinary capital of Mexico • the same latitude as Bangkok • It's in the hearts of those who visit • It's the soul of Mexico



Oaxaca is the capital city of the state of Oaxaca and is located near the center of the state in a high mountain valley (5100'), with a population of about 250,000. The climate is springlike during most of the year with warm days and cool evenings. The region is generally arid with a rainy season, beginning about July and lasting until October.



City of Oaxaca as seen from [Monte Albán](#)

Oaxaca is rich in history. The urban center was known as Huaxyacac in the Nahuatl language until 1532 when the Spanish gave it the name Nueva Antequera. The zócalo (main square) is the heart of the city and has been so since 1529. On the south side of the zócalo is the state government building; on the north side is the Cathedral of Oaxaca, which dates from 1535. The thick stone walls are designed to withstand the earthquakes of the region. To the northwest is Alemada de Leon. A number of cafes surround the zócalo and sitting at a sidewalk table and watching the activities in the square is a popular pastime. The zócalo is also the site of frequent political rallies and protests.



The Four Way Flasher

**Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter**

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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January is Rotary Awareness Month

INVOCATION

Feb. 6	Diane Kirkland	Feb. 13	Ken Knuttila
Feb. 20	Sharon Kyle	Feb. 27	Lynda Lawrence



BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
Feb. 22	Laurie Anderson	Valerie Spurrell
March 22	Sharon Kyle	Ken Paterson

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email peter.boekhorst@telus.net

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Fireside at Meadow Gardens

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Glenda Williams - Friends In Need Food Bank

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr. 14	8:00am	District Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Sry
May 31		District Conference	Harrison Hot Springs Resort
June 17-20		RI Conference	Salt Lake City

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$199.00+ 1/2 of today's sales, 42 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

Our guests today were Zdenka Cukor and our exchange student, Ana.

Marco advised that he learned a lot at the Rotary Foundation seminar that was held over the weekend. He advised that the Rotary PolioPlus campaign in India vaccinated 157 million people in a five day period, with the assistance of many Rotarians. Ineke thanked the Club for the opportunity to attend the seminar. She concurred with Marco that it was a great learning experience. Sharon thanked the Club for the opportunity to attend as well. She will be bringing the video on the PolioPlus program to a future meeting for us to view. She advised that polio is close to eradication.

Sharon advised that there will be no lunch meeting next week, January 30, as we are having a Fireside at 6pm that evening at Meadow Gardens.



Our Guest Speakers were John Bullock and Krystine Plunet, who is a volunteer and the Fund Development Co-ordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Abbotsford, Mission and Ridge Meadows. John is their co-op student and will be working on the Bowl For Kids Sake fundraiser with Krystine.

The Big Brothers organization was started 35 years old by three men in the corrections field who saw a need in their community. They started from having no office and working out of their cars and homes, to owning an office building in Abbotsford and leasing space in Maple Ridge and Mission.

The organization exists to provide children the friendship and guidance from adults to make the right choices when faced with life challenges. It costs their agency about \$2,000. a year to provide mentoring to prevent a child from making the wrong choice, and perhaps ending up in prison. Currently there are 41 Kids in Ridge Meadows in the program, with a waitlist of 22 yet to be matched.

BBBS seek responsible adults for a few hours a week to mentor a child on a regular basis. The Traditional Program requires mentors 3-4 hours a week and takes place in a community based setting. The In School Mentoring Program which is an hour a week, takes place strictly in school with no outside contact. The average match length between "Big and Little" is two years, although many remain friends for life.

Their regional office has two Mentoring Coordinators - Tammy Tait, and Misty Koster. The new ED, David Sheach, is from the Boys & Girls Club of Williams Lake. They operate with an annual budget of approximately \$500 000., of which \$200,000. is raised through grants and special events.

They have two big events each year to raise funds. There is the Golf Tournament, which is being held at Swan-E-Set on August 17th, and the National initiative "Bowl For Kids Sake" event. The BFKS is a pledge based event. It is their largest annual fundraiser, raising \$271, 600. net since 2000. The BFKS be happening across Canada, February through March. With a fun 50's theme, their Bowl for Kids Sake is occurring March 16-18th in Maple Ridge at Revs Bowling. They are budgeted to net \$40,000, and are encouraging individuals and companies to get involved by either sponsoring or taking part and bowling.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 5: Robert Goodrick

ROTARIAN HELPS CHANNEL HOPE IN TAJIKISTAN

Sabina-Margarita Dzalaeva, 26, has broken through many boundaries. She's the youngest member of a new Rotary club in a new Rotary country, Tajikistan. She also manages a Rotarian-led water project that's supplying thousands of villagers with permanent clean-water systems.

Dzalaeva is among the few college-educated, professional women in Tajikistan. She studied economics and management at the University of Dushanbe, located in Tajikistan's capital and Dzalaeva's hometown, where she still lives.

In 1992, a five-year civil war broke out that left the majority of the country's six million citizens living below the poverty line with deteriorating medical care and education.

Dzalaeva always wanted to help others through her work, and she got her chance after meeting Czech geographer Michal Fidler in 2005. He had just arrived from Florida, USA, as part of a Rotarian-led effort to bring fresh running water to Tajik villages.

Sabina knew that many Tajik farmers in isolated mountain villages struggled to survive on the meager harvests of the arid land. Local water systems had eroded or been destroyed during the war, so women spent their days hauling water from the mountain streams to their village gardens.

Fidler told Dzalaeva that Rotarian engineers and experts had worked with the nonprofit organization CARE to construct pipelines in the mountains north of Dushanbe. The systems delivered clean drinking water to almost 3,500 villagers.

Dzalaeva was impressed that the Rotarian teams put the villagers in charge of constructing, maintaining, and managing the water systems. "They learned they could be in control of their lives, something they'd never known before," she said.

The Rotarians wanted to supply nine more villages with clean drinking water in 2006, and they needed help with fundraising and overseeing grant distribution, contracts, and construction. Dzalaeva was able to help the Rotarians with this goal when she became a Rotarian herself. In June 2006, she joined the Rotary Club of Dushanbe, which Fidler had helped start in April 2005. "At first, I found the concept of Rotary beyond Tajikistan hard to understand," she says. But since then, she says Rotary and her work have shown her what community service organizations can achieve together around the world.

She now oversees the construction of water systems for nine more villages north of Dushanbe, partially funded by a [Matching Grant](#) from The Rotary Foundation.

Dzalaeva says she'll never forget how she felt when she visited one of the first villages Rotarians equipped with community water faucets. "I saw green land," she says. "I saw men hurrying from the water faucets to their gardens, carrying buckets of water. I saw men working in their orchards. They used to come to Dushanbe looking for work and ended up sitting in the streets, without hope for a job or money to bring home. Now, their life will be easier with water."