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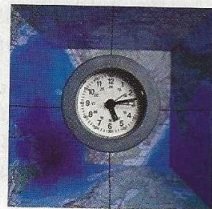
10 Questions with Martha Weiss » Backpacking around the globe in her early 20s left Martha Weiss with a fiery passion for other cultures. She's kept the fire burning as a youth exchange host, opening her home to 11 students in total. A Rotarian since 1999, Weiss is the first female president of the Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove, Ill., USA. In 2005 she traveled to India on a National Immunization Day to administer the polio vaccine in hopes of eradicating the disease that affected her father. Weiss is a self-employed real-estate lawyer in Chicago and has four children with her husband, Jeff.



1 My life won't be complete until: I am certain that all my children are happy about who they are and have a passion for what they are doing.

2 My favorite part of every Rotary meeting:

Fun and Frolics. Every week a different member asks trivia questions, sometimes about Rotary, and each table gives an answer collectively. Tables are fined for wrong answers



as a way to raise money for the club. This year I added a moment for our exchange student to give a weekly update about what he has been doing. It is a very social time with a lot of laughs.

3 If I hadn't become a Rotarian, I never would have: Gone to India on a polio eradication project where I was able to witness the determination and strength of so many individuals working together for a common goal.

4 The person who has had the greatest impact on my life: My mother. She taught elementary school and raised four children during some challenging times. If we kids ever complained about a situation that we didn't like, she would say, "Then do something about it." I received my sense of volunteerism from her.

5 My friends think I'm: Always running late. In fact, when they give me a time to be somewhere, they usually tell me 15 minutes earlier than I should really be there.

I was drawn to Rotary because:

Of the highly ethical and admirable people in my club, and because it was not founded upon any religious or political views, but simply service to others. Also, my father was a polio victim, so I was drawn to Rotary's international polio eradication project.

7 Three words that best describe me are:
Loyal, compassionate, and funny.

8 If I could be any animal, I'd be:
A dog, spoiled by my owners and sleeping 23 hours a day.

9 My favorite cartoon character is:
Marge Simpson.



She is constantly trying to do the best for her family in spite of them.

10 If I could visit any Rotary club in the world, my choice would be: Any club that hasn't admitted women. In the '80s, my club had a debate about it. Now, even those who voted against the idea are convinced it was the right thing to do.