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District Governor 7230, 2007-2008

Robert G. Cucinell

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Dear Fellow Rotarians,

The visit of your GSE team drew unanimous complimentary responses from our district's Rotarians and has furthered the excitement of this program. Each and every member of the team is an exemplary representative of their business or profession as well as true ambassadors for Southern Bavaria. We certainly hope we were able to enrich their vocational and cultural experience while in our district.

Our districts are not strangers to each other as the New York Club (#6 in Rotary International) has for years enjoyed a sister club relationship with the Munich International Club which makes this pairing even more rewarding.

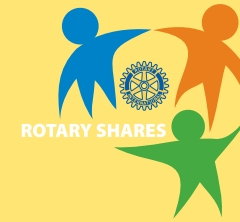
Pictured below are DG Harald Bos, Christel, my wife and I at a reception in San Diego at the January, 2007 International Assembly discussing plans for the GSE exchange. The success of each of our programs is due to the hard work of the dedicated chairmen in our respective districts, Max Klinger and Greg Arcaro.

We truly appreciate the opportunities you are giving our team on their visit to your district between May 7, 2008 and June 5, 2008.

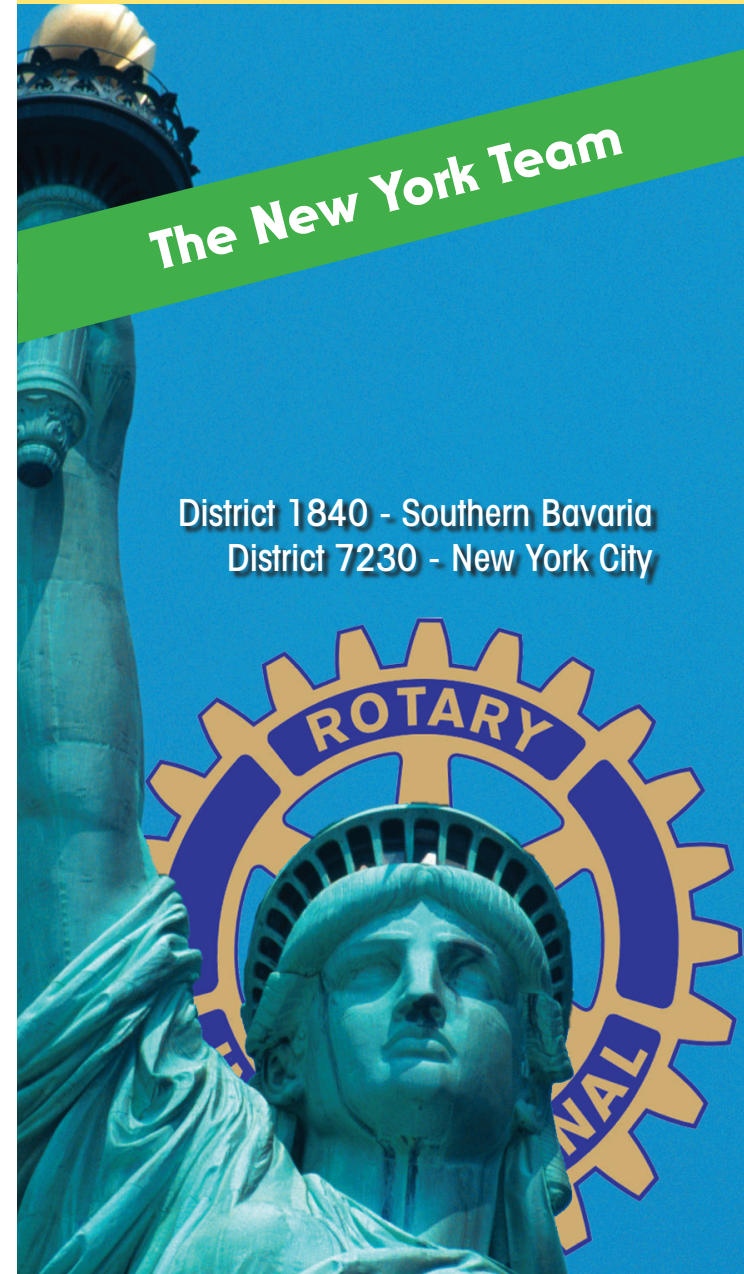
The goodwill and cultural understanding derived from the GSE program by both the team members and the host Rotarians has made this program extremely popular. Next year, RI anticipates almost 600 GSE teams will circulate our world to advance the goals of Rotary.

Thank you all for your participation and sacrifice to make this a successful program.

Bob Cucinell
District Governor 2007-2008
Rotary International District 7230



GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE 2008



The New York Team

District 1840 - Southern Bavaria
District 7230 - New York City

What is Group Study Exchange?

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 in the initial years of their professional life. The program provides travel grants for teams of participants to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members study the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. Team members can come from corporations, small businesses, community organizations, medical and educational facilities, government offices, and nonprofit agencies.

The New York Team

Team Member:

Jason Thoms

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Jason A. Thoms lives in Eastchester, NY with his wife Treva. They have three children: Wilyam, who is 11, Al-leigh, who is 9; and Izaak, who is 5.

He is Director of Choral Activities, formerly Director of the Music Department, at Concordia College in Bronxville, NY. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from St. Olaf College and his Masters degree in music conducting from Michigan State University. He pursued further studies at University of Arkansas.

At Concordia, Jason conducts the Concordia Tour Choir and the Concordia Festival Choir. This year, the Tour Choir will perform throughout the East, from New York to Georgia. Before joining Concordia, Dr. Thoms worked at Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and was Director of the Ozark Chamber Singers.

Jason is also a published composer, editor and a bass/baritone soloist. He has performed frequently in professional, collegiate and community concerts.

-He is hoping to meet Bavarian musicians in his field.

Team Member:

Marina Masic

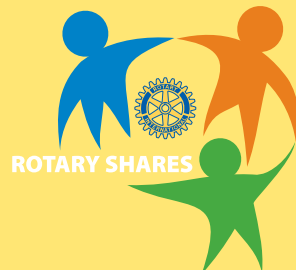
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Marina was born in 1981 in New York. She is a first generation American with Croatian roots. Her parents, Rose and Ivan, run their own business and her sister, Ivana, is an artist and educator. Marina's interests include wellness, integrative medicine, travel, cultural events, music, and the arts. She views herself as a world citizen and believes in community building. In the spring of 2006 she chose to utilize her skills in the arts with service and earn a Masters in Art Therapy from New York University. Immediately thereafter she began post graduate studies in Switzerland in a pioneering program at The European Graduate School, in Expressive Arts Therapy and Social Change. Upon return home to NY, Marina was invited to be a representative journalist at the United Nations, for a conference on Climate Change. Currently, she holds a rare position as Art Therapist, at Columbia University Medical Center in the Developmental Neuropsychiatry Program, working with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She is humbled by the complex components of this disorder, be they neurological, emotional or sensory, and hopes to continue to help individuals and families. Ultimately, she desires to link work in the fields of Mental Health, Creativity and Consulting to service various settings. Marina believes life requires both a creative mind and compassionate heart. She is honored to receive this world fellowship and eager to be part of a collaborative team promoting true goodwill.

During GSE Marina hopes to:

- network with professionals connected to consulting, health-care, international relations, and the arts.
- witness a new culture, learn a language, live in an exciting city and beautiful landscape, and form friendships.



Team Member:

Graeme Henderson

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Graeme was born in 1979 in Bermuda, where he attended primary through high school. He has two sisters and one brother. He attended McGill University and graduated in 2002 with a major in Political Science and a double minor in Economics and History. To complete his required credits, he was able to take advantage of a reciprocal program between the University of Montreal and Nankai University in Tianjin, China, where he undertook an intensive Chinese course. After completing his studies, he was able to extend his trip to almost 6 months in total thus making it a lengthy stay, filled with exciting cultural and linguistic learning. In 1996, he had the great pleasure of participating in a Rotary exchange program to Thailand. It was during this time that he developed his love of foreign cultures and languages and has always been keen to take advantage of any opportunity to travel and experience new cultures.

In 2003, he began work with Marsh Global Markets in the property broking department. A year and a half later, he was pursued by Axis Specialty Insurance and was delighted to take on a position in the Aviation underwriting department in May of 2005. In January of 2008, Graeme relocated to the Axis New York office to work in property reinsurance modeling and risk analysis.

Graeme has been married to Julia for 4 years. She has recently entered the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton MBA program.

In his free time he, enjoys a variety of sports and musical activities.

Professional interests for Graeme include, but are not limited to, meeting and learning from professionals in:

- Reinsurance Broking (Guy Carpenter if possible).
- Reinsurance coverage purchase from the perspective of insurance companies (perhaps Allianz).
- Reinsurance modeling and risk analysis (perhaps Munich Re).

Personal interests that Graeme would like to experience are:

- Traditional German cultural elements such as music, folk-songs, dance and cuisine.
- A German sporting spectacle such as a professional football, hockey match or other.
- Music and Theatre performances in Munich such as opera, musicals or orchestral concerts.
- Visit sites of notable architecture such as Neuschwanstein, Nymphenburg, Maximilianeum and Oberschleißheim.