



## Canaltown Crier Rotary Club of Palmyra-Macedon



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Mark Clement

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Pam Dean

### District Governor:

Bill Gormont

### Rotary International President:

K. R. Ravindran

## Speakers

Dec 09, 2015

[Gregory Eisenhut](#)

*Mercy Flight Central*

Dec 16, 2015

[Annual Christmas Party](#)

Dec 23, 2015

[NO MEETING](#)

*Merry Christmas!*

Dec 30, 2015

[NO MEETING](#)

*Happy New Year!*

Jan 06, 2016

[Rotary Vocal Contestants](#)

## Sarah DiPasquale Talks About "Dare to Dream"

*Posted by Jim Bush on Dec 02, 2015*

Our guest speaker, introduced by **Anne Morrell**, was **Sara DiPasquale**, a Pal-Mac junior and recipient of the Dare to Dream Travel Scholarship founded by Pal-Mac graduate Joshua Ford. Here are Sara's own words on how this \$3,000 travel scholarship "altered my life in every respect."

Immediately after graduating from Pal-Mac, Joshua postponed his full scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and took a gap year to move to a rural village in Ecuador where he played semi-pro soccer, taught English and started a non-profit organization to improve access to and the quality of education in rural Ecuador. He then went to the UNC where he graduated from the honors program and was a Morehead-Cain Scholar. This is a full four-year merit scholarship awarded for academic merit, leadership, moral force of character, and physical vigor.

After college, Joshua was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to live in Mexico City for a year and work with a wide range of entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. He has learned 4 languages and has had the opportunity to live and travel across six continents, including living for nine weeks with a nomadic tribe in Northern Tanzania. He was also granted the amazing opportunity to work for FIFA at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Many members of our club recall Ford's local achievements and visits to keep us up to date on his goals and plans following his 2006 win in the Oratorical Contest, and listened with pride as Sara described his current status as a "Senior Negotiation Consultant for The Gap Partnership where he co-directs Latin America. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of two non-profits: Hugh O'Brian

Jan 13, 2016

[Rotary Youth Exchange - Sofia Coll Benito](#)

Jan 20, 2016

[NO MEETING](#)

Jan 27, 2016

[Club Assembly and Auction](#)

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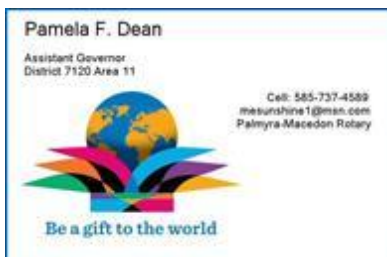
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Palmyra-Macedon Rotary

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Ford's life changing experiences are what prompted him to give back locally in the form of the Dare to Dream Travel Scholarship, and Sarah continues with her personal description of that journey:

I arrived scared out of my mind, my body already flooded with homesickness. San Jose is poor, dirty and crowded. Trash and the homeless line the side streets. The children I visited every day wore tears in their clothing and had bruises embedded in their skin. Dirt invaded the floors; their toys were abused and broken. But I chose to be here, to help, to embrace the unforgettable culture, to learn the beautiful Spanish language, to dare to dream.


Costa Rica changed my outlook on life - how I act, respond, grieve, and communicate. But mostly, how I live. With the help of my incredible host family and the amazing kids I worked with each and every day, I was immersed into the "tico" culture, and learned how to be genuine and generous to all. Who taught me? Children from single parent homes, children who had been abandoned and abused, and children whose mothers were "ladies of the night". These children, who spent 12 hours a day in subsidized day care, were the most unlikely of teachers.

A four year old taught me the most: how to be happy no matter the circumstances. Gabrielle was different, but not intimidated. He was exiled for wanting to play with dolls. While he saw nothing wrong with playing dress up with the girls, the teachers did, yet this did not phase Gabrielle one bit. His golden heart shone through, and he was resilient to all of the whispers and the judgments of



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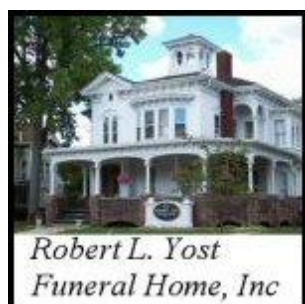
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his own caretakers.

At night, I was embraced by the community. The Costa Rican attitude is infectious; their caring and hardworking ways touch the life of any given stranger. When I learned of their slogan, "pura vida" prior to my U.S. departure, I was unaware of how important it was to their culture until I arrived in their land. Everywhere I went and every person I met, the term was used. The "pure life" expresses their love and appreciation of their unique and relaxed lifestyle. The people of Costa Rica refuse to allow any mishap or misfortune to stand in their way, and even the children live this philosophy as well. Their positivity, even in negative circumstances, inspired me to be more positive; a lesson that I will hold onto forever.

The Dare to Dream Scholarship was made for me; I worked for hours and hours on the application and researched which country I wanted to live in for six weeks, and dare to dream is exactly what I did. I longed to help the people of Costa Rica, not realizing how much they would help me. The unforgettable San Jose had, without a doubt, opened my eyes forever.

A journey well taken, Sara, and a report well delivered. Thank you!

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#### December 2, 2015 - Meeting Minutes

Posted by Jim Bush on Dec 02, 2015

#### Pal-Mac Rotary Club Meeting - December 2, 2015

##### Guests:

Kim DiPasquale, Sara DiPasquale (speaker), Sophia Clement, Shirley Bassage, Julianna Vecchiotti, Sofia Coll.

*Students:* Spencer Perrotte, Jayden Colf, Dominic Stutberry.

##### Missing in Action:

Tom Breen, Eric Chapman, Gary Haigh, Debbie LeMoyne, Tina Medina, Peter Park, Arnie Pechler, Dave Read, Dave Stachnik, Eric Van Zeilen.

##### Greeter:

Dick Kirchoff

##### Birthdays:

Anne Morrell and Sara DiPasquale.

##### Fines, Happy Bucks, Confessions:

Oh, a whole bunch of them! With apologies, as your fill-in

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scribe was sleeping through much of it, it seems like several mentions of the term "Happy Bucks" had to do with deer season; the Prez was understandably pleased with his 8-point, 170 pounder; in fact it made him happy enough to impose a \$1.00 fee on every member - in honor of the Thankful season; at least one confession (Bob Sloan) was a buck for NOT getting a buck; Dick Kirchhoff had a happy buck to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge; Jenn Preston promoted Reliant's food collection project underway through next week (hint: canned goods, etc. to Macedon branch of Reliant); and the 3 students (named above) caught on quickly to our methods of fund raising and established a precedent by donating 3 happy bucks "Just to be here at the A+ table." Future Rotarians, no doubt.

#### Help Wanted:

Dianne Sloan relayed a PTO request for help on a **Breakfast With Santa** on Dec. 12th at the Primary School. Cook, wrap gifts, do other Elfish chores, 8 a.m. - 12 noon or whatever portion you can serve. Ask Dianne for details.

#### Special attention:

##### Pam Dean says -

"I and the Future Visions (Grants Committee) are asking for your ideas. It is time for our club to begin the process of deciding if we want to participate in a Rotary grant. This can be for an international or a local project. We must pick a project and determine the amount it will cost to complete it. We need budget one half of the money to apply. The grant money comes from the donations made by Rotarians in every club to the Foundation and it is shared. This comes from Paul Harris awards, Erey (every Rotarian every year donations), our dessert auction and your own personal donations.

In the past we have helped (among others):

Rehema Orphanage in Africa,

Eye clinic in India

Latrines in Malawi

Projector for Macedon Library

Benches at the Palmyra Community Center.

Our local grant project to be completed this year is a bench on the canal at the new boat launch near Rt. 21.

I would ask that if you have any ideas for a project worthy of consideration, please forward them to anyone on the committee or BOD.

Thank you."

(or email me at: [mesunshine1@msn.com](mailto:mesunshine1@msn.com))

#### Historic Palmyra Homestead Tour

December 12, 4 - 8 p.m.

"Candlelight Holiday" - Several houses in area -

\$20 advance, \$25 at door  
Call **597-6981** for **reservations**.



**Ring the Bell** - for Salvation Army - at Breen's, Palmyra

Fri. Dec. 4th - Sun. Dec. 13, 4 - 7 p.m. weekdays, 11:0 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekends. Just a few key slots still needed - Please contact Cindy Surline.

**Save the date** - annual Holiday/Christmas Party at Parkwood Heights in Macedon - Wed. December 16th. Social, 6:00 p.m., dinner, 7:00 p.m. Sign up with Gary Hopkins now! \$25.00 per person.



**Pam Dean** recognized **President Mark** (above) with a special pin as the club's 2nd Foundation sustaining member. A Foundation Sustaining member commits to a minimum \$100.00 gift to the Annual Funds program annually. Well done, Mr. Prez!



**Student guests:**

Spencer Perotte, Jayden Colf and Dominic Stutberry join

Sara DiPasquale, her mother, Kim, Exchange student Sofia Coll, and President Mark and his granddaughter, Sophia.

**Sofia** enjoyed her first Thanksgiving (American style) and "ate a lot, went shopping on Black Friday", and took the longest drive of her life (?) to Plattsburgh with the Medinas in a visit with Tina's family.