



Promoting
Peace



Saving Mothers &
Children



Supporting
Education



Growing Local
Economies



Fighting Disease



Providing
Clean Water

February 15, 2017: Our Club welcomed Jin Huang as a new member at our meeting this week, bringing our total roster to just under 70. We also learned about the ESSEX student exchange program, and met Yukalchikawa, a Japanese student visiting the U.S. as a participant in the ESSEX program.

ESSEX Student Exchange

The [Eastern States Student Exchange](#) (ESSEX) facilitates inbound and outbound youth exchanges for 36 Rotary districts in 16 eastern U.S. states, eastern Canada and Bermuda. Marcia Davis(Rotary Club of Auburn), along with Jeanne Reimonn, Inbound ESSEX Chair, described the program and the profound impact it has on US students who travel abroad, and foreign students who journey here.

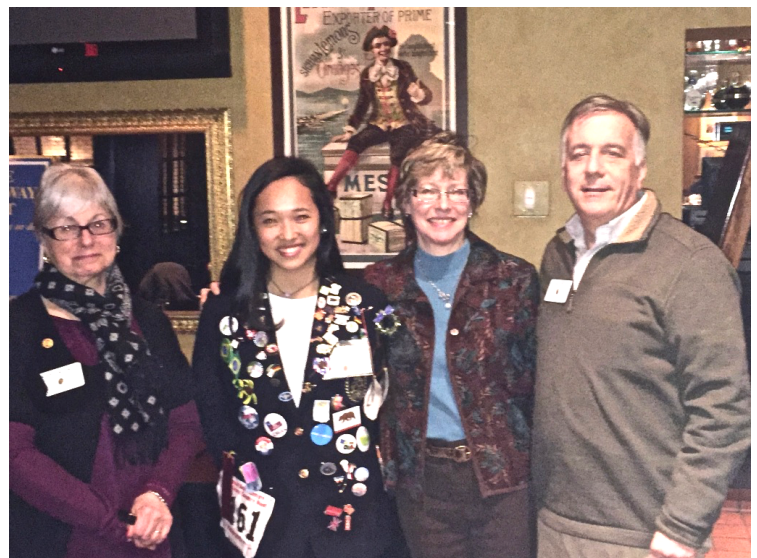
Founded in 1966, ESSEX organizes both short and long term student exchanges, and is among the “best kept secrets in Rotary”. Students may participate in either a 10-month full school year exchange, or a 3 – 6 month summer cultural exchange. More than 30 foreign countries participate in these programs. Long term exchange students are 15 to 18½ years of age, attend a local high school, and may stay with up to 3 families during their visit. For the inbound student, the host Rotary Club provides a monthly stipend and includes the student in Club activities.

The short term program is more of a “Family to Family” exchange as participants are matched with another student in their chosen host country. Students visit their host families for three to six weeks, and in return, the student’s family will host the “matched” student when he or she returns home.

At the conclusion of either the long term or short term exchange programs, participants return home with an understanding of another culture, and becoming peace ambassadors through the friendships established during their stay.

About 30,000 students from foreign countries visit the U.S. each year, while only about 1,800 students from here travel abroad. Marcia and Jeanne attributed this disparity to cultural differences, and the mostly unfounded concern that spending a year abroad as a high school student negatively impacts the college application process. While participating in an exchange, students are expected to be on their best behavior; dating, drinking/drugs or driving are not tolerated, and a few students have been sent home for breaking these rules.

Yuka Ichikawa is an ESSEX exchange student from Japan who is currently attending Hopkinton High School while staying with a local family. She accompanied Marcia and Jeanne to speak to our Club about her experience. She said that “everything is new” here, and that she has “learned to be brave and try everything”. As a student at an all girls’ school in Japan, student life has been very different than her life at home. Yuka was asked about the best and worst things she observed during her stay in the U.S. The best things, she responded, are freedom and diversity. The worst thing, paradoxically, is also freedom, as she has no one holding her accountable for homework and other responsibilities.



Marcia Davis, Jeanne Reimonn & Westborough Club President Gerry Gross welcome Japanese Exchange Student Yuka Ichikawa

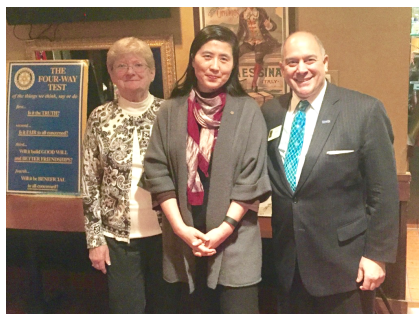
Welcome New Member Jin Huang

This week, we had the privilege to induct Jin Huang into membership as a Westborough

Rotarian. Jin was introduced to us by Ron Fraser of the Worcester Rotary

Club. Jin runs the Ebridge Montessori School, which she founded in 2005 in

Westborough, after leaving her first career as a software engineer. Jin was born in Shanghai and has 2 master degrees – one from UMass and another from University of Scranton. She and her husband Alex have 2 children, Melissa and Jason. Her interests include music, swimming, knitting, walking and skiing. Jin looks forward to helping us with projects involving education, the environment and children. She told our members that becoming a Rotarian has helped her feel more at home in Westborough. We welcome Jin and her family to our Rotary family.



Membership Chair Sue Abladian (l) & District Governor Nominee Steve Sager(r) welcome Jin Huang to Westborough Rotary

Dave McGrath Fights Cancer - Update

Last month we were introduced to Rotarian Paul McGrath's son Dave who shared with us his experience of being diagnosed with Crohn's disease as a high school freshman, only to learn that he had brain cancer three years later. Dave has begun his 48-state road trip to raise awareness of the importance of early detection and treatment. You can follow his progress on his [web site](#). Dave is still in need of places to stay along his journey, so if you know of someone that can help, please visit his website to view his itinerary, and contact him by email at davidhmcgrath@gmail.com. Westborough Rotary is proud to help underwrite some of the cost of Dave's journey.



Rotary International President Elect to Speak at NEPETS

Incoming Rotary International President Elect Ian Riseley will deliver the keynote address during dinner at the Northeast Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (NEPETS). The dinner will be held on Thursday, March 9 from 7pm to 9pm at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center. A limited number of tickets are still available for those who are not attending NEPETS to hear what promises to be a dynamic and inspiring presentation. Tickets are \$45 each, and available at this [registration page](#).

Interact Participates in Food Packaging Event

On March 18, the Westborough Interact Club, Rotary's high school youth group, will be participating in a [Stop Hunger Now](#) meal packaging event at Nashoba Valley High School, 12 Green Street in Bolton. Hours are 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We need Rotarian participation to support this event. Please contact [Jim O'Connor](#).

Rotary Multi District Conference

April 28 – 30: Join Rotarians from 4 Districts in Providence, RI for a weekend of collaboration and networking. Enjoy Waterfire and hear current Rotary International President John Germ deliver the keynote address. See [this link](#) for a flyer describing the event or [register here](#). Note that registration fees increase after March 1.

Club Calendar

- ☀ **March 1:** Rotary Means Business, Radisson Hotel & Suites, Chelmsford, MA
- ☀ **March 9:** Rotary International President Ian Riseley speaks at NEPETS
- ☀ **March 15:** Evening meeting at the Chateau
- ☀ **March 18:** Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event. Nashoba Valley High School. In support of Westborough Interact Club
- ☀ **April 21 – 23:** Hero's Cup Hockey Tournament, New England Sports Center, Marlborough
- ☀ **April 28 – 30:** Multi District Conference, Providence, RI
- ☀ **June 10:** Spring Festival & Westborough 300th Celebration – save the date!
- ☀ **June 23–25:** RYLA, Fitchburg State College; applications/names due to Sue Abladian now
- ☀ **October 14:** Westborough Militia Day
- ☀ **October 28:** 3rd Annual Red White & Brew