

June 2, 2008

This Week's Program
Macedonia Literacy/Library Project – Tara Trepanier
Next Week's Program
Paul Bunyan Playhouse Season Preview – Zak Curtis, Artistic Director

Important Dates to Remember

Rotary International Convention

June 15-18, 2008, Los Angeles, CA

Dragon Boat Festival

August 1-2, 2008

Upcoming June Programs

June 16 Exchange Student – Fena, Chile
June 23 Opera: Men with High Voices – Dr Pat Riley
June 30 Club Assembly – Passing the Gavel / Year in Review – **Gary Johnson/ Gayle Quistgard**

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn Helzter	June 10
Daryl Knoer	June 10
Samantha Meemken	June 12
John O'Boyle	June 13

BEMIDJI GREEN UP

Thanks go to Rotarian **Kevin Williamson** for coordinating the community beautification project, Bemidji Green Up. According to news reports, volunteers planted 150 8 to 12 foot maple and ash trees on May 17 in the Lincoln South Development near the Lake Bemidji south shore. These trees will have immediate impact and survive for many generations.

YOUTH EXCHANGE

We will soon have a youth exchange inbound student from Germany, and if you are interested in being a host family, talk to **Kirsten Addison**. Also, if you know of a local student who would be a good candidate for outbound Youth Exchange, contact Kirsten.

PLAYHOUSE UPDATE

Keep those playhouse ticket sales going! The goal is to have every member sell at least two books, and that would make us exceed every other year's total for this important fundraiser. The playhouse is now on display at Lueken's South. If you need more tickets, see **Amy Saeland**. For accounting purposes,

Amy would also appreciate it if you would turn in sold books of tickets.

GSE – COMMENTS

Rotary Group Study Exchange visitors from Sweden were recently hosted in Bemidji. These comments about their experience, as noted by local news reports, indicate that the goal of GSE – promoting international understanding by bringing together people from different countries and cultures – was met:

-“In a way, you make contact with people you'll know a long time, maybe the rest of your life.”

-“I've never been outside of Europe before. This is quite interesting. I like it here.”

-“I really like all the places you get to see. You get to know the culture a lot more. I'm just really happy that I was lucky enough to go on this trip.”

-“We have met great host families.”

-“The people are really nice. Rotarians go a long way to give us the best experiences.”

-“We have so many memories from this trip. It will be hard to tell our friends in 20 minutes.

-“We are learning all the time and meeting loving people. It's a wonderful way to make friends with other people.”

Rotary Around the World

British, French Rotarians aid flood victims. In August, Gambian fire and rescue service received 10 rescue boats, complete with engines and life jackets, through the efforts of the Rotary clubs of Bristol Aztec, Bristol, England, and Marne la Vallee, Seine-et-Marne, France. Hundreds of lives are lost every year because of the annual flooding of the Gambia River. The boats will give rescuers the recovery capability they need to save victims stranded by dangerous floodwaters. With support from a Matching Grant, the two clubs generated about US\$39,000 for the project and plan to raise enough to send an additional 10 rescue boats to Gambia.