

June 29, 2009

This Week's Program
Club Assembly – Passing of the Gavel
Next Week's Program
Project Graduation – John Eggers

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Dragon Boat Festival - July 30-Aug 1
Bemidji Waterfront

UPCOMING JULY/AUGUST PROGRAMS

July 13	Jim Proebstle
July 20	Dairy Farming – Ben Osmonson
July 27	Meeting at the Waterfront
Aug 3	Dist Governor – Ajoy Chatterjee

VISITING ROTARIAN

Gene Gordon, Dubuque, IA (Welcome to Gene observing his 57th year as our summer Rotarian)

GRANTS AWARDED

BSU Foundation

THANK YOU

Please thank **Karson and Wendy Otness** for their extraordinary help this year as a host family for Jakob. They did the entire year and did so much more.

PARADE TICKET SELLERS NEEDED

Playhouse tickets will once again be sold at the July 4th parade (to be held on Sunday, July 5th) and ticket sellers for this event are needed. This is usually a major sales opportunity. If you are willing to help out with the sales, see **Scott Turn**.

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

Our two exchange students need to get the first host homes for the Fall, 2009 in the 2009-2010 academic-year. Francesca and Quentin need to be set up for their visits with the US Embassies in their countries (this can take weeks during the summer months)

Here are some answers to FAQs:

1) *Does the host home/family need to be a member of Rotary?*

No. So, if you know anyone interested in hosting, let us know.

2) *What responsibilities will I have as a host home/family?*

The student will be governed not only by the rules of the program but by the rules of your household. You are responsible for the safety of the exchange student the same as for your own family members. Although you might have a bit more of the soccer mom or dad for normal everyday activities it is not your responsibility to act as a taxi service or a tour guide. Rotarians from the hosting club will be helping in these areas.

3) *How long would I host a student?*

The stay is a minimum of 3 months. Depending on the circumstances, this can be extended. Generally, each student has between 1 to 3 host homes.

4) *What are my obligations as a host home/family?*

The easiest way to explain this is to say that your exchange student should be treated as you would treat your own child. Although you might receive a stipend from the hosting club this is not required and is usually the exception. The only area you will probably have outside help will be transportation. Otherwise, consider yourself to have son or daughter. Entering into hosting with this frame of mind is the most rewarding. Ask any family that has hosted before.

What are the benefits of hosting an exchange student?

- * Learn about a new culture or language
- * Make lifelong friends
- * Live Life to the fullest

Families with grown children or without kids of their own love hosting too. Having an exchange student in your local high school provides a great way to stay involved with your community. Many people also find they start living life to the fullest with a new son or daughter to share experiences with.

- * Teach others about America

When you host, you play a direct role in promoting the values of the United States. Living with your family is the best way for students from around the world to become immersed in American democracy, media and debate. When the student you host goes on to university and a career, the lessons they've learned in America will help to shape their decisions for a lifetime.

Who are our students?

Quentin Delextrat is 17. He will turn 18 in Feb, 2010. He is from Grenoble, France. He has studied Italian, English and Spanish. He has two siblings: a younger sister, 14 and a younger brother, 4. His father is a civil servant and mother is a social worker. He is from a rural area of France near Lyon. Quentin enjoys drama, film-making, photography, tennis. He is academically above the class average. He likes to study in his room. He would like to earn a business school degree when he is older. His goals for his exchange year are to: "discover a country and its way of life, meeting new people, establishing new, long-term friendships, gaining in maturity and speaking fluently in a foreign language."

Francesca Paz Rose Vallejos is 16 years old. She will turn 17 in Oct, 2009. She is from La Union, Chile. She has studied English and German. She has 3 younger siblings: Florencia, 13; Lukas, 10 and Nikolas, 3 months old. Her parents are both dentists. She is involved in music, theatre and classic, contemporary and folk dance. She has participated in several school musicals and is a member of her student council. She hopes to improve her English, learn about new cultures and live new experiences during her exchange year. Francesca's dad is also a fireman and a member of the Rotary Club in La Union.

Contact **Kirsten Addison** at 800-450-2214 to sign up as a host family.