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THE HOUGHTON LAKE ROTARIAN

DISTRICT 6290

WWW.HLROTARY.ORG

An Exchange Year in Finland: From Stressful to Amazing!

Rotary outbound exchange student Jennifer Wagner spoke to the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake at the July 14th meeting about her year in Finland.

Rotarian and former Exchange Student Committee chairperson Rhonda Lamberg introduced Jennifer noting that her preparation for the long-term exchange began two years ago. Jennifer attended Rotary exchange conferences where she met other exchange students and learned about the "challenges" of spending a year in another country. Jennifer left for Finland last August and returned this past June 21st.

Finland was not Jennifer's first or second choice for a host country. When Jennifer learned that Finland is where she would go, she was not immediately excited. Undaunted, she began to study the country and language explaining that Finnish is only surpassed in difficulty by the Japanese and Chinese languages.

After arriving in Finland, she spent a

few weeks in a "camp" for exchange students to help acclimate them to Finnish culture and learn the Finnish language. She then went to her first host family. Jennifer explained that they did not know much English, and found that the training camp was little help.

In Finland, families that send outbound exchange students *must* host inbound students during the same time. This created a very stressful environment for Jennifer as the family was not only stressed by losing one of their children for a year, but also with the difficulty of trying to communicate with an exchange student "stranger" in their family. Jennifer was also stressed by the school environment as Finnish students seemed to have an unnerving habit of staring.

As her command of the Finnish language grew, the stress decreased and Jennifer fell in love with the people and natural beauty (but not the food) of her host country. Jennifer spoke a few sentences in Finnish for the audience.

Jennifer's mom (Rotarian Diane Tompkins) visited for two weeks that Jennifer described as "both horrible and wonderful". Horrible because it confirmed her homesickness, but wonderful to see her mom. Phone communication had been difficult as Finland is 7 hours ahead of the Eastern time zone.

Her last weeks abroad included a tour of nine countries in Europe. Jennifer described the tour of Austria, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Denmark, Monaco, and Belgium as "amazing" and "wonderful", but given the choice, she would (and plans to) return to Finland.



Rotary outbound exchange student Jennifer Wagner discusses her "amazing" year in Finland. Jennifer is very excited that our inbound long-term exchange student, Susanna Vuorinen, is from Finland. "It will give me a chance to keep using the Finnish language", noted Jennifer.

Service Above Self

The Four Way Test of the things we say or do

- 1) Is it the truth?
- 2) Is it fair to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build good will and better friendships?
- 4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

2003-2004 Rotary Theme



Lend a Hand

The Four Avenues of Rotary Service

Vocational Service

Representing the dignity and utility of one's vocation to others.

Club Service

Activities to make a club function successfully.

Community Service

Activities to improve the quality of life in one's community. Assistance to youth, the aged, the handicapped and others.

International Service

Programs and activities to advance international understanding, goodwill and peace. Meeting humanitarian needs of people in many lands.

Program

Program	Date	Greeters
Club Assembly	7/28	McGregor / MacKenzie
D. Clasen	8/4	Kent / Kalmbach
J. Deamud	8/11	Kent / Kalmbach
A. Docherty	8/18	Hunter / Hanson
Club Assembly	8/25	Hunter / Hanson
Labor Day	9/1	NO MEETING!
D. Follrath	9/8	Hance / Hacker

Rotary/Interact Calendar

July is Rotary Literacy Month!

- Rich King - Aug. 5th, McGuire's Cadillac
- Board Meeting - Aug. 11, 2003 1:15 PM
- Board Meeting - Sept. 8, 2003 1:15 PM
- Adopt-A-Highway - September 13-21, 2003
- Dist. Governor visit - September 29, 2003

2003-2004 Rotary Int. President: Jonathan Majiyagbe
 2003-2004 Rotary Dist. 6290 Governor: Chuck Vonesh

Rotary Club of Houghton Lake 2003-2004 Officers and Chairmen

President	Gary Gandolfi
Past President	Laurie Wallin
President Elect	Randy Seymour
President Nominee	John Stark
Secretary	Bob Pacella
Treasurer	Bert Sisson
Board Members	Denise Clasen, Russ Graham, John Stark, Rick Hacker
Auction	Allison Docherty/Denise Clasen
Sgt. At Arms	Dan McGregor
Vocation	
International	Wendy Turner/Rhonda Lamberg
Community Service	Debbie Banks
Club Service	
Club Membership	Robert Gandolfi
Strive	Denise Clasen
Program	Lou Boggs
Bulletin/Webmaster	Gary Gandolfi
WCS Project	
Foundation/Polio	

Rotary Club of HL meets each Monday at Coyle's-12:15pm

Rotary Membership:

Terry Anderson-PP	Rick Hacker	Mike Ryan
Debbie Banks	Amy Hance	Rich Saterlee
Charlie Berg	David Hanson	Randy Seymour-PE
Lou Boggs	Steve Hunter	Anita Sheppard
Dick Brown	Vickie Kalmbach	Bert Sisson
Mike Burnside	Jim Kent	Barb Souder-PP
Denise Clasen	Rhonda Lamberg	Louise Spicer-PP
Jim Deamud	John MacKenzie-PP	Phillip Spicer-PP
Allison Docherty	Dan McGregor	John Stark-PN
Dick Follrath	Tom McNamara-PP	Diane Tompkins
Jim French	Darrell Milner-PP	Wendy Turner
Bob Gandolfi-PP	Tom Moreau-PP	Rodney Walker
Gary Gandolfi-P	Marv Myers	Laurie Wallin-PP
Art Gonzalez-PP	Bill Oliver-PP	Sindy Winkler
Russ Graham-PP	Bob Pacella	
Matt Grover	Mike Rankin	

HL High School Interact Club 2003-2004 Officers and Chairmen

President	George Davis
Past President	Elise Jury
President Elect	Mary Domsitz
Secretary	Lauren Lambert
Treasurer	Kate Lepper
Sophomore Director	Amanda Davis
Junior Director	Courtney Yoder
Senior Director	John MacKenzie II
Advisors	Alison Docherty Bill Oliver

Interact meets twice monthly during seminar -
 10:15 am in the cafeteria.

Interact Membership:

Kelsey Barber	Shanna Heiser	Jeremy Ryan
Lou Boggs	Brittany Herbst	Eric Spearman
Sara Buccilli	Casey Hodges	Brian Suchowesky
Thais Cardarelli	Becky Homan	Casey Thayer
Devon Clifford	Marissa Janco	Ashley Tift
Megan Clock	Christa Kubiak	Shawna Trahan
Jimmy Cole	Lauren Lambert	Rachel Walch
Amanda Davis	Kate Lepper	Paige Warden
George Davis	Kelly Lepper	Nicole Waters
Heather Davis	Aaron Linskey	Courtney Yoder
Mary Domsitz	Alyssa Loney	Ashley Ziehm
Jered Dowland	Emily Loy	
Erika Fitzgerald	John MacKenzie	
Peirson Forbes	Dani Marquedant	
Andrew Fossitt	Kurt Mason	
Natalie Foster	Nicole Mieske	
Amy Gancitano	Rachel Nauikow	
Zak Hammond	Jacqueline Neill	
Leanna Harvey	Andrea Randall	

July 21, 2003 retrospect:

Program: John MacKenzie II—Life Leadership Conference 2003

Interact Guests: Summer Break

Other Guests:

Birthday:

HL Rotary news:

- The Rotary Golf Tournament appears to have grossed over \$16,000 and netted over \$10,000.!
- \$4,000 in Houghton Lake Rotary scholarships were awarded to: Jessica Domsitz: Jr. Miss Spirit, Daniel Vendzuh: Academic, Tony Silva: Academic, Jessica Burnett: Vocational, Elise Jury: Interact, and Jared Milner: Interact.
- A new inbound exchange student, Maria Susanna Vuorinen from Finland, will arrive August 13th.
- The Rotary Park pavilion construction is underway again!

HLHS Interact news:

- Congratulations to this year's graduating Interact seniors:
Tiffany Ancel, Billee Banks, Lisa Burnell, Jessica Burnett, Josh Caswell, Jessica Domsitz, Steven Faust, Megan Fryck, Catie Hock, Kendall Johnson, Elise Jury, Lauren Lambert, Kristin MacArthur, Jared Milner, Nicole Schaefer, Dale Shagena, Linna Shamel, Tony Silva, Tyler Stark

Proposed Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Business/Company</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Week</u>
Bill Collin	Health Services	Mercy Health Services	R. Seymour	@

Any objections to proposed members must be submitted to the Rotary board before the third week on this list. A @ in the Week column indicates "Approved for membership".

Inbound Exchange Student: **Maria Susanna Vuorinen**
 Home city, country: Finland (arrives 8/2003)

Outbound Exchange Student:
 Host country:

Meetings can be made up lunch time at:



Monday:	Hotel Kalkaska, Kalkaska
Tuesday:	McGuires, Cadillac
Wednesday:	Patti's Townhouse, Grayling
Thursday:	BJ's, Gaylord Fred's Tavern, Roscommon

The Weekly Rotarian is published weekly by the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake, MI - USA -
 Rotary District 6290. Visit us on the Internet at: **WWW.HLROTARY.ORG.**

IF YOU HAVE ROTARY NEWS CONTACT ROTARIAN GARY AT (989) 422-4070
 OR E-MAIL GARY AT webmaster@hlrotary.org.