



The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor

# eWheel

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To Your Inbox

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

As the moon was slowly covered in a total eclipse Sunday night, red shadows around the edges quickly became more prominent until the moon was a shade of blood red, not to be seen again until 2033.

Watching the eclipse brought childhood feelings of wonder and amazement, and with it all the memories of years gone by. May your memories always be as happy as mine.

## SASHA YANUSHKO DESCRIBES HER LIFE IN RUSSIA



Sasha just arrived to Chicago O'Hare airport



Riding a duck in downtown St. Joseph - something they don't have in Russia!

Sasha Yanushko, at 15 years of age, is perhaps the youngest Rotary Exchange Student we have had in the Saint Joseph-Benton Harbor club. Born on October 25 in Saint Petersburg, Russia to her father Gregory, a psychiatrist, and her mother Olga, who is a supervisor for a medical insurance company, Sasha also has a 10 year old brother named Ilya, who is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at school. One thing most people will recognize when talking to Sasha is that she is a young woman full of promise and hope.

Her presentation to Rotary today was about who she is, and where she is from, and the differences she has noticed between the two countries in the first month of her stay.

It is noted that on this day of her presentation to our US Rotary Club, the Presidents of our two countries also met today to discuss politics.

Sasha took us through the basics: her name (it is actually Alexandra, but she prefers Sasha), her age, and the fact that she likes to read, travel and listen to music. She has been to the US before when she was 11 years old. She came with a friend and her mother. They went to the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Hollywood and New York City. This last summer, her family spent four weeks in Israel. She has also traveled with her family to France, Finland and many other countries in Europe. She is quite the experienced traveler.

At home, Sasha is responsible for cleaning the house and doing the grocery shopping for her family. She has other chores as well, including taking care of her two Yorkshire Terriers, but she stated she is excited to be here because she doesn't have to work as much here.

In America, Sasha's host family is Debra and Bruno Trapikas and their 16 year old daughter, Riley. Riley and Sasha hit it off as best friends from the moment they finally met at the Chicago O'Hare airport. The two of them fill the house with laughter and giggles. They also share two classes at school (Biology and Algebra 2) and band. Because Riley is in Color Guard, Sasha tried out as well and is also on the team.

Sasha took us through a very short version of Russian history which was extremely interesting.

This history of Russia began with the Eastern Slavs. It included the entire area inhabited by Ilmen Slavs, Veps and Votes and was established by Rurik in 862. This was considered the traditional beginning of Russian history.

Kievan Rusm the first united East Slavic state was founded by Rurik's successor, Oleg of Novgorod in 882. The state adopted Christianity from the Byzantine Empire in 988. It defined Byzantine and Slavic cultures for the next millennium. Kievan Rus' ultimately disintegrated as a state because of the Mongol invasion of Russia in 1237-1240 with the deaths of about half the population.

After the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Moscow became a cultural center. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Tsardom of Russia had become the huge Russian Empire, stretching from the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth eastward to the Pacific Ocean. Russian serfdom was abolished in 1861, but the peasants were against this because it increased revolutionary pressures. Between the abolition of serfdom and the beginning of World War I in 1914, the Stolypin reforms, and the constitution of 1906, the State Duma attempted to open and liberalize the economy and politics of Russia, but the tsars still did not willingly relinquish autocratic rule or share their power.

The Russian Revolution in 1917 was born out of a combination of economic breakdown, war-weariness and discontent with the autocratic system of government, and it first brought a coalition of liberals and moderate socialists to power, but their failed policies led to seizure of

power by the Communist Bolsheviks on October 25h. Between 1922 and 1991, the history of Russia is essentially the history of the Soviet Union.

The approach to the building of socialism, however, varied over different periods in Soviet history, from the mixed economy and diverse society and culture of the 1920's to the economy and repressions of the Joseph Stalin era to the "era of stagnation" in the 1980's.

From its first years, government in the Soviet Union was based on the one-party rule of the Communists, as the Bolsheviks called themselves, beginning in March of 1918. However, by the mid-1980's, with the weaknesses of its economic and political structures becoming acute, Mikhail Gorbachev embarked on major reforms, which led to the fall of the Soviet Union.

The history of the Russian Federation officially started in January, 1992. The Russian Federation was the legal successor to the Soviet Union on the international stage. However, Russia had lost its superpower status after facing serious challenges in its efforts to forge a new post-Soviet political and economic system. Scrapping the socialist central planning and state ownership of property in the Soviet era, Russia attempted to build an economy based on market capitalism, often with painful results.

Since the new millennium, Vladimir Putin has been the dominant leader. Even today Russia shares many continuities of political culture and social structure with its tsarist and Soviet past.

Sasha continued her presentation by stating that her country has many traditions and cultures including batik painting, wedding traditions, and Maslenitsa. This tradition dates back to Pagan times where Russian people would bid farewell to winter and welcome spring.

Sasha thanked the Rotary Club for being her host club and told them how much she appreciated them. She then thanked her host family and told them she loved them already. It was a touching end to her presentation.



Club of  
Saint Joseph  
Benton Harbor

Service Opportunity

# Park Cleanup Day

### When

Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

### Who

Rotarians, Interactors, Friends & Family

### What to Bring

We will provide most tools, water, and supplies. Bring gloves, safety glasses, and energy.

### How to Participate

Arrive Saturday Morning ready to beautify our park! Stay as long as you're able. We will be installing (and utilizing) trash receptacles, trimming shrubs, killing weeds, and planting hostas.

### Where

Bobo Brazil Park on Main Street in Downtown Benton Harbor

*RSVP not required, but encouraged. Contact Club President, Michael Kinney, for more information.*



### UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Oct. 5 – Boy Scouts of America

Oct.12 – Ken Ankley, New Territorial Arts Association

Oct. 19 – PDG Ed Foster, Polio

### RAFFLE TICKETS

TRF Raffle Tickets are on sale one more week at the club meeting. Lori Marciniak will be more than happy to sell you a ticket for \$20.00. 20% of that ticket goes into credits for our club which can then be used on youth services: Interact, Ryla, Youth Exchange.

Remember too, there will be a raffle for cash prizes for those who purchased a ticket. Be sure and buy your ticket today!

### UPCOMING FUNDRAISER

Jackie Huie has done it again ... she came up with a fundraiser for us to use – perhaps for the Interact club. The fundraiser is a T-shirt with the RI Logo on the front shirt pocket and on the back the words SMILE with a phrase of two of the Smile song we sing happily each week. It's a great idea. After a prototype has been developed, the club will be shown the shirt. Stay tuned!

### APPRECIATION DINNER

Speaking of Jackie, a dinner at Tosi's Restaurant on October 7, 2015 from 6 – 8 pm is being held to congratulate and celebrate the nomination of Jackie as a Global Woman of Action. Dinner will be ordered from the manual and each person can pay their own bill. If you haven't signed up already, call Debra Trapikas (269-861-0718) or write: tawana53@aol.com

# JOKES of the Week

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed and dry cleaners depressed?

Laundry workers could decrease, eventually becoming depressed and depleted! Even more, bedmakers will be debunked, baseball players will be debased, landscapers will be deflowered, bulldozer operators will be degraded, software engineers will be detested, and even musical composers will eventually decompose.

A preacher dies, and when he gets to Heaven, he sees a New York cab driver who has more crowns. He says to an angel, "I don't get it. I devoted my whole life to my congregation."

The angel says, "We reward results. Did your congregation always pay attention when you gave a sermon?"

The preacher says, "Once in a while someone fell asleep."

The angel says, "Right. And when people rode in this guy's taxi, they not only stayed awake, but they usually prayed!"

## Interesting Facts About Rotarians

- There are more than 1.2 million Rotarians all over the world in more than 33,000 Rotary Clubs in more than 200 countries in all geographic areas.
- The Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships is the world's largest, privately funded scholarship program.
- Providing vitamin A supplements during polio National Immunization Days has averted an estimated 1.5 million childhood deaths since 1998 – testimony to the “plus” in PolioPlus.



*The first Rotary service project was the installation of public toilets in the city of Chicago.*

- The first Rotaract Club was formed in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA.
- The first women joined Rotary in 1987.

- Today, more than 196,000 woman are members of Rotary International.
- Rotarians in the United States make up 28% of all Rotarians worldwide
- Nauru and formerly known as Pleasant Island, is an island country in Micronesia in the South Pacific. Its nearest neighbor is Banaba Island in Kiribati, 182 miles to the east. It has the least amount of any Rotarians in the world, numbering only 11.

### TEST YOUR ROTARY KNOWLEDGE HOW MANY U.S. PRESIDENTS WERE ROTARIANS?

George W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Calvin Coolidge, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Gerald R. Ford, Warren G. Harding, Herbert Hoover, John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Woodrow Wilson,