



Weekly eWheel for the

Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor



Michigan, USA • District 6360 • Chartered 1918

JUNE 20, 2016

A day of beginnings and endings! We enjoyed the first day of summer with some very summery weather. We also shared some bittersweet moments as we came to the collective realization that this was the last regular Monday meeting where Mike Kinney would serve as Club President. We also heard from our foreign exchange student, Sasha Yanushko, who will soon be returning to her home in Russia.

HAS A YEAR GONE BY SO FAST?



Sasha Yanushko's year in the U.S. is soon coming to a close. She shared with us the highlights

of her year.

Sasha first expressed appreciation for the Trapikas family who served as her host family for the year. She made note to thank Debra for always accommodating her food allergies, to Bruno for the conversations she so enjoyed and to Riley, her host sister, who became her immediate soulmate, best friend and true sister forever.



Sasha couldn't stop giggling at the podium as she told of all the giggling that had transpired between Riley and her throughout the year. She told how Riley introduced her to people at St. Joseph High School and encouraged her to try out for Color Guard. Sasha says that Riley was patient with her to teach her the Color Guard routines and that she felt greatly supported by her all year.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 6/23: Board Meeting at 7:30 a.m. at Area Agency on Aging
- ❖ 6/23-6/26: Lest We Forget WWII Re-enactment
- ❖ 6/27: Installation Dinner at Hilton Garden Inn at 5:30 p.m. // NO AFTERNOON MEETING
- ❖ 7/4: Fourth of July // NO MEETING
- ❖ 7/11: Coach Elliott Uzelac
- ❖ 7/18: Clint Bosler & Kristen Weir, LOGAN Center Community Resources

Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

JOKE OF THE WEEK



UPDATE ON HOST FAMILY NEEDS

Debra Trapikas shared the happy news that we have secured a host family for the first few months of our new Brazilian exchange student's stay with us. Unfortunately, we still have another 9-10 months to cover with one or two more families.

You do not need to be a Rotarian to be a host family so please share this information with friends who may be interested in embarking on this adventure. All that is required of a host family is 1) they be a kind, caring, loving family who will treat the student as if she is their own child, not a guest; 2) a bed to herself. She can share a bedroom with a like student (near same age and gender); 3) Three meals a day (you will pay for her school meals, or send her with a lunch). Other than that, there just isn't much more to do. Take her around the city, the state, or on vacation to other states. Enjoy her. Learn as much from her, as she will be learning from you. Treat her kindly. Make her do chores around the house so she will be part of the family. Make sure she gets to school or school activities.

If you have any questions or if you're interested in being a host family, please contact Jennifer Kirsch, our new Youth Exchange Officer, at 985-8517 or email her at jennifer.m.kirsch@gmail.com.



VISITING ROTARIANS

Lee & Sue Scherwitz of Benton Harbor-Sunrise Rotary
Ryan Arnt of Lakeshore Rotary

ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Brandi Smith-Gordon brought Geoff Isaak
Debra Trapikas brought Riley Sober and Bruno Trapikas

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Happy Father's Day to all our Rotarian dads! Based on the demographics of the club...I have a sneaking suspicion that we have a few dads among our ranks.



CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE

We captured a commemorative photo of Mike Kinney at the podium serving as our club President for one last Monday meeting. This one's for the scrap book!

You, your spouse and guests are invited to a "Pass the Gavel" Installation Celebration on Monday, June 27, 2016!

The Rotary Club of Saint Joseph - Benton Harbor invites you to join us in celebration of the 2016-17 Installation tradition of "Passing the Gavel" from outgoing President Mike Kinney to incoming President Steve Smith, along with the introduction of Officers and Board Members.

Social Hour 5:30 p.m. *** Dinner and Program 6:30 p.m

Hilton Garden Inn

1300 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Cash Bar and Live Entertainment
\$35.00/ Person

Choose one meal: Trotter Steak, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Salmon on Bok Choy or Quinoa Stuffed Portabella Mushroom with Ratatouille

Payment Options:

Cash or Check, see Debra Trapikas before June 22, 2016
If paying by credit card (Mastercard and Visa only), register at www.sjbhrotary.org or www.district6360.com and click on the DACdb icon.

Questions? Please contact Debra Trapikas at 269-861-0718 or tawana53@aol.com

DUES ARE DUE!

Your annual Rotary membership dues are due by 6/30/16. Rotary International requires our club count at that time so it is very important that those are received.

THERE'S A NEW.... SERGEANT...IN TOWN

With the unfortunate passing of Mike Ahern, we also lost the chair of our Sergeant-at-Arms committee. Thank you to Matt Hanley for stepping into those very large shoes...and boy, is that a snappy vest!



DON'T FORGET!

It's that time of year again--time for the Lest We Forget festivities honoring the men and women who have served in the military. Visit their website at www.lestweforget.org for a full schedule of activities.



SAFE TRAVELS

The trip to the Dominican Republic is upon us...and by us, I mean 42 Interactors and Rotarians who are braving the heat to install biosand water filters and dig latrines. We hope you have a life-changing experience and we can't wait to see your pictures!



SAVE THE DATE FOR ENCORE!

The concept of an alumni variety show was born at the SJ Yacht Club at a focus group for the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation. It was proposed to be a fundraiser. The show developed by having a former director, Dennis Bowen, take the reins. He determined it would utilize former acts from the SJHS Variety Show from the 1950's through the 1990's. This show, now called, "SHOWTIME" is the longest-running variety show in the state of Michigan. Alums need to perform the same material as they did originally. Over 130 students returned for the show in August, 2014. Gross proceeds were \$93,000 all for the SJPS Foundation.

It was then decided to do an "encore" of ENCORE but with a two year hiatus and a couple of additions to the original concept. This time the former variety show acts were considered as well as performers from the various musicals presented at SJHS during that time period and.....those students from the 50's through 2005 who have had some major accomplishments in Fine Arts since their graduation were the pool that the acts for ENCORE 2016 were drawn from.

This year there will be over 150 students involved in the show which will be given at the John and Dede Howard auditorium at St. Joseph High School on Friday and Saturday evenings, August 19 and 20 at 7:00 p.m.

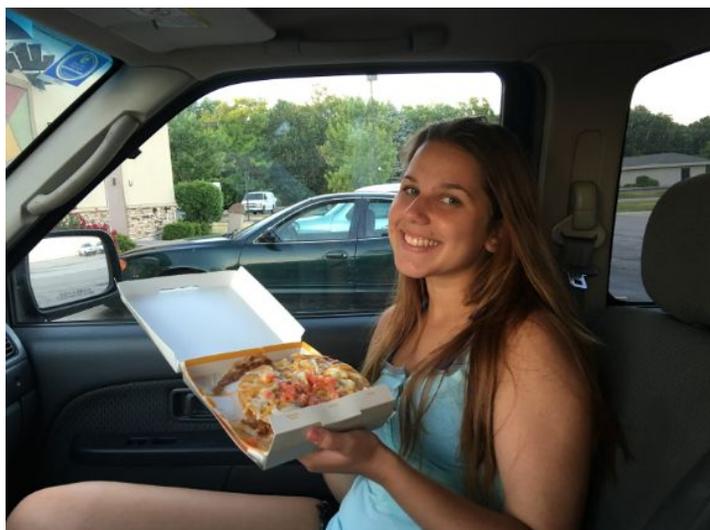


All seats are reserved at \$100, \$25, or \$10 and may be ordered now online at www.sjhsencore.org OR walking into Edgewater Bank and placing your order. Tickets may be picked up at the "Will Call" desk the nights of the performances or between 1:00-3:00 in the lobby of the auditorium on Wednesday or Thursday prior to the show (to eliminate congestion). Bring proper identification to get your tickets.

In addition to Rotarian Dennis Bowen's participation as director/producer, we're told that another Rotarian, Donna Metz, will be performing in this year's show as well. And, of course, among our ranks are also SJHS Superintendent Ann Cardon and SJPS Foundation President Bill Marohn.

YEAR GONE BY (CONTINUED)

Like many other exchange students before her, Sasha definitely noticed the United States culture of food. She said that she'd never seen people eat so many hamburgers. Her particular favorite U.S. food was Mexican pizza from Taco Bell...apparently a frequent afterschool stop for her and Riley.



At first, Sasha didn't see a huge difference between the U.S. and Russia. We both have sky and we both have grass. When landing in Chicago, she also noticed a similarity in size to her home town of St. Petersburg. When they got to St. Joseph, however, she was surprised by the smallness of our quaint town. Her initial concern was "where will I shop?" but these fears were soon quieted by an understanding of our proximity to South Bend, Michigan City and Chicago.

School here was very different for Sasha. In Russia, they were up at 9:00 a.m., they wore a uniform and they stayed in the same classroom all day with teachers rotating. There were no extracurricular activities or school sports, nor were there electives like band and choir. They also don't have Prom in Russia so Sasha was very thankful to have been able to attend that event here.



YEAR GONE BY (CONTINUED)

Sasha has also had the opportunity to do some traveling while in the United States. She traveled with the Trapikas family to Texas over Thanksgiving, to Oklahoma over Christmas and to Florida--including a water park and Disney World--over Spring Break.



In closing, Sasha shared that she was so appreciative of our beautiful country and for the kindness of the American people and she's sure she will find a way to come back. In fact, Sasha has to finish a year of high school back in Russia but then hopes to return here to go to college at Lake Michigan College.

She shared that it's amazing how a day turns into a week, turns into months and all of a sudden it's time to go home. She says she will always remember the experiences and the memories she's made and is thankful to the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor for making this life-changing experience possible.



WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE E-WHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Emily Hosinski, Jennifer Kirsch, Brandi Smith-Gordon and Lisa Cripps-Downey. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write to emily_m_hosinski@whirlpool.com.

Connect with the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor
online at www.sjbhrotary.org



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