Kaitlyn Breiten reports about…

My Rotary Exchange Year in Poland

Kaitlyn Breiten’s year in Poland challenged her in several, very different ways. First, there was a very difficult language to master but her persistence and an English-speaking host family that insisted she speak with them only in Polish paid off. “Dzien dobry panstwo!” Kaitlyn began to demonstrate her facility with one of Europe’s more difficult tongues.

“It is a different language,” Kaitlyn said. “In the Polish alphabet they have nine letters we don’t have and there are three of our letters they don’t have. A “W” in Polish equals a “V” in English and “Ew” in Polish is W. Polish classes three times a week helped Kaitlyn to master the vocabulary and grammar.

The City of Wroclaw with a population of more than 650,000 was daunting at first and getting around in a place where you haven’t yet learned enough language to read signs posed problems, but as her language skills advanced Kaitlyn eventually conquered that barrier.

Then, there was her first host family which seemed to be dysfunctional in a troubling way. “It was a really difficult situation,” Kaitlyn recalled. “My host mom left home and went to Germany to live. I felt like my host father was completely inappropriate with my host sister. I didn’t feel comfortable living there — just the three of us.”

Kaitlyn contacted her host Rotary club in the City of Wroclaw, but they weren’t responsive. Then, after another host parent learned of her plight, she was invited to live in that home until another host family could be found. Life in Kaitlyn’s subsequent host families improved and by Christmas she was feeling more comfortable and welcomed by her surroundings. “In the Maxsms family my host father was president of a Rotary Club and they made me feel like a part of the family, not like I was an intruder. I wasn’t homesick at Christmas because I was learning all of the Polish family traditions. The Maxsms were really great people.

As she settled into a better and richer family life and began to master the language, Kaitlyn gained a deeper appreciation for Polish history and culture.

“Poland is just 20 years removed from its status as a communist society,” Kaitlyn noted, “but it is moving forward and becoming more and more modernized.” An installation of public street sculpture in Wroclaw symbolized the descent into communism and the re-emergence of a free society. In the sculpture, human figures sink into the concrete of a city plaza only to re-emerge from an imaginary underground some distance further on.

“I asked my host parents what it was like to live in Poland as a communist country. They told me there were always long lines at the grocery stores and shortages of food. There were only three kinds of cars, all made by Fiat. Most people had factory jobs and the post WW II buildings all have the same look because they were designed and built by the Russians. The older people in Poland who lived through this period never smile.”

World War II was a terrible time in Poland where many of the Nazi concentration camps were located including the infamous Auschwitz camp. The war, followed by communist domination, made Poland a poor and second class country. But Poland has come a long way in the past twenty years since it broke away from the domination of the former Soviet Union. “The Euro will be adopted soon as Polish currency,” Kaitlyn noted, and in 2012 Poland will host the Euro Cup, the Super Bowl of Soccer. Poland is currently expanding its road system and, in the cities, hotels and other buildings are going up at an unprecedented rate.

Poland is predominantly Roman Catholic and Kaitlyn attended a Catholic Mass for the first time. “My knowledge of Catholicism has expanded,” Kaitlyn said. Kaitlyn thanked the club for their support
Today’s Program

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Forthcoming Programs

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August Birthday Roster

Betsy Jay — August 2
Jeff Woeppe — August 5
Chad Welch — August 14
Bruno Talevi — August 16
Carol Waller — August 19
Stephen Elliott — August 20
Hugh MacDougall — August 30

House Committee Schedule
(Meeting Set-up & Breakdown)

Tom Lieber — August 4
John Ramsey — August 11
Martin Tillapaugh — August 18
Doug Walth — August 25
Unassigned — September 1
Dave Bliss — September 8
Bill Coleman — September 15
Steve Elliott — September 22
Doug Geertgens — September 29

Inbound 2009-2010 Exchange Students

The Cooperstown Rotary Club will host three inbound exchange students in 2009-2010.

Carola Neri (Italy)
Carola is the 17-year-old daughter of Giampiero and Silvana Neri. The family resides in Foggio dei Pini, an enclave of 1,800 inhabitants founded 40 years past by engineers, doctors and lawyers seeking to escape the chaos of urban living. She is the youngest sibling in the family of five. She has a bother Roberto, age 24, and a sister Manuela, age 22. Carola’s father is a technical assistant for Telecom Italy and her mother is a school chancellor. Carola aspires to become a psychologist.

Hubert Szmigiel (Poland)
Hubert is the 17-year-old son of Marek and Grazyna Szmigiel. The family resides in the city of Wroclaw where Hubert’s father is the police commander of the province. Hubert’s mother is the provincial marriage registrar. Hubert has one sibling, a sister Patrycia, age 19, currently a student. Hubert is an avid soccer player and fan and is expert at the martial art of Taekwondo. He is interested in sports, sports management and tourist recreation.

Daniel Guillaume Alexandre Gille Saldaña (Mexico)
Daniel is the son of Jean Phillippe Daniel Gille Boucher and Miriam Saldaña Chairez. The family resides in Mexico City. Daniel’s father is from France and works for a French technology company in Mexico. Daniel’s mother is a real estate broker. Daniel’s passion is computer science. He is also fond of pets and has a dog named Douchka and a cat named Luna. Daniel’s other interests include sailing in the summer and skiing in the winter.

2009 Rotary Applefest
Raffle & Silent Auction
Rotarians, Please Note:

Please contribute and arrange for area vendors to contribute items for the Raffle and Silent Auction at Applefest.

Jim Howarth and Tabetha Rathbone will be storing and cataloguing items.
• Please call them for pick-up at 547-2555. Jim’s extension is 23 and Tabetha’s is 210.
• Or, bring smaller items to Rotary meetings.
• Or, drop items off at the railroad offices on Railroad Avenue in Cooperstown. Call Jim or Tabetha from the phone inside the door.
• Or, leave items on the bench. Please leave Rotarian donor’s name and item for recording and follow-up purposes. Thanks.
Squirts from The Oil Can
Announcements & Miscellany
Summary of the August 4th Business Meeting

The Rev. Sundar Samuel came to the podium for our invocation prayer: We quote: "Holy and ineffable God, we know that you have created us, named us and claimed us as your own precious children. We trust in that love, and yet we wonder how there can be so much pain and suffering in the world. We pray for those men, women and children who have never known what it is like to live without the threat of violence, who don't know when or from where their next meal will come, and who face atrocities most of us cannot even imagine. We pray for peace — peace between neighbors, tribes and countries. Help us find ways to resolve our differences that don't include weapons. Help us learn to respect differences in beliefs, parties and ethnicity so that all your children are treated with dignity. Help us Rotarians to not avert our eyes but to walk with those who are hurting, and to work in the trenches to bring relief to human suffering, through our words, actions and generosity. In Christ I pray. Amen."

Sergeant-at-Arms Charles Ellsworth introduced our guests. Outbound exchange student Ryan Davine (Germany) was hosted by Will Monie. Mike Jerome introduced his guest — Dion Wade, Director of the Clark Sports Center. Tom Lieber was host for Dennis Jakubowicz who is re-affiliating with our club after a hiatus in New Jersey. Dennis paid in his annual dues and asked that his name be re-inserted at his old spot between Doug Geertgens and Chuck Newman on The Oil Can’s page four roster of members. So be it. Welcome back Dennis!

David Vaules was our songmeister du jour. It being the first Tuesday of August we acknowledged the birthdays of seven members (see list on p. 2) by singing the customary celebratory song followed by a demand for $5 in tribute. David noted in passing that August 4th also happened to be the birthday of President Barack Obama. We continued the musical interlude with Roll Out the Barrel (Sing a song of good cheer) and finished with Blue Skies (Never saw the sun shining so bright).

Carl Good updated the figures for the forthcoming Apple Fest at the Fly Creek Cider Mill. Sponsorship dollars are coming in at a slower pace than expected, a reflection perhaps of generally strained economic conditions. We have about $4,200 in hand at present, a total that is about two-thirds of the amount counted at this juncture last year. Dennis Jakubowicz is re-joining the Apple Fest fund raising efforts.

Margie Landers spoke on behalf of the Fellowship Committee asking that members advise her promptly of those events in the lives of our members that merit condolences or "get well" wishes. Early notification gives Margie time to secure a card and have it signed and delivered when it counts the most. Margie reported that Angie Erway had undergone emergency surgery recently and is now recovering satisfactorily.

Doug Geertgens reported about the doings at District 7170’s “Rebound Dinner” for returning outbound exchange students. “The incoming Rotary International president is putting the youth exchange program at the top of his list,” Doug said. “He sees the influence of youth exchange worldwide and the importance of youth exchange for the future of Rotary and the world.” Doug then delivered a District 7170 award certificate to President Bill Glockler recognizing this club’s youth exchange program and its accomplishments.

President Bill called Roger Smith to the podium and informed Roger and the members that henceforth Roger would be listed as an honorary member. Honorary members are relieved of dues obligations and attendance requirements but remain free to participate in club programs and fundraising efforts as they wish. Roger’s long service to the club, particularly his support for Election Day Pancake Feast efforts, have earned him the honor. Also receiving designations as honorary members are Ferd Thering and Catherine Black. The club membership now includes eight honorary members and 84 active members. Of the total 92 active and honorary members, 62 are men and 30 are women.

President Bill said that he intended to reinvigorate the “Rotary Minute,” a practice begun by Ellen Tilla-paugh-Kuch when she served as the club’s president some years past. Bill read a passage from a booklet titled “Honoring Our Past: The Words and Wisdom of Paul Harris.” In the future, The Oil Can will endeavor to repeat these passages in its reports.

Tom Lieber collected our happy dollars and began by saying that he was grateful to Mother Earth for her good nature and good weather in recent days. The Rev. Betsy Jay said she was grateful to Sundar for giving the invocation in her stead when she was late arriving. Betsy also said she had received the gift of a pink kayak for her birthday. Joan Badgley who has been housing and entertaining a bevy of family members and visitors these past few weeks said she was relieved to finally have an empty house. Richard Blabey reported that his daughter had published a major article on public health in a professional journal. Jeff Katz said he had just finished writing his first college tuition check. Hugh MacDougal had a dollar to celebrate Barack Obama’s birthday. President Bill said he had enjoyed riding his motorcycle alongside George Cade and Dennis Jakubowicz in the Ricky Parisian motorcycle rally. TRH
Membership Roll
(By Date of Affiliation)
Hon. = Honorary Member; PHF = Paul Harris Fellow; 
SPP = Sustaining Paul Harris; PDG = Past District Governor
a. = Affiliation Date; b. = Month/Day of Birth

Howard Talbot, Hon; PHF; a. 12/51; b. 10/06
Ted Peters, PHF; a. 12/59; b. 05/12
Ed Badgley, Hon; a. 06/61; b. 07/07

Catherine Black, Hon; PHF; a. 01/22/91; b. 04/22
Ellen Tillapaugh-Kuch, PHF; a. 10/1/91; b. 02/16
Cathy Raddatz, PHF; a. 12/29/92; b. 03/02
Tom Heitz, PHF; a. 03/02/93; b. 12/20
Bill Coleman, PHF; a. 04/13/93; b. 02/16
Pati Grady, a. 01/11/94; b. 03/07
Jim Gates, PHF; a. 02/20/96; b. 03/09
Michael Otis, PHF; a. 05/28/96; b. 07/17
Carol Waller, PHF; a. 05/28/96; b. 08/19
Susan Streek, PHF; a. 11/19/96; b. 04/04
Mary Jo McPhail, a. 12/09/97; b. 01/03

Anne Geddes-Atwell, PHF; a. 01/27/98; b. 07/01
Carole Cade, PHF; a. 02/16/99; b. 02/23
Tom Lieber, PHF; a. 11/16/99; b. 07/15
Margaret Savoie, PHF; a. 12/07/99; b. 05/20
Francis May, PHF; a. 07/25/00; b. 04/02
Patricia Donnelly, PHF; a. 05/29/01; b. 02/24
Jim R. High, PHF; PDG; a. 09/04/01; b. 04/03
John Clow, a. 10/16/01; b. 02/17
Michael V. Coccoma, a. 12/18/01; b. 03/30
Mary R. Wright, PHF; a. 02/19/02; b. 07/01
Vicki Gates, PHF; a. 02/26/02; b. 11/06
Dave Bliss, a. 04/30/02; b. 10/28
Chad Welch, a. 09/17/02; b. 08/14
Mary Leonard, a. 09/17/02; b. 01/13
Carl Good, a. 04/01/03; b. 02/12
Lois Warrell, PHF; a. 04/08/03; b. 09/24
John Irving, PHF; a. 04/08/03; b. 11/20
Bill Glockler, PHF; a. 08/05/03; b. 10/18
Paul Kuhn, PHF; a. 08/05/03; b. 05/14
Greg Noonan, a. 10/28/03; b. 07/03

Jane F. Clark, Hon; PHF; a. 01/08/04; b. 05/11
Doug Geertgens, PHF; a. 03/02/04; b. 01/04
Dennis Jakubowicz, a. 03/02/04; b. 07/05
Chuck Newman, PHF a. 03/02/04; b. 09/04
Betsy D. Jay, a. 05/18/04; b. 08/02
Martin Tillapaugh, PHF; a. 09/07/04; b. 11/29
David Vaules, PHF; a. 10/05/04; b. 02/14
Sundar Samuel, a. 09/20/05; b. 11/16
Donna Shipman, PHF; a. 10/04/05; b. 09/25
Will Green, a. 01/24/06; b. 01/29
Stephen Elliott, a. 02/07/06; b. 08/20
Scott Barrett, a. 02/14/06; b. 09/14
Tori Barown, a. 05/16/06; b. 04/17
Jim Kevlin, a. 07/25/06; b. 03/15
Lyn Edinger, a. 10/03/06; b. 07/29
Jake Maijala, a. 10/31/06; b. 06/22
Ray Holohan, a. 01/09/07; b. 09/21
Jeff Katz, a. 03/20/07; b. 09/14
Ben Novellano, a. 02/20/07; b. 11/03
Marjorie Landers, a. 05/01/07; b. 07/22
John Bullis, a. 05/29/07; b. 12/03
Mary Earl, a. 07/31/07; b. 11/28
Frank Capozza, a. 11/13/07; b. 11/27
Ralph Snell, a. 12/18/07; b. 11/23
Richard J. Blabey, a. 03/18/08; b. 03/11
Charles A. Ellsworth, a. 03/18/08; b. 11/19
Will Stegman, a. 03/18/08; b. 10/18
Tabetha Rathbone, PHF; a. 05/13/08; b. 04/09
Tim Wiles, a. 05/20/08; b. 06/28
Frank Leo, a. 06/17/08; b. 03/28
Irene Fassett, Hon; PHF; a. 06/24/08; b. 01/20
Jim Howarth, a. 09/09/08; b. 07/02
Nancie Apps, a. 11/18/08; b. 10/28
Bruce Markusen, a. 12/16/08; b. 01/30
Ryan W. Miose, a. 04/21/09; b. 12/09
John M. Mason, a. 04/21/09; b. 07/09
Diana Nichols-Dilorrenzo, a. 05/05/09; b. 11/14
Andrew R. Marietta, a. 05/12/09; b. 10/02
Angie L. Erway, a. 05/12/09; b. 07/01
Amanda May, a. 07/28/09; b.

84 Active Members; 8 Honorary Members
92 Total Members / 62 Men / 30 Women
Inbound Exchange Students: 3
Outbound Exchange Students: 6

First Paul Harris Fellows:
Joe Vidosic, Marj. Tillapaugh (Hon)

Non-Rotarian Paul Harris Fellows:
Donna Lamb High Walter Rich Santa Claus
Barbara Harman Anita High Martha Vaules
Karine Rich Virginia Heitz Marianne Bez

Rotary Club of Cooperstown (Club No. 4868)
Website: cooperstownrotary.org

The Rotary Club of Cooperstown
P.O. Box 993
Cooperstown, New York 13326
Web Site: cooperstownrotary.org

Rotary International President
John Kenny (Scotland)

District 7170
Sam Koury, District Governor
(Ononta)

Club Officers:
2009–2010
William “Bill” Glockler, President
President-Elect: Open
Vice-President: Open
Paul Kuhn, Past-President
Margaret Savoie, Secretary
Anne Geddes-Atwell, Assistant Secretary–Cathy Raddatz
Jake Maijala, Treasurer
Charles Ellsworth, Sgt.-at-Arms

Directors:
Marjorie Landers 2008–2010
Donna Shipman 2008–2010
Chad Welch 2009–2010
Frank Capozza 2009–2011
Ralph Snell 2009–2011
Teri Barown 2009–2011

The Oil Can Editor
Tom Heitz
cooperstown@aol.com

Inbound Exchange Students:
Daniel Gille Saela (Mexico)
Hubert Szmyd (Poland)
Cavola Neri (Italy)

2009–2010
Outbound Exchange Students:
Emily Davidson (Belgium)
Anna Weber (Belgium)
Ryan Davine (Germany)
Krista Tandl (Germany)
Julia Nelson (France)
Chelsea Meakler (Argentina)

Cooperstown Rotary Website:
www.cooperatorn.ca/cooperstown