



GOLD CLUB

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The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Furnitureland
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Service Above Self

100% Paul Harris Club

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This week's editor – David Pruette

Rotary against Drugs

Julia Dills and Ann Fagg of the High Point Central Interact Club were our two contestants in the Rotary against Drugs Speech contest. Both students gave excellent talks from a young person's viewpoint concerning the dangers of drug usage and some possible steps that could be taken to reduce the emphasis on drugs and alcohol for today's high school students. Julia Dills was selected by our panel of judges as the winner. She will receive a check for \$100 as the first place prize. Ann will receive \$25 for her efforts. Congratulations to both young women for outstanding efforts.



We're going to have a Birthday Party, and it's all about you!

All Rotarians and their guests are invited to celebrate the 100th birthday of Rotary. A luncheon will be held at Koury Convention Center on February 23.

Registration will begin at 11:30 A. M. The doors will open at noon, and the program will be from 12:30 to 1:30. Registration must be made by February 11. A 100th birthday of Rotary will only happen once in our lifetime. This is a real opportunity. Let Randy Carda know right away if you want to attend. Furnitureland will not meet on Monday of that week



Gary Sturgill had no insurance in his effort to win the Queen of Hearts. The pot is now around \$1,100 and continuing to grow as the Queen resists all our efforts.

Absent February 7

Bryant, Burg, Carroll, Dyson, Eade, Hawks, Hendrix, Ilderton, McKnight, Mendenhall, Stewart, Stroud, Walton

Trinity Student of the Month

John Womack introduced Jeffery Short, an outstanding young man who is our February Trinity Student of the Month. Jeffery has a 4.15 GPA (a completely foreign concept to many members of Furnitureland), runs on the cross-country team, participated in the Quiz Bowl for Trinity, and is a member of the Beta Club and other Trinity organizations. He hopes to study Computer engineering in college. Janison Dillon, January's Student of the Month, also attended the meeting.



Two Weeks until the Auction!!!!!!

We need to start getting items in ASAP so we can prepare the final printing in the program. Program sponsorships are still available for \$150.

Monday, February 14th is the last day to return unsold raffle tickets. Any unsold tickets returned after the meeting will be billed to the club member who has them. Jef will make every effort to follow up on this after the meeting but we must get the tickets back in so they can be sold in advance of the event. Please get the stubs and money from tickets which have been sold to Jef on Monday as well. Brad Procton announced that eight raffle tickets had been turned back in to him. Please contact Brad if you can sell any of the tickets or if you want them for yourself.

The auction committee appreciates everyone's efforts up to this point. Let's keep up the good work. We hope to raise the bar significantly at this year's auction and with your help we can do it.

We need any new item you can give or have donated. Unique items, vacations, tools, hunting and fishing trips are just a few suggestions.

As a member of this club you are the strongest marketing force we have for our event. Talk it up among your friends and associates. We will be raffling off a one-carat diamond worth \$5000. And you get a glass of champagne with the purchase of each ticket! There will be music and appetizers during the cocktail hour followed by an incredible dinner from Blue Water Grille. The silent and live auctions will be filled with exciting items as well. Bring yourself, your family, your friends, their friends and don't forget your wallets!

For more information contact Jef Morgan, North State Communications, Phone 336-821-4617, Fax 336-886-5498, <mailto:jmorgan@nscom.com>



District Conference 2005

Brochures and signup forms for the April 28-May 1 District conference in Charleston have been mailed out to all District 7690 Rotarians. You should have yours. Please peruse it and sign up to attend. We

want to have a crowd from Furnitureland, especially for Saturday evening when we can all attend the reception for our incoming District Governor, our very own Phil Morris. Check out the conference website at <http://www.rotary7690conference.org>

Mark Your Calendar

- February 7: Rotary against Drugs Speech Contest
- February 14: Aaron Clinard, High Point Downtown Improvement Committee
- February 23: Rotary's 100th Anniversary. Please reserve this date to join Rotarians across the district in Greensboro for a lunch event.
- February 24: Furnitureland Rotary Club's Annual Auction "Champagne Wishes and Diamond Dreams"
- February 26: District Rotary Against Drugs High School Speech Contest, GTCC
- March 18 – 19: President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS)
- March 20: Rotary Against Drugs High School Speech Contest, Multi-District Finals, Chapel Hill
- March 28: Furnitureland/Community Clinic Golf Tournament, Spring 2005 Edition
- April 28 – May 1: District Conference 2005, Charleston, SC
- May 9: Shadowing Day - Any interested member who has not signed up to have students "Shadow" them for a few hours that day can contact Jim Ragno at jtrnc@triad.rr.com
- May 11: District Assembly 2005, GTCC
- June 13: Installation of District Officers, High Point Country Club. Includes our very own Phil Morris as District Governor.
- June 18-22: Rotary International Centennial Convention, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- April 20-23, 2006: District Conference for Governor Phil Morris, Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort at Grande Dunes. Contact David Pruette (Conference Chairman) for details and for opportunities to make Phil's conference a huge success

Rotary Scholar

Last week John Womack introduced Kathryn White to the club. Kathryn was an Ambassadorial Scholar last year sponsored by the Triad Rotary Club. She is from High Point, spent last year studying in Chile, and is back in Santiago to work on an MBA. The following information is from an e-mail Kathryn sent back to area clubs.

A Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar's Experience

Kathryn White
Rotary District 7690

I returned in December from my year as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar for the year 2003-2004. The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarship is to promote international understanding and goodwill through study in another country. I was sponsored by the High Point Triad Rotary Club and was a Rotary ambassador of goodwill in Valparaiso, Chile. There I had the opportunity to share my own culture (be it about High Point, NC, UNC, the USA as a whole, etc.) and learn Chilean culture. The cultural exchange has profoundly affected me and I, without sounding conceited, have hopefully made a change in those that I met. I would like to share some of this information and joy of discovery with you!

The following is brief information about Chile and my experiences there. I feel it is very important to share this with you because most people in the US do not know much about Chile. Before my Rotary year, I only knew where it was from playing the game RISK. It's the long slender country with a meat-sauce name. No, Chileans do not eat burritos and tacos. No, Chile is not tropical. No, the typical Chilean food is not chili and beans! Read up and see how much you know and dazzle everyone with your new knowledge!

- Chile has a population of approximately 15 million. 89% of the population is Catholic (divorce was legalized last year) and 11% are Protestant. Chile is not ethnically diverse: 95% are white or white-native American mix while only 3% are Native American.
- Chile is a democratic republic. Its current president is Ricardo Lagos. Fun Fact: Lagos graduated from Duke with an Economics degree and guest taught at UNC. Presidential terms are for 6 years. The congress building is not located in the capital but in Valparaiso, an hour and a half west. Chileans are still trying to

reestablish trust in their military after Pinochet's regime from 1973-1990 when thousands were killed, tortured, and disappeared.

- Like the USA, Chile has many immigrants from its Latin American neighbors who come for its political stability, strong educational system, and growing economy. Chile has the most stable bond in Latin America, low inflation, and a GDP that has consistently grown at more than 4%. Chile is very centralized. Most of the businesses have moved to Santiago. Over 5 million people live there, which is one-third the nations population!
- Chilean exports: Fruits and vegetables, copper and other minerals, wine, lumber.
- Chileans are wonderful people. They are very welcoming to North Americans although many are against American politics. However, they generally think that we are a cold people and culture. Changing this view, I was received in many families to celebrate national holidays, birthdays, and just to make friends.
- Chileans are easy going and fun loving. They usually arrive late to appointments. If a Chilean says meet at 2, you should arrive at 2:30 and await their arrival! However, public transportation runs like clockwork, especially the buses.
- The favorite Chilean pastime is the "asado" or cookout. Any event can be an excuse to have a cookout. Chileans eat lots of chicken, beef, pork, sausages, etc. Their typical meal is any meat (fried, grilled, or baked) with vegetables. They eat salads with a dressing of lemon juice, salt and oil... Very tasty and healthy!
- Their Independence Day is the 18th of September. Unlike the fourth of July, they celebrate the 18th for at least 3 days! Ramadas are constructed (temporary structures made with "ramas" or palm branches) where everyone gets together to eat typical food, dance the national dance (the CUECA) and have a good time.
- Chileans are not known for their athleticism. Even so, they took home their first gold medals in the history of the Olympics in the 2004 Summer Games in Athens in Tennis Men's Singles and Doubles. You do see pick up games of basketball, baby soccer (played on a basketball court), and volleyball.

MY EXPERIENCE

I arrived in February 2004 in Santiago for language training. There I met several other Rotary Scholars

from all over the US. I went to a 99th Rotary celebration for the Rotary District of Santiago in February (I will be attending the 100th celebration with the same group on February 23rd). I moved to Valparaiso (population ~300,000) where I studied at the Catholic University of Valparaiso (www.ucv.cl). I was enrolled in a post-graduate business administration program (the DDE) with nine Chilean professionals. I returned this February to complete the second year of that program to earn an MBA.

In Valparaiso I lived in a boarding house. It is an old house with large rooms and high ceilings. The landlady (whom I called "tia" or aunt) and her son lived there as well as five other boarders. Because I was the house's first international boarder, there were many fears that I would not fit in, but soon after arriving we were all sharing meals, stories and friendships. The boarding house was an excellent opportunity to learn and share culture.

My host Rotary Club was the Rotary Club of Playa Ancha. It is composed of about 30 members, 50/50 male and female all of whom meet on Wednesdays for lunch at the Naval Club, right down the street from my boarding house. They were a very warm group.

Most of my community involvement was done through a women's city basketball team I was lucky enough to befriend. These ladies lived in a near-by town of San Antonio and played for Llo-Lleo. After their disappointment that this North American did not play basketball, I was designated for cheering and helping with activities such as bingos, raffles, tournaments and 3x3 championships in order to raise funds for Christmas parties for the neighborhood children, new uniforms, scholarships, and improving the sporting facilities. We also made time for a traditional Thanksgiving meal (Southern cooking of course!), trips to the countryside and beach, and learning about each other.

I feel that I have met and been able to be a cultural ambassador to a large number of people: the University choir of which I was a member; my boarding house; the basketball team; school classes to which I spoke; the people I passed on my daily routine; my host Rotary Club and those Rotary Clubs and groups I have talked to upon returning.

I hope that my experience has given you an idea of what a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship can do in contributing to world understanding. Although this

year I will not be a Rotary Scholar, I am returning to Chile and hope to continue being an ambassador of goodwill. Thank you for your support through Rotary International.

Kathryn White

If you have any comments or questions, please email me at katrindss@yahoo.com.