



Waunakee Rotary Club

April 17, 2008
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Raissa de Souza, the Waunakee Rotary Club's exchange student, shared a little about her home country of Brazil at the April 17 club meeting.

Raissa has been in Waunakee since Aug. 17 and has been attending Waunakee High School.

Brazil is the largest country in South America and has been a republic since 1889. It is the fifth largest country both in geography and population, and has won the world soccer cup five times, Raissa said.

Prior to becoming a republic, Brazil was a colony of Portugal, and that is why Portuguese is spoken in that country. In all of the other South American countries, Spanish is spoken.

Brazil has the largest Army in South America, and all 18-year-old men are required to enlist for a year.

Some 90 percent of the country lies within a tropical zone, where the average temperature ranges from 77 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit.

Brasilia is the capital, but Sao Paulo is the largest city with 11 million people, followed by Rio de Janeiro with 7 million.

The major religion in Brazil is Catholicism, and the No. 1 sport is soccer.

Raissa comes from Londrina, the largest city in the state of Paraná.

Raissa played some Brazilian music for the club and showed some photos of some her highlights here. She carved a pumpkin for the first time at Halloween, went skiing, traveled to Chicago and attended a Badger game.

The major difference she perceives between life in the U.S. and in Brazil is the educational experience. The school day in Brazil is only five hours each morning. Students are unable to choose which classes they'd like to

take in Brazil, and they usually take 15 per semester. In the U.S. the school day is eight hours, class times are longer and students have more of a choice in the classes.

Raissa said the perception among Brazilians is that people in the United States are not very friendly to those from other countries. But Raissa said she has made many friends and her teachers at school have been very helpful.

Raissa said she will graduate here and then from her school in Brazil. She is planning to go to college there and hopes to attend law school.

Raissa's host families attended the meeting as well. She first stayed with Drew Howick and Jan Lottig. She then went to stay with Nicole and Lauren Jahnke, and now she is staying with Rex and Brenda Endres.

Lori Derauf, who chaired the exchange committee this year, thanked the families for their help.

Guests: Jan Lottig, Nicole and Lauren Jahnke, Brenda Endres, guests of the Rotary Club.

Visiting Rotarians: Tom Fendrick, Stoughton.

Other news:

•Dan Statz, president elect, thanked Rex Endres for hosting the Whitetails event. Rex said the event generated \$3,800 for the club. Dan said it is one of the club's biggest fund-raisers.

•Rex also announced that a coach from the UW Badger team will be the speaker at the annual Community Awards Dinner April 20. Rex has tickets for the event available for purchase.

•Bill Erickson said the Rotary District has provided the club with a \$5,000 grant to go toward the Rotary Club walk that the club plans to con-

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Calendar of Events:

- April 20, Waunakee Community Awards banquet
- District Conference, April 25-26

struct. That walkway is planned to surround the pond near the Village Center.

•Drew Erickson said two high school sophomores – Josh Ripp and Beth Zauner – will go to the Rotary Youth Leadership convention.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: April 21, Bud and Jeri Zander; April 22, Kathy and Mark Cefalu

Prayers: April 17, Msgr. Kramer; April 24, Susan Vergeront; May 1, Leonard Allen.

Programs: April 17, Paul Gilbertson, With Wings and a Halo; April 24, Pamela McGee, Gilda's Club; May 1, James Chancellor's and Shelley Moffatt's classification talks and club assembly.

Greeters: April 17, Sandy Taylor and Don Tierney; April 24, Luke Tierney and Jon Townley; May 1, Bob Tucker and Jim Tubbs.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryeclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.