



**Waunakee  
Rotary  
Club**

**May 7, 2009  
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Marie Dorn, the Waunakee Rotary Club's exchange student from Germany, shared with the club some insight into her home town of Hanover and her experience as a student in Waunakee.

Marie showed a map of Germany and noted that its population of 82 million is the highest population of all of the European countries. The size of Montana, Germany's economy is third behind Japan's and the United States', Marie said.

Germany has 16 states, and Marie's home town of Hanover is the capital of Lower Saxony. Hanover's population is at 500,000. The city has an opera house and a Central Station, along with a beautiful city hall. It had a castle that was destroyed in World War II, but the lovely gardens remain today.

Marie said Hanover is a "green city," and she can ride her bicycle from her house through the forest to the soccer stadium and downtown.

There is also an old downtown with shops and apartments above, which is a pedestrian zone. Hanover also hosts fireworks competitions, which she said are beautiful. Marie said she has more time in Germany to spend on her hobbies, rock climbing and tennis, and she enjoys riding her bike with her sisters and hanging out with the friends.

Marie has three older sisters. She began to think about becoming an exchange student after one of her sisters returned from an exchange in Canada.

Marie has enjoyed her time with her three host families, the Schaafs, the Bleifernichts and the Insoleras. She has enjoyed trips to Minneapolis, Colorado and Disney World. She visited Chicago with another exchange student and has

been to a Badger football game and the farmers market.

Marie also plays soccer for Waunakee High School. She recently attended prom with another exchange student from Germany who is living with a host family in Middleton.

Marie thanked the club for making her dream of becoming an exchange student come true, Harriet Statz and Greg Garton for making sure she is taken care of, and her host families.

Greg Garton said he will host a Lodi exchange student next year and urged Rotarians who are considering hosting a student to do so.

"It's really a fun experience and you learn a lot from these kids," Greg said. "If you haven't been involved with youth exchange kids before, you're missing the boat."

Harriet Statz said the club has arranged to host a student from Thailand, and is sending Lauren Jahnke from Waunakee to Brazil for the year. Right now, the Youth Exchange committee is looking for students to sponsor the following year, and interested students should contact the club by August.

**Other items:**

•Paul Gilbertson of With Wings & a Halo said that organization will have a fund-raiser at Rhythm and Booms June 27. The Mascot and Celebrity Charity Hug will try to break the world record for the most hugs to one person in one hour. By the way, the current world record is 765. The goal is to have at least 10 mascots receiving 1,200 hugs in one hour.

•Betsy Flanagan told the club that the Musical Pathways fund-raiser was successful.

•Dan Statz said the club has a

**OFFICERS**

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**DIRECTORS**

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**Calendar of Events:**

- May 1-3, District Conference in Wis. Rapids
- May 12, Safety Seat Check

volunteer opportunity to raise funds for United Cerebral Palsy of Dane County at the Taste of Madison event. The club will need members to work four- to five-hour shifts between 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. that Sunday.

Guests: Geoff Vine, guest of Ellen Schaaf; Troy Salisbury, guest of Dave May; Mike Thompson, guest of Linda Olson; Sara Bleifernicht, guest of the club; Jon Ripp, guest of Paul Gilbertson; Dave Moll, guest of Don Tierney; Amy Payne, guest of Betsy Flanagan.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: May 8, Bill Barlow; May 12, Ed Kruchten.

Anniversaries: May 9, Ed and Jan Niebuhr; May 12, Brent Ziegler and Angela Schwab; May 17, Leonard and Becky Allen; May 17, Craig and Anne Urso.

Prayers: May 7, Leonard Allen; May 14, Pat Duren; May 21, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: May 7, Club Assembly.

Greeters: May 7, William Erickson and Betsy Flanagan; May 14, Amy Fluke and Greg Garton; May 21, Jeremy Gollon and Rich Harris.