



Waunakee Rotary Club

May 21, 2009
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Renato Geromel Jr. experienced culture shock when he came from Brazil on a Rotary Youth Exchange to study in the Lodi School District.

In his home city of Sao Paulo, Renato is used to riding the subways wherever he goes in the city of 20 million people.

But the exchange student told the Rotary Club at the May 14 meeting that he has met really nice people while studying in Lodi, and everyone knows who he is.

Greg Garton brought Renato to speak at the Waunakee Club meeting about Sao Paulo and Brazil.

Renato said he lives about 45 minutes from the coast and enjoys spending his free time at the beach. He also works as a disc jockey and plays techno music. He also enjoys scuba diving.

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, and Portuguese is the main language. Renato speaks five languages. Soccer is extremely popular, and Renato said he's been playing the game since he learned to walk.

Brazil has many cities, but Renato likes his home city of Sao Paulo the most. It is the largest industrial city in the world and is home to museums and universities.

Carnival is the main celebration, but there are different festivals for each state and culture. Some of those states include Amazonas, Goias, where the nation's capital is located, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro.

Since Renato has been on his exchange, he's collected pins from students throughout the world, which he sported on his jacket.

Renato said his Rotary Club has been involved in several matching grants with clubs in Japan and

China that have funded social centers, educational centers, repairs to sports arenas, environmental projects and other important work in Brazil.

One project involved building a school six years ago. Now 5,000 children attend the school, which also offers adult literacy classes.

Renato will be here another two months, and he said he will never forget many of the people he has met here. He spoke very little English when he arrived and has learned the language well.

Other items:

- Dan Statz reported that the safety seat check went well. Approximately 25 car seats were thoroughly checked over by experts from the Dean Clinic.

- Several area Rotary Clubs are hosting golf outings. Sun Prairie's is on June 11. See Bill Erickson if you'd like to golf. Prairie du Sac's is June 3.

- Tom Reis said a trip is being organized to Haiti to build a house there March 23, 2010.

- Phil Willems said Rotarians under 45 are asked to attend the next district meeting.

Guests: Dr. Gordon Meffert, guest of Ray Statz; Renee Maier, guest of Pat Durden; Charlie Oldkoyd, guest of Ken Ballweg.

Visiting Rotarians: Art Drake, Normal, Ill.

Birthdays: May 25, Joyce Maly; May 25, Amy Fluke; May 26, Bob Lenz

Anniversaries: May 23, Greg and Heidi Garton; May 24, Bob and

OFFICERS

DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT • TOM REIS, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

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Joyce Kase; May 25, Jon and Barbara Townley; May 25, Mike and Dena Lawrence.

Prayers: May 21, Susan Vergeront; May 28, Leonard Allen; June 4, Pat Durden.

Programs: May 21, Jim Wittinger, Whitetails; May 28, Mike Vilstrip, Parade of Homes; June 4, Club Assembly.

Greeters: May 21, Jeremiah Gollon and Rich Harris; May 28, Susan Hedrick and Bob Hoskins; June 4, Jonathon Jordan and Jim Jukes.

On the lighter side...

On Sundays, it was common for the preacher to invite the children to the front of the church for a small lesson before beginning the sermon. He would bring in an item they could find around the house and relate it to a teaching from the Bible.

This particular morning, the visual aid for his lesson was a smoke detector. He asked the children if anyone knew what it meant when an alarm sounded from the smoke detector.

One child immediately raised his hand and said, "It means Daddy's cooking dinner."

Make up meetings online

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