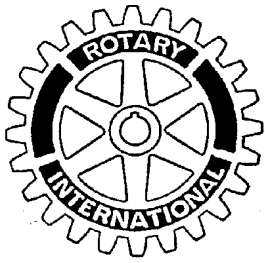


Check our web site – www.waunakeerotary.org



Waunakee Rotary Club

May 26, 2011
Vol. 45 No. 39

The Waunakee Rotary Club took a vicarious trip to Azerbaijan at its May 19 meeting.

Jane Kessenich of Friendship Force was the presenter, and she told of her trip to the 86,000 square-mile Eurasian country bounded by the Caspian Sea.

Bernie Long of Friendship Force had previously spoken to the Club about Friendship Force. Now in its 37th year in existence, it allows members to go stay in people's home in foreign countries.

In 2009, several members flew to Azerbaijan, visiting Baku, the capital, and Shaki and Qukh.

While Azerbaijan is much smaller than Wisconsin, the population is 8 million, much larger than Wisconsin's 5.5 million. Two million people live in Baku.

Some time before 6000 B.C., Zoroastrianism was formed based on the teachings of the prophet, Zoroaster. Today, 150,000 people still practice the Zoroastrian religion, and Jane visited some of the holy places in Azerbaijan.

Jane showed pictures of the trip, including the various homes she stayed in. Most of the Azeris hosting them spoke English, she said. One photograph depicted a building's historic facade that was preserved, although the interior had been gutted to be modernized.

Jane stayed with a woman from Georgia, whose husband works in agriculture in Russian 9 months out of the year. The couple did not have room in the home for their 2-year-old child, so the hostess' mother was raising

the child, Jane said.

Much of the city is filled with small shops, with people trying to be entrepreneurs. Yet some of the pictures showed cattle grazing and sheep being herded.

Another picture depicted a soup supper, and Jane said she was unsure what she was eating.

Azerbaijan is still working out some kinks in the public works system, Jane said. One morning, she had to leave the place she was staying in because there was no water; the host was unsure when the water would be turned back on. Jane said some Azeris fill their bathtubs just to make sure they have a supply on hand.

"The Friendship Force is an absolutely incredible experience," Jane said. "It's not like staying in a hotel. You get to know these people."

Other items:

- President Brent Ziegler gave a happy buck – he got to award four deserving high school seniors with Rotary scholarships.

- Brent also thanked the folks who took part in the Visioning meeting Monday evening. Incoming president John Cullen, who headed that planning effort for the club's future, said the goal is to bring something to the group the first Thursday in July. Pat Durden said Harriet Statz has put an interesting post on the club's Facebook wall that we should check out. If you have a Facebook page, there's no excuse not to link to Rotary's, Brent said.

Guests: Shawn Smith, Connie

OFFICERS

BRENT ZIEGLER, PRESIDENT • JOHN CULLEN, PRESIDENT ELECT
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DIRECTORS

ELLEN SCHAAF • JOHN CULLEN • LINDA OLSON

Calendar of Events:

- July 12, Pontoon Boat Ride on Lake Wisconsin.
- July 28-31, WaunaFest.

Blau.

Visiting Rotarians: Larry Sobyak, DeForest; Eric Kallies, Downtown.

Birthdays: May 26, Bob Lenz.

Anniversaries: May 28, DuWayne Statz and Roberta Valle-Statz; May 30, Phil and Betty Willems.

Prayers: May 26, Leonard Allen; June 2, Susan Vergeront; June 9, Pat Durden.

Programs: May 26, Derek Furstenberg- Rotary Exchange Student's trip to Japan; June 2, Club Assembly.

Greeters: May 26, Lori Derauf and Pat Durden; June 2, Fritz Durst and Gary Epping; June 9, William Erickson and Larry Felsheim; June 16, Betsy Flanagan and Greg Garton; June 23, Paul Gilbertson and Richard Harris.

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.