



HOT POTATO

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Rotary Club of Wayland, New York, D7120

Patrice Lysell, president

Thomas Quinlan, secretary

Colleen Betrus' Educational Trip to Japan

There was no letup in the nasty cold winter weather last week. It was nice that we still met the attendance requirement for the restaurant with eleven Rotarians and one guest.

The Miller House served us salad, then lasagna with green beans on the side. It was a nice, hearty meal for the occasion. The dessert was a fantastic chocolate peanut mousse between two layers of chocolate, if I analyzed it right. Yummy!

Happy dollars abounded this evening. Sharon Vogt's daughter got married in Japan. The Christian ceremony will take place in a year in Hawaii.

Art Traphagen had his hearing aid retrieved by their cat, specially trained by Jim Burns for this purpose. The humming emitted by the device was alluring to the cat. A tidy \$3500 savings!

Speaking of Jim Burns, he admitted to having precisely forecast the Super Bowl, earning him \$325. He placed himself at the mercy of President Pat, who thought that \$5 would be affordable.

President Pat took advantage of the happy dollar option for the previous day's school closing, due to extreme wind chill.

A Visit to Japan

Colleen Betrus is a school librarian and media specialist at the Naples high school. She found out about a Fulbright scholarship available to educators in the U.S. to go to Japan for three weeks. The purpose is to increase understanding about Japan and its culture. It is a big program, sending 600 teachers a year in three batches of 200. There are normally 4 times as many applicants, so Colleen was obviously very excited when she got the acceptance letter. For several years, the Japanese government has realized the value of the program, and it finances a lot of it.

Colleen brought a computer, projector and screen to help present her trip report. She put on a riveting show, starting with the lectures she took about peace, Japanese style. Meeting survivors of the Hiroshima bomb and their descendants gave her a new perspective on the subject.

There was room for sightseeing, of course, and she showed us some slides from these activities. They ranged from a giant bronze statue of Buddha, almost a

thousand years old, to a wedding party, where they posed with bride and groom.

Colleen spent several days with students in elementary, middle and high school. This part of the visit, she spent in Shiogama, a couple of hours north of Tokyo by bullet train. Surprisingly, she didn't find much technology in the classrooms in a country, so renowned for its high tech industry.

Teachers were very well dressed, - male teachers in suit and tie, etc. It was quite refreshing to see her pictures of this. Discipline did not seem to be a problem, and the students appeared very motivated. The Japanese school system works a differently than ours in some respects. After middle school, they make a choice between trades oriented or more theoretical studies. Specialization takes place earlier than here.

Colleen spent a very memorable weekend in a Japanese host family's home. They showed her shopping and in one restaurant, she had beef tongue for the first time. We saw a picture with Colleen trying out the host wife's kimono. After the weekend, she had to bid an emotional goodbye.

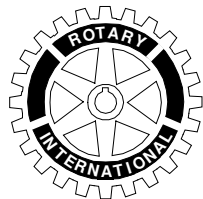
Thank you Colleen for a wonderful program. It was very interesting.



Business

President Pat decided to save the business for next meeting. She just read a thank you letter from the WCCS elementary school, and circulated a list of membership dues, provided by Nancy Levesque.

Janine Miceli won the 50/50, but she had already left, so we'll have to give it to her next time.



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