

Rotary Club of Calgary West
(A Year of Rotary Fun and Fellowship)

The Weekly WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3
Holiday Inn, McLeod Trail, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Karl Herzog **President-Elect:** Sa'adat Keshavjee

Past President: Lynne Thornton **Secretary:** Ron Morrison

Treasurer: Des DeFreitas

Directors: Stan Beveridge, Ron Brookes, Bryden Horwood, Margot McDermott
Bernie Ward, David Williams



April 9, 2010 Edition: 43.36 Reporters: Pauline and Garth Evans Publisher: David Williams

President **Karl** called the meeting to order at 12:15 after several attempts to get everyone's attention; members were enjoying their friendship time. There were several YEX students visiting our meeting to hear **Marco's** and **Andrea's** talk. It was great to see them all decked out in their pin-and-badge-covered blazers.

Ron Jones led us in the singing of the national anthem and **Marnie Cardell** gave the invocation before we all proceeded, in an orderly fashion, to the buffet table, as decided and directed by our sargeant at arms, **Marg Henschell**, to enjoy our lunch of stuffed roast pork. Thanks again to the Holiday Inn and staff for their efforts in providing us with a great meal, and second guessing our head count very accurately. The staff do an outstanding job of very quickly getting out special meal requests.

President Karl called the meeting to order sharply at 12:40 and introduced the head table. Seated on his left were **Frank Burns** to introduce our speakers, **Marco Bersani**, our inbound exchange student and **Andrea Barr**, our outbound student for 2010 – 2011. Also keeping Karl company on the other side of the head table were **Bruce Taylor**, to thank the speakers, and **Amy Weatherall**.

David Hamilton introduced our visitors and guests and especially welcomed all the exchange students and Andrea's parents. **Des DeFreitas** led us in the singing of our welcome song.

Don Bateman's name was drawn as the lucky winner of the 50/50 draw for \$51.

President Karl reported that **Don Axford** was home from the hospital and had been at the Flame's game on Thursday with **Ted Valentine** for their supper club get together. A special thanks to **Larry Doyle** looking after getting him there.

Announcements

-**Sa'adat Keshavjee** spoke of his time at the PETS and SETS training session and how much he enjoyed the two days. He also asked that all members think about what they would like to do in the upcoming year and to let him know.

- **Clarence Buckley** presented a cheque in the amount of \$2000 to **Jude Heyland** with the Development Disabilities Resource Centre. Jude thanked the club and said that all the money would remain in Calgary.

-**Dave Townsend** with the Calgary Sarcee Club spoke to us about their upcoming annual Dinner and Art Auction. This will be their 12th annual event and will be held on May 14, 2010. He thanked the club for all our past support and help, then asked for our support and help this year. They are hoping to purchase a handibus with the money raised.

-**Tim Anderson** told us of 12 Rotarians that are coming to Calgary from New Zealand this year and that a dinner is planned for them and the tickets will be \$25 each. Please contact Tim for more information.

-**Ron Jones** reminded all the golfers of the fourth annual Challenger Park Golf Tournament coming up in September and that the information was on the tables.

SAA – Marg Henschell was very easy on us all and any fines levied were accepted with very few complaints.

Speakers

Frank Burns introduced our speakers, Marco Bersani (our inbound student from Brazil) and Andrea Barr, our outbound student who is going to Denmark later this summer.

Frank reminded us that Calgary West has a standing tradition of supporting youth programs both locally and internationally. Our students from District 5360 exchange with students from 16 non-English speaking countries throughout Europe, SE Asia and Latin America. The first youth exchanges began between European countries in 1927 and with California and Latin America in 1939.

The Youth Exchange Program became an official Rotary International program in 1972.

-currently 10,000 students participate in the program in over 60 countries

-this program is open to both Rotarian and non- Rotarian families.

-this a three-year commitment for the students as they have a training year, their year as a student and the third year they assist with the training of the outgoing students.

Our outbound student, Andrea Barr, gave her presentation first. This is a first draft of what she plans on presenting to her host club in Denmark.

Andrea is leaving for her year in Denmark in July and is looking forward to her visit there. She wants to learn their culture, language and ways of life. She is also looking forward to making new friends and hopes to return home with a better idea of what she wants to do with her life in the future.

Andrea broke her presentation into three parts: Canada, Calgary and “Me”, a section about herself.

Under her first heading, Andrea did a great job of outlining the history and some details of Canada. She spoke of how we celebrate Canada day on July 1st, when she and her family would go camping and her other favourite holiday, Halloween, when she and her friends would dress up and go trick or treating. She now dresses up at school along with her classmates.

Her next section gave a brief history of Calgary and how she loves the Calgary Stampede parade and all of the hoopla that goes on during this time in Calgary.

Andrea’s final section of her presentation was about herself, her family, friends and her dog and hobbies. She had several pictures to support her presentation.

Andrea told us about her mum, dad and younger brother. She loved her summer trips to their cabin in Manitoba where she visited with her grandparents and other relatives. Andrea loves to ski and races competitively as well and has taught younger kids at Calgary Olympic Park. As well, she loves to camp, hike, swim and tubing. She also likes to participate in track and field events and volleyball. She showed several pictures of her grade nine graduation and her school trip to Washington, DC. Volunteering plays a large part in Andrea's life, volunteering at The Mustard Seed and Inn From the Cold being two of her favourite places to volunteer.

Andrea's presentation was very well done and should be enjoyed by her host club.

The second speaker was Marco Antonio Junqueira Bersani, our happy, energetic inbound student from Brazil, who seems to enjoy life to the fullest. Marco also showed us his PowerPoint presentation. Starting with a picture of his pet parrot and he assured us that the parrot speaks continually!

Marco then went on to show us some great pictures of his home city, Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. Portuguese is the language spoken there. Brasilia is one of only two planned cities in the world. The other being Washington, DC. Brasilia became the capital of Brazil in 1960 and all three branches of the government are in Brasilia. Downtown Brasilia is built in the form of an airplane when seen from the sky. The amenities are not spread out as the government is in one area, hotels in another, etc.

One of Marco's favourite things to do is hang out with his friends at the large Brasilia shopping mall and to ride the water slide which is called the Insane and happens to be the largest water slide in the world. Marco is very interested in a project called Tamar, where he helps to protect Turtles. Marco is a boy scout and a member of Demolay, young Masons. With the Demolay he had the opportunity to visit the Amazon where he stayed in an army camp and visited with local tribes.

Marco showed us pictures of his parents and mentioned that his mother spent a year in New Jersey as a youth exchange student. Marco ended his presentation by telling us that his 93-year old grandmother told him, "Do not worry, I will wait for you".

Bruce Taylor thanked Andrea and Marcos for their wonderful presentations.

President Karl closed the meeting by reminding us that this is Rotary Magazine month and, if we haven't done so already, to check out the latest magazine as it contains some very compelling reading.

Coming Events

April 16	Janice Eisenhower – Women and Education in Afghanistan
April 23	Peter Fleck – Stamp Collecting and Trading
April 28 (Wednesday evening)	Club Assembly at the Holiday Inn
April 30	No meeting
May 7	Calgary West International Activities and Projects. NB: This meeting will be at the Carriage House.

Rob Clarke with the Sarcee Club had asked us to attach an email about their art auction, but we could not get it attached. Please go to Sarcee's website for more information on this event.