

February, 2012

Editor: Ann Kimmel



**February's
Evento social**

Wayne and Susie Wright have volunteered to host February's Evento social. Their address is 1006 Crestwood Hills Rd., Vandalia. Linda McGuire is co-host.

Evento social is held immediately following the monthly membership meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Inside this issue:

El articulo de Harvey	2
2011 Distinguished Service Award	2
Gemütlichkeit 2012	2
Whisperings	3
Announcements	3

The Sister Cities Scoop

Lichtenfels

Vandalia

Prestwick



Ecuador Student Exchange to Speak at February Meeting

Rotary's foreign exchange student Samantha Granizo will be the giving a presentation on Ecuador at our February monthly meeting.

Samantha is 17years old and is from Portoviejo – Manabi. Manabi is a province of Ecuador. She attends Colegio Cristo Rey which is a Jesuit secondary school in Portoviejo. She has been in Vandalia, hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Jim Baker, since August of last year and will be here through July of this year.

Her hobbies are dancing, working out, learning different languages, watching sports and just hanging out with friends.

Ecuador, officially the **Republic of Ecuador** (Spanish: *República del Ecuador*), which literally translates to the **Republic of the Equator** is a representative democratic republic in South America, bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south, and by the Pacific Ocean to the west. It is one of only two countries in South America, along with Chile, that do not have a border with Brazil. The country also includes the Galápagos Islands in the Pacific, about 620 miles west of the mainland. The main spoken language in Ecuador is Spanish. Ecuador straddles the equator, from which it takes its name, and has an area of 105,038 square miles. Its capital city is Quito, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the 1970s for having the best preserved and least altered historic centre in Latin America. The historic centre of Cuenca, the third largest city in the country, was also declared a World Heritage Site in 1999, for being an outstanding example of a planned inland Spanish style colonial city in the Americas.



The Ecuador flag has three horizontal bands of yellow (top, double width), blue, and red with the coat of arms superimposed at the center of the flag; the flag retains the three main colors of the banner of Gran Columbia, the South American republic that broke up in 1830; the yellow color represents sunshine, grain, and mineral wealth, blue the sky, sea, and rivers, and red the blood of patriots spilled in the struggle for freedom and justice.

The Sister Cities Scoop

Page 2

Check out Vandalia Sister Cities online at www.Vandaliasistercities.org

El articulo de Harvey

Would you believe that the planning has already started for the 2012 Oktoberfest? The Steering Committee met last Wednesday going over the different aspects of the Oktoberfest. Yes, they are looking for committee members and any ideas that you may have.

We wish to congratulate Mary Ellen Case for being the recipient of the President Club's "Distinguished Service Award" for the year 2011. Please check out the article in this newsletter.

As I have said, this will be a

slow year for Sister Cities of Vandalia compared to previous years. Our membership is down, so please spend your spare time telling your friends and co-workers about us. If you are an active member, it is very easy to tell your friends and family about your experience with our friends in Scotland and in Germany. Tell them about our activities, our youth exchange, our involvement within the Vandalia community. Spread the good word. People are still talking about the Aryshire Fiddle Orchestra and how great the

young people are.

I had the pleasure of meeting our guest speaker for the February general meeting. Samantha is from Ecuador and is in the student exchange program with the Rotary Club. Samantha will be giving a slide presentation about her home and her life in Ecuador. Invite your friends to our meeting to hear this outstanding student from Ecuador.

It is our goal to be able to highlight other foreign countries during the year. *Harvey*

2011 Distinguished Service Award

The Presidents Club of Vandalia-Butler is pleased to announce the selection of MARY ELLEN CASE as the 2011 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Mary Ellen will be honored at the 27th annual Distinguished Service Award Banquet to be held on Tuesday, January 31st at Celebrations Banquet Center II at 7615 Poe

Avenue (937-264-1900). Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person.

YOU are invited and encouraged to attend to help us recognize Mary Ellen for her contributions to our community. Please call Karen Ortega at (H) 937-898-4018 or (C) 937-470-6838 to secure your reservations. Or,

mail your check, made payable to the Presidents Club, to 1063 Royalton Drive, Vandalia, Ohio 45377. The deadline for reservations is noon Friday, January 27th.

We look forward to seeing you on January 31st to honor Mary Ellen Case with our 2011 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD. *Mike Blakesly*

Gemütlichkeit 2012

There are host and co-host openings on the 2012 Gemütlichkeit signup for March and April. Please call Ann Kimmel at 901-6031 or sign up at the February membership meeting if you are interested in hosting a Gemütlichkeit.

Whisperings

Well, this time of year there is not much HAPPENING amongst the membership. Everybody is hunkered down and burrowed in. So, here are a few travel tales from the past you might enjoy and/or remember.

When Sister Cities first got off the ground with LICHTENFELS, back in the '70's, the LEGENDARY HERR LAATZ ran the show in Germany. He was their "Partnerschaft Praesident", AND happened to own a Travel Agency, with BUSSES! Also, HERR LAATZ'S command of the English language was somewhat lacking, but still he man-

(Continued on page 3)

Peace thru People

Whisperings (Continued from page 2)

aged to communicate with us. Most of you don't know that the German word for "to get" or "to obtain" is "bekommen". Well, it is, so take my word for it. HERR LAATZ somehow made a connection between "bekommen" and our word "become". Not too much of a stretch there, right? So, when we were on a bus tour with him, he would invariably tell us at dinner every night in his assertive German way: "You must stand pünktlich at 8:00 am, and you will BECOME a bus!"

He also provided a printed itinerary for us, and in 1981 when we took our kids, Steven & Diana, with us, the LAATZ itinerary listed for Copenhagen, "Hotel with Poole". The kids waited for days with their swimming suits at the ready to get to Copenhagen. As soon as we got into the room, they changed and ran out for the pool. A few minutes later they returned totally shot down. Seems what they found was a POOL TABLE!!!!

Then later, in the POST-LAATZ ERA, some intrepid folks resorted to trying out the DEUTSCHEBAHN (train) SYSTEM. BOB & TRACY got pretty adept at jumping trains and carousing around Germany, but nearly caused an international incident when they arrived in a rail station on Track # 2, and saw that their next train departed on Track # 15 in ONE MINUTE AND 32 SECONDS!!! Well, BOB launched TRACY out a window, threw her their bags and then told her to follow him. They had run about a block when they encountered FOUR ELDERLY NUNS, four abreast and toting carry-ons blocking their way. Somehow, without throwing the NUNS under the train, they managed to get on the Track 15 train 2 SECONDS before it pulled out!!!!

And then there was BRENDA!!!! Seems that she and (I think it was LINDA who had the misfortune of traveling with BRENDA, or.... it might have been PAT, I don't know) had planned a rather tight connection for their last night in Germany. They were attending the München OKTOBERFEST and were supposed to be at the Nürnberg Flughafen to fly back to the good ol' USA at 4:00 am the next morning! Good planning, don't you think??? Well, they wanted to drink as much GERMAN BIER and have the best OKTOBERFEST EXPERIENCE IN THE WORLD for as long as possible, of course, so they caught the LAST TRAIN TO NURNBERG that night. Or so they thought.... after the train had left the station (with numerous totally shitfaced revelers going home from the OKTOBERFEST, NO, BRENDA & LINDA OR PAT were NOT part of THAT group!!!) the conductor came through the train punching tickets. When he got to BRENDA, she politely asked in her best German, Nürnberg? The conductor looked at this obviously stupid American with disdain, and answered loudly, NEIN!!! DACHAU!! BRENDA then jumped up in his face and yelled, NO!, I MEAN NEIN!, NURNBERG!!!! To which he more forcefully replied, NEIN, DACHAU!!! It seems that this train was going to Dachau to drop off drunks and then returning with a new load of potential drunks to München. Somehow, it got our girls back to the München station just in time for them to find the really, really LAST TRAIN to Nürnberg that night, and they arrived at the FLUGHAFEN with minutes to spare.

Wayne

Save the Dates

Board Meeting:

February 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Membership Meeting:

February 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Vandalia Senior Citizens Center located at 21 Tionda Drive S.

Deadline for February's Scoop articles is February 27th.

Happy February Birthdays!

Dave Starline..... 1
Elaine Johnson..... 3
Teri Almasy 4
Suzanne Jordan 14
Helen Handley..... 14
Joe Evans 15
Ana Starline..... 15
Joann Shaner 20
Nicole Starline 28

Suzanne's Sunshine Report

Thanks to Suzanne Jordan, a little sunshine was sent to brighten someone's day:

No report this month.

Please report news on our membership to Suzanne at 898-2703.