



John Weting

John was born in metropolitan Detroit, Michigan, USA in 1947 and raised in the rural community of Rochester, Michigan approximately 48 km north of Detroit.

John and his wife of 41 years moved to Marquette, MI (approximately 675 km north of Rochester) in 1978 with their son and daughter to open an architectural office. He operated his own architectural office until 1998 when he closed his office to take a position at Northern Michigan University. He served as the Director of International Affairs at the university until his retirement in 2008.

John began his involvement in Rotary with the Rotary Club of Troy in Troy, Michigan, USA in November 1976. When he and his family moved to Marquette, Michigan in the summer of 1978 he joined the Rotary Club of Marquette. In 1984 he was the Charter president of the Rotary Club of Marquette (West) and in 1991 was a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Marquette Breakfast. A few years latter he rejoined the Rotary Club of Marquette where he remains an active member.

John became involved with the Rotary Youth Exchange Program in 1985 as the Youth Exchange Counselor for the Rotary Club of Marquette (West), he served in that position until 1987.

From 1987 through 1993 he was the District 6220 Inbound Coordinator working with 30-32 Inbound students each year.

From 1993 to 2001 he was the Asian Correspondent for Central States Rotary Youth Exchange Program, Inc. As the Asian Correspondent he arranged approximately 90 exchanges each year between Central States and the Asian countries of India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand.

From 2001 to 2004 he served Central States as their Vice-Chairman.

From 2004 to 2008 he served Central States as their Chairman.

In 1993 he was a GSE Team Leader to Yokohama, Japan.

He now serves District 6220 as the District Rotary Foundation Committee chair; his term runs through June 2011. He and his wife, Marny, are Major Donors and annual supporters of The Rotary Foundation.

They have two children- Jeff and Paige who are both married. They are also the grandparents of the most beautiful and precious granddaughter, Makena Paige Bennett! Our children and their spouses are all Paul Harris Fellows as is granddaughter Makena.

CSRYE Chair 2004-08 John Weting 簡介

1947年出生於美國密西根州底特律市。在1978年搬到麻州，並成立建築事務所。從1998年在北密西根大學擔任國際事務主任，直到2008年退休。約翰於1976年11月加入美國Troy扶輪社。在1984年擔任Marquette 扶輪社創社社長。至今仍積極參與扶輪的活動。

從1987至1993年約翰擔任美國6220地區Inbound學生協調人。從1993年到2001年他是美國



『Central States多地區組織』亞洲地區通訊員。 每年安排大約90位交換學生到亞洲國家，例如印度、印尼、日本、馬來西亞、菲律賓、臺灣和泰國。

1993年擔任GSE團體研究交換的團長，到日本橫濱。

從2001年到2004年約翰擔任美國『Central States 多地區組織』副主席。在2004年到2008年擔任該多地區主席。目前擔任第6220地區地區扶輪基金會主委。他和他的夫人Marny，都是扶輪基金會的巨額捐款人。他們兩個孩子傑夫和Paige及美麗和珍貴的孫女，Makena Paige Bennett都是PHF保羅哈里斯之友。

在本基金會尚未正式成為多地區的時候，透過我們的顧問PDG Jimmy的交情，邀請到John Weting專程於2006年到台灣來，親自拜訪3480、3520、3490、3460與3470各地區總監，向他們簡報成立青少年交換多地區的好處。他對於我們多地區的能夠順利成立及發展功不可沒我們應該向他致謝。

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE – ROTARY'S BEST PROGRAM!

A presentation at the Second Annual RYEMT Conference

CSRYE Chair 2004-08 John Weting

May 2010

I am deeply honored to be here for the second annual Rotary Youth Exchange Multi-district Taiwan convention. I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to Chairman Lawyer and the entire leadership of Rotary Youth Exchange Multi-district Taiwan for making this opportunity available to me and to sincerely thank my very special friend, Past District Governor Jimmy Lee, for his untiring efforts and dedication to help establish and build a premier youth exchange program here in Taiwan. I would also like to congratulate the Rotary Youth Exchange Multi-district Taiwan on their outstanding accomplishments as a multi-district youth exchange program. In a very short period of time you have formed and organized an excellent youth exchange program but most importantly, you have provided amazing exchange opportunities for hundreds of young people around the world. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

I need to begin this presentation with a confession- I have a bias toward the Rotary Youth Exchange, it is in my opinion, Rotary's best program! The Rotary Youth Exchange program allows participants to see the world not as strangers in distant lands but as individuals. It allows us to look past stereotypes and prejudices. After all, we are not born with prejudices, they are taught to us by other people, the news media and the world around us. Because this program breaks down prejudices it is a program of growth, people involved in Rotary Youth Exchange experience growth in a very profound and personal way.

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Exchange Students are the most important part of this program! During your year of exchange you will grow in your knowledge and understanding of a new country and culture. You will come to experience your adopted culture from personal experience, not from what you have read or been taught by others. You will discover who you really are as a person. During your exchange you will likely experience emotional highs like you have never had before, likewise you will likely experience emotional lows like you have never been exposed



to before. I hope the highs greatly overshadow the lows, but I am sure it will have a great adventure. While you may question it at some points along your journey, you will find that you are bigger than any of the challenges you confront.

Throughout your exchange experience you will begin to question some things you had been taught about other cultures. Because of personal relationships and experiences you form through this program, stereotypes and prejudices will begin to breakdown. You will begin to see people as individuals not as a stereotypical cultural group.

PARENTS

Parents are the second most important part of this amazing program! If parents were not brave enough to share their precious child, there would be no Rotary Youth Exchange program! I know from personal experience that it is not easy to send your child away to a distant land with odd customs! When our own daughter was sixteen years old, my wife and I allowed her to realize her dream of being an exchange student to Japan. It may not have been the best year of her life, but it was the most challenging and most rewarding year of her life to that point. I have often told parents that the greatest gift you give your child is life itself. The second most precious gift you can give them is your support and confidence that they can succeed as an exchange student. It is not always easy, when they call you in tears and you have to encourage them to hang in there and help them through the rough time, it would be so much easier to say, "come home". But that would deny them the opportunity to grow emotionally. It is also a challenging time for parents when their child is resistant to return home or returns home and talks about other "moms and dads" and another "home". It can hurt at first but then you realize how fortunate your child is to have people who love them and care about them in another part of the world. Would we really want it any other way? Of course not! Students, you can never thank your parents enough for this very unique gift!

Through your son or daughter's exchange, you too will have the opportunity to learn about another culture and perhaps begin to breakdown some of the stereotypes that you learned as a child.

EDUCATION

An exchange is a wonderful and exciting opportunity for the entire educational community- schools, teachers, domestic students and exchange students; all can benefit and learn. They may learn that the way people are educated differs from culture to culture and realize that each system has both positive and negative elements. With an exchange student in the class there is the opportunity to hear a different perspective, history is a classic example of this opportunity. We tend to think of history as common facts- names, dates, events, etc. But the history we learn can vary greatly depending on the filters we view it through. History as seen through the filter of a different culture allows one to see history from a different perspective. The social impact is perhaps the most important educational aspect. In life we learn about other countries and cultures mostly through textbooks, television, movies and other mass media. Seldom do we have the opportunity to learn about customs, cultures and societies through a first hand experience. An exchange permits us to experience a new culture with fresh eyes and hopefully allows us to begin to see past some of the stereotypes and prejudices that we may have carried with us. When we can learn for ourselves, first hand, we often come to very different conclusions. We may find some of the stereotypes just do not seem to fit with reality.

HOST FAMILIES

When a family accepts an exchange student into their home, they do more than simply



agree to provide a place for a young person to sleep and to feed them. They often find that the "stranger" in their home, while from a distant land and different culture, actually has the same needs, concerns, desires as children in their own culture. They worry about fitting in and doing well at school, they worry about having friends, they worry about doing well at sports, they worry about being accepted by the family and most of all they simply want to be accepted and loved... they want to be a part of the family, not a guest.

Over the years, my family has hosted many students. When you open your home to an exchange student you open your heart to them as well. As a result of our hosting and our involvement with this amazing program we now have family in all corners of the world. Our international family has helped us to look past prejudices and stereotypes and has allowed us to come to know individuals. We have family throughout Europe, in most corners of Asia, in Central and South America, Australia, New Zealand and in many corners of Africa. Thankfully, the more love you have in your heart, the greater your capacity to love. The neighborhood I live in now, has no boundaries, my neighborhood is the world.

ROTARIANS

Over my twenty plus years of involvement in the Rotary Youth Exchange program I have known several hundred, perhaps a thousand Rotarians involved in the Rotary Youth Exchange program. With very few exceptions (I can count them on one hand) these Rotarians are involved in the program because they are extremely dedicated to the program and to the students. In most cases, the Rotarian's family is deeply committed to the program as well. Rotarians are involved in this program because it greatly benefits the youth involved and that it is making a positive change to our world one student at a time.

In July 2005, Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, then RI President, addressed the Central States Rotary Youth Exchange Program Summer Conference. He noted his dream is to have every 17 year old in the world be an exchange student for a year. That way, he said, "... there would be no more wars".

I would like to read you a brief story by Loren Eisley, it is titled, "The Starfish Story".

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed
a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"

The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean.

The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are
miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish?

You can't make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish,
and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said..."

I made a difference for that one."

Rotarians are helping Rotary Youth Exchange students change our world, one student at a time.

I want to thank the students, families, host families and schools for their participation in the program. Without your collective participation Rotarians would not have the rewards of participating in this exceptional program!

Thank you for the opportunity to address this conference and for your attention.



美國貴賓John Weting講稿譯文

今天非常榮幸能參加第二屆國際扶輪多地區青少年交換計畫台灣年會，在此，對 董事長及多地區扶輪青少年交換計畫的團隊，表示敬意與謝意；同時，更要感謝我的好朋友 PDG Jimmy Lee為扶輪的奉獻，及創造台灣青少年交換計畫如此傑出的成就，在短短時間內，建構完整的組織，更重要的是，提供世界各地的青少年如此精湛的交換計畫；真是恭喜，也共勉之。

首先，我不免私心地說，「在我認為，扶輪青少年計畫，是所有扶輪計畫中最棒的計畫。」這項計畫讓參與者實地體驗，實地感受當地的文化。然而，由於媒體及周遭人事物的影響，偏見在所難免；但是，青少年交換計畫打破迷思與偏見，讓孩子以深遠的及個人化的方式成長。

接下來，我分項說明。

交換學生：

交換學生是此項計畫的重點，在交換期間，在新的國家及新的文化的了解中成長，親身體驗，而不是透過書本或別人的轉述。在這交換時間，將感受前所未有的心情轉換。我更希望低潮快速結束，而你將面臨更大的挑戰。

透過交換計畫的經驗，你可能對其他文化源有的認知有所差異，因為透過實地的感受，將不在以固有的思維，去看待周遭的人事物。

家 長：

這項計畫第二重要的角色就是家長。如果家長吝惜分享他的寶貝孩子，那麼扶輪青少年計畫就無法成行。的確，要將孩子送往不同於自己文化的國家，的確不是一件容易的事。我女兒16歲時，為了完成她的夢想，我們答應讓她到日本進行一年的交換學生計畫。對她而言，這一年未必是她人生中最棒的一年，但是，卻是她最有挑戰性及最有益的一年。我常說：父母給孩子最棒的禮物，是生命本身。而第二項珍貴的禮物，是讓孩子參與交換計畫時，給予他們支持與信心。當孩子在電話那頭對你哭訴時，不是一句：「你回來吧！」而是一句鼓勵的話，幫助他們堅持下去。這的確不容易！當交換活動結束後，卻不斷的談論另一個家庭及另兩位爸媽。唉！對家長而言，這又何嘗不辛酸啊！但是，換個角度想一下，「我的孩子多麼幸運！在別的國家有這麼多人愛他！」所以孩子們真應該好好感謝父母送你這麼棒的禮物。透過孩子的參與，當然家長您也學習另一個文化，而打破固有的迷思。

教 育：

對整個教育體系來說，包括學校、老師、國內的學生和交換學生，交換計畫是美好又令人興奮的機會，各個階段都獲益良多，他們學到文化的差異，教育方式的不同，以及正面和負面的元素。所以在班上，同學有機會聽到不同的觀點，人們對歷史就有不同的解讀。社會影響力也是教育的一環，對於其他國家的文化，大部分是透過教科書，電視，和其他大眾媒體來了解，很少有機會透過實地經驗來了解當地的習俗及社會。然而，交換計畫讓我們親身感受，而可能會發現某些舊思維與事實不符合。

接待家庭：

當家庭接待一位交換學生時，不僅僅只是提供住宿而已；它們會發現來自不同文化的這位 "陌生人"，跟我們的孩子一樣，有相同的需求與慾望，他們也會擔心在學校的表現，與朋友的交往，在運動場上的表現等。然而，最重要的是，他們渴望被接受和被愛，他們想要成為家庭的一份子，而不只是過客。

這些年，我接待過許多學生，當你打開家門，歡迎交換學生的同時，你也敞開你的心胸真誠的對待與相處。結果，由於參與此項接待計畫，我在世界各地，例如歐洲、亞洲、中南美洲、澳洲、紐西蘭和非洲都有我的家。真心感激！心中的愛越多，愛的容量就越大，因為愛無國界！

扶輪社友：

參與扶輪交換計畫20多年，我知道有許多扶輪社友共同付出，而扶輪家庭也投入許多心力。扶輪社友們積極參與此項計畫，而讓青少年獲益良多，而且對世界的改變更是正面的。2005年7月，RI 社長Carl Wilhelm在美國 Central States扶輪青少年計畫年會致詞時，他提到自己17歲時的夢想「當一年的交換學生」。他說：「如此世界就不會有戰爭了！」

我想要告訴各位一個關於海星的故事。有一天在海灘散步時，有一個人看到一個男孩撿起一樣東西，然後輕輕地丟回海上。他就向前詢問這位孩子：「你在做什麼？」男孩回答：「浪很大，潮水慢慢得要退了，海灘上的這些海星會死掉！」「可是海灘這麼長，海星又這麼多，你幫不了多大的忙啦！」聽完之後，這個男孩彎下腰，撿起一個海星，再丟回海裡，然後笑著說：「你看！這個海星的命運，就因我而不同。」扶輪社友們幫助青少年交換計畫，而正面的改變世界，就像故事中的孩子，每一位交換學生都能幫助我們的世界。

我要再一次的感謝接待家庭與接待學校熱心的參與，讓大家一起分享此項計畫所帶來的歡愉，感謝大會的邀請，更謝謝大家的聆聽。