

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BALDWINSVILLE ROTARY HOSTS EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The weekend of February 3 - 6, the Rotary Club of Baldwinsville hosted twenty six high school students from twenty one different countries. The weekend started on Thursday when the students met their host families at a pizza party at the Baldwinsville Library. Friday was a very busy day and the students met with high school and elementary school students from the Baldwinsville schools. After a swim with the school swimming team they were transported to Aspen House at Radisson for a evening of dancing and food. Saturday's weather provided the perfect setting for snow shoe and nature lessons and a hike at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville. This was followed by lunch and an afternoon of fun and games with the residents of Syracuse Home in Baldwinsville. A pot luck dinner was provided by Rotarians, their spouses and friends at the Baldwinsville Presbyterian Church. President Dean Johnson began the program by introducing District 7150's District Governor Herbert W. Jerry and Jenny Doane, the USA Tour Coordinator. Mic Jenkins was the evening's Master of Ceremonies. He introduced each student who then gave a brief talk about their homelands, host families, school activities and future plans. On Sunday morning there were farewells to friends and host families at a brunch at the Mohegan Manor in Baldwinsville. Transportation back to their sponsoring communities was provided by Rotarians and friends of Rotary.

The following students attended the Rotary International Youth Exchange weekend: Lauren Archard, France; Lukasz Adamski, and Agnes Purpurowicz, Poland; Dora Bergsdottir, Iceland; Antonio Birolli, Italy; Rene Daher and Neubern Costa, Brazil; David

Dimarco and Julie Van Erum, Belgium; Salla Eeva, Finland; Cesar Forslund, Sweden; Mitsuru Fujino and Michinori Wakamatsu, Japan; Bettina Krettschmer, Germany; Oliver Loughlin and Sarah Woodham, Australia; Ruben Luna, Venezuela; Anne Madsen, Denmark; Laura Nardelli, Argentina; Jamie Padilla, Mexico; Claudia Piechocki, Austria; Paola Salazar; Ecuador; Carlos Suess, Germany; Jutamas Thongbangbai, Thailand; Maartje Van Lith, Netherlands; and Gabriella Varadi, Hungary.

Sponsoring Rotary Clubs are: Auburn, Aurora, Adirondack Foothills, Baldwinsville, Camden, Cato, Cazenovia, Dewitt, Eastwood, Hamilton, Herkimer, Kuyahoor Valley, Liverpool, Marcellus, Moravia, New Hartford, Oneida Shores, Oswego, Rome, Sauquoit, Skaneateles, Syracuse, Utica, Utica Valley, and West Winfield.

Their Baldwinsville hosts were: Faye Baldwin, Bob and Linda Clarkson, Stan and Cheryl Dombrowski, Bill and Barb Donaghey, Stuart and Jill Hayes, Sharon and Dave Hiltbrand, Dave and Ann Horan, Mary Hosking and Pat Rountree, Dean and Betsy Johnson, Bev and Frank Sierpina, Peter and Joan Simmonds, Carol and Bob Prendergast, Bob and Marguerita Wachunas, Bill and Debra Ward, and Christi Waters.

Since August of 1999 the Baldwinsville Rotary has been the host club for Carlos Suess of Germany. Baldwinsville resident Joseph Wachunas has been in Italy under the sponsorship of Rotary District 7150. Each year the District's Youth Exchange Program offers an opportunity for approximately 30-35 students to spend a year studying in a foreign country. The students are recommended by their sponsor clubs and selected by the District Youth Exchange Committee after a review of their applications and extensive interviews. Rob Schwarting is Baldwinsville's Youth Exchange coordinator and was chairman of the weekend's events.