

August 20, 2009

August 13th Meeting:

***YOU WENT WHERE???** **TRAVELLING IN LATVIA, ESTONIA AND FINLAND**

Latvia is a major seaport on the Baltic Sea. This year Jo and Roger Rieber went there to visit their son, Chris, and his Latvian fiancée, Baiba, in the beautiful medieval town of Riga. (Chris teaches English at the University of Riga.) Not only was it a great time for the families, but also Jo and Roger



became immersed in the fascinating culture and history of the little nations along the Baltic Sea. Roger, a reluctant traveler, found himself in 7th heaven especially in the maritime Finnish culture. Jo said she "got all dolled

up" and went to Finland's Charter Rotary club where she lunched with the ambassador to England, Kofe Anan's undersecretary, World Health Organization leaders, and the like. Rotary membership is still restricted to men, but she was warmly received as our emissary from Port Orford when they exchanged Rotary flags.

The Riebers enjoyed the Latvian love of the countryside with Baiba's family. This was a region that wasn't released from serfdom until well into the 19th century. The culture is still alive with myths,

August 20th Meeting

HEATHER HUTANEN AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLAR

GREETER: Elaine Roemen
THOUGHT OF THE DAY: Melissa Weinblatt
LUNCH: Salmon Patties & Scalloped Potatoes

music and festivals that express a sense of divinity in all living things.

Since the 13th century, this area was governed by Germany, Sweden, Russia and the Soviet Union. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Latvia has become a member of NATO and the EU, and has blossomed in information technology, tourism and timber. The cities are full of youthful vitality; the people are well educated and multilingual. There

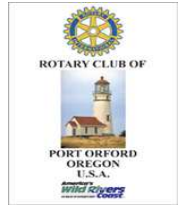
are still remnants of Soviet occupation like the defunct listening devices in Jo and Roger's hotel, old Soviet transportation and agricultural machinery dot the landscape. There is even an Occupation Museum in Riga.

Riga, with its beautiful Daugava River running through it, was not bombed during World War II so many of the fabulous medieval and art nouveau buildings grace the city and are being restored. Jo and Roger took some very thoughtful photos that captured historical imprints. One that I especially respond to is the interior of an old room with a broom in the corner and a wooden table lit by light from an old window.

- Elaine Roemen

AUGUST- MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION MONTH

Website and Bulletin Items: Send any items you want included on the website to info@portorfordrotary.org or the bulletin to gthurow@udallas.edu. Information deadline is noon on Monday. Also, please send address, phone and email address updates and corrections.



**Next Week
August 27, 2009**

**THIS ISN'T YOUR FATHER'S
ROTARY
PDG JUDI BEARD STRUBING**

COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMING UP

This coming week will see a return to work on the American Legion kitchen. Dick Wold will announce the time for the work party at the meeting this Thursday. Frank Smith is in the process of arranging for the painting of the Langlois Library sometime this month, and many hands will be appreciated. Finally work on the outdoor basketball area at Driftwood School is planned for the near future.

SHOW AND SHINE – SEPT 6



Sonya Mason is lining up the **2009 SHOW AND SHINE** entries for Labor Day, September 6, along with trophies, prizes and new jazzy T-shirts. Each member has been asked to bring four prizes to be used at the event.

THE UPCOMING WEEK IN PORT ORFORD ROTARY

Every Wednesday – Community tennis, 7 pm
Thursday, August 20 – Weekly Meeting, 12:00 at the Legion Hall – Heather Hutanen, Ambassadorial Scholar
Thursday, August 27 – Weekly Meeting, 12:00 at the Legion Hall – PDG Judi Beard Strubing

FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, September 6 – 11th Annual *Show and Shine*

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