

## **Jenna Sirkin, Our Ambassadorial Scholar**

Jenna, who was at our Rotary meeting last week, will leave on Tuesday 8 August for a year in Mexico. We have arranged for her to send periodic updates so our club and others in our Rotary district will know what she's working on. We should be receiving her first update in a few weeks.

The Rotary Foundation's oldest and best-known program is Ambassadorial Scholarships. Since 1947 nearly 37,000 men and women from 100 nations have studied abroad under its auspices. Today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program. Nearly 800 scholarships were awarded for study in 2005-06. Through grants totaling approximately \$500 million, recipients from some 70 countries studied in more than 70 nations.

Jenna's scholarship for the year will be worth approximately \$23,000, which far exceeds the amount our club as a whole contributes to the Rotary Foundation in a typical year. For example, in the past year through 30 June we contributed about \$2,000 to the Foundation. Of course this will be a little higher in the current year, because we will increase our giving. At any rate, what we get out of the Foundation far exceeds what we put in.

The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. The program sponsors several types of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as for qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as ambassadors of goodwill to the people of the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to greater understanding of their host countries.

Generous contributions from Rotarians worldwide represent continued faith that the students who are Ambassadorial Scholars today will be tomorrow's community and world leader.