



歐琦珂祖母  
在斯洛伐克的房子。



## 家庭的意義

# 神

奇扶輪的魔力在於歸屬感，這種感覺往往在你最意想不到的時候出現。

今年稍早，我擔任社長代表進行一次為期六週的歐洲之旅，行程來到斯洛伐克。我寫信給時任 2240 地區總監的卡特琳娜·契科瓦 (Katarina Cechova)，提到我的祖母薇若妮卡·茲卡 (Veronica Zilka) 在定居美國前，是在這一帶的一個小村莊長大。

不久後，契科瓦便找到了我祖母的村莊——賈庫波瓦佛拉 (Jakubova Vol'a)。她甚至為我安排了一次訪問，在那裡我獲得難忘的斯洛伐克式歡迎。

我走進賈庫波瓦佛拉的社區中心時，一小群穿著傳統斯洛伐克服裝的人列隊迎接我。他們用那美麗強健的中歐嗓音唱歌，讓我想起了我的祖母。

許多家庭聚在一起時會玩牌或遊戲。我小時候，父親會拿起手風琴，帶領全家一起唱歌。我祖母會用她那美妙的嗓音跟著唱。

當我走進社區中心，聽到童年時聽過的傳統音樂——我看到一位女士彈奏手風琴，就跟我父親一樣——我突然覺得自己像是一個坐在賓州蒙尼森 (Monessen) 祖母家中的小女孩。想起這些回憶讓我喜極而泣。

但魔力並未就此結束。地區總監契科瓦真的超越了自我。當地一位家譜學家與一位攝影師合力製作了一部關於我祖母的短片。我們在社區中

心一起觀看了這支影片。

影片結束後，我轉過身，看到一位站在房間後面的男子。不久後我得知這位陌生人是我的二表哥法蘭提塞克·茲卡 (Frantisek Zilka)。他祖母與我祖母是姊妹。我實在震驚不已。

我去到新認親的表哥的家，這恰好是我祖母出生的地方。在那裡，他分享了一些我從未見過的我父親、叔叔及祖母的老照片。

從那以後，我不禁一直思考著我的扶輪家庭。當我稱呼各位為我的家人時，我不是在客套。我真的認為扶輪中的每一個人都是我的家人。但我從未想過我的扶輪家人會讓我見到我失散已久的家人。

坐在那個社區中心聆聽童年時期的傳統斯洛伐克音樂，讓我充滿了喜悅及深深的歸屬感。我非常感謝地區總監契科瓦及所有幫助創造這個神奇體驗的人。

作為扶輪社員，我們有獨特的機會可將這樣的魔力與彼此及全世界分享。我鼓勵你們考慮如何幫助傳播這種神奇魔力，確保貴社的其他成員——我們的其他扶輪家人——也能夠感受到真正的歸屬感。

**史蒂芬妮·歐琦珂 STEPHANIE A. URCHICK**  
國際扶輪社長



Urchick's grandmother's house in Slovakia.



## The meaning of family

**T**he *Magic of Rotary* is belonging, and it's a feeling that can appear when you least expect it.

Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president's representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the U.S.

It wasn't long before Cechova tracked down my grandmother's village, Jakubova Vol'a. She even organized a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome.

When I entered the community center of Jakubova Vol'a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community center and heard traditional music from my childhood — when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played — I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother's house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I burst into tears of joy at the memories.

But the magic didn't stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film

about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community center.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin's home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle, and my grandmother.

Since then, I can't stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I'm not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community center listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club — other members of our Rotary family — feel like they truly belong.

**STEPHANIE A. URCHICK**

*President, Rotary International*