

# EARLY BIRD WEEKLY

**EREY (every Rotarian every year)** is the goal that all dues-paying Rotarians donate at least \$25 to The Rotary Foundation above normal dues and club level fundraisers.

It's super simple and the giving Rotarian can choose from multiple areas of focus to direct their donation dollar.

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Last week we filled the 10X100 Paul Harris Fellow Pool. Winner; Karen Hall!

Last week was two more of our Inbound Youth Exchange sharing about their time here before returning home.

**Sharwika Mokadam** was first up returning to Nagpur, Maharashtra, India.



While here, she stayed with host families, the Morelands, Davidsons, and Browns.

On the Youth Exchange California road trip she made more new friends, had some fun at Disneyland, San Francisco, Universal Studios, and Alcatraz.

With her host families she went crabbing, joined them at a monster truck rally.

She attended a couple concerts. One with EchoSmith (former students of Rod's from his school principal days). She and Pili went to a Duran Duran concert but admits she didn't know who they were until she got there.

She saw the Winterhawks here in Portland and got to ride around the ice on the Zamboni. And a Mariners game in Seattle.

On her trip to Eastern Oregon she went skiing and tried her hand at skeet shooting.

She tried out for tennis, having never played before, and ended up playing varsity. Back home she had played Nationals badminton, so had some similar experience.

In May she took a trip to Florida to see her family on their way from India to Mexico for vacation.

District 5100 Conference was fun but she suffered the horrific fate of no internet for two days.

She even survived a ride in a private plane (owned by Luis's host family) flown by Luis.

On her return to Nagpur, Sharwika will recover from a gap year and still have to finish her 11th and 12th years of high school.

He recalls the Body Works museum being really interesting after the initial reaction.

**Luis Weisskopf**, will be heading home to Witterswil, Switzerland.

He was grateful that Sharwika took first mic. He had returned from a Seattle trip with his host family and didn't get home until 1:00 am.

"Things I learned."

*Exchange isn't a year in your life, it's a life in a year.*

Luis tried to accredit the quote, as did I. So it's just Someone on the Internet.

**Independents** (*no, it's not a real word, but I like it so it stays*). Luis had to do his own laundry for the first time.

**Similarity** in people around the world. He has actually traveled quite a bit and sees those common threads regardless of culture and upbringing (with the tongue in cheek exception of politics).

Finding **appreciation** in the small things of life like walking home from school and absorbing the surroundings.

**Finding and exploring** interests. Discovering new ones and expanding old ones. Examples; physics, programming, chess, music composition, guitar & piano...

**Trying to be himself** ... more often.

Learning how to pronounce Worcestershire sauce.

Luis recalled his year in pictures (sorry, you'll have to settle for a picture being represented by plain old words).

He recalls the Body Works museum being really interesting after the initial reaction.

Played Pokemon Go with his host family over Thanksgiving in San Francisco. Toured the jelly bean factory. Attended high school prom. Went to Timbers games. Shot guns (a must, here).

Went hunting and stayed nights in a cold, smoke-filled tent (good times). Rode in sand buggies and roller coasters and surfed.

They all went to a demolition derby. It was super loud with lots of people. A very uniquely American thing.

Thomas' father had a suit that fit Luis' tall frame so he didn't have to rent for prom.



Halloween saw pumpkin carving and even yielded him a bag of candy from trick-or-treating.

Here, his host families had dogs. Back home, he has Guinea pigs.

When presenting at District, the foreign Inbounds have to try to convince prospective local Outbounds to choose their native country for a year. "Someone fell for it."

