

BULLETIN



Meeting date: June 6, 2023

Virtual or In-Person: In Person & Hybrid

Visitors / Guests:

- Amelie Schmelter – Rotary Exchange Student
- Torir (Art's granddaughter)
- Ariel, Caryn and Carl Fisher – guest of club
- Alexander Ewunchuk – guest of Heather
- Jacqueline (friend of Rotary)
- Pam Munch (exploring Rotary)
- Isla Sproule (outbound student)
- Santa Brussow (guest of Ben Smilie)
- Dorian Neufeld (outbound student)

Recap Paragraph:

- A survey was distributed to ask about social events and meeting frequency
- Ben Smillie welcomed us and lead "O Canada".
- Ben provided an overview of the meeting.
- Eugen provided the invocation
- Ben introduced Ariel
- Atam introduced Amelie, Isla & Dorian
- Ben thanked the speakers

Guest Speakers

Ariel spoke about Adventures in Citizenship (see PPT). The program is hosted by Rotary in Ottawa. Participants came from every province and territory, except NWT. They had a number of presentations and were able to go to the House of Commons and speak with the Clerk and Speaker of the House. They also attended presentations on the Ukraine and Conflict Management strategy. They attended other presentations, events and the museum. On the last day they were able to observe a New Canadian Citizenship ceremony. Her highlight was the Operation Come Home project as it was inspiring, in addition to visiting the House of Commons. Amelie, our Rotary exchange student from Switzerland was introduced by Atom. Amelie gave an overview of her time here. She enjoyed living in a bigger city. She will have to repeat her grade

11 year when she goes back. She fell in love with nature, hiking and the ocean. She had a number of trips with other Rotary exchange students (Disneyland, Comox, etc.) She attended grade 11 and she took a number of fun classes (dance and drama). She enjoyed many fun activities and made great friends. She was in choir, musical theatre and vocal ensemble. She learned a lot including responsibility, self confidence, English, etc. She recognizes it has been life changing and thanked all the Rotarians who made the program possible.

Isla is going to Yamagata, Japan (District 2800) in August (she is supported by Harbourside and Victoria as well). She is in the Interact club in Esquimalt High. She is from a small family with many extended family members. She has lived in 9 places as her father is a Naval officer and her mother is a defense scientist. She has three dogs and cats as well as a horse. She is rower, snowboarder (looking forward to snowboarding in Japan), plays piano and loves art. She also competes in the HOSA lab science event. Yamagata is beautiful with temples, cherries, springs and more. It has 4 seasons, so she is glad to have a parka. Her Japanese is coming along.

Dorian is a grade 10 student at Oak Bay High. He is going into grade 11 and is going to Hamburg Germany. He chose Germany because of the language, culture and he has family from there. He is also excited about the post-secondary options as all universities are free for foreigners and locals. He wants to go into aerospace engineering. He is an active volleyball player as well as weightlifting and scuba diving (he learned in Egypt). He is fluent in English, French and hoping to become fluent in German. He has been to 25 countries and 6 of 7 continents (not planning to go to Antarctica). He won chief scout award and is also in Cadet's. He accelerated his school to not have to take an extra year because nothing in Germany counts. He wants to go to the Technological University in Munich. He is going to RYLA too!

Announcements:

- Joan (happy/sad dollar) she thanked the volunteers and mentioned we has 17 bins! And noted music bingo was a lot of fun and thanked Chris.
- Chris noted we had a capacity crowd and made \$314. for The Mustard Seed from the 50/50.

Celebrations: Janette was celebration master and had a fun game and gave away a bottle of wine. Amelie drew the 50/50 ticket and Heather won \$50.

Next Meeting: June 13, 2023 Hybrid – Oak Bay Rec Centre

Prepared by Colleen Sparks