





**“Instant Family & Friends”** – That’s how Anamaria Gonzalez Salguero and Catherine Callahan described the experience of being part of a Rotary Cultural Exchange. They described their trip to Bulgaria as an amazing experience, in which they got to see the culture from the inside. The team from District 7780 visited a lot of museums and monasteries because the Bulgarians are very proud of their history, presumably because it was suppressed and they were not allowed to learn about it for 50 years under Communist rule. Similarly, Rotary clubs were banned under Communist rule, and as a result Rotarians in the 88 clubs in Bulgaria are extremely proud to be Rotarians. Rotaract and Interact are very active in Bulgaria and have close relationships with their host Rotary clubs. The exchange trip, which was funded by Foundation funds from our district, as well as the generous hospitality of the host Bulgarians, was also a way for the team members to get to know each other much better. They said that they laughed the whole time – in part due to the rakia??

**RYLA/Changeover** – The District Changeover at Camp Hinds on June 20 featured the traditional “changeover” at the District level, but also a dedication of the new section of Camp Hinds featuring element used in RYLA. One of the elements, “Lord of the Rings,” features several tightwires leading out from a central ring. Our club’s donation paid for that particular element. Serving on the RYLA staff this year as facilitators were the following students from South Portland and Cape Elizabeth:

- \* Julia Ginder (CE)
- \* Abby Rioux (SP)
- \* Donald Clark (CE)
- \* Leah Berry-Sandelin (SP)
- \* Paige Carter (SP)

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PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE**  
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