



Rotary Club of Ahmednagar

Dist.3132, Club No. 15480, INDIA



PATHFINDER

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Rotary Club of Ahmednagar Welcomes Guinnevere Dermott YOUTH EXCHANGE AMBASSADOR FROM DISTRICT 7210, USA

"A WARM ROTARY WELCOME IN AHMEDNAGAR"

In August 2024, the Rotary Club of Ahmednagar (Club ID 15480), part of District 3132, proudly welcomed **Ms. Guinnevere Dermott** from Rotary District 7210, USA, as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. Her arrival marked the rekindling of international exchange efforts post-pandemic and was celebrated with heartfelt hospitality by Ahmednagar Rotarians.

Upon her arrival, Guinnevere was greeted with traditional Indian warmth - a **tilak ceremony**, **flower garlands**, and a gathering of club members who introduced her to Ahmednagar's cultural spirit. Rotarians, along with Youth Exchange Officers, formally received her, setting the tone for a year of rich cultural learning and global friendship



After a long pause, the Rotary Youth Exchange Program resumed with renewed spirit and global connection. A successful long-term exchange took place between Rotary District 7210, USA, and Rotary District 3132, India - reaffirming Rotary's commitment to peace, understanding, and youth leadership.

Representing Rotary District 7210 (USA), Ms. Guinnevere Dermott spent a full year in India, hosted by Rotary Club of Ahmednagar (Club ID 15480). Her time in India was rich with cultural immersion, community service, and transformative learning experiences.

In exchange, Ms. Ananya Nilesh Vaikar from District 3132 represented India in Red Hook, New York, USA, further strengthening the bond between the two nations.



DEEP CULTURAL IMMERSION IN INDIA

Throughout her year in India, Guinnevere embraced every cultural, social, and service opportunity made available to her. She wasn't just a visitor - she became a part of the Ahmednagar community. Whether through traditional ceremonies or public service events, she displayed Rotary's Four-Way Test in action.



FEATURED MOMENT

Guinnevere Felicitated by Rotary District Governor Dr. Suresh Saboo
IMA Bhavan Program, Ahmednagar

In a proud and symbolic moment, Guinnevere Dermott was felicitated by **Rotary District 3132 Governor Dr. Suresh Saboo** during a formal gathering at **IMA Bhavan**, Ahmednagar. The event highlighted her year-long contributions and cross-cultural engagement as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.



◆ FESTIVALS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- **Ganesh Chaturthi:** Participated in *Shadow Ganpati* creative work, learning from college students about one of Maharashtra's most beloved festivals.



- During the vibrant **Navratri festival**, Guinnevere dressed in elegant **traditional Indian attire** and joined the joyous **Garba and Dandiya Raas** celebration hosted by **Snehalaya** - a renowned NGO in Ahmednagar that works with marginalized children, women, and abandoned infants.
- Dancing among children and community members, Guinnevere didn't just celebrate a festival - she became part of a family rooted in resilience and love. Her presence brought smiles to young faces and demonstrated how culture and compassion can unite people from all walks of life.



- **Diwali & Holi:** Celebrated the festivals of light and color with host families and Rotarians.



🎓 ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL IMMERSION AT PEM RAJ SARDA COLLEGE

Guinnevere Dermott pursued her studies at **Pem Raj Sarda College**, Ahmednagar, affiliated with **Savitribai Phule Pune University**. Welcomed with warmth, she quickly became part of the academic community, attending lectures, participating in cultural events, and engaging in thoughtful exchange with faculty and peers.

Her presence brought fresh global perspectives to the classroom, while giving local students a unique opportunity to connect with a peer from abroad. Guinnevere's experience at Sarda College became a meaningful part of her cultural and intellectual journey in India.



LEADERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, Guinnevere was also invited to represent international youth at several key platforms:

- **Shegaon Youth Conference (District 3132):** She spoke about the value of cultural exchange and was honored by local dignitaries.



- **Radio Nagar 90.4 FM Interview:** Guinnevere shared her personal journey, inspiring local youth to dream globally.



- **ARPAN International Service Seminar:** Joined fellow Rotaractors and Rotarians in discussions on service, equity, and peace.

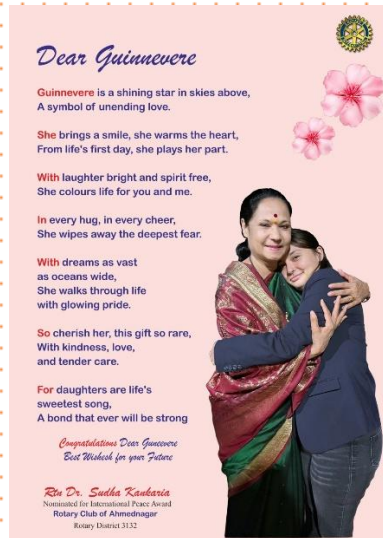


◇ "Guinnevere's grace, curiosity, and participation touched the hearts of many here. She exemplified what a Youth Exchange student should be."

— Rtn. Nilesh Vaikar, Rotary Club of Ahmednagar

◆ SPIRITUAL & PERSONAL EXPLORATION

India's spiritual richness left a profound impact on Guinnevere. She participated in guided **Raj Yoga Meditation** under the mentorship of **Dr. Sudha Tai Kankaria**, a senior Brahma Kumari. This daily practice gave her tools for self-awareness, emotional balance, and focus - a gift she says she'll carry home for life.



She also visited the **Avatar Meher Baba Center** in Ahmednagar, engaging with India's pluralistic spiritual traditions in a respectful and *inquisitive* manner. Guinnevere dressed in a traditional **lehenga choli** and performed a lively **Dance**.



Her performance captivated the audience and symbolized more than just artistic expression - it was a gesture of cultural unity and heartfelt participation. Rotarians and community members were deeply moved by her willingness to honor Indian dance with such grace and enthusiasm.

◆ *"Meditation helped me slow down and listen to myself - something I didn't realize I needed before India."*

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SERVICE

Guinnevere was especially inspired by Rotary's work in **women's empowerment** and **rural development**. During her year, she:







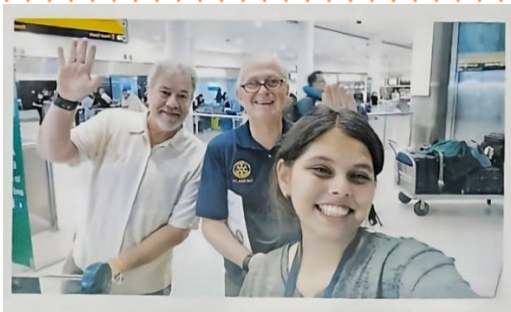
- Helped organize sessions with women-led self-help groups
- Attended awareness drives focused on girls' education
- Witnessed firsthand how microfinance and skill training uplift families

Her presence as a young woman from abroad added perspective and hope to these programs, often encouraging young girls to continue their education and dream big.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ANANYA'S EXCHANGE IN THE USA

As a proud Rotary Youth Exchange student from **District 3132 (India)**, **Ananya Nilesh Vaikar** spent a meaningful year in **Red Hook, New York**, fostering global friendship and cultural understanding.

-  Met with **Rotary District 7210 leadership**, engaging in dialogue about youth exchange and cross-cultural collaboration
-  Participated in **Rotary Club meetings and community service projects**, sharing Indian culture with American Rotarians
-  Took part in an **international flag exchange ceremony**, where students from different nations shared their national flags - a Rotary tradition symbolizing peace, mutual respect, and the unity of global cultures
-  Represented India in **multicultural events and performances**, celebrating diversity and strengthening global connections through art and tradition.
- Attended **Rotary-hosted leadership sessions**, showcasing the potential of youth diplomacy.



BON VOYAGE, ANANYA!

Sending Off India's Youth Ambassador to the USA

Before the exchange officially began, **Rotary District 3132** organized a warm **Bon Voyage program** for **Ms. Ananya Nilesch Vaikar**, the outbound Youth Exchange student traveling to **Red Hook, New York (District 7210, USA)**.



The send-off event was filled with pride, encouragement, and cultural exchange. Rotarians, family members, past exchange students, and Youth Exchange Officers gathered to wish Ananya success on her journey as India's young ambassador. The event highlighted Rotary's vision of building peace one young leader at a time.

"Your passport may take you to America, but your roots, values, and culture will travel with you," said a Rotarian during the send-off.

IN JUST A YEAR THAT CHANGED TWO LIVES

This exchange is a powerful reminder that youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow - they are change agents today. Both Guinnevere and Ananya return home not only with souvenirs and photographs, but with **lifelong bonds, cultural fluency**, and a renewed passion to serve the world.



 "Rotary gave me the world - and now I feel responsible to give back to it."
— Guinnevere Dermott