LOST WEEKEND, from page 12

nothing was easy to estimate. It was quite obvious from Marc's face that he was in disbelief and utter shock of what became of our supposedly fun weekend in Canada.

I texted my friends in Seattle who were refugees from Iran currently with green cards and we asked them if we could stay with them for a night. Of course they welcomed us with food and we were comparing Trump with Ahmadinejad, the former president of Iran who brought an economical crisis upon the nation of Iran due to his abrupt, ill advised and last-minute decisions.

Ahmadinejad was well known for his interest in having his word taken at authority, and his Hollywood-like, deranged hallucinations were a laughing stock for us because we did not have the grittiness to topple his towers after a huge failure of the Green Movement during which we lost many lives. We were wondering if Americans as a nation in solidarity were going to get deployed and divide up into two or more parties.

We did not let any of the sad news bother us. We watched a man on Fox News crying because he drove all the way to the LAX airport to pick up his brother who had just gotten deported back to Iran. We went out. We saw a wall covered with chewing gum. Later, I received a message on Facebook from my friend who was granted a visa because of his extraordinary abilities but he was denied entry. We drove to the Pike Place Market to see fishermen play catch with dead fish. They had no idea.

We fed the leftovers of our food that we did not eat to the seagulls. Then I read about my friend Mania who realized that her sister did not get the chance of getting on a plane and she was forced to go back home. We went to see the water, and we had an encounter with an old dog who was welcome to sit at the bar in a very small sports bar near Seattle's Safeco Field.

All of it happened because President Trump woke up on Friday and felt like he needed to ban me from coming back to America. I am still the same person. I am still the human that I was before leaving Canada, the person who owes a student loan to the government; the very person who paid the art tax in Southwest Portland to keep it nice and gorgeous.

But you are a new person, Mr. President. You were not the person that you are now two weeks ago. The rest of the world is still the same. So thank you for granting us such an amazing weekend!

I put Marc on a cute little white bus going back to Vancouver and I started driving back to Portland. I was thinking if the border control officer had asked me, "Why are you wanting to go back to your apartment in Portland?" I probably would have said, "Sir, I have food in the fridge and the laundry basket is full of dirty laundry."

ROGERS, from page 7

immigrant and refugees whose families might be impacted. We are working with an incredible team of volunteer attorneys from around the state, and our legal director, Mat dos Santos, is tireless and deeply committed.

We are only two weeks into this new administration. It is impossible to project what we will be doing in the months to come with any level of specificity. We are ready to fight and we are coordinating with allies on the ground to identify the most important priorities and places where we can have a high impact. We don't have the capacity to respond to every need, though.

This will be a marathon not a sprint. We will need to celebrate the victories along the way and also practice high degrees of self-care. Trump isn't going away soon.

I also want to remind everyone that we can't get stuck entirely in a defensive posture. In Oregon, there are areas where we can actually advance civil rights and liberties and pass important reforms. Our 2017 legislative session just started. There are opportunities to pass important tenant protections, advance housing stabilization, and push back on the criminalization of homelessness. We can advance smart justice and pass a landmark bill to address law enforcement profiling. There is so much more to say about proactive work here in Oregon. Perhaps that is a future conversation we can have soon.

E.G.: *The National ACLU is reporting unprecedented donations. Will any of that money donated to the National ACLU trickle down to state chapters? Does the Oregon chapter have enough attorneys given the demand being placed on your office at this time?*

D.R.: We have had an overwhelming and humbling response from people around the country. ACLU nationally has received a tremendous amount of contributions since the election. Although the numbers can sometimes seem staggering, it actually doesn't go as far as you might think when trying to build an effective 50-state strategy over the next four years. We need more capacity. We will continue to see a complex deluge of attacks on civil rights and liberties from Trump and likely from Congress.

Some of the national ACLU money will undoubtedly move to state affiliates, although there isn't a full plan in place yet.

It is important to note that if you want to support both national strategies and our work here in Oregon, please contribute through the ACLU of Oregon's website. That guarantees resources are invested both locally and nationally.

As for volunteer attorneys and non-attorneys, we have had an out-pouring of new people reach out to volunteer. It is absolutely heart-warming. It will take a little bit of time before we have the capacity to plug people in constructively. I hope everyone will stay patient. I am encouraged that we will be able to expand our case load and reach.