

REFLECTIONS

In Giving, We Receive



***"We should not give up
and we should not allow
the problem to defeat us"***

- Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Rise Up

The country has slipped into "the survival of the fittest mode." Chaos has broken out, an acute shortage of Vaccines and Medication, a race for hospital Beds, scarcity of Food and the Air we breathe... mankind is suffering.

Are we in the real world?

The track **"Imagine"** by John Lennon gives me hope, faith and courage to face the grim scenario and rise up, awaken humanity in our circle of influence, and make a difference to rebuild the pieces for tomorrow.

SOBO has collectively risen to engage with pathbreaking community initiatives to meet the burning needs, test our limits and stretch our horizons with zeal, time and effort to grip a hand that may be on the edge of slipping away.

The crowdfunding campaigns for Prosthetics and life-saving critical Medical equipment gave us a huge impetus with massive fundraises. All acknowledgment for the selfless service to make this happen.

This is the real world we would like to live in.

"Imagine all the people,

Living life in peace."

In gratitude,

Rajiv



Initiatives at Rotary SOBO

1. **Crowdfunding Initiative** by 36 Members, raised INR 60 lakhs for COVID relief in 3 days, campaign underway.
2. **6 School Interactors raised 5 lakhs** in a fundraiser to support Prosthetics.
3. **Distribution of meals / fruits:**
 - Dinner organised for destitute adults at the King George V Memorial (ongoing)
 - Members raised funds for weekly fresh fruit delivery to orphaned children at Anand Niketan
 - Meals organised for an old age home at Mahalaxmi
4. Distribution of **Sanitisers** to Tata Memorial Hospital, Paediatric Wing.
5. Distribution of **30 Ramadan Ration kits** at Bhavnagar Jamat.
6. Signed up **4 more Interact Clubs** from leading Mumbai city schools, making it a total of **7 Clubs** in one month.
7. Hosted a **Birthday Special Celebration** for children at Anand Niketan.
8. Launched the 5 Service Avenues **Knowledge Speaker Series** with eminent Rotarians: Virendra Widge, Indumati Gopinathan, Hussain Rassai, Saurabh Sonawala and Radhika Mehta.
9. **Hosted SOBO Candid Conversations Series** with:
 - Hotelier **Amruda Nair** of the Leela and Aralya group
 - **Mr. Nixon Joseph** - President and COO, SBI Foundation, also a Marathoner
 - Fitness guru **Mickey Mehta**
10. Virtual Holi Celebrations with **RJ Varun**.
11. New members added this month has escalated our **total membership count to 70**.
12. Fellowship with members over a Bollywood Tambola.
13. Undertaken **Covid relief work** as part of the District task force for fund raising, procurement and distribution of critical equipment at government & public hospitals.
14. Invited our 1st Honorary member, **Ms Ritu Prakash Chhabria**, a philanthropist, NGO trustee, visionary and change maker of society.

President: Rajiv Punater | Club Trainer: Monica Grover | Secretary: Niharika Malik

3H Project at King George V Memorial

by Niharika Malik

The club embarked on tackling the Hunger project as part of the 3H project with gusto. Following a series of food distribution drives, a long term meal arrangement was planned for the destitute at King George V Memorial, with Rtn. Shantanu Sahai's assistance.

The project has continued without disruption through the lockdown. The requisite permissions facilitated by Rtn. Vaishali through the month of April despite the lockdown measures, as members noted such times tend to leave the vulnerable acutely worse off.

Meals have been sourced from Mrs. Shirodkar, a lovely lady cooking out of her home kitchen, warming bellies and hearts with her nutritious and delicious fare. With Rtn. Rajiv's support, we are glad to have not only managed to source wholesome food, but also assist Mrs. Shirodkar's family who were adversely impacted this past year due to the pandemic.

The Project has been tinged with kindness from many quarters, be it the driver who did not take a Sunday off in the month and also delivered food on Gudi Padwa because, "God's work is far and beyond festive celebrations", or Shirodkar aunty's daughter who has volunteered to bake and send brownies on the last day of the meals as her personal contribution.

A ray of hope in these grim times, "When fate hands us money, let's help hungry people."

Let's not anyone go hungry!

Conscious Celebrations

by Sheetal, Els & Heather



The Vatsalaya Foundation is a non-profit organization that helps children in need of care and protection, aged between 7 to 18 years, who are fleeing from environments of conflict, ill-treatment and despair. The Foundation intervenes and works with these children by admitting them into its two shelter homes in Lower Parel (Boys) and Murbad (Girls), where it takes care of their nutrition and education, seeking to empower them through a planned rehabilitation process with the objective of mainstreaming children back into society.

The Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO has engaged with the Vatsalaya Foundation and initiated its first sustainable project, through a proposal mooted by Rtn. Shantanu Sahai, to supplement the nutritional needs of the young boys of the Boys Orphanage at King George Vth Memorial Trust, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel.

Starting April 2021, we have been providing weekly distribution of seasonal and nutritious fruit to the children at the orphanage, with an initial commitment period of one year. Individual members were requested to come forward and sponsor any week(s) of their choice – perhaps coinciding with specific months that are of personal significance to them leading to conscious celebration. Thanks to the overwhelming response of our members, the projected funds needed for this year-long project have exceeded expectations. This gives us the confidence that, with your support, we would be able to sustain this project for many more years to come and possibly expand it to other orphanages in our neighbourhood as well.

"Celebrations infuse life with passion and purpose. They summon the human spirit."



SOBO celebrates “The Joy of Giving” Birthdays-With-New-Friends

by Rittesh Seth

Three leaves from the notebooks of the lesser fortunate children at The King George V shelter home *and that was it for the Rotary SOBO !!*

Given the impending lockdown, what started off as a far-fetched idea suddenly assumed the status of a mission.

At one end were **50 + children (including April borns - Vijay and Gaurav)** and on the other was Vynn (Vivekca) - a **sulking 7 year old Bombay Scottish lass who was staring at her second consecutive lackluster birthday** on the 15th of April.

A huddle meeting on the 7th of April by Rotarians **Monica, Niharika, Rajiv, Shantanu and Rittesh** is what followed giving birth to the idea of a **hybrid virtual party with a parallel cake cutting at respective venues.**

With bakers declining cake orders amongst other logistical issues, the task force knew that the next seven days wasn't going to be a walk in the park. Luck flipped in the nick of time with Sheetal Vidhani of **Mer Konfekkt** offering to treat the kids with their premium lip-smacking cakes.

Thereon things just started falling into place. Ensuring there was never a dull moment was **magician Zenia's spellbinding (pro bono) performance with magical doves**, ending with her teaching the kids a magic trick!

Mirth was aplenty - Vynn sang for her new friends who, in turn, danced to some brilliantly choreographed songs until the 3 children cut their birthday cakes before settling down for a sumptuous meal.

It was a joyous celebration indeed, with a sparkle in the kid's eyes and peals of laughter ringing through the evening till Ms. Swathi Mukherjee (Trustee of The Vatsalya Foundation) decided to blow the whistle, albeit with a heavy heart. As for Vynn, ushering this **“Birthday-for-a-cause”** endowed upon her a gift money couldn't buy.



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Kindness, Like A Boomerang, Always Returns

by Mahera Goel

We often look outside for heroes, but we see them right here amongst us! When a group of six 14 and 15 year-olds decide to support a cause, you know the planet is in good hands.

Students of Fazlani L'Academie Globale, in association with the Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO and the Ratna Nidhi Trust, are all set to transform the lives of amputees by providing them with prosthetics.

Story of Prosthetics:

Over 2 million people in India live without easily walking or doing simple tasks because they are amputees or are born with a congenital disability. Amputees are unaware of solutions and also sometimes cannot afford to access a qualified rehabilitation team. Mobility camps are hosted to provide custom-made mobility aids that cost Rs 4500 per person for limbs/arms.

Students have raised Rs 5,60,000 from 92 well-wishing funders across the globe.

RIZWANA - our good samaritan!

by Els Reynaers



This month Rizwana Makani handed over 50 bottles of 1/2 liter hand sanitiser to the Paediatric Department of the Tata Memorial hospital, which was further distributed to the families of the children being treated at the hospital. The Tata Memorial hospital was most grateful for this selfless act, every good deed matters in this time of crisis. It also stands to show that selfless acts at an individual level can go a long way in brightening up the day of the less fortunate. All the children at the Tata Memorial hospital are in our thoughts and we wish them a speedy recovery. As a club, we will continue to seek engagement with the Tata Memorial hospital in the months to come. We are truly grateful for the thoughtfulness and kind-heartedness.



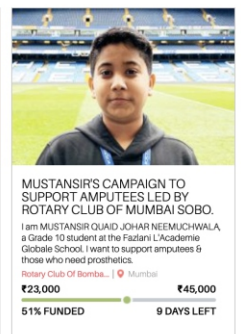
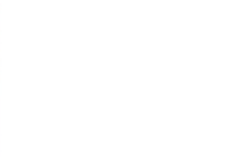
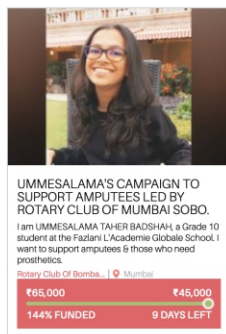
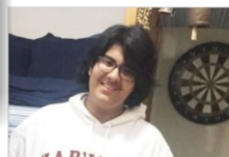
THE SOLUTION

A JOURNEY OF BEING DEPENDENT TO INDEPENDENT.



Jayashree lost her leg in an accident when she was 5 years old. The accident resulted in her being disabled. Her parents were devastated. But Jayashree didn't let her disability break her spirit to go to school. She currently studies in Grade 12. She used to walk 5 km everyday to attend classes with the help of her crutches. With the help of Ratna Nidhi, she was fortunate to get a prosthetic limb which completely transformed her life.

With a shy smile on her face she shares "I can now finally walk without crutches and on my own feet. I want to grow up and be a doctor and am willing to work hard for it. Thank you for coming to my village and providing me with a free Jaipur foot."



al: 2,70,000 CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT AMPUTEES LED BY ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI SOBO. INF: 2,66,300 COLLECTED BY SUPPORT AMPUTEES LED BY ROTARY CLUB OF MUMBAI SOBO. 95 % Funded 61 Funder

BOLLYWOOD MAZAA - All work and some play to keep you healthy, happy and bright

by Ritika Agarwal



Mumbai, the maximum city that never sleeps with all the hustle bustle in its streets, buzzing nightlife, malls, theatres, financial capital and film industry (Bollywood) hub, is reeling under the pressure of yet another COVID lockdown. Shrouded in silence with deserted streets, as we remain isolated in our homes, come Friday and Rotary Mumbai Sob0, in its online fellowship event, brings in refreshing excitement and fun with some Bollywood tadka. Presenting a specially curated gaming event entitled "Bollywood Mazaa" coupled with some live singing and music by the very talented and multifaceted Ivy Roy along with her son Ronnan Roy playing the guitar. A Houseful event with the members experiencing the joy of creating their own 'housie ticket' selecting the names of 15 Bollywood movies from a list of 60. Witty clues in the form of movie posters, audio clips and live songs kept the members guessing to crack the answers. Indeed a very engaging evening with vibrant participation, scintillating melodies, excellent guitar strumming and some great prizes to be won added the much needed spark and social interaction to brighten up and lift everybody's mood.

Grateful to all members for the success of this very enjoyable evening, a special mention of the fun and peppy compering by Shilpa & Sachin Daga and the skillful organisation of the event together with Jaishri Kimmatkar and Swati Jatia. Special thanks to Ivy Roy for gracing the evening with her beautiful voice and congratulations to our lucky winners.

Top 3 numbers(1,2,3) - Amit Parekh & Sunayana Vora

Bottom 3 numbers (13,14, 15) - Mahera Goel

Even Numbers - Shantanu Sahai

Odd numbers - Niharika Malik

Table of 3 - Anjali Adik

Middle number 8 - Misha Mirchandani

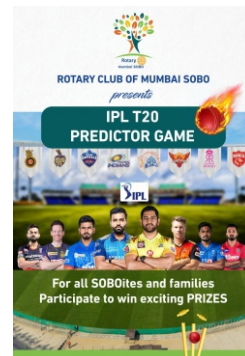
4 Full houses - Sindhu Kotian, Anjali Adik, Sargam Thakkar & Niharika Malik



IPL T20 PREDICTOR GAME - Some Hits some Misses with excitement all through.....

by Rajeev Goenka

Its IPL season from April 9th to May 30th but without the usual fanfare and surging crowds, it will be played behind closed doors across 6 venues in India. Mumbai Indians, the two times defending champions having won both 2019 & 2020 seasons and Mumbai-ites are fighting another grave battle on the health and epidemic front. In this rather lacklustre and grim state of affairs the Rotary Mumbai SOB0 steps in with its own **IPL Predictor Game** to infuse some cheer and enthusiasm.



Before the start of each game, the participating members use their cricket acumen, intuitive nerve and their bookie "contacts" to predict the Winning team, the Man of the Match, the Batsmen with most Sixes and the Bowler with most Wickets. Amidst great excitement as the match progresses, the whatsapp group made for this game is abuzz with players' comments, jokes and jibes. At the end of each game, the hits with right guesses are rewarded with points and there are weekly prizes being announced for the player with maximum points. The Jackpot will be the bumper prize for correctly predicting the top 4 teams at the end of the league and guessing the Orange and Purple caps that carry lots of points.

30 cricket enthusiast's are vying for the ultimate Prizes. Till then it's a watch to see who makes it or breaks it as the drama unfolds on the field as our teams sweat it out and in the rapture of the virtual world where our players are competing.

All in all - may the best team and the best players win!

Rajiv and Ranvir Punater, the father-son duo, conceptualised the Predictor Game.



Inception of the Rotary SOB0 Wine Appreciation Club

by Shantanu Sahai

The idea of a local wine appreciation club was mooted after the guest lecture on Rotary Fellowships - a few members have come together to jointly do a deeper dive into the fascinating world of wine.

The stated objective of the club is to contribute towards developing a working knowledge of wine and then to put it to good use in the post pandemic world - organise wine tastings, visit wine estates both in India and overseas and have some fun together while doing it!

While Wine is a subject of great snobbery in general and like any other field, is a deep and expansive subject in itself, the plan is to cut through the clutter and focus on developing a working understanding of the subject - that allows one to enjoy it in the fastest, easiest and the most inexpensive way possible.

Our members have varying degrees of understanding of the subject - from some who have dabbled in it for many years to rank novices who are keen to explore. The common thread that binds everyone together is the enthusiasm to know more and get drunk on some of the finer stuff!

Going forward, while we are all homebound in the pandemic, the plan is to exchange practical information resources to get all members up to speed on the theoretical aspects of wine appreciation.

In the post pandemic world, we intend taking this up another notch with outstation visits to wineries both domestically and offshore. Add to that, guest lectures from prominent oenophiles as well as certified sommeliers to enrich and broaden the winery experience.

The building blocks are in place. There is a lot to look forward to.. And the members can't wait to move this along! If this inspires others to consider dipping their feet into this fascinating space, memberships are still open!



01 May - Kamad Nigam

02 May - Rizwana Makani

04 May - Bindu Fernandes

18 May - Pankaj Goel

22 May - Paras Dedhia

31 May - Jasraj Vidhani

Hey! My name is...

by Geetanjali Khadria

I wish it was something as funky as Slim Shady! Pardon the



reference as I grew up in the emerging era of Eminem. My nickname was close, though. I was mostly called Khaddy by one and all during my youthful years in school. Boarding school tradition of surname calling still stands. Usually, the story attached to the

derived name is a funny one. Mine emerged as a consequence of everyone inventing their own pronunciation of the rather unusual surname...

To keep reading, visit:

<http://thethinkingcaptain.com/2020/08/16/hey-my-name-is/>



07 MAY Club meeting @ 7.30pm:
Mandatory Club Assembly

12 MAY Monthly Board Meeting

14 MAY Speaker: Tariq Aboobaker
Amicorp Trustees

16 MAY District Training Assembly

21 MAY Wellness Session by
Teacher of Happiness Programme,
Art of Living

28 MAY Speaker: Mahabanoo Mody-Katwal

Today an Interactor, tomorrow a Leader

by Mahera Goel

Interact clubs allow Rotary's new generations to be involved in community life and develop skills to become responsible and productive members of society.

Rotary Club of Mumbai SOB0 has signed up seven new Interact Clubs in April 2021, setting new records during this pandemic within District 3141.

1. Ascend International School
2. Chatrabhuj Narsee Memorial School
3. Fazlani L'Academie Globale
4. Mt. Litera School International
5. Ram Ratna International School
6. RBK International Academy
7. Wockhardt Global School

We are excited to welcome the Schools into the SOB0 family and collaborate on projects that create pathways of youth agency, leadership, and service and build a group of leaders that can put the community ahead of self.

We hope to nurture a generation of future Rotarians who can celebrate accomplishments and inspire others.

families across the country access ICU beds, oxygen cylinders and concentrators, medicines, plasma and vaccinations.

Lest you thought that was all our superwoman does, think again. She doesn't hang up her cape just yet. **Vaishali** has also managed to find the time to help with food distribution to the Police force to the needy on the streets of Dadar and Dharavi.

We are honoured to have this compassionate soul with a big heart in our midst. And yes, not to forget, she is very camera-friendly :)



Naveea is a Superstar and that's no secret! (Rotarian Amit Parikh's daughter)

by Bhawna Goel

Naveea Parikh, all of 10 years, was watching America's Got Talent with her dad Amit when she found her inspiration, Sofie Dossi, a contortionist.

A contortionist is an entertainer who twists and bends their body into strange and unnatural positions.

Naveea is a ballet star, an all-rounder in sports, a gymnast, and now she has added to her bag of passions - Contortion. She is self-taught just by watching videos of Sofie.

At her school's display of Aerial silk at Mount Litera International School, actor Sushmita Sen could not stop applauding Naveea's performance as the show stopper.

What is incredible is that at such a tender age, Naveea wholeheartedly focuses on her fitness routines, backflips, splits and rolls.

As Oprah Winfrey so aptly said, "Passion is energy. Feel the power that comes from focusing on what excites you." And we couldn't agree more!



by Niharika Malik

Vaishali Kale, a life coach by profession and our Director for Community Service - Medical, has been tireless in her efforts for COVID relief.

She is on the district's 'Fight to Win' task force against COVID. With herculean efforts and banking on her personal goodwill, Vaishali has been liaising with governmental and local authorities for streamlining efforts related to critical care medical equipment to COVID centers.

Ever energetic and brimming with optimism, she has also been working around-the-clock to help Rotarians and their



Creatives by **Megha Punater**, an accomplished illustrator and graphic designer

Kavya Jones
Musician

"Each moment from that evening was magical, especially when I sang 'Lag Jaa Gale' the amount of love and encouragement each of you showed was truly amazing. Thank you, Rajiv, sir, for having us!!!"

Amruda Nair

Director Leela and Araiya Group of Hotels

"The entire event was very well organized, and I enjoyed the interaction very much. I particularly enjoyed the questions asked by the members who remained engaged right through the presentation. I look forward to staying connected with the club. All the best!"

Vaibhav
Radio Jockey

"Thank you so much for inviting me to the event, loved the way you guys are; full of fun! Full of enthusiasm! Love to be a part of the Holi party. Thank you, SOBO family."

Leslie Lewis

Indian Singer and Composer

What a Fab evening!! Totally enjoyed Performing for the Rotary SOBO online event. You guys were such a Rocking audience. It means a lot to have such keen listeners when one is performing. Kavya Jones & I are looking forward to performing 'Live' probably at some point. Stay Rocking!!

Indumati Gopinathan
District 314 Membership Chair

"An enriching evening with M SOBO! It is moments like these that enrich guest Rotarian speakers. As I said, SOBO is all set to be a shining star of Dist 314! Glitter and shine, stay blessed! You will do wonders in the International avenue as you will in others!"

Ritu Chhabria

"Thank you Rajiv for the invitation to Rotary Club Mumbai SOBO as an Honorary Member, truly humbled.

Your initiatives for Covid Relief are commendable, all the members along with you have risen to the occasion.

I look forward to being a part of the amazing work being undertaken.

Congratulations and all my best to you as the President.

Mickey Mehta

Indian holistic health, well-being, wellness and fitness guru. TV, Radio Presenter, Columnist

"SOBOites - Let health be your No. 1 Religion. Stay Maximised and Stay Mickymized."

Hussain Rassai
Youth Services Avenue Chair

I want to congratulate this super active new Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO, full of vibrant and a charged team all set to do service. President Rajiv Punater and youth chair Mahera expressed a lot of passion, and I am sure the club will do phenomenal in the months to follow. Rotary district 3141 is indeed fortunate to have such enthusiastic members.

for better or for verse

penned by Els Reynaers and Rajiv Punater



Ajay Arora

Rock solid and sound,
His advice is clear and profound;
A true blue wizard in IT,
Always there for everyone in the community.
He brings his A-game to the golf course,
But doesn't mind teaching us, of course.



Amita Kini-Singh

Talented and highly prolific,
Left banking to be artistic;
Japanese art tugs at her heart,
Studies Asian history, viz truly her part.
As she puts pen to paper, so eloquently,
To finish her PhD ever so quickly.



Amit Parikh

The man is always wearing a smile,
Talent in the family is divine;
A go-getter at Social media,
Pretty much a Wikipedia.
A man to depend upon,
Keep bringing it on.



Anita Saraf

Sharing her birthday with Gandhiji,
An insightful nutritionist, quite easy to see;
Fit as a fiddle, she'll guide you there,
As she walks the talk, she does care.
Do it once and you'll see,
Reverse aging in all its glee.



Anjali Adik

Music and radio, her gig but no more,
She's now an amazing home chef, to the core;
As we dream of fancy places to dine,
Do order Anjali's delectable dishes, with wine.
You can juggle more than that, for sure,
She's also an image consultant, say no more!



Arvind Ambo

In hospitality as in logistics is his fame,
Arvind is no-nonsense and ahead of the game;
Learning & analyzing, simply no bling.
He's the inevitable and ultimate sales king.
Did you also know, he plays tennis like a pro,
So, if you lose, remember we told you so!



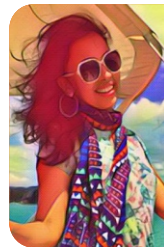
Ashutosh Biyani

The don of the club, this man,
Last we saw him was in Jan;
Up your game, gentle giant,
Its no time to be silent.
Give Rotary a shot now,
Else its gonna be pow wow.



Avinash Rajpal

Family with a long-standing tradition in charity,
Helping so many in the community;
His eyes are firmly set on the future,
And fully believes in electrifying the scooter.
Big boy Avinash is really a cool guy,
Here's to his spirit, a big high-five.



Bhawna Biyani

A woman with panache and style,
Always dressed with a charming smile;
Out to make a difference each day,
A Samaritan by heart, in her own way.



Bhawna Goel

A petite lady with a gentle heart,
Energetic and ready to play her part;
Edu is up her alley galore,
Its rightly said 'yeh dil maange more.'



Bindu Fernandes

Young and dashing and full of fun,
Bright and cheerful like the sun;
A spring in your step, masti on your face,
Dreams and goals at SOBO to chase.



Geetanjali Khadria

A multi-faceted persona in the sky,
Living her dreams full throttle on a high;
Writing is a passion for our captain too,
Always ready to blow the bugle anew.
Our lady has a voice please know,
A kaleidoscope of ideas in tow.



Heather Kaikini

Starting her journey in hospitality,
Soft-spoken, vivacious and lovely;
She's determined and ever so gritty,
Which has led her to cross-cultural advisory.
Heather's also launched a dog-sitting venture,
Ah, life is just such a big adventure!



Ivy Roy

Our nightingale, who spreads such joy,
She fully lives by music, o boy;
Tell you about lifestyle changes and spirituality,
In four simple steps, really, really.
She spreads her wings and takes center stage,
And hold your attention, just with her gaze!



Jasmine Vidhani

Being silent is a virtue, that's Jas for us,
A go-getter in her ways, with absolutely no fuss;
Head on her shoulders, a twinkle in the eye,
Goodness and kindness, a perfect high.



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