



REFLECTIONS

In Giving, We Receive



from the horse's mouth

Rajiv Punater
President

Life is too short to be serious all the time. So, if you can't laugh at yourself, call me... I'll laugh at, and with you.

My dear friends,

I love stories, both listening and reading; and the ones we curate at SOBO, real stories of life-changing experiences of simple everyday people across the landscape of our maximum city and beyond.

Rotary is the forum where like minded people come together and share ideas that bring about dramatic and lasting change. This is termed as "People of Action".

We are a strong 1.40 million plus change-makers over 46,000 clubs in over 200 nations. Projects are local and global, no cause or challenge is too big for us.

SOBO has pitched in with brilliant service initiatives in the month of November, as you will read in the pages that follow. We have addressed hunger, taken up a cause for pets, continue to educate lives, taken steps to make our homes and environment greener, built toilets and washing facilities in underprivileged schools, conducted sessions on financial literacy and know your members; and most importantly, built bonds through fellowships as we moved from zoom to a room.

As we come close to the end of this year, and celebrations set in, I leave you to think about one take-away or learning that we can be proud of and how can we continue to pledge **to make it a better day, for you and for me and the entire human race!** Aim for the skies, at least you will reach the treetop.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Ring out the old, ring in the new.



Joyfully,

Rajiv



Meals Distribution at Nair hospital Total 1200 meals and 300 sheera packets distributed.

Many thanks to Umang, Swati Barve, Serafina & her daughter, Anita, Bhawna Biyani, Misha, Jaishri, Anjali and Saurav, our volunteers for "Hunger Warriors".

Our meal distribution program to Nair Hospital once a week from past 5 months has been appreciated and accepted. As per commitment made by our Club, food packets are sourced from Ratnanidhi Charitable Trust at Khetwadi and distributed to staff, patients and the relatives at Nair hospital. Our volunteers are carrying out the distribution ensuring COVID-appropriate protocols. Additional sheera packets were also distributed. Some of the volunteers carried some chhas and water bottles too.



PAWZ

By Els Raynaers

On Sunday 14th November, international children's day, we organized a cause-based event: a Walkathon with dogs in support of NGOs dedicated to stray animals in Mumbai, at the newly renovated S.B. Somani Park, Cuffe Parade. We had a great run-up to the event with the actress Barkha Singh supporting our Wagathon on the radio. More than 250 people came out on that beautiful Sunday morning along with 100 dogs. A jazz band and the talented musician Shanelle Ferreira ensured there was a wonderful ambiance throughout the entire event. Families followed a parkour by which they visited stalls of the NGOs, including of the Welfare for Stray Dogs (WSD), PALs and World for All Animals(WFA). Other companies had come forward by giving away curated items such as dog cupcakes, courtesy Piper's Pet Bakery, grooming kits by Captain Zack and collar tags by Paw magnet.

Our Interact kids from the Ascend International School, with our member Leslie Bartley in full swing, came out in full force and had prepared skits on the OOH (Out Of Home Adoption) movement. What a treat to see these articulate kids confidently educate all of us! The vet, Dr. Ami Sanghavi, from the Pet Paradise clinic, engaged in an interactive session about pet care, allowing all

participants to ask her questions. The experienced dog trainer, Manjula Engineer, guided dog owners in the separate dog park with agility tricks. Those without dogs could pet and walk adorable dogs from the WSD shelter.

The talented sketch artist, Ashish, captured pets and their owners in awesome drawings! The young photographer, Soham Shetty, manned the photobooth with fun dog props, giving the participants a lovely photo souvenir. Speaking of photos, we also organized a social media photo competition, and the first prize went to Karishama Gandhi; the second prize to Avantika Khilachand and the third prize to our very own Aanchal Sheth. Check out the pictures on our RoSoBo insta handle!

It must be said, the dynamic local corporator, Mrs. Harshita Narwekar in charge of the renovation of the S.B. Somani Park extended her full support to us and firmly believes in the importance of supporting our "community pets". All participants and NGOs were delighted by the large turnout of like minded people and the wonderful atmosphere. We certainly created a buzz and will be planning similar events, on public demand! Sounds exciting? Do feel free to join our SOBO's Pawz committee.



Door Step School

School on Wheels - Non Formal Education
at Crawford Market



Name of the Child: Firoja Shaikh

Age: 10, Gender: Female

Firoja stays with her family on the footpath of Crawford Market area -one of the crowded places in Mumbai. Her Mother is working as a maid and Father takes up any kind of job that is offered to him such as coolie, labour etc. Firoja has two younger siblings and she has to look after them when parents are on work and not around.

Firoja keeps hunting for scrapped goods early in the morning time and sells them out the scrap dealer before she attends classes on our School on Wheel Bus program. She has taken up this activity on a regular basis as she understands that she needs to support her family due to lack of enough earnings and her family needs are not catered by her parents in full strength.

Post her duty, she joins our classes along with her two siblings. She seems to be quite interested in academics. Firoja along with her other siblings used to keep starving till the time her mother returned home after work in the afternoon, but now they don't have to wait for food since they have started receiving mid-day-meal on our school on wheel bus. They are pretty happy to have food and it clearly reflects in their body language and physical activities. Her mother and father are too happy to see their children receiving food on time. They thank us for this service and for making their children part of this.



Visit to a community garden tour conducted by Rtn. Serafina Singapuri on 20th November, 2021

It was an enriching experience to see how residential complexes at Worli integrate waste management and composting with growing herbs, fruits and vegetables. Our members thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They all took back some seeds and roots to grow at their own homes, sharing and nurturing the experience.



Youth Services Avenue

By Mahera Goel



1. Ram Ratna International School - After a successful installation of a washbasin much needed at the Adivasi Gramin Vikas Mire School, the young Interactors at the Ram Ratna International School are now crowdfunding for toilets for students at the same school, an ambitious project led by the Principal Dr. Jaya Parekh, who has personally visited the site with the team and promised the toilets to the school by J26th January , 2022.

2. Ascend International School, and a small team of passionate Interactors, is crowdfunding to support Fruit Tree Plantations in Palghar.

Fuel-A-Dream is doing both projects. Amidst the pandemic and new government guidelines, the dedication to serve the community by schools and their teams is commendable.



By Rainy

It is an honour to be the Advisor of Interact Club of Ram Ratna International School. When I first visited the Adivasi Gramin Vikas Mire School, it was quite evident that there was much that this school needed. The Principal, Mr. Dinesh Patil, informed the Interact Club members that the most urgent need was that of washbasin as there was not a single hand washing facility at the school. We thus started our small but ambitious project of making a wash basin. We calculated the cost to make a sturdy hand wash and drinking water facility. We decided to go for a granite basin rather than the ceramic one so that it will be long-lasting without recurring costs to the school. The Interactors raised the money, working long hours after their online classes. They went door to door and on the streets to collect the funds. The other challenge was to get the work done by the contractor plumber, guiding him to make it as per our vision and complete it before the Diwali vacation. When the students and teachers of the school use it now, it feels really great. A small but very worthwhile project can make such a difference.

It has been a great learning experience in interpersonal skills and doing community work like this has given us so much pleasure that it cannot be expressed in words. The members of the RRIS Interact Club also have taken valuable lessons. We are now geared to contribute more to our society and looking forward for our next big project.



Speaker Meet

By Sargam Thakkar



Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO

invites you to an interactive speaker meet with

Labdhi Mehta

Busting Personal Financial Myths

#Myths 101 deconstructed

- Buying a house is a must
- I am too young to start thinking about retirement

Labdhi Mehta, content writer, holds an engineering and MBA degree in Finance with 14 years of experience in the wealth management space including CIEL, HDFC bank and DSP Merrill Lynch.

Thursday, 25th November at 7:00 pm

Venue: Jetha Compound II, Railway Station, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Rd., Byculla (E), touching Zoo (Ranj Baug), Mumbai 400 027

President: Rajiv Punater | Convenor: Jasmine Jhaveri

Labdhi Mehta's take on busting financial myths was an eye-opener for the audience who's grown up on archaic ideas about spending, savings, and optimizing financial growth. With a leaning on involving women in the crucial financial planning of the family, Labdhi ran us through the growth of wealth (or lack thereof) in traditionally preferred products like FDs and PPF. She further pushed us out of our comfort zones by advocating her refreshingly positive outlook on ETF and NIFTY-driven funds. Although a lot of the advice was geared towards the younger lot, some hard-hitting facts and calculations of retirement needs, made everyone sit up and take notice.

Kudos to RoSOBO for another successful mind nourisher that ended in food, fun and fraternity.

Know Your Members

By Niharika Malik



Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO

invites you to

Know Your Fellow Members series

an interactive session with



Foram Nagori
Head - CSR, TATA Power



Dhruvi Shah
Executive Trustee and Chief Executive Officer, Axis Bank Foundation

Thursday 11th November | 7pm-8.30pm

The St. Regis hotel, Worli

Club meeting fee: Rs. 1,000 all-inclusive / per person

Please, RSVP by paying directly to our club's account & with screenshot to be sent to our Treasurer, Rtn. Sheetal Idnani

President: Rajiv Punater | Secretary: Niharika Malik

Rotary SOBO kicked off a scintillating session of the 'Know Your Members' series in conversation with our members Rtn. Foram Nagori and Rtn. Dhruvi Shah. Both the ladies are powerhouses in the CSR field, with Rtn. Foram Nagori heading CSR for Tata Power and Rtn. Dhruvi Shah heading the Axis Bank Foundation. An engaging discussion ensued, with Foram and Dhruvi sharing their personal and professional journeys. The evening was peppered with interesting anecdotes and snippets of their varied and rich experiences. Members could garner, from the proverbial horses' mouth, how the CSR landscape has evolved in the Indian context.

Many thanks to our terrific members Foram and Dhruvi for the gyan, gup shup, and laughs! Members present thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them better, and we at Rotary SOBO are indeed fortunate to be able to draw on their expertise as we go about our club projects.

Railways-Blood Donation Drive



**BAAR BAAR
YEH DIN AAYE**



Varsha Vajpayee - 03/12

Niraj Shah - 04/12

Supriya Agarwal - 05/12

Dhruvi Shah - 06/12

Brijis Arif - 07/12

Swati Barve - 07/12

Uma Agarwal - 13/12

Vinod Bagri - 14/12

Sejal Mehta - 15/12

Supreet Singh - 26/12

Heather Kaikini - 28/12

Rajiv Punater - 29/12

Neha Parikh - 30/12



DECEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

DATE	PROGRAMME
Sun 5th	Trek @ Karnala Fort
Wed 8th	Bi-monthly Board Meeting @6:30pm
Thu 9th	Annual General Meeting (AGM) / Elections @ 7:30pm Venue: Jetha Compound II, Byculla
Fri 17th	Spider-Man, PVR Phoenix, Palladium mall, Lower Parel @ 8pm
Sun 19th	Bring Christmas cheer to the WSD kennel, handing over of donations: 11am-3pm
Wed 22nd	Christmas celebration at Door Step School @ 9:30am-11:30am Bi-monthly Board Meeting @6:30pm
Thu 23rd	No meeting in lieu of movie night

President: Rajiv Punater | Secretary: Niharika Malik

Team PR & Communication

Newsletter: Rajiv Punater, Sujata Goel & Sunayana Vora

Social Media: Suparna Mohan & Rohan Rai

Website: Kaushal Shah & Ritika Agarwal

Ideating & Editing: Dilip Chabria, Ravi Mullick & Monisha Mullick



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Rotary Club of Mumbai SoBo

