



# REFLECTIONS

*In Giving, We Receive*



## from the horse's mouth

Rajiv Punater  
President

**Read this short but powerful line. What did it stir up**

**in me?**

- Express yourself, don't hold back
- Build bonds, don't be shy
- Laugh all you can, don't hesitate
- Shower compliments, bring about smiles
- Savour the moment, don't be in a rush
- Live and love unconditionally, no one is judging you

Last month, I had the opportunity to hear true heroes speak about their service journeys; Bina from the Doorstep School, Ashok from Oscar Foundation, Rajiv from Ratnanidhi Trust. Their stories resonate with how we can live and love unconditionally through the work we do.

The SOBO bubble meets, treks, fellowships and fireside meetings allowed members to express and share interests and build bonds each week. The shift from virtual to physical Board meetings not only made us stronger and closer as a team sharing the same vision and purpose, but gave us the much-needed LOL moments to savour and smile at the end of the day.

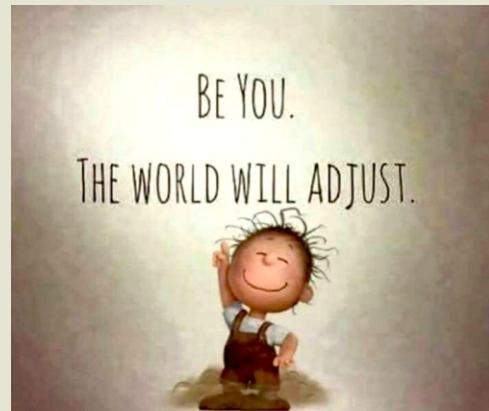
**I commend the 'Madhatter' group**, which never forgets to shower compliments on our everyday heroes engaged in blood donation camps, vaccination drives, food & fruit distributions, providing skills to empower women, or contributing generously towards a project through time or funds.

All of us have a reason to stop limiting ourselves and just opening up our minds and imaginations!  
**BE YOU.**

I hope each of you can make your mark as a Rotarian as we paint our journeys of service at SOBO.

In gratitude,

Rajiv



## Hunger Drive

One thing we should all promise ourselves is to ensure that no one around us has to sleep on an empty stomach. Our hunger warriors did a commendable job by distributing food packets to 1500 covid warriors at Nair Hospitals. Kudos to team Niharika, Nishrin, Rajiv, Umang, Heather, Swati, Sangeeta, Asha and Vageeswari.



## Urja

"She makes the World bright, but still struggles to see light." Let's give our girl children a bright future.

We are partnering with a charitable organization URJA to support girls who have left their homes because of mental or physical abuse.

We are helping them to acquire spoken English and basic computer literacy.

Reaching out to all of you to help with usable laptops and other smart devices for their online classes.

And of course volunteers who could co-ordinate this with URJA.

A big shout out to the non medical and the vocational services team for putting this together.

## Diabetes Camp

World Record achieved by Rotary India along with RSSDI for maximum blood glucose testing in a single day.



## Oscar Foundation



**SOBO has decided to support the OSCAR Foundation** (<https://www.oscar-foundation.org/>) based on a shared vision of upliftment of underprivileged children, through soccer and education, instilling discipline and self-confidence and actively guiding the children in their journey.

We had the pleasure of visiting not just the office of the OSCAR Foundation, but also the soccer practice of the young kids which are part of the OSCAR Foundation programs as well as the area in Colaba where the children live, which also counts a Digital Learning Center and a neatly kept clinic.

Our support in the first phase is primarily in kind and through the various skills of all our own members. For example, they require:

- 1) 500 footballs
- 2) 600 pairs of studs
- 3) training equipment
- 4) would also love to play competitive games with other school teams
- 5) booking of soccer grounds as there's a shortage of space for all their teams to play
- 6) coaches, fitness trainers
- 7) nutritious snacks during sessions and tournaments
- 8) older kids would benefit from career counseling, IT and English language skills
- 9) general grooming for interviews and connections to possible career placements

We believe each one of you and your families could bring their own skillsets and ideas to this collaborative project. So, do join us!



## PAWZ

Pawzis is an initiative to aid and help adoption of community/stray animals, working with existing NGOs such as The Welfare of Stray Dogs, World For All Animals and others. The key is awareness through engagement, by holding events throughout the year which would generate funds for the NGOs and create awareness at the same time.

**The kick-off event of our Pawz group is a “Dog Walkathon” planned on Sunday, 14th November 2021, coinciding with International Children’s day, at Cuffe Parade. The group has had several meetings now with the BMC corporator in charge, who’s fully supportive of the event. All details will be shared shortly!**

Moreover, volunteering at the shelters to walk the dogs, organise an ice-cream treat for the animals on occasions such as birthdays, etc. Inviting school visits where the children can paint the shelters or decorate the same for Christmas, are just some of the other activities planned!

We’re also preparing a “Stray SOS Directory” on SOBO’s website for all stray/community animals, including information on pet stores, veterinary services, dog trainers, etc. Other events such as a carnival, garage sales, long term stay shelter visits outside the city, are also being considered.

Does this resonate with you? Do you have more ideas? Do join us! Here’s the link to join the group:<https://chat.whatsapp.com/I2SI3qLKLEw0vq0c90e1Yc>

## Blood Donation Drive

‘Excuses never saves lives, blood donation does, so here we are trying to do our little bit’.

We, along with Hinduja Hospital organized a successful blood donation drive in Chaitanya towers with over 40 units of blood collected.

**Our team:** Priti Doshi, Shweta Kedia, Darshana Shah, Umesh Chhazzed, Dharmesh Shah and Rajesh Doshi.



## Vaccination Drive



We held our 3rd Vaccination drive with Hinduja Hospital. Our little effort is adding . Now 90% of Mumbaikars have been vaccinated with at least one shot. A big shout out to the team (Heather, Swati, Mrugakshi, and Sanket).

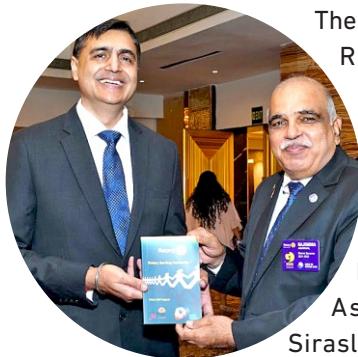




## Door Step School



## BOD's Installation with DG



The 4th of September, 2021 saw RoSOBO being officially installed as a club at St. Regis Hotel under the aegis of distinguished district officials namely, District Governor Rajendra Agarwal, Assistant Governor Sunil Siraslewala, District Secretary, Radhika Mehta and Avenue Chair Membership, Anand Ramnani.

The ceremony entailed the presentation of the Presidential Collar, Charter, MOP, Gong and Gavel to President Rajiv Punater along with the pinning of the club's Board of Directors and Chairpersons. DG Rajendra Agarwal addressed the attendees about the functioning of the Rotary, including his vision for the upcoming District Year. All the others lauded our club for the runaway successes we have had in our short span of existence; reiterating that we are on Rotary's roadmap to victory.

The highlight of the evening was AG Sunil Siraslewala's renditions on the mouth organ. The key takeaway came over a casual tete a tete over refreshments from the DG and DS who gave us insights into the importance, relevance and functioning of The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Their valuable pointers on establishing the culture of donations and invoking a sense of patriotism within our members hit home with a number of us pledging various amounts.

All in all, it was a enjoyable and fulfilling evening marking yet another milestone for SOBO.



## Serafina Singapuri talk

Mumbai has lost almost 50% of its gardens and open spaces in the last 30 years. In a very inspiring talk, Serafina spoke about the need for us to come forward to build community gardens in Mumbai. Absolutely imperative for urban environments!



## International services

The International Services team had a fruitful joint interaction with few board members of both the Rotary Club of Marbella, Spain (<https://www.marbella-guadalmina-rotary.club/home>) and the Rotary Club Bruxelles Erasme (<https://bruxelles-erasme.rotary2150.org/en/>) with the main idea to start creating stronger bonds between our respective clubs, as a combined platform for all our members.

The Board received an invitation to attend the meeting of the Rotary Club of Marbella on 30th September, 2021, during which we introduced our club and the projects undertaken so far. Most importantly, the Rotary Club of Marbella is planning a Bollywood-themed Fundraiser & Gala evening on 4th December, 2021, with funds raised to be allocated to our ongoing projects focused on supporting families affected by the COVID pandemic. Hence, we're all hands-on deck in terms of offering support, by sending typical Indian accessories sourced from NGOs to Spain! We'd also love to ask the talented singers of our club to possibly pre-record a few Bollywood tunes so they can plan it during their event!

Thanks to an introduction via Rtn. Pushpraj Nadar, we also had an excellent zoom contact with Director, International Service, Varun Gulati and Sergeant-at-arms and India Coordinator, Vineet Iyengar, of the well-established Rotary Club of Singapore.

(<https://www.rotary.org.sg/>). The scope for synergies between our clubs is very apparent, with much to learn for us from this 90-year old club with 150 members and impressive experience with over 120 Global Grants!

Clearly, each Rotary Club around the world brings with it its unique characteristics and strengths, while all of us are connected by the common goal of placing Service Above Self! We see all these interactions with Rotary clubs in different countries as a means to forge strong ties built on this meaningful motto.

## Design Summit

"Creativity in education is as important as Literacy". Fueling the imagination of 105 students, the Art and Design summit showcased success stories, provided fresh insights, evoked ideas and opened doors and minds to another attractive career opportunity. Very well conducted by Youth services director Mahera Goel and Chairperson Sindhu Kotian.



## Pre OCV

Our club's pre-OCV meeting was held on 30th September, 2021, during which our District Secretary, Rtn. Radhika Mehta, and our Assistant Governor, Rtn. Sunil Siraslewala, gave their candid feedback on the OCV Manual we had prepared. The OCV Manual captures all the activities, projects and official meetings held by our club so far, including the financial overviews, as well as information about our Fellowships. It's an important annual stocktaking of any Rotary Club by District-level dignitaries and well-wishers of our club. We thank them for their constructive suggestions and look forward to welcoming them again during our OCV, followed by the Diwali fellowship, on Saturday 23rd October!

## SoL@RoSOBO

We had our very first in-house public speaking event '**Speak Out Loud**' on the 23rd of September during which 8 speakers from the Club were divided into teams of 2 and were pitted against their opposing team on one of the following 2 topics:

- **Should individuals be made to pass a 'parenting test' before having children?**
- **Should college entrance exams be banned?**

The event was very ably chaired by Tanya Mehta, the President of the Rotaract Club of Mumbai SOBO and the judges were all Rotaractors, including an external judge from the Rotaract Club of Symbiosis Law School, Pune. Given our young facilitators and the controversial nature of the topics, there was a fiery debate amongst all speakers, as well as some hard-hitting grilling of the participants during the audience Q&A sessions. Not only did the debaters tap into their own experiences as parents but they also shared personal perspectives that made the evening stand out as one of the most memorable fellowship events so far.

The best team awards went to Geetanjali Khadria and Arvind Ambo for the first session, and to Pushpraj Nadar and Supreet Singh for the second. Shantanu Sahai and Geetanjali won the best speaker awards, though they were all winners in our book. Congratulations also to our other speakers, Sindhu Kotian, Rittesh Seth and Piyush Jain, and a warm thank you to all for volunteering to kick start this series of public speaking events. Looking forward to the next one!



## Membership

The Fireside Bubble Meets were held to help Members know each other and to join the various projects and fellowships of the club.



## • BAAR BAAR• • YEH DIN AAYE •



**Els Reynaers** - 02/10

**Anita Saraf** - 02/10

**Gitanjali Khadria** - 03/10

**Pradeep Todi** - 04/10

**Pradeep Goyal** - 05/10

**Foram Nagori** - 06/10

**Rakesh Jhaveri** - 08/10

**Ashutosh Biyani** - 11/10

**Vaageshwari Ananth** - 14/10

**Serafina Singapuri** - 15/10

**Swati Shah** - 19/10

**Shweta Kedia** - 22/10

**Sharad Vajpayee** - 25/10

**Misha Mirchandani** - 29/10

**Monica Grover** - 31/10

*Save  
the  
Date*



## OCTOBER 2021 CALENDAR

DATE	PROGRAMME
Sat 2nd	Trek @ Yeoor Hills, Thane
Sun 3rd	Meeting of the Wine Appreciation club @ 7pm
Thu 7th	No Club Meeting – we're taking a zoom break!
Sun 10th	Blood donation camp @ Lodha Excelus
Wed 13th	Bi-monthly Board Meeting @6:30pm
Thu 14th	Brief intro on SOBO's job platform project by Rtn. Supreet Singh, followed by a training session on how to become a pro at bridge: rules of the game & super tactics!
Fri 15th	Book Club @9pm
Sat 16th	A SOBO Fundraiser event with NGOs @ Lodha Park
Sun 17th	A SOBO Fundraiser event with NGOs @ Lodha Park
Mon 18th	A SOBO Fundraiser event with NGOs @ Lodha Park
Tue 19th	A SOBO Fundraiser event with NGOs @ Lodha Park
Thu 21st	No Meeting in lieu of OCV
Sat 23rd	OCV, followed by a Diwali Bash for all members & families
Wed 27th	Bi-monthly Board Meeting @6:30pm
Thu 28th	An exclusive tête-à-tête with DG Rajendra Agarwal (in person meet)
Sat 30th	Visit to Serafina's community garden @ Worli (follow-up to her talk on 16/09)

President: Rajiv Punater | Secretary: Niharika Malik

## Rotary SOBO Membership Committee

Attract + Engage+ Retain =  
Sustain and Grow Rotary SOBO

- New Member Brochure
- Member in person meet and greet for few (during charter prep)
- Member Spotlight Introductions on whats app & newsletter
- 4 Bubble meets completed and 2 more scheduled this week, feedback shared to plug in the new members
- Birthday Announcements

THE WORLD  
NEEDS MORE  
#ROTARIANS



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



**Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO**

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