

RI President: Rtn. Jennifer Jones
Dist. Governor: Rtn. Ajoy Law
Club President: Rtn. Amrita Basu

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BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY

Obituary



Members of Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City deeply mourn the sad demise of PDG Kamal Seth. PDG Kamal Seth led the District 3290 in 1989-90; he was a charter member of Rotary Club of Calcutta Mid Town and joined Rotary in 1975.

He leaves behind his wife Dr Lalita Seth and son Sanjeev Seth and daughter Devina Fogla.



D3291 lost a stalwart in PDG Kamal Seth, a leader and a gentleman, I had the opportunity to interact with him on several occasions during 2015-16 as his club's Assistant Governor and he always was an encouraging senior, advising and at the same time with a keen eye to learn about the constant changes happening in Rotary.

It is extremely important for every Rotarian to constantly update him/herself with the changes and adapt oneself amicably with the change. Very often we find that our rigidity and lack of adaptability results in a moribund ecosystem, whether it is the club at the base or the district at a higher level.

October is happy times for Indians, first the UNESCO intangible heritage Durga Puja festivities and then the festival of lights, Deepavali also celebrated as Kali Puja in Bengal. But in between these festivities we have a reminder to our commitment to END POLIO with the World Polio Day on 24th October. A renewal of our pledge to make the world polio free is taken on this day. Not only is our volunteering and mobilisation is challenged to meet the on ground requirements but our ability to donate generously challenged by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, so it is important that Rotarians donate generously towards the Polio Fund and for what we need proactive District Governors and it seems D3291 is not doing good enough (as in the previous few years) as far as donations to the Polio fund is concerned and many of the new Rotarians and leaders have not been adequately briefed about the importance of donating

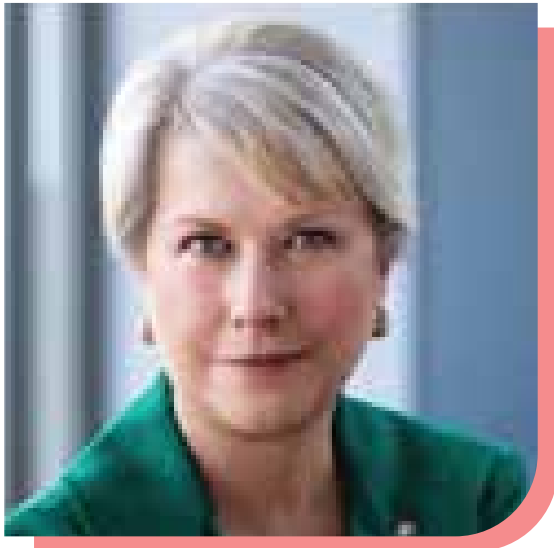
EDITORIAL

Subhojit Roy

towards the Polio fund, I sincerely hope they wake up and my appeal to all those who read this editorial, please donate to TRF designating your donations to the Polio Fund.

And finally a realization, this District urgently needs to build consensus and evolve a process for qualification to certain positions (especially those which require knowledge and expertise) or else the dignity as well as the glory of these positions will gradually fade and erode.

Happy Deepavali and May the festival of lights illuminate our inner consciousness!



Presidential Message October 2022

Jennifer Jones
President 2022-23

In August, I was proud to visit Pakistan and highlight Rotary's top goal, eradicating polio. It was also a tremendous opportunity to spotlight female health workers who are playing a critical role in protecting children from this vaccine-preventable disease.

This month, as we celebrate World Polio Day, we are shining a spotlight on our more than 30-year effort to lead the first global polio eradication campaign and our success in forming partnerships capable of completing this massive goal. We all know that this is one of the most ambitious global health initiatives in history and that we've reduced polio cases by more than 99.9 percent worldwide.

Pakistan is one of only two countries in the world where wild poliovirus remains endemic. (The other is neighboring Afghanistan.) I was able to witness and take part in vaccination campaigns in Pakistan, and soon after I left, a monumental nationwide immunization campaign took place, focused on 43 million children under the age of 5. I saw the incredible work of Rotary members on the ground. More than 60 percent of vaccinators in Pakistan are women, and they are doing a remarkable job building trust and convincing mothers to vaccinate their children.

Seeing it all firsthand, I know that the will exists across the Rotary world to end polio, and I'm confident that we have the strategy. The Pakistani media has been very supportive of our efforts as well, and this is making a difference. This month, a new global pledging moment at the World Health Summit in Berlin promises to pull together more resources to fund these time-sensitive eradication efforts. Now it is up to us to do our part and raise \$50 million this year to earn the full 2-to-1 match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

There's great cause for optimism on the polio front – but also some staggering new events that have further raised the stakes. Over the past few months, new polio outbreaks have occurred in Israel, the United Kingdom and, most recently, in the New York City area. These stories are frightening, but in every case, the response is clear – vaccines work, and if polio is spreading, we need to make sure the most at-risk people have kept their vaccinations up to date.

Most importantly, we need to eradicate this virus now. If polio exists anywhere, it can spread everywhere. What I saw in Pakistan convinced me that we can and must finish the job, but it will only happen if we remain committed to a strategy that's working and back it with all necessary resources.

Through our commitment, generosity, and sheer determination, we will #EndPolio.

Postcards from the past

Clubs now moving toward flexible attendance policies

By Susan Hanf and Wen Huang



Ronnie Yeager, 84, joined the Rotary Club of Aransas Pass, Texas, on 1 May 1970. Over the 52 years of club meetings since, he has had perfect attendance. His extraordinary tenure in Rotary earned him a special recognition letter in September 2020 from then-Rotary International President Holger Knaack.

For Yeager, who had a demanding schedule as a district judge, maintaining his attendance has required meticulous planning and tremendous dedication. "I enjoy the fellowship," he says, "and I find it exciting to be with a group that represents an excellent cross section of people in my five-county judicial district." Yeager says his connection to Rotary deepened in the 1980s, when it made polio eradication its flagship program. A polio survivor, Yeager developed post-polio syndrome 30 years after initially contracting the virus at the age of 8.

Postcards from Rotary's archives show how members fulfilled and affirmed their meeting attendance while away from their home clubs. The family of J.G. Clapp, who served as secretary of the Rotary Club of Palm Springs, California, in the 1960s, donated some picturesque cards to Rotary International, including this one from 1968, when a member of the Palm Springs club visited the Rotary Club of Athens.

Attending meetings is an opportunity, not an obligation.

Traditionally, attendance for a Rotary member had meant participating in a regular weekly meeting at the member's club or at another club.

Exceptions were granted only for those who attended the Rotary International Convention or were on official RI business, such as a board or committee meeting or a district conference. Participation in special club meetings, roundtables, informal gatherings, and service activities could not be counted as attendance.

Recent Rotary research shows that rigid attendance rules and policies are a barrier to attracting new members and engaging current ones. Further, they exclude young professionals who have developing careers or are starting families. In response, Rotary International has stipulated that any Rotary club wishing to try a new approach can do so by amending its bylaws. Clubs are encouraged to relax attendance expectations or not have them at all.

His attendance streak faced a challenge about 20 years ago when his family took a three-week vacation along the coast of Australia. Yeager managed to make up his absences while on the trip — a practice that in years past typically would be affirmed by sending a postcard to one's club. Yeager also recalls traveling to Vancouver, British Columbia, in 2006 and attending a local Rotary club event. "The club secretary said he would mail a postcard to my club," he says, "but I had him give it to me because I wanted to make sure that my club received it."

In Yeager's early years in Rotary, the Aransas Pass club met on Mondays, at times in conflict with his busy law practice. "There were several other Rotary clubs within 25 miles of where I live," he says, "and I always made sure that I got to the adjoining town for a makeup meeting." One nearby club was known for treating visiting members with delicious

fried chicken. "That club had about 20 members," he recalls, "but they would normally have 70 to 100 visitors who were there like me for the food and attendance makeup."

Yeager commends his club's flexibility. Since retiring in 2013, he has been hospitalized twice. His club, which now has 13 members, accommodated his situation by holding the meeting at the hospital.

In recent years, many Rotary clubs have innovated by adopting flexible formats. Some clubs rotate their meeting locations among a member's home, a restaurant, or a business. Some meet virtually, while others use a hybrid format, allowing members to call in to in-person meetings.

"I think having some flexibility in meeting atten-

dance requirements is a good idea," says Yeager. "It'll accommodate people with a disability or young people with a busy work schedule. Holding meetings every other week or in the evenings are good ideas to explore."

Changing the meeting format can keep members engaged and active, and enables guests to have fun, productive meetings that connect with Rotary's values and mission.

"There are certain things in life that we don't have that much control over," Yeager adds. "The new rules now give you a whole lot better control over that."

Susan Hanf is a Heritage Communications specialist at Rotary International.

Tejaswini Samman



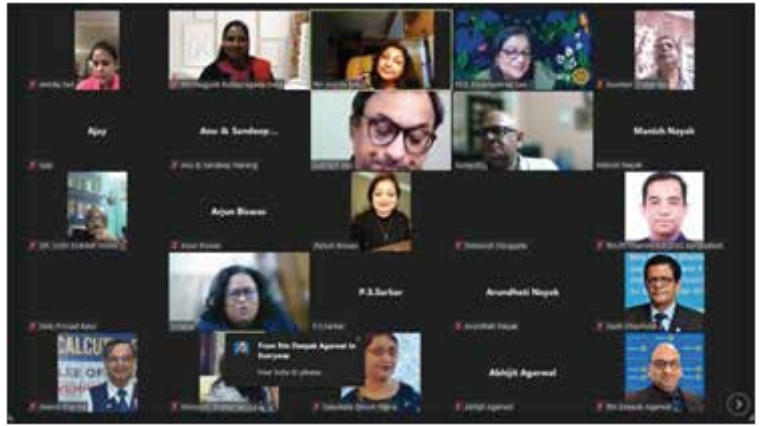
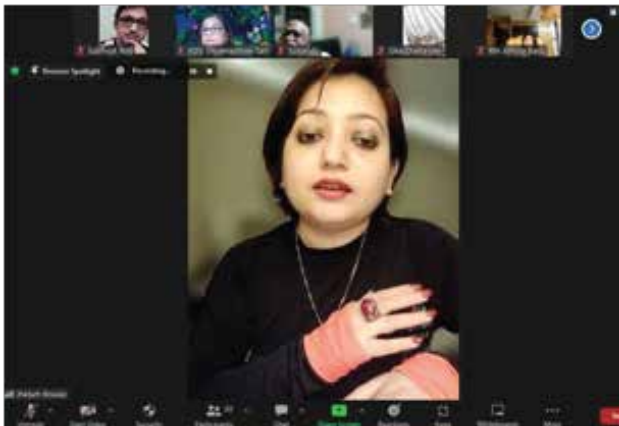
Rotary Calcutta Metro City partnered with RC Calcutta Avyyana to host Tejaswini Samman where Durga Puja Committees which were organized by women were adjudged for its various aspects. Led by the Club President Amrita Basu, PP Rtn Sunando Sen and actor Amitabha Acharya were the judges on behalf of the organizers.

Puja Parikrama for Senior Citizens



The club hosted along with several other clubs the Puja Parikrama for Senior Citizens. The senior citizens were handed over new clothes, hosted a lunch and taken around several Puja pandals in association with the Kolkata Police's Pranam and Jagat Mukherjee Park Durgotsav Committee. DG Ajoy Law, First Lady PP Rtn Milai Law along with other senior Rotarians were present at the Jagat Mukherjee Park to hand over the gifts as well as flag off the Parikrama.

PhoolProof- Jhelum Biswas on the Power of Flowers



Jhelum Biswas is the founder of the flower-based eponymous beauty brand Jhelum Loves. She was the beauty editor of lifestyle magazines such as Harper's Bazaar, Good Housekeeping and Women's Health. She shared her love for flowers and her journey into the world of floral psychometry. She dealt on the effect of the essential oils extracted from flowers as well as its scent acting on the sensory nerves and creating wellbeing for the users. Though she did not qualify this as science but certainly had a positive psychological impact on its users. A very interesting questions answer session followed as also the fact that her father was a member of RC North Calcutta and she has decided to join Rotary Calcutta Metro City.

PDG Shyamashree Sen introduced her while PPP Rtn MANISH nayak offered the formal vote of thanks. The session was attended by Rotarians from across the globe with 36 participants. The entire session is available on the club's youtube channel @ <https://youtu.be/855dsnC7W64>



PRIP Shekhar Mehta, RI Director Mahesh Kotbagi and his spouse Amita, along with PDG Ravi Vadlamani, IPDG V Thirupathi Naidu, his spouse Nirmla and RC Hospet past president Rajesh Korishet-tar in front of the ambulance sponsored by Naidu.

Setting new benchmarks for his RID 3160, IPDG Thirupathi Naidu is happy to have achieved all that he aimed for at the start of his tenure. He had inducted 400 new Rotarians, including 125 women, and chartered five new clubs. Naidu was instrumental in executing service projects worth ₹25 crore by the district clubs. "We installed 5,000 refurbished computers in government colleges. PRIP Shekhar Mehta laid the foundation for a blood bank and an ICU ambulance at Hospet," he said. The ICU ambu-

Projects worth Rs.25 crore at RID 3160

lance (₹48 lakh) was sponsored by Naidu in memory of his late father V Rami Reddy.

Around 1.5 lakh Covid vaccine doses were administered with the support of Infosys and Cognizant Technologies. Around 30,000 physiotherapies were done by various medical centres run by the club.

"Under a global grant project, we have done 138 paediatric heart surgeries at the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital, Raipur, in a joint project with RID 3150. We paid ₹2.1 crore to the hospital for the surgeries," he said. The dialysis centres in RID 3160 have done 5,000 sessions for patients. Naidu collected \$37,000 from the clubs for TRF, "probably the highest so far from the district."

Test your Blood Before Marriage to make India ZERO Thalassemia

Santoor Legend
Tarun Bhattacharya

বিয়ের পূর্বে রক্ত পরীক্ষা করুন.
থ্যালাসিমিয়া মুক্ত ভারত গড়ুন!

Cricket Legend
Sunil Gavaskar

CONNECTIONS
IMAGINE ROTARY
PLAY ON

TWO DROPS OF VACCINE KEEPS INDIA POLIO FREE

WORLD POLIO DAY
24th October 2022

ভারতকে পোলিও মুক্ত রাখুন
দুই ফোঁটা ভ্যাকসিন ভারতকে পোলিও মুক্ত রাখে

KEEP INDIA POLIO FREE
Rotary
CALCUTTA METRO CITY 03293

Greetings

Happy Birthday to Amrita Basu for 28th October!

Coming Up

Rotary
CALCUTTA METRO CITY 03293

Dr Ruma Bhattacharya
Consultant Psychiatrist

Topic
MAKING MENTAL HEALTH
A GLOBAL PRIORITY

7:30 pm
OCT 22

Zoom ID: 788 355 1740
Passcode: RCCMC

Dr Ruma Bhattacharya is a Consultant Psychiatrist since last 20years working towards teenagers and Women's Mental Health.

She is the Immediate Past President of MP State Branch of INDIAN PSYCHIATRY SOCIETY, she was elected as DIRECT COUNCIL MEMBER of IPS 2021, Esteemed International Member of AMERICAN PSYCHIATRY ASSOCIATION. Solo Traveller and Founder of WOW- WORDS OF WORTH-THE WELFARE SOCIETY.



I Will Rise- an empowerment program for acid victim survivors organized by Rotary Calcutta South Circle was held at the Rotary Sadan on 11th October'22. PDG Shyamashree Sen, PP Rtn Sunando Sen and PP Rtn Subhojit Roy attended the program.

1.4 million
WE CONNECT PEOPLE
1.4 million members worldwide

47 million
WE TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES
Approximately 47 million volunteer hours each year

\$333 million
WE FUND SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS
\$333 million awarded for global service initiatives in 2020-21

From the Archives: The Rotarian –October 1930

Editorial Comment

Second Sight

IN an eastern art gallery there is a seventeenth century painting which appears to be an uninteresting view of a medieval fortress. One sees on the canvas a conglomeration of moats, drawbridges, towers and ramparts; but there is little in it to attract the visitor or to excite the imagination. But if one persists and studies the picture in more leisurely fashion, suddenly it dissolves into something else. All the strange intricacies of the stronghold become the features of a fine face; and the observer discovers that he has before him the portrait of a warrior. A tower becomes a fierce moustache; a wall turns into a raised visor. And it is almost impossible to bring back to the mind's eye the moated castle of a few moments before.

Many an organization reveals a similar duality. One may see it through its component parts or through its machinery and may criticise it vigorously. One may find in it nothing more than its standard customs, its average member or its reputation in certain circles. Indeed, people who do not look beneath the surface are sure to judge it by its non-essentials.

But another will study it more carefully. And then, if it has behind it a true purpose, gradually there will emerge its measure and its possibilities. For in geometry we learn that the whole is greater than any of its parts, an axiom which also extends to institutions. The individual member, the single chapter, lodge, or club, hardly offers a basis upon which to pass judgment.

Rotary should be estimated by a more comprehensive view than many men are willing to take. One Rotarian is not enough; one club provides no accurate test; one act of service does not demonstrate the scope of its activities. Even the average member himself often fails to appreciate its worth to twentieth

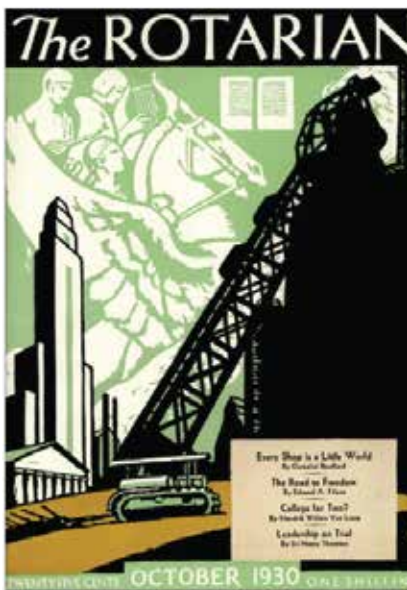
century life. To realize this is the greatest value to be derived from attendance at an international convention. If a Rotarian or a critic of Rotary would go, for instance, to Vienna next summer, valuations based upon a cursory view of the picture would very quickly dissolve into an understanding of what Rotary really is.

Sherlock Holmes Again

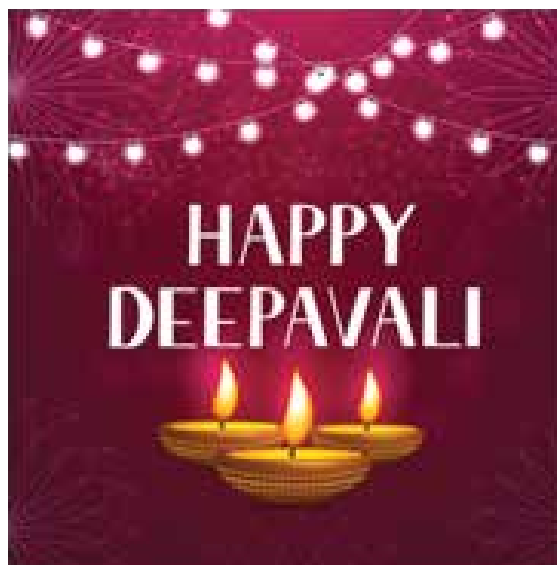
MANY tributes have recently been paid to the imaginative insight of Sherlock Holmes, master detective, in connection with biographical comment on A. Conan Doyle who first introduced him to the public some years ago. That Sherlock Holmes was the inspiration of much modern romance in which gifted sleuths stalk across the pages in quest of clues and the perpetrator of the crime, has been affirmed again and again, but that he also gave impetus to the development of the art of discriminating observation directed to affairs of everyday life has not been so generally accepted.

It is probably true, however, that in his heyday of popularity Sherlock Holmes was the teacher of hundreds of amateur investigators. He taught them to use their eyes, ears, and wits, to make an attempt to connect cause with effect in the humdrum of daily events, to apply assiduously the microscope of inquiry to all the puzzling developments of the ordinary performances of men and women caught in the web of incident and event.

To make some shrewd deduction on a man's business and personality by scrutinizing his shoes, his vocabulary, or the cut of his coat; to supply the missing colors in a human situation by following a series of commonplace clues and incidental data, is to follow in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes. More than any other hero of literature he has awakened the zest



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2023 International Convention in
Melbourne, Australia. [Learn more >](#)



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