



THE MIDTOWNER

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

President: Rtn. Mayuri Mody Doshi | Secretary: Rtn. Shalini Agarwal | Editor: Rtn. Radhika Sahni
CLUB NO. 16155 | DIST: 3291 | CHARTER DATE: JUNE 16, 1975

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Looking forward to our annual fundraiser 12 & 13 January

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NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

Sharing some interesting and unique New Year traditions from around the world with different customs for ensuring health, wealth, happiness, and luck in the coming year. These unique variations are part of what makes exploring the world so great. **The Home** plays an important role in many countries' New Year's traditions, which can involve everything from intense cleaning sessions to inviting special guests.



Argentina: Speaking of throwing things out the window In Argentina on New Year's Day, after everyone has shredded old documents and paper, the scraps are thrown out the window like confetti. It's customary for everything to be shredded, symbolizing leaving the past behind.

China: To symbolize happiness and good luck in the New Year, Chinese celebrants paint their front doors red. In general, red colors New Years Eve in China, with red packets of money for children, red rackets for married couples, and red lanterns.



Denmark: As a sign of friendship, people save their old dishes in order to break them on each other's front doors. Residents will allow these broken dishes to pile up in order to show who has the most friends.



England: For good fortune in the newly arrived year, Brits believe the first guest to enter through the front door should be a young, dark-headed male bearing gifts such as bread (to be full), salt (to be wealthy) and coal (to stay warm).

Iran: Instead of Jack jumping over a candlestick, the people of Iran celebrate the Persian New Year, Nowruz, by jumping over bonfires in people’s backyards. This is seen as a symbol of purification, overcoming challenges of the previous year and preparing you for the year to come.



Italy: You’ve heard the old saying, “out with the old, in with the new”? In Italy, some people throw old decor out their windows to signify a fresh start for the new year. But it’s generally soft items, such as cushions or pillows, so there’s no need to worry about falling couches!

Japan: Oshogatsu is celebrated with family, which both cleans and decorates the entire house together. Then natural decorations such as pine branches, plum blossoms, and bamboo play a special role in preparing for the New Year celebration.



Mexico: If you’re looking for odd New Years cultural traditions around the world, Mexican tradition suggests throwing water out the window and opening the front door to ensure that the old can depart quickly. This is similar to the way Japanese people clean their homes to rid the house of last year’s bad spirits.

Puerto Rico: In addition to cleaning their homes as the Japanese do, Puerto Ricans clean everything— the car, the garden, and even the streets. They also have a practice of throwing buckets of water out the window in order to do away with the bad juju of last year.



South Africa: Some South Africans—particularly those in the neighbourhood of Hillbrow in Johannesburg— take cleaning house for the new year to an entirely new level. Throwing old furniture and appliances (think fridges!) from the windows of tall buildings somehow helps to make the new year bright. It’s actually a very serious health hazard there!

NEW YEAR'S EVE FOOD TRADITIONS

Many of these New Year's food traditions are delicious, but they don't necessarily make a lot of logical sense, eating the right thing has a strong influence on the next year's outlook....

Austria: The New Year's food traditions in Austria come two-fold. First, there's finding a lucky charm that has been hidden inside a suckling pig. Then it's onto a dessert of peppermint ice cream, which somehow represents economic windfalls in the coming year.



Brazil: Lentils are the alimentos do dia for Brazilian New Year's celebrations. The legume can come in different forms, such as soup, to help with finances in the New Year. Then, before midnight, New Year traditions in Brazil say people should also eat seven raisins (because why not?).

Estonia: How Estonians make it to midnight on New Year's Eve awake is a mystery. They should be in a food coma! Tradition dictates that the holiday should be celebrated with a lucky number of meals, with either seven, nine, or twelve trips to the table. However many meals you choose, you're said to have the strength of that many men (or women).



France: The French are known for their weird food preferences. On New Year's Eve, edible opulence steals the show in the form of le reveillon de la Saint-Sylvestre. Partiers will feast for hours on foie gros, goose or turkey, oysters, and of course plenty of champagne. The top-flight fare is meant to signify wealth in the year to come.

Greece: Onions have symbolized unity, fertility, and regrowth for hundreds of years in Greece. On New Year's Day, many Greek families hang onions in their homes in hopes of attracting those aspects in the new year.



Haiti: January 1st is actually Haiti's Independence Day, so they celebrate enjoying homemade pumpkin soup, or soup journou. This was once considered a delicacy that the enslaved people were not allowed to have, but now they share and swap different soup recipes for everyone to enjoy.

Spain: A challenge in speed-eating, Spain's New Year's food tradition requires that people eat 12 grapes at midnight on New Year's Eve— one for each time the clock chimes. Otherwise, the new year's superstition suggests that you'll miss out on extra good luck for the coming year!



Switzerland: In a strange cultural twist, the Swiss don't actually eat their New Year's treat. Instead, they simply drop whipped cream on the floor and leave it there. Obviously, that means richness in the coming year, right?

USA: Louisiana: The New Year's food tradition I grew up with is eating Cajun-style black-eyed peas and cabbage, with the promise that it will deliver health and wealth over the next 12 months. Even after 12 years of living and working abroad, I've never stopped celebrating the New Year with the dish!



NEW YEAR'S CHAMPAGNE

Champagne, some people claim, was originally an English invention as opposed to a French one. The Brits developed the technology to bottle carbonated drinks in the late 1500s.

Using techniques translated from making cider, they began to make sparkling wines (of which Champagne is one variety). This invention also required creating stronger glass bottles that could withstand the pressure built up inside by the fermented drink.

Later, Champagne became the popular drink of choice for celebrations by the royal courts of Europe.

It eventually became a worldwide phenomenon in the late 1800s, when the price began to drop and producers started marketing the drink to common folks. While commoners couldn't afford it for their daily table wine, it was affordable enough for special occasions.

It became especially popular for New Year's celebrations because opening the bottle produced a firework-like POP, and the beverage flowed out in a display of abundance.



SINGING THE NEW YEAR SONG, “AULD LANG SYNE”

Singing “Auld Lang Syne” at midnight is done throughout the English-speaking world and beyond.

The traditional Scottish folk song was transcribed (not written) by beloved poet Robert Burns in 1783. The literal Auld Land Syne translation is “old long since,” which really means, “days gone by.”

After that, it became a common song of celebration—for weddings, graduations, funerals, etc.—throughout Scotland. In the nearly two and a half centuries since, “Auld Lang Syne” has become the most popular New Year’s song in the world.

The tradition of singing it at midnight on New Year’s Eve was popularized by a Canadian band, Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians.

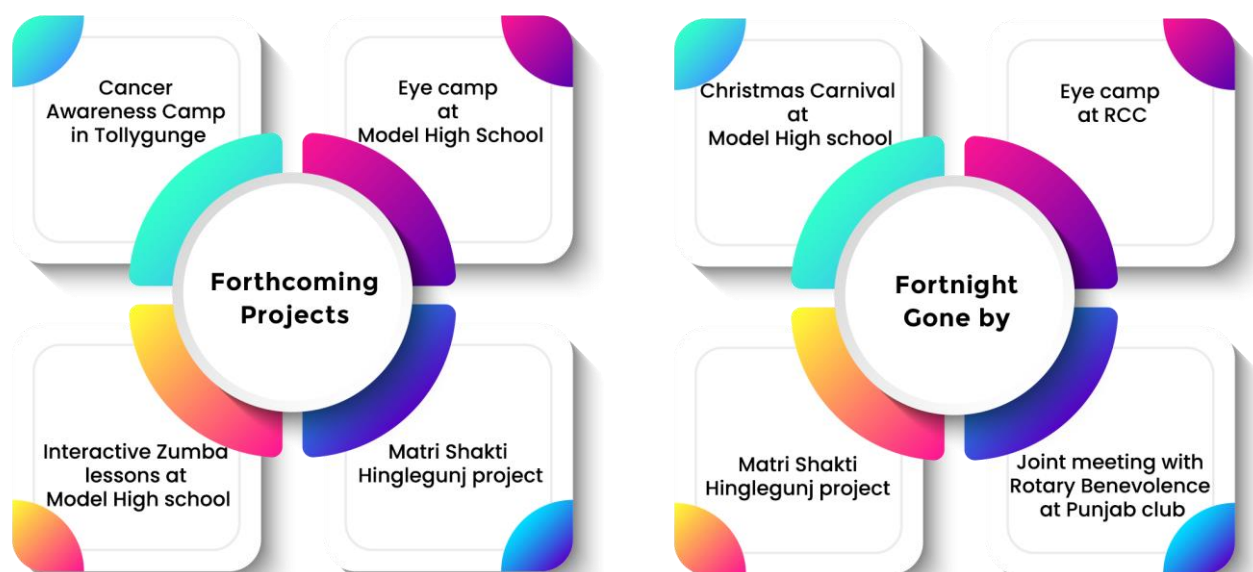
The band, which came from a part of Ontario settled by Scots, often covered the song, partially to promote one of the sponsors of their radio show, Robert Burns Cigars.

In 1928 the band got a chance to do a New Year’s Eve show and closed their set with “Auld Lang Syne.” It became the show’s closing number for nearly 50 years, the remainder of Lombardo’s life.

Did you know?

We are all familiar with Rabindra Sangeet. Rabindra Nath Tagore was deeply moved when he heard Robert Burns’ famous Scottish song “Auld Lang Syne”. He decided to compose a Bengali version and it became one of Tagore’s classics - **Purano Shei Diner Kotha**.

Project Updates



Anniversary



Jaideep & Susan Singh
12th January



Sudhir & Neerja Chand
16th January



PK & Shabori Bose
18th January



Madhurr & Shilpa Jhavar
21st January



Editor Speak

Let's all be in gratitude for the beautiful privileged lives we have. This song made me smile. Good wishes for 2023

For your listening pleasure



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Radhika Sahni

Minutes of the Meeting

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

DISTRICT 3291

Club No. 16155 II Charter Date: 16/06/1975



President (2022-23)
Rtn Mayuri Mody Doshi
Asha Apartment, Flat 1A/15,
93 Deshpriyan Sashmal Road
Opp. R.S.V. Hospital
Kolkata 700033
Mobile 9830562313
Email: mody@subsurface.in
poojaexportsinternational@gmail.com

Secretary (2022-23)
Rtn Shalini Agarwal
South City Apartments,
Oak-8c/d
375 P.A. Shah Road,
Kolkata 700068
Mobile : 91 9830067387
Email: shels_1973@yahoo.com

Treasurer (2022-23)
Hitesh Dani,
Fort Royale
Flat 10C & D
28 Prince Anwar Shah Road,
Kolkata 700033
Mobile: 9830025335
Email: hiteshdani66@gmail.com

Minutes of the 2110th Continuous and 11th Meeting for the year 2022-2023 of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown, held on Thursday, 8th September 2022 at 6.00 pm on Zoom

Meeting called to order: President Mayuri Mody Doshi called the 2111th continuous and 12th meeting of 2022-2023 to order.

National Anthem: The National Anthem was sung by all.

President Mayuri Mody Doshi welcomed all the members Annes guests, Rotarians of Rotary Club of Benevolence. And our Guest Speaker Ms. Shivani Agarwal. She invited her to join them on the head table.

Confirmation of previous meeting minutes: The 2100th continuous and 11th meeting minutes for the year 2022-2023 were passed and seconded Rtn Narendra Gulati and Rtn S Ravi respectively.

Sergeant for the Evening. Rtn Samir prasad was appointed as the Sergeant for the evening. Rs.4800 was collected.

Eye Check-up Camp: An eye camp with the support of GRSM ROTARY EYE HOSPITAL was held at the RCC on 18th December attended by Rtns Rakesh Khanna , S Ravi, Ravi Dhawan Samir Doshi and President Mayuri Mody Doshi. 156 people were tested and out of that 18 patients will have their eye operation done which has been scheduled for 2nd of January. Another eye camp in a slum in tollygunje is being planned in January.

RCC: The Beautician Course has been completed at RCC 12 girls have given the exam on 17th December 2022, which was attended by Rtn Yugal Sikri. Once the teacher gives us the results, certificates would be disbursed to the candidates.

Matrishakti: Next Hinglegunj visit is on the 24th December. She requested two members to volunteer for this visit. A lunch has been planned post visit.

Model High School: A Christmas party for the kids of Model High School will be held on 23rd December which is being organised by Rtn Shalini Agarwal. Members were requested to join in helping the children play games.

Trust Deed: Regarding the Trust Modification is concerned a resolution for the Trust was passed on the day of the EGM and the wording were done as per Rtn Yogesh Gupta's suggestion. Two signatures are pending post that the papers will be handed over to the lawyers for registration. In the next 10/15 days the registration process should be completed.

Kolkata Kettle: She informed the floor that since Kolkata Kettle was round the corner to keep sharing the creatives with friends and family and keep sharing the Kolkata Kettle page on the social Media

Secretary's report: Birthday Greetings were announced:-

- 27th December: Rtn Dr. Kalyan Sarkar.
- 29th December: Rtn Rashmi Choudhury.

Attendance: 25 Members / 46% attended the meeting.

President Mayuri Mody Doshi invited President Reshma pf Rotary club of Benevolence to do her clubs reporting.

Secretary of Rotary club of Benevolence introduced Ms. Shivani Agarwal.

Ms. Shivani Agarwal spoke about the importance of Positivity and how to attract positive thoughts.

At the end of the session President Rotarian Mayuri Mody Doshi felicitated Ms. Shivani Agarwal and gave a vote of thanks. She closed the meeting.

Minuted by-

Rtn. Shalini Agarwal

Secretary

2022-2023