

SHAMBHAVI



R.I Club No: 85847 Date of Charter: 26.05.2014 Meeting Day: Saturday, Time: 7 pm Meeting Venue: "Danica", 4th Floor, 37, Ballygunge 1st Lane, Kolkata – 700 019, President: Rtn. Gita Sarkar, Secretary: Rtn. Sutapa Dutta, Editor: Rtn. Srabonee Mitra



Jennifer Jones
President 2022-23

Being asked to Imagine Rotary can seem like a big, heady exercise, but the most important element of it is something quite small, even personal.

Not too long ago, Rotary members were expected to perform our acts of service quietly. I understood and appreciated the thought behind that — humility is a wonderful trait, and we should continue to nurture it in other ways.

But keeping Rotary to ourselves has a cost. and by sharing our Rotary moments, we are being generous with others and giving them an opportunity to understand the impact of Rotary. It brings to mind that wonderful aphorism: "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel."

So how do we make people feel Rotary? The best way is to share our Rotary moments. We have all had them — when the ordinary collides with intention to create something xtraordinary.

Some people have those Rotary moments the first time they go to a meeting. For others, it can take years, before seeing the joy in the eyes of someone we serve. Or perhaps in hearing from another member something that hit close to home.

As Nick and I share this journey, we are amazed at the work you are performing and the lives that are transforming. Throughout the year, I'm going to share with you the sights and the stories that made those tours meaningful for us.

I hope you can do the same in your corner of Rotary. It can be something you share in meetings or on social media. For the most savvy and ambitious, it could be an event you publicize with local media. Even sharing your stories with friends has impact.

We need ambassadors for Rotary's message and our dreams for a better world. The best ambassadors are you. The more you share stories — and share them from the heart — the more you encourage others to partner with us, to join us, and to stay.

To give you just one small example, in the months ahead, I will be turning over this column to Rotary members who will share their personal stories as they relate to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our organization. It's important that we hear these stories directly from the people who experienced them as a way of feeling the importance of DEI for the future of Rotary.

In everything we do, what people feel about Rotary will shape our future. I can only imagine what you will inspire through the stories you'll tell. Joint Meeting followed by Cultural Program organized by RC North Calcutta with RC Abahani Kolkata, RC Calcutta Metro City and RC Calcutta Samaritans on 9th November, 2022 at Nehru Childrens' Museum.

After the Joint Meeting, a beautiful Cultural Program was held where Rotarians showcased their talents through Song, Recitation, Drama and Dance. From our Club President Rtn. Gita Sarkar performed a Rabindra Sangeet and Secretary Rtn. Sutapa Dutta performed Recitation, Club Trainer Rtn. Srabonee Mitra also took part in a dance with a chorus song on request of all members.













Cataract Detection Camp organized by RC Calcutta Samaritans at RCC Ghatakpur, Sreema Mohila o Sishu Bikash Kendra, Diamond Harbour with the support of GRSM Budge Budge Eye Hospital (a project of RC Budge Budge). Eye check-up of total 113 beneficiaries were done where 49 were detected for cataract operation. Dates for free operation are given to the concerned persons which will be executed accordingly.









RCC organized the program very smoothly and efficiently and also hosted a sumptuous lunch for us. On the same day193 spectacles received in free of cost under the District Project of Rota Vision (for which Eye Check Up Camp was held at RCC Ghatakpur on the auspicious day of Mahalaya this year and eye check-up for more than 300 beneficiaries were done), were distributed to the beneficiaries.

Update your knowledge

WHAT IS THE PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY?

The Paul Harris Society recognizes Rotary members and friends of The Rotary Foundation who contribute US\$1,000 or more each Rotary year to the Annual Fund, Polio Plus Fund, or approved Foundation grants. Paul Harris Society recognition was administered by districts until it became an official Rotary Foundation recognition program in July 2013. Its purpose is to identify, engage, and thank members who have the ability and desire to make substantial annual gifts to help communities close to home and around the world.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PAUL HARRIS FELLOW AND PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY MEMBER?

Anyone who cumulatively contributes US\$1,000 during any time period becomes a Paul Harris Fellow. A person can also be named a fellow if someone else uses 1,000

Foundation recognition points to honour them as such. A member of the Paul Harris Society contributes at least US\$1,000 each year to the Annual Fund, Polio Plus Fund, or approved Foundation grants.



Give to the Foundation every year

Dr. Bharat Pandya, TRF Trustee, 2022–26

The Rotary Foundation works to bring just such happiness in the lives of people we touch and communities we transform. And this is made possible by our giving to TRF.

The most basic need of a human being is to feel capable and have a sense of dignity.

Thus, the best giving is to help people find their feet and support themselves and their family. This gives them a purpose, a sense of dignity and has the potential to transform the recipient into a giver. TRF believes not just in 'giving the fish, but also teaching how to fish'.

Giving is an act of faith. There is true joy in giving. Experience the joy of giving to TRF.

Your gift is going to make a difference in critical areas such as hunger, health, literacy, and water and polio eradication.

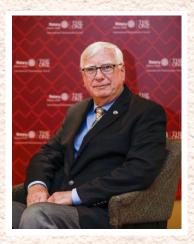
November is TRF month; a time for relearning and rededication to the Foundation and its many worthwhile programmes. A time to focus our attention on the pillar which

gives real internationality to Rotary— The Rotary Foundation. . From a tiny beginning in the mind and heart of Arch Klumph, as an endowment fund "for doing good in the world", today it has evolved into one of the foremost agencies of humanitarian service — a foundation which is respected, transparent, increasingly nimble and one of the best managed charities in the world. It has been given the highest four-star rating by Charity Navigator on multiple parameters ranging from efficiency to transparency.

The opportunities and possibilities that we have in front of us can be transformed into success stories, thanks to TRF. That's why it is important to know about EREY—Every Rotarian Every Year—initiative of TRF. Only when every Rotarian contributes every year to TRF, can its stability and long-term health be ensured.

That's the goal and challenge. Taste the beauty of giving to TRF. I assure you, you will give again and again. Keep giving to TRF to do good in our world. Light the candle of giving and lead the way as you Imagine Rotary.





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TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Many of you will recall my challenge to Rotary clubs when I was RI president in 2017-18: to plant one tree per member to help the environment. Thanks to you, we estimate over 4 million trees went into the ground in Rotary's name — quite a forest indeed.

This month, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, let's remember that each Foundation project is much like planting a tree. With each sapling of hope, health, and peace we plant through the Foundation, we make an investment in the future that will one day grow into something even greater.

Such a tree was planted by Rotary in Sri Lanka, where more than 2,000 children born annually with a congenital heart defect can now get a corrective surgery that allows them to survive to adulthood. Local Rotarians identified the need to make the surgery more available and effective, and rallied 17 Rotary districts around the world to contribute District Designated Funds. After the Foundation matched those funds, a total global grant of \$365,000 was used to create the first human heart-valve tissue bank in Sri Lanka, with the government providing the building, staffing, and supplies to ensure its sustainability.

Visiting this life-saving facility in 2017 was an unforgettable experience for me. But I have seen countless other great "trees" planted across our seven areas of focus. We planted Polio Plus in 1985 and it has grown into one of the greatest public health initiatives in history, helping reduce cases of wild poliovirus by 99.9 percent. Seven Rotary Peace Centres around the world have also taken root and are now bearing fruit as scores of peace builders and community leaders go forth with the skills to make the world more safe and secure.

Charity Navigator, an independent agency, has given The Rotary Foundation its highest ranking for more than a decade. Why? Our overhead expense level is much lower than most similar organizations — 91 percent of gifts to the Foundation go to programs and This month, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, let's remember that each Foundation project is much like planting a tree. With each sapling of hope, health, and peace we plant through the Foundation, we make an investment in the future that will one day grow into something even greater.

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operations. Not only are we efficient stewards, but Rotary's requirement of a community-needs assessment for global grants helps ensure the sustainability of our projects over the long term. And the Foundation is a charity you can trust because it is run by your fellow Rotarians.

However, only about 38 percent of members actively support our own organization's great charity. We can and should do better. Just as I challenged you to plant trees as president, as Foundation trustee chair I would like to challenge each club to make a giving plan for our Rotary Foundation this year.

Imagine our impact — Rotary's great forest of hope and peace that will flourish — and please give today.







The last mile to wipe out polio Mahesh Kotbagi, RI Director, 2021–23

It has been over three decades since the first World Polio Day (Oct 24) was marked by Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

The day is observed to remember the struggles of polio victims, Rotary's significant contributions towards polio eradication, and to pave the way for a polio-free world. India's journey to become poliofree Polio eradication in India began on Oct 2, 1994, when the first Pulse Polio immunisation programme, targeting one million children up to three, was executed. India accounted for 60 per cent of the global polio cases. Within the next few years, the National Polio Surveillance Project was launched to track and immunise all children. Monovalent and bivalent oral polio vaccines (mOPV and bOPV) were introduced to tackle type 1 or type 3 virus. Through concerted efforts of Rotary and GPEI, WHO declared India polio-free on March 24, 2014. India has not had a single case of wild poliovirus since 2011. National Immunisation Day was observed twice a year from 1995 to 2017 to mass immunise children after which it is being conducted once every year. Additionally, multiple rounds of subnational immunisation day are conducted in highrisk states and areas. The government has also kept high vigilance and teamed up with Continuous Vaccination and Rapid Response teams to respond to any polio outbreak in the country.

The danger still exists

As the world has almost eradicated polio, wild poliovirus in places such as Pakistan and now New York cause concern. Recently, over 27 incidents of wild poliovirus have re-emerged from countries such as Afghanistan (2), Pakistan (19) and Mozambique (6). The detection of poliovirus and even cases of polio, in places where it hasn't been found for years proves that eradicating a human disease isn't easy, especially in the final stages Polio anywhere is a threat everywhere. Polio-endemic countries should address this challenge on a priority.

Rotary's role

RI President Jennifer Jones on Sept 24 announced a \$150 million pledge to highlight Rotary's commitment to eradicate polio globally. Rotary's contribution plays a key role in bringing a revolutionary change to the polio landscape. Rotary began its journey to overcome 350,000 polio cases in 125 countries with its first partners, GPEI in 1988, and along with WHO, UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it has made several countries including India, Nigeria and the African region, polio-free. The fight to eradicate polio globally continues.



Rtn. Sutapa Dutta – 7th November