



Rotary

# Spectrum



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

RI District 3291

November 27, 2021

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

VOL 15 □ NO 22

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CLUB NO □ 78956

CHARTERED ON □ APRIL 30, 2008

WEBSITE □ [www.rcslmk.org](http://www.rcslmk.org)

## Video spotlights preserve history, connect members

Posted on November 22, 2021 by Laura Tussing, Rotary Club of Lancaster, Ohio



*Two members discuss the video spotlights: Lancaster Noon Rotary Club President-elect Jamie Culver interviews Christine Collins for one of the member spotlights.*

What can you do when a global pandemic shuts down international and regional travel, the ability to visit your favorite restaurants, or even the ability to attend your regular Rotary club meeting?

Two members of our club came up with an ingenious answer that has engaged our members and captured the attention of new members. Matt Wideman, immediate past president, and Jamie Culver, president-elect, felt that profiling long-time members with a video interview would be the perfect solution to keep members connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jamie interviewed some of our longest tenured Rotary members for 15-minute video vignettes that allow them to tell their stories, recounting the early years of their careers and how their club experience has changed over the years. These "Senior Member Spotlights" solved an immediate need to provide programming for our switch to virtual meetings. But they have also been a huge hit with our members, particularly newer members who are learning things they did not know about the club and their fellow members. Even some long-time members are learning new things about people they've known for years. We've conducted four of these interviews, and plan to do many more. While we set out to keep people connected in a virtual environment, we soon realized the project was also capturing our history and legacy, reminding us of our roots and preserving stories before they are lost. We also share them on social media, where they can attract younger generations who use social media frequently to stay connected and learn about their world. The pandemic has changed the way we meet and do business. These video interviews keep us connected and teach us things

about each other. They will not replace the need for regular gatherings, but they have opened our eyes to new possibilities through technology. It's been a win for all, young and old.

## Dilip Das is back on his feet



Dilip Das, a resident of Panihati, District 24 Parganas, North and bread earner of his poor family, lost his right leg in a train accident near Sodepur Railway Station, adjacent to Panihati.

PP Dr Aruna Tantia of RCSLMK got to know about the ill-fated person through Gobina Dham, an orphanage of girls at Panihati, where RCSLMK held medical checkups and gift distributions.

Through her contacts with Rotary Belur of District 3291, Dr Aruna, on behalf of RCSLMK, helped Dilip receive Jaipur foot on his amputated leg. Dilip can now walk without crutches.

*Local residents have expressed the need of an E-Rickshaw for Dilip Das for his steady earning.*

## Support women empowerment by partnering with Ashoka

Posted on November 23, 2021 by Geneva Gleason, Global Coordinator, Women's Initiative for Social Entrepreneurship at Ashoka

2020-21 Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta is asking Rotary members to empower girls by prioritizing projects that improve the health, well-being, education, and economic security of girls in their communities and around the world. By partnering with Ashoka, Rotary members gain access to a wide range of experts in social entrepreneurship and change-making

We meet calendar months' 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

Printed by Archana Goyal, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata - Editor: Sudha Chowdhary

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who are equally vested in improving lives in their communities, including those of women and girls.

As the world's largest network for social entrepreneurs, Ashoka is committed to uplifting the stories and sharing the impact of the women social entrepreneurs in our network. For this reason, Ashoka Arab World Regional Director Iman Bibars founded the Women's Initiative for Social Entrepreneurship (WISE), a global movement to ensure women social entrepreneurs access the same investment, networking, and recognition opportunities as their men counterparts.

### ***The WISE Framework***

To achieve our goal, we must redefine success to include models of impact traditionally overlooked: scaling up to change laws and policies and scaling deep to shift cultural norms and mindsets. These types of impact, though harder to quantify, are equally as important as scaling out, or the franchise model. In fact, scaling up and deep impact are more sustainable: changing a dominant mindset or enacting a new legal policy will affect generations to come.

### ***Scaling Up: A legal shift to recognize women-headed households***

Ashoka Fellow Nani Zulminarni and her organization, PEKKA, successfully lobbied the Supreme Court of Indonesia to recognize women as heads of household, thus giving legal status to single and divorced mothers who previously could not get their own family identification card. Over 40 million children living in female-headed households were able to get birth certificates for the first time with this legislature, and millions of mothers in Indonesia were able to claim child support from their children's fathers even if they had never been legally married.

### ***Scaling Deep: A new name to destigmatize victims of poverty***

In Egypt, Ashoka Fellow Nawal Mostafa has worked for decades to shift societal attitudes towards a specific subset of the country's incarcerated population: women who are arrested after acting as a guarantor for a husband's or father's loan which was not repaid. By naming these women "poverty prisoners," Nawal called attention to the fact that these women are not criminals, but victims of their economic status. Over time, Nawal saw this shifting mindset penetrate higher and higher levels of society until even the president of Egypt recognized the injustice faced by this unique population. By reducing the stigma against these women, Nawal has improved their lives both during and after incarceration.

### ***How to support WISE***

Rotary members are passionate about making the world a better place, and redefining success within social entrepreneurship is a key step in this process. Support women empowerment through the WISE movement by:

- Encouraging others who care about social impact to challenge the dominant definition of success and include the less-often recognized forms of scaling up and deep impact.
- Nominating a woman changemaker leading systemic change to be interviewed for Ashoka's WorldWISE Storytelling Initiative to increase representation for and celebration of women innovators.
- Learning more about women social entrepreneurs in Ashoka's network.

Working together on WISE is just one way to get involved in Rotary's partnership with Ashoka.

## **Empowering women is essential to reduce poverty in South Asia's poorest countries**

*By Hartwig Schafer, Vice President, South Asia Region, World Bank, on November 23, 2021*



***Across South Asia, there are millions of inspiring, independent women who exemplify why closing gender gaps is essential to reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. That's why IDA, the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries, is sharply focused on helping open up more economic opportunities for women.***

***(Photos: World Bank)***

In the busy streets of Male, the capital of Maldives, Aminath Waheed picks up passengers, blazing a trail as the city's only female taxi driver. In the hills of Nepal, 30-year-old Madhukala Adhikari works as a mobile mason, helping families rebuild houses that were destroyed in the 2015 earthquake. And in Chittagong, Bangladesh, Morsheda Begum is a garment worker turned successful entrepreneur, running her own tailoring shop and supporting her school-aged boys.

Aminath, Madhukala and Morsheda are examples of how when women gain access to economic opportunities, the benefits are exponential. Women who make money are able to invest in the well-being of their children and families, contribute to their communities, and help grow economies.

There are millions of such inspiring, independent women across South Asia—especially in the poorest countries, which are served by the World Bank's ***International Development Association (IDA)***. They exemplify why closing gender gaps is essential to reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

Over the last few decades, IDA has been supporting countries in South Asia to open up more economic opportunities for women. Countries like Bangladesh and Nepal have increased female labor force participation. Bangladesh has also achieved gender parity in both primary and secondary school enrollments. South Asia has implemented laws that have improved opportunities for women and gained ten points on the Women Business and the Law index over the last decade. For example, Nepal recently passed laws to prohibit gender discrimination in employment.

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, threatens to reverse some of these gains in women's accumulation of human capital and economic empowerment. School closures meant that millions of students—especially girls—lost out on learning opportunities for months at a time. Evidence from Bangladesh suggests that girls are more likely to be spending increased time on household chores and childcare since COVID-19 restrictions began.

"As countries in South Asia build back from the pandemic, it will be critical to ensure reforms that close these gender gaps, with impacts that will endure beyond the pandemic."

Lockdowns also disrupted economies and labor markets, resulting in significant job losses for women and unequal division of labor at home. In Bhutan, the unemployment rate is at an all-time high of 5%. Women accounted for more than half of this figure even in 2019. In Pakistan, over a quarter of female workers have been fired or suspended from their jobs in various sectors.

The economic slowdown is also likely forcing families into difficult situations. Child marriage continues to be prevalent, undermining girls' education and future opportunities. Gender-based violence (GBV) also rose – in Nepal, a 24-hour GBV helpline received twice the number of calls related to domestic violence during one pandemic lockdown period.

It's important to note that many of the obstacles to women's economic participation are long-standing and pre-date the pandemic. For the most part, formal sector employment remains inaccessible to women. Women in South Asia work mainly in subsistence agriculture, which is low-paid, unskilled and extremely vulnerable to climate change. The majority of women don't have access to finance or even bank accounts. In Pakistan, for example, only 7% of women over the age of 15 have a bank account, compared to 35% of men. Even before the pandemic, barely 18% of South Asian businesses were owned by women – the lowest rate among global regions.

As countries in South Asia build back from the pandemic, it will be critical to ensure reforms that close these gender gaps, with impacts that will endure beyond the pandemic. This means closing gaps in health, education, and social protection; removing constraints to women accessing more and better jobs; eliminating barriers to ownership; and enabling women's voice and agency.

Continued IDA support has been instrumental: supporting employment opportunities for women, closing gaps in digital technology, expanding childcare, and increasing financing for prevention of and response to gender-based violence.

In Pakistan, the IDA supported Benazir Income Support Program provided cash transfers to over 5.8 million women heads of households, benefiting 30 million family members. In the Maldives, IDA provided over \$27 million income support to more than 22,000 workers who lost their incomes due to the pandemic, especially vulnerable women who work in the informal sector. In Bangladesh, stipends and tuition fees were provided to 2.6 million secondary school female students to ensure their continued education during the pandemic.

Next month, as IDA shareholders convene in Tokyo for a historic early replenishment of the multibillion-dollar fund, gender and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19—and most crises—on women should be atop minds. Through IDA, the World Bank stands ready to provide targeted, comprehensive, and readily available support that empowers women—and, in turn, their communities and economies for generations to come.

#### About the author

Hartwig Schafer, a German national, became the World Bank's Vice President for the South Asia Region on July 1, 2018.



In managing the World Bank's engagement in South Asia to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity, Schafer leads relations with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Schafer has held technical and managerial positions in the World Bank as well as the European Commission for over 30 years. He brings strong operational experience from several regions and sectors. His academic background is in Economics (Ph.D.) and Agricultural Economics.

## Rotary Friendship Exchange Photo Award: Embracing diversity

Posted on November 25, 2021 by Kholiwe Mkandawire, RI Staff

Through Rotary Friendship Exchanges (RFEs), we experience new cultures, expand our global understanding and perspectives, and immerse ourselves in unparalleled travel and service opportunities while building life-long friendships. The Rotary Friendship Exchange Photo Award showcases memorable exchanges around the world. The 2021-22 award theme was Embracing Diversity. Participants were asked to show how their exchange embraced diversity and diverse ideas by learning something new and reimagining how their district could participate in an exchange during the pandemic. We received amazing photos and strategies that demonstrated diversity and are excited to announce this year's winner and runner up.

Winner: Districts 2202 (Spain) and 4921 (Argentina)



Virtual RFE between Districts 2202 (Spain) and 4921 (Argentina)



We learned how to cook roast beef from Argentina and how to eat calçots, a typical Catalan dish.



Group 1 meeting with district governors-elect from both districts.



Group 2 meeting with District 4921's governor and District 2202's governor-nominee.

### *An innovative, rewarding, and successful experience*

By Montserrat Moral, 2020-21 District 2202 RFE Chair; in collaboration with José Luis Marino, District 4921 RFE Chair, Francesc Ozerans, District 4921 Assistant Governor, and Giselle Dubois, member of the Rotary Club of Sant Cugat del Vallès Participating in Rotary Friendship Exchanges (RFEs) is a tradition among our clubs, but in 2020, the pandemic limited our ability to hold face-to-face meetings. So, we needed to think creatively and explore new possibilities. Through the will and friendship between District 4921 Assistant Governor Francesc Ozerans and me, we created the Virtual RFE Project.

Following the guidelines for virtual exchanges developed by District 2022, we designed a program to foster friendship and exchange knowledge not only between members in Spain and Argentina, but also among members of the same district. The project was presented as a virtual trip, where each of the “travelers” had to act as host and guide in their own land.

We started by hosting a call with the clubs in both districts. The response was excellent, and we ended up forming three paired working groups in both Argentina and Spain. Each group was tasked with:

- Designating a leader.
- Developing a calendar of meetings for the exchanges.
- Choosing what topics would be covered.
- Deciding how to present the topics.
- Creating a shared virtual space, such as a Facebook group.

Using this basic structure, each pair of groups undertook their own journey.

The virtual exchanges took place from November 2020 to May 2021. A total of 83 participants from 10 clubs from Spain and 24 clubs from Argentina took part. The meetings covered topics including holiday parties, gastronomy, popular customs, and history and geography. Many thanks to all the participants for their magnificent presentations.

We asked participants to evaluate the exchange process, and they were highly satisfied with the experience. 72% of participants responded to the survey. Below are highlights from the results:

- 100% of participants would recommend the experience.
- 91% thought that the knowledge they learned would useful during a future trip.
- 87% were very satisfied with the activities.
- 83% rated the presentations as “very good” and 17% rated them “good.”

This project, novel and ambitious, has been very positive. I hope that we will inspire others to host virtual friendship exchanges in the future.

**Runner up: District 4455, Peru**



District 4455 hosted an exchange in 2019 in Lima, Peru between members of their district and District 4700 in Brazil. They described their exchange as an unforgettable experience.

### **Brief outline of the Global Grant 1991152**

**Purpose:** ‘Fight against Anemia in Women’

**Objectives:** Improve general health of women and safe birth of healthy babies

**Title:** ‘Matri-Raksha’ - protection of mothers

**Scope of work:** Provide screening camps, minor and major surgeries, medicines, awareness training, healthcare professional training and providing diagnostic equipment at community health centers

**Coverage:** Both districts of 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India

**Sponsors:** Rotary clubs of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata of District 3291, India and Nidau-Biel, Biel-Bienne, Biel-Buttengen of District 1990, Switzerland:

**Grant Partners:** Rotary Foundation India, the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International,

**Associates:** Related Government and civic bodies, NGO’s

### **Wedding anniversaries of club members in November 2021**

Spouse Sapna & Rtn Sanjay Agarwal on November 19, 2021

President Archana & spouse Mukesh on November 21, 2021

PP Dr Aruna & Rtn Dr Om Tantia on November 27, 2021

Spouse Shashi & VP Indra Kumar Bagri on November 30, 2021

### **November is Rotary Foundation Month**

### **QUOTE**

*What we see depends mainly on what we look for. – John Lubbock.*

### **UNWIND**

*Doctor asked Subbarao to cut down his drinking by three fourths!  
Smart Subbarao stopped adding Soda*

### **TAILPIECE**

#### **Massasoit's strategic diplomacy kept peace with the Pilgrims for decades**

**By David J. Silverman November 20, 2020**

Facing threats from local rivals and deadly epidemics, the Native American leader used his alliance with the English to protect his people.



**Massasoit statue in Plymouth, Massachusetts**

When the Wampanoag Ousamequin, popularly remembered as Massasoit, first visited Plymouth Colony in spring 1621, the English could plainly tell that he was the leader of his people. He marched at the head of 60 armed warriors, described by Pilgrim observers as “all strong, tall, all men in appearance.” He alone wore “a great chain of white beads” made of drilled, polished shells. His face paint was not black like earlier Wampanoag visitors, but “a sad deep red,” symbolizing blood, life, and war.

Later, Ousamequin gave a “great speech” in which he “named at least thirty places” under his governance.

The Wampanoag called their community chiefs “sachems,” meaning “he that goes in front.” Ousamequin certainly fit that description, but for the wider Wampanoag people, he represented something more. He was a ketassachemog, or great sachem, who led the Wampanoag in foreign trade, diplomacy, and war, and collected tribute from them in exchange. He was so prominent that most people knew him not by his proper name of Ousamequin (meaning “yellow feather”), but by the title Massasoit, meaning “the highest chief that speaks on behalf.”