



# Spectrum



RI District 3291

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## The 6th Matriraksha Health Camp shall be on July 17, 2022 at Hooghly Dasnagar Girls College with Rotary Hooghly

Rotary Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata and Rotary Calcutta Metropolitan East, shall hold the 5th Matriraksha Health Camp for fighting anemia in women on Sunday, July 17, 2022 at Hooghly Dasnagar Girls College from 10.00 AM onward.

The team of family of RCSLMK inclusive of members, specialists, volunteers, adequately equipped with health parameter measuring instruments, medicines, booklets containing recipe of nutritious food and reporting aids, shall leave ILS Hospital Salt Lake premises at about 8.00 AM to reach the referred camp site before 10.00 AM

Simultaneously, an Eye Camp would be held at the same premises.

## Why I am a peacebuilder and how you can be one too

Posted on July 12, 2022 by Kiran Singh Sirah, president of the International Storytelling Center and a Rotary Peace Fellow alum



*Kiran Singh Sirah, Rotary Peace Fellow, speaks at the Rotary Presidential Conference Houston: Serve to Bring Peace 3 June in Houston, Texas, USA.*

In early June, I was a keynote speaker at the Rotary Presidential Conference Houston: Serve to Bring Peace. We were a group of about 1,500 people, many who are leaders in their communities, and all interested in peacebuilding. They were from all over the world. And every day, I was asked the question: what led me to become a peacebuilder?

There are so many ways I could answer that question because I've been doing this work in one way or another my whole adult life. And even before that, I can trace the answer back to the values that were instilled in me by my parents, who were both refugees driven from their home by a genocidal dictator. I can

and do share my "origin story" as a peacebuilder in terms of my family, or explain the trajectory of my career as I've been doing this work—but I don't think that's what people are really asking when they say: "Why do you do this?"

I think what they want to know is why I believe that peacebuilding is possible. Almost everyone believes in peace, at least in theory. But I think a lot of folks have lost hope in it as a real, attainable goal, and as something we can strive for together. Too many people see peacebuilding as a huge, daunting, totally unrealistic goal. And so an important part of my message everywhere I go is that peacebuilding isn't just demonstrations and organized actions; it can also be comprised of unexpected connections, small acts of kindness, and quiet conversations in our day-to-day lives. This is work that all of us can do every day, and I think that the stories we share with one another are the structure on which we can build a better future.

To that end, I wanted to share a few ideas based on stories from my own life about how I think we can go about this work.

### 1. Cultivate a can-do attitude.

When I was a little kid on the south coast of England, I'd look out across the sea and imagine the world. I was curious and I wanted to travel, and I loved hearing the stories about the places where my parents had been. When I told my mom I wanted to see the world, she said, "Go on, then." I packed up a small bag and set out that evening. Of course it started getting dark, and then my socks got wet in a creek a few blocks away from my house. I headed back home, determined to try again a different day.

When we were kids, we had an outsized sense of our ability to do things and our personal impact on the world. We were also less afraid of looking foolish. I remember organizing political protests at my elementary school and writing letters to Ronald Reagan. I think as we get older, the world drums out some of that enthusiasm and earnestness and belief that we can do big things. Part of the work of any type of activism is simply recapturing and nurturing that sense of belief that came so naturally to you as a child.

### 2. Seek perspective.

In high school, one of my teachers, Mr. Ellis, had an interesting and unusual approach to teaching history. Instead of reading about the past, our homework was to watch the evening news. We'd learn about then-current events like the conflict in Northern Ireland and the Arab-Israeli conflicts, and then the next day in school, we'd discuss them. We'd work backwards to learn about what had led to those conflicts, building a deeper, broader sense of understanding. Mr. Ellis encouraged us to explore the different events that started wars, and to research different sides of the story. Essentially, he asked us to work like detectives, to probe and ask questions and to seek the stories behind what we saw, so we could form our own opinions.

### 3. Remember that entrenched problems aren't permanent.

Sometimes it's helpful to see an old problem with fresh eyes. In Glasgow, Scotland, there's an old and horribly violent rivalry

between two of the country's soccer teams, Celtic and Rangers. When I first moved there, I was shocked by how sports and religion and politics all intertwined in this rivalry. Watching a game, you could see hundreds of years of religious turmoil between Catholics and Protestants unfold as fans threw potatoes on the field to mock the descendants of Irish immigrants. And across the city, after games, violence would spill out of the pubs and onto the streets, or even start conflicts between neighbors and families.

As a newcomer, this conflict was shocking to me. But in my conversations, people explained that it was just part of the culture that would never go away. There was a feeling of complacency or even acceptance. I started a program to address it, and I think part of the reason I was able to act was simply because I hadn't grown accustomed to the problem.

#### **4. Don't reinvent the wheel.**

When I was a young education curator, a very talented photographer called Jenny Matthews came for an exhibit and a series of talks. Over coffee in the museum café, I asked her if she'd be willing to offer me a bit of advice. I told her I had this desire to go and do human rights work in the world, perhaps to start a nonprofit. She said, "Why do you want to start a nonprofit when there's already so many great ones out there?" She really encouraged me to go find an existing project to support that aligned with my vision.

When we're getting started in our careers, I think there's a certain amount of ego we bring to the table. But often we can get so much farther if we build on something that already exists.

#### **5. Positive outcomes compound over time.**

In today's world, I think we get a little too caught up in the hard facts of metrics. Statistics and measurable outcomes are great, but these tools can't capture the cumulative and long-term impacts that peacebuilding and storytelling can have. At ISC, we often measure the impact of a particular program on the participants. There are questionnaires and other tools we can use to do this. But that information can't reflect the big picture of what those participants then go on to contribute in families, schools, workplaces, and wider communities. These are returns on investment that unfold over lifetimes.

I'm still learning from the stories that my parents, teachers, and other mentors shared with me when I was very young. I think about them all the time! I think when we share a story, we don't necessarily know the impact it will have on someone else. There's a lot about this work that's unknowable, but that doesn't mean the work isn't taking place.

Stories are living things that shape our understanding and drive us to act. I think of storytelling and peacebuilding as wide and nebulous movements that we can all be part of and contribute to and benefit from. You don't have to work to end all wars, everywhere. You can just do a little bit every day to make your community a better place to live, and go from there.

## **Committee to nominate 2024-25 Rotary president named**

*These Rotary members will serve on the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International in 2024-25. The committee is scheduled to meet on 8 August.*

**Zone 2:** Seiji Kita, Rotary Club of Urawa East, Saitama, Japan  
■ **Zone 4:** Bharat S Pandya, Rotary Club of Borivli, MH, India  
■ **Zone 6:** Kamal Sanghvi, Rotary Club of Dhanbad, India ■  
**Zone 8:** John Lawrence, Rotary Club of Paddington, Qld., Australia ■ **Zone 10:** Guiller E. Tumangan, Rotary Club of

Makati West, Makati City, ■ **Zone 12:** Chang-Gon Yim, Rotary Club of Daegu-West, Korea ■ **Zone 14:** Guiseppe Viale, Rotary Club of Genova, Genova, Italy ■ **Zone 16:** Peter Iblher, Rotary Club of Nürnberg-Reichswald, Zirndorf, Germany ■ **Zone 18:** Per Hoyen, Rotary Club of Aarup, Denmark ■ **Zone 20:** Jan Luccas Ket, Rotary Club of Purmerend, Netherlands *Alternate:* Eduardo San Martin Carreño Rotary Club of Majadahonda, Madrid, Spain ■ **Zone 22:** Sam Okudzeto, Rotary Club of Accra, Accra, Ghana ■ **Zone 24:** José Ubiracy Silva, Rotary Club of Recife, Brazil ■ **Zone 26:** Bradford R. Howard, Rotary Club of Oakland Uptown, California, USA *Alternate:* John C. Matthews, Rotary Club of Coronado, California, USA ■ **Zone 28:** Bryn Styles, Rotary Club of Barrie-Huron, Canada ■ **Zone 30:** Floyd A. Lancia, Rotary Club of Anthony Wayne (Fort Wayne) Indiana, USA ■ **Zone 32:** Jeffry Cadorette, Rotary Club of Media, Pennsylvania USA ■ **Zone 34:** David D. Stovall, Rotary Club of Hall County, Georgia, USA

7-Jul-2022

## **Rotary members aim to root out the global scourge of human trafficking**

*Combating human trafficking, a scourge which impacts an estimated 40 million people worldwide, is the goal of the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery and several cause-based Rotary clubs.*

*By Frank Bures in the July issue of Rotary Magazine*

When Dave McCleary first heard about human trafficking, it seemed like something that happened far away, probably overseas. But not in the United States. And certainly not in his hometown. Then one day he invited a speaker who knew otherwise to talk to his Rotary club in Roswell, Georgia. Her name was Melissa. She was originally from Roswell and had gone to the same high school McCleary's girls had attended. Melissa dropped out at 16 and was offered a modeling job by a man who turned out to be a sex trafficker. For two years, she was trapped and trafficked in downtown Atlanta before police and a local organization helped her escape.



*Students on their way to morning class at Pace Universal, a school for girls in Piyali Junction, outside Kolkata, India, that is funded in part by Rotary clubs and The Rotary Foundation. It was founded by Rotarian Deepa Biswas Willingham to educate girls and protect them from slavery, trafficking, and early childhood marriage in a community where these are common dangers for girls. Anindito Mukherjee / Rotary International*

After the meeting, another Rotarian approached Melissa and gave her a big hug. McCleary asked him how he knew the young

woman. He said she used to babysit his kids when she was 12, and he had wondered what had happened to her.

"For me, that was when it became real," says McCleary, who is now chair of the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery. "Now it wasn't someone else's problem. And I remember thinking at the time: Rotary — we're in 200 countries, with 34,000 clubs and 1.2 million Rotarians, and we tackle the tough issues. Why not slavery?"

Of the many global issues, human trafficking (or modern slavery, as it is sometimes called) is one of the toughest to combat. It's estimated that more than 40 million people are trafficked across the world. "It's probably the largest human rights travesty existing today," says Karen Walkowski, founder of the Rotary Club of District 5950 Ending Human Trafficking. "Bigger than all the refugees, all the displaced people. It's one of the three largest illegal industries, bringing in about \$150 billion in revenue every year."

"I tell people to think of New York City or London or any major city in the world," says Sujo John, founder of the nonprofit YouCanFreeUs, which has partnered with Rotary clubs. "Now think of six or seven times the population of those cities that are now in slavery. These are people who have been kidnapped or cheated or told that if you come to the city, or go to another country, there's a better opportunity waiting for you."

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***A student at Pace prepares to celebrate the Hindu festival of Holi. Anindito Mukherjee / Rotary International***

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now in slavery. These are people who have been kidnapped or cheated or told that if you come to the city, or go to another country, there's a better opportunity waiting for you."

Sex trafficking is one kind of modern slavery, but there are others that fall under "labor trafficking," where people find themselves trapped in jobs in forestry, farming, restaurants, carnivals, and traveling sales crews of young people peddling magazine subscriptions, and they are not allowed to leave.

"People ask me where slavery is going on in America," John says, "and I say drive through any city in America late in the night. If you see a neon sign that says 'Massage,' chances are that is where slavery is happening. There might be foreign women kept there against their will and forced to provide sexual services."

Mark Little, a member of the Rotary Club of Norwich St. Edmund, England, didn't know any of this until his wife persuaded him to watch a BBC documentary about the subject. "I thought, 'Slavery in the United States? Surely not. Slavery in the United Kingdom? Never. Millions of slaves in India?'" But sure enough, there they were.

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#### ***By the numbers:***

- **40.3 million**  
People in forced labor, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and forced marriages worldwide
- **4,750**  
Dollars made per second from forced labor
- **71**  
Percentage of people in forced labor who are women or girls

*Source: International Labor Organization*

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"That really shook me to the core," says Little. "Within four months, I was out in India to visit two of the child slavery rehabilitation centers which were featured in that documentary film. I listened to the testimony of some of the survivors I met on that first visit, who were in the process of rebuilding their lives. I thought, 'My God, what's going on in the world? We've got to do something about it!'"

Little founded the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery, whose newsletter reaches some 3,800 people and which has about 675 members in 49 countries.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., at least three new cause-based clubs have been formed to fight human trafficking. In addition to Walkowski's club, there is the Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking, which was started in Kansas, and the Rotary Club of the Pacific Northwest Ending Sex Trafficking, based in Seattle.

The latter was founded by Virginia McKenzie after a speaker from a local anti-trafficking organization told her former club, the Rotary Club of Seattle, about a fake advertisement that posted a 15-year-old for sale for sex. Within two hours it received 250 calls, mostly from downtown Seattle businesses. "There was an audible gasp,"

McKenzie says. "For myself, it was like I was struck by lightning. Instantly I felt cold anger, red hot fear, and deep sadness, all at once."

For several years, McKenzie worked on her club's peacebuilding committee doing trafficking-related projects. Among other things, they trained 1,000 health care professionals to see signs that someone is being trafficked (such as marking tattoos, hypervigilant escorts, not knowing what city they are in or what day it is) and how to respond in a trauma-informed, HIPAA-compliant way. But she wanted to do more, so she started the new club, which was chartered

last year with 25 members — most of them new Rotarians, along with several who had left Rotary.

"This is a very trending topic," she says. "It's like the whole world is waking up to this. I'm so proud of Rotary for taking this on, and I'm so optimistic about the role that Rotarians can play to make an impact."



***RAGAS Chair Dave McCleary; 2021-22 RI President Shekhar Mehta; and Virginia McKenzie, founder of the Rotary Club of the Pacific Northwest Ending Sex Trafficking, at a Rotary institute in Tucson, Arizona, in November 2021. Courtesy of Virginia McKenzie***

Other clubs have been taking action as well. McCleary's club organized a training to help school bus drivers recognize signs of trafficking and learn how to respond. A fellow club member who owned a McDonald's restaurant had the National Human Trafficking Hotline number printed on tray liners, which resulted in five girls being saved in a month.

In Sacramento, California, there was a major Rotary-sponsored educational program, and in southern California, more than two dozen clubs have joined the Rotary Clubs Fighting Human Trafficking initiative. Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking received several global grants to create a drop-in center for victims in Topeka, Kansas, and a plan to educate people on how to spot victims. And in February, the RI Board of Directors approved an anti-human trafficking resolution that encourages Rotary members to become more familiar with the growing problem of modern-day slavery and to work toward solutions.

Some success stories aren't even project related: A Rotarian in Argentina got a message from a woman in Mexico she knew through her network of activism groups. The woman had learned of a girl who was being trafficked in the state of Michoacán, where she was chained to a bed and tortured. The Rotarian in Argentina got in touch with the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery. Members of the action group reached out to their contacts in Mexico City, and the girl was freed within 24 hours.

"That's the kind of impact that Rotary can have," says McCleary, adding that he wants Rotary to do even more. "We believe that this is a movement, not just a series of projects."

## **The universal language of photography: Rotary Magazine's Photography Awards 2022**

***By Wen Huang***

Rotary magazine's annual photo awards recognize and celebrate the best photography produced and shared by Rotary members around the globe

If Service Above Self is the vision that unites Rotary's 1.4 million members around the globe, photography is the language that expresses that vision without need for translation or interpretation. A great photo — such as one that captures Rotaractors planting trees in Uganda or freezes in time a man bicycling through rainwater near a Taiwanese landmark — transcends geographical and cultural barriers. It narrates a story and depicts a way of life in one part of the vast Rotary world. A language that is universally understood, photography can amuse, educate, and inspire, all in the same instant.

It is for this reason that Rotary magazine devotes much of this issue to the works of Rotary members who have distinguished themselves with the images they submitted for our annual photo awards.

The magazine received more than 600 entries from across the family of Rotary. Bekah Raleigh, who leads the Visual Media team at Rotary International, began by looking at the images and discussing them with other RI photographers. Among other things, they checked each photo's technical specifications - to ensure the pictures would hold up to reproduction on the printed page - and carefully weighed a crucial requirement: consent.

"Beautiful photography requires the subject's consent," says Raleigh. "At Rotary, we manage this issue through a series of releases. I know that not every amateur photographer is walking around with photo releases in their back pocket, but when taking photographs of people that you don't know, it's important to make sure that they're comfortable with it."

Finally, Raleigh and her team evaluated the photos' aesthetics — things such as color, composition, and subject matter — that subtly shape an image's impact. The team then forwarded about 10 percent of the 600-plus submissions to the selection committee, which consisted of the magazine's staff and other members of Rotary's communications team. The committee deliberated for hours before making its final choices.

This year's winning entries represent a wide range of subjects and regions: silhouettes of children playing in Tondo, a poverty-stricken municipal district of Manila, Philippines; a Vietnamese artisan drying magenta-tipped incense sticks near Hue, the country's spiritual capital; a fisherman casting his net into a river in Benin; and the glowing tents of a climbers' base camp in the snowy peaks of Nepal. Collectively, all these photographs endow us with a rich, varied, and humbling view of our planet and its people.

Each photo also contains a powerful visual narrative that sparks our curiosity. In some instances, we marvel at the photographer's ability to find beauty in our everyday lives and, through their lens, to capture things that we might otherwise have overlooked. In other cases, while the color and composition move us emotionally, the exotic landscapes evoke a spirit of adventure and exploration.

These photos are our eyes on the world.

*Winner: Photographer: Heinz-Gerd Dreehsen, Rotary Club of Oberhausen, Germany*



*Sunset in Manila, Philippines.*

*Judges say: The playful, organic shapes of the kids' bodies make a stark contrast with the hard lines of the electric poles and wires. Despite the photo's limited color palette, you feel like there is an explosion of color.*

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

**Purpose:** 'Fight against Anemia in Women'

**Objectives:** Treat women of Anemia by screening and treatment and prevent by educating them

**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-Buttenberg of District 1990, Switzerland:

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

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

*Upcoming Matri Raksha Health Camp would be:*

- **Camp 6 on Sunday, July 17, 2022 at Hooghly Dasnagar Girls College with Rotary Hooghly**

### **Upcoming club engagement other than Global Grant Project**

Sunday, July 17, 2022: Eye Camp at Hooghly Dasnagar girls college with Rotary Hooghly

### **Members' birthdays in July, 2022**

Dr Om Tantia on July 10, 2022

### **Members' anniversaries in July, 2022**

Spouse Lakshmi & PP Siddhartha Tantia on July 3, 2022

### **QUOTE**

*Someone's opinion of you does not have to become your reality. Les Brown*

### **UNWIND**

*From a DC airport ticket agent:*

*"I had a New Hampshire Congresswoman (Carol Shea-Porter) ask for an aisle seat so that her hair wouldn't get messed up by being near the window. (On an airplane!)"*

### **TAILPIECE**

#### **NASA Unveils Full Set of Webb's First Images**



*The Webb telescope's image of the galaxy cluster SMACS 0723 reveals thousands of galaxies, among them the faintest and most distant ever seen in infrared. This picture covers a patch of sky roughly equivalent to the size of a grain of sand held at arm's length. Credit: NASA, ESA, CSA and STScI*

The next great era of astronomy truly began this morning. After nearly three decades of troubled development and \$10 billion in spending, a pulse-pounding launch on Christmas Day in 2021 and a nail-biting half-year of delicate preparations in deep space, the James Webb Space Telescope has at last delivered a complete set of first full-color images.

Constructed by NASA, as well as Europe's and Canada's space agencies, Webb is controversially named for a former NASA administrator, and it is the most powerful off-world observatory yet built. But for a time, the observatory was more of a cruel joke among astronomers: the technical demands of its development pushed the project so far over budget and behind schedule that many suspected it would never launch at all. Now it promises to revolutionize our understanding of the cosmos during a mission that could stretch into the 2040s.

Perched 1.5 million kilometers from Earth and shaded by a multilayered sunshield as big as a tennis court, the telescope's kit is cooled close to the temperature of the vacuum of space. That deep freeze allows it to see, or rather feel, the infrared glow of far-flung galaxies, nearby planets and everything in between.

"Astronomy has an ability to make us think bigger, to think outside ourselves and consider our place in the universe," says Amber Straughn, Webb's deputy project scientist. "Exploration and discovery tap into something deep inside all of us, they are key parts of what makes us human. This telescope is going to change how we understand the universe in ways we haven't even dreamed of."

*Source: Lee Billings, Senior Editor for space and physics at Scientific American in July 12 issue of Scientific American*