



# Spectrum



RI District 3291

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## RCSLMK had an overseas visitor

*Rotarian Dr Ajit Majumder narrates*



Rotarian Ambaree Majumder President Elect of the Rotary club of Marina city, Singapore visited and attended RCSLMK's regular club meeting on Saturday, January 21, 2023

Members greeted Ambaree as a member of family of RCSLMK. In absence of President Archana, PP Dr Chitra Ray chaired the meeting. Dr Chitra announced upcoming club and District programs and shared immediate past club events.

Club Secretary PP Kusum Chamaria transacted club business



Young overseas visitor Rotarian Ambaree stressed upon importance of uninterrupted involvement of youth for initiating & implementing out of the box community service projects.

She appreciated and recognized RCSLMK's signature Global Grant project, "Matri-raksha".

Rotarian Ambaree offered her role as club President Elect and District Chair for the Environment to join hands with RCSLMK to obtain International partner from Singapore for a viable project, mainly on environment.

She also pointed out on the project relevant to significant environmental impact can attract Foundation's Global Grant.

Exchange of club banners of Rotary Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata and Rotary Marina city, Singapore followed.

Before termination of meeting PP Dr Chitra Ray offered vote of thanks and requested members and guest to enjoy tea & snacks

## 4 ways to be a disruptor for peace

*Posted on January 26, 2023 by Rebecca Crall, Areas of Focus Manager, Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention*



*Rotary Peace Fellows sit on steps outside the Rotary Peace Center at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.*

In a conversation recently with a group of professional peacebuilders, one of my colleagues (and a new Rotary member) surprised me when he referred to Rotary as a "disruptor for peace." A disruptor for peace? That was something new and unexpected.

Disruption signals great change – change that's happening fast. It often feels like it's taking place at a dizzying pace, and it's associated with chaos and displacement. It's not something we often imagine wanting more of. But my colleague's comment got me thinking of disrupting for good: using our platform as Rotary members to disrupt violence and create peace. Can we apply this idea to build a future where peace is our norm?

When we think about the future now, we don't seem to feel the same optimism as past generations did. People feel fear, dread and a deep sense of skepticism that change is even possible. This is logical given what we see in the news: the climate crisis, toxic political polarization. No wonder we feel unsure about the future.

But as we begin 2023, I'm challenging myself to disrupt this way of thinking: to look at our challenges as opportunities for growth and change.

In his famous book "The Moral Imagination," John Paul Lederach challenges us to use our creativity in peacebuilding. He describes this creativity as understanding current situations – such as destructive behaviors and violence – but then pushing past them to imagine a world that transcends existing reality.

This may seem trite. But if you truly think about how much we take for granted in our day-to-day lives, you can see how much room there is for improvement.

**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**

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As you think about the future, try to find creative ways to build more inclusive and resilient societies. Use Lederach's four disciplines as a guide.

1. Recognize the importance of relationships. Peace is fundamentally about relationships. As we acknowledge our interdependence and connection to one another, we can understand the context in which violence happens – but also imagine a context in which we can transcend violence and build peace.
2. Practice paradoxical curiosity. While this sounds complicated, paradoxical curiosity is a matter of respecting contrasting truths. Acknowledge different sides in every situation and look for what lies beneath the face of things. By looking beyond appearances, you can discover new opportunities for healing and peace.
3. Provide space for creativity. Respect creative acts and believe that humans can create something new. This attitude is typically grounded in everyday interactions. Use your creativity to imagine and eventually love things that are new and unexpected.
4. Take a risk. When we risk, we step into something unknown. While it may seem counterintuitive, many communities subconsciously stay in conflict because that's what they know. Building peace is about taking the risk to journey into something unknown. It's also about letting go of what you know.

Moral imagination is ultimately the capacity to conceive and generate something different without denying our current realities. This may seem impossible at times. But by applying these four principles, you can ask the right questions and hopefully find the right answers.

*Rotary Peace Fellowships equip peace and development leaders from communities around the world to become effective catalysts for peace. Applications for the 2024 fellowships are being accepted until 15 May*

## **New passport club points to bright future**

*Posted on January 24, 2023 by Bob Hyde, Rotary Club of Miami Brickell and Miami Brickell Passport, Florida, USA*

About two years ago, Marcy Ullom and her husband sold their longtime home in Miami and relocated to Brevard County, Florida. That took Marcy away from her Rotary Club of Miami Brickell, but also well above District 6990's northern boundary. She attended a few club meetings near her new home, but "nothing clicked" and she "missed her peeps." She considered what to do.



*Marcy Ullom*

With the COVID-19 pandemic at its height, many clubs had switched to meeting virtually, including Miami Brickell. Marcy began thinking about the benefits of virtual meetings, and an idea sprang up. With a few more Brickell Rotarians, she began an informal, weekly Zoom gathering. The nucleus of a new Rotary Club had come into being.

After meeting unofficially for a while, the members of that small nucleus got the idea to found a new club. Someone suggested creating a satellite of the Miami Brickell Club under Rotary's "Passport" designation. The Brickell Club accepted the proposal

on 1 July 2021, and the district soon followed. The newly christened Miami Brickell Passport Satellite Club, now known less formally as the Rotary Club of South Florida Passport, held its celebratory installation breakfast online on 24 August 2021. Charter President Antonio Piniheiro served as chair.

The benefits of meeting virtually soon bore fruit, with speakers from around the world visiting the new club. RI President-elect R. Gordon R. McNally spoke to the club from Edinburgh, Scotland, and Past District Governor Lynette Stassen joined another meeting from Cape Town, South Africa. Rotary Club of Lviv International Past President James Joerimin was the speaker on another day, taking part from New Jersey (of all places!). During his official visit in late July 2022, District 6990 Governor Michael Kesti thanked club members for their enthusiasm and praised their early success.

One sign of that success is the \$25,000 Disaster Response Grant the club secured from The Rotary Foundation to purchase water purification tablets for the people of Ukraine. Club member Larry Siegel formed a relationship with the Rotary Club of Lviv International and followed up on every detail of the grant process. When the grant was announced, club members gave Larry a standing ovation – no small achievement in a virtual meeting!

Led by President Catherine Yaque of Seville, Spain, the club has a diverse mix of veteran Rotarians and (much) younger graduates of Rotary Youth Exchange. A typical meeting involves members from a variety of countries – Brazil, Croatia, Belgium, Spain, Australia – and features lively discussions that bridge the club's generation gap (and occasional linguistic ones). Visiting Rotarians have praised the club for breaking away from the traditional "meet, greet, and eat" format and stressing Rotary's service essentials.

Rotary International has set a high priority on increasing diversity and inclusion in membership and bringing in younger leaders, especially under President Jennifer Jones. District 6990's satellite passport club represents a tiny snapshot of Rotary's future and proves that future is bright indeed.

## **What I Gain from Ashoka and Rotary, and How We Can Work Together**

*Posted on January 26, 2023 by Lynn Price, Ashoka Fellow and member of the Rotary Club of Denver Southeast*



*Siblings placed in separate foster care settings reunite at Camp to Belong*

Growing up in foster care, I held the label of foster kid destined to failure. To make matters worse, my older sister and I lived in

different homes. Brothers and sisters fight, argue, and tease. Yet, they are the first to come to each other's defense and celebrate typical childhood events and milestones in life. Sometimes taken for granted, they are also oftentimes the longest relationships in life with a shared legacy. The sibling bond ensures familial history and an undeniable commitment to unconditional love and acceptance.

After I realized that most of the 400,000 youth in foster care had the odds stacked against them for adult success and also were separated from at least one sibling when placed in foster care, I was motivated to ensure that youth do not allow foster care to define them and to ensure youth in foster care did not miss out on typical childhood events and milestones in life, including building relationships and memories with their siblings.

I founded Camp To Belong in 1995 to reunite siblings placed in separate foster homes and to give youth in foster care a voice to express their views towards and needs in anticipation of adulthood.

Along my professional journey, in 2005, I was honored as an Ashoka Fellow and gained the privilege of networking with other social entrepreneurs who were taking on their societies' greatest challenges. In my case, the societal challenge I saw was a foster care system that did not prioritize the connection between siblings as a conduit to familial history, stability, trust, and safety. The solution and system change I have worked toward with others through Camp To Belong is creating and scaling programs to ensure sibling visitation, if not placement of brothers and sisters together, as a mandatory requirement of child welfare systems.

Currently, Camp To Belong has reunited more than 15,000 siblings in the US and Australia at summer camps and year-round events. Camp To Belong also trains foster parents and child welfare care-providing teams to understand why siblings matter. Finally, Camp To Belong has advocated for US state and national siblings' rights legislation, including designating a Sibling Connection Day, passing a Sibling Bill of Rights to support sibling relationships in care and post-adoption, and multiple subsequent state-level Sibling Bill of Rights to protect the sibling bond.



*Siblings placed in separate foster care settings reunite over a rock climbing activity together at Camp to Belong*

I joined Rotary in 2021 because I saw it as an opportunity to engage others to help advance positive changes for youth in foster care at the global level. It also gave me the opportunity to support other local humanitarian causes as a volunteer in my own community. Coming out of the isolation of the pandemic, Rotary provided me with the continuity of connection and the

opportunity to be part of a unified voice at weekly gatherings and events. Rotary has allowed me to spotlight other organizations that are making a difference, boosting awareness and support for their work.

At Ashoka and Rotary, we are all people of action, change-makers for a better world. I have a similar feeling among Ashoka Fellows as I do among Rotary members because both networks offer sincerity, acceptance without judgment, humility, and kindness. I encourage Rotarians and Rotaractors to look to Ashoka to help scale local acts of humanitarian service to a global level with a social entrepreneur mindset: defining a societal challenge with clarity, addressing the challenge directly, devising systems-wide changes such as new policies, advocacy plans to advance them, and commitments to government actions that prevent the challenge from occurring in the first place. I encourage Ashoka's community to connect with the local Rotary community, as knowledgeable about community challenges, catalysts for local change, and volunteers' eager to understand and serve alongside you toward your vision of a greater humanitarian impact.

At some point, I reflected on a choice to be a victim or a victor – to be bitter or make life better. I chose the latter and, against all odds, did not become a failure. I graduated from a top-ten university, have a meaningful career, celebrate financial independence, and embrace my children and grandchildren often. Additionally, I am happy to call my sister one of my very best friends, and that took some time as we aged out of foster care because of the disconnect we had during that journey.

It could be said that we are brothers and sisters as Ashoka Fellows and Rotary members. We are learning about each other and building our relationship through working together for positive change. We come together with compassion and an undeniable commitment to local and global solutions for a better world.

Rotary's partnership with Ashoka brings together the vision of Ashoka's social entrepreneurs with the local expertise of Rotary members to inspire innovation that can solve problems, create leaders, and change societies.

## **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

The eleventh *Matri-Raksha* Health Camp shall take place on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at Hamiragachi, District Hooghly in association with Society Benefit Circle

## Expand our Reach: A Conversation with Katey Halliday



Meet **Katey Halliday**. A member of the Rotary Club of Adelaide Light, Australia, and a charter member of the Rotaract Club of Adelaide City, Halliday serves on Rotary's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.

**Q.** Our Action Plan calls for Rotary to expand our reach. How can we get beyond thinking about membership in terms of numbers?

**KATEY:** In the past, there's been a lot of focus on achieving a certain head count: "How many people did you get to join?" But if we want a Rotary that's strong, effective, and able to prepare the next generation to lead, we need to make sure more people feel welcome and at home in Rotary, year after year. And that means we must become more diverse and inclusive and provide equitable opportunities for everyone.

**Q.** Why is diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) so crucial to Rotary expanding its reach?

**KATEY:** Above all, because it's the right thing to do. Diversity, equity, and inclusion is not a political issue; it's a responsibility we have to each other and to our communities. We all have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, to have equal opportunities for fellowship and service, and to be given the same platforms for our voices to be heard. As an organization that's both global and grassroots, we have to lead the way.

But it's also the smart thing to do. Potential members, especially those who have experience with DEI initiatives in their own workplaces, may be put off by a club that is not DEI-friendly. But when those people experience a club that welcomes all kinds of people — all kinds of leaders — you'll turn them into our most effective ambassadors. They'll tell their own friends and networks about Rotary.

Clubs also report that when participants have many different perspectives, they come up with ideas and projects that make a bigger impact. That doesn't surprise me. Workplace studies of diversity, equity, and inclusion demonstrate that diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints is a strength.

It's an ongoing effort, of course — and an opportunity for continual growth. I think the vast majority of members are feeling empowered and energized by the positive changes we're making.

**Q.** How can clubs expand their reach and fulfill their commitment to DEI?

**KATEY:** There are three key things. First, make your club more accessible through flexible membership models and meeting formats. Second, give all members something meaningful to do. It's not enough to invite people from diverse backgrounds to our meetings and events; we need to include them in planning and decision making, and we need to value their contributions. Finally, bring in outside help. Collaborate with a local expert on diversity, equity, and inclusion training. It's a great way to forge new kinds of partnerships.

And Rotary has so many resources! Check out the DEI-themed posts on the Rotary Voices blog for inspiring stories and ideas. Make a plan using the Diversifying Your Club assessment, which you can find at [my.rotary.org/membership](http://my.rotary.org/membership). Or take one of the DEI courses in our Learning Center.

**Q.** What should every Rotary member know about DEI?

**KATEY:** We all can and should be working on this. It isn't something that leaders alone can do. When we have a truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture, we will expand our potential to create lasting change and realize our vision of a world where people unite and take action.

## QUOTE

*The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values. William Ralph Inge*

## UNWIND

*Getting married is very much like going to a continental restaurant with friends. You order what you want, then when you see what the other fellow has, you wish you had ordered that.*

## Birthdays of members in January 2023

PP Sumit Agarwal on February 5, 2023

Dr Bimalendu Sen on February 6, 2023

## Anniversaries of members in January 2023

Dr Saktirupa & Spouse Dr Suranjan Chakraborty on Feb 5, 2023

PP Kusum & Spouse Krishna Chamaria on February 24, 2023

Spouse Rani & PP Banwarilal Ajitsaria on February 28, 2023

*February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month*

## TAILPIECE

### Jallianwala Bagh massacre

*Contributed by: Rtn Umashankar Agarwal, Past President RCSLMK on January 26, 2023 on the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India*



#### *Bullets that missed people*

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919. A large peaceful crowd had gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab, to protest against the Rowlatt Act and arrest of pro-independence activists Saifuddin Kitchlew and Satyapal. In response to the public gathering, the temporary Brigadier general, REH Dyer, surrounded the protesters with his troops of British Indian Army. The Jallianwala Bagh could only be exited on one side, as its other three sides were enclosed by buildings. After blocking the exit with his troops, he ordered them to shoot at the crowd, continuing to fire even as the protestors tried to flee. The troops kept on firing until their ammunition was exhausted. Estimates of those killed vary between 379 and 1500+ people and over 1,200 other people were injured of whom 192 were seriously injured. Responses polarized both the British and Indian peoples. This incident shocked Rabindranath Tagore, an Indian polymath and the first Asian Nobel laureate, to such an extent that he renounced his knighthood.



#### *Bullets that missed people*

The level of casual brutality, and lack of any accountability, stunned the entire nation, resulting in a wrenching loss of faith of the general Indian public in the intentions of the United Kingdom. The attack was condemned as "unutterably monstrous", and the UK Members of Parliament voted 247 to 37 against Dyer. Some historians consider the episode a decisive step towards the end of British rule in India. *Britain has never formally apologized for the massacre but expressed "deep regret" in 2019.*