



# The Rotary Club of Surat West

R.I. District 3060 Zone 4-B



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

**Rotary Year 2022 - 2023**

Club No 31549 / Charter Date : 30th April 1996

 : rotarysuratwest

 : rotarysuratwest

 : [www.rotaryclubofsuratwest.org](http://www.rotaryclubofsuratwest.org)

# SPARK

Issue No.: 13 / 2022 - 2023



**Rtn. Jennifer Jones**  
R.I. President - 2022 - 2023



**Rtn. Shrikant Indani**  
D.G. 3060 - 2022-2023



**Rtn. Tanmay Agrawal**  
Club President



**Rtn. Sanjay Jalan**  
Hon. Club Secretary

**Bulletin Editor : Rtn. Mausam Jalan**



My Dear Rotary friends,

Wish You a very Happy Republic Day.

Its been 73 years since the Constitution of India Came into effect.

As we know the Constitution gives the Citizens of India many Rights such as Right to Liberty, Right to Equality and

Right to Freedom of Expression.

But we must also remember Our duties as Citizens of this Great Country

Our Duties towards our Counrty, Our Society, Our Community and Our Duties towards our near and dear ones

As Rotarians we have a duty towards upliftment of the Community and to maintain peace and Harmony in this Complex Society

On this Republic Day lets take a Pledge to fulfill all over duties to the best of our abilities.

Jai Hind..

Regards

Mausam Jalan

Bulletin Editor – Year 2022-23

# SPEAKER SESSION

18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023



It was a Beautiful Wednesday Evening when Members of Rotary Club of Surat West gathered to attend an Interactive and Informative Speaker Session at The Amore Banquets.

**PP Setu Gandhi** was the Master of Ceremonies while in absence of Club President Tanmay Agrawal, President Elect **Rtn Sonal Shah** delivered the Welcome address

After the Traditional Welcome of the Esteemed Guest **by Rtn Mausam Jalan & Rtn Tripti Goel**, **PP Rtn Shilpa Shah** gave a brief introduction of the speakers .

**Dr Sai Tanush Shah**

**MS Ophthalmologist**

Was a New Generation Service Exchange to France sponsored by our own Club

She Spoke about her experiences in France



## Dr Neilesh Parikh & Dr Frank Villa. MD

They are doing Residency in General Surgery and Currently doing a 3 Year fellowship in Surgical Oncology at the **National Cancer Institute (NIH)** **Bestheda, Maryland, USA**

National Cancer Institute is a US Govt funded Hospital dedicated entirely to Clinical Research with an annual budget of approx USD 6.25 Billion

They Informed the audience about the path breaking research NCI was doing in the Treatment of Stage IV Cancer with the help of **IMMUNOTHERAPY**

Rtn Dr Parag Shah handled the Question and Answer session wonderfully.

PDG Rtn Devendra Shastri

PP Rtn Tinish Modi and

Ann Dr Sejal Shah honoured the guests with a Small Memento.

The Meeting was adjourned after the National Anthem







## ROTARY CLUB OF SURAT WEST FAMILY WITH THE ESTEEMED GUEST



**PE SONAL SHAH**



**PP RTN SHILPA SHAH**



**ANN NIPA SITWALA**





## REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

26.02.2023

On the Occasion of Republic Day Members of Rotary Club of Surat West visited the SMC School No 199 at Vadod, Pandesara, Surat.

After the Flag Unfurling Ceremony the Multi Talented Students of the School Performed Various Dance Sequences.

We Distributed Health Snacks to the 500 Students Present at the Venue.

The Atmosphere was really Patriotic and Electrifying





WINNER  
POSITION **1<sup>st</sup>**

Rotary  
Surat West Dist 3060



### ROTARY PHOTO CONTEST 2022

SOURAV DAS (FROM DIST-PURBA MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL INDIA)  
CLEANLINESS - SWACHH BHARAT (THEME CODE : SWB)

Our  
Supporters



WINNER  
POSITION **2<sup>nd</sup>**

Rotary  
Surat West Dist 3060



### ROTARY PHOTO CONTEST 2022

DNYANESHWAR PRAKASH VAIDYA (FROM SHIROL, DIST-KOLHAPUR, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA)  
CULTURE AND FESTIVALS OF INDIA (THEME CODE : CFI)

Our  
Supporters



WINNER  
POSITION **3<sup>rd</sup>**

Rotary  
Surat West Dist 3060



### ROTARY PHOTO CONTEST 2022

RAHUL SAHA (FROM SANTIPUR, NADIA, WEST BENGAL, INDIA)  
CULTURE AND FESTIVALS OF INDIA (THEME CODE : CFI)

Our  
Supporters



## ROTARY PHOTO CONTEST 2022

We are happy to announce the winners for Rotary Photo Contest 2022 congratulations to all the winners

**1st Position** - Sourav Das  
#Swachh Bharat (SWB)

**2nd Position**-Dnyaneshwar Vidya  
#cultureandfestivalsofindia (CFI)

**3rd Position** Rahul Saha  
#cultureandfestivalsofindia (CFI)

Rotary photo contest was a great success , we got 367 pictures from around all over india . Out of which we selected 33 best pictures and from them we got 3 winners

The contest was managed by PP Rtn Vivek Goel , who is a photo enthusiast

And judged by 5 eminent photographers from different part of india including Chitranjan Desai and saurabh Desai from surat , Joydeep Mukharjee and Tania Chaterjee from Kolkotta and Rtn Santosh Kale from Shirol, kolhapur

### President Speaks

**R**ecently, I spent time in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Uganda. As the “settlement” in its name suggests, the people living there are free to move around and integrate as best they can — one thing that makes the place unique.

I had a chance to play soccer with boys and girls from about a dozen nations and talk with women who had fled areas of conflict. It was a tapestry of human experience shared through both laughter and tears.

As I walked across a school campus at the settlement with a teacher, she shared with me the dire statistics on girls' education. Most don't get through grade school. Many are sold into child marriage to pay for food for their families. As I looked around at these young girls, I was gutted.

Our work with empowering girls and women is much more than creating equity — sometimes, it's about health or education. Other times it's about providing safety. Regardless of the path, it's always about basic human rights.

We can do more to empower girls and women, and we can expand how we share the progress Rotary members and our partners have made toward this goal.

There is no shortage of inspiring examples of our work, from interest-free

## Empowering girls is about more than creating equity



RI President Jennifer Jones and Zimbabwean actor Sibongile Mlambo watch a soccer match in Nakivale settlement.

microcredit loans for women in Nigeria, to projects in India that provide girls menstrual hygiene products. Hundreds of projects are taking place across all Rotary areas of focus and are making a meaningful and often lifesaving difference.

Together, we can address the needs and inequities that girls throughout the world face daily. But we must also monitor the impact of these projects and create awareness of Rotary resources and subject matter experts, including Rotary Action Groups, The Rotary Foundation Cadre

of Technical Advisers, Rotary Peace Fellows, and others.

It is especially important that we tell the stories of our initiatives that have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls. This last point is near and dear to my heart. This means sharing our stories on social media, through local news outlets, in this magazine, and wherever we can inspire others.

As you do so, it's important to provide information that helps our Rotary family connect with others who are implementing activities in their regions, as well as across

the world. Let's share our successes and learn from one another — then proudly tell our stories to a larger audience.

These are exciting times in Rotary, and the world is taking notice. As we work to empower women and girls to step into their full potential, we create new pathways for membership growth and greater collaboration with partners to create positive, lasting change. Thank you for your continued action in this vital effort.

**Jennifer Jones**  
President  
Rotary International



## FEBRUARY- ROTARY PEACE & CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH



**This is at the heart of all of Rotary's work...**

Fostering Peace and Understanding led to Youth Exchange Programmes.

**It led to our Rotary Peace Fellowships-** Over the past decade 1000 professionals have been selected and trained in Rotary's Peace Centres in Universities around the world. They are now working for peace in over 100+ countries.

**We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life.** Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

**Through our service projects,** peace fellowships, and scholarships, our members are taking action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

We help leaders learn how to prevent and mediate conflict at its source.

There can be no Peace while people have poor water, disease, poor Mother & Child health, no education, and poverty.

**Let us have a successful month ahead.**



## Rotary Foundation announcing Two New Funds



Announcing our Foundation's two new funds to assist Pakistan and Ukraine, two areas facing extreme need. The Pakistan Flood and Ukraine Response Funds address the humanitarian crises caused by devastating flooding in Pakistan and the war in Ukraine. Donors can give directly to support relief efforts led by #Rotary members.

Learn more: <https://on.rotary.org/3kUQMbv>

**Applications for Rotary's Peace Fellowship  
are now open!**

## **Rotary Peace Fellowships**

Full funding for a master's degree or post-graduate diploma in disciplines related to peace and development

# **APPLY NOW**




Each year, Rotary awards fully funded fellowships to peace and development leaders from around the world to study at one of our Rotary Peace Centers.

Learn more and share this opportunity for the 2024-25 academic year with peacebuilders in your community: <https://on.rotary.org/3kUYAKv>




## February 23 - Rotary's 118th Anniversary

**FEBRUARY 23rd IS**



**ROTARY  
INTERNATIONAL'S  
ANNIVERSARY**

"Rotary has satisfactorily demonstrated the fact that friendship can easily hurdle national and religious boundary lines."  
Paul Harris, Founder, 1935

**Rotary** 

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

**Rotary started with the vision of one man — Paul Harris. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February 1905**, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.

Over time, Rotary's reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service. Members have a long track record of addressing Challenges in their communities and around the world.

That commitment endures today through an organization that remains truly international. Only 16 years after being founded, Rotary had clubs on six continents. Our members now span the globe, working to solve some of our world's most challenging problems.

We're not afraid to dream big and set bold goals. We began our fight against polio in 1979 with a project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines. Today, polio remains endemic in only two countries — down from 125 in 1988.

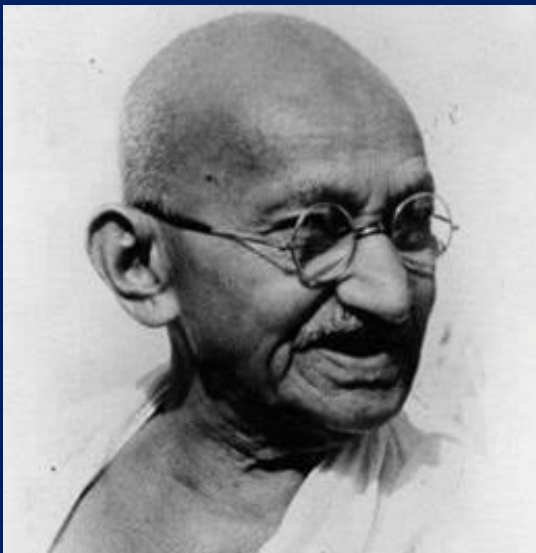


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I believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion ... begins at the top and for us to realize growth in female membership and members under the age of forty — these demographics need to see their own reflection in leadership. I will champion double-digit growth in both categories while never losing sight of our entire family.

**JENNIFER JONES**  
PRESIDENT, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL  
(2022-23)

## ROTARY WISDOM



*I suppose leadership  
at one time meant  
muscles; but today it  
means getting along  
with people.*

*Mahatma Gandhi*

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DATA COURTESY:**

**PDG RTN DEVENDRA SHASTRI**



# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT AND THEIR THEMES

Till 1956 there weren't any themes as we know them today

From 1957, the Themes were in form of guiding principles and descriptive paragraphs or a set of Themes. We have specific Rotary Theme for each Rotary Year

Year	R.I. President	R.I. Themes
1957	Charles G. Tennant	"Enlist-Extend-Explore-Serve"
1958	Clifford A. Randal	"Help Shape the Future"
1959	Harold T. Thomas	"Vitalize! Personalize! Build Bridges of Friendship"
1960	J. Edd Mc Laughlin	"You are Rotary-Live it"
1961	Joseph A. Abey	"Aim for Action, Communicate for understanding"
1962	Nitish C. Laharry	"Kindle the Spark Within"
1963	Caral R Miller	"Meeting Rotary's Challenge in the Space Age."
1964	Charles W. Pettengill	"Live Rotary"
1965	C.RH. Teenstra	"Action Consolidation and Continuty"
1966	Richard L. Evans	"Better World Through Rotary"
1967	Luther H. Hodges	"Make your Rotary membership Effective"
1968	Kyoshi Togaski	"Participate"
1969	James F. Conway	"Review and Renew"
1970	Willam E. Walk	"Bridge the Gaps"
1971	Ernst G. Bretholz	"Goodwill begins with you"
1972	Roy D. Hickmanq	"Let's take a new look-and act"
1973	Willam C. Carter	"A Time for Action"
1974	Willam R. Robbins	"Renew the Spirit of Rotary"
1975	Ernesto Imbassahy de Mellow	"To Dignify the Human Being"
1976	Robert Manchester II	"I Believe in Rotary"
1977	W. Jack Davis	"Serve to Unite Mankind"
1978	Clem Renouf	"Reach Out"
1979	James L. Bomar Jr.	"Let service Light the Way"
1980	Rolf Klarich	"Take Time to Serve"
1981	Stanley E. McCffrey	"World Understanding and Peace through Rotary"
1982	Hiroji Mukasa	"Mankind is one-Build Bridge for Friendship"
1983	William E. Skelton	"Share Rotary - Serve People"
1984	Carlos Canseco	"Discover a New World of Service"
1985	Edward F. Cadman	"You are the key"

1986	M.A.T. Caparas	"Rotary Brings Hope"
1987	Charles C. Keller	"Rotarians-United in Service- Dedicated to Peace"
1988	Royce Abbey	"Put Life into Rotary-Your Life"
1989	Hugh M. Archer	"Enjoy Rotary"
1990	Paulo V.C. Costa	"Honor Rotary with Faith and Enthusiasm"
1991	<b>Rajendra K. Saboo</b>	<b>"Look Beyond Yourself"</b>
1992	Clifford L. Dochterman	"Real Happiness is Helping Others"
1993	Robert R. Barth	"Believe in What You Do-Do What You Believe In"
1994	William H. Huntley	"Be a Friend"
1995	Herbert G. Brown	"Act with Integrity, serve with Love, Work for Peace"
1996	Luis Vicente Giay	"Build the Future with Action and Vision"
1997	Glen Kinross	"Show Rotary Cares"
1998	James L. Lacy	"Follow Your Rotary Dream"
1999	Carlo Ravizza	"Rotary 2000 : Act with - Consistency, Credibility, Continuity"
2000	Frank J. devlyn	"Our Mission - Create Awareness, Take Action"
2001	Richard King	"Mankind Is Our Business"
2002	Bhichai Rattakuls	"Sow the Seeds of Love"
2003	Johnathan Majiyagbe	"Lend a Hand"
2004	Glenn Estess	"Celebrate Rotary"
2005	Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer	"Service above Self"
2006	Bill Boyd	"Lead the Way"
2007	Wilf Wilkinson	"Rotary Shares"
2008	D.K.Lee	"Make Dreams Real"
2009	John Kenny	"The Future Rotary is in your Hands"
2010	Ray Klingensmith	"Building Communities, Bridging Continents"
2011	<b>Kalyan Banerjee</b>	<b>"Reach Within To Embrace Humanity"</b>
2012	Sakuji Tanaka	" Peace Through Service "
2013	Ron D. Burton	"Engage Rotary Change Lives"
2014	Gary CK Huang	"Light Up Rotary"
2015	K. R. Ravindran	" Be a gift to the world "
2016	John Germ	"Rotary Serving Humanity"
2017	Ian Riseley	"Rotary Making A Difference"
2018	Barry Rastian	"Be The Inspiration"
2019	Mark Maloney	"Rotary Connects The World"
2020	Holger Knaack	"Rotary Opens Opportunities"
2021	<b>Shekhar Mehta</b>	<b>"Serve to Change Lives"</b>
2022	Jennifer Jones	"Imagine Rotary"

As we all know the Theme for 2023 is **Create Hope in the World** and the Rotary International President will be **R.Gordon R. McInally**



# ROTARY DISTRICT 3060 HISTORY

The first Club to be Chartered in our present District 3060 was Rotary Club of Baroda in September 1936

1931-36	"Provisional Dist. "A comprising whole of India
1936-42 Dist. 89	That part of India including Bombay Presidency including Kutch, Central Provinces excluding Jubbulpore District, Hyderabad *Deccan), South India States and Madras Presidency.
1942-44 Dist. 89	Comprising Bombay Presidency, Kutch, Hyderabad, (Deccan), Central Provinces excluding Jubbulpore District.
1944-49 Dist. 89	As above, in addition to Kathiwar and Western Indian States.
1946-49 Dist. 89	The Part north of Bombay Presidency above G.I.R. Railway line up to Bhusaval, Kathiwar, Kutch, western India States, Rajputana and Western Part of Central India States.
1949-52 Dist. 51	Bombay Presidency north of the northern boundaries of the District of Thana, Nasik and East Khandesh, and north and west of the northern and western boundaries of Central Provinces and Berar; west of the Eastern boundary of the State of Gwalior and south of the northern boundary of Rajputana.
1952-57 Dist. 51	Bombay State, the north of the northern boundaries of the District of Thana, Nasik and East Khandesh, north of the west of the northern and western boundaries of state of Madhya Pradesh, west of the eastern boundaries of the state of Madhya Bharat and south of the northern boundary of the state of Rajputana.
1957-58 Dist. 305	Same as above, previous District 51.
1959-62 Dist. 305	Bombay State, that portion north and west of the northern boundaries of the District of Thane, Nasik and East of Khandesh, Madhya Pradesh, that portion west of the eastern boundaries of the Districts of Nimar, Indore, Sehore, Bhopal, Gunam, Shivpuri, Datia, Bhind and the State of Rajasthan.
1962-70 Dist. 305	Gujarat State, Maharashtra State, that portion including the District of West Khandesh, Madhya Pradesh, that portion west of the eastern boundaries of the District of Nimar, Indore, Sehore, Raisen, Bhopal, Guna, Shivpuri, Datia and Bhind and State of Rajasthan
1970-71	(District divided into 305 & 306), Gujarat, those portions south of a line running from Dwarka in Saurashtra on the west to the boundary of the District of Bhopal crossing the Tropic of Cancer and south of the northern boundaries of the District of Bhopal and Raisen and east of the western boundary of the District of Sagar in Madhya Pradesh. That portion of Maharashtra including the District of West Khandesh. It also include centrally administered former Portuguese settlements of Daman and Diu.
1984-91 Dist. 306	(District divided into 304 and 306). Clubs in Madhya Pradesh included in District 306 304 and some of the Clubs of Dist. 305 viz. Dharangadhra, Halvad Jamnagar, Kapad Wanj, Mithapur, Morbi and Surendranagar included in Dist. 3060
1991-92	Number changed from 306 to 3060.
1995-97	Kalyan Banerjee served as Rotary International Director
2011-12	Kalyan Banerjee served as Rotary International President.
2013-17	PRIP Kalyan Banerjee Served as Trustee - TRF
2015-17	Dr. Manoj Desai served as Rotary International Director
2016-17	PRIP Kalyan Banerjee Serves as Chairman - TRF
2020-21	Dr. Beena Vyas Served as Inner Wheel Rotary International President
2020-21	Achieving The Highest TRF giving cross 1.2 Million USD to the Rotary Foundation from District 3060 in a year!

## **6 Rotary members honored as People of Action: Champions of Inclusion**

Rotary honored six members as People of Action: Champions of Inclusion in January to recognize their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion around the world. The distinction was announced to coincide with Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the U.S. holiday that honors the slain civil rights leader. These members and their work exemplify Rotary's core values and illustrate how inclusivity can make a transformational impact on individuals and communities



**İclal Kardiçali**

**Turkey**

**Project: Do You Like Music?**

**Rotary E-Club of District 2440**

Kardiçali, a community volunteer for 50 years, focuses on helping women and children through music. She conducts music training and therapy for displaced children, especially those from Kurdish, Syrian, and Roma communities. She helps children express themselves through music and understand its role in showing how diversity enriches the human experience. Kardiçali trains teachers and students in music education, especially at state schools in the Izmir area that have fewer resources. She also supports the Children's Peace Orchestra, whose members lack housing. Her book, "Do You Like Music?," is being translated into Braille so it will be available to even more children. She's also working with Izmir community leaders to adapt the book for children with learning



disabilities. And she donates copies of the book to students, teachers, organizations, and schools to make the project more sustainable. Her project is supported by Rotary clubs from Districts 2440 and 2420, along with Inner Wheel clubs in Turkey and northern Cyprus, state schools, Lions clubs, and the National Education Board of Çeşme for Teacher Training.



**Rosemary Nambooze**

**Uganda**

**Project: Angel's Center for Children with Special Needs and Inclusive Education Under Basic Education and Literacy Project**

**Rotary Club of Wakiso (District 9213)**

Nambooze, an advocate for children with disabilities and for inclusive education, founded the Angel's Center for Children with Special Needs in Wakiso, Uganda. Her advocacy comes from her experience as a parent of a child with Down syndrome who encountered a lack of services for children and their caregivers. The Angel's Center currently hosts more than 120 children and provides early learning intervention, integrated therapy, outpatient services, and nutrition-focused sensory gardens. It supports caregivers with counseling and respite care, and helps teachers learn how to meet the needs of children with disabilities. Nambooze also helps young adults with disabilities find employment. Since 2012, her work has affected more than 150 children and 200 families. As her Rotary club's president-elect, Nambooze also mobilizes members to advocate for all children to have equal access to education, health care, and community activities. The club's signature project supports inclusive education

measures in schools, such as building libraries, implementing adaptive infrastructure, training teachers, developing a needs-based curriculum, and enrolling and retaining students with disabilities.



**Sarita Shukla**

**India**

**Project: Transgender**

**Empowerment — Astitva**

**Rotary Club of Global Action**

**District 5150**

Shukla is dedicated to supporting the transgender community in New Delhi, India. She leads the transgender empowerment project, known as Astitva, at Pahal — Nurturing Lives, a mentorship organization that works to empower young people of all genders. Shukla says the transgender community is very vulnerable as the least understood and the most abused. People who are transgender often have no options to earn a livelihood other than sex work or begging. After the COVID-19 pandemic affected those sources of income, Shukla supplied people with groceries and other necessities and worked with local authorities to get members of the transgender community vaccinated. She also helps raise HIV/AIDS awareness in the community and educates people about prevention. Through Astitva, she provides counseling, training, and mentoring to help transgender people transition to government and corporate jobs. She has had an impact on more than 2,000 people through these initiatives and hopes to help many more.





**Anderson Zerwes**

**Brazil**

**Project: Brazil's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**

**Rotary Club de Encruzilhada do Sul  
(District 4680)**

Zerwes is an advocate for LGBTQ+, racial, and gender equality and disability rights who has been a leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion in South America. He led the formation and is the current president of CDEI Brasil (the DEI committee in Brazil), which has more than 60 Rotary and Rotaract members from across the country and supports and guides local districts. His work has encouraged 27 out of 31 governors to make DEI district chairs part of their leadership teams and ensure that DEI activities are part of the district's focus. The committee has prepared educational materials, trained leaders, produced monthly webinars and social media content, and raised awareness about DEI events. It has also built partnerships with nongovernmental organizations and advised communities about DEI issues. Zerwes has worked closely with clubs, districts, and leaders in Brazil to ensure that Rotary offers a welcoming environment for people from diverse backgrounds. The committee regularly shares news about its activities with the DEI Task Force. Because of Zerwes' initiatives, CDEI has served as a model for other Rotary clubs and districts and has been replicated in other countries.



**Cam Stewart — Mikostahpinukum  
(Red Morning)**

**Canada**

**Project: Indigenous Community Action  
Project**

**Rotary Club of Calgary East (District  
5360)**

Stewart has been active in diversity, inclusion, and human rights for more than two decades, with a particular focus on Indigenous inclusion. He founded and chairs District 5360's Indigenous Relations Committee, which is unique within Rotary because its members include Indigenous, non-Rotarian leaders. The committee, which reports to the district governor, ensures that Indigenous issues and people are a priority. It received a district grant for the Indigenous Community Action Project to address some calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. This project creates opportunities for Rotary clubs and Indigenous organizations to identify community issues, brainstorm solutions, develop initiatives, and take action together. Stewart provides resources for clubs to learn about DEI issues related to Indigenous peoples and organizes events where people can meet, learn, celebrate, and build relationships. He also arranges for Elders or other keepers of knowledge to participate in Rotary events. Stewart has been honored with an eagle feather and a pipe from Elder Doreen Spence and was given the Blackfoot name Mikostahpinukum (Red Morning) by Elder Herman Yellow Old Woman.





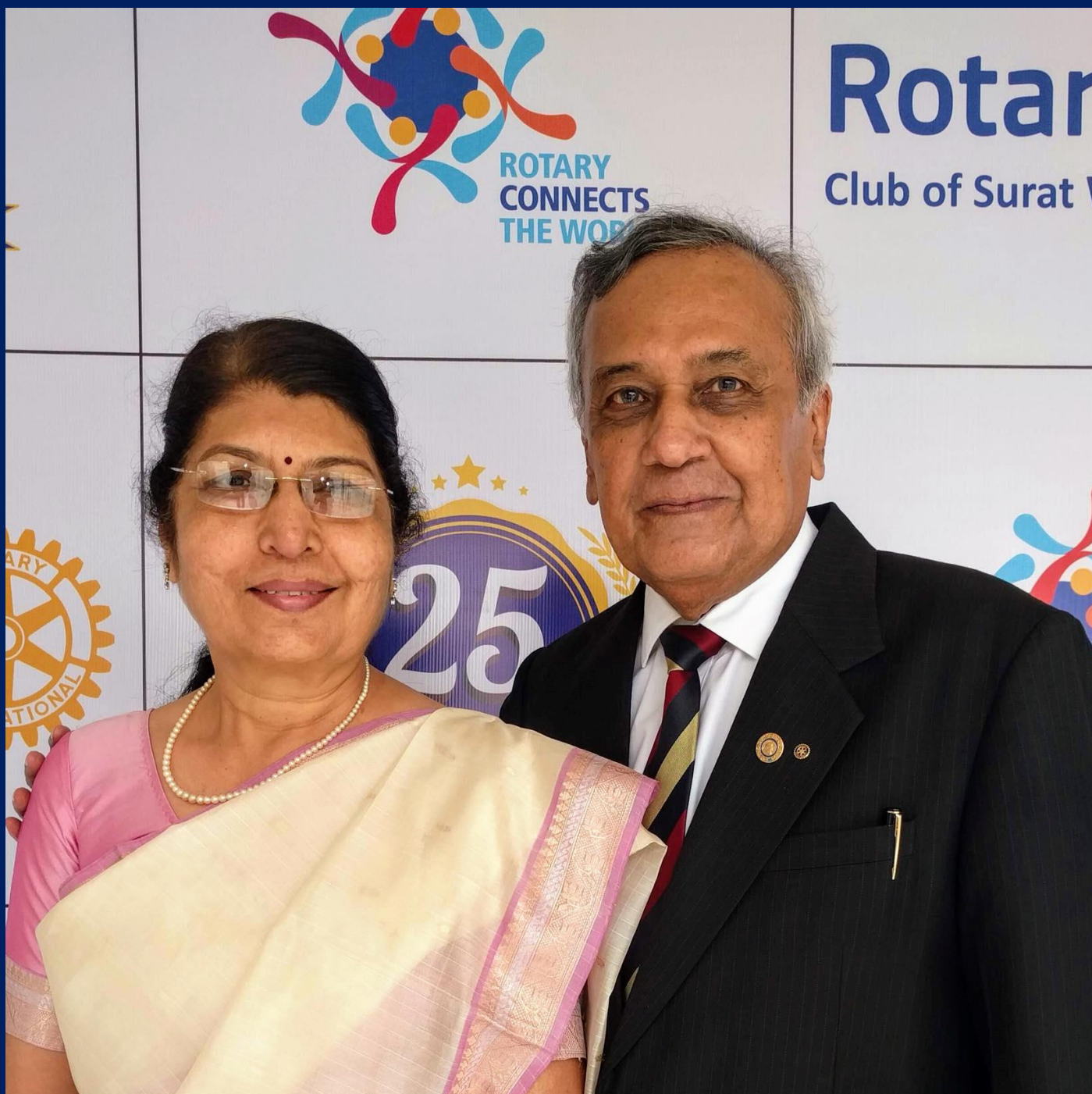
**André Hadley Marria**

**United States**

**Project: Spark Thomasville**

**Rotary Club of Thomasville  
(District 6900)**

Marria is a diversity, equity, and inclusion leader in her club, district, and community, and a founding mentor of a program for entrepreneurs from underserved communities. Currently governor-elect of District 6900, she has served as DEI chair since 2020 and built a district-wide effort. After encouraging each club to select a DEI chair, she helped people identify personal biases and improve their clubs' culture and inclusivity. Marria was the first Black president of her Rotary club and led the club's first Black history program. She has also had a variety of roles, including board member and executive director, at Spark Thomasville, a 12-week incubator program for entrepreneurs. She has helped participants set goals, develop business plans, improve their communication skills, and perfect their presentation pitches for a competition. She initiated a partnership between Spark and her Rotary club that provides program participants with educational materials and mentorship. Her leadership at Spark Thomasville led to a redesigned curriculum, a more diverse board, a more inclusive applicant pool, and the organization becoming a federally recognized nonprofit. Marria has also raised more than \$500,000 for the Marguerite Neel Williams Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Georgia, where she continues her work in youth development.



**Rotary Club of Surat West wishes PDG Rtn Devendra Uncle and Ann Nilima Aunty a very Happy Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Marriage Anniversary.**

**50 Years of Togetherness**