



THE MIDTOWNER

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

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CLUB NO. 16155 | DIST: 3291 | CHARTER DATE: JUNE 16, 1975

From Editor's Desk:

"Preventing Is Better Than Shame" stated the 48 year old Lakshmi.

Lakshmi lives in Rajokri village, about 45 km from Delhi. She runs the household by selling buffalo milk. She is the sole breadwinner in her family, as her husband is unemployed and children still studying.

A year ago, Lakshmi was experiencing constant pain and itching in her pelvic area. For limited funds and lack of medical facilities in the village she was unable to reach out to a doctor. She had to go very far to see a doctor and switch two buses on the way and thus was compelled to ignore the problem. She felt embarrassed about her health and would not share her problem with any one.

Until one day, a cervical cancer screening camp was set up by CAPED (Cancer Awareness Prevention and Early Detection) Trust. The screening camp was free of cost and local members from the community went door-to-door explaining to women the importance of an early detection test for cervical cancer.

Lakshmi's test found cervical pre-cancer. She was quite scared and was afraid how the family will run in the event of her death.

A health worker explained to Lakshmi what to expect at the screening camp, underscored the importance of screening and assured Lakshmi that the procedure was safe and free of charge.

CAPED linked Lakshmi to treatment services at the Safdarjung Government Medical Hospital in Delhi. Lakshmi was hesitant to go, but her daughter gave her the strength and confidence to pursue further care. She was quite nervous, as had never gone to a hospital before, but her daughter accompanied and was a big support.

With a simple treatment, her condition could be eliminated before it became cancer. Cervical Cancer is second leading cause of cancer death among women in India. Twenty five percent of all global deaths due to cervical cancer, occur in India.

Our club initiated the Cervical Cancer Prevention Project by vaccinating fifty girls on day one of Rotary year 24-25. This is a commendable step forward.

Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick Announces her 2024-25 Presidential Theme.



Rotary International President, Stephanie Urchick announced that the 2024-25 presidential theme is The Magic of Rotary and called on members to recognize and amplify the organization's power to save lives. "Don't misunderstand me – we are not going to end polio or bring peace to the world by waving a wand and saying some funny words," Urchick told incoming district governors at the Rotary International Assembly on January 8, 2024. "It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member"



Rotary Theme 2024-2025 The Magic of Rotary by RI

Urchick, a member of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, said she saw the magic of Rotary on display when she was helping install water filters in the Dominican Republic. Two boys were watching as dirty water entered the filter, then ran out clean at the other end. "One of the boys grabbed my sleeve and said, 'Show me the magic again,'" she said. "Obviously, the water filter wasn't magic. We worked hard to transport those filters, install them, and work with community leaders in the area to maintain them. But those boys knew that easy access to clean water would change their lives. Knowing that I played a small part in that certainly changed my life."

Prioritizing peace

Urchick urged members to champion Rotary's Action Plan, find a balance between continuity and change, and work for peace. She plans to host a presidential peace conference in 2025 with the theme "Healing in a Divided World."

Rotary has a long history of promoting peace through its network of peace centers, Urchick noted. Located at top universities around the globe, the centers have trained nearly 1,800 peace fellows who are now working in more than 140 countries. The newest center, located at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey, will welcome its first class of fellows in early 2025. “The Rotary Peace Fellowship began more than 20 years ago to equip peace and development professionals from communities around the world to become effective catalysts for ending and preventing conflict,” Urchick said. “This conference will focus on Rotary’s peace efforts and provide opportunities to learn together.”

In addition to emphasizing peacebuilding, Urchick reiterated Rotary’s commitment to eradicating polio. She urged the incoming governors to join or initiate PolioPlus Societies in their districts and do all they can to help end the disease.

“Contact elected officials and other government leaders. Remind them that polio is still a threat. Push them to support polio eradication,” she said. “Polio remains our top priority and requires our fullest commitment, but there is so much important work to do.”

Balancing continuity and change

Urchick also underscored the necessity of balancing continuity and change, both of which animate Rotary’s Action Plan.

“The plan is all about building on our best ideas, not abandoning them,” she said. “We face a tough balancing act. We must change ourselves and stay true to who we are.”

She asked the governors to do whatever is needed to make the club experience irresistible to members.

“That might mean changing how things are done in your district,” she said. “If your district has been doing things one way for 50 years, it’s probably time to reassess. If a club in your district isn’t active or is losing members, maybe it’s time to start a new club that fits better with the community. Just because a club or district hasn’t changed in a while doesn’t mean no one is hungry for change.”

One way to make positive change, she said, is to embrace the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within clubs.

“I hope you’ll join me in opening your arms to future people of action, even if – and in some cases, especially if – they don’t look or act like the typical member of your local club,” she said. “With DEI, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. It’s in those moments when we are committed and focused that we are the most effective and relevant.”

Minutes of the 2147th Continuous Rotary Meeting of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown held on Thursday, 11 July, 2024 at Room No. 1, The Saturday Club Limited at 7 pm.

- **Meeting called to order:** President Rtn. Preeti Agarwal called the 2147th continuous and 1st meeting for the year 2024-25 to order.
- **National Anthem:** The National Anthem was rendered by all.
- **Appointment of Sergeant-at-Arms:** Rtn. Sahil Desai was appointed as the sergeant of the meeting.
- **Update on Cervical Cancer Vaccination Program-** On 1st July, the 1st day of our Rotary Year, 50 beneficiaries of The Refuge were vaccinated @ Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute. (SGCCRI). Every detail from vaccine and food packets to logistics, decorations, gifts and standees was perfectly handled. Ribbon cutting, lighting of the lamp and coconut ritual, everything was organized by SGCCRI under the guidance of our senior Rtn. Dr. Biman Chakraborty & Dr. Arnab Gupta, the director of SGCCRI. We had Rotarians Dr. Kapoor, Bhupesh Kapoor, Sudhir Chand, Dr. Neerja Chand, Ann Chandan Chakraborty and Neeraj rendering full support. Although Nirmal Nahata was not there for the vaccine but he had helped in making all the arrangements. There was no adverse reaction reported.
- **Awareness Program:** A week before the vaccination, we had a very successful Awareness Session for parents/guardians of the beneficiaries at The Refuge on 22nd June. The session was wonderfully conducted by our honorary Rotarian Dr. Lalita Seth and the trained staff of The Serum Institute. All the girls and their guardians signed the Consent Forms immediately. There were cold drinks, ice-creams, samosa and sweets for the girls, their guardians and Serum's staff.
- **Date of next Vaccination:** President announced the next vaccination date of Saturday, 3rd August, 2024. Another awareness session was announced for 20th July.

- **Computer Centre @ Refuge-** As announced in the Joint Board Meeting, we plan to inaugurate Computer Centre at The Refuge on 15th August, 2024 along with flag hoisting. It also comes under the Easy School Initiative of our District. The center needs 11 computers of which 7 are sponsored by Rtn. Nirmal Nahata and 4 will be given by our Club. We also need to get the face lifting done.
- **Appointment of teacher for Computer Training & Spoken English:** President Preeti announced that a teacher has been appointed to teach both computer and English for grades 7 to 12 every day. This will be a vocational training session for the whole year.
- **Appraisal on Sewing Class @ our RCC:** President informed that we need to fix some other new activities apart from our doctor's chamber. Rtn. Yugal Sikri, Rakesh Khanna and President Rtn. Preeti will be going to RCC to discuss the way forward.
- **Cleft Lip Surgery (CLS) Update:** Under the guidance of Rtn. Dr. Kalyan Sarkar & our honorary Rtn. Dr. Chatterjee, a letter has been sent to ABMSS for our participation in CLS and they have reciprocated that they would sign the MOU with our club soon. To identify children with cleft lips, health camps will be organized every quarter in the periphery of Kolkata.
- **Ram Krishna Mission Blind Boys Academy (RKMBBA) visit:** President apprised about our annual pilgrimage visit to RKMBBA on Sunday 25th August, 2024.
- **Scholarship Program of 4 students pursuing BCA & B.Com respectively-** President informed that Navjyoti has asked for the scholarship for 4 students whom the club had sponsored in the last year. Members expressed that an SOP should be defined clearly and a team should be formed to look into it.
- **Joint Projects with our Inner Wheel (IW):** President apprised that our IW has expressed their interest on doing joint projects. We have been doing I-Day and Visit to RKMBBA previously and now they want to join hands for Cervical Cancer Vaccine which was agreed upon by members.

- **Matrishakti:** President updated the floor about the ongoing Matrishakti project. We had our project on 6th July,'24. 17 mothers were given nutritious food, 4 cases were completed and we have 13 cases for our next camp on 3rd August, 2024.
- **Antakshri Announcement:** President also apprised about an Inter-Club Antakshri Competition. It will be an evening full of music & fun with Rotary Club of Calcutta Mayfair on 10th August, 2024 at Haldiram Banquets. Rajat Baid will be conducting the event. It will be a fellowship followed by drinks and dinner. Our FC Mayuri & Vikram will get in touch with members for participation.
- **Kolkata Kettle:** President informed the floor about the need to book venue for 6th edition of our fund-raiser Kolkata Kettle. A cheque for advance payment was issued.
- **Any other matter:** Following announcements were made: 8 members from Midtown attended Udbodhan, the Installation Ceremony of our DG on 1st July, 2024 at Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium.

Our Rotarian Rtn. Nirmal Nahata was felicitated at DG's Installation as he's committed to contribute 1000\$ to TRF.

Our club had won 2 Awards & 1 Certificate of Merit for the year 2023-2024. President congratulated PP Rtn. Ankush Khanna and the floor gave a standing ovation to his dedication & commitment that had got laurels to our Club. The awards are:

- 1) Award for Women empowerment.
- 2) Award for Environment.
- 3) Certificate of Merit for Mother & Child.

A prospect Ms. Anuradha introduced herself.

- **Secretary's Report:** Secretary Rtn. Ruchira Bhuwalka announced the attendance of 52% as 26 members were present. She announced the Birthdays & Anniversaries.


Sergeant's Time: Rtn. Sahil Desai did a humorous act and did a collection of Rs. 9100/-

- **Meeting Closed:** President Rtn. Preeti Agarwal closed the meeting.

Minuted by:

Rtn. Ruchira Bhuwalka

Secretary 2024-25 RCCM



Rotary

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say, or do

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships.

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Cervical cancer vaccination awareness programme for parents/guardians of the girls conducted at The Refuge on Saturday, 22nd June 2024.

Conducted by Rotarian Dr. Lalita Seth and the trained staff of The Serum Institute. Extraordinary efforts by Rtn Nirmal Nahta in making all the arrangements.



50 Beneficiaries vaccinated for Cervical Cancer at Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute.



1st Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown meeting on 11th July, 2024 for year 2024-2025



Birthday's

"Cheers to another wonderful year"



Ktm. Samir Doshi (16th July)



Ktm. Vikash Choudhary (16th July)



Ktm. Hardeep Singh (16th July)

