



Suburban Potpourri

(Monthly Bulletin of RCT Suburban)

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Dear Rotarians:

The Magic of Rotary is belonging, and it's a feeling that can appear when you least expect it.

Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president's representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the U.S.

It wasn't long before Cechova tracked down my grandmother's village, Jakubova Vol'a. She even organized a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome.

When I entered the community center of Jakubova Vol'a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community center and heard traditional music from my childhood — when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played — I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother's house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I burst into tears of joy at the memories.

But the magic didn't stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community center.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin's home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle, and my grandmother.

Since then, I can't stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I'm not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community center listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club — other members of our Rotary family — feel like they truly belong.

Stephanie A. Urchick

RI President

August 2024



District Governor Dinesh Mehta's Message for Our Club Bulletin

Dear Awesome President C. S. Joshi and Members of the Rotary Club of Thane Suburban,

First of all, warm greetings from First Lady Jyoti and myself.

September in the Rotary world is designated as "**Basic Education and Literacy**" Month. Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. Education is not about filling a pail but lighting a fire that desires to know and experience. As Mahatma Gandhi so eloquently put it, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

September is also the month when we welcome Lord Ganesha. It is a festival celebrated with great fervor and devotion within homes and community pandals. Jyoti joins me in invoking the blessings of the Lord for our extended Rotary family. This time of year is also marked by the visit of the beloved King Mahabali during Onam, celebrated with the traditional Onam Sadya feast. We hope you enjoy this sumptuous meal at the District Onam Celebration.

August proved to be a month of remarkable progress. Two new clubs received their charter, and we were able to grow our membership by nearly 400 members who are committed to putting service above self. Kudos to the Membership Team and DMC Ravi Iyer. The TRF Team also achieved the Mark Maloney Challenge, with 100% of clubs in the district contributing \$100 each.

We have made significant strides in our Mega Projects. The Cervical Cancer Vaccination Project is well underway, with plans to donate over 2,500 vaccines by the end of September. The "**Samvidhan Ka Amrit Mahotsa**" project has also been enthusiastically embraced by many clubs in the district.

In the first two months of this Rotary year, we have distributed nearly 9,000 Ideal Study Apps. Our endeavor is that community service goes beyond providing kits and apps by involving the children, for as a famous man once said, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." With this in mind, we have set up the Tech Lab Project, establishing computer labs in eight TMC schools with the help of a CSR grant from Goldman Sachs, Bangalore. The focus will be on learning through involvement, avoiding spoon-feeding, because in the long run, all that spoon-feeding teaches you is the shape of the spoon.

September promises to be another month of awesome community service, and I urge each and every one of you to bring the magic of Rotary into the lives of our community. May Lord Ganpati Bappa and King Mahabali shower us all with their blessings.

With warm regards

Yours in Rotary Service

DG Dinesh Mehta

District Governor RID 3142



Some Famous Quotes for the Rotary Archives:

1. "All organization that is wholly selfish cannot last long. If we, as a Rotary club, expect to survive and grow, we must do some things to justify our existence. We must perform a civic service". **Donald Carter - 1906.**
2. "Friendship was the foundation rock on which Rotary was built and tolerance is the element which holds it together." **Paul Harris - 1948.**
3. "The Rotary Foundation is not to build monuments of brick and stone. If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work on brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with the meaning of the spirit of Rotary. we are engraving on those tablets something that will brighten all eternity." **Arch C. Klumph - 1929.**

From The Desk Of Club President

Dear Suburbanites:

Just now, we all have completed our second month of current Rotary Year while creating **Magic of Rotary** in **Awesome** way among the beneficiaries in the society. Our club members along with Anns and Annets have been supporting our club in wonderful way for various club activities.

In the month of August 2024, we carried out following projects for our club as part of giving back to the society which have helped us to grow to this level.

1. **Distribution of 10th Study Apps** among the students in Vivekanand High school in Kalwa. We also distributed about 75 study apps in 4 different schools in Solapur district.
2. **Donation of Spectacles** for students of St. Joseph English School. Eyes of about 183 students and 16 staff members were checked and out of that about 60 students were diagnosed having some issues in their eye sights. The club would be sponsoring spectacles for those students.
3. **Ganapati making workshop** using Shadu Mati (sculptures soil) for 9th and 10th standard students of R J Thakur English Highschool. About 75 students and 8 teacher participated in this workshop.

As part of developing bonding, we had requested Rtn. Ar. Hemant Arora to share his knowledge about Funicular systems and Ropeway systems as he has designed and developed few of them. Since this concept is new in India, members liked the presentation.

We also requested PP Vijay Kewalramani to share his knowledge about Internationality of Rotary and how it helps to all the Rotarians and especially when we Rotarians or kith and kin travel abroad.

Warm Regards,

C. S. Joshi

Your Club President.

Projects Completed

- ⇒ **10th Study App Distribution in Vivekanand High school**



Thanks a lot to PP Surendra Deshpande ji to identify Vivekanand Highschool a school in Kalwa giving cost-effective education to the students living in adjoining economically weaker section areas. Our club distributed about 50 nos of 10th study app coupons to those students and teachers so that the students can excel in their 10th exams.

- ⇒ **Spectacles Donation after Eye Check up camp at St. Joseph English School**



Thanks to PP Bhushan Mulye for identifying this need of students from economically weaker section areas studying in St. Joseph Highschool. After screening about 183 students of this school, the eye hospital recognized that about 50 to 60 students may need spectacles and considering this requirement, the board of directors of our club have approved Rs. 15,000.00 towards donation of the spectacles of these students. Once we get the exact details, the money would be given to the spectacle makers directly.

- ⇒ **Workshop of Environmental Friendly Ganapati Idol Making at R J Thakur English Highschool**

Considering the astounding success for this project in last year, this year we decided to repeat this project at the same school for our interact members. For this year's project, our club's youth services director Rtn. Aarti Palsikar took the lead. About 75 students and 8 teachers participated from the school in this workshop.

During this workshop the students learned about environment, preserving our water sources, team work, art, sculpture skills, etc. The students as well as the teachers enjoyed this session and made wonderful Ganesh idols from Sculptures' soil (शाडूची माती). They mixed the soil with right amount of water, prepared the intricately carved idols and some of them even adorned them with physical ornaments, also.



Installation Of Interact Club

On 30th August, following new Interact team was installed:



- President** — Sanket Dineshkumar Kumawat (9th C)
- Vice President** — Sahil Kishor Salunke (9th A)
- Secretary** — Kritika Sunil Varma (9th B)
- Jt. Secretary** — Bhargavi Baliram Panchal (9th B)
- Treasurer** — Chetana Ganesh Chaudhari (9th A)

Donation For Eye Surgery Of Sr. KG Student

During the eye check up camp at St. Joseph school, it was found that one of the students is having Corneal Scar in her left eye and was advised to undergo "Left Eye Lens Aspiration + PPC + Anti Vit. + IOL implantation under general anaesthesia". The doctors estimated the cost of surgery as Rs. 60,000.00 and contacted IPP Ashish Moghe to support the surgery of this student. Considering the donation appeal, our members donors PP Dilip Gatty (Rs. 5,000), PP Apoorva Vaidya (Rs. 2,000), IPP Ashish Moghe (Rs. 2,000) and PP Arun Mahaldar (Rs. 1,000) donated money for this surgery. The club added Rs. 5,000.00 from it's own funds and made a cheque payment of Rs. 15,000.00 to the hospital towards the surgery of this girl child.

