



RID 3291
Rotary
Garden Reach



December 24th, 2024 - Vol. 47 No. 23

2294th Regular Weekly Meeting
Annual Club Meeting
Attendance: 18

Birthday Greetings
Dec 25th R'let Aditya, Son of Rtn. Dr. Amitabh Ray

Light

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

St. Francis of Assisi - "For it is in giving that we receive."



It's a joy to see all of you gathered here to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year—Christmas! This season is all about love, sharing, and togetherness. It's a time to create memories, appreciate the blessings in our lives, and spread kindness to those around us. Whether it's the sparkle of lights, the joy of carols, or the warmth of being with loved ones, this celebration brings us all closer together. Let's enjoy the moments, cherish the joy, and make this Christmas celebration truly unforgettable.

The significance of Christmas is known to everyone. As we all know Christmas is celebrated as the day of the birth of Jesus Christ in this world and it symbolises the significance of life. He was born in a world that only knew greed, hatred, vengeance, and hypocrisy. Despite all the negativity that was spreading around the world as he grew old, he eliminated all of it and taught everyone to love each other and the significance of how being grateful for what a person has can bring peace to the world.

Christmas is enjoyed to its fullest by kids as they get gifts from Santa Claus. Gifts are exchanged on Christmas to signify the birth of Jesus. Sharing a gift and having a meal with each other helps everyone to realise how grateful they are to have a family that cares.

The world was full of hate, anger, and hypocrisy when Christ was born but in spite of that, he was able to change people's hearts and fill them with joy. It is the time of the year to realise helping the poor is the noblest deed. It is a festival that spreads warmth in every individual.

It is time to be grateful for what you have. It is time to spend time with family and friends and also share food and gifts with poor people. So, this Christmas make sure to be grateful, spread happiness, and enjoy it to the fullest.

"Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day."



PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE
ENVIRONMENT

The Rotary International Christmas Tree



How awesome is the Rotary International Christmas Tree designed by Rotary District 7570?!? The tree represents Rotary's worldwide membership and Rotary's mission to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. The flags represent various countries of our members, the Rotary wheel, created by a local artisan using a 3-D printer, is the international symbol of Rotary, and the Christmas ornaments represent different cultures throughout the world. The gifts underneath the Christmas tree each demonstrate one of Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus: Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution, Disease Prevention and Treatment, Water and Sanitation, Maternal and Child health, Basic Education and Literacy, Economic and Community Development & Supporting the Environment.





Rotary Peterborough continues nearly century-long Christmas tradition

The Rotary Club of Peterborough will continue its longstanding tradition of spreading holiday cheer with its annual



Easter Seals Children's Christmas Party. The event, which has been a cornerstone of the club's community service since the 1930s, will take place on Saturday from 11am to 1pm in the lower level of Peterborough Square.

The party welcomes local children with physical disabilities and their families for an afternoon of crafts, activities, and festive fun. 20 families have been invited to attend, with the highlight being Santa Claus's arrival at noon to deliver presents to the children.

Established in 1921, the Rotary Peterborough has a proud history of supporting both local initiatives, such as Five Counties Children's Centre and school breakfast programs, and global efforts like polio eradication.

Program launches to fight deadly diseases in Africa

Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge will strengthen health systems in four countries

The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge, a three-year, US\$30 million program to combat disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zambia, has officially launched. Rotary International is partnering with the Gates Foundation and World Vision to target pneumonia, malaria, and diarrheal diseases, which are among the leading causes of death for young children and other vulnerable populations in these countries.

"Our goal is to empower communities by strengthening their health systems, ensuring that every child has access to life-saving care," says Larry Mapani, the program's lead in Zambia and a member of the Rotary Kitwe, Zambia. "This program not only addresses urgent health challenges but also lays the groundwork for a healthier future, where all children can thrive and reach their full potential."

The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge aims to reach an estimated 3.5 million people in 700,000 households. In addition to treating the targeted diseases, it will engage communities, raise awareness about the importance of treating disease early, and improve the collection and management of data. The latter are essential for accurate health reporting and informed decision making.

"This initiative marks a significant milestone in our shared fight against childhood health challenges," says Marc Nosbach, World Vision's national director for Zambia. "It demonstrates the power of united values and collective dedication when it comes to creating sustainable, lasting change for those most in need."

Despite substantial declines over the last 20 years, malaria, lower respiratory infections, and diarrheal diseases remain among the leading causes of death for children under five in sub-Saharan Africa. These three diseases killed about a million children in the region in 2017 alone, according to a 2021 study.

The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge uses an approach similar to that of Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia, the highly successful recipient of Rotary's first Programs of Scale award, in 2021. Like that program, the Healthy Communities Challenge will collaborate with local partners to strengthen existing health systems. It will train, equip, and deploy thousands of community health workers to reach children where they live.

"Rotary is committed to improving health outcomes by empowering communities," says Aloysius Dele Balogun, the program lead in Nigeria and a member of the Rotary Agege, Lagos State, Nigeria. "Through this initiative, we are equipping our community health care workers with the tools and training necessary to deliver life-saving services right where they are needed the most."

By training health workers and bolstering medical resources at the local level, the program is expected to yield benefits for each country far into the future.

"Community health workers are the heart of a resilient health system. Empowering them with the right tools and information can transform lives," says Abigail Pratt, senior program officer at the Gates Foundation. "This next phase of our partnership with World Vision and Rotary International will help ensure these dedicated individuals have the resources they need to protect children and build healthier communities."





PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



WATER AND SANITATION



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Like previous years, Health check-up camp was organised by Rotary Garden Reach on December 22nd, 2024 at Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Sevashram, Daspur, West Midnapore.

A total of 126 beneficiaries attended the camp who were examined by a team of 5 doctors, namely PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta, Rtn. Dr. Subrata Lahiri, Dr. Tapas Majumdar, and two DNB PGTs of Central Hospital, SER. Random blood sugar of 100 & ECG of 64 beneficiaries were done by technicians of Ekbalpur NH, supported by PP Kumud C Kar.

Free medicines were distributed among them. Also 40 blankets were distributed as per the list provided by the Sevashram.



Other Rotarians who attended the camp were: President Biswajit, IPP Shweta, PP Prosenjit, PP Amitav, PP Abinash, Rtn. Abbas, Rtn. Amar, Rtn. Anupam, Rtn. Tamal & Rtn. Santosh.

The camp started at 11 am and ended with community lunch at 3 pm.

Before we were to leave, all Rotarians offered veneration to Sri Sri Maa Sarada and donated Rs. 5000 to the Sevashram fund.





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SUPPORTING THE
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An Ode to Empowerment and Joy

Rtn. Neeraj Bhatnagar, Rotary Delhi South East Delhi

In hues of gold, blue, and green,

A vision of harmony is clearly seen.

With hands that lift, and hearts that care,

We build a world where dreams can dare.

Flowing waves of energy rise,

Connecting souls beneath vast skies.

Each life a purpose, each act a spark,

Illuminating paths through the dark.

Together we cast a magical thread,

Weaving hope where fear once tread.

Through kindness, respect, and mindful art,

We empower lives, ignite the heart.

For happiness grows in a shared embrace,

And usefulness shines in every space.

Let no one be left behind to strive,

Together, we help each soul to thrive.

In serving others, we find our light,

Creating joy, casting magic bright.

This is our pledge, our lasting creed,

To nurture the world and plant the seed.





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Minutes of the 2293rd RWM held on December 17th, 2024 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

1. President Biswajit Saha called the RWM to order and requested the Rotarians to rise for the National Anthem.
2. PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta updated the members about the medical camp held at Kolkata Mary Ward Social Center.
3. Upcoming Daspur Medical Camp is on December 22nd, 2024. Plans include distributing 50 blankets to the ashram. Camp coordinator Rtn. Amar Saha will finalize arrangements with the President by December 19th, 2024.
4. "Sammelan" RI District 3291 Conference scheduled for January 3rd-5th, 2025 at Nicco Park East Pavilion. President requested all members to register along with family.
5. Annual Sports Event of AHEAD on December 23rd, 2024. Food packets for participants will be sponsored by Rotary Garden Reach. Support for AHEAD School Sports Carnival: Rotary Garden Reach will provide refreshments for the participants. Contributions pledged: PP Dr. Sumanta ₹ 2,000, PN Dr. BN Jha, Rtn. Abbas, Rtn. Santosh and PP Prosenjit ₹ 1,000 each.
6. Committee Formation for BNROC Venue. A committee was formed to discuss and negotiate the hike in the usage fees for the club hall at BNROC for weekly meetings and other programs. Members: PE Mohan, PP Dr. Arabinda Ray, PN Dr. BN Jha, PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta, and PP Prosenjit Barua.
7. Club Secretary conducted the club business.
8. On confirmation of the minutes, President Biswajit terminated the meeting.



WE MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7.30 P.M. AT B. N. R. OFFICERS' CLUB. GARDEN REACH, KOLKATA - 700 043
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