

# A little bit of



# Service



RID 3291  
**Rotary**  
Garden Reach



July 09th, 2024 - Vol. 47 No. 02

2273rd Regular Weekly Meeting  
Attendance: 18

# Light

**WEEKLY NEWS LETTER**

Birthday Greetings

July 10th : Spouse Rajshree  
Wife of PP Sanjay Bhatt  
July 11th : Spouse Dr. Payal  
Wife of Rtn. Dr. Amitabh Ray  
Sourav, Son of PP Chinmay Pal

## Health of Mothers and Children – the Focus of Rotary

*An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care, and poor sanitation – all of which can be prevented. Women in the 20th century have achieved significant progress in the economically progressive areas of the world, but women and girls in non-developed countries have a much more difficult life and must accept their inferior social status and tend to fall into traditional roles.*

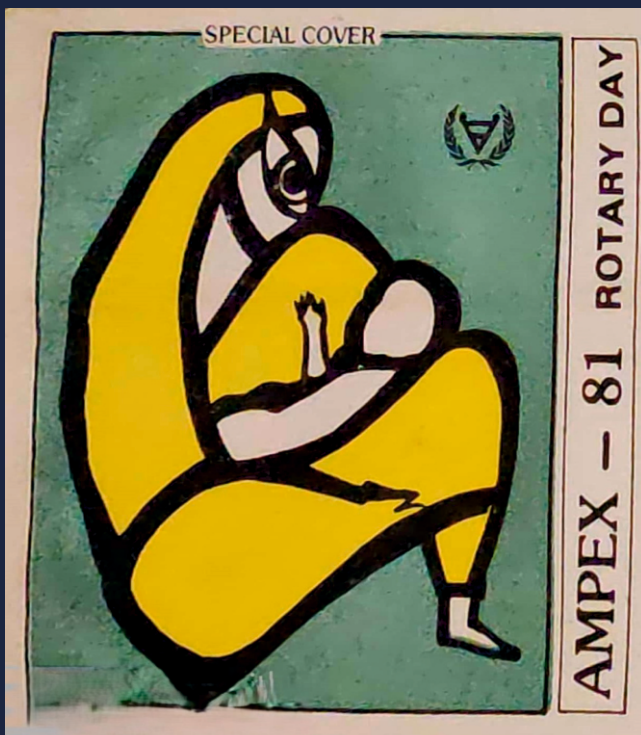
*Young women in non-developed countries often have to share small, cramped, inadequate shelter with their extended families, controlled by customs and values of their parents and their grandparents. They are often married off before age 18, some under 13, not only depriving them of the opportunity for education, but resulting in the number of pregnancy-related complications for girls not physiologically ready to bare children. Rotary aims to reduce 30% of maternal deaths through family planning and ultimately empower women for their sakes and the benefit of their communities.*

*New mothers in Tepehua, Chapala, Mexico have to travel more than an hour by public bus to Guadalajara for immediate pre- and post-natal care. After only one overnight stay they are all returned by bus with their babies to their village, with its poor conditions which threaten the health of both mother and child.*

*To save children born with congenital heart defects in rural areas of China the Rotary Richmond Sunrise has also partnered with clubs in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Switzerland, with a global grant from The Rotary Foundation, to provide heart surgeries to children of poor families.*

*These are just two examples of the worldwide outreach and generous support of clubs in our District for those mothers and children in need.*

*Rotary provides education, immunizations, birth kits, and mobile health clinics. Women are taught how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission, breast-feed, and protect themselves and their children from disease. Rotary programs improve women's access to skilled health personnel, distribute clean birth kits, teach mothers how to breast-feed, promote immunizations and regular check-ups, and distribute insecticide-treated bed nets. Thanks to our clubs around the world and The Rotary Foundation we help mothers and children in need so they can take control of their own maternal and infant health care and their lives.*





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## Make Rotary irresistible

*How will you make your club “irresistible” to your members, and foster a “sense of belonging” in them? This is my challenge to you,” said RI President Stephanie Urchick, while addressing a general session at the RI Convention in Singapore.*

While there would be so many different ways of doing so, she gave them one example of how the Rotary Holyoke in Massachusetts, US, grew its membership by making some changes and adopting some innovations in the immediate aftermath of the Covid pandemic. “Turning this setback into a strength, the club started meeting in the community room at the local library, and now it gets lunch from a nearby deli. Lunch costs \$10 per person, but it’s optional. Folks can bring their own lunch if they want, and attending the meeting is free of charge for those who don’t buy lunch. What a great way to work towards being fair to all concerned.” Since then, RC –Holyoke has gained 13 new members, she said, amidst applause.

Of course, one change did not mean any club could afford to stop focusing on the club experience. “But making lunch more flexible in meetings did something important for Holyoke — it fostered a sense of inclusivity by acknowledging and adapting to different considerations, the first step toward belonging.”



She urged club leaders to make changes to give members a greater sense of belonging, and the best practice was to ask both existing and prospective members what they expected from the club experience and Rotary membership. Once they get the feedback, “you might find that some members don’t feel like they fit in or that the club experience is not compelling to prospective members.” Here, Rotary’s Action Plan can help, as it has tools to collect feedback, assess the club’s strong points, identify areas to improve, and address challenges, she added.

Stephanie said that in a constantly changing world Rotary clubs couldn’t afford to stand still. “But the changes we make need to be consistent and strategic and towards a greater vision, which will give you the continuity you need to create effective change within your club. Following the Action Plan and addressing suggestions from the community will go a long way to foster the sense of belonging we want all Rotary members to feel in their existing or new clubs.”

This was where, she added, *the importance of “expanding our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is so important. Anyone who has the heart and hands for service belongs in Rotary, and 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 club.”*

With a focus on inclusivity and belonging, it’s easier to be united for common goals, and members committing to each other’s well-being was the first step to expand Rotary’s reach and spread positive peace in these troubled times.





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## Becoming a “Family Friendly Rotary Club”

DG Dan Hall

In our Rotary world, December is “Family Month.” Family Month celebrates the family of Rotary, which, in addition to individual Rotarians, includes all of those who are involved in Rotary's work from Rotary Foundation program alumni to participants in Rotary youth programs in thousands of communities around the world.

Spouses and the children (and grandchildren) of Rotarians play a vital role in Rotary too. Rotary clubs benefit immensely when they strive to achieve a balanced interaction between Rotarians and their families, enhancing home lives and family interactions.

*In my home club, we have a person designated to be aware of both the positive and the sad things that occur within our “family of Rotary.” Should a member, his or her spouse, or other family member suffer an injury, illness, or even death, our “Family of Rotary” designee will make sure a “get well” or sympathy card is sent and, when appropriate, flowers are sent in behalf of our club.*

Likewise, at every meeting, our club president asks for announcements from “our Family members,” of any positive developments in their lives. Responses cost a dollar (for our High School scholarship fund) but that doesn't detour members who are happy to tell their friends about birthdays, anniversaries, promotions, or about the achievements of a spouse, son, daughter, or grandchild. As a Rotary family, we appreciate and enjoy this positive news with our Rotary “brothers or sisters.” Over time, we grow to not only know our fellow members better, but to truly appreciate each other's lives.

In fact, one of the great joys of Rotary membership is the wonderful relationships we establish with people we would never have known outside the framework of Rotary. Having listened, with my heart, to what our **RI President Kalyan Banerjee** has said about the 2011/2012 Rotary theme, “Reach Within to Embrace Humanity,” he is really



**He asks us to first embrace and support those family members who are closest to us such as our spouse, children, parents, and other family members. Then he asks us**





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**to reach out in club service to our local community and then to the world.** A correct order of priorities don't you think?

*Here are some more ideas (from Rotarians around the world) to strengthen and include a Rotarian's family in our great organization:*

- 1) Invite the family members to our important programs. Invite them for dinner meetings. Arrange picnics and short trips to keep our family commitments and to have better fellowship. The three Lee's Summit Rotary Clubs recently had a hayride and hotdogs family event at the Rotary Youth Camp which members and their families really enjoyed.
- 2) Plan several club fellowship activities per year that includes family and friends of Rotarians. For example, you could take your members, family and friends to a baseball game and bill it as "Strike-out Polio Day."
- 3) When the District Governor makes his official visit to our club, we make it a special event and invite our club members' family and friends.
- 4) I feel the key to continued active membership is to open a line of communication between our club and our members' family so that they understand why their family member is involved in Rotary. Who knows they may want to join themselves or become supporters?
- 5) Having a Friends of Rotary (email or mailing address of family & non-Rotarian supporters) list helps to keep them informed of club activities in which they may want to participate.
- 6) Be a "family friendly club" and invite the kids -- some Rotarians may frown upon children at meetings because they feel that the parent may not be in control of their child. I guess the question would be, "How can we reach out to children of other families (locally and internationally) and not include the children of our own Rotarians?"
- 7) (The following idea is from a 33 year old mother & Rotary member) Encourage provision of child care facilities during conferences or events like districts conferences, conventions and other similar Rotary events. I like to attend major Rotary conferences and it becomes a struggle when you have to travel out of your area as it is difficult getting child care during the conference. Rotary should enable young members to participate in conferences with their family. It is not a curse for Young Rotarians to join Rotary and so they should be supported towards fulfilling their Rotary desires.

Remember to reach the goodness within yourself as you embrace your family members, your Rotary family, your community and the world through Rotary service.





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**On July 1st, 2024, Rotary Garden Reach in association with SE Railways Central Hospital celebrated Doctor's Day by felicitating 6 Women Cancer Survivors & 10 Doctors. In total 18 members of the Club had attended the do.**

**Special mention to PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta for organising the beautiful event.**



*"A doctor, lawyer, and a Rotarian in charge of fundraising all die and arrive at the Pearly Gates about the same time. St. Peter tells them they may each have one thing to take with them to Heaven.*

*The doctor is first, and asks for \$1 million. This is given and proceeds to enter Heaven. The lawyer, not to be outdone, asks for \$2 million. "Very well," say St. Peter and opens the gate to Heaven for the lawyer.*

*Finally, it is time for the Rotarian, who had just finished a fundraising project for The Rotary Foundation. St. Peter asks him what he would like to take to Heaven. The fundraiser moves up very close to St. Peter, and in a soft voice asks, "It's not too much trouble, could I just have the names of those two people who were ahead of me in line?"*"





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## **Minutes of the 2271st RWM held on June 18th, 2024 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach**

1. President Rtn. Shweta called the meeting to order and requested the members to stand for the National Anthem.
2. IPP Shweta called upon incoming President Biswajit and the Secretary to the top table and the ceremoniously the Hammer & Gavel was handed over to the President.
3. Prospective member, Mr. Amar Saha was introduced by PP Kumud. Mr. Saha has also been a part of the Medical Camp at RCC Joypur and also attended the Changeover Ceremony on July 1st, 2024.
4. President Biswajit requested PP Naresh to brief the members on the medical camp at RCC Joypur.
5. President Biswajit requested IPP Shweta to elaborate on the project done on Doctor's Day at SE Railways Central Hospital on July 1st, 2024.
6. Discussions had about the upcoming blood donation camp at Maheshtala, Nabarun Samity on July 14th, 2024.
7. Discussions carried out about the proposed medical camp at Shyamnagar on August 11th, 2024. The medical camp was proposed by PP Tanu.
8. Installation Chair, PP Mousumi briefed the members about the plans & programmes for the 47th Installation Ceremony. Reporting time for members has been fixed at 1730 hrs.
9. Rotary Garden Reach have received 10 awards at the "Swikriti" - District Awards for 2023-24. Rotary Garden Reach won the 1st Prize in the Club Bulletin category.
10. The Club Secretary conducted the Club business.
11. On confirmation of the minutes, President Biswajit terminated the meeting.