

**"YOU ARE THE
LIGHT
OF THE WORLD..."**

RID 3291, Zone-16
Rotary
Garden Reach



2356th RWM

SERVICE REIMAGINED



**SERVICE
ABOVE SELF**

**YOUTH, PURPOSE &
THE FUTURE OF ROTARY**



**EMPATHY
IN ACTION**



**SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**



**EMPOWERING
EDUCATION**



**STRONGER
TOGETHER**



**LEADERSHIP
THAT INSPIRES**



"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD..."

Birthday Greetings

May 8th : Akanksha, Daughter of PP Naresh K Jain
May 9th : Dr. Abhishek, Son of PP Dr. Arabinda Ray

Anniversary Greetings

May 9th : Spouse Shikhadyuti & PP Kumud C Kar
Spouse Rajshree & PP Sanjay Bhatt
May 10th : Spouse Kiran & PP Dr. JK Singh



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Service, Reimagined: Youth at the Helm of Rotary's Next Chapter

PP Tanu Roy

There is a quiet shift underway. Today's youth are not disengaged—they are discerning. They do not reject service; they question its authenticity, its impact, and its relevance. The difference is subtle but profound. For many young people, "Service" is no longer about charity alone—it is about agency, sustainability, and visible change.

This evolution presents both a challenge and an extraordinary opportunity for Rotary International.

The Youth Lens: Service with Purpose

Young volunteers today are less interested in ceremonial service and more invested in meaningful engagement. They ask: Does this solve a real problem? Is it measurable? Is it scalable? The days of one-off drives without continuity are losing appeal.

This is not apathy—it is maturity.

A student who organises a climate awareness campaign wants to see reduced waste in their locality, not just applause on social media. A young professional volunteering for education initiatives expects long-term learning outcomes, not just distribution of supplies. Service, for them, is impact-driven storytelling backed by evidence.

Rotary's long-standing ideals—Service Above Self—still resonate. But the language must evolve to match this new mind-set.

From Participation to Ownership

Youth engagement often falters when it is limited to execution without empowerment. Many young Rotarians and Interactors feel like participants rather than stakeholders.

To change this, Rotary must move from inviting youth into projects to handing them the blueprint.

Imagine Interactors leading flagship projects, not just assisting them. Imagine Rotary clubs becoming platforms where young minds design, pilot, and scale solutions—whether in climate action, digital literacy, or public health.

Ownership transforms service into identity.

Bridging Tradition with Innovation

Rotary's credibility is its greatest asset. Its global network, legacy projects, and ethical foundation provide a strong backbone. However, youth thrive at the intersection of innovation and immediacy.

To resonate with them, Rotary must embrace:

- ✓ **Digital-first storytelling**
- ✓ **Data-backed impact reporting**



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PREVENTION

✓ **Collaborative, cross-sector projects**

A tree plantation drive, for instance, can become a tracked environmental initiative with survival rates, geo-tagging, and community involvement. This is the language young volunteers understand—and trust.

Recasting Public Image: From Legacy to Living Movement

Rotary is respected, but not always visible to the younger generation. The gap is not in work—it is in perception.

Youth can be Rotary’s most powerful brand ambassadors if empowered correctly.

They can elevate Rotary’s public image by:

❖ **Telling real stories, not formal reports**

Short-form videos, reels, and blogs showcasing transformation—not just activity.

❖ **Making service aspirational**

Positioning volunteering as leadership, not obligation.

❖ **Connecting causes to contemporary issues**

Climate anxiety, mental health, digital divide—these are the issues that define today’s youth.

❖ **Building personal brands aligned with Rotary values**

When young members wear Rotary as part of their identity, visibility becomes organic.

The Interactor Advantage

Interact clubs are not just feeders into Rotary—they are incubators of change. If nurtured well, they can become innovation labs where experimentation is encouraged and failure is part of learning.

The role of Rotary here is not to direct—but to mentor.

When Interactors feel heard, they don’t just stay—they lead.

A Cultural Shift, Not a Cosmetic One

Improving Rotary’s public image is not about better posters or polished newsletters. It requires a deeper cultural shift:

❖ **From hierarchy to collaboration**

❖ **From legacy pride to future readiness**

❖ **From activity to impact**

Youth are not asking Rotary to change its values—they are asking it to express them in a way that feels alive, urgent, and relevant.

The Way Forward

If Rotary can align its timeless principles with the energy and expectations of today’s youth, it will not just remain relevant—it will become indispensable.

The future of service does not belong to institutions alone. It belongs to those who can inspire belief, enable action, and demonstrate impact.

Rotary already has the foundation.

The youth bring the momentum.

Together, they can transform service from a noble duty into a powerful movement—visible, credible, and impossible to ignore.



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& TREATMENT



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SANITATION
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
& LITERACY



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ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



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DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT



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MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



Rotary Garden Reach pays heartfelt tribute to Rtn. Rangan Dhar, a valued member since 2006 and Past President (2018–19).

A Rotarian in the truest sense, he led with humility, quiet strength, and an unwavering commitment to service. His year as President reflected grace in leadership and a deep dedication to Rotary’s ideals.

As we bid farewell to a life so beautifully lived, we hold on to the values he stood for and the legacy he leaves behind. His contributions to Rotary Garden Reach will continue to inspire us, and his memory will remain etched in our hearts.

Rotary builds Positive Peace with dialogue based “Pieces of Peace” in the community

Dr. Anu Narula, Director, Rotary Action Group for Peace

How does Rotary build Peace in our local communities around the world? This is a rhetorical question to which we all know the answer. My friend and former Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP), Michael Hayes has given us a powerful metaphor in the form of **“Pieces of Peace”** to connote the value of events and programs that we organize to promote Positive Peace as the most powerful tool to support “cohesive and resilient” communities around the world. Today, I feel grateful in sharing the essence and the ethos of 3 Dialogue based Peace Building programs organised by the Peace Building Committee of my home club of Canton in District 6910 in this Rotary year (2025-26).

The first program was one of a kind global hybrid program, which was virtually attended by Rotarians from our district and all across India entitled, **“Impact of Climate Change on Positive Peace”** by Rtn. Chaitanya Narula. This



was an eye opener on ways in which Climate Change and environmental degradation is a “threat multiplier” for millions of vulnerable families living on the margins of society around the world. Chaitanya cited scientific data to support his view that the offshoots of climate change in the form of catastrophic unnatural disasters like drought, floods, fires, hurricanes and High Wet Bulb Temperatures caused by the melting ice cover have wreaked havoc with conditions of “positive peace” both among marginalized and mainstream communities around the world. Millions of families around the world have lost their



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DISEASE
PREVENTION
& TREATMENT



WATER,
SANITATION
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

homes and become vulnerable to food insecurity and scarcity of water in the wake of climate change, thus unleashing mutual conflict and conditions of “negative peace,” according to Chaitanya.

The extremely high levels of pollution in air and water resulting from over consumption of fossil fuels and non-perishable, non-recycled waste have resulted in a multitude of health crises for humans and contamination of oceans, in the view of Chaitanya, thus adversely impacting the populace of aquatic creatures. The problem-solving measures that can resolve conflict and promote “Positive Peace” among communities beleaguered by the extreme effects of climate change induced by global warming suggested in Chaitanya’s presentation, included an appeal to reduce carbon footprint, increase the production of renewable energy, and wide spread use of recycling. Chaitanya pointed out that Rotary is active in finding solutions through the programs of the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Rotary Action Group and the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG), which supports programs such as ‘Million Solar Panels’ ‘Operation Pollination,’ and “Plant Rich Diet” etc.

The second presentation entitled, “Community Relations and Public Safety as the Benchmarks of Peace Keeping in Rotary” by the Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services Chief Eddie Robinson shed light on the ways in which the Fire & Emergency Services personnel play a role in ensuring “Positive Peace” among community members by keeping families safe and striving to create a culture of mutual trust and respect for one another. Chief Robinson quoted Dr. Martin Luther King and pleaded for the “power of love and light” as the driving forces of community relations. Chief Robinson affirmed that “Peace is not created by accident; it’s created when people decide that every life has value, that every voice deserves to be heard, that service is as important as the vision.” Chief Robinson expressed his gratitude for Rotary for the culture of “Service above Self,” and made a case for mutual understanding, good will, dignity, and forgiveness in community relations.

The third program for Peace Building organized by my Peace Builder club committee for the Early Act club sponsored by my home club of Canton is the closest to my heart by virtue of the wisdom that I gained as a lifelong educator who taught and learnt from those who we call “the new/next generations” in Rotary. This was a Peace program started by my Peace Building team in 2025 and continued in 2026 as “Peace 2.0: Start with the Children.” It revolved around the continued participation of children in the class of Ms. Campbell in the Liberty Elementary School in Cherokee County in my home state of Georgia. We started this dialog-based program with a visual presentation about the Peace Building Mission of Rotary and shared the vision of global pall bearers of Peace, Non-Violence, and Community Service like Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Mother Teresa. Our team members elicited response from each student on their very own strategies for building Peace and harmony both inside and outside the school. All of the responses from the students manifested a mature emphasis on values of kindness, caring, learning from their teachers, and mutual respect. This dialogue-based exchange reminded me of the wisdom of Einstein who claimed that “Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.” I am very grateful to Principal of the Liberty of Elementary School, Rotarian Dr. Sandi Harrison for allowing my Rotary Club of Canton Peace Building team to organize this program.

I am so grateful to current Rotary Action Group Chair, Tijana Ristic for publishing this piece on “Pieces of Peace” in the RAGFP Newsletter as an illustration of Peace Building events that can be replicated by Rotary Clubs among their local communities around the world.

This ethos of all of these programs can be concluded in the following words of the Past Rotary International President (2023-24) Gordon McNally that made me and my son Krishna enriched at the R.I. Convention in Melbourne in 2023, *“To create hope, we must continue to do our most important work and to do it even better than before. We must build Peace across the globe and we must help each other to find ‘Peace Within’ and share that ethic of care with the people we serve.”* Amen.

So you want to end polio?

Far from the vaccination front lines, the eradication fight begins in everyday spaces — thanks to enterprising Rotary members

In a college town on the shores of Lake Michigan, beer drinkers gather in a wood-paneled taproom to sample brews with names like Snowy Owl, Secret Stuff, and Funkin’ for Jamaica. Cute beer names are part of the charm at Sketchbook Brewing Co. in Evanston, Illinois. But one of October’s recipes owes its moniker to something much larger than whimsy.

“Purple Pinkie is named for the mark that children are given when they’re vaccinated against polio,” says Julie



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AND CONFLICT
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PREVENTION
& TREATMENT



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SANITATION
& HYGIENE



MATERNAL &
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Aubry, a member of the Rotary Evanston Nouveau. She’s referring to the splotch of indelible ink dabbed on a child’s pinkie to show they’ve already been vaccinated — a symbol of the historic campaign to rid the world of the disease.

That backstory is an opening to meaningful conversations that go far beyond the intricacies of craft brewing. “We like to think of it as an

educational opportunity to bring awareness to the fact that polio has not been eradicated, that it is still a fight that Rotary and other organizations are fighting,” Aubry says. Even the wheat ale’s distinctive taste is connected to the larger story: The brewers add coriander, pomegranate, and citrus zest in homage to the culinary flavours of Afghanistan and Pakistan, the only two countries where wild polio remains endemic. But this is not just about raising awareness. Aubry’s club collaborates with Sketchbook to create the limited-edition Purple Pinkie beer to direct proceeds to the eradication effort.

Aubry and other Evanston Nouveau members are gathered on the eve of World Polio Day 2025 to tell Sketchbook’s patrons about Purple Pinkie and the cause it supports. Erecting a large banner by a table in the middle of the bar, Aubry and Tom Woods arrange raffle prizes and a display that includes a vaccine cooler and a surprisingly cute plush toy in the shape of the polio virus. Customers can get Purple Pinkie on tap and take home four-packs of specially designed cans — purple, of course, featuring an arm raised triumphantly, pinkie extended.

A bespectacled young man named Dan, a student at nearby North-western University, grabs a four-pack from the cold case. “I usually do a mix of different varieties, so I’ll probably add this to the repertoire. It seems interesting,” he says. “When you can support a good cause, it’s always great. Unfortunately, with the current state of the world, polio has become more of a topic than it probably should be.”

Evanston Nouveau members got the idea for Purple Pinkie in 2022. “We were thinking about creative ways to get people interested in polio,” says Club President Gerald Farinas. “A lot of clubs do ‘pints for polio,’ where they’ll partner with a tavern and get them to contribute a couple of bucks from each drink. We thought, ‘We’ve got to go beyond that.’”

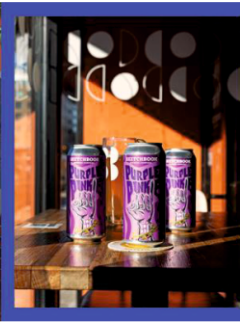
Working with Sketchbook, the club crafted a unique, memorable beer and an effective fund-raising plan. Each fall, Sketchbook donates a dollar from each pint of Purple Pinkie served on tap and another dollar for each four-pack sold. The campaign contributes \$2,000 to \$3,000 to the anti-polio effort. That may not sound like much, but multiplied by many hundreds of fundraisers across the globe, these World Polio Day efforts drive Rotary closer to its annual fundraising goal of \$50 million.

There’s something in it for the club’s partners at the brewery too. “The Rotary club makes a good amount of noise around it, so we get noticed. The entire buzz helps a lot,” says Cesar Marron, Sketchbook’s head brewer and managing partner. “It looks very different from our normal cans, so it brings in a lot of questions. It’s super unique.”

A couple of days later, the club held another Purple Pinkie event at Sketchbook’s other taproom in neighbouring Skokie, Illinois. Attendees got the chance to meet members of the Chicago Stars, a National Women’s Soccer League team the club has collaborated with before. Such connections have a lot to do with the fundraiser’s success, Farinas says. It was natural to reach out to Marron, whom some members were acquainted with. And to design that eye-catching Purple Pinkie can, the club tapped a staff member at Rotary’s world headquarters in Evanston, Chris Brown, an artist who has designed album covers and one other beer can for the brewery.

“It’s easier to go where you already have these relationships than to look for the best possible business partner you can think of,” Farinas says. “We could have done that, but then the negotiation would probably have been much more difficult. It’s easy to approach people you already know.”

Now that’s some treasured taproom advice. What else can we learn on a global tour of World Polio Day fundraising efforts? Plenty! Key among the findings: This is a golden opportunity for clubs to connect to the power of Rotary’s global network, bond your members through a meaningful long-term project, increase your visibility in the community, and, just as importantly, have some fun.



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THERE IS
GOOD IN
THE WORLD**

Rotary



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Why Indian armed forces are fearless

At one of the sessions at the Tejas Zone Institute in Delhi, **Brig. DS Basera**, Secretary of the Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB), Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence, enlightened a packed hall at the Manekshaw Centre on why people join our defence forces and why those guarding our nation are fearless.

General Manekshaw, after whom the venue was named, belonged to the Gorkha regiment; Basera was from the 35th Gorkha regiment as well. "In case of war, we are the first ones to be launched in any part of the country." Manekshaw was elevated as field marshal in 1973, in recognition for winning the 1971 war when Bangladesh was liberated. Basera himself was a third-generation officer from his family in the Indian Army. "My grandfather fought in World War II, was shot in the head, declared dead, and was awarded the military cross. After 21 days he came back alive, recovered, fought again and was again awarded the military cross!"

Despite all the travails he faced, he motivated Basera's father to join the Indian Army; he fought both in the 1962 and 1971 wars. "In the insurgency, my father lost his right-hand finger and was about to be withdrawn from the army. He remained in the same branch, served in various situations and motivated me to join the army at the age of 18. And today after 33 years of service and four years of training in the National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy, I stand before you. My son is with us, and he will join the Indian Army too."

When he was commissioned in 1992, the insurgency broke out in the northeast and he was involved in the counter insurgency operations, "where you do not know where your enemy is... as the enemy is within. So, we fought a different kind of warfare. And I still want my son to join the armed forces, despite all the challenges. You must be



wondering, despite getting shot in the head, losing limbs, and the challenges in my own service career, why do I want that."

The broader question, he added, was what inspires generations to join the armed forces time and again. **"It's naam, namak and nishan. Our naam is Bharat. Our namak is the soil, and our nishan is our national flag. For these**

three things, we can go to any extent."

One of the things that motivated the Indian soldiers and made them fearless was that "the soldiers and their families are taken care of while serving, after retirement and even after death. This is the reason that we are fearless. We don't have to fear. If we are alive, we have medals on our chest. If we are dead, our name is at the National War Memorial behind India Gate, written in golden words. Every day, thousands of people remember us. What bigger honour than to be wrapped in the national flag while departing from this world," Basera asked a mesmerised audience.

KSB looks after about 37 lakh ex-servicemen and promotes their welfare. Giving the genesis of the Manekshaw Centre where a part of the Tejas Institute was held, he said around 2009-10, various conclaves and discussions were held to discuss the armed forces. "We are the second largest armed forces in the world today, totalling over 14 lakh."



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DISEASE
PREVENTION
& TREATMENT



WATER,
SANITATION
& HYGIENE



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CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
& LITERACY



COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



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PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Of these, about 12 lakh are in the Indian Army, 1.5 lakh in the Air Force and 75,000–80,000 in the Navy. After these discussions it was decided to have an exclusive centre for the defence forces to hold their own meetings, conclaves etc., and the Manekshaw Centre came up in 2010.



DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

Coming to the crucial need to look after ex-servicemen and their families, Basera said that the Kargil war was the last he had fought at the age of 27. It was a short but intense and high-risk war, and required younger, and physically very fit soldiers and those without heavy family responsibility as a high casualty rate was a given in that war. “I had the privilege of participating in that war, where we were operating in minus 35–40 degree Celsius. Because we were young, we could sustain. But in just one week, I lost 12 of my battle mates, and of those the wives of four were pregnant.”



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

The consequence of a much younger army is that instead of the earlier retirement age of 50–55, today soldiers retire at around 35. “What happens then? While you are in the army, it’s all very good. You have seen the glamour of the Indian Army at the Republic Day parade. You’ve seen us moving around in peace situations. But not many of you get to see us when we are in difficult operational areas operating in extreme temperatures ranging between plus 50 degree C to minus 35 degree C.”



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

All this takes a big toll on the soldiers’ health. “Imagine the plight of a jawan retiring at age 35; what is our social responsibility towards him? How much can the government do for such a mighty force guarding such big borders?” As somebody who was involved in the welfare of 37 lakh ex-servicemen in India and Nepal, he sought help from Rotarians not only to help the families of those killed at the front, but also the young retired people who need to be re-employed, whose children need to be educated. Expressing his gratitude for the way in which organisations like



BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY

Rotary and other Indians rooted for and rallied behind our soldiers, Brig Basera said: “we fight fearlessly because of the kind of respect, honour and dignity that you give us. We are assured that even if I am gone, my wife, my children will be taken care of, and with lot of respect. My humble request to you all is that whenever you meet your soldiers, they don’t need any money from you. They want respect. We fight for honour and ethics. In Kargil war, we had so many enemy dead bodies lying there. But not a single person was left behind. We gave them all an honourable burial.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

After the 1971 war, 93,000 enemy forces were returned to their country. Which country has done this?” In conclusion, he added that there was a time when senior army personnel never came out in the open to address meetings. “But now the times have changed. The direction from the government is that our citizens must know our history.” Having served in the UN for two years and visiting 18 countries, particularly in Europe, he was very impressed with the kind of knowledge the people there had of their armed forces and the respect they showed them.



ENVIRONMENT

“They understand because they are informed about what is happening. In our country we were not informed. Our citizens did not know.” But this was changing.

He added that he looked forward to partnering with Rotarians in working on projects, particularly in healthcare and prevention of breast cancer, cervical cancer etc.



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Minutes of the 2355th RWM held on April 30th, 2026 at Port View, Hide Road

1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order & requested all members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. PP Sanjay to officiate as the Secretary in the absence of Rtn. Subhayan.
3. On World Thalassemia Day, May 8th, 2026, a day long programme has been organised by the District 3291. The main awareness event will be held at Howrah Station from 8:30-11:30 am, hosted by Rotary Calcutta Park Point and Rotary Calcutta New Alipore. Mrs. Shweta Bose Barua has kindly consented to donate 2,000 towards refreshments for the beneficiaries and blood donors.
4. The tree plantation programme at Bharatgarh Rotary School on May 9th, 2026 has been confirmed.
5. Family corner & Club business was done by PP Sanjay.
6. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.



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AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION



DISEASE
PREVENTION
& TREATMENT



WATER,
SANITATION
& HYGIENE



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CHILD HEALTH



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& LITERACY



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ENVIRONMENT

