

CREATE



in the WORLD

# LIGHT

WEEKLY BULLETIN

AUGUST 8TH, 2023 - VOL. 46 NO. 05



Rotary International President  
RTN. GORDON MCINALLY



District Governor  
RTN. HIRA LALYADAV



Club President  
RTN. SHWETA BOSE BARUA



Thalassemia Awareness

STRIKE OFF THALASSEMIA

**Rotary Garden Reach's 2232<sup>nd</sup> RWM**

**Attendance last RWM : 12**

**Anniversary Greetings :**

**Aug 11<sup>th</sup> : Spouse Sheela & PP Amitav Ganguly**



## Let's boost our Membership

**TN Subramanian, RI Director, 2023–25**

Dear Rotarians,

I express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and commitment to making a positive impact in our communities. Your tireless efforts in service, both locally and globally, have been nothing short of inspirational. As Rotarians, you have continuously exemplified the true spirit of selflessness, embodying the ideals of Rotary in every project, event and initiative you undertake. Your passion for making the world a better place and your genuine care for others have touched countless lives and left a lasting legacy of kindness and compassion. Through your various programmes, such as clean water projects, youth development and disaster relief efforts, you have demonstrated the power of collective action in bringing about meaningful change. Your ability to unite people from different backgrounds and cultures under a common mission is a testament to the strength of Rotary's core values.



Your commitment to fostering peace, promoting education and eradicating polio, have had a profound impact on countless individuals and communities worldwide. Your dedication to TRF and its noble causes has helped create opportunities and hope for those who need it most.

In times of crisis and uncertainty, our organisation has been a beacon of hope, offering support and assistance to those affected by natural disasters, conflicts and humanitarian crises. Your readiness to step forward and lend a helping hand in the face of adversity is truly commendable.

In this membership month, we must bring in more individuals to share the joy of being a Rotarian. Let's put the spotlight on our good practices as we invite good citizens to our fold, and together build and strengthen our clubs, and our organisation, by instilling the values and ethos of Rotary in our new members. We need to put Rotary in them and ensure that we induct Rotarians and not mere members. Retention is the key to sustained growth. Engagement and involvement are factors that will

assist in this process. I'm certain we'll be ethical in all our actions including increasing membership either in our club or by forming a new club in a virgin area. The opportunities are many — it is up to us to tap the resources and ensure a steady growth.

As we move forward, I have no doubt that the Rotary spirit will continue to shine brightly, illuminating the path towards a better, more compassionate world. Your service, generosity and commitment to 'Service Above Self' serve as a guiding light for all of us, reminding us of the profound impact each individual can make when driven by a shared vision of a better future.

Your actions inspire us all to be better and do better. Together, let us continue to make a difference, and create hope in the world.



## Your place in Rotary

One of the early Rotary clubs had a shy young member who has since risen high in his profession and in Rotary. He likes to tell about the horror he felt when the president of the club assigned him as a speaker at the weekly meeting. An incident in relation to his work which he had described at the luncheon table suggested that he might be able to provide an interesting program.

The young man protested when he was asked, and on the eve of his assignment invented a trip out of town to avoid speaking. Some weeks later, however, another speaker failed to appear and the club president called for the promised talk.



Almost numb with fear, he arose to speak. And then his interest in the subject and the realization that he was among friends took hold of him. He spoke freely, naturally, enjoyably—even to himself. Today, he still remembers with gratitude that his Rotary membership imposed this assignment. Without it, he believes, his professional advancement would have been inhibited.

This man is typical of those persons—and there are thousands of them—who have found in Rotary the ideal setting for developing their capacity for leadership. In a meeting of past district governors, one of them said: "All of us around this table know that we shall never be able to give to Rotary as much as we have received from it." Every head nodded enthusiastic assent.

These were men who had given generously of their time and talent—and without remuneration—to the cause of Rotary and who, the more they gave, the more they received.

The new man in Rotary has much to learn, much to understand before he becomes fully effective as a Rotarian. But he was chosen in the belief that he possessed the requisite qualities, and that he would quickly find his starting place. The club will provide the proper and favourable setting. There is a well-ordered procedure to acquaint new members with the broad facets of Rotary so that they may find their particular niche. Thus, in many clubs an individual may begin his Rotary career on the "badge board," distributing luncheon badges so he may learn the names of his fellow-Rotarians and begin the process of acquaintance in the shortest possible time. Rotary is based upon acquaintance—fellowship—and the opportunities this acquaintance provides for personal service.

Committee assignments carry this process forward. The new member works closely with older Rotarians—the most natural setting in which to learn Rotary functions—and thus absorbs more about the purposes and operations of his club. The informal discussions of a committee session, as one new member put it, "really gave me the 'feel' of how Rotarians work together to take decisions. It made me feel I 'belonged,' especially when I was asked for my opinion and was drawn into the discussion as a full-fledged member."

This feeling of "belonging" also makes the new member aware of his responsibilities to Rotary, and Rotary's responsibilities to him. The member, by virtue of his membership in such an organization, is expected to look for opportunities to serve; it is one of the obligations he accepts. Through daily contacts with the life of the community, through contacts with Rotarians at the weekly meetings and elsewhere, through programs and Rotary literature—such as The Rotarian magazine—the new member constantly widens the scope of his knowledge. Each contact is an opportunity for re-examination of older concepts or for the opening of new horizons.

The club simultaneously undertakes responsibilities toward the new member—responsibilities for informing him on the operations of the club, on Rotary International, and on various other matters grading between the strictly local and the broadly universal. In brief, the club's responsibility is to put the knowledge to work.

First and foremost, all members have the responsibility for regular attendance at weekly meetings. If for any reason a member is unable to attend his own club, he is expected to attend the meeting of another club in either the six days preceding, on the day of the meeting, or the six days succeeding his own club's meeting day. Failure to attend for four consecutive weeks automatically terminates membership unless the individual has been excused by his club's board of directors.

This is not just an odd requirement of Rotary. It is practical and is based on years of experience. No club can operate







efficiently without the full participation of its membership in regularly scheduled gatherings, and this is particularly true of Rotary. Non-attendance is a triple handicap: the club itself fails to receive benefit of the member's ideas and experiences; second, the individual is deprived of the fellowship, the give-and-take, the companionship, the broader horizons that result from contact with like-minded men; and, third, the classification held by the absentee is not represented at the meeting. A club that aims at being a cross section of the business and professional community fails of its goal by the number of its habitual absentees and the number of unfilled classifications. A member who aims at being a good Rotarian generally succeeds in direct proportion to his attendance – and participation.

It is not without significance that the emblem of Rotary is the gear-wheel. Mechanically speaking, the loss of a single cog of a gear impairs efficiency by introducing slippage at a given point on the rim; lose enough cogs, and the wheel will cease to do useful work. It is as simple as that.

The individual member has another responsibility: to serve his club in all its endeavours, and the club has the complementary responsibility—to see that he is given opportunity to serve. It is understood in Rotary that when a member is offered an assignment by his club, he accepts it willingly and dispatches it with energy. It is this responsibility in Rotary which may cause the leading men of the community to do things far removed from their normal activity so that there will be funds to help the crippled children of the community or pay for a scholarship for a deserving student. Men who work at a desk all day may take pick and shovel and rake on Saturday to level off the playground or park development undertaken by their club. More often, however, the service may be individual service—service motivated through other channels, but accepted enthusiastically because the man is a Rotarian. An illustration makes this pattern clear. A Rotary club had a program at its weekly meeting on Scouting—a full and inspiring description of the Scout movement in that community and its relationship to Scouting in other parts of the world. The speaker closed with an appeal for more adult leaders and sponsors, explaining the significance of competent leadership.

This Rotarian was moved by what he heard—as many others were—and this man determined that he would volunteer his services as an adult leader. As a Rotarian and as a serving citizen of his community, he could do no less. Could he do anymore? Yes, he could; he belonged to another organization in the community, and, at its next meeting, he stood up to advocate that this organization do what his Rotary club had already done a long time ago—sponsor a Boy Scout troop. It was done.

Both the fellowship and the service of Rotary have strong chain reaction characteristics. In thousands of instances these acts of service span the oceans and jungles, reaching across national and geographical boundaries. Take, for example, the story of Alec MacPhail and Eric Schultz.

Alec MacPhail, a member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg, South Africa, first met Eric Schultz when the latter was a patient in the hospital. Schultz, a husky young miner, had been in a serious motorcycle accident and had lost both arms and both legs. Because of slow progress in learning how to use artificial limbs he was, at the time his path crossed MacPhail's, in a state of extreme mental depression. He felt society had no further use for him, that ahead stretched only the grim future of a helpless, quadruple amputee.

Schultz impressed MacPhail. Gradually MacPhail convinced the young man that the future was not as black as it seemed, that something could be done for him, that he could do something for himself, and that society still could use him. Information was procured on the latest in prosthetic devices, particularly on a system devised to treat American war veterans. The apparent road block was that treatment and training facilities were across the broad Atlantic and across the United States, in California.

MacPhail presented the matter to his Rotary club. The money was raised to pay Schultz's traveling expenses to the United States, and for specialized training at the University of California in Los Angeles.

As Schultz winged his way across the world, an Amsterdam Rotarian met him and entertained him until plane time. In New York, another Rotarian, who had reserved both a hotel and a hospital room, cancelled both and took Schultz home with him. Upon arriving in Los Angeles, the traveller was met by still another Rotarian who took him along to a Rotary meeting. A month after Eric's admission to the University of California, he received new arms; after five months training, he had become almost completely independent of outside help. He made such progress in the





use of his four artificial limbs that the doctors in charge suggested he demonstrate his new skills in Washington to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the United States Congress. Shortly after he did so, a million-dollar appropriation for further research into artificial limbs was passed; Eric demonstrated mastery of his new limbs to the extent of offering a cigarette to a friend—and lighting it for him!

A letter he wrote home after arriving in the United States expresses a fundamental truth and helps the Rotarian see his organization in inspiring perspective. Schultz wrote, "It was only after this long trip that I began to appreciate what a huge organization Rotary is and how small it has made the world."

That, in brief, is the story of a young man who once thought life had cast him aside. It also is the story of Alec MacPhail and the Rotarians of Johannesburg and the place they occupy in the **Service-Above-Self** world of Rotary. In the broader sense, it is the story of all Rotary: a need apprehended, a need met through local and worldwide co-operation.

The world-famous Dr. Albert Schweitzer who has achieved greatness as clergyman, author, physician, musician, and humanitarian summed it up once. Accepting Honorary Membership from the Rotary Colmar, France—which was made the occasion for a substantial club donation to Dr. Schweitzer's work in Africa—he said: "I feel that I am in

**Rotary**  *It's not all hard work!*

Rotarians have a lot of fun while helping others. Rotary combines service with opportunities to make professional connections and friends.



a sympathetic group. **I feel that I am among men who sincerely desire to give our civilization more spirituality, a deepening of thought and of human ideals, and a will to save the world from ruin. I am, therefore, one of you, and I believe in your great and splendid goal."**

None of what has been said should be taken to mean that Rotary is a crusading army marching off to save the world; nothing of the sort would be possible under its organization. Neither is it a collection of back-slappers and glad handers. It is composed of many kinds of men – some more fully imbued with zeal than others. But all members, at one time or another, manage to progress toward their ideals while having a good deal of plain, wholesome fun. Some of this is from programming, some of it is the quiet satisfaction of a job well done. Some of it is in the fellowship of the weekly meeting or other Rotary gatherings. Some of it is in the common effort toward a common goal. Taken together, it spells R-O-T-A-R-Y.

## Rotary Club to set up a Thalassaemia Centre

The plans under Thalassaemia Now project was outlined by Rtn. Diwakar Kallianpur, who took over as Club President for RCMC, 2023-24.

Rotary Millennium City (RCMC), under '**End Thalassaemia Now 2026**' plans to set up a Thalassaemia Centre along with DY Patil Hospital in Nerul, Navi Mumbai.

This centre is in addition to the centre run by RCMC along with NMMC hospital in Vashi since 2012. Under End Thalassaemia Now 2026, RCMC is currently serving more than 50 Thalassaemic children.

With the new centre, RCMC will be able to cater to the needs of more than 100 Thalassaemic children. The new centre with DY Patil hospital is scheduled to be launched by August 15. End Thalassaemia Now is an initiative undertaken by RCMC along with other Rotary clubs in Navi Mumbai to work towards a Thalassaemia free Navi Mumbai.



The plans under Thalassaemia Now project was outlined by by Rtn. Diwakar Kallianpur, who took over as club president for RCMC for 2023-24. The project chair for this project is Rtn. Jitendra Jadhvani. "RCMC has designed and implemented END THAL NOW Program which is multiyear Rotary program having following three core objectives – care, awareness and prevention. It is a scourge that can be prevented and also managed provided all important stakeholders in the society come together to combat it," said Rtn. Kallianpur.







Project Chair, Rtn. Jadhvani said, "Thalassaemia is painful to manage however there is silver lining to this disorder. It is completely preventable provided there is awareness among community about it. Thalassaemia has two variants – Minor & Major. The people having minor variant live almost normal life however they have to be careful when they decide to marry. They should avoid marrying another thalassaemic minor person. This can lead to complication of birth of Thalassaemia major child."

Thalassaemia is a genetic disorder which can impact a child during birth. Such a child needs blood transfusions right through the life. These continuous monthly transfusions require the child to be on iron removal medicines lifelong. These Thalassaemic children suffer from multiple complications and can also suffer critical organ failure including that of Heart and kidneys.

Approximately 2 percent of the world's population has a thalassaemia trait. This is a grave threat to mankind as marriage can lead to possibility of Thalassaemia major child. Thalassaemia affects men and women equally and occurs in approximately 4.4 out of every 10,000 live births in the world. Hence awareness is essential across the world.

The life span of a thalassaemic child may be truncated in some cases depending on thalassaemia management of the particular child. An optimal management costs approx. Rs 2 lacs per annum. Many of the patients cannot afford these costs which leads to sub optimal treatment causing complications.

#### Care

Care for 600+ Thalassaemic Children across the rotary district by ensuring adequate blood supply for transfusions in comfortable environment of the Thalassaemia Transfusion centres and providing financial assistance for filters, medicines and various required pathological tests.

#### Awareness

Ensuring awareness of Thalassaemia disorder among young adults and how important it is to match the blood before marriage among young adults in colleges, communities and corporates for Thalassaemia trait. Thalassaemia minor detection tests are done in young adults to ascertain their Thalassaemia status so that they are pre informed of the same.

#### Prevention

Engaging with Gynaecologists to ensure pre-natal Thalassaemia tests to screen out possibility of birth of Thalassaemic child.

## RI District – 3281 will implement over 500 projects this Rotary Year

**Rotary Bangladesh will implement more than 500 large projects nationwide in the fiscal year 2023-24.**

Rtn. Ashrafuzzaman Nannu, Governor of RI District-3281 Bangladesh announced the annual programme of Rotary for the session of 2023-24 in a press conference at the National Press Club in Dhaka on Thursday, reads a press release.



Former governor Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Mutashim Billah Faruqi, IPDG Engr. MA Wahab, Governor Nominee Shahidul Bari, AG Abul Khair Chowdhury, President of Cosmopolitan Rotary Ranjit Kumar Nath and other leaders spoke on the occasion.

DG Ashrafuzzaman Nannu said Rotary will implement comprehensive programmes to deal with humanitarian activities and disasters.

Rotary is running hospitals, schools, and vocational training centres across the country. Beside this, Rotary will implement various

programs including education, health, sanitation, shelter for poor climate sector and countrywide tree plantation.





## A bus for a Blind School

The **Bhairuratan Damani Blind School** is a residential school for visually-impaired students established in 1987 by late Shamsundar Toshniwal, a member of Rotary Solapur North, RID-3132. The club has equipped the school with all basic facilities including a braille library, gender-specific toilets, bedrooms, kitchen and dining hall, need-based classrooms, trained teachers and caretakers for the students. Vocational training such as making candles, handloom products, bags and artificial flowers are also imparted here for them.



Although the school has residential facility, there are some day scholars for whom regular commute was a challenge. The parents were hesitant to send their children to school by public transport because of their handicap. So last year, the club under the leadership of Nihar Burte, facilitated a 30-seater bus costing Rs. 27 lakhs, gifted by Shriram Reddy, an entrepreneur, to the school.

The club is planning to set up a computer lab with braille-supporting hardware and software at the school and also help in marketing the handmade products made by the students.

## Membership Makeover: Invigorate your Club

### Create the Club you Crave

#### Rotary Harrisonburg-Rocktown, Virginia

Five years ago, Meghan Schenker-Fulcher, then a teacher in Harrisonburg, Virginia, decided it was time to join Rotary. "As a non-Rotarian," she says, "it started with a passion to connect more people in our community to Rotary's mission: Service Above Self."

Schenker-Fulcher visited several clubs but couldn't find one that fit her schedule. "They weren't necessarily a good fit for educators ... and others who had 9-to-5 jobs but still wanted to give back."

In retrospect, the solution was obvious: Can't find a Rotary club that works for you? Create one that does. Joined by two other women from the community, Schenker-Fulcher pooled their brainpower, as she puts it, "to create what we thought would be an ideal Rotary experience for both ourselves and other women in our community."

The three spent several months thinking through the kind of club they wanted. "We spent the summer of 2019 holding informational sessions, which allowed people to hear our story, understand the why, and get inspired to join," Schenker-Fulcher explains. "This also helped us to see if this [club] would really be a good fit for the community."

That careful planning paid off. Chartered in September 2019, the Harrisonburg-Rocktown satellite club, an offshoot of the Rotary Harrisonburg, today has 36 members — and 26 of them are women. To ensure its relevancy, the club conducts annual strategic planning sessions, where it establishes major objectives for the year. "It helps us to keep things fresh and moving forward," says Schenker-Fulcher, the chair of the club's seven-person membership committee. "That helps us not only to retain our members, but to grow our club."

### Plan projects that pack Punch

#### Rotary Singapore

Members of the Rotary Singapore attach a lot of importance to projects, says James Lee, Immediate Past President. "They want to see the impact of their contributions and efforts on the people and communities they serve," he says. "We keep them updated about the progress and challenges of our local and overseas projects, and we invite them to sign up and contribute to the ones they are interested in. This gives them a sense of involvement and belonging." The signature project of the club, which has sponsored 28 global grants since 2013, is Help the Children, serving communities in the East Java province of Indonesia. "What started as a small ad-hoc project supporting 20 under-privileged school children morphed into multipronged, multicycle global grant projects spanning the last 15







years," Lee says. "It's helping communities and up to 60 schools to uplift basic literacy and basic education among students and teachers."

In 2010, a small delegation from the Singapore club visited the project in Indonesia for the first time. That trip led to an annual visit by up to 80 club members and their families. "Our participants spend three days with the pupils, teachers, and parents who have benefited from our project," Lee says. "They come back feeling inspired and motivated by the positive changes they have witnessed."

Lee also points to the club's diverse membership — its 192 members represent 22 countries — as another reason that it has attracted and retained so many members over the years. "Being able to be involved in communities far from Singapore but close to our hearts," he says, "means that we are constantly engaging our members and bringing them closer to the communities that they have left behind or are engaged in for economic, business, and personal reasons."



### Connect to amplify Impact Rotary Roswell After Hours, Georgia

The Roswell After Hours satellite club began last year with 14 members. A year later, membership has increased to 22, and the club's chair, Brooke Foxman, is optimistic that it will continue to grow. That's thanks in part to the opportunity the club provides for members to connect with one another, with the community, and with their sponsor club, the Rotary Club of Roswell, known affectionately among the group as Big Rotary. "Our founding members are a group of 20-somethings who were craving in-person camaraderie when the world was opening up again after the pandemic," she says. "We target people who want to do good for the community while making connections and building relationships. We get to be a group of young people with a love and heart for service. That's what Rotary was built on."

Because most club members are young professionals, their work schedules made it difficult to attend the Roswell club's

weekly lunch meetings. To accommodate members' schedules, meetings are held after regular work hours — hence the club's name — at a local brewery. "We delegate 30 minutes for a premeeting hangout, so we can get a beer and catch up on personal things," says Foxman, who notes that the club is structured around networking, service, and fun.

Foxman says that the club benefits from sustaining its connections with Big Rotary. Roswell members occasionally speak at the After-Hours club. "Their advice to us as young professionals is something we're super grateful to have," she says.

And members of both clubs' volunteer for service projects and activities by either group, increasing the impact, for instance, of a fundraiser for Star House, a local non-profit that helps at-risk children. "There was music and dancing, and we were serving our community," says Foxman. "We had so much fun, and we actually met several new potential members."

### Don't forget the Fun

#### Rotary Halifax Harbour, Nova Scotia

Roswell After Hours isn't the only club that likes to have fun — though fun, as Louisa Horne explains, can wear different guises.

A past district governor and a member of what she describes as the "irresistible" Rotary Club of Halifax Harbour, Horne acknowledges that her club organizes social activities for members. But fun? "Fun is a by-product of being engaged in things you're passionate about," she says.

Formed in 2021 from the merger of the decades-old Halifax and Halifax Harbourside Rotary clubs, Halifax Harbour





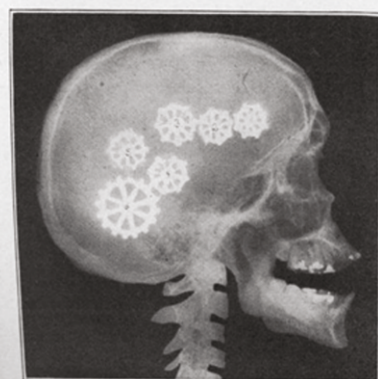
is organized into three teams. The We Connect People team focuses on member engagement, including fun activities that members can pursue together (think ghost tours, axe throwing, and seasonal celebrations). The We Transform Communities team plans and organizes local and international service projects, and the We Fund Sustainable Projects team does exactly what you would expect: coordinates fundraisers, such as an annual rib festival that's raised more than \$500,000 since 2015.

The club, Horne explains, has surveyed current and past members "to make sure we're not missing something in terms of their talents and interests. We're intentional about looking in the mirror and being honest about how we're doing. We are OK with and celebrate that different people want to do different things."

As a result, the club has attracted a diverse membership in terms of age, nationality, and sexual orientation. "When new people come to a meeting, they see themselves reflected in the room," Horne says. "Diversity feeds more diversity. Transformational and cultural change within a large organization is not a quick fix. As long as we have strong leadership and continue to leverage the passions of the people we have and the people we want to attract, and as long as we're agile risk-takers and maintain our level of diversity, we will continue to be irresistible." And fun.

### Minutes of the 2231<sup>st</sup> RWM held on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

1. President Shweta call the meeting to order. Requested the members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. PP Dr. Arabinda briefed regarding Cancer Awareness programme on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Rotary Sadan. Rtn. Dr. Amitabh Ray will come to club & discuss with the members after the finalisation of the same.
3. PP Tanu briefed regarding donation of wheelchairs to the different RCCs. Nayantara Memorial had requested earlier. Aadhaar Card & the nature of handicapped has to be shown.
4. Documents related to opening new Club Account has been submitted to HDFC Bank. Club Treasurer, PP Timir will brief in next meeting.
5. PP Tanu suggested to celebrate the Independence Day on August 15<sup>th</sup>, at some orphanage & he will inform the club regarding the development.
6. RCC Champa Mahila Samity Coordinator, Mr. Amal Nayek is not well. So, decision regarding Bharatgarh School is postponed. Wishing Mr. Nayek a speedy recovery.
7. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting is scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. The Club has decided that the Board meeting of subsequent months will be held on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.
8. Club Secretary, Rtn. Dr. Subrata conducted the Club business.
9. Minutes of the last RWM were confirmed. President terminated the meeting.



#### THE ROTARY SKULL

This photograph was given to each member of the San Antonio Rotary Club recently when their X-ray specialist was scheduled for a talk. It was mounted on an attractive card and under it appeared this legend:

The Rotarian Skull

Demonstrating the Six Senses.

1. Sight  
Fore, Hind and In
2. Smell  
That detects worthy objects of endeavor
3. Hearing  
The call of progress
4. Taste  
For service and good things, physical and mental
5. Touch  
Of fraternity and good-fellowship
6. Common  
Abnormally developed