



Editorial

The uncertainty of life is taking a heavy toll on human lives and minds. Perhaps keeping a healthy mind with positivity shall be a solution to many ills and to keep our minds positive we need to think about making our community better through sustained service towards the community.

Let us all as Rotarians and citizens try to support needs of others in these dire times, help always need not be money, it can be mental, moral support, information about ways to overcome crisis other support through donations within our reach and capability. Donations can start from blood to essentials as food, clothes and much more. So the question is, are we doing it? If the answer is yes, you are God's angels and if no, then we are not late yet and we still have enough time to do it. The only thing we need to realise is that at no point in our lives can we afford to be negative or depressed. If you see anyone depressed, try and pull that person out of it and that shall be another great service to the community. Sometimes we fail to realise how many different ways we can be of support to our fellow beings and community service must not be stereotyped.

July has not brought us out of the dark days but surely has given a lot of hope to humanity and as is our anthem at Metro City, We Shall Overcome!

Subhojit Roy

RI succeeding in getting more women leaders: HolgerKnaack



Rasheeda Bhagat

His first priority during his year as RI President will be "to grow Rotary at all levels. Membership is our first internal priority, while polio is our external priority." RI President HolgerKnaack said, addressing a virtual meet of PETS. RI District 3201. His other top priorities would be getting more young professionals and women who occupy leadership positions into Rotary. In a conversation with PDG Sunil Zachariah, and answering a question on what Rotary was doing to promote more women in leadership positions, he said: "We are doing what we can do, that means we

can promote them, inspire them and ask clubs and districts to look for women in more leadership positions. But we can't control that. What we can control are our regional leaders, coordinators, and training leaders. So whatever RI can do, we are doing."

And there was evidence that sometimes it worked. "A few years ago there were no women members on the RI Board. But on my board, next year, there will be six women and on Shekhar Mehta's board, there will be eight women. So we are making progress."

When asked to clarify the new Rotary mantra that there is "no wrong age to join Rotary", and its contradiction with the search for younger members, Knaack said, "Yes, we are looking for young professionals, specially in areas like Europe, where the average age of Rotarians is increasing year by year, as also in the US and South America. This is necessary to ensure that Rotary remains relevant. But that doesn't mean we are not looking for other members."

Elaborating, he said that in the US and "my own country, there are so many early retirees; people who are looking for an opportunity for service, for networking and they have the time and the passion...so we are looking for those people too. Because they can contribute so much to our organization."

As a strong votary of Rotaractors, what would he recommend Rotary clubs do to make Rotaractors feel at home and comfortable, as from July 1, Rotaractors will be equal members of Rotary?

Knaack responded: "First of all, it is all about mutual respect between Rotarians and Rotaractors, if we really want to work successfully together. Because those young professionals are so much like us: they are as successful in their clubs as we are in our Rotary clubs. They may be younger than us but they are as effective as we are. So we have to extend a strong co-operation to them."

To attract young professionals into Rotary clubs Rotarians should first of all have a "strategic meeting of the club and look at what value you have to offer to young professionals. The next question is, do we, in our club, meet the needs of young professionals? If you think about our costs, our meeting time and location of those meetings, are these locations where young people would love to go? We really have to look at the needs of young professionals," he added.

Asked if environmental concerns will become the seventh area of focus in Rotary, Knaack said: "We are all excited about the next Board of Trustees meet. I don't want to put pressure on them but all of us can be excited about what we are going to hear from our Trustees," he smiled.

Next Zachariah asked him as the first international president to take office virtually, what was his learning from this pandemic, as well as challenges and opportunities for the future.

Knaack said the corona pandemic had offered so many "learning opportunities. I am the first president in direct contact with so many Rotarians across the world through virtual meets. I am hopeful that before the end of my year, I will be able to travel and meet Rotarians personally. But with daily Zoom meetings with Rotarians across the world I feel very close to them, and it's a really good connect."

So will the Taipei convention be held virtually too? "Well, as I said all of us are learning from this experience, and I do hope that the convention will be in person. But I can tell you that several parts of it will be digital. So we've already decided at the RI leadership level that we will stream online several plenary as well as breakout sessions. But we will learn more about the online experience in a couple of weeks when we have our first virtual convention in June and we will see many more virtual part of the convention in 2021," he added.

Source: Rotary News, India

Small grant leads to big changes for Tanzanian girls



Kisa mentors on a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro with Curt Harris in 2018.

*By Curt Harris, Past Governor,
Rotary District 5450*

Although I joined Rotary in 1997, it wasn't until I had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania to climb Mount Kilimanjaro as a Rotary-sponsored fundraiser three years later that I really felt I had become a Rotarian.

Kisa mentors

Some might think climbing Kilimanjaro five times a little strange, and they might be right! But the last two times, in 2016 and 2018, I led teams that did something truly special. On each of these climbs, we were joined by some young Tanzanian women who were graduates of the Kisa Project, a program sponsored by AfricAid. It provides robust mentorship opportunities that help secondary school girls learn skills like confidence, leadership, and resilience in order to succeed in school and beyond. In fact, 97 percent of Kisa scholars continue to tertiary education, compared with a national average in Tanzania of 3 percent. It's a remarkably effective program.

The young women who joined us were so excited to be part of our climb. Very few women in Tanzania get to climb Kili – they typically cannot afford it and the culture discourages it. We were also excited for them to join us, because it gave us all a chance to hear firsthand the

stories that led them to become the confident, successful, university-educated women who now serve as Kisa Project mentors today.

One of the girls on our 2018 climb was named Ellie. Over dinner one evening, she shared that when she was young, her dream was simply to go to school. Ellie was the youngest of nine children with a single mother in rural Tanzania. Girls in her village didn't go to school. They stayed home, did chores, hauled water, got married, and had many children.

But Ellie had this dream. She snuck off to school whenever she could. Sometimes the headmaster would send her home. If her brothers found out, they would beat her. But she would always go back. Finally, the headmaster and her family gave in, and Ellie could go to school. She graduated, went to college and now is a Kisa Project mentor. She even started her own non-profit, Her Journey to School, through which she works to convince parents in Tanzania to educate their girls.

Now, here's the real take-away:

Twenty years ago, my Rotary club in Evergreen, Colorado, had invited Ashley, a local 15-year-old girl, to talk about an idea she had for a non-profit. Our club gave her the chance to speak (and maybe a little confidence), then passed the hat to raise about \$900. She used that money to start AfricAid.

Two decades ago, this one small grant from a club halfway around the world helped start a process that has since mentored 10,000 girls, giving them the skills to lead the lives they choose and create a ripple effect of change in their communities.

As Rotarians, we do a lot of good. But, sometimes we don't always realize the long-term impact of our work. So let's all remember – especially right now – that even a seemingly small effort can have such a major impact in your local community, or even half a world away.



Polio as of 22 July 2020

Courtesy: Floyd Lancia

Country or territory ³	Wild virus type 1 confirmed cases							
	Full year total					01 Jan - 21 Jul ¹		Date of most recent case
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	2020	
Pakistan	54	20	8	12	147	45	60	29-Jun-20
Afghanistan	20	13	14	21	29	11	34	29-Jun-20
Nigeria ³	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	21-Aug-16
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
Total (Type1)	74	37	22	33	176	56	94	
Tot. in endemic countries	74	37	22	33	176	56	94	
Tot. in non-end countries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
No. of countries (infected)	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	
No. of countries (endemic)	3	2 ³	2 ³	3	3	3	3	
Total Female	30	13	7	18	72	25	42	
Total Male	44	24	15	15	104	31	52	

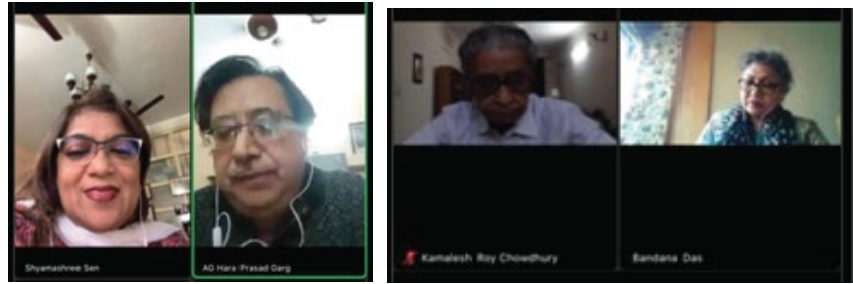


Polio Immunization in Afghanistan

Metro

Metro City News

The Club Assembly and COTS was held on Zoom on 18th July 2020 in the presence of AG Haraprasad Garg and ZS Partha Chattopadhyay.



PDG Shyamashree Sen made a presentation on "End Polio Now" on the Zoom platform of RI Women's Group on 18th July 2020, which was appreciated by Rotarians across the globe.

PDG Amitava Mookerjee spoke on "Rotary Opens Opportunities" at the Regular Meeting of the club on 25th July 2020.

The club conducted a webinar in association with SRL Ltd on COVID 19, precautions, symptoms, diet, building immunity and more with experts.



Glimpses of activities of RC Calcutta Metro City and members

We wish Zonal Secretary PP Partha Pratim Chattopadhyay a speedy recovery from COVID 19!



Happy Birthday:

Parijat Sarkar for 28th July!



Welcome Atreya Roychowdhury, Sunrita Sen, Jinit Haria and Nirjhar S Bhaduri to the family of Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City!