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# METRO MAIL



BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY

RI District 3291 | Charter Date : 14/06/1995 | Club No. : 30869



Rotary has been a flag bearer of community development through various programs and majority of them have left deep impact on the community.

In APJ Abdul Kalam's words, "Almost half of the population of the world lives in rural regions and mostly in a state of poverty. Such inequalities in human development have been one of the primary reasons for unrest and, in some parts of the world, even violence."

So how do we plan for the future, since long-term development thinking and planning relate to the future path of the economy and society, it is related to future and foresight studies. Six principles or underlying assumptions associated with the philosophical foundations of future studies say: 1. "We are moving linearly, progressively and irreversibly through time from out of the past toward the future", 2. "Not everything that will exist has existed or does exist", 3. "In making our way in the world, the only really useful knowledge is knowledge about the future", 4. "There is no knowledge of the future", 5. "The future is not totally predetermined", 6. "To some extent future outcomes can be influenced by individual and collective action, by the choices people make to act in one way or another." The challenges posed by changes in the global environment and the limited resources mean that economic planners must be acutely aware of changes taking place. Long-range strategic thinking and planning would provide the framework for responding to future events. Growth implies quantitative change, development emphasizes qualitative improvements. **Growth vs Development** – 1) Growth means more of the same ... more jobs, more income, etc, 2) Development means using resources to enhance human welfare and 3) Development can include growth, but not necessarily vice versa.

Community development is a collaborative and participatory approach with active involvement of community members, local organizations, government agencies, and other stakeholders. This is where organizations like Rotary need to come forward with definitive, long term and sustainable programs with leadership at macro and micro level with vision and realistic plans. So are we up for the challenge and most importantly are we prepared to take up the challenge? These days we often hear our leaders talk about big ticket projects and discouraging small projects, but big and sustaining projects needs not only funds but also a road map and vision. Micro level or at grassroots it is daunting for smaller or less equipped clubs but surely collaborative approach and a fair hand holding of such clubs by bigger clubs, District or Zone can actually make a difference.

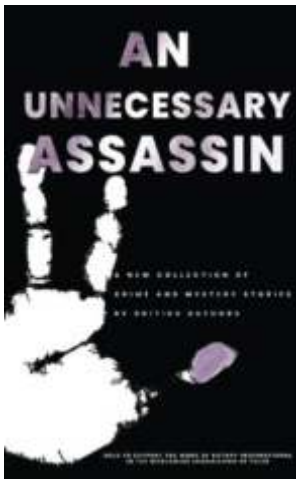
We are waiting for such visionary leadership who can Walk the Talk!!

***(This editorial is based entirely on my personal views and may not reflect my Club's Views)***

EDITORIAL  
Subhojit Roy

## A New Anthology of Crime Fiction Raises Funds for Polio Eradication

- By *Etelka Lehoczky*



*The cover of 'An Unnecessary Assassin,' a collection of crime fiction sold to raise money for polio eradication.*

Lorraine Stevens had the motive and the means. All she needed were accomplices in her plot: publishing a collection of original crime fiction to raise money for the fight to end polio.

The idea for the anthology of short stories, published in July 2023 as "An Unnecessary Assassin," came to Stevens last

year at a literary festival in Yorkshire, England. She'd recently learned about the poliovirus reappearing in Great Britain and was talking with friends about how upset she was by the news.

"I happened to mention that polio had been found in the sewers of London," says Stevens, a member of the Rotary Club of Scunthorpe, Humberside, England. "I found that quite disturbing. I had known polio was still around, but not as much as I went on to find out. One of my author friends said, 'Well, you know enough authors, Lorraine. Why don't you do an anthology and sell it for charity?'"

The cover of 'An Unnecessary Assassin,' a collection of crime fiction sold to raise money for polio eradication.

A former librarian who regularly attends crime-writing festivals, Stevens knew her friend was right. This was something she could do. She began asking authors she knew to donate stories for the book. Her first recruit was David Penny, the author of a well-regarded series of historical mysteries. He was eager to fight polio.

Penny helped Stevens assemble a diverse group of short stories and arranged to self-publish the book using Amazon's print-on-demand program. The pair were excited to receive two submissions specifically about polio. Gerralyn Ingram, who writes under the name G.L. Waring, used her story to channel her anger at both vaccine deniers and arrogant doctors. A former pediatric nurse, Ingram based the villain of "It Takes Three Drops" on doctors she'd encountered.

Among the book's highlights are stories by Ann Cleeves and Lee Child. Cleeves' contribution, "The Habit of Silence," is a detective story set in a distinguished library. In Child's "Safe Enough," a contractor working on a suburban lot begins stalking the lot's previous owner. Child interweaves his menacing tale with a critique of economic policies that hurt the working class.

Other stories feature a wide range of situations. Chris McGeorge's "Box" is a locked-room mystery set in a

glass box 820 feet (250 meters) underwater. Robert Scragg's "Revenge is Best Served Hot" and F.D. Quinn's "Best Served Cold" each give a culinary twist to crime. Judith O'Reilly's "A Face for Murder" combines a whodunit with a satire of YouTube makeup tutorials.

Penny was delighted by the diversity of the stories.

Penny's own contribution, written as DG Penny, was based on an idea he'd been thinking about for several years: What are the consequences of trying to do the right thing? In "Drive By," Penny's protagonist tries to protect a victim of human trafficking and soon comes to regret it.

The anthology also references polio in its cover art, which is shaded purple, and in an afterword explaining the significance of the color. It's what is used to tint children's fingers at mass vaccination events to show that they've received the vaccine. The title refers to the fact that polio is preventable with a vaccine.

"We came up with all sorts of different ideas. There were probably over a dozen potential titles," Penny says. "This one won because of the alliteration."

The book is available **in paperback and Kindle formats on Amazon**. Stevens has also sold it at Rotary club meetings and crime-writing festivals all over Great Britain. It's raised more than US\$3,000 so far, and its proceeds will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"The phrase 'An Unnecessary Assassin' kind of sums up the thing," Penny says. "Polio is totally an avoidable disease, provided there is enough money to immunize each child."

## Message to the Rotary Community on the Middle East Conflict

As events in the Middle East continue to unfold, and we hear from Rotary members around the world, it is important to clarify and underscore that Rotary is non-political, non-religious, and exclusively focused on providing humanitarian support and bringing people together. We build peace in the world, working together to share our compassion and help end human suffering.

We are saddened by the continuing loss of lives and destruction and express our deep concern surrounding the escalating violence across the Middle East, and the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza and the region.

Peace building is a cornerstone of Rotary's mission and an area of focus. At our core, Rotary is a common ground for people to come together – across nationalities and religions, cultures, and histories – to connect around our shared belief in a better tomorrow. That connection is what humanizes us in times of conflict and builds a foundation for lasting peace.

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Rotary remains committed to working with our members, partners, and communities to find long-term, sustainable solutions that support peace and development in the Middle East and everywhere.

We believe clubs and districts around the world can help. In that spirit, there are specific steps you can take to help those affected by the violence in these difficult times.

There are Rotary and Rotaract clubs throughout the Middle East. We urge Rotary members who want to help to connect directly with the districts and these clubs in the region to determine the most relevant avenues of support.

Additionally, we encourage members to take action through the following Rotary programs:

Using district grants (from districts in the region and elsewhere) to carry out projects that support displaced persons and provide medical and other needed humanitarian assistance.

Developing meaningful, longer-term projects with international partners that align with Rotary's areas of focus and are eligible to receive funding as global grants.

Members can make long-term investments in peace building through Rotary by:

Contributing District Designated Funds or district cash to support Rotary's Peace Centers, which invest in peace builders around the world, or the peace building and conflict prevention area of focus that supports programs like our Positive Peace Activator Program.

Joining Rotary peace programs that advance global understanding and peacebuilding, including Rotary Action Groups, Rotary Friendship Exchanges, Intercountry Committees, and Rotary Fellowships.

Together, let's be the inspiration to create hope in the world.

*Rotary International*

27-Oct-2023

## RI Board Elects 2024-2028 Rotary Foundation Trustees

The Rotary International Bylaws provide that Rotary Foundation trustees are nominated by the president-elect and elected by the Board in the year before the trustees are to take office. At the October Rotary International Board of Directors meeting, the Board elected the following Rotarians to serve as Rotary Foundation Trustees beginning 1 July 2024 to serve terms of four years each:

- Ann-Britt Åsebol, the Rotary Club of Falun-Kopparvågen
- Ching-Huei Horng, the Rotary Club of Panchiao West

- R. Gordon R. McNally, the Rotary Club of South Queensferry
- Ijeoma "Pearl" Okoro, the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt

## Club in Action

### Anandayatra-Puja Parikrama with Boys and Girls from Sundarbans



'Anandayatra', a Durga Puja Parikrama for young boys and girls from remote villages of Sunderbans was completed on Thursday 19th October' 23.

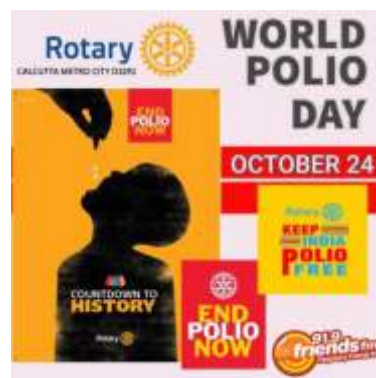
44 girls and boys were taken on a tour of some of

the prominent Durga Puja pandals after being picked up from several remote villages of Sunderbans, they were provided with breakfast, lunch and beautifully designed SHER t-shirts. Apart from these boys and girls 450 more children were also provided with new clothes on the occasion.

The entire program was organized by the NGO, SHER, and supported by Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City.

PDG Shyamashree Sen, PP Rtns Subhojit Roy, Sunando Sen, President Rtn Amrita Basu along with her daughter and son and Club Secretary Rtn Atreya Roychowdhury and his partner Lucille attended the program at Kundu Bari, Hatibagan.

## World Polio Day



Rotary Club of Calcutta observed World Polio Day by partnering with 91.9 friends FM (the leading FM station of Eastern India) with 36 PSA's (Public Service Announcements) on Polio Immunization for 6 days prior to 24th October, a radio

interview about the significance of the Day with PP Rtn Subhojit Roy and also 7 days of Cinema Hall projection at Kolkata's iconic Priya cinema with 70 projections over a period of 7 days during the prime shows.



**RC Madhyamgram Metropolitan**



Swarna kana Interschool Merit Test E... a... z... y school 2 District 3291 initiative organized among top 20 students of class 5 to 12 successfully under direct video supervision.

**RC Calcutta Kankurgachi**



Rotary club of Calcutta arranged a First Aid Medical Camp during the festive days as 20th October Friday to 24th October at Swadhinota Dibas Udyapan Samiti Durga Puja Pandal

**RC Salt Lake City**



**RC Calcutta Presidency**



Dil ki Suno (a CPR training workshop) in Mudiali Club Durga puja on 16th October. It was done to train volunteers of the puja committee so that they can handle any type of emergency in time of need. Thanks to BM Birla Hospital team for being associated, estimated 70 percent of attacks occur at home and all should learn CPR .



*Greetings*

**Happy Birthday**

**Nirjhar Shankar Bhaduri**  
for 4th November

**Dipanwita Banerjee**  
for 10th November

**Preetam Ghosh**  
for 13th November

**Wedding Anniversary**

**Nausheen & Md. Firoze**  
for 14th November!



Rotary 2023-24 ANNUAL FUND CHALLENGE			
Challenge Period: 1 July 2023 to 31 January 2024			
Eligibility Criteria			
PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	
4% of members contribute to the challenge fund	5% of members contribute to the challenge fund	6% of members contribute to the challenge fund	
Assess: 100% of members	Assess: 100% of members	Assess: 100% of members	
PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	
100% of members contribute to the challenge fund	100% of members contribute to the challenge fund	100% of members contribute to the challenge fund	
Assess: 100% of members	Assess: 100% of members	Assess: 100% of members	

<p><b>1.4 million</b></p> <p><b>WE CONNECT PEOPLE</b></p> <p>1.4 million members worldwide</p>	<p><b>47 million</b></p> <p><b>WE TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES</b></p> <p>Approximately 47 million volunteer hours each year</p>	<p><b>\$333 million</b></p> <p><b>WE FUND SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS</b></p> <p>\$333 million awarded for global service initiatives in 2020-21</p>
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This Edition of Metro Mail is sponsored by President Rtn Amrita Basu