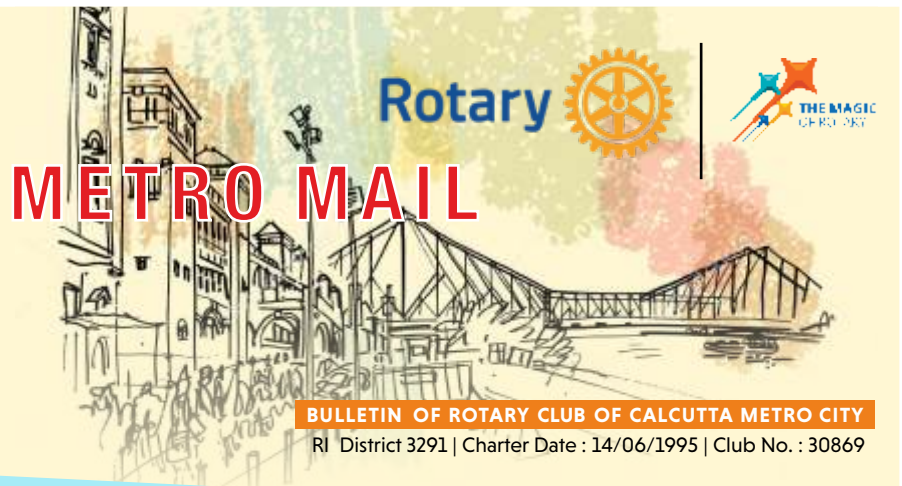


RI President: Rtn. Stephanie Urchick
Dist. Governor: Dr. Krishnendu Gupta
Club President: Rtn. Sunando Sen
Club Secretary: Rtn. Dipu Mullick
Club Editor: Rtn. Subhojit Roy

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A New Year of Hope and Transformation

The new Rotary year, with its magical theme, brings fresh hope, goals, and aspirations to the forefront. Within Rotary, the concept of "magic" resonates differently for each of the 1.4 million Rotarians worldwide. Every Rotarian has experienced moments that define this magic, leaving an indelible mark on their lives and, in many cases, transforming them in profound ways. The impact of Rotary's efforts spans continents, bringing qualitative changes to the lives of those who are otherwise deprived. Each Rotarian, in this sense, is a magician, wielding unique powers to drive positive change.

In my 28-year journey with Rotary, I have encountered numerous opportunities to serve. Twenty-seven years ago, I chose Thalassaemia as my 'magic' cause, committing to the vision of a thalassaemia-free country. With the unwavering support of fellow Rotarians, we have continued our efforts toward this goal. Throughout my Rotary journey, I have witnessed countless Rotarians embracing various causes, each selecting their unique form of magic.

As we embark on this new Rotary year, it is crucial to inspire others to believe in the magic of Rotary. By doing so, we not only foster growth within our community but also create countless more magical moments that transform lives and uplift those in need.

Subhojit Roy



Presidential Message-July

Rotary is at its best when we foster a sense of inclusion and belonging in our clubs. In fact, I would go so far as to say that belonging is *The Magic of Rotary* itself.

With a focus on inclusivity and belonging, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. When we are committed to one another and focused on our goals, we are most effective.

Rotary's Action Plan can help. The Action Plan comes with tools you can use to collect feedback, assess your club's strengths and weaknesses, and address challenges.

The world is changing, and our clubs can't afford to stand still. But the changes we make need to be consistent and strategic — building on one another toward a greater vision. The Action Plan can help you work toward that vision and create effective change within your club. Following the Action Plan and addressing

suggestions from the community will go a long way to fostering the sense of belonging we want all Rotary members to feel in their clubs.

That's why expanding our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is so important. Committing ourselves to each other's well-being is the first step to expanding our reach, allowing us to spread Positive Peace in these troubled times.

Peace building is one of our top priorities, and one of the most effective ways we can build peace is with our Rotary Peace Fellowships, through which peace and development professionals learn how to prevent and end conflict.

We offer the fellowships through our Rotary Peace Centers at leading universities around the globe, where more than 1,800 Rotary Peace Fellows have graduated. And thanks to a \$15.5 million gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, we can continue supporting peacebuilders in more regions with the next peace center at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

Opening another peace center is a monumental achievement, and it is my great honor to invite you to celebrate at next year's Rotary Presidential Peace Conference at the Istanbul center. The three-day conference 20-22 February will highlight the many ways our family of Rotary advances peacebuilding. Registration for the conference is officially open. I hope to see you there.

The 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference has great potential for our peacebuilding efforts — but only if we have your support.

The truth is, we're not going to bring peace to the world, end polio, or grow membership by waving a wand and saying some funny words. It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member inducted.

I love my Rotary family and I know you do too. That's why I know that together, we can make every club and district simply irresistible. This year, let us change the world by embracing The Magic of Rotary.

Stephanie A. Urchick

RI President 2024-25



Club President's Message

I feel honoured to lead this wonderful club as the President for the RY 2024-25. I am looking forward to your help and active participation in spreading the "Magic of Rotary" by doing meaningful work that will benefit the underprivileged people in our society. No act is small. Even if we can make a difference to one person's life, we have achieved much.

So let us put our hearts and minds together and create a wonderful year of service and fellowship.

I wish everyone good health and great spirits right through this Rotary year!

Rtn Sunando Sen

Club President 2024-25



Magic of Rotary

I was really very surprised to note that our Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick thought of the theme “The Magic of Rotary”! Many of my friends in Rotary were talking about the theme and debating about it.

A few months earlier, RI President (at that time she was RI President Elect), Stephanie had visited Kolkata and had given us an explanation as to why and how she had picked up the theme. It was a long time ago that Stephanie had gone to the Dominican Republic to put up water filters there so that the people could get clean water. Some young boys were watching the process very keenly and they were very taken in. They thought this to be a magical affair. They went up to Stephanie and requested her to show the magic again! And years later, Stephanie remembered about ‘Magic’ when she was chosen to be the 2nd Lady President of Rotary International.

Indeed, I laude our World President for selecting such a theme, because it holds true! All of us have had great magical moments after joining this organisation. If we ask any Rotarian, he or she will certainly be able to share their magical moments!

I was already a past president and had changed my club when I personally felt the magic. Had gone to take a hair cut at a friend’s salon. She had a unisex salon. As I was getting my services, I noticed a young man sitting in a corner. He looked very sad and I could not help asking the girls what had happened to the young man. They whispered to me that his niece was about 2 or 3 years of age and had been detected with a heart ailment. The family was very worried because the operation was expensive and they were afraid that they would not be able to afford the large amount needed.

My heart went out to the young man and his family. I thought to myself, God has given us so much; can I not help this family? Sitting in that hair salon I called Dr Rampal Vidhawan of RC Calcutta Mahanagar who is a famous heart surgeon. I spoke to him and immediately he gave an appointment for the next day. In no time, the child was admitted and her surgery was done. If this is not magical, what is?

Every day I find magic in our Rotary club experience - whether in our own club or when we visit others’ clubs. Every project we do, and every outcome of a project is nothing but magical. And we, the Rotarians, are making “magic” every day!

Shyamashree Sen

Past District Governor (2016-17)

Club Learning Facilitator (2024-25)

An Innovator With Impact

Rotary’s latest alumni award honoree pursues scientific and societal progress

By **Etelka Lehoczky**



Gaetano Scamarcio is a member of the Rotary Club of Bari, Italy, the same club that sponsored his Ambassadorial Scholarship.

Image credit: Camillo Pasquarelli

Alone in a lab one night about 30 years ago, Gaetano Scamarcio experienced something every scientist yearns for. After months of failed experiments, minuscule adjustments, and stubborn faith, he finally made a breakthrough: His newly designed laser actually worked.

“I saw the signal from the measurement instruments skyrocket off the scale,” recalls Scamarcio, the recipient of the 2023-24 Rotary Alumni Global Service Award. “Initially, due to fatigue, I thought it was caused by interference. But then I realized that — Bingo! — my superlattice quantum cascade microlaser, which I had designed and longed for so many times, was finally working. It was an indescribable joy.”

Scamarcio’s bingo moment was all the more exciting for where it took place: Nokia Bell Labs, the world-renowned innovation hub headquartered in Murray Hill, New Jersey. In the century since Bell Labs (as it was formerly known) was founded, it contributed to the development of the transistor, the laser, the solar cell, and the Unix computer operating system.

Scamarcio had long yearned to study at Nokia Bell Labs. He got his PhD in experimental physics from the University of Bari Aldo Moro in Italy, focusing on lasers and semiconductors. The chance to pursue his research at the celebrated facility came when a fellow scientist, who would become his mentor there, told him about **The Rotary Foundation’s** Ambassadorial Scholarship program. He applied for and won a scholarship, and he was soon on his way to New Jersey.

Those possibilities ultimately went beyond the scientific realm. Ten years after his laser breakthrough, Scamarcio was invited to join the Rotary Club of Bari, in Italy’s Apulia region, the same club that had sponsored his scholarship. Discovering Rotary’s sense of shared purpose sparked a commitment to service that fires him to this day.

Scamarcio’s belief in the power of leadership has influenced his Rotary activities and his professional pursuits. As the president of his club in 2013-14, he spearheaded Rotary Meets the Road, a project to help homeless people in Bari. Devising a workable strategy required qualities similar to those needed in the laboratory, such as the patience for trial and error.

To get their new vehicle on the road, Scamarcio and his club conducted some diplomatic outreach. They obtained the cooperation of the other Rotary clubs in Bari, Rotary members throughout the district, officials of Bari’s city government, and representatives of a local public transit company. “The success of this service underscores the power of synergy and collective action in addressing social issues,” he says.

Scamarcio was later able to draw on his scientific background for another service project. He created a smartphone app to help people with disabilities navigate Bari’s streets. Called Bari4All, it received the Significant Achievement Award from Rotary International Past President Ron D. Burton. Scamarcio’s work to help the citizens of Bari also led to him being honored with the city’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Scamarcio uses both his scientific and interpersonal skills in his work as a physics researcher and teacher. Besides inventing the superlattice quantum cascade microlaser, which is now used in systems for environmental monitoring and quantum physics, he recently contributed to the development of a single-molecule, transistor-type sensor that can be used for early detection of life-threatening diseases.

This story originally appeared in the June 2024 issue of Rotary magazine.

District News

UDBHODHAN

On 1st July'24, Udbhodhan was held at the Dhono Dhannye Auditorium where the District Governor (24-25) Dr Krishnendu Gupta was installed in the presence of several dignitaries.

CLUB NEWS

Doctor's Day & Health Camp on 1st July 2024



The first day of the new Rotary year was observed by organizing a health check up camp at the Omkarnath Mission, Mahamilan Math, Dunlop jointly with RC Calcutta Amory and was supported by Agilus Diagnostics Ltd.

69 patients were checked for their blood and health issues. The two clubs felicitated doctors present on the occasion.

RC Calcutta Metro City was represented by President Sunando Sen, PP Rtns Subhojit Roy, Dipu Mullick and Hon Rtn Tarun Bhattacharya (who facilitated the camp). The partner club was represented by PP Rtns Partha Sengupta, Sujata Chatterjee and Club Secretary Rtn Goutam Mondal.

Project Thalassaemia



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City visited the Thalassaemia Society of India to formally hand over Rs 50,000 for medicines and reagents for blood tests as part of its facilitation of CSR funds from Ramawatar Charitable Trust

facilitated by our past member Mr Manish Nayak. This is an ongoing project and funds donated touched Rs 3 lakhs over the past two years. This donation was made in honour of Legend Sunil Gavaskar who touched 75 on Monday. Gavaskar has been an active advocate for Thalassaemia Awareness and prevention and the youngest boy and girl who came for their blood transfusion also cut cake in his honour. Sunil Gavaskar when informed about the gesture sent a formal mail expressing his gratitude and happiness.

The Dist Chair Thalassaemia Committee PP Rtn Dr Arabinda Ray along with his Committee Advisor PP Rtn Subhojit Roy and the Club President Rtn Sunando Sen with PP Rtn Arindam Ghosh were present. The Society was represented by its Hony Secretary Mr Utpal Panda and other office bearers. Apart from the donation a plan for the entire year was discussed including a seminar, blood donation camps and Awareness sessions..other clubs were also proposed to be roped in for the same.

Forthcoming Programs

20th July'24, 3pm- Thalassaemia Awareness Session at IIM&C with PP Rtn Dr Arabinda Ray, Chairman, District Thalassaemia Awareness & prevention Committee.

25th July'24, 7:30 pm- Regular Meeting on Zoom

27th July'24, 4:30pm- Bagh Divas, a felicitation program of forest conservators and wild life protectors alongwith a docu-feature and tribal dance. The program is in association with SHER and will be held at the La Martiniere School for Girls Auditorium.

Greetings

Wedding Anniversary Greetings to spouse Bandana and Rtn Dipu Mullick for 24th July

No Challenge Is Too Big For Us

For more than a century, we've bridged cultures and connected continents. We champion peace, fight illiteracy and poverty, help people get access to clean water and sanitation, and fight disease. Our newest cause is to protect our planet and its resources.

