



BLISS



AN OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA NORTH EAST Rotary International District 3291

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Thursday, 11th September, 2025
1631st Regular Meeting

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We meet every alternate Thursday at THE ANTELOPE, 3, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700071 at 8.00 pm.

Rtn Angana Paul
President

Rtn Sabyasachi Roy
Secretary

PP Rtn Chandra Kumar Paul
Treasurer

PP Rtn Subhashis Ghosh
Editor

TOGETHER, WE

OVERCOME

Reminiscing The Past

Thyroid Awareness Camp

ROTARY YEAR 2009-10
LED BY EX-RTN PP MRITYUNJOY BANIK

SPONSORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLISS

PP RTN SAUMENDRA MOHAN RAKSHIT

FELLOWSHIP

PP RTN CHANDRA KUMAR PAUL

REFRESHMENTS

RTN SWAPNAMITA ROY

A Rotary Scholar's book encourages children to live their dreams

By Geoffrey Johnson

For her eighth birthday, Janet Chvatal had a date with the devil. "My mother took me to my first opera when I was 8 years old," a grown-up Chvatal explains. "It was Goethe's Faust, the French version by Charles Gounod. It was so intense, with Marguerite taken down to hell and the devils dancing around — and then she sings to the heavens and is released because she's a pure soul. It was a visual and aural extravaganza, the likes of which I had never seen. All I wanted to do from then on was be involved somehow in the arts."

Born in Florida, Chvatal grew up in Beaverton, Oregon, and though she fulfilled her hope of a life in the arts, things didn't go exactly as planned. "I dreamed of being a concert pianist," she says. "And then I got into high school and discovered that classical pianists have to practice 10 to 12 hours a day. Singers, however, can only practice four to five hours. So I decided, I think I'll be a singer instead."

A straight-A student and a self-described "Streber" — a German word that Chvatal defines as someone who strives to excel — she strode resolutely toward her goal. After winning several competitions in high school, she was invited to attend an exclusive vocalization workshop in California along with other top teenagers from around the country. "I was sure that I was going to be a little fish in a big pond," confesses Chvatal. Instead she turned out to be one of the workshop's most promising students.

With her sights set on attending a college with a top program for vocal study, Chvatal knew one thing for sure. "I wanted to get out of town as soon as possible," she says. "I hadn't yet fully appreciated what Beaverton had given to me." That realization would come with time.

In 1986, Chvatal concluded four years of studies at one of those top schools — Boston University College of Fine Arts — which she attended on scholarship and graduated summa cum laude. ("My Streber instinct was still there.") While at Boston, she took workshops with the Belgian bass baritone José van Dam and the composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein. Chvatal says they both imparted the same message: "Girl, you must get to Europe!"

What they didn't say was how she might accomplish that financially. "Between my junior and senior year in college, I began applying for scholarships," says Chvatal. "I thought about the Fulbright — and then I discovered the Rotary Club of Beaverton." With help from club member and future district governor Larry Huot (who died in 1998), Chvatal secured a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. With that, she was able to continue her studies at her school of choice: Die Hochschule fuer Musik und Darstellende Kunst (University of Music and Performing Arts) in Vienna.

"It was a quantum leap into a new world," Chvatal says. "I was able to continue my dream of honing my talent there. It provided the final stage of learning that I needed to master my craft. I don't know how I would have done it without Rotary. I've been a fan and deep appreciator ever since."

As a professional singer, Chvatal continued to excel. In 1990, she made her debut in Vienna as Christine Daaé in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*, and she followed that with more leading roles in operas and musical theater, as well as a masterful string of recordings. She also raised two children, Cypress Joseph and Naia Leone, who are both Rotary Youth Leadership Awards grads. ("It changed their lives," says their mother.)

Today Chvatal lives in Füssen, a German city in the Bavarian Alps watched over by Neuschwanstein Castle, the fairy-tale structure that inspired *Sleeping Beauty's* castle in Disneyland. "It's an extraordinary place to live," she says, "and I am so blessed to now make my permanent home there."

But Chvatal hadn't forgotten Beaverton. "From the moment I learned the term Service Above Self," she says, "it has remained one of the beautiful, haunting voices inside my mind." Now she began to wonder how she could "put tools into the hands of children so they could live their dreams and reach their goals."

In Germany, Chvatal wrote and produced *Der Schwanenprinz*; from that musical



Her Ambassadorial Scholarship helped prepare Janet Chvatal, an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Beaverton, for her musical career.



Janet Chvatal stars as Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera*

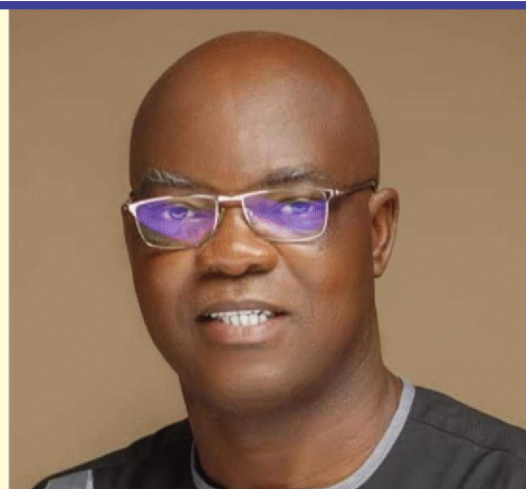
sprang a book called, in its English edition, *The Wish Prince*. The enchanting fairy tale encourages children to live their dreams; a 15-page addendum, which highlights “5 Crown Steps,” demonstrates how, with the help of a parent or a trusted friend, children can make those dreams come true. To date, Chvatal has given away about 20,000 copies of her book, including 5,000 that she is presenting to children under the auspices of the Wish Prince Project, an endeavor she launched in 2019 with her old friends, the Rotary Club of Beaverton.

Today, on her return visits to Beaverton, Chvatal visits grade-school classrooms with Rotary members. Clad in a traditional Bavarian dirndl, she goes through the book with the young students; she even sings them her song about the Wish Prince. Finally, she turns to the last pages of her book and relates a lesson from her life. “I tell the students that I wanted to tell a story, but that you never do anything alone,” says Chvatal. “You always need help, and these are the people who helped me reach my dream of writing this book for you.”

First names on the book’s list: three Beaverton Rotarians — Ralph Shoffner, Doug Taylor, and Maureen Wheeler — as well as a shoutout to the whole club, which, by sponsoring Chvatal’s Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, launched the Streber-striving soprano’s career and helped make her dreams come true.



We deeply mourn the passing of Rotary International President - Elect for 2026-27, Rtn. Sang Koo Yun.



OLAVINKA HAKEEM BABALOLA, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been selected to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27.

Know your ROTARY

ROTARY AVENUES OF SERVICE

Rotary's Avenues of Service are the core principles that guide its members in their commitment to "Service Above Self." These avenues provide a framework for Rotarians to contribute to their communities and the world in various meaningful ways. Originally there were four Avenues, but a fifth was added to recognize the importance of engaging and empowering young people.

THE FIVE AVENUES OF SERVICE

The Five Avenues of Service are:

1. **Club Service:** This avenue focuses on the internal workings and fellowship of a Rotary club. It involves the activities Rotarians perform to ensure their club functions successfully and that members have a positive and engaging experience.
 - o Examples: Organizing club meetings and social events, fostering a welcoming environment for new members, strengthening fellowship among existing members, and participating in club leadership or committees.
2. **Vocational Service:** This avenue highlights the opportunity each Rotarian has to represent the dignity and utility of their profession. It encourages members to uphold high ethical standards in their work and to use their vocational talents to address societal needs.
 - o Examples: Mentoring young professionals, sharing career experiences with students, promoting ethical business practices, and using one's skills to benefit the community through their vocation.

3. Community Service: This avenue pertains to the projects and activities Rotarians undertake to improve the quality of life within their local communities. It involves addressing local needs and contributing to the well-being of fellow citizens.

o Examples: Participating in local clean-up drives, supporting food banks, assisting seniors or individuals with disabilities, funding local schools or community centers, and organizing health awareness campaigns.

4. International Service: This avenue exemplifies Rotary's global reach and its commitment to advancing international understanding, goodwill, and peace. It involves projects and activities that address humanitarian needs in other countries.

o Examples: Sponsoring international projects, partnering with clubs in other nations for humanitarian efforts, participating in global health initiatives (like polio eradication), and supporting educational exchanges.

5. New Generations Service: This avenue recognizes the positive change that youth and young adults can implement. It focuses on engaging and empowering them through leadership development activities, community and international service projects, and exchange programs.

o Examples: Sponsoring and mentoring Interact (for youth aged 12-18) and Rotaract (for young adults aged 18-30) clubs, organizing or participating in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program, and supporting youth exchange programs.

By actively engaging in these Five Avenues of Service, Rotarians embody the organization's motto, "Service Above Self," and contribute to making a positive impact both locally and globally.

Rotary 

Rotary Fact

A "rotating" name.
The organization's name, Rotary, came from the early practice of holding weekly club meetings at members' offices on a rotating basis. This custom was eventually abandoned as the clubs grew too large.



Wishing all members and their families a Happy Durga Puja and Subh Navratri.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Our next club meeting will be on 9th October, 2025

Family Corner Congratulations !

Mrs. Indrani Dutt w/o PP Rtn Sujit Dutt awarded for her achievements as a writer and reciter at the Bengal International Excellence Awards 2025



BENGAL INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS
AWARDEE



INDRANI DUTTA

Writer & Reciter



Interact Installation

The members of Rotary Club of Calcutta North East were invited to attend Quintessential, the Installation Ceremony of the Interact Club of DPS Mega City. The event celebrated the induction of young leaders, empowering them to take on responsibilities and serve the community. District Governor Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Hom Chaudhuri and Aide to Governor Rtn N Ramakrishnan graced the occasion. Dr Hom Chaudhuri delivered an inspiring speech to motivate the students. We also handed over a cheque of ₹5000 as seed money to the Interact Club for the current year. President Rtn Angana Paul, Secretary Rtn Sabyasachi Roy, PP Rtn Vivekananda Bhowmick, and PP Rtn Saumendra Mohan Rakshit were present to encourage and support the young Interactors on this special day.



Project Report - Teachers Day Celebration

In accordance with the theme of the month, Literacy, members of RCCNE celebrated Teacher's Day at Cossipore Institution where 9 teachers were felicitated for their untiring service towards educating the children. We presented honorarium for a year to the yoga teacher of the school to continue improving the physical health of the students. We also distributed food packets to the children. The children put up a cultural program and a yoga performance which was enjoyed by all. Rotarians present were PP Rtn Sudip kumar Dutta, PP Rtn Sujit Dutt, PP Rtn Ramprasad Chattopadhyay, Rtn Sukanta Khan, Rtn Sabyasachi Roy, Rtn Swapnamita Roy, Rtn Sukanta Khan, Rtn Suven Mukherjee, Rtn Salil Kumar Chandra, Rtn Pushpita Mukherjee, Rtn Ahana Ghosh along with president Rtn Angana Paul.



ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA NORTH EAST MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NO. 1630

Date : 28th August, 2025

**Venue : The Antelope, 3, Ho Chi Minh Sarani,
Kolkata - 700017**

Call to Order

President Rtn Angana Paul called the meeting to order. The National Anthem was led by PP Rtn Sudip Kumar Dutta, with all members joining in respect.

President's Address & Project Reports

President Rtn Angana Paul welcomed the members and presented updates on recent club projects:

- **15th August:** RCCNE celebrated Independence Day at Cossipore Institution, Kolkata. The program began at 10 AM with flag hoisting, followed by a cultural program by students, the distribution of gifts and chocolates, and teacher felicitation.

- **23rd August:** RCCNE participated in a joint project with the Rotary Club of South Calcutta at an Awareness Camp on Breast & Cervical Cancer. RCCNE participated as Co-Host and contributed Rs. 2000 towards the event.

- **24th August:** RCCNE successfully organized a Mega Health Check-up Camp at Girish Park, Hindu Mahasabha Sarbojanin Durga Puja Committee. The camp provided general health, cardiac, dental, and diabetic consultations, with support from Desun Hospital. Three Inner Wheel Clubs—IWC Calcutta North East, IWC Girish Park Urbia, and IWC Chowringhee Queens—co-sponsored the event. Approximately 100 beneficiaries attended. District Governor Rtn. Dr. Ramendu Hom Chaudhuri graced the occasion and shared valuable insights on Rotary's ongoing health initiatives. Past District Governor Rtn. Mukul Sinha and Rtn. Sujata Gupta, Joint Secretary – Projects, were also present and extended their support. Mr. Rajesh Sinha, Ward Councillor of Ward 25, and Mrs. Ruby Sinha attended the event as special guests. On this occasion, President Rtn. Angana Paul generously donated USD 237.93 to The Rotary Foundation (Polio Plus Fund), continuing the club's contribution towards the global fight to eradicate polio.

President's Announcements – Upcoming Projects

- RCCNE received a request from Cossipore Institution, Kolkata, to sponsor the cost of a Yoga Teacher. The club agreed to accept the request, and PP Rtn. Chandra Kumar Paul announced a donation to cover the cost for one month on behalf of RCCNE.

- An appeal was received from “Pratham Padakhep” for Teacher's Day celebrations. However, this year RCCNE decided to participate in the event at Cossipore Boys School, Baranagar.

- RCC Kankinara made an appeal for an Eye Cataract Screening program to be held on 7th

September. RCCNE will organize this event in collaboration with the Eye Hospital of RC Hooghly and will sponsor food packets for the beneficiaries. PDG Rtn Hiralal Yadav will be the chief guest, and members are encouraged to attend.

- The President shared details of the Nandigram School renovation project. The costs have been outlined, and this project will be funded through the EIRWT fund after the closure of the previous grant by the Immediate Past President (IPP).

Treasurer's Report

The President invited the Club Treasurer, PP Rtn. Chandra Kumar Paul, to present his report. He provided an update on the current status of member dues and thanked everyone who donated to the Mega Health Check-up Camp. He also noted that the KYC (Know Your Customer) for the club's bank account needs to be updated by the old signatories, as new signatories have not yet been added. This must be done immediately, or bank operations will be held up. Meanwhile, the balance will be transferred to the new Bandhan Bank account.

Secretarial Business

Club Secretary Rtn Sabyasachi Roy extended his greetings and thanks to all members present. He confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting, offered birthday and anniversary wishes to members and their families, and announced that the next regular meeting will be held on **11th September 2025**.

Conclusion

With no other business to address, President Rtn Angana Paul concluded the meeting and invited all members to join the fellowship gathering. She also invited Rtn Ahana to give a small presentation on the **Digital Footprint of RCCNE** during the fellowship session.

Sponsorship Acknowledgements

- **BLISS :** Rtn Sukanta Khan
- **Fellowship :** Rtn Gurmeet Singh Sachar
- **Snacks :** Rtn Rathindra Nath Dey

Minutes Prepared by: Rtn Sabyasachi Roy, Secretary

Birthday Greetings

13 Sep : Rtn Saumendra Mohan Rakshit
17 Sep : Rtn Puspita Mukherjee
18 Sep : Ritika, D/o Rtn Gurmeet Singh Sachar
22 Sep : Rtn Subhashis Ghosh
24 Sep : Rtn Ahana Ghosh
27 Sep : Devansh, S/o Rtn Rathindra Nath Dey
29 Sep : Rtn Biswajit Choudhuri
29 Sep : Rtn Rathindra Nath Dey
04 Oct : Subhashree, D/o Rtn Subhashis Kar
07 Oct : Subhasish, S/o Rtn Prabir Kumar Paul
08 Oct : Rtn Srikanta Basu Mallik