

Breakfast News

Celebrating 20 Years

THE BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA CHOWRENGHEE | RI DISTRICT 3291

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President Speak



You live only Twice... but only if you're Bond! Unfortunately, on 31st Oct we lost an icon in Sean Connery - the first-ever James Bond! May his soul rest in peace.

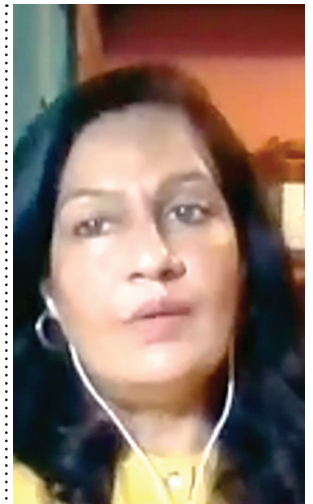
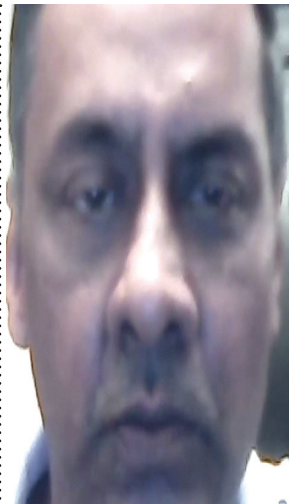
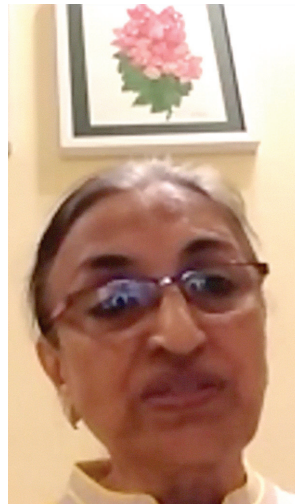
We mortals, on the other hand, get only one chance at life and we need to find purpose, take chances, and make the most of Now. We were inspired by some of our members last month through their sharing of their Hero's Journey. I am grateful to Jayshree, Neeraj and Nita for coming forward and sharing. We look forward to many more of our members sharing their journeys with us.

This pandemic has served as a reminder that nothing is permanent and while one can plan all we want, what happens tomorrow is not (entirely) in our control. When life serves you lemons make lemonade. While we can't control situations, it is always up to us how we react. So the question is - are you following your dreams? enjoying what you do? being empathetic? learning something new? exploring the new? pushing boundaries? testing your limits? If so, please share it with us. If not, take the plunge.

The world is growing exponentially and technology & developments are making things possible that we never thought possible! But that is another discussion for another day.

Deepak

The Hero's Journey



Last month Chowrenghee kickstarted its much awaited programme-Our Hero's Journey wherein members would describe the challenges they faced in their lifetime and more importantly how they overcame those roadblocks to emerge triumphant. The inaugural session featured PP Jayshree Sanghvi, PP Nita Sethia and Rtn. Neeraj Kanoria.

PP Jayshree Sanghvi discovered a congenital heart ailment in her college days. With medicine not as advanced as today, she flew to Birmingham, England, for surgery. Things did not go quite as planned with doctors

discovering a hole in her heart. A simple surgery turned into a major open-heart surgery. It was only her sheer fortitude, stoicism and grit because of which Jayshree could survive this ordeal. Decades later, today Jayshree who is absolutely fit and a doting grandmother ascribes her good health to her courage which helped her take the decision to go in for surgery at that young age.

The 1970s saw the dramatic rise and rise of an industrialist named Neeraj Kanoria. His career was firmly on the upswing with daring expansion

continued on page 2...

Forthcoming Club Programmes

- **Sat, 7th:** Fellowship
- **Fri, 20th:** RM followed by a Workshop
- **Fri, 27th:** RM with Guest Speaker

The Hero's Journey

sions planned to his sprawling empire of sugar mills, jute mills and carpet factories. His zooming trajectory took a bizarre turn for the worse when he discovered that his own family was quietly plotting against him while he was away growing his empire. A bitter and prolonged separation ensued which squeezed him dry of all his assets. With a wife and 2 young children to tend to Neeraj had nowhere to go. Slowly and brick-by-brick he began milking the international contacts he had acquired during his business travels abroad. He began successfully executing complex financial deals for friends and acquaintances who needed a foothold in a particular country. Word got around and Neeraj became a full time "deal-maker" in his own words. Today he is a beacon of resilience and like the proverbial phoenix who rises from the ashes.

Nita discovered her reserves of positivity on a holiday to Valley of Flowers with fellow members. There was a fair amount of uphill trekking involved and on one such trek she found her-

self grappling with a violent bout of nausea. Not wishing to mar the excitement of the group Nita insisted that the others carry on while she would stay back to get some rest and would rejoin them on their return journey. On returning home it was discovered that her highblood pressure was to blame for her discomfort.



The diagnosis proved to be far from correct. In future trips to Sri Lanka and Central America she battled a low-grade fever that came and went and refused to be treated even with the strongest of antibiotics. It was a tribute to her unflappable spirit that made her finish all her trips exactly the way she had envisioned them. Back home after extensive tests, she was ultimately diagnosed with tuberculosis which was cured with the right medication. Looking back, Nita attributes her ability to unflinchingly face fear squarely that successfully saw her through her trials.

All 3 members spoke frankly and movingly about their personal challenges. It was a learning experience for all and looked forward to the next session in this series.

Rotary Acronyms & Abbreviations

RC	Rotary Club
CL	Classification
CP	Charter President
VP	Vice President
PE	President Elect
PN	President Nominee
PND	President Nominee Designate
IPP	Immediate Past President
PP	Past President
PETS	President Elect Training Seminar
SAA	Sergent-At-Arms
LOA	Leave of Absence
DSA	Distinguished Service Award
AGM	Annual General Meeting
YIR	Yours In Rotary
YIRS	Yours In Rotary Service
RCC	Rotary Community Corps
CLP	Club Leadership Plan
RLA	Rotary Leadership Academy
RYLA	Rotary Youths Leadership Awards


2019-2020 ROTARY CITATION
SILVER

Awarded to the Rotary Club of

Calcutta Chowrenghee


for helping **Rotary connect the world.**


 Mark Daniel Maloney
 President, Rotary International

Awarded to PP Nita Sethia for her outstanding contribution last year

FIDELITY
BANK ROBBERY

Come solve the mystery...



YOU ARE INVITED!

Date : Saturday , 7th November
Time : 5pm


 ROTARY CLUB OF
 CALCUTTA
 CHOWRENGHEE
District 2291

C O N D O L E N C E S

Our honorary member & Gift of Life patron Shri Jayanti bhai Shah expired at the age of 103 years.
On behalf of our club I attended his prayer meeting and offered condolences – *PP Jayshree Sanghvi*

To Rtn Nisha Kanoi on the untimely demise of her father-in-law.

EVOLUTION OF A TEMPLE OF LEARNING: THE UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

RTN G M KAPUR



The University of Calcutta, when it was established on the 24th January, 1857, strode across the Indian Sub-continent, from Lahore in the west to Rangoon in the east and Colombo in the south, like a Colossus -the first institute of higher learning in Asia. No other university set up at that time, i.e. Bombay and Madras, had a catchment area that large. The almost sub-continental jurisdiction of the University of Calcutta was gradually curtailed, first in 1882 when undivided Punjab and N.W.F.P. and British Baluchistan went to the Punjab University and then again in 1887 when United Provinces, Central Provinces and adjoining areas passed into the hands of Allahabad University.

Under the Indian Universities Act of 1904, the Governor-General-in-Council was empowered to define the territorial limits of the five universities mentioned above, and according to the notification of the Government of India, in the Home Department, dated 20 August 1904, the limits of the University of Calcutta were confined to Bengal (including Bihar and Orissa), Assam and Burma. Out of the areas over which the University formerly exercised its jurisdiction, Ceylon went under the University of Madras; the states and provinces included in the Rajputana and Central India Agencies, the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, the Central Provinces, and Ajmer and Marwar fell within the orbit of the Allahabad University.

In 1917, the University of Patna was established and the colleges and schools belonging to the provinces of Bihar and Orissa went over to that University. In 1920, the University of Rangoon was established and the territory of Burma went out of the jurisdiction of the University of Calcutta in 1921, and in that year, on the establishment of the University of Dacca, the Dacca College (Arts and Law), Dacca Training College and Jagan-



THE SENATE HOUSE: Erected in 1872, it was the first habitation of the University of Calcutta. It used to provide the venue for Senate meetings, the chamber of the Vice-Chancellor, offices of the Registrar and also examination and lecture halls. It was demolished in 1960. Photo credit: Puronokolkataargolpo.

nath College, Dacca, went into the fold of that University. Thus the jurisdiction of the University, which in 1904 extended practically over whole of north India, Burma and Ceylon, came to be limited in 1921 to the provinces of Bengal (undivided) and Assam. From 1921 till the date of India's partition on 14 August, 1947, this shrunken jurisdiction of the University remained undisturbed. But on that day, all colleges which fell within the territory of the newly created state of Eastern Pakistan, had to sever their ties with the University of Calcutta. The following year, the jurisdiction of the University was further curtailed; the University of Gauhati having been established on 1 January, 1948, all the colleges and schools belonging to the province of Assam left the University of Calcutta. The jurisdiction of the University is, at present, limited to the confines of a few districts of West Bengal.

It would not be out of place to mention that what the University lost in quantity, it more than made up in quality. It was established pursuant to the despatch, popularly known as Woods Despatch sent by The Court of Directors of the East India Company in July, 1854 to the Governor-General of India in Council, suggesting the establishment of the Universities of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. Wood, as the President of the Board of Con-

trol of the East India Company, was indeed interested in education, but he had a certain purpose. As he wrote to Lord Dalhousie, the Governor-General in India, although he accepted the idea of founding universities in India, he wanted these "to be mainly supported by those who are anxious for it". He added that "if they choose to educate themselves, well and good, but I am against providing our own future detractors, opponents and grumblers". How prophetic his words were to be as these universities provided the wherewithal to take the freedom movement forward.

Walter B. Granville, Calcutta's leading Victorian architect of that time, designed the Senate House a sketch and photograph of which can be seen above. Once completed, it became the most visible symbol of the University and a veritable landmark in the 'City of Palaces'. It was constructed at a cost of Rs 4,34,697 and was formally inaugurated on the convocation day: 12 March, 1873. However, much to the chagrin of those who love their city, this grand edifice was demolished without demur in 1960. As is well known, Calcutta University is the only university which has produced four Nobel Laureates. The galaxy of luminaries who are alumni of the university is too well known to be reproduced here. We all look forward to a return to its glorious past

Minutes of the 873rd Meeting of ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA CHOWRENGHEE held on Friday, 16th October, 2020 at 6:00 pm via ZOOM

- President Deepak called the 873rd RM of RC Calcutta Chowrenghee to order.
- Members stood for the National anthem.
- President Deepak, welcomed all the Members and briefly updated them of the ongoing work in Literacy and Water-Sanitation Projects. He informed the Members that the club had planned their next Fellowship on the 7th November. It is to be a Mystery-Murder Game that would be played on Zoom.
- He then asked, Secretary Vikram, to make his announcements.
- Secretary Vikram announced the coming Birthdays/Anniversaries in October. Requested Members to make a note of the Fellowship date. Members were wished Happy Durga Pujas
- President Deepak then opened the Meeting to the much awaited program called "Our Hero's Journey". He thanked Members, Jayshree, Neeraj and Nita to have come forward and participate as Speakers in the first edition of this event.
- PP Jayshree was the first speaker of the day. She spoke on how at a very young age of 17, she had to undergo a major operation of the Heart in England. It was difficult and traumatic but she managed to fight her fear and successfully come out of this problem.
- Neeraj who was the second speaker, spoke about his personal journey and the lessons that he learnt in his business career. Having a meteoric rise in business, he was suddenly left with nothing when his own Family betrayed him. With great difficulty he began his life again and with determination he was able to stand on his feet again. It was a begin lesson in his life.
- PP Nita was the last speaker of the day. She described in detail her travels from the Valley of Flowers to South America. Each time she planned a major travel, she would come down with some illness during her trip. She did not let her illness affect any of her travels and completed all her journey, the way she had planned. Her message was to not let fear become an obstacle for moving ahead. One must fight all situations and go ahead with full determination
- With that the First Part of the "Our Hero's Journey", came to an end. Members were very happy to have listened to the personal stories of their own Members and how each one came out as a Hero in life in their difficult situations.
- President Deepak, thanked Jayshree, Nita and Neeraj for sharing their stories. It was very inspiring. He thanked all the Members for joining in. The club would continue with such event in the coming months and the next edition would be in December.
- As there were no other agendas, President Deepak adjourned the Meeting.

Members Present: 28



**Happy
Birthday!**

Jayshree Sanghvi • 4th Nov

Sangeeta Sood • 21st Nov

Pradeep Saraf • 25th Nov

Nita Sethia • 28th Nov

Breakfast News opens up to members! Inviting contributions for the bulletin. Please send in your articles in not more than 400-500 words. No political or religious pieces please. You can mail it to the Editor at rohit.keddia@gmail.com



**Anniversary
Wishes**

Hemant Goenka & Shruti

20th Nov

Dinesh Neotia & Abha

23rd Nov

Rajeev Ginodia & Shobha

23rd Nov

Manisha Srivastava & Devesh

25th Nov

Shantanu Kejriwal & Nalini

26th Nov

Alka Jain & Kamal • 28th

Nov

**Wishing
all members
and their families
a safe and joyous
Diwali**

