



ISSUE No: 13 / 2025-2026

REGULAR MEETING No. 2965

9 January 2026

*On behalf of President Rtn. Ruma Mitra, The Whistle wishes you and your loved ones
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Marilyn Monroe (born Norma Jeane Mortenson) had a challenging early life in foster care before becoming a world-famous actress, model, and singer, known for iconic films like *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *The Seven Year Itch*, but struggled with insecurity, the "dumb blonde" image, and industry pressures, leading to a tragic death from a drug overdose in 1962, cementing her status as a cultural icon. Her life was a complex mix of glamour and profound personal struggles, including mental health issues and difficult marriages.

She was born Norma Jeane Mortenson, on June 1, 1926, in Los Angeles. Her mother, Gladys, suffered from mental illness, leading Norma Jeane to spend much of her childhood in foster homes and orphanages. At 16, she married James Dougherty, a factory worker, but they divorced after WWII.

Norma, who was discovered as a model during the war, adopted the name Marilyn Monroe (using her mother's maiden name, Monroe) and signed with 20th Century-Fox in 1946. She then transitioned from modeling to minor film roles, working hard to improve her craft. Small parts in *The Asphalt Jungle* and *All About Eve* (1950) led to leading roles, establishing her as a major star by 1953. She starred in comedies like *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *How to Marry a Millionaire*, and *The Seven Year Itch*, becoming a global sensation.

Despite her sex symbol status, she hated being seen as unintelligent and sought serious acting roles, taking classes and forming her own studio to gain control. She battled depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and insomnia, becoming dependent on prescription drugs. She had high-profile marriages, including to Joe DiMaggio and Arthur Miller, but struggled to find happiness and longed for children.

She died from a drug overdose on August 4, 1962, at age 36, a death still surrounded by speculation. Monroe remains a powerful pop culture icon, remembered for her beauty, talent, vulnerability and the tragic story behind her glamorous façade.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

THE LABEL

During a prank, a student stuck a paper on his classmate's back that said "I'm stupid." he asked the rest of the class not to tell the boy.

Thus, the students began laughing throughout the day.

Shortly afterwards, Mathematics class started & their professor wrote a difficult question on the board. No one was able to answer it except the boy with the sticker. Amid slight laughs, for he didn't know why, he

walked towards the board & solved it, the teacher asked the class to clap for him & removed the paper on his back.

Teacher told him "It seems that you didn't know about the paper on your back that one of your classmates put & the rest of them kept it a secret."

Then he faced the rest of the class & said "Before I give you a punishment, I will tell you 2 things: First, throughout your life, people will put labels on your back with many bad things written on it to stop your progress.

If he had known about the label, he would not have gotten up to answer the question.

All you have to do in life is ignore the labels people give you & use every chance you have to progress, learn & improve yourself."

"The second is that it is clear that he does not have any loyal friends amongst you all, to tell him about removing the paper.

It does not matter how many friends you have. It is the loyalty between you & your friends that matters."

If you don't have friends who can defend you behind your back, who can watch over you, protect you & who genuinely care about you, you are better off alone.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

16th January is the Birthday of Rtn Dr Sushmita Mitra Banerjee

16th January is also the Birthday of Rtn Chandan Roychowdhury

16th January is also the Birthday of Rtn Debasish Lahiri

16th January is the Wedding Anniversary of Rtn Capt Ranjan and Mishti Dutta

FORTHCOMING PROJECTS

- Bakery Classes to begin from January for the students of 'The Lighthouse for the Blind'. This is a joint project in association with Aspiration Bengal.
- Candle Making classes to begin soon for the students of 'The Behala Blind School'. This too is a joint project with Aspiration Bengal.
- Artwork, drawing/ painting and clay modelling classes to begin soon at the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School. This too is a joint Project with Aspiration Bengal.
- RCCSW is organizing Fun Fiesta – A Fundraising Carnival, proposed to be held at the golf Green Park on 16th and 17th January 2026.
- RCCSW will be organizing 'Khela Dhula', a Sports meet for the children of Madartala Slums and adjoining area at Golf Green Park on 26th January.

DISTRICT NEWS

9th January 2026 is the DGND Election RY 2028-'29 and COL Representative Election RY 2026-2029. OUR Club President Rtn Ruma Mitra has been authorized to cast the votes on behalf of RCCSW.

10th and 11th January 2026 are the dates for the District Conference to be held at the East Side Pavillion, NICCO Park. Members who have not yet registered may still do so online.

TEAM RCCSW for 2026 -2027

At the AGM held on 19 December 2025, the following members were elected UNCONTESTED to make up the BOARD of DIRECTORS of ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA SOUTH WEST for the Rotary year 2026-2027.

See below for a pictorial introduction of TEAM RCCSW 2026-2027:



President, Rtn. Ruma Mitra



President Elect [2027-2028], Rtn. Debashis Sarkar



Vice President, Rtn. Samir Sur



Hony. Secretary, Rtn. Dr. Sushmita Mitra Banerjee



Hony. Treasurer, Rtn. PP. Subrata Chakraborty



Director, PP. Rtn. Dr. Sumit Kumar Mitra



Director, Rtn. Mahua Das



Director, Rtn. Prasenjit Sarkar



Director, Rtn. Biswarup Gupta



Director, Rtn. Zeena Augustine