

## Club in Action during Festival time

■ **16th Oct:** A lunch was organised for the inmates and care givers of New Age Orphanage, near Baruipur. This was hosted by Dr O P Agarwal.



■ **24th Oct:** World Polio Day is celebrated on 24th October each year. Due to the Pandemic, District 3291 requested all the clubs to do only an awareness campaign by putting up banners in different areas. Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria, put up banners in



■ **22nd-26th Oct:** Rotary Club of Calcutta Victoria partnered with Rotary Club of Calcutta Avyanna in a project 'TEJASWANI SAMMAN' where 20 women oriented Durga pujas were judged on the basis of women involvement, cleanliness, social distancing, masks etc. RCCV was one of the Co- hosts. Banners were put up in 30 pandals with the name of the clubs. This added to the project in Public Image. The judgement was done on Zoom platform. President Gayatree Dhar was one of the judges.



four different areas, namely New Alipur, Golf Green, Belegghata and Lake Gardens. These banners were put up in Durga Puja pandals and in nearby places so that people visiting the pandals can notice them. This was a project of Polio Awareness and Public Image.

■ **24th Oct:** Lunch was hosted at Navneer Tollygung, a home for the aged. It was Durga Ashtami, thus all the inmates as well as the care givers (85 person) enjoyed a special bengali lunch, sponsored by Lila Bhoopal.

Today's  
Programme

Open House





## Words of Wisdom: Chandi paath – meaning and efficacy

Dr Nandini Bhowmik, a Sanskrit scholar, lady priest and a stage artist was the guest speaker, on Saturday, 17th October 2020. She gave us an insight into Sri Sri Chandi, rendering a few stotrams in between her talk, which was very beautiful and so appropriate as it was the start of the 'Devipaksha'.

Sri Sri Chandi is based on the Vedas portion of Markandya Purana. She is the Goddess of energy and power. The Goddess protects us, makes us free. While reciting the beautiful Argala Stotras, she paused to explain some of their meanings. Like the of repeated *Rupang dehi, Jayang dehi, Yasho dehi, Dwisho Jahi*. Rupa is Brahma swarupa, the ultimate realisation. Impediments are won over to realise one's self. On realisation one gets 'jaya' i.e. victory and then 'Yasha', or fame. Winning over enemies means slaying of one's own inner demons.

Rikveda has two clusters of sutras. Devi sutra and Ratri sutra. Composer of Devisutra was a lady priest who was probably a teacher too. Here Devi, self declares that "I am everything. I am the whole universe. I take up the whole creation in my arms, the merging of the supreme Brahma". She is the eternal cosmic vibration, Aum (or Ohm) which creates, preserves and dissolves everything.. In Ratri sutra, Mother Goddess protects everyone at night even when asleep. She is the conqueror of all the demons, for she slayed Rakta Bijo, Chanda, Munda, Madhu Kaitava, Shumbha, Nisumbha and Mahisasura.

There are three important segments in Chandi. Slaying of Madhu Kaitava is one of them. Visnu was in deep slumber (*yogo nidra*) whence the demons Madhu and Kaitava emerged from his ears. Brahma, the creator, in desperation invoked Durga to awaken Him. She was successful and the demons

were annihilated. For slaying of the all powerful Mahisasura, which is looked upon as victory of good over evil, the warrior Goddess, created by Vishnu, received vital energy and weapons from various Gods as gifts which she carries in her 10 arms. The 10 arms symbolize, she protects her devotees from all directions (8 corners, the earth and the sky), by overcoming hurdles. Her 'Shakti' (the divine forces or positive energy) contains the combined energies of all the Gods. Devi received the TRISHUL (TRIDENT) from Shiva, CHAKRA from Vishnu, SHANKHA (or conch) from Varun, SHAKTI/SPEAR from Agni, KHANDA (SWORD) from Ganesh, BOW and ARROW from Vayu. PARAASHU (AXE) and Armour was presented by Viswakarma, BAJRA (thunderbolt) by Indra, Samudra (ocean) gave her LOTUS. RUDRAKSHA and KAMANDALU gifted by Brahma. Surya drenched her body with energy and also gave her a KHARGA and SHIELD, Kuber gifted her a drinking vessel from which to drink ENERGY and Himalaya, who is the father of Durga gave her a MOUNTAIN LION, on which she stands. All the weapons have a significance. They actually represent the characters of human behaviour.

Smt Nandini Bhowmik also stated that

during Navaratri, Goddess Durga appears in different forms each day. On the first day she is Shailaputri, on the second day she is Brahmacharini, on the third she is Chandraghanta, she takes the form of Kushmanda on the fourth day, Skanda Mata (mother of Kartikeya) on the fifth day. She is Katyayini on the sixth day. On the seventh day she is Kalaratri, preparing to slay Asura, Mahagouri on the eighth day and finally on the ninth day she appears as SIDDHIDHATRI. It is in this form that Mahisasura is slain. She also explained the ethos of the well known prayer that starts with "Ya Devi Sarba Bhutesu..." which is that Mother Goddess is present within us in many many forms. We pray that she be kind to us, bless us, as we are her children.

The main efficacy of reading the Sri Sri Chandi, is gathering inner strength, to fight the evil within ourselves, to go deep within oneself to find one's own fault – and change for the better. She ended her talk with the rendition of the beautiful 'Narayan Stuti'.

Smt Nandini Bhowmik was introduced by Dr Jai Nath Gurtu and thanked by K K Jha.

PP Sunita Agarwala sang a song on Maa Durga, befitting the occasion.

# Nari Shakti

– Joint Project of RCCV and Rotaract Club of Calcutta Victoria

Nari Shakti was a month long initiative which ended on Bijoya Dashami that celebrated the essence of being a women. The project featured inspirational stories about 12 women, who have faced struggles and

hardships, but never gave up. The 12 stories were posted on all social media platforms every week. The ladies were: (1) **NILANJANA CHATTERJEE**, a brave saviour and sur-

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## Nari Shakti

vivor, (2) **SUJATA CHATTERJEE**, who raised awareness among people and promoted recycled goods, (3) **KALPANA MONDAL**, at 21, the youngest female bus driver, (4) **NAN-DINI BHOUMIK**, a lady priest who ventured into an arena which is male dominated, (5) **FALGUNI NEVATIA**, who runs a rural health centre for the underprivileged, (6) **MODHURA PALIT**, who chose cinematography as her career, received several awards overcoming gender bias, (7) **SABNAM RAMASWAMY**, survivor of domestic violence, became a ray of hope for thousands of women in hamlets of Murshidabad, (8) **KANCHAN GABA**, who lost her eye as a child, but became a trekker and a mountaineer, and empowering women by forming Self Help Groups. (9) **TRINA DUTTA**, working at rehabilitation centres with victims of human trafficking and helping to raise funds, (10) **AKANKSHA MANGLANI**, who was married off early, fought clinical depression, became a model, and an entrepreneur, (11) **ZENOBI DALAL**, who mentored young children, helping shape and empower many of them and (12) **Rtn LATA BHATIA**, A dedicated green warrior for the last 5 years, who is on a mission to



popularise a zero waste lifestyle in the city of joy. They were all felicitated with an award and a certificate. The group also conducted an awareness campaign about menstrual

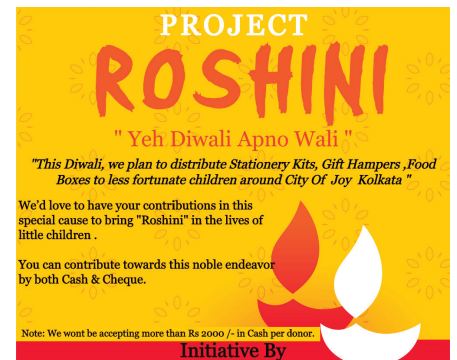
hygiene, social taboos, patriarchy, domestic violence and sexual assault. An on-line competition of 7 events were hosted which was a great success

## Interact & Rotaract in Action

350L overhead tank for water given to Salvation Army old age home, Beniapurkur and Rs 2000 on 2nd November 2020,



By Interact Club of Pratt Memorial School.



## Rotary and The United Nations

### Celebration of 75 years of the United Nations

In 1944, the world was horrified at the devastation of World War II. Global leaders planned for a new era by deciding to form a

world body for maintaining peace and world understanding. Thus was born the UNITED NATIONS. At the conclusion of the UN Conference on International Organisation in San Francisco, the charter of the United Nations was signed on 26th June 1945, and came

into force on 24th October 1945 – 75 years ago. At this landmark event, delegates from 50 countries had gathered. **Among them were 11 Rotarians from around the globe including two past presidents!**

Today there are 193 member states and 2 observer states. The membership of Taiwan is disputed though it has been given

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## Minutes of the 1256th Regular Meeting of **ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA VICTORIA** held on Saturday, 17th October, 2020 at 12:00 noon on ZOOM

- President Gayatree Dhar called the 1256th regular meeting to order.
- The National Anthem was played by Nishant Jain, son of Nitish Jain and all joined in.
- President welcomed the guest speaker, Smt Nandini Bhowmik and all the members.
- Minutes of the 1255th meeting was confirmed, proposed by Chhanda Banerji and seconded by Dr. Jai Nath Gurtu
- **President's Announcements:**
  - ◆ At RCC Kanthalberia, 5 women who have been trained in mushroom cultivation, will be given micro credit to start their work.
  - ◆ A lunch was hosted by Rtn Dr O P Agarwal on 5th October 2020 for inmates of New Age Home orphanage.
  - ◆ RCCV is partnering with RC Avyaana

- for 'Tejaswini Project' during Durga Puja, where banners will be put up in 30 Puja pandals which are either organised by women or they have a strong contribution in it. This is to enhance Public Image of Rotary.
- ◆ A lunch will be sponsored by PP Lila Bhoopal on Ashtami Day at Navneer, senior citizen's home, Tollygunge.
- ◆ On 24th October 2020, World Polio Day, the district (RID 3291) has asked clubs to participate by putting up banners in puja pandals, the format of which will be given by them.
- ◆ RCCV will be putting up a few banners.
- Guest speaker, Smt Nandini Bhowmik was introduced by PP Dr Jai Nath Gurtu. She gave an illuminating talk on 'Sri Sri Chandri'.

- She was thanked by Rtn K K Jha. Following the talk, PP Sunita Agarwala sang a song on Ma Durga in her mellifluous voice in celebration of Navaratri.
- **Secretary's Announcements:**
    - ◆ Birthday greetings extended to: Seema Danda for 25th October, Dr Jai Nath Gurtu for 31st October, Subhojit Sinha Roy for 1st November and Aandhi Shah for 6th November.
    - ◆ Wedding Anniversary greetings extended to Col Man Mohan Burman and Sushma for 20th October
    - ◆ No meeting on 24th and 31st Oct 2020 on account of Durga puja and Lakshmi puja. Next meeting on 7th Nov 2020.
  - As there was no other business the meeting was terminated at 1pm.

Members Present: 27

### Rotary and The United Nations

an independent country status. The headquarters of UN is in New York City. Currently Antonio Guterres is the Secretary general. In this special year, invited as an honoured guest, he had addressed Rotarians at the International Convention, held virtually on 20th June 2020.

Rotary International, whose strength is celebration of full diversity of the world and meeting challenges, maintains and furthers its relationship with several UN bodies, programmes and agencies. Bond with UN enhances Rotary's visibility. Today Rotary holds the highest consultative status offered to a NGO by the UN's economic and social council.



**Laughter** is the **best medicine** but not suitable for **diarrhea**.

