



# Spectrum



RI District 3291

February 3, 2024

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

VOL 17 □ NO 32

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CLUB NO □ 78956

CHARTERED ON □ APRIL 30, 2008

WEBSITE □ www.rcslmk.org

## Health camps for screening and treatment of Anemia in Women and of Cataract on January 28, 2024 at Gourisail, Chakdah



The 38<sup>th</sup> “Matri Raksha”: Anemia screening and treatment Camp was organized by Rotary Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata in association with RCC Nabankur Sangha, Chakda, Nadia, at Gourisail Primary School, Majherpara, Gourisail, Chakdah on January 28, 2024.



Simultaneously, at the same venue, Rotary Dumdum in association with Rotary Hooghly Eye Hospital organized free Cataract screening and treatment camp.



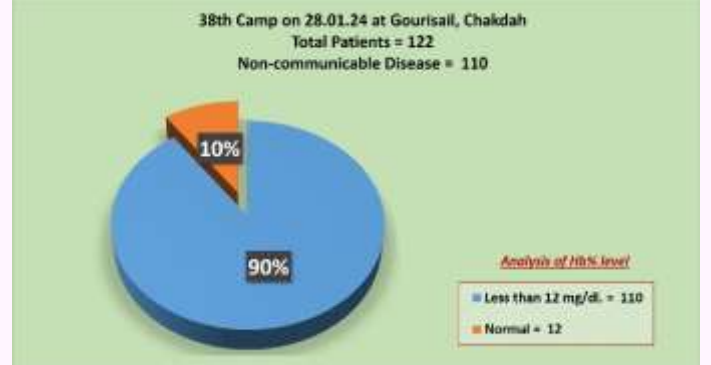
Dr. Debasmita Mukhopadhyay and PP Dr. Chitra Ray gave awareness talks to assembled women on Anemia. Each beneficiary got their Hb% level for Anemia, BP and Sugar tested and screened by the technical team from ILS Hospital. Each woman after being examined for anemia by Dr. Debasmita Mukhopadhyay and PP Dr. Chitra Ray were given free iron tablets for 4 to 6 months, deworming and calcium medicines as prescribed along with nutritional booklets.



Total 122 ailing women got themselves registered for anemia screening and treatment.

### IMPACT OF THE 38<sup>TH</sup> MATRI RAKSHA CAMP

Total patients: 122 + 240 = 362		Breakup of Anemia & Non-Communicable Diseases	
Anemia Screening	122 no	Anemia detected	110 no (90%)
Eye Screening	240 no	Hypertension detected	40 no (32.7%)
Cataract detected	67 no	Diabetes Detected	20 no (16.4%)



Among 122 women 110 (90%) had hemoglobin level below 12 grams/dl and 74 (60.6%) had severe anemia (<10 grams). Around 20 women (16.4%) were suffering from Diabetes (DM), 40 (32.7%) were Hypertensive (HTN) and were referred to physician.



We meet calendar months' 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

Printed by Kusum Chamaria, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata • Editor: Dr. Om Tantia

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240 persons got themselves registered for Cataract Screening and Treatment, out of which 67 were detected cataract.



It was a long drive of about 4 hours that started at about 8 AM from Salt Lake. The team returned at late evening.



RCSLMK offered blankets to 50 persons below poverty line of the locality.

The technical Team from ILS Hospital comprised of Abhinaba, Shubhranil, Alok and Sister Sunita

## Rotary History and Anecdotes

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – *across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*

Rotary International is a global service organization whose stated human rights purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to *provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.*

Over last 118 years, Rotary, like other surviving institutions, has changed itself to remain inclusive and contemporary *without compromising its dynamism and relevance.*

*In this section, the editorial team of Spectrum, so far, has touched upon and shared the different anecdotes of Rotary each week during the current Rotary year:*

### Rotary Historians and their remarkable roles

#### Geoffrey Bernard William Little



RGHF member Geoffrey Bernard William Little, JP, PHF, KCR (Phils), is better known around the world as *“The Smiling Policeman”* a term which did not in the early days, endear him to the local Australian constabulary which adhered to the convention that law enforcement officers were not meant to be “joyful fellows”.

There are many references to G.B.W. Little, many web sites detailing his achievements, many stories, too many to relate here. After much research, we obtained consent from “The Ambassadors” to copy an article from one their correspondents first penned in 1999.

The followings details and information relating to this remarkable Rotarian are just a small part of the world-wide reputation and dedication of one of Rotary Global History Fellowship’s heroes.

“The 51 years-old Australian Ambassadorial Chairman of the Rotary Peace City Project, Geoffrey B.W. Little has benefited from his 33-years community-based policing. Little was formally appointed to the prestigious position of Ambassador of Goodwill for the UN’s declared “International year of the child” in 1979. The Ambassadors Magazine present the profile of the man commonly known as the “Smiling Policeman,” Sergeant Geoffrey B.W. Little.

In his 33 years long police career, he has been engaged in most phases of Police duty including – General Duties, Divisional Cyclist and Traffic Branch, Community Based Policing, School Lecturing, Prosecuting Branch (like the District Attorney) and a number of other Specialist Units within the New South Wales Police Service. Within Harbourside Local Area Command (North Sydney), in addition to General Duty Supervision Duties, he currently supervises the Community Safety Officer, Schools and Youth Liaison Officer (including Student Work Experience programs) and Domestic Violence. He is also responsible for all specialist programs and events which pertain to the Harbourside Local Area Command including ‘Police Open Days’, local gala occasions and Promotions and Marketing. Sergeant Little also has expertise in ‘Local Emergency Management’ and ‘Operational Command’. As a Captain (Officer of Cadets-OOC) in the Australian (Army) Cadet Corps attached to North Sydney Boys’ High School and Eastern Command Military District Headquarters, Paddington, Captain Little further developed the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to afford greater access for Cadets to the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of achievement.

He currently occupies the rank of ‘Incremental’ Sergeant (three chevrons and a crown) and is an Honorary Deputy Sheriff-Lieutenant in Ozaukee County Sheriff’s Department, Wisconsin, U.S.A., Honorary Sergeant, Northern Constabulary, Inverness, Scotland, and an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel (Superintendent) in the Philippine National Police,- attached to the Office of the Presidential Consultant on Police Affairs, Presidential Security Group, Malacanang Palace, Manila, Philippines.

#### *“The Smiling Policeman”*

Geoffrey Little is a longstanding member of the Australian Section of the International Police Association (IPA\*) and founding International Chairman and CEO of the Police/Law Enforcement Professionals Fellowship of Rotarians (Polepfor). Little is an associate Member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The “Smiling Policeman” is a member of RC Wollstonecraft District 9680, Special Ambassador and Dean of the Ambassadorial Chair – Rotary Peace City Project, as well being an Honorary Member in: RC Wagga Wagga - Koorringal, D9700, RC Makati – Edsa, Manila, Philippines D3830, and RC Zamboanga City, Philippines, D3850. Over the years he has developed a number of schools related programs e.g., Schools Work Experience and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

#### *Rotary Peace Cities*

As a Special Ambassador and Dean of the Ambassadorial Chair of the ‘Rotary Peace City Project ‘Wagga Wagga, New South

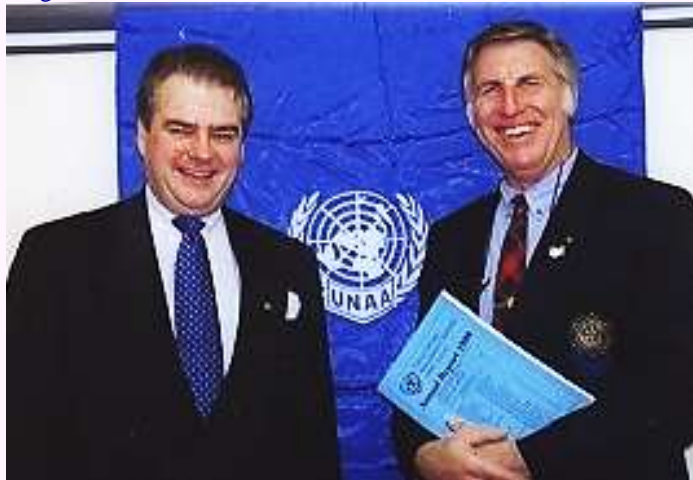
Wales, “The Smiling Policeman” promotes and facilitates the establishment of his Rotary based and vocationally driven programs which include establishing Rotary Peace Cities/Towns and Municipalities around the world, along with accompanying programs (Peace Conferences, Conflict Resolution Programs etc.). Los Angeles was declared the eleventh ‘Rotary Peace City’ and conducted the first ‘Rotary Peace City Conference’ June 1998.

The Smiling Policeman” currently serves in the New South Wales Division of the United Nations Association as an Executive Member and is Convener/Organizer of Sydney’s Annual United Nations Day Wreath Laying Ceremony conducted each October 24 in recognition of the valiant service performed by members of the United Nations Civilian Police (UNCIVPOL) Association of Australasia, and members of the Armed Services of Australia who are currently serving, or who have served, on past peacekeeping duties around the world.

In 1979 The Smiling Policeman was appointed the United Nations Association “Ambassador of Goodwill” for the International Year of the Child, and over a three month period directed traffic in Kathmandu, Delhi and Agra outside the Taj Mahal, and met Delhi’s Dancing Policeman; to Jerusalem (where the drivers totally ignored him) also organizing and participating in fundraising marathons for “child oriented programs”.

Geoffrey travelled overland from Kathmandu to London via Afghanistan, Turkey and Israel, where through the Rotary Club of Netanya – (initiated and followed up upon over the next three years), as the only person in recorded history, jogged thirty seven kilometres (at one thousand metres in elevation), from the lowest point on earth – Jericho on the Dead Sea – to the Wailing Wall of the “most Holy City of Jerusalem”.

To crown this epic undertaking, Geoffrey, then assisted with a lift from London to Brighton by Australian Entertainer Rolf Harris, jogged eighty kilometres from Brighton to London as part of a children’s fundraiser in collaboration with the London Fire Brigade.



*The “Smiling Policeman” with Dr. Keith Sutter the President of the United Nations Association, New South Wales Division in Sydney, Rotarian (Rotary Club of Sydney).*

### **“Just Say NO to Drugs and Polio!”**

The “Smiling Policeman” has been strongly involved in drug awareness campaigns in Cebu in the Philippines (Just Say No to Drugs’) under the Chairmanship of Rotarian Oscar C. Mabilog of the Rotary Club of Metro Cebu. Rotarian Oscar Mabilog is an Honorary Mayor of Cebu City and Chairman of COSAP (Cebu City Office of Substance Abuse Prevention).



Geoffrey has also allied himself with a Project called ‘Polio Past’ (inspired by President Niels Colov of the Rotary Club of Jomtien-Pattaya, Thailand) which assists polio sufferers to live a better life and provides educational scholarships. Sergeant Geoffrey Little has been honored as a Knight Commander in the Order of the Knights of Rizal (KCOR) within the Philippines. He is a member of the Sydney Chapter. The Order of the Knights of Rizal is a Civic and Patriotic honour and an Act of the Philippine Congress, raised in recognition of the national hero – Dr. Jose Protacio Rizal.

At a Gala evening hosted by the Rotary Club of Makati-Edsa in the Philippines, Chairman Geoffrey was honored by his PNP colleagues and Rotarians in the spirit of Rotary Vocational Excellence by receiving an honorary appointment to the Philippine National Police.



To the right, Lt. Colonel Little is receiving the honorary shield from Major General Ramond Montano with President Manny Lim, Charter President Dr. ‘Resty’ Cornejo, and Rotarian Major General ‘Billy’ Villareal.

*Rotary History and Anecdotes to be continued...*

## **Mending hearts: 777 lives saved and counting**

*Posted on January 30, 2024 by AP Singh, past president and chairman of the Heart-line Project*



*RI President R. Gordon R. McNally, (fourth from right) and his wife, Heather (second from right), visit a heart surgery patient at Fortis Hospital in India. Also pictured is Anil Chadda, president of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh (far left), Past RI President Rajendra Saboo (third from right), and Heartline Project Chairman AP Singh (far right).*

It all began with the tragic death of a young man awaiting surgery for a congenital heart issue. Our Rotary Club of Chandigarh, India, and our Inner Wheel friends had been raising money for the young man. Determined that no other person in need of corrective surgery would die from lack of money, we were moved to act, and our initiative, a part of Gift of Life International, came to be. That was May 1998. We received a grant from The Rotary Foundation in 2000 and combined that with funds from District 3080 (India), District 2630 (Japan), our club, and the Rotary club of Ebingen, Japan.

Today, we have saved 777 lives and counting. During a ceremony for the 100th surgery in 2004, the father of a young man from Pakistan who had received a surgery said, "Pakistan gave him birth, but India gave him life."

Realizing the impact of the project in saving the lives of children suffering from congenital heart disease who could not afford surgery, our club rechristened our efforts as the Heartline Project, signed a memorandum of understanding with Fortis Hospital, Mohali, and continued to help children. The team of surgeons handled everything from a hole in the heart, to a faulty heart valve, to other congenital heart problems.

#### **Signature project**

This became our club's signature project, funded by Rotary members, Rotary clubs, friends of Rotary and – most importantly – grants from The Rotary Foundation. We never faced a shortage of funds because we were in the business of saving lives. The project has been running for 24 years and going strong.

We passed milestones, reaching out to children from across borders and continents. We started getting requests from neighboring countries in the Indian subcontinent. Our club responded, and the Heartline Project has helped 34 children from Pakistan, 3 from Afghanistan, 8 from Mongolia, and 18 from Nepal.

Past RI President Rajendra K. Saboo, a member of our club, received numerous requests from even further away. Always eager to help, he would accept and assemble a team of doctors for another medical mission. We have had the opportunity to help 22 children from Malawi, 7 from Uganda, 6 from Nigeria, 50 from Rwanda, and 10 from Zimbabwe. One child from Iraq was also operated on. These add to the more than 600 children belonging to very poor Indian families who have benefited from the project.

#### **Presidential visit**

Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McNally and his wife, Heather, visited Fortis Hospital on 17 January. They met with Saboo and our district governor, Arun Mongia. They also met Anu, an 8½-year-old girl from Mohali, who had undergone a successful operation a day earlier.

They also met 16-year-old Daphne from Zimbabwe, who arrived a day earlier with her mother for her corrective surgery. She had received a previous surgery in 2016 at the age of 9 but was informed then that she would need another corrective surgery at a later date. Our club assured her and her mother that this would be done. On 22 January, she received her surgery and is recovering well. The Rotary Club of Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe, provided funds for Daphne's travel to India.

McNally also met the team of cardiac surgeons and expressed his gratitude for their service in saving children's lives. He presented a citation to Fortis Hospital Mohali on behalf of our Rotary club. Later he visited six children who were operated upon in the last few months.

This is Rotary in action. Together we create hope for children across borders to have normal, healthy lives.

#### **Upcoming Matriraksha Camps**

- On February 11, 2024 at Spandan in association with RCC Manab Seba Samiti, Nadia
- Tentatively on February 18, 2024 at and with support of Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, Nimpith, 24 Parganas (S)



Spouse Dr Nandita & PP Dr Ankush Bansal on Jan 28, 2024  
Spouse Rahul & Rtn Meenal Chaudhary on Jan 29, 2024  
Spouse Dr Suranjan & Dr Saktirupa Chakraborty on Feb 5, 2024  
Spouse Krishna & Prez Kusum Chamaria on Feb 24, 2024  
Spouse Rani & PP BL Ajitsaria on February 28, 2024

**February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month.**

## **TAILPIECE**

**Asim Ranjan Ganguly, President RCC North Dum Dum dies**

*Shared by Nirupam Roy and Biswaranjan Sarkar*



After days of painful ailment Asim Rajan Ganguly president RCC North Dum Dum died on Tuesday, January 27, 2024 at Midland Hospital, Belgharia. His earthly remains was cremated at Ratanbabu Ghat, Barahanagar.

Since its inception about 14 years ago Asim Ranjan Ganguly had led RCC North Dum Dum as its President. Under his leadership, the RCC, with and sometimes without support RCLSMK organized, among many, several health camps, wheel chair, sewing machine and cycle van distributions, equipping local municipal hospital during and after pandemic. He was 77 and left behind bereaved wife, son, family of friends and many beneficiaries of the community.

While social work was his passion, professionally, he was grossly engaged in marketing, specially of industrial pipes. May his noble soul rest in eternal peace.