



TUESDAY 25 JULY 2023

July is Maternal and Child Health Month

104

The Chaka

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ALOKANANDA ROY

Love Therapy

Ms Alokanda Roy is a classical dancer, actor, reformer who conjures an image of grace and elegance. Her versatility comes through in her innovative dancing styles and creative stage productions. Taking immense pleasure in being involved with varied creative activities, she did never refrain her from extending genuine care and compassion to the society at large. As far back as she can remember, she always wanted to dance. Her aspiration was well appreciated and supported by her parents. She got associated with the CLT (Children's Little Theatre) at an early age and this was her favourite place to be in. Bengali film buffs will recall her strong and defining role in Roy's Kanchenjunga. She went through an intense spiritual experience as she met Shri Aurobindo and Ma in Auroville at the tender age of 17.

She has chosen to work in the secluded world of convicted individuals in the Correctional Homes of West Bengal, for their welfare, through Dance and Music. Her organization Touch World operates to care for the

Rotary
Club of Calcutta



CREATE HOPE
IN THE WORLD

children of the convicts, deprived of family support. That made her initiate Inspiration Foundation, an initiative that trained under-privileged children in dance, music, recitations, and art.

She has been decorated with numerous awards and honours, including Rajya Sangeet Academy Award (2014), Tumi Ananya (2014), Bharat Nirman (2008), Sharbabharatiya Sangeet –O-Sanskriti Parisad (2014), Michael Modhusudan Award, Bongo Bibhushan (2014).

Of course, the reward she treasures is the unconditional love of the millions she received and is still receiving.

RI Orientation Workshop

Venue : Rotary Sadan

Date : 15th July, 2023

Time: 4.00 PM



The novel & unique orientation workshop was organised by RC Calcutta at the behest of RID Aniruddha Roychoudhury. President Kanak Dutt inaugurated the program, and Rtn Roshni Ganguly led the National Anthem. President welcomed each of the 6 PDGs (including our very own Rtn Prabhat Rohatgi) and felicitated them. In his opening remarks, RID Aniruddha emphasised 'How Rotary is Changing' as the genesis of the programme and designed this structured workshop for club leaders of 'The 'Old No. 1', referring it to a Fountainhead.



1. RID commenced with a self-introduction by all club members, (i.e., Leaders) present, enquired as to the reasons for Membership decline, and opined that Leadership could be the primary issue.
2. PDG Ravi Sehgal in his presentation described the challenges of membership decline, and attributed it to:
 - i) Over 50% members are in age bracket of 60+ years and constitutes rich knowledge & experience.
 - ii) In newer & younger members there could be lack of one-to-one contact, resulting in lack of encouragement.
 - iii) For addressing attendance, he suggested organising projects in members' location, enabling participation.
 - iv) He proposed forming satellite clubs to support members from different & diverse locations.
 - v) He emphasised membership. He indicated a lack of structured engagement mechanism leading to absenteeism, and cited example of RC Purulia expanding from one solitary eye hospital to three now including a multi-speciality hospital and enhancing club admission fees to Rs. 4 Lacs to ensure funding for future projects on an on-going basis.

For the Old No. 1, it needs to "Leave a Legacy".

3. PDG Rajani Mukerji stated that the Rotary website where Rotarians are referred to as "People of Action", necessarily implying 'execution on the ground' (citing example of an e-club being the 1st to send disaster relief to Uttarakhand flood victims) and indicated 40% of club members must fall in this category. He proposed conducting a structured Satisfaction Survey, format of which is available in Rotary India website, and based on survey findings constituting a formal Committee for Strategy, focused on

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addressing the shortcomings revealed in the survey findings. He assured support required in conducting this survey will be given by his District office.

4. PDG Prabir Chatterjee in his address detailed the "rotary.org.Rotary Club Central" website updation, nuances encountered, data generally omitted due to oversight, and consequential defects for Presidential Citation Award. The end use of data in rotaryindia.org with rotary.org was elaborated, the former being specific for India, whereas the latter gives an overview on a global perspective. He too assured help & support in execution in data updation.

5. PDG Binod Khaitan expressed 'service to community' by the philosophical phrase Tan-Man-Dhan, (i.e., with energy, application of mind and money), resulting in 'giving' in the Rotary perspective. The giving must be compassionate, without any expectation of a reciprocation. He further differentiated Output and Outcome, and that it must not hinder in receiving by the beneficiary.

6. PDG Sudip Mukherjee, (current DRFC), explained Rotary's resource is the Foundation, and urged contribution to the TRF as against directly to the project, emphasising that in Foundation the project funding multiplies four times, (as in case of Global Grants). This ensures undertaking big projects which would not be possible by club funding only. He cited example of the RC Calcutta that over last 10 years (2013 to 2022) against a giving of \$ 0.9 Mn the club has received funding from the Foundation of \$ 2.1 Mn. He gave glimpses of various grants and the new addition of scale grant, which is \$ 2.00 Mn, awarded one grant per annum on a global basis.

All the addresses by PDGs were extensively supported by detailed powerpoint presentation. At the request of the President Kanak, RID Aniruddha Roychoudhury committed he will repeat this type of session/workshop again after 6 months if the club so desires. President Kanak thanked all PDGs for their time and the highly informative deliberation & interaction, adjourned the workshop and invited all present to an elaborate High Tea.

(Reported by Amit Ghosh, Club Correspondent, and Executive Secretary)

Distribution of Hampers at the Institute of Child Health on 20 July 2023 – Avenue of Service : Community; Area of Focus: Saving Mothers and Children



While a detailed report is under preparation, some initial reactions from members, given the outstanding work being done, are noted here.

July being the month for Mother & Child Care, on behalf of the Club the President Rtn Kanak Dutt organized a camp at the Institute of Child Health at 11, Dr. Biresh Guha Street, Park Circus, Kolkata 700017 on 20th July 2023 at 10.30 am for sharing some Love and Care for the Paediatric Patients of the Institute. This camp was organized by our senior member of the Club Dr. Ashok Basu, who is a Board member of the Institute mentioned above. We offered each Child patient of the Institute a Gift hamper containing Fruits, Horlicks, Biscuits, Cake, Chocolate, some munchies, and juice. There were around 250 beneficiaries. The Children who are mostly extremely sick some cancer patients were happy to receive such hampers and love from us.

Fellow Rotarians who were present in large numbers are :

President Rtn Kanak Dutt, Hony Secretary Rtn Sarvani Gooptu, Rtn Dr. Ashok Basu, Rtn Kirit Patel, Rtn Hirak Sen, Rtn Amit Ghosh, Rtn Ashok Basu 4, Rtn Abhijit Kolay, R-Ann Krishna Kolay, Rtn Pradeep Gooptu, Rtn Haladhar Dey, Rtn Heena Gorsia, Rtn Debjani Ghosh, Rtn Satarupa Mukherjee, Rtn Yogesh Dassani, Rtn Dr. Harshvardhan Agarwal and Rtn Sonia Dutt.

(From Hony Secretary Sarvani Gooptu)

Dr Deepshikha, the lady in red dress, oversees the cancer ward. The Director, Dr J Roy, told us that Deepshikha treats the patient-children as her own children. It was so reassuring to hear such a thing in an overriding ambience of doctor-bashing. I spoke at length with the mother of a 3-year-old boy. They are from Sonarpur. The boy had kidney cancer, is cured now, and they will go home tomorrow. Her elder child, a nine-year-old girl, also had identical kidney cancer a few years ago and was cured here. I asked her: Do you have any idea why both siblings had a similar cancer? She said, "The doctor said it is genetic. Must be so." Her husband owns a shop that sells angling equipment and accessories in Sonarpur. The husband is looking after the daughter at home. They are entirely satisfied with the hospital. I salute the founder of the hospital, the late Dr Kshirode C Chaudhuri, the present director, and other doctors. My respect goes to our fellow Rotarian, Dr Ashok Basu, a renowned paediatrician who is a board member of the hospital, for organizing the event. Even in the middle of our visit, Dr Basu ran to the OT to attend an emergency query from a doctor. I am totally humbled by the visit.

(From Rtn Hirak Sen)

I, and many other Rotarians of our club, had similar divine experience when we attended the inauguration of the playroom for child cancer patients at Thakurpukur Cancer Hospital founded by Dr Saroj Gupta - a Rotarian from our club. The playroom was donated by Rtn S R Goenka. Children, mostly with shaved heads and wearing masks, had million-dollar smile on their faces, though many of them were very critically ill. The sight brought joy and tears of deep sorrow simultaneously.

(From Rtn Hirak Ray)

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A truly humbling experience. Potentially a mother lode of opportunities for service to the excluded. I had an opportunity to see how well empowered their admin staff are. I shall recount it in a later issue - Ed.

Shiksha Labh Vers 3 - Ananda Ashram Balika Vidyapeeth - July 22, 2023 : Avenue of Service – Community; Area of Focus – Supporting Education



On behalf of our Club, Shiksha Labh 3 was organised at Ananda Ashram Balika Vidyapeeth on July 22, 2023 at 11 am at Naktala, Kolkata. It is our privilege to visit this School which was founded in the year 1951 by Freedom Fighter Smt Charushila Devi. This Government aided School has presently 900 girl students, whose monthly fees is Rs. 20/- per student, and in addition to that the students are provided with School Uniforms, Stationery, School bags and Mid-day meals. On behalf of our Club 9 numbers of Desktop Computers are donated for Computer education. In this context the President of our Club inaugurated the Computer section along with Hony. Secretary and other members of RC Calcutta.

The following members were present in this noble cause President Rtn Kanak Dutt, Hony. Secy. Rtn Sarvani Gooptu, PP Rtn Saumen Ray, Rtn Kirit Patel, Rtn Ashok Basu 4, Rtn Saswati Mukherjee, Rtn Debjani Ghosh, Rtn Yogesh Dassani, Rtn Bhaskar Mukherjee and Rtn Sonia Dutt

The Project is Chaired by Rtn Yogesh Dassani of Community Service Committee.

Reported by President Kanak Dutt. A matter of pride for us - Ed

REPORTING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REPORT (18.07.2023)

Total Members	:	245
Members Present	:	34
Exempted Members	:	64
Visiting Rotarians & Guest	:	0

TODAY

Speaker : Ms. Alokandana Roy, Topic : Love Therapy
Classical Dancer and Social Activist

REPORT

- Project on Thursday, 20th July, 2023 at the Institute of Child Health, Park Circus, Kolkata.
- Sikha Labh Project of the Club for the Rotary year 2023 - 24, donation of Computers held on Saturday, 22nd July, 2023 at 11 am

CLASSIFICATION SURVEY

To facilitate the ongoing Annual Classification Survey, members are requested to kindly suggest any new Classification to be opened in line with new and emerging professions and disciplines by 12th August, 2023. For any change in their own classification, members may write with reasons for change for consideration of the Classification Committee and the Board urgently, but not later than 12th August, 2023.

BOARD MEETING

First meeting of the Board of Directors (2023-24) of the Club will be held on Monday, 31st July, 2023 at 6.30 p.m. All members of the Board are requested to make a note of it and attend.



ONE WORLD

We remember with good wishes
Rotary Club of Madras, India,
R. I. Dist. 3230

Birthdays

Surendra Kumar Birla 25th July

Dr. Shankar Ghosh 26th July

Wish you many happy returns of the day

Wedding Anniversaries

Dr. Chandra Sekhar Dhar & R-Ann Rinku
27th July

Subhasis Ghatak & R-Ann Mahua

28th July

Biswajit Datta & R-Ann Sushmita

30th July

Wish you many more years of marital bliss

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Schedule of Forthcoming Meetings

5th August Saturday	Evening – Fellowship and Dinner	Dr. Sabyasachi Mitra
12th August Saturday	Evening – Fellowship and Dinner	Attendance Award Programme
22nd August Tuesday	Lunch	Sreemoyee Piu Kundu
29th August Tuesday	Lunch	Saira Shah Halim

Family of Rotary

Family of Rotary - Sia Guha Mazumdar



Daughter of Subhajit and Chandrima
A Gold, 3 silver and 1 Bronze at the Calcutta District Age Group Swimming Championship 2023
50m Breaststroke –

Gold, 100m Breaststroke – Silver, 50m Freestyle – Silver
200m Freestyle - Silver 100m Freestyle - Bronze

Sia will now represent the Calcutta District in the West Bengal State Championships.

Congrats Sia, and many compliments to the proud parents.

Family of Rotary – Rtn Ayusmati Thakur



Won this for the Best Female singer at the Doctors' Day celebration of AM Medical Institution.
You rock!

Family of Rotary – Dr Shankar Ghosh



Rtn Shankar Ghosh receives the “Uttam Kolaratna Puroshkar” from the Bangla Cholochitro Procharo Prosar Samiti. You make all of us proud.

MINUTES OF THE 4907TH REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 18TH JULY, 2023 AT 1.30 P.M. AT THE ROTARY SADAN

- President, Rtn. Kanak Dutt welcomed all Members and Guests and called the 4907th Regular Weekly Meeting of the Club to order.
- National Anthem was led by Rtn. Arunima Dey.
- Minutes of the 4906th regular weekly meeting of the Club held on 11th July, 2023 were read and confirmed.
- President welcomed Mrs. Shivani Binrajka, Stride Exim Pvt. Ltd. as the Chief Guest.
- President then welcomed visiting Rotarians and Guests who attended the meeting.
- President reported the following :**
 - Health Care Committee organised a free Mega Health Check-up Camp in association with Hem Jyoti Foundation on Thursday, 13th July, 2023 at Pratistha Community Hall, North Kolkata under the leadership of Partha Pratim Mukherjee and Dr Sukalyan Purkayastha.
 - Sikha Labh Project of the Club for Rotary year 2023 -24, donation of Computers held on Friday, 14th July, 2023 at Baghajatin Balika Vidyalaya (Higher Secondary) at BaghaJatin, Kolkata under the leadership of Rtn Yogesh Dassani and Rtn Arindam Roychowdhury.
 - On Saturday 15 July, 2023 an “Orientation Workshop” was organised for the Club Officials, Committee Chairs & Committee Co-Chairs for the Rotary years 2023-24 & 2024-25 by RID Anirudha Roychowdhury followed by High Tea at Rotary Sadan.
- President announced the following :**
President informed members that to observe Mother and Child Care month, the Club would organise a visit to donate Gift Hampers to the patients of the Institute of Child Health at Dr. Biresw Guha Street, Park Circus, Kolkata and requested members to join the project on that day.
- At the request of the President, Hony. Secretary Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu thereafter conducted the Club Business :**
 - She welcomed all members and guests and wished them.
 - She then announced the names of Rotarians celebrating their Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries for the week ending 24th July, 2023.
 - Next Weekly Meeting, on Tuesday, 25th July, 2023 at 6.30 pm. followed by fellowship and dinner at Rotary Sadan (ground floor).
Speaker : Ms. Alokanda Roy, Classical Dancer, and Social Activist.
- President then recognised and felicitated Rtn. Rajeev Paralikar as PHS member and handed over the Certificate to him.
- At the request of the President, Rtn. Dr. Koel Roychowdhury introduced Chief Guest, Mrs. Shivani Binrajka.
- At the request of the President, Mrs. Shivani Binrajka addressed the audience.
- Questions raised by the members were answered by the Chief Guest.
- On behalf of the Club, Rtn. Ashok Kumar Basu (AB 4) offered the vote of thanks.
- On behalf of the Club, President handed over a memento to Mrs. Shivani Binrajka.
- Sunshine Box collection Rs. 1,400/- with special contribution from Rtns. Abhijit Kolay, Sujata Pyne, Amit Ghosh, and Dr. Dipannita Hazari.
- The Club remembered with good wishes Rotary Club of Vasai, Mumbai, R.I. Dist. 3141.
- Meeting was adjourned at 2.35 p.m.

Kanak Dutt
President

Sarvani Gooptu
Hony. Secretary

Published by Rtn. Sarvani Gooptu, Hony. Secretary, Rotary Club of Calcutta

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