

RI DISTRICT 3291

CLUB NO. 90740

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THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY

Rotary



SHATAK BARTA

Our Responsibility Is To Protect Environment

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Community economic development (CED) is an inclusive and participatory process by which communities initiate and generate their own multiple bottom-line solutions to economic problems. Community economic developers focus on creating inclusive local economies, developing nourishing livelihood opportunities, building on local resources and capacities, increasing community control and ownership, enhancing the health of the environment, and encouraging community resilience.

While community economic development approaches can look vastly different in every community, many have five basic principles in common:

And, we Rotarians work relentlessly create opportunities to help individuals and communities thrive financially and socially...



As we move towards fulfilling the month of November designated for the Rotary Foundation since it is vital to Rotary International because it's the key funder of Rotary's humanitarian efforts, both locally and worldwide. It provides grants to support projects focused on improving health, providing education, protecting the environment, alleviating poverty, and promoting world understanding. The Foundation enables Rotarians to make a noticeable difference in the lives of others through these impactful initiative...



The
Rotary
Foundation



Rotary's Six Areas of Service



If we look at the more detailed aspect, those are as following – A) Funding & Granting - The grants enable Rotarians to implement and sustain their humanitarian projects. B) Impact and Reach - Its impact is measured in terms of lives saved, education provided, and communities strengthened. C) Global Initiatives - It supports peace building, conflict resolution, and refugee assistance programs. D) Accountability and Transparency - This accountability ensures that donors' contributions are used effectively and efficiently to maximize their impact.

In essence, The Rotary Foundation is the engine that drives Rotary's humanitarian work, enabling Rotarians to make a difference around the world

Disease prevention and treatment takes on many forms, from supporting studies to helping immunize people to improve drinking water and the sanitation infrastructure. The world relies on Rotary to tackle these global challenges, and to set an example for others to follow.

We believe good health care is everyone's right. Although 400 million people in the world can't afford or don't have access to basic health care.

Disease results in misery, pain, and poverty for millions of people worldwide. That's why treating and preventing disease is so important to us. We lead efforts both large and small. We set up temporary clinics, blood donation centers, and training facilities in underserved communities struggling with outbreaks and health care access. We design and build infrastructure that allows doctors, patients, and governments to work together and our December month moved by all such related activities intensely ...



ONE OF THE KEY RECOGNITIONS TO THAT MOTIVATE US TO SERVE MORE

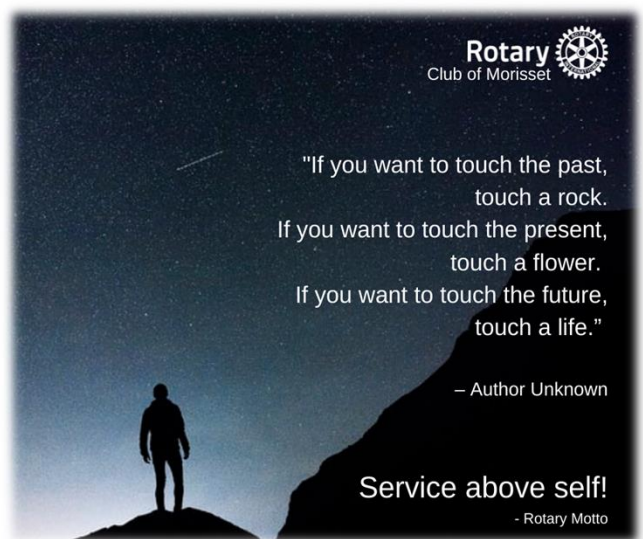
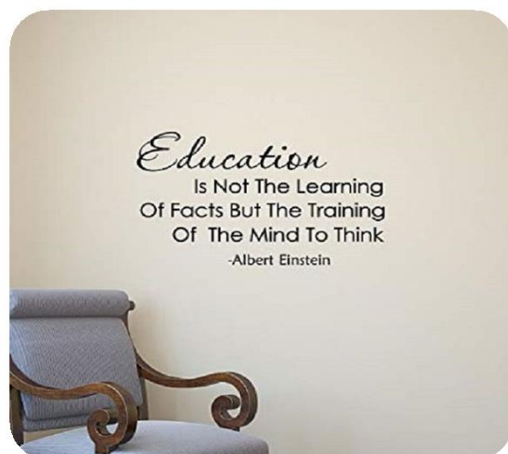


In India, the assurance of fundamental human rights, particularly access to quality education, heavily relies on the efforts of all of our joint efforts and different service institutions. We Rotarians, functioning as Trust worthy partners to the needy, to support the kids to elevate the quality of life and to uplift those vulnerable populations facing structural inequalities.

We at Rotary club of Calcutta Centenary, operate within diverse demographics within our district territory, extending the efforts to various vulnerable communities in the realm of education.

We do support educational initiatives for poor village students through various avenues, including financial donations, volunteer work, providing resources. We focus on bridging the educational gap for underprivileged children, offering programs that range from school infrastructure improvements to scholarships and mentoring. Collaborating with local communities and school authorities for successful implementation...

For this Literacy project, We at Rotary Club of Calcutta Centenary were recognized for our active support, sincere participation and whole hearted sponsorship...



MAJOR EVENTS OF CLUB CENTENARY IN SEP | OCT | NOV 2024

BRINGING THE MAGICAL IMPACT IN LIVES



In the month of September 2024, floods have made Panskura in east Medinipur, West Bengal, completely inaccessible now, a fate worse than the inundation in 1978 according to old-timers. The flooding not only disrupted rail connectivity but also severely affected bus services and local trade and the lifestyle of each residents over there. The Panskura bus stand, one of the district's major bus terminals and a key road link to most districts in south Bengal, was completely non-operational as the area was submerged under nearly seven feet of water, causing significant losses in living the normal life even. As we, Rotarians of Calcutta Centenary, could feel the pain of the people living there and decided to support the utmost way we could. We had arranged adequate quantity of rice, clothes, biscuits, puffed rice, dry foods, drinking water, sanitary pads for women and many more and distributed along with Jeevan Sathi Vikas Foundation and local club members who helped us in this distribution and handing over the right things, right place in right hands to make them able to sustain with the devastating situation there to wait patiently and coming back to normalcy slowly.



The free Eye Camp was organized by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Centenary in association with Behala Siksha Mandir Club on November 24, 2024 for more than 100+ people who got their eyes checked. Thereafter Spectacles were distributed free on 8th December, 2024 and free eye surgery were also done on December 20th, 2024, who couldn't afford it by themselves and as always, we Rotarians from the Club Centenary join hands together in completing this noble job.



The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on no less firm foundation could it have stood.

— Paul P. Harris —

AZ QUOTES

"We should not live for ourselves alone, but for the joy in doing good for others."

— Arch C. Klumph, 1929



The
Rotary
Foundation



Doing Good In The World



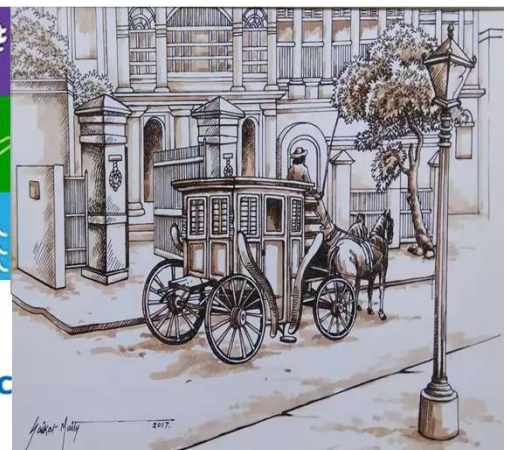
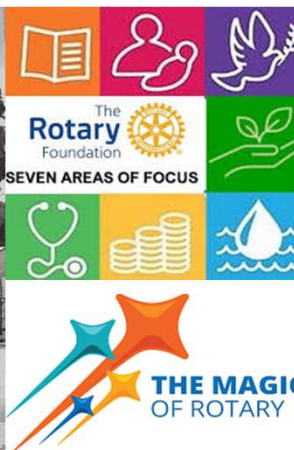
GLIMPSES FROM VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF CLUB CENTENARY IN OCT | NOV | DEC 2024



Another magical smile, we at Rotary Club of Calcutta Centenary, could bring on 200+ children and others faces by distributing clothes and sweaters in association with South Kolkata Hamari Muskan, a NGO operating in the central districts of Kolkata where its try to rehabilitate women and support children with health, education and empowerment. We worked together and donated around 400+ pieces of used clothes in good condition and new clothes along with it and winter wear for kids...

*Different Events, Different Reasons, Different
Discussions, Different Focus, But*

**ONE MISSION
TO HELP & SERVE PEOPLE**



HEALING WATER

A river in the Pacific Northwest flows freely for the first time in over a century, by Bryan Smith



In that dismal December of 2015, it was hard to say who was more bereft. Was it the Native American tribes whose members had watched their sacred waterway suffer another, perhaps fatal blow? Was it the scores of people who had worked alongside them: the environmentalists and scientists, the community organizers and activists, the civil servants at the government parks and the natural resource agencies! The concerned business leaders who, like all the others, had dreamed of seeing the 263-mile-long Klamath River again flow pristine and unimpeded across Oregon and California as it made its way toward the Pacific Ocean!!

Or perhaps it was impossible to calibrate the differing degrees of despair and regret. And did it even matter? Because after years of work dedicated to the removal of the four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River — the dams that had scarred the land, nearly destroyed the native salmon population, and ignited bitter fights — all that work had come to naught just as victory was in sight. The failure of the U.S. Congress to pass legislation to implement a set of Klamath Basin restoration agreements sank all hope that the impossible dream of removing the dams would finally be realized. The agreements, so assiduously crafted, were dead in the water, an apt metaphor given what was at stake.

"When we started this struggle 25 years ago, there were a number of us tribal folks who understood that this was a battle that we couldn't afford to lose," says Leaf Hillman. "We knew that if the dams were relicensed for another 50 years, it was all over. The salmon and the Klamath were doomed, and that meant that the tribes on the Klamath were doomed."

A former vice chairman of the Karuk Tribal Council and a former director of the Karuk Department of Natural Resources, Hillman played a significant role in attempting to develop agreements to remove the four Klamath dams: the J.C. Boyle, Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2, and Iron Gate. Born and raised in the traditional Karuk homeland, he knows as well as anyone the catastrophic impact the dams had on the people who had lived along the river for centuries. Members of one tribe, Hillman says, "were forcibly removed from their lands, which were then covered up [by water] for 100 years. These were ceremonial places, village places. Their people, their language, their customs, their culture, their religion were basically decimated."

Bryan first met Root almost a decade ago when, on assignment for this magazine, he visited him in Oregon. A member of the Rotary Club of Medford (Rogue), Root was the owner of a prosperous fruit processing business when he and his wife bought a ranch near Chiloquin in 1992. He was unaware at the time that the region sat smack in the middle of what became known as the Klamath Water Wars, but he was introduced to the highly charged conflict soon enough. And as it happened, he was uniquely positioned to help. Root, while attending his first Rotary International Convention — in Birmingham, England, in 1984 — he had seen firsthand the effectiveness of gathering opposing sides in small groups out of the prying eyes of the media to help resolve difficult disputes. Back in Oregon, Root brought that knowledge to bear on the Klamath Water Wars. It started brimming with possibility and showcasing the power of Rotary's conflict-resolution strategies, concluded abruptly with the collapse of the long-desired agreements and Jim Root there still burned an ember of hope.

As the shock from the agreements' collapse dissipated, the people devoted to the restoration of the Klamath slowly reassembled. They began to wonder if there might be a way to remove the dams. The Rotary members led by Root, to manage the process.

HEALING WATER

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To resolve the impasse, Root hearkened to the methods he had learned at the 1984 Rotary Convention in England. He again initiated small group discussions that included Rotarians, representatives from California and Oregon, PacifiCorp, the KRRC, and the tribes on the Klamath. "Everybody could freely express their opinions," says Root. And once again, the process worked. Oregon and California agreed to share the dam license with the KRRC, fully relieving PacifiCorp of any ongoing liability. The group's solution included an extra \$15 million in funding from each state, and \$15 million more from PacifiCorp, as a backstop for unforeseen expenses. The revisions satisfied the federal agency, which had final say in the matter, and in 2021, the agency approved the full transfer of the dams.

"When we started this struggle 25 years ago, there were a number of us tribal folks who understood that this was a battle that we couldn't afford to lose..."

Ultimately, arguments about the negative environmental effects of the dams won the day. After generations of effort and heartbreaking near-misses, the path had been cleared. The dams would come down. "The mood had gotten very pessimistic, but now that pessimism lifted and [the mood] changed to very optimistic," recalls Root. "We tried to tamp down any premature celebration. We had a lot of hard work to go."

The logistics of how and by what volume to drain the reservoirs behind three of the dams posed another challenge. Releasing too much water all at once could cause flooding; too little would not provide sufficient force to drain the 15 million cubic yards of sediment, 90 percent of which was dead algae. Once the reservoirs were drained, the dams themselves had to be dismantled with a combination of dynamite blasts and earthmovers clawing apart the remaining cement and rebar and clearing as much rubble as possible.

All that dead algae, which had accumulated over the course of more than 100 years, was a major complication all on its own. "The dams not only block fish passage, but they capture water that sits out under the hot summer sun," explains Brownell. "In this kind of high desert area, that promotes huge toxic algae blooms. In the fall, the algae dies and sinks to the bottom" where it's unable to decompose because it's not exposed to oxygen.



Removing the dams and releasing that dead algae posed a potentially fatal threat to the river's fish. "As these dead organic materials get stirred up as they are sent downstream during drawdown, that material's getting exposed to the oxygen as it's tumbling over rocks and things," Brownell says. "This material will suck all the oxygen out of the water and crash the dissolved oxygen levels. That was the risk that we were concerned with regarding fish health — that we were going to crash the dissolved oxygen with the introduction of all this dead, organic, deoxygenated sediment." It was understood from the outset that there would be short-term negative effects of releasing the sediment. To ensure that native salmon and trout were protected as much as possible, engineers and scientists

designated specific time periods when fewer fish would be in the main stem of the river. But there was no way to protect non-native fish species, and experts knew there would likely be a massive fish kill immediately after the dams fell. In addition, the banks of the river would, for a time, become a stark, muddy landscape crisscrossed with tracks left by heavy machinery and with virtually no verdant growth. Armies of planters would descend on the affected areas, spreading seeds that would quickly green up the vast patches of mud, but project planners knew they would have to brace themselves for a rough stretch of anger and alarm from residents.

On 23 January 2024, an explosives specialist with the project's blast team loaded a raft with dynamite and took to the Klamath River just north of the Copco No. 1 Dam in Northern California. To safely draw down the water halted by the dam, engineers had drilled a 90-foot-long, 10-footwide tunnel through the base of the dam, left the upstream end of the tunnel plugged with concrete, and inserted a steel pipe into the downstream end. The specialist paddled down to the tunnel's upstream end, mounted the explosives, and then glided away. The detonation that followed unleashed a frothy geyser that, fittingly, resembled the spume erupting from a celebratory bottle of Champagne.

"Watching the reservoirs drain was one of the most magical things I've ever seen," recalls Brownell. "These were landscapes that hadn't seen the light of day in a century. I got to watch the river come back to life and carve its new path. It was like watching 1,000 years of geology happen over the course of two weeks."

HEALING WATER

A river in the Pacific Northwest flows freely for the first time in over a century, by Bryan Smith

The demolition and removal of the dams was completed a few months later and was followed by the restoration of the river basin, efforts led by Resource Environmental Solutions. "The first round of vegetation, all native species, was to hold the sediments in place and stabilize things," says Brownell. "The initial round of seeding actually ended up being even more successful than we imagined. We didn't know how well these native species would grow in all of this dead algae."

Resource Environmental Solutions contracted with the Yurok Tribe as the primary re-vegetation group. "We also contracted with the Karuk Tribe with water quality monitoring and on relocating endangered Coho salmon," says company spokesperson Dave Meurer, and other tribes are participating in different facets of the river renewal. "When you're on the ground looking at who's doing a lot of the physical work, you're definitely going to see tribal members front and center," Meurer says.

As expected, there were difficult moments after the dams fell. The areas around the demolished dams looked like lunar landscapes, and the sight of yellow excavating machinery gouging into the banks was jarring. As predicted, the casualty rate among non-native fish species was distressing — in the millions, says Brownell — as the dissolved oxygen level in the water crashed following the release of so much sediment.



On a cloudless late afternoon last October, as the Pacific Northwest sun flooded the landscape with light, groups of people arrived at a clearing in Yreka, California, near the Shasta River, one of the largest tributaries of the Klamath River. Large open-air tents had been mounted on the lot, under which sat rows of chairs and a stage set with microphones. Indigenous music serenaded the growing crowd, with many people hugging, smiling, laughing. They were members of the regional tribes, from infants to elders, as well as activists, members of Rotarians, and residents who lived along the Klamath or its tributaries. They had all joined hands with the tribes to bring about this moment when, for the first time in more than a century, the Klamath River coursed unencumbered between southern Oregon and the Pacific Ocean.

Over the next several hours, the gathering wept, sang, and cheered speeches celebrating a day many were certain would never come. "This is kind of a dream come true to see the dams out and the salmon coming home," Toz Soto, fisheries manager and lead biologist for the Karuk Tribe, told a videographer recording the moment. "I've been involved in dam removal pretty much my whole career, more than 23 years. **This is a miracle.** I can't describe it in any other way. ... It just goes to show that if people come together, work hard and never give up, and have faith that something that we all know is right can happen, it will. And it did, and now we have ... a river that's connected and a river that's going to heal itself."

"...This is kind of a dream come true to see the dams out and the salmon coming home. This is a miracle. I can't describe it in any other way..." THIS IS A MIRACLE..."

HAPPY MOMENTS TO CELEBRATE IN OUR CENTENARY FAMILY

BIRTHDAYS | ANNIVARSORY



BIRTHDAYS WE CELEBRATED IN OCT | NOV | DEC

ANNIVARSORIES WE CELEBRATED IN OCT | NOV | DEC

- 1) Rtn. Dipankar Sen on Oct 1, 2024
- 2) Rtn. Sanjay Chirania on Oct 2, 2024
- 3) Rtn. Kumar Gupta on December 26, 2024
- 4) Rtn. Sailesh Rupani on December 28, 2024

- 1) Rtn. Dipayan Banerjee on November 24, 2024

*Rotary Centenary Club wishes You all a very Happy,
Prosperous, Healthy & Joyful year ahead*

*Rotary Centenary Club wishes both of You & Your
spouse a very Happy,
Prosperous, Healthy & Joyful year ahead...*



Without the sense of
fellowship with men of
like mind... life would
have seemed to me empty.

Albert Einstein

