

REACHOUT



Rotary Club of Central Calcutta
Rotary International District 3291



Jhulan Basu
District Governor



Sudip Sen
President



Manoj Mehta
Secretary



Meeta Lakhota
Editor

We meet on Friday at The Oberoi Grand at 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Morning shows the Day

RWM ON FRIDAY 10TH JULY 2015



“Morning shows the Day” and after the Installation meeting, the RWM made us believe in this adagium. President Sudip you have begun your year well and we have got the taste of things to come - crisp, precise and interesting meetings will follow. Good attendance leads to renewed acquaintances and friendships which forms the basis of service. Yes, we have started well and to use the cliché Well Begun Half Done would not be inappropriate... Friends... the momentum is with us and let's keep it going. The RWM was well anchored by PP Vijay Bagaria who saw to it that for a change meeting starts on time. President Sudip Sen and Hon. Secy Manoj Mehta went through their business with clinical precision. Guest speaker Prof. Dr. Ananda Mitra of Wake Forest Universi-

ty, Salem, USA spoke on societal impact of new media technologies and delivered a thought provoking and absorbing discourse on the impact of social media on business, he got all present, to listen to him with rapt attention. He questioned all present - Which is the second most populated country on earth, after China... Well if you said India, you got it wrong... he said it is Facebook and it has changed the way of thinking, the way people behave, it has changed the lives of



people. The second guest speaker of the evening, Rtn Anshuman Agarwala spoke on Solar Energy and got the attention of all present in equal measures. Both the topics were much liked by the members. The meeting saw a healthy attendance with 38 members attending besides students of Dr Ananda Mitra from Wake

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Today's Programme

- Fellowship & High Tea followed by Club Meeting.
- Guest Speaker **Ratnalekha Shetty** will speak on **Educating our children in the digital world**

Next Week's Programme

- Fellowship & High Tea followed by Club Meeting. Guest Speaker – **Dr Naresh Mintri** will speak on **Energy healing, hypnosis for self improvement or Law of attraction.**

ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS



Rotary Weekly Meeting



Forest University, Salem, USA. Mementos were presented to both the speakers and sunshine collected was over Rs 1200. The vote of thanks was offered by PP Shri Ratan Jhawar. As I am writing this report, kudos for the President-Secretary duo is pouring in for the wonderful club meeting (RWM)...

– a report by PP Brij Mohan Lakhotia

“A very well attended, well organised, excellently conducted and a very enjoyable atmosphere true RWM after many many years at RCCC ...Enjoyed meeting many members whom I have never seen!!! Well done President Sudip & Secretary Manoj... Keep it up.
– PP Binod Khaitan

“New president, new grand venue, good ambience, good guest speaker, good attendance, delicious snacks! Started well on time and ended at about 8pm, so good timing. In total everything good, so good RWMs. Will attend RWMs regularly.
– PP Manoj Jain

“It was a delight to have attended the maiden RWM RY 15-16. It was so very well organised and wish the trend continues.
– PE Sanjay Ganeriwala

“Congrats President Sudip and Hon. Secretary Manoj for the wonderful RWM yesterday. Both the speakers were very informative.
– PP Rajendra Bagrodia

“One of the most fulfilling RWM I ever attended! Hats off to President Rtn Sudip Sen for a very inspiring RWM!
– Vikas Jain



Mid-day meal at RSK



Rotary Club of Central Calcutta organized a Mid-day meal for the students of its school, Rotary Siksha Kendra (RSK) on Saturday, 11 July, 2015 where all the students were invited including the teach-

ing faculty and staff members. As usual, PP Shri Ratan Jhawar provided the meal in memory of his son Shrikesh, who many of us know as a bright boy and one of the youngsters to have joined hands to re-

vive our Rotaract club. The hands of fate snatched him from us. PP Shri Ratan provides the mid-day meal every year in fond remembrance of his son. Besides his entire family, PP Vijay Bagaria, Rtns Aparna Mukherjee, Sushil Murarka and
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Awards & Accolades for the Rotary Year 2014-15

Rotary Club of Central Calcutta and Rajesh Lakhotia President 2014-15, recognized members for the Rotary year 2014-15. The Awards were as detailed below:

Exceptional Contributors to Club and Rotary

PDG Raj Kumar Rajgaria, PP Binod Khaitan, PP Subhas Chand Kankaria, PP Brij Mohan Lakhotia, PP Shiratan Jhawar, PP Chandra Prakash Ganeriwala, Girish Ganeriwala, Kishore Somani, Nirmal Bazaz and Sanjay Ganeriwala



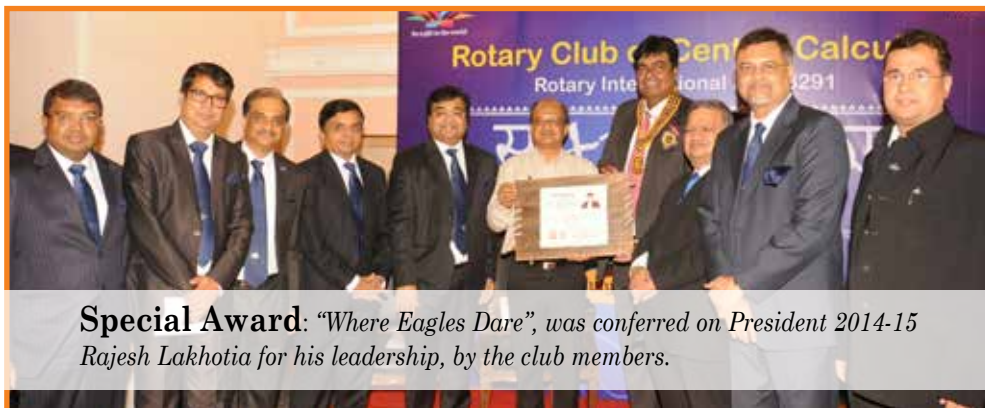
Outstanding Contributors to Club and Rotary

PP Ajay Agarwal, PP Meeta Lakhotia, PP Pushpraj Maheswari, PP Pradeep Murarka, PP Prasan Lohia, Dinesh Bhattar, Madhav Prakash Mohta, Madhusudan Saraf, Manoj Dalmia, Manoj Mehta, Neeraj Agrawal, Pankaj Shroff, Rajendra Mundra, Rajesh Agarwal, Sudip Sen and Sunil Sethia



Contributors to Club and Rotary

PP Chittaranjan Choudhary, Ajay Kejriwal, Anuttam Khaitan, Arvind Soni, Ashish Bagla, Dr Brahma Dhanuka, Pradeep Jain, Raj Bagri, Raj Kumar Surana, Satish Jalan, Shiv Shankar Bidasaria, Shrivardhan Modi, Sumit Dalan, Vivek Phumra and Yogendra Mohan Lakhotia



Special Award: "Where Eagles Dare", was conferred on President 2014-15 Rajesh Lakhotia for his leadership, by the club members.



Upcoming Rotarians

Ajay Daga, Akhil Bandhu Paul and Pramod Dhandhanania

ROVING AMBASSADORS



President Sudip Sen
RC Mayfair and RC Kabitirtha and DG Felicitation at HHI



Hon Secy Manoj Mehta
RC Mayfair and RC Kabitirtha and Change Over Ceremony at G D Birla Sabhagar



PP Brij Mohan Lakhotia
Change Over Ceremony at G D Birla Sabhagar



PP Shri Ratan Jhawar
Change Over Ceremony at G D Birla Sabhagar



The photographs printed are as per availability. The birthday & wedding anniversary greetings are as per the listing on ROW. – Editor

Happy Anniversary & Blissful togetherness



सालगिरह की मंगल कामनाएँ

Sushil Murarka & Ann Aruna 13-July

(Since their anniversary is not listed on ROW, it got omitted in the previous issue. Reach Out wishes them a very happy anniversary though belated and apologizes for the omission)

ReachOut Wishes

Happy Birthday to

आप जियें हजारेन साल,
साल के दिन हों पचास हजार

Rajendra Kr Mundra

18-July



D I S T R I C T N E W S



Health Checkup Camps

On the first day of New Rotary year, District organized Health Checkup Camps at the Metro Stations covering all the stations. There was a lot of enthusiasm amongst the daily commuters as they lined up for checkups. It also gave a good exposure to the public as to what Rotary does and what it stands for. Arranging parallel run of 35 camps in 24 stations in a span of 25 kms was really an enormous task.

VP Shrivardhan Modi, Hon Secy Manoj Mehta, PP Binod Khaitan, PP Brij Mohan Lakhotia and PP Prasan Lohia attended the camps at Rabindra Sadan Metro station. PP Binod then took a ride on metro and went to other stations also.

Cycle Donation

In the afternoon of the same day, project "Bicycle for Girl Student" was successfully launched with organisational support from other clubs at Howrah Mandirtala Math, near Nabanna. The august gathering present were Mr. Arup Roy - Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of Agricultural Marketing for Govt of West Bengal, Dr. Rathin Chakrabarti - Hon'ble Mayor of Howrah Municipal Corporation, Hon'ble Rtd. Justice Sushanta Chatterji and DG Jhulan Basu. 36 bicycles were handed over to the beneficiaries. District 3291 wishes to donate 500 bicycles and appeals clubs for active participation and in order to complete the target by 30th September 2015.

Mid-day meal at RSK

I attended the programme with Sushil distributing Five star chocolate bars to all the students. It was a maiden visit for both Aparna and Sushil and both were awed when they stepped into the school. I am sure both will like to visit the school with regularity and be a gift to the world.

I am really proud of RSK. My best wishes to the students and to all the teachers and principal who are so dedicated and to the staff for carrying out their duties so well. I really feel happy and elated going there.

– Anuttam Khaitan



Know your Guest Speaker



Ratnalekha Shetty is a teacher by choice. With over 30 years of experience in heading schools, she specializes in setting up new schools and turning around schools that don't do well. Over the years, Ratnalekha has managed schools all over the country and affiliated to all boards, including the CBSE, CIE and the IB.

Over the years, Ratnalekha has moved onto schools that are affiliated to International Boards. She strongly feels that if a change has to take place in education, it has to begin in the classroom. Our classrooms have to change and our teachers have to be empowered.

Apart from the mandatory Masters and B.Ed., Ratnalekha is a Master Trainer for the prestigious Cambridge Diploma for Teachers and a qualified resource person on Adolescence for UNICEF.

She lives in Kolkata with her husband, daughter and two cats. Presently, she is associated with Calcutta International School as their senior School Principal

Memberspeak...

It was my first visit to RSK even after being in Rotary for so many years. I was really excited to meet the children – an excellent contribution of the club towards the community. The ambience of the school was very impressive. It was clean and tidy and the children were dressed properly. I must give credit to the principal and the staff for running the school in such a disciplined way and creating the right environment of education for the next generation of our country.

– Aparna Mukherjee

Illiteracy traps adults, and their Families, in poverty



Around the world, millions of adults are unable to read or write, and therefore struggle to earn a living for themselves and their families.

Even in the United States, with its considerable resources, there are 36 million adults who can't read better than the average third-grader, according to the international nonprofit ProLiteracy. In Detroit, Michigan, a widely cited 2003 survey conducted by the National Institute for Literacy found that almost half of residents over age 16 were functionally illiterate – unable to use reading, speaking, writing, and computer skills in everyday life.

Kristen Barnes-Holiday, director of program outcomes for Reading Works, an organization tackling adult illiteracy in Detroit, says the agencies – many of them underfunded and understaffed -- that have been trying for years to address the problem there have made little progress.

Illiteracy affects all areas of life. Those with low literacy skills are far more likely to live in poverty, face health problems because they can't read prescription labels or instructions, and grow isolated in a world increasingly dependent on com-

puters. And the lack of a skilled workforce, Barnes-Holiday notes, has slowed Detroit's economic revival.

But she worries most about the impact on future generations.

"A lot of children are raised in households where parents are low-skilled or illiterate, and we all know only a certain amount of learning happens in the classroom," she says. "We are raising this generation with the expectation that if we pour a certain amount of dollars into their education, we will get better results. But that is only partially true if we do nothing to address the households they are coming from."

Rotary member Mark Wilson, who also has been involved with Detroit literacy efforts, agrees that adult literacy is not receiving the attention it deserves. "It doesn't pull at the heartstrings the same way as when you see a child who can't read," says Wilson, a member of the suburban Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe. "But, in fact, it's a vicious cycle and it perpetuates itself."

Wilson's club, along with other Detroit-area Rotary members, partnered with ProLiteracy Detroit to raise money to recruit and train more tutors. Also,

members have collected 261,000 books and 587 computers to donate to literacy agencies throughout the city.

A grant from The Rotary Foundation brought a team of literacy experts from Australia to Detroit, to share their expertise with those who are training the tutors. The grant helped launch a weekly program on local television to raise awareness and broaden corporate and community support.

Through the efforts of the volunteer tutors, more than 500 adults raised their reading levels by three grades, according to testing by the Michigan Adult Education Reporting System.

Margaret Williamson, executive director of ProLiteracy Detroit and a member of the Rotary Club of Detroit, said the project has produced benefits even beyond initial expectations.

"Not only do we look at reading, but we look at building the skills the individual will need for employment," she says. "And what happened was that, through the Rotary network, [these adults] had access to people who knew other people who were willing to give them an opportunity. We had people call us and say, "Do you have a person who would be good for this entry-level position?" "

The Rotary members have become better advocates for adult literacy, influencing policymakers at several levels, adds Williamson. Among the results of that advocacy: A financial institution donated a banking center for vocational training, and ProLiteracy received more money for tutor training and has expanded its network of partners.

"The ripple effect is still benefiting us," she says.

Wilson also talks about ripples. "When you teach somebody how to read, they have that for a lifetime," he says. "It ripples through the community, one by one. And that was our goal."