



RI District 3291

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PRESIDENT DR ANKUSH BANSAL

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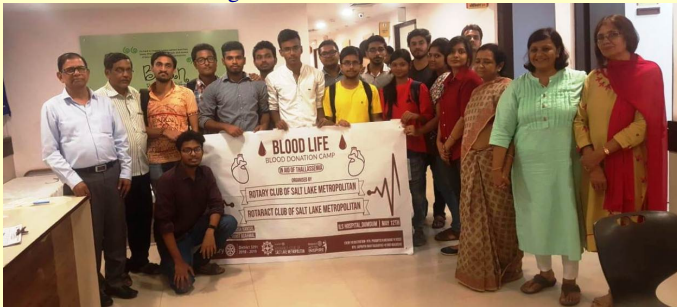
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Family of Rotary and Rotaract members donates blood Ashok Surana, VP RCSLMK writes



Rotary in action again - summers are always crucial for thalassaemia patients who require periodic blood transfusion. Due to heat blood cannot be stored for long and there is a crisis in blood bank.



Members of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata and Rotaractors of Salt Lake Metropolitan organized free voluntary blood donation at ILS hospitals Dumdum on Sunday, May 12, 2019 under leadership of club president Dr Ankush Bansal. Club President Elect Dr Sudha Choudhary set the wheel rolling by being first donor. Rotaractors and some of the young members of the family of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata followed suit.



Blood donation camp concluded. About 30 persons volunteered, of which 23 were able to donate. Apart from PE Dr Sudha Choudhary, Rotary member Ansul Agarwal, Ms Rekha Agarwal, mother of young club Secretary Sumit, Vivek Surana, son of Club Vice President Ashok Surana and Rotaractors were the donors.

Dr Ankush, Dr Sudha, Dr Aruna, Kusumji, Bagriji, Suranaji, Ansul and some of the family of RCSLMK, among others, were present. Presence and active participation of members of Rotaract Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Rotaractors enhanced effectiveness of the program. RCSLMK is thankful to Boruka Research Centre (Blood Bank) and ILS Hospital, Dumdum

Connect with friends through Rotary Friendship Exchange

Posted on May 15, 2019 by Isabel Rodriguez, Rotary Friendship Exchange Chair for District 4130 and member of the Rotary Club of Monterrey Profesional, Mexico



Friendship Exchange is an international program for Rotary members and friends that allow participants to take turns hosting one another in their homes and clubs. Participants may travel as individuals, couples, families, or groups, and may be Rotary members or not.



I led our District 4130's Rotary Friendship Exchange program in February this year where we welcomed our Rotary friends from six Rotary clubs from District 7080, Ontario, Canada and District 3461, Taiwan to Mexico. During their exchange they visited various cities in our district, learning about our culture, service projects, forging lasting friendships and building the foundations of peace and service.

We started in Santiago with breakfast at a local restaurant, a visit to the parish, a tram ride with a guide, and tasting of tamales, visiting museums, and ended with some beautiful regional dances. We also took our visitors to see our ongoing service projects and others that were being planned, many of which our visitors pledged to support.



In Nuevo León, we joined the Rotary Club of San Nicolás de los Garza's meeting, where the clubs from Canada presented on their work. We then visited the beautiful city of Guanajuato for three days and our visitors were hosted by Rotary families from the Rotary Club of Guanajuato. They also met with Youth Exchange students, and attended a club meeting where the Rotarians from Canada and Taiwan shared the work of each of their clubs and presented on the different Global Grants they had worked on.



We concluded the exchange visiting the beautiful Mexico City for two days where our visitors were hosted by three Rotary families. They had meals at the homes of local Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Ecatepec A.C. who also showed them local attractions and hosted a lunch meeting in which they talked about their projects and exchanged banners and gifts.



Our visitors left Mexico inspired to continue to build friendships and partnerships in service. They share their experience below:



"This was cultural and friendship trip, matched with Rotarian spirit connecting people via sincere friendship and service. We became a big global family and hope to host our new friends in Taiwan soon."
– Philip & Sophia, Charter President of the Rotary Club of Taichung Light-Up, Taiwan



"An exceptional week of friendship and memories." – Joanne and Vince, Rotary Club of Guelph, Canada
"What a memorable trip and friendship. Memories I will always cherish." – Dorothy, Rotary Club of Burlington Lakeshore, Canada



Friendship exchanges are a great way to broaden international understanding, explore a profession or job in a different context, build enduring friendships, establish a foundation for peace and service, gain opportunities for active project involvement and support, learn about a region's people, food, languages, customs, and history, and find partners for projects and grants. Explore the Exchange Finder Map to view current exchange locations and the districts that serve them. Connect with the district's Rotary Friendship Exchange chair for finding potential international hosts and planning your itinerary.

Millions of acres of rainforest saved: A tiny Amazon tribe just defeated big oil in a historic lawsuit.



It's not every day that you see a story like this - a real David v Goliath story that results in a win for all of humanity

By Leo Shvedsky on May 17, 2019



The Ecuadorian government wanted to drill for oil through seven million acres of land in the Amazon. However, their efforts were stopped thanks to the Waorani people of Pastaza, who won a historic court ruling against the government. The lawsuit represented 16 Waorani communities who live inside the Ecuadorian jungle.

As Rachel Riederer for The New Yorker reports:

On April 26th, a parade of hundreds of Waorani men and women, members of an indigenous nation in a remote part of the Ecuadorian Amazon, marched triumphantly through the streets of Puyo, the regional capital of the eastern province of Pastaza. Many had come from villages in parts of the rain forest that have no roads—journeying by canoe and small plane. They were celebrating a new court ruling, which held that the Ecuadorian government could not, as it had planned, auction off their land for oil exploration without their consent.

The ruling immediately protects have a million acres from government-sanctioned drilling but also puts a stop to a planned auctioning seven million additional acres of land that would have gone to private companies who wanted to set up oil exploration operations.

What's more, the ruling could set a powerful precedent for other indigenous communities fighting to prevent government and corporate interests from drilling on their lands.

Mitch Anderson, Executive Director of Amazon Frontlines, summed up the impact in a statement:

"This is a major precedent for indigenous rights across the Amazon. Today, the court has recognized a pattern of deceit, bad-faith and manipulative tactics in the Ecuadorian Government's attempt to earmark the Waorani people's lands for oil extraction. This is a huge step forward in the battle to ensure indigenous people's rights over their lands are respected. Guaranteeing indigenous peoples' rights to decide over their future and to say 'No' to destructive extractive projects is key to protecting the Amazon rainforest and halting climate change."

The Ecuadorian economy is experiencing a period of slow growth and its government is currently mired in international debt and has said it planned to use any revenue from oil drilling to help pay off those loans.

After the ruling, they said they planned to appeal the decision before a provincial court, which could reverse the decision. However, the Waorani have promised to keep fighting against the proposed drilling, even if it means seeking intervention from international courts to protect their sovereignty over the land.

"The court recognized that the government violated our right to live free, and make our own decisions about our territory and self-determination," Nemonte Nenquimo, a Waorani leader, told the New Yorker. "Our territory is our decision, and now, since we are owners, we are not going to let oil enter and destroy our natural surroundings and kill our culture."

It's an incredibly achievement for the Waorani people and for everyone on the planet. Their victory not only protects millions of acres of precious and vulnerable rainforest, it shows that any community can take a stand to protect the values of its people even in the face of immense power. Real change starts at home but it can have an impact that stretches across the entire globe.

Holger Knaack selected to be 2020-21 RI president

By Ryan Hyland



Holger Knaack, a member of the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany, has been selected to serve as president of Rotary International in 2020-21.

The Nominating Committee's decision follows the resignation last month of President-nominee Sushil Gupta due to health reasons. Knaack will officially become president-nominee if no other candidates challenge him by 31 May.

To build a stronger membership, Knaack says Rotary must focus on increasing the number of female members and transitioning Rotaractors into Rotarians.

Knaack believes that the People of Action campaign offers new public awareness possibilities for Rotary. "This campaign conveys our global image while respecting differences in regions and cultures," he says.

A Rotary member since 1992, Knaack has served Rotary as treasurer, director, moderator, member and chair of several committees, representative for the Council on Legislation, zone coordinator, training leader, and district governor.

He is an endowment/major gifts adviser and co-chair of the Host Organization Committee for the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg.

Knaack is the CEO of Knaack KG, a real estate company. He was previously a partner and general manager of Knaack Enterprises, a 125-year-old family business.

He is a founding member of the Civic Foundation of the City of Ratzeburg and served as president of the Golf-Club Gut Grambek. Knaack is also the founder and chair of the Karl Adam Foundation.

Knaack and his wife, Susanne, are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation and members of the Bequest Society.

The members of the Nominating Committee for the 2020-21 President of Rotary International are Kazuhiko Ozawa, Rotary Club of Yokosuka, Kanagawa, Japan; Manoj D. Desai, Rotary Club of Baroda Metro, Gujarat, India; Shekhar Mehta, Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India; John G. Thorne, Rotary Club of North Hobart, Tasmania, Australia; Guiller E. Tumangan, Rotary Club of Makati West, Makati City, Philippines; Juin Park, Rotary Club of Suncheon, Jeonranam, Korea; Elio Cerini, Rotary Club of Milano Duomo, Italy; Gideon M. Peiper, Rotary Club of Ramat Hasharon, Israel; Per Høyen, Rotary Club of Aarup, Denmark; Paul Knijff, Rotary Club of Weesp (Vechtstreek-Noord), Netherlands; Sam Okudzeto, Rotary Club of Accra, Ghana; José Ubracy Silva, Rotary Club of Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil; Bradford R. Howard, Rotary Club of Oakland Uptown, California, USA; Michael D. McCullough, Rotary Club of Trenton, Michigan, USA; Karen K. Wentz, Rotary Club of Maryville, Tennessee, USA; Michael K. McGovern, Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA; and John C. Smarge, Rotary Club of Naples, Florida, USA.

Tunisian Interactors win 2018 Interact Video Awards

By Arnold R. Grahl

When members of the Interact Club of Tunis Inner City, Tunisia, set out to make a video about their club, they focused on the many projects that have kept club members busy and engaged throughout their city.

"The key message was to show that a group of teenagers can have an impact on their community," says Fatma Choura, the club's adviser and member of the Rotary Club of Radès, Tunisia. "They wanted to encourage other young people to become active and serve their communities."

The two-minute video was selected as best in the 2018 Interact Video Awards, earning the club \$1,000 to spend on a future project. Videos from the Interact Clubs of Alexandria East Champions, Egypt; San Salvador Noroeste, El Salvador; and Colegio de Calumpit, Bulacan, Philippines, were named runners-up. A video from the Interact Club of A.V.P. Trust Public School (CBSE) Gandhinagar, Tamil Nadu, India, was voted the 2018 fan favorite in a social media poll. All awardees received a letter from the Rotary International president and have their videos posted on social media.

Choura says the Tunis Inner City club decided to film at the Olympic Stadium in Radès because it's an impressive backdrop and is located in the city of their sponsor club. The video's main character, a young woman, passes groups of Interactors who are acting out the club's five most meaningful projects. The film builds to its main message: "Through enjoying the good and overcoming the bad, we grew together, and we got closer until we became a family — a family aiming for higher goals and achievements and looking forward to making the world a better place."

Choura says the Interact club is like a family. The members spend a lot of time together, and through team-building and social activities, they've developed mutual respect for each other. The Interactors also benefit from the mentoring and support they receive from their sponsor Rotary club.

"We follow them closely because they are, as teens, in a critical phase of their development," Choura says. "We see each other on a regular basis and we work together, growing as a family."

10th anniversary

The Interact Video Awards celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2018, with record 198 videos submitted from 35 countries. In its first year, 32 videos from nine countries were submitted. The growing popularity of the awards has inspired more Interactors to promote how Interact instills leadership skills and helps them make a difference in their communities.

Kyle Gomes, a former member of the Interact Club of Hugh Boyd Secondary School, British Columbia, Canada, which earned best video in 2012 and 2014, says, "Winning the Interact Video Awards reinforced the idea that even though we were a small, newer club, our contributions mattered."

"I think the video selected in 2012 was probably the most impactful for us," adds Gomes, now a professional photographer and cinematographer. "We were a brand new Interact club, and these were the very first large-scale projects we were taking on. This was for sure instrumental in motivating everyone."

Birthdays of Rotary members in May, 2019

Dr Rajesh Goel on May 13, 2019

Swapan Mukherjee, past Governor on May 21, 2019

Dr Sudha Chowdhary, president Elect on May 23, 2019

PP Banwarilal Ajitsaria on May 27, 2019

Wedding anniversaries of Rotary members in May, 2019

Spouse Bandana & past Governor Brajogopal Kundu on May 8, 2019

PP Dr Chitra Ray and spouse Dr Manitosh on May 10, 2019

Sp Prof Amita & past Governor Amitave Mookerjee on May 27, 2019

May is Maternal Youth Service Month

How Nelson Mandela Bent History

May 14, 2019 Mark Suzman, Chief Strategy Officer and President of Global Policy and Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Twenty-five years after his election, and nearly 101 years after his birth, Mandela is remembered as a statesman, a liberator, an icon, and a secular saint. But before he was any of those things, Mandela was a politician, skilled at building coalitions and charming opponents.

Seattle Twenty-five years ago, South Africa held its first free elections after the end of apartheid. The African National Congress won overwhelmingly, and its leader, Nelson Mandela, began to knit the country back together as its new president. As post-apartheid South Africa completes its sixth democratic election, it is worth recalling Mandela's formidable legacy.

Four years after being released from prison, having served 27 years for conspiring to overthrow the state, Mandela was swept into power with more than 60% of the vote. But that does not mean that the outcome either of the vote or of Mandela's presidency was inevitable.

Today, it is hard to imagine a world where Mandela didn't lift South Africa from the ruins of apartheid and lay the foundations for a united country. But South Africa in 1994 was a hotbed of tensions and divisions, many of which seemed insurmountable.

In fact, in the weeks before the vote, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger led a team of global dignitaries to try to mediate a dispute between many of the country's political parties and the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party, which was committed to boycotting the election. Kissinger had barely left his Johannesburg hotel room when he called it quits. "Mediation never started," he said, "so mediation hasn't failed."

In that moment, it felt like failure was indeed inevitable, and it probably would have been were it not for Mandela. Days before the voting started, he helped to persuade Inkatha to abandon its boycott. This proved vital to his victory, and, as a result, to the tremendous progress South Africa has made since.

Years later, I sat watching Steven Spielberg's 2012 biopic Lincoln, which depicts the 16th US president as a political animal. Lincoln has a noble mission: Outlawing slavery in the United States Constitution. He's also willing to be cunning, even slippery, to achieve it. When the final credits rolled, I thought, "That was Mandela, too."

Like Lincoln, Mandela believed that history didn't always bend people; sometimes, people could bend history. And he proved it. Mandela, a striver, a hustler, a charming and determined optimist, when made a difference, then anyone helped creating a better world.

UNWIND I

A married man's honest confession: "I always read my wife's horoscope to see what kind of day I am going to have"

UNWIND II



TAILPIECE

"Poverty is not natural. It can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings." Nelson Mandela