



RI District 3291

September 28, 2019

PRESIDENT □ DR SUDHA CHAUDHARY

CLUB NO □ 78956

# Spectrum

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

SECRETARY □ KUSUM CHAMARIA

CHARTERED ON □ APRIL 30, 2008



VOL 12A □ NO 12A

EDITOR □ BL AJITSARIA

WEBSITE □ [www.rcslmk.org](http://www.rcslmk.org)

## Interact club of DPS Newtown shares joy of festivity Debjani Chatterjee of DPS Newtown shares

On the evening of Saturday, September 21, 2019, members of Interact club of DPS Newtown reached 'Muraripukur Pathikrit', near Ultadanga, Calcutta with large quantity of clothes collected from students and teachers and started an unusual business – the business of earning satisfaction by parting their belongings with economically weak persons on the eve of Durgotsav, the biggest festival of Bengal.

'Muraripukur Pathikrit' has been involved in coordinating such and similar kind of activities with reasonable success over last couple of years.



When you are getting ready to unload your wardrobe before the Puja shopping, some people are waiting in anticipation for their way of doing the Puja shopping. Every year they come to the club Muraripukur Pathikrit for a jumbo sale.



It was a special day in my life as I joined my Interact Club members in assisting the NGO Ensemble to put up a sale of clothes for the community people of Muraripukur near Ultadanga.



Their faces lit up with joy as they purchased clothes donated by teachers and students for as little as 20 and 30 rupees.



The crowd thronged the place to pick up their Puja purchase, stand in a queue and pay to collect the receipt.

I am touched by your service, my dear students. You are the hope on which I build my vision of a new egalitarian society.

## Investiture of Interact Club of DPS New Town

Investiture of Interact Club of DPS New Town was held at the auditorium of the campus on Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

Kusum Chamaria, club Secretary and past President decorated new office bearers of the Interact club with Interact pin.

The program was initiated at about 11.00 AM by welcome address by Ms Sonali Sen, principal, DPS New Town.





There was an audio-visual presentation of Interact club activities in the past that included the very recent one on September 21, 2019, where Interact club members offered clothes to kids from economically weaker families.



PP Kusum Chamaria, while offering club pins to new Interact President Manisvini Pankaj Kapileshwari and her team congratulated each one of them that included, among others, Vice President Gaurav Sahal and Secretary Sparsh Kayal.



Club members, through Principal Sonali Sen, offered a handmade lamp shed, beautifully crafted by students, to Kusum Chamaria. The lamp shed was presented in a handmade bag made out of news paper crafted with enviable skill.



### Supporting People with Autism

Posted on September 25, 2019 by Dr. Corina Yatco-Guerrero, member of the Rotary Club of Sta. Ana (Davao), Philippines



*Corina and Emmanuel*

I am a Neuro-Ophthalmologist and my husband is a Neurologist; we both practice in Davao City, Philippines. When our third child, Emmanuel, was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at the age of two, we were both stunned and perplexed. Diagnosing our patients was something that we do every day in our medical profession, but living with our own family member with a disability was something we were not equipped nor prepared to handle. Tantrums, meltdowns, hyperactivity are some of my son's daily struggles. He looked so helpless and in the beginning we didn't know how to help him. I quit work for three years just to be by his side to assist him. I read many books about autism and even converted his bedroom into a "special" classroom. Our weekly routine would consist of visits to the Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, and to a Special Education Teacher (SpEd) who had experience in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for Children with Autism (CWA).

In the field of medicine, we were taught that every illness comes with a cure, but for autism there is no specific drug that will cure the disorder. It is a lifelong disability – something



that Emmanuel and our family has to live with every single day. But life goes on, and we have learned to live one day at a time. And most important of all, he knows he is cared for and loved. But I know that not everyone is as blessed as our son. I do worry about those families who cannot afford the demands that a special child needs.



**TEACCH Forum with the Dept. of Education Region 7 Principals**

When the opportunity to be part of The Rotary Foundation's District 3860 Vocational Training Team from Cebu, Philippines was presented to me, I was ecstatic! It was two week training at the University of North Carolina, USA on a teaching method specifically for children with autism called TEACCH. TEACCH stands for *Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communication related handicapped Children*. and is an evidence-based research program. I knew it is a program beneficial to children with autism and this was a dream come true.



**Corina and Emmanuel during the Angel's Walk for Autism**

We had two weeks of intensive training on TEACCH, followed by several visits to schools, group homes, and business establishments catering to persons with autism. The trainings helped me become more confident, eager, and better equipped to reach out to the underserved special needs community. Together with the rest of the Vocational Training Team, we shared our learning on the TEACCH method to special education teachers, government educators, therapists and increased the awareness on autism to the public.

Every year during National Autism Week, Rotary clubs from District 3860 join and support the "*Angels Walk for Autism*" - an awareness walk that gathers all children, families and educators supporting autism. Organized by a local organization called Autism Society of the Philippines, it advocates awareness and inclusion of persons with special needs in society.

I am grateful that through Rotary, the world can be a better place for children with autism – by creating more schools and training the educators in order to become better equipped in teaching them how to have a better and meaningful life.

### **World Bank and Germany Launch Fund to Curb Forest Loss, Build Resilient Landscapes**



**New York, September 23, 2019**, The World Bank and Germany today announced the launch of **PROGREEN**, a new global partnership to boost efforts to stop deforestation; restore degraded lands; improve livelihoods in poor, rural communities; and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



PROGREEN will bolster efforts by countries to tackle declining biodiversity, loss of forests, deteriorating land fertility and increasing risks such as uncontrolled forest fires, which are exacerbated by a changing climate. PROGREEN will help countries meet their national and global Sustainable Development Goals and commitments, including poverty reduction, in a cost-effective manner.

"The green lungs of our planet are burning. Deforestation is threatening the climate and destroying wildlife and human habitats. We must put an end to that. We must use our planet's natural resources sustainably to preserve them for the future. PROGREEN

**We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM**

**Printed by Dr Sudha Chaudhary, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata • Editor: BL Ajitsaria**

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will make an important contribution to this.” said German Development Minister Gerd Müller.



PROGREEN is an innovative way to create more sustainable and resilient landscapes and natural habitats,” said World Bank Group President David Malpass. “The program brings together sectors that rarely coordinate in order to reduce deforestation and the degradation of forests and land. It aims for impact at scale, by supporting the shift from transactional project approaches to performance-based approaches focused on improving national policies. We are grateful to have committed partners such as Germany to help us achieve solutions for these pressing problems.”

Forests and land-based ecosystems provide food, clean water, climate regulation, jobs and economic growth. However, the world’s remaining forests and natural habitats are under increasing pressure, often with dire consequences for rural communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and food. About one-third of total global land area is degraded, with an estimated annual cost of US\$300 billion.

PROGREEN will bring together the sectors that typically drive deforestation and changes in land use – including agriculture, infrastructure, and mining – to work jointly to better plan and manage land use to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor. PROGREEN will do this through technical assistance, building government capacity, and providing financing to help reorient policies to create incentives for responsible commodity value chains, sustainable land management, and nature-based solutions for infrastructure.

PROGREEN will build on existing initiatives related to landscapes, forests, biodiversity, drylands, and climate change, to bridge technical and financial gaps to accelerate countries’ progress toward their goals. PROGREEN will prioritize participation of communities and vulnerable groups in projects, plus partner with the private sector to green their value chains and mobilize additional resources.

Germany, the seed funder for PROGREEN, is contributing 200 million Euros to kick start the program. This commitment underscores Germany’s strong focus on forests, landscape restoration, and biodiversity more generally. The goal is to ultimately raise about US\$1 billion for PROGREEN.

### 5 steps to club growth: why membership matters

September 24, 2019 by Ainsley Brown, Rotary St. Andrew, Jamaica



Ainsley Brown, left, receives his pin as Vocational Service Director from then-president Jemelia Davis at the club’s installation banquet

My club, the Rotary Club of St. Andrew, Jamaica, has a storied history. We were chartered in 1966, four years after Jamaica’s independence from the United Kingdom, as the third Rotary club in Jamaica. We have a pioneering spirit as demonstrated by being the first Rotary club in Jamaica to allow women to join.

Rotary is a wonderful global movement that allows individuals to come together and take actions that are an expression of our collective will to make this world a better place. Our members are our greatest strength, and membership matters. But our greatest strength is also our greatest challenge. Like a lot of clubs, we struggle with membership. How do we recruit new members, retain existing members, transition members of Rotaract into Rotary, and re-engage current or former members?

I won’t be so bold as to suggest we have found the solution to membership growth. But I do believe we have found a solution. And the funny thing is it was staring us in the face the whole time: The Four Way Test. The best way to grow membership, in my opinion, is by “building goodwill and better friendships.”

The club carried out five initiatives in August 2019, spearheaded by our director of club administration and the membership chair, that we hope will re-engage, retain, and recruit past, present, and future members:

1. **Member call:** Calling members to ask how they are doing and encouraging them to attend. While this is certainly not a new idea, it goes a long way in saying to members you are appreciated and it is proven to get people out to meetings and events.
2. **A games night:** A fun-filled night of fellowship, relaxation, and networking.
3. **A membership mixer:** Yet another fun-filled night of fellowship, relaxation, and networking, this one with an eye toward corporate relationships. The club has engaged a major financial institution in Jamaica to sponsor the mixer geared toward allowing prospective members to interact with existing Rotarians outside of our mid-day meeting time on Tuesdays.
4. **The Membership Challenge:** Attracting members is a challenge. Why not make the effort into a contest? Each club member is challenged to invite a guest to a club meeting or service project. Members earn additional points if the guest joins, represents a vocation not presently in the club, or is a young professional between the ages of 25-45.
5. **Tell your story, Why am I a Rotarian?** We know stories not stats attract people to Rotary. This initiative creates an avenue for members to tell their Rotary story. By sharing our journeys, members better understand, appreciate, and learn from each other’s experiences.

Through these and other efforts we will build goodwill and better friendships proving that membership matters.

### Birthdays of Rotary members in October

Sudip Mukherjee Governor Elect, on October 1, 2019

Sanjay Agarwal on October 5, 2019

Ansul Agrawal on October 7, 2019

Ravindraprakash Sehgal, past Governor on October 14, 2019

Sekhar Mehta, 2021-22 RI President on October 14, 2019

PP Dr Chitra Ray on October 15, 2019

Kamal Seth, past Governor on October 30, 2019

### Anniversary of Rotary members in October

Spouse Mamta & Governor Ajay Agarwal on October 9, 2019

October is Economic and Community Development month

### UNWIND

Girl: “Are you sure you love me and no one else?”

Boy: “Dead sure! I checked the whole list again yesterday.”

### TAILPIECE

In a London department store: Bargain basement upstairs

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