



# ROTALink

**President**  
**Aruna Rathi**  
[arurathi@gmail.com](mailto:arurathi@gmail.com)

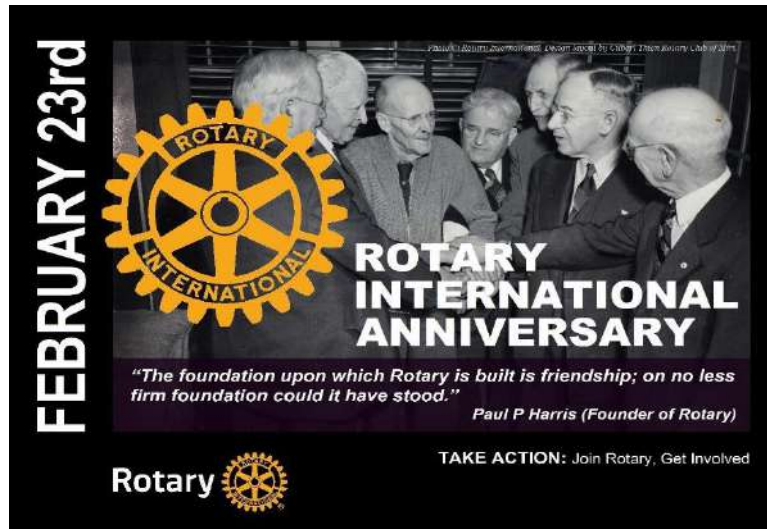
**Secretary**  
**Shikha Mitra**  
[shikha1326@yahoo.com](mailto:shikha1326@yahoo.com)

**Editor**  
**Sunita Lobo**  
[sunlobo1@gmail.com](mailto:sunlobo1@gmail.com)

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For over a century, Rotary one of the largest service organisations in the world has created access to education, empowered communities, pushed polio to the brink of eradication and improved lives around the world.

## **On the occasion of the upcoming 119th Rotary Anniversary, let us look at some Rotary Milestones-**

First gathering, on Thursday evening, 23 February 1905 in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. Attorney Paul P. Harris, five years building a successful law practice, then had an idea. He had given this much thought by the time he and Silvester Schiele walked over to Gus Loehr's office, in Room 711 that cold winter night in 1905, almost 9 years from his arrival in Chicago. Several weeks later, Schiele was elected the first president of Rotary when the meeting was held in his office. Harris suggested several names, one of them being "Rotary."

**1905**

Members agree to be on "first name" basis. Rotary "Wagon Wheel" emblem adopted, the first of many variations of "wheel emblems" to be used by different clubs, until 1912, when a geared wheel was adopted, this to be follow by authorization of an official emblem (1924), a wheel of six spokes, twenty-four cogs, and a "keyway."

**1906**

First community service project: a "public comfort station" in Chicago near City Hall for men and women.

**1907**



First Rotary convention was held in Chicago, 15-17 August, with sixteen clubs in Rotary. The National Association of Rotary Clubs was formed.

1910

Rotary "principles" adopted in form of five objectives.

1910

The National Rotarian magazine was born with General Secretary Chesley Perry as the editor. 22 August 1911, Rotarian Frank Collins, introduced what was to become "Service above Self" to Rotary. At the same convention, "He Profits Most Who Serves Best" was introduced to the convention.

1911

Arch C. Klumph proposed to the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, USA, the creation of an "endowment fund for Rotary. . . for the purpose of doing good in the world in charitable, educational, and other avenues of community service." A few months later, the endowment received its first contribution of \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

1917

4-Way Test formulated by Chicago Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor.

1932

Forty-nine Rotarians help draft the United Nations Charter in San Francisco.

1945

Rotary founder Paul Harris dies. The first 18 Rotary Foundation scholarships were granted.

1947

First Interact club was formed in Melbourne, Florida U.S.A. Rotary Club.

1962

Rotary Foundation launches Matching Grants and Group Study Exchange program.

1965

**Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.**



Rotary announces PolioPlus program to immunize all the children of the world against polio.

1985

Preserve Planet Earth program inspires some 2,000 Rotary-sponsored environmental projects.

1990  
to  
1991

Rotary Centres for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution established.

1999

Rotarians raise more than US\$118 million to support the final stages of polio eradication.

2003

Rotary Celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

2005

A Fifth Avenue of Service- New Generations Service is approved, e-Clubs become permanent.

2010

**Click to watch a video on History of Rotary Club International**



**Friendship was the foundation rock on which Rotary was built and tolerance is the element which holds it together.**



## District Conference- Confluence 2024

The Rotary District Conference for 2023-24 - Confluence was held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the beautiful venue of Pandit Farms Karve Nagar with excellent arrangements.

### Day 1

The conference was inaugurated by District Governor Manjoo Phadke and Chair Rotary International PolioPlus Committee Michael McGovern.

The line-up of speakers was impressive. Dr Raghunath Mashelkar, the keynote speaker spoke on innovation and how India is leapfrogging into the future was truly inspiring. The talk by Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma was truly inspiring, so were the other talks by other speakers.

Rotary Club of Poona Downtown was represented by President Aruna Rathi, PP Phiroze Masters, Ann Shereen Masters, PP Asis Ray, Rtn Sujata Malkani, PP Pallavi Sable and Rtn Navya Shivarkar.

All along a pleasant experience.

### Rtn Sujata Malkani



**Friendliness knows no bounds; it surmounts all barriers; it navigates all seas.**





## Day 2

I attended the annual Confluence conference on behalf of Rtn Zimra Israel.

It started on time with a very glamorous pageant of Miss Rotary 3131 of 2024. A very grand, well organised, well compered show of 13 participants, who individually sashayed on the ramp and later answered questions by the judges. The participants were from age brackets of early 20s to mid-60s.

After the Miss Rotary 3131 pageant, clubs were awarded for inducting new members below the age of 30, between 31-60. The focus on enrolling younger members is enormous.

This session was followed by the District PI officials highlighting some good initiatives. Special awards were also presented. 17th March, there is a PI Conference at the District level in Pune.

This was followed by two hilarious dramas in Marathi by famous professionals. About 1100 people were rolling with laughter for nearly 2 hours.

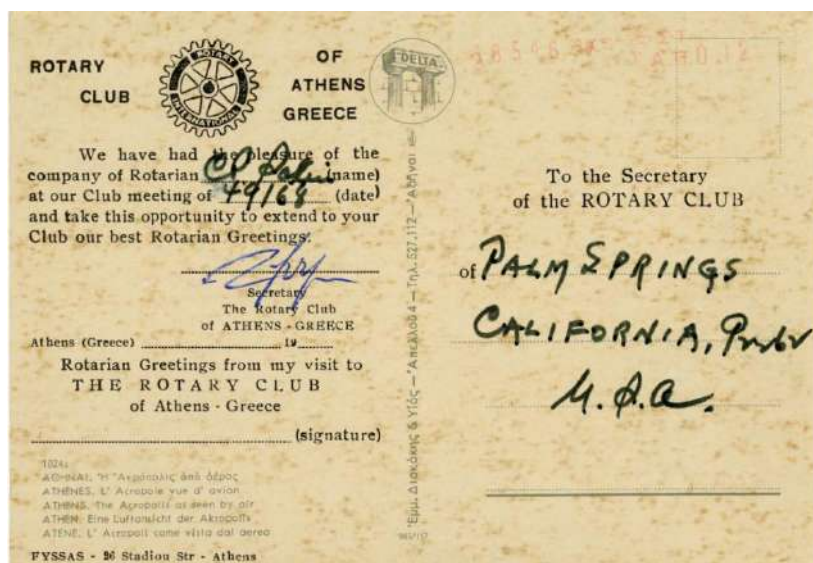
After a sumptuous lunch break there were presentations by District Officials on their specific projects, which were very impressive.

Famous cricketer Sandeep Patil shared some exciting experiences on and off the field for over an hour & twenty minutes.

RPID McGovern spoke. He had never seen so much energy & creativity in any other part of the world, he said and wished us well.

DG Manjoo Phadke went on a very polite vote of thanks for just about everyone who piled in their bit.

## Rtn Prof PNN Iyer



**Postcards from the past**  
Clubs now moving toward flexible attendance policies  
<https://www.rotary.org/en/postcards-past>

**Rotary takes ordinary people and gives them extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they ever dreamed possible.**



## CONNECTING TRUST----‘We listen, We Support, We create Awareness’

Connecting Trust was set up by Ms. Arnawaz Damania in 2005, to offer a non-judgmental, non-advisory, confidential and anonymous Listening Service for those feeling low, distressed and/or suicidal. On Thursday, 1st Feb. their team headed by Ms. Sandy Dias Andrade, Mentor and Ms. Sukhada Khisti, CEO shared their experience on how the CT team saved lives of mentally distressed individuals over the decades. By 2022-23 this team was successful in saving nearly twenty thousand lives of individuals through their compassionate, empathetic caring and loving listening! Yet another astonishing revelation by them was that every suicide could affect nearly 110 lives. They provide service of support and solace to those left behind.

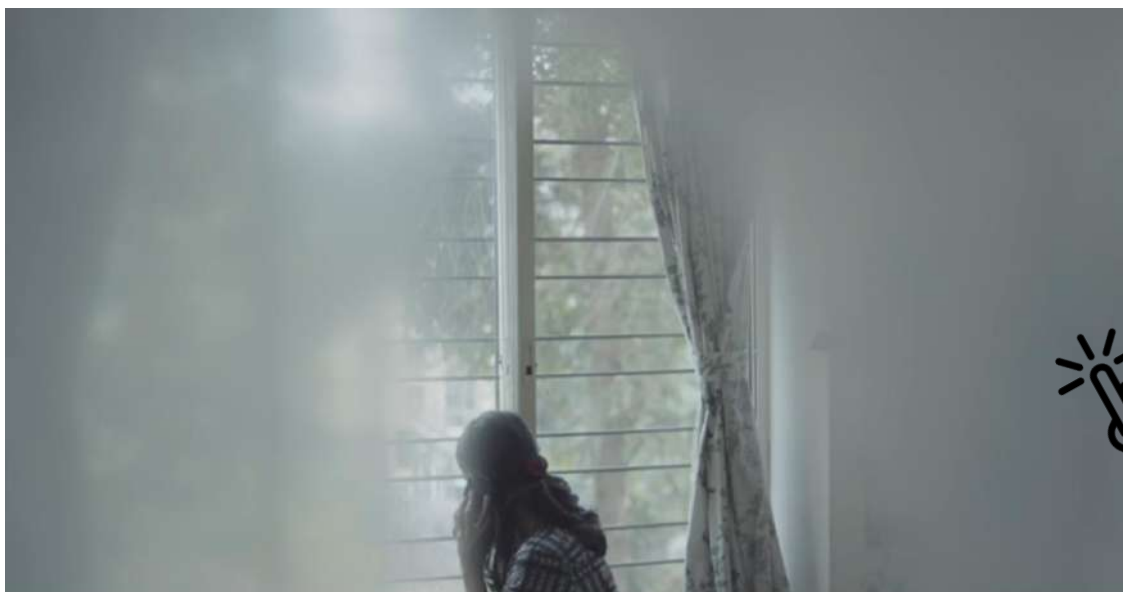
One important factor in this healing process is ‘mindful listening’, through the process of Listening the CT team could ‘Connect’ with the feelings of each individual and provide solace to each potential victim be it a case of failure, harassment, domestic violence or other related issues. Indeed, this Trust’s approach has been to teach in each case on how to climb a wall when one runs into a wall.

This Trust’s activities have been a testament on how the therapeutic power of love help in preventing, and providing a healing touch in mental and moral disturbances. Love, care and empathy can save lives as attempted suicides are many times more than actual suicides.

Members of RC Poona Downtown enjoyed a brief exercise in listening without giving an opinion or passing judgements. Our Club conveys their full support to this noble concept and salutes the team of Connecting Trust with a famous saying by Mother Teresa, “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”

**Rtn. PP Biman Mookerji**

**Please view the video below to get a glimpse of the agony of people affected by suicide.**



**Silver linings rise out of the most challenging circumstances.**



**Rotary is about building bridges, not walls.**



## Self-Love through Music and Dance

On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, members of RCPD witnessed a unique program on SELF LOVE.

Two young Ladies, Sahana Ray and Sarbani Ghosh showed us through their beautiful dance movements and supported by some wonderful Tagore's songs, how important it is for all of us to realise the importance of relationships but ultimately it is the inner self which has to be happy and satisfied.

Self-love is the best form of love. Self-love strengthens our mental health, our resilience, lowers our stress levels and enhances our mental strength. We become our own priority and start to take care of ourselves to live a healthy joyful life. We realize who we are and then love who we are.

This would mean taking care of yourself to live a healthy joyful life, which will automatically be transcended to all our relationships. Our well-being and confidence continue to be dependent of Self-love in a society that frequently emphasizes the need for perfection.

In the words of Oscar Wilde.... To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance...

Ms Sahana Ray has a Masters in Applied Psychology and specializes in Stress Management and community counselling with a proven track record of success in conducting comprehensive psychological evaluation, developing therapy plans for individual and groups.

Sarbani Ghosh is an Indian classical dancer specializing in the Odissi and Bharatnatyam forms of dancing, having been trained under Guru Sri Debaprasad Das gharana. She teaches Indian classical and contemporary dance in Pune.

**Rtn Shikha Mitra**

**Secretary**



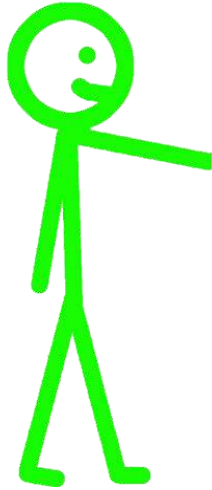
**Happiness is only real when shared.**





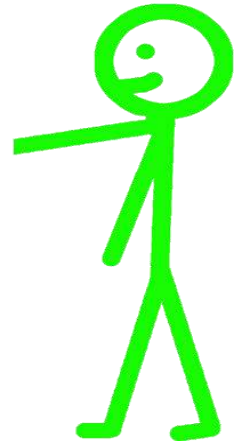
## BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER

Be an active member,  
The kind that would be missed;  
Don't be just contented  
That your name is on the list.



Do attend the meetings  
And mingle with the crowd;  
Don't stay at home  
And crab both long and loud.

Don't leave the work for just a few  
And gripe about the clique.  
And take time out to visit  
A member who is sick.



There is quite a program scheduled  
That means success, if done,  
And it can be accomplished  
With the help of everyone.

So attend the meetings regularly  
And help with hand and heart,  
Be an active member  
And take an active part.

Think this over, Member  
Are we right or are we wrong?  
Be an active member.  
Please don't just belong.

**-PP Yezdi Batliwala**

**DIVERSITY  
EQUITY  
INCLUSION**

*"We welcome all, we are committed to DEI"*

Diversity is a fact. Equity is a choice. Inclusion is an action.  
**Together they create belonging.**  
And that's what we want everyone to feel in Rotary – that they belong!

”  
I believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion ... begins at the top and for us to realize growth in female membership and members under the age of forty — these demographics need to see their own reflection in leadership. I will champion double-digit growth in both categories while never losing sight of our entire family.

**JENNIFER JONES**  
PRESIDENT, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL  
(2022-23)

**Remember, you're the one who can fill the world with sunshine.**



## Clubs at the End of the World

There are Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries, including some of the world's most remote locations. Indeed, it's accurate to say Rotary has spread to virtually every corner of the globe. Here, meet a few far-flung clubs and learn what they do.

### **St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada**

St. John's has five Rotary and Rotaract clubs. Founded in 1921, the 60-member Rotary Club of St. John's is the oldest in this Canadian province. "Rotary is wonderfully represented in our small city," says Ron Burke, the club's president. The provincial capital of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's has just under 110,000 inhabitants. The city's Rotary clubs do not see themselves as competitors, but pool their forces to make a difference. Together, they created the Rotary Sunshine Park, a recreational area with a water pier, a leisure center, and a chalet that can be rented for overnight stays.

### **Fairbanks, Alaska**

The Rotary Club of Fairbanks, Alaska, USA is now 84 years old. The 95-member club's lunch meetings are always well attended. The Rotary members are looking forward to the completion of a multi-year project in May. The club invested US\$500,000 to build a large playground. For example, the club supported the construction of sanitary facilities at several schools in and around San Ignacio.

### **Helgoland, Germany**

Members of the Rotary Club of Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany must travel at least two and a half hours by ship to visit another club. The nearest one is located about 60 kilometers from the island, which lies on the North Sea coast. A total of 1,300 people lives there. In such a small community, "the bond among the members is strong," says club member Bärbel Wichmann.

### **Tarawa, Kiribati**

District 9920 includes half of Auckland, New Zealand, as well as the American territory of American Samoa and the Pacific nations of the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Samoa, Tonga, and Kiribati. There are 53 Rotary clubs in the district, a third of which are located in the Pacific countries. The Rotary Club of Tarawa, Kiribati, founded in 2019 on the country's main atoll, has 10 members. It is 2,230 kilometers from the next nearest Rotary club on the Fiji Islands, and has carried out projects worth nearly US\$2 million.

### **Shetland, United Kingdom**

In 1972, the Rotary Club of Shetland, Shetland Islands, Scotland, took root on this archipelago which lies between Orkney and Norway where the North Sea meets the rugged North Atlantic. The club is located in Lerwick, the main town and port of the archipelago. Since residents of the island travel infrequently, service is what connects the 17 members. A recent dinner raised money to support local charities.

Visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/clubs-end-world> to know more.

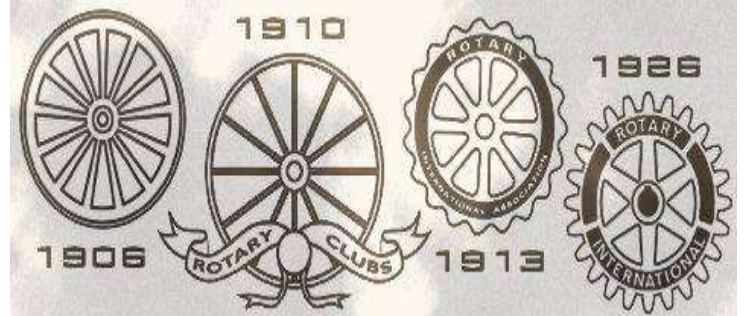
**Well done is better than well said.**

## Symbolic Rotary Objects

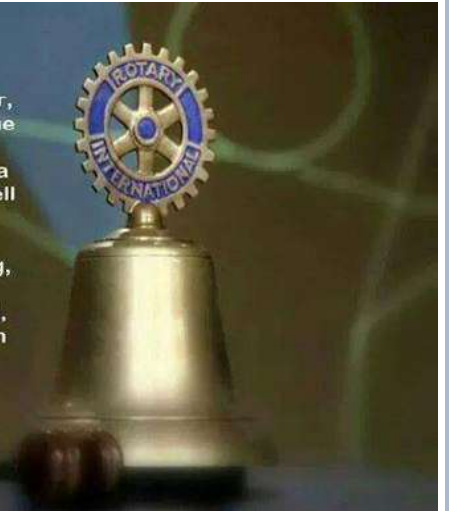
### How Rotary's emblem evolved

The Rotary wheel, unchanged since 1924, was redesigned many times in the early years of the organization.

<https://www.rotary.org/en/history-how-rotary-emblem-evolved>



The bell used in Rotary meetings started to represent, as on the ships, order, discipline and the time to guide us through the weekly hour and a half meetings. The bell informs us with its sound the beginning of the Rotary meeting, at which time people present should stand, same as at the end, in order to salute the national and Rotary flags.



### Rotary's two official mottoes

Service Above Self and One Profits Most Who Serves Best, Rotary's official mottoes...

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-mottoes>

### Rotary Themes

<https://www.rotary.org/en/history-rotary-themes>



**Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.**



## Greetings On Your Special Day

May your days be filled with Sunshine, Happiness and Love



R'ann Anita Dua	16 <sup>th</sup> February
R'ann Nutan Wakhle	20 <sup>th</sup> February
R'ann Seema Mathur	22 <sup>nd</sup> February
Rtn Mahendar Chandiramani	25 <sup>th</sup> February

## Wishing you a lifetime of Cherished Moments and Beautiful Memories

Rtn Kirti & R'ann Jayshree Mehta	15 <sup>th</sup> February
Rtn Rajendra & R'ann Lalita Nahar	20 <sup>th</sup> February
Rtn Sunil & R'ann Sumita Jaiswal	24 <sup>th</sup> February
Rtn Jitu & R'ann Deepika Mehta	25 <sup>th</sup> February
Rtn Dr Ravikumar & R'ann Dr Ameeta	26 <sup>th</sup> February



## Upcoming Programs

Peace and Conflict Resolution	Aarti Patil	Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> February
Assistant Governor Rtn PP Mahesh Makhija's Visit to our Club		Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
'International Nite' at The Poona Club Golf Course		Saturday, 24 <sup>th</sup> February
No Meeting		Thursday, 29 <sup>th</sup> February
District Governor Rtn Manjoo Phadke's Visit to our Club		Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.