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Community Economic Development

## Report for the weekly meeting dated 02.10.2020

Meeting was called to order by President Dr. Ajay Mahajan.

The Four Way Test was recited by Rtn. Alpa Madrasi.

President welcomed all and gave a brief report of activities done in the previous week. He also shared details of the activities done during the previous month of September.

PP Rtn Kamal Gandhi gave a brief introduction of the Guest Speaker Shri Uttambhai Parmar.

Uttambhai Parmar shared his thoughts about Mahatma Gandhi, his simple ways of doing things and convincing his adversaries as well as his followers the basic principles of truth and nonviolence. He also explained why an intelligent, knowledgeable and logical person like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was attracted towards Gandhi and joined in the freedom movement and in spite of differences was an ardent follower. Adopting the Principles of nonviolence, noncooperation and respect for the adversary [the British] as insisted by the Mahatma, Congress could achieve freedom for India.

Secretarial announcements were made by Hon. Secretary Tejas Gandhi.

Rtn Bhavaniben Mehta announced Birthday and Anniversary Greetings.

Vote of thanks was proposed by PE Rtn Bishma Jariwala.

Meeting was adjourned by President Dr. Ajay Mahajan.

## INCOMING PROGRAMMES

### Incoming Programs

09 Oct 2020 – Weekly Meeting  
Seminar on Water & Sanitation  
PP Er. Nimish Mehta



10<sup>th</sup> Oct – Rtn. Indravadan Shetranjiwala

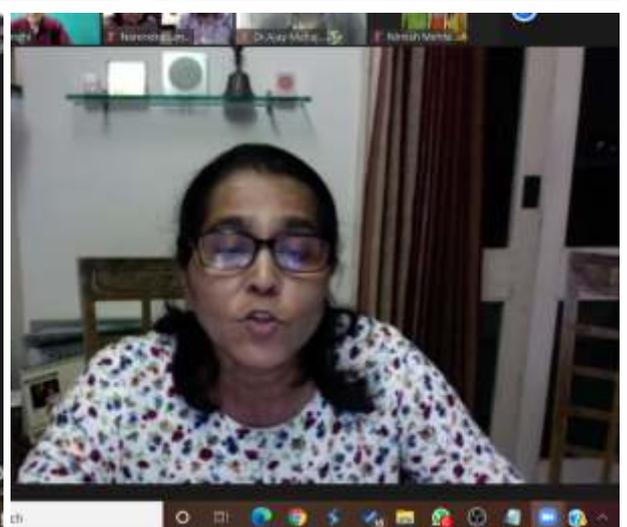
12<sup>th</sup> Oct – R'Partner Asha Bhupendra Jariwala

13<sup>th</sup> Oct – Rtn. Bhairav Desai

13<sup>th</sup> Oct – R'Partner Anand Sheth

15<sup>th</sup> Oct – Rtn. Sumant Jalan

15<sup>th</sup> Oct – Rtn. Kamal Gandhi





## Youth Exchange students often say their experience abroad was the best time of their lives. Being part of the program can be life-changing for Rotary members

by Vanessa Glavinskas Illustrations by Ruby Taylor

For more than 40 years, Rotary Youth Exchange has been one of Rotary's best-known programs. As an official program, it dates to 1975 — but by that time, Rotary clubs had already been sending students abroad for decades with the aim of promoting international understanding and friendship.

What the program offers to and asks of participants — an openness to new ideas and experiences, a willingness to adapt and to gain new perspectives, and an opportunity to make new friends and learn new ways of living — are the same values that define Rotary itself.

“The major goal of Youth Exchange is to dive into another culture,” says Rotary President Holger Knaack, who served as chair of the German Multi-District Youth Exchange; he and his wife, Susanne, have themselves hosted dozens of students. “Youth Exchange is an opportunity for the kids to experience something new. And it has enriched our own lives.”

### The intercultural entrepreneur

When **Tim Pfrogner** was in Los Angeles on his exchange in 2010, he participated in a service project that altered his career trajectory. “In our district, we do a humanitarian trip every year,” says Melody St. John, a member of the Rotary Club of Hollywood, California, who with her husband, Paul, hosted Pfrogner during his exchange year. “Tim was with us when we did a water filter project in the Dominican Republic, and he was fascinated.”

After returning home to Germany, Pfrogner went on to study at the Technical University of Munich, but he couldn't forget what he had experienced on his exchange — or the fact that 800 million people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water.

In 2014, he co-founded a startup, called Waterfilter, that works in the Kigoma region of Tanzania and is now supported by the Rotary Club of München-International. With his team, he developed a sustainable business model to distribute an innovative water purification product made using local resources. Waterfilter trains unemployed people to open up their own Waterfilter shop, where they build the filters and sell them to members of their community for an affordable price.

“This way,” Pfrogner says, “we do not only provide clean and safe drinking water; we also create jobs.”

Pfrogner says his experience with Rotary Youth Exchange was pivotal. “Being confronted with different cultures at such an early time in my life strengthened my ability to have empathy for others,” he says. “Youth Exchange taught me to follow my passions.”

### The globe-trotting journalist

**In 2001, Isabelle Roughol left France to spend a year in Montclair, New Jersey. Two weeks after she arrived, the United States was rocked by the 9/11 terrorist attacks.**

“I could see the World Trade Center from my bedroom window,” she recalls. “Students in my school had parents who worked in lower Manhattan, teachers were worried for spouses, sirens were blasting. Everyone was in a state of shock.”

Roughol remembers that day as eerie and sad, but she never questioned whether she should continue her exchange in New Jersey. “The sense of community was really strong in Montclair,” she says. “I felt supported.”

That year shaped her. She became bolder. Something frightening had happened, but with the support of her host family and community she was able to cope. “I could sometimes be timid and unsure of myself,” she recalls. “That year taught me that good things can come when you take chances.”

She continued to bet on herself and her ability to adapt. “I got my bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri. I embarked on a career in journalism, writing in English, and I've lived in Australia, Cambodia, and the UK. My Youth Exchange year launched me into a global life and a global career. It was the start of everything.”





## The pandemic responder

**“I didn't imagine possibilities for myself before I went abroad,” says Lorelei Higgins, who grew up in Spruce Grove, Alberta. “Many of my friends stayed in our small town and had families.” Today, Higgins is back in Canada, working for the city of Calgary, where her job is focused on building peace locally. Her most ambitious project is the creation of an indigenous relations office.**

Her Rotary Youth Exchange experience in South Africa in 1998-99 inspired her to study political science and international relations. “I was 17 when I went to South Africa. I had never been on an airplane, I spoke no other languages, I had grown up in a small town in Canada. I was very sheltered. That's what I think is so fundamental about the program: It opens up opportunities at a critical age,” she says. “When I finished my degree, I couldn't wait to leave Canada. I had that Rotary bug to be out there doing service.”

“That Rotary bug” inspired Higgins to go to Bolivia, where she had an internship with a Canadian nonprofit called Ghost River Rediscovery that helped connect young members of indigenous communities to their roots. She continued working for the organization in Calgary before taking a job with the city — which

now has landed her on the front lines of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As lead staff member for community connections, she puts residents together with the resources they need, from groceries to garbage pickup. She recently arranged for 10,000 pounds of restaurant food that would have gone to waste to be delivered to vulnerable families.

Until normal life resumes, she's happy to serve in any way she can. In fact, her year abroad helped prepare her for this moment. “It taught me to be adaptable and flexible,” she says.



## Answers to Rotary Global History “Quiz”

1) This Rotary president first was a newspaper Reporter in Denver. Who was...?

**Paul P. Harris**

2) 23 February 1905. What was...?

**The night four men decided to start an organization in Chicago**

3) A 1900 Walk after dinner by Paul Harris. What was...?

**The inspiration for Rotary**

4) Cowboy, Desk Clerk, Marble Salesman, Actor, Merchant Seaman, Fruit Picker. What were...?

**Paul Harris' jobs between 1891 and 1896**

5) This early Rotarian was secretary of Rotary International for 32 years. Who was...?

**Chesley R. Perry**

6) This famous Rotarian was expelled from a university. Who was...?

**Paul Harris**

7) The First Club, in a community of less than 100,000 populations. What is...?

**Pueblo**

8) \$26.50 from Rotary Club of Kansas City in 1917. What started the...?

**The Rotary Foundation**

9) The First President of "Rotary." Who was...?

**Sylvester Schiele**

10) Give service to your customers and you'll make more money. What was the...?

**"Fred" Sheldon's business philosophy**

11) Arch Klumph. Who was a...?

**Past RI President from Cleveland, credited with starting the Rotary Foundation**

12) Ann Brunier and Ann Gundaker. Who were the first...?

**Rotary Anns**



## September Activity Report:

### Club meetings

- 04 Sep: Teach-PP Tushar Shah
- 11 Sep: Antakashari
- 18 Sep: harter day celebration
- 25 Sep: Diet in Covid-dietitian Neerja Parikh.
- 13 Sep: -Rotary ki Khatti Meethi Baatein, Joint program by 18 clubs

### Board meeting

### Community Projects:

- Distribution of plantar to member's house on their birthday/anniversary.
- Covid awareness online campaign, -sticking poster on Covid awareness in city--did at 3 places
- Photography competition
- Health awareness session on nail/hair/skin care for females
- Distribution of nutritious food to pregnant ladies under project Humf
- Distribution of food kits to needy people by RCC Silver lining
- Educating kids of lower socio-economic strata by RCC Silver lining
- Celebration of international literacy day and stationary kit distribution to kids
- Literacy day celebration by Rotaractors
- Pranayama workshop for kids by RCC Silver lining
- Donation of robot to Mandvi govt. Hospital by Rotaractors
- Donation of 6 plastic chairs to Vesu old age home
- Participation in online teachers training program held by District. 230 teachers participated through RC of Surat

### District events

- Prasiddhi -Online Public Image Seminar
- Prakash-Dist. Literacy Seminar

## Community Service – Vatsalyapuram – 3rd Oct. 2020

A weekly service project of the club of providing healthy meals to children of Vatsalyapuram was sponsored by R'Partner Dhvani & Rtn. Meghal Baxi



## Community Service – Pal Anganwadi – 3rd Oct. 2020

A weekly service project of the club of providing healthy meals to 45 children of Pal Anganwadi was sponsored by R'Partner Amisha Kinkhabwala & Prachi on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September. 50 nos. of mask were sponsored by Rtn. Sumit Garg. Rtn. Neha Lotwala & R'partner volunteered for the same.



“The Rotary Foundation is not to build monuments of brick and stone. If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work on brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds... we are engraving on those tablets something that will brighten all eternity.”

— Arch C. Klumph, December 1928