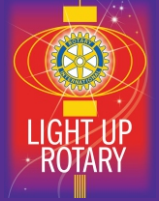




North Club News

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB TRIVANDRUM NORTH

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Secretary: Rtn. PP. PHF. G. Muraleedharan Pillai

President: Rtn. PHF. C. K. Mohan Kumar

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September is New Generations Month ONAM GREETINGS



In September, Rotary celebrates New Generations Month, reminding clubs of the ongoing need to provide positive influences for youth and equip tomorrow's leaders. The history of Rotary's work with youth dates back to the 1920s, when many clubs took part in an international event known as Boys' Week.

Boys' Week events quickly spread throughout the world. By the mid-1920s, they were being held in almost 600 locations across 25 countries. In 1928, the number of participating cities and towns had grown to about 3,000.

By the late 1920s, the United States had established a National Boys' Week Committee, in which Rotary participated. Rotary clubs were encouraged to support their local Boys' Week events as a way to achieve the goals of the Boys' Work program.

The RI Board of Directors voted to discontinue Rotary's official sponsorship of Boys and Girls' Week in 1956 in order to support new youth efforts, but it encouraged clubs to continue participating in local youth service initiatives.

Rotary went on to create other programs for young people in the following decades, including Interact, Rotaract, and Rotary Youth Exchange.

In 2010, New Generations Service became Rotary's fifth Avenue of Service. Rotarians recognize the positive change that youth and young adults implement through leadership development activities, community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding.

Rotary Youth Exchange

Building cultural understanding one student at a time.

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you'll spend up to a year living with host families and attending school in a different country.

Whether you participate in Rotary's long-term or short-term Youth Exchange programs, you'll learn a new way of living, a great deal about yourself, and maybe even a new language. You'll also be an ambassador, teaching people you meet about your country, culture, and ideas. You can help bring the world closer – and make some good friends in the process.

Rotaract

Connecting young adults to a global network of friendship, engagement, and action.

Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Rotaract clubs are either community or university based, and they're sponsored by a local Rotary club. This makes them true "partners in service" and key members of the family of Rotary.

Interact

Fueling a lifetime of service for young people ages 12-18

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting.

RYLA

Inspiring the next generation of community leaders

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is Rotary's leadership training program for young people. RYLA participants can be ages 14-30, but most clubs and districts choose to focus on a narrower age range, such as 14-18 or 19-30.

John Germ Selected as 2016-17 Rotary President

John F. Germ, a member of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA, and chair of the International PolioPlus Committee, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of RI in 2016-17. He will become the president-nominee on 1 October if there are no challenging candidates.

For Rotary to thrive, Germ says, members must face current and future challenges and opportunities with "passion, enthusiasm, perseverance, and above all, integrity."

"I envision Rotary boldly and creatively engaging the success of polio eradication, membership and identity issues, strengthening clubs, work with youth – our future lifeblood, and the creation of critical, strategic partnerships," says Germ. "The 2016-17 Rotary year offers a tremendous opportunity for Rotary International and the Foundation partnership unified and thriving, on all levels, via the six areas of focus."

Germ says no one should ever have to ask, "What is Rotary?"

"We will enhance Rotary's public image by successfully and enthusiastically marketing who we are, what amazing things we are doing, and incredibly, have done locally and globally," says Germ. With the global economy still unpredictable, Germ says Rotary must make participation affordable and "also be unfailingly diligent in efforts to ensure we spend every dollar effectively and efficiently," he says.



In 1965, after four years in the U.S. Air Force, Germ, an engineer, joined Campbell and Associates Inc., an engineering consulting firm. He now serves as the company's board chair and chief executive officer.

He also serves on the boards of several organizations including the Public Education Foundation, Orange Grove Center Inc., and the Blood Assurance Inc. He is the founder and treasurer of the Chattanooga State Technical Community College Foundation and is president of the Tennessee Jaycee Foundation.

In 1970 he was recognized as Tennessee Young Man of the Year, Engineer of the Year, and Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year in 1992.

A Rotary member since 1976, Germ has served Rotary as vice president, director, Foundation trustee and vice chair, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, and RI president's aide. He is a recipient of Rotary's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife, Judy, are members of the Arch Klumph Society.

"Rotary will adapt to a rapidly changing world by embracing innovation within the guidelines of our tradition and values," says Germ. "By aggressively embracing new technologies, social media, and new opportunities, individuals and businesses will see that Rotary helps promote a good civic and public image while adding credibility to their people."

Power of One

One song can spark a moment
One whisper can wake the dream
One tree can start a forest
One bird can herald spring
One smile can start a friendship
One hug can lift the soul
One star can guide a ship at sea
One word can frame the goal
One vision can change a nation
One sunbeam lights a room
One candle wipes out darkness
One laugh will win over gloom
One step starts each journey
One word starts each prayer
One hope will raise our spirits
One touch can show you care
One voice can speak with wisdom
One heart can know what's true
One life can make a difference!

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

District Conference "Mahotsav-2015" to be held at Hotel Le Meridien, Kochi on 13, 14, and 15th of February, 2015. Rare opportunity to enjoy the exotic location, enchanting ambience, delicious food. And listen to renowned speakers. Please keep these days free. Book on advance to serve you better.

Meet Some of the Last Children in India Who Will Ever Know What It's Like To Have Polio

POLIO'S RETREAT



Months of physical therapy have allowed Samir to keep active with his siblings. He loves to play outside, and his favorite game is chase. Since 1995, when India held its first national polio immunization campaign, 2.3 million vaccinators have visited 209 million households to immunize 170 million children every year. Their efforts will help provide a polio-free future for generations to come throughout Southeast Asia.

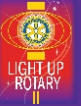
Photo Credit: Allison Kwesell

As photojournalist Allison Kwesell walks through the narrow streets of an Indian village, familiarity sets in. She visited here four years ago, when she first met Samir and his family. He was two years old then and had recently contracted polio.

Kwesell approaches the front porch of a home when she hears an older woman yelling "Samir! Samir!" She runs toward the voice, wondering if she'll recognize the boy. She sees six children playing chase on the dry earth, the dirt forming clouds around their feet. From afar she notices a young boy, not unlike the other barefoot children in the backyard overlooking patches of farmland, except for his slight limp. She moves closer and the children pause, half encircled around the boy. Kwesell recognizes him by his eyes. Samir is six now, and with the help of physical therapy, he can run and play with the rest of the children in his village on the outskirts of Moradabad.

Samir is one of the last children in India to contract polio. In March 2014, the World Health Organization announced that its Southeast Asia region is officially polio-free. The certification came on the heels of India's successful fight against the disease: It celebrated three years without polio in January.

The nation's achievement is the result of a grueling 36-year battle that sent millions of health workers down alleys, up mountains, and across deserts to reach every child in this sprawling country. Not long ago, India had more cases of polio than any other nation in the world. This milestone means that 80 percent of the population worldwide lives without fear of the paralyzing disease.



Samir's mother, Fahmida, has seven children now. She worries about Samir, who will have to cross a busy road on his way to school when he starts later this year. He sometimes falls down when running too fast, but he always gets right back up. Samir's doctor believes that his case was less severe than it could have been because earlier vaccinations against polio helped him build partial immunity. Fahmida is hopeful for his future; Samir wants to be a doctor when he grows up.

"For mothers, all of this hard work will mean fewer worries about this crippling disease," says Kwesell, a former Rotary Peace Fellow.

By Megan Ferringer

Adapted from a story in the August 2014 issue of The Rotarian
28-AUG-2014



Secretary's Diary



- 4th Sept - Praveen, Annet of Rtn. C. K. Mohan Kumar
- 8th Sept - Rtn. K. P. Thomas
- 16th Sept - Adwaith, Annet of Rtn. Ashok P Menon
- 18th Sept - Rohit, Annet of Rtn. K. I. Koshy
- 22nd Sept - Rajitha K. R., Ann of Rtn. Anoop Viswanath
- 26th Sept - Jyothish C. S., Annet of Rtn. V. Chandramohan



- 5th Sept - Rtn. Jacob K George and Mercy
- 7th Sept - Rtn. G. M. Pillai and Radha



Chief Guest During Weekly Meeting - Rtn. M. C. Jacob

Free Vegetable Gardens Sprouting Up Around France

Imagine a community where the residents are all free to plant, grow, harvest, and eat healthy food whenever they want without having to pay for it.

Sound too good to be true?

That's exactly what residents of more than 20 cities and towns in France are doing through a project called Potalib. Launched by the Rotaract Club of Versailles, Potalib was inspired by the Incredible Edible project, an international food-sharing movement founded by Nick Green in England. The Rotaract members obtained Green's permission to apply the concept in France, changing the name to "Potalib," a contraction of "potager libre" (free vegetable garden).

The club registered the Potalib name, created a brand, and now sells the project as a kit to French institutions, local communities, and corporations. The materials include seeds for as many as 18 kinds of vegetables, information on how to cultivate them, and 12 wooden bins, each about a cubic meter in size and filled with around 270 kilograms of soil. In cities where the gardens are planted, the club sponsors a festive opening-day ceremony, featuring a free meal cooked by club members and a professional chef.

"The goal is quite simple: To give everyone, from the wealthiest to the poorest, the opportunity to eat quality vegetables," says Club President Thibaut Mathieu.

"Everyone" includes parents who want to teach their children "that fries do not grow in the ground," joke the project's supporters. According to a recent survey, one in four children in France doesn't know that fries come from potatoes.

Each Potalib package costs more than \$15,000. Mathieu says that would be a high price for one person to pay, but not for a town, government department, or a company. The money is paid directly to the club, which then pays the suppliers, "who have become genuine and trusted partners," he says.

Outside of France, Rotaract clubs in Belgium, Canada, and Germany have inquired about duplicating the project.

"We receive, on average, four new applications from cities per week," says Mathieu, adding that the Versailles club is planning to create a separate Potalib website soon.

The Versailles Rotaractors started Potalib in 2012, around the time they were forming their club, which was chartered in 2013. The project has not only benefited an increasing number of communities, it's also helped to expand the club's membership, which has mushroomed from 16 members to 60.

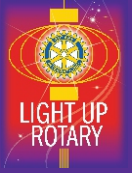
Mathieu credits the project's success to the Rotaract club's sponsor, the Rotary Club of Versailles. "They have always given us good counseling. Without 'our' Rotarians, we would not be here today," says Mathieu.

By Dan Nixon
Rotary News
12-SEP-2014

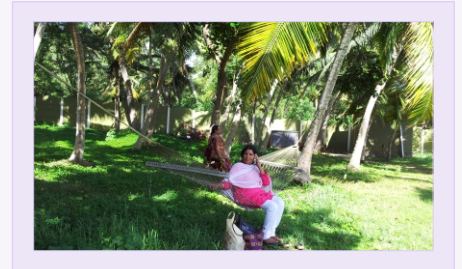
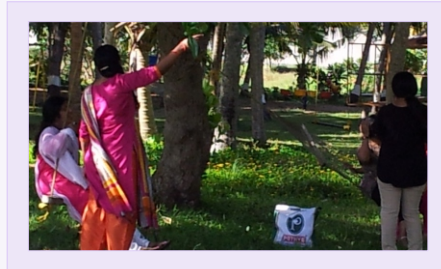


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Rotary Family Get Together - Picnic to Poovar Island Resort



Teacher's Day and Onam Celebrations at Govt. VHSS, Vellanad, Trivandrum



Rotary Onam on 24th September 2014

