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By: President Dr Chan
Siew Luen

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In Focus

100 Days of Rotary

By: President Dr Chan Siew Luen



President Dr Chan Siew Luen

Today marks the 100th Day of the Rotary Year 2023/24.

By the standards of our Club, having only joined in 2016, I am still a rookie Rotarian. I am most grateful to have been given this privilege of being President of our revered club. I would like to take this opportunity to complete the Parable of the Crocodiles which was necessarily shortened during my Installation speech. Today, on my 100th day as President, I would like to continue the story from “who pushed me...?”

While I often jokingly blamed a particular person for pushing me, truth be said, the only person that pushed me was myself. Knowing the social maneuvers (aka parties) that come with the job, I had from the outset, ruled out the possibility. However, due to a fortuitous turn of events in early 2021, when then President, the late PP Dinesh Sharma discussed the option with me, I agreed to take on the job. The fact that we were in the middle of a prolonged pandemic which had put a stop to mass gyrations of human bodies in response to melodic sonic frequencies (aka dancing and singing), and my having a short memory, helped.

Be that as it may, the two years of preparatory work as PN and PE were enlightening and exciting. One of the first orders of business was the formation of the Board. As Steven Covey said, “who first, then what”. I am very grateful to this wonderful team of Rotarians who came on board to take on stewardship of the club this year. We have a synergistic blend of the young and the less young, the long-time Rotarians and the rookie Rotarians, all talented in their own ways and dedicated to the principle of Service Above Self.

We have just had our 2nd Club Assembly last week and I do not intend to recount our achievements of the first 100 days. The respective directors have already given a concise overview. As such, if you would indulge me, I would like to take this opportunity to share my inner thoughts as President for three months, which was also largely influenced by my experience as a member of the Board of the five preceding consecutive years.

We are a club with an illustrious history, and members, especially those who have been with the Club for decades, are rightly proud and protective of the standing of the Club not just in the Rotary world, but in society at large. The Club is only as good as its individual members. The type of persons we admit into the club, the number of new members that we induct, how we onboard them, how we retained them, and how we bid adieu to the inadvertent resignations, are topics of impassioned discussions both in open meetings as well as private discussions. The two years of COVID brought in 80 new members, presenting a growth spurt of 60%. This gave rise to a slight dilution of certain club cultures and deviation of tradition. In medical parlance, it is a graft versus host syndrome. A senior member who resigned recently told me that he did so because it was no longer the club that he joined. I know that he is not alone in feeling that way. Not a few senior members have intimated similar sentiments.

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In Focus

100 Days of Rotary... *contd.*

In my conversation with these senior members, I seek to assure them that while the form may have changed, the substance is largely intact. We are still getting people of integrity who want to serve community using their time, talent and treasure. The proportion of each may differ from Rotarian to Rotarian but the fundamental values remain unchanged. The chasm, however, remains unbridged. In the meantime, our new members, highly charged with enthusiasm, charged ahead, bringing ever new and innovative initiatives and ideas.

Last year, immediate Past Membership Director Rtn Francesco De Liva gave me a book, “The Art of Community” by Charles Vogl. It contains lots of great ideas for how to build a community. This book has given me some good ideas for bridging the gap. Let me elaborate on one of the principles.

The Rituals Principle:

“Rituals are imbued with meaning. They connect the present with things in the past and our hope for the future. ... “meaningfulness” involves understanding our own lives beyond the present time and place. It comes when we reflect on what came before and how we’re connected to the future. Meaningfulness comes when we integrate now with the future and the past. Our health, wealth and relationships change. Meaning creates a feeling of stability in the midst of change. Rituals are a tool to bring meaning into our lives.”

Charles Vogl

Our Wednesday meetings are our most obvious ritual, not unlike Christians going to church every Sunday. The Wednesday weekly meeting is now happening four times a month again. Honestly, this is the toughest part of the Presidency for me so far. It is like running an events management company that needs to ensure that we put up a good show every Wednesday. Promoting the event to members and the public, coordinating the food, the layout of the room, the speaker, etc., to ensure that members and guests have a good experience, the flow is relentless. Thanks to the secretariat team of Suzanne Ng and Linda Lim, VP Frank Pao and Meetings Director Raj Kumar, the past three months have seen good turnout except for maybe just the week after Malang. Some members have noticed the amount of work needed to get members to attend and suggested to reduce the number of meetings. However, the team feels that the stress only spurs us to curate even better programs in the next nine months. We believe that this is a ritual worth maintaining and that it will connect the present with the future and the past. We hope that members will support us by turning up every week.

In yet another step to connect back to the past, starting October, the third Wednesday of the month will be a lunch meeting instead of a dinner meeting. This arrangement is long overdue as it has been requested many times by senior Rotarians. Our Club is blessed with many Rotarians who have served 30 to 50 or more years. Today, we are privileged to have such a prestigious and vibrant club because these Rotarians sow the seeds and tilt the soil all these past decades. Many of them remain committed to the ideals of Rotary and expressed a desire to continue to contribute their time and experience. However, age has made it challenging for them to attend evening meetings and they have lost that intimate connection with the club in recent years. By bringing back one lunch meeting a month, we look forward to the enrichment of our lives and that of the club by the renewed vigor of our senior members. We hope that our newer members will also take this opportunity to connect with senior

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In Focus

100 Days of Rotary... *contd.*

members by attending the lunch meetings. Director of Technology Lionel Otsuka and Rtn Vinit Sarangdhar, convenor of the Investment interest group, will work with Director Raj Kumar to curate a good program for the lunch meeting.

The Thursday evening service committee meeting is yet another ritual that has been reintroduced. This serves as a casual gathering of Rotarians to not just discuss service projects but equally importantly, for bonding and fellowship. This does pose a challenge because back in the day when we last held Thursday evening service meetings, Club meetings were lunch affairs. Attending two Rotary evening meetings a week can be taxing and so we have built in some flexibility to enable the respective service committees to decide on the frequency and format of the meeting without rigidly requiring all to commit to monthly meetings.

The Meetings team will continue to do our best to curate interesting and engaging programs to attract members to attend. While attendance of weekly meetings does not directly contribute to the impactfulness of our work in the community, the bonding and camaraderie forged during these meetings and the positive public image that a vibrant club meeting impresses on visiting Rotarians, guests and prospective members will indirectly empower us to serve the community better. We hope that members will support us by not just attending meetings yourselves, but bring your family and friends along as well.

Until the next time, I remain,

Yours in Rotary,

Siew Luen

President 2023/24

Dated: 8 October 2023



Meeting Reports

Extraordinary General Meeting & 2nd Club Assembly for Rotary Year 2023-2024 held on 4.10.2023



Members at the EGM & 2nd Club Assembly held at the Churchill Room, Tanglin Club on 4.10.23

Proceedings of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EOGM)

President Dr Chan Siew Luen welcomed members and call the EOGM to order.

He noted the call for the EOGM was to seek members' approval to amend the Club's Bylaws to allow for flexibility for a larger number in the Board of Directors. He further explained the rationale for this amendment in view of the Club's significant growth in size and operations, which presented challenges and opportunities for better management with a larger Board. However, the size of the Board as stated in the Bylaws was too prescriptive.

President Siew Luen highlighted the proposed three amendments which were circulated to members earlier to the following:

1. Article 2. Election of Directors and Officers – Section 1(d)
2. Article 2. Elections of Directors and Officers – Section 1(f)
3. Article 3. Board of Directors

Members were invited to state their views and comments. After which, President Siew Luen called for the approval and adoption of the proposed amendments. Members approved these amendments without any objections or abstentions.

Meeting Reports

Proceedings of the 2nd Club Assembly

Nomination for the position of President Nominee (President for Rotary Year 2025-2026)

President Siew Luen announced the nomination of **Rtn Sonali Sinha** for the abovementioned position made by the Nominating Committee which comprised of PPs Stan Low, Peter Tan, Paliath “Mohan” Mohandas, Tapan Rao, IPP James Lee, PE Tom Wolf, and himself.



Rtn Sonali Sinha

Nominations for the Board of Directors for Rotary Year 2024-2025

President Siew Luen called on PE Tom Wolf who announced the following nominations for the Board of Directors for Rotary Year (RY) 2024-2025:

Vice President: Inderjit Singh Tulsi
 Vice President: Jens Ruebbert
 Hon. Secretary: Pauline Teo
 Hon. Treasurer: Ankit Khandelwal
 CSC Director: Peter Brock
 VSC Director: Dr Denis Hew
 ISC Director: Dr Rupesh Agrawal
 YSC Director: Chng Weilong
 Director of Public Image & PR: Xavier Lee
 Membership Director: Ronald Wong
 TRF Director: Keizo Fujitake
 Major Project Chair: Rajeshlal Vaswani
 Alternate Director – Major Project: Subhash Pritmani
 Director of Environment: Suresh Hathiramani
 Director of Technology: Colin Miles
 Director of Meetings/Events: Ong Ting Yong
 Sergeant at arms: Toby Lim



Members nominated to serve the Club together with incoming President Tom Wolf in Rotary year 2024-2025

Notice was given at Club Assembly to members who may wish to present nominations for the positions presented. All nominations must be in writing and must be proposed, seconded, and receive the consent of the nominee. Nominations to be received by the President and sent to the Secretariat no later than 5 November 2023.

Should no further nominations be received, the formal adoption of the nominations mentioned above will be held at the Club's Annual General Meeting on 13 December 2023.

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Meeting Reports

Proceedings of the 2nd Club Assembly ... *contd.*

Presentation of Reports:

Following the Toast to Rotary International led by Rtn Sonali Sinha and the greetings to birthday and wedding celebrants, President Siew Luen called for the presentation of Club Assembly reports, starting with:

Club Administration

Honorary Secretary Suzanne Ng's report highlighted the secretarial support and reception duties, member wellbeing programs, engagement with members' spouses and guests as well as with Interact and Rotaract Club members.

Finance

Honorary Treasurer Keizo Fujitake gave an overview of the annual subscription collections advising that as of 4.10.23 there were 58 members with unpaid subscriptions. He provided an action plan to be undertaken which would also include members' proposers assisting to contact those members with unpaid subscriptions. After which, he together with President Siew Luen would call members. Rtn Keizo provided a breakdown of weekly meeting expenses. He further advised that the RICCA event \$100,000 loan to Singapore Tourism Board was received in September 2023.

Meetings and Convention

Director Raj Kumar who noted the successful completion of 5 months of weekly meeting speakers arrangements, called on members support to increase attendance at the Club meetings. He encouraged members to invite their spouse, family members and friends to the meetings. Rtn Raj added that he welcomed members' recommendations for speakers or if they would like to speak at Club, to please contact him. He informed members of the experimental luncheon meetings to be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, starting on 18.10.23 at The Tanglin Club from 12.30 to 2.00pm and called for their support. Rtn Raj highlighted the success of the TEDX Tanglin Road Salon, particularly of Rtn Sissi Goh's talk and on behalf of the Club he thanked her for her efforts.

Communications and Engagement

Public Relations Director Ong Ting Yong presented key statistics of visits on the Club's social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, which he noted showed an increase in visits. He gave an overview of visitors' profiles and their interests and the top performing posts and demographics.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

On behalf of Club Rotary Foundation Director Ankit Khandelwal, President Siew Luen presented the report by first introducing the Club Rotary Foundation Committee (CRFC) members and sub-committees. He highlighted CRFC's goals for the year – to encourage TRF giving; more participation from members; furthering of TRF education; continuation of Global Grant projects and meeting the fund raising targets. Members were also informed of the various TRF donor recognitions.

Membership

Membership Director Sean Leas spoke of the Club's membership key points in building healthy conversions and the positive views on the 3+1 approval for candidates. He noted membership drive for a strong gender agenda as well as membership of those below the 50-age group. Rtn Sean highlighted the membership pipeline of the past 3 months from enquiries leading up to induction to the Club. Rtn Sean extended special thanks to Rtns Subhash Pritmani and Suresh Keerthi for their help and support as well as to Director Louisa Lee for her efforts in engaging 2 members to the application stage. Lastly, Rtn Sean called on members to propose candidates whom they believe would be valuable to the Club and to provide their contact information.



Meeting Reports

Proceedings of the 2nd Club Assembly ... *contd.*

Major Project

President Siew Luen updated members on the Club's Major Project on behalf of Director Pauline Teo. He advised that 5 batches of children from the Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home have undergone the program since July 2023. Applications have been made to the Ministry of Social and Family Development for Rotarians to visit the program. Also the Starhub/EQUAL/RCS Metaverse program should be ready for play by end November 2023, as well as a Christmas event in EQUAL with beneficiaries. There will be a demonstration of the program at the Club's Swimathon to be conducted in March 2024, with further demonstrations at the RI Convention and NCSS Social Service Summit Tech Showcase in May and July 2024 respectively. President Siew Luen highlighted the Major Project's target of \$210,000 and the upcoming event for fundraising – Swimathon. He added that the Tote Board would match 40% for every dollar raised and there would be a 2.5-time tax deduction for donations.

Vocational Service Committee (VSC)

VSC Director Vineet Iyengar updated members on the ISCOS project which has produced positive outcomes in the training of ex-offenders in reducing recidivism. He informed members of other ideas/projects to engage partners such as Sree Narayana Mission, Willing Hearts, APSN and Inspiring Girls. Rtn Vineet updated members on the progress of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA). For the Artisan of the Year update, Rtn Vineet added collaboration for the project growth was being sought with National Heritage Board, National Arts Council, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and Arts N Beyond. VSC would engage past winners to get feedback and would start creating an independent identity through a new website.

International Service Committee (ISC)

ISC Director Dr Rupesh Agrawal introduced his team, the committee's focus projects and objectives. He highlighted the independent projects and their funding such as Help the Children, KL Orphanage Visit, Shen Yang Organic Farm, Project I2EYE, Project Bethalax Batam.

Youth Service Committee (YSC)

YSC Director Louisa Lee presented the highlights of the committee for the past few months including the recent YSC joint meeting with the Rotaract Club of Singapore presenting 2 projects – Project Bethelax and Project Sapulut. Further presented was the visit to Betesda Orphanage on 30 September and fellowship meeting with the Rotary Club of Batam.

Technology & Innovation

Director Lionel Otsuka shared the theme and plans for the year, and the committee's ambition to be the Club's think-tank; to identify trending, disruptive technology and to assess opportunities for philanthropy. He briefly advised on digital expansion in association with the Club's Major Project. Rtn Lionel recommended members to attend the lunch meeting on 18 October as the speaker, Mr Kenneth Tan, Co-founder and CEO of Believe would be speaking on an informative subject to create the world's leading live streaming and interactive video company with highly compelling, interactive and insights driven technology.

Environment & Sustainability (E&S)

Director Suresh Hathiramani advised that the E&S Group conducted 2 meetings and a decision was made to proceed with the 2 multi-year projects:

- 1) Repair Kampung, a community driven self-sustaining project for waste reduction by bringing a range of repair services and volunteer training to serve residents in a given neighbourhood.
- 2) Joining Hands with local based NGO "PM Haze" to improve a haze mitigation pilot project in Riau Province, Indonesia with the goal for Sungai Tohor village to become a model project in other haze prone regions.

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Meeting Reports

Proceedings of the 2nd Club Assembly ... *contd.*

Community Service Committee (CSC)

CSC Director Sonali Sinha summarized the projects undertaken in keeping with the committee's themes for the underprivileged elderly with ongoing projects such as Food from the Heart. She highlighted the cricket project for migrant workers. Rtn Sonali informed members of project discussion with Star Shelter for one women and family violence survivors. There were also plans for festival celebrations for beneficiaries.

Club Assembly presentations were completed, and President Siew Luen closed the Club Assembly.

Rotary Club of Singapore Dutch Auction

President Siew Luen informed members that Rtn Peter Brock and his wife Tanya participated in last year's visit to Malang, Indonesia. Upon their return, Tanya came up with the idea to create a quilt and travel bag as a fundraiser for the Help the Children project.

To start the Dutch auction, President Siew Luen called upon Rtn Hassan Moosa who reprised his role as the Club's auctioneer. Rtn Hassan gave relevant information about the Help the Children project as well as the rules for the auction. The auction started with the travel bag, and after brisk bidding, the final bid was made by President Siew Luen. A total of \$2,500 was collected. In the interest of time, the auction was closed.



Beautifully travel bag crafted by Mrs Tanya Brock

Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Birthday celebrants for October:

PP J K Ong
Wilson Widjaja
HM Rewa Mirpuri
Alex Lega
Lionel Otsuka
Pauline Teo
Robert Chien
Jean Khoo
President Dr Chan Siew Luen
Dr Omkar Shrestha
Jens Ruebbert
M M Patel
PP Jimmy Ooi

Anniversary

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants in October:

Vimal & Rekha Narayanan
Dr Suresh & Priti Mahtani
President Dr Chan Siew Luen & Patricia
Marcelo & Daniela Monteiro
Angela Lim & Steven Neoh
Varun & Niharika Gulati
VP Frank & Fancy Pao
Kevin & Lena Pang
Winston & Jolene Khoo
Yogesh & Dishita Dodani
Dr Hoh Sek Tien & Julie
Vishal & Sonam Nanwani
PP Garry & Grace Taylor



This Meeting

11 October 2023

Speaker: Mr S Devendran, CEO of Sree Narayana Mission (Singapore)

Topic: The eldercare landscape in Singapore and how we can help the disadvantaged elderly

Next Meeting

18 October 2023

Lunch Meeting

Speaker: Mr Kenneth Tan, Co-founder & CEO of Believe

Topic: To create the world's leading live streaming and interactive video company with highly compelling, interactive and insights driven technology

Coming Rotary Events

October – Economic & Community Development Month

24 Oct – World Polio Day

November – Rotary Foundation Month

December – Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

January – Vocational Service Month

February – Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

23 Feb – World Understanding & Peace Day / Rotary's anniversary.

March – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

April – Environmental Month

May – Youth Service Month

25-29 May – Rotary International Convention, Singapore

June – Rotary Fellowships Month

22 Jun – Installation of the 90th President & Board of Directors

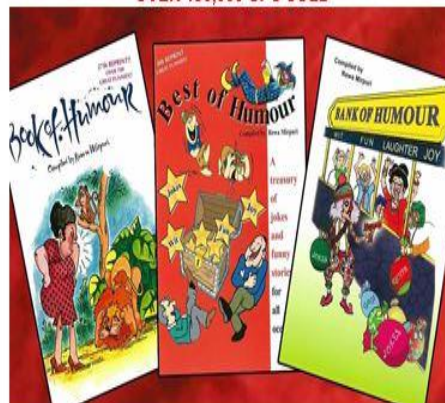
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The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

1. Have I spent some time in self-examination?
2. Have I spent quality time with my family?
3. Have I given my best to my work?
4. Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023/2024

President	Chan Siew Luen
Immediate Past President	James Lee
President Elect	Tom Wolf
Vice President	Frank Pao
Vice President	Ronald Wong
Hon. Secretary (Administration)	Suzanne Ng
Hon. Treasurer (Finance)	Keizo Fujitake
Community Service Committee (CSC) Director	Sonali Sinha
Vocational Service Committee (VSC) Director	Vineet Iyengar
International Service Committee (ISC) Director	Rupesh Agrawal
Youth Service Committee (YSC) Director	Louisa Lee
Director of Environment	Suresh Hathiramani
Director of Technology	Lionel Otsuka
Director of Meetings & Conventions	Raj Kumar
Public Image & Public Relations Director	Ong Ting Yong
Major Project Chair	Pauline Teo
The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Director	Ankit Khandelwal
Membership Director	Sean Leas
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Chen
Sergeant-at-Arms	Priveen Suraj



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