



# ON THE WINGS OF HOPE

NEWSLETTER OF  
SOCIETY FOR THE EDUCATION  
OF THE CHALLENGED



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*What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived.  
It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will  
determine the significance of the life that we lead*

*Roda Khambatta*  
**walked in and out of our lives, but  
the footprints left behind will be  
difficult to erase. Her memories will  
be deeply engraved in our hearts  
forever.....**



**B**orn in 1930, Roda Khambatta studied in St Anne's Fort Convent and did her BA with distinction at St. Xavier's College. She was always a topper in everything she did.

She was an active Girl Guide, taught at the JB Petit School, Fort, and was eventually appointed Commissioner of Girl Guides, South Bombay.

She worked at the Reserve Bank of India for 14 years, a job she thoroughly enjoyed, as she did most things. Her first boss was Dr. Manmohan Singh, a man she always talked of fondly, especially when the thorny subject of modern-day politics came up.

She actively pursued Yoga all her life, never missing a single session if she could help it. She never let her age get in the way of trying out new things. She was fearless to a fault.

Fiercely independent in her own way, she never wanted to depend on anyone, but when it came to reaching out to help others, she was always in the forefront. Radical in her thinking and beliefs, always kept an open mind to an opposing view-point, read voraciously, was always well-informed, and would enter into a discussion on any subject to further her knowledge.

*She Lives On...*



On a personal front, Roda got married in 1958 and went on to celebrate her golden wedding anniversary in 2008. Her husband Bahadur being a Lodge member, Roda enjoyed her outings with Lodge members, an activity she continued long after he was no more.

She loved all the good things in life, and was forever grateful for all that was bestowed to her by destiny. She took hardships in her stride with a smile, and moved on. She was congenial and affectionate, which enabled her to get along with people of any age group.

But closest to her heart was her association with the Society for the Education of the Challenged (SEC). She was introduced to the SEC by the founder member Tehmina Barma, who was then the National Chief Commissioner for Guides.

She always said that SEC had changed her life. For more than 35 years Roda was on the Executive Committee in various capacities

including Secretary and President for four terms.

She led an exemplary life, devoted to the welfare of the students of the SEC, setting a great example to all those who were associated with her.

Roda had a deep bond with SEC, contributing with commitment and zeal. Her vast and detailed knowledge of the school processes

was an asset to the committee members who sought her guidance on varied issues relating to the school. Her cordial relations with the teaching



and administrative staff set the right tone for all interaction throughout the school. She was actively engaged in all issues, and was an asset to SEC.







Not one to rest on her laurels, at the age of 88, Roda became a member of the internationally largest women's social service club, Inner Wheel Club of Bombay. She participated in all the club projects enthusiastically and unfailingly.



*The best kind of people are the ones that come into your life, and make you see the sun where you once saw the clouds, The people that believe in you so much, you start to believe in yourself too, The people that love you, simply for being you, The 'Once in a Lifetime kind of people'.*



At the age of 90 she willingly took on the responsibility of becoming a Treasurer on the Committee of SEC, and carried out her responsibility with complete devotion and dedication. Her zest for work and her enthusiasm belied her age.

12th February 2021 was a sad day for all those who knew Roda. At noon she signed all the documents of the school, studying them thoroughly, and by 2 pm she had breathed her last.

Roda has left behind her daughter Rukhshana and son Kersi, and hundreds of friends who loved her, and whose lives she had touched with love and kindness.



## Our deep gratitude to:

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Jayan D'souza

The family of late Nergiz Subawalla



*We are eternally grateful to all our donors and benefactors. We regret that due to shortage of space we have not been able to acknowledge each of you individually by name*

*We are today where we are because of you*

We are grateful to Mr. Malcolm Fonseca for designing all our Newsletters pro bono.

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### Head Office Address:

SEC Day School, Agridada Municipal School Building,  
Motlibai Street, Mumbai 400011

• Tel: 022 - 2300 5055 022 - 2309 0355

• Website: [www.sec-india.org](http://www.sec-india.org)

• Email: [seccommittee1@gmail.com](mailto:seccommittee1@gmail.com)

**Editor:** Mrs. Zarin Havewala

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Rs. 1,400/ per child per month Rs. 15,400/ p.a. (11 months)

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Rs. 5,000/ per day per unit (Vegetarian meal + dessert)

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