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Editor
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Programme: - Friday, Feb. 29, 2008

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REVIEW-CONFERENCE OF SHARING, AND FELLOWSHIP

Venue: - Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time : - 6.30 PM

Conference of Sharing

Rotary has designated February as the World Understanding Month. American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson reinforces this with the words " Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding.

And a step to the understanding in the world was visible in the District Conference, the Conference of Sharing, held on 23 and 24 February in Panchkula. There were Rotarians from all parts of the Rotary International District 3080, parts of Punjab, Haryana, parts of Himachal Pradesh, parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Khand, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. And there were Rotarians from Pakistan, United Kingdom and United States of America, and exchange students from Taiwan and Brazil, and the GSE Team from Rotary International District 2120 from Italy. A wide panorama of nationalities and citizens of many countries existed at the conference - A sure step to reach at world understanding.

The Inder Dhanush complex in Sector 5 of Panchkula was dressed up and was waiting for the Rotarians of the District. The Midtowners were there early enough to see that all was ready for the conference starting at 10.25 AM. PP Rtn

Subhash Bindra had ensured that breakfast was on the table by 08.30 AM. The white curtains of the dining area were fluttering in the morning breeze against a light grey sky. The Inder Devta was playing truant by threatening with cloud cover and then allowing the mighty sun to peep through the thin cloud cover. Ultimately it turned out to be a pleasant day with the District Governor, Rtn Shaju Peter, smiling and



DG and R.I. Rep. Ms. Carolyn Jones

directing all over the place. The auditorium, replete with flowers and seating signage was ready to receive the Rotarians and Guests. Panchavadyam by a special troupe of musicians from Kerala, based in Delhi welcomed the Rotarians and Guests with typical Kerala tunes and drew the applause and attention of the Rotarians. The music also announced that the time is nearing for everybody to finish breakfast and be seated in the auditorium.

Bharata Natyam dance event by Suchitra Mitra Troupe, PADAM, was a befitting start to the Conference. It was liked and appreciated by the audience.

Chief Guest, Mr. Kapil Sibal, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology could not make it to the Conference due to an urgent Cabinet meeting on the

morning of 23 Feb 2008. He sent a message to PRIP Rtn R K Saboo saying that the Minister was sorry to miss the Conference and promised to make it to the next Rotary event whenever requested to grace the event.

Ms Carolyn Jones, TRF Trustee, Rotary International President's Representative to the Conference of Sharing, spoke on the theme "Rotary Shares". She shared the story of the children of Russia with the audience from her own personal experience and the service which she organized and rendered to the children in Russia including Siberia. Children of Russia were in crisis. She with the help of other Rotarians raised funds, went to Russia and organized help to the needy children. She narrated in detail the example of five of children in Siberia, who were adopted by five Rotarians and she vividly described the efforts of the cooperating five mothers with the five Rotarians who made the difference to the lives of these five children in Siberia. Her services to the children of Russia were recognized by the Russian Children's Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Moscow, when in 2002, she was named "Volunteer of the Year". The Tomsk Russian Legislature bestowed on her the "Mercy and Charity Award" for the service she rendered to the children in the Tomsk region.

District Governor Rtn Shaju Peter described the geographical boundaries of the RI District 3080 and the areas of the various states that constitute the District. He explained the boundary of the District by giving the names and locations of the nodal clubs of the District in each direction. He also highlighted the characteristics, and the tourist attractions in the region with a brief historical background.

The District Governor narrated the details of major projects of the clubs of the District and explained, in

particular, the matching grant projects. He further described the projects that are likely to be completed in the current Rotary Year.

His Excellency PRID Sudarshan Aggarwal, Governor of Sikkim, spoke on the subject of Business and Ethics. He, artistically, wove the relationship between business ethics and practices with the Rotary's Four Way Test. And how apt it was that the District Governor designed the crystal glass memento with the Rotary's Four Way Test etched on the crystal glass.

His Excellency emphasized that correct values of life, family, business, and everyday relations, as imbibed in the Four Way Test, must be followed, taught to the next generations and practiced with a routine of personal examples. He referred to the Declaration of Rotarians in Businesses and Professions and called upon the audience to follow the spirit and clauses of the Declaration.

PRIP Rtn RK Saboo, in his address, detailed the path that a Rotarian should follow once he or she has joined Rotary. He cited many examples to illustrate the point that Rotary service, when rendered from the heart, gives satisfaction and other advantages of net working, fellowship, and the service develops numerous qualities of leadership in the Rotarians. He also advised the Rotarians to devote their time to resources willingly and voluntarily to any service project that they join. Volunteerism is the essence of Rotary, he explained. He made a passionate plea to the Rotarians to follow the Four-Way-Test in all their activities.

Mr. HK Dua, Chief Editor of the Tribune Group of News Papers spoke on the subject of People and Politicians. He gave out details and examples of our politicians' gimmicks to fool the people. He said that the people suffered migration of population in 1947 as they had a cause to look forward to,

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The Freedom from foreign rule. Our leaders at the time freedom struggle were sincere to the cause of the people but this sincerity and honesty has deteriorated over the years and today the political leaders think only about themselves and their families.

Mr. Dua said that there are today forty criminals as Members of Parliament and when join hands together, it is they who influence the policies and rules of governance. He further lamented that the political parties are reluctant to give up casteism and they bow down to the militants, whether they be Naxals, Maoists or Extremists. The political parties turn a blind eye to the violence of the mobs of their constituencies. Such policies and actions are creating a wide gape between the people and politicians, which needs to be rectified, he said.

Mr. TKA Nair IAS, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister spoke on excellence in society. He appreciated the service to the community by the Rotary Clubs particularly in the efforts to create a polio-free world. He worked out the relationship of excellence with the society and was forthright in stating that bureaucracy in India do not like excellence and they do not want it either. He described the pursuit of excellence as a source of happiness.

Mr. Nair gave away the awards to the recipients of the Rotary Shreyas Awards, Mr. NN Vohra and Mr. Kapil Dev.

Mr. NN Vohra, Interlocutor of Government of India to Jammu and Kashmir, in his acceptance speech, defined governance as a means to help the community. He said that all types of corruption is the biggest threat to governance. And a fearless and forthright personality that he is he said that our bureaucracy is succumbing to corruption in collusion with the politicians. He further lamented that the bureaucracy has lost the sensitivity to the needs of the



Mr. T.K.A. Nair I.A.S. gives away the citation and award to Mr. N.N. Vohra, I.A.S.



Mr. T.K.A. Nair I.A.S. gives away the citation and award to Mr. Kapil Dev

common man. He also added that the bureaucracy has the strength within to come back to good governance and meet the needs of the people and redeem its reputation.

Mr. Kapil Dev, the Icon of Indian Cricket, in his address, remembered the help that he received from Rotary in his

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H.E. Dr. Kidwai gives away the award to Ms. Annapama Arya



H.E. Dr. Kidwai gives away the award to Ms. Rowena Baweja



H.E. Dr. Kidwai gives away the award to Mr. Ishmeet Singh

school days and expressed that he wants to pay back the help that he received.

President Rtn Sandeep Sandhu and PP Rtn MS Kahlon described the help that the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown received for fund raising from Mr. Kapil Dev, for the Kargil Martyr's son Master Jetinder Singh. Jetinder was adopted by the Club with PP Kahlon as his foster father. The President stated that Jetinder has completed the 10+2 graduation and is now waiting to join either the Army or the merchant Navy. Mr. Kapil Dev handed over the fixed deposit receipt to Jetinder in the presence of his mother and other relatives.

His Excellency Dr. AR Kidwai gave away the Young Achiever Awards to Ms. Annapama Arya, Ms. Rowena Baweja and Mr. Ishmeet Singh. He congratulated the District for adopting social services all over the world. He urged the Governments in the country to join hands with social service organizations like the Rotary. His excellency suggested that Rotary should work towards creating a society with culture, caring for others and service to the needy, where there is no politics, no caste or creed and no rich or poor.

He said that there are two Indias, one with higher incomes of the urbanites and the other with very low incomes in the rural areas. We must bridge this gap, he opined. He further

stated that there are discussions at the Planning Commission to dovetail the efforts of the Government with those of the Corporations and the NGOs and that Rotary will be a part of this effort.

Ms. Carolyn Jones, in her concluding remarks said that she liked the venue, the Kerala music, Bharata Natyam dance, the food and the enthusiasm of the audience.

The District Conference ended with a few songs from Ishmeet Singh when some Rotarians and friends of Ishmeet Singh started dancing on the stage and Ms Carolyn Jones, sportingly, joined the group fully supported by the District Governor.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

PP Rtn. Col. A.J.S. Gill	Feb. 29
Rtn. R.S. Sachdeva	Mar. 06



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Ann Amarjit & Rtn. Harbans Singh Bajaj	Mar. 01
Ann Shashi & PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta	Mar. 04
Ann Rekha & Rtn. Lalit Kumar Azad	Mar. 04
Ann Asha & Rtn. Vinod Sobti	Mar. 06

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