

THE MID TOWNER



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIGARH MIDTOWN : R.I. DISTT. 3080

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Club No. 15228

PROGRAMME

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"Yoga - A Way of Life"
Guest Speaker : Pankaj Sharma
President, Rotary Club Himalayan Ranges

Friday, February 13, 2009

Time: 6.30 PM

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Midtown Hosts International Rotarians for Second NID



Success of the 1985 "Filipino" experiment has transformed it, over the decades, into the International Polio Plus Movement. Today, except for 4 endemic countries, including India, Polio stands eradicated, thanks to the gigantic efforts of "Rotary International" and the government of respective countries. In India the incidence of Polio is concerning, bordering on alarm, for it could mean the recurrence of Polio in regions now considered Polio-free. Therefore, "The Final Push" to "End Polio Now".

While the image of India as an emerging world power is overwhelming, what concerns Rotarians internationally is 'Why Polio remains un-eradicated in India despite the extra-ordinary expenditure and effort?'. These, and allied questions, reigned predominantly in the minds of the International Visiting Rotarians. To answer some of these questions Dr. Rajesh Narwal, WHO Surveillance Medical Officer, made a crisp presentation immediately after the arrival of the forty-six Rotarians from various parts of the world. He held their interest throughout, though, in the end, they appeared too tired to ask any questions. They dispersed with their hosts totally impressed, quite unaware of the stupendous effort the Rotarians of our country were about to make the next day, along with the entire government machinery.

Ten of the forty six Rotarians were hosted by members of our Club. Immediate Past Secretary, Atul Grover offered to host four of the ten **International** Rotarians. While some may argue that he has the wherewithal, yet, it requires a larger heart to offer these resources. PP Thomas "Tom" Colless, PHF Sapphire, a Food Service Wholesaler, of the Katoomba Rotary, New South Wales, Australia; multilingual International Journalist Carmen Gentile Jr.,

who was invited to join the team by their Leader Noelle Galperin; the young PP Haresh Ramchandani, Assistant Governor Jamaica West, with Home Furnishing Retail Business, of Montego Bay East Rotary, Jamaica; and of course the extensively traveled Lloyd Charles Roeber, Past District Governor 2004-05, Polio \$100 Million Challenge Coordinator from the Burwood Club also in New South Wales Club, Australia, were his guests.

President Saroj Jhawar deserves the greatest share of accolades. With spouse Sita Ram just out of hospital recuperating after an eye surgery, compounded by un-ending changes in program, she performed her duties with a smile, including hosting a lunch for all the visiting Rotarians and their hosts. With her were President Elect, 2009-2010 "Carl" Alexander, a Marine Surveyor, from Parramatta Rotary, New South Wales, Australia; and, District Friendship Exchange Committee Chairman, 2008-2009, Double Major Donor; Paul Harris Society Member Dayabhai Patel of Port Orange, South Daytona, Florida, a retired Engineer building Nuclear Power Plants turned developer.

Rupinder Singh Sachdeva keeps an extremely busy schedule. This was evident at the pre-visit meeting. But he has a great partner in spouse Vinny. Though he was scheduled to be away for a couple of days, he had all arrangements in place. Some of us are beneficiaries of his largesse too. Co-Owner of Family Toyota Forklift business, a Certified Bar-B-Q Cook Off Judge, a passionate Harley rider Danny Bullington from the Macon Club in Georgia and PP Capt. Peter Schmid, MPH, an active Airline Pilot from Grand Cayman Central Club on Cayman Island were guests.

Mala & Indrajeet hosted the only couple in the group – Midori and Michael Payton from the Wichester Rotary Club in California. Midori is a Japanese whom Michael Payton met while studying his final year in Tokyo. Michael, a passionate "foodie", is a Certified Hotel Administrator and is the General Manager of Crowne Plaza near the LA International Airport. They are married for 32 years and have two beautiful daughters – Mari and Michele. Mari, the elder is an anchor with NBC, and Michele is the Banquet Manager at the Hyatt in Hollywood. The NID, focusing on immunization at designated booths appeared to be a cake-walk, as compared to the House-To-

House Mop-Up operations. Even the phenomenal amount of trudging each one did appeared a little less tiring than during the Mop-Up operations. In all, there were 37 Booths in the areas of Colony no. 4, Colony No. 5, and Sarangpur that Midtowners covered. Extensive reconnaissance, with help from the Doctors in Charge, of each of these booths were carried out a day earlier, by Prem Anand, Ashwini Bhateja, Atul Grover, Saroj Jhawar, "Moni" Kahlon, R.K. Luther, Dr. Nitin Mathur, Pallav, Om Prakash, Adhir Sachdeva, "Rupi" Sachdeva, Indrajeet, Ashish Singla, Deepak Sood, Rajesh Vaidya, & "Sunny" Vohra. While most of these Members accompanied the guests on Sunday, February 1, Vinod Jawa too lent a hand. IPDG Shaju & PolioPlus Chair PP Ajit Gulati, carrying enough snacks cooked by Ann. Bir, did the rounds of each cluster to look after both the guests & hosts. On Monday, February 2, while, Prem Anand, also Co-Host, accompanied the Payton's, Ashok Sharma also lent a hand at Sarangpur. On February 3, Col. A.J.S. Gill and Vinood Sobti accompanied Saroj's guests to Sarangpur, Daulat Ram Aggarwal accompanied Indrajeet with the Payton's.

On February 3, after the Mop-up operations, our guests visited our "Sikhia School" Project. A round of the School was followed by Q&A with Principal Sonia Channi, from where it was difficult to woo them away for Lunch at Saroj's residence. Lunch, was followed by an exchange of flags, and a trip to the Rock Garden, which was a hit with the guests.

Capt. Schmid in a letter to Saroj expressed his "sincere gratitude for the exemplary hospitality". For him his trip "was an amazing experience". In spite of "significant human tragedy", he was heartened to "experience the high level of commitment and community involvement". Midori & Michael Payton, in an e-mail to Indrajeet commented "I was with my wife Midori standing in Colony 4 and administering the vaccine. It was unreal and at the same time so real to see the environment in which people are living. Yet, in spite of the human misery I saw the human spirit as well. Smiles and welcomes and an awareness of the importance of getting children protected from polio. Thanks to the hospitality from our hosts our experience was fantastic."

Quad Erat Demonstratum : Rotary is a intrinsically woven fabric of friendship based on tolerance and love. If we still require proof, this is it.

PP Rtn. T.S. Anand

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Rotarians & Family's Day Out



Ravinder Krishan, who has recently forayed into politics as Chief of the Chandigarh Unit of RJD, is always been known for his super-hospitality. This time, he outdid himself. A couple of days ago, we heard that he was unwell. So some of us half-expected his presence. But, not only was he there, we understand that he & Subhash Bindra were at the farm an evening earlier overseeing the arrangements. We assume Rotary & opportunity of hospitality keeps him fit. His farm is not only well laid out, but also quite beautiful. Kripal Singh, a very old friend of Midtown, provided excellent

catering services. Snacks, to accompany the chilled beer and vodka with fresh lime and soda, were a plenty. For those who avoid alcohol, the sun was shining brightly to keep them warm. By noon, the ladies were at their game of tambola, while the men obviously were quite concerned about the state of economy. The gifts for Tambola were sponsored by Pres. Saroj. It was really heartening to see great attendance, one thing we, like most other Clubs, could do with. A series of telephone calls the day earlier, the prospect of simply enjoying the company of fellow-Rotarians contributed to the success.



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Buchanan wins Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award

Rotarian Alex Buchanan is the 2008-09 recipient of The Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award.

Buchanan, of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, is a retired food technologist and scientist. He studied agriculture and science as a 1959-60 Ambassadorial Scholar at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, USA. His research has led to improvements in food production to support developing nations and emergency relief activities.

Among Buchanan's accomplishments are the development of the Australian milk biscuit, a high-protein biscuit used by the Australian government and many Rotary clubs for emergency food aid, and the creation of affordable, nutritionally balanced infant food for health centers in Thailand. Buchanan also helped implement the first successful cooperative food research projects between Australia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. On 26 January, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for service to food science and technology and to the community.

Currently, Buchanan helps to manage the Royce and Jean Abbey Endowment Fund. He was nominated for the award by District 9800 and was the winner for Zone 8.

Bid on Bill Gates' hat!

Own the hat Bill Gates was wearing when he announced a new US\$200 Million Challenge Grant to Rotary in the global effort to eradicate polio during the 2009 International Assembly in San Diego.

Gates recently wore the hat in India while he was immunizing children against polio. This month, the signed baseball cap will be auctioned on eBay.

Bid on this piece of Rotary memorabilia to help support Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge

Birthday Greetings
Rtn. R.T.P.S. Tulsi
Rtn. Lalit Kumar Azad



February 14
February 19

Last & Final Call for "Sarothak Sapne"

The District Conference "Sarothak Sapne" scheduled for 14th & 15th February, 2009 at the Indradhanush Auditorium, Sector 5, Panchkula will be a crowd puller, more so as the young Sardar Manpreet Singh Badal, Honourable Minister of Finance Punjab has consented to be the Chief Guest. Past RI Director Rtn. Ronald L Beaubien of R.I. District 5340, U.S.A. is R.I. President Rotarian D.K. Lee's Representative. Both Rotarian Ashok Mahajan, the current R.I. Director from India, and Rotarian Kalayan Bannerjee, Past R.I. Director will be Guests of Honour on February 14, and February 15 respectively.

While Sardar Harpal Singh, Chairman Fortis Health Care and CMO of FHL, SRL Ranbaxy Ltd., will be the keynote speaker on Saturday February 14. Ms. Jaya Row, Founder of the Vedanta Vision & Trust, Mumbai shall be the keynote speaker on Sunday February 15.

The Annual Sreyas Awards will be conferred on Abhinav Bindra, Olympic God Medallist, Baba Seechwal, Environmentalist, & Dr. Neena Puri, Former President of the International Parenthood Federation.

The Organisers have planned a special programme for Rotary Annes & Annettes on Saturday, February 14 in the Post Lunch Session the Host Club Promises many surprise gifts.

Fellowship, Entertainment and Dinner has been planned at Hotel Mountview, Sector 10, Chandigarh between 7 p.m. & 11 p.m. on February 14.

A Contributory Dinner to meet the R.I. President Representative Past Rotary International Director Rtn. Ronald Beaubien has been planned at Hotel Aroma Premium, Chandigarh as a pre-conference dinner between 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday February 13. For details of this dinner please contact : Conference Chair, Manmohan S. Kohli on Cell No. 98140 04840.

Hope to meet a large number of Midtowners at "Sarothak Sapne"

Wedding Anniversary Greetings

R'ann Urmil & Rtn. R.K. Luther
R'ann Saroj & Rtn. S.K. Khaitan
R'ann Brij Bala & Rtn. M.K. Handa



February 14
February 17
February 18

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