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Editor
Col AJS Gill

Programme: - FRIDAY – June 27, 2008

Volume XXXII No. 52 June 25, 2008

VALEDICTORY FUNCTION



Venue: North Park, Panchkula

Time: 7.00 PM

Youth Exchange Programme of the RI Develops Overall Personality

There were two young and keen girls from the Youth Exchange Programme of the RI, in our weekly meeting of 20 June 2008. One who is already with us from Brazil and the other who is going to UK on the RYLA Programme? Both gave a well-prepared power point presentation to the Club.

Ms Fernanda Hermes Hickmann, a student from Brazil, is here with our District 3080. The Rotary Club of SAS Nagar hosts her. She is from Cachoeira do Sul, Brazil and has been sponsored by Rotary Club of Cachoeira do Sul, District 4780, Brazil.



Ann Kaushal introduced Ms Fernanda.

The presentation was designated as " My Brazil ". Brazil is the biggest country in South America. The most favorite drink there is a tea brewed from various herbs. They, the Brazilians love to barbeque their meals and

they do it very often and with friends and family. She showed pictures of her City and the various types of the dishes that they serve with thoughtful decorations, and the places of interest in Brazil, and, of course, her family.

Her mother motivated her to make use the opportunity to visit India. But their friends and relatives thought that it was a crazy idea. In spite of these comments, she stuck to her decision to come to India.

After completing her 8+3, she has joined a four and a half years course in a Pharmacy College, in her city, and has completed one year. She came to India, SAS Nagar in February 2008 in the Rotary Youth Exchange Programme. During her stay so far, she has visited Kumhar Hatti, Shimla, Kufri, Delhi, Meerut, Golden Temple Amrisar and Anandpur Sahib. She has also been to Mussoorie. She has learnt a bit of yoga, attended a few classes of French, attended a wedding and has taken part in Holi celebrations, the festival of colours.

She finds the food in India spicy for her taste, though she likes it. She emphasized that her experience, so far, has been good, due to the friendly and caring Rotarians, and that she has learnt a lot about the culture of the region and she has developed more confidence.

In answer to a question she said that she has not, as yet, visited any Rotary project and it was suggested that she might like to visit the Night School Project of our Club in village Saraangpur.

Ms Deepika Walia gave a power point presentation on "My India ". DG Rtn Shaju Peter introduced Deepika and said that he has seen Deepika growing from childhood to



the present young adventurous and caring elder sister.

PP Rtn MS Kahlon has given a detailed write-up on Deepika's background.

Born 1985, father was in the Indian Navy, had just passed her Matric from Mohali, in 2001, when due to family reasons, upon the retirement of her father, she had to give up regular schooling and needed a job,

She started teaching Master Jatinder, Foster Child of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown That's how she came in touch with Rotary through our Club Project of " Parenting of Kargil Martyr Child".

Rtn. Capt Kahlon, in whose year the club had taken on the responsibility of Kargil Martyr Child, became her mentor, guide and support since she started teaching Master Jatinder. She also joined National Open School for her + 2 studies in Science stream, which she passed in 2004.

In spite of her own difficult situation –perhaps because of it- she got involved in our club projects like Polio Eradication, illiteracy, and also helped raise funds for the " Diagnostic Centre for Mentally Challenged" project of our

Cub. In the meantime she also started working in the Marine Institute of our Rtn Capt MS Kahlon, took up writing articles for Marine Magazine "Sailor Today" and also interviewed Olympian, S. Milkha Singh, for an Indian Express competition., escorted two school children on one week trip to Mumbai and back, on behalf of Merchant Navy Officers Association Chandigarh after the Maritime Day Celebrations.

She passed her entrance exam for joining Merchant Navy, but could not join due to paucity of resources required for the course. Offers arranged by Rtn Capt Kahlon were firmly rejected by the strong willed and independent Deepika. Instead she joined call centre "Dell International" at SAS Nagar, where she is presently working as Customer Support Executive, while pursuing a graduation course through correspondence from Punjab University.

Deepika's mother expired in 2006 and she had to take care of her two younger sisters, which she is doing very affectionately. Sister, younger to her, has also started working now, while studying software programming.

Sponsored by our club, she has been selected to participate in Achievers International Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, RYLA, being organized by RID 1060, near Birmingham, UK. She has been designated as the "Deputy Team Leader" for the Programme by the YE Chair RID 1060, Rtn John Hughes.

Deepika gave a well-prepared power point presentation that she said she would also use during her stay in UK, in RID 1060, RC Leamington.

The two young Youth Exchange participants were entertained to lunch at the Golf Club Chandigarh by our President, to wish them all the Best.

Assistant governor Zone 2, Rtn Navjit Singh Aulakh, of Rotary Club Chandigarh Central, spoke on the RI's

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Lunch at the Golf Club, Chandigarh



The Happy Cakes

Youth Exchange Programme. He is the District Chair Youth Exchange Programme.

Youth Exchange is one of RI's nine structured programmes designed to help the Rotary Clubs to achieve their goal of fostering fellowship and goodwill in the world. Students travel to other countries to learn about the culture and the language and act as a cultural ambassador for their own country. It develops leadership qualities and communication skills.

The Exchanges began in 1927 within the continent of Europe and involving only European students. In 1939, there were exchanges between USA and Latin American countries. It became an official programme of the RI in 1972.

The eligibility criteria include, 15 to 19 years of age, above average academically and the participant should be able to handle the experience of living in a foreign country for a year or even for shorter periods. There is also a New Generations Exchange, a short-term exchange for participants between the ages of 19 and 25 years.

Out of a total of 28 RI Districts in India, only 6 Districts can

participate in this programme and our District 3080 is one of them. Certification of our District is on the cards. Other Districts in India do not meet the criteria laid down by the RI.

AG Rtn Aulakh added that our District had very successful youth exchanges in the Year 2007-08, and there are many in the pipeline.



Memento for the Happy Anniversary Couple

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Address by District Governor Rtn Shaju Peter

The DG said that this was his farewell and thanksgiving address to his home Club, as he will be handing over the District to his successor DGE Rtn Satish Saluja in a few days.



He explained that the District Conference is the most important event of the year, which was hosted by his home club, Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown and the Club did an excellent job of it. He profusely thanked the Club for the efforts put in and excellent results achieved, particularly, he expressed his thanks to the Conference Chairs, and members of various committees for the Conference.

The DG informed that the District Awards function will be held at Hotel Pallvi, Sector 5, Panchkula, at 10 AM, on 29 June 2008, and motivated the Midtowners to be there in full strength.

He gave an overall picture of the various targets set by him at the beginning of the year and that most of these targets have been fully met, except the contribution to The Rotary Foundation, where there is a shortfall of about 60,000 US Dollars. To make up this shortfall, he has

initiated an incentive that any body that contributes 400 US Dollars will become a PHF or a MPHf, as the balance of 600 Dollars will be made up under the DG's arrangements.

PP Rtn BL Ramsisaria requested the Midtowners to come up to the target of a contribution of USD 100 per Rotarian to partly make up the above deficiency.

Motivated by the DG, our Youth Exchange sponsored participant, Ms Deepika Walia offered to contribute 200 US Dollars.

Rtn Maharaj Bakhsh Bereaved

Father of Rtn Maharaj Bakhsh, S. Gurbakhsh Singh Gyani Bar-at-Law, expired on 17 June 2008. He was 104 years of age, spanning the two centuries. During his lifetime, he served as a Member Election Tribunal Punjab and was the first Chairman Motor Accident Claims Tribunal Punjab. Bhog and Antim Ardas were held on 22 June 2008.

We share the family's grief and pray to the Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul.

Valedictory Function

The annual dinner, hosted by the Club Board, will be held on 27 June 2008 at 7 PM, at North Park, Panchkula. North Park is resort on the Nadha Sahib Road, just after the Ghaggar Bridge on the left hand side. Midtowners are requested to be there in full strength.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

R'ann Manjit & PP Rtn. Harish C. Sethi
R'ann Nirmal & Rtn. B.B. Bahl

June 27
June 30

Editorial Board 2007-08 says Bye-Bye to the Readers and wishes All The Best to the 2008-09 Editorial Board

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