

THE MID TOWNER



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

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Club No. 15228

PROGRAMME

Vol. XXXIII No.37, March 09, 2009

"Holi Celebrations"
Venue : Residence of PP Rtn. D.P. Khandelia
H.No. 564, Sector 33-B, Chandigarh

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Time: 11.00 AM

Please note the
change in Date, Time & Venue

Womanizing is a Habit!



Our Guest Speaker in last Friday's meeting is a Professor and former Chairperson of the Department of English, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Introduced to the members by your's truly, Dr. Manju Jaidka is a recipient of a UGC Text-book Award in 1994, she has also received several international fellowships. Prof Jaidka was a Visiting Academic at the University of Oxford in 2006 and has lectured in many universities in countries like Canada, USA, UK, Germany, Austria, Italy and Bangladesh.

She has several publications to her credit, including eight books of criticism, a play ("The Seduction and Betrayal of Cat Whiskers"), a novel ("Spots of Time") and research papers in national and international journals. As the Chairperson of the Chandigarh Sahitya Akademi, she organizes literary events for the city on a regular basis and as the chief functionary of MELUS-India and MELOW (Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the World -

India Chapter, and Society for the Study of Literatures of the World), she has been organizing international conferences successfully in India every year. She also serves on the International Advisory Panel of the International American Studies Association and on the editorial boards of several leading international journals.

Dr. Manju Jaidka did the classical feint & jab on us & right between the eyes – that's where we all got hit ! The fact that it is International Women's Day on the 8th March did not help either. With a topic like "Womanizing is a habit" amongst us Indians, was there shock & indignation ? In fact several gentlemen I know, decidedly kept away but nevertheless a large number of us, along with a sizeable number of Annes, made sure it was Housefull.

Dr. Manju gave us an insight into what all of us, especially here in India, are constantly doing, or practicing. Even before we know it, we are into the mode of gender discrimination, and it would be a safe bet to say that it starts almost at the crib. Toys for boys are a world apart from toys for their sisters. That is, if the sisters are allowed the dignity of birth! Here in Punjab & Haryana, we take the cake when it comes to "murdering" the girl child. The current male – female ratio is 100: 70 odd already, with no thanks to hundreds of quacks & not so ethical doctors helping with their sonography machines.

The dice is loaded – against women. Make no mistake about that. Look around you, even in your own home. The rules are different for girls. Boys can do anything and get away with it. What about your daughters ? Or daughter-in-law ? How's your behavior towards each of them ?



Presentation of B'day & Anniversary Gifts and Punctuality Draw Prize by the Guest Speaker

At any age, girls are discriminated against – no matter how we say it, disguise it or package it.

In fact even the seemingly noble ideal of putting them on a pedestal gets us what we want – to put them in their place. And we decide, or allow them, if you please! To be liberated, or independent, or whatever it may be, there's a whole world of discriminatory strategies & concomitant tactics that we guys use.

You need to sit back & think – genuinely & earnestly, if you want to give up “womanizing” the fair sex - even that's womanizing! Let us give them their due – as God sent them to this earth. As Equals, and not vassals, or chattels, think about the way you have been consciously or unconsciously treating women in your lives.

Make a difference - a genuine difference!

This eye-opening talk concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Jawahar Luthra.

Editor's Mail

from PP Indrajeet Sengupta

Dear Mr. Editor,

The brief article ‘The PHF Medallion – Advance Information’ prompts me to write. I accept that the source of this information must be reliable.

The PHF Recognition Program was begun in 1956-57 to infuse corpus into The Rotary Foundation's then slim capital of less than US\$500,000. Rotarians and individuals contributing US\$1000 in one Rotary Year were recognized thus.

The amount was substantial then, attracting only few contributions, and realizing this, the Trustees further amended this stipulation and extended this contribution to be donated over several years to make it easier.

It was further suggested that in case a club did not have a single contributor, several could contribute, leaving it to the club to finally bestow the honor on one of several as deemed

fit under the circumstances. Hence such recognitions were transformed into ‘awards for excellence’.

Since then, several other changes have occurred. Whatever the changes, all Paul Harris Fellow's wear the medallion with pride.

Obviously, some consideration must have triggered such a proposal. Was it sheer economics, or something else? Would someone knowledgeable throw some light?

The question therefore is, will this pride remain, if the donor has to pay for the medallion?

In my opinion, it would be diluted. I'm sure there would be other varied opinions too, and, I, for one would be interested to hear them.

Undoubtedly, we continue to deeply believe in the tremendous humanitarian impact these donations have world-wide, and would continue to give.

PP Rtn. T.S. Anand

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The Future Vision Plan

The Future Vision Plan is the catalyst that will help Rotary and The Rotary Foundation reach new heights. It offers simplified and streamlined procedures and more ownership of Foundation activities at the local level. In anticipation of The Rotary Foundation's 100-year anniversary in 2017, the Trustees set out to develop a plan to move the Foundation toward its second century of service. The Future Vision Plan pilot, which begins 1 July 2010, is a three-year test of the new grant structure that simplifies the process into two types of grants: Rotary Foundation District Grants and Rotary Foundation Global Grants.

Starting 20 January 2009, the Foundation began asking interested Districts to apply to be a pilot district and help implement the Future Vision Plan. Once again, this will be a grassroots effort that will ensure Rotarian commitment when the Future Vision Plan is

implemented throughout the entire Rotary world. The new system will operate within all Districts from July 1st 2013.

District governors-elect have an opportunity after the assembly to apply to be a pilot district. Between 1 July 2010

and 30 June 2013, pilot districts will test the plan's grant structure to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. Their feedback will help The Rotary Foundation to refine the plan to its final form by July 2013, when all districts will begin participation. Governors and Foundation chairs of the pilot districts will receive specialized training during the 2009-10 Rotary year to prepare for the transition to the pilot.

The pilot is "a critical step in validating the strategies and assumptions in the plan," Trustee Vice Chairman Ron Burton told the incoming governors. "We are confident in the plan, but we also recognize that it will have challenges and unknowns that will be addressed and evaluated by the districts that agree to participate in the pilot."

Interested districts must apply for the Future Vision pilot online through Member Access at www.rotary.org. The pilot application period will end 15 May. To learn more about the Future Vision Plan, go to www.rotary.org/futurevision.

Source : RI Website

Midtownner Wishes its Readers a Colourful Holi

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A Short Story - Will Change the Way You Live

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation?

Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his room-mate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside.

The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite details, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine this picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band - he could see it in his mind 's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Days, weeks and months passed.

One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep.

Holi Aayi Re !

It's that time of the year again - winter gone, Holi just around the corner & sounds of "bura na mano holi hai !" already in the air. Think Holi, think celebration. And think celebration, think of Chandigarh Midtowners !

Yes folks, don't miss out the fun as we all get together to celebrate this festival of colours, this time at the residence of PP D.P. Khandelvia with lots of games & attractive prizes !

She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window besides the bed.

It faced a blank wall.

The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall.

She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

Life is also like the view from your window. Even if you don't like it, you can't change it. But you can change the way you look and then see how beautiful it is !

- Contributed by PP Pallav Mukherjee

Words of Wisdom

- He whose heart is a flowing fountain of love, will be greeted with love wherever he goes. He who is harmless will be harmed by none.
- If you have suffered pain in life, then even the smallest of joys in life appear bigger & give you more happiness.
- If you trust someone, trust till the end. Whatever the result may be in the end, you will either have a very good friend or a very good lesson.

Birthday Greetings
Rtn. J.S. Chopra



March 15

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