

The Mid Towner



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

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Editor
PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Club No. 15228

PROGRAMME

Volume XXXIV No. 15

October 07, 2009

Diwali Celebrations – Musical Evening by Lit'I Champs Selected by: Mohammad Rafi Yaadgar Society

Friday, October 09, 2009

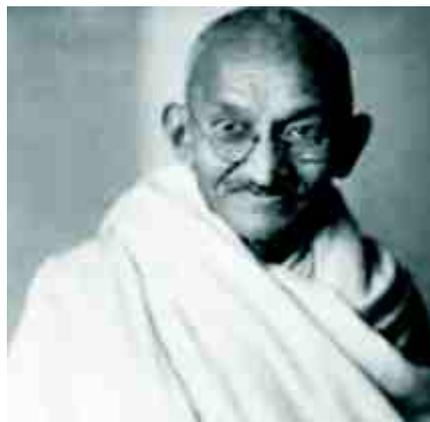
Time: 7.00. PM

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh.

Mahatma Gandhi – The Man

Last club meeting on October 2, 2009 was Mahatma Gandhi's 140th birth anniversary. To speak about him there could not have been a better person than Dr. (Mrs) Sudha Puri, Former Professor & Chairperson, Dept. of Gandhian Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh. PP Dr. Balram Gupta, who introduced the Guest Speaker said, "Dr. Sudha Puri studied Gandhi since the year 1972, she has researched on Gandhi for a long time, she has written on Gandhi, she has taught Gandhi, she has authored books on Gandhi and she speaks about Gandhi with passion. She has lectured in various Universities in Germany, United States and UK."

Dr. Sudha Puri said that the title Mahatma was given by Rabindra Nath Tagore much to the displeasure of Gandhi – The Man. Educated in India and in London, Mahatma Gandhi was admitted to the English bar in 1889 and practiced law unsuccessfully in India for two years. In 1893



Mahatma Gandhi-The Man

he went to South Africa, where he was later joined by his wife and children. Gandhi first employed non-violent civil disobedience while an expatriate lawyer in South Africa, during the

resident Indian community's struggle for civil rights. After his return to India in 1915, he organized protests by peasants, farmers, and urban labourers concerning excessive land-tax and discrimination. After assuming leadership of the Indian National Congress in 1921, Gandhi led nationwide campaigns to ease poverty, expand women's rights, build religious and ethnic amity, end untouchability, and increase economic self-reliance.

Dr. Puri talked about George Gilbert Murray, who once gave the following analysis of Gandhi. "Be careful in dealing with a man who cares nothing for comfort, but is simply determined to do what he believes to be right. He is a dangerous and uncomfortable enemy, because his body which you can always conquer, gives you so little purchase on his soul."

Gandhi did not have an impressive physique. On his visit to Hoshiarpur, the Punjabis were surprised that this person would look so simple and lean! In 1920 he changed his attire as majority of Indians were poor and could not afford more than this, said Dr. Puri. When Mahatma Gandhi went to London in 1931 he was invited for tea by the King, somebody pointed out, "Mr. Gandhi, don't you think you are too scantily dressed for the weather." Gandhi laughed and said, "No, His Majesty had enough clothes on for both of us."

Dr. Puri talked about Mahatma Gandhi's non-violence movement. He was the pioneer of satyagraha - resistance to tyranny through mass civil



100 % Anniversary couples present!
R'ann Ranjana & Rtn. R.T.P.S. Tulsi and
R'ann Shradha & Rtn. A.K. Sachdeva



Birthday boy PP Dr. S.K. Sharma with
R'ann Sushobhita, President Gurdip
and Rtn. Arjan Singh



PP Dr. S.K. Sharma presents a formal
vote of thanks

disobedience, through total non-violence—which led India to independence and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. Gandhi famously led his followers in the Non-cooperation movement that protested the British-imposed salt tax with the 400 km Dandi Salt March in 1930. He campaigned against the British to Quit India. As a practitioner of ahimsa, he swore to speak the truth and advocated that others do the same. Gandhi lived modestly in a self-sufficient residential community.

Mahatma Gandhi's one notable exception to his lifestyle of non-possession was a small statue of the three monkeys. Today "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" is commonly used to describe Mahatma Gandhi.



Dr. (Mrs) Sudha Puri

Gandhi ji dedicated his life to the wider purpose of discovering truth, or Satya. He tried to achieve this by learning from his own mistakes and conducting experiments on himself. He called his autobiography 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth'.

Gandhi stated that the most important battle to fight was overcoming his own demons, fears, and insecurities. Gandhi summarized his beliefs first when he said "God is Truth". He would later change this statement to "Truth is God". Thus, Satya (Truth) in Gandhi's philosophy is "God".

Dr. Puri said Mahatma Gandhi believed in absolute non-violence. She said, "It is not impossible to practice non-violence. But then there were occasions where he allowed certain degree of violence which he called unavoidable violence. But this has been misused in our understanding." Mahatma Gandhi used to say women are far more superior than men and one should not go by the physical strength of men! Women are stronger but their socialisation in India have made them really weak. Women have to be made aware of the potential they have.

Vote of thanks was proposed by PP Dr. S.K. Sharma. He thanked Dr. Sudha Puri for the wonderful talk. Regarding 'Truth is God', Dr. Sharma pointed out that Mahatma Gandhi must have got this from Guru Nanak Dev ji because 'Sat Siri Akal' also means 'Truth is God'. He also suggested grass root technology as per Gandhi ji's model.

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District 3080 Leadership Academy

The District 3080 Leadership Academy course is starting next month. PDG Shaju Peter said the course will be initiated by PRIP Raja Saboo with PDG Maj Som Dutt as the Dean of the academy. Shaju said, "It's a correspondence course which runs for 7 to 8 months during the year and at the end of the course there is a residential programme of 4 to 5 days at Chandigarh." The participants shall get a certificate of having passed out of the academy. This course will make you aware of the management principles. Shaju added, "Not only Rotary, but it enables you to run your business better to run your life better." Almost all the District Governors and Assistant Governors

for the last 6 years have graduated from this academy. Shaju strongly encouraged the Rotarians to participate in this course. From our club PP Dr. Vanita Gupta and IPP Saroj Jhawar have already graduated. This year PP Ajit S. Gulati, Secretary Ritu Singal and PE Prem Anand are expected to participate in this course.

The course fee is Rs. 9000/-, to be paid in two instalments. At the time of registration Rs. 5000/- has to be paid and Rs. 4000/- at the time of the residential programme. Interested Rotarians are requested to get their names registered with PDG Shaju Peter.

Donate for Club Projects

President Gurdip S. Deep said, "The club projects and its continuity for social service depends on the generosity of our members." He acknowledged the contributions of Rs. 1100/- from Rtn. A.K. Sachdeva and Rs. 500/- from PP Dr. S.K. Sharma.

The President also appealed to Rotarians that if they have books lying at their homes for the age group of 5 years to 10 years, please give them to him, PP Rtn.

D.P. Khandelia or Office Secretary V.P. Sharma so that these could be utilized for the slum children of the two Govt schools in which our club is involved under 'Partnership Initiative Programme' of Chandigarh Administration. President Gurdip said, "I am sure there are lot of these books, only efforts have to be made!" Initiative has already been made in this regard by Rtn. Suraj Handa and other Rotarians are expected to come forward for this unique cause.



Dr. Sudha Puri presents birthday gift to PP Dr. S.K. Sharma



Dr. Sudha Puri presents wedding anniversary gift to Ann Ranjana & Rtn. Ravi Tulsi



Ann Shradha & Rtn. A.K. Sachdeva get wedding anniversary gift from Dr. Sudha Puri

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Rtn. Om Parkash walks away with the Punctuality award

Intercity on The Rotary Foundation

Rotary Club of Dehradun is hosting the Intercity on The Rotary Foundation on Sunday 25th October 2009 at Hotel Viceroy Inn, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun.

Registration charges:

October 1st to 24th: Single Rs.600 Couple Rs.1100

Please register yourself with Office Secretary V.P. Sharma

On-the-Spot Registration: Single Rs.650 Couple Rs.1200

Rotaractors Celebrate Gandhi Jayanti

Rotaract Club Chandigarh Midtown organised an event on 2nd Oct. 2009 to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti at 'SAMARTH', a residential Care Centre for Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy & Multiple Disabilities, located in Sector 15 Chandigarh.

The Rotaractors reached there at 10 am and after introductory session among the special children and staff members, they started with the fun games. They also organised drawing competition and danced with them. After that they distributed refreshments to the children and the staff.



Wedding Anniversary Greetings

R'ann Sushma & Rtn. Mohinder Singh October 11
R'ann Neera & Rtn. Rajeev Gupta October 12

Donation For Club Projects:

PP Rtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma Rs. 500/-
Rtn. A.K. Sachdeva Rs. 1100/-

Birthday Greetings

Rtn. Darshan Singh Kalsi October 11
Rtn. Jawahar Jain October 12
Rtn. Amarjit Singh October 13
Rtn. Viney B. Aggarwal October 15
PE Rtn. Prem Anand October 15



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