



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

www.rotarychdmidtown.org

# The Midtowner



Club Number : 15228

**Bulletin of Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown: R.I. District 3080**

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Editor  
**Dr. V. J. S. Vohra**

Volume XXXVI No. 17 Dated: October 25, 2011

## PROGRAMME

Diwali Celebrations

PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria, President, Rajasthan Parishad  
Welcomes Rotarians, Anns, Children & Grandchildren to enjoy the Celebrations  
followed by Dinner

Friday, October 28, 2011

Time: 6.30 p.m. Venue: Rajasthan Bhawan, Sector 33, Chandigarh

Please note the  
change in Venue



## Eye Donation and Role of Society

In the club meeting on October 21, 2011 the Guest Speaker Dr. Sujata Dwivedi, Medical Director, Madhav Netra Bank Ambala could not make it, but her absence was over come by Dr. Nivedita R. Singh, a renowned Ophthalmologist who gave an impressive power point presentation on 'Eye Donation and Role of Society'. Who could have introduced Dr. Nivedita better than her father, Rtn. Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor, the head of the family which is dedicated to medical profession. Nivedita works in Bharat Vikas Parishad Eye Hospital & Medical Centre in Sector 24, Chandigarh. She has been practicing Ophthalmology for the last 18 years and most of the time she has been working in charitable hospitals, including at Beas, Suhana Eye Hospital etc. Dr. Nivedita is married to Dr. Ravjit Singh who is a well known orthopaedic surgeon.



**Dr. Nivedita R. Singh**

Dr. Nivedita said, "There are 10,000 surgeries in one year and for 10,00,000 people needing surgeries it will take 100 years! Most of the corneal blind will never get to see this world again."

She explained that cornea is the eye's outermost layer. It is the clear, dome-shaped

surface that covers the front of the eye. It is actually a highly organized group of cells and proteins. Unlike most tissues in the body, the cornea contains no blood vessels to nourish or protect it against infection. The cornea receives its nourishment from the tears and aqueous humor that fills the chamber behind it. To see well, all layers of the cornea must be free of any cloudy or opaque areas.

A corneal transplant is the way of removing a damaged cornea and replacing it with a healthy cornea from the eye of a suitable donor. The donor will be a person who has, and whose family also has given consent for the donor's cornea to be used for medical purposes after demise. The donor cornea is thoroughly checked and prepared to ensure there is no possibility of it being infected.

It has been proven beyond doubt that almost everyone can donate eyes irrespective of age, sex, blood group or religion. People who wear spectacles, with high blood pressure, diabetics or people with systemic disorders like asthma, tuberculosis, or even those who have undergone cataract surgery can donate eyes. The only criterion is a healthy and clear cornea. However, persons having AIDS / HIV positive, Hepatitis B, Rabies and Septicemia can not donate.

Eyes have to be harvested within six hours of death. So it is critical to inform the nearest eye bank. It is always best to fill out an eye-pledge form and inform family members of your desire. Expressing a desire for eye donation in one's will is fairly useless since a will is generally opened only a few days after the death, while an eye needs to be harvested within six hours.



**Dr. Nivedita R. Singh presents birthday gift to Rtn. Balbir Singh Channi**



**Rtn. R.S. Sihota gets birthday gift on behalf R'ann Paramjeet from Dr. Nivedita**

To Donate your eye you should tell your wish to your family and friends. Pledge card may be necessary but Family consent is vital. The local eye bank has to be informed.

For Eye Donation the Donor is not brought to hospital. Eye bank personnel goes to donor's residence. No disfigurement is done to donor's face. Procedure of eye donation takes 20-30 minutes. Blood sample is taken. Eyes are taken to the eye bank. Blood is tested. Corneas are removed and put into MK media.

All Transplants may not be Successful. Success varies as there may be Infection.

In India there are 60 lakh corneal blind. 60% are less than 12

years old. 10 lakh are bilaterally blind. There are 30,000 new cases reported every year. Corneal blindness affects mainly children and young adults who have a long life ahead of them.

Dr. Nivedita highlighted the Role of Society is to create Awareness and motivation of donor's family. Financial assistance is required for surgery of poor patients.

She said Awareness campaigns are very important. Funds are also required for Equipment and Low vision Devices.

Dr. Nivedita concluded her presentation with a very meaningful message which is appreciated by every Rotarian, "God gave us eyes, let's not be blind to the sufferings of others. God gave us ears, let's not be deaf to the cries of those in agony. God gave us hands, let's not refuse to stretch them out in love and brotherhood."

Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra proposed formal vote of thanks. He said, "Dr. Nivedita has very explicitly told the value of eye donation." He thanked her for a very useful presentation.

## PHF for \$ 400 only!

President R.K. Luther expressed immense happiness in announcing Paul Harris Fellow for US \$ 400 only! He said, "Just pay \$ 400, and our District will pay the remaining \$ 600 to get a credit for \$ 1000 to become PHF". He added, "400 dollar do, ik hazaar dollar da faida pao. We have to make minimum 10 PHF contributions this year."

It is a great opportunity for those Rotarians who have not yet become PHFs. For those who already are, can become multiple PHFs. You can make any of your family member a

PHF - even a newly born child! Akshat, grandson of President Luther became PHF the day he was born five years ago. You can motivate your friends to become PHF for \$ 400, even if they are not Rotarians. With the honour of being a prestigious PHF, he/she may soon like to become Rotarian!

Just by contributing \$ 400, and getting a credit of \$ 1000, is in itself a great opportunity to 'Reach Within to Embrace Humanity' and support The Rotary Foundation, so that Rotary continues the good work of helping the community.

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## Fund Raising – We Live on What we Give

President Luther referred to Mr. K.K. Sharma, IAS, Advisor, UT, Chandigarh, who in a recent function quoted Sir Winston Churchill, “We earn our living by what we get but we live on what we give.” Secretary Amarjit Singh reports that to execute the various projects in RY 2011-12, Rs. 6,50,000/- needs to be raised. We are publishing a Souvenir titled ‘Igniting Thoughts’, which will contain quotations of master writers, national & international leaders, spiritual leaders and holy books of all religion. Fund will be raised through advertisement in the Souvenir. Details of the funds raised so far are given below:

### PPRtn. T.S. Anand

- Widex India Pvt. Ltd. **Rs. 15,000/-**

### President Rtn. R.K. Luther

- Atul Fasteners Ltd. Rs. 15,000/-
- Prem Garg & Associates Rs. 2,000/-

**Rs. 17000/-**

### Secretary Rtn. Amarjit Singh

- Softgen (India) Rs. 10,000/-
- Rai & Sons Rs. 2,000/-

**Rs. 12,000/-**

It’s a small beginning, but a good one! All Rotarians are requested to mobilize their resources to raise maximum funds by collecting advertisements so that it meets our requirement not only for the current year but also for years to come.

## A new look at Global Ethics and The Four-Way Test

Source: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

Moral codes and ethics give us tools but also raise questions to be answered: How should we live? What is morally good and bad, right and wrong? Shall we aim at happiness or knowledge? Virtue or the creation of beautiful objects? If we choose happiness, will it be our own or the happiness of all? And what of the more specific questions that face us? Is it right to be dishonest for a good cause? Can we justify living in opulence while elsewhere in the world people are starving? Is going to war warranted in cases where innocent people will likely be killed?

Ethics deals with such questions at all levels. The subject’s core consists of the fundamental issues of practical decision making, and its major concerns include the nature of ultimate

value and the standards by which human actions can be judged right or wrong. For Rotary, The Four-Way Test is the cornerstone of all action. It has been for years, and it will be in the future. Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The test is one of the hallmarks of Rotary. Since it was developed in 1932 by Herbert J. Taylor, who later became RI

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President, it has never ceased to be relevant. Its four brief questions are not based on culture or religion. Instead, they are a simple checklist for ethical behavior. They transcend generations and national borders.

Now more than ever, we need a vision and knowledge of what is happening around us, a new view of cultural and religious phenomena, without dividing humankind into limited and subjective categories. That's the tenet for a better world and a job for us Rotarians: not engaging in politics, but

serving without any boundaries.

This happens through our programs, and it happens through acting as a guide for international coexistence, providing a forum for dialogue and discussion worldwide, giving perspective to views and models, finding new solutions using Rotarians' great knowledge and expertise, and having interfaith, multicultural, and ethical standards as guiding principles in all dealings.

## *Ann's Column*

### *Service to Humanity is Service to God*

*by R'ann Indu Luthra, Ph.D*

Social service is a voluntary work done for the betterment and upliftment of society. It is a work to give one's time and energy for a cause. It gives you immense satisfaction and inner peace. Selfless love and service is key to happiness.

Helping an old man cross the road, spending time and listening to a lonely person, to teach your maid or her child, giving helping hand to the needy are all forms of individual social service.

Service clubs like Rotary and Inner Wheel give you an ample opportunity to do collective social service in the community. Stint in social service started in my life when I was a student of Government College Muktsar. When six months social service was compulsory to attain a bachelor's degree. Then as an army officer's wife, your duty is to look after the welfare of the Jawans' families, I never missed this opportunity.

But above all, the family where I landed after marriage, is a family committed to social service. This kindled my interest and gave me incentive to devote more time to social service. Our birthdays, our wedding anniversaries are celebrated performing some kind of social work.

Social work is my way of life. My major social work contribution is through Inner Wheel club, YWCA of Chandigarh, Indian Council of Child Welfare, Society for the Blind. As a R'ann, I always actively participate with my husband in planning and implementing eye check up camps.

We owe our blessings to social service. Keep on doing acts of charity and good work towards humanity, you will accomplish satisfaction in abundance and one day, "Sweet dawn will sweeten your soul."

### *Birthday of Spouses*

R'ann Lovy Peter



November 02

### *Birthday of Rotarians*

Rtn. Dr. Anureet Kaur Bhatti



October 31

Rtn. Dr. I.S. Dua

November 02

### *Wedding Anniversary*

R'ann Hariti & Rtn. Chiranjiv Singh

October 28

R'ann Aruna & Rtn. Ashok Agarwal

November 01

### *Punctuality Draw*

Won by Rtn. Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor

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