



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

# The Midtowner



Club Number : 15228

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

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**Kalyan Banerjee**

District Governor  
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President  
**Raj Kumar Luther**

Secretary  
**Amarjit Singh**

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

Volume XXXVI No. 46 Dated: May 15, 2012

### PROGRAMME

Rotary International Convention at Bangkok  
An Audio Visual Presentation by our Rotarians

Friday, May 18, 2012

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

## *Rotarians leave Bangkok energized to continue fight against polio and reduce global poverty*

Source : [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org), [www.rotaryconvention2012.com](http://www.rotaryconvention2012.com) and [www.eflashonline.org](http://www.eflashonline.org)

A royal appearance and entertainment fit for a king, kicked off the 2012 Rotary International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand on May 06, 2012, to celebrate past accomplishments of Rotary and gain future friendships. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn represented His Majesty the King at the opening ceremony, thanking Rotarians for their good work around the world.

“I am truly impressed by the unity of all Rotarians in devoting

seen, the lives that have been touched haven't been because of me. They have been because of you.” He praised the Rotary projects that he and his wife, Binota, saw during their travels throughout the year, sharing how overwhelmed with pride and joy he was for their great work.

RIP Banerjee said the best way to raise Rotary's public profile and ensure its future is to bring in more young people. “You only have to look around yourselves to realize that this is a problem



*Dr. Muhammad Yunus,  
Nobel Peace Prize laureate*



*RI President Kalyan Banerjee and RI President  
Elect Sakuji Tanaka*



*Ron D. Burton, 2013-14 RI President  
Nominee, and his wife, Jetta*

themselves to charity work in a spirit of selfless benevolence and dedication as befits Rotary's own motto, Service Above Self,” said Princess Chulabhorn. “I am confident that your unwavering commitment and good intentions will reap due reward for our common cause.”

RI President Kalyan Banerjee presented the princess with a gift of appreciation. Flags of 200 countries and regions where Rotary clubs serve their communities were presented on stage, followed by a performance of the national anthems of all the countries. In his opening remarks, RIP Banerjee said Rotary is stronger today than it was at the beginning of his presidential term. “I came into this year determined to make a difference, to leave Rotary stronger at the end of my year. And those goals were met,” said Banerjee. “But if there is one thing I have learned in this incredible year, it is that the changes that I have

we have to face,” he said. “Young people have to know what Rotary is, and why they should want to be a part of it.” RI is already using social media like Facebook and Twitter to help spread the word. “More and more of our clubs are using these tools that excite and inspire and that are drawing in new members – especially younger members, who are so key to Rotary's future,” RIP Banerjee said.

Microcredit pioneer Professor Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, commended Rotarians for their work in developing microcredit loans for the poor. The founder of Grameen Bank also encouraged Rotarians to pursue social business enterprises that would work with microcredit-funded businesses not just to produce revenue but also to return profits to the communities where they operate. “In today's world, we use money to make money, not solve problems,” said Yunus. “If

we use money creatively in a business framework, we can solve any problem.” He added, “My dream is to one day take poverty out of our society and put it in a museum that our grandchildren can visit to see what it was like.”

Highlighting various projects assisted by Rotary Foundation, Trustee Chair William B. Boyd in his keynote address acknowledged, “Thank you for your support of the work of the Rotary Foundation. Together we are making the world a better place.”

General Secretary John Hewko in his address said, “A big thanks also to the RI Convention committee, led by O.P. Vaish and the Rotarians of Thailand, for being such excellent hosts and, in particular, the Host Organization Committee, led by Noraseth Pathmanand, for all the work that they have done to showcase their wonderful country and make everyone feel welcome.” He added, “I also want to acknowledge my colleagues in the Secretariat for their phenomenal dedication and the help they’ve given me over the last year. We have over 150 Rotary staff here in Bangkok with us now, supporting this convention, and they are backed up by our other 600 colleagues in Evanston and in our seven international offices and Information Services Development Office in India. I’m sure you can imagine that an event like this one, is an incredibly enormous undertaking, and they’ve done an amazing job.”

In his acceptance remarks, Ron D. Burton, 2013-14 RI President Nominee said, “I am both honored and humbled to accept the nomination of President of Rotary International for the 2013-14 Rotary year. I’ve been a Rotarian since 1979. In that time, if there’s one thing I’ve learned about Rotary, it’s that it’s a privilege to be a Rotarian. I take a tremendous amount of pride in being a Rotarian. To me, Rotary isn’t just another service organization. It is something different, something special. Being a Rotarian, well, it’s like a lot of things in life — it is what you make of it.”

Rotarians were also treated to a preview of the next RI Convention, which will take place on 23-26 June 2013, in Lisbon, Portugal. RI President Elect Sakuji Tanaka outlined his plans for his term, which begins 1 July. Tanaka will ask Rotarians to achieve *Peace through Service*. “Through service we learn that the problems that may seem large to us are really very small,” said Tanaka. “We learn empathy for others. We come closer to people who seem very different from us. And we begin to understand how much we are all the same.” “Through our Rotary service, we know that cooperation is more

productive than conflict,” he said. “We know that every one of us has something to give, and everyone has something to teach.”

From all over the world 36500 Rotarians, including 6000 from India, attended the four-day event, which concluded on May 9, 2012, the largest convention ever held in Thailand, for celebration of major milestones in the global polio eradication effort, and the success in raising more than \$200 million, as contribution by Rotary members worldwide under PolioPlus program which will be used as new funding for polio eradication campaign in response to a \$355 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This has energized to keep up the fight against polio and to help reduce global poverty.

In his closing remarks, RI President Kalyan Banerjee reminded Rotarians that, “what’s important in Rotary isn’t what we say. It’s what we do, and who we are.” “There dwells within you the power and spirit that can evoke the energy you may not realize,” Banerjee said. “You have to be hungry enough to reach within and release the energy to help you embrace humanity. I believe this is the state we call happiness. I have just given you the prescription for it. Rotary can help you achieve happiness in life that you seek.”

The **House of Friendship** is the heartbeat of the RI Convention. Entertainment, food, arts, music, cultural programs, crafts, camaraderie and service, all combine in the House of Friendship, which each year is designed to capture the flavor of the host city while creating an environment that welcomes and embraces all cultures. In Bangkok, the massive hall was lush with thousands of colorful flowers and ferns. Towering structures were wrapped in bamboo and vines. No matter where you turn, you’ll find a family or group of Rotarians snapping photos of each other. Rotarians laughing together, hugging each other; discussing each other’s projects in the one of the many project booths. Rotarians were greeted by the sound of drums. It was great to see the people on stage and in the crowd having fun. Which is what the House of Friendship is all about.

Our Club was represented in the RI Convention by PDG Shaju Peter & R’ann Lovy Peter, President R.K. Luther & R’ann Urmil Luther, PP T.S. Anand, PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra & R’ann Indu Vohra, Secretary Amarjit Singh & R’ann Sunita, Rtn. Kanan Diwan & PDG Yoginder Diwan, Rtn. A.K. Puri & R’ann Sudha Puri, Rtn. Vinod Jawa & R’ann Pushpa Jawa, Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Rita Kalra & Dr. Sanjay Kalra and Rtn. Salil Bali.

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To Watch videos of 2012 RI Convention Speakers, including the RI President, Trustee Chair, General Secretary and RI President Elect  
Click on the links below from our online bulletin No. 46 on our website  
[http://www.rotarychdmidtown.org/pages/bulliten\\_2011/bulletin46.pdf](http://www.rotarychdmidtown.org/pages/bulliten_2011/bulletin46.pdf)

**Rotary International News - 9 May 2012**

[http://rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/120503\\_IC12\\_speeches.aspx](http://rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/120503_IC12_speeches.aspx)

**Watch the full videos of 2012 Convention speakers**

- RI President Kalyan Banerjee's welcome address
- Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair William B. Boyd's address
- General Secretary John Hewko's address
- 2012-13 RI President Sakuji Tanaka's address
- RI President Kalyan Banerjee's closing address

- Address by Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn
- RI President Kalyan Banerjee's welcome address
- Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair William B. Boyd's address
- Address by John F. Germ, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge Committee
- General Secretary John Hewko's address
- 2012-13 Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Wilfrid Wilkinson's address
- 2012-13 RI President Sakuji Tanaka's address
- Ron D. Burton, RI President-nominee's acceptance remarks
- RI President Kalyan Banerjee's closing address

**Download reports from the convention**

- General Secretary's Report to the RI Convention
- Treasurer's Report to the RI Convention

**Read speeches from the convention**

*Our Actions & Karma.....!*



*Ms. Sumedha Talwar*

In the club meeting on May 11, 2012 Guest Speaker Mrs. Sumedha Talwar, Professor, Chandigarh College of Engineering and Technology, Sector 26, Chandigarh was introduced by her cousin IPP Prem Anand. In addition to teaching Architecture, she is also a trained teacher for the Art of Living. We had her in our club over a year ago, on April 01, 2011, when she

enlightened us on Spirituality as an Art of Living.

Presenting a detailed session on 'Our Actions & Karma.....!', Sumedha said all Living beings are made up of four characteristics Love, dharma, karma and Gyan. She explained how Karma is most misunderstood term and normally related to actions in present or past. Three type of karmas; Prarav Karma - Whatever being manifested right now, Sanchit Karma - In our memory but not manifested yet, Agami Karma - We are going to manifest in future. She explained how to protect ourselves and burn our Sanchit Karma with proper execution of these four characteristics.

She further recommended to learn powerful 'Sudershan Kriya' and infuse enthusiasm, concentration, confidence, commitment in life for which a workshop on 'The Art of Living', is being held

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Rtn. Darshan Singh Kalsi

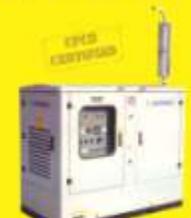
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on 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012 from 05:30 to 08:30 hrs. and 18:00 to 21:00 hrs. at #112, Sector 6, Panchkula. For pre-registrations contact 9417265574, 9878238130, 9216777708.

On behalf of Rotarians, Aarushi Kalra, daughter of Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Rita Kalra, thanked Ms. Sumedha Talwar for her impressive talk on an interesting subject.



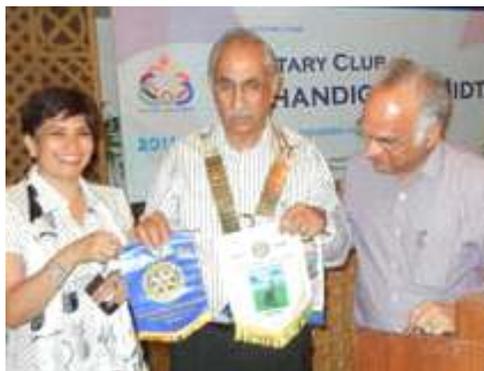
Ms. Aarushi Kalra presents a memento to Mrs. Sumedha Talwar



Mrs. Sumedha Talwar presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Santosh & PP Rtn. Dr. Kesho R. Gupta.



Wedding anniversary gift for R'ann Chanchal & Rtn. C.J. Rai. Looking on are Pres. Luther & Secy. Amarjit



President R.K. Luther receives flags from Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Rita Kalra, PDG Shaju Peter and Rotary Club of Amritsar



Mrs. Sumedha Talwar presents punctuality award to PP Rtn. Dr. Kesho R. Gupta



### Thanks PP Pallav Mukherjee!

For the detailed Aviation Scenario in bulletin No. 45, while the Editor was attending RI Convention in Bangkok.

### Birthdays of Spouses:

R'ann Dr. Savita Gulati  
R'ann Asha Gupta  
R'ann Gurmeet Jauhar



May 20  
May 22  
May 22

### Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Gurinder & Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua  
R'ann Indu & PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra  
R'ann Kiran & Rtn. Ashok K. Sharma

May 19  
May 21  
May 23

### Punctuality Draw

Won by PP Rtn. Dr. Kesho Ram Gupta

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