



The Midtowner



Bulletin of Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown: R.L. District 3080

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Club No. 15228

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Deepak Sood

Secretary
Dr. Rita Kalra

Editor
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXVIII No. 49 Dated: June 10, 2014

PROGRAMME

Father's Day Celebration

Special Invitees: Children and Grand Children of Rotarians to speak on this occasion

(Please confirm participation to President or Secretary)

Friday, June 13, 2014

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Community Co-Existence

On June 06, 2014 Chief Guest Ms. Payal Sodhi was formally introduced as Founder Trustee of People for Animals, Chandigarh, which is operational since 1995, campaigning for animal rights in this region. An army officer's daughter, she graduated in economics honours at MCMDA College, Chandigarh.



Payal Sodhi

President Rtn. Deepak Sood welcomed Payal and also acknowledged the presence of Mrs. Veena Vohra, mother of PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, and his sisters, Ms. Davin Vohra and Ms. Baljit Vohra. R'ann Indu Vohra was also present along with her daughter, Ita and grand daughters, Ananya and Anushka. Obviously, Payal is a family friend of Vohra's.

In her well delivered talk Payal expressed her delight for sharing her experience with Rotarians. She said, "I may have 19 years of work experience but there is so much, I feel that I could learn in terms of life experience through the gathering here. What I share with you is basically what I have learnt, experienced and gathered."



President Deepak Sood

Describing Community work, she said, "I chose the field of animals simply because I believe I come from community. What I have been doing for 19 years has given me tremendous pleasure." Being informed by President Deepak that

we celebrate the birthdays and wedding anniversaries of our members in our every weekly meeting, Payal appreciated the different families from different backgrounds coming together to celebrate these moments which she termed as community living!

Payal stated, "Common causes, common likings and common objectives bring communities together." She drew our attention to the fact that community is not just the people but it also includes the plants, trees, water, air, animals and birds. She added, "By law, by definition and by sheer dominance the human beings are the dominating ones, there is no doubt about it."

She pointed out, "The law supports human beings in every angle and in every aspect. Hence, we may agree to cut a tree, trim a tree, kill a dog, slaughter an animal, kick each other, kill for anything because we are the dominant ones. People in position and power misuse the law of the community, which is basically equality." By law community is defined as, "Wherein people live together and people, as per constitution, means a living being who is that person or an individual or a simple being which breathes." Animals, birds, trees and plants also breathe.

Discussing the animal problem in Chandigarh tricity she explained, "The cows came to existence simply because there are dairy farms around Chandigarh." The cows which become non-productive, the male calf and the old bulls are dumped on the road in the middle of the night. As per the law of our country these animals cannot be slaughtered. This act on the part of dairy farmers leads to road accidents. Our first reaction as human beings is to remove these animals from the roads. People are only concerned with getting the milk products but no one seems to be bothered about these animals that are left on the roads by those persons who have utilized the services of these animals for their profits, and now when these animals have become useless, they have no place to go to and they



PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee presents a memento to Ms. Payal Sodhi. She then presents a wedding anniversary gift for him and R'ann Dr. Joginder Mukherjee. Looking on are President Rtn. Deepak Sood and Rtn. Ashok Kumar Puri



Ms. Payal Sodhi presents wedding anniversary gift to R'tnn Sudha & Rtn. Ashok Kumar Puri



Rtn. Mrs. Davinder K. Singh gets the punctuality award from Ms. Payal. Looking on is President Deepak Sood

are put into a truck and sent to 'Gaushalas'. Payal says, "Whether it is good or bad we are not interested, because we have got our milk, khoya, mithai etc., and we do not need the cow."

Explaining the monkey problem in Chandigarh, Payal pointed out that more than 20 years ago PGI started animal experiments on monkeys for medical research. A rule was passed by Govt. of India against using monkeys in such a manner. Instead of declaring that PGI had the monkeys, they released them all over the city. Over the years these monkeys started multiplying, and today there would be a population of 300 to 400 monkeys in the city. She said when the madaris show our children and grand children the monkey or bear dance, it proves that these animals can be controlled. So these are manmade problems!

Coming to the most popular problem we face, that is, the dogs, Payal remarked, "Dog is man's best companion, our best buddy, and how responsible are we towards them!" She explained how people do not take care of their pet dogs and even dumped them on the road. It is not that only India is suffering from dog problem, the whole world wanted to attend to the dog issue. Therefore, the World Health Organization had come up with some guidelines.

Payal also explained the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001, where in all dogs are classified in two categories (i) pet dogs, and (ii) street dogs. The owner of pet dogs shall be responsible for the controlled breeding, immunization, sterilization and licensing in accordance with these rules. The street dogs shall be sterilized and immunized by participation of animal welfare organizations, private individuals and the local authority.

After being treated, sterilized, vaccinated and given an identification mark, the dogs are put back on the road. Payal candidly admitted, "This should have been done far more successfully. But for limitations of the NGOs, one of which I

represent, People for Animals, other being SPCA (Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh, could not happen at the scale that it should have happened."

People who go for walks in the parks are generally attacked by the dogs. Payal said, "If all the dogs are killed in the city we shall increase the cat and mice population, and we shall have complete ecological disaster." She advised that the solution is in getting the male and female dogs sterilized to control their hormonal behaviour. As a result of this the dog becomes less aggressive. She also cautioned not to tease the dogs, because like human beings they may not react initially but when they are bothered again and again they would hit back. Therefore, the dogs should not be provoked.

Talking of community co-existence she cited the example of children of all army officers, irrespective of their ranks, going to school together in one army truck. She said things are much different from what it was in 1980s. The present generation have lost the essence of community living. She put her point forward to Rotarians who could channelize community living. She said the impact would be much greater if organization like Rotary takes up this issue.

Payal also referred to a very crucial judgment by passed by the Supreme Court of India just a month ago, with reference to Article 21 which gives man and also the animal the right to live with honour and dignity.

Stressing on community co-existence, she concluded, "Trust me, the trees can live without us, we cannot....!"

Payal's impressive talk generated a vibrant inter active discussion with Rotarians. PP Pallav Mukherjee (former Counsellor of Chandigarh Municipal Corporation) pointed out the irregularities

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in the Municipal Corporation where nobody knows what to do with the animals. Rtn. Chandra Parkash had some queries about monkeys coming from Himachal. PDG Shaju Peter had questions about Payal's remarks of going back to the old ways of community living which was clarified by her as to what she had actually meant. Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua based his discussions on scientific reasoning which was dealt with by Payal in equally scientific manner. The

interactive session would have continued for a longer period, but time being the constraint, President Deepak Sood summed it up, "Thank you Payal ji for giving us such a wonderful knowledge." We were enlightened by her informative talk, which was very well appreciated by the Rotarians as Community Service is one of the major areas of Rotary all over the world.

Get well soon

Mr. S.S. Chopra father of Rtn. J.S. Chopra was admitted in Max Hospital, Mohali for a few days. He has now been discharged from

the hospital and treatment is continuing at home. We wish him a very speedy recovery.

RI President Ron Burton's Closing remarks at Sydney Convention June 04, 2014 - Source: Rotary International - Courtesy: www.eflashonline.org

You know, up on the 18th floor of Rotary headquarters, right outside my office door, there's a globe sitting out on a table. And a couple of weeks ago, as we were making our final preparations for this incredible convention here in Sydney, I stopped by the globe and I found Sydney, Australia. And then I spun the globe around, to find my hometown of Norman, Oklahoma, USA. They are about as far apart from each other as you can possibly get.



RI President Ron Burton

As I reflect back on the last four days, I hope that your experiences here in Sydney have exceeded your expectations. I hope you found old friends here and made new ones; I hope you made connections, shared ideas, and had a fantastic time. And I hope that the excitement we've all felt here this week will follow you home, as you begin a new year of Rotary service — ready to engage Rotary, more than ever before.

All of us have seen this week how much good work Rotary is doing, all over the world. And we've seen as well, how much more we could be doing — if we brought in more members, if we supported our Foundation more generously, if we devoted more of our time and energy to our Rotary service. We could be doing so much more, if all of us chose to engage Rotary. Because when we engage Rotary, we change lives.

We change lives through education, by bringing children to school,

by teaching adults to read, by sharing our vocational expertise. We change lives by making childbirth safer, by making water cleaner, by making sure that more children have nutritious food and better health care. And we will change the life of every child who will ever be born on this earth — by eradicating polio.

My friends, there are so many people in the world who need our help. Sometimes, it's easy to focus on how many of them there are, on how great the needs are, and on how many of them we will never be able to reach. It's easy to get discouraged — and that's what a lot of people do. They say, whatever I can do is just a drop in the bucket, so why try at all? But that's not how we think in Rotary.

In Rotary, we know that everything we do makes a difference. No, we can't fix the whole world, and I wouldn't suggest that we try! But that doesn't make what we can do any less valuable. Because every life in this world, whether it's across the street or across an ocean, is just as real, just as valuable as the lives of the people who mean the world to us. If we help one person to live a better life, a healthier life, a life with more hope — then we've done more good than a lot of people do in a lifetime.

But we all know that through Rotary, we can do so much more than that. Together, we can dream big and we can achieve. We can change whole communities for the better, not just for a day, but for a lifetime. And that ability is the incredible gift that Rotary has given all of us. Our responsibility is to take that gift, and be worthy of it. Rise to it. Do the most that we possibly can, with the chance we've all been given.

That's our goal. That's why we're here. That's why it isn't enough for any of us to just go through the motions, to show up at our clubs, to do just the minimum needed and no more. And it's why each of us has to remember, every hour of every day, what a responsibility we have. Being a Rotarian isn't about our own achievements, it isn't about our own careers, it isn't really about us at all. It's about the

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people we help. At the end of the day, the only thing that matters in Rotary, is how much better the world becomes - because Rotary is in it.

Back in 1987, when I was a district governor-elect, it was a very, very challenging year for me professionally, as head of the University of Oklahoma Foundation. I was excited to be elected district governor, but there was also a little feeling at the back of my mind that maybe, just maybe I'd bitten off more than I could chew. I worked as hard as I could at my International Assembly, and I did my PETS and my district assembly, and every week that went by I became more and more convinced that I was just not going to be able to pull it off. I didn't see how I could be a good district governor and still do everything I needed to do for the University of Oklahoma.

And that's how it got to be 10 p.m. on the night of 30 June, two hours before I was set to become district governor. I told my wife, Jetta, "I cannot do this. I'm going to have to resign." We had a past director in our district and I picked up the phone to call him. And I sat there for 10 full minutes with my finger in the last digit of his number, not letting the dial turn back, just looking at that phone and thinking. And then I put the phone back on the hook, and I said to Jetta, "I may not have a real job at the end of this year, but I made a promise to

Rotary and I'm going to keep it." And I did.

I guess I don't have to tell you how it turned out. It was a busy year - I won't ever say it was an easy year- but it was an incredible year. And I can tell you without a shadow of a doubt, that the decision I made in the space of those 10 minutes changed my life, and my family's life, completely - in too many ways to count. That was the night I made the decision that has shaped the rest of my life. That was the night I decided to engage Rotary.

Today, I cannot even imagine how different my life would be, if I had not made the choice to put Rotary front and center for that one year. I can't even count the friends I wouldn't have made, the places I wouldn't have gone, the experiences I wouldn't have had. No matter how much I do for Rotary, no matter how hard I work now, I can never repay Rotary for how much it's done for me - for how much it's changed my life. I chose to engage Rotary - I set out to change lives - and the life I changed the most was my own. And I can tell you all, from my heart, the one thing that I know to be true: that the more you engage Rotary - the more you pour your heart into the joy of Rotary service the greater your own joy will be.

My friends, thank you for an unforgettable year. I wish you the best as you look ahead to 2014-15 - when together we will *Light Up Rotary*.

Condolences

Our deep condolences to Rtn. Sanjay Singhal on the sudden demise of her mother Mrs. Saburi Devi Singhal on 4th June 2014. One minute silence was observed in our club meeting on 6th June 2014 as a mark of respect to the noble lady.

Rasam Kirya will take place on 15th June at Agarwal Bhawan, Sector 16, Panchkula from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Suman Gupta

June 14

Birthday of Rotarians

PP Rtn. Capt. Manmohan S. Kahlon

June 15



Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Paramjeet & Rtn. R.S. Sihota

June 19

Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Mrs. Davinder K. Singh



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