



Breakfast Chatter

Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town
District 3292, Club 26776, Chartered 08 Nov. 1989



June 2nd, 2009

Weekly Bulletin

Vol. 45 of '08/'09

This week's speaker



Mr. Kai Bird is an independent scholar and public intellectual; he is a pre-eminent historian of the American foreign policy establishment. He co-author (with Martin Sherwin) *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, for which he won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in biography.

Mr. Bird spent most of his childhood and early career in the Middle East, living in Jerusalem, Beirut, Saudi Arabia, Cairo, Iran and Yemen. He will be talking on "The Problem of Identity: Jews, Israelis and Palestinians" where he will be sharing some thoughts from this upcoming book in the making--which is on the Middle East, the Palestinian problem and the question of identity in the 21st century.

Calendar

Date	Theme
June	 <p>June begins with the sun in the astrological sign of Gemini, and ends with the sun in the astrological sign of Cancer. June is the month with the longest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere. The traditional June birthstone is the pearl --the meaning is health & longevity. The June birth flower is the rose, as roses bloom throughout June. June is also called the "Rose month."</p> 
June 5 th	<p>World Environment Day (WED), commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.</p> 
June 21-24 th	 <p>100th Rotary International Convention, Birmingham, England If you will be attending, please inform our President or Club Secretary as soon as possible as they need to inform the Chair of District RI Convention Promotion Committee.</p>
June 22 nd	<p>The solstice called the Summer solstice in the northern hemisphere occurs on dates varying from 22 June to 23 June. A solstice is an astronomical event that occurs twice each year, when the tilt of the Earth's axis is most inclined toward or away from the Sun, causing the Sun's apparent position in the sky to reach its northernmost or southernmost extreme.</p> 
June 13 th	 <p>First District Awards and Recognition Ceremony of District 3292 will be celebrated on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 3:00pm at the Soaltee Hotel Crown Plaza, Tahachal, Kathmandu. The Registration fees is Nrs. 1500/- for Clubs in Kathmandu Valley and Nrs. 1000/- for Rotary Clubs in Outside Kathmandu Valley. The deadline for the Registration is 1st June 2009. After June 1st, the registration fee will be 500Nrs. more.</p>



The end of the 2008-09 Rotary year is at hand. This week's meeting was graced by **DG Rtn. Tika Man Viadya** (3rd from left), **AG Rtn. Anil Shrestha** (far left) and **Dist. Sec. Maheswor B. Shrestha** (2nd from right). The visit of the DG gave Mid-Town an opportunity to shine. **PP Rt. Ajay** gave the Membership Committee report. **PP Rtn. Arun** gave the Public Relations Committee report (*in absentia* **Rt. Navyo**) – we can celebrate that the Mid-Town web page is well on its way. **Rt. Jo** gave the Club Administration report – by all counts Mid-Town can be proud of the number of joint events it has held and just how much good fellowship was enjoyed. **Rt. Saroj** gave the report on behalf of TRF and Community Service (for **Rt. Pratap** who is on-leave) – this was the longest report but it was notable as it drew attention to the fact of just how much Mid-Town has accomplished over the past year. Bravo! to all.



PP Rtn. Lekha highlighted the fact that Mid-Town has been involved in water and sanitation projects – a main thrust for Rotary in this and coming years. **PP Rtn. Lekha** also highlighted the very vital supporting role that our Mid-Town Rotaracts have played in supporting the various committees – they are always there for us when we need them. PP District Trainer **Rtn. William** echoed the

sentiments voiced by Rtn. Lekha and emphasised the importance of training.



After the presentations, the DG reiterated the fact that Mid-Town has always been one of the strongest clubs in the Valley and he added his hearty congratulations for the very high standard that it has been able to maintain over the years. "It is easy to be first", but, he added, "... it is not easy to maintain that position!". A flurry of bouquets was given to DG, AG and Dir. Sec. and, last but not least, a hearty applause for Charter President **Rtn. Roop**.



District Governor.

Club Secretary
Rtn. Som read
out the
inscription on
the certificate of
appreciation
given by Mid-
Town to our



**AG
Rtn.
Anil
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tha**
took
the
oppor
tunity
to say
a few
words



. He told that Mid-Town was the Club that he has
perhaps visited most over the
course of the past year – he has
enjoyed his visits and learnt a
lot about Mid-Town. **Dist. Sec.
Maheswor B. Shrestha** gave a
hearty handshake and said how
much he had enjoyed his visit to
Mid-Town. **President Elect Rtn.**



Subarna closed by giving a hearty vote of thanks to all of the District
officials who had visited and for all of the support we have received
over the past year. He looks forward to the challenge of being
President this coming Rotary year.

News from the region

Pakistan moves to end polio in the face of conflict

Rotary International News -- 27 May 2009

Rotarians and friends turn out for Karachi's walk against polio. Photo courtesy of Aziz Memon Pakistan's effort to eradicate polio is moving ahead, despite the displacement of up to one million people by the military conflict in the country's North-West Frontier Province.

As of 19 May, nine immunization teams had vaccinated almost 17,900 children under age five on the three main transit routes out of the conflict zone. More than 87,000 displaced people are living in 26 camps in the province. Mobile teams have gone tent to tent to immunize 6,890 children and are deployed at registration points to vaccinate newcomers.



Almost 870,000 people -- about 90 percent of the total displaced population -- have registered as living with relatives or friends. Immunization teams are being trained to cover communities hosting displaced families to ensure that the children are vaccinated against polio and receive vitamin A supplements during National Immunization Days (NIDs) 28-30 May. Subnational Immunization Days are scheduled for 22-24 June.

WHO officials say it is vital to reach children of displaced families, because access to these children has been hampered by the poor security situation in the province.

To promote the upcoming NIDs, aimed at reaching 33 million children nationally, Rotarians and social workers joined a walk against polio in Karachi on 21 May, led by the city's deputy mayor, Nasreen Jalil. "After the walk, the deputy mayor gave polio drops to kids and appealed to all citizens to participate," says Aziz Memon, a member of the Rotary Club of Karachi, Sind, and past governor of District 3270 (Afghanistan; Pakistan). "Because of the presence of the deputy mayor, the event was covered by all print and electronic media and will create a lot of awareness."

Age is no obstacle

Ten-year-old raises money for polio eradication

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News -- 27 April 2009 (adapted)

Ian Schwartz with one of the displays he made about polio eradication and the money he collected from classmates. Photo courtesy of Sherilyn Schwartz A lot of Rotarians could take a cue from one spunky 10-year-old from Eugene, Oregon, USA, who has raised a little more than \$1,640 for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

Ian Schwartz, a fourth grader at St. Paul Parish School, decided to collect money for charity in lieu of gifts from friends for his birthday, in keeping with a family tradition. Ian's mother, Sherilyn, is a member of the Rotary Club of Eugene. When the February issue of The Rotarian arrived at their home, Ian was inspired by the illustrated "Amazing Stories of Polio" inside, and news of the recent \$255 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "He said to me, 'Mom, I can't raise \$255 million.' I told him, 'Yes, but every little bit helps,'" Sherilyn recalls.



Mid-Town's Tistung outing

Last Saturday our intrepid Mid-Towners were up at the crack of dawn (7AM) for the drive to Tistung. The purpose of the visit to Tistung was to hand over schooling materials donated by the **RC Nevada City 49ers** - our ex-member Larry Meek's Club.

Rotarians PP Ayaja, Som, Navyo, Jo and Saroj along with Ayaj's daughter and a friend of her's drove up to Tistung. At the **Janta Peoples School**, the headmaster **Dharma Lal Shrestha** and the eager children were happy to greet our Mid-Towners.

After a tasty local dhaal bhatt enjoyed at a nearby restaurant, Headmaster Shrestha introduced the team to the students and their parents. Mid-Towners PP Ayaj, Som and Saroj rose to the occasion and gave short speeches about the importance of education. The Mid-Town team then distributed the school uniforms and material to the students. The photo above shows that parents and children were all eager to see how the new stuff all fit. In spite of a little cloudy weather, all had a great good time.



Visitors this week

A quick visit by two members of the **Rotary Club of Christchurch South**, New Zealand. Rt.



Greame Fault (left) and Rtn. Peter Meers (right) told of how they have previously visited RC Mid-Town and were happy to renew their acquaintances. They are presently conducting a project for ten primary schools in collaboration with RC Kathmandu Sunrise.

Can any of you identify this visitor (far right) having a cup of tea with PP Walter? No, just joking! It was nice to see long-time member **Rtn. Mahendra Shrestha** who has been very busy with business matters and has been spending considerable time travelling. Mid-Towners were glad to see him and to renew their acquaintance – they took the time to say how they would like to see him more often. Rtn. Mahendra took the gentle nudging with typical good humor and Mid-Town does indeed hope to see more of him over the course of the coming year!



Celebrating 'Everest Day'

Mid-Towners join in the spirit of Sagarmatha Day



May 29 has been declared **International Everest Day** and this year is the second year that it is being celebrated. On Friday the government of Nepal honored over four dozen climbers of Mount Everest and outstanding personalities who have made contribution to promote Mount Everest. According to the Ministry of Tourism different programs have been organized by the government and private sector. A program 'Clean-up' was organized at Lukla Airport and a marathon and musical concert were organized at Everest Base Camp. According to officials the Everest (Sagarmatha) National Award 2006 and Tenzing Hillary Mountaineering Award was awarded to prominent outstanding personality who have made contributions to promoting Everest both nationally and internationally.

The Breakfast Chatter found our own **PP Ajay** well in the spirit of celebrating this new holiday, and he is show in the photo sporting the '2nd International Everest Day' commemorative T-shirt.



"I don't know what's worse...you, Jenkins, snoring through my presentation, or you, Fredericks, complaining that it was keeping you awake!"

Please send information/suggestions/photos for the next volume to:
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