



Breakfast Chatter



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

July 7, 2009

Weekly Bulletin

Volume 1 of '09/'10

This week's speaker - DRFC PP Mani Joshi



District 3292 DRFC,
Past President Mani Joshi will speak on
the Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation recently honored Usha Mittal for her US\$1 million contribution to Rotary's polio eradication efforts.

In a reception at the House of Lords in London, Foundation Trustee Chair Jonathan B. Majiyagbe presided as Usha and Lakshmi Mittal were inducted into the **Arch C. Klumph Society**, which honors people who give at least \$250,000 to the Foundation.

"It seems fitting," remarked Majiyagbe, "to convene in the House of Lords, the seat of such a proud tradition of leadership, to recognize the future

unfolding before us -- a future where our world is polio-free, a future where peace is possible." Mittal and her husband, Lakshmi, chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steelmaker, are originally from India but now live in London, where the company is based. Those attending the reception included [Rajashree Birla](#), another major supporter of Rotary's polio eradication efforts.

In May 2008, Birla arranged a meeting with Mittal to discuss polio eradication. Mittal responded with a \$1 million contribution to the Foundation in support of [Rotary's US\\$200 Million Challenge](#). Rotary has committed to raising \$200 million over the next three years in response to \$355 million in grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for polio eradication.

"Polio is a devastating disease which still continues to cripple children in some vast populated areas of the world -- namely India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria, the four remaining countries where the virus is still endemic," said Mittal. "It is a disease for which there is no cure, yet a child can be protected for life with oral vaccine drops.

"I hope that my contribution to The Rotary Foundation will help their tremendous challenge to end polio worldwide, and that one day we will be able to live in a world where lives are no longer ruined by this terrible disease," she said.

Majiyagbe said the gifts from Birla and Mittal reflect the strong support the polio eradication initiative has received over the years from Indian Rotary clubs and from the country's government, general public, and private citizens.

"I am privileged to be able to recognize Mrs. Mittal for her outstanding contribution to global

free world.”.

Calendar

Date	Theme
July 3, 2009	Wedding anniversary of R.R Shrestha (Immediate Past President) Congratulations on your many years of marital bliss
July 7, 2009	Wedding anniversary of Subarna Joshi (Club President 2009/2010) - Many congratulations on your many years of marital bliss and assumption of office

This week's breakfast fellowship



PP Gopal (GSE Team leader) came back with lots of flags from Clubs visited



PP Mani attended the RI Convention in Birmingham in June 2009. He is seen handing over a flag to President Subarna.

Rotary around the world

Making a difference, one child at a time

By Dan Nixon

Rotary International News -- 07 July 2009



Beck (seated, second from left), other volunteers, and health officials use a map to plan the immunization of children in Chandigarh, India. Bottom: Beck administers polio vaccine to a child. *Photos courtesy of Robert Beck*

For more than a decade, Robert Beck has provided input to the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) as a public representative on the National Vaccine Advisory Committee.

Earlier this year, he fulfilled a desire to do something hands-on with vaccines.

An attorney and member of the Rotary Club of Fluvanna County (Palmyra), Virginia, Beck traveled to India to help vaccinate children against polio during National Immunization Days (NIDs) in February. He was part of a 43-member Rotarian team led by Noelle Galperin, 2008-09 District 6990 PolioPlus subcommittee

chair and a member of the Rotary Club of Coral Gables, Florida, and Luis Ortega, then a member of the Rotary Club of Miami Dadeland-Pinecrest, Florida.

The team served at immunization booths in Chandigarh, where families brought their children to receive the oral polio vaccine. After this first phase of the NIDs, Beck and his team followed detailed, hand-drawn maps into the city's poorest areas.

"Picture each vaccination team walking through dense slums, across garbage troughs, and through drainpipes and all manner of debris, animals, and structures to vaccinate needy children," Beck says. "Add air thick with dirt and pollutants, so that we often could not see the end of the street. Then include the smells of decay, garbage, and insects, and you have what each team encountered each day."

Beck is quick to add, however, that there was more to the scene.

"One must also draw into that picture the smiling faces of beautiful people and especially children, mothers dressed in colorful native clothes, and their offers of food and drink and their sincere thanks for our efforts," he says. "Only then can you see why we went back each day. We really believed we were making a difference, even if it was only one child at a time."

While in India, Beck and his team also visited several Rotary club-supported projects, including:

- A hospital in Delhi where surgery is performed to rebuild the deformed limbs of polio survivors, usually without charge
- A Rotarian-sponsored vocational training center, where young women learn to make clothing designs and patterns to obtain better jobs
- An advanced eye care center established by Rotarians in India and the United States
- A school that provides hearing-impaired children with hearing aids and an education

"My Rotary PolioPlus experience has given me a profound appreciation for what it means to be a Rotarian," Beck says. "Rotary programs are empowering local people, communities, and governments to create local solutions in which all may derive pride. [PolioPlus](#) and my fellow Rotarians have made me proud to be a Rotarian."

Installation Ceremony of Rotaracts for '09-'10

The Breakfast Chatter caught up with Mid-Town's intrepid Rotaracts during their installation ceremony which saw Rtr Anil Shrestha takeover as the President for 2009- 2010. Chief Guest was District Governor Rtn. Ratna Man Shakya. Other dignitaries who graced the occasion were President our Club Rtn. Subarna Joshi, IPP Rtn. RR Shrestha, Vice President, Rtn Som, Rtn. PP Lekha, Rtn. Anand, Treasurer, Rtn. Sharmila, Rtn Werner and Dahal Ji.



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