



Breakfast Chatter



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

May 12th 2009

Weekly Bulletin

Vol. 42 of '08/'09


This week's topic

"Spiritual blossoming" means
expanding in all dimensions--
being happy, at ease with yourself
and with everybody around you.

SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR
FOUNDER OF THE ART OF LIVING FOUNDATION



Calendar

Date	Theme
May 15 th	Ms. Neeva will speak on Art Of Living - Nepal Maha Satsang
May 15 th	International Day of Families This day highlights the importance of families. It aims at fostering equality, bringing about a fuller sharing of domestic responsibilities and employment opportunities. This year's theme: "Mothers and Families: Challenges in a Changing World"
May 15 th	PETS & SETS (President Elect Training and Secretary Elect Training) in Pokhara
May 16 th	Nepal Rotary District Assembly in Pokhara. Anyone wishing to attend either this event or the PETS & SETS please contact President RR for more details.
May 22 nd	The International Day for Biological Diversity The theme for the International Day on Biological Diversity (IDB) in 2009 is invasive alien species (IAS) - one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, and to the ecological and economic well-being of society and the planet.
June 13 th	 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 1 st , the registration fee will be 500Nrs. more.

Visitors



This week Mid-Town was happy to welcome two visitors: former member Robert McNair Scott (now of Chevy Chase, MD, USA) (right) and friend Lincoln Morikone who is affiliated with the Scheer Memorial Hospital in Banepa (left).



Mid-Town learns about NHRC from member KB Rokaya



Mid-Town's KB Rokaya discusses the NHRC

This week RC Mid-Town was pleased to welcome as its speaker, long-time member KB Rokaya. The speaker clarified the function of the different Human Rights agencies active in Nepal. He went on to elucidate the role of the NHRC (National Human Rights Commission) of Nepal which is an independent and autonomous constitutional body (and of which he is a commissioner). NHRC was established in the year 2000 as a statutory body under the Human

Rights Commission Act 1997 (2053 BS). The Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007 (2063 BS) made the NHRC a constitutional body. It has a separate sphere of responsibilities in the constitutional legal system of the country which include and complement the responsibilities of the normal machinery of the administration of justice.

As usual, Mid-Towners were full of questions and comments and they were also full of praise for Nepal's leading role in the Human Rights sphere in South Asia and for the role that one of its own member had to play. A poignant comment observed that there is a need to be vigilant in the observation of human rights as 'There is no 'equality' in injustice'.

Mid-Town congratulates KB on his appointment and wishes him all the best for a long and successful continued career with the NHRC.



Mid-Towner abroad



Isa visits RC West Ottawa

Mid-Towner **Isa** took time out of a busy schedule of visiting friends and family in Canada in April to address the RC West Ottawa and to give a short presentation on Nepal.

RC West Ottawa, which meets every Tuesday for a lunch meeting, is one of the oldest clubs in the Ottawa area. This Club has the distinction of welcoming its guest speakers with a personalised

song sung by all of its members. Isa was welcomed to the hearty refrains of a ditty set to the tune of 'Frere Jacques' – an experience to remember.

Here Isa is shown exchanging flags with President **Rtn. Alan Bowles**. West Ottawa Rotarian, **Jean Begin**, who has been to Kathmandu, was on hand to act as hostess and to make our Mid-Towner feel more than warmly welcomed.



Special hut promotes peace in West Africa

By Jennifer Lee Atkin Rotary International News -- 6 May 2009 (adapted)



Former Rotary World Peace Fellow Richelieu Allison recently helped construct a peace hut that's the focal point of a new park in Jendemah, Sierra Leone. *Photo courtesy of West African Youth Network*

In the small border town of Jendemah, Sierra Leone, Richelieu Allison is known as "the peace hut guy."

It's a title he's earned: Months of weather delays, poor road conditions, building material shortages, and even a snake bite haven't kept Allison from constructing a peace hut for this community of 10,000.

Now the focal point of a special park, the palaver hut was built with help from the Rotary Club of Freetown, Sierra Leone, and The Rotary Foundation. Allison, a 2006 Rotary World Peace Fellow, hopes it is only the first of several huts linked by a caravan that he envisions as a "cross-border, people-to-people movement for peace."

In West African culture, a palaver hut is where town chiefs and elders settle conflicts. "The construction of these huts will provide a permanent forum not only for the local people to settle disputes but also to discuss issues relating to development," Allison says.

Jendemah connects Sierra Leone and Liberia by way of the Mano River Union Bridge. Constructed along a major trade route in 1973, the bridge was meant to be a symbol of regional prosperity.

But people on both sides have endured decades of mutual fear and distrust. The civil war that broke out in Liberia in 1989 degenerated into a conflict that spread to Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. The war officially ended in 2003, but the bridge didn't reopen until 2007.

"There is still a need to ensure that the people continue to reconcile their differences," Allison says.

A native of Liberia, Allison knows the horrors of war. "I saw summary executions. I witnessed the recruitment of some of my friends who, as young as eight, were sent to the battlefield," he recalls.

Determined to restore peace to his country, in 2001 Allison helped found the West African Youth Network, which trains young West Africans in peace-building and other humanitarian endeavors.

In 2006, he became a member of the inaugural class of the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies certificate program at Chulalongkorn University, in Bangkok, Thailand. Soon after, he began envisioning a peace caravan.

Once he secures funding and materials, Allison plans to construct seven more palaver huts along historically troubled borders in the region. Each hut, which costs US\$5,200 to build, will have The Four-Way Test inscribed on it, he says.

Allison, along with local Rotarians and members of the West African Youth Network, will then travel to each palaver hut to conduct conflict resolution workshops and hold peace vigils.

The hut in Jendemah has already had an impact. "The construction process helped people to focus and think about the importance of peace," Allison says. "It has brought together chiefs and elders, immigration and law enforcement officers, young people and traders, on both sides of the border."

Mid-Town Rotaracts bag four new members and elocution prize



During the month of April Mid-Town's intrepid Rotaractors were as busy and successful as ever. They have just inducted four new members. Rtn. PP Dr. Lekha tells BC that they do not yet have too much experience with community work but that what they lack in experience they more than make up for in enthusiasm, they bring a jovial camaraderie to the group and are anxious to get to hands-on work – knowing Rtn Lekha's track record for getting Rotaractors actively involved that should be happening in very short order. Mid-Town wishes them all good success for a happy and productive time as Rotaractors.



Mid-Town parent club President RR was on-hand at the April 10th meeting of the Rotaracts to provide some Rotary insights. He happily joined in welcoming the four new Rotaracts.

Under the inspirational guidance of Rotaract 'mother' Rtn. Lekha, Rotractors have always been a real credit to RC Mid-Town – April was no exception. President RR took advantage of this forum to appreciate **Rtr Anjil** who has recently won **first prize** in a recent Rotary-sponsored elocution competition. Rtr. Anjil contribution was a forceful and passionate exposé on the topic of *"Global Warming"*. Congratulations, Anjil! and keep up the good work.



Mid-Towner s enjoy fellowship on Europe Day



Excellent fellowship was enjoyed by Mid-Towners as they celebrated Europe Day at Kathmandu's own Hyatt Hotel. The host was Mid-Towner, Rtn. Dr. Alex Spachis, who is the EU's Minister – Counsellor, Chargé d' affaires a.i. in Nepal and who presided over the celebration providing a hearty welcome to all.

Mid-Town Humor



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