



# Breakfast Chatter



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

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Weekly Bulletin

Vol. 22 of '08/'09

## This Week's Speaker

This week's speaker is Francois of **Himalayan French Cheese** a local company that produces cheese following traditional French recipes. They presently produce a few different cheeses but their speciality is a local cheese that resembles the Tomme de Savoie, a semi-firm, disc-shaped cow's milk cheese made in the valley of the Savoie in the French Alps (photo right).

Francois Driard will be talking to us of the challenges that a young cheese maker faces in Nepal and his plans for expanding his product line to export cheeses made with Yak and Cow milk.



Next week – no meeting – & no Breakfast Chatter  
Merry Christmas!




What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.

*Agnes M. Pharo*



## Calendar

Date	Theme
Dec. 19th	Mr. Francois Driard of Himalayan French Cheese will talk to us about the challenges and pleasures he has encountered while bringing the art of French cheese making to Nepal.
Dec. 26th	Christmas break - no meeting.
Dec. 29th	 International Day for Biological Diversity
January 2009	Mid-Town Family Pot Luck Cook-off Contest. Details to follow.

## Greetings from Abroad



### Greetings from the Rotary Club of Bodensee Engen

Visiting Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Bodensee Engen dropped in to visit with Mid-Town but unfortunately that day the meeting had been cancelled. They left their flag and their good wishes. Hope to catch up with you on your next trip to Nepal!

### Visiting Rotarians from Brummen-Engelenburg tell of their Journey “... from the tulip to the lotus”

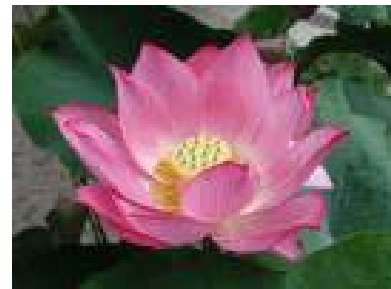


PP Rtn Martin Buitink and Rtn. Atjo Westerhuis of RC Brummen - Engelenburg in the Netherlands visited Mid-Town this week. This is their first visit to Nepal and they shared their first

impressions with us. They have just visited the Bamboo School and the Shechen Clinic and have previously met the Buddhist monk/scientist Matthieu Ricard who is coordinating these efforts. After visiting a few sites in Kathmandu they are on their way to visit nephew 'Dick' in Pokhara.



They told us that even in the short time they have been here they have already learnt a lot. No, they are not staying in 5 star accommodations but in a small guest house in the Shechen Clinic where they can have a first-hand view of things. They were extremely impressed with how much basic medical care is given to so many people for so little money.



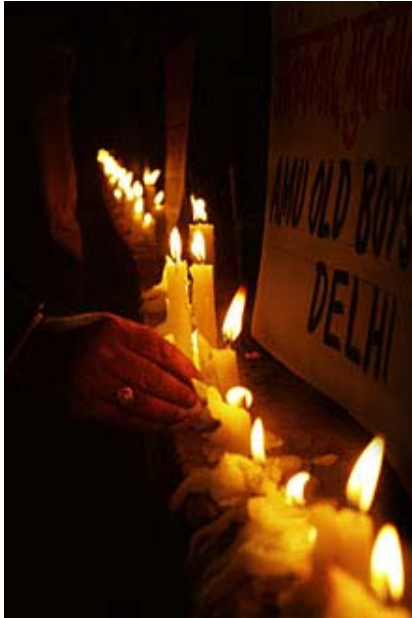
They told us that they see it is necessary to take on a different point of view in developing countries and that they will have to exchange their **'tulip'** (national flower and symbol of the Netherlands) view of the world for more that is more in tune with the **'lotus'** of Asia. Mid-Town looks forward to working with them on the Shechen Clinic project and wishes them all good luck on their travels.



## Rotarians offer support in wake of Mumbai tragedy

By Ryan Hyland (adapted) Rotary International News -- 5 December 2008

A participant in a candle light vigil in New Delhi, India, 2 December places a candle to express solidarity with the victims of the Mumbai terror attacks. Photo by AP Photo/Gurinder Osan  
Rotary leaders and Indian Rotarians are expressing sadness and offering support for survivors following last week's terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, that killed more than 170 people.



More than 300 Mumbai Rotarians joined tens of thousands of city residents on 3 December in a peace march to mourn the dead and protest the violence. Participants gathered in the streets surrounding the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel, one of several locations stormed by armed gunmen on 26 November. In a show of unity and peace, Rotarians carried Rotary flags and banners.

"It is a terrible situation. But Rotary is ready to help those who have suffered," says Past RI President Rajendra Saboo. "Rotary will be most needed when the painful happening recedes in the memory."

Rotarians and their families stood in long lines to donate blood. Saboo also said Mumbai clubs are in contact with hospitals, offering support and comfort to victims.

"This is a time when those who have suffered the most may find themselves lonely and in need," says Saboo,

a resident of the Union Territory of Chandigarh. "Rotary will not only be there to heal the immediate wounds but to care for them long term."

Calling the attacks in Mumbai "a catastrophe," RI President Dung Kurn Lee says the recovery process will take many months and that Rotary will provide support for victims and their families. "Rotary is the organization that helps people make the transition from day-to-day survival to a return to a normal life," says Lee.

Local clubs are also struggling with the senseless violence. "It is very tragic that so many innocent people were killed or injured," says Prabha Mathur, past president of the Rotary Club of Bombay Airport in Mumbai. "We are all trying to find peaceful ways of addressing the situation."

RI Director Ashok Mahajan says now is the time to spread Rotary's message of peace. "I'm deeply saddened by what happened. People here are extremely angry," says Mahajan, a Mumbai resident. "But I don't want to see the situation worsen. It's time for Rotary to unite and help achieve world peace."

Mahajan expresses gratitude for the many condolences he's received from Rotarians worldwide, and says he especially appreciates the e-mails and phone calls from Pakistani Rotarians. "Clubs in Pakistan showed great concern about our health and well-being," Mahajan says.

The Rotary Club of Bombay has been left without a home, owing to the extensive fire damage at the Taj Mahal hotel. Since its founding in 1929, the club has met in the hotel's ballroom. "There was so much Rotary history in that room, and I have fond memories of attending meetings there," says Saboo, who is working with club leaders to find a temporary meeting place. "Our hearts go out to the members. I'm hopeful . . . they'll be back at the Taj soon."

## RI President's message

### *Focus on families in December*

In December, focus on your family and involve them in Rotary service, says Lee in his message. Also, he says, remember that there are many families and children who need help around the world.

As Rotarians, he says, "We cannot and will not rest until all children, everywhere, have the chance for a long and healthy life." Read more in this month's president's message.

## Rotary Photo Contest

### Give us your best shot

Richard S. Lawrence won the 2007-08 contest by taking a picture of a boy inspecting a cup of water at a project in Guatemala in which 11 clubs in District 7890 raised more than US\$24,000 to provide water filters, vented pit latrines, and raised vented stoves for 52 families. Do you have a great shot from a fundraiser, international project, the RI Convention, or local club event? The deadline for The Rotarian's annual photo contest is 28 February, and we're looking for anything that illustrates Service Above Self.



In addition, Rotarians will be able to vote for their favorite photo in the People's Choice Award category. Online voting will open 15 April and run through 15 May. So submit your photos now, and tell your friends and fellow club members to visit the Web site starting in April to cast their votes!

## Mid-Town Mouse-Cheese Humour



The clever cat eats cheese and breathes down rat holes with baited breath."

W. C. Fields quotes (American Comic and Actor, 1880-1946)

"The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese."

"Age is not important unless you're a cheese."

Helen Hayes, American stage and film Actress, (1900-1993)

Comment voulez-vous gouverner un pays qui a deux cent quarante-six variétés de fromage? (How can you govern a country which has two hundred and forty-six varieties of cheese?)

Charles De Gaulle, in "Les Mots du General", 1962, French general & politician (1890 - 1970)



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

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