



# Breakfast Chatter

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



August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Weekly Bulletin

Vol. 8 of '09/'10

## This week's speakers





### Luna and Lindsay talk ChangeFusion

**Luna Thakur Shrestha** comes from a background of hotel management. She worked abroad several years, mainly in the USA and Australia, summarizing her experiences in *Journey to the Self*. In 2008 she set up ChangeFusion Nepal, an organization directed to supporting young Nepalis with passion and ideas who wish to set up ventures beneficial to marginalized groups.

**Lindsay Friedman**, originally an academic phonetician in the University of Edinburgh, UK, has spend considerable time in Nepal since the early '70s. She has worked with many different institutions in Nepal. In 2005 she wrote *Conflict in Nepal, a Simplified Account*.

While neither are entrepreneurs themselves, they realize the need to harness the young towards creative survival within Nepal.

## Calendar

| Date                       | Theme  |
|----------------------------|--|
| August 29 <sup>th</sup>    | District Membership Seminar<br>Venue: Anmol Banquet Hall, Naxal, Kathmandu, Nepal.<br>Registration fee : Rs. 400/- (inclusive of Breakfast and Lunch)<br>Time : Registration and Breakfast 08:00 – 09:00<br>Seminar session from 09:00 – 13:00 followed by Lunch.<br>Tea will be served during the seminar session.  |
| August 29 <sup>th</sup>    | Invitation from the Rotary Club of Patan on the occasion of their 24 <sup>th</sup> Charter Night.<br>Venue: Hotel Himalaya; Time: 5.30 PM onwards. All are invited.  |
| Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>      |  <b>Indra jatra</b> -- this festival named after Lord Indra- the God of Rain and also the King of Heaven is celebrated by both the Buddhists and Hindus. This festival lasts for eight days with singing, mask dancing and rejoicing. The chariot of Kumari – the Living Goddess is taken through the main streets of Kathmandu with much fanfare.  |
| September 8 <sup>th</sup>  | The United Nations' <b>International Literacy Day</b> . According to UNESCO, about 774 million adults lack the minimum literacy skills. One in five adults is still not literate and two-thirds of them are women. About 75 million children are out-of-school and many more attend irregularly or drop out. However, literacy is also a cause for celebration on the day because there are nearly four billion literate people in the world   |
| September 10 <sup>th</sup> |  <b>AWON Membership Tea</b> in the Waterfall Garden of the Radisson Hotel from 2-5PM.<br>The <b>Active Women of Nepal</b> was started more than 40 years ago as a volunteer organization where both expatriate and local women could come together to share a cup of tea, network, and do some good work for the women and children of Nepal. Its vision is to promote interaction, fellowship, and understanding among women living and working in Nepal. Membership is open to all women. |



## Last week's speaker

### *DGE Tirta Man expounds on the constitutional process*



This week Mid-Town hosted the multi-talented Rotarian District Governor Elect (DGE) **Tirta Man Sakya** who gave a talk on the constitutional process as it is now unfolding in Nepal. Rtn. Tirta Man, who is a lawyer by training, and who has been, among other things in a long and distinguished career, the Law Secretary, is in a unique position to elucidate some of the fine points of the constitutional process. Mid-Town sat in wrapt interest as he explained intricacies and potential contradictions – there were many nods among Mid-Towners, a silent acknowledgement and realisation of why it has been so difficult to grasp the gist of the process from the mere short snippets in the newspapers. Nepal is making history in its constitutional process and Mid-Town thanks the DGE for clarifying some of it. Mid-Town looks forward to seeing more of Rtn Tirta Man his coming year as DGE and in the year after that as District Governor of District 3292.

## Rotary Foundation Seminar

On August 15 a Rotary Foundation Seminar was held at the Lalitpur Party Palace in Pulchowk. PP Mani, who is the District Chairperson for the Rotary Foundation was a key presenter. Also in attendance for Mid-Town was this year's TRF Chair, Rtn Peter Morris; PP Yogrendra, and President Subarna attended as well.

Rtn. Peter reported that at this TRF seminar he had learnt of the of the Rotary Foundation's **Bequest Society**. See below.



## Did you know?

The Rotary Foundation recognises couples or individuals who have made commitments of \$10,000 or more in their estate plans, such as in a will, living trust, or through whole or universal life insurance, by offering membership in the **Bequest Society**. All Bequest Society members receive recognition from the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation. Donors may elect to receive an engraved crystal recognition piece and a Bequest Society pin. You must ask to become a Bequest Society member by filling out a form. More information available at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

## Mid-Town Fellowship



Mid-Town was happy to welcome **Ms. Baba Sarkar Shrestha** – Baba, who is the newly appointed editor of the *Shangri-la Magazine* (in-flight magazine for the NAC) was invited to attend by PP CK. At Friday morning's fellowship Baba discovered that she knew many more Mid-Towners than she had originally expected and had quite a good time renewing old acquaintances.

The Breakfast Chatter's intrepid team of paparazzi has even managed to capture the elusive and rarely sighted **Rtn. Dr. Neil** on film. Why is everyone smiling? is that a membership renewal in progress? With this luck, the next issue of BC may even report a sighting of Nessi!

## Mid-Town's kind concern



Mid-Town showed its continuing kindness and caring for the less fortunate last week when, during a collection, it raised Rs 54,000.00 for the kidney care of Krishana Bahadur Chitrakar. A check has been issued to National Kidney Centre.



The trio of Rotaract Clubs (Kathmandu Mid-Town + Pokhara Mid-Town + Narayani Mid-Town) have won the bid to host the first President/Secretary District Meet to be held in Pokhara. Three cheers for our Rotractors! Sponsorship for the event is kindly requested from friends, business houses and companies. Please give generously to support this endeavour of our youth.

The photo at the right shows the three handsome Rotaracts who attended this week's meeting. President Anil Shresth (far right), Anil Chowhary (middle) and Sandesh Sharma (far left). Both new members are with the Mid-Town Rotaract Professional Development Committee.



## Origin of the 4-Way Test

### *Is it the truth?*

By Paul Engleman (adapted) from *The Rotarian* -- August 2009

It is a story so familiar to most Rotarians that it has evolved beyond lore and become assimilated into the genetic code of the organization. In 1932, Herbert J. Taylor, the newly appointed president of a nearly bankrupt Chicago cookware company, believing his employees were in need of an "ethical yardstick," wrote four questions on a small, white piece of paper:

Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

When Taylor penned what came to be known as **The Four-Way Test**, the country was in the grip of the Great Depression, and there was widespread distrust of banks and corporations after the stock market crash three years earlier. At the Club Aluminum Products Company, a new and expensive type of cookware was being sold with rapidly declining success by door-to-door salesmen using high-pressure tactics. Taylor came to believe that applying his test to Club's advertising and sales methods was the key factor that led to the company's remarkable return to profitability.

Before implementing the test as a company policy, Taylor consulted four managers – a Roman Catholic, a Christian Scientist, an Orthodox Jew, and a Presbyterian – to make sure nothing in it conflicted with "their religious or moral beliefs." He came to see the test as useful beyond business, writing in his autobiography, "Anyone who checks his thoughts, his words and deeds against The Four-Way Test before he expresses himself or takes action is almost certain to do the right thing. In the 54 years since Taylor graced the cover of *Newsweek* magazine as president of Rotary International during its 50th anniversary year, The Four-Way Test is still front and center in Rotary circles, with most club members reciting it before meetings and applying it to personal and professional challenges. But in the midst of another economic crisis and a period marked by corporate greed and scandal, this seems an appropriate time to renew acquaintances with one of the key figures in the history of Rotary.



## Life from the stars



### *Such stuff as dreams are made on\**

NASA discovers life's building blocks first delivered to earth by meteorites and comets

The giant molecular clouds that form the stars that fill the night sky are full of organic molecules, including carbon and other organic elements that living things are made of. Earlier this week NASA scientists announced the exciting news that they have discovered glycine, a fundamental building block of life, in samples of comet Wild 2 returned by NASA's

Stardust spacecraft. "Glycine is an amino acid used by living organisms to make proteins -the workhorse molecules of life- and this is the first time an amino acid has been found in a comet," said Dr. Jamie Elsila of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. "Our discovery supports the theory that some of life's ingredients formed in space and were delivered to Earth long ago by meteorite and comet impacts."

"The discovery of glycine in a comet supports the idea that the fundamental building blocks of life are prevalent in space, and strengthens the argument that life in the universe may be common rather than rare," said Dr. Carl Pilcher, Director of the NASA Astrobiology Institute.

Maybe life did originate in outer space after all – and just perhaps, there is more in heaven and earth than is dreamt of in our philosophies. For more information: [www.dailygalaxy.com](http://www.dailygalaxy.com).

\*apologies to PP Gori and W. Churchill for ending in a preposition; but, a quote from the Bard is one for which a few grammatical exceptions can be made, no?

## Mid-Town Humor



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