



# Breakfast Chatter



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

October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008

Weekly Bulletin

Vol. 14 of '08/'09

## Speaker of the Week



The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been working in Nepal for over 40 years and is one of the few humanitarian agencies that managed to maintain its programmes in the remotest parts of the country despite the last decade of conflict. **Richard Ragan**, Representative of the World Food Programme in Nepal will speak to Mid-Town on ***The UN in a Globalised World***.

## Calendar

Date	Theme
Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>	United Nations Day and World Development Information Day International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>	World Food Programme Representative in Nepal, Mr. Richard Ragan will speak on 'The UN in a Globalised World' (see above).
Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Visiting Rt. Hans-Martin Seuch of RC Darmstadt-Bergstrasse District 1860, Germany, will be the Mid-Town speaker of the week.
Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>	In-house seminar on Mid-Town ANM Project by PP Rtn. <b>CK Golchha</b> . Visit by the Rotary Club of Virum, District 1470, Denmark. Rtn. Dr. Torben Boesen, who is heading this group of 14 visiting Rotarians and spouses, will give Mid-Town a short recap on work they have been involved with in donating hearing aids to Nepal.
Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Club Assembly
Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup>	No meeting on Friday, Charter Night to be celebrated the following day.
Nov. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mid-Town Charter Night. Details to follow.
Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup>	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
December	TRF Seminar hosted by RC Patan. Details to follow.
December	Rotary Stewardship Seminar hosted by RC Durbar Square. President and TRF Chair kindly requested to attend. Details to follow.
Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas break - no meeting.
Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup>	International Day for Biological Diversity
January	Mid-Town Family Pot Luck Cook-off Contest. Details to follow.

## Rotary International News



### RI president addresses UN forum

By Ryan Hyland (adapted)

RI President Dong Kurn Lee praised the 20-year partnership between Rotary and the United Nations in fighting polio during at a forum in New York, attended by top government and civic leaders, Lee reaffirmed Rotary's commitment to working with the UN to eradicate polio and build a healthier, more peaceful world. "We have brought the world closer to the end of a disease and to

the achievement of the fourth Millennium Development Goal: reducing child mortality," Lee said, "We have created partnerships that will endure and will yield benefits far beyond the elimination of one disease."

Lee and other RI leaders spent four days in New York in September participating in several forums, convened to assess progress made toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals adopted by world leaders in 2000. The forum brought together a broad coalition of government leaders, philanthropists, and development agencies who recommitted to slashing poverty, hunger, and disease by 2015.

The photo above shows RI President Dong Kurn Lee addressing government and civic leaders during a 25 September forum convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in New York. *Photo courtesy of the UN Photo Library.*

### RI President Lee set to Visit Nepal in November

Rotarians in Nepal will get a chance to meet RI President Dong Kurn Lee when he visits Nepal in November. A number of events are being planned. BC will keep you informed of dates and venues.

## Mid-Town News

### A Vision for Clean Water Comes to Mid-Town

Last Friday (Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>) PE Rtn. Eileen and Rt. John Heasley of the RC Troy Michigan visited Mid-Town and told of the quest they have been on these past few years to promote clean water and to make it a priority for Rotary. 'Clean Water' now has the potential to replace 'polio' as

Rotary's next big world-wide project. Rtn. Eileen, who is President Elect of her Club, told of her chance meeting with PP Dr. Lekha a few years ago ... and as the saying goes... the rest is history. The Heasleys are presently on their 6<sup>th</sup> trip to Nepal.

Over the past few years the Heasleys have learned biosands water filter technology (left) and have taught it to countless others. They are true 'water project champions' and have

done much to promote affordable SBL (Solutions Benefiting Life) ceramic filters.



Mid-Town wishes them good luck in their endeavors and looks forward to seeing them again soon. Visit the '[A Vision for Clean Water](http://www.avisionforcleanwater.org)' web page at [www.avisionforcleanwater.org](http://www.avisionforcleanwater.org). The Heasleys can be contacted at [jheasley@core.com](mailto:jheasley@core.com).

### What was in the box?



As part of this year's new approach, visitors and speakers to Mid-Town receive the Mid-Town 'mug' emblazoned with the Mid-Town logo on the front and this year's theme 'Make Dreams Real' on the back.



## One Thousand Kilos of Rice for Shanti Sewa Griha



On World Food Day (Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>) Mid-Town's Rotarians and Rotractors were at Shanti Sewa Griha for the handing over of almost\* 1000 Kgs of rice a quantity of rice will help to feed all of the people at Shanti Sewa for 10 days!



The rice was generously donated by Mid-Town's Rotarians and collected over several months from the village on the outskirts of Kathmandu by our intrepid Rotractors. Over the past few months *Breakfast Chatter* has followed these collections in the villages of Panga, Kirtipur and Naikap. Rotaract President Anil told BC that the collections

were good fun and that it was a great way to interact with villagers. Rotaractors were impressed at how generous the villagers were in sharing their extra supplies of rice. He told that there were also a few comical moments when Nepali speaking Rotractors confronted the Newari language barrier. Rotaractors persisted and their mirthful hand gestures and honest efforts were well appreciated by the villagers who, while having a good laugh, gave them even more rice.



Shanti Sewa Griha Chairman, Krishna Gurung, accepted the donations on part of the clinic and rehabilitation centre. DGE Ratna Man Sakya was on hand to say a few words and to observe donation first-hand, he said, "Seeing is believing!"

\*actually only 987Kgs have been collected so far... the possibility to donate is still open. Make your donation by contacting coordinator PP Rtn. Lekha today at [racs@wlink.com.np](mailto:racs@wlink.com.np).

## What is Shanti Sewa Griha?

**Shanti Sewa Griha** is located in a small alley just across the main gate of Pashupatinath Temple, it is an NGO founded in 1992 to help leprosy affected people, the poor, the sick, the handicapped and orphans. It is supported in part by its twin organization in Germany **Shanti Leprahilfe** of Dortmund Germany. Shanti aims to provide (fee of charge) shelter, food, education and medicine rehabilitation services, and vocational training for victims of leprosy, the handicapped, the poor, internally displaced persons, and others who might be in need.



Shanti's main activities include: 1.) A free clinic with both out-patient and in-patient care that caters to anyone who is sick and needs hospitalization but cannot afford to pay. Since 1992 more than 186,000 patients have been given care. 2.) Home and hospice for former leprosy patients or otherwise handicapped persons and their families who have no other recourse. People from outside the valley are admitted almost daily.



3.) A disabled children's centre that is now a 30-bed unit and cares for children afflicted with mental retardation, epilepsy, polio, cerebral palsy or are otherwise handicapped. 4.) Shanti Sewa operates 2 nurseries that care for young children while their mothers are off at work. Currently 9 teachers teach and care for over 100 children. The children enjoy education, art and music classes inspired by the Waldorf movement. 5.) Shanti's malnutrition centre helps to rehabilitate undernourished children and aims to teach their mothers how to cook nutritious and hygienic food. 6) Shanti's Vocational Training Workshops believe that deformities and handicaps are no barrier to the self esteem and dignity that meaningful work brings. Four hundred people now work and learn in Shanti's four workshops. 7.) Shanti's organic vegetable garden in Budhanilkantha produces the organic produce for two meals a day for all of Shanti's 586 people! This centre has become a training centre for organic and sustainable farming.

Watch for a BBC World News television feature on Shanti Sewa– check for the schedule on: <http://www.bbcworldnews.com/Pages/Schedules.aspx>. Also look for feature articles on Shanti in the October issues of Newsweek magazine.

**Below:** Shanti's Chairman Mr. Krishna Gurung.



### Help Shanti Sewa Griha win the BB's World Challenge!

Shanti Sewa Griha has been short-listed for the BBC's World Challenge 2008 competition. You can help them to win by voting for them on-line. This is how to do it:

1. Go to <http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/>
2. Select "A Chance to Grow, Shanti Sewa Griha - Nepal"
3. Click "Vote for them" and you will get voting form.
4. Fill in your name, E-mail address and country then vote for Shanti Sewa Griha
5. Why them?: Fill in your own answer or "For their outstanding and unmatched work to empower untouchable and socially neglected people in Nepal by making them productive and creative and introducing bio-dynamic methods in this rich yet neglected land"
6. Conclude by ticking "I agree with the terms and conditions."
7. Your vote will be acknowledged with "Thank you for your vote".

**Voting ends at 5 GMT on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov., 2008. Vote now!**  
And get your friends to vote too!

## Mid-Towners Take in Spanish Dance



Kathmandu was given a rare treat this past week when the Spanish dance group Incepacion Danza came to town. HE the Honorary Consul for Spain PP Rtn Ambica invited Mid-Towners to the event. This most unusual dance group was born in 1993 out of the willingness to research the world of Spanish and Flamenco dance, in an attempt to unite these traditional techniques with the aesthetic parameters and the choreography of contemporary dance.



Over the past fifteen years the company has presented its work in more than 20 countries around the world. Dance Magazine, New York says, 'Incepacion Danza' aims to transcend the traditional, to elevate it to the ultimate levels of originality, creativity, imagination, and artistry. This objective, the group has attained superbly. Yet, in having done so, Incepacion Danza has remained unmistakably, unequivocally, and dramatically Spanish in identity, spirit and essence..."

## Mid-Town Humour



Where is the mouse? Satisfied cat!

Please send information/suggestions/photos for the next volume to:  
Breakfast Chatter editor: Dr. Isabella C. Bassignana Khadka at email: [isa@mos.com.np](mailto:isa@mos.com.np)