



# Breakfast Chatter



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

January 13<sup>th</sup> 2009      Weekly Bulletin      Vol. 25 of '08/'09

## This Week: Club Assembly

### Calendar

Date	Theme
Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<p>First day of Magh, Magh Sankranti, is possibly the coldest day of the year. On this day in Nepal people eat 'chakku', 'gheeu' and sesame seed treats to keep warm and to ward off the cold. Keep warm – better weather is in store!</p> <p>According to Wikipedia: Sankranti is a harvest festival celebrated in many South East Asian Countries. Makara Sankranti has special geo-agri-economical significance - is about transition of Sun into Capricorn on its celestial path. This is significant considering in the Winter Solstice marking a gradual increase in the duration of daylight hours. The day on which the sun begins its journey northwards is referred to as Makara Sankranti. In Sanskrit Sankramana means "to commence movement" and so the name.</p> 
Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Mid-Town Club Assembly. Please note: no guests at Club Assembly.
Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	 <p>Mid-Town Family Pot Luck Cook-off Contest (details to follow.)</p>
Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup>	To be announced.
Feb.6 <sup>th</sup>	 <p>Dr. Hem Sagar Baral is Nepal's first ornithologist and Chief Executive Officer of Bird Conservation Nepal will talk to us on the discovery of a new sub-species of Rufous-vented Prinia in Nepal.</p>
June 21-24 <sup>th</sup>	 <p>If you haven't been back to Birmingham since the 1984 convention, you may not recognize this former industrial town. Now a lively canal city known for its outstanding shopping and dining, Birmingham — or Brum, as the natives call it — underwent a dramatic facelift in the 1990s. The transformation resulted in a modern, more pedestrian-friendly city that retains traces of its medieval and Industrial Age roots.</p> <p>If you will be attending, please inform our President or Club Secretary as soon as possible as they need to inform the Chair of District RI Convention Promotion Committee who will be coordinating the group travel package benefits.</p>

## Rotary International News



The photo shows a volunteer swimmer helps round up the rubber ducks after the Great Kitsap Duck Race, the annual fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Silverdale, Washington, USA. Last year, the Rotarians raised \$93,000 to support local charities.

AP Photo/Carolyn J. Yaschur

### *Tune in Rotary radio*

Rotary International News -- 30 September 2008

Fans of classic radio will love the Rotary Golden Theater Radio Show, which RI produced in 1955 for its 50th anniversary. All 13 episodes of the radio series are available online.

For more information, e-mail RI's History and Archives Department at [history@rotary.org](mailto:history@rotary.org).

## Mid-Town Speakers



### Mid-Town visit by former NPC Chair Dr. Shankar Sharma

This week Mid-Town was honoured to have as its guest speaker former NPC Chair Dr. Shankar Sharma. Dr. Sharma held the Club's wrapped attention as he told his theories

on how the current global economic crisis may play out in Nepal. Mid-Towners were full of questions (as usual) and Dr. Sharma cheerfully countered and engaged them in economic dialogue. The questions ranged from theories on inflation, to what the current interest rates should be. Mid-Towners were full of good prescriptions for the government and fiscal policy. As you can see from the photos of PP Ambica and IPP Walter a good time was had by all.



## Get Well Soon



### Get Well Soon for Rtn. Sharmila

Mid-Town extends its hearty get well soon good wishes to Rtn. Sharmila who is recovering from surgery. Wishing you all the best and hope to see you smiling back at Mid-Town fellowship soon!

## Walking among the planets

By Peter Schmidtke , RI News -- 12 December 2008

The Rotary Club of Anchorage raised \$620,000 for the planet walk, which includes this three-sided digital Sun station. Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Anchorage In Anchorage, Alaska, USA, you don't need a telescope to look at the planets -- you can walk to them.

The secret is a scale-model planet walk created by the Rotary Club of Anchorage and amateur astronomer Eli Menaker. Interested trekkers start in downtown Anchorage at a 3-ton model of the sun and encounter each of the planets along a 10-mile route ending at a ski chalet.

Every step equals 186,000 miles, and heading to Jupiter from Earth is a little more than a half-hour stroll.

Menaker introduced the idea for a temporary walk to city officials in 2003 while a student at Service High School in Anchorage. Before heading off to Middlebury College in Vermont, he was approached by Anchorage Rotarians with the idea of making permanent planet displays, as part of the club's centennial project.

"We ended up drawing from people in different walks of life. We had fundraisers, we had engineers and people with science backgrounds," says club member Julius Brecht, an attorney and former NASA physicist.

The Anchorage club raised more than \$620,000 to enhance Menaker's plan. Menaker says his original Sun was a circular tarp covered with yellow adhesive tape. "I quickly realized we had to step that up," he said.

A local artist used over 2,400 ceramic tiles to craft a 12-foot-by-6-foot hemispherical model of the sun and sculpted sunspots to scale.

Menaker wrote text describing the planets and consulted with an artist and a contractor to configure the planet kiosks. Brecht worked to create a digital display for the Sun station at the start of the walk.

"I told our committee that what would really add some zing would be to make it interactive," says Brecht.

Rotarians designed the three-sided, 9-foot-tall Sun station with three screens on which participants can view Native American sun stories and NASA images.

Before the club dedicated the walk to the city in August 2006, members reached out to the city's school district and to the Imaginarium science center to incorporate the project into their curriculums. Additionally, Rotarians have pushed the fitness aspect of the walk through events like the Run/Walk Winter Solstice Challenge on 21 December.



## Mid-Town's Major Donor

### Mid-Town's Charter President becomes a Major Donor

Recognition Amount(US\$)	PHF Level	Pin donor or recipient is eligible to wear
1,000-1,999	PHF	original PHF pin
2,000-2,999	PHF+1	one sapphire
3,000-3,999	PHF+2	two sapphires
4,000-4,999	PHF+3	three sapphires
5,000-5,999	PHF+4	four sapphires
6,000-6,999	PHF+5	five sapphires
7,000-7,999	PHF+6	one ruby
8,000-8,999	PHF+7	two rubies
9,000-10,000	PHF+8	three rubies
10,000+		diamond

Mid-Town's Charter President, Rtn. Roop, has become a Major Donor. He is shown in the photo sporting his major donor pin -- complete with inset diamond.





## Rotary Photo Contest

*Give us your best shot*

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!

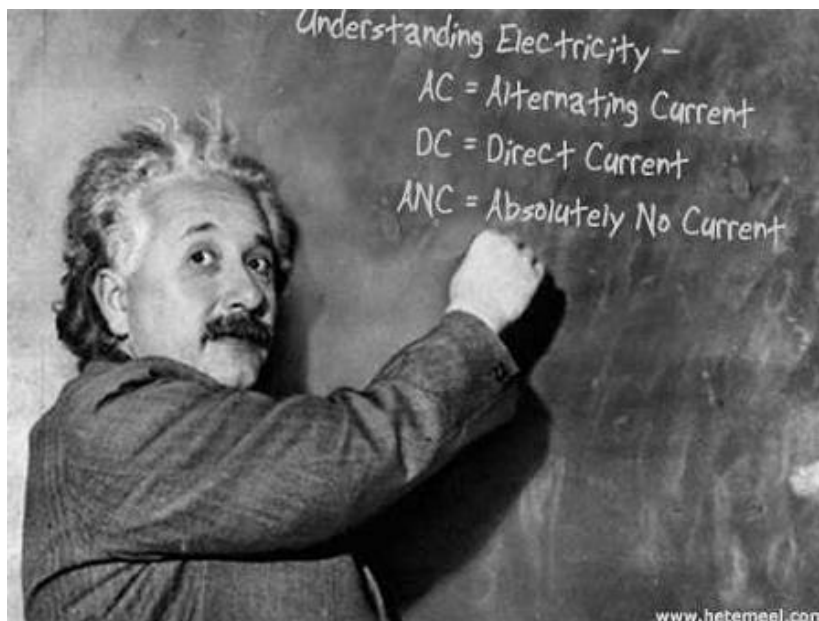


## Mid-Towners Abroad



During his trip to South India last month, Rtn. Pratap had a chance to attend the fellowship meeting of RC MADHURI, rather more by accident than by intent as they happened to meet in the hotel he was staying at. RC MADHURI was very surprised to meet a Nepali abroad and they were keen to learn about our activities in Nepal. Rtn. Pratap took the opportunity to tell them about our new Rotary District 3292 and about RC Kathmandu Mid-Town in general, including our MG projects. They appreciated the short presentation. The attached photo shows Rtn. Pratap with the President and Secretary of their club.

*If Einstein had lived in South Africa (or Nepal .....)*



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

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