



Breakfast Chatter

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



October 22th 2009 Weekly Bulletin Vol. 16 of '09/'10

This week's speaker



Dr Shanker Sharma *"Economic Diplomacy"*

Dr. Shanker Sharma has recently been appointed as the Ambassador of the Government of Nepal to the United States of America. He will speak to on "Economic Diplomacy".

Dr. Sharma was former the Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission,

Calendar

Date	Theme
October 30 th	Speaker and Topic to be announced in the next edition of the bulletin.
	World Polio Day This October marks 95 years since Jonas Salk, developer of the first safe and effective polio vaccine, was born. Saturday, 24 October, is World Polio Day – a perfect opportunity to join the fight to end the disease. Rotary made polio eradication its top philanthropic goal in 1985. As the lead private sector contributor and volunteer arm of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative -- a public/private partnership spearheaded by World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF -- Rotary has contributed more than US\$ 800 million to ending polio. To date, more than two billion children have been immunized and polio cases have declined by 99 percent in the past two decades. Yet, serious challenges remain in the four polio-endemic countries: India , Pakistan , Afghanistan , and Nigeria.
October 24 th	Celebrate World Polio Day
November 6 th	President Eileen Heasely of Rotary Club of Troy /Michigan Canada along with spouse Rtn. John Topic : 6 years experience of knowing Nepal and its people - especially Rotarians and Rotaracts "

Itzhak Perlman joins New York Philharmonic in Concert to End Polio

by Wayne Hearn and Dan Nixon

Rotary International News -- 19 October 2009



Itzhak Perlman will perform in a benefit concert 2 December at 7:30 p.m. in Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. [Buy tickets](#). *Photo by Akira Kinoshita*

Rotary International is teaming up with violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman and the world-renowned New York Philharmonic to present the Concert to End Polio, a benefit performance supporting the global effort to eradicate this disabling, sometimes fatal, childhood disease.

The concert will be held on 2 December at 7:30 p.m. in Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. [Buy tickets](#).

The polio eradication effort resonates strongly with Perlman, who contracted the disease at age four and overcame serious physical challenges to become one of the world's most celebrated musicians. In this special one-night-only performance, his first with the New York Philharmonic in four years, Perlman will help Rotary in its effort to raise \$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"We are honored that an artist of Mr. Perlman's stature and a cultural institution as revered as the New York Philharmonic are supporting Rotary in our effort to achieve a polio-free world," says RI President John Kenny. "Their participation demonstrates the importance of this unprecedented global health initiative. It will be our lasting gift to the world's children." [Watch a video](#).

"The fact that polio is still around is ridiculous," says Perlman, winner of 15 Grammy Awards, plus a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. "There is absolutely no excuse for anyone to get polio. This is an issue that has to be dealt with immediately."

Tickets to the concert are priced between \$70 and \$200. A private reception with Perlman will follow the concert. A premium concert seat and admission to the reception will be offered at a package price of \$500. Music program information will be announced at a later date.

- To buy tickets, phone the Philharmonic box office at 212-875-5656 (10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily) and mention that you're a Rotarian so you can access the block of tickets reserved for Rotarians until 1 November.
- Tickets also can be [purchased online](#) through the Philharmonic, but they are not part of the Rotary ticket block. Tickets are expected to go quickly. All proceeds will benefit [Rotary's US\\$200 Million Challenge](#).
- If you can't attend the concert, [donate online now to help eradicate polio](#).
- Help promote this special event by placing an ad in your club or district newsletter or on its Web site. Download graphics and learn more at www.rotary.org/endpolioconcert.
- Also, [download a press release](#) about the event.

Rotary International, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. Since then, ending polio has been Rotary's top priority. The number of polio cases has been slashed by more than 99 percent, preventing five million cases of childhood paralysis and 250,000 deaths.

The wild poliovirus remains endemic in just four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. However, the final 1 percent of cases are the most difficult and expensive to prevent, which is why support for Rotary's challenge is crucial to the initiative's success.

Mid-Town Reflection

Two Boxes of God

I have in my hands two boxes which God gave me to hold
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black, And all your joys in the gold."

I heeded His words, and in the two boxes
Both my joys and sorrows I stored

But though the gold became heavier each day
The black was as light as before

With curiosity, I opened the black
I wanted to find out why

And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God, and mused aloud,
"I wonder where my sorrows could be."

He smiled a gentle smile at me."
"My child, they're all here with me."

I asked, "God, why give me the boxes, Why the gold, and the black with the hole?"
"My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings, The black is for you to let go."

Author unknown (courtesy of Rotary Funstuff)

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