



Breakfast chatter



Weekly bulletin of the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-T own
District 3292, Club 26776, Chartered 8 Nov. 1989; 'Best Club' in Nepal 2009/2010

March 18th – March 24th 2011

Vol. 38 of '10/'11

Meeting on March 25th

Marianne Grosspietsch

Marianne Grosspietsch is the founder of the German NGO **Shanti Nepal**; for the past two decades this group has been helping leprosy patients in Nepal, one of the most ostracized and marginalized groups in society. Today, it's one of the biggest private aid organizations in the caring for more than 1,000 people. Shanti runs a hospital, a kindergarten, a school, a poor people's kitchen, as well as numerous textile, metal and paper workshops employing people with physical impediments. While being able to work increases leprosy patients' self-esteem, the sale of their handicrafts also helps fund the organization that otherwise relies on donations.



Founder **Marianne Grosspietsch** splits her time between Germany and the Kathmandu. On this occasion she will talk to us about the joy that she has in working with leprosy patients – to watch as the work they do transforms them from thinking of themselves as burdens to society into productive members who are not only workers but who become, artists, artisans and craftsmen.





Rotary International News

RI Convention 2011 in May

Join thousands of Rotarians in New Orleans for the 2011 RI Convention will be held 21-25 May 2011. *Let the Good Times Roll.* If you are planning to attend please let **PP CK know** so that he can put your name on the list.



| calendar | |
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| date | theme |
| <p align="center">March – Literacy Month</p> <p>“Literacy arouses hopes, not only in society as a whole but also in the individual who is striving for fulfilment, happiness and personal benefit by learning how to read and write. Literacy... means far more than learning how to read and write... The aim is to transmit... knowledge and promote social participation.” - UNESCO Institute for Education, Hamburg, Germany</p> | |
| 22 March |  <p>World Water Day 2011 is to focus international attention on the impact of rapid urban population growth, industrialization and uncertainties caused by climate change, conflicts and natural disasters on urban water systems. This year theme, <i>Water for cities: responding to the urban challenge</i>, aims to spotlight and encourage governments, organizations, communities, and individuals to actively engage in urban water management.</p> |
| 23 March | <p>World Meteorological Day 2011</p> <p>Climate for you Each year, on 23 March, the World Meteorological Organization, its 189 Members and the worldwide meteorological community celebrate World Meteorological Day around a chosen theme. This day commemorates the entry into force, on that date in 1950, of the WMO Convention creating the Organization. Subsequently, in 1951, WMO was designated a specialized agency of the United Nations System. This year, the theme is “Climate for you”.</p>  |
| 23 March |  <p>Republic Day of Pakistan was first observed in 1956 when Pakistan officially became an Islamic Republic. The main events of this day include a full military parade and the awarding of honours at the Presidency (Presidential Palace) by the President. Every year, on March 23, the Pakistani people commemorate their National Day in remembrance of “The Pakistan Resolution” passed on March 23, 1940, in the historic city of Lahore which is also the day the country was declared a republic.</p> |
| 26 March | <p>National Day of Bangladesh</p> <p>This day is celebrated as the Independence Day in Bangladesh. This commemorates the declaration of independence and the start of Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. The day is a national holiday in Bangladesh, and is celebrated with parades, and paying of respect at Jatiyo Smriti Soudho, the national memorial at Savar.</p>  |

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| 7 April |  | <p>World Health Day – 7 April 2011</p> <p>Antimicrobial resistance and its global spread</p> <p><u>Antimicrobial resistance: no action today no cure tomorrow</u></p> <p>We live in an era of medical breakthroughs with new wonder drugs available to treat conditions that a few decades ago, or even a few years ago in the case of HIV/AIDS, would have proved fatal. For World Health Day 2011, WHO will launch a worldwide campaign to safeguard these medicines for future generations. Antimicrobial resistance and its global spread threaten the continued effectiveness of many medicines used today to treat the sick, while at the same time it risks jeopardizing important advances being made against major infectious killers.</p> |
| April 8-11 |  | <p>Rotary District Conference District 3292 Nepal</p> <p>Theme: Commitment to Serve</p> <p>Venue: Nepal Army Officer's Club, Tundikhel, Kathmandu, NEPAL</p> |

Last week's speaker

Gen Thapa speaks to Mid-Town

Ret'd. Lt. Gen Krishna Narayan Singh Thapa regaled us last week with snippets of his exploits during his 40 year long history in the Nepalese army. Gen Thapa was the first Nepalese Army General to command two UN Peacekeeping Missions and the first Nepali ever to serve the UN as Assistant Secretary General. Since **Gen. Thapa** has retired he likes to use his experiences for the service of Nepal, by way of community and social services. He is also a critical observer of the security situation of the country and has written articles and given interviews to the media on security issues.



Visiting Rotarian

A Rotarian from RC Bangalore South



P.S. Ramesh of **RC Bangalore South** visited Mid-Town this week and told of the very good work that his Club and his **District 3190** have been up to. Among the projects they are supporting is a project to help 365 open-heart surgeries and 365 cataract surgeries in one year – in collaboration with their district. Mid-Town wishes them all the best.



Fellowship





District news

RC Wiesbaden Rheingau inaugurates school in Dhading

Last week 26 Rotarians from the **RC Wiesbaden Rheingau** Germany and **Mr. Andreas Falk** President of the German Nepalese Help Association (GNHA) visited Nepal to inaugurate the Shanti Kali Primary School, in Katinje VDC at Dhading that they have supported for 6.5 million Nrs.

On their return they were hosted by **RC Kasthamandap Charter President Gajendra Shrestha** (below in white shirt), and **Mid-Towner HE Verena Graefin von Roedern** (the German ambassador) was also in attendance. Congratulations to all on a job well done.





Mid-town & District news



From dream to reality



The Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town (Rotary District 3292) initiates and facilitates the signing of the MOU, between the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano (South Tyrol – northern Italy), Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) and the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town for a long term collaboration for the provision of Fire Brigade equipments and civil protection. □





Life many times is unpredictable, so as with the recently successfully concluded understanding between the partners. It started with the visit of **Dr. Ing. Ernst Preyer** to Nepal some years back when he and his wife searched for adopting a Nepalese child. Since then visiting Nepal every year brought the Director of the Professional Fire Brigade of Bolzano/Bozen (northern Italy) close to Nepal. Hence meeting his fellow citizen **Rtn. Navyo Eller** (RC Kathmandu Mid-Town) brought them together on thinking how to do something for Nepal. Mr. Preyer thought about the poor condition of the Fire Brigade and that an upgrade is very important in view of the capital valley actual situation while being unable to get in touch to the right people over here.

Through RC Kathmandu Mid-Town with President Rtn. Pratap Malla, CSD Rtn. Amar Panta & Rtn. Navyo Eller, it started in exploring the possibilities, by visiting the Local Fire Brigade at Basantapur and meeting the CEO at the Kathmandu Metropolitan City. We were flatly told that it was the Government policy "... not to accept any second hand vehicles, as the country has the policy of "NO dumping ground for this type". It took lot of time to convince that Authorities that new fire engine were technologically too sophisticated for handling by the personnel of the Fire Brigade.

Through **DG Tirtha Man Sakya** an approach was made to Prime Minister Mahadav Kumar Nepal. After much deliberations and the OK from the PM, the message was passed down to the Ministry of Local Development and finally to the Kathmandu Metropolitan City. With this, the way was clear, resulting in the acceptance of the signing of the MOU which was with a special function at the KMC on 8 Mar. 2011 with the Delegation from Italy headed by **President HE Dr. Luis Durnwalder** of the Autonomous Province of Bozen / Bolzano – Italy, **Mr. Ganesh Rai, CEO of KMC**, Rotary Members Rtn. Pratap and Rtn. Amar as Witness and Rtn. Navyo as the local representative of the Autonomous Province of Bozen / Bolzano in Nepal for the present project.

An audience for the visiting Italian Delegation with the **Prime Minister Jhala Nath Khanal** on March 9 which was organized with the help of **PP Rtn. Komal Chitracar**. The Italian Delegation was honoured by Rotary at **Hotel Dwarika** during a separate signing of the MOU by the Witnesses - Club President Rtn. Pratap & CSD Rtn. Amar & Rtn Navyo as the local representative of the Autonomous Province of Bozen / Bolzano in Nepal in the presence of President HE Dr. Luis Durnwalder and our **DG Tirtha Man Sakya**, followed by exchange of presentations, a champagne toast and a Dinner program. The Delegation left on next day with instructions that a Team be sent to visit Bolzano very soon. The first consignment is expected to arrive by June to July this year and will consist of the following first batch including a Fire Truck with aerial ladder 100 ft., a heavy rescue truck, a small rescue truck, a car for personnel pick up with fire extinguishers unit, various fighting equipment & protective jackets etc.

The project will further include civil protection training and expand in the future according to the MOU. Rotary Nepal will be connected through Mid-Town at all stages in this high profile initiative and we are sure, it will further enhance the good name Rotary already has in the society.



Mid-town remembers



The tsunami in Japan has affected a wide swath of the northeast coast of the island nation. A massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter near the city of Sendai set off a series of waves that have so far wreaked incalculable damage.

Pres. Pratap sent the following letter of condolence to the Rotarians who visited us in October (photo below) and who were so generous to Nepal.

Dear Rtn. Hitosi Fujihara,
*It's been some time since we, in RC - Kathmandu Mid Town, have had the honor & privilege to have a joint meeting with our sister, **Rotary Club, "Higashi Osaka - Nishi Rotary Club"**, on 28 Oct. 2010. To have such a large delegation, under the leadership of PP UNAI TATSUTA, who has been a frequent visitor in Nepal, was very much appreciated, specially as it was an occasion to re establish our sister Rotary Club spirit. We hope we can maintain this. We know that with the earthquake and the Tsunami disaster that has swept part of Japan, it is a very difficult and challenging time for the Japanese people. The aftermath is still a bigger challenge. As your sister Rotary Club, we in RC - Kathmandu Mid Town, share the grief faced by you at this time of national calamity. We send our sincere moral support, through you, to the people of Japan. With the stoic stance taken by the people of Japan to face this disaster, it has been an example of the forbearance, patience, and true character of the Japanese people.*

Regards and best wishes.
YIR, Pratap Malla,
President: RC - KMT



A Woman's Perspective



One night President Obama and his wife Michelle decided to do something out of routine and go for a casual dinner at a restaurant that wasn't too luxurious. When they were seated, the owner of the restaurant asked the president's secret service if he could please speak to the First Lady in private. They obliged and Michelle had a conversation with the owner. Following this conversation, President Obama asked Michelle, why was he so interested in talking to you? She mentioned that in her teenage years, he had been madly in love with her. President Obama then said, "So, if you had married him, you would now be the owner of this lovely restaurant.", to which Michelle responded, "No, if I had married him, he would now be President."

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

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