

THE BREAKFAST CHATTER

The Weekly Bulletin of the **Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town** - Volume No. 10/01 for # 830 April, 7th 2006

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DEAR MIDTOWNERS ► FRIENDS IN **ROTARY**

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2063.

This week **Lisa** had birthday, but alas she has become a permanent absentia. So no sunshine no happy birthday card, but still our best wishes are with her.

Last Friday we had the second day of a four day Bandh (let's not count the additional curfew days). So it was no wonder that our speaker didn't appear. But still 9 of our members decided to have a breakfast together in Annapurna. It was great to see a walking community, most of us in casual clothes, coming together and enjoying a togetherness of friends. We all got the feeling a Bandh per month can be a healthy matter and might become a lovely event instead of a nuisance.

We expect our speaker on water and water treatment now on coming Friday. It's difficult to trace people on curfew days, as they like to wander in their dreams. But he came after half an hour on the line and sleepily agreed to be in Annapurna Hotel on Friday morning. Topic is definitely interesting. As far as our annual picnic is concerned it gets slowly a real club event, where everybody gets involved, even via the own spouses. More see below.

This time our **Rotary International** chapter is focused on history, means how did Rotary develop in India. May be 80 years from now our own Rotary history will become interesting again, even though one has to admit that our arrival at a district has a fascinating story. Rotary in India shows us, that a way never is only up, there are also times of fluctuation. But up it goes.

Our other topic this time is a continuation of last times topic on where to look for good returns on our savings, if we don't want to put it in the banks, real estate or share market. If you are a lover of art, then the NEPALI art scene is nowadays exciting. And while our heritage culture gets negative marks due to deterioration by uncaring behavior, the worldwide art market gets remarkably more open for our own living artists.

Hope you'll enjoy reading. Until next time
Walter

SPEAKER OF THE WEEK ► Prakash Amatya Exec Director, NGO Forum for Urban Water & Sanitation

THEME

On coming **Friday, 7th April** we will have a topic which we nowadays really experience due to its scarcity. Water! In the time when we are starting to get thirsty for water it seems an adequate topic. Let's hope that Bandh or curfew will not catch us again.

Below you'll find our planned activities. As you must have found out meanwhile, this has always been a tentative schedule. So don't be surprised if changes are taking place.

UPCOMING **SPEAKERS ► PREVIEW**

| DATE | SPEAKER | THEME |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 14th April | Prakash Amatya | water management |
| 21 st April | DR RR Koirala | Ayurveda, chances and limitations |
| 28 th April | Shrijana Thapa | topic still to be defined |
| 5 th May | Club Assembly | Last one for this year |

14th April 2006

Our president proposed a meeting of interested Rotarians after the regular meeting to discuss the formation of an official walking fellowship. Club members present will join thereafter in a short walk as part of celebrating New Year Day. Where to walk depends on the mood when we meet.

May 6th 2006

Yearly Picnic Rotary URGENT

Most of you have got the minutes of our spouses meeting, so there is no need to repeat it here in detail. It is going to be a POTLUCK, fund raising picnic. Since this is a fund raising event our spouses will be organizing different games and would also like to hold an auction for which contributions are requested. Who is ready? Please also send to diller@htp.com.np the information of who will participate together with family members and friends. As the next meeting of our spouses will be on 17th April please send info before that date.

Annual Fellowship Meeting at Syangboche on Nepalese New Year

to observe Nepalese New Year at the highest point we have committed to go to Syangboche at least for another year to give consistency in activities. This meeting was supposed to be called during November end, but due to the schedules of most of the members and clubs; this could be called only now. Like last year, discussions are on to include value additions to this fellowship meeting. Rotarian families and friends are also invited. Participants of last year are requested to promote and join this year's program. Those who missed last year's event are encouraged to join this year. Details of itinerary, costs, programs etc. will be circulated soon and 'Orientation' and 'Interaction Meeting' will be called as well. For more info please contact Nugal Vaidya President Elect, 2006-07 RC of Mt. Everest per e-mail nugal_vaidya@info.com.np.

Rotary World Peace Fellowship candidates for 2007-09

Please begin the process of selecting Rotary World Peace Fellowship candidates for Class VI (2007-09). Submission of applications for the Rotary World Peace Fellowship should be forwarded to Evanston by July 1, 2006. It is targeted to get overall a pool of 500 applications which will enable the Rotary Centers Committee to select the top 60 applicants with superior qualifications.

For more information please refer to the Rotary Centers website for a timeline:

http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_scho/centers/application/timeline.html

Ramkot Clinic Visit

Kindly check the **Ramkot Roster** for your turn. If you have any question, contact Rtn. Dr **Rabindra Shrestha** (4469063, email: drrs@wlink.com.np)

The doctor is **Dr. Khagendra Gurung**. Mobile No : 98510- 83044 Phone: 4287899

Call him by Friday latest.

A WORD ON ROTARY ► WE CAN MAKE DIFFERENCE

"Rotary in India" or "is Nepal stronger than India?"

CALCUTTA was the hometown for the first Rotary club in the mainland of Asia. R.J. Combes, the manager of a steel products company while on a business trip to U.S.A. was so impressed by the "Friendship, fellowship, and service" aspects of Rotary that he wanted to introduce the idea to his friends. So the first club in India was chartered on the new year day of 1920.

In the beginning it was a club of mainly foreigners and the first Indian member was inducted in 1921 only. In the same year Sir Surendranath Banerjee became honorary member. The first Indian office bearer was Nitish C. Laharry (1926) who was so excited by Rotary that he succeeded to become R.I. president in 1962-'63.

Except for the lone club chartered in Lahore in 1927, Calcutta stayed for 10 years the only club in India. That was for them a difficult time. Things changed when the "Marco Polo" of Rotary J.W. Davidson of Calgary, Canada arrived with a firm determination to spread Rotary in India. By the way he also became responsible for the establishment of Rotary clubs in Australia, New Zealand, Southern Europe, Egypt, Siam and Japan He planted Rotary in Bombay as well as Madras in 1929.

Again foreigners played a big role. Of the 38 charter members of the club in Bombay 37 were non-Indians. The only Indian was Sir Phiroz Sethna who later served as district governor (1937-'38). But even though Davidson organized a Rotary club in Delhi in 1929, the club had to be closed down after a few years as membership tapered off.

From 1933 until the independence Rotary spread out over the whole of India. In 1939 District 88 later renamed District 90 was created consisting of Afghanistan, Burma and part of undivided India. By the time India became independent, there were 71 Rotary clubs well spread over India with 14 clubs in Gujarat, 10 in Maharashtra, 10 in Uttar Pradesh, seven in Tamil Nadu, seven in Karnataka and 23 in another 10 states with altogether 3100 members.

But to grow is a tough matter.

By 1958 all Rotary districts in India, Ceylon, Burma, Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan counted just 7,500 Rotarians.

In 1968-69, Pakistan became a separate district. By that time there were 430 clubs and 16,000 Rotarians in both countries.

In the seventies the growth of Rotary continued. The number of Indian clubs which stood at 300 in 1970 more than doubled in that period. In 1980-81 900 clubs in India were divided between 14 Districts with 35,200 Rotarians.

15 years later 1995-96, when the system of regions was abolished and the zone system was introduced, India had 1700 Rotary clubs in 28 districts with 58,800 members.

Due to the Calgary challenge 1996 showed remarkable growth. As many as 133 clubs were chartered in that year alone, nearly double of the year before.

In September 1997 Rotary in India was represented by 1800 clubs with a total membership of 68,000.

A full fledged regional office was opened in Delhi in 1984. An Asia regional conference was held in Delhi in 1987 and this regional conference broke all previous registration records with its 10,500 registrations.

During the last 87 years of Rotary's existence in India, several world leaders emerged from this region. The first Asian to become R.I. President from Asia was Nitish Laharry (1962-63) from Calcutta. It took another thirty years for another Indian to be elected as R. I President. In 1991-92 Rajendra K. Saboo from Chandigarh became the leader of RI. He also served as the Chairman of The Rotary Foundation (1996-97), the up to now only Indian to hold the position in Rotary's history.

Growth of Rotary in India in the last two decades outstripped the growth of Rotary elsewhere in the world. When the world membership climbed from 1980 to 1998 by about 40% to 1,193,000 Rotary's strength in India increased from 35,000 to 70,000 or by 100%.

During 1997-98, however, there was a slight dip in membership, when the Rotarian count came down to 67,759. But the next year again the number of clubs as well as membership in the clubs increased and reached 1950 clubs with 70000 members.

We can see that the history of Rotary in India is successful but doesn't lack the up and downs, which are normal.

Do we have a reason to believe, that Rotary in India is stronger than ours? Noooo!!!. 70000 members out of a population of 900mio is just 0.0078%. And this was reached after 87 years. In Nepal we have reached this percentage in just 20 years. So who is stronger?

OTHER TOPICS

Modern fine art in Kathmandu, an investment opportunity.

If you are interested to invest, broadmindedness can help. Seeing results from other countries modern products of fine art from Nepal could be a high return investment as well. The prices of paintings here are ekdam low compared with countries even India and some of the painters have already shown value appreciation from their early days worthwhile to consider.

You don't know what to do in your free time? You find Kathmandu a boring place? Well it might be interesting to utilize the time you have, to look at the brighter side of this town. And one of the brighter sides is the Fine Art and its development in recent years.



While Nepal and especially Kathmandu is famous for its heritage, there is more to it. Especially in recent times Kathmandu has become a unique melting pot of tradition-based painting and the western influences in the contemporary arts. Here you can experience how traditionalism could be easily diffused with the modern trends. In fact, the highly alive art scene of today's Kathmandu is a plethora of local and global influences. The art of painting especially, best reflects the sheer profusion of scenic natural landscapes and contemporary figurative and non-figurative compositions. A stroll through the galleries will reveal a host of works ranging from internationally established artists to exciting newcomers.

The contemporary painting is specially noted for either nature based compositions or compositions based on Tantric elements / social themes. Nepalese painters have also earned international reputation for abstract works based on these themes.

It is this thriving milieu that makes a visit to the fine Art oriented museums and to the leading art galleries of Kathmandu a pleasurable and rewarding event.

Art Galleries:

Gallery 9

You can find this gallery in Lazimpat. It is a place where you often can find exhibitions of youngsters, some promoted by others and some only by themselves. It's great not only to be there to see the exhibitions but also to meet youngsters who have a lot of ideas and show that this town is still alive and moving ahead even with all the political turmoil and the missing of basic utilities like water and electricity

Indigo Gallery

Located at "Mike's Breakfast" The gallery organizes regularly exhibitions. Founded 23 years ago to foster the traditional arts of Nepal, particularly the Newar school of painting. the gallery hosts nowadays exhibitions of modern painting, sculpture, photos and textiles; It also hosts a series of evening slide shows and lectures on diverse subjects pertaining to the art and culture of the Himalayan region.

J Art Gallery:

Located in the prestigious address of Durbarmarg, Kathmandu - a minute walk from the Royal Palace, the Gallery is specially noted for the exhibitions, display and sale of authentic works of the established painters of Nepal. The gallery is well patronized by the diplomatic and expatriate community of Kathmandu.

Moti Azima Gallery:

Located inside a nondescript narrow facade of a three storied building, in Bhimsenthan (on the way to Visnumati bridge), Kathmandu the exterior is deceptive. For, inside the gallery contains a unique collection of traditional utensils, handmade dolls representing different ethnic groups and social customs of Nepal, excellent samples of local handicraft works and above all the whole house represents a typical medieval house holds environ of a Newar family. Owned by a private entrepreneur, the gallery is a local style boutique - shop - embracing all the typicalities available. The gallery is open till Sunday through Friday.

NAFA Gallery:

This gallery is housed in Sita Bhavan, a neo- classical old Rana palace Naxal, Kathmandu. The gallery has two sections: Birendra Art Gallery - a permanent hall which displays works of eminent contemporary painters and sculptors. The second hall is used for occasional exhibitions of established or newly emerging artists of the country. The Gallery runs under the aegis of Arts and crafts Department, Royal Nepal Academy.

NEF-ART (Nepal Fine Art) Gallery:

A few minutes walk down the street of Gabahal from the fabled Patan Durbar Square, the gallery is specially noted for its bias for traditional Nepalese paintings and sculptures. The gallery holds occasional exhibition of traditional (Nepalese) paintings locally known as 'Paubhas'. Paubhas display an idealistic type of expression, flat bright colors, intricate outline - primarily of Buddhist or Hindu pantheon.

Nepal Art Council Gallery:

Situated in Babar Mahal- on the way to Tribhuvan International Airport, the Gallery has an excellent space area for exhibitions. The gallery occasionally exhibitions of paintings and sculptures. Owned by a local non - governmental organization the gallery is noted for the display of works of selected artists of the country and abroad.

Osho Tapoban

Every year you'll find at least one exhibition of young and coming artists there. Let's see what one of the leading art promoters in Nepal wrote about his experience with last years exhibition of 26 young artists.

"...indeed it was an awareness of one's own limitation for every artist in the expansive space of Osho Tapoban. This awareness had a tendency to exceed & extend further from an introspective confinement & from the confinement for art medium as well, be it canvas, clay, metal etc...."

Siddhartha Art Gallery

Located in Babar Mahal Revisited

Established 1986 as an exhibition and meeting place for artists from Nepal and abroad. In the last 14 years, the Gallery has organized over 141 exhibitions, including shows from India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, China, Australia, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Finland and the United States. The Gallery has been able to promote contemporary Nepalese art and introduce international perspectives in art to the Kathmandu community, Exhibitions go on regularly.

Srijana Contemporary Art Gallery:

A cooperative venture of a group of contemporary painters and sculptors, this Gallery regularly organizes various Art exhibitions solo and group shows. Besides, this gallery possess a wide collection of contemporary works from many established names to exciting new names. Also. the gallery runs morning and evening Art Classes. The Gallery is located inside Bhrikutimandap Exhibition grounds, Kathmandu.

So if you want to invest money in something, whose prices have already come up to some extend in the past few years and may come up significantly more in the future, as more and more Nepali painters get their chances for foreign exhibitions, use your chance. It may be worthwhile to get in early and discover the "comers" as you not only will support with this Nepal's cultural scene, but may be also your own returns, if you make the proper choices.

NOW READY FOR OUR HEALTHY LAUGHTER CORNER?

Old Father Fumble is invited to the local high school for its graduation ceremonies. But he is shocked and scandalized by some of the latest fashion outfits worn by the girls.

"Look at that youngster!" cries Fumble to the person next to him -- "the one with the orange hair, the cigarette, and the purple pants. Is it a boy or a girl?"

"A girl!" snaps his companion. "And by the way, she is my daughter."

"I am sorry, sir," says the flustered Fumble. "Do forgive me -- I would never had said anything had I known you were her father."

"I'm not, you idiot!" says the other. "I am her mother!"

I checked into a hotel on a business trip and was a bit lonely, so I thought I'd get me one of those girls you see advertised in phone booths when you're calling for a cab. I grabbed a card on my way in.

It was an ad for a girl calling herself Erogonique, a lovely girl, bending over in the photo. She had all the right curves in all the right places, beautiful long wavy hair, long graceful legs all the way up... you know the kind.

So I'm in my room and figure, "What the heck, I'll give her a call."

"Hello?" the woman says.

Wow! She sounded sexy.

"Hi, I hear you give a great massage and I'd like you to come to my room and give me one. No, wait, I should be straight with you. I'm in town all alone and what I really want is sex. I want it hard, I want it hot, and I want it now. I'm talking kinky the whole night long. You name it, we'll do it. Bring implements, toys, everything you've got in your bag of tricks. We'll go hot and heavy all night; tie me up, wear a strap on, cover me in chocolate syrup and whipped cream, anything you want, baby! Now, how does that sound?"

She says, "That sounds fantastic.... but for an outside line, Sir, you need to press 9."

A doctor stepped into the patient's room. Five minutes later he came out and asked for a corkscrew, then he went back to his patient. In another five minutes he was out again and demanded a chisel and hammer.

The distraught husband couldn't stand it any longer. He pleaded, "For heaven's sake, doctor, what is wrong with my wife?"

"I don't know yet," the doctor replied. "I can't get my bag opened."

Chester Cheese, the golf-crazed golfer, is preparing one Sunday morning to go golfing at the local golf course.

"Golf! Golf! Golf!" nags Betty Cheese, his wife, standing with her hands on her hips and curlers in her hair. "That's all you ever think about. If you ever spent a week-end with me I think I would drop dead!"

"Look," replies Chester, putting on his golf hat. "There is no point in trying to bribe me!"

Father Fumble is visiting his central Oregonian flock and comes to the Sheep-Shaggers' farm near Fossil. He sees little Becky, the Sheep-Shaggers' daughter, playing in the front yard and goes over for a chat.

"Hello, my child," says Father Fumble. "May I speak to your father?"

"No," replies Becky, shaking her head. "He's in jail for molesting sheep."

"Really?" exclaims Father Fumble. "Then may I speak to your mother?"

"No," replies Becky, shaking her head. "She has been taken to the funny farm. She was talking to sheep."

"Really?" exclaims Fumble. "Then may I speak to your brother?"

"No," replies Becky. "He is at the university."

"How nice!" exclaims Fumble. "What is he studying?"

"He ain't studying nothing," replies Becky. "They are studying him!"

A man is on safari in Africa, but he loses his guide and wanders deep in the jungle. Suddenly hostile natives surround him. He is at a loss what to do, But then he remembers a trick that he had seen in an old movie.

He digs into his pocket, pulls out his cigarette lighter, flicks it once and a big flame pops up.

"It is miracle.," shouts Boonga, the chief, collapsing to his knees, "I have never seen a lighter that worked first time."

Teddy Bearson is making his first visit to Doctor Bones.

"And whom did you consult about your illness before you came to me?" Bones inquired.

"Only the druggist down at the corner," Replies Teddy.

"And what sort of ridiculous advice did that fool give you?" demands Bones.

"He told me," replies Teddy innocently, "to see you."

That's for today and see or hear from you soon.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year 2063. Walter and Rabi

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