



Breakfast Chatter



Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town
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December 2nd, 2008





Weekly Bulletin

Vol. 20 of '08/'09

This Week's Speaker

Dr. Narayan Thapa is a pediatric surgeon who has been interested helping children in Nepal with oral-facial cleft birth defects. Oral-facial clefts are birth defects in which the tissues of the mouth or lip don't form properly during fetal development. These clefts occur in 1 in 700 to 1,000 births, making it one of the most common major birth defects; statistics show that clefts occur more often in children of Asian, Latino, or Native American descent. Dr. Thapa has performed hundreds of free surgeries and his talk to us this week will be an informative slide show on the subject.

Calendar

Date	Theme
Dec. 5 th	Speaker: Dr. Narayan Thapa "Cleft lip and palate surgery" (see above)
Dec 12 th	Visiting Rtms. Martin Buitink and Atjo Westerhuis (from a RC in the Netherlands) will discuss their Shechen Clinic project. 
Dec. 19 th	Mr. Francois Driard of <i>Himalayan French Cheese</i> will talk to us about the challenges and pleasures he has encountered while bringing the art of French cheese making to Nepal.
Dec. 26 th	Christmas break - no meeting. 
Dec. 15 th	First deadline 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England, 21-24 June (Register early for the convention to take advantage of special pricing!)
Dec. 29 th	 International Day for Biological Diversity
January 2009	Mid-Town Family Pot Luck Cook-off Contest. Details to follow.
June 21-24 th	 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.

Happy News



Best Wishes

Mid-Town extends its best wishes to member Rtn. Mahendra Shrestha and wife Meena on the happy occasion of the wedding of their son Maneesh Krishna Shrestha to Anita Shrestha.

Mid-Town attends opening of Community Eye Hospital in Hetauda

On November 20th 2008 the **Community Eye Hospital** was inaugurated in Hetauda. This inauguration was the culmination of years of work on the part of many Rotarians and well wishes from Nepal and around the world. The national media was present at the inauguration ceremony where the Guest of Honour was Australian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Greame Lade. Dr. Sanduk Ruit, who has been involved with this project for many years was also there to see this dream realised. Mid-Towners present included President RR, PP Mani, PP Golap, PP CK, Rtns. Pratp, Sharmila, Peter Morris and Saroj.



Most of the patients in the camp are from the older age group. An 87-year-old man whose vision was restored after fourteen years of blindness. A six-year-old boy and a sixteen year old girl, both of whom had cataract since birth, also went through a successful operation and were able to see.



Mid-Town News



Internal Girl Trafficking a New Problem in Nepal

Ms. Helen Sherpa of World Education shared with us the problem of internal trafficking in Nepal, the issues and some of the options and challenges Nepali society has to address this problem. Trafficking into Nepal's entertainment sector is a cause of concern to women activists, NGOs, human rights groups, international donors, foreign embassies and businessmen. As Nepal grapples with how to regulate this industry while protecting jobs and economic investments this will be

an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the trafficking issue and how Nepal might respond.

A key tool in the fight against this terrible social ill is the education of girl children – girls who are self-sufficient and empowered are much less likely to be trafficked. Ms. Helen Sherpa appreciated the work that Mid-Town has been doing on girl-child education related projects – these will definitely contribute to saving many children.

Mid-town goes to Manahori and Gorkha



On November 21st our intrepid Mid-Towners made a field visit to the village of **Gorkha** for the inauguration of the MG 63246 Gorkha-Lamjung Girl Child project. The project will assist 150 girl students from 9 different schools to get their basic education. Mid-Towners arrived very early and were given bright red mallas. They were greeted and heartily welcomed the RC Gorkha, local leaders and school representatives. 64 girl student and their mother were also on hand to greet them. The children were quiet and respectful but bright-eyed and expectant of this new gift of education that they were being given. They each received a brightly coloured schoolbag along with the good wishes of Mid-Town that they have a happy and successful school career. Under this same matching grant the same programme will be extended to Lamjung in the near future. Rtn. Sharmila gave a short workshop on the importance of educating girl children.



On their way to Gorkha our Mid-Towners also stopped in at a Rotary sponsored secondary high school in **Manahori** (Makwanpur District). The children in that school have been in-part sponsored by the RC Villoresi (Italy) for a few years now. They were somewhat more boisterous than their Gorkha counterparts – indicative of the greater self-confidence that an education can bring – we can wish that the Gorkha children will be a little noisier the next time Mid-Town comes calling!



RI to be inducted into Polio Hall of Fame



By Dan Nixon. Rotary International News -- 27 October 2008 (adapted)

The Polio Hall of Fame monument honors pioneers in the battle to eradicate polio. *Photo courtesy of Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation.*

In 1958, the United States was well on its way to winning the battle against polio. Mass immunization using the Salk vaccine had succeeded in decreasing the number of cases by more than 90 percent from the peak of 58,000 cases in 1952. Field trials of the Sabin oral vaccine had just begun.

The same year, the Polio Hall of Fame was established by the Georgia Department of Labor's Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation. Seventeen pioneering heroes in the early battle against polio were inducted into the hall, including former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and

vaccine inventors Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin.

To commemorate its 50th anniversary, the Polio Hall of Fame will induct as members the four spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative: Rotary International, the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

The induction ceremony will take place on 14 November at 3:30 p.m. in the institute's quadrangle, featuring special guest speakers Dr. Peter Salk, eldest son of Dr. Jonas Salk, and Missouri Congressman Ike Skelton, a former Warm Springs polio patient.

Representatives of the new inductee organizations and family members of the original inductees will attend the ceremony, and the public is also invited. Rotary Foundation Trustee John Germ, who chairs Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge Committee, will represent Rotary International.

The inductee organizations will be honored on a large bronze plaque detailing their contributions to ongoing polio eradication efforts, and the contributions of the original inductees will be highlighted with a matching plaque. Both plaques will be permanently displayed in front of the Polio Hall of Fame's monument outside Founders Hall, which was unveiled by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1958.

Following the ceremony, attendees are invited to a reception at 18:30 and a Franklin D. Roosevelt's Founders Day Dinner at 19:00 in the institute's Georgia Hall. Cost of the reception and dinner is \$175 per person, with proceeds benefiting the Roosevelt Warm Springs Development Fund.

"It promises to be a great day and a great way to recognize what the four global partners are doing," says Greg Schmieg, executive director of the institute. "The fact that polio was pretty much eradicated in this country 50 years ago doesn't change the fact that it is still an ongoing problem in many parts of the world, and what Rotary and the others have done and continue to do remains a tremendous example that deserves to be honored."

Greetings from Rotary Clubs Around the World



Prof. Gunter Burg (RFC Zurich) who visited Mid-Town in October sends us greetings and says that he remembers his visit with us fondly. He sent a nice postcard of Zurich and a RC Zurich Club flag.



Exhibits Around Town

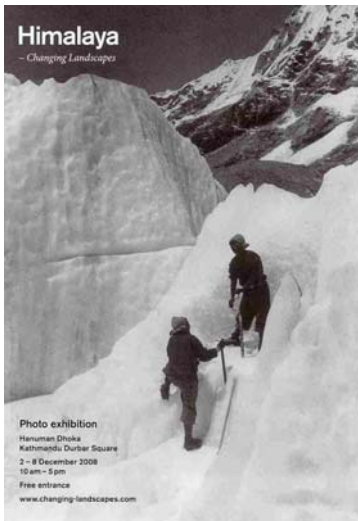


Photo Exhibition

Hanuman Dhoka Kathmandu Durbar Square

2-8 December 2008 10am-5pm

See web site: www.changing-landscapes.com

Himalaya – Changing Landscapes photo exhibition visually demonstrates how climate change and glacial melting are affecting the highest mountain range in the world – the Himalayas. The “before and after” panorama photos show us how these mighty but vulnerable landscapes have changed in just a few decades.

The exhibition aims to raise awareness of the impact of climate change, and the new challenges the mountain people are facing. The photographs of mountains and glaciers are accompanied by photographs of the Himalayan people and their stories, as well as photographs of the 1950s scientific research teams conducting glacier studies.

Mid-Town Humour



“I understand the Everest climb used to be quite a chore.”

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

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