



Breakfast chatter



Weekly bulletin of the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town
District 3292, Club 26776, Chartered 8 Nov. 1989; 'Best Club' in Nepal 2009/2010

June 10th – June 16th 2011

Vol. 49 of '10/'11

This week's speaker



Mr. Adam Levene

The Acting Ambassador for Israel in Nepal, HE **Mr. Adam Levene** asks that we try a new model for our weekly presentation. Please send questions that you would like to have answered on Israel or Israel-Nepal relations or Israel and the








Middle East (or any other relevant topic) and he will base his presentation on these. Questions should be sent before Thursday June 15th to: isa@mos.com.np.

Visitors to Mid-Town



Mid-Town was pleased to welcome **Brian Marsh** and **Amye Cole** of **RC Truckee California "Gateway of the Sierra"**. They are in Nepal for a visit up to Humla to see the good work of the Bodhi Tree Foundation. The photo above shows them exchanging flags with **VP Rtn. Alex Spachis**.

JUNE 2011	
June is Rotary Fellowship Month	
17 June	Mr. Adam Levene Acting Ambassador of Israel to Nepal.
18 June	<div>  <p>Nepal Rotary District Awards</p> <p>Mid-Town is a host Club – please make a special effort to attend. Please contact PP. William for details or confirm with Exec. Sec. Dahaljee..</p> <p>Venue: Soaltee Hotel with dinner 1500Npr.</p>  </div>
24 June	<div> <p>Dr. Wilma Mohr will give a short overview about her work and her life in Hetauda and the private projects she is supporting here (the homepage gives a short overview: Aktivinnepal.tumblr.com). The overall view will be from a women about the situation of women in Nepal. At the end she will give some observations on how things could be better from her perspective.</p>  </div>
30 June	<div>  <p>Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution</p> <p>Districts conduct interviews and select their candidate(s), then submit their application(s) to RI World Headquarters to arrive on or before 1 July of the year preceding the program (e.g., 1 July 2009 for programs beginning in 2010).</p> </div>
August	<p>AUGUST is</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP & EXTENSION MONTH</p> <p>Emphasize the importance of exciting and effective service projects to help attract new members and retain existing ones.</p>
06-09 May 2012	<div> <p>The 103rd Convention of Rotary International</p> <p>Bangkok, Thailand 06-09 May 2012</p> <p>Sign up now to get early-bird rates (only \$160 USD)</p> <p>Please see Conference Coordination Chair PP Rtn. CK for more details.</p>  </div>

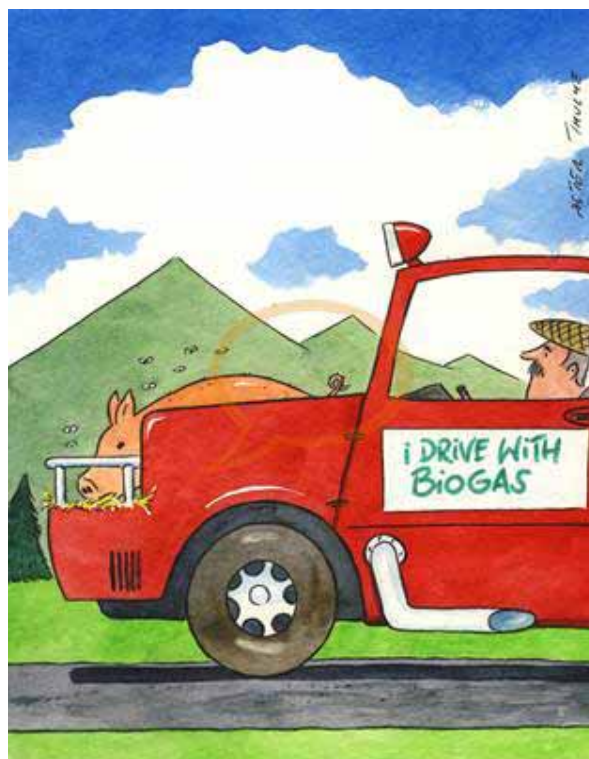
last week's speaker

A quick overview of biogas in Nepal



This week it was a pleasure to welcome author and journalist **Kunda Dixit** as our speaker. While Kunda is a well-known journalist and writer on political matters, unbeknownst to many, his early career in microbiology and biogas dealt with a very different kind of hot air. He recounted his early fascination when as a schoolboy his teacher Father B.R. Sauboll, a Belgian priest at Godavari St. Xavier's School, demonstrated the potential of biogas using a small homemade digester. From those humble beginnings Nepal is now more or less a biogas 'superpower' with more than a quarter of a million family-size biogas plants now in operation. The benefits of biogas are many and range from smoke free kitchens, to valuable fertiliser that is a by-product of the biogas production process. He explained that the challenges are not all technical and much of the success of biogas in Nepal stems not only from the political will but also from creative financing schemes using 'soft credit'.

If the pin-drop silence is any indication, this weighty topic was of great interest to Mid-Towners many of whom added their own spin to the discussion during the question period.



fellowship

June is Rotary Fellowship Month



Visiting Rotarians from RC Truckee, California, **Amye Cole** (far left) and **Brian Marsh** (center). Mid-Town was also happy to welcome guest **Sarah Ferris** (second from left), Executive Director of the Bodhi Tree Foundation whose mission it is to support and promote community

based programs that focus on maternal and child health in the remote district of Humla, Nepal.





PP Mani Joshi reminded Mid-Town once again not to forget the deadline for the **Rotary Peace Fellowships** – a wonderful opportunity for a young person who has strong commitment to international understanding and peace demonstrated through professional and academic achievements and personal and community service activities

Interested candidates must apply for Rotary Peace Fellowships through their local Rotary club – interested parties please contact PP Mani.





President elect **Rtn. Som** shares a happy moment with the Mid-Town ladies – is this the cat among the pigeons?



Rotract Pres. **Anil Chaudhary** (left) is getting ready to hand over the presidency of the Rotaract Club of Kathmandu-Mid-Town for 2011-2012 to President Elect Rtr. **Samir Nepal** (right).

Get well soon



Best wishes for 'Get Well Soon'

Mid-Town sends its best wishes to charter member Rtn. Werner for a speedy recovery.



Rotaract news

Rotractors want your old things!



Tired of wearing that same old outfit? Why not recycle it with the Rotractors who will find a good home for it with some of Kathmandu's most needy. Bring the clothes you want to recycle in a bag to the breakfast meetings for the next few weeks. If you can't come then drop a line to Rtr. Pres. Anil and he will arrange a pick-up. Rotractors will also take toys, magazines, old wedding invitation cards, and other items – please check with Rtr. Anil first (aton_anil@yahoo.com).



A THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

Gullibility and credulity are considered undesirable qualities in every department of human life -- except religion.

-Christopher Hitchens, author and journalist (b. 1949)



District News

District Officials Hard at Work on the District Awards Function



The BC was privileged to have been allowed 'behind the scenes' at the district headquarters where District Officials were hard at work. These past weeks our dedicated officials, under the Chairmanship of **District Awards Chair PP William Ma**, have put in long hours evaluating the annual reports submitted by the 51 clubs of District 3292. It is hard work judging between all of the excellent submission of Clubs from all over Nepal. PP Lekha assures us that they were guided in their choices by

Rotary's own 4-Way Test. They have also been preparing the District Award Function which will take place on 18 June at the Soaltee Crown Plaza Hotel.



We are all looking forward to a great party. A hearty thanks to everyone for their tireless dedication.



Rotaract news

Mid-T own program at Mary Ward School



Rotaractors made an occasion of it and prepared



children and teachers of the Mary Ward school. Just to show that you are never too old or too young to undertake some social work Aavani Joshi (granddaughter of PP Dr. Lekha) presented some of her books to the library of the Mary Ward School on the occasion of her 5th birthday. Congratulations to everyone who participated for showing such a generous spirit.

Mid Town “ Clothes Bank “ received generous donations from Mid-Towners –in all 38 items of clothing were received from PP Mani and Rtn. ISA -- with thanks.

Also, the Mary Ward School /Jhamsikhel received a compost bin worth Rs 2,000.



a mid-day meal of rice porridge for the 160 school





Mid-town sunshine

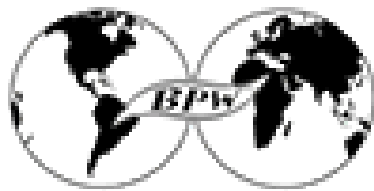


PP Ambica to be honoured in Helsinki

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women is an organisation that exists to develop women's professional and leadership potential at all levels. In the words of their founder Dr. Lena Madesin Phillips, "Each woman, as a citizen, must bring to the national policy of her own country, the contribution of forward-looking and constructive thought followed by determined action. Each woman must dedicate herself to protect and promote the interests of all other women in business and the professions." Our own **PP Rtn. Ambica** has been a member for many years.

The next Business and Professional Women's International Congress will take place in Finland from 17-21 June 2011. **PP Rtn. Ambica** is off to Helsinki to receive a special international award from the BPW at their International Congress. Mid-Town wishes PP Ambica a good trip and congratulations on a job well done.

Sounds like sunshine!



THE XXVII
BPW INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
HELSINKI FINLAND 17-21 JUNE 2011



On the lighter side

Signs of the times





Note the fine print: 'Unit automatically becomes portable when carried'!



Pease send information/suggestions/photos for the next volume to:
Breakfast Chatter editor: Dr. Isabella C. Bassignana Khadka at email: isa@mos.com.np