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| **Logo - Club Logo copy**  Breakfast Chatter  2016/2017 | C:\Users\arasmussen\Pictures\New folder\Rotary.png |

##### The Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town Celebrating 27 Years of Rotary

### Economic and Community Development Month

# Happy Dashain to all

# Weekly Meetings and Programmes:

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| **Date** | **Speaker** | **Program/Topics of Presentation** |
| 14  October |  | No meeting |
| 7  October  6 pm at the Nanglo Kamaladi | Dr. Chiran Thapa | On current political situation and some ways forward as he sees it.  Dr. Chiran Thapa, 74, did his schooling at St. Xavier's Godavari from 1951-1958 and was an undergraduate at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, USA, graduating in 1962. He completed postgraduate work from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, 1962-1963 and Cambridge University in England. Dickinson College awarded him an honorary Doctorate in 2003. He has several publications in Nepali and international periodicals on issues relevant to Nepal and the Chinese economy. He worked with late King Birendra from 1965 to 2001. |
| Club News | | |

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| Please be informed that this week’s meeting will be a pre-Dashain celebration and will be held at Nanglo Restaurant Kamaladi from 6 pm on Friday, October 7. | | The meeting will follow regular agenda with talk by a guest speaker. Following the meeting will be our Dashain celebration and fellowship.  You are encouraged to bring spouses and other family members. The spouses and any participating family members will have to pay a fee of Rs. 1000/person for the dinner (excluding children), but not the members. | Also note that there will be no regular Club meeting on October 14 due to Dashain festival. |
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| Rotary Story of the Week |

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| [Miles to End Polio: combining a passion for cycling, service](https://blog.rotary.org/2016/10/03/miles-to-end-polio-combining-a-passion-for-cycling-service/) By Robson Duarte, Rotary staff  For the past two years, I have been a part of a volunteer group called “[Atitude Certa](https://www.facebook.com/grupoatitudecertaa/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel).” Our mission is to visit orphanages and help with whatever we can, bringing joy and comfort to children even if it’s only on weekends. This is very gratifying, because we can see the joy stamped on the face of every child.  As a staff member in Rotary’s International office in São Paulo, Brazil, I take pride in helping Rotary members turn their project ideas into reality. I am proud of each project developed by Rotary. This is more than a job for me, it’s a mission and vision that is aligned with my own life values.  That is why I am also excited to be part of the Miles to End Polio team as we join Rotary members from Arizona and elsewhere in cycling up to 104 miles in El Tour de Tucson 19 November. I am a frequent cyclist, using my bicycle to get around the city and also to stay healthy. It is one of my hobbies, along with hiking and sports. Taking part in the team allows me to combine my passion for cycling with a desire to contribute in a new way to ending polio.  I am motivated by the fact that we are “this close.” So many lives have been devastated by this disease. I feel Rotary is not just immunizing children, but bringing renewed hope for a better future, one in which no child has to fear being crippled by polio. There is no greater satisfaction in life than being a part of making the world a better place, and we are doing just that every time we administer precious drops of the polio vaccine, or when we raise the funds that allow others to administer those drops.  Robson Duarte works at Rotary’s Brazil office in São Paulo and is one of several Rotary staff members who will join General Secretary John Hewko in biking El Tour de Tucson in Arizona to raise money for polio eradication. Check back for posts from other team members leading up to the 19 November event and learn how you can [support the team](http://ideas.rotary.org/Project/Profile/54a4332d-88fe-4331-9290-019a522e3eaf). |  |  |
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# Rotary International News

On 1 October, RI President John F. Germ declared Samuel F. Owori Rotary International's president-nominee.

The Nominating Committee for President selected Owori, a member of the Rotary Club of Kampala, Uganda, in August. He will be elected at the 2017 RI Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and will become president on 1 July 2018.

Read more about [Owori](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/news-media/sam-owori-selected-be-2018-19-rotary-president" \t "_self)

# Calendar and events in Kathmandu

24 October — [Rotary's World Polio Day Livestream Event](http://www.endpolio.org/worldpolioday)

31 October-6 November — World Interact Week

1 November — [Service Award for a Polio-Free World](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/learn-topic/awards) nominations are due

12 November – Rotary Day at the UN

15 December — Early registration discount ends for [Rotary International Convention](http://www.riconvention.org/)

#### Kathmandu Events

**Dashain** is a fifteen-day-long national festival of Nepal.

Dashain is a very popular festival in Nepal. I t is the longest and the most auspicious festival in the Nepali annual calendar, celebrated by Nepalese Hindu people throughout the globe. It is the longest and most anticipated festival in Nepal. People return from all parts of the world, as well as different parts of the country, to celebrate together. All government offices, educational institutions and other offices remain closed during the festival period. The festival falls in September or October, starting from the shukla paksha (bright lunar fortnight) of the month of Ashvin and ending on purnima, the full moon. Among the fifteen days on which it is celebrated, the most important days are the first, seventh, eighth, ninth and the tenth.

Among the Newars of the Kathmandu Valley, Dashain is celebrated as the most important Newar festival of the calendar year.[]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dashain#cite_note-Social_Science_Baha-1) It is celebrated by Hindu and Buddhist Newars with only slight differences and interpretations, where each nine days *Navaratri* leading up to the 10th day called 'Dashami' carry special importance. The goddess Durga and her various manifestations are especially worshiped by Hindu Newars throughout the Shaktipeeths of Kathmandu Valley. Among Newars, Mwohni is also important for its emphasis on family gatherings as well as on a renewal of community ties, highlighted by special family dinners called Nakhtyā and various community processions of deities called Jātrā throughout the three royal cities of Kathmandu Valley.

Dashain symbolizes the victory of good over evil.

For followers of Shaktism, it represents the victory of the goddess Parvati. In Hindu mythology, the demon Mahishasura had created terror in the devaloka (the world where gods live) but [Durga killed the demon. The first nine days of Dashain symbolize the battle which took place between the different manifestations of Durga and Mahishasura. The tenth day is the day when Durga finally defeated him. For other Hindus, this festival symbolizes the victory of Ram over Ravan as recounted in the *Ramayana*.



Ghaṭasthāpanā (घटस्थापना "sowing *Jamara*") marks the beginning of Dashain. Literally, it means placing a kalasha or a pot, which symbolizes Durga. Ghaṭasthāpanā falls on the first day of the festival. On this day the kalasha is filled with holy water which is then covered with cow dung and sewn with barley seeds. Then the kalasha is put in the center of a rectangular sand block. The remaining bed of sand is also seeded with grains. The priest then starts the puja by asking Durga to bless the vessel with her presence. This ritual is performed at a certain auspicious time which is determined by the astrologers. The goddess is believed to reside in the vessel during navratri.

Fulpati is a major celebration occurring on the seventh day of Dashain.

Traditionally, on this day, the royal kailasha, banana stalks, jamara and sugar cane tied with red cloth is brought by Brahmins from Gorkha, a three-day walk, about 169 kilometres (105 mi) away from the Kathmandu Valley. Hundreds of government officials gather together in the Tundikhel grounds in conventional formal dress to witness the event. The king used to observe the ceremony in Tundikhel while the fulpati parade was headed towards the Hanuman Dhoka royal palace. Then there is a majestic display of the Nepalese Army along with a celebratory firing of weapons that continues for ten to fifteen minutes honouring Fulpati. The Fulpati is taken to the Hanuman Dhoka Royal palace by the time the occasion ends in Tundikhel, where a parade is held.

An eighth day is called the 'Maha Asthami'. This is the day when the fiercest of Goddess Durga’s manifestations, Kali, is appeased through the sacrifice of buffaloes, goats, hens and ducks in temples throughout the nation. Blood, symbolic for its fertility, is offered to the Goddesses.

The ninth day is called *Mahanavami*, "the great ninth day". This is the last day of Navarati. Ceremonies and rituals reach the peak on this day. On this day, official military ritual sacrifices are held in one of the Hanuman Dhoka royal palaces, the Kot courtyard. On this occasion, the state offers the sacrifices of buffaloes under the gunfire salutes. This day is also known as the demon-hunting day because members of the defeated demon army try to save themselves by hiding in the bodies of animals and fowls.

On Mahanavami, Vishvakarman, the god of creation, is worshiped as it believed that all the things which help is in making a living should be kept happy. Artisans, craftsmen, traders, and mechanics worship and offer animal and fowl blood to their tools, equipment, and vehicles. Moreover, since it is believed that worshipping the vehicles on this day avoids accidents for the year all the vehicles from bikes, cars to trucks are worshiped on this day.

The Taleju Temple gates are opened for the general public on only this day of the year. Thousands of devotees go and pay respect to the goddess this day. The temple is filled with devotees all day long

The tenth day of the festival is the 'Dashami'. On this day, a mixture of rice, yogurt and vermilion is prepared by the women. This preparation is known as "Tika". Elders put this tika and jamara which is sown in the Ghatasthapana on the forehead of younger relatives to bless them with abundance in the upcoming years. The red also symbolizes the blood that ties the family together. Elders give "Dakshina", or a small amount of money, to younger relatives at this time along with the blessings. This continues to be observed for five days till the full moon during which period families and relatives visit each other to exchange gifts and greetings. This ritual of taking tika from all the elder relatives (even the distant relatives) helps in the renewal of the community ties greatly. This is one reason why the festival is celebrated with so much of vigor and enthusiasm.

As Dasain approaches, kite flying becomes more and more common. Flying kites have been a very important part of celebrating Dasain in the country, as it is considered to be one way of reminding god not to send rain anymore.  During the festival people of all ages fly kites from their roofs. Colourful kites and voices shouting out 'changa cheit' (this phrase is usually used when one cuts the other person's kite string) fill the days during the festival.

Playing cards is another way of celebrating Dasain. While children be busy flying kites during Dasain, the older members of the family pass their time by getting together and playing cards with each other for money and fun.

Buying and wearing new clothes is an important part of the festival. As many people living in the villages are below the poverty line, for them it is often the case that new clothes come only with Dasain.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dashain#cite_note-Ecs_Dasain-16) Almost all the shops have festival offers and discounts. This makes shopping more attractive. Clothes is the item which has the highest sales during the festival.

Children playing on traditional bamboo swings

[Bamboo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bamboo) swings are constructed in many parts of the country as a way of celebration. Dashain swings are called 'ping' in Nepali. They present the best of local culture, tradition, community spirit and fun. These swings are constructed by community members with traditional methods which use ropes made from a tough grass, bamboo sticks and wood, etc. The swings are normally constructed a week before Ghatasthapana and dismantled only after the festival of [Tihar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tihar_(festival)) which comes after Dasain. The height of some swings exceed twenty feet. People of all ages enjoy in the swings. They are especially famous with children.

Fairs and celebrations are organized during the festival. Usually small fairs are organized in the villages with Ferris wheels for children and other entertainment for the adults. However, in the city commercial fairs and celebrations are usually organized.

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PhotoCircle: [Dalit: A Quest for Dignity](https://www.facebook.com/events/168159293630849/?ref=3&ref_newsfeed_story_type=regular&action_history=null&source=3&source_newsfeed_story_type=regular) at [Patan Museum.Patan](https://www.facebook.com/patanmuseum.gov.com.np/)!

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### Please update your ‘My Rotary’ Account

First go to www.rotary.org.

Then **click on My Rotary**. And then **Click on Sign In/Register**.

If you are a first time user, click on **Create account.**

Fill in the Account registration information **and click on Continue.**

You will be informed that an e-mail has been sent to you.

Check your email for the address you provided in the step above. You will receive a message from Rotary. Click on the blue link in the mail to finalize the process.

# A Thought for the Day:

#### You have reached the pinnacle of success as soon as you become uninterested in money, compliments, or publicity.

#### -Thomas Wolfe, novelist (3 Oct 1900-1938)

NB: Send any information/photos that may be of interest to the Club or Rotarians in general to

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Venue: Fridays at 7:30AM, Hotel de l'Annapurna, Kathmandu, NEPAL