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# The Mid Towner

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**Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown**

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District Governor  
**DHIAN CHAND**

President  
**DR. V.J.S. VOHRA**

Secretary  
**R.K. LUTHER**

Editor  
**ASHISH AHUJA**

## Programme



*Please do attend*

FRIDAY - AUGUST 18, 2006

Volume : XXXI No. 07; August 16, 2006

Experiences of Rotary World Peace Fellow on Conflict Resolution

Guest Speaker : Mr. Dinesh Kumar, Rotary World Peace Fellow

Venue : Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time : 7.00 P.M.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED WITH INMATES OF INSTITUTE FOR BLIND

President Dr. V.J.S. Vohra welcomed the visiting Rotarian PDG Ramesh C. Bhargava and Ann Sudha who enjoyed the performance of the 'visually challenged' children in the last club meeting on Aug. 11. We celebrated Independence Day with 36 inmates of the Institute for the Blind, Sector 26, Chandigarh. The meeting started with the National Anthem sung by these visually challenged children and what a performance it was!



This was followed by melodious notes on musical band played by 23 children, a few of them partially blind and rest of them totally blind.

A patriotic song was sung by 13 children. The Rotarians were moved upon hearing the wordings of the song "Apni Azadi Ko Hum Hargiz Mita Sakte Nahin". This was followed by another patriotic song "Jahan Dal Dal Par Sone Ki .....". These songs were sung by visually challenged children in the true spirit which was highly applauded by the Rotarians.

Kunti Agnihotri gave a solo song "Mausam Hai Ashikana". Another solo song was sung by Rohit Chauhan.

The visually challenged children had sung so well - kudos to

them and the specialised staff of the Institute who have given them able direction and guidance to make them feel a part of nature. These children were full of confidence and their performance could match any professional singer.



The children were served with cake and pakoras. First Lady Ann Indu Vohra distributed chocolates to them. Pres. Dr. Vohra thanked Ann. Maniki Deep for anchoring the programme with perfection. She also said that she would



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invite these children to participate in the Plaza Carnival which is held in Sector 17, Chandigarh. She was full of praise for the efforts of the accompanying staff of the Institute, Joint Secretary Mrs. Prem Girdhar, Music Teachers Ms. Kuljit Kaur and Mr. Rajesh Arya, Wardens Mrs. Shanta Malhotra and Mr. Pathak.



Rtn. Om Parkash with his Punctuality Draw gift from Ann. Sudha Bhargava

Dr. Vohra deeply appreciated the performance of the visually challenged children and thanked the Chairman of Institute, Maj. Gen. Rajendra Nath, PVSM (Retd.) and Principal Mr. K.R. Sud for making it possible for our club members to enjoy the great performance given by these children. The following Rotarians were so moved that they instantly donated money for the cause of these children :

- |                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Rtn. Mrs. Ritu Singal       | Rs. 2,000.00 |
| 2. Ann. Sudha Bhargava         | Rs. 500.00   |
| 3. Secy. Rtn. R.K. Luther      | Rs. 500.00   |
| 4. Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra     | Rs. 500.00   |
| 5. Ann. Lovy Peter             | Rs. 500.00   |
| 6. Rtn. Mrs. Davinder K. Singh | Rs. 100.00   |

Six members have already become the patrons of the Institute. Rtn. Ritu Singhal is the seventh one. *It is requested that more of us should become the patrons of this Prestigious Institute by making a small donation of Rs. 1000/-.*



The Birthday Boys - Rtn. Dr. B.R. Jain, Rtn. R.K. Khattar & PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria

This musical evening came to an end with PDG Rtn. Ramesh Bhargava and Ann. Sudha wishing Happy B'day to the birthday boys and punctuality draw award to Rtn. Om Parkash.

 - Pres. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

### Know What to look for when Recruiting New Club Members

When it comes to finding new members to join Rotary, start by looking in the obvious places, says Rosemary Barker Aragon, a member of the Rotary Club of University District of Seattle, Washington, USA. As a regional RI membership coordinator, or RRIMC, Aragon is always on the lookout for potential Rotarians who are just waiting for an invitation.

"I look for people who are 'already Rotarians,'" she says. "They're active in the community, they volunteer, they might be part of another organization that you might be involved in." Parent-teacher associations, neighborhood groups, and volunteer events draw involved, community-minded individuals who might be just right for Rotary but never thought to join.

Children and grandchildren of Rotarians are also potential members, according to Aragon, because they understand the nature of Rotary. "Rotary is a commitment organization, and they know that," she says. "You need to find out what people are passionate about and then show them how they can get involved through Rotary."

At the same time, it's very important to make sure that prospective members receive proper information about Rotary's membership expectations. RRIMC Tony Lico, of the Rotary Club of Roma Sud Est, Italy, looks for new members mainly among business and personal acquaintances. He says prospective members come to several meetings and speak to the club before their membership is approved.

Lico adds, "It is important to demonstrate to the new member what Rotary is and what Rotary does." Once it's clear that prospective members are a good fit, they receive their Rotary pins. Then, he says, "We cross our fingers."

- Source : RI Website

## Appeal for Financial Help

This photograph is of a cute little five-year old child, Baby Shehnaz. She needs our help as she is suffering from Atrial Septal Defect of 10 mm. (hole in the heart). She is a daughter of a poor divorcee and her maternal grandfather is a taxi driver. Expenditure for this critical Cardiac Surgery is estimated at Rs. 1,65,000/-.



Shehnaz

President Dr. Vohra made an appeal to help this child in the club meeting as this humane support would enable this child to live again. Following members immediately came forward to donate money :

1.	Rtn. Arjan Singh	Rs. 500.00
2.	DGE Rtn. Shaju Peter	Rs. 1000.00
3.	Ann. Lovy Peter	Rs. 500.00
4.	PE Rtn. Sandeep Sandhu	Rs. 1000.00
5.	Rtn. Ravinder Krishan	Rs. 1000.00
6.	PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee	Rs. 500.00
7.	Rtn. R.K. Khattar	Rs. 1000.00
8.	PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria	Rs. 500.00
9.	Pres. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra	Rs. 1000.00
10.	Secy. Rtn. R.K. Luther	Rs. 1000.00
11.	Rtn. Mrs. Davinder K. Singh	Rs. 500.00
12.	Rtn. Kanwal Jit Singh	Rs. 500.00
13.	IPP Rtn. R.K. Goyal	Rs. 500.00
14.	PDG Rtn. R.C. Bhargava	Rs. 500.00
15.	Ann. Sudha Bhargava	Rs. 500.00

*It is further appealed that more members should come forward and make generous donations for this very noble cause which would give life to this young child.*

This project will be jointly undertaken on priority with Rotary Club Chandigarh, under their Heartline Project

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## Rotary Clubs are First Responders in Lebanon Crisis

The relief team organized by the Rotary Club of Limassol-Berengaria Cosmopolitan, Cyprus, was expecting no more than one boatload of 500 evacuees from the fighting in Lebanon on 19 July.

But the following day, the volunteers who had originally offered to help find hotel accommodations for the new arrivals in the port city of Limassol were suddenly faced with a much bigger challenge.

"The Americans decided to reroute their largest ships to Limassol, and we found ourselves standing in front of thousands of people in need in an instant," explains Scott Givhan, leader of the club's relief project.

Military and chartered-cruise ships, each carrying up to 2,000 people, most of them Australian, British and U.S. passport holders fleeing the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict were docking at all hours of the day and night, says Givhan.

At its peak, the operation brought in about 10,000 evacuees in three days. The club assembled an efficient multinational team of volunteers from 10 Western and Middle Eastern countries. Each time a boat came in, they were on hand to greet, comfort and assist passengers.

Nearly half of the Rotary club's 25 members were on vacation. But those present and the non-Rotarian volunteers who joined them did an outstanding job providing food and refreshments and helping set up rest and play areas for evacuees and their children. They even offered evacuees use of their mobile phones to call loved ones and make travel arrangements.

"This project would not have been possible without the contributions from our non-Rotarian volunteers, many of whom worked through the nights to help the evacuees," says Givhan.

With the evacuations ending, the club is turning its attention to helping people internally displaced by the fighting. Already, it has sent two shipments of relief items, mostly donations of food and medicine to Batroun, Lebanon.

Members of the Rotary Club of Batroun are receiving the supplies and distributing them in their own cars at great personal risk.

"We contacted this club because it is competent," says project coordinator George Kfoury, of the Limassol-Berengaria club, who is Lebanese. "The members in Batroun are trusted, and they are like our own brothers."

"These Rotarians are the real heroes," says Givhan.

Rotary clubs were the first to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Batroun, say Givhan and Kfoury. Because Rotarians are members of the affected communities, their aid distribution network is one of the most active in the region.

Kfoury says that the Limassol-Berengaria Cosmopolitan club is now bracing itself for an influx of Lebanese refugees to Cyprus.

The club is receiving donations of money and goods to provide emergency relief in Cyprus and Lebanon.

Source : RI Website

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:

Rtn. Tejbans S. Jauhar  
DGE Rtn. Shaju Peter



Aug. 22  
Aug. 23



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS:

R'ann Ruby & Rtn. Ashish Ahuja

Aug. 23

### PUNCTUALITY DRAW:

Won by Rtn. Om Parkash



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