



The Midtowner

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Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown: R.I. Distt. 3080

R. I. President
Ray Klingensmith

District Governor
Madhukar Malhotra

President
Prem Anand

Secretary
Deepak Sood

Editor
Indrajeet Sengupta

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PROGRAMME

Volume XXXV No. 3 July 21, 2010

Energy & Environment - A New Paradigm

Guest Speaker: AG Prof. S.K. Sharma

Friday, July 23, 2010

Time : 7:00 P.M.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

The French Connection

Many of you must have read Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous 19th Century classic "Uncle Tom's Cabin". Arthur and Emily Shelby, falling on bad times, decide to sell their faithful slave Uncle Tom, whom they finally put on a paddle boat down the River Mississippi. Uncle Tom saves the life of a young white girl, Eva, and in gratitude Eva's father takes Uncle Tom to his house in New Orleans.

New Orleans, before it was discovered and named after Philippe d' Orléans, Duke of Orléans, Regent of France, was inhabited by the Chitimacha, an indigenous tribe, who are now practically extinct.

Young Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, scion of the Le Moyne family, whose father, Charles, began the settlement of "Vile Marie", present day Montreal, gained permission from Philippe d' Orléans, Regent to Louis XV of France, to explore the Americas, formed the French Mississippi Company, landed in the Mississippi delta, and built huts along "Vieux Carre", or the quarter, which till today is called the French Quarter. He named the settlement La Nouvelle-Orléans.

If you want to know how this is pronounced, refer to PDG Shaju Peter, who has just completed his advance Diploma in French from Punjab University. Notwithstanding the pronunciation of La Nouvelle-Orléans, the fact is the settlement began on May 7, 1718. Before long it was sold to the Spanish, re-sold back to the French, before Napoleon sold it to the Americans in 1803.

Situated on the delta of the mighty Mississippi, a port with riverine network to feed the hinterland, and large sugarcane and cotton plantation all around, New Orleans grew to be a populous and rich city, a gateway to Europe. Remember Rhett Butler moving from Atlanta to New Orleans, to set sail for Europe to make money during the war, in Margaret Mitchell epic *Gone With The Wind*.

With prosperity came émigrés. First the Haitians, white and colored, free and slaves. Cubans, French, Spanish. And with them came more slaves. No wonder the Unionist captured New Orleans first during the Civil War.

Result? A multi-ethnic culture with French influence in architecture, and a distinct African influence in music. The Jazz, contributed greatly to modern day rock and roll, the Blues, the Hip-hop, the punk et all. And the cuisine too is a mix of French, Spanish, Haitian, and Cuban, all with African influence, to be washed down with distinctive coffee with chicory.

With music, festivities cannot be far behind. The Mardi Gras, is popularly referred as the Carnival. Brought in the French, it has its beginnings in the Christian season of Lent, and is marked by parades, balls, some masked, and the like.

Even Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the City and its milder version, Rita, could not dampen the soaring spirit of the city. Today, its leaders, including Rotarians need to make a statement that all is well.

So this time around the Rotary International Convention will be held in May 2011 in New Orleans, or La Nouvelle-Orléans, as it was originally

known.

Join in to celebrate the indomitable spirit in the City, and the equally spirited fellowship of Rotary International. Right here in our District is a spirited lady, "the one and only", PDG Kawal Bedi, who serves on the 23 Member 2011 New Orleans Convention Promotion Committee for Zones 4 & 6A with Former Rotary Foundation Trustee Carolyn Jones in the Chair. Most of you will remember her as the R.I. President's Representative to our District Conference in 2007-08 when Shaju was the District Governor.



Co Editor : Mrs. Shashi Jain

Gift for Early Bird District Conference Registration

The District Conference for this Rotary Year, will be held at Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh, on Saturday and Sunday, December 18-19, 2010. The registration charge of INR 1200.00 for single registration and INR 2000.00 for couple is valid up to July 31, 2010. This is an early bird registration fee and will be entitled to a special gift at the time of the conference.

We have information that several members of our Club have already registered for this at Barog, including PDG Shaju Peter, PP M.S. Kahlon, and PP Indrajee Sengupta. Those wishing to register may please contact AG Prof. S.K. Sharma on Cell No. 98156 54192; AG Praveen Goel on 94170 08176; or, Conference Chairman, Manhohan Singh on 98140 04840

Registration with effect from August 1, 2010 till October 31,

2010 will be INR 1400.00 per single registration and INR 2500.00 per couple. Registration done from November 1, 2010 will be treated as Spot Registration and will be takes kit. Registration will be IR 1800.00 for single registration and INR 3000.00 per couple.

The District Conference is an annual event for members of all clubs. The purpose is for fellowship, good fun, inspirational speakers and discussion on matters which makes Rotary membership more meaningful. Those who attend a Conference once, go back year after year. One of the unexpected benefits of attending a district conference is the opportunity to become better acquainted with members of Rotary Clubs of the district and your own Club in an informal setting. Lasting friendships grow from the fellowship at the district conference.

Amendment of Club Bye-laws Initiated

The Club Bye Law Amendment Committee chaired by PP B.L. Ramsisaria, with PDG Shaju Peter and PP Devi Prasad Khandelia as members has already begun drafting the Amendments. It is expected to be brought to the house for approval post-Board approval by September of this year.

These Amendments have been necessitated by existing practices, previous and April 2010 Council on Legislation Enactments.

Salient among this year's Enactments that affect Clubs are:

- No Club can limit membership on sexual orientation
- Clubs must inform the District Governor 10 days prior to any proposed change in name or locality is voted for in the Club
- The Immediate Past Club President will be considered as a member of the Club Board

- RI may suspend or terminate any Club that retains any member who has misused any funds from The Rotary Foundation, and/or who has, otherwise breached the stewardship policies of the Foundation
- Clubs accepting a transferring or former Rotarian must secure a certificate from the former member's club confirming his/her membership. The former member club is obligated to verify that the member does not owe any debt to the club. A prospective member cannot join the club until all debts have been paid.

The Council has also enhanced membership dues to US\$ 50 in 2010-11, US \$ 51 in 2011-12 and US \$ 52 in 2012-13. New Generation Service has been added to the existing Avenues of Service. E clubs become a permanent feature of Rotary International. E Clubs are restricted to 2 per district.

Change in Mobile Number

Please make a note of the new mobile Number of Vinod Kumar Jawa - 98784-51035

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PP Ramsisaria Chairs Installation Committee

The Board of Directors in its meeting on Wednesday, July 14, has appointed PP B.L. Ramsisaria as Chairman of the Installation Committee. The other Members of this Committee are President Prem Anand, Secretary Deepak Sood, IPP Gurdip Deep, PDG Shaju Peter, PP Ajit Gulati, PP Subhash Bindra and PP Indrajeet Sengupta. This Committee is charged with the organization and execution of the forthcoming Installation Ceremony of President Prem Anand and his team.

Deepa Sahib Singh Installed President of Inner Wheel

Mrs. Deepa Sahib Singh was installed as President of Inner Wheel Club Chandigarh Midtown for the year 2010-11 at a solemn ceremony on Thursday, July 15, 2010.

Mrs. Asha Gupta, President, Mrs. Jatinder Rai, Secretary, Mrs. Rama Gupta, Treasurer, Mrs. Indu Luthra ISO, were declared "Sarva Sresth" by Inner Wheel District 308.

Rajinder Sihota makes up in California

Rajinder Sihota, is recently back from California USA, where he made up his meeting at the Hayward San Lorenzo Rotary Club. He presented their Club flag to President Prem Anand.

Rajinder has served this Club for two years as Director Vocational Service, one year as Joint Secretary and another as Treasurer.

This is indeed a fine way not only to make up meetings, but also to build friendship across continents, to further the object of Rotary.

Get Well Soon

This news is a little belated, but is being carried in the bulletin because of our great concern.

PP Col. (Retd.) Amar Jit Sigh Gill collapsed after dinner on June 4, 2010. He was rushed to the Cardiac Care Center at Fortis by his friends who had dinner with him that evening. He remained under intensive care for three days, while all tests were being carried out by the hospital authorities. Finally it was diagnosed that his condition arose because an irregular heartbeat. After stabilization of his condition, a surgical intervention has been carried out for fitment of a pace-maker. He was discharged from hospital on Saturday, June 11, and is currently recuperating at home.

We are sure that with the care of his wife Herpreet, and son Raman, and his family, who are now back from the USA, he will be back in high spirits soon.

Donations for Club Projects

We are grateful to Sudershan and Ravinder Krishan for their donation of Rs. 2100.00 towards Club projects to mark their Wedding Anniversary which fell on July 19.

Thank you and Congratulations!

Greetings

Birthday of Rotary Ann's

Sonal Grover  July 26
Archana Mathur  July 27

Birthday of Rotarians

Atul Grover  July 23

Wedding Anniversary

Anupam & Rakesh Jain  July 23

Punctuality Draw

Won by Salil Bali



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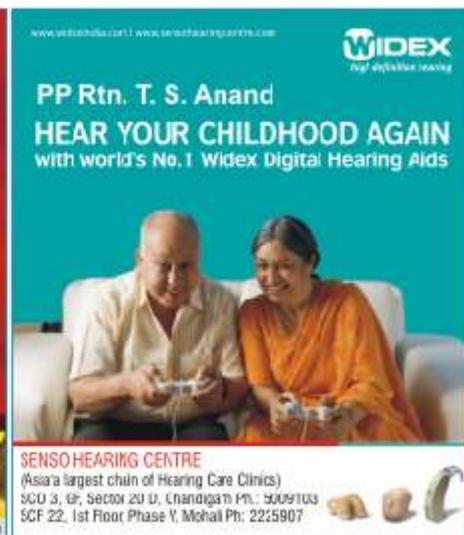
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