

The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

2015-16

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Club No. 15228
R.I. District 3080

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District Governor
David Hilton

President
Mrs. Kanan Diwan

Secretary
Sanjay Bhatia

Editor
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXX No. 17 Dated: October 27, 2015

PROGRAMME

Karva Chauth Celebrations
Chief Guests: All Husbands...!
Fun games and Entertainment
Organized by: PP Rtn. Mrs. Ritu Singal

Friday, October 30, 2015

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Understanding Gandhi



Prof. Dr. Jai Narain Sharma

In our weekly meeting on October 23, 2015 Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Jai Narain Sharma of Department of Gandhian and Peace Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh was welcomed by President Rtn. Kanan Diwan. He was formally introduced by PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta. Former Chairman of Department of Gandhian Studies and Director of Gandhi Bhawan Panjab University, Prof. J.N. Sharma has greatly contributed towards Gandhian Studies. He has been visiting Professor in the Universities in India and abroad. He has done MA in Political Science and also in Economics from Panjab University, Chandigarh, M.Phil from H.P. University, Shimla and Ph.D from Department of Gandhian and Peace Studies, Panjab University. His areas of specialization are Gandhian thought, Peace Studies and conflict resolution. He was conferred upon the prestigious Acharya Mahaprajna Sahitya Award in 2010. He has important UGC assignments and has a long list of publications and research papers to his credit.

Enlightening us on 'Understanding Gandhi', Prof. Sharma touched various aspects of Gandhi's life including in South Africa, where he triumphed to fight racial discrimination through non-violence and by leading a life of considerable discipline and self-restraint.

In pursuance of India's struggle for freedom, Gandhi's approach was based on complete non-violence aimed at bringing the Government to a standstill, by withdrawing every support to administration. The civil disobedience movement was planned to paralyze the Government by mass support by undertaking acts which the British Government considered illegal but were protests against exploitative and suppressive measures.

Mahatma Gandhi is the strongest symbol of non-violence in the 20th century. He should have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He was nominated

several times - 1937, 1938, 1939, 1947 and 1948. In 1948 he was considered a sure winner. However, he was assassinated a few days before the deadline and as per the norms the prize could not be given to a person who was dead.

Holy scriptures influenced Gandhi to shape his character, and was source of strength and solace to him in the darkest hours of his life. He was a man of true words, a great leader, a true fighter who set an example of simple living and high thinking. Non-violence, truth, inspiration and great leadership qualities are what come to our mind when we think of him.

Prof. Sharma said Gandhi ji is the 'most misunderstood' leader. He was criticised by the capitalists as they considered him pro-poor while communists considered him a capitalist Congressman. Orthodox Hindus thought he was pro-Muslim, while Muslim fundamentalists thought he was pro-Hindu. Dalits thought he worked against their interest and the upper class accused him of his being against them. Actually, nobody could define Gandhi because he always pursued the middle path, wanting to achieve the ends



*Prof. Rana Nayar presents a memento to Prof. Jai Narain Sharma.
Looking on is President Kanan Diwan*

through non-violent means and advocated a win-win situation for all.

Gandhi was a political visionary, economist and pragmatist and most of his programmes are relevant even today. Some of these designed by him are still very much in use by the Government or are still being implemented through national rural employment and health schemes. These include promoting village industries or micro enterprises for generation of local employment, village sanitation, education in health and hygiene, and focused on clean environment and health issues. He believed in grassroots democracy, decentralisation of power, panchayat administration, which is still prevailing.

His theory of non-violent conflict resolution through negotiation and discussion is effective even today for resolving disputes. As regards his popularity, Gandhian philosophy and the non-violence approach he had promoted, is also growing in the Western world.

The response of youngsters on Gandhian studies is also pretty good. Students are coming forward to do research on Gandhi. National seminars on Gandhian topics are being held and professors and students are writing books on Gandhian philosophy.

On behalf of our Club Rtn. Prof. Rana Nayar thanked Prof. Dr. Jai Narain Sharma for giving us a very illuminating lecture by touching on different aspects of Mahatma Gandhi's life.



Aziz Ahmed, Husani Begum and their visually challenged daughters Aasma and Halima, who thanked Rtn. Ashok Puri, R'ann Sudha Puri and our club for the financial assistance and support for completing their MA degrees from Panjab University to enable them get job in State Bank of India, with package of 3 lakh per annum. They distributed sweets to all present in the meeting. Chief Guest Prof. J.N. Sharma appreciated the initiative taken by Rtn. Ashok Puri, R'ann Sudha Puri and our club



Prof. J.N. Sharma presents punctuality award to PP Rtn. Deepak Sood. Looking on is Secretary Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia



October 24 was World Polio Day. Giving Rotary International presentation on 'End Polio Now', Director Community Service Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra appeals for contributions to the Polio Fund over and above the 30 \$ contribution per member before 30th November 2015. She requested teachers and members to appeal to students, Rotaractors and Interactors in schools and colleges to help raise contributions



Rtn. Dr. Shashi Jain and Rtn. Dr. Harinder Jit Kaur National Anthem



PP Deepak Sood Officiating Sgt-at-Arms Calling meeting to order



Rtn. Rekha Sawhney Invocation



PP Dr. Balram Gupta Introducing Chief Guest



Rtn. Prof. Rana Nayar Vote of thanks

District Governor's Official Visit



DG Visit to Projects – Adult Literacy Centre, Village Maloya



DG Visit to Projects – WinS at Govt Model School, Mani Majra

In our meeting on October 23, 2015 President Kanan Diwan was pleased to acknowledge the very successful official Visit of District Governor David Hilton and First Lady Patricia on October 17, 2015. They were taken to our three projects and were impressed to see these, and were touched to see the work done by our club. She added, "The celebration of the 2000th weekly meeting was also a big success because you all participated."

She was very thankful to Past RI President Raja Saboo for joining us for a short period and blessing and inspiring us, in spite of being very busy for a family function at his home.

President Kanan thanked PDG Shaju Peter for presenting the glorious past of our 38 Presidents so beautifully. She also gave credit to all board members for sharing their responsibilities so willingly. She said, "I salute the Event Chair PPAjit Gulati for his meticulous planning. I cannot forget the amount of work PP Indrajeet Sengupta has done for publishing of the souvenir. Our bulletin Editor PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra has covered every detail in the bulletin so perfectly well."

Secretary Sanjay Bhatia gave a presentation of DG's official visit.



Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia





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Welcome our New Rotarian



Ravinder Kumar Jain
 TRF ID No. :
 Address (O) : New India Assurance Co. Ltd
 SCO 36-37, Sector 17-A
 Chandigarh
 (R) : # 1414 Sector 34-C, Chandigarh
 Phone (O) : 2701274
 (R) : 2601414
 Mobile : 90410 11033
 Email : ravinder.jain@newindia.co.in
 D.o.B : 04.03.1956
 Wedding : December 10
 Member from : 7/10/2015
 Positions held : Member
 Spouse : Saroj Jain
 Vocation : Social Worker
 D.o.B : January 15
 Children : Mayank (S)
 Shreyans (S)



Poster Making Contest on Gandhi Jayanti

Report by
Director Youth Service Rtn. Sundeep S. Sawhney

Poster making Contest was successfully organized by Rotary Chandigarh Midtown, in which there were 61 participants from Interact Clubs of Govt. Sr. Sec. School Mani Majra Town, Govt. Sr. Sec. School Mani Majra MHC, Govt. Model High School Mani Majra and Kundan International School Chandigarh.

The Theme, 'Swachh Bharat' was depicted differently by all the students with their novel ideas and imagination. They portrayed their motherland the way they wanted to see in the near future, that is, Clean India Green India, garbage free and pollution free India. Colours, oil pastels, glass painting colours were extensively used.

It was a hard task looking for the winners as the competition was too tough and all the participants had really touched the social issue very impressively.

To everyone involved in the fight against polio

Dear Polio Fighter,
 Ten million children are alive and walking today because of your efforts to eradicate polio. They will never know your names or what you have done for them. But if they did know, I believe they would want to say: Thank you. Thank you for everything you are doing to wipe out this crippling disease. Thank you for blanketing the world's largest cities and its smallest villages — sometimes even risking your own lives — to make sure every child is protected from polio. We have come so far—more than 99 percent of the way—and eradicating this disease is within our reach, as long as we keep up the effort. For me personally, it is an honor to support your amazing work. One day we will come together to celebrate the end of polio, and the world will know that it was only possible because of what you are doing. You have my admiration and my gratitude.
 Sincerely,
 Bill Gates

Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Lovy Peter

Punctuality Award

Won by PP Rtn. Deepak Sood

November 02

Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Dr. Anureet Kaur

Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua

Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Aruna & Rtn. Ashok Aggarwal



October 31
November 02

November 01



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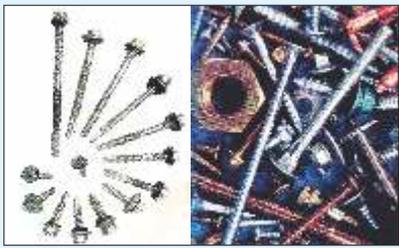


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