

# MID-TOWN MUSINGS

Bulletin of The Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town

R. I. President  
Sakuji Tanaka

District Governor  
Dr. Balkrishna Inamdar

Club President  
RP Anand



## March is Literacy Month

## President's Address

Dear Fellow Rotarians,



The District Conference 2013 [DISCON 2013], was held at the Aamby Valley City, Lonavla, an out of the ordinary venue, on February 2-3, 2013. The DISCON was hosted by RC Mumbai West Coast, a perfect host to a gathering of more than 1,000 registrations. There were eminent speakers from various fields. PP Anil Kamath, Naren Mohatta and I attended the same.

Our usual CCC&B Fellowship to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries was held on February 6. And for a change, it was at 'Garden Lawn' of the Wodehouse Gymkhana. The cake cutting was done under the blue starry sky, while members sang 'Happy Birthday and Congratulations'. The dinner comprised delicious Sindhi dishes, organised by PP Mohan Lalvani.

On February 13, was the Pre-OCV, followed by our III Club Assembly. Assistant Governor, Dr. Rumi Jehangir presided over the Club Assembly and had an open talk with the committee chairmen on the various projects our Club is doing. He appreciated our Club's various community projects. This assembly was in preparation for the District Governor's visit on March 6.

After the Pre-OCV and Club Assembly, the 12 member Rotarian Team from District 5450 (Colorado) attended our club's regular meeting at The Taj. They were led by Rtn. Janet Greiner and her father, Rod Greiner. Janet made a PowerPoint presentation at our meeting. After our regular meeting, the group left for Manor, Vikramgarh.

On February 14 and 15, they toured the villages and project sites in and around Potkhal, Baste, Taluka Vikramgarh along with PP A. Sinha Roy, Yogesh Pandya, Dinyar Jamshedji and myself.

The first picnic programme outside Mumbai was organised after a gap of few years. On Saturday, February 16, 2013, couples had a great day of fun and fellowship at Rtn. Abbas Jasdanwala's Alibaug farm house. Abbas and Madhurani were the perfect hosts, taking care of everything for the comfort of our Rotarians. We were taken around the 6 acres of property accompanied by Abbas. We all returned in the evening with a memory of this beautiful trip. Many thanks to my dear friends Abbas and Madhurani.

The total collection for the 'Beautification' Project of Malabar Hill, Kamla Nehru Park is R4,40,000, for putting up 22 benches. The benches are getting ready and will be laid in the Kamla Nehru Park soon.

Official Club Visit (OCV) of our District Governor Dr. Balkrishna Inamdar will be on Wednesday, March 6. Please keep this day free and attend in large numbers. All Directors, Committee Chairmen please come prepared with your activities report and present it at the Club Assembly. The program schedule is as follows:

### SESSION 1 — Meeting with Officers

(11.30 a.m. to noon) and Club Assembly with Directors, Chairmen (noon to 1 p.m.);

### SESSION 2 — Regular Club Meeting

(1.15 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.) DG to address the Club;

### SESSION 3 — Meeting With Inner Wheel

(2.30 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.) and Meeting With Rotaractors and Interactors (2.45 p.m. – 03.15 p.m.).

- R. P. Anand



Heartiest congratulations to these Rotarians who have maintained 100 per cent attendance in the first half of the current Rotary Year. Many of them have been Hundred per centers for the last years. We salute you and wish you many happy years of Rotary ahead. Our Club feels very proud of you:

**Rtn. PP Anil Ambo, Rtn. PP Satyabhushan Anand,  
Rtn. R.P. Anand (President), Rtn. PP Mehernosh Currawalla,  
Rtn. Arvind Doshi, Rtn. PP Lalit Goculdas,  
Rtn. PP Kersi Hilloo, Rtn. Murlidhar Jalan, Rtn. Gaurav Kapadia,  
Rtn. Munna Mitha, Rtn. Narendra Mohatta, Rtn. Ashwin Shah,  
Rtn. PP Arrow Sinha Roy, Rtn. PP Shaleh Tyebjee**





## The "PUNJAB-SINDH" Musical Fellowship

The "Punjab-Sindh" Musical Fellowship Night held on January 23, 2013, was a colourful gathering of Rotarians, Rotarianns and their friends. The food was splendid, with vast Punjabi and Sindhi spreads to choose from. The hosts had on the symbolic head-gear in varied colours, while the ladies were dressed in traditional attires and they danced on the 'Dholka' beats perfectly.

The entertainment programme featured foot-tapping melodious songs by our Rtns. PP Rahul Mehta, Rajiv Kapur, Dr. Anil Tibrewala, Dr. Dilip Nadkarni and Abhishek Mane. The musicians had demonstrated beyond doubt that music, holds no boundaries of language, age and culture. The group dancing was choreographed by Suruchi Chand and Ashok Mehta.

What was noteworthy, the attendance was 160; our Rotarians made it a point to come in large numbers even though it was a working day. It was so wonderful to see the colourful gathering of Rotarians and their friends.





## MUCH AWAITED PROJECT-VISIT OF ROTARIANS from District 5450, Colorado

February 13 was a very special day for our Club, as we welcomed a 14-member team from Colorado, led by Janet Greiner (RC Denver LoDo) and her father, Rod (RC Denver). Janet and I had worked out a 10-day itinerary which provided the group with a quick trip of the 'Golden Triangle' — Delhi, Agra (plus Fatehpur Sikri), Jaipur, and Ranthambore Tiger Sanctuary. They completely enjoyed the experience, but still looked forward to their two-day stay at Manor, visiting the soon-to-be-completed 'Watershed Project' (MG 65127) at Potkhal/Baste and writing 'finis' to the 'Nutrition, education and adult literacy' project (MG 71045) which they had co-sponsored.

At the Club meeting on February 13, Janet made a brief but impactful presentation on District 5450, her LoDo Club and a glimpse of the impressive projects they



Janet trying balancing a load!

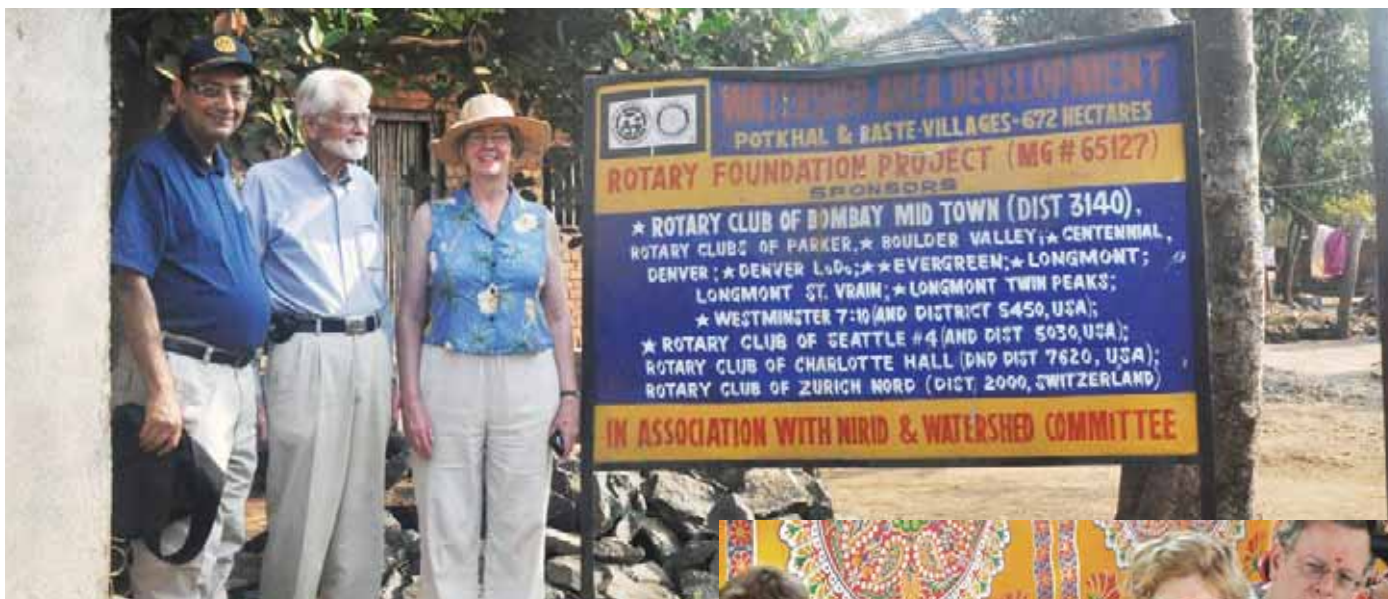


The group covered difficult terrain to see the entire project



Group photo with towering 'Acacias' of the reforestation scheme





Rod and Janet last visited the project in 2008

are engaged in. Rod Greiner, on behalf of the Group, presented a cheque of \$2,035 to President R.P Anand for the 'Watershed Project'. Rtn. Roxy Hahn presented a cheque of \$1,000, for the same project, on behalf of RC of Denver. By a happy coincidence, IPP Dan Ruparel from her club happened to be in Mumbai on a business visit, and was present at the meeting.

Straight from the meeting, I accompanied the team on a coach ride to 'Silent Hills Resort', where they spent the next couple of days visiting the project site and interacting with the villagers. The next day, February 14, President RP Anand, accompanied by Rtn. Dinyar Jamshedji and Yogesh Pandya, arrived and spent the day participating in numerous activities. Two days later, Yogesh and I accompanied them to the 'Vocational Centre for tribal boys' at Sakwar, before the group departed the same evening. It was indeed a very inspirational experience for us, to be able to meet so many dedicated individuals and see their very positive reactions to the transformation of lifestyles brought by the projects. The photos say it all.

— Report by Rtn. PP Arrow Sinha Roy



President R. P. Anand encouraged us by participating in the activities



President R.P Anand handing a glass of milk to a 'Balwadi' child

## Obituary

We are all deeply grieved about the sad demise of our dear friend and Past President Dr. Rustom S. Davar, father of Rtn. Sohrab Davar, on February 5, 2013. He was 90 years old. It broke our hearts to lose a friend so close. We still feel and treasure the moments spent with him during the days of his Presidentship of Rotary Mid-Town.

The members of RC Bombay Mid-Town, extend their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.



## Leadership Challenges in Social Services

*"Never doubt a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has" — Margaret Mead*

Being of service to the underprivileged is something Dhun Davar embraced since her school and college days, when she taught underprivileged children through garden school, Akansha etc. Over time, she became deeply interested in understanding the lives of the poor, their economic lives, the decisions (rational or irrational) they were making and the social and political issues they were facing. This led her to study development at the London School of Economics. After graduation, she spent a year in volunteering in Zambia, Africa. At the time, she felt strongly that if she had the skills to share and if she wished to make a meaningful contribution to an organisation, this was the right opportunity. On her visit to Mumbai's Shivaji Nagar, where the NGO Apnalaya works, she was so shocked, she decided to stay behind and work with them.



The Shivaji Nagar slum — where Apnalaya works — is near the dumping grounds of Deonar, Mumbai. Here, people live a hand-to-mouth existence, with high malnutrition and a low literacy rate. They have no access to water, and it is sold at R8-10 per gallon. An individual would need at least five gallons of water per day.

Apnalaya, an NGO founded in 1972, helps children living in slums towards a better life and strives to achieve this through urban community development projects. However, the challenges they face are stiff. To enumerate a few:

- **Growing Population** — As the population in the slums keeps on growing, there is a need for more people to serve. There are many social workers, teachers, doctors, etc., who volunteer their time in the slums, but they need a great amount of management guidance. There is a great need for efficient and streamlined operations.
- **Poverty (social-economic-political dimension)** — this is a complex task, and there is a need for the problem solving and critical thinking capabilities.
- **Politics and Bureaucracy** — there is a need to negotiate the red tapism with diplomacy.
- **Negative attitude of general population** — we have to sensitise the general population by creating awareness.
- **Resources** — there is a need to sustain operations and find the right people to look after financial and human resource management.

Having worked at Apnalaya for the past few years, Dhun has come to learn of the great challenges faced by social service organisations that hold them back. She assumed the leadership of this organisation, as its Chief Executive Officer at the young age of 25. With the help of a very moving presentation, Dhun explained what Mumbai slums are and the challenges that the social service organisations face.

Dhun began by presenting some startling statistics. She mentioned that nearly 65 per cent of Mumbai's population live in slums, and only on six per cent of land at that. In the M E Ward, where the Shivaji Nagar slum is based, 77 per cent people live in slums. A slum is where the households lack durable housing, sufficient living area, access to water and sanitation and secure tenure. This is a reflection of the urban poverty, which is not only seen as income poverty, but also the absence of access to the basic civic services and the quality of their habitats. Mostly, the people who live in these slums are the maidservants, *ayyas*, rickshaw drivers, bus drivers, embroiderers, *chappal* makers etc. Their life expectancy is barely 39-40 years.



So importantly, there is a crying need of leadership and a strong sense of professionalism. Business acumen combined with a commitment to mission driven service is necessary for more effective social work in the slums.

Date: **Wednesday, January 30, 2013**

Speaker: **Ms. Dhun Davar, CEO, Apnalaya**

Subject: **Leadership Challenges in Social Services**

Introduced by: **PP Rtn. Ashok Sharma**

Vote of Thanks by: **Rtn. Nargis Wadia**

— Report by Rtn. Sunil Gautam



## Eating out!



**The Mid-Town Rotarians had a huge treat listening to a universally accepted subject — Food. And who better to speak on the subject than Ms Farzana Contractor, the Founder-Publisher and Editor-Photographer of India's first food, wine and travel magazine, UpperCrust?**

Farzana drew the attention of the audience with a simple question: What is good food? After several attempted answers by the audience, we realised that we cannot actually define good food. Good food has different meaning to different people. But one can summarise by stating that its food that's good for your health, your community, and the environment, and most definitely delicious and inspiring. Farzana also mentioned that good food is what your mind accepts. She advised to listen to your heart, and also to the moment while having any kind of food. But more importantly, she advised one can consume even the richest food, so long that it is consumed in moderation.

Farzana then took the audience through a mouth watering journey with the help of the visuals, which she had captured on her camera. The topic covered was mainly the street foods of India. Her husband, the renowned journalist Behram Contractor — the inimitable Busybee, doyen of the eating out column, made eating out in the streets and the bylanes of Mumbai very fashionable. The



first food writer of the country, he was responsible for turning the fortunes of many a restaurateur.

Farzana described the street food mainly of four Indian cities: Mumbai, Banaras, Amritsar and Lucknow.

And when we speak about food, we have to mention the quintessential Irani restaurants of Mumbai. On a walk down the oldest parts of Mumbai, south central Mumbai to be precise, one cannot miss the streets populated by old restaurants. The cuisine on offer was typically a Parsi and Irani fare. Several of these places still offer *khari* biscuits and *brun maska* had with Irani chai and a host of other savouries.

Located in Ballard Estate, Fort, Colaba and Churchgate, these Irani restaurants are reminders of a bygone era. They continue to do brisk business, but face stiff competition from newer, more popular joints that have mushroomed.

**Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013**

**Speaker: Ms. Farzana Contractor, Founder-Publisher and Editor-Photographer, UpperCrust Magazine**

**Subject: Street Foods of India and Irani Cafes**

**Introduced by: Rtn. Nargis Wadia**

**Vote of Thanks by: Rtn. Sucharita Hegde**

**— Report by Rtn. Sunil Gautam**

## “Flame of Education Scholarships Project” (by 11 South Mumbai Rotary Clubs)

Republic Day was celebrated with the distribution of R10.80 lacs as scholarships of R1,625 each to 665 underprivileged and mentally challenged students of 35 municipal and special needs schools, at the KC College Hall, Churchgate, at a glittering function.



District Governor Dr. Bal Inamdar addressing the audience



Dr. Bal Inamdar inaugurating the function

The following 11 South Mumbai Clubs contributed R5.40 lacs matched equally by the District, contributing R5.40 lacs to distribute R10.80 lacs to these students.

The participating clubs under the Chairmanship of District Joint Secretary PP Rtn. Anil Kamath of RC of Bombay Mid-Town were as under:

|                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Rtn. Radhika Mehta:</b>   | Mumbai Queen's Necklace |
| <b>Rtn. Abbas Arsiwalla:</b> | Bombay North            |
| <b>Rtn. R.P Anand:</b>       | Bombay Mid-Town         |
| <b>Rtn. Shabbir Shakeer:</b> | Mumbai Sealand          |
| <b>Rtn. Sunil Dhowan:</b>    | Bombay Worli            |
| <b>Rtn. Sandip Timbadia:</b> | Bombay Harbour          |
| <b>Rtn. Devang Goradia:</b>  | Bombay Pier             |
| <b>Rtn. Ramesh Suvarna:</b>  | Mumbai Malabar Hill     |
| <b>Rtn. Kamal Kothari:</b>   | Mumbai Cuffe Parade     |
| <b>Rtn. Vijay Lakhotia:</b>  | Mumbai Mid-City         |
| <b>Rtn. Rajiv Agarwal:</b>   | Mumbai Nariman Point    |

The Chief Guest, District Governor Dr. Bal Inamdar inaugurated the function and gave a very motivating speech to all the children present in the audience. DGN Rtn. Ajay Gupta was the Guest of Honour who urged the youth to work hard towards the betterment of India. Dir-in-Charge of Service Project '12 was also a Guest of Honour; he made a presentation on the achievements of the District through the Service 12 projects, and

spoke about the great impact these projects had made on the community.

DG Bal Inamdar then distributed the scholarships on behalf of the children to the respective School Principals and Special Representatives, who were specially invited. Later, Ms. Jyoti Tanna, Principal of one of the participating schools thanked the Rotary movement for supporting the cause of education of poor and underprivileged children; she said it was the first time any social organisation had supported education in such an elaborate manner.

On the occasion, DG Bal Inamdar also recognised the efforts of the 11 Presidents of the above Clubs, and presented them a memento and certificates of appreciation.

The children of the 10 beneficiary schools then put up two hours of a fabulous show which consisted of gorgeous cultural dances, patriotic song items, thought-provoking mono acting and very entertaining skits. The students of a school for the mentally challenged performed Yoga exercises synchronised to apt music.

Rtn. Abbas Arsiwalla of the RC of Bombay North gave a formal vote of thanks.





## DISCON 2013 – In a nutshell

At the Board Meeting of RCBMT held on January 16, 2013, it was decided that President R.P Anand along with a few Directors would visit the flagship event of District 3140, i.e. DISCON 2013, to be held on February 2-3, 2013.

This was the first time the District Conference was being held outside the boundaries of RI District 3140. The venue of the meet was Aamby Valley City.

The City, in the cusp of pristine nature, aesthetically combines the all-encompassing facets of luxurious living and business conveniences. Highly conducive weather, a misty mountain peak, luxuriant foliage, the enchanting gardens, adds to the mystique and grandeur of Aamby Valley City. The venue was packed with over 1,100 Rotarians along with their spouses and guests.

The objective of the visit was to cast RCBMT's votes (a total of six) for the selection of the candidate standing for election.

Accordingly, President Rtn. R.P Anand, accompanied by PP Rtn. Anil Kamath and Rtn. Naren Mohatta, left for Aamby Valley on the morning of Saturday February 2, 2013. They were received by Rtn. Gopal Mandhania, Assistant Governor, who acted as their friend, philosopher and guide during the visit.

The VIP delegates included District Governor Dr. Bal Inamdar, RI Representative, Past District Governors, and other dignitaries and several prominent speakers were amongst others.

### THE MAIN SPEAKERS

#### Dr. Unni Karunakaran – MSF

The International President of Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF), also known as "Doctors without Borders", leads the International Board and the International General Assembly, and represents MSF International externally. MSF was recipient of "Nobel Peace Prize" in 1999. Dr Unni Karunakara came from Geneva to be with RID 3140.

#### Dr. Palash Sen – 'Euphoria' – Pioneering Hindi Rock

Palash Sen is a man of varied interests and talents. An

extreme rage amongst the youth, he is credited with pioneering Hindi Rock Music in India. He has his own wildly popular Rock band – 'Euphoria'.

#### Ms. Chhavi Rajawat - Youngest Lady Sarpanch

Changing face of growing dynamic rural India, she is a sarpanch of Soda village, 60 kilometres from Jaipur, in Rajasthan. Dynamic and dashing, Rajawat, is India's youngest and the only MBA to become a village head. She received a standing ovation from the audience.



#### Mr. Anand Kumar – 'Super 30'

Out of 270 students he tutored from 2002-2011, 236 students have made an admission to IIT. All of them came from poor backgrounds – their parents were hawkers, auto-drivers, labourers etc. He received a standing ovation from the participating audience.

The arrangements made at DISCON 2013 were superb. The main conference was held in a special air-conditioned tent which could seat about 1,200

delegates. Three other luxurious tents housed the food area, the Hall of Fame and the voting booth. It was a proud moment to view the photograph of our senior Rtn. Badrinarayan Barwale displayed in the 'Hall of Fame'.

Having cast the club votes, the three delegates bade an Ode to the Charming City and returned to Mumbai the same day. The visit was a rewarding experience for all of us.

– Report by President Rtn. R. P. Anand

## Mission Statement

The mission of Rotary International is to support the member clubs in fulfilling the OBJECT OF ROTARY by:

- Fostering unity among member clubs
- Strengthening and expanding Rotary around the world
- Communicating worldwide the work of Rotary
- Providing a system of international administration



## Rotary Club aids autistic students

Four groups raise money for interactive playground

By Chris Michlewicz

cmichlewicz@ourcoloradonews.com



The Rotary Club of Parker organized a grant project to donate interactive playground equipment to the Firefly Autism Center in Denver. Four Rotary Clubs from three nations joined the effort to raise \$27,800 for the equipment. *Photos by Melissa Sphatt*



*Buck contacted his good friend and Mumbai Rotary liaison, Arrow Sinha Roy who had coordinated the life-changing water projects in his country, and pitched the new mission.*

*The Mumbai club had spent its allocated funding for the year, but Roy appealed to a Rotary district leader who gave his blessing and donated \$5,000 of*

*district funds for the playground equipment.*

*The two clubs also enlisted the help of the Rotary Club of Centennial and the Rotary Club of Zurich-Nord in Switzerland, both of whom contributed funding.*

Every noble cause begins with the planting of a seed in the form of a great idea.

Having successfully partnered on efforts to drill much-needed water wells in low income villages in India, the Rotary Club of Parker and a Rotary Chapter in Mumbai, India, were on the lookout for a new grant project — this one to be in the United States.

"I said, 'Why don't we do a project here? We'll be the hosts this time,'" said Irv Buck, a Rotary member for the last 13 years. "They jumped on board (before a project was identified)!"

The search ended when a guest speaker visited the 63-member Rotary Club of Parker and talked about the increasing prevalence of autism, as well as a learning centre for autistic children in southeast Denver. Members of the Rotary Club soon stopped by the Firefly Autism centre to see where they might be able to lend a hand. The centre had a running list of needs, and the men — Kevin Roth, Ken Claiborne, Jim Pettett, and Buck — set about tackling smaller projects like cleaning the basement and painting.

But when they noticed a virtually empty back yard, and learned about the Firefly Autism's desire for inter-active playground equipment, they found their calling.

*During a visit to the U.S. two years ago, Roy had visited the autism centre, and was as impressed as his cohorts with the dedicated staff and innovative lessons. The idea behind the playground, was to install interactive equipment that would enable the toddlers to improve their communication and social skills.*

The equipment includes a teeter-totter, an apparatus that requires the cooperation of two children, and a 4-inch-diameter tube measuring 20 feet long that allows a child to either talk or listen to the voice of the child on the other end.

Buck, a Parker resident since 1983, says he is mystified that the \$27,850 project came together so easily and is having such a great impact on autistic children.

The cost of special care and education, especially staffing, is high, and the donation of the playground equipment to Firefly Autism takes one more major expenditure off the list.

Buck says the only snag during the three year assignment, was figuring out the currency exchange from rupees and francs to dollars. He credits the willing collaboration of the Rotary groups for the philanthropic victory. "The thing that's meaningful to me is a few people can do it and make a difference," he says. "You just start at the bottom with an idea."



## 'Project'ing our thoughts...

**WORLD DISABILITY DAY — DECEMBER 6, 2012**  
**VENUE: JAI VAKEEL SCHOOL**

A programme was arranged to showcase their ability. There was a musical fun game, marketing strategies for their products, awareness programme to save water, and water pollution. Mentally challenged children performed the circus, in which they showed about how to keep our place clean and always save water. The act was performed by their pre-nursery group.





**ROTARACT CLUB OF LALA LAJPATRAI COLLEGE  
OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMICS**



**ORGANISES....**

**A BLOOD DONATION CAMP**



**DATE : 17TH DECEMBER, 2012**  
**TIME : 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM**  
**VENUE : AUDI FOYER, LALA LAJPATRAI COLLEGE, MAHALAXMI**  
**FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT RTR. SONAKSHI : 9867973505**

**BLOOD DONATION — DECEMBER 17, 2012**  
**VENUE: LALA LAJPATRAI COLLEGE**

The camp commenced with students and teachers registering themselves. Their hemoglobin levels, weight and blood pressure were checked. After they were cleared for blood donation, they doctors collected the blood in bags and kept it away for storage. Refreshments were provided to the donors so they could regain strength faster. The donors were given certificates and donor cards to recognise their valuable input to the society. The donor cards serve important to the donor and his family in getting immediate blood relief in case of any unforeseen situation in future.

**A VISIT TO BOMBAY STOCK EXCHANGE — DECEMBER 20, 2012**  
**VENUE: BOMBAY STOCK EXCHANGE**

The audience was introduced to a mock Bombay Stock Exchange, where they were able to understand its daily routine and speculation or trading in a better way. By working on the mock stock exchange, they were able to extract much knowledge out of it. This event has helped everyone in understanding Bombay Stock Exchange and its trading or daily routine very well. It would also help them to work more efficiently with the knowledge of trading as the event granted them with a personal experience. It gave them practical knowledge, which is better than theoretical knowledge and important in today's learning. It was a joint project with RC Bombay.





## Getting candid with Rtn. PP Ashok Sharma

### Tell us about your early years. Any childhood memories you would like to share?

My early years were in New Delhi, where I was born in an independent India. The years were steeped in nationalistic spirit and patriotic fervor. Movies such as *Jagriti*, *Mother India* and *Naya Daur* affected me immensely. I attended a lot of meetings and events addressed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant and others. My father was in the Defence Headquarters, and would get passes for these events. My childhood memories are that of India as one united country, undivided by languages and castes. Academically, I was a good student and finished two classes in one year. So, I ended my schooling at 15 and had to wait then for one year as eligibility to join IIT was minimum 16 years of age at that time.

### How and where did you meet Siloni?

It is said marriages are made in heaven. It was true, but in my case it was facilitated by the Western Railways. Once, I was returning from Delhi to Bombay by Frontier Mail. I found an elderly gentleman sharing my coupe. Being an elder, I took care of basics for him during the 20-hour journey. He seemed to have liked me so much that when he reached Bombay, he told his granddaughter Manorama (wife of Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma) about me. They all thought that I was a good prospect for his second granddaughter i.e. Siloni. Those were the days of arranged marriages. So, my parents and I were invited to her parent's house at Jammu. It was love at first 'arranged' sight.



Love at first 'arranged' sight for Ashok and Siloni



Siloni at a holiday destination

### Were your parents strict in your upbringing? How does that compare with your own children's upbringing?

My parents were not strict, but taught us discipline and values through their personal examples and actions. Siloni and I were also similar in our approach. Both my sons, Mridul and Kapil (and his wife Sharan) are fortunately rich in discipline and values.

### What do you think of the role of family today?

I see a great role. A family is a 'small world', which prepares us to live in this big world. It promotes inter-dependence between members, while being independent.

### What made you opt for a career in Management Consultancy and Training?

After doing my B.Tech from IIT Delhi and MBA from FMS, I worked in the corporate sector for 35 years. Interestingly, in MBA, I chose to specialise in a relatively new discipline, 'Materials Management'. Taking up this untrodden path provided me with great opportunities to grow in the professional circles. I served as the National President, Indian Institute of Materials Management, and as World President, International Federation of Purchasing and Materials Management (a UN affiliated body). We organised the 8<sup>th</sup> IFPMM World Congress in Mumbai and Mr. Pranab Mukherji inaugurated it. This way, I travelled across the globe attending and lecturing at various seminars and conferences. I also served as President of the Bombay Management Association. These affiliations led me to develop a liking and passion for training and consultancy.

### You have also received a few awards...

These awards relate to my profession:  
IIMM "National Award" in 1993 presented by Mr. Pranab Mukherji  
IFPMM's Global "Garner Themoin Medal" 1995 at Vienna, Austria  
IIMM's "Life Time Achievement Award" in 2009  
Chartered Institute of Logistics UK (India): "Best Trainer in Logistics", 2013

### In today's business environment, is management the key to success?

Yes, every enterprise has 5Ms as resources, viz men (and women), money, materials and machines. The fifth is management. Two companies may have identical materials, machines and money — it is the men and management, which make difference in the performance and success of the two companies.



My wife Siloni, and both my sons, Mridul and Kapil



The 8<sup>th</sup> IFPM World Congress in Mumbai, inaugurated by Mr. Pranab Mukherjee

### Can you share five management/training tips with our readers?

These are the basics of business management:

- a) Focus on People: Building right attitudes in them is more important than mere skills or knowledge enhancement. "Training your people is costly, but not training them is costlier. Modernise your people's minds before you modernise the machines," said V Krishnamurthy, Chairman, SAIL and Maruti.
- b) Customer Care: Customers should be the focus as they are the reason for our existence. It is not only about celebrating the mandatory Customers' Day or Week, but the company must also constantly focus on the customers.
- c) Streamline the Supply Chain: Remove all bottlenecks and encourage faster flow of materials across the country. Our Octroi-nakas must go, ports and airports become more efficient and all round improvement must take place.
- d) Innovation and Change Management: These are still low priority subjects in India. With all the brilliant minds we have, why is it that Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Google are created elsewhere? As Jack Welch said "If the change outside your company is faster than that within, your end is in sight."
- e) Sustainability: This is the key to the future. How many conventional businesses are aware of this concept? We have all to "Think Green and Go Green".

### Your views on social entrepreneurship in India?

I think it is a good idea. If it can benefit the society as well as the entrepreneur, it is a 'win-win' situation and in fact should be encouraged.

### How do you think India is progressing today?

Surely, there is no doubt that India is progressing and we must be justifiably proud of it.

### From a management perspective what factors will take India on a high growth phase?

- a) Quality education for all
- b) Basic health care and social security for all
- c) Simplification of laws and strict enforcement
- d) Building Infrastructure
- e) Thinking Global — in Sourcing, Hiring and Selling

### Books that inspired you...

There are very many, but the *Bhagwad Gita* with commentary by Swami Chinmayananda remains on the top.

### Your childhood role models...

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mr. JRD Tata

### Your view on religion and spirituality...

I believe spirituality unites people and bonds souls. Religion is being misused to drive people into mutual hatred, as all sects want to dominate. Spirituality is universal as all religions talk about the spirit, soul, ruh and universal brotherhood. Spiritual training must be started in formative years of a child so that he/she can live life well and not start as a post-retirement activity.

### What does Rotary as an organisation mean to you?

It has given me everything — opportunity to serve society, excellent fellowship and friendship with great Rotarians from several vocations — whom I would not have met otherwise in my own career. My Rotary Presidency during the Centennial Year brought me closer to fellow Rotarians and PPs. I have learnt so many good things from them. Rotary has made my world complete and enriched. I salute Mid-Towners for that.

### Your Hobbies?

I enjoy listening to Indian classical music.

### Your take on Life...

My take in life is described by the popular Bollywood song: "*Zindagi ik safar hai suhana, yahan kal kya ho kisne jana*". Life is pleasant — tomorrow is unknown. Don't live in regret of the past, anxieties of the future and miss the joys of the present. The 'present' is the 'gift' from life to us. So, I must live in the present, in the now.

— Interview by Rtn. Prasanna Bhagat



## New Year, new beginnings

The 314 District Conference was held on January 3, 2013. It was attended by NR Aruna Sheth, Jyotika Premnarayan, Asha Bhatia, Aarti Gautam and Nirmala Gidwani. The event came alive in presence of the distinguished Dignitaries of District 314. We were enlightened by their words of wisdom and encouragement.

Association President Sarita Lunani laid stress on the need to ADAPT and ADOPT, by laying down a five-point programme — acknowledge and appreciate, forget and forgive, succeed as a team, manage and prioritise, seize opportunities!

We are proud of NR Aruna Sheth, IPP Ashok Mehta and PP Asha Singh from our IWC of Bombay Mid-Town, whose names were announced, in appreciation of their contributions. We are very happy to announce that Jyotika Premnarayan will be our President and Anjana Mody, Secretary, for the year 2013-14.

We had a very interesting talk on Women's Health by the effervescent and charming Dr. Sangeeta Agarwal. The event, held on January 15, 2013, was organised by Dr. Rita Shah and Rotary Club of Bombay Sea face. A quiz competition on Makar Sankranti Festival made the inter-club programme very successful and enjoyable.

End of January saw us getting ready for the Triennial Conference which was to be held at Hyderabad from February 1-3, 2013. Asha Bhatia and Sulochana Sachdev went for it and thoroughly enjoyed amidst the gathering of 2,500 delegates from all over the world! Flags were exchanged between various clubs and friendships have blossomed.

On February 3, 2013, a student counselling session was organised and Dr. Shashi Bhakre kindly consented to help 8 students of Class VIII of BKM School. Their problems were heard, discussed with parents and solutions suggested, by her. We are sure that her guidance will help them concentrate on their studies and prepare them as they step into their important academic years. We have quietly admired Dr. Bhakre's contribution in the world of social service and her dedication in the field of Cancer Awareness and Prevention.

A few days back, we were happy to have our District Dignitaries and Presidents and CCs of all Inner Wheel Clubs of District 314, as our guests, to celebrate Zone I Fellowship.

On this day, we announced our Zonal Urban Project of sponsorship of Classroom Furniture to Class III (English Medium) of Seva Sadan School. It is sure to benefit many girl students for years to come and we are satisfied to have done our bit towards Girl Child Empowerment! Thank you to all members of Inner Wheel Club of Bombay Mid-Town for supporting this cause.



At Balvadi, with Rotarian Mr Kishor Sharma



Dr Sangeeta Agarwal



Siloo Sheth and Aarti at Balvadi





**ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY MID-TOWN**
**OFFICE BEARERS 2012-13**

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| President:                           | R P Anand      |
| Imm. Past President:                 | Kersi Hillol   |
| Vice President and President Elect : | James Brunner  |
| Hon. Secretary:                      | Manoj Jalan    |
| Jt. Hon. Secretary:                  | Anil Ambo      |
| Addl. Jt. Secretary:                 | Rajen Patel    |
| Hon. Treasurer:                      | PP Anil Kamath |
| Sergeant At Arms:                    | Munna Mitha    |

**INVITEES TO BOARD MEETINGS 2012-13**

PDG Dr. Shirish Sheth, PP Navin Shah, PP Mohan Lalvani

**Director Club Service: Kamlesh Sonawala**

|                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Programmes :            | Sucharita Hegde            |
| Fellowship:             | PP Ajit Kamani             |
|                         | Co-Chair: PP Mohan Lalvani |
|                         | PP Vishnubhai Haribhakti   |
| Finance:                | PP Tilak Mehta             |
| Attendance:             | PP Dr Firoze Mirza         |
| Bye Laws:               | Kamlesh Sonawala           |
| Fund Rasing:            | Co-Chair: PP Rahul Mehta   |
|                         | PP Yoginder Shankardass    |
| Classification:         | Shaunak Thacker            |
| Membership:             | Zeenat Ali                 |
| Membership Development: | PP Gopal Motwane           |
| Rotary Information:     | Sunil Gautam               |
| Bulletin / Magazine:    | Sunil Gautam               |
| Public Relations:       | Sunil Gautam               |

**Director Vocational Service: Ashwin Shah**

|                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Career Guidance:             | Prasanna Bhagat        |
| Midtown Image Project:       | Anil Ambo              |
| Scholarships & Awards:       | PP Satya Bhushan Anand |
| Four Way Test:               | Rajeev Thakkar         |
| Senior Citizens Welfare:     | Kishore Jhaveri        |
| Financial Opportunity Forum: | Parag Parikh           |

**Director Community Service: Narendra Mohatta**
**Human Development**

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Child welfare: | Dr Ghanshyam Kasbekar    |
|                | Co Chair: Dr Deepak Garg |

**Community Development**

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Nere-Vaje Village Development Project:         | Nirbhay Jain               |
| Polio & Care of Physically Challenged:         | Gaurav Kapadia             |
| Medical – Plastic Surgery Camp:                | Dr Anil Tibrewalla         |
| Medical camps and support to service projects: | PP Dr Kirit Mody           |
|  | Co-Chair: Dr Varsha Vadera |
| Sakwar Area Adivasi Development:               | Kishore Sharma             |

**Environment**

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Environment & Nature Education: | PP Lalit Gokuldas |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|

**Partners in Service**

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Rotary District Relations | PP Anil Kamath   |
| Inner Wheel               | PP Mohan Lalwani |

**Director new generation: Vicky Punjabi**

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| Interact | Jamsheed Patel |
| Rotaract | Anil Ambo      |
| Sports   | Harshad Vora   |

**Director International Projects: PP Arrow Sinha Roy**

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| International Grant Projects:          | PP Arrow Sinha Roy       |
|  | Co Chair: PP Anil Kamath |
|  | Co Chair : Yogesh Pandya |
| International Family & Youth Exchange: | Santosh Kejriwal         |
|  | Co Chair: Manoj Jalan    |
| Rotary Foundation:                     | Rajeev R Anand           |
| Rotary Sister Clubs Exchange:          | Bernard Steinrueke       |

**Assistant Governor:**

**Dr Rumi Jehangir**

**Group Coordinator:**

**Aditya Singh**

**March**
**<< Wedding Anniversary >>**

- 01 Pushpa-Krishna Khemka
- 04 Rajul-Ashwin Shah
- 04 Helena-Reyaz Mama
- 10 Sarika-Dr Deepak Garg
- 12 Poonam-Arun Jatia
- 23 Gita-Navin Shah
- 26 Hiroo-Ratan Hingorani
- 31 Jyoti-Dr. Ashwin Mehta

**<< Spouse's Birthdays >>**

- 01 Helena Reyaz Mama
- 01 Shalini Dilip Piramal
- 05 Avani Harshad Vora
- 10 Shehlata Shashikant Bartia
- 12 Tanvi Vaibhav Sanghi
- 16 Seema Dinesh Kanabar
- 21 Sushma Raju Barwale
- 24 Buntty Krishan Khanna
- 26 Bela Rajiv Kapur
- 30 Kusum Kishor Jhaveri

**<< EVENTS IN MARCH >>**
**3 Sunday**

PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) at Hotel Ramada, Powai, 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

**6 Wednesday**

(OCV) Official Club Visit of Dist. Gov. Dr. Bal Inamdar and IV Club Assembly with Officers, Directors and Committee Chairmen

**20 Wednesday**

Mr. Parag Parikh will be speaking on a current topic

**<< Birthdays >>**


03 MARCH  
Shankar Sujan



08 MARCH  
Vicky Punjabi



09 MARCH  
Dr. Ashwin Mehta



11 MARCH  
PP Om Degan



11 MARCH  
Dr Raghu Shetty



14 MARCH  
Anand Didwania



14 MARCH  
Prafull Sheth



25 MARCH  
Sohrab Davar



27 MARCH  
Gaurav Kapadia

**5 Tuesday**

FOF Meeting at Malabar Hill Club at 6.00 p.m.

**13 Wednesday**

a) Dr. Shirish Sheth, b) Dr. Arvind P. Kasbekar, c) Dr. Anil Tibrewala to speak on the "Lighter side of Medicine"

**27 Wednesday**

No meeting (Holi)

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Please send your articles and news for Musings to Rtn. Sunil Gautam ([sunil@sunilgautam.in](mailto:sunil@sunilgautam.in)) or Allan Chenyen ([bbymidtown@vsnl.net](mailto:bbymidtown@vsnl.net)) preferably by the 16<sup>th</sup> of every month.