

Rotary Club of Belvedere Gardens Calcutta

CLUB NO. 31255

RI DIST 3290



Ingrance

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R.I.THEME 2009-10

Rtn John Kenny
RI President 2009-10

Rtn Utpal Majumdar
Dist. Governor 2009-10

Rtn Debajit Choudhury
President 2009-10

Rtn Kishore Butta
Secretary 2009-10

PRtn Alope Dey
Editor

VOL. XVI NO.:4

MEETS EVERY SUNDAY : THE ASTOR HOTEL AT 11.00 AM

DATED 19TH JULY 2009

CELEBRATE FAMILY OF ROTARY :

Rotary International President William Boyd who values the family most, sees family as the crucible of Rotary where gen-next imbibes the culture and values of Rotary

In his theme address at the International Assembly, RI President Boyd therefore, laid special emphasis on the Family of Rotary. He said, "The Rotarians who will be sitting in these seats long after we have left them are the newest Rotarians today. They are our young professionals, many of them working parents who are balancing their careers with their family's needs. Today, with dual-income families the norm and lives busier than ever, we cannot ignore their call to make their families a part of Rotary. And for that reason, I will also have an emphasis on the family of Rotary."

Expressing his concern for the young Rotarians, he said, "To that Rotarian, it means more time away from the children, a significant expense for the meal, and probably the cost of child care as well. It is likely to be more of a burden than a pleasure." He suggested that a simple meal, a picnic, or a service project involving the whole family may be a good idea.

Further he urged the Rotary leaders, "In the year ahead, I ask all of you to work to make our clubs welcoming to those of all ages and to remember the importance of our programs for youth : Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and many others. These young people are our future."

To carry forward this special concern he has set up Family of Rotary resource group with a mission to promote the importance of the Family of Rotary in strengthening Rotary and helping build Rotary's future.

PRID Samuel L Greene, General Coordinator of the Resource Group further elaborates the importance of the Family of Rotary, by caring for Rotarians, their families and members of the larger Rotary family, we will be strengthening clubs

and instilling a sense of integrity, tolerance and unselfishness in the next generation.

Accordingly the Family of Rotary includes - Rotarians' family members, spouses, widows and widowers, children, grandchildren and other relatives. Not forgetting the larger Rotary family - our neighbours in other clubs and districts around the world, our Foundation and its alumni, Group Study Exchange members, Youth Exchange students, Rotaractors, Interactors and RYLarians, Inner Wheel and other spouse groups, Rotary Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups.

The greatest meaning that a family holds is the sense of belonging and a sense of identity. Rotary is not a family that we are born into but a family that has opted us in and we are delighted to be part of this new family. Therefore, the leaders and the members must make every effort to create that sense of belonging.

December is designated as the family month by RI. There is no greater opportunity to celebrate the Family of Rotary.

There is festive gaiety and joy in the air, best time to organise a family fiesta. Organise games, sports, singing, dancing, cookery contests, family team and fun activities, making it a joint meeting of a couple of clubs will be a memorable closure for the year. Do not miss to raise a toast to spouses.

"Show Rotary Cares" include some Rotaractors and Interactors in the guest list on special occasions. Let no one miss the affection and attention of family, particularly the family of the deceased member. Send "miss you" card or "come over" card to a family to whom Rotary was dear and the Rotarian from the family is no more.

How about according a special recognition to second and third generation Rotarians, especially if the whole family could be greeted together at a club meeting. There are also families where parents are either Rotarians or one of them is in Inner wheel, children are in Rotaract and Interact.

District Governors from our region believe that District Conferences offer the best opportunity to have a family gala. Family Fiesta, Family Carnival, Family Fantasia and many more are themes that District Governors come up with, for their District Conference reflecting their desire to make it truly a family celebration. Showcasing talented Annets, Rotaractors and Interactors and RYLarians during the Conference is a wonderful way of recognising talent within the Family of Rotary. Brilliant speakers from this pool of youth could be invited to voice their views on community, ethical and vocational issues bringing a different perspective to the deliberation.

President Bill Boyd would like us to Lead the Way in furthering Rotary and letting the generation to come, to imbibe Rotary values by involving the Family of Rotary at every opportunity.

*PDG Madhura M Chatrapathy
RI District 3190*

Founder biographies



Paul P. Harris (1868-1947) was a Chicago attorney in 1905 when he had an idea for a club in which professionals could share "mutual cooperation and informal friendship such as all of had once known in our villages." On the evening of Thursday, 23 February 1905, Harris gathered three business acquaintances to form a group that became the Rotary Club of Chicago, initiating the world's first service organization. Harris became the first president of what would later become Rotary International, the association of Rotary clubs around the world with 1.2 million members united under the motto *Service Above Self*.

Silvester Schiele (1870-1945) was a coal dealer and a client of Paul Harris in 1905. Born in rural Indiana, Schiele liked to tell Harris interesting anecdotes of his "young pioneer" boyhood. During the course of their business dealings, Harris first shared the idea with Schiele for a new kind of club for professionals. On 23 February 1905, Harris invited Schiele for dinner to develop his ideas of a fellowship and booster club. In addition to becoming first president of the Rotary Club of Chicago, Schiele developed a close lifelong friendship with Harris.

Gustavus H. "Gus" Loehr (1864-1918) was a Chicago mining engineer who lent his office on the seventh floor of the Unity Building at 127 Dearborn Street in Chicago for the first gathering of the founders of Rotary on 23 February 1905. Loehr invited Hiram Shorey to this meeting. His health later deteriorated and he left the club, but remained a supporter of Rotary until his death at age 53.

Hiram E. Shorey (1862-1944) was a merchant tailor in 1905. One of the founding four members of the Rotary Club of Chicago, he remained a Rotarian for only a short time before moving back to his home state of Maine. Upon his later return to Chicago, he rejoined for a brief time before resigning again. Despite his brief membership, Shorey was always supportive of the Rotary Club of Chicago and voiced pride at his early association with Rotary.

FACT FILE

In the world, a total of 40 million people are completely blind. Sixty five percent of this is in Asia alone.

One fourth of the vision-impaired in the world are Indians. Of this, 80 percent is due to cataract.

A total of 27 million people in the world have partial loss of vision.

At least 4.6 million people are blind due to corneal diseases, out of which 90 percent are below 45 years of age.

Of the 4.6 million affected with corneal diseases, at least 3 million can benefit from corneal transplantation.

GIFT YOUR SIGHT

- Spread the message across to the people regarding the importance of eyes and eye donation.
- Though we cannot live forever, let our eyes live and give sight for the needy.
- Many eyes are getting wasted either through burial or cremation of the dead body. Instead, eyes could be donated to a person with corneal blindness so that he/she is gifted with a vision of seeing this world.
- Light up the darkness in life. Enable the blind to see this beautiful world, through your eyes.

Pledge and donate your eyes.

ROTARY'S MISSION

The Mission of Rotary International is to support its member clubs in fulfilling the object of Rotary by

- Fostering Unity amongst member Clubs
- Strengthening and expanding Rotary around the world.
- communicating worldwide the work of Rotary,
- Providing a system of international administration

THE 4-WAY TEST

Of things we think, say or do

1. Is it the Truth
2. Is it Fair to all concerned ?
3. Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships ?
4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned ?