



RCBN

INSPIRATION

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bombay North



Vol No. 50 Issue No : 2

August 2011

RI President Kalyan Banerjee

DG Vijay Jalan

Pres: Ajeet Arenja

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear fellow Rotarian's and Anne's,

The Rotary year has begun well with compliments and appreciation from all quarters for the Installation Event at the Trident. Besides

the impressive arrangements led by PP Vijay Lazarus, which have left the entire district spell bound, the highlight was the inspirational presence of our RI President Kalyanda accompanied by the first lady Binota. The attendance from the district dignitaries and the Presidents from the FORCE XI was full with majority of our members in their full mantle. We have passed the test of having presented an installation befitting RCBN image in flying colours, as certified by non other than our charter members Babulal and Sultan amongst others. RCBN has made a great beginning, raising the expectations of the district for an impressive District Conference. This augurs well for a complete sellout whilst making it more demanding from us. It calls for unconditional support from all of us, apart from the dedicated effort from the Discon team who have begun their journey putting together yet another event for RCBN to be proud of.

Our first regular meeting had a record turnout of 94 over Champagne breakfast and effervescent words of wisdom from Rooshi Kumar Pandya. Our better halves added to the much needed warmth with our hostess for the month Mala Kothari ensuring attendance from 20 annes.

The club assembly deliberated on the plans for the year with some encouraging decisions taken to elevate club ambience. It was unanimously approved to stretch fellowship time to an hour beginning at 9 thereby happily making record Rotary meetings for an hour and 45 minutes against a standard 1 hr 15 minutes. Members have wholeheartedly welcomed the presence of spouses and we are looking forward to their increasing numbers with regular attendance. With a weekly fellowship of an hour duration coupled with two fellowship events every month, we hope to bring in a better understanding and cordiality paving way for a more satisfying involvement in the service areas.

On the service projects, all chairmen/co chairs made their presentations leaving room for firming up plans for the year. The same was further deliberated in a meeting with all project heads at the office of Saif Attar who has kindly consented to permit board meetings in his palatial conference room at Ambit Towers, Parel. Thank you Saif. Meanwhile we have successfully agreed upon a skin collection centre to be co-sponsored by 11 clubs of Dombivili and housed at the hospital owned by PDG Ulhas Kolhatkar. The project will be in partnership with RCBN though it will be independently financed after our offered financial support was thankfully declined. We are also in the process of taking forward National Burns Centre's corrective surgeries project to be presented to the club upon completion of study.

A group of 6 visited the Shekhar Bhadsavale's Saguna Baug for a first hand study and plans

for implementation of 'FIND A FARMER FRIEND and FOOD SECURITY ' project. The group also met rural social workers to study provision of our services in the fields of medical, water and solar electrification, baalwadis etc in 11 remote unreachable Adivasi wadis in Matheran/Neral belt.

Followed by a regular fourth meeting, our fifth meeting of the month concluded with a unique fellowship programme of a Comedy Store Show. Our fellowship team is going places to provide two quality events each month and would welcome your inputs, suggestions and preferences backed with your encouragement and participation. Saju Thadani is your hostess for the month of August. Those of you who are not on mail forwards of Ashok Kadakia and Chandru may find it interesting to note that the month of July gone by was termed to be 'money bags' or auspicious as a month with 5 Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays will not come in 823 years.

Before I close, I have three appeals to put forward-

1. To introduce new members to bring a freshness in club profile, encouraging young members to come forward with new ideas and passion. Enough has been communicated in my personal appeals to you last year but as yet the results have not been encouraging. The need to develop the numbers and hence the quality has been emphasised even by RI President and I was hopeful that we will add about 50% of our present strength in our very first month but

(Continued on Page 6)

Recognitions from the Shukriya night hosted by Past President Ravindra Somani
at Senate Hall, Nariman Point, Mumbai on 25TH June 2011



Rtn. Harshadbhai Barot posthumously
Life time Service Rotary award



Dr. Satya Agarwala
For Skin Bank work



Nick Israni
For major donor to TRF



Dr. Quresh Maskati
As editor of Inspiration



Dipak Himatsingka
Vocational Excellence Awards in-charge



Ashutosh Palep
As Hon. Secretary



Akshay Shah
For organizing speakers



Sultan Fazelbhoy
Contribution to Inspiration



Ashok Ajmera
VEA awards organization



Vipin Shah
For Charitable contributions



Suresh Mittal
For VEA awards assistance



Mahendra Thacker
As Hon' Treasurer



Sanjay Shah
For organizing fellowships



Upendra Kulkarni
For developing website



Shishir Desai
For handling legal matters



Saif Attar
For contributions to events



Abbas Arsiwalla
For involvement with girls school Bandra



Sakina Mamaji
For Worli Welfare Centre involvement



Sanjiv Kulkarni
Interactor Club in-charge



Suhit Jhaveri
As Sergeant –in-Arms



Ravindra Somani
President in charge



Paresh Jhaveri
Overall assistance



Soni Soni
For VEA awards assistance



Dr. Rajendra Agarwal
For medical camps

Other recognitions:

- **Suresh Gandhi** for his contribution and work towards The Rotary Foundation.
- **Pradip Shroff** for having training programme for directors
- **Yash Kale** for overall contribution to the Club
- **Padam Sacheti** for organizing the music show UDAAN
- **Zain Quettawalla** for club trainer.
- **Jagmohan Seksaria** for VEA awards assistance

Images from the Installation Afternoon of DG Vijay Jalan and President Ajeet Arenja in the presence of Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee, Rotary International President on Sunday 3rd July 2011 at the Hotel Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai



Reach within to Embrace Humanity

Historically, *Karma-Yoga* can be regarded as the countering response of the Sources of Indian Tradition against the social inclination towards renunciation and withdrawal in the face of peril; and may prove a felicitous term in lending the relief of expression to the inarticulate agony of thought in the wake of recent Mumbai Bomb blasts, by an advocacy of firmness sans censorious labels.

The Etymology and linguistics of the expression Karma Yoga is quite enthralling. The word *Karma* (or *karman*), derived from the root *kri* ('to make' or 'to do'), has many meanings. It can signify 'action', 'work', 'product', 'effect', and so on. *Yoga* is derived from the verb root *Yuj*, meaning 'to bind together' or 'to yoke', and can have many connotations, such as 'union', 'conjunction of stars', 'grammatical rule', 'endeavour', 'occupation', 'team', 'equipment', 'means', 'trick', 'magic', 'aggregate', 'sum', and so on. It is related to English *yoke*, French *joug*, German *joch*, Greek *jugos*, Latin *iugum*, Russian *igo*, Spanish *yugo*, and Swedish *ok*.

Karma-Yoga is literally the Yoga of Action. But when employed as a part of this term, the word *Karma* stands for a particular kind of action. Specifically, it denotes an inner attitude toward action, which is itself a form of action. What this attitude consists in, is spelled out in the *Bhagavad-Gita*. Although, *Gita* is the earliest scripture to teach *Karma-Yoga*, the expression itself first occurs in two works on Yoga composed by *Hiranyagarbha*, one on *nirodha-yoga* (Yoga of restriction)

and one on *Karma-Yoga* (Yoga of action), the latter concerned with spiritual attitudes and forms of behavior. Opinion is divided whether the author was named *Hiranyagarbha*, or sought to make a point, by adopting the name *Hiranyagarbha* which in old Sanskrit represents a primal cosmic force rather than an individual, and in later Sanskrit, a symbol by which the spiritual process is initiated/revealed.

Gita declares that in Karma Yoga - one need not forsake the world or one's responsibilities, even when these oblige one to go into combative mode. Renunciation (*samnyasa*) of action is good in itself, but better still is renunciation in action. This is the ideal of 'actionless action' or inaction in action (*naishkarmyakarman*), which is the basis of *Karma-Yoga*. Life in the world and spiritual life are not in principle inimical to each other; they can and should be cultivated simultaneously. Such is the essence of a whole or integrated life. So, if we avoid charging our actions with selfish intent or abhorrence and instead stand aloof while objectively yet firmly carrying out what is necessary and appropriate, then we do not become embroiled in the nexus of Karma.

One of the ardent supporters of Karma-Yoga in post medieval India was Guru Nanak. Verses from Nanak's *Japji*, are unmistakable in their censure of renunciation, and support for a detached but robust activity and remedial measures to ensure the quality of daily life.

The words *kriya* and *karma* both mean 'action', but *Kriya-Yoga* is different from the Karma-Yoga of the

Bhagavad-Gita. Although the ultimate objective of liberation is common to both, *Karma-Yoga* is a focussed and firm but ego-transcending activity, whereas *Kriya-Yoga* is the path of ecstatic identification with the Self.

Buddhi-Yoga is cultivation of 'prajna', a deeper transcending awareness synthesizing *Jnana-Yoga with Karma-Yoga*, but otherwise *Jnana-Yoga* needs to be distinguished from *Karma Yoga* especially about how true perception i.e. seeing things as they are, - is distorted by the 'conditioning' of our minds, consequentially breeding strife and acts of violence.

ATTITUDE – Contributed by Rtn. Chandru Thadani

1. Heavy rains remind us of challenges in life. Never ask for a lighter rain.. Just pray for a better umbrella.. **THIS IS ATTITUDE**
2. Some people always throw stones in your path. It depends on you what you make with them, Wall or Bridge? **Remember you are the architect of your life.**
3. Every problem has (“n + 1 solutions), where “n” is the number of solutions that you have tried **and “1” is that you have not tried. That's life.**
4. It's not important to hold all the good cards in life, **But it's important how well you play the cards which you hold.**

Down Memory Lane by PP Sultan Fazalbhoy

It said that "HAPPY MEMORIES ARE EXOTIC FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN OF THE MIND." One of the most eventful mornings in the history of RCBN has come and gone on July 3rd, leaving a feeling of pride and satisfaction that the leadership and team work has successfully completed the implementation of carefully made plans for our very special installation meeting for District Governor G Vijay Jalan & President Ajeet.

There has been a desire expressed to know more about important happenings in past years, specially by our recent members. Our July issue has fulfilled this wish in part by contributions from the ever ebullient PDG Badar, our ever young PP Babulal and now far away in Pune, Charter Member & PP Raman Patel, who has discovered an important relic - the speech by the then DG Sudarsanam Maddi when handing over the Charter to our much respected Founding Father, PRID Soli Pavri.

The hopes expressed in that speech have been well fulfilled by RCBN members each year of our existence. Here are some highlights which I hope will inspire the current membership to greater action and service. How did the bulletin get its name? By literally

Inspiration, and that too from a troublesome apple to whom Raman has referred in his July issue contribution. Whomsoever the father, the bulletin name is very appropriate and under able Editors, each issue takes us forward to new pathways. Then we used to have an annual meeting devoted to blood donations from members. This was very popular and organized by our medical members. It was true service from ready and strong arms. Maybe it will be revived now that we have a number of young generation leaders joining us.

A game with a different twist was the annual Rotary information quiz at one of our meetings. About 15 questions were presented on a printed page with a time limit of 10 minutes to submit answers. Prizes donated by members were given to the best replies. For instance, there have been four DGs from our club. Every DG gives a slogan to enthuse the District. How many of us can recall, with or without help, the year's message from our Past DGs - Soli Pavri, M. P. Apte, Surendra Metha and Badar Maskati.

As you know, our very own Rtn from Vapi, Gujrat, Kalyan Banerjee, is now the R.I. President with his deeply philosophical slogan which he

amplified at our installation meeting on Sunday July 3rd "Reach within to embrace humanity." This slogan makes me recall one of the very best inspirational person whom we have had the honour to have amongst us, Mother Teresa. It was at the 1979 District Conference, when Badar was the DG, I was the Club President, Raman Patel the Conference Chairman, and naturally RCBN the host club. She spoke for only seven minutes, but at the end there were tears in all eyes. She pinpointed that service thru Rotary does not end with a signed cheque for a donation, though cash flow is vital to any organization. Poverty is not only of money, more important, real poverty is loneliness of the heart. Go out of your homes, and reach out to the distressed -- the aged, the blind, the handicapped, the bereaved, the pavement dwellers and the urchins on the street. It is only when you give of yourself and your time, that you provide true understanding and true humanitarian service.

As we devote ourselves to the vision of Rotary under the able leadership of President Ajeet, let us remember at each step to be fully involved for what lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

Down Memory Lane by Rtn. Deepak Pinge

I joined Rotary in the year 1985-86 under the leadership of Rtn PP (Late) Venkappa Agadi. The very next year which was a Silver Jubilee Year, I could not attend the club meetings consecutively four times, without informing the club, as I was not keeping

good health. To my surprise, I received a stern warning letter from our ever enthusiastic PP Rtn Dr. Vora, who was the then attendance committee chairman, as to why my membership should not be terminated henceforth for non-attendance.

With great difficulty, I had to convince Dr. Vora that I had missed the meetings because of poor health. Are such rules thinkable in the Golden Jubilee Year?

Down Memory Lane by PDG Badar Maskati



Mother Teresa as Chief Guest at PDG Badar's Rotary Conference – DISCON – 1979. Badar is between Mother Teresa and PRID Soli Pawri

DO IT ANY WAY – by Mother Teresa

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spent years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; It was never between you and them anyway.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Continued From Page 1)

with the month gone, we have to make up for the slow pace. With your committed follow up, we can certainly achieve the desired results. I urge you to please make a dedicated effort to introduce 2 prospective members each leaving room for only one to get assimilated as 1 drops out for any reason on either part.

2. We have agreed to make suitable contributions for our regular meetings and over time we need to do the same for fellowship events too. We will continue to host one event a month as sponsored singly or jointly by some members or by the club and request members to come forward to treat the club as an extended family to share personal celebrations. Till about a year back, board of directors would host at least one dinner post BOD meeting and if some of us accept to afford the cost of small gathering, we could have 3-4 willing members sharing fellowship sponsoring. So if you have your anniversary or your child's birthday, you could consider sharing your happiness with the RCBN family. Our second fellowship on contributory basis, has been received with very encouraging response from majority of the members who are happy to "go dutch" as most respected clubs or members within their social circle do. We have come together to provide community service and looking after our personal needs is a forgone assumption. Your co operation is also

requested for your timely acknowledgement and response to invitations so as to help us arrange for Zero deviation count in view of high costs of QUALITY fellowships which are planned through the year.

3. With regard to GJ celebrations, it is fitting that we accept the unanimous decision and come forward with our support. The support is essential to uphold our image and more so to see our DG with a brilliant District year with full backing from his home club. A club that is unanimous in its implementation of decisions taken and works as a team. A club whose members are rejoicing the golden jubilee year with the pride of sending yet another ambassador in top rungs of the Rotary world, a club that is in a position to provide the leadership in the district yet again maintaining its premiere position. Some of us may be blessed to provide for the resources in different ways including time, effort and dedication whilst the rest of us need to encourage, appreciate and provide unstinted support. Our achievements in service areas and success on all our endeavour is only possible with our collective enthusiasm.

Looking forward to fun filled trips to Goa and Jodhpur.

Yours in Rotary, **Ajeet**

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PENCIL AND THE ERASER

Pencil: I'm sorry....

Eraser: For what? You didn't do anything wrong.

Pencil: I'm sorry coz you get hurt because of me. Whenever I made a mistake, you're always there to erase it. But as you make my mistakes vanish, you lose a part of yourself. You get smaller and smaller each time.

Eraser: That's true. But I don't really mind. You see, I was made to do this. I was made to help you whenever you do something wrong. Even though one day, I know I'll be gone and you'll replace me with a new one, I'm actually happy with my job. So please, stop worrying. I hate seeing you sad.

Parents are like the eraser whereas their children are the pencil. They're always there for their children, cleaning up their mistakes. Sometimes along the way... they get hurt, and become smaller (older, and eventually pass on). Though their children will eventually find someone new (spouse), but parents are still happy with what they do for their children, and will always hate seeing their precious ones worrying, or sad.

News from our Rotary members

- Rtn. Nick Israni has contributed a state of the art Auditorium at the KMK College of Pharmacy, Colaba, Mumbai to promote students' cultural activities and also to encourage guest speakers from outside to speak for the benefit of teachers, students and those interested in education and cultural activities.
- Rtn. Nick Israni has also recently set-up a modern R&D laboratory in the Life-Sciences Department of the K.C. College at Churchgate, for post-graduate students so as to promote science education, innovative R&D and academic excellence.
- Rtn. Sonal Kulshreshtha was inducted as the newest member of the RCBN family on 23rd July during the weekly meeting. Sonal is practicing as an Interior Designer for the past seven years after completing her Diploma in Interior Design & Space Management from SNDT University. Sonal is also a management undergraduate and moved to Mumbai in 2001. Sonal completed her schooling from Sacred Heart Convent High School in Mathura. Her father is a prominent lawyer in Mathura and is a past (last year) President of Mathura Bar Association. She is married to Amit who is currently working as Director – Investment Banking at YES Bank Ltd. Amit is a management graduate from IIM Kozhikode and has done his B.Tech from IT-BHU, Varanasi. They have a son Arjun who is 3 ½ years old.



Programme for mid-August to mid-September

- **10th August :** MONSOON MAGIC , a delightful evening with Karaoke, fun ,frolic and fellowship over cocktails followed by Dinner at Joss Restaruant, Kala Ghoda from 7:30 p.m. onwards
- **20th August :** Mr. Walter Vieira on “Why do we in India, fail at the front end?”
- **27th August :** Mr. Radhakrishna Pillai on “Chanakya’s leadership ideas.”
- **27th August :** Bar night at Cricket Club of India or Bombay Gymkhan, Mumbai (to be finalized)
- **3rd September :** Golden Jubilee CHARTER NITE at Hotel Trident, Nariman Point.
- **10th September :** Mr. Julio Ribeiro on “Governance in India – a citizen’s view point.”
- **16th September to 19th September :** Goa visit at the FIVE STAR Delux Hotel, Ramada Caravela Beach Resort. Total cost Rs. 13,500 inclusive of airfare, hotel stay, airport transfers, all meals, unlimited Bar and other hotel recreational facilities. Exact details may be obtained by contacting Fellowship Co-Chair, Rtn. Ashok Ajmera at ashok@ajcon.net.

BIRTHDAYS/WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR PERIOD 16TH AUG. TO 15TH SEPT.

Mahendra Thacker	21 st August
Vinod Gupta	23 rd August
Vasant S. Kelkar	5 th September
Sanjiv K. Kulkarni	8 th September
Sudhir Inamdar	11 th September

Rooplaxmi Akshay Shah	16 th August
Veena Gulab Mewani	25 th August
Bharati Chetan Desai	25 th August
Kiran Vijay Jalan	26 th August
Nandini Chandra Purandare	28 th August
Veena Hemant Thakkar	10 th September
Shobha Vasant Kelkar	14 th September

“Do consider contributing whatever you feel appropriate on your birthdays and wedding anniversaries to "Rotary Club of Bombay North Charity Trust." Your contribution will go a long way in our doing the Services to the community, we serve – **Ajeet**

A Rotarian was used to coming home for lunch and relaxing a bit. One such day, his wife found a note in his jacket pocket (not unusual). It read - "Mary, 721, Central." The wife woke him up and alleged that he was having an affair, and asked all sorts of questions. The Rtn. was smart (as we all are) and said, "You are unnecessarily suspicious", and he explained that, "Mary was the name of the horse, Central means to see the horse at the paddock and 721 means 7 to 1, the bet I was going to take on the horse." The poor wife was satisfied. The husband had just dozed off when his wife woke him up again. Irritated, he shouted at her for disturbing him again. "I am sorry, dear," she said, "your horse is on the line!"

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

My dear RCBN family,

Just 24 hours before carrying out the onerous task of writing the editorial for this month, I read this real-life story which touched my soul and I am certain it will make you think as well.

A mother was taking a Sociology class. Her last project of the term was called "Smile.". The class was asked to go out and smile at three people and document their reactions.

Soon after being assigned the project, the husband, the son, and the mother went out to McDonald's. They were standing in line, waiting to be served, when all of a sudden everyone around them began to back away, and then even her husband did. The mother did not move an inch...an overwhelming feeling of panic welled up inside of her as she turned to see why they had moved. As she turned around she smelled a horrible "dirty body" smell, and there standing right behind her were two poor homeless men. As she looked down at the short gentleman, he was "smiling". His beautiful sky blue eyes were full of God's Light as he searched for acceptance. He said, "Good day" as he counted the few

coins he had been clutching. The second man fumbled with his hands as he stood behind his friend. She realized the second man was mentally deficient and the blue eyed gentleman was his salvation. She held my tears as she stood there with them. The young lady at the counter asked him what they wanted. He said, "Coffee is all Miss" because that was all they could afford. Then the mother really felt it ~ the compulsion was so great that she almost reached out and embraced the little man with the blue eyes. That is when she noticed all eyes in the restaurant were set on her, judging her every action. She realized this was her moment to make a difference.

She smiled and asked the young lady behind the counter to give her two more breakfast meals on a separate tray. She then walked around the corner to the table that the men had chosen as a resting spot. She put the tray on the table and laid her hand on the blue eyed gentleman's cold hand. He looked up at her, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Thank you." She leaned over, began to pat his hand and said, "I did not do this for you. God is here working through me to give you hope." She started to cry as she walked

away to join my husband and son.

When she sat down, her husband smiled at her and said, "That is why God gave you to me, To give me hope." They held hands for a moment and at that time they knew that only because of the Grace that they had been given, were they able to give.

In her own way, she had touched the people at McDonald's, her husband, son, instructor, and every soul that shared the classroom on the last night she spent as a college student.

As I read this – I realised that one of the biggest lessons in life one can learn is that of UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE. It also teaches us TO LOVE PEOPLE AND USE THINGS and NOT TO LOVE THINGS AND USE PEOPLE. Just as we at Rotary believe, that we are here as an institution to make the life of the less privileged better, to put a smile on their faces, to make them better citizens and in the process, to THANK GOD for giving us an opportunity to make a difference to the same world that we are a part of.

Have a great month. Till next time

Akshay

**THIS ISSUE IS SPONSORED BY
RTN. NICK ISRANI**