



RCBN

INSPIRATION

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bombay North



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RI President Kalyan Banerjee

DG Vijay Jalan

Pres: Ajeet Arenja

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Friends,

At the outset, Nitika joins me in congratulating all members and their spouses on the Charter anniversary on 29 August, to be formally celebrated on 10th

September in the august presence of our Charter members Sultan Fazalbhoy, Babulal Todi, Raman Patel, as well as distinguished dignitaries from the district led by our pride of RCBN, DG Vijay Jalan, with the first lady Kiran. It's a pity that all our members cannot attend the event – the will all be missed especially our Past Presidents. It is indeed an enviable occasion where we have 24 of the 49 past presidents amongst us holding the honour of RCBN. By the time this copy of the Inspiration comes in your hands, we will have savoured the magnificent show meticulously put together by our Fellowship committee. Our team has gone an extra mile working on the detailing, the entertainment and the show stealer audio visuals showing the glory of RCBN with a glimpse of its glorious history. Please join me in thanking Vijay Lazarus, Ashok Ajmera, Asim Nagree and their spouses for the management whilst we profusely acknowledge Nick Israni's continued generosity in part sponsoring the extravagant affair befitting the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

With the second major celebration for the year behind us, now our eyes are set on DISCON. You have received individual invitations from the Chairman of DISCON & yours faithfully. The momentum for the preparation is picking up and more than 40 % of our members have confirmed their registration of which the majority have opted

for the overnight stay. Before we open it to the district, I once again extend my warm invitation to all members to join us for this 2 day celebration of fun, fellowship, Rotary Information, general entertainment and an enriching opportunity to hear celebrated speakers from all walks of life. The entire district is abuzz with high expectations from DISCON 12 after hearing of the installation and you have actually sampled 2 such teasers. Many of us are blessed with young adult children who may have stayed away from your Rotary life but I personally recommend that you make this a family affair exposing them to this part of Rotary with pride showcasing it at its best.

The first meeting felicitating the skin donor families was heart-warming with emotional stories narrated by them. Satya was deservedly proud of the successful event which not only made the family members feel nice but encouraged all present to take forward the cause of skin donation. Following my meetings with Dr. Sunil Keswani, head of National Burns Centre, I was informed of the urgent need to attend to some surviving burn patients who withstood the burn injury but their limbs have been functionally impaired. The corrective surgery can be done at our NBC free of charge except for the actual consumables amounting to Rs. 20,000 per patient. This small amount would give a fresh meaning of life to the affected, a worthy cause to render our generosity to the first batch of 16 patients. An appeal was made and in no time we had willing donors to attend to all the 16. My sincere thanks to these members for their forthright support, their names shall appear in a separate column in this edition.

The Medical division of the Vocational Services committee headed by Ashutosh Palep had participated in the Polio Plus drive with an active presence of our members Firoz

Kachwalla, Asim Nagree, Saifu Saria and Dipak Pinge at our Rotary Centre Worli BDD to join our social worker and BMC nominated officials. Mahendra Thacker, Gautam Gandhi, Ashok Kadakia, Suhit Jhaveri and Mandar Tamhe have had a series of meetings to implement rural community services programme covering solar, water and Balwadis for the Adivasi residents of Neral Matheran belt. Firoz, Quresh, Gautam and Asim are busy structuring two mega projects involving eye care in association with Titan Industries Limited and Rotary club of Baltimore. I will furnish more details in my next communication, hopefully at a matured stage.

As for fellowship events, we will have a separate column covering their activities except to add that we are all set for Goa and Jodhpur outstation trips which can still accommodate any member who would still like to register. I encourage new members or prospective members to join in as this will give them a chance to assimilate faster.

My grateful appreciation of Vipin Shah, Harshad Sheth, Suhit Jhaveri and Zain Quettawala for their impromptu and joint celebrations of their birthdays co sponsoring well attended JOSS karaoke night. Last but not least, my sincere thanks to core group leaders Ashok Kadakia, Gautam, Suhit, Saifuddin Mahendra Thacker and hostess for the month Mala Kothari for being instrumental in improving on our August attendance of 80% surpassing the record breaking July and also remaining within the top ten in the district, despite the fasting period of Ramzan and Paryushan.

With my best wishes,

Yours in Rotary,

Ajeet

Reflections on the Skin Bank felicitation function on 6th August 2011 at Willingdon Club, Mumbai – Contributed by Rtn. Asim Nagree.

On Saturday, the 6th of August, the Willingdon club dining room was buzzing with activity. The rain drizzling away and the view through the French windows added a serene atmosphere to the felicitation ceremony for the skin bank donors kin. The air had aromas of delicious breakfast being served to the invitees. The breakfast was enjoyed by one and all. The hall was full with the invitees, the members, their spouses and their guests. President Ajeet them welcomed the chief guest and the members in the audience. The President spoke about the skin bank and how Rtn. Dr. Satya Agarwala, Dr. Sunil Keswani and the team had worked hard to make this a success story. He opined that it would be useful to have more collection centres rather than have skin banks. This would be possible due to the fact that collection or distribution could be done efficiently through a well managed logistic approach. Carrying out Corrective surgery and re habilitation of victims was a challenge and the skin bank had identified sixteen such victims. The

cost of each victim would be Rs. 20,000. His request for pledging from the audience was overwhelming with 16 people agreeing to pledge in no time which included Ajeet Arenja, Baldev Arora, Sonal Agarwala, Dinesh Toprani, Hitesh Sharma, Zain Quettawala, Kirit Kothari, Harshad Sheth, Mahendra Thacker, Gautam Gandhi, Badar Maskati, Ashok Ajmera and yours truly. There are a few more whose names are not reflected. I urge you to kindly contact me immediately so that the same can be mentioned in next month's Inspiration and we can acknowledge this wonderful gesture from you. This gesture showed unanimous support to the skin bank from the RCBN family and was also a reflection of the large hearts that our members have towards charitable issues.

Dr. Keswani explained how Satya worked to make his dream a reality. Satya and RCBN members had been coming regularly to the National Burns Centre and propagating the cause through seminars of skin collection in public, through district and other Rotary clubs. He also recalled how Satya worked relentlessly when the project was

implemented and how he achieved the target date for the inauguration. The Burns Centre were clueless of what equipment and from where it was being procured by Satya. The entire liaisoning from finance to mobilisation of equipment to co-ordinating with the skin bank in Holland was a one army job being handled by Satya. Satya then proceeded with giving his plans for the future. He planned to work with the district, various NGO's and hoped to have a broad foundation for the expansion of the skin bank. He thanked Dr Keswani and his team for making his dream come true. He also thanked the kin and the relatives who had this project possible. Dr Sneha then took over and acknowledged the kin of the skin donors who had gathered. A memento was presented to all of them. Each one of them praised the efforts of the skin bank. It was expressed by most that the procedure of collection of skin was a simple procedure and was carried out without any problem. They all urged members to pledge as a family for this noble cause. The NGO's were also recognised and a memento presented to them.

Letter of Appreciation received by the Club from Dr. Sunil Keswani

Dear Ajeet and Dr Satya Agarwala,
No words to thank you for the wonderful programme you had so meticulously planned and executed. The speeches were from the heart. The ambience at this meeting was very emotional.

The relatives of the skin donors also seemed to be touched by this gesture of felicitating them.

The NGOs who have been helping us were touched at having been invited and felicitated and have promised more support for the cause.

Thanks to all your members of RCBN for their spontaneous gesture of supporting the surgeries of 16 burn patients with functional deformities at Rs 20000 each surgery.

With your support I am sure SKIN DONATION will go forward from just being a concept to a reality.

Regards and best wishes

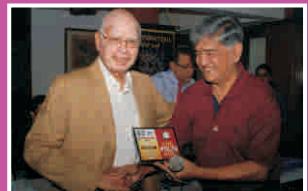
Sunil Keswani

PS The momento given ie the mug which says I SUPPORT SKIN DONATION is beautiful and will serve as a gentle reminder to donate skin.

Images from the Fellowship Night at JOSS, Kala Ghoda on 10th August 2011



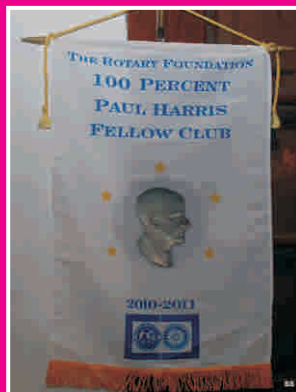
Images from the Weekly meeting on 20th August 2011 – Speaker – Walter Vieira



Images from the Weekly meeting on 27th August 2011 – Speaker – Viraj Padharyia



Images from the Weekly meeting on 3rd September 2011
Speaker: Adrish Ghosh



The first non-Indian source that clearly mentions the coastal belt on either side of Mumbai, is the Greek Geography of Ptolemy. It refers to 'Konkan' but as part of the coast of only two provinces. *Ferishta* and *Khafi Khan* are more precise and speak of various low-lands inhabited by *Banias*, *Prabhus*, *Shenvis* and other castes, and differentiate between Tal-Kokan and Ghat-matha. *Vengurla rocks* are recognized by all, the Portuguese name being *Ilheos Queimados*. Among the British colonial historians the famous *H.H. Wilson* says 'Konkan' included nearly the whole of the west coast of India, while *Grant Duff* refers to it as the *coast of Gujarat, Deccan and Kanara*.

The history and Social fabric of the West Coast of India is not practicable to separate as between pre and post Muhammedan conquest, because the immigration is of fascinating antiquity and continuity. *Egyptian* vessels docked regularly at *Kalliena (Kalyan)*. *Byzantine* traders visited at *Sopara* and places near *Bassein*. *Arab* traders were regulars at *Janjira*, which was subsequently conquered by *Abyssinians* known in Indian history as '*Siddis*'. Many Konkani Muslims are lineally descended from old Arab settlers. A Greek named *Odoricus* affirmed in his diary

about passing over *from Ormuz in 28 days to Thana*, and in Thana finding 15 houses of "*Nestorian Christians who were 'Schismatics' and thus Heretics*". *Persians, Portuguese* and *Bene Israelis* frequented *Barugaza (Bharuch)* and *Muziris (Mangalore)* and of course it is commonly known that *Parsis* alighted and spread at *Sanjana, Diu, Dahanu, Tarapore* and *Nargol*. The *Chitpavans* of coastal Maharashtra are not excluded from this human cocktail, because, although branded as *Koknasthas*, their origins remain obscure, and the most palpable theory seems to be that their ancestors were Greek Ptolemy administrators fleeing after *Cleopatra's* death from *Roman pursuit* via Red Sea, eventually crashing on Kokan coast, southward of Mumbai.

Sanskrit English Dictionary by *Moinier Williams* commissioned by the Board of Directors of the *East India Company* defines Kokan as a 320-mile coastal tract of narrow breadth. The etymology of the word Konkani is reportedly from the root *Konkana*, the maiden name of the mother of *Parshuram*, the coastal hero. Unsurprisingly, the first mention of Konkani occurs in the *Bhishma Parva* of *Mahabharata*, as *Bhishma* was a not-so-favourite disciple of *Parshuram*, in archery.

Given constraints of space, it is difficult to list fillers of general interest about the *Portuguese* whose contributions were immense. Portugal, a nation of just one million total population in the 15th century, circum-navigated the world and established Global connectivity before the wireless, through its nodal coastal forts from Hormuz to Macau controlling shipping routes with their system of *Cartaz*. Portuguese were in control of *Mumbai* until 1665, when it was ceded to British; and of *Bassein* until 1739 when Peshwas took-over.

It would have been profane for a bean-counter like me to attempt a narration unerringly focussed on a cultural and geographic enigma of considerable interest, but for a happy accident that, my childless maternal uncle appointed Lt. Governor of Goa, Daman & Diu in 1965 gave me access to the Cabo Palace library in Goa during my last, long vacation before exile to the drudgery of accountancy training in England. Later in life I enjoyed volumes at public libraries that offered insight into Indian West Coast heritage with all the usual maritime rabble encountered throughout the pages of any respectable book of world history, - imploding the prejudices and narrow conditionings of my own mind.

What is confidence— Contributed by Rtn. Chandru Thadani

A hypothetical situation where 20 CEO's board an airplane and are told that the flight that they are about to take is the first-ever to feature **pilotless technology**. It is an unscrewed aircraft. Each one of the CEO's is then told, *privately*, that their company's software is running the

aircraft's automatic pilot system. Nineteen of the CEOs promptly leave the aircraft, each offering a different type of excuse.

One CEO alone remains on board the jet, seeming very calm indeed. Asked why he is so confident in this first

uncrewed flight,

He replies: "If it is the same software that is developed by my company's IT systems department, this plane won't even take off."!!!!

That is called Confidence!! !

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program was a sort of tradition that my family had, the children in the family would be sent far away from home and come home a completely different person. As a kid I would be fascinated by their stories of their experiences and encounters, and I started dreaming about being a part of the exchange program, dreaming big. But chasing dreams takes more than just the perfect Nike shoes; it takes courage, determination and faith.



After finishing high school, I knew exactly what I wanted to do; I wanted to be an exchange student. I begged my parents to let me be a part of the program, but the idea of sending me alone to a country half-way across the earth where nobody knows me, made them a skeptic about this program. I really wanted it and would go to any extent to make it happen; my determination and persuasion got my parents to agree to send me for an exchange program. It was on the 13th of August that I was set to leave the country to pursue my dreams, as I said my final goodbyes and boarded the plane, even though I was sad that I would not be seeing my family and friends for a long time, I couldn't help beaming at the thought that finally, my dream is coming true. I made my dream come true.

After a long and tiring flight, I was welcomed with open arms by a warm Country Officer and Counselor of the beautiful city of Waterloo, New York. I was excited and nervous to start life all over again - making new friends, living with new families, going to a new school and learning new things. I lived with three host families, the Hoffmans, the Rosses and the Lowrys. I enjoyed living with all three of these families and learnt a lot from them all. I was very blessed and got to travel to many different places in America through my host families and through Rotary. I traveled to Las Vegas, Cleveland, Georgia, Atlanta, Washington DC and New York City.



I also got the wonderful opportunity to broadcast live on the radio, on WNYR 98.5 FM, with Jim Schreck and Dee. It was a wonderful learning experience! I got to meet two amazing people who were aces in their field. I learned the trades and tricks of being live on air. I also got to write a weekly column in the daily newspaper of my region: 'The Fingerlake Times'. I was so grateful that I could make full use of the opportunities given to me.



The best part of my exchange program was making new friends from all over the globe. I made wonderful friends in school who helped me adjust to the academic climate in Waterloo; and of course, making friends from Argentina, Brazil, Denmark, Slovakia, Finland and many other places. We all exchange students shared a tight bond with each other because we all could relate to each others problems and we all shared the similar experiences of being an exchange student. We were each other's support system. We were like one big international family.

When I returned home from my exchange, I was glad to see my friends and family but I dearly miss Waterloo as it has now become my second home. I am truly grateful to my parents and to the Rotary Club of Bombay North for giving me this wonderful opportunity to see the world behind my wall and learn things that were beyond books.

Worli Welfare Centre Details of girls providing Mehendi Classes

Puja	98676 60202
Froma	96645 74336
Jainti	99206 69967
Sunita	93241 71698
	98198 99214
Reshma	93219 61491
	87673 53406

OBITUARY OF DR. SHYAM PAMNANI BY PP FIROZ KACHWALA



Rtn. Shyam Pamnani left us suddenly in his heavenly abode. Shyam had been a member of our club since past many years. In his younger years, he was a very active member always helpful to the club. We will miss his presence at the club. He was first to be present at the club meetings and made it a point to wish us in his typical jovial style as we entered the meeting. Shyam was an eminent lawyer and dealt with company law and foreign exchange. He was well liked both by his colleagues in Law and also by the learned judges. I knew Shyam both as a Rotarian friend and as a lawyer. In the last few years of his life, he encouraged his daughter Kanchan to practice law and today she manages her father's practice. Shyam was really proud of her knowledge of law. My heartfelt condolences to Hiroo and Kanchan and pray that the soul of my departed friend rests in peace.

Amen

A BROTHER LIKE THAT written by C. Roy Ange and Contributed by Rtn. Sultan Fazalbhoy

A friend of mine named Paul received a new automobile from his brother as a Christmas present. On Christmas Eve, when Paul came out of his office, a street urchin was walking around the shiny car, admiring it. "Is this your car mister?" he asked. Paul nodded, "My brother gave it to me for Christmas." The boy looked astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to you and it didn't cost you nothing? Gosh, I wish....."

He hesitated, and Paul knew what he was going to wish. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said jarred Paul all the way down to his heels. "I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that." Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, then impulsively he added, "Would

you like to ride in my automobile?" "Oh Yes, I'd love that!" After a short ride the urchin turned, and which his eyes aglow said, "Mister, would you mind driving in front of my house?"

Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbours that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again. "Will you stop right where those two steps are?" the boy asked. He ran up the steps. Then in a little while Paul heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast. He was carrying his little polio-crippled brother. He sat him down on the bottom step, then sort of squeezed up against him and pointed to the car. "There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs. His brother gave it to him for Christmas, and it didn't

cost him a cent, and someday I'm gonna give you one just like it; then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas window that I've been trying to tell you about."

Paul got out and lifted the little lad to the front seat of this car. The shining eyed older brother climbed in beside him and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride. That Christmas Eve Paul learned what Jesus meant when he said "It is more blessed to give..."

Editors' note: **The more you believe in giving, the more God will bestow upon you. First give, then take.. First give .. then ask.**

News from our Rotary members/ Rotary events

- The Career Guidance Committee, under the Chairmanship of Rtn. Deepak Pinge, in association with an NGO, Amhi Udyogini is organizing a seminar on “Women Entrepreneurship” in Marathi at our Worli BDD Chawl center, on Monday the 26th September, between 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. The participants are women residing in Worli BDD chawls. It will guide them in starting a new business. It will also teach them marketing techniques & tactics. This project does not end with the seminar. There will be follow- up guidance & help for women who seriously intend to start a new business.
- The Interact District Conference " UDAAN" will be held on Friday the 30th September at Bhaidas Hall, Vile Parle(W). Our very own DG Vijay Jalan will be the Chief Guest. Rotary Club Of Mumbai Juhu will host the District Conference. It is expected that around 1200 Interactors drawn from Interact Clubs across the district will participate in the Conference. The conference will include a skit competition, Essay completion and a Dance completion, reports Rtn. Deepak Pinge, Chairman of the Interact Club.
- Rtn. Quresh Maskati's daughter Shaista, has graduated with a B.D.S Degree from Nair Dental College, Mumbai. **Congratulations Shaista we are proud of your achievement.**
- Rtn. Ashok Ajmera has been elected as a Managing Committee member of BSE Brokers Forum for the year 2011-12.



Our Club Programme for mid-September to mid-October

- **24th September** – Regular meeting – Speaker to be announced
- **1st October** – Ms. Indu Shahani – Sheriff of Mumbai – “Teddy Bears in Board Rooms”
- **7th to 11th October** – The “**Royal Marwar Gala Tour**” to Jodhpur. The total cost is Rs. 12,000 per person on twin sharing basis that includes train tickets, hotel stay, all meals and an opportunity to meet the Royal people. Exact details may be obtained by contacting Fellowship Co-Chair, Rtn. Ashok Ajmera at ashok@ajcon.net.
- **15th October** – Gaurav Bhatia – Moet Hennessy. Topic “Art of Luxury.”

BIRTHDAYS/WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR PERIOD 16th SEPTEMBER TO 15th OCTOBER

Abbas Arsiwalla	18 th September
Dr. Ashutosh Palep	20 th September
Mandar Tambe	20 th September
Habil F. Khorakiwala	22 nd September
Suresh Gandhi	25 th September
Narayan Chhabria	26 th September
Shishir Desai	30 th September
Dipak Himatsingka	1 st October
Dinanath Chhahira	1 st October
Upendra Kulkarni	2 nd October
Dr. Hanumanthrao S. Palep	8 th October
Aditya Dalmia	9 th October
Jagmohan Sekhsaria	10 th October
M. S. Raghavan Ayyangar	14 th October

Pragati Ashoka Ajmera	16 th September
Bharati Gautam Gandhi	23 rd September
Vasant and Shobha Kelkar	26 th September
Pilloo Suresh Borkar	1 st October
Vidya Jagmohan Sekhsaria	3 rd October
Maitreyee Mandar Tamhe	10 th October
Shakera Zain Quettawala	13 th October



“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**

Q1. Name the First President of the First ever Rotary Club?

- A. Paul Harris; B. Hiram Shorey; C. Gustavus E. Loehr; D. Sylvester Schiele

Q2. In the Rotary World, name of the "Designated" month for New Generations?

- A. July; B. August; C. September; D. October

Q3. Which city hosted the 2011 Rotary International Convention

- A. Louisiana; B. Bangkok; C. Missouri; D. New Orleans

Q4. The oldest Rotary Club in our District is RC Bombay chartered in 1929. Which is the second oldest?

- A. RC Bombay East; B RC Bombay West; C. RC Bombay North; D RC Ambernath

Q5. What abbreviation is often used to refer to Rotary's Parliament?

- A. M.U.N.A.; B. C.O.L.; C. M.I.P.S.; D. R.P.

Q6. In which Indian city was the First Rotary Club Chartered?

- A. Calcutta; B. Bombay; C. New Delhi; D. Madras

Editors Note – The first all-correct answer received by me via email will find a mention in next month's Inspiration.

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

My dear RCBN family,

First of all - Happy Birthday to each of us and a special 50th Happy Birthday to Sultanbhai, Ramanbhai and Babulalji. Our Club is now 50 years old and by the time you read this, we will have celebrated this moment in time in grand style.

We live in a world where we hear a lot of stories from other people. These stories are often about people we know. They are related by those whom we know as well. And we make our conclusions of the people whose stories are told to us based on what we hear from the story-tellers. Socrates, the great Greek philosopher, had a different spin on it. He used what was called the "Triple-Filter Test". I reproduce this test which has been very useful for me over the years and I trust this will help each of you in life –

One day an acquaintance met the great philosopher and said, "Do you

know what I just heard about your friend?". "Hold on a minute," Socrates replied. "Before you talk to me about my friend, it might be good idea to take a moment and filter what you're going to say. That's why I call it the triple filter test. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?". "Well, no," the man said, "actually I just heard about it and..." "All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now, let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good?". "Umm, no, on the contrary...". "So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about my friend, but you're not certain it's true. You may still pass the test though, because there's one filter left—the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?" "No, not really." Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you

want to tell me is neither true, nor good, nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?"

Also, I have one other thought to share with each of you. No matter what moment of life you are in, always say to yourself, "This is what I need." It may look like a wreck, but go at it as though it were an opportunity, a challenge. If you bring love to that moment - not discouragement - you will find the strength is there. Any disaster that you can survive is an improvement in your character, your stature, and your life. Then, when looking back at your life, you will see that the moments which seemed to be great failures followed by wreckage were the incidents that shaped the life you have now. You'll see that this is really true.

Have a great month and be safe and be well.

Akshay

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