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# ROTARY Open Hand

WEEKLY CLUB BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIGARH . INDIA

2011-12

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Home Club of  
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Rotary International President  
1991-92

**Kalyan Banerjee**  
Rotary International President  
2011-12

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December is Family Month

# 24, 12th December, 2011

## SADA - E - ROOH



The members of the Rotary Club, Chandigarh and Inner Wheel Club, Chandigarh held a joint meeting on December 12, 2011. The theme for the evening was to explore the dimension of the spirit, to listen to the inner calling—“Sada-e-Rooh”. For this purpose and to celebrate their wedding anniversary, PP Harbhajan Singh and Babbi Harbhajan Singh organized a shabad kirtan by Prof. Jagir Singh, Head of the Gurmat Department, Punjabi University Patiala.

Prof. Jagir Singh, in his sonorous and melodious voice, along with his associates, S. Jaspal Singh on harmonium and S. Ajit Singh on tabla, rendered a few

selected thematic *shabads*. Listening to the soulful rendition of the *shabad kirtan* was a spiritual and divine experience for each person present. The first *shabad*, a “*Chaupai*” by Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, “*hamri karo hath de rachha*” that was soulfully sung in Indian classical Raga *Puria Kalayan*, invoking the glory and protection of the Almighty, seeking His blessings, so that all worldly and spiritual desires are fulfilled and peace and harmony prevails. The second *shabad*, “*tudh sabh kich mainu saunpiya ja tera banda*”, rendered in Raga *Gaurhi*, was an offering of gratitude to the Almighty for having bestowed on man everything ephemeral, spiritual and material in the world. The third *shabad*,

“*karunamai sabh dukh haro*”, expressed the anguish that despite having been blessed with the worldly possessions, the mind’s suffering continues. Its an earnest prayer to Him that the relief, freedom from such pain and misery can be only secured with His intervention and grace. And, its only thereafter that peace or ecstasy can be experienced by the human mind.

Mrs. Preet Harinder Singh, President of the Innerwheel Club, Chandigarh, proposed the vote of thanks. PDG Kawal Bedi took the honours of doing the *Ardas*, according to Sikh ‘*maryada*’.

The evening concluded with the offering of sumptuous *Langar* by Babbiji. PP Harbhajan Singh, being indisposed, could not be present.

Rtn. Surinder Paul Kaur



## NEXT MEETING

We meet  
every **Monday** at

Rotary House  
107A, Sector 18A, Chandigarh

**Monday Meeting of December 19th, pre-poned  
to Sunday, December 18th**

for The Rotary Inter-city and to meet  
RI President Kalyan Banerjee  
at Shivalik Public School, Mohali,  
from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. (*Breakfast and Lunch  
included*)



## Status Report of Various Community Service Projects

**Heartline** (Chair PP K.K. Seth): A total of 387 surgeries have been conducted till December 15, 2011 under our Heartline project. The total surgeries conducted in current Rotary year till date is 31. This number includes one child from Pakistan and 7 children from Malawi. Presently, we have been benefitted from a matching grant with RC Anson District 3750, Korea as partner club, as also with the help of District 3080. A new matching grant, with RC Jersey, UK as partner club, has been approved by the Rotary Foundation and we are in the process of sending our club's contribution towards the matching grant where after we should receive the grant in due course of time. We should be able to achieve our target of 50 surgeries in this Rotary year.

**Gift of Sight** (Chair D.D. Khanna): This project was conceived in Rotary year 2007-08 and formally launched in Rotary year 2008-09, with the help of a matching grant of the Rotary Foundation, and RC Coral Gables, District 6990, USA as the partner club. We had undertaken to get a minimum of 165 vitreo-retinal surgeries done on poor patients with the Advance Eye Centre, PGI as partner hospital. 138 surgeries have been conducted till date. Grewal Eye Institute has been recently taken on board as a partner hospital and one surgery has been conducted there also. With the balance funds, we should be able to get 40 more surgeries done.

**Gift of Knowledge** (Chair PP K.K. Gupta): Two batches of classes 9th and 10th, of 40 and 30 poor students, respectively, are being held at Govt. Senior Secondary School, Manimajra. The aim is to prepare bright students for professional colleges by providing extra coaching in physics, chemistry and maths. We are paying for the salaries of the teachers and stationery for the students. A distinct improvement in grades of students has been seen. We have sufficient funds for the current Rotary year for this project.

**Rotary Community Corps** (Chair Surinder P. Kaur): We have RCC5 in

Colony No. 5, Chandigarh. It has been working well under the guidance of Rotarians from our club. Adult literacy project for women, ROSHNI, is also being run very successfully. We have recently launched sewing/tailoring classes to empower young girls and needy women. Recently, RCC5 members undertook a campaign to clean and improve the water dispensing station in their area by raising funds from the local residents, thereby making an effort to uplift their surroundings and maintaining better hygiene levels. RCC5 members have also been in a great help during the medical camps in their area. We are also providing 70 TATA Swachh water filters to residents of Colony No. 5, procured under the District Simplified Grant facilitated by IPDG Madhukar Malhotra. We are also exploring the idea of starting more RCCs in other areas of Chandigarh.

**Literacy Mission** (Chair Reema Dewan): We have identified three centres for adult literacy program for women. 25 women in New Janta Colony, 24 women in Dhanas and 10 women in Kajheri have registered for the program. We shall be launching the program in January 2012.

**Health Mission** (Chair Surinder P. Kaur): We have held two medical camps in Colony No. 5, Chandigarh in the current Rotary year. The expenses on the camps have been met with contributions of generous Rotarians. We plan to hold the next medical camp in February, 2012.

**New proposal:** We have offered to adopt Vatika School for Deaf in Sector 19, Chandigarh to take care of the educational and medical needs of the students. The school also needs a proper speech therapy room. We have also proposed to start an Interact Club in the school. The school principal has given a very positive response and we should have a concrete plan in place very soon.

Rtn. A.P. Singh,  
Director Community Service



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## In Brief ...

### Congratulations:

Marriage of daughter of Rtn. Anil Khanna and R'Ann Alka, Ms Salonee, who is doing MBA in Mumbai, has been fixed for February 18, 2012 with Pranav, who is working in Kotak Mahindra Bank in Mumbai.

We also extend our congratulations to PP Vijay Wadhawan on becoming a grandmother to baby Myra, born to son Varun and daughter-in-law Perna.

Grandson of Rtn D.V. Bhatia and R'Ann Nirmal, Manik (s/o Manish & Mona Bhatia) has got admission in the prestigious Harvard University (USA).

**Thanks for TRF Contributions:** We thank following Rotarian friends for their contribution to the Rotary Foundation:

Rtn. Jaspal Singh Kandhari: USD 2000 (already a Major Donor).

Rtn. Rajiv Bali: USD 2000 (already a Major Donor).

Nawab Singh and Sultan Singh, sons of Rtn. S.P.S. Matharoo and Harsarwar Kaur: USD 1000 (both will become PHFs)

**Bon voyage:** GE Manmohan Singh (2012-13) is being wished a "Bon Voyage" at Hotel Madhuban, Rajpura Road, Dehradun, on Sunday, December



Please Donate generously to The Rotary Foundation. Your contributions will go a long way in helping the needy not only in India but worldwide. **Let us strive to make our Club one of the highest donors to The Rotary Foundation.**

25, 2011, from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm, before he, along with his wife Rajwant, leaves for USA. The program is being hosted by Rotary Club Central Dehradun. All Board of Directors are requested to attend this program. Kindly send your confirmation immediately to PE Vivek Gupta.

**Get Well Soon:** PP Harbhajan Singh has been unwell for the past few weeks. We wish him a quick recovery.

**On family, President Kalyan Banerjee says it best in his December message to all Rotarians:**

"... the family is where everything begins. It is where life begins, it is where our day begins, and it is where our Rotary service must begin. Because it is the family, and not the individual, that is the building block of the community—and of Rotary."

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## X'mas and New Year Bash

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on December 26, 2011 at CGA Banquet Hall, 7pm onwards

Come dressed as your favorite film star/character and bag a prize!  
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## Birthdays

20 Dec - Aman Bir Singh  
Ph.: 9872858585

22 Dec - Ravinder Mohan Suri  
Ph.: 0172-2776310

## Anniversaries

25 Dec - Vikrant Sandal & Jasmine  
Ph.: 988897779

## “Quotes”

*Quotes by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi*

*Life finds its purpose and fulfilment in the expansion of happiness.*

*Whatever we put our attention on will grow stronger in our life.*

*The important thing is this: to be able, at any moment, to sacrifice what we are for what we could become.*

*I let people make remarks about me, but it doesn't touch me, all those remarks.*

## Making Time for Family & Rotary

When Bill Simmermon joined the Rotary Club of Highlands Ranch (Littleton), Colorado, USA, six years ago, he wanted to be an active member without sacrificing time with his family. So the father of two brought his sons along to lunch meetings and involved them in club activities. His eldest son, Denver, has taken part in community and international service projects, is a member of Interact, and has been the featured speaker several times at the club's weekly meeting. And Simmermon's wife has been an active part of the club, too.

“My family is all in,” Simmermon says. “My involvement with Rotary doesn't conflict with family time. It has actually enhanced our family time, because we are all there together.”

On RI's official LinkedIn group, several Rotarians have shared the benefits of involving their family in Rotary. Henna Budhrani, a member of the Rotary club of St. Marten, says she has included her children in the club's holiday food distribution to the elderly. Her kids also attend the club's annual Christmas party for children from low-income families.

Bruce Thomson belongs to the same club as his father, the Rotary Club of Lynnwood, Washington, USA, and both are past Presidents. Long before he joined, Thomson

notes, he took part in the club's annual projects, along with his mother and four sisters. His children now help out in club projects.

“Rotary has something to offer the whole family,” Simmermon says. “For some of our members, the number one reason they were interested in Rotary was that they could get their children involved in service projects.”

And, he notes that the Four-Way Test and Rotary's other guiding principles are useful for parents.

“The same values Rotary stands for are values we believe in as a family,” he says. “We want to pass along those values to our children.”

Family is on the minds of many Rotarians in December, as Rotary celebrates Family Month. In addition to recognizing the importance of families in Rotary, the month celebrates the family of Rotary, which includes Rotarians and all those involved in Rotary's work—from Rotary Foundation program alumni to participants in Rotary youth programs around the world.



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