

RIVERSIDE RIPPLES



Carl Wilhelm Stenhammer
R. I. President

Divyang Parikh
President

Amit Adhiya
Bulletin Editor

Ashis Roy
Dist. Governor

Mihir Shukla
Secretary

Anand Acharya
Co-Editor

SERVICE Above Self ROTARY SURAT RIVERSIDE

*We meet every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. at Dr. Bhacca Rotary Hall, Jeevanbharti School.
All our meets are dinner meets.*

Vol - Oct05/03/12

Cover Story

GARBA MEET

If there is a paradise on earth, then it is this, this and only this. A unanimous enchanted feeling captivated everyone's heart when they stepped in the lavish approach garden of Tapovan Farm House, Hazira Rd. (courtesy Mr. Soumilbhai Marfatia) on Sat.15th to commemorate the ongoing Garba festival.

Our club, in line with every year's tradition had organised a Garba Meet at a quite serene place away from the bustling noise of the city. A dedicated team of Rotarians had ensured the best of arrangements for the members who poured in large numbers to celebrate one of their favourite events. All Rotarians and Anns (barring a few) had donned the mandatory "traditional dress code". The Annets (like each year) were more enthusiastic than the Anns and had clad the customary attires more appealingly than even some of the charming and younger Anns of our club - who unsportingly chose to play the disheartening roles of audience instead of playing to the tapping tunes of dandiya-raas.

But once our guest D.J. - Chirag

(Ann Ami's brother) announced the commencement of the first round, the floor was flooded with the members. Even as the *once-in-a-year-dancers* stuck to the conventional *2-tali* stepped garba, the more experienced members' steps gradually morphed into *dodhiyu*, *panchiyu*, and the more complicated ones



like the 10 & 22-step styles. The involvement of even the senior members (rotarians and anns alike) including the first lady was quite noticable as they tried to match the agility of the charismatic annets while some of the younger anns watched them from a distance.

In the first break, everyone

gathered to seek *Maa Amba's* blessings and the younger generation took the opportunity to offer the ritual *aarti*. Then it was time for some boogie-woogie as everyone exercised their affluent waistlines on a few of the bollywood remix numbers. I'm sure the judge - Bhavnaben Marfatia must have kept an eye on this off-the-record round too before deciding the winners.

The third and final *Dandiya-Raas* round tested everyone's nimbleness and stamina as the indulgence extended till the wee hours of the night. Finally, prizes were awarded to the passionate participants as everybody proceeded to savour the ever-delightful food of our caterer.

The inspiring presence of some of the neighbouring club members and district officers was proof of the bond of lgoodwill and friendship that RSR is ever aspiring to weave. Prez. Divyang is grateful to Rtn.Bankim, Rtn.Amit, Rtn.Mihir, Rtn.Mukund, Rtn.Siddharth, Rtn.Jugal (and all those who went out of their way) to make this event a grand success.

VOCATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY

It was President Divyang Parikh who donned the bell to call the meeting to order and then on, it was smooth sailing for both clubs who jointly organised a Vocational Service Award Ceremony namely, Rotary Surat Riverside & Rotary Club of Surat Galaxy at Umra Police Station Hall on 18-OCT-2005.

We had stalwarts all around us 4 awardees and a chief guest. All making it look like entire Surat was present from different spheres of Social Life. And with 3 PDGs, Rajnikaka, Bharat Solanki and Prafull Bhatt gracing the occasion; Rotary was a big family of Community Leaders and success was written on the wall. Lot of District Officers also made this function as if it was their own turf. Thank you, all Rotarian friends.

Annet Yash Dipak Patel of Rotary Club of Surat Galaxy prayed to Almighty for His Blessings. This was followed by recitation of Four Way Test by none other than Chairman Four Way Test Past President Jagdish Panchal of Rotary Club of Surat Galaxy and everybody promptly stood up to follow him VERBATIM.

Prez Divyang took the centre-stage in welcoming all the awardees, chief guest and all Rotarian Families. President

Sunil Choudhary of Rotary Club of Surat Galaxy explained to us in his inimitable style, PURPOSE of the DAY.

PP Jugal introduced Shree Dilipbhai Marfatia. PP Jagdish Panchal introduced Shree Mohanbhai Vaghela in Vernacular. Director Vocational Services of Rotary Surat Riverside Bankim Vashi introduced Shree B. M. Desai. PP Dr. Dipak Patel of Rotary

narrated their personal passion just in time. And the audience was spell-bound both times; one when they listened to introductions and next when they heard the MASTERS. Shree B. M. Desai has invited Rotarians for a Vocational Visit to different Projects of S. M. C.; particularly Water Treatment Projects at various locations.

Chief Guest Jashvantbhai's speech was icing on the cake for the audience and there were lot of relationships which were not known to all of us. World seemed so small then even without mention of any technological advancement.

Hon. Secretaries Harish Lapsiwala & Mihir Shukla made their respective secretarial announcements & greetings. Rtn. Vaishali Chauhan was presented a flower at the worthy hands of PDG Rajnikaka.

PP Dr. Ajay Bhardwaj made a sumptuous Vote of Thanks and the function was ended by Sgt.-At-Arms Saifuddin Doola immediately after the National Anthem led by both the Presidents.

This was followed by a Delicious Dinner served by Ajitbhai. It was at dinner that Fellowship was in full bloom. Everybody went home with elated mood.



KNOW YOUR CHIEF GUEST

Chief Guest of Vocational Awards Ceremony of Joint Meeting of Rotary Surat Riverside and Rotary Club of Surat Galaxy - Shree Jashvantbhai Mehta's profession is "Valuation of Properties" and "Arbitration for Contract Disputes" is his hobby.

Born in 1933, Shree Jashvantbhai passed his B. E. (Civil) from Vallabh Vidyanagar in 1959 and LL.B. in 1974 from (then) South Gujarat University. From 1959 to 1965, he was employed with Hindustan Construction Co. as well as Burmah Shell Co. (now known as Bharat Petroleum). From 1965 to 1974, he worked as a Civil Contractor in Surat. From 1974 onwards, he is working in Surat exclusively as a Valuer for Immovable Properties as well as a Consultant for Arbitration & Disputes in Engineering Contracts. He is actively associated with litigation work relating to valuation as well as contract dispute matters. He has written several articles in the professional magazine "Indian Valuer" and was duly awarded Gold Medal for the same.

Active even at the age of 73, he is presently a techno-legal consultant to Surat Municipal Corporation and empanelled as a Valuer with several banks. He has given his services as an Honorary Visiting Faculty at Vallabh Vidyanagar for the course in Master of Valuation and sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT A Deemed University) at Surat.

Shree Jashvantbhai's family consists of his wife Ranjan, a daughter (Ann Sonal is married to Rtn. President Divyang Parikh of Rotary Surat Riverside) and a son (Rtn. Jigesh who is also Valuer). In fact, Shree Jashvantbhai is himself an ex-Rotarian of Rotary Club of Surat Roundtown.

Club of Surat Galaxy introduced Smt. Nandiniben Shah. PP Mukund Jariwala of Rotary Surat Riverside introduced Shree Jashvantbhai Mehta.

We requested Shree Jashvantbhai Mehta to honour the awardees by offering an award to each one of them and we also requested each of them to share with us their sojourn till date with us. We felt little guilty by allowing them each to speak for only 5 minutes each but magicians as they are; they



A Great Believer in “Bahujan Hitay; Bahujan Sukhay”; “Prayasi” Shree Mohanbhai Vaghela was an awardee on Vocational Service Award Function organized by Rotary Surat Riverside & Rotary Club of Surat Galaxy on 18-OCT-2005. He is associated with Literature, Education, Journalism and Administration & has been a very honourable citizen of Surat.

He has won innumerable awards, prizes, certificates & accolades during his life till now. He has taught teachers on Micro-Teaching; Unit System Education as an expert of Education Policy implementation. He has imparted constructive guidance to almost all teachers of all schools. He conducted training classes for (then) South Gujarat University as well as for Surat Collectorate. He has written 45 books. 3 of them were awarded by Government of Gujarat. 2 of them were selected in Black Board Scheme. He has written for 15 different newspapers. He has worked as In-Charge Administrative Officer at Surat Municipal Corporation & won everybody's love & affection.

He also acted in 4 Plays. Some of them were transmitted by Akashvani. He interviewed about 200 odd different people from different walks of life. He was awarded Gijubhai Badheka award in 2004. He was instrumental for promotion of education among slum dwellers and surveyed among them on behalf of NCERT (National Council for Educational Research & Training).

Shree Ballubhai Desai, City Engineer of Surat Municipal Corporation since June 2003 is a very committed engineer and a very affable human being.

He passed his Civil Engineering with First Class in 1972 from (then) South Gujarat University. He has done his L.L.B. and he is F.I.E. as well.

He started his career as Junior Engineer in PWD of Govt. of Gujarat in June, 1972 and joined S.M.C. in June, 1976. He carries with him a very wide experience of Execution of Major Projects related to Water Supply, Cement Concrete Roads, Flexible Pavements, Bridges including River Bridges, Fly-Over, ROBS, River Training Work, Building Works, Street Lights, Swimming Pools, Traffic Planning, City Gardens, etc.

He got training at United Kingdom in 1995 Structural Engineering, Solid Waste Management & Computer Operation. He also has very good experience of Arbitration (Techno as well as Legal aspects) in case of Disputed Matter in Construction Industry. He also has good command over Disaster Management, particularly during Floods in Surat and Earthquake in Bhuj in 2001. He was instrumental in Restoration of Water Supply within 24 hours after recession of floods in 1998. He was awarded by President of India in 1998 for 1991-Census Work.



Dilipbhai Marfatia graduated in Commerce in 1958 & started his career as Carting Agent (Rlys) in 1958 & continued till 2000. He initiated his Social Activities in 1975 and from 2001, it is a full time activity for him which a rare phenomenon. He was sec. of Marfatia Association and then on became V.P. & President. He also served as V.P. of South Guj. Truck Owner's Association & Co-Op. Soc. He took active interest in Surat Railway Consultative Committee Member. He became an Elected Corporator of SMC in 1975, he worked as committee member of various committees & standing committee; as well as Vice-Chairman of Public Works Committee and as Chairman of Housing & Garden Committee. He was very much involved in Budget of S.M.C., Financial Matters and took active participation in giving vent to people's various problems.

He had been a trustee of Surat Charity Fund and as Honorary Treasurer of Sheth P. T. General Hospital from 1981 to 1996 and thereby involved in development of the hospital. He has been a very active member of Managing Committee of Sarvajani Education Society from 1977 to 1996. He was main person instrumental in bringing in computer education in schools in whole of Gujarat, first English Medium Commerce College in South Gujarat, first Self-sufficient Degree Engineering College. He has been a Founder Chairman as well as Vice-President & President of Sarvajani Education Society. Even at age 69, he is holding different posts with various NGOs.

He is very much instrumental in starting a Medical College for 150 students & 750-Bed Hospital through South Gujarat Medical Education Trust which is under progress. Based on this active Social Life, he has been awarded “SHIKSHAN RATNA” by Jain Social Group; Felicitation Letter by Rotary; Best Citizen's Award & “Man of Achievement Award” by International Publication House; “Great Achiever of India Award” by Front for National Progress.

It had been a great opportunity for both the clubs to honour Smt. Nandiniben Shah Principal of School for Blinds (we will call them Visually Challenged) on their Vocational Award Ceremony of Vocational Service Avenue on 18-OCT-2005.

She had been awarded “GURJAR RATNA” on 1st May, 2005 [which is Gujarat Day]. She is the first Lady from Surat to be awarded such a prestigious felicitation. She is associated with Education for the last 30 years. She is extremely popular among Students as well as parents as Idol as an educationist, Able Administrator, Excellent Orator, Great Figure among Cultural Stalwarts. She is associated with Blood Donation (in fact, she has established a record by donating maximum no. of times among all women from Surat); Cancer Detection, Children's & Women's Upliftment, Committed Hindi & Sanskrit Language Promoter. She takes great interest in Library activities.



She passed her B. Sc. With First Class & got Gold Medal in her B. Ed. She is second human being awarded “GURJAR RATNA” from School for Blinds after Late Shree Gordhandas Chokhawala. She has written & directed numerous Plays. She is also associated with different Tele-Vision as well as Radio Programmes. She herself is a very good dancer and has performed on no. of occasions. She has been a great adventurer as well and won various competitions in Cycling & Kho-Kho. She loves to trek.

Mars Hoax Circulates the Internet

There's a rumor going around. You might have heard it at a 4th of July BBQ or family get-together. More likely you've read it on the Internet. It goes like this:

"The Red Planet is about to be spectacular."

"Earth is catching up with Mars [for] the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history."

"On August 27th ... Mars will look as large as the full moon."

And finally, "NO ONE ALIVE TODAY WILL EVER SEE THIS AGAIN."

Those are snippets from a widely-circulated email. Only the first sentence is true. The Red Planet is about to be spectacular. The rest is a hoax.

Here are the facts: Earth and Mars are converging for a close encounter this year on **October 30th** at 0319 Universal Time. Distance: 69 million kilometers. To the unaided eye, Mars will look like a bright red star, a pinprick of light, certainly not as wide as the full Moon.

Disappointed? Don't be. If Mars did come close enough to rival the Moon, its gravity would alter Earth's orbit and raise terrible tides.

Sixty-nine million km is good. At that distance, Mars shines brighter than anything else in the sky

except the Sun, the Moon and Venus. The visual magnitude of Mars on **Oct. 30, 2005**, will be -2.3. Even inattentive sky watchers will notice it, rising at sundown and soaring overhead at midnight.

You might remember another encounter with Mars, about two years ago, on August 27, 2003. That was the closest in recorded history, by a whisker, and millions of people watched as the distance between Mars and Earth shrunk to 56 million km. This October's encounter, at 69 million km, is similar. To casual observers, Mars will seem about as bright and beautiful in 2005 as it was in 2003.

Although closest approach is still months away, Mars is already conspicuous in the early morning. Before the sun comes up, it's the brightest object in the eastern sky, really eye-catching. If you have a telescope, even a small one, point it at Mars. You can see the bright icy South Polar Cap and strange dark markings on the planet's surface.

One day people will walk among those dark markings, exploring and prospecting, possibly mining ice from the polar caps to supply their settlements. It's a key goal of NASA's Vision for Space Exploration: to return to the Moon, to visit Mars and to go beyond.

Every day the view improves. Mars is coming--and that's no hoax.

Stupid Laws

California : It is illegal to set a mousetrap without a hunting license. Women may not drive in a house coat.

New Jersey : You cannot pump your own gas. All gas stations are full service only.

Ocean City : It is against the law to slurp your soup at a restaurant.

New York : It is against the law to throw a ball at someone's head for fun. The penalty for jumping off a building is death.

Florida : It is illegal to sing in a public place while attired in a swimsuit. Men may not be seen publicly in any kind of strapless gown.

Ohio : Women are prohibited from wearing patent leather shoes in public. It is illegal to get a fish drunk.

Kansas : Pedestrians crossing the highways at night must wear tail lights. No one may catch fish with his bare hands.

Oklahoma : Violators can be arrested and/or jailed for making ugly faces at a dog. State law prohibits anyone taking a bite out of another's hamburger.

Alabama : It is illegal to wear a fake mustache that causes laughter in church. Boogers may not be flicked into the wind.

Wisconsin : In Racine, it is illegal to wake a fireman when he is asleep. Butter substitutes are not allowed to be served in state prisons.

Virginia : It is illegal to sell peanut brittle on Sundays. Flipping a coin in a restaurant to see who pays for coffee is outlawed

Birthday Bums

18-10 Ann Vaishali 98256 97060

20-10 Ann Deepa 552 3383



☺ FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS ☺

District GOVERNOR'S VISIT

As we are all aware, our DG is visiting our club on the 25th of October. It is one of the most important event in the club's year. Moreover it is the last meeting of our first term, before we go for a Diwali break. All members, especially the service avenue directors are requested to be present at the meeting without fail. Dinner will be served after the meeting.

Date :25-10-05

Time :8:00 p.m. sharp

Venue: Social Welfare Centre, Umra Police Station