

RIVERSIDE RIPPLES



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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 - Feb06/03/24

Cover Story



FISHPOND

To Luv someone is nothing. To be luvd is something. To luv and be luvd is everything. We pray that you get everything forever. Such were the messages that flowed from everyone's mobile phones on 14th February. And Prez. Divyang also began in a similar manner on the Valentine's day when we had gathered at our regular venue, eagerly, to share some moments of FISHPONDS.

Though declared well in advance, the fishpond submissions were a disappointing lot. But everyone was surprised to see a whopping lot of 'chits' gathered eventually in the collection box before the meeting started.

Divyangbhai also didn't waste any time and invited our robust Rtn. Bankim Vashi to read out everyone's opinions on their fellow Rotarians and Anns. And true to his reputation, he started "reciting" each and every notes in his own impeccable style with special comments of his own. The fishponds came in all forms of literature: Hindi, Gujarati, English - Poetries, Songs, Quotes and straight advices.

Though we didn't get time to screen them, there were no discourteous messages for anyone. In fact, like the article on page 3 in our last edition of Riverside Ripples (Volume-23), there were jovial exclamations from everyone besides some blushes and some bombshells.

This was the perfect occasion to convey your feelings to your dear ones in the open house how important they are to you, or how you would want them to be. While some cherished their friendships with members and some praised the beauty-brain co-existence in our Anns, there were some bantering remarks targeted at some of the buoyant & handsome guys.

All in all, the absence of the seven wonders band of our club (which got the maximum fishponds) was marred by the cheerful experience this event provided to know other's opinion about yourself.

And in the end,
*Love is what can be felt, not told
It can be given but not sold
It comes when you least expect it
and
Leaves you when you most need it*

THEY SAID IT

PLENARY HIGHLIGHTS

"Rotary gives so much to so many. But as much as Rotary gives to the world, it gives back to every one of us. As we begin our next hundred years of fellowship, let us always remember the wonderful experiences we have had here, together in Chicago. Let us always remember the warmth we felt among so many members of the family of Rotary. And let us continue to Celebrate Rotary by always putting Service Above Self."

*-2004-05 President Glenn
Estess Sr.*

PLENARY HIGHLIGHTS

"We approached the civic authorities, and they said, 'We have no extra water to be given to those people.'... And one of them mockingly said to me, 'Why doesn't Rotary build a dam?' At that time I said to myself, 'Sir, I am going to do just that.'"

*-Vikram Sanghani, on a
Rotary Foundation-supported
project.*

ROTARY THEME FOR 2006-07



Rotary International's incoming president, William B. Boyd, has chosen *Lead the Way* as the theme for the 2006-07 Rotary year.

"This will be my theme and an affirmation of my belief in the power of Rotarians to change the world, one positive act at a time," he told incoming district governors at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA, on 17 February.

Every year at the assembly, Rotary's incoming president unveils a theme for the next Rotary year. The current theme under RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar is *Service Above Self*, the same as Rotary's longtime motto.

The challenge of finding a theme is that it must be short, inspirational, and translatable. Boyd doesn't remember the moment *Lead the Way* popped into his head. All he knows is that "it just felt right."

Since the governors-elect attend the International Assembly to learn more about becoming successful leaders in their districts, Boyd's theme was especially pertinent to the audience.

"In the coming year, I ask each of you to take your places as leaders in your districts and your communities," Boyd told the incoming governors. "I ask each of you to lead in the Rotary way, by living as role models of tolerance, unselfishness, and integrity. And because the best leaders have humility, I ask you to do all of this with friendliness and a smile, so that others will be happy to walk beside you."

Boyd concluded by saying, "As Rotarians, we are not content to let matters stay the way they have always been in our clubs or in our communities. We are not content with the status quo, and we do not look at a problem only to say someone else will solve it. We are the ones who ask, 'Why not us?' We are the ones with the skills and the desire to build a better future. And we are the ones who must *Lead the Way*."

Tiffany Woods is a senior editor of *The Rotarian*.

POTENTIAL ROTARIANS RESPOND TO GOOD PUBLICITY

As Rotary's centennial celebration made news worldwide last February, a record number of people filled out the prospective member form on the RI Web site. A similar spike in visits to that page occurred during the well publicised 2005 RI Convention in Chicago in June. Those increases in non-Rotarians' interest in joining Rotary fit a pattern that RI Membership Development Division staff have observed in recent years: Publicity in print and broadcast media appears to inspire more people to take interest in Rotary's humanitarian work and consider becoming Rotarians.

During the week of 20-26 February 2005, more qualified individuals filled out the prospective member form than in any other week since the form was posted on the Web site during the 2001-02 Rotary year. A similar one-day record for forms submitted was set on 23 February 2005, the 100th anniversary of Rotary. During the week of convention in June, submissions of the prospective member form were 61 per cent higher than the same week the previous year.

The form asks prospective members to specify how they learned of RI and its Web site. Time after time, respondents indicate that their exposure to Rotary came through advertisements or news features that they saw on television or in newspapers. One February respondent mentioned that her father had been a Rotarian but that she had assumed that only men joined Rotary. Having learned otherwise by reading about Rotary in her local paper, she was eager to get involved.

The message is clear: Publicity can be an important tool in any club's membership development plans. Placing ads or articles about Rotary in the media can open the eyes of qualified people who might otherwise never have given membership any thought.

Non-Rotarians can fill out the prospective membership form, which describes the requirements for membership, to express their interest in joining a club. After an initial screening, RI staff forward that person's information to the governor and membership chair in their district for further consideration. The prospective member form can be found at www.rotary.org/membership/prospective/form.html.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

AN INTERESTING ARTICLE - A MUST READ

People always say how mean kids can be, not often how nice they can be. This story will either make you cry, give you cold chills or just leave you cold, but it puts life into perspective!

At a fund raising dinner for a school that serves learning-disabled children, the father of one of the school's students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended.

After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he posed a question. "Everything God does is done with perfection. Yet, my son Shay cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do.

Where is God's plan reflected in my son?" The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued. "I believe that when God brings a child like Shay into the world, an opportunity to realize the Divine Plan presents itself and it comes in the way people treat that child."

Then, he told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they will let me play?" Shay's father knew that the boys would not want him on their team. But the father understood that if his son were allowed to play it would give him

much-needed sense of belonging. Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his teammates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We are losing by six runs, and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. At the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the outfield. Although no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base. Shay was scheduled to be the next to bat. Would the team actually let Shay bat at this juncture and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved a few steps forward to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly toward Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the ball and could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have ended the game.

Instead, the pitcher took the ball and threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond reach of the first baseman. Everyone started yelling, "Shay, run to first, run to first" Never in his life had Shay ever made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" By the time Shay was rounding first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman for a tag. But the right fielder understood what the pitcher's intentions had been, so he threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head. Shay ran towards second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases towards home.

As Shay reached second base, the opposing shortstop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third!" As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, "Shay, run home!" Shay ran home, stepped on home plate and was cheered as the hero for hitting a "grand slam" and winning the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of the Divine Plan into this world."

☺☺☺ THIS IS HILARIOUS ☺☺☺

A city boy, Kenny, moved to the country and bought a donkey from an old farmer for \$100.00. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day. The next day the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry son, but I have some bad news, the donkey died last night."

Kenny replied: "Well then, just give me my money back." The farmer said: "Can't do that. I went and spent it already."

Kenny said: "OK then, just unload the donkey." The farmer asked: "What ya goanna do with him?"

Kenny: "I'm going to raffle him off." (Note: To raffle is to sell a thing by lottery - draw lot - to a group of people each paying the same amount for a ticket)

Farmer: "You can't raffle off a dead donkey!"
Kenny: "Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead."

A month later the farmer met up with Kenny and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey?"

Kenny: "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars apiece and made a profit of 898.00."

Farmer: "Didn't anyone complain?" Kenny: "Just the guy who won. So I gave him back his two dollars."

Kenny grew up and eventually became the chairman of Enron.

DISTRICT EVENT DELAYED

Rotary club of Udhna was to host a fun filled programme on the 26th of this month. But for some unexpected circumstances, they are forced to delay this programme.

The scintillating event "RENDEZVOUS" to make up for the loss of fun and enjoyment which was slated to be held the coming Sunday has been deferred by a month or two and shall now be hosted in either March or April. The details of the same can be obtained from Prez. Divyang or Riverside Ripples. So stay tuned....

STRIKING THE GAP

Napoleon was born in 1760

Hitler was born in 1889 (after 129 years)

Napoleon was elected in 1804

Hitler was elected in 1933 (after 129 years)

Napoleon captured Vienna in 1809

Hitler captured Vienna in 1938 (after 129 years)

Napoleon attacked U.S.S.R in 1812

Hitler attacked U.S.S.R in 1941 (after 129 years)

Napoleon was defeated in 1816

Hitler was defeated in 1945 (after 129 years)

🎉 BIRTHDAY BUMS 🎉

21-02 Ann Sangeeta Acharya 2775660



💍 NUPTIAL KNOTS 💍

20-02 Ajay Bhardwaj 98251 26426



🧠 FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS 🗣️

INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

We are hosting an inter-club Rotary Quiz Competition this Tuesday. Participants from different clubs of Surat will contest to verify their Rotary knowledge.

The quiz will be conducted by our very own Rtn. Jugal Shinglot who is also the district co-chairman of the committee for Rotary Quiz. He will be accompanied by other district dignitaries. A must-attend meet for everybody.

Date : 21st February, Tuesday

Time : 8:30 p.m.

Venue : Dr. Bhacca Rotary Hall, Jeevabharti

KNOW YOUR SUN / LUNAR SIGN

The agenda for 28th Feb is a speaker meet. Our club is going to have the privilege of meeting the learned astrologer Mr. H.N.KESHVANI.

He will throw some light on the amazing science of astrology and will also answer members' queries. Those who want to understand the planetary behaviour and their impact on our lives, don't fail to attend this meet. Try & make the most of this opportunity.

Date : 28th February, Tuesday

Time : 8:30 p.m.

Venue : Dr. Bhacca Rotary Hall, Jeevabharti