

## Rotary Surat Riverside

Club No. 31734 Charter Date : 26/06/1996 R. I. Dist. 3060



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### Cover Story

**D**ashing thru' the snow, on a one horse open sleigh, o'er the fields we go, laughing all the way!!! Well it is Christmas season and Riversiders were back to what they are best at - CELEBRATIONS.



*Pres. Rajesh cutting the X'mas cake*

With Pres. Rajesh Patel not being in town next week, we decided to have a X'mas ball on our regular Tuesday the 19th of Dec. Z-2000 was decided as the venue and our charming Anns Ulka and Nirupa took the responsibility of managing the event. And how well did they manage too. From taking utmost care in selecting the menu to suit all ages and sections of the society, to personally inviting each and every Ann for the evening, the current and the future first ladies of our club (no pun intended) went out of their ways to fill the evening with fun.

And what better way to mark the festive season than to rope in our permanent game masters Rtn. Ashutosh and Ann Kavi Thakkar. The duo has hosted many couple games in the past and was ready with another few this time too. But time constraint and the involvement in the first game itself did not let us engage in more than one game.

The members were given a 20 point questionnaire to be filled in with the predilections of their better halves. These were then matched with the answers of the Anns who filled their own likings in a similar form. While Rtn. Amish Malji answered 3 of his spouse's penchants, there was a tie between Rtn. Kamlesh Bachkaniwala and PP Rtn. Mukund Jariwala who knew 14 aspects each about their wives' choices. And just like wise men say, He Who Knows His Wife The Least, Is Devoted To Her The Most.

Although there was no Santa between us (maybe it is not cold enough for his reindeers yet), there was Christmas cake to be savoured. President Rajesh, who had gone to Ahmedabad reached just in time for cutting the cake. A couple photo shoot was also arranged for our proposed website and the district data. But in spite of intimating each and every member well in advance, the total turnout was a paltry 50% - another thing Riversiders are known for nothing to cheer about.

PE Rtn. Sanjay Pandya expressed his gratitude to all those who made the evening enjoyable. We dispersed with Jingling memories of the wonderful evening.



President Elect Rtn. Sanjay Pandya has appealed to those who were absent on 19-12-06 to submit their couple photographs in the next meeting failing which their bio data in the "Family of Rotary" district directory would be without their images. Members can contact photographer Rajabhai (Arihant Photo Art) on 98252 98257 and arrange for their session. A form has also been e-mailed to all Riversiders to be filled in with their details for updating our Roster as well as the Family of Rotary District Directory. Members are requested to complete these formalities at the earliest.

## RI President Bill Boyd's December Message

Dear fellow Rotarians,

My wife, Lorna, and I will celebrate our 52nd wedding anniversary in March. We are fortunate to have 4 children and 11 grandchildren, the youngest of whom, Emery, we met for the first time earlier this year. Wherever we travel with Rotary, our thoughts are always with them. And no matter how much we've enjoyed our trip, our family is the reason we're always glad to return home. Family is what makes a place home. Family is what's really important in life.

That's why the family of Rotary is so important to us. I've been a Rotarian for most of the years Lorna and I have been married, and over those years, Rotary has become a part of our family. Like our own family, we can count on the family of Rotary to help when help is needed and to share life's joys and sorrows. Being part of Rotary means being part of the largest extended family in the world.

Rotary is an organization of people who care — about their homes, their communities, and each other. And caring is what family is all about.

A key idea of the family of Rotary is that it encompasses the family of every Rotarian — spouses, widows and widowers, children, and parents. Rotary was never designed to take club members away from their families. Instead, it should be a force that brings them together. Through programs such as Rotaract, Interact, and Rotary Youth Exchange, we work to bring a new generation into the spirit of Rotary service. Through our emphasis on the family of Rotary, we work to ensure that no one in the organization is ever left behind.

The end of the calendar year is a time of celebration in many traditions. Lorna and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who send us your greetings during this season. Unfortunately, we cannot respond to you all as we would like. Therefore, we will make a contribution to The Rotary Foundation as our expression of thanks.

Rotary's success depends on the support of every Rotarian and everyone in the family of Rotary. In a family, no one is any more or less important than anyone else. Everyone is equally valued and equally a part of the family. That is also true in the family of Rotary. All of us are working toward the same goals of better communities and a better world. And we all know that we accomplish more and enjoy ourselves far more when we're working side by side with our friends — and our families.

## Aim high when planning club projects

In Turkey earlier this year, Lorna and I joined with District 2430 Governor Malik Aviral to open a 24-room elementary school in Ankara. In Istanbul, we saw a 50-room secondary school built as a Rotary Centennial project and a five-story building for street children also built by Rotary. The size of these club projects amazed me, and I thought perhaps this was not a typical situation.

Then I picked up a copy of Rotary News from India and saw photographs of some equally impressive club and district projects — schools that educate hundreds of students, a water tank serving 50,000 people, and an entire landscape transformed by homes for mentally challenged children, destitute women, and others in need. I also remembered my visit to Sri Lanka, where 25 new schools currently being built by Rotary clubs are setting the standard for quality education in this tsunami-ravaged country.

The roster of amazing Rotary achievements goes on and on, but I'm afraid not all clubs would make the list. No matter how many Rotarian accomplishments we see or read about, some of us still underestimate what one club or district can achieve. We have only to look to PolioPlus to realize how focus and determination can lead to unprecedented success. Yet too many clubs remain unwilling to challenge themselves by increasing the size and scope of their efforts.

This year, I encourage all clubs to think big. Take a good look at your community and consider how your club could make a significant difference, one that would benefit many people and showcase Rotary as a major force for good. If your community doesn't need such a project, find one that does. It could be halfway around the world or just a few miles away. Let's challenge ourselves in 2006-07 and Lead the Way to greater Rotary achievement.

W.B. (Bill) Boyd

## The history of Santa Claus



Santa Claus has been around for a long, long time. But how did people start to know about Santa Claus? Why is Santa called Jolly Old St. Nicholas? Did he always put presents under Christmas trees?

Long ago, in a land which is now called Turkey, there was a bishop named Nicholas. Nicholas lived in the fourth century A.D. He was very wealthy and generous, and he loved to make children happy. Often, he would give gifts to very poor children -- sometimes by throwing them into their windows!

After Nicholas died, he was canonized as a saint. His feast day is December 6 -- a holiday in many countries. He is the patron saint of children and seafarers. In the Netherlands, the saint's name, Sinter Nikolass, became shortened to Sinter Klaas. And as Dutch people immigrated to the United States, the name evolved into what it is today - Santa Claus!

The Dutch Saint Nicholas also wore a beard and a red cloak trimmed with white fur. Saint Nicholas left gifts for good children in their shoes -- not under trees or in stockings, as he does today.

The tradition of having a Christmas tree in the house comes from a different part of the world -- Germany. Since the Middle Ages, or perhaps before, trees have been thought to be good luck. Whenever someone would start to build a house, a small evergreen tree would be nailed to one of the tallest beams. Gradually, this tradition came to be repeated at Christmas time, by bringing a small tree into the house and decorating it. As German immigrants came to the United States, they brought with them the tradition of Christmas trees.

## District sports event

The district sports meet hosted by Rotary Club of Surat West took off on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at the Surat Tennis Club, Athwalines. Your editor was first to reach the venue to register and cheer our star players. RSR registered two entries for TT and both our players Rtn. Brij Pachisia and Rtn. Mdyen Lokhandwala clashed each other in round three where the latter proved his superiority in the game. But in the absence of enough supporters (only 3 members snooping in during the whole day), Rtn. Mdyen lost the finals to Rtn. Sameer Shah of the host club. The results of the sporting event are as under:

No.	Game	Name of Player	Rotary Club	Result
1.	Bridge	(a) Sudhir Vithlani & Pankaj Nathwani (b) Prabhat Kothari & Jitendra Tamboli	Rajkot Greater Rajkot Midtown	Champion Runners Up
2.	Lawn Tennis	(a) Sameer Shah (b) Dr. Mukund Shah	Surat West Bharuch	Champion Runners Up
3.	Chess	(a) Ashit Kikani (b) Yogesh Pandya	Baroda Jawaharnagar Surat West	Champion Runners Up
4.	Carrom	(a) Pankaj Shah (b) Dilip Gupta	Surat West Vallabh Vidyanagar	Champion Runners Up
5.	Volley Ball	(a) Team (b) Team	Surat East Surat West	Champion Runners Up
6.	Table Tennis	(a) Sameer Shroff (b) Mdyen Lokhandwala	Surat West Surat Riverside	Champion Runners Up
7.	Snooker	(a) Sameer Shroff (b) Harshad Bhadolwala	Surat West Bharuch	Champion Runners Up
8.	Badminton	(a) Naresh Mandleywala (b) Anant Gandhi	Udhna Udhna	Champion Runners Up

**SPEAKING ENGLISH**

15 reasons to be glad you grew up speaking English!

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 8) I did not object to the object.
- 9) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 10) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 11) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 12) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 13) After a number of Novocain injections, my jaw got number.
- 14) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 15) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. We find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

**LAURELS LAURELS LAURELS**

Friends, there is a wonderful news which I'd like to share with you.

IPP Rtn. Divyang Parikh has been awarded the **OUTSTANDING PRESIDENT** of the Rotary Year 2005-06 in the recently concluded District Conference at Jamnagar by IPDG Ashis Roy.

Indeed is a matter of pride and pleasure for Riversiders to have won such a coveted award. Riverside Ripples congratulates Rtn. Divyang for this feat which is a true testimony of his selfless services to Rotary.

I am extremely thankful to all the members of RSR without whose constant support and motivation, the recognition would not have made its way.

- IPP Rtn. Divyang Parikh

**LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE**

The following picture does not need any explanation. It is an innovative way found out by a Sardarji to safeguard his slippers outside a temple.



**FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS**



**FELLOWSHIP**

As we come down to the end of 2006, it is time to bid farewell to the calendar year which showed us many ups and down including one of the worst ever floods to hit our city.

We gather for a fellowship meet at our regular day, venue and time.

**Date** : 26<sup>th</sup> December, Tuesday

**Time** : 8:30 p.m.

**Venue** : Sam Bhacca Rotary Hall, Jeevanbharti



20-12	Ann Komal Zaveri	9377609794
22-12	Ann Bhavna Savla	2235068
22-12	Ann Jayshree Dalal	98251 18704
25-12	Ann Charulata Vashi	98244 77354
27-12	Sadhana Pachisia	2224416