

Rotary Crossroads

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... Proud of our past, Committed to our future

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Good Samaritan Award 2009

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In Focus

Good Samaritan Award 2009

Following is an extract of Chairman of the Good Samaritan Awards Committee, Rtn. Uttam Kripalani's speech at the Awards presentation on May 27th 2009...

"Thank you very much for the privilege given to my committee consisting of Rtns. Brian Jones and David Ong for working on the Good Samaritan Awards programme for 2009.

The Awards programme was instituted by the Club as a Community Service Committee project in 1998 and has become an annual project of the club.

With the help of the National Council of Social Service who very kindly sent out a general circular, we received a large number of entries this year.

This meant that the selection process became extremely difficult.

We have three awardees today and it is with regret that I feel we could not offer our commendations to many more who go well beyond the call of duty in offering a helping hand to those in need.

There are many 'Samaritans' who are unsung heroes, who give so much of themselves often in a very quiet and unassuming manner.

Apart from recognizing the special volunteers today, The Rotary Club of Singapore hopes that the annual award will help prod others into similar volunteering efforts.

The committee selected three nominees for the Awards, namely

1. Mrs Rosma Guha nominated by the Centre for Seniors
2. Mr Albert King nominated by the Make-A-Wish Foundation
3. Mr Bernard Oh nominated by Assisi Hospice.

I will now read out the citations.

I am pleased to announce that this year's winner is Mr Bernard Oh.

Unfortunately he had to fly out to Beijing and will not be able to be with us today.

The pewter plaque and certificate is being collected by the representative of the Assisi Hospice."



"With the help of the National Council of Social Service who very kindly sent out a general circular, we received a large number of entries this year."

- Uttam Kripalani

Good Samaritan Award 2009...continued

Following is the Citation presented to the Good Samaritan Award 2009 winner – **Mr. Bernard Oh**

GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD 2009 CITATION

Mr. Bernard Oh
Winner
(Nominated by the Assisi Hospice)



Mr Bernard Oh has been a long time supporter of the Assisi Hospice by working with and engaging his staff to assist in the event management of the annual charity dinners.

On a personal basis he and his family, have supported a number of needy children and their families. He has never failed to fulfill the wishes of the children or their families when in dire need by responding immediately as and when needed.

There is no request too big for Bernard to extend a helping hand to the needy.

He spearheads a team of friends with their family members to finance and build a computer lab in Siem Reap for the poor children of the region. They brought all the computers and accessories from Singapore and assembled every piece for the lab.

Every year end, he goes to Bali to help orphanages there, to help in the maintenance of the buildings. He is a person who believes in being hands on even in muddy situations and finds much joy in bringing laughter and joy to the children there.

He also goes with Habitat for Humanity to help build homes in Indonesia for the poor in the region.

He is also supporting financially a little girl with multi-sclerosis in Singapore.

It is believed that he is also helping many others but has not readily admitted this.

In spite of a busy and hectic schedule of running a regional business, he is still able to stay focused on helping others in need.

The Assisi Hospice has indicated that many families and children are able to enjoy happy days because of their nominee, who has been actively involved since 1999.

The Rotary Club of Singapore is proud to announce him as winner of the Good Samaritan Award for 2009.

Good Samaritan Award 2009...continued

Following are extracts of the Citations to Mrs. Rosma Guha and Mr. Albert King

Mrs. Rosma Mahyudin Guha

Mrs Rosma Guha has had a passion for Arts specially painting since the age of 5 years.

A self taught artist and a member of the Singapore Water Colour Society and the Singapore Art Society, she is also on the committee of the International Women's Art Association.

After her retirement from the Ministry of Community Development [now MCYS] where she worked as the Superintendent of Telok Blangah Children's Home and Mt Emily Home for 34 years, she has devoted her time to using her talent to stimulate creativity, facilitate self awareness, enhance self esteem and communicate feelings and thoughts, specially amongst seniors.

When she heard of the Centre for Seniors, she volunteered to teach painting to the seniors.

This delightful and frail lady in spite of her being 77 years old, continues to share her knowledge and skill whole heartedly and willingly to many students at the Centre.

Rosma has also donated 23 of her paintings amounting to about \$33,000 to beautify the Centre of Seniors without any fanfare.

To her the Centre is a second home.

The Rotary Club of Singapore is very pleased to highly commend the volunteering efforts of Mrs Rosma Mahyudin Guha.

Mr. Albert King

Mr Albert King is an Action Learning facilitator and personal development coach. Some of his milestones include pioneering the establishment of Cybercare, a non-profit organization, dedicated to assisting and training under-privileged children to use technology in their daily lives and to help build their confidence and communicating skills. He spearheaded the Cybercare Leadership Service learning Mt Everest Expedition which sponsored under-privileged from Singapore, Malaysia and Nepal to trek the foothills of Mt Everest. The expedition donated educational resources, laptops, medical supplies and a school library in Nepal.

At the Make-A-Wish (MAW) Foundation and Habitat for Humanity he has volunteered as a wish granter for wishes that have needed planning and delivering the wish. He regularly Emcees at children's parties and conducts games for the children and guests. Recently Albert organized a Wish Climb fund raiser for MAW. This 15-day event covered a total distance of 5,364m. All expenses were borne by Albert and 100% of the funds raised will go directly to the Foundation, towards materializing the many wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses.

Besides climbing Mt Everest in support of MAW, he also plans to conduct Youth Leadership programmes for the Hindu Vidyapeeth Charity School in Kathmandu, Nepal and visit three mountain schools where the children will be presented with educational materials. The Rotary Club of Singapore is very pleased to highly commend the volunteering efforts of Mr Albert King. **RC**

The Good Samaritans...



Mrs. Guha receives a certificate from President Mohan



President Mohan hands Mr. King his certificate as Awards Chairman, Uttam looks on

Last week

Club happenings on May 27th

- Reported by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

Opening Remarks:

President Paliath Mohandas warmly welcomed Mrs. Kanak Mehta, Teacher Advisor Ms. Alice Tan and Interactors from Anglo Chinese School (Independent) and Victoria Junior College as well as Guests for the Good Samaritan Award presentation.

Major Project Movie Screening:

President Mohan informed members of the successful private screening of the movie "Night At The Museum 2" fund-raiser for the Major Project, which was held on Friday, May 22nd 2009. He added that about 450 persons attended the screening and the theatre was about 80% to 90% full.

Recognition of Past President Alfred Wong:

President Mohan was pleased to recognise our senior past president Alfred Wong who is the Chairman of the Preservation of Monuments Board. PP Alfred was the Club's President in 1996/1997 and the Club's Major Project that year was to assist three beneficiaries – Taman Bacaan, Turning Point and the Very Special Arts, through vocational service projects.

President Mohan advised that during PP Alfred's term the support of the Gift of Sight in Cambodia was overwhelming, not only from our

local doctors but also from overseas doctors. PP Alfred recalled that there was a doctor from the U.S., Dr. Pierre Guibor who called requesting to join the Club's mission. The Club also managed to obtain two ambulances for S\$15.00 from the government hospitals (thanks to PP Milton Tan), refitted these ambulances and shipped them to Phnom Penh.

Welcome of Guests:

Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn. Gerald Abeyawardena extended a collective welcome to our guests:

Guests:

Mrs. Kanak Mehta, Teacher Advisor Ms. Alice Tan, Interactors Celestyn & Thanachote (ACS[I]), VJC Interactors Syamil Maulod & Alyssa Tan, Mrs. Rosma Guha, Mr. Guha Biswajit, Mr. Albert King, Ms. Diane Koh (Make-A-Wish Foundation) Ms. Geraldine Lee & Ms. Ronita Paul (Assisi Hospice), Mr. Keith Harrison

Toast:

As there were not visiting Rotarians, Rtn. Robert Craiu invited members to join him in raising a toast to Rotary International.

Photographs:

Top to bottom:

PP Alfred Wong, Rtns. Gerald Abeyawardena, Robert Craiu. **RC**



PP Alfred Wong



Gerald Abeyawardena



Robert Craiu

K S Mehta Award...

K S Mehta Award Presentation

Chairman: IPP Peter Tan

Introduction:

As Chairman of the K S Mehta Memorial Award Committee, **IPP Peter Tan** was pleased to announce this year's winners of the Essay Contest for Interact Clubs sponsored by our Club. Before the prize giving, IPP Peter gave a quick background to the Award. He noted that Rotarian K S Mehta for which the Award was named after, was an exemplary Rotarian of 30 years standing in our Club, who in his Rotary activities regularly demonstrated what "Service Above Self" really means.

In his honour and for the promotion of the values embodied in the theme "Service Above Self" the Club decided to cancel a Diwali fellowship party scheduled days before KS's untimely death to channel the collection for the party plus voluntary top up to create a fund so that \$2,000 each year could be given to 2 Interact or Rotaract Clubs, of \$1,000 so that the funds could be used for their community service projects. It was also decided then that an essay writing contest expounding the virtue of "Service Above Self" be organized each year to select the winners and that the Award would, in Rotarian K S Mehta's memory, be carried for 10 years.

IPP Peter warmly thanked his committee members for their efforts and assistance.

Award Presentation:

IPP Peter called upon Mrs. Kanak Mehta, who as members know, is an exemplary Rotary Spouse or Rotary Ann as they were then called. Mrs. Mehta was always by her husband's side at Rotary functions and was a President of the Inner Wheel Club of Singapore. Her son, Manish, is also a Rotarian of significant standing in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

IPP Peter announced the winners of the K S Mehta Award – the Anglo Chinese School (Independent) and

Victoria Junior College Interact Clubs.

He called upon ACS(I) Interact President Celestyn Karuppiah and Thanachote Kamalpirat to receive their prizes comprising \$1,000 for their Interact Club and a \$150 book voucher for the writer of the essay. Next, VJC Interact President Syamil Maulod received his club's award and the book voucher was presented to Ms. Alyssa Tan on behalf of her team members who contributed to the essay. **RC**



The late Rtn. K S Mehta in formal regalia of the Sergeant-at-Arms

KS Mehta Award...continued

Photos taken at the Award Presentation...



Left to Right: ACS(I)Teacher Advisor Alice Tan, Interactors Thanachote, Celestyn, Pres. Mohan, PP Dr. Oliver Hennedige, IPP Peter, Rtn. Perlita Tiro, PE Lip Kee, Mrs. Kanak Mehta, VJC Interactors Alyssa & Syamil



VJC Interactors Alyssa & Syamil posing with Mrs. Mehta



Mrs. Mehta presents the prizes to Interactors Thanachote & Celestyn



IPP Peter introducing Mrs. Kanak Mehta

Club Activities

Vocational Visit to the Central Fire Station

Date & Time: Saturday, June 6th 2009 at 10.00am.

Venue: Singapore Civil Defence Force Fire Station, Central Fire Station at the corner of Hill Street and Coleman Street

Programme: There are activities planned for infants to adults including a sliding pole performance; introduction to emergency vehicles; a "red rhino" joy ride; CPL Cage Ride; Hand-On Impulse Gun; Water Jets/Fire Extinguisher Experiential Learning and many opportunities for photo-taking. Please arrive before 10am when the tour starts as we have to move around as a group for security reasons. Nearest parking is available at Funan Centre, Peninsula Excelsior Hotel, Armenian Street and Capitol Centre. Please contact Rtn Gary Goh at gary.goh@credit-suisse.com for details.

Installation Dinner 2009

Date & Time: Saturday, June 27th 2009 at 7.00pm.

Venue: Ballroom, 6th Floor, Meritus Mandarin Singapore, Orchard Road

Cost: \$120 per ticket

Souvenir Magazine Advertising Rates:

Back page - \$5,000 (limited to one on a first come first serve basis)

Inside front cover - \$3,000 (limited to one on a first come first serve basis)

Inside back cover - \$2,000 (limited to one on a first come first serve basis)

1 page advertisement insert - \$2,000 (free 8 tickets for dinner)

Please contact Rtn. Vijai Parwani at 96531301 / 67319100 or email parwani@anplaw.com for your advertising needs!

- Contributed by Rtn. Goh Bock Seng

Life begins when you dare...

IPP Peter Tan invited members to get involved with Dragon Boat racing.

This offer has been extended by the Epilepsy Care Group to all our members.

Dragon Boating is not too difficult since the work is done collectively by a whole group of rowers with minimal effort from each rower. What is required is team work and coordination. If any one is interested, can they let either IPP Peter or me know so that we can work out if a team can be formed under Rotary colours. Dragon Boating can be fun and we don't have to take the 'racing' part of it too seriously,at least initially!!

- Contributed by Rtn Uttam Kripalani ["volunteered"/nominated coach!]

The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the precept of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

First : Have I spent some time in self-examination?

Second: Have I spent quality time with my family?

Third : Have I given my best to my work?

Fourth : Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

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Club Activities...continued

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All net proceeds will go to charity under World Community Service projects through Rotary Club of Singapore.

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