



Rotary Crossroads

An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore
... Proud of our past, Committed to our future

July 20, 2009
Volume 46-03



RI President John Kenny addresses the Rotary Club of Chicago as one of his first official acts.

Photo courtesy David Phelps/Rotary Club of Chicago

Inside this Issue

2 In Focus

RI President urges Rotarians to make world a better place – by Arnold R. Grahl, *RI News*

4 Last Week

Report on our Wed., July 15th meeting.

5 Guest Corner

Ms. Rhodora Palomar-Fresnedi talks on "Diversity"

6 Club Activities

Announcements on various Club activities and fellowships

7 Mark Your Diary

What's ahead? Don't miss the forthcoming events and Birthday / Anniversary celebrants and more

In Focus

RI President urges Rotarians to make world a better place

-By Arnold R. Grahl, Rotary International News – 13 July 2009

Rotary International President John Kenny urged Rotarians to take steps toward making the world a better place during a visit to the [Rotary Club of Chicago](#) on 7 July.

Kenny addressed members of the Chicago club, the birthplace of Rotary, as one of his first official acts, a long-standing tradition for incoming RI presidents. Noting that the world faces immense challenges, he quoted the Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu, who said, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

"We know how to take that step," Kenny said. "We will take that step through our Rotary emphases. We will take it through projects in water, health and hunger, and literacy; through club and district projects; and with the help of our Rotary Foundation."

During the luncheon, which served to install club officers and recognize [Paul Harris Fellows](#) and other donors, Kenny reiterated his conviction that individual Rotarians will play the biggest role in the future of the organization.

"The future of Rotary is, to a great extent, in the hands of our incoming officers, who will have so much new responsibility in the year ahead," said Kenny, a member of the Rotary Club of Grangemouth, Scotland. "It is in the hands of outgoing officers ... who will continue to serve as a guide and resource for others. And it is, most of all, in the hands of every member of every single Rotary club."

"I have said before that I believe it is time to give Rotary back to the Rotarians," he added. "I believe very strongly in the autonomy of each Rotary club, and in the power of the individual Rotarian to make a difference."

Kenny's message and the 2009-10 RI theme, *The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands*, resonated with attendees.

"The theme is an appropriate one. It recognizes, as John said, that every Rotarian has a responsibility to help Rotary grow," said Angelo Loumbas, 2009-10 president of the Chicago club.



"I have said before that I believe it is time to give Rotary back to the Rotarians. I believe very strongly in the autonomy of each Rotary club, and in the power of the individual Rotarian to make a difference."

- R.I. President John Kenny

RI President urges Rotarians to make world a better place...continued

Robert Knuepfer Jr., a Chicago club member and governor-elect of District 6450, said the theme reflects the history and legacy of Rotary. "The founders took business and professional leaders from the community to give service back to the community," he said. "The outcome has always been in the hands of individuals and not the organization."

"I think it's wonderful; he is right on target," added John Spitkovsky, a member of the club since 2000.

Jorge Aguilar, who was inducted as president of the Rotaract Club of Chicago, said the emphasis on the future is important to his club. "In Rotaract, we see ourselves as the next generation. We need to get the word out and set up great service projects, and we will be successful."

Kenny also reminded the Chicago club of the deep connections between Rotary and Scotland. Paul Harris's wife, Jean Thomson, hailed from Edinburgh. Harris named their first home after a road in Edinburgh, and Jean returned to the city after Harris's death. To learn more about Harris's early history, visit [Rotary History and Archives](#) or the [Harris timeline at the Rotary Global History Fellowship](#). **RC**



*RI President
John Kenny*

"It is our daily actions, and our daily decisions, that determine the course of Rotary for us all. The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hands."



Last week

Club happenings on July 15th

- Reported by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

Opening Remarks:

President Dr. Yap Lip Kee warmly welcomed Guests and visiting Rotarians to the Club's 3rd meeting for this Rotary year.

Welcome of Guests:

The welcome of guests of members was performed by Rtn. Dr. Ekkehard Wiek:

Guests:

Mrs. Binali Abeyawardena (wife of Rtn. Gerald), Ms. Elsa Asevatham, Mr. Jojo Fresnedi

Toast:

As there were no visiting Rotarians, Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn. Gerald Abeyawardena invited members to join him in raising a toast to Rotary International.

The Rotary Club of Singapore is on Facebook:

Director Colin Miles was pleased to introduce members to the Club's official Facebook page.

He noted that Rotary International has led the way with Facebook and Twitter accounts. He added that as an organisation, the need to

embrace this new media to be proactive and promote Rotary and the Club.

Members were encouraged to check the Club's official Facebook page. They were further advised that the Club was also on Twitter @RotarySingapore.

Induction of a New Member :



Pres. Lip Kee inducting Rtn. Shamin

President Lip Kee invited Rtn. Deepak Nagrani to introduce the new member to the Club, Rtn. Shamin Vaswani.

Rtn. Deepak introduced Rtn. Shamin as a good and trusted friend. She is a graduate gemologist and an accredited jewellery professional. Rtn. Shamin's classification is "Jewellery Design" and she was recommended to join the Vocational Service Committee. **RC**



Dr. Ekkehard Wiek



Colin Miles



Deepak Nagrani

Guest corner...

"Diversity"

Speaker: Ms. Rhodora Palomar-Fresnedi

Reported by Rtn. Gerald Abeyawardena

Speaker's Introduction:



Ms. Palomar-Fresnedi received the Club's mementos from Rtn. Gerald

Rtn. Carlo van den Akker introduced the Guest Speaker, **Ms. Rhodora Palomar-Fresnedi** whose educational background started with a Bachelor degree in Mass Communications, Magna Cum Laude, and a Master in Management Degree, with Distinction. She has had a multi-faceted professional career before she joined Unilever in 1994 and built a global career from there. In Unilever, Rhodora held several senior positions at country, regional and global levels. Her favourite role, however, was the one she pioneered, Global Vice President – Head of Diversity, where she worked with the CEO and the Executive Committee. Today, she continues working with Unilever and sets the stage for her new contribution in the global diversity space as she concurrently becomes Founder and Managing Director of Except One, Pte Ltd, a Singapore-based global consultancy firm.

Speaker:

Ms. Rhodora Palomar-Fresnedi stated that it was a changing world with converging trends, e.g. the rise of Facebook and Twitter, and

increasing use of the Web. This meant that our traditional views of people's abilities have to be revised as we now need to be able to



Carlo van den Akker

harness the diverse abilities and backgrounds of people so that we can be optimally competitive.

She noted in essence that diversity meant getting the best out of everyone regardless of gender, race, colour or creed. She illustrated very successfully that when we all play our individual notes in orchestrated harmony, we could produce the most beautiful music or indeed any other team achievement.

Vote of Thanks:

Rtn. Gerald Abeyawardena warmly thanked Ms. Palomar-Fresnedi on behalf of the Rotary Club of Singapore for very impactful speech which was particularly relevant in today's context. **RC**

Club Activities

Vocational Visit to URA – 21 August 2009

The Vocational Service Committee is organizing a visit to the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) on **21 August 2009 at 3pm.**

The URA is Singapore's land use planning and conservation authority and is responsible for Singapore's development into a home for people and a city of distinction, to create the best physical and living environment for building a vibrant city, a robust economy and a cohesive community.

The talk will be on URA's planning as well as the Concept and Master Plans for the next 50 years.

The proposed programme for the briefing is as below:

- Arrival of guests
- Screening of URA corporate video
- Presentation on Singapore's land use planning system
- Q&A and discussion
- Continue discussion with a walk around Singapore City Gallery

The duration of the programme is approximately 90 minutes.

Venue: 45 Maxwell Road, The URA Centre, Singapore 069118

Interested Rotarians and family please advise Rtn Joseph Chia via email: chiarotary@gmail.com

- contributed by Rtn. Joseph Chia

Project KARAWACI 2009

Programme:

August 7th 2009 (Fri): Leave Singapore for Jakarta (evening flight)
Check-in Aryaduta Hotel and Country Club in Karawaci

August 8th 2009 (Sat): Medical and Dental Mission, Visit to community schools and villages

August 9th 2009 (Sun): Medical and Dental Mission, Visit to community schools and villages

August 10th 2009 (Mon): Rest and Recreation Jakarta
Leave Jakarta for Singapore (evening)

For more information, please contact Rtn Dr Shahul Hameed (drshahul@pacific.net.sg) or call 6338 2305 (office), 9796 1536 (hp)

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.

Board of Directors Year 2009-2010

President
Dr. Yap Lip Kee

Imm. Past President
Paliath Mohandas

President Elect
P. Balachandran

Vice Presidents
Dr. Shahul Hameed
James Pollock

Hon. Secretary
Tapan Rao

Hon. Treasurer
Nirmal Singh

Directors
Colin Miles
Tan Kwang Kai

Director: Community Service
Goh Bock Seng

Director: Vocational Service
Inderjit Tulsi

Director: International Service
Claudia Huegel

Director: Service to New Generation
Ashwani Sarwal

Bulletin Committee

Uttam Kripalani
Colin Miles
Dr. Albert Wee

Mark your **Diary!**

- compiled by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

Birthday Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Birthday* to celebrants:

July 20 – Keith Harrison

This week July 22nd 2009

Reception Desk duty: PP Dr. Oliver Henedige, Shoichi Ishizaki

Sunshine Box duty: PP Mansoor Hassanbhai, Gary Goh

Speaker: Ms. Jane Lee, Leader of Singapore Women's Everest Team

Topic: To be advised

Service Committee Meetings

Service to New Generations

Date: Thursday, July 23rd

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Clay Oven, 26B

Dempsey Road, S247693

Host: Chairperson Ashi Sarwal

Anniversary Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Wedding Anniversary* to all celebrants this week:

July 24 – PP Raymon & Jessie Huang

Next week July 29th 2009

Reception Desk duty: Suresh Keerthi, Kannan Krishnan

Sunshine Box duty: PP Dr. Oliver Henedige, Suresh Hathiramani,

Speaker: Mr. Ong Liong Chuan, Singapore Power

Topic: "Business Continuity"

Service Committee Meetings

Community Service

Date: Thursday, August 6th

Time: 5.45 pm

Venue: To be advised

Chairperson: Goh Bock Seng

July Literacy Month

August Membership & Extension Month

August 7th – 10th
Project Karawaci, Indonesia

August 21st
Vocational Visit to URA

September New Generations Month

The Four-way Test

Of the Things we think, say or do:

- ❖ Is it the truth?
- ❖ Is it fair to all concerned?
- ❖ Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- ❖ Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Humour!

(contributed by PE P Balachandran)



...Rainwater harvesting...

Quotation

(contributed by Rtn. Uttam Kripalani)

*"Do not care
overly much for
wealth or power or fame
or one day you will meet
someone
who cares for none of these
things
and you might realize
how poor you have become."*

- Rudyard Kipling, 1865-1936
English Author and Poet