



# Rotary Crossroads

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

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## Peace On Earth

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# In Focus

## “World Understanding Month” **PEACE ON EARTH? – What Happened!**

- By PP Raymon Huang

“Peace on earth, and goodwill toward men”. We must have heard this stirring call a zillion times, and more. Nations, international organizations, NGOs, voluntary bodies – Rotary included – have passionately promoted it ever since way, way back when, since time immemorial. But mankind has not been too responsive.

Peace on earth? Goodwill toward men? What happened!

Apart from those horrendous BC wars we read about, just look at the repeated happenings in more recent times – since Rotary’s founding in 1905, for example. There was the First World War, which killed and maimed millions. It was touted as “the war to end all wars”. The failed League of Nations did not help. What happened? WWII came – even more brutal, more vicious, more devastating, with more dead, more wounded, more rendered homeless. The United Nations came into being. What happened? The litany and chronicle of war and violence continued: the nine-year Iraq-Iran conflict; two invasions of Iraq, the war in Bosnia; the Korean War; the wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Indo-Pakistan, Sudan, the Congo, Nigeria

– you name it, you have it. Not to mention the religious violence and tensions in Nigeria and nearer home, the suicide bombings. Indeed, this chronicle of conflict is endless.

Peace on earth and goodwill toward men? What happened!

Yet some top brass – including George Washington, I might add – believed that “to be prepared for war is the most effectual means of preserving peace.” Albert Einstein seemed to be more perspectiveally correct when he said, “Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.” But peace has always proved to be so fragile. A Chinese proverb picturesquely describes it as “Peace is a thatched hut.”

The brighter picture is that efforts to promote understanding and goodwill – and thus, peace – go on all the time. And Rotary is in the thick of these efforts.

Each February month is billed as **“World Understanding Month”** by Rotary International, and February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Rotary’s birthday – designated as **“World Understanding and Peace Day”**.



***“During the month Rotary Clubs and Rotarians are urged to redouble their efforts in presenting and undertaking programmes that promote international understanding and goodwill.”***

- PP Raymon Huang

## “World Understanding Month”

### PEACE ON EARTH? – What Happened!...continued

During the month Rotary Clubs and Rotarians are urged to redouble their efforts in presenting and undertaking programmes that promote international understanding and goodwill. These often elusive factors – understanding and good will – are without doubt the essential and necessary ingredients for peace.

The end result of all these efforts are not quantifiable. What is important is that Rotary and Rotarians continue to do their best, in so many ways, to help make a difference in this rather fractured world of ours. That, is really important and significant. We do make every effort to make that difference – a happier difference for a brighter future.

Of course, apart from the areas of intolerance, conflict and violence, there are also so many attendant social ills that are both disturbing and disrupting. Rotarians, as parents, are too well aware of all this. The unease and the distress they cause are not confined to adults and parents only. These too often generate misunderstanding and ill will, and disturb the peace.

I would like to relate how a 16-year old boy perceives the disturbing trends that revolve around him in his young world. His name is Tony Overman. He, like us, would like to make a difference. This is what he wrote (see text box):

**Does Tony strike a chord with you?**

**RC**

*“If only they knew how hard it is for me.  
I’m turning 16, the world I begin to see.  
My friends began to change, right before my eyes,  
And now they seem to laugh, and tell all sorts of lies.  
They hang around together in groups of three or four;  
The language they use... it isn’t gentle anymore.  
The kids that seem most lonely wind up in their pack,  
And those that stand alone, they talk behind their back.  
Somehow I feel rejected because I don’t conform.  
Those that step to their own beat don’t seem to be the  
norm.  
I’ve watched a few just fade away, with drugs and  
alcohol;  
And many more have given up, too many to recall.  
Alcohol is an option for everyone in my school.  
I’ve lost a friend to booze again; I will not be a fool.  
And sex, it seems so open, for everyone to explore.  
Three girls I know that came to school don’t come here  
anymore.  
If only I could make a difference, what could I do or say?  
I would go to school and try my best each and every day.  
There is one thing I’d like to do before I graduate.  
I’d like to touch them one by one before it is too late.”*

# Last week

## Club happenings on February 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Reported by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

### Opening Remarks:

President Dr. Yap Lip Kee warmly welcomed guests and members to the first meeting of February, designated by Rotary International as "World Understanding Month".

### Welcome of Guests:

Welcome of guests of members and visiting Rotarians was performed by Past President Peter Tan:

### Guests:

Mr. Julian Chester, Mr. Rick Goh, Ms. Filly Ho, Mr. Michael Ma, Ms. Angela Tan, Mr. Vaidy

### Visiting Rotarians From:

#### District 3310:

Fredric Moraillon - Queenstown

#### Overseas:

AG Jay Spenciner – Bridgton-Lake, Maine, USA

Suresh Gujarati – Thane Central, India

Jacqueline & Tony Palmer – Portsmouth & Southsea, England

Norbert Ratzlaff – Pforzheim, Germany

Isao & Miyoko Sakaguchi – Tokyo Central, Japan

### Toast:

Past President Stan Low invited Assistant Governor Jay Spenciner to address the Club. AG Jay was in Singapore accompanying his wife, who is a guest lecturer at NIE. He advised that he spent 35 years in sales and upon his retirement was

now a volunteer fire fighter. He informed members that his club was formed in 1991 in a small community with a population of only 4,000. He added that his club has 28 members, majority of whom were women, and that the club's president was also a woman.

AG Jay advised that his club's current project was a hospice for children in Poland, which he had visited with his wife, a fellow Rotarian.

### Monthly Visit to the Assisi Hospice:

Community Service Committee Director Rtn. Goh Bock Seng reminded members of the monthly visit to the Assisi Hospice, which would take place on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 2.00 to 4.00pm. He called on members to give their time, care and love to the Assisi Hospice residents.

### Philippines Medical Mission:

Rtn. Perlita Tiro reminded members of the coming Medical Optical Dental Surgical Mission to Philippines from March 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. She called on members to register their participation early, in order to book the Philippines Airlines tour package, which would include airfare, hotel accommodation and breakfast.

For further details, please contact Rtn. Perlita Tiro at email [perlita@tiro.com.sg](mailto:perlita@tiro.com.sg) . RC



PP Peter Tan



PP Stan Low



Goh Bock Seng

# Guest corner...

## “CSR – Corporations and IUCN”

**Speaker: Ms. Camilla Hall**

- Reported by Bernadette Rayney-Ng

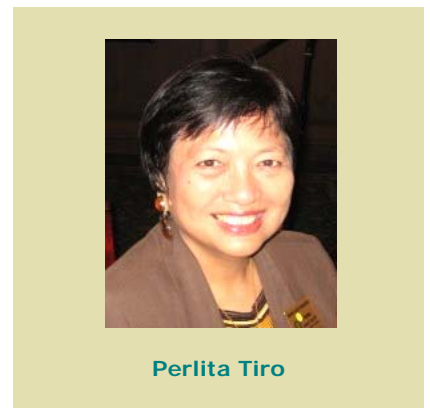
### Speaker's Introduction:



Rtn. Claudia introducing the Speaker, Ms. Camilla Hall

**Director Rtn. Claudia Huegel** introduced the Speaker, **Ms. Camilla Hall** whom she has known for over 4 years. Rtn. Claudia described Ms. Hall as a very committed and enthusiastic proponent of green technology. Ms. Hall has for 20 years been involved in business development of various international business with involvement in hotels, restaurants, healing centre, cafes, green technologies, health, sports, children and education, logistics, waste management, parking, airport security based on RFID social networks and film/TV production all in the purpose to create awareness for IUCN (International Union for conservation of Nature) and its work. Ms. Hall is a special advisor for Dr Ashok Khosla, President of IUCN.

Rtn. Claudia was also pleased to acknowledge Ms. Hall's husband, Mr. Michael Ma, CEO of IndoChine Group, who was present at the meeting.



Perlita Tiro

### Speaker:

To start off her address, Ms. Hall showed a short video clip of Mr. Johan Ernst Nilson, an environmental explorer and special Ambassador to IUCN, known for his interest for environment and climate-related issues. Ms. Hall spoke of IUCN's work and highlighted several events, which supported and promoted IUCN.

### Vote of Thanks:

**Rtn. Perlita Tiro** thanked Ms. Hall for her presentation and the information on IUCN, which encouraged the conservation of nature and the environment.

**RC**

# Club Activities

## World Understanding and Peace Day Celebration

Celebrating One Hundred and Five Years...

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 from 12.30 to 2.00pm

**Venue:** Orchard Hotel – Ballroom

**Guest of Honour:** Mr. K Shanmugam, Minister of Law and 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister of Home Affairs

**Dress Code:** Lounge Suite (Rotarians are encouraged to wear their Regalia)

**Cost:** \$50.00 per person (For tickets, kindly contact the Secretariat at tel. no. 6737-2504 or email [rtynfo@singnet.com.sg](mailto:rtynfo@singnet.com.sg))

## Medical Optical Dental Surgical Mission-Philippines

**Date:** March 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> 2010

Members are cordially invited to join this year's Medical Optical Dental Surgical Mission (MODS) which will be concentrated in Metro Manila, to serve the indigent population of Pateros and Taytay, Rizal. There are special programmes for spouses, family members and friends who plan to join the mission.

### Programme:

**March 7** – Depart Singapore for Manila via PR502 (dep. 1050-arr. 1430 hrs). Welcome reception at 7.00pm.

**March 8** – Start of MODS Mission at Taguig City Hospital. Spouses/family members/friends to visit the House of Sarang Orphanage. Evening celebration of sister club, Rotary Club of Rizal West's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**March 9** – Continuation of MODS Mission. Others will visit the Tuloy sa Don Bosco (Alabang) Street Children. Delegation will join the Rotary Club of Fort Bonifacio Global City members for fellowship in the evening.

**March 10** – Continuation of MODS Mission. Farewell Dinner with members of the Taguig South, Taguig West, Rizal Southwest clubs.

**March 11** – Depart Manila via flight PR505 at 1945 hrs. - arrival in Singapore at 2320 hrs.

The committee projects an expenditure of around S\$15,000 for this Mission. For those who are unable to join the mission, please do pledge your support by contributing to the funds needed. If you have any questions, please contact **PP Dr. Oliver Henedige** at tel. no. 6344-5315 or email [bibi@pacific.net.sg](mailto:bibi@pacific.net.sg) or **Rtn. Perlita Tiro** at tel. no. 6227-0028 or email [perlita@tiro.com.sg](mailto:perlita@tiro.com.sg).

## 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

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### Vice Presidents

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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

There are no Birthday celebrants this week.

## This week

February 10<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Reception Desk duty:** PP Chiang Shih Fang, Michael Haughey

**Sunshine Box duty:** PE P Balachandran, Erich Vossage

**Speaker:** Ms. Dana Heather, Holistic Health Practitioner

**Topic:** "Importance of Daily Health Maintenance"

## Service Committee Meetings

Vocational Service

**Date:** Thursday, February 11th

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Venue:** MIZ Japanese Restaurant, 7 Craig Road, S089667

**Hosts:** Rtns Suresh Keerthi, Nirmal Singh, Masa Kawasumi

## Anniversary Celebrants

RC wishes *Happy Wedding Anniversary* to all celebrants:

**February 8** – Atul & Bella Merchant

**February 14** – Hon. Treasurer Nirmal & Rajani Singh

## Next week

February 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Meetings are cancelled in view of the Chinese New Year Holidays and in lieu of the World Understanding & Peace Day meeting respectively.**

## Service Committee Meetings

International Service

**Date:** Thursday, February 18th

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Venue:** Restaurant-Sapore Italiano, 252 North Bridge Road #01-15 Raffles City Shopping Centre, (Swissotel, former Westin Hotel), S179103

**Hosts:** PP Sajjad Akhtar, Rtns Haider Nawaz, Kannan Krishnan, Suresh Keerthi and PP Peter Tan

## February

**World Understanding Month**

**February 17<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting cancelled in view of Chinese New Year holidays

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

World Understanding & Peace Day

**February 24<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting cancelled in lieu of World Understanding & Peace Day meeting

## March

**Service to New Generations Month**

**March 7<sup>th</sup> – 11th**

Philippines Mission

**March 12<sup>th</sup> – 14th**

Pan Borneo Conference

## April

**Magazine Month**

**April 15<sup>th</sup> – 18th**

PETS & District Assembly

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

4<sup>th</sup> Club Assembly

## 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?

## Quotation!

- contributed by Rtn. Uttam Kripalani

*"Knowledge is not the same as wisdom."*

*"Yeah, what's the difference?"*

*"You know how to clean a windshield, right?"*

*"Yeah."*

*"Wisdom is doing it."*

From the film: [Peaceful Warrior](#)  
As written by Dan Millman

