



UDAYAN



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FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH
Rotary International District-3240, India

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LADIES SPECIAL

POWER THOUGHT

“ Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country.”

—Margaret Thatcher

Editor's Column



It was a delightful evening that we enjoyed on the 8th of April. A radiant gathering, all turned up in their finery. Yes, the colourful evening that we all looked forward to was the Ladies' Nite arranged exclusively by all the Annes of RC Gauhati South. Our Annes have created a festive fellowship atmosphere with many fun filled entertainments laced with the melodious singing of Manjyotsna Mahanta Goswami and the heart warming speech by Mrs Anuradha Sarma Pujari, the renown Assamese writer who was the chief guest of the evening.

The Annes of Gauhati South have been graciously organizing their Ladies' Nite for many, many years now, inviting all the Rotarians, who turn up in great numbers for this, much awaited event. Our smart and talented Annes are very much aware of Rotary philosophy because they accompany their spouses to most of the Rotary events. They are the integral part of Rotary family. So we should involve all the Anns in our Rotary service in various innovative ways .By donating their time and talent towards helping people in needs, they will realise that they made the much needed difference in our communities. For Maternal and Child Health projects we need their voluntary participation. We believe that Maternal and Child Health is not only an important area of focus but the most important of Rotary's six areas of focus. Women and children's health is the key priority for healthy communities. We know that pre- conception phase is crucial for the benefit of a safe motherhood and the birth of healthy children. Rotarian's Action Group which was established for Healthy Pregnancies and Healthy Children also include Pre- conception care. Pre conception care starts with a safe environment , with hygiene, and basic education in life-style and feeding. Rotary projects are concrete contributions to improvements, they bring ideas from papers to practice. Rotary clubs organize a special pre-conception program, the round table conference on pre conception care. Such a conference leads to a set of scientifically sound and cohesive pre- conceptive recommendations and interventions by professionals for general public, specially future parents .

There is a saying that you don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great. Annes can volunteer for service in many Rotary projects like in Adult Literacy centres, Child development programmes, train the children for Rotary's Wash projects to cheer them up. When everyone's serving together there's a feeling of friendship and trust. and of course working together, accomplish incredible results. Rotarians will not rest until all children , everywhere have the chance for long and healthy life. We along with our Annes will build a stronger Rotary and a better world for all.



Rtn. Giti Bujarbarua

LADIES NITE



Chief Guest Smt. Anuradha Sarma Pujari delivering her Speech



Felicitating Chief Guest Anuradha Sarma Pujari on the occasion of Ladies Nite



First lady Anjana addressing in the ladies nite



Felicitating Guest of Honour Manjyotsna Mahanta on the occasion of Ladies Nite



Anne Lipika Sarkar performing in the Ladies Nite



Honouring Anne Gauri Talukdar



Anne Mahmuda performing in the Ladies Nite



Best Dressed award to Rtn Biswadip Barooah

1896th MEETING OF RC GAUHATI SOUTH HELD ON 8 April 2016 VENUE: HOTEL RAJDHANI REGENCY

1. The President called the meeting to order at 7.05 pm. This was followed by the National Anthem.
2. The President welcomed all Rotarians, Annes, Rotarylets and guests present. A special welcome was accorded to the Chief Guest, Anuradha Sarma Pujari and the Guest of Honour, Smti Manjyotsna Mahanta Goswami and her husband Sri Hriday Goswami on the occasion of Ladies' Nite which was celebrated.
3. Rtn Subhas Goswami was wished on the occasion of his birthday. Wedding anniversary wishes were announced for Rtn Amrit Pal Singh and Anne Lovely who were, however, absent.
4. Rtn Renu Goswami next presented an activity Report on WINS.
5. The President then handed over the proceedings to First Lady, Anjana.
6. Anne Anjana explained the genesis of Ladies' Nite and welcomed all present on the occasion. She then request Anne Arunima to conduct the evening's programme.
7. The Chief Guest, Anuradha Sarma Pujari was introduced by Anne Mahmuda. She was invited to the dais and felicitated with a bouquet and a stole.
8. The evening's cultural programme started with a chorus, Bhupen Hazarika's Manuhe Manuhor Babe, presented by the Annes.
9. Rotarylet Arundhati Choudhury impressed all present with a beautiful recitation of an extract from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.
10. The Guest of Honour, Smti Manjyotsna Mahanta Goswami, was introduced and then invited to the dais and felicitated with a bouquet and a stole.
11. Lipika Sarkar next rendered a beautiful Rabindra Sangeet.
12. This was followed by a song by Anne Mahmuda.
13. To add colour to the evening a game, shelling peas, was organized. The prizes went to: 1. Rtn Prasanta Das. 2. Rtn Priyam Goswami . 3. Rtn Subhabrata Sarma.
14. A panel of three ladies, Gauri Talukdar, Tultul Bora and Kobori Das, judged the best dressed male and best dressed female in the gathering. The prizes went to Rtn Biswadip Barooah and Anne Indira Kakaty.
15. The three judges were also felicitated.
16. Two senior ladies were felicitated next for their commitment to social work. They were Rtn Dr. Malati Baruwa and Anne Gauri Talukdar. Expressing their gratitude, both the ladies spoke a few words on the occasion.
17. The Chief Guest, Anuradha Sarma Pujari, in her speech, dwelt on the aspect of happiness and how one could derive happiness in everyday life from small things. She also lauded Rotary's commitment to work for society.
18. Manjyotsna Mahanta enthralled the audience with her charming personality and several beautiful songs.
19. As the meeting came to a close, the Secretary reported the presence of 42 Rotarians, 19 Annes/spouses, 11 Guests and 7 Rotarylets. TRF collection was Rs 670/-
20. The Vote of Thanks was offered by Anne Purabi.
21. The meeting was adjourned at 9.30 p.m.
22. Dinner was hosted by the President, Rtn Dr. B.N.Saikia and Anne Anjana.

Rotary Now and Then...

Dr. Malatee Baruwa

I joined the Rotary Club of Gauhati South in the year 1993 after my retirement from government service. I was sponsored by the most respected Rotarian, Devakanta Kakati "dada". Even before joining the club, I had spoken on a few occasions like the Polio Eradication Programme and the How to Be Healthy Programme. I was attracted by the theme "Service Above Self" as I was always ready to help out my brethren in times of need.

After joining the Club, I was immediately selected to be the Director of Community Service. After a few months, I was also made the Chairman of the Polio Plus

Programme. I called for a joint meeting of all the Rotary Clubs of Guwahati and also invited the Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine from Gauhati Medical College. We decided to collect children from the slums of Guwahati and take them to the Institute of Engineers on the National Immunization Day and invited the Honorable Governor of Assam at the time, Late L.N. Mishra and Health Minister of the time, Dr. Bhumidhar Barman. They administered Polio doses to the children and people were very happy. The next year, I composed a song on Polio which was sung by our Annes and Rotarians in the

District Library Hall in an Organizing Meeting. During the following year, I was made the District Polio Plus Secretary with Dr. N.N. Dutta as District Governor. I visited most of the Clubs in West Bengal, Assam and Sikkim and spoke about how Polio could be eradicated. I made a lot of Rotarian friends during those visits and came to be fondly called “Didi” by them.

I was soon appointed President of the Club. For the Installation Ceremony held at the Vivekananda Kendra Hall in Uzanbazar that year, the Honorable Governor of Assam, Late L.N. Mishra was invited to be the Chief Guest. As President of the Club, myriad responsibilities were bestowed upon me. But since in our Club, all Rotarians are more like brothers and sisters, I received immense help and support from the other members. During the Polio Eradication Programme, our members were divided into pairs and placed in different Polio booths to help out the official agencies in performing their duties. We had also provided free snacks for everyone at the booth.

We had two Rotary Community Cores (RCCs), one at Satgaon, Dolbari and the other in Tribeni Chowk. At Satgaon, Dolbari, children who had dropped out of school, were taught by a lady from the village with a small remuneration from our Club. We carried out renovations for one of the local schools and provided drinking water facilities for the children. We made regular visits to our RCC in Tribeni Chowk for medical and eye checkups for cataract. One special Operation

Theatre was constructed in the Regional Ophthalmology Institute situated within the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital campus. Cataract patients, in batches of 8-10 were brought in for operations.

Our present President, Dr. Bibekananda Saikia, also administered vaccinations to treat cows for the foot and mouth disease. Encouraged by the positive outcomes of this programme, people from other villages also requested for our services.

Once a month, on a Sunday, we would make a visit to an orphanage called Shishugram in North Guwahati. Children were provided with new clothes, footwear and gifts for Durga Puja and Bihu. Our Rotarians also helped out with such aspects as personal hygiene and grooming for the little ones. We helped the authorities at the orphanage to rebuild their kitchen and helped them replace firewood with cooking gas. We also provided financial assistance for the education and welfare of the children at Shishugram. We were always met with a lot of happy faces there. A few years ago, IIT, Guwahati took over the orphanage as part of their CSR initiatives.

We would set out in teams to help people in flood-affected areas and provided food, clothes and even cattle feed. We carried out medical checkups and distributed medicines.

These were some of the experiences I have had with the Rotary Club of Gauhati South. I believe we have truly lived up to the motto of “Service Above Self.”

The Role of Women in India

Nandini Dev Choudhury

Of late a wave has arisen among the women of the world that they are in no way less than men. They have started demanding equal rights, equal pay and equal status with men. Though late, the wave has swept across a section of Indian women too, and they are now beginning to follow the direction that the women of the Western world took years ago; demanding treatment at par with men. It has become evident that Indian women will have to adapt the western feminist method to their very traditional and religious culture. India has different complications that put the development of women in a completely different environment than their western counterparts. Women are no doubt striving to be independent on the equal level of men, but the additional complexities that the women of India must also challenge are the caste system, the heavy religious customs and the stronger power that men hold in India. The status was of course at one time accepted, but with the western women's revolution, the perception is slowly changing with the help of independent groups of women and national and worldwide organisations based on the aim of gaining equality.

However, today we find that the society is changing a lot in terms of acceptance of women as professionals, as bread-earners in the families and as independent thinking individuals. Women have proved themselves as equals in many professions or rather even better suited than men. The situation for working women is fast improving. The success of the fair sex in the various competitive examinations prove the superiority of the women power.

But, it pains to say that there are still expectations and assumptions about women that are not so relevant to their current status, but a clear hangover from our suppressive past. This is more obvious in rural societies but not absent in the urban ones as well. Regardless of how hard the man and woman of the house work, there are certain areas of the home that are the woman's domain. It is oft heard “As the woman of the house, you should do---”. I think it is high time that we, the women of modern India took a hard look at our supposed duties and responsibilities and decide which among these are still applicable and which ones we simply need to let go.

It is quite but natural to find the woman bringing a hot cup of tea for her husband returning from work, or the woman returning home after her husband and heading straight to the kitchen to cook dinner and so on. In any home where women are working, their income is also important to the well being of the home and the living standards. Hence, the traditional role of a man as earning money for running the house does not hold good any more. Women are educated and often have their careers well before they get married and it is as much their right as the man's job is his.

So when we speak of the traditional role of a woman

being responsible for the efficient running of the home, it is an additional expectation made from her. Is it not justified to ask why the man cannot shoulder some of the responsibilities of the woman in respect of her household chores?

There is no point pushing the women down. The need of the hour is the removal of the "un-macho ness" associated with responsibilities at home and recognizes it as the actions of a responsible and independent individual, whether male or female. This would add some power to the 'lazy' image of men while empowering the women with acceptance and support from the one source that matters the most.

The Gorgeous and Talented Annes of Rotary Club of Gauhati South

Rtn Minoti Barthakur

I joined Rotary Club of Gauhati South 27 years back in July 1989 and since then I have always admired the role played by the Annes of our club. Usually in other Rotary clubs the Annes come to attend only the specially organized meetings of their clubs, but they rarely come to attend the regular club meetings. But from the day R C Gauhati South was born, all our regular meetings were attended by the Annes.

Today I remember the contribution of many of our Annes who are no more, or who for some reason are no more in Guwahati, Annes like Debabala, Nirmali, Sunita Mirchandani and many more. Gorgeously dressed, all these ladies accompanied their husbands to all Friday meetings, which added colour and gayety to our club. They even accompanied their Rotarian husbands to all our project sights. During Bihu time they prepared snacks for our club members and brought them to the Friday meetings. During those days our club used to work for an orphanage and used to visit the children of that village on third Sundays of every month. The Annes took great care of these children by supplying them with dresses, food materials and study materials. Many of them paid their tuition money and used to celebrate Birthdays of their own children in the orphanage itself. The Rotarians and Annes accompanied by their children, also played games with the children of this orphanage for the entire afternoon.

During the infancy of R C Gauhati South, and recognizing the contribution of the ladies of our club the senior most Rotarians of our club decided that, one day in the whole year; the ladies will take charge of the club and will conduct the meeting for that day in their own innovative way, which was termed as the Lady's Night.

Since then the practice continued and Lady's Night became a special program of our club with lots of fun, music, drama, quiz and games which ended with a dinner.

Almost all Annes of our club are endowed with different creative skills and abilities. Many of them can sing and dance, some of them can write well. Here I remember Anne Sunita Mirchandani, who wrote a drama, directed it and presented in the perfect manner during one of our Lady's Nights. I remember Anne Punam and Lovely, who used to conduct varieties of games in the club during Lady's Night functions.

In the year 1989, Rotary International granted permission to the ladies to join Rotary as club members. Since then a number of Annes of our club joined Rotary as members, although most of them preferred to remain as Annes. So the fun fare of Ladies Night never diminished. During Ladies Nights, the ladies usually invite a special lady from the society, who has enough contribution to our society as the chief guest of the function. Sometimes they invite singers, poets or Actors, who apart from delivering her speech can also entertain the Rotarians with their special talents. Today on all Ladies Nights, the Annes take charge of the club, welcome all the Rotarians by presenting them a rose bud and a Tilak on their forehead. They try to show their gratitude to the Rotarians for always giving them equal status and respect in the club meetings.

We the Rotarians, are always grateful to our Annes for their unstinted support to our club and we eagerly wait for the beautifully organized Lady's Night program, once in a year by the gorgeous and talented Annes of our Rotary Club of Gauhati South.

Women of substance

Kalpana Bordoloi

It is universally acknowledged that the lady of the house is its main pillar. A family where women are intelligent and strong it is generally observed that the whole unit exudes a strongly grounded sense of security and confidence. Children of such families enjoy the benefit of a good upbringing. After all their basic learning starts at home and particularly with the mother. Books are undoubtedly invaluable treasures of knowledge to extract from. But the process remain seriously inadequate without the support of a conducive environment and a wholesome approach to upbringing. An approach with special attention to help developing a well rounded individuality lays the foundation for sound growth of character.

In this context I cannot help making a special mention of two very special individuals in my life to supplement my this narrative. The first one have to be my mother in law, who perhaps hardly reached the middle school in

her time. But she never fails to amaze me whenever it comes to dealing with sensitive issues of real world. Her sustained desire to learn has always been a great source of inspiration for me. Incidentally she is in her nineties now but her spirit is as young as ever. For me she has been a great teacher and my ideal.

Next, it is my mother. She too was neither as 'educated' in modern sense of the term, if you like. But she was endowed with a remarkable strength of courage, confidence and ability to adapt to any situation with astonishing ease.

I feel both of the above individuals have significantly influenced my character and I could not have been blessed any more.

I pray to God that every woman in HIS creation become strong , confident and resilient to help mankind to steer through these turbulent times for a better tomorrow.

Ladies Nite

Rotary club of Gauhati south celebrated their "Ladies nite" on March 8th,2016 in Hotel Rajdhani Regency. This programme was organised by the Anns of the club under the leadership of Ann Anjana Choudhury Saikia , Kobori Das and Arunima Choudhury.

The programme started with a beautiful invocation song by Ann Suravi Barooah. The Chief Guest for this programme and Guest of Honour were Mrs Anuradha Sarma Pujari, noted writer and Mrs. Monojotsna Mahanta Goswami, famous singer. They enthralled the audience with their eloquent speech and melodious songs.

Some of the other highlights of the programme were an impressive speech on Merchant of Venice by Rotarylet miss Arundhati Choudhury ,group song performance on Bhupen Hazarika's timeless melody " manuhe manuhor babe, by annes of the club , Rabindra sangeet by Ann Mrs Lipika Sarkar and a song by Ann Mahmuda

Anne Surabhi Baruah

based on a modern Assamese film. During this programme Rotarian Malati Barua and Ann Gauri Talukder were also felicitated by the Annes of R.C of Gauhati South.

An interesting game of pea peeling was organised for the Rotarians present during the programme. There was also a best dress competition held during the programme. Rtn. Prasanta Das bagged the first prize for pea peeling competition , Rtn. Biswadip Barooah got the best dressed man award and Ann Indira Kakati won the best dressed lady award. Vote of thanks was offered by ann Purabee Hazarika.

The fellowship for the evening was jointly given by Rtn. SCGoswami & Rtn. Caushiq Bezbaruah. The sumptuous Presidential Dinner was given by Rtn. Bibekananda Saikia.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME UNDER WINS on 6TH April, 2016

On 6TH April,16 our club organized one Literacy awareness programme under WINS in Bapuji Pratham Vidyalyaya (Govt.L P School) in Ulubari.CLC Rtn Renu Goswami welcomed the students ,Teachers and Rotarians Present and explained the purpose of the meeting. Club President Rtn.B .N.Saikia presided over the meeting .Rtn R .N. Mozumdar delivered a lecture on personal cleanliness and importance of proper hand washing among children. The lecture was very lively and interesting. More than sixty (60) students of the school participated and interacted with Dr.Mozumdar. Following members of the club

attended the programme.Vote of thanks was offered by Mrs Lakhi Sargiary, Head Mistress of the school.

1. Rtn. Renu Goswami
2. Rtn. B.N.Saikia
3. Rtn. R.N.Mozumdar
4. Rtn. Biswadip Barooah
5. Rtn. R.M.Hazarika
6. Rtn. Tejendra Bordoloi
7. Rtn. Indira Bordoloi
8. Rtn.Manjushri Baruah.
9. Rtn Devdas Kakoti
10. Anne Indira Kakoti



Guest of Honour Manjyotsna Mahanta delivering her address



Rtn. Priyam Goswami receiving the award



Rtn. Prasanta Kr.Das receiving the award



Rtn. Subhabrata Sarma receiving the award



Ladies Nite



WINS Program at B.Prathamc Vidyalaya



Rtn. Dr RN Mozumdar delivering a talk on WINS



WINS program at Bapuji Prathamc Vidyalaya



Karthik Ramaswamy, visiting scientist at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

One of the most talked about images from India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) was that of women scientists in ISRO celebrating the success of the mission. The image of sari-clad, flower-adorned, lady-next-door scientists gave most of us that immensely warm, fuzzy feeling. The most ironic thing – it was the very first time we were seeing a visual of women in science in India. Ask anyone to name an Indian scientist and you can probably bet that most names will be male.

Kerstin Jeska-Thorwart, Nuremberg, Germany: A member of the Rotary Club of Nurnberg-Sigena, Jeska-Thorwart is the creator of the "Baby Hospital Galle" project, which she launched after surviving the devastation of the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka. With a budget of USD 1.8 million and the support of 200 Rotary clubs and 6,000 members, the project rebuilt and equipped the Mahamodara Teaching Hospital in Galle, Sri Lanka. In the 11 years since its inception, the project has helped more than 150,000 children and provided healthcare services to more than 2.2 million women.

Distribution of Desk & Benches at Dakshin Guwahati M.E. School, Kahilipara



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