



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

# Rotary crossroads

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*Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future*

*Chartered 6<sup>th</sup> June 1930*

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MAY DESIGNATION IS



*"If you really want to change the world you have to inspire young people. That's how you change the world."*

Joe Rogan

Rotary



TAKE ACTION: Engage Rotary, Change Lives

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## Youth – Our Future!

*By: Honorary Member (HM) PP Raymon Huang*



*HM PP Raymon Huang*

The merry month of May is for Rotary, “Youth Service Month”. Indeed, it is one of our most important and fundamental aims of Rotary Service. Youth Service helps in a massive way, and even takes the helm in many a Rotary programme. Just recall our several projects in the recent past. The young today is so educated, so techno-savvy, and so out-going. They come forward so readily. As is often said, “They are our future!” They are. What is heartening is that they are so inquiring, so inquisitive. They are always looking for answers – so they can question the answers! It was, perhaps, Benjamin Disraeli who paid one of the greatest tributes to youth ever, when he said, “Almost everything that is great has been done by youth!” Very true, even if it is not “everything”. The young guns in our Club are a good testimony.

Before being carried away, we do recognize too there are many a wayward youth in our community – in particular those radicalized, involved in drugs, repeat offenders, and participation in other forms of irresponsible anti-social activities.

But youth in Rotary service and undertakings in Rotary-related activities is a different kettle of fish. In this respect, the young generally comes up smelling roses. Our Rotaractors and Interactors have shown their mettle as they partner us in so many areas of service that we do. Their participation and involvement, often over and above their own club projects, have been thumbs up all the way. While it is true that most Rotarians have themselves been “examples to youth”, the contribution made by our young partners in service has always been recognized as highly contributive to the many successes we have chalked up. And the list is long.

In all these processes, character-building takes place. The great and venerable Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The end of all knowledge must be the building of character.” Wisdom at its best. In the practice of daily living, however, a person, in general, is said to possess three characters – the one he exhibits, the one he has, and the one he thinks he has! We have all gone through all that. In real life experiences, circumstances and character often come into collision. Goethe observed, “...character is formed in the stormy billows of the world.” Well, not always. We have heard of happier notes too. Our young partners in Rotary service are not in general subjected to the “stormy billows of the world” in their process of character-building.

Our Club Youth Service Committee (YSC) is doing a great job. Take a look at what its leaders and members have done and accomplished recently. Repeatedly, together with our Rotaractors and Interactors, they have instituted programmes that really make a difference to the needy, the aged, and the handicapped in the community, setting examples to be emulated. They have raised the service bar. Well done!



## In Focus

Elsewhere too, similar YSC success stories abound. Flipping through the pages of “The Rotarian” reveals many such an illustrations. While Rotary leadership is recognized – “examples to youth” – the opposite happens too. Many a dynamic youth are indeed “examples” to many a Rotarian! Ouch! But it is a fact of life. Many such youngsters are so “go-go”, so enthusiastic, so eager. All that is needed to harness all this energy is a little guidance – “examples” – like what our two dynamic leaders are doing – YSC Director Sek Tien, and CSC Director Mee Lee. Salut! And there are other young guns in the Club who are really “go-go” guys.

As I indicated earlier, similar stories of the young achieving service success are also sung. Both young kids and young Rotarians doing their bit, going that extra mile, doing good in the world. Singapore is not to be outdone. Just read the reports in the daily press. Their contribution and being so “in and involved” in so many community-welfare programmes are indeed admirable. True, nothing is really 100%. It is to be remembered that lots of these youngsters began life poorly, in various ways.

A story worth re-telling and re-reading: about a young Rotarian who grew up in a very low-income neighbourhood in Columbia, South Carolina, USA. His parents – making ends meet was a real daily struggle. The temptations of drugs and street gangs were ever-present. But he managed to steer clear. And at 28, Jenkins got invited to a Rotary meeting – “I was hooked!” he said. “I was so impressed with the programmes Rotary had to offer...” Today, this young Rotarian contributes so, so much in terms of personal commitment and involvement, to community-welfare work, including areas concerning mothers’ and children’s health.

Going south – to Rio de Janeiro’s infamous crime-ridden favelas. Young persons, especially those aged between 15 and 21, are daily exposed to wide-spread influences of drugs, gangs, and jail possibility. The huge slums and pervasive poverty are no help – in fact a breeding ground. Life for the poor – in particular the children – is so difficult and dangerous. They are so vulnerable. Yet, many of them do make good. And some, not just “good”, but excel.

A story is told about some 30 kids – ages 16 to 21, who meet up each week – on their own volition – determined to make good. Names like Lucas Ferreira, Renan Alves, and Vitoria Pinheiro have been singled out as outstanding examples of young persons who have shunned the life of violence and crime they witness in the favelas daily. They have been lauded as “hopefuls and potentials” for the 2020 Olympics. Coach Luiz Miranda said, “Our goal has always been to involve them in something good and to show them the options beyond a life of crime.” Well said! And a quote from Vitoria Pinheiro, “I was a very rebellious young person. I didn’t want to listen to anybody.” All of them came from shanty towns. Many have come out shining – white knights! Inspirations, all the way.

On our part – always remember the slogan adopted by R I in 1949 – “Every Rotarian an Example to Youth”. It is an expression of commitment. It stresses that Rotarians have the opportunity to be “role models”. An observation, “Have we always met this challenge?”



## Photo Album of the 27<sup>th</sup> R I District 3310 Conference Kota Kinabalu from 11 to 13 May 2018



*District Governor (DG) Datuk Lee Chuen Wan & 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Naomi with the "Making A Difference" (MAD ) Presidents*



*Standing from left: Dir See Mee Lee, PP Dr Shahul Hameed, 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Rachel Harrison, PE Mark Wang, Hon Member Mohan Vaswani, DG Datuk Lee, President Keith Harrison, Rtn Dr Irina Francken, guest, VP James Lee (partially hidden), Mrs Kawita Vaswani, Mr Nico Francken, PP Dr Yap Lip Kee with the Conference entertainers*



*President Keith (right) receives a "thumbs up" from DG Datuk Lee*

## Photo Album of the 27<sup>th</sup> R I District 3310 Conference Kota Kinabalu from 11 to 13 May 2018...cont'd.



*1<sup>st</sup> Lady Rachel & President Keith (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> from left) with District Officers*



*DGE Henry Tan (centre in black) with PEs, including PE Mark (2<sup>nd</sup> row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left)*



*From left: President Keith, District 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Naomi, DG Datuk Lee & 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Rachel*



*President Keith receiving his 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up Golf tournament trophy from DG Datuk Lee*



*From left: President Keith, PP Lip Kee, PP Shahul, Dir Mee Lee & 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Rachel*



*From left: President Keith, 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Rachel, Mrs Kawita & HM Mohan Vaswani*

## Photo Album of the 27<sup>th</sup> R I District 3310 Conference Kota Kinabalu from 11 to 13 May 2018...cont'd.



*Enjoying fellowship at the banquet tables*



*The Club's District Awards and Recognitions*



*Members, families & friends with the Club's District Awards/Recognitions*

# Last Week

## Last Week – Report on the Wednesday Meeting – 16 May 2018

### OPENING REMARKS

Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn Bertrand De Mil reminded members to put their mobiles on silent mode, before inviting President Keith to start the Meeting.

After a brief hitch in the proceedings, President Keith warmly welcomed the Guest Speaker, Her Excellency (H E) Ambassador Anita Nergaard to the Meeting.

### WELCOME

Duty of welcoming guests of members and visiting Rotarians was performed by Rtn Deblina Chatterjee:

#### Guests:

Speaker, HE Ambassador Anita Nergaard

Mr Payal Devgan

Mr Varun Gulati

#### Visiting Rotarian:

Conny Karlsson – Malmo, Sweden



*Rtn Deblina Chatterjee*

### TOAST & PRESENTATION OF BANNER



*From left: President Keith, Rtn Conny Karlsson & Toastmaster Rtn Dr Hoon Sing Keow*



*President Keith presents a Club Banner to visiting Rtn Conny Karlsson*

### 27<sup>TH</sup> R I DISTRICT 3310 CONFERENCE

President Keith briefly reported on the recently concluded District Conference held in Kota Kinabalu from 11 to 13 May 2018. He highlighted the Awards and Recognitions received at the Conference for Best International Service Project, Best of Family of Rotary Programme for the “Grey Can Still Play” project, Best Interact Club Project by Bukit Gombak Eagles Interact Club for its “Books of Hope” project, as well as a trophy he received for first runner-up at the fellowship golf tournament.



## 27<sup>TH</sup> R I DISTRICT 3310 CONFERENCE...Cont'd.



*President Keith presents the Best International Service Project Award to ISC Director Rtn Dr Rupesh Agrawal*



*PN/VSC Director Deepak Nagrani receives the District Service Award for the Rotary Global Swimarathon*

President Keith called upon International Service Director Rtn Dr Rupesh Agrawal to receive the Best International Service Project Award for the Help The Children – Malang & Batu, Indonesia project.

He also called on PN/VSC Director Deepak Nagrani to receive a District Service Award for the recent Rotary Global Swimarathon in promoting The Rotary Foundation. In accepting the Award, PN/VSC Director Deepak noted that the Award belonged to many others as follows:

1. President Keith for putting his weight behind this project and being the life of the event.
2. Rtn Hassan Moosa for his operational effectiveness on preparing and executing the event.
3. Rtn Bala Venkatesan for his hard work in getting everyone and everything together for the project.
4. PP Dr Shahul Hameed and the 105 Dreammakers team for swimming over 3000 laps and raising almost \$36,000
5. Director Rtn Rajkumar Perumal Suppiah for donating 200 towels for the swimmers.
6. The SWIMARATHON committee including Rtns Louis Lim and Rtn Dr Irina Francken.
7. The VSC, ISC and CSC for their contribution and major donors of the Christmas auction including the Vaswani family and PP Alan Tan.
8. YSC Director Dr Hoh Sek Tien and the Interactors for helping out with the event.
9. PE Mark Wang's team and the Incoming Board for raising more than \$5,000.
10. The Fabulous Ladies of PP Perlita Tiro and Rtn Irina for raising more than \$5,000.
11. Major donors Rtn Dr Claus Dusemund, the Vaswani family, PP Peter Tan, the sponsors Julius Baer Singapore, etc.
12. Rotarians, spouses and family members for attending and helping and making it all possible.

**Speaker:** Her Excellency (H E) Ambassador Anita Nergaard,  
Norway's Ambassador to Singapore

**Topic:** "Norway & Norwegian Youth Culture"



*Rtn Brigitte  
Holtschneider*

President Keith called on Rtn Brigitte Holtschneider to introduce the speaker, H E Ambassador Nergaard. Rtn Brigitte spoke of H E Ambassador Nergaard's impressive credentials as a career diplomat, she joined the Norwegian Foreign Service in 1995 and has had various postings since. She was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Director of Russia, Eurasia and Regional Cooperation in the High North from 2010, and Director of Security Policy, Crisis Management, Global Security Affairs and the US and Canada from 2005.

Prior to her arrival in Singapore in August 2017, H E Ambassador Nergaard served as Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to NATO in Brussels. An economist by training, H E Ambassador Nergaard started her professional career in the Central Bank of Norway in 1993. She holds a PhD Study Programme degree and a Master's degree in Economics from the Norwegian School of Economics.



*Speaker H E Ambassador  
Anita Nergaard*

H E Ambassador Nergaard noted that it was Rotary's Youth Month and therefore her talk would focus on the youth. She introduced her country and presented a brief rundown of the main features of Norwegian society and culture. Furthermore, H E Ambassador Nergaard gave an overview of what it was like to be young in Norway, from infancy to young adulthood, giving insights into various aspects of Norwegian youth culture and key policies. H E Ambassador Nergaard's presentation gave members a good opportunity to learn more about the similarities and at times surprising differences between Singapore and Norway. To conclude her talk, H E Ambassador Nergaard showed a brief video of her very beautiful and scenic country.



President Keith invited Rtn Uttam Kripalani who warmly thanked H E Ambassador Nergaard for so readily agreeing to be the speaker when he met her as she was being introduced as a Tanglin Club member and for also agreeing to include in her talk some aspects of Norway's youth culture to fit in with Youth Month. Rtn Uttam warmly thanked H E Ambassador Nergaard for her talk which highlighted the fascinating features of Norwegian society and culture and what it was like to be young in Norway.

*From left: Rtn Uttam Kripalani, H E Ambassador Nergaard & President Keith*

# Mark Your Diary

## Birthday Celebrants

There are no Birthday celebrants this week.

## This Meeting

**23 May 2018**

**Reception Desk duty:** PP Mansoor Hassanbhai, Hena Hoda

**Sunshine Box:** PP Dr Yap Lip Kee, Paul Phua

**Programme:** K S Mehta Memorial Award Presentation

## Next Meeting

**30 May 2018**

Weekly Meeting is cancelled in lieu of the Final Club Assembly for RY 2017-2018 at 6.30pm:

Gilmour Room  
Singapore Cricket Club  
Connaught Drive

## Anniversary Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants this week:

PP Tan Chin Ngiap & Irene  
Dinesh & Rekha Sharma  
Debasree Chakrabarti & Arindam  
Bala & Suvidha Venkatesan  
Bertrand & Maribeth De Mil

## Community Service Meeting

Community Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:

**Date:** Thursday, 7 June

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Venue:** Tamarind Hill, 30 Labrador Villa Road, S 119189

**Hosts:** Hon Member Mohan Vaswani & CSC Director See Mee Lee

## Coming Rotary Events

### May

#### Youth Service Month

**27-28 May** – RC Osaka Semba's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations

**30 May** – Weekly meeting is cancelled in lieu of the Final Club Assembly for RY 2017-18

### June

#### Rotary Fellowship Month

**24-27 June** – R I Convention, Toronto, Canada

**30 June** – Sister Club Fellowship at Senior Police Officers' Mess

### July

**1 July** – Installation Dinner at Pan Pacific Singapore

## Youth Service Meeting

Youth Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:

**Date:** Thursday, 24 May

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Venue:** Hope & Faith Room, Level 3, YWCA, Fort Canning Lodge, 6 Fort Canning Road, S 179494

**Hosts:** Satellite Club Rtn Jean Khoo & PDG Dr Philbert Chin

## Who's Who Directory 2018-2019

Members are reminded to submit their updated information & photographs to the Secretariat



## *The Guide to Daily Living*

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts 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.

## *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?

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017/2018

President

Keith Harrison

Immediate Past President

Garry Taylor

President Elect

Mark Wang

Vice President (Club Rotary Foundation)

James Lee

Vice President (Public Relations)

Andy Mankiewicz, OBE

Hon. Secretary (Administration)

Deepti Lalchandani

Hon. Treasurer (Finance)

Reinhard Klemmer

#### *Directors*

Chair, Community Service

See Mee Lee

Chair, Vocational Service

Deepak Nagrani

Chair, International Service

Dr Rupesh Agrawal

Chair, New Generations Service

Dr Hoh Sek Tien

Director (Membership)

Rajkumar Perumal Suppiah

