



K S Mehta Memorial Award

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Memorial Award

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In Focus

K S Mehta Memorial Award 2021

Citation read by PP Stan Low at the weekly meeting held on 16 June 2021



PP Stan Low

The Late Rotarian K S Mehta is a Paul Harris Fellow. He joined the Rotary Club of Singapore in June 1976.

Right from the start, K S, that's what he likes to be called, offered his help to the Club.

I have never heard him say NO to any duties or work for the Club. K S believes in "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

And right from the start, he and his lovely wife, KANAK, became thoroughly immersed in the spirit of Rotary.

Did you know that K S was a member of all 4 Service Committees, every year!

Did you know that he attended every Wednesday's lunch meetings?

And he and Kanak would attend every Thursday's evening's Service Committee's meetings?

K S was our Club's champion "100% Percenter"!

I cannot remember a year when K S was not the Club's Sergeant-At-Arms.

He took his duty seriously. He would be the first to arrive at the meeting, check that all is in order, put on his Sergeant-At-Arms sash, and as each Rotarian arrives, he would greet them by their titles and names. More often than not, he would also ask about their family members, also by their names!! Amazing.

In our Club, K S was nicknamed "THE COLLECTOR".

He would take note of every pledge made by every Rotarian for whichever project. He would then assiduously follow up with the Rotarian to ensure that the donations were Collected.

In our Club, he holds the record for persuading and collecting the most PHFs especially from new members. Usually right after their induction.

Sadly, K S passed away suddenly in 2006.

As a tribute to our dear beloved Sergeant-At-Arms, then Rotarian Dinesh Sharma, Past District Governor, Dr Manish Mehta who is the son of K S, and myself, decided to create this Award.

It is a memoriam to someone who totally believes in "SERVICE ABOVE SELF".

A memoriam to Rotarian K S Mehta and Kanak.

And now, I shall leave the rest to the Chairman of this year's award, Rotarian Uttam Kripalani.

In Focus

Report on the K S Mehta Essay Competition 2021

By: Chair, Rtn Uttam Kripalani



Rtn Uttam Kripalani

Following is a brief report submitted by Rtn Uttam Kripalani, Chair of the Award Committee to the Youth Service Committee (YSC):

1. Invitations and several reminders were sent out via the YSC chatgroup to all the Interact Clubs and Teacher advisors
2. The invitation called for the Teacher Advisors to encourage the Interactors to write a 1000-word essay on WORLD UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE. The teacher advisors were requested to select two best essays from each school.
3. We received a total of eight essays which were judged by Rtns John Forster, VP Suresh Keerthi, Rtn Mukundan/family and myself.
4. The schools that submitted entries were Tanjong Katong Girls School, Global Indian International School (GIIS), Victoria Junior College, Anglo Chinese School (Independent) and Evergreen Secondary School.
5. Gradings were based on five categories
 - i] organisation support and development
 - ii] Insight into the subject
 - iii] Clarity
 - iv] Style
 - v] Mechanics[eg. Punctuation, use of complete sentences, accurate word chain etc]
6. Based on the marks collated, both the first and second places were won by GIIS via two students namely Muskaan Agarwal [First] and Roshni Sen [Second].
7. Evergreen Secondary School submitted an excellent essay, but since it was not written by one student but was a collective effort coordinated by the Teacher Advisor, the judges were regrettably not able to take the essay into consideration for the prizes.

Comments by the Chairman of the competition.

The essays were of an exceptionally high level and the students need to be complimented for their submissions. The Teacher advisors also played a major part in the publicity and internal grading. The Youth Service Committee is indebted to them for their support.

Our recommendation for the competition for the 2021/22 Rotary year is that a topic related to the championing of thoughtful essays on supporting the challenged in society can be considered.

Eg. 1. If I was physically challenged what could I expect from society?

2. How can I help the disabled and challenged people? etc

Perhaps the students can be given more time to think through and write the essays, as such the competition should be launched much earlier.

More efforts should be made to encourage all Interact groups affiliated to all the Rotary Clubs in Singapore.

Remarks made at the K S Mehta Memorial Award 2021

By: PP Manish Mehta (son of the late KS & Kanak Mehta)



PP Manish Mehta

It's so good to see so many of you dear friends at today's program... Wish it was in person! My wife Varsha Mehta and sister Mala Cullipher are present with our two families (son Anshul & Vishal and daughter-in-law Shreena Mehta), and it's rather early this morning in the US! We also have several good friends/relatives and Rotary partners who have joined from India, and Singapore, and I am very grateful to them for sparing this time. Thank you all for welcoming them.

On behalf of the Mehta and Cullipher families here in Ann Arbor and Orlando, USA, I want to begin by first Thanking my Fellow Rotarians and dearest friends at Rotary Club of Singapore for reviving the KS Mehta Memorial Awards Competition this year.

The abrupt COVID-19 Pandemic shutdowns last year certainly affected everyone through chaos, shock and awe as the scale and rapidity of the human tragedy, loss of life or sickness from co-morbidities, and the widespread job losses and economic devastation the world experienced, not to mention the recent spikes in many parts of our Motherland India in past several weeks, which is a setback to recovery. Yet, we adapted quickly for necessary human interactions and activities by use of Zoom and other online tools! We found new ways to connect with persons whom we might never have met under 'normal' pre-pandemic circumstances...

Determined Club leaders at RCS resolved to reinstate this competition to give the Interact Club youth of Singapore an avenue to express their thoughts and aspirations for a better world...

On behalf of our Mehta and Cullipher family, I want to thank the following:

- President Dinesh Sharma and First Lady Rekhaji who were close friends of my late father Rotarian KS Mehta and Mother Kanak Mehta. Thank you for reinstating the awards competition.
- PP Stan Low and spouse Dolores who comforted and helped us greatly when Dad passed in 2006, and worked with me to institute and co-invest club funds in the Awards.
- Dr. Ganesh Ramalingam who Chairs the Rotary Club of Singapore's Youth Service Committee, and helped conduct the competition and judging of entries with today's announcements of results.
- Rtn Uttam Kripalani, who served as Chair of Rtn K S Mehta Essay Competition 20/21 – How fitting and kind of Uttam Uncle to take on this responsibility, and put his rigor and energies in empowering Singapore's youth... for he and Laxmi Aunty were near and dear friends of our late parents for nearly four decades ever since both Kripalani and Mehta families arrived in Singapore in the mid-1970s. Both, Uttam Uncle and my father were in the general insurance industry, albeit in competing firms! They were great friends socially and especially enthusiastic when it came to performing Service Above Self!

Our Family's Hearty Congratulations go to:

- Mr Aswin Gite - Teacher Advisor, Global Indian International School's Interact Club for his guidance and mentorship.
- Overall winner Miss MUSKAAN AGARWAL (\$1500) and Runner up Miss ROSHNI SEN (\$500).

Remarks made at the K S Mehta Memorial Award 2021... contd.

Such amazing oral and written communication and presentation skills are key to becoming strong advocates for peace... Our warm Compliments to you both for expressing such mature views about the challenges of implementing world peace and you both emphasized that it begins with individuals taking personal Non-violent action through advocacy, by speaking up and by helping others in need. **That's exactly what Rotarians also do!**

May your essay wins today portend the beginning of a meaningful endeavour in whatever direction your own academic pursuits and career/hobby interests take you into... Whatever path you choose, you have some exemplary role models to emulate or exceed, starting with your local Rotarians and parents, or whether they be Climate Change activist Greta Thurnberg, women and girls literacy advocate and 2014 Nobelist Malala Yousufzai, or Gitanjali Rao (Time's First-Ever Kid of the Year 2020), or the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High Schoolers from Parkland, Florida who worked to change US gun laws, and many others! Where are all the boys and young men, BTW?!

Regardless, such writing skills and powers of persuasion are universally important in today's competitive college entrances and in professional careers thereafter!

Normally, my mother Kanak Mehta (a Past President of Inner Wheel Club of Singapore) would so excitedly be invited by RCS to attend these award programs ever since the KS Mehta Essay Competition was inaugurated in 2008 by none other than my dear friend and classmate from National Junior College, your Foreign Minister, Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan (who was once Minister of Youth, Sports and Environment).

However, this year, Mom is sending her vivacious smiles and hugs for you winners from heaven; As many of you know, Mom's health declined rapidly in early 2020 after a couple of falls (soon after we held her 85th birthday in November 2019 which some of you attended), and she passed away peacefully in late March 2020 in presence of my sister Mala and I, just before all pandemic hell broke loose around the world...

In conclusion, our family stands committed to continue to co-fund the KSM Memorial Essay Awards with RC Singapore for at least another 3 years. As in the past, we will greatly appreciate if a couple of club members in the YSC take the lead in organizing the competitions.

Everyone is a winner today – the youth of Singapore get recognized and heard, the winning schools and Interact Clubs gets stronger, the community receives the benefit of volunteerism, and nation gains a few greater civic-minded citizens... and Rotary gets the PR for a job well done! What better way than this to spend this Father's Day week with so many of you who are Father-like figures for me and were so close to Dad KS!



Meeting Report

45th Club Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting for Rotary Year 2020-2021 held on 9.6.2021

OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was started by Honorary Secretary Brigitte Holtschneider with the usual meeting rules before she handed the Chair to President Dinesh Sharma.

President Dinesh welcomed Honorary Members (HM) PP Bhagwan Melwani and Rtn Mohan Vaswani, Past Presidents, members, guests and prospective members, as well as Guest Speaker Professor Alex Siow, from the School of Computing at the National University of Singapore. He added that it was a special meeting with 3 inductions of new members, talk by the Guest Speaker and the Club's Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). President Dinesh added that prior to the start of the EGM, he would request guests to log off from the meeting.



President Dinesh Sharma

TOAST TO ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



To lead the members in a toast to Rotary International, President Dinesh called upon Toastmaster, Rtn Subhash Pritmani.

Rtn Subhash Pritmani

HON SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honorary Secretary Brigitte reminded members that the Vocational Service Committee (VSC) meeting would be held virtually on Thursday, 10 June hosted by VSC Director Dr Chan Siew Luen.



Rtn Brigitte Holtschneider

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

President Dinesh had the pleasure of inducting 3 new members Rtn Madhumita Banerjee, Ankit Khandelwal and Arivuvel Ramu. He called on Membership Chair, VP Suresh Keerthi who introduced the new members as follows:



Rtn Madhumita (Madhu) Banerjee

Place of Work: JP Morgan Singapore Branch

Classification: Banking: Client Onboarding

Proposer: PP Tapan Rao

Mentor: PP J K Ong

Rtn Madhu is the 4th lady Rotarian to be inducted to the Club this year. She has been involved in Rotaract in a school in Kolkata and grew up going to Rotary events and projects as both her parents are committed Rotarians in India since 1981. Rtn Madhu is a single mother of a daughter, living in Singapore for the past 9 years.

Meeting Report

45th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2020-2021 held on 9.6.2021

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS (Cont'd.)



Rtn Ankit Khandelwal

Place of Work: Maitri Asset Management

Classification: Investment Management: Family Office

Proposer: Hon. Treasurer Manish Tibrewal

Mentor: PE Louis Lim

Rtn Ankit advised that he was exposed to Rotary when he joined Tolaram Corporation. He grew up in India and has been in Singapore for the past 12 years. A keen sportsman, Rtn Ankit added that he enjoyed sports in order to eat more!



Rtn Arivuvel Ramu (Ramu)

Place of Work: TONIK Financials Pte Ltd

Classification: Banking: Digital Banking

Proposer: Rtn Srihari Sikhakollu

Mentor: President Dinesh Sharma

Rtn Ramu is the Chief Technology Officer and heads the Group IT for TONIK Bank. He has lived in Singapore for the past 11 years. Rtn Ramu is married to his wife, Jeeveetha for 18 years and they have two boys.

GUEST SPEAKER: PROFESSOR (PROF) ALEX SIOW

TOPIC: HOW TECHNOLOGY WILL IMPACT THE FUTURE OF WORK

President Dinesh called on Rtn Sachin Kagliwal who introduced Prof Siow from the School of Computing at National University of Singapore and concurrently Director of the Advanced Computing for Executives Centre, the Strategic Technology Management Institute and the Centre for Health Informatics.



Speaker Prof. Alex Siow

Prof Siow's engrossing presentation highlighted how the future of work would change. He described the key emerging technologies that would reshape the future of work, such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Deep Learning, Blockchain, Cloud Computing and Quantum Computing. He further highlighted the technologies that were already in place and others that would be making an impact soon.

President Dinesh invited Srihari Sikhakollu to extend the Club's vote of thanks. Rtn Srihari thanked the distinguished speaker for the very meaningful presentation.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EOGM)

After the departure of guests, the EOGM was called to order at 8.05pm by President Dinesh Sharma who thanked members for their attendance. The quorum requirement was met.

After due consideration and discussion, members present at the EOGM approved the proposed Resolutions presented to transfer the Phyllis and Charles Rudd Memorial Fund to Customised Global Grant Endowed Fund.

Minutes of the EOGM will be circulated to all members shortly.

The EOGM ended at 8.50pm.

Meeting Report

46th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2020-2021 held on 16.6.2021

OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was once again opened by Honorary Secretary Rtn Brigitte Holtschneider who reminded members of the Zoom meeting etiquette before handing the Chair to President Dinesh Sharma.

President Dinesh welcomed Honorary Members PP Bhagwan Melwani, Rtn Mohan Vaswani and PP Chiang Shih Fang, Past Presidents and members to the second last meeting of the Rotary year, with the last meeting on 30th June. He further welcomed the delegation from Rotary Club of Colombo, family members of the late Rtn K S Mehta, Youth Exchange student Ms Sarah Madugalle and Interactors Claire and Bernice from Hwa Chong Institution Interact Club.



President Dinesh Sharma

TOAST TO A ROTARY CLUB AND ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



PP Perlita Tiro

Toastmaster PP Perlita Tiro noted that the Club was honoured to have such a big delegation from Rotary Club (RC) of Colombo. PP Perlita advised that she met her fellow President classmate of RY 2014/15, PP Rajiv Walpita at a sister club event in Bangkok. She added that the relationship with RC Colombo continued with a joint water purification project in Sri Lanka and with the virtual Youth Exchange. PP Perlita took great pleasure in making the toast to RC Colombo coupled with the toast to Rotary International.

President Dinesh invited President Nithi Murugesu from RC Colombo to address the Club.

President Nithi advised that his club was chartered in 1929 and has a long history of service to humanity. He cited several worthy projects undertaken and added that the club was a 100% PHF club. He further spoke on the Youth Exchange Programme and thanked the Club for participating in this programme.

REMEMBERING PP CHARLES G V RUDD

President Dinesh recognised a significant Club member, the late PP Charles Rudd, who was Club President in 1974/75. Upon his demise, his wife, Phyllis bequeathed over S\$1.2 million to the Club. As PP Charles's birthday would have been on 21 June, the Club took the opportunity to remember him and his wife for their magnanimous and generous gift.



The late PP Charles Rudd

MAJOR PROJECT 2020/2021

President Dinesh warmly thanked members who have donated to the Club's Major Project to provide kitchen equipment at the new Willing Hearts premises, which would enable more meals to be prepared for the needy.

President Dinesh announced that a total of \$160,919.92 had been collected so far.

Meeting Report

46th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2020-2021 held on 16.6.2021

GREAT NEWS!

President Dinesh was pleased to announce that as advised earlier, tax exemption would be available for donations to the Major Project through Foundation of Rotary Clubs Singapore Ltd (FRCS).

He added the great news that the \$166,000 for the Club's Major Project contribution to Foundation of Rotary Clubs Singapore Ltd (FRCS) for the Happy Rotary Club of Singapore Willing Hearts Kitchen qualified for Enhanced Fund-Raising (EFR) Programme that provides dollar for dollar matching from the Tote Board and the Government towards FRCS Community and Outreach Programmes, which would go towards the Rotary Eldercare Centre that was in the midst of construction.

PUBLIC HEALTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME



President Dinesh noted the very successful Public Health Ambassador Webinar which was held on 5 June, followed by the training session for the volunteer ambassadors for this programme.

He added that the Club received great publicity for this Programme.

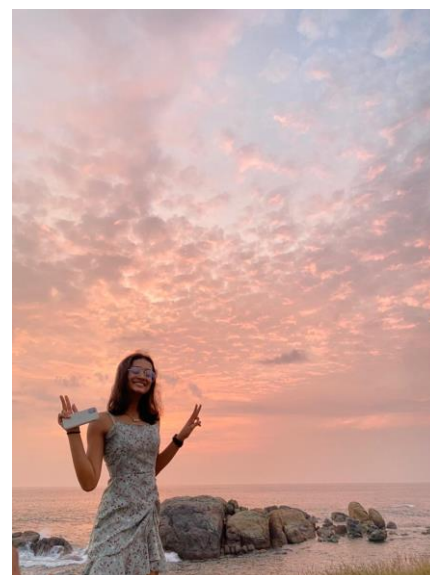
ROTARY VIRTUAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (YEP)

President Dinesh warmly welcomed again the delegation from Rotary Club (RC) of Colombo and gave a brief introduction of the Rotary Virtual Youth Exchange Programme (YEP). He called upon Youth Service Committee Director Dr Ganesh Ramalingam who thanked Presidents Dinesh and Nithi and spoke of the well run by PP Rajiv Walpita which was launched on 23rd May. He noted that the programme involved 8 countries and 5 colleges.

Rtn Ganesh introduced the excellent YEP student Ms Sarah Madugalle who recounted the week she spent virtually. She spoke of the time spent with Interactors Bernice and Claire from Hwa Chong Institution Interact Club as well as with Rtn Mukundan AP and PP Jimmy Ooi. Sarah warmly thanked her host parents, President Dinesh and 1st Lady Rekha as well.

President Dinesh then called on PP Rajiv Walpita from RC Colombo who advised that his club has 28 sister clubs and have been involved with Youth Exchange programmes for many years. However with the COVID-19 pandemic situation was not able to do so but have held virtual programme. He looked forward to the opportunity to host an inbound nominee in Sri Lanka.

PP Rajiv further spoke on a Vocational Youth Exchange with four clubs in the USA, with industry experts talking and guiding Rotartors.



Exchange Student
Sarah Madugalle

Meeting Report

46th Club Meeting for Rotary Year 2020-2021 held on 16.6.2021

KYFR KNOW YOUR FELLOW ROTARIAN



President Dinesh called on KYFR speaker, Rtn Subhash Pritmani who shared that in 1972 he was an Interactor in Jabalpur, Central India and continued his Rotary journey by joining the Club in 2011. Rtn Subhash is a mechanical engineer and specializes in the MEP/M&E Industry and involved in many iconic projects in Singapore, Hong Kong and Abu

Dhabi to name a few. He received several awards including the MEP Executive of the year award in 2019. He introduced his wife, Kanak, a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Singapore and his two daughters.



Rtn Subhash Pritmani

He spoke of his involvement in Rotary with the Club's Major Project for the Happy Rotary Kitchen at Willing Hearts as well as other community-based projects which he supports such as Impact Foundation Asia (Lifeline Express), Child Relief and You (CRY), India. He added that he was Chair of the Club's Cycling Buddies and will take on the role of Membership Chair for Rotary year 2021-2022.

Rtn Subhas further spoke of his hobbies and his aspirations and dreams to contribute directly to the field of education, particularly in Nepal; trek to Everest Base Camp and help visually challenged people.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE K S MEHTA MEMORIAL AWARD 2021



President Dinesh gave highlights of the Award, and called upon the architect of the Award – PP Stan Low to read the citation in honour of the late Rtn K S Mehta, followed by Rtn Uttam Kripalani who assisted in resurrecting the Award.

Next, President Dinesh called on YSC Director Dr Ganesh Ramalingam who announced the winners from Global Indian International School – Interactors Muskaan Agarwal, 1st prize winner who receives \$1,500 and Runner up Interactor Roshni Sen who receives \$500 to be used for their Interact Club projects.

President Dinesh then called on PP Manish Mehta who spoke on behalf of his family and that of his sister, Mrs Mala Cullipher, and expressed their family's appreciation and thanks to members of the Club in remembering their parents. (Full details of the proceedings can be found from pages 1-7 of this bulletin.)

The late Rtn K S & Kanak Mehta

ADOPTION OF RCS BY-LAWS UPDATED JUNE 2021

Hon Secretary Rtn Brigitte Holtschneider advised that the Club's By-Laws were updated to the Rotary International's Constitution and circulated on 10 June to members. She added that no queries or feedback were received. Rtn Brigitte called for members' consent for the changes in line with the Constitution which was received from members present at the meeting. The Club's By-Laws would therefore be updated and available as per the 2019/2020 Constitution and By-Laws.

ADOPTION OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 30.6.2020

Hon Treasurer Rtn Manish Tibrewal called for the adoption of the Audited Financial Statements as at 30 June 2020 which were circulated to members on 7 June 2021. No objections were received and the Financial Statements were duly adopted by members present.

Winning Essays of the K S Mehta Essay Competition 2021

World Understanding and Peace

By – Muskaan Aggarwal (First)

The tiny packets of information that jump from one source to the other with the assistance of Internet Protocol (IP) and Transport Control Protocol (TCP) may have turned the world into a global village but could not turn it into a family. Lands across the planet have become our neighbour, Europe across the street, and India at our doorstep but the sense of brotherhood, fellowship, and belongingness is still lacking. And in this globally connected world, the call for understanding our neighbours is even more pressing than before.

The world today is full of conflicts and wars among nations, states and societies. And it has been so, for quite a long time now. Mankind has sadly been through numerous wars ranging from the U.S. Civil war, Spanish War and World War I to World War II. World War II seemed to have opened our eyes. Four months after the San Francisco Conference took place, the United Nations officially commenced operations, on 24 October 1945, when it came into existence after its Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, and a majority of other signatories. Now, more than 75 years later, the United Nations is still working to maintain international relations and security, provide humanitarian assistance to those in need, protect human rights, and uphold international law.

To imbibe the values of World Understanding and peace, we first need to be conscious of their meaning. Understanding, as defined by the Oxford Language, means sympathetic awareness or tolerance. This concept is not foreign to us, it is an ancient ideal in speculation and a familiar motivation in action. It is asserted that the impulse to understand is deeply implanted in man- that all men desire to know- and their effort to know is practiced explicitly on mankind. Economics and social institutions, arts, philosophies, and religion are all results of men's efforts to understand their environment, and the pursuit of each of these efforts has led the man out of the narrow neighbourhood of their original habitation and interest in voyages of exploration that have encompassed the world and have made it familiar and, therefore, one. However, in the last few decades, the world has undergone a drastic change and is no more one. In the process of chasing success and fulfilling desires, man has divided the world into segments based on colour, creed, and caste. People are discriminated against, treated disrespectfully, and looked down upon based on their religion, sex, and caste. The world is no longer ruled by love, but by power. The world powers refuse to bow down before anyone and assert their dominance by using nuclear weapons. But one nuclear attack will be answered by another, and another. It is time we understood that the answer to these actions is not retaliation but cooperation, an eye for an eye will leave the world blind, and devoid of any colour.

As defined by the Oxford Language, 'Peace' is a state or period in which there is no war, or in which war has ended. The sad reality of today is that peace is defined by the absence of war when it should be measured by the happiness, prosperity, and wellbeing of the population. We often talk about the political situation in a nation, about that nation's relationships with its neighbours, and the nation's policies. A question that often arises is – Why is the peace so hard to come by? The question may seem deep, but the answer is quite simple. Peace is hard to find because it needs both effort and time, something which everyone is running short of. War seems to be an easy answer to every problem. National distrust? War. Political instability? War. Quarrels over the boundary? War. But wars have a lot of dire consequences, a lot of which are generally known. There is no question that wars bring about death. World War I saw more than 20 million deaths and World War II about a shocking 80 million, almost 3% of the earth's population. High numbers of casualties are accompanied by the destruction of millions of families, all due to the greed of a selected few. It's a truth that if we continue to tread on the path we have been, the future won't be all that bright. If World War III were to happen, which was in speculation recently, the consequences would include more than just a few million deaths and a few bombed cities. History serves as a witness, this war will see no winner standing, but just destruction. The entire population will be in danger of annihilation and the future unpredictable. Mankind will once again be forced to bow before the potent power that is nature. Organizations like the UN and Rotary clubs have been taking

Winning Essays of the K S Mehta Essay Competition 2021... contd.

measures, but it is not just the government that needs to be active, it is the moral duty of every individual to be accountable for their actions. Everyone is responsible on a personal level and should begin taking action with utmost dedication.

Hence, it is high time we realized our role in society as members of this global village. While the idea of Global understanding and peace may be a little utopian, it is not unachievable. The concept is not foreign, just neglected. Since ancient times, different religions have been preaching the values of peace, tolerance, and oneness. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, and Desmond Tutu, among many others, took it upon themselves to bring about a revolution, and they did. For a long time, the mantra of 'Peace, not pieces' has acted as a driving force towards spreading awareness about the need of the hour - the realization that we are not the citizens of a single country, but in fact, the entire world. We are global citizens striving towards the welfare of the whole of humanity.

World Understanding and Peace: A Fresh Perspective

By – Roshni Sen (Second)

"If you are driven by fear, anger, or pride, nature will force you to compete. If you are guided by courage, awareness, tranquillity, and peace, nature will serve you." - Amit Ray

What Dr Amit Ray voiced in his book 'Non-Violence: The Transforming Power' is so accurate! Peace, a fairly abstract concept, is often misinterpreted in today's day and age where mankind is accosted with multidimensional crises like racial discrimination, social oppression, denial of human rights, economic inequality, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. The idea of global harmony is frequently associated with the notion of mitigating wars or eradicating the drastic consequences of war through mutual agreement between nations. However, considering world understanding and peace as political or social responsibilities bestowed upon governments and national authorities does not suffice; propagating peace is as much personal as it is global.

Even though 'peace' might seem synonymous with the 'absence of armed-conflict', its true significance is a lot more comprehensive. It deals with eliminating seeds of violence sown in feelings of suppression, dissatisfaction, shame and disappointments, and entails in itself a journey of self-exploration. Spreading peace encompasses a deeper understanding of the day-to-day challenges faced by individuals, communities, religious societies, and ultimately, the world at large.

Drops of water make a mighty ocean; so, to truly impart the philosophy of global harmony, it is of paramount importance for every one of us to shroud the blinding curtains of pessimism and suppress our instincts for inhumanity. There is both a good and dark side of man, and fostering peace demands an embrace for the former vis a vis the latter. The actions of an individual can have a domino effect on the lives of every other person in his vicinity and beyond. To truly transform the world into a peaceful home for all its inhabitants, we must strive to eliminate the 'you-and-me' feeling and rather live as 'we-and-us'.

Despite the chaotic circumstances the human race has been exposed to, there have been a considerable number of men and women successful in breaking the ice between themselves and the broader community; such individuals have awakened their inner consciousness to a level where they could acquire the courage to love the beauty of humanity and disseminate peace to the world outside. They are individuals who understand that all sentient beings are equals, despite the vast dissimilarities on the outside. Be it the Nobel Peace Prize 2019 winner Abiy Ahmed Ali who was recognised for his initiative to resolve the border conflict with Eritrea; Mother Teresa

Winning Essays of the K S Mehta Essay Competition 2021... *contd.*

whose self-sacrificing endeavours brought happiness to the penurious and promoted the element of selflessness; or Mahatma Gandhi, who envisioned that peace is not merely an idea, but rather the milestone on which the principle of innate nonviolence or '*ahimsa*' is based; all such disseminators of harmony have promulgated that spreading peace encompasses a blend of charity and a quest for achieving the highest level in the hierarchy of needs proposed by American psychologist Abraham Maslow: 'self-actualisation'.

Residing in a harmonious nation like Singapore, one might speculate about what the absence of peace would look like. Even in these uncertain times where the level of global peacefulness has deteriorated due to the economic consequences of the pandemic, Singapore stands as a shining light. Ranked 7th on the Global Peace Index 2020, our nation is widely considered a paragon of amity and a propagator of friendly relations with other countries. While most of us ought to feel privileged for living in such a 'peaceful' nation, it is worthwhile to question whether we as inhabitants of Singapore practice peace in our daily lives.

Well, how much do we care about maintaining global harmony and protesting against violence when it does not affect us directly? For instance, despite being fully acquainted with the horrific ramifications of mass shootings in the US, do we as global citizens voice out against it? Many would respond to this rhetorical question with a blatant "no"! Peace, an amalgamation of empathy, care, and kindness, is not merely an afterthought of fake 'sympathy' for those victimized by atrocities like gun violence; it is rather a virtue, an inner emotion that propels us to think beyond our confines and reach out to eradicate the misfortunes of those beyond our kith and kin.

As one of the central figures in modern philosophy, Immanuel Kant, argues in his book 'Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch', "the law of world citizenship" is linked to the emotion of "universal hospitality". Following his footsteps, we must accept that as a united human race, we are entitled to fulfill our duty in acting peacefully, irrespective of differences in our nationalities. Transcending geographical or political borders to adopt universal altruism and accepting the necessity of nonviolence in seeking peace, are the needs of the hour.

Even though international conflicts may seem out of reach for individuals to resolve, it is important to remember that the simplest of all gestures are often the most valuable contributions. We, the youth of today, must adopt self-satisfaction, foster inner peace and refrain from having a competitive mindset. Be it engaging in community service initiatives to broaden our horizon of international understanding; actively participating in exchange programmes and international conferences to develop a richer appreciation of the conflicted regions in the world; or even emulating the exemplary efforts of international youth organisations like 'Kids for Peace Global' who encourage children to partake in fundraising and charity work to promote the message of international peace; every contribution counts.

It is sheer hypocrisy to expect countries to facilitate peace treaties when we refuse to take small steps to maintain cordiality in our own lives. Heeding what William Blake expresses in his profound poem 'The Divine Image': "Mercy has a human heart, // Pity a human face, // And Love, the human form divine, // And Peace, the human dress", we must don the gown of harmony to make the world a more peaceful place for every man to call it his home.



Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Birthday celebrants:

Dr Hoon Sing Keow

Brenda Lee

Edward Loy

This Meeting

30 June 2021
From 7.00 to 8.30pm

Final Meeting for Rotary
Year 2020/21 &
President Dinesh Sharma's
review of his term in Office

Next Meeting

7 July 2021
From 7.00 to 8.30pm

1st Meeting & Club Assembly
for Rotary Year 2021/22
Chaired by
President Louis Lim

Anniversary

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants:

Jamshid & Zerine Medora

Leonard Ong & Yee Fuang



Coming Rotary

June

Rotary Fellowships Month

30 Jun – Final meeting for RY2020-21

July

Rotary Fellowships Month

7 Jul – 1st Club Assembly for RY 2021-2022

14 Jul – 1st Club Assembly
(continuation)

August

**Membership & New Club
Development Month**

September

Basic Education & Literacy Month

October

**Economic & Community
Development Month**

November

Rotary Foundation Month

December

**Disease Prevention & Treatment
Month**

Committee Meetings

All Service Committee Meetings
will be held on Thursdays from
7.00 to 8.00pm

COMMUNITY SERVICE:
Thursday, 1 July 2021

VOCATIONAL SERVICE:
Thursday, 8 July 2021

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE:
Thursday, 15 July 2021

YOUTH SERVICE:
Thursday, 22 July 2021

GIFT OF LIFE

Children with cardiac problems
to get help from Rotary's
District 3300 & 3310

A full set of 3 editions - Book of
Humour, Best of Humour & Bank of
Humour, come in a beautifully
designed box housing this set for
only \$25.00

Please order a few sets of books
for the Gift of Life Project, and
place your orders with:
Hon. Member Rtn Rewa Mirpuri @
tel: 6241 9157 or
email: rewamirpuri@gmail.com

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?



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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.

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