



Founded on 6 June 1930 | Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 'Best Bulletin in District 3310'



Interview with Honorary Member Rtn Uttam Kripalani

IN FOCUS | 1

Interview with Honorary
Member Rotarian
Uttam Kripalani

MEETING REPORT | 4

35th Weekly Meeting
– 15.5.24

MARK YOUR DIARY | 7

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

In Focus

Interview with Honorary Member (HM) Rotarian Uttam Kripalani

By: Honorary Member (HM) Joseph Chia



From right: HMs Rtms Uttam Kripalani & Joseph Chia

Foreword

Honorary Member Rtn Uttam Kripalani has been with Rotary for 43 years. He is a great achiever inside and outside Rotary. He is celebrating his 80th birthday on May 18, and HM Rtn Joseph Chia took this opportunity to interview him to share his interesting experiences with all of us. Below is a condensed version of the interview.

Dear HM Uttam, Congratulations on your 80th birthday, could you tell me what motivated you to come to Singapore in 1976 when at that time Singapore was a relatively unknown newly independent country in the Far East?

At an interview with the Chairman of National Insurance Co Ltd in India, I was offered an Assistant Manager posting in a small branch in Hong Kong. I politely declined, especially after being the youngest Senior Divisional Manager in India based in Tamil Nadu with 10 branches and about 100 employees. They then offered me an opportunity to revamp the company's operations in Singapore which I accepted as an exciting challenge after having been sent to survey the opportunities available in what I felt was a dynamic atmosphere created by PM Lee Kuan Yew and his team. My company was able to grow with Singapore.

You joined Rotary in Cochin India in 1971 and later in Singapore in 1983 and was a hundred- percenter all these years. We seldom hear of the term hundred-percenter these days, please explain what is a hundred- percenter and why did you do so?

When I joined Rotary, attendance was one of the important requirements of being a member. 60% was the minimum attendance requirement. In fact, membership could automatically be cancelled if three meetings in a row were missed. I always took the opportunity of attending the meetings or making them up at another club, The fellowship and the opportunity to work with other Rotarians became irresistible and I have great pleasure in maintaining my 100 Percent record even ----though it is not compulsory.

What was your most satisfying experience in Rotary?

The most satisfying experience has to be the airplane flight my committee organised for about 167 underprivileged children, who were brought from various homes. We took them on a one-hour flight in an aircraft sponsored by Qantas, with fuel paid for by one of the oil companies and landing rights and passport requirements waived by the airport authorities. I had the pleasure of working on this programme with PP Dr EE Peng Liang, who was the founder President of the Singapore Council of Social Service [now National Council of Social Service] and PP Raymon Huang.



A picture to gladden the heart — some of the 167 happy, excited children, waving and waiting to board the plane.

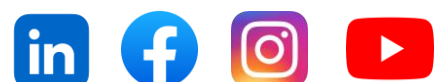
Extract from the Club's 60th Anniversary Book

Rotarians sponsored the children and we raised nearly \$ 30,000 for the Community Chest.

An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore

rtynfo@rotary.org.sg | rotary.org.sg

Save our Forests! Save Paper & Print only if absolutely necessary.



In Focus

Interview with Honorary Member (HM) Rtn Uttam Kripalani ...contd

Other than Rotary what were your other social work experiences in Singapore?

Other than Rotary I was involved in the setting up of the Crohn's and Colitis Society and continue to be one of the Advisors. As a Vice President of the Action Group for Mental Illness [AGMI] I helped in the inclusion of mental illness cover in the MediShield Insurance Policies. Though limited, it is one small step closer to the ideal coverage. As one of the earliest members of the Indian Activities Executive Committee [Siglap South CC], I have helped pioneer some cultural and social activities including the introduction of Music and Poetry. In the early period of my being in Singapore I was involved with acting in a few plays organised by the Stage Club.

One of the most recent activities I have undertaken is working with the MSF-Commlinks Befrienders' programme, along with PN Sonali and a group of Rotarians who will work to befriend some challenged families living in rented flats provided by the government. Niharika [spouse of Rtn Varun Gulati] and I will work with a family of four who are deaf and dumb. Both of us have decided to try and learn sign language to help us communicate with this challenged family.

Any other memorable Rotary events?

Amongst the many moments of pleasure I have derived from Rotary include getting the Rotarian of the Year Award [Rotary Year (RY) 2015/16], Arthur Thevathasan Award for introducing many new members [RY 2014/15], winning the best presenter award at one of the Four-Way test debates, being an emcee at several Presidents' Installations, and the honour of being an emcee at the dinner organised in honour of Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta.



HM Uttam receiving the Rotarian of the Year Award from then President Alan Tan (RY 2015/16)



HM Uttam bestowed Honorary Membership from then President Louis Lim (RY 2021/22)



From left: IPP James Lee, Rtn Jasbir Koh, HM Uttam, PRIP Shekhar Mehta, Rtn See Mee Lee & spouse Mr Eddy Handaja

An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore

rtynfo@rotary.org.sg | rotary.org.sg

Save our Forests! Save Paper & Print only if absolutely necessary.



In Focus

Interview with Honorary Member (HM) Rtn Uttam Kripalani ...*contd*

But the biggest pleasure must be the many friendships I have forged with Rotarians, their families and friends.

You have been an avid golfer and I remember you achieved two Holes-in-one, which are relatively rare, please tell us more about them?

Yes, I have had the pleasure of getting two holes- in- one including one at the Delhi Golf Club where I got a hole-in-one on a par four [a rare Albatross]. Flukes do happen. I continue to play golf with a handicap of around 17-18, along with my interest in other sports such as Cricket, Soccer, Tennis and Squash. I have won nearly 50 trophies mainly for golf.

Your late wife Laxmi, your two children Gaurav and Mallika, I had the great pleasure of meeting all of them, could you share something about them?

My wife Laxmi passed away a few months back. She was an active supporter of our club and the Inner Wheel Club of Singapore. My son, Gaurav is the Artistic Director of the Singapore Repertory Theatre and my daughter, Mallika is a leadership facilitator and Executive Coach working with Potential Projects and Executive Coaching Consultancy both of which are headquartered in London. I have two grandchildren, Tara who recently completed her degree in Biochemistry from the University of Bristol and is working at an old folks' home and Akash, who is a student at the NUS School of Maths and Science and has represented Singapore in several International Maths Olympiads.



HM Uttam Kripalani with his lovely family

Meeting Report

35th Weekly Meeting for Rotary Year 2023/2024 held on 15.5.2024.

Welcome & Toast

On opening the Meeting, President Dr Chan Siew Luen invited Rtn Shaun Roache to welcome guests and visiting Rotarians as follows:

Guests:

Speaker, His Excellency (H E) Mr Dante Brandi, Ambassador of Italy to Singapore

1st Lady Patricia Wang, Mrs Laura De Liva

Ms Veronica Egidi, Mr Fabrizio Caruso, Mr Antonino Musumeci, Mr Simone Rizzetto,

Mr Simone Morandi, Ms Giovanna Vivoli, Mr Gionata Bosco

Mr & Mrs Elliott, Ms Isabel Elliott & Ms Larisa Tupitsyna

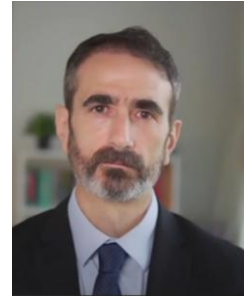
Mr Mahdev Mohan, Mr Shawn Sugendran & Ms Aditi Jalan

Ms Charlotte & Mrs Bernie Ng

Visiting Rotarians:

Irina Francken – Wellington, New Zealand

PP Corinna Chung – Suntec City



Rtn Shaun Roache

Toast

Toastmaster PP Stan Low called on members to join him in a toast to the Italian Republic coupled with the toast to Rotary International.



PP Stan Low

President's Announcements

- President Siew Luen reminded members of the Club's Food from the Heart project on 18.5.24. The food distribution will be held at Blk 9/Blk 4 North Bridge Road, S190008 from 9.30 to 11.30am.
- RI Convention Legacy Project – President Siew Luen advised that to commemorate the Rotary International (R I) Convention held in Singapore this year, the Host Organising Committee has partnered with Singapore Institute of Technology on a mangrove restoration project call Rotary-SIT Mangrove Conservatory and nominated Rotary Club of Singapore to be the Project Lead. More details of this project will be circulated to members for their support.
- International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians - On behalf of Rtn Varun Gulati, President Siew Luen reminded members that also in conjunction with conjunction with the R I Convention, the 18th International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians (ITFR) World Championship will be held in Singapore's Winchester Tennis Arena from 20-24.5.24. Rtn Varun called for participation in the tennis fellowship which was being hosted by the Club as well as for sponsors.

Members who are interested in participation in the Championship as well as sponsors for this event are requested to contact Rtn Varun Gulati at tel. no. +65-8823 0423 or email varun.rotary@gmail.com

An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore

rtynfo@rotary.org.sg | rotary.org.sg

Save our Forests! Save Paper & Print only if absolutely necessary.



Meeting Report

35th Weekly Meeting for Rotary Year 2023/2024 held on 15.5.2024.

Distinguished Guest Speaker Series

**Speaker: His Excellency (H E) Dante Brandi,
Ambassador of Italy to Singapore**

Topic: A soft response to hard times. The case for public diplomacy.

H E Ambassador Dante Brandi was introduced by fellow Italian, Rtn Francesco De Liva. The speech delivered by Ambassador Brandi, discussed the issue of polarization in the current global climate. Polarization is a major issue, with a battle of narratives and reduced capacity of influence for balanced players. However, there are remedies for polarization, including societal resilience, co-regulation of the digital space, support for independent journalism, and public diplomacy.

Public diplomacy is based on the principle of dialogue and aims to mobilize, influence, change, and attract. Emotion and storytelling are important aspects of public diplomacy, with a focus on values and contribution to the global public good. The presentation argues that the more people know about reliable players, the better their perception is. There is an unprecedented level of communication coordination among like-minded countries and an unprecedented level of acknowledgment and capacity to contrast hostile disinformation.

Public diplomacy is not propaganda, and truth is not enough. Storytelling and listening are important, and the best narrative is one that tells the world how you contribute to the global public good. Diplomats are seen as architects of choices. The future of diplomacy may involve the use of A.I. and neurosciences.

In the speech Ambassador Brandi also highlighted the importance of societal resilience in combating polarization. Co-regulation of the digital space is another remedy, as it can help to ensure that information is accurate and reliable. Support for independent journalism is also crucial, as it can provide a balanced perspective on events.

In conclusion, Ambassador Brandi offered a comprehensive overview of the issue of polarization and the remedies that can be used to combat it. Public diplomacy, with its focus on dialogue, emotion, and storytelling, is a key tool in this effort. By mobilizing, influencing, changing, and attracting, public diplomacy can help to build a more resilient and cohesive global community.

President Siew Luen called on Rtn Andy Mankiewicz to extend the Club's vote of thanks to Ambassador Brandi.

- Summary by Rtn Francesco De Liva



Speaker, H E Ambassador
Dante Brandi



Rtn Francesco De Liva
introducing H E
Ambassador Dante Brandi

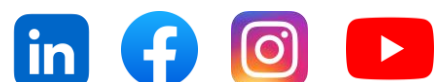


Rtn Andy Mankiewicz
extending the vote of thanks

An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore

rtynfo@rotary.org.sg | rotary.org.sg

Save our Forests! Save Paper & Print only if absolutely necessary.



Meeting Report

35th Weekly Meeting for Rotary Year 2023/2024 held on 15.5.2024.

Photo Highlights of the meeting:



Members in rapt attention to Ambassador Brandi's talk



Heartiest Congratulations to proud grandparents PP Paliath & Vatsala Mohandas on the birth of their 2nd grandson, Sunil Alexander Mohandas on 6.5.24 in Washington D.C.



President Siew Luen (on stage) leading the cheer, as members send best wishes to HM Uttam Kripalani (right) who celebrates his 80th birthday on 18.5.24 and Rtn Francesco & Laura De Liva on their 1st wedding anniversary. Our thanks to Rtn Francesco for sponsoring the champagne served during this meeting.

An e-bulletin published by Rotary Club of Singapore

rtynfo@rotary.org.sg | rotary.org.sg

Save our Forests! Save Paper & Print only if absolutely necessary.



Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RCS sends Birthday greetings to celebrant this week:

Sissi Goh for 28 May



This Meeting

22 May 2024
Meeting cancelled
in view of public holiday –
Vesak Day

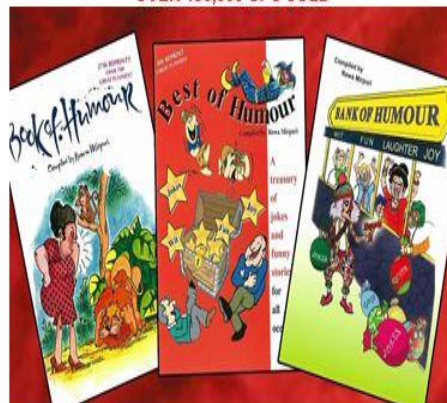


HAVE MANY LAUGHS AND HELP THE NEEDY

BOOKS OF HUMOUR
 (PUBLISHED BY ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE)

Book of Humour, Best of Humour and Bank of Humour

OVER 150,000 CPS SOLD



SPICE UP YOUR LIFE, LIVEN UP A PARTY
 AND DELIGHT YOUR DINNER GUESTS.

EACH TITLE 500 JOKES. NON-STOP LAUGHTER.
 FUNNY, WITTY AND HILARIOUS.

ONLY S\$25.00 A SET OF 3 TITLES (1,500 jokes)
 (All proceeds to charity projects)

NO JOKE, IT'S JEST FOR CHARTY

WWW.BOOKSOFHUMOUR.COM

Next Meeting

29 May 2024

Fellowship Night

Spouses are most
welcome

Coming Rotary Events

May – Youth Service Month

25-29 May – Rotary International
 Convention, Singapore

27 May – Host Hospitality Night

June – Rotary Fellowships Month

12 Jun – President's Appreciation
 Night

22 Jun – Installation of the 90th
 President & Board of Directors

Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

RCS sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants:

PP Tan Chin Ngiap & Irene for 22 May

Dr Hans & Patricia Schniewind for
 28 May

PP Peter & Shirley Tan for 29 May

Ronil & Reshma Sujana for 30 May

Edward & Deirdre Loy for 30 May



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?



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:

1. Have I spent some time in self-examination?
2. Have I spent quality time with my family?
3. Have I given my best to my work?
4. 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 2023/2024

President	Chan Siew Luen
Immediate Past President	James Lee
President Elect	Tom Wolf
Vice President	Frank Pao
Vice President	Ronald Wong
Hon. Secretary (Administration)	Suzanne Ng
Hon. Treasurer (Finance)	Keizo Fujitake
Community Service Committee (CSC) Director	Sonali Sinha
Vocational Service Committee (VSC) Director	Vineet Iyengar
International Service Committee (ISC) Director	Rupesh Agrawal
Youth Service Committee (YSC) Director	Louisa Lee
Director of Environment	Suresh Hathiramani
Director of Technology	Lionel Otsuka
Director of Meetings & Conventions	Raj Kumar
Public Image & Public Relations Director	Ong Ting Yong
Major Project Chair	Pauline Teo
The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Director	Ankit Khandelwal
Membership Director	Sean Leas
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Chen
Sergeant-at-Arms	Priveen Suraj

