



Lend a Hand

BERITA ROTARY

ROTARY CLUB OF KUALA LUMPUR DIRAJA

R.I. DISTRICT 3300



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THE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT FESTIVAL OF MUSIC



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Every Rotary year, our Club is led by a new President and Board of Directors drawn from the members to organize and carry out the many avenues of service to the community, locally and internationally.

For this Rotary year, our President Kanesalingam has identified Youth and Traditional Music to receive our attention, support for promotion of musical talents. Our Rtn. Dato Sri Akbar Khan has agreed to be the organizing Chairman.



This Festival of Music will cover a period from 23rd February to 6th March. Group of boys and girls age 10 – 18 years are invited to play traditional instrumental music under Malay, Chinese and Indian sections. For Indigenous East Malaysia Music, boys and girls age 10 – 20 years are invited to show their musical talents. This musical fiesta will culminate in a **Finals to be held on 6th March, 2004** at the Dewan Bandaraya Auditorium under the Royal Patronage of DYMM Sultan Sharafuddin, Sultan of Selangor.

We have printed invitations to attend this Festival of Music for 3 days on 23rd Feb, 28th Feb and 6th March. The invitations to see these young musicians performing at the Dewan Bandaraya Auditorium as issued on donation basis @ RM 100 for the Box office seats and @ RM 10 for the other seats. Please support these Young Boys and Girls displaying their skills and talents with traditional instrumental music.

You can also give your donations and get multiple invitations @ RM 10 per person – for giving to our Interactors from the 11 schools to see.

In conjunction with this Festival of Music, we are publishing a Souvenir Programme providing more information on this Musical Fiesta. There are advertising pages available and you can support us and the young musicians, thereby promoting and preserving our rich cultural heritage by taking up advertising pages from RM 2,000 to RM 10,000 and above.

We have a good start and support from some sponsors. President Kanes has pledged to raise RM 20,000 – out of which he has already secured an anonymous donor for RM 7,500 – to pay for the rental of the Dewan Bandaraya Auditorium. The Festival of Music is estimated to cost RM 73,000 to stage. Any excess fund raised going to Polio Plus, a project of Rotary International to provide Polio Vaccine to poor, underdeveloped countries to vaccinate all their children against Polio.

We have received support from 2 corporate sponsors. They are HSBC Bank Malaysia Bhd. and Mico Chipboard Bhd. We have also received very generous support from individual Rotarians but we still need more.

Appeal letters for Advertisements and donations have been distributed by Rtn Rizal Sardon and I request all Rotarians and friends of Rotary to support our **President's Project** of promoting traditional music by the Youth. Great success is achievable by our young talented people in this globalised world where the likes of Vanessa May, Ravi Shankar, Kenny G and Kitaro are testimonies to success, with their music appreciated all over the world over borders, race and religion - creating better international understanding.

Secretary's Announcements for Lunch Meeting on 28.01.2004

Community Service Committee – Special Meeting

Community Service Committee Director Dato Kunhi Mohamed has called a meeting immediately after regular lunch time meeting on 28th January.

'Chap Goh Mei' Dinner

The Chinese Fellowship 'Chap Goh Mei' dinner will be held on the evening of February 5th. All non Chinese members of the club are invited as guests of the Chinese members. Those Chinese members who have pledged beverages are reminded by PP Dato Ham to bring them along on the night.

Bam Earthquake Appeal Update

PP Dato Hj Kunhi Mohamed updates that BAM appeal has now risen to RM 11,240.00 from the club and that a cheque for this amount will be presented to Datuk Dr. Jemilah Mahmood and Tunku Azilah at the clubs lunch time meeting on Wednesday 4th February. Dato Kunhi urged all those who have pledged but not yet paid their contributions to do so before the 4th February.

Installation Dinner Photos

Photos on CD for the 76th Installation Dinner are now available at RM 10.00 per copy. Interested members please contact VP Low Kok Hwa (Tel. No. 03 79800210).

International Service: Visit to Rotary Club Bombay

The secretary of the Rotary Club of Bombay has invited our club members to visit their club in Bombay in Jan or Feb 2004. President urged the members to take up the invitation and make arrangements to visit them in the near future.

The committee requested that this matter should be highlighted in the bulletin for the members to consider and indicate their interest directly to the President. If such a trip materializes, a visit to the Mauritius club should also be included.

FESTIVALS CELEBRATED IN MALAYSIA BY THE INDIAN COMMUNITY

These are two festivals which are colourfully celebrated and we do not know very much about. We often hear of the festivals in Sarawak but Indians also make a fairly high percentage of our population.

Loori and Ponggal are two lesser known festivals celebrated by Malaysians.

Loori Festival

Festival of Loori is one of the most zestful festivals of Punjab and falls on 13th of January. It is a festival to celebrate the rich bounty from mother earth. Crops are normally sown in October and due for harvest in April. Thus at this time of the year the fields are coming up with promise of a good harvest a look like gold (the wheat fields look golden in color).



The joy of seeing the fields, rich in promising harvest knows no bonds and after the intense toil and sweat that the sons of soil have put in, they would definitely like to celebrate. The weather is very cold at this time and what better way to celebrate than to have a bonfire, which forms the essence and focal point of the Loori festival. Villagers gather around the bonfire and festivities include dancing and the boisterous bhangra and the women perform the Gidda (a kind of traditional dance).

Everyone wishes each other "May honor come and poverty be banished".

Ponggal

Ponggal falls on January 15th. Ponggal is undoubtedly the most important festival celebrated in the South of India. This is a harvest festival and represents a thanksgiving for the plentiful crops that the farmers harvest. Ponggal literally means boiling over and symbolizes the boiling over of a bounteous crops in the fields.

Houses are cleaned and decorated, new clothes are donned and milk is boiled in a pot and allowed to boil over signifying a rich and abundant harvest in the year to come.

The sun is the main focus of the rites as the sun is the sustainer of life.



(Left) Ms. Ealahe Norman the guest of President Kanes saying a few words to the club on acceptance of the club's donation of RM3,100 for the Day Care Centre for physically handicapped children at Tasputra Perkim. Ms. Ealahe Norman explained the money would be used to purchase a special chair for the Day Care Centre and the difference it would make to the daily lives of the children. She went on to urge business to be imaginative in providing solutions and aids for the physically handicapped and showed a leg brace which had been developed to assist children to stand and move about. These solutions though had to be affordable but with imagination and determination much more could be done.

(Right) Ms. Shirley Tan the guest of President Kanes accepting a donation of RM3,304 from the club for the Day Training Centre for Mentally & Physically Handicapped children. This money Ms. Tan explained would be used for a steel Monkey Bar and Standing Frame at the Day Centre and on behalf of the children she expressed gratitude to the club for its practical help.



Rtn Willie Tham presents a cheque on behalf of HSBC for the President's Music Festival Project.



Past Presidents take a bow.



Past President Hew Kiang Hoe talking to his fellow Past Presidents.



PP Dato Zaman, Rtn Louis Chea, Jamil Spatafore (James), Mohd. Rizal Tun Sardon and Willie Tham.

JANUARY IS ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH IN THE ROTARY CALENDAR

Here is what some well known people say and know about Rotary:

"Rotary has the ability to organize campaigns to mobilize support for some of the worthiest causes that exist, and that makes Rotary a precious resource."
- Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

"[Rotary has] proven how much can be accomplished when a group selflessly uses every ounce of the political capital it has to help the world's most disenfranchised children."
- William H. Gates Sr., Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"I admire the Rotary promise to solve problems that destroy lives and trample dreams and human potential."
- Her Majesty Queen Noor Al-Hussein of Jordan

How aware of Rotary are you?

Take this quiz and gauge your level of Rotary knowledge.

(Answers to these questions and the second part of the quiz will be published in Berita Edition 29 next week.)

1. What is the official Rotary International theme for 2003-04?
2. Who is the RI president for 2003-04?
3. Who is the current RI president-elect?
4. In what year did Paul P. Harris launch the first Rotary club?
5. In what city?
6. Who were the other three original Rotarians?
7. In what city was the second Rotary club chartered?
8. What is the approximate worldwide membership of Rotary?
a) 600,000 b) 900,000 c) 1,200,000 d) 1,500,000
9. What is the approximate number of Rotary clubs worldwide?
a) 14,000 b) 26,000 c) 31,000 d) 45,000
10. What are the four Avenues of Service?
11. What is PolioPlus and when was it launched?
12. How many countries are represented in Rotary International?
13. How does one earn Paul Harris Fellow Recognition?
14. What is the official magazine of Rotary International?
15. Who is the magazine's editor in chief?
16. How often does the RI Council on Legislation meet?
17. Where will the 2004 RI Convention be held?
18. When is Literacy Month?
19. Where was the first non-U.S. Rotary club chartered?
20. What is Interact?



Birthday Boys

Felix Abisheganaden on 21.01.2004
Piyush Gupta on 24.01.2004
Akbar Khan b Hj Mohamed Khan on 25.01.2004
Horst Herman Wippem on 26.01.2004
Lim Chong Guan 27.01.2004

Anns Birthdays

Datin Fauziah Ann of Dato' Abdul Razak Hashim on 28.01.2004

Wedding Anniversaries

None



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