



Welcome to the April 2019 issue of *RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER*

In this issue: Recommended Reads: My bird Journey, The crazed and The real you.

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

My Birding Journey

The bird under discussion this month, Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) is not a very common visitor of our RTC campus. But I have spotted them few times when I climbed up in the forest on the back of our campus.

This beautiful bird belongs to the Corvidae family and there are a large variety of this species are available in many parts of the world like West Europe, North-West Africa, Indian subcontinent, and other parts of East and South-East Asia.

They are more or less like a house crow in size and look very nice with pinkish-grey upper parts and long black tails with wings of black and white feathers. But they can be easily identified for their bright blue patch in the wings.

They tend to stay inside the forest and hardly can be seen in the locality, but I have seen them in quite a good number in the Royal Botanical Park at Lamperi.

**Thank you
Arindam Ghosh,
Business Department.**



**PICTURE COURTESY-
ARINDAM GHOSH,
BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.**

The Crazy- Ha Jin

The Crazy by Ha Jin is told from the point of view of the student, Jian, who is under the guidance of Mr. Yang. But the novel starts with Mr Yang having suffered from a stroke and in the hospital in 1989.

WARNING: Spoilers Ahead!

Mr. Yang's crazy outbursts while in hospital give a glimpse into his relationship with his student, Jian, as well as his past: affairs, his ill treatment under the Mao regime, his unconscious desire to have been a well-respected official along with being a scholar among other things.

The most delightful aspect of **The Crazy**, however are the several literary references that pepper the novel, particularly Mr Yang's lectures even in that sick, delirious state about random literary subjects such as why Western poets use a persona to speak in their poems whereas the Chinese poets speak as themselves in the poems or his references to poets such as Goethe, Dante and several Tang poets like Tu Fu or Li Po.

It was astonishing how in that state he could shift in that delirium from "a political parrot" as Jian calls him, spewing Communist jingles to an articulate, knowledgeable lecture spewing professor.

While most must have read Mitch Albom's book, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, and fallen in love with its premise of a student teacher relation, *The Crazy* is also a beautiful look at the tenuous relationship that the protagonist, Jian, shares with particularly his teacher and other characters such as Meimei who is his fiance and Mr. Yang's daughter, or Banping, his friend in the Shanning University.

Banping and Jian are opposites: Banping is more materialistic and practical about life, wanting a clerical job in the Provincial Administration whereas Jian is more of an introvert who is immersed in his love for poetry and literature.

The Crazy provides the reader with a good look at a student-teacher relationship, but it is not all idealistic. It brings into question the role that scholars and intellectuals play in a state or a government: are they doomed to be clerks to a dominant government or are they only confined to the academic circles where their work does not contribute to society at all? The novel also shows the dirty politics that is played in the University against both Mr Yang and Jian just because the people are jealous of both their successes.

Jian is also wracked with the practicality of his preparation and pursuing of PHD exams to go to Beijing University after Mr. Yang reveals to Mr. Song (who is his academic rival) during his visit to the hospital that he does not want any material things anymore, that he wants to nourish his soul and not be a clerk anymore.

From that point when this doubt creeps in, Jian thinks he has to take control of his own life and is against pursuing a course that his teacher and mentor did. Since he had taken care of his professor while he was in hospital, his rants revealed to Jian that he was deeply unhappy with his position. How much of that interpretation by Jian is absolutely correct or even valid is something we as readers can question. However, it does influence Jian tremendously and the novel ends on a cliffhanging note where we do not know what is going to happen to Jian.

That is therefore an interesting movement from the beginning of the novel, where things fell apart for his professor, Mr. Yang, but Jian was set in his ways, yet slowly his position as well unravels and throws him off his fixed path where both he and the readers do not know what the future holds for the student protagonist of *The Crazy!*

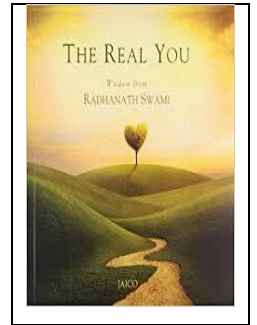
So, if you are a fan of intellectual discussions about literature or want to know more about how China works in its universities and political parties, *The Crazy!*, is definitely a promising novel which is a breezy read.

**Thank you
Aakanksha Singh,
Humanities.**

Location: FIC J617c

The real you by Radhanath Swami.

Radhanath Swami was born in Chicago in 1950. In his teens, he set out to wander the world on a spiritual quest where he eventually discovered the yoga path of devotion. He presently travels in Asia, Europe and America teaching devotional wisdom, but can often be found with his community in Mumbai. He always had a wonderful way of making spiritual truth understandable.



This book is a treasure trove of deep and realized teachings saturated with compassion, sincerity, and unconditional love. The book is wonderful and inspiring which helps us to find our true nature and inner fulfilment techniques. The author has written the book in simple English so that people of any age could understand the concept. In this book, the author describes various things in the world such as the Mother Nature, the mother earth, ocean, moon, clouds, sky, mountain etc.

In this book, you will find a combination of the wisdom of the art and the wisdom of heart. This combined wisdom can make us wonder, ponder and help us overcome the blunder of ignorance which leads to sorrow and suffering. Meditation techniques given here are very practical and easy to follow. The book helps to manage the life independently and peacefully using the spiritual awareness.

"If we do the right thing with right intent that is actually our success."

Radhanath Swami

**Thank you
Gyanu Pradhan
Librarian**

Location: 200 S9719r 2015



Dasho Kinley Dorji, was the founding Editor in Chief of Kuensel and he served as the Secretary of Ministry of Information and Communication for seven years. Currently, Dasho is the editor of Druk Journal and has written a number of articles on democracy and GNH. He is the author of the short story collection “Within the Realm of Happiness”.

“Within the Realm of Happiness”, is quite a unique book about a unique country Bhutan, the country that evaluates its progress in terms of Gross National Happiness.

Not only does Dasho provide profound insights to culture, and traditions in Bhutan, he also depicts the current environment and dilemmas of the country in its socio-economic development. Dasho shared his experience of being a writer as well as an editor.

We would like to thank reading club members for taking this initiative and inviting Dasho Kinley Dorji on March 29, 2019.

Thank you

Wanted! Book reviews from Faculty, Staff, and Students

If you have read a good book and would like to contribute a review to the Library Newsletter, we would love to receive one from you. Tell us a little about the book and why you liked it in 250-500 words. If interested, send your review to gyanupradhan@rtc.bt or come by the library and see the library staff.

Thanks!!

YOU MUST TELL YOURSELF, “NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS, OR HOW HARD IT GETS, I AM GOING TO MAKE IT...”-Les Brown.