

# The Lighthouse

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Madras - India



President:  
Rtn. S. Gunashekar

President Elect:  
Rtn. Nandita Krishnan

Immediate Past President  
Rtn. George B. Cherian

Secretary:  
Rtn. Dr. Arulmozhi Varman

Assistant Secretary:  
Rtn. Sathiaran Ram

District: 3230 | Inaugurated: 10-05-1929 | Chartered: 19-07-1929 | Charter No.: 3186 | Club No.: 15860

No.: 31/2010-11 (4 Pages) ₹1/- FEBRUARY 1 2011

www.rotaryclubofmadras.in

## From the President's Desk



### Marching towards 250!!

**Bigger is better! Size does matter!!**

In the context of Rotary Club of Madras expanding its scope of community service initiatives, size does matter. We started the year with a Membership of 211 committed Rotarians. Today, a little over half way through the year, we have 223 Members on our rolls!!

The new Members have integrated themselves seamlessly with the Club's projects & programmes. It is heartening that many of them have already made significant contributions in shaping our projects. Also, the New Members have participated whole heartedly in fireside and full club fellowships of our Club.

I wish to thank all the New Members for embracing the Club's theme of Participate, Energise & Transform. For many years, the Club's Membership is hovering around 210 to 225 and with renewed energy the magic figure of 250 Members seems within striking distance.

Membership & Development is in the safe hands of Rtn. President Elect Nandita, with Rtn. PP. Paul K. Jacob playing a crucial role. It is indeed a challenge sustaining the Club's strength and building on the legacy of our Past Presidents who have done so much for increasing Membership.

The Club does not believe in mere numbers and statistics. Nor does it believe in receiving accolades for increasing Membership indiscriminately!! The Board firmly believes that net increase in Membership must contribute to building fellowship and through fellowship, reaching out to the less privileged sections of our society. Thus, Membership Development directly translates to increased involvement in the community.

Rotary Club of Madras is now marching towards the magic figure of 250 Members! At 82, our Club is getting younger, vibrant and rearing to make a difference!!

Cheers and have a great week ahead!

## GSE Team Visit

The five member GSE team from California, USA headed by Rtn. Ms. Christine Daly and a five member team from UK headed by Rtn. Mr. James Hendry Pinter are hosted by the members of Rotary Club of Madras between the 30th January and 3rd February.

Rotary club of Madras takes pride in hosting the entire ten members and the following Rotarians are hosting them.

1. Rtn. Paul K Jacob
2. Rtn. Sessa Sai
3. Rtn. Prasanna Shenoy
4. Rtn. S.Gunashekar



5. Rtn. Nandita Krishnan
6. Rtn. Gowri Shankar
7. Rtn. P.B. Prasad
8. Rtn. Sanjay Tulsyan

Rotary Club of Madras exchanged their guests from the respective hosts on Sunday the 30th January at Hotel Connemara and they were then taken to witness the marriage function of Mr. Vikram S/o. Rtn. Usha Umapathy with Sow. Avni D/o. Rtn. Bharat Mohindra @ M.R.C Centre.

Tuesday the respective hosts brought their guests to Gandhinagar Club at 8 a.m. A tempo traveler was organized to visit our Selaiyur Boys Town Project. Rtn. Christopher Devapragasam accompanied the team from Gandhi Nagar Club and brought them back to Connemara Hotel to

attend our regular meeting. Rtn. VKCK made the necessary arrangements at the project site and briefed the team about the projects. They were very impressed by the activities of the project.

Being the World Understanding month, visit of the GSE teams was appropriate and both the team leaders introduced their members to our Club members. RI District 3230 Governor Rtn. Olivannan and other district officials were present at the meeting. The respective leaders exchanged their flags with our President Rtn.S. Gunashekar. They were presented mementos on behalf



of the Rotary Club of Madras by our District Governor who in his speech lauded their smart presentation and also gave credit to our club for hosting the entire team thereby concreting our relationship with international clubs. The GSE team members will be the guests of our members till the 3rd of February.

~ Rtn. M. S. Nagarajan,  
Chair – Group Study Exchange

**FEBRUARY**  
WORLD UNDERSTANDING  
MONTH



**Nalli**  
CHINNASAMI CHETTY

Since 1928

Variety Unlimited in Silk Sarees

Panagal Park,  
T.Nagar, Chennai - 17.  
Ph : 24344115 / 42604567

# A matter of minutes

## RI NEWS

### 'Reach Within to Embrace Humanity' is 2011-12 RI theme



#### Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

RI President-elect Kalyan Banerjee announced the 2011-12 RI theme during the International Assembly in San Diego, California. RI President-elect Kalyan Banerjee will ask Rotarians to Reach Within to Embrace Humanity during the 2011-12 Rotary year.

He urged participants to harness their inner resolve and strength to achieve success in Rotary. "In order to achieve anything in this world, a person has to use all the resources he can draw on. And the only place to start is with ourselves and within ourselves," Banerjee said.

Once Rotarians find their inner strength, he continued, they can accomplish great things in their communities and around the world.

"Discover yourself, develop the strengths within you, and then unhesitatingly, unflinchingly, go forth and encircle the world, to embrace humanity," he said.

Banerjee emphasized the family as a starting point in serving others. "The communities we live in are not built of individual people but of families -- families living in homes together, sharing their lives and their resources and their common destinies. Good families lead to good neighborhoods, and good neighborhoods build good communities."

Rotarians can focus on projects that support families, such as those that provide safe housing or improve maternal and child health, he said.

Continuity in Rotary's work, including polio eradication, is also important, Banerjee said. "There are so many things we are indeed good at: working for clean, safe water; spreading literacy; working in so many ways with the New Generations, our youth, in our newest Avenue of Service and assisting them to become the leaders of tomorrow."

Citing Mahatma Gandhi's call to "be the change you wish to see in the world," Banerjee said Rotarians should also focus on change.

"If we wish for peace, we start by living in peace ourselves, in our homes and in our communities," he explained. "If we wish environmental degradation to stop, if we wish to reduce child mortality or to prevent hunger, we must be the instrument of that change -- and recognize that it must start within us, with each of us."

Sgt-at-Arms IPP. George B. Cherian collared President S. Gunashekar who called the meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order, followed by a silent invocation.

The minutes of 25th Jan'11 meeting was duly confirmed.

President welcomed DG. Olivannan, District Secretary Rtn. Nagendra Babu, District GSE Chair, Rtn. R. Vittal Rajan and District Official Rtn. K. Narasimha Iyengar on behalf of RCM.

President welcomed the visiting GSE team from California District 5220 USA, the team from Nottingham District 1220, first Lady Padmavathy and all the hosts of the GSE teams.

President extended birthday & anniversary wishes and the cake was cut amidst applause. President thanked the donors for their sunshine contributions.

Rtn. PP. V. K. Chandrakumar, Chair - Boys Town reported on the Republic day celebration at Selaiyur which included a ceremonial flag hoisting by PE. Nandita Krishnan, a march past and a dance and drama performance by 20 Interactors from Alagappa School.

PP. Paul K. Jacob, Director, Club Admn gave the details of Shillong Chamber Choir Mega Fund Raiser scheduled on 26th & 27th Feb'11. President added that Hindu is our media partner and NDTV will also be a sponsor. A part of the proceeds will go to Barbara Kelly Home.

President congratulated Rtn. Mohan Raman for being conferred the best character actor on 26th Jan'11 by the Government of Tamil Nadu

and thanked for his sunshine. President acknowledged the contributions of Ann. Padma Raman who had played a major role in Rtn Mohan's career of 20 years in the entertainment industry.

President informed members that PDG. Dr. M. Natarajan has been conferred 'Life Time Achievement' Award by Dr.MGR Medical University on 6th Jan'11.

President requested support for a play



organized by the Rotaract Club of Siddanth (sponsored by RCM Chennai) on 5th and 6th of Feb.

Secretary Dr. Arulmozhi Varman announced that the next meeting will be on 8th Feb'11 at the same venue.

President handed over the proceedings to Rtn.P.Suresh who thanked all the hosts of the GSE teams and Rtn. M. S. Nagarajan invited the 2 team leaders to introduce the team members and address the Club.

DG Olivannan along with President felicitated the GSE Teams by presenting mementos to them and President Gunashekar exchanged flags with the leaders and also presented a copy of the 'A Timeless Legacy Book' to them.

The meeting was then declared closed.

## District Conference 2010-11 - KURINJI



You are invited to register yourself & other members of your family.

**Venue:** Chennai Convention Centre, Nandambakkam

**DATE:** February 12 & 13, 2011 (Saturday & Sunday)

**Registration:** Rtns. Rs.1500; Anns Rs.1000; Annettes Rs.500.

Please send in your cheques favouring 'Rotary Club of Madras'.

Rtn.S.Gunashekar  
President

Rtn.Dr.Arulmozhi Varman  
Secretary

With best compliments from:

## Abirami Agro Industries

Packaged Drinking Water

Perungavoor  
Chennai - 600 114.

# Club activities roundup

## GSE teams witness RCM in action

The Group Study Exchange Teams from R I Districts 1220 U.K. and 5220 U.S.A. visited our Boys Home at Selaiyur on Tuesday Feb 1. They were warmly welcomed with garlands by Manager Kannan and his staff and were taken around the facilities. Thanks to the Head Master of the local school who had given special permission to twenty of our boys to be at our Home to meet and interact personally with our visitors.

A brief presentation was made on the history of our Flagship project and its effective impact on hundreds of deserving boys and their families. Our future direction with specific reference to the 'Create' project was also highlighted. Each of our visitors was given a personalized Greetings Card containing the thankful signatures of our boys. On hearing the Group's leader on her Rotary Club's project in renovating a community Library in Sonora, California, our boys had proposed to gift a set of books on 'Children of India' and other subjects of relevance to be placed in that library.

On their way back to Chennai, the teams made a 'Whistle Stop' at Sembakkam. They met with visible excitement, the happy children at our Play School and interacted with the thirty young women undergoing

tailoring courses. They were equally impressed by the high standard of maintenance of the Community Hall and the recently built toilets. Courtesy-- Local Panchayat.

I am sure that all members of the RCM will join me in appreciating the stewardship of Rtns. PP. VKCK, Kamal Chadda and M S Nagarajan, the respective



Chairmen of these projects that bring much credibility to our Club.

~ Rtn. PP. Christopher Devapragasam

## IW District Honors a Rotarian



'Silver Showers' - the District Conference (2010-11) of the Inner Wheel District 323, was held on Friday, 28th January at Hotel Green Park, Chennai. Past District Chairs, Past Association officials and many members of the different Inner Wheel Clubs of the District 323, along with some members of other Districts, were present for the occasion, which started at 9.30 am with an Invocation. Following the Welcome address and the Opening Remarks, by the District Chairman, Kala Ravichandran, Dr. Kapila Gupta, President, Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in India who was the Chief Guest, gave an inspiring speech to the gathering. She encouraged all the Inner Wheel members to relax and enjoy themselves well in their

clubs, before they started their service activities. She stressed that this would help the members carry on their services very well.

Rtn.G. Olivannan (Governor, RI District 3230) who was a Guest of Honour also spoke and emphasized that both the Rotary Clubs and the Inner Wheel Clubs should coordinate and work together. He later released the District Souvenir and gave the first copy to the Past IW Association President, Mano Bhaktavatsalam. Another Guest of Honour, Mr.M.B. Nirmal, (Founder ExNoRa) spoke about his concern for the disappearing villages, as more and more villagers were now moving to the Cities. The Awardee, who was honoured during the function by the Rotary Governor, G. Olivannan was Rtn. Dr. Vijayabharathi Rangarajan. Appreciating the Noble tasks undertaken by her to heal and prevent 'Breast Cancer', the Inner Wheel District 323, honored the Doctor and gave her a sum of Rs.10,000/- for her 'Can Stop' program.

Later, the Business session that followed the Inaugural Session, was conducted in the routine manner. Ann Seema Bhargava, of the Inner Wheel Club of Madras, got elected to the post of District Secretary for the year 2011-2012.

~ Ann Nirmala Santhanam

## Snippets from the past

◆ RTN. RITA CHAUDHURI

### Club Service

Rotarians agree that without Fellowship, there can be no service. Achievements are accomplished by strong teams. In his book, "Adventure in Service", Paul Harris wrote that Club Service could be the beginning of a member's adventure in service - "development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service".

## Donating for a cause



Bala Vidya Mandir organized the Annual Blood Donation Camp in association with the Interact Club and Karuna club of Bala Vidya Mandir, on 26th January 2011. The students of Bala Vidya Mandir along with the Interact club members were given an opportunity to organize this event. Volunteers and medical professionals from 'Kamakshi Memorial Hospital' helped assist the donors through the process. Rotarian Prasanna Shenoy and Rotarian Subramaniam visited the premises during the camp and interacted with the students, teachers and donors. The students of class XI interacted with the donors and catered to their needs. An annual feature of the school, the Blood Donation camp helped the students gather a lot of experience and knowledge. Around 75 donors were present to support this noble cause. It was a memorable experience for the students and one felt proud to be a part of an organization that helped those in need of it.

~ Interactors of Bala Vidya Mandir

INTERACT NEWS

**NIPPON PAINT**  
Your World. Your Colour.  
Toll Free No.: 1800 425 3636 SMS NIPPON to 53636

# Club CORNER

## Know your Rotarian



**Rtn. Rajesh Shankar**

**Q YOU WERE ONE OF THE HOSTS FOR THE SRILANKAN STUDENTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

**A** It was wonderful to get insight into life in Sri Lanka, it was an opportunity for the whole family to understand culture and heritage of our neighboring Island nation through the eyes of a teenage student!

**Q HOW DID SWETHA & TEJAS REACT TO A TOTAL STRANGER AT HOME?**

**A** They were both delighted with the presence of Akka, as they called our guest. They picked up a few Sinhalese words and generally had fun comparing notes on life in Sri Lanka with our guest.

**Q WHY DID YOU DECIDE ON "KUDUMBAM" AS A NAME FOR YOUR PROJECT?**

**A** The idea was to build a world class retirement community which provided a family like, community living experience and we felt that the name Kudumbam comes closest to conveying the philosophy behind our retirement community.

**Q AS RTN. BABA SHANKAR'S ANNETTE WHAT WAS YOUR VIEW OF ROTARY?**

**A** Had a ringside view of life as a Rotarian. I felt that rotary was a wonderful forum to share and give back to society.

**Q ONE ROMANTIC MEMORY FROM YOUR LONG COURTSHIP DAYS WITH LALITHA, PLEASE?**

**A** Chatting for hours over a cup of tea in IIT campus canteen (where Lalitha was studying) , surrounded by the beautiful woods, deer & other wildlife.

~ Ann. Padmavathy

## Shillong Chamber Choir Fundraiser

The Shillong Choir held a nation spellbound with their exuberance and delightful repertoire of western chorals and classics from Indian cinema. Their repertoire of gospel, jazz, popular, musica sacra, and western classical won them laurels at an international choir competition. They have been regularly performing for the President's annual Christmas concert.

For the 25 members of the Shillong Chamber Choir the journey has been all about the music. Music that can be best defined as eclectic, youthful, and crossover; their repertoire includes works of western classical greats like Handel, Bach, Gershwin, and Mozart, besides popular hits and Khasi folk songs.

Their recent accolades include winners of the Indian reality show 'India's got talent - Khoj 2', performing for US President Barack Obama during his state visit, winners in 3 categories at the 6th World Choir Games at Shanghai, recipient of Special Achievement Award from CNN-IBN, Forbes magazine 'Person of the Year 2010' etc.

For the man who made it all happen - Mr. Neil Nongkynrih - it was a dream come true. A professional concert pianist, Nongkynrih returned to Shillong, Meghalaya after playing in Europe for 13 long years and started the choir with the local youth.

This is an exciting fundraiser event scheduled for the 26th and 27th of February at the Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall at Lady Andal School.

We request the support of all members in securing sponsorships as well as help in the sale of tickets.

Please contact Rtn. PP. Paul Jacob at +91 98410 72850 / paulkjacob@modarchs.com for any further information.

## OBITUARY

With deep regret and sorrow we announce the sad demise of Mrs. Surinder Mohindra, spouse of Rtn. Vijay Vir Mohindra on January 27, 2011. Our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

## Forth-coming events

Weekly meeting 1:00 pm Tue Feb 8, 2010 at the Taj Connemara, Speaker: Rtn. R.V. Rajan will speak to us on 'Rural Marketing'



Fun-filled Full Club Fellowship with music, cocktails and dinner hosted by Rtn. Dr. Ashok Sundararaman on February 13th at Taj Connemara 7:30 pm onwards.

## Birthday

Rtn. Vivek Harinarain IAS ret'd. - 12th Feb

## Wedding Anniversary

8th Feb - Rtn. PSuresh - Ann. Shanthi  
9th Feb - Rtn. T.V. Sai Srujan - Ann. Preethi S. Sharma  
9th Feb - Rtn. PDG. R. Ramakrishnan - Ann. Kamala  
9th Feb - Rtn. C.N. Ramdas IAS ret'd - Ann. Nirmala  
10th Feb - Rtn. Vikram Jalan - Ann. Shailja  
11th Feb - Rtn. Sathiaran Ram - Ann. Deepa  
12th Feb - Secy Dr. Arulmozhi Varman - Ann. Uma  
14th Feb - Rtn. G.M. Udayanarayan - Ann. Saraswathi

## Sunshine

Rtn. Mohan Raman - Rs. 5000  
Rtn. N. Ramji - Rs. 1000  
Rtn. Shibu Isaac - Rs. 500  
Rtn. S. Kapil Chitale - Rs. 500  
Club Secretariat Sridhar - Rs. 500

## ROTARY QUOTE

"Whether we are reaching out to those in our own clubs, or reaching halfway across the world, personal involvement has always been fundamental to Rotarian service. When we Lend a Hand, we focus on this personal involvement and we celebrate our shared humanity. Working together, ready and willing to help our brothers and sisters in need, one hand can become many and there is no limit to what the helping hands of Rotary can accomplish." — 2003 International Assembly, Anaheim, California, USA.

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Rtn. Sathiaran Ram, Rtn. Rita Chaudhuri, Rtn. Mahita Suresh, Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar, Ann. Padmavathy Gunashekar, Ann. Soundarya Ramji, Ann. Tanuja Paul, Ann. Sujata Tarakesan, Mr. P S Sridharan

Contact us at [lightrotary@gmail.com](mailto:lightrotary@gmail.com)

## EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY:

Rtn. Asst. Secretary, Rotary Club of Madras 'Rayala Towers', 2nd Mezzanine Floor, 158, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002. Ph: 28591020.

## With best compliments, printed at:

NPT Offset Press Pvt. Ltd., New No. 111, Avvai Shanmugam Salai, Chennai 600 014. Design: [www.studiodescience.com](http://www.studiodescience.com)

**For 25 Years, We Have Made Steel Billets Trusted By Most TMT Makers**

*From the same Trusted Billets, We now make Superior TMT Bars for You*




**SUMANGALA STEEL (P) LTD.**  
Phone: 044 - 2432 2204 / 93617 48300

