

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.: 27/2010-11 (4 Pages) ₹1/- JANUARY 4 2011

www.rotaryclubofmadras.in

From the President's Desk



Spreading Awareness on Rotary

January is "Rotary Awareness Month". It is time to let Members know about the enormous work being done by Rotary International and by Rotary Clubs across the world.

Take for example the "End Polio" campaign being vigorously pursued by Rotary International and all Rotary Clubs across the world. We are very close to eliminating the deadly scourge from the face of this earth. It may be a good idea to download the "End Polio" logo from Rotary International's web site and add it to your digital signature on emails.

You may also download the R.I. Theme and add it to your signature. January is also the time to expand knowledge of Rotary in the Community. We, as Rotarians, would do well to create heightened awareness of our programmes/projects. Rotary Club of Madras has large projects and programmes that touch thousands of lives.

Through the annual Corporate Golf Challenge, Rotary Club of Madras is seeking to create awareness through the media. During January 2011, press releases, advertisements and commercial time on FM Radio are planned to cover the premier golf event. Face Book and Twitter are new generation media that may lend itself to creating awareness about the golf tournament. Alongside, Rotary Club of Madras will seek to propagate its projects/programmes.

Dissemination of information through the Club's web site is also a possibility. The Technology Committee is working on a couple of proposals to have Rotarians/ Rotaractors/ Interactors and general public browse our site. Shortly, www.rotaryclubofmadras.in will feature an exciting web - based tour, ending with prizes for lucky winners!

In my view, sharing Rotary's commitment to health, hunger and humanity with colleagues, associates and friends will bring about increased awareness about Rotary. Past District Governors, Past Presidents and other senior Members are veritable storehouses of Rotary Information. You may like to be armed with adequate Rotary knowledge by talking to such leaders who have devoted time & energy to build our Club to its present premier position.

Happy Sharing!

Cheers and have a great week ahead!

The World Through My Camera

Mr. John Issac – Speaker for the day and United Nations Photographer shared a unique perspective with members of our Club.

John Issac was a folk singer and the man who composed the famous Anglo-Tamil country folk song 'on a cool summer morning' many years back.

The Speaker migrated to New York from India in 1965 to become a folk singer which never fructified. But his singing ambition led to a photography career spanning more than 30 years. He has won many major accolades and ascended to be the top photographer in the UN.

Speaker with the help of visual slides transported the audience to view glimpses of his life through photographs captured through the lens of his camera.

Mr. John spoke about his assignments of war like the 1978 conflict of Israel and Lebanon, the 1979 refugee crisis in Vietnam, the killing fields of Cambodia, the 1984 drought in Ethiopia, the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, the historic 1991 Namibian independence, the 10 year Iran – Iraq conflict, the 1990-91 First Gulf war and the mid 90's Bosnian crisis.

The final episode had such an impact on the Speaker that he needed to take time off and recuperate. He went on a 6 month sabbatical to recuperate and in that time wrote 5 books for children. The time also fired his undiscovered passion for the beauty in nature.

Mr. John has also covered tribal & nomad communities in India/Africa. He has worked with Mother Teresa and with late Pop star Michael Jackson as a personal photographer for over 100 concerts.

Issac said he had always been fascinated by wildlife, particularly tigers and is currently authoring a book on Tigers.



Mr. John Issac concluded his talk by reciting his Mothers' favorite proverb – a 3000 years old Sanskrit verse.

Look to this day
For it is life
The very life of life
In its brief course
Lie all the realities
And principles of existence.
The bliss of growth
The splendor of action
The power of glory.
Yesterday was just a dream
And tomorrow only a vision
But today well lived
Makes every yesterday
A dream of happiness
And every tomorrow
A vision of hope
Look well therefore to this day

JANUARY
ROTARY
AWARENESS MONTH

Abirami Agro Industries

Packaged Drinking Water

Perungavoor
Chennai - 600 114.

With best compliments from:

RI NEWS

Test time!

We are at the halfway point in this Rotary year, and now is the time to test the strengths and weaknesses of our clubs. Perhaps a strange idea for some Rotarians, but how else will we learn how the activities and programs of our respective clubs match up to those of other clubs in our districts – and around the world? Therefore, I encourage all Rotarians – not only the club officers – to become involved in evaluating their clubs during the month of January.

The Presidential Citation program for 2010-11 has been designed as a score sheet for all the Avenues of Service. It also is a checklist for many of the activities and programs conducted by most clubs. Club presidents are required to complete the score sheets and submit them to their district governors by 31 March 2011 for their clubs to be eligible for the Presidential Citation awards. The scores should be shared with all club members either as written reports or as presentations at club meetings.

Starting work on the Presidential Citation test in January will provide an opportunity to correct any discovered deficiencies in club activities before the submission deadline of 31 March. It also will cause the club leaders to notice that a new Presidential Citation with Distinction award is available this year for clubs with a good balance of activities in all Avenues of Service.

This year I am recommending that all clubs review their practices and procedures to see if they are truly best practices or merely traditional practices. Annual evaluations of our clubs are certainly best practices, and more Rotarians than usual need to be involved in the evaluations for their clubs. The Presidential Citation score sheets are a good place to start the process. How else will we know if our clubs really are becoming Bigger, Better, and Bolder?

~ Ray Klingensmith, RI President



A matter of minutes

Sgt-at-Arms PP. Ravi Katari collared PE. Nandita Krishnan officiating on behalf of President S.Gunashekar. PE Nandita called the meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order, followed by a silent invocation.

PE. Nandita on behalf of the Board and President Gunashekar greeted members and wished them 'Peace, Happiness and Good Health in the New Year'

The minutes of the 28th Dec'10 meeting was duly confirmed.

PE. Nandita welcomed the Chief Guest of the afternoon Mr. John Issac, UN Photographer. She presented a memento & A Timeless Legacy book on behalf of Rotary Club of Madras to the Speaker.

PE. Nandita welcomed the Probus Club



members, visitors and guests who had come for the meeting.

Secretary Dr. Arulmozhi Varman wished PE. Nandita whose birthday falls this week.

PE. Nandita extended birthday & anniversary wishes to the Rotarians and Anns celebrating this week, and thanked the donors for their sunshine contributions. The cake was cut amidst applause.

IPP. George Cherian gave an brief account of the visit by 7 Interactors and 2 faculty members and 1 Rotarian from our sister club RC Colombo. IPP. George was also one of the host and acknowledged the support of Rtns. Nalini Radhakrishnan, Rajasekar Garontla & President Gunashekar.

PP. Paul K. Jacob, Director, Club Admin

informed members that the next Full Club Fellowship will be hosted by Rtn. Ranjit Pratap on 16th Jan'11, Sunday afternoon at his residence at Kotturpuram. He requested members to come in large numbers and celebrate Pongal by wearing the traditional Pongal attire.

PP. Ravi Katari, Resource person, Fund Raising Committee informed members about the Corporate Golf fundraiser which will be on 5th Feb'11 and requested members to support by means of sponsoring banners, tee boxes etc.

PE Nandita informed members of the sad demise of Dr. Kannappan, Father-in-law of our Rtn. Dr. K. Rajan and offered our condolences to the bereaved family.

Secretary Dr. Arulmozhi Varman



announced that the next weekly meeting will be on Tuesday 11th Jan'11 at the same venue.

Secretary requested members to enroll for the ensuing District Conference on 12th & 13th of Feb'11 and said that RCM has committed for a participation of at least 60 members.

PP. Ravi Katari introduced the Guest Speaker Mr. John Issac. Mr. John Issac delivered a very interesting and absorbing talk which was followed by a vibrant interactive session.

Rtn. Mohan Raman in his unique style proposed the vote of thanks set to a popular folk tune composed by the Speaker.

The meeting was then declared closed.



Nalli[®]
CHINNASAMI CHETTY
Since 1928

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

V Variety Unlimited in Silk Sarees V

Club activities roundup

Happy New Year, Colombo!!

We got the opportunity to celebrate the last day of the year 2010 with the visitors from Colombo, Sri Lanka. Rtn. Rohan Karunaratne from Rotary Club of Colombo, accompanied by two counselors and seven students from St. Paul's Girls High School, Milagiriya, Colombo, came on a visit to Bangalore and Chennai under a Youth Exchange Programme.

We started the day visiting Kapaleeshwarar Temple at Mylapore followed by a shopping spree assisted by our Interactors, Sankriti and Ananya. First Lady Mrs. Padmavathy Gunashekar treated everyone to a sumptuous traditional, South Indian

lunch at Saravana Bhavan, Mylapore.

Our Interactors presented glimpses of Chennai City to their friends in the form of a PowerPoint presentation "Welcome to Chennai" under the themes - Landmarks of Chennai, Modern Metro and the Marghazhi Festival of Music and Dance.

Yunara Shatrasinghe, President presented a report of the activities of their club which was very informative and interesting. Rtn. Rohan Karunaratne, gave extra inputs about the involvement of Rotary in some of the projects. We found to our surprise that the projects of both the clubs had a lot in common! Secretary Sankriti presented the report of our club and

handed over a CD of the same to the visitors. The possibility of joint projects in future was explored and discussed.

Rtn. PDG. Benjamin Cherian joined us and applauded our efforts to reach out for International Understanding. Interactor Girish regaled the audience with a performance on his Mridangam and Interactors from Colombo brought the meeting to a musical finish with their song in Sinhalese.

Truly Interactors of both the clubs laid the foundation for a fruitful Youth Exchange Programme and that was the New Year Resolution taken by the Interactors.

Snippets from the past

◆ RTN. RITA CHAUDHURI

FIRST NAME FELLOWSHIP

The practice of using first names among members has also helped to break down restraint. This practice was recommended early on by Rotary International but wasn't the easiest thing to implement in Indian society with its habit of referring to elders as 'Sir', 'Madam', 'Uncle' or 'Aunty'. Till the early 1990's, the average age in the Club was 65 (it now hovers in the early 50s) and younger members felt awkward about being on first name terms with men who were their senior not only in age but in achievement. Rtn. D. Sudhakara Reddy recalls his interaction with the late Rtn. PDG. M.V. Arunachalam. "He was so much elder to me but refused to let me call him 'sir' or 'uncle'. 'Call me MV', he insisted. And so I did. That is the greatness of Rotary. There are no differences on the basis of age, community,

INTERACT NEWS

Hello, Sri Lanka!

The Rotary Club of Madras has come up with a wonderful concept of a Youth Exchange Programme between India and Sri Lanka. They are partnered in this venture by the Rotary Club of Kandy. To begin with, 9 Interactors from Interact clubs across schools in Kandy, with a Faculty Counselor came to Chennai. They were led by Ms. Sashikala, Director - New Gen, Rotary Club of Kandy. The 5 day visit was packed with programmes like meeting Rotarians, Interactors, sight seeing etc. They were hosted by Rotarians in their homes who according to the visitors, went out of the way to make them feel at home and enjoy their stay. Rtn. Sesha Sai, Rotary Club of Madras, who is in charge of Medical Camps coordinated from the Rotary side and ensured that



the visitors had a glimpse of our rich heritage (Mahabalipuram) and also a tour of the city.

On 21st December, our Interactors had the opportunity to meet the Interactors from Kandy at MCTM Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Mylapore. Interactors from MCTM School presented a Power Point presentation on their activities with input from President and his team. It was then our Secretary Sankriti's turn to present a

~ Interactors - Sri Sankara Vidyashramam

short Power Point presentation on the important projects of our Club. Interactor Shamilka from Kandy gave a beautiful description of Sri Lanka and also presented a Power point presentation which highlighted the joint projects of the Interact clubs at Kandy. An Interactive session followed when the visitors answered questions posed by their counterparts in India. Rtn. Prasanna Shenoy, Director - New Gen gave the details about the Youth exchange programme and informed that there will be reciprocal visit to Kandy by our Interactors, possibly in January 2011. The Interactors exchanged email Id's to make sure that their friendship continued, to materialize into joint projects on International understanding in years to come.

Medical Camps for the Month of January 2011

Dear Rotarians,

Comprehensive Medical Camps will be conducted at the following Schools in January 2011.

Camp 1/Jan (completed)

Name of the School : Lady MCTM Girls Hr. Sec School
Date : 05th January 2011 (Wednesday)
No of Students : 6th to 11th Std

Check up to be done : General /Eye Only

Camp 2/Jan

Name of the School : Villivalkkam Panchayat Union School
Camp Timing : 09.30 to 1.30pm
Date : 12th January 2011 (Wed)
No. of Students : 180 Students
Check up to be done : General /Eye / Dental

Camp 3/Jan

Name of the School : P.T.Lee Chengalvarya Naiker Primary School
Camp Timing : 09.30 to 12noon.
Date : 19th January 2011 (Wednesday)
No of Students : 170 Students
Check up to be done : General /Eye / Dental

Camp 4/Jan

Name of the School : Jasper Nursery & Primary School
Camp Timing : 09.30 to 12 noon.
Date : 25th January 2011 (Tuesday)
No of Students : 180 Students
Check up to be done : General /Eye / Dental.

~ Rtn. M. Sesha Sai,
Chair - Medical Camps



Across 27 States
9,689 Learning Centers
Partnering 16 State Governments
Touching the lives of over 3 million students
The largest VSAT education network in the world.
Everonn creates history!

everonn
Everonn Education Limited
Education beyond boundaries

Know your Rotarian



Rtn. Santhosh Shetty

Q WHERE WAS SCHOOLING?

A Considering that the people who I have interacted with in Rotary know that I've moved from Bangalore, it may come as a surprise that I did my schooling in Chennai...the Vaishnav School in Arumbakkam.

Q A HAPPY MEMORY OF YOUR SCHOOLING DAYS.

A Never getting enough of grabbing a quick game of cricket – a 5-10 minute break would also lead to a short game... and of course if you got more time, then you know what we would be upto!

Q WHO WAS THE TEACHER WHO INSPIRED YOU MOST?

A Ms. Sathy Achen, my English teacher was my favorite.

Q WAS HE / SHE INSTRUMENTAL IN YOU CHOOSING YOUR CAREER?

A Wouldn't say she was directly instrumental because I would have probably been dabbling in literature or writing, but I've ended being a bean counter (Chartered Accountant!)

Q ARE YOU IN ANYWAY RELATED TO SHILPA SHETTY?

A Ha ha, no. I've also been asked whether I'm related to Sunil Shetty, Rohit Shetty and sundry other Shetties!! Not sure if people are aware that Aishwarya Rai, Prakash Raj (Prakash Rai actually) also belong to the same community, just the surname is different.

Q YOUR FAVOURITE HANGOUT FOR A SATURDAY EVENING?

A My weekends are divided between Bangalore and Chennai, so the weekends that I'm in Chennai my choice would be Chipstead or Zara (doesn't necessarily mean I'm there every Saturday evening... Just clarifying).

~ Ann. Padmavathy

Club Corner

CAN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE

A fantastic Christmas lunch in Melbourne with my delightful children, Gautam, Anouk and Akhim and their lovely kids Tara, Thomas and Uma... loads of gifts and presents unwrapped by everyone with appreciation and thanks.. Constant references and remembrances of Sheiila for whom a chair was kept.. appeared vacant but filled with her love and the greatness of her soul.

However, one of the greatest thrilling moments of my life was scheduled on the New Years Day itself. My first instinct was to share with my children and all of you. On the 29th December, an email was forwarded to me by our Sridhar from our Secretariat . It was from an elderly Lady Gretchen who was a friend of Mrs Kathy Devol who was my Foster Parent at West Lafayette during 1958-60. A few years after my return to India, we had lost our contact

and believe it or not I have been trying to know the whereabouts of the Devols for the past 40 years.

Thanks to the video clip of our Boys Town on the U-Tube, Ms Gretchen took the trouble of contacting our Club thru the Rotary Link. This is the magic and the miracle of Rotary. As I enter my 45th year in serving our great cause, I treasure every single moment of that most satisfying and meaningful journey and sincerely thank everyone who had made it possible. A very special note of grateful appreciation to each one of you at RCM who by your support and affection has made my Rotary Life Truly worth living

No fresh New Year's Resolution except the review and the renewal of our prime cause being DELEBERATE TO MAKE A DIFERENCE TO THE DEPRIVED.

~ Rtn. PP. Christopher Devapragasam

BirthDay

Rtn.B.G. Kukillaya - 11th Jan
Rtn.Dr.N. Ambalavanan - 12th Jan
Rtn. Ranjit Pratap - 13th Jan
Rtn. S. Suresh Kumar - 13th Jan
Rtn. Moosa Ahmed - 15th Jan

Wedding Anniversary

Rtn. Bharat B. Mohindra - 16th Jan
Ann. Rashmi
Rtn. Mahendra Dadha - 17th Jan
Ann. Meena Dadha

Sunshine

PE. Nandita Krishnan - Rs.1000
Ann. Subha - Rs.1000 (Rtn. S.N. Srikanth)

ROTARY QUOTE

"Rotary believes that the citizen who best serves his country is the one who wishes to know the truth about his neighbors, and who desires to replace hatred between nations with friendship." — Address to 1939 Rotary Convention, Cleveland, Ohio, 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

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

Forth-coming events



Weekly meeting 1:00 pm Tue Jan 11,
2010 at the Taj Connemara, My Job
Talk by our green Rotarians Santhosh
Shetty & Rajesh Somasundaram
followed by a presentation by
Annette Priyanka Bhatt on her work
on 'Global Warming'.

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

