

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

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www.rotaryclubofmadras.in

From the President's Desk



When you are traveling to the South Pole, consider an expedition of Antarctica! You may like to carry, apart from the heavy clothing & survival kits, two flags of the Rotary Club of Madras!

Antarctica falls squarely within Rotary's footprint! Two Rotary Clubs, namely, Rotary Club of Base Marambio, Antarctica with 9 members (1997) and Rotary Club of Base Esparanza with 20 members (2005) have been chartered over the past 13 years. Both the Clubs meet on Wednesday evenings and are comprised mostly of Spanish speaking contingents of the Argentine Air Force.

Yes! You have the opportunity to make up attendance, even in Antarctica!! The latest Club to be welcomed to the Rotary world is the Rotary Club of Ramallah, Palestine.

It is a common practice to exchange flags with Rotary Clubs outside the country of origin. If you travel frequently, be armed with our Club Flags and a list of Rotary Clubs that meet at your destination. More information is available at www.rotary.org or ask our Club Secretariat. Contact us for any assistance.

Make up attendance at the earliest opportunity! For 2010-11, we have an ambitious target of increasing the attendance average by 10 percent points! Your participation will make it easy to achieve our set goals.

Have a great week ahead!

Cheers.

Heritage... a Treasure to Cherish

Pradeep Chakravarthy a well known heritage enthusiast in the city spoke to a large gathering of Rotarians on what lessons we can imbibe for our daily lives from temples.

Pradeep was educated in India and the UK and currently works as an executive coach with one of India's prestigious IT companies. His passion outside work is writing and lecturing on heritage and conducting temple tours. His walks and tours focus on what people can learn for their daily lives from temples and related activities.



The talk began with a rendering of a verse in Tamil composed by the 7th Century Saivaita Saint Tirugnanasambandar in Mylapore. In the verse, the saint refers to the several festivals that were celebrated in the temple. Pradeep also cited examples of other

references to festivals in temples as early as the 3rd century.

The speaker highlighted that Temple festivals are an important part of society and elaborated that what was being practiced in the 7th century is still in vogue today.

He then spoke about how temples served as a place for the entire village to congregate together, and have quality community activities, entertainment, fairs and general camaraderie. Using beautiful visuals of ancient paintings and photographs, Mr. Pradeep explained to audiences how festivals were used to promote civic sense amongst various sections of the people. He also dwelt at length about how festivals became a way to showcase the political might and authority of the rulers of yesteryears.

Putting things in today's context, the speaker articulated that Temples & Festivals give us a wealth of knowledge for our daily lives both at work and at home. He appealed to the audience to visit the temple festivals regularly and view the proceedings from this perspective rather than a religious outlook.

The lecture ended with sharing of a few video clips and anecdotes of some unique festivals celebrated in some of the temples in Tamil Nadu.

Those who are interested in joining Mr. Pradeep on his walks can write to pradeepandanusha@gmail.com



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A matter of minutes

ROTARY NAGAR - A project report

'Rotary Nagar' a community based project, initiated by RCM in 1947 comprising roughly 20,000 inhabitants of what were originally 8 slums located behind Light House MRTS railway station is the longest on-going project of RCM.

The current projects here include: computer training (with NGO partner Turning Point), daily tuition for students studying class I to X, spoken english classes for adolescents, special 2 month coaching camp for class X students prior to final exams, employment assistance to students undergoing vocational training, and 'youth parliament' conducted every 2nd and 4th Saturdays by Turning Point for about 25 students.

Rotary Nagar Committee regularly meets at Rotary Vocational Training Centre. Commencing the year 2010-11, the committee has had three meetings, taken stock of current projects and is considering measures to introduce additional avenues for betterment of the community while further strengthening the existing



projects. Towards this object, introduction of 3 new vocational training projects viz. bakery training (initiated by President Guna), nurses aides' training (initiated by Rtn. Dr. Vijaya Rangarajan), and BPO skill set training (initiated by Director Krishnan), are under deliberation.

The committee has proposed to refurbish the Vocational Training Centre and Rtn. Siva Subramaniam has kindly volunteered to assess and oversee the painting, civil work and other changes required for the refurbishment. The Committee takes inspiration from continued guidance of Rtn. C. N. Ramdas, Rtn. Hiren and Rtn. PP. Christopher; from Rtn. Anjali Ponnai Kumar and Rtn. Rita Chaudhuri (Green Rotarians) who have taken active interest by sharing new ideas for improving community work. A number of Rotarians including Rtn. Dr. Vijaya Rangarajan, Rtn. PP. Indra Subramanyam and Rtn. Venkhatramani have also taken special interest in visiting project areas/ participating in committee meetings and sharing valuable insights on strengthening community work in Rotary Nagar. On this note, we look forward to a fruitful year ahead for inhabitants of Rotary Nagar.

Rtn.Sai Srujan Tayi, Chairman, Rotary Nagar Committee.

Sgt-at Arms Rtn.V.V.Mohindra collared President S.Gunashekar who called the meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order, followed by a silent invocation.

President announced the sad demise of Dr.Venugopal, father of Secy Rtn. Dr. Arulmozhi Varman on 22nd July and a minute silence was observed by all.

The minutes of the Charter Nite meeting were duly confirmed.

President welcomed the chief Guest of the afternoon Mr.Pradeep Chakravarthy and presented a momento on behalf of RCM. Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran welcomed the visiting Rotarians.

President welcomed the bridging President Rtn. Paras Sethi RCM North East and other guests. He then welcomed Ms.Sabrina, a Cambridge University student doing a Project on NGO Government partnership and thanked PP's VK Chandrakumar and Christopher for showing our projects.

President extended birthday & wedding anniversary wishes for the week. Veteran Rtn. M.K.Raju celebrating his birthday by cutting the cake amidst applause.

Rtn.Nalini Radhakrishnan, Chair, Fellowship Committee informed members that a small questionnaire on members interest / hobbies will be circulated to all and will help better plan fellowship events.

President appreciated the initiative of Rtn.Nalini and asked members to participate in the bowling fellowship on alternate Thursdays starting from 12th of August at the Sathyam complex.

Rtn.PP.V.K. Chandrakumar said that many Rotarians attended the medical camp at Selaiyur and had a good interaction with the Boys. President has obtained a contribution of Rs.28,000 from China for the Boys town.

Rtn.PP.Satyan Bhatt informed that one candidate Karthikeyan (Director Sales Taj) has been chosen out of 7 recommended for the GSE program.

Rtn.S. Subramanian informed that 9 Rotaract and Interact installations have been completed and that participation from Rotarians was encouraging. Interactors of Kerala Vidyalaya have donated Rs.1230 to the Polio campaign & School into Smiles

Project.

President thanked Ashwin Chadda, nephew of Rtn.Kamal Chadda for contributing paracetamol tablets for our medical camps worth more than 7 lacs. President congratulated Rtn.Shibu Isaac on being nominated to a special task force on security of CII (Southern Region).

President regretted the errors and omissions in the roster.

Rtn.P.N. Mohan Chair Fund Raising Committee hoped for a great year ahead and requested the support of members not just in contributions but also in ideation of fund raising events. The first fund raising meeting will be at his house on Sunday night.



President thanked Rtn.Pratap Kumar for the monthly contribution of Rs.3500 from the Calimidi Namberumal Chetty Charities.

President informed that the Annettes club was installed on 25th July, Sunday, where 55 Annettes and 15 Rotarians participated. PE Nandita & PP. Indra Subramanyam provided encouragement to the members of the Annettes Club. The name of the Club was chosen as 'THE YOURO CLUB' (coined by Rtn. Mahita Suresh's Daughter Annette Sahana) meaning Young Rotarians.

Secretary Dr.Arulmozhi Varman informed that the next weekly meeting will be at 1:00 pm on 3rd August'10 at Taj Connemera.

Rtn.S. Subramaniam introduced the Guest Speaker Mr.Pradeep Chakravarthy who addressed the Club on 'Lessons for Life from Temple Festivals'. The speaker Mr.Pradeep Chakravarthy a heritage buff took the audience through his lively presentation aided by rich visuals followed by an interactive Q&A session.

Rtn.Jayshree Sridhar proposed the vote of thanks. The meeting was then declared closed.

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With best compliments from:

Club activities roundup

Request for Donation for School Benches & Desks

On behalf of the R I Dist 3230 Rotary Centenary Charitable Trust, I have great pleasure in informing you that under 'Schools-into-Smiles' programme, we have

kind contribution. Each set of bench & desk will cost Rs.3500/-. Cheques can be sent in favour of 'R I DIST' 3230 Rotary Centenary Charitable Trust' to 38 Malony Road, T. Nagar, Chennai



completely rebuilt a dilapidated school in Tirutani, 80km on the way to Tirupathi where our late President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan studied for 7 years many decades ago.

The total cost of the Tirutani school project is Rs.90 lakhs out of which we have received funding to the tune of Rs.37 lakhs from the 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan' Scheme of Central Government and 'Namakku Naame Thittam' of State Government. And the balance amount is being raised from Rotarians, well wishers, Philanthropist & Corporates. We are providing play equipments, a computer room with 7-8 computers, library & a water purification system. We are also planning to provide school benches & desks for this school for which we seek your



600017

The schedule date of inauguration is on Sunday 5th September 2010 the birth day of our late President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan which is celebrated as 'Teachers Day' in India. We are inviting Central Minister and State Minister for School Education for the function. Shri N Ram, Editor-in-Chief, 'The Hindu' and many Grand Children of late President Radhakrishnan are also participating.

Please mark the day to participate in the Inauguration Function. (Time of inauguration will be intimated later)

– PDG. Benjamin Cherian
Founder Trustee, R I Dist 3230
Rotary Centenary Charitable Trust

Snippets from the past

◆ RTN. RITA CHAUDHURI

PAUL HARRIS: AN ORDINARY MAN WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE

“Education & Experience make a man” - Paul P.Harris, founder of Rotary had both but it was hard won. His parents fell on difficult times so he was sent away to be raised by his grandfather. He joined Princeton University but this was cut short by his grandfather's death. Left to fend for himself, he admitted himself into University and eventually qualified as a fully fledged lawyer. But he was not ready to settle down. He hitchhiked his way throughout United States and earned his passage on a cattle boat to England and then travelled to Scotland, Ireland, Belgium & Italy. He returned after 5 years to Chicago and began to practice law. Chicago in the early 1900s was a rough & ready industrial town. Industry was flourishing but at the cost of human interests. The old agrarian economy was being ravaged by capitalism and the transition was hard & dreary. Raised in rural Vermont, he felt the loneliness of a hard, cold town keenly. All this were shaping experiences for the young Paul Harris. And he had a choice to make.

Interact Installation

The installation meeting of the Interact Club of Children Garden Sr. Secondary School was held on July 23, 2010 (Friday) at 2.00 PM.

President Intr. Ranganayaki was collared by the outgoing President Intr. Smriti. Principal Dr. R. Saraswathi was present along with our Rotarians Prasanna Shenoy, Subramaniam and Srilatha.

After the invocation and cultural program, the annual report was presented by the outgoing secretary.

This club has been very active with several health camps, motivational programs, community service programs viz. donation of books and stationery to poor students in school, RYLA participation, Financial Literacy Program, etc.

Sponsored in 1973, this is one of the oldest Interact Clubs to be sponsored by our club.

– Rtn. S Subramaniam
Interact Chairman - Zone 2

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Club CORNER

Know your Rotarian



Rtn. E.M.C. Palaniappan

Q BEING A GREEN ROTARIAN, IN OUR CLUB, WHAT DOES ROTARY MEAN TO YOU?

A Means an opportunity to be involved in service as a team

Q ONE ASPECT YOU THINK, THAT WOULD ADD VALUE TO ROTARY?

A More togetherness & family participation

Q WOULD YOU CALL STOCK BROKING STRESSFUL?

A Could... if not handled well

Q NAME ONE THING YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE VERY GOOD AT.

A Getting along with people effortlessly

Q NAME ONE THING YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE VERY BAD AT.

A Organizing time for family

Q WITH YOUR WIFE PARU, DAUGHTERS ISHTA, KRIPA & DIYAA, & YOUR MOTHER AT HOME, DO YOU THINK YOU ARE OUTWITTED MORE OFTEN THAN NOT?

A By gender, definitely yes

IS ROTARY A STRESS BUSTER?

A Yes it is. Meeting people and applauding other's achievements. Very motivating too!

Q DID STOCKBROKING JUST HAPPEN OR WAS IT A CHILDHOOD DREAM?

A It was not my dream (& with this answer he scores a brownie point with the Anns.) but my wife Paru's.

Q IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

A Remove corruption totally. Make a better world for children.

Birthday

Rtn. M.K.Raju - 28 th July
Rtn. Antony Lobo - 28 th July
Rtn. A.Sankaranarayanan - 29 th July
Rtn. Sathiararam Ram - 29th July
Ann. Sangeetha Rajan - 31st July (Rtn. Rajendra Mudaliar)
Ann. Sunitha Desai - 28th July (Rtn. Markhand Desai)

Sunshine

Rtn. Sathiararam Ram Rs. 1,000

Wedding Anniversary

29th July - Rtn. Ashok Banerjee
Ann: Sreejata

4-WAY test

From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians were concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives. One of the world's most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is The Four-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor (who later served as RI president) when he was asked to take charge of a company that was facing bankruptcy.

Adopted by Rotary in 1943, The Four-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions:

"Of the things we think, say or do:

- ▶ Is it the TRUTH?
- ▶ Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- ▶ Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- ▶ Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

MOBILITY FOR MURALI

Inflicted by the dreaded Polio, Muralidaran of Porur is 45 and a sole supporter of his family of five. With rapid deterioration, both his legs have totally lost their supporting capability. Thanks to Rtn. Abhay Mehta, we are half way thru to make Murali moving. I gratefully acknowledge his thoughtful donation of Rs 2500 towards this deserving cause. I am making arrangements thru the Worth Trust in whose hands we have placed our 3 H Rehabilitation Center for the supply of a Tri Cycle which costs marginally less than Rs 5000. Any Rotarian desirous of making up the gap may kindly send their donation to Rtn. Vasu our Treasurer RCMCT with a note earmarking "Towards Tri Cycle for Sri Muralidaran". Of course you shall receive the required paper work that will enable you to obtain the deserving Tax Credit.

Gratefully,
Rtn. PP. Christopher

ROTARY QUOTE

"Is everything all right in Rotary? If so, God pity us. We are coming to the end of our day." The Best Is Yet to Be.

- THE ROTARIAN, February 1945

OBITUARY

With deep regret we announce the sad demise of Dr. Venu Gopal (Father of Rtn Secretary Dr. Arulmozhi Varman) on July 22, 2010. Our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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

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Weekly meeting 1:00 pm Tue Aug 3, 2010 at the Taj Connemara, Speaker : **Ms. Usha Valli** who will speak on **'War Torn Afghanistan A First Hand Account'**

Forthcoming events



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