

The Southerner

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Rotary Club of Madras South - 3230

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President's Message

February is designated as the World Understanding month. With bloody conflicts raging in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and parts of Central Africa, the message of nonviolence and reconciliation that nations worldwide will observe on 21 September demands more urgent and collective attention. In 2001 the United Nations designated the September date as an annual International Day of World Peace "to be observed as a day of global ceasefire and nonviolence" according to a General Assembly resolution. The day's devotion to peace connects closely with what Rotary members have been fostering since The Rotary Foundation's mission to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace, was proclaimed in 1917. Rotary's goal of worldwide peace and tolerance has been an unwavering pursuit: conducting global forums, hosting international peace symposiums, advancing peace through its 60-year collaboration with the UN, as well as grassroots initiatives such as the Rotarian Action Group for Peace.

Rotary's most significant effort to wage peace is the Rotary Peace Centers program, established in 2002. Each year, the program trains some of the world's most dedicated and brightest professionals, preparing them to promote national and international cooperation and to resolve conflict. They include graduates of a two-year master's degree program and a three-month professional certificate program at Rotary's partner universities. 900 peace fellows are settling border conflicts in West Africa, developing aid programs at the World Bank, drafting legislation to protect exploited children in Brazil, providing security for U.S. diplomats, among many other career paths devoted to peace.

Rotary used conflict resolution strategies in eastern Uttar Pradesh so Imams would support measures taken for polio eradication. Polio workers were killed in NW Pakistan as the relentless battle to wipe out the scourge is continued with worldwide support. At SAARAL, RIPN Rtn. John Germ announced that all those killed will be made Paul Harris Fellows posthumously.


Pulse Polio Immunization programme (NID)




RCMS was allotted the Health Post at T.B centre, No.21, TRIVELYIN BASIN STREET, CHENNAI-600 079 by the District for the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme held on 18.1.2015. Announcements through loudspeakers mounted on auto rickshaws publicised the program for 2 days prior to the camp at five different booths attached to the Health Post. Parents with children under 5 years waited patiently for their turn. Around 30 student Volunteers from local schools went from door to door urging residents to take their toddlers for immunization. They even accompanied health workers to the homes of some who could not come to the booths. Nearly 2500 children were immunized. Ms. HEMAVATHY from the Health Post supported us well with her team. Our President Rtn. Sriprakash along with Secretary Chethan and fellow Rotarians Suresh, Magdoom, Arangarajan were present.

By Rtn. Arangarajan

Be a gift
to the world


K.R. Ravindran
2015-16 President
Rotary International

Rotary 

We meet every Tuesday at 06:30PM at Hotel Savera, Mylapore

Jan 6, 2015 Mr. Sundar Iyer

At home in ANZ, home away from home



Alluding his presence that evening to serendipity, Sundar Iyer began his talk with an expression of gratitude to Rotary that once offered him a scholarship to pursue his interests in the field of Science & Technology. He now runs a support centre for Telstra

out of Chennai and Bangalore. Dispelling the common perception of ANZ being unsafe for Indians, he said 11% of the genes of aborigines can be traced to the Indians who arrived there 4320 years ago. Ever since, Indians have hit the shores of ANZ in waves. People from the North West frontier called Ghanis went in 1840, farmers came from Jullundur in 1900, Anglo Indians have trickled in since 1947 as Australia and New Zealand offered the community citizenship readily. There are 450,000 and 200,000 Indians in Australia and New Zealand respectively. Several Indians have risen to positions of eminence and authority. He was optimistic and predicted that trade and business will only thrive and multiply in the coming years.

By Rtn. Shekar

Jan 13, 2015 Mr. Poochi Venkat

A gallery walk through the Micro World



Tracing his transition from the world of 'Yuk' to the world of 'Wow' Poochi (meaning insect in Tamil) Venkat put the common and exotic insects on a cat walk! They may appear wiggly and obnoxious to the lay man, but to him, they are full of life and meaning. With his

infectious enthusiasm, he persuaded the audience to look around for them and observe the world they lived in. We may presume that insects invade our privacy, whereas it is humans who threaten their environment. He made a power point presentation and described them philosophically and with humour. An insect that

lives on the sap running through the veins of a leaf may be eaten by a moth, only to be consumed by a frog that in turn gets swallowed by a snake before the eagle makes a prey of it. Living in marshes, crabs conserve the water table, fertilise the soil and extend life on the Planet. Camouflaged and colourful, insects use their charm to bait prey and guile to fend predators. A leaf may not be a leaf, nor a twig merely that, until they start moving, he said.

By Rtn. Shekar

Jan 20, 2015 Dr. V R Devika

Folk arts of Tamil Nadu



Folk arts of Tamil Nadu have helped society transcend class consciousness and its roots in hindu myths are familiar even among fisher folk who have embraced Christianity. Children around Poompuhar connect with the bronzes of Lord

Nataraja, with **Arudhra Nakshatram** as a cosmic manifestation of Siva in the Orion constellation, and with the kolams that women draw at three in the morning to welcome the procession of the temple's deity. Folk art connects people to events and institutionalises social norms and mores through creative rendition of myths and lores. Artists turn into oracles at dawn, lead prayers in the afternoon, and act in plays late into the night.

Recounting the predicament of a child who was forsaken by her mother leaving her behind with two younger siblings to tend to, Dr Devika described how the child found her anchor in life through folk art. Folk art provided her the avenue for cathartic self expression relieving pent up pressures that helped the child find her way back to normal life!

By Rtn. Shekar



Thanks to

Rtn. PHF N. V. BALA SUBRAMANIAN

..... for contributing to the Annadhanam

I see a world in the future in which we understand that all life is related to us and we treat that life with great humility and respect”

David Suzuki



Jan 27, 2015 Col R Hariharan India's foreign policy



Sometimes one may get so lost in daily trivia that we may miss the woods for the trees. Col Hariharan helped us connect the dots and comprehend why strategists believe that India will emerge a key player, in the emerging 'Asian Drama'. Recalling his days in Sri Lanka and

recounting his experiences in the army thereafter, he extolled some of the key virtues of Prime Minister Modi whose nuanced approach to foreign policies in the neighbourhood is altering global perceptions of India. China, Japan and India share a common perception about the need for collaborative strategies to aggressively build their economies. How they will subordinate their own domestic compulsions and elevate themselves to a purpose of higher order, still remains to be seen. Modi has taken big strides through one on one discussions with the Prime Ministers of Japan and China and recently warmed up to the US President too. He is focused on enhancing commercial ties, attracting FDI, and removing hurdles to business. “He is doing the right thing at the right time with complete courage of conviction.”

By Rtn. Shekar

Airconditioner Servicing



Our Club's flagship vocational service project, 'Airconditioner Servicing' course at Anna University was inaugurated on 30Jan by Ms. Vanadhi Devi, President of Southern Industrial Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Development (SIAWED). The course benefits 40 students (all school drop-outs) from

various parts of Chennai and nearby towns. For the record, this is the 22nd batch of students and the first course was started in the year 1992.

By Rtn. Magdoom

Club Assembly: 24Feb15@12Noon Madras Boat Club
Governor's Visit: 24Feb15 @ 6:00 pm, Hotel Savera

Vocational Excellence Award



Vocational Excellence Awards of Rotary International recognise and honour outstanding contributions by individuals or small teams of individuals to their chosen vocations. Employees of public service departments such as those working in government hospitals do yeoman service to humanity, but they are hardly noticed outside their places of work. To recognise and motivate such public servants, our Club presented Vocational Excellence Awards to the staff of different departments of Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital at Madras Medical College.

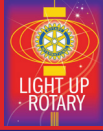
At a special function held on the Republic Day in the hospital premises, the staff of fifteen departments were felicitated with a commemorative plaque and a memento. The Dean of the hospital hoisted the tricolour and followed it with her welcome address. Our Club President SriPrakash spoke on the occasion and presented the awards. The function was simple and quick, but the feedback from the hospital is awesome. The awards have made a lasting impression on the staff of the hospital. Rtn. Asha co-ordinated with the College and identified the recipients.

By Rtn. Magdoom

“If We Don't Question Things, We Will Never Start Understanding Ourselves Or The World”

Wagma Mayar

*"Rabbit's clever," said Pooh thoughtfully. "Yes," said Piglet, "Rabbit's clever." "And he has Brain." "Yes," said Piglet, "Rabbit has Brain." There was a long silence. "I suppose," said Pooh, "that that's why he never understands anything."
 A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh*



Reciprocity Wave Function @ CEG, Anna University



On 31Jan15, youth from colleges around Chennai participated in the first ever Community Service Health Camp on Wellness and Sustainability. It was a joint project of RC Madras South and Rotract Club of CEG. Around 50 entrants participated in the FOOYA Health Game, and 29 teams of 5 students each competed in the Poster and Sculpture Competitions. DG Rtn. Nazar had sent an appeal to all the Presidents, urging them to motivate their Rotractors to participate. 18 Rotary Clubs contributed to the Event – 5 of them as Platinum Sponsors, and 13 as Gold Sponsors. NAVINS, SHASUN Chemicals and GROHE also came forward with sponsorships. DG Rtn. Nazar inaugurated the function in the morning, when many Light Up Presidents, PDG Rtn. Ramakrishna Raja, Rtn. Rajan and other SOUTHERNERS were present. It was a day long carnival with music beneath the large trees at CEG. Many of our Rotarians and Anns dropped by during the day to witness the art and gaming competitions. In the evening, DGE Rtn. Raju, Dr. Kumar, MD, Navins and Ann Sheila judged the exhibits. DGE Rtn. Raju gave the Valedictory speech and distributed prizes to the Winners. The event generated goodwill among Rotractors and Rotarians, even as they drove home the message of wellness and holistic sustainability. The District Chairman for Community Services Health, Rtn. Dr. Nandakumar of RC of Kodambakkam was a pillar of support. Our senior Rtn. Jayaraman ensured the permissions and assistance from CEG. I thank Ann. Sheila, my son Bhargav, daughter-in-law Rasika and the Staff of SHILPA Architects for providing their expertise and time for the Club. Reciprocity Wave will be remembered for its uniqueness. Nazar said, "This is but a modest beginning, and can become a flagship event of the Club in the future."

By Rtn. SriPrakash



**Best Wishes for a Successful Year
 By Rtn. ARUN KHURANA**



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