

JULY 2021

ROTARY CLUB OF ADYAR

BANYAN

37TH ERA

DIGEST 1



INFINITE POSSIBILITIES TO CHANGE LIVES



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rotary



RCA
Club No:22785
Chartered on:12-06-1985

From the *President's Pen!*

Dear Loving members of Rotary Adyar,

"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." -Winston Churchill

It is a huge pleasure to lead the club this year 2021-2022. The club has been very close to my heart which has given me and my family, friendship, a choice to serve humanity and a lot of fun as well. I take over the mantle in the "new normal" or the "Changed World". The pandemic has taught us a lot of lessons and every business, every organisation, every family and every single human has changed profoundly. Handshakes and hugs are a distant past, online meetings and phrases like "Am I audible?" are the new normal.

Change is inevitable and, hope this change for Rotary Adyar with me and my team will not just be the pleasant petrichor but be a bliss for the entire year. Let it rain "change", as the Rotary theme of this year also is "Serve to Change Lives".

Every great team knows how to change and adapt based on their situation, like a bowler in cricket, changing the side of the stumps from which he bowls to a particular batsman, the new team has set goals and plans based on the way the world vicissitudes.

July is installation month and followed by my installation on 1st of July as 37th President of RC Adyar, the Annette's club will get their new President in Annette Vhasavi Raghavan, D/o Rtn. Dr Raghavan. We will also have our closed-door meeting with our board members presenting their plans for the year.

Also as RI President Shekhar Mehta talked about "Each one, bring one", let us also bring our friends and family into our family of RC Adyar, and give them a chance to serve humanity and also enjoy our fellowship.

Thank You.



Rtn. PHF. Dr. Prem Alex Lawrence
President

Editor's

Evocation

நல்லாற்றாள் நாடி அருளாள்க பல்லாற்றால்
தேரினும் அஃதே துணை.

'Stand in the good path, consider, and be kind. Even in the face of adversity, kindness will be your best aid.'

With every passing day as an Ann in Rotary Club of Adyar, I realise that I am surrounded by people who exemplify kindness, compassion, inclusion and joy. Rotary Club of Adyar continues to be a great source of knowledge, service and fellowship. As we step into a new Rotary year, I am excited to be the bearer of news from this prestigious Club, and share with you all its untiring work and unhindered relationships.

As true as a Banyan Tree, the bonds of RCA run far and deep, and nurtures life in its bosom. As versatile as it's form, there are infinite possibilities for service and kindness. This year marks a new beginning with Rtn. Prem Alex Lawrence leading an ebullient team to pave new paths and carry out Projects with real impact in the lives of people.

The Rotary theme for 2021-22 is 'Serve to change lives'. And in true spirit, every edition of the bulletin this year will be showcasing Social Workers from various walks of life in the 'Service Spotlight' section. 'The Resounding Rotarian' will be a highlight section, where I get to interview few valuable Rotarians from our club, and share their story of life (the side which might not be seen in our club meetings).

We will also be running a small section called 'Helping Hand', where members, Anns and Annettes can use the bulletin platform to collect small donations for a singular cause. We have included an interesting Anns' Arattai and Annettes' Arena section, where we can enjoy the hobbies and accomplishments of our RCA family. Add to that a section on 'Top Trends' to keep you updated, a fun contest every month and we are all set for an interesting bulletin year ahead!

May this year be meaningful and help us serve and create a lasting impact in the lives of people. For all this, may kindness be the guiding light.



Ann. Shruti Nishanth
Club Bulletin Editor



Know your *President!*

Rtn. PHF. Dr Prem Alex Lawrence was born in a small hamlet called Alanchi, in the southern-most tip of India, Kanyakumari District. He was exposed to Rotary as a kid since his father, Mr S. Lawrence was the Charter President of Rotary Club of Colachel, chartered in 1987. His mother, Mrs N. Mary Glory was as well a Rotarian. His brother was also a Charter member, and later President of Rotary Club of Gachi Bowli, Hyderabad. As an Annette, he had enjoyed Rotary to the fullest.

Rtn. Dr Prem was also an active Interactor in his school days, also donning the President of Interact Club of his school in 1999.

He did his Bachelor in Dentistry at SRM Dental College, Chennai and his Masters from Sree Balaji Dental College. He also stood first in his PG exams and was immediately placed in Vasan Dental Care, where he grew from a consultant to Zonal clinical Head (Chennai) managing more than 100 doctors under him. He also briefly lectured at SRM Kattankaluthur Dental College as an Assistant Professor.

He started his chain of dental clinics called "Gold Dental" in 2015 and has placed more than 5000 dental implants successfully to date and practices actively in OMR Thoraipakkam. He was awarded as "Superstar Dentist of India" in 2017 by Famdent Awards and Gold Dental was recognised and India's leading dental chain in 2018 by the Indian Business Congress.

He was introduced to Rotary Adyar in 2008 by Rtn. Murali Chhabria whom he met in the Rotary Club of Gachi Bowli, Hyderabad, under the Presidentship of Rtn. Viswakumar. His marriage was well attended by our own Rotarians. He was active until 2012 when he took a sabbatical. He came back to the Rotary Adyar family in 2016 and was inducted again under the Presidentship of Rtn. Sathish T. He has held active positions in the club since then, as Youth Service Director and Club Service Director.

He is happily married to D. Amali Prem, who is an Engineer and an entrepreneur. They have a 10-year-old daughter, Aurelia Laurette Prem, who is in her sixth grade.

The Resounding *Rotarian*

In this segment, I interview some experienced members of our RCA every month, who have been pivotal in the growth and health of our club. This month, I get to interview our beloved Rtn.S.V.Veerramani, an inspirational figure in our club. Let's find out what he feels about work and life.

1. Everyone knows your success story, but how has the journey been and how were you able to build this empire?

Our journey has been challenging and fulfilling. Although I cannot call it an empire, our organization – Fourrts has been built on right means with great accent on Quality and Ethics. We also believe that we should always strive for excellence and our pursuit of progress should be endless. Challenges will be there in our quest for growth. But, with right planning, a visionary approach and execution, we can win over them.

2. What are you passionate about, other than your career?

Other than my career, I am passionate about success of everyone and would like to rejoice with them when they win. I am also passionate about fairness to all.

3. Is there a life mantra you live by?

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm and efforts.

4. What do you think are the strengths of our RCA club?

Our Rotary Club of Adyar has Rotarians of good dignity and values. There is a good bonding and fellowship in our Club. Over the years, we have kept up our standards.

5. If there is a piece of advice you want to share with young rotarians, what would it be?

I would urge our young Rotarians to take up a responsibility in the club, amongst the various avenues of service. Do your best and enjoy the experience of Fellowship and Service in Rotary.



PP. Rtn. PHF. S. V. Veerramani
Club Advisor 2021-22

Service Spotlight

Every month, in true spirit of the Rotary theme for 2021-22 'Serve to change lives', Banyan Tree will showcase one unsung social worker from various walks of service, who have been changing lives through their continued passion. This month, the spotlight is on social work in 'Disability Care'.

Meet Ms. Dipti Bhatia, a cheerful, assertive and passionate woman brimming with ideas and enthusiasm. She is the CEO, National Association for the Blind (NAB), Tamil Nadu state branch who has trained and tutored children and adults with disability for more than 30 years. She has helped several students to be independent, successful individuals in the community. And, she is visually impaired since birth.

She was a shy girl brought up by her grandmother. Her visual impairment was not considered a deterrent and her grandmother never restricted her from exploring the world. With the referral from her doctor, she studied in Little Flower school, Chennai till her 10th standard where she studied Braille and type writing - the skills that would equip her to become independent later on.

The big change came for her when she was shifted to Vidyodaya school for her 11th and 12th. Vidyodaya school was a mainstream school, and she was the only candidate who had visual impairment. She excelled in her studies, despite the adversity. She used Braille to write and scribes for her exams.

One day during PT period, Ms. Dipti was left alone waiting in class, her friends didn't realise that they had to tell her. The loneliness of that day taught her an important life lesson - 'You have to ask for what you want or need'. From that day onwards, Dipti was assertive and never shied away from asking for what she needed.

She did her further studies in Ethiraj college, where she completed her BA, MA and M.Phil (History) and ranked 6th in her entire University. She went on to serve 30 years in Vidya Sagar, a school and advocacy center for children with disability, including a tenure as Deputy Director. She is currently the CEO of NAB, Tamilnadu branch, where she leads the team on rehabilitation and training programs - helping children with visual impairment find the right education and career.



Engage with Events



Rtn. Ar. Ajay Kumar at PreSETS



Rtn. Dr. Prem at e-PETS



Well attended Joint Board Meeting

Ann's Aratai

We have our fun Ann.Chitra Thiagarajan sharing with us her passion project - Ikebana. She is from Sogetsu School, Japan. There are four levels and she has done her fourth grade Teacher's course and is currently a teacher of this art. Wow!

'Ikebana - Japanese Flower Arrangement'

Ike means water and bana means plant. So Ikebana means living plants in water. Japanese flower arranging, or Ikebana, has come a long way from its humble roots as temple offerings, centuries ago. Today it is a popular and innovative living art, unique to Japan, that is cherished by experts. The long history of Ikebana can be traced back as early as the sixth century with the introduction of Buddhism to Japan from China and Korea.

Buddhist floral offerings, called kuge, were placed on the altar of temples. By the middle of the 15th century, Ikebana was considered an art form which aims to develop one's discipline by practicing as a method of meditation and a mean to connect with nature. The materials of Ikebana include freshly cut branches, vines, leaves, grasses, berries, fruit, seeds, and flowers, as well as wilted and dried plants. In fact, any natural and unnatural substance can be used, even glass, metal, and plastic can be used. Ikenobo, was the first school of flower arranging in Japan and was founded by Ono no Imoko in the early 7th century. Then, Ikebana has been separated into several major schools according to historical periods and differing theories of artistic compositions. The other major schools, in addition to Ikenobō, are Ohara and Sogetsu. These were the three oldest schools of Ikebana. Now you have various schools, where you can learn the art.



Ann. Chitra Thiagarajan
Chairman Fellowship 2021-22

She is known to be 'the persistent lady who will not take no for an answer' among the Government office circles. Due to her efforts, it is now possible to have personal scribes during Government exams and also possible to choose Accountancy as a career for people with visual impairment. According to her, "Advocacy is not fighting for WANT. It is getting the rights of persons with disabilities MET"

Her two passion projects are Early intervention and Inclusion. Early intervention is where infants all the way up to young adults can be given vision and vocational training to lead independent lives - 'the earlier the better', according to her.

Inclusion is a feeling. Inclusive Education is a process of spreading awareness and advocating for the needs that these individuals might require for them to pursue a career and life they choose. She says, "Is it not shocking that a person with disability cannot pursue science as a career because the systems are not in place?". "I will continue to speak up and open up more opportunities for children with disability"

This is her poem that perfectly sums up this spirited woman's endeavour.

To be a part, and not stand apart,
To belong, and not to be isolated
To have friends, and not just companions
To feel needed, and not just be a person with needs
To be a participant, and not just a spectator
To have responsibilities, and not just enjoy rights
To have opportunities, and not just favours

-Dipti Bhatia

To know more about Early intervention and Inclusion, You can visit NAB office in Madhavaram

Annette's Arena

Annette. Revati.K.A. is a wonderful artist and an eloquent speaker. She shares with us her sketches and their significance. Her delicate but definitive strokes are admirable. We wish her all the best to keep her artistic finger alive always.

I drew this picture from the current situation of covid 19, so wanted create awareness to wear mask. So my humble request for everyone is to wear mask when you move out of your house . Stay safe and take care.



Guitar is my passion . I love to play because it is so much fun. I am learning to play guitar so I can play my favourite songs and enjoy the music. Many songs can be played using the guitar. Even if the song doesn't contain guitar parts, it can still be played.



Annette. Revati .K.A.
D/O. IPP Rtn. PHF. Karunakaran

Contest Corner

Let us have some fun in our first month's contest! All of us love memes, but how are we when it comes to creating one?



Send in your funny words (English or Tamizh) to suit this 'classic vadivelu expression' to editor.banyantree@gmail.com. The best entry's name will be published in the next edition!

So, let your creative, funny juices flow!

Know your Rotary

Did you know? Rotary club of Adyar has a website : Rotaryadyar.com . It has updated information on all the members and projects.

We also have a facebook page
www.facebook.com/rca3232

Please do like and follow the page and contribute interesting content!

Top Trends

Here is a handy list of Top Trends this month, to keep you hooked during your relaxation time! This compilation has been made by Annette. Vhasavi Ragavan and has all the vibes of a perfect summer. Do check them out!

Top Trending Web Series

Prime - Family Man

Netflix - Elite

Top Trending Movie

Prime - The Priest

Netflix - Jagame Thandhiram

Top Trending Book

The Disappearing Act - Catherine Steadman

Top Trending Health Tip

Drink loads of buttermilk and eat fruits and vegetables rich in water, like tomato, cucumber, lychee and grapes, to combat the heat!

Top Trending Song

Butter - BTS

Enjoy Enjaami - Dhee (ft. Arivu)

Top Trending Fitness Tip

Do 12 rounds of Surya

Namaskaram every morning.

(1 round = 1 time on the right + 1 time on the left)

Top Trending Style

For a fashionable summer wardrobe, wear cotton clothes in lighter colours. To stick to the season, try these 2 colour pallettes:



Helping Hands



This segment is a small endeavour from the Banyan Tree to support small, singular causes that impact real people on a personal level.

Inviting all Rotarians, Anns, Annettes to send a mail to

editor.banyantree@gmail.com

*if there is someone you know who might need financial or any other assistance.
And a humble request to all to kindly donate to the cause in any capacity.
Together, our small contributions can make a sea of change in someone's life.*



- 02 JULY — Rtn. PHF Venkatakrishnan N S
- 06 JULY — Ann.Gowri S
W/O Rtn. Srinivasan H
- 09 JULY — Annette.Nitia V Mohan
D/O Rtn.PHF.S V Veerramani
- 11 JULY — Rtn.M E Boopathiraja
- 12 JULY — Annette.Suhas
S/O Rtn. PHF Latha Rajan
- 13 JULY — Rtn.Dr.M.Nishanth
- 14 JULY — Ann.Geetha Lakshmi
W/O Rtn.Sai Kumar
- 16 JULY — Annette.Ananyaa Rajan
D/O Rtn.PHF.Vittal Rajan R
- 21 JULY — Annette.Charanya
S/O Rtn. Krishnan S
- 21 JULY — Annette.Arvind
S/O Rtn. Rajendran. R

- 27 JULY — Rtn.S.Sivakumar
- 27 JULY — Annette.Mahaswedha P
D/O Rtn.Veloo Pushparaaj
- 28 JULY — Annette.Lavanya
S/O Rtn. Krishnan S
- 31 JULY — Annette.Pradeep
S/O Rtn. Rajendran. R



- 01 JULY — Rtn.Kannan Arumugam
& Ann.Chitra Kannan
- 04 JULY — Rtn. PHF. S. V Veerramani
& Ann.Radha Veerramani
- 10 JULY — Rtn.PHF.Thiagarajan R
& Ann.Chitra Thiagarajan
- 14 JULY — Rtn.M Suresh
& Ann.Meera Suresh
- 15 JULY — Rtn. Ramesh R
& Ann.Radha

BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

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President	Rtn. Dr. Prem Alex Lawrence
Secretary	Rtn. Ajay Kumar
Club Trainer	PP.Rtn. Boopathiraja ME
Club Advisor	PP. Rtn. Veerramani
Imm. Past President	IPP Rtn. Karunakaran T
President Elect (2022-2023)	Rtn. Dr. Nishanth M
President Nominee (2023-2024)	Rtn. Venkata Raghava A
Treasurer	Rtn. Vijay Prabhu
Sergeant-at-Arms	PP. Rtn. Sathish T
Sergeant-at-Arms	PP. Rtn. Siva S
Club Service	Rtn. Manohar A
Vocational Service	Rtn. Archana R
Special Projects	PP. Rtn. Thiagarajan
Community Service - Development	PP Rtn. Senthil Nathan R
Community Service - Health	Rtn. Dr. Kumaravel
International Service	Rtn. Sivakumar S
Youth service	Rtn. Kavitha Anand
Membership Development	PP Rtn. Gopalakrishnan R
The Rotary Foundation	PP. Rtn. Jayaseelan J
Club Bulletin	Ann. Dr. Shruti Nishanth
Annete Club	Ann. Dr. Meera Raghavan
Annete Club	Ann. Chandra Manohar
Fellowship	Ann. Chithra Thiagarajan
Public Image	Ann. Suraj Menon
Literacy	Ann. Meera Suresh
Wash	Ann. Krithiga Sathish
Environment	Ann. Maheswari Siva
Disaster Management	Annette Amritha Varshini
Empower Girls	Ann. Radha Ramesh

This inaugural club bulletin for the year 2021 -22 is sponsored by
President Rtn. Dr. Prem Alex Lawrence

INFINITE POSSIBILITIES TO CHANGE LIVES




The President and Members of
ROTARY CLUB OF ADYAR
cordially invite you and your family for the
Installation ceremony of

Rtn. PHF. Dr Prem Alex Lawrence
as the 37th President and office bearers
for the Year 2021- 2022 &

Rtn. Ar Ajay Kumar
as the 37th Secretary

Chief Guest
Rtn. J.Sridhar,
District Governor, RI District 3232 (2021 - 2022)

 **Thursday, 1st July 2021**

🕒 6.30 PM onwards, | Meeting called to order: 7.00 PM

📍 Thaligai Restaurant, 60, Luz Church Rd, opp. Nageshwara Rao Park,
Mylapore, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600004