

EDITORIALLY YOURS



In Rotary, the month of August is designated as Membership and New Club Development Month. I am quite impressed with the message by RI President Stephanie A Urchick for August. As a precedence, she could have given the usual directive type message mentioning on the need for membership development and the strategic plans to be evolved to achieve that. Instead Stephanie has shared the success stories of RC Beveren-Waas in Belgium and RC Holyoke in Massachusetts. She also shared the experience in membership development through Rotary Fellowship called "Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide". BREW has worked closely with the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group for the past eight years to assist with clean water projects. In that time, BREW has funnelled 25% of its dues to those initiatives.

The second lady in the history of Rotary International to adorn the Presidentship, Stephanie, appears to be a simple lady with a clear vision on the challenges Rotary faces today and plans to overcome those. Hope by the end of the year, she will step into the select band of successful Presidents of Rotary International. Our Independence Day celebrations went well and the chief guest Dr Ajayakumar spoke very well on the topic "രാഷ്ട്രവും രാഷ്ട്രീയവും" and needless to say about the tatsy, sumptuous breakfast served by Kannan. Detailed reports are given elsewhere.

Jai Rotary!
Rtn PAG MPHF M Kumaraswamy Pillai



Non-Violence and Brotherhood are cardinal principles of Indian Politics- says Dr S Ajayakumar

Non-violence and Brotherhood are the pillars of Indian Politics said Dr S Ajayakumar, Head of Department of Malayalam, S D College. He was speaking at the Independence Day celebrations of the Rotary Club of Alleppey on the subject "രാഷ്ട്രവും രാഷ്ട്രീയവും". He recalled that in his first speech to the nation after independence, Jawaharlal Nehru announced that the India made a Tryst with Destiny for making unity in diversity. That was the vision for the new country. Many people mis-concieve politics as the present day party politics which is more prevalent starting from the student life. When Swami Vivekananda started his speech at the Parliament of World's Religions, at Chickago in the year 1893, with the words "My sisters and brothers of America..." it aounded as the political statement of India which implied the brotherhood of India and in a wider sense, the brotherhood of the world itself. He was in full appreciation for the Rotary Club of Alleppey for choosing such an important subject for deliberations of the Independence Day.

ROTARY VILLA HOUSES GET COLOURWASHED

President John Kurian, Platinum Jubilee Committee Chairman Raju Chandy, AG Antony Malayil, Tomi Eapen, Adv Venugopala Panickar,T Sivakumar and George Thomas visited Rotary Villa site and evaluated the progress.



STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
RI President



Rtn. AKSM SUDHI JABBAR
Dist. Governor



Rtn. ANTONY MALAYIL
Asst. Governor



Rtn. JOHN KURIAN
President



Rtn. SUJITH T.S
Secretary

ROTARY CLUB OF ALLEPPEY CELEBRATES 78th INDEPENDENCE DAY PATRIOTICALLY



FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR GG KUTTANAD DRINKING WATER PROJECT

The Foundation stone of the Global Grant project for Kuttanad Drinking Water Project with Rotary Club of Cratbree USA as donor and RC Alleppey, RC Greater Changanassery, Rotary e-Club of Kerala Global, Dubai, RC Changanassery and RC Aroor Satellite Ctiy as partner clubs was laid at St. George Knanaya Valiya Pally, Neelamperoor on 17.08.24. Rtn Major Donor Tina Antony, DGE laid the stone in presence of Vicar Rev Fr. Jiji Punnoose Puthen Purackal, PDG Scaria Jose Kattoor, Primary Contact Rtn PAG Cherian, Rtn PAG M Kumaraswamy Pillai, Rtn President John Kurian, Rtn Jijo Chacko, Rtn Roy Kurian, President, ReCKG and other leaders of the partner clubs.



Arjun Balakrishnan alias Kannan played a perfect host at the Independence Day Celebrations breakfast meeting. Kannan and his father senior rotarian Arjuna Reddiar deem it as a privilege in sponsoring the breakfast meeting of Independence Day Celebrations. Kannan recalls about his late mother Lakshmi Arjun's passionate role in preparing the idli/vada/sambar and sweets and serving it by herself to all the members present. After the demise of his mother, Kannan with his father still continues to organize the breakfast by outsourcing quality food that may be at par with the preparations of his late mother. Kannan has inherited the virtue of being a good host which has been proved repeatedly at the family meetings hosted by Kannan's team.

Royalweeks thanks Rtn Arjuna Reddiar and Kannan for their continued hospitalities at the breakfast meetings

Minutes of the Breakfast Meeting held on 15.08.2024

The weekly regular meeting due on 14 .08.24 was postponed and held as break fast meeting along with our independence day celebrations on 15.08.24. The flag hoisting ceremony was held at the club premises sharp at 08.30 AM by the President Rtn.John Kurian in the presence of other fellow rotarians. Thereafter all the members and guests enjoyed the tatsy and sumptuous breakfast served to all by Rtn Balakrishnan.

The regular meeting was called to order by the President at 09.20 am and Rtn Dr Sethu Ravi officiated as Secretary in the absence of SecretaryRtn T S Sujith. Rtn Balakrishnan invoked the blessings of the God. Rtn George Thomas welcomed the chief guest Dr. S. Ajaya kumar, Head, department of Malayalam, S D College, Alappuzha and the gathering. The president in his presidential address gave the independent day message and said this day is not for celebration only but also a remembrance to the countless brave souls who sacrificed their lives for our independence. He also gave a brief

itroduction about the guest of the day.

The Chief Guest has given a brief and informative narration about our nation and politics.He said our country is blessed with untity in diverstiy and explained the meaning of politics as non-violence and brotherhood. The AG Rtn.Antony M Malayil also felicitated and explained the need for membership campaign. He solicited the participation of all the rotarians in the ditsrict membership seminar on 25.08 .24 at Shabari Convention Centre, Haripad. Prof. Dr.Rtn.Sethu Ravi thanked the Chief Guest, other participants and also expressed special thanks to the hosts of the day Rtn. Arjun Reddiar and Balakrishnan who offered a sumptuous breakfast on every independence day for decades.

Then the meeting was adjourned at 11.00 AM by the President.

Rtn. Sethu Ravi Jt. Secretary

MY FITNESS CHALLENGE



In 1969, my Pre-degree science group at SD College having a strength of around 40 students had only around ten girls. Among them, two or three were exceptionally beautiful, attracting the attention of our group of around thirty boys. Competing for their attention was a daunting task, especially with my handsome friends around. During those days, Gopi Sir provided me with Chemistry tuition, which was crucial for my academic progress. Physically, I stood taller than most of my friends, but my physique lacked the proportional chest measurement that was deemed attractive. Determined to improve, I joined Hercules Gym, where rigorous morning sessions at the age of 15 bolstered my self-confidence. My biceps filled out the sleeves of my half-shirts, and my chest size grew, transforming my appearance. Upon graduation, I relocated to Kottayam, renowned for its literary culture and beautiful girls. CMS College offered a vastly different environment from what I was accustomed to. The gender ratio was balanced, and the girls were more outgoing compared to the shy girls of Alappuzha. This prompted me to focus on enhancing my presentation and romantic skills. It was an era of love letters, exchanging books, and sharing notes for no particular reason. Competition for attention intensified, and I joined a gym near Thirunakkara Maidanam, where I attended wrestling classes also. Though initially driven by teenage aspirations rather than a concern for healthy living, the habits formed during those years made me more conscious of exercise. After leaving college, the demands of work at the bank overshadowed thoughts of romance, with Shyla becoming my primary focus. Despite the passage of years

without regular exercise, the foundation laid during my teenage years provided the strength and resilience needed for a healthy life. I began practicing yoga when I was transferred to Alappuzha in 1990. Adjusting to the asanas was challenging due to my sedentary lifestyle, which had caused fat accumulation around my belly and stiffness in my knees. Sitting in poses like Vajrasana was particularly difficult at first. Through consistent training, however, I gradually improved my flexibility and posture. Initially, I was skeptical about the benefits of yoga. It was my Guruji, Nagappan Sir, who assured me of its transformative power. He even jokingly offered to write on a stamp paper that yoga could keep me free from diseases if practiced regularly. My confidence in yoga grew as I observed my team members who had been practicing it for years.

Despite inevitable transfers that disrupted my routine, I had to pause my yoga practice when I left Alappuzha. However, upon retiring, I eagerly resumed my yoga classes. Retirement provided me with ample time for yoga and daily morning walks, which became integral to my routine. For me, the greatest benefit of yoga has been its ability to defy aging. At the age of 69, I feel and look younger, thanks to the rejuvenating effects of yoga on both my body and mind.

Rtn. PAG K. Cherian

(Next Week Rtn. Tomi Eapen)

ROTARIANS IN THE SPOT LIGHT



Rtn MD S Gopinathan Nair and Rtn MD D Vijayalakshmi Nair

"Sometimes, the absence of someone is needed for you to appreciate their presence" goes a famous quote. At the much talked about Platinum Jubilee Celebrations held on 25th July at our club, we enjoyed the camaraderie of many guests from the length and breadth of the District 3211. It was a time to renew our acquaintance with the top leaders in Rotary from this part of the country. But two rotarians from our club were on the spotlight even in their absence. Many of our rotarian guests who attended the our charter anniversary function were enquiring about Gopi Sir and Teacher as they invited most of the guests to the function. The Platinum Jubilee Committee Chairman Rtn Raju Chandy in his welcome address mentioned that it was Teacher who had suggested the Rotary villa project to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of the Club. Gopi Sir-Teacher duo did not stop there. They were among the first one to offer a contribution of 1,00,000 to the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at the X'mas celebrations meeting of the club hosted by Rtn Princy at her residence last year. Further Teacher not only suggested to invite Rtn Mahesh Kotbagi as Chief Guest, organised the local travel, airport pick up and drop of Kotbagis in her Mercedes car. It was quiet unfortunate that both passionate rotarians missed the most important platinum jubilee celebrations meeting due the viral infections. But Gopi Sir and Teacher were omnipresent during the entire programme even in their absence.

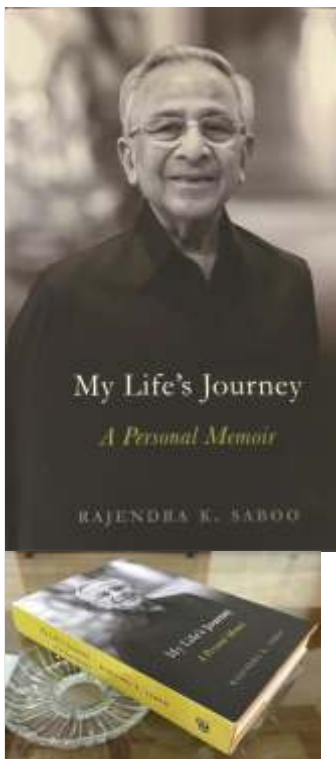
Finally the god almighty, heeding to the prayers, has convalesced both Gopi Sir and Teacher. Both are back with a big bang at the Alappuzha Revenue District Seminar of District project UYARE. Now the celebrated couple is in the news as the members of the group "CARE 4 ALLEPPEY" under the chairmanship of the District Collector.

Royalweeks wishes both Gopi Sir and Teacher godspeed, health and happiness to continue their services to the humanity.

The reconstituted group "CARE 4 ALLEPPEY" with the District Collector, Alappuzha. Gopi Sir and Teacher are seen seated in the front row.



PRIP RAJENDRA SABOO'S AUTO BIOGRAPHY RELEASED



Past Rotary International President Rajendra K Saboo celebrated his 90th birthday on 11th August, 2024.

In 1961, Sabooji joined the Rotary Club of Chandigarh "not to be part of service, but to meet more people in the new town." He knew about Rotary because his father was a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Calcutta.

The Chandigarh club's first project was a funeral van costing Rs 8,000 and each member gave Rs 200! "My salary, from my own company, was then Rs 2,500!" recalls Raja. Slowly he got drawn into service projects, but was not interested in leadership roles "because my ambition was business." "Rotary was fine, but it was the beginning of my career and I had other ambitions, to go up the ladder in industry and business." But destiny willed otherwise and Raja Saheb became President of Rotary International in 1991-92.

His autobiography 'My Life's Journey-A Personal Memoir' was released by Justice SS Sodhi (retd) on the occasion.

A momentous occasion for the family, friends and the Rotary world.

Royalweeks wishes PRIP RAJA SABOOJI many more years of happy and contented life

NEXT MEETING

@ 7.30 pm on 21.08.24
HOST: Rtn. John Mathew



- 3 Rtn. John Kurian
- 12 Rtn. Jacob Neroth MPH
- 13 Rtn. Mohammed Shafeeq
- 19 Rtn. Tomi Eapen
- 23 Rtn. Arjuna Reddiar. P

AUGUST



- 7 Rtn. Raju Chandy
- 10 Rtn. Dr. Mohammed Aslam
- 22 Rtn. Princy Sebastian & Mr. Sebastian
- 25 Rtn. Unnikrishnan. R. Adv.
- 26 Rtn. Dijo Antony Cherian
- 29 Rtn. Tomi Eapen
- 30 Rtn. Sujith T.S.
- 31 Rtn. N.A.M.Kunju
- 31 Rtn. Sivasdas. B

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