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EDITORIALY YOURS



November is designated by Rotary as The Rotary Foundation Month. As we all know, TRF is the live wire of the Rotary International. It is quite gratifying to learn than since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects. The Rotary Foundation helps Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty. An article on the genesis of the Rotary Foundation is inserted in this issue elsewhere.

The inauguration of the District Office of Rtn Tina Antony, DG for the year 2025-26, held on 17-10-24 was unique in many ways. This has already been discussed in these columns earlier. But I was quite impressed by the welcome speech made by the District Secretary General-Elect, Rtn R Krishnan which dealt in detail on the topic "women in Rotary". His speech was so authentic with supporting data and all the PDGs who spoke at the function were seen appreciating him. I am sure Kitchappa would have done a lot of literature survey to find out the chronological order of the events that led to the entry of women into Rotary. I thought we have to document Kitchappa's speech and publish the same in Royalweeks for the information of the Rotarians of our club, particularly the new ones. When I approached him, without any hesitation, he agreed to share the details. Thank you Kitchappa for your kind gesture and wish you a very fruitful year as District Secretary General in the year 2025-26.

Jai Rotary!

**Rtn PAG MPHF M Kumaraswamy Pillai**

## ANNS CONVERGE AS LAKSHMINARAYANA LIGHTS UP TO CELEBRATE DIWALI

(Report by Rtn Lakshmi Gopakumar)



Diwali, known as the festival of lights, is one of the most significant and widely celebrated festivals in India. But for me it also lights up our heart with positive energy & happiness. After our electrifying Kuttikanam trip, Princy came up with the idea of celebrating Diwali among us and informed the same in our Petals group. Rty Ann Sindhu Murugan took the lead and the message was posted in our Royal Petals group. Around 13 of sparkling ladies showed their willingness to go for the wonderful celebration. Unfortunately some couldn't make it due to personal inconveniences. We were eagerly waiting for the day and finally the D day arrived. My amma wanted to celebrate this beautiful eve at our home and so we

discussed the same in our group LADKIYOM KI DIWALI and then the venue was fixed. We decorated our home with warm serial lights and flowers. Here comes the great day. Rty Ann Sindhu Murugan and Sebi Shefeeq were the early birds dressed up in "Traditional Glamour". As usual Rtn Princy came along with her Pooches in her own unique style. She managed to come on time inspite of her busy schedule for the day. Then came Rty Ann Megha Jijo along with lovely little Annet Thara darling. We started lighting Diyas which my husband Pramod sent through courier specially for this eve. Then comes the bundle of happiness together, Rty Anns Princy Sivakumar, Sindhu Deepak, Preetha Ajith, Deepa Sujith, Sheela Sajan, Teena Tomy and our dearest Sethu aunty. We should appreciate Sethu aunty as she



**STEPHANIE A. URCHICK**  
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**Rtn. ANTONY MALAYIL**  
Asst. Governor



**Rtn. JOHN KURIAN**  
President



**Rtn. SUJITH T.S**  
Secretary











managed to come for the celebration inspite of her physical discomfort Also appreciate Teena Aunty who managed to attend the eve all the way from Ernakulam inspite of her family commitments. After reaching home all started to drape sarees in Traditional Glamour style. It was a real fun. Then we started our own enjoyment and fun, variety of games as like biscut eating challenge, Truth or Dare games etc.. followed by unprepared Dandia, fun-filled chit chats and treated our taste buds with traditional Gujju delicacies like Bhelpuri, Kachori, Thepla, Phulka Roti, Dum Aloo, Gajar Ka Halwa and Ammas Payasom. Actually it was not simply a celebration, it was a day which rejuvenate our friendship and bonding irrespective of age. Thara mol and my son Akshat also had a great time in their own world. At the end when we all bid good bye with a hug and our hearts were filled with new hopes and unconditional love.

## THE GENESIS OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



The idea of the Rotary Foundation was mooted in the year 1917, after 12 years of founding of the first Rotary Club in Chicago in 1905. Arch Cooper Klumph, a musician and a successful business man, was a committed Rotarian who used to describe himself as a man who “thinks Rotary, sleeps Rotary and dreams Rotary”. While addressing his fellow Rotarians at the end of his cub presidency in 1913, he suggested that the club should build an emergency fund that would help the club to do many good things in the future. At the Atlanta Convention he proposed the creation of an “endowment fund for Rotary” at



the international level. Archibald (Arch) Cooper Klumph became the RI President during the Rotary year 1916-17. He was earlier the Chairman of the committee that drafted a constitution for RI and recommended formation of Rotary districts with Governors for district administration. On to the words of Klumph at the 2017 International Convention: “We have called the attention of the organization this year to the possibility of a future endowment fund for Rotary. Carrying on, as we are, a miscellaneous community service, it seems eminently proper that we should accept endowments for the purpose of doing good in the world, in charitable, educational or other avenues of community progress, or such funds could be well used for extension work. I know



of no more commendable use for the vast millions possessed by men in this country than that certain sums might be endowed to Rotary for purpose of establishing Rotary clubs in all nations of the world”. (The Rotarian August, 1917). Evidently, both extension of Rotary and an endowment fund for ‘doing good in the world’ were his dearest dreams. The name of a Rotary club also is to be written in golden letters in the history of The Rotary Foundation (TRF). It was the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri, USA which took a wise decision to donate, US \$26.50, the surplus funds of Kansas Convention which the club was keeping to buy a memento for Arch Klumph, to the proposed endowment fund. Interestingly, the second contribution came from the second club of the world, Rotary Club of San Francisco. ‘Even though it again was only a small amount of US\$ 10, the intention was to keep the ball rolling’. This was the modest beginning of the Rotary Foundation which today is the most prestigious institution owned by the Rotary International and is one of the top 50 of

USA's more than a million plus charities. In the 2019 the FORBES list of top 100 charities of US, TRF stood at 45<sup>th</sup> place.

(Source: Know your Rotary by Rtn N Bhaskaran Pillai)

### Minutes of the regular meeting held on 30th October 2024

The meeting was called to order by the president Rtn. John Kurian at 7:30 pm. Rtn. Princy Sebastian invoked the blessings of God almighty. The president Rtn. John Kurian in his speech informed about the TRF seminar to be held on 10th Nov at TVM and also requested maximum registration from our club. Then AG Rtn. Antony Malayil also informed that the seminar would be beneficial for all especially the new members and requested all to register. The Secretary Rtn. Sujith T S thanked everyone present at the meeting, thanked Rtn. Sajan Nair , Rtn. Raju chandy , Rtn. Roy Palathra, Rtn. T. Sivakumar , Rtn. Jos Abraham, Rtn. Vijayalakshmi Nair and Rtn. R. Krishnan for their active participation in the discussion and offered special thanks to the host of the meeting Rtn. Roy Palathra.

The meeting was then adjourned by the president at 8:30 pm for dinner and fellowship.

**Rtn. Sujith T S**  
Secretary

### TRIPPLE DHAMAKA FOR RC ALLEPPEY



Rtn Major Donor Prof S Gopinathan Nair and Rtn Major Donor Vijayalakshmi Nair have been nominated as members of BRANDING AND PUBLIC RELATION COMMITTEE of Rotary Institute- Kochi, 2024.

Rtn M Kumaraswamy Pillai is nominated as Co-Chair of the Printing and Publication Committee of the Rotary Institute Kochi-2024.

Royalweeks congratulates Rtn Gopinathan Nair, Rtn Vijayalakshmi Nair and Kumaraswamy Pillai for their coveted assignments.



#### SAJAN RE-NOMINATED TO THE RAILWAY USERS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Rtn Sajan B Nair has been nominated by the Southern Railway, as a member of the Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee representing the Trade Associations consecutively for the 2nd time for a term of next 3 years.

Royalweeks congratulates Sajan for the coveted position.





Rtn Jacob Neroth Inaugurated the College Union Activities of Michel's Institute of Management and Technology, Cherthala.



Annet Sekhar, s/o Rtn Sujith T S and Rty Ann Deepa received B Tech degree at the convocation ceremony held at the College of Engineering, Trivandrum. Royalweeks congratulates Sekhar and wish him all the best.

## Glimpses of 3919th Meeting



## Women in Rotary- Rtn R Krishnan



I had recently chanced on an interview by a woman who is a heavy vehicle truck driver. I was amazed and thrilled when she narrated her experience of taking a full load truck from Perumbavoor to Kashmir long back. Of late, we are seeing a lot of train ticket examiners who are ladies. Probably, women entered the aviation field much earlier than other areas dominated by men. We have lot of

women cops pursuing a career in that line. I have given few examples above, only to highlight the domination of men in certain domains, which once upon a time was considered to be outside the reach of women. In all these cases, either there were social stigma or certain areas were not considered safe for women. It would not be out of place to say that there were heavy reservations from family also in women choosing their career they wanted. However, in western countries there was more freedom for women to choose what they wanted to do. The women on the other side of the globe were seen treading areas which we thought were male bastions.

This brings us to the history of women in Rotary. In 1905, when Paul P Harris founded Rotary, it was for the sake of friendship. Even Paul would not have imagined Rotary to turn into such a big world wide social organisation for fellowship, friendship and service. The organisation was purely meant to serve as a meeting point for friends to come together. Soon the organisation grew from a mere meeting place to a platform from where one could display leadership qualities, serve the community in several ways and soon Rotary emerged as the largest single platform to render humanitarian service. All the while, a few people were exploring the possibility of admitting women into Rotary. In the initial years from 1905, for a few years it was a light attempt, I would say, as not many people knew about Rotary or understood the ideologies of this great organisation. But, when Rotary started becoming popular, people realised that the founding fathers had not openly laid down rules for admission of women. There was clear gender discrimination as made out by the then rulers and the doors of Rotary was not open to women. It was a great struggle from then to get the doors of Rotary open for women-not because women were not willing, but the thought process that it was a male bastion.



(to be continued.....)



Rtn Ajithkumar R N

Whether I go to bed late or early, I used to get up at 5.30 am every day. After morning routines, I go for a brisk walking, normally in the route Thiruvambady- Pulayanvazhi- Valiyakulam- Collectorate Jn- General Hospital Jn and back to Pazhaveedu (my home). This morning stroll would take less than an hour and by this time I would have covered 5 km distance. As my job demands continuous sitting at the computer desk, I need some exercises for my eyes, neck and other joints. I do yoga for another 45 minutes. After my bath and breakfast, it would be time to open the system and start work. Before I conclude this column, I would like to pay homage to our late Rtn Sasidharan Nair who left us for heavenly abode while he was our Royalweeks Editor. He was staying close to my house and every morning he used to come and pick me for morning walk. It was jogging most of the times and I should admit that he was inspiration for me to continue walking which helps me to maintain my fitness level.



### Rtn Jijo Chacko

Rtn Jijo Chacko, the baby rotarian of RC Alleppey, has been a live wire of our club. Though very busy in managing the affairs of his resort single handedly, he never misses a rotary meeting. He also participates in all the district events and never ever says NO to any assignment given by the President. He is ably supported by his spouse Megha who has made an entry to the elite panel of Masters of Ceremony of our family meetings. Jijo is a sports person too and is active member of Atheletico de Alleppey and played a major role in organising the recently concluded Alleppey Beach Run. Jijo on 27th October finished Half Marathon (21 km) successfully in less than 2 1/2 hours, in the Spice Cost Marathon Run held at Kochi. Megha finished 5 km.

Royalweeks happily places Rtn Jijo Chacko in the spotlight this week.

## NEXT MEETING

@7.30 pm on 6th November 2024. Host: Rtn Prof S Gopinathan Nair



**10** Tomy Pulikattil **15** Geetha D/O Arjun Rediar **17** Ashwin S/o R. Srinivasan  
**20** Ms. Tiya D/o Jacob Neroth **21** Dr. Abraham Thayyil  
**23** Antony Malayil **27** Sajan B. Nair **30** Darsan S/o R. Krishnan



**3** Nagaraj. H & Vigeesha **5** Vijayakumar. A.R & Syama  
**8** Vidhu M. Unnithan & Nisha **13** Vidhu Kumar & Preetha  
**19** Mathew Joseph & Ruby **22** George Thayyil & Deepa  
**25** Joseph Thayyil & Divya

TEAM 2024 - 2025

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**YOUTH SERVICE** - Rtn Ambu Vaidyan | **LITERACY MISSION AND CLUB HISTORIAN** - Rtn Tomi Eapen  
**CLUB RECREATION** - Rtn Naga Raj | **CLUB IT OFFICER** - Rtn Lukose Mathew Malayil  
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