









TOWERS TIMES

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Chennai Towers Volume 28 Issue 4









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Chartered on 10th June, 1998. Charter number: 51278



Rtn. Venkatesh R
President



Rtn. Dr. Vignesh PushparajSecretary



Community Service Development

Director: Rtn. Rojarajan

Annadhanam

3rd October 2025

RCCT had a wonderful start to October, thanks to our members who sponsored 1000 meals for the residents at

- Little Hearts Panaiyur
- · Vishranthi Palavakam
- Little Drops Somamangalam
- Seva Chakkara Children Home Periamet

Heartfelt thanks to Rtn. Sriram, Venkatesh, Ann Shoba, and Lavanya for their time and support. May our community continue to thrive with kindness and generosity! We're proud to be part of this meaningful project and look forward to many more years of making a difference.











SVG Project

4th October 2025

As part of our Smart Vision Glasses project, we distributed 6 smart glasses to visually challenged musical group at Volunteer Anita Srinath's residence in T. Nagar. Thanks to Rtn. Sanjey Ahuja for his invaluable time and support. Additionally, thanks to the entire RCCT family for their support over the past 2+years, during which we've been able to donate nearly 200 smart glasses







Diwali at Seva Sadan

16th October 2025

Annet Nethra Karthikeyan

A few days before Deepavali, while I was heading to my Physics Class, my dad said he would be picking me up early and we are heading somewhere special.

After a long drive manoeuvring Chennai's peak hour traffic...We entered Madras Seva Sadan, to the sound of excited Laughter and Fireworks. There were so many girlsIt was so beautiful to watch everyone's face light up with Joy and pure excitement.

Monika auntie and Runitha Auntie had arranged for some Fun games.... Jaden, Sushmita, Nitara and I demonstrated the balloon bursting game. The girls had so much fun playing and cheering for others.

After everyone had their fill of games, we helped serve dinner.... Everyone happily chatted and enjoyed the food. It felt like One Big Family was Celebrating Deepavali together. Spending time with the girls at Madras Seva Sadan taught me how powerful simple moments of sharing can be. When we give our time and attention to others, we receive so much warmth in return.

I returned home that night with a full heart and a big smile, grateful to my parents &;RCCT for giving me the chance to be part of such a meaningful celebration.

This Deepavali, I truly understood what joy in giving feels like and how easily I have forgotten to be grateful for what I have. And Yes! My dad was right... we did go somewhere very special!

































Diwali Celebration with the Children of Poondi Village 20th October 2025

45 Children of Poondi village were given crackers and sweets as part of Diwali celebration







Diwali at Retteri Dialysis Centre

20th October 2025

Rtn Krishnachander & Rajesh Narang visited the Retteri dialysis centre and gave away
Diwali gifts to the patients and the staff. The team working at Retteri Dialysis centre were
thrilled to receive the Gulab jamoon boxes and the patients were very happy to receive a
small gift (veshti & towel for men & saree for the women)













Community Service Medical

Director: Rtn. Dr. Vivek Shanmugam



The 13th annual Project RADAR (Radhatri Nethralaya Diabetic Retinopathy Project in Association with Rotary), an annual month long free AI based Diabetic Retinopathy screening for the public was launched at Radhatri Nethralaya on the occasion of World Diabetes Day on Tuesday, Oct 28th 2025.

DG Rtn Devendran was the chief guest and actor Ms Sanchita Shetty was the guest of honour. The dignitaries released pamphlets to promote awareness on Diabetic Retinopathy to be distributed amongst the public. This project is spearheaded by Rotary club of Chennai Towers.

For the first time in India, a novel Virtual Reality (VR) platform and Kiosk was dedicated to the public by the dignitaries, this is a public awareness initiative by Radhatri Nethralaya to make caregivers of patients understand what patients with retinal problems experience and to allay the fears in the minds of patients especially with regards to treatment.

Students of Optometry were certified as "Youth Vision Ambassadors: Yuva Nethra Jyotis" for spreading awareness of blinding eye conditions in the public. It was attended by President Rtn. Venkat, PDG Rtn. Nandakumar, Rtn Sumedha, Rtn. Satish Kandimalla, Rtn Sriram & Ann Shoba















General Medical & Liver Screening Camp

2nd October 2025 Kolathur

Number of Patients: 75

Diabetic: 24

Hypertension: 0 Hep B Positive: 0

Hep C Positive: 0











Blood Donation Camp

Federal bank, Redhills 16th October 2025

Number of Patients: 25

Diabetic: 0

Hypertension: 0 Hep B Positive: 0 Hep C Positive: 0









General Health Camp 17th October 2025

choolai

Number of Patients: 20

Diabetic: 0

Hypertension: 0

Hep B Positive: 0

Hep C Positive: 0









Blood Donation Camp 17th October 2025

17th October 2025 Federal bank , Tambaram

Number of Patients: 23

Diabetic: 0

Hypertension: 0

Hep B Positive: 0

Hep C Positive: 0











General Medical Camp and Hand Hygiene Workshop

25th October 2025 Chengalvarayan college , Vepery

Number of Patients: 120

Diabetic: 13

Hypertension: 5 Hep B Positive: 0 Hep C Positive: 0











General Medical Camp & Hepatitis Screening Camp

26th October 2025 Kumaran Nagar Post Office, Perambur

Number of Patients: 65

Diabetic: 27

Hypertension: 3 Hep B Positive: 0 Hep C Positive: 0













Dialysis

ICH Dialysis Centre

No of kids – 14 No of dialysis – 109

Retteri Dialysis Centre

No of Patients - 42 No of Dialysis - 502













Club Service

Director: Rtn. Samuel Mathew

Diwali Fellowship

16th October 2025

Ann Monika

The DIWALI Dhamaka Grand Fellowship was truly a spectacular celebration! From the moment the guests arrived, the beautifully welcoming flower decorations at the entrance set a festive mood. The colorful stage décor was a visual treat, and the seating arrangements impressed with their professional touch.

Emcee BIJU kept the energy sky high right up to the end, while all the other hosts greeted guests with smiles and made everyone feel at home. The fun swept through outdoor and indoor games—each activity was engaging and full of laughter! The ramp walk stole the show, as everyone got to display their happiest, funniest talents. The judging and honoring of annettes, along with the fabulous prizes, made the moment feel extra special.

The food spread was irresistible, with the mango chilli pieces being a delightful highlight! Everyone looked their best, especially the annettes who were absolutely adorable in their outfits.

The thoughtful return gifts, complete with a printed RCCT bag, were a perfect ending not to be missed. Hats off and a huge applause to all the hosts—every detail was planned to perfection, and their vibrant spirit kept the celebration upbeat from start to finish!





























































Literacy

Director: Rtn. G. S. Prasad

Spoken English Class at KRMM

9th October 2025

Anns Gomathi, Geetha and Carmel led an engaging session on "If I had a superpower" with students showcasing creative ideas like teleportation, having multiple hands, and more. The session concluded with a fun activity on homophones











Awareness Session on Social Media & Screen Time at KRMM School

10th October 2025

Annet Kaavya daughter of Rtn Manoj and Ann Alpana conducted an insightful session for Class 11 and 12 students on "Social Media and Screen Time." Using real-life case studies she shared practical tips on responsible social media usage, making the session both informative and enjoyable.









Aacharya – Teachers Award Event 25th October 2025

Rotary International District 3233 celebrated excellence in teaching at the Aasaan Virudhu Rotary Excellence Awards.

In a joint initiative by Vocational Service and Literacy Avenue, RCCT nominated two educators from Kumar Rani Meena Muthiah Matriculation Higher Secondary School. Mr. Noor Basha, Physical Education Teacher, and D. Amudha, Social Science Teacher on October 25th, they were honored with the Best Teacher Awards at Ethiraj College Auditorium.

Mrs. Amudha, Social Studies teacher from KRMM School

I am honored to have received the Excellence in Teaching- Best Teacher award from Rotary International District 3233.

I am grateful to my Principal, Mrs.Vijaivalli ma'am, for nominating me for this prestigious award

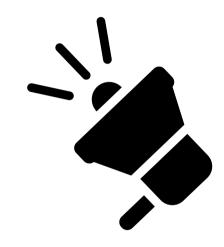
The award ceremony was a grand event held at Ethiraj College, graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Govi. Chezhiaan, and Rotary District Governor, D. Devendran.

The event was a wonderful experience, with inspiring words from eminent rotarians on the importance of teachers in society.

I am proud to be a part of Kumararani Meena Muthiah Matriculation Higher Secondary School, where I have spent 30 years of my teaching career. This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of teachers like me.

I thank Rotary Club of Chennai Towers for this recognition and motivation. It is indeed an honor to be recognized by such a esteemed organization.

This award is more for my school than me and I am grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from my institution.

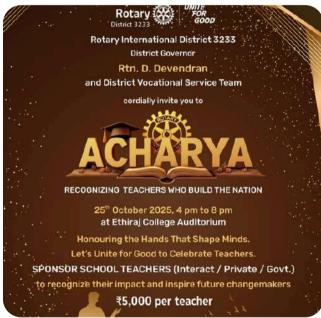














Magic of Illusion Arts Class at Anjugam School

31st October 2025

The magic of illusion arts class was conducted by Mr Suhail and team at Anjugam School kept the children happy away from their boredom of daily routine









Environment

Director: Rtn. Aarthi Varanasi

Session on Waste not, for Sustainable living

30th October 2025

Rtn. Rukmani addressed the students of Godson Matriculation School on the topic "Waste not, for Sustainable living". The students were very involved and receptive to the information that was given by Rukmani. Thanks to Ann. Nikita Nair for helping us organise this.











Youth Service

Director: Rtn. Adithya Roongta

Induction of Interact Club of Sri Sankara Matriculation School

2nd October 2025

We are proud to announce induction of Sri Sankara Matriculation School as 2nd Interact Club of RCCT. Ann Archana pursued the school and ensured they came under our umbrella! We plan the installation ceremony by end month though we will continue to engage them with sessions.





Importance of Digital Safety

10th October 2025

The Interact Club members of Sankara Matriculation School had an interactive session in association with Yi on the Importance of Digital Safety (DIGILANTE).

Through real life examples & hands-on discussions, students learned how to secure their mobile devices, identify & avoid online frauds but most importantly reach out to their trusted circle when in doubt. The session helped students understand how small digital precautions can make a big difference in staying safe online. The Principal was deeply appreciative of the initiative and even called us to personally thank for creating such a meaningful impact amongst her students. Ann Archana Krishnakumar coordinated & attended the session from RCCT.





Session on Good and Bad Touch

10th October 2025

The Interact Club of Sankara Matriculation School had yet another powerful and impactful session on the topic of Good Touch Bad Touch (Masoom) in association with Yi for students of Grades 9 to 12

The session was thoughtfully designed to create awareness on identifying unsafe situations, understanding how not to fall victim and most importantly how to take action and seek help. The Yi facilitator also spoke about the emotional side of harassment or victimization — encouraging students to recognize their feelings, speak up with confidence & to simply reach out to their trusted circle without fear or hesitation.

The session was interactive, very relatable & absolutely empowering on the minds of students reminding them that personal safety begins with awareness and courage. Ann Archana Krishnakumar co-ordinated & attended the session from RCCT.





Appreciation from Sri Sankara Matriculation Higher Secondary School

Management of Interact Club Sri Sankara Matriculation Higher Secondary School expressed their deepest gratitude and appreciation with the awareness program conducted by RCCT. We have introduced these sessions keeping in mind that every abused child is a lost citizen and we should spread awareness to make our country a safe place to live! RCCT thanks the management and promises to expose the children to various such awareness sessions.



Sri Sankara Matriculation Higher Secondary School

Recognised by the Government of Tamil Nadu (Managed by Hindu Seva Samajam)

No.1, 51st Cross Street, Thiruvalluvar Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600 041.

Phone: 2451 7525 E-mail: srisankara_mat@yahoo.co.in

Dt: 15.10.2025

TO

Rotary Club. Chennal Towers. CHENNAI.

Namasthe Sir/ Madam,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you and your team for conducting the awareness program on Digital safety and personal safety for our students and teachers which go hand-in-hand, especially in today's connected world. Both Mr. Aravindan and Mr. Jobin the mentors explained the topic with their own personal experiences.

Students were able to understand the tips how to use social media wisely without being caught into cybercrime and also protect themselves personally from strangers and were advised not to disclose their personal informations to strangers and inform their parents and elders at home if they meet with any crimes immediately.

Thank you for sharing your knowledge and time with us. We greatly appreciate your contribution to our staff and students through this awareness.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

SENIOR PRINCIPAL & PRINCIPAL.

Physiotherapy camp

31st October 2025

A free physiotherapy camp was held at the Thayagam rehabilitation home for Elders & Homeless in Madhavaram today the 31st of October 2025, organized by RCCT in association with Rotaract Club of Saveetha College of Physiotherapy.

The camp aimed to improve the mobility and well-being of elderly residents through free physiotherapy consultations and exercise guidance. Residents were assessed for joint pain, stiffness, and posture issues, and given personalized advice on simple exercises and lifestyle habits. Group stretching sessions were also conducted to encourage regular physical activity.

The residents expressed heartfelt gratitude, and the management appreciated the physiotherapists' efforts in supporting the health and happiness of the elderly.

Our heartful thanks to the Rotaract Club of Saveetha College of Physiotherapy for their efforts in this project. We are thankful to Rtn.Dr. Vivek S for sharing this novel idea to enable the elderly to lead a better life.Many more such camps will be undertaken in the coming months.

Rtn Venkatesh Nair & Ann Nikitha participated from RCCT.













राधात्रि नेत्रालय में प्रोजेक्ट राडार की शुरुआत, वीआर तकनीक से जागरूकता को नई दिशा

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

चेन्नई. राधात्रि नेत्रालय में 13वें वार्षिक प्रोजेक्ट राहार का शुभारंभ विश्व मधुमेह दिवस के अवसर पर हुआ। रोटरी बलब ऑफ चेन्ह्यं टावर्स द्वारा संचालित इस परियोजना के तहत पूरे नवंबर माह में मुफ्त डायबिटिक रेटिनोपेथी जांच शिवर आयोजित किए जाएंगे। मख्य अतिथि रोटरी 3233 जिला प्रमुख रोटेरियन देवेद्रन और विशिष्ट अतिथि अभिनेत्री संचितारोडी ने जनजागरूकता के लिए पंपलेट जारी किए। इस अवसर पर भारत में पहली बार एक वर्च अन रिचनिटी (वी.आर) प्लेटफॉर्म और कियोसक जनता की समर्पित किया गया जिससे नेत्र रोगियों के अनुभव को समझने



वी आर के माध्यम से डायबिटिक रेटिनोपैची के प्रभाव को दर्शाया जबकि हाँ प्रवीप करणा ने बताया कि हर पांच वर्षों में मध्येह रोगियों में रेटिनोपैथी की संधावना दोगनी हो

जाती है। उन्होंने एजाइ आधारित रेटिनल कैमरा द्वारा शहरी झुग्गिवों और पार्कों में जांच की योजना मात्रा की। ऑप्टोमेटी छात्रों को "युवा नेत्र ज्योति" के रूप में प्रमाणित किया गया।





Chennai, Oct 29: The 13th annual Project RADAR (Radhatri Nethralaya Diabetic Retinopathy Project in association with Rotary) as launched at Radhatr Nethralaya on World Diabetes Day. The monthlong free screening aims to raise awareness and rovide early detection of diabetic retinopathy.

Rotary 3233 District Governor Rin. Devendran inaugurated the event, with actor Sanchita Shetty

awareness pamphlets part of the Rotary Club of Chennai Towers initiative.

For the first time in India, a Virtual Reality (VR) platform and kiosk was introduced to help caregivers experience how patients with retinal disorders perceive vision, improving empathy and understanding. Dr. Vasumathy Vedantham, Medical Director, said the VR tool would also

ease patient anxiety about treatments and injections.

Dr. Praveen Krishna highlighted that diabetic retinopathy risk doubles every five years of diabetes and urged annual eye checkups. He also announced Al-based retinal screening camps in urban areas throughout November.

Optometry students vere certified as "Youth Vision Ambassadors: Yuva Nethra Jyotis to promote eye health awareness.

Free eye checkups for diabetic patients will be available at Radhatri Nethralaya, T. Nagar, from 9-10:30 a.m. through November 2025. For registration, call 94454 38681 and bring recent blood sugar reports.



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The Neighbourhood Newspaper for T. Nagar & Mambalam

www.mambalamtimes.in

Vol. 31, No. 25

November 2 - 8, 2025

Old furniture, AC, Fridge, W.Machine, TV, Laptop, Wood items, Office Scrap, Hotel Items, Any Condition. 2 Wheeler Scraps.

Split AC Rs.7000 Window AC Rs.5000 Muthulakshmi Furniture

98417 1296 86109 3799

Free eye screening for diabetic patients

By Our Staff Reporter

Radhatri Nethralaya (12, Hindi Prachara Sabha Street, T. Nagar) offers free eye screening for diabetic patients daily from 9 a.m to 10.30 a.m till Nov. 30 in its premises.

The test will screen for diabetic retinopathy, a complication of diabetes that affects the eyes and impairs vision.

Patients must carry their latest blood sugar report when coming for consultation. For appointments, call 94454 38681.



The Neighbourhood Newspaper for T. Nagar & Mambalam

www.mambalamtimes.in

November 2 - 8, 2025



Diabetic Retinopathy Project launched

By Our Staff Reporter Project RADAR (Radhatri Nethralaya Diabetic Retinopathy Project, in as-sociation with Rotary Club) was launched for the 130 consecutive year on Oct. 28 on the occasion of World Diabetes Day in Radhatri Nethralaya (12, Hindi Prachara Sabha Street, T.





ernor, Rotary 3233) was the Chief Guest.

Vedantham (Medical Direc-tor, Radhatri Nethralaya) vision could be impaired in said that pamphlets were diabetic retinopathy. released to promote aware-ness on Diabetic Retinopathy to be distributed amongst the public. The project of distributing pamphlets is spearheaded by Rotary club of Chennai Tow-

She said that for the first time in India, a novel Virtual Reality (VR) platform and Kiosk were launched to spread awareness about diabetic retinopathy. The Kiosk will also be used to allay the fears in the minds of patients especially with

Devendran (District Gov- regard to treatment and in- (Medical Director, Radhatri traocular injections, she Nethralaya) said that dia

added. Shegave a presenta- betic patients should get Vasumathy tion and demonstrated the their eyes examined at least once a year.
For more details, visit

iabetic retinopathy. https://radhatri Dr. Praveen Krishna nethralaya.com.





రెటినోపతి స్క్రీనింగ్ పరికరాన్ని ప్రారంభిస్తున్న అతిథులు, నిర్వాహకులు

నేత్ర సమస్యలపై అశ్రద్ధ వద్దు

పెరంబార్, ఆక్టోబరు 29 (ఆంధ్రజ్యోతి): కంటి నమస్యలపై ఆశ్రద్ధ చూపరాదని కంటి వైద్యనిషణులు ప్రజలకు నూచించారు. ప్రపంచ మధుమేహ దినోత్తవం నంద ర్భంగా రాధ్యాతి నేత్రాలయం, రోటరీ సంయుక్త ఆధ్వర్యంలో ఉచిత డయాబెటిక్ రెటి నోవతి స్ట్రీనింగ్ కార్వకమం మంగళవారం ప్రారంభించారు. కార్మకమానికి ముఖ్యఅ తిథిగా ది రోటరీ 3233 డిస్టిక్ట్ గవర్సర్ దేవేంద్రన్, గౌరవ ఆతిథిగా నటి సంచిత శెట్టి పాల్గొన్నారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా కంటి నమస్యలపై ప్రజలకు ఆవగాహన కర్పించేలా ముడించిన కరపత్రాలను విడుదల చేశారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా రాధాత్రి సేత్రాలయ మెడికల్ డైరెక్టర్ డా.వానుమతి దేవేంద్రన్ మాట్లాడుతూ... కంటే సమస్యలపై స్థ్రిజ లకు అవగాహన కల్పిచండంతో పాటు బి.నగర్ హింది ప్రచార సభ వీదిలోని రాదాత్రి నేత్రాలయంలో ఉచిత పరీక్షలు నిర్వహించనున్నామన్నారు. నవంబరులో ్రవతిరోజు ఉదయం 9 నుంచి 10.30 గంటల వరకు ఉచిత కంటే వరీకలు నిర్వహిం చనున్నామని, పరీక్షలకు హాజరయ్యేవారు 9445438681 అనే సెంబరుకు ఫోన్ చేసి ముందుగా పేరు నమోదుచేసుకోవాలని డా.వాసుమతి దేవేంద్రన్ తెలియజేశారు.

Free diabetic retinopathy screening for public

The 13th annual Project RADAR (Radhatri Nethralaya Diabetic Retinopathy Project in Association with Rotary), an annual monthlong free diabetic retinopathy screening for the public was launched at Radhatri Nethralaya on October 28. The Rotary 3233 district governor Rtn Devendran was the chief guest and actor Sanchita Shetty was the guest of honour. The dignitaries released pamphlets to promote awareness on diabetic retinopathy to be distributed among the public. This project is spearheaded by Rotary club of Chennai Towers. A novel Virtual Reality (VR) platform and kiosk was dedicated to the public. Students of Optometry were certified as 'Youth Vision Ambassadors: Yuva Nethra Jyotis' and received certificates from the chief guests. Diabetic patients can register themselves for a free eye checkup throughout November at Radhatri Nethralaya, 12, Hindi Prachara Sabha street, T Nagar, between 9 am and 10.30 am. Call: 9445438681. Patients are requested to take their latest blood sugar report while going for consultation.





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PORUR TIMES

Free Diabetic Retinopathy screening

November 5, 2025 Uncat



ion of World Diabetes Day, the 13th annual Project RADAR (Radhatri Nethralaya Diabetic Retinopathy Project in Association with Rotary), an annual month long free Diabetic Retinopathy screening for the public was launched on Oct 28 at Radhatri Nethralaya.

The Rotary 3233 district governor Rtn. Devendran was the chief guest and actress Sanchita Shetty was the guest of honour. The dignitaries released pamphlets to promote awareness on Diabetic Retinopathy to be distributed amongt the public. This project is spearheaded by Rotary club of Chennai Towers.

For the first time in India, a novel Virtual Reality (VR) platform and Kiosk was dedicated to the public by the dignitaries. Dr. Vasumathy Vedantham, Medical director, Radhatri Nethralaya said that this was a public awareness initiative by Radhatri Nethralaya to make caregivers of patients understand what patients with retinal problems experience, which would improve empathy and follow up of patients. The Kiosk will also be used to allay the fears in the minds of patients especially with regard to treatment and intraocular injections, she added. She gave a presentation on Diabetic Retinopathy and demonstrated the VR platform to show how vision could be impaired in diabetic retinopathy.

Dr. Praveen Krishna, Medical director Radhatri Nethralaya, reiterated the fact that for every five years of diabetes, the incidence of diabetic retinopathy is doubled and hence diabetic patients should get their eyes examined at least once a year and gave an outline of the month-long free camps with a new artificial intelligence (AI) based retinal camera to detect diabetic retinopathy in urban slums, parks etc.

Students of Optometry were certified as "Youth Vision Ambassadors: Yuva Nethra Jyotis" for spreading awareness of blinding eye conditions in the public and received certificates from the chief guests.

Diabetic patients can register themselves for a free eye checkup to rule out Diabetic retinopathy throughout November 2025 at Radhatri Nethralaya, 12, Hindi Prachara Sabha street, T. Nagar, between 9 am to 10.30am. Patients can call 94454 38681 to register and are requested to bring their latest blood sugar report when coming for consultation.





Polio Fund raising

14th October 2025

Rtn. Rukmani, Polio chair attended the session on Polio Fund raising organized by the RI District 3233





Golden Seniors

17th October 2025

An event for the golden seniors organized by RI District 3233 as part of Diwali celebration was headed by our Rtn. Srikumar. RCCT members Rtn. Krishnachander, Rtn. Rajesh Narang Rtn. Sapna, Anns Shoba, Deepa, Manasa & Radha & Annette Suhitha participated in the celebration.







District Diwali night

17th October 2025

Rtn. Krishnachander, Srikumar and Sumedha, Spouse PDG. Rtn.Nandakumar, Anns Runitha, Archana, Deepa & Manasa, Annettes Suhitha and Sushmitha participated in the District Diwali night









Achievements

Rtn. Dr. J S Rajkumar & Annet Dr. Anirudh Rajkumar received the Times of India award for Bariatric & Gastroenterology



Anniversary Celebrations



Rtn Shalin Shah & Ann Reena



Rtn Karthikeyan & Ann Geetha



Rtn Rojarajan & Ann Gomathi



Rtn Dr. Vivek & Ann Priya



Fun Facts about Rotary

ROTARY

The name "Rotary" comes from the original practice of rotating meeting locations among members.

WOMEN IN ROTARY

Until 1989, the Constitution and Bylaws of Rotary International stated that Rotary club membership was for males only. In 1978 the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, invited three women to become members. The RI board withdrew the charter of that club for violation of the RI Constitution. The club brought suit against RI claiming a violation of a state civil rights law which prevents discrimination of any form in business establishments or public accommodations. The appeals court and the California Supreme Court supported the Duarte position that Rotary could not remove the club's charter merely for inducting women into the club. The United States Supreme Court upheld the California court indicating that Rotary clubs do have a "business purpose" and are in some ways public-type organizations. This action in 1987 allowed women to become Rotarians in any jurisdiction having similar "public accommodation" statutes. The RI constitutional change was made at the 1989 Council on Legislation, with a vote to eliminate the "male only" provision for all of Rotary. Today, there are over 196,000 women members

ROTARY ANNS / ROTARY PARTNERS

In many Rotary clubs throughout the world, wives of male members are affectionately called "Rotary Anns". This designation was never one of disparagement, but rather grew out of an interesting historical occasion.

The year was 1914 when San Francisco Rotarians boarded a special train to attend the Rotary convention being held in Houston. In those days few wives attended Rotary events, and until the train stopped in Los Angeles, the only woman aboard was the wife of Rotarian Bru Brunnier. As the train picked up additional convention-bound delegates, Mrs. Ann Brunnier was introduced as the Rotarian's Ann. This title soon became "Rotary Ann." Since the clubs of the West were inviting the Rotarians to hold their next convention in San Francisco, a number of songs and stunts were organized which would be performed in Houston. One of the Rotarians wrote a "Rotary Ann" chant. On the train's arrival at the Houston depot, a delegation greeted the West Coast Rotarians. One of the greeters was Guy Gundaker of Philadelphia, whose wife was also named Ann. During the rousing demonstration, someone started the Rotary Ann chant. The two petite ladies, Ann Brunnier and Ann Gundaker, were hoisted to the men's shoulders and paraded about the hall. The group loved the title given to the two women named Ann. Immediately the same term of endearment was used for all of the wives in attendance, and the name "Rotary Ann" was here to stay. Guy Gundaker became president of Rotary International in 1923 and Bru Brunnier was elected president in 1952. Thus, each of the two original Rotary Anns became the "first ladies of Rotary International."

Very few clubs have Rotary Anns, but many have Partners organizations, some are still called "Inner Wheel." The word Rotary Ann can be heard on a rare occasion, and now you know where it came from.