

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 19 | NOVEMBER 14, 2023

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES

Rotary



95



CREATE HOPE
IN THE WORLD

ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS



Dear RCMers,

November is The Rotary Foundation month and the TRF has numerous donors over the years and the numbers are encouragingly increasing.

As part of G4, an innovative showcase for and of green Rotarians, the importance of TRF was presented by Rtn. PP. Shivakumar in a delightful way. We join the President in encouraging you to be a donor very soon.

Thanks and warm regards

Rtn. Sunita Suresh



ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
WEEKLY MEETING

RCM 20TH WEEKLY MEETING

Tuesday, 21st November 2023 | 1.30 pm
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

SPEAKER

Ms. Nirupa Shankar
Joint MD, Brigade Group

TOPIC

**MAKING ONE'S MARK
IN A CROWDED SPACE**



Please note that spouses are cordially invited for this meeting.

Rtn. S. Ravi
President

Rtn. Vikram Chesetty
Director Club Service

Rtn. M. Sessa Sai
Honorary Secretary

Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar
Chairperson – Programs Committee

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Send in your articles, news and stories for consideration in the Lighthouse bulletin to:
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Stay updated with our very own RCM magazine!

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Minutes of the 19th Weekly Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras

held at the Hyatt Regency on 14.11.23 at 6.30 PM

P.P. Rtn. George Cherian collared President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, who called 19th Weekly Meeting of RCM to order followed by Silent Invocation.

President's Welcome and Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan welcomed attendees. Requested confirmation for minutes of the 18th weekly meeting were duly confirmed.

Announcements by Rtn. Bharat

M. Pujara:

- Contributed nitric oxide system to Child's Trust Hospital.
- Acknowledged attendees and thanked Rtn. Mehul Uday Nanawati for the generous donation.
- Chief guest: Rtn. Vinod Saraogi; CEO of Child's Trust Hospital: Mr. Ravishankar.

Introduction of Visiting Rotarians and Guests:

Welcomes Mr. Vikram Shivkumar, Mrs. Vidya, and Mr. Arun.

TRF Announcements by Rtn. Sabina:

- November highlighted as the International month for the Rotary Foundation.
- Recognized and thanked major donors with pins.
- Acknowledged generous contributions from various members.

Secretary's Announcements - Rtn. Sessa sai:

Medical camps at RSM High School and Muthialpet Higher Secondary School. Cricket match details and curtain raiser on Saturday.



Birthday and anniversary announcements.

Next meeting on November 21st with Nirupama Shankar, M.D. of Brigade group.

First Speaker - P.P. Rtn. Shivkumar:

Topic: Invisible host.

Introduced by Rtn. Sabina.

P.P. Rtn. Shivkumar delivered a talk on the Invisible host.

Honouring P.P. Shivkumar:

Recognized P.P. Shivkumar for hosting the club fellowship. Acknowledged his generous donation for a mammogram machine.

Second Session - Green Galatta:

Floor open for Green Rotarians: Rtn. Yashwanth Kumar Venkataraman Dr. Rtn. Anjali Ponni Rajkumar, Rtn. Fharzana Siraj, Rtn. YY Sanjay Madhavan, Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan.

Vote of Thanks:

Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21st, featuring Ms. Nirupama Shankar, M.D. of Brigade group as the speaker. ■

From the 19th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras Nov. 14, 2023





THE INVISIBLE HOST

– AN ENCOURAGING NUDGE TOWARDS
THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

The Invisible Host – An encouraging nudge towards The Rotary Foundation PP Rtn. Shivakumar spoke on the topic “The Invisible Host “. It was quite a humorous speech, laced with puns and fun. He highlighted the fact that humanity across the world is saved every second due to inventions in some other part of the world. Such inventions are made by humans without considering the limitations of geographic boundaries, and instead driven by their passion to serve humanity, wherever they may be. Likewise, he also encouraged RCMers to be generous donors to the Rotary Foundation, especially since it is one of the few NGOs anywhere in the world, where a contribution of 1 US Dollar is matched by Rotary International and then the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to make it a 6-dollar contribution.

He said that every 1- or 1000-dollar contribution by an RCMer will save 6 or 6000 children from Polio. Rtn. Shivakumar Eeswaran then donated a sum of US



dollars 10,000 as the first instalment towards the cost of a Mammogram Machine that will be donated on 22.04.2024 being the first anniversary of his wife's death. ■





Green Galatta Gin with Ganesh

Know your Green Rotarian with a twist

RCMers who braved incessant rains on 14.11.2023 had a fantastic evening, being treated to a wonderful experience of fun, spirit and information, all mixed well like the cocktails that were in full flow at the venue. What was to have been a routine "My Job Talk" program, was wonderfully tweaked to a "gentle Interrogation over a gimlet" by the Programs Committee headed by Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar, and anchored by Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan. Green Rotarians Anjali Ponni, Fharzana Siraj, Sanjay Madhavan and Yashwanth Kumar Venkataraman, were on stage, to reveal details about themselves, even as they were being grilled by the anchor through information already gathered from friends and relatives. It was obvious that the wonderful talent amongst RCMers will provide more satisfaction than external guest speakers. While the anchor kept eliciting personal information from the 4 green rotarians, the audience lapped it all up, frequently applauding all on the dais. The one-hour program was truly memorable for several aspects including the format, the décor, the enthusiasm of speakers and audience, and the unique cocktails. A brief synopsis of what was shared by the four green Rotarians is shared for readers information. Rtn. Anjali Ponni was straightaway



asked as to why both her Father Mr. Rajkumar and she had quit RCM, and why she rejoined. Sporting a smile, she replied that an opportunity to study abroad, marriage and commitment to business had all made her to quit Rotary, and since the meaningful projects of RCM would give her the opportunity to serve the society, she rejoined and continues to support Rotary Nagar project with active involvement. A multi-talented person, qualified in Business Administration and Biotech, and having worked in diverse fields like Equity Analyst and Research Specialist, she is now engaged with her family business "Photo Emporium" and "Cannon Image Square". An accomplished painter, she dabbles in Art, painting under the name "Awasthi". Met her husband Mr. Avinash, a garment exporter and retailer by profession, while playing poker. Son Agastya studying in school is quite a tornado at home. Her family business has a great passion for protecting animals, especially dogs. Has been a Under 19 National Title Holder in Squash, and the Captain of Indian Junior Team at 8 th Asian Junior Championship.

Rtn. Fharzana Siraj was introduced as a nomad with ties to many cities, and responded that she moved to Chennai in 1983, when quizzed as to when and why she moved to Chennai. Her husband Mr. Siraj is in Abrasives Business, and her two children – Sarah and Abbas – were working in Dubai. Acknowledging that she was a very persevering and creative person, she narrated an incident when she had to spray mud and paste leaves on her son, to give him a makeover as Mowgli, for a school project. Rtn. Vipin Sachdev had proposed her to RCM, and the desire to give back to the society, was her reason to join RCM. Recent efforts through Member Engagement Committee to inspire not-so-

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regular attendees, gave her immense satisfaction. Qualified in Yoga Therapy with MSc and a PhD, she also was a MD in Acupuncture, and helped patients be nourished back to good health through her Orange Ray Alternative Medicine Clinic. When quizzed if her patients often came back, she nonchalantly remarked that if they came back often, then it meant that her treatment had not worked. She admitted that learning many languages was her passion, along with Spirituality and Mysticism, while her interests included Reading, Music, Crochet, Stitching and Cooking. Being formally trained in Yoga by Shri Iyengar, this professional wellness coach has been recognised as 1 of 16 most powerful Yoginis and 1 of top 50 Yogis

Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan was introduced as Mr. Popular amongst girls at school. His school friend turned wife Anna, had a Real Estate Business, while daughter Anushka studied Visual Design in London, and son Akhil was doing his Masters in Ashoka University. Rtn. Vikram Chessety had proposed him to RCM, where his Father Shri. Gopal Madhavan had earlier been a Member. After his Engineering graduation from Thyagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai and Masters from BITS, Ranchi, he had joined a very niche Systems Software Group in TCS. From here, he went on deputation to a client at Switzerland, and thereafter worked with many reputed companies in Switzerland, before starting his own company Infonovum in 2005. He was appointed as Hony Consul for Switzerland in 2022. Passions include Motor Racing, Rowing, Swimming and Table Tennis, in all of which he has excelled at high levels, including participating in Para Nationals. As a qualified HAM Operator, he supported many during the 2015 floods in Chennai. Loves playing the Spanish guitar Rtn. Yashwanth Kumar Venkataraman was introduced as Mr. Sunshine. With Bachelor of Dental Surgery and Masters in Orthodontics, this multi-faceted professional runs 10 Dental Clinics in India, 2 in Oman, an Academy to train Dentists, a Polyclinic for Geriatric Patients and a designer

Furniture business. Wife Ms. Nilaya was his 1-year junior at college, and operates Nilaya Reddy Jewellery brand of diamonds. Children Siddharth and Nynika are studying at Sishya school. When quizzed as to why his clinics had only female employees, he innocently said it was not by design. His patients include Police and IAS Officials, with whom he is well connected as their friends. He operates a free Dental Community Clinic inside the Raj Bhavan for last 15 years and was willing to operate a similar one at Rotary Nagar in association with RCM. Having the distinction of being the youngest Consul,

when appointed as Hony Consul for El Salvador, he also is President of Consular Corps Diplomatique in Chennai, apart from serving in several academic and professional bodies as Governing Council Member. Passion is travelling to exotic destinations and engaging in fun activities.

- PP Rtn. Ravishankar ■

BIRTHDAYS

- Nov. 15th - Rtn. Murali V
- Nov. 15th - Rtn. Roopa Shetty
- Nov. 17th - Rtn. Hemant Srivatsa
- Nov. 18th - Rtn. Shivaraman T
- Nov. 13th - Ann. Saraswati, Spouse of Udayanarayanan
- Nov. 13th - Ann. Nelima, Spouse of Sanjay Kumar V.R
- Nov. 14th - Ann. Sushma, Spouse of Nimish C. Tolia

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Nov. 13th - Rtn. Mohan P.N. & Janaki (Rita)
- Nov. 14th - Rtn. Maithili Shaan Katari Libby & Dr. James F. Libby
- Nov. 15th - Rtn. Paul Jacob PP & Tanuja Paul
- Nov. 15th - Rtn. Pratap Kumar M. & Malathi Devi
- Nov. 15th - Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar & K. Sridhar
- Nov. 16th - Rtn. Anisha Ashok Dr. & Dr. Jayanth
- Nov. 17th - Rtn. Sapru Mathew & Susan
- Nov. 18th - Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar & K. Sridhar
- Nov. 18th - Rtn. Vijay Shankar Balaji & Lavanya





On 15th November 2023, Our President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, Rtn. Gautam Reddy and members of the Environment Committee met Environment Secretary, Supriya Sule.



THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS CELEBRATED DIWALI WITH CHILDREN OF OMEGA SCHOOL

RCMs Interact clubs, the Sarvodaya Interact club of Omega School celebrated Diwali by conducting Fund Raiser. They used the funds to gift 200 Diwali hampers to underprivileged children through the Iniya Udayam Charitable Trust ■





Join us this month by participating in the e-waste collection drive. This initiative not only addresses the mounting issue of electronic waste but also promotes responsible disposal and recycling. We accept a wide range of electronic items, like old computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets, printers, monitors, keyboards, mice, cables, and other peripherals. Additionally, household appliances like refrigerators, washing machines, and microwaves are accepted. The goal is to divert these items from landfills, ensuring they are recycled or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner to reduce the environmental impact of electronic waste.

#ewasteclectiondrive
#cleanerplanet
#Reduceewaste

Drop off point:

Wasted 360 Solutions,
T.Nagar,Chennai:600017

Google Map Link:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/zDrpausVvV9fCcz97>

Do fill the google form once you send for our team to quantify and know you participated:

<https://forms.gle/WB4LfjahdsLYpi59A>

Thank you so much!

Environment Committee

Rtn. Gautam Reddy

Rtn. Dr. Vani Vijay






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