

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 9 | AUGUST 29, 2023

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



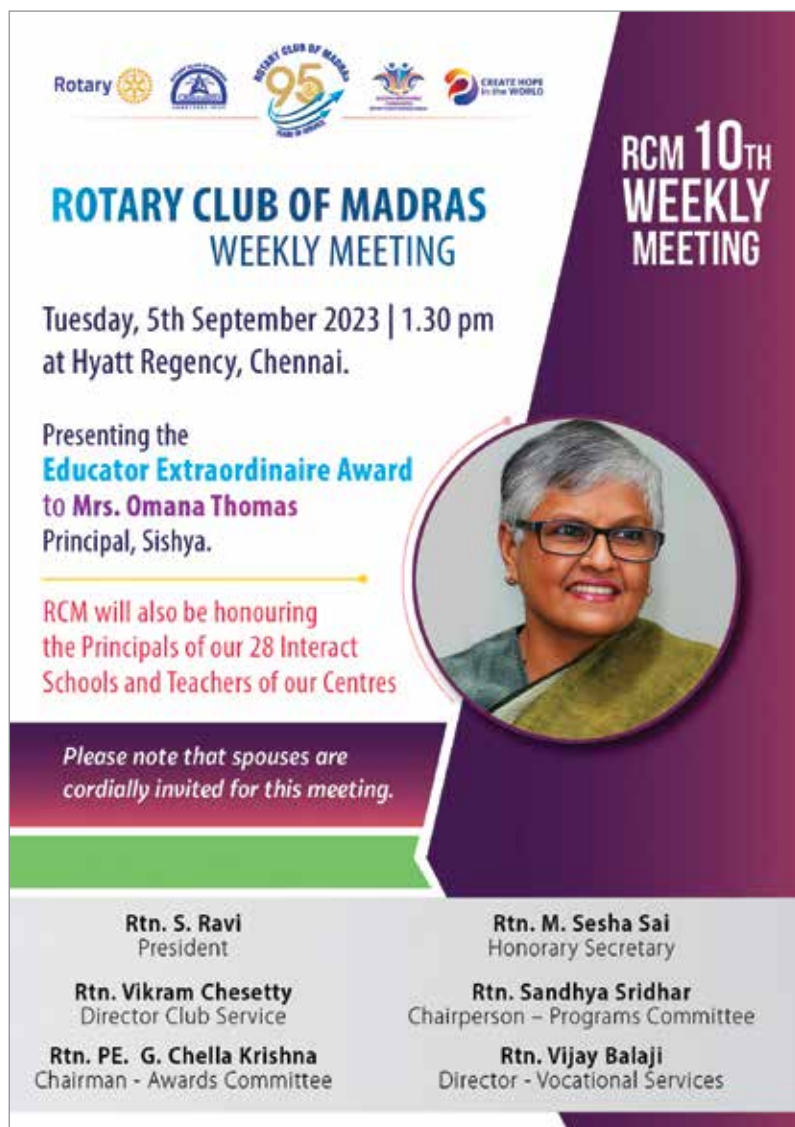
Dear RCMers,

We start this week on a solemn note with the passing of our beloved Rtn. Christopher Devaprakasam.

The member engagement committee brings to you a delightful introduction to green Rotarians. Wishing you all a great week ahead.

Yours in Rotary,

Rtn. Sunita Suresh



Rotary Club of Madras 95th Anniversary Logo: ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS 95th Anniversary (1928-2023) with the motto "CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD".

ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS WEEKLY MEETING

RCM 10TH WEEKLY MEETING

Tuesday, 5th September 2023 | 1.30 pm
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

Presenting the **Educator Extraordinaire Award** to **Mrs. Omana Thomas** Principal, Sishya.

RCM will also be honouring the Principals of our 28 Interact Schools and Teachers of our Centres

Please note that spouses are cordially invited for this meeting.

Rtn. S. Ravi President	Rtn. M. Sesha Sai Honorary Secretary
Rtn. Vikram Chesetty Director Club Service	Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar Chairperson – Programs Committee
Rtn. PE. G. Chella Krishna Chairman - Awards Committee	Rtn. Vijay Balaji Director - Vocational Services

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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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CHARIS MEDIA WORKS

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Minutes of the 9th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras August 29th, 2023



President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan called the meeting to order, welcoming attendees on behalf of the club. A silent invocation was observed.

Acting Sergeant at Arms Rtn. Jayant Hemdev formally called the 9th Weekly Meeting of RCM to Order. President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan led a moment of silent Invocation.

Condolence for Rtn. Christopher Devaprakasam: A moment of silence was observed to honour the passing of Rtn. Christopher Devaprakasam. PP Rtn. Gopinath and PP Rtn. George Cherian paid their respects, highlighting Christopher's contributions to the club and community.

Confirmation of Minutes: Minutes of the 9th weekly meeting held on 29th August were confirmed.

Welcoming Guests and Visitors: Visiting Rotarians and guests were welcomed, including Probus club members, President welcomed Mr. MIYATA Kenji – Japanese Deputy Consul General, Ms. Teraoka Mami – Japanese Culture Head of Japan, Mr. Kunal Patel, Mr. Bajaj, and Daulat Jain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Rtn. Farzana announced the success of the recent Happy Feet event by the wellness committee.
- Secretary Rtn. Sesha Sai provided birthday and anniversary announcements for club members.

- Bridge Tournament Announcement: Rtn. George announced the successful Rotary Club of Madras Bridge Tournament, with participation from district Rotarians and Rtn. Venkatesh, a Rotary International Director, winning second place.

The next meeting on 5th September will celebrate Teacher's Day and host the Education Extraordinary Award function.

Health camps organized by Bharath M. Pujara and Dr. Arulmozhi Varman were reported successful.

Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, an accomplished former Indian Foreign Service officer with diplomatic assignments across the globe.

Mrs. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa delivered an insightful talk on her experiences as an Indian Foreign Service officer, her diplomatic assignments, and her unique perspective on global affairs in which she emphasized the Indo-Japanese relations. The floor was opened for a Q&A session following the guest speaker's address.

Secretary Rtn. Sesha Sai extended a vote of thanks to all attendees and the guest speaker for their contributions.

President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan adjourned the 9th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras. ■

From the 9th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras August 29th, 2023







CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND JAPAN

Speaker
**Amb. Deepa
Gopalan Wadhwa,**
Former Indian
Ambassador to Japan

Making an Ambassador is not easy, because the Indian UPSC exam is one of the toughest in the world to get through, and being one is certainly not for the ordinary. You have to deal with all humanity, from Monarchs to Presidents to Generals to Spooks. You need to speak to the world and appropriately at that.

One needs to be erudite, smart, controlled and succinct. No unnecessary words, carefully crafted, to the point and to suit the occasion. And Tough! Like P G Wouehouse says, "a twenty-minute egg"

And Amb. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa is all that!

A diplomat in the Indian Foreign Service, she has had a distinguished career as Ambassador to Japan, Sweden & Qatar and, overall, for over 35 years in the service of our nation. She was born and brought up in Chennai or Madras, as she prefers to call it. She studied in Holy Angels convent and was a student of science at Women's Christian College.

She was a National Science talent Scholar but went on to take the UPSC route to join the Indian Foreign Service. She is married to another Career Diplomat, Amb. Anil Wadhwa, who served as an ambassador to Poland, Oman, Thailand & Italy.

Personally, Amb. Wadhwa and I serve as co-Advisers of a Delhi-based Chamber of commerce where I've had the privilege of meeting him.

She was with us this Tuesday afternoon to talk about "Cultural & Historical Connections Between India & Japan". And as I said earlier, she was Fluent, Clear, to the point and hugely descriptive on the subject, as well as her personal experiences in Japan.

In her opening remarks, she emphasized that India and Japan go back a long way in time as regards their relationship. To begin with, there was a mention of a special affinity of Japan with Tamil Nadu.

Starting off on a lighter note, she spoke about the popularity of Rajnikant in Japan. About the Tamil film "Muthu" in 1995 and the current Japanese Ambassador dancing to the song from "Jailer".

Historically, it is said that there was a 7th century sage known as "Bodhi Sena" who travelled to Japan from

Madurai. He established a base in Nara and became a priest in the temple. He attained samadhi in Nara and, even as of date, people visit Nara to offer prayers.

There is a sense of cultural comfort that the Japanese have with Tamil Nadu because of this long-lasting connection. Saraswathi, Shiva and Kubera are a part of the 7 lucky gods in Japan, and there are 160 temples of Saraswathi which still stand today. There are also Temples for Ganapathy, both Male & Female, which is unique in itself.

The 2nd stage of the relationship relates to the time of the Portuguese & Dutch occupation of India. Francis Xavier traded fine textiles and yarn from Goa to Japan. Some historical remnants still form a part of the Kyoto annual Festival even today, where they are exhibited.

The 3rd stage of engagement with India which she recalled was during the British occupation of India. Swami Vivekananda, en route to U S, made a stopover in Japan for 3 months. He was so taken up with the Japanese way of life, he advocated the Japanese experience to all Indians.

Thereafter, Jamshedji Tata established a JV with NYK which exists even as of date. Subash Chandra Bose apparently sought Japanese assistance for our freedom from the British, the details of which were not elaborated on.

The 4th phase was during and in the aftermath of the 2nd World War. Imphal & Kohima saw the presence of Japanese people. Soon after, there was a Court of Justice and, akin to Nuremberg Trials a commission was set up to go into the atrocities of WWII. The most prominent story of that was, of Justice Vinod Pal who was among the judges of the commission. His bust still stands and is a landmark in Tokyo.

After Indian Independence, Indian PM Jawaharlal Nehru, despite pressure from the west, chose to treat Japan as an Asian ally and signed a special friendship treaty with them which brought the countries closer. There was also an emotional connection established when our PM gifted a baby elephant, which was greatly appreciated by the Japanese.

It was considered to be so precious and such a gesture of goodwill that it warrants a mention even today. There was an ODA (Overseas Development Assistance) signed between us that gave us access to funding through JICA and JETRO which further strengthened bilateral ties. Suzuki came into India with a small car which fulfilled the dream of every Indian family owning a car. This was the beginning of

the automobile evolution. Technology and Japanese Management style were brought in.

The 5th Stage: There was a brief lull in early 2000 wherein certain differences cropped up between us and progress was halted. Which soon corrected itself with regular dialogues and now back on an even keel. Now the PM meets every year on a regular basis. Both Japan & India are a part of the Quad with the US & Australia. Happy days are here!

Trivia: Don't go from one Indian restaurant to the other. Try Japanese Vegetarian. Especially their Tofu with Soya. Advice to RCMers! To improve Relationship: You need cross-cultural communication. Try and

understand the Japanese. They are cautious. Risk Averse. Deal with them accordingly.

There are 1500 Japanese clubs in India. There are 35,000 in China. India hopes to accommodate 15000 in the next 3 years.

Summing up: As I was leaving the meeting, an RCMer said to me in the elevator, "What a lovely afternoon. A wonderful speaker! Thoroughly enjoyed it". I guess that is the overall sentiment. Thank you Ambassador Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa.

Thank you, RCM Club Services Team!

- Rtn. Raghunandan Akur Raman. ■

THE FLAG OF RCM'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (AUSTRALIA)

The flag of RCM's International Relations got a further boost with the visits of our Rotarians PP Vijaya Bharathi and Shivkumar Eashwaran.

Rtn. Vijaya Bharathi attended the Rotary Club of Halifax Harbour's very early morning(!) breakfast meeting at 7:15am, on a Friday. It was a small hybrid gathering of twelve people and another ten joined online. The Rotary Club of Halifax Harbour, Province of Nova Scotia, was created in 2021 after the merger of two well-established Clubs – the Rotary Club of Halifax Harbourside and the Rotary Club of Halifax. It has a vibrant community of more than seventy members representing various backgrounds and professions. Rtn. Vijaya Bharathi exchanged the RCM flag and our book 'Timeless Legacy' with President Godfrey Chongatera. There were also a few exchange students amongst those present who spoke about their experiences. One girl had returned from France after ten months and now one boy was going to Brazil for a similar period.

Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran visited the Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast Australia. He had travelled there to participate in the "BREWCON 2023" Expo at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre with 100 other Indian Brewery industrialists. He had the opportunity to meet and interact with Rotary District Governor (DG) 2023-24 District 9640 Dave Harmon, and DG 2020-2021 Andy Rajapakse. At the meeting, flags were exchanged as well as our book 'Timeless Legacy' and the JWD pin.



Please keep travelling and networking with this global family of Rotarians! Please keep travelling and networking with this global family of Rotarians!

PP Rtn Gunashekar
Chairperson of International Service ■

MEDICAL CAMP IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SUNDARAM MEDICAL FOUNDATION

The Rotary Club of Madras, in association with the Sundaram Medical Foundation, organized a free medical camp on August 24, 2023, from 2.45 p.m. to 6 p.m. at His/Her place, T. Nagar, Chennai.

Checkup: CBG, HB, BP & General screening were done. No. of Beneficiaries - 109

The Rotary Club of Madras distributed medicine worth Rs.3300/- to needy people.

RCM President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, Rtn. Bharat Pujara, PP Rtn. Gopinath, PP Rtn. George B Cherian and Rtn. Nimish C Tolia visited the camp.

Thank you to all the Rotarians for dropping by to encourage the medical camp.

Medical Team:

Dr. Swaran (General Medicine),

Dr. Samyuktha (Family Medicine)

Ms. Thenmozhi & Ms. Swetha (Nurse)

Mr. Karthikeyan (Social Worker)

Ms. Neeraja (Social Work Trainee) ■



Dear Rotarians,

On 27th August 2023, the Rotary Club of Madras had an amazing day, honoring PHF. Mr. Kamakoti, the IIT Director, with the Paul Harris Fellow Pin and Certificate. Special thanks go to PDG Rtn. Krishnaswami for his generous support.

Mr. Kamakoti received the PHF pin and Certificate from IPP Rtn. Jayashree Sridhar, President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, PP Venkhat Ramani, and PP Rtn. K K Raman, who were all present at the event. ■



BIRTHDAYS

Sept 5th - Rtn. Kishore Dandekar J.

Sept 7th - Rtn. Bhatia N.K.

Sept 7th - Rtn. Parkavi

Sept 7th - Rtn. Shanno Ravi

Sept 8th - Rtn. Pratap Kumar M.

Sept 8th - Rtn. Ramasubramanian V. Dr.

Sept 4th - Ann. Indra Prabha (Spouse of Rtn. Mahul H. Shah)

Sept 4th - Ann. Thangam (Spouse of Rtn. Thomas Philip)

Sept 5th - Ann. Mohana
(Spouse of Rtn. Shyam Sundar P.C.)

Sept 7th - Ann. Renuka
(Spouse of Rtn. PP. Rajendra Sabanayagam)

Sept 9th - Ann. K. Alamelu
(Spouse of Rtn. Nalli Kuppuswami Chetty)

Sept 9th - Ann. Sangeeta
(Spouse of Rtn. Gooch Kumar)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 4th - Rtn. PP Gunasekhar & Padmavathy

Sept 5th - Rtn. Raja V & Revathy

Sept 6th - Rtn. PP Chandrakumar V.K. & Usha

Sept 7th - Rtn. Venkhat Ramani A.S & Mallika

SUNSHINE

Rtn. Mohan Ramam - Rs. 1000/-

Rtn. Sessa Sai - Rs. 2000/-

Rtn. NIKHIL RAJ - Rs. 4000/-

Rtn. Usha Umapathi - Rs. 5000/-



BRIDGE TOURNAMENT



The RCM Bridge tournament was conducted on Sunday 27th August from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at Alumini Club. A total of 15 pairs took part.

The tournament proved to be a resounding success, attracting skilled players and enthusiastic spectators alike from many Rotary Clubs. The event was a testament to the enduring popularity of bridge, a game that combines strategy, critical thinking, and teamwork. Participants from various clubs showcased their prowess, creating an atmosphere of friendly competition and camaraderie. The tournament not only celebrated the game itself but also emphasized the importance of mental acuity and strategic planning. As players demonstrated their abilities and forged new connections, the

success of the event highlighted Bridge's unique ability to bring individuals together through a shared passion for intellectual challenges and engaging gameplay.

As the winners celebrated their victories and the participants left with fond memories, the tournament stood as a testament to the power of intellectual challenges in fostering a sense of achievement and community.

Special thanks to Rtn. Mukund who spearheaded the tournament and ensured flawless execution. We would want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our Rotarians PP Rtn. Benjamin Cherian and Rtn. George B Cherian for their unwavering sponsorship of the tournament for the past 12 years.



The following Rotarians attended the prize distribution ceremony:

President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan
Youth Service Director
Rtn. Balaji Chinni
Chairman, Rtn. Vijay Kadal
Rtn. Benjamin Cherian
Rtn. George B Cherian

RCM Bridge Tournament Results:

Winner:

Sunil Vergese and Srihari Vergese

Runner-up 1: **Sushi Nataraj** (IWC) and **A.S.Venkatesh** (RI Director)

Runner-up 2: **Hemu Ramaiah** and **Rajshri** (RCM)

Fourth Place:

C.Satish Kumar (RC Tnagar) and **Mukund Subramanian** (RCM)

Fifth Place: **Naveen Bhatia** and **Amita Bhatia** (RCM)

Rtn. Vijay Kadel

Chairman – Sports & Culture
Team Youth Service, RCM ■



RCMs meeting with Rotary Club of Nairobi Peponi, District 9212, Kenya

What may a 9-year-old offer a 95-year-old Sibling? Going by the virtual meeting with Rotary Club of Nairobi Peponi, District 9212, Kenya, we would say, “a lot”. Beginning with high energy, total commitment to their Club and projects, unbridled enthusiasm and, above all, their unity in diversity.

Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal, the Chair for Sister Clubs started the virtual meeting by introducing the Members of RCM present, including Rtn. President Ravi Sundaresan and gave an overview of RCM’s engagement with over 28 Sister Clubs across the world.

Likewise, Rtn. Shruti Sankpal, Hon. Secretary, RCNP, introduced her Club Members, Rtn. President Vincent Nguni, Rtn. PP. Akshesh, Rtn. Nirav Shah, Club Treasurer, Rtn. Anish and Rtn. Peter Hermann, Director – International Service.

They shared a presentation on RCNP’s work on the ground and the simple and innovative ways they get their Rotary families together.

Rtn. President Vincent conveyed his Club’s excitement about signing a sister-Club Agreement with our Club and is eagerly looking forward to some “fun” while moving forward with Rotary projects.

Rtn. President Ravi Sundaresan extended his invitation to Members of RCNP to visit Chennai as a part of World Understanding Day Celebrations slated for February 2024. Rtn. President also expressed his happiness, on behalf of our Club, at the prospect of adding a young & vibrant Rotary Club to our growing list of Sister Clubs.

Our Rtn. Shivakumar Vellur, Chair for Humanitarian projects, outlined potential humanitarian projects that the two Clubs may jointly execute in Kenya, with a focus on eye surgery, education, maternal & child health, WASH programs, etc.

Rtn. Dr. Supriya Gautam, on behalf of RCM, highlighted several ways by which eye surgery may be conducted jointly in Kenya or may be supported by RCM.

On our behalf, Rtn Sabina Narayan, Director TRF and International Service, congratulated RCNP on the work being done for schools in Nairobi, as well as for the eye surgeries carried out by Westlands Hospital, Kenya.

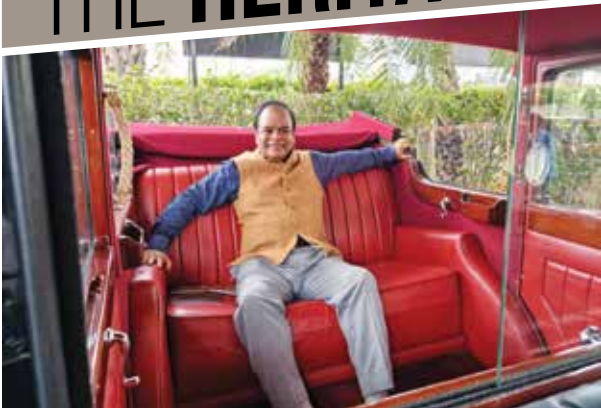
Rtn. Shruti Sankpal informed us that the draft Sister Club Agreement would be signed and sent to us for completion. This Agreement between RCM and RCNP will, we hope, build strong bridges of friendship and make a difference in the communities we serve.

Rtn. PP Gunashekar,
Chairman – International Service ■





THE HERITAGE ROLLERS CAR SHOW




RCM has participated in THE Heritage Rollers Car Show organized by our PP RANJIT. The car show was attracted participants from all over India and many cars of great value and heritage were sent to Chennai for display. We had set up a CSR Window at the event to showcase RCM's CSR at this high profile event. The event and our CSR window was graced by the presence of the Commissioner of Police Mr Sandeep Rai Rathore IPS and Mr Radhakrishnan , Commissioner Corporation, IAS who gave a lot of time.

WE EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS TO all for making the Rotary CSR window grand success; Thanks to our PP RTN Ranjith Pratap to permit the ROTARY CSR WINDOW; Special thanks to OUR IPP FOR MAKING a VIDEO CLIP in a short time. Kudos to RTN GANESH, Rtn Krish Rtn Chella, Rtn Vivek, Rtn Paul, Rtn Srinivasan as well as our rotary staff members for extending support and co operation.

The following rotarians have joined us in the CSR WINDOW Rtn Ranjith, Rtn Krishnamoorrhy Vijayan, Rtn Ravi Bhatkhal, Rtn Rajib Hota, Rtn Dr Bala, Rtn PP George, Rtn Rajesh and Ann Midhuna, PDG Rtn PP Benjamin Cherian, Rtn PP SN SRIKANTH, Rtn PP Sankar Mangadu, Rtn RAHUL Saraogi, Rtn Sridhar V. ■






Ashwath, you are 8 months into Rotary... how welcoming have we, at RCM been?



"It's been great, easy because I believe the interaction has been two way. I am outgoing and was happy to help or participate. PP Rtn. Venkat Ramani & Rtn. Balaji Chinni – Director, youth services roped me in, (they spotted enthusiasm & talent) and we dived into the street scape. Prior to this I worked with IPP Jayshree Sridhar in working with a Womens Organization in Uzbekistan. It didn't take off, as we had different objectives. I have been given the opportunity to speak on the 4-way test, talk about the progress of the streetscape projects at regular meetings. I was invited to work with Sabina, Ramjei & Raj Rajendran on the Japan trip. Everyone I have interacted with has been open, friendly and willing to suggestions too."



Initially I did have apprehensions – would I be able satisfy expectations. I am happy where I am. I was invited to other committees, but I decided let me handle and give the time that I can, see how I do and then take up more responsibilities.

What is your most used productivity hack?

I would say discipline, having a satisfaction at completing tasks. Everything seems better

and even the output is better with discipline.

What is your idea of a perfect day?

There is nothing like perfect. I believe a satisfying day in any situation or circumstance, makes it a perfect day!!! (what a learning for us). Because everyday, however much you plan it, throws up combinations and if you have managed it, there is perfection there.

Has your immediate family got to know Rotarians better through fellowships, fireside and even at meetings?

To be fair, everyone has been really busy in their professional lives. So, not really.

Lastly, Ashwath do share with us some candid photos that show is the Ashwath outside rotary. The boisterous young man

He laughs and says that was in college!

But shares some beautiful pictures.

Thank you Ashwath, we are happy for your enthusiasm to get involved with RCM and so glad we have mentors, directors and members to help sail that journey.

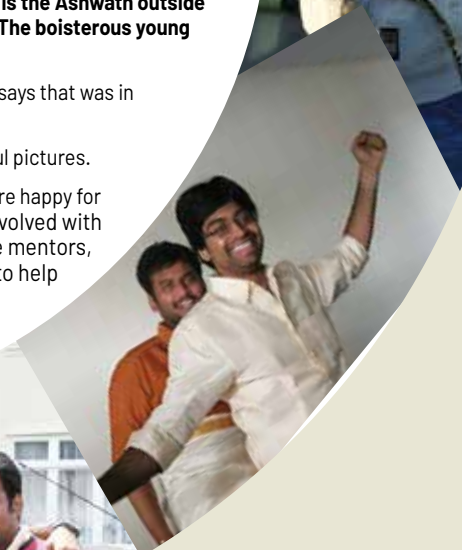
- From the Member Engagement Team

THE PULSE ON THE GROUND

.....the engaged GREEN RCMer

In conversation with **Ashwath Kumar Reddy...** joined RCM December 28, 2022.

Director, Krishna Group of Constructions.







Paying Tribute to late Rtn. Christopher Devaprakasam

I have had the privilege of working together with Christopher for 18 years on the Boys Town committee.

Kamal Chadda is now in Mumbai and Nimish joined the team later for about 10 years. Christopher lived and breathed Rotary, especially Boys Town.

We expanded the number of Boys from 170 to 600.

He used to interview each parent before taking the boy. He used to be present when we had quarterly meetings with the parents. He will counsel students and review their progress reports from the school regularly.

In 2002, we introduced Vocational training programmes in Air conditioning Mechanic Electrical wiring. Auto Repairs and Welding courses at both Selaiyur and Gummidipoondi.

Christopher was of great help in getting the programme started. In due course, when accommodation in Boys Town reached capacity, we started the Home Support Programme.

We will pay the educational and medical expenses of students staying at home, but they will participate in all programmes at the Boys Town.

Christopher used to visit each student at his home to review progress. Sometimes he will recommend that we bear major medical expenses of the family and I used to get the funds for the same.

International donors like International Children's Trust and their individual donors. Our Partner Club, Rotary Club of Fareham Meon in the UK, of which Benjy and I are Honorary Members held him in high esteem.

Before my annual visit to these donors, Christopher used

to brief me thoroughly on Boys Town matters. I usually get matching grants from UK clubs every year.

Christopher would help to identify the projects and later implement the projects and prepare completion reports.

Christopher would also help my office colleague Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan in preparing and submitting FCRA Returns to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

We have got renewal of our FCRA Registration. He and I have visited Gummidipoondi and Selaiyur each more than 150 times. Sometimes he would drive himself and go. I stopped it and used to send my car and driver.

Besides mentoring students, he was also a mentor to Boys Town Managers Pitchai Kannan and Arumugham.

He was a wonderful human being and a close personal friend. Very few know that he was a graduate of Purdue University and held a senior position in a Multinational in Australia before returning to India. He was a Rotarian in Australia too.

His wife passed away very early. She was the daughter of Dr P.C.Churian, former Governor of Maharashtra. He has two sons and one daughter, all well settled abroad.

Towards 2016 he started feeling lonely in his flat in Victoria Crescent. So Giridhar and I would pick him up and spend some time in Presidency Club at least once in 2 months. This was during pre-covid times.

**Dear Christopher,
All of us miss you,
We had wonderful times in Rotary and personally , May
your soul rest in peace.**

- PP Rtn. VK Chandrakumar ■





Membership Minute



Creating a culture of care

This year, RI President R. Gordon R. McNally is encouraging Rotary members to create a culture of care, both within Rotary and around the world, by making mental health a priority. In a caring culture, leaders and members focus on helping each other thrive.

That makes August — Membership and New Club Development Month — the perfect time to evaluate your club's culture and adjust it if needed. Members are more likely to stay if their club experience is fulfilling. Use these ideas to help members feel involved, valued, and cared for:

- Communicate with people at every stage of their membership. If members think their experience in the club can be improved, take action to make changes. You can also use these two surveys to learn more about what members are thinking:
 1. The member interest survey will help you understand what new and prospective members care about and how they want to contribute.
 2. The member satisfaction survey (or an online version) can be distributed each year to all members.

By asking for feedback regularly and responding to it, you show that you're open to change, and you empower members to be involved in creating their ideal club experience.

- Use the Club Health Check to identify areas where your club could improve and determine how to keep your club relevant for members and the community.
- Take the Creating an Inclusive Club Culture course to discover ways for your club to become more inclusive, diverse, and equitable. Remember that for any Learning Center course, you'll need a My Rotary account.

You can also find more membership resources on My Rotary.

Recognize your peers with Rotary's Service Awards

Each year, Rotarians and Rotaractors dedicate their time and efforts to their clubs and their communities. We don't want that work to go unrecognized. Rotary offers a variety of awards to members, both Rotarians and Rotaractors, for their commitment to service. Each award is distinct in terms of eligibility criteria, the nomination process, and the award materials given to recipients. Learn more about recognition opportunities and plan ahead using the Rotary's Service Awards guide.

Nominate members for advancing women in Rotary

The Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award honors one Rotary member each year, regardless of gender or Rotary tenure, for actively working to advance women in Rotary. The award was established by a group of Rotarians in 2017 and is named for the first female Rotary club president, who went on to lead change for women and girls around the world through Rotary. Any member can nominate another member in good standing for this award between 1 August and 30 September.

Congratulations to Chin Mei Lu from District 3481 in Taiwan, the 2022-23 Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award recipient, who was recognized for her work that benefited women and girls in many countries. Don't miss your chance to recognize the amazing work being done to advance women in Rotary in your area. ■

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

International Day of Peace September 21st is observed as ‘International Day of Peace’. The United Nations’ goal is to strengthen the ideals of peace, fostering compassion and empathy to resolve all conflicts.

It’s also a call to action, recognizing the importance of the individual and our collective responsibility as a human to do so. Peace, as they say, is not the absence of conflict but the ability to respond / cope with it.

The RCM international team wanted this understanding of peace to reach those who would be the most impacted by it, i.e.- school children.

Rcm’s international services team under the able chairmanship of past president Gunashekar was excited to take this opportunity to delve into and understand different perspectives on this abstract idea of peace.

Collaborating with our capable District 3232 and our vibrant Youth services team guided by Rtn. Balaji Chinni, RCM have associated with Crea play, an experienced theatre group, to curate the “Perform for peace festival.”

The objective is to promote original thought and voices in the future in fostering a peaceful tomorrow. School children / interactors across the District and some interactors from our Asian sister clubs have been invited to participate on the topic “Resolutions for peace on social conflicts”. This is a completely online event where participants will upload their videos and solo performances in both competitive and non-competitive segments.

Please save the date and join us on Thursday, September 21 to explore the components and processes of Peace.

PP Rtn. KK Raman
Chair - International Day of Peace ■



The poster features a light blue background with a faint world map. At the top, there is a banner with logos for Rotary, Create Hope in the World, and the 95th anniversary of the United Nations. The text on the poster reads: "Rotary Club of Madras and Rotary International District 3232 in association with Crea Play present Perform for Peace Festival". Below this, it says: "An online theatre and solo performance festival for School students / Interactors of District 3232 to engage in meaningful dialogue on Peace and Conflict Resolution. The aim is to promote original thought amongst the future to foster kinder tomorrow." At the bottom, it states: "Finalists will be awarded on Sept 21, at the RCM meeting."

