



Rtn. **STEPHANIE A. URCHICK**
R.I. President



PANORAMA

A BULLETIN OF ROTARY OOTACAMUND

RI. Dist. 3203

•ISSUE 1•

Club No. 15876



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Dist. Governor - 3203

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Rtn. S. Isaac Nathaniel

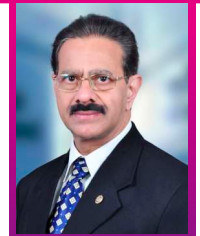
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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Rotary Team Vision and Rotary family,

Greetings !

The dawn of a new Rotary year is the time that creates excitement not only at the club and district level but also at the international level. Yes friends, the club President the District Governor and the International President all have the same feeling as the D-Day approaches.

They crave to achieve their targets during their tenure which gives them satisfaction and at the same time certainly creates an impact in the community.

Rotary International President Stephanie A Urchick urges everyone to create **Magic of Rotary** by serving the society. As the District Governor, I implore you to have a clear vision and work towards it and attain success.

VISION WITHOUT ACTION IS A DAYDREAM and ACTION WITHOUT VISION IS A NIGHTMARE

I request you all to combine vision and action to make your dreams real.

VIVE LA ROTARY !

With best wishes

Rtn. MD. Dr. S. SURESH BABU

District Governor

RID 3023 - 2024-25



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Warm Rotary greetings

I take this moment to express my deepest gratitude to each one of you, who are the heart and soul of Rotary Ootacamund for having chosen me to lead the club.

Together, we embarked on a remarkable journey, leaving positive footprints on the lives of those in need for the past 52 years. We have championed crucial causes, brought hope to countless faces and fostered a spirit of unity that transcends all boundaries. The sincere dedication I see in each of your eyes is a proof to the power of Rotary's motto- 'Service Above Self'.

Looking ahead let us continue to be inspired by the majestic mountains that surround us. Let their unwavering strength guide our resolve and their verdant slopes remind us of the ever growing impact in our collective efforts. With unwavering enthusiasm and a spirit of friendship, I have no doubt that we will continue to scale new heights of service and leave an enduring legacy on our beloved community.

Looking forward to your support in this incredible journey. Here's to many more years of service, fellowship and making a lasting difference together.

Yours in service,

Rtn. J. Solomon

President - 2024-25



IPP MESSAGE

As I step down from the role of President, I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve this incredible club. It has been an honour to work alongside each and every one of you this past year.

Together, we achieved some remarkable things, be it Interact Schools competition, laying of tiles in our Rotary School, giving financial aid to our watch man's wife who passed away during my tenure. We conducted the PRE PETS at Hotel Sullivan Court. The dedication, compassion and unwavering commitment of all the members to Rotary's ideals truly inspired me.

I am particularly proud of one project we did together. Donating rain coats, boots and hand gloves to the sanitary workers who work tirelessly round the clock to keep our town clean. This exemplifies the spirit of Rotary and the positive impact we can have on our community.

Looking ahead, I have full confidence that our new President, Rtn. Solomon will lead us to greater heights. Rtn Solomon brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the role, and I encourage you all to offer your continued support.

Rotary is about building connections, fostering change, and serving others. It's the friendships we forge, the knowledge we share, and the lives we touch that makes this organisation truly special.

I urge all of you to stay involved, share your ideas, and continue to make a difference in the world.

Thank you once again for a truly memorable year. I look forward to remaining an



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

With Rotary spirit,

Rtn. M. Venugopal

IPP 2024 -25.

As your secretary, I'm delighted to share an overview of our activities this year. We've accomplished a lot, from community service projects to creating public image, all thanks to your dedication and hard work.

Your support has made this year a successful one for our club.

I want to extend a special thank you to our IPP Rtn.Venugopal for his trust and the freedom he had given me to carry out my duties. His leadership and patience has been invaluable. As we look forward to the new year, I wish the incoming team all the best. I'm confident they will continue to make a positive impact in our community.



Editor's Message

Dear members

Welcome to this Installation edition of our bulletin! I'm thrilled to be your editor for the third time in a row. It's a hat-trick! Thank you President Rtn.Solomon for entrusting me with this job.

I want to extend my deepest thanks to IPP Rtn.Venugopal for giving me complete freedom to manage the bulletin. He had shown so much faith and appreciation for the little things I do. Thank you for always believing in me and supporting my efforts.

In this issue, we have a collection of activities from the past year. We'll take a look back at all the great things we accomplished together. But that's not all! We also have some exciting promises for the future. Get ready for another year of fun, service, and community spirit.

Our members have shared their most memorable Rotary moments. I hope you'll enjoy reading those stories which are touching, and inspiring.

Happy reading!

THELMA NETHAJI

Editor,

2024-25.

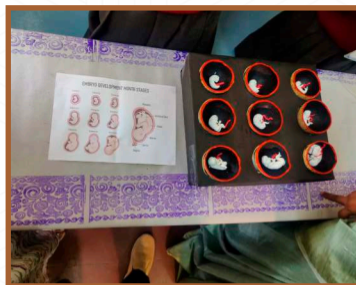
Regards,
Rtn.M.Nandhakumar
Secretary, 2023 -24

Reflecting on a Vibrant Second Half : January to June.

Activities of the year 2023 -24



30/3/24 - Ultra Marathon



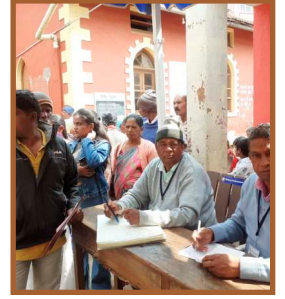
Interact school- The Nilgiris Public School science exhibition



Felicitation of Retd.Principal of Rotary school



Speaker Meetings



Monthly Eye Camp



Weekly Meetings

ROTARY EXPERIENCE



Rtn. PP. R. THESINGHRAJAN

HEARTFELT REFLECTIONS

Twenty five years ago, Rotary Ootacamund organised an eye screening camp for the students of panchayat union middle school , Thambatty. A girl student was not able to see the black board during class hours and neither the parents nor the teachers were aware of the defect and thanks to the eye screening camp,the girl was taken to Aravind Eye hospital, Coimbatore and the expenses were sponsored by me and she went on to complete her studies and got married and living with children now. But for Rotary and the eye screening camp , she would have suffered a lot. This is the defining moment for the girl and Rotary made a huge difference.

TRANSFORMATION

Another Rotary year is over. Butterflies are beautiful and loved. The evolution process from caterpillars to butterflies is the real transformation. Human beings are no exception and the evolution process from cradle to grave is spontaneous and unstoppable unless individuals take conscious efforts to live a happy and successful, both relative, lives. The precious and cherished lives of individuals, either women or men can be designed and classified as three box like structures and the first, birth and the third, death are inevitable. What is significant is the life liveable in the second box and how well and meaningful life one can live in this box makes all the difference. One opportunity to make an impact and create positive change is being a 'Rotarian' and not every one is blessed with this wonderful privilege. The glaring inequalities and the deprivation of basic facilities to many in the communities make Rotary more relevant and the challenges faced by the organisation strengthen the members' perennial 'resolve to 'doing good in the world' and hence the organisation is very much in need of outstanding leaders to join the Rotary movement to make this wonderful world, a better place to live in.

'Men may come and men may go and organisation will live for generations' and many men and women came in to stay and many left without making a mark in Rotary and the involvement of the membership is unpredictable. The transformation of individual Rotarians is directly proportional to the continuous indulgence and involvement. There are Rotarians who make much noise in the beginning may fade into oblivion and others make a slow start to emerge as outstanding Rotarian leaders in the years to come. The reluctant Rotarians emerged as outstanding leaders, particularly when they become Presidents of the clubs and that is the power of 'transformation' which is visible when the mantle of leadership is passed over.

'Accentuate the positive'; There is an argument that the ensuing Rotary year will be tough if the President and the team of the previous year did well. This is a misconception. Having observed the different leadership styles of 27 Presidents of our club during my Rotary journey, I strongly believe that the best performance of the previous year will make things easier and better for the new president as the members are already motivated and positive. The job of the new president and the team is to continue and strengthen the positive vibrations to build a powerful team. The watch things happen and wonder what happens members must be converted into 'make things happen' members and the best way is to entrust responsibilities and ensure that they respond positively. The leadership must facilitate the members to appreciate and realise the real purpose of Rotary and definitely there will be tremendous transformation.

The incredible transformation of our dynamic President, Rtn. M. Venugopal, the most reluctant Rotarian once, would vouchsafe my strong conviction that 'leadership is always an opportunity' and Rotary is the best platform to learn, lead and deliver. The transformed President is joy personified to hand over the baton of Presidentship to the enthusiastic and evolving to be transformed leader Rtn. J. Solomon and team and the smooth transition will make another eventful and successful Rotary year. The charming editor of 'Panorama', Rtn. Thelma Nethaji is on a hat-trick as editor and another admirable feather in her service cap is the Presidentship of Inner Wheel Club of Ootacamund, our prized possession. Happy reading.

Rtn. PP. R. THESINGHRAJAN

A LUNCH TO REMEMBER

Rotarians all over would definitely have heard of Rtn. Ravishankar Dakoju, from Bangalore Orchards Club, who is the governor nominee for his district for 2025-26. A great philanthropist, Humanitarian, Entrepreneur, who has donated a sum of Rs. 100/- crores\~ to Rotary Foundation, the second largest individuals donation to Rotary, next only to Bill Gates. A perfect example of service above self.

Myself and my wife had the opportunity to meet him for the first time, in a Rotary conference in Coimbatore, in early 2019 where he was a speaker, also answering questions to panellists. After the speech was over, we were introduced to him, and he became at once our friend.

In July 2019, our Rtn. Sreedhar was to take over as a president of our club and Rtn. Thesingh as secretary. Sometime in June 2019, Thesingh requested us to contact him and request him to come as the chief guest for the installation. When we contacted him, he asked us to come to Kundah Bikatty, where he was the chief guest at opening ceremony of school building jointly with the Chamaraj estate. Accordingly myself, my wife, Sreedhar and Thesingh went to Kundah Bikatty and met him, and requested him to be the chief guest at Sreedhar's installation. He readily agreed and gave the date in the second week of July.

Before the installation, while making arrangements and programme, it was decided to host lunch in our house, to him along with the president and secretary and their annes. Our son Pathy, from Coimbatore was also to join, as he is also his friend.

Having agreed to host the lunch, my wife was really tensed. What sort of lunch would he expect, being such a great man, and what to offer him. Luckily Our Anne Malliga Tesingh came to our rescue. She and my wife prepared the menu, a simple vegetarian lunch, but of course with Avarai Kozhambu (Badaga favourite Beans) by Malliga, with other few items.

On the day of installation, he came a little late for lunch, as he had gone with our members in the morning to Thummanatty School, where he inaugurated a project. Being in the school, he was greatly impressed by our club work, and also adopted a handicapped girl child, sponsoring for her education. At lunch, he was jovial and very simple. My wife, Malliga and Hema, served us lunch, at the dining table. He loved the items and talked to us freely. I just asked him one question, as to why he chose Rotary for his philanthropic work, when so many other avenues are open? He said, no other organisation is so transparent and doing good as the Rotary Foundation.

Lunch over, we men were all sitting in the sofa and had a little chat about the evening programme etc.. When it was time to leave, Ravishankar saw that the ladies Hema, Malliga and my wife at the dining table, with the dishes before them, and came to them and said you served me lunch, now it is my turn to serve you. And he actually served a few items.

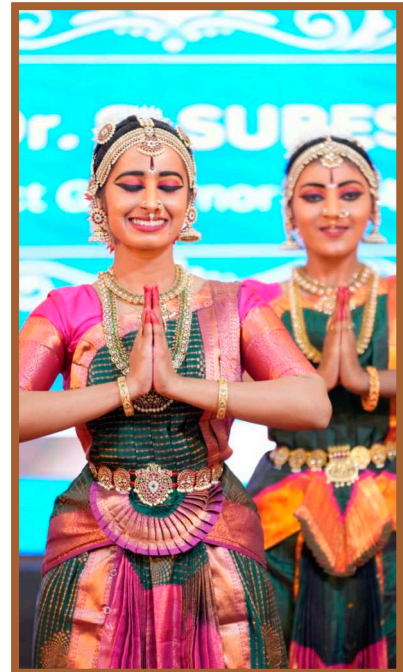
And at that moment, only one thought flashed across my mind. Here is the highest Donor of Rotary, serving lunch to the ladies at my house. How lucky and blessed we are.

Rtn. PP RAMASUBRAMANIAM





Interact valedictory ceremony



District Governor 's installation at Gobichettipalayam on 23.6.24