

Midtowner

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF RAJKOT MIDTOWN • CLUB 31287 • R.I. DISTRICT 3060

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2024 - 2025**

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Highlights

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MEETING DETAILS

There are two meetings in this week.

DATE : 12th October, 2024
DAY : Saturday
VENUE : D.P.M.C Lalitalay
TIME : 8.30 pm.
PROGRAM : Fellowship Meeting.

Dress code is Indo western for the Ladies and Katha Orange Kurta for the Men.

DATE : 13th October, 2024
DAY : Sunday
VENUE : Saraza, Kalawad Road.
TIME : 7:30pm to 8:30pm dinner followed by the program.
PROGRAM : The most awaited gala extravaganza "RCRM Sharadotsav 2024". Rotarians, Anns and annets are all welcome.



BLOW CANDLES ON



Mohitbhai Solanki
16th October
98255 04246



CLUB NEWS

MEETING MEIN -

What a super fun filled double dhamaka fellowship meeting it was!! On 4th and 5th October 2024, D.P.M.C was immersed in a cocktail of colours and fervour of Raas and Ramjhat... As all the Midtowners put their best foot forward and showcased the best of garba moves, the energy was electric and infectious!! The late night snacks kept the tempo of the khelaiyas top notch and the Raas went on till midnight hours. A huge shoutout to President Divyeshbhai Aghera, Sheetalben Aghera Trushaben Vora, Ashishbhai Mehta, Devangiben Vaishnav and team for pulling off the first of its kind "Midtowner Garba Night." A definite must repeat event in the years to come!!

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MANJUL PLAYHOUSE:

On 5th October 2024, RCRM celebrated Navratri with the children of Manjul Playhouse and encouraged them. The Navratri vibes were truly pious and captivating..



SERVICE PROJECTS

A. JOY OF GIVING:

Rotary Club of Rajkot Midtown along with Interact Club of Genius English Medium School collected 18000 clothes from society and provided it to the needy people. They went in a team of 25 students and 2 teachers under the leadership of President Ms. Lipi Vania and Secretary Mr. Tapan Kamaria. On 1st October 2024, the last part of the collection (about 200 clothes) were distributed amongst the 80 underprivileged people at the construction sites near Speedwell Party plot. This activity focussed on Humanity and Social upliftment.



B. MEALS DISTRIBUTION:

On the afternoon of 2nd October 2024, delicious meals were provided by RCRM to the 50 residents of Ramnik Kuvarba Old Age Home. President Divyeshbhai Aghera was present at the venue.



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C.RATION KIT DISTRIBUTION:

was carried out on Sunday, 6th October 2024 by Shri Gujarat Paryavaran Vikaas Foundation Trust. All recipients received the ration kits along with lentils packs (500mg). They also received hot patties, gathiya and boondi for breakfast. Ortho slippers along with monetary assistance for commutation was also provided. Donation was also offered for cattle fodder by the Harish Karia and the organisation.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rotary members assist with Hurricane Helene Relief efforts. A Category 4 hurricane, it has already caused storm surge, heavy rains, severe flooding and casualties of about 200 people. The Rotary Club of Dunedin North, Florida, USA, rented a 26-foot moving truck to collect donations. It's full of shovels and rakes, cases of water, garbage bags, and utility knives to cut up and remove wet carpet. The club has set up four distribution centers where people can get supplies.



ACHIEVERS AND ACCOLADES

1. Kalyaniben Vachrajani and her team (Bhartiya Naagar Parishad Rajkot Mahila Pankh Team) won the second place in the Gujarat Betha Garba Spardha 2024 held at Gandhinagar. She also appeared on the special episode of Agra Gujarat's "Betha Garba". In the episode, Kalyaniben explained the unique nature and cultural richness of Betha Garba. Truly Mataji's beauty, qualities and glory are described exceptionally in 'Naagar' style of Betha Garba.
2. Hearty congratulations to Rtn Gopalbhai Unadkat for taking part in the All India Election of Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and then also making it into the National Team of the TAAI. He has also made it to the Advisory Committee of the Rajkot International Airport.
3. Kudos to Rtn Pranavbhai Bhalara for having been selected to the Advisory Committee of the Rajkot International Airport.
4. An awesome achievement!! Bhavishaben Harshvardhan Vora was the recipient of the 2024 Udan award for the India's Top 15 retail agents category at Colombo, Sri Lanka. She was handed over the award by CEO and CDO of ICICI Lombard Gic Ltd.
5. Cheers to Vishalbhai Ambasana and SA Graphics for being nominated in three categories of the Print Week Awards 2024. (The categories are Performance Awards, Quality Awards and Innovative Printer of the Year).



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

VAKRATUNDA MAHAKAYA SURYAKOTI SAMPRABH NIRVIGHNAM KURUME DEV SARVA KARYESHU SARVADA
The God of the people. That does not mean that other Gods are not of the people. Yet, this coveted one was selected and bestowed upon by the Gods themselves as the God of the people. GANESH! The auspicious one Himself, one of the Holy Trinity of Indian Pantheon, Shivji was the one who christened Ganesh and proclaimed his own son as the augur of the auspicious. What a way to convert a blemish to blessing! Shivji is the all powerful - Shiv is the शिव. Shakti represented by Goddess Parvati is the alter ego. Shivji, the Adi Yogi was away for his penance and unaware of the self creation of Ganeshji by Parvati from dust/ clay. In spite of being the supreme of the world, it is spiritual ritual which ignited Shivji's rage. And then the heavens came down; hell hath no fury like a woman scorned- and this was not just a 'woman', this was an Avatar of Shakti. Parvati was all blaze and raze. Of course, we all know the story of how Shivji beheaded his own son in a moment of mistake and anger; then went on to transplant an elephant head with the trunk and tusk! The innate intelligence and wisdom of elephants was conferred upon Ganesh as a natural inheritance from the gentle giant.



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Shivji's benediction endowed Ganesh with the exclusive privilege of the first worshipped, 'Pratham Pujaniya' God for all activities, events and occasions- especially auspicious ones- 'सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा'. He is the Guru of 'Chal ho ja shuru'. He is the pioneer of 'Aaj kuchh achha karte hai'. The first invitation of any celebration is always penned to Ganeshji. He is the chosen one, the heaven appointed guardian angel of Shubh and Labh. His consorts are Buddhi, Riddhi and Siddhi. What a combo of intelligence(wisdom), prosperity and success. Ganeshji's grace and divinity ensure that we are blessed these virtues with our endeavours.

Much before Walt Disney popularised Mickey Mouse, Ganeshji made the minnow mouse his companion and conveyance. Kraunch, the Gandharva was cursed to become a क्षुत्क्रिन् मुरिड by the sage Vama Dev as he infuriated the ascetic by stepping on his feet. Unfortunately, he became a T-rex rodent and terrorised all. It was Ganeshji who harnessed the unhinged brat rat at Parashar Muni's ashram. Kraunch requested for mercy and that was how the mouse was housed by Ganeshji. The melt in the mouth modak is the favourite sweet of Ganpati ji. Modak, the word is derived from ' Mod- Pramod' which means 'pure joy-bliss'. As the story goes, Shivji, Parvati ji and Ganeshji were invited by Rishi Atri at his ashram. Ganeshji's insatiable appetite made him devour on the delicious delicatessens offered. Then the wife of the ascetic, Ansuya ji served modak to Ganeshji. And the unimaginable happened. Gajanani burped, announcing his satiety. From that day, modak have been the choicest prasad to Ganeshji. Another legend says, Menavati's (Parvati ji's mother) love for her grandson made her cook laddoos for Ganeshji and He kept on gobbling them up incessantly and she couldn't prepare those laddoos fast enough to cope with her cute grandson's speed. She then conjured the recipe of the steamed modak which turned out to be a delectable relish cherish for Ganeshji forever. Everyone knows the interesting and sentimental anecdote where Ganeshji's wisdom and feelings overrode Kartikeya Swami's world parikrama by just installing His parents Shivji and Parvati ji as the universe and fulfilled his pilgrimage by doing Pradakshina around them. What an idea God ji! Lord Ganesh and his actions constantly remind us that true success will come only when the individual re- orients and fortifies that bond and relationship with his parents, values and the spiritual self. Satyam Maata, Pitaa Gyaanam is an unwritten rule of life.

There is a fascinating episode which also reveals why Ganpati ji is called ' Ekdanta' - meaning thereby- the one with one tooth. As we know, the elephant has two tusks, so where did that one tooth disappear? Ved Vyas had selected Ganeshji for his aplomb to write the voluminous Mahabharat as he recited it. Ganeshji was the recognised apostle of fantastic frontal lobe functions. Mahabharat mega- verse was much more challenging than Metaverse! Ganeshji had a reputation to live up to- the frenetic frenzy of absorbing and assimilating the prolific proficiency of the prodigious Ved Vyas. While scribing the text, Ganeshji's feather stylus broke because of the stupendous speed and in order to sustain the continual flow of the erudite, elaborate Ved Vyas, Ganeshji broke one of his tusks and used it as a pen to accomplish the epic. What a sacrifice! What devotion! What fulfilment! God for a reason!!! He lived with that one tusk -the 'Ekdanta'. Vishnu ji has His Tulsi , Shivji has his Bill Patra, similarly Durva is the blade of grass offered to Ganpati ji. Once again, there are two versions- Ganeshji had rejected the marriage proposal of a celestial woman who cursed Him leading to burning sensations for Ganeshji. The only thing which helped him cure was the blades of Durva grass.

Another version says, Ganeshji had swallowed a demon called Anasura which caused Him the bane of stomach burns. Varuna and Indra tried the ऽऽऽ of water and moon and Shivji Himself tied a thousand headed serpent around Ganeshji's turbulent tummy but with no avail. A group of sages treated Him with 21 strands of Durva each and lo behold! Ganeshji was healed like magic. By the way, Ayurveda also recommends use of Durva to alleviate acidity for mere mortals like us. Ganesh Chaturthi welcomes Ganpatiji into the earthly realms of our home. The deity is adored and adorned with His favourite offerings. The celebrations, the paeans of His glory are now a pan- India festival. It is enjoyed with gala and gaiety amongst Indian diaspora all around the world now. As usual and unfortunately, we have confounded it into a commercial cauldron. The pandals, the Aartis, the sponsors, the decorative showbiz are all manifesting into socio-political power game.

The lesser said the better! The Visarjan traditionally happens on the 10th day- Anant Chaturdashi. (it is not ' Anand Chaudas' as many mistakenly call it!) Anant is actually an invocation to Vishnu ji(there is again a legend behind it). Importantly, there is no direct connection to Ganeshji for the nomenclature but it does serve as the day when the Lord Ganesh is immersed in water, in a way returning Him to his celestial abode. The hope, the wish, the prayer always accompanies- GANPATI BAPPA MORYA PUDHYCHA WARSHI LAVKAR YA

Morya of course may mean the joy, devotion and reverence shown to 'the leader of the people' who is honoured as 'the father- the Lord' . However, according to another legend, 'Morya' is said to be a combination of two words, 'mhore' and 'ya'. In the Kolhapuri dialect 'mhore' and 'ya' collectively means 'please come forward and bless.' A common association is also with a dedicated devotee called Morya Gosavi hailing originally from Shaligram in Karnataka and settled near Chinchwad(near Pune) and aroused the blessings of Ganeshji with a penance filled with passion and perseverance. Ganeshji of course is the one who confers happiness and takes away the sorrows; hail the God who is an idol of joy and auspiciousness.

SUKH KARTA, DUKH HARTA JAI JAI DEV JAI MANGALMURTI

-Article Penned by : Dr. Ketanbhai Thakkar