

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerners,

The service activities of a Rotary Club are divided into two, one is serving ourselves - which is named as ' Club Service' and the other is serving the community under various heads.

However, it is serving the community that has brought

Rotary its glory. The involvement of Rotarians in the planning and execution of these service projects develops the bonding and camaraderie and long lasting relationships.

Any activity that we take up for the benefit of society in general can be considered as a project, however small it is. We have projects under youth, community, vocational and international service heads. These are further divided into various subgroups for ease of managing, monitoring and measuring.

Projects can be funded by contribution from members, accruals from fund raising activities, CSR donations or District and Global Grants. Of these Global Grants is the mother of all Rotary Grants. GGs routed through The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is well scrutinised and monitored both during and post implementation. TRF seriously evaluates the impact of the projects under their sponsorship. The minimum project value of a GG has to be USD 25000 and is usually sponsored by two Clubs.

Madras South received the first GG in December 2017 for a value of \$87,250, to provide corrective heart surgeries to 225 children under the age of 18 at Soorya Hospital.

This project was in association with Rotary club of Pasadena. This was further topped up with another GG in Sept 2020 for a similar value. We received the third

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THE ROTARY GAVEL

Order, order, order!

We have often heard these words in Indian films when a scene depicts commotion during court proceedings! The presiding judge bangs the gavel on his table to restore silence and order in the court.

Ever since I became a Rotarian 23 years ago, I have witnessed the incumbent presidents banging the

gavel, not to restore order (as Southerners are generally orderly!), but to start the proceedings of our weekly meetings. However, not many Southerners know that this gavel has an interesting history which was shared recently by Ms Shanthi Kannan (wife of our past president, the late Rtn M K Kannan).

As most of you may know, "the gavel is a small (wooden) hammer with which an auctioneer, a judge or the chair of a meeting hits a surface to call for attention or order". The picture of a gavel that you see here is the one used by the presidents of RCMS year after year. This gavel is made from a chunk of wood which was removed from an original beam at the Old North Church in Boston, USA, built in 1723. The wood was removed in the process of both maintenance and restoration by the church authorities. And so this wood dates back to almost 300 years!

The following is an interesting extract from a note signed by Rtn Paul E Lippold (undated), PDG (District 530, Pasadena, California) on the significance of the Rotary Gavel:

"The gavel head is composed of five pieces of woods native to California, which have been laminated together. The handle may contain as many as 25 pieces of wood from all over the Rotary World. These gavels were not turned out in the normal manner of mass production on an assembly line in a factory. Each gavel was individually made, carefully, skilfully, and with tender loving care, in the homes and shops of the Rotarians of the 46 clubs in District 530. No two gavels are exactly alike.



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LORD VINAYAGA'S UNIVERSAL APPEAL

On Vinayaga chaturthi day (10th September) some Southerners shared their experience with the lord proving the fact that this lord's appeal is universal and transcends religion.

Here are some comments shared by a few rotarians from our club:

Vinayaga alias Pillayar is one of my 'Ishta Deivams' (favourite god). I was introduced to the Pillayar temple in Gandhi Nagar, close to Adyar signal in 1974, by a good friend. Every morning when I take my car out, I first go around the temple (do a pradakshinam) sitting in my car saying 'hi' and 'bye' to the pillayar before proceeding to my destination for the day. The temple became famous because of Sudhakaran, the adopted son of the late CM Jayalalitha whose infamous wedding procession started from this temple.

R.V.Rajan

Vinayaga Chaturthi was marked by the customary praying to lord Ganesha, who was decorated with floral garland and a lamp with all the goodies he loves spread before him. I prayed with JP and my dear grand kids which is the usual practice.

At the end of the prayer, my grandson, Shivahn, ended the prayer by drawing a cross and a namaskaram sign, the most beautiful and innocent gesture only a child can make. A prayer so unpolluted and pure, which I believe will directly reach the divine being.

Shivahn's mother Roshan is a Christian and has taught my grandson all the good practices of Christianity and he has no confusion in his mind that all religions and gods relate to one supreme being who takes any form to grace the one who prostrates before him.

Shyamala Jayaprakash

A few years ago while walking on the beach, something washed up from the sea in front of me. It turned out to be a Pillayar. It was a Valamburi Vinayagar and perfectly intact. He has sat on my dressing table ever since. I had been to Pillayarpatti two years back. I still have some vibudhi from there. Applied it on my Pillayar on his day this year.

Bina Boaz

Our kolu typically commences on Vinayagar Chaturthi day. At the end of kolu we pack all the dolls and keep it in the loft. The Vinayagar doll which was the first one we had bought 21 years back will be kept in a separately identified box so that we could bring it down on Vinayagar Chaturthi day. Despite this we will search for the doll every year and after a brief search would find it kept in the Pooja room. The doll will remain in the pooja until the kolu and will be moved to the steps on Navaratri day.

K Saravanan

I have Lord Ganesha too! Made of papier-mache, I found this beautiful piece thrown on the wayside somewhere in Alwarpet as I was walking along the road. Been having him since 2017 in my garden. I couldn't resist posting this as many of you have posted pictures.

Parveen Sikkander

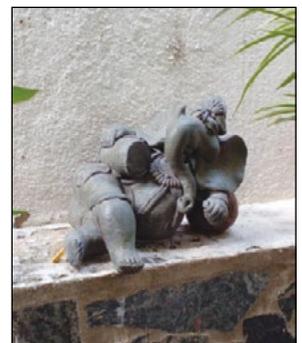
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GG in August 2020 for a value of \$48,675 for providing 62 Rain Water Harvesting Systems (RWH) in 12 corporation and government schools in Chennai. This project has just reached completion. With the impetus we have received from these three global grants, Madras South is ready to take on bigger projects.

Ultimately the success of a Club depends on the execution of both the Club Service and the Community Service activities. One cannot exist without the other. Let us serve to change lives, be it of our members or otherwise.

Yours in Rotary

Renjit Joseph



A BLOCKBUSTER EVENT AT HYATT REGENCY

At long last our President announced that we will have our first physical family fellowship (since the pandemic) on 25th September if the numbers add up to a minimum of 50. As we watched, the numbers climbed to not just 50 but beyond 100!! Hallelujah!

Southerners turned out in their fineries all geared to meet each other after a loooong hiatus. It turned out to be an exciting evening with so much joy, camaraderie, delicious food, songs from our own talented members and Anns, and a fun photo booth with interesting placards to pose with.

Ajit Gautham was honoured as a Paul Harris Fellow by our own PDG Natrajan Nagoji. It should be noted that Ajit is just two years old in the Club but is already a very valuable and integral part of it, and a very involved member.

We had two prospective members/guests (Vijay Menon and Jaishree Singh), who joined us at the gathering introduced by Jawaharlal Nichani and me. If approved they will soon be joining our club fraternity.

Until next time, in Rtn Madhu's words 'savour the memories of the blockbuster event at Hyatt Regency'.

Rtn Bina Boaz



PDG Nagoji regaling the audience



Anns catching up after a long hiatus



Rtn B B Vengatesh with Ann Anjana at the photo booth



Rtn Bina with Annette Joseph



Rtn Parveen with Annette Salman



Rtn Saravanan with Ann Srividhya



Rtn Srikanth with Ann Srividya and Annette SriSahana



Rtn Suresh with Annette Keerthana

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We are sure that as each gavel was being made, the craftsman thought of the fellowship and world understanding that it might bring. Although there was no reported loss of life or limb, there was a sacrifice of time and effort being cheerfully given in the spirit of Rotary's "Service above self," for each of the 400 gavels represents a minimum of 120 minutes of craftsmanship."

Southerners, the next time you see our president, Rtn Renjit, hitting the gavel on his table to call a meeting to order, please remember that it's no ordinary wooden hammer, but a piece of history!

Rtn R Seshadri

WEEKLY eMEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER



Date : 7th September, 2021
 Speaker : Ms Nivedita Louis
 Topic : Famous foreign women of old Madras



Date : 14th September, 2021
 Speaker : Mr Aravind Sitaraman
 Topic : Innovate, to make India great



Date : 21st September, 2021
 Speaker : Dr. Divya Ramesh
 Topic : Conserving wildlife. Stories from the Nilgiris

KUDOS TO ANN RAJEENA MAGDOOM



Ann Rajeena Magdoom won the 2nd prize at the inter-club 'Vegetable Arrangement' competition conducted by Inner Wheel Club of Madras Central Adithya. The competition required the participants to arrange vegetables depicting women in any profession like teacher, doctor, vegetable vendor, etc. Ann Rajeena, at her creative best, submitted the entry shown here representing a Miss India model. Ann Rajeena is a past president of the Inner Wheel Club of Madras South.



Rtn Magdoom with Ann Rajeena

FRDI – NOW SUPPORTED BY ROTARACT CLUBS



The 2019 Council on Legislation amended the constitutional documents of Rotary International to include Rotaract clubs as a membership type. As Rotaract clubs will become independent of Rotary clubs, RI had recommended that we empower them by allowing them to work alongside us. Rotaractors will also be given seats on RI committees if all goes well. They have also suggested that Rotary clubs add them as partners in global grant projects to help them gain experience.

RCMS, which till now only worked with other Rotary clubs for the Ford-Rotary Digital Initiative (FRDI), decided to also work with Rotaract clubs. Rotaract clubs are now applying for computers for deserving institutions on their own.

As a part of this, Rotaract Club of Vistas handed over 10 computers to RKM Sarada Vidyalaya School, T.Nagar, Chennai. Picture shows PP Rtn Mukund, (in charge of FRDI and Special projects), handing over a computer to the school at a function held on 7th September.

