



TALK OF THE TOWN

ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS DOWNTOWN

DISTRICT 3230

CLUB ID 29249

AUGUST 2009

We Meet at the
Madras Boat Club
every Friday
at 7:00pm

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Our Club raised Rs. 1.22 Lakhs for the eradication of Polio thanks to the efforts of IPP Rtn. Vijay Sambrani in selling tickets for the program on August 2nd by T. T. Rangarajan.

Family Values

Annette Divya

The first meeting after the Yelagiri trip was held at the Boat Club and the topic for the evening was Family values. We had Vaishali Gandhi and Sudharshan from the Chinmaya Mission share their ideas and thoughts about what a Family is actually all about. It began with a few questions like what a Family meant? what makes up a family? what are Family Values? At first people remained silent, the speakers must have wondered whether we all knew what they were actually talking about. But YES! as the clock ticked people began giving out their views and communication reached its peak towards the end. It all began with a PowerPoint presentation which explained to us that a good family is created and sustained by working together, solving each others problems, being loved and first of all Communicating and spending quality time together. It was stated that in a Family the feeling of being loved or belonging to a group and being nurtured by it was the best feeling anyone could ever have, but yet a balance needed to be struck between being together and sepa-

rate so that one could develop their individuality, while being supported and confident within a family. There were also certain Family Values that were mentioned to create a strong bond for e.g.: **Flexibility** - that there shouldn't be a set structure in a family, if not it wouldn't remain a peaceful setting. Without Flexibility a family would become rigid. We could actually compare a successful family to a democracy. There are leaders,

dom within the group to express themselves freely. As the Presentation proceeded there was a small exercise given to each Family and that was to Give their family a name, tag line and set a



"IN A FAMILY THE FEELING OF BEING LOVED OR BELONGING TO A GROUP AND BEING NURTURED BY IT WAS THE BEST FEELING ANYONE COULD EVER HAVE"

but the whole group is involved in the decision making process. While the family works to avoid stressful situations they work together to solve problems, without blaming, criticizing and finding fault with each other. The next Value was **Communication**. Ever heard the saying, "What we have here is a failure to communicate? Well, yes, a lack of communication can rip a family apart and destroy them. All members must feel a free-

Family day. I'm sure this exercise made each one of us think how we could set one day in a year forever, just for Family time. But it was surely an eye opener to everyone about how important a Family actually is. Towards the end a very touching Movie clip of a Father and his handicapped son was played. The clip showed us how a father named Dick Hoyt and son Rick Hoyt joined many marathons, triathlons and other athletic



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competitions. But, what made them really different from others was that Rick suffered from cerebral palsy, a condition involving permanent tightening of the muscles caused by damage to the brain during the time of birth. Rick was disabled at birth. Therefore, Rick could not swim, cycle, or run. So When his father swam, Rick laid in a small boat being pulled by his dad. When his father cycled,

son sat in the seat-pod from his wheelchair, attached to the front of the bike. When the father ran, he pushed Rick in a special wheelchair. They have been going over hundreds of finishing lines throughout the US for the

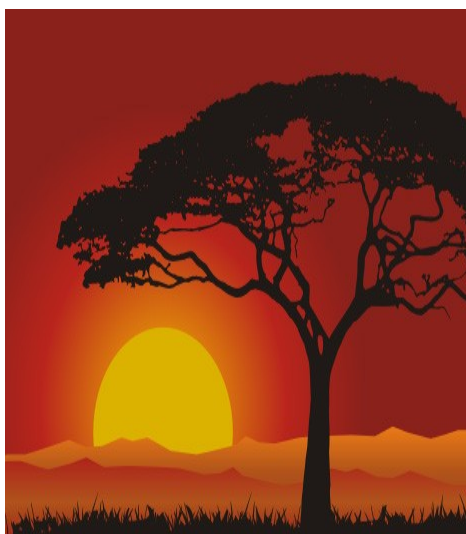
“lack of communication can rip a family apart and destroy them”

past 27 years. This visual treat truly defined what Family and love meant and it surely inspired each one of us. After seeing the video I'm sure every adult out there wanted to be a parent like Dick Hoyt. With this let me conclude by saying we really Hope to see more Families coming together for the weekly Meetings and making the Down Town Family one Happening place. Cheers!!!

A View from a Camera

Rtn. Rajaram

A Good Speech has in it to change the course of one's life. An Inspiring Speech can alter the course of history. Visuals have a different take. It has the knack of stimulating one's senses in an emotive way, so much so, that it remains etched in one's memory for a long time. The In-famous photographs of the Hiroshima Bombing, Cong Ut's photograph of a naked napalmed girl in Vietnam, the tanks in Tiananmen Square are cases in point.



‘MAKE A PROFESSION OF YOUR HOBBY, SO THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WORK FOR A SINGLE DAY’.

The Members of RCMD were subjected to such a visual delight in our weekly meet (July 24th) at MBC by Cinematographer Ravi Shankar, more popularly known as ‘Wide Angle Ravi Shankar’. Ravi Shankar started his career as Photo Journalist for ‘Ananda Vikadan’ a weekly tabloid and has had the distinction of having his work featured in leading dailies and also in ‘New York Times’ and ‘Washington Post. The desire to reach wider

and larger audience drew him to movies and he joined as Assistant Camera Person to ace Cinematographer P.C Sriram and has to date 2 films to his credit.

The meeting started off with a slide show presentation of Ravi Shankar's ‘Candid Shots’ which had the audience strapped to their seats. The Speaker explained in detail the story behind each of the photographs drawing huge ‘ah’s’ from the motley crowd gathered. It was followed by a small footage of the movie ‘Thirutu Payale’ which was Ravi Shankar's first movie as a Cinematographer, and terminated with an active Q & A Session. I remember reading somewhere, ‘Make a Profession of your hobby, so that you do not have to work for a single day’. Ravi Shankar seem to be a person perfectly fitting this axiom!

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	
Annette Satvik G. Shyaamm	August 1	Chandrasekhars	August 19
Ann Rama Vaidyanathan	August 7	Vaidyanathans	August 20
IPP Rtn. Vijay Sambrani	August 15	Ganesans	August 21
Annette Pooja Chopda	August 18	Natarajans	August 24
Ann Lavanya Natarajan	August 19	Sethupathys	August 28
Annette Nandita Vaidyanathan	August 23	Raghavans	August 31
Annette Pallavi Shanbag	August 23		
Annette Dixit Jain	August 25		
Annette Anirudh Balasubramanian	August 31		

An old man lived alone near Vellore. He wanted to spade his potato garden but it was very hard work. His only son, who used to help him, was in prison for stealing. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament...

Dear Muthu,
I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me. --- Love, Appa

A few days later he received a letter from his son...

Dear Appa ---- For heaven's sake, Appa, don't dig up that garden, that's where I buried the BODIES. ---- Signed, Muthu

At 6am the next morning, the local Police showed up and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son ...

Dear Appa ---- Go ahead and plant the potatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.
Signed, Your Loving Son. Muthu.

Homework can be fun!!!

Ann. Suchitra Balagopal

This article is only the tip of the iceberg.

You can zip through your homework if you have the proper mind-set. Use some simple techniques such as reading faster and improving your memory and focus on finishing your assignment (home work).

Purpose of Assignment (Home work)

- To give students a chance to review and practice what they have learned.
- To prepare them for the next day's lesson
- To provide opportunities to identify and learn to use resources
- To allow more in depth exploration of topics
- To help students develop time management,

Active Assignment study strategies

- Hold a family Meeting:
- Make sure your kids know that you are available if children have
- Questions.
- Make a home work plan
- Create a steady study spot.
- Start over: Decide together on a simple celebration for the end of the Week if all goes well. It's a family acknowledgement that we are all making progress.
- Start assignment (Home work) with something yummy to eat and catching up on the news of the day
- How about inviting a friend to do

home work

- Keep going until good homework habits become part of your daily routine
- Celebrate!! Before long your kids will be doing their homework all by themselves – without all the nagging, policing, poking and prodding, celebrate each tiny baby step of progress.
- Assignment (Home work) contract, parent agrees, child agrees, so weekly reward (ex.) trip to the mall, dance party at kitchen,

BURN HOME WORK

SAVE CALORIES

Solving World's Problems

Rtn. K. Vaidyanathan

Members of Down Town on July 31st evening sat down to tackle the world-wide recession!!!

It was a Classification talk cum Group Discussion on how we were responding to the changed economic scenario. This also gave us an opportunity to understand what our business was AND more importantly benefit from each other's experience!!!

Some points..

Auto parts exports particularly to the US is down 30%. Most Americans are an optimistic lot firmly believing that the 'tank' is half full and that they will 'snap' out of this recession. They use the word 'snap' to suggest that getting out of recession was more an 'event' than a gradual painful 'process'!! Hope they are right. They also do not give orders now since they have pressed the 'pause' button. Maybe they should press that pause

button again...and things will start playing!! J

Pharma- has not got affected at all!! On the contrary, there is an increase of 26%. Maybe the recession is driving all of us to the doctors!!

Steel business is down by a whopping 80%. Getting steel should be a steal these days! Reducing cost of operations seems to be the only way out for all of those men of steel!!

Property Development is down by 50%!!- Said that, increasing the depth of your services to include Facility management is a good business on the side that can only help.

Stock Broking- If you can predict the trend - Either way - you should be OK is their belief! Stock broking itself had a huge paradigm shift about 5 years back when the biggies like Sharekhan etc

entered the field and brokerage fees went south. But graduating into portfolio management is the way to go... feel these honest brokers! Thanks for 'share' ing that with us!!!

Housing loan business is down 30%!! Need to be innovative in bundling packages and for sure, need to be picky in choosing customers. Don't want debts to go bad huh..

Food business is down 25%!!! Just when we thought- when you got to eat- you got to eat...nope think again- Diet control happens voluntarily or forced upon us through a recession- Diet either way is not bad? Well the food business guys think otherwise.

Hmmm.....we might not have completely solved all of our world's problems....but we have to keep trying!!!!

'RETURN OF THE JEDI'

Balagopal Menon was inducted back into Rotary Club of Madras Down Town on the July 17, 2009. Bala specializes in Pest Control & Management and is the CEO of PAWS PESTAWAYS PVT LTD., a Company dealing with Industrial, Commercial, & House Hold Pest Control and water proofing services with Branches in Vizag, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Nagpur. Bala was the President of IPCA (Indian Pest Control Association) a non-profit trade Association of Professional Pest Control Companies from All Over India in 2006 & 2007 and organized the Annual Convention India Pest for the two years on a grand scale.

He is on the Editorial Advisory Board Member of Pest Management Professional India, A Technical Bulletin Published in USA in Partnership with Indian Pest Control Association. He is also an Editorial Board Member of 'Pest



Talk', the Official Bulletin and News Letter of the Indian Pest Control Association.

He is avid coin collector and is currently

learning magic !

He was an active member of Rotary earlier on and has held various posts – and was acclaimed in the Rotary district for the Club Bulletin.

Ann.Suchitra has an M.A. in child care and education is presently working with a Montessori school in Anna Nagar. Annette Shruthi is a budding Dental Surgeon and Annette. Sanjay is in fifth Standard in Chinmaya Vidyalaya. Shruthi and Sanjay are very good at singing and at playing the keyboard.

Let's look forward to a lot of MAGIC from this talented family.

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

Annette Upasana Rajaram

The Latest craze in Town – this movie has to be watched by all teens just to be able to mouth their opinion. In this movie, a much more mature Harry Potter starts his 6th year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. It's never an easy task for him to make it to school and this film is no exception. With the help of a good friend he makes it back and once there discovers an old book mysteriously marked "This book is the property of the Half-Blood Prince" in the new teacher, Horace Slughorn's class. With the help of Dumbledore, Harry begins to learn more about Lord Voldemort's dark past and how his help is needed to vanquish the Dark Lord's soul. But Yates' brilliant cinematic adaptation and storytelling skills makes his multi-dimensional film easy to interpret as well as visually enchanting.

The director has tried to adapt the most important parts of the book and for the first time in this movie, there is a strong line of humor running through it. The director carefully navigates onto the candy floss romance that begins in Hogwarts as Harry and his

friends enter adolescence. The film takes the form of a teen sitcom on and off without losing grip. This is probably the darkest, but also the most mature installment of all and the suspense starts building from the beginning of the movie. The basic plot of the story is retained from the book but surprisingly they've added a few scenes which aren't there in the book and to some extent it drags the screen play. The computer graphics in this movie is absolutely mind blowing and that was one of the things I loved in the movie. The first 30 minutes with the London Bridge certainly can be bracketed into a 'not to be missed' one and, it is just plain awesome.

The main characters have done their jobs just right and the problem is that all of them have gotten whatever best they can out of their characters and hence they just perform somewhat laidback. One of the most important characters-Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter's mentor dies. But one does not feel any sympathy towards old Dumbledore as one would have felt while reading the book.

Many parts of the movie has its loose ends

and it would have been much better if the screenplay had been a little tighter. The film drags a bit towards the end but a film of this magnitude justifies the length to a certain extent. Harry's mind-reading abilities, suspense that is built up and then partially unraveled towards the end forces one to wait and watch whether Harry will be able to destroy Voldemort. (The mighty enemy does not make an appearance in this one). People who have read the book and are an ardent fan of J.K Rowling's style of writing might not like the movie adaptation of the sixth installment in the Harry Potter series. But people who haven't read the book are completely lost during the movie, you know something isn't right. But overall, fans of Harry Potter can watch it once just for the beautiful special effects and amazing soundtrack.

'Harry Potter and the Half Blood prince' has romance, intrigue, suspense, action, but whether it does justice to the Potter Book Fans is a moot question.