



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

# TALK OF THE TOWN

ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS DOWNTOWN

DISTRICT 3230

CLUB ID 29249

NOVEMBER 2009

## TO SERVE WITH LOVE

Rtn. T. N. Ramesh

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### Administrative Team

#### President

Rtn. K. Vaidyanathan

#### Secretary

Rtn. Surianarayanan

#### Treasurer

Rtn. Natarajan

#### President-Elect

Rtn. Rajaram

### FLASH NEWS

Our IPP Rtn. Vijay Sambrani has been selected as the GSE Team Leader to England.

RCMD thanks District 3230 for recognizing our Rtn. Vijay Sambrani's leadership qualities.

Around 20 million people in India are estimated to have some degree of Mental retardation. Mental retardation is a condition, which cannot be reverted by any treatment. These persons have impairment and difficulties in, **Learning, Communication, Social Interaction, Independent Living, Safe care, Play, Work and safety.**

It is a pity that hardly 5% of these persons get due attention by way of Early Intervention, Pre schooling, and Vocational Training. Further there are very few adult care centers providing special care for these persons.

Maithree is an organisation formed (in 1995) by the association of parents of these exceptional (Mentally Handicapped) children, having the vision of integrating Mentally handicapped people in to the mainstream thereby bringing dignity to their lives.

**Maithree** as a parent organization has been contributing to the cause for the last 16 years and is now catering to 320 children in 7 Special schools, 3 Vocational centers and 1 Group home.

The objective of 'Maithree' is to provide an array of services duly supported by appropriate infrastructure and qualified personal for

- Special Education & inclusive education
- Vocational Training

- Respite care
- Guiding & Counseling
- \*To create awareness and acceptance both in society and in the family of such persons by providing necessary support.

#### Present Activities:

'Maithree runs seven *Special school* for these exceptional children at Chennai. The school follows 'Upanayan scale' for early intervention and 'Madras Developmental Program Scale' for the age group between six and eighteen. Individual program plan is made for each child and parents are also involved in this plan and implementation. All special educations are qualified professionals with Diploma in special education / Mental retardation. Maithree runs three *Vocational training centers* and a *Group Home* at Kanchipuram.

Our Rotary club has been assisting Maithree from the year 2000. Our club bestowed on them with a 'Rehabilitation Endeavour Appreciation Award' during November 2002. Having seen Maithree's involvement and dedication in uplifting the livelihood of these exceptional children, our club has awarded them with "**The Vocational Excellence Award**" recently and handed over Rupees One Lakh to their Vocational centre. It will not be out of place to mention the efforts of our club, especially of Rtn. Vivekanandan who with passion collected Rs 1.00 Lakh during 2002-03 for this project.



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# NOSTALGIA

Rtn. Devika Gill

It was the confluence of the Sutlej and the Cauvery when we wore our regional costumes and posed for that first picture 23 years back, near a wooden log cabin on the banks of the Hastings lake in Alberta Canada . Simrat and I were representing India in Canada on an International Exchange Prog through the NCC . We were part of a 21 member contingent hand picked from the length and breadth of India on a 6 month long program.

Life in its magnificent journey had taken us all in different directions and what remained were beautiful memories and photo albums. Thanks to the internet we finally had a reunion in 2007 at Delhi . Each of us realizing that mentally we had never parted at all .

It was only in 2008 that Simrat and I actually started sharing notes on life and realized that our lives were literally running parallel to each other .

Little did we imagine that the winding course of our lives would bring us together with two tributaries each and north would marry south 2 decades and more later .

In hindsight, I realize that " marriage is not always good , nor divorce bad " and that every instance of heartbreak can teach us powerful lessons about creating the kind of love we really want and are capable of giving .

Life is beautiful ! live it , love it , cherish it ..... One moment at a time !



‘LOVE AAJ KAL’

## BIRTHDAYS

## BIRTHDAYS

## ANNIVERSARIES

Rtn. DR. SURIA NARAYANAN	NOVEMBER 2	ANN LAKSHMI DEVARAJAN	NOVEMBER 16	SAMBRANIS	NOVEMBER 14
Rtn. R. NATARAJAN	NOVEMBER 4	ANN MAGESWARI SETHUPATHY	NOVEMBER 25	SURIA NARAYANANS	NOVEMBER 29
Rtn. VIVEKANANDAN	NOVEMBER 6	ANN SHARADA RAJARAM	NOVEMBER 26		
ANN USHA BALAKRISHNAN	NOVEMBER 1	ANN SULAJA AJIT	NOVEMBER 30		
ANN RENUKA VENKATESAN	NOVEMBER 1	ANNETTE DEEPIKA CHOPDA	NOVEMBER 2		
ANN SABARI JAYANTHAN	NOVEMBER 1	ANNETTE SHYAM BELAVADI SUBBANNA	NOVEMBER 3		
ANN RENU GOKALDAS	NOVEMBER 8	ANNETTE POOJA AJIT	NOVEMBER 15		
ANN MOUSHAMI JAIN	NOVEMBER 16	ANNETTE NARESH KUMAR SETHUPATHY	NOVEMBER 26		

## THE 'TRUE' PROFESSIONAL

The man who needs no supervision is a professional.

In this excerpt from the new book 'The Professional' by Subroto Bagchi, co-founder of Mind-Tree Ltd., the author differentiates between a 'professional' from a 'professionally qualified' person.

What are the chances that you work in an entry level position or even a middle level job in a hotel, a hospital, a software company, or a government organization? Or, for that matter, you could be a self-employed professional like a doctor, a lawyer, or a journalist.

In all probability you are educated, know English, and are working in (or have interacted with) the corporate sector. Perhaps an MBA, or a student at an engineering college? You probably consider yourself a professional, or on the road to becoming one. Definitely your station in life is well above someone whose job is to bury unclaimed corpses from city hospitals.

Subroto Bagchi, vice-president and co-founder of MindTree Ltd. I want to introduce the idea of who a professional is through a man whose life is dealing with dead bodies. Unclaimed dead bodies. This is not someone who is conventionally associated with the term 'professional'. His name is Mahadeva. He came to Bangalore as a child when one day his mother simply walked out on her entire village and her own family in a huff. Mother and son lived on the streets; she worked to support him. Until the day she became very unwell. She brought herself and her son to the government-run Victoria Hospital. There she was admitted in a state of delirium and her little son, Mahadeva, made the streets outside the hospital his home.

He found many playmates among the urchins there and soon that world engulfed him. It was the first time he had had anyone to play with. For little Mahadeva, it was his first experience of kinship and he lost himself completely in this new world. It was pure happenstance that one day someone told him his mother had died. Where had he been when that happened? Died? What was that? The hospital had been unable to wait for him and had disposed of the

body. Now Mahadeva had nowhere to go. No family.

A few people in the hospital ward where his mother had been admitted raised some money to help him go back to his village. He refused. Instead, he grew up running errands in the hospital. The hanger-on who had helped with his mother's admission process and made a living by running errands for patients asked him to move in with him. He was an old man who had no one either. Mahadeva grew up under his tutelage; the hospital became his universe. And then, one day, the cops asked him to bury an unclaimed dead body and paid him Rs.200 for the job. This was when Mahadeva entered his profession and eventually became the go-to guy for burying the city's unclaimed corpses. Every time the police picked up a dead body that had no claimants, Mahadeva was summoned.

He had to do a turnkey job: Pull the stiff body from the morgue, hire a horse-drawn carriage, put the body in it and take it to a burial ground, dig the ground to bury the dead—all by himself, and for only Rs.200. After doing the job, he would hang INTEGRITY 5 around in the hospital to be summoned to dispose of the next unclaimed body. Mahadeva did his work with such dedication, focus, care and concern that soon he was very much in demand. His work grew and he bought his own horse-drawn carriage, and between his horse and himself he was the undertaker to the abandoned.

One day, the horse died. People who had watched Mahadeva all these years came together and bought him an auto-rickshaw. The white auto-rickshaw, his hearse, carries the picture of the horse in memory of the animal who helped him take thousands of people to be laid to rest. It became the logo of his business and appears on his business card today.

Mahadeva has buried more than 42,000 corpses in his lifetime and his dedication has earned him phenomenal public recognition. Local petrol pumps do not charge him when his hearse is topped up and the chief minister of Karnataka felicitated him for his selfless service to the abandoned citizens of Bangalore. Ma-

hadeva is proud of his work and business, and today his son has joined him. Mahadeva: the high performer, and a true professional.

What are the two qualities that Mahadeva has which differentiate a professional from someone who is simply professionally qualified? One is the ability to work unsupervised and, two, the ability to certify the completion of one's work. Whenever Mahadeva got a call to reach the morgue, day or night, hail or high water, he arrived. Most of the time, it was a gruesome experience dealing with a dead body; there was no telling what had been the cause of death or state of decomposition.

In his business, Mahadeva does not choose his clients. He accepts them in whatever size, shape or state they come. He treats them with respect and care, with due dignity, covering them with a white sheet and placing a garland around their necks before burying them. The day he buried the man who had taken him home after his mother died, he had cried. He was special and Mahadeva had bought a garland as a mark of his respect. That day, it occurred to him that he should be garlanding all the bodies he buried, not just his benefactor's. Everyone deserves respect and no one should feel 'unwanted' in death, even if life had treated them that way.

The cops do not supervise Mahadeva. He is not an employee of the hospital; he is the outsourcing agency the hospital has engaged for the disposal of all unwanted cadavers. He does not have a boss who writes his appraisal, giving him constructive feedback for continuous improvement. In most work environments, people who produce anything of economic value usually need supervision. A person who needs supervision is no professional. He is an amateur, maybe even an apprentice. Whenever Mahadeva picks up a corpse, it goes straight to the burial ground—no place else. He completes the task with the immediacy it demands. And he certifies his own completion of the task: between the dead and the living, there is no one to question him.

## DEVASURAM

Rotarian Devarajan, born and brought up in Coimbatore, came to Chennai for his higher education at Guru Nanak College at Chennai. A Cost Accountant professional, he is in the Stock Market Business and works at Anand Rathi Stock Brokers as the Regional Head. His main hobbies are cooking and Music. Music is ofcourse more than just a hobby....it is his passion. He has set the advertisement jingle for many products, to name a few – Gokul Sandal Talc, Premier Pressure Cooker and Gopuram Manjal thool. He has more than 40 devotional song albums to his credit. One of his albums “Manida Neyam” won him the Tamil Nadu State Award in 1995. His music has been Broadcast on the All India Radio.

His wife Lakshmi works in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. His son Praveen is studying in class 8 and daughter Amirta Varshini in Class 5 in Padma Seshadri School.

Rtn. Devarajan and his family sure will bring a lot of melody in to our Club.

## PROFESSIONAL TAMIL NAMES

If Parsis can have their name as per the profession, why can't we Tamilians? (After all, we are not British to have Barber, Cook, Side Bottom, etc...)

DOCTOR -- VAIDYANATHAN  
DENTIST -- PALLAVAN  
LAWYER -- KESAVAN  
NORTH INDIAN LAWYER -- PANJABAKESAN  
FINANCIER -- DHANASEKARAN  
CARDIOLOGIST -- IRUDHAYARAJ  
PEDIATRIST -- KUZHANDAISAMY  
PSYCHIATRIST -- MANO  
SEX THERAPIST -- KAMADEVAN  
MARRIAGE COUNSELOR -- KALYANASUNDARAM  
OPHTHALMOLOGIST -- KANNAYIRAM  
ENT SPECIALIST -- NEELAKANDAN  
DIABETOLOGIST -- SAKKARAPANI  
NUTRITIONIST -- AROGYASAMY  
HYPNOTIST -- SOKKALINGAM  
MENTALIST -- BUDHISIKAMANI  
EXORCIST -- MAATRUBOODHAM  
MAGICIAN -- MAYANDI  
BUILDER -- SENGALVARAYAN  
PAINTER -- CHITRAGUPTAN  
METEOROLOGIST -- KAARMEGAM  
AGRICULTURIST -- PACHAIYAPPAN  
HORTICULTURIST -- PUSHPAVANAM  
LANDSCAPER -- BHUMINATHAN

BARBER -- KONDAIAPPAN  
BEGGAR -- PICHAIAPPAN  
BARTENDER -- MADHUSUDHAN  
ALCOHOLIC -- KALLAPIRAAN  
EXHIBITIONIST -- AMBALAVANAN  
FICTION WRITER -- NAAVALAN  
MAKEUP MAN -- SINGARAM  
MILK MAN -- PAULRAJ  
DAIRY FARMER -- PASUPATHI  
DOG GROOMER -- NAAAYAGAN  
SNAKE CHARMER -- NAGAMURTHI  
MOUNTAIN CLIMBER -- YEZHUMALAI  
JAVELIN THROWER -- VELAYUDAM  
POLEVALTER -- THAANDAVARAYAN  
WEIGHT LIFTER -- BALARAMAN  
KARATE EXPERT -- KAILAASAM  
KICK BOXER -- ETHIRAJ  
BATSMAN -- DHANDIAPPAN  
BOWLER -- BALAJI  
SPIN BOWLER -- THIRUPATHI  
FEMALE SPIN BOWLER -- THIRUPURASUNDARI  
DRIVER -- SARATHY  
ATTENTIVE DRIVER -- PARTHASARATHY

If you can come with some more names, please let us know!

## BACK TO ORGANIC FOODS

Rtn. T. N. Ramesh

Around 30 years back the world was swept over by a phenomenon called “Green Revolution” which helped bring about food security in many countries including India. There was a paradigm shift in agriculture with the invention and adoption of “Hybrid” crops which were high yielding but requiring heavy inputs like fertilizers, pesticides and water. During green revolution India's facet changed from a country with a begging bowl to an exporter of food grains.

However these intensive system of crop production resulted in pollution of soil, it produce and depletion of ground water. Indiscriminate use of pesticides made all the harvested produce to carry residual toxic chemicals.

Organic farming is a nature friendly way of crop production, involves using only natural, bio inputs and avoid harmful fertilizers, pesticides in the production of healthy foods.

“Back to Organic” movement slowly and steadily has happened all over the world. These Organic farm produce over the years have acquired consumer recognition and acceptance. Consuming only healthy non toxic food alone will develop healthy people. Though the cost of organically grown food is expensive considering the benefits it bestows, consumers prefer them all over.

The advantages of Organic foods are toxic free, tasty, higher keeping quality. There are certifications agencies under international quality control, tests and assures these produce. The current organic food available in market are, Organic grains, pulses, fruits & vegetables, spices and condiments, beverages, meat and medicinal & herbal plants

As a next step, special restaurants are popping over serving only organic food prepared from these organic farm produce.

## DONATE LEFTOVERS



Please DO NOT WASTE FOOD.

If you have a function/party at your home in India and if any food gets wasted, please don't hesitate to call 1098 (only in India). They will come and collect the food.

Please circulate this message which can help feed many hungry people.

'Helping hands are better than Praying Lips' - Give them your helping hand!