



# TALK OF THE TOWN

ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS DOWNTOWN

DISTRICT 3230

CLUB ID 29249

OCTOBER 2009

## SISTER ACT

PRESIDENT RTN. VAIDYANATHAN

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

### Inside this issue:

Navarathri Splendours	2
Rotary Bonds India & Sri Lanka	3
Fun Fellowship & Good Health	4
Rotary Designated Months	4
Etiquette	4

### Administrative Team

#### President

Rtn. K. Vaidyanathan

#### Secretary

Rtn. Surianarayanan

#### Treasurer

Rtn. Natarajan

#### President-Elect

Rtn. Rajaram

Devotee: Oh God, Give me  
bag full of money, a job and  
a vehicle full of girls.

God: Done

Devotee got a job as a bus  
conductor in a ladies spe-  
cial bus!

Moral: Don't ask for stupid  
things in life.

Stories about arranged marriages are  
passé!! Arranged sisters are IN!!!

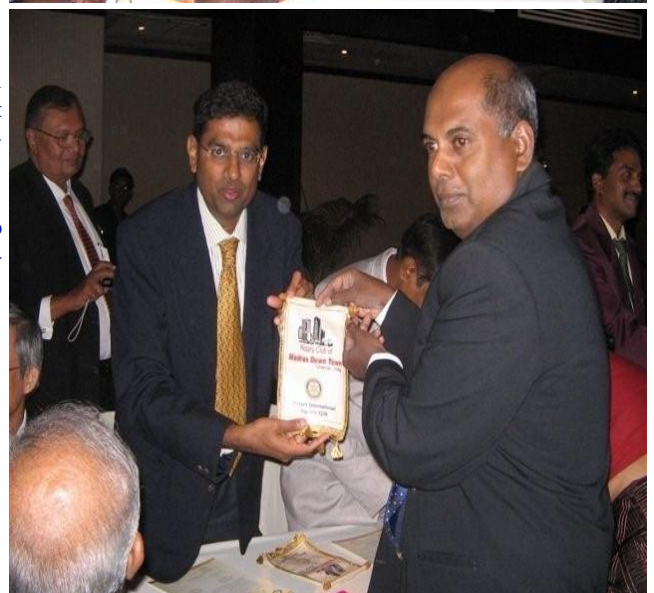
District 3230 'arranged' the sister club  
arrangement at Colombo and we were  
handed over Colombo Centennial, a 5  
year old club with 22 members.

The Rotary Club of Colombo Centennial  
was chartered in 2005, the centennial  
year celebrations of Rotary International.  
Parented by the Rotary Club of Colombo  
Down Town, RCCC began a journey  
towards extending the Rotary world.  
Ablly supported by Rotarians Jayantha  
Wickremesinghe, Suranjan De Silva,  
Mahendraraja & Lasantha Salgado,  
the leadership of establishing the  
Colombo Centennial club was taken  
up by Prashanthlal De Alwis.

After the signing ceremony, we had  
lunch, exchanged flags, talked about  
mutual joint projects/ fellowship meet-  
ings.

They say a successful marriage is 10%  
finding the right partner and 90% BE-  
ING the right partner.

Here is to being the RIGHT sister!!




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## NAVARATRI SPLENDOURS

The festival of Navaratri is a fascinating event in Chennai. As households gear up for the display of dolls – Bommai Kolu and temples vie with each other in decorating the deity in a different alankaram every day, Chennai takes on a new avatar.

The Bommai Kolu at the residence of Ann Sharada Rajaram is a pleasure to visit. Every doll placed in their imposing steps has a tale to tell. Sharada and Rajaram collect dolls from every Country and State that they visit. Some of the interesting displays are a set of Sufi dolls and busts of Rajasthani couple with real hair and turban. The interesting village scene and farm display the creativity of Sharada.

One always looks forward to Ann Usha Balakrishnan's Navaratri display. Her dismantlable dolls take on a new avatar every year. Earlier years she has depicted the life of Krishna starting with his birth to several scenes on anecdotes in his life. This year she had depicted Badrinath with the Nara Narayana deity which According to legend was established by Adi Shankaracharya. Next to the temple is the Tapta Kund hot springs. The temple, Tapta kund and the Neelkanth mountain were depicted in the Kolu. The idol is worshipped in Badrinath from Basant Panchami to Vijaya Dashami after which the Lord is brought to Joshi Math on the slopes above the confluence of River Alakananda and Dhauliganga. Joshi Math could be seen in the kolu. The area is abundant with many legendary tales, which were all depicted in Ann Usha's Kolu. The slope that Pandavas chose to walk up to Heaven called Swargarohini was depicted. The Triyugi Narayan Temple where Lord Shiva proposed to Parvati at Guptakashi was depicted. The Vyasa Guha about 4 km from Badrinath bordering Tibet was depicted near the flowing River Saraswathi where Lord Ganesha had penned the Mahabharatha as directed by Sage Vyasa.

Kudos to Usha and Balki's painstaking research and depiction.



### BIRTHDAYS

RTN. JAYANTHAN	OCTOBER 8	ANNETTE AMNIK TALWAR
PRES. RTN. VAIDYANATHAN	OCTOBER 13	ANNETTE SUBHASHINI SETHUPATHY
ANN AKILA SRIRAMAN	OCTOBER 13	ANNETTE DIVYA
ANN MALLIKA SUBRAMANIAN	OCTOBER 15	ANNETTE DHEERAJ
RAJI RAMESH	OCTOBER 19	
RADHIKA CHANDRASEKHAR	OCTOBER 19	
ANN ARUNA CHOPDA	OCTOBER 19	
ANN DR. PRATHIMA VIVEK	OCTOBER 29	GOKALDAS

### BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 5
OCTOBER 11
OCTOBER 17
OCTOBER 22
OCTOBER 10

### ANNIVERSARIES

The Master of the house is comfortably installed in an armchair in the library, reading a newspaper.

Suddenly, John, his butler rips the door open and shouts, "Sir, the Thames is flooding the streets!"

The Master looks up calmly from the newspaper and says, "John, please. I have already told you before, if you do have something important to tell me, first knock on the door, then enter and inform me, in a quiet and civilised manner, about the issue. Now please, do so."

John apologises and closes the door behind him. Three seconds later, the Master hears a knock on the door.

"Yes?"

John partially enters the room and with a gesture one would make when welcoming and ushering in somebody and water flowing over his shoes, he announced, "Sir, the Thames."

## ROTARY BONDS INDIA & SRI LANKA

ANN RAMA VAIDYANATHAN

As I reread the detailed instructions sent by Rtn. Karthik on the Sri Lanka trip, and did some quick check - tie & blazer for Vaidy for the Foundation dinner as reminded by SMS, a cheerful group of Rotarians, Anns and Annettes had assembled at the Anna International Airport. Rtn. J. Sridhar of RC MIC could be seen collecting passports of Rotarians and involved in the Service Project of purchase of the Magic Potion for the Rotarians. The Rotarians boarded the Air Jet amid cling clong sounds emanating from 42 odd bottles of you know what. "Cling clang varum munne, Rotarians varuvar pinne"

As Rtn. J. Sridhar counted the bottles, District



Sec Ram was busy counting heads and distributing the luggage stickers. I was in Bus Number 2 and my social security number for the tour was 77. The Bus Captain was Rtn. Murali Venkatesh ably assisted by Getafix Druid Rtn. Subbu of Coromondel Club and Rtn. Raja Srinivasan, the Sergeant of Cards. As the Bus Steering Committees were formed and strategies were evolved, I could see some Rotarians exchanging their bus tokens to get into a bus closer to their wavelength.

Whew! Colombo was as hot as Chennai. Hotel Grand Cinnamon was grandeur indeed. The minor hitches on luggage being exchanged and lost luggage which were handled with great aplomb by the organizers. The 80<sup>th</sup> year of Rotary in SriLanka was celebrated by the Charity Dinner Program which had some thought provoking speeches by seasoned Rotarians interspersed with some excellent traditional Sri Lankan dance performances. After the serious business like signing of sister Club arrangements, Rotarians of 3230 and SriLanka took to the Dance Floor and kept the floor dazzling with some dirty dancing.

The Captains of each of the four buses egged on by the respective tour guides were soon fighting



for the mike to assemble and transport the Rotary families back to the Hotel until the wee hours of the morning. The wake up calls and a grand breakfast pulled together the Rotarians as they braced for an 8 hr journey to Nuwara Eliya - the capital city of Ravana. The travel to the hill city was picturesque, with beautiful hills and water falls and lush greenery.

Captain Murali Venkatesh of Bus No. 2 ensured the drive was lively. Rtn. Raja Srinivasan played his cards close to his chest.....actually Jayanti walked away with a few prizes...but we are not complaining...yet!! All The Rotarians introduced themselves and their family - shared their thoughts with the audience. The child like innocence of Rtn. Mehta, was balanced by the moral stories shared by Rtn. Munuswany. Rtn. Munuswamy gave a different meaning to the words - M.P. - Manja Pai. Sporting his Manja Pai - all the Anns could be seen covering their Handbags as they felt their bags did not quite match up with the Manja Pai.

The lunch stop was at Kitulgala- the location of the Movie - A Bridge across River Kwai. " So beautiful was the flowing River there, that a few Rotarians could not resist wading through the river to reach of rocky patch and dance to Sri-Lankan music. Rtn. Gayathri and Green Rtn. Archana lead the group into the water. Rtn. Murali literally jumped into the river to be with his bus mates. The Tea stop at St. Claires with delectable brownies and hot tea cheered everyone's spirits. The Grand Hotel at Nuwara Eliya again was colonial architecture at its best.

The short trip to Sitai Amman temple with Tour guide giving vent to their creativity and taking us 5000 years back had the Rotarians and Anns in rapt attention.

The travel to Kandy was shorter and again Rtn. Murali had the all travelers participating in

Dumb Charades and Antakshari. Rtn. Vaidy flirted with controversy as he displayed his mimicry skills sparing no high ranking District official. The brief stop at the Gems museum was short but Rotarians and Anns smarter with their prior experience at Thailand resulted in lesser purchase.

The Dinner at Kandy hosted by Rtn. JB Kamdar and Marlene was lively with some ice breaking games for Anns organized by Tamilarasi Karikalani. The next day was dedicated to shopping with just a stop at Murugan Temple. Since there had been lot of discussion on the ideal place for



shopping, I decided to chat up with a local Tamil for shopping hints. After a lot of questions from me, my friend confessed that she does all her shopping only in Chennai. But determined the Anns were to shop for stuff and the stop at Unlimited had Anns and a few Rotarians shopping to their heart's content leading to diminishing contents in the wallet!!

The dinner hosted by D.G. Suri Rajan was grand and the 3230 Rotarians enjoyed the Dance floor. Anand and Mina danced to some lilting music from the DJ. Yours truly enjoyed the moment under the lights too...

The next morning the 3230 group sadly packed up and made their long trip to Colombo Airport with just one more bout of shopping for the road.

Rtn. Jaishankar was awarded the 'For the sake of Shopping Award' of the year - when he showed up at the Airport with 18 boxes !

As the plane took off and I looked down at the Indian Ocean, I felt that the Sethu had been built with the bond of friendship between the Rotary Districts of Sri Lanka and India.

## Fun Fellowship & Good Health

On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009, the Rotary family got together at Green Coconut Resort, at Muthukadu playing a patch of Cricket, Water polo and some advice on health and diet. The Red and White Teams had a ferociously competitive cricket match which ended in a draw due to the spoil sport rain. Undeterred, the players jumped into the swimming pool and enjoyed water polo. The hot bhajji along with good tea/ Beer was a treat indeed. We had a quick Meeting and then Anns and Annettes were allowed to catch up on gossip and news, Ann Savitha Krishnaraj organized games for the Annettes and Rotarians. The musical chair went on a fast track as 2 chairs were removed every round! The winners were – Rtn Pramod Chopra and Annette Keerthana.

Ann Savitha had got along personnel from Diet India who provide special diets for the diabetics and those interested in keeping trim. They estimated the BMI of all the Rotarians, Anns and Annettes and could be seen giving advice to all. Next meeting I am sure the Rotarians are going to be fitter. I overheard the dietician say “No Beer! Only greens and fruits! to many Rotarians.

Ann Savitha announced the Anns Project of donating Slippers to needy children at Corporation School at Jaffarkhanpet. The school requires 100 pairs of slippers which the Anns plan to contribute. Ideas for fund raising are welcome.

We had a lively time at Green Coconut Resorts thanks to Rtn. Sunish and Rtn. Vikas Jain who sponsored the program. In spite of being out of the City, the turnout was very good. Some Rotarians and Annettes also went to watch a movie “Unnai-pol Oruvan” at Parthana theatre at the end of the party.



## ROTARY DESIGNATED MONTHS

Rotary International has designated certain months of the year as times for Rotary clubs to emphasize the involvement of all Rotarians in designated activities. Clubs are encouraged to plan special programs on the appropriate topics during these months. The special months, listed in sequence of their occurrence during the Rotary year (1 July to 30 June) are:

**August is Membership and Extension** -- a time to highlight membership development and the creation of new Rotary clubs

**September is New Generations** -- a time to highlight Rotary's commitment to youth

**October is Vocational Service** -- a time to highlight Rotary's contribution to the second Avenue of Service

**November is Foundation** -- a time to highlight our commitment to the important work accomplished by The Rotary Foundation

**January is Rotary Awareness** -- a time to promote the importance of Rotary information to club members and awareness of Rotary in the

community

**February is World Understanding** -- a time to highlight Rotary's goal of world understanding and peace

**April is Magazine** -- a time to recognize the contribution made by “THE ROTARIAN” and 27 regional Rotary magazines.

**February 23**, the anniversary of the first Rotary club meeting, is observed as **World Understanding and Peace Day**. On that day, clubs are expected to give special recognition to Rotary's commitment to international understanding, friendship and peace.

**January 27**, the date on which Rotary founder Paul P. Harris died in 1947, is used by some Rotary clubs as an occasion to memorialize their own deceased members.

**March 13** is observed as **World Rotaract Day** to involve Rotary and Rotaract clubs in common activity of international scope and visibility.

## ETIQUETTE

Rtn Vijay Rangachary was the speaker, Chief Guest, a Rotarian and ‘to be married shortly’ Trainer...not necessarily in that order!!

A joint meeting with Coastal and Presidency at Alumni Club met the objective. Great fellowship, good attendance, Nice speech, vibrant interactions between club members and some Rotary gossip- what more can we get from a Joint meeting huh? President Gopi was the organizer of the event and President Sanjay got the bottle with the correct colored Label!!- 2 powerful adversaries to yours truly!!

Rtn Vijay was armed with a colorful presentation that had George Bush illustrating what a good business etiquette should NOT be!! What to eat, when to talk, how to shake hands, what to wear...the presentation said it all.

As Rotary etiquette demanded, we had good fellowship after the meeting followed by Dinner. Thank you Coastal and Presidency- you guys observed proper Joint meeting etiquette.