



TALK OF THE TOWN

ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS DOWNTOWN

DISTRICT 3230

CLUB ID 29249

SEPTEMBER 2009

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

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EVOLVING CONSCIOUSNESS

Rtn. Rajaram

Not many Speakers possess the ability and capability of making the audience seriously ponder and question and probably sit in judgment on the quality of life one is leading. Shri. T. T. Rangarajan of 'Alma Mater' an institution that pledges itself for 'awakening' among public, falls into this category. Rotary District 3230 organized a Meeting that was addressed by T.T.R, as a part of meeting the Gates Challenge on Polio eradication at University Centenary Hall on August 2nd 2009.

The topic of the session was 'Complete adulthood'. According to Shri. Rangarajan 'adulthood' cannot and should not be directly linked to age, but by the manner and maturity with which a person handles any issue. He or she

should be able to prioritize issues in the right perspective and balance it sensibly, so that the end result is faced with clarity and conviction. T. T. Rangarajan's speech was interspersed repeatedly with the usage of the word 'Give me the brush', the underlying meaning being, every person right from the childhood should be given the freedom to decide of their own on what they want to do with their life. Advising a person at every level on 'what to do' is an unnecessary interference which can impede the progress and growth of a person.

'Disobey' what the 'powers be dictates' as long as the path chosen is righteous, changes the whole gamut of the game. According to Shri. Rangarajan, His-

tory was made by people who were able to understand the true nature of the Decision making process and consequences thereafter. He quoted the likes of eminent personalities like Mahatma Gandhi who started the civil disobedient movement that finally paved the way for an independent India, and Martin Luther King whose main legacy was to secure progress on civil rights in United States which he did by fighting against the establishment.

'If seeing is believing', then the faces one saw after the session had a look of seriousness, a probable introspection on the merits and demerits of the path they have been pursuing, and that augurs well for the next 'G'.

"Wall Street is the only place where people alight from Rolls Royce to get advised by people who use the Public transportation system."

- Warren Buffet

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

GOOD INTENTIONS ARE USELESS UNTIL THEY ARE EXPRESSED IN APPROPRIATE ACTION.

Good intentions may be an appropriate starting point for achievement, but they will go nowhere unless you follow through with action. Many people confuse intentions with achievement; after all, it is the idea that is most important, they reason. In reality, the most mediocre idea acted upon is far more valuable than a flash of genius that resides only in your mind. Developing the habit of action may be difficult at first, but the more you practice it, the easier it becomes.



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ROLE OF A ROTARY SPOUSE

Ann Rama Vaidyanathan

On 7th August 2009, Rotary Club of Madras Down Town had a joint meeting with Rotary Club of Ashok Nagar at the Alumni Club. This meeting was conducted by the Anns of the two Clubs. President and the Secretary of the Anns Club of RCMD – Ann Savitha Krishnaraj and Ann Rama Vaidy and the first Lady of Rotary club of Ashok Nagar conducted the Meeting. The Chief guests for the meeting were the First Lady of the District Mina Anand and Usha Sarogi, President of the Inner Wheel Club of Madras. They spoke on the Role of a Rotary Spouse illustrating their talks with some images and video clippings.

Mina's talk impressed on us her commitment and total involvement in Rotary and the challenging role that she is playing in being a role model for all the Anns of the Rotary World. The four avenues of service provide a Rotary spouse with opportunities to define her role. The time tested Coffee Meetings are a quintessential part of the Rotary world and bring about camaraderie and bonding among the spouses. Mina showed us a few images from a Coffee Morning organized in her house with the theme "International". The images showed the Anns of Mina's home club having a whale of a time with international cuisine and games.

Vocational Service : Since many of the Rotary spouses are also professionally qualified, career guidance camps would be a great hit with our ever-adventurous Annettes.

Youth Service : RYLA can be made a great success with the participation of Anns in the pro-



grams.

International Service : The GSE team and Semester at Sea program have become successful only because the Rotary Spouses who have come forward to host the GSE member. Rotary International Conventions also provide a platform for the Anns to interact and make lifelong friends across nations.

Community Service: Quoting Bill Gates, Rotary can give a Rotary Spouse the opportunity for breakthroughs, the chance to play a unique role and the opportunity to work with smart people on interesting problems and challenges found in the world. From donating clothes and food to the needy; to taking old age home inmates for a temple tour to feeding soup and bread to small towns in South Africa – the Anns have found various unique ways to Serve the Community. The Anns of Down Town and Ashok Nagar are definitely going to contribute to the society in their unique way.

Following Mina's Talk, Ann Usha Sarogi bought in a lot of warmth and grandeur to the meeting as she showed us glimpses of the rollicking time at theme parties that she had organized during her time as first lady of Rotary Club of Madras. The grand finale was the project on Mass Marriages that were organized as an Anns' Project. Hats off to Usha Sarogi for the wonderful Fellowships and Community Service Projects.

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	
Annette Krishna Vaidy	September 4	Subramanis	September 10
Annette Prasanna Muruhavel	September 4	Subramanians	September 10
Annette Aarti Raghavan	September 5	Balasubramanians	September 16
Ann Preetha Subramani	September 8	Muruhavels	September 26
Rtn S. N. V. Subramanian	September 12		
Rtn. G. S. Talwar	September 23		
Annette Pooja Suria Narayanan	September 26		
Ann Anju Nirmal	September 27		

A wise speaker said "Only two things are not required to pass a scandalous remark about others -

1. Brain and
2. Character.

Quite unaware of the consequences, some people talk ill about others. Primarily, this habit stems from a poor self-image. Persons who have a low image about themselves tend to show others in a poor light. Even if they can't see a positive quality, they never miss out on a negative one to talk about.

Great minds discuss *ideas* while average minds talk about people. Loose talks succeed only in damaging relationships.

Anns 'Club' of Madras Downtown

Ann Savitha Krishnaraj

Anns of the Club met over a meal of delicious sandwiches to discuss ideas on Community Service and plan enjoyable evenings with the Rotary family on 15th Aug 2009. The Meet was well attended with the Adyar contingent coming in full strength. Anna Nagar Contingent needs to buck up !

Ann Savitha Krishnaraj, President of the Anns Club called the Meeting to order and started the proceedings. It was decided that the Anns would meet once a month and a nominal amount would be collected towards Anns projects from the participating Anns. Ann Srilekha was elected as Treasurer unanimously to keep



tab of expenses and make the ends meet.

Some of the projects that were suggested for Community Service included organizing spoken English classes in a Corporation School in Jaffer Khanpet and service to old age homes. All the Anns contributed their ideas in these service projects. It was decided to start with the Corporation School project this month.

The Meet ended with an interesting quiz on Independence Day conducted by Ann Rama. Anns Sharada, Jyothi, Lavanya and Renu demonstrated their quick wit and knowledge in current as well as Old Affairs and won the Prizes.

EXQUISITE STONEWARE

Ann Anju & Rtn. Nirmal Dhiran invited all Downtowners to the Launch Party of their new Stoneware collection on August 29, 2009 at the Hotel Beverly.

Anju Dhiran runs 'Stone Boutique' (www.stoneboutique.co.in) in Koyambedu, Chennai. Stone Boutique deals with an exquisite collection of artifacts handcrafted in stone by artisans that are becoming rare in this day of mass production.

Getting into stoneware was a natural extension for Anju because Rtn. Nirmal Dhiran has been in the Granite & Marble business for many years. Anju felt that artisans with specialized knowledge in stoneware needed to be encouraged by creating a platform for their wares to keep their dying art alive.

Downtowners and Guests were amazed by the intricate detailing in the artifacts and extensive range of products available.

The launch was followed by an evening of Pulsating Music, Fellowship and Dinner that would have made Bacchus proud! A few Downtowners were literally 'stoned' after fellowship.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT HINDU MISSION HOSPITAL, TAMBARAM

- Rtn. T N Ramesh was the first donor. This was his 29th blood donation!!! A cold blooded act indeed!
- Green Rtn. Ramesh brought 25 of his office colleagues to the camp!!! Heard from one of them"Sir, this is much better than a working day!!"
- Ann Raji Ramesh was a brave Ann who turned up... She followed her husband. After all, blood is thicker...than fellowship.
- Rtn. Sriraman came late. About 3 years late!!! He does have blue blood.
- Rtn. Krishnaraj came in flesh and blood. Lots of flesh and went back with less blood!!!
- Rtn. Rajaram had some nerve. The nurse kept trying to find his vein and it was almost in vain!!!
- The nurse wanted Raja to close his elbow tightly after donating blood..... was made easy when his mobile was thrust in his hands!



In a shop a man asked for 1/2 kg of butter. The salesperson, a young boy, said that only 1kg packs were available in the shop, but the customer insisted on buying only 1/2 kg. So the boy went inside to the manager's room and said "An idiot outside wants to buy only 1/2 kg of butter". To his surprise, the customer was standing behind him. So the boy added immediately, "And this gentleman wants to buy the other half!!!!". After the customer left, the manager said "You have saved your position by being clever enough at the right time. Where do you come from? To this the boy said, "I come from Mexico. The place consists of only prostitutes and football players!!!!" The manager replied coldly, "My wife is also from Mexico". To this the boy asked excitedly, "Oh wow!! which team does she play for?" "Believe in your presence of mind and never panic".

A Welcome Addition



Rtn. R. Ramesh the new entrant into the family of Rotary club of Madras Down Town, was inducted into the Club on 7th August 2009. Rtn. Ramesh hails from Tanjore and completed his graduation from University of Madras. He initially worked as a export executive and went on to start a partnership company for leather exports in 1989. Encouraged by this success he started a company which does credit related services in 1998. His major customers are presently Vodafone Essar South Ltd., TATA Communications Internet Ltd. And Bharath Sanchar Ltd. (BSNL). His wife Raji is a post graduate from University of Madras and is a home maker. Their daughter Roshnee is doing her final year engineering in Chennai. If Ramesh's contribution to the Rotary Blood Donation Drive is any indication, he is bound to be a great asset to the Club.

A Charlotte, NC lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against fire, among other things. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars and without yet having made even his first premium payment on the policy, the lawyer filed claim against the insurance company.

In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost "in a series of small fires." The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued... and WON!

(Stay with me.)

In delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer "held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable fire" and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the rare cigars lost in the "fires."

NOW FOR THE BEST PART...

After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of ARSON!!!

With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

COMPUTER TIPS

USING MAIL MERGE IN MICROSOFT WORD

Ann Lakshmi Devi

Using email for sending invitations has become very common and it has become imperative for all of us to use Mail merge to do the same. Here is the stepwise procedure for the same.

When we need to create multiple copies of essentially the same document, yet with customized information in each one, we need to use mail merge. Mail merge is useful for all types of Word users, from the large corporation sending out hundreds of form letters to the users creating personalized party invitations. A mail merge uses a new or existing data base table in fields in the document while retaining the surrounding content. Mail merge is most commonly used on letters.

Creating a mail merge begins by choosing **Tools | Letters and Mailings | Mail Merge** menu option in the word document. This opens a Mail Merge task pane. We can invoke this tool on a blank page and wait to be prompted to create the document as we step through the Mail Merge Wizard. Or we can begin typing the document before launching the tool. When we begin the mail merge process, we're asked what type of document we are

creating:

- Letters
- Email Merges
- Envelopes
- Labels
- Directory

Step 1:

Select **letters**. After we complete this step, click on the **Next** hyperlink at the bottom of the task pane to proceed to the next step.

Step 2:

Choose whether to base the mail merge on the current document, on a new document, or on another existing document. The document we select or create here is the boilerplate content; this material will appear in every copy of the merged document.

Step 3:

Select a data source for the mail

merge. If we are using a new list, click the **Create** hyperlink that appears after clicking the **Type a New List** radio button.

Step 4:

To add recipient information (address) in the letter, click a location in the document and use **More Items** option in the task pane to insert specific fields, such as referring to a person or company by name in the body of the letter. As we insert fields, we'll notice the field codes being inserted into the boilerplate. Data fields are formatted using the field name surrounded by double angle brackets, such as <<LastName>>.

Step 5 displays a preview of the document using one of the records from the data source.

Step 6:

When all is well, proceed to step 6 to complete the merge and print the new documents. We can print the entire batch at once or edit individual letters to further customize them before printing.