

# Talk of the Town

## BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS DOWNTOWN



Volume 1, Issue 1

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Club ID No. 29249

Chartered on : 17- 02 - 1993

### ADMINISTRATION

#### President

Rtn. K.Vaidyanathan.

#### Immediate Past President

Rtn. Vjay Sambrani

#### Incoming President

Rtn. S. Rajaram

#### Club Secretary

Rtn. Dr. S.Surtanarayanan

#### Treasurer

Rtn. R.Natarajan

## WINDS OF CHANGE

Installations in Rotary do not have a great story board. In fact they are such a drab affair that in many installations one gets to witness members assembled looking lifeless and remaining mute to the proceedings at the stage and heaving a sigh of relief when the national anthem is sung.



How does one break this monotony and lack of luster and make it lively and engaging? Simple - FOLLOW the RULES, but BREAK the CONVENTIONS. That is precisely what the new President of RCMD, Rtn. Vaidy did, when he assumed office. Change was perceptible right from the time he chose the place of his installation as President of Rotary Club of Madras Downtown, 2009-10. 'Yelagiri' was his preferred destination and the meeting was held amidst scenic surroundings. There were no dress codes and the attire recommended was informal.

### DIRECTORS

#### Club Administrator

Rtn. Devika Dinakar

#### P R

Rtn. Anup Subramani

#### Community Service

Rtn. Vijay Sambarani

#### Community Service - Health

Rtn. Ramesh

#### Membership Development

Rtn. Krishna Raj M

#### Foundation

Rtn. Sriraman

### CHAIRMAN

#### International Service

Rtn. Subramanian.S.N

#### Polio Plus

Rtn.Ganapathy

### SERGEANTS

#### Sergeant At Arms

Rtn Vivek Shanbag

Rtn Muralidhara

**We Meet at Madras Boat Club on Fridays at 7 p.m.**

While no compromises were made with regard to the Presidential address or the Secretary 's Report of the outgoing team ,a subtle message was sent by the new incumbent that speeches need not have to be spectacular but necessarily have to be short and to the point. It was followed to the tee, by all the members, so much so that Rtn. Vivek Shanbag took his oath of office in shorts! Just not the speech, even the induction of T. N. Ramesh as new Member, the acceptance speech by the President were all done with clock wise precision that when Rtn. Devika stood up to propose the vote of thanks, the adherence to the Minute to Minute Schedule on the Installation proceedings was remarkably efficient.

The Icing of the evening, however was the entertainment programme dished out by the Anns and Annettes. Be it the dances by Annettes Keerthana Krishnaraj and Nandita Vaidy , the skit by Annettes Sindhu Sambrani, Dheeraj, Divya, Pallavi Shanbag, Upaasna Rajaram, Shashank Rajaram, Ganesh Venkatesan , which was thought provoking, the pantomime show by Rtn. Devika which had the house in splits, the Drum show by Shashank Rajaram and Dheeraj which had everyone tapping and asking for more, not to forget the lovely salsa moves by President Vaidy and Ann Rama all the programmes were stand outs. Special mention need to be made of the MCs of the evening Annette Swathy Sambrani and Krishna Vaidy who did a wonderful job given the short time at their disposal.

The Winds of Change was palpably evident right from the beginning. If systems and procedures were the hall mark of RCMD under Rtn. Vijay Sambrani's leadership, it was family fellowship and group bonding that marked its presence and appeared to be the focus of the new team under Rtn. Vaidy. A start towards this has been made and is sure to generate a momentum. As the saying goes, one can't get to the top of the mountain by jumping up the mountain. It is, and it is by taking incremental steps. Rtn. Vaidy and his team have made their moves towards this direction and it is bound to yield the desired results. We wish this team of 2009-10 a great year and quite positive that RCMD will scale new heights in the year ahead.

**- By Rtn Rajaram**

# Crowning Glory

## 13 Rotary Oscaars for the Rotary Year 2008-09



**Oscar for OVERALL CLUB PERFORMANCE - PLATINUM**

**Oscar for OUTSTANDING CLUB PRESIDENT – PLATINUM**

**Oscar for OUTSTANDING CLUB SECRETARY**

**Oscar for CLUB SERVICE**

**Oscar for VOCATIONAL SERVICE**

**Oscar for INTERNATIONAL SERVICE**

**Oscar for SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**Oscar for TRF PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION**

**Oscar for ROTARY EREY CONTRIBUTION**

**Oscar for ROTARY FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTION**

**Oscar for ROTARY FOUNDATION COMMITMENT**

**Oscar for POLIO PLUS**

**Oscar for PERFORMANCE AS CHAIR – ‘SEMESTER AT SEA’**

**Oscar for OUTSTANDING CLUB PRESIDENT – PLATINUM**

## President Speaks

1. Did we have FUN & Fellowship?
2. Did we involve all concerned? Rotarians, Anns and Annettes?
3. Will it build collective Leadership among ALL members?
4. Did we make our speeches short?



**When we stand here exactly 365 days from now, how do we evaluate the year that was ?**

Feel we have made a good beginning on the above....lets see how we are doing TODAY...right now.....this installation day...

1. July 4th is a picnic with fun and fellow ship first; Thanksgiving by Vijay next and Installation of this year's office bearers after that!!
2. Sure. We are starting both the Ann's and Annettee's club today. The entertainment program was put together by them!!
3. Installation is for the office bearers....and hence ALL the office bearers will deliver an acceptance speech!! Leadership is plural NOT singular at RCMDT.
4. OK- let me stop this speech right now!! may the annals of Rotary acceptance speeches record this as the shortest one :-)!!! Would also urge my colleagues to not exceed a single sentence during their acceptance speeches!!

## Know Your Governor



**Mr & Mrs. Anand**

Anand is an Architect by profession and is the principal architect of the architectural firm, Anand Architects. After graduating with distinction from the School of Architecture and Planning Anna University, he went on to garner a Masters in Project Management from the reputed School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi. His firm has to its credit a wide range of projects from multiple housing to residences, factories and hospitals. Profiled as a leader in his profession, Anand's work has been featured in leading national dailies and magazines.

Anand's personal vision and vitality in Architectural design, was honoured with the prestigious SOCIETY INTERIORS CREATIVE EXCELLENCE HONOUR in April 2006. With over 500 projects ranging from the gloss to the grain of architecture, Anand was chosen as one of the Hot architects of Chennai by Construction World.

Anand's passion for architecture and service was reflected in the sustainable yet distinctive buildings he designed for our Districts' Tsunami rehabilitation project at Kannathur Reddy Kuppam

Anand was inducted into the RC of Madras Industrial City in 1997, under the classification, Architect and Project Management Consultancy. Anand's leadership at the helm of RC Madras Industrial City as President in 2001-02, brought laurels to the club, in the form of the Rotary Action Trophy (Gold), amongst 93 clubs of the district. Anand was recognized with a plaque from Rotary International for motivating his club towards the highest per capita contribution in the year 2001-02. It was in his tenure as president, that the club bulletin 'Top Gear' won the All India Best Bulletin Award. He has since worked at the district level in a mosaic of roles ranging from Co Chairman Conference and Vocation service 2002-03, GGR 2002-03, Co Chairman PETS 2003-04, Chairman Special Projects 2003-04, Assistant Governor 2004-05 and Vice chairman Tsunami Relief Committee 2004-05. Anand was the G.S.R. of the Rotary Club of Chennai, Chepauk, Centennial.

As PETS and Conference Chair, 2006-07 Anand created many firsts for the district. Anand led a team of 200 Rotarians to Dist. 3220 Sri Lanka for the first ever International and Multi District PETS in India. The conference Blaze '07 attracted an all time high registration of 3230 delegates. Exclusive programs for the family of Rotary and a three day conference were some of the firsts for our district

Anand has travelled widely for Rotary. He has attended the R.I. conventions at Barcelona, Chicago, Copenhagen Denmark & Malmo Sweden. At the RI Convention in Copenhagen, Anand initiated India 2007, an International Exchange program with the Rotarians of Nigeria. He represented the District at sister club, signing fellowships, in Sri Lanka and Thailand. Anand is a member of the International Travel and Hosting Rotarians, and a member of the International Convention Goers Association.

Anand has been the Aide to Rotary Stalwarts, Rotary International Directors, PC Thomas, Sushil Gupta, Keith Bernard Jones, Noraseth Padmanand and Rotary Foundation Trustee Ravindran.

Anand is a Major Donor. His commitment to the foundation can be seen in his being a member of the Paul Harris Society pledging to contribute US \$ 1000 every year to the Rotary Foundation. His contribution to the foundation is US \$ 20000. He is married to Minakshi and they are blessed with two children Adishri and Mukund. Minakshi has been the editor of their home club's bulletin for two years. She has also been on the District Family Participation teams. Minakshi was also on the team that created Annexe 3230, the first Anns only program at the District Conference Blaze '07.

As a Rotary family, they have hosted both semester-at-sea and GSE members from the U.S., U.K., Brazil, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Rotarians from Nigeria at their residence. Their's is an all PHF family.



## World According to an Annette

The annetes were charged to entertain the rotarians for half an hour in the installation-hopefully without being pelted by stones. We decided to meet on the 30th of June to come up with a plan. After three hours of brainstorming we came up with a master plan.....we would meet again on the 3rd of July where we wouldn't goof around and actually come up with something half doable. Two hours before the event-we just started to rehearse. After last minute changes, additions etc.. we decided any more and we would go mad. With jittery nerves and bated breath we went ahead with it After the installation to our surprise we realized we actually didn't do half bad !

**-By Annette Krishna**

**Editor Notes -Are you kidding!!? The Annette's programs were the highlight of the entire evening!!! Great show guys!**

## Swagatham Suswagatham

The Anns of RCMD welcomed the new Team being Installed with the rendering of a classical number “Swagatham Suswagatham”. The new choir is spear headed by Ann Renuka Venkatesan supported by Anns Chankrika, Rama and Savitha. The male lead singer is Rtn. Rajaram with a little outside support from Rtn. Ram of RC Madras Industrial City. This charged up new choir team lead the Entertainment program with a soft number from Rahman’s Bombay “Malarodu Malar” written by Vairamuthu. The year to come promises to be one of Unity and we pray we create a mountain of strength from the small bits “Thugal ellam onragi malai agattum”. The choir also hopes to grow as other accomplished Anns of RCMD join the Music Group.



The seeds for the Ann’s contribution to the entertainment program for the Thanksgiving/ Installation function of July 4th was sown during the warm friendship dinner hosted by Rtn. Shaam G Srinivasan. The subsequent Anns Meeting for the practice turned out to be a mouth watering experience as the Anns also exhibited their culinary talents. Annette Keerthana also used these opportunity to choreograph a lively “Jai Ho” number danced by Annettes Nandita & Keertana.

Rotary Club of MD formed its Ann’s Club officially on July 4th with Ann Savitha Krishnaraj being installed as the President of the Ann’s club. Anns of RCMD are thrilled with this news and look forward to more bonding between Rotary families.



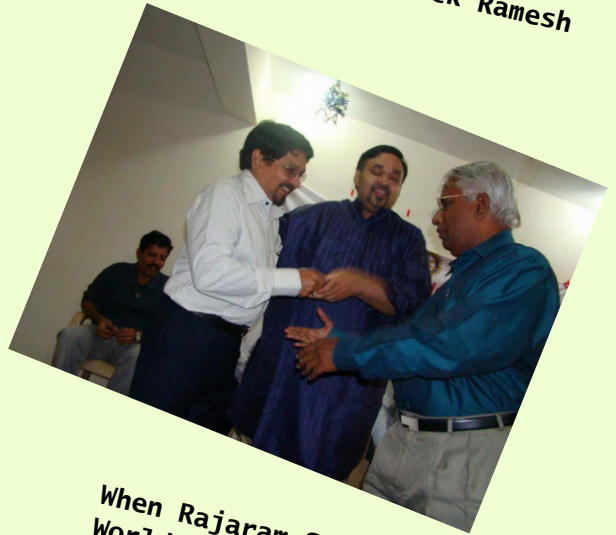
**A Picture is worth a thousand words!**

**One Secretary to another**

Crowning Glory Architect



Welcome Back Ramesh



When Rajaram Speaks  
World's stops & Listens



Beginning of a  
Revolution- Anns Takeover



Past President's Club?

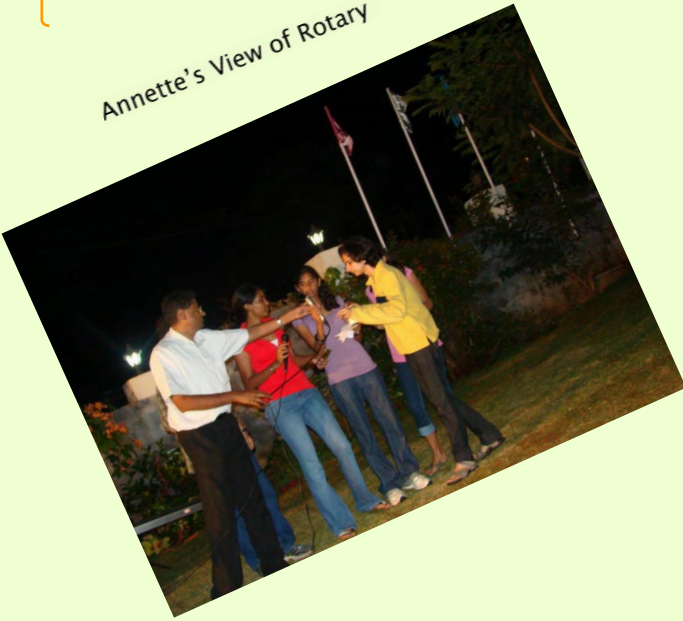


Saying Thank U with a Smile





Annette's View of Rotary



Rotarians walk the talk



Scaling New heights



Rajaram needs to go to Gym



I AM the queen of the world



Sitting on Laurels



Yup! it Sucks



Tomorrow is Annette's World



Every Annette's Journey Starts with a first step



Cheek to Cheek-President and his Ann



Photos- Thanks to Annette Siddharth Chandru

## RC MDT's finds its Green Thumb again

Rtn. T.N. Ramesh was inducted back into RC MDT on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 by Rtn. Past President Ganesan.



Rtn. T.N. Ramesh is an Horticulturist par excellence. He has a post graduate degree in Agriculture from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. He served the

Dept. of Horticulture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu for 14 years and then had a short stint as an academic at the Institute of Remote Sensing at Anna University. The academic experience propelled him to start his entrepreneurship – “Tropics “ which caters to Horticultural requirements of Institutions and Industrial concerns. His hobbies are trekking, driving and photography. He has trekked widely in south India. He joined Rotary in 1987 and became the President of RC MDT in 2002-2003. When he moved to Bangalore, he joined RC Bangalore Indira Nagar for 5 years. We are extremely to welcome T.N. Ramesh back to our midst ! Ann Nirmala has a degree in Botany and runs a horticultural consultancy “Green Finger”. They have a son Ashwanth who is an MCA graduate and works as a Games Designer.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Annette Uttara Jayanthan 17th July

Talwar 25th July

Annette Sunitha Muruhavel 18th July

Ann Lakshmi Devi 29th July

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