

Dear RCI Family,

Warm Rotary Greetings.



Today's world is filled with hatred with no values given for human life. The recent terror attacks in Mumbai have been an example for that. It is in this context we realize and need to immensely appreciate the relevance and work done by Rotary. We Rotarians, as a collective group, have been able to touch the lives of many and change the lives of many, for good. True to our motto, our activities have built Goodwill and Peace to the extent possible. It's the happiness we derive out of these, that make us contribute more and more, physically or financially. Let me take the opportunity to congratulate all Rotarians for the valiant effort they take to make the society a better place to live. Let me also salute the brave men of our country's defense organizations, who put their lives at stake so that we can walk and sleep peacefully.

With regard to the club's activities, we donated materials for garden preparation to the UP school, Edappally. We had earlier donated many items to this school and have been supporting them for many needs. The authorities of the school have been very appreciative of our efforts and thanked the club profusely.

Dr. Sanjay exchanged flags with Rotary club in Seoul. So far we've exchanged 3 flags this year. Let me congratulate International Director Rtn. Sunil for motivating our International travelers for this.

We had a wonderful fellowship month in November. Sruthilayam, conducted by Midtown is an event where we have been participating in full, in all the years. This year was no exception. Our Annes and Annets put in great effort and won many accolades for the club. Our Quiz team retained the first prize and Group dance won second. We also won the club with best participation (no surprises here). We had almost all our Rotarians with family attending the event and had a gala time.

In December we shall have Super Six, our fund raiser and I'm sure with the level of participation we're getting from the family, this'll be a true fund raiser.

Our family fellowship is going strong with fireside gangs in full action. We shall see more action in this line in the coming months. Rotary months ahead shall be filled with serious service activities and fun for the family.

Let's together enjoy Rotary.

Rotary regards,

V Prashanth Menon



Dist. Governor



Rtn. Baby Joseph
2008-2009



Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee
President, Rotary International

RCI PROCOINT

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December is Family month- A message from RI president for family month.

Dear fellow Rotarians,

As a father of four and grandfather of five, I have been fortunate to have spent many years in the company of children. When raising our own children, my wife, Young, and I worked hard to give them what all children need most: a loving, safe, and stable home. Our children were our first priority, and we made sure that they always had nutritious food, appropriate clothing, quality medical care, and a good education. We knew very well how fortunate we were to be able to do this. We were grateful that we never had to say to our children, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing to eat tonight," or "I'm sorry, but we can't pay your school fees."

When I was a child, Korea was a poor country, and there were many children who went to bed hungry at night and had no school to go to in the morning. As a Rotarian, I know only too well that there are still far too many children in the world without the absolute essentials: food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and education. And as a Rotarian who is also a father, I consider all of the world's children to be my responsibility.

When I see my own grandchildren – happy, healthy, and enrolled in good schools – I cannot help but think of the millions of children who do not have so many advantages. I think of the children who have too little to eat and only dirty water to drink. I think of the children who are sick with diseases that could have been prevented and those who will have nowhere safe to sleep tonight. And I think of the children, millions of them every year, who won't live to see their fifth birthday.

December is Family Month. It is a time to focus on our families, to involve them in our Rotary service, and to challenge ourselves to do even more for those in need. Because there are so many families and so many children waiting for our help, we, as Rotarians, cannot look away. We cannot and will not rest until all children, everywhere, have the chance for a long and healthy life. We will not rest until we

Make Dreams Real for every child in every home where there is hunger, sickness, and want. As Rotarians, we can do no less.



The month that was November 2008...

The boundaries which divide life from death are at best shadowy and vague. Who shall say where one ends, and the other begins?-**Edgar Allan Poe**

26-11-08-Mumbai commercial capital of India
Attacked- many were injured and many killed
No barriers- religion, cast, creed, rich or poor
All shaken – hurt and traumatized
World - moved and fought
Fought -for humanity and for future
Salute - to all those who gave life to save life

Edt..or



Board Meeting

The 5th Board Meeting was on 05th November 2008 before our Weekly Meeting. Various discussions were held on the following:

1. Vocational Service Award update
2. Bhavana Update
3. New Members
4. Plans at RCC

Speaker Meeting

Our seventeenth weekly meeting was a speaker meeting. The meeting was 05 November 2008, Wednesday.

Speaker of the day was Rtn Saji Thomas who gave a brief talk on the topic "Survive in the Financial Turmoil". He highlighted the fact that we should not believe in so-called experts of finance, and asked all of us to take our own decisions as far as money is concerned. He also gave a lot of tips (one hand and other hand) for all of us to survive. This was later followed by a series of discussions and comments and the session went on with full vibrance.

We also had a presentation by Dr. Siby as the Curtain Raiser for Bhavana 2009. Dr. Siby explained the vision for this year's Bhavana and activities to be done by all. A committee is also suggested, and he asked for the cooperation, brain and mind of all for the successful "Bhavana 2009".

Our eighteenth weekly meeting was a speaker meeting and was on 12 November 2008, Wednesday.

Speaker of the Day was Dr. Nandini Vallath from Amritha Hospital and she spoke to us on the subject "Principles of FOOD". Dr. Nandini is the head of Pain and Palliative Department of Amritha Hospital.

She gave us insight on various points related to food such as :-

- a. Basic drive to eat
- b. Purpose of food intake
- c. How should we eat?
- d. Choice of food at all levels and
- e. Health

It was a very informative and interesting topic and all the RClans enjoyed the discussion.

Community Service

RCI donated a set of garden tools to UP School Edapally on 21st November 2008. There was a request from the school some time back for these tools to develop their vegetable garden and also to cultivate suitable vegetables for their noon meal. Prez Prashanth handed over a set of around 20 items to the School Headmistress, Ms. Rugmini in the presence of the students and teachers.

Ms. Rugmini in her speech mentioned that the School is deeply indebted to the service we have given to the School, and later one of the students planted a plant using the tool we supplied.

Flag Exchange

During his professional visit to Korea Rtn Dr Sanjay exchanged flags with Rotary Club in Korea under Dist 3650 during the 47th District conference of District 3650 at Hotel Grand Hyatt, Seoul on 22nd Nov 2008.



Sruthilayam- by Ann Asha Nair

The venue was at Gymkhana on 29th November 2008 .

Preparations for Shruthilayam started on a full swing after a lot of speculation for the group dance .i.e. about the song, the type of dance steps to be chosen and how many members to be included .So much so that I woke Rtn Rajeev Nair, my husband from an early morning slumber to give him the pleasure of "Dancing" with my fellow anns. To give him another male company, Rtn.Madan was ready to join in. But Rajeev's dreams of dancing like "Shri Krishna" in the company of Radhas and Gopis (especially after his makeover by shaving his moustache) was shattered very soon.

To his utter dismay after his reverie broke he found himself standing in the audience and the role of Krishna being played by Annette Anagha Sudhir and giving her company were Rtn Manju, Rtn Falguni and Anns Binu,Suma and Ligi and the youngest among them all was annette Gopika who replaced Rtn shaleena as she fractured her toe.

Then it was all of them dancing to the tunes of Naweesh and Rhadhi under their tutelage,elegant costumes and colourful appearance.

We stood second in group dance even though we were not vouching for any accolades , but who says sports person can't adorn dancing shoes which was efficiently proven by our anns Binu and Suma as sometimes their dance moves seemed as if they were picking up the shuttle and hitting it with the racquet. Hats of to Rtn Manju,Rtn Falu and ann Ligi despite their hectic work schedule managed to squeeze in time for dance practise. Kudos to annet Anagha and Gopika who along with dance practice session managed their school & tuitions. Hari and Binu did a great job in giving space for dance and group song practice. Apart from that Binu was always ready with variety of juices and snacks which filled enthusiasm & vigour in the participants.

Rtn Sunil was a new talent in the arena of solo singing .He rendered a soulful song in tamil which was originally sung by S.P. Balasubramaniam. It was refreshing to see new talents emerge in RCI.

Though the group song participants (this year -Aiswarya, Suma, Shalena, Hari, Prashanth, Rajeev Nair, Sudheer, Gibu) had always won laurels in previous years ,a thing that came to our notice was that our choice of songs for group song category every year has provided so much of expertise that our participants would'nt surprise us by singing at the church choir, quite a secular idea indeed.

Music quiz first place victory was a hat-trick by RCI. It was quite a tough competition especially with Rotary Club of DownTown . Arrival of Rtn Manju on stage for quiz shook the confidence of many participants. She is human encyclopaedia when it comes to her knowledge in music. My role was just to support her on stage as a team mate.

Finally post midnight when it was time to announce the winners of the delightful evening the coveted title of overall champions went to RC of DownTown and we had to console ourselves with maximum participation award. With head held high and enthused with more vigour; RCI would be there next year with new participants and new ideas, the undying and resilient attitude of RCI.



Upcoming events-

Super Six Cricket tournament 14th December 2008.
 Xmas Dinner 24th December 2008 at Rtn Prakash's residence
 Vocational Award 3rd January 2009
 "Bhavan 2009" - 12th January 2009

Emily



D/o Shaju
30th Nov

Rahul M



S/o Rajeev V
05th Dec

Kesav



S/o Prashanth
13th Dec

Emlin



D/o Shaju
01st Dec

Naomi



D/o SR and Shali
11th Dec

Nevin



S/o Manoj J
20th Dec

Sagittarius

LIKES

Traveling

getting to the heart of the matter

Freedom

Laws and meanings

the general 'feel' of things

DISLIKES

Off the wall theories

being tied down domestically

Being constrained

cooling your heels

bothered with details

The color of choice **RICH PURPLE**

We also had a combined meeting with Rotary Club of Cochin East on 17th Nov Monday at Rotary Cochin East Hall near TOCH School. The evening was a musical extravaganza by Mr. Stephen Devassy, a renowned KeyBoard Specialist.

STEPHEN DEVASSY

He lives, dreams and breathes music. Music is Stephen's love and profession. "I was never academically inclined. Since I was always into music, I thought, why not make a career of it," says this 27-year-old from Ottappalam, Palakkad who is gaining recognition in the music industry. He is now settled in Chennai. Stephen Devassy, whose passion is music, composes, sets tunes and arranges music. He scored the music for the 2004 Malayalam movie - 'Hariharan Pillai Happy Aanu,' starring Mohanlal.

He plays the piano, and has done eight grades in music from the Trinity College of Music. London and was the best scorer in Asia whose record is yet to be bettered. He started learning the piano at age 10 and entered the world of music, under the guidance of Leslie Peter who was his first guru. He learnt the organ and then was introduced to the piano by Fr. Thomas at Chetana Music Academy in Thrissur where he completed his Eighth Grade examination conducted by the Trinity College of Music, London. "Fr. Thomas was a real slave driver, he also taught me the perfection and discipline needed for a pianist," says Stephen.

His first chance to play for Hariharan on his tour of Europe was a big experience, says Stephen. "My mind opened up. I began seeing good musicians and it made me learn my western classical music better. It was a fusion of ghazals and Western music. I went as an accompanying artiste to play the keyboard." Explaining his work on the keyboard, he says it is primarily about arranging several types of music. "This enriches and fills up the space in a song". I thought of some solo performances — contemporary yet inspired by classics," says this shy youngster. In his teens he was busy working with Colonial Cousins and then, with the musical wizard, A.R.Rahman. The rest, as they say, is history. "It's all thanks to my family who gives me full support," says the music prodigy. Yanni, the Greek musician and Michael W. Smith inspire Stephen, who loves Mozart's Symphony, in musical compositions.

Mr. Stephen performed for the Rotarians at the Cochin East Hall for almost an hour and later he spoke about his experiences and how he worked hard to reach this level. The performance was amazing and most of the audience including the kids were thrilled to spend that evening with him.

Vocational Award

As you all know, we give out Vocational Award every year to candidates, whom we think excel in their respective vocation. Our board has decided to award Mr. Vineeth Srinivasan, who already proved his excellence as a Lyricist / Singer / Actor. He is basically a Mechanical Engineer, but decided to pursue his career in this field of Music. He is a part of the band "Malayalee" with Jakes Bejoy, Shaan Rahman and Arjun Sasi. He has also acted as one of the main protagonists in the Malayalam film titled Cycle which did well at the box-office. He writes the lyrics of most of his album songs and has also shown his direction skills, directing his own music videos. He has accepted our invitation and since he is currently engaged, we have decided to award him on 03rd January 2009 in a family get together with other members of Rotary fraternity .