

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Southerner,

July turned out to be a hectic and exciting month. Attended a zillion installations of Co-Presidents. At one point I ended up at the wrong venue at the right time. Talk about a dazed brain!

We had two speaker meetings both of which were well attended. We had our first board meeting on 13th July at Presidency Club. 24 of the Board members turned up and the discussions were very fruitful. We talked about celebrating the 500-mark crossed by the Little Hearts project which was approved.

On 15th July, Renjit, Magdoom, and I assisted the PCKG school in celebrating the students who had scored more than 80%. Kalanjiyam presented them with Rs.1000 each. That evening we had a blast at the fireside hosted by Vijay Menon and Soni. Awesome spread! We had yet another fireside hosted by Shankar on 23rd July at Boat Club. Janaki Sabesh enthralled us with her stories and it was exciting to be singing songs from our younger days. Wonderful camaraderie enjoyed by all.

Very gratifying to have inaugurated Spoken English classes in 3 schools. We will soon have counseling sessions in 3 schools. All classes and counseling sessions are sponsored by CAMS.

Our Family Participation was the highlight this month (facilitated by Rtn Anuradha Uberoi) with a trip to Amir Mahal where the Heir Apparent Nawabzada Mohammed Asif Ali regaled us with the history of his family and the Mahal. It was followed by lunch at the Presidency Club with Biryani from Amir Mahal. How about that! Kudos to Rtn Ashok for pulling it off.

SOUTHERNERS INVADE AMIR MAHAL



A palace in the heart of the city, hardly known to many. We Southerners had the unique opportunity to visit the palace of Prince of Arcot, 'Amir Mahal' in Royapettah and interact with the Dewan and Heir-Apparent Nawabzada Mohamed Asif Ali, the son of His Highness Nawab Mohamed Abdul Ali, the current titular Prince of Arcot. Their ancestors once ruled several parts of South India. Nawabzada Asif Ali and his gracious spouse Seema Ali hosted and interacted with us over a cup of coffee/tea, and shared their history, culture, heritage, business, passion and many more.



It was an enchanting chat. Nawabzada, who is a multi-talented personality and a musician himself, belted out a few songs from his piano as our parting gift. The visit ended with Southerners racing to the Presidency Club for yummy biriyani and sumptuous lunch. A Sunday like no other, truly.

Magdoom Mohamed

Very happy to announce that our brand new vision project which will henceforth be referred to as 'Kanmani' has taken off, with an MOU that was signed between VHS and RCMS on 1st August. Two patients have already been treated successfully.

A wonderful, feel-good first month has come to an end and looking forward to the rest of the year.

Yours in Rotary

Bina Boaz

A GREEN BEGINNING FOR THE CURRENT ROTARY YEAR

The Rotary year 2023-24 started with a project in partnership with the Rotary Club of Velachery to plant tree saplings near the Perungudi Mass Rapid Train Service (MRTS) station on 1st July. Our member PP Rtn M C Srikanth roped in M/s McDermott Co to sponsor 100 trees, all of which were planted by our members, our young Annette Aadhiran Elumperiyar and the staff of M/s McDermott Co. This is an ongoing project of the Rotary Club of Velachery since 2021 and the trees are very well cared for and has since grown to be the largest micro forest in Chennai. It is on the road leading to the Velachery station from the Perungudi station.



RCMS SUPPORT FOR KODAMBAKKAM SCHOOL

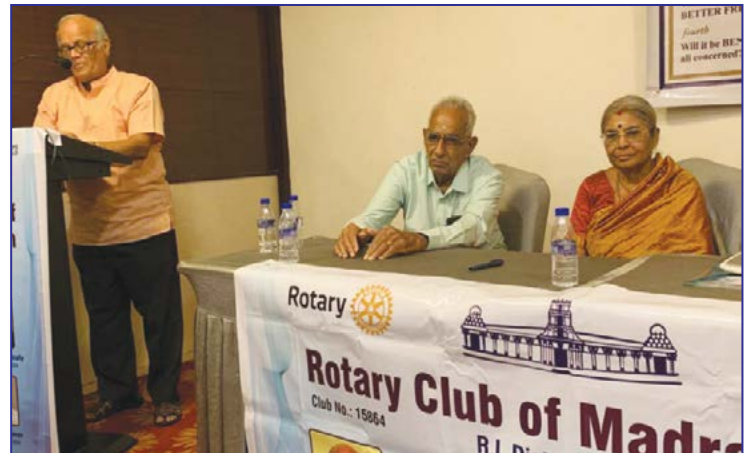
Our Club has been involved with development projects at Government Hr. Secondary School, Kodambakkam where more than 1000 students currently study. Regular teaching support, counseling, computer skills and extracurricular activities are provided to

the school. The project for the school academic year 2023-24 has just started, and the best students are awarded once every quarter. At the function held at the school on 17th July, commemorating the birthday of Shri. Kamaraj, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, certificates and rewards for the meritorious students of the school were presented. Our President Rtn. Bina Boaz was the chief guest at the function. Past presidents Magdoom and Renjit also participated.



ADIEU TO A VETERAN OF RCMS

Rtn. K S Jayaraman, 87, an active and long-serving member of our Club is the only recipient of the club's 'Distinguished Service Award'. He bid adieu to his life in India with his move to the USA to live with his children. Rtn. Jayaraman, known as a 'One man army' in Rotary, has single-handedly formed 17 Rotary Clubs all over Tamil Nadu and in Chennai. He was instrumental in our Club building the Dana Berg Centre at Anna University. At the farewell meeting held on 11th July, he and his wife Ann Uma were felicitated and bid adieu. We wish Rtn. Jayaraman all the very best for a peaceful and healthy innings in the US.



RTN NARAYANAN GOES TO PUZHAL JAIL

The District (3232) Community Services Health Team for RY 2023-24 organised a Mega Multi-Specialty Medical Camp to commemorate National Doctors' Day (1st July) at the New Central Jail at Puzhal in Chennai for the inmates of the prison. RCMS was one of the participating clubs and was represented by our Secretary, Rtn Narayanan (seen in the picture in front of the jail). Around 15 doctors representing several disciplines examined around 450 inmates.



FIRESIDE FELLOWSHIPS

Two fireside get-togethers were held in July. The first fireside was hosted by Rtn Vijay Menon and Ann Geetu at their residence on 15th July. It was a cozy evening consisting of a few Rotarians and Anns who were treated to sumptuous food and fellowship by the hosts.



The second fireside was a farewell fireside hosted by Rtn V Shankar and Ann Sudha, who left RCMS after 12 years, for around 25 Southerner families at the Boat Club on 23rd July. **Ann Rose Renjit** shares below her experience of the event:



A fireside of many 'firsts'.

It had all the ingredients for a great evening - friendship, fellowship, good food and an open bar. Behind every song there is a story to tell. The icing on the cake was Janaki Sabesh- an actor cum profound storyteller who got all of us involved in deftly weaving an old memory/ incident and singing a song to sum it all up- a nostalgic combination indeed! Quite a few took up the challenge and shared beautiful memories through songs. We went back in time effortlessly- all thanks to Janaki.

A beautiful, pencil sketch painting of Shankar and Sudha by Ann Chithra Elumperiyar was presented to the couple.



Shankar is known to all as a businessman par excellence, visionary, philanthropist, a man of few words and has a generous heart.

Shankar, you leave behind warm memories of great firesides and wonderful get-togethers. RCMS will definitely miss you. Your generosity knows no bounds.

An evening well spent and thoroughly enjoyable.

Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference. - Kathy Calvin

AWARDS BONANZA FOR RCMS

RCMS received around 20 awards under every avenue of service for the RY 2022-23 at the District awards function held in Chennai on 22nd July. Southerners congratulate IPP Rtn Jawahar Nichani and his team for this achievement.



PUDUR GOVT. SCHOOL GETS COMPUTERS

Pudur is a two-hour drive from Madurai and the Government Higher Secondary School here has 850 students who had only 3 computers so far. This school received 15 additional computers, thanks to the efforts of Rtn P R Rajendran and Rtn R Srikanth who donated the computers under FORD's Digital Literacy initiative last month. The school also requires sports goods, which Rtn Rajendran has promised to donate soon.



WEEKLY MEETINGS IN JULY



Date : 4th July, 2023

Speaker : PDG Rtn A Subramanian

Topic : 'Create Hope in the World'-
RI Theme for 23-24



Date : 11th July, 2023

Speaker : Dr R Kannan

Topic : MGR- the man, the
politician, the film star

SPECIAL ANNADHANAM AT EEF

President Bina Boaz began her Rotary year on 1st July with a special Annadhanam at East Eden Foundation in Ayanavaram for the 50-plus inmates there. Our club has been performing Annadhanam here for the last several years on the last Saturday of every month with donations received from our members. Members can contribute to this noble cause to celebrate their birthdays/wedding anniversaries. Contact PP Rtn Renjit Joseph for more details.



SPOKEN ENGLISH COURSE INAUGURATED

In an attempt to improve the soft skills of students, RCMS has been conducting the 'Spoken English' course with the support of CAMS for the past few years. This year, President Bina Boaz inaugurated the course in 3 schools on the 25th July. Rtn Rajanbabu, Director-Vocational Services, was also present.



Chennai Girls HS School, Saidapet



Jaigopal Garodia Govt Girls HS School



Dr K K Nirmala Girls HS School

WITH BEST WISHES FROM

Rtn KALPANA D KUMAR

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