Rotary

Rotary Opens Opportunities

Amber

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Ambattur, R.I. Dist 3232

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December 2020

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Christmas celebrated by Christians has become universal and is celebrated by people worldwide. Coming at the end of the year, it has become an opportunity for businesses to shut and families to meet.

Christmas can be discussed under different aspects-1) Religious 2) Social 3) Traditions and Celebrations. The religious aspect is that it denotes the birth of Jesus Christ who was born in a Manger (cave used as a stable) in Bethlehem. His mother Mary and foster father Joseph were a poor simple family, Joseph being a Carpenter. Jesus was born as a commoner and sent by God into a world filled with sin in order to preach repentance and show the way to salvation.

It is not known when exactly Jesus was born since historical records are lacking, but the festival is celebrated on December 25th which is winter in most of the world and the weather and snow have contributed to many traditions.

The 4 weeks before Christmas are called Advent and used by Christians to pray in anticipation of Christ's birth. Songs are sung and are called Carols which help to spread the message of Joy, Hope, Peace and Love. Carols evolved in the 18th & 19th centuries mainly in England and Germany and some popular ones are-"O come all ye faithful". "Silent Night", "Joy to the World", "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" etc. Groups of Carollers mainly children go from house to house in the first 2 weeks of December singing Carols and bringing cheer to the Elderly, sick and lonely as well to all families.

Christmas Cards to greet for Christmas were started in England to popularise the Postel Service Sadly, now with email and Internet, this is dying out. Houses had colourful cards strung up in the Hall. Decorating the house was something everyone looked forward to. This included Balloons,streamers, lanterns etc. Every house has a Crib with the re enactment of the Nativity scene, a star hung outside symbolizing the star which

The Tradition of giving Gifts started with Christmas when St Nicholas a Bishop gave gifts to poor children. This become Santa Claus and the legend grew. Intially Santa wore a brown costume which was changed to red by Coco Cola when Santa was for an advertisement.

Christmas cake and wine are something everyone looks forward to. In India, we have rose cookies, kulkuls, western sweets like marzipans and jujubes and Indian savouries like murukkus etc. Christmas is not a day, but an entire season spent visiting family and friends and spreading joy.

Many of the forms of celebration like Star, Tree, Santa etc evolved over the years and do not have any religious significance. The themes have always been Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. This message is for all to be happy, spread Love to neighbours, friends and family; Peace in the world and Hope for a conflict free world. It's a time for Caring and Sharing. We Hope that the year ahead brings an end to the Pandemic.

By Rtn. PHF. Dr. Winston Noronha

Peace Fellowship

An important breakthrough for our District in Peace Fellowship

This Peace Fellowship program was started by R.I in the year 2002 A total of 6 universities in different parts of the world (USA, Sweden, England, Japan and Australia) today have Peace Centres where candidates selected by Rotary can attend and obtain Master's degree in this subject .
These candidates go through special courses based on the curriculum that each university has created covering various subjects connected with Peace and The course duration varies from 15 months to 22 months depending upon the university. Candidates applying for this program should have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of 3 years work experience.
Subsequently a few years later R.I felt the need to attract people who can do a shorter course and introduced a 3 months certification program in Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. Candidates for this need not hold a degree but should have good experience of a minimum of 5 years in areas related to Peace in different fields . Here again ,one more place Makerere University in Kampala Uganda has been added to offer a Certification program ; however for this university selection, the candidate should have work experience in African countries. One more change has been introduced recently whereby the candidates besides 3 months in the university will also undertake a project in their home town for 9 months during which they will get online guidance from the faculty ; after completion they will again go to Chulalongkorn for a week and all the candidates will do presentations of their respective projects and share their experiences

It is to be emphasised that selection to any of these programs is quite difficult because of severe competition. For the Rotary year 2019- 20 , 117 candidates have been selected out of a total of 800 candidates recommended by all the 525 Districts of Rotary spread around the world.
While the date for sending the applications was 1st July'20 , the results for selection came only on 5 th November '20. Members of the selection committee have to make their assessment on the basis of the details provided in the online application. This application runs into more than 20 pages. Apart from the information covered in the CVs the candidates should provide a lot of information relating to

a.Academic qualifications
b.Work experience
c.Endorsement by a Rotary club
d.Recommendation by 2 individuals who are well aware of their professional work
e.Essays running into a maximum of 500 words each on the subjects Service above self ' and ' International understanding '
f. Endorsement by the Selection panel members following their interviews with the candidates
providing answers for 6 specific questions listed by R. I.

I was given the task of District sub committee Chair, Rotary Peace Fellowship. It was quite challenging for the following reasons:

1. Our District not having participated earlier had no experience available except for the elaborate amount of information available on the R.I website .
2. Going through the available information was not sufficient to identify potential candidates.
3. The online application is made available by R.I only by February every year and all activities relating to identifying and contacting potential candidates gathers momentum only around that time and District level selection interview has to be held, latest by June so that the deadline for sending the duly filled up online applications are sent to R.I on 1st July.
4. This year because of COVID-19 and lockdowns from March'20, the challenges got enhanced.

There was a breakthrough when in search of information on the web I found a nice write up on an NGO in Mumbai and this was headed by Elsa Marie D' silva and it also mentioned that she was a Rotary Peace Fellow. Interestingly the write up also had Elsa's name as well as her email Id. This helped me to contact her who apart from willingness to share information, got me connected with Rtn. Ruia based in Mumbai . Rtn Ruia has several years of experience in handling this program and he was of great help to me.

Finally in mid June, we were able to conduct the selection interview over Zoom allotting 30 minutes to each of the 4 candidates . Our DG for year 2019-20 chaired the panel which besides me included District Chairs of Rotary Foundation as well as International service.

The process of global selection takes a lot of time ,having to go through 800 applications each running into more than 20 pages. The process took 4 months and the final results came in early November. We are fortunate that one of our candidates got selected and without doubt it is a big and important breakthrough for our District . His photograph also appears in this article.

The person selected is Dr Arulchelvan Sriram who is a Professor in Anna University with a background in Media and Journalism , widely travelled and presented papers in many International conferences. He has been able to create Peace in communities by employing systems to eliminate Fake news and he has also been associated with community service projects of Rotary club of Temple city who have sponsored his application . What is even more satisfying, the feedback from R.I Peace centre which I have recently received states that besides Dr Arulchelvan, 2 more candidates out of the balance 3 were of a good standard but missed selection because of the competition and recommends that they should apply again for this year.

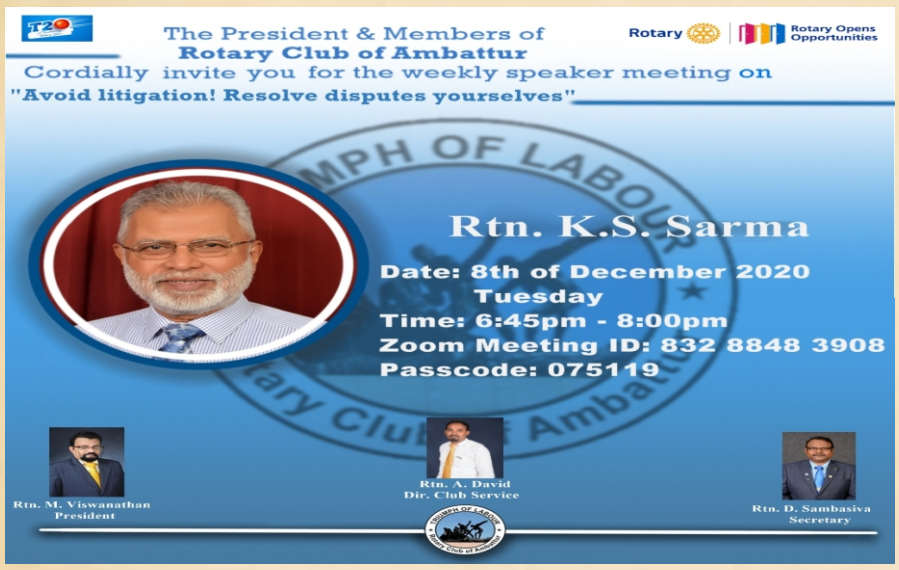
While congratulating Dr Arulchelvan on behalf of our District , let me also convey our greetings and best wishes to him for a wonderful and purposeful Fellowship experience which he is scheduled to commence in January 2021.

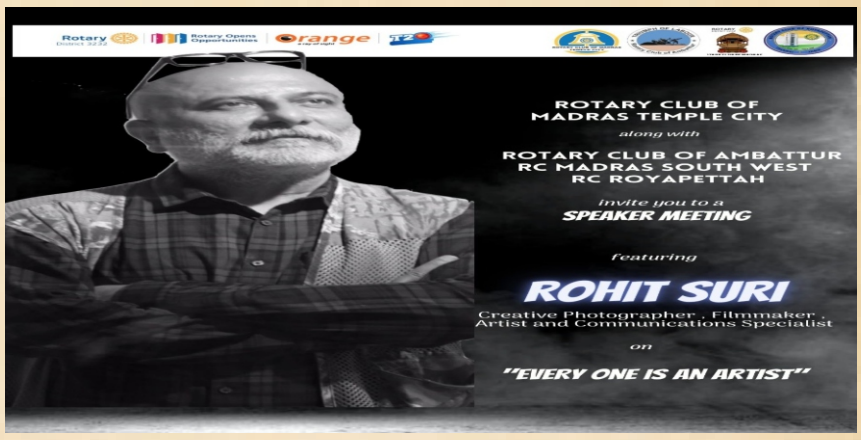
Rtn.N. Krishnan
District Chair, Peace Fellowship 2019-20

Proud Announcement

Rotary Club of Ambattur is proud to announce the launch of its Website on the 9th of December 2020.
We thank Rtn Flight Lieutenant L Ramesh for his efforts in putting the Website together.

Speaker Meeting





Ann's Corner
Plum Cake

(A Basic Recipe)

Ingredients:

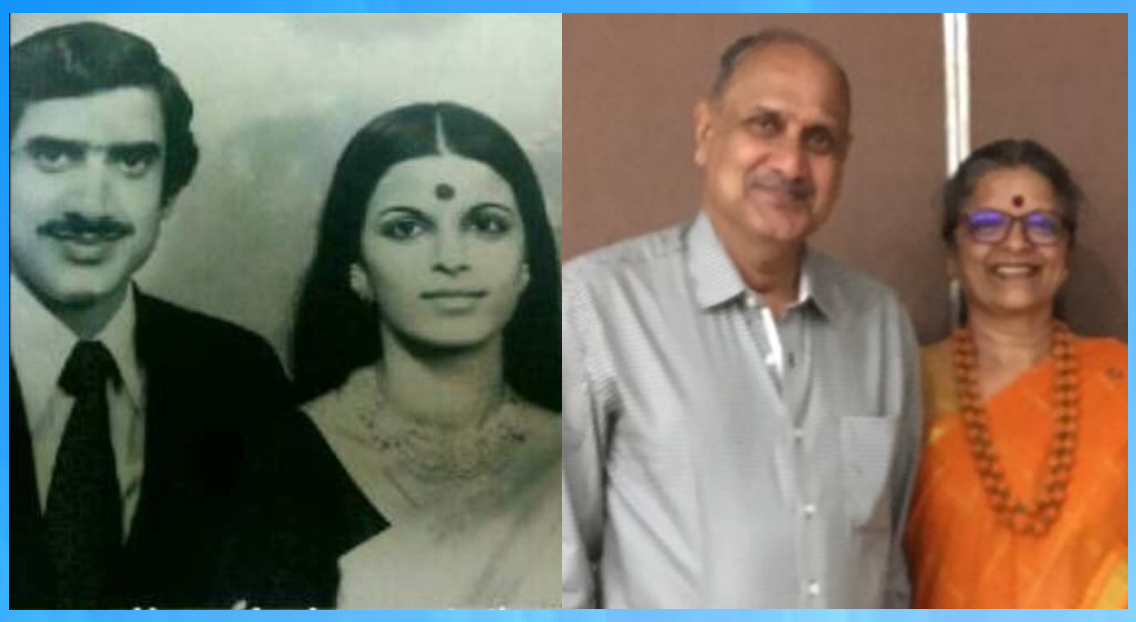
Flour 130gm
Sugar 90gm
Butter 90gm
Eggs 2
Baking powder ½ tsp
Cashew nuts 25gm
Black raisins 15gm
Sultanas 30gm
Tutifruity 60gm
Candied peel 30gm
Caramel 4 tbsp
Caraway seeds ¼ tsp
Mixed spices (nutmeg, cloves and cardamom powder)1/4 tsp

Method:

Soak the fruit for two hours in diluted wine or rum. Sieve flour and baking powder twice and add cake seeds and spices. Prepare a sponge batter by creaming the butter and sugar together, then add the eggs. Add the rest of the ingredients and flour and fold in lightly. The mixture must have a stiff dropping consistency. Put into a prepared 1 lb cake tin and bake at 325^0 F for 75 minutes.

By Ann Dr. Veena Noronha (Ref: Mangalore Ladies Club Cookery Book)

Then and Now



Rtn.PP.PHF.Gita & M.K.Menon

Congratulations

Happy to announce that we have got the Best Presentation Award in GRM

Club Activities

CHENNAI DIGEST

A PLATFORM FOR KIDS' CREATIVITY

Dr David Samson, the founder and principal of ID International Preschool, Chennai, has launched Kidpreneurs — a creative school that aims to provide a platform for the kids to unleash the creative strike within. Kidpreneurs is an initiative that is in line with the vision of the preschool, to provide a wholesome approach to education and career, for children.

First Batch of Sundaris Beautician's Course

Rtn Vijayalakshmi, celebrates the birthday of her twins Athreya and Arya.
On this ocassion she sponsored lunch for 120 kids
and teachers at the Ayappakkam after school learning centre.

Distribution of Rotary Medical Kits to the children
at the Ayyapakkam Learning Centre

Christmas Celebration
at Ambattur Rotary Hospital

Birthdays in December

Annette Yohann	Ashish Coelho	December 03
Ann Dr. V. Lakshmi	K. Swaminathan	December 08
Ann Saraswathi Ramdas	PS. Ramdas	December 10
Rtn. PP. A.S. Hari Prasad		December 11
Ann Vijayalakshmi	A.S. Hari Prasad	December 11
Annette M. Praveen	Mahaveerchand Dugar	December 11
Ann Tamara Ann Coelho	Ashish Coelho	December 11
Rtn. V. Sairam		December 14
Ann Uma Shankar	Deepan. P	December 15
Annette Akash Paul	Manoj Paul	December 17
Ann PDG Rekha Shetty	Jai Shetty	December 22
Annette D.V. Athreya Daaivik	K. Vijayalakshmi	December 24
Annette D.V. Arya Daaivik	K. Vijayalakshmi	December 24
Annette Swathi	(Late) Mahesh Kandelwal	December 27

Wedding Anniversary

Rtn. S.L. Omprakash & Vyjayanthi	December 10
Rtn. Ashok & Tara Rao	December 11
Rtn. Ashish & Tamara Coelho	December 11
Rtn. Ajitha & T. Balan	December 30

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Rtn Ashish & Tamara Coelho, Rtn Ashok & Tara Rao, Rtn N Krishnan, Rtn Jai Shetty & PDG Rekha ,

Rtn G.Vishwanathan & Aruna, Rtn.Richard & Merlin Fernandes, Rtn GVRS Sharma & Ann Latha and Rtn Gita Menon.