

TEXCITY TIMES

2023/24
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Secretary: Rtn. MD Devi Maruti

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PEACE & CONFLICT PREVENTION / RESOLUTION

Rotary Peace and Conflict
Prevention/Resolution Month
in February promotes global
harmony through education,
dialogue, and community
initiatives. Join us in fostering
peace.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Warm Greetings to my Texcity family! Wishing 2024 is a year of renewed purpose to all of us where we continue to embody the Rotary ideals of Service above Self and make a positive impact in our communities and beyond. It has been an eventful January. We commenced two major projects this month with the Bhoomi pooja for the construction of buildings at both the Spine Academy, Arasur and at the Hindu Primary School, Tenkasi. Texcity had a proud moment when our Rtn R S Maruti was unanimously nominated as DGND for the Rotary year 2026-27. Congratulations Rtn. Maruti on this well -deserved success. I am sure we are going to have an exciting year under your leadership. We successfully conducted our 31st RYLA at Hotel Gym Park, Ooty. Kudos to the entire RYLA team for your dedication and hard work which made it possible. RYLA plays a significant role in developing leadership skills and empowering young individuals and your efforts in organising such an impactful event is commendable. We had our Pongal celebrations at Rtn Senthil Myswamy and Ann Sowbarni's farm at Sethumadai, Pollachi. It was a joyous day brimming with games, camaraderie, and delectable cuisine.

Our Eye Serve activities for January had 234 out patients. We have conducted cataract surgeries for fifty-seven people of which forty-nine were diagnosed from our camps and eighteen were direct walk ins. Retina and other speciality surgeries conducted were twelve in number. We conducted thirty camps in January with a total screening of 5384 people of which 1097 required some form of treatment.

January was a month of weddings. Texcity wishes our Annets - Varsha & Sahil, Maria and Pritam, Neetusha and Anandaraju a Happy Married life! As you embark on this wonderful journey together, know that you have the love and support of your Rotary family behind you. May your marriage be blessed with laughter, understanding and happy memories.

As we reflect on this busy month, I am immensely grateful for all your ongoing support and dedication. With all your continued encouragement, I eagerly anticipate even greater achievement in the months ahead.

Rtn. MD Vijaykumar Sivanaesan
President 2023-24.



FROM THE EDITOR

Recently I learnt an interesting German word - Weltschmerz.

I couldn't think of an English word which says all that this German word says. Weltschmerz is a complex term that encapsulates the feeling of melancholy or world-weariness, often stemming from a perceived disconnect between one's own ideals and the harsh realities of the world.

Feeling trapped in a job that doesn't align with one's passions or values can evoke weltschmerz. Despite investing time and effort into a career path, realizing that it brings little fulfilment or meaning can lead to a sense of disillusionment with the professional world and a longing for something more meaningful.

Experiencing a disconnect from friends, family, or community can evoke weltschmerz. Despite efforts to maintain relationships, feeling isolated or misunderstood can lead to a profound sense of loneliness and existential despair, as one grapples with the gap between the ideal of deep, meaningful connections and the reality of shallow or non-existent relationships. This is the disconnect that this word describes.

How can we cope with this feeling? Here are some strategies:

Acceptance and Perspective: Encouraging individuals to accept the imperfections of the world while also seeking perspective on their own experiences. This might involve practicing mindfulness or engaging in activities that promote self-reflection. Rotary meetings where we meet friends and discuss topics are ideal.

Finding Meaning: Exploring avenues for finding meaning and purpose amidst feelings of disillusionment. This can involve seeking connection with others, pursuing passions and hobbies, or engaging in acts of service or altruism. Participating in projects, contributing by means of time efforts or money help find meaning in life.

Cultivating Resilience: Building resilience to cope with challenges and setbacks. This can include developing coping mechanisms, seeking support from friends and loved ones, and prioritizing self-care and mental health. Attending fellowship activities and training seminars help cultivate resilience. Taking Action: Empowering individuals to take action towards positive change, whether on a personal or societal level. This might involve advocating for causes they believe in, volunteering in their communities, or making conscious choices that align with their values. Being a positive Rotarian in a good club is a life changing decision.

Now you know how being an active member of a performing Rotary club can help individuals navigate feelings of Weltschmerz and find meaning and fulfilment in their lives despite the inherent complexities of the world. Rotary gives us the chance to find a way to reconnect that disconnect. Fellowship and service - the two pillars Rotary stands on allow us to learn from each other and better ourselves; and together, leave the world a little better than we found it. Aren't we blessed to be a member of the Rotary Club of Coimbatore Texcity?

Rtn. Ramesh Nichani
Editor - Texcity Times

ANNS CLUB REPORT



Ann's Club is immensely proud to announce the successful sponsorship of a maternity bill worth 75,000, specifically aimed at assisting underprivileged women within our community. This generous act of philanthropy has been made possible by the unwavering support of Rtn Devi Maruti. Her dedication to serving the needs of those less fortunate stands as a testimony to her character and the ethos of Ann's Club. We sincerely honor Rtn Devi Maruti's exemplary commitment to bettering the lives of others and extend our heartfelt gratitude for her significant contribution. Her willingness to stand in solidarity with underprivileged women during one of the most crucial phases of their lives not only provides immediate relief but also inspires a ripple effect of social responsibility within our community.

ANN PAVITRA ARAVIND



The Anns club organised an outing for the family of Texcity on the open decker bus ride around our city of Coimbatore, during the Coimbatore Vizha 2024 festival week. The open double-decker bus carried thirty of us Rotarians and their families, creating a vibrant atmosphere. Laughter and camaraderie filled the air as we navigated through the city streets, occasionally ducking to avoid the overhanging branches of trees lining our route. The wind tousled our hair, and the sun warmed our faces as the bus ascended the Dr.Nanjappa road flyover, offering panoramic views of the city below. The elevated perspective brought a sense of unity among the Rotarians, their families, and the picturesque surroundings. Conversations flowed freely, and bonds strengthened amidst the shared experience.

The rhythmic rumble of the bus wheels echoed as we descended from the flyover, continuing our journey almost up to celebrities Suji & Senthil's home. I expected the bus to stop and let us get off to take a few photographs at the city's famous landmark. (The organisers were unaware that the very celebrities were on the bus with us) The bus U-turned for its way back. Once again the branches of occasional trees added a playful element, prompting collective laughter as we ducked and dodged nature's whims. It became a symbol of adaptability and unity, echoing the Rotary spirit.

The journey was not just a physical one; it was a metaphorical ride of togetherness and collaboration. The shared experiences, whether overcoming low branches or marveling at the cityscape from the bus's vantage point, strengthened the sense of community among the Rotarians and their families – a shared triumph and a celebration of collective efforts. The Rotarians, were reminded of the positive change they could bring to the community.

As the bus circled back towards the starting point, the journey became a loop of memories, creating a bond that transcended the physical ride.

The journey on the open double-decker bus encapsulated the essence of Rotary fellowship – a blend of joy, camaraderie, and a shared commitment to making a difference. It was more than a ride; it was a collective celebration of service and community, etching lasting memories in the hearts of Rotarians and their families.

-RTN. RAMESH NICHANI

Better Together

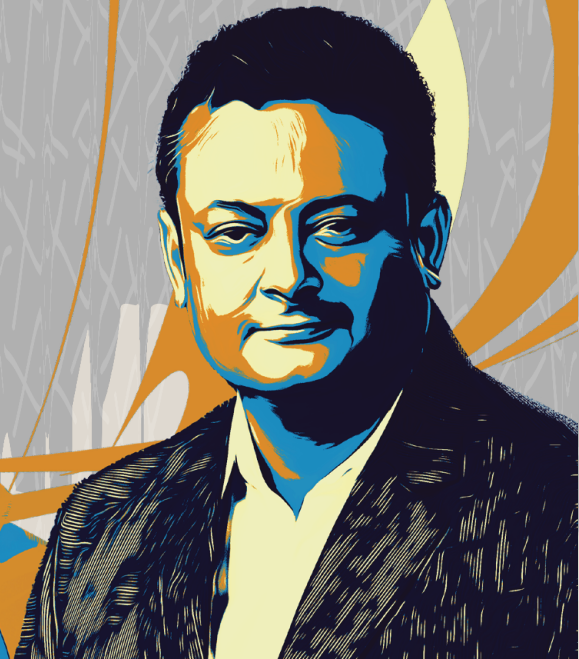
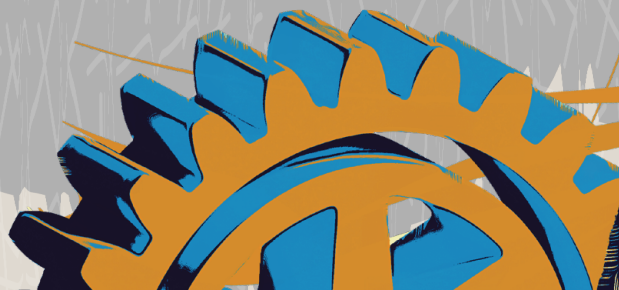
Finding the person, you want to spend the rest of your life with is a huge milestone in anyone's life. Three of our Annets tied the knot with their partners this month and the Rotary Coimbatore Texcity family was part of the celebrations. Blessings were showered upon them as Varsha (D/o. Rtn. Themath Mani & Ann Deepa) wed Sahil on 5th Jan , Maria (D/o. of PDG Kuriachan & Ann Daisy) wed Preetham on the 20th Jan and Neetusha D/o. Rtn.Dr.Ravinderan & Ann Charu) wed Anandaraju on 24th Jan. The festivities were colourful and full of camaraderie. We wish the young couples a future filled with love and the best of what life has to offer.



A PROUD MOMENT FOR ROTARY COIMBATORE TEXCITY FAMILY

Dear Rotarian R S Maruti,

The Rotary Coimbatore Texcity family is proud of your achievement. Congratulations on your unanimous nomination as the District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND) for the RI Dist. 3206 for the year 2026-27. Your dedication and commitment to Rotary are truly commendable, and we have no doubt that you will serve with excellence in this important role. Your leadership will undoubtedly inspire and empower others to continue making a positive impact in our community and beyond. Wishing you all the best as you prepare for this new chapter in your Rotary journey. And remember the whole Texcity family is with you on this journey. Lets deliver a Rotary year which will make all of us proud.



TEXCITY IN ACTION

A BHOOMI POOJA

On the 8th of January, at the Spine academy run by the Dawn Trust, a Bhoomi Pooja was conducted for a new building to house 20 more new patients with spinal injuries. The scope of the project also included the renovation of their kitchen block. Rtn.Dr.Ramamurthy & Dr. Chitra have graciously come forward to meet the cost of 20 lakhs from the CSR funds of their esteemed organization – The Eye Foundation.



ANNADHANAM

Supporting Government schools is a core area of interest in this year's SMILE program of the Dist. Governor T R Vijaykumar. Thanks to the contribution from Rtn. Natesan and Ann Shanti Natesan a sum of Rs.Twenty lakhs was donated to the Hindu Primary School in Vellalpaniyeripatti Village in Metur, Tenkasi. Five class rooms for the benefit of the rural children in and around the village will be constructed.



Annadhanam was also carried out at the Spine Academy. 500 kgs of rice costing Rs.26,000/- was donated to them. This was made possible by the generosity of PDG Rtn. Captain Mathew and the President Elect Rtn. Prasanna.

Annadhanam at the Nilalmayam Trust which has an Orphanage and an old age home was conducted on the 27th of January. Provisions to the tune of Rs.30,000/- were provided to the trust. This was made possible thanks to the big hearted Rtn.Maruti & Rtn. Devi Maruti.

PONGAL CELEBRATION

Pongal celebrations in style was organized at the farm of Rtn. Senthil Kumar Mysamy and Ann Sowbarani in Pollachi on the 27th of January. The Rotarians with their family had a great time at the farm and enjoyed the hospitality of the hosts immensely.



Rotary Coimbatore Texcity's signature RYLA was conducted at Hotel Gem Park, Ooty from 15th of Jan to 17th of Jan. A total of 72 students from 35 different schools along with 2 exchange students from Brazil participated. As usual the Organizing team headed by Rtn. Senthil Kumar and Ann Suji Senthil, curated an excellent set of faculty to train and enrich these students who were selected after a round of interview.

On the 12th of Jan an ice breaking session was held for the children at Rotary Texcity's Centenary hall by PDG Dr.K.A.Kuriachan.

The children had a session at The Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington on the way to Ooty. The Commandant Major Balinder Singh had made excellent arrangements and the children got a glimpse of how our Indian army is trained and what it means to be a soldier/officer in the armed forces. Lunch also was arranged for the kids at the center.

The RYLA was formally inaugurated by our own DGND2026-27 Rtn. Maruti. While Dr. V.Balasubramaniam, Chairman and MD of BS Hospital, Ooty was the Chief Guest for the Valedictory on the 17th of Jan.

The array of faculty included: Maj Gen Rajesh Sahai for Team Building, PDG Dr.K.A.Kuriachan for Leadership & Effective public Speaking, .Shailaja Nair, Lifestyle Coach for 3Cs to success in Life along with Etiquette, Rtn.Nikhil Vikamsey, Financial consultant for Youth Entrepreneurship, Rtn.Pradeep Yuvaraj for The Art and Science of Story Telling, Ms. Sindhu Kalyanasundaram, Founder, Ignite Akademi for Personal Leadership, Mr.Francis Xavier, for Trekking & Outdoor Sessions, Dr.Srividya Sivakumar, Language trainer for Leadership through Literature and Mr. Santosh Muruganathan, MD Kolapassi, for Future Proofing Yourself.

Thirty-Six Rotarians and Anns from Rotary Texcity, also attended the leadership camp to help the Chair and Co-chair in the smooth conduct of the camp. The festival of Pongal was celebrated the traditional way, to make the children proud of our traditions and culture.

The following awards were announced before the start of the RYLA, to encourage a sense of competition and whole hearted participation: Outstanding Rylarian, Best Boy Rylarian, Best Girl Rylarian, Charismatic Rylarian, and RYLA Radiance. This resulted in active participation of the children and the winners were selected through a democratic process where the children themselves voted for the winners.

A camp fire night and a talent night too was organized on the two evenings of the camp. The children were encouraged to let their hair down so that they lose their inhibitions and develop self esteem and a sense of camaraderie. The talent nite was a platform for them to display their talent and get rid of their stage fear.

The children were picked up from a common meeting place in the city of Coimbatore and dropped back safely at the same place to be picked up by their parents.To say the least RYLA 2k24 was a resounding success with many takeaways for the children who thoroughly enjoyed these three days and two nights with memories etched in their minds for life.

A competition was run for the children to write and share their experiences with an award to the best write up, a gift voucher of Rs.10,000/- from Adidass. We are sharing the two winning articles here for you all to get the flavour and spirit of the leadership camp.



RYLA 2K24



IMPRESSION OF RYLA

It all started on January 15th, 2024, at 6:30 AM, with a feeling akin to swimming in an ocean with strangers. Embarking on a journey with people I'd never met, I embarked on a trip that became much more. Our first destination was MRC Wellington Ooty, where we delved into our country's rich heritage, honouring those who sacrificed their lives for a meaningful future. Witnessing a commendable performance by our own army soldiers ignited a sense of pride. As the day unfolded, we reached the camp, and the moment arrived to meet my roommates. Stress took me on, but thankfully, they were fellow passengers from the bus. Later, sessions on leadership unfolded, unveiling a world beyond boredom. My mind expanded as diverse topics were explored from fresh perspectives. Finally, came the long-awaited bonfire-fuelled dance event. Shedding insecurities, I embraced the movement, the bonfire's warmth a welcome ally. By the second day, friendships blossomed a novel experience. Morning Zumba sessions brought joyful but exhaustion in equal measure. Back-to-back sessions were punctuated by mini-activities, each a spark of joy and learning. Describing all of them would require a never-ending scroll, for the abundance of happiness, friendships, and knowledge gathered there. The second night painted a beautiful picture: everyone holding hands, candles illuminating a prayer for goodwill, a panoramic view of unity the next day followed by an unforgettable self-defence session led by a master, a lesson that will stay in my memory forever. Pongal day dawned, and joy erupted as we donned traditional attire, took pictures, and celebrated. But after lunch came the dreaded goodbyes. Contacts meticulously collected in my journal, nostalgia washed over me. Three days had vanished, leaving behind a treasure trove of laughter, memories, friendships, knowledge, and joy, irreplaceable and unique. This was not just a trip; it was a journey of love. Special thanks to every single person who made it happen, especially the Rotary Texcity members, whose four months of hard work gifted us with enduring friendships and memories. Now my mind awaits for more such new events to explore.

S.V.ISHANTH Grade : 10th
28/01/2024

THE UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

When I was approached to participate in our beloved RYLA program, I'm almost ashamed to admit that I did not know what it pertained to.

Little did I know that these four days would change me forever, to the point that I cannot imagine having remained the person before them.

The visionary artists and innovative captains of industry that have shared with me their invaluable knowledge, not just words, but their stories, their experiences, especially their failures, have reformed my perspective on taking new opportunities by storm.

My fellow Rylarians, I do not know if you will ever read this, but I did not realise what it meant to have people of immense potential around you, until I got to know every one of you.

The world will surely call you many things, leaders, achievers, scions of a great society. But I take pride in having the unique privilege of being able to call you my friends.

Those four days taught me more than I could've hoped to learn in many years of my own life, and my friends were there every step of the way.

I know I'm not alone when I wish to express my eternal gratitude to everyone who made this marvellous event possible.

And if there is one thing that we will always remember, it will be each other, and I shall cherish that forever.

We are the future, We are the bridge, We are the batch of RYLA '24.

Signed,
Your fellow Rylarian and friend,
Aditya Krishna Samant.



THE ART OF THINKING CLEARLY

WHY TEAMS ARE LAZY

SOCIAL LOAFING

Social Loafing

In 1913 Maximilian Ringelmann, a French engineer, studied the performance of horses. He concluded that the power of two animals pulling a coach did not equal twice the power of a single horse. Surprised by this result, he extended his research to humans. He had several men pull a rope and measured the force applied by each individual. On average, if two people were pulling together, each invested just 93% of their individual strength, when three pulled together, it was 85%, and with eight people, just 49%.

Science calls this the social loafing effect. It occurs when individual performance is not directly visible; it blends in to the group effort. It occurs among rowers, but not in relay races, because here, individual contributions are evident. Social loafing is rational behaviour: why invest all of your energy when half will do - especially when this little short-cut goes unnoticed? Quite simply, social loafing is a form of cheating of which we are all guilty even if it takes place unconsciously, just as it did with Ringelmann's horses.

When people work together, individual performances decrease. This isn't surprising. What is noteworthy, however, is that our input doesn't grind to a complete halt. So what stops us from putting our feet up completely and letting the others do all the hard work? The consequences.

Zero-performance would be noticed, and it brings with it weighty punishments, such as exclusion from the group or vilification. Evolution has led us to develop many fine-tuned senses, including how much idleness we can get away with and how to recognise it in others

Social loafing does not occur solely in physical performance. We slack off mentally, too. For example, in meetings, the larger the team the weaker our individual participation. However, once a certain number of participants is involved, our performance plateaus. Whether the group consists of 20 or 100 people is not important maximum inertia has been achieved.

One question remains: who came up with the much-vaunted idea that teams achieve more than individual workers? Maybe the Japanese. Thirty years ago, they flooded global markets with their products. Business economists looked more closely at the industrial miracle and saw that Japanese factories were organised into teams. This model was copied - with mixed success. What worked very well in Japan could not be replicated with the Americans and Europeans perhaps because social loafing rarely happens there. In the West, teams function better if and only if they are small and consist of diverse, specialised people. This makes sense, because within such groups, individual performances can be traced back to each specialist.

Social loafing has interesting implications. In groups, we tend to hold back not only in terms of participation, but also in terms of accountability. Nobody wants to take the rap for the misdeeds or poor decisions of the whole group. A glaring example is the prosecution of the Nazis at the Nuremberg trials, or less controversially, any board of management team. We hide behind team decisions. The technical term for this is diffusion of responsibility. For the same reason, teams tend to take bigger risks than their members would take on their own. The individual group members reason that they are not the only ones who will be blamed if things go wrong. This effect is called risky shift, and is especially hazardous among company and pension-fund strategists, where billions are at stake, or in defence departments, where groups decide on the use of nuclear weapons.

In conclusion: people behave differently in groups than when alone (otherwise there would be no groups). The disadvantages of groups can be mitigated by making individual performances as visible as possible. Long live meritocracy! Long live the performance society!

- ROLF DOBELLI