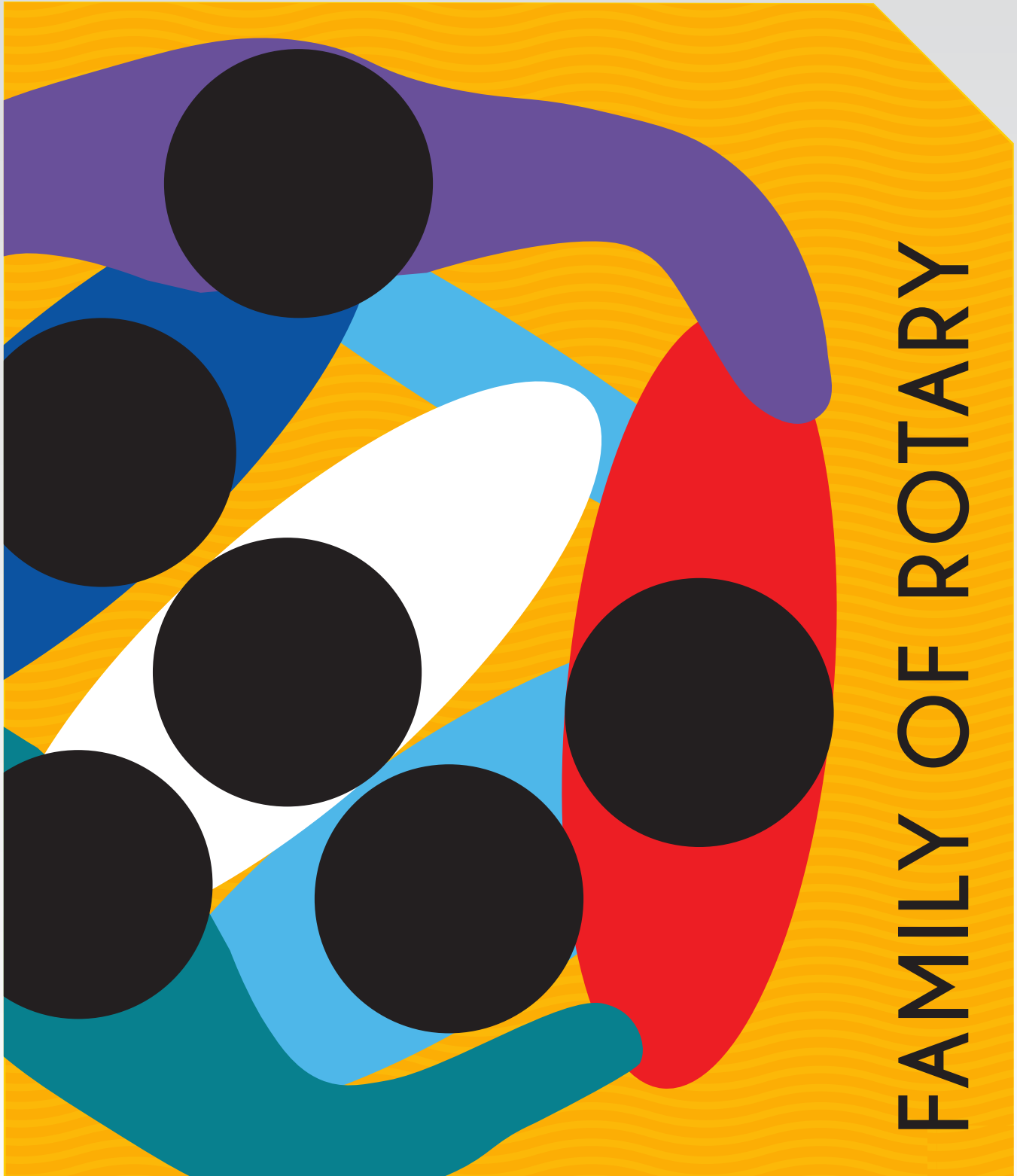


TEXCITY TIMES

2023/24
Issue No. 6
December 2023

Dist. Gov. : Rtn MDT. R. Vijaykumar
Secretary: Rtn. MD Devi Maruti

President : Rtn. MD Vijaykumar Sivanaesan
Editor: Rtn. Ramesh Nichani



From the President's Desk



Rtn. MD Vijaykumar Sivanaesan
President 2023-24.

My dear Texcitians,

Warm greetings from your President. This year a very high target for the Rotary Foundation has been set for us. Supporting The Rotary Foundation through donations is a powerful way to contribute to positive global change. The foundation, established by Rotary International, focuses on key areas such as promoting peace, providing clean water, supporting education, and eradicating diseases. By donating, you become an integral part of these impactful initiatives, helping to transform communities and lives worldwide. The Rotary Foundation has a proven track record of efficiently utilizing funds, ensuring that a significant portion directly reaches the intended beneficiaries. Whether it's funding scholarships for students, facilitating health and sanitation projects, or participating in disaster relief efforts, your donation to The Rotary Foundation becomes a catalyst for meaningful, sustainable development. Moreover, Rotary's commitment to transparency and accountability enhances the credibility of the foundation, assuring donors that their contributions are making a genuine difference. In a world facing numerous challenges, supporting The Rotary Foundation becomes a beacon of hope, fostering a spirit of goodwill and cooperation. Your donation becomes a ripple effect, positively impacting individuals and communities far beyond the initial act of giving, embodying Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self." Thanks to your generous contributions and commitments we are very close to achieving the target. My request to those who have not contributed this year to help us achieve this target and let's keep our Texcity flag flying high.

Sports can play a crucial role in a Rotary Club by fostering camaraderie among members, promoting teamwork, and providing a platform for physical activity and stress relief. Engaging in sports activities within the organization can enhance social bonds, encourage a healthy lifestyle, and contribute to overall well-being, creating a more vibrant and connected community within the Rotary Club. Our Texcity Premier League has been an astounding success, resulting in lots of bonding and camaraderie. My sincere thanks to all the team owners and the captains for a successful completion of TPL.

We have had a very hectic five months thus far and we shall continue with the same zeal going forward. With your active participation and support a lot more has to be done and will be done. Keep watching this space as together we continue to create hope in the world.



In this fast technology driven world we must constantly unlearn and relearn new things, new concepts, and new technology. With an overload of information easily available we have to be wary of two things - Algorithm bias and echo chambers. These are two interconnected phenomena that have gained prominence in the digital age, shaping our online experiences, and influencing our perspectives. These issues are particularly prevalent on social media platforms and online recommendation systems, where algorithms play a pivotal role in curating content for users.

Algorithm bias refers to the tendency of algorithms to produce results that systematically and unfairly discriminate against certain individuals or groups. This bias can emerge from various sources, such as biased training data, flawed algorithms, or even the inherent biases of the individuals developing the algorithms. For instance, if an algorithm is trained on a dataset that predominantly includes one demographic, it may struggle to provide equitable outcomes for other groups.

Echo chambers, on the other hand, are environments in which individuals are exposed only to information and opinions that align with their existing beliefs. Social media platforms often contribute to the formation of echo chambers by tailoring content based on users' preferences, creating a feedback loop that reinforces existing perspectives and limits exposure to diverse viewpoints.

The combination of algorithm bias and echo chambers poses significant challenges to the democratic exchange of ideas and the development of a well-informed society. If people are consistently exposed to a narrow range of information that aligns with their pre-existing views, it becomes difficult to foster open dialogue, understand alternative perspectives, and engage in constructive debates.

To address algorithm bias and mitigate the formation of echo chambers, several solutions can be considered.

We are fortunate that we are part of a group like Rotary where we have members who have varied preferences, political leanings, and thoughts. We are hence exposed to content that each of them gets through their echo chambers. We need to have healthy debates which helps in clearing the air and arrive closer to the truth as absolute truth is almost impossible to get in this complex world.

Also to avoid algorithm bias and echo chambers, we should diversify our online sources, engage with content outside our comfort zone. We should also develop a questioning mind and not take at face value every forward that we get. Many well meaning forwards (which are obviously well written) are put out for the sole purpose of misguiding us and sometimes making us without our knowledge the reinforcer of an echo chamber. We owe it to our intelligence, education, family and friends to not become a part of a wrong echo chamber.

We should also periodically review and adjust our privacy settings to control the data used for recommendations. Critical thinking and media literacy are key in navigating information responsibly.

To conclude, algorithm bias and echo chambers are complex challenges that require multifaceted solutions. By promoting transparency, introducing content diversification measures, and fostering collaboration, we can work towards creating digital environments that are more equitable, inclusive, and conducive to open dialogue. As we navigate the digital landscape, it is essential to prioritize the responsible behaviour and a bit of scepticism to build a more informed and connected global community.

Rtn. Ramesh Nichani
Editor - Texcity Times

Diwali celebrations at the Peace Foundation

The Anns combined their October and November contributions under their Smile initiative (Contributions from Anns whose birthday falls in the respective months) to help organise a grand Diwali celebration at the Peace Foundation on Nov.14. Along with the Anns, President Vijakumar Sivanesan also contributed a sum of Rs.10,000/- as his birthday also fell in the month of October.

The birthday 'girls' for the two months were Ann Padmini Manoj, Ann Srilatha Gomatheswaran, Ann Pavithra Aravind, Ann Sindhu Brijesh, Ann Alka Nichani and Ann Sumithra Rajesh.

The generous contributions from the Anns and the President brought joy to the 300 inmates of the peace foundation. The festivities included a delicious meal consisting of chicken biriyani, chicken fry, egg, sambar, rasam, vegetables, appalam, and payasam. The inmates were treated to a special feast that brought smiles to their faces and warmth to their hearts. It was a beautiful sight to see how the contribution made such a positive impact.

An Eye camp was also conducted for the inmates of the Foundation by Rtn.Dr.Manoj Vakil, Ann Padmini Vakil and their team. From 400 people who were screened 20 required surgeries, and they would undergo the cataract surgery. Ten mentally challenged inmates were also in need of surgery and theirs too is being planned in the coming weeks.

Further 50 patients received refraction services and 28 have been selected to receive spectacles. No words are sufficient to thank Dr. Manoj Vakil for his services which helped these less fortunate to have a better quality of life.



ANNS TRIP TO KANNUR



ANNS CLUB PRESIDENT RT.ANN. PAVITHRA ARAVIND SHARES HER EXPERIENCE ON THE ANNS TRIP TO KANNUR

Where do I start, is it the mesmerizing view of the Arabian Sea, the amazing property, or the extraordinary hospitality of our dear host, Ann Kadeeja? As I stand here, trying to capture the essence of this moment, I find myself at a loss for words. The sight of the Arabian Sea stretches out before me, its azure waves merging seamlessly with the sky on the horizon. The sun's golden rays dance upon the water, casting a spellbinding glow that seems to suspend time itself.

And yet, amidst this paradise, it is Ann Kadeeja's hospitality that truly leaves me speechless. Her warmth and care are truly unparalleled, turning a simple stay into an unforgettable experience. Every interaction with her feels like a cherished moment as if time slows down to accommodate the genuine connections, she effortlessly fosters with every one of us.

How does one put into words the feeling of being enchanted by this trifecta of beauty, luxury, and heartfelt hospitality? It is an experience beyond imagination, where every sense is awakened, and every moment becomes a treasured memory.

So where do I start? Perhaps it's best to simply say, "There are no words to describe it." For some experiences are meant to be felt, cherished, and remembered in the depths of our hearts, once again our heartfelt thanks to our Ann Kadeeja who hosted 11 anns at her beautiful family guest house by the sea. Her cousins came to meet us and helped her organise our meals, sightseeing, shopping and entertainment. We came back with bagfuls of not only things we bought, but with memories of a fabulous trip. Truly an unforgettable experience.



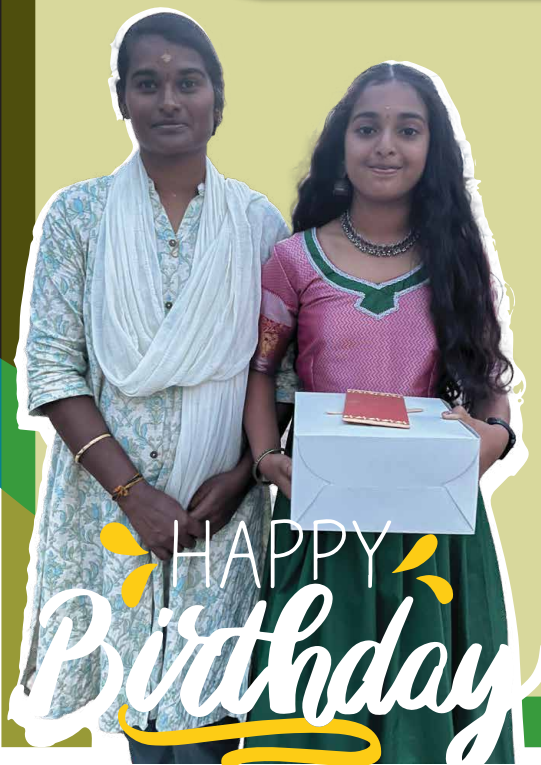
ANNETS PROJECT

Instilling proper hygiene habits in childhood is the foundation for a lifetime of well-being—clean habits today pave the way for a healthier and more confident tomorrow. On November 30th the Annets Club of Texcity distributed 200 of each - nail cutters, combs and soap to Kummatipathi Government School and Vazhukupara Government school children as part of a personal hygiene drive. This will reduce the occurrence of basic common infections like cold / cough and thus help them understand the need for personal hygiene. Maintaining good personal hygiene in children is crucial for preventing illness and fostering overall well-being. Let us do our little bit to make this world a healthier place.

On November 4th, The Annets Club visited Mother Theresa Peace Home, Tirupur where multiple handicapped and permanently bed ridden children are taken care of. The life stories of these children would move one to tears. The sisters and volunteers there take care of all the needs of these children 24*7. They shower them with love and affection to which the children respond happily and long for. We provided them with their diaper requirements for 3 months and a few other essentials. Rtn Sushil Chugh sponsored comfortable clothes for these children. The Annets club is happy that the proceeds of their fundraiser has reached a well deserving place .

November 19 th was our caretaker Meenakshi's daughter Hareshnee's birthday. The Annets club was part of her special day in a small way. Annets Nethra and Madhvi Gometheswarn sponsored a new dress for her, Annets Rakshan and Rohin Rajesh the birthday cake and Annet Leya a cash gift. She was overjoyed and was waiting from afternoon. Small deeds of Kindness, but they went a very long way!!

Annets Chair
Leya Jude





TEXCITY PREMIER LEAGUE

Sports can play a crucial role in a Rotary Club by fostering camaraderie among members, promoting teamwork, and providing a platform for physical activity and stress relief. Engaging in sports activities within the organization can enhance social bonds, encourage a healthy lifestyle, and contribute to overall well-being, creating a more vibrant and connected community within the Rotary Club. The Texcity Premier League, our flagship club service activity in its 5th year was inaugurated on 1st November at the Hindustan sports academy with the start of the shuttle tournament. Forty-two players played 88 matches overall.

The action moved to Area 641 on the 8th November for the Futsal competition. The four teams had exciting matches and the finals had to be decided on penalty shoot-outs.

Next on the cards was the Golf tournament which teed off on the Coimbatore Golf Course on the 11th of November. The Golfers after their game became hosts to the Rotary Coimbatore Texcity family. After a keenly contested game, where Rtn. Jose Abraham won the cup, the members of Texcity and their families were treated to some beer, cocktails, and a sumptuous lunch.

26th November was the grand finale of TPL 5.0 at Vilvam Sports Academy. At stake were the cups for Table Tennis, Volleyball, Throw ball(For the Anns), chess, Cricket and basketball shoot outs. The whole day was packed with thrilling matches. Lunch too was arranged for all Texcitians and their families, Rain played spoilsport towards the end and the finals of the cricket match was washed out and the winner declared on the runs scored in the previous matches.

A glittering award ceremony was organized at a near by hotel. The TPL theme song was also made and the genre of the same was Rap. Members from various teams tried to sing to their best of their abilities because at stake was a Single Malt bottle to the best singer.

TEXCITY PREMIER LEAGUE 5.0





Owner

Rtn. Gometheshwaran



Owner

Rtn. Jose C Abraham



Owner

Rtn. Dr. Senthil Raju



Owner

Rtn Kamal Kumar



Winners - Texcity Super Kings, Champions by Nature, Kings by Victory!!



Runners - Texcity Tycoons Always Striving, Forever Rising



Rtn Gomatheswaran - Runner Golf



Rtn Jude & Annet Mary,
Winners - Badminton & TT, Mixed doubles



Annet Yohan Mathew,
Winner Table tennis Annets Singles



DGND Rtn. Maruti inaugurating TPL 5.0



Ann Alka Nichani, Winner - TPL theme song



Rtn Jude Alex,
Winner Individual points Champion



Rtn Jose Abraham, Winner- Golf



Rtn Regi Kurian & Rtn Senthil Kumar, - TT Runners

| SPORT | WINNER | RUNNER UP |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Badminton Rtn Single | Rtn.Vinod | Rtn.Senthil |
| Badminton Rtn Doubles | Rtn.Vinod & Rtn.Sandeep | Rtn. Ramesh Nichani & Rtn.Brijesh |
| Badminton 55+Rtn Doubles | Rtn.Ramesh Nichani & Rtn.Ilangovan | Rtn.Narayanan & Rtn.Badri |
| Badminton Anns Singles | Ann.Jaishree | Ann.Sindhu |
| Badminton Anns Doubles | Annet Mary & Ann.Nithya | Ann.Alka Nichani & Ann.Vidhya |
| Badminton Mixed Doubles | Annet Rakesh & Ann.Suj | Annet Mary & Rtn.Jude |
| Badminton Annets Single - Boys | Annet Arjun | Annet Yohan |
| Badminton Annets Single - Girls | Annet Bharghavi | Annet Megha Jose |
| Futsal | Super Kings | Gilies |
| Golf | Rtn.Jose Abraham | Rtn.Babu Gomatheswaran |
| Table Tennis Rotarians - Singles | Rtn.Suresh Lund | Rtn.C.Karthikeyan |
| Table Tennis Rotarians - Doubles | Rtn.Suresh Lund & Rtn.Jude Alex | Rtn.Senthil & Rtn.Reji Kurian |
| Table Tennis - Mixed Doubles | Rtn.Ramesh V.E. & Rtann.Sindhu | Rtn.jude Alex & Annet Mary |
| Table Tennis Anns - Singles | Rtann.Alka Nichani | Rtn.Jagadheswari |
| Table Tennis Anns - Doubles | Annet Mary & Rtn.Jagadeshwari | Ann.Alka Nichani & Ann.Sindhu |
| Table Tennis Annets - Singles | Annet Yohan | Annet Shiv |
| Chess | Annet Shiv | Rtn.Nagarajan |
| Throw Ball | Tycoons | Bulls |
| Volley Ball | Tycoons | Gilies |

THE ART OF THINKING CLEARLY

NEVER JUDGE A DECISION BY ITS OUTCOME

Outcome Bias

A quick hypothesis: say one million monkeys speculate on the stock market. They buy and sell stocks like crazy and, of course, completely at random. What happens? After one week, about half of the monkeys will have made a profit and the other half a loss. The ones that made a profit can stay, the ones that made a loss you send home. In the second week, one half of the monkeys will still be riding high, while the other half will have made a loss and are sent home. And so on. After ten weeks, about 1,000 monkeys will be left those who have always invested their money well. After twenty weeks, just one monkey will remain - this one always, without fail, chose the right stocks and is now a billionaire. Let's call him the success monkey.

How does the media react? They will pounce on this animal to understand its 'success principles'. And they will find some: perhaps the monkey eats more bananas than the others. Perhaps he sits in another corner of the cage. Or, maybe he swings headlong through the branches, or he takes long, reflective pauses while grooming. He must have some recipe for success, right? How else could he perform so brilliantly? Spot-on for twenty weeks - and that from a simple monkey? Impossible!

The monkey story illustrates the outcome bias: we tend to evaluate decisions based on result rather than on the decision process. This fallacy is also known as the historian error. A classic example is the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Should the military base have been evacuated or not? From today's perspective: obviously, for there was plenty of evidence that an attack was

imminent. However only in retrospect do the signals appear so clear. At the time, in 1941, there was a plethora of contradictory signals. Some pointed to an attack; others did not. To assess the quality of the decision, we must use the information available at the time, filtering out everything we know about it post-attack (particularly that it did indeed take place).

Another experiment: you must evaluate the performance of three heart surgeons. To do this, you ask each to carry out a difficult operation five times. Over the years, the probability of dying from these procedures has stabilised at 20%. With surgeon A, no one dies. With surgeon B, one patient dies. With surgeon C, two die. How do you rate the performance of A, B and C? If you think like most people, you rate A the best, B the second best, and C the worst. And thus you've just fallen for the outcome bias. You can guess why: the samples are too small, rendering the results meaningless. You can only really judge a surgeon if you know something about the field, and then carefully monitor the preparation and execution of the operation. In other words, you assess the process and not the result. Alternatively, you could employ a larger sample, if you have enough patients who need this particular operation: 100 or 1,000 operations. For now it is enough to know that, with an average surgeon, there is a 33% chance that no one will die, a 41% chance that one person will die and a 20% chance that two people will die. That's a simple probability on the calculation. What stands out: there is no huge difference between zero dead and two dead. To assess the three surgeons purely on the basis of the outcomes would be not only negligent but also unethical.

In conclusion: never judge a decision purely by its result, especially when randomness or 'external factors' play a role. A bad result does not automatically indicate a bad decision and vice versa. So rather than tearing your hair out about a wrong decision, or applauding yourself for one that may have only coincidentally led to success, remember why you chose what you did. Were your reasons rational and understandable? Then you would do well to stick with that method, even if you didn't strike lucky last time.

- ROLF DOBELLI