



**Sept 14, 2022 – Broadway & Zoom Meeting, 12:15**

DGE Marion Cheney welcomed members, guests, and speakers to the greatest Rotary in the universe!

**Thank You:** Doug L. for lunch pick-up.

**Guest Speaker: Ram Ramdev, His Journey**

Marion introduced our own Ram Ramdev as our guest speaker for the meeting. Ram has been a Dover Rotarian since 1980 and served as the Head of Emergency Medicine at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital until his retirement.

Ram first told of his journey in Rotary -- why and how he became a Rotarian. Ram believes all of us are philanthropists. It isn't just about the money one donates, but it is also about the service one provides to others. He applied this belief early in his life when as a young boy of 14 he witnessed a blind woman in India on the side of the road trying to raise money for her daughter's wedding. Ram took it upon himself to rally his friends and collect money to help pay for the wedding. This started his journey in philanthropy.

Ram pointed out that while Rotary only started in 1905, by 1915 it had arrived in India. He was familiar with Rotary in India as a young man. After moving to the Dover area in the 1970's he was asked by a Rotarian to present to the club about his work in the Emergency Department. Shortly thereafter, he was asked to join Dover Rotary and served as President in 1988-89. Ram remembered Rotary in "the good old days" selling Christmas trees, selling roses, and the various service projects including painting the tower. Ram also led the club in several

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**Meetings:**

**Sept. 20** – BOD, 12:30, Dover Chamber

**Sept. 21** – Jonathan Nickols Classification

**Sept. 28** - Bill Ferguson, Ferguson Energy Management

**Pledge:** Ed H.

**4-way test:** Noreen B.

**Guests:** Bjorn Erikson of Babcock Ranch Rotary and Peter Widmark on Zoom. Bjorn reported that Babcock Ranch Rotary was formed four months ago and has 33



**Rotary Moment:**

*Today's newsletter authored by Gregg D.*

fundraising efforts including a Polio Fund Drive, a special interest of his due to the many cases of polio he witnessed in India. Ram led the drive by raffling off a BMW and, together with other clubs in the area, raised \$75,000 for polio eradication. Another project Ram initiated was a community health Screening offering \$50 physicals and more money was raised as a result. Ram also spoke of a garage sale that was held annually for several years.

Ram was born in Hyderabad in southern India where he spent his childhood and early adult years. He attended public school and college in India and decided on a medical career. While in med school, he was active in student government and became president of the student council. Through his efforts, a health camp was set up in a village with the help of students and faculty.

Ram met his wife Prem while they were in college and married in 1966. Prem was also a physician and practiced Internal Medicine. In total, there are sixteen doctors or dentists in Ram's family and more on the way. The family goal was to start a hospital in India, and he and Prem journeyed to England to complete their training. They tried to return to India but political turmoil in the country led them to decide not to interrupt their children's education. After a short period in Canada, Ram was recruited to start an Emergency Department at Wentworth-Douglass. As the saying goes, the rest is history.

Ram spoke of a book he is writing about his journey. The title of the book will be "Six British Pounds" because when he left India for England all they were allowed to leave the country with was three pounds each. Arriving at Heathrow Airport with only six pounds and relying on friends to get their start, Ram and Prem were able to build a life and family together. He tells his children and grandchildren the life they have now was begun with six British pounds, thus the title of the book.

Ram shared insights about India as a country and its journey of independence from Britain adding background about Hinduism and Islam and how the split between India and Pakistan occurred. India has the second largest population in the world and is the world's 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy. India celebrates 75 years of independence this year and he noted people often cite two good things Britain left with India -- the English language and Scotch!

Following retirement and his wife's illness, Ram became a snowbird. He lives with a son (a vascular surgeon) in Florida in the winter and another son (a periodontist) in Dover in the summer. He is an avid golfer having taken up the sport after he had to give up tennis due to knee problems. He is probably the only person ever to join Cochecho Country Club never having played a round of golf.

#### **Announcements:**

**Bingo:** Phil R. presented a \$35,000 Bingo check to the club and reported we hosted 98 players and sold 26 boxes last week. We still need help on Thursday nights so please sign up when you can help.

**International Committee:** Tom D. reported that the “Crutches for Africa” shipment loading has been moved to **September 24<sup>th</sup>** due to shipping challenges. The loading will take place in Old Orchard Beach. Please contact Tom if you are able to help.

**Back to School Program:** We will be presenting **\$10,000** in gift cards for school clothes and supplies to Dover Housing Authority Thursday morning as part of our efforts to support children and families as they begin their school year. We also have delivered snacks to Dover Middle School.

**Shred Event:** The Shred Event is scheduled for **October 8<sup>th</sup>** at St John’s Church. More information to follow.

**Food Drive:** The Food Drive is being planned for **October 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Board Meeting:** Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Raffle Ticket:** Ram drew the chance to win the pot...no luck!

**Happy Bucks:**

**Malcolm M.** happy for Ram and his Near Miss experience with him on the golf course.

**Kathy F.** for time spent with parents pouring over old photographs.

**Noreen B.** for Ram and the 1000’s of people he has helped over the years.

**Peter W.** for Ram and his story.

**Bjorn E.** for buying a new home near Peter and Laurie W. in Babcock Ranch and joining their new Rotary club

**Nancy B.** for Ram

**Gregg D.** for successful District 7780 Recovery Conference.

**August Birthdays:**

Marion C.Aug. 2  
Michael C.Aug. 5  
Sheila T.Aug. 8  
Rob R. Aug. 10  
Frank C.Aug. 17

**August Anniversaries:**

Nancy B.29 years  
Melissa L.15 years  
Stacey K. 6 years