

ROTARY CLUB OF PRINCES TOWN

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Website: www.rotaryclubofprincetown.org

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2015-2016 (above)



DR RONALD GOBIN (PRESIDENT
2015-2016) & PARTNER IN
SERVICE RADHICA GOBIN (LEFT)

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THE PRESIDENTIAL HANDOVER 2015



Rotarians, their families and guests met at the Prive Restaurant and Lounge on Friday July 3rd 2015 as the Rotary Club of Princes Town observed their 23rd Presidential Handover Ceremony.

The event marked the handing over of the reigns of Club leadership from Past President Jamir Ousman and the Board of Directors of 2015-2016 to President Dr. Ronald Gobin and his executive team.

In addition to being charter members of the Rotary Club of Princes Town both Rotarians have served as Presidents in the past and have been in the organization for over twenty three (23) years.



The Club was honoured to have as its guests, The District Governor Elect (2016-2017), Rotarian Past President Roger Bose; the President of The Rotary Club of Point Fortin, Rot. President Dr. Kenneth Niles; the President of The Rotary Club of San Fernando South, President Randy Pedro and the President of The Rotary Club of Penal, President Varsha Surajsingh.

The function opened with the National Anthem played on the steelpan by Kyle Ali, the son of Sargent-at-Arms Rotarian Terry Ali in an auditorium beautifully decorated by Partner-in-Service Tara Ousman. Chairperson Rotarian Indira Singh invited all to relax in an atmosphere of good food and fellowship as the Club joined Past President Jamir Ousman in extending gratitude to the nurses and doctors who have given tirelessly at the Club's many Medical Outreach Clinics. The Club also thanked Mr. Ernest Koylass, Senior Counsel for joining Rotarian Debbie Roopchand in conducting free legal aid service at the outreach clinic.



Paul Harris Awards were given to Dr. Permanand Nakkana, Mr. Dave Hosein, Rotarian Past President

Wayne Nanan and Past President Jamir Ousman as individuals who have given service above self to the Club and to Rotary.



In his inaugural speech, President Dr. Ronald Gobin launched the theme for the Rotary year 2015-2016: "Be A Gift to the World". He added his own personal motto encouraging Rotarians to make a difference by reaching out and touching the lives of others. President Ronald went on to briefly outline the activities the Club would undertake this year to achieve these objectives.

But the evening was not all speeches and pomp as guests enjoy the melodious voice of the talented Neval Chaitlal. Thanks to his agent, Rotarian Vishma Ramcharitar of the Rotary Club of Maracas, St Joseph, a much appreciative audience was enthralled with Neval's three selections despite a sore throat.

Many Rotarians vowed to take dance lessons after the graceful and exciting performance of Past President Vilma Bellamy's granddaughter Daynia Pirtheesingh and her dance partner, BJ Hackshaw.

The evening ended on a high note with Rotarians and guests enjoying fellowship and looking forward to a rewarding and productive Rotary year ahead.

THE NEW EXECUTIVE TEAM GET TO WORK



President Ronald Gobin and his Board of Directors got down to work at their first planning meeting of the new Rotary year on Sunday 12th July.

The meeting which was held at the Royal Hotel in San Fernando started at 4:00 pm and ended at 8:00 pm with all the items on the agenda discussed and successfully addressed.

Directors in each avenue of service took the opportunity to outline plans and projects for the next six months and beyond. From all appearances it promises to be a busy, productive exciting year for the Club as it begins functioning as the fully registered company, THE ROTARY CLUB OF PRINCES TOWN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

PHOTO CAPTION: President Ronald Gobin, Secretary Debbie Roopchand, Directors: Rudulph Ali, Rishi Ramlogan, Vilma Bellamy, Treasurer: Krista Chang, Asst. Treasurer: Terry Ali, Indira Singh (taking photo). Absent: Wayne Nanan, PP Jamir Ousman and Sargent -at -Arms Hafiz Ali

WELCOME TO DISTRICT GOVERNOR MILTON INNISS!



Our Club was pleased to welcome District Governor Milton Inniss to Trinidad as he started off the Rotary year with a visit to all the clubs in our Rotary District 7030.

On Monday 20th July, DG Milton experienced true southern hospitality as the south Clubs of San Fernando, San Fernando South, Pointe-à-Pierre, Penal, Point Fortin and of course the Rotary Club of Princes Town hosted a cocktail fellowship on San Fernando Hill.

MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The first meeting with the clubs was held at The Canton Palace Restaurant on Tuesday 21st July as DG Milton, along with Assistant District Governor Michael Kangaloo and District Governor Elect Roger Bose met with the Executive Team of our Club.

President Ronald took the opportunity to present the visiting Rotarians with a copy of the Club's Planning Guide which outlined the activities and goals the Club intends to achieve this Rotary year. Directors each spoke about the objectives for developing their avenue of service and where necessary sought guidance and advice.

DG Milton who is also a long standing member of the Rotary Club of Barbados West is no stranger to the dynamics of Club administration and leadership. His approachable style and knowledgeable position led to Interesting and lively discussions which continued over dinner.

GALA DINNER WELCOME



In Rotary we should not only be evolutionary but sometimes there is need to be revolutionary.

This was part of the message from District Governor Milton Inniss as he highlighted this year's theme of being a Gift to the World. Addressing Rotarians, family and friends at the Gala Dinner held in his honor at Prive Restaurant and Conference Center in San Fernando on Wednesday 22nd July, DG Milton encouraged all to share the world of Rotary, what we do and our achievements with others.

DG also spoke about this year's focus on dyslexia and the importance of recognizing this learning disability and the need for assisting individuals inflicted with the condition.

After the formal part of the evening and the presentation of a beautiful crystal token to DG from all six south Clubs, Rotarians and guests enjoyed good music and the opportunity to spend time with each other.

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING FOR EID:



The Rotary Club of Princes Town Trinidad and Tobago ("the Club") in celebration of Eid with the Muslim Community conducted an Eid Treat at the Masjid Ut Tayib Been at Lengua, Princes Town on Sunday 26th July 2015.

Imam Muslim Mohammed welcomed the Club's involvement in bringing joy and merriment to all who attended.

The Club's Vice President Debbie Roopchand brought greetings on behalf of the Club and shared with the gathering the history and origins of



Rotary, its focus and ideals, its motto of “Service above Self” and the aspiration of Rotarians this year to “Be a gift to the World”.

Over 60 children and parents from the community attended the event, which was made even more special by the rendition of “Islam is a way of life” by the children of the Maktab Class and a Qaseeda “Muhammad na Hotey by Brother Ayoub.

Children of the Maktab Yasir Ali and Zahra Mohammed delivered a Quranic recitation and Brother Shael Mohammed addressed the audience on the symbolism of fasting during Ramadhan.

Nizamma Khan, Principal of Princes Town ASJA Primary School delivered the vote of thanks and sincerely thanked the Club for its generous and thoughtful initiative.

All the children were treated with treat bags containing various items such as books, puzzles and toys while a random selection of adults were given gifts of hampers.

Rotarians shared in the afternoon snacks generously provided by the Masjid to all those who attended and there was a common feeling of sharing and satisfaction between the Club and the attendees and the Club's effort was recognized as reflective of the spirit of Eid.

Rotarian Vilma Bellamy was responsible for organizing the event with the assistance of the Sister Salima and her Committee and with the support of fellow Rotarians from the Club

the event turned out to be a great success for all who attended.

EID CELEBRATION



Kyle Ali, the son of Rotarian Terry Ali said the opening Dua at the Rotary Club of Princes Town annual in Club Eid Observance on Friday 31st July 2015.

Rotarians and their families gathered at the Ste. Madeleine Regional Corporation auditorium to listen to Maulana Atif Majeed, an Islamic scholar from Pakistan who reminded all that the ability to serve others is an honor. He explained that the month of Ramadhan is a time to develop a link with God and since this month is observed every year, the cycle allows Muslims to be reminded to give charity and to fulfill the pillars of Islam.



Following the powerful message from the Maulana, Rotarian Amraz and Past President Capildeo sang beautiful Qasidas and Rehan Ali, son of Rotarian Hafiz Ali, cited verses from the Koran. In closing the formal part of the evening President Ronald presented a token of appreciation to Maulana Atif and thanked him for taking the time to be with us and for inviting his father and father-in-law to join him.

Dinner was served after the programme and everyone enjoyed the delicious sweets and sawine prepared by Rotarian Hafiz's mother and family.

HELPING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



On August 6th 2015, President Ronald Gobin and Past President Jamir Ousman joined the Rotary Club of Port -of- Spain West, Piarco, Felicity Charleville and Chaguanas to assist Habitat for Humanity, in building a home for Jennifer Edwards in Carlsen Field, Chaguanas.

Many helping hands assisted skilled workers to build the 2 bedroom flat for the deserving family. Students and Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Ferndale, California cleared debris and helped to landscape around the house.

At the lunch break there was an exchange of Club flags. While it was hard work there was a great feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day.

CHOKHA FEST 2015



The San Fernando Hill was the scenic venue of the Club's annual Chokha Festival on Saturday 22nd August.

Over 18 dishes were served with hot sadda roti and fried bake made on the spot. While patrons enjoyed traditional favorites like Pepper Roti, Coconut Chutney, Curry Corn and Accra, many were interested to try the latest addition to the menu, Pineapple Chokha!



Yes, Past President Vilma Bellamy and Incoming President, Rotarian Debbie Roopchand found a scrumptious way to utilize pineapples harvested from Tableland in south Trinidad to make a spicy, tasty, chokha. The recipe is a closely guarded secret!

Produce grown in the Princes Town area was again used in making the old favorites like cikiere fig with saltfish and eddoes chokha.



Many patrons said that the aroma and flavor of the food took them back to their childhood and they were happy to have the opportunity to introduce their children to some of these flavorful dishes which are delicious but can also be time consuming to prepare.

The performance of Samsara D Band brought patrons to their feet with a mixture of back in times and current tunes. The children were not left out as they were delighted with ice cream and a bouncy castle.

The proceeds of this fundraiser go towards the Club's awards and scholarship program for deserving students pursuing tertiary education.

The President and members of The Rotary Club of Princes Town are truly grateful to all who attended and gave their support in any way to the success of this year's event.

THE ROTARY FAMILY AT WORK

Chokafest 2015 brought out Rotary Family and friends to support the Club's objective to help students who have the potential but lack the funds to complete their tertiary education goals.

Much thanks to all Partners-in-Service, children, family members, friends and supporters who worked tirelessly to make it a memorable evening.



HEALTH FAIR & ROTARY AWARENESS AT GULF CITY



On the evening of Wednesday 26th August 2015, Rotarians took to Gulf City to meet the public and spread the word of Rotary. The Club also took the opportunity on that afternoon to promote its focus on health by staging a mini health fair in the Atrium of the Mall.

Over a hundred people were able to get their blood pressure, sugar and cholesterol levels checked while doctors were available to give free medical attention. Free health information and literature were also available for the taking.

In addition to distributing Rotarian magazines and discussing the activities of the Club, Gulf City Mall being one of the largest shopping centers in the country, saw many interested shoppers stopping by to learn about the work of Rotary worldwide.

This event at the Mall has proven to be an effective part of the Club's Membership drive.

PRESENTATIONS



The regular meeting of the Club on Wednesday 16th September was a special occasion as the Club dispersed financial grants to students pursuing tertiary education.

Grants were presented to Mitra Maywalal who started his second year at the Faculty of Medical Science, University of The West Indies. Mitra's parents were present to collect the bursary on his behalf along with the mother of Ester Ali who is currently studying for



her BSc in Biology. The Club also helped Cameron Murray and his sister to get to school by assisting with their travelling expenses.

September being Literacy month in the Rotary calendar, the Club was please to sponsor 8 students and a tutor to the Adult Literacy Tutors Association programme (ALTA). Ms. Jacqueline Rawlings received the grant on behalf of ALTA.

The fundraisers undertaken by the Club was also able to provide assistance to Michelle Richards with the medical bills for her infant daughter Kristiana and to help Emma Nandlal continue her special tuition for children with Autism.

SPENDING SATURDAY WITH KIDS



On Saturday 19th September Rotarians spent the morning with the kids from the El Shaddai Home for Children in Gasparillo.

Past President Vilma Bellamy and her team organized a morning filled with fun activities that also had some Rotarians bringing their children along to spend time with them while doing the work of Rotary.

The morning began with fun at Playdium Entertainment Center in San Fernando where the children enjoyed driving bumper cars and playing games. After lunch at Playdium Rotarians and kids

went to The Wild Fowl Trust in Pointe-a-Pierre. Enthusiasm was no match for the heavy rain as the children tried to listen to the facilitators at the sanctuary under umbrellas until it became impossible to continue. A movie on Reptiles was shown until the weather allowed everyone back outside. After ice cream the kids took to the trail.

It was a tired, happy bunch of children clutching snack bags who were returned to El Shaddai later that day.



FAMILY DAY 2015



Sunday 20th September proved to be a clear, cool day for the Club's annual family day.

Thanks to the organizing skills of Rotarian Patsy, the morning started with breakfast followed by the cooking of curry duck and barbeque on the spot. Rotarians brought roti, curry channa, mixed rice, macaroni salad, cakes, ice cream, watermelon and more as they came together for a day of fun and relaxation.



Rotarians and their families played cards, musical chairs and other traditional games. The members of the Rico Suave Dance Studio of which Past President Vilma Bellamy's granddaughter Daynia is an instructor, encouraged Rotarians and Partners-in-Service to get on their feet for a Zumba session.

While some members thought they could polish off a watermelon, they were no match for PP Vilma's grandson who won the watermelon eating contest.

After this members did not trust themselves on the slip n' slide but Adrian, the son of PP Wayne Nanon enjoyed it for all of us!

Sun set on Rotarians packing up after a long awaited day of fellowship.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Medical Outreach Programme - Sunday
October 18th 2015 @ the Robert Village Hindu
School

Club Diwali Function - 08th November 2015 -
President Ronald's residence

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PRINCES TOWN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

District 7030, Club No. 29461, Company No. C2014071501154

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Meetings: Wednesday's - 6:30 pm at Canton Palace Restaurant

Phone: 652-5993

Board of Directors 2015-2016: Ronald Gobin, Jamir Ousman, Vilma Bellamy, Wayne Nanan, Indira Singh, Rudolph Ali, Hassim "Terry" Ali, Hafiz Ali, Debbie Roopchand, Krista Chang, Rishi Ramlogan

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