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Rotary CROSSROADS

by Rotary Club of Singapore



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Food from the Heart

On November 16th, we hosted our Food From the Heart Distribution Activity, a community-driven initiative designed to support those facing hardship. A total of 33 volunteers came together, dedicating their time and efforts to make the event a resounding success.

Working collaboratively, volunteers prepared and distributed food packages to individuals and families in need. Through this collective effort, we were able to provide nourishing meals and, more importantly, offer a sense of hope and solidarity to those experiencing difficult times.



The Sembawang Connects Project

On 16th November, we gathered at the Sembawang Central Residents' Network Community Centre, as youths from the Interact Club of Sembawang and Rotaract Club of SG City and Probationers gathered for the Sembawang Connects Project. This community-building initiative aimed to foster understanding and camaraderie between the probationers, our local youths, and senior citizens through the age-old art of rangoli.

Tables were set up with colorful powders, stencils of simple outlines of rangoli designs.

The probationers were initially hesitant as they have never tried anything like this before.

As the afternoon progressed, the room became livelier and laughter and stories filled the air.

What had started as a simple art project was turning into an opportunity for the young to connect with the seniors on a personal level.

By the end of the session, the teams had created vibrant rangoli designs that symbolized unity, respect, and shared effort. Each group proudly displayed their artwork, taking photos and celebrating their hard work.





During the debrief session, the probationers shared their thoughts:

"I realised the best way to get them to warm up to me was to treat them like old friends"

"One area I felt inadequate was my poor command of Hokkien (a common dialect in Singapore)"

"I didn't expect to be teaching a senior how to use WhatsApp. It made me feel good that I was able to help in a small way."

The Sembawang Connects Project ended with heartfelt thanks and promises to meet again.

This is a beautiful reminder of the power of connection, compassion, and the simple joy of creating something meaningful together.

This project is unique in that it brings our young Interactors / Rotaractors and the probationers together to work towards a project serving the seniors in their community.

**Probationers are youths serving a probation order which often requires them to perform community service under conditions specified by the court, for a period of time. Volunteering in this project enables the probationers to serve out the order.*

By partnering them with our Interactors/Rotaractors, we hope that they will learn from and influence each other in their work ethics, motivations in life and their attitudes to people around them in a positive way.

Their next collaborative project will be a Christmas Carnival slated for 1st December for seniors and their families in the same Sembawang community. Let's wish them every success.



The 16th Weekly Meeting

ROTARY TOASTS

By Rtn Rajesh Prabhakaran

TO

**To Rotary Brussels International
&
To Rotary International**



WELCOME OF GUEST

By Rtn Gabriele Rettig



CHRISTMAS PARTY PAINTING AUCTION

Painting donated by Terry Lobaton



EXCHANGE OF BANNERS



Hans Vanoorbeek
from Rotary Brussels International



Rtn Satish
from Rotary Club of Mumbai



PP Mark on behalf of
Rotary Club of Shanghai West



Hon Sec Pauline on behalf of
Rotary Club of El Paso

AWARD PRESENTED BY PP JAMES ON BEHALF OF RC MALANG CENTRAL

Plaque of Appreciation from Rotary Club of Malang Central



GUEST SINGER

Shawn De Mello





PP Stanley Low

“

There's Only One Stanley Low.

”

Rtn Francesco De Liva:

Our Rotary Club shares many similarities with our city. It's a large multicultural hub with people constantly on the move. At every meeting, you can find people from places as diverse as Brazil and China; it's amazing. Sometimes Rotarians are traveling, busy, or have other priorities. However, there is one person who has been a constant presence for forty years. To show our appreciation, on November 20th, we celebrated Past President (PP) Stan for his 40 years of friendship, leadership, and dedication to Rotary.

After a superb meal, PP Stan is on stage at 8PM sharing his journey in Rotary, his mentors and his legacy.

In 1963, a 17-year-old named Stanley Low had his first encounter with Rotary during a weekend stay with a wealthy Rotarian family in Essex, UK. More interested in the host's gorgeous daughter and their tennis game, Stanley initially left with the impression that all Rotarians were affluent. Fast forward to 1984, his dentist friend, Dr. Wong Yew Cheong, invited him to a Rotary Club lunch in Singapore. Initially expecting free meals from the well-off Rotarians, Stanley soon discovered he had to pay for his lunches. Despite this, he was warmly introduced to many members and eventually joined the Rotary Club of Singapore later that year, being inducted by Koh Choon Hui. This marked the beginning of his journey with Rotary, shifting his perception from wealth to community and connection.

As a new Rotarian, PP Stan considered himself lucky to have several mentors. One of them was the late PP Leow Jwee Meng. He asked Leow how much he should donate for various charity projects, and Leow advised, "Give until it hurts," a lesson that Stan feels he has been experiencing ever since. Another mentor was the late PP Murli Chanraj, who advised him to be a good Rotarian by remembering the 4-Way Test and the 3-Cs: Do not Criticize, Do not Compare, and Do not Complain.

As PP Stan recounted his anecdotes, the audience laughed and followed the story with great interest.

Moses descended from the hill carrying the Ten Commandments, akin to how PP Stan values The Four-Way Test plaque. This test profoundly influenced him by curbing his aggressive tendencies and promoting more pleasant responses. During a challenging business downturn, Stanley faced a halted project and unpaid invoices but chose not to sue his client, prioritizing truth, fairness, goodwill, and mutual benefit. Ultimately, his decision led to renewed business relations and advance payments when the project resumed. Stanley credits The Four-Way Test for its significant positive impact on his life.

Over 40 years with the Rotary Club, Stanley served in various capacities, including chairing installation dinners for eight past presidents and always assisting whenever asked to make the club stronger. He co-initiated the Small Scale Entrepreneur Award, which grew into the Entrepreneur of the Year Award, and proposed the Ambassadorial Rotarian concept to keep overseas members connected. Stanley also crafted and proposed the Artisan of the Year award, which recognized talents like Terry Lobaton, the first winner who later joined the club. Since encountering Rotary in 1963, Stanley has been devoted to helping the less fortunate and upholding the motto "Service Above Self," driven by the organization's service and fellowship focus. He believes in balancing business with giving, asserting that business is the science of serving humanity.

PP Stan's Rotary journey was profoundly shaped by mentors who embodied the organization's core values: Dr. Wong Yew Cheong, who proposed him for membership and inspired him with wisdom and commitment; Honorary Member Koh Choon Hui, who deepened his understanding of "Service Above Self" upon induction; and Honorary Member Mohan Vaswani, known for his quiet dedication to humanitarian projects. Stanley admired PDG Philbert Chin for his deep Rotary insights, DGE Shahul for his strategic use of Global Grants for regional humanitarian efforts, and President Tom for his fervent promotion of Rotary ideals in business. Rotarian Jamshid Medora taught Stanley the importance of truth and fairness, while Rotarian Ong Ting Yong inspired with his enthusiastic "never say no" attitude. Together, these mentors demonstrated that being a Rotarian is about living the organization's values daily.



Over the years, Stanley has come to value the fellowship and friendships formed within Rotary, enhancing both his personal life and his role as a Rotarian. His journey has been supported by his family, especially his wife, Dolores, who has been his unwavering supporter and constructive critic, helping him stay true to Rotary's values. Reflecting on 40 years with Rotary, Stanley feels immense gratitude for the opportunities to serve, the friendships gained, and the lessons learned, recognizing Rotary as a global movement striving for a better world. He looks forward with anticipation to continuing this journey, expressing heartfelt thanks to his fellow Rotarians for the privilege of being part of such a meaningful organization.

PP Stan, also known as Stan Four Way Test, closed with the statement, "Together, we can make a difference—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come."

After completing his speech and receiving several tokens of appreciation, PP Stan also shared his favorite brand of water, which he credited for keeping him vital all these years (though it seemed very brownish to me, he insisted it was water).

Unexpectedly, President Tom organized a surprise for Stan: Shawn De Mello came on stage, and the entire club gave a standing ovation while singing the song, "One Stanley Low, there is only one Stanley Low."



It was a great night—hard to forget.

For many of us who joined more recently, PP Stan is a cornerstone of the Club. He guided us in learning about Rotary at the start of our journey and emphasized the importance of the club's traditions by explaining its history and impact on our community and region. Personally, I have always been impressed by PP Stan's ability to communicate with kindness and respect and to accomplish tasks with the power of a smile. He is an expert diplomat, and I aspire to be as skilled as he is. Looking forward to his next forty years in the club!

UPCOMING EVENT: BALI DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Bali District Conference, District 3310 in collaboration with 3420



16th to 18th May 2025

Bali Beach Hotel | The Meru

Beach Cleaning on the Last day, 18th May!
6:30am / 7:00am.

Early Bird Ticket SOLD OUT!

Scan to Register



VOTE OF THANKS

By PP Mohan Mohandas





ISC Meeting

On 21st November, we hosted the 5th International Service Committee Meeting at BRC Global Rolls Pte Ltd, starting at 7:00 PM. Over 35 Rotarians joined the event.

The meeting began with an introduction to the RC Global Wizards, which include projects focused on Toilet Blocks and School Desks. Following that, Director Raj presented the Suggested Criteria for Partner Clubs, emphasizing key factors such as club size, strength, history, culture, and service traditions.

DGE Dr. Yap Lip Kee then shared an update on the costs associated with the proposed project to transport food packed in Singapore for Rise Against Hunger.

We were also pleased to welcome our Guest Speaker, HM Rewa, who introduced books of humour. All proceeds from the sale of these books will go directly to support those in desperate need through the Rotary Club of Singapore's World Community Service Projects.





Chess Event



The 4th Bi-Monthly Chess on Sea event took place on November 23rd, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Sea Wolf. This exciting chess gathering brought together enthusiasts from all levels for an afternoon of strategic battles and competition. Set against the backdrop of the scenic waterfront, players enjoyed a unique and relaxed atmosphere as they tested their skills in a series of intense matches.



The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

01. Is it the **TRUTH**?
02. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
03. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
04. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

1. Have I spent some time in self-examination?
2. Have I spent quality time with my family?
3. Have I given my best to my work?
4. Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

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Director - Meetings/Events	Ong Ting Yong
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Chair of EYA (Entrepreneur of the Year Award)	Stanley Low
Chair of Standing Committee - Speaker	Gabriele Rettig
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Director - Environment Group	Suresh Hathiramani
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Jeff Lim

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