

SECRETARIES' REPORT

With great pleasure, we are presenting the Annual Report for the year 2007-2008 along with the audited Financial Statement for the year 2007-2008.

HIGHLIGHTS :

- ◆ Total collection for the year 2007-08 raised to around Rs.6,30,000/-
- ◆ Record collection of around Rs. 85,000 towards Educational Aid plus Corpus Fund of Rs. 3,82,618/-

This year, our association made a record in Educational Aid collection as well as general collection. As mentioned in the last year's Secretaries' Report, we have succeeded in the target of distributing uniform to 1200 students. Yes we did it. Thanks to all who made the dream a reality.

- ◆ Our special thanks to Mr. J. Venkatesan and Mr. T.A. Sampath Kumar for collecting maximum donation towards Educational Aid.

SPECIAL FEATURES :

- ◆ Uniform Distribution around 1,300 students.
- ◆ Financial Assistance to 6 College students.
- ◆ Active participation against the delimitation exercise.
- ◆ Release of Glossy calender 2008.
- ◆ Arranging Tuitions for seven +2 students through our efforts
- ◆ Opening a Laboratory at very low charges in association with Kanchi Sankara Foundation.

Programmes 2007 - 2008

8.7.2007	<i>Education Aid - Distribution of Uniforms to School Children</i>
9.7.2007	<i>Inauguration of P.V.R.S. Memorial Lab</i>
15.8.2007	[<i>Independence Day Celebration</i> <i>Eye Camp</i>]
11.9.2007	<i>Bharatiyar Ninaivanjali - Oratorical Competition</i>
2.10.2007	[<i>Gandhi Jayanthi</i> <i>Diabetes Camp</i>]
3.11.2007	[<i>Child Fest</i>]
4.11.2007	
26.1.2008	<i>Republic Day</i>
24.2.2008	<i>Diabetes Camp</i>
2.3.2008	<i>RCC - Old cloth collection</i>
23.3.2008	<i>Triplicane Magalir Vizha</i>

HEALTH

இரத்தப் பரிசோதனை மையம்

With the blessings of Lord and with the help and guidance of Kanchi Sankara Foundation, we have made one significant step forward. Apart from running medical centre providing free consultation, a full fledged clinical laboratory has started functioning in our premises effective from 9th July 2007. Very nominal fees for the tests are charged and only 50% of these fees are charged to the medical centre patients.

The Lab is named after Sri. P.V. Rama Iyengar & Smt. Suganthavalli – whose family members have donated funds and medical equipments for the lab. We are thankful to Dr Sridhar and Kanchi Sankara Foundation for their continued support and guidance. The functioning of the lab was made possible by the active involvement, advice and direct help rendered by the renowned physician Dr K Sridhar.

We also place on record our thanks to Mr KV Kumar (KVK Builders) Mr Rajagopal of RR Construction and Rajamani who have helped us to construct the necessary infrastructure for this lab. With your continued support & patronage, we are sure we can further our commitment in betterment of the society.

EYE CAMP

On 15-8-2007, at Sirvi Samaj Bhavan, SYMA in association with Sankara Eye Hospital, Pammal, Lions club of Chennai Venus, Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara Medical Trust and Sirvi Samaj Bhavan organized a free eye camp for detection of cataract. The camp was inaugurated by a great sportsperson TA Sekar. Sekar as a tearway speedster had don Indian colours both in Tests and in ODIs in the early 1980s. He is a level 4 coach and now heads the MRF Pace foundation which is churning out quality pace bowlers for International teams. He impressed everyone with his modesty and straight talk.

Affable and person close to our heart – Dr Sridhar also spoke on the occasion. Around 140 people were screened; 15 persons were identified for cataract surgery. They were taken to Pammal Sankara Eye Hospital and free surgery performed for removal of cataract. We also provided free eye glasses for 30 persons diagnosed in the camp.

We are thankful to Lions Club of Chennai Venus which borne the camp expenses and to the doctors and other staff of Pammal Sankara Eye Hospital for their presence, kindness and medical treatment to the patients.

DIABETES CAMP

We paid homage to Mahatma by conducting a medical camp on 2-10-2007. This camp is for the detection of diabetes. This camp on Gandhi Jayanthi day was organized by SYMA in association with Kanchi Sankara Foundation & Lions Club of Chennai Venus jointly and was conducted at the KSF Lab at SYMA Medical centre.

Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disorder characterized by high blood sugar levels. It is a condition where the body is unable to utilize and store glucose. Diabetes is the oldest and the most prevalent disorder known to mankind and is more common in middle aged and elderly. However, children and adults are also prone to diabetes.

The camp was aimed at raising the awareness of the people and detecting those with this disorder. Our volunteers teamed up and the registration was a neat process. 110 residents turned up. Urine analysis and blood test (both Fasting & PP) were conducted free of cost at our own KSF Lab.

Experts from Dr V Seshiah Diabetes Care & Research Institute provided consultation. 38 were identified as having this disorder and follow up treatment provided to them.

It was good to see many volunteers, particularly youth teaming up for the social service. We are thankful to Dr Madhuri Balaji and her team for the consultation and to all our associates in making this a success.

DIABETES AWARENESS CAMP

On 24 2 08, SYMA in association with Kanchi Sankara Foundation conducted a diabetic awareness and detection camp in front of Sri Parthasarathi Swami temple. Around 130 persons were screened in random blood sugar check up. 15 persons were found afflicted with Diabetes. The KSF Lab functioning at SYMA Medical centre (Unit-III of SKKSMT) will further monitor those identified as diabetic.

For the facility of the patients, we have introduced new prepaid cards priced at Rs. 100/- . Those buying these cards can have check up for blood / urine (both fasting & PP) four times in a year. Though the cost is very low, we are introducing this for the benefit of poor and needy patients who regularly throng our medical centre.

We place on record our thanks to Dr Madhuri S Balaji and her team from Dr Seshiah Diabetes Care.

EDUCATION

DISTRIBUTION OF UNIFORMS

The uniform distribution function was a grandiose function – neatly organized and smartly done. On 8th of July 2007, there was hectic activity at the house where Mahakavi Subrahmanya Bharathiyar once lived. The function started on time with the invocation of God. Our President TJ Ramani welcomed the gathering. Our Vice President TA Sampathkumar compered the event.

Nawab Mohammed Ali, His Highness the Prince of Arcot, a well known social activist, was our Chief Guest. Rajesh B Lakhoni, the commissioner was the guest of honour. This suave, young person is an engineer of IIT Mumbai and has served in various districts as Collector. The Clinical lab of Kanchi Sankara Foundation was inaugurated on the podium and the donors for the lab were honoured.

Rajesh Lakhoni gave a thought provoking speech citing a moral story. His speech was heard with rapt attention. Nawab Mohammed Ali made a very impressive speech recalling his lineage and their contributions. He praised SYMA for being in the forefront of social service in this area.

SYMA over the years has been appreciating and recognizing those who have been making a difference to the society by their deeds by presenting SYMA Sewa awards. Mr Muniraj Pandith, who has been associated with Home Guards, Indian Red Cross, Dept. of Youth Affairs & Sports was the recipient this year.

SYMA recognized him more for his role in the guidance to the youth of Krishnampet under the aegis of D3 Police Boys Club. The citation was read by our Secretary R Vijayaraghavan and award given by the Nawab. Vote of thanks was rendered by S Sampathkumar.

We have been honouring the toppers of various schools in Triplicane by giving Medal, Certificate & Cash awards. The school toppers were honoured on stage. We place on record our thanks to Mr TA Ramachandran for instituting award to school toppers in memory of his mother Rajalakshmi Padmanabhan. Educational aid to college students was distributed on stage by the Chief Guest and uniforms to school children were also distributed. This year we have distributed around 1300 uniforms to economically poor students.

We wish to place on record our deep sense of gratitude for all those without whose help we will not be in a position to serve the society in this magnitude. No words would be enough to praise the organization which has been helping us in this service – Rajasthan Cosmo Club. We look forward to having continued association with RCC.

We are thankful to Sri Venkata Subramanian, the young advocate for the huge donation, Sri Bala of Mangal Tirth Foundations, Shri Mukund and various other donors. The dedicated work of our volunteers both in collection and in service deserve praise, especially J Venkatesan who has been collecting the maximum amount. We place on record our thanks to all those who donated – employees of Citi Bank, Royal Sundaram & others. We also thank Ramprasad of Citi Bank for the brochures, Gemini Tailors, the young volunteers of Kellet Higher Sec. School, BRP Sarathy for the coordination with school toppers, our members SR Raghunathan & KV Srinivasan for arranging the Chief Guests. NKT Boys High School for providing place on various occasions, the staff and PRO Mr Veerasamy of Bharathiar Illam, our electrician Varadhan and our various other volunteers who took care of minute aspects ensuring proper conduct of the function. Special mention of the work of D Veeraraghavan and the family members of our Secretary Mr R Seshadri whose house was the centre of the distribution activity.

SYMA thanks all those good-hearted persons involved in our attempt to do something for the school children to attend school with dignity.

This year we have right earnestly taken up the cause of coaching +2 students by eminent teachers in major subjects. We thank Sri. Senthil Kumar for helping us in this matter. Next Year we propose to broaden the scheme so as to benefit atleast 20 students.

CHILD FEST 2007

The first week of November 2007 (3rd and 4th to be precise) saw children attend in large numbers. Yes the festivity was Child Fest of SYMA. This annual fete is immensely popular amongst school and school children of the City. This year around 4500 students from around 100 schools participated.

As all are well aware, we have been in the field of Social service for more than 3 decades, striving for betterment of society. Our aim has been to inculcate good qualities to children thereby making them become responsible citizens. Child Fest is one such attempt aimed at imbibing in them the skill sets, confidence and more importantly competitiveness.

We provide a competitive platform for the young citizens to showcase their talents in various fields. There are competitions in the disciplines of Singing, Dancing, Fancy Dress and knowledge. This year we after rounds of deliberations decided to exclude dance competition for the school children of higher classes as the cultural values were seemingly eroding in such a show.

On Saturday, the programme got off to an auspicious start with Mr. R. Seshadri, Regional Manager, G.M. Pens, inaugurating the function by lighting the kuthu vilakku. Singing competitions followed at the main Sudarshan hall. Then we had the drawing competition for the higher classes of 6th to 12th standard. Students of 8th & 9th drew on the caption Uses of Forests, while it was Vision of Nehru for the students of 11th & 12th.

At 11.30 it was written preliminary for the two groups of Quiz. There was good participation from schools vying to claim the honours in the knowledge show. Each school was represented by a team consisting of two and four schools reached the finals which was a grand show in the main hall. There were quite a few enthralled audience for the Quiz this time which gave us some sense of satisfaction. The Quiz was conducted by the team of Mr Sridhar Joshi, Sundar & Rajaraman. The concluding question was of great relevance and significance to our organization. It was the picture of a bird asked to be identified. Any wild guesses?

Well the name of the bird was Syma. It is a genus of a bird in the Alcedinidae family containing the species of Mountain kingfisher and yellowbilled kingfisher.

Then followed the competition for which children in large numbers turned up in a motley of colours and variety of attires representing Gods, freedom fighters and more. It was truly a pleasing sight to see so many children in different costumes.

In a surprise deviation from the customary, the prize distribution for some of the events was organized in the first day itself. We are thankful to the distinguished guests –Mr. R. Seshadri of G.M. Pens for inaugurating the function. Cine actress Ms Rohini & Dr. Anuradha Ramana for gracing the occasion and giving away the prizes on the 1st day.

Sunday saw presence of a very high turn out, despite inclement weather and some heavy showers. The participation for drawing is increasing every year and we strain our every sinew to cope up with increasing volumes. We then had the Singing competition finals and the Dancing competition for students of LKG to 5th standard.

The prize distribution function started off at 5.30pm. The Prize Distribution function on the second day was embellished by the suave Ms Supriya Sahu, IAS, Ms Mahathi, famous singer and the affable entertainer Bosski.

Whilst Bosski engrossed the audience with a witty deliverance, Ms Mahathi rendered some mellifluous songs. The Chief Guest Ms Supriya Sahu made an emphatic speech, telling the children a thought provoking story of a bird in the hands of a youngster.

The greatness of any organization does not depend on its antiquity but more on its continuity. We owe our continued organizing Child Fest for almost 20 years now to many Organisations and individuals who have been supporting us in our various ventures. This is not a mere formal thanks giving and hence we always make it a point to put before the audience, those without whose efforts and assistance this grand show would have been possible. Come November there are heavy rains and the efforts of our volunteers are indeed laudable – specific mention to R Kannan, TAS, Raghu, SRP, Veeraraghavan and many others who have been the backbone and have rendered services in great measure without putting them in the forefront. It is the selfless attitude and efforts of many like them, which makes SYMA unique and enables smooth conduct of events of such large magnitude.

We are thankful to Soundarya Rathnamala Isai Kuzhu and Mrs Prema Krishnamohan for the great assistance in control and coordination. Old order changeth, yielding place to new. Presently a bunch of youngsters are helping us in our activities which also means that the average age of the SYMA is getting younger. Many thanks to the young volunteers of Kellett and NKT National Boys High Schools. We place on record our appreciation and thanks to Mrs Vasudha Bakthisaran for attending to tele enquiries. Our thanks are due to Capt. Zahed Hussain and other cadets of 1 TN Infantry Battallion of NCC.

We place on record our gratitude to our sponsors – Shri Murali of Sree Krishna Sweets; Shri Bala of Mangal Tirth Estates, ITC – Greeting Cards and Stationery division, Reynolds and Arun Ice cream.

We have to thank the Principal, Headmistress, Management and especially the Staff of NKT National Girls High School for providing us the place and helping us in so many ways. Though there was depression in the bay and it rained heavily, the arena was kept useable thanks to the Sanitary staff.

We thank the Schools and parents of all students who enthusiastically participated in the Child Fest upholding the principles of competitive participation. Thanks are due to Mr Kumaresan for the brochures, CR Sridhar of Media Associates and Swaraj Graphics Mani. We thank Mr Saranyan for the catering and serving of food at the venue; Mr Ramesh for the stage, Mr M Cheran, MC for the barricades and electrician, Mr Varadhan. Our thanks are also to Mr Sridhar Joshi & Sundar for conducting the Quiz and to all the distinguished Judges who selected the best of the entries that were on show. We thank photographer Mr Selvakumar, the Newspaper & Press (especially The Hindu) and D 3 Police Station for ensuring proper conduct of the show.

OTHERS

FIGHT FOR TRIPLICANE CONSTITUENCY

Under Article 82 of the Constitution, the Parliament Byelaw enacts a Delimitation Act after every census. The Government has launched an exercise of redrawing of constituencies Alas! the age old Triplicane could be no more! We are oppose to the proposal to distribute the constituency among Chepauk, Mylapore, and T.Nagar Constituencies.

On 22.5.2007, there was a public hearing at Senate hall in the presence of Commission chairman Kuldeep Singh and Chief Election Commissioner N Gopalaswamy organized by the Delimitation Commission.

Public, political parties, and religious leaders appealed to the commission reiterating the need for retention of age old constituency. It was made out before the forum that Chepauk was carved out of Triplicane in the 1970s; this constituency housed mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, poet Bharathiar, freedom fighters Kothai Nayagi and Satyamurty, Silambu Selvar Ma Po Si, Tamil thatha U Ve Swaminatha Ayyar among others.

Our president also spoke on the need for retaining the constituency and submitted a strongly worded letter.

Recently on 13th Aug the Delimitation commission of India has issued a notification in pursuance of the Delimitation Act 2002 delimiting Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the State.

Going by the Order No. 52, the assembly constituency 19 is now "Chepauk- Thiruvallikeni" consisting of ward nos.79, 81 to 93, 95 and 111. This constituency will now entirely fall under Parliament constituency 4-Chennai Central consisting of Villivakkam, Egmore ,Harbour, Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni, Thousand Lights and Anna Nagar.

We can draw solace from the fact that the name still lingers on and interestingly the Commission has mentioned the name as Tiruvallikkeni (in Tamil) and not Triplicane.

பாரதிக்கு ஒரு நினைவாஞ்சலி

எப்பதம் வாய்த்திடுமேனும் நம்மில் யாவார்க்கும் அந்நிலை பொதுவாகும். உலகத் தொழிலனைத்தும் உவந்து செய்வோம் என முழங்கி தேர்ந்தவர் போற்றும் பரத நிலத் தேவி துவஜம் சிறப்புற வாழ்த்திய மஹாகவி வாழ்ந்த புனித இடத்தில் வாழ்வது நம் பாக்கியம். 1882ல் பிறந்து, குறுகிய காலத்தில் சாதனைகள் பல செய்து சுதந்திர தாகத்தை பரப்பி 1921ல் நம் மண்ணிலிருந்து மறைந்த அந்த தீர்க்கதரிசிக்கு நினைவாஞ்சலியாக நாம் பிரதி வருடமும் விழா நடத்தி வருகிறோம்.

இந்த வருடம் 11.9. 2007 அன்று நிகழ்ச்சிகள் மகாகவி வாழ்ந்த இல்லத்தில் சிறப்புற நடந்தேறின. மாலை 3 மணிக்கு கல்லூரி மற்றும் பள்ளி மாணவ மாணவியரிடையே 'வையத் தலைமை கொள்' என்ற தலைப்பில் பேச்சுப் போட்டி நடைபெற்றது. இதில் பேச்சாளர்கள் சிறப்பாக தாங்கள் பாரதியாரின் மேல்கொண்ட பற்றினை வெளிப்படுத்தின. பேராசிரியர் திரு. அப்துல் ரசாக், அப்துல் காதர் மற்றும் ஸ்ரீசதீஷ்குமார் சமன் செய்து சீர்தூக்கி வெற்றியாளர்களை தேர்ந்தெடுத்தனர். கல்லூரிகளுக்கு இடையே நடந்த பேச்சுப்போட்டியில் திரு. ஏ.பி.ராஜா, மதறாஸ் பல்கலைக்கழகம் முதல் பரிசினையும், இரண்டாவது பரிசினை சை. யுவவஸ், மீனாட்சி அம்மாள் பல் மருத்துவக்கல்லூரி, அவர்களும் பெற்றனர். பள்ளி மாணவ,மாணவிகளுக்கான போட்டியில் முதல் பரிசினை யு. ராதாவும் (சிவாலயா மகாகவி பாரதியார் பள்ளி), இரண்டாம் பரிசினை ஜி.மானஸாவும், (கோலப்பெருமாள் செட்டி வைஷ்ணவ பள்ளி) மூன்றாவது பரிசினை ஓ.தயாளனும் (சிவாலயா மகாகவி பாரதியார் பள்ளி) நான்காம் பரிசினை ஏ.சங்கீதாவும் (சிவாலயா மகாகவி பாரதியார் பள்ளி) பெற்றனர்.

மாலை 5.30 மணிக்கு இந்து சீனியர் செகண்டரி பள்ளி மாணவிகள் நாட்டிய நாடகம் விருந்தாக அளித்தனர். பிறகு நடைபெற்ற 'எடுத்த காரியம் யாவினும் வெற்றி' என்ற தலைப்பில் நடந்த கருத்தரங்கில் திரு. மணிகண்டன், திரு.வெங்கட்ஜி, திரு. இல. கணேசன் கலந்து கொண்டு சிறப்புரையாற்றினர். பெருந்திரளாக மக்கள் கலந்து கொண்டு மகாகவிக்கு நினைவாஞ்சலி செலுத்தினர்.

திருவல்லிக்கேணி மகளிர் விழா - 2008

சௌந்தர்ய ரத்னமாலா இசைக்குழுவுடன் இணைந்து திருவல்லிக்கேணி மகளிர் விழா 2008 பாரதியார் இல்லத்தில் 23.3.2008 அன்று நடைபெற்றது. இதில் மகளிருக்கான பல்வேறு போட்டிகள், பெண் மருத்துவ நிபுணர்களுடன் நேருக்கு நேர் போன்ற நிகழ்ச்சிகள் நடைபெற்றன.

காலை 8 மணி முதல் நடைபெற்ற இவ்விழாவில் சிறப்பு விருந்தினர்களாக திருமதி சாவித்திரி வைத்தி, (விஷ்ராந்தி) திருமதி ஆர் லலிதா லக்ஷ்மி, (Deputy Commissioner of Police) ஆகியோர் கலந்து கொண்டு போட்டிகளில் வெற்றி பெற்றோருக்கு பரிசுகளை வழங்கினார்கள்.

கோலப்போட்டி, தவணோதஸ்வ பங்களாவில் நடைபெற உதவிய இணை ஆணையர், ஸ்ரீபார்த்தசாரதி ஸ்வாமி திருக்கோயில் மற்றும் பாரதியார் இல்ல நிர்வாகிகளுக்கு எங்கள் நன்றியைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறோம். இந்த விழாவிற்கு நிதி உதவி புரிந்த M/s. வாசவி பில்டர்ஸ், திரு. ஆர். கண்ணன், திரு. TAS ஆகியோருக்கு எங்கள் நன்றியைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறோம்.

OLD CLOTHES COLLECTION

SYMA collected old clothes from amongst the residents of Triplicane going on a street to street campaign on 2nd March 08. Around 20 volunteers participated. One truck load of clothes collected were handed over to Rajasthan Cosmo Club.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Nation's 60th Independence Day was celebrated with pomp and gaiety with patriotic fervour. Early in the day our volunteers teamed up near our Centre. The function started with a patriotic song rendered mellifluously by Soundarya Rathnamala Isai Kuzhu. Mr K Hariharan, Secretary, Sri Parthasarathi Swamy Sabha hoisted the flag and addressed the gathering.

REPUBLIC DAY

The Nation's Republic Day was celebrated at our Medical Centre on 26-1-2008. The National Flag was hoisted by D.C., Sri Parthasarathy Swami Temple, Sri. P. Jayaraman in the presence of Sri Krishnan President, Tamil Sangam, Calicut. Sri Rajagopal of R R Construction also participated

OUR SINCERE THANKS

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE :

- ◆ We take this opportunity to thank all the office bearers and committee members for their unstinted co-operation.

AUDIT :

- ◆ Our Auditor Mr. Murali of A.V. Devan & Co., has always stood by us and also offered advices wherever necessary. We take this opportunity to thank him.

MEDIA :

- ◆ Our sincere thanks to Mr. K.V. Srinivasan, Mr. S.R. Raghunathan, for extending their help in arranging coverage of our functions in the media.
- ◆ Our sincere thanks to 'The Hindu', Downtown, Dinamalar, Daily Thanthi, Dina mani, News Today, Deccan Chronicle, Chepauk Malar or publishing exclusive coverage on activities of our association.

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK :

- ◆ Our thanks are also due to Mr. K.S. Varadarajan, Mr. D. Sudarshan, Mr. K. Kesavan Swaraj Graphics & Sansar Printers for helping us in printing, typing and taking copies etc.,
- ◆ A special mention to our Treasurers, Mr. K. Kesavan and Mr. M.A. Sadagopan for their extraordinary work.

VOLUNTEERS :

- ◆ We thank the students of Kellett High School, N.K.T. Boys High School, and all those who assisted us in all our Programmes. We request more and more of your help.
- ◆ We thank all those helping at our Medical Centre Sri Venkatesh, Sri. D. Saranathan and others.

SPECIAL THANKS :

- ◆ We thank all our sponsors for extending timely assistance to all our projects.
- ◆ Our special thanks to Sri Parthasarathy Swami Temple authorities for giving us an opportunity to maintain the Temple Tank.
- ◆ We also thank Mr. Sridhar of Lucas TVS, Mr. A.V. Kasturirangan, Mr. S.R.Parthasarathy, Mr. D.V. Raghavan for their co-operation.

BLISS :

- ◆ We place on our record our sincere thanks to Sri. S. Sampathkumar, Editor Bliss, Swaraj Graphics, Sansar Printers for their unstinted cooperation in bringing out the BLISS in a grand manner. We thank Sri. J. Venkatesan, Kumaran Dresses for their sponsorship for the BLISS.

OBITUARY

With Deep regret we inform our members of the untimely death of our following members / well wishers during the year 2007 - 2008

1. Dr. K. Seetha
2. Sri. K.E. Raghavan
3. Sri. K. Soundararajan (a) Jayaraman
4. Sri. P.R. Gopinath
5. Sri. K.N. Muralidharan
6. Sri P.B. Srirangachari

We vividly remember their services to our association.
