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OF THE WORLD...”**

RID 3291, Zone-16
Rotary
Garden Reach



2343rd RWM

**Rotary Garden Reach,
RI District 3291**



**VOCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE AWARDS**



**SERVICE
ABOVE SELF**



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Greetings on Birthday

Jan 28th : Ayush, Son of Rtn. Tamal G Roy

Anniversary Greetings

Jan 28th : Spouse Arundhati & PP Tanu Roy
Jan 31st : Spouse Kanika & Rtn. Dr. Subrata Lahiri
Spouse Priyanka & IPP Biswajit Saha

Rtn. Paul Percy Harris: A Vision that continues to 'Unite the World' On the 79th Death Anniversary of the Founder of Rotary International

On this solemn and reflective day, as Rotarians across continents observe the 79th Death Anniversary of Paul Percy Harris, we pause to honour not merely the founder of Rotary International, but the enduring vision of a man who believed that **friendship, service, and ethical leadership could become instruments of peace.**

Paul Percy Harris was not driven by ambition for recognition or power. He was driven by a quiet conviction—that when people of diverse professions and cultures come together in goodwill, they can uplift communities and transform societies. In an era marked by industrial change and social divide, Harris imagined a fellowship that would rise above differences and dedicate itself to the common good.

A Simple Beginning, A Global Movement

In 1905, in Chicago, Harris brought together a small group of professionals to foster friendship and mutual understanding. What began as a modest gathering soon evolved into a global movement that today spans more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Rotary’s remarkable growth stands as testimony to the timeless relevance of Harris’ belief that **service grounded in fellowship can transcend borders.**

The Essence of Paul P Harris' Vision

What distinguished Paul P Harris was his unwavering faith in people. He understood that peace is not achieved solely through declarations or diplomacy, but through **consistent acts of service**, ethical conduct, and respect for human dignity. He saw professional excellence not as an end in itself, but as a means to serve society responsibly.

Harris envisioned Rotarians as ambassadors of goodwill—individuals who would carry Rotary’s values into their professions, communities, and nations. His belief that “the world changes, and Rotary must change with it” remains a guiding principle as Rotary continues to respond to evolving global challenges.

Why Rotary International Endures

Rotary International is special because it remains true to its founding spirit while embracing the future. Its strength lies in:

- **Local action with global impact**
- **Unity in diversity**
- **Service above Self as a lived commitment**

From the near-eradication of polio to initiatives in peace building, education, disease prevention, water, sanitation, and economic development, Rotary continues to demonstrate that collective service, guided by ethical leadership, can create lasting change.

A Legacy of Peace and Hope

Paul P Harris once reflected, **“The greatest reward for one’s toil is not what one gets for it, but what one becomes by it.”**

Seventy-nine years after his passing, his legacy lives on in every Rotary club meeting, every service project, and every life touched by Rotary’s work. His dream of a world united by service and friendship continues to inspire generations of Rotarians to build bridges of understanding and spread hope where it is needed most.

On this day of remembrance, we reaffirm our commitment to the ideals he cherished—**peace, fellowship, ethical service, and compassion**—and pledge to carry forward his vision with renewed purpose.

Paul Percy Harris lives on—in Rotary, and in the hearts of Rotarians everywhere.



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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Rotary Peace Fellowships: The role of Rotary members

'It has been a treasure'

As a supporter and active participant with the Rotary Peace Fellowships program, Carol Fellows has met many promising peacemakers. "There is no greater need for our world than for people who work for true peace with justice," Fellows says. She and her husband, Tim Bewley, are Arch Klumph Society members, designating their giving to support fellowships to the Rotary Peace Centers. "It has been a treasure and delight to identify and lift up for consideration potential fellows. The lives of our club and committee members are changed from the experience of meeting these incredible individuals and following their careers," she says.



Rotary's commitment to peace and the generosity of Rotary members around the world combine to make the Rotary Peace Centers program distinctive and successful.

Rotary awards up to 170 funded fellowships a year for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our eight peace centres. The Rotary Foundation partners with premier universities to offer master's degrees and professional development certificates in disciplines related to peace and development.

Clubs and districts have the power to shape the next generation of peace leaders both by recruiting and recommending peace fellows, and by keeping them engaged during and after their fellowships.

Every Rotary year, district governors appoint a District Rotary Peace Fellowship Subcommittee Chair to oversee Rotary Peace Fellowship promotion, recruitment, and engagement throughout the district. The

subcommittee chairs can appoint subcommittee members to support recruitment of qualified candidates within their district and provide information to prospective candidates about how to apply. Subcommittee members help promote the fellowship program to club members and community organizations.

Clubs and districts can provide a recommendation as part of a candidate's application prior to submission. Educate candidates about Rotary and invite them to club meetings and activities. Help them prepare for the application process. All applications and recommendations are submitted in English.

Clubs and districts are not required to provide student funding to recruit and recommend candidates. Rotary Peace Fellowships are funded by The Rotary Foundation to cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and internship and field-study expenses.

Rotary and Rotaract members can get involved in the following ways:

Recruit candidates

- Promote the Rotary Peace Fellowships to qualified candidates using the resources below.
- Encourage peace and development leaders from your community to apply.
- Meet with candidates to help them decide which program best matches their interests, experience, and goals.
- Refer potential candidates so they receive more information on how to apply.

Support candidates

- ✓ Help candidates prepare a competitive application. Provide feedback on resumes and essays as they work on their application.
- ✓ Ask candidates to participate in club and district activities to learn more about Rotary.
- ✓ Volunteer to submit a club or district recommendation.
- ✓ Instruct candidates to submit online applications to The Rotary Foundation by 15 May. All applications are considered final upon submission. All materials must be in English.
- ✓ Submitted applications are reviewed by Rotary Peace Centers staff. All qualified applications move forward for further consideration.
- ✓ Together with our partner universities, the Rotary Peace Centers Committee selects finalists and alternates in October, and candidates receive results in November.

Engage fellows

- Invite current fellows or alumni to speak at club meetings and participate in activities.
- Work with fellows on peace-building projects or support their initiatives with district grants.

Eligibility

Rotary Peace Fellowships may not be used for doctoral study. You are not eligible for the fellowship if you are:

- ❖ An active Rotary member or a Rotaract member who is also a Rotary member*



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- ❖ An employee of a Rotary club or district, Rotary International, or another Rotary entity
- ❖ A spouse, lineal descendant (child or grandchild by blood or legal adoption), spouse of a lineal descendant, or the parent or grandparent by blood of any living person in the previous categories
- ❖ A former Rotary member or their relative as described above, within 36 months of the member's resignation

***Rotaract club members who are not also Rotary club members are eligible to apply.**

Rotary Peace Fellows who have completed the certificate program, the master's program, or a Global Grant Scholarship must wait three years between the end date of that program and their intended start date for the fellowship.

Master's candidates must have a gap of at least three years between the completion of their most recent academic degree program (undergraduate or graduate degree) and their intended start date for the fellowship. Any candidate currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program, or who will be enrolled in the upcoming academic year, is not eligible to apply for either the master's degree or professional development certificate program.

Selvakumar — as 'Tailor Bro'

After losing his sister to poverty, Selvakumar — fondly known as 'Tailor Bro' — has spent 18 years empowering women across Tamil Nadu. He has trained 4.6 lakh learners and helped thousands start their own tailoring businesses, all for just Re 1.

In Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district lives a man who turned his deepest personal loss into a mission that now shapes the lives of thousands of women. His name is Selvakumar, but across the state, lakhs know him simply as '**Tailor Bro**'.

For the past 18 years, he has been offering one month of tailoring training for just Re. 1, helping women break free from poverty, stand on their own feet, and earn a dignified livelihood. The initiative was born out of a personal tragedy — the loss of his sister, who died by suicide after poverty left her with no way to survive.

Selvakumar, now 47, says he began this work so that no woman would ever be pushed to such despair again. Whether it is women living in poverty, women with disabilities, or trans-women facing severe hardships, he has used tailoring as a tool to rebuild lives.

Because of his work, people fondly call him **Anna (brother)**. Many also know him as Tailor Bro.

Every day, Selvakumar trains 50 women at his small shop. He also teaches many more online through his 'Tailor Bro' YouTube channel, which has become a lifeline for beginners across India.

A sister lost to poverty; thousands of sisters gained through purpose

"I am from Virudhunagar. My family was my mother, an elder brother, and a younger sister. When I was a child, my father left us, and my mother supported us by doing tailoring work. From a young age, I helped her. By the time I was 16, I was working full-time as a tailor. With my income, I helped my brother study BE Mechanical Engineering, and I educated my sister till Class 12 before getting her married."

He recalls how his sister once wanted to learn tailoring too.

"My sister often asked me to teach her tailoring. But I wanted her to go for other work or studies, so I didn't teach her. After her marriage, her husband became addicted to alcohol, and the family fell into deep poverty. One day, suddenly, she drank poison and died. In her suicide note, she wrote about the poverty they faced and added that if she had learnt tailoring, she might have survived."

Reading the note filled Selvakumar with guilt and pain that still stays with him.

"I felt I failed to save my own sister. That day, I decided that no woman should die because of poverty. Whether a husband leaves her or the family is poor, women should be able to earn on their own, stand on their own feet, and run their families





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without depending on anyone. They should have income in their hands and earn it through respectful work. That is why I teach tailoring for just one rupee.”

A one-rupee training that is changing thousands of lives

Selvakumar’s classes run from 10 am to 5 pm, six days a week. Using his own income, he provides free lunch, tea, and personal guidance to all his students.

He says, “My goal is to create one crore tailors. I train 50 women in each batch. I did not complete any fashion design course; I just completed Class 10. But I can make designs like professional fashion designers, jackets, shirts, and blouses, and I teach all these to my students.”

His impact goes well beyond training.

“For women who learn from me but struggle to open their own shop, I buy sewing machines myself. Each machine costs between Rs. 22,000 and Rs. 30,000. I have set up 57 shops so far, including 17 for trans-women. Of the women who have trained with me, 42,000 have opened their own tailoring shops. I have documented this based on their shop inauguration invitations. Most women who come here are extremely poor. Among them, around 40% are persons with disabilities, and about 5% are men.”

A digital classroom with 1.55 million subscribers

Selvakumar’s mission grew even larger when he took his lessons online.

“My YouTube channel has over 1.55 million subscribers. With the income I receive from the channel, I conduct mass training programmes twice a month for 100–200 people in community halls. In the past 18 years, I have trained 4.6 lakh people directly. My YouTube videos have been watched by 41 lakh new viewers, so I estimate that around 40 lakh people have learned tailoring through my videos.”

This digital presence has made tailoring education accessible to women in remote villages, those who cannot travel or afford formal training.

“My dream is to teach tailoring to one crore women and make them financially independent. Because of this goal, I have not celebrated Diwali, Pongal, or any festival for the past 18 years. I couldn’t save my own sister, but I will guide and support all the sisters who come to learn from me. I will not let them fall.”

He adds, “My mother, Devaki, is now 68. The skill she taught me when I was young is now changing the lives of thousands. My mother, my wife, and my daughters are my support. I will not stop until I train one crore people.”

From daily struggle to financial stability: Jeevitha's journey

One of the many women whose lives changed through Selvakumar’s programme is Jeevitha from Taramani, Chennai.

She shares, “I am married and have two sons. With no housing available, we were forced to build a small temporary hut on encroached government land. My husband is a daily-wage labourer, and because his income was low, we lived in deep poverty.”

She says learning tailoring transformed her life.

“I learned tailoring and opened my own shop with Selvakumar Anna’s help. Today, I employ two women in my shop. From living in a hut illegally, I am now living in a proper rented house. Even though my husband’s income is low, my earnings are enough to run the family and educate my children. Tailoring changed everything for me, and the reason is Anna.”

Her story mirrors thousands of others.

Selvakumar lost one sister many years ago. Today, countless sisters live with dignity because of him. They continue to lovingly call him Anna—and his mission carries on, stitch by stitch, life by life.

Women looking to learn tailoring and earn from home can start for free through Selvakumar’s Tailor Bro YouTube channel and Instagram.



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Finding belonging, purpose, hope in Rotary after a loss

Tia Coppus, Assistant Governor and member of the Rotary Cary-Kildaire, North Carolina, RID 7710

Sometimes there are moments in life that shift everything. Some of you may have experienced one, and some of you may not have yet. But when it happens, you feel it deep in your soul. For me, that moment came through Rotary.

In October of 2021, I lost my husband to cancer. After months of caretaking during COVID, the silence that followed was overwhelming. Seven days after his passing, a dear friend — someone I'd first met through Rotary — called me and said, "You need to come next Thursday for dinner. We want to see you."



At that point, I hadn't been out much in almost 19 months. I was emotionally drained, uncertain how to re-enter the world. My thoughts raced: What if I'm not okay? What if I break down in front of people? What if I bring everyone else down?

There were days when I'd simply sit in the car with the sunroof open, driving with no destination, just trying to breathe. But something about that invitation tugged at me. Maybe I needed connection more than I realized. So, I decided to show up.

When I walked into that Rotary dinner, I didn't know what to expect. I hadn't seen my club in so long, and I was nervous. Vulnerable. Unsure if I'd be able to hold it together. But before I could even sit down, a woman I had never met

wrapped her arms around me and said, "Welcome! We're so glad you're here."

She had joined the club during those 19 months I'd been away, and yet her hug felt like it came from someone who had known me forever. It was genuine, immediate, and healing.

In that moment, surrounded by familiar faces and new friends, I realized something profound: I wasn't alone.

All around me were people who had been part of my life's journey in ways both big and small. There were Rotarians who had sung Christmas carols in my driveway during the pandemic, just to bring joy to my family when I couldn't leave the house. There were those who had organized a fundraiser to send my husband on a bucket-list trip we never thought possible. There were people who had quietly dropped off meals, sent texts, and checked in — over and over again.

As I sat there that night, I could feel the warmth in that room. No one asked difficult questions or forced conversations. They simply offered presence, compassion, and community. And that was enough.

That evening became what I now call my Rotary moment — the realization that Rotary isn't just about the service projects, fundraisers, and global initiatives we proudly support. It's about the heart behind it all.

We often talk about the difference we make in the world: eradicating polio, fighting hunger, supporting education, and improving access to clean water. But what we sometimes forget is how much Rotary gives back to us, the members.

Rotary gives us belonging. It gives us purpose. And, in my case, it gave me hope.

When I walked into that dinner, I wasn't sure if I was ready to face people again. But when I walked out, I knew I had found a community that would carry me through the darkest moments of my life.

Rotary has a way of doing that — of showing up quietly, lovingly, when you need it most. It reminds you that even when you're the one who's used to giving, it's okay to receive.

So, if you are searching for connection, service, and a place to belong — Rotary might just be the answer. It certainly was for me.

Rotary meetings are the only place where Doctors, Engineers, Teachers, and Entrepreneurs agree on one thing — Service looks good on everyone.





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Minutes of the 2342nd RWM held on January 21st, 2026 at Community Centre, Hastings Court

1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order & requested all members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. After the National Anthem, the members observed a minute of silence to pay their respects to the departed soul of our Charter member, PP Dr. Yash Pal Kohli.
3. The President briefed the house on the successful conduct of the Club Annual Picnic and expressed sincere thanks to Rtn. Debasis Das & Rtn. Abbas Halder for their efforts in organising the picnic smoothly. Rtn. Debasis informed the members that the picnic accounts would be presented in the next RWM.
4. The President then requested PP Tanu Roy to update the house on the preparations for the upcoming Vocational Excellence Awards scheduled to be held on January 27th, 2026 at BNROC. PP Tanu informed that Vocational Service Awards would be conferred on three eminent personalities. He also updated the members about the invitation extended to Rtn Debashis Banerjee, District Vocational Service Chair, to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.
5. The President appraised the house about the proposed Cricket Match with Rotary Calcutta Megacity scheduled for February 8th, 2026. It was discussed that involving two additional Rotary Clubs would make the event more interesting and meaningful. The house agreed to approach two clubs on priority and finalize the schedule at the earliest. It was resolved that an advance amount of 12,500 would be paid to SERSA. The club would initially bear this amount, and upon finalisation of participating teams, the total expenses—would be shared equally by all teams.
6. PP Mousumi Bhattacharyya enquired whether Sanghamitra Vidyalaya could be approached for participation in RYLA. It was decided that necessary meetings would be conducted with the Principal of the school to take the matter forward to a logical conclusion.
7. Secretary PN Shubhayan conducted the club business.
8. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.



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WE MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7.30 P.M. AT B.N.R. OFFICERS' CLUB, GARDEN REACH, KOLKATA - 700 043

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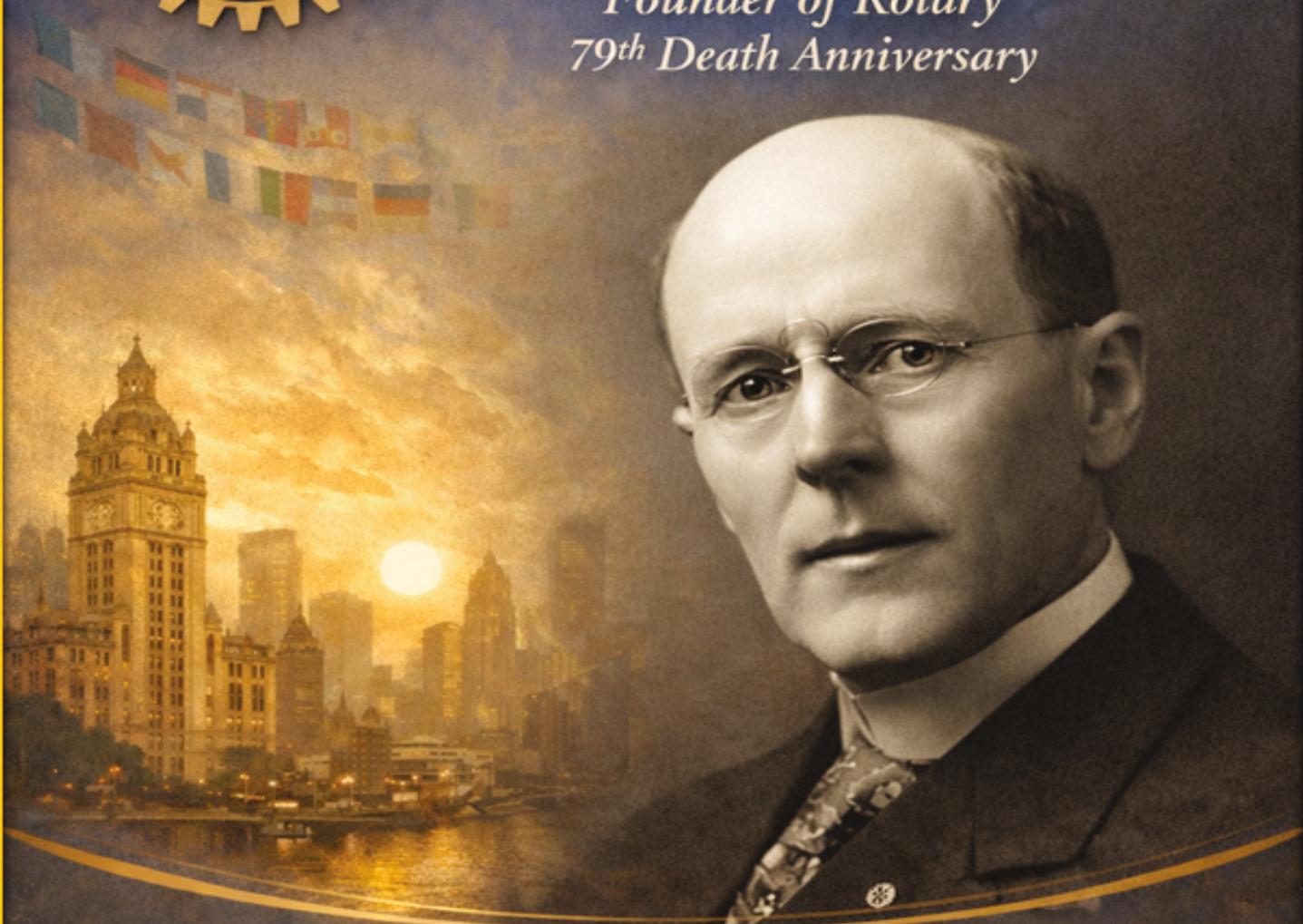


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In Remembrance of
PAUL P. HARRIS

*Founder of Rotary
79th Death Anniversary*



*May our lives touch upon the lives of others for good,
leaving a trail of love and service in our wake."*

— Paul P. Harris —

