



CREATE



in the WORLD

LIGHT

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Rotary International President
RTN. GORDON MCINALLY



District Governor
RTN. HIRA LAL YADAV



Club President
RTN. SHWETA BOSE BARUA



Rotary Garden Reach's 2231st RWM

Attendance last RWM: 40

Birthday Greetings :

Aug 7th : Spouse Shikhadyuti
Wife of PP Kumud Kar



Anniversary Greetings :

Aug 6th : Spouse Ratna & Rtn. Debasis Das

Presidential Message - R Gordon R McInally

Even as we face new and serious challenges, Rotary takes care of its members and those we serve, works to build lasting peace, and embeds belonging and inclusion in everything we do. That is why I am asking everyone in Rotary to Create Hope in the World.



This year, we're prioritizing projects to support mental health. This effort is deeply personal to me. I know what it's like to see someone suffer in silence. I have also witnessed the power of personal connections, the value of discussing emotional and mental well-being, and the lifesaving impact of preventive care and treatment. Research shows that performing acts of kindness is an effective step any of us can take to protect our well-being. And by building peace within, we become more capable of bringing peace to the world. Building peace is the essence of Rotary. Many of our service projects foster the conditions for Positive Peace. We work tirelessly to overcome barriers and create new connections. This year, we'll promote virtual international exchanges for members to strengthen those vital connections.

Peace isn't a dream, and it's not passive. It's the result of working hard, earning trust, and having open conversations that may be difficult. Peace must be waged persistently — and bravely. Everything

we do across our areas of focus has the potential to foster the hope that can make peace possible.

The spirit of connection and purpose should inspire every Rotary member. When club leaders focus on offering an excellent club experience, we retain more members and attract more prospective members. We must make our clubs as welcoming and as engaging as we can.

Our goal is to create a sense of belonging, from our club meetings to our service activities. We need to continue creating inclusive, welcoming environments where everyone can be their authentic selves. All people of action need to be able to imagine a place for themselves in Rotary — it's up to us to ensure they can do so.

Over the next year, I will be putting a focus on continuing our journey in diversity, equity, and inclusion — ensuring that Rotary reflects the communities we serve and continues to take significant steps toward accessing the full range of human talents and experiences, so that we can better serve humanity. And we will continue to empower women and girls by helping them unlock the potential already within them.

As we begin this journey together, I take inspiration from Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, who in the 18th century spoke of all the world becoming kin, promoting "sense and worth, over all the earth." This has long been my call to action, and I share it now with you.

Let us build peace within and spread it freely. Let us create belonging and imagine the future of Rotary afresh. Let us work together joyously and [Create Hope in the World](#).



“The Romance of Rotary in London”

Vivian Carter, Secretary of RIBI, 1921-1928

Almost on the very day on which the foregoing pages were being passed to the printers came the news on the morning radio bulletin that **Paul Harris, Founder of Rotary**, had passed away in his 79th year. Some remarks additional to those very briefly made in Chapter I may not be out of place from the author, who may claim to have enjoyed, during his almost yearly visits to Chicago as Secretary of R.I.B.I., and his residence there as Editor of *The Rotarian*, a very intimate relationship with a personality around whom a certain mystery persists in clinging, which, as the years go on, will inevitably shape into a myth.



About the man himself, I never met a celebrity less conscious of being one, or less concerned to live up to the tradition woven around him. Paul, and his charming, fresh-complexioned, smiling Scottish wife, lived at Morgan Park, a wooded outskirt fourteen miles southwest of Chicago and far from its madding crowds. Like the homes of so many other founders of great movements, that of Paul and Mrs. Harris was of the simplest, most tasteful and comfortable that could be desired. A fancy of his was to sit in a dark corner and listen, and talk - when drawn out - slowly, deliberately and reservedly on almost any topic raised. His philosophy - strange as it may seem to those who associate Rotary with flamboyance and exuberant optimism - was that of a sceptic, and I never succeeded in extracting from him an exact statement of his religious faith.

He gave no encouragement whatever to suggestions, freely made in the twenties, on both sides of the Atlantic, that Rotary was a “spiritual” movement in some way linked up with the churches. No man was fonder of a joke, or fuller of amusing recollections, and his memories of Rotary were memories of an infinite number of personal friends. If Chicago still deserves its reputation for “hustle,” none of its citizens lived up to it less than the founder of Rotary, whose movements, like his speech, were slow, quiet, and unobtrusive. Though one could place him more easily in an old-world English village than the mid-western American metropolis, Paul Harris was immensely proud of Chicago and its phenomenal growth during his long lifetime, and would not stand for slighting remarks at its expense. The suggestion that Rotary might move its home elsewhere was not one he favoured, and it has not been carried out in his lifetime, anyway. Personally, I hope it will not be; for if Rotary is a good thing, why transplant it from its place of origin?

Of Paul Harris, there is one outstanding thing to be said; he never forgot a friend, never failed to respond to a request for help or advice. He put himself to endless pains to help the visitor, especially if it had to do with finding opportunities for service or a house-room in Chicago. He was generous to a fault with letters of introduction, and wrote them in his own handwriting.

As to the perennial question touched on the first chapter of the book, the true origin of Rotary, and whether its Founder ever foresaw its world-wide development, he admitted frankly that it was primarily a fellowship that he conceived the original club.

“I was always a great lover of fun,” he said, “and got an ecstatic joy out of contacts with others. But such things were spontaneous and not part of my serious purpose with Rotary. My sense of the ethical possibilities began to develop early in my experience of fellowship and the fun of the thing, in which I revelled. I numbered among my intimate friends Arthur Sheldon, founder of the School of Business Science, one of the earliest to propagate that Service must be the foundation of all true success in business, and I was influenced by him to some extent. I very soon began to realise that, in the Rotary organisation, we could paint the picture that existed so far only in a sketch.”

Nothing can rob Paul Harris of the credit for the geographical extension of Rotary, for he it was, beyond a doubt, who formed the clubs on the Pacific Coast that were the first to follow Chicago. As is briefly recorded in the book, it was in that more critical atmosphere that the early crudities of the movement were rounded off, and its latent ethical purposes gradually evolved that ultimately became paramount. As Harris put it in the same conversation:

“When it was made known to the world that Rotary was an ethical movement, the true significance of the classification system was realised as it had not been before. We had made a piece of machinery of which we had not foreseen what would be the ultimate use. When we saw it, that the classified man in Rotary should be the interpreter of the ideal of service above self in business and profession, we sought to widen our area in every direction, to get as many clubs as we could organise. When the clubs began to be formed in other countries, then it was seen we had yet a greater mission - as between nation





and nation, people and people, and so it is now developing.”



Of late years Paul Harris had been somewhat of a shadowy figure in Rotary, delivering regularly every year a “Message” to the Convention, through a spokesman, and on occasion only appearing in person. He visited Europe once or twice, and never enjoyed anything more, I believe, than his quiet rambles in rural England, and especially Dickens's England -and London. For one reason only am I consoled that he passed away before paying our city a revisit, and that is because it would surely have broken his heart to see the Temple and some of the Inns in which he, as a lawyer, loved to wander and to meditate, the heap of rubble they are today.

It is to be hoped that the memory of this simple, lovable man, who “showed himself friendly” to all with whom he came into contact, will be fittingly honoured by the movement he founded that men the wide world over may spread his ideals of fellowship and service among all the nations, and that London will not fail to play her full part in that tribute.

Our 1st Rotary Dropout

It was not until the third meeting in 1905 that the original club members decided that the name would be 'Rotary' because the meetings were going to be 'rotated' among the member's offices. There were 15 people at that meeting including the original four.

Those original four were **Silvester Schiele (age 34), Paul Harris (age 36), Gustavus Loehr (age 40), and Hiram Shorey (age 42)**. Of the four, the oldest, Hiram Shorey would attend only two more meetings. He did come back for a few meetings in 1906, but after the fifth meeting Hiram became the first Rotary Dropout.

Why did Hiram dropout? To me it is an interesting question. According to an account of the first meeting all of the men were enthusiastic about the new club and he continued to attend for the next four meetings, so what changed between the first meeting and the fifth?



I don't buy the reasons given when a Rotarian drops out. According to Paul Harris, Hiram left Rotary, “due to circumstances beyond his control.” Almost always the reason given is a 'politically correct' reason that ignores the fact that people do not normally make changes in their life based on one or two factors, but rather have multiple experiences or **dissatisfiers** that lead up to the change of mind.

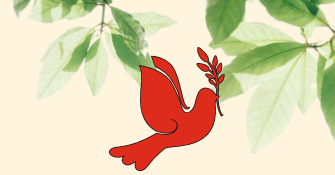
There could have been many issues that dissatisfied Hiram. The first meeting was held at Gus Loehr's office. The second at Paul Harris's office, and the third at Silvester Schiele's office. According to the idea of 'rotating' the meetings it would have seemed likely that the fourth meeting would have been held at Hiram's shop. Rotary history seems to skip over the fourth meeting. What we do know is that the fifth meeting (Hiram's last) was held at a hotel and dinner was served. Is it possible that the issue of the location of the meeting caused Hiram to rethink his enthusiasm about the club? Did something happen at

the fourth meeting that caused him to become disillusioned with Rotary? By the third meeting the club had grown to 15 members. Did that cause Hiram to feel like Rotary wasn't going to be small group of friends?

We will never know what dissatisfiers led to Hiram becoming Rotary's first dropout, but there is a lesson we can take from 105 years ago. Even people who have a strong vested interest in the club and its success can become disillusioned in a matter of a few meetings. It takes extraordinary sensitivity and awareness to address dissatisfiers that may cause a member to leave the club, but it is the only way to help close the back door that members use to slip away from the club.

Ironically, Hiram's short involvement with the club would follow him through the rest of his life. His hometown of Litchfield, Maine has a plaque that notes he was “a Founder of Rotary.” That is the way we all will remember him





Reaching into the Future

Barry Rassin, TRF Trustee Chair

This year, I urge all of you to think big about The Rotary Foundation. To reach our goals and make the impact we know we can make, we must think outside the box and embrace innovation. We must make bold plans to expand our reach today, tomorrow, and in the future.

Start by thinking big about Foundation-supported projects. If your club hasn't engaged in a Rotary Foundation district grant or global grant, make this the year you do. Collaborating with your Rotary counterparts in another district on one of Rotary's seven areas of focus can make a lasting impact beyond your wildest dreams. Explore 'Rotary Showcase' at rotary.org/showcase or arrange a meeting between your club and your district Rotary Foundation chair to start a conversation.

Let's also think big about our polio fundraising this year. Begin planning your World Polio Day fundraiser now for October 24 if you haven't already. Let's see how Rotaract and Rotary clubs can make this year's fundraisers our best ever..



Thinking big about the Foundation also means remembering that through it, our impact goes beyond the current Rotary year. We see this through not only the emphasis on sustainability in our grant projects but also in initiatives such as Programs of Scale. The third Programs of Scale recipient will take on a big challenge: combating cervical cancer and enhancing women's health in Egypt through awareness-raising and improved access to preventive care.

The success of the Programs of Scale grant model lies in our approach of closely collaborating with partners to amplify proven methods. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards \$2 million to a member-led

programme that has demonstrated success and has the potential to reach more people through scaling up over a three to five-year period.

Our Programs of Scale are the epitome of thinking big: Through them, we aim to establish sustainable partnerships and cost-effective programmes that deliver tangible benefits beyond the funding period. This way, Rotary and its Foundation can reach and assist more people in more places.

Lastly, let's remember that our efforts to make the world a better place should extend beyond our time on earth. As we strive to reach \$2.025 billion by 2025 for Rotary's Endowment, consider how you can leave a legacy by making a gift or a commitment to a Rotary endowment. This will ensure that Rotary's future generations will have greater financial resources to create positive change, just as so many are doing now, in so many ways.

Remembering the Child in each Polio case

Brenda Cressey, Global PolioPlus Society Chair



Districts around the world are launching PolioPlus societies or reinvigorating their current ones, and the response has been amazing and positive. This initiative allows each district to establish criteria for membership in their society, including a minimum recurring gift, and decide on their own recognition awards and marketing materials. The Rotary Foundation Trustees are giving districts flexibility to implement this fundraising approach for the PolioPlus Fund in ways that work best in their own regions. A district that establishes a PolioPlus Society is emphasizing the importance of reliable and recurring donations to fulfil our promise to the children of the world.

Recently, news of a fifth case of polio this year was reported in Afghanistan. Whenever I hear the term case, I cannot think of it as a number or a fact — instead,





I immediately think about the child. This child (not this case) will now live with polio forever, and their family will now have to support that child in ways they could never imagine. To me, we should always think about the child, rather than the case number. We need to remember our promise to save each child from this devastating disease. This fifth child may have been a vaccine away from being protected. So, we cannot be discouraged in our effort to end polio. A PolioPlus Society is a way to reinvigorate this commitment in your district, club, and members. It takes your small gift to PolioPlus each year to keep making progress toward our top humanitarian priority: eradicating polio.

I'm honoured to serve as the Global PolioPlus Society chair and am ready to assist you in any way I can. **Contact me at rotarypolioplussociety@gmail.com.**

I encourage you to explore the new **PolioPlus Society toolkit**, where you'll find materials to help you establish or energize a PolioPlus Society. As we do this work, I'll constantly be reminding the world about each child who is affected. I hope you'll join me.

RID 3212 gives the gift of spoken English to 5,500 rural girls

Jaishree

It was remarkable to watch Deepa, a student from Sri Vidya College of Arts in Sivakasi, captivating the audience by her fluent talk in English for a full minute. From the stage, as she spoke in a new language she had only recently learnt, she radiated poise and confidence. Appreciating the value, she got from Project Punch, a signature initiative of RID 3212, she said, "Until two months ago, I would not have even dreamt of going up on stage and facing a hall full of people. I couldn't even speak a simple sentence in English that was grammatically correct."



Project Punch has played a pivotal role in this amazing transformation in Deepa and over 5,500 other students through workshops in spoken English and public speaking, which have given these young individuals a vital skill that can unlock opportunities and empower them to pursue their dreams.

Says IPDG VR Muthu: "We worked out this programme in response to suggestions from parents and heads of educational institutions for a spoken English course that would help students speak the language fluently. We understand the aspirations of parents who desire that their children excel in English, and the invaluable advantages it brings in today's competitive world, particularly in employment."

RID 3212 comprises the southernmost districts — Kanyakumari, Ramnathapuram, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli; regions where English is generally not a preferred language for communication. "Even in the English medium schools here the teachers interact with students in Tamil, the local language. I understood the importance of English when I had to stay in Mumbai on work for four years. As I did not know Hindi or Marathi, I could manage with my limited knowledge of English, and in due course, became fairly fluent in it," says Muthu.

Recognising the power of communication skills as a gateway to broader horizons, he initiated this project to train school/college students, and teachers as well. "We included B.Ed trainees too so that as future teachers they will be competent in the language."

Skilled instructors from Beehive Communications Club, a training organisation headed by A Shyamraj, a member of Rotary Virudhunagar, did the training. Fifty workshops were completed by June-end, enabling participants to shed their shyness and face an audience. Each batch had 100 students undergoing 15 hours of training. The cost, Rs. 1,000 a student, was borne by the Rotary clubs sponsoring them.

"The programme is not just about mastering words and grammar; it is about empowering students to confidently express themselves and connect with the world through interactive sessions, group discussions and role plays,"





says Shyamraj. "The curriculum is similar to the Toastmasters' programme. Each student is trained to go up on stage, hold a mike and deliver a speech," says Preetha, one of the instructors.

"I can now confidently step out of my comfort zone and survive anywhere. Communication is no longer a barrier. Since we have been trained in public speaking, none of us are crowd-shy and we can put our thoughts across effectively," says Deepa.

Shyamraj says that at the VOC B.Ed College, Thoothukudi, where Project Punch was conducted for the students a month before their interviews, "everyone got placement this year in various schools. The principal said that the recruiters were happy with their presentation skills and thanked us for the workshop."

The project is now gearing up for Level-II where five students will be shortlisted for an advanced workshop comprising a two-day session on delivering an extempore speech and hosting an event as an emcee.

Project Punch and the 55 sessions of the Yadhumanaval programme were among the signature projects that were largely appreciated by DG Muthiah Pillai and Past Governors Sathappa Periannan, K Vijayakumar, H Shajahan and S Sheik Saleem at a felicitation event hosted by IPDG Muthu's home club, Rotary Virudhunagar.

Laying down office as DG on June 30, Muthu is happy that Yadhumanaval (April 23 Rotary News) has reached out to over 70,000 youngsters, the Kalam project has helped over 10,000 individuals with career guidance, Vignyana Ratham has spread love for science in one lakh school students and Iraivi has addressed various forms of teenage challenges in 33,000 adolescent girls including distribution of undergarments to 5,000 marginalised girls.

"It was like a slap on my face when I first heard a girl say with much hesitation: 'many of us do not have the underwear to place the sanitary pad that you have so kindly given.' That woke us all up and since then we have been including a pack of three underwear for each girl, while distributing sanitary napkins to underprivileged girls," says Gayathri Mariraj, project coordinator of Iraivi.

On August 1st, 2023 our club's President-nominee, Rtn. Mohan Bandaru was invited to attend an RWM hosted by Rotary Thamel, Nepal, RID 3292. Rotary Thamel was chartered on March 6th, 2002.





Hope

Once a king announced a death sentence to two convicts.

One of them knew that the king is very fond of his horse. He went up to the king and told him that if you spare my life, I will teach the horse how to fly in the next one year.

On hearing this the king became very happy that he will be the only owner of a horse that flies and spared the life of the convict.

The other convict looked at his friend with surprise and said, "you know that a horse cannot fly, so why did you think of such a stupid idea, you are just delaying your death by one year."

The other convict replied, "I have given myself five chances to obtain freedom.

First, The King may die in one year,

Second, the world may come to an end in the next one year,

Third, the horse may die in the next one year,

Fourth, I may die in the next one year due to any reason, and maybe, there will be a miracle and I will be able to teach the horse to fly."

History is full of stories about people who came into hard times, lost hope, and gave up. We rarely come to learn what would have happened with these individuals if they had not given up.

On the flip side we find that history is full of stories of people who also came into hard times, but they made a very different set of choices in their lives. Rather than losing hope and giving up, they chose to pick themselves up, brush themselves off, and continue moving with the hope toward achieving their dreams.



None of us are immune from falling into difficult times. That plight is something we all have in common.

Another thing we all have in common is the ability to choose how we are going to react to the difficult times when they come.

Will we allow them to destroy our hope for the future or will we decide to view them as a learning experience meant to help us as we continue to move forward with hope that the best is yet to come.

Hope results in positive action only if you have the faith & you believe.

'The law of attraction' also argues that positive thoughts and actions reap positive rewards and vice versa for negative ones. This is one of the 12 universal laws of hermetic philosophy and was made famous in Rhonda Byrne's book "The Secret." At the core of this philosophy is positivity.

The only thing stronger than Fear is Hope and once you choose hope, anything is possible.

Never lose hope even in the worst of circumstances. Choose Hope and stay blessed forever.





Minutes of the 2230th RWM held on July 22nd, 2023 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

1. IPP Abhinash calls the 2230th RWM to order followed by National Anthem lead by PP Mousumi.
2. The 46th Club Installation proceedings have been called to order; the Installation formalities were completed.
3. DGN Dr. Ramendu Homchowdhury, spoke regarding Thalassaemia and complete eradication in a very lucid way for the audience.
4. DG HIRALAL YADAV in his speech underlined his aims and main thrust areas in this Rotary year. All attendees of the event appreciated DG's deliberation & was inspired.
5. Vote of Thanks was given by PE Biswajit and invited the invitees for dinner.
5. Club Secretary, Rtn. Dr. Subrata conducted the Club business.
6. Minutes of the last RWM were confirmed. President terminated the meeting.

