



## Issue 248 - June 2023

### Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

We celebrate the month of June as "Rotary Fellowships Month." An opportune time to celebrate our association with the Rotary Global History Fellowship.



With a lot of efforts and dedication of the RGHF leadership team members, we now have a new website that provides a fantastic repository of history articles. In case you have not visited as yet, please visit our website: [www.rghf.org](http://www.rghf.org).



We encourage RGHF members to share with us any significant information and insights with reference to the history of Rotary from your respective regions.

As we now get ready to step into the new Rotary year, we look forward to the continued participation of all members of our Fellowship group.

Rotary Regards,



**Jeetendra Sharma**  
**Editor-in-Chief**  
**RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter**

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## Trustee Chair's Message

June marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another in Rotary, a bittersweet time to reflect as we look ahead.

Looking back on this year, The Rotary Foundation accomplished a great deal. We renewed our determination to fight polio to the end. Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are implementing a strategy to stop the transmission of all wild poliovirus in the endemic countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan and the circulation of vaccine-derived poliovirus in outbreak countries. Last October, Rotary, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the global community collectively pledged \$2.6 billion toward this plan.

We know what it takes to eradicate polio, and we have the strategies to do it. I urge all clubs to continue to take action in this historic effort by raising awareness and funds, especially around World Polio Day in October. Also, consider joining or starting a PolioPlus Society in your club or district to collectively give a set amount each year until polio is eradicated.

Our Foundation also responded to the devastating earthquake that hit Syria and Turkey through disaster response grants that helped clubs and districts provide aid.

The Foundation continued to grow. Rotaract clubs began volunteering on and applying for Foundation grants on their own. And our next Rotary Peace Center, made possible by a gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, will be located at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

To all who supported The Rotary Foundation by volunteering on grant projects or through giving, I thank you. If you haven't yet made your gift to the Foundation, please do so online by 30 June so we can end this remarkable year on a high note and reach our goal of raising \$430 million.

We can be proud of what we have done this year, but let us never rest on our laurels; rather, let us remain persistent.

One of those who best personified persistence was Nelson Mandela. Speaking to a crowd of global dignitaries before his 90th birthday in 2008, he said, "It is in your hands to make of our world a better one for all, especially the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized."

Changing the world is indeed in no one else's hands but our own, and helping those in need is what defines and will continue to define Rotary and its Foundation in the years ahead.

I wish incoming Trustee Chair Barry Rassin, the Trustees, and our staff continued success in making a difference through The Rotary Foundation.



**Ian H.S. Riseley**  
**Trustee Chair 2022-23**

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## **Paul & Jean Harris Home Visit**

After 40 years in Rotary, my special friend, Karen Nelson, and I were delighted to visit Rotary International headquarters for 4 days at the end of March. We were hosted by The Rotary Foundation staff and trustees for the 2023 Spring Arch Klumph Society Presentations. Also attending were 36 other AKS recipients and their guests from 17 countries to learn more about our foundation and to tour "Rotary Chicago".

As a decade-long member of RGHF, I was excited to learn that our group tour would also include a stop at the newly renovated Paul and Jean Harris Home, Comely Bank. It was also special to find our RGHF friend, Irv Kaplan, as one of our guides. Irv played a major role in returning the interior of the home to appear as it did when Paul Harris died in 1947. Karen and I hope that you will enjoy the pictures we have provided to give you a sense of the warmth of the Harris home where Paul and Jean hosted many Rotary friends and social events for nearly 35 years. Many of these gatherings took place outside in what they referred to as their "Garden of Friendship" (still under renovation).

In 2004, local Rotary Clubs established the Paul and Jean Harris' Home Foundation to purchase the home in 2005 and provide the funding for the home's renovation and maintenance long-term. Currently, there is a \$5 Million Restoration and Endowment Campaign to retire current debt and create an endowment to pay for the home as a museum. Major donors will be recognized on the Home's Donor Wall and through multiple naming opportunities. For more information, got to [www.paulharrishome.org](http://www.paulharrishome.org).

***Leigh***





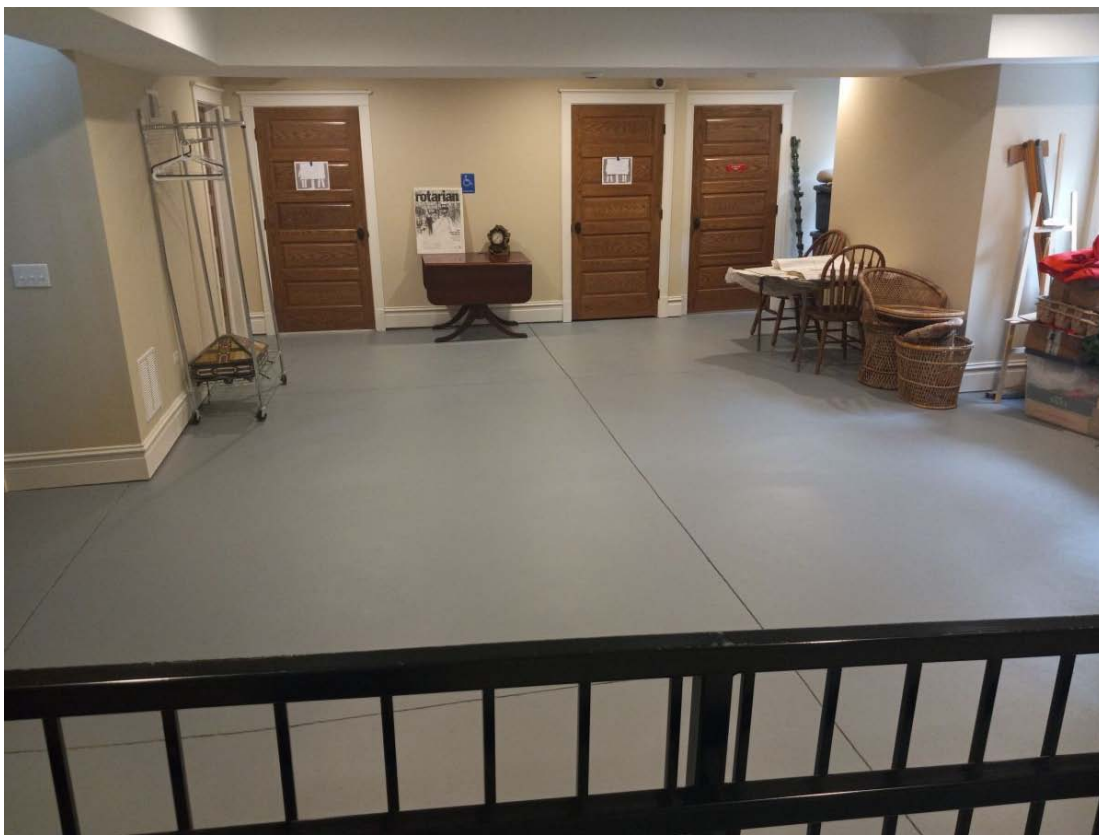












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## Upcoming Tours and Meetings for the PJHH

Dear Fellow RGHF Members,

Since the Paul Harris House had been purchased in 2005 to celebrate our 100th Rotary Anniversary the Paul Harris House has been completely restored and furnished to look exactly as when Paul and Jean Harris lived in the house. We have since had many scheduled tours and major meetings in the newly constructed meeting room and the actual interior of Comely Bank as Jean Harris liked to call their house.

I have assembled a group of 21 Rotarian Docents, all trained to give tours in the house and tell visitors story's about Paul and Jean as how they lived and used each room in the house. I am sharing this note with you to see exactly how some of these tours are scheduled. We have had tours set up by RI and Rotarians to number from as many as 4 to 80 people in the house, Some of these visits have been lightly catered in the new meeting room that was attached to the original house while preserving all the original walls and doors. The newly built meeting room features two bathrooms, an elevator and an operational kitchen. The landscaping is yet work-in-progress.

Some Memorial bricks which include Rotary Clubs and Personal Rotarian bricks are presently on order and will be soon installed into the walkway and newly installed backyard pergola. Note you can order bricks like these to be installed, these brick sales will help support and maintain our Rotary Museum. The Paul Harris House is planned to be a forever Rotary History Site to be enjoyed by many Rotarians from all over the world.

Thank you.



**Irv Kaplan**  
**Past District Governor**  
**Rotary District 6450**

For contributions:

Credit card [www.paulharrishome.org](http://www.paulharrishome.org)

Mail, Please make checks payable to U.S. funds to: Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation  
c/o Gorman & Associates 9517 W. Ogden Ave Brookfield, IL 60513

Questions? Please contact:

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## **Rotary awards US\$2 million grant to fight cervical cancer in Egypt**

By **Etelka Lehoczky**

United to End Cervical Cancer in Egypt, an initiative to reduce the number of cases while raising awareness and improving women's access to preventive care, is the recipient of Rotary's third annual Programs of Scale award. Rotary International President Jennifer Jones announced the grant at the global network's annual convention in Melbourne, Australia.

The four-year program in and around Cairo will vaccinate more than 30,000 girls ages 9-15, provide cancer screenings for 10,000 women, and launch a public awareness campaign to reach 4 million people.

"As a cancer survivor, I am proud that we are supporting this project — and especially gratified that we are taking such an important step to support women's health," Jones said. "By providing preventive care, we can empower women and girls with the knowledge and resources they need to stay healthy and thrive. This program is further proof that Rotary is capable of creating large-scale, meaningful projects that create lasting change."

Cervical cancer is considered one of the most preventable cancers. It's caused primarily by the human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common viral infection of the reproductive tract. Ninety percent of deaths from cervical cancer occur in low- and middle-income countries, where cancer screenings and routine HPV vaccinations aren't available and cultural misconceptions may deter women from seeking care.

A 2021 report from the World Health Organization showed that less than 10% of women in Egypt had cervical cancer screenings in the previous five years and, of those diagnosed with the disease, more than half die from it.

[Continue reading at rotary.org](http://rotary.org)

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**One world: coming together, to achieve one common goal**

*Global leaders commit to ending polio once and for all*



©WHO

Global leaders and stakeholders have been unanimously declaring their solidarity to achieving a lasting world free of all forms of polioviruses.

Convening this week at the [World Health Assembly](#) in Geneva, Switzerland, Ministers of Health from around the globe evaluated the unique epidemiological opportunity which currently exists, in particular in eradicating all remaining chains of endemic wild poliovirus in a handful of districts of just two countries – Pakistan and Afghanistan. As a record number of Member States and civil society partners took to the floor, key to success, all experts agreed, must be on adapting operations and reaching remaining un- or under-immunized children in just seven subnational most consequential geographies, which collectively account for 90% of all new polio cases, including in a gender-equitable and integrated manner. To ensure lasting success, delegates urged country-specific solutions for polio transition. In response to both a wild poliovirus outbreak in south-eastern Africa and multi-country circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus outbreaks, extraordinary special sessions were led by WHO and its Regional Office for Africa between affected Member States and partners, to discuss concrete steps to stopping all outbreaks affecting the Region by end of year.

The World Health Assembly comes on the heels of last week's [G7 Leaders and G7 Health Ministers](#) meetings in Japan, where both meetings highlighted the urgent need to ensure a world free of polio can be rapidly achieved. Next week, Rotarians from around the world are convening at the [Rotary International Convention](#) in Melbourne, Australia, to ensure civil society support for the effort will go hand-in-hand with public sector engagement.

Speaking on behalf of both Pakistan and the entire Eastern Mediterranean, Mr A.Q. Patel, Pakistan Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, said: "We are in the final leg of eradication and we are doing everything we have to do to achieve success. The virus is restricted to its smallest-ever geographical footprint, and the (polio) programmes in both Pakistan and Afghanistan continue to vastly expand their hunt for the virus and mount robust campaigns to reach all children, not just with polio vaccine, but indeed other antigens as well. We could not have come this far without the strong support and goodwill of all Member States, however there is still more to be done at the heart of all our work, and for the future of all generations of children. We need continued and sustained financial and political support from all Member States and partners, in order to give every child, no matter where they live, the promise of a polio-free world."

[Read more at polioeradication.org](http://polioeradication.org)

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**Glimpses - RGHF Booth at RI Convention, Melbourne 2023**

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ROTARY GLOBAL HISTORY FELLOWSHIP

















# Our Foundation Newsletter



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