



RGHF's

OUR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter for Rotary Leaders • A monthly feature



*"We should not live for ourselves alone, but for the joy in doing good for others."
Arch Klumpp, founder of The Rotary Foundation*

Issue 238 - February 2022

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,
Sharing a nice story:

One day the most peaceful inhabitants from the Earth asked one very powerful wizard to stop all wars and bloodshed on the planet.

– It is simple, – he said. – I will destroy all weapons on the Earth, and nobody will be able to fight anymore.

– It would be great! –people exclaimed.

The magic wand's wave – and this was done.

There was a peace on the planet for three days, while the majority of those who were prone to fight, sought and could not find a weapon. When they understood they've lost it forever, they have made spears of young trees and started to fight again.

When the wizard heard this bad news, he said:

– Do not worry. I will destroy all young trees, so that they will not be able to fight.

After two or three days of useless search for young trees, suitable for making spears, rebellious people started to cut giant trees, make batons from them, and the bloodshed has started again. The Wizard destroyed all big trees. Then humans made knives and swords of metal. He destroyed all metal on the planet. People made sling and began to throw stones at each other. It was necessary to destroy the stones, too. And then peacekeepers began to worry: all trees have disappeared; there is no metal and stones. How to live, what to eat now? There will be no vegetation soon, and people will die without even fighting. No, this is a wrong solution of the problem.

The Wizard became confused:

– I do not know how to behave now. I would have destroyed all humanity, but, unfortunately, it is not in my power!

The peacekeepers fell into despair; they did not know what to do. And then one clever kid turned to the Wizard.

– I know what you should do. Let people feel, how others perceive their actions. If one person hurt someone, let him feel the same pain, and if he brings joy to someone, let him feel the same joy. So no one will hurt each other, because he will feel the pain immediately too and would have to stop.

All people were inspired with the greatness of kid's thought, and the wizard realized his idea. He returned all trees, stones and metals.

Since that day nobody on the planet tried to hurt his neighbour, because he would have to feel the same pain too. People began to help each other, because they liked the sense of joy they felt at this moment. And they began to live in harmony and joy.

(Source: <https://www.inspirationalstories.eu/inspirational-stories-about-peace/>)

While, in reality, we do not have a wizard who can help bring peace by a wave of his magic wand, Rotary's focus on Promoting Peace and the various initiatives such as our Peace Fellowship, are helping us bring peace and create a better world to live in. During this Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month, let us continue our efforts in peacebuilding and continue contributing to The Rotary Foundation to support our peace programs.

Rotary Regards,



Jeetendra Sharma
Editor-in-Chief

Trustee Chair's Message

I always look forward to February, the month of Rotary's anniversary, as a time to remember our history. What began as a small gathering in a Chicago office in 1905 soon transformed into a global movement — one that you and I are a part of today.

February is also Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month when we celebrate a core Rotary concept: the pursuit of global peace and understanding.

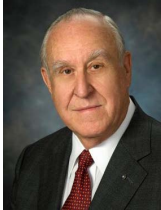
Through our global and district grants, The Rotary Foundation is a force for peace — as are all of you who use those funds for projects. A grant that promotes literacy can lead to greater understanding and economic security in that community and beyond. This lays the foundation for peace. When communities aren't fighting over scarce water resources because they have a working pump system, they can instead pursue education. Promoting peace is interwoven in all that Rotary does.

The work of actively building peace and understanding has been a hallmark of Rotary since its earliest days. But with the creation in 1999 of the Rotary Peace Centers we began a bold new chapter in this story. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the inaugural class of peace fellows; the innovative program continues to merge a strong, academic understanding of the roots of conflict with practical tactics for solving real-world problems.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rotary Peace Centers were able to adapt, ensuring minimal disruptions to the program. Now, students at our seven centers are resuming their normal activities. This includes young peacebuilders at our newest center at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, who are preparing to apply their new knowledge and skills in a region that's in need of peaceful solutions.

The peace center program keeps growing. Our search committee is researching potential locations in the Middle East or North Africa to establish our eighth center, with plans for its launch as soon as 2024. This is a significant step for Rotary's efforts in global peace education, as we lay the groundwork for the next generation of fellows to pursue peacebuilding in that region. And we aren't stopping there: Our goal is to open a Rotary Peace Center in Latin America by 2030.

In the last 117 years, Rotary has grown to become a global force for good — promoting peace and understanding in all of our endeavors. The staying power of Rotary, the Foundation, and our decades-long commitment to peace are things that are worth celebrating, supporting, and sustaining for the generations that will follow us.



John F. Germ
Trustee Chair 2021-22

History of Rotary Peacebuilder Clubs



The beginnings of Rotary Peacebuilder Clubs got their start in 2011. It was shortly after our District, Rotary District 5100, had agreed to allocate \$25,000 US in District Designated Funds to The Rotary Peace Centers, in Evanston thus making us a Peacebuilder District.

Shortly after receiving the Peacebuilder District designation, we did outreach to our Rotary Clubs explaining the designation of PB District and why the decision was made, some Rotarians posed the question, "Since we're a Peacebuilder District, can we have Peacebuilder Clubs?" Upon researching this idea, we discovered that this question had never been brought up by anyone and after considerable discussion and research, we were encouraged by our Zone Director to go forward and thus we inaugurated our first Peacebuilder Clubs.

Peacebuilder Clubs began with the primary goal of supporting The Rotary Peace Centers and the Rotary Peace Fellows Program. We came up with what we felt to be very basic and at the same time tangible criteria for becoming a Peacebuilder Club.

First: Form a Peace Committee of 2 or more persons

Second: Support Rotary Peace Centers by.

A. Financial support

B. Identify and sponsor potential Peace Fellow applicants

Third: Educate committee members about Rotary's history of Peace

Fourth: Educate fellow Rotary Club members

Fifth: Engage in Peace projects either Club inspired or partner with other community organizations

We have always encouraged Peacebuilder Clubs to become active members of the Rotary Action Group for Peace and avail themselves of the wealth of knowledge and opportunity that Rotary Action Group has to offer.

We began with supporting events such as MLK Jr. Day celebrations, Earth Day events, UN International Day of Peace (Sept. 21), etc., organizing Peace Symposiums & conferences and our group evolved and expanded over the years to participation in larger programs.

We began in 2011 with 9 Peacebuilder Clubs in D5100. The program has grown with the addition of 3 to 5 new Peacebuilder Clubs annually and we currently have 36 Peacebuilder Clubs in District 5100 consisting of 33 Rotary Peacebuilder Clubs, one Rotaract Peacebuilder Club and two Interact Peacebuilder Clubs.

With the help of The Rotary Peace Centers, we created Peacebuilder Clubs brochure which we proceeded to distribute, again with help from The Rotary Peace Centers, at Rotary International Conventions beginning in 2013.

Peacebuilder Clubs expanded beyond the confines of District 5100 in 2016, with the establishment of Peacebuilder Clubs in District 7610 in Northern Virginia and in District 5240 in the Central California Coast area and District 5030 in the greater Seattle, Wash. Area and again in 2017 in Arizona's Districts 5500 and

5495. (District 5240 currently has about 20 Peacebuilder Clubs)

The RAGFP rolled out its Peacebuilder Clubs program with its launch at the 2018 RI Convention in Toronto. This prompted the establishment of Peacebuilder Clubs across the US, Canada, Great Britain, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia and New Zealand. Currently there are more than 350 Peacebuilder Clubs around the world.

One final thing I would like to mention is regarding a discussion I was having with a couple of directors of a joint US/Canadian Peace Organization. These people were not Rotarians but had some familiarity with our organization and we were comparing notes. Towards the end of our discussion one of them mentioned that we seemed to have a lot of similarities and said that perhaps both of our groups seem to be struggling with , for lack of a better word, tangible programs – pretty much philosophical values and not a lot else. I immediately took exception to his statement and made him aware of several programs and projects that Rotarian Peacebuilder Clubs are involved in such as; our Peace Poles Project in which our Peacebuilder Clubs in our district have planted more that 500 Peace Poles since 2017; our Peace Village Program, which is a 5 day summer camp for students ages 6 to 13 years focused on teaching them anti-bullying techniques, non-violent problem solving and various other peacebuilding capacities has been embraced by several of our PB Clubs. The premise behind Peace Village is, the younger we can begin to instill a culture of peace in our citizens, the better chance of creating a long-lasting impression on them. The Creating Friendships for Peace Program (CFP), formerly the Cyprus Friendship Program has also been very well received and promoted by several of our Peacebuilder Clubs. CFP brings together teens from the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities on the island of Cyprus to learn about each other's similarities and backgrounds and also with Israeli and Palestinian students in an attempt to educate and create bonds among groups who have been brought up to vilify the other side. Also, we have been involved in several District and Global Grants and encouraging a cooperation not only across districts, but between countries.

As I see it, we have barely touched the tip of the iceberg. The potential for Peacebuilder Clubs is limitless. They can serve as a conduit which helps to connect Peace Fellows and Rotarians and enhance their efforts to help communities understand both themselves and their neighbors in an ongoing growth process of building peace, cooperation and communities where previously a void may have existed.

Regarding Peace Fellows, since introducing Peacebuilder Clubs in 2011, our district's Peace Fellowship awardees have increased by 500%, having sponsored four Peace Fellows between 2002 and 2010, and 19 from 2011 to 2021.

Respectfully,



Mike Caruso

Rotary Club of Newberg, Oregon
Rotary District 5100
District Governor 2011-12
District 5100 Peacebuilder Clubs Co-Chair
District Peace Fellows Subcommittee Chair



Rotary Peace Fellowship



Rotary

APPLY NOW!

**ROTARY
PEACE
FELLOWSHIPS**

Full funding for a master's degree
or post-graduate diploma in disciplines
related to peace and development

It's official. The Rotary Peace Fellowship application for the 2023-24 academic year is now available for both our master's and certificate programs. Learn more and start your application today! Application deadline is 15 May. <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships>

Source: Rotary Peace Centers on Facebook

How to recruit and support Rotary Peace Fellow candidates

Clubs and districts have the power to shape the next generation of peacebuilders by recruiting Rotary Peace Fellows and helping them stay involved with Rotary after their studies. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degree programs and 80 for professional certificate programs at the seven Rotary Peace Centers around the world. By supporting a peace fellow, your club or district can engage with the program in meaningful ways.

"Through years of being involved in the peace fellowship process, I'm still thrilled and admire the serious and high quality of the candidates who apply to the program," says Gideon Peiper, Rotary Peace Fellowships subcommittee chair for District 2490. "It's a wonderful experience to follow this process, developing a personal connection with Rotary members and knowing that peace fellows will have a memorable experience that will contribute to their professional as well as their personal life, all made possible by the tremendous support of Rotary members worldwide."

Districts interview applicants and endorse candidates for consideration by The Rotary Foundation. Clubs can help in these ways:

- [Recruit candidates](#).
- Support candidates. [Complete an online training course](#) in how to do this effectively.
- Provide a club recommendation for a candidate, which is optional but highly encouraged.
- Encourage members to join your district's Rotary Peace Fellowships subcommittee, which interviews candidates.

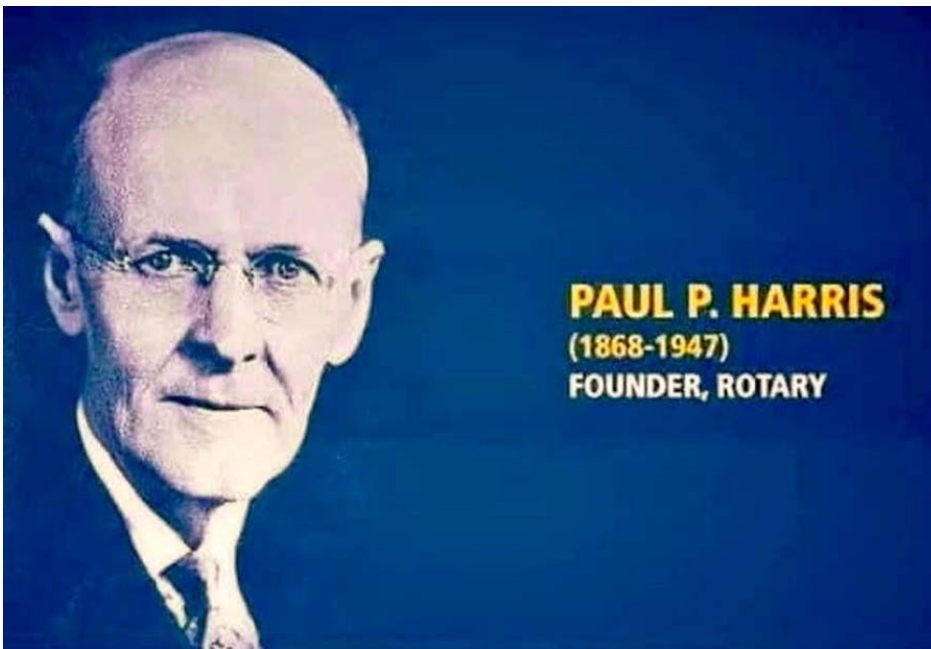
Contact your district Rotary Peace Fellowships subcommittee chair or district Rotary Foundation chair for more information.

Learn more about [members' role in selecting peace fellows](#).

Source: Rotary Leader – January 2022

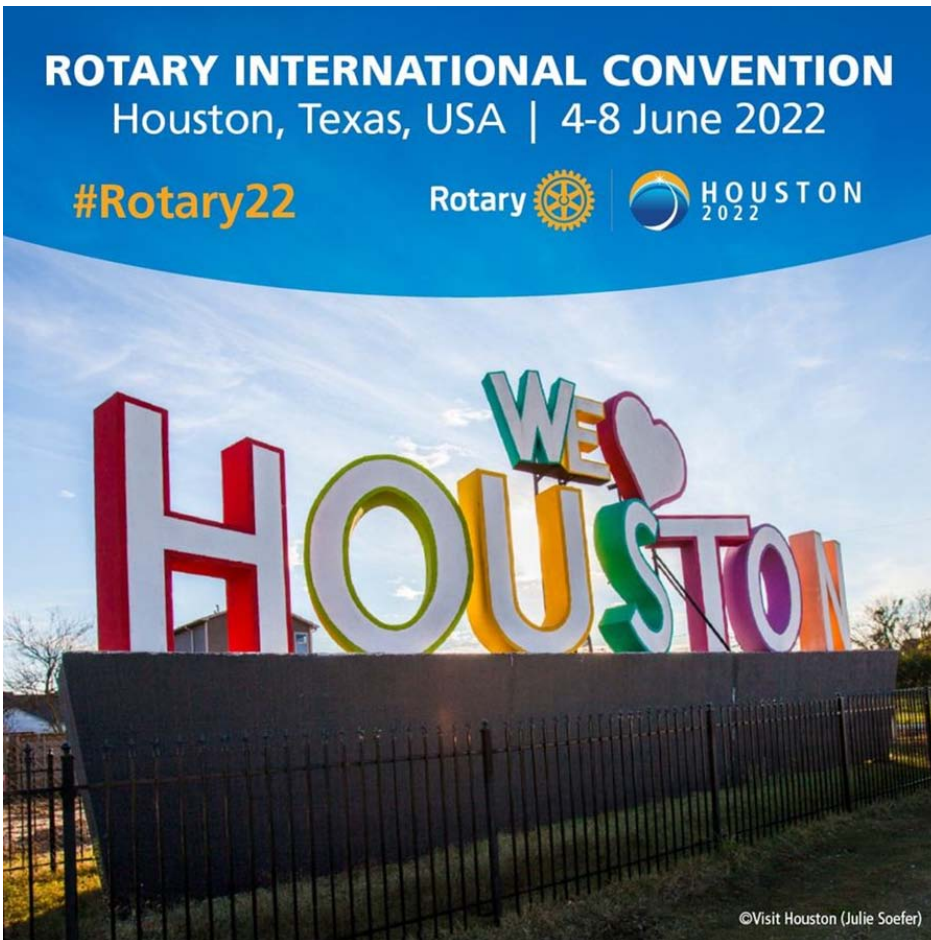


Did You Know?



Paul Harris died on 27 January 1947 in Chicago at age 78, after a prolonged illness. Before his death, he made it known that he preferred contributions to The Rotary Foundation in lieu of flowers. By coincidence, days before he died, Rotary leaders had committed to a major fundraising effort for the Foundation.

Rotary International Convention



Join us at the 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas, USA, 4-8 June!
We are offering a special registration rate of US\$495 through 28 February at <https://on.rotary.org/34ObYrA>

#Rotary22 will showcase Rotary's ability to bring people together, share ideas and strengthen our friendships as we Serve to Change Lives. We will see you in Houston!

Our Foundation Newsletter



This newsletter is published by the Rotary Global History Fellowship. The comments and stories in this newsletter do not reflect the opinions of Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International or any other Rotary related organization.

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