



The Villages - Evening  
**Rotary**  
Club



Evening Edition  
April 7, 2021

## President Knaack's April Message



This year, we celebrate Earth Day on 22 April with a new sense of purpose. The environment is now an area of focus for Rotary. Solutions for all great tasks always start with you and me, and there is much we as individuals can do simply by changing our behavior: Cutting down on our use of plastic and using energy wisely are just two examples. But now we have the opportunity to do more together.

Supporting the environment is not new to Rotary; clubs have long worked on environmental issues based on local needs. Now climate change — a problem that affects us all, rich and poor — requires us to work together more closely than ever. Alberto Palombo, a Venezuelan engineer living in Brazil and a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, shares his view.

*For 30 years, my work has been to connect with communities and policy officials to take care of the environment. Today, I am excited about Rotary's opportunities to help reduce environmental degradation and make communities more environmentally*

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Meeting



Each week we are getting more and more of our members in person at Lake Miona. After the pledge, reflection by Tim T., and happy/sad we

heard from Sandra R., co-chair of the recent food drive. She detailed what we collected both in money and food, which was in last week's newsletter.

Next President Gay called on President-Elect Julie to talk about our upcoming baby shower, present her with her pacifier and showed a couple of pictures of our babies who will make an appearance on April 30th. As we were about to continue our meeting we had a surprise visitor show up. Mrs. Jean Tompkins Harris came by to celebrate her husband, Paul Harris's 153rd birthday. As most of you know, Paul Harris was the driving force behind Rotary when he and three other business men from Chicago had their first  
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## Message *(Continued from page 1)*

*sustainable.*

*In every community where we have a Rotary, Rotaract, or Interact club or a Rotary Community Corps, there are environmental challenges. As Rotary members, we can become stewards of environmental sustainability and adopt the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in our daily lives at home and in our clubs. Then we can incorporate them into our Rotary projects.*

*My club has been involved with water and environment projects since day one. We seek opportunities to empower Rotarians and foster partnerships in our region and beyond, working with groups such as the Inter-American Water Resources Network and the World Water Council. Local clubs worked with the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group ([wasrag.org](http://wasrag.org)) to help Rotary get a seat at the table during the 2018 World Water Forum in Brasilia, where we discussed how communities can recover from environmental disasters like the one caused by the failure of a mining dam on Brazil's Rio Doce in 2015.*

*Taking care of the earth is an effort that never stops. To make an impact, we must align our knowledge, abilities, and enthusiasm — and Rotary is already great at doing this. As a volunteer with the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group ([esrag.org](http://esrag.org)), I have seen how our work for the environment dovetails with much of what we are already doing in water and in our other areas of focus. Rotary members are not passive spectators; we take action. Let's work together and make a positive impact.*

Support from The Rotary Foundation will define this new chapter in our service. Through district and global grant projects, we will build upon our previous projects that help the environment. We will look for ways to collaborate more closely and make a greater impact on global environmental issues. And we will incorporate environmental concerns into all of our programs, projects, and events.

Rotaractors and participants in our youth programs expect Rotary to take a clear position and provide leadership with vision. We will work with them, seeking intelligent solutions to the problems they will inherit. Our incredible members, networks, and Foundation give us the capacity to make an important and lasting contribution. Now, we will discover together how *Rotary Opens Opportunities* to help us expand our service to preserve the home we all share.

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## Meeting *(Continued from page 2)*

meeting. "I was sure that there must be many other young men who had come from farms and small villages to establish themselves in Chicago ... Why not bring them together? If others were longing for fellowship as I was, something would come of it."

Mrs. Harris went on to talk about the early

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on 27



Chicago at age 78 after a prolonged illness.

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ond club started  
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in New York in  
The rest is his-  
Paul Harris died  
January 1947 in

## Paul Harris Fellows

The Paul Harris Fellow program recognizes individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. The honor was established in 1957 to show appreciation for contributions that support our Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Foundation grant.

Paul Harris gifts have helped provide:

- Vocational training for teachers establishing an early childhood education center in South Africa
- Water filters, toilets, and hygiene training to prevent fluorosis, diarrhea, and other diseases in India
- A scholarship for a medical professional in Italy to research treatments that minimize mortality rates among premature babies
- Peace-building seminars for 200 teachers and 1,300 students in Uganda
- Treated mosquito nets and medical services that prevent malaria in Mali

These are only a few of the thousands of projects The Rotary Foundation has conducted throughout the world.

At this week's meeting, President Gay was pleased to present 6 Paul Harris Fellows for contributions that "is a commitment to peace and to a better way of life for people across the world, whom they will probably never, never meet. This is truly a selfless action."



*President-Elect Julie presents to Yuri O., his 4th, Martha F., her 1st, President Gay, her 3rd. Absent were Cindy I., her 7th, Sue B., her 6th at Pat C., her 2nd.*

## Change of Time

Starting Wednesday, April 14th our meetings will begin at **5:00pm** with our regular half hour social time followed by the

## What is ShelterBox

ShelterBox teams work with disaster-hit families around the world, offering emergency shelter and other essential items to support them in rebuilding their lives. Although this can take many forms depending on the disaster, the most common, and the one most Rotarians associate with are actual boxes that contain a tent and a survival kit.



Since every disaster is different and every community different they spend time with those affected to make sure they can offer the right support at the right time to help them recover.



**Officers & Directors**

Officers

- President  
Gay Ratcliff-Seamens
- President Elect  
Julie Schmied
- President Elect Nominee  
Sue Bodenner
- Secretary  
Sue Bodenner
- Treasurer  
Cindy Ivy
- Past President  
Tim Treat

Directors

- Club Service  
Dusty Rhodes
- Foundation  
Julie Schmied
- Membership  
Pat Cronenberg
- Public Image  
Sue Bodenner
- Service Projects  
Gay Davidson
- Youth Services  
Karl Keri
- Club Positions  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
Dusty Rhodes
- Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms  
Open
- Assistant Treasurer  
Tim Treat
- Assistant Secretary  
Open
- Programs  
Jim Bodenner

**Guests**

- Chuck Bares
- Kay baker
- Juda Saemisch
- Rich Saemisch

**Notes and Announcement**

**After Meeting Dinner**

On April 14th the fellowship dinner will be held at Havana Country Club at 7:00pm. Anyone interested in attending please call Norm D. at 352-751-4659 no later than April 13th.

**Happy/Sad**

Julie S. was happy that Kay Baker was moving into her neighborhood.  
Kate T. was happy that her family was visiting and learned hoe to wash hands correctly. She was sad because she was fined \$1.00 for not wearing her mask.  
Chuck B. was happy because his daughters family was visiting.  
Kay B. was happy to be moving into Julie S.'s neighborhood  
Vinnie M. was just plain happy to be there.  
Karen J. was happy that she got her nails done and is feeling normal.  
Yori O. was happy to have spent easter with his family and friends. He is starting to feel like he is getting back to normal.  
Tim T. had praise for the great job President Gay has done to make our meetings different and interesting.  
Francine J. is happy she is back to playing games seven days a week. She also got fined for no name badge.

Currently we are conducting "hybrid" meetings every Wednesday **starting at 5:00pm**. You can attend in person at Lake Miona (face mask and Villages ID required), or join by ZOOM.  
**Meeting ID 826 152 7480 and Password 84594**

**Meetings**  
 Apr 14th Paul Quinn - Langley Health Services

**Committee Meetings**  
 April 14th Board Meeting 1:00 to 3:00 on ZOOM

**Event**  
 Apr 27th District Assembly  
 April 30th Baby Shower  
 May 5th Cinco de Mayo Fellowship Dinner  
 May 15th District Conference