

# Rotary Club of SF Chinatown Newsletter

October 2020 vol #4

**Welcome members and friends to our Club's Monthly Newsletter.**

Our President, Paul Chin has had some unexpected health issues these last few weeks. He is currently doing well and convalescing at home with his wife Cindy. He appreciates all your prayers and well wishes. He has also informed me that he and Cindy are committed to a program to quit smoking.

## RCSFC Fundraising

Paul has expressed strongly that we need to organize and implement a Fundraiser: We have not had a fundraiser in over 2 years. We are currently looking into a "RAFFLE EVENT" for a cash prize of **\$5150**. We will discuss the particulars at upcoming meetings.

## Summary of Past Events:

**September 16<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Club Meeting 12 – 1:30**  
**Guest speaker: Heather Edwards "Project Amigo"**



**September 22<sup>nd</sup> New eClub "Rotary Club for Global Action"**  
**Launch Party Tuesday 9/22 @ 9am Virtual Event**  
**Guest speaker: Holger Knaack Current RI President**



**September 30<sup>th</sup> RCSFC & District 5150 Community Service Project**  
**Supporting The Environment**



**Where members have an opportunity to impact the environment.....**

## Upcoming Events



See Our Club Website:

<https://www.sfchinatownrotary.org/weekly-program-speakers>

**October 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday Club Meeting 12 – 1:30pm**

**Guest: John Mathers SF #2**

**Environmental Sustainable Rotary Action Group**



**October 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Rotary Blood Donation Drive**

**10am – 3pm (Need to preregister for a time slot)**



**October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Master PRLS #4 Virtual Class Cost \$25 (Free to our Club)**

**Contact: Rich Swart Co-Director PRLS to enroll.**

**October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**“Westwood Rotary Annual Club Gathering”**

**A yearly tradition where our 2 clubs meet up. The meeting will be virtual.**

**October 17<sup>th</sup>**

**“Rising Above Together” Gum Moon Gala Honoring Bill & Gayle Chan**

**October 17<sup>th</sup>**

**District 5150 Event “Growing Our Membership” Register @ District Website**

**October 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Wednesday Club Meeting 12 – 1:30p**

**Guest: Lanie Kohama Rotary Hawaiian eClub “Cyber Security”**

**October 24<sup>th</sup>**



**Rotary Road Rally an End Polio Now Event  
to generate funds for “World EndPolio Day”**



**October 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Club Board Meeting 12 – 1:30p (All members are welcome to attend)**



# Club Service Showcase

((Service above Self. Doing what we can, when we can, where we can, while remaining safe.))

As our club continues to remain active on many fronts. Members have returned to Chinatown to dispense 3-ply Rotary masks and 16oz bottles of hand sanitizer to merchants, SRO residents and volunteers at various NGOs. These were purchased with our club's funds and gifted to those in need. Great job Club Members!!!

*(Please know that these masks and 16oz bottles of hand sanitizer are yours for the asking. As loyal members and friends of Rotary you just need to contact Liz Mark to arrange a pickup.)*



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**September 30<sup>th</sup>, Our Club Members Joined District 5150 to Focus on Cleaning the Environment. Picking up trash, painting over graffiti, engaging the community!**



Work Preparation.....



Refreshments from Merchant



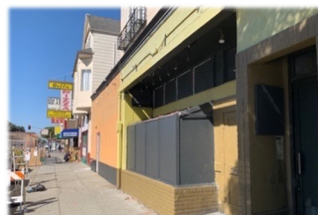
Facelift !!



Graffiti away!!!



BEFORE



AFTER



A successful Haul for Paul !

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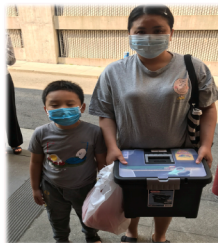
## Our Club Members Really Stepped Up to Help Beautify and Clean Our Environment



*A highway treasure trove*



At **EALNS**, personalized “Gift Boxes” were handed out full of school supplies, (Pens, pencils, colored pencils, markers, paper, binders, spiral notebooks, erasers, and more ) In the first week of September. Pick-up was arranged in front of the school where parents and students arrived to pick up the supplies. Staff, parents and students alike were so appreciative to our club (and the accumulated Anita Fong funds) for supporting this project. **School boxes and supplies were financed by our Club!!!!**



**Fundraising turns to “Fun Raising” as Our Rotary members joined with the Community to raise \$15,000 for Seniors & Elderly on September 12th@ The Annual Orinda Classic Car Rally.**

*Racing a Drone?*



*A really successful fun-raiser*



*Silvia & Vanita*



*Horatio Capturing it all on film*



## October Birthdays

Jeff Oaks



&



Sylvia Louie

Happy Birthday to You Both!!

## RCSFC Foundation Board has a “New Member”

As many are aware Mark Czanderna left our club in late September, and as a Foundation Board Director, left that position open. Stuart Williams was graciously accepted to be his replacement. Thank you Stu!!





# All Things Rotary...

## The World Health Organization (**WHO**) has certified the African Continent Free from Wild Polio Virus (August 25<sup>th</sup> 2020)

The last case of polio on the African Continent was 4 years ago in Northern Nigeria. Today Africa has been declared free of the wild Polio virus. This has been through the concerted efforts of UNICEF, **Rotary International**, The Bill and Melina Gates Foundation, the CDC and both National & Local governments and volunteers.

World Polio Day is



October 24<sup>th</sup> 2020

### History of World Polio Day (October 24<sup>th</sup> of each year)

Established by the Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, the medical researcher who led the first team to develop a vaccine against polio, World Polio Day has been observed for over a decade now. **Jonas Salk** developed the inactivated poliovirus vaccine which came into use in 1955, (as an injection), after which **Albert Sabin** developed the oral polio vaccine (sugar cube) which came into use in 1961. As you know, Polio is a highly contagious and dangerous disease, caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. Such is the danger of this disease that 1 in 200 infected people face the risk of permanent paralysis, according to the WHO. Therefore, the eradication of polio was considered important on a global scale. To many Americans polio was eradicated back in the 1960s. But the fact is that when Rotary International took on the challenge of global eradication in 1988, one thousand (1000) cases a day were being reported. (over 350,000 cases a year!!!) Today we are close to a cure, global eradication through vaccination. This is why World Polio Day is an important occasion, observed to both raise awareness and funding for our continued vigilance.



← **Note:** This Ancient Egyptian image shows Polio has been with us a very long time.



**Our Club members have journeyed to India in 2018 to give Polio Vaccine drops to children in outlying rural areas. (In picture Gayle Chan, Rich, Liz, Lily & Dr Bill Chan)**

## Great RI News

### **“Rotary International’s First Woman President”**

## **Jennifer Jones**

Jennifer E. Jones, a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada, has been nominated to become **Rotary International’s president for 2022-23**, a groundbreaking selection. She will become:



**The first woman to hold that office in the organization’s 115-year history.**

Jones will officially become president-nominee on 1 October if no other candidates challenge her.

Jones says she sees Rotary’s Action Plan as a catalyst for increasing Rotary’s impact. “As we reflect upon our new strategic priorities, we could have never envisioned that *our ability to adapt* would become our North Star during what is inarguably the most profound time in recent history,” Jones said in her vision statement. “Silver linings rise out of the most challenging circumstances. Using metric-driven goals, I will harness this historic landscape to innovate, educate, and communicate opportunities that reflect today’s reality.”

As the first woman to be nominated to be president, Jones understands how important it is to follow through on Rotary’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Statement.

“I believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion ... begins at the top and for us to realize growth in female membership and members under the age of forty — these demographics need to see their own reflection in leadership,” Jones said.

“I will champion double-digit growth in both categories while never losing sight of our entire family.”

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### **The New Rotary Vision Statement**



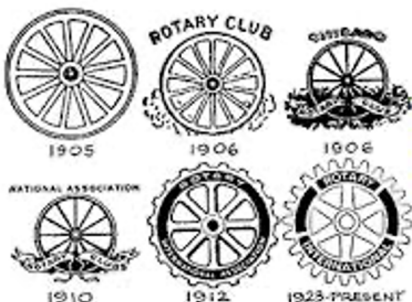
Rotary's Six (6) Areas of Focus has been expanded to Seven (7).



Adding: As the 7<sup>th</sup> Area of Focus



## History of the Rotary Club Wheel Logo



Now →



## Who is Paul Harris?

**Paul Percy Harris** (April 19, 1868 – January 27, 1947)  
An Attorney in Chicago, Illinois. He founded the club that became the humanitarian organization **Rotary International (RI)** in **1905**.



*Founder of Rotary International*





## What is a Paul Harris Fellow?



When \$1000 is contributed to The Rotary Foundation, a request can be made for an individual to be recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow - that person can be a Rotarian or a member of the community who is not a Rotarian.

When a person is recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow, they are presented with a certificate, signed by the Rotary International President and the Chairman of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, along with a lapel pin. The contribution to The Rotary Foundation can be made in one sum or by cumulative giving over a year or a number of years. Individuals can make a personal contribution or the contribution can be from a club, a company or business.

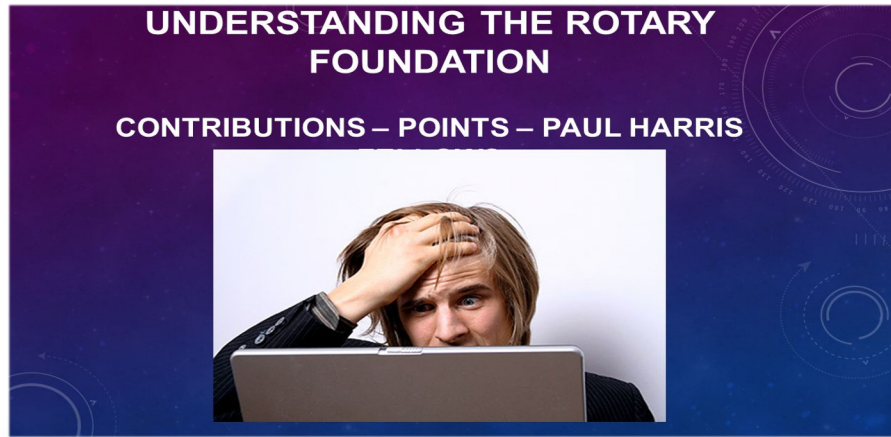
Some of the misconceptions or misunderstanding surrounding a Paul Harris Fellow are:

- When a Club contributes \$1000 to The Rotary Foundation, the Club sets its own criteria for naming a Paul Harris Fellow. Usually this is done to recognize an outstanding commitment to the Club or the community.
- **A Paul Harris Fellow is not an award, but simply a recognition.**
- A personal contribution of \$1000 and the subsequent recognition of a Paul Harris Fellow is encouraged of Rotarians. It is a donation to The Rotary Foundation, Rotary's own charity and, therefore, every Rotarian's own charity.
- **There are over one million Paul Harris Fellows worldwide.**

For each gemstone added to a Rotarian's PHF pin, an additional US \$1000 has been given to The Rotary Foundation. We should celebrate each of the milestones for additional contributions and what they represent. Each gift to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is an opportunity to do even more good in the world through the Foundation.



# What is The Rotary Foundation (TRF)?



TRF.....This is not to be confused with our own Club's Foundation. The Rotary Club of SF Chinatown has its own Foundation that is a 501c3. The monies in that account are used to fund our Club projects both domestic and international. All monies in our Club (Foundation) Account are from donations and are tax deductible.

TRF is The Rotary Foundation and, it too, is a 501c3. It is a non-profit corporation that supports the efforts of Rotary International (RI) It is the Foundation for **all** of Rotary, **all** 36,000+ clubs and **all** 1.2 million members, having spent to date more than US \$4.5 billion on life changing sustainable projects throughout the world, covering seven (7) areas of focus.

**The Rotary Foundation (TRF)** was created in **1917** by Rotary International's sixth president, Arch Klumph as an endowment fund for Rotary "**To do good in the world**". The initial contribution in 1917 was a mere US \$26.50.



Today **TRF** is supported solely by voluntary donations from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share it's vision of a better world.

Visit our Club Website *link: <https://www.sfchinatownrotary.org>*

So much to see and so much information about our club, our Board Members, Covid-19 updates, Photo Gallery, Calendar of events, and for your convenience a **Red Donate Button**, sending your tax-deductible donations directly to our Foundation.

# “Getting To Know You”

As part of the “Getting To Know You” series we would like to showcase one club member in each Newsletter. With the Stay In Place (SIP) and Work From Home (WFH) policies being promoted we all suffer from some degree of social isolation. Many of us, though we have met socially for some time, have not had the opportunity to get to know one another better. I asked Paul Chin to step up and send me his brief bio with some pictures. Thank you Paul for stepping up to get the ball rolling and sharing with our club. Our July Newsletter showcased **Paul Chin**. Our August Newsletter we have had the pleasure to get to know our fellow member **Celine Wong**. Last month **Susan Tom** shared with us a brief history of her growing up in Chinatown, her teaching career, her family and how she found Rotary. Today we are thankful to have the opportunity to get to know **Gayle Chan**.

## Gayle Chan



My name is Gayle Chan. I was born in Guangzhou, China to a large family of 4 girls and 3 boys. As a middle child, I was the last one born in China while my 3 younger siblings were born in Hong Kong. I lived in China 6 years before moving to Hong Kong, then immigrated to the US at age 13 with our family of 9.

My mother was the eldest of 11 siblings and the only one born in China. My grandparents left her in China when she was 3 years old in search for a better life in the US. They spent the next 38 years trying to have my mom immigrate to the US. Finally, in 1963, my mom was reunited with her parents and met her 8 siblings at the age of 41! We were able to immigrate to the US because of the kindness, love and effort of our grandparents, uncles and aunties.



*Mother and I*

We spent one year in Oakland at my grandparents’ home before settling down in SF Chinatown, where my parents had better job opportunities. In Chinatown, my father found work as a restaurant cook and my mom was a seamstress. To further supplement the family income, my mom bought a Singer sewing machine and would sew clothing at night.

I attended Marina Junior High School, Galileo High School and City College of SF. I remember how difficult my first year at school in Oakland was, but my classmates and teachers were kind and patient with me. I still remember walking around with a small dictionary in my pocket to communicate with teachers and classmates. So, personally, I am very aware of how EALNS (CEC) is so immensely helpful and beneficial to immigrant children for their first year after arrival.

At 14, I had a part-time job at Marina Junior High in the Registrar’s office a few hours a day. I remember I had to be home at a certain time to pick up my three younger siblings, ages 8, 7 and 4 from Commodore Stockton School (currently Gorgon J Lau School) and preschool. I then returned home to cook dinner for the whole family, as my three older siblings all had part-time jobs and our mom did not get home until 6pm. Dad often worked past midnight and we kids normally didn’t see him except during his one day off. Life was challenging but we were happy and carefree. I remember playing at the Chinese Rec Center (now Betty Ann Ong CRC) all the time. As Dad was seldom home, Mom was the one providing love and guidance to all of us. She taught us how to cook and sew and most importantly to treat people with respect and kindness and to show appreciation for those who helped us along the way.

I have known Bill for most of my life and we have been married for over **47** years! We grew up as family friends as both our Moms came from the same village in China. Our family would often visit his family when we were in China. We met up again in Hong Kong when I was 8 years old. When my family settled in SF on Washington Street, his family also settled in SF just one block away on Clay Street. Bill and my second brother, Matthew, were good friends and hung out often, but Bill only treated me as a little sister! That later changed and we started dating when he was at UC Berkeley and I was at City College, no longer a high schooler! Bill continued with his studies at UC Berkeley and received a Master’s degree in Electrical Engineering, working for a short period at Hughes Aircraft, then later deciding to change his career to Dentistry. I went to work after two years at City College. Bill was accepted, after completing his pre-dental prerequisites, to UCSF Dental School in 1972. We were married the following year.



*Wedding Day!!!*





*Michael & Stephanie*

I continued to work at the phone company to support the family. Our son, Michael, was born in 1974 and daughter Stephanie came in 1976, the same year Bill graduated from Dental School.

As a Dentist, Bill soon decided to specialize as an Oral Surgeon, requiring an additional 3 years of residency. He opened his Oral Surgery practice in 1979 on Van Ness and Jackson St. It was here that I quit the phone company and devoted my energies managing the Dental Office. (Our son Michael pursued Bill's career and joined the practice in 2004.) We later moved our oral surgery office to Clement Street in the Richmond District in 2008. I retired from managing the office in

2005 (after 25 years) and passed the baton to my daughter-in-law Cynthia. My daughter Stephanie now also works there as a PR manager.

Bill retired in 2016 after private practicing and teaching at UCSF Dental School for over 37 years. We both enjoy traveling, volunteering, gardening and spending time with friends, family and our four grandchildren.

While Bill and I love traveling and have been to many places in the world, we are okay to stay put for a while. My favorite places are China, Egypt, Bhutan, Mongolia, Japan, South America, Africa and the Galapagos Islands!



*Faye & I*

I was introduced to the Rotary Club by my good friend Faye Taam. Bill and Faye's husband Calvin Taam were colleagues in the dental field. Faye and I both became Charter Members of RCSFC in 2008. I want to thank my Rotary Club of SF Chinatown for the opportunity to make so many wonderful and caring friends and to be able to work with so many worthy organizations. EALNS (CEC) and One Sky (Half Sky) are among the dearest and the ones I have worked with the longest!

I also participated in a few International Projects such as the **2010 China Builds** at the orphanage in Harbin, China with Half the Sky, with Faye, Sugo and Arlee. In



*H2Open doors in Guatemala*

2018 I participated with H2Open Doors water purification and Polio vaccination in India, and most recently, Bill and I went to Guatemala in the 2019 H2Open Doors water purification, RACHEL and eyeglass clinic.



*2010 One Sky China Builds*

Locally, we have volunteered and donated to Chinatown schools and NGOs such as EALNS, BAO, Cameron House, YMCA, CCDC, and On Lok. Reaching further out we support Habitat for Humanity, St Anthony Dining, Self Help for the Elderly, Angel Island, One Sky (Half the Sky), UCSF Dental School, UC Berkeley Engineering School, California Care Project, etc...

During this Pandemic Crisis, I am grateful for the extra time I have....to smell the roses, working on my succulent yard and enjoying the beauty of nature.



In summary, I am incredibly grateful and appreciative of my family (Bill, Michael, Cynthia, Chloe, Sid and Stephanie, Vince, Cameron and Myles), my siblings, all my extended families and friends! I am especially thankful to my four grandkids for bringing me SO much Joy and Happiness! Thank you.



*The Proud Chan Clan !!!*

The many travels of Bill and Gayle.....



*A Warm ALOHA....From our family to you and yours !!!*

**Note:** Don't miss the deadline **Oct 9<sup>th</sup>** to register for Gum Moon's Annual (Virtual) Gala, where Gayle & Dr Willian Chan will be among those honored.

**Be well. Be safe. And may gratitude fill your life.**