

1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955



23 February: Lawyer Paul Harris and three friends meet in a Chicago office, beginning the Rotary movement.



Ford introduces the Model-T car.

Rotary clubs contribute US\$25,000 for flood relief in Indiana and Ohio, USA, the first cooperative venture of clubs in the Rotary association.



Rotary adopts a code of ethics, a prelude to The 4-Way Test.

26.50

First Foundation contribution received: US\$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri, USA.
Influenza epidemic



King Tutankhamen's tomb discovered.

BBC founded.
The first talking movie, The Jazz Singer, released.
Charles Lindbergh flies solo across the Atlantic.



The Rotary Foundation awards its first grant: US\$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children, the forerunner of today's Easter Seals.

At its 25th anniversary, Rotary has more than 150,000 members in 3,349 clubs in 62 countries on six continents.
Gandhi's Salt March

The 4-Way Test
Of the things we think, say or do
1) Is it the TRUTH?
2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3) Will it build GOOD-WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



Rotary becomes so respected in its first few decades that it draws a host of luminaries to its ranks — people like composer Jean Sibelius, humanitarian Albert Schweitzer (above), author Thomas Mann, and diplomat Carlos P. Romulo.



World War II begins. Helicopter invented.

Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.
Siege of Leningrad
Food parcels sent to Rotarians in European prison camps. In neutral Switzerland, clubs organize relief measures for French and Belgian refugees.

French resistance leader Jean Moulin killed.
Warsaw Ghetto uprising
Rotary clubs in Finland initiate projects to aid war orphans.

Rotary plays a significant role in the birth of the United Nations with 50 Rotarians serving as delegates, advisers, and consultants at the UN Charter conference.

United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
Germans surrender.



The first Rotary Foundation program, Graduate Fellowships (today's Ambassadorial Scholarships), sent 18 students abroad to seven countries. Today, more than 1,100 students study overseas as Rotary scholars each year.

United States begins Marshall Plan.
Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier.
Dead Sea scrolls discovered.

Korean War begins.
Twenty-three Rotary clubs are dissolved by the newly formed People's Republic of China. Chinese Rotarians who fled the regime form new Rotary clubs on the island of Taiwan.

China becomes communist.
NATO established.
Rotary clubs are reestablished in Japan, Korea, Germany, and the Saar.

More than 11,000 food and merchandise packages are sent to Rotarians in war-devastated areas.

Segregation ruled illegal in the United States.
First atomic submarine launched.

Warsaw Pact signed.
McDonald's Corporation founded.
Disneyland opens.

Battle of Midway
Battle of Stalingrad
British Rotarians host a Rotary conference to promote international cultural and educational exchanges, inspiring the creation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Juan Peron becomes President of Argentina.
Nuremberg Trials
Rotary reopens clubs in Belgium, Burma, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, and Singapore.

Rotary's Century of Civic Service

International treaty makes Antarctica a scientific preserve.
Fidel Castro comes to power in Cuba.

European Economic Community established.
Soviet satellite Sputnik launches the space age.

123
Cuban missile crisis
Interact, the Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women, begins and grows to 123 clubs in its first year.
Rotary launches World Community Service.

Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated.
Prague Spring
Rotary launches Rotaract, a service club for young men and women ages 18-30.

ARPANET, precursor to the Internet, created.
Neil Armstrong becomes the first man on the moon (left).
Yasser Arafat becomes PLO leader.

Matching Grants and Group Study Exchange programs established.
Japan's bullet train opens.
Malcolm X assassinated.
United States sends troops to Vietnam.

Star Wars movie released.
Rotary returns to Spain.
Rotary's convention in Tokyo draws a record crowd of 39,834 attendees (left).

Sears Tower built.
United States pulls out of Vietnam.
Rotarians provide aid to earthquake victims in Managua, Nicaragua.

Rotary creates Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants to improve health, alleviate hunger, and enhance human and social development.
Jonesboro massacre
John Paul II becomes pope (above).

Civil war in Lebanon
Microsoft founded.
Pol Pot becomes dictator of Cambodia.
Rotarians from Australia and other countries provide assistance to victims of the cyclone that destroys 90 percent of Darwin, Australia.

Challenger space shuttle explodes.
USSR launches Mir space station.
Rotary's membership tops one million.
Rotary Village Corps established.

PolioPlus program launched with aim of certifying polio eradication by 2005, Rotary's 100th anniversary.
Famine in Ethiopia.
Ozone layer hole discovered.
Mikhail Gorbachev calls for Glasnost and Perestroika.

Pan Am Flight 103 explodes over Lockerbie, Scotland.
United States shoots down Iranian airliner.
The first clubs in Eastern Europe rejoin Rotary after an absence of almost 50 years (right).

First woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.
IBM introduces the personal computer (PC).
Millions watch royal wedding of Charles and Diana.
Rotary establishes Endowment for World Understanding and Peace (right).

Rotary awards its 10,000th Matching Grant.
Rotary Children's Opportunities Grants fund 1,584 projects at a cost of US\$20 million.
Rotary establishes World Peace Scholarships and seven Rotary Centers for International Studies at eight prestigious universities in six countries.
Euro introduced as the new European currency.
NATO attacks Serbia.
Panama Canal returns to Panama.

Rotary admits women. In 2005, women serve as club presidents and district leaders with many reaching international leadership roles.
New York Stock Exchange suffers dramatic drop on "Black Monday."
West German pilot lands unchallenged in Moscow's Red Square.

Rotary members distribute US\$3 million worth of food, water, medical supplies, equipment, and other aid to help victims of Hurricane Mitch in Central America.
Another \$1.3 million in cash donations from clubs worldwide are used for long-term rebuilding projects.
India and Pakistan test nuclear weapons.

500 millionth child immunized against polio through PolioPlus.
Use of the Internet grows exponentially.

World Trade Center collapses when terrorists fly hijacked airplanes into the buildings, killing 5,000 people from 88 countries (right).
U.S. Pentagon building also hit by a hijacked airplane, and a fourth airliner crashes in Pennsylvania without hitting a target.
New York area Rotary club members assist with immediate emergency relief; Rotarians contribute US\$1.9 million to assist victims' families.
Rotarians in Newfoundland, Canada, host stranded airline passengers when planes in flight are diverted there.
Rotary's PolioPlus program has contributed \$438 million to the protection of more than 2 billion children in 122 countries.
United States pursues terrorists in Afghanistan.
Rotarians in Pakistan, supported by Rotary clubs around the world, provide relief aid and assistance to refugees from Afghanistan.

Western Pacific region declared polio-free.
Rotary has contributed US\$37.5 million to the Western Pacific region and some \$378 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Rotary celebrates 100 years of civic service.
Rotary's contributions to polio eradication exceed a half-billion U.S. dollars.

Rotary awards its 16,000th Matching Grant.