

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS  
FROM ROTARY'S FOUNDER, PAUL HARRIS**

In 1916, Paul Harris shared his thoughts about the organization in an article titled "The Future of Rotary," that was published in *The Rotarian*. Addressing the Rotary world, Harris ended the short piece with his wishes for the festive season; these were his words:

*"I wish you all of the prosperity which your good deeds merit.*

*May all things you ought to have be yours.*

*May your charities rank among your necessary expenditures.*

*May you not fall into the popular error of thinking that happiness is to be found in outdoing your neighbors.*

*May it always be yours to look beneath the veneer of life to the solid substance which lies beneath.*

*May you be builders, not mere climbers.*

*May you be able to appraise life's blessings at their real worth.*

*May you be free to act in accordance with the dictates of your own conscience and good judgement.*

*May you not be slaves to meaningless customs, social or otherwise.*

*May you shun the followers of popularity*

*May you have vision to discern the right, and health, strength and will to do it.*

*That is to say, I wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year."*

**"BE THE INSPIRATION"**

The Rotary Club of Kingston usually meets at the Kingborough Bowls Club, Margate, Mondays 6.30 for 7.00

**Tonight's meeting #2168**

This week: 16/12/18

**CLUB SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES**

**At NORTHWEST BAY SCOUT BUILDING (SNUG OVAL)**

From 4.00 Fellowship

5.00 arrival of Santa Claus

5.45 Dinner is served

**NOTE: NO MEETINGS DECEMBER 24. 31, JANUARY 7**

Next meeting: 14/1/19

**CLUB SERVICE**

**THE NEXT SIX MONTHS and**

**THUMBNAIL SKETCH – Rtn EVA MARJANOVIC**

Chairman

Pres Jill Sward

Registration/Raffle prize

PE Imogen Fullagar

Assistant

PP Neil Bester

Meet 'n Greet/Décor/TT Steward Rtn Gilbert Jeffrey

**PLEASE NOTE:** This Bulletin was prepared from the information available at the time of printing.

**WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB?**

**ANYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW?**

**CHECK OUR CLUB WEBSITE: [www.rotaryclubofkingston.org](http://www.rotaryclubofkingston.org)**

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

**“WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THERE HAD BEEN THREE WISE WOMEN INSTEAD OF THREE WISE MEN?**

**THEY WOULD HAVE ASKED DIRECTIONS, ARRIVED ON TIME, HELPED DELIVER THE BABY, CLEANED THE STABLE, MADE A CASSEROLE, BROUGHT PRACTICAL GIFTS AND THERE WOULD BE PEACE ON EARTH.”**

**Leave of absence:** PPs Lois Haas, Paul Jack.

**Last week’s meeting:** After declaring the meeting open and welcoming our guests, **President Jill Sward** handed the meeting temporarily to **PP Ewan Cameron**, who first informed us of the passing of his mother in England and he will be away for the early part of next month.

Ewan reported on a visit to **Kingston High School** for a presentation by four female Grade 10 students who had been on a **cultural exchange** to Vietnam and Cambodia, some of the expenses of which had been met by a donation from Kingston Rotary.

One week of their visit was spent helping build a house along the Mekong River. They had reported working and traveling in hot and humid conditions throughout and had photographic evidence on display of their adventure.

Their diet, in one part, consisted of fried tarantula that was passable but tended to stick in one of the girl’s teeth braces.

The village people they encountered did not have any material possessions and, despite this Western-style prerequisite, derived their happiness and outgoing attitude from the close ties they enjoyed with friends and family.

PP Ewan passed on to President Jill and the club, a framed photograph of the group and the village house they had helped build.

President Ewan then reported on the somewhat chaotic departure of **Dakota Delaney** on her Youth Challenge adventure aboard *Windward Bound*. Dakota, many will recall, is sponsored jointly by Kingston Rotary and the Salvation Army.

She will return at 1.00 p.m on Tuesday (18) and will disembark at 2.00. It would be a nice gesture for Kingston Rotarians to be part of the welcoming party.

President Jill introduced our speaker, **AG Jeffrey Michelman** (a member of the Paul Harris Society) from the Rotary Club of Jacksonville Oceanside, at Jackson Beach, Florida, for the latest news on Rotary’s PolioPlus campaign. Jeffrey was accompanied on his visit by his wife, Maureen.

Jeffrey is an AG for District 6970 and Chairman of the End Polio Now for that District. As part of the District’s activities, Jeffrey took part in the Bike Ride to End Polio. He is also an active supporter of and recruiter for Rotaract in his District.

His presentation was a highly stimulating one and had total membership involvement. However, it included

- The disappointing news there have been 28 cases of polio reported this year
- The Rotary campaign could not continue without the \$2 for \$1 support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- The virus has become immune-resistant in some places
- Oral vaccine is no longer effective compared with injections
- Problems persist in Afghanistan, Pakistan, PNG, Nigeria, Congo, Somalia, Niger and Syria
- Difficulties with these nations are due to political instability, conflict, poor infrastructure

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### FATHER CHRISTMAS – AN INNOCENT TRUTH

In September 1897, Edward Mitchell, the editor of the now defunct New York newspaper The Sun, received a letter from Virginia O'Hanlon, who lived on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

*"Dear Editor, I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.' Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus?"*

Mitchell asked one of his reporters, Francis P Church to write an editorial in reply. Here it is – what has now become famous as the "Letter to Virginia" or "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus":

*"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age.*

*They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.*

*All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.*

*In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect in intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth.*

*Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.*

*Alas! How dreary would the world be if there was no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.*

*We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.*

*Not to believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies!*

*You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?*

*Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.*

*You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is no veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest men, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart.*

**ONLY FAITH, FANCY, POETRY, LOVE, ROMANCE CAN PUSH ASIDE THAT CURTAIN AND VIEW THE SUPERNATURAL BEAUTY BEYOND.**

*Is it real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.*

*No Santa Claus? Thank God! He lives, and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."*

**THERE IS NO HIGHER HONOUR THAN HUMAN SERVICE.  
TO WORK FOR THE COMMON GOOD IS THE GREATEST DEED.**

**NOTICE BOARD**

**DUTY ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT FOUR MEETINGS**

January 14  
Chairman Pres Jill Sward  
Registration/Raffle prize PE Imogen Fullagar  
Assistant PP Neil Bester  
Meet 'n Greet/Décor/TT Steward Rtn Gilbert Jeffrey

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January 21  
Chairman To be appointed  
Registration/Raffle prize PP Alan Gluyas  
Assistant PDG Bill Brundle  
Meet 'n Greet/Décor/TT Steward Rtn Ross Jones

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February 4  
Chairman To be appointed  
Registration/Raffle prize Rtn Bruce House  
Assistant PP Ewan Cameron  
Meet 'n Greet/Décor/TT Steward Rtn Bruce Lewis

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February 18  
Host To be appointed  
Special Guest Rtn Gilbert Jeffrey  
Assistants PE Imogen Fullagar  
Meet 'n Greet/Décor/TT Steward Rtn Peter Makepeace

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**It is the responsibility of the rostered Rotarian to arrange a replacement if/when unable to attend.**

**FOR THE DIARY**  
**DECEMBER IS DISEASE PREVENTION MONTH**

(Mon) 17 DAYS4GIRLS – ST CLEMENTS HALL – BEACH ROAD  
(Thu) 20 “COLOUR FESTIVAL” BARBECUE – KINGSTON Beach – from 6.00 P.M.

**NO MEETINGS DECEMBER 24, 31 AND JANUARY 7**

**JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH**

(Mon) 14 CLUB SERVICE – THE NEXT SIX MONTHS and THUMBNAIL SKETCH – Rtn EVA MARJANOVIC

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

We have always had the benefit and challenge of a range of extraordinary speakers come to our Club. The task of locating and persuading speakers to visit us has fallen to PP Roger Bastone. To ease the burden on Roger, this is a plea for all members to be vigilant in finding interesting people with a range of talents and ideas to speak to our meetings and widen our knowledge. All suggestions, with contact details, if possible, should be given to PP Roger at 0421 992 359 or rbastone2000@yahoo.com a.s.a.p.