

*Share Rotary Heritage and History*

*Dedicated to the conservation and preservation of Rotary Heritage & History*  
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## **Saturday June 16: discuss preservation opportunities during our Fellowship's Annual General Meeting in Salt Lake City**

All members of the Rotary Heritage and History International Fellowship of Rotarians, and affiliated organizations, are encouraged to attend a 1-hour Annual General Membership Meeting 5 pm Saturday June 14 in Salt Palace Convention Center Room 251C. Another group has the room at 6 pm, so we guarantee this won't run beyond an hour.

In addition to discussing two exciting preservation opportunities that would welcome our fellowship's immediate involvement, we hope to hear from representatives of the Paul Harris 711 Club, the Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation, the Paul Harris Memorial Walkway, and the Polio Survivors & Associates Rotary Action Group.

The previous edition of this newsletter featured the opportunity to save an impressive polio exhibit that had recently closed its showing in Washington, DC. We reported that Smithsonian's National Museum of American History had marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jonas Salk's announcement of an effective polio vaccine by opening a major exhibition titled *Whatever Happened to Polio?*



### **Preserving Howard Harris Home where Paul Harris was raised by his grandparents**

*My Road to Rotary*, the autobiography of Paul Harris, opens with his earliest memory, as a 3-year-old getting off a train in Wallingford Vermont with his father and 5-year old brother Cecil. They walked a short distance to Paul's paternal grandparents home shown above.

Paul's father (George H. Harris) returned to his wife (Cornelia Bryan Harris) and their baby daughter (Nina May Harris) in Racine Wisconsin where business failure had forced a survival strategy that meant Paul and Cecil would be raised by Howard and Pamela Harris.

Paul and Cecil attended school just two doors north in a small red brick school house that had been built in 1818 by James Rustin, the father of Grandmother Pamela Harris. The old school house has been acquired by Rotarians. Harris family keepsakes are stored in the attic.

Located about ten miles south of Rutland, Wallingford remains a small town (less than 2400 residents) where people do business with first name friends. It is easy to connect the dots: Wallingford boy sets up law practice in Chicago; establishes a community service oriented club of first name friends.

Today the Howard Harris Home is the longtime residence of Jim and Sandra Maquis. They are thinking about selling their home. It has never been open for public tours but as a Rotarian, Jim gave R. I. President Luis and Celia Gay a private tour in 1997. Jim has only given a few other tours. Are Rotarians interested in preserving our founder's boyhood home? To discuss preservation of the Howard Harris Home, come to this fellowship's Annual General Meeting June 16 in Salt Lake City, or immediately communicate your thoughts to fellowship leadership. The suburban Chicago home of Paul and Jean Harris was preserved by the Paul & Jean Harris Home Foundation established by RHHIF with indispensable support from past presidents of the Rotary Clubs of Chicago, Chicago O'Hare, and Naperville.



### **What happened to Smithsonian's exhibit?**

Rotary Foundation trustees arranged for Smithsonian's polio exhibit to go to the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation where it is expected to open for public viewing in late July or early August. It fills the Institute's multipurpose room while a permanent exhibit hall is under consideration.

RHHIF and PSA (Polio Survivors & Associates Rotarian Action Group) could help Georgia Rotarians develop a permanent Polio Information Center that might preserve diagnostic and treatment data as well as those heart warming stories we hear from individual Rotarians who went to third world countries at their own expense on NID Teams supporting National Immunization Days.