



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW ROCHELLE:

A CENTURY OF FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Just 14 years after Rotary International was founded in Chicago in 1905, the New Rochelle club formed on April 9, 1919, with members meeting at the Hotel Osborn that had opened in New Rochelle at 44 Franklin Avenue in 1915. *Country Life* magazine described the Osborn in 1920 as a "good family hotel."



The Hotel Osborn, Franklin Avenue

The Club received its charter on October 8, 1919 at the Wykagyl Country Club, which had been upgraded to the current building in 1915 from the original Disbrow farmhouse. Reportedly, the founders were among the "Money Hounds" of World War I who had been successful in selling Liberty Bonds to fund the war effort.



New Rochelle Rotary Club founders

Over the years, the New Rochelle Rotary helped found the first Rotary Club in Bermuda in 1920, the Larchmont Club in 1929, and the Pelham Club in 1946.

The Club has contributed to the larger aims of Rotary International through members' dues, donations, and fundraising activities, most importantly, the successful global "Polio Plus" campaign to eradicate polio, a goal that is nearing completion. Since 1985, Rotary and its partners, including the World Health Organization and the Gates Foundation, have helped reduce the number of cases from 350,000 annually to only 29 in 2018.



A vaccine storage unit supported by Rotary in Pakistan (photo by Khaula Jamil)

Ever since its founding, the Rotary Club of New Rochelle and its members have been closely intertwined with the evolution of the City and the creation of important community organizations. When the New Rochelle newspaper, the *Evening Standard*, called for a Chamber of Commerce, Rotarians responded, and the first fifteen directors of the Chamber were all Rotarians. Club members were instrumental in founding the Boys Club of New Rochelle in the wake of the stock market crash in 1929, now the Boys and Girls Club that operates a wide range of programs benefitting children in New Rochelle schools.

A few additional highlights of Club contributions in the last decade include:

- a winter holiday party and summer barbecue for families of children with disabilities, in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department;
- promotion of other youth opportunities through scholarships to deserving high school students and very recently, a grant to My Brother's Keeper to support distribution of donated children's books through barbershops and other locations in the community;
- support for health-related initiatives such as the Gift of Life, which offers corrective heart surgery to children in need;

- supporting humanitarian programs such as Hope Community Services meals, coat drives, and holiday events for people in need in New Rochelle and The Cookstove Project in Uganda and Nepal.



Presentation of grant to My Brother's Keeper, January 2019

Jared Rice, Co-chair of My Brother's Keeper New Rochelle (MBK NewRo); Colleen Gardephe, Executive Director of MBK New Ro; Kelly Johnson, Director of the New Rochelle Youth Bureau; Rotary member Barbara Crane; Rotary President Francis G. Okelo.

Rotary members individually have contributed far more than can be captured in this brief history, through their professional and volunteer service over the years in religious, educational, and humanitarian organizations – fulfilling the Rotary International motto of “Service Above Self.”

Rotary members have also provided leadership in important initiatives for the New Rochelle community such as the establishment of zoning ordinances in the city and the decision in the 1920's to make Glen Island a public recreational park.



Glen Island Park

A major milestone for the Club was the first admission of women members, soon after the policy of Rotary International changed following a Supreme Court decision in 1987. Patricia Anderson who served for many years with distinction as Director of the New Rochelle Public Library was the first woman member of the Club in 1988, becoming President in 1992, and District Governor in 1998.

Important anniversaries of the Club have been honored with events similar to this 100th anniversary gala. At the time of the 50th Anniversary, in 1969, the *Standard-Star* devoted an entire issue of the newspaper to photos and stories about Rotary Club achievements.

Happy Anniversary To The New Rochelle Rotary Club

50 Years Reflect Members' Devotion To Service Ideals

By Mrs. Barry T. Seane

The 50 years of Rotary in New Rochelle have been marked by a devotion to service which has made the club a force for good in the community. The club's history is a record of its members' devotion to the service of their fellow citizens.



Mrs. Barry T. Seane

An Editorial 'Service Above Self'

It is with a sense of pride that we look back on the 50th anniversary of the New Rochelle Rotary Club. The club has grown from a group of 12 men in 1889 to a membership of over 100 today. Its success is a testament to the devotion of its members to the service of their community.

The club has been instrumental in the development of many of our city's institutions. It has supported the construction of the New Rochelle High School, the New Rochelle Hospital, and the New Rochelle Public Library. Its members have also been active in the work of the Red Cross, the Y.M.C.A., and the Y.W.C.A.



Rotary Club members at a recent meeting.

Officers For Next Year

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

- President: Albert T. Farnes
- Vice President: Robert T. Gault
- Secretary: Robert T. Gault
- Treasurer: Robert T. Gault
- Members at Large: Albert T. Farnes, Robert T. Gault, Charles W. Colquhoun, John H. Gault, Lewis E. Gault, Albert T. Farnes

First Rotarians

The following were the first members of the New Rochelle Rotary Club:

- Albert T. Farnes
- Robert T. Gault
- Charles W. Colquhoun
- John H. Gault
- Lewis E. Gault
- Albert T. Farnes

The Object Of Rotary

The object of Rotary is to encourage and assist the development of good will and friendly relations between men of different nations, races, and creeds, and to promote the best interests of humanity.

Rotary Round The World

As of the latest figures, there were 1,100 Rotary clubs in 46 countries. The club has a membership of over 100,000 members.

The Club has met over the years in a number of locations in New Rochelle – the Lafayette Hotel, the old Ship Ahoy Tavern on South Division Street, the Wykagyl Country Club, the New Rochelle Shore Club, the Elks Lodge, the Glen Island Casino, and the Davenport Club. Currently, the Club meets weekly for dinner on Wednesdays at the Posto 22 Restaurant.

The New Rochelle Club welcomes new members and is committed to bringing together a network of leaders and individuals who are diverse, representative of the community, and dedicated to serving in our City and beyond.

All members seek to follow the Rotary four-way test of the things we think, say or do, adopted as a Rotary philosophy in 1943:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?