

WHAT'S NEWS

Islip - Bay Shore
Rotary
Club



Rotary of Club Islip– Bay Shore

10-1-26

The Community Connection
Rotary Newsletter

Garbage Made Beautiful.

The **5th Annual Interact Recycling Bin Painting Contest** is underway! Rotary District 7255 invited Interact High School Clubs to roll up their sleeves, get creative, and show how art can inspire positive change. This fun project celebrates recycling, our Earth, and Rotary's commitment to supporting the environment.

Participating Interact Clubs are designing and painting their own recycling bins, with each club able to submit up to two bins or containers. The clubs have signed up, and now **it's time to get creative!** Students have the opportunity to work together, share their ideas, and transform an ordinary recycling bin into something that celebrates a greener future.

Once their masterpieces are complete, clubs will take photos of their finished recycling bins and submit them by **November 2, 2026**. There are some exciting prizes at stake: **\$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place!**

The **winners will be announced on November 9, 2026**, at the **Annual Evan R. Liblit Memorial Scholarship Fund Awards Breakfast at the Irish Coffee Pub in East Islip**. The winning designs will also have an opportunity to be showcased at the event.

This contest is a wonderful opportunity for Interact students throughout District 7255 to combine **creativity, teamwork, community service, and environmental awareness** while having fun together. **We can't wait to see their creations and celebrate the winners!**

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) offers an exciting, immersive leadership experience where students build skills, have fun, and form lasting friendships. Organized by Rotary clubs and districts, RYLA helps young people discover their potential and learn to lead through service. **RYLA District 7255**, a 501(c)(3) organization, cultivates a community of aspiring young leaders across Long Island, Brooklyn, and Queens who share a commitment to serving others.

High school sophomores participate as **Rylarians**, juniors serve as **Facilitators**, and seniors take on **Youth Committee** roles. Through dynamic, student-led activities, participants learn to bring people together, work toward shared goals, and adapt to new challenges.

RYLA's spring, fall, and summer conferences are run entirely by students. Each conference promotes **integrity, leadership, service, fellowship, and diversity**, giving participants opportunities to grow, collaborate, and make a difference. Best of all, they build friendships that extend well beyond the conferences! **To learn more, visit <https://www.ryladistrict7255.com> for more information.**



SEE OUR SPECIAL ADDITION STORY
Back page

Come join us
at Shop & Stop Bay Shore

Our next **FOOD DRIVE** will be
held on 10/3 & 10/31
Stop & Shop in Bay Shore
from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m..



Interactors are Creative



RYLA is Empowering



Join us for lunch:
The Irish Coffee Pub
See our schedule
Visit us at: <https://isliprotary.com>
Or call
Merri Ciano, President 2026-2027
631-335-6751

ROTARY CLUB of
 ISLIP - BAY SHORE
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Spreading Peace, One Pole at a Time



Kevin's
Peace Pole

Rotary Peace Poles display the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in the language of the country where they stand. These monuments

inspire unity among people of all cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds. International Peace Pole Days:



Rotary Lunch friends

September 21st starts the 1st of 3 days. **Join us and be a peacebuilder**—help plant more Peace Poles and share a message of hope, unity, and peace.

JOIN US

**FOR THE EAST ISLIP BUSINESS
 PARTNERSHIP EVENTS**

CATCH A CAREER EVENT Thursday, October 29, 2026 | 8:00 - 10:00 AM, Irish Coffee Pub, East Islip. Students practice the communication and dining etiquette skills needed in a business setting.

MENTOR ME MOCKTAIL NETWORKING EVENT Thursday, December 3, 2026 | 12:30 p.m. - 1:40 PM, East Islip High School, 1 Redmen Street, Islip Terrace. The experience builds confidence and prepares students for their upcoming Mentor Me Job Shadow Day, where they visit a professional's workplace and learn directly on-site.

December 11, 2026

The next East Islip School Business Partnership meeting is at the East Islip school administration offices 1 Craig B. Garipey St East Islip/ back door entrance 8 a.m.

STEAM CAREER EXPLORATION EVENT

Tuesday, February 23, 2027 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM
 Wednesday, February 24, 2027 | 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM, East Islip High School. Showcases the many opportunities connected to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

A Personal Story of Helping Others

Rocky Point Rotarian Kevin Mann recently spoke to our Rotary club about Hope Children's Fund and his many trips to Kenya. Founded in 2003, the nonprofit provides physical and emotional support to vulnerable children affected by AIDS who had been living on the streets of Meru. Just **\$365 can provide one child's basic needs at the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Home for an entire year.**

Through his visits, Kevin has come to know the children's culture, challenges, and dreams. His dedication helps young people like **Paul Orlando**, a 13-year-old working hard in school and excelling on the soccer field, build brighter futures.

Another inspiring success is **Joy Britney Kinya**, who joined the home in 2016 and graduated from Maseno University with a Bachelor of Arts in Drama and Theatre. These accomplishments show the lasting difference that care, education, and opportunity can make in a child's life. There are many more Paul's and Joy Brintney's that need help. "Education Is the Key" is the guiding belief at the heart of all of our efforts. Contact Kevin at kevinmannmail@gmail.com or <https://hopechildrensfund.org> for more information.



Upcoming Events:

Oct 17, 2026 Bi-Continental 5K Run/Walk 9:00 am - 11:00 am EDT

March 13, 2027 Annual Passion for Education Gala

6:00 pm - 11:00 pm EST

The Inn & Spa at East Wind 5720 NY-25A Wading River.

Rotaract Students Start A New Year

Rotaract students at Suffolk County Community College and St. Joseph's University in Patchogue are gearing up for the new school year, with Rotary playing an important role in their plans. Their service projects have included:

- Supporting Toys for Tots.
- Collecting personal care essentials, including body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, tampons, pads, underwear, socks, and baby items.
- Preparing Thanksgiving meals for those in need—and much more!

Through volunteer work and service projects, Rotaract students help strengthen our communities, protect the environment, and improve the lives of others. Along the way, they build self-confidence, develop leadership skills, strengthen their résumés, and gain experience that can support their education and future careers.

Rotaract also brings students together through campus fundraisers, partnerships with Rotary clubs, and fellowship activities. These connections create opportunities to share ideas, form friendships, and discover new ways to serve.

By connecting **Interact, Rotaract, and Rotary**, we can help young people continue their journey of service and leadership. Rotaract gives students the opportunity to grow, take on meaningful responsibilities, and make a difference in our community and around the world.



St Joesph's Peace Pole



ROTARY CLUB of
ISLIP -BAY SHORE
Community Connection Newsletter

Gift of Life Long Island Board Meeting

**Wednesday, November, 18 2026 at
6:30 pm at the Courtyard Marriott
Hotel in Central Islip (next to the LI
Ducks Stadium).**

c

ZOOM IS AVAILABLE.

Help us save another 50,000 children

**Save the Date:
GIFT of LIFE GALA
April 29, 2027 @ 6:30
FlowerFields, Saint James**

**Rotarians know how to have fun!
Welcome Honorary Rotarian**



Chrissy has been a wonderful role model, embodying Rotary's motto of **Service Above Self**. We are delighted to welcome her into our Rotary family!

DATES TO FOLLOW:

October

10/1

Board meeting *Irish Coffee Pub 11:15* Rotarian Kevin Mann RE: Rotary Peace Polls and Hope Children's Fund.

10/1

Regular meeting *Irish Coffee Pub 12:15*

10/3

Food Collection at Shop and Stop in Bay Shore 9:30 a.m. -11:45 a.m.

Food donated to Veterans Beacon House,

10/8

Regular meeting *Irish Coffee Pub 12:15* **Speaker: Nanci Deutsch The Success Mindset: Three Keys to Stronger Leadership, Membership, and Fundraising**

10/15

Regular meeting *Irish Coffee Pub 12:15*

10/22

Regular meeting *Irish Coffee Pub 12:15*

10/23

Breakfast meeting East Islip School Business Partnership at 1 Craig B. Gariepy St East Islip – back door entrance 8 a.m.

10/24

Apple Festival for families sharing a table with the Kiwanis Club of Sayville. Location: The Islip Grange - Montauk Highway & Broadway Ave, Sayville, NY

10/27

East Islip Chamber of Commerce 7-8 pm American Legion Hall East Islip

10/29

East Islip School Business Partnership Catch a Career Breakfast 8-10 am (Irish Coffee Pub) Students network with local business professionals.

10/29

Fundraiser – Comedy Club in Bohemia tickets \$25.00 each- doors open 6:30 show starts 8:00 Come join us for a laugh.

10/31

Food Collection at Shop and Stop in Bay Shore.

9:30 a.m. -11:45 a.m donated to Bay Shore Emergency Food Pantry

November

11/2

Islip Chamber of Commerce 7-8 pm Islip Public Library 71 Monell Avenue Islip.

11/5

Board meeting *Irish Coffee Pub 11:00*

11/5

Regular meeting - Dennis running meeting *Irish Coffee Pub 12:15*
Speakers: Matt Memories Fundraising Co, Rudy Saviano

11/12

Regular meeting - Irish Coffee Pub 12:15 **Richard Scheinberg, Sunrise Counseling Center** *The Top Twenty Stress Management Techniques"*

11/17

East Islip School Business Partnership LinkedIn workshop 2-3 pm East Islip High School

11/18

Gift of Life Borad meeting- in person and available by Zoom. at 6:30 pm at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Central Islip (next to the LI Ducks Stadium).

11/19

Regular meeting: *Irish Coffee Pub 12:15* *Blair Darcey, Chick-fil-A, Bohemia*

11/23

Monday- Thanksgiving Baskets **EVENT: need Volunteers**

Join us for lunch at the Irish Coffee Pub, East Islip — Thursdays 12:15 pm

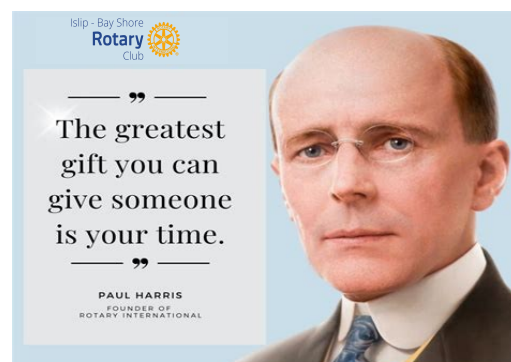
See our full Meeting and Event schedule, visit us at: <https://isliprotary.com>

ROTARY CLUB of ISLIP -BAY SHORE

Merri P. Ciano
President 2026-2027
Rotary Club of Islip –Bay Shore
District 7255 Interact Committee
East Islip High School Business Partnership
No. Babylon High School Career Connection
Council

Mailing Address:
Rotary Club of Islip-Bay Shore

ROTARY
District 7255



SPECIAL ADDITION

A Personal Story of Polio

World Polio Day, observed each year on **October 24**, raises awareness of polio, the importance of vaccination, and the global effort to eradicate this disease. The vaccines developed by Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin made worldwide prevention possible, and in 1988 Rotary International became a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

One of our own members, **Phyllis Ozarin** of the Rotary Club of Islip-Bay Shore, understands polio more personally than most. She was diagnosed with polio at just seven years old.

"Most people don't realize that polio is a virus that primarily affects nerve cells in the spinal cord or brain stem," Phyllis explains. "In severe cases, it can lead to paralysis and difficulty breathing."

Polio deeply affected her family long before her own diagnosis. "Both of my parents had polio," she says. "My father used crutches from the age of ten. My mother wore leg braces and eventually had part of her leg surgically removed. She used a wooden prosthetic—nothing like the advanced prosthetics available today. It was heavy and very difficult to manage."

Phyllis's own illness was frightening. "At seven, I fell into a coma for three days and spent three weeks in the hospital. Returning to school took time, and recovery was slow. I'm grateful my mother enrolled me in dance classes when I was three. Dance kept me active, helped me heal, and gave me strength."

She continued dancing throughout her childhood and into adulthood, eventually earning gold medals in competition. "I'm proud of my life and what I've accomplished," she says. "I want people to understand how devastating polio can be—and how important the polio vaccine is."

Phyllis married her longtime love, Nat Ozarin, in 1969. Today they have two daughters and four grandchildren. As **Rotary District 7255 Director of the Polio Plus Society**, she frequently visits Rotary and community clubs to share her story and raise awareness.

Many people remember that **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** contracted polio at age 39 and never regained the use of his legs. For younger generations, polio may feel like a distant threat. Phyllis's story reminds us that its impact can span generations.

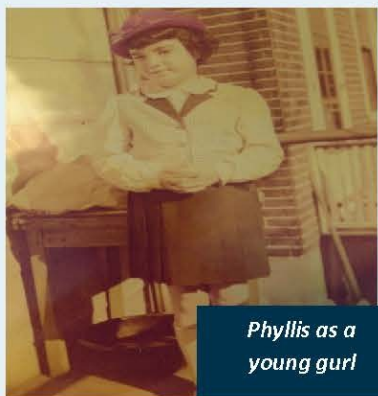
When the global eradication effort began in 1988, polio paralyzed an estimated **350,000** children each year in more than 125 countries. Since then, cases of wild polio have dropped by more than 99.9%, and two of the three strains have been eradicated. Rotary continues this work alongside national governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the CDC, Gavi, and the Gates Foundation.

World Polio Day is a moment to recognize this extraordinary progress—and to honor people like Phyllis, whose lives show why the work must continue. Rotary International created the **Polio Plus Society** to encourage sustained, recurring gifts to Rotary's top humanitarian priority: ending polio forever. Modeled after the Paul Harris Fellow program, **District 7255 encourages members to contribute at least \$100 per year** to support eradication efforts.

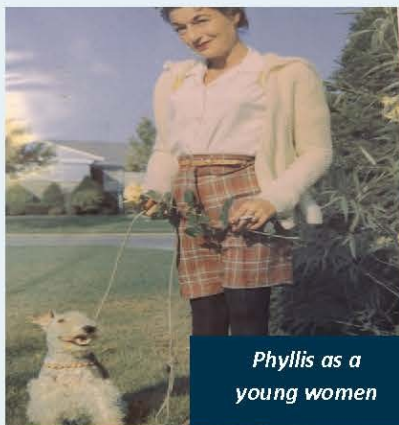
Polio still exists in a few countries, and vaccination remains essential. **Donate today—for Phyllis, and for every child still at risk.** Visit EndPolio.org/Donate



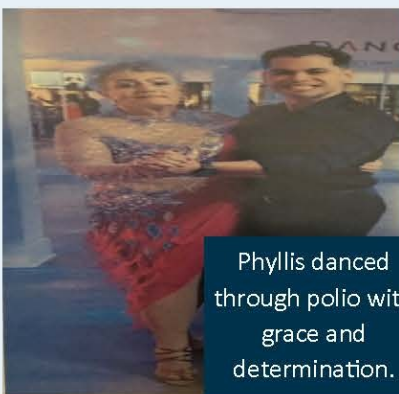
*Phyllis's Dad
at age 10*



*Phyllis as a
young gurl*



*Phyllis as a
young women*



*Phyllis danced
through polio with
grace and
determination.*



*Phyllis & Nat
And lived Happily Ever After*