



“Rotary Global History Fellowship” (RGHF) in Cyprus

2 First World Records for the Rotary Club of “Nicosia-Lefkothea”

Presentation by PP Chris Achilleoudis

At the Meeting of the RC of Yonkers, Thursday, 1 April 2010, 12.00 pm

Dear President Matts, dear RGHF Director Helen, dear Fellow Rotarians,

I am very pleased because I have the opportunity to be today with you, during the Meeting of the Rotary Club of Yonkers. This was arranged by President Matts, whom I know since many years. He has suggested to me to present to you the founding of RGHF in Cyprus and the case of my Rotary Club “Nicosia-Lefkothea”, in relation to this Fellowship. As you will see, the story is unique in the whole 10 years life of RGHF.



The island of Cyprus is located in the eastern part of the Mediterranean. It joined the European Union on 1 May 2004 and is the eastern part of the Union.



The archaeological history of Cyprus goes back to 10,000 years BC. It has a population of about 800 thousand and 19 Rotary Clubs. It belongs to Rotary Zone 20B, District 2450. In Nicosia, the Capital of Cyprus, there are 6 Rotary Clubs. My Club, Nicosia-Lefkothea, founded in 1987, has now 72 members.

My name is Chris Achilleoudis. I was President of my Club during 2001-2002. I am the Internet Communication Officer of my Club, the District Awards Committee Chairperson for Cyprus, and the RGHF Coordinator for Cyprus.

The Logo, the Pin and Jack Selway, the Founder of RGHF



As you already know, "Rotary Global History Fellowship" is an independent self-sufficient Fellowship of Rotary, consisted mainly of highly educated Rotarians who have as their main aim the recording with every detail of the history of Rotary and Rotary Clubs globally. Since 2000, year of Fellowship's founding by Jack Selway, they have put more than 4000 pages on the internet. They really deserve every support from all Rotarians and their Clubs.

Matts Ingemanson
President RGHF 2004/2006



Matts Ingemanson was President of RGHF in 2004-2006.

Joseph Kagle
President RGHF 2007/2010



During 2007-2010, the President is Joseph Kagle

The coming of the “Rotary Global History Fellowship” to Cyprus is a very significant event for the Cyprus Rotary as well as the RGHF. This was done by its Founder Jack Selway, **under very quick and unique conditions in only 24 hours**, as follows:

Jack Selway, the Founder of RGHF, was with his wife on a cruise in the Mediterranean, on the way to Egypt, Cairo, for addressing the big event for the “RGHF Day” on 3 October 2009,

organized by our Rotary District 2450 and our District Governor Nijad Al Atassi, who gave great importance to this event.

Matts, Past President of RGHF, sent to Jack Selway the following e-mail:

E-mail from Matts Ingemanson, to Jack Selway

- Dear Jack,
- **It was great seeing you and Sherry in New York!**
- **I don't know if you are able to receive this message.**
- **If you are, there is contact information for Chris Achilleoudis.**
- **His e-mail is achill@cytanet.com.cy.**
- **Chris is a prominent Rotarian in Cyprus. I believe that he would be interested in joining RGHF.**
- **If you are able to confirm receiving this message and inform me of the date that you and Sherry will be in Cyprus, I will send Chris an introduction of you .**
- **Regards,**
- **Matts**

Jack Selway, early in the morning of the previous day he was going to arrive to Cyprus, sent to me the following e-mail:

Slide 8 (E-mail from Jack)

- **From: selway@selway.org [mailto:selway@selway.org]**
Sent: Tuesday, 29 September, 2009 5:59 AM
To: achill@cytanet.com.cy
Cc: Matts Ingemanson
Subject: Rotary: The Global History of Rotary and Cyprus
- **Chris,**
- **Please note the email from Matts Ingemanson. Sherry and I would like to attend the meeting at the Holiday Inn tomorrow Wednesday where I hope to meet you.**
- **I hope that you'll join us and I'll present your membership pin at the meeting. We are preserving the history of all of Rotary through Rotary Global History Fellowship.**
- **Jack Selway**
- **On board a cruise ship in the Mediterranean**

A lot of e-mails and telephone calls were exchanged during that day between me and Jack, as well as the President of the Limassol Rotary Club. It was arranged for Jack to visit the Meeting of the Rotary Club of Limassol, which would take place next day.

So, it started the whole story.

From: Chris Achilleoudis [mailto:achill@cytanet.com.cy]

Sent: Tuesday, 29 September, 2009 5:27 PM

To: selway@selway.org

Dear Jack,

I have already spoken on the phone with the President of Limassol Rotary Club Dinos Michaelides. He will be very happy to see you at his meeting tomorrow. You must be at the Holiday Inn at 13.00.

As he told me, because of the scheduled speech by the former Minister Dr Kadis, he is sorry to say that time will be very-very limited. But he will try to fit a very few minutes address to the members by you (about 5 minutes, before the speech).

I will also come from Nicosia to Limassol and I will be very pleased to meet you there. It is a pity that you will stay in Cyprus for only a few hours. Otherwise, we could arrange a whole presentation about RGHF, to this or any other Rotary Club of Cyprus.

Best wishes to my good friend Matts. We know each other since many years, from the Rotary Club of New York.

Yours in Rotary

Chris Achilleoudis

www.rotary-cyprus.org/~lefkothea

- **From:** selway@selway.org [mailto:selway@selway.org]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 September, 2009 7:32 PM
To: Chris Achilleoudis

- Dear Chris,
- **I will make my five minutes memorable.** All of our work can easily be read in Greek, using the Google translator found on all 4000 pages.
I would like to have you and Dinos join RGHF so that we will have a start to create an event to celebrate the Global History of Rotary in Cyprus. \$30 /22 EURO for one year.
- I'll present your membership pins and they will be shown at www.11october.org as an event in Cyprus.
- **See you then.**
- Jack Selway

On Wednesday 30 September 2009, in the morning I sent the welcoming e-mail:

From: Chris Achilleoudis [mailto:achill@cytanet.com.cy]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 September, 2009 8:55 AM
To: selway@selway.org

Dear Jack,

Welcome to Cyprus. I send you the following contact phones, in case you need anything:

Chris Achilleoudis : +357 99493999
Dinos Michaelides : +357 99432169

See you soon,
Chris Achilleoudis

Just as Jack came out from the cruise ship to Limassol, instead of other visit in town, he walked with his wife Sherry from the harbor to Holiday Inn Hotel and participated at 1.00 pm in the Meeting of the "Rotary Club of Limassol" under the Presidency of Dinos Michaelides:

- **MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF LIMASSOL**

- LIMASSOL HOLIDAY INN
- President: Dinos Michaelides
- WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2009, 1.30 pm
- Main Speaker: Dr Costas Kadis, f. Minister of Health, Prof. Frederic University
 - **Subject: " Natural Heritage of Cyprus"**

**Founding of the
Rotary Global History Fellowship in Cyprus
by Jack Selway, Founder of the RGHF**

- **First 2 Members pinned during the ceremony:**
PP Christodoulos Achilleoudis of RC of "Nicosia-lefkothea" and P Dinos Michaelides of RC of "Limassol"
At the end of the meeting a 3rd : AG Phaedon Stylianides, RC of "Nicosia-Salamis"





- Jack Selway gives a short presentation on Rotary's Global History to RC of Limassol, Cyprus, on 30 September 2009
-



- Selway's message was about the start of Rotary, the values that were with us in 1905 and which continue today
-



Jack Selway

As a result, it was the **founding of RGHF in Cyprus by its Founder and the pinning of the first 3 members**. As Selway stresses, **Cyprus is the first country of the Rotary District 2450 that he visited and pinned himself the first 3 RGHF members**:



- Jack pinning PP Christodoulos Achilleoudis, R.C. "Nicosia-Lefkothea"



- Jack pinning P Dinos Michaelides, President R.C. "Limassol"



- Jack pinning AG Phaedon Stylianides, R.C. "Nicosia-Salamis"

These members have been registered on the International Roster of RGHF, as well as on the web page www.11october.org, in the Chapter "**30 September 2009 Rotary Global History Day-Cyprus, Zone 20b**" together with their photos and the following inscriptions:

1. **Christodoulos Achilleoudis**, PP of RC of Nicosia-Lefkothea coordinated this first RGHF event in Cyprus and became the first member of the fellowship in his country.
2. Next RGHF founder Jack presented a membership pin to **Dinos Michaelides**, President of RC Limassol.
3. Another new RGHF member is D2450 Assistant Governor **Phaedon Stylianides** of Nicosia-Salamis.



Main Speaker: Dr Costas Kadis, f. Minister of Health, Prof. Frederic University
Subject: " Natural Heritage of Cyprus"

Dr Costas Kadis, former Minister of Health, Professor, Frederic University, Nicosia
Subject: " Natural Heritage of Cyprus"





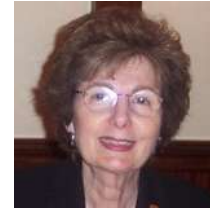
After the Meeting, the Farewell:



After that, Jack and Sherry were brought to the harbor and continued the cruise towards Egypt.

Late the same day on 30th September 2009, I received the following e-mail from **RGHF Director and PDG Helen Reisler**, whom I also knew from the Rotary Club of New York:

From: Helenbreisler@aol.com [mailto:Helenbreisler@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 September, 2009 9:58 PM
To: achill@cytanet.com.cy
Subject: Re: RGHF success in Cyprus-Achilleoudis



- Dear Chris,
- **I am so glad to hear that you have come "on board" this wonderful and meaningful group, "The Rotary Global History Fellowship." There is no other group like it in Rotary.** It's a real team of dedicated, active Rotarians who want to make sure that the history (including so many important facts and events) are preserved. **We continue to make history every day and the RGHF keeps up with it all. This has also been an excellent way to "publicize" what we do as well.**
- I send you my very best wishes from New York.
- Warm regards,

PDG Helen Reisler

RGHF Director (Zone 30)

PP Rotary Club of New York

On 6 October I sent the following e-mail to Matts, thanking him:

From: Chris Achilleoudis [mailto:achill@cytanet.com.cy]
Sent: Tuesday, 06 October, 2009 9:52 PM
To: mi@redi-kwick.com

- Dear Matts,
- With my best wishes from Cyprus, I feel the need to thank you once more because, by introducing me to Jack, you gave me the unique opportunity to become the first Cypriot Rotarian who helped in the founding of RGHF in Cyprus. I really feel very proud and I owe this to you and Jack.
- Hearing from you, gives me great pleasure.
- Looking forward to meeting you again,
- Your Rotarian friend,
- PP Christodoulos Achilleoudis

I had an immediate response:

From: Matts[mailto:mi@redi-kwick.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 07 October, 2009 2:07 AM
To: Chris Achilleoudis

- Dear Chris,
- **It's been a pleasure to introduce you to Jack. It was a unique opportunity to meet Jack in Cyprus, so I needed to introduce him to you. Like Jack, you are a very dynamic Rotarian, so Rotary Global History Fellowship is gaining tremendously from your involvement.**
- Best Regards,
- **Matts Ingemanson**
- Chairman 2004-2006, Rotary Global History Fellowship



During the next meeting of my Rotary Club Nicosia-Lefkothea, I spoke to my Fellow Rotarians about the founding of RGHF in Cyprus. They embraced the idea and on 19 October 2009, **15 new members of RGHF were announced:**



All were pinned by me that day.





After this event, Rotary Club of Nicosia-Lefkothea was recognized as the first in the world of RGHF with such a great number of new members in one day and from the same Club.

All members are included on the web site in the International Roster of RGHF, each one with the Zone and District number **(20b 2450)**, followed by the name of their Club **(Nicosia-Lefkothea)** and then **Cyprus**. The most important: **With one “click” on the name of each member**, open not only this member’s details, but also the **web site of the Club: Nicosia-Lefkothea** or any other member’s Club. This is something really worthwhile for the whole Cyprus Rotary and our District, which can be seen by everyone from whatever part of the world, something which was not so easy to see before.

Special reference for this Membership World Record was made in the RGHF Newsletter of December 2009 on page 9. (Show the Newsletter and read the following text):

*Cyprus was organized on 24 hours notice by two people: **Matts Ingemanson** and non-member **Chris Achilleoudis**. Chris then organized his own club event, days later. Chris’s club installed 15 members in one day. That is the most number of RGHF members ever joining on a single day from one club.*

<http://www.rghf.org/rhd/events/2009/20bcyprus/index.htm>

We now have about 60 members in this nine-country district 2450. Chris has since brought in another seven members.

Rotary Club of Nicosia-Lefkothea, Cyprus, been declared as World Record of RGHF Membership, honored this with more new members, coming to the total of 33 within the next 2 weeks.



After this, a **Challenge** was received by Jack Selway:

CHALLENGE

- Here is a challenge: Become the first “all RGHF” Club. Can you make your club a 100% RGHF club? I’m sure that we can find something to do that will make it worthwhile, and the First 100% RGHF club will be a record that will never be broken.
- Jack Selway

The result was completely positive. During the next 2 weeks and in total period of less than one month (19 October – 16 November 2009), all 72 members of my Club became members of the RGHF, as follows:

- (a) Me on 30 September 2009 (No 1), by the Founder of RGHF Jack Selway
- (b) 15 on 19 October 2009 (No 2-16) WORLD RECORD of RGHF, 15 in one day.
- (c) 7 on 26 October 2009 (No 17-23)
- (d) 10 on 2 November 2009 (No 24-33)
- (e) 20 on 9 November 2009 (No 34-53)
- (f) The last 19 on 16 November 2009 (No 54-72).

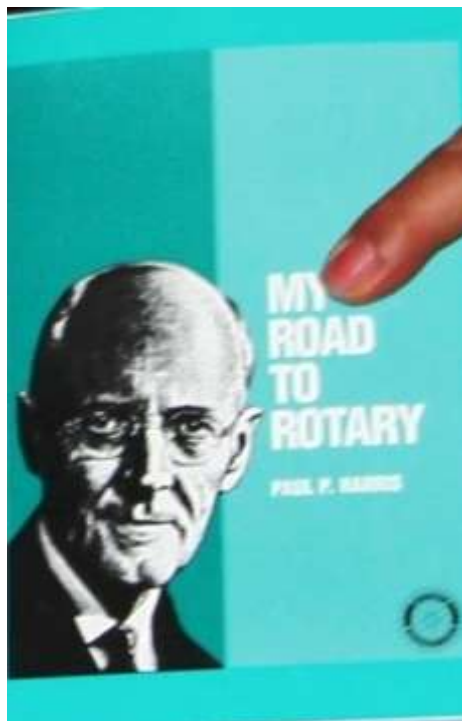
After the above, Rotary Club of Nicosia-Lefkothea, Cyprus, was recognized as the **first 100% RGHF Club in the world**, with the following official announcement:

“RC of Nicosia-Lefkothea, Cyprus is our first 100% RGHF Club with 72 members joining. Each of the members will receive a copy of Paul Harris’ “My Road to Rotary.” The Rotarian who made this possible is their past president Chris Achilleoudis. Also, it was Matts Ingemanson, past chair of RGHF who arranged for Chris and RGHF CEO Jack Selway to meet while the Selways were visiting Cyprus on 30 September 2009”.

Special reference for this World Record was made in the RGHF Newsletter of January 2010 on whole page 3.

72 Award books of Paul Harris’ “My Road to Rotary” were posted to me. I made all the books personalized for each member. A “Congratulations Page” was added between the first two blank sheets of the Award Book, making each book personalized for each member and signed by the RGHF Coordinator for Cyprus. This will be the best memory for their participation in this First World Record.

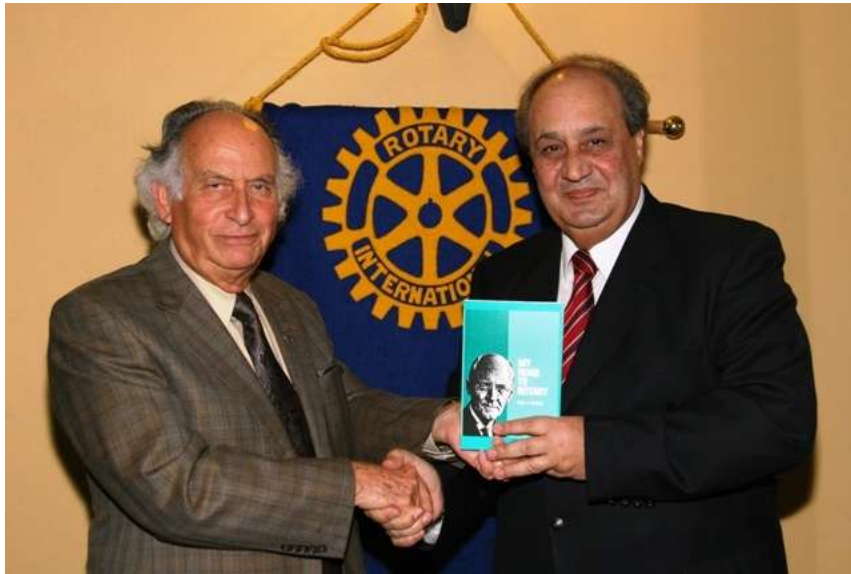
On January 4, 2010 a gathering was arranged in the Amphitheatre of the Nicosia University and this photo was taken, before receiving their Award, with 48 members who managed to come on that day:



The Award Book was given and a personal photo was taken with each one.

The Awards were given by:

(a) The RGHF Coordinator for Cyprus





(b) The oldest Past President who continues to be member of the Club



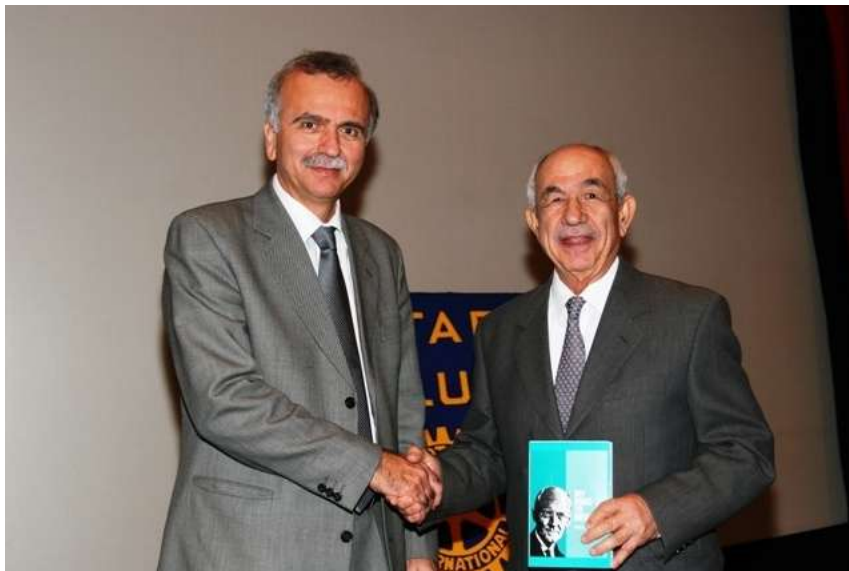
(c) This year's President of the Club



(d) The Assistant Governor of Nicosia-Lefkothea



(e) Other Past Presidents of the Club who continue to be members



The Award was given to each one of the rest 24 members, with a photo of each one.

Very special reference and description of the whole event of the First 100% RGHF World Record, is made in the RGHF Newsletter of March 2010, on 5 whole pages 17-21: All the 72 members are presented with their photos, their names and their rotary history, receiving their Award.

I finish my presentation with the following Personal Conclusion:

PERSONAL CONCLUSION

- **I feel very proud because Matts Ingemanson, by introducing me to Jack, gave me the unique opportunity to become the first Cypriot Rotarian responsible for bringing RGHF to Cyprus, to be the first Rotarian registered from Cyprus and to stress my Club “Nicosia-Lefkothea, which managed to receive two First RGHF World Records.**
- **PP Christodoulos Achilleoudis**
- Paul Harris Fellow
- Past President and Internet Communication Officer of “Nicosia-Lefkothea”
- f. Inspector of Music in Sec. Schools, Ministry of Education
- Writer of the book “Nicosia-Lefkothea-20 Years of Service to the Community”
- District 2450 Awards Committee Chairperson for Cyprus

LONG LIVE RGHF and as we say in Greek, ΖΗΤΩ ΤΟ RGHF (ZITO TO RGHF).

Thank you very much

PP Christodoulos Achilleoudis
RGHF Coordinator for Cyprus