



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

The Rotary Club of Montego Bay

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 – JULY 2011

Installation Issue

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Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of The Rotary Club of Montego Bay's monthly newsletter. This newsletter will keep you updated with our special events, projects and fellowship activities.

It is an exciting year for the Club as this is our 50th year in Rotary. So although this issue will focus on our installation, we will allow you a wistful look into the past with a brief history of the club including photographs from the archives.



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50th Installation Ceremony

The 50th Installation of the Rotary Club of Montego Bay was held at Hummingbird Hall, The Greens, Rose Hall on Sunday 26 July, 2011.

Hummingbird Hall is a destination wedding venue on the stunning Rose Hall Estate, with spectacular views of the ocean, surrounded by the famous White Witch and Cinnamon Hill golf courses, and within the grounds of the famous Rose Hall Great House. *It* was kindly donated by its Rotarian owners for the event.

There were approximately ninety members in attendance with visiting Rotarians from the Clubs of Lucea, Montego Bay East, Montego Bay Sunrise, Rose Hall & Negril. There were also a number of Interactors, Rotoractors, two Early Actors, guests and family members of Rotarians.

The ceremony was chaired by Past President Denton, also the incoming Vice President who seamlessly entertained us and expertly guided the ceremony.

Table centre pieces were vintage books and peacock feathers. The books, to illustrate the emphasis on literacy for the coming year, and peacock feathers as a symbol of the joy that service in our community can bring.

The brunch was a Jamaica fare of; jerk chicken, stewed pork, baked fish, rice and peas, callaloo rice, roast bread fruit, fried plantain, macaroni cheese and steamed vegetables. This was followed by a delectable selection of petite fours. Red and white wines and a selection of fruit punches completed the sumptuous delights.



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Outgoing Pres. Mexine listening to a Citation from Rotary International in recognition of Rotary Club of Montego Bay's 50th Anniversary



Family of Rotary – Incoming President Dr. Vernella Fuller with Sec. Natasha, her husband Rtn. Bertram, from the Rotary Club of Rosehall & their children Early Actors Lucas and Savannah.



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My charge to all Rotarians

Speech by outgoing President Mexine Bisasor

This Rotary Year is coming to an end I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all Rotarians in Rotary Club of Montego Bay, who have contributed to the success of this Club. Recognitions and honour that have been bestowed upon the Club belong to each and every one of our members.

This year, due to the serious financial downturn in the economy, I focused primarily on helping the needy. My main project of restoring the Clock at Barnett Street is still outstanding. However the clock is ordered and plans are underway to have it up and running within the next few months. We are proud to have had the opportunity to offer scholarships and career guidance to needy youths as well as to provide books to our local schools. Additional outreach activities included actively collaborating with the Rotary Club of Bayonne, New Jersey in helping The Central Basic School, as well as with the Rotaract Club of Montego Bay with the Norwood Basic School and ROC Wheels again donated wheelchairs. In addition to the satisfaction received by providing the hands-on work and much needed resources, our members also enjoyed themselves and had lots of fun! Our meetings were sparked by entertaining programs, camaraderie, and good food! Thanks to our hosts The Atrium and Sandals Montego Bay.

The year has ended but leaves me to ask; what is Rotary? And to this I might refer to the four basic tenets of the organization:

IS IT THE TRUTH?

Are we as Rotarians truthful to the organization? Are we committed to the organization? Are we Rotarians in truth?

IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?

Are the things we do fair to all and especially the organization? Do we within ourselves maintain fairness?

WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Are we Rotarians to do goodwill and to make friendship from it?



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WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

Do the things we do benefit all or just self?

Montego Bay is a community in need and we need to get close to the people that need our services, and we cannot do that by existing from long distances. We need to build communities by bridging the gap between us. If, indeed, service is what we exist for, then it is imperative that we find communities to support! It is only then that we can identify with the communities, and be truly relevant and available to understand and deal with problems at close range. My urgent message, therefore, is that we must redirect our presence to the creed of Rotary and the vision of Paul Harris and his few friends who believed in giving 'Service Above Self'. You and I, and all of us together can do it.

My second message is related to the first one. It is to do with membership and the size of our existing club. There are well over 10 clubs in this District with memberships below 30. Indeed, in the majority of clubs, there are more unfilled classifications than the filled ones. This in itself shows that it is not the absence of classifications, but rather, our own lack of will to invite others in.

Commitment to the philosophy of Service Above Self is central to the Rotary experience. Our weekly meetings keep us in fellowship with each other and activities that build community and bridges cannot move forward without fellowship. Rotary is not intended to be "experienced" in isolation from others. Not being in relationship with other Rotarians will prevent us from understanding the Four Way Test and its importance to our lives. The Four Way Test is based on our relationship with others.

Our local community has needs. Our country has needs. And, the world has needs, let us focus on our mission as we move into a new Rotary year, let us give our incoming President Vernella all the support with 'Service Above Self'.



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Installation Photo Gallery

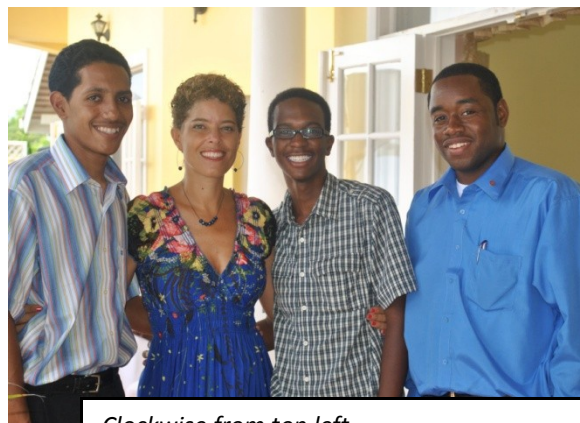




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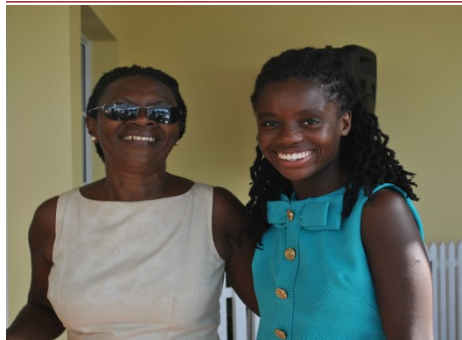
*Clockwise from top left
 Outgoing President Mexine with Rotarian
 of the year Bhagwan ; Outgoing President
 Mexine with Service Above Self Awardee
 Rtn. Robin ; Rotarian Natasha with New
 Generations Interactor Ivan, Interactor
 Phillip and Rotaractor Zaheer; Friends and
 family of Rotary*



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Clockwise from top left

Guest Elaine and daughter of In-coming President Vernella, Alisha – responsible for the the décor and intriguing centre pieces of books and peacock feathers ; President Phyllis and her family ; ADG Govind and In-coming President of Montego Bay Club of Rotary East – Hermes Made ; newest Rotarian Blondel with husband Roy ; the head table ; Rotarian of the year Bhagwan, Rotarian Natasha and ADG Hareh.



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Speech - Incoming President

I am honored and delighted to be the President of the Rotary Club of Montego Bay for the year 2011-12.

Firstly may I thank Immediate Past President Mexine for the work she has done for the Club this year and for her exhortations to us to continue to rise to the challenge of service.

This illustrious Club celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. It has been 50 years of tremendous service to our community.

This year we are equally enthusiastic and committed to the challenge of continuing this great tradition of giving, and of service above self.

The Rotary Club of Montego Bay will endeavor this year to focus on education; through scholarships but especially in the area of Literacy. We want children to develop a passion for reading. The president's Project will aim to inspire children and young people to read; for fun, for pleasure for information and for its own sake. I believe that a number of the ills of our society would be alleviated if our society had more literate, thinking and analytical people.

Rotarians and friends of Rotary, what are you reading at the moment? What was the last book, article or report you read? Are you an example to your children and your peers?

In addition to literacy, we aim to develop a mentorship and volunteer scheme both to recognize volunteerism that already exists among young people, and to encourage others to volunteer.

Further, we hope to continue our Club's tradition of service in the areas of health, water & sanitation. We believe that a healthy society is a potentially



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happy and prosperous society. We plan to continue to partner with agencies abroad to bring medical supplies and equipment to Jamaica.

We endeavor to work with our sister clubs in Montego Bay by giving of our time and resources as much as possible. Equally, we will work to support Rotary in Jamaica, in the District and internationally, as we are all working together to improve the life changes of our fellow human beings.

In the last 50 years, Rotarians have inspired each other to achieve what may have seemed impossible. We aim to continue this tradition of extending ourselves to achieve more.

As you may know the international theme this year, is reach within & embrace humanity. I chose books as the centre pieces you see on the table to illustrate our emphasis on literacy. The peacock is the national bird of India from where our international president comes. It is a bird which symbolizes grace, pride, and beauty. They are a sign of joy for all who see them.

Rotarians, and friends of Rotary, let us live Rotary's motto, service above self and pledge ourselves to bring joy and enrichment by making a positive impact in our community.



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50th Anniversary Speech

(This speech was read at the Installation by Interactor Ivan from Cornwall College. It was researched and written by Incoming president Vernella with contributions by PP Kay, PDG Pishu and from books loaned by PP George)



The Rotary Club of Montego Bay celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year having been chartered on the 21 March 1961.

The Club's Charter was officially presented to President Murph Dullum at an official banquet held at Casa Blanca Hotel. It was presented by Dr. Carlos Gonzales of Mexico City, who was sent to represent Rotary International.

There were twelve Rotarians from Kingston and two from Miami present along with the 21 Charter Members. The Mayor of Montego Bay was given twenty



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one guineas from the twenty one members for the benefit of the Railway Lane Boys Club. Kingston Club presented the club with a gong and a speaker's lectern. The North Winnipeg Club presented the club with a gavel.

After this auspicious beginning the club settled down to regular weekly meetings at the Casa Blanca Hotel. Members were drawn from a ten miles radius of Montego Bay, which was the territorial limit laid down in the Constitution.

By the end of the first year, the club had thirty one members. President Murph represented the club at the Rotary International Convention in 1962, which held in Los Angeles. He made valuable links and contact with Rotarians internationally.

Since that first year the Club has held meeting in several venues around the city including Montego Bay Racquet Club, Bay Roc Hotel, Richmond Hill Inn, Miranda Inn and Royal Caribbean, which later became Sandals.

Membership of the group grew steadily reaching 60 in the late nineteen sixties and early nineteen seventies, and became more diverse when women were eventually admitted to the club.

Over the past fifty years the Club has completed a diverse range of projects too numerous to mention but suffice it to say that the club has made an impact in most all areas of life in our community including; education, sports, medical, social and community care.

Some projects such as the Annual Careers Fair have been ongoing for thirty five years and the Scholarship fund, for twenty five. The Club sponsored its first Club, Montego Bay East which received its Charter at the Holiday Inn on the 22 June 1992. The Club has since sponsored several other Clubs; Lucea, Sav La Mar, Montego Bay Sunrise and Montego Bay Rose Hall.



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The Club has had one District Governor Pishu Chandiram, who reputedly had one of the most financially successful district conferences which was held at the Wyndham hotel in April 1994 and chaired by one of the Past President of the club, George Palmer.

As well as making an impact on the community in its fifty year history, The Rotary club of Montego Bay has boosted tremendous fellowship functions. The records show that Pishu and Janki Chandiram home was labeled the unofficial home of Rotary gatherings in Western Jamaica. Likewise, the late PP Gywn Jones and his wife current member Rtn. Phyllis hosted many functions at their home in Ironshore.

The Rotary Club of Montego Bay continues to provide members with the opportunity to give back to the community by providing service above self.

The Club is proud to have past presidents and Rtns. Who have contributed to building and steering the club over the past fifty years. They continue to

support, guide and motive the club to achieving more and better for our community.

Past presidents of the Club who are still members are: Past District Governor Pishu, PP Desi, PP George, PP Denton, PP Jimmy, PP Conrad, PP Duncan, PP Bhagwan, PP Robin, PP Erica, PP Alfred, PP Larkie, PP Ann, PP Kay, PP Michelle, Pres. Mexine. (Would you please stand, may I ask you to show your appreciation to them)

Other members of the Club are Rtns. Ram, Karen, Vernella, Andrea, Maria, Phyllis, Emmanuel, Joliker, Natasha, Blondel, Roxanne and Dudley.



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Sadly this year we lost one of our dear members Past President Ripton who is sadly missed. We are delighted to have his wife Margo with us this afternoon.

We also thank ADG Govind, PAG Governor Haresh and our fellow Rotarians and friends who are here tonight for your support and contribution now and in the past.

We look forward to another 50 years of service in our community as Rotarians.



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The Dapper PDG Pishu and his fine wife Janki

Pictures showing members still in the club & Late PP Ripton:





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PP George, Late PP Ripton, PP Robin, PP Conrad, PP Denton, PP Duncan, PP Bhagwan

(at various Club Meetings and Rotary Projects)

