

Community Impact

A Publication of the Rotary Club of Maraval

Vol. 2 – Issue 2 – October-December 2021



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ADELE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everyone !

Hope you are having a wonderful, safe, fun-filled, festive season. Time flies by so quickly these days. We appreciate and thank all our family and friends who helped us in our fundraising ventures and projects over the last few months. RCOM kick started the Christmas season with our hugely successful Mega Bingo and we celebrated with a virtual Christmas Dinner fellowship .

Although January heralds the beginning of a new calendar year 2022, it actually is the second half of our Rotary year which started in July 2021. We build on what we have accomplished over the last six months and follow up on what we still have to complete.

As Rotarians we have tried to follow the principles of a successful business, (the Four-Way Test) which were developed in 1932 by a Rotarian Herbert Taylor in Chicago during the Great Depression. When he became RI President in 1954 he copyrighted it to RI.

These principles can also be used in our personal and professional life and in all our humanitarian projects to guarantee success! Try it out for yourself and see if it works !!

One of the principles is “Will it build goodwill and better friendships?”

Christmas always makes people think of doing good deeds and spreading the message of love and kindness. Rotarians, please make this your all year every year initiative!! Getting involved in Rotary is to get to know each other share experiences, and become involved with a group of friends whom you can trust and respect and build goodwill through our service.

Since our last newsletter we inducted five new members and they have already brought their enthusiasm and positivity and talents, that can only add to the success of our dynamic club. RCOM prides itself in being well on their way to having a more diverse, equitable and inclusive membership. So, we are looking to balance our predominantly female membership with a few more male members, and with persons from different professions and backgrounds, but most of all, we are looking for people who want to be fun team players.


We look forward to moving ahead into the new year and seeing new faces. You can always contact us via our facebook page Rotary Club of Maraval Trinidad and Tobago or e-mail us at rotarymaraval@gmail.com. If you don't have time right now or are unable to make our financial commitment as a member at this time, why not join our Friends of RCOM WhatsApp group to keep up to date with our meetings, projects and fundraising efforts.

Bye for now

A. Springer.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

During the month of October our membership Chair, Janine, introduced five (5) new members to our Club, thereby growing our membership substantially. We were therefore pleased to welcome Chenice, Amanda, Lauren, Roxanne and Samantha. As part of the official induction as a member, three (3) of them, namely Chenice, Amanda and Lauren were pinned at the residence of President Adele while the other two (i), Roxanne and Samantha were pinned by our special guest, PDG Lara at a hybrid function held at Jenny's on the Boulevard restaurant. This was the first in-person event for the Club resulting from the pandemic, and all twenty of us enjoyed the evening while observing all Covid protocols, along with those who joined us via Zoom. We look forward to our new members actively participating in all aspects of the Club and warmly welcome them to the Rotary Club of Maraval family.

Rotary 

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say, or do

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships.

1. Is it **TRUE**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



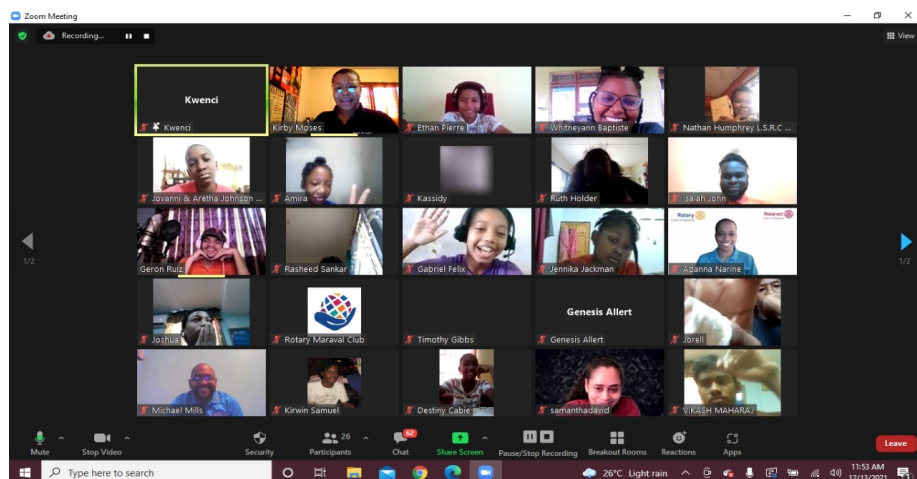


MY PIECE ON PEACE WORKSHOP –SECOND EDITION

Following the success of the initial workshop on “My Piece on Peace in August, the Rotary Club of Maraval in partnership with the Rotaract Club of Maraval decided to host a second workshop virtually from 13th – 16th December 2021. This project served as a 4-day workshop that allowed us to partner with the ROOTS Foundation – a local NGO which partnered with the US Embassy of Port of Spain, UWI Institute for Gender & Development Studies on various projects. The Foundation also won the 2021 National Youth Award for the Most Effective Community Youth Programme/ Project. We were therefore pleased when three (3) members of this organization agreed to join our My Piece on Peace team as facilitators in the areas of personal development, storytelling and spoken word to provide fun and inspiring sessions focused on peace, conflict resolution, and building understanding to twenty-five (25) participants between the ages of 10-14 years old. Over the four- day period the participants were very vocal and interacted nicely with the facilitators resulting in a high level of engagement experienced in each session. The participants expressed their wish that online schooling was just like the workshop –in essence, it was an engaging, educational, interactive and a fun experience for them.

Our partner facilitators from the ROOTS Foundation were amazed by the group and ensured that each child had an opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings, since some of the work was introspective and important to the individual’s understanding of the ideals of peace on not only an intrapersonal level, but on an interpersonal one as well. The intrapersonal aspects taught the participants how to deal with conflict in order to maintain peace from an individual perspective, whereas the interpersonal aspects taught the participants how to deal with conflict in order to maintain peace within group interactions. These aspects were captured through icebreakers, in-workshop activities, and the writing of a poem. The poem had additional benefits as it seemed to be cathartic for the participants who have had a challenging year like so many of us in 2020/21, due mainly to the pandemic.

This ‘My Piece on Peace’ workshop was executed with the long-term goal of equipping our young citizens with skills to cope and thrive in situations of conflict. It is therefore hoped that the skills gained in the workshop would be used by the participants in their homes, schools, clubs, communities and eventually their place of work. The workshop was also aimed at developing participants who will become leaders in their own right, and/or models for peace. We are of the view that it is through these potential model participants, that the workshop will have the long-term result of supporting and affecting more than just the individual participant. As a committee, we believe that the second edition of our “My Piece on Peace” project was successfully completed, and this belief was indeed corroborated by the feedback received from the parents, participants, facilitators, and specially invited guests.





ANNUAL CLUB ELECTIONS

The Rotary Club of Maraval held Club Elections on Tuesday 23rd November, 2021, at the weekly virtual meeting. The results are as follows:

Present Elect (2022 - 2023)	Kirwin Samuel
President Nominee (2023 - 2024)	Kirwin Samuel
Secretary Elect (2022 - 2023)	Chenice Peniston-Williams
Secretary Nominee (2023 - 2024)	Chenice Peniston-Williams
Treasurer (2022-2023)	Ann Marie Narine

Directors:

Amanda Daisley
Adanna Narine
Kelly Reiber
Tracey Rojas
Donna Shaw
Roxanne Woodruffe-Jeffrey

Kelly Reiber will serve as Treasurer for the remainder of Rotary year 2021-2022

The elected members along with current President Adele Springer will form the Board for Rotary Year 2022 – 2023.

Congratulations to all elected members and the Club thanks you for offering to serve.



MEGA BINGO, A MEGA SUCCESS!!

On Saturday 6th November the Foundation Committee hosted a successful Mega Bingo as a fundraiser. It was a night of high expectancy with over 400 paying patrons, and with most participating in the 10 games to win super prizes, including a 42" Smart television, a barbeque grill, smart watches and mini appliances. All 60 prizes were provided by the following generous donors:

ADAMS BAGELS, ANGOSTURA, A S BRYDEN, ASSOCIATED BRANDS, CARIB BREWERY, HADCO, KFC, KISS BAKING, MASSY DISTRIBUTION, NESTLES, STARBUCKS, SUBWAY and ALL THE MARAVAL ROTARIANS WHO DONATED PRIZES

The event's excitement was further heightened with Parang music by a live band setting the mood for the festive Christmas season. Foundation Chair Marcia was ecstatic with the overwhelming response and results, and thanked everyone for enabling the committee to provide funding to sustain the Club's projects.





WALKING IN THE RAIN TO END POLIO NOW

On Wednesday 13th October, despite inclement weather, the Rotary Club of Maraval joined with Rotaract Maraval and RC Central POS in RI's Global Polio Eradication Initiative via an END POLIO NOW walk around the Nelson Mandela Park, Port of Spain.

This walk represented the ongoing fight against polio that RI has spearheaded for over 40 years, and which is commemorated annually on October 24 as World Polio Day.

Though T&T is polio-free, RC Maraval will continue to do its part to ensure the world can soon enjoy the same.



THE SPEAKERS' FORUM



For the second quarter, Kirwin as Chair of the Admin Committee was able to obtain three (3) very engaging and interesting speakers, for the members who appreciated their presentations and welcomed the useful information provided.

In October designated as Rotary's Economic Development month, our guest speaker, Ms. Marla Dukharan joined us virtually from Barbados. Ms. Dukharan is a well-known Caribbean Economist who monitors regional developments and country-level economic performance. She is a highly sought-after speaker for key industry, multilateral and academic conferences on a regional and international scale. In her presentation to the Club, she focussed on key elements of the then 2021/22 budget provided by the government of Trinidad and Tobago. This generated some interesting discussions among the members as they sought her expert opinion on items, such as the budget deficit and its attendant impact. Indeed, an informative session that assisted members to understand a bit more about the economy of Trinidad and Tobago and to contemplate her predictions.

On 16th November, our Club in a joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Central Port of Spain, hosted PDG Nancy Carnbee of District 7730 as the guest speaker. Ms. Carnbee's presentation was on "The Impact of our Rotary Foundation" in recognition of November as Foundation Month. What an informative session, as she reminded us of the role and importance of the Rotary Foundation. Members of both clubs appreciated the information mostly as a reminder of the need for members' generosity. However, our club, RCOM, found that this presentation was a fitting segue to the recent success of our Mega Bingo, held on 6th November, hosted by our own Foundation Committee and which generated a huge profit that would benefit our various projects.

Ms. Natalie Sabga was our guest speaker for the month of December which was designated Rotary's Disease Prevention month. Ms. Sabga founded the John E. Sabga Foundation as a fitting legacy for her husband John, who passed away in 2017 after losing his battle with pancreatic cancer. She shared with the Club their journey during his illness and subsequent to his demise, her determination to help find a cure for this deadly disease. She has raised substantial funds for the research and is passionate about her advocacy for the possibility of prevention and a cure for pancreatic cancer. The members indicated support for her efforts, the progress with the research though slow, but improving, and thanked her for sharing this important aspect of her life.



THE ROTARACT CORNER - MERRY CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES



CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE

Tis the season of gift giving! In the true spirit of altruism, the Rotaract Club of Port of Spain West collaborated with the Rotaract Club of Maraval, to assemble one hundred (100) gift items for the children of the Margaret Kistow Children's home, and the St. Jude's Home for Girls. This Gift Drive provided presents for children housed at the said institutions to spread some Christmas cheer this year.

Beneficiaries included forty (40) children (boys and girls) of the St. Margaret Kistow's home aged six (6) months to seventeen (17) years along with sixty (60) teen girls from the St. Jude's Home aged 13-17 years, Team Maraval endorses Service above Self in the way we show our love and care.



JINGLE BELL ROCK – KARAOKE AND AUCTION EDITION

Jingle Bell Rock – Karaoke and Auction Edition was a project initiated to create and disseminate the Christmas spirit. Members of the Rotaract Club of Maraval, Diego Martin and Port of Spain West were able to safely mix up and blend this spirit by creating a space to sing karaoke, wear ugly and fun Christmas sweaters and play various games. Consequently, despite the difficulties to participate in traditional Christmas events due to the pandemic, this project allowed these Rotaractors to experience some form of normalcy and enjoy the Christmas season. Additionally, the auction was a great success and garnered interest from everyone at the event. In total, three items were auctioned: a homemade wine, a scenic picture on canvas and a mystery item. Two (2) out of the three items were donated and so a 100% profit was made from the auction. These funds will go towards the Club Disaster Relief Fund. Though it was a goal to obtain additional items to auction, the target of attaining a profit was greatly surpassed, and the Rotaract Club of Maraval is thankful for the invaluable help and support. The Rotaract Club of Maraval wishes to thank all participants and we are looking forward to more successful events such as this one.



Three (3) Auction Items on display at El Jo's



Rotaractor participating in auction



Rotaractor participating in karaoke



IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

Yet another virtual Christmas get together, T'was the reason and the season to be Jolly. We remained calm and we did just that with our second Virtual Christmas Dinner.

Despite the dinner being virtual, members were still able to be joyful and fellowship in Rotary Maraval style.

Raymond Edwards was the evening's main entertainment. He serenaded the gathering with melodious, heartwarming Christmas music while we dined in the comfort of our homes. We were also graced with song by Sabrina Marks and the New Generations Choir from Barataria. They all made the evening an exceptional one for the gathered.

The evening concluded with two lucky Rotarians winning christmas gifts from our christmas raffle. Despite the current situation we are still dedicated to a source of good-natured fun and fellowship.



RAMPANALGAS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Congratulations to Janine and her team for hosting another successful Christmas party in Rampanalgas. The children were happy to receive their wonderful gifts and the delicious goodies in their gift bags. We wish all the children, their parents and teachers Happy Holidays!!





WHO CAN JOIN?

We're looking for people who want to give back to their communities.

Rotary clubs also welcome Rotaractors, Rotary Peace Fellows, and other members of the family of Rotary who qualify for membership.

HOW CAN I BECOME A NEW MEMBER?

Clubs accept new members by invitation. To help us find the right club for you, we'll ask you a few questions about yourself and your interests.

Contact us at:

The Rotary Club of Maraval, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

(Chartered 4th May, 1993)

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Rotary Club of Maraval Trinidad & Tobago-FB

www.rotarymaraval.org

<https://raise.rotary.org/RotaryClubofMaraval/fundraiser>