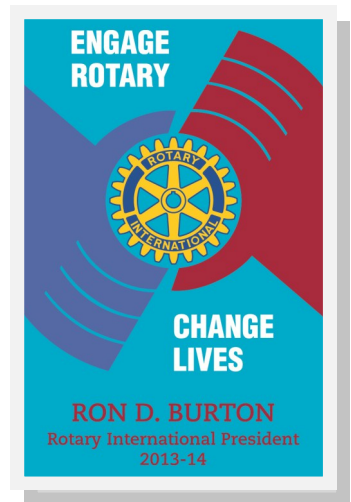




# Avon Rotary News

December 2, 2013

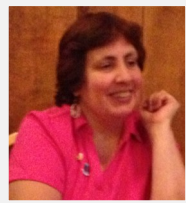
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Hello Everyone,

Another month has come and gone, fall has now become winter. I have mixed feelings about this time of year. I am not much for the snow and cold. It was beautiful seeing the snow on the trees but shoveling out of my driveway first thing in the morning and bundling up every time I want to go out, not so much. I do love the holidays though, not the shopping but all the other aspects of the season. The lights on the Christmas trees, the decorations, seeing how excited the grandchildren get watching the specials on TV, the excitement of Christmas morning and of course watching the Muppets Christmas Carol every year. It's my personal favorite and I don't have to watch it with the grandchildren, although I hope they appreciate it as much as I do this year.

At this time of year I especially love the family gatherings and of course our fellowship times. Saturday December 7th we will be meeting at the home of Bill and Jill Wall for our Holiday/Christmas party and I hope you all can join us for a fun evening of fellowship. On December 17th I hope

you will all join me for a buffet dinner at Peppermints before our holiday break.

We have a great time together and we all have a common goal of service above self and all that it entails. Not just serving our community but also those around the world who we don't know. We were able to send 2 shelter boxes to the Philippines and we also collected toys for the Pirate Toy Drive. That is what makes our club so wonderful, we help wherever we are needed and we do that over and over again. We do this by donating our time and our talents with our fundraisers. The Corn Festival was a big success again this year and so was our latest fundraiser the Avon Rotary Auction. I would like to applaud everyone on the Auction Committee; Tim Dickinson, Jim Ryan, Helen Zamboni, Kelly Cole, Mark Evans, and Hans Koomen, and the Interact leaders and kids. What a fantastic job by everyone in the club. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Happy Holidays everyone. Enjoy your holidays with your family and friends and make the most out of this joyous season even when we are apart.

President/Queen Marcia

Avon Rotary Club  
Meets Tuesdays at 6pm  
Peppermints Restaurant  
Board of Directors  
Marcia Cameron, President  
Tim Dickinson, PE  
Dan Jones, Director  
Scott Holmes, Director  
Bob House, Sr. Rep  
Laurie Vonglis, Past Pres.  
Cathy Murphy, Secretary  
Kelly Cole, Treasurer



# Food and Fellowship at Eastern Cities Dinner

By Terry Lemen

The 88<sup>th</sup> Eastern Cities Fellowship Dinner was held on November 3, 2013 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. I had the pleasure of attending this year's celebration, "Our Salute to Pioneer Women Throughout the Rotary World", with 18 of my fellow Avon Rotarians.

This being my first year, I wasn't sure what to expect. However, anything I did envision paled in comparison to the wonderful evening of good food and great fellowship which I enjoyed. The evening began with a cocktail hour and a trip through the Rotary "store" where I was able to pick up some stylish Rotary attire.

After being seated along with 600 other Rotarians from clubs all over the area, we heard the opening remarks and a rousing singing of our national anthem. From there we enjoyed a delicious meal, a well thought out presentation and a delightful musical interlude courtesy of the "Women of Note" singing group.

The highlight of the evening however, was definitely the speech given by our keynote speaker and Rotary International Vice President, Anne Matthews. This petite woman with the gentle southern drawl gave an impressive and dynamic speech. Her message was clear, concise and meaningful. Her delivery was masterful. I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to listen to her very wise words.

If you have not yet attended an Eastern Cities Fellowship Dinner or it's been a while since you last attended, I strongly urge you to make next years' a priority.

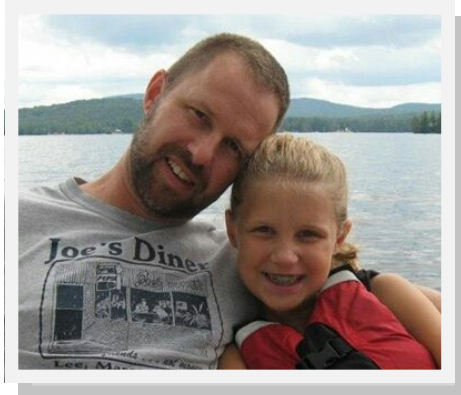


**Anne Matthews, Vice President of Rotary International**, addressing the many attendees at the Eastern Cities





## *Rotary Family Plan Travel To Assist With Nicaragua Project*



I've been saying for several years that I wanted to be a more "hands-on" club. It was a goal of mine during my year as President to go beyond check writing and actually get my hands dirty by participating in a real-world project. Thanks to Rob Lupisella and the *Enlace Project*, I am now going to be able to realize that goal. We will be traveling to Nicaragua in February to assist in the building of a new school in a developing area near El Sauce called Buena Vista. To put icing on the cake, I am going to be able to share the experience with my 10 year-old daughter, Ella.

In this world where our youth are wrapped up in digital devices and "reality" television, my hope is that I will be able to share an experience with my daughter that helps her appreciate all the blessings we enjoy here, and give her a true "world view" of what really matters in life. I also hope to instill in her early the idea of "Service Above Self". And of course – I hope she has fun too.

Ella and I will be joined by Dr. Jim Tompsett, his granddaughter (and Ella's best friend) Olivia, and his nephew Cristian. We are tagging with the group of Avon high-school students,

*Avon for Nicaragua*, some of their parents, Rob and Jeanine Lupisella, and some of Jeanine's colleagues from HF-L. In an effort to help raise money to build the school, Ella and Olivia will be selling "personalized" bricks, and will make a small presentation to the club in the near future.

Buena Vista is a small rural community located 6 km southeast of the city of El Sauce. The community is on the mountain range known as Ocotol. There is no public transportation to the community. When people want to go to the town of El Sauce they walk or ride horses. If they walk, it takes about two hours to reach the town and the nearest health post is about a thirty minute walk from the community. The main economic activity is agriculture, and the principal crops that they harvest are corn, beans and wheat. They do not have electricity or potable water, but they do have wells.

The name of the current school structure in Buena Vista is called Villa Carlos Arauz, and it was built in 1998 by USAID after Hurricane Mitch devastated Nicaragua. The small structure is in disrepair and inadequate for the needs of the community. *Avon for Nicaragua* and *The Enlace Project* will work together with the community to build the new school.

In the existing school building, they currently have 30 students ranging from 6 to 15 years old. The children from Buena Vista study during the day and help out at home and in the fields in the afternoon. The teacher said that they have made requests to the government and different non-profit organizations

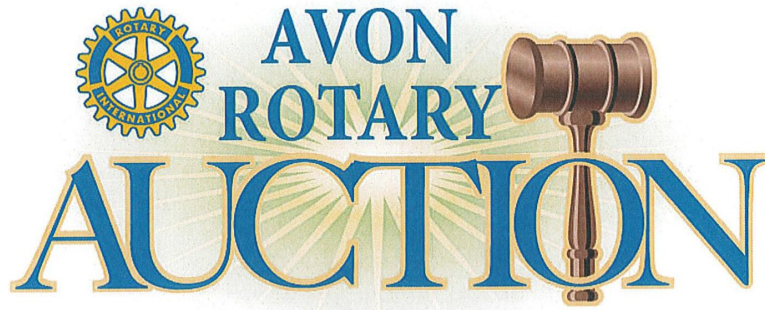
to reconstruct the school. The well that supplies water to the school needs work as well. They are happy that *Avon for Nicaragua* and *The Enlace project* are going to replace the school. The teacher said, "This will benefit the community a great deal". Juan Mariena, of The Enlace Project, said, "With this new school, they will have more children studying, because this will inspire them to come to school. They are going to have a better education and they say the new school will also improve the beauty of the community." The people of Buena Vista are excited to start working on constructing the new school.

Ella and I are excited as well, not only to build the school, but for the adventure of the whole experience - everything from applying for passports, getting the required immunizations, and booking Ella's first plane ticket. We look forward to an amazing experience and sharing those experiences when we return.

Kirk Vanderbilt

with Rob Lupisella and Juan Mariena





# AVON ROTARY AUCTION



***Thank you so very much!***

Avon Rotary Club had another successful auction. Sincere appreciation goes out to the steering committee & club members for their time and volunteer efforts to make this happen. Many thanks to the Interact Club and families for their work and donations of baked goods. Once again the community support including businesses and patrons helped us realize our goals. Your generosity helps us continue with our many charitable projects near and far.

*Laurie Vonglis, Past President*



## *District Public Image Seminar*

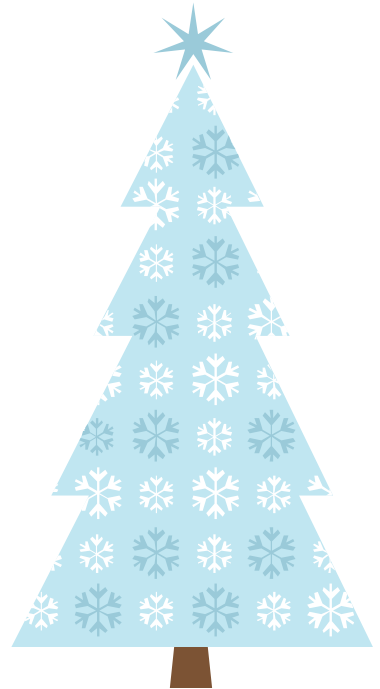
By Marcia Cameron

On Saturday morning November 23rd. I attended a seminar on improving your clubs public image. About 60 or so Rotarians from around our area met at Peppermints and had a great, and fattening continental breakfast. We had 4 presenters to help us learn the best and most current techniques, tips and tricks to help us grow our club and or event.

Georgene Hildebrand from Alpena, Michigan who is a public image coordinator told us how we do good works all over the world and we need to tell everyone our story. Our next presenter was Jon Alhart, 7120 Co-Director of public image Rotary Club of Pen-Web who told us of Rotary Branding, Public Image Grants and Your Turn To, & District FB page. We need to tell our story through our Facebook page and

Website. The next presenter was Tom Brown, from the Rotary Club of Elmira on Promoting and Managing your Event Online and using Social Media. We are a business and we need to market ourselves. The next presenter and last up was Bob Green from the Rotary Club of Rochester Deaf on promoting your club in Print-you are the face of Rotary and we need to reinforce our brand.

It was a very informational and enjoyable seminar and they will be sending all of us who attended the slides for the day and then I will be able to share these idea's with the club so stay tuned.



**“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”  
— Mahatma Gandhi**

### **DECEMBER CLUB SCHEDULE**

Tues. Dec. 3	Reg. Mtg.—Family Month Program
Sat. Dec. 7	Christmas Party at the Wall Residence
Mon. Dec. 9	Board of Directors Meeting 7pm
Tues. Dec. 10	Reg. Mtg.—Election of Officers
Tues. Dec. 17	Holiday Dinner Mtg. at Peppermints
Tues. Dec. 24	NO MEETING—Merry Christmas!
Tues. Dec. 31	NO MEETING—Happy New Year!

