

# ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB

## LA ROTARIANA

May - June, 2018

### Service Projects

One of the service projects for the month the cleaning and planting of the garden at St. Michael Church. This garden was started several years ago and was done to honor Fr. Laurence Tracy. Migdalia Concepción will help since she has expertise with gardening.

A project done in conjunction with other clubs in Area 13 of the Rotary District 7120 was the planting of apple trees in different locations around the City of Rochester. Julio Vazquez and Luisa Baars transported the trees for St. Michael Church and Treyer St. It was a rainy day, the soil was very hard, and thus the actual planting was postponed. The club will be responsible for planting at St. Michael's and staff at Project Hope will take care of the planting at Treyer St.

As in previous years, the club is sponsoring a baseball team participating in the Hispanic Youth Baseball Little League. The League plays every summer and has teams starting at four years old children.

### AG Paul Minor visit

During one of his official visits to the club AG Paul Minor talked extensively about Paul Harris and the origins of Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation. He emphasized that contributions to the RF Fund Share help the district provide grants to local clubs. The original donation to the RF was \$26.50. It has been asked that clubs donate that amount per each member in commemoration of the hundred anniversary of the RF. Members are encouraged to donate that amount which they can do on line or by check to the RF that they can mail or give to Idalia Chang to mail it. A brief explanation about the Polio Plus campaign of RI was offered by Julio Vázquez.

Our club has benefited from the District grants to provide scholarships, and school bags and supplies, among other projects.



The meditation garden at St. Michael Church provides a quiet place for people to sit and enjoy the flowers. As Fr. Laurence Tracy indicated when it was started several years ago, this garden brings the church outside the walls.

Over the years, many of the club members have taken turns weeding and planting to keep up with the seasons.

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## Orlando Rivera recognized

Past Club President Orlando Rivera has been chosen as one of the Distinguished Gentlemen role model by the City of Rochester. He has collected ties to be donated to school-age individuals as part of the DG project. It is one way to set up youths for success. Wim donated ties and Orlando said he had already collected many ties. This is another service project of the club. Congratulations to Orlando.

## Masquerade Ball and Logo Contest

Miriam Vázquez reported that the Masquerade Ball/Anniversary celebration will be April 21, 2018 at the Diplomat Banquet Center. She has asked Freddie Colón and his band to reserve the date so they can provide the music for the dance.

Miriam reported on the logo contest. She outlined the rules (a previous communication from Miriam detailed those rules). This will be open to the community, particularly to high school students. Advertisements will go out to schools. The selection of the finalist will be done in August during the change-over picnic when the new board members will take office. The delay to August was due to the fact that several club members will be out of town during the month of July.

## Update on Puerto Rico's water grant

Dan Barletta from the Greece Rotary Club and Luisa Baars have been in contact with Ray Erb from the San Juan Rotary Club regarding the grant. At this time, the San Juan Club is gathering the required information regarding the community partners – those individuals that will be responsible for the maintenance of the wells – in order to write the proposal. Likewise, they are dealing with the company that will be in charge of digging the wells. A memorandum of agreement will have to be signed by the company. There has been a substantial amount of money pledged by the San Juan and the Greece Rotary clubs. Communications with the individuals in the communities impacted by the project have been somewhat difficult given the distance between Adjuntas and San Juan and the road conditions after the hurricane.

## Club evaluates service projects

During the June 7, 2018 club meeting, Miriam asked the chairs of Literacy, Service Projects, and Foundation to lead small group discussions on the projects, effectiveness, and whether they should continue. The small groups used the documents she had developed for evaluating the projects, including their impact and whether they should be continued.

Miriam read the themes for the months and asked that projects should be tied to the themes. These are as follows: July- Membership (this was change from August given that the change-over picnic will be in August); August – Change Over; September – Literacy/Education; October – Community/Service; November – Rotary Foundation; December – Disease Prevention; January – Vocational; February – Peace; March – Water and Sanitation; April – Child Health; May – Youth Service.

Some of the recommendations made by the Literacy group was to continue with the projects that impact children as well as adults such as the distribution of dictionaries to fourth graders at the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School, providing books to kindergarten students, scholarships to college-bound Latino students, and the book shelf that provides both children and their parents attending the health clinic on Clinton Avenue in Rochester.

The recommendations from the small groups work will be taken into consideration as the club decides on the projects for the upcoming Rotary year.



**Rotary**

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## Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accepts award for polio eradication

By Teresa Schmedding and Arnold Grahl Photos by Alyce Henson

Justin Trudeau, prime minister of Canada, was presented with Rotary's Polio Eradication Champion Award in recognition of Canada's contributions to polio eradication. Trudeau accepted the award at the [Rotary International Convention](#) in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accepts Rotary's Polio Eradication Champion Award at the Rotary Convention in Toronto



RI President Ian H.S. Riseley, left, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and International Polio Plus Committee Chairman Michael McGovern.

"Let there be no doubt we are winning the battle against polio," Trudeau said. "I want my children to grow up in a world without polio. Together I know we will make that happen."

According to the writers, Canada has been a strong contributor to polio eradication efforts for decades. In 2017, Canada [pledged](#) US \$75 million to help eradicate polio, bringing its total contributions to roughly \$640 million.

"Prime Minister Trudeau has committed Canada to remain a strong partner until polio is completely eradicated," said RI President Ian H.S. Riseley. "With the unwavering support of the Prime Minister and the Canadian government and their strong assistance with continued vaccination efforts, I'm confident we will rid the world of polio."

Canadian Rotary members have also contributed more than US \$38 million.

Rotary established the Polio Eradication Champion Award in 1995 to recognize heads of state, health agency leaders, and others who have made a significant contribution to polio eradication.

Trudeau is the third Canadian prime minister to receive the award, along with Jean Chrétien and Stephen Harper. Past recipients also include Shinzo Abe, prime minister of Japan; Angela Merkel, chancellor of Germany; Xavier Bettel, prime minister of Luxembourg; Muhammadu Buhari, president of Nigeria; Neven Mimica, European commissioner for international cooperation and development; and Ban Ki-moon, former UN secretary-general.

### WHO on polio

The World Health Organization defines polio as follows: Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects young children. The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the fecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and can cause paralysis.

Initial symptoms of polio include fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck, and pain in the limbs. In a small proportion of cases, the disease causes paralysis, which is often permanent. There is no cure for polio; it can only be prevented by immunization.

## WHO, continued

### Key facts

- Polio (poliomyelitis) mainly affects children under 5 years of age.
- 1 in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis. Among those paralyzed, 5% to 10% die when their breathing muscles become immobilized.
- Cases die to wild poliovirus have decreased by over 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350 000 cases then, to 22 reported cases in 2017. As a result of the global effort to eradicate the disease, more than 16 million people have been saved from paralysis.
- As long as a single child remains infected, children in all countries are at risk of contracting polio. Failure to eradicate polio from these last remaining strongholds could result in as many as 200 000 new cases every year, within 10 years, all over the world.
- In most countries, the global effort has expanded capacities to tackle other infectious diseases by building effective surveillance and immunization systems.

### **Board of Directors**

President – Miriam Vázquez  
 Immediate Past President – Julio Vázquez  
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 Foundation Chair – Julio Vázquez  
 Literacy Co-Chairs – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
 Julio Vázquez  
 Club Webmaster – Orlando Rivera  
 Tera Rivera  
 Bulletin Editor - Luisa Baars  
 Program Chair – Orlando Rivera  
 Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
 Fund Raising – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
 Sergeant-At-Arms - To rotate among directors

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.