

# ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB LA ROTARIANA

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## Fifth Anniversary celebration

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, over 125 friends and family of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club met at the Diplomat Banquet Center to celebrate the club's fifth anniversary. The club chose Dr. Constantino Fernández, charter member, as the recipient of the Luisa Baars Award for Service Above Self. For many decades, the native of Nicaragua has been serving the community in his capacity of obstetrician and gynecologist. Dr. Fernández is very committed to improving women's health. His involvement on community boards, locally and nationally, contributes to the body of knowledge of the many health issues that affect women, particularly Latino women.

Dr. Fernández goes back to Nicaragua to provide services to impoverished women as part of his volunteer endeavors. He is Associate Professor at the University of Rochester impacting his considerable knowledge to medical students.

The RLRC congratulates Dr. Fernández on his award and extends best wishes for the years ahead. He is the chair of the club's Vocational Committee. He brings his expertise in the medical field to this position. He can inspire youth and adults alike to practice their chosen career with dedication and a willingness to recognize the needs of others and through their efforts mitigate their sufferings. His compassion, humility, and commitment are evident in his practice and his involvement in the community. Indeed, we are very fortunate to count him as a charter member of the club.

## STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN ORATORICAL CONTEST

Megan Betancourt took part in the District's Oratorical Contest. Speaking of the Four Way Test, she mentioned how as a young man her father suffered a stroke. This event certainly changed his life and impacted the family as well. Among other consequences of this situation, Megan decided she wanted to be a researcher. Her speech emphasized the need for a researcher to be truthful, fair, build good will and friendships, and do things in such a way that they would be beneficial to all concerned. Megan placed fourth in the final phase of the contest which makes her eligible for one of the many scholarships offered through the program.

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TAKE ACTION: [www.latinorotary.com](http://www.latinorotary.com)

# FOCUS ON LITERACY

The Literacy Committee of the RLRC has been very active in the community providing books via the Blue



Shelf, tutoring to school children, school supplies to a school in El Sauce, Nicaragua, and books to be given to new mothers at the Jordan Health Center and the Clinton Avenue Health Clinic. The Committee is active during the entire year gathering supplies, books, and interacting with the beneficiaries of its efforts.

It is known that many of the Latino students drop out of school before obtaining the necessary skills to get a job or continue to further their education. This is particularly true for students in the inner city, where a large number of Latinos live. The prospect of a good job and financial independence is not too bright for the youngsters who abandon school. This is one of the reasons why the club is designating a large portion of its budget to support literacy projects.



Top photo: attendees at anniversary celebration enjoy a Zumba lesson led by Antonia Scott

Bottom photo: Dr. Fernández is accompanied by son Bruce and wife Teresa



Participants review raffle items

Miriam Vázquez (left) and Charol Ríos-Davis were main force behind the anniversary celebration





## New format

The Rotarian is introducing a new format. My Rotary has provided a set of templates to develop brochures, newsletters, and many other materials to help clubs tell their story.

We are grateful for the opportunity to improve our communications and welcome feedback from our readers. To provide feedback send your comments to [luisabaarsmail.com](mailto:luisabaarsmail.com)

**1.**

The Club is planning to repeat the successful Zumba event on its third year. Antonia Scott has brought her expertise to this event that promotes exercise as a means to improve health.

**2.**

Distribution of books to Young mothers at the Jordan Health Center and the Clinton Family Health Clinic.

**3.**

Change over picnic to initiate new Rotary year to be held in June. Stay tune for details.

The Club is considering changing meeting times to accommodate the needs of its members. Stay tune.

## Club Meeting Information

Weekly: Wednesday, at 7:30 am

Place: 400 East Venue, PathStone corporate office

Except second Monday of the month. This is held at 6:30 pm at Wegmans on East Avenue

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

***Abraham Hernández, President***

***José Santana and Diana Irizarry, Secretaries***

***Wim Baars, Treasurer***

***Diana Hernández, Immediate Past President—***

***Membership Committee Chair***

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***Orlando Rivera, President Elect Nominee***

***Fernando Santiago, Membership Committee***

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***Roberto Burgos, First President/Club***

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***Committee Chair***

***Miriam Vázquez, Literacy Committee Chair***

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