



La Rotariana

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Annual holiday party with DG Ellen Hughes

The RLRC celebrated the holiday season with a party for members and their family. DG Ellen Hughes was the guest speaker. As we all know DG Ellen is keen on the RF. She and her husband Jim are major donors. DG challenges Rotarians to do their part to support the Rotary Foundation and the many projects supported by matching grants to make our world a better place to live. It is the donations made by Rotarians around the world that makes this possible. Whether it is the eradication of polio, providing clean water in Africa or the Dominican Republic, incubators in Mexico, mosquito nets to reduce the incidence of malaria, or solar ovens in developing countries, the reach of the RF is wide and worthwhile. DG Ellen certainly believes in the work that is being done and will continue to be done by the RF in conjunction with the clubs.

Our District 7120 has been able to fund numerous projects via the DSG because the support of the clubs and their members to the RF. It is up to all of us to continue donating to the RF, particularly the share programs. This is what will allow half of the donations to come back to the District after three years.

Engage Rotary Change Lives

Service Above Self

Dar de Sí Antes de Pensar en Sí

Being a Rotarian is not an obligation, it is a privilege

Ser Rotario no es una obligación, es un privilegio

Story teller once more delighted audience

Annette Ramos is certainly an artist. Her ability to switch voices to represent different animals in her story is amazing. Her gracious movements as she relates how different animals tried to change the plans the skunk had for his rose garden kept the audience attentive and delighted.

Annette is not only an artist, but a dedicated teacher of the arts, a person who believes firmly in giving back to the community. The developing Latino theater company is an effort to engage Latinos in acting and to let the community know there is a wealth of talent among Latinos in Rochester.

Youths constitute one of the groups benefiting from her talent and dedication. This is a very important contribution to the community and to its future. Many youths, unfortunately, are exposed to violence, uncertainty, and lack of focus. Many, particularly among Latinos, drop out of school before being ready for a job or further education. By focusing on them, Annette makes a difference where it counts. She certainly is a living example of Service Above Self.

Her presentation following DG Ellen talk about the RF was a fitting compliment that made the evening a very enjoyable one. Thank you DG Ellen and thank you Annette.

Joint meeting during the holidays



Above from left, Rochester AM Rotary Club President George Hulbert, DG Ellen Hughes, RLRC President Abe Hernández, Annette Ramos, and AG Luisa Baars pose after presentations by DG Ellen and Annette at the joint holiday party held at the Holiday Inn. The presenters were given the Lifetime Birthday and Anniversary Calendar that the RLRC developed as a fund raising project. AG Luisa is holding “Musita”, the moose that accompanies her on different occasions in preparation for the trip to Burlington, Vermont for the District Conference.

This was the first joint meeting of the two clubs, and it is expected that many more of such joint ventures will be undertaken in the future. Both clubs are small with a share interest in fostering literacy. While the RAMRC focuses on Hope Hall, a school serving students with special needs, the RLRC focuses on the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School that provides instruction in dual language. This school serves mainly inner city students of any race and ethnicity, and consistently the student fare well in NYS tests. The RAMRC has provided money, time, and talent to help students at Hope Hall. Over the years, the club has made huge contributions to the school. Each month a deserving student is recognized at a club meeting as the Student of the month. The RLRC provides books, dictionaries, and tutors to the EMHCS.

To improve literacy is one of the areas of focus of RI. Many clubs worldwide engage in projects to advance this goal. Since its inception, the RLRC has been engaged in these types of projects locally and abroad. This commitment has reached places in Mexico and Nicaragua, but has also focused on preschoolers at Ibero’s Daycare Center and their parents, participants at the Puerto Rican Festival and the International Fair at the Rochester Public Market. Helping children develop a love of reading depends in great measure of having parents who understand the value of reading, and having the proper materials available. The clubs’ efforts certainly provide the materials and the encouragement to both parents and children to achieve the goals.

Successful and tasteful fund raising event

The Thanksgiving celebration was made easier for many people who bought delicious desserts from the RLRC. The event was held to raise funds for the Polio Plus campaign. Several club members volunteered to bake. Greg Taylor's creation was a banana, cream cheese, and blueberry bread that was delicious. Elisa DeJesús, Charol Ríos-Davis, and Miriam Vázquez made flan, Diana Hernández made rice pudding (Puerto Rican style), and Luisa Baars baked bread pudding (a creation that includes raisins, crushed pineapple, and coconut milk). This was a very successful event, and there are plans to expand it this coming Thanksgiving! Stay tune for details when the time comes around.



At far left, Rotarians Miriam Vázquez and Wim Baars check the order list. Near Left, the bread pudding and the banana, cream cheese, and blueberry bread.

Ray Griswold talks about WNY Books for the World

On January 22, Ray Griswold of the Pen-Web Rotary Club talked enthusiastically about the WNY Books for the World Project, of which he is coordinator. Ray was honored by the Monroe County Legislature for his support of Literacy and leadership in founding the WNY Books for the World.

Books for the World is a collaborative effort between Rotary Clubs and Districts in Central New York State, affiliated youth clubs, other community and service organizations, and the Second Wind Foundation. Together, they provide K-6th grade picture/story, textbooks and library books to needed regions of the world to create opportunities for a better way of life. Books are shipped to Rotary Clubs and District Distribution Centers in Africa and other countries where English is one of the primary business languages. At the central warehouse boxed books are weighed, palletized and wrapped then shipped to Rotary Books for the World (The Second Wind Foundation) in Houston, Texas. Here, in Houston, books from all USA Rotary collection centers are co-mingled, containerized and sent to third world Rotarian managed distribution centers.

Over the last four years, Rotary Clubs in District 7120 have been able to collect enough books to send to 25 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Several clubs have sponsored one or more pallets at \$190 each. The project expects to ship two semis a year with a budget of \$10,000 per year. Clubs can help by donating books, sponsoring the cost of pallets, and encouraging individuals and businesses to make donations to the project.

Literacy at home and abroad is a worthwhile goal. Look around your library, school, your own bookshelves and obtain books to donate to the project. Let us educate our youth one book at a time.



Past President Diana Hernández reads the expectations of Rotarians joining the club to Stuart Mitchell during his induction (below)



AG Luisa Baars presented the RLRC banner to Ray Griswold after his presentation

First Corporate Member inducted

Since its inception the RLRC has been meeting at the corporate office of PathStone Corporation. Its President/CEO, Stuart J. Mitchell, Honorary Member of the Club, has been extremely supportive of the Club. Several members of his staff were part of the Charter Members. He comes from a family where Rotary was an integral part of their life. His father was a Paul Harris Award recipient and a Rotarian for many years. After being made an Honorary Member, Stuart made known his intention of becoming an Active Member, and then a Corporate Member. With great pleasure, his membership was embraced by the RLRC.

Latinos recognized

Julio Vázquez Sr. is one of the new editorial advisors of the 2014 Board of contributors for the Democrat & Chronicle. Hilda Escher, President/CEO of Ibero American Action League was featured as guest essayist on the topic of "Latinas rising in the D&C. Leslie Rivera won the nomination to fill the vacant 29th District seat in the Monroe County Legislature.

Merlita Snow was featured in the D&C for her planning and implementing fund raising events to help victims of the typhoon that hit the Philippines. The second event will take place on February 8th at 1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford, NY from 6:00 to 11:30 pm. Dinner, dance, raffle, and lots of fun await the participants.

Toys for children

Toys were delivered on Christmas Day to children in a shelter for battered women. Their mothers received gifts of toiletries as well. On January 6th, Three Kings Day, toys were delivered to children in the Child Protective Program of Ibero American Action League. Thanks to Charol Ríos-Davis and her elves who wrapped and delivered the gifts. Once more, Toys for Tots provided some of the toys.

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FUTURE EVENTS

1. January 30—February 7—Grand International Festival of Fraternity and Service, Veracruz, Mexico
2. February 5—Regular Club meeting at PathStone at 7:30 am
3. February 8—Typhoon Relief for the Philippines, Contact: Merlita at 585-489-3645 or Heide at 414-6312
4. February 10—Evening Club meeting at Wegmans on East Avenue at 6:30 pm—Dr. Vega speaks on “What is Healthy”
5. February 19—Weekly day meeting at PathStone at 7:30 am
6. February 24—RLRC Board meeting at Wegmans on East Avenue at 6:30 pm

Board of Directors

Abraham Hernández, President

José Santana and Diana Irizarry, Secretaries

Wim Baars, Treasurer

Diana Hernández, Immediate Past President—Membership Committee Chair

Luisa Baars- President Elect

Orlando Rivera, President Elect Nominee

Fernando Santiago, Membership Committee Co-Chair

Peterson Vázquez, New Generations Committee Chair

Joe Cipolla, Fundraising Committee Chair

Roberto Burgos, First President/Club Administration Chair

Elisa Dejesús, Past-President/Foundation Committee Chair

Miriam Vázquez, Literacy Committee Chair

Charol Ríos-Davis, Service Projects Committee Chair

Diana Irizarry, Oratorical Contest Chair

Antonia Scott, Program Committee Chair

Luisa Baars, International Projects Committee Chair/Editor La Rotariana