

ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY LA ROTARIANA

December, 2014



Club members joined Mayor Lovely Warren for a group photo during her visit to the club

CONNECTING ROTARY AND THE COMMUNITY

During this holiday season, the RLRC is very aware and concerned with the plight of the homeless in our community. Once more a \$500 check was delivered together with snacks to the House of Mercy. The check is to be used to buy food.

In 1985, Sister Grace Miller saw that homelessness was a big problem in Rochester. There weren't enough shelters to meet the need. So she went to work. And with help from the Sisters of Mercy, she opened a shelter in a small house on Central Park just north of downtown Rochester. "As soon as we opened the door, people flooded in," she recalls. Now, located on Hudson Avenue, the House of Mercy provides a wide range of valuable services to more than 4,000 people a month. Its unique and compassionate approach to assistance has attracted a growing number of supporters throughout the community. Operating around the clock on a shoestring budget with a very small team, the HOM continues to be a beacon of hope for the poorest of the poor. Contact: <http://www.houseofmercyrochester.org/>

In this issue...

- Connecting Rotary and the Community
- Mayor Lovely Warren
- Photos
- Focus On Rotary
- Dr. Ralph Spezio
- Board of Directors
- Club Meetings
- Webinars
- Object of Rotary
- Donation to Doctors Without Borders

Rotary



TAKE ACTION: www.latinorotary.com

Mayor Lovely Warren

Abraham Hernández, Program Chair, introduced our guest speaker, Mayor Lovely A. Warren: Mayor "Lovely Warren is the first female mayor in the history of the City, the second African-American mayor, and the youngest mayor in modern times.

Mayor Warren's goals are to improve educational outcomes for city students, increase economic development, improve public safety and community/police relations, and close the gaps and disparities that plague many parts of the City.

Prior to becoming Mayor, Warren was elected to the Northeast District seat on City Council in 2007. In 2010 she was elected by her colleagues to serve as President—making her the youngest City Council President in Rochester's history.

Warren was born and raised in the City of Rochester, and is a graduate of Wilson Magnet High School. She earned a Bachelor Degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a Juris Doctorate from Albany Law School of Union University."

Mayor Warren began her presentation by giving a brief history of her grandfather's migration from Trinidad. He migrated to Rochester in search of a better economic life for himself and his family. He always pushed his two daughters to get a good education and have a better life, Warren added.

Then she talked about her accomplishments, her vision for the future of Rochester, and recognition that the city has many economic and diversity issues that need to be addressed. In general terms she laid out her initiatives to help economic development and what her administration is doing to help small businesses. She emphasized that now is the time to come together as a community (black, white, brown and Asian) to work for a better community.

She said that the Center City is undergoing a transformation and creating jobs in the process. In five years Main Street will be different. This transformation includes the work being done at the site of the former Midtown Plaza, the construction of the bus terminal, and other projects that will include apartments and stores.

She talked about her recruiting efforts to diversify the police force, and that she will return the police to the neighborhoods. She also mentioned that she appointed the first Hispanic Deputy Chief of the Rochester Fire department.

After her presentation, she was asked to address a few issues, specifically the issue regarding the dismissal of Alex Castro from the Rochester Housing Authority. She insisted that she was caught by surprise, and that she could not address the contract between the RHA and Alex because of pending legal issues.

Father Laurence Tracy raised the most difficult topics when he asked the mayor for her personal perspective on racism and the removal of Alex Castro as executive director of the Rochester Housing Authority.

"I was just as surprised as you were," she said of the firing. "There are legal issues I cannot discuss here. I recognize it's a problem. ... But I tell you to look at my record. I don't control other people's actions."

"A lot of people think we've made a lot of progress because we have our first African-American president and the second African-American mayor," he said. "But we still live in race and class isolation."

Warren said that a healthy dialogue among people of different viewpoints and opinions on those issues must continue in a "non adversarial way." "We have to be willing to have a discussion and not sensationalize," she added. "This is a community diverse not just in race but culture, thought and income. ... We have to have those discussions so we can move forward."

Warren noted that tables of decision-makers also should have a seat for everyone to represent that diversity. To that end, she said that she hopes to work with the Latino community "hand-in-hand" in the future and hopes to move forward regarding the RHA situation.

During her presentation, Warren spoke about President Barack Obama's executive order on immigration and how she had met with mayors from around the country in New York City to discuss how they can support the proposal.

"We are fortunate to live in a time where we have leaders who are willing to stand up for the most vulnerable among us," she said. Since the mayor's office doesn't have power over the city school district's board of education, however, she has focused on the libraries and recreation centers to create programs to support children's literacy and other educational efforts.

Leslie Rivera, a teacher who will end her term this month as the first Latina in the Monroe County Legislature, said that the mayor needs to get more involved in improving city schools despite her public support of charter schools. The mayor acknowledged that support during the meeting.

Charter schools "take our best children and our money," Rivera said. "It's very frustrating."

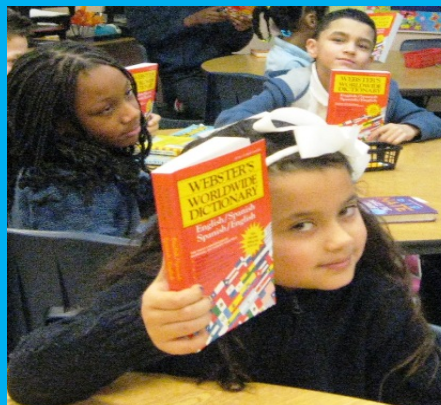
The mayor said that in addition to returning to community policing with stations located in five sections of the city, she would also like to see a return to children attending neighborhood schools.

"We need to go back to that," Warren said. "But it's a process. We need to create quality schools in every neighborhood ... and help parents engage more."

PHOTOS



1

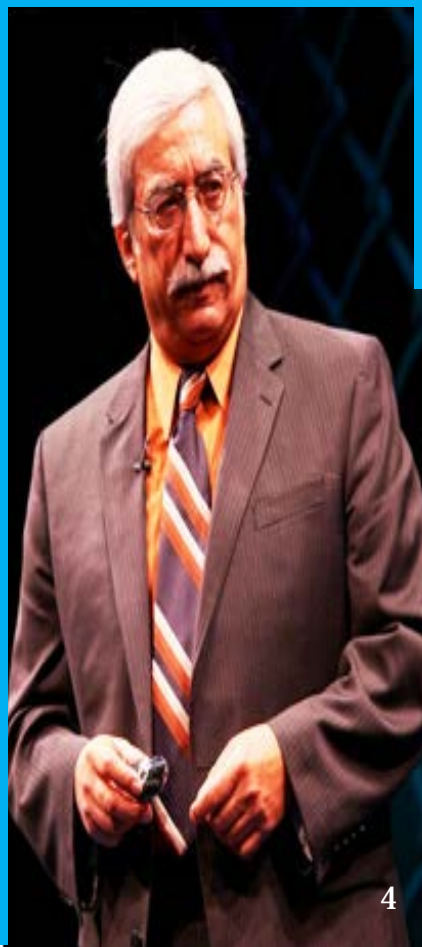


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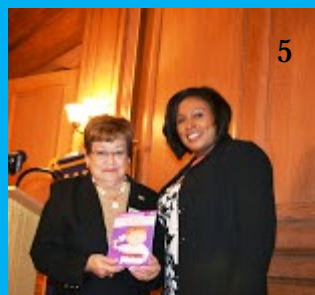


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Photos 1, 2, and 3 – Children at Eugenio María De Hostos Charter School received bilingual dictionaries from the RLRC



4



5



6

Photos

4- Dr. Ralph Spezio, Principal School No. 17 in the Rochester City School District

5- Mayor Lovely Warren received a book from President Luisa for her signature and donation to a deserving child

6- Attendees to the club meeting to hear Mayor Lovely Warren message

FOCUS ON ROTARY

THE WHITE HOUSE HONORS ROTARY WOMEN

Senior Rotary leaders gathered Tuesday at the White House to honor [10 women](#) for their service projects, [an event](#) attended by members of U.S. President Barack Obama's senior staff. The Rotary members presented their projects, in the hopes of creating new inroads for government partnerships and support. "This is recognition of the great work that they do but also serves as a great vehicle to inspire others to do similar kinds of things," said Rotary General Secretary John Hewko. "One of the things we're doing a better job of is sharing our story to the non-Rotary world."

The honorees were selected by Rotary senior leaders and endorsed by the White House from clubs around the U.S. but their projects touch lives across the globe. The honorees were: Carolyn E. Jones, Jacqueline Parsons, Ginger Vann, Michelle Candland, Bernadette Blackstock, Marion Bunch, Carol Butler, Elizabeth Usovicz, Deepa Willingham, and Jane Winning.

History of Women in Rotary

1950 An enactment to delete the word "male" from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution is proposed by a Rotary club in India for the Council on Legislation meeting at the 1950 RI Convention.

1964 A Rotary club in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) proposes an enactment to permit the admission of women into Rotary clubs. Delegates vote that it be withdrawn. Two other proposals to allow women to be eligible for honorary membership are also withdrawn.

1972 As more women begin reaching higher positions in their professions, more clubs begin lobbying for female members. A U.S. Rotary club proposes admitting women into Rotary at the 1972 Council on Legislation.

1977 Three separate proposals to admit women into membership are submitted to the Council on Legislation for consideration at the 1977 RI Convention. A Brazilian club makes a different proposal to admit women as honorary members.

The Rotary Club of Duarte, California, USA, admits women as members in violation of the RI Constitution and Standard Rotary Club Constitution. Because of this violation, the club's membership in Rotary International is terminated in March 1978. (The club was reinstated in September 1986.)

1980 The RI Board of Directors and Rotary clubs in India, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States propose an enactment to remove from the RI and club constitutions and bylaws all references to members as "male persons."

1983-86 In a lawsuit filed by the Duarte club, the California Superior Court in 1983 rules in favor of Rotary International, upholding gender-based qualification for membership in California Rotary clubs. In 1986, the California Court of Appeals reverses the lower court's decision, preventing the enforcement of the provision in California. The California Supreme Court refuses to hear the case, and it is appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

1987 On 4 May, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender. The Rotary Club of Marin Sunrise, California is chartered on 28 May. It becomes the first club after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling to have women as charter members. Sylvia Whitlock, of the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, becomes the first female Rotary club president.

1988 In November, the RI Board of Directors issues a policy statement recognizing the right of Rotary clubs in Canada to admit female members based on a Canadian law similar to that upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

1989 At its first meeting after the 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Council on Legislation votes to eliminate the requirement in the RI Constitution that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to men. Women are welcomed into Rotary clubs around the world.

1995 In July, eight women become district governors, the first elected to this role: Mimi Altman, Gilda Chirafisi, Janet W. Holland, Reba F. Lovrien, Virginia B. Nordby, Donna J. Rapp, Anne Robertson, and Olive P. Scott.

2005 Carolyn E. Jones begins her term as the first woman appointed as trustee of The Rotary Foundation.

2008 Catherine Noyer-Riveau begins her term as the first woman elected to the RI Board of Directors.

2010 More than 199,000 women are members of Rotary clubs worldwide, with an increasing number serving as district governors.

2012 Elizabeth S. Demaray begins her term as treasurer, the first woman to serve in this position.

2013 Anne L. Matthews begins her term as the first woman to serve as RI vice president.

Dr. Ralph Spezio

Dr. Spezio served for 33 years in the Rochester City School District as teacher, curriculum specialist, vice principal and principal. As principal of the # 17 school, a large elementary school in Rochester's "poverty crescent", he initiated wide-ranging partnerships and ground breaking programs to improve the health and well-being of students and the entire community. In 2013, Dr. Spezio was asked to come out of retirement to lead School #17 again in order to remove the school from the State Priority School Status. He is now in the second year of that leadership.

Upon his return to school #17, he encountered a large number of students who are stressed by what is happening in the environment. They are hyper-vigilant and that makes them traumatized. If their brain is affected by the anxiety about the terrible things they have witnessed, their learning is affected. They are in survival mode. So they need healing first. All summer long, he has made relationships with agencies that can provide therapy.

He said many parents are struggling and cannot get "out of the hole", but they are trying. One problem he sees affecting parents' participation in their children's education is the distance between home and school, lack of transportation, and even child care. He envisions the returning to neighborhood schools at the elementary school level.

As a principal, he had established numerous partnerships with community organizations to bring programs to the school to benefit the students. Some of these programs no longer exist. Now, he wants to make the school the real center of the neighborhood. He is starting a center for continuous learning. Thirty organizations want to have classes there. For example, MCC wants to have a satellite at the school. Next year, he will train the new principal. What he is doing now is very cautiously placing partnerships and infrastructure in place to create sustainability, so what occurred the last time, will not happen again.

Among his initiatives, is creating a "green School" with plants in the halls and classrooms. He believes these will have a calming effect. His goal is to raise \$40,000, and already he has reached half of it. Now, the school offers a dual language program. He thinks it is important that children can communicate in two languages.

Dr. Spezio was grateful for the club's donation of backpacks and school supplies to 77 children. This was made possible by a simplified grant from the District matched by the club.

Board of Directors

- President – Luisa E. Baars
 Immediate Past President – Abraham Hernández
 President Elect – Orlando Rivera
 Treasurer – Dr. Miriam Vázquez
 Secretaries – Wim Baars
 Julio Vázquez
 Club Service Chair - Charol Ríos-Davis
 Vocational Service Chair - Dr. Constantino Fernández
 International Service Chair – Diana Hernández
 Dr. Constantino Fernández
 Youth Service Chair - Tim McGrath
 Membership Chair - Diana Hernández
 Foundation Chair - Elisa DeJesús
 Stewardship Chair - José Santana Esq. Diana Irizarry
 Public Relations Chair - Tricia Cruz
 Literacy Chair – Dr. Miriam Vázquez
 Club Webmaster – Antonia Scott
 Abraham Hernández
 Oratorical Contest Chair - Esq. Diana Irizarry
 Bulletin Editor - Luisa Baars
 Program Chair - Abraham Hernández
 Fund Raising - Antonia Scott
 Sergeant-At-Arms - To rotate among directors
 Gopher – Tim McGrath

OBJECT OF ROTARY

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.

Club Meeting Information

January 9 at 6:30 at 817 Main Street (Ibero) – Holiday/Three Kings Family party

January 14 at 7:30 am at 400 East Avenue – DGE Miguelina Acosta and Leyva Rodríguez (Ibero)

January 21 at Noon at 400 East Avenue – TBA

January 26 at 6:30 pm at 66 Northwick – Board Meeting

February 4 at 7:30 am – 2015 Conference in Buffalo

February 9 at 6:30 pm – TBA

February 18 at Noon - TBA

Webinars - Visit: www.clubrunner.ca/videos
www.clubrunner.ca/webtraining

Jan 20, 2015 3:00pm EST Site Pages Management

Learn how to create, publish and maintain additional pages on your site which contains photos, documents, and content and how to assign sections of the site to different “owners.”

Duration: 30 Minutes

- See more at:

<http://site.clubrunner.ca/Page/webinars#sthash.7Pp1oJwu.dpuf>

Jan 27, 2015 3:00pm EST eBulletin 3.0

In this session, learn how you can update your content on your club's bulletin. Learn how you can:

- Format and prepare your bulletin to send to all members and friends
- Customize and design your bulletin using the new Bulletin Designer 3.0
- Create and edit stories for your bulletin
- And much more!

Duration: 30 Minutes

Jan 28, 2015 3:00pm EST ClubRunner 101

Learn about all the features of ClubRunner and how you can:

- Manage a website without any technical expertise
- Secure and personalize email communications
- Create and manage club events and fund-raising activities
- Post and access valuable club information and documents
- Generate various club reports
- Track bills and create invoices

Duration: 30 Minutes

Donation to Doctors Without Borders

During the December 16th meeting, club members raised \$65 in Happy/Sad Dollars to be donated to Doctors Without Borders. This group has been in the forefront in the battle against Ebola. The fight is not over even though it has slowed somewhat. Medical personnel have died after treating Ebola patients. They have shown what it really means to Service Above Self.