

# ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB

## LA ROTARIANA

January, 2017



Club members attempt to dance guided by Jayme Bermúdez (left) and group photo with dancers (above)

### Jayme Bermúdez and TRUART Dance Group

On January 6<sup>th</sup> of the current year, the RLRC celebrated the Three Kings Day with the TRUART Dance group in an old building located on the northwest of the City of Rochester. This is the second year that the club has donated funds to the group. Jayme Bermúdez, a youth counselor and choreographer, has dedicated countless hours to provide youths from the inner city a safe place to dance, create friendships, and stay out of the streets. The youths are expected to attend school and/or work.

The dances are energetic and beautifully executed. During the celebration, they performed several dances with Bermúdez leading them. It was a very rewarding experience for the club members who provided pizza, desserts, and soft beverages. For a long time, the group met at a church in downtown Rochester. About a year ago, Bermúdez was able to secure space in their current location which makes it possible for them to practice several times a week. A main advantage is that the dancers have been able to participate in shows like *West Side Story* presented by the Rochester Latino Theater Company. The skills developed by consistently practicing and mastering new steps will accompany them for a long time.

Dancing is not only a good physical exercise; it is also good for the mind and spirit. One could perceive their enjoyment and pride in being able to execute complicated steps. Jayme Bermúdez was a past recipient of the Luisa Baars Award for service to the community. He has demonstrated for many years commitment to the youth of the community. He certainly has the qualities that Rotary appreciates in those who apply their skills to service above self. The RLRC is very pleased in being able to support Bermúdez and the TRUART Dance group. We wish them continued success in their dancing, studies, and life.

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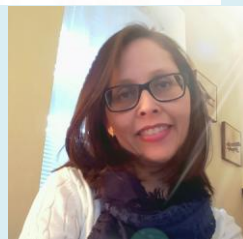
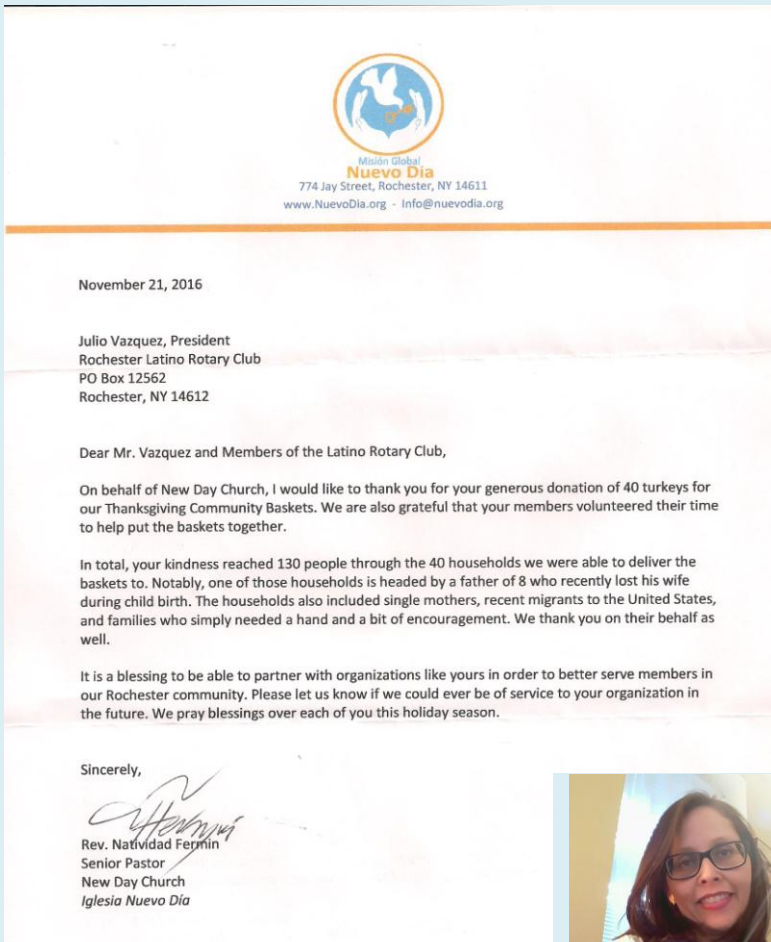
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RI President John F. Germ chose *Rotary Serving Humanity* as his theme for 2016-17. Noting Rotary's unique ability to bring together committed professionals to achieve remarkable goals, Germ believes that "now is the time to capitalize on our success: as we complete the eradication of polio, and catapult Rotary forward to be an even greater force for good in the world."

**Community service**

Below is a thank you letter from the Nuevo Día Church regarding the club donation of turkeys for Thanksgiving baskets to be given to families in need.



**Mackenzie Malia**, Co-Founder, President, and Board of Directors member of the AAVIA Foundation was raised in a Bolivian-American family. Mackenzie traveled regularly to Bolivia as a child, gaining exposure to the various cultural and social differences between the two countries. At age fifteen, she was a student of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, where she learned about business and entrepreneurship. After earning an Associate degree from Monroe Community College at age eighteen, Mackenzie transferred to Cornell University, where she graduated in 2014 with a B.A. in Anthropology. She is now working full-time with the AAVIA Foundation, which has turned her passion for Bolivia into a career. She has been active in the club as a member of the Fund Raising and International Project Committees.



**Co-Chair of Vocational Service Dr. Timothy Malia**, is also a Co-Founder, Medical Director, and Board of Directors member of the AAVIA Foundation. A family physician, Tim developed ties with the medical community of La Paz during two three-month training stints in the 1990s. In 2003 he was part of a team completing an assessment of pediatric emergency services in the city. Results of that study were presented to health care leaders in La Paz and led to two published papers and a similar study in Rochester, NY. In addition, Tim sponsored medical students and residents who have worked in Bolivia, and has transported medical supplies and equipment to Hospital del Niño in La Paz. The AAVIA Foundation provides him a stronger, more focused means to improve the medical care for children in Bolivia.



**Mackenzie greets Bolivians (above) and Tim takes a selfie with Bolivian children (left)**

**Getting to know club members**

**Service Projects Committee Co-Chair Charol Ríos – Davis** (above) was born in New York, but her family moved to Puerto Rico when she was 8 months old. She attended the University of Puerto Rico where obtained a bachelor degree in Psychology and soon after she completed her bachelor degree she began to work in psychiatric hospitals as intake coordinator, evaluator and case manager. Later, she completed a master degree in mental health counseling and moved to Rochester, NY. She worked for several years at Catholic Family Center as a chemical dependency therapist and later as a program manager for the CD Outpatient and Rehab Latino Program. She is an active member of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club since 2011 and is a Paul Harris Award recipient. Currently she works at Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School as a Social Worker and is working towards another master degree in the human service field. During her free time she enjoys outdoors with her family and beloved dog.



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## Focus on Rotary

2017-18 RI President Ian H.S. Riseley announces his presidential theme, *Rotary: Making a Difference* By **Ryan Hyland**

Rotary International President-elect Ian H.S. Riseley made the case that protecting the environment and curbing climate change are essential to Rotary's goal of sustainable service. Riseley, a member of the Rotary Club of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia, unveiled the 2017-18 presidential theme, *Rotary: Making a Difference*, to incoming district governors at Rotary's International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

Environmental degradation and global climate change are serious threats to everyone, Riseley said. "They are having a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable, those to whom Rotary has the greatest responsibility. Yet environmental issues rarely register on the Rotary agenda," he said.

Environmental degradation is one of the major threats listed by the UN's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change. Riseley added, "The time is long past when environmental sustainability can be dismissed as not Rotary's concern. It is, and must be, everyone's concern." The president-elect challenged every Rotary club to make a difference by planting a tree for each of its members between the start of the Rotary year on 1 July and Earth Day on 22 April 2018. Trees remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air, which slows global warming.

"It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring," Riseley said. "I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognizes our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself." In his address to the 2017-18 class of district governors, Riseley also urged clubs to improve their gender balance and lower the average age of their members.

Only 22 percent of Rotary's members are women, up from 13 percent 10 years ago. At that rate, Riseley said, it will take another three decades for Rotary to achieve gender parity. Three decades is far too long to wait to achieve a Rotary that reflects the world in which we live. We need to make it a priority now," he said.

Noting that 103 of the 539 incoming governors are women, Riseley said they are the type of women we need in Rotary, "leaders who will help Rotary connect with, and represent, and better serve, all of the members of all our communities." Riseley also believes it is imperative that clubs find ways to attract and engage younger members. Today only 5 percent of reported members are under 40, and a majority of members are over 60, Riseley told the audience. "Consider what Rotary stands to look like 10 or 20 years from now if we don't get very serious, very soon, about bringing in younger members," Riseley said.

Clubs will make a difference this year through their own decisions, said Riseley, but it will take teamwork on a global scale to move Rotary forward and secure its future.

## Club members hosted Governors Elect

Once more Rotary District 7120 hosted Governors Elect from several countries including Australia, Kenya, Austria, India, Colombia, Paraguay, and England.

Elisa and Abdiel DeJesús hosted DGE Pedro Julian and Cira Paredes from Paraguay and Luisa and Wim Baars hosted DGE Jorge Maldonado and Luz Nelly Huertas from Colombia.

The visiting DGEs and their spouses spent a week in different parts of the district staying with Rotarians, and visiting the different attractions of the region. Below are the pictures from some of the activities the DGEs and their hosts carried out during their stay.



DGEs visited Eastman Museum (top); DGEs are officially welcomed by District officers at Finger Lakes Community College (middle); and DGEs from Colombia and Paraguay with club members at a reception hosted by Luisa and Wim Baars (bottom)

## Board of Directors

President – Julio Vázquez  
 Immediate Past President – Orlando Rivera  
 President Elect – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
 Treasurer – Idalia Chang  
 Secretaries – Wim Baars  
     Luisa Baars  
 Club Service Co-Chairs - Aida Veras  
     Charol Ríos-Davis  
 Vocational Service Chair - Dr. Constantino Fernández,  
     Dr. Timothy Malia  
 International Service Chair – Luisa Baars  
 Membership Chair – Orlando Rivera  
 Foundation Chair - Elisa DeJesús  
 Literacy Co-Chairs – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
     Julio Vázquez  
 Club Webmaster – Orlando Rivera  
     Tera Rivera  
 Bulletin Editor - Luisa Baars  
 Program Chair – Orlando Rivera  
     Julio Vázquez  
 Fund Raising – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
 Sergeant-At-Arms - To rotate among directors

## 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.

## Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians.

As a Rotarian, I will

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians.

