

ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY LA ROTARIANA

January-February, 2016



Young dancers led by Jayme Bermúdez

Every year since its beginning, the RLRC has celebrated the Three Kings Day with a service project. For several years, all the children at Ibero American Action League Day Care Center received toys. This event was possible through the generosity of the US Marines Toys for Tots campaign. Then, the focus turned to a shelter for women victims of domestic violence. The children received toys and the mothers received cosmetic items.

This year, the project benefited a group of young dancers led by Jayme Bermúdez. Jayme was the recipient of the Luisa Baars Award for community service that embodied Rotary's motto of Service Above Self. Jayme has dedicated countless hours to work with youth at risk. Currently, he leads young people through complicated and energetic moves on the dance floor.

Jayme is searching for a permanent place to have the dance classes. He requires the group's members to be responsible students and good citizens. Observing a practice session, club members were very impressed with what Jayme has been able to do to engage these young women and men.

In order to help the group, the club made a cash donation to be used to meet anyone of the group's needs. Aida Veras, Miriam Vázquez, Elisa DeJesús, and Luisa Baars made the presentation. Several members of the dance group came forward to express their gratitude for the donation. The dance group is called Tru-Art.

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Enriquece el mundo



Be a gift to the world

Upcoming anniversary planned

Antonia Scott has started planning for the club's seventh anniversary in May. In her accustomed way, she is already far ahead, holding meetings with the Fund Raising Committee members and contacting possible sponsors. It has been proposed to invite Luis Carrión and his group to provide the entertainment, and a return of Freddie Colón as DJ.

Several large businesses have been approached for donations and/or sponsorship. Among these, Wegmans has been a strong supporter of the club since its inception for which the club is very grateful.

The Masquerade Ball will take place on May 7th at the Diplomat Banquet Center, starting at 6:30 PM. As usual, there will be a dinner, presentation of the Luisa Baars Award for community service, dance, raffle, and silent auction. This is a fun event, made more so by the beautiful masks worn by the attendees.

This is the major fund raising event held by the club to celebrate its anniversary but, more important, to be able to raise the funds that will allow the club to carry its multiple service projects. Among the projects funded by the Foundation of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club are: scholarships for college-bound Latino students; dictionaries and books to students at the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School; donations to the Rotary Foundation in support of the campaign to eradicate polio; cash donation to the House of Mercy; sponsorship of a team in the Rochester Hispanic Youth Baseball league; scholarships for students in El Sauce, Nicaragua; food baskets at Christmas time for needed families; and many more.

In accordance with conditions followed by the Foundation of the RLRC, all the proceeds from fund raising events are destined to fund service projects. All the members are volunteers who support the Foundation with their time, talent, and treasure.

Photos



Rotarians wear hats while reading *The Cat in the Hat* to kindergarten students at the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School. From left: Tim McGrath, Mackenzie Malia, Luisa Baars, Miriam Vázquez, Aida Veras, Charol Ríos-Davis, and Tim Malia.



RLRC members gathered at the Baars residence to share dinner with visiting DGE Eduardo Dalmedo and his wife Monica.

First row from left: Luisa Baars, Wim Baars, Miriam Vázquez, Charol Ríos-Davis, Nila Capes, Idalia Chang.

Middle row: Aida Veras, Julio Vázquez, Elisa DeJesús, Abdiel DeJesús, Mackenzie Malia, Antonia Scott and Tim Malia (last row).

Past visiting DGEs hosted by RLRC

Many DGEs and their spouses have been hosted by members of the RLRC over the years. So far, four couples from Argentina, two from the Dominican Republic, and one each from Australia, India, and Indonesia.

It has been a great experience to be able to spend a few days with these Rotarians from around the world.

We encourage other Rotarians from the District to volunteer to host DGEs and extend a warm welcome to them.

DGEs experienced hospitality

Once more DGEs from around the Rotary world were received by Rotarians in District 7120 to enjoy the hospitality extended to them as part of the Milt Matthews Governor Elect Hospitality Program. This a week-long event that takes place every year in January prior to the District Governors Elect travelling to San Diego for training on their upcoming term as District Governor.

For the past 45 years 469 Governors Elect and their spouses from 43 countries worldwide have come to the Greater Rochester area. The idea for the program was conceived in 1969 by PDG Milt Matthews, and has been copied by many other Districts throughout the United States.

Guests are assigned to two Rotary hosts in different parts of the District so that they may experience the many attractions offered by this part of the state.

Besides tours to see the local sites, guests attend Rotary clubs meetings and participate in local activities.

The Brighton Rotary Club has been co-sponsoring this program with District 7120 since its inception. The club celebrates a special event where DGE, spouses, and host families gather to meet each other and to have a lot of fun and fellowship.

Check the following link for additional information:

<http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50098/SitePage/gov.-elect-hospitality#sthash.jZq8rQue.dpuf>

District 7120 conference in Hershey

Assistant Governor Paul Minor visited the club in February to offer details about the District conference to be held in Hershey, PA from April 29 to May 1st.

Paul talked briefly about the conference and the attractions of the same such as the Parade of Nations by incoming and outgoing exchange students. The breakout sessions are informative and the students put on a talent show. The memorial service held on Sunday morning is a solemn and inspiring part of the conference experience.

Paul spoke about the areas of focus of Rotary and the work done by the Rotary Foundation. The RF global grants enable clubs to join forces and undertake large projects to benefit humanity. For instance, the Rotary Deaf Club is working on a grant to provide hearing aids to children in Turkey.

Each year the RF awards 40 Peace Scholarships for individuals to study conflict resolution at a master level.

All of us are aware of the Polio Plus campaign and the important role played by Rotarians in eradicating this disease, with only two countries remaining with polio as an endemic disease. In order to advance the RF work, clubs are asked to sponsor parts of the conference, such as the Governor's Ball, Breakout sessions, etc. Clubs are asked to donate a \$50 gift for the silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction go to the Rotary Foundation.

Each year, Rotarians from around the District gather to gain insight into the working of the Rotary world, share projects undertaken at their clubs, and meet new and old friends in a very relaxed environment.

This year's conference will provide a unique opportunity for clubs to display their most cherished projects. Thus, clubs are urged to may plans early.

As in previous years, clubs will be recognized for work done during the year. Awards are given for attendance, increased membership, literacy projects, vocational projects, service projects, community projects, presidential citation, etc.

Over the years the RLRC has received numerous awards in many of the categories mentioned above. We are very cognizant of the fact that without the efforts of club members who dedicate countless hours to realize the club's work these awards would not have been possible. Of particular note are Miriam Vázquez and the literacy projects she has undertaken over the years. Latino students in Rochester and abroad have been the beneficiaries of her efforts and those of Julio Vázquez who takes care of the Blue Shelf.

Focus on Rotary

Last issue of La Rotariana dealt with the third area of focus for Rotary: Water and Sanitation. This issue will deal with the fourth area of focus: Maternal and Child Health.

Shocking Statistics: 6.3 million children under the age of five die each year from diseases, malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation

Specific action steps can be adapted to local needs

- Develop or support programs that provide immunizations and antibiotics. Measles, malaria, pneumonia, AIDS, and diarrheal diseases are the leading causes of death in children under five.
- Prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission by encouraging the use of antiretroviral drugs and formula feeding. Improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in underserved areas.
- Promote good nutrition, including encouraging breastfeeding for most infants.
- Include water, sanitation, and hygiene efforts to maximize child nutrition. Diarrheal diseases caused by contaminated water exacerbate malnutrition in children.

Shocking Statistics: 222 million women who would prefer to delay or avoid childbearing lack access to safe and effective contraception. What can be done?

- Provide information about — and access to — contraceptives. Just filling the unmet need for contraception could reduce the number of maternal deaths by nearly one-third.
- Take time to understand prospective beneficiaries' beliefs surrounding contraception and foster an environment of open, nonjudgmental communication to build good working relationships in the community.

Shocking Statistics: Women in sub-Saharan Africa face a 1 in 39 lifetime risk of dying of pregnancy- or childbirth-related complications. 80% of maternal deaths could be prevented with access to reproductive health services and trained health care workers. What to do?

- Provide birthing kits to health professionals.
- Support accredited training programs for health professionals.
- Ensure sustainability by empowering the local community to take ownership of health training programs.
- Consult Rotary members who are trained in maternal and newborn health care, such as midwives, obstetricians, and gynecologists.
- Partner with local organizations that have expertise in maternal and child health.

How has the club respond to this area?

With contributions from the RLRC, Minatitlán Rotary Club, District 7120, and the Rotary foundation, a regional hospital in Minatitlán was equipped with modern incubators and related equipment that brought down infant mortality from 40% to 15 % in a couple of years. The smallest child saved was about 1 ½ pounds at birth.

Board of Directors

President – Orlando Rivera
 Immediate Past President – Luisa Baars
 President Elect – Julio Vázquez
 Treasurer – Dr. Miriam Vázquez
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 Luisa Baars
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 Charol Ríos-Davis
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 Dr. Timothy Malia
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 Mackenzie Malia
 Youth Service Chair - Tim McGrath
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 Public Relations Chair - Tricia Cruz
 Literacy Chair – Dr. Miriam Vázquez
 Club Webmaster – Orlando Rivera
 Tera Rivera
 Bulletin Editor - Luisa Baars
 Program Chair – Orlando Rivera
 Julio Vázquez
 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.

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.

