



In this issue

February 1

Julio Vázquez 1

Festival of Friendship 2-3

Taiwan 4

Object of Rotary 5

Photos 5-6

Future Events 7

Board of directors 7

We are called to serve

In a world often affected by violence, misunderstanding, hate, poverty, discrimination, intolerance, and so many other calamities, it is reinvigorating to remember that Rotarians raise above all these to serve without expecting recompense, to extend a helping hand without regard for color of the skin, language, or ethnic origin. Yes, we are called to serve, and to serve selflessly. Let us look forward with great hope and the satisfaction that stems from serving others.

La Rotariana

Volume 4, Issue 6

March 2013

February was an exiting month

A celebration in the City of Huatusco in Mexico offered a unique opportunity for the Rochester Latino Rotary Club and District 7120 to present to attendees from eleven countries the many good deeds done in the name of Peace Through Service as well as the beauty of our region. Wim and Luisa Baars traveled to Mexico where they were hosted by the Minatitlán Rotary Club, as well as by Rotarians in Veracruz. The occasion was the celebration of the Festival of Fellowship and Peace organized by past District Governor, District 4190 in Veracruz. Among the participant countries were Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, France, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Thailand, Taiwan, Pakistan, and the United States.

There were excellent presentations by all the delegations as well as a presentation from the Inter Countries Committees of Mexico. Needless to say that the hospitality of Rotarians in Mexico knew no limits. We had the opportunity to visit the Rotary Club of Nogales where we were received with a great lunch and artistic presentations of folkloric dances and typical Mexican music. The visit to the Minatitlán Club was equally impressive. Besides, we visited the two sites of the projects sponsored by our club with the assistance of the two Districts, the Rotary Clubs of Clyde, Bloomfield, Naples, Tuxtepec-Cuenca, and Minatitlán with very generous matching grants from the Rotary Foundation. We were very impressed by the dedication of the Rotarians from the Mexican clubs and how effectively and efficiently they used the funds and leveraged these to obtain other donations. Although many needs were met, many more remain as will be illustrated by the photos later on.

Rotarian Julio Vázquez publishes memoir Speaker

Julio Vázquez spoke about his recently published book. He gave a great presentation about his moving from Puerto Rico to Rochester, New York as a child. He explained that he wrote his book because he wanted to leave a legacy for his family and to inspire them to learn more about their Puerto Rican legacy. He also wrote the book for himself because English is his second language and he hopes that his story will make a contribution regarding the Puerto Rican Diaspora. The cover of the book illustrates the mountain he grew up in Puerto Rico with a backdrop of the City of Rochester. He will have a book signing at Tapas on March 15, 2013.

Festival of Friendship and Service

Rotarians in District 4190 welcomed delegations from 11 countries for the first Festival of Friendship and Service. It was very interesting to hear about how Rotarians are making a difference through the service projects carried out by their clubs in places as different as Brazil and Taiwan. Likewise, the ambassadors of Pakistan, Thailand, and Taiwan in Mexico presented the situation in their countries.

For instance, **Thailand** is positioned to play a very important role in the development of the countries in South East Asia, including Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Myanmar, and the Philippines. With a well-developed infrastructure, a free-enterprise economy, generally pro-investment policies, and strong export industries, Thailand enjoyed solid growth from 2000 to 2007—averaging more than 4% per year—as it recovered from the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98. Thai exports—mostly machinery and electronic components, agricultural commodities, and jewelry—continue to drive the economy, accounting for more than half of GDP. It controls the only land route from Asia to Malaysia and Singapore. A unified Thai kingdom was established in the mid-14th century. Known as Siam until 1939, Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country never to have been taken over by a European power. A bloodless revolution in 1932 led to a constitutional monarchy. In alliance with Japan during World War II, Thailand became a U.S. treaty ally in 1954 after sending troops to Korea and fighting alongside the U.S. in Vietnam. **Population:** 67,091,089 ; **Capital:** Bangkok; **Climate:** Tropical; rainy, warm, cloudy southwest monsoon (mid-May to September); dry, cool northeast monsoon (November to mid-March); southern isthmus always hot and humid; **Government:** Constitutional monarchy; **Language:** Thai, English (secondary language of the elite), ethnic and regional dialects; **Religion:** Buddhist 94.6%, Muslim 4.6%, Christian 0.7%, other 0.1% ; **Time Zone:** UTC+7 (12 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time) **Labor force:** 39.62 million; **Labor force by occupation:** Agriculture: 40.7%, Industry: 34%, Services: 52.7%; **Export commodities:** Textiles and footwear, fishery products, rice, rubber, jewelry, automobiles, computers, and electrical appliances; **Import commodities:** Capital goods, intermediate goods and raw materials, consumer goods, and fuels.

Pakistan, that is frequently in the news due to the unrest and the presence of the Taliban, killing of civilians and the capture of Osama Bin Laden has a very interesting history. The capital is Islamabad. The Major Cities include Karachi , the largest city, with a population of over 18 million; Lahore is the second largest city; and Faisalabad is the third largest city. Other major cities are: Rawalpindi, Hyderabad, Gujranwala and Multan. **Government:** Pakistan has Parliamentary System of Government. The President is the head of the state. Military rule was instituted in Oct. 1999; a nominal democracy was declared in June 2001 by the ruling military leader, Pervez Musharraf, who ruled until 2008. **Asif Ali Zardari** , the widow of Benazir Bhutto, was elected President. **Population:** The total population of the country is over 180 Million . The **Ethnic Distribution** is as follows: Over 45% of the inhabitants are Punjabi, Pashtuns are 15%, Sindhis are over 14%, Baluchis are almost 4%, Urdu Speakers are 7.8%, Sariaki Speakers are 10%. The **Languages** include the Official Language Urdu and the other languages include, Punjabi, Sindhi, Baluchi, Pushto, Saraiki, Brahvi, Hindku, etc. In terms of **Religion**, 96% of the population is Muslim. Other groups include Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis and Buddhists.

Pakistan is situated in the western part of the Indian subcontinent, with Afghanistan and Iran on the west, India on the east, and the Arabian Sea on the south. The name *Pakistan* is derived from the Urdu words *Pak* (meaning pure) and *stan* (meaning country). It is nearly twice the size of California. Pakistan was one of the two original successor states to British India, which was partitioned along religious lines in 1947. For almost 25 years following independence, it consisted of two separate regions, East and West Pakistan, but now it is made up only of the western sector. Both India and Pakistan have laid claim to the Kashmir region; this territorial dispute led to war in 1949, 1965, 1971, 1999, and remains unresolved today.

What is now Pakistan was in prehistoric times the Indus Valley civilization (c. 2500–1700 BC). A series of invaders—Aryans, Persians, Greeks, Arabs, Turks, and others—controlled the region for the next several thousand years. Islam, the principal religion, was introduced in 711. In 1526, the land became part of the Mogul Empire, which ruled most of the Indian subcontinent from the 16th to the mid-18th century. By 1857, the British became the dominant power in the region, with Hindus holding most of the Muslim League in 1906 by Mohammed Ali Jinnah (1876–1949). The league supported Britain in the Second World War while the Hindu nationalist leaders, Nehru and Gandhi, refused. In return for the league's support of Britain, Jinnah expected British backing for Muslim autonomy. Britain agreed to the formation of Pakistan as a separate dominion within the Commonwealth in Aug. 1947, a bitter disappointment to India's dream of a unified subcontinent.

Pakistan, continued

Agriculture is the mainstay of Pakistan's economy, employing more than 40% of the population. Cotton, wheat, rice, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables, and tobacco are the chief crops, and cattle, sheep, and poultry are raised. There is also a fishing industry. Most of Pakistan's agricultural output comes from the Indus basin. The country is now self-sufficient in food, as vast irrigation schemes have extended farming into arid areas, and fertilizers and new varieties of crops have increased yields.

Pakistan's industrial base is able to supply many of the country's needs in consumer goods and other products. The country major manufactures textiles (the biggest earner of foreign exchange), processed foods, pharmaceuticals, construction materials, paper products, and fertilizer. Remittances from Pakistanis working abroad constitute the second largest source of foreign exchange. Since the mid-1950s electric power output has greatly increased, mainly because of the development of hydroelectric power potential and the use of thermal power plants.

The annual cost of Pakistan's imports usually exceeds its earnings from exports. The chief imports are petroleum, machinery, plastics, transportation equipment, edible oils, paper, iron and steel, and tea. Exports include textiles and clothing, rice, leather and sporting goods, chemicals, and carpets. The chief trading partners are the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and China.

Taiwan, officially Republic of China, island nation, with an estimated population of 22,894,000, is in the Pacific Ocean, separated from the mainland of South China by the 100-mi-wide Taiwan Strait. Together with many nearby islets, including the Pescadores and the island groups of **Quemoy** and **Matsu**, it forms the seat of the Republic of China. The provisional capital is **Taipei**; Nanjing, on mainland China, is regarded as the official capital of the republic. The heavily forested hills and mountains of central and East Taiwan reach their summit at Yu Shan (13,113 ft high); there are about 70 peaks exceeding 10,000 feet. This mountainous area produces some minerals, chiefly gold, silver, copper, and coal, but its main resources are forest products, including valuable hardwoods and natural camphor. Petroleum and natural gas have also been found. The broad coastal plain in the west supports most of the island's population and is the chief agricultural zone. Typhoons are common. Taiwan has a semitropical climate and rainfall ranging from moderate to heavy. In addition to Taipei, other major cities include Kaohsiung, Tainan, Taichung, and Chilung.

The overwhelming majority of the people are Chinese; they generally speak the Mandarin, Fujian (Amoy), or Hakka dialects. There are also a small number of Kiao-shan (Malayan) aborigines living in the mountainous interior. Most Taiwanese practice a traditional mixture of Buddhism and Taoism; there is a small Christian minority.

The island produces abundant food crops, although in recent years agricultural production has decreased due to rising costs and increased competition. Rice is the chief crop, followed by sugarcane, corn, fruits and vegetables, tea, and sweet potatoes, pigs, chickens, and cows are raised and the island has a sizable fishing fleet. Industry, once concerned mainly with rice and sugar milling, has diversified to include a variety of light and heavy manufactures, significant telecommunications and other high-technology businesses, and an important service sector. Manufacturing accounts for 25% of Taiwan's gross domestic product, with service industries generating much of the rest.

There is food processing, petroleum refining, and the manufacture of electronics, armaments, chemicals, textiles, iron and steel, machinery, vehicles, consumer products, and pharmaceuticals. Most industries are privately run, but the government operates those considered essential to national defense, such as steel and electricity. Railroad and bus lines are also government operated. Taiwan trades chiefly with China, Japan, the United States, and Hong Kong. Major exports are computers, electrical and electronic equipment, metals, textiles, plastic and rubber products, and chemicals; imports include machinery, electrical equipment, minerals, and precision instruments.

Taiwan's national government is based on the constitution of 1946 (effective 1947, amended numerous times), which was drawn up to govern the whole of China; when the Nationalist government moved to Taiwan in 1949, most countries still recognized it as the government of all China, and it technically continues to adhere to that claim.

Taiwan, Continued

The president is the head of state; the president is popularly elected for a five-year term and is eligible for a second term. The government is made up of five branches; the office of the president is separate from these branches. The Executive Yuan is similar to a cabinet and is headed by the premier (who is the president of the Executive Yuan); the premier is appointed by Taiwan's president. The 113 members of the Legislative Yuan are elected (73 directly, 34 proportionally, and 6 by aboriginal inhabitants) for three-year terms. The Judicial Yuan is appointed by the president and serves as the highest judicial authority; the Control Yuan is in charge of censorship and such political matters as censure and impeachment; and the Examination Yuan supervises examinations for government positions. The dominant political party was long the conservative Kuomintang (KMT; the Nationalist party); the Democratic Progressive party, formed in 1986, is the other main party. Administratively, Taiwan is divided into 18 counties, five municipalities, and two special municipalities (Taipei and Kaohsiung).

Theoretically separate from the national government is the government of Taiwan province, which includes all of Taiwan except for the cities of Taipei and Kaohsiung and a few islands off the mainland coast. The province is administered by a governor, which in 1994 became an elective post, and a 79-member provincial assembly.

Per capita income varies enormously between the countries present at the Festival., as shown by figure below. Data obtained from the International Monetary Fund for 2012.

Country	Per Capita Income
United States	\$49,922
France	\$41,141
Italy	\$33,115
Taiwan	\$20,328
Brazil	\$12,079
Argentina	\$11,576
Mexico	\$10,247
Panama	\$9,919
Colombia	\$7,855
Thailand	\$4,972
Pakistan	\$1,182

In spite of the vast differences in terms of geography, history, government, religion, and many other factors, there prevailed a sense of camaraderie among the representatives. The differences were quickly erased by the magic of Rotary. Magic that is embodied in the ideal of Service Above Self and the object of Rotary.

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.



Julio Vázquez, author of *Journey of a Puerto Rican Jíbaro* (above, left); Bunk beds bought for the school in Tuxtepec with matching grant (right);



Group attending the Festival of Friendship and Service in Huatusco, Mexico, hosted by the Rotary Club of Minatitlán

Photos



At the Minatitlán General Hospital, a high number of premature births and high rate of infant mortality prompted the Rotary clubs of Rochester Latino and Minatitlán to apply for a matching grant to purchase incubators and related equipment for the Hospital. As a result, infant mortality rate has been reduced.

There is a need for additional equipment.



400 EAST AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NY
PHONE: 585-266-3990
FAX: 585-266-3990

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

latinorotary.com

FUTURE EVENTS

1. April 13—District Assembly at Red Jacket
2. April 27—Fourth Anniversary at Holiday Inn at 6:30 pm
3. May 3-5—District Conference at Lake Placid
4. May 13—Planning Meeting, Holiday Inn at 6:30 pm
5. May 22—Daisy Algarín, at 400 East Avenue at 7:30 am
6. May 31—Family Bowling Night (TBA)
7. June 10—Luis E. Ormaechea, Holiday Inn at 6:30 pm
8. June 29—Rochester Latino Rotary Club Leadership Exchange at the Escher's Home (TBA)
9. July 1, District Leadership Exchange at Ventosa Winery in Geneva

Board of Directors

Luisa Baars, Founder

Diana Hernández, President

Abraham Hernández, President-Elect

Roberto Burgos, Club Administration Chair

Elisa DeJesús, Past-President/Foundation Chair

Wim Baars, Treasurer

José Santana and

Diana Irizarry, Secretaries

Abraham Hernández, Fundraising Committee Chair

Miriam Vázquez, Literacy Chair

Charol Ríos, Service Projects Chair

Diana Irizarry, Oratorical Contest Chair

Luisa Baars, Editor La Rotariana