

A MEMBER OF
ROTARY
DISTRICT
7120

La Rotariana

Rochester Latino Rotary Club

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November, December, 2011

Rotary Four-Way Test:

Of the things we
think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all
Concerned
3. Will it build
GOODWILL
and
BETTER
FRIENDSHIP?
4. Will it be
BENEFICIAL
to
all concerned?

Our first meeting of November was honored with the presence of Dr. Bolgen Vargas, Interim Superintendent of the Rochester City School District. His presentation dealt with the problems facing students in the District. Dr. Vargas gave recognition to the Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charters School for setting a good example on teaching Latino students. The charter school was one of three that were the first to start in Rochester and it is the only one that is still in operation of the three. He indicated that in order to achieve better results in the education of the children in the RCSD higher achievement standards should be set. The community should demand that the district establish these standards and change the "culture" that would facilitate these changes. He mentioned that the district is in the process

of adopting a new teacher evaluation system. Forty percent (40%) of the evaluation will be based on student achievement scores on state exams and 20% will be based on the results of student achievement scores on local exams. He asked the club for help and to get involve in three areas: 1) stimulate interest in the community on reading activities,, 2) volunteer on Friday mornings reach-out home visits with students who have attendance problems and 3) help develop and improve the educational activities at Monroe HS (i.e. tutors, mentors).



Service Projects

As a result of the visit made by School #28 Principal Susan Ladd to our club, a tutoring program has been started at the school. Wim Baars has been meeting regularly with students to work on mathematics and reading/writing skills.

Fourth grade students at the Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School were presented with bilingual dictionaries purchased with contributions by club members, the club, and MAS Translation Services. Children were very appreciative of receiving their own dictionary from the club Rotarians. This is an ongoing project of the club that was started in 2009. EMHCS has a dual language instructional model that has demonstrated very good results teaching English and Spanish to the students, Latinos and non-Latinos. It has a proven record of good performance in local and state tests. Latino Rotarians serve as reading buddies to kindergarten students. This is a fun activity both for the students and Rotarians that is ongoing as well.

*Rotary is not
an
obligation, it
is a privilege.*

*Ser Rotario
no es una
obligación, es
un privilegio.*



Rotarians and one of the three groups of students receiving dictionaries at EMHCS



Wim Baars tutors School #28 students

Our future depends on a well-educated workforce. Latino students dropout of school in large numbers and it is important for them to experience success early in school to keep them in school. Tutoring can help achieve this goal.

From the Planning Guide

In the area of Leadership Development, President Diana established the following Goals:

To develop leaders capable of serving in the local Rotary Latino Club and potentially serve in Rotary beyond the club level, the club's leadership will

- 1) Develop a long-range plan that addresses leadership development;
- 2) Develop a comprehensive training plan that ensures;
 - club leaders attend district training meetings;
 - orientation is consistently and regularly provided for new members;
 - ongoing educational opportunities are available for current members.
- 3) Immediate Past President, President-elect, and President will work together to ensure continuity of leadership and succession planning.

Accomplishments:

Several club members attended the Rotary Leadership Institute in Canandaigua on November 4, 2011. Members attended the District Assembly and Conference as well as the RI Convention. Members attended the Literacy training offered by the District. Mentors have been assigned to new members. Several videos developed by RI have been shown during meetings to further the knowledge of Rotary among members. President Diana has met with committees chairs to develop action plans for the committees.

Reading Buddies at Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School

Another Literacy project of the club is the Reading Buddies at EMHCS. Several club members descend on the school to read to kindergarten students who enjoy having outside people interact with them.



Rotarian Charol Rios is enjoying reading to the kids as much as the kids enjoy listening to the story

A love of reading developed early in life is a gift that will last for life. It is very important in a child's life to experience this activity in order to develop the skills necessary for learning. Paying attention, being able to recall the story, making the connection between the words and the pictures, and asking questions/making comments about the story are just some of the skills that can be developed during this activity.



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

*Busca dentro
de ti para
abrazar a la
humanidad*

**Reach Within
to Embrace
Humanity**

Honorable Mayor Richard S. Thomas visits Rochester Latino Rotary Club

December 14 was a memorable day for the club. The Mayor of the City of Rochester, Honorable Thomas S. Richards, was the guest speaker at a meeting attended by DG Norma and husband Gary. This was the occasion where the club installed its first honorary member, Stuart J. Mitchell. Several members of PathStone Corporation Executive Staff were also present.

The Mayor spoke of the three priorities he has established for his administration. These are: Public Safety, Economic Development, and Education. Regarding Public Safety, the mayor spoke of a police force of 750 members. Even though the number of homicides has decreased this year, there are still other crimes going up. He indicated you cannot separate this situation from the concept of poverty. The economic situation the country has experienced during the past few years has impacted the livelihood of many Americans, increasing the number of individuals living in poverty. In order to decrease crime, it is important to look at Economic Development. This would include housing development as well as small businesses development. It used to be that a person working for Kodak or Xerox had a job for life. This is no longer the case. In terms of Education, it has become increasingly critical to complete high school and be prepared to enter the workforce or to pursue higher education. There is decreased performance among many students while standards have increased. The numbers for Hispanic students are not good. There is a high dropout rate among these students. In many respects we are prepared for a "knowledge-based economy." Rochester is rich in the things needed for it. For instance, all the universities and colleges present in the area. Yet, many of the people coming out of school will not participate in it.

In order to maintain financial stability, it is necessary for the real estate tax to work that there be a good balance between residential, manufacturing, and commercial properties. This used to be the case. For instance, the St. Paul Street neighborhood used to have this balance of types of properties. The city depends on state and federal funding. There is a difference in how we receive and spend money. For example, funding for affordable housing worked well, but this will be cut significantly. There are no many sources of revenues. There is increased demand for services, but if you do not have the funding and the staff, the services cannot be delivered. Economic stability and development is needed for the three priorities to take place.

There are many programs offering assistance, but there are cases where the programs create dependency. It is important that parents get involved in their children's education. Many children lack role models, and do not see themselves as going to college or succeeding in business. They need to see people like them being successful. They may not find role models at home. He suggested the club could help provide some of this. The Mayor exhorted us not to be overwhelmed by the statistics. Even though half of the students do not graduate from high school, half do. If we reach seven or eight thousand students, we are doing something. Each one of us had someone or something in our lives that helped us succeed.



Mayor Thomas Richards, President Diana Hernández, and District Governor Norma Madayag-Reilly

Club Installs First Honorary Member

“Honorary” membership is the highest distinction a Rotary club can confer and is exercised only in exceptional cases to recognize an individual for unusual service and contributions to Rotary and society. An honorary member is elected for one year only, and continued membership must be renewed annually. According to the Rotary International Code of Policies, “Clubs should guard the election to honorary membership as exclusively a distinction for meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals and for permanent support of Rotary’s cause. On August 29, 2011, the Board of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club unanimously approved and accepted to bestow the first club’s Honorary Membership to Stuart J. Mitchell.

Stuart is the President/CEO of PathStone Corporation, formerly known as Rural Opportunities, Inc., and has been with the organization since its creation. In 1969. PathStone is a private, not-for-profit organization providing services to farm workers, low-income families, and economically depressed communities throughout New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Vermont, and Puerto Rico. PathStone has successfully operated a wide array of programs funded by federal, state, local, faith-based and private sources. He was honored with the PathStone Visionary Award for his 40+ years of leadership of the community development and human resource organization.

In 2009, when the Rochester Latino Rotary Club was chartered, Stuart invited the club to use their facilities for all of its activities. Throughout these three years, the RLRC has enjoyed the human, financial, and material resources that PathStone has offered a new growing club. As collaboration and networking have increased between the two organizations, a partnership has developed. It is allowing us to partner to celebrate and respect the cultural diversity of our community to ensure that resources and supports are available to those in need. We envision that through the strengthening of our collaboration and community network, we will increase our capacity to achieve our missions.

Stuart shared with the club from the beginning that both his parents were Rotarians. He expressed his delight in hosting the club given he saw his parents live the principles and object of Rotary. His father was a Paul Harris Fellow. Thus, the club is very proud of being able to recognize Stuart, a visionary man who spouses and practices the principles of Rotary. The Object of Rotary is to “encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise.” Stuart J. Mitchell has lived a committed and passionate life towards helping others, modeling Rotary Motto “Service Above Self.” Welcome Stuart to your Rotary Family!



**DG Norma pins the Rotary Pin on Stuart as President Diana observes (left)
Al Burgos presents a Certificate of Appreciation and picture of the Little Baseball League Team sponsored by the RLRC (above)**



The 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.

Mentoring Service at School #28

Wim Baars started tutoring students at School #28 as part of a collaborative project between said school and the Rochester Latino Rotary Club. During her visit to the club, School Principal Susan Ladd indicated there is a large number of Latino students who need additional help in reading, writing, and mathematics. Ms. Ladd said she was not asking for money, she was asking for the gift of time. She asked the club to provide assistance in this area by providing mentoring services. Eventually, the collaboration will involve activities with the parents in an effort to engage them in their children's education. All parties concerned are in agreement that parental participation is critical for the children's success.

Food Pantry in Need of Supplies

The economic crisis has affected our Rochester community for the past few years, and it seems the needs of the community continue to increase in spite of the slow recovery experienced during the past few months. The Ibero American Action League is a not-for-profit private organization serving primarily the Latino community in Rochester. Among its many services, there is a food pantry that provides much needed assistance to the residents in the northeast part of the city. It is experiencing high demands for non-perishable food items, baby formula, hygiene products, and diapers. RLRC members have responded by donating some of these items. Yet, the need is great and more has to be done. We are calling the community to respond generously to help alleviate the existing needs. The pantry is located at 777 Clifford Avenue, Rochester, NY.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration at Restart Treatment Center

Rotarians Charol Rios and Wim and Luisa Baars provided a typical Latino lunch to clients attending the treatment center. They were able to engage the clients in a conversation about the traditions and culture in different Latino countries. It was a great opportunity to recall experiences of early childhood and to compare with those of a native of a non-Latino country—Holland.

Three Wise Men Day Celebration

Under the direction of Yesenia Ramos, Chair of the Service Projects Committee, plans are underway for the celebration of the Dia de los Reyes Magos on January 6, 2012. This is the second year that the Rochester Latino Rotary Club provides toys for children attending a Day Care Center in the city of Rochester. The toys are provided by the Toys for Tots Program of the US Marines. The celebration includes the distribution of toys plus reading to the children about the origins of the celebration. In Latino countries, this was the feast much awaited for by the children. This was when families met at the grandparents homes to share a meal, dance, and give toys to the children. According to tradition, the Three Wise Men traveled by camel to bring the gifts. Children were supposed to leave goodies for the Wise Men and grass and water for the camels. The celebration of the Christmas season started early in December and did not finish until after January 6th. The emphasis was in the family gathering and the sharing with neighbors and friends.

The family included many people, those related by blood as well as those related by marriage or by the sharing of religious practices such as baptism. The godparents, called compadres in Spanish, were considered to be "co-parents" and were treated as if related by blood. Similarly, it did not matter how far removed were the cousins, they were considered part of the nuclear family. Remembering those days, the editor feels nostalgia for the days when the dance would last until early in the morning, the food was prepared with great care, and the conversation was lively. Those indeed were good times. The club is trying to maintain the tradition and educate the children about the Latino culture.

ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB

Cordially invites you to the
January 21, 2012

Rochester Club Ballroom
120 East Avenue, Suite 201
5:30 pm to 1:00 am

**Proceeds will fund local
projects such as:**

- Scholarships
- Dictionaries for 4th Graders
- Food staples for community food pantry
- Reading materials for parents of preschoolers
- Support of Little League Team
- Adopt-A-Family
- Toys for underprivileged children

Enjoy a great dinner and
entertainment provided by:

SOTA Jazz Ensemble
Pedro Nuñez y su Conjunto Típico
Bobby Hernández as DJ
Guest Speaker

Interim School Superintendent Dr. Bolgen Vargas

Tuxedo Corner, 2338 Lyell Avenue, will provide tuxedo rental for \$50.00 for this event.

Gala Cost: \$60.00 for individual and \$100.00 per couple

Contact: Abraham Hernandez — abeh54@gmail.com or 585-503-5690

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Place
January 6-15	GE Hospitality Program	Rotarians Homes
January 6	Three Wise Men day Celebration	Ibero American Action League Daycare Center
January 21	Rochester Latino Rotary Club Gala	Rochester Club
March 9-11	Multi District PETS	Syracuse
March 24	District Oratorical Contest	
April 14	District Assembly	
May 18-20	District Conference	Rochester

Board of Directors

Diana Hernández—President

Diana Hernández – President Elect/VP

Wim Baars—Treasurer

Diana Irizarry and José Santana — Secretaries

Sergeant-at-Arms—Charol Ríos

Yesenia Ramos/Charol Ríos — Service Projects

Priscilla Cromer — Public Relations

Roberto Burgos — Administration

Miriam Vázquez—Literacy

Abe Hernández/Raquel Pedraza—Fund raising/Rotary Foundation

Elisa Dejesús — Rotary Foundation

Membership—Mary Velázquez

Luisa Baars — Editor/Historian

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



The hour is near, the time is fast approaching for us to say goodbye to the old year and welcome with cheer the good New Year. Let us remember with gratitude all the blessings we have had during the year that is about to pass. Let us look forward to the year that is about to start with hope, love, and happiness. There be peace in our hearts, in our families, our neighborhoods, our cities, our country, and in our world.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR