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VOUME 2, ISSUE 3

DISTRICT 7120

# La Rotariana

*Rochester Latino Rotary Club*

## Program

La Rotariana has been dormant for a few months and the editor begs forgiveness for this. Several factors ranging from health issues to multiple commitments contributed to this. This issue will offer a summary of the many activities undertaken by the club during the past months.

### June 27—Change over picnic

The long awaited day arrived bringing sunny skies, beautiful weather with a nice breeze and lots of fun. Rotarians and their families came to celebrate the past Rotary year and to welcome the new one. Roberto served as MC, video photographer, cheerleader and soon-to-be past president. He gave a brief history of the Club's development from birth to the one year old milestone. He highlighted the Club's accomplishments in providing help to the local and international communities via service projects. Among others, the Club has:

- Carried out Literacy Projects such as distribution of dictionaries to fourth graders, teaching English to Spanish-speaking individuals, collection of children books, reading to children in kindergarten, and stocking a book shelf for the Clinton Family Health Center. These activities earned a Literacy Award from Rotary District 7120 awarded during the Annual Conference held in Albany, NY.
- Participated in home-building through Habitat for Humanity
- Donated money toward the Rotary Foundation Polio Plus Campaign
- Assisted a school in el Sauce, Nicaragua with funds and school supplies
- Hosted DGEs from Argentina and the Dominican Republic and a GSE from Finland
- Provided gift baskets to battered women in shelters
- Provided toys to needy children
- Raised funds to help relief efforts in Haiti
- Participated in walk to help fund Camp Haccamo
- Participated in walk to raise funds for diabetes
- Established a scholarship for a Latino college-bound student who has demonstrated the ideal Service Above Self

### The Food and Other Details

Several members cooked a delicious meal consisting of roast pork, rice with pigeon peas, salad, barbeque chicken, Dutch potato salad, assorted desserts, bread, and many other delicacies of the Latin cuisine. The food was cooked by Ramón and Lori Nolasco, Raquel and Martin Pedraza, Elisa and Abdiel Dejesús, Wim and Luisa Baars, Rosemarie Gutierrez, Yesenia Ramos, Carlos Torres, Miriam Rivera, Miriam Vazquez, Diana and Abe Hernández, Diana Irizarry and José Santana, Roberto Burgos, and Pablo Henríquez.

Set up and clean up was done by all those in attendance. Al Burgos provided tables and chairs and Alex Pichardo provided paper goods.

Under a large tent rented for the occasion, club members and their families enjoyed a wonderful afternoon with table games, good conversation, excellent food, and a very cooperative weather in the very nice environment of PathStone back yard and conference room. The new Board of Directors was installed during the activity and President Elisa took over the reigns of the club from Past President Roberto.

*The 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  
FRIENDSHIPS?*

4. *Will it be  
BENEFICIAL to all  
concerned?*



*Watch your thoughts;  
They become words.*

*Watch your words;  
They become actions.*

*Watch your actions;  
They become habits.*

*Watch your habits;  
They become character.*

*Watch your character;  
It becomes your destiny.*

## The Pictures



**Soon to be Past President Roberto leads in the Pledge of Allegiance while Yesenia holds the flag.**

**Some of the Rotarians at the picnic are:**

**First row:**

**Yesenia, Miriam V., Luisa, Pablo**

**Second row:**

**Rosemarie, Miriam R., Elisa, Diana H., Carlos**

**Third row:**

**Maribel, Diana I., José, Abe, Wim**

**Missing: Roberto, Raquel, Al, Alex, Tony**





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# New Rotary Year

## President Elisa Takes Over the Reigns

Elisa became the second president of the club and gave a very nice speech highlighting the goals for her year as president.. She reiterated the club's commitment to literacy projects as well as continued focus on the needs of the Latino community. The new board members were introduced and all received a Rotary pin for their office. The new board members are:

President: Elisa Dejesús; Vice-President/President Elect: Rosemarie Gutierrez; Secretaries: Diana Irizarry and José Santana; Treasurer: Wim Baars; Rotary Foundation chair: Diana Hernandez; Membership Chair: Maribel Torres; Literacy chair: Miriam Vazquez; Service Projects chair: Yesenia Ramos; Sergeant-At-Arms: Pablo Henríquez; Fund Raising chair: Abe Hernandez; Public Relations chair: Eugenio Cotto; Club Service: Miriam Rivera; Administration chair: Carlos Torres; Newsletter Editor/Historian: Luisa Baars; Program chair: Liliana Crane.

Charter members received their long awaited pins identifying them as such. President Elisa also distributed the pin for this year's theme:



## New Members Inducted

The three members highlighted in the previous issue of La Rotariana were formally inducted during the change-over picnic. Raquel Pedraza, Alex Pichardo and Pablo (Tony) Henríquez, son of Rotarian Pablo Henríquez, were welcomed to our Rotary family by President Elisa Dejesús as her first activity as president.

## Literacy

This was the first year for the club's co-sponsorship of a 5K race in conjunction with the Puerto Rican Festival. Rotarian Al Burgos promoted the race as a way to raise awareness of our literacy projects. Besides the race, there was a float for the parade that had literacy as a theme. There were also 300 bags of goodies distributed to attendees at the Festival. The bags also contained a message in Spanish and English highlighting the importance of reading to children, its benefits, and the availability of books from local libraries. The club had a booth at the Festival where the projects undertaken thus far were displayed and information was provided about Rotary, efforts to eradicate polio, and the club. This was an excellent opportunity to get in touch with the Latino community.



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**President Elisa addresses the crowd after taking over the reigns of the club. Looking on are Diana Irizarry and Abe Hernández**



**Partial view of participants in the 5K race on July 31st departing from Frontier Field**



## The Float



**The float with a literacy theme was made by Miriam Vazquez, Tony Henríquez, Wim Baars, Luisa Baars, Roberto Burgos plus friends and family members of the above Rotarians. The Burgos brothers provided the truck, platform, and materials for the decorations. There were big books and signs in Spanish and English highlighting the benefits of writing and reading.**

## Garage Sale

On September 29th club members gathered at the Rochester Public Market for a garage sale to benefit the Polio Plus Campaign of the Rotary Foundation. It was a very fun activity, the brain child of Alex Pichardo. Members donated articles such as TV, microwave oven, clothing, books, household articles, pictures, shoes, etc., etc. With a very early start on a cool morning, Alex, Abe, Raquel and hubby Martin, José and Diana, Wim and Luisa, Elisa and Abdiel, and Yesenia descended on the Market loaded with the articles to be sold at bargain prices. There was even a crib with its mattress and bedding and many, many toys! The total raised was over \$200.00 and all will go to eradicate polio.

This also provided the opportunity to educate the shoppers about polio and the work that has been done by Rotary International to fight this disabling disease. We were able to talk about the threat still present since polio is still present in four counties.

Besides, shoppers became aware of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club and the work it has been doing to increase literacy and to help individuals and families in need.

All in all it was a great day. Thank you Rotarians, those in attendance, and those who could not attend but donated items for the sale.