



# La Rotariana

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## Annette Ramos delighted club members with a story

Annette Ramos has worked as a highly acclaimed professional teaching artist for Young Audiences of Rochester (YAR) for many years. She recently was promoted to YAR's Director for Wolftrap/Early Learning Through the Arts, and Manager of Educational Services. Her vast repertoire of bilingual teaching and learning experiences with such organizations as the Rochester City School District (RCSD) and others, particularly Newark and Rush-Henrietta, Writers & Books, Kuumba Consultants, and Quad A, has proven her to be an outstanding performer, partner, teaching artist and employee. She is a remarkable asset to YA, a nonprofit arts and youth-centered organization.

Ms. Ramos is best described as a multi-talented, highly dynamic and energized Latina Writer, Storyteller and Performance Artist who delivers a clear and powerful positive image of Hispanics today, influencing the development of many area youth. She provides a leading Hispanic artistic presence in the Rochester area, volunteering and contributing to young peoples' lives, mentoring them to reach their full potential and supporting their academic success through high quality arts programming.

Additionally, Ms. Ramos continues to play a leadership role by increasing opportunities for Latino Artists. She founded the Rochester Latino Theatre Company and is currently in her second year of producing dual-language Latino Theater for Rochester audiences. She is always recruiting new talent, mentoring them as actors, playwrights, directors and theater artists. Further, Ms. Ramos understands the importance of collaboration to provide quality programming to children. She has the skills to interface with multiple agencies serving on the RSCD Common Core Committee and the Rochester Early Childhood Council. Ms. Ramos is a "yes we can" committee member, working tirelessly for the greater good.

During the club meeting on October 9, she narrated/acted the story "Skunks Garden of Roses", which she wrote. The story is about a skunk that wanted to plant a garden of roses and how different animals wanted to modify the plans. Perseverance and collaboration led to a beautiful garden. We can all learn how to positively interact with others in order to achieve goals.

## Collaboration led to a successful event

The RLRC in collaboration with PathStone Corporation, Rural and Migrant Ministry, and others held a Harvesting Justice Symposium on October 29, 2013 at Temple B'rith Kodesh. The same was attended by migrant farm workers, government officials, and advocates. Many attempts to improve the working conditions have been made over the years. Yet, many inequalities remain in terms of the application of labor laws. One of the main obstacles faced by migrant farm workers are related to the never ending debate on immigration. Speakers agreed that until the issues surrounding the implementation of a comprehensive immigration reform are resolved, migrant workers will continue to experience hard working conditions.



**Annette Ramos**  
**Engage Rotary**  
**Change Lives**

**If you have ever wondered how you can help improve the lives of those less fortunate, wonder no more! Join a Rotary club and learn how ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things by joining forces. Whether it is in their own town, their country, or the world, Rotarians guided by the principle of "Service Above Self" are changing lives around the world. Join today!**

## Rotary Friendship Exchange Program

Esa Muuruvirta was part of a four person team from Finland. The team was hosted by Rotarians in the District. Wim and Luisa Baars once more hosted Rotarians from different parts of the world. Some of the points of interest visited included the Corning Glass Museum, Niagara Falls, several wineries in the Finger Lakes Region, the Glemm Curtis Aviation Museum, and a vineyard in Hammondsport. The group were the guests of the Supervisor of the Town of Plattsburgh where they learned about the history of the town. They attended a Rotary meeting of five clubs in Area 3: Bath, Hammondsport, Naples, Prattsburgh, and Wayland. An excellent presentation of the History of Wine in the Finger Lakes followed the dinner. Prior to the dinner attendees had the opportunity to taste several wines.

Esa visited the club on October 29. He explained that he is 65 years old and that he worked for many years in Finland as a vocational nurse. He is an Assistant Governor of District 1400 in Northern Finland. Esa kept everyone's attention by talking about Finland's geographic, political and social history. One interesting fact mentioned is the large number of saunas in family homes. It seems that almost all the households have one. This is not surprising given the extremely cold temperatures. There are also many lakes. Northern Finland at times does not get dark and at times does not get light like Alaska. The most questions were over the fact that everyone has at least four weeks of vacation, government workers even more. All education is totally free and everyone receives a retirement income.



Above, Esa Muuruvirta and left, Dr. Miriam Vázquez, recipient of a leadership award from the New York State Association of Bilingual Education



## Rotarians honored in October

On Friday October 18th at Fordham University at Lincoln Center, Rotarian Dr. Miriam Vázquez was recognized by the New York State Association of Bilingual Education for her leadership and commitment to the field of bilingual education. Dr. Miriam Vázquez worked with the Rochester City School District for twenty years as a bilingual teacher, administrator and principal. She co-founded the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School in Rochester in 2000 and was the principal of this very successful charter school until 2010 when she retired. She presently teaches a course in bilingual education at State University of New York College at Brockport. She is the Literacy Committee Chair. Due to her excellent work in this committee, the RLRC has received several Literacy Awards from the District. Congratulations Miriam!

On October 25th, as part of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, the Rochester City School District awarded Luisa Baars the Community Service Award in recognition of outstanding dedication, commitment and leadership to the community. Luisa is Assistant Governor for Area 13. She retired from the Health Association in 1999 where she had worked in different capacities: Director Employee Assistant Program, Director MAINQUEST Treatment Center, Director New Business Development. After retirement, Luisa has dedicated her time to her translation company, MAS Translation Services. She is member of several boards and committees in the community.

Below, several members of the RLRC posed with Luisa after the award ceremony held at the Rochester City School District.



## Veterans honored on November 11



**Veterans display the certificates of appreciation (above)**

Danny Martínez and Eric Merriman, members of the Veterans Office in Canandaigua, offered a very interesting talk regarding the many benefits available to veterans. These range from medical services to assistance with studies and housing.

The RLRC was able to honor the veterans who unselfishly served to protect our freedoms. The activity was dedicated to Sgt. Javier Ortiz Rivera (right), a US Marine who died in Afghanistan on November 16, 2010. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on December 2, 2010. He was raised in Rochester and is a graduate of the School of Imaging and Information Technology at Edison. He joined the Marines right out of high school in 2002. His first of three tours of duty was in Iraq in 2003. He was deployed to Afghanistan in 2005 and again in September. He was due to return home in August. According to the Defense Department, Ortiz-Rivera was killed while conducting combat operations in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

He is survived by his wife and three young children his mother, sister and brother.



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*Diana Irizarry, Oratorical Contest Chair*

*Antonia Scott, Program Committee Chair*

*Luisa Baars, International Projects Committee Chair/Editor La Rotariana*

## FUTURE EVENTS

1. December —Annual Christmas Party, Holiday Inn, 6:30 pm
2. December 23— Wrapping toys for children in a shelter for battered women
3. December 25—Toys delivered to shelter
4. December 30—Toys wrapping for children at Ibero's Child Protective Program
5. January 6—Delivery of toys to children in Child Protective Program
6. January 20—Board meeting, Wegmans on East Avenue, 6:00 pm
7. January 22—Books for the World presentation, regular meeting and induction first Corporate Member, PathStone, 7:30 am