

# ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY LA ROTARIANA

October, 2014



This photo dating to 2011, just two years after the club was chartered, members prepared a banner to carry during the Puerto Rican Parade in downtown Rochester. Shown from left to right are Roberto Burgos, first club president, Hilda Rosario-Escher, Wim Baars, Luisa Baars, Priscilla Cromer, Diana Hernández, Abe Hernández, and María Vargas.

## CONNECTING ROTARY AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITIES

The Rochester Latino Rotary Club has been involved in international projects even before it was formally chartered by Rotary International. The first project was the donation of funds to repair the leaking roof of a school in El Sauce, Nicaragua. This was followed by yearly donations of school supplies for the same school.

On October 1, 2014, Marta Rojas, Tim McMahon and Ashley Sullivan visited the club to give thanks for the help provided to the students. They also explained the different projects that are helping the population of El Sauce.

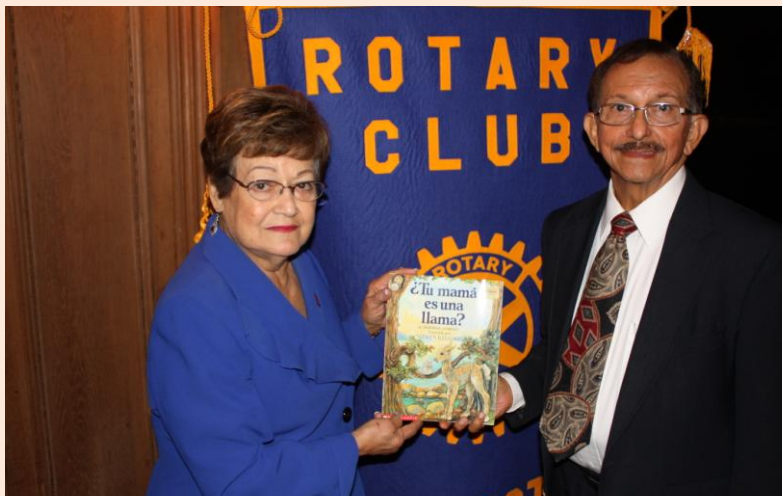
El Sauce is a town of about 8,000 inhabitants. Most of the people living there are very poor. They have a scholarship program that now covers 125 students in 8 schools, 2 of them in the town, 6 in the countryside. A scholarship consists of \$75 per year to provide a backpack, school supplies, uniform, shoes and basic medical supplies. The results show that the children who receive scholarships are the best students. Chosen children come from single parents or those being cared for by grandparents. The program also provides teaching materials to the teachers. The club is supporting children with payment for

## In this issue...

- Connecting Rotary and Families
- Edwin Rivera
- Photos and More
- Focus on Rotary
- Oratorical Contest
- Focus on Membership
- District –Wide Events
- Focus on Membership
- Future Meetings
- Board of Directors
- The Four-Way Test



TAKE ACTION: [www.latinorotary.com](http://www.latinorotary.com)



**Edwin Rivera, Sr. was guest speaker at the October 13 meeting of the Rochester Latino Rotary club. Here, he is shown receiving a book from Club President Luisa Baars for his signature. It will be donated in his name to a student at Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School. Mr. Rivera had just received recognition by PathStone Corporation for his contribution in the creation of said agency. The award ceremony was part of PathStone annual meeting.**

## Edwin Rivera

Abe Hernández introduced the guest speaker: Edwin Rivera, Sr., first Puerto Rican outside of New York City elected to public office in 1961 when he was elected Fifth Ward Constable at the age of 21. He later became the first Puerto Rican on the County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Rivera worked for the city as a community service representative for the Rochester City Manager from 1967-69. In 1968, Mr. Rivera was appointed by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as the Director of the Commonwealth's Migrant Advocacy Office in Rochester. Puerto Rican law 87 mandated this government agency to monitor and protect the employment and basic worker rights of domestic and farm laborers working outside of the island. The Rochester office was responsible for representing hundreds of Puerto Ricans who worked in food processing plants throughout Western New York. These companies also provided housing, which required diligent oversight by Mr. Rivera and the Migration Division.

Mr. Rivera spoke about his personal and professional experience in Rochester. He started his involvement in the community in the early 1960 as a young man interested in working for a better community.

As a Board of Supervisors representative, he successfully fought the County to move its food distribution center to downtown so that people didn't have to go to Westfall Road. He also fought the Board of Election for the right to vote. Voters had to take a test, which prevented many people, especially Hispanics who did not know the English language, for registering and voting. He took the case to the federal court and won. The case is known as María López versus County Board of Elections Case.

He also established the first Hispanic community newspaper called La Voz del Pueblo. Mr. Rivera worked with a group of other Puerto Ricans pioneers to establish the Ibero-American Action League. He served as the first chairman of the board. He talked about the role that the Catholic Church played in the development of this institution. Ibero was a project of the Hispanic Apostolate established by the church. Eventually, the agency had to go solo in order to be funded by the government.

In 1969, Mr. Rivera was selected by the US Department of Justice, Community Relations Service as the lead representative and relocated to Buffalo in 1970. Beginning in 1971, he worked for the US Department of Defense and then Department of Housing and Urban Development until 1978 when he was transferred to Puerto Rico to become the director of the US Department of Labor's Caribbean office of Federal Contract Compliance where he retired in 2003.

Mr. Rivera finished by expressing concern for the disintegration of the family. It is his position that we must focus on keeping the family together for the sake of our children. Our children need a strong family to grow emotionally healthy.

The meeting was attended by Esq. Maritza Buitrago, Salvador Casiano, Edwin Rivera Cintrón, Berardo Jurado, Ricardo Martínez, Miriam Mirando-Jurado, Father L. Tracy, and Edwin Rivera Jr. in addition to several club members. Mr. Rivera is a highly respected individual whose contributions to the community continue to yield positive influence on Latinos and non-Latinos alike.



## PHOTOS AND MORE



**Marta Rojas, from El Sauce, Nicaragua, and Ashley Sullivan, interpreter who lived and worked in El Sauce, thanked the club for the continued support to the children and the school in El sauce. Looking on are Greg Taylor and Tim McGrath, club members.**



Tim McMahon accompanied Marta and Ashley to the meeting. Among the projects in El Sauce is the building of community wells. So far they have built wells in 5 rural communities and a total of 150 persons have benefitted from these wells. The families benefiting from the well help to do the work: digging and cementing the sides with bricks.

There is a project for poor, single women to make piñatas that are used in all kinds of celebrations. First the women are taught how to make a piñata and then they can start their own small business.

Another project is microloans. This project is also for very poor women. These are loans of \$100 with a 1% interest rate that have to be paid back in one year. So far, 20 women are benefitting from these loans. Businesses established so far include: corn and cacao products, replacement parts for bicycles (bikes are the main way of transportation), used clothes and cosmetics.

Another important project is school building. Existing schools were very poor and made from wood with leaking walls and roofs. In the raining season, the rain came through the walls and inundated the room. Now they are building schools with walls of bricks held together with cement and a sturdy roof. Also tables and chairs are provided as well as school supplies. Even the teacher will have her own desk and chair.



**In photo above (right), President Elects from Area 13 in Rochester attend PETS I in Mount Morris. The seminar was very informative and well-attended. From left, John Haynes, Rochester Deaf Rotary Club; Cathy Lebau, Rochester Northwest Rotary Club; Katherine Sherry, Rochester Am Rotary Club; Luisa Baars, Assistant Governor; Pete Sarratori, Rochester Rotary Club, and Orlando Rivera, Rochester Latino Rotary Club.**

## FOCUS ON ROTARY

Rotary members unite at home and across the globe to put our experience and knowledge to work tackling our most pressing challenges. We focus our efforts in six areas: promoting peace, preventing diseases, providing access to clean water and sanitation, enhancing maternal and child health, improving basic education and literacy, and helping communities develop.

We are especially dedicated to [ending polio in our lifetimes](#). Rotary members have persevered in this fight since 1979 and have now helped eradicate polio in all but three countries worldwide.

### TO PROTECT PROGRESS, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DECLARES SPREAD OF POLIO AS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY



Rotary supports the WHO Director-General's [recommendations](#) that describe polio as a public health emergency of international concern, including the request that countries that are actively exporting the wild poliovirus (and all polio-endemic countries) ensure that all of their residents and long-term travelers are immunized against the disease before travel.

This is a positive step needed to safeguard the remarkable progress the world has made toward ending polio forever, because we know that outbreaks will continue to occur until we can stop polio at the source: the remaining endemic countries.

With our partners, as well as health ministries, governments, and others, Rotary remains committed to a polio-free world.



Archie Panjabi is a British TV and film actor renowned for her performances in *East Is East*, *Bend It Like Beckham* and *The Good Wife*, for which she won an Emmy. She is a polio eradication ambassador for Rotary International and works with Amnesty International on their Stop Violence Against Women campaign. She has stated the following: "I am happy to report that today polio is 99% gone, down from about 350,000

cases a year in the 1980s to barely 400 in 2013. With India now free of the disease, only three countries remain polio-endemic: Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan. We must ramp up our efforts in the endemic countries, because from them polio can re-emerge to infect children in places where it had been stopped, such as we saw [last year in Syria](#) and the Horn of Africa. If we were to relax our guard – decide, say, that the world could live with a few hundred polio cases a year and cease our mass vaccinations in at-risk countries – experts tell us polio could rebound with a vengeance, infecting thousands of children a year."

World Polio Day was held on October 24.

## Oratorical Contest

Club members Diana Hernández, Diana Irizarry, and Luisa Baars have been meeting with students and faculty at Monroe High School to promote participation in the District's Oratorical Contest.

Sixteen students together with Juan Betancourt, teacher, and Jennifer Daly, librarian, met with club members to talk about the requirements for participation in the contest, the process, and commitment required from participants.

Many students will not be able to meet after school hours due to transportation issues. An effort to find a mutually agreeable meeting time at the school is going on. It is expected that the club will be able to sponsor two students.

## Focus on Membership

November 18 is fast approaching. There has been a change of venue for the networking event. It was felt that it would be more convenient if prospective members saw the place where the club holds its meetings.

PathStone has once more generously agreed to open the building at 400 East Avenue in the evening for the event scheduled for 5:30 pm.

Besides sharing information about Rotary, there will be ample opportunity to network, socialize, and hear Rotarians talk about their Rotary journey.

Stuart J. Mitchell, President/CEO of PathStone Corporation will talk about the passion and motivation that have prompted him to join Rotary and to support our club.

There will be tasty appetizers and refreshments. This event will engage the visual and auditory senses as well as the emotions. It is very likely that experiencing what Rotary does around the world will move participants to join. Come see for yourself!

Join Rotary and have the satisfaction of serving without expecting anything in return. For additional information on Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, Visit: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

For District 7120, visit [www.rotary7120.org](http://www.rotary7120.org)  
To find out if our club is for you, visit [latinorotary.com](http://latinorotary.com)



# La Rotariana

Have you ever wondered if Rotary is something you should join? And, if you do, what is in it for you? Listening to Rotarians talk about their experience in Rotary is illuminating. Probably, there are as many reasons to join as there are Rotarians. Some examples: fellowship, giving back to the community, sharing vocational interests, someone asked them to join, felt a void in their lives, likes to meet people and experience other cultures, and so on.

Regardless of the initial motivation, Rotarians soon discover that engaging in service projects, accepting leadership positions, helping others, and the fellowship found in the Rotary family are the motivators that keep them coming back to the meetings and enjoying the sense of belonging to something far greater than themselves.



Whether it is providing wheelchairs in faraway places or the equipment to make it possible for doctors in Mexico to perform heart surgery in low income children, Rotary is there to help. Rotarians form partnerships across the world to lend a helping hand.



Club / District Meeting Information  
November 5 at 7:30 am at PathStone, Elisa DeJesús – The Rotary Foundation

November 10 at 6:30 pm at PathStone, 400 East Avenue – Abe Hernández – Terrorist within Our Borders is Called Obesity

November 16 at 11:30 am at Belhurlst Castle – Foundation Brunch

November 18 at 5:30 pm at 400 East Avenue – Networking Event for Potential Rotarians

November 20 at 6:00 pm – Fireside Chat with DGE Bill Gormont at Luisa´s

November 24 at 5:30 pm – Board Meeting at Luisa´s

December 3 at 7:30 am at 400 East Ave. – TBA

December 8 at 6:30 pm at 400 East Ave. – Mayor Lovely Warren

## Webinars

**Did you know there are interesting webinars available to you from Club Runner?**

Visit: [www.clubrunner.ca/videos](http://www.clubrunner.ca/videos)  
[www.clubrunner.ca/webtraining](http://www.clubrunner.ca/webtraining)

[Nov 18, 2014 3:00pm EST](#) - **Organize & Manage Your Committees** - Learn how to use the **Enhanced Committees Module** - *Duration: 30 Minutes*

[Nov 20, 2014 3:00pm EST](#) - **Website Contents** - Learn how you can update your content on your club's website and bulletin. *Duration: 45 minutes*

[Nov 25, 2014 3:00pm EST](#) **eBulletin 3.0** - In this session, learn how you can update your content on your club's bulletin. *Duration: 30 Minutes*

[Dec 2, 2014 3:00pm EST](#) - **Website Designer 3.0** - Get a hands on demonstration of how to configure and customize your site using the Website Designer 3.0. *Duration: 30 minutes*

[Dec 4, 2014 3:00pm EST](#) - **ClubRunner 101** - Learn about all the features of ClubRunner - *Duration: 30 Minute*

[Dec 11 2014 3:00pm EST](#) - **Rotary International Database Integration with ClubRunner** Learn how this feature will automate member updates between your ClubRunner database and RI's MyRotary Portal. *Duration: 30 Minutes*

[Dec 16, 2014 3:00pm EST](#) - **Events & Volunteer Management** Learn how to post, promote and manage events and volunteers! *Duration: 30 Minutes*

[Dec 17, 2014 3:00pm EST](#) - **Site Pages Management** - Learn how to create, publish and maintain additional pages on your site which contains photos, documents, and content.

[Dec 18, 2014 3:00pm EST](#) - **Attendance and Dues** - Geared toward club secretaries and treasurers. Track and manage your club's meeting attendance - *Duration: 45 Minutes*

# Board of Directors

President – Luisa E. Baars  
Immediate Past President – Abraham Hernández  
Vice President – Greg Taylor  
President Elect – Orlando Rivera  
Treasurer – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
Secretaries – Wim Baars  
Julio Vázquez  
Club Service Chair - Charol Ríos-Davis  
Vocational Service Chair - Dr. Constantino Fernández  
International Service Chair – Diana Hernández  
Dr. Constantino Fernández  
Youth Service Chair - Greg Taylor  
Membership Chair - Diana Hernández  
Foundation Chair - Elisa DeJesús  
Stewardship Chair - José Santana  
Esq. Diana Irizarry  
Public Relations Chair - Tricia Cruz  
Literacy Chair – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
Club Webmaster – Antonia Scott  
Abraham Hernández  
Oratorical Contest Chair - Esq. Diana Irizarry  
Bulletin Editor - Luisa Baars  
Program Chair - Abraham Hernández  
Fund Raising - Antonia Scott  
Sergeant-At-Arms - To rotate among directors  
Gopher – Tim McGrath

Rotary



Rochester Latino Rotary Club

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## Rotary Four-Way Test

Of the things I think, say, and 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?