

# ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY LA ROTARIANA

September, 2016



Students at the Zimbrich Campus of the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School were welcomed with music provided by the radio station of the Ibero American Action League

## Jean Lowe is guest speaker

Jean A. Lowe, president of the Greater Rochester Housing Partnership was guest speaker at a regular meeting of the RLRC. Prior to employment at the Partnership, Ms. Lowe was Economic Development Coordinator for Monroe County. In this position she worked with local companies to finance business expansion using as variety of public and private resources; and with local governments to identify and attract economic development opportunities. Ms. Lowe has a BA in History

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**Jean A. Lowe**, continued from page 1

from Grinnell College and a Master in Public Administration from SUNY Brockport.

The partnership was created to facilitate the development of affordable housing in and around the city of Rochester by ensuring the availability of appropriate sources of financing.

Since 1992, the Partnership has lent over \$100,000,000 to fund 1550 units of affordable multifamily housing. The Partnership has provided funding for over 1160 single-family properties located throughout Monroe County. It has provided both funding and management for the award winning HOME Rochester Program. In addition to making its own resources available through construction and bridge financing, the Partnership has successfully applied for and received \$19.8 million in state and federal resources that have been funneled into the local affordable housing market. The Partnership has created a tax credit fund which makes equity investments in affordable housing developments.

The Partnership is able to lend money to persons who have difficulty accessing loans from traditional banks. It has been able to take title of vacant properties. Not-for-profit entities have been able to benefit from these funds to provide affordable housing to low income families. Among the agencies are Ibero American Action League and PathStone Corporation.

The Partnership oversees construction and sales, and provides subsidies to fill the gap between what the house costs in the market and what it can be sold for. Income limits for a 2-3 persons household is \$28,000 to \$45,000. Houses are renovated by installing new bathrooms, roof, paint, etc. Potential homeowners have to participate in pre/post classes. The monthly payment is usually less than what families would pay for rent. Home ownership provides family stabilizing.

### Community leaders greet students

Community leaders including elected officials, board members, business owners, Rotarians, and representatives of organizations gathered in front of the EMHCS to welcome students to a new school year. It was a festive environment and students seemed pleasantly surprised to see so many people supporting them plus lively music from Ibero's radio station.

### Getting to know the club members

**Jazmin Ruiz**, the newest member of the RLRC, was inducted on September 7, 2016. Jazmin was raised in a military family, but spent most of her life in San Antonio, Texas. She graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX with a Ph.D. in Population Health.

She spent two years in Durham, NC working with the U.S. EPA. She recently moved to the Rochester Area and works as a toxicologist for Xerox. Jazmin has become actively involved in the community by volunteering with the local YWCA, serving as a member of Xerox's Hispanic and Young Professional organizations, and by becoming a Rotarian. Jazmin also enjoys spending time with family, travelling, reading, and running outdoors with her dog.

Jazmin has already agreed to help with the fund raising events of the club.

**Club Secretary Wim Baars**, co-founder and charter member of the RLRC has been a Rotarian since 2007 when he was inducted into the Irondequoit Rotary Club.

Wim is originally from the Netherlands and came to Rochester via Puerto Rico where he worked as a clinical psychologist and lived for over 20 years. Wim was hired to be the first bilingual school psychologist at the Rochester City School District. He moved to Rochester with his wife, Luisa, and three children in 1979.

After working at the RCSD for 20 years, he retired in 1999. Upon his retirement, he continued to evaluate Spanish-speaking students in school districts such as Sodus, Mt. Morris, Brockport, Brighton, and Livonia. Now, he does translations at MAS Translation Services.

Wim enjoys reading, going to the theater, and doing exercises at the YMCA. He has been treasurer and secretary of the RLRC. He also enjoys hosting Rotarians from different countries. He is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Photos



Jazmin Ruiz,  
newest member  
of the RLRC



NYS Senator  
Joe Robach  
addresses  
those greeting  
students



Partial  
view of  
leaders  
greeting  
students



RLRC  
members  
were greeters  
also: From  
left, Hilda  
Escher, Wim  
Baars, Julio  
Vázquez, and  
Yesenia  
Ramos

Focus on Rotary

This issue of La Rotariana will focus on The Rotary Foundation. In the Rotary year 2016-17, our Rotary Foundation turns 100. That's a century of Rotary members changing lives and improving communities all over the world.

Rotary President **Arch Klumph's** idea for an endowment fund dedicated to "doing good in the world" planted the seed of The Rotary Foundation in June, 1917 during the Rotary Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Thanks to his vision and staunch advocacy, and the extraordinary generosity of Rotary members worldwide, that fund has become one of the world's leading humanitarian foundations.

Through our Foundation, Rotary members have supported thousands of projects to provide clean water, fight disease, promote peace, provide basic education, and grow local economies. We've also been a leader in the fight to eradicate polio worldwide. The centennial is the perfect time to share this impressive record with the world.

The first donation in the amount of \$26.50 was done by the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri. In 1930, the Foundation awarded \$500 to the Society for Crippled Children. The history of the Rotary Foundation's efforts to eradicate polio is detailed below.

During the 1984 Rotary Convention, James Grant of UNICEF urged Rotarians to get involved in the fight to eradicate polio. By 1988, the Foundation had raised almost 247 million for the multi-year Polio Plus Campaign. The World Health Assembly launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

What's the plus in PolioPlus?

The "plus" initially referred to the additional vaccines administered along with the polio vaccine. Today, it also reflects the fact that the infrastructure, fundraising, and advocacy methods developed for the polio eradication campaign also support efforts to fight other infectious diseases.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

In 2007, the Gates issued a \$100 million challenge to continue the fight against polio. Further donations by the Gates have allowed the Foundation to continue the efforts started decades ago. Many times, beliefs and cultural issues have made vaccination difficult. Yet, by the commitment and hard work of Rotarians and partners, by 2015, polio cases worldwide were down 99.9 percent since the GPEI was launched in 1988. We are very close to achieving the eradication of polio that is still endemic in two countries, but the work is not done. We must be alert to prevent polio from raising its ugly head again!

## Board of Directors

President – Julio Vázquez  
 Immediate Past President – Orlando Rivera  
 President Elect – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
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     Tera Rivera  
 Bulletin Editor - Luisa Baars  
 Program Chair – Orlando Rivera  
     Julio Vázquez  
 Fund Raising – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
 Sergeant-At-Arms - To rotate among directors

## 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.

## Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians.

As a Rotarian, I will

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians.

