

ROTARY CLUB OF MARAVAL HANDOVER DINNER – PRESS RELEASE

On Saturday 5th July 2008 the Rotary Club of Maraval held their 15th Anniversary Handover Dinner at the Chaud Restaurant, cor. Dundonald Street & Queen's Park East, Port of Spain.

Special invited guests included District Governor Elect – Ms. Astra Da Costa, Mr. & Mrs. Winston Riley of ENDECO, and Feature Speaker Dr. Carla Noel-Mendez of BHP Billiton.

President of the outgoing board, Mrs. June Riley-Jackson addressed the gathering on the projects the Club had completed during her year as President (2007-2008), gave all her board members a gift and was presented with an Album as a parting gift from Rotarian Rubina Ignacio-Rollock which comprised pictures, press releases, a CD and other mementos of events held during the year.

Paul Harris Fellowships (a coveted Rotary honour comprising of a Pin, Certificate and Ribbon) were bestowed upon the outgoing President, Mrs. Riley Jackson, as well as Mr. Kevin McClean, Past President of the Rotaract Club of Maraval, by Rotarian Susan Hale.

Outgoing President June Riley-Jackson then officially handed over the President's Pin to incoming President for the year 2008/2009 - Mrs. Angela Parillon-Eifell who in turn introduced and pinned her incoming board of directors and gave her maiden speech.

Feature Speaker Dr. Carla Noel-Mendez spoke about the "Hope" Rotarians give to the less fortunate and the fact that her company BHP Billiton's involvement in the communities in Toco, Manzanilla and Mayaro, shares the same focus as the Rotary Club of Maraval has for its Community Corps, Rampanalgas, which encourages the villagers to come together for a common purpose.

Guest Artiste was Tahira Osbourne who rendered three beautiful songs.

**My re-write published in the Trinidad Guardian –
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The new Rotary Club of Maraval 2008-'09 board.

Most would think that the attainment of world peace and international understanding is unrealistic...particularly when our days are frequently punctuated with news about massacres and murders, "community leaders" found lying and poor folk dying without access to much needed food and medication.

Yet for Rotarians, the understanding is that their individual and sustained daily contributions—regardless of where they live in the world—will make achieving this goal, started over 100 years ago by Rotary founder Paul Harris possible.

The Rotary Club of Maraval recently celebrated its 15th anniversary Handover Dinner and ceremony at Chaud Restaurant, on Queen's Park West, where the outgoing president, former university Math lecturer June Riley Jackson, passed the leadership baton to optometrist Angela Parillon Eiffel.

Riley Jackson, along with Rotaract Club of Maraval past president Kevin McClean, received Paul Harris Fellowships (a coveted Rotary honour comprising of a pin, certificate and ribbon). To receive such an honour is not about the recognition but about what's possible in the "World of Rotary."

Parillon Eiffel in her maiden speech underscored her personal commitment (and that of the new Board) to continue carrying the torch towards peace through her club's contribution to local, humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange.

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The "Rotary Way" is indeed just the symbolism needed to show how each citizen of T&T can make a difference in their community and in the lives of less fortunate people in their world and the world at large and do what needs to be done in making world peace possible.