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Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Atenas



"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."
~ Muhammad Ali

Announcements & Highlights

We had a great turnout today at our first breakfast meeting. We tried out a new venue (Tica's Café); were joined by our speaker Jim, and his partner, Winifred. We welcomed guests Leah, Darlyce and Joy. We were all happy to see Betty, who returned from Holland, and Judy who was on a brief hiatus. We were also relieved that Stef decided not to move to Panama after her wonderful vacation there. Nia Salas attended her third meeting and has applied for membership! Members have a week to respond to the Board regarding her application.



Club News

Lynn provided an update on the proposed Bingo fundraiser. She and Eric met with the International Baccalaureate Representatives last week to discuss more details. Nia generously assisted with translations. Possible venues were discussed, along with logistics, amounts of bingo cards to sell, food and prizes. There is a LOT that goes into these events, and it quickly became apparent that our club would not be able to provide sufficient resources for an event this size without assistance. So this will be a wonderful opportunity for our club members to work with the school administration, students and parents of IB. Documentation was provided and will be reviewed by our Fundraising Committee soon.

During the meeting Eric was pleased to inform the school that our club would be purchasing (actually IS purchasing) 10 graphic calculators as a donation to the program. They are being brought back by members traveling to and from the US. Eric explained to them that the donation was separate from the Bingo event. So even if for some reason we decided not to proceed with Bingo, the calculators were theirs. The serious tone of the meeting immediately shifted to joy. The representatives were visibly grateful and thrilled by the unanticipated news.



Legislative Council Vote

During the holiday week Eric had requested an electronic vote for representative for the Rotary International Legislative Council. All members voted for Jose Rafael Bolanos, who was the Costa Rican candidate. Today, having a quorum, Eric requested a vote to officially ratify the results. All members voted in favor. (Present: Eric, Lynn, Russell, Holly, Stef, Margaret, Chris, Cynthia, Judy and Betty.)

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Today's Program

Our speaker, Jim Richards, is an accomplished, professional glass artist who spent his earlier years as an archaeologist, a journalist, a photographer, printer, a construction worker and home renovation contractor. His glass creations in the greater Washington DC area appear in high end K Street restaurants, The National Gallery of Women in the Arts, the lobbies of the Kennedy Center and the headquarters of National Geographic. He has also done commission work for homes across the DC, Virginia and Maryland areas.

Jim shared the story of his journey. His father was an artist who encouraged Jim NOT to go into the arts. So after college Jim started out in archaeology with a degree in anthropology. He found the down time in between projects boring and chose more creative work in the areas mentioned earlier. But Jim really hoped that he could make a living as an artist. He gave himself a 10-year deadline. While working as a journalist in San Diego he was wrote an article about a woman making a living as an artist selling small glass boxes. This inspired him to learn how to make one for his mother. Fast forward, while interviewing for a PR position, he shared that he was a glass artist. That led to a request to create a stained-glass representation of the song Only a Rose by Rudolph Primmel. Other commissions soon followed, and lo and behold, he was a stained-glass artist.

Years later Jim moved back to Albuquerque. While attending a home builders expo, he came across someone who did glass etching and asked for a job. Soon after that, he found himself adding a new technique and substantially larger pieces to his portfolio.

Currently Jim is enjoying the renovation of his new home and planning a sculpture garden that will reflect his personal journey and creative experiences.
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Upcoming Events

- Holiday Party – sometime in February.
- April 23-25, 2026 will be our annual District Conference.

Member News & Happy $$$

- We serenaded Russell with the Happy Birthday song
- Leah was happy to be attending our meeting today
- Betty's happy dollar was to be back in CR with her family
- Darlyce is happy to be living in CR and her mom is coming to visit
- Joy said she is happy to be happy
- Lynn is happy to see some new faces
- Eric thanked Chris for all the hard work he is doing behind the scenes on our Strategic Plan

Next Meetings

Join us for our lunch meeting on December 11 at 12:20 at Iguana's where our meeting will focus on holiday memories.

Our last meeting of the 2025 year will be breakfast at Tica's Café at 8:30am on Thursday December 18. Yoga instructor, Leah MacLauchlan, will show us ways to stay stress-free this holiday season.