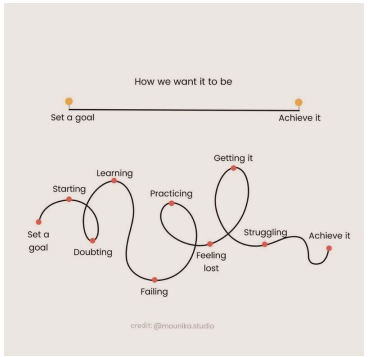
Volume 2 | Issue 8
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Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Atenas


Our newest members and their sponsors


Ingrid, Chris, and Ricar


Rainee Busby says she's a visual person



Bottom: How the desk project is going.

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.

--Confucius

Meeting Highlights

Welcome our newest members Ingrid, Chris, and Ricar! Through 18 months, our little club seems to have been growing in fits and starts. Our projects similarly seems to take a loop-de-loo circuitous route to completion. Sometimes it seems we are moving backward. But when viewed from afar, it's clear we are heading in the right direction.

Ingrid and Chris bring experience from past (and present?) professional lives that hopefully will become essential to Rotary Atenas's long-term success. Ricar's depth of experience may not be as extensive as Ingrid and Chris's. But he makes up for that in breadth and enthusiasm. And he's a Tico! We love our fluent Spanish speakers.

More Meeting Highlights

The other big highlight of our Oct 15 meeting was holding class with Rainee Busby. If you can't tell from the diagram, Rainee spoke to us about **Upe**, a bilingual, community-powered, on-line forum meant to connect us all and make our lives easier and more fulfilling.

For some time they have had a presence in Tamarindo/Langosta, Portero/Flamingo, and Playa Grande/Matapalo in Guanacaste. Now they are expanding to Atenas and Alajuela. The site allows businesses, organizations (like ours) and schools to promote events as well as enabling private individuals to make their services available. It also functions as a local health and wellness care "white pages."

And the best part is there is no cost as this is not a commercial endeavor. Nor is it a social media site. No drama. No reviews. Only local people helping local people.

If you didn't get the QR codes to check them out, find their primary site **HERE**, with secondary sites **HERE** and **HERE**. While the Atenas part is sparse, the other communities are worth exploring to understand where this endeavor can go in the future.

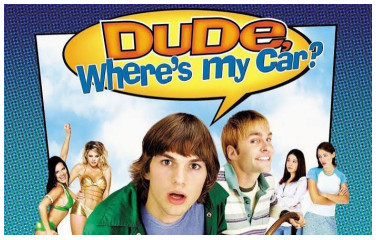
Upe is a uniquely Costa Rican term used to announce your presence when you can't use a doorbell or knock. Its origins lie either in a shortened Spanish colonial phrase ("*Ave María purísima, aquí le traigo de parte de nuestra señora la Virgen de Guadalupe"*) or from the Indigenous Huetar or Chibchan root wood *araupe*, meaning house or home.

Even More Meeting Highlights

- **The Rotary Club of Summit County** (Colorado) is collecting donations to benefit victims of the recent Panama earthquake. They are working with the Rotary Club of Playa Coronado in Panama. You can donate by following the link. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, *your contribution is 100% tax-deductible in the US.* Also, go there and check out their cool club's website.

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Leslie Mueller
Sunshine Committee
Betty Van Putten
Club Events
Mary Beth Clark
Bulletin
What. Ever.



- The Rotary Club of Atenas will *not* be having a fund-raising **bingo event** with the IB students in 2027. After a planning meeting with the IB program, the fundraising committee determined that differing objectives and a poor return on investment made the joint project impractical. We remain on good terms with the IB program and hope to work with them in the future.
- The **Asada of San Isidro** seems to have taken the lead for a large water grant from the Rotary Club in Knightsbridge, Alberta, (still part of) Canada. They work with the Rotary Club of San Jose Norte, providing funding for water infrastructure projects throughout Costa Rica. Our club is doing the leg work to benefit local communities. Maybe we'll even get to **plant some trees** when all is said and done.
- The desks. Ah, the desks. That diagram above really reflects our progress. Sadly, Joe has a meeting with the school Oct 26. It seems the little buggers have already figured out how to break the chair seats. We always knew there'd be some time to work out the kinks. Updates to come.
- **Basic English** conversational practice is coming in November. Lynn is looking for volunteers to say and listen to basic English words and phrases with Ticos. *You don't need to be able to speak Spanish.* Classes will be on Tuesdays at 5-7pm beginning in November. Please reach out to Lynn if you're interested. She's hosting an organizational meeting soon November 10. We've even gotten non-Rotary volunteers from the community (maybe a chance to recruit future Rotarians!).

Member News & Happy Dollars

Today's only guest was Rainee. We even missed Shelly Robinson, her co-worker.

Otherwise, the usual suspects turned out for a well-attended meeting: Eric and Lynn, Russ and Holly, Everett, Chris and Rosie, John, Joe, Robin, Joy, Fabricio, and Shannon.

Happy People

- Robin gets to go to Texas to visit extended family.
- Fabricio got his car back after three months.
- Rosie got to see grandbabies (and their parents) on her and Chris's recent trip to Washington.
- Eric and Lynn will be going to Ohio. They are definitely not happy about traveling.
- Everett got new hearing aids!
- Joy got accepted into a mental health practitioner's program to further her professional aspirations.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

- Rotary District Conference – April 22, 23 & 24 Hotel Sheraton Presidente, San Salvador, El Salvador. **Reduced cost ends in October!** See Lynn for details (evidently there is no website. Woof.)
- Annual meeting in Barcelona, Spain is June 26-30.
- **November 5** will be **our next meeting**. Come hear our own Holly Herold talk about the Angel Tree gift giving for local children.

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