



**International Reading Association (IRA) and  
Rotary International (RI)  
Sharing a Common Goal:  
Advancing Literacy Worldwide  
2009**



Bahia de Concepcion, Ecuador: Young students sharing book and learning to write. Their education is the future and hope for Ecuador to keep pace with the world. See page 8.

***Since 2002 IRA and RI have had a memorandum of understanding encouraging their clubs and councils to work together on literacy projects.***

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(For additional International Development Committees see:  
[http://www.reading.org/association/about/committees\\_international.html](http://www.reading.org/association/about/committees_international.html))

# ROTARY AND INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

## **IRA Councils and Rotary Clubs:**

- Create International Literacy Day projects/celebrations (September 8th each year)
- Promote alliances between local Rotary Clubs and IRA councils and affiliates
- Create literacy projects in countries around the world and/or work with local educators
- Train teachers and volunteers — and supply books and materials

## **International Reading Association**

The International Reading Association (IRA) was founded in 1956 as a professional organization for those involved in teaching reading to learners of all ages. Members worldwide promote high levels of literacy for all by improving the quality of reading instruction, disseminating research and information about reading, and encouraging the lifetime reading habit. IRA's 90,000 members include classroom teachers, reading specialists, consultants, administrators, supervisors, university faculty, researchers, psychologists, librarians, media specialists, and parents. [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

## **Rotary International**

Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas.

Recognizing the important role literacy plays in improving lives and empowering people, Rotary's leaders are committed to supporting literacy and education initiatives. Rotary's Literacy Resource Group encourages clubs and districts to pursue programs and projects that promote universal literacy. Look for the recently released joint IRA-Rotary "Every School a Star Literacy Kit" on their web. [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## **Get Involved! Join an Existing Project or Start Your Own**

**Let us know of literacy projects in which IRA and Rotary cooperate!** Photos welcome with this release form: [http://www.reading.org/downloads/publications/adult\\_release.pdf](http://www.reading.org/downloads/publications/adult_release.pdf). Send to Margie Bell at [mbell@reading.org](mailto:mbell@reading.org)

**Watch for updates on IRA/RI partnerships** at International Reading Association/Rotary International (IRARI) Partnerships page [http://www.reading.org/association/about/sigs\\_irari.html](http://www.reading.org/association/about/sigs_irari.html)

### **For more information contact IRA Rotary Special Interest Group secretary:**

Judith Casey, 3795 McKay Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80906; Ph: (Home & Fax): 719 471 3553; Email: [jdcasey1@mindspring.com](mailto:jdcasey1@mindspring.com)

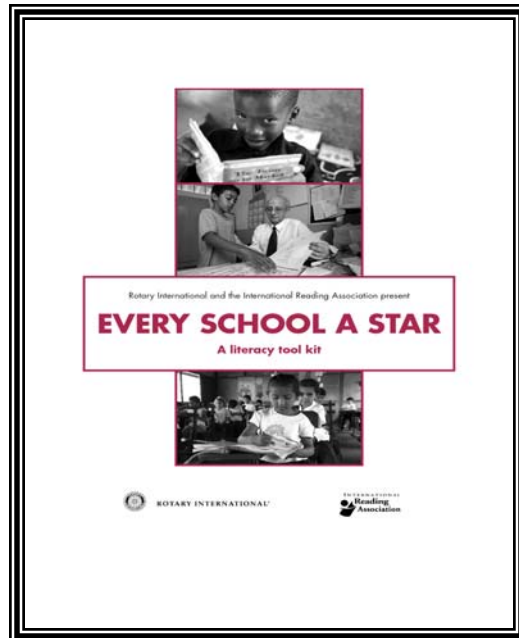
**Need some guidance in initiating/funding a Rotary/IRA literacy project?** Bev Pressman at [bspressman@gmail.com](mailto:bspressman@gmail.com), (Rotary Ecuador Project with IRA of Idaho, USA) has offered to assist any Rotary Clubs or IRA councils wanting to coordinate literacy projects.

# Joint IRA and RI Literacy Project Ideas

## Your Help is Welcome!

### Every School A Star: IRA and Rotary Literacy Projects

[http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en\\_pdf/literacy\\_every\\_school\\_a\\_star.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/literacy_every_school_a_star.pdf)



The Every School a Star literacy kit helps Rotary clubs and reading councils select and implement projects that meet the literacy needs of schools in their communities and around the world.

Find examples of *successful literacy projects* along with contact information, resources, service opportunities, and tools such as questionnaires and a teachers' wish list to help determine the right project for your community.

Whether it's volunteering time, providing financial support, or building awareness of literacy's importance, schools need your support and involvement. What's more, literacy projects are affordable, attainable, and successful.

## **Sudan Teacher Training Project**

Contact Rotarian Judy Backlund, backlundju@cwu.edu



This joint Rotary/IRA project is in its developmental stage. Duk County, Sudan (in Southern Sudan near Kenyan border) needs teacher-trainers to work with Lost Sudanese Boys who have returned with high school diplomas to be the teachers. IRA can send professional developers to work with these untrained teachers, select teacher leaders, and give them the skills to be better teachers and to better mentor other teachers. Additional IRA and Rotary involvement is welcome.

## **Improving Reading Scores in Ft. Collins, Colorado**

Contact Rotarian Brian Burck at 970-223-2833

IRA representative Mary Jo Ziegman works with Rotarian Brian Burck, chairman of the Fort Collins Rotary Reads committee to address the drop off in reading scores that tends to occur after 4th grade. Projects include a reading promotion week where all children are asked to read for 15 minutes per night. All students receive a pencil and those who complete the reading are entered into a drawing for \$10 book certificates. Student participation has increased from 1500 in 1998 to 3350 in 2007. In 2006-2007 school year Rotary awarded 1000 \$10 book gift certificates. Rotary also sponsors a visiting author week hosting an author workshop at eight elementary schools reaching 2500 students. Rotary started a dictionary project donating 2300 dictionaries to all the 3rd grade students at a cost of \$20,700 to the committee. Rotarians have developed one-on-one reading relationships between volunteer adults and elementary students.

## **Rotary Readers: IRA and Rotary Connect in New Zealand**



Mr Geoff Dann reading to child. Photo by Mary Wise, 2006.



Mrs. Joan Hayes reading to child. Photo by Mary Wise, 2006



Photo by Mary Wise, 2006.

Contact Rotarian Roy Clement, Rotary Reader Programme Coordinator of Ahuriri Rotary Club, New Zealand. [royelaine@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royelaine@xtra.co.nz); IRA contact: Helen Thompson or Mary Wise of Onekawa School School, 0064 6 8431371 or [thompson.wise.rtlit@xtra.co.nz](mailto:thompson.wise.rtlit@xtra.co.nz)

In 2000, Cedric Alexander (deceased 2004) then Director of Community Service from Napier West Rotary Club, New Zealand approached teachers Helen Thompson and Mary Wise of the Hawkes Bay Literacy Association (New Zealand Reading Association and IRA). Mr. Alexander was concerned about the children's low oral language capacities and wanted to help the teachers. He, Helen Thompson, and Mary Wise set up a literacy tutoring program connecting Rotarians and community members with teacher-selected children in the schools.

Resource Teachers of Literacy Helen Thompson and Mary Wise train volunteers and monitor their progress with the children. A Rotarian attends each meeting and three annual training sessions. Rotary funds newspaper advertisements and articles before each new volunteer training session, printing costs for volunteer booklets and handouts, refreshments for training sessions including the annual Christmas party, and notebooks for each volunteer (for noting children worked with, books used, comments for teachers, and anecdotes). There are currently six Rotarians working as volunteers, all men, with a total of 80 volunteers in the whole project. Some of the children lack positive male role models in their lives, and the Rotarians help significantly to fill that role. Volunteers work in 20 schools in the Napier area. Schools report improvement in children's literacy levels, oral language, knowledge of and use of vocabulary, and delight in books. The volunteers have not only increased their own knowledge of the needs of children and the schools but have spread this knowledge to the community.

## **Family Literacy Support in South Africa**

Contact Rotarian and IRA member Judith Casey at [jdcasey1@mindspring.com](mailto:jdcasey1@mindspring.com)



Adult learner reading with a family during a home visit at Xosheyakhe, near Bulwer, South Africa.  
Photo by Lynn Stefano.

Support for the Family Literacy Project in KwaZulu Natal has been provided by funds from a RI matching grant written by five Colorado Rotary Clubs. Project website: [www.familyliteracyproject.co.za](http://www.familyliteracyproject.co.za). The Hilton and Howick Rotary Club in the province of KwaZulu Natal connected with IRA and Rotary in Colorado in the US to improve literacy in South Africa. The Family Literacy Project facilitators create libraries and encourage villagers to read books and discuss new ideas. Volunteers make home visits and create reading groups for children.

## **Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) Program in Swaziland**

IRA Contact Virginia T. Dlamini, P.O. Box 2205, Matsapha, Swaziland, Southern Africa at [vtdlamini.akintola@gmail.co](mailto:vtdlamini.akintola@gmail.co)

The RI Literacy Committee and Task Forces use the Lighthouse Strategy— a guiding beacon equipping, inspiring, and training leaders—to help develop effective CLE programs in the developing world to help alleviate illiteracy. The Lighthouse Strategy develops a program locally and effectively so that it will spread across an entire province or country.

The Swaziland Reading Association appreciates the financial and technical support Rotary provides for this literacy professional development project that has trained hundreds of teachers. Swaziland Rotary provided a coordinator for the pre-conference workshop for the 4th Pan African Reading for All Conference held at Ezulwini in August 2005. Rotary provides financial support, training, meals, materials, manuals and videos for teachers, and donates books and Braille slates. Rotary clubs involved include Capetown, Manzini, Mbabane, Mbuluzi and Malkerns. ROTARY LITERACY DAY: Every year on in Sept/Oct the Rotary clubs celebrate literacy day, and the clubs donate books to schools. SKILLS IN USING BRAILLE SLATE: Rotary clubs recently donated Braille slates to a federation of people living with disabilities. The Rotary club of Manzini has helped the organization to train members of the public on how to use Braille.

## **Read Across America in Benton County, Tennessee**

IRA Contact Jenny Miller, President of the Benton County Reading Council,  
jennymiller402@hotmail.com



Pictured is Jenny Miller, Briarwood School librarian, dressed as the Cat in the Hat.

Briarwood school organized a collection of books for hurricane Katrina schools in Louisiana. Children donated used books and a member of the Benton County Rotary Club hauled a tractor trailer load of supplies to a shelter in Louisiana. Rotary donated a collection of Dr. Seuss books. "The Benton County Rotary Club has been very supportive of literacy projects in our county. They have also supported the Imagination Library project that provides free books monthly via mail to children through age five," reports Benton County Reading Council's Jenny Miller.

## **Rotary Ecuador Project with IRA of Idaho**

Contact ICIRA's Pam Ward for further information ([wardpa@d25.k12.id.us](mailto:wardpa@d25.k12.id.us)); or Rotarian Bev Pressman ([bspresman@gmail.com](mailto:bspresman@gmail.com))



Patricio Agreda, Rotarian of Rotary Club Guayaquil Occidente, District 4400, Ecuador and Bev Pressman, Rotarian of Rotary Club McCall, District 5400, Idaho, 2008, with student. (IRA/RI Ecuador project, at Escuela Arturo Dumai Mendez in Santa Marta, Canton Samborondon, Guayas, Ecuador.) Photo by Scott Pressman.

## Rotary Ecuador Project with IRA of Idaho, continued...



Bev and Scott Pressman with students and books.



Students perform as thank you for the books. IRA/RI Ecuador project, At Escuela Arturo Dumai Mendez in Santa Marta, Canton Samborondon, Guayas, Ecuador. Photo by Scott Pressman.

"Libros- Rural Ecuador Mini-Libraries" project provides books and library services to Santa Marta and other poor isolated communities in Ecuador. In 2007 ICIRA, SEIRC, and Oregon Trail reading councils donated \$700. The Boise and Oregon Trail IRA reading councils donate Spanish books that ICIRA International Project Chair, Bev Pressman, and her husband, Scott, both Rotarians personally deliver. "Project Libros" builds on a pilot project in Santa Marta, Ecuador funded by Rotary Clubs from Ecuador, Canada, California and Idaho, that purchases curriculum materials and trains teachers. The project increases motivation for students to stay in school, and provides effective tools and motivation to teaching staff. Its success prompted support from local officials to expand to four other communities in the Samborondon region. Seeing the success of the project also motivated the Guayaquil Occidente Rotary Club to bring books and library services, including a mobile library, to Santa Marta and other communities.

To assist fundraising efforts participants sell (at council meetings and conferences) Ecuador scarves provided by Rotarians Bob Rainville and Bev Pressman. Rotary Clubs Boise Sunrise; Boise; Idaho Falls; and Guayaquil, Ecuador Rotary District fund "Project Libros." Bob Rainville received funding through matching grants from Rotary.

Word of this successful project has spread to other Rotary Clubs in Ecuador. Another educational grant has been submitted to Rotary International by the Rotary Club of Bahia de

Conception for improving their educational programs at two schools in communities outside of Bahia. In addition to computers and other educational equipment, this grant includes two mini-libraries. Rotary Clubs in District 5400 of Idaho and the ICIRA have partnered once again to participate with the grant and assist the local Rotarian efforts in Bahia. Through the ICIRA, Boise State University's Professor Maggie Chase and her children's literature class also participate.

Need some guidance in initiating/funding a Rotary/IRA literacy project? Bev Pressman at [bspresman@gmail.com](mailto:bspresman@gmail.com), (Rotary Ecuador Project with IRA of Idaho, USA) offers to assist any Rotary Clubs wanting to coordinate literacy projects with IRA councils.

## **Read-In at the Mall, North Carolina**

Contact Amy Williams at [williamsar@appstate.edu](mailto:williamsar@appstate.edu)



Superintendent of North Carolina's Watauga County Schools, Dr. Short, reads to students at mall.  
Photo by Jerry R. Walker.



Sharon Canipe, Project Chair and Gail Walker, Immediate Past President of  
The Rotary Club of Boone, North Carolina. Photo by Jerry R. Walker.

Local celebrities read in the mall in sessions supported by the local merchants. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Boone, NC, and Price Reading Council of Appalachian State University, the idea has generated enthusiasm, according to Gail Walker, IRA member who is a former IRA council president and current president of the Boone Rotary Club. "We have had enthusiastic support from club members, mall management, Waldenbooks, Parkway Publishers, SIMS Furniture Store, and community leaders such as the mayor of Boone and the Watauga County Schools superintendent, who have agreed to share their love of reading with local children as well as goods and services," Walker said. "The celebrity readers shared books that were their favorites as a child to encourage the importance of reading." With the successful repetition of this *Read In* in 2008, the event is an annual celebration of reading.

## **Books for Hospitalized Kids, Australia**

Contact Nea Stewart-Dore at [colnea@byterocky.net.au](mailto:colnea@byterocky.net.au)

The Central Queensland Council of the Australian Literacy Educators' Association (affiliate of IRA) and Rotary District 9570 collaborate on Books for Hospitalized Kids. The project resulted from their joint celebration of International Literacy Day in 2007. The groups noticed there were few collections of contemporary children's books in children's wards. Books were donated by Rotarians attending the 2008 District Conference, and Clubs and individuals are providing funds to purchase additional books. "People have been very generous," notes Nea Stewart-Dore, an IRA member and Adjunct Associate Professor at CQ University, in Rockhampton, Australia.

## **Rotary Literacy Grants to Lombard, Illinois School District 44**

Contact Anetta Wesselhoff at [awesselhoff@sd44.org](mailto:awesselhoff@sd44.org)

In Lombard, Illinois, the Rotary club donated \$1,750 to Lombard School District 44, according to Anetta Wesselhoff, literacy coordinator for the district. Each elementary and middle school received \$250 to purchase readers for English Language Learners and this year the money will go to buy nonfiction science and social studies readers. "These are some of the stakeholders in the community, and they do such great community work. We are so appreciative of their literacy grant every year and the community work and international work they do," Wesselhoff said.

## **Rotary and Taylor, Michigan Schools' Poetry Alive!**

Contact Mary Sparkes at [mjsparkey@wowway.com](mailto:mjsparkey@wowway.com)



6<sup>th</sup> graders Kortney & Shelby; Bob Merriman, Photographer, Lakes of Taylor, March 13, 2008



Charles Waters & Shawn; Bob Merriman, Photographer, 6th Grade Academy, March 7, 2008

In Taylor, Michigan, the Wayne County Rotary donated \$1,000 to the Sixth Grade Academy to help students to participate in Poetry Alive! assemblies and workshops, according to Mary Sparkes, a special education reading teacher at the school and an IRA member. Her students visited a nursing home at Christmas to read poems and perform Readers' Theater scripts. She hoped the visit by Poetry Alive!, a performance troupe of professionals, would motivate her students to continue the visits and help develop their reading fluency and comprehension. Her students attended a Rotary meeting to share poems and their Poetry Alive! experience.

### **First Visit Books, British Columbia**

Contact Honey Halpern at [hhalpern@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:hhalpern@interchange.ubc.ca)



Photo by Gladys Rosencrans.

The Lower Mainland Council of IRA (LOMCIRA) in British Columbia has “long and wonderful relationship with the local Rotary club,” according to Honey Halpern, a literacy consultant and professor at the University of British Columbia. The Rotary club joined together with LOMCIRA in its First Visit Books, a book giveaway program for children unlikely to have books at home. Scholastic Canada donated thousands of books to kindergarten teachers who would give them to parents at their first visit to the school. The Rotary club raised funds to expand the program to 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grades in inner city schools in Vancouver. “It’s been an excellent relationship, one that has benefited many, many children who told me that they still have that very first book,” Halpern said.

### **Rotary Reading Commandos, Rochester, New York**

Contact Roxane Gifaldi at [Roxane.Gifaldi@RCSDK12.org](mailto:Roxane.Gifaldi@RCSDK12.org)



The Rotarian in the photo is affectionately known to students and staff as "Mr. Bob." At Barnes & Noble in Pittsford, NY (6/07) he helps a child select a book. Rotary sponsored the book purchasing event as a culmination of the Reading Commandos year. Photo by Roxane Gifaldi.

Rotary Reading Commando volunteers in Rochester, New York, helped build literacy at Roberto Clemente School 8, where the Rochester Rotary has supported the staff and students for the past 12 years. Rotary "commandos" pair with 2nd through 4th graders and work one-on-one with them each week to improve reading skills. "The students love the extra attention, and their assessments show good improvement in their reading scores," note teacher Roxane Gifaldi. At the end of each year, go to a Barnes & Noble bookstore for a tour, lunch, and to buy books for their personal libraries. Through Literacy for Life, Rotary and other businesses provide volunteers for Pre-K through 2nd grade. For Pre-K through 3rd grade, the club and other businesses raise money to provide each student with \$4 worth of books each month from Scholastic.

## Projects Seeking Rotary Involvement and/or Additional IRA Reading Council Involvement

### Sudan Teacher Training Project

Contact Rotarian Judy Backlund, [backlundju@cwu.edu](mailto:backlundju@cwu.edu)

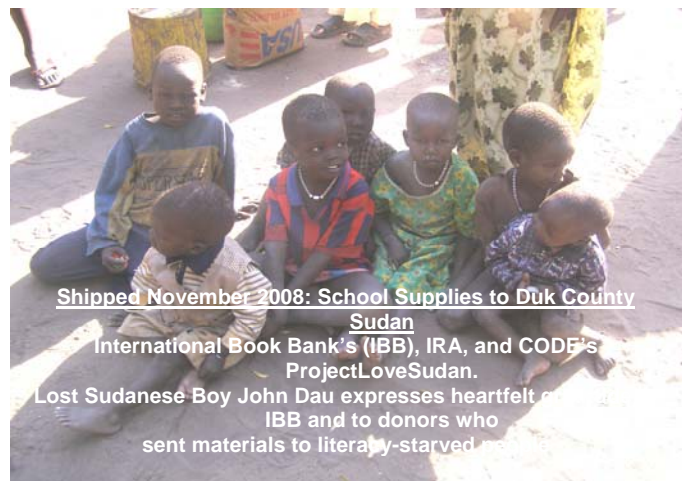


Photo by John Dau, Duk County, South Sudan.

This joint Rotary/IRA project is in its developmental stage. Duk County, Sudan (in South Sudan near the Kenyan border) needs teacher-trainers to work with the Lost Sudanese Boys who have returned with their high school diplomas to be the Duk County teachers. IRA can send professional developers to work with these untrained teachers, and to select teacher leaders - giving them the skills to be better teachers themselves and to better mentor other teachers. Additional IRA and Rotary involvement is welcome.

### School Supplies for Developing Countries

Contact: Garth Brooks at [gbrooks@codecan.org](mailto:gbrooks@codecan.org)



"Project Love" has community groups, teachers and students collect small school supply kits. Any number of kits – small or large – is welcome. While learning about life in a developing country,

participants raise funds to buy school supplies for children and teachers who need them, and to help cover the costs of shipping. Next they assemble the kits – each of which contains a pencil, an eraser, a notebook and a ruler. Once the kits are packed into boxes, and courier shipped to the International Book Bank (IBB) in Baltimore, MD, they are shipped to recipients. IRA councils who have participated include Mid-Hudson Reading Council in Fishkill, NY (Mary Ann Zuccaro, [maryann.zuccaro@wappingersschools.org](mailto:maryann.zuccaro@wappingersschools.org)) and the Columbia-Greene Reading Council in East Jewett, NY (Kate Lynch-Williams, [WilliamsK2@greenville.k12.ny.us](mailto:WilliamsK2@greenville.k12.ny.us))

## **Reading Across Continents Model Project**

Contact IRA's Sakil Malik, [smalik@reading.org](mailto:smalik@reading.org)



Loyola Jesuit (Abuja, Nigeria) students participating in the Reading Across Continents project.  
Photo by Divine Kemayu, 2008.

*"I am very excited to be a part of this project. Reading Across Continents encourages children to read content, analyze it, discover other cultures and cultivate new friendships across the world that could potentially last a lifetime."*

**Mocha Ochoa, Project Manager, Reading Across Continents**

Beginning in January 2009, *Reading Across Continents* (RAC) links Washington, DC's School Without Walls High School (SWW) students with their counterparts in secondary schools in Abuja, Nigeria and Accra, Ghana. Via live feeds, author visits, international student/teacher exchanges, blogs, email, writing, reading, and the study of history, geography, and economy of the countries involved, the students and teachers in both countries will reflect on their lives and connect with the overseas classes. US, Nigerian, and Ghanaian students will experience the cultures described in the novels *Copper Sun* by US author Sharon Draper, *Things Fall Apart* by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, and *The Girl Who Can* by Ghanaian author Ama Ata Aidoo. Sharon Draper was the guest at IRA's International Literacy Day celebration on September 8, 2008 in Washington, DC. Draper will meet with the SWW students and the Abuja and Accra students. (The US Department of State has generously contributed to this initial project to facilitate the cultural exchanges of students, teachers, and authors.)

**IRA and Rotary members, both here and in other countries, can initiate a RAC project or be involved in future RAC projects:**

- Supply assigned books for kids and libraries (so others in the community can read along).
- Make connections to schools outside US by contacting both Rotary and IRA in that area.
- Facilitate exchanges via technology in the developing country by making links to embassies, education ministry, schools, principals and teachers, and by facilitating book delivery and computer access.
- Fund the trip of the American author to the US school—and the author from the developing country to that country's school
- Host home stays for the exchange of students and teachers in both countries if the project can afford to move beyond the technology stage to student exchanges
- Supply cell phones to students outside US, to help them talk about the books.

**IRA member and Rotarian Judy Backlund is developing a RAC program with Pakistan. For more information contact Judy at [backlundju@cwu.edu](mailto:backlundju@cwu.edu)**

## **Ethiopia Reads**

Contact Laura Bond at [Laura@ethiopiareads.org](mailto:Laura@ethiopiareads.org)

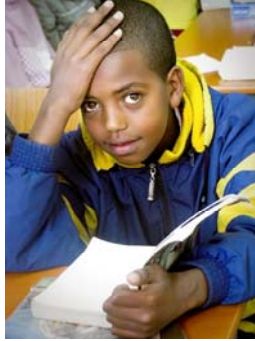


Photo by Laura Bond, 2008

Ethiopia Reads has grants from a number of Rotary Clubs across the United States as well as Germany and Scandinavia. Rotary Club support was matched with a \$50,000 matching grant from Rotary International that will support of 12 libraries for children in Addis Ababa and Awassa, Ethiopia. The first library opens fall 2008. A local school provides a room and staff member to operate the library. Ethiopia Reads provides furniture, books, and training. Rotary is also helping to fund a small portion of the cost of shipping containers of English-language books from the US.

Former Kansas Reading Association president LeAnn Clark led a drive to collect 20,000 books. Clark and other KRA members raised \$8,500 to cover shipping costs. This project is ongoing and open to additional help from IRA councils and Rotary clubs.

## Contacts and Resources

- **Please share literacy projects in which IRA and Rotary cooperate!** Photos welcome with this release form: [http://www.reading.org/downloads/publications/adult\\_release.pdf](http://www.reading.org/downloads/publications/adult_release.pdf). Send to Margie Bell at [mbell@reading.org](mailto:mbell@reading.org)
- **Watch for updates on IRA/RI partnerships** at International Reading Association/Rotary International (IRARI) Partnerships page [http://www.reading.org/association/about/sigs\\_irari.html](http://www.reading.org/association/about/sigs_irari.html)
- **For more information contact IRA Rotary Special Interest Group secretary:** Judith Casey, 3795 McKay Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80906; Ph: (Home & Fax): 719 471 3553; Email: [jdcasey1@mindspring.com](mailto:jdcasey1@mindspring.com)
- **Need some guidance in initiating/funding a Rotary/IRA literacy project?** Bev Pressman at [bspressman@gmail.com](mailto:bspressman@gmail.com), (Rotary Ecuador Project with IRA of Idaho, USA) has offered to assist any other IRA councils wanting to coordinate projects with Rotary Clubs. She notes that the Matching Grant process of Rotary International can stretch council cash donations.
- **Contact an IRA Reading Council or Affiliate:** <http://www.reading.org/association/about/councils.html>
- **Contact a Rotary Club:** <http://www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/SiteTools/ClubLocator/Pages/clublocatoradvanced.aspx>

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## IRA's National and International Meetings

See IRA website at: <http://www.reading.org/association/meetings/national.html>

December 2008

Israel Reading Association at Ulphan, Akiva, Netania.

February 1–7, 2009

Bermuda Reading Association, Hamilton, Princes (Fairmont). Contact [Walia Ming](#).

**February 18–20, 2009**

7th International Literacy Conference, **Guatemala City, Guatemala**. Contact [Marcia Mondschein](#).

July 9–12, 2009

Australian Literacy Educators Association at Hobart, Tasmania. Contact [Ian Morgan](#) or visit [www.englishliteracyconference.com.au](http://www.englishliteracyconference.com.au).

July 10–12, 2009

United Kingdom Literacy Association at Greenwich University, London. For more information, visit [www.ukla.org/site/conferences](http://www.ukla.org/site/conferences).

July 19–22, 2009

16th European Conference on Reading at Braga, Portugal.

**July 30–August 1, 2009**

10<sup>th</sup> Latin American Congress: Lectura y Escritura – Nuevos desafíos y posibilidades (Literacy – New Challenges and Possibilities) **Lima, Peru**. Contact: [apelecperu@gmail.com](mailto:apelecperu@gmail.com); [www.apelecperu.org](http://www.apelecperu.org)

August 8–10, 2009

Kazakhstan Reading Association at Karagandy. Contact [Zeinegul Kopbaeva](#).

August 10–14, 2009

6th Pan-African Reading for All Conference at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Program proposals are being accepted until December 31, 2008. [Read the conference proposal](#) for more details. Contact information: [Email](#) or write to Chairperson, Local Planning Committee, 6th Pan African RFA Conference, P.O. Box 78245, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

September 27–October 1, 2009

New Zealand Reading Association at Queenstown. Contact Robyne Selbie, Port Chalmers School, 30A Albertson Ave, Port Chalmers 9023, NZ. Phone +64 3 4728685.

**2008–2009**

**IRA's International Development in Latin America Committee**

[http://www.reading.org/association/about/committees\\_international\\_latin\\_america.html](http://www.reading.org/association/about/committees_international_latin_america.html)

**(For additional International Development Committees see:  
[http://www.reading.org/association/about/committees\\_international.html](http://www.reading.org/association/about/committees_international.html))**

**This committee, among other charges, identifies and supports** professional development projects in the region; publicizes IRA awards and grants, encourages applications from the region, and assists with proposal development for IRA grants; and reports activities to International Development Coordinating Committee and the IRA Board Liaison.

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## **IRA Affiliates and Councils in Latin America**

[http://www.reading.org/association/about/councils\\_latin.html](http://www.reading.org/association/about/councils_latin.html)

Countries across the Latin American region are served by affiliates and councils that offer professional programs. IRA's International Development in Latin America committee serves a coordinating role. Contact [councils@reading.org](mailto:councils@reading.org) or the organizations listed below.

### *National Affiliates*

#### **Argentina**

Argentine Reading Association

--Council No. A3A00--

<http://www.lectura.org.ar/>

#### **Costa Rica**

Costa Rica Reading Association

--Council No. C7A00—

#### **Guatemala**

Guatemalan Reading Council

--Council No. G8A00—

#### **Peru**

Asociacion Peruana De Lectura-APELEC

--Council No. P3A00--

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El Azafran 931

Los Olivos, Lima 39, Peru

#### **Puerto Rico**

Asociacion Puertorriquena de Lectoescritura

--Council No. 43200--

Ruth J. Saez-Vega, President

#### **Uruguay**

Sociedad de Dislexia Del Uruguay

--Council No. U6A00--

### *Local Councils*

#### **Mexico**

Guadalajara Council Reading Association

--Council No. M4200--

Nuevo Leon Council

--Council No. M4700--

#### **Nicaragua**

Nicaraguan IRA Council

--Council No. N2400—

#### **Venezuela**

Asociacion De Lectura Los Andes

--Council No. V7125—

**Latin American Congress  
Lima, Peru  
July 30-August 1, 2009**



10<sup>th</sup> Latin American Congress: Lectura y Escritura – Nuevos desafíos y posibilidades (Literacy – New Challenges and Possibilities)

Contact: [apelecperu@gmail.com](mailto:apelecperu@gmail.com); [www.apelecperu.org](http://www.apelecperu.org)

Topics:

1. Approaches and processes in Reading and Writing
2. Diversity in reading and writing
3. Integration of reading and writing into the diverse cultural areas.
4. Literature, reading and the production of text
5. Multiple alphabetization, information technology and communication.
6. Evaluation of reading and writing
7. Alphabetization and neuroscience.
8. Formation of professional teaching staff in reading and writing
9. Promotion of reading in the family, school and community
10. Networks and reading communities
11. Educational policy in the construction of a written culture