



### Outstanding Educator Program resumes this week

After a two-week break, the Outstanding Educator Program welcomes students from Clinton High School and Notre Dame High School at this week's meeting.

Notre Dame students are McKenzie Brush and Kyra Warncke. McKenzie will fill you in on several of her accomplishments, including currently serving as commanding officer in NJROTC. She has 600 hours of community service and plans to major in biology in college with a career path in medicine or dentistry.

Kyra is the executive officer of the Notre Dame NJROTC with 450 hours of community service. She is a candidate for the National ROTC Scholarship and plans to follow a career in engineering with aspirations to become a submarine officer after college.

Clinton is represented by Nic Fostini and Maddi Walters. Nic is involved in a variety of clubs and has been awarded a number of distinctions, including Eagle Scout. Nic is interested in nuclear or chemical engineering.

Maddi is active in several activities and volunteer efforts. She is interested in scientific research.



McKenzie Brush



Kyra Warncke



Nic Fostini



Maddi Walters

### Club committees to present at this week's meeting

This week's meeting on Friday is a club assembly. Committee members will give short presentations on their committee's purpose and update members on activities. This is a great time to find out what our club is doing, a new interest or how you can get involved.

### Rotary Club of Utica Committees

Looking to get involved? Rotary Club of Utica has several active committees. Contact a committee chair to join a committee or contact President Israel if interested in chairing a committee.

- Youth Exchange ..... Deb Burke
- Rotaract ..... Dom Passalacqua
- RYLA..... Jim Day
- Interact ..... Jim Day
- Urban Concerns ..... **NEED CHAIR**
- Communication..... Michelle Brandstadt
- Meeting Service ..... Natalie Brown
- Membership ..... Joe Caruso/Ken Williams
- Outstanding Educator Awards ..... Bart Gorman
- Quiet Giver's Award ..... Roger Breslow
- Pride of Workmanship..... Roxanne Mutchler
- Veteran's Outreach..... Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka
- Special Needs Party..... **NEED CHAIR**
- RI Foundation ..... **NEED CHAIR**

Deadline for next newsletter (4/19) is Sunday, April 18, at noon; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org)



## Clubs to clean up Sauquoit Creek for Earth Week

Rotary Club of Utica will join forces with New Hartford Rotary Club and Sauquoit Rotary Club to clean up three different areas along Sauquoit Creek. The event will take place on Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a luncheon starting at 12:30 p.m.

We will meet at the Washington Mills Athletic Park, 3695 Oneida Street, New Hartford. Please bring a face mask, work gloves, sturdy shoes and small plastic bags; once filled they will go into a large heavy duty green bag.

## Puerto Rico Project

*Submitted by President Israel Acosta*

After hurricane Maria, club member Heather Beebe organized a fundraising campaign, including the Pasta for Puerto Rico event, that raised approximately \$2,500 towards a project to help a school in Puerto Rico. That project did not materialize due to lack of cooperation or communication with the school.

This year, the Rotary Club of Utica Board decided to try to work with a different school where I have a contact at the Luz Munoz Rivera Elementary School in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. The school is in a neighborhood with one of the lowest number of resources in the city, with approximately 300 kids enrolled in kindergarten to sixth grade. The school suffered damages from the hurricanes and, most recently, the earthquakes. Some damages from the hurricanes have yet to be repaired, and after the earthquakes parts of the school were closed permanently or until repairs can be made.

My contact is Jorge A. Borgos, a physical education teacher, who also runs afterschool programs and other community events. Jorge and I grew up together and our families were, and still are, good friends. Jorge is a very active person in the community who is always organizing sports activities for children in Guaynabo. Every year he is able to enlist friends and family to get supplies for the school year since many, if not all, of the supplies needed for his class are not provided by the school. He also organizes volunteers to clean up and paint the school for the new year. After having several conversations with him over the years, I thought this could be a good project for our club and would benefit a community in my hometown as well as help out a friend.

If you can volunteer for this event, please forward your name to [Dave Jones](#). We need a head count to order enough food for the luncheon and for the district, as this effort is part of District 7150's Water's Edge/Great Lakes Project.

### April Calendar of Events

- 4/16 Weekly Meeting | 12 p.m. via Zoom  
Club Assembly
- 4/23 Weekly Meeting | 12 p.m. via Zoom  
Dan Brockway, CPA
- 4/24 Sauquoit Creek Cleanup | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 4/28 Weekly Meeting | **WEDNESDAY 5 p.m.**  
After hours at 7 Hamlet

In 2020, the school year was mostly held remotely whenever possible; this April 2021 students are coming back to school. Jorge's idea is to set up an activity room for the students. The room will be utilized for physical education classes and afterschool programs. The club board approved the utilization of the funds previously collected to be allocated for this project and, as a result, we were able to purchase several games and physical education materials, including the following: hockey table, foosball table, basketball game, large chess game with 25" pieces, agility ladder, training cones, basketballs, and tennis balls.

The possible second phase of this project is to coordinate with a local Rotary club in Puerto Rico to apply for an International Grant to build an outdoor playground; more to come on that.



*Boxes being shipped from CABVI warehouse; thanks to PP Jill Koch!*