



June 15, 2020

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

RCU Annual Changing of the Guard, Awards Presentation, and Presidential Roast this week!

(But it's an evening gathering this week, folks)

Just a little roast, they said. It'll be painless, they said. I guess we'll see about that! Well, the Roastmaster is none other than Rotarian **PP and DGN Dana Jerrard**, so what could go wrong?



PLEASE JOIN US VIA ZOOM at a *different time* this week – a *soiree* - when our club conducts its annual **Changing of the Guard** event, at which **President Joe will ceremoniously pass on the gavel to Israel Acosta, 2020-2021 President**. We'll also bestow Rotary's highest honor to two outstanding members who will be named **Paul Harris Fellows** (we can't tell

you *who*; it's a *secret!*).



And to top it off, I'm gonna get roasted. Yeah. So, turn on your computer, tune in to the meeting, and see what happens. You'll be glad you did. **Stephen Turnbull** will serve as Master of Ceremonies, and Rotary Foundation club chair **PP Ken Williams** will lead the Paul Harris Fellow presentation.

That's: Thursday, June 18th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm for a casual and fun social event. SO: get together your favorite food, drink, and comfortable chair, and get ready for a good time. Please see the email in which this newsletter arrived for the **Zoom link and password**. Invite a friend; **SHARE ROTARY!**

Upcoming Weekly Rotary Meeting Programs:

6/25: A Look Back at the 105th year of the Rotary Club of Utica. By 2019-2020 RCU president, Joe Caruso



Outstanding Educator Awards



THREE ROTARY CLUBS HONOR SIX AREA EDUCATORS



Megan Cappadonia
Proctor High



Elizabeth Cissi
New Hartford High



Melody Morris
Whitesboro High



Tim Papienuk
New York Mills High



Dwight Putnam
Notre Dame Jr/Sr High



Kathleen Washburn
Clinton High

The Rotary Club of Utica, [New Hartford Rotary](#) and [North Utica - Whitestown Rotary](#) honored six area teachers recently at their annual Outstanding Educators Awards Program. The program, presented on-line during Utica Rotary's weekly Zoom meeting, is an annual event of the area Rotary Clubs' community service committees.

The awards presentation culminates a year-long program during which area Rotary clubs hosted students from each of six area high schools at their weekly Rotary meetings. Students had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the Rotary members, and to learn about Rotary's community, regional and international service, which are the fulfillment of the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

At the end of the school year, the students from each school are asked to select the teacher whom they believe exemplifies the Rotary motto, and the values of Rotary, as exemplified in its Four-Way Test:

- **Is it the Truth?**
- **Is it Fair to All Concerned?**
- **Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?**
- **Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?**

Utica Rotary Club President Joe Caruso said: "This annual awards program is the perfect near-ending to the Rotary year -- an afternoon of inspiration, received from both the inspiring educators we celebrate and the accomplished, grateful and enthusiastic students who honor them."

The six honored teachers are:

Megan Cappadonia, Proctor High;
Elizabeth Cissi, New Hartford High;
Melody Morris, Whitesboro High;

Tim Papienuk, New York Mills High;
Dwight Putnam, Notre Dame Junior/ Senior High;
Kathleen Washburn, Clinton High.

The nominating students introduced and spoke about their choice during the Zoom meeting, with each teacher addressing the gathering and receiving an engraved plaque from a participating Rotary Club.



A special **THANK YOU to Bart Gorman** who chaired this annual program on June 4th that left is awed, inspired, and encouraged for the future. It was, by all accounts, a well-received and well executed program that honored six worthy teachers and fulfilled the wishes of our outstanding student representatives. Thanks also to Bart's committee, **Marie Masca** and **Jessica Merrill**, and also to **Heather Beebe** who, as digital manager, kept the program running smoothly.

Our thanks to Steve McMurray, Vice President and General Manager of WKTV/NewsChannel 2, for addressing us at last week's Rotary meeting. We enjoyed an energetic Q&A with an audience interested in how news is presented and how it effects the way we live. Come back soon, Steve! Thanks also to Rotarian **Jerry Kraus** for arranging the program.



Best wishes, Danielle Cresci!

Best wishes to Danielle Cresci, our 2019-2020 RYLA student (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program), who reported to us last Thursday about her fundraising project for the Make-a-Wish Foundation.



Danielle is valedictorian of Notre Dame High School, and a 2020 Outstanding Teen All-Star by the Utica Observer-Dispatch. At Notre Dame High School, she is a member of the varsity tennis team, editor of the yearbook, director of Stations of the Cross, on the Prom committee, French club participant, a Student Ambassador, and president of the Pro-Life Club. Danielle also volunteers to tutor students at Notre Dame Elementary School on a weekly basis. Danielle plans to pursue nursing in college, with the ultimate goal of working in the neonatal unit.

Danielle, your Rotary Club of Utica wishes you every success! Come back and visit soon!

Kindness

Salvation Army Food Giveaways

The Rotary Club of Utica has, for the past two weeks, helped with food giveaways at the Salvation Army at 14 Clinton Place in Utica. We'll be doing it again on **Wednesday, June 24, 11-am to 2 pm**. Please contact **Michelle Brandstadt** (michelle@fillableformdesigns.com) to volunteer. All pertinent COVID-19 safety procedures and protocols will be observed.

Thank you and stay healthy! *Michelle Brandstadt, chair, Urban Concerns Committee*





“Quarantine Adventures”: **Rotary Club of Utica Unveils Novel Fundraiser to benefit the MVCCOVID-19 Fund; Apparel, mugs feature logo design by Rotarian Devon Hoffman**

UTICA, NY - In an effort to support the Mohawk Valley COVID-19 Fund, The Rotary Club of Utica is selling its **“NEW YORK TOUGH”** t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, hoodies, and mugs. The fund is a joint venture of The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. and the United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica. The shirts are available on the [Rotary Club of Utica Online Store](#).

The shirts are emblazoned with an image designed by graphic artist and Rotarian, Devon Hoffman, and includes five “word art” messages placed within the outline of New York State, including: “New York Tough”; “Stop The Spread”; “Save Lives”; “One Day At A Time”; and “Together We Can”.

In addition, the Rotary Club of Utica is sponsoring an online contest, ***Quarantine Adventures***. Participation in the Quarantine Adventures Contest is open to anyone who has purchased one of RCU’s “New York Tough” items, and posts a photo of themselves posing with the item, either in front of a Utica area landmark, performing a handstand/headstand challenge, or doing something equally attention-getting, to the Rotary Club of Utica Facebook page facebook.com/uticarotary. Those without Facebook can email the photo to Info@UticaRotaryClub.org.



A Rotary Club of Utica committee will review the submissions and post the finalists. The public can then “vote” on their favorites by “liking” them, and at the end of the contest, the top three photos will each receive a gift certificate to a Utica area business.

The Rotary Club of Utica is selling the “New York Tough” items through their online store; sales and the contest will run through June 30.

Winners will be announced during July 4th weekend. The Rotary Club of Utica encourages creativity but advocates for the participants to proceed with safety in mind.

For more information, contact the Rotary Club of Utica at Info@UticaRotaryClub.org or visit their Facebook page.



How did you spend your Quarantine Adventure?



Social Justice: At the Monday, June 15th club board meeting, I asked the members of our board of directors to join me in thinking long and hard on the question of social justice in our community, and how the Rotary Club of Utica will respond. Now, I ask the general membership to join us on Monday, June 22nd at noon for a discussion via Zoom. Write to me at jpcaruso12@gmail.com, to receive the link. We look forward to seeing you there. -JPC



AN INVITATION TO AN UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATION

*Dear White people,
For days you've asked me what you can do to help. I've finally found an answer. Let your guard down and listen."*

That's how Emmanuel Acho, former UT and NFL linebacker and current analyst for Fox Sports,



starts the first in a series of videos on his Twitter feed titled, "[Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man](#)", developed in response to the "chaos" in which we've found ourselves, in the face of social injustice. Acho ends his first video with this: *"If you want to know how you can help, how you can stand with us, how you can stand with me, you must first educate yourself, so you know exactly what you're standing for and why you're standing. Because the only way we can solve this issue is through exposure, through education, through compassion, and through empathy."*

Liberty and Justice For All Is Fiction To Me, Surviving America As A Black Man

- by Randall Wallace

[Click here](#) for to access one man's powerful story.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Rotary Club of Utica



Joe Caruso



Israel Acosta

Thursday, June 18th 7:00-8:30PM

ZOOM Meeting ID: 936 4257 6467

PASSWORD Gr8Year!

INCLUDING:

Rotary Year Recap
Roast of President Joe Caruso
Paul Harris Award
Quiet Giver Award

*Happy June Birthday,
Dear Rotarians!*



Saturday, June 27th:

Happy 80th Birthday, Fr. Paul Drobin!

Let's fill his mailbox with greetings. Cards can be mailed to:

Father Paul Drobin

P.O. Box 8245

Utica, NY 13505

Do you have a June birthday and we've missed you?

Apologies! Please contact Joe today at JPCaruso12@gmail.com

Boilermaker Road Race News



Due to safety concerns related to COVID-19, the 2020 Boilermaker has been converted to a virtual event.

The Boilermaker organization is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit that relies on the 15K & 5K events for its funding. The inability to host the traditional Boilermaker severely impacts the financial health of the organization. Your decision whether or not to participate in this historic virtual version of the Boilermaker will directly influence the organizations ability to continue to exist and stage traditional Boilermakers in the years to come. With that in mind, we are asking that, if you are able, please consider participating in this virtual event or donating your 2020 registration fee to help secure the Boilermakers future.

The Boilermaker appreciates the support, understanding and patience from each one of you as we've navigated through this unprecedented global challenge. For more information go to [Race Updates | Boilermaker Road Race](#)

Looking for a Few Good Rotarians:

New to Rotary and looking for an avenue to service? Been with Rotary awhile but want to re-engage? Have we got opportunities for you!

Looking for committee chairs or committee persons for the following: 1) Urban Concerns Committee; 2) Weekly Program Committee; Newsletter. Contact any committee chair, board member, or Joe at JPCaruso12@gmail.com



What's Your thing?

Do what you wanna do! Rotarians are people of diverse interests and talents. Share yours in your own program at a weekly meeting. For more information, contact [Travis](#) today!



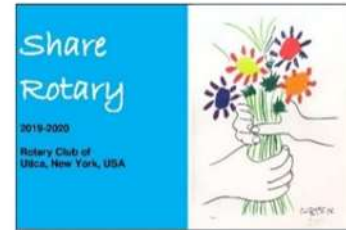
If it's Monday, It's Rotary Movie Night!

Every Monday night (8 pm), District 7150 Rotarians are invited to pop up the corn and join in to a virtual movie party – a Netflix Party – with their fellow Rotarians. This week, Rotarians enjoyed **Same Kind Of Different As Me**. [Click here](#) for details on next week's feature. See you at the movies!

Please look to the Rotary Club of Utica [Facebook page](#) and/or [website](#) for a more complete recap of previous meetings.

Looking forward to “seeing” you (via Zoom) this THURSDAY (6/18), 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, from the comfort of your own home, for our next Rotary Club of Utica online weekly meeting!

In Rotary Service,
Joe Caruso
President, 2019-2020
Rotary Club of Utica, NY USA



Please forward this email/newsletter to friends and colleagues whom you would like to SHARE ROTARY!



Onondaga County Executive
Anthony J. Pizzano, Jr.

