

Volunteers needed for this Saturday's cleanup of Sauquoit Creek

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.

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.

This week's Outstanding Educators Program features Clinton and Notre Dame

At last week's meeting we heard from Notre Dame senior McKenzie Brush and Clinton senior Nic Fostini. This week we'll meet Kyra Warncke from Notre Dame and Maddi Walters from Clinton.

You can read about all four of these fantastic students on page 2 and 3 of this newsletter.

April Calendar of Events

- 4/23 Weekly Meeting | 12 p.m. via Zoom
Michael Kilian, Gannett
- 4/22 Rotaract Committee Meeting
12 p.m. via Zoom
- 4/24 Sauquoit Creek Cleanup | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 4/28 Weekly Meeting | **WEDNESDAY 5 p.m.**
After hours at 7 Hamlet

This Week's Program

Submitted by Travis Rabbers, Programs Chair

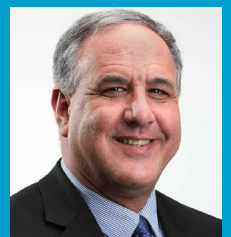
Michael Kilian is New York state editor for Gannett, overseeing news sites upstate and downstate including the Observer-Dispatch in Utica, the Times-Telegram in Herkimer and The Mid-York Weekly in Hamilton, NY. He is also executive editor of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. The O-D's new executive editor, Sheila Rayam, worked with Kilian in Rochester the past two years.

He has been a newspaper editor since 1990, working primarily with Gannett Co. Inc. in locations including Saratoga Springs, Utica and Rochester, New York; Burlington, Vermont; Salisbury, Maryland; and Cincinnati, Ohio. He was city editor and managing editor of the O-D between 1995 and 2010.

While news director at The Cincinnati Enquirer, the newspaper won the Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting in 2018 for coverage of the heroin epidemic. (Click here to read: [Seven Days of Heroin](#))

Kilian is a graduate of Cornell University. His son and daughter graduated from Thomas R. Proctor High.

**FRIDAY | April 23
12 p.m. via Zoom**



Deadline for next newsletter (4/26) is Sunday, April 25, at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Meet Clinton seniors Madeline and Nic

Madeline Walters

Student Activities

- Tennis
- Track and Field
- Science Olympiad
- Olympiad of the Visual Arts
- Musical
- Volunteering with the Chamber of Commerce
- Volunteering at the library
- Jazz Band (Tenor Saxophone)

Future Plans

I plan to become a scientific researcher and study the potential for life on other planets.

Counselor's Comments (Kelly Zegarelli)

Intelligent, ambitious, hard-working, personable, responsible, and athletic are the first words that come to mind when thinking of Maddi Walters. Maddi is continually writing a story of perseverance, adaptability, and tolerance in her every day actions.

Maddi has consciously prepared herself for the future career of her dreams by embracing her advanced intellect and honing incredible academic skills. Maddi aspires to be a scientific researcher. Intellectual curiosity encourages Maddi to seek out activities that allow her to explore her scientific interests.

Last year, Maddi was selected to participate in an internship program at Masonic Medical Research Institute. Participation in the program required Maddi to miss school once a week. Maddi was responsible for maintaining communication with all of her teachers and to make up any missed work. This was an incredible responsibility for a highly active student to manage each week, but Maddi accomplished it with ease and was still able to maintain an impressive grade point average. Through her internship, Maddi was able to study under Dr. Zhiqiang Lin where she shadowed scientists and learned fundamental skills. Furthermore, through her internship Maddi was able to participate in a research study titled *Both proliferation and lipogenesis of brown adipocytes contribute to postnatal brown adipose tissue growth in mice*. Impressively, the research study was recently published and Maddi was listed as an author.

In addition to science, Maddi has a variety of interests including, art, music, sports, and academics. Across all settings you can see that Maddi is a natural born leader. She is the treasurer of Science Olympiad, was sophomore class president, a member of National Honor Society, and has led her Olympic of the Visual Arts to 1st place awards three times since middle school.

Continued on page 3

Nicolas Fostini

Student Activities

Clubs: National Honor Society, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Chess Club

Sports: Cross-Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track

Achievements: Eagle Scout, Bausch Lomb Award U Rochester, myriad of school academic distinctions, AP Distinguished Scholar

Volunteering: BSA National Youth Leadership Training, Eagle Project (Operation Gratitude), Scouting for Food, Veterans and Memorial Day Services, Cross-Country fun-runs, pep band, starting NHS service project (Operation Gratitude)

Hobbies: Playing and producing music, Running, Mountain biking, School Musicals, Hiking, and camping

Future Plans

Colleges: MIT, Cornell, Northwestern, U Michigan, Carnegie Mellon, CWRU, U Illinois, Purdue, U Delaware, RPI, Stonybrook, U Colorado

Career Plans: Nuclear/Chemical Engineer. Developing alternative energy technologies to aid in the transition toward sustainable energy.

Counselor's Comments (Jackie Snizek)

Nic Fostini is articulate and mature beyond his years because he engages in a more global perspective than many of his peers. His larger world view is demonstrated by his commitment to community service and his interest is pursuing a career in sustainable energy. Nic hopes to become a nuclear/chemical engineer someday and he thrives on intellectual challenges. He is one of a few students who independently taught himself PreCalculus and then tested out of the class by passing the final exam with mastery despite receiving no direct instruction on the content. On top of the most rigorous courses we offer at our school and in addition to the trials of virtual learning, Nic is also bridging to Mohawk Valley Community College for math since Hamilton College discontinued their bridge program this year.

Nic values giving back to the community and has actively participated in Operation Gratitude where he organizes people to make paracord bracelets. This was a central focus of his Eagle Scout project in addition to his Scouting for Food and other outreach efforts. Nic has been an integral part of our school musicals and his humor shines through in his various roles. He is an important member of our various bands and a committed track runner.

Continued on page 3

Madeline and Nic bios continued

Madeline Walters

Additionally, Maddi is the current record holder of Javelin at Clinton High School. She has had numerous triumphs in track, tennis, and basketball. In addition to all of her extracurricular pursuits, Maddi still finds an opportunity to devote her time to volunteer programs that she is passionate about. Maddi has tutored students to assist them in their studies; she volunteers at the local library with various duties, and is an events volunteer for the local chamber of commerce.

While I am more than impressed by Maddi's academic accomplishments, superior intellect, and career aspirations, it is her character that I most admire. Maddi is well respected by her peers and faculty alike for her honorable, compassionate, and good-natured personality.

In sum, Maddi's commitment to sports, academics, and volunteer work is unwavering. Her advanced maturity contributes to her ability to be self-reflective and emotionally grounded. Couple these qualities with her competence and integrity and it is easy to see that Maddi is setting herself on a path toward future success.

Nicolas Fostini

There is no doubt Nic is an interesting student who has many talents both athletically, musically, and intellectually. He is a very intriguing person who believes in giving back to his community and making his mark on the world. It will be great to watch all his wonderful accomplishments throughout his college experience. He will surely be missed at Clinton High School.



Nic Fostini



McKenzie Brush



Maddi Walters



Kyra Warncke

Meet Notre Dame seniors McKenzie and Kyra

McKenzie Brush

Student Activities)

Since 9th grade, I have been involved in the NJROTC program. This year I was awarded with the position of commanding officer. Over these past 4 years I have completed around 600 hours of community service. Meanwhile, I am also a part of National Honor Society, I also have played volleyball and have done cross country since 7th grade. This year I was captain of both of those teams. Besides school activities, I work at the New York Mills Public Library.

Future Plans

So far I have applied to St. Bonaventure, Nazareth, Elmira, and the University of Oklahoma. I was accepted to all 4 colleges but I still need to make a decision on where to go. I plan on majoring in biology and then hopefully continuing on to medical school or dental school. I am not exactly sure what I want to do yet but I know that I want to help people.

Kyra Warncke

Student Activities

For the past fourteen years I have been a dancer at Utica Dance. In addition to this, I ran for our Varsity Cross Country team junior and senior year. I am heavily involved in our NJROTC unit as the Executive Officer. Through this I have accumulated around 450 hours of community service. Other school clubs that I am a member of include National Honor Society and student ambassadors. I am also a sales associate at Plato's Closet in New Hartford.

Future Plans

The colleges that I have been accepted into thus far include Clarkson University, Norwich University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, SUNY Maritime, SUNY Buffalo, University of Maine, and Virginia Tech. I have been accepted into their engineering programs, and I plan to major in computer engineering. I have also applied to the Naval Academy and for the National ROTC Scholarship. I aspire to become a Naval Submarine Officer after college.

Puerto Rico Project Update

President Israel visited Puerto Rico last week to spend time with family and also visit the Luz Munoz Rivera Elementary School in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, where Rotary Club of Utica recently purchased and shipped several games and physical education materials for the school's children. Israel was hoping to take a tour of the school and meet with his contact and friend, Jorge Borgos, as well as the president of the Guaynabo Rotary Club and director of the school.

Unfortunately, all activities in Puerto Rico were shut down shortly after Israel arrived due to COVID-19. Israel did not get to take a tour of the school but did meet with Jorge, the Rotary club president and school director to discuss the next steps for the project. The discussion centered around where and how Rotary Club of Utica can best help—the school or the larger community. Israel will be meeting with the school director, social worker and psychologist to further the discussion.

Save the Date!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021

Our Rotary Club will be hosting a
Summer Golf Outing at
Hidden Valley Golf Course in Whitesboro.

More info and details coming soon
from Jerry Kraus.

Sad News

Past President and current club secretary Jill Koch's mother, Gertrude Burnap, passed away on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. To read Mrs. Burnap's obituary or leave messages of sympathy go to [Gertrude "Trudy" Burnap](#).

Jill and her family are in our thoughts and prayers.

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



EARTH WEEK 2021

