



June 22, 2020

## What have you done today to make you feel proud?

### *The Torch has Passed!*

**RCU prepares for peaceful transition of power; President Joe Roasted**

**LAST THURSDAY NIGHT (6/18)**, approximately 65 Rotarians and friends gathered via Zoom and Facebook Live for the annual passing of the gavel (from President Joe to **Israel Acosta**), announcement of Paul Harris Fellow awards, and a roast of President Joe.

The Rotary Club of Utica is fortunate to have in place a great leadership structure and to have identified three fine Rotarians to lead us in the years to come: **Israel Acosta (2020-21)**, **Stephen Turnbull (2021-22)**, and **Tina Pavlot (2022-23)**. **Our future is bright!**



*Rotary leadership on the occasion of a club gathering in February for a Utica City Football Club match. l to r: Joe Caruso, outgoing president; Israel Acosta, incoming president; Tina Pavlot, President-elect and new PHF; Stephen Turnbull, vice-president and new PHF.*

### *RCU Welcomes Turnbull, Pavlot, As Latest Paul Harris Fellows*



The Rotary Foundation is recognized as one of the most effective and well-managed charitable organizations in the world. Rotarians have a tradition of supporting the Foundation by honoring others. The Paul Harris Fellow recognition, named in honor of the founder of Rotary, acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to [The Rotary Foundation](#).



It is the tradition of the Rotary Club of Utica to honor each year with the designation of Paul Harris Fellow a member or members who exemplify the Rotary motto of **“Service Above Self.”** This year, the club’s foundation committee, under the direction of its chair, Past President **Ken Williams**, convened to consider this year’s honorees. It was the club’s extreme pleasure to honor Rotarians **Stephen Turnbull** and **Tina Pavlot** as the club’s newest **Paul Harris Fellows**.

Stephen and Tina, though Rotarians for less than two years, have taken extraordinary leadership roles in the club, and are both slated to lead the club as president, Stephen in 2021-22, and Tina in 2022-23. **Congratulations, Fellows!**

### *Time to Say Goodbye*

Dear Rotarians, it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your president for the 2019-2020 Rotary year. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kind remarks in last week's Roast and Toast. I will treasure that memory always.



At this week's meeting (**noon Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**), I'll review the year that's past and share my thoughts for our future. I hope you will all join me. **Please see the email in which this newsletter arrived for the [Zoom link and password](#).** And remember: Invite a friend; **SHARE ROTARY!**

### *And the Rotarian for the month of June is... Heather Beebe!*

Kudos to Rotarian **Heather Beebe**, who is her best when self when helping others to be their best selves through her business, Unstoppable You LLC. She also manages, with her partner Shawn Smith, a blended family of seven including a four-year old, and has a baby on the way (very, very, soon!).



Readers of this newsletter will remember that in May, Heather put on two community projects in one weekend: she arranged RCU's "**Meal Delivery to the Rescu(ers)**" on a Friday night and, through Unstoppable You, arranged and hosted the "**Stories behind the Music**" online concert in support of the Thea Bowman House. More recently, she took on the role of "techical director" for our Zoom meetings, particularly challenging for the recent "**Outstanding Educator**" awards event, which saw an additional fifty or so guests added to our attendance.

Heather is a perfect example of the old addage, start 'em young; Heather's introduction to Rotary was as a Youth Exchange student to Brasil, an experience that changed her life – and ours, when she came to us as a member.

Heather has served on the club's youth exchange committee, and is presently a member of the RCU's board of directors. She and her family are frequent participants in the annual Thanksgiving meal delivery. And I'm sure I'm leaving things out, but you get the point.

**Please join me in congratulating Heather Beebe!**

# Social Justice

## *Remembering Juneteenth with a Special Guest!*

**Juneteenth** - also known as **Freedom Day**, **Jubilee Day**, **Liberation Day**, and **Emancipation Day** – is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States. Originating in Texas, it is now celebrated annually on the 19th of June throughout the United States, with varying official recognition (Wikipedia).

Specifically, it commemorates Union army general Gordon Granger announcing federal orders in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, proclaiming that all slaves in Texas were free – almost two-and-a-half years *after* President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation!



This year, we are honored to have as our guest at the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting noted vocalist **Astena Smith!**

Astena, who works in financial aid for SUNY Poly and previously with Rotarian Kevin Marken at OnPoint for College, was also part of this year's Utica area **Juneteenth celebration** which brought together amazing singers and musicians who we are blessed to have in our area. They put together an hour-long concert which aired June 13<sup>th</sup> and again on June 19<sup>th</sup> on WKTU. And on June 25<sup>th</sup>, Astena will sing for us! This is something you won't want to miss! Looking forward to seeing you there. Bring a friend and **SHARE ROTARY!**

## *What Does Juneteenth mean to so many?*

[Check out this informative and inspiring video](#) which appeared on the Google site on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



## *"I'll Stand With You."* - The White Man in That Photo

Things are not always as they appear. [Click here](#) and be prepared for a heartwarming, bittersweet story about the white Australian silver medalist in the 200 meter race at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, who stood with his black American fellow Olympians against inequality and injustice. Thanks to Utica Rotarian and Past President David Jones for bringing this to our attention. I'd never heard this story, but it's a great one.





## ***“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](https://facebook.com/uticarotary). Those without Facebook can email the photo to [Info@UticaRotaryClub.org](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Info@UticaRotaryClub.org) or visit their Facebook page.



*How did you spend your Quarantine Adventure?*



# Happy June Birthday, Dear Rotarians!



*Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>:*

*Happy 80<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:JPCaruso12@gmail.com)*

## *Salvation Army Food Giveaways*

The Rotary Club of Utica has helped with food giveaways at the Salvation Army at 14 Clinton Place in Utica on three separate Wednesdays, concluding this week.

Thanks to urban concerns chair **Michelle Brandstadt** for organizing, and for all Rotarians who took the time to help with this worthy project!



## *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](mailto:JPCaruso12@gmail.com)



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

# Kindness

*Looking forward to “seeing” you (via Zoom) this THURSDAY (6/25), Noon, 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.

