



March 23, 2020

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

*My Dear Rotarians,*

**WE DID IT!** Last Thursday (3/19), for the first meeting of our 105<sup>th</sup> year – the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of our Rotary year – in response to the need for “physical distancing” during this time of the Corona pandemic - we made club history and held our first online meeting. It went quite well: quality audio and video provided each participant who clicked the emailed link to the Zoom platform with their own “square” on their computer screen. It looked very much like the opening of *The Brady Bunch* sitcom or, before that, *Hollywood Squares*. If one doesn’t wish to be seen, there is an option to click “hide video.”

Well, as promised, we’re going to do it again this week. Please join us this week on our regular day (Thursday) and time (noon) as we gather again, via the Internet, on the Zoom platform. We’ll meet for 30 to 40 minutes, and share what’s happening with Rotary, locally, in District 7150, and globally, and we’ll get to check up on our fellow members. What a great opportunity to make sure everyone’s doing well, and if they’re not – well, let’s see what we can do to help.

Over the next three to four weeks at the very least, it is clear that times will be challenging for most people. Maintaining communication will also allow us to be ready to resume normal Rotary relations when the virus scare is over.

So please, click on the link in the box below on Thursday at noon.

I look forward to “seeing” you!

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

Invitation to the Rotary Club of Utica meeting, via Zoom

Time: Mar 26, 2020 12:00 PM EDT

Click here to join us: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/145108732>

Meeting ID: 145 108 732

# *Auf Wiedersehen, Felix!*

Rotary Club of Utica members had to bid an early farewell to **Felix**, our 2019-2020 Youth Exchange inbound student who, along with all inbound foreign exchange students in District 7150, must return home early as a result of the Corona virus pandemic. We held a Zoom call with Felix on Tuesday evening to say good bye and wish him safe journey.

Felix, from Stuttgart, Germany, has been a delight to host. A student in Clinton Central Schools, he has become a regular part of the Clinton community, where he participated in Clinton High sports, and was also a member of the Hamilton College orchestra.



*Felix at the District 7150 Conf in Oswego, Oct 2019*

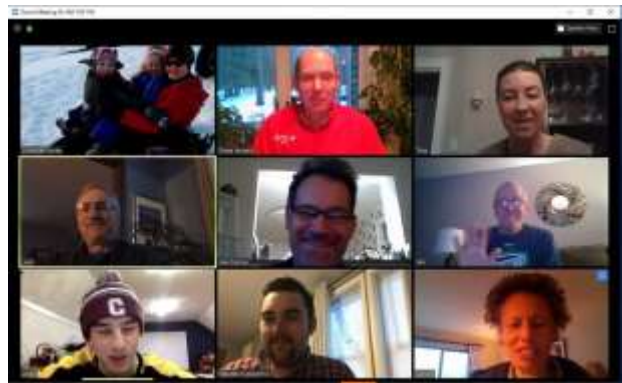


*Felix with his visiting family from Germany at a UCFC game at the ADK Bank Center.*

***Auf Wiedersehen, Felix. We will miss you greatly. You will always have a home here with us. Come back and visit as soon as you are able!***



*Felix' arrival in Syracuse with his first host family, the Walters.*



*Rotarians Zooming with Felix on the eve of his return to Germany.*



*At a hockey game with his counselor Travis, and Stephen*



*Felix at his presentation to Utica Rotary*

## *What Have You Done Today to Make You Feel Proud?*

**This week, Utica Rotary salutes Bill Waszkiewicz, owner of Chester's Flowers and a past president of the Rotary Club of Utica, for brightening the lives of many of our community's seniors!**



Given the current casualties of Life in the Time of Corona Virus as we know it today, Bill found he had extra flowers and, rather than have them do to waste, Bill worked with his designers to make up about 85 bud vases and sent them to nursing home residents in four different facilities in hopes of brightening their day. I'm sure you succeeded, Bill – they're beautiful! Thanks for doing us (your fellow Rotarians) proud with your generous gift.

*Bill Waszkiewicz and Cathy Dorn are pictured at left.*



*So, this is what a Zoom page/screen looks like:*



The Chino Hills (CA) High School Chamber Singers Concert was canceled due to, uh, social distancing. But that didn't stop them from finding a creative way to share, online, the beautiful sound they had worked so hard to create. For a thoroughly moving experience, [click here for their a capella arrangement](#) of the late Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's take on *Over The Rainbow*.



## 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. Contact any committee chair, board member, or Joe at [JPCaruso12@gmail.com](mailto: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 [Israel](#) or [Travis](#) today!



## DAILY QUARANTINE QUESTIONS:

1. What am I GRATEFUL for today?
2. Who am I CHECKING IN ON or CONNECTING WITH today?
3. What expectations of "normal" am I LETTING GO OF today?
4. How am I GETTING OUTSIDE today?
5. How am I MOVING MY BODY today?
6. What BEAUTY am I either creating, cultivating, or inviting in today?

ISO...In Search OF...Creative Rotarians/Rotaractors to help produce this weekly newsletter. Your assistance is greatly needed, either as a writer/contributor or editor. Please contact President Joe for more info: [JPCaruso12@gmail.com](mailto:JPCaruso12@gmail.com) or 518-542-7814. Thank you!





**Save the date: Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>:**  
*Rotary Club of Utica*  
*"Service Above Self" Gala*  
**Delta Hotel Utica**

For 105 years, Utica Rotarians have given back to their community, individually and collectively, in ways large and small. At this end-of-the-Rotary-year celebration,

we'll honor those in our club *and in the larger community* who have lived the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." And, we'll pass the gavel to the next leader of our club. More on the award nomination process at a later time, but for now, save the date – June 19<sup>th</sup> - you won't want to miss it! Featuring Utica Rotarian/Past President/ District Governor Nominee **Dana Jerrard** and his band, **Soul Injection**. It's going to be one great night! We'll be selling tickets at our Thursday lunch meetings and on our [website](#) until they sell out. ***Tickets are limited, so get yours today!***



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

**FROM THE GREATER UTICA CHAMBER:**

With Governor Cuomo's announcement yesterday mandating closures and restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19, a variety of businesses are experiencing a drastic change to their daily business operations. We've been working hard to help our Members during this time. Click here for

more: <https://greateruticachamber.org/help-support-chamber-member-establishments/>





## *If it's Wednesday, It's Rotary Movie Night!*

**Lizzy Martin**, Rotary District 7150 Public Image Chair, has arranged for Rotarians to enjoy a weekly movie night together, but in the comfort of their own homes.

That's not a contradiction. Thanks to an app called **Netflix Party**, a new way to watch Netflix with your friends online. Netflix Party synchronizes video playback and adds group chat to your favorite Netflix shows.

This week's movie was ***Saving Mr. Banks***, with Tom Hanks. [Click here](#) to set up your Netflix Party app in advance of the party and then [email Lizzy](#) to receive her Monday evening email with the link to join in! *See you at the movies. (Monday nights at 8 pm).*



*Looking forward to "seeing" you (via Zoom) this THURSDAY (3/26) noon, from the comfort of your own home, for our next online Rotary Club of Utica 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!***