



July 27, 2020

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ISRAEL ACOSTA

In the August 2020 issue of the Rotarian there is a great article highlighting how clubs are doing things differently to meet the changing environment and the needs of their members. Some of the themes that stood out to me are:



- Clubs for a cause – Have a cause that will bring people together. This year we will be focusing on the clean-up and restoration of one of our parks in Utica (F.T. Proctor Park) in conjunction with CNY Conservancy as they gear up for a few years of celebratory events. This will provide a once a month service project meeting in lieu of our lunch meeting. A great opportunity to get friends, family and colleagues interested in volunteerism to engage with our club.
- Fun focused – Incorporate informal meetings. This year we will have happy hours every month to promote fellowship in a more informal setting as well to allow networking among members and guests. Let's use this opportunity to invite colleagues and friends that are not able to join lunch meetings.
- Engagement Variety – Provide alternatives to accommodate members and non-Rotarians schedules. We are looking to have multiple channels for the members to engage including our traditional lunch meetings, service project meetings and happy hours.
- Collaboration with other local organizations – Work with local organizations and help their cause. We will be joining efforts with CNY Conservancy through our service project. In addition we will continue to collaborate with other area clubs and encourage participation in their activities. There are a few activities we will be joining the area clubs this year including a very exciting event with the Utica Zoo.

I'm excited about the opportunities we will have this year to continue to demonstrate our Rotarian spirit in our meetings, service projects and throughout our communities.

YIRS,
Israel Acosta

In this issue...

Message from RCU President
2020-21 Club Service Project
This Week's Program
Committee News
Help Wanted
Social Justice Committee
New Member
Calendar of Events
Meeting Recaps
Hope House Collection Flyer

*Deadline for next newsletter (8/3) is Friday, July 31;
submit to michelle@fillableformdesigns.com*

2020-21 CLUB SERVICE PROJECT

The first of our year-long service project meetings will occur the second week of August. The service project meeting is held on two different days to provide more members an opportunity to serve. The two dates set are Thursday, August 13 from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday, August 15 from 8-10 a.m.

Our first objective in contributing to the restoration and maintenance of F.T. Proctor Park in alliance with the CNY Conservancy will be to groom an approximately 20-yard-long shrub bed (see picture at right). This will entail digging out weeds, pruning the hydrangea bushes in it, installing "weed block" fabric, and redressing the bed with mulch. This will entail light to moderate labor, and it should not require great insight into gardening—the 3-4 essential tasks are fairly straightforward. It will likely require several sessions to complete this project, which will restore a prominent area of the park to proper order.

To sign up for one or both volunteer days, use the links at right. You can sign up as a member, which will require you to login to your Rotary Club of Utica ClubRunner account (need login name and password), or you can sign up as a guest. You won't need to login, but you will need to consent to the collection of your information (which we already have). If you're a true guest (i.e., not a club member), know that we won't do anything with your information.

Service Project Sign-up Links:

[Thursday | 8/13 | 5-7 p.m.](#)

[Saturday | 8/15 | 8-10 a.m.](#)



This Week's Program

Join us for our first social weekly meeting at Five Points Public House for an authentic Irish pub experience and relaxed Rotary fellowship. Members can sit in the pub or, weather permitting, on the patio.

Five Points Public House sits at the 5-point intersection of three streets in the heart of Utica's famed brewery district. Built on a site chosen for its historical significance, it stands on "sacred ground" in the eyes of Utica's Irish community: the very spot where Utica's first Irish Catholic church, St. Patrick's, was erected in 1850.

New York State COVID-19 restrictions require that masks be worn at all times unless seated, and alcohol may only be served to people who are ordering and eating food.

**THURSDAY | July 30
5 p.m.**

**Five Points
Public House
(Irish Cultural Center)
623 Columbia St.
Utica, NY 13502**

No Zoom Meeting

Help Wanted

Sergeant at Arms Aides

This year's Sergeant at Arms, Deb Burke, plans to have a rotating schedule of people to help with setup and cleanup at meetings. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Deb at 315-525-2855.

Meeting Recap Contributors

Looking for persons willing to write recaps of weekly meetings on a rotating basis. If interested, please contact michelle@fillableformdesigns.com.

Urban Concerns Needs

Our club does not currently have a chair for the Urban Concerns Committee, but Norma Montagnino-Gemza is organizing a couple opportunities for community service.

The Bird's Nest Thrift Shop Cleanup

Norma is looking for a few volunteers to help clean the side of The Bird's Nest Thrift Shop, (Abraham House), 102 Eagle Street, Utica. Approximately two hours or less is needed to clean up, brush, rake, and pick up trash. Please bring a rake, shears, and gloves. Travis Rabbers has volunteered and is looking for one more person to help him. If interested, contact Travis at rabbe1ta@gmail.com to set up a mutual time for the cleanup.

Hope House Hygiene Collection

Norma is coordinating a hygiene collection for Hope House in conjunction with Herthum Heights Association. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for details.

COMMITTEE NEWS

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

Youth Exchange..... Deb Burke

Rotoract Dom Passalacqua

RYLA..... Jim Day

Interact Jim Day

Urban Concerns..... **NEED CHAIR**

Communication Michelle Brandstadt

Meeting Service Natalie Brown

Membership..... **NEED CHAIR**

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**

Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter on peace and justice

submitted by Linda Iannone, Social Justice Committee

In "A Passion For Justice," which appeared in the April 2018 *The Rotarian*, Bernice King, youngest daughter of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. discusses fostering peace while defeating injustice and preserving humanity at the same time.

To read the article in its entirety click: "A Passion For Justice."

NEW MEMBER WELCOMED TO CLUB

Carli Sterling, Senior Manager of Resource Development at United Way of the Mohawk Valley, was welcomed to the club this past week via Zoom.

Carli is responsible for building and developing a young professional volunteer group call Emerging leaders United, and leads all fundraising efforts, including annual campaign appeals, direct mail, planned giving, and stewardship, and all volunteer efforts. She has been with United Way since 2016. Carli previously presented at one of the club's past meetings about United Way's community impact.



Prior to joining United Way of the Mohawk Valley, Carli worked as a health educator for pregnant and parenting adolescents through The Neighborhood Center.

Carli grew up in Utica, New York, where she has lived her entire life. In her spare time, she enjoys working out, hiking, cooking, and spending time with her dog, Rogue.

Welcome Carli!

24 JULY MEETING RECAP submitted by Michelle Brandstadt

Here is What You Missed at the July 24 Rotary Meeting!

Song: Israel Acosta

Invocation: Roger Frank

Announcements:

- Next week's meeting will be at Five Points Public House at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 30
- First service project meeting will be the 2nd week in August at Proctor Park; sign-up will be available through club website
- Norma Montagnino-Gemza is looking for help with Bird's Nest cleanup and for hygiene products for Hope House collection
- Don Reese will be seeking volunteers later in August to help assemble packages for Chile project
- Stephen Turnbull, in conjunction with the North Utica/Whitestown Rotary Club, is planning an event for Friday, August 21, at the Utica Zoo; watch for details

Committee Chairs needed; let P Israel know if interested:

- Urban Concerns Chair to coordinate, NOT ORGANIZE, service projects. Chair would be responsible for coordinating project ideas and dates to prevent conflicts. The individual who has the project idea is responsible for organizing the project.
- Membership Chair is responsible for orienting and engaging new members
- Special Needs Holiday Party Chair is responsible for organizing the annual holiday party held in December
- Rotary International Foundation Chair's responsibilities are to represent the club and the District, to work on securing grant money for the club, and to coordinate a program during the Rotary Foundation month in November

New Member Introduction:

Travis Rabbers introduced new member Carli Sterling. Carli, attending via Zoom, said she is excited to be part of the club.

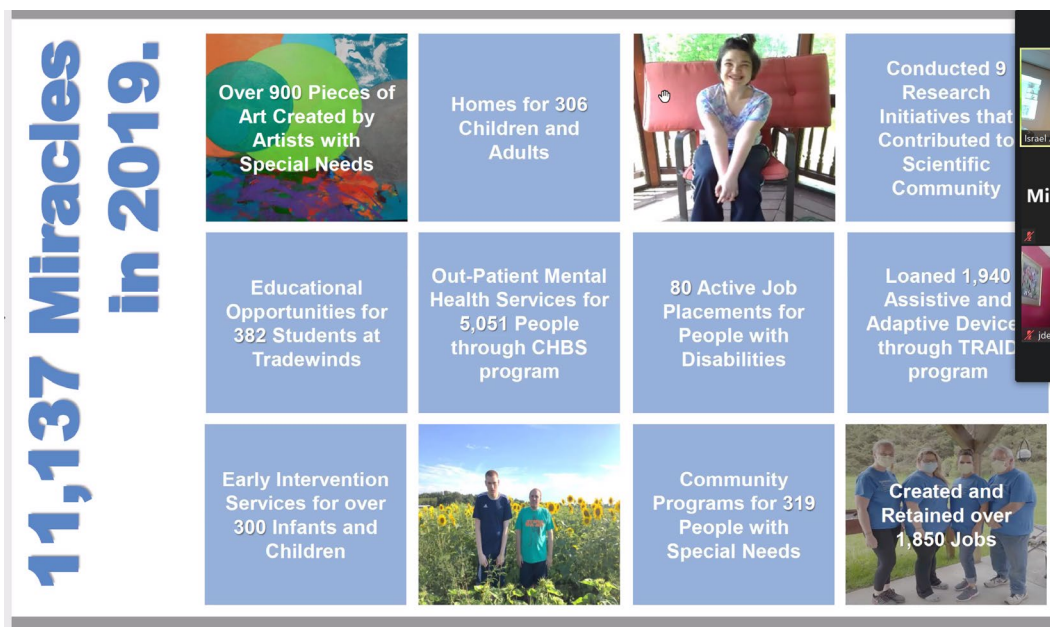
Continued on p. 5

24 JULY MEETING RECAP *(continued from p.4)*

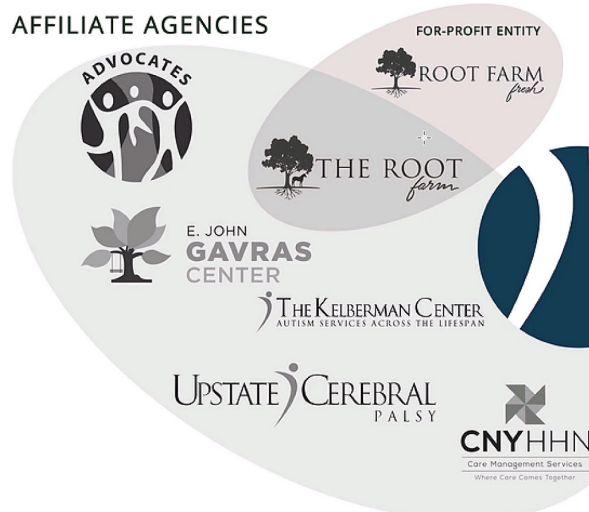
Program:

Travis Rabbers introduced Alyssa Spina, Associate Vice President of Development and Partnerships of Upstate Cerebral Palsy (UCP) and affiliated non-profit organizations. She works with leadership of the agencies to develop short and long range planning as it relates to development and partnership opportunities while also serving as lead grant writer. Alyssa is also President of the Utica Monday Nite Board of Directors.

Alyssa spoke about the organization's achievements in 2019 (see graphic) as well as explained that UCP is part of a network of agencies (see graphic) under a parent organization called Upstate Caring Partners. The agencies serve approximately 35,000 people in 38 New York counties. Their core services include health care and care coordination; supported and integrated housing; vocational training and supported employment; education and child care; and recreation and art.



AFFILIATE AGENCIES



RELATED OPERATIONS



17 JULY MEETING RECAP submitted by Tina Pavlot

Here is What You Missed at the July 17 Rotary Meeting!

Visitors: Alyssa Spina, Associate VP of Development & Partnerships at UCP

Announcements:

- Next week's meeting will be at the Delta, possibly at the Yahnundasis starting in August. TBD.
- Reminder that the 2nd week in August will be a service project (at Proctor Park) and not a physical meeting. Stay tuned for details. Two dates will be available to sign up for, an evening during the week (Thursday) and a morning on the weekend.
- 3rd week is an in-person meeting
- 4th week is a happy hour (Thursday night at 5 pm)
- July 30th will be our first happy hour at Five Points Public House (Irish Cultural Center)
- Stephen Turnbull, in conjunction with the North Utica/Whitestown Rotary Club, is planning an event, Friday 8/21 at the Utica Zoo. Stayed tuned for details.
- In need of Chairs for the Membership and Urban Concerns committee
- Check out two social justice events this weekend

Program:

Our speaker, Thomas Labayewski, Field Director of the Boy Scouts of America Leatherstocking Council. The Boy Scouts of America began in 1910 and was chartered by Congress in 1916. The Leatherstocking Council provides character development and leadership skills training to 3,800 Scouts in Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Otsego and Schoharie counties, as well as parts of Hamilton and Lewis counties.

The BSA has several programs including the Cub Scouts for 7-10 year olds, the Boy Scouts for 11-18 year olds, a High Adventure Exploring co-ed program, a Venturing program and girl troops. They also offer a Blizzard camp in the winter at Camp Kingsley (as featured in Boys Life magazine).



Scouts volunteer 20,000+ hours per year between individual projects and organized events.

Fundraising efforts are lacking due to COVID. They are hosting a golf tournament August 10th at Crestwood Country Club in Marcy and a sporting clays tournament in September. They innovatively created camp-in-a-box, which allows families to safely camp together.

The BSA has created mandatory youth protection training for employees to keep children safe and also provides this training to the children themselves. This child abuse training is available to anyone online. For more information visit Boy Scouts of America Leatherstocking Council.

Next week's Program: Alyssa Spina, Associate VP of Development & Partnerships at UCP.

July 2020 Calendar of Events

- 7/20 Board Meeting 1 p.m.
- 7/24 Weekly Meeting
FRIDAY @ 12 p.m.
Delta Hotel
- 7/27 Social Justice Meeting
12 p.m. via Zoom (email jpcaruso12@gmail.com for link)
- 7/30 Weekly Meeting
THURSDAY @ 5 p.m.
Five Points Public House

Editor's Note: please be sure to check the newsletter or the [club website](#)



Hygiene Product Collection *for* Hope House



August 2 – August 22, 2022

About Hope House: *"It is the primary purpose of Peter Maurin House, Inc. d/b/a Hope House to offer homeless or needy individuals in the City of Utica, New York and its environs a daytime opportunity for shelter, a hot nutritious meal, and referral if desired, to any needed human service. As we are able, we will also seek to meet other basic daily needs of the indigent in our community, however, our first purpose will remain that of feeding all who come to us in hunger."*

Hope House has served the homeless and needy individuals in Utica, New York since 1992. A local priest saw need in his neighborhood and decided to take the initiative and seek a solution to a resonating problem in the community. Hope House began serving just over 7,000 meals a year and has evolved to serving over 90,000 meals per year. These are numbers that truly demonstrate the drive and commitment to improve the community Hope House serves and has shown no decline over the course of 22 years.

Along with meals and referral service, Hope House provides needed hygiene products to its participants. Together, The Rotary Club of Utica and The Herthum Heights Association are collecting the products below to donate to Hope House.

Please **drop off** your donation to Norma, 8 Herthum Road (small garage door), Whitesboro; at Rotary Meetings; or if you are downtown you may drop off items to Norma at The Bird's Next Vintage Boutique Thrift, 102 Eagle Street only on Wednesdays 10-1 and Saturdays 10-2 during August 2-22, 2020.

Products Needed for Men, Women and Children

All products should be new, in original packages and unopened.

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Bar Soap
- Liquid Soap
- Toothpaste
- Tooth brushes
- Mouthwash
- Body lotion
- Razors (men and women)
- Deodorant
- Shaving Cream
- Combs
- Hairbrushes
- Sanitary items
- Anything you feel is an essential Personal product

While full size products are preferred, hotel samples and beauty counter makeup and personal product samples may also be donated, as long as they have not been used. Questions? Norma, normamg@yahoo.com