



June 29, 2020

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

Welcome, President Israel Acosta!

On **Thursday, July 2nd at noon**, we will be welcomed by Rotarian **Israel Acosta** at his first meeting as president of the Rotary Club of Utica.

Please see the email in which this newsletter arrived for the **Zoom link and password**.

And remember: Invite a friend; SHARE ROTARY!



THIS WEEK, our Rotary guest speaker will be **John Matthews**, Strategic Relationship Manager with Northland Communications. Northland is a third-generation telecommunications company that has been servicing the central New York area for more than 110 years. John has been with Northland for over 21 years. In addition, John has provided volunteer services to several local organizations, including the Boilermaker Road Race. During the program, we will learn more about the history of Northland Communications and John will provide an update on what the company has been doing during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as what it will do moving forward.

Invite a friend; SHARE ROTARY!



Thank you

Dear Rotarians, it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your president for the 2019-2020 Rotary year. Thank you for your trust in me.

My special thanks to the officers, directors, and program chairs who work so diligently that it appears everything happens effortlessly. You are real treasures!

I look forward to continuing my service as a member of the Rotary Club of Utica! - *Joe*



The Rotary Foundation and Paul Harris Fellows



On June 18th, we announced that the Rotary Club of Utica bestowed its highest honor of “**Paul Harris Fellow**” on Rotarians **Tina Pavlot** and **Stephen Turnbull** for their service to the club in the spirit of the Rotary motto of “*Service Above Self*”. To bestow The Paul Harris Fellow recognition, named in honor of the founder of Rotary, the club makes a donation of \$1,000 to [The Rotary Foundation](#) in the name of each individual honored.



Fun fact: Foundation **recognition points** are awarded to donors who contribute to The Rotary Foundation through the Annual Fund or PolioPlus, or who contribute to sponsorship of a Foundation grant. “Multiple Paul Harris Fellow recognition” is extended at subsequent \$1,000 levels.

Recognition consists of a pin with stones corresponding to the recipient’s recognition amount.

Recently, RCU has received notification that two long-time RCU Paul Harris Fellows have received recognition for their continued support of the Foundation; they are **Linda Iannone** (“Plus Two” pin) and PP/PDG **Don Reese** (“Plus Four” pin).



THANK YOU, Linda and Don, for your continued generosity and service to Rotary and, by extension, to the world, through your support of the fine international work of the Rotary Foundation. *Photos left to right: Stephen Turnbull; Tina Pavlot; Linda Iannone; PP/PDG Don Reese.*

A Letter of Thanks from Governor Cuomo:

Check out this letter of thanks from New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo upon receiving a “New York Tough” shirt and mug!

Have you purchased your “New York Tough” item yet? It’ll be *the* memento of this crazy period we’re living in, and proceeds benefit the MVCOVID-19 fund. Darby O’Brien and Linda Allen both bought some for their out-of-state grandchildren! Check out the [Rotary Club of Utica Online Store](#) and the *Quarantine Adventures* contest on the pages that follow.



Social Justice

Thank you, Astena Smith!



At last week's meeting, The Rotary Club of Utica was treated to a magnificent rendition of "Life Every Voice and Sing" by noted vocalist **Astena Smith**, in honor of this year's **Juneteenth** celebration.

THANK YOU, Astena, for lending *your* voice to help us as we attempt to find *our* voice and stand with our brothers and sisters. Now hold us to it! And please come back to join us, anytime!

RCU's Social Justice Committee

Your Rotary Club of Utica has a social justice committee, charged with looking at social justice in our community today, and how we as Rotarians can be better informed, and become part of the solution to the inequity that surrounds us. We've met twice – at noon on the last two Mondays – and we're going to meet next on noon on **Monday, July 13th**. If you'd like to join us, email Joe at jpcaruso12@gmail.com and you'll be sent the link. *We hope to see you there.*



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."*

[Click here to tune in to Part 3](#) of Emmanuel Acho's sit-down series for an interesting conversation with Chip and Joanna Gaines and family of HGTV fame.



Kindness



“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?



Happy July Birthday, Dear Rotarians!



And one June Rotarian!

June 19th: David Hamlin

*Do you have a July birthday and we've missed you? Apologies!
Please contact Joe today at JPCaruso12@gmail.com*

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!

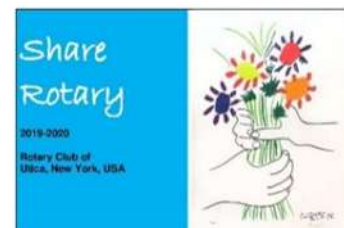
Looking for committee chairs or committee persons for the following: 1) Urban Concerns Committee; 2) Weekly Program Committee; Newsletter. Contact any committee chair, board member, or Joe at JPCaruso12@gmail.com



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 (7/02), 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!