



December 7, 2020

Not So Silent Night Gift Auction raises \$1,290 for Thea Bowman House...so far

Given the current environment, the first Not So Silent Night Gift Auction was a huge success. Approximately 30 members and guests gathered in person and via Zoom on Thursday, December 3, to bid on an assortment of gifts ranging from a “Rocky the Christmas Owl” coffee mug to a plush holiday throw to toilet paper. Yes, toilet paper! Travis Rabbers had the most creative gift, which was a wrapped box that appeared to hold a large flat-screen TV, or so everyone thought. The clue promised the gift would be highly needed and appreciated during the pandemic. It had everyone bidding, with P Israel Acosta finally winning. His prize—many rolls of toilet paper and a consolation bottle of wine.

Many thanks to the event committee—Stephen Turnbull, Travis Rabbers, Tina Pavlot, Devon Hoffman, P Israel Acosta—and to Emcee Jerry Kraus and the many members who donated gifts.

The raffle for a two-night stay at Great Pines Resort is ongoing. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and will be sold online only until December 21. Proceeds from the raffle will be added to the \$1,290 raised so far for Thea Bowman House. To purchase raffle tickets go to:

[Not So Silent Night Great Pines Raffle](#)



This Week's Program

Submitted by Travis Rabbers

Our guest speaker will be Louis D'Amore, founder and president of [International Institute for Peace through Tourism \(IIPT\)](#). Mr. D'Amore will speak about the organization's Global Peace Parks initiative.

IIPT was founded in 1986. Its mission is “dedicated to fostering travel and tourism initiatives that contribute to international understanding, cooperation among nations, an improved quality of environment, cultural enhancement and the preservation of heritage, poverty reduction, reconciliation and healing wounds of conflicts; and through these initiatives, helping to bring about a peaceful and sustainable world.”

Mr. D'Amore graduated from Proctor, attended Holy Cross College, was an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, and received an MBA from Wharton.



**FRIDAY | December 11
12 p.m. via Zoom**

**Deadline for next newsletter (12/14) is Sunday, December 13, at noon;
submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org**

December Calendar of Events

- 12/11 Weekly Meeting | 12 p.m. via Zoom
Lou D'Amore: International Institute for Peace through Tourism
- 12/18 Weekly Meeting | 12 p.m. via Zoom
Kristy Lenuzza: Speak to Sow
- 12/21 Board Meeting | 12 p.m. via Zoom
- 12/25 **NO WEEKLY MEETING**

ESRAG District Task Force invites members to special presentation

The Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group (ESRAG) of District 7150 invites interested members to join in on a special presentation by Ryan Hagan of [Crowdsourcing Sustainability](#) on the topic of Climate Conversation Challenge.

The presentation will be held on Monday, December 7, 2020, at 8 p.m. Eastern Time via Zoom. Interested members must register in advance using the link provided in the email in which this newsletter was attached.

For more information about the District 7150 ESRAG Task Force, contact [Chair Chuck Tomaselli](#). To learn more about this new Rotary Action Group, visit <https://www.esrag.org/>.

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

For the latest Rotary International news, check out its news feed on our Club website at:

[District & International News](#)

Food drive to benefit Utica Rescue Mission

Greater Utica Sunrise Rotary Club is organizing a drive-through food drive on Wednesday, December 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nonperishables food such as canned goods, pastas, and grains are welcome.

Please see the map for delivery to Seneca Street in Utica.

