



Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

April 14, 2026

Rotarians clean up highway

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Utica Rotarians at District Conference

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'EDITOR'S TRAVELOG: greeting Brother Sun

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Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach

Rotarians clean up highway

A group of Rotarians and family members turned out to clean up a section of Route 12 in downtown Utica on Saturday, April 11, as part of celebrating

Earth Day this month.

“Freezing morning but we still made it an hour!” notes PP Tina Pavlot.

Rotarians attend District Conference

Rotarians from across the state gathered at the Syracuse Downtown Marriott for CNY Rotary’s District Conference on April 10-11. The weekend was a great opportunity for both learning and fellowship.

Four Utica Rotarians (PDG Don Reese, PP Linda Iannone, Joe Abraham and Joe Johnson) were in attendance. Don, Linda and Joe A. chair district

committees, namely Foundation, Events and Public Image respectively. Don and Joe also led various breakout topics on Saturday afternoon.

Conference attendees had a choice of service projects on Sunday. Linda and Joe, *pictured below*, assisted with assembling hygiene kits for Vera House, a women’s shelter in Syracuse.



EDITOR'S TRAVELOG

Greeting Brother Sun in an Italian seacoast village

By *Bob Stronach*

At dawn's early light, Mediterranean warblers roust from their invisible perches and swarm above rooftops, frantically whistling a melody -- as if to alert everyone to the pending sunrise.

Not long after, a lone mourning dove sings a soothing repetition – ooh-who ooh, ooh-who ooh, ooh-who ooh. A second dove sings, creating a duet. Then more distant doves join the chorus, picking up the tempo. The sun begins to bathe the rooftops and glisten off the nearby sea. It's as if the doves are announcing, "He's here! He's here! Brother Sun is here!"

The morning symphony continues for awhile and then, in a surprising crescendo, the peal of church bells rings out.

Thus begins a delightful day in Scauri, my wife's hometown in Italy.

"Non vedo bene." I do not see well. But nature's music washes over me.

Located about halfway between Rome and Naples, Scauri is nestled in a bay of the Tyrrhenian Sea. A mountain range looms behind it.

We walk to that church with harmonious bells. The Parish Church of Holy Mary Immaculate is on the "Appian Way". which is a main thoroughfare through Scauri and, of course, an historic route to Rome. If you read Caesar's Gallic Wars in the original Latin, you would know that; but alas, so many high schools today are lacking classical education.

Our apartment is a few blocks away on Via del Golfo di Gaeta and is just a five-minute slow walk to the sandy beaches, which help make Scauri a summer resort. Rental units permeate the hamlet, but are shuttered in April. The business-minded, year-round residents await the hot season to profit off the vacationers.

As in many places in Italy, there are Roman ruins here, such as the hilltop Roman watch tower



overlooking the bay and the Roman Aqueduct that crosses the Appian Way just beyond the southern edge of Scauri. But the church of Holy Mary Immaculate, erected in the 1800s, is young by comparison. Even the Franciscan church in nearby Minturno is a thousand years old.

What is historic about it, however, is that this area was bombed by the Americans during World War II. In fact, my wife, Mary, would not have been born were it not for a miracle of sorts. She tells the story of how her mother and grandmother were in the church for mass when a bomb crashed through the roof and landed in a pew. It didn't explode. To say they were frightened is an understatement; but they otherwise escaped unscathed.

Rotarians help organize Culture Connection

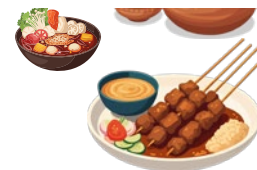
Rotarians Hanka Grabovica and Yuliya Karpov are involved in the nonprofit endeavor, United Cultural Connection, and helped to organize “a food and culture event called Utica’s Culture Connection on April 23 at the thINCubator,” Yuliya notes.

“This event will feature multiple dishes from around Utica that highlight the richness and cuisine available in our community!” There will also be other cultural activities.

She encourages club members to come enjoy the food, the cultural experiences, and engage in conversation with people from other parts of the world.

Click on this link for more info and registration:

<https://luma.com/77zg8ob3>



UTICA'S CULTURE CONNECTION

Join us for a global experience through food, culture, and community.

April 23 | **Starts at 5:00 pm** | MVCC's thINCubator
**326 Broad St,
Utica, NY 13501**

\$20 Admission

Includes global food experience & interactive cultural games!

Enjoy beautiful henna artistry for an additional cost

Scan for Tickets



MORE INFORMATION:

+315-360-6744

unitedculturalconnection@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

4/15 Board Meeting | Board of Directors
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

4/16 Social | Old School Bar & Grill
5 pm | 600 Culver Ave.

5/7 Meeting | Pam Baxter
CNY Rotary DEI chair
noon | Mid-York Library HQ

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Wear Something Cool, Promote Rotary, Too.

Check out our Utica Rotary merchandise at the online store:

https://maxsprintshopstores.com/rotary_club/shop/home

STRIKING OUT POLIO AT YANKEE STADIUM

Rotary International is bringing the fight to end polio to Yankee Stadium with a special fundraising event on Saturday, May 2 at 1:35 p.m., featuring the New York Yankees vs. the Baltimore Orioles.

The event, part of Rotary's global "End Polio Now" campaign, aims to raise funds for PolioPlus, a program dedicated to eradicating polio worldwide. For every ticket sold, \$25 will be donated directly to the cause, with 100% of those

contributions supporting eradication efforts. The Gates Foundation will also match donations at a 2-to-1 rate, significantly amplifying the impact.

Ticket options start at \$70 per person and include a limited-edition Yankees x Rotary "End Polio Now" hat. Attendees will not only enjoy a day at the ballpark but also contribute to eliminate a disease that once affected millions.

Get Tickets Now:

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Rotaryinternational8>


**Join Rotary International at
Yankee Stadium to
End Polio Now!**


New York Yankees  **Baltimore Orioles**

Saturday, May 2nd at 1:35pm

Let's Strike Out Polio!

This year, we are hosting a fundraising event at Yankee Stadium benefiting PolioPlus! For every ticket sold to this event we fundraise \$25 with 100% of those donations going to the PolioPlus. Additionally, the Gates Foundation graciously committed to match \$2 for every \$1 raised. There is a range of ticket options, starting at \$70 per person. Included in every ticket purchase is your donation and a limited-edition Yankees x Rotary/End Polio Now Hat.



Scan Here For Tickets



To purchase tickets for this game, you can either scan the QR code on the page, or use the link below to purchase.

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Rotaryinternational8>

**For any questions regarding this event:
Email: jntenor@yahoo.com**

Rotary  **END POLIO NOW**

Tickets to the Gala are \$150 and include a delicious dinner from Portofino, one-hour open bar, live music by the band, *Last Left*, and a live auction. For more info, visit <https://uticarotary.org/page/service-above-self-gala-1>

Rotary
Club of Utica

FIFTH ANNUAL
SERVICE ABOVE SELF GALA

Friday, June 5 • 6 to 10 p.m.
The Stanley Theatre

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS

PRESENTING SPONSOR: \$5,000

- Presenting Name
- 8 Tickets/Table Included
- Promotional Video Business
- Logo on Stage Outside
- Marquee at Front of Gala
- Name on All Advertising & Promotion
- Social Media Thank You

SILVER SPONSOR: \$1,000

- 2 Tickets Included
- Name on All Advertising & Promotion
- Logo & Name Recognition At Event
- Social Media Thank You

GOLD SPONSOR: \$2,500
(Only 4 Available)

- 4 Tickets Included
- Naming Sponsor *(Dinner, Cocktail, Awards or Music)*
- Name on All Advertising & Promotion
- Information Table in Lobby at Event
- Logo & Name Recognition At Event
- Social Media Thank You

BRONZE SPONSOR: \$500

- Logo & Name Recognition At Event
- Social Media Thank You

CORPORATE TABLE: \$1,200

- Seats 8

CONTACT:
Travis Rabbers, Rabbe1ta@gmail.com, or
Stephen Turnbull, stephen@t5insurance.com

Presented By:

CLIFF'S
ESTABLISHED 1981
LOCAL MARKET

Friday, June 5th 2026
Stanley Theatre
6:00-10:00PM

Gala Beneficiary:

Kelberman
The center of excellence for autism