

# Rotary This Week!

Utica, NY, USA

April 17, 2023

## Lean about the VA Medical Foster Home program



Michelle Smith

Our regular program meeting this week features Michelle Smith, program coordinator for the VA Medical Foster Home program through the Syracuse VAMC.

The meeting starts at noon Thursday, April 20, at Mid-York Library System headquarters, 1600 Lincoln Ave., Utica.

Medical Foster Home is a new program the VA wants to bring to all fourteen counties covered by the Syracuse VA. The program provides veterans with an alternative to facility placement by matching them with caregivers in the community to provide needed

supervision and hands-on care. The program is currently seeking caregivers who wish to participate as a Medical Foster Home.

Michelle was previously a social worker at the VA Community Living Center skilled nursing facility as well as in primary care before taking on this new role. Michelle also has several years' experience working in Hospice care and Dementia care.

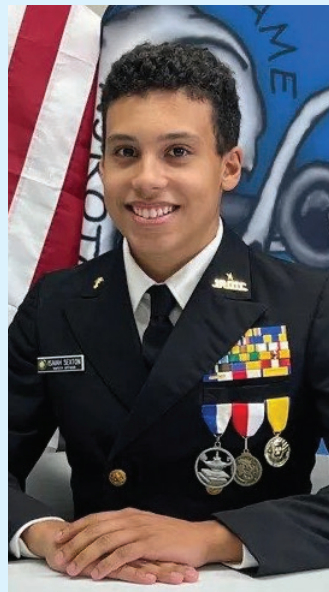
She has a masters degree in Social Work from Syracuse University, and a bachelor of arts in Human Development with a minor in Public Justice from SUNY Oswego.

### Parking alert

Beginning this week, the old Tri-State Laundry building located on the south side of Mid York Library System headquarters will be demolished, Library Executive Director Wanda Bruchis reports. "Please advise the Rotarians to park in the north side (where the meeting is held) or rear parking lot."

### THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Thursday | April 20 | Noon  
Mid York Library System  
1600 Lincoln Ave. | Utica, NY 13502  
Virtually via Zoom



NOTRE DAME STUDENTS VISIT THIS WEEK PAGE 2

Deadline for next newsletter (4/24) is Sunday, April 23 at noon; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

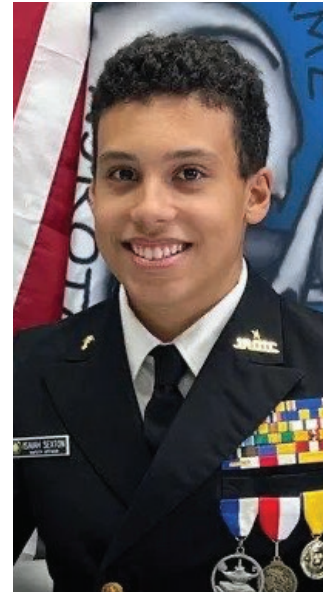
Editor Robert Stronach

## Notre Dame students join Rotarians this week

Two students from Notre Dame Jr.-Sr. High School will join Rotarians at this week's program meeting on Thursday, April 20, as part of the Outstanding Educators Program. And they have a lot in common. Both **Isiah Sexton** and **Maggie Trinkaus** have immense involvement in school and community. Both are heavily involved in Naval Junior ROTC, have each racked up over 300 community service hours, and compete in varsity sports.

Isiah credits NJROTC for his leadership development, and in fact has received awards for Outstanding Cadet, Military Aptitude, Exemplary Conduct, and Outstanding Performance of Duty. He also is vice president of the Student Council. Isiah has played football, basketball, soccer and, currently, baseball, and earned the NYS High School Athletic Association's Scholar Athlete Award. With eyes set on becoming a naval officer, he plans to apply to the U.S. Naval Academy as well as other U.S. military academies and colleges with ROTC programs.

Maggie says that through NJROTC she was honored to be chosen to attend Leadership Academy and Sail Training in Newport, Rhode Island in the sum-



mer between her sophomore and junior years. She is captain of her varsity soccer, basketball, and softball teams, and also has been recognized as a Scholar Athlete.

She plans to study nursing in college and go on to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

### Calendar of Events

- 4/19** Board Meeting | Noon | Greater Utica Chamber
- 4/20** Program | VA Foster Home Program Noon | Mid-York Library
- 4/27** Social | Nail Creek Pub & Brewery 5 pm | Varick Street, Utica
- 4/29** Service | 2nd Earth Day Cleanup 10 am | Sauquoit Creek Washington Mills Park
- 5/4** Program | Rev. Carol Jubenville Noon | Mid-York Library

### 2nd Earth Day Cleanup

A joint Earth Day Cleanup involving members and friends of New Hartford, Sauquoit and Utica Rotary clubs is set for Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dave Jones reports.

The cleanup will be along the Sauquoit Creek at the Washington Mills Athletic Park (3695 Oneida St, Washington Mills).

To volunteer, contact Dave at [davidjones0422@gmail.com](mailto:davidjones0422@gmail.com).



## Saturday service project: Earth Day Cleanup



***Utica Rotarians and friends helped clean up Sauquoit Creed near Washington Mills Athletic Park on April 15. It was in collaboration with Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful, where everyone is encouraged to clean up their community and log their efforts at <https://mvedd.org/kmuvb>***

## New Member Proposal: Kathy Migliaccio-Johnson

*The board proposes Kathy Migliaccio-Johnson for membership to the Rotary Club of Utica. Per bylaws, club members have five days to submit a written objection to Treasurer Jill Koch.*

Kathy Migliaccio-Johnson is retired from Utica City Schools and finds that educating and enriching the lives of children, teenagers and young adults continues to be her passion and motivation.

After a 32-year career in Special Education, she now teaches English classes to the refugee population at St. John's Outreach Center in Utica. She notes: "I enjoy volunteering at my church and community. Some of my activities include mentoring teenage girls, being a reading tutor, volunteering at Hope House and being an active member of the NAACP."

She says she is avid reader who loves traveling and exploring new places. "I also enjoy adventurous hiking trips, biking, kayaking, writing and cooking."



***Kathy joined Rotarians at Thea Bowman House to help distribute Easter bags.***

# Seeking nominations for ‘Service Above Self’ Award

The Rotary Club of Utica, in celebration of its 107th year of service to the community, is presenting its Second Annual “Service Above Self” Gala, to be held on Friday, June 9, at the Stanley Theatre.

The highlight of this event will be the presentation of Utica Rotary’s third annual **Service Above Self Award**, established to honor a deserving individual or individuals for going “above and beyond” in community service.

Anyone in our community is welcome to nominate someone for this prestigious award. The Rotary “Service Above Self Award” committee will review the nominations and select this year’s winner, who will be an honored guest at the Gala.

“Many people go out of their way to help others, but few are recognized for the basic virtues of the kindness and caring that motivates them,” says Gala Committee Rotarian **Joe Caruso**. “Here’s an award that does that. Our goal is to celebrate those who inspire the rest of us to

be better versions of ourselves.”

Criteria for the nominees are as follows. The individual(s):

- 1) Is not a current member of a Rotary Club
- 2) Can be any age, from youth to senior citizen
- 3) Serves the community in any one of a variety of areas, including youth or senior services, environmental services, civic-services, the arts, sports, etc.
- 4) Cannot have received monetary or other compensation for the above service.

Past winners of this award are the late **Patrick Johnson**, Community Advocate (2021), and **Sister Elizabeth Greim**, DC (2022) for her work with Utica’s refugee community.

Nominations are due to the Rotary Club of Utica by Monday, May 8th by email or mail.

See nomination form at [UticaRotary.org](http://UticaRotary.org).





2nd  
Annual!

# SERVICE ABOVE SELF *Gala*



- Red carpet
- LIVE music by Soul Injection
- Seated dinner on Stanley stage
- 1 hour of cocktail open bar



**When:**

Friday June 9th 6-10pm

**Where:**

The Stanley Theatre  
259 Genesee Street  
Utica, NY 13502



**Proceeds to benefit:**



Red Panda  
Exhibit Project



**Hosted By:**



2nd Annual!

# SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Gala



## Sponsorships!

### Presenting Sponsor: \$4,000

- Presenting Name
- 8 Tickets (table included)
- Promotional video at page headlines
- Logo on Social Media marquee night of event
- Name on all advertising and promotion including featured sponsor on TV commercial
- Social media thank you



### Gold Sponsor - \$2,000

- 4 tickets included
- Name on all advertising and promotion, including TV commercial
- Special thank you week of event on Zoo parkway board
- Logo & name recognition at event
- Social media thank you

### Silver Sponsor - \$1,000

- 2 Tickets included
- Name on all advertising and promotion
- Special thank you week of event on Zoo parkway board
- 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

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Proceeds to benefit:



Red Panda Exhibit Project