

# Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

April 22, 2024

## Utica Royalties had Rotarians dancing



Hawa Peters, founder and president of Utica Royalties, was the featured speaker at last Thursday's meeting. Some of the youth involved in the organization did a dance demonstration, and Utica Rotarians couldn't help but join them. *SEE PAGE 2.*



*Rotarians join in dancing with Utica Royalties. Photos by Linda Ianonne and Tina Pavlot.*

## Utica Rotary seeks nominations for 'Service Above Self' Award

The Rotary Club of Utica is seeking nominations for its "Service Above Self" Award, which will be presented at its annual "Service Above Self" Gala on June 7 at the Stanley Theatre. Deadline to nominate a deserving individual is May 8.

"We are fortunate that many in the Utica area community go out of their way to help others," notes award committee member PP Joe Caruso. "Our goal is

to celebrate those who inspire the rest of us to be better versions of ourselves."

Anyone in the community is welcome to nominate someone for this award, and the Rotary award committee will review the nominations and select the winner, who will be an honored guest at the Gala.

For criteria and how to submit a nomination, see the form on Page 6.

Deadline for next newsletter (4/27) is Saturday, April 25 at 3 p.m.; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

Editor Robert Stronach

## MEETING RECAP

# Rotarians learn about how Utica Royalties is helping local youth

By Joe Abraham

Utica Rotarians were joined by a number of special guests at last Thursday's meeting, including Hawa Peters, founder and president of Utica Royalties.

Peters was introduced by Rotarian Kevin Marken, who serves as the Utica Director of On Point For College, and is the husband of Utica Rotary Treasurer Darby O'Brien.

Peters, a 34-year-old mother of four and dedicated LPN nurse, was born in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Her early years were deeply impacted by the challenges of a civil war. Faced with adversity, her family sought refuge in the Gambia, where they spent two years in a camp—a testament to the strength of community and the human spirit during challenging times.

In 2001, Peters and her family emigrated to Utica, which she calls a “significant chapter” in their lives.

Peters, a proud graduate of Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC), has earned many accolades, including an On Point for the College Graduate Star Award in 2023, and winning an NAACP award in 2022 for promoting equality and empowering youth.

“These achievements stand as a testament to my unwavering pursuit of knowledge and academic excellence,” she says.

In addition to her academic success, Peters has also received the Charles A. Burns Outstanding Adult Continuing Education Student Award in New York.

In October 2021, fueled by a passion for youth development and community empowerment, she founded Utica Royalties. According to its website, Utica Royalties “stands as a beacon of empowerment for the youth in the greater Utica area.”

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**Kevin Marken, center, introduced Hawa Peters, left, and the Utica Royalties to the club.**

# MEETING RECAP

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With a passionate commitment to nurturing their growth, the organization offers a comprehensive array of services tailored to their diverse needs and aspirations. The website notes that every child is a “repository of immense potential, and our role is to provide the guidance, resources, and opportunities that can help them realize this potential.”

One of their standout offerings is Educational Workshops that offer a unique platform for local youth to interact, collaborate, and learn from individuals from various backgrounds and professions, enriching their perspectives and horizons. Some of the activities used to offer these experiences include dancing, painting, the performing arts, health and wellness, creative writing and foundations in computer skills/coding.

When speaking to the club, Peters brought several of the local youth that are involved with Utica Royalties, who performed a dance routine. Their energy was contagious, as several Utica Rotarians joined in on the fun!

To learn more about how to get involved with Utica Royalties and/or make a donation to support their mission, visit [uticaroyalties.org](http://uticaroyalties.org).

## Notre Dame student eyes academ

Outstanding Educators Program Chair Bart Gorman coordinated another visit from amazing local



**Bart Gorman introduced ND student Paul Kearney.**

students, this time from Notre Dame High School. Paul Kearney spoke about his experiences at Thursday’s meeting, sharing plans for the future, which includes attending the U.S. Naval Academy and serving our country in the Navy post-college graduation.

We wish Paul much luck and future success, and thank him for spending some time with our club!

Notre Dame students will once again join our club at our May 2 meeting.

## Nurturing our youth

President Linda Iannone reminded the club that by nurturing our youth, Rotarians can provide the skills young people need to succeed as future community leaders. Many of the programs of Rotary International focus on youth and developing future leaders and Rotarians. This includes programs like Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Rotary Youth Exchange, New Generations Service Exchange, and Rotary Scholarships.

Also, Rotary focuses on Maternal and Child Health in April. Rotary works towards reducing preventable deaths and improving access to essential medical services for mothers and children worldwide.

## Upcoming events

**CLEANUP & BEER HUB:** PP Tina Pavlot is organizing a road cleanup slated for this Saturday. But before that, join fellow Utica Rotarians at this month’s social at the Beer Hub on Genesee Street at 5 p.m. on Thursday.

**THE GALA:** The ‘Service Above Self’ Gala is shaping up nicely, which is wonderful as June is right around the corner. Make sure to purchase your tickets, invite friends and have any businesses interested in sponsoring this amazing event in contact with PP and Gala Chairperson Stephen Turnbull.

**WATER STATION:** And finally, Utica Rotarian Clyde Vanderpool is heading up this year’s Boilermaker Water Station effort. Volunteers must sign up through the Boilermaker, and Clyde is happy to assist you if needed!

## New Member Proposed: Yuliya Karpov

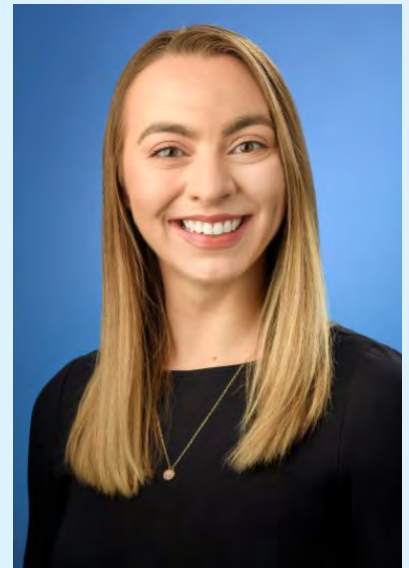
*The board proposes Yuliya Karpov for membership to the Rotary Club of Utica. Per by-laws, club members have five days to submit a written objection to Treasurer Jill Koch.*

Yuliya Karpov, a native of the Ukraine, has been living in the Utica area since 2022 and currently own a home in New York Mills. She is a graduate of Whitesboro Central Schools and Colgate University.

“I am an insurance agent specializing in commercial property & casualty products and risk management services,” she notes. Previously she worked at Utica National and The Hartford as an underwriter.

Among her other engagements, she is a member of United Way MV Community Engagement Committee and Big I CNY’s “NextGen” Committee for young insurance professionals.

“In my free time, I enjoy running and being outdoors.” She is interested in the Rotary Club of Utica “because of the opportunity to connect with other like-minded professionals, learn new things, and give back to my community.”



## VOLUNTEER FOR MOTHER EARTH

Join us for our biannual highway clean up, in honor of Earth Day! We'll meet Saturday, April 27 at 9 a.m. in the McQuade & Bannigan parking lot at 1300 Stark St., Utica.

To sign up, contact Tina Pavlot at [cpavlot@mtb.com](mailto:cpavlot@mtb.com) or 315-731-5204.



## Calendar of Events




4/25	Social   Beer Hub 5:30 pm	5/15	Board   Greater Utica Chamber Noon
4/27	Service   Highway Cleanup 9 am	5/23	Club Social   TBD 5:30 pm
5/2	Meeting   NY Mills students noon   Mid-York Library	6/7	Service Above Self Gala 6:00 – 11:00 pm   The Stanley

## 2024 'Service Above Self' Award Nomination Form

At its June 7<sup>th</sup> **Service Above Self Gala** celebration on the stage of the majestic Stanley Theatre in Downtown Utica, the Rotary Club of Utica will honor a deserving individual for selfless community service. Anyone in our community is welcome to nominate someone for this award, and anyone (*not a current Rotary member*) can be considered for the award.

Rotary's goal is to celebrate those kind and caring individuals who inspire the rest of us to be better versions of ourselves.

Criteria for consideration: the nominee:

-  Is not a current member of a Rotary Club
-  Can be any age, from youth to senior citizen
-  Serves the community in any one of a variety of areas, including youth or senior services, environmental services, civic-services, the arts, sports, etc.

Nominations are due to the Rotary Club of Utica by Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, by email ([jpcaruso12@gmail.com](mailto:jpcaruso12@gmail.com)) or mail. A committee of Rotary Club of Utica members will review the nominations and select the winner, who will be our honored guest at the June 7<sup>th</sup> Rotary Service Above Self Gala and receive the award.

### Rotary Club of Utica's "Service Above Self" Award Nomination Form

**THANK YOU** for taking the time to submit your nomination for the Rotary Club of Utica's Service Above Self Award. Nominations must be received by **WEDNESDAY, May 8<sup>th</sup>**. They may be emailed ([jpcaruso12@gmail.com](mailto:jpcaruso12@gmail.com)), or mailed to Rotary Club of Utica, PO Box 8586, Utica, NY 13505.

Name of person making the nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the nominee (person being nominated): \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town/Village: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity or activities for which the person is being nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

**Essay describing the nominee:** Please describe in 500 words or less how this person demonstrates kindness and caring in their service to members of our community. You can continue writing on the back of this form or add another sheet.