

# Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

April 27, 2026



## CNY Rotary DEIB Chair to Visit on May 7

by JOE ABRAHAM

Utica Rotary will welcome the CNY Rotary DEIB Chair Pam Baxter as guest speaker on May 7 at noon at the Mid-York Library.

A Rotarian for more than 20 years, Pam has served in a variety of club, district, and zone roles and is passionate about fostering belonging within Rotary. Inspired by early experiences with Rotary Youth Exchange, she remains committed to the organization's global impact and ability to connect people across cultures.

In 2025, she co-founded the Albany MOSA-IC Rotary Club, the first companion club in our District. She also serves on the Zone 28–32 DEI Committee, as an RLI Facilitator, and a Positive Peace Facilitator.



### Save date for golf outing

The Annual Utica Rotary Golf Outing to benefit a charitable cause takes place Sunday, Aug 23 at Idden Valley in Whitesboro, Golf Chair Jerry Kraus announced. The event starts at noon.

The beneficiary is to be determined. More details to follow.

### Volunteer for Autism

The Kelberman Center will hold its *Walk for Autism* on Saturday, May 16, from 9 to noon at SUNY Poly, PP Travis Rabbers reports, noting: "They're asking for volunteers to help with some of the games outside." Contact Selma Lupardo at [Selma.Lupardo@Kelbermancenter.org](mailto:Selma.Lupardo@Kelbermancenter.org).

## 'EDITOR'S TRAVELOG: tourists and migrants

see page 3

Submit news and photos to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org)

Editor Robert Stronach

# Earth Day cleanup report

Our annual Earth Day Highway Cleanup involved “a section of the arterial we adopted some years ago,” reports PP Tina Pavlot.

Rotarians picked up three large bags of trash. The crew included “Ryan, Travis, Andy, Dave, Terry, Maggie, me, Tom.”

## Get your tickets to ‘Service Above Self’ Gala

by JOE ABRAHAM

Our Fifth Annual Service Above Self Gala, presented by Cliff’s Local Markets, is taking place on Friday, June 5 from 6 to 10 p.m. on the Stanley Theatre Stage.

This year’s beneficiary is Kelberman Kamp Connections. We are also honoring two exceptional

individuals, Lucretia Hunt and Mary Zimbler, with our Service Above Self Awards.

We will sell out, so get your tickets ASAP!

To purchase tickets and/or learn about this year’s sponsorship opportunities, please visit <https://uticarotary.org/page/service-above-self-gala-1>.



MOHAWK VALLEY BUSINESS  
WOMEN'S NETWORK  
PRESENTS  
*Rhythm & Connections*

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and registration



**SALSA**  
Class

FRIDAY  
MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>  
5:30-7PM

TICKETS  
\$15

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*Buchifitness*

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## EDITOR'S TRAVELOG

# Tourists and migrants: a Vatican tale

By **BOB STRONACH**

After nearly a week in Scauri, my wife's hometown between Rome and Naples, we decided to spend a few days in Rome before we had to attend a meeting there.

We took in some sights with our son and teenage granddaughters. On one day we visited the Vatican. While driving there, we spotted a message on a building. It was painted in big, bold red letters, in English, no less – which may not be as surprising as it sounds because half of the advertising signs in Italy are in English.

Anyway, the message was the sort that would have the supposedly emotionless Mr. Spock from Star Trek raise an eyebrow to the top of his forehead.

*"F..k Tourists, Welcome Migrants."*

I'm sure the Italian ministry of tourism as well as the Vatican would raise eyebrows at that sentiment because tourists feed a lot of euros into Rome's economy.

I personally prefer the word refugee to migrant because our Utica area has long been welcoming to refugees and immigrants. Those who enter illegally, and how to handle the situation... well, that's a huge political divide.

Nevertheless, both Popes Francis and Leo have encouraged a more welcoming approach to refugees and migrants.

After arriving at the Vatican, we wandered around St. Peter's Square, gazing at the throngs of people, photographing sun-sparkling fountains, and even enjoying a guitarist's impromptu concert. With that painted message in mind, I led my granddaughters to a sculpture off to the side of St. Peter's Square. I've written about this before but it's worth sharing again.

***Continued on next page.***



***Sun-lit fountain near St. Peter's Basilica.***



***An impromptu concert in St. Peter's Square***

## EDITOR'S TRAVELOG

*continued from previous page*

We spent a fair amount of time studying the stunning 20-foot, 3.5-ton bronze artwork of a boat crammed with culturally and historically diverse refugees. Installed in 2019 for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis said he wanted the sculpture “to remind everyone of the evangelical challenge of hospitality.”

Titled *Angels Unawares*, it is the work of Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz. The artist’s inspiration was Letter to the Hebrews (13:2) in the New Testament: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”.



*A 20-foot bronze sculpture in St. Peter's Square depicts refugees crammed into a boat.*

## Calendar of Events

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

5/16 Service | Volunteer for Autism Walk  
9 am | at SUNY Poly  
Contact: [Selma.Lupardo@Kelbermancenter.org](mailto:Selma.Lupardo@Kelbermancenter.org)

5/20 Board Meeting | Board of Directors  
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

8/23 Service | Annual Charity Golf Outing  
noon | Hidden Valley in Whitesboro

### 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](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.

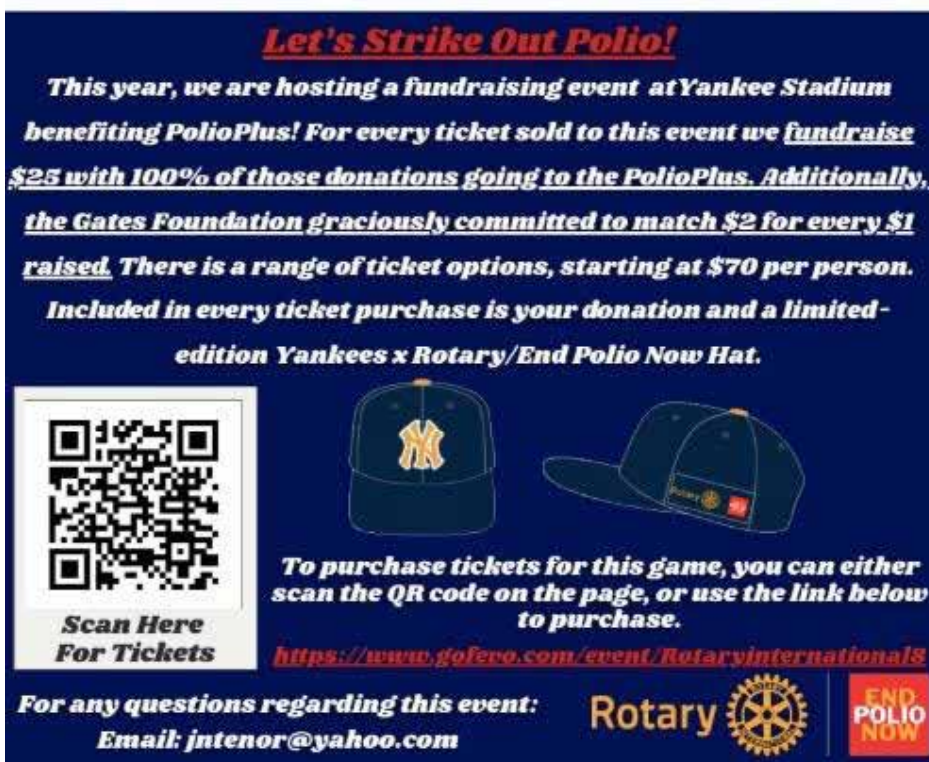
The event, part of Rotary’s global “End Polio Now” campaign, aims to raise funds for PolioPlus, a program dedicated to eradicating polio worldwide. For every ticket sold, \$25 will be donated directly to the cause, with 100% of those

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>



**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](mailto:jntenor@yahoo.com)

Rotary  

**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

**CORPORATE TABLE: \$1,200**

- Seats 8

**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

**CONTACT:**  
Travis Rabbers, [Rabbe1ta@gmail.com](mailto:Rabbe1ta@gmail.com), or  
Stephen Turnbull, [stephen@t5insurance.com](mailto:stephen@t5insurance.com)

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Presented By:



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

Gala Beneficiary:



Kelberman  
The center of excellence for autism