

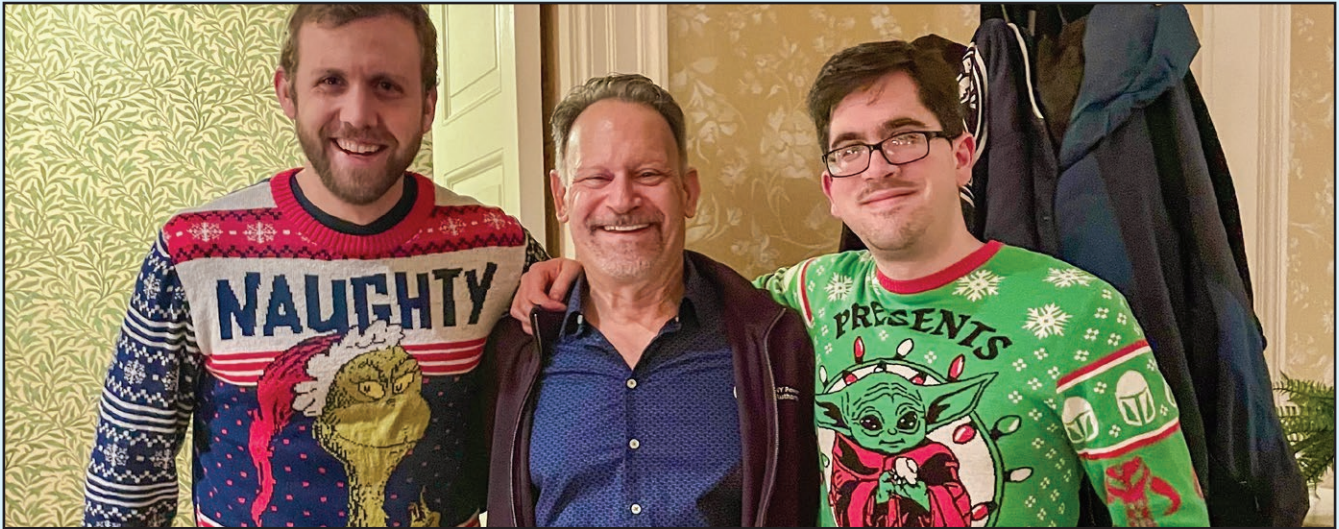
# Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Dec. 16 2024

## Even the sweaters were ‘Not So Silent’



*The “Not So Silent Night” Gift Auction was packed with Rotarians, raising over \$5,000 for Catholic Charities’ Christmas Assistance Program. PHOTOS / Pages 4-6.*

## Expect a jolly meeting this Thursday

It bodes well for a jolly Rotary meeting this Thursday. Not only will we hear from Jennifer Hagen of Catholic Charities – the beneficiary of our “Not So Silent

Night” Auction – but also President Travis Rabbers encourages members to bring a holiday treat or dessert to share. And then we’ll show our holiday spirit by

signing Christmas cards for the people at Hospice and Palliative Care. So bring your jolly selves to Mid-York Library at noon Dec. 19. See PAGE 2.

## There’s no such thing as a grumpy Rotary bellringer / PAGES 2-3



Deadline for next newsletter (12/23) is Saturday, Dec. 21 at 3 p.m.; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

Editor Robert Stronach

# Rotarians help ring in the Red Kettle season

The hustle and bustle of Saturday shoppers at Chanatry's Market was louder than the "bell ringing" as Utica Rotarians and friends stood by the Salvation Army Red Kettle waving bell-shaped signs sporting the words, "Ding", "A-Ling" and "Dong".

But the holiday cheer was anything but quiet as the "bell ringers" wished shoppers "happy holidays" and "Merry Christmas." And store patrons responded, stuffing coins and multiple denomination bills into the Red Kettle, often thanking Rotarians for volunteering to help the Salvation Army help others this holiday season.

As an added treat, Tina Pavlot and crew brought candy canes for Rotarians to share with young-at-heart donors.

At one point a Santa-look-alike came dashing into the store. He was a big guy sporting a big white beard. One Rotarian said, "Merry Christmas, Santa." He mumbled



something and walked right by. "Maybe Santa spent too much time looking over the naughty list," quipped another.

The Red Kettle teams were:

- 10:00-11:00 Tina Pavlot with Lynn and Shelby
- 11:00-12:00 Robert Stronach and Jennifer DePasquale
- 12:00-1:00 Elizabeth Nassar

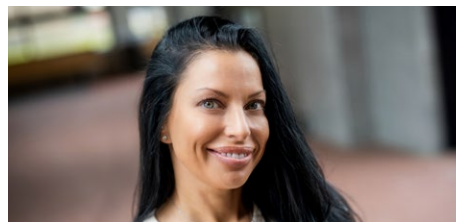
with Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatko and her husband

- 1:00-2:00 Joseph Abraham and Darby O'Brien
- 2:00-3:00 Yuliya Karpov and Hanka Grabovica
- 3:00-4:00 Jennifer Springer and Ed Gibson (Passalacqua & Associates)

## This week's guest speaker is from Catholic Charities

Our program speaker this Thursday is Jennifer Hagen, director of development for Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County. She says she is deeply committed to giving back and looks forward to expanding her network to collaborate with others who share her dedication to making our community stronger.

The Utica native is a graduate of Mohawk Valley Community College. Her professional journey in the non-profit sector began



*Jennifer Hagen*

in 2018 with the Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, followed by United Way of the Mohawk Valley, before joining Catholic Charities in 2022. Prior to that, she spent 15 years in the finance industry, gaining experience in

branch management and commercial lending.

As a 2014 graduate of Leadership Mohawk Valley, Jennifer says she has gained a deeper understanding of the needs within our community. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Center for Leadership Excellence and the YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley, and is a former committee member of Emerging Leaders United, and the Greater Utica Chamber's Catalyst Group.







# Utica Rotarians bring out the holiday spirit ‘Not So Silent Night’ Auction raises \$5,250



It was a packed house at the Rotary Club of Utica’s “Not So Silent Night” Gift Auction.

In true Rotary fashion, the holiday spirit was anything but silent – not to mention the Rotarians sporting themed-Christmas sweaters that were almost as loud as the auctioneers.

“We raised \$5,250,” noted President Travis Rabbers, who presided over the fun event as Santa Travis.

The funds will go to Catholic Charities of Oneida and Madison Counties for its Christmas Assistance Program, which helps families and children in need during the holiday season.

Utica Rotary’s own Jerry Kraus dug into his medicine bag with some assistance from PP Stephen Turnbull, as both men served as auctioneers encouraging (nay, joyfully compelling) attendees to pull out their wallets for this tremendous cause.

“A special thankyou to presenting sponsor Mohawk Valley Wellness and to everyone who donated items for the auction,” Travis said.

He also thanked Shawn “Big Sexy” Smith, AKaydia and Blueberry Brook Farm for donations, and offered “a big thankyou to Fort Schuyler Club for the wonderful hospitality!”

## Calendar of Events

**12/18** Board | Greater Utica Chamber  
noon

**12/19** Meeting | Jennifer Hagen  
Catholic Charities  
noon | Mid-York Library

**1/9** Meeting | Erica Spado, Indium Corp.  
noon | Mid-York Library

**1/18** Board | Greater Utica Chamber  
noon

**1/23** Social | Rotary Ski Trip

**1/30** Meeting | Lyndsay Labarge, Griffiss  
on AI & ChatGPT  
noon | Mid-York Library



# 'Not So Silent Night' Auction





# 'Not So Silent Night' Auction

