



February 20, 2023

'Love deeply and never grow old'



President
Tina



Lily Comenale

"Those who love deeply never grow old," President **Tina Pavlot** quoted Arthur W. Piner. "They may die of old age, but they die young."

That "inspiring message" in honor of St. Valentine's Day helped to open the 16th meeting of the 107th year of the Rotary Club of Utica on Feb. 16.

President Tina recognized two new members who were present, **Drew DeBlasiis** and **Christy Harlander**, and noted that the previous week's volunteer project saw four members "prepare tables, cook, serve and work the donation room" at the Morrow Warming Center at Cornerstone Church. **She announced that next month's opportunity to help out at Cornerstone would be on March 9.** "Please contact Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka to participate."

The next regular meeting program is Thursday, March 2, she noted. "We'll hear from member **Holly Saupp** on *RCIL's Ombudsman Volunteer Program*."

After Dr. **Roger Breslow** reported on "Rotarians in the News," Tina turned the podium over to **Bart Gorman**, chair of the Outstanding Educators Program. He praised two students from New York Mills High School, **Lily Comenale** and **Hailey Cornis**, who are both interested in legal professions. Lily wants to study law and Hailey, criminal justice. He asked Lily to come up to the podium, noting that Hailey would address the club at a later date.

In addition to playing multiple varsity sports, Lily wears multiple leadership hats – senior class president, executive student council president and National Honor Society president.

Asked how she has time for everything, she quipped: "Time management is a big thing."

Another Rotarian, pointing to her triple presidential titles, wondered whether she should wear a crown. She laughed and said: "Well, the prom is coming up."

After hearing from Lily, Tina asked Rotarian **Kevin Marken** to introduce the program speaker, **Judge Rawwaad Rashweed**. (See Page 3.)

Following the presentation, Tina brought the meeting to a close by reciting "our vision statement."

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. In other words, Together People Create Change.

Deadline for next newsletter (2/27 is Sunday, February 26, at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org).

Feb. 16th meeting



It was nearly standing-room only at the Rotarian "roundtable."

Calendar of Events

2/26 Social | Biergarten for UCFC Game at Adirondack Bank Center.

Buy tickets at:

www.empirestatetix.com

3/2 Program | RCIL Ombudsman Program
Noon | Mid-York Library

3/9 Service | Feed Utica's hungry
Evening | Cornerstone Church

3/15 Board Meeting|
Noon | Greater Utica Chamber

3/16 Social | TBD

3/23 Program | Munson-Williams rebrand
Noon | Mid-York Library



A passion for helping young people to succeed

'DON'T CONFUSE LACK OF OPPORTUNITY WITH LACK OF ABILITY'

by Robert Stronach

One might say that Judge Jawwaad Rasheed has a passion to help young people succeed, especially the marginalized and economically disadvantaged. He has spent the last 29 years in Utica doing just that through Junior Frontiers and other programs (such as OnPoint for College).

Don't confuse lack of opportunity with lack of ability, he told Rotarians on Feb. 16. That's why he focuses on opening the doors of opportunity.

"'Exposure and opportunity' is what changes our world," he said. "People talking to people."

Perhaps that's why he likes to travel, including to Africa where he has helped set up sister programs, and why he wants to expose young people to the world outside of their own communities.

He pointed to the Junior Frontiers, with some 300 students involved in Central New York. The program helps prepare them for academic success and to be civic-minded, to give back to their communities.

Addressing two students from New York Mills High School, there as guests of the Outstanding Educators Program, the judge said: "Your world can truly be your oyster... Don't let anybody steal your dreams."

To Rotarians, he added: It's "really important to encourage young people to be the best persons they can be... Stay true to your vision and your passion."

Rotarian Kevin Marken, Utica director of OnPoint for College, took the opportunity to present the judge with the *OnPoint for College Dream Maker Award*.

"You made the dreams of hundreds of students come true."



6 months lasted 28 years

Jawwaad Rasheed grew up in Buffalo, graduated magna cum laude from Amherst College in Massachusetts and obtained two law degrees at Georgetown Law Center in Washington, D.C., a JD and an advanced LLM.

Over his diverse legal career, he worked for the U.S. State Department and Fortune 500 corporations. He also experienced community-based legal work in Buffalo and Rochester (as an assistant

district attorney and defense attorney) before receiving what he thought was a six-month appointment to the bench in Oneida County Family Court. That appointment ended up lasting 28 years.

Jawwaad is entrenched in civic service locally and across the globe. He is a co-director of a youth organization (Junior Frontiers of Mohawk Valley) and he works with several coalitions of community organizations for people of color around the world.

Help score for Rotary Foundation too



Superbowl fun challenge: \$1 for every point they scored

Dear District 7150 Members,

In celebration of this year's big football game results, we're issuing a fun challenge to all members to consider donating \$1 for every point scored to our Rotary International Foundation.

With a final score of Kansas City 38 and Philly 35, that's a \$73 donation with all contributions going to the World Fund, our most flexible fund for responding to needs and projects of all kinds.

The Rotary International Foundation has a perfect rating on Charity Navigator that it has maintained for 14 YEARS in a row. It is a trustworthy, transparent and impactful charity recognized the world 'round!

Are you up for the challenge? To make your donation, go to:

<https://raise.rotary.org/rotarylizzy/fundraiser>

Members should be sure to complete the donation form with the same email address that Rotary has on file for you in order to receive credit for this donation.

If you have questions about giving to the RI Foundation, speak to your club's foundation chair or reach out to D7150 Foundation Chair Don Reese at dgreese7150@gmail.com.

*Rotarily Yours,
Lizzy Martin
D7150 Public Image Chair*

