

Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Feb. 24, 2025

Rotarians have a ball at Utica City FC game

By Joe Abraham

While it was a tough night on the pitch for Utica City FC, who lost 19-6, our club had an awesome time spectating in the Biergarten on Saturday evening.

In addition to provid-

ing a fun opportunity for fellowship and watching some of the best indoor soccer players around, it was also Bosnian Heritage Night, with some cultural activities scheduled

throughout the contest. Utica Rotarian and BACA President Hanka Grabovica held the Bosnian flag during the playing of the country's anthem, prior to the start of the game.



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Deadline for next newsletter (3/3) is Saturday, March 1 at 3 p.m.; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach

Join the Easter Bag Brigade

By Norma Montagnino-Gemza

Save the date, Friday, April 11, 2025!

For the 3rd year, Utica Rotary will participate in the Easter Bag Brigade at Thea Bowman House, 309 Genesee St., Utica. More than 150 children will receive Easter Bags donated by community members. This event, run by Rosemary Bonacci, is in its 8th successful year.

Our club will be donating two types of snacks. Rotarians will place the snacks in bags at the event and help pass them out to children. Volunteers should be at Thea Bowman at 9:30 a.m.

Please email normamg@yahoo.com by March 11 if you are available to serve. In the past we have had at least 6-8 volunteers for this fun event.

Feel The Beat at Many Hearts

A free drum circle aimed at fostering connections among seniors, their caregivers, and the wider community. Starting February 20, 2025, this event will be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 5:15 to 6:30 PM at 1607 Genesee St., Utica, with the generous support of the Rotary Club of Utica. Open to all skill levels, participants are invited to bring their own drums or use instruments provided at the event. No musical experience is required. This inclusive and fun activity offers an opportunity for stress relief, creativity, and new friendships.

EVENT DETAILS

What: Free Drum Circle for seniors, caregivers, and community members

When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 5:15 – 6:30 PM, beginning February 20, 2025

Where: 1607 Genesee St., Utica (Parking and entrance at the rear off Scott St.)

Contact: Mary at (315) 272-2976 or mbrognano@rcil.com

Calendar of Events

3/6	Meeting Carl Reistrom president of Human Technologies noon Mid-York Library	3/22	Service Sleep in Heavenly Peace 9-11 am bed delivery
3/18	Service Sleep in Heavenly Peace 5-7 pm bed build	3/27	Social Killabrew Saloon 5 pm
3/19	Meeting Rotary Board noon Greater Utica Chamber	4/3	Meeting Leslie Raney on bicentennial of Lafayette's farewell noon Mid-York Library
3/20	Meeting Kelsey Meredith, director noon North Utica Community Ctr		

Utica City FC game outing



Utica Rotarian and BACA President Hanka Grabovica holds the Bosnian flag during the playing of the country's anthem, prior to the start of the game.

BELOW:

THE COUNCIL OF JOES -
From left, Utica Rotarians Joe Caruso, Joe Johnson, Joe Abraham, and Joe Fanelli (spouse of Utica Rotarian Maggie Reed).



MEETING RECAP: Boosting first-generation leaders

By Travis Rabbers

Last week's presenter, Hilda Jordan, is a first-generation leader in many ways. She discussed certain external barriers, such as being underestimated and undervalued, as well as internal barriers, including unrealistic expectations and fear of failure, which can prevent first-generation leaders from reaching their full potential.

Hilda is the founder and owner

of HMJ Consulting, where their mission is to empower individuals with access and tools to sustainably succeed.

They achieve this through empowering events, training, workshops, strategic planning and consulting. Their philosophy is to provide not only access and representation but also experience and belonging. Some of their goals are to increase the number

of first-generation college graduates and professionals, as well as connect with more than 500 students through online connection platforms.

On top of her business, Hilda is involved with the Mid-Utica Neighborhood Preservation Corp (MUNPC), and she is the NAACP Utica-Oneida Economic & Housing chair.



Celebrating Rotary's 120th birthday

By Joe Abraham

CNY Rotarians from across the state attended one of several Rotary 120th birthday celebrations.

Those in our area gathered at Gerber's Tavern on Sunday afternoon, raising a glass in toast to Rotary.

Attendees also enjoyed cupcakes and fellowship!



