

# Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Jan. 8, 2024

## HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST WEEK'S MEETING

# Rotary's light of hope for a happier year



**Gordon McNally**  
RI president

President Linda Iannone began the Jan. 4th meeting with a heartfelt message from Rotary International President Gordon McNally as well as a complementary inspirational thought from poet Alfred Lord Tennyson.

In the January issue of the *Rotary* magazine, she noted, McNally noted:

*"In difficult times like these, it's impossible to avoid feeling heartbroken over the devastation and loss of life caused by war and destruction."* But he ends with: **"Still, we know**

**that it is possible to bring all people together to work towards a shared goal. Rotary members do so every day in every part of the world. May our ability to unify in common purpose be a spark that helps light the path out of these dark days. Together let's Create Hope in the World."**

And Linda quoted the English poet:

*Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, "It will be happier."*



**Alfred Tennyson**  
portrait by P. Krämer

## Coming up this month

### A LITTLE YOGA ON JAN. 18

Joe and Kathy Johnson will join us at our January 18th meeting, where they will discuss yoga and meditation with some practice for the group.

Meetings in February will be on the 8th and the 22nd, to accommodate the speakers' availability.

### SOCCER SOCIAL AT BIERGARTEN ON JAN. 28

This month's social event is on Sunday, January 28 at the Biergarten in the Adirondack Bank Center as we take in a soccer match between Utica City FC and the Kansas City Comets. The game is at 3 p.m. President Linda has to reserve tickets in advance, which are \$30 and include admission, food and soft drinks. So please RSVP. Her email is: [ianlinhope51@gmail.com](mailto:ianlinhope51@gmail.com).

Deadline for next newsletter (1/15) is Saturday, Jan. 13 at 3 p.m.; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

Editor Robert Stronach

## HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST WEEK'S MEETING



**Bob Calli.** Photo by Tina Pavlot.

# Utica Rotary talks affordable housing

*By Joe Abraham*

Bob Calli, executive director of People First, formerly the Utica Municipal Housing Authority, joined our club last Thursday to speak about the work that the organization does.

While they've had different names over the years, they've been serving the local population in the City of Utica since 1937, providing safe, clean, and affordable housing opportunities to low-income persons while "promoting self-sufficiency, upward mobility, and customer satisfaction."

Today, People First offers 12 different affordable housing properties and opportunities, including Section 8 properties, apartments for rent, houses for rent, low-income family housing units, disabled and senior housing, as well as student housing.

With a team of 63 employees, People First remains dedicated to ensuring the needs of those they serve are met and that they feel "valued, prioritized, and fulfilled."

To learn more about People First, visit [www.peoplefirstny.org](http://www.peoplefirstny.org).

### NEW MEMBER WELCOMED

Maureen Ghent, RN, who works at the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL), has officially joined our club and was introduced by Membership Chair Tina Pavlot.

We are excited to welcome Maureen and hope you'll join us in giving her a warm Rotary welcome!

### COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

Meetings in February will be on the 8th and the 22nd,

to accommodate the speakers' availability. On Feb. 8 we will be joined by Hawa Peters from Utica Royalties, which helps inner city youth and Feb. 22 will be a program about Children of the American Revolution, with student speakers.

### BOILERMAKER COORDINATOR

Our club will once again be volunteering to hand out water during the Boilermaker Road Race.

Drew DeBlasiis, who spearheaded the effort last year, will be running in this year's race, so **we will need a NEW water station coordinator.**

Please let President Linda know if you are interested, and she and Drew will provide guidance leading up to the event.

## Proposed slate for 2023-2024 offices

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of officers and new board members for the 2024-2025 Rotary year.

**President:** Travis Rabbers

**Treasurer:** Darby O'Brien

**Secretary:** Jill Koch

**President Elect:** Roger Breslow

**Immediate Past President:** Linda Iannone

**Vice President:** Heather Beebe

New Board Members (3-year terms)

- Dave Bagley
- Jim Friedel
- Bob Stronach

## Nominate a beneficiary for 'Service Above Self' Gala

*By PP Stephen Turnbull*

**Our 3rd Annual Service Above Self Gala is being brought to you by The SBS Marketing Group.**

**Please Save the Date:**

**Friday, June 7, 2024, 6 p.m.  
at The Stanley Theatre**

**We need your help to find a beneficiary for this year. Same as past years, you will email me directly with your nomination and then our committee will discuss and vote who will receive the**

**funds raised from our 2024 event.**

**Please email me:**

- **Your name**
- **Organization you are nominating**
- **Reason for nomination (tell us why they deserve the funds)**

**If the reason/description of the nomination is not included, your nomination will not be considered. Tell us about the organization. Email them to: [stephen@t5insurance.com](mailto:stephen@t5insurance.com)**

## Calendar of Events

**1/17 Board Meeting |  
noon | Chamber of Commerce**

**1/18 Meeting | Joe & Kathy Johnson  
noon | Mid-York Library**

**1/25 Social | Soccer at Biergarten  
3:30 | Adirondack Bank Center**

**2/8 Meeting | Hawa Peters of  
Utica Royalties  
noon | Mid-York Library**

**2/22 Meeting | Children of the  
American Revolution  
noon | Mid-York Library**



# Rotary Club Of Utica Annual Ski Trip!

- Wednesday January 24th, 2024
- Bus leaves Utica 7:00am
- Returns approx. 9:00pm
- \$125 Per Person – Includes:
  - Bus transportation
  - Guaranteed good time!



**Gore Mtn.**

**Must purchase lift  
ticket on your own**

**RSVP @ *uticarotary.org* by 1/12/24**