

Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

June 10, 2024

Rotary salutes 'Outstanding Educators'



FROM LEFT: Outstanding Educators Chairperson Bart Gorman, Utica Rotary President Linda Iannone, award winners Peter Anderson, Trisha Moore, Sharece Toner and Audrey Foote, Proctor HS Senior Logan Wolfe (representing Christine Golden who could not be in attendance), and award recipients Michael Zogby and Jeffrey Kuhn. Photo by Joe Abraham. See pages 2 & 3 for story & photos.

Utica Rotary rocks the Stanley stage!

By Joe Abraham

A sold-out Rotary Club of Utica 'Service Above Self' Gala took over the Stanley Theatre Stage on Friday night. The event, sponsored by the SBS Marketing Group, benefitted Resource Center for Independent Living's 'Arts for Many Hearts' program, which provides activities to caregivers and their loved ones. A total amount raised will be shared later this month.

After a brief awards presentation, which saw Michelle McCarrick Truett and Felix LaBella Jr. receive 'Service Above Self' Awards, and Utica Rotarians Clyde Vanderpool and Joe Abraham were recipients of the 'Quiet Giver' and Paul Harris Fellow recogni-

tions, respectively, attendees danced the night away to music by Soul Injection.

The official passing of the Rotary gavel occurred with current President Linda Iannone introducing Travis Rabbers, who will lead the club beginning July 1. Rabbers then presented Linda with a plaque acknowledging her service and great year leading the club. Utica Rotarian Jerry Kraus would then enlist the help of peers to pay tribute to Linda, using Wordle, a favorite game amongst our members.

A special thanks to all of our sponsors and attendees for making it a truly unforgettable night.

Deadline for next newsletter (6/10) is Saturday, June 8 at 3 p.m.; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach

Local Rotary Clubs honor 7 ‘Outstanding Educators’

By Joe Abraham

Social Studies Teacher Peter Anderson looked out at the audience of Rotarians, students and teachers and likely had a moment of déjà vu. He mentioned how as a student he had the honor of speaking before Rotarians and then nominating a teacher as an outstanding educator. It wouldn't be surprising if he remembered the qualities he saw in a good teacher because here he stood years later getting the award himself.

Anderson, who teaches at New Hartford High School, was one of seven educators honored by the Rotary Clubs of Utica, New Hartford, North Utica-Whitestown and Sauquoit last Thursday at Five Points Public House/Irish Cultural Center.

The “Outstanding Educators” Awards Luncheon honored:

- History Teacher Michael Zogby (Clinton High School)
- Social Studies Teacher Peter Anderson (New Hartford High School)
- Science Teacher Audrey Foote (NY Mills High School)
- Math Teacher Sharece Toner (Notre Dame High School)
- Social Studies Teacher Christine Golden (Proctor High School)
- Math Teacher Trisha Moore (Sauquoit Valley High School)
- High School Principal Jeffrey Kuhn (Whitesboro High School)

Outstanding Educators Chairman Bart Gorman explained that the Utica Rotary's tradition of having high school students attend meetings dates back to the mid-1940s.

He added that the current ‘Outstanding Educators’ effort is “a direct evolution of Rotary's decades of commitment to the welfare of children and the enrichment of educational opportunities for all.”



New Hartford Social Studies Teacher Peter Anderson with students Imaad Maqsood, Khalid Elmarasy, Natalie Goodelle and Elena Roberts.

Gorman added: “As Rotarians we are grateful for you, the Outstanding Educator professionals who truly do put service above self in the nurturing and development of young minds and bodies stretching to fulfill their desires for a positive, productive, rewarding and satisfying place in the future.”

Rotary Club of Utica President Linda Iannone also applauded the seven ‘Outstanding Educators,’ noting the challenges they must face on a daily basis.

“Where would our young people be without the dedication and attention of devoted teachers, who somehow manage to handle a myriad of details and personalities?” she asked.

“The students who came and spoke at our [Rotary clubs] meetings were exceptional,” Iannone added. “They are a testament to the work you are doing daily. It is true that the work starts at home. However, they are yours for a few hours a day. You have left a lasting mark on these kids. That is your legacy.”
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Clinton History Teacher Michael Zogby with students Matt King and Aiden Soika.



Retiring Whitesboro High School Principal Jeffrey Kuhn with students Connor Hahn and Jack Towns.



Sauquoit Valley Math Teacher Trisha Moore with students Gina Tinian and Lesh Larson.



Notre Dame Math Teacher Sharece Toner with students Sara Aung and Paul Kearney.

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The Outstanding Educators Committee works with future leaders and honors those who help mold them. Two students from each of six area high schools were recently given an opportunity to introduce themselves to the Rotary members, and to learn about Rotary's community, regional and international services, which are the fulfillment of the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." The committee then organizes the end-of-the-school-year luncheon to honor outstanding educators nominated by those students. The students were asked to select teachers who they believe exemplify the Rotary motto, *Service Above Self*, and the values of Rotary.



NY Mills Science Teacher Audrey Foote with students Lauren Kulpa and Frank Calhoun.

Utica Rotarians add flavor to Epicurean Delight



Utica Rotarians volunteered Sunday at Epicurean Delight, the fundraiser held at Hart's Hill Inn for Hospice and Palliative Care. Pictured left to right are President-Elect Travis Rabbers, President Linda Iannone, and Devon Hoffman.

Calendar of Events

6/19 **Board Meeting|**
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

8/18 **Rotary Charity Golf Outing**
Hidden Valley, Whitesboro

6/20 **Meeting | Allen Wilcox from**
The Theatre at Woodhill
noon | Mid-York Library

6/27 **Club Social | TBA**
5:30 pm