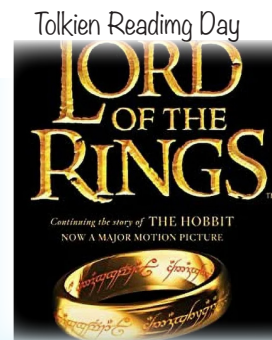


Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

March 25, 2024

Helping others realize their dreams



Guest Speaker Elvira Alikadic hopes to increase scholarship opportunities through her Community Wellness Program and put kids in touch with mentors who can help guide them.

“A lot of kids are afraid to have dreams because they fear they won’t be able to realize them,” she said. “Even if there is one kid we can put on the right track, then it would be a success.” *SEE PAGE 2.*

Kulpa’s future is a slam dunk



Fresh off a state basketball championship, New York Mill student athlete Lauren Kulpa says she plans to either attend Dartmouth College or SUNY Geneseo to study biochemistry, and hopes to enter the medical field, weighing the possibility of a future as a general or orthopedic surgeon. Her own medical experience (tearing her ACL) is what sparked her interest in the realm of health. *SEE PAGE 3.*

Rabbers conducts Rotary business



Rotarians got a glimpse of the future last Thursday, with President-Elect Travis Rabbers filling in for Club President Linda Iannone. *SEE PAGE 4.*

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Did you know that our club is a member of the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce? That means you can participate in its councils and events.

Sign up for its communications here, [Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce](#), or ask Membership Chair Tina Pavlot for more information.

Deadline for next newsletter (4/1) is Saturday, March 30 at 3 p.m.; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach

Helping others realize their dreams

By Joe Abraham

Elvisa Alikadic, who heads up the Community Wellness Program, was the guest speaker of Thursday's meeting. She noted that her son, Medin, at the age of 14, decided to start a community program to keep his friends in sports for exercise, off video games for mental health, and out of trouble in general.

It was a great success, but even working two jobs, Medin didn't have the financial means for the program to be sustainable and asked his mother for help. Together they traveled around to speak to community members, including Chet Locanti of the Utica Rec Center, who loved Medin's idea.

The result: A four-hour weekend program (during the times when statistically most young men get into trouble) that had become very popular, with 80 kids attending. Recently elected Utica Mayor Mike Galime asked Alikadic to expand the program, which has resulted in the Community Wellness Program. The program, in its new form, is open to all people regardless of age from Thursday to Sunday, 4 to 8 p.m.

"It's the community taking



care of the community," she said of the program, which is funded through donations.

Alikadic hopes to increase scholarship opportunities through the program and put kids in touch with mentors who can help guide them.

"A lot of kids are afraid to have dreams because they fear they won't be able to realize them," she said. "Even if there is one kid we can put on the right track. then it would be a success."

Alikadic, a licensed social

worker, is very involved in the community. She is the Director of the Neighborhood Center's Community Mental Health Promotion and Support (COMHPS) program and sits on several boards including the Bosnian American Business Association where she oversees the Scholarship Committee; the Oneida County Multicultural Board where she is an advisor for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion interests of the board, and the Dominican Cultural Association of which she is a founder and advisor.

Another goal she has for the Community Wellness Program is to, "Connect the community to all of the great people and resources our community has."

They have several upcoming programs for Easter, and they are always looking for volunteers, including tutors to help attendees with their school work.

To learn more about the program and how to get involved, contact Alikadic at elvisaa@neighborhoodctr.org and 315-368-4187 or Locanti at cloconti@cityofutica.com or 315-223-4320.

Kulpa's future is a slam dunk

Bart Gorman, chair of the Outstanding Educators Program Committee, was in attendance with a couple of New York Mills High School students.

Fresh off a State Championship with the Notre Dame Girls Basketball team, Lauren Kulpa spoke to the club this time at Thursday's meeting. The dual sport athlete also plays field hockey and works at Holland Farms Bakery on Oriskany Boulevard.

Her guidance counselor notes that Lauren is "dedicated to having a positive impact on her school and community," and that "she has coached Biddy Basketball, collected donations for holiday drives, and raked leaves for the elderly during Fall and Spring cleanup



days." She has been student council president, National Honor Society president and Varsity Club president.

Lauren plans to either attend Dartmouth College or SUNY Geneseo to study biochemistry, and hopes to enter the medical field, weighing the possibility of a future as a general or or-

thopedic surgeon. Her own medical experience (tearing her ACL) is what sparked her interest in the realm of health.

Frank Calhoun, NY Mills Class of 2024 president and captain of several varsity teams, including cross country, track and baseball, was also in attendance. Both will return to the club when Frank presents during our May 2 meeting.

At the end of Lauren's presentation, Gorman announced that this year's Outstanding Educators Event will take place on Thursday, June 6 (one night before our Service Above Self Gala) at the Irish Cultural Center. More details to come on that event.

HIGHWAY / EARTH DAY CLEANUP

This year we're incorporating our biannual highway cleanup with our Earth Day cleanup! It's Saturday, April 27 at 9 a.m. We meet in McQuade & Bannigan parking lot at 1300 Stark St., Utica. To sign up, contact Tina Pavlot at cpavlot@mtb.com or (315) 717-6652.



Calendar of Events

3/25	Service Easter Baskets 10:30 am Thea Bowman	4/17	Board Meeting noon Chamber of Commerce
3/28	Social The Bunker 5:30 pm	4/27	Service Highway Cleanup 9 am
4/11	Meeting Clyde Vanderpool on Vietnam and Notre Dame students noon Mid-York Library	5/2	Meeting NY Mills students noon Mid-York Library

Rabbers conducts Rotary business

By Joe Abraham

Utica Rotarians got a glimpse of the future last Thursday, with President-Elect Travis Rabbers filling in for Club President Linda Iannone.

As part of the day's agenda, Travis shared some notes from President Linda. This included a recent message from Rotary International President Gordon McNally that encouraged Rotarians to offer hope to those affected by mental health challenges — a crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that Rotary would work to improve mental health services in the next year and beyond.

Next meeting April 11

Travis shared that the club's next meeting is April 11 (rather than the first Thursday of April), where we'll be joined by students from Notre Dame High School.

Club social March 28

The upcoming club social on Thursday, March 28 is at the Bunker in New Hartford at 5:30 p.m. There are two simulator rooms reserved for play and some light food will be available.

Thea Bowman March 25

Several members of the club will be meeting on Mon-



day, March 25 at 10:30 a.m. to assist with distribution of Easter baskets at the Thea Bowman House on Genesee Street. Many hands make light work and it's fun to watch the children light up when they receive all their treats. Rabbers encouraged club members to join in the fun and thanked Rotarian Norma Montegnino-Gemza for helping to organize the effort. Club members will meet in front of Thea Bowman House at 10 a.m.

Service projects

Rabbers also mentioned upcoming service efforts, including the **Service Above Self Gala**, asking members to reserve their tickets and help spread the word.

He also mentioned that PP Tina Pavlot was organizing a **road cleanup day** on Saturday, April 27 as that month's service project.

And finally, he mentioned that our club is once again manning the **Boilermaker Water Station** at the Utica Rec Center. Volunteers should sign up online through the Boilermaker site. Clyde Vanderpool, who has stepped up to coordinate this year's effort, can assist you with the signup process if you need it.

While our club will continue to enjoy the remainder of Linda's presidency, it is evident that we'll be in good hands in 2024-25 as Rabbers led a great meeting!

3rd
Annual!

SERVICE ABOVE SELF *Gala*



- Red carpet
- LIVE music by Soul Injection
- Seated dinner on Stanley stage
- 1 hour of cocktail open bar

When:

Friday June 7th 6-11pm

Where:

The Stanley Theatre
259 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13502

Gala Presented By:



Proceeds to benefit:



Purchase tickets @uticarotary.org



Hosted By:



3rd
Annual!

SERVICE ABOVE SELF *Gala*



Sponsorships!

Presenting Sponsor - \$5,000

- Presenting Name
- 8 Tickets (table included)
- Promotional video applied to business
- Logo on stage backdrop & marquee night of event
- Logo on thank you card
- Name on all advertising and promotion
- Social media thank you



Gold Sponsor - \$2,500

(only 4 sold)

- 4 tickets included
- Naming sponsor (*Dinner, Cocktail, Award or Music*)
- Name on all advertising & promotion
- Verbal recognition at event
- Information table in lobby at event
- Logo & name recognition at event
- Social media thank you

Silver Sponsor - \$1,000

- 2 Tickets included
- Name on all advertising and promotion
- Logo & name recognition at event
- Social media thank you

Bronze Sponsor - \$500

- Logo & name recognition at event
- Social media thank you

Corporate Table \$1,200

- Seats 8

Donations @ uticarotary.org

Rotary
Club of Utica



Proceeds to benefit:

