



March 29, 2022

### Volunteers needed for Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

This month's service project is the club's biannual Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, April 9, from 9-11 a.m.

Our area to clean up is the east side of Route 12 (arterial) between Court Street and Burrstone Road. We will all meet at 9 a.m. in the McQuade and Bannigan parking lot by the railroad tracks, next to the arterial. Please wear gloves and closed-toe shoes. Safety hardhats and vests and pickers will be supplied.

Sign up to help on the Club website at:

[Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup](#)

Point of Contact: [P Stephen Turnbull](#)

### Volunteers needed for Sauquoit Creek Cleanup

Our second service project this month is the cleanup of Sauquoit Creek. This project is held in conjunction with New Hartford Rotary Club and Sauquoit Rotary Club.

Specific details are unknown. Last year's project started at 10 a.m. and ended with a luncheon starting at 12:30 p.m. Tentatively, we will meet at the Washington Mills Athletic Park, 3695 Oneida Street, New Hartford. Please bring a face mask, work gloves, sturdy shoes and small plastic bags; once filled they will go into a large heavy duty green bag.

Sign up to help on the Club website at:

[Sauquoit Creek Cleanup](#)

Point of Contact: [Dave Jones](#)

### This Week's Program

Maria Maier is an independent certified coach, teacher, trainer and speaker with Maxwell Leadership Certified Team. She joined the John Maxwell team in 2020 and has also been a staff member at Hamilton College since 2004.



The first major project Maria tackled in her career was in 2002, launching a subsidized mortgage system to make housing more affordable in the city of Volzhskiy, Russia, where she was an Executive Assistant to the Mayor's 1st Deputy in a large City Hall. Maria learned the meaning of the Japanese proverb "Fall seven times, stand up eight" and the power of resilience at a young age when her parents worked hard to survive the Perestroika era in the Soviet Union. She has always valued the community and realized during the Office Hour with the city residents how effective communication can improve the results and bring out the desired change.

Maria currently lives in upstate New York with her husband, four young and very energetic children, and white furry friend Liza.

**FRIDAY | April 1 | 12 p.m.**  
**Mid York Library System**  
**1600 Lincoln Ave. | Utica, NY 13502**  
**Virtually via Zoom**

Face coverings are recommended, but not required.

**Joining us for their second visit will be Outstanding Educator Program students Marina Cascini and Peter Cresci from Notre Dame and Erica Racioppa and Joseph DeTraglia from Clinton.**

**Deadline for next newsletter (4/5) is Monday, April 4, at noon; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org)**

## Inaugural Service Above Self Gala to benefit Camp Abilities-CABVI

The Inaugural Service Above Self Gala is Rotary Club of Utica's opportunity to honor deserving individuals--members and nonmembers--for their community service as well as raise funds for a worthy cause.

This year's beneficiary of the Service Above Self Gala proceeds is Camp Abilities of Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI). Camp Abilities-CABVI is a youth development program for children and teens that are blind or visually impaired where they discover what they CAN do. The camp engages kids who have low vision to remain physically active by: participating in leisure activities, engaging in physical education classes, using technology, and developing independent living skills that will last a lifetime. To learn more about this CABVI service visit [Camp Abilities-CABVI](#) website or, even better, hear what the campers have to say about the camp by watching a terrific CABVI video on the Club website: [Camp Abilities-CABVI video](#).

Gala details and sponsor information can be found on page 4 and 5 of the newsletter (kudos to Devon Hoffman for the great-looking posters!) or on the Club website: [Service Above Self Gala Event](#).

## Rotary and Utica University students team up to help Morrow Warming Center

On Friday, March 25, from 1 to 6 p.m., four students from Utica University (UU) and five Rotary Club of Utica members volunteered at the Morrow Warming Center to help with various cleaning and food preparation tasks.

UU members helping out are members of the school's Rotaract and International Club. Vasyl Yurkuts (Ukraine), Milena Aguayo Ucedo (Paraguay), Noy Adler (Israel), and Farhad Ali Shah (Pakistan) plowed through Morrow Warming Center Managing Director Cathy Marsh's wish list of tasks to be done.

The students sorted and organized the pantry, supply, and clothing closets as well as the kitchen area. Additionally, a couple of the students assisted Morrow Warming Center volunteer Meredith Reed with processing food for freezing, and Noy showed off her baking skills by making several loaves of bread for the evening meal.

The students were assisted throughout the day by Club members Elizabeth Nassar, Dave Jones, Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka, Jill Koch and Michelle Brandstadt.

Cathy and Meredith were extremely appreciative of the help.

### April Calendar of Events

- 4/1 Program Meeting | Friday | 12 p.m. & Zoom Mid York Library System
- 4/2 Super Saturday Training | Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | VVS
- 4/9 Service Project | Saturday | 9-11 a.m. Rt. 12 Highway Cleanup
- 4/15 Program Meeting | Friday | 12 p.m. & Zoom Mid York Library System
- 4/18 Board Meeting | Monday | 1 p.m. Fort Schuyler Club
- 4/21 Club Social | Thursday | 5 p.m. | CABVI
- 4/23 Service Project | Saturday | TBD (a.m.) NH Rotary Sauquoit Creek Cleanup
- 4/29 Program Meeting | Friday | 12 p.m. & Zoom Mid York Library System



*Pictured (l-r): Noy Adler, Milena Aguayo Ucedo, Dave Jones, Elizabeth Nassar, Farhad Ali Shah, Vasyl Yurkuts, Cathy Marsh*

**Additional photos on p. 6**

## Firefighting gear on its way to Africa

It's been a long, winding road and wait for firefighting gear collected by Rotary Club of Utica. In September 2020, club volunteers help move 90 sets of jackets and pants to be donated to firefighters in Kosovo. The gear, which was collected over a period of a year, was moved out of a storage locker in Waterville, New York and transported to Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) in Utica, New York, where it was boxed, placed on pallets, wrapped, and weighed for international shipment. And there the equipment remained until this month. Transportation issues prevented the equipment from reaching its original destinations of Kosovo, then Ukraine, but it's now in the hands of the Africa Fire Mission located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Africa Fire Mission is a nonprofit organization that provides training and personal protective equipment to under-resourced fire departments across Africa and to other developing communities. Currently, it serves in Zambia, Kenya and Malawi and it has partnered in other countries to provide quality training and equipment.

In a thank-you letter to PP Jim Turnbull and PDG Donald Reese, who spearheaded the equipment collection effort, Africa Fire Mission Executive Director Nancy Moore thanked Rotary Club of

Utica for its "generosity and your willingness to ensure that firefighters in Africa have the tools they need to protect themselves and better serve their communities. Your gift will help ensure that firefighters across Africa, has quality Personal Protective Equipment to wear as they carry out their duties. Currently, most firefighters in Africa lack basic Personal Protective Equipment and are fighting fires in street clothes. This donation will allow these dedicated firefighters to better serve their communities and help those in need of emergency assistance. Thanks to you, we will be able to continue to provide fire departments with the equipment they need to serve and protect their communities." Ms. Moore also indicated that she expected that all the donated equipment will be in the hands of firefighters within the next year. Volunteers will travel to Africa to train individuals on how to use the equipment. Ms. Moore invited Rotary members that have in interest in getting involved with Africa Fire Mission to learn more at <https://www.africafiremission.org/join-a-mission>.

Rotary Club of Utica is also indebted to CABVI and, specifically, CABVI employee Matt Convertino. CABVI and Matt were instrumental in readying the equipment for shipment and arranging to have the equipment shipped to Ohio for the project.



*Rotary members and friends unloading equipment at CABVI. Pictured (l-r): James Friedel, Mark Turnbull, Dan Buono, Roger Frank, and Paul Nandzik.*



*Firefighting equipment packaged by CABVI.*



INAUGURAL  
**SERVICE  
ABOVE SELF**  
*Gala*



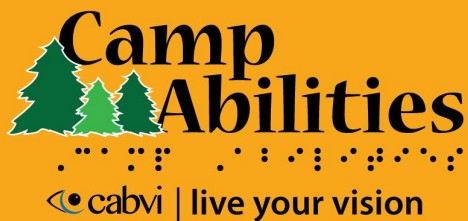
- Red Carpet With Photo
- Music By Soul Injection
- Dinner
- 1 Hour Cocktail Open Bar

**\$125**  
**PER TICKET**

**When:** 6:00pm- 10:00pm, Friday June 24th 2022

**Where:** The Stanley Theatre  
259 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13502

**Proceeds to Benefit**



**Rotary**  
Club of Utica



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

INAUGURAL  
**SERVICE  
ABOVE SELF**  
*Gala*



## AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS

### Presenting: - \$2,500

- 8 Tickets To Gala (Full Table)
- Promotional Video at Place of Business
- Logo on Stanley Theater Outside Marquee Night of Event
- Logo & Name On All Advertising & Event Material
- Social Media Thank You

### Gold: - \$1,000

- 4 Tickets to event
- Logo & Name On All Advertising & Event Material
- Logo & Name Recognition at Event
- Option to Hang Banner at the Event
- Social Media Thank You

### Silver: - \$500

- 2 Tickets To Event
- Logo & Name On All Advertising & Event Material
- Logo & Name Recognition at Event
- Social Media Thank You

### Bronze: - \$250

- Logo & Name Recognition at Event
- Social Media Thank You

**Rotary**  
Club of Utica



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Proceeds to Benefit

**Camp  
Abilities**

cabvi | live your vision





*Utica Rotary crew at Utica City Football Club match on March 27, 2020 at Adirondack Bank Center*



# Protest for Ukraine & Democracy

Friday / April 8th / 4pm / Clinton Village Green

*#StandWithUkraine*  
For Peace & Freedom



Sponsored by Kirkalnd  
Democratic Committee

**Bring your own posters, signs, flags, & honk your car  
horn in support of peace for Ukraine & Democracy.**

<https://www.cidi.org/disaster-responses/war-in-ukraine/>