



# Rotary This Week!

Utica, NY, USA

May 27, 2024

## 'Service Above Self' Gala to honor Abraham, Vanderpool



Two Utica Rotarians will be honored at June 7's 'Service Above Self' Gala at the Stanley Theatre. Joseph Abraham (at left) will be awarded a Paul Harris Fellow and Clyde Vanderpool will receive the Quiet Giver Award. *SEE PAGE 2.*



### Come honor educators June 6

Local Rotary Clubs will honor teachers at the Outstanding Educators Awards luncheon at noon Thursday, June 6, at the Irish Cultural Center in Utica. Cost of the luncheon is \$25. Please make reservations at: <https://uticarotary.org/page/outstanding-educators>

### MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



This board member has a passion for helping others. *SEE PAGE 3.*



Our monthly social drew out smiles and camaraderie on May 23 at the Green Onion Pub on Genesee Street in Utica. FROM LEFT: Travis Rabbers, Jerry Kraus, Matt Schlosser, Linda Iannone, Irene D'Onofrio, Tina Pavlot, Jim Turnbull and Joe Caruso. Photo by Joe Abraham.

Deadline for next newsletter (6/3) is Saturday, June 1 at 3 p.m.; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

Editor Robert Stronach



TAKE ACTION: [www.uticarotary.org](http://www.uticarotary.org)

## 2 Utica Rotarians to be recognized at June 7 Gala



Joseph Abraham

Joseph Abraham will be honored as a Paul Harris Fellow and Clyde Vanderpool will receive the Quiet Giver Award at June 7's 'Service Above Self' Gala at the Stanley Theatre.

Joseph has been a Utica Rotarian since June 2023. He transferred from the Liberty, NY club after he moved to the area to start a position in the Communications and Marketing Department at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, where he leads the university's media relations and internal communication efforts. Prior to his move to the Mohawk Valley, Joseph was the managing editor of the *Sullivan County Democrat*, a twice-weekly newspaper, leading their editorial team and managing 50-plus special publications. He also won a New York Press Association Award for his coverage of the Sullivan County Legislature in 2021.

Since joining the Rotary Club of Utica, Joseph has become a member of several committees and assists with the club's external communications, whether it is helping with social media, writing content for the newsletter or constructing and sharing press releases with local media. He is also a member of CNY Rotary's Public Image Committee. Joseph is a firm believer in the Rotary motto of 'Service Above Self,' and that one finds the greatest joy and satisfaction in life from helping others.



Clyde Vanderpool

Clyde Vanderpool has been a member of the Rotary Club of Utica for the last three years. After graduating from New York Mills High School in 2003, he attended Hartwick College where he received a BA in Philosophy. After college, he joined the United States Navy where he was twice deployed aboard the USS John C. Stennis. Upon completion of his enlistment he attended SUNY Poly and received his BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He is now employed at Northrop Grumman as a Principal Systems Engineer where he supports projects out of the Air Force Research Laboratory.

Clyde's inspiration for joining Rotary comes from his step father Ralph Imundo. Ralph used to invite Clyde to club functions when he would come home for leave from the military. The selfless nature exhibited by Ralph and the rest of the club members was always something Clyde admired and wanted to emulate. He is extremely thankful to everyone for always being so welcoming and allowing him to join them spread fellowship and goodwill to the Utica area and beyond.

The Rotary Club of Utica also recently announced that **Felix LaBella Jr.** and **Michelle McCarrick Truett** would be honored at the Gala as 'Service Above Self' Award recipients.

## MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

# Jennifer DePasquale -- a passion for helping others

By Joe Abraham

Jennifer has always had a passion for helping others. As an Executive Assistant at the Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL) for the past 25 years, she works closely with the Senior Leadership Team and staff in carrying out the mission of assisting individuals with disabilities to live the life they wish in our communities.

Jennifer has been a Rotary member for nine years through RCIL, enjoying helping others in the community while building such meaningful relationships with fellow Rotarians.

Some of her favorite service projects have been making breakfast for kids at a local apartment complex, cleaning up local parks, building beds, giving Easter baskets



to children, and preparing and serving meals at a local social services organization. She also participates on the Rotaract Internship Committee, assisting and mentoring college students while

they intern at local businesses to gain experience. She is and has served as a Rotary board member for five years. She also has been a recipient of the Quiet Giver Award and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

In her personal time, Jennifer enjoys birding and serves as the secretary on the board of the Kirkland Bird Club. Her biggest joy is spending time with her two sons and husband, usually on a golf course.

When asked about what she'd tell others about Rotary, Jennifer says, "Are you looking for a great experience? Join the Rotary Club of Utica to make an impact by helping people and building meaningful relationships with members of the

## Calendar of Events

6/6 Meeting | Outstanding Educators  
noon | Five Points Public House/  
Irish Cultural Center

6/7 Service Above Self Gala  
6:00 – 11:00 pm | The Stanley

6/19 Board Meeting |  
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

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

6/27 Club Social | TBA  
5:30 pm

8/18 Rotary Charity Golf Outing  
Hidden Valley, Whitesboro

## MAGIC OF ROTARY

# Linda shares incoming RI president's inspiration



### President Linda Iannone

Inspiration and Rotary themes were on the mind of President Linda Iannone as she opened the last regular program meeting on May 16.

Quoting English novelist and poet Emily Brontë, she said:

*"May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope."* She added: "As we are inspired by this year's Rotary theme to Create Hope, look around our local community to see how you can create hope for someone this month."

And then she reported that Rotary International President-elect Steph-

anie Urchick revealed her 2024-2025 theme, The Magic of Rotary, at the International Assembly.

"Don't misunderstand me – we are not going to end polio or bring peace to the world by waving a wand and saying some funny words," she quoted Urchick.

**"It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member."**

Urchick, a member of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, was inspired by the magic of

Rotary when she was helping install water filters in the Dominican Republic. Two boys were watching as dirty water entered the filter, then ran out clean at the other end.

"One of the boys grabbed my sleeve and said, 'Show me the magic again'," Urchick said.

"Obviously, the water filter wasn't magic. We worked hard to transport those filters, install them, and work with community leaders in the area to maintain them. But those boys knew that easy access to clean water would change their lives."



RI President-elect Stephanie Urchick (Photo from rotary.org)