

Thank a veteran for his/her service.

Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Nov. 11, 2024

Utica Rotary talks foster care and foundation

By Joe Abraham

At Thursday's Utica Rotary meeting, we heard from Leanne Hahn, who joined the Cayuga Centers team in December 2022

as the Foster Home Recruiter and Licensor for their Treatment Family Foster Care Program in the Mohawk Valley.

We also heard about CNY Rotary's million-dollar legacy.

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PP Linda Iannone presided at last week's meeting, filling in for President Travis Rabbers.

EDITOR'S TRAVELOG

Oh my gosh!
Aliens in
Beantown.
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Deadline for next newsletter (11/18) is Saturday, Nov. 16 at 3 p.m.; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach



TAKE ACTION: www.uticarotary.org

MEETING RECAP

Continued from previous page.

Cayuga Centers is dedicated to providing high-quality, compassionate care to children and families, with a focus on promoting safety, well-being, and permanency. Founded in 1851, Cayuga Centers has over 1,000 employees and serves more than 1,000 children annually across 15+ counties in New York State, offering more than 20 programs, including foster care, adoption, and behavioral health services, to support vulnerable children and families. To learn more, visit <https://cayugacenters.org/>.

A Lasting Legacy

Utica Rotarians PDG Don Reese and PDG Dana Jerrard also spoke about the Rotary Foundation at Thursday's meeting. More specifically, they discussed CNY Rotary's efforts to raise \$1 million for the Endowment Fund.

Donations to the Endowment Fund generate interest that supports CNY Rotary's local and global grants long after the donor is gone. Reese, who chairs CNY Rotary's Foundation Committee, noted that for every \$25,000 donated to the Endowment Share Fund, approximately \$1,000 is generated annually to support grants.

On November 17, the district will hold a Legacy Brunch in Binghamton. The Legacy Brunch will celebrate all levels of giving, recognizing new Bequest Society members, Major Donors, Paul Harris Society Members, and all contributors. If you want to make a contribution to Rotary by leaving money to the Endowment Share Fund in your will, please contact our Major Gifts Officer Tyler Stokesbary today at

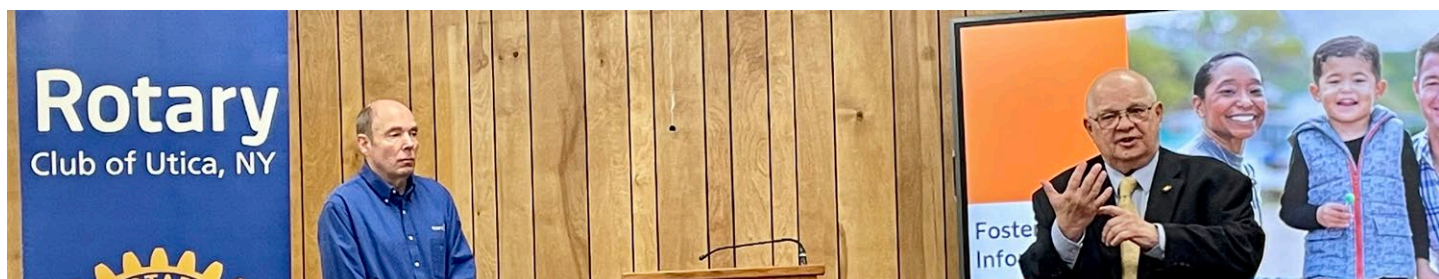
tyler.stokesbary@rotary.org. For additional details and to register for the brunch, visit www.CNY-Rotary.org.

Club news

Our next program will be Thursday, November 21, at 11:30 a.m., featuring an onsite tour of the Wynn Hospital, led by Patricia Charvat. More details will be shared soon.

Upcoming events include:

- Flag takedown for Flags for Heroes on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 9:30 am,
- a social gathering at Grow Brewery on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m.,
- the Not-So-Silent Night Gift Auction on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. at the Fort Schuyler Club, which benefits Catholic Charities.



Past District Governors Dana Jerrard (left) and Don Reese briefed the club on the new \$1 million fund.



Leanne Hahn briefed Rotarians on foster care for children. Photos by Joe Abraham.

MEMBER MENTIONS



PP Dave Jones (left) and friend of the club Joseph Johnson (center) were honored at the local NAACP Freedom Fund dinner on November 3. They're standing next to keynote speaker Willjavion Dawson.

Calendar of Events

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 11/12 | Service 'Flags for Heroes' takedown
9:30 am Memorial Parkway | 11/21 | Meeting Tour of Wynn Hospital
led by Patricia Charvat
11:30 am |
| 11/14 | Social Grow Brewery
5 pm Memorial Parkway | 12/5 | Meeting Mid-York Library
noon |
| | | 12/11 | Event 'Not So Silent Night' auction
6-7:30 Fort Schuyler Club |

EDITOR'S TRAVELOG: BEANTOWN

Costumes are not just for Halloween

By *Bob Stronach*

Beantown. Home of the Red Sox, Bunker Hill, Quincy Market, New England Aquarium, just to name a few. Not to mention Sam Adams Brewery and the World War II-style “Duck Boats” that give rides through downtown and then plunge into the Charles River to provide a city view from a whole different perspective.

On a fun and possibly quirky note, Boston hosts the annual PAX East Convention. No, it's not Latin for Peace. The acronym reflects its origins as the Penny Arcade Exhibition.

So, yes, PAX East is a haven for video gamers, comic book enthusiasts and cosplayers.

I have attended several renditions of PAX East along with sons, daughters, granddaughter and nephew, though not the most recent.

While the younger kin immerse themselves in discovering the latest in video gaming, I instead don my reporter's persona. With camera and notebook in hand, I plunge into the throng looking for amenable and interesting cosplayers.

I spotted one right away. She swam a sea of attendees. It was slow-going. People wanted their picture taken with her. Some were exclaiming:

“Oh my god, I love Star Trek!”

Surrounded by gamers, Kristy Gibson, an Andorian StarFleet officer, had her phaser out, set to stun.

Kristy, who hails from Rhode Island, is a member of the Andorian Mining Consortium online fan club.

“I love seeing costumers and

the new video games,” she said. As a costumer herself, she had fun “getting the fan reaction.”

I've been to StarFleet International gatherings which are light-hearted and fun and full of camaraderie. PAX East, on the other hand, was a mad house. Some 50,000 strong. Replete with rabid gamers. But the costumers got a lot of attention, too.

Valerie Nystrom and Hioshi Jackson, for example, came from Dallas, Texas to prance and pose for hundreds of cameras as League of Legends' Sheriff Caitlyn and Officer Vi.

“We like making props, and when we make things, we make them big,” Hioshi noted, thrusting out his huge “hextech” fist.

Samantha O'Neill of Connecticut came as League of Legends' Shyvana. Because of



*Kristy Gibson,
the Andorian
StarFleet officer.*

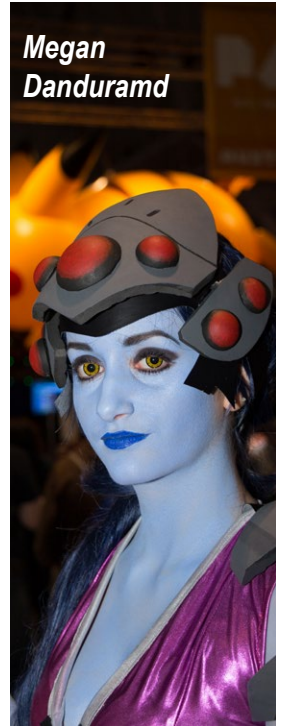
EDITOR'S TRAVELOG



Valerie Nystrom and Hioshi Jackson



Samantha O'Neill



Megan Danduramd

the attention she gets, she only spends half the day in costume. Otherwise, “it’s impossible to do anything else.”

To the question of why put on a costume and attract attention from picture-hungry attendees, Megan Danduramd of Montreal said simply, “Why not?”

This was her fourth PAX East in costume. Her character, Widowmaker from Overwatch,

wasn’t her favorite. That’s reserved for Hero of the Thorn. But she likes Widowmaker “because she’s strange, like me.” Plus, “I love the design.” She made half of the costume herself.

Amanda Rivet of Brighton, MA was attracting attention as Malicia of Dungeons and Dragons Online.

“She’s a really cool, powerful character,” noted Amanda (who

had been “an intern for Turbine, the company that works on the game”). “She’s a succubus who runs a circus. She’s from an unknown plane (of existence) that other players are trying to find out.”

First-time costumer Laurie Martin was there because of her friend, Moxxi, who “always dresses up.” The Connecticut duo came as Pokemon’s Nurse Joy and Officer Jenny.



Amanda Rivet



Laurie and Moxii

EDITOR'S TRAVELOG

Said Moxxi: “We both really like Pokemon and thought it would be wonderful to do a matched duo set.”

Victoria Stackhouse of New Jersey was parting the crowd with a huge hammer as Harley Quinn from Batman. She has been to several cons and this was her first time at PAX East. “I just

love cosplay in general. I’m just getting into it.” She was taking a break from “working one of the booths (Japaname).”

Mary Castro of New York’s Hudson Valley was slinking about as Marvel’s Deadpool. In fact, she was hanging out with a bunch of Deadpools. “He’s awesome. He’s not like a regular

superhero. He’s an a**hole. He’s awesome.”

Castro Arboite of Lowell, Mass., appeared as Cervantes from Soul Calibur 4. He says putting on makeup is most time-consuming. Donning Star-Fleet uniforms can be a lot less time-consuming... unless you’re a blue-skinned Andorian.

