

Rotary This Week!

**WORLD
POLIO DAY**
24 OCTOBER
Rotary  

Utica, NY, USA

Oct. 23, 2023

'Give Me Five' Spurs Action



Randy Wilson

Randy Wilson's talk on Rotary's enduring battle to eradicate polio sparked immediate action by nearly all of the Rotarians attending last week's program meeting.

After Randy explained the district's "Give Me Five" campaign, which asks every member to spare \$5 or more, Utica Rotarians responded by handing over cash and checks to President Linda Iannone so that the club could cut a check on behalf of all the members. Members may send \$5 or more to Rotary Club of Utica, with a notation that it's for "Give Me Five for Polio", PO Box 8586, Utica, NY 13505.

"Give Me Five" is intended as a legacy initiative before District 7150 merges with two other districts to become CNY Rotary next year. The goal is to raise \$5,000 or more.

Randy, a past district governor and Sauquoit Rotary member, also

urged members to join 50 other district Rotarians in becoming members of the Polio Plus Society. All one has to do is commit to donating \$100 or more each year. To donate, go to endpolio.org/donate.

Even though polio cases worldwide have been reduced by 99.9 percent, Randy noted, there is the need to continue new immunizations to curb a resurgence – not to mention the lingering cases of the wild polio virus in hard-to-reach areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As the effort gets closer to ending polio, there is the need to increase disease detection to ensure the virus is truly gone from every corner of the world. Given that only one in 200 cases of polio results in paralysis, Rotary relies on the program's extensive surveillance and laboratory network to reveal where polio does (and does not) exist.



SOCIAL THIS THURSDAY

This month's social event begins at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 26 at Five Points Public House at the Irish Cultural Center, 623 Columbia St, Utica.

Deadline for next newsletter (10/30) is Sunday, Oct. 29 at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach

Rotary
Club of Utica 

 **CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

TAKE ACTION: www.uticarotary.org

MEETING RECAP

Time for a bit of wisdom and more

President Linda opened last Thursday's meeting with a bit of wisdom.

With the unrest in the Middle East, she thought it appropriate to quote a piece she read on one of the aspects of wisdom; that is, "the ability to take the lessons of the heartbreak of the past and apply those lessons to the now so that we don't have to repeat the heartbreak of the past." It means recognizing that there really is no authority other than moral authority, which can keep us from "denying others the basic human rights to dignity, freedom, justice, and self-determination."

Linda also brought up a bit of polio-related Rotary news about the book, *An Unnecessary Assassin*, which is a collection of crime and mystery stories in support of Rotary International's work to eradicate Polio.

"One hundred percent of the profits from this book go towards the charity. It contains seventeen stories and two poems. All authors have contributed their work for free in support of this good cause. The idea for the anthology of short stories, published in July 2023 came to Lorraine Stevens last year at a literary festival in Yorkshire, England. She'd recently learned about the poliovirus reappearing in Great Britain and was talking with friends about how upset she was by the news... One of her author friends encouraged her and said, 'Well, you know enough authors, Lorraine. Why don't you do an anthology and sell it for charity?'"

The anthology also references polio in its cover art, which is shaded purple, and in an afterword explaining the significance of the color. It's what is used to tint children's fingers at mass vaccination events to show that they've received the vaccine. The title refers to the fact that polio is preventable with a vaccine.

The book is available in paperback and Kindle formats on Amazon. Stevens has also sold it at Ro-



tary club meetings and crime-writing festivals all over Great Britain. It's raised more than US\$3,000 so far, and its proceeds will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In other announcements:

1. The speaker on November 2 will be Elise Hereth, our current district governor. Please make an effort to be here to give her a great turnout.

2. The meeting on November 16 will feature our own PDG Don Reese who will be speaking about the Rotary Foundation. This is especially informative for newer members who can

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MEETING RECAP

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find out how this foundation works not just our communities, but the world.

3. Highway clean-up is postponed until spring.

4. Travis Rabbers and Stephen Turnbull and committee are working on the *Not So Silent Night Auction* scheduled for Thursday, December 7, at 6 p.m. at 72 Tavern at the Adirondack Bank Center.

5. Tree planting will take place on Saturday, October 28. Dave Jones has posted the schedule and the volunteers will be meeting at the City of Utica Parks Department building on Valley View Road that morning at 9:00 AM.... rain or shine.

6. Social event will be at Sculpture Space on November 15. The Utica Rotary is sponsoring this event and it is also open to the public! Invite prospective members and meet some of the artists.

7. We need a couple of volunteers to fix up Utica Rotary's Free Library in front of the Fire Station on Whitesboro Street. It is in a little disrepair and needs some TLC...a little piece of wood to brace it, a couple of screws and some paint. We can get a new plate to place on top to replace the old one.

8. Utica Rotary is looking into hosting a Youth Exchange student and sending one abroad.

Preparing for a new Youth Exchange year

By Phylis Danks

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Rotary Youth Exchange Year!

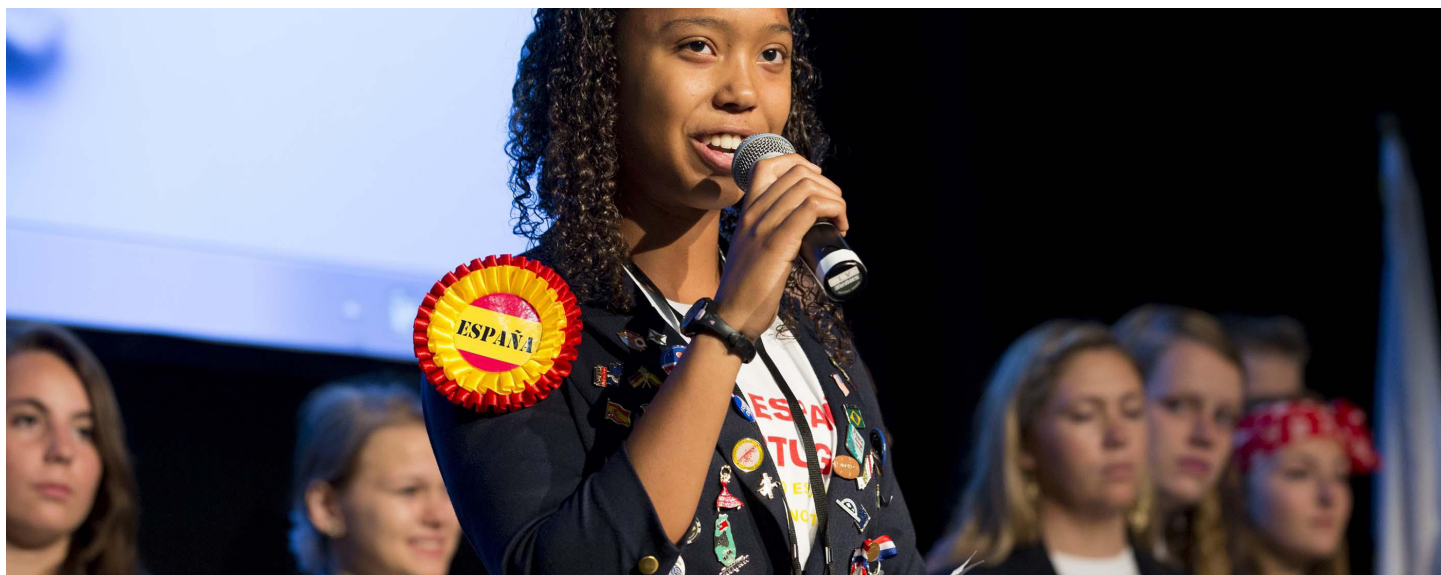
It's that time of year when we begin to recruit and interview potential students for exchange. This year we are hosting two passport fairs, one each during the two interview sessions. One on November 11th on the east side of the district around Schenectady area and one on November 18th on the west side of the district in Cortland.

The Passport Fairs will run like a "booth fair" where Inbounds and ROTEX will staff tables to promote their countries and answer questions

that students and families may have. We anticipate starting around noon and running the fair for about two hours. However, if students are available longer, they can stay and continue discussing their countries and answering questions in between the candidates' interviews.

If you are able to join us for either one of the dates mentioned above, please email Shelly Bullock at shellybullock90@gmail.com with which date and country you wish to represent.

Thank you and we are looking forward to meeting you!



Calendar of Events

10/26 Social | Five Points Public House
5:30 pm

10/28 Service | Urban Tree Project
9 am

11/2 Meeting | DG Elise Hereth
noon | Mid-York Library

11/15 Board Meeting
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

11/16 Meeting | PDG Don Reese
Rotary Foundation
noon | Mid-York Library

11/15 Service | 'Artists Works in Progress'
| Sculpture Space