

Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Oct. 28, 2024

Utica Rotary Honors 6 at Pride of Workmanship Awards



Pride of Workmanship Honorees, from left: Jonathan Caiola, Sprague's Collision Center; Abby Giannatelli, Daughter For Hire; Mary Kate LaPaglia, Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC); Kimberly Riecker, M & T Bank; Denise Toner, The Neighborhood Center, and Daniel Williams, Psoria-Shield. Story, more photos / Pages 2-3.

Utica Rotarians haunt 'Munson After Dark'



Five Utica Rotarians -- Yuliya Karpov, Joe Abraham, President Travis Rabbers, Matt Schlosser and Joe Caruso -- attended "Munson After Dark: Halloween" on Oct. 19. They mingled with friends from the Catalyst Group and community, and even showed off their moves on the dancefloor! LEFT: Greater Utica Chamber's Joanne Thompson and Catalyst Group's CJ Hanrahan joined the fun as Beetlejuice and Jack Skellington, respectively.

Deadline for next newsletter (11/4) is Saturday, Nov. 2 at 3 p.m.; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach

Workmanship awards a heart-warming gathering

On Thursday, Nov. 24, the Rotary Club of Utica celebrated the outstanding contributions of six exceptional individuals at the Pride of Workmanship Awards luncheon, held at the Five Points Public House and Events Center at the Irish Cultural Center.

Since 1990, this event has recognized individuals who demonstrate commitment, professionalism, creativity, enthusiasm, and initiative in their respective fields. This year's recipients included:

- **Jonathan Caiola**, Sprague's Collision Center
- **Abby Giannatelli**, Daughter For Hire
- **Mary Kate LaPaglia**, Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC)

• **Kimberly Riecker**, M & T Bank

• **Denise Toner**, The Neighborhood Center

• **Daniel Williams**, Psoria-Shield

The luncheon was a heart-warming gathering, highlighting the dedication of these honorees, who shared what gave them the most pride at their job. They were presented with an award and drink chips to Grow Brewery (the site of November's monthly social), courtesy of T5 Insurance.

"These awards celebrate the remarkable talent and dedication in our community," said Pride of Workmanship Chair Joe Abraham. "Each honoree exemplifies what it means to go above and beyond in their work, inspiring

us all to strive for excellence."

The Pride of Workmanship Committee surprised Joe with a framed certificate for stepping up to chair this event. He expresses gratitude to Jerry Kraus, Linda Iannone, Matt Schlosser, Travis Rabbers, Joanne Moskal, Hanka Grabovica, Stephen Turnbull and Stew Williams, for serving on the committee.

He also thanked past Pride of Workmanship Chairs Norma Gemza and Roxanne Mutchler for their invaluable knowledge and support during the planning process.

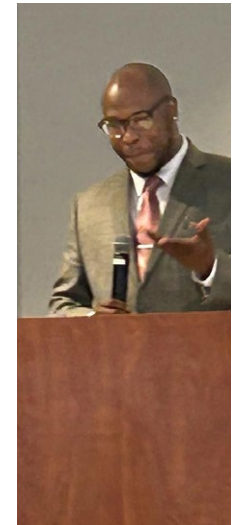
Added Joe: "The Rotary Club of Utica thanks CNY Rotary President Lizzy Martin for attending the event and for all she does to support clubs in our district."



Rotarians surprised event chair Joe Abraham with an appreciation plaque for stepping up to chair and revive the Pride of Workmanship Awards after a year's hiatus.

PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS

photos by Jerry Kraus & Joe Abraham



“Not So Silent Night” to benefit families in need

By Travis Rabbers

Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination for our “Not So Silent Night” gift auction beneficiary. Each of the nominations was a worthy choice and a great organization.

After much conversation, our

committee selected Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison County.

All proceeds from our event will benefit its Christmas Assistance Program, in which they help families and children in

need during the holiday season. The gift auction will be held on Wednesday, December 11, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fort Schuyler Club.

Mark your calendars and start thinking of gift ideas!

Halfway to \$1 million!

On November 17, the CNY Rotary Foundation is sponsoring the district Legacy Celebration brunch at the Doubletree Hotel in Binghamton.

The Legacy Celebration is a District-wide awareness and

fundraising event to raise \$1,000,000 for the Rotary Foundation Endowment.

“This was launched on September 30th and we have raised over \$500,000 so far,” reports CNY Rotary Foundation Chair

Don Reese (who is a past district governor and a Utica Rotary past president).

Don, along with PDG/PP Dana Jerrard, will brief club members at the Nov. 7th meeting at Mid-York Library.

Utica Library hosting reception for ‘Utica: Then and Now’

The Utica Public Library is hosting an opening reception for the exhibition, “Utica: Then & Now,” on Monday, Nov. 4, from 5 to 7 p.m., reports club treasurer Darby O’Brien.

The exhibition commemorates

the 50th anniversary of Larry Pacilio’s powerful photographic collection, “East Utica: 1973-74.” Twenty-six of those photographs will be displayed for the first time since 1975.

To complement Pacilio’s work,

over 30 images by other photographers, depicting Utica’s more recent ethnic communities, will also be on display.

It’s free and open during regular hours in the Library’s 2nd-floor gallery until Dec. 31.

Call for Gala beneficiary nominations

We are excited to announce that nominations are now open for the beneficiary of our Fourth Annual Service Above Self Gala, scheduled for Friday, May 23, 2025 at the Stanley Theatre. This event has been a wonderful opportunity for us to give back to our community, and since its inception, we’ve raised over

\$40,000 for incredible causes, including CABVI’s Camp Abilities, the Utica Zoo’s Red Panda Exhibit, and RCIL’s Arts for Many Hearts program.

We invite you to submit nominations for organizations that you believe would benefit from the proceeds of this year’s Gala. Please include the following information in

By Gala Committee

your nomination:

- Name of organization
- Contact for organization
- A brief summary or explanation of why you think this organization should be the beneficiary

The deadline for nominations is Nov. 8. Email nominations to Gala Chairperson Stephen Turnbull at stephen@t5insurance.com.

New Member Proposed: Maggie Reed

The board proposes Maggie Reed for membership to the Rotary Club of Utica. Per by-laws, club members have five days to submit a written objection to Secretary Jill Koch.

Maggie Reed is a marketing professional and currently the project manager at Quad-simia where she leverages her marketing background to drive successful project outcomes. With a career that spans over two decades in various marketing leadership roles, Maggie has honed a unique skill set that combines strategic thinking, effective communication, and team collaboration to achieve organizational goals.

Before joining Quadsimia, Maggie served as the marketing manager at Remet, and was previously the marketing manager at ECR International.

Maggie says she values family and work-life balance, and is “happily married and a proud mother of two young adult daughters.” Outside of work, Maggie enjoys hiking and gardening, finding tranquility and



inspiration in nature. She also has a passion for live music, often frequenting the great venues in the Greater Utica area.

Calendar of Events

10/29	Event “Pints for Polio” 4-6:30 Orchard Hall	11/14	Social Grow Brewery 5 pm Memorial Parkway
11/1	Service ‘Flags for Heroes’ setup 9 am Memorial Parkway	11/17	Meeting Mid-York Library noon
11/2	Service Urban Tree Planting 9 am Utica Parks Dept.	11/21	Tour Wynn Hospital 11:30 am
11/7	Meeting Don Reese & Dana Jerrard noon Mid-York Library	12/5	Meeting Mid-York Library noon
11/12	Service ‘Flags for Heroes’ takedown 9:30 am Memorial Parkway	12/11	Event ‘Not So Silent Night’ auction 6-7:30 Fort Schuyler Club