



# Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

Sept. 15, 2025

## Genesis chief to address club this week



Raymond J. Durso, Jr. will update the club on what has been happening with the Genesis Group of the Mohawk Valley region. Ray is president/CEO of Genesis and has been with the group since its be-

ginning in 2000. Our club meeting starts at noon Thursday, Sept. 18, in the Mid-York Library Headquarters at 1600 Lincoln Ave., Utica.

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## Rotarian joins ceremonial planting prior to Oct. tree project

By *Dave Jones*

The Utica Urban Revitalization Project kicked off Sept. 12 with a ceremonial planting in Kemble Park.

This project is made possible with funding from the USDA for \$2 million to plant trees within Utica's disadvantaged census track. Several organizations are involved.

Our club will step up to the plate on Saturday October 25 to plant 37 trees in East and West Utica.

Rotarians who wish to volunteer should contact me via email - [davidjones0422@gmail.com](mailto:davidjones0422@gmail.com).



**Rotarian Dave Jones with Mayor Mike Galime and Parks Commissioner Dave Short during the ceremonial tree planting at Kemble Park.**

Submit news and photos to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org)

*Editor Robert Stronach*

## ABOUT THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

Ray Durso was born in Herkimer, raised in Utica, and enjoys traveling throughout the region.

He is responsible for the day-to-day operation of The Genesis Group, a non-profit organization that brings together individuals and organizations dedicated to adaptive leadership to meet new challenges and to create positive impact in the community.

Ray also serves as the chairman of the Mohawk Valley's Chamber Alliance, a group of 20 organizations in three counties. The Chamber Alliance supports the needs of area small businesses.

Ray says the best part about his job is working with so many people who give their time and talent to help make a better community. Ray works with elected, business and community leaders and professionals in areas of education, healthcare, tourism, economic development, just to name a few.

Some of the community events that Durso organizes include:



an Annual Legislation Forum with area elected officials, a 9/11 Prayer Breakfast which honors and remembers those in law enforcement, fire fighters and the military, the Annual Celebration of Education recognizing educators, and much more.

Ray has met some celebrities, such as former New York Yan-

kees Owner George Steinbrenner, several Yankee greats including Ron Guidry, Phil Rizutto, Bobby Murcer and former Yankee Managers Gene Michael, Bucky Dent and Aaron Boone. He also met singer Whitney Houston. In every instance Ray acts as a goodwill ambassador for our region.

Ray has served as an on-air consultant for WKTV/ NewsChannel 2 and a columnist with the *Observer-Dispatch*. He currently hosts a weekly radio program, "This Week in the Mohawk Valley" on WIBX. He has a monthly column in the *New Hartford Town Crier* and is a regular contributor to the *Daily Sentinel*.

He is a recipient of Mohawk Valley Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Award, Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce Business Advocate of the Year Award and the Community Champion of the Year Award from The Parkway Center in Utica.

## Calendar of Events

9/18 Meeting | Ray Durso, Genesis Group  
noon | Mid-York Library

10/22 Visit | CNY Rotary President's Visit  
5:30 pm | Halloween fellowship  
Orchard Hall, Sauquoit

10/16 Meeting | Pride of Workmanship  
noon | Awards Luncheon  
Irish Cultural Center

10/25 Service | Urban Tree Planting Project  
| in East & West Utica



**WORLD POLIO DAY**  
**IS 24 OCTOBER**



## Rotarians are marathiners

Utica Rotarians Yuliya Karpov and Matt Schlosser took part in the Old Forge Marathon Weekend Festival on September 6, with Yuliya Karpov run-

ning the half marathon and Matt Schlosser the 50K ultramarathon. Matt placed 3rd overall out of 37 runners in the 50K, finishing as the top male.



## Attend the Rotary Leadership Institute on Sept. 27

On September 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., CNY Rotary will be hosting a Rotary Leadership Institute at VVS High School in Verona.

It's for any Rotarian - Levels 1, II, III and graduate. The cost has been reduced to \$25

per participant. To register, visit [RLINEA.org](http://RLINEA.org), scroll down to the CNY Rotary listing, click on "More Info", and click the registration link.

For more info, contact Jerry Gortner at [gerald.gortner@yahoo.com](mailto:gerald.gortner@yahoo.com) or (315) 762-8038.



*An evening of Halloween-themed Rotary fun and fellowship from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Orchard Hall in Sauquoit.*

## Join CNY Rotary president for a spooky evening

Get your Halloween costume on and join a festive autumn evening Oct. 22 with CNY President Bob Balk and members from across Area 3 (Utica, Hamilton, New Hartford, Oriskany Falls, Sauquoit, Greater Utica Sunrise, and North Utica-Whitestown) and beyond!

It runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Orchard Hall. Come out to enjoy:

- World Polio Day celebration (just two days later)
- Our Halloween theme - after all, our ven-

ue is haunted!

- A costume contest, so wear something spooky
- Pumpkin decorating
- Fellowship with members from all over the area and CNY Rotary leadership

Cost is \$22 per person, which includes hot and cold appetizers.

To reserve a spot, contact Area Rep Carol Malloy of Sauquoit Rotary at [mjjm44@aol.com](mailto:mjjm44@aol.com).