

7150NEWS

ROTARY DISTRICT 7150
JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7150 | DISTRICT GOVERNOR DANA JERRARD

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SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

District Governor



2021-2022 Governor
Dana Jerrard Utica

District Executive Committee



DG Elect
Jerry Seguin Fulton



DG Nominee
Elise Hereth V.V.S. Community



Immediate Past DG
Cheryl Matt Dewitt



District Trainer 2021-22
PDG Deb Glisson Marcellus



District Trainer 2022-24
PDG Dennis Schonewetter V.V.S. Comm.

Assistant Governors



Wendy Mucica Little Falls



Judy Reilly Greater Utica Sunrise



Jim Cook New Hartford



Jim Eklund Chittenango



Steve Osborne Fulton



Blessed Sikhosana Onondaga North



Charlie Smith Marcellus

Assistant Governor Trainer



Jenny Doane Baldwinsville

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Submit club and district news to:
rotary7150@gmail.com

The deadline to submit brief articles with great photos for publication in an issue of 7150NEWS is the 25th of each month.

GREETINGS FROM DG DANA JERRARD

Caring for and serving others changes not only other people’s lives, but also our own.

Dana Jerrard | DG | Utica

Welcome to the 2021-22 Rotary year and our new-look district newsletter, 7150NEWS. Syracuse Rotarian Jim Morrow has the unenviable task of following Lizzy Martin as newsletter editor and will surely call on the skills acquired during his career in the graphic arts. Thank you, Jim, for taking on this assignment.

Service to others is a team sport, and the 7150NEWS masthead includes photos of the many Rotarians who have volunteered to serve our district in addition to their home clubs and communities. Each one is an expert in his/her area; please reach out to learn more about what we Rotarians do in Central NY and beyond, and while you’re at it, ask about opportunities to serve Rotary at the district level. You will meet some nice people!



To me, the theme of 2021-22 Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta, Serve to Change Lives, is the perfect distillation of our purpose into four powerful words. The positive change that Rotarians bring to millions around the world is well-known; what is less obvious is how our Rotary service and relationships make us better world citizens. I’d like to think that 35 years in Rotary has taught me to be more aware, empathetic, tolerant, and compassionate. What life-changing adjectives would you use to describe your Rotary experience?

One of the things that your district leadership will focus on this year is helping clubs go “forward to normal”. From the technology of hybrid meetings, to collaboration opportunities, to project funding sources, to programs to strengthen your club, we are here to help your club expand its reach, increase its impact, and adapt to the next set of changes that confronts us.

Finally, please mark your calendar for October 29, our four-district End Polio Now event, and October 30, the District 7150 Conference of Clubs. These in-person events will take place in Syracuse/Liverpool, a convenient drive for all district Rotarians and guests. Stay tuned! ♦

Yours in Rotary,

IT FEELS LIKE SUMMER OUTSIDE!

...and New Hartford Rotary is already talking Fall?



James High | New Hartford

Many of our spring flowers should be planted in the fall so they are ready to give us the colors that come as the weather warms. Think Daffodils, Day Lilies, Iris, and more! New Hartford Rotary is again teaming up with **Flower Power Fundraising** to offer an array of bulbs and seed to be planted in the fall.

On-line orders will be accepted through October 15. Order now to receive the best selection! The New Hartford Rotary club will receive 50% of the profit. Check out their catalog on the club’s Facebook page or NewHartfordRotary.fpfundraising.com.

Please share this with your friends! ♦

HAMILTON ROTARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

First fundraiser in nearly two years

Lorna Wilson | Hamilton

We write to you today asking that you join us in helping to celebrate our 26th Annual Hamilton Rotary Golf Tournament on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at Seven Oaks Golf Course in Hamilton, NY.

This is the first fundraiser we have hosted in nearly two years and it is more important than ever as we seek to raise funds to support the many worthy local and international causes that Rotary supports. It would be an amazing testament to the power of Rotary to have all the clubs in District 7150 be represented with either a team or a tee sign. We are offering all clubs in our district a special tee sign rate of \$75 (regular price is \$130).

As we celebrate the 26th year of this tournament, we are pleased to bring some new and special offerings! All Rotary Club teams who register before July 30 will be entered into an early bird drawing to win one round of golf for four at the Seven Oaks Golf Course. Your registration includes: 18 holes of challenging golf with cart, a hot dog and bag of chips at registration, a goody bag, a drink coupon, and buffet dinner at the Colgate Inn! There are amazing door prizes and chances to win different premium prizes at all of the Par 3 holes! Shotgun start is 11:30 am.

Whether you can play, sponsor, donate a gift or provide financial support, we are counting on you to help us make this year’s tournament our best fundraising event ever! See you on August 26th! ♦

[Download a PDF of the registration form](#)

District Officers



District Secretary
Pete Cardamone Tully



Treasurer
Tara Renner Onondaga North



Finance
PDG Randy Wilson Sauquoit



District Conference
Chair, Linda Iannone Utica



District Rotary Foundation
Chair, Don Reese Utica



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Co-chair, Darnell Hayes DeWitt



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Co-Chair, Cheryl Matt DeWitt



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Co-chair, Devin White Eastwood



Membership
Joe Caruso Utica



Innovative Clubs
Lizzy Martin Baldwinsville



Public Image
Lizzy Martin Baldwinsville



Parliamentarian
PDG Dennis Schonewetter... VVS Community



Rotaract
Jonathan Yost Eastwood



Veterans Service
John “Ziggy” Zygmunt New Hartford



Youth Exchange & Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
PDG Phyllis Danks Marcellus



Rotary Leadership Institute
Donna Schonewetter VVS Community



Rotary Leadership Institute
PDG Dennis Schonewetter... VVS Community



New Generations
Tom Taylor Onondaga North

SAYING THANK YOU TO SOME REAL HOMETOWN HEROES
Oswego County Health Department’s Preventative Services Team Honored



Above: Photos of the team were taken for a plaque presented to the team by Oswego Rotary president Mark DuFore and board member Sue Witmer. Below: several members of the Preventative Service Team and Rotary members Mark DuFore and Sue Witmer.



Susan Witmer | Oswego

How do you say thank you when thank you doesn’t seem to be enough? This group of individuals has worked tirelessly for the past 15 months in an effort to beat the COVID-19 pandemic. They are the Preventive Services Division of the County Health Department. Under normal circumstances, this group is responsible for disease surveillance and prevention, community outreach and education, and outbreak control and response.

COVID put all of that to a test. In fifteen months, the Division which started as a phone bank for residents has: tracked more than 7,700 positive cases; traced more than 15,000 close contacts; answered more than 20,000 calls; rolled out more than 30 testing events and served more than 1,000 individuals, and; administered more than 14,000 doses of vaccine

Most recently, the National Association of County and City Health Officials selected the Division’s phone bank as a ‘2021 Innovative Practice Silver Awardee’ for its remarkable innovation to meet the needs of residents, address health disparities, and build partnership and collaboration in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For all this and more, the Oswego Rotary Club wants to show its sincerest appreciation and gratitude, and say thank you all so much for everything you’ve done for the entire Oswego County community. ♦



UTICA AREA CLUBS FEED CLOSE TO ONE THOUSAND FAMILIES

Stephen S. Karboski | North-Utica Whitestown

North-Utica Whitestown and Utica Rotary clubs combined their efforts for a food drive benefiting the Utica Food Pantry, whose motto is “I was hungry and you gave me food.” For much of the month of May, the collaboration has been collecting food from the students at Whitesboro High School and community partners such as the Dunham Public Library, the North Utica

Branch of First Source FCU, the New Hartford Branch of M&T Bank, the wonderful folks at Schuyler Commons, as well as Utica College Football.

From May 4 through June 4, they have gathered over 1200 pounds of food and received a donation of \$200 from North-Utica Whitestown’s sister club, Utica Rotary. This equates to feeding just shy of 1000 families in the Mohawk Valley. ♦

Inviting ALL clubs from District 7150 to send a team to compete

\$80 per person - Captain & Crew
Dinner / Raffle / Prizes
Call or text 315.696.1825 to RSVP

FIRST ANNUAL
TULLY ROTARY
GOLF TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 20 | 10AM
VESPER HILLS
GOLF CLUB

Proceeds to benefit Tully Rotary Ecological and Environmental Sustainability project (T.R.E.E.S.)

HELLO, FROM THE (NEW) EDITOR OF 7150NEWS
2021-22: Another great Rotary year in the making

James Morrow | Editor | Syracuse



Meet the editor

Wife: Millisa
Children: Cassidy (12) & Gabriella (9)
Resides in Pompey
Owner of Morrow Graphics in Syracuse
Joined the Rotary Club of Syracuse in 2012
Past-president (2014-15)
Currently chair of club’s Philanthropy & Charity Committee (P&C)

On behalf of DG Dana Jerrard and Rotarians of District 7150, I would like to thank our outgoing editor, Lizzy Martin of Baldwinsville, for her tireless dedication to the readers of this monthly newsletter. For the last several years, Lizzy has invested significant amounts of time and talent to bring you the news of Rotary all in the spirit of our organization’s motto: Service-Above-Self.

I am honored to step into the role of editor of the district’s official newsletter and assume the responsibilities which Lizzy seemed to handle with ease. DG Dana and I are planning for an incredible year of 7150NEWS that we hope will live up to the tradition set by my predecessor. We will do our best not to make a mess, Lizzy.

We’re in for a great Rotary year! Who would have thought during a long year of isolation we would have met so many new people? COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings are being relaxed in upstate New York and most of our clubs will soon be resuming with a hybrid of remote and in-person meetings. We are slowly getting back to a big part of Rotary — **fellowship**.

I do not think video conferencing during club meetings is going away anytime soon, however, and I know my club is already planning its use for future luncheons. By uniting those who are staying home along with guests from far away places, we Rotarians have the potential to bring more people together than ever before. A truly unique opportunity. ♦

ESSENTIAL ROTARY-FUNDED TRAVEL TO RESUME ON JULY 1

Rotary International | rotary.org

In some parts of the world, COVID-19 infections are decreasing, vaccination rates are on the rise, and local health authorities are relaxing travel and meeting restrictions. Based on these developments, the Rotary International Board of Directors, with input from the COVID-19 Task Force, will allow Rotary-funded business travel to resume, as long as it is essential to Rotary's business operations, effective July 1, 2021.

Until December 31, 2021, Rotary will only fund travel that is essential to Rotary's business operations. Travel is essential if:

- it is mission-critical for Rotary business;
- it cannot be conducted without in-person interaction or without visit(s) to a specific location(s);
- the purpose and intended outcomes of the travel are dependent upon the presence of the funded traveler(s) at the in-person meeting/location.

The Board continues to recommend that Rotary conduct its business virtually or in a hybrid form. However, Rotary meetings, service projects, and training events can occur as long as health concerns have been considered and everyone fully complies with local health and safety rules.

If you have questions about whether your trip qualifies as essential travel, contact your staff liaison. ♦



ROTARY TIP FROM SECRETARY CARDAMONE
It is your job to update your new email address

Peter Cardamone | District Secretary | Tully

Most club members can rely on their club's president or secretary to help them change their personal information in the member database — all of which is done in ClubRunner, accessed through the district web site, rotary7150.org. And, whether a club leader helps you or you do it yourself in ClubRunner, that information then flows to Rotary International's database automatically.

It's a beautiful system! However, there is one exception that all members need to know about and that's when it comes to updating your email address.

An update to your primary email in ClubRunner will not flow into Rotary's database, and for good reason. The log-in we use for our My Rotary accounts through Rotary International use our email address as our username. If Rotary changed your email because we changed it in ClubRunner, you could get blocked out of your My Rotary account! The remedy is to log into your My Rotary account at rotary.org and in your profile (link in the upper right) you can manually update your email address.

Just remember that you will need to do this yourself — your club leaders cannot help you with this one — and that you will still also need to make sure it gets updated in ClubRunner one way or another. Hopefully no one is having to update their email address very often, but it is important that all members know about this one little work-around that is necessary if you do! ♦



Tully Rotary and Interact members spent a recent Saturday morning picking up trash along Route 11 in Tully as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. "Doing our part to keep the community clean and safe".



It's that time of the year as Auburn Rotarians pack and move their first pallet of books for the **Books For The World** project. These books were donated courtesy of Auburn Senior High School. This is the first of four pallets of books scheduled for the project this summer.

AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL DONATES BOOKS FOR THE WORLD

Auburn Rotary kicks off summer with first pallet of books

Mitch Maniccia | Auburn

The first pallet of books for this season, donated from the Auburn High School Library, has been packed, palletized and is ready to be shipped to the warehouse in Syracuse. The Auburn Club has proud and extensive participation in this project, having shipped 32 pallets since 2011. We are looking forward to an active summer and fall to collect many boxes of books for this project. We are very thankful to the Auburn Enlarged City School District for their continued support of this project. ♦



AUBURN ROTARY SCHEDULES TWO MILK GIVEAWAYS

Mitch Maniccia | Auburn

The Auburn club has scheduled two **Milk Giveaways** to help their fellow citizens. The motive of the project is two-fold: First, there are several areas of Auburn that are deemed to be food deserts where many residents do not have their own transportation. Second, local dairy farmers require a boost in revenue to strengthen their businesses crippled by the pandemic. Cayuga County's Hillcrest Dairy, a family-owned dairy and milk bottling plant, is assisting Auburn Rotary by securing over 800 gallons of milk for the project. At each planned giveaway, guests will receive enough half-gallon containers of milk for their household.

Letters were sent to potential donors requesting financial assistance in the project. So far, the club has received several positive responses and are confident more will be coming on board. There is a plan to schedule additional dates and sites as more funding is received from their patrons. ♦

MILK GIVEAWAY #1
Thursday July 15

Brogan Manor Club House
37 Olympia Avenue
Auburn, NY 13021

MILK GIVEAWAY #2
Thursday August 12

BTW
23 Chapman Ave
Auburn, NY 13021

NEW HARTFORD ROTARIAN'S FATHER HONORED IN PARK

Ceremony paid tribute to WWII soldier's ultimate sacrifice with memorial tree

Jim Cook | New Hartford

On May 27, 2021, 77 years to the day, the New Hartford Rotary Club honored 1st Lieutenant USAF Frank Fazekas who made the ultimate sacrifice for his county.

On May 27, 1944, the plane that Lt. Fazekas was flying was struck by anti-aircraft fire causing him to crash in a farmer's field in Buysseure, France. Lieutenant Fazekas made the ultimate sacrifice that day, and accordingly, the club honored him with their first Veterans Memorial Tree at the Town of New Hartford Veterans Memorial Park. Lieutenant Fazekas was the father of New Hartford Rotarian, Frank Frazekas.



The memorial tree project was the idea of John "Ziggy" Zygmunt who has been working for several years along with the Town of New Hartford to get the tree and marker placed at the park.

The celebration was led by master of ceremonies, Rotarian George Carpenter, and began with the honor guard from the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 944 presenting the colors. Next, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Frank Fazekas and an invocation was given by Rev. Dr. Mary Webster. Club president, Ed Gallacher, made remarks which were followed by Mr. Carpenter's reading of a poem titled *High Flight*.

George then introduced Frank Fazekas who said a few words about his father and the efforts he went through to recover his father's remains from France and have them placed in Arlington National Cemetery.

The honor guard again presented the colors and "Taps" was performed by Mike DiMeo, local musician and director of the Utica College Concert Band and New Hartford Citizens' Band. This was the first of many memorial trees that we hope to place in the park in an effort to recognize some of our local heroes while at the same time, help to beautify the park and assist with helping the environment. ♦

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Oswego grant helps expand services to more young readers

Elizabeth A. Metzger | D7150 Literacy Committee

The Rotary District 7150 Literacy Committee is pleased to grant \$200 to the Oswego Rotary Club for the Oswego County Imagination Library which the Oswego club will match.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library provides a new, age appropriate book each month to children aged 0 to 5. Dolly's Foundation partners with a community with the goal of giving children of all economic backgrounds access to quality literature. Research shows that this program improves Kindergarten readiness skills, increases parent-child bonding and ultimately improves reading skills which has a lifetime benefit.

In the fall of 2018, Oswego County obtained a five-year grant from the Alliance for Economic Inclusion to bring this fine program to the community. That grant funded the Dolly Parton Imagination library for approximately 2000 children.

2624 children are now enrolled, since April 30, which has far exceeded expectations. They are now facing the challenge of the possibility of having to turn families away as the expenses for mailing the books is projected to be higher.

The grant will guarantee twenty additional children will be served by the program. Congratulations to the Oswego Rotary Club and thank you for supporting this vital literacy initiative in your community.

Members of District 7150's Literacy Committee are Meg VanPatten, April Bliss, Travis Olivera, and Glenna Wisniewski. ♦



KEEP US UP TO DATE WITH YOUR CLUB'S LATEST NEWS

Email photos and articles to rotary7150@gmail.com

The deadline to submit information for publication in an issue of 7150NEWS is the 25th of each month. ~ the editor



OSWEGO GETS BACK AT IT, IN-PERSON

(TOP LEFT) The Oswego Rotary Club held their annual changing of the guard ceremony on June 22 where outgoing president Mark DuFore handed over the gavel to 2021-2022 president Sabine Ingerson. (ABOVE) This gathering was the first time in almost 15 months the majority of members were able to meet in person due to COVID-19 restrictions. Congratulations Sabine! (BOTTOM LEFT) Members Joe Hutchinson and Rick Tesoriero were recently celebrated as Paul Harris Fellows. Joe is a PH+3 and Rick a PH+6.

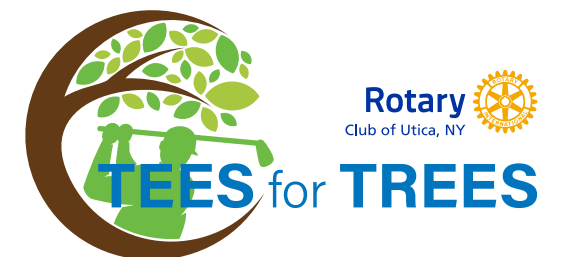
Save The Date!

SENECA RIVER DAYS August 14th
Paper Mill Island
Baldwinsville

Live Music • Food Trucks
Children's Fun • Duck Race
and more!

Get your duck tickets from any
Baldwinsville Rotarian

Follow Seneca River Days on
Facebook for the latest news & info



2021 ROTARY CLUB OF UTICA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

IT'S A DAY OF GOLFING FUN TO HELP SUPPORT OUR CLUB'S URBAN TREE PROJECT— **TEE FOR TREES**

Sunday, August 8, 2021

Rotary Club of Utica invites all other district Rotary clubs to participate with a golf team and/or sponsorship of a

Additional information can be obtained by emailing [Jerry Kraus](mailto:Jerry.Kraus@rotaryclubofutica.org) or by viewing/downloading the 2021 Golf Tournament Registration Form and 2021 Tee Sign Hole Sponsorship Form from our club website at [Tees for Trees Charity Golf Tournament](https://www.rotaryclubofutica.org/tees-for-trees).

Good luck Golfers!
from
New Hartford Rotary Club

SYRACUSE PAST-PRESIDENT, DR. BRADLEY STRAIT, DIES AT 89

Syracuse University says goodbye to their student, professor, Dean Emeritus

[syracuse.com Obituaries \(edited\)](#) | May 13-16, 2021



Dr. Bradley J. Strait passed away on May 6 at the age of 89. Brad was born in Canandaigua and graduated from Canandaigua Academy in 1950. He followed in his parents' footsteps and enrolled at Syracuse University, but with the Korean War occupying the nation's attention, after one semester Bradley enlisted in the United States Navy, ultimately serving from 1951-1955 as an electronics technician aboard the USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. (DD-850), a Gearing class destroyer.

After his discharge, Bradley took full advantage of the G.I. Bill, re-enrolled at Syracuse University, joined The Sigma Nu Chapter of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, and graduated in 1958 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. It was while in college that Bradley met his future wife, Nancy E. Brown, formerly of Barrington, IL, and they were married on September 14th, 1957. Brad's beloved Nancy died in 2014.

After completing his undergraduate degree, Bradley remained at Syracuse University and in 1960 completed his M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. After briefly working as an engineer at Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, Bradley returned to Syracuse University in 1961 to begin formal studies toward his PhD in Electrical Engineering which he completed in 1965 while serving as an engineering instructor.

Brad began his professional career in 1965 when he joined the Syracuse University faculty as an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering. He moved through the academic ranks to become an Associate Professor in 1969, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1974, and Dean of the L.C. Smith College of Engineering from 1981-1984, and again from 1989-1992.

Dr. Strait was the recipient of several awards for excellence in teaching, with academic specialization in electromagnetic theory and measurements, anten-

na arrays, scattering systems, and the application of computers to antenna problems. Bradley wrote many articles, received a long list of research grants and consulting contracts, and in 1980 edited a book entitled *Applications of the Method of Moments to Electromagnetic Fields*. As an administrator at Syracuse University, he established a new undergraduate computer engineering program - one of the first in the country, he initiated a departmental Minority Engineering Program, ran the University faculty softball league for many years, and as Dean of the College of Engineering he formed the College's first Advisory Board consisting of experts from industry, government and academia. It was with this Board's assistance that he designed and established Syracuse University's first undergraduate cooperative education program in engineering, and was instrumental in establishing the Center for Advanced Technology in Computer Applications and Software Engineering (CASE Center), and served as its Founding Director.

A recipient of numerous honors and awards for professional achievement, in 1986 Bradley received the Syracuse University Chancellor's Citation for Distinguished Service, he served as Syracuse University's Mace Bearer from 1988-1995, and in 2010 was awarded the Eggers Alumni Award for his loyalty and service to the University.

Dr. Strait returned to teaching upon stepping down as Dean and retired in 1995 as Professor and Dean Emeritus. In retirement, Bradley had time to pursue his interests in the Civil War and WW II while being active in the Alumni Association of the University's College of Engineering and Computer Science. He held several offices, including president of the Rotary Club of Syracuse and editor of the USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. crew-member newsletter. Brad and Nancy were founding members of the Jamesville Community Museum and both sang in the choir of the Jamesville Community Church in Jamesville.

Bradley enjoyed golfing and bowling with his many friends from Syracuse and Canandaigua, and was a passionate fan of Syracuse University athletics, the Cincinnati Reds and New York Yankees. ♦

MEET YOUR INNOVATIVE CLUBS CHAIR

Here to help you revolutionize, modernize and reimagine what it means to be a member

[Lizzy Martin](#) | [Baldwinsville](#)

The new Rotary year also brings a new position to the district membership team and a new way to support membership growth in District 7150. I, Lizzy Martin, will be your Innovative Clubs Chairperson.

What does that mean? That means I will be working with DG Dana, Membership Chair Joe Caruso and all of our club and Rotary leaders to identify creative ways we can make Rotary membership attractive, accessible and fun.

Because this is an imaginative approach, it takes on many forms. I can help with everything from updating your club's bylaws to add a corporate membership option, to tweaking the meeting format of an existing club to make it feel new again, to starting a brand new club from scratch, and everything in between. I am here to help you revolutionize, modernize and reimagine what it means to be a member and what it means to be a Rotary Club so that everything about our organization is more vibrant and irresistible while still upholding our core values. To help us all learn what this means in more detail I have created a new page on the district web site that will be home to monthly updates and many, many resources to help get you as energized as I am.

Visit www.rotary7150.org, go to the Resource tab, then under Membership, click on Innovative Clubs. Then read 7150NEWS each month for articles from me highlighting different ways in which we can innovate together! If you have questions, want to get involved or want to discuss making changes in your club, reach out anytime at emartin@advancemediany.com or (315) 470-2107. It's an honor to serve in this new capacity and I look forward to helping grow Rotary in the coming year! ♦



Lizzy Martin, Innovative Clubs Chairperson.

#EndPolio

Our District 7150 recently took advantage of a special funding match opportunity. We donated \$10,000 to Polio Plus from our District Designated Funds. This \$10K was matched by an anonymous donor 50-cents-on-the-dollar, a 2-to-1 match by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, plus a 100% match by the World Fund. Our \$10,000 DDF donation became a \$75,000 donation to fight polio. "We're this close!"

UTICA ROTARY HOSTS

'SERVICE ABOVE SELF SAFARI'

[Jerry Kraus](#) | [Utica](#)

The Rotary Club of Utica recently hosted their Service Above Self Safari event, held June 17 at the Utica Zoo. It was a huge success on many levels. The event marked the return of in-person events for the Rotary Club, with 100 people in attendance as well as raising over \$5,400 for the Utica Zoo.

At this event, a few awards were given out including the Paul Harris Award to Travis Rabbers, the Service Above Self/Club Award to Michelle Brandstadt, the Club's 'Quiet Giver' Award to Devon Hoffman and the Service Above Self/Community Award to Patrick Johnson, a local advocate for social justice.

Three Past District Governors were in attendance including Randy Wilson (Sauquoit), Don Reese (Utica) and Gerry Gortner (Canastota). This event also included a transition of the Rotary Club of Utica presidency from Israel Acosta to Stephen Turnbull. ♦



(Left) Outgoing club president, Israel Acosta and incoming president, Stephen Turnbull.

AWARDS CEREMONY AT DISTRICT'S CHANGING OF THE GUARD

DG Cheryl Matt | DeWitt

This Rotary year has been like no other, and as your District Governor, I did not make any official visits in person. But, I read our district newsletter, club newsletters, and your club's Facebook pages. I attended more zoom meetings than I can count and heard about club activities from the Assistant Governors and club members. My conclusion is that Rotarians in the District truly are "People of Action". Let's start with some recognition and awards. I'm calling these the "District Governor's Favorites". The individuals and clubs mentioned will receive their custom certificate in the mail.

The first category is "Newsletters" and I wish to commend three clubs for their newsletters. I read a lot of newsletters this year and really enjoyed all of them, but there were a few I really looked forward to: The District Governor's favorite newsletter awards go to:

Rome Rotary for their "Rome Rotary Club News", with a special thanks to their newsletter editor Jeannie Packer. Their newsletter is full of photos, information about club and community events and Rotary resources. Among their projects, Rome worked with Scout troops, and members of the Adirondack Foothills & New Hartford Rotary clubs to plant 200+ fir saplings as a way to support the environment.

New Hartford for their "In-Gear" newsletter. It's always chock full of club news and events and quirky cartoons & jokes. Special thanks to Jim Cook. One of their projects this year was a drive through pancake day.

Skaneateles and their newsletter, "The Skantarian", Ward Vuilemott, editor. I know if it's not in their newsletter, it isn't so! Always informative and full of great ideas for other clubs to borrow. And even in a pandemic, Skaneateles continued to have interesting speakers at their virtual meetings and prospective members join their club.

The next category is "unique hybrid meetings". Since I did not attend any of my official visits in-person, almost every club very graciously accommodated with zoom, phone conferences. There were also several clubs that tried hybrid meetings and, early in the Rotary year, the two I found most unique were Canastota and Adirondack Foothills.

Canastota set up a meeting in the Canastota public library with a laptop and socially distanced chairs and

everyone was able to see my slides and ask questions and then they all walked over to Zems for ice cream cones.

Adirondack Foothills had an outdoor meeting with Rotarians in lawn chairs and a laptop on a table. They were able to meet in the early evening on the lawn of the local library and borrowed the library's WiFi. It worked and we had a great visit. I remember their president Pat Ferguson taking a big bite out of an apple on-screen just before introducing me.

Next, we have "Club Service During a Pandemic". Every club did what they could for their community despite the challenges public health restrictions posed. But I found that some of our smaller clubs didn't let obstacles stand in their way.

Greater Utica Sunrise Rotary Club made sure everyone had food. They delivered food to fire stations throughout the community to show appreciation for first responders, and provided fresh meat and vegetables to the "Community Refrigerator". An actual fridge located in Utica, on Oneida Street, in the middle of a food desert is there to address food insecurity and anyone can take the food. Wonderful project.

West Winfield Rotary Club once again sponsored its 30th annual Community Christmas Basket program. This year, because of the pandemic, they made contingency plans. They worked with the school social workers and school nurses to identify 67 needy families. They had parishioners at local churches buy holiday gifts and the Rotarians delivered them. They also had food boxes planned for those same families until a snow storm hit. The grocery store replaced food with gift cards and the program continued.

Next, we have "Club Partnership During a Pandemic". We start out with the wonderful partnership of four local Rotary clubs - **Rome, New Hartford, Sauquoit, and Greater Utica Sunrise Rotary Clubs**. They collected shoes for months, packaged them and shipped them through an organization that funnels them to third-world countries to assist micro-businesses. They also generated some funds for their own Rotary clubs for service projects.

We also want to recognize **Oswego Rotary**. They were heavily involved in coordinating efforts on the shores of Lake Ontario for the multi-district, interna-

tional Great Lakes Watershed Cleanup. They partnered with the City of Oswego, SUNY college at Oswego and their county parks. There were even able to get an ad in the I Love NY promo. Just one of the many projects Oswego did this year.

Our next "District Governor Favorite" category is "Fundraising During a Pandemic". Fundraising was a challenge this year for many clubs. We had two different and successful approaches that caught my eye.

VVS Community went back to basics with a twist. They knew people were accumulating cans & bottles during their quarantine and wanted to be able to clear out their garages without having to bring them back to the stores. They coordinated a broadly advertised can & bottle drive and made \$1000 in just a few hours.

DeWitt had to cancel their annual Pancake Day on Mother's Day Weekend in 2020 and 2021, a huge community event that gave them all their philanthropy money for the following year. The Pancake Day Committee got creative and came up with a Spring Basket Fundraiser for that same weekend. With donated items and lots of local sponsors, they were able to make as much as they typically do with Pancake Day. It was a great success.

Next, in the category, "Community Event During a Pandemic", **Baldwinsville** hit it out of the park with their World Polio Day. With professional signage and a large group of Rotarians, they masked up and socially distanced as they paraded through the downtown Baldwinsville business section on a busy weekend just before Halloween. After, they convened in a local park for a ceremony and additional activities. Also, at the event, our District did their annual fall big check presentation for Polio Plus for \$ 10K.

Next is "Committee Accomplishments During a Pandemic". In this category, I looked for engagement with Rotarians.

The District Literacy Committee presented a very interesting session on Literacy during our FIRST EVER virtual conference in October and, on that same day, hosted a Virtual Walk4Literacy - 4K Walk/Run to raise funds for a committee grant program. This was successful and they just awarded their first grant of \$ 200 from that fund. Thank you, Liz Metzger from Canastota, for chairing this committee.

The **Membership Committee**, chaired by Janet

Joslyn of the Baldwinsville Club, worked with the three other Districts around us and helped form the Membership Monday event series that was high quality, informative, and fun. They also had Creative Meeting Ideas and a Speakers Bureau on the District website for everyone. And for those who like numbers, even during the pandemic, our District was the only one of our four covering upstate NY that gained members YTD.

This last category is "Above & Beyond" in the individual effort category. These are special individuals who really helped the district this year.

PDG Jerry Gortner: For years, Jerry has been a tremendous asset to this District. He has been involved with Multi-District PETS, RLI, and always offers to help with events or projects. He has also been the Foundation Committee Stewardship Chair and, in that capacity, has safeguarded the protocols of all our grants and taken fiduciary responsibility for their accuracy and adherence to RI requirements. It's a tedious job, requiring attention to detail, and Jerry does it willingly. Thank you.

Bonnie Levy: Another unsung hero of our Foundation committee, Bonnie works all year long as the Grants chair. She is the one pivotal person many of the clubs wind up talking to when they have questions, concerns or just need feedback. Thank you, Bonnie, for keeping the clubs in line with grants requirements and helping clubs acquire grants funds to serve their communities. Thank you.

Lizzy Martin totally exemplifies "Service Above Self". She carried out her duties as Public Image Chair, Facebook Administrator, webmaster, AND newsletter editor with confidence and grace. That's a lot! But it was the additional help she gave the clubs and the district that stood out. Lizzy helped clubs with their logos, publicity, inputting new members on Club Runner, getting speakers. She was always willing to help clubs, the District or individual Rotarians. Thank you.

PDG Dennis Schonewetter - So, besides being our District Trainer this year, Dennis is also the District Parliamentarian and was District Co-Chair of RLI with his wife, Donna. He is just now finishing up a compilation of job descriptions for each of the district positions so that new committee chairs know their duties. He never stops working for you and continues to be a huge asset to District 7150.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!! ♦



Members of the Liverpool Satellite Club teamed up with the Greater Liverpool Chamber of Commerce to do a little refresh of the landscaping around the village's Gleason Mansion (the chamber's office building). They, along with some Baldwinsville Rotarians, weeded, planted, mulched and painted to make everything beautiful again. A great service project to end the Rotary year on a high note!



The 1857 Gleason Mansion, also known as Liverpool Village Hall, is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The museum collection includes artifacts, photographs, and information about the people, places, and events of Liverpool.

DISTRICT 7150 TO HOLD VIRTUAL TOWN HALLS MONTHLY

DG Dana Jerrard | Utica

Once each month during this Rotary year, DG Dana will conduct a virtual Town Hall, and every Rotarian in the district will be welcome to join the meeting. The sessions will occur on the fourth Tuesday of each month, starting at 6:00 pm.

The first Town Hall, with the general subject of In-Person, Virtual, and Hybrid Meeting Strategies, will take place on July 27, at 6:00 pm. We hope that each club in the district has at least one attendee, ready to exchange ideas and address the issues that many of our clubs are facing.

One week prior to each town hall, each Rotarian in the district will be invited to register, and those who do will receive a personal link to the meeting.

Please mark your calendar, and we'll see you there. ♦



PEACE, INC. DONATES TOP DESIGNER BRAND CLOTHING TO NURSING HOME STAFF

Michael Garcia | syracuse.com

June 19, 2021 ~ The Frank DeFrancisco Eastwood Community Center normally would be empty on a recent Friday afternoon — it would also be filled with fewer trash bags. However, these trash bags weren't stuffed with useless junk. The bags were lined-up against the wall with paper taped to them that read "Women Small" and "Women Medium".

David Capria, a member of Eastwood Rotary, tore open one of the bags to pull out a black shirt made of cotton. He searched for a price tag to see if it was still attached.

"This one is probably around \$200," Capria said. COVID-19 created a financial loss for retailers around the country. Clothes from last year by Ralph Lauren remained untouched. Instead of throwing them away, they donated them all to non-profit organizations.

Peace, Inc., a nonprofit organization that began in 1968, was one of the organizations that received 18,000 articles of clothing. They ranged from all sizes, children to adults, business to casual. As a way of saying thank you for their work during the pandemic, Peace, Inc. has donated clothes to nursing home staff over the past two months.

Julie Sheedy, chief marketing and engagement officer for Loretto, met at the Frank DeFrancisco Eastwood Community Center recently with a moving truck. Clothes were going to staff at the nursing home's main location on East Brighton Avenue. Eight hundred female employees will enjoy clothes for the summer, which includes shirts, dresses and shoes from last year's fashion.

"It's been a long journey for us," Sheedy said. "And they're [staff] pretty stressed and a little bit burned out. So, this is amazing."

Nursing home staff in Syracuse struggled with staggering numbers of deaths in their facilities during the pandemic. In January, it was reported by syracuse.com that 340 nursing home residents had died.



Eastwood Rotary Executive Secretary Jonathan Yost and new member Ryan Lauber load up a hamper with bags of clothing onto a moving truck for Loretto. (syracuse.com)

Sheedy said Loretto staff already feel stressed after having to be tested for Covid-19 twice a week.

"It's a big commitment for them[staff] to make sure that they get tested," Sheedy said. "I probably had my 60th test myself."

Over the year, Peace, Inc. donated some of the clothes from Ralph Lauren to families during the winter, which included coats and boots. In addition, Peace, Inc. was able to give away clothes to Jordan-Elbridge High School students.

The organization still had clothes left over to give away to nursing homes and community centers like Loretto, Sunnyside Care Center and Syracuse Community Health Center. The total worth of the clothing donated came out to \$3.75 million.

The Rotary of Eastwood had partnered with Peace, Inc. to help distribute the clothing out to nursing homes. Eastwood Rotary members met every Thursday for the past two months to help with sorting out clothes, removing price tags and loading up trucks for those coming in to pick up clothing.

Capria, who is a former work administrator within a nursing home, already knew a lot of the nursing homes around Syracuse.

"He kind of opened up the door of opportunity for us to reach out to them [nursing homes] through the Rotary Club," Rollin Mincher, project manager at Peace, Inc., said. "They've done a phenomenal job involved in this process." ♦



MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS | JULY 2020 VERSUS JULY 2021 | ■ 2021 ■ 2020 ■ CHANGE

ROTARY DISTRICT 7150

