



Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

Jan. 19, 2025

Have Impact on Outstanding Educators Committee

By Joe Abraham

We are forming an Outstanding Educators Committee to plan this year's Outstanding Educators series and are inviting interested members to get involved. This program has a long and meaningful history within our club. The Outstanding Educators Committee works closely with future leaders in our community while honoring the educators who help shape them.

Each year, two students from each of six area high schools are invited to attend Rotary meetings, where they introduce themselves to members and learn about Rotary's community, regional, and international service—bringing to life our motto, *Service Above Self*.

The committee also organizes an end-of-the-school-year awards luncheon to recognize outstanding educators nominated by those students. Students are asked to select teachers who exem-

plify Rotary's values, including *Service Above Self* and the principles of the Four-Way Test: *Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all concerned? Will it build Goodwill and better Friendships? Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?*

The Outstanding Educators program and awards luncheon are a joint effort of the Rotary Clubs of Utica, New Hartford, North Utica/Whitestown, and Sauquoit, making it a unique opportunity for collaboration and impact.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please email both Joe Caruso at jpcaruso12@gmail.com and Bart Gorman at bartgorman@roadrunner.com.

We hope you'll consider being part of this rewarding and impactful Rotary tradition. As planning will begin soon, we encourage interested members to respond as soon as possible.

February program speaker is RCIL's vocational services coordinator - P. 2.



January program speaker focused on detecting/preventing melanoma - P. 2



Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach

RCIL vocational coordinator to address club



Our program speaker on Thursday, Feb. 5, will be Lyn Geigel, vocational services coordinator at the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL).

Lyn grew up in Whitesboro, NY, and has always appreciated the unique qualities of the area—from the beauty of the Adirondacks to the abundance of great food. “It’s where I was born, and I love that we have so many different things around here,” Lyn shares.

Family is an important part of Lyn’s life. She has four children and five grandchildren who “bring joy and inspiration every day.”

A dedicated member of RCIL for 21 years, Lyn says she was drawn to RCIL by its mission to empower individuals. What she enjoys most about her role is helping people become as independent as possible. The most rewarding part of her work, she says, is seeing participants achieve their goals and knowing she played a part in their success.

Self-detect and prevent Melanoma



Melanoma Education Foundation President Steve Fine, who was our January’s program speaker, expressed his thanks “for the opportunity of sharing what I learned about melanoma self-detection and prevention with Utica Rotary Club members.”

He provided Links to the foundation website and online videos (listed below), Including a 31-minute video with most of the content of his presentation.

Melanoma Education Foundation

<https://www.skincheck.org>

Video Links

- 31-Minute Early Self-Detection/Prevention Video:
<https://bit.ly/3hipmFK>
- 16-Minute High School Student Video:
<https://bit.ly/2CBzdoT>
- 22-Minute Middle School Student Video:
<https://bit.ly/2yv32Ep>

Calendar of Events

1/21 Board Meeting | Board of Directors
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

2/4 Meeting | Lyn Geigel, RCIL
noon | Mid-York Library

2/19 Board Meeting | Board of Directors
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

3/5 Meeting | Capt. Kelly Ross
The Salvation Army
noon | Mid-York Library

'Service Above Self' Gala to Benefit Kamp Connections

By Joe Abraham

Join us for the Fifth Annual Rotary Club of Utica *Service Above Self* Gala on Friday, June 5, at the historic Stanley Theatre. This year's beneficiary is Kelberman Center's Kamp Connections, a program dedicated to creating meaningful summer experiences for children and teens of all abilities.

Kelberman Center is a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive, lifelong supports for individuals with autism and other intellectual and

developmental disabilities, helping individuals and families thrive within an inclusive community.

Kamp Connections is for youth ages 5–21, offering a structured, welcoming environment where campers of varying abilities come together to build friendships, confidence, and social skills through shared activities.

More details about the event and beneficiary will be shared in the weeks ahead.

Rotary
Club of Utica

FIFTH ANNUAL
SERVICE ABOVE SELF GALA

Save The Date
Friday, June 5th 2026
Stanley Theatre
6:00-10:00PM

Gala Beneficiary:

 **Kelberman**
The center of excellence for autism