



Utica Rotary Hub



Utica, NY, USA

March 30, 2026

Gala to shine spotlight on Lucretia Hunt, Mary Zimbler

By Joe Abraham

The Rotary Club of Utica is proud to announce that Lucretia Hunt and Mary Zimbler will be honored with the prestigious “Service Above Self” Award at this year’s annual Gala. The black-tie event will take place on Friday, June 5, at the historic Stanley Theatre in Downtown Utica.

Sponsored by Cliff’s Local Market, the “Service Above Self” Gala will serve as a fundraiser for Kelberman Kamp Connections, which creates a fun, inclusive and confidence-building summer camp experiences for children and teens of all abilities



Lucretia Hunt



Mary Zimbler

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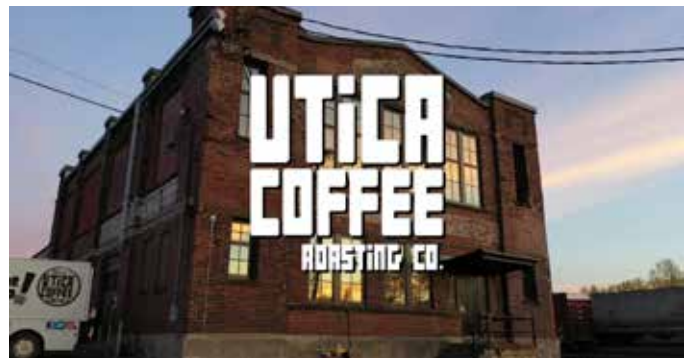
This Thursday’s meeting is at Utica Coffee

By Heather Beebe

Our meeting this Thursday, April 2, will take place at Utica Coffee Roasting Co., starting at noon.

The meeting will include a tour of the facility and I heard there will be some coffee, too.

The address is 300 Water St. in Utica.



Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach

'SERVICE ABOVE SELF' HONOREES

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The Gala will shine a spotlight on Hunt and Zimbler, whose contributions to the community embody Rotary's enduring commitment to "Service Above Self," noted award chair and Utica Rotary Past President Joe Caruso.

"Their leadership, compassion, and tireless commitment to meeting community needs serve as powerful reminders of the impact one individual can have in uplifting and strengthening the lives of many," he said.

Hunt is a lifelong educator, advocate, and community leader whose service to Utica spans decades. A former ESL teacher and New York State GED chief examiner, she has championed education, equality, and civic engagement through work with organizations including the Utica Parks Commission, Utica Municipal Housing, the Oneida County Office for the Aging, and 50 Forward Mohawk Valley. She founded the East Utica Neighborhood Watch, remains active in local government and continues to volunteer weekly at Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen, supporting seniors and addressing food insecurity with unwavering dedication.

Zimbler has served as director of The Country Pantry since 2010, growing it from a small local effort into a critical resource serving hundreds of families each month. Under her leadership, the pantry expanded its reach, volunteer base, and partnerships while offering innovative programs like drive-through distributions and hot meal services. Beyond food access, she connects community members to essential resources including healthcare, housing, and SNAP assistance, demonstrating a deep commitment to dignity and care for all.

Past recipients of the "Service Above Self" Award include the late Patrick Johnson (2021), Sister Elizabeth Greim (2022), the late James Hamer (2023), Felix LaBella, Jr. and Michelle McCarrick Truett (2024), and Earle Reed and Peter Loftus (2025).

Tickets to the Gala, are \$150 and include a delicious dinner from Portofino, one-hour open bar, live music by the band, *Last Left*, and a live auction. For more info, visit

<https://uticarotary.org/page/service-above-self-gala-1>

Calendar of Events

3/31	Service Color Easter Eggs with Kids 1:30 pm at Thea Bowman	4/11	Service Earth Day Highway Cleanup 9 am
4/2	Meeting at Utica Coffee 300 Water Street	4/15	Board Meeting Board of Directors noon Greater Utica Chamber
4/11	Conference CNY Rotary District Downtown Marriott, Syracuse	5/7	Meeting Pam Baxter CNY Rotary DEI chair noon Mid-York Library HQ

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Wear Something Cool, Promote Rotary, Too.

Check out our Utica Rotary merchandise at the online store:

https://maxsprintshopstores.com/rotary_club/shop/home



FIFTH ANNUAL SERVICE ABOVE SELF GALA

Friday, June 5 • 6 to 10 p.m.
The Stanley Theatre



AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS

PRESENTING SPONSOR: \$5,000

- Presenting Name
- 8 Tickets/Table Included
- Promotional Video Business
- Logo on Stage Outside
- Management Front of Gala
- Name on All Advertising & Promotion
- Social Media Thank You

SILVER SPONSOR: \$1,000

- 2 Tickets Included
- Name on All Advertising & Promotion
- Logo & Name Recognition At Event
- Social Media Thank You

CORPORATE TABLE: \$1,200

- Seats 8

GOLD SPONSOR: \$2,500

(Only 4 Available)

- 4 Tickets Included
- Naming Sponsor *(Dinner, Cocktail, Awards or Music)*
- Name on All Advertising & Promotion
- Information Table in Lobby at Event
- Logo & Name Recognition At Event
- Social Media Thank You

BRONZE SPONSOR: \$500

- Logo & Name Recognition At Event
- Social Media Thank You

CONTACT:

Travis Rabbers, Rabbe1ta@gmail.com, or
Stephen Turnbull, stephen@t5insurance.com

Presented By:



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

Gala Beneficiary:



Rotarians participate in Chamber Games

Six Utica Rotarians brought their competitive spirit to the Chamber Games at Elevate in Westmoreland on Thursday night. Hosted by the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce's Catalyst Group in partnership with the Rome Young Professionals Exchange, the event featured a lively mix of team challenges and networking.

From cornhole and volleyball to a cup-stacking relay and puzzle race, more than 50 participants

jumped into the action. Among those in attendance were Immediate Past President Travis Rabbers, Secretary Matt Schlosser, Board Member Joe Abraham, and members Yuliya Karpov, Devon Hoffman, and Drew DeBlasiis.

Some participants even walked away with medals, but everyone left with bragging rights, new connections, and a great night of friendly competition.



Chamber Games Participants



Add Rotarian color to Easter eggs

By Heather Beebe

We're looking for Rotarians to help color Easter eggs with children at Thea Bowman House on March 31 at 1:30 p.m.

It will be in the school building located at 309 Genesee St.

If this is something you would like to participate in, please let me know. You can email me at heatherutica@gmail.com or text me at 315-368-3527.