

# Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

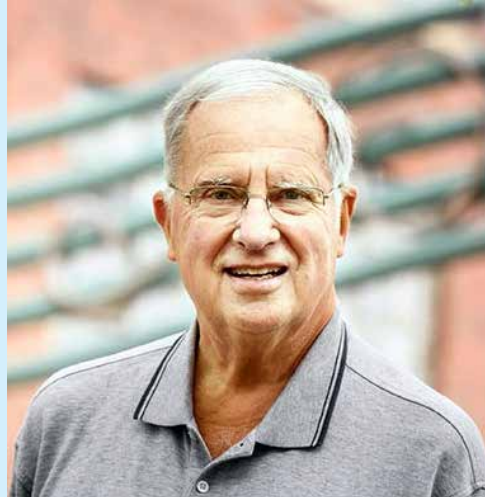
May 5<sup>B</sup>, 2025

## Gala to honor Earle Reed, Peter Loftus

**Boilermaker founder Earle Reed and performing arts director Peter Loftus will be in the Stanley Theatre spotlight on June 6 when the Rotary Club of Utica presents them with the “Service Above Self” Award.**

**Gala Chair Steven Turnbull urges Rotarians to reserve tickets right away.**

**SEE PAGE 2.**



## Utica Rotary shares in city’s tree-planting grant **SEE PAGE 4**



**PP Dave Jones joined the City of Utica on May 1 to kick off a \$2-million grant from the USDA to plant thousands of trees in the city over the next five years. Rotary shares in that grant to plant 200 trees. SEE PAGE 4.**

Deadline for next newsletter (5/12) is Saturday, May 10 at 3 p.m.; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

Editor Robert Stronach



**TAKE ACTION:** [www.uticarotary.org](http://www.uticarotary.org)

# Earle Reed & Peter Loftus to Receive ‘Service Above Self’ Award

by JOE ABRAHAM

The Rotary Club of Utica, celebrating 110 years of service to the community, is proud to announce that Earle Reed and Peter Loftus 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 6, 2025, at the historic Stanley Theatre in Downtown Utica. All are welcome.

Sponsored by Hage & Hage LLC, the “Service Above Self” Gala will serve as a fundraiser for the Stanley Theatre, supporting the thoughtful restoration of a space that will enhance the theatre’s capacity to host pre-show gatherings and post-show celebrations. The restoration will preserve its historic charm while enriching the patron experience.

The Gala will shine a spotlight on Earle Reed and Peter Loftus, whose remarkable contributions to the community embody Rotary’s enduring commitment to “Service Above Self.”

Reed, founder of the renowned Utica Boilermaker Road Race, is widely recognized not only for launching one of the nation’s premier road races but also for his enduring commitment to community development and support. His vision and leadership have brought national attention to the region and inspired generations of volunteers and runners alike.

Loftus, educator, actor, and director, was the

creative force behind the annual “Scrooge!” musical on the Stanley Stage for decades; in more recent years, he has directed the performances of SummerStage at Rome Capitol Theatre. Through his artistic direction and dedication to local theatre, he has created beloved traditions that have brought joy to thousands while mentoring young performers and cultivating a deep appreciation for the performing arts.

“Earle Reed and Peter Loftus represent the very best of what it means to serve a community,” said Joe Caruso, Utica Rotary “Service Above Self” Award chairperson. “Whether through civic leadership or the arts, they’ve each created lasting legacies that continue to uplift and inspire. We’re honored to celebrate their dedication at this year’s Gala.”

Past recipients of the “Service Above Self” Award include the late Patrick Johnson (2021), Sister Elizabeth Greim (2022), James Hamer (2023), and both Felix LaBella, Jr. and Michelle McCarrick Truett (2024).

Tickets to the Gala, which takes place from 6 to 10 p.m., 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>



# RECAP OF LAST WEEK'S MEETING

by TRAVIS RABBERS

Last week we hear from Zachary Nordstrom, a development officer – regional liaison for MMRI who delivered a very interesting and educational presentation on Masonic Medical Research Institute. We learned about the history of MMRI, its current research focal points and how they are recruiting new researchers to this area. MMRI and its scientists have been noted for many patents and publications. They are also at the forefront of innovative and cutting-edge research in many impactful different medical areas. The main three focuses currently are on heart disease, neurocognitive disease and autoimmune disease.

Students from New York Mills and Proctor joined us, as well as Emma Puleri, who is the Rotaract award winner this year from Utica University. Emma is finishing her last semester of undergrad studies and is in the final week of exams and her internship at Inertia Wellness.

Here are the upcoming events and needs. We rescheduled our highway clean-up to Saturday, May 17.

- o Upcoming meeting: Thursday, May 15 with Sarah Militano from Paradigm Consulting (Library)
- o Following meeting: Thursday, June 5 for the Outstanding Educators Program at the Irish Cultural Center
- o Volunteer project: Saturday, May 17 for the highway clean-up meeting at 9:00 in the McQuade & Bannigan parking lot
- o After hours: Thursday, May 29 at 5:00 pm at Baggs Square Brewing
- o Board meeting on Wednesday, May 21
- o Need committee members for the Rotaract Program
- o Save the date for Friday, June 6, 2025 at the Stanley Theatre for next year's annual gala to benefit the Stanley.



# UTICA ROTARY SHARES IN CITY'S TREE GRANT

By PP DAVE JONES

On May Day, the City of Utica celebrated its version of Arbor Day by planting a tree at Kimble Park to kick off a 5-year, \$2 million USDA grant.

Utica Rotary will share part of these funds to plant 200 trees in the next five years.

To date our club has planted 124 trees since I started this project four years ago. The first year we were funded by the proceeds from our annual golf tournament in 2021. The 2nd year we received a Rotary district grant to fund this project. In the years 2023 and 2024 we were funded by a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

The new grant from the US Department of

Agriculture will allow us to plant an additional 200 trees in the next five years, all exclusively in East and West Utica designated as a disadvantaged census tract.

New this year, we will focus our planting on streets only in the most tree-void areas of Mary Street (East Utica) and Oswego Street (W. Utica). These streets will get 20 trees each.

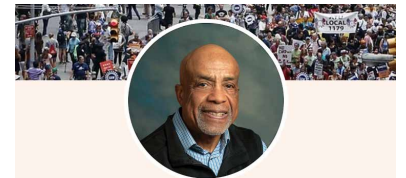
We will also have the assistance of Protor High School youth who are part of Young Scholars LPP or the Environmental Club. These students will not only assist us in planting but also do frequent maintenance checks of all these trees to assure their good health.



**Utica Rotarian Dave Jones (2nd from left) joined the city's forestry project crew at the Kemble Park ceremony.**

## Sidebar

Did you know that PP Dave Jones is a climate restoration ambassador? Not only does his email signature proclaim it, but also links to his ambassador page on the Climate Restoration Alliance website. What is interesting is that two other area Rotarians are listed as ambassadors, too – Chuck Tomaselli and Frank Mondri, VMD. Both are members of New Hartford Rotary.



**David M. Jones**

Climate Restoration Ambassador

Central New York, USA



# MEMBER ORIENTATION

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

Get the Rotary basics!  
4TH TUESDAY @ 7PM

[CLICK HERE TO FIND NEXT EVENT](#)

## May 31, 2025

Join us for our monthly Member Orientation webinar, a program designed to provide the basics of Rotary for any member in CNY. This event is normally held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, but we are changing it up to try a Saturday morning. It will be the same content each month and a new opportunity for people to log in if they haven't attended yet or just joined a club in CNY.

Registration to get the zoom link is required. Click here to sign up:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlde2przkgG9ySl2WXUQJX7AJwtmoALwH>

## Calendar of Events

- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 5/15 | Meeting   Sarah Militano from<br>Paradigm Consulting<br>noon   Mid-York Library | 6/5  | Meeting   Outstanding Educators<br>Awards Luncheon<br>noon   Irish Cultural Center |
| 5/17 | Service   Lupus Walk<br>9 am   Masonic Care Community                           | 6/6  | Gala   'Service Above Self' Gala<br>Stanley Theatre<br>to benefit the Stanley      |
| 5/17 | Service   Highway Clean-up<br>9 am   Meet at McQuade & Bannigan<br>parking lot  | 7/17 | Service   Charity Golf Outing<br>noon   Hidden Valley Course<br>in Whitesboro      |
| 5/21 | Meeting   Rotary Board<br>noon   Greater Utica Chamber                          |      |  |

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**SIGN UP FOR THE 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF' GALA!**

**Individual registration: MyEventRunner**

**Sponsor registration: MyEventRunner**

FOURTH ANNUAL

# SERVICE ABOVE SELF Gala



- Red Carpet With Photo
- Music By Last Left
- Dinner
- Live Auction
- 1 Hour Open Bar

**\$150**  
PER TICKET

Proceeds To Benefit  
**The Stanley Theatre**

**When:** 6:00pm - 10:00pm, Friday June 6th, 2025

**Where:** The Stanley Theatre  
259 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13501



Presented By:



For Gala Tickets, Visit [bit.ly/utica-gala-tickets](https://bit.ly/utica-gala-tickets)  
For Sponsorship Information, Visit [bit.ly/utica-gala-sponsor](https://bit.ly/utica-gala-sponsor)