



Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

Nov. 24, 2025



Rotary's holiday cheer: service and more

With Christmas and New Year's fast approaching, the Rotary Club of Utica is not letting up on its activities.

Our program meeting on Thursday, Dec. 4, will be a field trip to the New York Energy Zone, adjacent to the Utica Zoo, where we'll explore the history and work of electric power. "We will conduct our regular meeting and then be able to enjoy the facility and tour it at our leisure," reports President-elect Heather Beebe.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, we'll be "Doing the Most Good" by manning the Salvation Army Red Kettle at Chanatry's Market on French Road. A full slate of volunteers has signed up to "ring" the bells from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., taking one-hour shifts each, reports PP Travis Rabbers.

The big Rotary event of the season is the "Not So Silent Night" Gift Auction from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, at Portofino Restaurant on the canal.

"We selected Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency as this year's recipient," notes PP Travis Rabbers. "All funds and proceeds will benefit their local programs helping families and children in need."

He encourages: "Bring a wrapped gift with a clue attached to it (example: this is a gift for a couple enjoying a night out) "that we will auction off to the highest bidder. You can bring any



DOING
THE MOST
GOODSM



Portofino
RESTAURANT EVENTS

guests you would like, there is no cost to attend. The more the merrier! This year I am asking anyone planning on attending to register (*using the link on Page 3*). This will help us get a head count for Portofino, who will be offering an appetizer menu to choose from during the night."

Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach

Not So
SILENT NIGHT
GIFT AUCTION

Rotary
Club of Utica 

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 11TH
6:00-8:00PM

Portofino
Restaurant & Events
16 Harbor Lock Road
Utica, NY

Presented By:



Proceeds To Benefit:



It's free to attend, but bring a gift for the auciton. [Register at this link.](#)

Calendar of Events

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 12/4 | Meeting NY Energy Zone
noon adjacent to Utica Zoo | 12/17 | Board Meeting Board of Directors
noon Greater Utica Chamber |
| 12/6 | Service Salvation Army Red Kettle
9 to 3 Chanatry's Market | 1/8 | Meeting Details TBA
noon |
| 12/11 | Service 'Not So Silent Night'
6 pm gift auction at Portofino's | | |

**Utica Rotary's
monthly social outing
on Nov. 20 was at
Chesterfield's Tavolo
Restaurant, North
Genesee St.**



NYS Senate salutes Utica Rotary's 110 years of service

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO
SENATOR, 53RD DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER



THE SENATE
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July 7, 2025

Rotary Club of Utica
C/O Dr. Roger Breslow, President
PO Box 8586
Utica, NY 13505

Dear Dr. Breslow:

It is with great pleasure that I commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Utica.

Enclosed with this letter, you will find a New York State Senate Resolution recognizing this significant milestone.

Please extend my best wishes to the club's members.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Griffo
New York State Senator, 53rd District

A BOSNIAN FOUNTAIN FOR UTICA

Utica's Bosnian community celebrated the grand opening of a traditional Bosnian fountain called a sebilj in East Utica on Saturday.

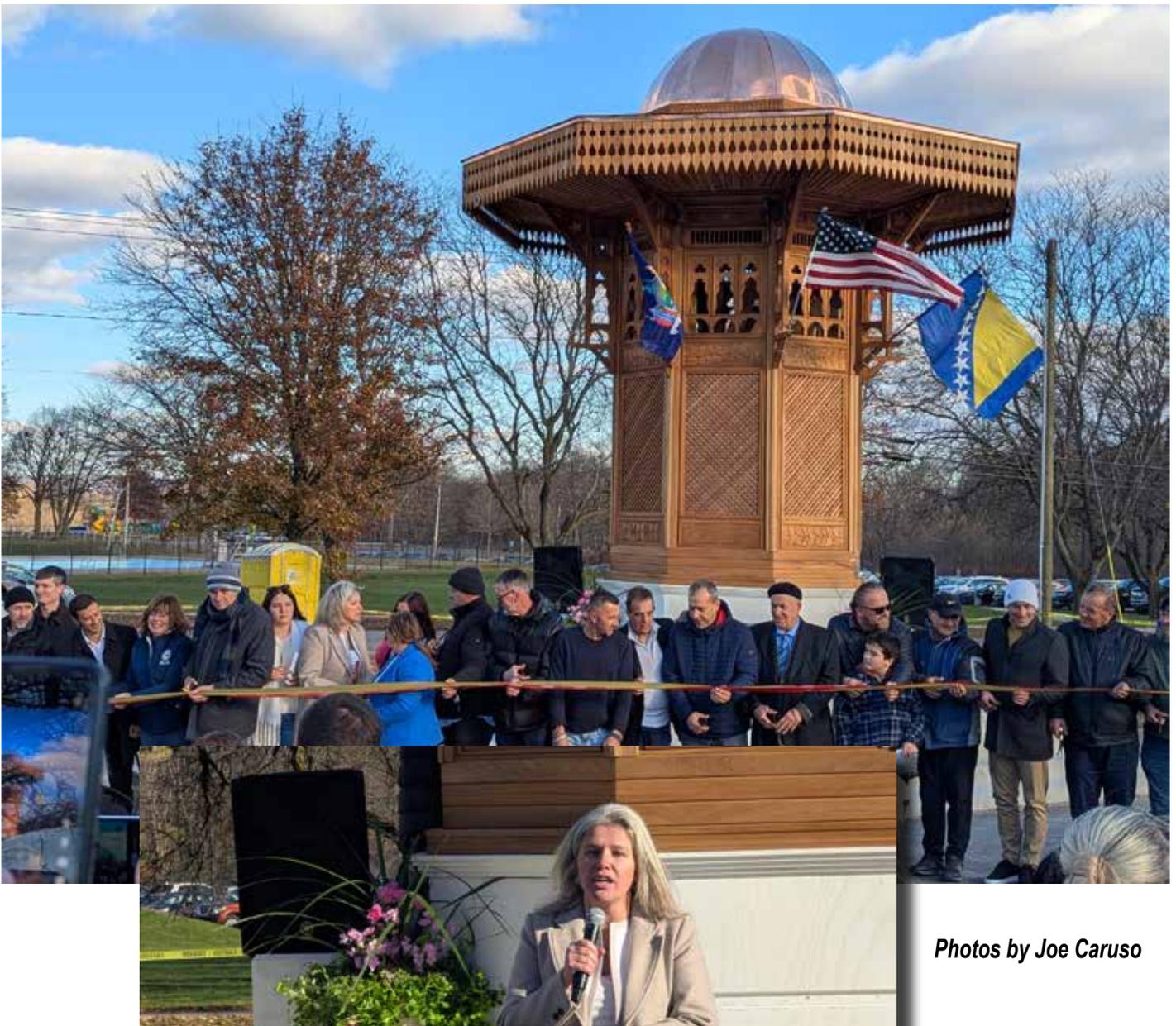
Utica Rotarian Hanka Grabovica, president of the Bosnian American Community Association, spoke at the event. WKTV News Channel 2 quoted her as saying:

“This sebilj is not just a monument. It’s a symbol of who we are, as Bosnians, as immigrants, and as proud members of this community. We built more than a fountain, we built

a legacy that will remind generations to come, where we came from and what we stand for.”

Local leaders and leaders of Utica's Bosnian community cut a ribbon to mark the sebilj's grand opening. The sebilj, modeled after a famous fountain in Sarajevo, was a gift to the City of Utica from local Bosnians to celebrate community and heritage.

Utica's Bosnian community has continued to grow since the first refugees settled in the area in the early '90s to escape the Balkan conflict.



Photos by Joe Caruso