Utica Rotary Hub



Utica, NY, USA Nov. 23, 2026

Give Back This Thanksgiving!

by JOE ABRAHAM

Looking for a meaningful way to give back this Thanksgiving? Join Sauquoit Rotarians in supporting a longtime Thanksgiving morning tradition in Utica!

For many years, members of the former Greater Utica Sunrise Rotary Club, who are now part of Sauquoit Rotary, helped support the **Run 2 End Hunger** by collecting and boxing nonperishable food donations brought by participants. These donations benefit a local nonprofit/food pantry, traditionally the Rescue Mission of Utica.

Volunteer Details:

- Date: Thursday, Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving Day)
- Time: 7:30 to approximately 9 a.m.
- Location: Parkway Recreation Center, Utica
- What: Collect, organize and box donated food items from runners and walkers.



If you're interested in volunteering, please contact me at josephabraham2011@gmail.com.

December's speaker: Barb Taverne

Barbara Taverne is the speaker for the club's program meeting at noon on Friday, Dec. 4, at Mid-York Library Headquarters, 1600 Lincoln Ave., Utica.

A retired RN, Barb is part of a core group of volunteers at West Side Boutique, the free clothing and personal care store located at Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen.



Rotarians Joe Caruso, Tina Pavlot and Juli Palamara helped take down the Flags for Heroes. ***See page 2.***

Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach

Rotary Club of Utica

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

TAKE ACTION: www.uticarotary.org

‘SERVICE ABOVE SELF’ MORE THAN A ROTARY MOTTO

by TINA PAVLOT

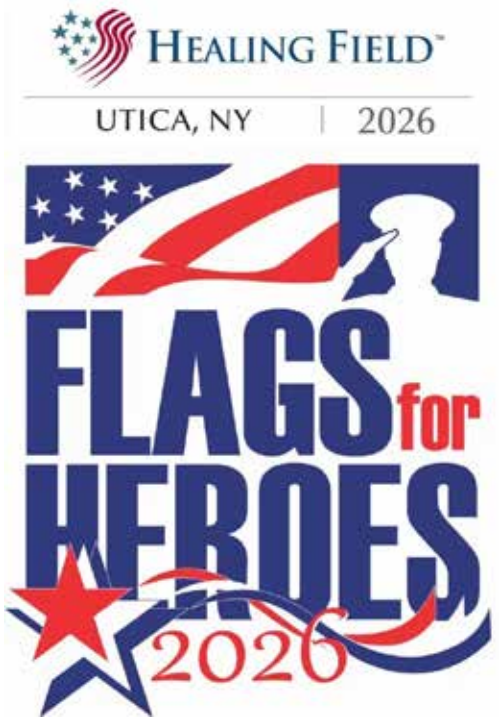
Rotarians joined other volunteers this morning for The Good News Foundation of CNY, Inc. take down of flags for the 12th annual Flags For Heroes.

Service Above Self is more than a Rotary motto. It’s a value we see reflected throughout our community.

Flags For Heroes 2026 is a beautiful example of that spirit, honoring active-duty military members, veterans, fallen service members, and first responders who have dedicated themselves to serving others.

As Rotarians, we’re especially moved by the values this event represents: service, gratitude, community, and coming together for something bigger than ourselves.

Proud to see our community recognize those who truly embody Service Above Self.





‘Not So Silent Night’ Auction coming Dec. 9

Our 7th annual “Not So Silent Night” Gift Auction will take place Wednesday, December 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Portofino Restaurant in the upstairs event space.

This is a live auction. People are encouraged, but not required, to bring a wrapped gift that we then auction off to the highest bid. The wrapped gift should include a clue and the value. The clue can be something along the lines of “this is for a couple and a night out” or “this is for a family with kids.”

This year all funds raised will benefit our own Rotary Club of Utica, so we would love to see everyone attend! There is no cost to attend, and please invite anyone you would like. The restaurant does need to know how many plan to attend, so please use the link below to register. The restaurant will offer a limited food menu.

Link to register

https://www.crsadmin.com/eventportal/Registrations/PublicFill/EventPublicFill.

REMEMBERING RALPH IMUNDO

by HEATHER BEEBE

In Rotary, we often speak of our motto, "Service Above Self." For Past President Ralph Imundo, these were more than words. They were a way of life.

Ralph was a familiar and welcoming presence at Rotary gatherings, always with a smile on his face, a great sense of humor, and a knack for making everyone feel included. His dedication to Rotary and numerous other organizations throughout the Mohawk Valley reflected his deep love for this community and the people who call it home.

We are deeply saddened by Ralph's passing and grateful for the lasting impact he made on so many. Please join us in keeping his family, friends, and loved ones in your thoughts during this difficult time.

He will be greatly missed.



Ralph and Mary Ann at the Utica Rotary Gala.

Calendar of Events

12/4 **Meeting | Barb Taverne of Mother Marianne's West Side Boutique noon | Mid-York Library**

12/9 **Service | "Not So Silent Night" Auction 6-8 pm | Portofino's Restaurant**

12/12 **Service | Salvation Army Red Kettles 10-2 | Chanatry's Market**

SAVE THE DATE!

***CNY Rotary Birthday celebration,** Sunday, Feb. 28, 2027, 2-4 pm, at Grow Brewing Co., New Hartford; to include all Clubs in our area.*

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



Time to ring in the holidays with our annual bell ringing with the Salvation Army! We are scheduled for Saturday, December 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chanatry's (85 French Rd, Utica).

We ideally try to get at least two people for each hour. If interested, please email Travis Rabbers at rabbe1ta@gmail.com. Have fun and spread holiday cheer!

Shifts: 10:00-11:00 • 11:00-12:00 • 12:00-1:00 • 1:00-2:00



Option 3: donate through GoFundMe: https://gofund.me/9f549f6ed

Option 4: send a check made out to The Rotary Club of Utica (PO Box 8586 Utica, NY 13505); write "BOOTS" on the memo line.