

# Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Oct. 2, 2023

## Speaker to share insights on his work with the homeless

Steve Darman, chair of the Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition, is our program speaker this week (noon, Thursday, Oct. 5 at Mid-York Library System headquarters). The coalition is a group of organizations and community members who work to prevent and end homelessness.

Steve grew up in the Mohawk Valley. Drafted while attending Utica College in 1970, he worked as a Navy Corpsman at Great Lakes Naval Station and at St. Albans Navy Hospital in Queens.



After leaving the service and working in many different capacities. Steve eventually returned to college (SUNYIT) to obtain a bachelor's in sociology and went on to do four years of PhD work in sociology at SUNY Albany. He

has taught a variety of sociology courses at University at Albany, Skidmore College, Utica College and SUNY Poly.

Through his *Social Science Associates* operation, Steve has worked closely with local agencies to identify, assess, and address a variety of social problems affecting area youth, adults, and families. While most of his work is with homeless populations and programs, he has also done extensive work on veteran reentry, prisoner reentry, and on youth violence and youth gangs.



## Rotarians go PINK!

**Past President (PP) Israel Acosta (right) participated in the Men Wear Pink bicycle ride Oct. 1, helping to raise awareness of the fight to end breast cancer. Cheering him on were, from left, Vice President Travis Rabbers, PP Tina Pavlot, and President Linda Iannone (who also rooted for the Stanley Theatre team). See PAGE 3.**

Photo by Ryan Pavlot.

Deadline for next newsletter (10/9) is Sunday, Oct. 8 at noon; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

Editor Robert Stronach



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

# Utica Rotary Social at Brimfield Farm Winery on Sept. 28



Find fellowship in any environ  
Just sip a carafe of Rotary cheer

Photos by Tina Pavlot & Zemira Sakanovic



## Volunteer for the Urban Tree Project

Dave Jones, Urban Tree Planting Project chair, is looking for a few more good hands to help plant 40 trees around the City of Utica on Saturday, Oct. 28. The deadline to sign up is October 15.

Notes Dave: 'We will start at 9 a.m. on Oct. 28 and if we have enough help, we should be done around noon. Let's get our hands dirty together!' Contact Dave at [davidjones0422@gmail.com](mailto:davidjones0422@gmail.com).

# Utica Men Wear Pink

By Joe Abraham

Beginning at 7 Hamlets Brewing Company in Westmoreland, nearly 70 riders participated in the Second Annual Riders Wear Pink event on Sunday.

Bicyclists picked one of two routes, riding 50-plus miles roundtrip from Westmoreland to Sylvan Beach, or a shorter 20-mile loop.

The event, which has a \$10,000

fundraising goal, benefits the American Cancer Society and the fight for a future free of breast cancer.

Every dollar raised helps the Cancer Society save more lives from breast cancer through early detection and prevention, breakthrough breast cancer discovery and research, and lifesaving patient support.

Utica Rotary Past President (PP) and Men Wear Pink Ambassador Israel Acosta was a co-host of the event, riding alongside Utica Rotary Vice President Travis Rabbers.

Also in attendance lending a hand were Utica Rotary President/Men Wear Pink Ambassador Linda Iannone and Immediate PP Tina Pavlot.

For more info about Men Wear

[https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=106017](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=106017)



# Riggie Run & Walk to support veterans

The first-ever Riggie Run, Walk & Riggiefest, benefiting the Sitrin Health Care’s Military Program, will be held on Sunday, October 8, at the SUNY Poly campus, and will feature a 5K run, 5K wheelchair race, and 2-mile walk as well as a free 1-mile kids run. 5K participants will have the opportunity to register for the Riggie Challenge in which they will be required to consume one bowl of chicken riggies at the halfway point of the race. To register, visit:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Utica/Riggie5k>

Additionally, at the conclusion of the Run & Walk, a Riggiefest will be featured in the Student

Center in which local restaurants will showcase their version of this famous Utica dish. All registered run/walk participants will be invited to taste the various entries, at no additional cost, and cast a vote to determine the area’s best riggies. Community members are also invited to attend Riggiefest (\$5 entry fee).

Sitrin’s Military Program provides comprehensive, complimentary care to post-9/11 veterans and service members affected by post-traumatic stress, suicidal thoughts, traumatic brain injuries, depression, and other combat-related conditions.

-- Joe Abraham

## New Hartford Rotarian to be honored at Parkinson’s Walk

New Hartford Rotarian Don Rebovich, PhD, professor of criminal justice at Utica University, is being honored by Community Wellness Partners in conjunction with its Annual Parkinson’s Awareness Walk.

The event takes place on Satur-

day, October 14 at 10 a.m. at Presbyterian Homes Campus. Rebovich also is executive director of the university’s Center for Identity Management and Information Protection (CIMIP).

New Hartford Rotary has another connection with the Wellness

Partners. Its new club president, Jeremy Rutter, is president and CEO of Community Wellness Partners.

Rotarians interested in supporting the Parkinson’s Walk may register or donate online (*see url below*).

<https://www.communitywellnesspartners.org/presbyterian/donate>

### Calendar of Events

**10/5 Meeting | Steve Darman**  
*Housing & Homeless Coalition*  
noon | Mid-York Library

**10/18 Board Meeting**  
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

**10/19 Meeting | PDG Randy Wilson**  
*Polio Plus*  
noon | Mid-York Library

**10/28 Service | Urban Tree Project**  
9 am |

**11/2 Meeting | DG Elise Hereth**  
noon | Mid-York Library

**11/15 Board Meeting**  
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

**11/16 Meeting | PDG Don Reese**  
*Rotary Foundation*  
noon | Mid-York Library

**11/15 Service | ‘Artists Works in Progress’**  
| Sculpture Space