

Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Oct. 30, 2023

District Guv Elise Hereth is this week's speaker

District Governor Elise Hereth is the guest speaker for this week's meeting, which gets under way at noon Thursday, Nov. 2, at Mid-York Library System, 1600 Lincoln Ave., Utica.

See her bio on page 4.



Rooted in service



A total of 25 Rotarians and friends turned out for the Urban Tree Planting project on Saturday, Oct. 28, planting 40 trees around the City of Utica. See Pages 2 & 3.

Deadline for next newsletter (11/6) is Sunday, Nov. 5 at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

Editor Robert Stronach



Utica Rotary rooted in service

By Joe Abraham

Forty trees were planted across the City of Utica on Oct. 28 as part of the Third Annual Urban Tree Planting Project, a cooperative program of Rotary Club of Utica, Unitarian Universalist Church of Utica and Utica Parks Department.

The goal is for the trees to thrive over many years and serve to enhance the value of these properties, improving the air quality within the community by reducing carbon emissions, provide a canopy of shade to lower the heat index during summer months, and as recent studies have found, trees planted in urban areas have served to reduce the level of crime.

“Great to have this hands-on project for us to enhance the quality of life of generations to come,” said Utica Rotary Project Chair David Jones.

Twenty-five Rotarians and family members broke into four groups, with a total of 40 trees planted, as well as 80 bags of mulch and 10 bags of potting mix spread. The list of volunteers follows.

South Utica (B-West of Genesee St)

- Greg Beninicasa (trailer)
- Joseph Abraham
- Joe Caruso
- Laura Williams
- Stew Williams (small trailer)
- Barbara Freeman (ADK Foothills Rotary)

South Utica (A- East of Genesee St)

- Jim and Steve Turnbull (trailer & pickup truck)
- Clyde Vanderpool
- Christ Mercurio (arborist)
- Tracy Page
- Travis Rabbers

East Utica

- Michelle Branstadt (trailer)
- Jill, Bill and Sam Koch (pickup truck)
- Dave Jones
- Bill Luley and daughter

North and West Utica

- Tina and Ryan Pavlot (trailer)
- Wayne Ward (Tina’s dad)
- Lyn Colburn (Tina’s sister)
- Shelby West (Tina’s niece)
- Dave Bagley (pickup truck)



Photos by Joe Caruso, Joe Abraham, Tina Pavlot, Linda Iannone, Travis Rabbers

Utica Rotary rooted in service



DG Elise Hereth is this week's speaker

This week's speaker is Merle "Elise" Hereth, district governor and member of Vernon Verona Sherrill Community Rotary Club.

She grew up in southern New Jersey, where her father was a dedicated Rotarian. Elise then attended University of Florida and earned a B.S degree in Geology. Upon graduation, she was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Her second assignment brought her to Griffiss Air Force Base, where she met her future husband, Chuck Hereth. She retired in 2014, at the rank of colonel.

Elise joined Rotary in 2015 and quickly became the Youth Exchange officer and counselor. She took on a district role in the YE Committee, while serving as her club's vice president and

then president for a two-year term. During her second year as president, she became an assistant governor.

She has enjoyed the three Rotary Leadership Institute courses, and graduate level classes and was a producer for virtual sessions. She is her club's membership chair and is a Paul Harris Society Fellow and a Polio+ Society Member.

Elise and Chuck have been married for 34 years and they have a son, daughter-in-law, daughter (Rotarian), son-in-law, and grandson. In addition to Rotary, Elise currently works part-time for NUAIR, a nonprofit alliance which researches, develops, and tests uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) or drones, and advances UAS-economic development.



She serves as a hospital volunteer for the Mohawk Valley Health System and is a past vice-president of the volunteer board. She has several hobbies including walking, crafts, playing in community bands, and reading.

Calendar of Events

**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 Board Meeting
noon | Greater Utica Chamber**

**11/15 Social | 'Artists Works in Progress'
| Sculpture Space**

**12/20 Board Meeting
noon | Greater Utica Chamber**

Rotarians needed to take down flags

The Good News Center will be posting 1,000 American flags on the Memorial Parkway for the *Flags for Heroes* event.

Taking down flags will happen on Monday, November 13 at 9:30 a.m. Flags and rebar will be loaded back onto the truck and taken up to The Good News Center and unloaded and brought back into the building. There will have a hot lunch available for all volunteers after they are done.

Utica Rotary has volunteered each year to take the flags down. Please let President Linda Iannone know as soon as possible who would like to volunteer this year. Contact her at ianlinhope51@gmail.com.



OCTOBER ROTARY SOCIAL

Five Points Public House at the Irish Cultural Center was a wee bit boisterous on Oct. 26, no less due to the 25-plus Rotarians and friends who chatted over sips of beer and wine.

ART IN ACTION.



Phil Peters • Mrin Aggarwal • Austin Sapien • Omid Skekari • Nneka Kai

You're Cordially Invited to Our Open Studio Event

Please join us for an extraordinary evening as we open our studio doors to the public, featuring the talented artists of Sculpture Space's Fall 2023 artist residency program.

Date: Wednesday, November 15th

Time: 5-7 PM

Location: 12 Gates Street, Utica, New York
Admission is free, and all ages are welcome.

WORKS IN PROGRESS- This is not your ordinary gallery exhibition; it's a chance to see the artists creative process, in studio, and through their eyes.

Thank you to **The New York State Council on the Arts, The Bank of Utica, and Saranac Brewery** for helping to make this event possible.

And a very special thank you to tonight's gracious hosts the **Rotary Club of Utica.**

SculptureSpace

Rotary
Club of Utica



Making Art Happen-
One Artist At A Time