



Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

Sept. 2, 2025

Munson president is this week's speaker

This week's program speaker is Anna Tobin D'Ambrosio, who was appointed president and CEO of Munson in 2017.

She previously served as director and chief curator of the Munson Museum of Art from 2012 to 2017.

The program starts at noon Thursday, Sept. 4, at Mid-York

Library System Headquarters, 1600 Lincoln Ave., Utica.

As president, D'Ambrosio is committed to Munson's continued growth by enhancing programming, engaging the community, partnering with regional organizations, and drawing new audiences.

More on our speaker on page 2.



'Service Above Self' Gala raises \$18,000 for Stanley



Rotary's Gala Committee staged a check presentation with Stanley Theatre staff Aug. 9. MORE / PAGE 3.

Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach

About this week's program speaker

Munson President Anna Tobin D'Ambrosio served as assistant director of the Munson Museum of Art from 2007 to 2012. She also held the position of curator of Decorative Arts from 1989 to 2015. D'Ambrosio has lectured extensively throughout the United States and curated over 60 exhibitions on American furniture, silver, and textiles. Her publications include books, exhibition catalogs, and scholarly articles.

A native of Albany, N.Y., D'Ambrosio holds a master's degree from the Cooperstown Graduate Program/SUNY Oneonta, received her bachelor's degree from College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts, and has furthered her studies through the Attingham Program, Victorian Society Summer School, and a Winterthur research fellowship.



D'Ambrosio is a trustee at Mohawk Valley Community College, Mohawk Valley Edge, Williamstown Art Conservation Center in Massachusetts, and the Decorative Arts Society, Inc. She serves on the Community Advisory Boards for Utica's SUNY Polytechnic Institute College of

Business and the Masonic Medical Research Institute. She is a site visit member for the American Alliance of Museums accreditation committee, a past board member of the Museum Association of New York, and served on the local planning committee of Utica's Downtown Revitalization Initiative.

D'Ambrosio has won several regional awards, including a Woman of Distinction recognition from the New York State Assembly (2022), New York State Senate Commendation Award (2021), the Christopher P. Desitto Tourism Leadership Award (2020), Woman of the Year for Arts through the Mohawk Valley Chapter of New York State Women, Inc. (2017), and was a 2012 award recipient at the YWCA Mohawk Valley's Salute to Outstanding Women.

Calendar of Events

**9/4 Meeting | Anna D'Ambrosio, Munson
noon | Mid-York Library**

**9/18 Meeting | Ray Durso, Genesis Group
noon | Mid-York Library**

**9/17 Meeting | Board of Directors
noon | Greater Utica Chamber**

Gala raises \$18,000 for Stanley's Red Room restoration

By Joe Abraham

The Rotary Club of Utica's annual "Service Above Self" Gala, sponsored by Hage & Hage LLC, raised an impressive \$18,000 for The Stanley Theatre this past June. This marks the largest amount in the event's four-year history.

The record-breaking total was announced Aug. 9 during a check presentation held in the lobby of the historic theatre.

The Rotary Club's contribution will support the thoughtful restoration of the Red Room, enhancing the theatre's ability to host pre-show gatherings and post-show celebrations, explained Stanley Theatre Executive Director Lisa A. della Santina Wilsey. The project is meant to preserve the theatre's historic charm while enriching the overall patron experience.

"These funds will help kick off the restoration of the legendary Red Room, which suffered from a flood several years ago and has been out of operation," Wilsey said. "This is an exciting time for The Stanley Theatre."

Reflecting on the success of this year's gala and its impact, Utica Rotary Past President and Gala Chairman Stephen Turnbull expressed his gratitude to all who contributed.

"I want to extend my sincere gratitude

to our sponsors, partners and everyone who supported this year's Gala," Turnbull said. "Your generosity makes a true impact, not only on our club's mission, but also on our community's cultural treasures. The Stanley Theatre is more than just an historic landmark; it's a place where memories are made and where our Gala has proudly found a home. We are honored to contribute to its

restoration and future, ensuring it remains a vibrant gathering place for generations to come."

Wilsey also shared her appreciation, noting: "The Stanley Theatre couldn't be more honored to have been chosen by Rotary Club of Utica to be this year's gala recipient. It is not often that an outside organization recognizes the needs of its local performing arts theatre and commits to supporting it and for this, we are forever grateful. On behalf of the staff, board of directors, stagehands and volunteers, we are thankful to Utica Rotary and its gala sponsors and attendees."

Since its inception, the Rotary Club of Utica's "Service Above Self" Gala has raised more than \$65,000 for the community. Past recipients include the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI), the Utica Zoo and the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL).

Club seeks nominations for Pride of Workmanship Awards

NOMINATE A WORKER AT [UTICAROTARY.ORG](https://uticarotary.org)

Introducing new members of leadership team

By Tina Pavlot

With gratitude for our past and great excitement for our future, we are delighted to introduce the newest members of our leadership team. Please join us in extending a very warm welcome to our new Secretary, Matt Schlosser, and our new Treasurer, Rebecca Cavoli!

Matt is a Regulatory Affairs Manager at Psoria-Shield Inc.

Rebecca is in Operational Risk as a VP at NBT Bank

As they begin their new roles, we also want to express our deepest appreciation to Jill Koch and Darby O'Brien. Jill and Darby have dedicated years of incredible service as our former Secretary and Treasurer, and we are so grateful for their ongoing active membership and guidance in onboarding our new



er, and we are so grateful for their ongoing active membership and guidance in onboarding our new

team members. We're thrilled to have such a strong foundation and a vibrant future ahead!



Utica Rotarians enjoyed a social outing at Michael T's Italian-American Specialties in New Hartford on Aug. 28.