



Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

Sept. 229, 2025



Think PINK this Thursday!

Our program speakers this Thursday, Oct. 2, are M&T Bank's Karlie Wolfe and Israel Acosta (a Utica Rotary past president).

They will speak about **Riders Wear Pink**, their signature cycling event happening on October 5, which raises vital funds and awareness for breast cancer.

Karlie, a Business Banking Underwriter III at M&T Bank, has over 20 years in commercial banking. At the same time she has dedicated her energy to local causes. She serves on the executive committee for *Riders Wear Pink*,

where her grassroots leadership helps raise awareness and funds for breast cancer.

Israel is Senior Vice President and Retail Regional Manager for M&T Bank in the Mohawk Valley. His career includes founding USA Bank in Westchester, NY, and serving in leadership roles at Connecticut Community Bank and Patriot National Bank. Beyond banking, he founded *Field 2 Fork*, a tech-driven initiative transforming food systems, and actively serves on multiple boards—including co-founding *Riders Wear Pink*.



Join fellow Rotarians at the 'Pride of Workmanship' awards

The Pride of Workmanship Awards luncheon is at noon on Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Irish Cultural Center (Five Points Public House and Events Center). Tickets to the luncheon are \$25 per person.

[Register Here](#)

This year's honorees, who exemplify outstanding work ethic, include:

- Vahn Dongsavanh (Meyda Lighting);
- Joseph Puleo (Utica Fire Department);
- Starr Wooden (Utica Police Department);
- Stephanie Robinson (Hospice);
- Sandy Graves (Slocum Dickson Medical Group);

- Jackie Warmuth (Sitrin Healthcare's Military Rehab Program).

"I hope you can attend and join us for this great celebration," Committee Chair Joe Abraham said. "You can register for the event on the Pride of Workmanship page of the Utica Rotary website or follow the link at left."

Submit news and photos to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Editor Robert Stronach

SOCIAL ROTARIANS

Some Rotarians stayed at the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce’s Catalyst event at

Saranac Brewery last Thursday (*below left*) while others left to join the Rotary “Picnic on the

Patio” social at MKJ Farms in Deansboro (despite the rain), reports PP Tina Pavlot.



Calendar of Events

10/02 Meeting | “Riders Wear Pink”
noon | Karlie Wolfe & Israel Acosta

10/22 Visit | CNY Rotary President’s Visit
5:30 pm | Halloween fellowship
Orchard Hall, Sauquoit

10/16 Meeting | Pride of Workmanship
noon | Awards Luncheon
Irish Cultural Center

10/25 Service | Urban Tree Planting Project
| in East & West Utica



WORLD POLIO DAY
IS 24 OCTOBER





An evening of Halloween-themed Rotary fun and fellowship from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Orchard Hall in Sauquoit.

Join CNY Rotary president for a spooky evening

Get your Halloween costume on and join a festive autumn evening Oct. 22 with CNY President Bob Balk and members from across Area 3 (Utica, Hamilton, New Hartford, Oriskany Falls, Sauquoit, Greater Utica Sunrise, and North Utica-Whitestown) and beyond!

It runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Orchard Hall. Come out to enjoy:

- World Polio Day celebration (just two days later)
- Our Halloween theme - after all, our ven-

ue is haunted!

- A costume contest, so wear something spooky
- Pumpkin decorating
- Fellowship with members from all over the area and CNY Rotary leadership

Cost is \$22 per person, which includes hot and cold appetizers.

To reserve a spot, contact Area Rep Carol Malloy of Sauquoit Rotary at mjjm44@aol.com.