

# Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

July 15, 2024

## Rotarians help refresh Boilermaker runners



**Utica Rotarians and friends manned the water station on the Parkway, handing out refreshing cups to Boilermaker runners on Sunday, July 14. Here Zemira Sakanovic reaches out to a runner. Photo by Joe Abraham. SEE PAGE 2.**

## 'Wild Ones' to talk native plants this week



Our program speakers this week are from *Wild Ones Mohawk Valley*. Jennifer Geiger and Margaret Reilly will brief Utica Rotary on the organization's efforts to promote the development of native landscapes at parks and among homeowners. The meeting gets underway at noon Thursday, July 18, at Mid-York Library, 1600 Lincoln Ave, Utica.

They connect people with native plants. As their website notes: "Our goal is to help people make

their yards beautiful and sustainable while having the support and enjoyment of being a part of a community of fellow gardeners and native plant enthusiasts.

"Our activities include garden tours, field trips to natural areas, annual plant sale, visits to native nurseries, educational presentations, volunteering with other non-profits, and planting events where we share tips and learn from each other."

Deadline for next newsletter (7/22) is Saturday, July 20 at 3 p.m.; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

Editor Robert Stronach



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

# Rotarians help refresh Boilermaker runners

by Joe Abraham



*The Rotary water station crew. Photos provided by Joe Abraham and Linda Iannone.*

It was a beautiful morning for a road race, as Boilermaker participants ran through town!

Utica Rotarians once again manned the water station at the Rec Center on the Parkway, and just like years prior, were joined by friends from the Warren/Pruckno family, and Cicero-based non-profit Griffin's Guardians.

This year's group was led by Utica Rotarian/Board member Clyde Vanderpool. Also volunteering were myself, IPP Linda Iannone and Chris Vescera, Tracy Page, Darby O'Brien, Matt Schlosser, Jerry Kraus, David Bagley, and Zemira Sakanovic. The three volunteers from Griffin's Guardians (who provide support to children battling cancer in Central New

York) were Lauren Miller, Renee Marchant and Dawn Stanton.

While it seems like this annual spectacle of a race gets larger every year, Rotarians felt the pinch as our group was positioned at about the halfway point. As the middle of the pack descended down the hill, the water station was taxed, with half the team that was located across the street needing to maneuver the water receptacle across the street to refill. A special shoutout to David Bagley for his efforts at that time to keep filling cups at a rapid pace so members of the group could get the water into the hands of the runners.

We also appreciate the reporters from the Daily Sentinel that stopped by to have a word with Clyde, and want to give a

shoutout to members of our club who had a more monumental task, actually running the 15K or 5K race; among them were President Travis Rabbers, Vice President Heather Beebe, Drew DeBlasiis, Heather Evans, Yuliya Karpov, Ashley Paolozzi, and Stephen Turnbull.

"HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers," noted Clyde. "Even though we were a little short on hardware, everyone was able to band together and make the event an overwhelming success. I lost count of all of the 'thank you's' from runners today. No one had to be there but you could tell everyone wanted to. I had an absolute blast and hope you all did too! Thank you once again and I hope to see everyone again next year!"



**Griffin's Guardians Renee Merchant, Lauren Miller and Dawn Stanton.**



**Utica Rotary's Darby O'Brien, Linda Iannone, Clyde Vanderpool and Jerry Kraus.**

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*Dave Bagley hurriedly fills water cups.*



*The volunteer crew quickly organizes cups in preparation for the runners.*



*Rotarians carefully space out the cups of water.*



*Matt Schlosser and Clyde Vanderpool show off Boilermaker pride during a break in action.*

# Rotarians help refresh Boilermaker runners



*Matt Schlosser, Joe Abraham and Jerry Kraus wait for the race to begin.*



*Tracy Page inspects water that will hydrate thousands of runners..*



*Tracy Page hands a thirsty runner a cup of water. She is flanked by members of the Warren/Pruckno family.*

## Calendar of Events

7/17 Board Meeting | noon | Greater Utica Chamber

7/18 Meeting | Margaret Reilly and Jennifer Geiger from Wild Ones Mohawk Valley noon | Mid-York Library

7/25 Club Social | 7 Hamlets 5:00 pm

8/1 Meeting | Debra Born from Quanterion Solutions noon | Mid-York Library

8/15 Meeting | Gina Pearce from Green Utica noon | Mid-York Library

8/18 Rotary Charity Golf Outing Hidden Valley, Whitesboro

8/21 Board Meeting noon | Greater Utica Chamber

8/24 Service | Clean up downtown

8/29 Club Social | Cavallos 5:00 pm

## New Member Proposed: Ginger Oliver

*The board proposes Ginger Oliver for membership to the Rotary Club of Utica. Per by-laws, club members have five days to submit a written objection to Treasurer Jill Koch.*

Dr. Ginger Oliver, PT, received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Utica College, her Master of Science in Physical Therapy from University of Miami and her Bachelor of Science from Springfield College. She holds a specialty certification in Vestibular & Concussion Rehabilitation from the American Institute of Balance.

Ginger has over 30 years of clinical and leadership experience in the Mohawk Valley. She has held positions as Rehabilitation Manager at MVHS and Director of Rehabilitation at Rome Memorial Hospital. She is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association, Private Practice Section, Health, Policy and Administration Section and Global Health Special Interest Group. Dr. Oliver has spoken nationally and internationally on therapy and global health topics. Some of her most valued accomplishments have been from her work in Haiti following the earthquake in 2010.

She is the founder and Executive Director of the Community Rehab Project which established and provides oversight for the Rehabilitation Center of Artibonite, the only rehabilitation clinic in Gonaives, Haiti. This city of 300,000 people previously had



no access to rehabilitation services. She and her family regularly visit Haiti and she coordinates medical mission trips to Haiti throughout the year.

As an owner of Achievement Therapy & Wellness (ATW), a physical therapy clinic in Utica, Ginger is excited to combine her passions, enhancing the health and wellness of community members locally and internationally through these sister health, wellness and rehabilitation centers. Ginger lives in Vernon Center with husband and family.

## HISTORY MOMENT: Need for 'wholesomeness and friendliness'

Frank Tomaino, the Observer-Dispatch history columnist, reported that in 1949 members of the Rotary Club of Utica honored Frank F. Despard, one of the club's founders.

Despard said that in 1914 too many city leaders were too conservative, aloof and cool and that an organization was needed to emphasize the city's warmth, wholesomeness and friendliness. At the time, Despard was

a salesman of mill supplies. He convinced George Evans (a jeweler), Burr Tibbits (a stock broker) and Charles Palmer (a salesman of business machines) that a Rotary Club was the answer and that they should work to convince others.

On March 12, 1915, a charter was signed by 104 men and the Rotary Club of Utica came into being.