



## SHELLY CASTO

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - HIGHLAND YOUTH GARDEN

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2022-2023

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#### ON THE WEB

[www.uarotary.org](http://www.uarotary.org)

[www.district6690.org](http://www.district6690.org)

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



**Mike Kull** introduced **Shelly Casto**, Executive Director of Highland Youth Garden. The UA Rotary supported garden serves the Hilltop area residents with fresh vegetables as well as a resource for young people to learn, physically participate, and benefit from a seed to table growing operation. Shelly has been in Non-Profit leadership for more than 30 years and has a B.A. in Art History from Oberlin and an M.A. from OSU. She is Highland's first Director, appointed in 2020. She resides in Clintonville, but revealed her parents were both UA graduates.

"Grow Minds, Grow Food, Grow Community," is the initiative of the garden. It began in 2009 as a small project but has grown as community involvement program. Young children, teens, and adults can participate in their offerings. Families in the area struggle with housing and security. "We are bigger than gardening," Casto explained. Social Development is a priority. Covid impacted this area dramatically and many children essentially lost a year of school. 4H and Scouting is not available to young people in this area, but the garden is an opportunity for them to learn. Highland has weekly youth programs that are offered for free after school.

The population of the area is primarily Central and South American immigrants. The Hilltop is considered a "Food Desert" or "Food Apartheid" meaning there are no sources of fresh foods for more than one mile. Commuting a distance to a large grocery store can be very difficult by public transit.

Their programs strive to educate. The facility now has an outdoor kitchen as another learning area. They now have a Garden House that serves as an indoor classroom and will have an ADA compliant bathroom. The garden areas have also increased through acquisition of other properties.

Highland Garden also has a High Tunnel (Greenhouse) that grows year-round. The facility also has benches, pathways and storage areas. There is no fence or security, as they strive to keep it open to the community.

The .4-acre gardens grow 4,000 pounds of produce per year. They are also supported by local growers that donate additional vegetables. The garden now has a bee keeping operation as well. In the Summer, Highland has a Green Teen Program that employs individuals for 20 hours per week at \$11 per hour, for nine weeks. The teen program develops customer service and interaction skills.

#### Q&A:

There are several community gardens in Central Ohio. Some have children's programs, some do not.

Sources of Financing include grants (City of Columbus, Franklin County Commissioners), Battelle, Ingram White Castle Foundation, and individual gifts.

No fences as it is for the community. Ground Hogs are a problem.

The program is fairly new, so success stories are not available. People have returned saying that it definitely had an impact.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings



## GREETERS

### January 24

Cheryl Turnbull  
Nickolas Green

### January 31

Kelly Marlow  
Tim Irwin

### February 7

Joe Valentino  
Ali Carine

## REGISTRATION DESK

### January 24

Don Leach  
Brian Bainbridge

### January 31

J.D. Dickerson  
Jim Nicklaus

### February 7

Dick Stone  
Janine Hummer

## CALENDAR

### January 24 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Beth Weinstock, Co-Founder  
of BirdieLight  
Host: Brian Hall

### January 31 - Scioto CC/Zoom

TBA

### February 7 - Scioto CC/Zoom

TBA

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**JANUARY 24TH**  
Scioto Country Club/Zoom

Upper Arlington  
**Rotary**  
Club



## THE MEETING



The January 17, 2023 Upper Arlington Rotary Meeting was held in person at Scioto Country Club with online access to members available via Zoom. President **Milt Lustnauer** rang the bell to start the meeting with Prayer and Pledge led by **Herb Gillen**.

**Jim Nicklaus** introduced his grandson, **Quentin Huxtable**, who is a freshman at Miami University.

There were no visiting Rotarians.

## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



UA Rotary will host a Social to welcome new members on Thursday January 26, at Sow Plated in the Lane Ave Shopping Center at 5PM. Please let Milt know if you plan to attend.

**Debbie Johnson** furnished 125 Pins to **Ned Clark, Doug Goddard, Tom Davis, Mike Kull, Jim Nicklaus, Bill Loveland, and Andy Livingston**.

**Sandra Cotter** announced that Rotarian **Bill Hosket** will host our February Roundtable.



**Andy Livingston** reminded all members to keep valuables out of sight in their vehicles while parked at Scioto. The club hopes the new guard shack will deter theft, but he wanted everyone to be aware of the issue.

President Lustnauer invited three new members and their mentors to the podium for introductions.

**Cameron Box (Brian Bainbridge)** is a Mortgage Loan Officer, OSU graduate, and originally from Westerville.



**Kelly Marlow (Eric Stoll)** is a Technology Executive with Nationwide and lives in UA with her husband and three children.

**John Wiseman (Rich Simpson)** is a retired mortgage lender, OSU Graduate and long time UA resident.

Please welcome our three newest members.



## YOU ARE INVITED: ROTARY SOCIAL EVENT JAN. 26TH

Our next UA Rotary Social Event will be on January 26th from 5 to 6:30 at Sow Plated. All members are invited to come to celebrate and honor our newer members. Join us for Drinks, Appetizers, and Fun. So we can plan accordingly, please email Milt at [Milt@MiltSellsHomes.com](mailto:Milt@MiltSellsHomes.com), if you plan on attending.