



November 14, 2022

This week learn about People First's AmeriCorps

This week's meeting features Dave Zogby, Director of People First's AmeriCorps Program. The meeting begins at noon at the Mid-York Public Library System.

AmeriCorps connects organizations and individuals who are committed to serving their communities and improving lives. Around the country and across New York State, AmeriCorps focuses on six key areas to make an impact: **Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity** (economic well-being of economically disadvantaged people), **Education** (Improving educational outcomes), **Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures** (health care needs including access to care), **Veterans and Military Families**.

In the greater Utica area, People First's AmeriCorps

partners with such agencies as the Utica Municipal Housing Authority and Utica Food Pantry.

The People First website points out: *"We are a leader in the housing industry by providing safe, clean, and affordable housing opportunities to low-income persons while promoting self-sufficiency, upward mobility, and customer satisfaction."*

With the Municipal Housing Authority, People First's AmeriCorps members help veterans achieve economic and housing stability; assist youth, exoffenders, and the long-term unemployed to enter the workforce; improve financial literacy of low-income residents; and place the homeless and housing vulnerable in quality, affordable housing in the City of Utica and Oneida, Herkimer, and Madison Counties.



Thursday | November 17 | Noon
Mid York Library System
1600 Lincoln Ave. | Utica, NY 13502
Virtually via Zoom

Bravo zulu

We owe kudos to more people who got their hands and knees dirty planting trees as part of the Urban Tree Planting Project on Nov. 5. In publishing the list of volunteers in last week's newsletter, we inadvertently left out the name of new Rotarian Heather Evans and her husband Dennis. Well done, especially for a brand new member of Utica Rotary!



Deadline for next newsletter (11/21 is Sunday, November 20, at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org).

#RotaryResponds
#PeopleofAction



Be Rotary Proud... because:

- We connect people with 1.4 million members worldwide
- We transform communities with 47 million volunteer hours each year
- We fund sustainable projects with \$333 million awarded in 2020-2021.

And our projects run the gamut, from local urban tree planting to delivering ambulances to the Ukraine to “paying it forward” through microloans in Uganda. Or, as Rotary International likes to say, “No challenge is too big for us.”

SAVE THE DATE!

Not So Silent Night Gift Auction
Dec. 7, 2022



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**
Ski Trip
**Jan. 25,
2023**

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 11/16 | Board Meeting 3rd Wed.
Noon, Greater Utica Chamber
of Commerce |
| 11/17 | Program AmeriCorps - Dave Zogby
Noon, Mid-York Library System |
| 12/01 | Program The Arc/Chef's Express
w/Heather Evans
Noon, Mid-York Library System |

The secret passage of 'Angels and Demons'

In the movie, *Angels and Demons*, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) races through Rome to solve clues and save the Vatican from a terrorist attack. He is helped by Vittoria Vetra, the daughter of a murdered physicist, who ends up being held captive in Castel Sant'Angelo (Castle of the Holy Angel). At one point, as Robert is fighting an assassin, Vittoria frees herself and saves Robert by pushing the assassin over a balcony plunging him to his death. Then the two hurry through a secret passage to the Vatican.

In reality there is a secret passage (Passetto di Borgo) linking the Vatican and Castel Sant'Angelo.

The castle features a towering cylindrical building set inside a fortress. The structure started out as a mausoleum for Emperor Hadrian in the second century, but grew over the centuries and was later used by popes as a residence and fortress. Today it is a museum.

The secret passage is an elevated corridor hidden within a fortified wall built in the late 13th century. It has a row of narrow window slits spaced along each side, allowing in streaks of daylight.

Pope Alexander VI crossed the hidden

passage to safety in 1494, when Charles VIII invaded the city. Clement VII escaped through it during the Sack of Rome in 1527, when troops of the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, massacred almost the entire Swiss Guard on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica.

We got to traverse about 600 meters of the 800-meter passage, and then climb to the top of the wall to travel the rest of the way to Vatican City. It was a spectacular view, with the dome of St. Peter's Basilica looming ahead while walking four stories above street level.

A locked metal gate atop the wall marked the Vatican border. The guide said that was as far as we could go as she didn't have a key.

We returned to Castel Sant'Angelo and donned hard hats before descending into the bowels of the fortress. We ducked our way through dungeons, and also got to see rooms filled with vats for storing oil and underground silos for grain.

Once the private tour ended, we wound our way up to the top of the central structure to take in a view of Rome and admire the statue of Michael the Archangel perched above. It is where the castle derives its name.



Atop the four-story-high fortified wall containing the Vatican's secret passage.



Castel Sant'Angelo