

Happy Thanksgiving

Rotary Club of Utica



ROTARY THIS WEEK!

November 21, 2022

The tingle of bells is calling Rotarians

December's service project is the annual bell ringing for Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign.

Utica Rotary will be at Chanatry's, 485 French Road, Utica on Saturday, December 10, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed for one-hour shifts. Family and friends are welcome to help.

Shifts are 9-10 a.m., 10-11 a.m., 11-noon, noon-1 p.m., 1 p.m.-2 p.m., 2 p.m.-3 p.m., 3-4 p.m., and 4-5 p.m.

Please email President-elect Michelle Brandstadt at fillableformdesigns@gmail.com with your name(s) and the shift you'd like to work. Shift choices will be confirmed as Michelle receives them.



Flags for Heroes



Rotarians stepped up to help remove "Flags for Heroes" from the Parkway following Veterans Day. *See Pages 4-5.*



Deadline for next newsletter (11/28) is Sunday, November 27, at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.



TAKE ACTION: www.uticarotary.org

NOT SO SILENT NIGHT!

by Tina Pavlot

Our annual Not So Silent Night Gift Auction is just a little over two weeks away.

Please join us at the 72 Tavern & Grill at 6 p.m. on Dec. 7. Bring family and friends to celebrate in holiday cheer while we raise funds for *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* (which provides beds for kids in need).

We encourage you to donate a gift or basket worth at least \$50 for Emcee Jerry Kraus to auction off. Wrap it in disguise to make it fun, possibly adding a clue or riddle as to what it is. This event is always full of surprises!

If you can't attend but would like to donate a basket or gift, you may drop it off at my office at M&T Bank at Consumer Square.

72 Tavern & Grill is located on the west end of Adirondack Bank Center (Utica Memorial Auditorium).



MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

From the halls of Congress to Utica's Beer Hub

by Tina Pavlot

Colin Hubbell is a Utica native and graduate of HR Jones Elementary, Clinton Central High School, and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Following his undergraduate pursuits, he went on to work for the late Congressman Sherwood Boehlert (NY) during his chairmanship of the House Science Committee. After working on the full Science Committee, and the Energy Subcommittee under Chair Judy Biggert (IL), he then briefly worked as a transportation policy

analyst for a national non-profit before returning home to open The Green Onion Pub, and eventually The Beer Hub. He also wrote a nationally syndicated beer-focused column for over five years.

Colin resides in Utica with wife Hannah and son Harrison. He joined Rotary to become more involved with community volunteerism and an organization that has made countless positive contributions, not only to the local area, but the globe.



Calendar of Events

12/01 Program | The Arc/Chef's Express
w/Heather Evans
Noon, Mid-York Library System

12/07 Not So Silent Night Gift Auction
6 p.m., 72 Tavern & Grill

12/10 Bell Ringing | Chanatry's
9-5 in one-hour shifts

12/15 Program | Small Business
Development Center
Noon, Mid-York Library System



AMERICORPS SPEAKER

The emphasis is on people first

by Bob Stronach



While the AmeriCorps program in Utica is a leader in providing safe, affordable housing for low-income families and individuals, the real focus is on putting people first, according to Program Manager Ricky Fuller. Thus the name, People First's AmeriCorps.

It's the human side of the equation that motivates AmeriCorps volunteers, Fuller told Rotarians at last Thursday's meeting at Mid-York Library System on Lincoln Avenue. They want to make a difference in people's lives and work toward positive change in their community.

He told the story of two sisters who not only lost their home and possessions in a fire, but also one of their children. They were living out of their car. AmeriCorps was able to get them in two newly renovated side-by-side apartments, and two AmeriCorps teams were able to get it furnished and stocked with groceries.

Fuller filled in for Program Director Dave Zogby, who was tied

up working several holiday-related events -- holiday meals for senior citizens, receiving 11,000 pounds of frozen turkeys at Utica Food Pantry to distribute for Thanksgiving, and getting ready to adopt 60 to 70 families for Christmas.

He also said AmeriCorps has an outreach effort to the homeless, describing the homeless situation in the Greater Utica area as epidemic.

Fuller showed a video giving a history and overview of AmeriCorps, which was launched in 1993 by President Bill Clinton as the domestic version of the Peace Corps.

He mentioned that the local AmeriCorps had lost a number of its volunteers during the COVID pandemic, and that they were rebuilding their volunteer corps -- which often attracts young college grads who want to have an impact on people's lives before deciding on or pursuing their life's career path. Volunteer opportunities are open to people aged 17 and older.



Rotarians help take down 'Flags for Heroes'

The club's service project for the month of November was assisting The Good News Center with its Flags for Heroes project – an annual tribute to active military, veterans, first responders and families.

In addition to the club sponsoring a flag "in honor of all service men and women," Rotarians and family members assisted with taking down the flags – which had been waving in the wind on the Memorial

Parkway from Nov. 2 to Nov. 14 in conjunction with Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

"There were so many helping that we finished in 30-40 minutes," noted PP Jack Altdoerffer.

The Rotarian contingent included Jim Turnbull, Dave Jones, Bill Luley, Jack and Debbie Altdoerffer, and Heather Evans and husband Dennis Blom, MD (an Army veteran).





Veterans Day in a mountaintop Italian village

On one of my recent trips to Italy, I found myself in a tiny mountaintop village called Tremensuoli. On Veterans Day.

The village square offered a panoramic view of the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Apennine mountains. The bells of a 1,000-year-old church pealed every 15 minutes.

In the center of the piazza was a monument to those who endured suffering and the loss of freedom in World War II. The life-size statue of a woman, with arms spread wide, stood below a sculpture of a dove of peace flying through the rays of the sun. One of the woman's hands reached up toward the dove while the other reached down, touching barbed wire.

That wasn't the only sign of the war's impact.

In 1944, American soldiers fought their way through, pushing the Germans back

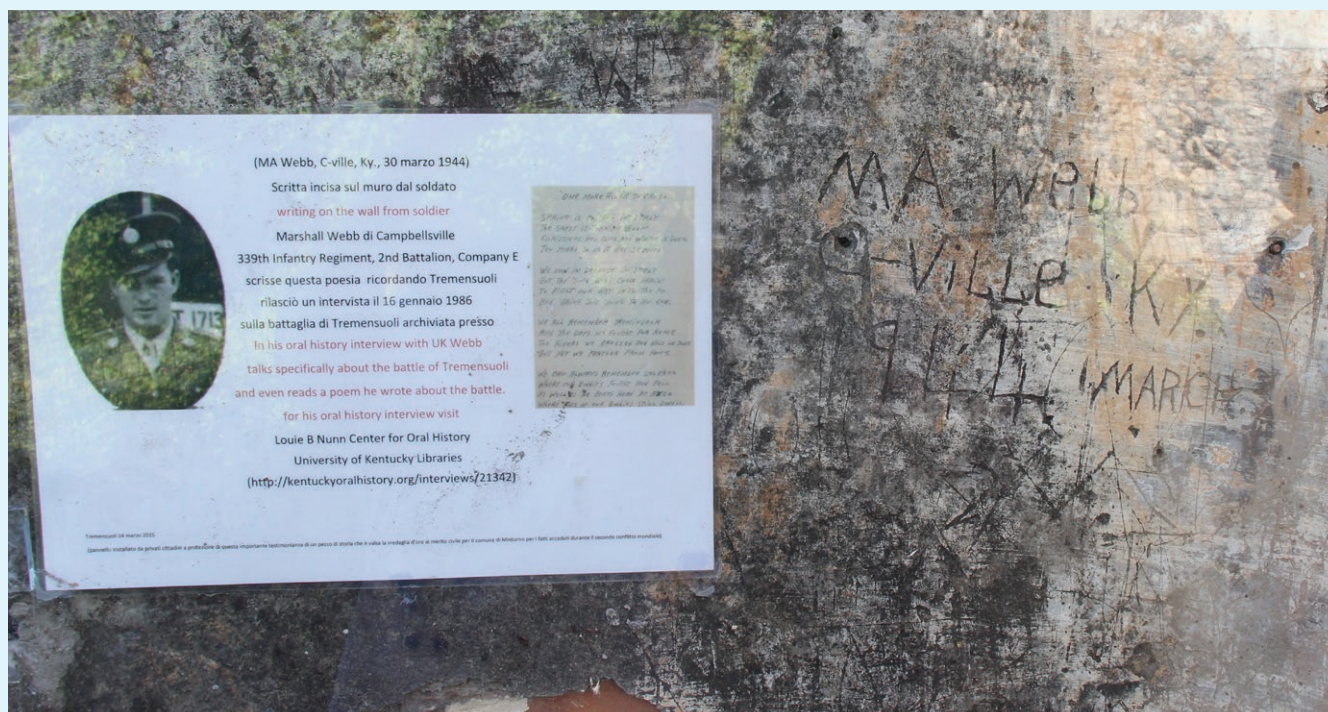
and providing relief to this remote village. Residents, spanning generations, never forgot.

One of soldiers left behind a simple memento. Marshall A. Webb carved his name on a wall (M.A. Webb), that he was from Campbellsville, Ky., (C-ville, KY), and the date (1944 March).

Villagers researched Marshall, discovering he fought with the 339th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company E. On March 15, 2015, they enshrined his graffiti behind plexiglass, along with his U.S. Army photo and a poem he had written about his march through Italy.

The owner of the sole restaurant in Tremensuoli quickly offered to take my family and me to see the enshrined graffiti.

Being an Army veteran myself, it was heartening to realize that people across the ocean still cherish the American GI.



Village residents enshrined an American GI's World War II graffiti.