



November 28, 2022

Come learn about the Arc and its Chef Express

The Rotary Club of Utica has a history of showing support for people with developmental disabilities, President Tina Pavlot notes, so “we look forward to this week’s program on Arc Oneida Lewis and its Chef Express.”



The speaker is new Rotarian Heather Evans, vice president of development at the Arc. The program is at noon Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Mid-York Library at 1600 Lincoln Avenue, Utica.

Heather has been with the organization for over two and a half years. While her responsibilities are widespread -- including grant writing, podcasting, business development and business-to-business sales, donor cultivation and retention, fundraising and even part-time bakery manager -- she feels she has hit her stride professionally and is immensely proud of the role she plays in helping individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities live their fullest lives.



Thursday | December 1 | Noon
Mid York Library System
1600 Lincoln Ave. | Utica, NY 13502
Virtually via Zoom



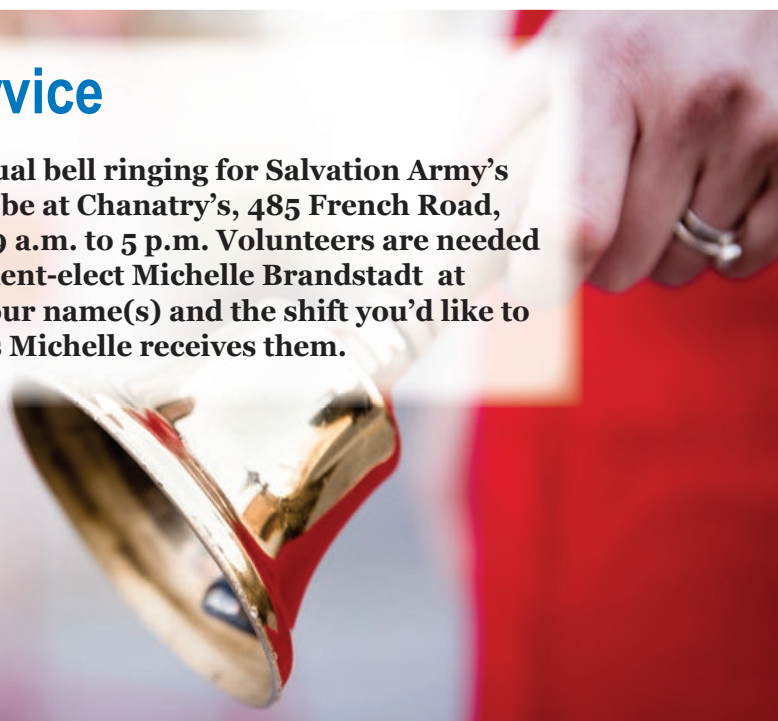
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7, 6-7:30 PM
72 TAVERN & GRILL, 400 ORISKANY ST W

Celebrate in holiday cheer while raising \$\$ for *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*. 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 Tina Pavlot's office at M&T Bank at Consumer Square.

Deadline for next newsletter (12/05) is Sunday, December 4, at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org.

The tingle of Rotary service

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. 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.



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
- 12/21** Board Meeting
Noon, Greater Utica Chamber
- 1/05** Program | 4 Elements Studio
Noon, Mid-York Library System
- 1/18** Board Meeting
Noon, Greater Utica Chamber
- 1/19** Program | Bosnian-American Community Association (BACA)
Noon, Mid-York Library System



SAVE THE DATE!

Ski Trip

Jan. 25, 2023

'A wonderful way to say Merry Christmas!'

If you ever visit the headquarters of Arc Oneida Lewis at 245 Genesee Street in Utica, be sure to take note of a framed poster on the first floor. It contains portions of two Rotary Club of Utica newsletters from 1971 and 1986 – which demonstrate Rotarians' continuing support of people with developmental disabilities.

In the December 28, 1971 issue, the editor enthuses over Santa Claus coming "to greet the Rotary guests from the Association of Retarded Children (ARC) plus many children of Rotarians at our annual Christmas Party."

He went on to describe the affair: "Nathan the Magnificent naturally mystified numerous men and women of all ages with a dazzling display of magic tricks unrivalled in the Western Hemisphere. Most gratifying was the look of wonder, joy and appreciation on the faces of all attending – including us oldsters – as we began to appreciate the simpler values of the Christmas giving season.

"Bud Preston led the traditional holiday songs with mucho gusto while Wes King MC'd the program and introduced several ARC members who in turn thanked the Rotarians for all the service given to ARC. A wonderful way to say Merry Christmas!"

The December 15, 1986 issue mentions another holiday event -- the "Handicapped Persons dinner dance" which was a "great success." "This year the party was hosted at MVCC by Mike Schafer with great food and dancing."

And as Christmas 2022 approaches, Utica Rotarians will get an update on the good that Arc Oneida Lewis is doing, and in particular, its Chef's Express program, on Thursday, Dec. 1. The program speaker is new Rotarian Heather Evens, vp development at Arc.

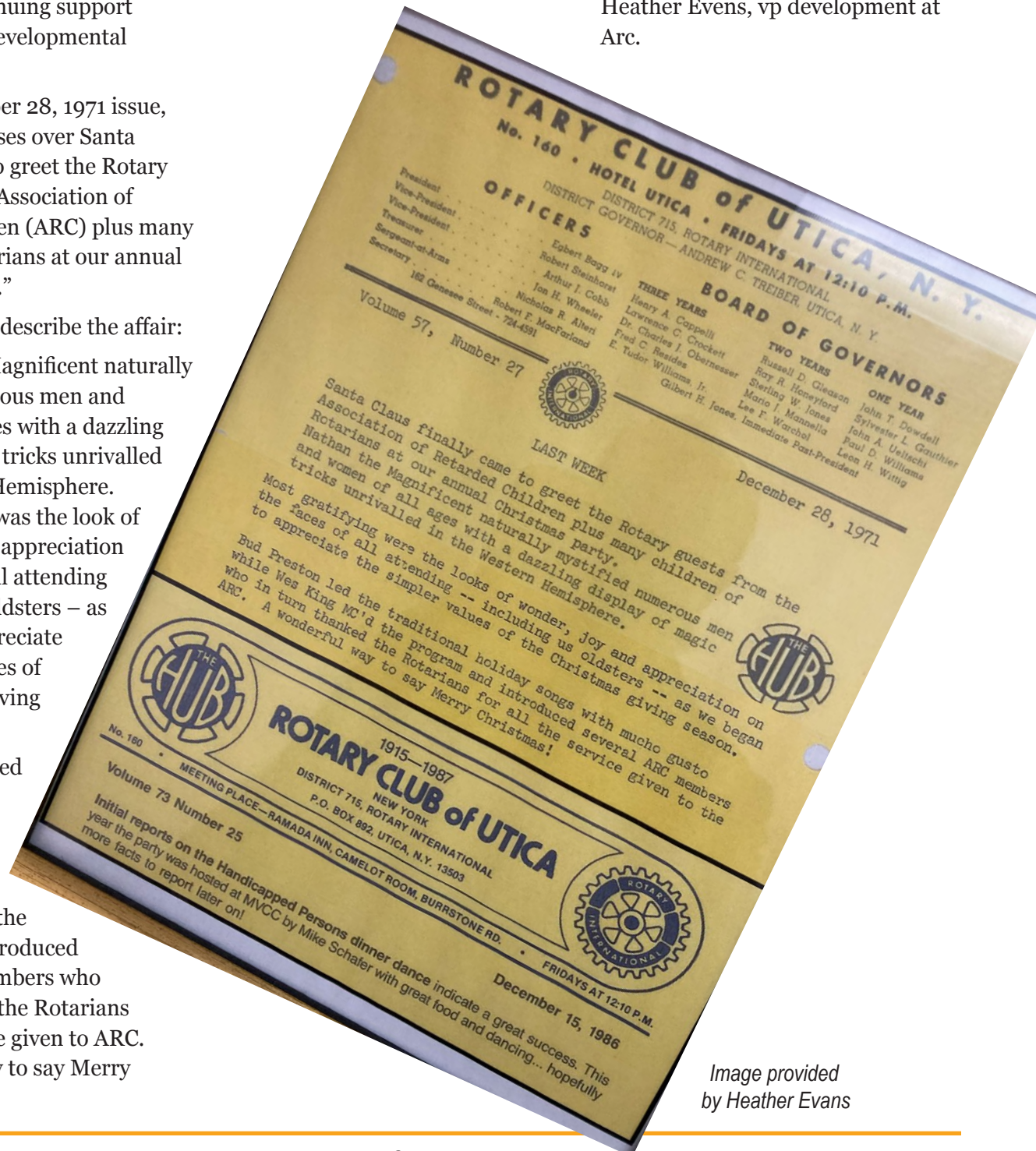


Image provided
by Heather Evens

From the Necropolis to 'Dono di Maria' soup kitchen

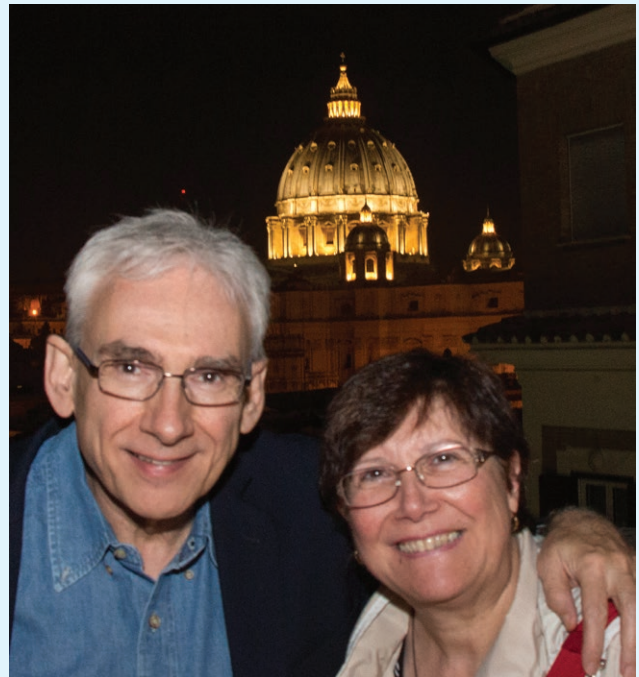
A dozen young people came bursting into the dining room, smiling and laughing and greeting us.

They were part of a church youth group, and they provided an exuberant ending to a homemade Italian meal prepared by Italian Franciscans. The dining room was on an upper floor of a house located just a couple of city blocks from the Vatican.

In fact, everyone adjourned up to the roof to get a nighttime view of St. Peter's Basilica. The dome filled the horizon like a brightly lit moon.

Three days later we found ourselves directly under that dome – underground, in fact, in the Clementine Chapel, where the bones believed to be those of St. Peter rest in a side wall just to the left of the altar. A guide led us there after taking us through labyrinthine passages where archeological digs revealed the tombs of pagans and Christians. It's an area known as the Necropolis, which once was above ground, and it's the location on which the first Christian emperor, Constantine, decided to build the church of St. Peter, believing Peter was buried there after being crucified upside down. The present St. Peter's Basilica is another layer on top of the original church.

We exited the lower level up narrow winding stairs right onto the main floor of the vast basilica, and eventually headed to the adjacent Apostolic Palace for another private tour, where we spent a good amount of time gawking at the frescoes and paintings covering walls and ceilings. (One hallway, for example, boasted ceiling paintings by Raphael, and is appropriately called the Hallway of Raphael.)



A rooftop view of St. Peter's dome at night.

We concluded our visit to the Vatican at the offices of the Association for Sts. Peter and Paul, an organization of 850 volunteers. The group used to be known for providing personal guards for the pope, association member Calvino Gasparini explained, but today is busy at numerous Vatican events, such as helping at liturgies, providing ceremonial escorts, and assisting tourists.

The volunteers are also dedicated to charity work, such as cooking and serving meals at Dono di Maria (Gift of Mary), a homeless shelter and soup kitchen at the Vatican run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. Pope John Paul II placed the house under the care of the sisters in 1988. Thirty-four years later it is still, as Pope Francis calls it, "a beautiful place."