

Literacy equals opportunities

As the summer winds to an end and the new school year begins, our focus turns to education. But while young students are back in school, millions of American adults also are in a different form of a classroom – and taking advantage of literacy tutoring.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) established Sept. 8 as International Literacy Day in 1965 to call attention to the world-wide issues of illiteracy. It reminds us illiteracy is a global issue, contributing to unemployment, poverty and many other social and societal problems.

Literacy Volunteers of Seneca County, an affiliate of Literacy New York, is joining other adult education providers to raise awareness and celebrate literacy.

"We have a saying in New York: 'Literacy Leads.' Literacy leads to employment. It leads to independence. It leads to opportunity," said Arline Marino, executive director of Literacy Volunteers of Seneca County.

IT IS MORE likely for children to have low literacy in homes where parents have low-educational levels. Children who live in homes where literacy is valued demonstrate higher reading levels at an early age. Children who have low literacy levels become adults who lack literacy skills.

In New York, an estimated 2.7 million adults lack basic literacy, math and employment skills. Low-level reading and math skills are linked to poverty, incarceration and dropout rates. These individuals

may also lack basic health, financial and consumer literacy, according to Literacy New York, which serves more than 6,500 adults each year through a network of 34 affiliates and their volunteers.

But too many New Yorkers are not receiving adult education to improve their literacy skills, despite our efforts.

Literacy Volunteers of Seneca County serves 22 adult learners each year with the help of 17 volunteers, said Program Director Kaaren Gerlach. For some, that means help in reading, for others, it is assistance in earning a high school equivalency diploma. Two students have worked with tutors to become American citizens.

ASKED HOW MANY more students could be served locally, Marino replied, "The program is student driven. We can handle as many students as request our services."

Gerlach agreed. "Some people don't ask for help because they are embarrassed that they can't read or do basic math. It's an individual decision. The student has to make a commitment to literacy. For some people transportation is an issue."

Gerlach said the organization always welcomes volunteer tutors. A training session is scheduled to begin in October. Call (315) 539-1795 for more information or to register.

Financial donations are gratefully received to help the program purchase books and other supplies for students, enhancing the program, Marino said. Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to Literacy Volunteers, 1 DiPronio Drive, Waterloo, NY 13165.

City Limits, and a live Nativity pageant. New members are always welcome. For more information contact Charlotte Carroll at c45carroll@hotmail.com or (315) 539-8242...

Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension is offering a series of canning and food preservation workshops to cover the basics of canning and preserving local vegetables, fruits, and meats. A Master Food Preserver from Cornell Cooperative Extension will be leading the workshops, which opens next Wednesday (Sept. 17) at the Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension office in the Main Street Shop Centre, Waterloo. *Canning in a Pressure Canner and Pickling* will be next Wednesday's topic, 6-8 p.m. Space is limited and pre-registration is required to attend. To register, call Seneca CCE at (315) 539-9251 or e-mail seneca@cornell.edu. You can also register online by visiting www.senecacountyccce.org. The cost is \$15 per person (\$25 for two family members) and includes hands-on demonstration, educational hand outs and taste samples...

The 13th annual National Hunting & Fishing Day will be celebrated Sept. 20 at MacDougall Sportsmen's Club, Fayette. The free family event will be held rain or shine from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Demonstrations and information and/or merchandise will be available from the New York State Trappers Association, Ten Point Archery and Empire Tractor. There also be free hands-on shooting/archery/fishing instructions, fly tying/fishing and other activities, goodies, information, raffles and refreshments. For more information, call the club at (315) 585-6732; or Kathy Larsen at (315) 585-2293 or (315) 521-0997...



Among great women

Bernice Ende stands among the life-size Lloyd Lillie's *First Wave* statues in the Visitor's Center of the Women's Rights National Historic Park, Seneca Falls, to pay homage to the birthplace of the women's rights movement during her visit Saturday (Sept. 6). Ende, a retired teacher, is currently on a 2 ½ year, 8,000 mile horseback trek across the United States and Canada to commemorate Montana's suffrage centennial. Along the way, she discusses her journey which began this year in northern Montana and is scheduled to conclude in Maine where she will winter before hitting the trail again in the spring for a Canadian coast to coast venture. She expects to winter in 2015-16 in Vancouver before completing her loop in 2016 through Washington and Idaho. Ende is making the journey on horseback. You can follow her journey at <http://www.endeofthetrail.com/blog/>.

Farmers market continues

The kids are back to school and cooler weather is setting in, but that doesn't mean the farmers market has ended! In fact, the market is at its peak with all kinds of fresh local produce and other products. The vendors tables are laden with the fruits (and vegetables!) of their labor and they need customers like you to buy it each week.

Come to People's Park in Seneca Falls on Wednesday from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and support the local economy by buying just picked produce and other great local products. Sweet corn, tomatoes (heirloom and others), peaches, plums, pears, raspberries, apples, sweet and hot peppers, greens for salads, melons, eggplant, cucumbers, zucchini and yellow squash, meats, maple syrup, honey, fresh baked goods, cut flowers and too many other items to list! But if you come to the park you can see for yourself! You can take home everything you need to make your own locavore meal!

Speaking of meals, Schrader's Farm Meat Market serves breakfast sandwiches made with its own bacon from its USDA certified facility in Romulus. And Schrader's and Tuckerman Farms serve lunch each Wednesday to enjoy at picnic tables in the park or take back to your home or office to enjoy! Enjoy the relax-

ing ambiance of the park by the canal and visit with friends and neighbors and talk to the people who grow, raise and make your food.

There are still limited amount of Farmers Market Nutrition Coupons for seniors available at the market. Seniors 60 and older who meet income guidelines (and they are very generous guidelines so check it out) get \$20 free to spend on fresh fruits and vegetable sat the market. Don't miss out, stop by Wednesday!

THE MARKET IS also able to have customers utilize their EBT/SNAP benefits at the market. And for every \$5 of food stamps you use an additional \$2 coupon will be given to use on any food stamp eligible items at the market. Free money just for using your EBT benefits! Stop at the market manager's space to use your card.

And as the summer produce winds down it is being replaced with fall items like Indian corn, pumpkins, winter squash and beautiful mums. You never know what you will find so plan to visit each Wednesday from now until at least Oct. 15.

Call (315) 539-9251 for details, like us on Facebook for current information or just stop by and eat fresh, buy local!

Hall of Fame gets support

The National Women's Hall of Fame (the Hall) is recognizing the support of Seneca Meadows in the capital campaign for the Center for Great Women. The historic Seneca Knitting Mill, an 1844 limestone structure located in Seneca Falls, is being transformed into that Center and will also serve as the new home of the National Women's Hall of Fame.

During 2014, the mill structure has been stabilized, abatement has been conducted and a new roof is being installed. The Center for Great Women will create a future home for the National Women's Hall of Fame while preserving the architectural history of the early mills of New York State and honoring those who worked

there.

Seneca Meadows joins other major supporters including the Town of Seneca Falls, ITT, Generations Bank, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Sessler Corporation and individual major donors. The Center has also received multiple grants, which include those from the National Park Service Save America's Treasure's program, the New York State Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York State Parks department, and from York Empire State Development Corporation (Restore New York). The grants total nearly \$4 million. All are matching grants that require the Hall to raise equivalent support through fundraising campaigns from local, regional, and national donors. The total project will require \$25 million.

Bits 'n Pieces

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prayer shawl. Works in the exhibit include *Coatllicue*, a painting of the Aztec goddess integrated with a Tzotzil huipil (A traditional, hand-woven dress from Chiapas, Mexico); *Ixchel*, which depicts the Mayan jaguar goddess integrated with a Mayan skirt cloth (hand-woven on a waist loom, from Guatemala); and *Sarasvati*, a work integrating the Hindu deity of the rivers and the arts with a silk wrap (Ikat style from Indonesia). The exhibit also includes a series of delicate paintings on vintage lace depicting mythical and historical women of achievement from around the world. A series of delicate drawings on lace depict mythical and historical women of achievement from around the world, including two pieces in tribute to the pioneers of the women's movement in the United States, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. "We are thrilled to host this artwork exhibition by Andrea Arroyo in commemoration of National Hispanic Heritage Month," said Superintendent Ami Ghazala. "This exhibition celebrates Hispanic heritage and culture and we are proud to be able to display it here at the park," added Ghazala. For more information, visit the website at www.nps.gov/wori or call (315) 568-0024...

The Real Christmas Committee will hold its first meeting working for final decisions for the 2014 event. The meeting will be at Lyons Bank, Seneca Falls, Tuesday (Sept. 16) at 6:30 p.m. This year's event will be at the Main Street School and will include a community choir directed by Bev Warfel along with Christmas music Walt Bennett's band,