



PROJECT SENECA (WITH A TWIST)

PRESENTED BY: SARAH AGAN

HOSTED BY: JUDY CHERRY

Meeting Date: December 14, 2017 –

Sarah Agan led the Club in an enlightening activity – asking members to organize themselves in a line ordered by how many years each person has been involved in the Schuyler County community. From just a couple years to a lifetime – there is an impressive number of years of participation among the Club. Sarah then read the lyrics to three different songs, “Grandpa”, “Good Old Days”, and “Somewhere over the Rainbow” and asked members to raise their hand for the song they feel best reflects their view of the Schuyler community. A surprising number of people indicated “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”, which suggests excitement and optimism for the future of the community and the changes that will come with Project Seneca and financial investment from the State (DRI projects among others).

Project Seneca received \$1 million in state funding last year to help Schuyler County implement its 10-year improvement plan for Watkins Glen and Montour Falls. Project Seneca encompasses the waterfront revitalization efforts and is recognized by NYS as the brand behind a number of improvement projects. Funds are intended to be used to conduct a retail assessment study, rehabilitate the bathhouse at Clute Park in Watkins Glen and about \$120,000 to create a pedestrian bridge linking Catherine Valley Trail with its parks. Of course, a large part of the project is to upgrade and relocate Watkins Glen's wastewater treatment plant, which will free up existing property for redevelopment.

Separately, Hector has received funds to create a salt storage facility and the brewery/restaurant Lucky Hare received funding for expansion.

Certainly a lot of community support and involvement in exciting projects in Schuyler County.



CONGRATULATIONS WG STUDENT OF THE MONTH: ALYSSA LINDSLEY

Watkins-Montour Rotary Club honored Alyssa Lindsley as its December Student of the Month from Odessa Montour High School. Teacher, Trina Shepherd described Lindsley as a “well rounded student.” She has made the most of her high school years, participating in cheerleading, track, dance, school musicals, and National Honor Society. She is polite, respectful, and helpful. Alyssa thanked her parents and teachers as well as the Club for the honor of Student of the Month. Her advice to other students is to take advantage of opportunities in high school and take chances to get involved in the community.

Credit: Odessa File

NEXT MEETING JAN. 11

PROGRAM:

SPEAKER:

HOST: Jennifer Sweet

GREETER: Duke Argetsinger

DEC. 14TH NEWS

GUESTS: Speaker, Sarah Agan, guest of Judy Cherry; SOTM Alyssa Lindsley and family/friends; Presenter, Trina Shepherd Ted Marks, guest of Club

RAFFLE WINNER: Doug Hagin and Jim Guild Split

AUCTION: JANUARY: Michelle Benjamin, Carl Blowers, Bruce Boughton

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CHECK PRESENTATION: President Rich presented Rob Phenes and ben Davis, of Upper Deck a thank you check for hosting and cooking for our weekly meetings.

NO LUNCH MEETING: Dec. 21 and Dec. 28

CALENDAR SALES: A reminder to those who opted to sell calendars to please get your money in to Michel Ray.

ROTARY PROGRAMS: We are in need of programs for January – March. Please sign up with Meredith to host a program or be greeter.

THOSE WE MISSED:

JC Argetsinger, Jim Bacalles, Michelle Benjamin, Steven Briggs, Rich Greenberger, Matt Hayden, Dean Hillyard, Judy Keough, Brian Kenney, Mike Learn, Nancy Loughlin, Gary Mead, Debbie MacDonald, Dennis Morris, Kevin Murphy, Nancy Ruda, Jeff Schultz, Kristine Somerville, Bridgette Stewart, Jennifer Sweet, Lindsey Wickham, Nan Woodworth

MAKEUPS: Rotary Readers: Tony Fraboni, Glenda Gephart, Doug Hagin

CELEBRATIONS AND CONFESSIONS:

Bill Phoenix: For Beatriz (exchange student)

Michel Ray: SOTM

Holly Baker: Thanks to all who volunteered at The Arc Christmas Party on 12/7 and to the Club for supporting this event! It was a wonderful time for people who receive services and their families.

Judy Cherry: Picture in paper, SOTM

Glenda Gephart: SOTM, The Arc of Schuyler Holiday Party

Nancy Peters: Crystal Chords were in the paper

Jim Preston: SOTM, Missed meeting

Stewart McDivitt: Forgot badge, SOTM, Yankees

Dena Carrigan: SOTM

Rebekah Carroll: Missed meeting, kids in Watkins Glen basketball and in the paper

Judy Phillips: SOTM

THE POWER OF LIGHT

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS | (ARTICLE FROM ROTARY.ORG)

Rotary members from Durango, Colorado, USA, team with the Navajo Nation to bring solar lights to remote, off-the-grid homes on the country's largest Native American reservation.

After decades of crafting squash-blossom necklaces, pendants, and bracelets, Jerry Domingo knew he would have to quit making jewelry, because he couldn't see very well anymore.

A sturdy Navajo grandfather, silversmith, and revivalist preacher, Domingo lives in a one-room house smaller than a single-car garage in the windswept sagebrush desert near Nageezi, New Mexico.

His home is mere miles from the picturesque badlands Georgia O'Keefe painted and Dzilth Na-o Dithle, the sacred portal where the Navajo believe the first people came out of the earth. But it's a long distance from all that the modern world seems to promise — grocery stores, jobs, medical care. Domingo's home is new. It has unpainted walls, plywood floors, and a wood stove but no insulation or electricity.

In a twist to his story, electric lines traverse the land just a few hundred yards from Domingo's front door, but with all of the permissions and work required by the utility, it would cost more than \$30,000 to connect to the power.

Domingo, who has pewter hair and a broad, calm face, first started making jewelry in the 1970s, when he went to work in his uncle's shop. Over the years, he honed his craft, and customers started to come to him to commission works.

Now he sells his wares when he travels to preach all over the reservation. But with his failing eyesight, it has been getting harder to do the detailed work. After all, it takes a good four days to make a full squash-blossom necklace.

