



**GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
NEWS BULLETIN #8
SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES FOR SPOUSES
DURING THE CONVENTION**



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Serving Members and Their Country

SEPTEMBER 2013

This is the last news bulletin before the convention. The planning is complete and registration is continuing. The next important undertaking is to arrive in Canandaigua on October 14 and have a good time. Here is a summary of spousal activities available during the convention.

Cadence Square is a new facility on the Canandaigua VA campus built over the past year to provide treatment, rehabilitation and disability assistance for veterans and their families. Senator Charles Schumer has called it “another in a class of world-class services for veterans.” The facility is intended to accommodate primarily Iraq and



Cadence Square

Afghanistan combat veterans. The inset photo is of the new building and rotunda. The \$11 million project is scheduled to open in October 2013 so the timing is perfect for a visit during the convention. (This tour is on the Spouses/Guests schedule for Tuesday morning.)

The VA campus houses the national Veterans Crisis Line, a \$20 million a year, 24 hour operation that offers counseling to veterans at risk for suicide or combat related physical and psychological problems. A call center for women veterans was also established on the campus recently to provide benefits information to women veterans around the world. Although only 6% of VA patients are women, they make up more than 15% of the total military force. The call center intends to make more women aware of the benefits available to them through the VA. (This tour is on the Spouses/Guests schedule for Tuesday morning.)

Evelyn Imperato will give a short presentation on her design and creation of the “Freedom Quilt” on Monday afternoon for spouses and guests. The two-sided quilt, which will be on display during her presentation, is made of new and old fabrics featuring patriotic themes and quotations. The quilt is not only a masterpiece of artistic craftsmanship but also a fabric that visually reminds us of our freedoms and values at the core of our national psyche. The quilt will be on display at the Hillsdale College Kirby Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship in Washington from October 23rd – 26th.



Freedom Quilt

Sonnenberg Mansion (circa 1877) and Gardens is a New York State Historic Park in Canandaigua preserving nine formal gardens of the world. It is the former summer home of Frederick Ferris, a wealthy



Sonnenberg Mansion

New York City banker and his wife Mary Clark Thompson. Among the gardens is a Japanese garden, an Italian garden and a Roman bath style swimming pool, appropriately adorned with marble statuary from Italy, the same stuff Michelangelo used during his chiseling days. Sonnenberg is on the way to the VA Medical Center campus.

Both the mansion and gardens are open to visitors. Admission is \$10 but less with a combined ticket to the Granger Homestead and Carriage Museum. (Self-guided activity)

The Granger Homestead and Carriage Museum was featured in bulletin #7. In addition to the mansion itself, here is where you will see an inscribed photograph of Helen Keller and the two-room law office where Stephen A. Douglas studied law before heading west, ultimately, for his famous debates with Abraham Lincoln. Douglas came in second. (Self-guided activity)



Granger Homestead



Wine & Culinary Center

Bulletin #6 is all about the New York Wine and Culinary Center, located across from the Inn on the Lake which is convention headquarters. Some of you have registered for the Wednesday morning hands-on cook your own brunch program. Visitors are welcome to come in and look around at any time.



Ontario County Courthouse

The Ontario County Courthouse and the Susan B. Anthony Trial was the subject in bulletin #5. You may recall her sentence for voting illegally was a \$100 fine. The election inspectors who allowed her to vote were also tried, convicted, fined and imprisoned. Gifts of money poured in which she used to pay the fines of the election inspectors who had been prosecuted. It was widely reported at the time (but **NOT** confirmed)

that she went on a shopping spree at Victoria's Secret with the money left over. The 1858 courthouse is worth a visit.

We will visit the Glenn Curtiss Museum of Aviation on Tuesday. If you registered for the convention, you registered for the trip to Hammondsport where the museum is located. If the weather cooperates, it will be a grand experience. The fall foliage should be in full splendor. Some details about Glenn Curtiss and events for the day are in bulletin #4.



Glenn Curtiss Museum



Canandaigua Lady

On Monday, we will be aboard the sternwheeler Canandaigua Lady at 1700 for a two-hour dinner cruise. Dr. Preston Pierce, Ontario County Historian, will be on board providing a commentary on the history, geologic significance and economic impact of the lake. This will be the first significant event of the convention. More details are in bulletin #3.

One final thought! Many of you have probably spent some time in Germany and became accustomed to German cooking. Canandaigua has an authentic German Restaurant at 224 South Main Street. The owners are Gary and Gudrun Klemens who are from Berlin and Frankfurt. The reviews indicate most of the customers have rated their dining experience at Rheinblick as five star. So, if you have a hankering for German food as you knew it in Germany or if you just like to experiment, try the Rheinblick.

Guten appetit!

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