

Friday, December 29, 2017

Hi ALA Members and **HAPPY NEW YEAR wishes!!!**



Attached you will find a printable 2018 calendar bordered with a collage of pictures taken throughout this past year. (A small gift to you that I made.) I had a hard time narrowing it down to 10 pictures so I might have to put them up on the website somewhere. There were lots of smiling faces and great activities - we had a good year!

### **Honor for the late Mary Genung:**

**Tuesday, January 9th, at 12 pm**, there will be a special Gold Leaf presentation at the NYS Veterans' Home during the Volunteer Guild Meeting. Friends, family, and members of the American Legion family are invited.

The memorial will honor Mary, who was a 54-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 376, with a commemorative "Gold Leaf" engraved with her name, on the "Giving Tree." Mary led a life rich with experiences and gave hundreds of hours of valuable volunteering to the community and veterans.



### ***Something about Mary...***

Mary Emma Swertfager Genung, 90, died peacefully on December 19, 2016 at the New York State Veterans' Home in Oxford, NY.

In 1946, Mary married George R. Genung Sr., a WWII Navy veteran. George and Mary moved to Oxford, where they lived happily for 60 years.

Mary was a member of the ALA Fort Hill Unit 376, the Oxford Garden Club, and the First Baptist Church of Norwich. She was also an accomplished bowler, and last, but not least, a member of Mr. Chubb's Coffee Club in Oxford.

For years, Mary worked at the Hamilton House Furniture and Gift Shop, in Norwich, as its head purchaser. After "retiring" she worked at and managed the Chenango Memorial Hospital Auxiliary gift shop. Mary simultaneously coordinated bus trips for Covered Wagon Bus Tours for 20 years. Mary came out of "retirement" again, when she was called to help veterans with her special talents for purchasing, staffing, and merchandising for the NYS Veterans' Home gift shop in Oxford. She voluntarily ran the gift shop there for many years, and was proud to have later expanded the gift shop. Mary spent the last years of her life as a resident of the Veterans' Home. She was very happy residing there, made many friends, and "adopted" the staff and fellow residents as her second family.

### **Activities at the NYS Veterans' Home at Oxford:**

**January 6, 2018** is Bingo - starting at 1:30 at the Vets' Home. Anyone from the Post can help. Just be there at 1 p.m. (or even as early as noon) to help get the vets down to the activity room.

**January 13, 2018**, 10:30 a.m. Hot Chocolate Social at Vets' Home.

Any questions, contact [Tami Zebrowski-Darrow](#), 6th D. Field Service Rep. [Click for complete schedule](#) *Volunteers always wanted!*

December 14, 2017, the Veterans' Home lost a long-time resident, **Rachel S. Bates**, 58, of Sherburne. Rachel had Multiple Sclerosis and was a member of the MS Society. (I am currently checking to find out which ALA she was a member of.) At right is an (unfortunately blurry) picture of Rachel (center) with Joanie Bradley (L) and Ann Scorza (R) on either side. I took this photo in 2012



during a theatrical production at the Vets' Home.

The **American Red Cross** is back at the Fort Hill Post 376 for another blood drive on **Saturday, Jan. 06, 2018**, from 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (It's usually on the 2nd Saturday.) They ordinarily take walk-ins, but making an appointment is a much better idea. You can even go online for the screening questions to save time. Visit the website: <http://www.redcrossblood.org/> . "Urgent: Blood Donors Needed!" Receive a special long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt as their way of saying thanks, while supplies last.

*(Copied from the [www.OxfordLegion.com](http://www.OxfordLegion.com) website)*

**Oxford Post 376 is currently accepting job applications** for the position of Bar Manager. To submit an application or for additional information, please [contact the Legion via this web site](#) (this link takes you to their email form) or standard US mail.

We all wish Post 376 Bar Manager, Steve Wolfe, and his lovely wife, Denise, the very best wishes at their new home!!!

**Thank you!** to those of you who paid your **ALA membership dues**, however, if you haven't paid your 2018 ALA membership dues yet, please do so. (\$25.00). I have to check the mailbox, and at the Post, for your correspondence. I haven't gotten any ALA renewals since late November! (I'm supposed to mail a dues renewal "transmittal" form to Albany at least monthly!) I know you've been getting reading for the Holidays and family visits, but I still have this membership job to do. Let's get it over and done with... please? Thanks!  
(FYI – I have nothing to do with the Legion or SAL memberships.)

Best wishes,  
Jeanie  
(Petersen)  
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