

Around the Towns



Clara Linnabach/The Farmers Museum, Cooperstown, NY 13320

(left to right) Katie Boardman, Associate Director of Programs at The Farmers' Museum, and Barbara Gill, organizer of the museum's first annual horse show, present a check to Bob Wickes, president of the Susquehanna Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



Vivian Langan (left) and award winner Grace Thompson at Roseboom Historical Society ceremony.

Roseboom Celebrates

It was standing room only at the Roseboom Historical Society's recent Make a Difference Awards ceremonies. The special occasion was held at the hamlet's old Baptist Church on Route 165, which is being restored for use as a community center and headquarters for the society.

The handsome frame structure was built in 1843 and served a congregation until 1966. Under private ownership, the unused church was stripped of its stained glass windows, fixtures and bell. It was purchased in the early '80s by a local woman, Ella Mae Murdock, who left it to the historical society.

Vivian Langan, the group's president, cites Grace Thompson as the church's longest and most enthusiastic champion — so much so that the church is affectionately known as "Gracie's place." Thompson was honored as the recipient of the first I Have a Dream Award at the ceremonies.

Membership in the Roseboom Historical Society is open to all. Individual membership (over 16) is \$5; Junior Membership, \$1; Institutional membership, \$10. Life membership, \$150, payable in installments over three years. Checks should be made out to the Roseboom Historical Society and sent to Helen Allen, HCR 75 Box 33, Westford, NY 13488.

Annual Auction Benefits Work of Hyde Park Shelter

Animal lovers and bargain hunters alike joined forces in a good cause at the annual benefit auction for the Susquehanna Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals held at the St. Mary's school hall in Cooperstown.

The evening began with the announcement of expansion plans for the shelter, recently overburdened by the need to care for a number of animals caught up in a court case. Then the fundraising got off to a good start with the presentation of a check to the society from the proceeds of the Good Hands Class at the recent fair show.

Auctioneer Karl Bamford, a local farmer, took part in the bidding for a variety of items, including society supplies and local meats. Bidders departed after a long evening of trading as the proud possessors of a variety of items many of which are not surprising to animal lovers.



Cathy L. Hommedieu is all set for this weekend's pumpkin picking at the L. Hommedieu Farm Stand located on Rt. 20.



Jessica Wust (center) was awarded the F. Ambrose Clark Livestock Cup by Jane Forbes Clark and Senator James Soward at The Harvest Festival.



Nancy Erway is back offering a warm welcome at Memories on Main Street in Cherry Valley. The counter in the '50s style coffee and ice cream shop is the actual front end of a vintage Cadillac.

Richfield Stand Plans Pumpkin Picking

The Hommedieu farm stand on Route 20, west of the village of Richfield Springs, will host a pumpkin picking this weekend, October 4 and 5.

The proprietors of the popular roadside produce market felt the effect of the dry summer on a number of their crops but promise a good selection of pumpkins ready for picking. Visitors will have the opportunity to go into the fields and select the perfect specimen for their Halloween jack-o-lantern or holiday pumpkin pie.

Pumpkin picking has become a favored fall outing for many area families and selection can be a time-consuming process when children are allowed to apply their particular criteria to the crop. Those with less time to spend can take their choice from the stock on display at the stand along with a variety of other farm-fresh fruits and vegetables.

Visitors Enjoy Events and Fun at Harvest Festival

Rainy weather and cool temperatures did not dampen or chill the spirits at The Farmers' Museum annual Harvest Festival, an annual highlight on the local calendar of special events.

A record crowd enjoyed music, wagon rides, demonstrations, exhibitions and food at the two-day event. Highlights included a parade of champions and awards ceremony for the winners of the summer's Junior Livestock Show, the year's finale performance of the Hartwick 4-H equestrian team and a town ball game.

Prizes in the competition to guess the weight of an enormous pumpkin were won by four-year old Jack Bloom of Oneonta, who earned a copy of "Calico and Tin Horns" by Candace Christiansen, and Leslie Partmeyer, also of Oneonta, winner of a household membership to the museum. Both ventured winning guesses of 106 pounds, the exact



Laure Karasek on his West Winfield studio balcony prepares for his upcoming exhibition in Philadelphia.

Cherry Valley Booster Back to Work Again

Nancy Erway, president of the Cherry Valley Chamber of Commerce and proprietor of Memories and Nancy's Old and New in the village, has recuperated sufficiently from a broken hip she suffered on July 13 to get back to work.

The energetic community activist is now busy with plans for the Chamber's annual dinner to be held on October 8 at the Ryan Inn in Cherry Valley. Tickets are \$10 per person for the buffet supper, entertainment by fiddler Dick Seiberg and an inspirational speech entitled (appropriately enough) "It's Great to Be Alive!" by a surprise guest speaker.

Erway extended an enthusiastic invitation for everyone to enjoy the evening in the newly refurbished local landmark. Reservations are necessary and should be made as soon as possible. Call 254-8138 or 254-3108.



Librarian Joan Tripp and colleague Martha Greenbank, library clerk, share desk duties at the Village Library.

Celebration Set For Cooperstown Librarian

The contribution of Librarian Joan Tripp of the Village Library of Cooperstown will be celebrated at a retirement party in her honor to be held on October 29 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Tripp started her service as a library volunteer about fifteen years ago. During her tenure as librarian, old-fashioned programming such as storytelling and lectures has been revitalized. At the same time, inter-library services via the Four County Library System have expanded the availability of titles. And, new computer services will expedite both reader service and record keeping.

Tripp counts volunteering, relaxation and reading among her retirement plans. Everyone is invited to wish her Godspeed.

West Winfield Artist Plans For Exhibition

Laurence Karasek is preoccupied with plans for an exhibition of his work to be held in Philadelphia in November.

The accomplished artist-designer has taught in England, New Zealand and the United States. Locally, he was an adjunct professor at Hartwick College in Oneonta where he taught drawing and painting.

Karasek's work can be found in museums and private collections both here and abroad. He now lives and maintains a studio on North Street in West Winfield.

The upcoming exhibition will include a selection of Karasek's recent paintings and drawings which are based on the cycles of seasons and landscape forms he has experienced while living in this region.