

# Thursdays-Spring 2022

## **234 years later - the State of Our Democracy**

**Anne Myers**

Th March 31, April 7,14,21,28, May 5,12,19  
all@12:30-2, except 4/21 @ 11:30-1

Cobleskill Community Library

The class will be a discussion of how well our democracy is doing these days. Topics will include, not necessarily in this order: Definition of 'democracy', history of democracy in the world, confusion between political systems and economic ones, rights and responsibilities of citizens in our country (means everyone should read the Constitution.), why public education is a necessity in a democracy, what does "equality" mean. . . .

Students need to bring: Brain and good will!

## **Italian Immigrants to Upstate NY**

**Karen Cuccinello**

Th April 21@1-2

Cobleskill Community Library

Join our local historian and author Karen Cuccinello as she presents the who, what, why, when and where of Italian immigrants, the largest number of any nationality to cross the big pond (the Atlantic) arriving and settling in upstate NY.

## **Follow the Eagle Trail**

**Bill Combs**

Th May 5@9am

Sterling Insurance Group

(Rain date Th May 12 @9am)

182 Barnerville Rd, Cobleskill NY

You will caravan along the Eagle Trail with eagle expert Bill Combs Jr. at the time of year when the young are in the nests and the parents are hunting for and providing food for the rapidly developing eaglets. We will have the advantage of close views through binoculars, camera & spotting scope. We will meet at Sterling Insurance Viewing Site #1 on the Schoharie County Eagle Trail. The first four stops are fairly local but Bill will accompany the more hardy for more viewing.

Drive yourself. The starting point is at Sterling Insurance, 182 Barnerville Rd., Cobleskill, NY 12043, at Eagle Trail Station where maps will be available. We will caravan to the Central Bridge site, the Middleburgh site, and the Minekill State Park site.

Wear appropriate clothing & shoes for outdoor viewing. Bring binoculars or a camera, if you have your own. Bring your own bottled water.

## **Intro to Lilacs in Cherry Valley Dawson**

**Charle-Pan**

Th May 26 @10-noon

Cherry Valley Lilacs

54 Lancaster St, Cherry Valley, NY

We will have an introduction to the history of lilacs including the natural history and social history of lilacs throughout time. We will have an overview of ancient perfume practices and extraction techniques. Many lilacs of the 100 varieties will be in bloom on the farm.

Directions: RT 20 West to Cherry Valley Exit, turn left onto Rt. 54 (pass Tryon Inn), turn left onto Lancaster Street, uphill to #54 on right

Students should bring: Good walking shoes and rain gear if needed.

Additionally, rare and precious plants and lilac perfumes and oils will be available for sale.

Max 20

## **Anchor Diamond Park Hike**

**Kathy Livingston**

Th June 2 @1-3

Anchor Diamond Preserve,  
1-17 Middleline Rd, Ballston Lake, NY 12019

Enjoy a hike through Anchor Diamond Park at Hawkwood, a 246-acre, forever-wild preserve held in partnership between Saratoga PLAN and the Town of Ballston. Miles of well-maintained paths and trails wind through natural woodlands, streams, wetlands, and past the remains of the Walton mansion (originally built in the 1790's). Money to buy the land was made available in the will of Frank Schidzick, who owned the Anchor Glass Company on Diamond Road near Round Lake in Ballston. The land was purchased at Hawkwood in 2015. We will hike about 3.5 to 4 miles (~2 hrs) over good trails with bridges or planks over seasonally wet spots. Most paths are fairly level with minor elevation changes. The preserve is entirely wooded, with oak, beech, locust, and various evergreen stands throughout. Pets are allowed but must be leashed (be prepared to scoop).

Drive Yourself: Park entrance is located on the left at the junction of NYS Route 50 and Middle Line Road (Saratoga County Rte 59), just north of Ballston Spa  
Hikers should bring: Water, snacks, insect repellent, cell phone.

## **National Bottle Museum Tour**

**Kathy Livingston**

Th June 2 @3-4

National Bottle Museum

Ballston Spa, NY

The National Bottle Museum®, located at 76 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa, NY, is very near the site of the Anchor Diamond preserve, so you might want to stop by after the hike. The museum is there to highlight one of our nation's first major industries that involved the making of glass and which thrived in this area due to the rich mineral content of the local water. The National Bottle Museum was created to preserve, research, and exhibit bottles and objects related to bottle making. Visitors receive guided tours of the exhibits, have access to an extensive research library, and are offered an opportunity to view videos on the use of hand tools on display, general glass-making techniques, and ways to locate old bottles. The Museum also houses the JRM Artists' Space, an art gallery for artists of varied mediums to showcase and promote their art. The National Bottle Museum offers educational presentations, on and off site, to historical societies, social groups, schools, colleges, service organizations, and others. All these services are provided at no cost to the public.