Daswöndio:go'

This is the 100th issue of the Cattaraugus Language & Culture Department’s monthly newsletter. Inside you will find program updates as well as an updated department wide Getting To Know Us section. We started the newsletter as a way to let the community know what we have to offer, what our programs are up to, what coming events we are planning as well as a place to share our culture and language. The newsletter was started in May of 2009. We sincerely hope you enjoy reading and learning from the Gae:wanöhge’. We encourage you to share what you have learned with others. If you would like to become an email subscriber of the newsletter, please send an email to the editor at Samantha.Jacobs@sni.org and you will be added to the subscription list.

Please feel free to contact the Onöndowa’ga:’ Nadö:diyeö:je’ koh Department if you have any comments or questions at (716) 532-8162. We will be happy to assist you in anyway we can.

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town

Here is a classic Christmas Carol to sing with your family and friends this holiday season! Translated by Gae:yëyao:wi’, Gahadawa’s, Haëdzo’öh, Marcus koh.

Be on the look out for our Onöndowa’ga:’ Gawë:nö’ Christmas Carolers who will be coming around later this month!

Onöndowa’ga’

1. Aësashaïk
2. Hë:nöh ësasdaë’
4. Hagôhsstiysë néëgë:’ ae’ daë’
5. Hagôhsstënoë:ha’, adi’gwah doqës
7. Hagôhsstsiyës néëgë:’ ae’ daë’
8. Ya’gëh ga:nyö’ sëda’oh,
9. Honöhdö’ ga:nyö’ sayë:h
10. Honöhdö’ niseksä’dëdëh
11. Eëseksa’diyö:ak
12. GWEH!

Ganyo’ö:ka’ -
1. You better watch out
2. Don’t you cry
3. Better not pout, I’ll tell you why
4. Santa Claus is coming
5. He’s making a list, checking it twice;
6. Gonna find out who naughty and nice
7. Santa Clause is coming to town
8. He sees you when you’re sleeping
9. He knows when you’re awake
10. He knows if you’ve been bad( or good)
11. You be good
12. Gweh!

Nisah dates to remember:
4th - SNI Birthday, SNI closed
25th - 26th - Christmas holiday, SNI closed

Gadeyësta’ - I am learning, Agwadeyë:sta’ - We are learning, Jagwadeyë:sta’ - Where we are learning
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teen Craft Club</strong></td>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>Sully Huff Heritage Center</td>
<td>Free and open to all teens. Club will work on projects in collaboration with members of the Native Roots Artists Guild and the SNI Cattaraugus Language Dept. For more info, call: 716-532-8161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECLC Christmas Bazaar</strong></td>
<td>Dec, 9th</td>
<td>Cattaraugus Community Center</td>
<td>Raffles, Vendor, Food Visit from Santa For more info call: 716-532-0505</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Center Seam Moccasin Class</strong></td>
<td>Dec. 10th</td>
<td>Sully Huff Heritage Center</td>
<td>Free class, you must provide your own leather (brain tanned deer hide), all other supplies provided. Taught by Samantha Jacobs To sign up, call: 716-532-8161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conversational Seneca Class</strong></td>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>Rm #1118, Allegany Language Dept., 25 Center St., Salamanca Taught by Ja:no′s Video &amp; Audio Conferencing now available For more info, call:716-945-1790</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Native American Winter Arts Festival</strong></td>
<td>Dec. 2nd &amp; 3rd</td>
<td>Seneca Art &amp; Culture Center, Ganondagan State Historic Site Vendors, Storytelling, kids activities, Rumble movie screening &amp; performance by Pura Fè! For more info: <a href="http://www.ganondagan.org">www.ganondagan.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Movie Screening:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Following the film, Ansley Jemison will speak of his experience with the team and Haudeno-saunee sovereignty. For more info: <a href="http://www.ganondagan.org">www.ganondagan.org</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ahsoh Nödaeyawëhse:'

A Winter Wonderland Christmas!
Dec. 10th
11am - 3pm
Cattaraugus Community Center
Breakfast will be served, Crafts, games, skating & more. Meet & greet with Santa!
Sign ups in person at the CCC Front desk.
For more info, call: Heidi at 532-8450 ext. 5722

Narcotics Anonymous Speaker Jam!
Dec. 10th
4pm - 8pm
Cattaraugus Wellness Center
Spaghetti Dinner at 4pm
N.A. speakers 5pm - 8pm.
Organized by Seneca Recovery Community
For more info, call: 225-6047

Holiday Bazaar
Dec. 15th
9am - 2pm
William Seneca Building
SNI Cattaraugus Territory
Stop down and grab a few unique holiday gifts!
For more info, email: Leslie.Cooke@sni.org

Kids Movie Night:
The Grinch
Dec. 18th
5pm - 7pm
SNI Cattaraugus Library
Free event
Snacks provided!
For more info, call: 716-532-9449

Thompson Brothers Lacrosse Clinics
Dec. 27th
Allegany: 1:30pm - 3pm
Cattaraugus: 5pm - 6pm
Community Centers
Register at www.thompsonbrotherslacrosse.us

Faithkeeper School
Winter Bazaar & Kids Smoke Dance Contest
Dec. 16th
10am - 4pm
Steamburg Community Building
11am smoke dance registration, $5 fee
1pm competition, groups: tiny tot, 6-12, 13-17
For more info, call: Darlene at 354-2219

Gadeyësta' - I am learning, Agwadeyë:sta' - We are learning, Jagwadeyë:sta' - Where we are learning
Afterschool Language Family Night

By Gae:ninö'

On November 16th, 2017 our program hosted its very 1st family night with our afterschool students and their families. We had a wonderful turn out for being our 1st one. The students and their families enjoyed the togetherness. Before we started our night, the boys and girls did the opening together. Then to continue on with our night, we ate vegetable soup which the children helped prepare. It was a riot watching some of our students cut onions for the first time. They tried so hard not to tear up when doing so. The kids took turns peeling, slicing and dicing!! We also had help from Alexis Stevens in making our fry bread for us, Nya:weghLex J The students even mashed up the strawberries for juice, and staff made desserts!!

We also had craft activities for the students and their families to engage in together. One was a mason jar tea candle center piece, a turkey traced around the child’s foot, and a I am thankful tree.

To cap off our night we had a mini social in our MPR. From that point on, our boys from the program took charge and announced the social dance songs that were sang and danced too. The boys did awesome, Ja:goh! Towards the end of our evening, the boys did the closing together.

We were also given kind and encouraging words to live by. Let’s keep encouraging our children to learn our culture and speak our Language! Taking charge, being helpful, being held responsible for conducting themselves in respectful manner, and having their families come together as one BIG LANGUAGE FAMILY is what filled these little hearts with love and happiness. We would also like to thank everyone for making this night a successful one for our students.

Native Kids Being Fit

By Gae:ninö'

On November 9th, 2017 our After-school Students had a scheduled fitness day with the Cattaraugus Community Center Staff Brad John, Corbett Seneca, Trisha Jimerson, and Steven Clarke.

Once a month our program designated a Thursday as our “Fitness Day” where our students are engaged in a physical fitness game or activity with the CCC staff. This day the staff created an obstacle course that the students had to attempt being timed! It’s remarkable how fast a child will move when they are being challenged and timed!! They all did awesome in cheering on their fellow classmate’s. After the obstacle challenge, the students challenged the Language staff and CCC staff to a game of snowball war a.k.a. dodge ball! Who won? Of course the adults took no mercy! The students look forward to our fitness days.
**Rudolph, the red nose reindeer**

Translated by Alberta Austin

Here is a classic Christmas carol to sing with your friends and family this holiday season. The tune of course is the same, use the sound chart above to help you pronounce the Onondowa:’ga’ phrases.

**Onöndowa:’ga’**

1. Rudolph, ojiä:në’da’ gwëhdä:ë’ nyagödo’dë:h,
2. dogödasdä:teh koh,
3. Jë:gwah wëdö:šho’ôh e:se:ge’
4. Èse:ge’ näh deyoisdä:ted.
5. Oya’shö’ôh ojiä:në’da’
6. Wa:disga:tgwëh, wa:wöyashânyö’: koh,
8. do:ge’h aenötga:nye’.
10. da’:ehde:s wayö’, waë’,
11. Rudolph, jo’jih segö:da’ deyosdä:tes
12. Ogwe:nyö’h èshë:n gaiyo’da’ në:ge:h wasödade’?
14. O’toied jo’jih wo:nö’e:sha’
15. Rudolph, ojia:në’da’ gwëhdä:ë’ nyagödo’dë:h,
16. I:s näh hëyoiwada:jë’e.

**School Presentations**

By Gayawëö:wi’

This past month the department usually helps out with numerous presentations to schools and other organizations. Often these are socials but other times, they are on specific topics. I was luck enough to have been able to help the Lake Shore High, Middle & Elementary schools.

At the High School I held a two day beaded brooch workshop with the art & sculpture students. We talked about design motifs and different beadwork styles and stitches. The students made small velvet brooches with a skydome & three sisters pattern.

At the Middle School I was asked to share some of our traditional stories with the students and staff.

During the morning I shared some of my personal favorites: The rabbit who wished for snow, Turtle & Bear race, The bird who tried. Turtle and Beaver race, the corn husk doll story, How the Birds got their colors, Song of the Hermit Thrush, Creation story. In the afternoon I was able to share a few more stories with the entire school before the social dance presentation by the LSMS language class students.

At J.T. Waugh elementary, I shared a beadwork presentation with all the 4th - 5th graders in the district. I was one of several presenters who were given time to explain their art or cultural topic with the kids. I had bead boards and different pieces of beadwork the kids were able to pick up, touch, try on and feel.

Overall, the kids were great, engaged and asked interesting questions. I would like to say Nya:wëh to LS Title VII for inviting me to present!

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Gadeyësta’ - I am learning, Agwadeyë:sta’ - We are learning, Jagwadeyë:sta’ - Where we are learning
Getting To Know Us: Language Department Staff

Our program strives to maintain our cultural lifeways and traditions by creating and developing functional speaking apprentices who will in turn become “language teachers,” increase linguistic & literacy skills. As well as build Language Fluency within our program and community. I have had the pleasure of working with the department for five years. Ne’hoh

Yadeo’ ni’gya:sööh Ögwë öwe:kha’, Adrian ni’gya:sööh Ganyö ö:kha’. My name is Adrian John. I am the Curriculum Specialist and Researcher. I am in charge of program planning, development and implementation as well as staff training and development. I also occasionally facilitate and conduct workshops and lectures on history, culture and language. I am currently working on updating the goals and objectives for the language department as well as the initial planning and operation for the new Stanley Huff heritage center. I have been with the Cattaraugus Language department for four years.

Gosënoye:was ni’gya:sööh ne’ onöndowa’ga’. Kerriann ni’gya:sööh ne’ ganyo’öka. I am the budget monitor for the Seneca Language Program. I also contribute in many other ways to our program. I enjoy my job because our program is like one big family. We are all connected to one another because of our beliefs. The purpose of our program is to help our community by teaching Language, Culture, and lifeways. For these reasons, I am very thankful to be a part of this program. Ne’hoh.


Gadsëyestâ’ - I am learning, Agwadeyë:sta’ - We are learning, Jagwadeyë:sta’ - Where we are learning

Nya:wëh sgë:nö’ swag- we:go’h, Ganöndihneh’ ni’ gya:sööh Ögwëöwehka’, Jennie Maybee ni’gya:sööh Ganyöö’öka’. Genyahdëh. Sgehodih ne’hoh nöndage’. I am thankful you all are well. My name is Ganöndihneh’ which means “I am bringing the town with me.” My English name is Jennie Maybee. I am of the turtle clan. Indian Hill is where I come from. I have been in the Seneca Language department for 22 years. I have taught at all three of the surrounding school districts at various grade levels. I am currently working with our After School Language Program. The program currently has 22 students that come from all three surrounding districts. The ASLP runs Monday through Thursday from 2:30 – 5 pm. On Mondays we have our culture days which consists of singing or discussions on ceremonies and culture. Tuesdays and Wednesdays we have our vocabulary days. Thursdays we have our projects days. The last Thursday of the month is dedicated to social dancing with our male staff providing the singing.

Gadëyestâ’ - I am learning, Agwadeyë:sta’ - We are learning, Jagwadeyë:sta’ - Where we are learning
My name is Clarence Seneca and I’ve been in the Seneca Language department for six years. I work with our fluent elders learning conversation-al language, transcribing old recordings and helping to teach others. Learning Onödowa’ga:’ Gawë:no’ is definitely one of the hardest yet satisfying endeavors I have ever undertaken.

Gaënda’e:s ni’gya:söh Ögwe’öwe:ka’, Helen Beaver ni’gya:söh Ganyö’öka:’. I am one of the first language speakers in the department. I mainly work with Jennie & Brandi who get phrases and language for the After School Language Program. I have been with the department for six years.

Nya:wëh sgë:nö’ gagwe:go:h. Gaënda:’ ga:s ni’gya:söh Ögwe’öwe:ka’, Viola gya:söh Ga:nyo’öka:’. I am thankful you are all well. Gaënda:’ ga:s is my Indian name, Viola is my English name. I grew up in Newtown and it’s still where I live. My beliefs are in the Longhouse. I teach Seneca Language. I have worked with the department for nine years.

Getting To Know Us: Language Department Staff (cont.)
Getting To Know Us: Language Department Staff (cont.)

(continued from page ja:dak) honötıswi:h neh ag-

Ha’degagö:n edwaiwagasadé’ niyögwayo’déh. Êdwenishá:dë’, i’ ejidwa’hó:de’ niyögwayo’déh Og-we’öwe:ka’.

Ne’ho:h ne’ gayö:n gajo’da:s, dewagehgë:öje’ Onödowa’ga’.

Ahsöh i’ degiwaga:ne’ niyögwayë:nö’dëh sögwa:wihi Sögwañjë:nö’nda’oh.

Sö:di’gwah na’od hë:neh ènödeyë:s, ogwe:nyöh èsga-

Da:h ne’ho:h waih nèyö’dë:ög näh ógwá:nigö’e’.

yoshá:geh niyonishe’t hegajo’da:s. Gajö:nyayí:nì:ah. Degy-

Deyagjë:öndë:’koh neh Höwönö:taönya:nì:ah gënjohgwa’ (They are making the path for them). I

teach them Seneca Language. I work with another
teacher, and my friend, Gageyadöh is her name.

wëno:shë:nyë:nya na’od Dede-
wëno:shë:nyë:nya na’od Dede-

wëno:shë:nyë:nya na’od Dede-
wëno:shë:nyë:nya na’od Dede-

I’m thankful you are all well. My name is Gaëyënta’. I

am Bear clan and Seneca. Ayögwa:ne’nëste:geh is our
group, where I work. 3 years I’ve worked there. I am a

teacher. We work together, Höwönö:taönya:nì:ah gënjohgwa’ (*They are making the path for them*). I

teach them Seneca Language. I work with another

teacher, and my friend, Gageyadöh is her name.

Gaëné:ndë:’koh neh our Grandmothers name. We teach them,

four women. Gaëyëngwae:ta’të’, Gaenone’të’, Deygiyasë:shë: Go’saeyo’ are their names. We use the new way, (of
teaching) what Deadwëñosnyë:shë:na does. Than we have four children that we all teach. Bryant, Nova, Andi and Haga:jih are their names. We will sing, play or paint
everyday. I really love what I do here.

Gaeyadöh Onödowa’ga’ niwagö:ëzo’dë’ (I am of the Seneca

Nation). Genyahdë:h (I am turtle clan) Höwönötaönya:nì:ah Gënjohgwa’

Gajö:nya:nì:ah (I am a teacher).

Nya:wë:sh Sgé:nö’ Swagwe:go’h! My

name is Gaeyadöh. I am of the Seneca Nation and I am turtle

clan. This year, I am Assistant Teacher to Gaëyënta’ and together

we work with the mothers of Höwönötaönya:nì:ah

Gënjohgwa’. This years’ program was developed to focus

on the mothers acquiring Seneca Language along with

their childs’ growth and well-being. Each mother is pro-

vided language to use on a day-to-day basis with their

child. My duties include developing lesson plans and

goals with Gaëyënta’, tracking the progress of each

mother, and encouraging a positive and collaborative

learning environment here at the Language Program. I

have been employed with the Seneca Nation for over 8

years and have been learning at the Language Program

for 3 years. I am hoping my knowledge of language and

understanding of our life ways can accommodate with

the mothers to learn as much as they can, in hopes they
too can pass it on to their children and eventually their

grandchildren. This is a very exciting time because this

time is considered the first year for the program itself. The

mothers and children of Höwönötaönya:nì:ah Gënjohgwa’

mean very much to us and we will continue to strive
every day for their success and to learn from them as

well. We hope to see everyone around the community in

the near future and are very welcoming to all visitors to

our learning environment. Nya:wëh

Dagiyasë: niwagesë:no’dë’. Onö-
dowa’ga’ niwagö:ëzo’dë’. Ag-
esë’gaï:yo’. Ageksa’dà:yë’, Hag-
ajih niosë:no’dë’ neh hea’wak.

Wa:eh shë:h wa:ye:ci jeshö:sh nos-
iya’k. Hoswë’gaï:yo’. O’
gadyësë:ndë’ neh Onödowa’ga’:

gawëno’.

Kachine Lay is my non-native

name. I am Seneca. I am hawk

clan. I have a child. His name is

Haga:jih. I just turned one. He is

also hawk clan. I have been here at the department just

over two years. I enjoy learning from my teachers and

working with the Elders.

Kachine Lay is my non-native

name. I am Seneca. I am hawk

clan. I have a child. His name is

Haga:jih. I just turned one. He is

also hawk clan. I have been here at the department just

over two years. I enjoy learning from my teachers and

working with the Elders.
Getting To Know Us: Language Department Staff (cont.)

Gae:wanöhge' V9I11

Nya:wëh së:no'. Gaenö:ne' niwag-eseno'de. Andi Wini yeya:sòh ne keyawa:g. Wini keye:sta. Da'agosenoye'. Joshad wa:eye:is. Aknyahdë:h. Jagostoh niyodeh Gavin Addison koh. We are currently in Hownotaony:nih Gejohgwa'. Wini and I enjoy our routine during our day. We like to sing and read our books that we have translated. I like to do the painting with food and paint, Wini, however does not. But Wini also loves to snack with visitors and our elder Gaenöhdö'.

Wini, however does not. But Wini also loves to snack with visitors and our elder Gaenöhdö'.

Gaeyëngwaeta' niwagosëno'de. Taryn ni'gyasoh neh ganyo'oka'. Bryant haya:sòh neh hea:wa:k. Do:sëno'yë'. Bryant eöye:is seh niosiya'goh neosiya'k. Ok- nyata:yö:nih. “Gaeyëngwaeta’ is my given name. Taryn is my English name. My son’s name is Bryant. He does not have a given name. Bryant will be turning 3 years old. Him and I are of the wolf clan.”

I have been apart of the language department for a year now. Currently Bryant and I are apart of our new mommy and me program called Höwönötaönya:nih Gejohgwa’. I am learning language to use in my child (ren’s) everyday lives. I look forward to continuing in this program and furthering our knowledge in the language.


I'm an apprentice I and am a part of the mommy and me, Höwönötaonya:nih genjohgwa'. I'm here to learn for myself, but most importantly, for my daughter.

Hayanowe' ni'gya:sòh Ögwë' owehka', Chris Tallchief ni' gya:sòh Ganyo'ökha'. O'gyajo' da:d nëkë:gwah yëih niyosageh. Agajo'nya:nih ha'degaënö:geh yöëdza'gekha'. He moves fast is my Indian name. Chris Tallchief is my English name. I have worked here for six years. I teach Earth songs. I work with the Traditional learning group.

My name is Martin Jimerson Jr. My Ögwë'öwe:kha' name is Hajoja'e:s. I am a Seneca faith-keeper of the beaver clan. My parents are Martin Jimerson Sr. & the late Donna Kenyon. I am married to Charisse Jimerson and we have four children. Johnson Jimerson is my younger brother. I have three sisters, Terris Sue, Mashaun & Cassie Rae Jimerson. I will be turning 40 years old in January. I attend the Newtown Longhouse and come from a strong family of Longhouse singers. Currently I am a Seneca culture & language teacher. I teach Ha’degaënoge' yöëdza'gekha’, Earth songs and dances. In the mornings, I work with my uncle Norman Jimerson as we go through our longhouse ceremonies, procedures, protocols, songs, speeches, listen to recordings and work on cultural projects. We do cultural trips like visiting Ganondagan. Norman also gives us pointers and tips on presenting, demonstrations, ways to promote our culture.

Gagwe:go'h së:no' Hadzëönöh ni'gya:sööh onö- ndowa'ga'. Levi ni'gya:sta' ganyo'oka'. Agatayo:nih, dewashë:h dego' ni- wagosiya'goh. Ganöndase' tknoge'. My Seneca name is Hadzëönöh. Levi is my English name. I am of the wolf clan and am 28 years old. I live in Newtown. I have been apart of the Language Department just a little of 3 ½ years and am a level two Language Apprentice. I am currently apart of the ceremonial group we have here in the department. Dane'hoh.
Getting To Know Us: Language Department Staff (cont.)

Nya:wëh Sgë:no’ gagwë:göh! My name is Marcus. (Marcus ni’gya:söh.) I work at the Sully Huff Heritage Center. (Sully Huff Heritage Center ne’hoh dwagyo’dé.) My job is to learn our language. (Ögwawë:nö’ ageyë’oje’ neh gajo’da:d.) I started working here three years ago. (Sëh niyoshage:no’ no’we’ ogahsawë’ nëgë:h gajo’da:d.) I will be helping the Immersion Program.


Age’nehisyö’. I am an Apprentice II. I have been with the department for ... years. I work with the Language Lab team and will be focusing on the traditional lifeways aspect of our hands on outdoor community projects like the Maple tapping, Green house and gardening. The Maple project “Sugar shack” has made the move from the CCC to the Sully. Non-traditional methods can be convenient but the objective of our projects are to inject and rediscover traditional ways of “Maple sugaring” and gardening.


Age’swë’gaiyo’, De:washë:h dza:da:niwagosiyë’göh. Onödowa’ga’ ni’ah. Osoägö:h’ o’tegweh tknöge’. Sëh ni’wageksa’dayëh. I have been working with the language program for about four years now.

I am an Apprentice II. I enjoy learning new and exciting things about our culture and language. For the past two years, leading up to the present, I’ve been lending a helping hand in our Afterschool Language program. Seeing their face light up when they understand something new, is what I strive for when working with them. As of right now I’ve found a new passion for sewing. I started on ribbon skirts last year, and recently I’ve constructed a traditional longhouse outfit from top to bottom. To the best of my abilities, I try to teach my children as well as others what I have learned. I look forward to learning more about our culture, language and our community. Nya:wëh.

Nya:wëh Sgë:no’! My name is Marcus. (Marcus ni’gya:söh.) I work at the Sully Huff Heritage Center. (Sully Huff Heritage Center ne’hoh dwagyo’dé.) My job is to learn our language. (Ögwawë:nö’ ageyë’oje’ neh gajo’da:d.) I started working here three years ago. (Sëh niyoshage:no’ no’we’ ogahsawë’ nëgë:h gajo’da:d.) I will be helping the Immersion Program.

Nga:sgae : Nya:wëh Sgë:no’! My name is Marcus. (Marcus ni’gya:söh.) I work at the Sully Huff Heritage Center. (Sully Huff Heritage Center ne’hoh dwagyo’dé.) My job is to learn our language. (Ögwawë:nö’ ageyë’oje’ neh gajo’da:d.) I started working here three years ago. (Sëh niyoshage:no’ no’we’ ogahsawë’ nëgë:h gajo’da:d.) I will be helping the Immersion Program.

Gë:nö’ gagwë:göh! Hoye:was ni’gya:söh Ögwë’ówe:nya’.

Frank ni’gya:söh Ganyo’ó:kha’.

Age’nehisyö’. I am an Apprentice II. I have been with the department for ... years. I work with the Language Lab team and will be focusing on the traditional lifeways aspect of our hands on outdoor community projects like the Maple tapping, Green house and gardening. The Maple project “Sugar shack” has made the move from the CCC to the Sully. Non-traditional methods can be convenient but the objective of our projects are to inject and rediscover traditional ways of “Maple sugaring” and gardening.

Nya:wëh Sgë:no’! I’m Ashley Henhawk, I am from Indian Hill and I am turtle clan. I have been the media specialist for the language department for a whole year this November! It has been a great year. I enjoyed my first summer program with the kids, going to their field trips and sharing in their fun. Since I was away at school then working in the city for 9 years, I have enjoyed becoming apart of my community again. I look forward to more years to come.

Nga:sgae : Nya:wëh Sgë:no’! I’m Ashley Henhawk, I am from Indian Hill and I am turtle clan. I have been the media specialist for the language department for a whole year this November! It has been a great year. I enjoyed my first summer program with the kids, going to their field trips and sharing in their fun. Since I was away at school then working in the city for 9 years, I have enjoyed becoming apart of my community again. I look forward to more years to come.

Gadeyësta’ - I am learning, Agwadeyë:sta’ - We are learning, Jagwadeyë:sta’ - Where we are learning
Getting To Know Us: Language Department Staff


I’m thankful you are all well! My English name is Lauren Stevens. I don’t have a given Seneca name but “Yesgatgwës” is what they called me in “They Take Care of the Language Group” (Seneca Immersion Program). I belong to the Senecas. I am of the wolf clan. I live on Bush Road there on Cattaraugus Territory. I’m 26. I have 2 kids; my only son is Gabriel and my only daughter is Jheneli, that’s what they’re called. My son is older than my daughter. Gabe is 5. Jheneli is 2. My kids are pretty bang.

I’m excited to keep learning Seneca Language because I just started working here at the Sully Huff Building (with Language Dept.). I started studying last year with the Immersion Program. I need to try to use more of our language at our house where my kids and I live. It is possible for me to do it if I will continue to talk with the elders who work here (Sully) too. I know everyone else will teach me some new material too! Nya:weh itge’se’! I’m thankful to be here!


Peace everyone! She carries the word is my real name and Samantha Jacobs is my non-native name. I am a teacher with various community groups. I teach them our cultural ways, the things we do. I enjoy what I do.

I started working here with the department at the tail end of 2006. I have worked as an intern, teaching assistant and a teacher. I have worked with all ages, from infant to elders. Through the department I have worked at the Gowanda Aldrich Elementary, Brant Elementary, J.T. Waugh Elementary, A.J. Schmitt elementary, Lake Shore Middle, Lake Shore High schools as well as our Early Childhood Learning Center. After leaving the school system, I transitioned into a community teacher role within the department. I currently work with the Teen Craft Club, the A.O.A. Leaders, as well as host and help with several community cultural arts classes.

I was raised with the belief that we should share our knowledge and not to hoard it from others. I have taken that to heart and offer what I have learned to those who take the time to come to the free community classes I facilitate. I see every day as an opportunity to learn and will go out of my way to catch a class that will further my own learning so I may in turn come back to our community and share that gained knowledge with others.

I am also the editor of the Gaewanöhge’. The original intention with creating the language newsletter was to broadcast what programs and learning opportunities our department was offering as well as a chance for others to learn language if people were unable to attend any of our classes. I’m always glad to hear people talk about reading or using what they’ve learned from the Gaewanöhge’. Whether that means you printed the newsletter out and shared it with your grandkids, tried the recipe, participated in an event you seen listed, practiced a mingle language lesson with someone or shared a traditional story. It’s our hope that the Gaewanöhge’ continues to provide another useable way for people to learn more about not just our language but our heritage. If you would like to be added to the email subscription list for the Gaewanöhge’, please email me at Samantha.Jacobs@sni.org and I will add you to the list.
Ne’hoh
Gakö:ni:h Ganö’ja’ - Soft Gingerbread Cookies

Ingredients:
1 cup butter
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup molasses
1 egg
5 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda
2 tsp ground ginger
1 ½ tsp ground cinnamon
1 ½ tsp ground cloves
½ tsp ground nutmeg
½ tsp ground allspice

Royal Icing:
1 ½ cups powdered sugar
½ tsp vanilla
1 tsp light corn syrup
2 - 3 tbsp. room temp. water
Pinch of salt

Directions:
1. In a bowl of a stand mixer, cream together the butter and brown sugar until smooth. Add the molasses (it really does help to spray your measuring cup with cooking spray before measuring the molasses - it will pour out more easily afterwards) and egg and mix again to combine, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed.

2. Add the flour, salt, baking soda, and spices, then mix until everything is completely combined. Scrape the gingerbread cookie dough out of the bowl onto a large piece of plastic wrap, then wrap it up into a disc and put it in the refrigerator to chill for 3 hours or overnight.

3. Preheat the oven to 350° and line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. On a floured surface, roll the dough out to ¼” thickness. I always find I need to be generous with the flour so the cookies don’t stick to the counter or the rolling pin, but you don’t need to worry about having cookies that look dusted by flour because it will be absorbed into the dough as the cookies get rolled out.

4. Cut into desired shaped with cookie cutters. Transfer the cookies to the baking sheets, leaving a little space between each cookie. They don’t spread much, but you just don’t want them touching while they are baking. Bake for about 10 minutes until they just start to look set but DO NOT overbake or they won’t stay soft. Let cool for 5-10 minutes on the pan. Remove from cookie sheets to cool completely on wire racks.

Royal icing: In a medium bowl, whisk together the powdered sugar, vanilla, corn syrup and 2 tbsp. of the water. It should be thick, but if it is too thick, whisk in another ½ tbsp. at a time, checking consistency after each half tablespoon. If you go too far and it gets too runny, whisk in two additional tbsp. of powdered sugar at a time. You want the royal icing to drizzle off your whisk into the bowl and hold its shape for a second or two before melting back into the rest of the icing. If desired, you can separate your icing to different small bowls at this point and add food coloring, then transfer to piping bags with small decorating tips.

Recipe from: https://houseofnasheats.com/soft-chewy-gingerbread-men-cookies/