Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Seneca Nation of Indians non-essential services, including all Seneca Language department in house services are suspended until further notice. Once it becomes feasible to reopen, we will do so in a manner that is both safe and following all current health guidelines. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact 716-532-4900.

Online Seneca Language Resources can be found at:

- www.SenecaLanguage.com
- Skype classes, to join message JanosJanineBowen, Fridays 10am - 11am

In Onöndowa'ga:
1. Ėgo:yeyö' gi: gwisdë' ėsgo:'
2. Awënetgä:dek
3. Da' awënetgä:dek
4. Tawagahjö:ök
5. Agahjö:önö'
6. O'ge:gë:'
7. O'gatöda:s
8. O'tgyeönyö:'

In Ganyo'ö:ka'
1. Trick or Treat!
2. It was fun
3. It wasn’t fun
4. I will not be scared
5. I was scared
6. I saw it
7. I heard it
8. I touched it

Getting To Know Us: Helen Beaver

By Awëö:nyë'

We have lost another precious asset to our community Helen Beaver better known to all as Aksö:d.

A very wise “Ole” turtle tells us learners all the time “we aren’t going to be here forever” but when you can work with them every day all year long it sure does seem like they will be or when you have had as many years as we did with Aksö:d it sure feels like it!

Akso:d started working with the language program in 2011, she had worked with ECLC for many years prior. Where I also had the opportunity to work with her, all three of my girls were brought up with her. Akso:d was very quiet and meek, however she truly enjoyed working with children all ages especially babies. She used to always swaddle them and rock them to (continued on page sëh)

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Gaga:’ Time: Snowy Owls’ escape from the Witches & Beasts*

This is a Penobscot story retold by Newell Lion, originally collected by Frank Speck in a 1935 article. Enjoy!

There was a village divided into two parts, one a quiet part and the other a boisterous part, the latter abusive to the former. Here lived a family in which there was a son named Snowy Owl. At last the family moved away to a divide in the mountains and finally the father and mother died. Snowy Owl was instructed by his dying father to send his "spirit helper" to tell his grandmother that he would come to live with her. This was done and the grandmother became the foster parent of Snowy Owl. One day she gave Snowy Owl his grandfather's bow and arrows which consisted of some pieces of ivory which she put together, telling him that whatever he shot at, his arrow would not miss. Snowy Owl next started out to find the camps of human beings to find himself a wife. He traveled far to the south, and on the way noticed how the lakes and rivers were drying up. Desiring to learn the cause of the water shrinkage, he ascended the valleys and finally reached a place where he saw what he thought were hillocks covered with brown vegetation moving slowly about. Upon closer scrutiny he learned that these masses were really the backs of great animals with long teeth, Ktcì-awa's, animals so huge that when they lay down they could not get up. He saw that they drank for half a day, thus taking up all the water in the basins of the land. Snowy Owl decided that some day he would have to kill them.

He journeyed on and came to a place where a great witch lived with her seven beautiful daughters. Whenever these women desired food, the daughters went abroad and lured sailors to come home to marry them. On the night of the marriage it was their custom to tell the husband-to-be that he should have his hair combed. Whereupon they combed his hair and combed out his brains with a magic comb, eating the brains from it. The pain could not be felt. When at last the victim cried "Pi ul!" they sent him out, where he traveled to the north and lived with the great white rabbit. (This creature lives on a high peak, always surrounded by snow where no one can reach him. When he sees anyone coming he causes it to snow until the visitor is overwhelmed. Only those who have had their brains combed out are allowed to come, whereupon they are transformed, like their overchief, into white rabbits and live on grass.) The youngest daughter of this family, who had never yet had a husband, fell in love at once with Snowy Owl, and knowing the fate intended for him, decided to spare him and escape with him. The mother of the girls was a "night witch" who had no power during the day. Now, the girl made caps for her mother and sisters and told them they were to wear them to celebrate her wedding that night. When they put them on they fell asleep. Snowy Owl and the girl at once took flight. They ran all day, followed by the cry of the old witch, harmless during daylight, "You can't escape me, for I'll get you tonight." At last the pair came to a big wigwam and asked the old man to help them in their flight. This was the wigwam of "Great Star," known as the Morning Star. (He is said to sleep so late that he is the last star to retire in the morning.) He took them in and hid them. When night came the old witch started in pursuit and reached "Great Star's" wigwam, asking him about the pair. "All right," said he, "my dog and I will help you. But wait till I put on my mocca-sins, my coat, my leggings and my belt." He was very slow, and took so long a time to put on his things that when he opened the door of his wigwam there stood the Morning Star. Night was over and the old woman became powerless for the day. The pair then fled to the north where the seven Thunder Brothers live. When they arrived at the home of the Thunders, one of them said to another, "Open your eye only a little to see who is coming." He opened his eye a little and the lightning flashed forth from his lids, but not enough to hurt the lovers. They were taken in and when night fell the old witch came likewise. Whereupon the seven Thunders opened their eyes wide, the lightning flashed and shattered the mother witch to pieces. Now, Snowy Owl and his wife settled down in safety.

Snowy Owl proceeded then to find the monsters which he had seen before. He went to where the animals had their "yards." He cut certain trees, where he had observed the monsters were accustomed to lean for safety. He took them in and hid them. Whereupon the seven Thunders opened their eyes wide, the lightning flashed and shattered the mother witch to pieces. Now, Snowy Owl and his wife settled down in safety.

*From: http://www.bigorrin.org/archive36.htm
Getting To Know Us: Helen Beaver (cont.)

(continued from page sgaːd) sleep for nap time. If you didn’t learn how to swaddle your baby by her then you don’t know how.

We will continue to be inspired by her lifelong lessons not only in learning language, but also in raising our children and in how we are intended to treat one another. She might not be here with us on earth but she will always be in our minds and hearts.

We will cherish the countless memories we have made with Aksoːd over the years, from the notes she shared, to the fieldtrips she went on with us, the language she spoke to us and the recordings we have of her. Dęyetinö:nyōh heh Nigagwegōh Wa’ōki-ya’dage:ha’! Nya:wēh Aksoːd

Photo to the right: Aksoːd at her 90th birthday social at ECLC.

Nödaeyawēhse:'

Iroquois Nationals Lax Camp
Oct. 10th - 11th
9am - 4pm
Seneca Sachems Football field,
SNI Cattaraugus Territory
Free event! Designated age group times
Register at: info@iroquoisnationalslacrosse.com

Halloween Drive Thru
Oct. 23rd
6:30 pm
Cattaraugus Community Center,
SNI Cattaraugus Territory
Costume submissions must be sent to Heidi.John@sni.org by Oct. 19th, 6pm

Virtual Women’s Smoke Dance Contest
Oct. 16th - 17th
5pm - 11am
Facebook
Age groups: 0-17, 18-54, 55+. must use appropriate hashtags, must be wearing regalia
For more info: www.facebook.com/sherri.hopper.5872

Stomp Out Pink Smoke Dance Contest
Oct. 17th
Reg. opens @ 11am, contest @ 1pm
Newtown Box, SNI Catt. Territory
All dancers must wear some sort of pink.
$10 reg. fee, Tiny tots - Golden Age groups.
Gil Lay Arena if inclement weather
Ingredients:
Squash puree:
2 pounds Hubbard squash, unpeeled and cut into large chunks
3 tablespoons melted butter
3 tablespoons firmly packed brown sugar
3 tablespoons orange juice

Pie filling:
3 large eggs
1/2 firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon salt

Crust:
1/2 cup cold unsalted butter
1 cup flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons cold water

Directions:
1. For the crust, mix sugar, flour and salt together until combined.
2. Cut butter into small pieces and use a pastry cutter to mix the butter in the flour mixture until all butter pieces are about the size of a pea. Add the cold water and mix until dough forms. Roll out dough and place in a 9 inch pie dish. Put pie dish in the fridge until ready to fill.
3. Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and arrange squash chunks, flesh side up on the baking sheet.
4. Whisk butter, 3 tablespoons brown sugar and orange juice together in a bowl until smooth; pour over squash and toss to coat.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until the skin is blistery and flesh is tender, about 45 minutes. Scrape flesh from the skin, discarding skin. Blend flesh in the food processor until smooth. Measure 2 cups squash puree, reserving the rest for another use.
6. Blend 2 cups squash puree, eggs, 1/2 brown sugar, cream, allspice, cinnamon, ginger, and salt in a blender or using a whisk until mixture is smooth.
7. Take out pie crust from the fridge and pour squash mixture into crust.
8. Bake in the preheated oven until the pie is puffed with a small wet spot in the center, 50 to 60 minutes.

*Recipe from: www.allrecipes/recipe/244843/hubbard-squash-pie/