

**A Word from Mr. Powers**

Educators throughout the state, in the ICSD and here at Ithaca High are wrapping up a year of ‘firsts’ even while anticipating continued change. In 2012-13 we welcomed 20+ new teachers, new leadership in most departments and implemented new services and positions to help struggling students. Administrators district wide implemented a new system of teacher evaluations that in most cases required twice as much teacher feedback as in the past. For the first time teacher ratings will be linked to student performance.

I was glad to discuss some anticipated changes at our April 29 PTA meeting. In 2013-14 new AP courses will be offered. Changes to curriculum and assessment will begin to be phased in to reflect the newly adopted Common Core Standards. Thresholds for success in exam scores will be higher. In a more recent development, the Regents are expected to decide over the summer whether to add a five-page research paper as a prerequisite to sitting for the planned Common Core ELA exam in the 11th grade. Dates for the administration of next year’s exams have changed several times since first announced. In order to remain current please be aware of district communication and calendars that are distributed regarding important dates. The PTA listserv also provides links to sites that are updated on an ongoing basis.

Several things remain the same. We have an embarrassment of riches as reflected in the number of students who have distinguished themselves in performance along every dimension of their talents. We have a dedicated staff who is committed to help them maximize those gifts. Thank you for your ongoing support as we end this year and throughout our planning for 2013-14. ~ Jarett Powers

Link Crew has been a very active program lately. Both of the current Coordinators, Kelly Metzler and Judy Cogan, are resigning from their roles, so we had to post the jobs and interview. We were very fortunate to have three Link Crew Commissioners (students) on the interview committee, and we believe we have hired two wonderful people to replace us. They are Amalie Gorbald and Meggie New-Schober. Meggie and Amalie went to New Paltz for their Basic Training and they are fired up and ready to go!

We are in the midst of our spring recruiting season at the time of this writing. We had 189 applicants for leadership positions for next year, and because we only have 86 positions open for leaders and 10 for A-Teamers, we have had to make some serious cuts. It's always hard to cut people, but it is a necessary thing, and we are very happy to know that many of our students want to do this important work. Students who do not make it this time are encouraged to apply again next year, if possible. We will be announcing our new leaders on May 10th.

Link Crew Leaders are currently planning their last event for freshmen: Cookies and Cram. It is scheduled for June 4th from 3:45-6 PM in the cafeteria and the library. Freshmen are invited to come and eat delicious desserts while they study for finals, prepare their English portfolios or just hang out and play games in the quad. There will be teachers and tutors for every subject area in attendance to help out in any way they can. Please encourage your students to attend.

We held a great Scavenger Hunt in April. Eight teams competed for prizes donated by many local businesses, including Evolution and Avanti gift cards, Ithaca is Gorges T-shirts, and more. The race was exciting and everyone had a great time.

May Day is coming up on May 29th. This is our first day of training for new and returning leaders for next year. It will be in the gym from 3:35-5 PM. We will work mostly on team building and getting to know each other. The intensive 2-day training for all leaders is scheduled for Aug. 28th and 29th, from 9-3:00 PM both days in the cafeteria. If your son or daughter is going to be a Link Crew Leader, please be sure not to schedule any trips for those times, as the training days are mandatory.

Kelly and I will miss Link Crew. We want to thank everyone for all your support over the last 7 years. It has been our pleasure to serve in these roles. Thanks so much! ~ Judy Cogan

Would you like to know how

**School Tool Parent Portal**

your child is doing in school? Use the **School Tool Parent Portal** at the ICSD website. This tool allows parents/guardians secure access to attendance and discipline records, grades, schedules etc. You only need to enroll each child once while they are in the ICSD. To request an account you must print the form, fill it out and send it to your child’s school. Forms can be found at [www.icsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us) look under the **CAREGIVER** menu then choose Parent Portal/School Tool. You should receive an email when an account has been created for you. If you have any questions, please contact [schooltoolhelp@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:schooltoolhelp@icsd.k12.ny.us)

**Link Crew**

**Changing Address??  
Leaving ICSD??  
Please notify Deborah Casey,  
IHS Registrar, ASAP!!**  
Phone: 607-274-2144;  
Fax: 607-277-3061;  
[dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:dcasey@icsd.k12.ny.us)

**Important dates**  
May 21 Election Day  
May 24 School Recess  
May 27 Memorial Day Recess  
June 7 IHS Field Day & Last Day of Classes  
June 10 - 20 Regents & Finals  
June 20 Last Day for Students IHS Graduation 7 PM at IC  
June 21 Last Day for Staff  
**2013/14**  
September 3 First Day for Staff/PLC  
September 4 PLC & Teacher Planning  
September 9 First Day for 9th Graders and New Entrants  
September 10 First Day for All Students

## Fine Arts

The month of May is a time to celebrate all the good work in the arts with final projects, concerts and exhibits.

Congratulations to our AP students who have completed their AP portfolios with amazing and personal work.

Spring concerts abound: Jazz Concert May 4, Band Concert May 15, Choral Concert May 22 and Orchestra Concert May 29.

The annual IHS Photography Exhibit will open on May 22nd at the IHS Library and the annual student exhibit, *"Visual Culture at IHS"* at the Tompkins County Library will be mid June -July.

The Fine Arts Department will be seeing some big changes in the coming school year 2013-14. In terms of courses, we will continue to offer our new versions of Studio Art, Studio in Digital Photography, Sculpture, Crafts and Fashion Design & Illustration. In addition, students will have the opportunity to enroll in new offerings, AP Art History and AP Music Theory. And there will be big changes and some new faces in our teaching staff. Art Loomis will be retiring as Choir Director, after 30 plus years of teaching. Art teachers, Judy Cogan and Jocelyn Lutter will each be taking a year's leave of absence as they explore the new neighborhoods of California and Florida respectively. And our Band Director, Nicki Zawel will be on extended maternity leave to care for her baby boy, Quincy, and she will return in January 2014.

We wish our colleagues and students all the best in their next adventures and we look forward to new relationships and challenges in the coming year.

Carol Spence, Fine Arts Department Chair

The IHS WISE Program Student Presentations Season is fast approaching! Our Sample Presentation—which is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**—will take place in Kulp Auditorium on Tuesday, May 21st at 7 PM. Luke Mendola will present *Focus through Harmonica*. If you want to learn more about WISE at IHS please join us then OR browse our presentation calendar: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/legacy/highschool/wise/calendar.html> for another project that fits your availability and interest. "Our WISE students NEED YOUR SUPPORT. Please consider serving as a COMMUNITY EVALUATOR at a student's presentation to provide invaluable feedback about a student's project. If you see a project topic that you'd like to review, send Alexis Lord an email: [alord@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:alord@icsd.k12.ny.us)"

For more information about the WISE Program, contact the program's facilitator, Alexis Lord: [alord@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:alord@icsd.k12.ny.us)

## WISE

## Medical Information

### Medications

The school district supplies no medication for students. A parent/guardian or physician may want a student to self-administer medication

during the school day or sporting events. This is helpful for students who use inhalers for asthma or need medication for allergic reactions. THIS FORM MUST BE RENEWED ANNUALLY AND SUBMITTED TO THE IHS MEDICAL OFFICE.



### 10th Grade Physicals

New York State requires all 10th graders to have documentation of a physical exam on file with the school. Exams done from the start of 9th grade will suffice. If you have a 9th grader this year who has not received a check-up, please be sure to schedule a well-child exam as soon as possible. Physical exams within the past year are also required for sports and working papers. If you have any questions, call the Medical Office (274-2172).

## Library

The Library population waxes and wanes, not with the moon but with

the weather. Beautiful day: students in quad. Too hot day or rainy day: students back in the library. We are supporting them in all the end-of-year activities, including AP exams, loan of Regents review books in every subject and staying open late on June 4, Cookies and Cram Day (until 6 PM). At this time of year our printing facilities are heavily used, folders given out, intensive help given to make a paper or presentation PERFECT. Some other events:

- author Barry Deutsch will have presented by the time you see this (he was here May 9)
- Cafe in the Library! Ask your students!
- the Fine Arts Department Photo Show opens May 21, 5-7, in the Library, to run for three weeks--music, snacks, arty crowd!
- author Shawn Goodman (our own school psychologist) will present his new book May 23
- the annual Library Soiree for teachers, giving away used books, is June 4; students may take used books after that
- 3 author possibilities are getting firmed up for next school year
- Library Club comes roaring back starting next fall: book reviews, storytelling, Library service, Library training all in store
- Summer Reading List is being polished and will be published online the week of May 15--paper copies, as always, in the Library
- Librarian Nan Bell is attending an Unconference at Cornell University on May 21, building contacts with our colleagues up the hill

And here is my favorite quote for the time coming up:

*"Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me these have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."*

--Henry James,

quoted by Edith Wharton in *A Backward Glance* (1934)

Read both these authors for excellent American Literature choices!

Yours in the Library,

Nan Bell

## Social Studies Department

The IHS Social Studies Department is proud to announce the 16th annual ***Soldiers Story Day***. On **Friday, May 17th** we will be welcoming over 30 veterans, as well as current soldiers and sailors into our classrooms to discuss their experiences ranging from WWII and Korea to the current War on Terror. Speaking schedules will be posted outside of all Social Studies classrooms, and refreshments will be served throughout the day. Check in with the Social Studies Department in G-217, drop in on a presentation, or stop by G-233 to say “hello” and thank our guests for their service.

## Mock Trial

The Ithaca High School Mock Trial Team made it to the semifinals of the NYS Bar Association Mock Trial Regional Competition in Syracuse on Saturday April 27, placing it in the top four of all competitors. IHS lost in the semifinals to Jamesville-DeWitt High School, which placed second in the Statewide Tournament in 2012. This was the first time the IHS team had earned a bid to the Regional Competition, after winning the County Competition for the first time in its history on April 19th. Team members are: Tracy Lai, Anthony Henriquez, Danny Stagliano, Emily Sharp-O'Connor, Deanna Deyhim, Julia Wang, Richard Gan, Jaquan Hurt, John Yoon, Skye Miller, Yafet Andemariam. Team Coach is Ricardo Henriquez and Staff Advisor is Katie Carrick.

## English Department

This spring, members of the English department have been busy both in the classroom and outside of it. In school, teachers and students have been celebrating April's Poetry Month and have been working hard in order to prepare for our upcoming final assessments and portfolios. Outside of IHS, however, we have been just as busy. Some of our English Language Learners were recently invited to sit on a discussion panel at Ithaca College's Refugee Educators & Administrators' Summit; thanks to a grant from IPEI, our Readers' Workshop students visited Buffalo Street Books and left with new reading material for their classroom; teachers explored new ways of engaging students at Ithaca College's Science Fiction and Imaginative Texts conference; and, AP Literature students enjoyed performances at The Kitchen Theater (*Crooked*) and Ithaca College (*An Enemy of the People*). We congratulate the Class of 2013 and hope all of our students and families enjoy a safe and restful summer.

## Yearbook

The 2012 - 2013 *IHS Annual* will be arriving during the last week in May. Students should listen to announcements and pick up their pre-ordered yearbooks in Activities. Extra yearbooks will then go on sale to only seniors for one day. After that day, sales will be open to everyone. Yearbooks will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis until we sell out. The yearbook costs \$68 and checks should be made out to "IHS Annual."

### ***"Code Red Robotics competes at World Championships***

After a brilliant win at the Buckeye Regional Competition in Cleveland, Ohio, Ithaca High School's FIRST Code Red Robotics Team 639 headed to the annual For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology (FIRST) international competition in St. Louis, Missouri last Tuesday. Forty-five Code Red members along with their team advisor and several adult mentors embarked on a fifteen-hour bus ride to reach their destination: The World FIRST Championships, which took place from April 24 – April 27.

## Code Red Robotics

The World Championship event is made up of hundreds of FIRST Robotics teams from around the globe, as well as several FIRST Tech Challenge teams and FIRST Lego League teams. FIRST is an umbrella organization that offers programs for students of all ages, in order to get them involved in hands-on applications of science and technology. FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is the high school division in which a new game challenge is released each year. Teams then have six weeks in which to design, manufacture, and test a robot to complete this challenge. Challenges usually revolve around some sort of game piece such as basketballs, soccer balls, inflatable tubes, and more. This year, the game revolved around Frisbees, and is called Ultimate Ascent.

After being ranked as the second seed at the Buckeye Regional in Cleveland, Code Red went on to win the competition and be named Regional Champions and qualified to go to Championships. The team faced a difficult challenge at Championships; the 400 best FRC teams from around the world appear at this competition. The team faced a difficult set of matches, and, coupled with some mechanical difficulties, placed 86th in their division. Despite the robot's less-than-satisfactory performance, however, Code Red Robotics members had a wonderful time at Championships. ***"You can't go to St. Louis without being inspired"***, says Joon Park, a senior and four-year member on the team. ***"It's really amazing to see so many incredible teams from around the world with common interests and goals coming together in such a huge event. The energy in the arena is overwhelming"***, says senior and three-year member, Pooja Verma.

To learn more about Code Red Robotics, please visit [www.team639.org](http://www.team639.org), or email [ikrywe@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:ikrywe@icsd.k12.ny.us). To learn more about FIRST, please visit [usfirst.org](http://usfirst.org).

Code Red is an IPEI affiliate and is sponsored by Kionix, BAE Systems, BorgWarner Morse TEC, CBORD, BOOM, GORGES, Autodesk, Vector Magnetics, VFW Post 961, Park Foundation, Ithaca City School District, and Incodema.

Submitted by Pooja Verma, Student Public Relations Officer, [Pooja.verma639@gmail.com](mailto:Pooja.verma639@gmail.com)

### Students at all levels of Latin achieved success on the National Latin Exam this year.

In the Latin 1 class, four students earned gold medals (summa cum laude): Andrew Robertson, Alexandra Stagliano, Juan Mairal, and Lehman Schwab; Noah Machlin earned a silver medal (maxima cum laude).

In Latin 2, we had one gold medal (Phoebe Shalloway), one silver medal (Shawn Lee), and three magna cum laude winners (Jelle Schukken, Ben Sherman, Marcus Tapia).

In Latin 3, Reuben Rappaport won a gold medal and Cecile Kurman-Browning a silver medal.

In AP Latin, Phoebe Lakin and John Westwig earned gold medals, Irit Huq-Kuruville, Rhiannon Bell and Leslie Gil earned silver medals, and Gordon Swain earned magna cum laude status.

For the second year in a row, Phoebe Lakin achieved the rare feat of scoring a perfect paper on the National Latin Exam.

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### The Tattler – *First Place with Special Merit Award*

The Ithaca High School student-run paper, The Tattler, recently won a First Place with Special Merit Award from the American Scholastic Press Association. Congratulations go to all the fine young people who put many hours and hard work into bringing the paper to press every month. The ASPA writes that it is an "excellent school newspaper, which shows the creativity and journalistic knowledge of the editors, reporters, writers, photographers, layout/graphics designers and advisor."

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### Emily Kuntz Wins U.S Dept. of State NSLI-Y Scholarship to Study Chinese in Taiwan.

Emily Kuntz, a student in Mrs. Miettunen's Chinese class, has been awarded one of approx. 625 National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarships for 2013-2014. The NSLI-Y program is funded by the US Dept. of State and provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students to learn less commonly taught languages in summer and academic-year overseas immersion programs. NSLI-Y offers overseas study opportunities in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Russian and Turkish.

Emily's scholarship enables her to study in Taiwan for one year. The scholarship covers all program costs including airfare, tuition, educational and cultural activities, orientations, meals and accommodations.

The goals of the program include sparking a life-long interest in foreign languages and cultures, and developing a corps of young Americans with the skills necessary to advance international dialogue in the public, private and government sectors. Through her participation in the program, Emily will serve as a citizen diplomat while developing the skills necessary to be a leader in the global community.

Emily has worked really hard on her Chinese language skills both in school, during the summer, and on weekends for two years in order to make herself a strong candidate for this competitive scholarship. **Congratulations, Emily!**

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### Jensen Lo – Semi-Finalist with Merit

Each year, the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) and the American Institute of Physics (AIP) sponsor a competition for high school students to represent the United States at the annual International Physics Olympiad Competition. The mission of the U.S. Physics Team Program is to promote and demonstrate academic excellence through preparation for and participation in the International Physics Olympiad. Just over 400 students nationally score high enough on the preliminary exam to be considered semi-finalists for the team. **Jensen Lo**, currently a junior at Ithaca High school taking AP Physics C this year, is among this very special group of students. It is a great testament to his effort and determination. Jensen recently completed the semi-finalist exam and was awarded semifinalist with merit. **Congratulations, Jensen!**

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#### Physics Department

Each year the physics students at Ithaca High School head to Darien Lake Amusement Park to apply their knowledge of physics to their own experiences. The park is open that day just for physics students from across the state and nearby schools in Pennsylvania. Students populate the park with their calculators, various measuring devices parameters of motion such as acceleration and angles of inclination. All physics students from our high school complete several experiments and also answer a series of conceptual questions about roller coasters and other kinds of motion. The day is a great review of mechanics, and helps students understand how the concepts learned in class apply to real world situations.

As the students from Advanced Placement Physics classes complete their exams, we move into another mode of operation for the final weeks of the school year. Students in AP Physics will be completing group projects. They will also enjoy seminars by researchers at Cornell and Ithaca College on topics in physics and related fields. Some of the topics this year include robotics, 3D printing, optics, cosmology, special relativity, kinesiology, and research at the large hadron collider. These interactions with scientists are a highlight of the year, touching on the connections between classical physics, which the students have been studying, to modern work.

## AVID 9

Four students from Richard Kiely's CRP331 Social Justice in the City class have worked with the 9th grade AVID classes this semester as part of the service component for their class. The Cornell students came to the high school in March to answer questions about college life. They also planned a full-day field trip to Cornell University for a day of community building activities and an introduction to college life.

We began our field trip with a morning of collaborative activities in Willard Strait Hall. After some name games to break the ice, the Cornell students grouped with the AVID students in an activity called "pass the knot" to share information about interests, college goals and future plans. The students divided into groups according to leadership style and worked together to plan a dream vacation. Later, small groups of AVID students tried to approximate the schedule for a typical day in the life of a college student. When the Cornell students shared their actual schedules, the high school students got a sense of the differences between college and high school. They also learned that there is a lot more homework in college! After a lunch provided by the Center for Engaged Learning and Research, we toured Cornell's campus including student housing, classrooms and recreational spaces. We finished the day by visiting the Cornell Campus Store and the "Now Scream" hip-hop exhibit at Olin Library.

## AVID 10

On Friday, April 12th, Ms. New's and Ms. Richardson's AVID 10 classes visited Cornell University. The beginning of the day the students met with the Assistant Dean and Resident Advisor for the Keeton House. The house is part of Cornell's newest residential community, and it represents a trend on college campuses around the country to replicate the House system in English universities. For many of our students it was their first opportunity to observe college living. Our guides answered a wide range of questions from the students and provided insight into the expectations of college life.

Stimson Hall was the next stop on the tour, where our students met with International Teaching Assistant Development Program (ITADP) graduate students, who shared presentations about their fields of study/research. AVID students were riveted by the depth and complexity of each individual presentation. Then we all enjoyed lunch together at one of Cornell's dining halls. Pairs of AVID students were seated with pairs of ITADP students. This was an opportunity for ITADP students to learn more about American high school students and our high school system. AVID students learned about the work of teaching assistants at the college level, as well as the home countries of the graduate students.

For the afternoon, the AVID students climbed 161 steps to see and hear the Chimes Masters play the bells in the historical McGraw Clock Tower. Next stop was the "Now Scream" hip-hop exhibit in Olin Library. Our last stop was a visit to the Cornell Bookstore, where students enjoyed purchasing CU memorabilia, snacks and items from the Apple Store. Upon leaving our students were serenaded by the all male acapella group, The Hangovers. Our students had an excellent time. Many of them said that they would love to go again and see more of Cornell's campus and that the trip was inspiring and excited them about pursuing higher education.

## AVID 11

Ms Kruger's AVID 11 class has been working with the Office of Academic Diversity Initiative (OADI) at Cornell University. Representatives from OADI have been coming in the AVID 11 class to work with them on social justice issues. The students have learned about income inequality, bullying, access to college, and leadership.

As a culminating event the AVID 11 class participated in community service at Cornell University. The AVID 11 students worked with both OADI and the Early College Awareness program to bring in 6th graders from Spencer VanEtten School. In total, there were about 60 6th graders learning about the college.

During this event the AVID 11 students participated in team-building activities, science experiments and a panel discussion. The AVID 11 students organized and ran the panel discussion about college. The 6th graders asked multiple questions about high school and college. Some of the most common questions were about the atmosphere in high school, homework, what kind of classes you can take in high school and in college, and what kind of work you will have to do in both high school and college. The AVID 11 students answered these questions effectively and included information about skills they will need, tests that they will have to take to get into college, and college atmosphere. As a closing statement the AVID 11 students gave one piece of advice that they have about college and high school.

After the community service the students ate lunch at the OADI office and were able to talk more with college students, financial aid representatives, and college advisors. During this time the AVID 11 students asked questions about how to apply, when to apply, different types of scholarships, and why the college students decided to attend Cornell.

The next activity included a scavenger hunt, which required the AVID 11 students to work together in a team of 2-3 students to navigate the Cornell campus to find different offices. During this time they found out general information about the campus and college in general.

PTSA

**IHS Word** is the Ithaca High School newsletter, jointly funded by the **PTSA** and **IHS**.

It serves all IHS stakeholders and is mailed with student report cards each quarter.

**Please Join the PTSA!**

**For more info and membership forms visit the IHS PTSA website** <http://www.ihsptsa.info/wordpress/>



**For up-to-date information concerning IHS**, sign up for the PTSA listserv by sending an (empty) email to [IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

**To share information with or ask questions of other IHS families**, join our discussion listserv by sending an (empty) email to [IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoo.com).

### **Senior Class Gift Fund receiving gifts from the IHS Class of 2013**

It is more important than ever that we show appreciation to our outstanding teachers. Good teachers are essential if we want students to succeed. One way to do this is through the IPEI Senior Class Fund.

In 2004 the senior class and their parents started an endowed fund with the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) that gives an award to a great new, but not yet tenured, teacher – selected by this year’s seniors. The class of 2005 added an award, which is given to a different school club each year. The awards are announced at the Senior Awards Convocation in June.

Since then, IPEI has worked with the students, parents and IHS staff to institutionalize these two awards from the Senior Class Fund. The contributions accumulate so the fund grows over time and becomes increasingly significant monetarily. The current seniors will select this year’s recipients by paper ballot.

Let's continue this tradition. All gifts are fully tax-deductible. IPEI handles the fund for the senior class.

You can make a difference for Ithaca High!

Thank you very much!

Laura Call Andolina, Senior Class Parent,  
Liaison to IPEI for Senior Class Fund  
[andolina@aol.com](mailto:andolina@aol.com)



### **Summer Jobs**

Are you under 18? Getting a job? Then you need working papers! Get your application in the High School Nurse’s office from Lindy Gustafson, the Medical Secretary.

To complete the application you will need to have a legal guardian sign the forms. Then return them to the office with a current physical exam (within 12 months of the application date) that includes your activity level. You should already have an exam on file – check Schooltool to see if you are up to date.

In the summer, please call 274-2172 ahead of time to check hours.

### **Family Advocacy Program**

Village at Ithaca is partnering with families who want their children to excel academically and are interested in having one-on-one support to navigate the Ithaca City School District.

Family Advocates are trained community members who can support you by attending Parent/Teacher conferences to promote better communication, attending Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings, and identifying and coordinating additional academic services and resources for your children.

(607) 256-0780 or [www.villageatithaca.org](http://www.villageatithaca.org)

**Advocate – Empower – Support**