DISCUSSION

Historical association series to examine World War I

Onondaga Historical Association

Onondaga Historical Association is offering "Our World Remade: World War I," a reading and discussion series developed and sponsored by Humanities New York.

"With its thematic focus, this reading and discussion program offers an unusual twist on the standard book group format by making time for thinking deeply about one idea, over time, from a variety of perspectives," says Sara Ogger, executive director of Humanities New York.

Something special happens when we talk about what we read with others in our community. Humanities New York's Adult Reading and Discussion programs are designed to foster active reading and thinking, incorporating texts that serve as catalysts for civic engagement, cultural understanding, and personal reflection. Adult Reading and Discussion programs are held in communities across New York State.

At OHA's museum at 321 Montgomery St., participants will come together over four sessions to discuss thematically linked texts with Robert J. Searing, curator of history for O.H.A. The sessions will be 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26, Oct. 25, Nov 15 and Dec. 13.

Participants will explore the complexities of World War I and how in the years that followed, authors and historians struggled to come to terms with what happened, with the terrors of the battlefield and with the upheaval caused by the conflict.

So much of what happened during the war was "new," from the months-long battles and the carnage wrought by new war technologies, to the dehumanizing effects of the horrors on civilians and soldiers. Society had not yet developed a vocabulary for dealing with these issues; it was up to authors to articulate people's responses to the war, both as it was raging and in the years that followed.

The four informal, monthly sessions will focus on selected readings that deal with various aspects of the war, from the battlefield to the home-front, and how the Great War fundamentally altered the course of warfare, geo-politics and the lives of ordinary people across the world.

All of the discussions will take place inside the Onondaga Historical Association's World War I exhibit, which includes 3-D objects and artifacts from our collections in addition to photographs and wartime images.

The program is free and open to the public, although pre-registration is required.

For more information about the series and acquiring books, contact Robert J. Searing at 315-428-1864 ext. 319 or robert.searing@cnyhistory.org. For more information about "Our World Remade," visit humani-tiesny.org.