

**Lewis County Office for the Aging**  
**2026 Randy D. Streeter Older Adult of the Year Award**

Lewis County Office for the Aging is proud to announce this year's **Randy D. Streeter Older Adult of the Year Award** recipient, Geneva Virkler.

Geneva Virkler has been a lifelong resident of Lewis County, New York. Along with her husband Alton, who passed away in 2025, they operated a large dairy farm for 32 years in New Bremen, where they received the "Century Farm Award" in 1990. They have four children together: Sheri, Dale, Karla, and a son Kurt, who passed away in 1967, and seven grandchildren.

Geneva has been a long-time and active member of the *First Mennonite Church of New Bremen*. She has served as Elder, Church Secretary, Sunday School & Bible School Teacher, Pianist, on the Library Committee, and in the Women's Sewing Circle group, where she has been President since 2020. The mission of this group is making comforters for those in need, such as fire victims, local food pantries, or sending them with the *Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)* for the broader world. This group is also known to make quilts for each graduating senior that attends First Mennonite Church of New Bremen as a graduation gift from the church. Geneva has pieced many quilt tops that are used to create comforters during the annual "Quilt Blitz" held with the *Lewis County MDS Meat Canner project*. Since 2020, Geneva helps with the *Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association* by researching and newspaper archiving for the organization. In years past, she and her husband would pick up day-old bread & donuts from a distribution outlet in Watertown and deliver them to their local food pantries; she spent many years volunteering at the *Agape Shoppe* thrift store in Watertown and even sold their items on eBay to help support the shoppe; she has been a *4-H leader*; served on the *Beaver River Central School Board of Education* for 15 years; and along with her husband, volunteered for the *Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)* in and outside of New York State multiple times by helping in the kitchen preparing food for the workers, or doing some painting projects.

Helping people in the community comes naturally to Geneva; whether it's someone who is sick, a victim of fire, or someone touched by tragedy, she is quick to provide food and assistance. Her volunteering services and helping others has become a way of life for her, particularly when it comes to assisting those in need within her community.

In addition to receiving the *Randy D. Streeter Older Adult of the Year* award, Geneva will also be recognized at the *Older New Yorker's Day* in Albany on May 26<sup>th</sup>, and will be honored at *Healthy Aging Day* at the Lewis County Fair on July 23<sup>rd</sup> with the Randy D. Streeter family.



*"You can't say you are bored when there is so much to do"*