

## **Dedication of Trees to Marion H. Remelt and John D. Remelt**

**November 25, 2007**

Welcome to the Henrietta Foundation's Lehigh Valley Multi-Use Trailhead. We are happy to be here this morning to dedicate these two Kwanzaa cherry trees in memory of Marion H. Remelt and in honor of John D. Remelt. John and Marion have been a devoted couple for more than forty years, and so, dedicating these two trees is a fitting tribute to their loving relationship and their dedication to preserving the natural world throughout their lives together.

Because the Henrietta Foundation's mission is to conserve land for the public welfare, it seemed appropriate to publicly dedicate these trees in John and Marion's honor so that the wider communities of Henrietta, Rush, and greater Rochester could recognize the lifetime of work they have done to enrich this region.

As a courageous and committed social worker, mother, and wife, Marion had a deeply felt moral ethic, guiding people toward right action, doing her part to make the world a better place in countless ways. Her appreciation of the land and nature was evident in her nurturing her gardens, preserving earth's bounty, and creating beautiful wreathes and decorations to honor the Christmas holiday.

As a farmer, postmaster, political activist, quality control supervisor, gardener, and Christmas tree farmer, John has touched this community in local and far-reaching ways. Throughout his life he has honored the Remelt and Doran families' legacies by continuing to work and conserve the land in his neighborhood. His gentle nature shows a sacred respect for every human being, every living thing, and even every pebble and stone.

The Henrietta Foundation is grateful to both Marion and John for being lifelong stewards of the land in Rush and West Henrietta for the benefit of songbirds, deer, foxes, coyotes, frogs, pheasants, turkeys, and all the other wildlife that inhabit this area. These two Kwanzaa cherry trees will grow and thrive in honor of John Doran Remelt and Marion Heffer Remelt for years to come.