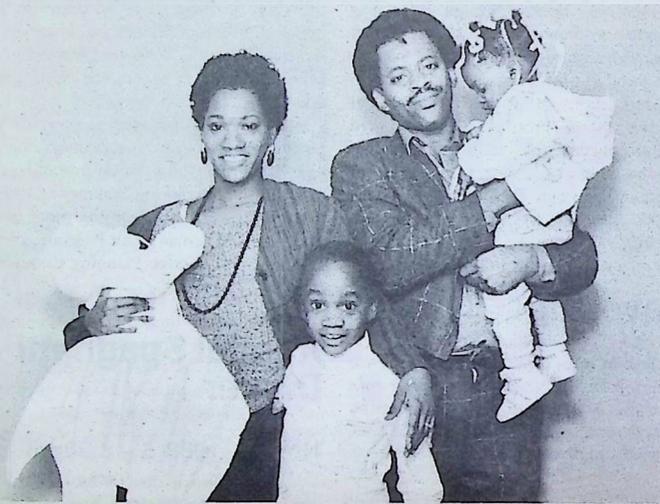


WEDGE

• SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE •

South Wedge Celebrates Completion of Gregory Street Development Project



Helena and Charles Lovett, and children, - new owners of 17 Gregory Street

"Our house" is completed! Yes it is! With hundreds of volunteer hours the house at 17 Gregory Street has, like the phoenix, of old risen. Standing on the once vacant lot, our house is a product of the South Wedge Community and its partnership with other interested organizations. On October 24th "Our House" became a home for Charles and Helena Lovett, and their three children. Councilwoman Joan Hensler assisted in the dedication ceremonies on behalf of the City of Rochester. Through the Community Development program \$5,000 was committed by the City for infrastructure improvements. The Reverend Richard

Kessel and Mary Kessel were present for this grand moment to see their vision become a reality. When the Reverend Kessel was to retire from his long term pastorate at Pittsford Presbyterian Church he was asked how he would like to celebrate the funds that were dedicated in his honor. "I'd like to see a house built, or rehabbed in the South Wedge with our sister church Calvary St. Andrews". Through several meetings a partnership was forged with Calvary St. Andrews Parish, Pittsford Presbyterian Church, Habitat for Humanity, the City of Rochester, the State of New York and several businesses to construct the house for a low income family within the neighborhood.

The possibility of future home ownership was advertised, and applications were received Habitat for Humanity. A joint selection committee comprised of representatives from the various organizations chose the Lovett family. The family presently reside in Riverpark Commons, but in November will be living in their new home at 17 Gregory Street. Ms. Lovett is the former Helena McKinney who grew up on Sanford Street and is the daughter of long time resident Maxine McKinney, and the late Edward McKinney. In a recent interview Ms. McKinney recalled being one of the first Black families in the 50's to purchase a home in the area. Charles Lovett was the primary family member who had to contribute 500 hours of labor to his house as part of the partnership because his wife Helena was pregnant with their third child who was born in September.

The dedication ceremonies revealed the excitement of the people who had worked on the property. One volunteer, Margaret Stoltman from Calvary St. Andrew's was overheard to say, "I never thought I could do it. See that porch, those little triangles were made by my hands, and they are holding up the porch!" A group of young women toured the outside pointing to the admirers the concrete foundation wall they built. Led by Habitat for Humanities co-

supervisors Rick Krumpel and Hickory Street resident Mark Darling people from all walks of life were taught how to be masons, carpenters, cabinet installers. you name it **WE** did it.

SWPC Board member and Hamilton Street resident Mack McDowell recalled the difficulty of serving on the family selection committee, yet the sheer joy of making a decision to choose the Lovetts. "It was hard to choose among so many good families, each with a need. But when I told Ms. Lovett that they had been selected you should have seen her face. It was worth it," Mr. McDowell recalled.

The South Wedge neighborhood can be proud of its community spirit in the creation of one house for one family. "Our house" is now the Lovett's new home. Eight year old James Lovett inspected his new bedroom at the dedication and promptly described in detail where he was going to put all his treasures. The real treasure is the community spirit and partnership that "our house" has generated in the neighborhood.

Steinfeldt's Host Urban Workcamp Luncheon

Bernice and Earl Steinfeldt invited the sponsors and participants of the 1988 Urban Workcamp to a hot dog roast in their backyard. The Steinfeldt's wanted to say "Thank You" to the participants in the workcamp for the "Wonderful" job the youth had done painting their home at 17 Hickory Street.

Hot dogs, baked beans and watermelon were enjoyed by all in attendance. The youth; Laura Rosa, Reinaldo Reyes, Maribel Cuadado, Marilyn Quintana, John Farrell, Jose Rosa, Maria Orenge, and Minda Valentin received certificates and praise from the workcamp director, Ed Bronowicki. And, the sponsors enjoyed witnessing the good outcomes of their support to the Urban Workcamp Program.

Proud Named to Advisory Council

Governor Mario M. Cuomo, recently announced the appointment of Assemblyman Gary Proud (D-Rochester) as a member of the New York State Conservation Corps Advisory Council for a term to expire in September 1991.

Assemblyman Proud, was named by the Governor upon the recommendation of New York State Assembly Speaker Mel Miller of Brooklyn.

Proud's duties in this new position will be to advise the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation on the operation and future growth of the recently funded New York State Conservation Corps.

Assemblyman Proud was the prime legislative sponsor of the legislation creating the Conservation Corps in 1983 and was the legislative leader in obtaining funding for the Corps in 1987 and 1988.

The Conservation Corps has recently completed its first summer program at many locations across the Empire State. The Corps provided jobs and work experience for over 300 young people as well as improving the outdoor environment of New York State.

PARTY PARTY PARTY!

November 17th, 1988 is the South Wedge Planning Committee's Annual Meeting which is open to the community at large (that means you!) So come, meet your neighbors, find out what's happening in the South Wedge and what is planned for the future. It will be held again this year at the German House Auditorium. Come and see how great the place looks! The festivities start at 6pm and everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass that will serve eight (8). There will be something for everyone! A couple of local talented hair designers will be raffling off chances for complete makeovers and they are threatening to do them right there for all to see. There will be a Tai Chi Demonstration, entertainment, and of course, the fabulous door prizes donated by the South Wedge businesses. So come on and join us. Where else could you have such a good time for only a dish to pass! See you there.

SWPC Chairperson Leaves for Boston

Dorene Duane, chairperson of the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), has recently left Rochester for an exciting new job in Boston. As the new Assistant to the President of Congress Management she will help to buy and manage large rental properties in the greater Boston area.

The for-profit corporate world of Congress Management is a dramatic professional change for Dorene. The past four years she has been with the Community Resource Center, most recently as its coordinator. There she was responsible for community outreach, service and counseling as well as providing information and referrals within the southeast area of the city. Dorene also

acted as a substitute minister to two churches, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fairport and Mountain Rise United Church of Christ in Perinton.

An active and dynamic force in the South Wedge, Dorene had served SWPC since 1984. Besides chairperson, she had been the vice chairperson and chairperson of the nominating committee.

Mere reading of Dorene's activities can't communicate the amount of energy, drive and sheer intelligence she brought to every project. The Wedge, SWPC and her many friends and colleagues will certainly miss her quickwittedness and warmth.

Good Luck, Dorene. We miss you already and we wish you well.

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Neighbor News

James P.B. Duffy School No. 12 News

Parents Needed for School 12 Committees

We strongly urge parents who may be interested in membership on the School 12 School Based Planning Committee to attend.

This School 12 Committee made up of parents, teachers and administrators will meet throughout the year on Thursday mornings from 8 - 9:00am beginning in November.

We need parents on this committee who are committed to school improvement and who are interested in a team approach to setting goals and moving our organization toward them. We need people who work well with others.

It is our hope that we will have three parents who will represent the varied population we serve. A Black parent, a Hispanic parent, and a Caucasian parent would meet our needs well. Please consider membership and attend the meeting at Monroe!

Climate Control

A safe environment at school, free from the disruptions of normal routine by non-cooperative students is very important to your child. To try and guarantee an internal climate conducive to good learning, School 12 is accepting parent volunteers for a Climate Committee. The duties of this group, to be made up of parents, teachers and administrators is to review acts of unruly behavior and make appropriate sanctions. Those interested in serving on this committee are urged to contact Mrs. Barbara Wager, Principal.

With the help of this committee and dedicated parents, we can provide our children with the best, well-rounded education available.

Girl Scouts

Adults and girls who are interested in joining the Girl Scouts should call the Girl Scout office at 454-7010 or call Elora Ringelberg at 244-0935.

Book It!

Our school will implement the **BOOK IT! READING PROGRAM**. The **BOOK IT! PROGRAM** is a reading incentive program for children in grades Kindergarten through grade five.

It is sponsored by PIZZA HUT, Inc., and is designed to motivate children to read more, both at school and at home by rewarding them for their reading accomplishments.

Your child's teacher will send home **BOOK IT! PROGRAM** informational sheets. Please support your child/children in this national reading program by listening to them read, reading to them, and assisting with keeping track of their reading assignments.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Joan Gerst, Reading Teacher; Ruby Jackson, Librarian; or Jeanetta Dunlap, Vice Principal.

Upcoming Programs at the Highland Branch Library

Thurs., Nov. 10 at 6:30pm, for adults:

Holiday hors d'oeuvres, using your microwave

Wed., Nov. 16 at 3pm, for children

Celebrate Children's Book Week with the Zoomobile!

Thurs., Dec. 15 at 6:30pm, for adults

Creating a gingerbread house

Wed., Dec. 28 at 2pm, for children

Sparky the clown

Block Meetings About Code Enforcement and Housing Program Resources

Monday, November 28 - 7-8pm

Calvary St. Andrews Parish

Saturday, December 3 - 12-1pm

River Park Commons Community Room

Monday, December 5 - 12-1pm

Calvary St. Andrews Parish

Thursday, December 8 - 7-8pm

Calvary St. Andrews Parish

These meetings are for information purposes. A South Wedge Planning Committee staff person will be present to review code enforcement procedures in the South Wedge. Information will also be provided about HILP and the Special Materials Grant Program. If you have housing concerns, please come to one of three meetings to make your concerns known. A report of each of the meetings will be present to the South Wedge Planning Committee.

Travel Tips

On a long air trip, you may experience discomfort in your legs when sitting in your airline seat. Try some isometric exercises by pressing your feet against the floor, lift toes, rotate feet at ankles.

Watch out for the hidden costs of auto rentals. They often can double the advertised price for renting a car. The National Association of Attorney Generals, which is policing the auto-rental businesses, cautions to be aware of mandatory charges; of ads that tout "free" mileage; bait and switch practices and insurance costs that frequently is an unnecessary additional expense to the insurance you may already have.

courtesy of One Stop Travel

Plan for Your Spring/Summer Utilization of Special Materials Grant Dollars Now!

Winter is an excellent time to plan for Spring and Summer exterior home repairs. The first step in the repair process can be a careful assessment of the exterior condition of the entire house. Once all the repairs are identified, the repairs should be prioritized and ordered. The prioritization and ordering makes certain accomplished work keeps the house in compliance with the City Housing Code and insures that completed work will not be destroyed or damaged by other work remaining undone (like fresh paint peeling because gutter work has not been done).

Up to \$1000 per eligible property will be available for reimbursement of materials expenses for exterior home improvements made during the Spring/Summer of 1989. If you are interested in learning more about the Special Materials Grant Program, please call the South Wedge Planning Committee office at 325-4950.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Nov. 12, 1988 5 - 8:30pm

Come dine on delicious food. Share the excellent company and festive conversation at our annual Spaghetti Dinner.

This sumptuous fund raising event is sponsored by Calvary St. Andrews Parish 68 Ashland St. (95 Averill)

Come bring the family, friends, bring your appetites.

Adults \$5.00 Children \$3.00

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER *The* OF THE SOUTH WEDGE
WEDGE

South Wedge Planning Committee
68 Ashland Street
Rochester, New York 14620

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Art Jones

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The WEDGE is a newspaper published bi-monthly in a cooperative effort by the South Wedge Planning Committee and South Wedge residents. This organization, its members and staff make every attempt to provide accurate coverage of neighborhood news as well as local, state and national news that affects the neighborhood. Articles in this paper do not necessarily reflect the view and/or opinions of the above mentioned organization, its staff or its members. Please send any story suggestions, news releases, etc. to: The WEDGE, c/o The South Wedge Planning Committee, 68 Ashland Street, Rochester, NY 14620, before the 15th of each month preceding the issue in which you want the information announced.

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HOUSEHOLD AND ESTATE
LIQUIDATION

Cozy 1950's Theme Distinguishes New Hair Salon



Harold Monacelli, owner of new Wilder and Wilder Hair Salon, styles Doty Trusz, a resident of Brighton

Harold Monacelli, Jr. is pleased to announce the opening of his new hair styling salon, Wilder and Wilder, located at 672 South Avenue in the heart of Rochester's South Wedge. Services include style cutting, permanent waves, and hair coloring; a manicurist is also available. Wilder and Wilder Hair Salon is open Tuesday and Friday, 11am - 7pm; Wednesday and Thursday, 12 - 9pm; and Saturday, 10am - 5pm. Formerly a pizza shop, 672 South Avenue is now transformed to an intimate space glowing with warmth and light. Part of the South Wedge Historic District, the shop was completely renovated and refurbished by Monacelli according to the District's guidelines. "To make this dream happen I'd get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and work on rewiring and

sanding the wood floorboards," said Monacelli. "Then, after leaving my daytime job at Narcissus Hair Design, I'd work again until midnight. Every drop of sweat was worth the final product!"

"The salon is a reflection of myself," said Monacelli at his recent Grand Opening. I want its friendly, comfortable 50ish atmosphere to imbue my clients with a sense of well-being, even in the middle of February." According to Monacelli, many hair salons are intimidating with their fierce, minimalist modern decor, and inevitably the lighting is harsh and unflattering. "Our city is dreary enough during much of the year - the last thing we need are 'beauty' salons which are dreary, too. When I designed the salon, I kept in mind what paint color and lighting can do to skin tones."

The salon's walls are painted in pale pink, as is the ceiling, and the natural wood floor is polished, gently scattering the sunlight that enters the large bay window at the front of the shop. I took this place grimy with pizza splashed everywhere and made it beautiful!" said Monacelli.

The theme of the shop is a retro 1950's look when turquoise kitchen appliances were the rage and ladies wore elaborately flowered hats. Wilder and Wilder Hair Salon carries out this theme with vintage hats in velvet, flowers, and net decorating the walls, along with classic handbags and clutches, sunglasses from the 50s and high-heeled shoes. Accenting the 50s look are modern mauve styling chairs, a camelback black loveseat, turquoise vases with fresh lilies, and black paint-spattered closets reminiscent of a Jackson Pollock Canvas.

Wilder and Wilder Hair Salon is located in the South Wedge because it is a vital, growing area. "Park Avenue is getting too pricey for many of Rochester's creative people to survive there," said Monacelli. Instead, he believes they are moving into

areas like the South Wedge, which cater to an artistic, creative population.

As an enterprise that is geared toward clientele rather than money-making shortcuts, Wilder and Wilder Hair Salon offers evening and weekend hours that are convenient to the working person. Care for the individual's needs is also apparent in Harold Monacelli's approach to hair styling.

"We're in a time where anything goes," said Monacelli. "Hair moves from one extreme to another - from short and high-

tech for a fast-paced lifestyle, to long and fluffy looks. The in-between is out." Monacelli is not a follower of any particular school; instead he uses current trends and techniques as a springboard for his own brand of artistry. "I listen to my people; get to know them and can then zero in on who they are and what they want from their hair. I refuse to turn out hairstyles cut from the same die - personal expression is essential to my creativity and my clients' happiness."

Fine Arts Cleaner Closed

Suddenly one morning a sign appeared in the window "we will be closing next week". Stunned residents walked into the small dry cleaners on Gregory Street in disbelief, hoping that the sign only meant that the owner Betty Collins was taking a needed vacation. In a recent interview Ms. Collins explained the harsh reality, "The rental costs of the space are too high for the amount of business. The landlord has expressed needs to rehab this portion of the building and to have me relocate." Coupled with increasing rental costs, the South Avenue Reconstruction has drastically reduced the business to this 27 year old dry cleaners and tailors, creating severe financial demands. With just a glimpse of a tear in the corner of her eye Ms. Collins shared, "I came to this location on February 17, 1961 and rented the space from Carrol Fenevessi. It's my home. I've lived on several streets here. This business is my life."

The Fine Arts Cleaners was simply not a drop off for dirty clothes, it was a community center for many people who wanted to know the latest neighborhood news or to have someone lend an ear. Betty Collins provided the space for others to share their lives, but she cared about not only the outside of a person being clean, but their interior wholeness. "One day this woman from the neighborhood came in

who was stuck in her girdle because the zipper had broken. I had to help her out of it, and repair the girdle. Events like that kept me chuckling about my work," Ms. Collins recalled. For many people in the neighborhood Betty was a caretaker, the mother away from home. Many residents went to Betty with the simple tailoring needs as well as dry cleaning. "Can you fix my zipper? I lost a button, can you put one on? The lining on this jacket is ripped I need a new one," people are used to asking Betty to help them.

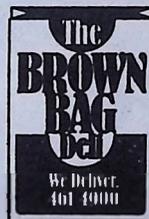
What will Betty do now? "I'm too young to retire. I'd like to stay in the neighborhood, but I haven't found a location. I've talked to Ron Maier about moving to North Street in his building."

Twenty seven years in the same location qualifies for permanent residency, yet Betty like many small business people in this area and others are driven out of business through rising costs in neighborhoods that have experienced renovation. We see the demise of the Fine Arts Cleaners not only the loss of one establishment, but a way of life. The Fine Arts was more than a dry-cleaning or tailoring establishment, it was part of what it means to call the South Wedge home.

The South Wedge Planning Committee pays tribute to Betty Collins for her untiring dedication to the people of this community.

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Neighbor News

South Wedge Tool Library Presents Workshops

It is amazing to look back through the Tool Library sign out sheet and see how much restoring, rehabbing & landscaping tool library members have done in the Wedge since last spring! There have been bathroom & attic rehabs, installation of skylights, basement doors, patio doors, decks and many more smaller repairs.

We are in the midst of fall with so many colorful leaves. For help with them we have a Toro electric blower, rakes, & wheel barrows. Don't forget leaves make great compost, so why send them to our overloaded dumps? If that seems like too much work, between Oct. 24 & Nov. 23 the City's Environmental Service will pick up piles of loose leaves set near the curb with a big vacuum truck. For the exact date this will happen on your street you can call Refuse Collection at 428-5990. After all that you may want to clean out your gutters using our ladders, Buckets, rubber gloves, & pail hooks. Our snakes will help clear out you drain pipes.

Workshops

We are planning a roofing repair workshop on Saturday, November 12th at 1:30pm, and a weatherstripping workshop on Sat., December 3rd at 10:30am. There will be a registration fee of \$2.00 due a week in advance to attend these

workshops. Send it along with you name, address & phone number to the South Wedge Tool Library, 68 Ashland St, Rochester, NY 14620. Remember, donations to your neighborhood Tool Library are always appreciated and are tax deductible.

South Wedge Tool Library
68 Ashland Street
Tues. & Thurs. 6-9, Sat 8-12
325-4950 (Ask for Phil)

Community Darkroom Workshop

Matting/Dry Mounting of Photographs:

Learn how to dry mount and cut overmats to present your photographs in a finished way. Saturday, Dec. 3 (10am - 1pm). Workshop costs \$35.

Call Community Darkroom at 271-5920 to register for this workshop.

Assemblyman Proud Inspects Sanford Street



Phil Stukas, Assemblyman Proud, Rev. Judy Lee Hay, Stephanie Gradinger and Dorene Duane outside of 288 Sanford Street

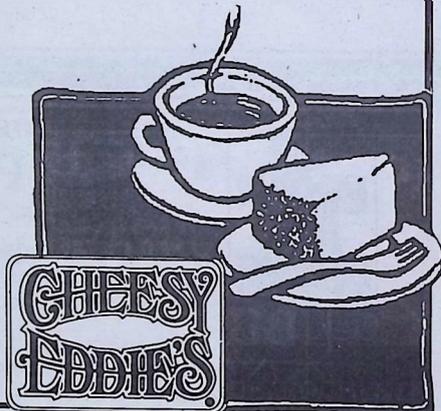
The rain outside came to an abrupt halt just as Assemblyman Gary Proud and his assistant Bill Gerling entered the building at 288 Sanford Street. The tour of the building and meeting with the neighborhood representatives is part of his commitment to keep in touch with key issues for he represents the Wedge in the New York State Assembly. Walking over the gaping hole in the exterior cement, Mr. Proud entered the building which has been under rehab for several months to find himself in the middle of construction. Through Mr. Proud's efforts, the South

Wedge Planning Committee received a \$7,000 grant through the Neighborhood Redevelopment Program of the State of New York. The rough carpentry, the new basement floor, walls and rough electrical work were all funded through the NRPD grant. SWPC Staff members Phil Stukas and the Reverend Judy Lee Hay with Board Members Dorene Duane and Stephanie Gradinger were present to detail the progress of the reconstruction. The rough plumbing was completed by Don Nelson from the Boojer Company. "The remainder of the interior will go out to bid in November", explained Ms. Hay.

The South Avenue reconstruction has delayed the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation from installing the main electrical line to the property and the gas hookup. Dorene Duane, chair of the SWPC thanked Assemblyman Gary Proud and Bill Gerling for their support of the project and continual encouragement. The Redevelopment grant came at a critical time in the rehab process. The monies were needed to complete some of the most critical aspects of the interior preparation. The South Wedge Community thanks Assemblyman Proud and Bill Gerling for their belief in the neighborhood tool library and Wedge newspaper, and of the community effort in transforming this vacant structure into a neighborhood center.

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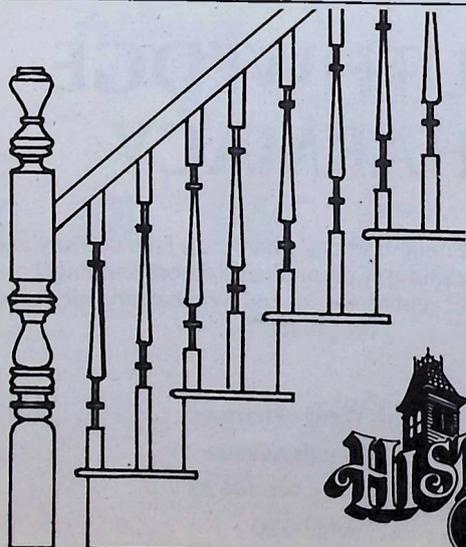
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M-F 12-5ish S 10-3ish



Mayor Ryan with students and staff of Calvary St. Andrews Pre-School

Mayor Ryan Visits Pre-school

Last spring on a tour of the South Wedge, Mayor Ryan stopped briefly at Calvary St. Andrews Preschool. The children were so enthused at meeting the mayor, that he promised to come again. True to his word, he contacted the Nursery School Staff and arranged to visit their Summer Program.

On July 6th, Mayor Ryan came to Calvary St. Andrews. He visited with the children and learned all about their program. He especially enjoyed the pictures each child made for him.

Calvary St. Andrews has operated a pre-school program for South Wedge residents for the last 22 years. Among its highlights are parent training, early intervention in the areas of motor and speech development, cultural development through monthly field trips and an arts and music program.

At the present time the Nursery School is seeking individuals willing to sponsor a child who would otherwise not be able to attend pre-school. Interested parties can contact the school at 232-1176.

12 Hickory Street – A Realized Affordable Housing Opportunity

A vacant piece of housing property offers the opportunity for the creation of an affordable house for a low to moderate income family. The realization of that opportunity requires significant work and the availability of dollars to reduce the purchase price and carrying costs of the house. It also takes a developer who is committed to working on affordable housing projects and buyers who are willing to deal with an excess of paper work and meetings and with publicity about their good fortune.

Needless to say, a significant event has occurred when an affordable housing

opportunity moves from the realm of possibility into being an accomplished reality. The completion of 12 Hickory Street is a wonderful significant accomplishment for the N.Y. State Affordable Housing Corporation, the City of Rochester, the South Wedge Planning Committee, Nathaniel Development Corporation, the Housing Council in the Monroe County area and the Nguyen Family!!

Come to the South Wedge Planning Committee Meeting on November 17 and celebrate the accomplishment! It is a gift to the South Wedge neighborhood.

SWPC Needs You!

By now most everyone knows that there is a South Wedge Planning Committee that looks out for the neighborhood interests. Most people don't know much more about it than that. A committee such as SWPC can accomplish many goals and can be targeted in many different directions and right now those directions are controlled by very few people. All these people, like you, have other responsibilities to jobs and family. It is impossible for them to accomplish all that they, and hopefully you, want them to. So take some time to help and volunteer. In addition to the committee that meets the first Thursday of each month, there are many sub committees that require various expertise including legal, financial, accounting, grants, zoning, and many more. It doesn't take a lot of time and doesn't have to be on a regular basis but they need you in order to be strong, effective, and ultimately successful. So give them a call and talk about what you can do to help make the South Wedge Community a better place for us all. Your Volunteer Connection for the South Wedge Planning Committee or any of its various sub committees is Rev. Judy Lee Hay, 325-4950.

Lubo Talevski Art Exhibition Opening



separated from an interacting group in the background. Finding the figure expressive and stimulating, Talevski gives us images displaying both fantasy and reality.

Mr. Talevski has studied at Maryland Institute College of Art, Empire State College, and Rochester Institute of Technology.

Exhibiting locally, Talevski has also illustrated the "John Wayne Movies Trivia Book".

"See And Be Seen" runs from November 4 to December 31. Hours are 9:30 - 5:30 M-F, 10 - 4 Sat, or by appointment.

On Friday, November 4, from 7 - 10pm, the Wedge Gallery, 684 South Ave., will hold an opening reception for an exhibition of oil paintings by Lubo Talevski, entitled "See And Be Seen".

Voyeurism and exhibitionism dominate the figurative situations in this exhibition. In "Daydream" Mr. Talevski looks in on an unsuspecting, relaxing nude. In "We Can't Go In" two figures are

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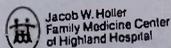
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Medieval Favorites

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Truth

The Caliph of Isfahan usually concurred with the opinions of his chief advisor, a wise old Sufi, but on one occasion they disagreed. "Everyone lies to me!" lamented the Caliph, "Not only do foreign diplomats and merchants attempt to deceive me to advance their purposes, even my own ministers tell me falsehoods they suppose will please me. I'll stand for no more of it! The penalty for mendacity shall be death!"

The Sufi replied "If you would influence the people to be honest, then you must set an example by your own probity and the appointment of none but virtuous officials. No one will be compelled to truthfulness by threats, indeed people will become fearful and lie all the more to avoid being caught in petty equivocations. Moreover, truth is entirely relative; what is true to one person may not be to another, and what is believed true on one day may not be on the next."

The Caliph rejected these arguments, declaring "Truth is truth and lies are lies. As of sunrise tomorrow all those seeking to enter the city must state their reasons, and if any gives a false one, he shall be forthwith hanged by the neck until dead."

At sunrise the Sufi appeared at the city gate. A guard demanded "What is your reason for wishing to enter the City of Isfahan?"

The old man announced "I have come to Isfahan in order to be hanged by the neck until dead."

"Unless you are insane," replied the guard, "that can't possibly be true. I don't believe you."

"In that case," said the Sufi, "it must be that I have told you a lie and you must therefore hang me, which will make that lie true, and you shall then have to answer to the Caliph for having killed a truthful man."

The guard became confused and called upon his superiors to resolve the dilemma. Eventually the Caliph was summoned and he greeted his old friend, saying "You have made your point, wise one. From now on I shall appoint none but virtuous officials and insist upon irreproachable conduct from all who serve me."

Adapted from a Sufi proverb, probably 13th or 14th century.

History

When Humbert became king at the age of 25, he resolved to avoid the mistakes of his predecessors by learning everything known about the history of human events. To this end he appointed a royal commission of investigators headed by a longtime friend to whom he granted the title of Royal Historian.

For the next 25 years the commission labored sedulously to compile the most complete and detailed history of mankind ever produced. At last the Royal Historian announced the completion of his task to the king, and together they watched as the

history, borne upon 500 horse-drawn wagons, was brought to the royal palace. Humbert turned to his friend and said "The fruit of your long effort is without doubt an invaluable contribution to civilization, and you deserve the highest praise for it. I shall order a library erected to house this history. However, it must be nearly one million volumes long! It would take me several lifetimes to read, even if I were not preoccupied with the war against the Bulgarians and my duty of naming a replacement to the post of Royal Flagwaver. Reduce it, condense it to the most important information; give me something manageable to read."

The commission went back to work. In 15 years they produced an abridged edition of the complete history of mankind, in 5 volumes of 1000 pages each. With great pride the Royal Historian presented these tomes to the king who exclaimed "Good grief. Here I am in the midst of directing the war against the Bulgarians and Turks while the Ministry of Royal Titles is in a state of disarray, and you bring me 5000 pages of history to read! I haven't time! Reduce it more, distill it to the most salient facts."

Another decade passed and Humbert lay upon his deathbed. With a feeble voice he summoned the Royal Historian who, supported by a cane, tottered into the room. "Is the task completed?" asked the king.

The Royal Historian affirmed that it was done. "Here, my lord, is the history of the mankind, reduced to 300 pages."

The king whispered "I grow weak. I fear

I shall not have time to read it. Condense it more."

The Royal Historian replied "I can reduce it to a mere seven words: They were born, they suffered, they died."

Source uncertain, probably Persian. See "Les Opinions de M. Jerome Coignard", A. France, pub. 1893

Fate

The people of Phrygia once had an opportunity to choose between plutocracy and monarchy as their form of government and chose the latter because the royalist candidate seemed to be a nice guy and promised to make everyone rich. Several generations later they found themselves stuck with the worst king in the world.

By edicts, writs, ordinances, bills, executive findings, tax reforms and court decisions King Bauble was able to virtually enslave the majority of his subjects. So clever and subtle were his methods that most people were unaware of their helotry, preferring to think of themselves as free citizens or not thinking at all. The few dissenters were relentlessly persecuted and eligible for only menial occupations.

There never lived a tyrant crueller or more foul tempered than King Bauble. For that reason none of his courtiers dared voice a word of objection when he announced his intention to deplete the royal treasury and mortgage the kingdom in order to purchase from some gypsies a magic crucible said to be capable of prodigiously reproducing any

continued on page 8

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Expressions

continued from page 7

object cast into it. For a fantastic price the king obtained this crucible and to the amazement of the silent doubters it performed exactly as advertised. Food, medicine, books or any object placed within it would multiply indefinitely until the crucible was shut off by being turned upside down. King Bauble cared not a bit for food, medicine or books, all sorely needed by his people. He was interested in only gold, that yellow mud from which no seed can sprout, which heals no illness and inspires no thought save greed.

The crucible was installed in the treasury, which soon began to fill again. In those days nations still warred against each other and King Bauble, having suddenly become prosperous, was no longer content to live in peace. He sent his army, augmented by mercenaries, to attack his neighbors.

The magical source of the king's prosperity functioned by some strange process of cupellation in which vapors imbued with mercury and lead were emitted. Soon it was discovered that the officials who tended the crucible became poisoned and died within months. The King could have prevented this by ventilating the treasury but it would have been costly so instead he decided that the work would be performed by prisoners and dissident helots.

Prominent among these dissidents was Hugo. His daughter had been kidnapped by the king who, claiming her to be his own progeny, presented her as a gift to a foreign satrap with whom he wished to secure a military alliance. Hugo complained to the king's courtiers and was made a serf. He then complained to the aristocrats and the middle class but no one would help him. Next he attempted to instigate rebellions among the

peasantry; for this he was beaten and whipped. He referred to the king as a megalomaniac, a violation of the Official Secrets Act for which he was imprisoned. Another of Hugo's insurrectionary plots was exposed by fellow inmates hoping for favors, therefore he regarded them as collaborators with the king. With every punishment and humiliation his rage increased.

Hugo's defiance had made him notorious to the royal guards so they placed him in charge of removing the king's gold from the crucible. At this task he labored for 16 hours every day. After several weeks he developed nervous tremors and could feel the fumes eating away at his brain. In desperation he conceived of one last plot. At the end of one workday he said to the guards "Good sirs, I beseech you to allow me a chance to redeem myself, to demonstrate my sincere repentance for my crimes and prove my deep affection for the king. I volunteer to work not 16 hours per day but 24, in hope that he might take notice and by his mercy grant my manumission."

The guards knew full well that King Bauble possessed not a drop of mercy, nor of any good quality whatsoever, but thinking they might receive bonuses for increased production they granted Hugo's request and locked him inside the treasury. When they had left, Hugo overturned the crucible, righted it, then hurled himself inside.

The next morning the guards found every door and window of the treasury busted out from within. They soon figured out what had happened and not knowing how to operate the crucible, they smashed it to pieces. It was too late; thousands of brain-damaged Hugos were rampaging amuck throughout the city with nobody to stop them, most of the soldiers having been sent to fight the wars. The Hugos took the royal

palace and beheaded the king, his family and courtiers. They ransacked the armory and killed every guard, soldier and policeman they could find. After wiping out the aristocracy they turned their frenzied attentions to the middle class. Next they attacked the collaborators and other prisoners and helots. Soon no one was left in Phrygia except the Hugos, whereupon they began fighting among themselves, like the warriors that sprang from the dragon's teeth planted in the ground by Cadmus so many centuries before.

Source unknown

The Proven Miracle

Phumbus the Magnificent, Grand Sebastocrator of Byzantium, did nothing but eat, drink and sleep all day. Eventually he grew so fat and weak that even those simple pursuits became difficult. He summoned the royal physicians who, being afraid to criticize his indolence, consulted the stars and informed Phumbus that his health could be restored only by means of an amulet made from the hair of a hircocervus.

Great rewards were offered for the capture of this creature, but none could be found. Every man, woman and child in Byzantium was then compelled to drop everything and hunt for hircocervuses, which remained elusive chiefly because none existed.

Ayub the shepherd comprehended the futility of the search and was peeved about the effects its diversion of his time imposed upon his livelihood. He sewed a round stone tightly inside a piece of unshorn sheepskin and brought this contrivance to Phumbus, saying "Here is a talisman, made from the pelt of a hircocervus, which has belonged to my family for years. I guarantee it will prove

as efficacious as a new one. It is used in this way: you must throw it as far as you can, then run to the place where it lands. Repeat this 25 times the first day, 50 times the second, and so on, until you are able to do it for four hours daily, then continue at that rate. Should its magic fail, I shall offer you my life."

Having nothing to lose, Phumbus followed Ayub's prescription to the letter. Within days his health improved; in a month he felt like a new man. Ayub received the most lavish rewards and honors. Phumbus lived for many years, always extolling the virtues of the hircocervus hide that had saved his life.

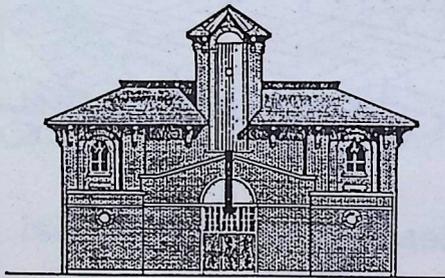
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