



SWPC Offices Get a New Look

By Robert Boyd

The South Wedge Planning Committee's (SWPC) first floor got an astounding makeover through the creative style and hard work of Board member Donna Roethel Lenhard and her team of helpers. SWPC's goal was to make the 224 Mt. Hope headquarters more inviting and create a "social space" that can be used by the community.

Her goal was to make a big impact at a small cost, and she did just that!

Roethel Lenhard used leftover paint from friend's and neighbor's home projects and looked for contributions of furniture and decorations. She made many trips to Mr. Second's Bargain Outlet, Goodwill and Volunteers of America. She organized and planned the makeover to include a hallway "gallery" space that will provide a place for local artists to display their works. Historic Houseparts on South Avenue provided materials to create the "gallery" mood.

A large number of people volunteered their time and talents to remodel SWPC's first floor meeting room, kitchen, bathroom and Tool Library office. In addition to planning the transformation, Roethel Lenhard put a huge number of hours in painting and building a beautiful space for everyone to enjoy.

The makeover team also included Cheryl Stevens, Doug Root, Lyjha Wilton, John "JD" Dennis, Chris Jones, Jim Wolf, Ben Munson, Tom Kicor, George Lorson, Bob Boyd, Phinis "Butch" Horton, Tanya Zwahlen, Sarah Johnstone, Sean Montes, Rachel Chaffee, Frank Logan, Dave Halter, Janet Stanwald and many others who supported us with encouragement and contributions.

Please stop by and check out the new space. It's now available for community meetings. If you are an artist and want to hold a show at SWPC's new art space, please contact Robert Boyd, Executive Director, at 585-256-1740, Ext 102. ♦



(l-r) Sue and David Sanford, SWPC Board member Donna Roethel Lenhard, and Heather Penrose and Jim Papanau (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

SWPC Kicks Off the New Decade

By Robert Boyd



Monica McCullough and Senator Joe Robach discuss Wedge issues at the SWPC open house (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

The South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc. kicked off the New Year and decade with an open house for neighbors and friends on Friday, January 22.

The Board of Directors and professional team hosted over 150 people in the newly renovated first floor of the SWPC office on Mt. Hope Avenue. People enjoyed appetizers and cookies from Mis En Place Market and Premier Pastry.

A goal of SWPC in 2010 and beyond is to engage more people into the activities of the organization to make the South Wedge a better place to live, work and play. This is an also an invitation to everyone in the community to join a SWPC team and have fun while making a difference. The Executive Team will be focusing on making sure

each team has new members and reflects the community.

SWPC has organized their work in a number of important areas. Volunteers are needed in many areas:

- The Marketing and Membership team seeks people to work on the *Wedge* newspaper, the SWPC website and SouthWedge.org to improve the communication within the neighborhood.
- The Community Engagement team seeks people to help build block clubs.
- The Wedgestock 2010 team seeks help in turning the event into a street festival that appeals to all ages.
- The South Wedge Farmers Market seeks help to bring more people to the market and encourage healthy eat-

ing in our community and to expand its role as a community gathering place.

- The South Wedge Victory Garden is looking for gardeners and volunteers to help build a new garden if gardeners request one.
 - The Commercial and Business development team is working to obtain NYS Main Street funds to continue the building and street improvements in the area of South Ave. and Gregory St. The team is working to improve the SWPC business advising program and then to develop a "business" recruiting process to bring the businesses you want to see into the community.
 - The Housing and Structures team is continuing its work on improving the quality of the housing stock and encouraging the availability of diverse housing options. The team is working to encourage more owner-occupied housing in the South Wedge. The South Wedge Tool Library needs assistant librarians to make the tool library available to more people.
- To learn more, visit www.swpc.org to read SWPC's Annual Report and 2010 work plan. On page two, you'll find the meeting schedule for all the teams in February and March. ♦

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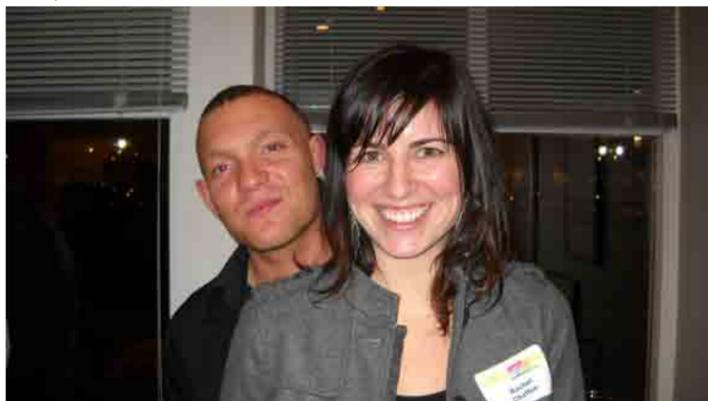
South Wedge Planning Committee
224 Mt. Hope Avenue
Rochester, New York 14620



SWPC Board member Frank Logan and Karen Balgrove mingle (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)



Tony Sciarabba, Lyjha Wilton and Carlene Woodward (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)



Sean Montes and SWPC Board member and artist Rachel Chaffee (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)



Dan Hurley, Harry Davis and SWPC Executive Director Bob Boyd (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

Star of the Wedge - Rev. Judy Lee Hay

By Nancy O'Donnell



Rev. Judy Lee Hay, Calvary St. Andrew (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

Rev. Judy Lee Hay's handiwork is visible throughout the South Wedge. She contributed in building a more vibrant commercial district, Marie Daley and Nathaniel Square parks, and The Wedge Newspaper. She did all this while ministering to the Calvary St. Andrews Presbyterian Parish Church congregation.

Community activist, teacher, lecturer and neighbor, her list of achievements have seldom waned over the last three decades she's served her church, her community and her country.

When Hay was growing up in a small northern New York town of Gouverneur, New York, she envisioned three possible career paths.

"Politics, teaching and ministry," said Hay. "All came to fruition in my life."

Hay graduated from the University of Dubuque with a triple major of Sociology, Phi-

losophy and English. She entered McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago where she discovered she had found her life's work in "urban ministry."

"It was an exciting time," said Hay. "The Vietnam War was raging and a grassroots organization, The Young Lords, took over the seminary campus to protest local gentrification."

From those controversies, grew her belief that the church had an important role in transforming the world, one neighborhood at a time.

"I see Christ as a major healing agent in society," said Hay. "His love is unconditional. I have to be a change agent in the world as Christ made a difference."

Her first ministry was at a Presbyterian Church in Albany. In 1973, she came to serve with George Stiegler, pastor of historic Calvary St. Andrews (CSA), then a two-denominational church ministering to

both Episcopalian and Presbyterian congregations.

The parish was a socially active one. A center across the street housed "Soul School," an after school program, along with a community recreation program. (The school would later move to the newly built building behind School #12.) During this time, Hay began studying community organizing at the University of Rochester. In 1975, she founded the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC).

"The concept was that [SWPC] would be a power base for social change," said Hay. "The principle was that if you can get people with vested interests in the community around the table, they will be able to find a common goal."

Hay invited neighbors, a local banker, realtors and developers to discuss two areas of interest: housing and commercial development. She linked up with Rochester Institute of Technology and a City of Rochester Community Development leader, David Luxenberg.

"We did a great analysis of every vacant, boarded house in the South Wedge," said Hay. "There were 120. Then we looked at the commercial district and found lots of vacant buildings or ones without the services the community wanted."

At SWPC's helm, Hay began working block-by-block against homeowners and landlords who let their properties become "eyesores."

"We started what we called 'the squeeze.' Start where it's bad, and move street by street. Linden and Cypress was okay, so we began at Alexander Street."

She contacted owners and landlords and asked them to fix up their houses. If that failed, she asked them to consider selling. In some instances, owners put their house on the market, in others, the city foreclosed on houses. She guided owners of three or more units through a program that offered loans for rehabs.

"We also looked at getting new sidewalks and better lighting," said Hay.

Soon SWPC had a tool lending library and a newspaper,

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Letters to the Editor

Don't toss your computers!

Recently, as I was driving down South Ave., I was shocked to see an entire truckload of old H & R Block computers being prepared to be shipped out. When I stopped to ask, I learned that they were in working condition and being sent to a recycling plant in Chicago. What a complete shame!

These computers could make a big difference for unemployed and needy area residents. At no cost to businesses, these computers can be completely cleaned according to Department of Defense standards, refurbished and loaded with the latest software before being given to local residents for education and job skills training. Please help spread the word that unwanted computers can be sent to or picked up by ACD's CommuniTech Microsoft Authorized Refurbishing Center, located at 420 Dewey Avenue.

Rochester is a small city, and you will see how bridging the digital divide will improve the lives of many that may now seem remote to you but will touch you in some way or another. Please help unemployed residents in Rochester who need these computers to get jobs; children and teens who need these computers to stay competent in school; and community organizations that need these computers to provide safe and free access to community computer labs within at-risk neighborhoods.

It takes only one act of generosity to make a big difference in many people's lives. If you'd like to learn more about ACD, or want additional information on becoming a HelpTech and NextStep AmeriCorp member, please contact ACD at 244-1430.

--Maria Paris
ACD Public Relations
Manager
South Avenue

A bike friendly South Wedge anyone?

It's hard to understand why bicycles aren't given their space on our roadways. I mean,

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Community Partner



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Allison Clark, Layout
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Nancy O'Donnell, Ben White

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Robert Boyd, Michael Hanlon, Nancy O'Donnell

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E-mail Addresses:
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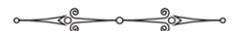
The Wedge Newspaper, a not-for-profit newspaper, is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), a grassroots organization serving the South Wedge Urban Village. Its mission is to provide accurate coverage of neighborhood news as well as local, state and national news that affect the area.

Today, the Wedge is printed bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October and December) with a circulation of 7300. The newspaper is mailed to homes in the South Wedge and distributed to area businesses and retail shops and other drop points in the Greater Rochester area.

Articles in this paper do not necessarily reflect the view and/or opinions of SWPC.

Please send any story suggestions or news releases to Wedge Newspaper Editor Nancy O'Donnell, 224 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620 or nodonnell@swpc.org. Please see our complete Advertising Deadlines and Rates online at www.swpc.org.

Before recycling this printed newspaper, why not pass it on to a friend or co-worker.



Our Mission Statement

SWPC builds community in the South Wedge, encourages a full range of housing opportunities, and promotes a diverse, historically significant, and commercially sustainable urban village.

Ad Deadline
for Next Issue
March 7

The South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc. February and March - Community Calendar

All meetings are held at 224 Mt. Hope Avenue, except when noted.

SWPC Board Meeting:

tzwahlen@frontiernet.net
Thursday, February 11, 6 p.m.
Thursday, March 11, 6 p.m.

SWPC Executive Team

tzwahlen@frontiernet.net
Thursday, February 4, 6 p.m.
Thursday, March 4, 6 p.m.

Commercial and Economic Development

chris@historichouseparts.com
Tuesday, February 9, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9, 6:00 p.m.

Community Engagement (Neighbors and Block Clubs)

aclark@swpc.org
Wed., February 3, 6:30 p.m.
Wed., March 3, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Team:

tsciarabba@hotmail.com
Tuesday, February 9, 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9, 12:30 p.m.

Housing and Structures:

mmccullough@dor.org
Wed., February 3, 5:30 p.m.
Wed., March 3, 5:30 p.m.

Marketing & Membership Committee

tsaville@rochester.rr.com
Tuesday, February 9, 5 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9, 5 p.m.
Location: TBD

South Wedge Farmers Market Advisory Committee

swfarmersmarket@gmail.com
Tuesday, February 2, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, March 2, 6 p.m.

South Wedge Victory Garden

rboyd@swpc.org
Monday, March 1, 6:00 p.m.

Wedgestock 2010 Planning Group

joankerk@frontiernet.net
Wed., February 24, 5:30 p.m.
Wed., March 31, 5:30 p.m.

BASWA (Business Association of the South Wedge Area)

chris@historichouseparts.com
(Visit baswa.org for locations)
Wed., February 10, 6 p.m.
Wed., March 10, 6 p.m.

by Nancy O'Donnell



Angela Carter-Taylor and artist husband Paul Taylor (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

Wedge Resident Promotes Citywide V-Day

V-Day, a global movement to end sexual violence against women and girls inspired by Eve Ensler's play, *The Vagina Monologues*, is getting help from super-volunteer **Angela Carter-Taylor** who lives with husband Paul Taylor, a glassblower and jewelry designer, on Gregory Street. Along with helping out Planned Parenthood, she also volunteers at the Susan B. Anthony House, Image Out Film Festival, Next Gen and Rochester NOW.

Carter-Taylor's day job as events planner for University of Rochester's Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women Studies requires that she spread the message of women's equality out into the community. That brought her to Planned Parenthood's annual benefit performance of Ensler's play. The event benefits the Planned Parenthood-led Rape Crisis Service (RCS) for Rochester and Syracuse.

This year Carter-Taylor, as Special Events Coordinator V-Day Rochester 2010, adds an evening art show to V-Day events. The art exhibition, held at Rochester Contemporary Art Center on Feb. 12, will include work by RIT grad **Alicia Ross**.

"She'll be showing pieces of celebrity mothers cross-stitched on cotton to help discuss issues surrounding V-Day and perceptions of motherhood," said Carter-Taylor. "She includes moms like Octomom and Kate Gosselin."

Also planned--a silent auction of work by artists **Melissa Morley, Sarah Pulver, Jolene Beckman, Melissa Morley, Shanna Murray and Colleen Melisz**.

Carter-Taylor, a Long Island native, moved to Rochester as an AmeriCorps volunteer. "I trained professionals who would be working with children who have been exposed to domestic violence the Children's Institute, a non-profit family resource center run by U of R."

The Vagina Monologues will be performed at Hochstein School Performance Hall, 50 Plymouth Avenue North, on Sat., March 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for students/seniors. The ROCA exhibit will be held at 157 East Avenue on Feb. 12, 7-9 p.m. Admission is \$1.



Tonja McNair (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

Men Hot for Hats at South Avenue Shop

Headz Up Hats shop owner **Tonja McNair** knows her hats, and she knows just what kind of man is brave enough to add style to the top of his head.

"They're artsy," said hat expert McNair. "Singers, musicians, writers, dancers, photographers and chefs. A hat is very expressive. It allows you to speak without words. It allows people to show what I call 'hatitude. Musicians like porkpies or stingy brims. News reporters like the Ascot. Then there is the never go out of style Newsboy or Driver hats. Taxicab drivers like these."

She counts as customers "Big James" from Lux. "He likes the Big Applejack cap," said McNair, who would like to see a hat on every shop owner on South Avenue.

She also carries "Toby Keith style cowboy hats and Indiana Jones adventurer fedoras. For the bravest customers of all, McNair carries Derbies and top hats. She can even special order an "Abe Lincoln tall stovepipe" if needed. (Just in time for Presidents Day, she added.)

674 South Avenue, 442-7680.
Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Tues.-Sat.



Glassblower Paul Taylor (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

South Wedge Glassblower Moves Studio

Glass artist **Paul Taylor** was happy to move his table-mounted torch and glass to a new studio inside the Hungerford Building art colony on East Main Street.

The former Rochester Institute of Technology student has been creating glass jewelry for several years, working out of his South Wedge apartment. When he and his wife Angela bought a house on Gregory Street, he moved his studio to a backyard shed. While he could create the glass pendants, rings and holiday ornaments in his yard, he couldn't sell them there. He's shown at various festivals and at Rochester Public Market's Artist Row. (He currently has pieces at Aaron's Alley in Rochester and galleries in Buffalo and Batavia.)

Many of his "organic" pendants feature flowers, butterflies

and lizards.

"Many people have asked me if they're real flowers inside," said Taylor.

Paul Taylor Studio, Hungerford Building, 1116 East Main Street. www.paultaylorglass.com.



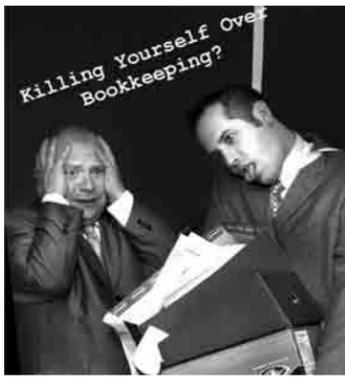
The new St. Joseph Neighborhood Center addition (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

Good News/Bad News for St. Joseph Center

Executive Director **Christine Wagner, S.S.J.**, is happy that the St. Joseph Neighborhood Center has expanded some 3,300 square feet. "We've added more clinical space for primary and mental health care," said Wagner, noting also a new meeting room that looks outside onto South Avenue. In addition, the center now has four AmeriCorps volunteers on board.

The bad news--"We've had a huge increase of the uninsured and the underinsured, who have had their benefits cut, who need services," Wagner said. "From 800 a month last year, we're seeing 1,300 a month."

To learn how you can help, visit www.sjncenter.org/news.



The Christopher Group doesn't let numbers get them down (Photo by Michael Hanlon)

The Christopher Group Joins South Ave. Business Corridor

The Christopher Group founders, **Christopher Hennelly and Michael Lill**, want to make number crunching fun and philanthropic. The fun

(gallows humor?) can be seen in their business card and website. But, the firm means serious business. "We take broken companies, and we fix them," said Hennelly. "We take new businesses and help them grow. We show them a path to profitability."

Along with accounting, bookkeeping and tax preparation, the group also helps with advertising with clients who want to take their businesses to another level.

The company recently moved the office on Winton Road to the South Wedge at the urging of their clients, Hedonist Chocolates. Other clients include the in-the-news Brooklyn Bagel Slicer inventor recently profiled in the *Democrat & Chronicle*.

As philanthropists, Hennelly and Lill offer their services to clients from the Epilepsy Foundation and offer help to individuals who have experienced traumatic brain injuries.

"The concept is that every person, no matter what their state in life, poor or disenfranchised, needs some guidance," said Hennelly. "Since we've been given some wonderful paying clients that gives us the ethical obligation to serve those who don't have. I see it as capitalism with compassion."

The Christopher Group, 473 South Ave, 585-325-7351.



Darren Stevenson, director Johannes Bockwoldt and Derrick Petrush (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

South Wedge Filmmaker Vies for Pie in the Face Prize

Indie filmmaker **Johannes Bockwoldt** has friends willing to help out on a film project along with taking a pie in the face. The pastry-laden film was submitted to the 360/365 Film Festival's (formerly the Rochester High Falls International Film Festival) three minutes or less short film contest in January.

The short film contest theme of "Pie in the Face" led Bockwoldt to persuade the extremely agile dancer/choreographer **Darren Stevenson** of PUSH Physical Theater to take the role of pie carrier. Stevenson's last performance was as food phobic Dracula in a recent GEVA sell out performances.

Behind the camera for the 15-hour film shoot was cinematographer **Derrick Petrush** of D Train Media. Local developer and film lover **John Trickey** volunteered a Cornhill property for

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SWPC TOOL LIBRARY WINTER HOURS VISIT US!

- ⌘ Thursday 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
 - ⌘ Or by appointment
- (256-1740, ext. 102)

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By Allison Clark

Ellwanger Barry Nursery School Open House

An Open House will be held March 13 from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Interested parents can meet with families and teachers. 4 East Henrietta Rd, 461-4250.



Children at the Ellwanger Barry Nursery School

Puppeteer to Perform at Ellwanger Barry Cooperative Nursery School.

Puppeteer, singer and songwriter **Tom Knight** will perform at a Concert Fundraiser for the Ellwanger Barry Nursery School on March 7, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5/family maximum of \$20. Children under 2 years old free.

The Ellwanger Barry Nursery School promotes children's social, emotional, cognitive and physical growth within a warm and loving setting, recognizing the vital importance of play as a medium for learning and for providing a firm foundation for later academic success. Their goal is "to integrate children's innate eagerness to learn with a deep and enduring respect for their relationship with the environment through hands-on activities such as cider press-

ing, maple sugaring, caring for earthworms, gardening." Two-day program for 3-year-olds and three-day program for 4-year-olds are available. The Nursery is located at 4 East Henrietta Rd. near Strong Memorial Hospital. For more information visit www.ebns.org, call us at 461 4250 or e-mail ebnscoop@gmail.com.

To learn more about Tom



Puppeteer, singer and songwriter Tom Knight.

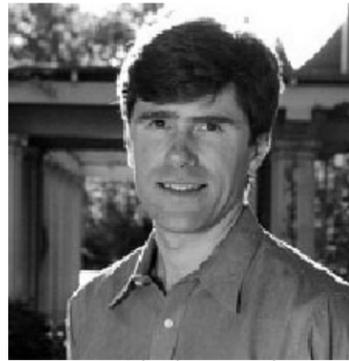
Block Clubs

Although the snow is still here, now is the time to start thinking about those summer cookouts with your neighbors! There are active block clubs on Gregory St., Hamilton St., Linden/Cypress, and Hickory St. If you live on one of these streets and would like to get involved or if you would like to start a block club on your street, please contact Allison Clark at 256-1740 ext 104 or aclark@swpc.org. Block clubs are a great way to get involved in the South Wedge neighborhood, meet neighbors and find out information about your neighborhood. Join a block club today!

Monthly meeting of Heartbeats for Life

This is a wellness support

group for cardiovascular patients, their families, friends and those interested in prevention. The group will meet Monday, March 8 from 6:30 - 8:45 p.m., Monroe County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Auditorium 249 Highland Avenue. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a Potluck dinner. Bring a low fat, vegetarian dish to pass (or some cut fruit), your own place setting and beverage. Then at 7:30 p.m., **Michael Warren Thomas**, local radio talk show host, tour director and educator, will discuss "Slow Food: It isn't about eating slowly!" He'll discuss food that's local, sustainable, and prepared in a way to provide the most nourishment possible. \$4.00 guests; free to HFL members. For more information: 24 hour voice mail 585-234-7076 or www.heartbeats4life.org.



Presenter Michael Warren Thomas

South Wedge Offers Delicious Art!

Rochester art has a delicious new canvas: chocolate truffles. Local company Hedonist Artisan Chocolates is collaborating with local artist Christina Nitche to create a unique Valentine's Day confection that

tastes as artful as it looks. Read more at: <http://blog.hedonistchocolates.com/chocolate/press-release-delicious-art/> or for more information, contact *Jennifer Posey: 585-355-7943 jennifer@hedonistchocolates.com*.

The U.S. Census 2010 - It's in Our Hands

The Census Department is starting to hire Census takers to support the Census 2010. These temporary positions will start in late March 2010 and end in August 2010. Each applicant must take a 30-minute basic skills test. Census taker schedules typically include 20 to 40 hours of work per week. You must be available to work when people are usually home, such as in the evening and on weekends. More information, including a practice test, is available at www.2010censusjobs.gov or call toll-free 1-866-861-2010.

New to the Neighborhood - A Traffic Calming Team Needs You!

As a result of the September 2009 General Meeting on Safety and Security, a group of Highland Park neighbors came together to form a Traffic Calming Team. Its goal-- a neighborhood that will eventually rival the best among "walking-friendly" communities across the United States. Come to the Open Meeting sponsored by The Highland Park Neighborhood Traffic Calming Team to discuss implementing solutions and other issues. There will be an Open Team Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, at 7 p.m., at the NSC Office at 846 South Clinton Ave.

Don't Pay to Borrow Your Own Money

For a tax refund of \$2000, you could pay over 10% or your refund to get a Tax Refund Anticipation Loan. You can get a FREE basic tax preparation offered at the Genesee Co-op Federal Credit Union. To make an appointment, call Amber at 244-2944. This offer is open to the public every Saturday thru March 13. Genesee Federal Credit Union, 395 Gregory St., 461-2230 or www.genesee.coop. See page 11 for more details.

Tango Café Hosts Rochester Guitar Club

The Rochester Guitar Club, headed by musicians **Kinloch Nelson** and **Richard Taglieri**, meet the first Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. at Tango Café & Dance Studio, 389 Gregory Street. The next two meetings are planned for Feb. 7 and March 7.

Nelson reports the evening is "mostly instrumental" played by working musicians. It is not an open mike. "We want an audience, so please stop in," said Nelson.

For more information, contact rochesterguitarclub.com or kinloch@rochester.rr.com.

Call for Public Art Submissions

The Business Association of the South Wedge Area (BASWA), in conjunction with the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), seeks to commission completed art work on at least nine metal traffic control boxes spanning South Avenue from Byron Street to Linden Street and also on Mt. Hope Avenue from Byron Street to Cypress Street.

The primary objective of this project is to beautify the South Wedge neighborhood and commercial district in a manner that corresponds with and complements seventeen "Parking Meter Totems"; whimsical, sculptural bike racks that were designed and fabricated by artists, and funded through two previous Decentralization grants.

Artists will be paid a stipend of \$500 per box upon completion of work. Timeline is as follows:

- Postmark deadline for application materials and design submissions is April 1, 2010.
- Selection Committee will meet to review all submissions and select finalists by May 1, 2010.
- Art will be unveiled on June 16 in a celebration with the community.

Project details and application can also be found at www.savorourflavor.com. ♦

Author Abraham Rothberg Celebrated

By Nancy O'Donnell

Abraham Rothberg, writer, journalist, educator and publisher, was honored for his long career on January 12 at an event held at the Jewish Community Center. The event, held days before his 89th birthday, was planned by his wife Esther Conwell, a research professor of chemistry at the University of Rochester and Mary Lynn Broe, an English professor at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Throughout the evening, old and new friends read from

his many works and shared stories of his life-long pursuit of truth and beauty in life and literature.

Rothberg begin the evening reading from his essay, "Fiction is a Lie that Tells the Truth."

"By unlocking secrets of the human heart and mind, fiction can allow us to know how people different from ourselves think and feel and live... It allows us to know we are not alone," read Rothberg.

A former St. John Fisher

College English professor, Rothberg published 16 novels along with a collection of short stories, children's books and literary criticism.

His most recent works are published by Edteck Press, a local imprint founded by Peter Pappas of Brighton. ♦



Honoree Abe Rothberg and writer/educator Nancy Y. Hoffman (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

Downtown Community Forum On the South Wedge February 25, 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Robert J. Duffy "One City Series: Then and Now" examines the future of dynamic Rochester neighborhoods. With Community Panelists SWPC Executive Director Robert Boyd and Board member Chris Hartman.

The Dugan Center at St. Mary's Downtown,
15 St. Mary's Place, Rochester 14607
Free and Open to the Public
For information, call 585-232-7140.

Sponsored by the City of Rochester and co-sponsored by Leadership Rochester

South Wedge Home Granted Local Landmark Status

By Nancy O'Donnell

Everyone knows Frederick Douglass, one of the most important figures in U.S. history, is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Many know that he once lived on South Avenue until his house burned down in 1872. But who knew that the famous abolitionist, editor, orator and women's suffragist once owned a house in the South Wedge?

On January 11, City Planning Commission granted 271 Hamilton Street local landmark status on a 6-0 vote. The

vote was the result of research conducted by two local historians that indicated Douglass's daughter, her husband and children lived there and that the famous African-American statesman had kept the home as his legal address after moving to Washington, D.C. He owned it until his death in 1895.

Current homeowner Sherri Dukes and her husband Lee suspected something was special about the house when they moved in 1973. Lee often saw the apparition of a tall black man in a top hat, reading and

writing at a desk in their bedroom. The couple kept it as their "secret" for many years. A few years ago, a local TV station ran a story about the haunting.

Dukes only learned that her house was a landmark when a local historian Jean Czerkas showed up at her door to tell her that Douglass's daughter had lived there with her husband and their family.

Czerkas joined by historian Tim O'Connell, began researching the house in 2003.

"Jean found an order in the Hebard Marble and Monument Company for the tomb stone for the daughter of Rosetta Douglass and her husband Nathan Sprague, Alice Louisa," writes O'Connell, a trustee of the Friends of the Mt. Hope Cemetery, in a recent email. "At that time Jean was a Trustee of the Friends of Mt Hope Cemetery and the archivist for the organization."

According to O'Connell, local Landmark status gives the property or structure protection from destruction and alteration. All actions resulting in a visible change of the exterior must be approved by the City Preservation Board. In addition O'Connell explains, "State and National Register of Historic Places recognizes the value historically to the people of the state or nation. It has a review process by knowledgeable people at the state Office of Historic Preservation or the National Park Service if any state or federal dollars are used in a project that affects the property. It does not, however, protect the property from changes using private funds.

"This house now has the same rights of protection as City Hall and the George Eastman House," O'Connell adds. ♦



Sherri Dukes stands near original fireplace. A lover of classical music, she learned that Douglass seldom traveled without his violin. (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

Star of the Wedge

continued from page 2

The Wedge, to keep the community aware of SWPC's revitalization efforts.

"We wanted visible victories," said Hay, whose philosophy revolved around one principle: "Do something, and then tell everyone in the world about it."

From housing, SWPC turned to commercial district rebuilding, focusing especially on a weed-filled lot on the corner of South Avenue and Alexander Street.

"We wanted stabilizing anchors," she said and points to the businesses that invested in the changing landscape: Historic Houseparts, Cheesy Eddie's Bakery and dentist Joe DiDonato.

In the midst of South Wedge revitalizing, Hay still had the job of pastor in a changing congregation. Ultimately, the parish would drop its ties with the Episcopal Church. (When Hay arrived at CSA, the Episcopal Church still didn't ordain women, which made her position "interesting").

In 1991, Hay stepped down as SWPC Executive Director, and concentrated on pastoral work.

By 2001, CSA became solely Presbyterian and continued its mission to "Draw the Circle Wide," a mission to welcome people from varied backgrounds, races, and education. As a "more light" congregation, it embraces gay and lesbian worshippers.

Heart of the City

continued from page 3

the location. Mike Calabrese of Java's on Gibbs Street, as patron of the arts, provided lunch for the crew.

If the film, entitled *Special Delivery*, wins it will be given a screening at the 2010 film festival in May.

Today its Sunday services draw people from all over the Rochester area. CSA's food ministries, in partnership with FOODLINK and the Monks at the Abbey of Genesee, provide fresh vegetables, meats and bread for 40-50 families in the community. Its parishioners work with the poor in the Dominican Republic building sustainable agricultural systems.

As teacher and lecturer, Hay has served on the faculty of Colgate Rochester Divinity School and served on the Congregational Life Board of Auburn Theological Seminary in New York City. Recently, she joined the Field Staff in Congregational Transformation in the Evangelism and Witness Division of the Presbyterian Church USA. She continues to speak around the country on church transformation.

Hay continues to receive accolades for her work. Two years ago, Hay received what amounts to an "Academy Award in the Church" when McCormick Theological Seminary invited her back to receive its "Distinguished Alumni Award." A year earlier, she was elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame Book of Lives and Legacies in Seneca Falls, New York.

Rev. Judy Lee Hay's ministry and social activism continues to provide "visible victories" that spread in ever greater concentric circles outward, benefiting the lives she touches, from the South Wedge to the world entire. ♦

Local Cafes Offer Podiums for Poets

Area poets can find an audience within walking distance from home at two local coffee houses. On the third Wednesday of every month, Equal=Grounds on South Avenue offers an open mike for poets and poetry lovers.

"You can read your own or someone else's," said café owner John White. "The only request I ask is that [the poems] be upbeat," i.e. no mourning opuses about being dumped.

"Colin Coffey reads sometimes," said White, referring to next door neighbor, licensed massage therapist owner at Renewing Massage. "He seems to channel his Irish mother, and his poems are wonderful." (And funny).

Rochester Poets also meets in the neighborhood at Tango Café and Dance Studio on Gregory Street and Boulder Coffee House at Brooks Landing. To learn more about Rochester poets, call 260-9005 or visit them on Facebook. ♦

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The South



Don Alcott, Manager of Brooklyn band, *The Hollands*



Maria Paris, Academy for Career Development Public Relations Manager



Fred Popkey, retired pillow designer



Joe McBane, owner Tap & Mallet



Dale O'Donnell "nanny extraordinaire"



Lisa Milne, mom of Brian, Sarah and Holden



Lucas Milne, commercial carpenter, **Jean Milne**, postal worker, **Kathleen Deegan**, Onondaga School of Therapeutic Massage valedictorian



Jeana Bonacci, "baroness" and waitress at Tap & Mallet



Terry O'Donnell, musician and postal worker



Harry Bronson, Minority Leader of Monroe County Legislature, District 24



Michele Leach, Wedge resident



Dick Bebee, County Legislator, District 6



Randy Torgerson, night manager Equal=Grounds



Angie Gunkler, Rochester Women's Community Chorus



Dave Hynes, "a lucky guy"



Jennifer Belardino, owner South Wedge Barber Shop



Bobby Blocker, "a great catch"



Dave Halter, community activist



Chris "Hollywood" English, musician *AudioInflux*



Danielle Ponder, soul musician



(l-r) **Jennifer Posey** and **Zahra Langford**, owners Hedonist Artisan Chocolates, **Lee Iannone**, *City Newspaper* account executive, **Mary Kokinda**, school teacher



Kristen Maxfield, vocalist, *Kristin Maxfield Band*



Frank Logan, SWPC board and senior marketing consulting, *Stephens Media Group*



Philip Duquette, master baker/owner, Premier Pastry



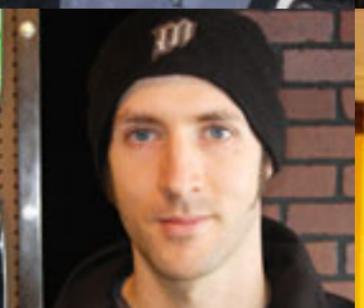
Emilio Rivera, MJM Market



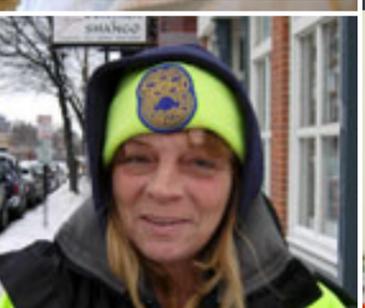
Pedro Ugalde and daughter **Mimi**, Obatala Shengo



Tonja McNair, owner Headz Up Hats and Personal Touch Salon



Trevor Sleeman, owner The Lab Bike and Board Shop



Janet Moyer, school crossing guard



George McCloud, retired military



Casey Holenbeck, chef and owner *Mise En Place*



Janeice Washington, Finger Lakes DSDO treatment specialist



David Reese, barber, *Glover's Barber Shop*

Wedge Is...



re' Linda O'Donnell, retired secretary



Tom Phillips
classical pianist



Donald Robinson
retired Gannett advertising clerk



Phinis "Butch" Horton
SWPC Facilities Manager



Carlene Woodward
retired antique dealer, NBN6 Chair



George Lorson, SWPC Real Estate
Development Coordinator



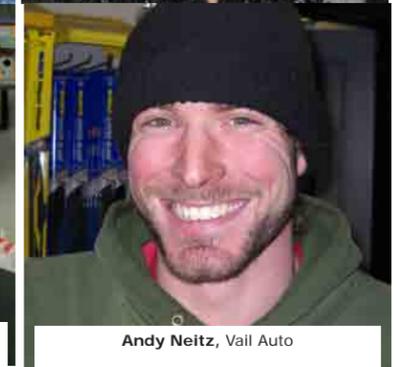
Jeannine Ottman, Eco Bella Bakery baker
and animal rights activist



Nancy Sawyer-Molina, owner The Coffee
Connection



Dan Vail, owner Vail Auto



Andy Neitz, Vail Auto



David Freedman, owner Little Venice
Pizza



Chris Troidl, kitchen manager, Little
Venice Pizza



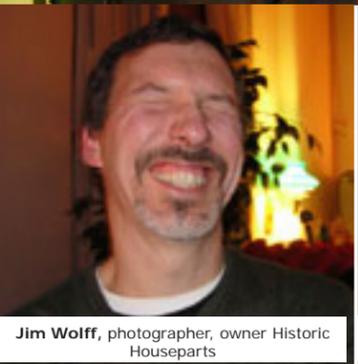
Tim Lockwood, delivery manager, Little
Venice Pizza



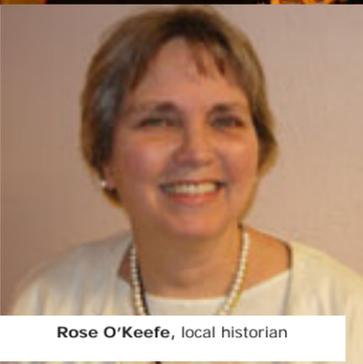
Colin Coffey, massage therapist,
Renewing Massage



Lyn Ottman, owner Eco Bella Bakery



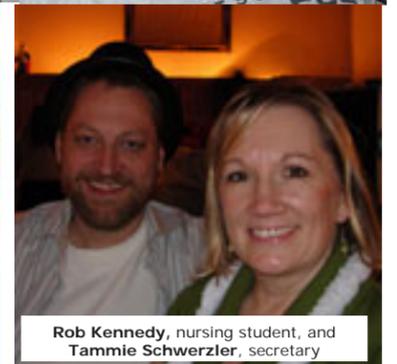
Jim Wolff, photographer, owner Historic
Houseparts



Rose O'Keefe, local historian



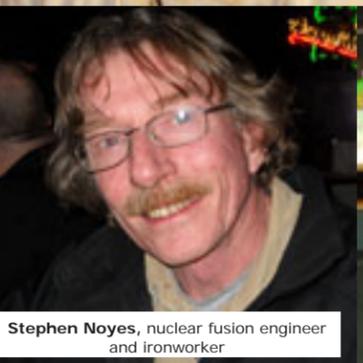
(l-r) **Joey Campbell**, Wegman's barrista, **David Chappius**, neighborhood leader and
office manager at Crosby-Brownlie, inc., **Matt Walton**, Verizon rep, **Matt Buckman**, RIT
grad student, **Matt Perdue**, Wegman Corporate IT



Rob Kennedy, nursing student, and
Tammie Schwerzler, secretary



Christopher Hennelly & Michael Lill,
The Christopher Group



Stephen Noyes, nuclear fusion engineer
and ironworker



Dan Caverly, pub owner



Asa Merkley, assistant manager at
Catholic Charities aka Asa Clubs in the Roc
City Roller Derby



Chris Wagner, S.S.J., executive director,
St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center



Mahogany Williams, hairstylist Tonja's
Personal Touch



John White,
owner Equal=Grounds



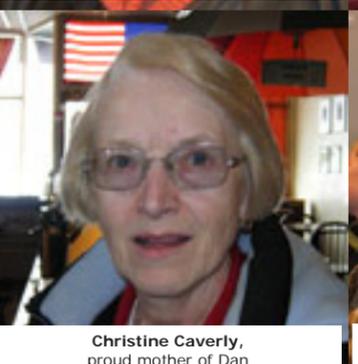
Robin Holley, Health and Safety
Coordinator



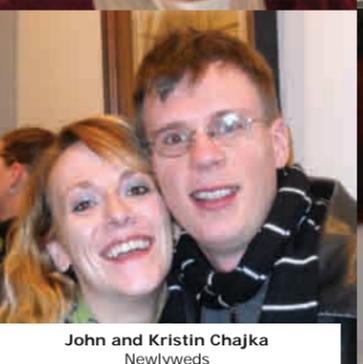
Ronnie Glover, manager of Glover's
Barber Shop



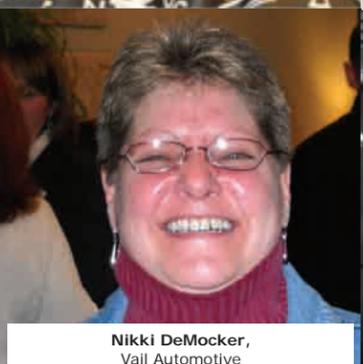
Paige Hohenbeck,
Mise En Place



Christine Caverly,
proud mother of Dan



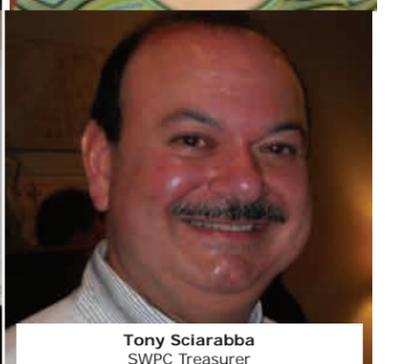
John and Kristin Chajka
Newlyweds



Nikki DeMocker,
Vail Automotive



Tanya Zwahlen, SWPC Board Chair and
South Wedge Resident



Tony Sciarabba
SWPC Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

continued from page 2

the suburban plazas go to great lengths to make sure their parking lots are mostly free and clear of ice and snow, that the sidewalks are walkable in front of their vast plaza storefronts, all to attract customers by conveying ease.

Yet, those of us who are making a residential life in Rochester are rewarded with antagonism at almost every level of our city government if we want our sidewalks kept clear, let alone have bike lanes installed on our roadways.

But sadly as I look around my South Wedge, only a mere fraction of my enlightened and community-developing, peace flag toting neighbors have taken any time to shovel their sidewalks or invest in ten dollars worth of ice melt and then apply it. Many of these neighbors are businesses; who then, one would presume, hope that I will buy at their establishment.

The message I'm getting is clear: buy a car, drive it everywhere or simply shut up. It's sent by my local government, by my neighbors and local businesses. Sad but true. (Originally posted to *City Paper* blog).

--Shawn Wallace
South Wedge ♦

The Lab Bike & Board Shop Opens for Business on South Ave.

By Nancy O'Donnell

Trevor Sleeman's commitment to his one-of-kind bike and skateboard shop is visible, floor to ceiling, inside the South Avenue shop.

The 31-year-old South Wedge resident built the diamond plate counter with its angle iron "coping" like the kind skateboarders "grind on." On the walls are his hand made handlebars, axles, brackets, wall rims (single, double and welded), all the parts that Sleeman will assemble into a bike in his backroom. If all the parts are in, he can put together a bike in one day.

"Most of my business is special order," said Sleeman. "Customers come in and say, 'I want this or that, but in a different color.'"

Sleeman's passion for BMX bikes and skateboards started early. "At 13, I started getting bikes and fixing them and then trading them. As I got into BMX bikes, I built jumps of dirt and quarter pipes ramps."

Despite the occasional injuries—losing a tooth and breaking a thumb—Sleeman followed his passion without swerving.

"I've done every job out there," said Sleeman, "What I like to do, I like to learn new." While working as a mechanic, Sleeman was invited to open a shop in the former X-Dream Skate Park in East Rochester. When that closed, he looked to open another shop close to where he lived.

In his new shop, Sleeman stocks bikes and boards for beginners to more seasoned riders, the ones "more serious" who want equipment that will hold up to "abuse."

Through study and lots and lots of riding, he's made himself an expert on all the varieties of wheels for bikes and board. He'll point a customer to "the more aggressive tread" on one, or the exact skateboard for an indoor skate park or the city street.

"Weight is a big issue in BMX bikes. I've lightened it by using titanium spokes," he explained.

"I'm here for my customers. I work for my customers," said Sleeman, who will do unto others only what he does for himself. "I'm technical and me-

chanical, so I know how."

To stay cutting edge, Sleeman follows all the trends. "College kids are all riding fixed gear bikes" and more kids are getting interested in "brakeless bikes," which he'll sell "if the person knows how to ride one, if you know how to stop yourself by shifting your weight."

Along with the metal parts he's fabricated, he also carries brand names like Verde. Bikes range from \$300 to \$2,000. Skateboard prices vary between \$30 - \$160. The shop also carries skateboard videos filled with "180 Bunny Hops and Bar Spins" performed by national names in the sport and clothing by Hell on Earth, a Rochester-

based company.

Sleeman was happy to open a business near the home he shares with his new wife, Mary J Congilaro, herself the owner of Congilaro Housekeeping Services.

"It's a very nice, upcoming area," said Sleeman. "I get coffee at Equal=Grounds. Lots of people ride downtown. I'm near the Genesee River trail."

Sleeman's said he's thinking of ways to take what he does with BMX and mountain bikes and do the same for road bikes. Stop in and ask him what that is.

The Lab Bike & Board Shop, 697 South Avenue, 244-4343. ♦



Trevor Sleeman, The Lab Bike and Board Shop (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

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South Wedge Social Register

By Nancy O'Donnell



Kristin Ault and John Chajka (Photo by Frank Ault)

AULT and CHAJKA

Kristin Ault and John Chajka were married on September 23, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. under the Highland Park Arches in the company of 80 friends and family. The couple was married by Frank DeBlase ("He is the music reviewer for City Newspaper, DJ on Sunday night Shakedown on 98.9 and musician in many bands, most notably "Frantic Frank & the Flattops," reports Ault).

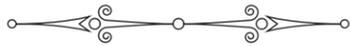
After the wedding ceremony, the couple rode their tandem bicycle to the German House for a family reception followed by a "wedding bash."

"The bash included four bands (*The Grinders*, John's Band, *The Dudes of Earl*, *The Wray Guns* and *Milky Way Smith*)," said Kristin Chajka. "We got our cake from Cheesy Eddies (Thanks, Colleen and staff!) and the German House did an excellent job with food!"

Mother of the bride Laurie Coleman served as the matron of honor while groom's brother, Kevin Chajka was the best man. Kaya Ault-Chajka, the couple's canine companion, was "the flower girl."

Mr. Chajka wore a simple dark suit while Kristin wore a vintage 1950's dress and bandeau that she "won on ebay!"

The couple will reside in the South Wedge where Mrs. Chajka is founder of the South Wedge Dog Walkers Against Crime.



Welcome to the Wedge – Macy Grace Holenbeck



Macy Grace and Paige Holenbeck (Photo by Casey Holenbeck)

Macy Grace Holenbeck was born December 14, 2009 at 9:34 p.m. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 7oz. and measured 20 inches long. Parents Paige and Casey and brother Reese welcomed her to the family. Stop in Mise En Place and offer the family congratulations. ♦

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MJM Mini Market Celebrates First Year on South Ave.

By Nancy O'Donnell

Lakew Delnesaw, owner of MJM Market on South Avenue, recently celebrated his first year anniversary on South Avenue. He opened his first convenience store on East Main Street. After eight years, he followed his brother Takela to the South Wedge. Takela was then owner of Dashen Restaurant on the corner of South Avenue and Alexander. (Today the site is home to South Wedge Colony Bar &

Grille.) "The Wedge is nice, quiet, and clean," said Delnesaw. "I like it here."

Delnesaw emigrated from war torn Gonder, Ethiopia when he was 26. He married a woman he met here, who he learned had been living only a few streets away from his family in his native country. The couple now have three children: sons Moses and Joseph and daughter Mahlet.

"I used their first initials to name my store," said Delnesaw.

Along with groceries, MJM sells hefty submarine sandwiches and steak subs made by Delnesaw's "friend Emilio Rivera."

What MJM doesn't sell is beer. "It's just too much of a headache [to sell alcoholic beverages]," said Delnesaw.

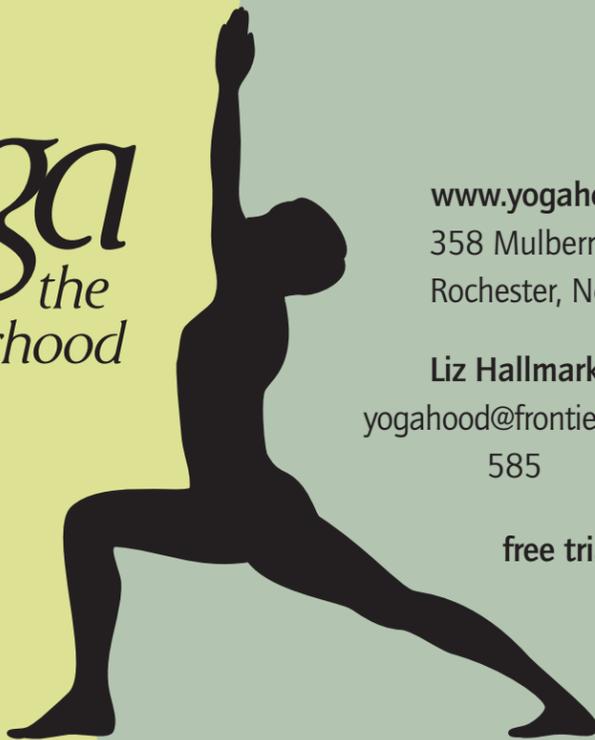
When the Webster resident is not at the store, he likes to take his three children bowling.

MJM Mini Market, 439 South Avenue, 288-7360. Hours 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Monday-Sunday. ♦



Lakew Delnesaw (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

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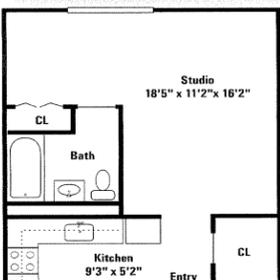
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South Wedge Skater Rocks in Roc City Roller Derby

By Nancy O'Donnell

The names say it all. Roxy D. Sniper. Cuss Muffin. Bomb Voyage. Paraliza Minnelli, Jo Jo Thrasher. Asa Clubs.

Meet the Roc City Roller Derby, a team of the toughest, roughest female skaters around. And the most philanthropic.

"We wanted to derby for a cause," said Asa Clubs *aka* Asa Merkley who lives on Gregory St.

Some of the causes they've supported include Golisano Children's Hospital, Sojourner House, the Heart Association, AIDS Rochester, Children Awaiting Parents and a few no-kill animal shelters. Skaters also volunteer for "Sample Soap," a nonprofit who sorts and delivers toiletries to homeless shelters and other people in need.

By day Merkley works as an assistant manager in the Catholic Charities Community Support Program for the developmentally disabled. At night, and on weekends, she takes to the rink to whirl and jam her way to be leader of the pack. She's joined on the rink with other women whose other lives include graphic design, graduate school or psychological counseling.

Why roller derby? As their website says, "Because tough girls run in tight circles."

"My friend Kate Atronic *aka* Resident Eva kept saying,

'you should skate, you should skate,'" says Merkley. Finally, she turned up at Horizon Fun FX in Greece. Excited by the look of the totally American contact sport, she signed on despite the fact that she got to see a skater suffer three fractures at the event.

"I watched her go down," said Merkley. "I saw [skating] was full contact. There's a lot of bashing."

Roller derby has a long history in the U.S. It began in 1922 as more endurance race, multi-day, flat-track roller skating races, similar to the Depression era cash prize dance-a-thons where people danced until they collapsed. Later sportswriter Damon Runyon convinced its founder/promoter Leo Seltzer that American audiences liked their sports violent and a more aggressive game was born. By the 1970s, the sport had died out for the most part until a Texas musician, in 2000, recruited women to skate in "a raucous, rockabilly, circus-like roller derby spectacle." From this women banded together in "Bad Girl Good Woman Productions" and created a new generation of roller derby, open to women only." By 2006, the female roller derby revival spawned more than 135 leagues in the U.S. (It's also the largest growing grassroots sport in the Great Britain. A British article attributed its growth to a "punk third-wave

feminist aesthetic."

Locally, Kate Atronic started Roc City Derby league in 2008, which follows the guidelines set by the Women's Flat Track Derby Association. Two years later, the team roster has 60 names of women. Each team is composed of 20, but "only the cream of the crop" travels says Merkley.

The aim of the game is to earn points by overtaking opponents as they circle an oval rink the size of tennis court.

During two 30-minute periods, "jammers" and "sheriffs" work to keep opponents off balance and behind while referees outside and inside the rink count the laps.

"It's fun to be physical," says Merkley, who discovered that her height and weight worked to her advantage as a jammer. "I love blocking I'm smaller and faster. I have good balance, and I can take a big hit."

"To be strong, to outsmart an opponent. There's nothing more satisfying than to duck, or do a hockey stop, and watch a girl, who thinks she's all that, go off the rink."

Despite time away from her partner Andy Neitz and their two sons 6-year-old Dagan, and 4-year-old Cyrus, Merkley is ready to roll whenever she's called. In anticipation of a game, Merkley lifts weight and sometimes shares a "carb bloating

dinner" with her teammates.

While Merkley and the rest of her sister skaters are *uber* competitive, they're all smiles after, no matter how violent the game.

"We all play like animals. We're out for blood, but we're here to support other strong women. Whatever happens on the track, stays on the track," Merkley adds. "We all party to-

gether after. This holds even for "dirty skaters who break rules."

Try-outs for the Roc City Roller Derby will be held in February. For more information about joining the team, visit roccityrollerderby.com. At-home games will begin in April at the Dome Arena in Henrietta. Tickets are \$10, \$15 for "suicide seats," i.e. rink side seats where close encounters with hurling skaters are possible. ♦



Roc Roller Derby Skaters and Asa Merkley and sons (fifth from the left)

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Dicky's is Back in Town

By Nancy O'Donnell

Dicky's Bar, a neighborhood watering ground since 1880, is reopened for business under the new management of Scott Napier, Philip Wehrheim and Daniel Rosato.

Aside from being a former patron of Dicky's, Napier adds the bar/restaurant to a list of businesses he owns around town including SkyHigh snowboard and smoke shop on Monroe Avenue. He also DJ'ed for a number of years in area clubs. Once a Cayuga Street homeowner, he and his wife and two kids now live in Irondequoit.

In the kitchen is oldtimer Kevin Lawson, who worked there when Michael and Judy Salvaggio ran the restaurant.

The current menu includes cheese, chicken or portabella quesadillas, pizza bread, Buffalo or teriyaki wings, hamburgers, chicken fingers and beef or chicken sliders. Chili and onion soup is also available.

The 1800's bar remains the same with the strange trough at the base of the original long wooden bar that can be flushed with running water. Some believe it was used as a urinal for

men not willing to lose their place at the bar. Others say visitors spat their chewing tobacco in the well. Since women were not allowed in bars at the time, both scenarios might be true.

As for remodeling, Napier added tongue and groove wood on the walls in the dining room.

Michael Salvaggio, who leases the building to the three men, believes that Dicky's might be the oldest bar in Rochester. His grandparents Michael and Frances bought the bar in 1922 and ran it until 1949 when his father Richard and mother Mary took it over. In 1985, he and his wife Judith took over ownership. Later, their son Richard ran Dicky's for several years before it was briefly leased to Dave Alfieri, who opened the Black Pearl Café.

Over the years, Salvaggio has gathered some history. "I think [the building] was owned by someone named Ryan in 1871," said Salvaggio. "It's been called the Nanny Goat Inn, Barney's and then Dicky's."

Napier plans to fill the dining room walls with old photos of any of Dicky's incarnation as

he finds them.

In the meantime, locals are happy to see Dicky's lights back on.

"We had a grand opening [in early January] and the place has been packed pretty much ever since," said Napier.

Dicky's, 791 Meigs Street, 730-8310. Monday-Saturday, 5 p.m. - 2 a.m., Sunday 1 p.m. - 2 a.m. (if the place is packed). The kitchen is open until closing. Bar food is available 12 p.m. - 2 a.m. ♦



The new Dicky's Dining Room (Photo by Scott Napier)



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Thoughts on Surviving the Recession

By Ben White

If you were born in the 1980s, you were born into an economic climate that seems much different than today's. Reaganomics, cheap oil and Wall Street's "corporate raiders" characterize our decade of birth, but despite Ronald Reagan's legacy among some circles as a financial visionary, the decade over which he presided as president mirrors the 2000's more than many of us may realize. Because few of us were old enough to pay much attention to the national economy at the time, we probably were not aware of how the recession in the early half of the decade or the stock market plummet of Black Monday in 1987 affected our lives. Almost 30 years after Reagan became president, 20 somethings are now experiencing firsthand the effects of the current recession.

So how are we handling it? Not many of us can sit around watching *Thundercats*, relying on our parents to make all our financial decisions anymore, as much as we might hope for that.

While few of us have the benefit of parents that are able and willing to carry us completely through this, many are meeting their parents halfway. More and more children of the 80s, especially recent college graduates, are moving back in

with mom and dad. This isn't just true of 20 somethings either. Many 30 and 40-year-olds, suddenly out of work, are finding themselves in the same position. By working out deals to split the cost of food, pay rent, take on household chores or any combination of the three, both parties are able to cohabitate without either side feeling like it's being taken advantage of.

Living with one or more roommates is another way for young people to save money. Splitting the rent, bills and cost of groceries alleviates the strain of managing all three on one's own. In addition to saving money, living and going out with friends keeps spirits high, despite our financial situations.

For young people with children, the current economic climate is certainly more trying than it was five years ago, but Patty Nelson, 25, of Rochester doesn't think the economy has made it any more difficult than normal to raise a child.

"I don't think raising a child now is really any harder cost-wise than it was a year or two ago when the economy was okay. You always have to make sacrifices no matter what the economy is doing. As a mother, I will go without to make sure my son has what he needs."

She had some more tips for

people struggling to save money.

"To help with saving some money around the house [my husband and I] have stopped shopping at higher priced grocery stores and started to shop at the cheaper ones. We tend to buy more on sale, generic brands, and buy just the basics. We don't go out to eat any more and we try not to do any more driving than we have to."

These are strategies most everyone has undertaken. By limiting oneself to the necessities, as well as reducing credit card spending and cutting out frivolous purchases, young people are finding the recession to be less difficult to handle than many media outlets are reporting. Simply go to Lux or Cavalry's on a Saturday night and you'll see plenty of young people that are still managing to have fun despite the economic turmoil.

Although finances might be strained for many, 20 somethings are learning that careful financial planning and frugal spending can go a long way. Many of our parents endured similar straits in the 1980s and lived to tell about it. Hopefully in few years down the road, we'll have similar stories to tell, as well as advice on how to be responsible consumers in both good and bad economic times.

Simon School Grad Students Play Santa

Over 100 people at University of Rochester Simon School of Business raised funds, bought and wrapped gifts valued at \$75 and delivered them to the South Wedge Planning Office this holiday season. Yvonne Williams and Tim Taggart helped to deliver the gift to 29 children at the Hamilton or throughout the neighborhood.

Simon Volunteers, a club at the school, "aims to enhance the lives of community members through building character in its members" noting "there

is more to business than simply profitability...we understand that we can make a difference in the lives of others through social responsibility and involvement in the community."

Along with The Secret Santa Program, the group also volunteers for Rochester City School Literacy and Math Program, Rochester Children's Scholarship Fund Mentoring Program, Earth Week Clean-up, Breast Cancer Walk, Polar Plunge, Habitat for Humanity, and Food and Clothing Drives. ♦



Simon School grad students Joe Pak and Sean Senhouse (Photo by Eilleen Thomas)



Yvonne Williams and Tim Taggart act as Santa's Helpers Delivering Toys (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)



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