

The WEDGE

Official Newspaper of the South Wedge Since 1982

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Mt. Hope Proposed Site Swift Waters Beer Co.

by Nancy O'Donnell

Andrew Cook's ambitious plan to open Swift Water Brewing Company, a microbrewery at 378 Mt. Hope Avenue, doesn't just involve making "unique, interesting and amazing craft beer" but "promoting social and cultural formation and exchange through beer." By that Cook imagines the kind of convivial chats around beer found in Irish pubs or Munich beer gardens, not American bars where blasting music drowns conversations.

"I love serving beer and having amazing conversations about beer that then can turn into totally unrelated and completely interesting conversations about anything," said Cook.

Joining the project as a behind the scene partner is Cook's father, Bill, owner and operator of Aurora Ridge Dairy, LLC, and founding member of Cayuga Marketing, a farm cooperative in the area.

Swift Water will include a small craft brewery, a taproom where customers can see the process of production and a beer pub with "limited hours" where visitors can enjoy pints or order growlers to go. Exterior plans for the site include painting, new signs and land-

scaping, improving the parking lot and adding screens along the property line nearest residences.

Cook is also committed to reducing the amount of waste the brewery produces. He plans to sell malt remnants to local farms that can be used as a "rich grain for livestock," while the hops and other materials will be composted off site.

Cook, an Ithaca, NY native, comes to beer brewing after earning two degrees in American history--his M.A. thesis focused on racial violence in the 1950s--and many years of home brewing. Since college he's travelled around the world along with running a "well-kept secret" in the area, Whitewater Park Lock 32 in Pittsford, NY. For several years he helped his father rehab century old farmhouses around Aurora, NY. Cook currently works as an adjunct instructor teaching kayaking in the MCC Physical Ed Department. He lives with his wife Eileen Coughlin and their two cats, Abigail and John Quincy,

continued on pg. 3



Highland Park Lilac Festival May 10-19

Highland Park Neighbor Association Art & History Coordinator Michael Tomb's photograph captures all the beauty that makes our annual Lilac Festival so captivating.



WALL\THERAPY 2012

SWPC Considers Adding Some Wall Therapy

by Nancy O'Donnell

The South Wedge will soon be splashed with color as Dr. Ian Wilson brings WALL\THERAPY to area buildings near you.

The project has been described as a "community level intervention using mural art as a vehicle to address our collective need for inspiration."

The South Wedge Planning Committee's brick wall that abuts Hamilton Street is a tempting canvas to the radiologist who recently met with the SWPC Community Engagement Committee to discuss the project. "As your organization and BASWA (Business Association of the South Wedge Area)

are among the most important stakeholders in the South Wedge, we look forward to working with you both to re-image the Image City."

"The artist that I have in mind [to paint the SWPC southern wall] goes by the name of

continued on pg. 12

*"Color creates energy.
Energy creates
inspiration.
Inspiration creates
change."*

*--Freddy Sam
South African street artist*

NeighborGood Grants

by Eileen Thomas

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) has received \$9,600 in NeighborGood grants from the Rochester Area Community Foundation for SWPC community engagement projects and as the fiduciary for several South Wedge block

clubs. NeighborGood grants are two-year awards designed to help community-based groups in the City of Rochester involve residents and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

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SWPC's "Home Shop" Opens for Members Shopping Day in April

The South Wedge Planning Committee's (SWPC) continues its partnership with Bed, Bath & Beyond (BB&B) in Victor, NY, through the Good360 organization, which connects nonprofits with major retailers.

This partnership has helped to stock SWPC's "Home Shop" for the past year. The shop has been a big success as SWPC clients and members browse the shelves for great items while knowing they're helping to support SWPC'S programs and projects. Each event also features a "free box," with odds-and-ends that shoppers can select in addition to their chosen item.

Once each month, SWPC staff picks up items from BB&B that have been discontinued, taken off display or returned. Overstock items, seasonal and

minor "scratch & dent" may also be part of their donation.

"Much of what we get is 'soft goods,'" said Eileen Thomas, SWPC assistant director. "We've gotten great sets of towels, shower curtains, bedding in several sizes and lots of different curtains."

SWPC Friend, Supporter and Sponsor-level members will be able to "shop" at the Home Shop up to four times each year, depending on their membership level. Make sure to bring your SWPC membership card with you in order to shop.

**SWPC Home Shop
April 20, 2013
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Roc City Urban Skate Park story on page 8



Roc City Urban Skate Park Supporters (Photo by Heather McKay)

**Get Your
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Order form on page 2.

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Subscribe to The Wedge!

For over 35 years, *The Wedge Newspaper* has chronicled the lives and times of our vibrant South Wedge neighborhood—its people, businesses and events.

If you enjoy reading

the *Wedge*, please consider subscribing by sending a check or money order. Or consider making a donation in the name of someone who helped the South Wedge become what it is today.

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Please mail this form along with your donation to:
224 Mount Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620.



Victory Garden on Hamilton Street (Photo by Heather Penrose)

By Heather Penrose and James Papapanu

South Wedge Victory Garden Celebrates 5th Anniversary

Happy 5th Anniversary to the South Wedge Victory Garden at 122 Hamilton Street! We are celebrating by building a second garden on 162 Cypress Street. Construction for this garden is slated to begin on April 13, 2013.

A major portion of the construction will be done by the Tay House Eagle Scouts (Troop #19), led by SWPC Board Member Jason Curtis and the SWPC Victory Garden Committee. This will allow South Wedge

neighbors access to two dozen or more 4'x8' raised beds to grow healthy food, not to mention this makes another cool space to meet and connect with one another.

Please visit www.swpc.org for dates and times if you would like to attend a Victory Garden Committee meeting. Like us on Facebook: "South Wedge Victory Garden".

Happy gardening!

The South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc. April/May 2013 Calendar

Meetings are held at 224 Mt. Hope Ave.
The community is invited to attend all meetings.

SWPC Board Meeting

MMcCullough@dor.org
Tues., 4/16, 5/21, 6 p.m.

**Community Engagement
(Neighbors & Block Clubs)**
amaroselli@swpc.org
Wed. 4/17 & 5/15, 6:30 p.m.

Housing & Structures
tomkiciorjr@gmail.com
Wed., 4/3 & 5/1 5:30 p.m.
E-mail to confirm.

Finance Team
jason.curtis@edwardjones.com
tsciarabba@hotmail.com
Tues. 4/9 & 5/14, 12:30 p.m.

SW Victory Garden
james.papapanu@gmail.com
hapenrose@hotmail.com
E-mail for dates and times.

Attention Neighbors!

Join SWPC for a Community
Discussion on Crime & Crime
Prevention in the South Wedge.
Call SWPC at 256.1740, ext. 103
or e-mail jpage@swpc.org.

Annual "Pick Up the Parks" - April 13

The Monroe County Parks is holding its 4th annual "Pick Up the Parks" on Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. - noon.

Please consider pitching in and help us clean up the parks from the winter accumulation of trash and debris, reduce litter entering our waterways and help get the parks looking great for spring and summer. Afterwards enjoy a Thank You Pic-



nic at Highland Bowl from noon until 2 p.m. Free food for any volunteers that worked at any of the Monroe County Parks.

Visit "Pick Up the Parks" on Facebook. Encourage all your friends to "like" the page. The event will also be publicized on [Twitter@21MCParks](https://twitter.com/21MCParks).

Ways to Help Your Community

Love your neighborhood? Love your library? Make it your cause!

Highland Branch Library is recruiting people for a Friends Group. We meet once a month at a local cafe or restaurant for about an hour to brainstorm ways that the library can be an integral part of our community. For more information, call 428-8206 or just stop by.

More Library News!

A guest lecturer will give an overview of the history of the fascinating Mt. Hope Cemetery on Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m. at the library.

Story Time for Kids

Story times for 3-5 year olds
Thurs. mornings. Call to register.

St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center Wish List

All kinds of volunteer opportunities are available. Donate online at sjncenter.org. Items always welcome include: personal hygiene products (sample sizes), kitchen supplies, office supplies and equipment and cleaning supplies. For more information, call 325-5260.

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Scoop on Dog Poop

In spring melting snow can reveal huge unsightly mounds of doggie doo. Uncaring pet owners add to the mess by not cleaning up after their dogs while walking or let their fenced yards fill with dog waste. Here's the facts from City of Rochester's pamphlet: "Your Dog, Your Neighborhood. Your Responsibility."

- One gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. Dog waste can spread giardia and salmonella as well.

- Most dog foods today are composed of beef, chicken and/or pork products. This creates a high acidic waste product that is bad for grass

and water.

- One pile of pet waste can take a year or more to break-down.

- Parasites from dog waste can be passed on to children and other dogs. Some ailments that can affect humans are: parvo virus, trichinosis, hookworms, roundworms and coccidia.

- Dog poop is toxic to grass. It is not fertilizer.

- The EPA classifies pet waste as a dangerous pollutant.

- When it rains, dog poop can become part of our water supply.

So be a Doggie Doo Gooder! When walking your dog, scoop up the poop!

Interested in organizing a South Wedge House Tour?
Help in the planning or open your home?

Please call 978.9638 or
e-mail nynancyo@frontiernet.net.

SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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The *Wedge* Newspaper, a not-for-profit newspaper, is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee, a community development organization serving the South Wedge. Its mission is to provide accurate coverage of neighborhood news as well as local, state and national news that affect the area.

The *Wedge* is printed bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October and December) and maintains a circulation of 6500. The newspaper is distributed to area businesses, retail shops and other drop off points in the Greater Rochester area.

Articles in this paper do not necessarily reflect the view and/or opinions of the South Wedge Planning Committee.

Please send story suggestions or news to *Wedge* Newspaper Editor Nancy O'Donnell, 224 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620 or e-mail nodonnell@swpc.org.

Advertising deadlines and rates are available online at www.swpc.org or call Nancy O'Donnell at 978-9638.

Before recycling the *Wedge*, please share with a friend, neighbor 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, commercially sustainable urban village.

**Ad Deadline
for Next Issue
May 13**
Call 256-1740, ext. 105
or 978-9638
for rates.

by Nancy O'Donnell



Priscilla Alabi

South Wedge Resident Promotes Citizen U

South Wedge resident Priscilla Alabi announces a new year for Citizen U, an after school civic engagement, job readiness and college readiness program for youth ages 14 to 18.

Alabi, an AmeriCorps Vista RYY Fellow, serves as the Southeast Area Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) Youth Engagement Coordinator.

"I was born in Nigeria, West Africa where I lived until the age of 11," said Alabi. "My mother and I got the opportunity to immigrate to the U.S., and we moved to Brooklyn, where my mother still lives."

Alabi moved to Rochester at 18 to attend the University of Rochester where she got a degree in political science with minors international relations and English theatre.

"While at U of R, I explored the city and grew to love it, which is why I decided to stick around for at least one more year to serve the City as a Rochester Youth Year Fellow through AmeriCorps Vista. I'm looking forward to another year of bigger and better," Alabi said.

Citizen U targets youth who live in Focused Investment Strategy (FIS) areas of the Southwest's Jefferson Ave. area and the Southeast's Beechwood area, but the program is based in the NSC on South Clinton Ave.

"During the school year, Citizen U teen leaders make a difference in their communities through planning and implementing community improvement projects," said Alabi. "In doing so, they gain skills that help them make positive changes in their own lives."

Over the summer months, the teens participate in community uplifts, complete service learning projects and work in sites that explore their career interests. To learn more, call 428-6518.

NeighborGood Grants

continued from pg. 1

In addition to a \$2,000 grant to fund some of the Community Engagement Committee's program for 2013 and 2014, a number of block clubs--Averill/Ashland, Gregory Street, Menlo Place and Sanford Street--received \$650 each to cover their specific activities over the next two years. In addition, The Hamilton Tenants Association receives \$1,000.

SWPC'S South Wedge Victory Garden was awarded \$2,000 for its soon-to-open community gardens on Hamilton

SWPC Holds Community-wide Event

SWPC's Community Engagement Committee launches its first ever South Wedge community-wide event on Wed., April 17 from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at Calvary St. Andrews Church at Averill Avenue and Ashland Street. These quarterly events feature different topics that creates an opportunity to meet your neighbors, while learning more about the South Wedge. The first event focuses on crime prevention initiatives and tactics.

For more information, e-mail SWPC (information@swpc.org) or give us a call at 256-1740.

City of Rochester SE Clean Sweep on May 4

Each year more than 25,000 volunteers show their pride in Rochester by working alongside City crews to clean and beautify just about every street in the city. In addition to removing litter and debris, volunteers plant flowers, prune trees and perform other neighborhood beautification projects. This year the Southeast Clean Sweep will meet on May 4 at Cobbs Hill Park at Culver and Norris Roads. Teams will go out throughout the Southeast and return to the park for lunch. For more information, call the Southeast Neighborhood Center at 428-7640.

Let's DePave!

The City of Rochester has posted a website to teach you all you need to know about how to depave, "The Guide to Freeing Your Soil: Parking Lots to Paradise Production." Get your copy at www.depave.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/06/How-To-Depave1.pdf.

Mayor Tom Richards meets with Citizen U mentors & members (in photo below)



and Cypress Streets. The South Wedge Farmers Market also received \$2,000.

"SWPC thanks the Foundation for funding what is often not supported or underfunded," said John Page, SWPC executive director. "SWPC acts as an umbrella for neighborhood groups who want to strengthen the neighborhood and keep the South Wedge on its upward trend."

The Community Foundation is a permanent community endowment that assists individ-

Flower City Challenge & Fleet Feet Contest

On Sat. April 27, Fleet Feet hosts the Spirit Contest again where neighborhoods along the course of the Rochester River Challenge Duathlon & Paddle Triathlon can earn money for a neighborhood beautification project. Last year the Highland Neighborhood won \$750 that was used to paint the Linden/Meigs Street road mural near the Ellwanger Barry children's playground. Highland Park is Zone 5 (Mile 7 from S. Goodman @ Crawford to the tip top of the hill at Pinetum before they turn down Doctors Rd. between approximately 8 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.). For more info, visit website www.flowercitychallenge.com.

Rochester Rotary Wants You and You!

The Rotary Club visited a recent NBN6 meeting and invited the community to form a new chapter of the club. Rotarians focus on international peace and understanding, services for developmentally disabled kids, exchange programs, community service initiatives and leadership opportunities for young people.

Contact Glenn M. Balch, Jr. glenn@synergisticstraining.com/330-5576 or John Best at 671-4757 e-mail: jackbest@rochester.rr.com.

Calvary St. Andrews Partners with BASWA

Calvary St. Andrews has partnered with the Business Association of the South Wedge Area's (BASWA) retail Swedge Shop at 732 South Avenue.

Drop off cans of soup, tuna fish, bags of rice, toilet paper, shampoo or toothpaste and you can enter to win a monthly Swedge Shop drawing for a gift bag.

Drop off hours are Thursday and Friday, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information, e-mail Robert Lauterbach rblauterbach@gmail.com.

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South Church Holds First Fri. Game Nights

South Presbyterian Church, 4 Henrietta Rd., holds a Game Night every first Friday of every month in Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite board, card or word games for good conversations and fun. Adults only. 6-8 p.m. (High School students welcome).

Crisis Nursery of Greater Rochester Wish List

The Nursery is the only 24-hour/365 days a year provider of emergency childcare in the City for families in crisis. Volunteers are needed for day and evening and weekend shifts. The Nursery also needs food items. To help, call 473-2464.

Swift Water Brewing Company

continued from pg. 1

in the Highland Park neighborhood.

Over the last few months, Cook presented his business plan to City of Rochester staff and took it to Neighbors Building Neighborhoods (NBN6) meetings.

At the time of publication, Cook was waiting for an April 22 public hearing with the City's Zoning & Planning Office, which will consider rezoning Mount Hope Avenue, from Hickory Street to Lin's Garden on Gregory St. from

R-2 (residential) to C-1, (a very restrictive commercial zone also known as the "Neighborhood Center District" that allows for commercial uses until 11 p.m.

While he's waiting for the City meeting, Cook's gone house to house on Hickory and Gregory Street to talk about his Swift Water Brewing Company.

"There's a lot of support," said Cook. "Most people are 'where do I sign?' Roughly 90-95% [of the people reached] are supportive. Two people were against or not sure."

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Weekend Masses

5:00 P.M. Saturday

9:00 A.M. Sunday





Crime Prevention Bulletin "Apple-picking" is a Crime

by Officer Brian Bannerman & Michelle Velez

The Rochester Police Department recently announced an increase in street robberies in the City's South East neighborhoods. Many of these criminals have targeted personal electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, and iPads.

You may have heard these incidents referred to as "apple picking." Make no mistake--these crimes are robbery, a serious felony offense. Many of these crimes involve violence or the threat of violence.

The RPD would like to offer the following tips to help you avoid becoming that victim.

1) Never keep or carry ex-

cess cash or property on your person if you don't need it. Conceal any personal electronic devices, and leave unneeded valuables at home if you are going out for any reason.

2) Consider installing theft tracking applications on your personal electronic devices. Many of these apps are available for free on the internet.

3) Always stay alert to your surroundings! Whether you are walking down the street or engaged in any outdoor activity, you must be aware of persons and situations around you. Criminals are less likely to commit a crime when they believe

someone can identify them.

4) Report suspicious activity to the police immediately. If you observe something that seems like criminal activity, call 911. If you are mistaken in your assessment of the situation, no harm is done by the police looking into it. On the other hand if you are right, you just might prevent a crime or even help to apprehend a criminal!

5) Trust Your Instincts. Whether you are at work, at home or engaged in your favorite pastime, you will usually know what people and actions seem out of place for the situation. If it feels "wrong" to you, it probably is. Get away from any potential danger immediately and call 911.

6) If you do become the victim of a robbery, comply with the criminal's requests for money or property. Your belongings are not worth the risk of being injured. Don't make any sudden moves or do anything to agitate the robber. Try to get a good description of the criminals clothing and physical features. A good witness is our best hope for making an arrest.

Contact your Crime Prevention Officer for further information and a free security survey for your home or business. Call 428-7640.



Ellwanger Estate B&B's High Tea & Heirloom Lilacs by Rosemary Janofsky

This Lilac Festival Season, Ellwanger Estate B&B is celebrating with a special sale of Ellwanger Heirloom lilacs and a Downton Abbeysque Mother Day's Tea.

First a little history. The altruism of horticulturists George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry changed the face of Rochester. Their gift of 20 choice acres prodded the city to form the Parks Department in 1888. The 20 acres were the start of Highland Park, location of the world famous Lilac Festival each May. The two business partners also gave vast numbers of trees and donated two specimens of every variety of plant in their nursery to the Park. They planted many of the majestic trees that grace our city today.

Some people don't realize that The Ellwanger Estate Bed and Breakfast was once the private resident of George Ellwanger and features magnificent lilacs on its grounds

for our B&B guests' enjoyment. Now for the first time, The Ellwanger Lilac will be on sale for your garden (details are available online).

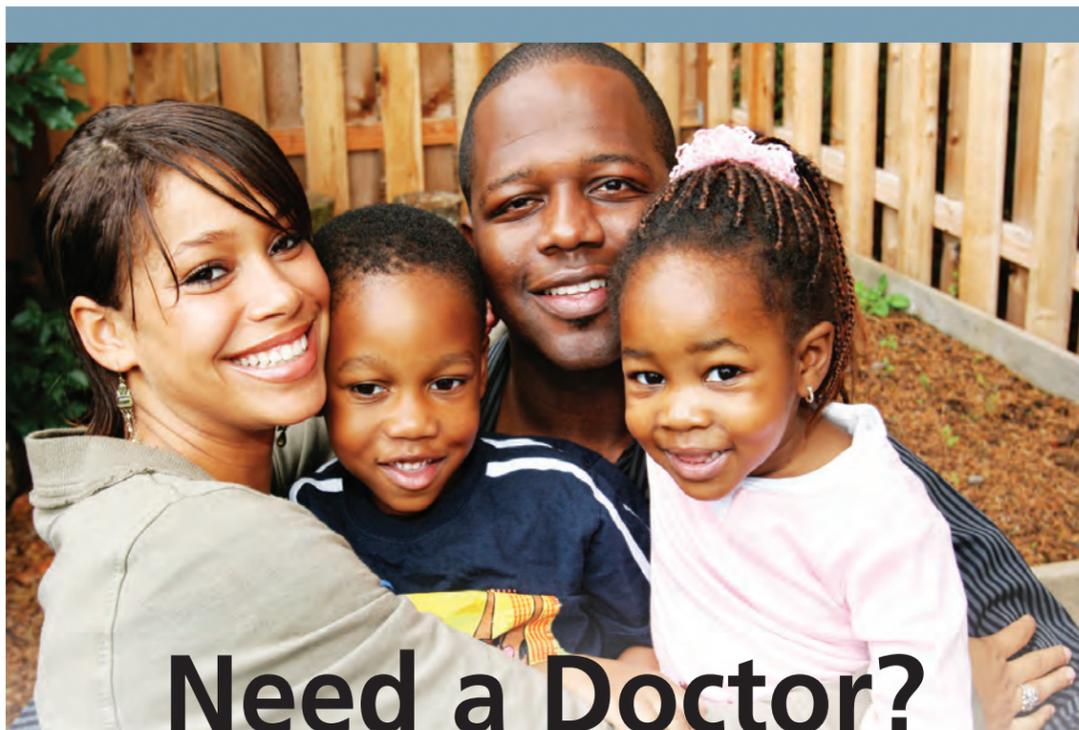
On Mother's Day, The Ellwanger Estate will use its official cookbook entitled: "The Pleasures of the Table: An Account of Gastronomy from Ancient Days to Present Times (1902) With a History of Its Literature, Schools, and Most Distinguished Artists; Together with Some Special Recipes, and Views Concerning the Aesthetics of Dinners and Dinner-Giving" by George H. Ellwanger to replace "The Unofficial Downton Abbey Cookbook."

And that is what this Mother's Day Tea is all about. So don your Downtonesque finery for an afternoon tea at the Ellwanger, Sunday, May 12, 2013 with 2 seatings, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Preference will be given to our B&B guests. \$25/per person.

The Ellwanger Estate is located in the heart of the Mount Hope Preservation District. It is within easy walking distance to Highland Park, the site of the world famous Lilac Festival and the renowned Victorian Mount Hope Cemetery. For more info: <http://www.libraryweb.org/rochimag/lilacs/home.htm>.

To learn more about purchasing Ellwanger lilacs, visit <http://ellwangerestate.com/blog>.

Rosemary Janofsky is innkeeper of the historic Ellwanger Estate Bed and Breakfast, Mt. Hope Avenue, 546-5103, www.EllwangerEstate.com.



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BOUTIQUE

by Nancy O'Donnell

Like Mother Like Son

Pamela Reese Smith dazzled partygoers (and *Wedge Newspaper* party crashers) at the Pathstone "Have a Heart Benefit Concert" on St. Valentine's Day in the German House.

Singing backup for the NYC born former Apollo Theater performer was son David Reese, named "employee of the month" in *Esquire Magazine's* October 2012 issue and Glover Barber Shop barber.

Reese Smith style has been compared to Ella Fitzgerald and Dakota Staton.

Her CD, "Pamela Reese Smith--Live at the Redstone Room--was recorded during a Jazz Performance in Davenport,



Pamela Reese Smith
(Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

Iowa in 2010.

When not singing, Smith Reese works as a community organizer for PathStone Corporation, advocating for "Asset Based Community Development."

Currently, she sings with *Odyssey*, a nine-piece band featuring saxophonist Lonnie Crittenden, based out of Buffalo, NY.

Other big plans on the horizon--Smith Reese singing with an all women big band, Ladies First.

"I'd like to do a concert outdoors at the Highland Bowl," said Smith Reese.



David Reese
(Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

When Irish Eyes Keep Smiling

By Kathleen Green



County Galway, Ireland 2013
(Photo by Kathy Green)

For many years, I heard stories about my Irish grandmother coming over to the United States as a young girl of 14 in search of a better life. And so, as a child, I too envisioned exciting adventures on the high seas voyage from the Emerald Isle to the new promised land of America.

When my own mother died at the age of 68, I realized that I had never really gotten any details of the family lineage. I only knew my mother was an only child and my father, who died at age 56, had only one distant sister who never had any children. So I grew up without aunts, uncles, grandparents or cousins. But, still it was a happy childhood.

I went to St. Cecilia's Catholic School which was as Irish as you could get in San Francisco at that time. I always felt a sense of belonging to that tight-knit community, playing and growing up with the McHughs, the Murphys and the Horans.

It wasn't until I retired and had time to spend researching that the real story unfolded.

Genealogy research can be very frustrating. I'd always been told my grandmother, Marion O'Malley Joyce, was born on St. Patrick's Day in County Galway. Armed with just a name, birth date and birthplace, I set out to piece the puzzle together.

I wasn't getting too far using Genealogy.com and Ancestry.com. It seemed that the surname Joyce in Ireland is like Smith or Jones in the USA. Where to begin?

I entered the details I had on one of the genealogical blogs and checked it frequently. After months, I finally got a suggestion from a reader to contact someone in Connecticut who might just have the same names in her family tree. I called Ellen Fox in Connecticut and said we may have some relatives in common. We compared names, dates, places and determined that, yes, we were related after all. At Ellen's invitation, I went to Connecticut. When she answered the door, we both almost fell over -- we looked so much alike it was uncanny. Even Ellen's husband was shocked. Walking into her living room, I realized that Ellen had the exact same Bokara carpet that I had in my living room. Obviously there was some genetic component to our tastes as well!

Over lunch, Ellen provided me with information that allowed me to 'grow the tree' and get in touch with my mother's first cousins in Clifden, Co. Galway. After several phone calls and new information about my grandmother, grand aunts and uncles, the relatives over there asked when I could come to meet them. Loving any excuse to travel, I arranged to go within two weeks. It was one of the most emotional adventures of my life. I met so many won-

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Open House



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urban + wellness + studios

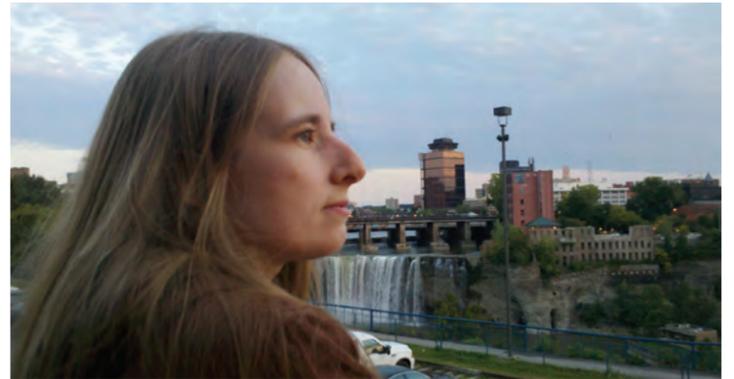
758 South Ave Rochester, NY 14620
585.770.8572 | rhythm-society.org

April 20

12 pm
to
3 pm

Jammin' for Jamaica Fundraiser on May 11

Allison Autry brings back another Jammin' for Jamaica Fundraiser to help Eight 4 World Hope foundation to build schools in Jamaica. The event features bands *The Buddhahood*, *Mosaic Foundation* and *The Flying Turtles* with Papi Chulo spinning between sets. FuturPointe Dance will also perform. 3HB will be also there doing beer sampling. Saturday, May 11 from 4:30 p.m.-1 a.m. at Lovin Cup, 300 Park Point Drive (near RIT) Visit Youtube to see a video of a school the group built at http://www.youtube.com/h?v=DTr_NcJ2RIA. Visit Facebook for more info.



Aprille Byam

Rochester Stories Project Looks at the South Wedge

Aprille Byam has an ambitious goal to connect people by listening to their life stories. Over the last few weeks, the U of R graduate contacted neighborhood association and local community activist to ask for their help in finding people to get personal.

"Stories connect us as human beings," said Byam. "Everyone has stories, everyone tells them. It is through stories that we can identify with others and discover common emotions and struggles. I believe in the power of stories to bring people together and thus strengthen our community."

"Despite our best intentions, mental boundaries sometimes keep the neighborhoods of Rochester apart and keep us from hearing the stories of others. But if we can let the stories do the talking - sharing them in an anonymous fashion - the stories can connect people before they realize who the teller is," Byam said.

Ultimately Byam believes that making connections across neighborhoods might make Rochester a stronger city and "work to decrease some of the violence in our town."

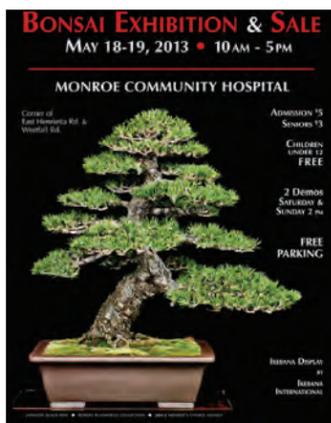
Byam went first to the Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association looking for "pillars of the neighborhood" willing to share some stories.

"Stories collected will focus on common childhood and 'first' themes, as well as defining moment." She has also contacted the Rochester Public Market so that she can gain a greater variety of stories.

Next step would be to compile the stories and take it to the stage during this year's Fringe Festival.

"Actors or volunteers will read the stories to bring anonymity to the actual teller. Only after the stories have been shared and people have a chance to think about them will

continued on pg. 12



40th Bonsai Society of Upstate New York Exhibition

The Anniversary will be held on May 18-19. More than 200 beautiful trees will be on display with two free demos. Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m. Free parking. Admission \$5, Seniors \$3, Children under 12 free. Monroe Community Hospital, East Henrietta Road. To learn more, visit bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org/.

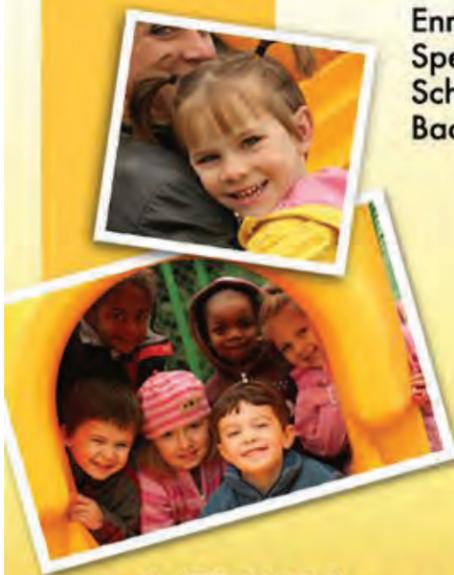
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In Memoriam - Edline Chun

May 17, 1939 - February 6, 2013

Rochester's academic and community nonprofits were saddened to learn of the violent death of Edline Chun, 73, "a caring and compassionate" social activist and educator, during a robbery.

The Hawaiian native was a long-time resident of Rochester's Beechwood neighborhood.

In the South Wedge, Chun served on NeighborWorks as a board member. She taught at the Rochester Institute of Technology, working for almost two decades as an adjunct professor in the school's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

"This has come as a shock to all who knew Edline Chun because of all the good that she did for others and the community," said NeighborWorks CEO Kim Brumber. "She was a board member here for 29 years and also served on the staff as interim director for a period of time. She was an intelligent, caring, and giving person who positively influenced the lives of many people in the community. She was a rare individual that gave 110% to everything

that she did. Her brutal murder is a significant loss to this community because of all that she gave of herself."

Chun was shot to death on February 6, 2013 in what Rochester City Police believe was a targeted robbery. Her body was later discovered in Tyron Park by Monroe County maintenance workers. On March 8, two Rochester residents were arrested for the crime and charged with second-degree felony murder charges.

Brumber also praised Ms. Chun's care for the city and city neighborhoods, and her "endless hours" given to NeighborWorks and Literacy Volunteers." She is credited as one of the founders of Sojourner House, a shelter and support for troubled women and their children.

Friends report that in total Chun was involved in 13 different community organizations and programs. Due to the multitude of her affiliations, three commemorative events were held honoring Chun in March: a community memorial service



to celebrate her friendships, volunteer work, and lifetime of community service; one celebrating Edline's Hawaiian heritage hosted by Gallery Kaua'i; and another held at RIT for colleagues, students, alumni and the public.

NeighborWorks has set up a fund in memory of Chun honoring her commitment to literacy. Funds will purchase books for the public library in her honor. Donations can be sent to the Edline Chun Fund, NeighborWorks Rochester at 570 South Avenue, Rochester NY 14620. NeighborWorks requests that "Edline Chun Fund" be indicated on your check.

forward to the time he is free to create."

Opening reception for "Abstract Confessions" is Friday, April 5, 7 - 9:00 p.m. at the Gallery @ Equal=Grounds, 750 South Avenue.

For more information, contact, gallery@equalgrounds.com or call 561-676-1985.

Southeast Neighborhood News

S.E. Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) Administrator Nancy Johns-Price addressed a recent Neighbors Building Neighborhood 6 meeting about a new City of Rochester business permit process. The NSC team is contacting all business owners to establish a relationship and to ask them to sign a Good Neighbor Agreement, provide code and permit education and troubleshoot issues.

As part of the process, corner stores are being asked not to carry certain products that are known to be drug-related paraphernalia, enforce packing laws that forbid selling products in their unopened packages (e.g., single cigarettes, sleeves of crackers, etc.) NSC can also flag potential problem businesses for more enforcement attention.

To learn, contact Johns Price at 428-740.

NYS Assembly News

Allan Richards, Assistant to State Assemblyman Harry Bronson, announced that the NYS Assembly has passed its version of the budget that rejected the Governor's call to eliminate the Neighborhood Preservation Program and replace it with the Community Preservation Program. Under the Governor's proposed changes it would cut the allocation to the neighborhood preservation groups by \$2

million dollars. Under the Assembly's version of the budget the programs would receive \$14.2 million in funding and groups such as the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) and the South East Area Coalition (SEAC) would be funded at the current levels. Additionally, the Assembly has added an additional \$9.8 million for the City of Rochester as part of their AIM funding.

Equal=Grounds Gallery April Exhibit



Art work by Joe Kerwin

Gallery Director Beth Bloom welcomes "Abstract Confessions," artwork by Joe Kerwin as the featured exhibit in April at Equal=Grounds Gallery. Kerwin's work, described as part graffiti and part painting, pushes boundaries allowing him to create a visual symphony of color and texture.

"Joe Kerwin is a man obsessed with making art," said Bloom. "He thinks about it all the time. He doodles on the ends of papers, considers the possibilities of materials and how to use them, and looks

For only \$30 your business card size ad could appear here. Not only would you be promoting what's best about your business, you'll be helping SWPC's projects and programs. For deadlines, call 978-9638.

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Art show Highland Park Neighborhood Association

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HPNA to Hold First Annual Art Show

Lauren Schieck, Highland Park Neighborhood Association, announces its first annual Art Show at Crossroads Coffee House, S. Goodman St., in June and July. A preview show will be held at the Reservoir Gate House during the Lilac Festival. Submit artwork, stop by the Gate House during the Lilac Festival, and attend their opening event at Crossroads on June 14.

The show is open to anyone who lives or works in the area of the neighborhood. Artists may submit up to three works for consideration.

Deadline is April 21 and all media are welcome: paintings, photography, collage, prints, drawings, textiles and anything else!

While there are no monetary awards, we will be choosing the one piece of artwork that best represents the Neighborhood to receive the first Ellwanger & Barry prize, and the art and artist will be highlighted in the Fall Issue of "The Buzz".

On-line submission is available on their website at www.highlandparkrochester.org/artshow, questions can be sent to artshow@highlandparkrochester.org.

Rhythm Society-Urban Wellness Holds Open House on April 20 at new Studio

Executive Director and owner Darin Price of Rhythm Society-Urban Wellness Studios invites the community to a free Open House filled with dance class demos and raffles to win free classes. All ages welcome.

"We are committed to the three "Cs": creativity, culture and community," said Price. "In an effort to better serve our current student and future students we've moved into our new location in the Historic South Wedge neighborhood with shops and restaurants all in walking distance."

The Open House will be held on Saturday, April 20 from 12-3 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Demo schedule includes Belly Dance at 12:15 p.m., Salsa Rueda (Cuban Style Salsa) 12:30 p.m., Ballroom & Salsa 12:45 p.m., Hip Hop 1 p.m., Zumba/Turbo Kick, 1:15 p.m., Tango, 1:30 p.m., Street-Dances 1:45 p.m., Capoeira 2 p.m.

For more info, find them on Facebook or visit their website at <http://www.rhythm-society.org>. 758 South Avenue, off street parking, handicap accessible.



La Casa Restaurant Opens on Alexander Street

By Nancy O'Donnell

Boulder Coffee Company owner Lyjha Wilton recently invited the Bocanegra family, better known for "La Placita En Downtown," a café at the Rochester Public Market to open La Casa Mexican restaurant, a delicious addition to Alexander Street.

Wilton repainted La Casa En South Wedge turquoise and clay and designed the attractive interior. The restaurant is attracting a lot of buzz online (four out of five stars on yelp.com) and in the South Wedge as neighbors tell neighbors that "this is the real deal."

The restaurant, run by Mia Bocanegra and Omar Ramos, is managed by their 18-year-old daughter Leila Bocanegra, who also studies international relations at SUNY Geneseo.

"We decided to come to the South Wedge because of the great atmosphere that it offered as well as the awesome location," said Leila.

House specialties include enchiladas, tamales, tacos (de asada, chorizo, al pastor and

pescado), carnitas, and fajitas, as well as nightly specials.

A grand opening is planned for Cinco de Mayo, May 5, with an outdoor bar and patio open for business. "We will hopefully have our liquor license by then if everything goes well," said Leila. In the meantime, patrons are invited to take a stroll down to Nathaniel Square Corner Store on South Avenue to pick up a six pack before dinner.

"My mother is from Mexico," said Leila. "My dad and I were born in Texas, but he lived most of his life in Mexico, and I spent the first five years there.

One specialty mentioned in reviews is "Horchata," a Mexican drink usually comprised of milk, cinnamon, sugar and rice.

"That is all I am allowed to say [about the family recipe]," said Leila.

93 Alexander St. (parking entrance on Alexander, look for the sign on the fence). 730-5025

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. 5 p.m. - 10 p.m., Sun 10 am - 6 p.m.

Abundance Co-op Looks to Expansion in Southeast

Jim DeLuca, general manager of Abundance Co-op Market, is looking for a new location in the Southeast section of the city. The natural food grocery store wants to double their current size of 5,000 square feet at Marshall Street.

"Abundance is celebrating 12 years at our current location on Marshall Street. For some time, I have thought that what Abundance offers in terms of knowledge, quality and values should be more convenient to more Rochesterians," writes DeLuca in an e-mail to the Wedge. "After working almost a year for a location on Alexan-

der Street, we lost the space to Buckingham Properties because they decided to move their own offices there. We have recovered from the letdown and are again looking for a 10,000 square foot space with decent exposure, at least 40 parking spaces and close enough to other retailers to create a destination synergy. We continue to seek a space bounded on the west by the inner loop, by University Avenue on the north, by Culver Road on the east and by Elmwood Avenue on the South.

According to a recent D&C

continued on pg. 12

Wedgies by Justin Hubbell



Search for Irish Roots

continued from pg. 5

derful relatives (at least 20) who escorted me around the area. I went to the old family homestead where Marion O'Malley Joyce was born in 1886 along with her nine siblings. After being in the family over 200 years, the 1000-acre farm in Shannahaver was sold just two years ago as it was getting to be too much work for Uncle Tommy, age 78. The old stone three-room home was still standing, albeit the thatched roof was long gone.

I walked the road my grandmother took to the one room schoolhouse. I stood on

the bluff watching the sheep like the ones my Grandmother must have tended before going off to school. I took pictures of everyone and everything, wanting to savor the experience and share it with my family in San Francisco.

The experience of literally falling into a new family of people that you feel so genetically connected to, and welcomed by, was overwhelming. When one of my mothers 2nd cousins walked into the room, she looked like a carbon copy of my mother who passed away in 1983, who I miss on a daily basis. It was too emotional for me and I broke down in tears. They were some of the happiest tears I have ever cried.

Back in Rochester and because of my positive experience I'd like to offer to help anyone with Irish roots to get started in their family history project. The Rochester Central Library has an area on the 2nd floor dedicated to public use. It may be just the right time as Ireland is having a "Come Home" Campaign in this year! To learn more, e-mail kgreensfca@hotmail.com.

Ellen Fox and Kathy Green

(Photo by Jerry Fox)



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Use Your Head--Wear a Helmet!

By Dr. Alexie Cruz Puran,

With warm and sunny days ahead, we all look forward to spending time outdoors and being involved in recreational activities and sports. Exercising is an important part of a healthy, physically active lifestyle for children. However injuries can, and do, occur.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 2.6 million children 0-19 years old are treated in the emergency department each year for sports and recreation-related injuries. Steps can be taken to help prevent injuries from such activities. One major action that aids in reducing head injuries is the use of helmets.

Helmets are essential for the safety of any recreational activity that involves wheels. The National Safety Council recommends wearing a helmet while bicycling, in-line skating, playing baseball, skiing, rock climbing and horseback riding. Helmets are specifically designed to protect the head for each type of activity. Here are a few tips:

1) Purchase only a helmet that meets bicycle helmet safety standards of the Consumer



Dr. Puran

Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Check the inside of the helmet for the label. Helmets manufactured or imported for use after March 1999 must comply with a mandatory CPSC safety standard.

3) Helmets are designed for protection in specific conditions and may not offer enough protection in others. Bike helmets are very protective in head-first falls at fairly high speeds and are light and well ventilated for comfort and acceptability. A multisport CPSC certified helmet, is also acceptable.

5) The essential part for impact protection is a thick layer of firm polystyrene and plastic foam that crushes on impact,

absorbing the force of the blow. All helmets require a chin strap to keep them in place in a crash.

6) Both hard-shell and soft-shell helmets meet CPSC standards; the main difference is style and comfort. The soft-shell helmets while lighter may be less durable.

7) A helmet should be worn squarely on top of the head, covering the top of the forehead. The chin strap should be adjusted to fit snugly.

8) An infant's or child's helmet should fit for several years. Most models have removable fitting pads that can be replaced with thinner ones as the child's head grows.

9) In general, a helmet that has been through a serious fall or crash should be retired with gratitude. It has served its purpose and may not provide adequate protection in another crash.

10) Be consistent. If you allow your children to ride occasionally without their helmets, they won't believe that helmet use really is important. Children learn best by observing you. Whenever you ride your bike, put on your helmet.

Remember children are our future and we must protect them.

The Scoop on the Lilac Festival

By Maya Reagan,
Cub Reporter

Highland Park is having their annual ten day Lilac Festival May 10- 19th so I'm going to give you a little information about this festival. First, games, because this is the kid's corner. Well, the games last year (and I hope they are coming back) were ping pong for fish (where you have to throw a ping pong ball into a little cup. For that you get it in the big one, you win a big fish or two small ones.). Then you throw darts at balloons (watch out, they're sharp!). Then duck picking. Next, amusement, I enjoyed teacups, a bouncy house, a play house the other one is a surprise.

Now food. The Lilac Festival has tons of different cultured food. A good one from the South Wedge is The Beale. There is food everywhere. If



you like popcorn go this way, hot dogs, go that way. Last but not least, vendors have dresses, jewelry, artwork, pottery and glass products at the Arts & Craft tents down near South Avenue.

Most important, don't miss the parade the first Saturday, May 11 at 10:30 a.m. The parade starts at the corner of Elmwood Ave & South Ave. Another great event is the Rochester Lilac Festival 10K and Family Run at 8:00am on Sunday, May 19.

To get fast facts, check their website at <http://www.rochesterevents.com/festivals-events/lilac-festival>. See you at the Lilac Festival!

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Momentum Builds for Roc City Urban Skate Park

By Nancy O'Donnell

The nonprofit Friends of the Roc City Skate Park's determination to create a "well-lit, safe, outdoor community center for the whole family open to all ages and level of skating and riding abilities...and access will be totally free" continues to build.

The skate park was envisioned by now-president of the Friends group, Jim Maddison, a father of four children who were active in "progression-oriented sports" like skateboarding, roller blading, BMX and scooters, who "spent a small fortune to take them to private parks," when he realized many U.S. cities have free, public skateparks.

Maddison teamed up with Krudco Skateshop and interested BMX riders. By 2010, the Rochester's City Council voted to give \$50,000 for the Skatepark (funding for the Skatepark in the City's Capital Improvement Program budget was released to the public on May 3, 2011). The budgeted amount was part of the \$2 million that the Board of the Friends of the Roc City Park requested.

Maddison continued to publicize the project by speaking at Rochester's TEDx in 2011 and filming a recent video presentation to the Rochester Development Corporation (available on Youtube). Locally, the group held a public meeting at School #12 to discuss the project's designs. It was the first of three public workshops in the design process according to the group's website.

The group's website outlines what the skate park could mean to the City and how it plans to make it a moneymaking venue.

The projected site for the skate park is a 75, 000 square foot area below the Fredrick Douglass-Susan B. Anthony Bridge. Once completed, the City of Rochester would own the park, hold the liability insurance and help to maintain it. The Friends group also plan to create a public-private partnership that would help maintain the park.

The group argues that skateboarding is most dangerous to children who use public roads and jerry-rigged structures. A safe Skatepark with its "skateable art" would benefit not only current skateboarders but encourage other children to give it a try and reap health benefits in a time of increasing obesity rates for children.

Currently the project is scheduled for construction in 2015, however, supporters hope to move the timeline up to 2013.

Their website emphasizes two other primary objectives: "ensure that the proposed \$2MM remains in the City of Rochester's Capital Improvement Program budget and secure additional funding for the skatepark from private donors, including a leadership gift at the naming rights level and naming rights to features within the park.

The public is invited to attend even if they weren't at the first meeting. The community is



Photo courtesy of Heather McKay

invited to support a great project and help be a part of the final design concept.

To learn more or volunteer to help Roc City Urban Skate Park planners, visit www.roc-citypark.org.

**Roc City
Skate Park
Public Input
Meeting #2
April 11
6-8 p.m.**

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Jo Jo Denny and Rich Mandrino (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

Couple Turns Antique Collecting into a Business

By Nancy O'Donnell

When Richard Mandrino realized that his collection of artwork and antiques, acquired through estate sales and auctions, would outgrow his home, South Clinton Trading Company was born.

Mandrino, founder and operator of Deckscape of Rochester, joined with Joanne "Jo Jo" Denny, a full-time nursing student at MCC, to share his passion for collectibles.

"She called me a hoarder. I don't collect anything; I collect everything," said Mandrino.

"He needed a place to display all his stuff," laughed Denny.

With Denny's "encouragement," Mandrino started looking for the right location.

He first looked at Park, South and Monroe Avenues before decided on Swillburg. "I like the neighborhood." He renovated and repainted the space that he believes was once a sausage factory.

South Clinton Trading Company has a changing arrangement of unique items for sale.

"I like old things that have a history. We feel that when you furnish your homes and apartments with antiques or older furniture, you are creating your own unique space rather than going to your local chain furniture store to buy what everyone

else already has in their home," said Mandrino.

One of the Company's specialties are teddy bears: Steiff, Gund and a pre-Civil War stuffed yellow bear. One bear even comes with a campaign button from the original Teddy, President Theodore Roosevelt. Other notable finds—an early 1970s console with turntable and 8 track player, china dolls of many sorts, an old-fashioned baker's rack, a 1820's "primitive" dresser and a rowing machine circa 1917. "Arcware" dinnerware colored turquoise, yellow and chartreuse fills one table. On one wall, a framed Wall Street Journal from 1929 announces the Stock Market crash.

"Our goal is to provide a place for the community to be able to sell and trade their antiques and collectibles. If you have something odd or out of the ordinary, bring it to the Trading Company," said Mandrino. "You can place it on consignment or trade it for something else in our store. We negotiate on any price, too. Everything in the store is only worth what someone will pay for it."

808 S. Clinton Ave. For more hours, call 202-2080.

Green Zebra Caters New Soup Du Jour from New Location

Chef and owner Green Zebra Catering Company owner Lindsay Steinberg in new digs at 144 West Commercial St, East Rochester, is continuing her good food empire. Soup Share is a program that gets participants weekly fresh homemade soups. The first program is already in gear, but find out what happens next at greenzebracatering.com.

La Tea Da Mother's Day Brunch May 12

La Tea Da Tea Room & Parlor owner Maureen Becker will hold two seatings on Mother's Day, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Chicken French, frittata, French Toast, scones with jam, and of course, tea! \$20 per person. Children under 12, \$10. Reservations needed. 262-4450.

Angelique Stevens Wins Best Women's Travel Award

By Nancy O'Donnell

South Wedge resident and MCC English professor Angelique Stevens recently learned an essay entitled, "Exposure," won the silver in the category for "Best Women's Travel: the Best Account by a Woman of an Encounter or Experience on the Road" in the 7th annual Solas Best Travel Writing Award for 2013.

The Solas Award is sponsored by Travelers' Tales, an organization that publishes travel anthologies.

"I was in Southeast Asia for five weeks," said Stevens. "I spend a week volunteering at an elephant refuge in Thailand and the rest of the time, I spent



Cambodia Travels (Photo by Angelique Stevens)

finding myself looking at ruins, taking a photography course and meeting people from all over the world."

Steven's essay about her experience in Cambodia was previously published in *Shark Reef: A Literary Magazine*.

Another essay about a trip to Cambodia, "Beating Culture Shock Upon Arrival," was published in *TravelMag*.

"Last summer I was in Cairo during Ramadan. It was truly magical, but getting there was crazy," said Stevens. "I had to have an armed escort drive me and a friend from the Sinai Peninsula to Cairo."

"Right now I'm working on an essay about climbing Mt. Sinai under a full moon. This coming summer I'm not going anywhere crazy, but I am spending a month in Paris to take a Creative Writing course. I want to ultimately publish a book down the road of my travels."

To read "Exposure" visit sharkreef.org/non-fiction/exposure. <http://travelmag.co.uk/?p=6749>.

Lettuce B. Frank's Opens Bistro on S. Clinton Avenue

By Nancy O'Donnell

David Potwin's mobile food cart, Lettuce B. Frank, attracted a huge following at last year's South Wedge Farmers Market. Now the same fabulous "farm to foil" menu is available indoors in his new bistro next door to the Cinema Theater.

The new spot offers both takeout and a small cozy sit-down service for its dishes more often than not made from locally sourced ingredients.

Potwin's menu includes scrumptious melts, paninis and sliders and baked fritters (carrot and chick pea). Desserts include inventive cake shots like the Cosmopolitan, a two-bit shot layered with Triple Sec chiffon cake, Citrus Vodka curd and pomegranate liqueur buttermilk frosting with a twist

of lime. (\$2.50 each or 10 for \$20). Other boozy beauties included a cake shot composed of Jameson chocolate cake, Guinness ganache, and Bailey's butter cream.

Potwin's mission is to "change the face of fast food by making it local, from scratch and healthy. We support sustainability, minimal waste and recyclable products."

New specials can be accessed on Twitter@lettucebfrank.

All food and beverages can also be munched inside the Cinema Theater while movie watching. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. The mobile food cart will be resuming service in mid-April Check www.lettucebfrank.com for details.



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All rooms are freshly painted with new low VOC paint, Green Labeled carpeting on the stairs and second floor bedrooms. New energy efficient light fixtures throughout!

Outside a two car garage make Rochester winters less difficult and the driveway is newly resurfaced with blacktop.

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Calvary St. Andrews Big Lunch Set for June 1

by Rose O'Keefe

Whether you've lived in the South Wedge for ten weeks or ten years, how many neighbors have you met? For over three years, Big Lunches have been organized by neighbors to encourage, well, neighborliness. With meeting and greeting more neighbors as a goal, the third annual Big Lunch will be held Saturday, June 1 from noon to 2 p.m. at Calvary St. Andrew's Church, 95 Averill Ave. (at the corner of Averill & Ashland).

Neighbors and friends from Averill Avenue, Ashland, Hickory, Gregory Street, Gregory Park, Erie Harbor, Hamilton Street, Hamilton Towers, Comfort Street and Hickory Place are all invited. In addition to fun and food, this year, organizers honor early activists who helped turn around the South



A bagpiper opens the festivities in Big Lunch 2012 (Photo by Doug Root)

lection of homemade dishes.

Please bring a dish to pass. If you can, bring a plant for the Plant Swap. Other easy and fun activities include clowns, face painting and games for kids. As usual, there will be a drawing to win a free gift basket from each Block Club, Calvary St. Andrews & BASWA. For the second year in a row, there'll be a raffle for a fabulous donation from the South Wedge Planning Committee.

If you would like to volunteer or donate to the event, please contact: Toni Beth Weasner at Tweasner@gmail.com, 454-4528. For those who must drive, parking is graciously provided by Postler & Jaekle at their lot on the corner of South Avenue at Averill Avenue.

Local history writer Rose O'Keefe is also secretary of the Business Association of the South Wedge (BASWA).



Java entertains (Photo by Doug Root) Wedge in the late 1970s and 1980s.

It will be hard to miss the call from bagpiper Matt Weasner, who will kick off the Big lunch which includes hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, lemonade and a delightful se-



All generations come to CSA's annual Big Lunch (Photo by Doug Root)

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A new South Wedge Institution- the Mise En Plate

by Nathaniel Mich



The Mighty Mise En Plate (Photo by Nathaniel Mich)

As part of the celebrations of its five-year anniversary, beloved market/deli/restaurant Mise en Place has released a redesigned and revamped menu. The changes keep prices in line with a casual deli atmosphere and create a distinct culinary fingerprint for Mise en Place relative to its sister restaurant across the street, Zeppa Bistro. I was happy to see that the shaved steak sandwich is still on the menu, and the extensive burger list – over a dozen varieties, each available as a chicken cutlet sandwich as well – certainly merits further investigation. However, the addition that really got my heart racing is Mise en Place's take on a Rochester institution: the garbage plate.

The Mise en Plate (\$8.99) is a relatively straightforward addition to the Plate circuit. Diners can choose either an eight ounce hamburger or two red hots and the usual array of toppings: meat hot sauce, chopped onions, mustard, ketchup and cheese. It's all served on a bed of fries and mac & cheese and garnished with strands of tempura-fried red onion, which was a flourish I enjoyed. That's it: there is no vegetarian option, no mix-and-match proteins, no onslaught of choices for the carby foundation. And while I would have enjoyed at least a white hot option, the quality of the food more than made up for the limited selection. Take note, citizens of the Wedge: here is a Plate of which we can be proud. My dining companion chose not to indulge in a

Plate of her own, but ordered one of Mise en Place's Specialty Sandwiches – the Chicken Florentine (\$7). Juicy grilled chicken breast, provolone, spinach, tomato and pesto mayo are layered in focaccia for a sandwich full of fresh flavors; a filling meal but not a heavy one. The sandwich was delicious and a hit, but on the messy side.

Once I had committed to a Plate, there was no sense in holding back any further, so I ordered mine with red hots and all the fixings. The dogs were flavorful and nicely seared, giving the skin a snap that held up even when I cut them into chunks. The meat hot sauce ("hot sauce" for those who are in the know) was rich, meaty and laced with cinnamon, but milder than I would have preferred. The baked mac & cheese was also mild, but with a slightly grainy homemade texture. Buried underneath was a real prize, too: a oven-crisped sheet of cheese and pasta. Additionally, any piquancy that was lacking in the sauce or the mac was filled in by the yellow mustard and chopped onions. The fries were nicely seasoned and provided textural balance to the dish, though they could have been crispier. Cut up and mixed together, every bite was a satisfying combination of flavors and textures. Die-hard Plate lovers may complain that Mise en Place's Mise en Plate is not as epically proportioned as some, but it was a perfect size for me: leaving me pleasantly stuffed but still able to leave the restaurant under my own power.



Chicken Florentine (Photo by Nathaniel Mich)



Hedonist Chocolates in New York Times' Top 10

Hedonist Artisan Chocolates sent samples of their salted caramels to the New York Times in January.

On February 6, the chocolatiers saw it on the front page of the *Times* Dining Section and learned that Hedonist had been one of the top 10 in a blind taste test of 27 American small batch, chocolate-covered salted caramels.

Hedonist's contribution was described as "chewy and well-balanced. With a touch of vanilla and the right hit of salt, the caramel had what [a judge] called a 'beautiful runny consistency.' It melts on the tongue once the chocolate dissolves."

Go see what makes it so great at 674 South Avenue.

Dicky's Fish Fry Listed One of Top in the City

Described in a recent D&C article as a "hidden gem in Rochester's Highland Park Neighborhood originally called "Saloon" in 1880, Dicky's also



Studio 678 Project, Wilson Foundation Academy

Photo by Nature Henderson

You may have seen this photo in December on City Council member Matt Haag's holiday card. It's the work of student Nature Henderson as part of the Studio 678 Project of the Wilson Foundation Academy's after school program. Studio 678 is a 24-session after-school program of Community Darkroom at Genesee Center for the Arts & Education. Now in its 14th

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At time of publication, BASWA Co-President Chris Jones reports: *Sisters of Murphy* and *Tommy Brunett* will be playing. Le Petite Poutine, Little Venice, Swan Market and Beale Street provide the food.

We'll have another fabulous group of hard-to-find craft beers from over 40 breweries. People are able to exit and re-enter, so they can go eat and shop around the neighborhood during the event.

Expo open 5-10 p.m.; shuttle buses run from the Doubletree Hilton in Henrietta to South Wedge.

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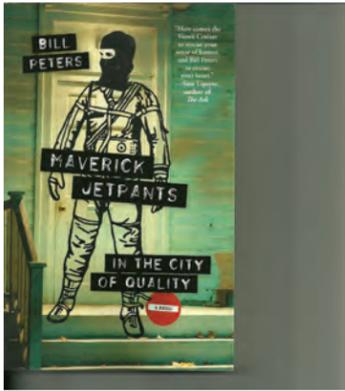
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Book Review
by David Kramer

Maverick Jetpants
by William Peters



For a first time novelist to be reviewed in the Sunday *New York Times Book Review* is as auspicious a debut as it gets—a literary green light to proceed full speed ahead. Such fortune recently fell upon native son William Peters, born in Webster, raised in Fairport, graduated from McQuaid, and author of *Maverick Jetpants in the City of Quality*, itself set in Rochester circa 1999. Charmed by Jetpants' florid, half invented, half real Rochester lexicon ("the Heated Driveway District" comprises Brighton, Pittsford, Mendon and parts of Fairport), the Times reviewer Roger Boylan concludes that Peters "belongs in the ranks of serious literary artists." Heady praise indeed.

Drawn at the very end of last century, the novel follows the sometimes nefarious adventures of a group of still aimless Gates-Chili high school graduates. Indifferent students without career plans, the gang drifts through low-level jobs, vaguely considers taking classes at Monroe Community College and worries about economic opportunities as the manufacturing sector gives way to information technology.

Much of their time is spent in "Rochester Classic Drivearounds," stopping at virtually every local cultural icon. Mark's Texas Hots, Gitsis, Jay's and Highland Diners, Dinosaur BBQ, Zebbs, Java Joe's, the Bug Jar, House of Guitars, the Penny Arcade and the Bop Shop. In 1999, Monroe Show World still offered adult films; Midtown Plaza existed. Brother Wease was at WCMF. Rich Funke was still on the air. Kodak made record profits, but the ominous winds of change are in the air. The Bills are just entering their thirteen year drought.

At the same time, for all the high praise for Peters' style,

when I first read Boylan's and others reviews, I grew apprehensive. Consistently, the reviews were packed with negative characterizations of Rochester. A city in decay, haunted by past glories, racked by vandalism, an inglorious void of depression, a dangerous, crumbling ruin of a community, a leaking infrastructure, a sinking middle class, desperation in the water. Would Jetpants be another exercise in western New York bashing? Another Rust Belt narrative filled with defunct factories, boarded up neighborhoods, a populace fleeing to Sun Belts and Silicon Valleys? Perpetual grey skies suffused with endless Lake Effect snow?

Rochesterians do not despair. That is not the novel Bill Peters wrote.

I spoke with him about the reviews. He told me he was uneasy about the glib indictments, eloquently adding, "First and most importantly, I don't think Rochester is some post industrial urban desert." Nor does he want the book to be seen as "a postmortem on the city's manufacturing sector," which it is not. It seems all too easy for reviewers to embellish and pepper their writing with hyperbolic clichés their audience will recognize. That is not Peter's fault. True, Peters does not include the prospering Rochester demographic showcased by the media: Young Professionals networking at Eastman House fund raisers, RIT grads creating high-tech startups, hip Inside-the-Inner Loop loft dwellers. Nonetheless, Peters' lower middle class characters are not lost souls destined to live bleak, empty lives.

Instead, Peters has endowed them with quick wits and a wildly creative, ceaselessly generative language almost all their own. To them Rochester is a city with an edge, a city of possibility, a city of ludic freedom. Rochester is fun. At its heart, the novel is not about a city in decline, but a timeless coming-of age narrative about friendship and male bonding.

Maverick Jetpants in the City of Quality is not for everyone. But my guess is that if you are a thirty-something (and beyond) who has at some point cruised Monroe Avenue, when you read the novel you won't think about the bankruptcy of Kodak, whether downtown can rebound, or the Rochester brain drain, but will wax nostalgic about your own Rochester Classic Drivearound.

David Kramer is a Fellow at the Nazareth College Center for Public History.

WALL\THERAPY

continued from pg. 1

Gaia," writes the very busy Dr. Wilson in an e-mail. (Along with founding and curating WALL\THERAPY, Dr. Wilson also serves as Assistant Professor of Imaging Sciences in the Division of Vascular/Interventional Radiology Department of Imaging Sciences at the U of R Medical Center.) "[Gaia] is presently in Italy, but he's NYC born and raised, based in Baltimore."

The SWPC Committee was for the most part very excited by the project although some expressed reservations on the possible theme of the painting and wanted assurances it would match SWPC's mission.

"It is true that most of our artists do not prepare detailed sketches prior to painting a mural," Dr. Wilson added. "They often work with a concept and reference images which, ultimately, become the finished piece. Part of my responsibility as a curator is to match the artist with the wall and its surroundings based on my familiarity with the artist's body of work and the community."

For the SWPC wall, Dr. Wilson said he's suggesting historic figures like Frederick Douglass or Ellwanger and Barry as potential subjects.

The radiologist inaugurated the project in 2011 as a "thank you" to his adopted city. In 2012, he brought 11 street artists or "therapists" from around the world to paint 16 walls including ones near the Rochester Public Market, on Troup Street and North Clinton Ave. Dr. Wilson has already lined up 14 artists from the U.S., South Africa and Ireland for the 2013 WALL\THERAPY season.

Erich Lehman, owner of 1975 Gallery, acts as co-curator and lead organizer of this year's project, which also includes participation by the Business Association of the South Wedge Area.

"Surface Salon and the South Wedge was where Gallery1975 got its start in 2008," said Lehman. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity now through WALL\THERAPY to bring public art on an even grander scale into the neighborhood."

"Plans are all still in the works so we don't have details yet on Wall Therapy locations," said Chris Jones, BASWA co-

Abundance Co-op

continued from pg. 7

article about the expansion, Abundance also plans to add a classroom for cooking classes and expanded space for a bakery, deli and produce.

"This is reminiscent of the old communiversity that was part of the coop at the firehouse store," said DeLuca.

Abundance was Rochester's first cooperative market, opening to shareholders in 1968 in the Genesee Co-op on Monroe Avenue. South Wedgians who shop Abundance won't have to say goodbye.

"We intend to locate where folks from the South Wedge will continue to shop with us," adds DeLuca.

president. "We're hoping to have about 15 murals painted in July, and we will have a party in Star Alley that week to celebrate it."

WALL\THERAPY has a sister initiative, IMPACT! (Improving Access to Care by Teleradiology that sets up diagnostic imaging sites in developing countries says Dr. Wilson. Both projects are part of Synthesis Collaborative, a NY state non-profit. IMPACT raises funds to set up teleradiology services and finds volunteer radiologists around the world to access images via cloud computing, interpret them and recommend treatment.

Dr. Wilson hopes to launch the first South Wedge project on a blank wall on a building owned by John Billone near St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.

"Rochester is now a destination city [for street artists]," said Dr. Wilson.

Visit www.wall-therapy.com or Facebook to learn more about WALL\THERAPY.

Aprylle Byam

continued from pg. 5

the identities of the tellers, in the audience, be revealed," said Byam.

Another creative twist to the stories project may produce a set of trading cards for the stories.

Byam comes to this human experience project after receiving a BA in French at U of R. She later earned a MBA in Marketing. While working at Kodak, she was disappointed to learn that the corporate mind set was "we're not trying to make anything new anymore." After eight years she was "ready to go" when she was laid off.

"I really believe there is a place for someone looking forward," Byam said.

She went to another market research company, but she feels she wasn't getting the chance to do what she was doing on my own."

Byam has been married to six years to Joel Byam, who is

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studying industrial design at RIT. Together they share their home with two cats Murphy Tahoe and Molasses.

Byam has told her own story of a near death experience in The Human Library at the University of Rochester's Rush Rhees Library. The experience changed her life.

"I saw how close [I came to dying] and what might have happened and how important everything was," said Byam. "I have more a sense of wonder and recognize the wonderful things in everyday life. You don't have to go through a life or death experience to enjoy life."

To learn more visit storychick.wordpress.com or contact Byam at aprille.byam@gmail.com.

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