



# The WEDGE

Official Newspaper of the South Wedge Since 1982

More to enjoy

- South Wedgians Love Lovely Warren
- Nathaniel Mich's Talks with his Mouth Full
- Needle Drop Records
- What Would Jesus Buy?
- One-Eyed Sue moves into the Cinema Theater



A winter storm in 2012 decorated the trees on Benton St. See a pictorial year in the Wedge on page XXX (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

## SWPC Receives Reshaping Rochester Directors' Award

by Nancy O'Donnell

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) was honored by the Rochester Regional Community Design Center with the Directors' Award during their annual Reshaping Rochester Award luncheon at Temple B'rith Kodesh on December 5.

In announcing the award, the Center listed the reasons SWPC was honored: "Since 1975, the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) has had a long standing leadership role in the revitalization of the historic city neighborhood. Starting as an outreach program of the Calvary St. Andrew's Church, this partnership of neighbors, community organizations, institutions and entrepreneurs provided a consistent path of economic and social redevelopment in a neighborhood that was once characterized as challenged, replete with several hundred under-utilized or vacant buildings and storefronts and a myriad of public safety issues. For over

three decades, SWPC has achieved a steady and increasing series of accomplishments including tangible physical and social change and a visible achievement of improvement in the quality of life while maintaining choices in housing that have supported both diversity and opportunity. The innovative programs and initiatives supported by this dynamic organization, which include a farmers' market, community gardens, housing, commercial and business development guidance and a community newspaper, are a model for neighborhoods and urban villages throughout the region and an inspiration for all."

Overall the Center recognizes winners for their exemplary regional initiatives and projects that positively impact people, neighborhoods and the community. The general public nominates potential awardees for the Robert Macon Award for Urban Innovation and the Betty Strassenburgh Award for Activism.

## Plans for Highland Market Rehab Move Forward

by Nancy O'Donnell

Owner Danny Stefanou continues with plans to renovate the dilapidated Highland Market at the corner of South Avenue at Linden St. into a 3,000-square foot full service food market. City officials have described this plan as "a transitional moment for the corner."

Stefanou has owned the market for more than 30 years. For over 21 years, he leased it out as a convenience store. His most recent design submitted to the

City would include removing the back of the building and moving the front of the building to the sidewalk. Parking for 17 cars would be located in the back, and entrances to the property would open from Linden and South Avenue. The renovation will not include a drive through on the property.

During a Sector 6 Neighbors Building Neighborhood meeting in October, residents voiced concern about the materials that might

be used in the renovation. They also decried the current run down exterior and crumbling parking lot.

Residents have been assured that the location will remain an R1-residential site which will not allow owners to change it to a larger more commercial business. Hours of operation would be from 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Public comment will be accepted again on Tuesday, December 11, 11:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers.

## WedgePoint Apts. & Retail to Fill Empty South Avenue Lot

WedgePoint at South Avenue



by Donna Roethel Lenhard

South Wedge residents applauded the demolition of the run down Downtown Travelodge Lodge at the corner of Bryon Street and South Avenue after developer John Billone, Jr. acquired the property in 2002. Eleven years later, if NY State funding comes through, PathStone, a not-for-private regional community development organization, will build WedgePoint, an affordable apartment complex with retail space, rooftop gardens, outdoor community space and a playground.

For the most part, the South Wedge community is supporting the new construction. In late November, PathStone presented their fourth informational meeting at Zeppa Auditorium on Gregory St. They showed updated plans for two three-story, energy efficient and LEED Certified buildings on

the irregularly shaped lot.

Designs show that Building A, fronting on Byron St, would include one- and two-bedroom apartments, many with views of the downtown skyline. Building B, located on the south end of the lot, will offer one and two bedroom apartments and six ground level three-bedroom apartments. The private pay apartments will have rents ranging from \$550-\$980, based on income and unit size.

On the ground level, the proposed commercial space measures approximately 5000 square feet. Fencing and low impact security lighting is planned for the perimeter of the parking lot, which will be supplemented with an additional 10 parking spaces leased from ABVI.

Over the last five months, PathStone representatives and

continued on pg.4

Why not get your Wedge at home? Order form on pg. 2



January 24, 2014 6 - 9 p.m.

Save the Date! Meet & Greet SWPC Chair

Learn Ways You Can Help the Community

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Brief Membership Meeting followed by Food & Drinks

224 Mt. Hope Avenue

## Meet SWPC's James Papapanu

by Nancy O'Donnell



Jim Papapanu

Taking on the job of SWPC's new board chair is a walk in Highland Park for Jim Papapanu. In June of this year he joined the select ranks of climbers who have reached the summits of the 46 mountains within the Adirondacks that reach over 4,000 feet high.

In all of the climbs, Papapanu has teamed with one to ten other people to finish the challenge. He brings that sense of teamwork into his career and volunteer work with SWPC.

"Everybody in the [hiking] group depends on each other. You can't have egos or attitudes in the way of getting things done," said Papapanu.

The Lockport, NY native moved to Rochester to study at Rochester Institute of Technology. He graduated in 2003 with a B.S. in Software Engineering.

"Straight out of high school I studied Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, but I liked to fidget around with computers, and I continued in that direction.

During college Papapanu wanted to live somewhere he could find "food, drink and entertainment within walking distance."

"I wasn't going to get that in the suburbs," he said.

"I could see the South Wedge was on the upswing 13 years ago. People were putting work into their houses. I'm a bit of a rustic, and when I saw the brick interior and wood in an old school house apartment at Averill Avenue and Bond Street I knew I couldn't live anywhere else."

Papapanu learned about

the South Wedge Planning Committee's Farmers Market and Victory Garden, and its work in helping homeowners through emergency grants and rehabbing homes through the Wedge Newspaper.

"I was attracted to the projects with a community focus," Papapanu said.

As a child he gardened with his parents, so his first connection with SWPC was through a Victory Garden plot. "I thought it was really fantastic. It felt like home. I so benefited from it; I wanted to give back. I called [SWPC's former director] Bob Boyd, and I said, "Hey, how can I help? I love to cook and having fresh vegetables was rewarding, but it was the sense of community I loved most about the garden."

The following season he and friend Heather Penrose became co-managers of the Hamilton Street garden. He also joined the SWPC board and later served as secretary on the Executive Committee.

Papapanu continued on as co-manager of the Victory Gardens as a second one was added on Cypress Street in the 2013 season.

When Director John Page asked him to stand for SWPC board chair, Papapanu said he'd be honored to do it.

"I want to make sure that SWPC keeps its focus on our neighborhood and community," he said. "We held a day long strategic planning workshop earlier in the year, and I saw that we have a board deeply committed and passionate about the neighborhood. We need to channel that energy."

SWPC's focus has always been "housing rehabilitation," noted Papapanu, pointing to its work in recent months with homes on Averill and Hamilton. He would like to make sure the focus stays local.

"Our neighborhood housing stock has become more self-sustaining, which is a good to have. We have to make sure if we do housing work outside the neighborhood that we still focus on programs and initiatives vital to our community—the Farmers

*continued on pg. 9*

### The South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc. December/January 2014 Calendar

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

**SWPC Board Meeting**  
james.papapanu@gmail.com  
Tues., 12/17, 1/27, 6 p.m.

**Community Engagement  
(Neighbors & Block Clubs)**  
amaroselli@swpc.org  
Wed. 12/18 & 1/15, 6:30 p.m.

**Housing & Structures**  
tomkiciorjr@gmail.com  
Wed., 12/4 & TBA, 5:30 p.m.  
E-mail to confirm.

**Finance Team**  
tsciarabba@hotmail.com  
Wed. 12/11 & 1/8, 12:30 p.m.

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

## Save the Date for "City Love" on February 7, 2014



For many years, The South East Area Coalition (SEAC) and the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) have discussed working together on projects and programs to benefit southeast Rochester. In 2014, the two non-profits will finally join together in a partnership to build community, enhance housing stock and support local businesses.

Join in celebrating this exciting new affiliation along with RochesterCares at "City Love" on Friday, February 7, place to be announced.

RochesterCares, an emerging affiliate of the national Hands On Network, is designed to help individuals to give back to the community in a flexible way that accommodates their busy lives, skills and interests.

## SWPC Wants You!

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) invites you to join with this dynamic nonprofit organization in making a difference in southeast Rochester.

Founded in 1978, SWPC works as a conduit for federal or state repair grants to help keep people in their aging homes. It aided the development of the very vibrant South Avenue Business

corridor and works in a myriad of ways to build community through its South Wedge Farmers Market, Victory Gardens and the In addition, it founded and *The Wedge* Newspaper.

Your time, talent and passion can help us in continuing SWPC's work.

If interested, call the SWPC office at 256-1740.

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For over 30 years, *The Wedge Newspaper* has chronicled the lives and times of our vibrant South Wedge neighborhood.

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224 Mount Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620.

## SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Mark Greisberger, Co-Treasurer  
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Mitch Gruber, Neighbor  
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Norm Karsten, SBDC SUNY Geneseo  
Christopher Hennelly, Bookkeeper  
The Christopher Group

### Wedge Newspaper

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ADNet Printing,  
Messenger Post Media

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Eileen Thomas

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Nancy O'Donnell,  
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Justin Hubbell

**The Wedge Newspaper**  
(585) 256-1740, ext. 105 or 978-9638.  
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name@swpc.org

South Wedge Planning Committee  
224 Mt. Hope Avenue  
Rochester, New York 14620  
(585) 256-1740

The *Wedge* Newspaper, a not-for-profit newspaper, is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee, a community development organization. Its mission is to provide accurate coverage of community 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) with 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](http://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  
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Financial Aid Available

by Nancy O'Donnell



Lt. Frank Alberti and daughter Francesca are undead for a special cause

## Undead Run Supports the Special Olympics

RPD Lieutenant Frank Alberti at the City of Rochester's Southeast Neighborhood Service Center and daughter Francesca became zombies for a day to support the Special Olympics New York in The rUNDEAD, a 5k race along a marked trail in Genesee Valley Park.

"This was the first annual rUNDEAD held in Rochester," said Lt. Alberti. "Participants could either be runners or zombies. The object of the race was for runners to weave their way along a marked trail in Genesee Valley Park, avoiding zombies stationed throughout the race. Each runner started the race with three flags around their waists. Zombies chased the runners and tried to get the flags. If the runners lost all three flags, they had to be

quarantined for the remainder of the race. If the runners completed the race with at least one flag, they were eligible to win a prize."

Makeup artists volunteered their services to transform participants into bloodthirsty zombies.

"The zombies only needed to dress the part. I was a zombie police officer and Francesca was a zombie college student. We had a great time participating and rUNDEAD raised \$11,816.00 for the Special Olympics."

Special Olympics New York is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and is funded primarily by donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. Special Olympics New York never charges athletes, their families or caregivers to train or compete.

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## EQUAL=GROUND'S HOSTS AIDS QUILT

Owner John White brings the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to Equal=Grounds Coffee House for the month of December. Sections of the 54-ton, homemade tapestry stands on as a memorial to more than 94,000 individuals lost to AIDS. The first panel was created in San Francisco in 1987. The sections are continuously on display across the country in schools, church, and community centers.

"We host the quilt every year with the names of Rochester area people who have died from AIDS as a reminder that the battle against AIDS is not yet won, and to give families and friends of those lost to this epidemic an opportunity to reconnect with their loved ones gone too soon," said White. *Equal=Grounds, 750 South Avenue, 256-2362*



Assistant Administrator Kelvin Knight (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

## Meet Kelvin Knight

Kelvin Knight hit the ground running when he joined the City of Rochester Southeast Neighborhood Service Center as new Assistant Administrator.

"It's a job I went to school for, to work directly with the community and develop policy that affects people's lives and provides services that improve the community," said Knight.

One of his first projects was to help to facilitate the "Voice of the Citizen," a series of citywide community meetings held over several weeks in fall. The City initiative was created to ask communities to indicate important issues: design public safety projects, employ youth and create traffic calming strategies. One of the projects will employ city youth to deliver information to City neighborhoods about available

services.

Knight is also getting to know many of the current businesses owners in the City.

"I'm speaking with current owners about Good Neighbor Agreements that educate them about City Code and expectations. Just the basics. Are the outsides of their buildings safe and clean? Are they preventing loitering, pollution? Are they blasting music?"

A Cobbs Hill resident, Knight was born and raised in the Marketview Heights neighborhood. He attended Pittsford-Mendon High School as part of the Urban Suburban Inter-district Transfer Program. From there, he studied at the University of Rochester, earning a degree in Psychology in 1989.

"I was thinking about being a

psychiatrist, but organic chemistry stopped me," laughed Knight.

Instead he left Rochester and began working in Detroit as a social worker focusing on mental health. He later moved to Chicago and married. While in Chicago he earned an M.P.H. in Public Health and through it found a greater appreciation for Rochester. "I learned more about Rochester in Chicago [than I did living here]," said Knight. "In one class the professor talked about how much disposable income per capita was in Rochester. It had four or five Fortune 500 companies. It was a prosperous time for a city of its size."

Knight and his family returned to Rochester in 1998, Kelvin took a job at Xerox and over the years with his then

*continued on pg.4*



Rehabbed and ready for sale (Photo by Johannes Bockwoldt)

Check out SWPC's complete renovation of this gorgeous 1,410 sq. ft. early 20th century house. Look what you get: completely refinished hardwood floors, large dining room with bay window and window seat. The large kitchen contains new cabinets, counters, plumbing and flooring. A new powder room is adjacent. 3 bedrooms with Green Labeled carpeted second floor and a space saver laundry. Spacious completely remodeled bathroom: new tub, double vanities and sinks, shower and a dual flush toilet. New energy efficient windows throughout. Freshly painted rooms with low VOC paint. Circuits breakers with 150 amp service, energy efficient 40 gallon gas hot water heater and a 93% high efficiency gas forced air furnace have also been installed. New maintenance-free vinyl siding and trim wrapped in aluminum, new roofing with architectural shingles and baked aluminum gutters and downspouts.

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## Introducing Harlow Beatrice Kate Chajka



**John and Kristin Chajka of Swillburg celebrate the birth of their daughter Harlow, born on November 11, 7:34 p.m. at Strong Memorial Hospital. Their darling daughter weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 ozs. and measured 20 in.**

### Kelvin Knight

*continued from pg.3*

wife raised son Kelvin, Jr. and daughter Kaila. In 2008, he was hired by the City of Rochester. As a Property Conservation Inspector, he responded to citizen complainants and visited homes in violation.

“My service background and work with mentally ill teenagers and adults helped me in my work” he said. “I can talk to anyone, and I’m a multitasker.”

Even while doing a job that can be very stressful—upset tenants, upset landlords—Knight discovered it to be a plus. “Working as an inspector in the northeast was the greatest experience,” Knight said. “I got to see the high quality of the architecture in the worst neighborhoods. There was a great amount of artistry in the woodwork and stonework. One house had faces carved into the newel posts of the railings. Many of the larger homes, former mansions, had been subdivided into apartments, but I could still see what they had been.”

Throughout his career, Knight has always been a committed public health activist. He’s volunteered for the Bicycle Rodeo, a program that taught children bicycle safety and “the rules of the road, but he went beyond volunteering his time and turned to fundraising for the program. He wrote a proposal that received funding from Xerox was used to buy helmets for the children. He brought together R Community Bikes, an organization that repairs donated bicycles for giveaway, and the Housing Director at the University of Rochester who had been storing an abundance of abandoned bikes found on campus. Knight’s work was recognized with a Certificate of Recognition from the Monroe County Legislature in 2008.

He continues to give back. For six years he has donated his Saturdays mornings to coach an award-winning science team that draws its members from the Urban Suburban program at his high school Alma Mater.

“I was one of the smarter kids in my class growing up,” said Knight. “The [teachers] would take me out of general classes and

put me in advance classes. In summer I got a medical school internship at the University of Rochester. It was a great experience to see what can happen after you graduate. [Experiences like that] let children see the world from a different perspective.”

A couple summers ago Kelvin organized free outdoor family movie nights that served the Southwest neighborhoods. “I want to get it started again if I can get funding,” said Knight.

Along with his work at the SE Neighborhood Service Center, Knight works part-time at Hillside where he plays games with the teens and encourages sports activity.

If Knight ever gets free time and the weather is right, he and his son will be outside fishing for bass and “pan fish” in Lake Ontario. “I practice catch and release.” laughed Knight.

To contact Knight, call 428-7640.

### WedgePoint

*continued from pg.1*

- architects presented their design to BASWA (Business Association of the South Wedge Area) members and to SWPC’s Housing & Structures Committee for comment and design suggestions. The presentation in late November did not include all of the final design elements, but PathStone has agreed to changes in window size, color, railing style and inclusion of street level commercial space suggested by both BASWA and SWPC. They listened to community concerns and acknowledged parking, design and

property management concerns. PathStone, located at East and Alexander Streets, is a private, not-for-profit regional community development and human service organization providing services to communities throughout New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Vermont, Virginia and Puerto Rico. PathStone has successfully operated a wide array of programs funded by federal, state, local, faith-based and private sources.



WedgePoint at Bryon Street, former site of Downtown Moter Lodge

### Holiday Safety Tips

Here are some tips to keep you and your valuables safe during the holidays and darker winter months:

- Remain alert at all times.
- Walk with others when possible
- Walk in well lit areas
- Walk briskly with your head up
- Avoid displaying expensive items such as cell phones, iPADS, electronics and jewelry
- Have your keys in your hand and ready to unlock your vehicle as you approach it
- As you approach your vehicle, look in the front and rear seats before you enter
- Lock your vehicle as soon as you enter it.
- If someone approaches your vehicle in the parking lot inquiring about directions or

asking any other questions, so not open your window or roll your windows down.

- When in or around your vehicle park in well lit areas
- Park in areas with high concentrations of pedestrians and vehicles
- Keep packages, valuables and electronics out of sight in your vehicle
- Before leaving your vehicle, make sure the windows and doors are secure
- Take a second or two to ensure you or your vehicle are not easy targets  
**SAFETY FIRST!**

### Congratulations to the businesses in the South Wedge area and beyond who made the cut in the City Newspaper’s Best of the City...

**Best Indian Restaurant** – India House, 998 S. Clinton Avenue

**Best retail** – Little Bleu Cheese Shop, 684 South Avenue and Thread, 654 South Avenue

**Best park** – Highland

**Best dance studio-** Tango Cafe, 389 Gregory St.

**Best mural** – Thevin’ Stephen @Tap & Mallet, 381 Gregory Street

**Best bar for beer** – Tap & Mallet

**Best juke box** – Lux Lounge, 666 South Ave.



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by Nancy O'Donnell



Mayor-elect Lovely Warren and Thomas Warfield (Photo by Colin Coffey)

The victory celebration for Mayor-elect Lovely Warren at the Hyatt Regency hotel drew many South Wedgians. Colin Coffey, owner of Renewing Massage, was one of the celebrants, on hand to photograph Thomas Warfield, dancer/choreographer and assistant professor in NTID's Cultural and

Creative Studies Department. "This was not just an historic night electing our first woman, African-American woman, mayor but historic in the sense that a new hope for inclusion and unity in our city was born in each of us," said Warfield. Coffey, an enthusiastic

**DePaul Holiday Helpers**  
DePaul, a not-for-profit community support organization, is seeking community support for its annual Holiday Helpers Program. For more info about the Holiday Helpers Program or to volunteer, please contact Amy Cavalier at (585) 426-8000, ext. 3102 or via email at [acavalier@depaul.org](mailto:acavalier@depaul.org).



## City Looks to Reforest Mt. Hope Cemetery

The City of Rochester is asking residents to help them in their goal to "plant roots that will grow to captivate future generations of citizens."

Mount Hope Cemetery commemorating its 175th anniversary in 2013 is hailed as an active cemetery, arboretum, a park, a historic landmark and a community treasure. The cemetery is one of the most photographed and visited location in the area. Most recently, *City Newspaper* devoted several pages to tell its story in photos.

Mount Hope's original planners chose the hilly, heavily forested area, then several miles outside the city, for its natural beauty. Many tree specimens were added over the years, but age and Rochester's rigorous weather has

taken its toll.

The City is now soliciting private donations, small and large, to help with reforestation efforts. Donors can contribute online via credit card or by mail. If mailing, the City asks donors to print out and use the Reforest Mt. Hope donation form available online at [www.cityofrochester.gov/reforestmounthope](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/reforestmounthope) and mail it with a check payable to

"City Treasurer, Reforest Mount Hope" to Reforest Mount Hope Cemetery, 1133 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620.

Contributor levels range from Mount Hope Steward (\$10- \$99), to Ellwanger & Barry Society (\$250 - \$999), Mount Hope Steward (\$10- \$99) and Anthony & Douglass Society (\$1,000 and up).

## SOUTH WEDGE FUN

### Highland Conservancy

You're invited to the Fifth Annual Holiday Party at the Highland Park Conservatory on December 4. Enjoy refreshments, conversation, and the opportunity to see the Conservatory bedecked in all its holiday finery. The party is held at the Lamberton Conservatory, 180 Reservoir Avenue, Rochester, and is free of charge. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### Metro Justices Annual Alternative Fair Dec.-6-7

For 32 years, Metro Justice has held this family-oriented holiday shopping experience that supports just and sustainable wages for workers by featuring fair trade or hand crafted goods by local vendors. Thousands of items, including pottery, textiles, jewelry, fine art, toys & games, ornaments (and much more) are priced in ranges that the whole family can afford. Enjoy food, music, and learning about local progressive organizations.

The Alternative Fair is also an annual fundraising event for

Metro Justice, an independent, grass-roots, progressive membership organization that works for human rights, equality and economic and environmental justice by raising community awareness and engaging in non-violent action. Friday, December 6th, 5-9 p.m.; Saturday, December 7th, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

First Unitarian Church of Rochester, 220 South Winton Road (handicap accessible). \$3 suggested donation for ages 12+. Children under 12 free. Free child care. Raffle ticket with entrance donation.

### It's a Wonderful Life in the Wedge on December 7

The South Wedge's annual Holiday Festival will be held on Saturday December 7th starting at 11:00 AM. We will be offering tree & wreath sales, haywagon rides by Heberle Farms, carriage rides by Inverness Farms, food & clothing drive, holiday caroling by the Rochester Oratorio Society, children's holiday activities, artists and craftspeople selling their

goods, a concert by Buddhahood, a tree lighting, s'mores, and more.

### South Wedge Mission's Advent Calendar

Dec. 7 - It's Wonderful Life in the Wedge - St. Joe's Collection  
Dec. 7 - Rochester Free Store Open - 3:30-5:00 p.m. with gift wrapping

Dec. 8 - Sunday Evening Worship 5 p.m.

Dec. 8 - Film Screening: *What Would Jesus Buy?* and discussion with Nancy O'Donnell - 7 p.m.

Dec. 15 - Beer & Carols at Tap and Mallet - arrive 5 p.m., singing at 6 p.m.

Dec. 21 - Rochester Free Store Open - 3:30-5 p.m. with gift wrapping

Dec. 22 - Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service (for the whole family!) - 7:00 p.m.

Daily DIY Advent Calendar - "Like" us on Facebook!

Weekly Matins (morning prayer) - Weds 7:30 a.m.

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## Children's Corner - Choosing Safe Toys



by Alexie Cruz Puran, MD

It is that time of year again, the holiday season, a time where children look forward to receiving toys as gifts. Toys are supposed to be fun and are an important part in a child's development. But each year, scores of children are treated in hospital emergency departments for toy-related injuries. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), more than 250,000 toy-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2010. Of those, about one third involved children under 5. It is important to keep safety in mind when selecting toys to prevent injuries.

### How to Keep Playtime Safe

- It is vital to read the warning labels on toys. These labels give

important information about how to use a toy and what ages the toy is appropriate for. You may think that a child who's advanced in comparison to peers can handle toys meant for older children. But the age levels for toys are determined by safety factors, not intelligence or maturity.

- Choking is a particular risk for children ages 3 or younger, because they put objects in their mouths. Make sure all toys and parts are larger than your child's mouth to prevent choking. Children can choke or suffocate on deflated or broken balloons. Keep deflated balloons away from children younger than eight years old. Discard broken balloons at once.

- Children can have serious stomach and intestinal problems, including death after swallowing button batteries and magnets. In addition to toys, button batteries are often found in musical greeting cards, remote controls, hearing aids and other small electronics. Keep them away from young children and call your health care provider immediately if your child swallows one.

- Choose toys with good design and quality construction.

Watch out for toys that have sharp edges, small parts or sharp points. Avoid toys that produce extremely loud noises that can damage hearing and propelled objects that can injure eyes. Check to see that plush (stuffed) toys have age-appropriate features such as embroidered or secured eyes and noses for younger children, and seams that are reinforced to withstand an older child's play.

- Immediately discard plastic wrappings or other packaging on toys before they become dangerous play things. Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children. Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length. They could be a strangulation hazard for babies. Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings in a designated location, such as on a shelf or in a toy chest.

Check the Consumer Product Safety Commission website for the latest information about toy recalls or call their hotline at (800) 638-CPSC to report a toy you think is unsafe.

Wishing you and your family remain safe and healthy during this holiday season!



## Discover the Warner Castle & the Rochester Civic Garden - Part One

by Christine Froelich

Many drive by Warner Castle every day, but few know its history or the man who lived there. Horatio Gates Warner designed The Warner Castle in 1854 to resemble the ancestral castle of the Clan Douglas, which captivated his fancy during a visit to Scotland. Born in 1801 in Canaan, Columbia County NY, Warner graduated from Union College in 1826. During his lifetime he was a lawyer, judge, banker and publisher of the daily Advertiser.

Originally, the castle was situated on many acres of land serving as the family's farm. It is constructed with 22 inch thick hand hewn native limestone from a local quarry. At one time there were three iron balconies, and two iron dogs guarded the front entrance which was approached by a circular driveway. The gatehouse was erected in 1861 to house the Warner's coachman. There were originally 22 rooms and 62 doors

in the Castle. Original plans for the Castle are in the Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester.

Horatio Gates Warner died in 1876 on his plantation near Greensboro, Georgia and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery on the west side of Mt. Hope Avenue. After his death, his son John Warner inherited the property and lived in it with his family. In about 1900, he sold the castle to Mr. and Mrs. George Ramsdell. In 1912, they sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dennis. Mr. Dennis, a Rochester candy manufacturer died in 1927. His widow Merry Dennis inherited his estate, which was valued at nearly one million dollars. She hired landscape architect, Alling S. DeForest to design and construct the sunken garden which sits behind the Warner Castle.

DeForest, a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, contributed to a wide

*continued on pg.12 .*

## South Wedge Home Wins Landmark Society Award

A South Wedge home at 40 Linden Street was recently honored at the Landmark Society of Western New York's annual Preservation Awards ceremony at City Hall. The annual awards are given to individuals and organizations in a nine-county area who have made outstanding efforts in the preservation of their homes, historic properties or landscapes. The Society's newsletter detailed the Linden Street home's history in its Winter issue. According to the article, the house was constructed by the Ellwanger and Barry Realty Company in the Mt. Hope neighborhood between 1875-1884. Two generations of the Charles Houston family lived in the home



40 Linden Street (Photo courtesy of the Landmark Society)

until the late 1940s.

The current owners were lauded for their careful rehabilitation that restored the house's distinctive architecture: removing the asbestos siding that covered wood clapboards and decorative details, reconstructing wooden railings and columns and painting the exterior in a "historic color scheme."

## The Refinement Studio Children's Workshops

The Refinement Studio offers workshops to teach children good manners in a fun way.

A Holiday Open House will be held on Thursday, December 5:30 - 8 p.m. Featured businesses include Little Miss Babycakes, Miche Purses & Jewelry, Jill Bates Fashion & Cut-it-Out Cookie.

On December 26, Miss Cynthia invites children ages 5-7 in for a cup of hot cocoa and reading of *The Heart of the Snowman*. Loom bracelet making for ages 5-7 will be held on Wed. Jan. 1 at 10 a.m. Children, ages 8-10, can have fun making bracelets in the 1 p.m. workshop. Both workshops cost \$15. A two-hour New Year's Tea Party

features peppermint tea, cookies and refinement. Girls ages 7-10 arrive at 10 a.m. Boys ages 7-10 can enjoy a tea party at 1 p.m. Cost for the tea party is \$25. For more information, call Miss Cynthia at 244-2228. [www.refinementstudio.com](http://www.refinementstudio.com) and also on Facebook. *The Refinement Studio, 55 Canterbury Road, 244-2228*

## Mt. Hope Cemetery Holiday Gift Sale

Discover unique, cemetery-themed items for holiday giving: photographs, posters, books, mugs, calendars, and more. Proceeds from all sales will go to restoration work in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Payment by cash or check only. Credit card sales cannot be processed at the gatehouse. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Gatehouse at North Cemetery Entrance, 791 Mt. Hope Ave., opposite Robinson Drive.

## Headz Up Hats & Salon

Headz Up Hats & Salon bustled with business during November, celebrating the shop's anniversary. Three women stopped in to show their "hatitude" for the Wedge camera. Owner Tonja McNair said the store is packed with winter hats and special events. 524 Mt. Hope Avenue, 442.7680.

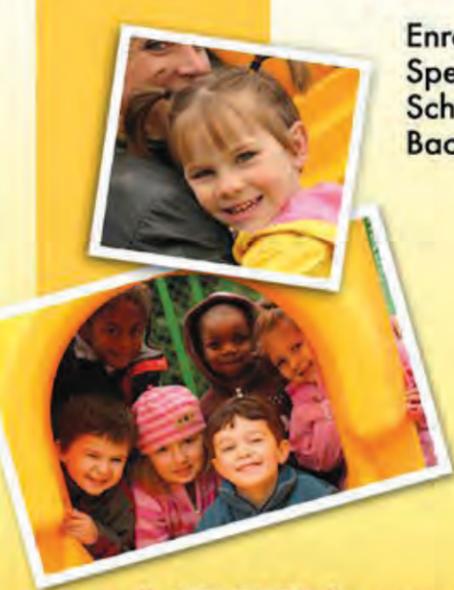


Pamela Bradford, Patricia Willis, Vaness Miller-Floyd

## SWPC Annual Mtg. January 24, 6 p.m. 224 Mt. Hope Avenue

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call 473-2858 for more info or a tour



## The Closet Murders Now Available on DVD

*The Closet Murders* made its Rochester premiere at The Cinema Theatre's hosting of Rochester Movie Makers' Third Annual Shmoovies Film Festival in September. Directed by Toronto filmmaker Susy Patrick, the film was shot in 1969 on Super 8 film in Montreal, Canada. Copies of the DVD are available by contacting Executive Producer Taylor Whitne at [taylor@preservethepast.com](mailto:taylor@preservethepast.com).

## The Closet Murders: RESURRECTED

As a teenager, Susy Patrick wrote, directed and filmed Super 8 movies in Montreal in which her family and friends acted. This DVD is the restored version of her second film shot in 1969. The DVD also features a bonus film by friend, Richard Wolff, then visiting from London. The experimental film "Q&A" features Susy in front of the camera.



Murder and mayhem ensue after the mysterious and sinister death of Mr. Nicholas Kartelle and the shocking provisions of his will.

Home-Movie-Classics, a division of Preserving The Past, LLC, with offices in Los Angeles, CA and Rochester, NY transferred the film and worked closely with the filmmaker to restore and re-edit the movie-adding titles, special effects, Foley and more to bring it into the 21st Century, whilst maintaining the integrity of the era.

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## NeedleDrop Records

by Richie Martin

Spend some time walking around the South Wedge, and it quickly becomes apparent that it has a vibrant artistic community. From the paintings on the sides of buildings and utility boxes to the music playing in the stores, the South Wedge definitely has its own sense of style including Needle Drop Records.

The shop focuses almost entirely on older mediums of music in this case vinyl and cassettes. Walking into the store can feel like taking a step into the past.

“There will always be a market for vinyl. It just has something special about it,” said owner Russ Torregiano, who recently celebrated his second year in business.

He might just be right. Consider that people still purchase and enjoy black and white films and even silent films like *Nosferatu*. If those can last the ages, then so can this music.

The store itself is small and nearly every inch of its walls are covered with posters of musicians and bands. Several rows of tables in the center of the store have a plethora of vinyl record filled crates. In the back several racks hold a variety of cassettes and tucked into the corner is a Super Nintendo connected to an old cathode TV. Also in the back, large cage containing two guinea pigs giving the store another piece of charm. The atmosphere continues to the front counter where photos of musicians reside under the glass cover and share space with Simpsons memorabilia. Iconic cult classic movies rest in the windowsill including the infamous “Cannibal Holocaust,” (not a movie recommended for the squeamish or casual horror fan). Along with classical rock, Needledrop carries genres like Punk, Hardcore, Metal and Indie.

“I’ve listened to vinyl all my life,” said Torregiano, who also admits he doesn’t own a single CD. With multiple resources at his disposal, new merchandise is easy to come by, “Wholesale is useful, used albums take some digging, but there is Craigslist and every now and then people come in to sell their records,” he said.

Needle Drop plays a part in encouraging new local bands. Younger customers are looking for inspiration in forming their own bands. Rochester has been producing local bands since the early 60’s, some of which have gone on to have world tours. Polar Bear Club, a Punk Rock/Alternative Rock/Emo focused band, started back in the summer of 2005. Since then they have



Russ Torregiano (Photo by Richie Martin)

released four albums with their latest one “Death Chorus” released in late November. Such Gold, formed in 2009, focuses on Punk, Pop Punk, and Melodic Hardcore. They released their first album in the spring of that year. In July 2011, they were able to sign with their first label, Razor and Tie.

It’s thanks to stores like Needle Drop that bands like this are able to get their start. Torregiano feels there can always be more done to help local and independent musicians. Many musicians forming bands are getting younger than 21. Often times when they want to attend live shows they are unable because of age restrictions. Torregiano feels that Rochester needs to have more venues to allow these the younger people to get the full exposure he did when he started going to shows in the early 90’s.

To that end he takes part in the South Wedge Music Festival, an event that helps developing and independent musicians spread the word about their music. Traditionally events like this bring together several local record store owners and various artists who put their works and materials on display. What makes the Festival truly unique is some albums are released in the stores that can’t be found online. Here people are able to exchange and purchase albums from various artists and discover new ones as well.

“It’s like a big flea market,” said Torregiano. “People start waiting in line as early as 6 a.m. for a 10 a.m. opening. This year over three hundred people showed up just for this one day event.”

That is part of what makes the South Wedge and stores like Needle Drop special, their dedication and loyalty to the independent artist. Record stores give to communities not only music but a common place for people who love music to come together and share their passions. This close community of musicians and record stores help keep the music scene alive because independent businesses control the material in their stores.

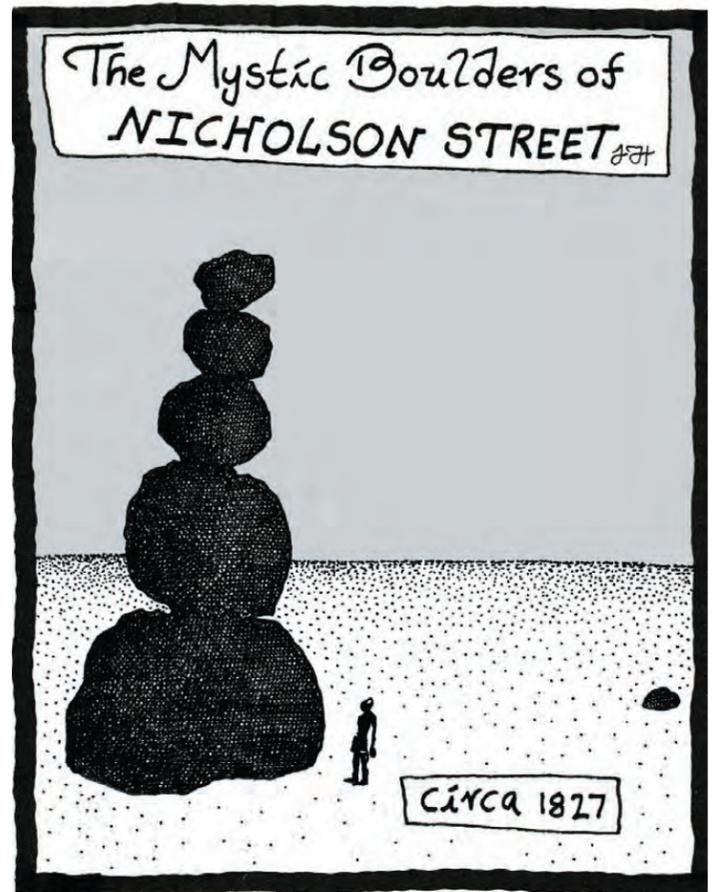
This creative control allows for the independent or underground musicians and artists to make a name for themselves.

“Really as long as there are stores selling music that’s a good thing” says Torregiano, “and if those stores can sell instruments to even better.”

In many ways that is what Needle Drop is about—exploring and celebrating music an individual has created. So older mediums like vinyl and cassettes are here to stay, thanks to the dedication of musicians and store owners who are keeping this scene alive. It was AC/DC who put it best when they said “Let there be Rock”, and that is indeed the case at NeedleDrop.

304 Gregory Street, 271-6785

## The North Wedge by Justin Hubbell



### Salon Paragon Relocates

Lovers of Salon Paragon at 289 Gregory Street just have to turn the corner to see its new digs in the old Fine Arts Theater building at 700 South Avenue next

door to Glover’s Barber.

Owners Tammy Cruppe and Jennifer Lind recently opened their cozy space right next to Glovers Barber Shop.



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# A YEAR IN THE WEDGE



293 Hamilton Street rehabbed by SWPC in 2013



Calvary St. Andrew's Big Lunch in June featured Matt Weasner on bagpipes



SWPC Board member Nathaniel Mich at Thanksgiving Day Wedge Waddle



(above) Filmmaker and Director, Susan Patrick with Executive Producer and President and Founder of Preserving The Past, LLC, Taylor Whitney at the Rochester red carpet pre-screening Schmoovie party at Rooney's Restaurant party



The Amish Puppy Mill won first prize in Night of the Living Wedge in October (l-r) Jennifer Posey, Larry Jessup and Nancy Daley and Kate Sweeney



(left) Artist Gaia transforms the SWPC building during Wall Therapy



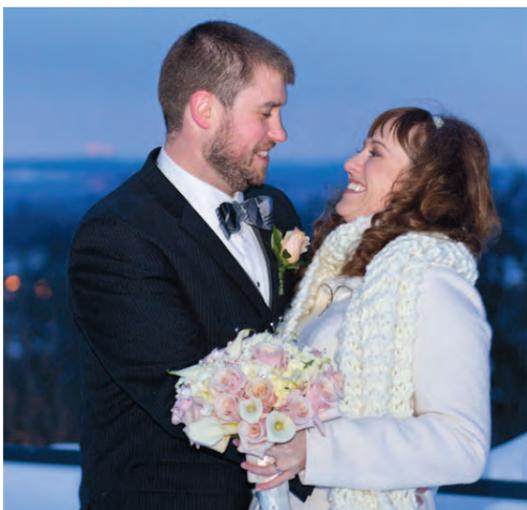
SWPC founder and Calvary St. Andrews' Rev. Judy Lee Hay retires



SWPC Co-Vice Chair Donna Roethel Lenhard on Cypress Street Build a Victory Garden Day



RIP Princess Baby, resident feline at the Cinema Theater



Boardmembers Tom Kicior and Monica McCullough marry



U of R students from around the nation and the world clean up during Wilson Day



The Cinema Theater welcomed One-eyed Sue from Lollipop Farm in 2013. See her at the box office & read her movie reviews on Facebook.

## Free Screening of What Would Jesus Buy - Dec. 8



Watch *What Would Jesus Buy* and join with neighbors, strangers and Wedge Newspaper Editor Nancy O'Donnell in a discussion about consumerism and ways to prevent the coming Shopocalypse.

The film will be shown Sunday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the South Wedge Mission, 125 Caroline Street. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-9638 or 746-3048.

*What Would Jesus Buy* is described as "an examination of the commercialization of Christmas in America while following Reverend Billy (aka Bill Talen) and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir on a cross-country mission to save Christmas from the Shopocalypse (the end of humankind from consumerism, over-consumption and the fires of eternal debt). The film also delves into issues such as the role sweatshops play in America's mass consumerism and Big-Box Culture."

### Papapanu

*continued from pg. 2*

Market, Victory Garden, block clubs, and absolutely the *Wedge* Newspaper."

He's especially committed to seeing the Farmers Market move beyond just being sustainable to growing. "It's important that it stay in the neighborhood and that it be accessible by foot."

When not volunteering at SWPC, Papapanu works as a requirements analyst at Leveraging Technology, an IT firm in High Falls. A current project keeps him commuting to Buffalo 4-5 times a week.

Mountain climbing remains his greatest love. This past summer he became eligible to join the Adirondack 46ers by finishing with Mt. Haystack.

While he climbs year round, his favorite times are in fall and winter. With compass and map and a team of climbers, he's maneuvered the snow-covered trails to a new summit.

"Winter [in the mountains] is beautiful. Everything is white. The pine trees are covered with snow. It's a Christmas card on steroids. It's just gorgeous. There's a lot

more solitude and it's quiet and serene."

Back on flat ground in the South Wedge, Papapanu is working with SWPC on some of its current projects: selling the newly rehabbed home on Hamilton Street to a first time home-buyer, restoring a summer community street festival, looking for new projects to promote the South Wedge, and getting ready to meet the community at the SWPC Open House on January 24.

"I'm a big hockey fan, and I grew up playing hockey. I was taught the name on the front of the jersey is more important than the name on the back. You learn it's not about individuals. To get a job done you have to be willing to work together. It means putting ego and personal interests aside to accomplish something as a group. It's the same thing working with the SWPC Board, or on any project in our community."



*middle photo (l-r) Mel Olney, Rachel Larson, Harry Larson, Brian Larson, Addie Larson, Peter Keenan (library creator), Don Olney (library decorator) and BJ Larson (Photo by Michael Tomb)*

## Little Free Library Open on Rockingham St.

by Rachel Larson

What does Rochester have in common with Republic of Congo, Lakki Marwat, Pakistan, Bogota, Colombia or Nagasaki, Japan? We are all lucky to have Little Libraries!

This spring in the Highland Park Neighborhood, a group of like-minded neighbors decided to work together to enhance our community with Little Free Libraries. The idea is to share books with your neighbors, increase conversations and build community one book at a time. Little Libraries started in Wisconsin in 2009 and in the

last five years have been built all over the world. Currently, two are registered in Brighton and one on Azalea Road in the Strong neighborhood. The newest two are on Rockingham and Caroline Streets. The Corn Hill Neighborhood is also joining in the movement.

Neighbors and Master artisans, Peter Keenan and Chris Kase, built the bases of our new libraries. Don Olney sharing his amazing woodworking skills in decorating it. Other neighbors painted and put them up. It is truly a community effort!

Two new libraries are currently being constructed now, but the crew could always use more help making them. If you have woodcraft and painting skills or materials to donate, neighbors are working to put up one on Ashland Street in the South Wedge.

To find out more about the larger Little Library movement, visit website, <http://www.littlefreelibrary.org>. To be a part of what is happening locally, email the Highland Park Neighborhood at [communications@highlandparkrochester.org](mailto:communications@highlandparkrochester.org).

## New Years Resolution- Visit Rochester's Castle WARNER CASTLE OPEN HOUSE

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by Nathaniel Mich

The new Zemeta Ethiopian Restaurant on South Clinton is a welcome addition to the diverse restaurant community of the South Wedge and its surrounding neighborhoods. Rochester's Ethiopian restaurants do not seem to be blessed by great longevity, but after one meal there, I certainly hope that Zemeta bucks the trend. Open everyday but Tuesday, Zemeta offers beef, lamb, chicken and vegetarian entrees. However, as a meat eater who sometimes just wants a big pile of vegetables, it was the vegetarian buffet offered Fridays and Saturdays that caught my eye. Perhaps this will go some distance in soothing the ache that some of us still feel after the closure of India House's (Zemeta's across-

the-street neighbor) vegetarian cafe all those years ago.

It would perhaps be more accurate, however, to describe Zemeta's Vegetarian Buffet as a Lentilarian Buffet. For lovers of legumes, this \$10 all-you-can-eat is a paradise, with no fewer than four lentil (or split pea or chickpea) dishes in a range of rich earth tones and flavors. Accompanying the magical fruit stews were two green veggie dishes: green beans and cabbage, basic salad fixings and a pile of injera – a spongy Ethiopian flatbread made from gluten free tef. I must confess to you, Dear Reader, that, besides the injera, I have no idea what any of the food I ate is called. There were no labels, the verbal explanation was along the lines of "lentils, lentils, split peas and chickpeas," and I was too focused on stuffing my face to ask

for their true names. So, I beg your forgiveness as we present a review by color:

First, the dark red stuff. Made of small lentils (like French or beluga lentils) cooked to just past al dente, this stew was rich, sweet and smoky. This was the spiciest of the four, but it was a lingering heat, slow to build and reminiscent of chipotle. The heat married nicely with the sweet, unctuous, red pepper-based sauce. Next, the green stuff. This stew was made of split peas and provided a fresh, soft contrast to its more intense neighbor. The flavors were herbal and light, and small pieces of fresh jalapeno provided textural punctuation and heat. The orange stew was lentils again, but a larger variety, and cooked in a tomato-based sauce, which contributed the tart and fruity flavor profile you might expect. Ever so slightly spicy, the acidity of this dish made it a nice foil and palate cleanser. My favorite of the quartet, however, was the golden stew. Made with chickpeas cooked well past the fall-apart stage in an onion-enriched sauce, this stew was aromatic and bright, but had depth as well. The key, I believe, is argan nut oil. Americans are more likely to encounter argan oil in cosmetics than in food, but this oil has an amazing flavor. Musty and slightly earthy, but still in the higher registers of flavor, argan nut oil brings notes of caramel and incense to the foods in which it's used. It is a flavor to make you sit up and pay attention to your food. The green vegetables were comparatively bland and overcooked to my taste, but the injera onto which I greedily shoveled my multicolored legumes was lovely.

Zemeta's layout is a little odd, with a small dining room (maybe 18 seats) separated by a few steps



Zemeta's Buffet (Photo by Nathaniel Mich)

from the buffet room and a larger, rear dining room. There is lots of light though, and the posters of Ethiopian landmarks and historical figures are interesting to look at. The service is friendly, but of the slow and slightly scattered variety that I have come to associate with

family restaurants. The food was wholesome, healthful and tasty, and my companion and I enjoyed ourselves a great deal. I look forward to exploring Zemeta's full menu (and takeout), and hope that theirs is not a fleeting contribution to our area.

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**Warner Castle**  
*continued from pg.5 .*

variety of landscape designs, both public and private, during the early 20th Century. He received most of his early training at the prestigious Olmsted Brothers firm in Brookline, Massachusetts. His most notable projects were the original landscape of the George Eastman House on East Avenue in Rochester and the gardens of Harbel Manor, the Akron, Ohio home of Harvey Firestone. Although the majority of his designs were the landscapes of private estates, he also designed campuses, housing developments, cemeteries and parks.

After Mrs. Dennis died in 1936, her relatives disputed the will and the estate was not settled for several years. The Dennis estate sold the castle in 1944 to Christopher Gian-Curiso, a naturopath, who used it to house a sanitarium. Ownership changed again in 1951 when the City of Rochester purchased it for \$37,500.

You can learn more about the history of Warner Castle in our February/March issue.

The Castle is open to the public free of charge for self-guided tours; Tuesday through Thursday from 9am-4pm. Library hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. We are open occasional Saturdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please call us at 585-473-5130 to inquire about Saturday open hours.

**Swiftwater Brewery & Pub Taking Shape**

Swiftwater Brewery & Pub has begun "a ton of renovation" at 378 Mt. Hope Avenue at Hickory Street. Andrew Cook, co-owner with his father Bill Cook, started landscaping outside and working with architects with the floor plan inside. Cook reports that if all goes well with the necessary permits, Swiftwater Brewery & Pub will open early summer 2014.

For updates and photos, visit Swiftwater on Facebook.

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