

WEDGE

The Official Newspaper of the South Wedge Since 1982

Inside

FREE

- Mary Lupien Speaks Out 2
- A Charitable Sewing Bee 4
- Spread the Love 5
- Skate Lovers Palace 6
- History Happy Hours 8
- Physician Heal Thyself 9
- Planetary Messengers 11

Steve Grills & the Roadmasters Play City Love 2020

For Steve Grills, the Blues has been a lifelong journey. Growing up he heard the music of Big Bill Broonzy, Leadbelly and Lightnin' Hopkins from his father's record collection. Through the Beatles, Steve discovered Chuck Berry, and he has not looked back since. He searched out the roots of Rock 'n Roll, uncovering great artists who influenced and inspired him: Robert Lockwood Jr., Earl Hooker, Freddie King and Albert Collins.

Steve befriended Lockwood after meeting him in 1978. In 1992, he invited Steve and his band to perform at his Legendary Blues Festival near Cleveland, Ohio. Steve later recorded with him on Shakin' Smith's CD Harmonica Wizard.

Steve and his band the Roadmasters (named after Earl Hooker's band) draw their repertoire from these and other artists, giving contemporary audiences the opportunity to discover the vitality of the music of these legendary and influential musicians.

Steve has released a CD of recordings he did with pianist Ernest Lane entitled *After Hours* on the Toogaloo label.

Steve is very excited for the opportunity to record with Lane. Lane's musical career reaches back to the late 1940s when he played and recorded with the enigmatic Delta Blues guitarist Robert Nighthawk. Lane backed Nighthawk on his Aristocrat (later Chess) recordings "Black Angel Blues" (Sweet Black Angel) and "Annie Lee Blues." Blues scholars consider these recordings with Nighthawk to be among the greatest Post war Chicago blues records ever made.

Tickets for City Love are available on line at RocCityLove.com or swpc.org.



Petal Pointillism #4 by Marcia Zach from the ongoing gallery show: "Visions of a Distant Ecotopia: The Garden as Organic Collage" by Michael Tomb and Marcia Zach of Studio Michaelino. Visit the exhibit at My Sister's Gallery, Episcopal Church Home, 505 Mt. Hope Avenue through March 1, 2020, hours 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. daily.

The exhibit consists of thirty photographs of "organic collage." The original subject of every photo was handmade from layers of homegrown vegetables, flowers, seeds, edible weeds, perennial foliage and other items primarily found in the artists' gardens. Each photograph captures a still life designed as an ephemeral installation on wooden picnic tables and benches. The art of Michael and Marcia derives from their experiences as gardeners who also appreciate urban agriculture. Their photographs are visions of "Ecotopia," an imagined society based on ideal ecology, sustainability and other green themes.

Party with a Purpose--City Love 2020

Joan Brandenburg

We'll be celebrating the 20's at City Love 2020 on Friday, March 20. The Historic German House at 315 Gregory Street is booked and tickets, just \$20.00, are available now for City Love 2020.

City Love is the South Wedge Planning Committee's (SWPC) annual party to celebrate our great neighborhoods and support neighborhood housing initiatives.

For now nine years, City Love has invited community stakeholders and residents to come together for one night to shake off the winter blues, get ready for spring and enjoy great food and friendship.

The theme for the 2020 celebration is "The Roaring 20's" with music performed by **Steve Grills and The Roadmasters**.

Guests are invited to wear comfortable clothes and their dancing shoes. Guests are welcomed to dig through their closets and put together the best Roaring 20's outfit they can find. Zoot suits, flapper dresses, feather boas are all part of the retro-fashion fest. Awards await the proclaimed King and Queen of City Love 2020!

The night will include tastings of the best beer and whiskey made right here in ROC City. The photo booth will be back, the auction and raffle items are



the best we have seen yet, and the decorating committee is primed to go.

The SWPC Board of Directors is pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Dave Halter Community Champion Award will be **Jayne Morgan**. Nominated by Rev. Judy Hay, Jayne has done an exemplary job of organizing the

Hickory Nuts, a South Wedge community group, leads an annual picnic in Marie Daley Park for the group, serves on the Historic Calvary St. Andrew's Team for concerts and lectures, serves on SWPC's Community Engagement committee and has spent hours reviewing the City of Rochester Comprehensive Plan. The Dave Halter Award is presented annually to community members who live a life of community service and activism. Congratulations, Jayne! Job well done!

City Love is a party with a purpose! All proceeds support neighborhood housing initiatives and rehabilitation, preservation, community victory gardens, The South Wedge Farmers Market and The WEDGE newspaper. None of these local efforts would exist without the help of sponsors and guests.

The guest list is limited to 300. Tickets are on sale now; \$20.00 in advance-\$25.00 at the door and a special price of \$10.00 for students over the age of 21. Get your tickets on line at RocCityLove.com or swpc.org. Purchase tickets in person at 224 Mount Hope Avenue, the SWPC main office. For sponsorship information, contact GValenti@swpc.org or call (585) 256-1740 ext. 2.



Guitarist Steve Grills

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

OPINION ~ New East District City Council Member Speaks Out

Mary Lupien



City Councilmember Mary Lupien

Hello South Wedge! I'm Mary Lupien, and I was recently elected to Rochester City Council to represent the city's East District. The district starts a few blocks east of South Ave. and runs east to Winton and north to Clifford. Much of the South Wedge is in the city's South District, represented by Councilmember Lashay Harris. Though each quadrant has their own representative, all nine Councilmembers have the responsibility to vote on legislation for the whole city.

Prior to running for City Council, I had spent a decade advocating for social justice issues. Like many my age, I voted, but had little faith in the electoral system or our systems of government. Getting involved in the presidential campaign of 2016 changed that. I was part of a movement to bring progressive ideas to the highest level of government, and during that experience one message I kept hearing was that if I wanted to create social change, I needed to run for office in my own city. When I finally decided to make my first run for office in 2017, I didn't even know who our Councilmembers were or what they did. However, I understood that I would need to listen, learn, and become an active participant in our local government in an effort to fight for justice. In doing so, I also hoped to become an example for others to see themselves as someone who could one day run for office.

Running for office is really about championing the issues that are important to the community. When knocking on doors, I'm able to meet and connect with my neighbors face-to-face. They tell me their stories and what matters most to them. In doing so, I am able to understand how to better serve and represent them. Our neighbors understand that we can't move forward as a city without solving Rochester's extreme and systemic poverty. To do that, we need to transform Rochester into a city that has great public schools, where everyone has a secure and affordable place to live, where our police force has checks and balances and where transportation meets the needs

of our residents, helping Rochester become a more green and vibrant city. We also need to take a hard look at how systemic racism has shaped the inequities in our city and continues to affect the quality of life for our neighbors of color.

In this column, I will keep you updated on these issues and more. I want to open up the process to make it easier for you to be informed and get involved in our city government. We can't have a democracy, without participation! Below are a few of the major items we'll be dealing with in the next few months:

Recently state law changed to allow rent control statewide to protect tenants from rapidly rising rents. In December, Council voted to commission a Housing Vacancy Study. This study will determine Rochester's vacancy rate for affected housing (any building built before 1974 with six units or

continued on pg. 3



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- Joan Brandenburg, special project coordinator
- Nancy O'Donnell, writer/editor

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- Norm Karsten, SBDC SUNY Geneseo

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.

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

Please send story ideas or news to WEDGE Newspaper Editor Nancy O'Donnell, 224 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620 email nodonnell@swpc.org. Advertising deadlines and rates are available online at www.swpc.org or call 585.256.1740, ext. 4 or 585.978.9638.

Before recycling the Wedge, please share with others.

Buy a Wedge Card to show your neighborhood pride and get discounts when you shop local businesses. You'll also get the *Wedge Newspaper* mailed to your home!

To sign up, complete "Get the Wedge" below, visit the SWPC office at 224 Mt. Hope Avenue or the South Wedge Farmers Market (in season). Contact Glynis Valenti, gvalenti@swpc.com, 256-1740, ext. 2. Are you a business owner interested in participating in the Wedge Card discount program? Let us know!



- Cheesy Eddies, 5% off**
602 South Avenue
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Buy an ad for the April/May issue. Call 256.1740, ext. 4 or 978.9638. Deadline March 16ish

Get the Wedge!

For 36 years, *The Wedge Newspaper* has chronicled the lives and times of the vibrant South Wedge neighborhood and beyond. Please consider subscribing. You'll get the newspaper delivered to your home & a Wedge card, too. Fill out the form and send a check or money order to the address below.

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

Join SWPC in Community Building

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) invites you to join us in making a difference in southeast Rochester. Join our board of directors or serve on a committee. Founded in 1978, SWPC acts as a conduit for federal or state repair grants that help keep people in their aging homes. SWPC works in a myriad of ways to build community through the annual South Wedge Farmers Market (June-

October), South Wedge Victory Gardens on Hamilton and Cypress Streets and *The WEDGE Newspaper* that publishes six issues each year. Your time, talent and passion can help us in continuing SWPC's work. If interested, please call 256-1740 or e-mail gvalenti@swpc.org or board chair Frank Logan at flogan@rochester.rr.com.

South Wedge Planning Committee
 Meetings are held at 224 Mount Hope Avenue,
 The community is invited to attend all meetings.

SWPC Board Tues. 2/18, 3/17, 6 p.m.
 contact: flogan@rochester.rr.com

Community Engagement (Neighbors & Block Clubs)
 gvalenti@swpc.org
 Wed., Feb. 26, Mar. 25, 5:30 p.m.

SW Victory Gardens
 Mon. 6 p.m., TBD
 felann@frontiernet.net

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. Printed bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October and December), *The WEDGE* has a circulation of 5300. It is distributed to area businesses, retail shops and other drop-off points in the Southeast and Greater Rochester area and suburbs.

Swillburg Shout Out

Mike Henry

With the holidays over and the new year here, the Swillburg Neighborhood Association (SNA) kicked off 2020 with a steering committee meeting in early January. The group of fewer than a dozen residents had multiple items on its agenda though I can't be specific. No doubt most were repeats; organizing annual projects and events, assessing and marketing neighborhood merchandise and identifying and addressing concerns recently cropped up.

The SNA is simply a sociable gathering of neighbors lending their talents to focus on maintaining and improving the quality of life in our quilt patch of Rochester. One of our strong interests is creating events for neighbors to become acquainted and generate community. Hopefully our efforts generate a sense of shared experience and empowerment as Swillburg residents.

I learned as a new homeowner in the early nineties how valuable associating with neighbors is when addressing nuisances, as I found myself living across from a group of disruptive and uncooperative tenants and felt wholly disempowered.

I reached out to the South East Area Coalition, and the SNA and fortunately learned that it's far more productive to address concerns in a coalition of neighbors. With every ones' help we got the

tenant's management's attention, and they responded by being more vigilant of their property's appearance and tenant behavior. Within a year our block had been positively changed. My fear of having purchased a house in a dicey neighborhood was gladly relieved.

I've been involved with the SNA most years since. With today's use of social media and sources like Nextdoor and Facebook and the WEDGE Newspaper, our community is able to communicate readily. This has greatly enhanced our ability to organize events, identify opportunities and concerns and address them.

The SNA is our representative to various agencies, especially to the South Wedge Planning Committee, South East Area Coalition (both Neighborhood Preservation Corporations) and the City of Rochester. These greatly empower us in many ways.

As we begin the new year, I'd like to invite all Swillburg residents to join the SNA and get involved. Membership on the steering committee is open to any resident interested and participation in our gatherings is a great way to acquaint yourself with your community and its resources and concerns. You can get more information by going to our website, <https://swillburg.com> or our Facebook page. Here's to 2020, wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Mary Lupien

continued on from pg. 2

more). If that rate is 5% or below, Rochester is eligible to opt-in to rent control.

In January, City Council voted to appoint members to the Police Accountability Board who will serve for the next six months in order to hire an Executive Director and set up the structure of the board. Before the board can hear cases, the lawsuit from the Locust Club must be resolved. Parcel 5 will be a hot topic as we decide how to use the 1 million dollars we received from the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council (FL-REDC) to help shape the future of a vibrant

community space in the heart of our city.

Have an issue for City Council?

City Council usually meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm, with a Speak to Council session at 6:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to bring any issue before your representatives on council. You can sign up to speak by emailing Wendy at council@cityofrochester.gov. You can also call any City Councilmember at any time to tell them your concerns and ask questions. You can contact me at mary.lupien@cityofrochester.gov or 585-406-4709! I look forward to hearing from you.

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A FILM BY JAMIE CATTO

BECOMING NOBODY

EVERYONE'S BUSY BEING SOMEBODY -RAM DASS

The Life and Teachings of Ram Dass

February 23, 2020
1:30 pm Matinee

Cinema Theater

957 S Clinton Ave
Rochester, NY 14620

Tickets available at the door:
\$12 Admission
\$10 Seniors/Students

Becoming Nobody is the quintessential portal into Ram Dass's life and teachings: from psychology professor experimenting with LSD to spiritual seeker to a spiritual teacher and author of *Be, Here, Now*.

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For an appointment:
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The Artful Gardener
727 Mt. Hope Avenue 585.454.2874

Leap for Joy! ... February 29th
10:00 - 5:00

Our 7th Annual "Cabin Fever Garden Party" and Animal Rescue Event!

Play our Raffle for Rescue for a chance to win some great prizes!

Save the Date! Use Leap-day to have some fun and help a worthy cause!

Proceeds Benefit Joyful Rescues.org

Open Year-Round: Tue-Fri 11-6; Sat 10-5

No Purchase necessary to attend

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When More is Better

South Wedge Couple Love to Celebrate Wedding Anniversaries with Another Wedding

Nancy O'Donnell

What better time of year to celebrate love than February? Let's contemplate a love that ever renews. That keeps on growing. That can't be stopped by tradition, but makes its own rules.

Meet South Wedgers Justin Hubbell and Alex Hoang Hubbell. The couple were married in 2016, and they decided to multiply their wedding day joy forever and ever amen.

"We're hopeless romantics," said Justin. "Alex and I were first married in 2016 in Genesee Valley Park, and as much as we loved that wedding we wanted to marry each other again the following year."

Here's the love bunnies' strategy: "We get inexpensive ceramic rings, select a different time and place, and have a private ceremony (just the two of us) every year. It takes some pressure off of celebrating the anniversary."

Last year, Alex and Justin headed to the Brooklyn Public Library for a more



Hopeless romantics Ale Hoang and Justin Hubbell recommit and repeat their vows annually.

literary wedding. "We got our library cards, then headed straight for the occult section (obviously). Rounding a corner who should greet us but a portrait of Frederick Douglass himself. Honestly, what are the odds? It was perfect."

To date Alexandria and Justin have been married in Provincetown, Massachusetts; Brooklyn, NY; and their kitchen in the South Wedge. Their 2020 wedding will held beneath the full moon on October 31. The couple would like to apologize in advance for the howling, but promise it won't be as bad as the bike tours (by bike tours Justin means "drunk suburban peddlers slowly screaming their way through South Ave, and how city residents with PTSD can't stand them.")



The Hubbells and Frederick Douglass in the Brooklyn Public Library.

Justin is the Executive Art Director of their publishing company, Divergent Press. A new book project is scheduled to be announced this year, with additional projects underway. They published their first book *In A Word: Trans* in 2019. Alexandria is a Youth Educator for the Gandhi Institute for NonViolence, and is getting her Masters in Library Science.



Empire State Rumbblings (2019) by Peter Kinoy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., A Filmed Record

VSW Screens People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival Film Feb. 8, 2 pm

RocPPC is a regional chapter of the national Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, a nationwide movement to unite the poor and impact political discourse around poverty in America.

Visual Studies Workshop's (VSW) screening focuses on the act of organized marching as a form of political protest from the 1960's to today.

Featuring films from the VSW archive, as well as a recent video by filmmaker and activist Peter Kinoy, this screening aims to answer the question "Why march?" and motivate participation in organized acts of peaceful protest. Filmmaker Peter Kinoy will be in attendance.

Videos from the VSW Collection to be screened include: "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: From Montgomery to Memphis" (1969), and an excerpt from Portable Channel's "Rochester Anti-War Rally", footage taken from a 1972 Rochester, NY march in protest of the Vietnam War.

VSW's Community Curator program invites representatives from community groups in the Rochester region to curate film screenings using VSW's collection of over 9,000 film and video titles. The goals of the Community Curator program are to empower cultural organizations to create their own media programming, expand global and cultural awareness within the Rochester community, and strengthen ties between students, artists, and communities that will cultivate multi-cultural relationships.

For more information, contact Tara Merenda Nelson, Curator of Moving Image Collections, taranelson@vsw.org, 442-8676 or visit www.vsw.org or on Facebook

VSW's Auditorium, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY. Admission: \$5/Free to VSW Member Parking in rear. Visual Studies Workshop's auditorium is handicap accessible.



Calvary St. Andrews welcomes the community to help sew carryalls for clients of the Food Pantry. (Photo by Katie Jo Suddaby)



CSA Sewing Bee Brings Community Together to Support Food Pantry

Katie Jo Suddaby

With the coming ban on plastic bags in New York State in March, the South Wedge Food Program based in the historic Calvary St. Andrews' church put out a call for reusable cloth bags for clients of their emergency food pantry. The result was overwhelming. Katie Jo Suddaby responds to the "Great Charitable Sewing Bee."

Editor's note

The community has responded to the historic Calvary Saint Andrews' "Great Charitable Sewing Bee," and it was way more successful than I even imagined.

We had people from all ages and from many neighborhoods around the city. We made eighty bags and cut and ironed patterns for many more. All the fabric was donated by Sew Green.

Many people took home more fabric and have been dropping off finished bags they make at home. We can always use more sewing volunteers (whether people want to sew at home or at the pantry during open hours). Since the program started last summer, we have made hundreds of bags.

Want to help?
Volunteers sew reusable bags on site every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-12 p.m.

South Wedge Food Program
68 Ashland Street, Rochester
585-325-4950
www.SouthWedgeFoodProgram.org

Food Cupboard Hours
Monday: 9:00 am to noon
Wednesday: 9:00 am to noon
Friday: 9:00 am to noon
Weather & holiday closings – The Food Emergency Food Cupboard close when the Rochester City Schools are closed due to weather. On holidays – please call or check our website to make sure we are open.

If You Need Food
The South Wedge Emergency Food Cupboard serves anyone in need, regardless of home address. Families receive food once every month. For example, if a person's last visit was on June 9, the next visit can be on July 9 or later.

Please be sure to bring an ID showing place of residence. We may also serve someone if they bring a referral from a community agency or church. So, that we can provide food for everyone in your family, please bring an ID for everyone in your family.

Agency Representatives
Social workers representing a client are welcome during food cupboard hours. Please bring client's name and birth date.

Calvary St. Andrew's Stained Glass Window Receives Grant

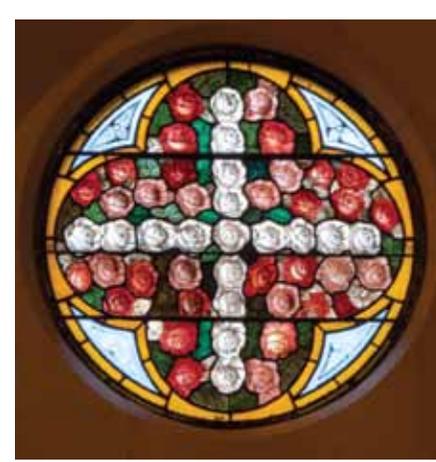
Judy Bennett

The Rochester Area Community Foundation has awarded a grant to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley to repair a window in the Historic Calvary St. Andrew's Sanctuary at ROC SALT Center. This unique round rose window—the Henry B. Ellwanger Memorial Rose Window—is significant to both the structure and to the history of Rochester.

Henry B. Ellwanger was born in Rochester on October 8, 1850, the second son of George and Cornelia B. Ellwanger. Henry, as part of the Ellwanger and Barry horticultural and floral firm, dedicated his life to the study of roses. A well-published authority on the rose, his name became widely known for his research. He was also an important musician in the history of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Rochester as the founder of their church choir and the organist, as well as their director.

In January 1882, he became one of the founding members of the Rochester Oratorio Society and its first vice-president.

The Sibley Music Library at the Eastman School of Music received Ellwanger's collection from Margaret Ellwanger in 1972. It contains music composed by Ellwanger, along with catalogs of other compositions from his



Henry B. Ellwanger Memorial Rose window (Photo by Tracy Walker)

library. He died in 1883 at the age of 32 after becoming ill with typhoid fever.

The family commissioned the unique Rose window in 1886 in his memory and to signify the world renowned roses raised and distributed by the Ellwanger-Barry nursery.

This is a matching grant, so any donations would be gratefully accepted. For information on the building see www.rocsaltcenter.org; contact focsaroc@gmail.com for details.

Spread the love inside and outside

Michele H. Martell



Michele H. Martell (Photo by Sarah Jeruta Salvilla)

Welcome to February! What images does the mere mention of February conjure up for you? For many, especially those of us who live up north, February makes us think of snow and dark, long days. In addition, and maybe a fortunate contradiction to the month's drabness, quite often a plethora of red hearts and chocolate come to mind. Perhaps these images have been stealthily placed in our brains by the magnitude of Valentine's Day marketing that often appears the day after Christmas! Regardless of our feelings about it, the month of February is upon us, the second month of a new year and a new decade. Many stories surround the history of St. Valentine himself, including his various arrests for trying to convert people to Christianity, for marrying Christian couples, and for secretly marrying couples so husbands wouldn't have to go to war; all of which defied the rulings of Emperor Claudius II. One story details St. Valentine healing his jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine." St. Valentine was clubbed and beheaded in Rome on February 14th, in about the year 269.

Some of us may have mixed feelings about Valentine's Day. For those of us with children, the arrival of February reminds us that it is time to prepare valentines and goodies for classroom parties, bringing us feelings of excitement as well as rushing; while we create warm memories for our children that can last a lifetime. Those who do not have a romantic partner may simply see this month as a magnificent capitalistic opportunity for candy makers, greeting card companies and jewelers to make tons of money. For those in romantic partnerships, the advent of this holiday may be greeted with feelings of excitement, nervousness or contentedness, depending upon your relationship.

Let's face it. A lot of people dread this season and the expectations it brings with Valentine's Day. It can feel fake, with an opportunity to make a bunch of phony posts on social media to make us look like we are the most wanted, desirable, happy, spoiled or generous person in the universe. Or this timing may be a chance to show that we care about someone in a pressurized way just to avoid an argument. Additionally, lots of people are authentically thrilled to be single, and February's commercialism can even place unnecessary criticism on people's individual lifestyles.

Forget about all that labeling nonsense. How about having the perspective of February as being a month of unconditional love? I think so many folks get all caught up in the notion of what

needs to be bought that the original meaning for Valentine's Day gets lost.

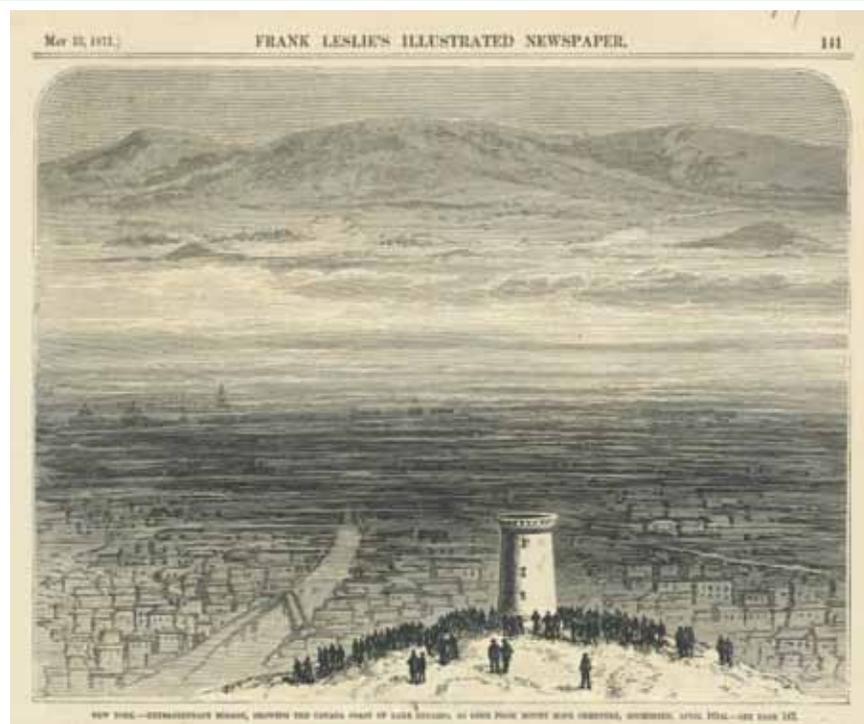
Personally, regardless of my individual status over the years, I have always found Valentine's season to be a time of spreading the love to loved ones--human and animal alike--along with plants and the environment. I've thoroughly enjoyed some Valentine's Days working with homeless animals, spending time on outings with my children and furbabies, volunteering at the school and showing love to my household. How about making your own self-love and health the most important aspect of Valentine's season by doing what makes you feel happy and healthy on the inside and out by honoring health, committing to exercise on this day, with a little antioxidant indulgence of some dark chocolate, red wine, a warm bath and peaceful sleep? After all, if we don't fill our own cups first, we can't fill anyone else's.

"Galentine" festivities have always been a fave of mine in February whether I am attached to a partner or not.

This season of love is a wonderful time to celebrate our appreciation for our dearest friendships! And in this age, Galentine's events abound.

You will find dinners and happenings at local venues; and my own Pittsford skin care & cosmetics studio celebrates events to gratefully honor the women in our lives who are beautiful on the inside and out.

This Valentine's month, let's spread the love to others while we spread it to ourselves at the same time. Often if we show unconditional love to someone else, a common reaction is that we want something, that we have expectations. Do it anyway. Another's response is not your responsibility. Have a sparkling and heart-filled season!



Artist rendition of a Fata Morgana (Photo courtesy of Patti Giglio)

The Day Rochester Disappeared

Patti Giglio

One of the most famous mirages in history, witnessed by sailors around the world for centuries, is the sighting of the Flying Dutchman, a ghost ship believed to be a harbinger of death. Another mirage is a fata morgana or an atmospheric phenomenon in a complex form which is usually seen on or just above the horizon.

The name's origin came from the Italian spelling of Morgan le Fay, a powerful sorceress in Arthurian legend. By their very nature such mirages seem to appear out of magic. The shores of our Lake Ontario have been the setting for fantastic and magical fata morganas, including the famous 19th century Rochester Mirage.

At the time, Mt. Hope Cemetery was a park as much as a burial ground. People took picnic lunches on the graves as well as strolled along the paths that wound through the rolling hills that made up the grounds. At the highest point in the cemetery, a wooden observation tower was built called the "Fandango." It was a popular destination for visitors because inside the tower was an elevator, and for a small fee, an operator would take visitors to the top to experience a view of the city. The tower drew plenty of visitors each day, and on one Sunday, April 16, 1871, there was a bright clear sky and more people than usual waited at the Fandango. As usual, people ascended the tower to get a breathtaking view of downtown Rochester and Lake

Ontario. However, this spring day they witnessed a once in a lifetime event.

Instead of the Rochester skyline, Canadian landmarks and its beautiful countryside were laid out before them clear and distinct even though there were more than 50 miles of lake between them. Word about the strange vision traveled fast and by the afternoon a crowd of more than a thousand spectators gathered to witness the Rochester mirage.

The following excerpt is from a published witness account of the mirage.

"As if suddenly by a great tidal wave, old Lake Ontario had burst her confine and buried the entire north part of the city; and where generally thousands of buildings and churches are visible, nothing but the blue waves of the lake could be seen...Away to the right and left, as far as the eye could see, was the Canada coast (where) could be seen her shores, studded with mountains, hills, valleys, inland bays and lakes, rivers and forests; and so perfect at times that the sun's rays, shining on the barren sand cliffs would illuminate their sides like dazzling mountains of glass."

A few days later, the event made national headlines in the *Richmond Dispatch* on April 21, 1871.

"The reader can form some idea of its grandeur by knowing that a coun-

continues on pg. 8



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Out & About: Skate Lovers Roller Palace

David Howard Day



Roller Skating Dead? Think Again

Have winter's long, dark days got you down? Searching for some exercise? You've taken your honey to the (old) Manhattan Square Park (now) Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Park at Manhattan Square for some ice-skating, but your feet began to freeze and your ankles wobbled pathetically.

There's an alternative, a different kind of shoe to wedge onto those footsies; shoes with wheels, not blades.

Why not try skating indoors at the only indoor roller rink in the City, at Skate Lovers Roller Palace?

Chances are you've (1) never heard of the place, and (2) you haven't worn a pair of roller skates since forever. You thought the sport had died out in the fifties.

Recalling several trips to our go-to roller rink when I was in high school on Long Island, I remember rushing from my house to the rink to meet up with chums, but I arrived too late to get a pair of skates that were my size. I had to settle on a much smaller pair and by the end of the night, my feet resembled those of poor old Chinese women who had their feet bound, a custom, once de rigeur, but thankfully now outlawed. But the experience at the large roller rink was addictive and the hard wooden floors, the pulsating music (often a theater-type organ), colorful lights and snack bar, and of course, the camaraderie, all kept me coming back. Plus, it was primo exercise, even aerobic. That was during the 1950s.

When I reviewed a short video piece on skate lovers narrated by Carlet Cleare for WXX's "Need-to-Know" program, I decided to pay a personal visit to chat with owner-founder Matthew Singleton.

In Singleton, a slim fellow, and Shawna Wilson, the bubbly operations manager, I found both to be animated evangelicals for the attractions offered by the vast

skate hall in a converted Ragu food-processing plant.

Skate Lovers Palace took me over to and down a side street in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood lined with light-industrial warehouses. I arrived ahead of "open skate" and was given a warm welcome, after a quick security check, and a complete tour.

"We're not just a place to safely skate, without gangs, smoking or other drugs," Singleton explained, "but for kids ages 14-20, we offer a youth employment program. Eligible youngsters must maintain a certain GPA and are paid hourly."

Young workers at Skate Lovers Roller Palace learn to work in the snack bar, to dole out skates, and arrange furniture groupings.

Wilson added that they work with City schools and teachers to maintain the opportunity. A colorful brochure advertises that teachers hand out "bucks" for youth's positive actions and behaviors. The "bucks are redeemable at the roller rink.

"We try to enrich lives with programs that inform, educate and entertain while we promote a recreational lifestyle," Wilson added.

As we chatted in front of the rink's small-scale movie theater set up in a side niche, it was all I could do to resist their invitation to lace on a pair of skates and take a spin around the vast, hardwood floor. But it has been decades since I showed off my crossovers, twirls and shuffles. I mentioned that I had enjoyed the popular YouTube skate tune, "Bounce, Rock, Skate, Roll" and Singleton, escorting me over to the DJ booth, said "Yeah, we play it a lot!"

Skate Lovers Roller Palace is not the only one in the area. Another indoor skate venue, Horizon Fun FX, can be found up on Ling Road. Though not tech-

nically in the City, it offers a gaming arcade and a three-story jungle gym. Hours for both venues are posted online.

Like many, I've been dismayed at how often young people seem to be on their screens 24/7. Our Rochester area has begun to realize local opportunities for face-to-face interaction—at school, at the library, the beach, at the playground or community center, all vital building blocks of public civic life. Happily, Rochester's two very new public parks address the need for casual civic engagement: the "Lilac Children's Adventure Zone" in the Lilac Festival area and the MVP Health Care Fitness Court at Cobbs Hill park. I've watched both in heavy use during warm months, often busy from dawn to dusk. One can't come away unimpressed by the frequency and variety of social interaction.

Indoor roller skating has a long history and was most popular from 1935 through the 1960s and again in the 70s with the advent of new polyurethane wheels.

Skate halls across the country were often segregated spaces and were the centerpieces of civil rights battles, the latter illustrated in the documentary *United Skates*, while instrumental in the birth of hip-hop.

Cher, in a 1979 tune, "Hell on Wheels," sported a form-fitting jumpsuit.

So yeah, roller skating sounds a bit retro. And it's attraction is chiefly for the young and limber. But aren't you up for a challenge? Even if you're over fifty, Singleton tells me that he finds a generous segment of Skate Lover's customers are seniors. This makes me think that just maybe I should work on my own ankles and consider lacing up a pair of skates. A few refresher lessons wouldn't hurt, either.

1684 Adirondack Street, 888.857.5283.



Susan B. Anthony's gravesite was covered with "I Voted" stickers on Election Day 2016 (Photo by Brian Steblen)

Women and the Vote NYS Search for Forgotten Suffragists

With the motto, "Connecting Voters. Continuing the Work," Women and the Vote NYS will mark this year's 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment by celebrating lesser known women and men who contributed to the fight for women's constitutional right to vote.

Women and the Vote New York State began as a collaborative project with Rochester Documentary Filmmakers Group. On election day 2016, Linda Moroney, who runs a local independent film production company with husband, Todd McCammon, filmed the gravesite of Susan B. Anthony as long lines of voters filed past Anthony's in Mt. Hope Cemetery grave to place "I Voted" stickers, bring flowers and celebrate their vote for Hillary Clinton. She produced a film "Election Day 2016," and thought about the many unknown women who fought to bring women the vote.

Now three years later an online database provides an interactive map of suffragists' gravesites across New York State. Anyone can help to grow the database by going to womenandthevotes.com and adding the name of a family relative or anyone they know of who had an active role in the suffragist movement.

Organizers are encouraging people to visit suffragist gravesites in New York state on Election Day, November 3, 2020. Filmmakers will interview individuals who place "I Voted" stickers at the suffragists' gravesites. The footage will be used to create a documentary about the historic day and to promote civic engagement.

"Suffragist Search Parties" are being held including one at the Susan B. Anthony Museum and House on Feb. 22. For more information, visit www.womenandthevote.nys and the Susan B. Anthony website at susanb.org.

This program was funded in part by Humanities New York with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Current Immigration Crisis: Facts from and Eye Witness, Underlying Causes, and Real Solutions - February 23, 3 p.m.

Join Pastor Katie Jo Suddaby for an informative briefing on the current situation along our Southern Border.

Suddaby's recent trip to Tijuana brings us a wealth of first hand experience on what caused the crisis, what asylum seekers experience in US and Mexican facilities, and how you can help most effectively.

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Out & About - Calvary St. Andrews



Anna Murray Douglass

Anna Murray Douglass Station Manager on the Underground Railroad

Sunday February 9 at 3 p.m.

Anna Murray Douglass is often lost in the shadow of her husband, Fredrick Douglass. She was the one to hold their home life together no matter how often he was on the road. Their house was on the Underground Railroad so Anna was accustomed to people showing up on her doorstep – any time of day or night. She had to watch her every word and present a calm face to the world. Rose O’Keefe will discuss this amazing, often over-looked woman. Learn how School #12 came to be named for her and much, much more. 95 Averill Ave. FREE. Donations welcome.



Val Fowler

Folk Concert Sunday March 28, 7 pm

Guitarist and singer Val Fowler and Maria Gillard perform at Calvary St. Andrews, 95 Averill Ave. FREE. Donations welcome.

Concert for Children Sunday March 15, 3 pm

Terry Fonda Smith returns for another interactive concert for children with new and exciting themes. Calvary St. Andrews, 95 Averill Ave. FREE. Donations welcome.



Calvary St. Andrews offers a picture perfect venue for weddings (Photo by Toni Weasner)

Wedding Open House Thursday March 2, 5-7 p.m.

Wedding professionals and couples looking for the perfect ceremony venue are invited to tour the historic Calvary St. Andrews sanctuary and mingle over light refreshments. 95 Averill Ave.



“Owl Always Love You”

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Artist Bethany Spells “Owl Always Love You” in Chocolates

Each year Hedonist Artisan Chocolates collaborates with a local artist in Rochester to put their art on chocolate. Truly artisan chocolate. This year’s Valentine’s Day artist is Bethany Dudek. Her collection is called “Owl Always Love You” and is a collection of five owl related images adorned on top of our chocolate caramels. We sat down with Bethany to talk about her interests as an artist and also what inspiration she had when creating these Valentine’s Chocolate Gifts. We hope you find them as sweet as we do!

1. What inspires you as an artist?

So many things inspire me. A good color scheme. The Pantone color books. Nature, and being outdoors. Nineteenth century advertisements. Fellow artists. My experiences through learning letterpress printing, from when I was an intern at WNYBAC in Buffalo, to interning for Tony at Type High Letterpress. He is not only my mentor, but a great friend, and skillful creative. His work is unique and varies with each project, and I find his collection of typefaces and cuts inspiring.

2. What are your favorite things to do in Rochester?

There are so many things that I love to do here in Rochester. On the weekends, especially, I enjoy hiking and the occasional trail run. Wild Wings, the bird sanctuary at the park, is one of my absolute favorite places to visit. I am a big advocate of supporting local, and there are so many fantastic business owners, artists and makers in this city. Some of the shops I frequent include Little Shop of Hoarders, The Op Shop, Peppermint, Statement, and Happy Gut Sanctuary.

3. What were your ideas behind the artisan chocolate collection?

Well, I adore Wild Wings, the bird sanctuary that is home to several owls,



Bethany Dudek

hawks, falcons, eagles, kestrels, an osprey, turkey vulture, and even a bobcat. Owls are my favorite predatory bird. They can look either serious or silly. Focused or quirky. They are silent, feathery hunters. I thought about how their bodies can be shaped like half-hearts, round bodies with pointed tail feathers. A concept was born. The name for the collection is a play on words for, “I’ll always love you.” How can anyone deny love or chocolate?

4. What kind of work do you do?

I am a web and graphic designer, currently employed by Corporate Communications. I occasionally do freelance when time permits. When I have availability during the evening, I letterpress print either in my apartment, or at Type High Letterpress, as well as write poetry.

Find out more about Bethany Dudek at bethdudek.com or [instagram.com/bethdudekdesign](https://www.instagram.com/bethdudekdesign).

Meet Bethany and taste this delicious collection on February 7 from 6-8 pm at a chocolate tasting and art opening at Hedonist Artisan Chocolates 674 South Avenue, Rochester.



Votercade 2020 -Taking the Celebration on the Road - Sunday March 22 at 3 p.m.

The historic coincidence of Susan B. Anthony’s 200th birthday falling in the same year as the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment gives us much to celebrate and much to think about. For two years, a planning group has been working on Votercade 2020, a project of the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House. In a series of single-day events this summer, Votercade will carry Anthony’s message about the power of the vote beyond Madison Street to five historical and cultural sites in the Finger Lakes region.

Anne Mitchell Coon will discuss the goals for Votercade 2020 and how they are bringing together vintage cars, site-specific music and art, monologue-based performances, and a voting exercise to build community and engage audiences. Calvary St. Andrews, 95 Averill Ave.

Meet The Musicians
A Winter music series organized by Michael Tomb and Marcia Zach. Sponsored by the Southwedge Mission and the Highland Park Neighborhood Association.

Concerts are free and open to the public.
Donations will be accepted and welcomed!
All concerts will be held at the Southwedge Mission, 125 Caroline St.

The 2020 Lineup...

- Saturday, February 1, 2020, at 4 p.m.** - Multi-instrumentalist and educator, Michael Edwards, will present a concert for young people and enjoyable by all, regardless of age.
- Friday, February 28, 2020, at 7 p.m.** - The Herb Smith Freedom Trio, one of Rochester’s premier Jazz combos.
- Saturday, March 14, 2020, at 7 p.m.** - Patricia Sunwoo and David Brickman will present a concert of music for two violins. Both are members of the Amenda Quarter which specializes in the music of Beethoven.
- Saturday, March 28, 2020, at 7 p.m.** - The music of guitar virtuoso Ted Nicolosi. Ted has been featured locally at Record Archive, House of Guitars and late-night concerts during the Rochester Jazz Fest.

Rochester Creative Maya Rook's Goal is to Make History Fun

Nancy O'Donnell



Maya Rook moved to Rochester "for love" in 2017 to be with her boyfriend. She also fell in love with Rochester and the South Wedge where she said she can "walk my dog down to the river or go to the shops, restaurants, co-op, and yoga studio on South Ave." Rook outside the historic Calvary St. Andrews Church (photo by Ashley Updyke Photography)

If history brings back memories of excruciating hours reading and rereading the *Federalist Papers*, you haven't been to one of South Wedge historian Maya Rook's History Happy Hours. Her goal, she says, is to make history "fun, accessible, and relevant."

An Albany native, Rook double majored in history and Black Studies at SUNY New Paltz and earned her M.A. in American Cultural History in 2010 from the University of Albany. Her specialty—Salem Witch Trials and The Donner Party (think cannibalism and early 19th century settlers in the California's Sierra Nevada Mountains).

On a frigid late January evening, the back room of Nox: Craft Cocktails & Comfort Food in Village Gate was sold out for Rook's talk on the Salem Witch Trials. In an interactive and lively hour, Rook resurrected the tragic persecution of fourteen women and four men in 17th century Massachusetts Bay Colony who were executed for consorting with the devil and bedeviling young Puritan girls.



Stereotypical child-eating witches flickered on the screen during History Happy Hours at Nox (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

Is it the #MeToo movement, the current political climate that makes the Salem Witch Trials so popular?

"I think we're in a peak moment of witch interest," told the WEDGE before she began her talk. "It's not just women, but men too, who are in touch with their own internal power as well a deeper connection with the natural world, with nature."

Add to that interest the current passion for genealogy and talks on the Witch trials are always sold out Rook said.

"If [the family tree] can go back to 17th America, then you're probably related to someone in the Salem Witch Trials," Rook said. In fact, she's descended from a confessed witch, one of the 200 imprisoned, who luckily survived the mass hysteria. [Side note: As it happens, my

own recent genealogical research revealed that I'm descended from both an accused witch, Sarah Noyes, and her husband Reverend John Hale who went along to get along during the trials until his own wife was accused. He got a book out of it too, *A Modest Enquiry into the Nature of Witchcraft*.]

Throughout the evening, Rook welcomed comments from a very enthusiastic audience. One woman introduced to the story, Tituba, major actor in the trials. Tituba, a South American woman enslaved in Salem and accused of being a witch, somehow managed to escape hanging.

Rook took the crowd through witchcraft's "long dark history of persecution and executions," and the misogyny that argued that "certain women could manipulate the world around them through magic" or saw women as "a natural temptation, a calamity." She noted the literature that fueled deadly persecutions like *Malleus Maleficarum* or *The Hammer of Witches*, a 15th witch-hunter's manual, and the Biblical injunction: "You shall not permit a sorceress to live." She told the story of Margaret Jones, a midwife and healer, who was executed in 1648 in Massachusetts. In February 1692, the Salem witch hysteria erupted in full bloom.

At the end of the evening, people milled around the room to talk about witches and women and future History Happy Hours to come. Lauren Chekow invited people to find lost and lesser known suffragists in New York state. [See more about Women and the Vote NYS on page 6]. Others talked about books like *Tainted Harvest* that

tells the story through Tituba's eyes on the *Discovery of Witches* and TV series like *American Horror Story: New Orleans*, and history ala Rook continued to be fun long beyond the Happy Hour.

February/March History Happy Hours, Nox Cocktail at Village Gate.

"Galentine's Day," Feb. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m. will "celebrate strong female friendships" including Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton that combines short lectures with time for group discussion.

"Women's Heritage," March 5, 6:30- 8 p.m. examines "contributions of fascinating women throughout American history. . .and the shifting notions of gender, and how the history of women will be told in the future."

"The Cult of Heaven's Gate" – March 19, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. details cults and specifically the story of American cult members who killed themselves in 1997, believing that their souls would be transported to a spaceship trailing behind the Hale-Bopp Comet and "why they all wore a pair of Nikes for his monumental event." Checks for tickets at <https://rochester-brainery.com>.

History Happy Hours in March

This time Rook travels to Union Tavern in Seabreeze. For more info, visit Facebook: History Happy Hours: Rochester Women or HistoryhappyhourROC.

Rook is also available for private events, fundraisers, talks at recreation centers, libraries, assisted living homes, etc. She currently gives a talk once a month for the residents at Elderwood in Fairport.

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South Wedge Sudoku

Solution on pg. 11

STR8TS

SUDOKU

Easy

			8	9		3		
						4		
9	8						4	
		8						5
	2		6		8		5	
4		1						
	6		4	5			8	
6				3				8
								7

Tough

5	2	6			1			9
			4		6			
8								
1		4		8		2		6
	8						7	
6		7		2		8		3
								8
			2		5			
2			7			6	3	4

How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number 1 to 9 can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. Each compartment must form a straight - a set of numbers with no gaps but it can be in any order, eg [7,6,9,8]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely. For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org for Sudoku and www.str8ts.com for Str8ts. If you like Str8ts and other puzzles, check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store.

The Day Rochester Disappeared

continued from pg. 5

try separated from Rochester by a lake seventy to one hundred miles in width was, as if suddenly, by the great hand of its creator, painted upon the heavens so plain to be seen from a standing point one hundred miles distant.

Gentlemen present who were familiar with the Canada shore could readily distinguish Rice Lake, Belvedere, and other prominent points in Canada. The lake looked as though it had by a great tidal wave rolled upon Rochester, had covered one entire half of the city, as no building could be seen north of Main Street, or any land between the city and the lake."

The story of the Rochester Mirage made headlines again when it was featured in the May 13, 1871 is-

sue of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated*.

Twenty-three years later, a similar mirage appeared in Buffalo. Though it only lasted an hour on August 16, 1894, those who witnessed it could count the spires of churches in Toronto as if they were just next door.

Although other fata morganas have been reported--the shadow of Edinburgh over Liverpool in 1846, the Sky City of Alaska in 1887, Australia's Min lights and Penghai City, China in 2005 to name a few--none of them compare to the Rochester mirage.

As it seems the world loses a little piece of its innocence every day, the fact that mirages and fata morganas still appear shows that there is still magic left in the world.

Rochester Creative

Local MD Chronicles Inner Transformation

Dr. Seema Khaneja

I often meet people who ask me how I arrived where I am today. They ask how did you go from being a Western medical doctor to Coaching for Inner Peace? And what is Coaching for Inner Peace, anyway? Don't you miss being a doctor? Why would you devote all those years to medical school, residency and training only to give it all up?

Well, my very first book, *Physician, Heal Thyself: A Doctor's Journey from Medicine to Miracles: A mindful approach to healing based on teaching of A Course in Miracles* is at least, in part, an answer to all those questions!

Physician, Heal Thyself offers what I feel is a groundbreaking exploration of the bridge between Western medicine and spirituality from my vantage point as a traditionally trained medical doctor.

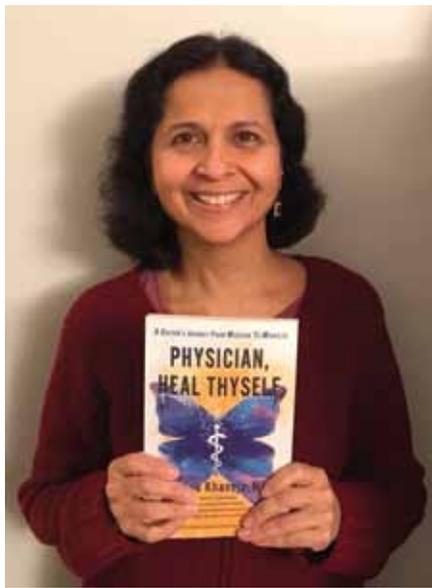
Drawing from my personal and clinical experiences along with scientific research, I share a clear explanation of the basic principles of *A Course in Miracles*, long regarded as a classic among modern spiritual teachings.

My book also offers the reader simple, expansive and effective tools for healing. I share about how I was raised in a tra-

ditional Indian household, and how I experienced that typical immigrant angst to achieve, succeed and make something of myself, and of course, be of service too! Becoming a doctor was a way to accomplish all of this. However, something happened right before I entered a seven-year accelerated medical program in New York City.

My parents dragged me on a summer vacation where we went on a pilgrimage to a famous shrine of the Goddess in the Caves of northern India. It was there that I experienced a profound mystical experience which ignited a deep call for healing within my heart. I still entered the medical program, yet deep within I knew that this call would not be fulfilled within the confines of my training in medical school.

After graduating from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in NYC and completing my pediatric residency at NY Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, I felt inspired to create an integrative medical practice to offer different complementary healing modalities, including homeopathy, Ayurvedic nutrition, mind-body medicine, yoga and meditation. During this



Dr. Seema Khaneja holds her groundbreaking book that details her journey from medical doctor to a coach for inner peace. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Khaneja)

time, I developed chronic pain that coincided with my desire to go deeper with the teachings of *A Course in Miracles*.

When I healed from this pain, I realized that the most powerful source of healing lies within our own minds—in our perception, awareness and attitude. I also learned that healing can be inclusive, and we need not divorce ourselves from Western medicine or rely exclusively on

complementary/alternative medicine. Rather, our path of healing is often unique to each of us. We need to find ways to cultivate inner peace so we may discern that still small voice within our hearts that can guide us along our path. We also need miracles—those experiences that shift our perception from fear to love, from judgment and attack, to one of acceptance and allowance.

After my healing, I felt inspired to create Coaching for Inner Peace, a simple, elegant, inclusive, and expansive approach to healing that I am so excited to share in my very first book.

Perhaps you are in the middle of an illness, grief, loss, or some other emotional or physical problem that leaves you feeling depressed, fearful, angry, anxious, or simply confused and overwhelmed. Do you long to experience yourself in a deeper and more expansive way? Are you a student of spirituality struggling to find a practical way to engage your inner resources to overcome a challenge in your daily life? This book can help you.

Find *Physician, Heal Thyself* on Amazon in both print and Kindle editions. To learn more about Dr. Khaneja and her work, please visit coachingforinnerpeace.com.

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Meet Pastor Brae Adams

Nancy O'Donnell

Brae Adams, pastor of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, shares her church's passionate commitment to human rights and dignity for LGBTQ+ communities. The church, now housed in the historic Calvary St. Andrews church on Ashland Street, proclaims its pride in being a "congregation serving people of all religious beliefs, backgrounds, sexual orientation, gender identities and gender expressions."

"[Open Arms] made it o.k. to be a LGBTQ+ person and be Christian," said Adams.

Metropolitan Community Church was founded in California in 1968 by Rev. Troy Perry who argued that "no one should be kept from the table of God." According to the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, there are 222 member congregations in 37 countries today.

Locally, it was established in June 1981 by Rev. Willie White. White placed an ad in the *Empty Closet*, and the first service was held at the Gay Alliance in August of the same year. In 2001, the church's pastor Rev. Mulcahy performed the first openly gay marriage in Rochester at Washington Square which many believe was the catalyst for the drive to pass the Marriage Equality Act of New York State.

Adams began her ministry as lay pastor for Open Arms six years ago while she was attending Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity school. Ordained in October 2019, Adams next became provisional pastor. In recent years the church moved from Chili to E. Main Street and most recently into The South Wedge.

Along with a special mission for the LGBTQ+ community, Open Arms is especially active in working for human rights and civil justice.

Adams talked about her church's work to build a Police Accountability Board in Rochester which was recently passed on through a City ref-

In Memoriam: Larry Staiger, BoulevArt Artist

Michael Tomb

I am saddened to report last year's passing of Larry Staiger at the age of 88, but I also would like to celebrate him as a great friend to our neighborhood.

In the summer of 2011, my wife Marcia Zach led a neighborhood team that was destined to create a large scale street painting surrounding Ellwanger and Barry Park. The project became known locally as "BoulevArt," and it was the first such street painting in the Northeastern U.S. Joining our design team early was a then 81-year-old resident, Larry Staiger, who just happened to live in a house next to the park.

Larry was a Korean War veteran who had moved to Rochester in the 1960s, and then met his wife Paula in the 1980s. Paula (maiden name "Kinsky") comes from a large family with a long history in our neighborhood. Until his passing, Larry and Paula could often be seen enjoying our playground accompanied by their grandchildren.

When Larry volunteered to work on a prototype design for BoulevArt, we immediately realized that he was especially qualified. Larry was once employed as an artist for the Stecher Graphics Company. Starting in the late 1800s, Stecher became the premiere local printer of chromolithography and specialized in commercial botanical art for Rochester's famous plant nurseries and seed companies. Stecher built Village Gate as its printing factory, and Larry often re-



Larry's last painting-the stairs in Highland Park.

endum on the ballot in Nov. 2019. "It was a great victory that we passed independent oversight," said Adams. "All we're asking is for accountability for police action."

Open Arms recently held a multi-faith Trans Day of Remembrance in November. The event, which originated in 1999, memorializes those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia and publicizes the continued violence they still face today. According to

continues on pg. 12



Larry Staiger at BoulevArt 2012 (Photos by Michael Tomb)

counted how the top floors were filled with artist studios. Larry created art for this company until it moved from Rochester in 1970. He then found work in a local factory. After that, he resumed working as an elementary school art teacher for a short period before he retired.

Larry's passion for art as well as teaching it to children remained important to him throughout his life.

For the neighborhood, Larry created a colorful design with folk art elements consisting of flowers, plants, birds and insects. On BoulevArt day in 2012, he participated in the initial chalking of a template on the street based on his prototype. And then he assisted as painting went on for the rest of the day.

As a teacher, Larry was very excited to see spontaneous contributions to the design, especially from children. In fact, he was proud that he did very little of the actual painting. That is because Larry understood from the start that our street painting was meant to be painted and "owned" by neighborhood adults and children together.

BoulevArt has since been repainted three times. Each update has created new memories as dozens of neighbors have worked together – even meeting for the first time on the street. Larry was thrilled to have helped create this as a reoccurring community event. Last year, only weeks before he passed and right after the latest repainting, Larry

walked the length of BoulevArt. I remember how he smiled and pointed out an improvised flight path painted by a young neighbor that goes from a flower to the bee outside of my door. Those are the kind of added details of the project that Larry loved most of all.

Larry also donated his time drawing portraits at a number of our events. He participated in our art shows. And Larry's portraits of Ellwanger and Barry remain in the kiosk in the park named after them.

Marcia and I thought of him as a good friend who was wise, witty and artistic. Paula recently showed me his final masterpiece. Painted within the year he died, it is a beautiful rendition of the steps leading from Pinetum Drive up into Highland Park. I will always think of Larry whenever I walk those steps again.



Larry's original prototype for BoulevArt



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Planetary Messengers

Aeolea Wendy Burwell & Peter Doughty



Welcome back to our series focused on the ancient art/science of astrology. In writing this we hope to spark the interest of a wide range of readers, from those who might know their Sun signs to others who know nothing about astrology but can't help but notice events around them. We offer a glimpse into the current celestial weather, in hopes that readers will be able to use these energies for the highest and best possible outcomes.

We focus first on the Moon's cycle from New to Full and back again for each month. This is the fastest-moving cycle in our heavens and the most readily accessible in the sky to even the most casual observer. Since in astrological understanding, the Moon represents our emotions and how we respond to the ebb and flow of everyday life, it is also the most easily observed internally.

February: As the month begins, the Moon will be appearing to grow larger as it approaches Full on Feb. 9 in regal Leo. Watch for the larger emotional focus to be on our personal pride, dignity and need to be noticed and appreciated. This will be most notable, even dramatic, for those born Feb. 6-12 and Aug. 9-15.

Then two weeks later on Feb. 23, the New Moon occurs in sensitive Pisces, bringing a certain dreamy quality to all the new projects that we can imagine. Those born Feb. 20-26 and Aug. 25-31 are likely to experience these energies most strongly, but they are accessible to us all.

The first half of February features fleet-footed Mercury slowing down as it moves into watery Pisces on the 3rd, where its natural tendencies toward clarity and quickness are dampened. On Feb. 17 it goes retrograde again. This apparent backward movement in the sky - and all that it brings - continues until Mar. 10. We here on planet earth will notice a slowing of communication and transportation of all kinds

as well as missed and/or re-scheduled appointments. General advice for these times is to avoid signing contracts or making expensive purchases as they are unlikely to turn out as expected.

Our galaxy's Goddess of Love, Harmony and Beauty, Venus moves out of dreamy Pisces on Feb. 8 and into fiery Aries until Mar. 7. Her softer side will be harder to find but wearing red and being impulsive will be much more in evidence. So much depends on our personal chart yet we can all watch for the shift into the feisty energy of Aries.

Fierce warrior Mars joins the large, historic planetary lineup in grounded Capricorn on Feb. 16 and stays there through Mar. 31. It will increasingly energize the on-going overhaul of our culture and all our institutions already in progress by transformative Pluto, structural Saturn and expansive Jupiter. It does not have to be harsh, but it might be. Where it falls in personal charts will dictate how we experience these energies within our own individual lives, but it's unlikely to be missed.

March: On Mar. 9 the Full Moon in earthy Virgo will amp up our emotional focus on getting the details of our lives correct and properly organized altho we might be working in a fog. Be alert for overly critical tendencies. Those born March 6-12 and Sept. 9-15 are apt to be most affected.

March 24 marks the start of our next lunation (moon) cycle with the New Moon in headstrong Aries. The admirable willingness to embark on new ventures without knowing the hows or the outcomes will be strongly activated. People with birth dates Mar. 21-27 and Sept. 24-30 will particularly notice this. This is right after the Spring Equinox (March 21), which is traditionally seen as the true beginning of the new year both astrologically and in the Persian culture even today.

Mercury's retrograde journey, which brought it briefly back into the air sign of Aquarius, comes to a halt on Mar. 10.

The same area of the zodiac will get revisited and by Mar. 16 Mercury will re-enter Pisces. Communications could get clouded with emotions once again.

On Mar. 5, Venus will move into luxury-loving earthy Taurus, a sign she has a natural affinity with, and we will all have access to a more sensuous approach to life. The tendency for a more deliberate, slower approach to food and fun may be infused with lightning strikes of genius as Venus reaches Uranus a few days later. Whether it's a welcomed disruption or not, it can't help be sudden and unexpected.

As we segue into Spring, we are likely to enjoy the easing of some of the intensity that has marked this first quarter of 2020. Our cultural upheaval will continue a bit more quietly, as this task-oriented period yields to an interval of integra-

tion. It remains important to have a plan.

If you are curious about how the current planetary configurations affect you through your own astrological chart, the authors welcome the opportunity to assist you.

Aeolea Wendy Burwell has been a student of the celestial arts for over forty years, and is currently teaching astrology to eager students in her living room and wherever possible. (aeolea@juno.com)

Peter Doughty has nearly forty years experience studying and writing about mundane astrology, including his blog over the past nine years and recent book entitled Scenes from a Tapestry. (ZodiacalSpiral.com, zoidion@protonmail.com)

Sudoku Solution

Str8ts Solution

	7	8	9	6	3	1	2	
8	7	6	9	5	4	2	3	
9	8		7	6		5	4	
	9	8		4	7	6	3	5
	2	9	6	7	8		5	4
4	3	1	5	8	9	7	6	
3	6	2	4	5			8	9
6	5	4		3	2		7	8
	4	3			1	2		7

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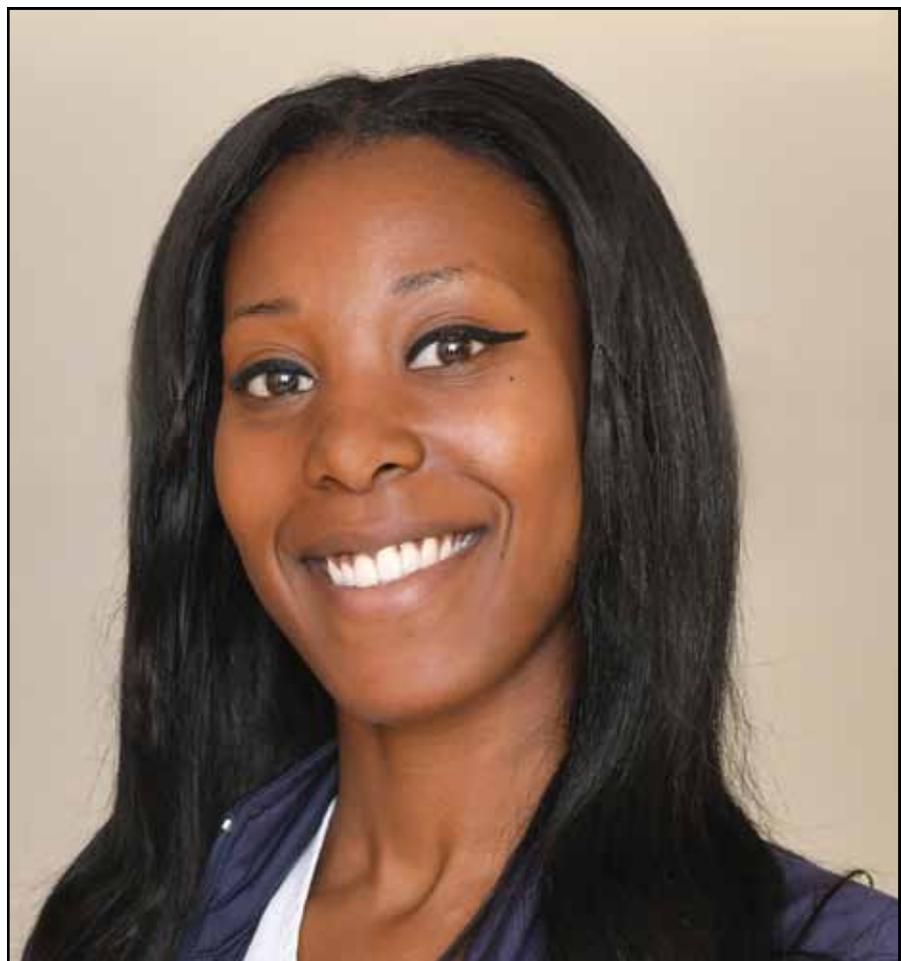
5	2	6	8	7	1	3	4	9
3	7	9	4	5	6	1	8	2
8	4	1	3	9	2	7	6	5
1	3	4	9	8	7	2	5	6
9	8	2	5	6	3	4	7	1
6	5	7	1	2	4	8	9	3
7	1	3	6	4	9	5	2	8
4	6	8	2	3	5	9	1	7
2	9	5	7	1	8	6	3	4

continued from pg. 8

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Brae Adams

continued from pg. 8

the Human Rights Campaign, at least 22 trans and gender-nonconforming people have been killed in the United States in 2019 alone.

Fighting racism is another focus for Adams and her church. She and her parishioners studied a 2014 book, *Waking up White* by Debby Irving. "It's important to see we're part of a racist society. [Parishioners] spent Spring discussing the book and to look at how we can check ourselves for racism," Adams said.

Open Arms also partner with others to do good including ROC SALT Center, a project of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, the

South Wedge Food Program and the Friends of the Calvary St. Andrews.

Along with social action, the church has a full calendar of spiritual stewardship. It holds a weekly Biblical study group on Wednesdays. On Tuesday nights, a Spiritual Practices workshop reads a Scripture passage and then joins in "imaginative prayer" that borrows from the "Lectio Divina," an ancient monastic practice that moves meditation and prayer.

The coming Easter season will be a busy time for Adams and her church.

"We study the story of the cross, draw, write meditate. We make a very intentional walk through the life and death of Christ, but we know it doesn't end."

Last year Adams and her spirituality team began an inviting and inventive way to get the Easter story out on Ash Wednesday by standing on South and Averill avenues and offering ashes to passersby with its ancient refrain "Remember man that thou art dust and unto dust you shall return."

"It's weather dependent," Adams said with a laugh. "We will stand on the street throughout the day. We'll hold up signs [and invite people to stop] and make prayer available."

Adams, a Memphis, Tennessee native, followed a former husband to the Rochester area and raised three children in Pittsford.

She discovered the South Wedge when she began driving her transgender son, who was too young to drive, to Equal=Grounds Coffee House. She fell in love with a woman along with the South Wedge, and today shares her life with her partner Debbie.

"Equal=Grounds is my favorite place," Adams said. "You can be who you are. It's my second home. If I have to be in a nursing home when I get old, it better be in the Wedge."

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