

# WEDGE

The Official Newspaper of the South Wedge Since 1982

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The South Wedge Food Pantry; in Calvery St. Andrews Church

## COVID-19 Can Bring Out the Best in Us

Glynis Valenti

It's true that times of crisis bring out the worst and the best in us. We saw this in the ice storm of 1991 and when the 9/11 bombings forever changed how we saw our world. Years ago a hurricane isolated a little Oregon coast town I lived in from surrounding resources. But we realized we didn't need them. Our own resources within walking distance strengthened our community.

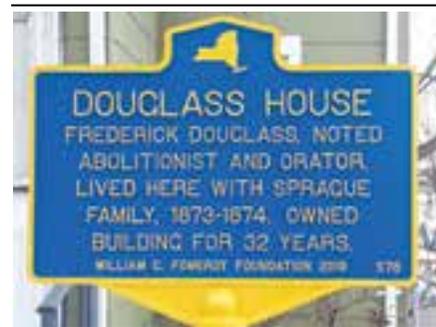
On March 16, a group of neighborhood organizations gathered to discuss how to reach the most vulnerable in our area of the city. Members of Highland Park Neighborhood Association, Swillburg Neighborhood Association, South Wedge Mission, South Wedge Planning Committee and the Artisan Church brainstormed what services an already frail population might need when further isolated. What services were already available, i.e. pharmacy and grocery pick-ups, transportation, childcare assistance? What else might someone need, i.e., pet supplies, diapers, hot meals, conversation, whatever brings a bit of joy? How could we as a grassroots community, neighbors, help provide what's needed, especially to those without Internet and social media access?

As it happens, this area is rich with talent, resources and genuine community. An information flier created by Highland Park neighbors is being distributed and posted throughout the neighborhood, on social media outlets, and in this electronic issue of The WEDGE, among other

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A bicycle gets a new life, and begonias get a ride at Ellwanger Barry Estate Bed & Breakfast on Mt. Hope Avenue (Photo by Elizabeth Campbell)



It was a long time coming, but now Frederick Douglass is remembered again in the South Wedge (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

## Frederick Douglass Gets Historic Marker in South Wedge

Nancy O'Donnell

For South Wedge resident Sherri Dukes, owner of the former home of famed abolitionist, publisher, orator and statesman Frederick Douglass, the recognition of its historic importance was a long time coming.

Dukes first learned about the Douglass connection in 2003 through the effort of local historians. Her 271 Hamilton Street home is the only Douglass home remaining in Rochester. Another on Alexander Street is now a parking lot. His farmhouse and stop on the Underground Railroad on South Avenue is now the site of Anna Murray-Douglass Public School #13, named for his first wife.

In mid February of this year, The City of Rochester installed a historical marker in front of her home.

"A lot of people are stopping by and taking pictures. I'm ecstatic," said Dukes. "We worked a long time to get this marker."

Mayor Lovely A. Warren, among the dignitaries who attended the celebration, described the house as "a symbol of freedom."

"I am proud to know it is still standing

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## South Wedge Farmers Market is Moving!

Joan Brandenburg



The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) is thrilled to announce that the 2020 South Wedge Farmers Market will have a new home at the Teoronto Lodge #8 Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOFF) located at 357 Gregory Street. Opening day is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 4-7 pm and will run through Thursday, September 24. The new location offers both indoor and outdoor market space for vendors and shoppers to enjoy. Moving the Market to a more centralized location within the South Wedge has been a goal of the SWPC Board of Directors for some time. Finding the right location was critical to their plans to expand the Market and offer a more convenient location. The additional benefit is that the Odd Fellows Lodge location means the Market can stay open in inclement weather.

As part of SWPC's commitment to community outreach and engagement,

the Market continues to expand its scope from a simple farm market to an evening of community celebration and appreciation of local artisans and businesses. Community organizations are always welcome to share their information and register for services.

The Odd Fellow service organization has a long history in the United States originating in the early 1800's. The South Wedge Lodge started in 1842, and they have been meeting at the former 19th century firehouse on Gregory Street since 1951. While the organization began with an male only membership, they now include women and youth service groups. The organization hopes that by hosting the Market at their Lodge, more people will discover their good works and mission and join the organization.

Farmers and vendors are already sign-

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# City Council Corner - Mary Lupien

Hello, South Wedge, Mary Lupien here, your friendly neighborhood Councilperson.

In my last column I introduced myself and talked about a few issues that the City would be dealing with in the next few months. None of us had any idea that we would be dealing with a global health crisis, the shutdown of the economy, of vital community services and the isolation of social distancing.

As part of my effort to make local government more transparent, I want to ensure that amidst this crisis, the community has the information they need to access our democracy in Rochester. I will begin by explaining how the timeline of our legislative process works and at what point decisions are made, as well as the best time to ask questions and express concerns.

### When does Council meet?

City Council typically meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm to vote on the month's legislation. Prior to the meeting is the "Speak to Council" session which is the last chance for citizens to speak on items to be voted on for the month. In addition, they may also speak about any other issue not on the agenda.

It is important to note (and understandable given the complexity of the process) that "Speak to Council" is often the first time people express their concerns about a piece of legislation. Therefore, I want to talk about the process leading up to the City Council meeting and voting on legislation, as well as where opportunities exist for public input.

### Schoolhouse Rock: How Legislation Becomes Law in City Council

Growing up, I had Schoolhouse Rock to teach me "how a bill becomes a law." Unfortunately, city legislation is a bit more complicated, but I'm going to do my best!

Let's start by breaking down the timeline of legislation, from being presented to being voted on. We'll use this past month as an example. I'll break down the important dates and where you can take action.



City Councilmember Mary Lupien

### March Legislation Timeline

(<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/councilproceedings/> for all legislation documents)

#### Date 1: Referral Day

When: the Thursday preceding/following 1st of the month (in this example Feb. 27) What: Mayor refers legislation to council. Legislation is posted online.

Referral Day is the Thursday right before/after the beginning of the month, and this is when the Proposed Legislation packet full of all items to be voted on for the month is posted online for Public viewing at [www.cityofrochester.gov/councilproceedings/](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/councilproceedings/). This document is admittedly hard to process as it is unsearchable and is usually over 100 pages long. The City Clerk's Office is currently exploring how to make the referral packet searchable. In the meantime, here's a helpful hint for reviewing the legislation: open up the Committee Agenda on the Council Proceedings page, and use it as a high-level index for finding topics and

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## The WEDGE Newspaper

Editor Nancy O'Donnell  
[thewedge@swpc.org](mailto:thewedge@swpc.org)  
 585.256.7640, ext. 4

**ADNet Printing,**  
 Messenger Post Media

### Writers

Pamela Baile, Andrea Borrelli,  
 Wendy Burwell, Joan Brandenburg,  
 David Howard Day, Peter Doughty,  
 Patti Giglio, Mary Lupien,  
 Michele H. Martell, Jayne Morgan,  
 Nancy O'Donnell,  
 Bob Palmer

### Photographers

Elizabeth Campbell,  
 Nancy O'Donnell, Sarah Jeruta Salvilla,  
 Nancy Watson

### Copy editor

Anne Logan

### CONTACT

E-mail staff, type first initial,  
 last name@swpc.org  
 South Wedge Planning Committee  
 224 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester, NY 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. 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. Online issue ([www.swpc.org](http://www.swpc.org))

## SWPC Board Members

Frank Logan, chair  
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 Emery Rizzo  
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### Honorary Board Members

Mitchell Dannenberg, John Dennis,  
 Joe DiDonato, Cheryl Stevens

### Staff

Glynis Valenti, executive director  
 Joan Brandenburg,  
 special project coordinator  
 Nancy O'Donnell, writer/editor

### Consultants

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](mailto:nodonnell@swpc.org). Advertising deadlines and rates are available online at [www.swpc.org](http://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](mailto:gvalenti@swpc.com), 256-1740, ext. 2. Are you a business owner interested in participating in the Wedge Card discount program? Let us know!



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**Buy an ad for the June/July issue. Call 256.1740, ext. 4 or 978.9638. Deadline May 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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## 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-

September), 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 to continue SWPC's work. If interested, please call 256-1740 or e-mail [gvalenti@swpc.org](mailto:gvalenti@swpc.org) or board chair Frank Logan at [flogan@rochester.rr.com](mailto: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. TBD

contact: [flogan@rochester.rr.com](mailto:flogan@rochester.rr.com)

**Community Engagement**  
**(Neighbors & Block Clubs)**  
[gvalenti@swpc.org](mailto:gvalenti@swpc.org)  
 Wed. TBD

**South Wedge Victory Gardens**  
 Mon. 6 p.m., TBD  
[felann@frontiernet.net](mailto:felann@frontiernet.net)

# Swillburg Shout-out

Bob Palmer

## Four generations and four households say "We love Swillburg!"

Most of us Swillburgers agree: Swillburg is a great place to live. It's got history—Cab Calloway was born here. It shows pride as residents volunteer to take care of several gardens, gather for monthly lunches and dinners, and annually host a summer Pulled Pork Pig Party and Fall Harvest Dinner.

But I'm not sure any family is as enthusiastic about Swillburg as the multiple generations of Fergussons/Nakadas.

It all started when Rochesterian Dave Fergusson met Joyce Nakada, a Chicagoan, at the Genesee Coop in 1978, fell in love and in 1979 bought a house on Caroline Street in Swillburg. By 1984, a first child had entered the picture and a bigger place was in order.

"I would walk down Nelson Street [also in Swillburg] to go to the Y, and I had seen this house for sale," Dave said over a recent Sunday dinner that needed two end-to-end tables to accommodate the multigenerational clan.

That dinner table, however, wasn't at Dave and Joyce's house on Nelson. "That's my house over there across the street," Dave said pointing out the front window, as son Brady sat at the end of the table in his own Nelson Street home he purchased in 2012 where he lives with wife Bobure, daughter Marjorie, 7, and son Kenji, 4.

Parents and son in houses nearby—maybe it doesn't sound that unusual—even



(l-r) bottom row: Joyce Nakada, Kenji Fergusson, Kiyo Nakada, Marjorie Fergusson (l-r) top row left to right: Carla Fergusson, Brady Fergusson, Dave Fergusson, Emiko Fergusson, Evelyn Kemp, Matt Kemp, Bobure Fergusson

though Brady and Bobure returned to Swillburg after living in Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Florida, and the Republic of Kiribati.

"That's where the equator meets the International Date Line," dad Dave says, speaking of his son's Peace Corps stint in this little country, a collection of atolls and one coral island in the middle of the Pacific.

Brady met Bobure there and convinced her to leave. "She'd never experienced a

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Become an event sponsor: email citylove@swpc.org  
For more information: call 585-256-1740 ext. 5 or visit www.swpc.org

Historic German House / 315 Gregory St.



Members of the UR Protestant Chapel Community (Photo by Nancy Watson)

# UR Protestant Chapel Community Aids Historic Landmark Calvary St. Andrews

Jayne Morgan

John Heywood's quote, "many hands make light work," was definitely in place on January 18 at the ROC S.A.L.T. Center on Ashland St. when The Friends of the Historic Calvary St. Andrew's hosted ten volunteer students from the University of Rochester Protestant Chapel Community.

Members of the "Friends" and the U of R students worked side by side as they scraped, cleaned, taped, primed, and painted walls and trim in rooms located on

the second floor of this South Wedge landmark building.

These enthusiastic, motivated and hard-working young people helped bring new life to rooms that will be of future use as the Friends of the Historic Calvary St. Andrew's strive to re-purpose this building as a community center.

A big thank you to Chaplain Dr. Laurie Tiberi of the Protestant Chapel Community for making this happen.

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Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations are available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

# Business Buzz

## Hipocampo Children's Books Spread Book Love

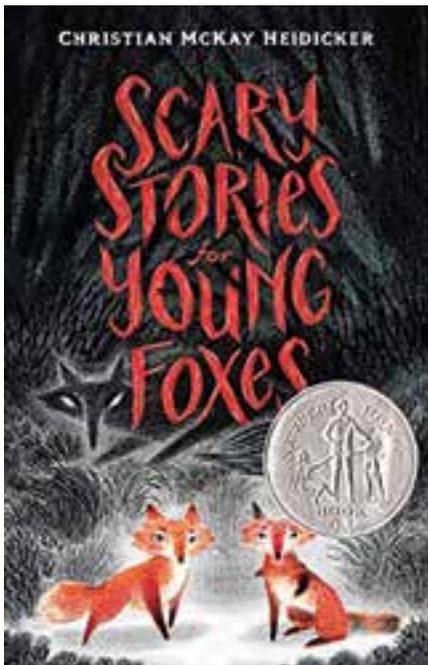
Pamela Baile

To own a bookstore, you have to really like books. I mean, really like books. Not just like to read or enjoy stories; you have to have a desire to touch books, hold them, organize them, place them in such a way that people notice them; put them in the hands of your customers knowing that they will end up in the right home.

You have to be a matchmaker and bring together true love—the reader and the book. There is nothing better than delighting someone with a book that they never knew they needed. And nothing better than fulfilling someone's desperate desire for that one book they were looking for their entire lives. As a bookseller, you have to have an unending drive to get books out to the world, to people who will give them life.

The other side of bookselling is listening to other people's advice and their love for books. And this is exactly what happened to me one day, when Oscar came to the bookstore to look for books.

Oscar is famous here in Rochester as a disability rights activist and all-around awesome person. At 10 years old, he has already been on radio shows, been high-



lighted in City Newspaper, and seems to know just about everyone in this town.

Oscar, his mom and grandad came to check out Hipocampo a few weeks ago and fell in love with the collection. At one point, he turned his wheelchair around and looked directly at me and asked, "Do you have *Scary Stories for Little Foxes*?" I didn't, but I looked the book up immediately on our online system and saw the cutest book cover with sweet foxes on it. I told him it was so cute, and I would order the book immediately. He

got serious and looked me in the eye and said, "This book is not funny; it is scary. It's so scary; I haven't read it yet." I was immediately intrigued.

Two days later the book arrived, and I was glad it was a slow Monday. I rearranged some books, paid some bills, and then opened the book, ostensibly to read just the first chapter. The silence of a retail Monday, the snow falling outside the shop, the dim light of winter evening – all these things conspired to make me forget the time, and I was just sucked in. I couldn't believe that people still wrote books for children like this! This book is told in a series of stories from an old fox story-teller, about fox children (kits) who face the horrors of a zombie disease, imprisonment and impending doom (and a very strange looking human). These kits show themselves to be brave heroes and face danger with strength, resilience and a great sense of humor. Each chapter is short, which drives the story quickly, and each story is more and more suspenseful, which makes it almost impossible to put the book down.

As a bookseller, I get such great joy in the reciprocity of sharing stories with all who come in our store. It makes me feel so good when a customer comes back and says my recommendation was spot-on. And it is an amazing thing to actually wish that no customers come in because I don't want to be interrupted in the middle of a great book that was recommended by one of our customers and friends.

Next time I see Oscar, he will be getting an earful from me about this fantastic book.

Check out Hipocampo website for events! Independent Book Store Day April 30. Children's Book Week May 4-10.

To enjoy the scariness of *Scary Stories for Little Foxes* yourself, visit or call for a copy-- Hipocampo Children's Books, 638 South Ave, 585.461.0161, www.hipocampochildrensbooks.com.

## Farmers Market

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ing-up for what looks like a stellar Market season in the new location. Old favorites will be back--Veganlicious and Flint Maple. Grace Filled Gardens and Redwood Teahouse will join an array of new vendors on opening day. Applications for a space are now being accepted at info@swpc.org.

The last two years have seen a significant evolution for the Market. Along with great local fruit, veggies, bread, beer, wine, and more, artisans and crafters will sell their creations at a very nominal cost. Community organizations share information about critical services available to residents at no cost. Buskers keep shoppers and vendors entertained each week. The SNAP program returns. Tru Yoga will offer free classes on the green grass across the street near St. Boniface Church's former rectory. Expect lots of fun for the family, too!

While June 18th may seem like a long way off, our planning for an extraordinary market has begun. We welcome your help. Visit our web page for Market updates leading up to opening day or like us on Facebook. Become a part of the food less traveled movement, visit with your neighbors and enjoy the uniqueness of the South Wedge Community at the South Wedge Community Market every Thursday from 4-7 pm all summer long and into the fall.

We'd love to see your 2019 market memories, photos and comments to help our Market planning committee. Vendor applications are available now by contacting Glynis Valenti, Executive Director, South Wedge Planning Committee at gvalenti@swpc.org or call (585) 56-1740 ext. 2. For more information, call (585) 256-1740 or email info@swpc.org. To learn more about the IOOF, visit Odd-Fellows.org.

## Lupien

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the committees that vote on them. The Agenda will give you a high-level overview of the Proposed Legislation as well as references of the packet refer to which projects. The Committee Agenda is like a Table of Contents. It gives a summary each of the Proposed Legislation items and which under Committee heading the legislation is listed.

### Public Input Opportunity

Councilpersons only have one week to review legislation before they are expected to ask their questions of the Mayor's administration on record at Agenda Review. If a citizen is reviewing the Proposed Legislation and has a question or concern, this is the best time to engage with City Council! Having extra eyes allows us to engage the community and do our work more effectively. This is an important time to make sure you're pushing your councilperson so they can ask the right questions.

### Date 2: Agenda Review (Council Questions Day)

When: one week from Referral Day (or in this case March 5) What: committees meet to ask questions and have them recorded. For example: "Can you give me a breakdown of the construction costs on project ABC?"

There are four committees. All of us serve on at least one and the President and VP serve on all: Finance (FIN), Neighborhood and Business Development (NBD), Parks & Public Works (PPW) and Public Safety, Youth & Recreation (PSYR). Legislation is first considered by these committees and must receive at least three votes to go on to the City Council meeting for a vote. If an item is "Held in Committee," it won't go up for a vote unless there is a vote at the City Council meeting to take it out of Committee.

### Public Input Opportunity:

If you have concerns about a piece of legislation, getting it held in committee is the best outcome to allow more time for discussion or to make alterations.

### Date 3: Agenda Review Questions and Answers posted

When: one week from Agenda Review (March 11 in this example) What: answers to the questions from Council. Questions Day are posted on Council Proceedings page.

### Date 4: Committee Meeting and Public Hearings

When: one week from Council Questions day (in this example March 12). Committee Meeting at 4pm; Public Meeting at 5pm. What: Committee Meeting gives Council their final opportunity to ask questions on record. Councilpersons have to vote to move legislation along or hold in committee. As noted above, If you don't want a piece of legislation passed or would like changes, having it held in committee is a good outcome.

### Public Input Opportunity

The public meeting always follows the Council Meeting and is an opportunity to make your voice heard on specific legislation which requires a public hearing (noticed in the paper). You can livestream the Committee Meeting.

### Date 5: City Council Meeting

When: third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm (March 17 here) What: Speak to Council session followed by general City Council session in which councilpersons vote on agenda items.

Please note: sometimes additional legislation is presented at the last moment, however, it is typically for less controversial measures such as appointments to positions.

Speak to Council session provides the final Public Input Opportunity on a given item.

Following the City Council meeting, this cycle would repeat for the next

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Parents and kids look for just the right book at Hipocampo Children's Books, an independent Woman/Latinx owned children's bookstore in the South Wedge.

## Think Small!

Large corporations have a cushion. Now more than ever small businesses need your support. Be there for them when you can.

## Saint Boniface Church

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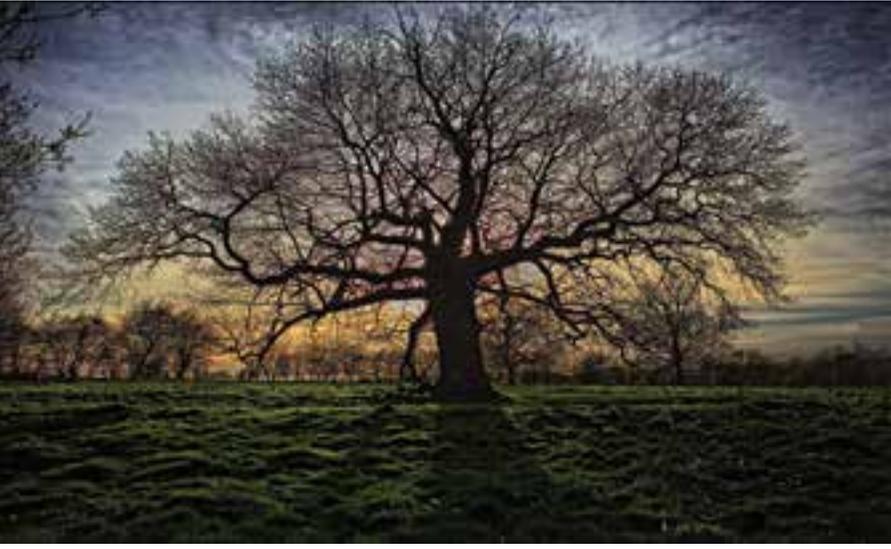
Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Check us out on Facebook

# The Timeless Beauty of Trees

Michele H. Martell



"I think that I shall never see/A poem  
lovely as a tree./A tree whose hungry  
mouth is prest/Against the earth's sweet  
flowing breast;/A tree that looks at God  
all day,/And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
/A tree that may in Summer wear/A nest  
of robins in her hair;/Upon whose bosom  
snow has lain;/Who intimately lives with  
rain./Poems are made by fools like me,  
/But only God can make a tree."

Oh, this poem by Joyce Kilmer! Who  
else remembers this from their child-  
hood? Is this even taught these days in  
school? Back in the day, it was mandato-  
ry that we learned this poem in elemen-  
tary school. At the time, I thought it was  
quite silly and nowhere near useful. Yet  
today, these words will resonate in my  
ears and mind as I view the beauty of  
trees each season.

What- or even who - do you know that  
is more steadfast and consistent than a  
tree? I think about the huge and pow-  
erful trees around my home, their deep  
roots that run underneath the sidewalks  
and yard. Nothing has budged these  
beautiful trees - windstorms have blown  
their branches onto my roof and have  
blown down my fences; yet the trees  
themselves have withstood. The only  
thing that has ever taken any of them  
down is an illness or aging, even still sur-  
viving many storms and harsh winters.  
Wildlife, both birds and squirrels, seek  
shelter building nests in the branches  
And the chipmunks build their bunkers  
near the base of trees in my yard. I enjoy  
them until spring has sprung and those  
pesky cute little things then burrow into  
my carefully-planted flower pots!

Perhaps I am especially thinking of  
trees because spring is upon us finally  
here in Upstate NY; and I, along with oth-  
ers, cannot wait to see the glorious buds  
that await us following the long winter!  
But now I find myself reflecting on the  
strength of our trees up north. They  
have survived yet another brutal winter,  
ice and wind, flooding in some areas;

yet they are still here, ready for another  
new beginning of healthy green foliage  
soon. Somehow, trees just endure it all,  
inherently knowing that there is some  
sparkling growth that is coming, if they  
just believe and wait out the ruthless-  
ness of what is life is dealing them right  
now. This harshness isn't just from the  
weather mind you- think about it: dogs'  
and other animals' natural tendency to  
urinate on trees; and then there are the  
insects, woodpeckers, deer and other  
wildlife that take their toll. Yet somehow  
trees overcome it and manage to blos-  
som dazzling buds in the springtime.

In the summertime, trees provide us  
with shade from the relentless sun that  
is here in Rochester for a few short  
months. The trees offer us oxygen as  
we sit outside during spring and sum-  
mer get-togethers and provide us with  
a comforting swaying sensation during  
breezy summer nights out. And they of-  
fer us a break to take after work, follow-  
ing a hike or dogwalk, and even a place  
for our children to swing on or for us to  
enjoy the luxury of a hammock. Wheth-

continues on pg. 7



Michele H. Martell (Photo by Sarah Jeruta Salvilla)

# The Lost Souls of Highland Park

Patti Giglio

In 1824 New York State law required  
that each county open an almshouse to  
serve the community, offering relief to  
people who could not take care of them-  
selves and incarcerating those charged  
with disorderly conduct for a term of six  
months of hard labor.

Officials in Monroe County did not  
want to house those "type" of people  
in the city, so the almshouse was con-  
structed about two miles outside the city  
of Rochester. It resembled a farm more  
than an institution; a lot of open land sur-  
rounded the almshouse where inmates  
could grow their own food and the fa-  
cility could be somewhat self-sufficient.  
Around the middle of the century, more  
buildings were added to the "farm"; the  
new county penitentiary in 1850 and the  
Rochester State Hospital, the insane asy-  
lum, in 1857.

Thirty-four years after the city ded-  
icated Mount Hope Cemetery in 1838  
as the official Rochester cemetery, the  
farm continued to inter their dead on  
the site. It was a general practice for  
almshouses and asylums to have their  
own burial grounds, which according to  
an old map, was located behind the  
penitentiary. Though even as the county  
directors knew about the existence of  
the cemetery while it was in use, it was  
never documented on any known official  
map. The 1824 law held Monroe County  
responsible for the care of the poor and  
insane, and they provided only the bare  
minimum, basic needs for them to exist.

The inmates, as both the almshouse res-  
idents and patients at the asylum were  
called, were given a roof over their heads  
and provided nourishment but were nev-  
er afforded the respect and compassion  
that every human being needs and de-  
serves. This was true in life and in death.  
The burials were performed without  
traditional solemn rites, and their final  
resting places are anonymous. As with  
the cemetery adjacent to the Genesee  
County Poorhouse in East Bethany, the  
exact number of those laid to rest in the  
Rochester State Hospital Cemetery will  
be fully known. To say that the ceme-  
tery records were incomplete would be  
an understatement, they were virtually  
non-existent.

The cemetery held the remains of the  
deceased from the almshouse, asylum  
and penitentiary from 1826 until 1872.  
And by the time of the last burial, the  
condition of the grounds was disgrace-  
ful. At the annual meeting of the Mon-  
roe County Board of Supervisors in Jan-  
uary 1873, the Poorhouse chaplain gave  
a compelling report illustrating how the  
burials took place there: "It was not un-  
common, in such cases, to make more  
than one attempt in opening a grave  
from the pick and shovels encountering  
perhaps transversely, the mouldering  
coffin of some convict or pauper. While  
in spring and autumn, in a rainy time, the  
wetness of the ground and water in the

continues on pg. 10



The image can be found on inmatesofwillard.com and shows the 3 old institutions on South Avenue



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# Ellwanger Estate B&B Offers an Island of Wellness

Nancy O'Donnell

Ellwanger Estate B&B owner Rosemary Janofsky sent out a welcome Special Wellness Alert to those feeling the stress of Coronavirus warnings and closings. Not only did she remind readers of what the B&B offers, but she offered a poetic reminder from the Roman poet Virgil: "The greatest wealth is health."

"From the wellness standpoint, caring for families is what I know," said Janofsky. "My nursing, midwifery, and military foundation guides my wholistic philosophy of life. Wellness at the Ellwanger Estate B&B is full scope: the body is nourished, the mind is eased, and the soul can soar."

"In light of the Coronavirus, wellness has become so top of mind," Janofsky added. "And this is especially true for the traveler: where small, bright, and beautiful matter."

Janofsky is not only the owner of the Ellwanger Estate B&B, but she's also a nurse, midwife, preservationist, farmer, and environmentalist.

"We are paying much more attention to wellness as a lifestyle. Ellwanger Estate B&B is a place where mindful wellness and cultural tourism come together for "Welltality."

The B&B hold a small number of five brightly lit rooms with beds with comfy



Visitors love the warm glow of Ellwanger Estate B&B

PRANA mattresses. The rooms, Janofsky said, "are sparkling clean and disinfected daily (think OCD) and beautifully maintained indoor and outdoor spaces."

Inside, the Estate is filled with live house plants and soothing soft color palettes and hardwood floors. It uses in room air purifiers and allergy-friendly room and "eco-friendly cleaning products with the most stringent disinfecting protocols," said Janofsky.

A Veranda acts as an outdoor room, with an expansive deck with a lush garden/woodland view and beyond the porch visitors can enjoy a fire-pit, great landscaping with outdoor lighting and nearby winding paths lead to secluded spots with seating. The Rec Room, located in our historical potting shed, provides Ping-Pong, exercise equipment, and a lounge.

The best B&B works hard to provide a delectable breakfast. The Ellwanger Estate prides itself in offering a balanced diet, tailor-made teas, in-season plant-based food selections, local products with low salt and sugar options for the breakfast served to visitors.

"We are committed to farm-to-table dining," said Janofsky. "We showcase the bounties of our gardens, bakery, and

chicken coop ("the Grand Hotel Coop") in a multi-course breakfast." Its Heirloom Garden grows organic vegetables, and every fall, the estate stocks their root cellar to carry the estate through until Spring.

The B&B emphasizes morning hikes, yoga and meditation to its visitors, offering complimentary walking, jogging and hiking maps, yoga mats, rolls and weights. The estate is only short blocks away from Highland Park and 19th century Mt. Hope Cemetery. A few longer blocks away from the South Avenue business district and Tru Yoga and New Leaf Tea bar. Guest passes are available for sports and fitness classes at LA Fitness Signature Club.

For those who don't to leave the rest-



Ellwanger Estates multi-course breakfast

ful estate and grounds, the B&B offers massage spa treatments, a quiet room for meditation and green spaces.

The B&B can also offer a retreat from technology to those who are overwhelmed. "This is for our guests who are seeking a real get-away from it all," she said. "You must admit, today's small portable electronics glued to our eyes and ears for hours on end can create a lot of stress. There is always the old-fashioned land line open for emergency communication. We can help you turn off the Wi-Fi, no phones, tablets, etc. allowed. We will lock them up in a safe!"

To learn more about Ellwanger Estate B&B, 625 Mt Hope Avenue, <https://ellwangerestate.com/> email: [info@ellwangerestate.com](mailto:info@ellwangerestate.com).

## Lupien

continued from pg. 4

batch of legislation, released on March 26th.

**Attending City Council Meetings Remotely** - "Attending" City Council meetings during this time of social distancing is in the form of a web conference which can be viewed live at ([www.cityofrochester.gov/councilwebcast](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/councilwebcast)) and on WXXI City 12 station on Spectrum Cable. You can sign up to have your comments read to us before our council meeting by emailing us at [council@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:council@cityofrochester.gov) or calling 585-428-7538. You can also call any City Councilmember at any time to tell them your concerns and ask questions. Contact me at [mary.lupien@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:mary.lupien@cityofrochester.gov) or 585-406-4709.

I hope this helps make the process a little more transparent. As I write this, we are just at the beginning of this crisis. I wish you and your family well-being both physically and emotionally as we move into uncertain times.

## South Wedge Food Program Donation Drive Needs You!

Andrea Borrelli

In May please consider donating to our neighborhood food drive benefiting the South Wedge Food Program. You can drop off non-perishable food items and hygiene products May 1- May 31 at 60 Mt. Vernon Ave (between Cayuga St and Caroline St) for the Emergency Food Cupboard.

The South Wedge Food Program has been feeding our neighbors in Rochester since the 1970s. The Food Cupboard, located at the former Calvary St. Andrew's Church at 68 Ashland Street, provides groceries to nearly 400 people most months!

There are many amazing food cupboards throughout the city with wonderful volunteers dedicated to providing food to individuals and families in need. However, there are a few very unique aspects to the South Wedge Food Program that really set it apart.

According to Katie Jo Suddaby, The Director of Operations and Volunteers, "The South Wedge Food Program takes pride in their Choice System."

"The pantry is set up like a grocery store and clients are able to pick their own food, rather than receive a pre-loaded bag of food. This may sound little, but by letting our clients choose the food that best meets their needs, the pantry shows respect to clients as people with preferences. No one wants someone else to choose what they eat for the week. To that end, we also make sure we have dairy-free and gluten-free choices and vegetarian options," said Suddaby.

Most pantries in the Rochester area serve only a few zip codes, that's how they keep numbers manageable. The South Wedge Food Program is one of only two food pantries in the area to serve all zip codes. People who live in an area where there are no programs available, can go to the South Wedge Food Program and receive food. They also do not make people prove that they need assistance. "If they ask for help, we trust that they need it. We haven't been disappointed."

According to the organization Feeding America "2019 Annual Map the Meal Gap report," food-insecurity data for every county in the country shows that in Monroe County 12.4% of the population — more than 92,000 people — are food-insecure.

The USDA defines food insecurity as "a lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods."

To make matters worse, a new rules change approved by the Trump administration that goes into effect on April 1 will cut off many unemployed people from food assistance, and food pantries are preparing for a steep increase in need.

"In Monroe County, this change will make hunger a reality for roughly 5,400 more people," Suddaby said.

So, if there was ever a time to donate to your local food cupboard, now is the time!

Again, our neighborhood food drive runs May 1st – 31st. Donations can be dropped off at any time on the porch at 60 Mt Vernon Ave. If you have any questions, or if your church, job or organization is interested in collecting and contributing in conjunction with our drive, please contact Andrea Borrelli at [amco815@gmail.com](mailto:amco815@gmail.com). And please consider providing your donations in a reusable bag! Thanks!



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# Kondo'ing My House

David Howard Day

Maybe you've seen a lot of print recently about "minimalism," the emerging catchall phrase about various ways we might simplify our lives.

Jia Tolentino, writing in a recent *New Yorker*, reviews a slew of these prophets of lifestyle minimalism, hygge and wabi sabi who ask: is our zeal to purchase more and more stuff conducive to happiness or might it actually be morally bad?

As a septuagenarian and a widower, I've spent a lot of time thinking about this "less is more" meme realizing, of course, that perhaps de-cluttering isn't an option if you're already unable to guarantee that your kids will get one solid meal a day. So our conscious attempt to rein in our buying power may be nothing more than a display of privilege. I agree it may be immoral to obsess about having less crap if, with my \$20 lip balm applied, I'm watching my sprouts grow in my new \$60 terra cotta bean sprouter.

But those of us who've led full, long lives have accumulated households of stuff that, in sober moments, we no longer need or does not make us any happier. Millions have followed Japanese Marie Kondo's advice to clean out our drawers, "spark joy," volunteering to simplify. (Kondo is a "tidying expert, bestselling author, star of a Netflix hit show "Tidying with Marie Kondo" and founder of KonMari Media, Inc.) Thoreau set a fine example 175 years earlier.

So, a few years ago after my wife's death, I took to heart Rilke's stunning commandment "You must change your life" the last line in his sonnet, "Archaic Torso of Apollo." I looked around our house and decided that I needed to perform triage. I had begun to suffer from what I call the "tyranny" of possessions. My career as an academic had taken me to exotic cultures for research and prompted me to lug back piles of judiciously selected objects I could use in teaching, or put on display, my excuse for acute collectivism.

Now happily retired, there were collections I no longer needed. I began to explore my options. I even stashed some things away out of my sight, and realized later when I stumbled across them, that I had not really missed them after all. But my feeling was that things once treasured and inherently valuable to someone, should go where they would be appreciated. So, I packed off this collection to the Buffalo Museum of Science, that collection to the Peary Museum of the Arctic at Bowdoin, that treasure to the Rochester Museum and Science Center, my Peace Corps journals and letters to American University in the nation's Capital. Some things were just not right for Goodwill, and for those, the Ronald McDonald auction or Habitat for Humanity's Restore were perfect.

Other once-treasured possessions I carted off to local antique dealers and consignment shops. All of these good-byes were not easy, with inertia exerting a strong force, but I felt my things had served their purpose. They no longer contributed to my *ikigai*, the lovely Japanese concept for things that make your one's life worth living.

Gosh, the Japanese sure had a model for the paired down, yet elegant life. If you have ever traipsed to the Container Store, rented one of those ubiquitous storage lockers, or stumbled over your pile of shoes or sweaters, take a look inside a classical Japanese interior.

Sometime in the 14th century in Japan, there was a revolution in housing style aimed at eliminating the non-essential, providing a simple, calming space from which to look out at the world. There,



Chateau Day post Kondo

in traditional Japanese interiors, sit sliding shoji screens with their translucent rice paper, tatami mats of rice straw, a lovely *tokonoma*, the niche or alcove minimally decorated with a hanging scroll or *kakejiku*, and elsewhere an *ikebana* arrangement, or a refined *byobu*, a golden folding screen perhaps with chrysanthemums or cranes. Calming, Zen-like simplicity. Take a look (a listen?) at John Cage's piece 4'33" for "acoustic absence."

For a jarring reminder of the opposite in decor, feast your eyes on the hundreds of boho chic (Bohemian) images scrolling out on Pinterest; dizzying riots of color, textures, the slightly "distressed" look, objects from your travels to Morocco or India and a jungle of botanicals. So much for the aesthetic of absence.

Bu, I had a more urgent and equally practical reason for deaccessioning. Anyone who's had to deal with a household full of stuff when parents die, has faced the daunting task of what to do. Where to begin? A whole decluttering industry has sprung up to help people through the process. (Think: Got Junk?) These days, it's not likely that your son or daughter is going to want or value Grandma's Chipendale desk, the odd-looking sterling fish or asparagus-serving forks, or the crystal knife-rest even though they're freighted with historical pedigree.

Young couples now have their own preferences. If in fact they have given thought to what those preference might be, they'll set out together to any one of the home goods megastores and their canyons of furnishings springing up around town. And much of the imports are from those busy folks in China, and little if any of it requiring regular—and time-consuming—silver polishing, unlike Grandma's heirloom silver.

And so, after a recent trot to the dumpster with an armful of old bath mats and dish drainers (why had we saved these?), I felt a sense of liberation. Free of the burden of further dilemmas about dispensing this and that, and having saved a few choice things, I began to go about my daily routines feeling a sense of well, a sense of lightness. Until, last fall when my 18-year-old grandson announced he had decided to attend a nearby college and move from his parent's home into one of our spare rooms.

Into my clutter-free house came his dorm-size refrigerator, a mountain of art supplies, his wardrobe of clothes and shoes, a tangle of high-end computer gear, enough boxes of instant mac-n-cheese to feed his entire graduation class, his Amazon Alexa, sheaves of rolled up movie posters, coils of colored LED lights and a life-sized statue of—Homer Simpson! Yep. We all pay the price for living in our culture of abundance.



A classic Japanese home

## Frederick Douglass Home

continued from pg. 1

in Rochester," Warren said.

The marker was made possible through a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, a Syracuse-based grant-making foundation that funds historic roadside markers and plaques nationwide, and the efforts of City Historian Christine Ridarsky.

Dukes said she was saddened that two local historians and trustees of the Friends of the Mt. Hope Cemetery who first discovered the Douglass connection—Jean Czerkas and Tim O'Connell—were not alive to attend the celebration.

Dukes explained that she learned that her house was a landmark when Czerkas unexpectedly knocked on her door one day. Czerkas told her that Douglass' daughter Rosetta had lived there with her husband Nathan Sprague and their children. Czerkas was joined in historical research by her friend Tim O'Connell in 2003.

O'Connell later told Dukes that Czerkas found an order in the Hebard Marble and Monument Company for the tombstone for Alice Louisa, the daughter of Rosetta and Nathan. The pair also discovered that Douglass had lived in the Hamilton Street property with his daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren from 1873 to 1874. Douglass continued as a frequent visitor and maintained ownership of the house which allowed him to vote in federal elections following his move from Rochester to Washington, D.C., in 1872. He owned the South Wedge house until his death in 1895.

Seven years later in 2010 the City's Planning Commission granted Dukes' home a local landmark status. The vote was a direct result of research conducted by Czerkas and O'Connell.

The landmark status gave Duke's property protection from destruction and restricted alteration which means all actions resulting in a visible change of the exterior must now be approved by the



In 2010 Sherri Dukes stands near original fireplace. A lover of classical music, she learned that Douglass seldom traveled without his violin. (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

City Preservation Board.

"This house now has the same rights of protection as City Hall and the George Eastman House," O'Connell told her after the designation.

During Frederick's time in Rochester he published the abolitionist newspaper, *The North Star*. In the newspaper's first issue on Dec. 3, 1847, "Our Paper and Its Prospects," readers can hear the former enslaved man's passionate eloquence that moved so many to work for the end of the enslavement of an entire people in the United States: "It has long been our anxious wish to see, in this slave-holding, slave-trading, and negro-hating land, a printing-press and paper, permanently established, under the complete control and direction of the immediate victims of slavery and oppression... that the man who has suffered the wrong is the man to demand redress,—that the man STRUCK is the man to CRY OUT—and that he who has endured the cruel pangs of Slavery is the man to advocate Liberty."

Douglass was also a strong advocate for women's rights, he writes: "RIGHT IS OF NO SEX—TRUTH IS OF NO COLOR—GOD IS THE FATHER OF US ALL, AND ALL

continued on pg. 9

## Trees

continued from pg. 5

er human or animal, trees provide us shelter. For many unfortunate creatures, who deserve so much more dignity and kindness, oftentimes the only comfort that they may ever receive is the shade from a tree.

And look how majestic trees appear during autumn! They are blazingly shedding their old to become quietly dormant to prepare for the new. Trees can set a great example for us as humans – we all need that time to end the old and make ready for the new. It is a necessity of life to grow and move on. Let go of the dead and prepare for new growth. Pretty basic when you're a tree! When it comes down to it, we can learn a lot from trees. And snow-laden branches during the winter months provide beautiful scenery worthy of books, of memories, of movies and greeting cards that span generations.

A few more of the many valuable properties of trees: Trees provide us peace. Just look at all the trees in cemeteries! Trees provide a home to bees – to their hives, to their existence. Although some of us are deathly allergic to bees, truth is, our world needs them to survive. Trees warn us of an impending storm. Just watch their branches and leaves – if they are frantic, you know something brutal is coming. And then you can prepare in advance. What about the joy trees bring children? Climbing, tree houses, hide-and-seek, a tire or wooden swing from a tree... there is nothing like the joy of children. And the joy of children propels our adult lives into delight.

Finally, do you remember *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein? For those of you who don't remember, *The Giving Tree* is a 1964 children's book about a tree who happily gives what she can to a young

boy. First, she gives him shade. Then apples. She even lets him carve initials into her.

As the boy grows up, he needs more. So he takes her branches and eventually cuts down her trunk. At that point, the tree is alive, but nothing but a stump. Yet the boy, now an old man, still needs more. He needs a seat. She gives it to him. "And the tree was happy." (The last line of the book.)

We can learn a lot from trees: to give, to be strong, yet also to not give so much that there is barely anything left to us. We learn to have boundaries so we may continue to be around for others to further give and offer blessings to others. After all, if we do nothing but give and not receive, there's not much else we can do for anyone, let alone ourselves. As an interesting side-note: *The Giving Tree* was banned from a public library in Colorado in 1988 because it was interpreted as being sexist. Some readers believe that the young boy continually takes from the female tree, without ever giving anything in return. Personally, I believe that the message is universal regardless of who you are – take & receive equally, to serve your highest good.

Maybe this is a time to experience a new appreciation for trees. How empty our lives would seem without them. The term "tree-hugger" came into existence a long time ago to sometimes sarcastically describe those who are environmentally conscious.

Today being environmentally conscious is not a luxury; it is a necessity, or our children and theirs will not have much of a future to enjoy.

So hug and appreciate a tree; our future owes it to them.

# HELLO NEIGHBORS

Our community and daily life are being impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are all needing to stay home for the protection of everyone. During this time of physical isolation, **we need our neighbors now more than ever before!** We can still look out for each other and maintain human connection. We're reaching out to share resources (see reverse side) and ideas for how to support neighbors in need as well as our hurting local businesses.

## CAN YOU USE SOME HELP?

If you need assistance with:

Groceries

Monetary

Household items

Spiritual support

## ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP?

If you can support a neighbor with:

Social connection

Transportation

Go to [www.artisanchurch.com/community-care](http://www.artisanchurch.com/community-care)

Fill out the "LET US KNOW WHAT YOU NEED" form, and the care team will do their best to find resources to meet your request.

Don't have online access? Call 851-8278 and leave a message stating your needs.

Fill out the "SIGN UP TO HELP SOMEONE" form, and the care team will be in touch to let you know if there is a need for you to meet.

*Thank you to the folks at Artisan Church for creating this site to link helpers with neighbors in need!*

## WHAT CAN WE ALL DO?

- ♥ **Check in on neighbors!** Call or leave a note in their door to offer support. Have the kids make them a card to lift their spirits.
- ♥ **Help our local businesses stay afloat!** Order take-out or visit their website to buy gift cards or merchandise.
- ♥ **Find ways to connect and create joy** with your neighbors. Set a time to meet up or make music on your front stoops/porches. Have a dance party on the sidewalk (6 feet apart)!

## COVID-19

*continued from pg. 1*

means.

We have places in our neighborhood to find assistance and food. I encourage people to call a neighbor who may not have access to resource websites—many of the elderly don't use computers—and see how he or she is doing. It may make someone's day to feel included, to feel like someone cares.

Television, radio and social media are steadily streaming bad news—not just bad—but scary. Images of what the entire world is experiencing are unnerving in their magnitude, and all of us need to

be meticulous about our hands, our faces, personal space, and adhere to strict mandates. Taking time to decompress and step away from the madness is more important than ever. If it all is overwhelming, however, the South Wedge Mission has a team of non-denominational "listeners" with whom you can privately share any questions or fears about getting through all of this safely. The flier above has contact information.

To be cognizant of health and safety concerns, this issue of The WEDGE is online only. If you would like digital or hard copies of the information flier separately to post or give to someone else, please contact me at [gvalenti@swpc.org](mailto:gvalenti@swpc.org) or 585.256.1740 ext. 2. Be safe and well.

**We are in  
this together  
Let's work together.  
Stay safe!  
Stay strong!**

## COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED RESOURCES

### COVID-19 INFORMATION:

**Monroe County:** [www.monroecounty.gov/health-coronavirus](http://www.monroecounty.gov/health-coronavirus)  
Monroe County COVID-19 Hotline: 585-753-5555

**New York State:** <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov>  
NYS COVID-19 Hotline: 1-888-364-3065

**Center for Disease Control (CDC):** [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

### FOOD NEEDS:

**South Wedge Food Pantry:** Stop by 68 Ashland St. or call 325-4950. Open MWF 9am-12pm.

**Foodlink:** Visit [www.foodlinkny.org](http://www.foodlinkny.org) or call 328-3280 to find food resources or make a donation to the COVID-19 Response Fund.

**Meals for Kids During School Closures:** Pack-and-go meals for students being served at 7 school sites and 9 City R-Centers. Visit [www.rcsdk12.org/covid19](http://www.rcsdk12.org/covid19) for times and locations. The closest sites to our neighborhood are:

- Frederick Douglass R-Center, 990 South Ave.
- Adams Street R-Center, 85 Adams St.
- James Monroe High School, 164 Alexander St.

### CHILD & ELDER CARE SERVICES:

**Child Care Council:** Visit [www.childcarecouncil.com](http://www.childcarecouncil.com) or call 654-4720 to access info and support services for parents.

**Lifespan:** Visit [www.lifespan-roch.org](http://www.lifespan-roch.org) or call 244-8400 to access a wide range of support services for older adults and care givers.

### MENTAL HEALTH CARE:

**Mental Health Association:** Visit [www.mharochester.org](http://www.mharochester.org) or call 325-3145.

**National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-271-8255 (TALK)

### VOLUNTEER/DONATION OPPORTUNITIES:

**United Way of Greater Rochester:** Visit [www.uwrochester.org](http://www.uwrochester.org) to sign up for community-wide volunteer opportunities or make a donation to the COVID-19 Community Crisis Fund.

### OTHER:

**Monroe County Library System:** Visit [www.libraryweb.org](http://www.libraryweb.org) for information about online borrowing and mobile hotspots.

**City of Rochester:** Visit [www.cityofrochester.gov](http://www.cityofrochester.gov) or call 3-1-1.

**Lifeline for Crisis Needs** (suicide prevention, mental health, emergency shelter): Call 2-1-1 (available 24/7)

### SPIRITUAL CARE & SUPPORT

Experiencing fear, panic, isolation, grief, concern? South Wedge Mission is forming a network of inter-religious chaplains to provide care and counsel in the midst of suffering and trauma. No religion or money required — people of any background are encouraged to reach out. **Contact Rev.**



**Matthew Nickoloff** at [matthew@southwedgemission.org](mailto:matthew@southwedgemission.org) or call 746-3048 to get connected.

### NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER

Our Southeast Neighborhood Service Center is willing to support our citizens in a variety of ways during this time of crisis, from social connection with those facing isolation, to help filling out the US Census, along with their usual support services.



Contact the SENS at 428-7640 or [southeastoffice@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:southeastoffice@cityofrochester.gov).

### SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Businesses affected by COVID-19 can find resources available at this Greater Rochester

Chamber of Commerce link:

<https://greaterrochesterchamber.com/coronavirus-planning-resources-for-business>

Find SWPC on Facebook to connect with neighbors on social media.

Don't see what you're looking for? Email SWPC Director Glynis Valenti at [gvalenti@swpc.org](mailto:gvalenti@swpc.org)

## Assemblymember Harry B. Bronson

Serving the families of Rochester  
[bronsonh@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:bronsonh@assembly.state.ny.us)  
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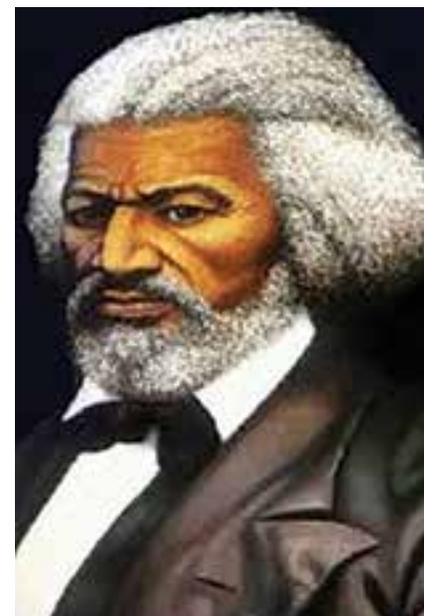
## Frederick Douglass

*continued from pg. 7*

WE ARE BRETHERN."

Dukes said she is planning a creative project that features Frederick Douglass and still hopes to offer tours, but right now she's enjoying the bright blue beacon in her front yard. She knows that long ago Douglass walked her floors and climbed the stairs to write at a front desk in an upstairs bedroom.

The Frederick Douglass Newspapers collection contains more than 565 issues of three weekly newspaper titles, which have been digitally scanned from the Library of Congress collection of original paper issues and master negative microfilm ([www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov))



Frederick Douglass--a giant in American history--abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman

# SWPC Awards Community Champion Goes to Jayne Morgan

## Reverend Judy Lee Hay

The marks of a community champion include integrity, passion, a capacity to analyze issues and to speak out, even if it's not popular, and a belief that we are better together.

Jayne Morgan is the recipient of the David Halter Community Champion Award because she exemplifies those characteristics.

Born in rural Speigletown, NY, Morgan graduated from Oneonta College and completed a Master's degree in education at St. Rose College in Albany, NY. Her first teaching job was in Glisbertville, NY.

After the death of her husband, and with two children to support, Jayne temporarily left teaching and successfully ran the family's excavation company. Morgan became a hands-on owner with a staff of six men and a pickup truck. She more than held her own in the male dominated field. She quickly learned about septic tanks and leach field installations, perk tests, general excavation, and more. Yet, teaching was a calling that would not let her go, so she sold the excavation company and returned to teaching. With a passion for education and a belief that children learn best in a program which emphasizes student choice, student engagement, and is "project-based," Jayne and her two teaching partners developed the Voyage Program which was successfully implemented in the high needs Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School District."

In 2000 Morgan and her second husband Gary Loitsch moved to Rochester and rented an apartment in the South Wedge at Averill and Bond Streets. She accepted a job teaching at School #7 off Dewy Avenue. Armed with the success of working with poor students in the rural area, she and her teaching partner brought their program into the city. After several attempts to get the ear of then RSCD Superintendent Rivera, she was finally successful, and their program was implemented.

Tenacity, courage and passion are characteristics Morgan has in her DNA. So it is no wonder that after purchasing their house on Hickory Street in 2006, she became interested in community engage-

ment in the South Wedge neighborhood. The "Queen Nut," as Morgan is affectionately referred to as the head of the Hickory Nuts Block Club, the title represents her passion for community engagement and her belief that our community is safer and better when people know one another. With her belief and passion for community engagement, she personally contacted every landlord on Hickory Street and held a "meet and greet" at her home. Ninety-eight percent of the landlords came to her house where she thanked them for their investment and engaged them regarding tenant/neighborhood issues. Creating welcome baskets for new homeowners and renters, regular emails regarding neighborhood happenings, and an annual picnic in Marie Daley Park are among the activities she coordinates.

Beyond being the Queen Nut, Morgan is active with the South Wedge Planning Committee Inc. on its Community Engagement Committee. That responsibility has lead her to City Hall, Neighbor Building Neighborhood (NBN6) and community meetings on numerous occasions to address concerns such as the 2034 Comprehensive Plan, zoning issues, the Erie Harbor Phase II project, 151 Mt. Hope use and the RGE substation. She organized over 80 volunteers for SWPC's WedgeStock festival. Not afraid to dig into issues, to see both the small and large details, she comes equipped with knowledge and research when addressing community issues. Her strong neighborhood passion and voice are a gift to our neighborhood.

Most recently, Friends of Historic Calvary St. Andrew's invited her to be a part of re-envisioning the use of the former church building. She readily said, "Yes," and has been a vital part of supporting the South Wedge Sunday Lecture Series, concerts and the Food Ministry in that sacred neighborhood space.

The South Wedge Planning Committee Inc. is proud to present Jayne Morgan with the David Halter Community Champion Award.

# The Lost Souls

continued from pg. 5

grave, added to the pain of dishonoring the ashes of a brother man."

We've learned that while preparing a grave for burial that they would often bust into a rotting coffin of the long-since deceased due to the graves in the cemetery being unmarked. After great consideration was made regarding the chaplain's report, the Board ordered that the use of the cemetery be suspended. They declared that all future interments be made at Mount Hope Cemetery, unfortunately, again in unmarked graves

Decades passed and those who knew about the cemetery behind the penitentiary died off one by one. It was very easy to forget the hundreds of bodies that lay under the ground, especially when no one cared about them when they were alive. The buildings on the farm were eventually demolished, and it became an open field. The county owned the property and in the early 1970s it became part of Highand Park.

For more than a century and a half, the bodies rested quietly under foot. Occasionally, as if asking to be remembered, bones and splintered caskets were given up by the earth. They were simply gathered up and unceremoniously reburied under the lilac trees, without so much as a few words of prayer and comfort spoken.

It was not until 1984 that people realized what that plot of land held. A county grounds crew was working on a landscaping project when the bulldozer unearthed six skeletons. Construction immediately ground to a halt, and the coroner was called in. Heavy rains fell in the ensuing days and more remains came to the surface. A full-scale archaeological excavation was then launched under the supervision of the Rochester Museum and Science Center. On the first day, the skeletons of ten adults and two children were recovered.

"The burial ground of more than a



Writer Patti Giglio

thousand people was accidentally unearthed in what might be the largest 'forgotten' cemetery in the city" (Rochester History, October 1988).

Some 305 skeletons in all were recovered, but it is believed that at least 500 to 700 more still rest in that plot of land at the corner of South and Highland Avenues.

The remains of the 305 taken from the old cemetery were re-interred at Mount Hope Cemetery. A monument has been erected there. As for those who remain in the park, they finally received the respect that they had always deserved

Fourteen years later a Remembrance Garden was dedicated in their honor. A large rock now sits in the garden with a plaque that reads: "This plaque is dedicated to the men, women and children whose unmarked graves were discovered here in 1984. They are believed to have been 19th century residents of the Monroe County Almshouse, Insane Asylum and Penitentiary that occupied this site."

As you visit Highland Park to take in the beautiful lilac trees and winding walking paths this summer, take a few moments to remember those who lie beneath your feet and say a little prayer of peace for them.



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# Planetary Messengers

**Aeolea Wendy Burwell and 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 going on around and wonder. 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.

We are obviously in a time of great change and disruption of patterns. This is reflected in both the historic planetary pileup in Capricorn as well as the beginning of the astronomical New Year at the Spring Equinox (March 19 when the Sun entered Aries) and New Moon in Aries on March 24. These initiatory energies of Aries can be a self-centered, go-it-alone time. How appropriate, as we shelter in place as much as possible.

The two weeks following the Full Moon on April 7 in the sign of Libra presents us with situations/opportunities that call on us to integrate our personal needs within our social environment. At this time also there are strong rebellious impulses (Mars and Uranus) that may ignite the restlessness so many are feeling and lead to some shocking events. On the positive end of the spectrum of possibilities, we might also see resolution of stalemates and/or breakthroughs in treatment and release of new technologies. Those with birthdays around April 6-9 and Oct. 10-12 will mostly likely feel these energies the strongest, though we can all clearly see them playing out on the world stage.

The New Moon in early Taurus on April 22 will likely bring more surprises in the areas of finances and an uptick in earth events. This can also be a time to cultivate curiosity and communication in a playful spirit of interdependence, as Venus in Gemini engages with Mars in Aquarius. As many may remember, this is also the fifty-year anniversary of Earth Day and we can celebrate that and more! Those born April 21-23 and Oct. 26-28 will have even strongest access to these energies.

On May 7, the Full Moon in deep Scorpio is opposed to the Taurus Sun in close proximity with Mercury, making it difficult to entertain new ideas as the old ones are stubbornly held in the face of intense emotions. The Full Moon will also be in hard aspect to warrior Mars in rebellious Aquarius, contributing to an atmosphere of contrary impulses. Those born around May 6-8 and Nov. 8-10 will be most strongly impacted.

The New Moon on May 22 in curious Gemini is an initiatory opportunity for making connections with people and ideas. Combative, energetic Mars in emotional Pisces is challenging this New Moon, continuing the argumentative atmosphere but with the possibility of some flexibility not previously available. Those born close to May 20 -23 and Nov. 23-25 will feel this energy the strongest.

The first ten days of April contain the final phase of Mercury's sojourn through watery Pisces, in which our communications have been characterized by a wide range of emotional input; from deceptive to inspirational. We may begin to emerge from the fog

as Mercury (communication and commerce) passes Neptune (illusion, delusion and dissolution) on April 4. Then on April 11 Mercury moves on to fiery Aries - til April 28 - marking a period of quicker and more direct communication, some of which may become heated.

The Winged Messenger then quickly moves through luxury-loving Taurus (April 28-May11) and shape-shifting Gemini (May 11-28) then into nurturing Cancer at the end of the month. Watch how communications and commerce shift over these weeks. These changes will be easy to spot.

Venus (love and attraction) enters into playful Gemini on 3 April where she will be for an extended stay through 7 Aug. as she stops and appears to go backwards for about forty days. Those with a Gemini emphasis in their personal charts will most likely find this very pleasant as she is known as the "minor benefic" - second only to Jupiter - and brings welcomed gifts. We all have Gemini in our charts, so no one is left out; it is just a matter of degrees.

As Venus appears to slow down, she will be sinking down in the west in the early evening sky, so if you have missed her nightly appearances of late, make sure to find a clear night just after sundown to find her. Watch for her to re-appear as the morning star beginning in late June. Her change in speed and perceived direction also extends her pleasant dance with Mars, creating a rich, ripe environment of cooperation between the feminine and masculine.

Mars (aggression and action) is moving through the humanitarian sign of Aquarius the entire month of April. On March 31, Mars and Saturn found themselves together for a tug-of-war of sorts that will diminish over the next few days as Mars travels faster and leaves Saturn behind. By April 7 (and the Full Moon) we will be all be feeling the rebellious impulses of Mars as it approaches unpredictable Uranus in earthy Taurus by ninety degrees. This stressful angle, called a square, will undoubtedly produce dramatic outbursts of the pent-up energies many are experiencing. It can take the form of defiant action or may also stimulate technologically innovative approaches to socializing and problem solving through all of April and into mid-May.

As we focus next on the outer planets, on April 4 Jupiter (bringing largesse) meets with Pluto (hidden power) in government and business-oriented Capricorn for the first of three episodes of pervasive transformation (also June 30 and Nov. 12, 2020). These slow moving planet energies will be felt all throughout these months, with the exact dates offering highlighted episodes. We are likely to see just how deeply severed our institutions are (and will be going forward) from our accustomed ways of operating. For our world at large, we can expect to see extensive legislative revisions over this extended time period related to temporarily effective moves to restore business as usual. This is also likely to portend the plutocracy gaining even more in the short run.

Again, we all have this event happening in our personal charts. Those who are likely to experience the greater impact have birthdays near Jan. 14-16, April 13-15, July 15-17 and Oct. 16-18. The area of one's life this most strongly impacts depends on what house in the chart this appears. Whether viewed through the global or personal lens, it is powerful and unlikely to be missed.

Saturn (structure, rules and regulations), which has been traversing Capricorn since Dec. 2017, moved into Aquarius the third week in March, remaining there until early July. At that point, in



retrograde, it will go back into Capricorn until Dec. 2020, before re-entering and remaining in Aquarius until March 2023.

Saturn is associated with both Capricorn and Aquarius but expresses its energies differently in each sign. In forward-thinking Aquarius, there may appear glimpses of experimental - less traditional - approaches to the current crisis.

The month of April - actually the entire spring - is an interlude between two very different eras: what we were accustomed to and a yet-to-be-revealed new normal. It is best used to focus on the inner work our previously busy lifestyles too often crowded out. Time spent on self-care, or with family or friends over the internet, will help keep us grounded and stave off both the virus and its predatory companion: fear. The years

ahead will provide opportunities to creatively embrace new pathways forward. They will unfold, with our help, into the much-anticipated Age of Aquarius.

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.

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

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### Swillburg Shout-out

continued from pg. 3

temperature below 70 degrees!” Dave said. Yet somehow she likes Swillburg.

But there's more! Dave and Joyce have two other children. Daughter Emiko first sampled Vermont, South Dakota and Denver before returning with husband Matt Kemp to settle in Swillburg. Now with one-year-old Evelyn in tow, they own a home two doors down. Daughter Carla lived in Pittsburgh, Boston, even Alaska for nine months, before buying the fourth family house in Swillburg. (Alas, hers is on Benton Street; apparently Nelson was running out of available real estate.)

And homes are not the family's only investment to the neighborhood. Members of the family donate time and skills. Most recently Dave helped power wash the Otto Hendenberg Park gazebo. And Brady led the crew that stained the wood. They all attend the picnic.

“Swillburg is in a great location for family and kids,” Dave says. “You can walk to the Y, the library, the school. You can walk to Highland Park and Cobbs Hill Park if you want to.”

Also sitting at the dinner table was Kiyoko Nakada, Joyce's mother who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. She too has often attended the summer Pig Party.

“We love the picnic,” Joyce says. “And we love the annual Harvest Dinner.”

Dave also serves as treasurer for the unofficial Swillburg Planning Committee of about a dozen residents who meet monthly. He says he relishes the group activities. “It's a good way to contact your neighbors.”

Wife Joyce sums up the family patriarch: “I think he just likes talking to people.”



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