

# THE WEDGE

The Official Newspaper of the South Wedge Since 1982

<b>FREE</b>	
<b>Inside</b>	
City Council Updates	2
Swillburg Shout-out	3
Hipocampo Book Store	4
Rochester History--	
Orphanage Fire	5
Jasmin Reggler Takes	
on City Hall	6
South Wedge Food Pantry	7
Planetary Messenger	9



Ann and Felton Culbreth

## S. Wedge Victory Garden Managers Pass on the Trowel

Nancy O'Donnell

South Wedge Victory Garden managers Ann and Felton Culbreth have weathered a lot while volunteering at the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC). They battled marauding groundhogs, slogged through wet seasons, tore out poison ivy all the while building community. The couple planned to retire at this season's 10th anniversary to pursue other projects, but COVID-19 hurried them along. Like so many "physical and financial health now are front and center for us," said Ann.

In a letter to fellow gardeners announcing their retirement, the Culbreths reassured the gardeners that information was on its way: "City Hall, the Urban Working Group of Rochester and other community partners [will] be providing guidelines for safety in our community gardens."

Gardening will be different with social distancing and various procedures being proposed/advised," writes Ann. "The season is not cancelled. It's a season delayed."

"We enjoyed doing the job [garden managers]," said Felton. "You've got to do something to help people, something for the community."

However, the job of managing two

*continues on pg. 12*

## COVID-19 Chronicles - What's the gift? What's the challenge? Story on page 8



## South Wedge Farmers Market Is Back

You'll find great produce & products and safety precautions! Joan Brandenburg

Opening day for the South Wedge Farmers Market is set for Thursday, June 18, 4-7 pm in its new location at Odd Fellows Lodge, 357 Gregory Street. The Market continues each week through the end of September.

The South Wedge Farmers Market has always been a community gathering place for friends, co-workers, neighbors and whole families who enjoy the bounty of local harvests. During the current COVID-19 recovery plan, community markets are opening across the area with appropriate precautions in place.

Each week, people can stop and shop for foods less traveled. The new market season will continue to offer great local fruit, veggies, bread, beer, wine and so much more. Popular in 2019 were Lost Woods Bread, Flint Maple and The Pickle People. All are coming back! If you did not try the maple mustard, you missed a taste bud explosion. Many shoppers stopped by on the trip from work to home to pick up prepared foods and to skip having to cook after a long and arduous workday. Prepared foods to go will be available. Tasting/sampling opportunities from vendors like Veganlicious and others will occur when the state says it's allowable.

The Market will continue to emphasize the local art scene by giving \$5 per week market space to local potters, painters and crafters in the new Community Market Place located inside the Lodge. All social distancing/mask precautions will be observed in both the Farmers Market and the Market Place.

The SWFM is a great opportunity to profile community organizations and services as well as enjoy the musical talent of some great local musicians. They will return during Phase III of the New York Re-Open plan.

Interested farmers, food and beverage vendors, artists, buskers and community organizations can sign up for market space now. All applications are available at [info@swpc.org](mailto:info@swpc.org). Each week, the Market will offer something new. And will continue to grow throughout the season.

We could not have a community market without YOU, our loyal market shoppers, who come out every week, with shopping bags in hand and smiles on their faces. For our EBT/ SNAP shoppers we will continue to offer our \$2 for \$5 spent matching program, giving market shoppers more value for their dollars. The SWFM is able to accommodate shoppers using credit cards as well.

We are excited about our plans for 2020 and hope that you are too. If you would like to volunteer or help plan for the new season, contact Glynis Valenti, SWPC executive director at [info@swpc.org](mailto:info@swpc.org) or call (585) 256-1740. Opening day of 2020 will be here before you know it!

The South Wedge Planning Committee has embraced the recommendations set forth by the New York State Farm Market Federation and the State of New York designed specifically to provide a healthy market experience for all. Here's what we plan to do. Read more to your right.

### Safety Precautions

#### Market Management will:

- Provide foot traffic oversight for social distancing--one entrance, one exit
- Install a hand wash station
- Hand sanitizers at every booth
- Frequently sanitize common surfaces during Market hours
- Have a supply of PPE masks and gloves for use and proper disposal
- Monitor that social distancing guide lines are maintained

#### Vendors

- will be spaced out
- will wear face coverings and gloves
- will sanitize their area and tables regularly - no tablecloths will be used
- will not touch a customer's reusable tote
- will be prepackaging foods as much as possible to avoid customers handling products, ensuring that only vendors are handling the products
- no food sampling will be allowed until Phase III of the state's reopening.

#### Customers

- will be asked to use the entrance and exit openings for the market area
- will be asked to stay the 6-ft distance from each other and not congregate
- will be required to wear face coverings while shopping at the market
- wait their turn - only one customer at a vendor table at a time
- will be encouraged to wash all fresh produce at home prior to consumption.

The South Wedge Planning Committee puts the good health of our guests at the top of their priority list. Additional protocols will be put in place as needed. For comments or questions, please contact SWPC at (585) 256-1470 or email Executive Director, Glynis Valenti at [info@swpc.org](mailto:info@swpc.org).



Flint Maple Syrup



Lost Woods Bakery breads

**The Wedge Gets Read!**

# City Council Updates -Mary Lupien

It has been a trying few months as we are all struggling to cope with the new normal of COVID-19 stay at home orders. Many are finding available resources hard to access and the loss of close human connection and health services becoming harder to bear. But, many wonderful side effects are now available as well from increased time spent with family and outdoors to watching communities come together and provide mutual aid.

I want to update you on some things happening in the City pertaining to COVID-19 as well as important info regarding City Council proceedings.

### NY State Reopening

Former Lieutenant Governor and Rochester Mayor Bob Duffy has been tasked by Governor Cuomo to re-open Rochester and the Finger Lakes Region when the region meets all seven of the metrics required.

**Phase 1** - manufacturing, construction, and businesses that are “the most essential and the lowest risk” will re-open.

**Phase 2** - real estate and administrative functions can re-open.

**Phase 3** - restaurants can re-open, and

**Phase 4** - arts, entertainment, sports and education can re-open.

### Layoffs

It is with great sadness that I share with you that in May, Mayor Warren announced staff reductions affecting 403 of our city employees: 178 employees are furloughed, 208 have reduced hours (job sharing), and 17 people were laid off. This will save the city \$2.1 million.

The City anticipates furloughed and job-sharing employees will return to full-time work after July 29, when the enhanced Unemployment Insurance benefits are set to expire under the Federal CARES act.

### Budget

The City’s new fiscal year begins July 2020. In May, the Mayor releases the budget. Then, City Council has thirty-two days to conduct a comprehensive review of the Mayor’s Proposed Budget before they vote on it with possible amendments at the June City Council



City Councilmember Mary Lupien

Meeting. The Mayor then approves or vetoes additions to the budget.

### Below are the important dates

May 15 - Release of the Budget

June 3 - Hearings All Day, 9 am – 5 pm  
Departments: Council/Clerk, Administration, DES, RFD, DRYS, Emergency Communications

June - Hearings All Day, 9 am – 5 pm  
Departments: Undistributed/Contingency, IT, Finance, Library, RPD, NBD

June 10 - 9:00 am — 3:30 pm — Hold for Adjourned Hearings

3:30 pm, Hearing — Rochester School District Budget

5:30 pm - Joint Public Hearing with the Rochester City School Board

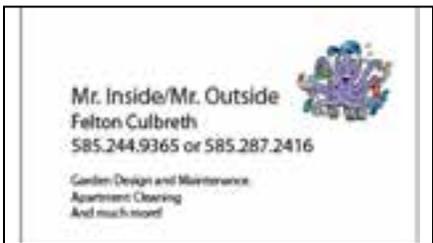
June 11 - 4:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting

June 16 - 7:30 pm City Council Votes on Budget

### New process for speaking to Council

Council has been progressing leaps and bounds in terms of technology. Our first City Council meeting was a

*continued on pg. 3*



### SWPC Board Members

- Frank Logan, chair
- Anthony Sciarabba, treasurer
- John Frank
- Teresa Hemann
- Emery Rizzo
- Kristina Wood

### 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. 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

**Equal=Grounds, 10% off**  
750 South Avenue

**Hedonist Artisan Chocolates & Ice Cream, 10% off**  
674 South Avenue

**Leaf Tea Bar, 10% off**  
686 South Avenue

**Liberty Tax, 10%**  
686 South Avenue

**Little Button Craft, 10% off**  
658 South Avenue

**Mark’s Texas Hots**  
Open 24 hours!  
10% reg menu item

**487 Monroe Avenue**  
**Natural Pet Foods, 5% off**  
10% off new customers  
766 S. Clinton Avenue

**South Wedge Farmers Market**  
Genesee Gateway Park  
Free bag on your first visit

**Stuart’s Spices, 10% off**  
\$10 or more  
754 S. Clinton Avenue,

**Swiftwater Brewing Company,**  
\$1 off flight of beer  
378 Mt. Hope Avenue

**Buy an ad for the August/September issue. Call 256.1740, ext. 4 or 978.9638. Deadline July 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Wedge Supporter

**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-

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 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. TBD**

contact: flogan@rochester.rr.com

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

**South Wedge 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 readership of 13,500. It is distributed to over 140 locations (businesses, retail shops, libraries, restaurants and other drop-off points in the Southeast and Greater Rochester area and suburbs. Online issue (www.swpc.org).

# Swillburg Shout-out

Mike Henry



Swillburg in Spring at Labyrinth Garden at Pappert and Henrietta Streets  
(Photo by Joshua Jacobs)

Spring 2020 and oh, so beautiful, blooming gardens everywhere and flowering trees, too! It's good to live in Southeast Rochester, what fragrance! Hope your spirits are lifted by all the warmth and color.

In January's Swillburg column we related about activities the Swillburg Neighborhood Association (SNA) was planning. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, quarantines and social distancing, these are mostly suspended.

A popular Spring ritual, City Sweep, scheduled for May 9th, is one of the victims. Our neighborhood's annual picnic at Henderberg Square Park is postponed, hopefully later?

Neighbor Kelley Mariano organizes summer weed-outs and plantings around Swillburg. The county recently informed her there will be no flowers - their floral donations were extremely generous, seriously, hard to replace.

Our projects with the United Way's Day of Caring 2020, coordinated by neighbor JoAnn O'Neill, have been postponed, "until further notice."

So, when befallen by things beyond control, our urban community will collectivize, discuss deficits, identify resources and draw some light ahead.

Thanks to Judy Hay, our great inspiration and facilitator, we'll have a meeting among the SNA steering committee. Out of current necessities we'll do so via Zoom and despite lockdown address a substantial agenda.

One of the coolest items, the South Clinton Merchants Association's installation of a customized bench along South Clinton Avenue has a fun porcine design.

I think we'll be discussing a monetary contribution and determine a location.

No doubt we'll also put some plans to another popular event, our annual Harvest Dinner scheduled for November 5th at Artisan Church. Fingers crossed circumstances will allow us to cook pot luck and convene.

In the meantime, the SNA will keep neighbors updated via Facebook, Nextdoor and email - thanks to Josh Jacobs for producing these!

One last thing, Swillburg hoodies are available. These include zip-ups, mostly size large, which were in particular demand last year. These can be ordered on the SNA's website, as can many other items of Swillburg swag.

Let's hope for a swift and sound recovery from this heartbreaking pandemic. I wish you all good health and spirits!

## Be a Good Neighbor & Keep it Down!

Ah, Summer! Windows wide open. Lawns mowers rev up. And though we may not be able to hold massive picnics and parties just yet, we may still crank up the volume.

Being a good neighbor means being mindful of neighbors whose idea of bliss include listening to the summer wind or the buzz of cicadas. Blaring music or mowing your lawn at dawn does not a good neighbor make.

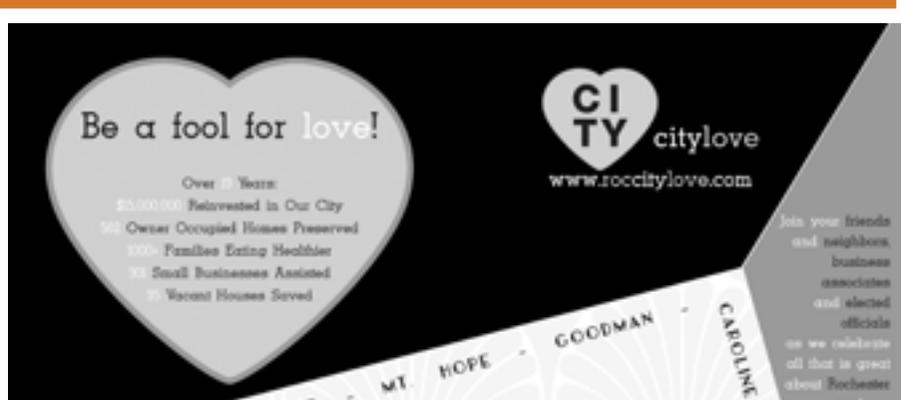
The City of Rochester brochure "How to be a good neighbor" offers guidance about local noise ordinances.

"Noise should not be audible beyond 50 feet from your property line between 10 pm. and 8 am." That means lower the volume after 10 pm.

"Noise should not be audible beyond 50 feet of your property line between 8 am. and 10 pm." That means no mowing your lawn at 6 am.

Breaking the noise ordinance makes a lot of your neighbors very unhappy and being cited may result in fines.

So, let's all be good neighbors, and we can all enjoy a summer of fun without ear plugs or closed windows.



## City Love Returns in October More info coming soon!

### Lupien

continued from pg. 2

Facebook live broadcast that was voice only. We've held many meetings now with Zoom video conference technology that so many of us have come to use on a daily basis. I'm excited to say that we've stepped it up, yet again. Instead of having your comments read into the record, in May's meeting we introduced the ability to read your own comments as a guest in the Zoom meeting which is live streamed to Facebook and YouTube!

**Below are the three ways to participate which allow for the greatest accessibility.** (Please include the topic, your first and last name, address, and phone number):

1. The first option is to send comments via email to council@cityofrochester.gov. A City Council Staff member will read your comments into the record during the Zoom live stream.
2. The second option is to participate in the Zoom live stream.
3. The final option is to leave a voicemail of your comments by calling 585-428-6175. To do this, simply state your name and follow with your remarks. Council staff will play the recording during Speak to Council.

#### CDBG/ESG Money

The City of Rochester received \$7 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions

Grant (ESG) through the CARES act. This money will help with Economic Development, Health, Housing and bridging the Digital Divide.

#### Economic Development

- Up to 3k Small Business Emergency Retention Grants
- Grants to incentivize restaurants to prepare meals for residents.

#### Digital Divide

- Purchase Chromebooks for RCSD 5th graders.

#### Housing/Homeless Prevention

- Meal Delivery for the Elderly
- Support persons at risk of homelessness through Rent Assistance, rental arrears, cash security deposits, Legal Assistance, Foreclosure Prevention, Landlord Rehab Grant Program, Emergency Repair Assistance
- Provide support to agencies coordinating those efforts to expand capacity to meet large increases in demand.
- Provide funding for Staff, hazard pay, training, cleaning supplies and PPE for shelter operations.
- Rapid Re-housing and Street Outreach

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out. Mary.Lupien@cityofrochester.gov or 585-406-4709.

Sometimes older adults need extra help handling their finances.

**LIFESPAN'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEERS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.**



We need more volunteers willing to help city residents. Training and ongoing support provided.

**LEARN MORE!**  
Call Jamie Charters at Lifespan, 244-8400. [lifespanrochester.org](http://lifespanrochester.org)



**Assemblymember Harry B. Bronson**

Serving the families of Rochester  
[bronsonh@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:bronsonh@assembly.state.ny.us)  
585/244-5255




**Working with you to make ours the best community possible!**

*Starting a business? Need help with business performance?*

**Explore the free resource available to you!**

**THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN YOUR AREA HAS BUSINESS ADVISORS READY TO ASSIST YOU!**

**Services Include:**  
Business Plan Development, Marketing, Free Workshops, and MORE!

**Visit us at**  
South Wedge Planning Committee Office  
224 Mt. Hope Ave. Rochester, NY 14604




**For an appointment:**  
Call 585-245-5429  
or email Norm Karsten at [karsten@geneseo.edu](mailto:karsten@geneseo.edu)

# Business Buzz

## Hipocampo Children's Books Asks "What's in a Story?"

Henry Padron

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 11 am, Hipocampo share stories on Facebook Live.

During my 34-year career as an early childhood educator and advocate, stories played a central role in my classroom. I wrote them, translated them, purchased them and involved my students and parents in performing them. Stories were an integral part of my pedagogy. It should come as no wonder that stories remain an essential component in what Pamela and I do at Hipocampo Children's Books. Up to COVID-19, every Saturday at 10:30 families arrived for story time. We would warm up with movement, singing, clapping, puppets, drumming, and learning about Spanish and other languages. We also involved our student advisory group as readers and participants. Post COVID-19, one of my goals to expand on story time!

Reading a story is making the words and illustrations come alive. We change our voices and become the characters in the story. We delve into story elements to ask about setting, plot, issues, and characters. We ask participants to predict and infer what may come next or why may something have occurred on the current page. It gets interesting when we have a mixed age audience. A six-month-old reacts differently than a three-year-old. But you can still see the engagement and wonder in their eyes and gestures when the book is brought closer to their personal space. We've even had some try to eat the book. Talk about internalizing a story!

I like to read the illustrations as well. Graphic vocabulary development is a skill that should not be missed. Children tend to focus on the illustration by what's directly in front of them. I encourage them to look at it from the outside corners and zoom in. A good example is *Goodnight Moon*. It adds a new dimen-

sion when the child realizes that there is a hidden mouse in every page. They get a real kick out of that. And extending the storyline by identifying the illustration is a good word development way to go about it. This can lead to creating a word bank. Get 3x5 cards and a small box. As you read and identify the illustrations you write the word and this becomes a repository of sight words you can use over and over again. It's amazing how it grows. One can say, "my child has had over 100 books read to him or her or they." Imagine if you add five new words per book to their visual learning. That is so awesome. The trick here is that it's not driven by you, so patience is a virtue!

Storytime, therefore, is serious learning as it is pure enjoyment. The next time you interact through literature with your child try to go beyond the immediate words and expand on this quality time. This is a developmental process and you will know when to begin with your child. You will be blown away when they are ready to become authors and illustrators of their own work. I was so totally amazed when transcribing invented spelling with my students. It opens up a door for you to relive and become a learner along with this little being that you love!

Once we get over this social distancing, we look forward to returning story time on Saturdays at Hipocampo. We are very thankful for the community support we are receiving. Don't forget to visit us online at [www.hipocampochildrens-books.com](http://www.hipocampochildrens-books.com) and don't hesitate to email (because we only go to the store about twice a week) if you want to chat about a particular book purchase or to read at home. Every Tuesday and Thursday at 11 am we share stories on Facebook Live.



Photo on left: Hipocampo Children's Book Store co-owners Pamela Baile and Henry Padron and early listener future reader. Above: Hipocampo fans enjoy reading together in the friendly book store.



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.



Linda Weller and her Info Advantage team

## Welcome IA to the South Wedge

Nancy O'Donnell

Info Advantage CEO Linda Weller and husband Mitch Weller, executive VP/COO, were happy to buy a building on Sanford Street in the South Wedge last December. They moved in March 13 just as the country changed dramatically. The company, founded 1992, is an essential business providing technology service and phone systems to medical offices and fire departments among others and so remained open during the pandemic shutdown.

"We provide services such as VoIP/UC (voice over IP (phones), Cloud, DR (disaster recovery), MSP (Managed Service Provider), Security, network planning/management and hardware and software procurement," said Weller. Clients are located as close as the Fingers Lakes and as far away as Haiti and Costa Rica.

Weller began her career as a database administrator and computer programmer before leaving the field to raise their children.

"While they were little, I worked part time in the business and spent time volunteering at the school. Now that the kids have grown, I am working full time," Weller said.

"I have met several neighbors on Sanford Street, and all have been super friendly," she said. "A few asked if they could help while I was doing some lawn and garbage clean up. Our employees were so excited to move to the South Wedge and immediately started Googling all the local busi-

nesses which we planned to support. Then the economy shut down, so now we're supporting them [via takeout].

She learned about the "very large" building from their son who lives in the South Wedge as the company has outgrown their space on Emerson St. a very large building," said Weller

Space was not all she found on Sanford Street. Weller discovered that the building had a sweet history. "When we bought the building, I wanted to know its history. I found a Plat Map from 1910, that shows the lot as empty. Then the 1935 map showed the building located in its current location. The building was built in 1920 and labeled as the Rochester Vanilla Company on the 1935 Plat map. It then appears that the National Vanilla Company - merged with or was renamed Rochester Vanilla Company. The [online] city business directory ends in the year 1940." Decades later the company diluted into VanLabs selling vanilla flavoring before it was bought by an international food producer in Ireland in 2006.

"I'm hoping to find some cool old bottles, but we haven't found anything yet. It was really neat that [the building] showed up on the map," Weller added.

Her company also has the reputation of being a sweet place to work with attention to need for employees to decompress. "We have an employee lounge or "the fun room" which includes a large

continue on pg. 11

### Saint Boniface Church

330 Gregory Street  
 585.271.7240  
[www.southeastrochestercatholics.org](http://www.southeastrochestercatholics.org)

**Come Worship With Us**



**Please join us for Weekend & Daily Masses**

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday 9:00 a.m.  
 Tues & Fri 7:30 a.m.

**Sacrament of Penance**  
 Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Check us out on Facebook

## What are You Doing and Learning?

Michele H. Martell

As I'm writing this article, with our social distancing and sheltering-in, I'm going to assume that we'll have another electronic-only version of The WEDGE. It's a whole new realm, and we're all in this together. This is a bizarrely challenging time, for introverts and extroverts alike, our children, our finances, not to mention how it can manifest in our physical and mental health. I ask myself every day – what am I doing and learning?

Tomorrow is not guaranteed. We already knew this pre-coronavirus; yet now it can seem more glaringly in-your-face. The daily reports are dreadful. Folks are young and healthy, and days later, they are in a COVID-Unit, some only hours from a shocking death.

The other day I drove by a funeral home on my way home from the Rochester Public Market. I shop there for healthy food and because I want to support local businesses who are struggling. At that funeral home, a hearse and only a couple of cars were parked outside. My heart went out to them, as it does now to a plethora of friends in mourning loved ones every day. On top of their grief, there is not the comfort of hugs, gathering or closure.

I thought about the indescribable pain I experienced during my father's illness and passing, with no family support, during a horrific divorce, while still devoted to being a good mom. I'm grateful I had the presence and hugs of real friends during that nightmare. This present-day dynamic of surviving grief while social-distancing makes those recent, harrowing memories seem fantastically dwarfed in comparison.

We are experiencing an interesting human dynamic, each of us in the ups and downs, that is reflecting as a collective.

Kids and furbabies are home, and we need for them to be sustained: intellectually, socially, physically.

As for our businesses, we are learning new ways of doing things if we are fortunate enough to still have an income. In terms of health – at first it was rough to just not have a gym to go to – now what is the daily plan for health? There are so many health & fitness support groups out there. Check them out! Need mental outlet – reach out to friends, online support, therapists via Zoom. Food? Now it's planning ahead to minimize shopping trips. Juggling bills – it all goes on.

And those who have to be on the frontlines? Prayers and uplifting thoughts for them – doctors and nurses, animal care workers, grocers, firefighters, postal workers, police officers, paramedics, and more – their jobs and dedication never end. Let's be thankful they are there looking out for us, putting their own blessed health on the line. God bless them, their

safety and health, as well as that of their families and those they care for.

Let's face it. Our triggers are coming up! Stuff we didn't want to confront, besides dust bunnies, are becoming apparent and there's nowhere to run. Yep! A lot of freak-out and purging is happening. People, situations, feelings, fears, that we've been avoiding – well here you go! Because you can either avoid them or finally accept and deal.

So, what are you doing and learning? Make no mistake; I'm not minimizing what we each encounter daily for ourselves and our loved ones. Yet now each day as I awake (often after a lousy night of sleep), I am learning to transition my first thoughts from annoyance and fear of the unknown to thoughts of gratitude.

Try this – before your feet hit the floor, take a moment to think about what are you thankful for today: your health, safety, a roof over the head; and if nothing else, the ability to see the sun rise or hear the rain pound or (in Rochester) see the snow blow. Sounds very basic but I have found this to be beneficial. Then search on Facebook or Google for a meditation. There are many out there ranging from ten minutes to over an hour. You can do what fits your schedule that day. I am finding that this practice is helpful. Then find some type of physical activity, whether it be a simple walk or a full workout that can easily be found for free online, whether you belong to a gym or not.

This can be a time to learn and grow from our relationships. We're seeing lots of relationships transforming one way or another at this time. Who is adding to your wellness, and who is taking away, either with blatant disrespect, persistent negativity, or is affecting you

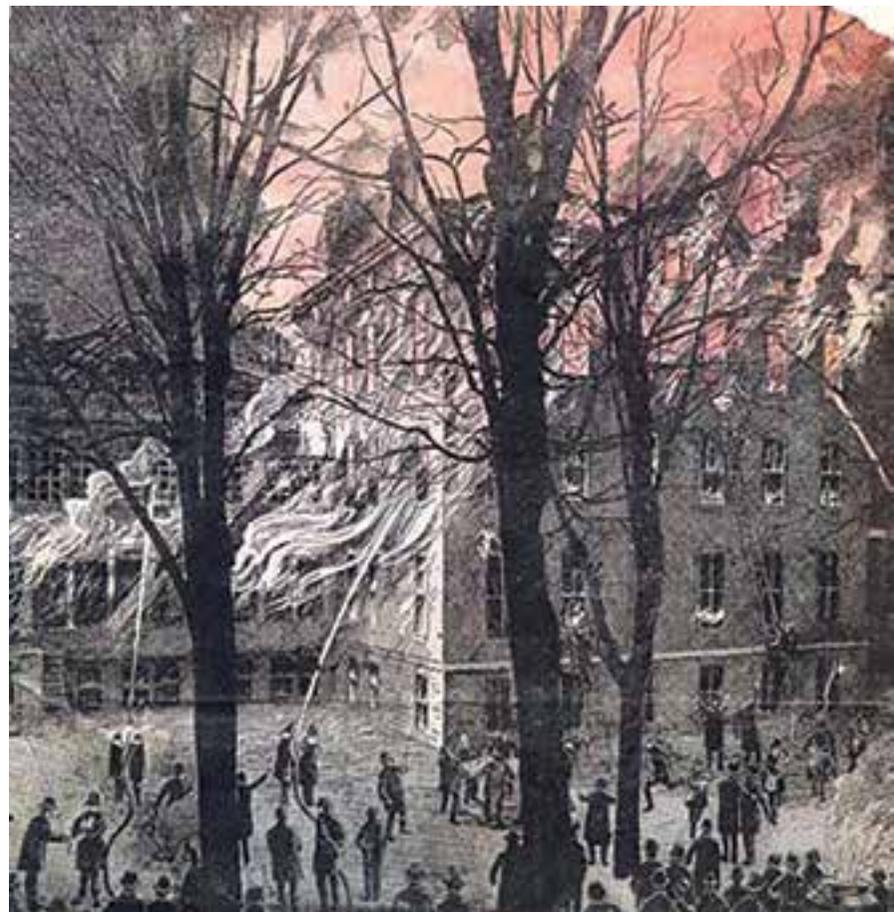
*continues on pg. 7*



Michele H. Martell (Photo by Sarah Jeruta Salvilla)

## The Flames Burst Forth - the Rochester Orphan Asylum Tragedy

Patti Giglio



Corn Hill Orphanage fire horrified firefighters and those who saw the faces of small children in the windows

Across the Genesee River from the SouthWedge, the Corn Hill Neighborhood saw one of the worst tragedies in Rochester history. It would change lives and policy for years, and decades, to come.

On the evening of January 8, 1901 unbeknownst to Mr. Erhardt, the custodian at the Rochester Orphan Asylum on Hubbell Park, and the rest of the staff, someone had forgotten to close off the gas jet for the steam flat iron in the laundry room.

For hours natural gas filled the room and had begun to seep out from under the door. All the children have settled in bed for the night around eight o'clock, and the staff prepared to close the building for the night. When the staff made the eleven o'clock rounds, Sarah Ashdown thought that she detected the faint odor of gas but ignored it. Martha Gillis, who oversaw the boys, locked the door between the boy's dormitory and the rest of the orphanage, just as she did every night. The actions of both women would prove to be fatal.

By half past midnight enough gas had seeped into the hallway that it was ignited by a gaslight causing a small explosion and fire. Mr. Erhardt, who had gone home for the night, got the alarm for the fire and within a minute was at the orphanage and found that the fire has burned itself out. Moments after his arrival, a second explosion rocked the boiler room in the basement with such force that a plume of gas was propelled up into the conservatory on the first floor. Two men walking down Plymouth Avenue felt the concussion from the explosion and saw the smoke. They quickly ran to the fire box on the corner and sounded the alarm.

The explosion had erupted into monstrous flames and thick smoke that caused screaming and panic throughout the building. The children and their caretakers were frantically looking for a way out. Some made it to the roof but were not near any of the fire escapes. Inside the building, many of the windows would not open. The rutted muddy roads were beginning to freeze making it difficult for the firemen to get to the asylum. One horse drawn rig got stuck and overturned. By the time the fire department reached the blaze, almost half an hour later, the west wing of the building was a raging inferno almost completely engulfed and it had begun to spread to the rest of the asylum.

It was horrible. Almost too painful to imagine arriving at the scene and seeing the soot-covered faces of children as young as two pressed against the glass screaming for help.

Witnesses recalled the scene: "The laundry room and engine room were a seething mass of flames in which nothing could live a moment."

Firemen carried unconscious children from the burning building, many of them dying in their arms. Children ran from the building to the blanket filled arms of neighbors who took them into their homes for the night. "Even the firemen, accustomed to such fire scenes, could in some instances, scarcely refrain from tears."

An unknown newspaper reported in an article the following day; "Soon after the flames burst forth, white figures could be seen frantically rushing from room to room, faces peering from the

*continues on pg. 10*



**ZIZZI TEAM**  
OF RE/MAX FIVE

Office: 585-279-8155 | www.ZizziTeam.com

**Support The Wedge  
Newspaper**  
Please call to learn about our very  
affordable ad rates 585.256.1740, x 4 or  
585.978.9638. Available online & print

Time For Wine & Spirits

*The only liquor  
store in the  
South Wedge!*

*"Wine in itself is an excellent thing."*

*-- Pope Pius XII*



661 South Ave, Suite D, Rochester, NY 14620

TEL | 413-3826

EMAIL | timeforwinespirits@gmail.com



# Happy 100th Birthday Mary Louise Quinn

Nancy O'Donnell



Mary Louise Quinn

Mary Louise Laybourn Quinn makes it clear it wasn't her "great idea" to celebrate her 100th birthday with a profile in the WEDGE Newspaper. It was her daughter Debra's idea, and "people should check with me first" before someone shows up to interview her on a bright June morning.

Mary Louise says this good naturedly as she carefully works her way across her Highland Park neighborhood porch to a couch ten feet away. She tells me later that the pesky back and knee aches that make her walk a bit more slowly only started last year.

She may not want to be interviewed, but to Mary Louise good manners are everything, so she'll let me stay.

She snorts at the obligatory first question, "so what is the secret of living that gets a person to 100?"

"I have no idea if there's a secret," says Mary Louise. "There are a lot of people who are 100, 103, 104, 105!"

No smoking? No drinking? Healthy eating? She has done all of that, but she's not sure if that's the secret.

At her age, she must be happy she can still live in her home with her daughter and not in a retirement home.

"Why would I do that?" Her piercing blue eyes gives a cold stare above her mask.

Mary Louise says she spends her days watching TV, reading magazines and doing crossword puzzles. She has no favorites: "I watch a very diverse choice of programs."

She is visibly excited that her actor son John, who lives in NYC, will be coming up for her birthday on June 13. "I can't have a whole lot of people [to a birthday party] because of the coronavirus," Mary Louise says.

She doesn't know yet know that Debra has planned a "drive-by celebration" with friends in cars who will drive by her home and beep and call out their happy birthday greetings on June 13th.

If not for the pandemic, the house would be packed with well-wishers. Mary Louise worked for many years at the *Democrat & Chronicle*, "doing lots of things" primarily in the ad department. She sold Avon products for fifty years, had a variety of office jobs and she says she only retired when she was seventy-nine.

Mary Louise grew up in the 19th Ward and spent every summer for sixteen years with her grandparents in a cot-

tage on Conesus Lake. She married her husband Walter (Patrick) Quinn in 1945, and after his death seventeen years later, she raised their four children Gary, John, James and Debra in the same house.

She remembers a time when Highland Hospital was hard to see from the street. "There were huge oak trees and a grassy lawn. It was gorgeous. It was like part of the park," she says. "No concrete parking garage. No concrete parking lot. The trees hid part of the building."

So, what does she think of the world 100 years after arriving?

"I'm sorry about what I'm seeing. Good manners are going downhill," she says. "The way we are using our language is terrible. English is going to pot. I can't even remember when I saw such a distortion of the language. It's tragic how kids are not learning or being educated."

As for other issues over the years she won't say, "I was too busy minding my own business and raising four kids." She will say how much she loves her garden especially "ajuga," a small ground cover notable for its "sapphire" blossoms. She's never seen the forget-me-nots so blue this year.

Now that Mary Louise has accepted the fact that her story is worth telling, she must end the interview. Debra has been monitoring the TV inside the door, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo's daily briefing is about to start, and Mary Louise never misses watching him.

"I have a lot of respect for him," she says.

She'll wait for one last question: what will she wish for on her birthday?

"I'll wish for peace and happiness for everyone in the world."



The South Wedge Food Pantry received an outpouring of donations during a recent Food Drive at the historic Calvary St. Andrews Church (Photo by Lindsay Kuhn)

## South Wedge Food Pantry Fights Against Food Insecurity

Katie Jo Suddaby

In early March, the realities of the pandemic were not yet clear. At the South Wedge Food Program, we knew that Rochester's food insecurities were about to be laid bare, but we had no idea how big of a crisis lay just beneath the patchwork of social services organizations that keep Rochester's poor alive.

Then the phone started ringing.

In less than a month, client need increased by 500%. Among the poor, the stay-at-home order meant immediate food insecurity for anyone with an underlying health condition, anyone who used to ride the bus, and anyone who relied on a social worker for their food. That equals thousands of people.

The number of disabled people at home with no way of getting food was astounding. Social workers--now barred from in-person contact with clients--flooded our inbox with requests for help. We realized that we couldn't meet the needs of a now-trapped clientele if they had to find a way to get to us.

So, in the course of a week we transformed ourselves from a neighborhood pantry into a city-wide grocery delivery service. Our volunteers worked long hours and just kept saying yes. Furloughed and unemployed workers not only needed food for the first time, but many wanted to help. They became our fleet of delivery drivers. Students and families stuck at home wanted to give back. They became an assembly line of box-packers. The volunteers who used to sew reusable shopping bags for us switched to sewing masks.

We now serve, in a day, more clients than we used to serve in a week. And

the numbers are growing. Every time we think we can't possibly meet this much need we open an envelope with a generous donation in the mail. When we ran out of fridge space, someone called out of the blue to see if we needed one they were getting rid of. When we suddenly needed hundreds of boxes, volunteers drove to liquor stores and cleaned out their garages to get us boxes.

The South Wedge Food Program has existed in one form or another since the '70's. But we were still taken aback by the sheer number of Rochesterians living within one week away from empty cabinets and no way to fill them. The only thing that surprised us more than the number of people without food was the number of people willing to give selflessly to feed those people. They say crisis brings out the best and the worst in our society. From the perspective of emergency food volunteers during a pandemic in Rochester, in 2020, we have seen this: Our worst and our best are both more intense than we had ever imagined.

To donate to the South Wedge Food Pantry,

South Wedge Food Program call 585-325-4950 or visit <https://www.rocsalt-center.org/southwedgefoodprogram/> or <https://www.facebook.com/South-WedgeFood/> 68 Ashland St Rochester, NY 14620

Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby is a local artist and activist; ordained in the American Baptist Churches, USA. She has been Director of the South Wedge Food Program for four years.

### What are You Doing...?

continued from pg. 5

with your feelings of cognitive dissonance? You can release their effect on you, be grateful for the life lessons and move on in your own peace. If someone interferes with your peace without caring about how you feel, time to pare and focus on you. And who is an authentic positive in your life? This is a time to reach out to them, show gratitude, stay in touch. With this social-distancing, we have the avenue to make space for those whom we truly appreciate, showing them reciprocity with our own care.

There is a list of daily non-negotiables I have posted on my kitchen billboard that I have shared with my kids: schoolwork, reading, exercise, outdoor time, eating something healthy with a prayer of gratitude. Outside of the eye-rolling and annoyance, these practices cost me nothing. I hope that years from now, my kids will look back and see that these rituals were a good thing.

We've all had skills that maybe we've been hesitant to learn - well, it's time to step out for all of us. What's to do with this time? Although it may be tempting at times, sitting and hiding is not where to go and stay. Yes, take

some time to indulge, rest, relax, but with a limit. Set a goal each day for something, no matter how trivial it may seem. Get out that planner, set a list of "Six Most Important Things" for each day (thank you, Mary Kay Cosmetics training). Cross that stuff off each day because it is super-empowering! Read a book for intellectual stimulation. Are there house projects that you've been dreading due to time constraints? Get out the to-do list, strategize, and cross those items off -you'll get such a satisfying feeling of accomplishment; but do it without too much pressure, and celebrate yourself with each thing you do.

Limit the time you watch the news for your own peace of mind. The politics have filled with mud-slinging. Regardless of your political affinity, stay cautious, protect your children and yourself, utilize safe practices, support those who have to be out there, and please, no more judgment. And even if you're not worried about yourself, be thoughtful of others.

God Bless Us All. We will get through this and hopefully with new and improved versions of ourselves.

# Bauman's



Mike Bauman  
Owner/Barber

Monday 9-6  
Tuesday 9-5  
Wednesday 9-5  
Thursday 9-5  
Friday 8-2

73.6061  
South Avenue  
Rochester, New York 14620

facebook.com/  
baumansbarbershop

# COVID Commentaries

There's a saying that any unfortunate event is either a lesson or a blessing. We asked neighbors and notables to give us a few sentences about their experience as they hunkered down inside. More on pg. 10.



**Audrey Kramer, with husband Alex Chernavsky co-owns The Cinema Theater**

The biggest gift has been the support we've received from our customers, both encouragement and financial assistance from people who have bought books of movie passes. And personally, we've enjoyed the extra time, which has allowed us to have "date nights" where we watched movies together inside the Cinema Theater. Our biggest challenge has been keeping the business financially solvent.



**Frank Logan, SWPC Chair**

I have learned how really social we are as humans with the need to interact with one another. It's important to look out for your neighbors, especially the elderly. Wear a PPE mask when you're out. Support local South Wedge businesses, order take out, donate to the South Wedge Food Program for those who have been impacted by the loss of employment or underemployment..

My wife Anne and I received the most timely gift, a handmade puzzle board, plus a 1000 piece puzzle from Gary Lotisch and Jane Morgan. After we finished binge watching Ozark on Netflix, the puzzle has provided, I was going to say quiet time, but sometimes you just can see where "that" puzzle piece should go a little quicker than your spouse.



**Glynis Valenti, SWPC Exec. Dir.**

One of the obvious challenges is the shuffling and scrambling to find new ways to do business. Webinars and remote meetings are now suddenly the expected way to interact, not just for business but socially. Restaurants, retail stores, and wineries offer take-out or delivery only. And, I'm seeing casualties from the strain of not being able to provide in-person service. Another challenge has been the large-scale unemployment and trying to accommodate the unprecedented numbers of people in need. My heart hurts for the most vulnerable. One of the good effects is the "forced" slow-down of our lives--more free time to examine how we've spent our time in the recent past and, maybe, adopt some changes that focus on what is most important to us: health, spirit, family, and creativity.



**Rachel Barnhart, Monroe County Legislator**

The best gift is realizing the value of time. When activities are taken away, you think about the ones you want to return and the ones you don't. When this is over, I know I will spend my time differently. The biggest challenge is limited human contact. I miss my friends and family. I miss meeting constituents.



**Vicki & Tom Finnefrock, owners Stuart Spices**

Biggest gift - As everyone has turned to zoom, we've had some great extended family "get-togethers. It has been fun to catch up with nieces, nephews and siblings rather than waiting for a wedding or funeral.

Biggest challenge - For the spice shop, the challenge is how to reach out to current local customers, help them order online, and then managing the enormous increase in online orders; to stay connected with all of our customers in a personal way without in-person contact....learning how to manage work from home for my own job, the video conferencing platforms, organizing a functional work space, and being somewhat efficient. I find I am more mentally exhausted at the end of the day.



**Jennifer Sanfilippo, Executive Coach**

I've found that living all aspects of our lives from home creates a broader mental space that invites an exploration of meaningful communication. Without the benefit of body language, we have to engage in deep listening, both to ourselves and others. Subtlety and nuance have increased in value as we try to elicit feelings of warmth and connection to stave off aloneness. I dare say, this thoughtfulness is replacing the rapid, superficial style of communicating that we've managed to convince ourselves is meaningful.



**Monika Ludwinek & Desi, owner Little Shop of Hoarders**

I have been able to work on projects I didn't have time for pre shutdown, and that has really helped the time fly. However, I really miss the shop and being able to socialize with everyone who comes in. It's just not the same selling online.



**Jayne Morgan, educator, community builder**

The greatest gift I have received both daily and often hourly is the ability to REALLY enjoy the little things. The greatest challenge has been my inability to hug both family and friends who mean the world to me. How fortunate and grateful I am for that to be my only challenge!!



**Jasmin Regger, South Wedge Free Store, community organizer**

I think this pandemic has taught us all to slow down, if just for a moment. Life doesn't always have to be busy. We are protecting ourselves and the environment while we take a pause. I'm a homebody so the best gift for me is staying home. The most challenging things is finding creative ways to stay connected to loved ones.



**Rev. Judy Lee Hay & Sophia Rose, community activist**  
(Photo by Anne Waasdorp)

The best gift is the wonder of technology to keep me connected to my family and to play games together via Zoom. Even when our churches are closed technology allows me to worship with clergy friends across the country who are also using Zoom, Youtube and Facebook to bring God's spirit into our lives, that gives me hope and connectedness. We can still host community meetings, in a new way. The challenge is to always have a project to work on; making new garden beds with lumber from a local mill, constructing a new retaining wall or deep house cleaning. And it's a challenge not being able to share meals with my family around my dining room table.



**Philip Szal, Pedal Tours**

The pandemic could not come at a worse time. i had just finalized the purchase of a second boat for my fleet that was to begin tours in May and was looking to buy a house in the city as well. March is the time of year when people begin doing tours again and start booking for the summer. I am unsure when we will begin to be able to do tours again on the bicycles and boats. During the summer time i am so busy working that i do not get to give my dogs as much attention as they deserve. Now i am able to take them on multiple walks per day.



**City Councilmember Mary Lupien, Maya Lupien and Jesse Hughson**

This crisis has been challenging and joyful. I'm blessed that both my husband and I can work from home. The biggest challenge has been maintaining my level of work with the added stress and responsibility of home schooling and meals and the biggest joy is having the time for family dinner, reading to my daughter at night and visiting our amazing parks.

# 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 and yet notice events going on in their lives, and the world at large, and wonder. We offer a glimpse into the current celestial weather in hopes that readers will be able to use the 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 the Moon, in astrological understanding, 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. Astrologers have been watching and anticipating great events this year (and beyond) for a long time. While no one predicted a worldwide pandemic related to the current celestial configurations, it has been widely acknowledged that governments, monetary systems and more would break down. It is clear that things will not return to "normal" despite everyone's desire and perceived need to do so. Our work, should we choose to take it on, is to envision and work toward new, more equitable systems going forward. Knowing the current astrological energetic impulses can greatly assist us.

This forecast period features three eclipses: first a lunar eclipse on the Full Moon June 5, when the moon is darkened by the earth's shadow. Next, a solar on the New Moon June 21 - the Summer solstice - when the sun is covered. The third (another lunar eclipse) will hap-

pen on the Full Moon July 5. These are partial eclipses, and this is why there will be three. Eclipses most frequently occur in pairs, every six months. And, where they are visible, a partial solar will appear to have a halo, often referred to as a "corona" because the Sun is not totally blocked. It's more than a little ironic that this will occur in the midst of this historic pandemic of the same name. We will likely see a spike in the number of sick, especially in the regions where it can be seen.

The first lunar eclipse (June 5) will be visible in Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. The path of visibility of the solar eclipse (June 21) starts in Central Africa and runs through Pakistan, India and China. The second lunar eclipse (July 5) will travel across North and South America, South-Western Europe and Africa. (<http://www.eclipsewise.com/oh/ec2020.html>) Eclipses are most impactful where they are visible, but affect everyone everywhere.

If they occur on or very near planets in someone's birth chart, or the chart of a country, the effects will be more dramatic as we are seeing from the "Great American Eclipse" of August 2017. In ancient times, they were feared and seen as "the death of the king" and general reversals of fortunes. Now we understand intense events are possible and not just on the dates of the eclipses, but for months afterward. They also amp up the energies of New and Full Moons, so being aware can help us navigate. The total solar eclipse of August 2017 that was so visible across America, portended changes and challenges in our country. It also impacted important parts of both the US chart and the birth chart of President Donald J. Trump, and we are currently seeing the resulting ripples each and every day.

We start with the Full Moon on June 5th. Full Moons always feature Sun and Moon in opposite signs: this month it

will be Sun in communicative Gemini and Moon in opinionated Sagittarius. In addition, Venus is very close to the Sun because just three days before they were at the exact same degree. This is a very nice union especially for those with birthdays near June 5, provided a new level or kind of commitment is undertaken. This will carry through their entire year.

The nature of Full Moons in general require us to balance the energies of Sun and Moon (will and emotions) and in this case we have added challenges from Mars and Neptune. This combination may set up struggles and ambiguities around our physical well-being. The safety of sheltering in place confronting the realities of needing to go back to work, the desire for freedom and the resulting pressure.

On the day of the summer solstice, June 21, the solar eclipse energizes the first degree of Cancer. Sun, Moon and Mercury (along w/astroid Vesta) will all be asking us to focus locally; make where we live work for us in ways we might not have done before now. This New Moon eclipse is a pattern we have seen before on the Summer Solstice of June 2001. At that time Saturn, Pluto and Mars were prominent also, though in different relationships from where they are currently. Astrologers view this pattern as indicating the dire events of 9/11 later that year. With the current configuration, we can expect sudden, dramatic events related to our economic situation along with possible earth events such as earthquakes.

An hour or so past midnight on July 5th, if you're up and the skies are clear, you may have the opportunity to view the Full Moon partial lunar eclipse here in the US. Sun, now in the middle of home-sweet-home Cancer opposes Moon in business minded Capricorn, and this continuing theme of feeling into our collective heartbeat - be it at home or at work - is once again spotlighted.

New Moon July 20 at the end of home loving, nurturing Cancer will focus once



Photo courtesy of Planetary Messengers

again on how we are to more forward with our new realities. We all will be negotiating sharp disagreements indicated by communicative, mercantile Mercury (in Cancer) in a stressful, challenging relationship with warrior, action-oriented Mars (in Aries). Hopefully, we will collectively and personally use this energy to pierce illusions and access creative imagination to initiate new solutions.

This forecast period is one when several planets will be in retrograde (apparent backwards motion). Sun and Moon are technically referred to as Luminaries and do not retrograde, but all the others spend time periodically "retracing" the same areas in the zodiac. These are times of inner reflection and possible revisions. This in some ways is all leading up to a rather unusual Mars (in Aries) ret-

continues on pg. 10



**Judy Bennett**, organizer Friends of Calvary St. Andrews

*Because I'm retired, my life hasn't been as affected as much as so many people's lives. The challenge is how to best help the families and individuals in need or isolated. However, there are gifts going around my South Wedge neighborhood. Not only is there an active puzzle exchange, but also we received a beautiful and helpful puzzle board made by a local craftsman to maintain some order to this new pastime. Thank you Gary!*



**Rev. Seem Khaneja, MD**, Author, coach, minister, and physician

*For me, the Corona experience has helped me deepen into slowing down, sinking more and more into stillness, trusting in a higher power even more, and truly listening and following the small still voice within. When we face outer circumstances that are not in our control, and we observe so much suffering, we can feel powerless. Or we can allow the mind to turn inward and find all the answers we need within. We can connect to the power within us that is truly infinite, compassionate, and full of love and light. Then when we do serve others, we come from peace, rest, and true inspiration.*



**Michael Tomb**, artist, photographer, historian

*Best Gift: With the New Orleans Jazz having been canceled, Radio WWOZ New Orleans broadcast "Jazz Fest in Place." It was phenomenally successful across the world. We work in our backyard garden while "attending" Jazz Fest along with dozens of dear friends. These are people that we've met during the 15 Jazz Fests that we've been to since 1994. As another gift, many of the broadcast performances are ones that*

*we saw live. Biggest challenge: Walking out my door while trying to avoid those potential angels of death: the 80% of passersby who refuse to wear a damn mask. A smaller percentage also believe that rules on social distancing do not apply to themselves and their friends.*



**Michele Martel** writer, Mary Kay Beauty consultant

*My best gift: Gratitude for the health of my children and me. My biggest challenge: not being able to hug people.*

**We are in this together  
Let's work together. Stay safe!  
Wear a mask in public!**

# Planetary Messenger

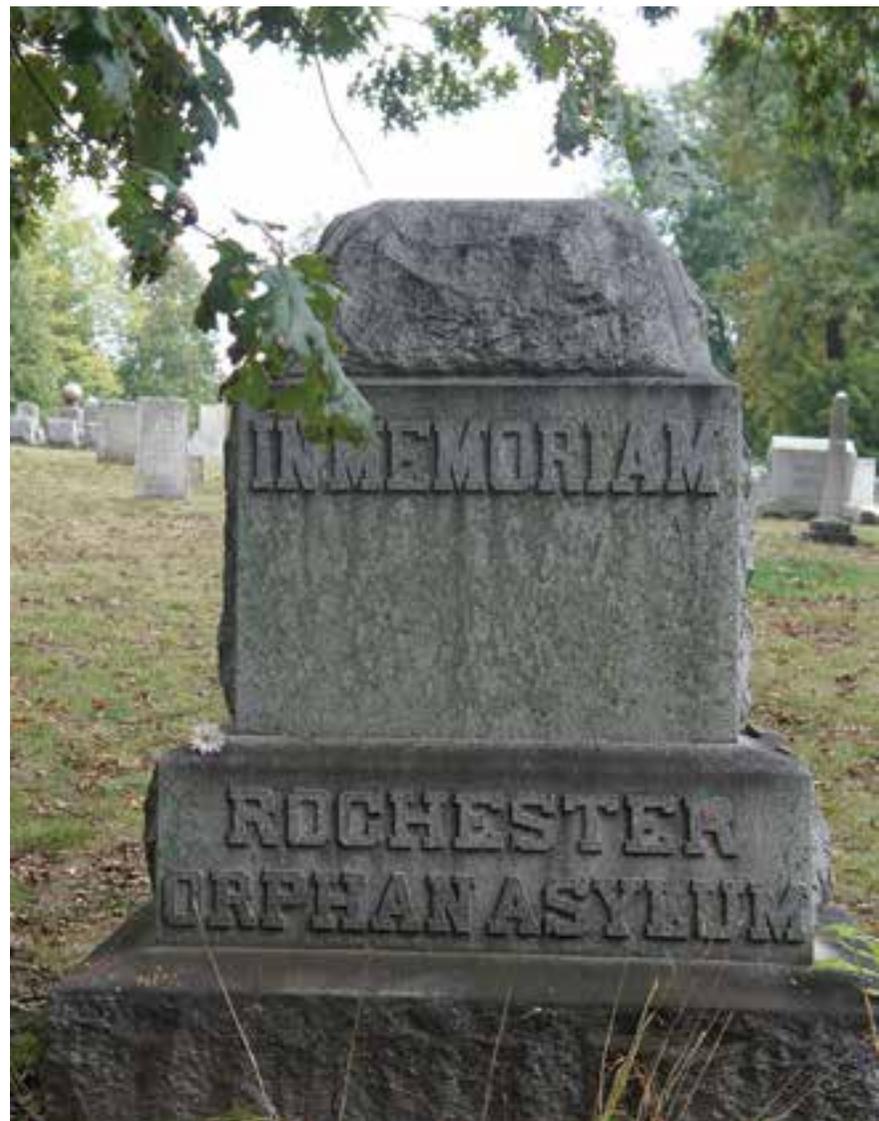
rograde later this year (Sept 9- Nov 14). Mercury's second retrograde of the year begins on June 18 in mid Cancer and will resume its forward motion on July 12. This will make it difficult for commerce to move forward with any robust vigor. Communications will be more acrimonious as Mercury and Mars (in Aries) square off with each other especially around the July 20 New Moon. In the US President's chart, this is affecting his Mercury. Watch, if you can, for him to show even further signs of difficulty managing the official message. Venus, who entered her retrograde on May 13 in late Gemini, will be going back the way it came (known as direct) in early Gemini starting on June 25. The key moment is on June 5, when Venus passes through "the heart of the Sun" — when Venus is exactly between Sun and Earth. Anyone with this birthdate, or December 4, is sure to register the energy strongly. As goddess of love and guardian of the feminine mysteries, Venus in flirty Gemini is apt to require special attention in the relationship arena during this time. Any new relationships are apt to be short-lived unless the partners are able to negotiate unrealistic perceptions and expectations, as Neptune is involved. Established relationships are due for review and renewal. This is also a great time for creative pursuits in a variety of avenues of expression, especially literary. Mars will change signs and enter Aries on June 28, where it will stay for an entire six months. Warrior Mars in headstrong Aries, a sign it is strongly aligned with, will dominant our reality. This time-period will be marked by general aggressiveness and impulsiveness. Individual desires for the freedom to break loose will be energized and we are all strongly advised to take care not to get caught up in demonstrations that include expressing anger with force. This alignment will be prolonged due to Mars going retrograde in Sept. More on that in coming articles. This can also be a very productive for individuals with strong Mars or Aries energies if focused carefully with awareness. The mild mannered among us, can seize this moment to express themselves with greater courage. Jupiter (expansiveness) began its retrograde May 14 in late Capricorn (through Sept 2020). Emphasizing efforts to retain the structures of business as usual. In combination with Pluto, also going retro-

continued from pg. 9

grade June 30, we no doubt will see major revisions continue and unprecedented, desperate measures to revive corporate business as usual. Collectively we will feel the tensions between the push for previous profit levels versus the health of the work force and small businesses. Personally, this is very strong for people with birthdays Jan 13-16 and July 14-17. Saturn (limits and structures), which has been testing the waters in humanitarian Aquarius since late March, will also retrograde back into Capricorn on July 1 (until Dec 17). Personally, this will re-energize the Saturn returns of those born 1990 - 1991. Collectively, our focus will again temporarily return to the more conservative and conventional approaches to business as usual. What has been revealed to us through the current crisis is the nature of essential services, who provides them and what they need in terms of wages and working conditions. Humanitarian efforts to support those workers are apt to meet with greater resistance. We can expect greater ferment around these issues through the end of the year and into 2021. We are still in 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 has been teaching astrology to eager students for years and now at an acceptable distance electronically. Personal chart consultations and one on one instruction available: (aeolea@protonmail.com) 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).

# Orphanage Fire

continued from pg. 5



windows seeking some means of escape from the terrific heat and strangling smoke. Some fainted in plain sight of the heroically working firemen." The *Democrat and Chronicle* reported; "A woman screamed that more children were still on the second and third floors; firemen, police and citizens hurried up and came back down with four or five children, all of whom were unconscious. They were taken across the street where some of them died. Others died on the way to the hospital. At dawn, the rising sun showed the true magnitude of the destruction, the asylum laid in complete ruins. Twenty-seven children, as well as

three caretakers, died that night in the fire. Some of the children had died because they crawled under their beds where they thought they would be safe and were not discovered by the firemen until it was too late. In the days that followed, more would succumb to burns and smoke-damaged lungs. Most of the children who died in the fire were laid to rest at Mount Hope Cemetery in the Rochester Orphan Asylum burial plot. The asylum would be rebuilt, however, on Pinnacle Hill and today is the Hillside Children's Center.

# COVID Chronicles

continued from pg. 8

## Ariane Krenichyn

owner, Abode Furniture, Decor & Gifts

*The best gift I've personally gotten from the stay at home order is clarity. I work a full-time job that is (was?) about 40% travel plus run a small retail business, which doesn't leave time for much else. With open time to concentrate on my emotional and mental health, I've been able to find some clearer vision into what fills my cup and what drains it, and I think my life moving forward will be different because of it. The biggest challenge is a feeling of helplessness. We have friends who work in medicine and it's frustrating to be unable to support them - or anyone - in the ways we usually do. I can't bring a bottle of wine over to talk through a tough day, I can't watch their kids in a pinch, we can't go work out to blow*



## Nancy Hale

writer, editor, educator

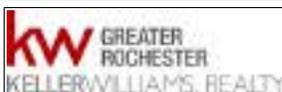
*I've experienced only gifts during the stay-at-home request. I discovered I could Zoom and still be a good teacher and even have fun--I rented a pig to Zoom Bomb my class. I've slept until 11 a.m. after years of getting up at 6 a.m. to drive a kid to school. I've cooked new meals. I've binged watched amazing films and read books. I gave myself a pandemic haircut, and I stopped dyeing my hair. And beyond the pandemic, I'm blessed to be living during what I pray will be the most gigantic societal transformation in our country when systemic racism will be finally dismantled.*

*off some steam... add that to the feeling of being unable to control the health and safety of those around us as well as trying to sift through the mounds of information coming our way, and it can be really overwhelming.*

## Joan Brandenburg

SWPC special project coordinator

*My life pace has slowed. It has allowed me to be more reflective both internally and externally. I have tried to use this time to be productive in a different way and addressed projects that been sitting around just waiting to get done. The end result is that I am feeling quite accomplished.*



**When Experience Matters Hire The Petix Team.**

- 50+ combined years and counting
- Serving Rochester and surrounding areas.
- South Wedge neighborhood resident/investors



Sebastian (Sib) Petix  
Associate R.E. Broker  
585-738-1945  
SPetix@kw.com  
[WWW.SibPetix.kw.com](http://WWW.SibPetix.kw.com)



Leonard C. Petix  
Associate R.E. Salesperson  
585-703-9421  
LPetix@kw.com  
[WWW.LenPetix.kw.com](http://WWW.LenPetix.kw.com)






Keller Williams Realty Greater Rochester 2000 Winton Rd S. Rochester, NY 14618

## Need Health Care but have No Insurance?

### St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center can help you.

We offer medical care, dental care, personal and family counseling, specialties and many other services for the uninsured and under-insured.

Call 585-325-5260

for more information, or visit our website at

[www.sjncenter.org](http://www.sjncenter.org)



417 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620



Kristine Fredrick (Photo by Rita Labeta)



Jennifer Wagner (Photo by Tim Wagner)

### Buy Nothing & Get a Lot at the Same Time

Nancy O'Donnell

Every day of the week Buy Nothing websites in city and suburb offer a wealth of objects from essential to I-didn't-know-I-needed-it-but-OMG-I-want-it. Books. Boxes. Housewares. Clothing. Toys. Downspouts. If it has a name, it's there for the asking and best of all it's absolutely free. The only stipulation is that you must live in the neighborhood. That means you may want to graze through Pittsford, but you can't if you don't live there.

Buy Nothing South Wedge/Swillburg/Highland Park, a local "gift economies" website on Facebook, was co-founded and is administered by Kristine Fredrick and Jennifer Wagner. Their biggest giveaway so far was a piano. The smallest was probably a recent request for "a piece of mint" needed for an evening meal.

Fredrick names Amy Cavalier, a former leader of the area's Minimalist group, as the person who increased her interest in the buy nothing movement.

"People used to go to Monroe County Freecycle, an old school electronic bulletin board, or Craig's List for giveaways," said Fredrick. "[People went on these sites] for environmental and economic reasons. They wanted to keep things out of landfills and to stop buying things other people are throwing away."

Fredrick turned to the national Buy Nothing Project and studied their rules and structure. She's met with administrators of other groups around the area.

"What our aim is to build community and kindness," said Fredrick. "Our neighborhood is so lucky, and we are so privileged. Our active group can be a model [for other neighborhoods]. If someone

wants to join just to get stuff that's not o.k. We want to keep stuff out of the landfills and decrease excessive consumption."

In the effort to build community, the group doesn't advocate "porch pickups" although this has become necessary during the pandemic.

"You're supposed to be meeting people," said Fredrick. "We know people can't meet all the time, but I always knock and wave when I've dropped off something."

There are no specific rules on how a member gifts. They are free to give to whomever and in whatever way they choose. Some have been creative in their request says Fredrick: "post your funniest joke" to get the item or random - "whoever gets here first gets it." Because community building is key, the website cautions that just writing "interested" in a post might be a bit abrupt-- "the more information you provide about why you're interested in the gift, the better."

At the start of the pandemic shut down, co-administrator Jennifer Wagner started a virtual Cookbook. "Cooking or baking has always brought our family together. So, let's use it to bring our neighborhood BNP friends together," writes Wagner.

"It's meant to be a giving community who lives close to each other," Wagner said. "It's hyper local within the boundaries. It doesn't matter if you don't have transportation like in suburbia with its impossible sprawl."

"There are about ten to twelve buy nothing groups in Rochester, and they're all run by volunteers. I've had people who call and say 'I like your neighborhood' and

continues on pg. 12

### Info Advantage

continued from pg. 11

monitor, a Nintendo Wii system, and an old-style Atari system," said Weller. "On any given day you can catch the guys watching the news or episodes of The Simpsons. There is also a full-sized video game machine that they compete for the highest score. We encourage downtime time throughout the day to keep energy levels and focus up."

Team building for Weller might mean a visit to the Escape room, Lasertron or pole racing picnics, holiday gift exchange and movie events, birthday celebrations are a big deal.

"I have a dry erase board in my office with everyone's birthday and the length of their employment." Next to one name, she's written 22 years, another employee counts 19 years, while another 16 years.

Weller started a weight loss challenge with weekly weigh ins, a prize of \$50 plus half of the \$5 buy in's to the challenge. The winner who loses the biggest percentage of weight wins the pot along with their pot belly.

"We pride ourselves on our unique company culture and look for ways to demonstrate this throughout the work week."

Weller in reflection on their twenty-eight years in business recounts some of her favorite client stories.

"I saw the news about a fire one morning only to realize that one of our client's offices were housed in that building,"

said Weller. "Their server had survived the fire but had fallen into the basement of the building and was sitting in water. When it was delivered to our office, it was waterlogged, filled with soot, and partially frozen. Luckily, we were able to recover the data from their server."

"We sold a new desktop to a client, and they called all upset that it wasn't working," Weller added. "We tried to resolve the issue over the phone, but they insisted that they wanted someone to come out. So, to provide excellent customer service, an engineer drove 45 minutes out to the location, only to find that the customer had unplugged the machine with his foot under the desk."

Looking beyond the pandemic Weller hopes to continue the tradition of taking a walk with her employees. "This was a great time to get some exercise. It's a great way to talk outside the office, enjoy the fresh air. I can't wait to walk around the Wedge and see what routes we can take and discover the neighborhood."

For now, Weller brings the family's two dogs into her new office and waits to explore the South Wedge further.

To learn more, visit [www.info-adv.com](http://www.info-adv.com), 155 Sanford Street, 585.254-8710.

**Get your ad in the WEDGE Newspaper in 2020**  
 Business card size costs only \$33 a month!  
 One-eighth page \$88, Quarter page \$182,  
 Half-page \$357 and full page \$715  
 Call for more information at 586.256.1740 or 978.9638.



Jaslynn is a Registered Nurse and has worked in the Observation Unit for 4 years.

## Proud to be your community hospital.



**Schraders' Garage**

686 Clinton Ave S  
Rochester NY 14620

271-5179

Monday through Friday  
7:30 am - 5:30pm

Quality Work - Fair Prices

Complete Maintenance & Repair  
Domestic & Japanese Cars  
Volkswagen & Volvo  
Convenient to Downtown

VISA-MASTERCARD-DISCOVER

Al-Anon Meeting list available online  
<http://www.aisrochester.org> or call 585.288.0540.



Are you bothered by someone else's drinking?  
Call 585.288.0540 or visit [www.aisrochester.org](http://www.aisrochester.org)  
for a list of meetings.

## Buy Nothing

continued from pg. 11

it's hard to turn people away if they're not within the boundaries," said Wagner.

"People don't realize that a poor neighborhood was constructed by redlining. We shouldn't say it's a good or bad neighborhood. We're all trying. There's enough wealth to go round. I try to push the idea that it's not just to get rid of stuff, but to help people."

"I always say 'let it simmer.' Don't just choose somebody immediately. We've had such a boon in membership that it's hard to remember to let it simmer," said Wagner.

She tells the story of a post where someone had extra lilac syrup to give away. "It gave me an idea of what you can do with lilacs, and there was more sharing over the post [then just to ask to get it]. Try to create a way to gift your items with no strings attached and not judge those in need or not. That's charity. This is a gift exchange within our neighborhood. We don't trade, and we don't barter. Just post what you need."

Along with online giving, the group has also held two "Free for Alls" where people set up tables for giveaways. One was held at the Thomas P. Ryan Rec Center on Webster Avenue and another one at St. Andrews Church in the South Wedge.

Fredrick remembers a little boy at one Free for All who filled two bags, carried them home, and then came back for more.

"He didn't speak a lot of English, but he was thrilled to get an alarm clock for his mother at home," said Fredrick.

Now almost three years later, the group numbers close to 798. If it gets larger, Wagner said they may have to "sprout" a new group, redesigning the boundaries.

"I've never sprouted before. It will be hard to kick some people out [and into a new group], but it may happen. We may be close."

To learn more the national buy nothing, visit [buynothingproject.org](http://buynothingproject.org). It includes links to other interesting links such as "Buy Nothing Travelers' Network" and a "Mother's Day Celebration Freely-Given Community Cookbook."



**Rochester Childfirst Network**

SERVING CHILDREN SINCE 1857  
6 weeks to 12 years old

Infant Care ♦ Toddler Care ♦ Universal  
Pre-K ♦ Before and Afterschool Care  
Special Education Services ♦ Training for  
Family Child Care Providers

Dedicated ♦ Knowledgeable ♦ Nurturing

Now accepting registrations

Two Locations in Rochester

941 South Ave. | 250 East Main St, Suite 110

Visit us at [RCN4kids.org](http://RCN4kids.org)

585-473-2858



## Thank you Ann & Felton Culbreth

### South Wedge Victory Garden Managers

gardens involved a lot of time along with effort. The Hamilton Street Garden contains thirty-four plots while Cypress Street holds twenty-five.

"Keeping people organizing, setting up applications, reading applications, organizing the plots, inspecting, gardening. It's a lot," said Ann who also works as a teacher's aide for special needs students in the Rochester City School District. So far, she still has a job despite the recent layoffs.

"That type of uncertainty confirmed that we had to put us first," Ann explained.

The couple even gave up their own plot in the garden. "It was bittersweet to assign [our] plot to a new person," Ann said.

Felton's new focus is C & C, his microgreens produce business. Though retired, he was working at the UR before he was laid off because of COVID-19.

"I'm growing them under house lights," said Felton who said he adds them to smoothies for more energy and their health benefits.

The couple remain active with the Urban Agriculture Working Group of Rochester.

The South Wedge Planning Committee celebrates the Victory Gardens' 10th anniversary as the Feltons retire. SWPC opened its first Victory Garden



Ann Culbreth

at 122 Hamilton Street with 27 beds. From the start it was a community endeavor. Volunteers built a wooden arbor at the entrance, and it was landscaped by a Boy Scout troop. A Master Gardener supervised the original garden and offered advice. Now many of the long-time gardeners offer help to newbies. A second garden was added on Cypress Street a few years later.

The Feltons say they're confident the



Felton Culbreth

new garden managers—Scott Wagner and Cassandra Kelly—will do a great job.

"We've left it in capable hands," said Ann. "It was never about two people. It was about a community of gardeners."

Learn more about Felton's

Microgreens on Instagram

([feltonculbreth](https://www.instagram.com/feltonculbreth)) or email him at

[felann55@gmail.com](mailto:felann55@gmail.com).

# The Wedge Gets Read!