

The WEDGE

December 2020/January 2021 Vol. 42 No. 6

The Official Newspaper of the South Wedge Since 1982
South Wedge Planning Committee, publisher

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Meet SWPC Board member Rob Marvin

Nancy O'Donnell Hale



Rob Marvin (Photo by Alexander Marvin)

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) is doing what most nonprofits are doing—hunkering down, cancelling fundraisers, postponing projects and waiting for the new normal to end.

SWPC is fortunate that South Wedge locals still find time to work for the community even during a pandemic, and welcomes artist Rob Marvin to its Board.

Marvin grew up in a small farming community in Avoca, NY moved to Rochester. By the late 1970s, he had opened a studio in the local artistic community, a time of “illegal lofts” and built a growing client base who saw his work hanging in Bobby Moore’s salon. He described Moore as not only as a “dear friend” but one of his “instrumental art patrons.”

“The South Wedge was really something,” said Marvin. “It was a special place.”

“Something Moore,” Moore’s hair salon, was one of the earliest shops on the then slowly revitalizing South Avenue.

“He saw great talent and had the curiosity to make artists available in his shop.”

In the early 90s, Marvin opened “Arterior Motives,” a studio on St. Paul St. where he not only exhibited his work, but also promoted other artists. From 1997-2013, he kept his commitment to the local artist community alive through Shag Gallery on Monroe Avenue. He showed the work of consigned artists and sold antiques. He’s collaborated with artists including Antoni Eckmair whose junk design house on Hayward continues on pg. 4



Lamberton Conservatory’s poinsettia show is a perennial favorite. The Conservatory, 180 Reservoir Dr., is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seven days a week, except Christmas Day. Due to COVID19 guidelines, please call (585) 753-7270 for information on group size restrictions or reservations.

Reflecting on The South Wedge Planning Committee in 2020

Frank Logan, SWPC board chair



Frank Logan

Forty years ago a group of concerned residents formed the South Wedge Planning Committee. Their goals were to help improve the viability of the South Wedge neighborhood with a focus on housing and business development. That mission continues today.

This year presented the organization with many unforeseen challenges: the inability to hold our annual fundraiser, City Love, due to COVID restrictions, uncertain funding streams from the State of New York that historically were granted on a regular schedule. Despite these setbacks, the South Wedge Planning Committee still pursued partnerships for programs including onsite workshops for home repairs, gardening and life planning. Again, all were limited by COVID restrictions.

Despite the challenge of a global pandemic, the South Wedge Planning Committee did have some great accomplishments during 2020.

We moved the South Wedge Farmers Market from Mt. Hope Avenue to the Odd Fellows’ parking lot on Gregory St., a more centralized location within the South Wedge, which helped increase street traffic, bring more sales for market vendors and build community safely through social distancing and lots of hand sanitizer.

On the housing front, we sold 171 Averill Ave which we acquired through the Greater Rochester Housing Partnership’s HOME Rochester program in 2019 as a vacant house, rehabbed it, and turned it into an affordable ownership oppor-

tunity in heart of the South Wedge.

Along with the successes, we like many Americans were impacted by the social awakening protests regarding systemic racism during the summer and turned the lens inward. SWPC was one of the early proponents of rehabbing and revitalizing Nathaniel Square pocket park which later included a statue of city founder Nathaniel Rochester. The statue was unveiled in 2008 to the applause of city officials and state legislators and an enthusiastic community. While Rochester’s history of owning enslaved peoples was known at the time (ostensibly the story was he moved north from Maryland to free his slaves), his role as a slave trader was not common knowledge.

After the death of George Floyd and Rochester’s Daniel Prude, the statue was spray painted with words of condemnation. In response, we discussed the issue with present and past board members and wrote a letter to the City of Rochester requesting the removal of the statue. The City later responded to our letter by stating that the issue of removal had been submitted to the RASE Commission (Racial and Structural Equity) for consideration.

Below is the letter we sent to Mayor Lovely Warren this year:

Dear Mayor Warren:

In light of the new awareness and community efforts brought about by Black Lives Matter and other anti-racist movements, the South Wedge Planning Committee would like to re-examine the placement of the Nathaniel Rochester statue at

the corner of Alexander St. and South Ave.

In 2001, SWPC became integral in the fundraising campaign to establish the park and commission the statue by Pepsy Kettavong. Looking through the more enlightened lens of 2020, we understand that Rochester continued to own and trade slaves after moving to New York even though slavery was outlawed in New York in 1799 and abolished in the North by 1804. After discussion with past SWPC board members involved with this project nearly 20 years ago and discussion with current board members, we are of the consensus that it is appropriate to have the statue removed from this location and to have the park renamed.

Many statues throughout the United States are being taken down as overt symbols of racism, and we choose to support and celebrate the diversity in our neighborhood and community. In addition to

continues on pg. 3

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

The Wedge Gets Read!

City Council Updates - Mary Lupien

Rochester has been through a lot these last few months. The injustices Black and Brown residents face at the hands of police was elevated to an unprecedented level; first, with the murder of George Floyd and then with the homicide of Daniel Prude. These incidents sparked massive protests, civic engagement and outrage - not just at the RPD, but also at the status quo. It has never been more evident that our federal, state and local governments have failed to provide for the common good. Trust in our government is shaken, and there is much elected officials need to improve in order to regain the confidence of our citizens.

The housing crisis has also intensified during the pandemic. Gov. Andrew Cuomo instituted an eviction moratorium that many don't know actually ended in October.

The legal guidance around proceeding with evictions is so complicated that even lawyers debate the interpretation. Basically, evictions can proceed. However, if an eviction is for non-payment of rent, a tenant can file an order to show cause, and if they can prove their inability to pay is COVID related, they can't be evicted though they are civilly responsible for paying back rent. There are rent assistance grants available, but there are several barriers to qualifying.

Many evictions have already been processed with more on the horizon. There is a severe lack of available housing due to the pandemic and even more so a lack of quality, affordable housing. More evictions means an increased homeless population during the cold winter months with COVID numbers on the rise. We need immediate action for the protection and safety of tenants facing eviction and for the general public.

Keeping tenants housed is our most pressing need. An immediate local eviction moratorium is our most effective option to put a pause on evictions for the duration of the pandemic. The City of Albany has had a local moratorium in place since March, and the City of Rochester is exploring its ability to follow suit.



Mary Lupien, Rochester City Council

There are Rent Cancellation bills at both the State and Federal levels that forgive tenant debt and provide relief for landlord losses. With a new Federal administration and a progressive new state delegation from Rochester, it's more hopeful than ever that these bills will pass.

City Council has also met with the Rochester City-wide Tenant Union to discuss their platform and have expressed general support for Good Cause Eviction Protection and the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act. Both of these interventions would lead to both short and long-term housing stability for thousands of tenants.

Good Cause Eviction Protection would give every tenant in Rochester the right to a lease renewal and protect them against unconscionable rent hikes. Without "Good Cause" a landlord can remove tenants from apartments without going to court. "Good Cause" ensures that all

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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 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 - Third Wed. of each month
 contact: flogan@rochester.rr.com

Community Engagement (Neighbors & Block Clubs)
 gvalenti@swpc.org
 Fourth Wed. of each month

South Wedge Victory Gardens
 TBD
 scott.wagner.ny@gmail.com

SWPC Board Members

- Frank Logan, chair
- Anthony Sciarabba, treasurer
- Kristina Wood, secretary
- Boardmembers---
- John S. Frank
- Alvin Lomibao
- Robert Marvin
- Shira May

Honorary Board Members

- Mitchell Dannenberg, John Dennis,
- Joe DiDonato, Cheryl Stevens

Staff

- Glynis Valenti, executive director
- Nancy O'Donnell, writer/editor

Consultants

- Norm Karsten

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.

The WEDGE Newspaper

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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).

Print distribution is suspended during the pandemic. Read us online at www.swpc.org.

Swillburg Shout-out

Mike Henry



Swillburg's swine and community spirit remains legendary

With Thanksgiving behind us, I am counting all the cool things I'm grateful for. Bigly among them is the fact that I live in Swillburg, a community that makes car-free living a healthy cinch. My sense of that community was strengthened when the Swillburg Neighborhood Association recently held a virtual Harvest Fest via Zoom. Among the speakers was Jen Topa, representing the South Clinton Merchants Association.

Jen brought encouraging news and informed us of the City of Rochester's Business Emergency Retention Grant Program, designed to help small businesses survive the hardship of COVID related restrictions. I found this important as a car-free person, to promote and retain (and enjoy) local commerce (by local I mean quickly accessible by environmentally salubrious active transportation (walk, bike, skateboard).

Jen also shared images of new benches sponsored by the Merchant's Association which have already begun to line South Clinton Avenue. I much appreciated her presentation of how the merchants along the avenue are collaborating to promote each other and the viability of our community.

Our virtual Harvest Fest featured other speakers: Captain Jason Elwood of the Rochester Police Department's Good-

man Section, who was also encouraging, especially in respects to crime data which indicates that Swillburg has a low crime rate and is a relatively quiet and safe pocket among city neighborhoods.

We also got to enjoy a presentation by Nancy Johns Price, administrator of the South East Neighborhood Service Center. I was impressed with how busy the Center is keeping despite recent health-related restrictions. I found it particularly encouraging that Nancy's agency can help city residents apply for home rehab grants. Also, her staff help people access funds to pay their rent through the Landlord Reimbursement Program.

In addition to all this Mike Evens, new executive director of the South East Area Coalition, made an appearance to introduce himself. Mike presented with lots of energy, and it was apparent he comes with a wealth of experience.

No wonder I'm feeling grateful as we go into the holiday season. I live in a cool city where neighbors coalesce and have access to a myriad of agencies to retain and promote their quality of life--such as the South Wedge Planning Committee --without whom this article and shout out wouldn't be possible.

So, hoping you all are feeling the peace of gratitude too and wishing you a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

SWPC 2020 - Frank Logan

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our recommendation of removal of the statue, we would like to engage the community for ideas on what should replace it. Given the current climate of unrest, we would like to get your thoughts on this as soon as possible and begin taking necessary steps to moving forward in a positive direction.

We appreciate your time and consideration regarding this recommendation, and we look forward to working on a plan with you soon.

Best regards,
South Wedge Planning Committee
SWPC continues with its mission to build community. Our Community Engagement Committee (CEC) has been very active. Members Lisa Reagan, Jayne Morgan and Judy Bennett, Joel Elliot have held discussions with City Council members Malik Evans, Mary Lupien, and Mitch Gruber regarding various neighborhood concerns such as zoning issues, property upkeep and housing affordability, and members are researching new ways to bring affordable housing to the South Wedge.

The WEDGE Newspaper continues to inform and build community through its online publication. City Council member Mary Lupien contributes to the newspaper every month with updates about City business. Mike Henry writes a column about neighboring Swillburg while others contribute a lifestyle col-

umn (Michele H. Martell), city history (Patti Giglio), astrology (Aeola Wendy Burwell and Peter Doughty), community issues (Rev. Matthew Martin Nickoloff) and updates on the South Wedge Victory Gardens (Scott Wagner and Cassandra Kelly). We are grateful for their dedication and great narratives.

Since my wife Anne and I moved into the South Wedge in 1979, we've loved it, and all that it has to offer. However, it takes effort from all residents to not only maintain our successes but to help move our neighborhood forward. All residents can contribute whether you rent, own a home, or work in the South Wedge, we welcome you to join the South Wedge Planning Committee in 2021 to voice your concerns and visions with an organization that has a history of getting things done.

We want to say thank you to SWPC's past board members who helped build the organization and current board members—Tony Sciarabba, Karen Blasgrove, John Frank, Alvin Lomibao, Robert Marvin, Shira May and Kristina Wood—who are helping us build an even better South Wedge as we move forward.

Meanwhile, please follow COVID guidelines-- wear a mask, social distance and wash your hands to not only protect yourself but also others. Thank you.

Please feel to contact Executive Director Glynis Valenti at @gvalenti@swpc.org. to learn ways you can help.

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Working with you to make ours the
best community possible!

Rob Marvin

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Street near the Rochester Public Market is a designation for art and junk lovers.

Marvin memorialized his friendship with his patron Bobby Moore, some twenty years later when he designed and fabricated "Something Moore," a sculpture in the Business Association of the South Wedge Area's (BASWA) Parking Meter Totem Project in 2008. The sculpture stands today on South Avenue near Hickory Street in front of Bradley James Designs. Fabricated in mild steel, compressed glass and poly-resin, it features stove trivets and a billard ball. Also important to Marvin was "that you can lock a bike to it."

Marvin's work was part of another BASWA art project in 2009. His black and white steel/concrete totem, "Realized Dreams" was dedicated to the 44th President Barack Obama.

"It was the realization of a longtime coming dream of equality. A realization that in the history of America, Barack, was the first African American president sworn into office," said Marvin.

Most recently, BASWA commissioned Marvin once again for a sidewalk mural, "Communal Blossom" that can be found at the corner of Gregory Street and South Avenue.

"I became much more involved with the South Wedge when I became a resident of Comfort Street in 2010," said Marvin.

He loved the house and front yard, and he became more active in landscaping.

In 2016 he was given a City of Rochester award for his use of art in his garden.

For some time Marvin resisted SWPC board chair Frank Logan's repeated invitations to join the organization.

"Frank was after me to become a part of SWPC and to help find ways to help it grow even while everything is on hold. He wants my advice and insights on how to put a creative spin to it."

Currently, the nonprofit is discussing ways to utilize a downstairs space that was renovated under the tenure of the last executive director but damaged during a plumbing issue last winter.

"What we'll come back with is a vivid, creative communal place, bringing in youth and senior groups," said Marvin. "When it was renovated the whole idea was to use it as a community space. We have many creative people in the area. We need to bring that energy back," said Marvin.

"We need to consider these folks. The need for senior housing in the South Wedge is exploding. We need to start some development, single level apartments and make the option available to people who may want to sell their larger homes but remain in the South Wedge."

South Wedge Victory Gardens Prepare for Season 2021

Scott Wagner

A community garden is an expression of cooperation and shared joy, and neither fading Autumn nor COVID-19 could diminish that. On Halloween day, the South Wedge Victory Gardeners from Hamilton and Cypress Street Gardens gathered to prepare the two gardens for winter slumber and to perform much-needed maintenance. To ensure everyone felt safe, we offered the option of helping with prep work, contributing to supplies, or doing tasks in the days prior to the work party, and this helped everyone find a way to contribute to our community space in a COVID safe manner. To prepare, a team of gardeners worked over several days beforehand to ensure that all was ready. Matt Gallo, Brett Schuld, and Scott Wagner planned and hauled construction material for bed repairs. Taylor Hine made party favor bags for our workers, and Cassandra Kelly prepared snacks and beverages to keep us energized throughout the day which were served with strict adherence to health guidelines researched by Heidi Reigel.

Wearing masks and working in socially distanced teams, the plot clearing and cleanup team tidied garden plots and community spaces in preparation for a new garden next season. Leaves were raked. Weeds and old plants were pulled and composted. Garden fixtures were stored away. Both gardens got a makeover as they were readied for the long winter hibernation.

A major focus of the work party was repair of the garden beds in both gardens. The lumber used to build the garden beds has endured many seasons; it had weathered severely and several plots had disintegrated altogether. Several gardeners were trained in building and repair techniques by a longtime construction manager, Jonathan Rog-



Gardeners had fun while maintaining all the proper safety precautions during an autumn clean up (Photo by Cassandra Kelly)



Victory Garden (Photo by Cassandra Kelly)

ers. Building supplies have been in high demand during the pandemic, and this team worked hard to conserve the precious new resources donated for the repairs, and to reuse as much of the existing lumber as was salvageable restoring and reinforcing the garden beds.

We would like to thank John Fields and Matthews and Fields Lumber Company for their generous donation of new 2x10 boards used in or reconstruction. Several gardeners generously pooled their own supplies and gave financial donations to purchase aluminum corner flashing, wood, corrosion-resistant screws and fasteners to complete the necessary repairs.

With the construction expertise of our friends Jonathan and Karen Rogers from Exercise Express, the plot rebuilding crew shored up more than two dozen beds at both locations. Plot bed corners were fortified with aluminum flashing to prevent wood decay, and several beds were completely rebuilt.

After removal of soil from edges and corners to facilitate the work, new lumber was cut and positioned, and new corner reinforcements were added, strengthening and beautifying our garden plot boxes for several years to come.

Maintenance of our common spaces and plantings was a second major focus of our work day. Master gardener Kathy Lewis spent several hours before the party to provide plant identification and give instructions for plant care as everyone pitched in to prune, trim, remove invasives, and transplant a few raspberry plants we all enjoy when we are in the Gardens. Thanks to their efforts our perennials will have a strong start next year, including the berries and plants transplanted between the two gardens.

While observing safety precautions, the event mixed social interaction and time for fun and fellowship. We enjoyed breakfast, lunch, and snacks served by the hospitality team under the strange new rules of COVID etiquette. A large jar of hand sanitizer, a portable hand-washing sink on loan from SWPC, food tongs, along with many paper towels and serving gloves were used in order to ensure food stayed safe. A few gardeners donned Halloween attire to add a festive spirit to the gathering. Zora won the best costume award, and Christina H. received the runner up prize for her bat wing headband. In recognition of their contributions to the community and generous spirit throughout the season, Theresa P. and Kathy Lewis were presented with the first annual Gardens' Spirit of the Year Award. Everyone was celebrated for their enthusiasm and contributions, which helped to make the garden season successful during this most challenging year. We look forward to the reawakening of our gardens in the spring of 2021 and the continuing enhancement and beauty they provide to our community.

Ann Murray Douglas Memorialized

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

It's been a couple of good years for the long-forgotten and nearly invisible Anna Murray Douglass, first wife of the legendary abolitionist, author and statesman Frederick Douglass. His wife of 44 years, she remained in their Rochester home as her husband traveled around the country fighting slavery and building his legacy.

School #12 at 999 South Avenue was renamed to honor her, and in November artist Shawn Dunwoody memorialized her in an art installation at 259 Alexander Street, a site of the Douglass' former home from 1848-1851.

The piece which includes Anna, her children and her husband was funded by Rochester Institute of Technology and becomes part of RIT's permanent collection. RIT associate professor Hinda

Mandell also worked to have the historic marker erected at the Alexander Street site in 2018.

Dunwoody's art installation features a sitting Anna, her hands and face of cast resin, with Frederick standing above. Her children's faces are framed behind her. Artist Dunwoody's murals are all around Rochester - Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Highland Branch Library, Abundance Food Co-op.

In an article for RIT by writer Greg Livadas, muralist Dunwoody said "there are only two pictures of Murray Douglass he could use as reference, 'and there's not much written about her either.'"

The new Anna Murray Douglass work is a happy coincidence this year during the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.



Artist Shawn Dunwoody gives a greater dimension to the life of Frederick Douglass "a story made possible by the unwavering loyalty of Anna Murray." (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale)

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The World is Your Oyster

Michele H. Martell



and flub-ups, or just lousy stuff in general. What if a new way to look at these blights would be to think like an oyster (although the oyster doesn't need to think about it and just does it!) and envision how to turn it into something beautiful? How about taking that toxic element and converting it into something that is magnificent, sparkling, and that can lead us to feeling better? Just as the oyster doesn't focus on that unpleasant grain of sand, but rather right away goes to work on turning that issue into something much bigger and brighter.

Of course, this is all much easier said than done. After all, according to Alexa, it can take anywhere from one to twenty years for a pearl to be created, depending upon the oyster. Well, perhaps this fact can reiterate the adage that anything worthwhile takes time. Regardless of how long it takes, I found the story of the oyster and its pearl inspiring. And we certainly possess the capacity for more brain power and creative intent than an oyster.

Let's face it, quite often it may not feel that the world is always our oyster. I do believe, however, that the world continues to be our oyster, even when we don't feel it or see it that way. It can just take a little time and focused redirection to grasp that concept in our minds, even while simply focusing on our little corner of the world.

The world is your oyster. May today and 2021 bring forth pearls for all of us.

How are you viewing the world at this time? If you're like many, the outlook may involve uncertainty, trepidation, possibly capitulation, anger or apathy. All of these perspectives are understandable in such unprecedented times. However, there can also be a sense of hope and positive action, interspersed with all the zaniness! I saw a picture hanging on a wall recently at a friend's place of work, boldly stating "The World is Your Oyster," and it got me thinking.

According to didyouknowblog.com, "Oysters make pearls so they can feel better. When a grain of sand or debris gets stuck in their bodies, they ease the pain and irritation by coating it with multiple layers of nacre, the mineral that lines the inside of their shells, and pearl begins to form. Basically, pearls are like blisters, only much prettier."

If an oyster can take something that is initially a negative to them, and turn it into something beautiful, then maybe we can learn from the oyster!

While contemplating about the irritants that can lodge into the oyster's space and how that oyster can then turn that aggravation into something precious and beautiful and stunning; I thought about how many of us have annoyances, intrusiveness and more that we're dealing with. At any time, and especially during this current time, I suspect we all have some type of vexation to contend with!

It would be superfluous at this point to go on and expand on the pandemic and all its consequences and emotional effects. Same goes for this political climate and all the exasperation involved. All we have to do is turn on the news for five minutes, and the flimflam can be enough to take one from feeling lighthearted and cheerful to incensed and depressed in no time. So, I decided to think more about the oyster, if for no other reason than a positive distraction.

Generally speaking, there will always be irritants in everyday life—whether they are someone else's attitudes and actions, a less-than-positive outcome, our own regrets over personal missteps



Michele H. Martell
(Photo by Sarah Jeruta Salvilla)

19th Century house demolished

Nancy O'Donnell

On a recent Reddit post, Andrew Fusco, manager of the newly built 625 S. Goodman Apartments, posted about the recent demolition of the 19th Century bright purple house on South Goodman Street across the street.

The house sat at the entrance of 490 interstate, the former bed of the old Erie Canal, that wound its way past Swillburg.

The bright house couldn't be ignored. While its sides were painted a startling fuchsia, its roof was sunken and its windows were shrouded from the street and gave no indication of anyone still lived there.

"The Purple House was a shotgun-style house built prior to 1888, back when Swillburg stood at the intersection of farmland and the old Erie Canal. This little house stood unassumingly at Goodman and Eisenberg Place," writes Fusco, in an email to the Wedge." I am sad to see another small piece of Rochester's history go. I hope the neighborhood engages to create something beautiful in the house's place."



Distinctive 19th century purple house on South Goodman Street was demolished by the city
(Photo by Andrew Fusco)



A truck removes the last remnants of the purple house that once stood across the street from a three-store shoe factory that burned to the ground in the 1960s. The heat blistered the walls of the small house.
(Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale)

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Lupien

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evictions go before a judge.

Currently, if a tenant is on a month-to-month lease, the landlord can choose not to renew the lease and the tenant has no legal right to stay regardless of how good of a tenant they are.

"Good Cause" gives tenants the right to stay in their homes and empowers tenants to demand safe living conditions without fear being displaced due to retaliation.

Non-renewal of leases is also used as a tool in gentrifying neighborhoods to make houses more attractive to potential buyers. If a buyer knows that tenants are on month-to-month leases, they can buy the house and displace its occu-

pants, making it easier to renovate and charge significantly more for the next tenant. "Good Cause" would slow down the displacement gentrification causes.

The Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) is another anti-displacement intervention that would give tenants advance notice that their landlord is planning to sell and give tenants either individually or collectively the right to purchase the building. Coupled with a Housing Trust Fund to give technical and financial assistance to tenants, TOPA is a powerful tool to provide housing stability, empower tenants to own their homes and preserve affordable housing opportunities in gentrifying neighborhoods.

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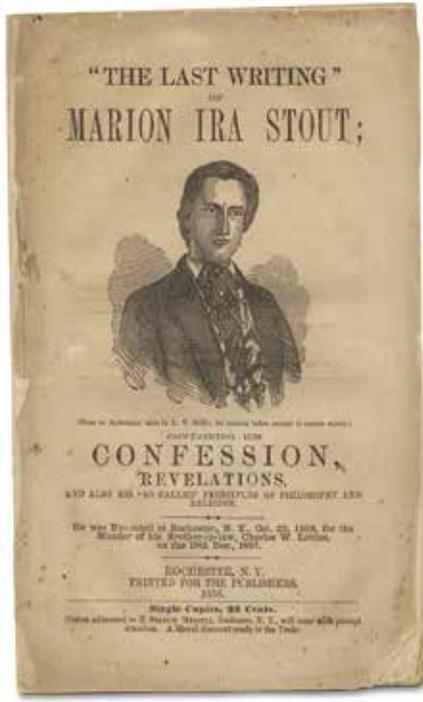
Rochester History Comes Alive

Nothing says the holidays more than a family Christmas Murder

Patti Giglio

The holidays are time for family, decorating the tree, exchanging gifts and spreading Christmas cheer, all annual traditions many of us follow to this day. In 1857, one brother and sister had a different idea about how to spend the holidays, and it would become one of the most notorious murder trials in Rochester's history. Sarah Littles lived on Monroe Street (now Monroe Avenue) with her mother, husband and siblings while her brother, Marion Ira Stout spent four and a half years in Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia for his role in a robbery and arson case with their father. Sarah and Ira had a "special" relationship, and when Ira was released from prison in August 1857, he came back to the arms of his sister. While Ira sat in a prison cell, Sarah met and married Charles Little who was an insurance lawyer and a reported philanderer, though it was also rumored that Sarah was far from faithful to their wedding vows as well. Ira was not impressed by his brother-in-law, mostly because he thought that Charles had taken Sarah away from him. He began to devise a plan to remove Charles permanently from their lives, a plan that his sister fully backed in hopes that it would allow them to continue their incestuous relationship.

On the evening of December 19, Ira told Charles that Sarah was planning to meet a man in Falls Field by the river. An irate Charles rushed to High Falls to catch his wife in the act. As Charles confronted his wife, Ira snuck up behind armed with a mallet and killed him with a blow to the head. He then attempted to throw his body into the Genesee River. But Charles' body landed on a rock ledge below. The following account was written in the History of Rochester and Monroe County New York from the Earliest Historic Times to the Beginning of 1907. "...Ira started to go down a narrow path that led sideways along the cliff, but in the darkness, he missed his footing and fell headlong, breaking his left arm in the descent and landing beside the corpse. Summoning all his remaining strength he was just able to push the body over



"A pamphlet published in Rochester in 1858, shortly after Ira Stout's execution, which featured his confession to the crime and other biographical facts about him."

the bank when he sank in a dead faint. On recovering from which in a few minutes, he called to his sister, who was still above, to come and help him. When she started to do so, the bushes to which she clung gave way; she stumbled, broke her left wrist, and fell beside her prostrate brother. But it would not do to remain there, wretched as their plight. So, after searching in vain for Ira's spectacles, which they had to leave behind them, but taking with them the fatal mallet, they scrambled slowly and painfully up the bank and made their way laboriously to their home on Monroe Street."

The mallet used in the fatal blow was not found until after the trial of Sarah and Ira had ended. Charles body was found the next morning with a pair of glasses lying next to him. The glasses were traced back to Ira Stout. The police arrived at their door, arresting the brother and sister for Charles' murder. During the trial, their whole assorted

affair was revealed, and the two knew that they would never be together again. The evidence was overwhelming, and the jury delivered a verdict of guilt in both cases. Sarah was sentenced to seven years at Sing Sing. When she was released, she changed her name and faded into the landscape. Marion Ira Stout was handed a death sentence.

Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, famous for their campaign of social reform, were vehemently against capital punishment and pleaded that the sentence be commuted to life in prison. However, the decision would not be overturned. Ira's sentence was carried out on October 22, 1858 within the walls of the jail. This would be a blessing in disguise because the public was spared witnessing a hanging that went terribly wrong. When the door of the gallows dropped, and Ira fell through, the noose failed to break his neck. He was slowly strangled, his body twitched for nearly seventeen minutes before he finally died. To make sure that Ira was indeed dead, his body was left hanging for three quarters of an hour.

Ira Stout's remains were buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in a grave marked with just a number in the shadow of monuments dedicated to some of Rochester's greatest citizens.

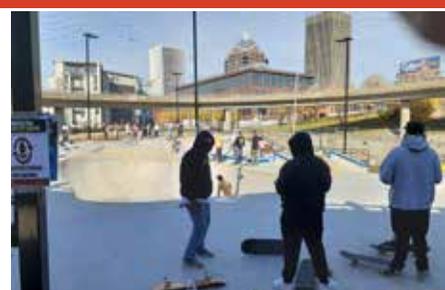


Patti Giglio



Books by Patti Unvericht-Giglio

Patti Unvericht-Giglio has written several books about various subjects in Western New York history. Her titles *Ghosts and Hauntings of the Finger Lakes*, *Hidden History of the Finger Lakes*, *The Great Seaway Trail*; *History, Legends and Mysteries*, *Tales From These Old Bones* and *The Silver Lake Institute* are available at Barnes and Noble, independent bookstores and her Facebook shop @theseold-bonestalk. Follow her on Facebook for other interesting history tidbits and announcements of events and new books coming out.



Long awaited ROC Skate Park Opens

Nancy O'Donnell

The long-awaited skatepark, championed by Friends of ROC City Skatepark, was officially opened in late fall. The dream began some seven years ago, when the nonprofit began publicizing their work to build a "well-lit, safe, outdoor community center for the whole family, open to all ages and level of skating and riding abilities...and access will be totally free" continues to build.

City officials said the proposal to build a public Skatepark was first introduced to City officials in 2008 by the ROC City Skatepark Coalition, the precursor to the Friends of the ROC City Skatepark. Then Friends group President Jim Madison who was interviewed in a WEDGE newspaper article in 2013. He promoted "progression-oriented sports" like skateboarding, roller blading, BMX and scooters and said he'd "spent a small fortune to take [his four children] to private parks," and who realized many U.S. cities have free, public skateparks. Maddison had teamed up with Krudco Skate shop and interested BMX riders. The group argued that skateboarding is most dangerous to children who use public roads and jerry-rigged structures and a safe skatepark with its "skateable art" would benefit not only current skateboarders but encourage other children to give it a try and reap health benefits at the same time in a time of increasing obesity rates for children. By 2010, the Rochester's City Council voted to give \$50,000 for the Skatepark (funding for the Skatepark in the City 's Capital Improvement Program budget was released to the public on May 3, 2011). The budgeted amount was the \$2 million that the Board of the Friends of the Roc City Park requested.

The completed \$3.1 million now includes mini-ramps and ledges, stairs and handrails, competition bowls and a main skate promenade along the Genesee Riverway Trail. The land under the Frederick Douglass-Susan B. Anthony Bridge, just south of the Erie Harbor Promenade, was virtually unbuildable.

City, state and local officials along with skateboarders officially opened the new ROC City Skatepark which is part of the ROC the Riverway project.

City officials said that "additional funding was provided through ROC the Riverway monies and an Upstate Revitalization Grant from the New York State Department of Transportation; Commercial Corridor and Main Street Revitalization economic development grants through RG & E; Built to Play and Environmental Impact Grants from The Skatepark Project (formerly the Tony Hawk Foundation); and contributions from The Sands Family Foundation and the Friends of the ROC City Skatepark."

The park invites rollerbladers and BMXers to join the mix, along with observers who wait on the sidelines for feats of aerial and ground skills.

The City is also planning on using the space or public art and performances. The Skatepark uses land that is situated under an interstate bridge and associated off ramps that made it impossible to build on. The City's Department of Recreation and Human Services is responsible for operation of the ROC City Skatepark which will be open 365 days a year. For more information on hours of operation, visit www.cityofrochester.gov and search for Roc City Skate Park.



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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. 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 look into the current celestial weather in hopes that readers will be able to use the energies for the highest and best possible outcomes.

We are obviously in a time of great change and disruption of patterns. Astrologers have been watching and anticipating great events at this time for many years. While few 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 most everyone's desire and need to do so. Our collective task, 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.

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.

As December begins, we are between eclipses and we may find ourselves waiting for resolution of divergent views. First the Full Moon partial lunar eclipse on November 30 in early Gemini which should have been visible here with the naked eye. Expect this to emphasize the gulf between beliefs and verifiable facts. The following New Moon on December 14 is a total solar eclipse (there are always at least two) in late Sagittarius, visible across southern South America. This eclipse occurs on the day that the U.S. Electoral College meets, adding an extra charge to the political atmosphere. Finally, on Dec. 29 we have a Full Moon in early Cancer, spotlighting our need for family and a secure home life.

On January 13 the New Moon in late Capricorn offers opportunity for new starts in business and government affairs highlighting efforts to overhaul the familiar. The Full Moon on Jan. 28 in early Leo is part of a complex configuration that reflects the likelihood of continued resistance to changes being forced by circumstances. The week around this Full Moon will be the most eventful of the entire winter season.

Speedy Mercury moves from the beginning of Sagittarius (Dec. 1-20), through Capricorn (Dec 20-Jan. 8) and to the end of Aquarius in the course of these two months. For the first three weeks of December, we can expect communication to center around ideals and faith. Capricorn's time is more down-to-earth and businesslike, while Aquarius' is more humanitarian and systems-oriented. At the end of January, it



The White House aka the People's House will be undergoing lots of changes in the new year.

will be time once again to revise, reconsider, and reimagine as Mercury begins its first three-week retrograde period of 2021. Social group dynamics and systems will be the primary areas of focus.

Venus (values, associations) completes its sojourn through deeply emotional Scorpio on Dec. 15, entering then the more playful and adventurous Sagittarius until Jan. 8; when it's on to Capricorn. The remainder of January sees Venus sweeping through the Capricorn boardroom with only Pluto remaining there since Jupiter and Saturn have moved on into Aquarius. We are apt to see prominent females coming to greater power in business and politics.

Through these two months, Venus is gradually moving closer to the Sun from our viewpoint; consequently, Venus is sinking lower in the pre-dawn sky and disappearing from view by early February. We can look for Venus to re-emerge as Evening Star in June 2021. Mars was at peak brightness and visible through the night in Oct. 2020. Watch for its dance to dim and move closer to the western horizon before it disappears from view in Aug 2021.

Warrior Mars completes its unusual six-month stay in fiery Aries on Jan. 6. We will notice a shift in the energetic pace as Mars moves into stubborn, earthy Taurus. Tranquil moments and situations will be few and far between as Mars moves ever closer to encountering Uranus on Jan. 20 when events will likely be tumultuous. Starting at that point revolutionary change is highly energized, much of it sudden and surprising. This often shocking Uranian energy will be especially strong because it is stationing (appears to stand still), intensifying the energy of breakthroughs. Mars and Uranus energy will greatly contribute to the dramatic Jan. 28 Full Moon.

Together Mars and Uranus will be squaring off with Jupiter and Saturn, setting the stage for a contentious inauguration day and a potential struggle over the shape of the unfolding new

era. We can expect a deeper sense of urgency overriding previous obstacles. Those with birthdays in the ranges of Jan. 27-31, April 27-30, July 30-Aug 3 and Oct. 30- Nov. 3 are likely to experience this dynamic shift most strongly.

We are at the start of a two-century cycle as Jupiter and Saturn come together at the beginning of reform-minded Aquarius on the Winter Solstice. During all of 2020 in establishment-minded Capricorn, they effectively worked on disintegration of the old political and economic order. There's work for us

all to do, and with fresh faces and new ideas, we may have the wind in our sails.

.....

The authors welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have about these energies and to help you understand the full spectrum of the potentials of these energies in your personal birth chart. To learn more about A - Z Astrology, contact Aeolea Wendy Burwell and Peter Doughty at zoidion@protonmail.com



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

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Local Wineries Respond to COVID's impact

Glynis Valenti



The pandemic has brought changes in marketing, distribution, and customer interaction to wineries like Red Tail Ridge Winery on Seneca Lake. (Photo by Glynis Valenti)

It would not be an understatement to say that the COVID 19 pandemic has affected nearly everyone in some capacity. New York state, already facing a multi-million dollar deficit when the budget was signed by Governor Cuomo in April, will likely be looking at an abyss once the pandemic subsides without sales taxes, employment taxes, and tourism dollars that are budget income staples. Wineries, as other service businesses, have scrambled to keep up with regulations and to find alternate marketing and sales outlets to recoup losses from closing tasting rooms. The wine industry in the Rochester area is huge with the Finger Lakes trails to the southeast, the Niagara Wine Trail to the northwest, and the Ontario Wine Trail to the northeast. A study done for the New York Wine and Grape Foundation presents some staggering 2019 statistics on wine's contribution to the state economy. First, NY is the third largest wine pro-

ducer in the United States—and all 50 states produce wine—behind only California (#1) and Washington. In 2019, there were 470 NY wineries, most of them smaller, family-owned operations. Wine industry jobs paid \$2.79 billion in wages and contributed \$2.4 billion in taxes. Because of their size, only 37 percent of wineries distribute through wholesalers. Most of them “self-distribute” and promote through their tasting rooms, local stores, and area restaurants. The tasting rooms/tours hosted 4.71 million individual visits to wineries in 2019 by 1.43 million visitors. That added up to \$6.65 billion in economic impact: sales, restaurants, hotels, tour companies, gas stations, local stores, etc. Next year's numbers will tell a different story. In March 2020, Red Tail Ridge Winery (Seneca Wine Trail) was planning to expand the tasting room and production, according to Drew Tschappat, hospitality manager. When COVID19 hit, they

expected a six-week shutdown with minimal effects on their small crew. Sales increased online, and Red Tail Ridge filled orders for their wholesale distributor to wine shops and liquor stores, deemed essential businesses. Their restaurant customers were closed, however, not opening until four months later.

At Chateau Niagara (Niagara Wine Trail) Jim Baker, Owner/Winemaker, says March 26th was the winery's tenth anniversary, but the shutdown halted their plans for a celebration. They were not expecting a long-term closure and also had plans for renovations and expansion in 2020. As weeks dragged on, however, Baker and wife Kathy became concerned about the impact to the winery and whether people would feel comfortable resuming visits and wine tastings. Selling from the winery online and to local liquor stores, Chateau Niagara offered free shipping and curbside pickup, resulting in selling out of three of their wines. Their location and increased online and social media presence have actually garnered new customers.

“We have had a 30 percent increase in sales over last year,” Baker notes. “This is due to the large growth in our wine club and customers who would have gone to Canada to purchase wine but were unable to because of the border being closed.”

In late October, at the time of these interviews, both wineries were operating their tasting rooms under the NY guidelines: mandatory masks, social distancing, limiting how many people could access the tasting room, thorough sanitizing between guests, etc.

Chateau Niagara cannot accommodate groups of more than eight in the tasting room, and reservations are recommended.

At Red Tail Ridge this means reorga-

nizing the tasting room into three designated tasting “booths” and taking online reservations for appointments. They have been offering outdoor seating under a tent and on the grounds for on-premises glasses of wine and have done online wine tastings and industry classes for wine club members.

What about plans for 2021? With the virus still a serious health threat, wineries really aren't able to make solid plans at this time. NY State is evaluating daily COVID19 cases throughout the state to monitor hot spots, increasing requirements in those zones to curtail the spread.

Both Red Tail Ridge and Chateau Niagara say that they will continue with their current operations (as guidelines allow,) and Red Tail Ridge is hoping to build a permanent outdoor shelter next year to replace the tent. Both have just released their winter wine club offerings, and the 2020 growing season was near-perfect for grapes.

Both wineries agree that the silver lining to 2020's challenges was finding ways to connect better with visitors, citing in particular the smaller tasting format that creates a more “intimate” and “personal” experience.

“First and foremost, though,” notes Tschappat, “we just want to make sure everyone is safe.”

For more information or to make reservations at these wineries, visit www.RedTailRidgeWinery.com and www.ChateauNiagaraWinery.com.

For information on other regional wineries and their operations and guidelines, winery lists are available on wine trail websites: www.niagarawinetrail.org; www.fingerlakeswinecountry.org; www.lakeontariowinetrail.com.

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Life Together - The illumination of darkness

Rev. Matthew Martin Nickoloff

The darkness is a loom on which you weave the starry night
Darkness is a mother's womb that gives birth to new life



Photo by Asa Schutts of Schutts Productions

Too often, in our racially coded way of understanding the world, darkness means evil, and light means goodness. My own religious tradition celebrates a wintry season of Advent by lighting candles, celebrating the coming of what St. John the Evangelist named the "light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome." As the days dwindle and the night lengthens, humans across culture have sought the comfort of light to mitigate the uncertainties of long winter nights.

And yet, despite the medieval world's obsession with light, contemporary science increasingly paints a picture of the universe whose details COULD not be known but for a backdrop of darkness. Despite its theoretical nature, its widely speculated that the phenomenon of dark matter soundly outnumbers that which is visible, serving as an unseen and unsung foundation for all that we perceive and know. Wise spirituality would do well to listen to such dispatches from the frontiers of science, as well as from its mystical past, acknowledging that for masters from Buddha and Socrates to St. John of the Cross and Fr. Richard Rohr, it is acknowledgment and embrace of the unknown and the uncertain that provides a womb for the midwifing of true wisdom.

When we fetishize and mythologize the imagery of illumination, we expose ourselves proportionally to the possibility of ignorance.

Recall the last time you went for a walk in the dead of night. For me, I recall the full moon reflecting off a fresh coat of snow at St. Benedict's Trappist Monastery, outside of Vail, Colorado. As someone discerning (and ultimately turning away from) a possible monastic vocation, I embraced the call to participate in the daily rhythm of life of the brothers - a rhythm that included waking up at 3:30 a.m. in order to walk a mile down the mountainside from my visitor's hermitage to the motherhouse on the other side of the valley. Surrounded by 13,000 foot plus mountains shadowed against the clear Rocky Mountain sky, the dirt path was at once effervescent and yet tenuous. Every step felt like an adventure, like a pilgrimage - and every step was also a peril, a potential twisted ankle. Look up at the pristine constella-

tions for too long, and you might wander into a pathside cactus or makeshift drainage ditch.

There is something tempting about the darkness. Not even at the level of esoteric arcane knowledge. Something as simple as being freed from the nightly compulsion to check the news on my phone one last time before bed. To shut off the blue glow of screens and of stimulation and to rest in the naturalness of the lack of light, in the right-sized-ness of human limitation - to know that I do not know what I do not know. To rest and close my eyes in the knowledge of my liminality, my human capacity for infinite unknowing - a state that often engenders deep sleep and even dreams bordering on the visionary and prophetic - our subconsciousness and our bodies beg us daily to embrace the darkness of our body's and our brain's blessedly limited resources.

In the light of dimming the lights, darkness is most illuminating. It slows us down. It stills us. It awakens other senses we are used to taking for granted or outright ignoring. As poet and spiritual writer Jan Richardson expresses so aptly,

There are other senses, you tell us, and when the darkness obscures our choices, we must turn to other ways of knowing you have given us.

In the daylight we can get on by sight, but for the nighttime is our hearing, is our tasting, is our smelling, is our questioning, longing touching.

A thousand messages waiting

for our sensing you have given us.
(from *Night Visions*, Orlando: Wanton Gospeller Press, 1998)

Willful ignorance of the facts of reality - the realities of the pervasiveness of a white supremacist worldview, the outright horror of the educational disparities between our urban and suburban school districts, the scars and graves dug by police brutality, the empty chairs at our tables because of the current pandemic - is not a virtue. If anything, it is an angel of light posing as knowledge in an effort to numb us to reality, to dry out the seed of new life before it can sink into the rich, dark hummus of nourishment. But uncertainty, unknowing, openness, humility, awe, wonder, openness - these are the fruits that can grow anew in the shadowy soil of winter.

The next few months will be time of darkness, both physical and spiritual. We do not know how many will yet die before the vaccine arrives, how many jobs will be lost, how many students will fall behind. We applaud slogans of "build back better," yet are unsure how to take the next faithful step. We cannot escape

that even a pandemic cannot distract us from the seemingly endless iron curtain of winter that stifles our souls in Upstate New York every winter.

And. We have the capacity, as individuals and in community, to seek the luminosity of this present darkness. To reject immature dualism and Star Wars' level dichotomies, and instead, to acknowledge that for all of our knowledge, we are blessedly and blissfully ignorant. Not because we reject science, spirituality or society. But because such is the path to true progress in all of these.

Darkness can be terrifying. It can also be the loom on which is woven new possibilities, the soil in which is planted seeds of fresh courage and innovation, the womb in which your next steps are being gestated and midwived into existence.

Embrace the darkness. All that is yet unknown and uncertain. Hibernate here. And wait, with hope, at what is yet to be born, in you and in the world we share. Until the Lilacs bloom again.




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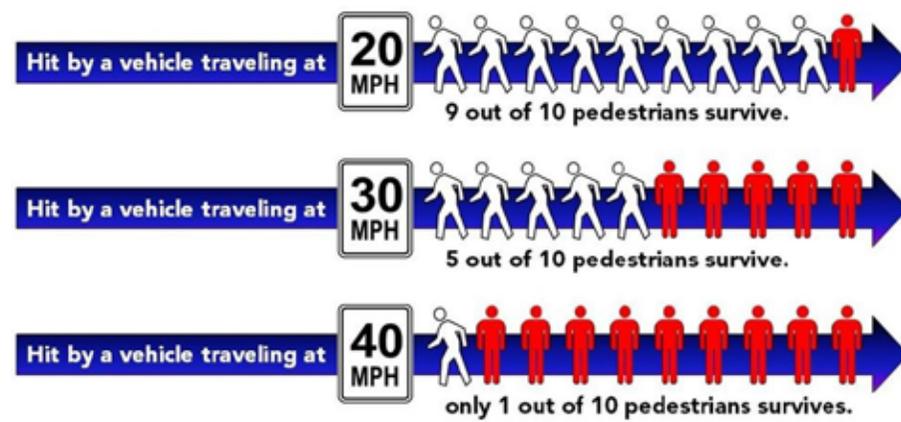
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SUJANA BEAUTY & BROWS

Look your best this holiday season or give a gift certificate. 697 South Avenue, 732.4432.



EXPECT THE BEST AT ELLWANGER ESTATE

It's more than a bed, more than a breakfast, it is the Rochester Experience. It's comfortable lavish living and home to all! Gift Certificates online at www.ellwangerestate.com. www.ellwangerestate.com or call 585-314-1793.

THE CUB ROOM

The fine dining restaurant is pausing until the after the first of the year. Check on Facebook for updates. 739 S. Clinton Avenue, 363-5694.

TRU YOGA

Yoga, Restorative Body Work, Acoustic Yoga, ASL Interpreted Yoga and more. Visit them online at truyoga.com for information about virtual and in person classes. 683 South Ave.

PURE SOLE NAILS

Give a gift of non-toxic gel and regular manicures and pedicures. 684 South Avenue, 364.2099.

BAUMAN'S BARBER

A free haircut can be the best kind of gift for a man who has everything. 732 South Avenue, 473.6061.

CINEMA THEATER

Closed for now, but our membership dollars will help keep the Cinema's doors ready to open. 957 South Clinton Ave., 585.271.1786, www.cinemarochester.com.

HEDONIST CHOCOLATES & ICE CREAM Give the gift of sweetness--artisan chocolates, chocolate bark, Drinking Chocolate flavors: Cinnamon Chipotle, Bittersweet, Lavender Lemongrass. Open daily 10 am-9 pm. Chocolate and ice cream can be ordered online www.hedonist-chocolates.com and can be picked up curbside. Orders are ready same day and when you arrive at the shop just call 585.461.2815 and your order will be placed outside on our pick-up table. 674 South Ave.



ST. JOSEPH HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY Donate in a friend's name and buy a meal for the hungry. 402 South Avenue, 232.3262.

MARY K COSMETICS w/ MICHELE MARTELL

Holiday makeovers and Satin hands & lips treatments. Gifts Services include gift certificates and customized gifts for all price points. Complimentary delivery. www.marykay.com/michelemartell 857.1297.

CHESHIRE

Take out classic cocktails. 647 South Avenue, 232.4909.

POSEY LETTERPRESS

Stationery, business cards and custom gifts and invitations. Make an appointment 355.9768 or email poseyletterpress@gmail.com.

BOULDER COFFEE CO.

Nothing says happy holidays more than coffee, cocktails and good food. Come grab a gift card that wraps all those into one! 100 Alexander St., 454-7140.

999 MARKET

Try their famous wings, fresh deli meats and cold subs. Call in order. 709 South Clinton Avenue, 473-8383.

HIGHLAND MARKET

Breakfast sandwiches. Hot and cold subs. Burgers, hots, fish fries. 830 South Avenue, 271.8555.

OUR ADVERTISERS ARE THE BEST!

Thanks for your support!



STUART'S SPICES

Spice gifts for your foodie friends and family, starting at ten dollars and up. Hostess gifts, secret Santa, stocking stuffers, we have it all! 754 S Clinton Ave. StuartsSpices.com.



THE ARTFUL GARDENER

The Artful Gardener offers unique gifts for the holidays with hand-made world goods and American Crafts including the work of local artists. Visit the website for hours, COVID precautions and to browse products. Ordering by phone and curbside pick-up available! 727 Mt. Hope Ave. www.theArtfulGardenerNY.com.

BRADLEY JAMES

Stop by and see what this premier design shop can offer--floral arrangements for corporate events, weddings and special events. Now expanded (they've added the space of the former Relish restaurant). Assorted candles and holders and home goods. 653 South Avenue, 243.5544.



TIME FOR WINE & SPIRITS

Choose from a wide selection of wines and spirits. Shop local for your holiday social distancing. 661 South Ave., 319-5159.

SCHRADERS' GARAGE

Over 85+ years of Trusted Family Service. Give the gift of an oil change. 686 South Clinton Avenue, 271.5179, schradersgarage.com.

ABUNDANCE CO-OP

Not just a food market, it's a way of life. Healthy groceries and grooming aids for everyone. Give the gift of a membership or gift yourself. 571 South Ave., www.abundance-coop.com.

JUST BROWSING

Great gift ideas. Eyebrow sculpting, tinting, microblading, women's retail and gifts. For more info, visit justbrowsing.co or email justbrowsing@ingroc@gmail.com. 389 Gregory St.

ST. JOSEPH NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Buy the gift of good health care for someone else. 417 South Avenue, 325.5260.

McCANN'S LOCAL MEATS

MEAT! MEAT! MEAT! There's prepared foods, but start with the meats. 739 S. Clinton Ave., Call EAT-MEAT.

SOUTH WEDGE FARMERS MARKET

Give the gift of healthy eating with market tokens. Call 256-2740, x5 or email info@swfm.org to arrange a time to get yours!



NATURAL PET FOODS

Natural Pet Foods is committed to the health and wellness of your pet. 766 S Clinton Ave., 530-3371.



CHRISTOPHER GROUP

Stop killing yourself over taxes and bookkeeping. Let the Christopher Group suffer for you and do the work. 473 South Ave., 325-7351.



CHEESY EDDIE'S

Try Cheesy Eddie's Bourbon Cream cheesecake, and consider it for a gift! It will be remembered! 602 South Avenue, with a 2nd location at the Regional Market! 585-473-1300.

STARS & STRIPES FLAG STORE

Clothing for men and women, caps, flags and gifts. 455 South Avenue, 546-3524.

KIM'S SHAGGY TO CHIC

Why not treat fur friends to a spa day so they can look and smell their best for this Holiday season. Gift Certificates available, Call 585-355-4761, 1010 S. Clinton Avenue.

AXOM

Urban modern furniture, gifts, books, jewelry and more. 661 South Ave., visit axomhome.com.



HIOCAMPO CHILDREN'S BOOK STORE

Enjoy this independent woman/Latinx-owned children's bookstore in the South Wedge. Varied collection of books represent the rich cultures and languages of western NY as well as toys and children's apparel. 638 South Ave. 461-0161.



LITTLE BUTTON CRAFTS

Handmade gifts 445-8224 from local artists make it especially special, yarn, jewelry, clothing, letterpress cards, 658 South Avenue, 371-7891.

LIBERTY TAX SERVICE

Great customer service, knowledgeable help for the tax season. 686 South Avenue, 461-1040.

SURFACE SALON

Cut, color, microblading. Give the gift of a new look. 661 South Avenue, 360.4446.

SOUTH WEDGE BARBER

Haircuts for the whole family. Pets welcome. Call for hours. 720 South Ave, 473-5570.

JULIANNA

Coloring, styling, waxing manicures, makeup, bridal passages. 656 South Ave., 376-0483.

COFFEE CONNECTION

A South Wedge nonprofit for women in recovery from substance abuse. Organic, fair trade coffee (both regular and flavored) and gift certificates. Curbside pickup available. Hours: M-Sat. 9 am - 3 pm. 681 South Avenue. 585.442.2180.



RENEWING MASSAGE

Holiday gift certificates for a Renewing-Massage are a great way to take the stress out of the holidays - for you and for the person you give to! Simple, easy and greatly appreciated at only \$50 for an hour or \$30 for 30 minutes. 709 6725, www.renewing-massage.com.

GLOVERS BARBER SHOP

Haircuts for seniors (\$6) and college students (\$8). 700 South Avenue, 244-8928.

THE PETIX TEAM

Want to sell or buy a house in the new year? Call 738.1945 or 203.9421.

PRINT ROC

Treat yourself to new business cards, 620 South Avenue, 461-2556.

EQUAL=GROUNDS

All people are created equal, all coffee is not! Equal=Grounds Coffee House offers fair trade and organic coffees and teas for sale by the pound and half pound. Check online for updated hours. 750 South Ave. 256-2362, www.equalgrounds.com.

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 for a list of meetings.



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www.lifespanrochester.org
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585-244-8400

A YEAR IN THE WEDGE



COVID's impacted SWPC's annual fundraising drive.



Christina Jones at Historic Houseparts on South Avenue captured the spirit of 2020 (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale)



Hipocamo Children's Bookstore opens on South Avenue and continues selling during the pandemic.



SWPC says goodbye and thank you to Ann and Felton Culbreth who stepped down as South Wedge Victory Garden managers after many years.



Tom O'Connell reached out to the WEDGE and wrote a story, "The Boys of Swillburg," that reminded readers of a different time and place (Photo courtesy of Tom O'Connell)



The South Wedge Farmers Market Moves to Odd Fellows Parking Lot on Gregory Street



Vetter's Beef



After the death of George Floyd in Minnesota and Daniel Prude in Rochester, the community rose up in protest. The statue of Nathaniel Rochester, enslaver and slave trader, was defaced in Nathaniel Square park as a protest (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale)



South Wedge residents held a pandemic yard sale on Mt. Hope Avenue (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale)



Good City Soil Project founder brought over the good stuff for local gardeners. (1-r) Chris Widmaier and Jennifer J. Jones (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale)



The community gathers in the historic Calvary St. Andrews Church for a sewing bee. The group sewed grocery bags for the South Wedge Food pantry.



Abundance Coop gets a mural from Shawn Dunwoody (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale)

South Wedge, Swillburg and Highland Park Neighborhoods 2020



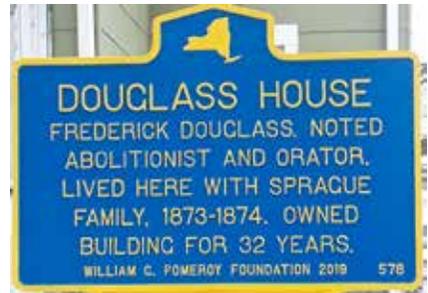
Halloween pandemic style with tables and tubes being used to carry on with the tradition. (Photos by Elizabeth Henderson)



The South Wedge Victory Garden continued growing with masks and social distancing. The gardeners organized a bucket brigade to bring in good soil in June. (Photos by Cassandra Kelly)



When the pandemic hit, requests for food and toilet paper skyrocketed at The South Wedge Food Pantry. (Photo by Katie Jo Suddaby)



Frederick Douglass's daughter home gets recognition. It stands at the corner of Hamilton and Bond Streets