

# THE WEDGE

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

## South Wedge Farmers Market Opens!

Chad Flint, market manager



The South Wedge Market is back for our 18th season, opening on Thursday, June 15 from 4 to 7 pm and will run every Thursday night through September 14. The market starts its 4th season in the Odd Fellows Lodge parking lot at 357 Gregory Street. We will be welcoming a great mix of both new and long-time vendors for the 2023 season. Backyard Garden returns this season with all of their great fruit, produce, and they also will be our main bread vendor this year, along with offering a few other baked goods. Two new vendors join the market this season with produce arriving from Porter Farms in Elba, NY as well as Eggs 'n Honey from Prattsburgh, NY. Both will be at the market every other week. Botanical Ben returns with microgreens and mushrooms to round out the produce and fruit offerings at the market each week. We will have baked goods galore this season with many new vendors joining

us including Olivia Bryn Cakes, The Gluten Free Chef, Flyin' High Bakery, #CharlottesArmy, Confetti Yeti Cakery, and Selena's Sweets. Not every baker will be at the market each week, but you will be able to find a wide variety of baked goods each and every week. Market regulars return to the market this year. Flint's Maple, Fiddlehead Farm, Mark and Amy's Pickles, Sister Dolores, Patty's Petals, Spirit and Abundance, Divine Ember Naturals, Estrella De Tierra and Tree Hugger Hard Cider will be bringing a wide range of great local products. New vendors joining the market this year include: Garner Farms, Fig and Soda Pottery and OSHi GHEE who offers local Bengali style ghee (it is always great to have new things to try at the market!) We are also excited to be able to offer fresh pasture-raised pork and chicken, as well as even more eggs, each and every week thanks to Garner Farms.

Pottery returns to the market this year, and we are very excited to welcome Fig and Soda Pottery on a few nights this season. Shoppers will be able to get coffee from Found Coffee as well as pizza from Freddie's Wood Fired Pizzas each and every week at the market to enjoy while you shop or take home for dinner. We will have a handful of other local businesses, as well as local non-profits, join the market on different weeks throughout the season to let you know about all the different services they offer. Follow the market on social media--@SouthWedgeFarmersMarket--or on the web--swfm.org--to keep up to date on which vendors will be at the market each week. Interested in helping out with the market as a volunteer, please contact chadflint33@gmail.com for more information.

Inside this issue	
Freddie's Wood Fired Pizza	3
Blanche Calloway Honored	4
Pollinators on Hickory St Patrol	6
Holocaust Memorial	9
A New Cheshire Cocktail Bar	10
City Councilmembers Speak Out	10

## Collaborative Vision Leads to Provisions on Culver Road



Do you love the South Wedge Market? Don't you wish there was a place where you could buy local goods from vendors more than once a week for a few hours a day? We have a solution for you! Three vendors at the South Wedge Market every season are working together to open Provisions@JensArtisan, at 1316 Culver Road sandwiched between the North Winton Village and Beechwood neighborhoods. Chad Flint (Flint's Maple), Jen Dondero (Bread@JensArtisan) and Ben Reiter (Botanical Ben) have joined together to create a store offering the best in local goods, including fresh bread, baked goods, produce, fruit, honey, maple syrup, and so many other great products, all made locally by small businesses. Many of these businesses you can find at the local markets and events around the city. Provisions will be a mix of old-time general store and a farm market stand. Plans are moving along, with an opening date scheduled for June 1st! Final preparations inside the store are currently underway, and soon the paper on the inside of the windows will be gone and customers can stop in and grab all the amazing products that local small businesses in this city have to offer. Follow @provisionsRoc on Instagram and Facebook or head to provisions@JensArtisan.com and see more information. 1316A Culver Road

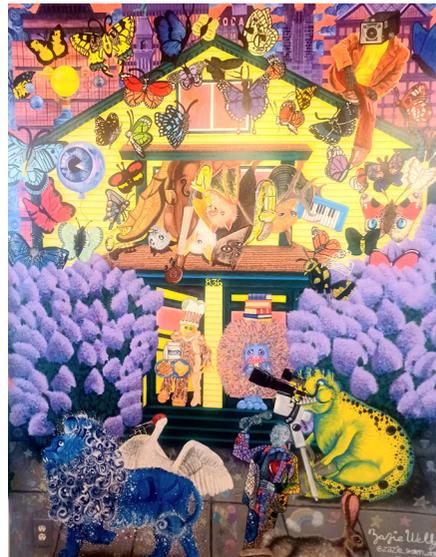
## Bookeaters Bookshop & Cafe Opens on South Clinton Avenue

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Chad Ellis' long-time dream of owning a bookshop was realized in May when he and partner/chef Peter Mastrodonato opened Bookeater Bookshop & Cafe on South Clinton in May. "I've always been a lover of books," said Ellis. "I want [Bookeater] to be an opportunity for people not just to browse but spend their day here."

Now up and running, Ellis is getting his wish. Bookeater is filled with readers and eaters and work-from-home people tapping away at their computers. Inside the door, a huge wall mural from artist Zazie Weldgen welcomes customers. Nearby, the room holds a welcoming couch, a table and chairs, a counter topped with pastries

cont'd on page 5



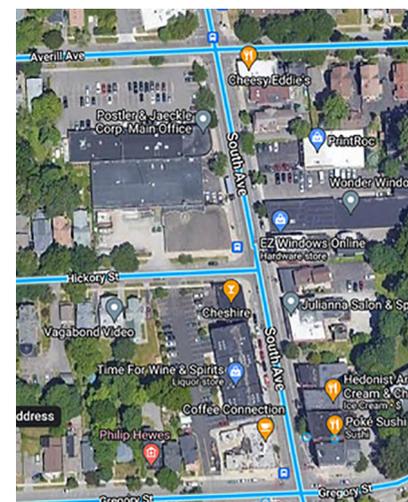
Artist Zazie Weldgen describes her mural at Bookeater on her Instagram @zazie\_stolen\_donut: "The mural is all acrylic painted on a 75-inch wide by a 105-inch tall wall. It was kind of daunting because it is by far the largest thing I have ever painted in my life... But, I think it was the best job I have ever worked. I have never felt happier waking up in the morning knowing that I would get to work on art for the whole day and get paid for it."

## South Wedge Fest Returns Bigger and Better on Sat. Aug. 19

Join us for the 2nd annual South Wedge Fest on Saturday, Aug. 19. Come for a wildly entertaining Pet Parade and stay for a street full of arts & crafts booths along with the businesses lining the avenue, yummy food, and music from a variety of genres.

Thanks to sponsors Highland Hospital, First Group/First Student, Episcopal Senior Life, City of Rochester, Community Preservation Corporation, Ryan Heating/Cooling, Abundance Co-op. and Veteran's Outreach.

11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
South Avenue  
(Gregory Street to Averill Ave)



# Clean Sweep 2023

Glynis Valenti

Thank you to all the Clean Sweep volunteers who came out on a rainy Saturday morning to spruce up the South Wedge and the city," said Glynis Valenti, SWPC executive director. "Many thanks, too, to team leaders Lisa Reagan, Jayne Morgan, and Rose O'Keefe for coordinating the projects, volunteers, and tools."

The City of Rochester Clean Sweep is held on a Saturday each spring at Innovative Field before they head out for assignments in city neighborhoods.



Bruce Brown and Cynthia Clanton picked up Mount Hope from Hamilton to Gregory.

Photos by Glynis Valenti



The Robinson family cleaned Mount Hope and South Ave. from Alexander St. to Byron St. (l-r) Lucien, Hazel, Tilly, and Katrina.



Hickory NUTS residents, (l-r) Gary Loitsch, Peter Siegrist, Manuel Ortolaza (from the SE City Neighborhood Service Center) and Walter Ketchum spent the morning filling the street's pollinator project planters with compost.



Volunteer Jeff B. worked on Star Alley, South Ave. and Sanford St.



**Cheesy Eddies, 5% off**  
602 South Avenue

**Happy Earth Tea, 10% off**  
696 South Avenue

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

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

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

**Mark's Texas Hots**  
Open 24 hours!  
10% reg menu item  
487 Monroe Avenue

## The WEDGE Newspaper

Nancy O'Donnell Hale, editor  
thewedge@swpc.org  
585.256.7640, ext. 4

### Writers

Chad Flint, LaShay Harris, Mike Henry, Mary Lupien, Michele H. Martell, Nancy O'Donnell Hale, Glynis Valenti, Merriya Valleri

### Photographers

Nancy O'Donnell Hale, Gerry Szymanski, Glynis Valenti

### Copy editor

Anne Logan

### CONTACT

E-mail staff, type first initial, last name@swpc.org  
South Wedge Planning Committee  
224 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester, NY 14620  
585.256.1740, ext. 4

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, June, August, October and December, The WEDGE has a readership of 13,500. Originally a print publication, it publishes electronically at www.swpc.org in Spring 2020, and is today posted to multiple outlets and listservs. It also provides a hard copy to members.

Please send story ideas or news to the WEDGE, 224 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620 or email thewedge@swpc.org. Advertising deadlines and rates are available online at www.swpc.org or call 585.256.1740, ext. 4.

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

## Get the Wedge!

For 41 years, The Wedge Newspaper has chronicled the lives and times of the vibrant South Wedge neighborhood and beyond. Please consider becoming a WEDGE supporter. You'll get the issue or printed and emailed to your home and a WEDGE card, too.

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.**

## SWPC 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.*

## SWPC Board Members

Frank Logan, chair  
Lindsey Allen, vice chair  
Anthony Sciarabba, treasurer  
Jeff Carlson, Jr., secretary  
Joel Elliott  
Alvin Lomibao  
Jennifer Posey  
Robert Marvin

## Honorary Board Members

Mitchell Dannenberg, John Dennis, Joe DiDonato, Cheryl Stevens

## Staff

Glynis Valenti, executive director  
Chad Flint, market manager  
Myeisha Wesson, construction manager

## South Wedge Planning Committee Meetings

The community is invited to attend all SWPC meetings held at 224 Mount Hope Ave. (Hamilton St. entrance)

## June/July Calendar

**SWPC Board Wed. 6 p.m.**  
June 21, July 19  
For info, email  
flogan@rochester.rr.com

## Community Engagement (Neighbors & Block Clubs)

**Wed. 5:30 p.m. June 28, July 26**  
gvalenti@swpc.org

## 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. It works in a myriad of ways to build community through the annual South Wedge Farmers Market, 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.

# Business Buzz

## SWPC Farmers Market Snags Rochester's Only "French Chef on Wheels"

**Nancy O'Donnell Hale**

Freddie's Wood Fired Pizza has attracted quite a following at the South Wedge Farmers Market from the fall and winter pop-up markets to the Market's summer season (the 18th season begins June 15). Every Thursday Freddie aka Frederic Lossa parks his bright red food truck in front of the Odd Fellows Club on Gregory St., throws logs in the oven, and preps for some outstanding pizza making (just ask his fanbase). Lossa, a native of Marseilles, France, emigrated to Fairport, NY, with his family when he was 12. He travelled back and forth six times to France and later when he decided he wanted a career in hotel management with a minor in culinary arts, he studied at L'école Hôtelière de Marseille Bonneveine. In France, he worked as a chef on the French Riviera.

When he returned to the US, Lossa cooked at the historic McCrady's Tavern and Long Room in Charleston, South Carolina. The Tavern, built in 1778, once hosted a 30-course dinner for President George Washington.

In Rochester Lossa and his father, Serge, launched a home catering business. He ran the kitchen at Bacco's Italian restaurant on Park Avenue (now The Classic Kitchen & Cocktails) and worked for a time for The Brasserie, an upscale bistro in downtown Rochester, now replaced by Max of Eastman. A D&C article about the Brasserie credited the restaurant with energizing "the city's cultural district around the Eastman Theatre."

After contributing to Rochester's culinary scene, Lossa took off his chef's apron and launched a career in database and software and co-founding SophiTEC, Inc. in Pittsford with his father.

When the food truck era exploded, Lossa took note.

"In France and Italy, pizza food trucks are all over, but I didn't see them here," said Lossa.

With the same discernment he's shown over the years in high end restaurants, Lossa invested some \$80K in customizing a food truck and installed a wood-fired oven inside. Freddie's Wood Fired Pizza was launched in 2021 just in time for the pandemic. However, a kitchen open to the air and built for takeout worked in his favor.

"I began going once a week to the Village of Fairport," said Lossa, who said he does no advertising. "I get



Freddie's Wood Fired Pizza truck travels around Rochester and farther afield

[customers] through word of mouth."

"My specialty is my red sauce," said Freddie. "It's out of this world." His special recipe—understandably he won't reveal any of the secret ingredients—takes "4-5 hours" to reach perfection.

Along with his gig at the South Wedge Farmers Market on Thursdays, he twirls pizza dough at other spots around the area for special events. During the Lilac Festival, Lossa set up near 3 Heads Brewery where pizza lovers who couldn't make it out could also order via Door Dash. In April, he worked Rochester's Artists Open Market at Innovation Square, Fairfield Common in Pittsford and the Food Truck Rodeo.

Lossa also takes his pizza on the road. In May he was in Penn Yan selling a "5

Hour Lamb Pizza" to go with Relative Risks Brewing Company's newest IPA. He also travels to Manchester, NY for a Food Truck Friday.

While his pizza truck is on the move, March through November, during winter months he works in IT.

He recently bought a house in the 19th Ward, and he's been busy renovating but that doesn't keep him from thinking about changing up his rolling kitchen. "Maybe ice cream?"

"What I make resonates with people. [My pizza] has really taken off," Lossa said. "I'm pretty loyal. Even as I travel around. I'll keep coming here in the South Wedge."



Freddie Lossa at work

# RIVER EDGE MANOR

## Senior Living Designed by Me

Boutique-style independent living for seniors

Irene, River Edge Manor Resident

Your style, your choice. Enjoy health and wellness programs while choosing your desired services.

# Swillburg News

Mike Henry

As always with Spring, when Winter's dormancy yields, things become kinetic. So, it is with life in Swillburg. Happy Spring! Two neighborhood events over the years traditionally mark this seasonal passage: Clean Sweep and United Way Day of Caring. On April 20th Swillburg neighbors were joined by volunteers from McQuaid High School and many others from outside Swillburg to participate in the annual Clean Sweep. Thanks to Meagan Critelli and Dave Fergusson for coordinating us this year. Despite the drizzle (which eventually subsided) and cold morning, our energies were high, and we accomplished a great deal at the Bloom Garden (Monroe and Field St.) and Otto Henderberg Park, both relieved of multiple bags of debris and detritus. Besides beautifying these we enjoyed teamwork with new acquaintances of all ages. Of course, we express thanks to Mayor Evans, and the city departments that coordinated the event and provided lots of materials! A special shout out to Erica Hernandez and Manny Ortolaza for their support through the South East Neighborhood Service Center. Later, on May 9th, Swillburg volunteers were joined by five University of Rochester librarians to participate in the United Way Day of Caring. This was the eighth year the U of R has sent staff to help with Spring gardening projects. In particular we worked at the School 35 Community

Garden as well as with Marsden Fox at the Labyrinth Garden on Henrietta Street. This is quite a festive event as we worked and visited. At noon we were provided lunch compliments of Wegmans. Thanks to neighbors Sarah Keyes and JoAnne O'Neill for coordinating this and to Judy Hay for her logistic and gardening support! Now onto summer.

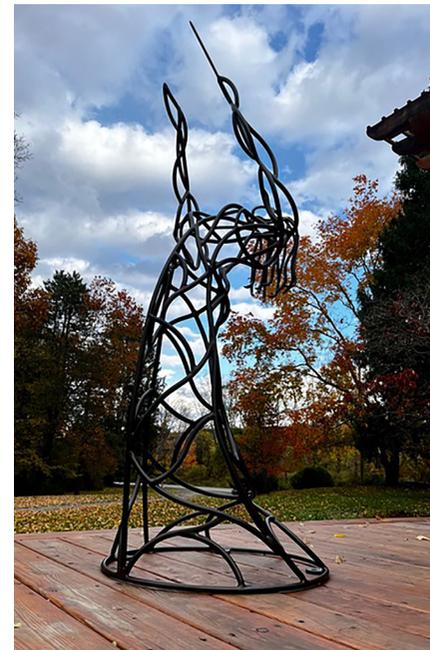
Come June 17th we'll have our annual picnic at Otto Henderberg Park from 12 to 3:00 p.m. This year it will be more celebratory by the unveiling of a memorial sculpture by artist Stacey Mrva dedicated to Blanche Calloway, a composer, jazz singer, recording artist and leader of an all-male band called the Joys Boys. As a woman of color her contributions to the field of music were often overshadowed by the career of her famous jazz singer and band leader brother Cab Calloway. A monument and plaque honoring him also has a place in the park. Blanche was a member of NAACP and Congress for Racial Equality, active in the Civil Rights Movement and served on the Board of the National Urban League.

Mayor Malik Evans, Simeon Bannister from the Rochester Area Community Foundation, Eric Van Dussen from ESL Federal Credit Union, Brigette Wales from Swillburg, Sara Scott from the City of the Rochester and a host of other city dignitaries will be present for the celebration. We invite anyone who's interested to join us. JBesides

the unveiling of the statue honoring Calloway, we'll have food from Bubbie's BBQ, special dessert cookies from Shayla J'S Dessert and Bistro and live music from Uptown Jazz. The Monroe Fire Department will be on the scene with their truck to delight the children. Lots of activities and games for children will also be available through a special donation from Aria Strategies on South Clinton Avenue.

The Swillburg Neighborhood Association's SWAG shop will be open during the day, so festivalgoers can purchase Blanche T-shirts and mugs plus lots of Swillburg swag. Publicity for the event is provided by our creative marketing director, Josh Jacobs. This event so reflects the joy of community volunteerism and collaboration. Our esteemed community organizer and SNA leader, Judy Hay, skillfully led and inspired the SNA Steering Committee to make this project a reality. She appealed to many agencies for monetary grants and worked with the South East Area Coalition as our 501 (c)3 community fiduciary. And, most importantly, the artists sculptor Stacey Mrva, of Ironwood Studio, and stonemason Mike Santini have rendered us superb works with the creation of the sculpture and stone plaza.

We hope you'll join us to celebrate Blanche Calloway on June 17th, from 12 noon to 3 P.M., Otto Henderberg Park, 4 Sycamore Street.



**Statue honors jazz singer Blanche Calloway at Otto Henderberg Sq. Pk.**

A statue, designed by artist Stacey Mrva that honors jazz singer and band leader Blanche Calloway, now soars in Otto Henderberg Square Park in Swillburg. Calloway (1902-1978) was born in Rochester and later moved to Baltimore with her family. In a D&C article about her life, Calloway is described as an "influence and inspiration" to her brother Cab. She started her own career as a jazz singer in Baltimore before moving to Chicago "at a time few women took on this role, especially Black women," and was bandleader for "Blanche Calloway and the Joy Boys." She was active in the Civil Rights Movement and is said "to be the first Black woman to voice in Miami in 1958."

## Walking for Rochester Works to Build Community and Clean Streets

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

This article first appeared in the May/June 2023 issue of 585 Magazine.

Six years ago, Matt Apple was walking to his corporate job. Still on a baby high-son Maddox had turned one—he noticed an unhappy disconnect between the community his son would grow up in and litter-strewn streets.

"I wondered how I could inspire the community to do something about it," said Apple. "I decided on a few solutions—community cleaning events, a volunteer program and corporate cleanups."

Apple launched his nonprofit, Walking for Rochester (WFR), in 2020, and he invested \$10,000 of his own money to buy equipment so that volunteers could just show up at an event and started picking up trash.

Clean ups started in 2021 when he invited people on "a mission to transform the community one neighborhood at a time" and arranged meet ups at Blossom Road Pub, O'Callaghan's Pub and Roam Café on Park Ave., Cheshire on South Ave. and Three Heads Brewing on Atlantic Ave. At every event he brought "a reward wheel" and with a turn of the wheel volunteers won prizes—candy, gift cards, green products—all provided by the local businesses.

That year he held 6 community cleanups and gathered 55 total volunteers. A year later, 33 community cleanups attracted 164 volunteers. This year Apple's estimates WFR will hold at least 50 community cleanups with over 200 volunteers."

WFR's volunteer program started in 2022 when he contacted the County Public Defender's office and local half-



Matt Apple and son Maddox

way houses, offering to connect clients who needed to give community hours with areas that needed tidying up.

"We claim we are New York state's most convenient volunteer program," said Apple. "We deliver gloves, bags and grabbers. They download the "Walking for Rochester" app and track their work on their schedule at their convenience. They can pick up litter when and where it's easiest for them in their own neighborhoods. No set hours, no set schedule, no money, no car needed, and we provide legal documentation to courtrooms and lawyers on behalf of their clients. Last year, we proudly accumulated 263 hours from this program, more hours than all the group cleanups combined."

WFR's third solution is similar to its

cont'd on pg. 10



Notables join to cut the ribbon on the newly renovated Richards House on South Avenue. The facility is an extension of the Veterans Outreach Center and provides housing and services to homeless vets. Photo, (l-r) Lolly Beikirch, wife of Gary Beikirch; John Polito, from Congressman Joe Morelle's office. Nick Stefanovic, Director of Monroe County Veteran Service Agency, Alec Andrest, Director of Program Operations at VOC; Stephanie Beikirch, daughter of Gary Beikirch; Laura Heltz, Executive Director VOC; Tom Richards, former Mayor of Rochester; Dana Greenberg, President of the Homeless Housing and Assistance Corporation; Joe Robach, from NY Sen. Robert Ort's office; Bruce Tucker, Executive Director of the VA Finger Lakes Health Care System; Ellen Adams, Chair of VOC Board of Directors (photo - Glynis Valenti)

## Rochester Pride Events

**Events Schedule**  
**Pride Parade**  
**Park Avenue**  
Sat. July 15, 1 pm

**ROC Pride Fest**  
**Cobbs Hills Park**  
after the parade until 8 pm

- Food, wine & beer
- Games and activities
- Vendor tables
- Live music and performances

# Rochester Real Beer Expo Moves Downtown on June 10

Local South Wedge business owners have joined forces through the Business Association of the South Wedge (BASWA) for the 11th annual Rochester Real Beer Expo on Sat., June 10 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 pm. Pre-event VIP/Preview hour at 5:00 pm. This year's Beer Expo moves out of the South Wedge to downtown's Innovative Field.



Real Beer Expo 2023 features 65 breweries, cideries, kombucha producers, and other craft beverage makers. There will be an increased focus on local breweries (about 10 more than last year), as well as non-alcoholic offerings. All with the backdrop of Rochester's finest live local musicians. The change of venue allows for expanded brewery options, covered areas in case of bad weather, ample seating, on-site parking and ballpark concessions and restrooms. BASWA will offer a free shuttle

bus from the Wedge to the venue. All of the proceeds from this event are rolled back into the South Wedge neighborhood revitalization projects undertaken by BASWA. Projects include public art, community events, improvements to our street lighting and sidewalk furniture, public landscaping and parks maintenance.

For details of the 74 (!!!) breweries, 3 bands, and other entertainment check out BASWA's website and pick up your tickets while you are there! <https://www.rochesterrealbeer.com/>.



United Way Day of Caring volunteers work on the Labyrinth Garden (Chuck Youll)

## Bookeater *cont'd from page 1*

from Baker Street Bakery and an espresso machine, and juices from Just Juice. Upstairs there are cozy private nooks for reading or game playing.

"We found the artist at the RICE comic convention," said Ellis who invited her to cover the shop's wall with wild colors. Bookeater now joins a handful of independent bookstores in Rochester. "Most are smaller and cater to a niche," Ellis said. "Ours is general interest."

Right now, the shop carries fiction, nonfiction, manga, graphic novels, fantasy and food related books. While Ellis is the book finder --he earned an English major at SUNY Geneseo before he moved on to corporate jobs. Mastrodonato is the force behind the Bookeater's kitchen readying it when it opens early morning Wednesdays through Sundays.

Mastrodonato earned a B.A. in Business from SUNY Alfred and moved on to The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. He brings an extensive resume to Bookeater. He worked for over a decade in a number of restaurants including Horizon Woodcliff Hotel & Spa, Charlie's Frog Pond and Hogan's Hideaway.

In charge of Bookeater's menu, Mastrodonato said it's in a state of flux although fixed items are pastries from Baker Street "We want to reflect on who our customers are," he said. "Since we have police next door, I thought of a blue-collar lunch menu heavy on meat. Ribs, pimento cheese. But what we had in mind are slower movers."

He soon discovered that "so far customers are heavy on beverages" although a cop did order an egg, cheese, steak and bacon breakfast sandwich and "hold the egg."



Mastrodonato is floating an idea of building a menu around the shop's bestselling book by Debi Bower, *Day Trips Around: Rochester: NY Your guide to exploring within two hours of Rochester and the Finger Lakes region.*

"I want to take really unique foods from the book and use local [suppliers] like Ben's Botanical who sell very affordable microgreens [see story about Provisions on page 1]," Mastrodonato said.

While Mastrodonato said he doesn't have a lot of time for reading now, there's one book he recommends.

"I'm really enamored with Vincent Price's cookbook," he said. He owns a used 1970 edition, and he encouraged Ellis to stock the book, now in a 50th anniversary edition (*A Treasury of Great Recipes, 50th Anniversary Edition: Famous Specialties of the World's Foremost Restaurants Adapted for the American Kitchen*).

Along with Mastrodonato in the kitchen, Bookeater employs 9. Family members are also on the scene,



## Hopping Good Fun at A Frog House

A Frog House is all about supporting everybody who supports life and love. Frogs do fight sometimes, but generally cooperate and live together peacefully. Maybe they even have fun.

Please join us on Thursday, June 22 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm for a Pittsford potluck Garden Party at A Frog House., 66 State Street.

Margot L. Fass, founder of A Frog House and Lindsay Fass Graham, the homeowner and daughter of the founder will host the event. Presenters include Victoria Zelin and Jonathan Cloud, Possible Planet (Rochester), Genesee Finger Lakes Bioregional Learning Center, an emerging project, and Dan Antonioli, Ecological and Social Change Agent, Writer, Green Builder, Permaculture Designer, a proposed project.

This event is FREE, but your RSVP would be appreciated for planning. Visit <https://afroghouse.org>.

## Frederick Douglass Library News

Frederick Douglass Library holds their quarterly book sale, June 10-16, during library hours (Monday 10am-6pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am-5pm, Friday 11am-6pm and Saturday 11am-3pm. Books, CD's, DVD's 3/\$1 or \$.50ea. On June 17th, the Library will host a no-fee Community Flea market. For information or to register call (585) 428-8206. The Library will be closed June 19th for Juneteenth Holiday.

--**Evanna M. DiSalvo, Branch Manager**  
The Summer Reading Program begins on July 3rd and runs through August 11th. Children can read books to earn raffle tickets for chances to win fun prizes. Registration opens on July 3rd, and reading gameboards will be provided to participants to track their reading progress.  
---**Jennifer Nesbitt, Children's Librarian**



## Rochester's Juneteenth 2023

Rochester begins Juneteenth celebrations with a parade and a festival two days before the holiday on Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., in downtown's Martin Luther King, Jr. at Manhattan Square Park, 353 Court Street.

Hip-hop recording artist Lil' Mo will be headlining the festival. Music, food, recognition of community members and scholarship are part of the celebration.

Juneteenth memorializes the date --June 19, 1865--when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to tell residents that the Civil War had ended and enslaved Africans were free. The news, however, came two years after slavery had been abolished in the United States.

A Juneteenth Fact Sheet from the Congressional Research Service describes early celebrations as "church-centered community gatherings" in Texas. It would take another 156 years for Juneteenth to become a federal holiday when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law.

Rochester's 2023 Juneteenth celebration begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 17, with a parade beginning at Chestnut Street and Court Street and ending at The Strong National Museum of Play, which will offer free admission that day.

On Monday, June 19, Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Avenue, offers a day of free events, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Performances, music, face painting, ice cream and more. Events include Sunshine 2.0 Theater Troupe, Bach Children Chorus from Dr. Walter Cooper Academy, storyteller Almeta Whitis, and re-enactor Carlos Merriweather will perform Frederick Douglass's notable speeches, Jacqueline Sprague and Youth will share the importance of Juneteenth and poet Grequan Carter will offer visitors to a sound bath using Chakra Singing Bowls.

**Buy  
an  
AD  
for our  
Aug/Sept.  
issue!  
Email  
info@  
swpc.org  
by  
July 20ish**

wife Lindsay Ellis may be behind the counter. Taylor Thomas curates his used book section, Ellis said.

Ellis has plans for the Bookeater beyond books and grub. His huge backyard can be used for movie nights or poetry reading, Book Club meetings and more. He's planning on applying for an entertainment license, so they can add musicians to the mix. Ellis said they're currently working to partner with M/Body fitness center that recently opened in a space next to the former McCann Meat's farther down S. Clinton Avenue, so they can offer yoga classes.

"I am very excited. There is so much to be excited about," said Mastrodonato. "It's going to be a very busy year."  
**836 S. Clinton Ave. Hours: Wed.- Friday, 7 am – 6 pm; Sat.-Sun. 8 am – 6 p.m. Closed on Monday and Tuesday.**

# Neighbors Work to Get Hickory St. Buzzing

Glynis Valenti

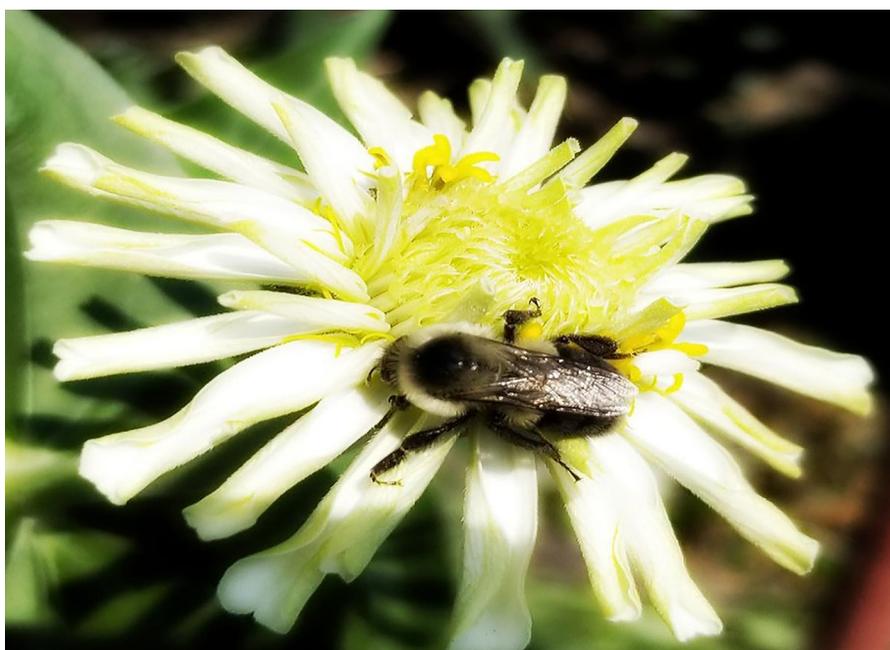
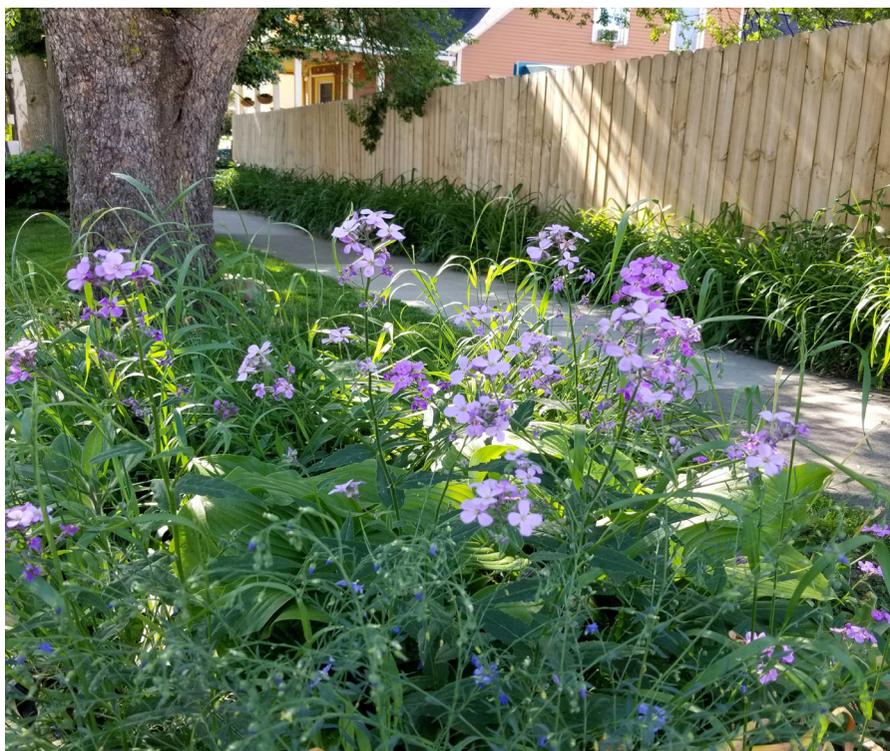
Did you know that 87 percent of 115 global food crops depend on pollinators? That's 100 crops that include tomatoes, apples, alfalfa (fed to dairy cattle), bananas, coffee, tea, grapes and chocolate. The United States daily diet would look much different without them. In fact, according to Pollinator Partnership ([www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)) one out of three bites of food is produced from pollinated plants.

What are pollinators? They are insects or other wildlife that visit flowering plants to eat or gather nectar, brushing against dusty pollen that adheres to their legs or bodies. As the pollinator moves from flower to flower, the pollen flakes off onto the next flower. Fertilization occurs, resulting in fruit, and, in many cases, food.

In New York state, the 400 species of native bees are the most identified pollinators, but according to Cornell Cooperative Extension, many other NY pollinators keep the ecosystem going: 1,000 species of wasps (many eat other bugs,) 50 species of butterflies, 300 species of moths, and some species of flies. Beetles, the first pollinators, have been pollinating for 95 million years, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only bird that pollinates, eating half its weight in nectar at up to 2,000 flowers per day.

Many pollinators have been declining in population over the past two decades, the largest threats being pesticides and loss of habitat from either development or invasive species killing native plants. There are steps, however, that can reverse some of the damage and promote a healthy ecosystem to support growth.

Hickory Street resident Peter Siegrist is from Appleton, Wisconsin. A few years ago, Appleton decided to address the dwindling pollinator issue with a city-wide research study on bees through Lawrence University and a subsequent program called "No Mow May," where residents allow their yards to grow naturally with dandelions and other flowering weeds for the month of May. This gives pollinators early



*Pollinators invite bees to Hickory Street and beyond (photos-Glynis Valenti)*

food to get the season started before other plants begin flowering. He looked at the possibility of a Hickory St. "No Mow May," but it wasn't feasible because some of the properties are multi-resident, and Marie Daley Park that abuts the street is city-owned.

However, the block club, Hickory NUTS (Neighbors United Together in Service) had already installed planter boxes at several sites years ago that residents still maintained.

Siegrist and neighbors discussed planting pollinator-friendly plants in

the boxes this spring to encourage local pollinators and decided to add two new boxes in yards as well. Cornell Cooperative Extension provided a presentation on pollinators for all the neighbors, stressing the importance of staging plantings to ensure blooms from early spring until the end of fall and using native plants to feed local pollinators. The residents constructed a couple more planters and picked up plants like Echinacea, brown-eyed Susan, sedum, phlox, and sunflowers to fill them. For Rochester Clean-Sweep Day, Hickory St. volunteers shoveled fresh compost full of nutrients into all the planters.

While the gardeners face some urban garden challenges, for example lots of shade from the spreads of old trees, the Hickory NUTS are excited and optimistic about the pollinator project on community and personal levels. This group is a mix of seasoned gardeners and those who have other skills coming together for the bees, the environment, and to contribute to the neighborhood.

"It's a connection to the street," says JD Dennis, a Hickory St. resident for 40 years who built the original planters. "This is a community."

Others, too, cite "camaraderie" and social aspects of the gardens as beneficial, including Siegrist who has lived there just since September 2022.

Jayne Morgan, a resident since 2006, adds that a challenge and benefit of the project is teaching people about the importance of pollinators and the harmful effects of pesticides and climate change on the food chain. Her husband, Gary Loitsch, says that it makes the street beautiful and shows that people care about where they live.

"If everyone could do one little thing [to create a better environment for pollinators,]" Morgan notes, "it would have a positive effect. This is one thing that people can do."

The Hickory NUTS say the goal is to get other blocks and neighborhoods in the South Wedge—or the city—to follow suit.

"You can feel so small on this Earth," resident Mary Ellen Dennis adds. "But then you think about the bees: they come together to save the hive."

# FOR RENT

**1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments**  
**HIGHLAND MANOR APARTMENTS**

**905 South Avenue**

**271-0949**

**ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED**

- \* 1 and 2 bedroom units
- \* Right across from Highland Hospital and a quick commute to U of R and Strong Memorial Hospital

**IT'S YOUR HOME. WE JUST TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU.**

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) invites you to join us in making a difference in southeast Rochester. Join our board of directors or serve on a committee. Founded in 1978, SWPC acts as a conduit for federal or state repair grants that help keep people in their aging homes.

SWPC works in a myriad of ways to build community through the annual South Wedge Farmers Market (June-September), South Wedge Victory Gardens on Hamilton and Cypress Streets and The WEDGE Newspaper that publishes six issues each year. Your time, talent and passion can help us to continue SWPC's work. If interested, please call 256-1740 or e-mail [gvalenti@swpc.org](mailto:gvalenti@swpc.org) or board chair Frank Logan at [flogan@rochester.rr.com](mailto:flogan@rochester.rr.com).

# Giving Back

**Michelle H. Martell**

*We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.-- Winston Churchill*

While meditating on my next writing topic, I serendipitously seemed to come across this quote everywhere - in my daily positive e-mails, memes in my social media, and then cited by a gentleman at a recent work meeting. As I do not believe in random coincidences, I decided they were all signs to choose this topic for further examination. Give it away, give it away, give it away now  
Give it away, give it away, give it away now  
Give it away, give it away, give it away now  
I can't tell if I'm a kingpin or a pauper  
Greedy little people in a sea of distress  
Keep your more to receive your less.  
--"Give It Away" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers

This song is about how, regardless of who we are and what we have, we all have something to give to others. And as an added bonus, if we give away to others we bring more back to our own lives. If we hoard what is ours, we are not richer, we are poorer. It is the law of living that what we put out there comes back to us. Be a miser with our gifts and what we have, fill our lives with gossip and other negativity toward others; the same



Michele H. Martell is a columnist for the WEDGE. She works at the Veterans Outreach Center.

energy comes back to us. But, when we humble ourselves to authentically do and care for others, that same

vitality returns to us a hundredfold.

Everyone is busy. Most people I know have insane schedules. We all are continuously thinking, "what's next?" without taking time for a breath. This is something I am relentlessly mindful of each day. Yet there is always something we can do each day to make another's load a little lighter. It does not have to be a huge or complicated undertaking. Sometimes just a smile, sincerely asking "how are you," truly listening to another, holding a door open, or providing a genuine compliment is all it takes to brighten another's day. Going deeper, perhaps dropping a quick text or call or card to a friend with emotional or health issues or stopping by to visit a friend who's now in a nursing home.

People often view volunteerism as a huge commitment. Taking even one hour to volunteer for a worthy mission - an hour that we easily spend scrolling or texting - can make an incredible difference.

Author Sherry Anderson writes that "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless," and I agree. The feeling of giving back to another afterwards is reliably priceless, validating and energy-evoking.

It all simply starts with intention each day. Each morning we can ask ourselves the question "How can I give back to another with my gifts today?" and asking God, the Universe, Jesus, Angels, Higher Power, whatever resonates for you, to please work through us. We may be exhausted, stretched on time with little to no sleep, yet we can ask this question of ourselves and be open to a simple answer each day on how to do good. This is a concept that has been around for ages, and as Providence would have it, this Biblical verse just popped in my email today: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9.

Throughout the blessed opportunities I have to work around our community, I see the busiest people doing so much good for others. At the animal shelter, I see others who may be fatigued emotionally and physically; yet they are committed to doing for the animals without homes. I CAN tell you that these are some of the most peaceful, kindest and joy-filled people I know.

In my work with veterans, the outpouring of care from my coworkers to those who have served our country fills my heart with gratitude for those committing selflessly to transform lives. They make me even more proud to join them and do my work. Even more amazing, it is penetrating to the soul to witness brave men and women who have served our country and have undergone unfathomable and unspoken life experiences, to reach out and ask how they may give back to others. With shelter and rescue animals, and blameless and abused children as well, some of those beautiful souls who have innocently experienced the most hideous abuse become the best life influencers. From their pain and anguish, they help others heal and bring renewed life when their own precious lives were at one time considered thoughtless throw-aways.

There is another saying that keeps coming up in my various daily podcasts and inbox, referenced biblically: "Beauty for Ashes." It is not easily translated into English from Hebrew, but this basically refers to how mourning and trauma can be turned into good and joy. From what I've observed and experienced and described above, I believe it. When we experience the worst, even at our worst, in time and contemplation we can give back to help others on their journeys. These experiences can bring beauty to our own lives, rising from what may have been ashes in life.

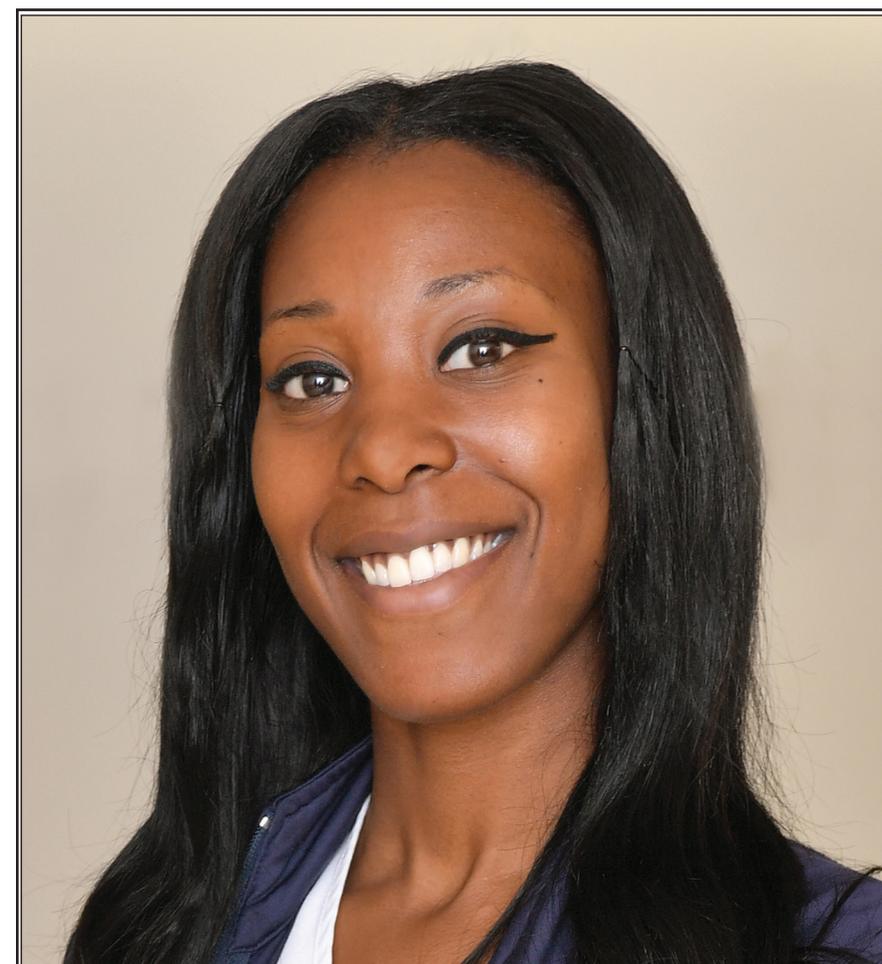
We all have unique gifts to be celebrated during the limited time we have here on earth. Some of us may be blessed with bountiful finances, with time, with spiritual or social or physical gifts, music and creativity, intelligence, with a sparkling personality; or all of these. The question is, who can benefit each day with us sharing those gifts? No one is perfect or expected to be a saint. And it's good to remember that at the drop of a hat you may need to call on others for help.

At the end of the day, if there is one living being who has had a better day because of us, then that day was a success. And at the end of life, that is what matters.

In the timeless words of the young and wise Anne Frank, who wrote during her years of suffering under Nazi persecution, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

The question each day is: do we want to make a living or a life? The answer is ours.

**Pride is coming!**  
SAVE THE DATE  
**JULY 15, 2023**  
ROCHESTER PRIDE  
RochesterPride.com



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

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

VISA-MASTERCARD-DISCOVER

Quality Work - Fair Prices



Founders Zack Teetsel and fiancée Emily Wegman created a new concept in food and community

## Rochester Kitchen Collective Brands Delicious on S. Clinton Ave.

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Zach Teetsel has worked in restaurants for over a decade, but his plan for his food collective—Nita Burrita, Madd Mac's Artisan Mac and soon to come Wrap City—is something new.

Teetsel opened the kitchen in January in the former McCann's Meats on South Clinton Ave. Immediately, Nita Burrita, an artisan burrata kitchen, created buzz on Reddit with 10/10 reviews and raves about the "generous portions." His "tech-enabled" kitchen brings together a number of like-minded foodies on an upwards trajectory.

Chef Luis Arroyo's began his career washing dishes at the Summit at Brighton. He was promoted to chef and went on to man the kitchen at Char and Tapas. Line cook Kyle Grant began cooking "as a kid," in his Jamaican mother's kitchen, went to culinary school, spent some time "getting into trouble" and returned to the Char's kitchen where he connected with Arroyo. All of the participants in the Collective Kitchen take part in creating new dishes and

tweaking recipes after feedback.

On the menu are a list of 14 "artisan" burritos includes "Birria... a consommé soaked and seared tortilla, braised short rib, onions and cilantro (served with consommé on side for dipping)." They also carry Jarriotos, a Mexican soft drink.

Madd Mac's Artisan Mac and Cheese currently lists 11 variations including "Crack AC, a CBR lovers' dream...cavatappi pasta with house made Mornay sauce, grilled chicken, bacon, Ranch, cheese blend and topped with green onion and peppers and "Kimberly Chi... mornay and cavatappi blend with house kimchi, garlic, and green onions. Topped with sesame seeds and sesame oil."

"We just passed a good threshold," said Teetsel. "We'll tackle seating. Double the size of the kitchen." He recognizes that running a business is "more than being a creator."

739 South Clinton Avenue, nitaburrita.com. Hours: T-Sat. 11 am-2 pm and 4-7:40 pm. Closed on Sunday-Monday.

## RPD Launches Recruitment Drive

Glynis Valenti

The Rochester Police Department is looking for 1,000 good people—yes, that's one thousand applicants by August 4 to take the RPD exam on September 9. As with every other employer, the police department's post-COVID workforce has decreased. To address crime more effectively and expand public safety initiatives, RPD is ready to fill open positions in 30 career paths with qualified candidates.

In addition, a concerted effort is being made to diversify the force, hiring more women and people of color.

Community leaders such as Bishop Johnny M. Harris Jr. of Provision Full Gospel Church; Dr. Candice Lucas, Senior Vice President of Equity & Advocacy at the Urban League of Rochester; and Getachew "GG" Beshir, Director of Refugee, Immigration, & Employment for Catholic Charities and Community Services, are stepping up to encourage this effort.

Beshir notes that "The immigrant population is 10 percent—21,000 people—of Rochester's population. The police force should reflect the community it serves."

Officers do receive training in equity practices, but hiring officers with an understanding of immigrant cultures and the ability to translate for non-English speakers on site could help de-escalate situations or even solve crimes.

RPD is looking for applicants between 19 and 34 years old who have graduated high school or have a GED and pass required background checks. After 44 months on the force, including paid academy, the salary will

be \$102,651 a year. There are salary increases and tuition reimbursement for advanced education; retirement after 20 years with a generous retirement savings plan; 13 paid holidays and overtime; excellent medical, dental, and vision plans.

Some of the specialized units open for new candidates include Special Victims Unit, Crime Scene Investigation, Detective, SWAT, Undercover, Scuba, K-9, Bomb Squad, Traffic (Motorcycle,) Mounted Police, and the Officer Wellness Resiliency Unit.

For more information or to apply text or call (585) 330-6943; email recruit@cityofrochester.gov; or visit www.cityofrochester.gov/join RPD by August 4, 2023.

## Solera Wine Bar Closes in June

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

The announcement that Solera Wine Bar and Cheshire, its upstairs cocktail bar, were closing arrived on Facebook in a post from owner John Fanning.

Fanning writes: "After sixteen and a half years (Solera) and twelve years (Cheshire), it is time for a change. I've owned/run these bars over a third of my life, everything runs its course, and I feel the need to close a door in order."

My children are also growing up SO fast, and I plan to attempt to slow that down a bit.

They certainly need me more at the moment than the bar business does. I've been offered the opportunity to move on gracefully, and it's the right time."

While Fanning mentions "a 'changing of the guard' of sorts," he didn't reveal who's moving in the space, but he hinted that "some remarkable local restaurant/bar folks you are all VERY familiar with will eventually



Solera Wine Bar and Cheshire upstairs were housed in a 150-year-old building on South Avenue. (Courtesy John Fanning)

be moving in and bringing some new life into our incredible space."

Fanning reports that the weekend of June 2 will be their last, "with a final night blowout to help kick off Rochester Cocktail Revival on Monday, June 5th."

We all know large corporations had a cushion during the pandemic. Now more than ever small businesses need our support. SHOP LOCAL!



## Rochester Childfirst Network

SERVING CHILDREN SINCE 1857

6 WEEKS TO 12 YEARS OLD



DEDICATED KNOWLEDGEABLE NURTURING

Infant Care • Toddler Care • Universal Pre-K

Before and Afterschool Care  
Special Education Services

Training for Family Child Care Providers

NOW ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS

Locations in Rochester, NY:

941 South Ave. 250 East Main St. Suite 100

www.rcn4kids.org | 585-473-2858 | @RCN4KIDS

# Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery Memorial Remembers Rochester's Holocaust Victims

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Two years ago, the Friends of the Mt. Hope Cemetery (FOMH) launched a project to share stories of Holocaust survivors interred in the cemetery. The FOMH website describes the Holocaust as “the systematic extermination of nearly six million Jews that was perpetrated by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during World War II.”

Early efforts of the group were geared towards using a grant from The Ames Amzalak Memorial Trust to refurbish Jewish graves disintegrating from “age, wind and weather” said Marcia Birken, a Friends member.

The goal of simple grave repair changed when another member and former MCC student Tony Filer, mentioned the college's Holocaust and Genocide Human Rights Project, and wondered if there were Holocaust survivors buried in the Mt. Hope. The historic cemetery was founded in 1838 and by 1848 Temple B'rith Kodesh had purchased a section for its congregation.

The question galvanized the Friends to form a committee composed of members and volunteers--Marcia Birken, Marjorie Searl, Kristine Klein,



Holocaust Memorial - photo - Michael Brundage

Pat Corcoran, Nancy Uffindell and Filer.

“We wanted to do three things,” said Birken. “Determine how many survivors were buried there. Find out where the graves were located and tell their stories. We didn't just want names. We wanted to archive 1-2 page stories. And raise funds for a memorial.”

FOMH member Marjorie Searl saw a monument as a “recognition of people in the community who continue with the idea that it's o.k. to oppress people because of who they are.”

Birken sent out requests to some “200 of her nearest and dearest” and people responded.

She even received a check from a cousin in Florida. By the end of the fundraising campaign, while the committee had set an amount of \$10K, they had collected some \$24K.

They commissioned artist/sculptor Bill Yager. The group chose a black granite available in China which led to a long delay after the country closed down for three years during the pandemic.

As for the final design, Birken said “It was important to have a split, a cleft in the stone. The world had been broken [in the Holocaust].”

The city-owned cemetery's records are only partially computerized, so not completely searchable. In researching names, FOMH president Christine Klein reached out to other sources who have compiled databases including the Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information (CHAI), the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

and Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center's, Central Database of Shoah Victims Names.

“We started out with 40 names, and by the end we found 110,” said Birken. “Person A talks to Person B who talks to Person C and someone will say my grandmother [a survivor] is buried there. Some 330-350 survivors ended up making Rochester their home. About 125 are buried in the Britton Road cemetery. Some are buried elsewhere in White Haven or Pittsford cemetery.”

“People settled here, contributed to life here. They probably would have been happy to stay in their homes in Europe,” said Searl. “But they became non-people, who didn't have a state or rights.”

On May 7th FOMH unveiled the Holocaust Monument on Adlington Avenue dedicated to the more than 110 survivors buried at the cemetery.

The general public wasn't invited to the ceremony after the Monroe County police suggested the event should be “low profile” since they couldn't provide as much security as the event might need.

“An officer said he didn't

want someone to try and ruin the day for us,” Searl said.

The FOMH website describes the day: “Over 200 people attended from Rochester's Jewish community, donors, survivors' families, the City of Rochester, and officials of the Town of Brighton. The unveiling and dedication included remarks by Michael Dobkowski, Professor of Religion and Chair of Holocaust Studies at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, as well as prayers and music offered by Rabbi Debbi Till of Temple Sinai and Rabbi Peter Stein and Cantorial Soloist Kerri Lopatin Berger of Temple B'rith Kodesh.

Next, a grant from the William and Sheila Konar Foundation will help FOMH create a digitized map of all the Holocaust survivor graves in the cemetery. The grant monies have already been used to complete a self-guided, mobile phone Walk of Holocaust Survivor Graves in Range 10 (the Temple Sinai and Temple Beth El sections by Mount Hope Avenue).

The tour and others can be found in the Mount Hope Cemetery Walking Tour App which is available for download from the App Store and Google Play. A second Holocaust Walk is being written for the area of survivor graves closest to the monument, in Ranges 7 and 9 (the Temple B'rith Kodesh and Temple Beth El sections near the corner of Adlington Avenue and Oak Avenue).”

Today FOMH Holocaust Archives contain the date of birth and death of survivors, a photo of the gravestone, a story or a link to CHAI for the stories.

A Holocaust monument becomes even more important every year as survivors die off, and anti-semiticism increases with the rise of white nationalism.

“We're almost at a point where there is a generation of high school and below who don't know about the Holocaust because there is so much disinformation and misinformation about it. It's important that the monument is right by the road and people can stop and read the inscription. We who volunteered want [the victims] to be remembered,” said Birken.

Searl sees the monument as essential, “another reminder that we have to work to keep the tragedy from happening again.”

Reading the stories of the Holocaust survivors also uplifts others, Searl said, “we learn about the human resilience” of a persecuted people.

To learn more about the Mt. Hope Holocaust Archive, go to <https://fomh.org>.



Founding members of Rochester's Gay Men's Chorus (l-r) David Knoll, Nick Williams and David Skinner (photo - Gery Szymanski)

In early May, Rochester's Gay Mens chorus held a 40th anniversary party honoring some of its founding members at the Inn on Broadway and publicized a July 8 concert, “Fabulous 40 Friends Forever.”

The concert is billed as “a reunion to build the friendships that have been formed over 40 years with hundreds of chorus members, directors, accompanists, board members, and audience members.”

“We celebrate the esprit de corps that has been developed as a result of the RGMC legacy with the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, Ithaca Gay Men's Chorus, Syracuse LGBTQ chorus, and the Rochester Women's Chorus.”

During the concert, others will be invited on stage including members of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, the Rochester Women's Community Chorus and the Flower City Pride Band. To buy tickets, visit <https://thergmc.org>.

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](https://lifespanrochester.org)



# Cheshire Cocktail Bar Moves to South Clinton Avenue

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Evy Fanning knows exactly how her Cheshire Cocktail Bar will look in a new larger space on South Clinton Avenue—"a mix of classic and modern." She and her band of faithful bartenders/friends already know all there is about pouring and mixing.

"Pick a spirit. Give me a ½ hour, and you will walk out in love with the drink," said Evvy.

Over a decade ago, she created Cheshire as a classic old-style cocktail bar above Solera Wine Bar on South Avenue. It featured "classic pre-Prohibition-era cocktails such as old-fashioned, Sazeracs, Negronis, Manhattans and whiskey sours" in a small cozy space.

"I wanted classic cocktails," said Evvy. "Simple, top shelf. And customer service that makes [Cheshire] a getaway. I want it to be a place where people can relax, let their guard down and we get to be their best selves. My village, my people."

"When we lost the lease in August 2022, I said 'we're moving' and every bartender came with me."

She took the lease on the new space on South Clinton Avenue in October of last year.

"There were concrete floors, tile over the brick," said Evvy, pointing to the high wall of brick behind the bar.

As Evvy talks about her plans, her construction manager Leo is getting ready to place white marble on the 33-ft. long bar. But before Leo, Evvy had an army of volunteers—employees and customers—who helped her with the renovation.

"Most of them had day jobs, and they'd come in afterwards and help. People messaged me offering to help. One customer brought scaffolding. I was phenomenally lucky. As my grandmother would say, 'Don't have 100 rubles, have a 100 friends.' That's the story of my life."

The loyalty she receives today was earned over the years. When the pandemic hit, Cheshire closed for 2 days.



*Evy Fanning embarking on a new, revitalizing Cheshire on S. Clinton Avenue*

"I wrote [the staff] an email and told them 'I can't make payroll. Can you wait?' Every single one of them came in." "We don't have turnover [at Cheshire]," she said.

Now with her staff lined up, all that remains are the final touches on the building. A 6-ft tall mixed media painting by Cordell Cordaro welcomes customers from a deep blue wall that faces the entrance. In the next room Evvy has filled the wall with simple golden frames. A crystal chandelier will be lifted up to the high ceiling. Leather and mahogany bar stools, studded with brass tacks are piled up in one room. The bathroom needs the array of toiletries she says are necessary for guests. A private room will be available for small parties. She's also invites creators to use her space for pop-up shops.

"Say you're a tailor or a jeweler or you want to hold a book fair, and you don't have a million for a brick and motor shop. No one is here [during the day] Have fun. Give it a try for a month."

One more thing that needs to be checked off before the planned opening in June, "an event to thank everyone."

**647 S. Clinton Avenue. Hours: M-Sat. 5-12 p.m., 585.350.8128.**

# Chicken Shawarma Kebabs from Stuarts Spices

Merriya Valleri

We're coming into peak grilling season, and what better way to celebrate than with kebabs? We love this recipe because it uses both chicken and flavorful, vibrant vegetables along with our Shawarma blend. Shawarma does such a great job bringing a zesty, bold taste to the table, it's no wonder we look forward to making these kebabs again. If you can't tell, this blend is definitely a favorite!

### Ingredients

- 1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Stuart's Spices Shawarma Seasoning
- Stuart's Spices Corn on the Cob Seasoning
- 2 bell peppers (yellow, orange, or red for color) cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 small zucchini, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 red or sweet white onion, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Kebab skewers (Note: If you're using wooden kebab skewers, soak them in water for 30 minutes before grilling so they don't catch fire)
- Olive oil, for basting

### Directions

1. In a bowl, coat chicken generously



in Stuart's Spices Shawarma Seasoning and let it sit for 15-20 minutes in a separate bowl while working on the veggies

2. In a separate bowl, coat vegetables in Stuart's Spices Corn on the Cob Seasoning
3. Get the grill ramped up to medium-high heat
4. While the grill is heating up, thread the chicken and vegetables together onto the skewers
5. Cook for 5-7 minutes each side or until chicken reaches an internal temperature of 165°
6. Plate up and enjoy!

Optional but recommended step:

For max flavor and tenderness, mix a little of the Shawarma and Corn on the Cob seasoning into some extra olive oil and use that to brush onto both sides of the skewers as they cook. If you want your basting mix to have even more flavor, add some minced garlic, onion, and a little rice wine vinegar.

# Walking for Rochester

cont'd from pg. 4

community cleanups. "The corporate cleanups are a private event for offices or businesses to bond over a common cause and use their work force for volunteer work."

His long-range goal is "to bring people from all backgrounds all around the Greater Rochester region to work on something that affects us all. When your neighborhood is littered, you have the potential to transform it into something better," he said.

Walking for Rochester 2023 begins April 1 and runs through September, weather permitting. Plans are being made for WFR's first cleanup of the year to be held in the Winton Village neighborhood. To sign up visit, WalkingForRochester.org. WFR event updates can be found on Facebook, Instagram, Reddit & LinkedIn.

For more informaton, call 585-358-6888 or email Matt.Apple@WalkingForRochester.org.

# Visitors to Ellwanger Barry Garden's Peonies Break Records on June Weekend

Photo - Nancy O'Donnell Hale



### 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



**Leonard C. Petix**  
Associate R.E. Salesperson  
585-703-9421  
LPetix@kw.com  
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

# Opinion

## Mary Lupien

Rochester is currently facing a crisis of inequity, with many residents struggling with housing and food insecurity, substance abuse, mental health issues, youth violence, domestic violence, police brutality, and other interconnected challenges. As a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) teacher in a K-8 school within the Rochester City School District, I have gained firsthand insight into the magnitude of the crisis our youth are experiencing and the pressing need for us to do more to support them. Despite having a larger SEL team compared to other schools, we are all working to our full capacity. Our students are opening up and trusting us with the truth about their current and past traumas, which include domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, neglect, death, racism, violence, the incarceration of loved ones, mental health issues, substance abuse, homelessness, running away, feelings of being unloved, and even suicidal thoughts.

Blaming parents from a distance may seem easy, but when we get closer, the reality becomes much harder to ignore. Single mothers, for instance, often find themselves juggling two or three jobs just to pay overdue rent and prevent eviction, all while striving to provide a better life for their families. They have little time to take care of their own well-being, including addressing their mental health challenges. On top of that, they shoulder the responsibility of meeting their children's urgent mental health needs. It's difficult to imagine how one would react under such conditions. Unfortunately, the system has failed many families, subjecting them to overwhelming paperwork, bureaucratic processes, and seemingly insurmountable obstacles when seeking help.

The truth about how broken our systems are, or rather how effectively they work to dismantle marginalized families, cuts deep. It's understandable why some prefer to look away. However, in her book "Fierce Love," Rev. Jacqui Lewis states, "I believe truth is revolutionary; it's part of the work of fierce love. Truth makes a personal, spiritual, ethical, and moral demand upon us. It wants to be said, known, told. It hurts and it's inconvenient, but it's essential to our well-being."

These unbearable truths, coupled with the lack of adequate support from our governments, have ignited a deep and powerful anger within me. While I used to believe that suppressing this anger was necessary for me to be effective, I now see it as a gift. As author Brian McLaren explains, "Anger is a source of my creativity. It's a vaccination against apathy and complacency. It's a gift that can be abused—or wisely used. Yes, it's a temptation, but it's also a resource and an opportunity, as unavoidable and necessary as pain."

I'm angered by the fact that only a few in positions of power challenge the status quo. We continue to disproportionately allocate funds to projects that benefit the wealthy few, promising that it will eventually trickle down and bring economic development to our struggling community. It fills me with anger to think that millions of dollars in federal aid, intended to help our community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, are being spent on projects like the expanding the

# Southeast Councilmembers Speak Out



Mary Lupien serves as Vice President of the Rochester City Council and represents the city's East District

Convention Center and Blue Cross Arena, and Aqueduct Reimagined, while neglecting the urgent needs of our residents.

This type of spending is viewed by those in power as the most rational use of our tax dollars, dismissing people-centered solutions as irrational and pie in the sky. The funds we do allocate directly to those affected by these crises are inadequate and fail to lift them out of poverty. In fact, they often deepen their dependence on a system that perpetuates inequality.

As South African theologian and social activist Desmond Tutu writes, "There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in." His words challenge us to address the causes of human suffering at their root.

We find ourselves in a crisis across multiple fronts, with the pandemic amplifying long standing issues in our city. Rather than prioritizing the restoration of downtown infrastructure meant to attract new suburban visitors and residents, we must channel our efforts into restoring our people and ensuring they have the necessary resources to thrive. This means funding projects such as overdose prevention and treatment centers, accessible mental health services, black maternal health care, support for individuals transitioning out of foster care, youth enrichment programs, re-entry initiatives for the formerly incarcerated, public works jobs, housing access vouchers, community benefits agreements, climate mitigation and resilience measures, and promoting cooperative, public ownership of businesses, land, housing, banks, utilities, and more.

Challenging the status quo requires immense courage. It is uncomfortable and often painful, but it is essential to push our leaders, each other, and ourselves toward meaningful change.

In June, the City Council will vote on the City of Rochester's budget, which should serve as a moral document reflecting the priorities of its residents. This year's budget will outline Mayor Malik Evans' plans for allocating public funds in the coming fiscal year. Budget hearings will take place on June 8th at 5 pm and June 15th at 6 pm, providing two opportunities for the community to voice their vision for how our money should be invested.

Let your voice be heard. We get the Rochester we fight for.

## LaShay Harris

In the City of Rochester, summer is when our city transforms into a city of festivals. It is a time to enjoy what our city offers culturally, and it is a great way to support the business and the entertainment community.

The South District offers a variety of festivals like the most recent Lilac Festival, the 19th Ward Community Association Annual Square Fair on June 3, the Corn Hill Arts Festival on July 8 and 9, and Clarissa Street Festival on August 19th.

This year Rochester held the national spotlight by hosting the PGA Championship, which had an economic impact of nearly \$200 million dollars, along with the Lilac Festival, according to the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce. Monroe County and the City of Rochester share in tax revenue from the PGA activities, so it's essential to continue supporting and attracting these events to our area.

As our city prepares for additional city-wide festivals, the City of Rochester will be working to ensure our City is safe. On June 6, Mayor Malik Evans and I will launch a tool for residents to quickly report suspicious activity or quality of life concerns along with comments, pictures, and videos to the City and Rochester Police Department.

It is essential that as we ask Rochesterians to join in the "If you See Something, Say Something" campaign, we provide a useful and confidential process to report incidents.

As your City Council District Representative, I will be working with the Mayor and his team to continue to address sensible and practical Public Safety solutions for our City. I will lean on my affiliation with the National League of Cities Public Safety Committee to gather



LaShay Harris represents the city's South District. She serves as chair of the Council's Recreation & Human Services Committee, and also serves on the Neighborhood & Business Development and Public Safety Committees

best practices from cities nationwide.

Last year the City Council approved Legislation for Citywide lead pipe replacements, which continues this year. In the South District, the City will replace lead-lined and galvanized water services from the water main to the curb shut-off valve with new polyethylene water service tubing.

These improvements are to preserve the quality of our drinking water, and in 2022, the City met or exceeded all of the drinking water standards set by the EPA and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

To learn more about lead pipe replacement, please click the QR code below or visit <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/leadservice/>

Lastly, as the chair of the Recreation and Human Service Committee, I encourage you to attend the public market and utilize the R-center for your family's recreational needs. See QR codes below.



Lead Service QR code



Public Market QR code



R-Center QR code

### Be a good neighbor

Ah, Summer! Blaring music or mowing your lawn at dawn does not a good neighbor make. Even if think our neighbors should close THEIR windows and stop complaining, the City of Rochester's brochure entitled "How to be a good neighbor" offers guidance about local noise ordinances. The City ordinance defines the rules: "Noise should not be audible beyond 50 feet

from your property line between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. and noise should not be audible beyond 50 feet of your property line between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m."

Breaking the noise ordinance makes a lot of your neighbors very unhappy and being cited may result in fines which will make noisemakers even more unhappy. So, let's all be good neighbors, and keep the noise down.



## Harry B. Bronson



New York State Assembly  
138th District

Working with you to  
make our community  
the best possible!

[bronsonh@nyassembly.gov](mailto:bronsonh@nyassembly.gov)

[f](#) [ig](#) [t](#) @HarryBBronson