SWPC Helps Build a Healthy Neighborhood

By Robert Boyd

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) works in many ways to build a healthy sustainable neighborhood. Earlier this year, SWPC obtained a grant from the Greater Rochester Health Foundation to improve awareness of healthy eating among school age children at School #12.

SWPC partnered with the School #12 PTA, the South Wedge Farmers Market, Foodlink and the Work Experience Program at School #12 to create an opportunity for children in kindergarten through 6th grade to experience healthy local foods, visit a working farm and a neighborhood farmers market.

Every Friday from September 18 to October 30, approximately 400 children sampled different fresh fruits and vegetables from the South Wedge Farmers Market. There were cherry tomatoes, heirloom tomatoes, nectarines, Asian pears, plums, radishes, carrots, sweet peppers, and concord grapes just to name a few. Many of the children tried things they have never eaten before. Initially this was done with reluctance, but after a few weeks with anticipation!

To help children brave new and different foods, Mike Weisenreder of the Work Experience Program from Edison High School worked with his students to create snacks and beyond using the fruit and vegetables. In the School #12 kitchen, they made pesto, applesauce, pear sauce, tortilla wraps, greens and beans, squash, ravio- li, bruschetta, a variety of slaws, frozen fruit and yogurt purees and many other healthy foods for the children to sample.

Foodlink and Freshwise Farms also played a role in the success of the project. Rachel Staver, a child nutritionist, brought her expertise and energy to the Friday food samplings. Throughout the six week project, children also visited a Freshwise Farm in Penfield owned and operated by Foodlink.

The Votes are in & The South Wedge Wins...

The South Wedge Area received kudos from both City Paper and The Democrat & Chronicle Newspapers in their 2009 awards contests. Many were called, but these neighborhood favorites were chosen the best of the best:

Best Beer List:
Tap & Mallet
381 Gregory Street

Best Clothing Store:
Thread
654 South Avenue

Best Straight Bar:
Lux Lounge
666 South Avenue

Best Happy Hour:
Lux Lounge
666 South Avenue

Best Bartender:
Phillip Rawleigh
Lux Lounge

City Critics’ Picks “Best Meeting of the Sweets”:
Open Face Sandwich Eatery’s Cookie Splits
“More than your typical half moon cookie...they’re crumbly and moist...all of the flavors complement one another brilliantly.”

Democrat & Chronicle Rochester Choice Award 2009
Best Cajun
Beale Street

Yet more reasons to live, work and play in the South Wedge.

Keep your cash in the Wedge!

See our holiday guide on pages 6 & 7
This month, the Wedge highlights two men—George Lorson and Tim Sigrest. Both have contributed to building the Wedge’s community ethos. Together, they worked to create a new façade for St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality that showed sensitivity to its unique 19th century architecture, while supporting its mission of serving those in need.

SWFC Real Estate Development Coordinator George Lorson has only had two jobs in his entire career. In both, he worked to create better homes in the community.

Born in Penfield, Lorson attended McQuaid Jesuit High School before majoring in Development Coordinator George Lorson has only had two jobs in his entire career. In both, he worked to create better homes in the community.

When he graduated, he joined the construction firm he had worked for while a student. He stayed there for 20 years before he was approached by First Federal Savings & Loan to be a project manager for their real estate department.

“Toward the end of the 1980s, the Community Reinvestment Act required banks to meet the needs of diverse neighborhoods. So I became a project manager for their real estate department. I managed residential construction including a 312-unit Planned Unit Development in the suburbs,” said Lorson.

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South Wedge Welcomes Alden Gatt

When Alden Gatt, 21, discovered the South Wedge neighborhood, he immediately wanted to make it home. The Naples, Florida native moved to Rochester to study classical piano and all things musical — history, theory, musculogy, and pedagogy — at the Eastman School of Music.

“Eastman has the most warm atmosphere, welcoming students and teachers,” he said. His first apartment, close to school, was not so pleasant.

“The roof leaked, and I worried it would ruin my piano.”

Gatt began studying the instrument at 8 years old. “It was kind of late, but it balances out. When you’re older, it’s quicker to pick things up,” he said.

Along with piano, Gatt also studied French and Chinese. He spent his senior high school year abroad in Beijing. His busy schedule at the Eastman has the most unique “arboretum that befriends the world, it is a particular honor.”

Connelly began participating in the project in 1995. Over the years, she’s helped organize panels from around the country and Canada who provide the $70 annual scholarships given to motivated students. The group also funds a project manager in the town who reports on how monies are used.

Connelly has herself traveled to the Central American country. “[El Sauce] is a small village 3-½ hours on a dirt road from Managua,” said Connelly. “It’s not a vacation. We go to learn about the people and the village.”

“It was so moving to meet one father who came to thank us,” continued Connelly. “He took off his baseball hat and said, ‘You know just because we can’t pay for pencils and papers, it doesn’t mean that we don’t want an education for our children.’”

To learn more about the project or to sponsor a child, email Johanna at johannacburchett.com.

South Wedge History Fair Attracts 100


Names Project panel. (Photo courtesy of John White)

Equal-Grounds Marks World AIDS Day

For the past three years, Equal-Grounds organizer John White hosted panels from the Memorial AIDS Quilt (UB) (The Names Project) for World AIDS Day. In previous years, other area venues did the same. This year he will be the only one to host a panel, available for viewing from Dec. 1 through Dec. 7. “It is a great event for the community,” said White. “As the panels are shipped all over the world, it is a particular honor or to host them here in our little wedge of the world.”

The 12 square panels, 4,000 in total, are archived in Atlanta by the nonprofit Names Project Foundation, and then shipped out upon request. (Displaying three panels will cost White some $780.)

“It’s a very emotional event,” said White. “People leave crying, but they always are so grateful [for the viewing]. Most who come aren’t even customers; usually they’re families of AIDS victims.”

For more information, call 242-7840 or visit Equal-Grounds at 750 South Avenue.

Jason Oliferkey came down from the Upper Mt. Hope neighborhood to win first prize, with new friend Pirate Queen Sonia Tafoya. (Photo by Christine Jones)

BASWA’s Night of the Living Wedge

The Business Association of the South Wedge Area held a Halloween Pub Crawl on October 29 that stretched from Alexander Street to Gregory Street and back again. Participants visited Beale Street, Caverly’s, Lux, Solera Wine Bar, the Colony Lounge, the Keg and Tap & Mallet. Best costume prizes went to Guitar Girl and HIN1 Swine. More chilling photos of Bob Boyd as a sumo wrestler — are also available on BASWA’s Facebook page.

Become a fan of BASWA on Facebook and learn about future neighborhood events like the next Pub Crawl — the Kris Kringle Krawl in December.

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Let a Neighbor Help You Buy or Sell

Susan Sanford, Associate Broker
585-785-2104
www.snd4sells.com

SWPC Tool Library Winter Hours

Visit Us!

$3 Thursday 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
$3 Or by appointment
(256-1740, ext. 102)

General Automobile Repairing
Domestic & Foreign

Columbus division
By Allison Clark

Newest South Wedge Totem Installed

BASWA (The Business Association of the South Wedge Area) welcomed the tenth Totem with “artist-designed bicycle rack” at Hamilton Street and South Ave. The Totem was designed by artist John Wilson. Entitled “Blue Circles One,” the work is composed of welded and painted steel. John, a founding partner in the law firm of Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor & Wilson, lives in the Maplewood neighborhood of Rochester.

John Wilson and “Blue Circles One.” (Photo by Christine Jones)

By Officer Stephen C. Edgett, Rochester Police Department

Report suspicious activity by calling 911.

Trust your instincts. Whether at home, work or play, you will usually know what people and actions seem out of place for the situation. If it seems wrong to you, it probably is. Get out of any potential danger and call 911.

If you do become a victim of a robbery, comply with the thief’s requests for money or property. Your belongings are not worth the risk of being injured. Don’t make any sudden moves or do anything to agitate the criminal. Try to get a good description of the robber’s clothing and physical features. A good witness is our best hope for making an arrest.

For more information, call the Southeast Neighborhood Service Center, 846 South Clinton Avenue, 428-7640.

Are you concerned about your community? Are you looking for an opportunity to become involved?

The South Wedge Planning Committee is looking for individuals to join our team to help us become involved in making the South Wedge a better place. We need your help on the following SWPC teams:

- Community Engagement – help plan community events, deal with community concerns and build block clubs.
- Marketing and Membership – help us build the South Wedge “brand”, keep residents informed and market the neighborhood to those outside the Wedge.
- Finance – help guide the financial affairs of the South Wedge Planning Committee.

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- Finance – help guide the financial affairs of the South Wedge Planning Committee.
- South Wedge Farmers Market – provide advice, guidance and volunteer support for the South Wedge Farmers Market.

If you would like more information, please contact Robert Boyd at 585-236-1740, Ext. 102.
SWPC Welcomes New Board Chair

By Robert Boyd

Tanya Zwahlen has been elected to a two-year term as Board Chair of the South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc. She replaces Lyjha Wilton who completed his term. He will remain on the Board. John “J.D.” Dennis, who served on the Board for many years, has moved to the Honor Board. J.D. will continue to be involved with SWPC.

Green Zebra Catering Comes Home

By Nancy O’Donnell

In Lindsay Steinberg’s earliest memory she’s a three-year-old, walking the South Wedge with her mother, co-owner of the old café Zeppa del Sud on South Avenue (now Beale Street). “I remember spending a lot of time there,” said Steinberg. “I grew up around food.”

Even so, Steinberg’s first ambition was to be a psychiatrist. The Allendale Columbia “lifer” went to Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and graduated with a degree in “Scientific and Philosophical Studies of the Mind.”

“It’s a great degree to drop from—” Steinberg was busy preparing a slew of her specialty fancy hors d’oeuvres—for a catered affair. “I’m making truffle mushroom beggar purses, miniature blue cheese biscuits with beef tenderloin and micro argula and butternut squash samosas,” she said. “I love lots of fusion techniques.”

Steinberg buys all the ingredients needed in her catering business: “No distributors or wholesalers. I do all my shopping myself at the Rochester Public Market, Palmer’s, and Lori’s.” For some part time kitchen help, she turns to boy friend Nick Obeconav.

Not all her cooking is formal. This summer she partnered with the South Wedge Planning Committee to teach healthy recipes to children, ages 5-15, from the Somali Outreach Center. “I planned a menu with [SWPC Director] Bob Boyd and brought the kids over to my kitchen. I was more than happy to volunteer. I love what’s going on [in the Wedge],” said Steinberg. “New businesses, young businesses. More independents on [in the Wedge].”

Spending a lot of time there，“I wanted to do my own thing, but it would be too costly in New York City,” she said, pointing to green practices like shopping seasonal markets and choosing organically grown items.

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Right now Steinberg is gearing up for what she hopes is a healthy holiday season of catering. Green Zebra Catering is available for buffet, sit down dinners and wine pairing events. To learn more, visit www.greenzebracatering.com.
ALDEN CATT, PIANO
Give or take a piano lesson at Catt’s Gregory Street studio. For more information, contact alderpiano@gmail.com.

BEALE STREET CAFE
Give a gift of the best barbecue and Cajun cuisine around. Blues played throughout the week.
689 South Ave., 271-4650, bealestreetcafe.com.

BOULDER COFFEE CO.
Spread the happiness into 2010 with a gift card for spiked coffee cocktails, wine and beer and yummy sandwiches and ground coffee beans. Or buy some gear that says Boulder! 101 Alexander St., 454-7140 and 955 Genesee St., 267-JAVA. Also at Rochester Public Market.

HENNA RISING BODY ART

CALVARY ST. ANDREW PARISH
Give the gift of food this holiday season. Donate to the parish food cupboard in a family or friend’s name. 95 Avellino Ave., 325-4950.

CAVERLY’S IRISH PUB
Invite friends and family to enjoy a pint of Guiness; it’s better than fruitcake! 741 South Avenue, 454-2160, www.caverlyspub.com.

CHEESY EDDIE’S

CINEMA THEATER

COFFEE CONNECTION
Fair trade coffee, organic, shade grown and fresh roasted. Handcrafted gifts from Peru. 681 South Ave., 442-2180.

DEPAUL’S T-SHIRT FACTORY

EQUAL-GROUNDS COFFEE
Equal-Grounds offers fair trade organic teas and locally roasted coffees for sale by the pound and half pound. Gifts include jewelry, clothing, travel mugs and original art works. 750 South Avenue, 242-7840, www.equalgrounds.com.

ECO BELLA BAKERY
For your vegan friends, 100% vegan and gluten-free brownies, pies, cookies, donuts, sweetbreads, muffins, decorated cakes, and more. 732 South Ave., 503-2488.

GREEN ZEBRA CATERING
Give the gift of a good meal, appetizer or dessert this holiday season. 778 South Avenue, 474-0958, greenzbracatering.com.

THE HISTORIC GERMAN HOUSE
Rent it for a wedding, banquet or concert. Treat a friend to some grub downstairs at The Keg Sports Bar & Grill, 315 Gregory St., 473-5070, www.theirmhouse.com.

HEADZ UP HATS
Top off the year with gifts of caps and accessories, hair products and more. 674 South Avenue, 442-7680.

HEGEDON ARTISAN CHOCOLATES
Spice Truffles, drinking chocolates and sassy holiday gifts. 647 South Ave. (Hedonist Alley), 355-7913.

HISTORIC HOUSEPARTS

JOHN’S TEX MEX EATERY
Give a gift of good food to chowhounds on your holiday list. 489 South Ave. 232-5830.

LIN’S GARDEN
Delight a friend with a few evenings of takeout Chinese, Sushi and Thai cuisine. Gifts cards and catering available. 420 Mt. Hope Ave, 232-8320.

LITTLE VENICE
Pizza pies and chicken wings all make great dinners when you’re too busy wrapping. 742 South Ave, 473-6710.

LUX LOUNGE
A laid back little neighborhood bar with a funky flair. Gift a friend with a visit or buy long sleeve shirts and children’s t-shirts that make everyone feel warm and look so cool. 666 South Ave, 232-9030, Lux666.com.

MARIANNE’S CONSIGNMENT
Recycled high fashion and environmentally sound gently used clothing and footwear. 792 South Ave, 442-6970.

MISE EN PLACE
Gourmet takeaway prepared meals and lots more consumable groceries and gifts for the holidays. 683 South Ave, 325-4160.
The South Wedge Planning Committee is pleased to offer this shopping guide as a free service to our local businesses.

Keep your buying local and support the businesses in the Wedge. A Wheel of Cheesecakes, Urban Village Scooters, and Tip Top Shoppe are just a few of the great places to shop. They are a part of the local flavor of the Wedge.

Handmade knits by Dorothy Phillips
Tip Top Shoppe

"Debaser" Jacket by Brixton
Thread

OPEN FACE SANDWICH EATERY!
The sandwiches! The cookies! Open your mouth and order a lot. Pastry Chef Jared Valenzuela's "Cookie Splits" received the City Paper's Best Christmas Cookies 2009 Critic's Choice. 619 South Avenue, 232-3050.

PINKY'S PET CONNECTION BOUTIQUE & BARKERY
Pick up your pet's holiday gift at Pinky's. Pet apparel, jewelry, bedding, spa items, and natural bakery treats for pets. 435 South Ave., 350-5680.

ROCHESTER PET SITTING

SOUTH WEDGE "SAVOR OUR FLAVOR" COOKBOOK
Keep your cooking in the Wedge. At $5 you can buy several cookbooks that celebrate the diversity of the South Wedge. From Saucy Crab Balls to Old Fashioned Peanut Butter Fudge. South Wedge Planning Committee, 224 Mt. Hope Ave., 256-1740.

SAVORY THYME CATERING

SHELL WE DANCE GIFT SHOP
Find one-of-a-kind gifts, funky & traditional, and help the community too. All proceeds go back to non-profit organizations. Open Tues./Wed. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 11-3 p.m., 720 South Avenue in the South Wedge Barber Shop.

SOLERA WINE BAR
Give the gift of an evening out at the divine Solera Wine Bar. Order the cheese plate! 647 South Avenue, 232-3070.

SOUTH WEDGE COLONY BAR & GRILL
Treat a friend to beer and wings. 203 South Avenue.

ST. JOSEPH HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY
Donate in a friend's name and buy a meal for the hungry. 402 South Ave., 232-3262.

ST. JOSEPH NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
Buy the gift of good health for someone else. 417 South Ave., 325-5260.

SOUTH WEDGE BARBER SHOP
Gift the whole family with a trim at the South Wedge Barber Shop. Tues.-Fri. 12-6ish, Sat. 10-6ish, 720 South Ave., 473-5570.

TANGO CAFÉ DANCE
Tip Top Shoppe

STUDIO
Give a gift that keeps on giving throughout the year. Sign up friends or family (yourself included) to learn to dance in many beautiful beginner-friendly classes. 389 Gregory St., 271-4930, www.tangocaledance.com, tangocaledance@yahoo.com.

TAP & MALLET

THREAD
Find men's and women's clothing, accessories and original art you won't find in the mall. Many items handmade, locally made, or made in the USA. Introduce yourself to indie brands: Gentle Fawn, Heavy Rotation, Poketo, Nieves, and more. 654 South Ave., 232-7110, www.shopatthread.com.

TAP & MALLET

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TAP & MALLET
Tango Café adds Coffee to its Gregory Street Studio
By Nancy O'Donnell

Tango Café Dance Studio, a South Wedge Area attraction for several years, has added a sophisticated coffee shop and community-gathering “cool place to hang” at its Gregory Street location. It takes the space formerly held by the Mez.

Co-owners Kerri Vaughn and Ruben Fuentes, whose motto is “learn, dance, have fun” are committed to enlivening the neighborhood one dance step at a time.

The couple bought the studio in April 2008. When the coffee shop downstairs became available this year, they jumped at the offer.

“I love the South Wedge,” said Vaughn. “It’s a very solid community.”

Fuentes said he especially enjoyed the “camaraderie” he felt among businesses.

“We joined BASWA,” said Fuentes. “I never felt there was a sense of community among businesses.

Fuentes and Vaughn met through their common passion for dance. Vaughn had spent her twenties enjoying heavy metal, “Judas Priest, the Scorpions, head banging.” At 30, she discovered “sacred circle dances, country line dancing, swing and salsa.” When a job in “corporate America” ended, Vaughn sold her 35-acre farm outside of Syracuse and went looking for a new life. Along the way, she met Fuentes, and they joined energy and talent and bought the dance studio.

Fuentes, a Brooklyn native, worked at Kodak until he was injured on the job and his life changed.

“I didn’t know what to do,” said Fuentes. He had been taking private dance lessons, and his teacher encouraged him to continue.

“The more I danced, the better my posture, and the easier it was for me to bear the pain in my legs,” said Fuentes.

The couple has added a new dance classes to their schedule. Rueda de Casino, which translates as “wheel of salsa,” is a Cuban group folk dance.

“Square dancing meets salsa,” said Vaughn. “They make a fabulous mix.”

While upstairs dance, zumba and yoga classes are held, downstairs the Café has added a menu that includes Cuban roast pork sandwiches. A new wooden dance floor attracts street traffic on weekends for “a free try it” dance lesson. They’ve also become home for area groups like “Songwriters in the Round” and “Spoken Word Poets.”

The couple also rent out the space for baby showers and other events.

“We plan to offer family dances in the future,” said Vaughn.

On Monday, December 21, from 8:30 - 9:30 p.m., Tango Café holds its first Winter Solstice Dance. Admission $7.

For more information and a list of classes, visit tangocafe-dance.com.

Ruben Fuentes and Kerri Vaughn (Photo courtesy of Tango Café)

Are you looking to grow your business? Are you looking to open a business?

If you answer yes to either of the above questions, the South Wedge Planning Committee can help you!

Together with the Small Business Development Center at the State University College at Geneseo, SWPC is pleased to help you with our customized business advising. Norm Karsten, a Certified Business Advisor, is in the SWPC office every other Tuesday.

If you have an existing business, he can review current performance with you and identify opportunities for improvement, or help you with expansion plans.

If you are thinking about opening a business, Norm can help you understand what you need to do and help you determine if entrepreneurship is right for you. Norm can also provide you access and referrals to others who can help you.

Last year, more than 70 clients used the business advising service offered by SWPC and the Small Business Development Center at SUNY Geneseo. Why not join them?

Contact Eileen Thomas to set up your appointment at 585-256-1740 ext 103.
New York State Main Street Transforms the South Wedge Area

By Eileen Thomas

The New York Main Street (NYMS) Program is a nationally recognized and award-winning State program that has provided grants to stimulate “main street” revitalization in more than 140 communities statewide since 2004. The South Wedge area has benefited from three $200,000 NYMS grants during that five-year period.

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) was one of the first organizations in the State to receive NYMS funding. The initial $200,000 was invested in ten buildings on South Ave. and Gregory St. and in streetscape work at South Ave. and Alexander St. More than $660,000 in private funds was provided as a match by the owners of those ten buildings.

Two additional NYMS grants secured by SWPC were focused on South Clinton Ave., coordinating with work done by the South East Area Coalition, SWPC and the Evolving South Clinton Avenue Plazos & Environments (ESCAPE) Committee. NYMS funds were matched by more than $1.5 million invested by property owners for six significant commercial and mixed-use buildings along the Avenue. Streetscape funds purchased new benches and new plants that will line South Clinton Ave. after the construction of bump-outs and crosswalks is completed in 2010.

What do you see if you walk along the streets where Main Street money was invested? If you stand at the corner of South and Gregory you can see the impact of the program just by looking at the gooseneck lighting fixtures on Beale Street, or the clean bright retail spaces in the Abeles Building and the two vibrant businesses in them. This building sat vacant and shabby for many years. Main Street helped bring it back to life.

The old Princess Theatre at 700 South Ave was losing chunks of its façade – now it is fully repaired, cleaned and painted. Walking up South Ave you see another building at 672-674 South Ave where the façades were uncovered, cleaned and repaired and the marble tile entryways were restored.

The building housing Historic Houseparts had extensive masonry work done, supported in part by Main Street. This might be unnoticeable to the casual passer-by, but work was crucial to the long-term stability of this important and unique building.

At South and Alexander, you can sit on benches purchased with NYMS funding and look across the street to John’s Tex Mex and the Nathaniel Square Corner Store. The new look of the Corner Store, with its wide-open storefront and awnings, also was supported by Main Street.

Heading down South Clinton, ABV Goodwill’s new call center near Alexander and South Clinton, has arisen from the warehouse and run-down retail building on the site. Medical Motors significantly improved their façade at 618 South Clinton Ave, adding signage, lighting and permanent planters. Plus, they planted two new street trees in previously empty tree-pits.

Spring Sheet Metal did a full renovation of the interior of their building, retaining unique period details. They are now finishing up work on their façade, which will include new trim and signage.

When you stand at the corner of South Clinton and Gregory and look west, you can see the beautifully restored Weider Hall with its unique half-moon windows and new wooden doors. The lime green paint on 699 South Clinton disappeared, restoring the brick and Medina stone to their original beauty. New awnings and decorative metal handrails add to the attractiveness of the building.

As you walk further south on South Clinton, you come to the Cinema Theatre and its adjacent storefront. The formerly worn and sad retail space was closed up and dark. Now it is bright and alive, with exposed brick, a wood floor and large new windows. Pendant lights and built-in seating make this some of the nicest retail space on the avenue.

Additional interior and exterior renovations to the theatre were also completed. The next time you go to the movies, look at the amazing 1940s-era floor-

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Winter Open House

Friday, January 22, 2009 between 5 and 9 P.M.

Come and enjoy refreshments and learn about what SWPC has done in the past year and how you can become more involved in making your community a better place!

The Wedge

The Ables building on South Ave. after NYMS renovations. (photo by Eileen Thomas)

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Thank You Chris and Vicki Hartman!

By Robert Boyd

Neighborhood residents Chris and Vicki Hartman had a dream a number of years ago to have a Farmers Market in the South Wedge that would connect local growers with local consumers in a sustainable way. They are both very passionate and caring individuals who see healthy eating as critical to the future of our world.

They brought together a number of growers and concerned residents and formed the South Wedge Farmers Market Advisory Board and proceeded to establish the South Wedge Farmers Market; Chris Hartman from the South Wedge Farmers Market; Mike Weisenreder and Rhonda Harris from the Edison High School’s Work Experience Program; Michele Liguori-Alampi and the entire staff at School #12, and finally the Greater Rochester Health Foundation for providing the funding for this project.

Chris and Vicki have spent countless hours volunteering to make the market not only a place for fresh fruits and vegetables but a place for the community to gather and grow. They bring together a number of other healthy food-related ventures that they want to focus on in the future. We’ll keep you posted.

The South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc. has provided administrative support for the past few years. Earlier in the year discussion began between the Hartmans and SWPC about SWPC taking a more active role in the market. After much study by both parties, the SWPC Board voted on November 12, 2009 to make the market a SWPC program. SWPC will establish a new Board Committee to oversee the market, and it will include the Hartmans and those on the current advisory board.

Approximately 250 students and teachers made the trek to see the traditional soil fields and hydroponic operation. This helped the children see where food comes from.

The final activity was the School #12 Night at the South Wedge Farmers Market. On October 8, 2009 over 40 families came to learn about healthy eating and enjoy healthy snacks (also prepared by the Work Experience program under Mike Weisenreder’s guidance). For many families this was their inaugural trip to the neighborhood market where they discovered they could obtain fresh fruits and vegetables right in the South Wedge. The kids had now experienced local food from field to market to plate!

Very special thanks goes to Lori Bryce and all the other volunteers from School #12 PTA; Rachel Staver and the team at Foodlink and Freshwise Farms; Chris Hartman from the South Wedge Farmers Market; Mike Weisenreder and Rhonda Harris from the Edison High School’s Work Experience Program; Michele Liguori-Alampi and the entire staff at School #12; and finally the Greater Rochester Health Foundation for providing the funding for this project.

Healthy Neighborhood continued from page 1

A comfortable and relaxing dental experience is what Contemporary Dentistry is all about. Having undergone extensive continuing education in the areas of aesthetic and complex dental restoration, our doctors and staff have the compassion and expertise you need for the most comfortable and relaxing dental experience possible.

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South Wedge Artist Unveils Main Street Mural

By Nancy O’Donnell

Artist Jill Gussow’s Main Street mosaic mural was unveiled at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, November 13. The work was part of a competition to bring public art to downtown Rochester. The sixty feet long and eight feet high mural covers the street level façade of the East End Garage with approximately 70,000 ceramic tiles. It was constructed in Gussow’s South Wedge studio and then transported to the wall.

The mural, entitled Life Patterns, was commissioned by the Grove Place Association and funded by the City of Rochester Cultural Commission, Corn Hill Neighbors and anonymous donors.

The project took three years to complete. “Good art takes time,” said Gussow.

Gussow’s website explains her rationale for creating the piece that she did. “The project called for creating a relationship between the sculpture by Arch Miller, which is sited on the northeast corner of the garage, and the Eastman Theatre, which is next to the garage on the west. The architecture of the garage is unadorned, a sharp contrast to the more ornate Eastman Theatre. The designs in the mural create a bridge between the two buildings referencing some of the details of the theater and putting them in a more contemporary context.”

The colorful mural installs a natural world on the garage’s façade. Maple, oak, cypress and locust leaves are joined by a frog and bat and other creatures. Gussow was joined at the ceremony by her sculptor father Roy Gussow and daughter Zora, who cut the ribbon on the project, and a crowd of well-wishers.

The artist described her own long creative journey. “Years ago I worked in a photo lab, and everyday I’d take a bus past the Xerox Square where my father’s installed sculpture was,” said Gussow. “It was a beacon of hope that, yes, you can earn your living as an artist.”

“More or less,” joked her father.

Gussow’s tile work also appears at Highland Hospital and the Wilson Center at the University of Rochester.

During the ceremony, Gussow thanked all those who helped her during the process: from art appraiser Roslyn Bakst Goldman of Grove Park Association to filmmaker and University of Brockport professor Virginia Bacheler, who chronicled the entire process, to the parking garage attendant who let Gussow use the garage’s rest room.

A champagne reception followed at Max of Eastman Place on Gibbs Street. ♦
As told to Nancy O'Donnell

Mary Sloan Williams, 86, lived on Rising Place, off Richard's Street, for most of her childhood. Her parents, Mary Moore and Thomas Sloan, were children of immigrants from County Cork, Ireland. They married late in life and were surprised to become parents at 41 and 43 years of age.

My dad was in Rochester. My mother was in Lawer, MA. She came to Rochester looking for work. She boarded at a house on Beacon Street off University.

When I was growing up my uncles would say, 'Boy, you're a surprise.' People would ask me if I minded being an only child and I'd say ‘why miss something I never had?’

When we were little we'd ride our bikes up to Highland Park and look at the water in the big fountain. There was a scarlet fever outbreak in 1929 or 1930. Whoever had it put a red sign on the door.

I wanted to do something so I went to Nazareth Academy. I went to dances at Immaculate Conception. I went to Edgerton Park and danced the jitterbug.

We'd go to the movies at the Palace and Lucas and the Roxie. I'd come home at 11 or 12 o'clock at night and never be afraid to walk home from Monroe at Goodmans.

When Mr. Williams returned, the couple moved to Ohio so he could study to be a welder. She gave birth to her second son Gary in March 1955. Gary is now a music teacher in Milwaukee while Tom is a physical education teacher in Odessa, NY.

When my mother died, the neighborhood took up a collection and bought food. Over 100 people attended her retirement party at the Spring House.

I went up to make a speech and I thanked everyone for coming.

Mary still attends RPO performances and the yearly Hibernian Club dinner. Once a month she lunches with her Delta Ep silon sorority sisters whom she first met when she was 16 years old in Nazareth Academy.

Mary continues to have adventures. I was in the airport waiting for the plane and I saw the co-pilot. I asked him, ‘are you well rested?’ He said, ‘yes, we got shooting the bull and when I get on [the plane], he said, ‘you’re flying first class.’

My friend said ‘would you stop talking to everyone?’ I said ‘what are you complaining about? We’re in first class, and we got a bottle of wine.’

Look for Mary around St. Patrick’s Day parade. She’s been invited to ride in the annual city parade.

Mary Sloan Williams at her home in the South Wedge (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

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The Wedge December 2009 - January 2010

A Life in the South Wedge: Mary Sloan Williams

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I went up to make a speech and I thanked everyone for coming. My second son Gary was born in March 1955 (Gary is now a music teacher in Milwaukee while Tom is a physical education teacher in Odessa, NY.)

Down the street was a retired policeman. His wife's brother was one of the Wallenda (famous Circus performing family). When he would come to visit his sister, he would string up a wire in the backyard and practice. It was quite a few feet above the ground.

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