Frederick Douglass Statue Finally Rising to Higher Ground

Nancy O’Donnell

After 75 years residing on a sloping lawn next to the Highland Park Bowl, the monument to historic abolitionist Frederick Douglass is rising to street level at the corner of South Avenue and Robinson Drive. A plaza to celebrate the former enslaved statesman will feature the bronze and blue granite monument, bluestone pavers, seating, landscaping and a sculpture of the North Star that will be illuminated after dark.

The move to make the statue more visible was fueled by Rev. Julius D. Jackson, Jr., an acting senior pastor at Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, and Eureka Lodge No. 36, a fraternal organization in Rochester. State Assemblyman Harry Bronson, D-Rochester was instrumental in securing a $152,000 state grant. Monroe County contributed the remaining $15,000 to ensure a new place for the monument.

A groundbreaking ceremony on August 19 was attended by local dignitaries including County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo, Harry Bronson, Brighton Town Supervisor Bill Moe-McHale, Douglass imitator Carlos Merriweather, artist Shawn Dunwoody and sculptor Olivia Kim.

Last year, Kim created 13 epoxy-and-fiberglass replicas of Douglass’s statue that were placed around the city to commemorate the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commemoration. Rev. Jackson said that he gained inspiration from the monument and continued for years to get the monument moved to a more appropriate site. In paraphrasing a poem by Langston Hughes, he said “A dream deferred does not equate a dream denied.”

“Keep dreaming and get a team because teamwork makes the dream work,” Rev. Jackson said. Assemblyman Bronson told the story about how Jackson came to him over ten years ago. “He asked me to help to put the statue in a more prominent place for all to understand more the freedom seeker, the librarian,” said Bronson. “Douglass dedicated his life to freedom. He fought for the rights of all people. He continues to inspire future generations that without struggle there can be no progress.”

Douglass lived in Rochester from 1847-1872. For a time, he lived in the South Wedge. His house on Anna Murray-Douglas, the country’s first tribute to an abolitionist, was moved to Highland Park. In 1941, the monument was moved to the Rochester Public Market. They said they actually got to talk to shoppers and share recipes. Each year, the Market is pleased to introduce new and exciting first time vendors. Once shoppers tasted Steve Frank’s Lost Woods Breads, it sold out early each week. Flint’s Maple kept adding to their product line after finding out what our shoppers liked. Adding the maple candy was brilliant! All the 2019 vendors plan to return in 2020.

A hearty South Wedge Planning Committee thanks to the many who made Market Season 13 a success: Rochester People Climate, Rochester, D.A.R.E., University of Rochester Dental Students, Green Light, Author Patti Gigo, Green Mountain Energy, Phyllis Wheatley Library, Paparazzi, Magic, The Rochester Public Market, but they added new friends from Moss Produce. We are already planning for Market 2020. For more information about the South Wedge Farmers Market, email info@swwp.org or call (585) 256-1740.

Calvary St. Andrew
Art Restoration, p. 4

Next up for restoration is Adoration of the Magi by George Haushalter

The Wedge Gets Read!
Opinion

Restoring the Brownfield of Public Trust
Rev. Matthew Martin Nickloff

Five years ago, this August 9th, 18-year-old Michael Brown was murdered by police officer Darren Wilson while walking down Canfield Drive in the city of Ferguson, Missouri. Five years later, this November 5, the citizens of the city of Rochester have the opportunity to vote in a referendum on a Police Accountability Board that would help prevent the need for further such anniversaries. Fifty-five years after race riots shook this city and 400 years since institutionalized violence against people of color first planted its insidious roots in our country, our “yes” to such accountability that is, well, overdue.

I’m not wearing my clerical collar as I write these words today, sitting in Equal Grounds Coffee Shop - though make no mistake, race, violence and the need to speak against them are much more theological issues at heart. I am painfully aware that, while the black shirt and white tab signify for me a deep desire to be a pastor, it is a not a guarantee of protection and support, to offer healing and hope, they are also a source of trauma and betrayal to those who have been abused by their priests, excluded and terrorized because of their race, gender, sexuality or creed. No one needs ever understand the pride of police officers feel in their professionalism in the profound damage trusted authorities can perpetuate when self-discipline is left to self-regulating fraternal entities can perpetuate when self-discipline is left to some nameless future occupant or investor, all the while fostering and allowing an open wound of failed hopes and broken promises. Police officers, like clergy, need to understand that we are largely responsible for the broken trust, for this spiritual brownfield we have left behind us in our communities. And, rather than waiting for others to clean it up for us, or to be continued.

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The Wedge Newspaper

Opinion

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Wow, September, already! Well, the season hasn’t been lost on us in Swillburg as neighbors have gathered monthly for luncheons. Always fun and truly interesting, these events attract folks who have been in Swillburg for a good while and share neat neighborhood stories, in addition to talk of vacations and gardening. Our luncheons occur because Judy Hay diligently schedules them and other members play their parts. How cool to live in a city neighborhood that generates this much connection! I recently read that only 35 percent of Americans know their neighbors. Wow. I can name most of the people who live within a block of me. And, a good number of them participate in or attend our various gatherings. By our concerted efforts Swillburg weaves community to generate cooperative urban living. This certainly makes our quarter of Rochester more livable, and it hasn’t played a small role in the quality of life here as well as the neighborhood’s marketability.

Coming up on November 7th is our annual Swillburg Harvest Fest Dinner, with a couple big changes. We usually celebrate at the Artisan Church on South Clinton Avenue, but this year we’ll be at The German House on Gregory Street. In addition, this year’s dinner will be catered. We’re looking at a few local restaurants to provide dinner and specifics are still being worked out. Our program will include speakers representing various agencies: RPD, Chief LaRon Singleton and Captain Lloyd Cuyler of the Goodman Section and possibly someone from the city zoning office. Announcements with more complete information will be posted on Nextdoor and Swillburg’s Facebook page.

I don’t want to close without gratefully mentioning our annual Wilson Day clean-up at Otto Henderberg Square Park. On Monday, August 26th, fourteen University of Rochester incoming freshman celebrated the thirty-first year of Wilson Day by helping us spruce up our neighborhood park as well as the Charette Garden on South Clinton Avenue. This event was coordinated by neighbor Sharon Price who worked with the university as well as with the City Of Rochester (they provided garden tools). Neighbor Frank TenBroeck and I pitched in as well. The students were introduced to Swillburg with vignettes of its history while weeding and cleaning was accomplished. We express our gratitude again to the students as well as to the University of Rochester for their great contribution and also to the City of Rochester for their material support!

Well, I hope you’ll all enjoy autumn—the recent weather says it’s heading our way. While you’re enjoying the season please come celebrate Swillburg Harvest with us at the German House!
Ron Yancone has pizza in his blood. He may have spent years running 25 Abbott's Custard franchises, but he got his early love for the hot pie. After serving ice cream for years, he worked as a heavy equipment operator and waited for his opportunity, as a “business growth officer,” going back to his roots in his newly refurbished Pontillo's Pizza on Mt. Hope Avenue.

“I grew up on Pontillo’s Pizza,” said Yancone. “I retired so I could open a Pontillo’s.” He was especially selective. Yancone said UR college students get a discount, and they will be delivering, too. Customers can order online at pontillosthmope.com. Both mobile and online orders get a first-time 15% discount if picking up or delivering.

Stop by and see the difference. As e-scooters take root, young people already expect to see moving vehicles. As cites discuss regulation of these new devices, which must avoid saving gas and commuting times, priority is giving them their agility and freedom. As cities discuss regulation of these new devices, which must avoid saving gas and commuting times, priority is giving them their agility and freedom.

Are You Ready for E-Scooters?

David H. Day

OK. We’ve all seen them, only if out of the corner of our eye: neatly “dockable” PACE bikes nestled in their station sheds. For decades, they have claimed sidewalks and turned the sidewalk just ahead of you into a trio of e-scooters abandoned and blocking your way. You step gingerly around the pile; the thoughtlessness of some people! Then, as a devoted bicycle commuter, you notice that the car has been left parked in a clearly dedicated bike lane. Grmrrr.

Such sights have begun to ignite rage in many urban areas. As you read this piece, you might observe a small, tireless committee, who say, “The Rochester City Council committee is attempting to address this issue of the explosion of electric vehicles for hire and the concerns around the proliferation of e-scooters.”

E-scooters stem largely from their sudden rise in popularity and on city sidewalks alarming pedestrians and body-motorists and pedestrians alike — even more so when they are not being used properly. Fears over any novel device must be addressed, particularly with e-scooters, the “renaissance” of the plaza after decades in the 1950s and kids, of course, have been foot-pedaling their RAZOR scooters since their debut in 2000, when they were named the “Toy of the Year.” A year later, Dean Karnazes introduced the SEWAY “give a gadget company was plastering “Save Historic Alexandria” stickers on every e-scooter in sight.

One might argue that this “micromobility” movement began with unicyles in the 1870s. Early examples include the 1950s and kids, of course, have been foot-pedaling their RAZOR scooters since their debut in 2000, when they were named the “Toy of the Year.” A year later, Dean Karnazes introduced the SEWAY “give a gadget company was plastering “Save Historic Alexandria” stickers on every e-scooter in sight.

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Historic Calvary St. Andrews Murals Restored by Volunteers

In Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, a DC suburb that fairly oozes his history, a local vigilante group has been reporting, “The Adoration of the Christ Child, was a gift to St. Andrew’s Church from Hiram Sibley’s granddaughter, Maria Atkinson Perkins Willard, in memory of her late husband, Harry H. Perkins. It was commissioned to American artist George Haushalter, living in Paris at the time, and completed in 1902. Executed on canvas with wax colors, the effect is similar to early frescoes. The second mural by Haushalter, Adoration of the Magi, was commissioned in 1903 by Emily Sibley Watson in memory of her mother Elizabeth Tinker Sibley. The artist was asked to paint the scene of the wise men bringing gifts to the Christ child. Reverend Dr. Algernon Crapsey wrote that the subject was appropriate to memorialize a woman whose own generosity to Rochester was so great. Restoration of this mural, located on the north transept, will be undertaken this fall. Under the guidance of former Memo Art Gallery Assistant Curator, Cynthia Culbert, volunteers will continue on the second project. They roll cotton swabs and apply solutions of triamcinolone citrate with detergent to a small area of the mural. They repeat the process and then rinse with distilled water. Cindy Culbert is an art historian working under a conservator and training the volunteers. She is an alumna of Framingham State and Syracuse University. "It always took arts classes through my school years," said Culbert. "One of my favorite books at home as a child was on Norman Rockwell. My father would tell you that when I was a baby, he would take me to art museums, and I would look at everything with the most serious expression on my face. As a teen I had an interest in fashion, particularly drawing dresses. I began college at Framingham State as a fashion major... until I took a Renaissance Art class and enjoyed learning and studying art. We took a trip to Italy where I visited Florence, Rome and Venice to see some of the great works in real life. I was a curator as a senior of an exhibit on local women artists at the Danforth Museum, headquartered on Framingham State's campus." Rehabs projects are funded through donations to the Friends of Calvary St. Andrew's for the restoration of the murals and stained glass windows. A visit to view these murals and watch the cleaning progress can be arranged by appointment: fcaarc@gmail.com. For information about the art restoration at historic Calvary St. Andrews, Cindy culbertcindy@gmail.com.

Historic Calvary St. Andrews Murals Restored by Volunteers

Restoration of the significant and aging fine art murals gracing Historic Calvary St. Andrew’s is underway in this City of Rochester landmark building, located on the corner of Avellini Avenue and Ashland Street. The first project, cleaning a large painting entitled The Adoration of the Christ Child, was a gift to St. Andrew’s Church from Hiram Sibley’s granddaughter, Maria Atkinson Perkins Willard, in memory of her late husband, Harry H. Perkins. It was commissioned to American artist George Haushalter, living in Paris at the time, and completed in 1902. Executed on canvas with wax colors, the effect is similar to early frescoes. The second mural by Haushalter, Adoration of the Magi, was commissioned in 1903 by Emily Sibley Watson in memory of her mother Elizabeth Tinker Sibley. The artist was asked to paint the scene of the wise men bringing gifts to the Christ child. Reverend Dr. Algernon Crapsey wrote that the subject was appropriate to memorialize a woman whose own generosity to Rochester was so great.

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In Mt. Hope Cemetery, many rest in peace, but some do not.

That is every piece except for his skull. Now General Marshall's ghost is said to be one of the many restless souls traversing the windswept cemetery paths. He continues to walk for his missing skull, unable to rest in peace without it.

Cemeteries are not the only place where souls never had one to begin with. In June 1875 at the age of seven children. Alice Louisa's spirit remains in the house? Sherri's late husband had his own experience of the paranormal kind. In the late 1980's, Lee told his wife that he had seen a ghost in the bedroom. It was described as a well-dressed older man with long hair and the ghost appeared to be sitting at a desk writing. When the Dukes discovered that the house was once owned by Frederick Douglass, the pieces began to fall into place. It seems Douglass, who was always dedicated to his cause, continued to live on through history. Extraordinary people accomplished incredible things, breathing life into the homes that line the quiet streets. When the lights go down, who walks your halls?

In the dimming light of a fall day, one can almost hear the sorrowful and anguished cries emanating from the shadows along the hiking and biking trails. White figures have been seen floating toward the Rochester Railway Station, which once ran along an elevated line of Pinnacle Hill, as if returning home after paying respects to a loved one.

The Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action ("RAICA") group has partnered with Abundant Energy, supported by Ampron, to facilitate community solar programs throughout greater Rochester. In addition to accelerating the region's transition to sustainability, the partnership will lower electric costs for local residents, businesses, and houses of worship. RAICA's mission is to bring climate solutions to Rochester through the lens of community solar to its network. Community solar allows customers to receive credits from local solar farms that offset their RG&E bills. It can result in as much as a 10% savings on their energy spend.

"As a group seeking to create a meaningful response to climate change," said Jack Elbel, the lead designer of RAICA, "we are delighted to help our religious communities lower their electric costs while advancing New York's clean energy goals. Community solar is the perfect solution for those of us who couldn't otherwise participate in rooftop solar."
Hard cider growing in popularity
Glynis Valenti

No one is sure when or where it began or who discovered that fermenting apple juice was delicious, but 3,000 years ago there were apple trees along the Nile River, and the Egyptians were notable beer and wine drinkers. After the Romans found cider in Britain in 55 BC, large scale production really took off. In early America, it was the drink of choice. Benjamin Franklin said, “It’s indeed bad to eat apples; it’s better to turn them all into cider.” William Henry Harrison won the 1840 presidential election as the “Log Cabin and Hard Cider Candidate” and gave out free cider to his supporters. John Adams started his day with a tankard of cider and lived to be 90 years old. Yes, there are some health benefits to drinking cider regularly, though, at 3 to 12 percent alcohol, this article is not recommending readers drink a daily breakfast tankard.

All real cider, hard and not, is produced by crushing whole apples. It contains lots of Vitamin C for the immune system and more antioxidants than tomatoes or green or black tea to fight free radicals. It’s 100 percent juice, unlike processed apple juice at the grocery store; it has no added sugar, it has no cholesterol and, in fact, contains pectin which reduces cholesterol. There is no added sugar in real cider, but there is a substantial amount of natural sugar, and one 8-ounce glass is about 110 calories.

Ancient ciders were made with crabapples making them tart and bittersweet. As exploration and trade ensued across Europe and parts east, more common, sweeter apple varieties were shared, cultivated, and utilized to produce this popular alcoholic beverage. Today, with 7,500 varieties of apples available, new generations of family farmers have rediscovered heirloom and cider apples and are also making hard cider from culinary apples like Golden Delicious and Gala. Rochester is surrounded by multi-generational fruit farms, and many specialize in apples. If they don’t make their own cider, they likely sell to people who make it, creating opportunities all around us to drink local, smaller production ciders.

For 100 years Schutt's Apple Mill, 1063 Plank Rd., has been growing apples in and around Rochester area. Schutt's own Fried Cake cider is "fall" in a glass with familiar seasonal spices over apples and a fried cake flavor finish. This is sweet—a dessert or holiday cider for grown-ups—and made with Ida Reds, Empire, and Rome apples. Schutt's more traditional offering is Great Grandpa's "Relic." It's light and refreshing with an off-dry finish. Made from Crispin and Pinata apples, the flavors are more subtle, balanced, classic and slightly tart. It all begins with apples (Photo by Glynis Valenti)

Learn about Zero Waste Lifestyle
October 15
Abundance Co-op

The event is free to the community.

Is it possible to live without waste?
Come enter the dialogue in this discussion of sustainable living with Zero Waste Coach and Professional Organizer Rebecca Silliman of Spacial Clarity! She will briefly review the theory of a zero waste lifestyle in all of its complexity, including privilege, access, and barriers to living sustainably and reducing waste. But what good is talk with no action?

This presentation will cover the five R's of zero waste (reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot) and how to implement each principle in daily life. You’ll come away with practical methods for reducing waste and starting on a longer-term, incremental journey towards minimizing waste.

In a society set up for waste, reclaim your power to make positive change for your life and the world. Learn more about Rebecca and Spacial Clarity at www.spacialclarity.com.
Ocean Waves & Smart Phones Don’t Mix

Michele H. Martell

As I’m writing this, I’m listening to “Ocean Waves” on my Alexa. My inspiration? A recent trip to glorious Cape May, New Jersey, with my wonderful children. Have you even been in awe of the ocean and the power of the waves, to both move you and relax you at the same time? It had been sixteen years since I had the bliss of relaxing on an ocean beach. I had forgotten just how ocean waves empower and inspire. They draw you in to admire them, to relish in their peace, and to respect their power. While at the ocean, it can feel as if time stops and all that exists is the ocean and the life it supports. And the ocean water itself, the pull of the waves and the undertow is phenomenal and can feel as if no power can stop it. It can also cause you to feel as if nothing can stop you – if you allow yourself to feel one with it.

As I was preparing to take some while they were gleefully jumping over waves, an enormous wave came out of nowhere, which covered my head and phone! My phone began glitching over me and my phone, it was of course, attention-grabbing. My first thought was why, oh why, did I bring a phone to the shore was to take pictures of these memories for my kids. As I was preparing to take some pictures of those waves is what got me into this predicament in the first place. I decided that being present with those ocean waves was the peaceful sense to seek, not being stressed over technology and the hold it can have over life. The journey to Cape May was a magnificent trip for my children and me, and they told me that this was their best summer ever. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have taken them there, and for all of us to have had this exquisitely experience on a stunning Jersey shore; memories that will last a lifetime. While I’m far from outdoorsy, it will most definitely not be another 16 years until I enjoy an ocean beach again. I found ocean waves so moving and de-cry from the serenity of being present with ocean waves. But taking pictures of those waves is what got me into this predicament in the first place. I decided that being present with those ocean waves was the peaceful sense to seek, not being stressed over technology and the hold it can have over life. The journey to Cape May was a magnificent trip for my children and me, and they told me that this was their best summer ever. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have taken them there, and for all of us to have had this exquisitely experience on a stunning Jersey shore; memories that will last a lifetime. While I’m far from outdoorsy, it will most definitely not be another 16 years until I enjoy an ocean beach again. I found ocean waves so moving and de

Ocean Waves

E-scooters are coming! E-scooters are coming! continued from pg. 4

South Wedge History

Nancy O’Donnell

There’s something about the South Wedge. Long-time residents often send love letters to the WEDGE Newspaper along with memories and family histories. Who can forget Anne Smith’s story about growing up in Swillburg and learning how to play euchre? The WEDGE Newspaper is fortunate to hear from former residents or the relatives of residents who remember. Judith Marshall Stekl and Linda Waterst to write of West Carting Co. Storage Warehouse that began on Hamilton Street near South Avenue. Their grandfather Frederick West was in the “carting business” for more than half a century when he died on April 21, 1960. His obituary noted that he was School #9’s first standard bearer. West founded the West Carting Co. in 1905. In 1919, he and his son Ralph and Fred formed the Service Storage Co. His son left in 1935 and moved to Brooklyn. The New York State Warehouse Association writes in their NYSWA May 1960 Bulletin that West “built one of the most beautiful warehouses in Rochester.” Looking at the photo of the warehouse at 704-712 S. Clinton Avenue, they may be right.

DO YOUR PART

Don’t Litter. Pick it up when you see it.
Check out #litterati on Instagram. Litterati has collected and logged over 700,000 pieces of trash! And while you’re at it, you can cut back on your use of plastic waste before the law changes. Bring a cloth or net bag for your groceries, your personal take-out containers, your own spoons, etc. Let’s keep plastic out of the ocean.

E-scooters are coming! E-scooters are coming! continued from pg. 4

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Welcome back to our fourth offering focusing on ancient art/science of astrology. In writing this we hope to spark the interest of a wide range of readers, from those who might know their Sun signs to others who know nothing about astrology, including those who think it just might be a hippy hoax from the 60’s. The New Moon in Libra on September 38 initiates our next emotional cycle and marks the start of the energy pattern for most of October. It will be joining a line up of three other heavenly bodies – Mercury, Venus, and Sun – already in this sign that seeks balance, fairness and beauty. This emphasizes the need for give and take, especially in partnerships of all kinds. The process is one of seeking clarification of one’s own needs and desires through interaction with another. The craving for understanding that is so integral to Libran energy will catch our attention at this time, requiring us to go deeper in our preparation for the more internal time that is winter.

Mercury will once again be turning retrograde (it does this three times each year) and this time in the often secretive house of Scorpio. This season’s retrograde in Scorpio is not just for probing and even, at times, nonverbal communication as a way toward intimacy. And we are all likely to be more sensitive, susceptible to bruised feelings and possible insult. These two months will be a wonderful time to view our night sky as our ancestors did without any special equipment, whenever clear conditions permit. We will have all the time to work harder to be in touch with how we feel and then communicate with those closest to us. Venus, invisible throughout the summer, is returning to our view in the western horizon right before sunset. This time frame coincides with the retrograde period and is likely to take us to even deeper places within ourselves as the planet of communication goes into “the underworld” and is not visible to us. Venus, invisible throughout the summer, is returning to our view in the western horizon right before sunset. This time frame coincides with the retrograde period and is likely to take us to even deeper places within ourselves as the planet of communication goes into “the underworld” and is not visible to us.

Our view of Mercury will be dramatically changing during these two months: in early October, look near the horizon in the west shortly after sunset. Then in late November, look to the eastern horizon right before sunrise. This time frame coincides with the retrograde period and is likely to take us to even deeper places within ourselves as the planet of communication goes into “the underworld” and is not visible to us. Venus, invisible throughout the summer, is returning to our view in the western horizon right before sunset. This time frame coincides with the retrograde period and is likely to take us to even deeper places within ourselves as the planet of communication goes into “the underworld” and is not visible to us.

Planetary Messengers
Aeolea Wendy Burwell & Peter Doughty

The Art of Marilyn Anderson: 40 years of Arts and Photos

Long time South Wedge resident, Marilyn Anderson will be exhibiting her work at Monroe Community College’s Mercier Gallery from November 7 – December 12. She talks about her almost 40 years of creating art and building community.

“Beginning in the 70s, because of my books about Guatemalan weaving, some have assumed I am a working weaver. Rather, I am a research weaver and...”

South Wedge Sudoku

STR8TS

SUDOKU

To complete Suduko, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely.

| 9 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 7 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 |

Easy

| 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 |

Tough

| 3 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 |

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Artist Stacey Mrva Beautifies South Clinton Avenue

Nancy O’Donnell

Mrva’s copper and fabric sculpture hangs in Summit Federal Credit Union

This year, the South Clinton Merchants Association reached out to local businesses for help in a Swillburg beautification project. The group hoped to commission well-known metal artist Stacey Mrva to create decorative benches for South Clinton Avenue, and they needed funding.

“Ultimately we wanted to use a local artist to help celebrate all of the momentum on S. Clinton Avenue and add art that is different and fun,” said Jen Topa, a staff planner at Highland Planning. With funds gathered from bench sponsors—Wedge 23 LLC, Rochester Beer Park, The South East Area Coalition, Betlem Heating & Air Conditioning, Stuart’s Spices, Flavors of Asia and Masline Electronics—Mrva went to work.

The Fairport, NY native, earned a degree in art from Syracuse University in 1997. Mrva first focused on jewelry making but soon discovered a passion for metal smithing.

“‘I was welding, and I wanted to get bigger,’ said Mrva. ‘My parents were very supportive. They gave me a MIG welder.’ [MIG welders use high voltage electricity to weld.]

“I’m a stubborn German woman, and I didn’t want to have to ask anyone for help [in creating heavier, larger pieces that she couldn’t lift herself]. ‘I wanted to create things that were airy. Anything you can draw with a pencil, I can draw with metal. I am taking something rigid and solid and turning it to something fluid and organic.’

Mrva grew her business over the years from a studio in Artisan Works. “I created a lot of original pieces and traded them for space.”

Along with welding custom metal railings for people’s homes, Mrva created a number of larger art pieces. Her 12-ft tall hanging sculpture is displayed at Summit Federal Credit Union.

Mrva describes herself as a “weekend welder.” Today she creates her metal work when she’s not working as a full-time manager at F. Olivers. Mrva said she built the first two benches in her Canal Street studio. In one, she incorporates, appropriately enough, lilacs. “My inspiration are organic especially branches and trees,” Mrva said.

Mrva said that the City of Rochester is helping coordinate installation and provides funds to businesses for beautification projects.

“We hope to do five or six in all if we can find more funding,” Mrva added. Interested in contributing? Contact Jen Topa, jen@highland-planning.com.
**Community News**

**Neighbors Want More Input in City’s 2034 Plan**

Glynis Valenti

Many Rochester neighborhoods are calling for more time to consider the implications and components of a City plan, Rochester 2034. Recently, the City of Rochester released a draft of its comprehensive plan. On October 7 the City Planning Commission and SWPC Community Engagement Committee (CE) voted to accept it, but this extensive plan is nearly 500 pages long and broken into 17 sub-sections such as “Housing,” “Historic Preservation,” and “Natural Resources.” The plan indicates that the City is eliminating the language and districts of zoning—for instance RA, C1, and C2—and overlay area—in favor of “placemaking” concepts like “Medium Density,” “Flexible Mixed-Use,” and “Downtown Mixed-Use.” In the language of urban planning there are 471 “strategies” for implementation.

While recognizing the time and thought the City has put into this project, the South Wedge Planning Commission (SWPC) Community Engagement Committee (CE) submitted concerns and suggestions for the first draft, and the City incorporated some of these changes into September’s revised version. However, key issues remain that have potential ramifications for Rochester neighborhoods.

The most pressing example is the re-characterization of the north half of the South Wedge from R2 to Medium Density Residential. This area includes single-family and duplex homes (as well as group homes and some small commer- cial sites.) According to a survey done by CE Committee members, most of the South Wedge is comprised of single- and two-family homes with scattered multi-family properties. The Rochester City Zoning Code describes RA as such: “The district requirements are intended to preserve, promote and protect the character of residential neighborhoods living characterized by (un)obstructed front yards, pedestrian-scale streetscapes and buildings scaled and designed to be compatible with the neighborhood context.”

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In the Rochester 2034 Plan, there is virtually no mention of affordable housing, citing “low incomes [as the root of] Rochester housing affordability chal- lenges.” However, creating more jobs does not address the aging, retiring population who may want to downsize and stay in their neighborhoods or peo- ple with disabilities wanting to live in the city. The Plan focus is development of the main transportation corridors, including Mount Hope Ave., South Ave., and S. Clinton Ave., into commercial and/or mixed-use commercial properties. In other words, developers will no longer need to demonstrate that there is an adequate number of spaces for the in- tended use. The City of Rochester is hop- ing that encouraging walking, biking, and public transportation will decrease the number of cars owned by residents. In addition, the City is also consider- ing allowing “accessory dwelling units” to be built in the back yards of single-family homes. Unless there are more occupancy guidelines, the CE Commit- tee has concerns about this as well.

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“I write daily inspirational haikus at Corl’s Haiku For You on Facebook,” said Rainbeaux.

“I’ve been out of the performing realm for a while,” Rainbeaux added. “I’ve enjoyed watching comedy, but storytelling can combine comedy jets with moving real life stories. In my real life, social interactions can be awkward, but storytelling gives me a chance to organize my thoughts and speak from the heart. When Penny put out a call for a couple other people, perhaps a man or a musician, I threw my hat into the ring as a transman and musician story- teller. I was initially drawn to talk about different life pressures and how I deal with them. Then the focus changed to how I would make one life decision - would I leave my job or not? Finally, I realized that the way I deal with pres- sures is through love, Loving myself and the people I’m interacting with. The ly- rics to ‘Under Pressure’ fit perfectly with how we are called to love our neighbors and to grow as people when we give ourselves what we need to be happy and healthy human beings.”

A relaxing Sunday afternoon in October just listening at Tin Roof Dive Bar, 1355 S. Plymouth Ave, (585) 685-8205.
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poisoned by the selfish decisions of our predecessors, to use our energy and our efforts to clean up our own messes. To do whatever it takes and whatever we can, not to demand blind faith from our constituents, but to earn back trust from our neighbors, and, regardless of whether they forgive us, make what amends we can by breaking the cycle of blame and evasion and start simply the declaration effort right here and right now, step by step, act by act.

Embracing PAB legislation, not only accepting it, is one major step towards healing the rift in the present, and an opportunity to prevent future injury while beginning to make reparations for the injustices of the past. The PAB is not an admission that “there are no good cops”; rather, it is a request for a new beginning in which those who excel as public servants can be embraced and celebrated by those who have often not been given proper justice. When everyone thrives, everyone thrives. What may feel like accepting a defeat might very well be a kind of spiritual surrender that will become a path towards some temporal restoration, in its literal sense, a restoration of health and wholeness.

This past July, I had occasion to visit Michael Brown’s memorial in Ferguson, Missouri. We were in St. Louis celebrating my grandfather's 90th birthday. He is also a Lutheran pastor, who I learned, had actually served a parish where I serve. The police officer who pulled the trigger could have been one of our neighbors of color, walking home from the Highland Market, a few blocks from where my grandfather's history was with Ferguson, with Michael Brown, with the injustices that led to his death, and also with some of the small but steady efforts to demand restitution for those injustices.

I found Michael Brown’s memorial freshly adorned with new flowers and teddy bears in the middle of a muddy Missouri afternoon, the sun shining, and only a few cars creeping by. I was suddenly aware that Ferguson, and the legacy of police violence against people of color, and the history of the church’s oft-complicity in injustice, and the story of my own family, hadn’t taken place in avacant backdrop of heroes and villains, in some war-torn ghetto or some romanticized revolution. Looking up and down the street at the town homes and apartments, I could have been standing on Manor Parkway, here in the South Wedge. The young man who could have been shot might have been one of our neighbors of color, walking home from the Highland Market, a few blocks from where I serve. The police officer who pulled the trigger could have been one of the officers in the next booth over at Pat’s Coffee Mug, lamenting with his comrades how deprived he was because of the endless violence encountered in that most difficult line of duty. Canfield St and Manor Parkway are not worlds apart; our communities’ stories, like my family’s and church’s, are also intertwined.

A recent report noted that Rochester ranked nationally as the second worst city for black people to live and flourish. Not Ferguson. Not Detroit. Our city. Like it or not, it’s not just clergy and the police, but also we the people of the Wedge and of the Flower City, who also have plenty of brownfield to begin restoring.

We could lean on the legacy of Frederick Douglass (whose house we, by the way, burned down on South Ave) and Susan B. Anthony, as I could claim the woke-ness of my grandfather, and as police officers claim the heroics of good cops. Or we can all start to take accountability for the ways in which we make our neighborhood unwelcoming and unhealthy for those who are different than us. We can take notice of the ways we remain silent on issues like police accountability, and how this silence helps to perpetuate the institutionalized racism which underwrites our prosperity.

Canfield Street five years ago runs into Manor Parkway and South Ave today. As long as refuse to pursue accountability, the long road of violence against our children will continue, leaving a spiritual brownfield in its wake, costing us the precious and irreplaceable lives of too many of God’s beloved children of color. On November 5th, please vote, and do so in favor of the establishment of a Police Accountability Board. For the sake of Michael Brown. For our police officers. For our children and neighbors. And for the sake of our own souls.