

the Stand

south side news

www.mysouthsidestand.com

Syracuse, NY

OCTOBER 2012 Issue 21 FREE

LEADING CRUSADE

Bernard Cannon takes stop-violence message to youth on the streets

Staying in perfect pitch
Girl, 12, tirelessly hones baseball skills

stage loving
Appleseed Productions putting on four plays through next July

KJ's Angels
Group raises money to help with cost of infant burials

AN AFTER-SCHOOL PLACE



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**REPORTERS, EDITORS AND
PHOTOGRAPHERS**STUDENTS AT THE
S.I. NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**SPECIAL THANKS
THIS MONTH**ELINA BERZINS, THANE JOYAL,
JIM REITH, CATERINA D'AGOSTINO,
MAURIZIO PENZO**CONTACT US**SOUTH SIDE NEWSPAPER PROJECT
(315) 882-1054
ASHLEY@MYSOUTHSIDESTAND.COMTHE STAND IS BASED OUT OF THE
SOUTH SIDE COMMUNICATION CENTER
2331 SOUTH SALINA STREET
SYRACUSE, NY 13205

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■ Cover photography of Bernard Cannon by Jason Greene

CALENDAR | OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

What: ACTS Public Action Meeting
When: 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21
Where: Henninger High School, 600 Robinson St.
More Details: The Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) is an inter-faith, multi-racial, urban-suburban, diverse coalition of faith communities and community organizations throughout the greater Syracuse area that organizes with the mission to address the social, economic, educational and political concerns. The 2012 Public Action Meeting, "Fire of Faith," agenda will include: Public Education (Pre-K), Food Access, Criminal Justice and Raising the State Minimum Wage
More Info.: Megan Godfrey at (315) 708-2482

What: Writing Our Lives Conference
When: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3
Where: Nottingham High School, 3100 E. Genesee St.
Cost: Free, but limited to 150
More Details: This youth writing conference is open to students in grades 6-12. The conference will include a variety of free writing opportunities: poetry, comics/illustration, fiction writing, digital composing, story telling, college writing and political writing. A continental breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m. and lunch will be provided.
More Info.: To register, visit <http://writingourlives.syr.edu/> To register a group of six or more students, email Sally Sayles-Hannon at sjsayles@syr.edu

DISCLAIMER

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE STAND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE ENTIRE STAFF. THE STAND WELCOMES SUBMISSIONS FROM ALL MEMBERS OF SYRACUSE'S SOUTH SIDE BUT RETAINS THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH ONLY MATERIAL THE STAND DEEMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PUBLICATION'S EDITORIAL PURPOSE AND IN KEEPING WITH COMMUNITY STANDARDS.

MEET NEW STAFF REPORTER

Natalie Caceres is pursuing her master's degree in Newspaper, Magazine and Online Journalism at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Caceres graduated with a double major in English and Communications from Portland State University in Oregon. She plans to continue her love of writing through journalistic endeavors and to work in digital/multimedia journalism after graduation from the Newhouse School. Caceres hopes to expand her horizons by interacting with residents while she covers stories about the South Side community.



Last year, we debuted our Strolling the South Side column with a feature on the Libba Cotten Grove park, and on Oct. 2 a bronze casting of Cotten was unveiled at the site located at South State and Castle streets. The Syracuse Parks Department credits former city parks Commissioner Otis Jennings with pushing the project forward. It was in 1983 that Cotten was named Syracuse's first living treasure, and it's great to see her talent further recognized and preserved for future generations.

This month's Strolling the South Side column spotlights a determined individual who can often be found on the corner of West Colvin Street and Midland Avenue pursuing a one-man crusade. Bernard Cannon spends time on this corner in an attempt to divert youth from taking a path to violence. Keith Muhammad's story about Cannon can be found on Page 8, and a video by our new staff reporter, Natalie Caceres, can be viewed online at www.mysouthsidestand.com.

Our South Side Achiever this month is a talented Southside American Little League star who earned 19 strikeouts in a single game. Nadia Diaz's notoriety even earned this achiever a spot in a nationally recognized event recently. Read more about this local talent on Page 4.

The community is invited to nominate future achievers or offer suggestions on a facet of the community they'd like to learn more about. Story ideas can be emailed to Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or mailed to The Stand, South Side Communication Center, 2331 S. Salina St., Syracuse, N.Y., 13205.

Many stories featured this month came directly from residents' suggestions. Area artist Ty Marshall suggested a feature on Appleseed Productions, housed at Atonement Ministries. And Linda Donalson of KJ's Angels, a foundation that raises money to help with the expense of grave markers for infant burials, contacted us with information on her organization's fundraiser and how KJ's Angels can assist parents going through an unexpected death due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. And with many in the community eager for information on the development of a grocery store, we feature an update, including how residents are dealing with this void.

This month, we will once again hold an interactive Behind the Scenes workshop. These workshops provide an inside look at our project as reporters share the process they follow to create their published articles.

This session will feature some of the project's new student reporters, who will be joined by community correspondents and The Stand board members. Many who attended our past workshops enjoyed the informal format, which allowed for an open discussion.

We are interested in hearing your story ideas and also your feedback. So if you want to learn more about the project or you would like to share your perspective, please join us Saturday, Oct. 20, at the South Side Communication Center. Find full details in the "Upcoming Events" box to the right.

Ashley Kang



UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 20

Behind the Scenes of The Stand

When: 10 a.m. to noon
Saturday, Oct. 20

Where: South Side
Communication Center located at 2331 S. Salina St.

More Details: Syracuse University reporting students from The Stand will share how they develop their story ideas, and they'll describe the process they follow to put together an article for the print issue. The workshop takes you Behind the Scenes of The Stand. This event is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about how stories get into the paper. Community members are welcome to come with questions and story ideas.

Free: The workshop is free, and coffee and refreshments will be provided.

More Info.: Contact The Stand's director, Ashley Kang, at Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or call (315) 882-1054.

LOCAL ACHIEVERS

The South Side Achiever is a regular feature in The Stand that highlights an accomplished person in the community.

ORGANIZATION

Southside American Little League

PITCHER

Nadia Diaz

STATS

.600 Batting Average in 2012

One Home Run

19 strikeouts in just one championship game

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Southside American Little League

- http://ssall.clubspaces.com/Default_css.aspx

NOMINATE SOMEONE

Do you know a South Side Achiever? Nominate that person by contacting Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or (315) 882-1054



Nadia Diaz

Strikes out her opponents to reach the top

By | Natalie Caceres
Staff reporter

Southside American Little League offers co-ed team competition to adolescent residents

With countless player cards spread across their backyard table, Jose Diaz and his young daughter, Nadia Diaz, share a close bond. The 12-year-old has accomplished much in her short baseball career.

“We’re very proud of her,” said Diaz, who — like Nadia — is wearing a Red Sox shirt.

Diaz, a Syracuse school bus driver, also coached Nadia’s District 8 Little League team, the Pirates, this past season. However, as Diaz recounts, he originally wasn’t sure about her playing.

“It was actually her mom who signed her up,” he said of how Nadia originally got into the sport. “I didn’t want her to.”

He worried that because it was considered to be a male sport it would be harder for Nadia to play. However, Nadia’s interest and love for the game proved to be too strong to keep her away.

“I just started liking it,” recalled Nadia, who began playing at the age of 5.

Diaz says that during baseball season, he and Nadia practice every day — though it’s a rule at home that she must finish her homework first.

“I just come home now ready to change into my baseball clothes and go out with my dad,” Nadia said.

Nadia’s mother, Jeanette Diaz, describes Nadia as her own biggest critic and is harder on herself than her father when it comes to missing a practice.

“She doesn’t want a break,” Jeanette Diaz said.

And all her training paid off. In a championship game against fellow Southside American Little League majors team the Cubs, Nadia registered what is considered an unprecedented 19 strikeouts. Since the teams were co-ed, Nadia’s performance garnered even more attention, as current league president Jason Purdy describes.

“She was the only girl in our entire majors out of



> Nadia Diaz threw out the first pitch of the 69th reunion for the group of women who inspired the film “A League of Their Own.” | Taylor Baucom, Staff Photo

four teams,” Purdy said. “You see the opposing side thinking it was going to be ‘an easy time’ ... and then she strikes them out.”

While Nadia is proud of that day’s accomplishment, she recognizes that her performance also is fueled by her great teammates and their dedication.

“Everybody is my friend,” Nadia said.

Nadia’s father agrees, noting that all of his players are considered equal. “A team is made of nine or 12 players,” Diaz explained. “There is no star on my team.”

Purdy notes that having Nadia in the league is a great draw not only for the league, but also for encouraging other young females who may be nervous or unsure of joining a male-dominated sport.

And it seems the American Association of Girls Professional Baseball took note as well. The group of women served as the inspiration behind the 1992 motion picture film “A League of Their Own,” starring Tom Hanks and Geena Davis. The group asked Nadia to throw out the first pitch at the 69th reunion softball game held at Alliance Bank Stadium in September. Shelley McCann, the reunion chairperson, said Nadia was chosen after countless people had begun to email and call her about this rising young star.

“I just had to get her at that point,” McCann said.

BLOCK BLITZ



The South Side of the city received a facelift Friday, Sept. 14, during the annual Block Blitz, organized by Home HeadQuarters. Neighbors and residents looked on with anticipation in the 200 block of McLennan Avenue as volunteers and contractors came together to do a variety of work on residents' homes. Rebuilding porches and stairs, painting and landscaping were just a few of the jobs that participants completed to make the South Side even more beautiful. | Community Correspondent Glory Thomas, Staff Photo

Coming soon...

the **Eat to Live** Food Cooperative!



Your options for making healthy food choices are about to become a whole lot better. Expected to open in the **spring of 2013, Eat to Live Food Cooperative** will stock farm-fresh fruits and vegetables—and so much more—at affordable prices.

Designed to meet a critical need in the South Side neighborhood, the 3,000-square-foot grocery store will feature a wide array of products, as well as a café with delicious, healthy treats.

Syracuse University joined with many local partners to make this vital resource a reality. For more information, contact the Syracuse University South Side Initiative Office at **315.443.1916**.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY: Scholarship in Action



Do you need help with your breast cancer bills?

The Saint Agatha Foundation has established funds at area hospitals and medical providers to provide financial support for breast cancer patients in Onondaga, Cortland, Cayuga, Madison, Oneida, and Oswego Counties, New York.

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- ▶ Wound care systems
- ▶ Breast reconstruction
- ▶ Lymphedema sleeves



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www.saintagathafoundation.org | (888) 878-7900

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Andrea Taylor vows, 'I will be here every day even if four kids show up'



> Andrea Taylor, an employee of the South Side Initiative, leads activities and helps with homework assignments at a free after-school program on the South Side. She is shown in the South Side Communication Center. | Leroy Mikell, Staff Photo

By | Elizabeth Doyon
Urban Affairs reporter

Mother of four wants program participants to learn, show respect and have some fun

After-school programs for children on the South Side are not common, but the South Side Communication Center offers one free of charge to neighborhood parents. Andrea Taylor, 40, a mother of three, and an employee of the South Side Initiative, runs the program each school day from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

“I was hired for the summer, and they decided to keep me for the fall,” Taylor said. “At the end of the day, I feel like when it comes to these kids I am the best person for this job because I am the community.”

Taylor grew up in Phoenix, Ariz., in a community with socio-economic similarities to the South Side, where she has lived for over a decade. She relies on her own life experiences to frame how she helps others. “When you know what something feels like and it didn’t feel good, why would you do it to the next person?” Taylor said.

Her goal is for the center, located at 2331 S. Salina St., to be like a second home for all of the children and a place where they can feel safe. “I’m not a certified

teacher, but I am a mom. I try to make this a place where they have fun and learn something, too, and absolutely leave with something,” she said.

Taylor works with children and adolescents ages 8 to 18, and every day the number varies — four to 20 on average, she said. They come from Danforth Middle School, McKinley, Meacham, Corcoran and Nottingham, among others. Taylor gives them a measure of freedom and treats them like adults. The youth choose when they want to come and go, and which days they want to be there.

“These kids need something positive,” said Angela Adams, a grandmother of a child attending. “I think it is a wonderful program.”

Adams’ grandchild, Sy’Air Adams, has been attending the program for a week, and he has a lot of fun, he said. Sy’Air enjoys reading. Taylor said she focuses on individual interests and brings in materials that the youth will learn from and enjoy.

Taylor aims to treat participants with respect. “I have them sign contracts. You agree to maintain your behavior. If you don’t, I can put you out,” Taylor said. “But at the end of the day, I give you a chance. I believe in chances, but you aren’t going to abuse me. I look at it

as a way of preparing them.”

When there are arguments or fights, Taylor takes those involved into a meeting room with a large rectangular table and chairs to work it out. She calls this her courtroom.

But her focus is always on education.

“If there is something that even I am curious about, that I don’t have enough knowledge on, ‘let’s learn together,’” said Taylor, who looks up worksheets online and prints them out every day for the group. “I also encourage them to bring their homework in and teach me.”

“I want to make a difference in their lives.”

— Andrea Taylor

Tammy Glasgow, a member of the Southside Community Coalition Board who works to revitalize the South Side community, believes the program is beneficial. “We try to keep them off the streets and give them somewhere to go. They do school work, they are allowed to go on the Internet, they do workshops,” she said.

The kids do homework and play the word game “hangman” every day at a large, square table in a discussion room at the front of the Communication Center. Light shines in from three windows. The youth are surrounded by historic pictures of the South Side and a bookcase full of encyclopedias and other books ranging from black history to fun reads.

Taylor brings in a quotation that the children guess by playing the “hangman” game.

“We discuss what that quote means to them,” Taylor said. “Today the quote is, ‘Some rewards come in words.’ Every time you get rewarded for something it’s not going to be something physical, it might just be someone says ‘great job,’ or ‘I’m proud of you.’”

Toward the end of the day, the group gets to use the computers, located in a room adjacent to their discussion room. During computer time, the youth get a chance to play games on the Internet, browse and get quizzed on trivia. Taylor uses questions and trivia as a way to teach them how to navigate the Internet properly and learn about credible sources. The room comes alive when the after-school participants log on to the computers, then

rush up and ask for more trivia questions from Taylor, sitting at her desk.

Adams describes the scene. “When I come, they are quiet, on the computer and doing what they got to do. And I think that makes a big difference if they have something here that they like doing, that makes them come back,” Adams said. “And they are learning. That makes a big difference.” Adams said that many of the program participants probably do not have computers at home, and this gives them exposure to it.

“I try to teach my grandkids the way I taught my kids. Because you live in ignorance doesn’t mean you need to be ignorant,” Adams said. “I can see this program teaching them the difference between being out there in the ignorance and being somewhere safe and positive; and just knowing that they don’t have to live like that, you know what I mean? Andrea is a positive person, so I know she is going to bring positivity to them.”

Taylor says she wants to bring more exposure to the after-school program. When she walks home and sees children with a parent, she said, she tells them about the program and how it can give the parent a break and the child a place to do homework and have fun.

“I don’t want to disappoint any child. I’ve built a relationship with these kids, and love them, so I will be here every day even if four kids show up,” Taylor said.

“One of my mentors told me: the day you find a job that you love coming to, that’s your career,” Taylor said. “I want to make a difference in their lives, and touch wherever I can. Even if it is just them having fun for a couple of hours because I look at it as an opportunity to make a difference in the next person’s life.”



> Andrea Taylor works at her desk in the South Side Communication Center. Before the children arrive, she spends her time planning the day’s activities. | Leroy Mikell, Staff Photo



Find these words in this story

Certified

Having a certificate

Positivity

The state or quality of being positive

Trivia

Little-known facts

How would you use these words in a sentence?

STROLLING *the* SOUTH SIDE

South Side man leads crusade to stop the killing



SUGGEST A LOCATION
To submit an idea for Strolling the South Side, contact Ashley Kang at (315) 882-1054 or Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com

> Bernard Cannon says he visits the same corner every day to talk to youth about violence. | Jason Greene, Staff Photo

By | Keith Muhammad
Community Correspondent

One man takes his mission to end violence in his neighborhood to the corner of West Colvin

Bernard Cannon is no stranger to violence. His mother was shot and murdered in front of him when he was 10 years old. In the 30 years since her death, he has witnessed many families torn apart by senseless violence. Watching adults peek out of their windows afraid to get involved, and refusing to be a prisoner to the violence in his community, he decided to do something about it. Cannon began a one-man crusade to encourage residents to come out of their houses to stem the tide of violence plaguing the community. He came up with an idea for two banners to bring awareness to the issue. He hopes to raise money that will commission the airbrushing of shirts for 50 youths as part of the campaign.

You will find Cannon and his banner in a parking lot on the corner of West Colvin Street and Midland Avenue. He visits the spot each day and talks to young people about the need to stop the killing.

"The kids are our future. They just want to be heard and (have) someone to talk to," he said. "I am afraid that I will meet God on Judgment Day, and God will say, 'You say that you love kids. But what did you do to help them?' Then he will tell me to take my seat on the other side. This is what motivates me."

Jelani Jefferson, owner of Wisefire Imports, which sits near the corner where Cannon stands each day, finds

that Cannon's mission is driven by love and hope for change.

"He has a sincere heart about it," Jefferson said. "He's just there willfully doing a duty. It's his way of contributing to the youth and bettering our community."

Jefferson recalls a conversation he once had with Cannon and how his words made an impression.

"He (Cannon) thinks of the youth in the community as his children. It's not something he has to say or care about, but he does because he wants to do better."

Cannon commissioned Picasso, a Syracuse artist, to paint the banners. One banner includes a picture of a casket with the words: "Stop the Senseless Killing of Our Youth." The other is a picture of a headstone with the words: "Too Many Have Fallen." Cannon attached an assortment of knives, a replica of a 45-caliber handgun and a pair of handcuffs to the banners. He completed the display by laying spent gun shells, bullets, a knife and dice at the base of the banner.

He explains the concept.

"Dice leads to gambling, gambling leads to fighting, shooting and death," he said.

Three of the five knives came from kids in the neighborhood. They walked up, looked at the banner and gave him the knives. He requested the other two knives from adults in the community to complete the display.

"One day, a lady stopped by and started complaining. She said that I shouldn't be here," Cannon recalled. "As she was complaining, a kid walked up and gave me the green switch blade that you see on the ground," he said.

Continued on Page 10



> Bernard Cannon lays spent gun shells, bullets and a dice cube alongside his banner display. | Jason Greene, Staff Photo

CANNON ON VIDEO



Meet Bernard Cannon in a video that

features him and his one-man mission to stop violence among youth on the South Side.

Cannon says some youth have developed so much trust for him that they have surrendered weapons to him in hopes of having a better future.

Visit The Stand website at mysouthsidestand.com to watch the video.

MESSAGE ON A SHIRT

As part of Bernard Cannon's campaign to stop violence, he is raising money to commission the airbrushing of shirts for 50 youths. The shirts cost about \$15 each to produce.

TO DONATE

You can donate to the "Stop the Killing" campaign by sending a check or money order to:

Focusing Our Resources for Community Enlightenment (FORCE) Reformed Church of Syracuse
1228 Teall Ave., Suite 105, Syracuse, NY, 13206

Make checks payable to FORCE. In the note area, put "Stop the Killing" campaign

FOR MORE INFO

Contact Brenda (315) 214-5110

Continued from Page 9

"After witnessing this, she understood what I was trying to do and apologized. She became one of my biggest supporters. Only God could have made that happen."

Using the banner to draw attention, Cannon voices his plea to anyone and everyone who will lend an ear. The banner caught the eye of 8-year-old Clintwan Hill one day this summer.

"Why do you have the gun there?" Hill asked.

"Gun equals casket," Cannon said. "I took that gun from a boy your age."

"Is it real?" Hill asked.

"No," Cannon said.

Hill wants to be a police officer or FBI agent when he grows up to help his community. Cannon praised him and told him that he is on the right track. It is these types of successful stories that makes Cannon remember why he started this mission. He describes the day when a disgruntled boyfriend of a next-door neighbor decided to kill his girlfriend. Cannon's mother was visiting the neighbor when the man pulled out the gun and shot Cannon's mother twice. Cannon said he put his arms around his mother in an attempt to pull her from danger. The man turned his gun on the girlfriend, who attempted to run. After being shot several times, she fell to the floor — and her life was finally taken with two fatal shots to the head. His mother died as well.

"I used to ask God why he let this happen. I was

"...God will say, 'You say that you love kids. But what did you do to help them?'"
— Bernard Cannon

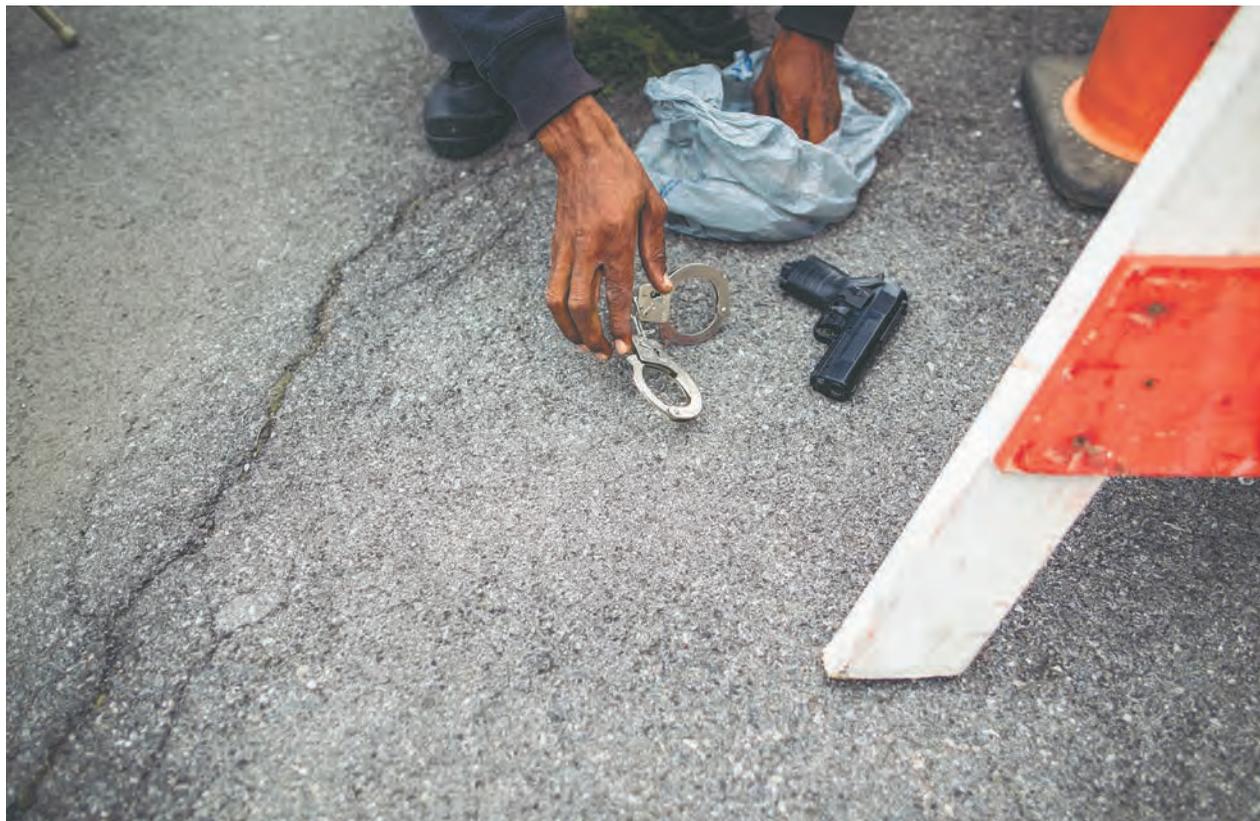
angry for a long time. That happened when I was 10. I'm 40 now. I turned tragedy into a lesson. I channel the anger to do this," he said.

"I miss her, but she gave me enough memories to last a lifetime," he added.

Cannon also bears in mind the killing of "little Jason" Willis, whose funeral he attended in July.

Cannon recalls seeing 18-year-old Willis and eight other young men riding their bikes on the night Willis was killed. He spoke to them and asked them what they were doing out.

"Jason was a good young man. He was always respectful to me. He wasn't a street kid. His friends were



>Bernard Cannon sets up his props and signs at the corner of Midland Avenue and Colvin Street. His goal is to bring public awareness to the lives lost on the South Side and to encourage youth to refrain from violence. | Jason Greene, Staff Photo

in the street,” he said.

Jason’s death motivates Cannon to keep pushing with his campaign.

“I can’t understand why other fathers haven’t joined me on this corner,” he said.

Reshana Blackshear, a family support specialist and resource center advocate at the People’s Equal Action and Community Effort (also known as P.E.A.C.E.), agrees with Cannon.

“We need more of him,” Blackshear said. “His initiative of one child at a time is a beautiful thing.”

Blackshear points out that it’s a difficult thing for the youth in this community to open up and be communicative. To have a figure like Cannon, as Blackshear notes, can only begin to break down walls and encourage young people to take a stand against violence.

“He’s setting a pathway of positive initiative for the youth and others in the community around here. It’s really amazing.”

While Cannon stands alone each day, he is hopeful that others will begin to share in his cause. Until then, Cannon vows to continue his one-man fight to stop the killing — the lone voice crying in the wilderness on behalf of the children.



> Bernard Cannon at the corner of Midland Avenue and Colvin Street with his signs and props. | Jason Greene, Staff Photo

Additional reporting by Natalie Caceres, The Stand staff reporter

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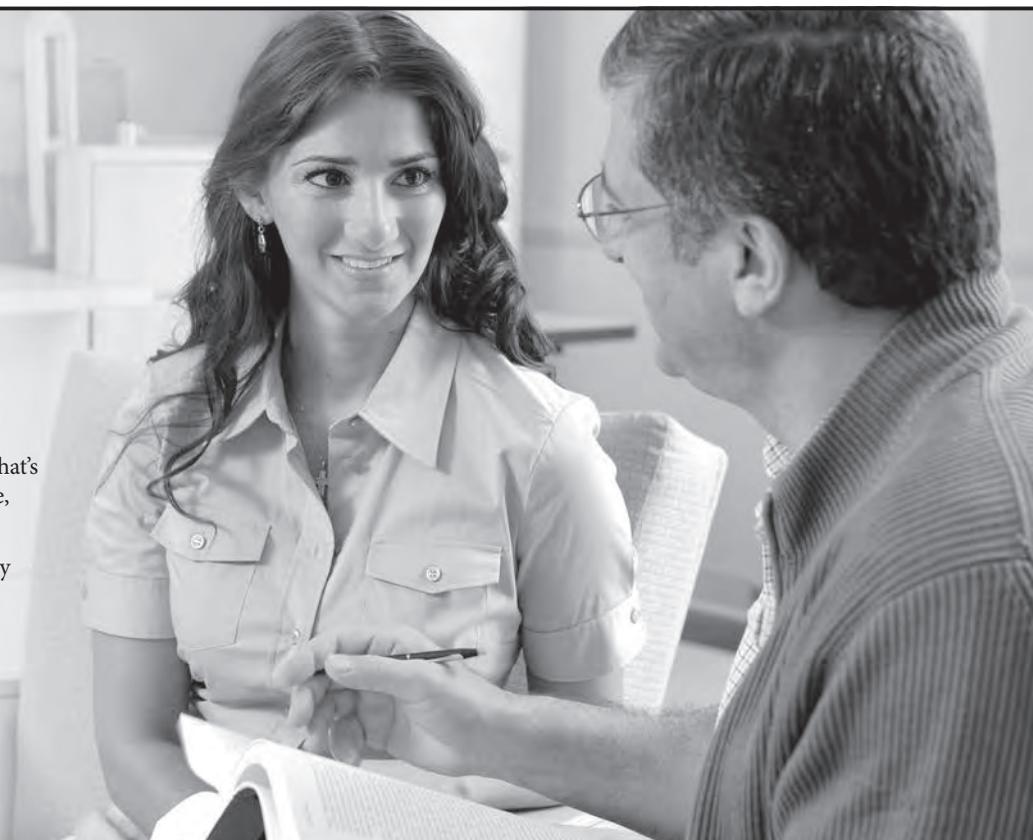
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Always Remembered

> Selina Lazarus and Ruby Beal comfort Jessica Noboa (center) before a KJ's Angels 5K race in September. Noboa lost her son, Elijah, stillborn and attended the walk in support of KJ's Angels and in memory of her son. | Katie Hogin, Staff Photo

By | Emily Pompelia
Urban Affairs reporter

Onondaga County probation officer holds annual 5K to raise money for infant burials

With the desire and drive to help her community, Linda Donalson has raised money to help more than 200 families pay for the burial of children who die as infants. On Sept. 15, nearly 100 supporters gathered at Sawmill Creek Shelter at Onondaga Lake Park for a five-kilometer, annual fundraising walk benefiting KJ's Angels Memorial Fund.

Donalson, an Onondaga County probation officer, serves as co-founder of KJ's Angels, a nonprofit organization named after her late son, Kevin JaRon. In the

memorial's nine years of existence, it has raised upwards of \$50,000.

Kevin JaRon, affectionately known as KJ, died in 2002 from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, the cause of death for thousands of children every year usually between 2 months old and 4 months old.

The inspiration for her work began when Donalson paid a visit to her infant son's grave in Oakwood Cemetery in August 2002 and was saddened to see that most of the graves were covered by overgrown grass, she said.

"In my mind, if there's no name, then it really didn't happen, or this person really didn't exist," Donalson said.

At the time of KJ's death, Donalson and her husband, Kevin, could afford a grave marker for their child. The opening and closing procedure of a child's casket

and a stone marker can cost almost \$1,000. KJ's Angels Memorial Fund helps by providing families with financial assistance.

Donalson founded KJ's Angels with friend Cindy Squillace, bereavement councilor at the Center for Sudden Infant Death, which is housed within the Center for Living with Loss at Hospice of Central New York in Liverpool.

After its founding in 2003, KJ's Angels held its first benefit in January 2004. The fund has helped six families in just the past nine months.

Donalson initially organized an annual dinner to raise money. The first, held in a howling blizzard, brought in about \$7,000. She kept the dinners going through 2009, but decided she needed something new.

With 95 registered participants just this year, KJ's Angels Memorial Walk raised about \$5,000 through pledges and donations.

Before starting this year's 5K, walkers came together for prayer, praise and stretching. Donalson and Squillace led the gathering. Squillace invited walkers to step up to the microphone and pay tribute to the child or children they were honoring.

One return participant to KJ's Angels Memorial Walk is "Team Aimee." Aimee Newton lost her infant son, Calen, in 2010. Since then, she has participated every year and brings 30 to 40 walkers, Donalson said.

"She is a force to be reckoned with," Donalson said. KJ's Angels Memorial Fund also sells hand-painted,

wooden Christmas ornaments. Every year, a few women dedicated to the fund's cause donate their time and talent to buy the necessary materials and produce almost 1,000 ornaments. These ornaments sell for \$2 each, and all the proceeds benefit the fund. "God has connected me to all the right people," Donalson said.

Because Donalson is an active member in her community, she has supporters from many organizations. As a probation officer, she works specifically with youth at the Probation Department. Donalson also coached high school basketball, worked with the Salvation Army and served on the board of REACH CNY, a nonprofit organization that educates and advocates for health and accessible human services. Donalson said she likes working with younger folks because "there's hope in youth."

Donalson won Woman of the Year from the Syracuse Commission for Women, in March 2012.

Christine Fasuyi played basketball for one of Donalson's teams and said she admires her, even considering her a second mother. Fasuyi participated in the KJ's Angels Memorial Walk for the first time this year.

"It's hard for me to take any praise for what I do because it's what we're supposed to do for each other," Donalson said. She wishes KJ's Angels did not have to exist. "Our mission is to not be needed," she said.

Donalson hopes to make an educational impact through KJ's Angels and teach people how infant deaths can be prevented. As for the longevity of KJ's Angels Memorial Fund, Donalson said she trusts the Lord.



> Linda Donalson (center) stretches prior to the start of the 5K with other participants. Donalson is one of the co-founders of KJ's Angels, and this year's Memorial Walk had 95 participants at Onondaga Lake Park. | Katie Hogin, Staff Photo

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

DO YOU LIVE IN ZIP CODE 13024, 13205 OR 13206?

KJ's Angels hopes to recruit people from these areas to volunteer and participate at its events. KJ's Angels Memorial Fund helps many families living on the South Side, says co-founder Linda Donalson.

CO-FOUNDERS

Linda Donalson
Cindy Squillace

TO GET INVOLVED

- Visit the CNY Community Foundation at 431 E. Fayette St., Suite 100, Syracuse, N.Y., 13202
- Go to the website: <http://kjsangels.org/>
- Call: (315) 422-9538
- Email: lindajdonalson@hotmail.com

TO APPLY FOR AID

- Visit the CNY Community Foundation at 431 East Fayette St., Suite 100, Syracuse, N.Y., 13202
- Go to the website: <http://kjsangels.org/>
- Call: (315) 435-2397

REST OF SEASON

**"The Choice"**

by Claire Luckham,
Oct. 26–Nov. 10, 2012
Directed by Pat Marzola

"Lost in Yonkers"

by Neil Simon,
Feb. 15–March 2, 2013
Directed by CJ Young

"Cry Havoc"

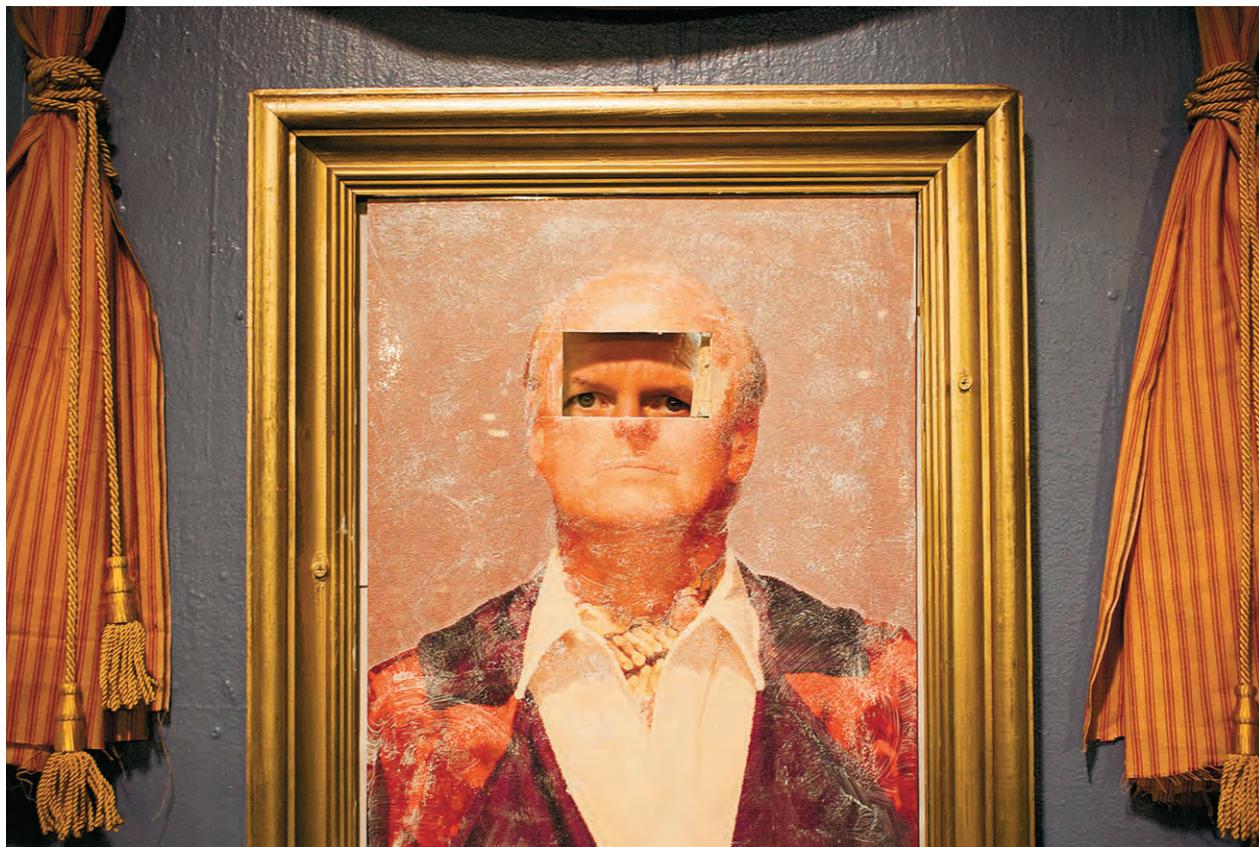
by Allan R. Kenward,
May 3–18, 2013
Directed by Lois Haas

"Sugar"

based on the
screenplay
"Some Like it Hot"
by Billy Wilder and
I.A.L. Diamond, book
by Peter Stone,
July 12–27, 2013
Directed by Sharee
Lemos

PLAY TIME ON STAGE

Community theater provides family-friendly atmosphere for audience



> Applesseed Productions kicked off its current season with "The Real Inspector Hound." | Annie Flanagan, Staff Photo

By | Tyler Greenawalt
Urban Affairs reporter

Applesseed Productions and its artistic director, CJ Young, take pride in the theater's growth

CJ Young, who returned in September as artistic director of Applesseed Productions, said the South Side theater company he helped found 19 years ago has gotten bigger and more ambitious.

"It has changed a lot and grown considerably — the number of productions in production, the volunteer artists that act and design," he said.

Applesseed, a nonprofit company, began putting on plays in the basement of Atonement Lutheran Church, at the corner of South Salina Street and West Glen Avenue, in 1993. Still in the basement, Applesseed opened its five-play season in September with a production of "The Real Inspector Hound," by Tom Stoppard. Next up, opening Oct. 26, will be "The Choice," by Claire Luckham.

When Young and a handful of other community members decided to establish a community theater in 1993, Young said they wanted to create a family-oriented

company that produced quality shows at affordable prices. Applesseed has frozen its ticket prices since 2009 at \$18 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors, he said.

Over the next several years, Applesseed developed a process for finding plays and scripts, Young said. Usually, artistic directors choose plays for a season and reach out to directors, but Applesseed allowed directors to submit plays for the company to produce, he said. Then, a script-reading committee reviewed the submissions and chose the plays they wanted to produce.

"We thought the reason for that was to support the vision of volunteer artists in our community and make sure the people who are leading up our projects have the passion or fire about their show, their vision," Young said.

Although Applesseed is located in a church basement, it exists as a nonprofit, nonreligious company through Atonement Ministries. The church developed Atonement and reached out to the community through different programs, such as a childcare center, affordable housing for disabled and retired residents, and Applesseed Productions, said the Rev. John Saraka, chief executive officer and senior pastor at Atonement Ministries.

“I think it’s all born out of a strong connection to the community,” Saraka said. “Atonement Ministries is committed to the South Side and Valley community here in Syracuse. All of the ministries, the housing, Appleseed theater, the daycare, it’s all built to serve the community.”

Appleseed transformed the basement from a church cafeteria into a full-functioning theater, Young said. The stage has permanent light fixtures on the low-level stage and, unlike theater-style seating, Appleseed is set up with round tables. Patrons can sit with a group, eat and enjoy the show.

After holding the position of producing artistic director for five years, Young decided to step down in 1998 to “recycle the pond,” he said.

“It was always my goal right from the onset that my term should be about five or six years for the sake of the company,” Young said. “I thought it was important to get the ball rolling and then step aside and let someone else come in.”

Young said he stayed around for one season as a volunteer set designer to help his successor with the transition. He also directed a play in 2001 and 2002. During his time away from Appleseed, Young said he worked as a graphic designer and freelance writer, and from 2004 to 2009 was an executive assistant for the JENNA foundation for nonviolence.

Young said Appleseed continued his mission of a family-friendly theater. More and more people would show up, and some shows sold out. The theater, which can seat around 100 people, saw a slow upward trend in attendance over the years, Young said.

Sharee Lemos, a director for Appleseed since 2002, said she admired Young for creating such an important nonprofit company that benefits the entire community.

“When he formed the company and I saw the kind of work that they were doing, it was very exciting, and I loved it,” Lemos said. “It serves a particular niche that we don’t have in this community.”

Scott Pflanz, an actor at Appleseed in his second season, said he saw that safe, family-friendly environment as soon as he walked in for auditions.

“They’ve done a great job of making it a welcoming environment,” Pflanz said. “It’s a family atmosphere, but very professional.”

The round tables allow people to sit with strangers and get to know one another, Pflanz said. He said college students, professionals, senior citizens and families all come to watch plays. Young said Appleseed volunteers serve refreshments during intermission.

Saraka, the Atonement Ministries pastor, sees the community spirit.

“There’s a theme here that’s been here from the beginning that anyone can come in and be a part of Appleseed,” he said. “I think it continues to evolve to reach out to people in the community.”

When an opportunity to return to Appleseed arose last spring, Young decided to return to his former position.

“Who gets a chance to step into the same job you had 20 years ago?” Young said.

“Here’s a chance for me to help be a steward of all the love and hard work that’s gone into the venture.”

Continued on Page 16



> A performer applies final touches before the curtain goes up Sept. 15 on “The Real Inspector Hound,” which was the first play produced in Appleseed Productions’ current season. | Annie Flanagan, Staff Photo

TICKET PRICES

\$18 for adults

\$15 for students and seniors

\$12 for seniors on Sundays

\$120 for a Friends and Family Group table of eight

IF YOU GO

All productions are held at The Atonement Stage
116 W. Glen Ave.
Syracuse, N.Y. 13205

ON THE SIDE

GET INVOLVED

- Audition for a show
- Join as a volunteer to build and paint scenery
- Rig and run lights
- Find, create or fit costumes
- Join a backstage crew
- Usher during events
- Become a patron or program sponsor

Call the box office at (315) 492-9766 or email info@appleseedproductions.org

DIRECTORS

If you are a director who wants to submit plays, email the request to info@appleseedproductions.org

VISIT ONLINE

Find out more about Appleseed Productions online at <http://www.appleseedproductions.org/>



> Appleseed Productions prepares for the Sept. 15 performance of "The Real Inspector Hound." | Annie Flanagan, Staff Photo

Continued from Page 15

Appleseed and Atonement continue to reach out to the community. Last year, Appleseed Academy, a free theater program for teenagers, opened. It covers a broad spectrum for teens to connect to theater, Saraka said, including filming, acting and producing.

Ty Marshal, a locally renowned artist, leads the academy, Young said.

Young expects the company to sustain itself for many years.

"At this point, Appleseed truly exists because of all of the people who have come and participated," he said.

"It's nice to put on plays, but the investment becomes worth it when you've established a tradition that can go on for a long time."



> An actor is shown in costume for "The Real Inspector Hound." The next play that Appleseed Productions will produce is Claire Luckham's "The Choice," starting Oct. 26 and running through Nov. 10. | Annie Flanagan, Staff Photo

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PLACES TO FIND FOOD

South Side residents rely on pantries, bus trips for grocery needs

By | Becca Milliron
Urban Affairs reporter

Residents pay more at corner stores when they cannot get to supermarkets farther away

While South Side residents wait for a grocery store to be established in their neighborhood, some seek out food banks to fill their basic needs, officials at local community centers say.

“Our pantry helps serve people who have no other means of feeding their family,” said James Outlaw, a deacon at the Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church, at 219 W. Castle St. “If they tried other pantries and can’t get food or if it’s toward the end of the month, we’ll try to help them with a few bags of canned goods until their food stamp allowance can come.”

The church offers an emergency food pantry for residents living in the Southwest area. Most donations come from members and local businesses such as Wegmans. The pantry doesn’t have set hours but sees an influx toward the end of the month, Outlaw said.

The Southwest Community Center at 401 South Ave. offers a food pantry for residents on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For South Side residents, food pantries are an alternative to paying high prices at corner stores. A gallon of milk costs \$4.95 at a corner store, said Valerie Hill, director of community services at the center.

“When residents get their groceries at the corner stores, they don’t get the full value of their food stamps, and they can’t buy fresh fruits and vegetables,” Hill said. “People will sell their food stamps for a ride to a grocery store, too. In the end, families are being cut short of the food they should be receiving.”

In 2009, Jubilee Homes, a nonprofit housing and development organization, bought a building on South Avenue in hopes of creating a local grocery store. This summer, the organization began talks with PriceRite, a discount grocery store, to move in to the space. Walter Dixie, the executive director of Jubilee Homes, said he believes a grocery store would open doors for residents. “There is no supermarket in this area and that has led to unhealthy eating,” said Dixie, who lives on the South Side.

A supermarket would help the area economically by providing better value to shoppers and bringing about 70 jobs to the community, Dixie added. In early September, this initiative welcomed good news when the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council recommended the state provide \$1.5 million toward the project, Dixie said. He also applied for other federal funds and would like to raise \$3 million overall.

“When businesses start fleeing, it makes it harder for

other businesses to come into the area,” Dixie said. “But PriceRite has started to branch out into upstate New York.”

Talk of a grocery store excites South Side residents, but they have learned not to become optimistic. Angela Adams, a South Side resident, heard several times a store would be opening. “Every few years, there’ll be a rumor that a grocery store is going in one of the plazas. This year, there has been a lot of talk about a Tops opening around Thanksgiving, but that building is still empty,” Adams said. Syracuse Councilman Khalid Bey, who represents the South Side, says Tops Friendly Markets is slated to open in the Valley Plaza on South Salina Street.

Adams buys most of her groceries at a Wal-Mart in Camillus to save money, but the effort takes a toll. Her son picks her up on the South Side to drive to Camillus after they are finished at their jobs, both night shifts.

“With gas it doesn’t even out, especially when we’re both exhausted and my son has to drive all over Syracuse just to get a good price on groceries,” Adams said.

Adams still goes to the corner store for everyday necessities, even if the price is almost twice as much.

“If I need something for my grandchildren, I can’t wait to go to Camillus. I pay the price at the corner store because that’s what every resident over here has to do until a grocery store comes,” Adams said.



> State Street resident Charles Goldsmith rides the bus to Green Hills Farms on South Salina Street to buy a few items for his dinner. A recent trip took more than an hour and cost him \$2. | Jim Tuttle, Staff Photo

IN THEIR WORDS

GROCERY SHOPPER

“I work nights and so does my son, who lives in North Midler. But after work, he has to drive all the way to the South Side to pick me up. Then we drive to Camillus, and then he drives me back, and then goes home.”

Angela Adams

South Side resident

PANTRY PROVIDER

“Residents can call or just stop by the church, and if we see they’ve exhausted other alternatives we’ll help them out. We used to see a lot of older folks but now younger couples seek assistance looking for baby formula. Our pastor tells us church starts at home and moves abroad, and this is our way of spreading our faith.”

James Outlaw

A deacon at the Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church

COUNCILMAN

“My guess is the store (Tops Friendly Markets) will open sometime in early November. I have heard no differently. I assume the developers will be on a very aggressive schedule.”

Khalid Bey

Syracuse councilman who represents the South Side



Find these words
in this story

Inundated
To overwhelm

Braggadocio
A boasting person,
bragging

Magnanimous
High-minded; noble

Contagious
Tending to spread from
person to person

How would you use these
words in a sentence?

MAKING NOISE

Different music flavors meshed on the Pan-African Village Stage at the fair



> The Talented Ones, from left, Deyquan Bowens, John Bowens and Ekwan Brooks take a break between sets on the Pan-African Village Stage. They are shown with Anjela Lynn and Michael Houston. | Ruthie Angrand, Staff Photo

By Reggie Seigler
A Friendly Five columnist

Each year, the Great New York State Fair blooms in Syracuse for 12 days. With it comes the Pan-African Village — a make-shift village constructed of plywood and tents. The village draws upon fair-goers to provide an economic boost to entrepreneurs that sell food, art, clothing, jewelry and more, all with a Pan-African influence.

As a part of its daily draw, the PAV treats fair-goers to a variety of entertainment on its PAV Stage. Performing this year were a diverse line-up of storytellers, drum and dance troupes, singer/songwriters, magicians and bands.

Many of the performances were authentic and cultural. One example is Songembele, a group of drummers, singers and dancers from Rwanda. During a break in their performance, they shared information from their culture, such as what their drums were made of, along with the names and importance of the drums.

Other diverse groups participated, too. The Gunrunners, a Native American Rock & Roll band, and Colleen Kattau and Some Guys, a folk Latin flavored group, also performed. Kattau's group is based in Cor-

land County and advocates for Latin American causes through its music.

Rounding out the lengthy list of performers were many staple local and regional Blues, R&B and Jazz bands. Two of Syracuse's latest R&B bands, the Starlight Band and Soul Mine brought the house down with their high-energy performances. The ESP jazz band, featuring guitarist John Magnante and percussionist Jon Heard, also were phenomenal.

Again, as in some past years, my sound company, Bishop Marguerite Sound Co., won the public bid to provide a sound system and sound-tech. It enabled me a first-hand view of all the entertainers. However, it also opened the door for the perception that my commentary could be skewed; so I sought out assistance from The Stand's community correspondent Ruthnie "Rae" Angrand to fill in for this month's A Friendly Five column.

Rae, as she likes to be called, is also a poet. She, herself, had the opportunity to perform on the PAV Stage with the C-Jack Run Revue. My only request of her was that she would write about what moved her with the other performers.

By Ruthie "Rae" Angrand
Guest columnist

Take a listen: Reviews of seven musical acts at the Great New York State Fair

After spending a few days at the PAV Stage watching, listening and interviewing, I would like to share highlights of my observations.

C-JACK RUN REVUE

Groups and groups of people squeeze under the Pan-African Village tent for one of two reasons: either they can't hear the act or they want a better view of the dancers in C-Jack's variety showcase.

This showcase has become a six-year running feature at the PAV, drawing larger crowds and acts each year. McGriff Twins, who play the cello and violin to hip-hop rhythms, are first-time acts. Kalabash Dance troupe from Syracuse University are seasoned performers.

"I'm always keeping an ear for talent," said organizer Charles Jackson.

The Variety Show sound ranges from "cute singer," "ambitious singer with great stage presence" to down-right phenomenal. Seasoned vocal acts include Tamar Smithers and Burnell Reid & United Praise.

"I'm always looking for that combination of move your soul and spirit type of music, new and experimental sounds and stage presence," Jackson added.

Catch more on CJack Run TV at 9 p.m. Sundays on Time-Warner Cable Channel 98.

D.LYTE

D.Lyte sounds like the lyrical composition of Big Sean meets the treble of Tyga or a young Flo Rida. D.Lyte's content is, thankfully, not inundated with thug life and "I'll take yo' girl" cliches. It's realistic: young, eligible up-and-coming braggadocio about the process of being a hot rapper without the profanities.

This one-man act gives lots of love to fellow Wayne County youth coming up. D.Lyte went from Cayuga Community College with a dual associate degree in radio and audio production to SUNY Oswego to study radio and broadcast. He produces himself and commanded the Pan-African stage.

D.Lyte's latest mixtape — available on hotnewhiphop.com — is intricate and not amateurish. The audio production is impressive, though it lacks the strong bass chattering syncopation that a Young Money or Dr. Dre studio can afford. Otherwise, lyrically, D.Lyte is the resurface of witty and radio-ready hooks and love lyrics. He is our local LL and can only get better from here.

A takeaway from his performance was hearing the magnanimous support D.Lyte gets from his parents and other adults respecting his self-motivated "Grizzly mode" endeavors while in school.

E.S.P.

Smooth yet oddly interesting with the flavor of a percussionist salting exotic shakers from around the world, as seen when John Heard breaks out into a solo with shakers from Brazil and Nairobi, E.S.P. is much more than smooth jazz. The band's riffs, ticks and shakes add to deep melodic rhythms forming quick, witty original charms. ESP incorporates nontypical "smooth" jazz progressions and phrases to a modern place that's as equally evolving as it is pleasant.

E.S.P. recorded its first album over a decade ago and has since grown into a five-man fusion of jazzy musical styles.

"I can have a different voice in this band. The solos and stories take me on a journey ... It's really nice to play new music," said drummer Karl Sterling, whose skills lend him to several acts such as Danny D'Imperio, Mike Melito, Ronnie Leigh and Nancy Kelly.

Listeners can catch them often at Westcott, at the Dolce Vita or online at www.espjazz.com.

JESSE SGAMBATI

Solo act Sgambati is a 15-year-old Manlius Pebble Hill rising junior strumming his way toward hopes of Berklee College of Music. He boasts a clear voice with great rasp and comfortable command of the audience.

Jesse Sgambati, at first strum, sounds like the next member of Sister Hazel but with a little more soul in his body and a reservation ready to tear free from his guitar. The folk upbeat acoustic sound is Jesse's signature, stating that the piano was his "foundation instrument" but that the guitar is where he feels at home.

On stage, Sgambati attempts difficult covers like Adele and mammoth names like Mumford and Sons. This is successfully ambitious on his part because it punches him into a grittier and deeper vocal register. It's no wonder this young talent caught the ear of Vanessa Johnson, who has connected several talents performing on the PAV stage.

"There were tears in my eyes," Johnson said, praising Sgambati's performance.

MICHAEL AND ANJELA LYNN

Maxwell's "Ascension" begins and a hearty-bodied alto voice purrs around Michael Houston's perfect high note as it resonates throughout the entire PAV. The duo's range is unexpected, with Anjela humming low lows to big-voiced Adele alto ranges and Michael singing Barry White "Ecstasy" to Maxwell's super falsettos in nearly equal strength. More than anything, their chemistry and professionalism is "So in Love" with the stage.

Michael and Anjela are an R&B duet accompanied by The Talented One's, two keyboardists and a drummer; all of them fill out sets like a full-piece band. The Talented One's are just that, professionally matching

MORE ONLINE



You can read full interviews with the

bands featured in this "A Friendly Five" column. Go online at mysouthsidestand.com

Continued from Page 19

leads, twirling drumsticks and pulling away at synthesizers as a horn section or electric piano.

The band describes its music as “true soul with a lot of emotion and passion.”

ONE NATION

The mic, in a sonic wail, gave out feedback. The band’s front man is not intimidated. He looks out at the patchy-filled seats and laughs. After about two songs, he makes an announcement: “Hello everybody. My name is Eric ‘Love’ Jones and I ... am a fool.” Contagious laughter trickles through the tent. Not even a verse later, One Nation is funkning out a Cameo cover, “Word Up,” to a dancing Congo line gathering outside of the tent.

One Nation, formed by member Tony Brown, is a funk-filled all-male set consisting of a mid-range lead vocal, lead guitar, bass, percussion and drummer.

“We can turn anything into funk. We have fun funkng,” said vocalist/ percussionist Tony Brown.

SOUL MINE

How does an average-looking band pull people of all ages to dance to ’60s through ’80s tunes in puddles of water? Play it loud. Sing it out. Dance on stage as if the decade’s greatest hits were being sung for the very first time.

Well, if fun was a sound, it would definitely be Soul Mine’s genre. This group is larger than most of the acts that performed on PAV’s stage and, therefore, prompted a big obstacle for any lead vocalists: break free from the band. Soul Mine’s lead vocalist, Rick Linzy, does this by just having fun and keeping the energy as high as possible.

Have A Friendly Five suggestion? Contact Reggie at reggie@softspokenband.com or (315) 479-9620

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“I enjoy reading The Stand to find out about the different events going on and to learn about different people in the community and what they’re doing to make a difference.”

— Christine Richie The Stand Reader and Beauchamp Library Clerk

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