

the Stand

south side news

www.mysouthsidestand.com

Syracuse, NY
SPRING 2022 Issue 88 **FREE**

PHOTO WALK

Images of Syracuse from the past 12 years go on display at ArtRage Gallery

SURPRISING PLAYER

I-81 became a central character in historic basketball tale

Sunday funday

Father Quindell Williams says he reserves one day a week for family fun

Expanding access
Meet the program manager of Pathways to Apprenticeship working to remove barriers

HUMANITARIAN PAROLE



DIRECTOR

ASHLEY KANG

BOARD OF DIRECTORSCHARLES
PIERCE-ELREGINALD
A. SEIGLERCALVIN
CORRIDERSDOUGLAS
BULLOCK

TIFFANY LLOYD

TYRONE DIXON

GREG MUNNO

FOUNDER

STEVE DAVIS

SPECIAL THANKS

NEWHOUSE DEAN MARK LODATO,
EDECIO MARTINEZ, KATHRYN
DAVIS, DAPHINE DEROSA & FRANZ
MONSSEN, MARK DESALVIA & JOHN
HARITATOS, MARGRIT DIEHL, TERRY
ECKERT, BOB GATES & DEBORAH
WELSH, BARRY & BARBARA
GORDON, MIKE GREENLAR & LINDA
BOGART-GREENLAR, LORRAINE
MORGANTI, LEON & ROSEMARY
OAKS-LEE, KATHERINE & CRAIG
POLHAMUS, ROSEMARY WELCH &
CRAIG SCHLANGER, ALEXANDRA
SCHWARTZ, DANA SOVOCOL &
BRIAN GRUNINGER, ANN TIFFANY &
ED KINANE, HOWARD WALSDORF
& MARNA BELL, KAREN WALTERS
AND MARK WILKINS IN MEMORY OF
MARJORY WILKINS

THE STAND IS BASED IN THE SOUTH
SIDE COMMUNICATION CENTER, 2331
S. SALINA ST., SYRACUSE, NY 13205

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.

- FATHERHOOD** | Father Quindell Williams says his greatest role in life is as father. He finds being a parent fun and rewarding.
- FEATURES** | College sweethearts Eva and Lawrence Williams tell how they met, fell in love and made a home in Syracuse's South Side more than 30 years ago.
- SKILLED TRADES** | Meet the Pathways to Apprenticeship program manager who works to remove barriers to employment for each new cohort.
- PHOTOGRAPHY** | ArtRage to host exhibit featuring a collection of images from past Photo Walks, showcasing a visual testament to the struggles and resiliency of the city.
- COMMUNITY** | CNY native pens new book "Floor Burns" about 1967 Syracuse All-City Championship game between Sacred Heart and Corcoran.
- COMMUNITY** | Afghan refugees resettling in Syracuse face unprecedented uncertainty in how long they will be allowed to stay.
- ENVIRONMENT** | Syracuse resident learns to grown the ingredients she uses in her cosmetics line.

- Cover photography from The Stand's initial Photo Walk held in 2010: Center by Ryan Wilson, top and bottom by Chambang Mut

UPCOMING

For full listing of events, visit
[MySouthSideStand.com/events/](https://mysouthsidestand.com/events/)

What: Syracuse City Redistricting Meetings
When/Where:

- 7 p.m. April 7, Henninger High School, 600 Robinson St.
- 4 p.m. April 25, Corcoran High School, 919 Glenwood Ave.
- 7 p.m. April 28, Nottingham High School, 3100 E. Genesee St.

Details: The Syracuse City Redistricting Commission (SCRC) recently began its work on proposing new district lines for the city of Syracuse. Meetings are scheduled to provide opportunities for residents to ask questions as well as provide input and information on their desires regarding political boundaries.

To learn more: Visit linktr.ee/syredistricting

What: Exhibit Talk by The Stand's Director Ashley Kang for "FROM WHERE WE STAND: Photographs from The Stand's Annual South Side Photo Walk"
When: 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 6
Where: ArtRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave.
Details: As part of the exhibit, which is on display April 2 through May 14, Kang will provide an overview presentation on the annual Photo Walk, highlighting how the event has evolved to include a photo contest and partnership with the Urban Video Project. Longtime volunteers and Stand board members will also speak. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A, and refreshments will be served. Exhibition hours are 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. The exhibit features photographs from the annual event's 12-year history and is a visual testament to the struggles and resiliency of the South Side neighborhood.
More Info: Visit artragegallery.org or call (315) 218-5711

The Stand is now a digital first publication.

Digital first means content is released into new media channels in preference to traditional ones. This means you may have already seen online the stories featured in the following pages. But it also means, moving forward, that every print edition represents our best stories from the past few months.

The Stand has always been an engagement-minded newsroom, striving to pursue story ideas from the community, develop journalism workshops to train residents and partner with the school district and other groups to motivate the next generation of storytellers. We count on residents as more than sources or passive readers — our work wouldn't happen without them.

Our work also depends on the many volunteers who give of their time.

Be sure to continue to follow the project online (mysouthsidestand.com) to read the latest stories and to stay up-to-date on future offerings like our exhibit at ArtRage Gallery showcasing past Photo Walk images.

I hope you'll join me on the evening of April 6 at the gallery to view our exhibit "From Where We Stand: Photographs from The Stand's Annual South Side Photo Walk." I'll present on highlights from the annual event as well as how the walks have evolved in recent years to include citywide photo contests and new partnerships.

I want to thank all who supported and funded this exhibit, which will be on view April 2 through May 14 at the gallery located at 505 Hawley Ave.

— Ashley Kang



Call for Teen Artists

The **50th annual Teenage Art Competition Exhibition** seeks to provide a platform for all high school students from diverse backgrounds, including those of the African, Latinx and Asian Diasporas and First Nations heritage, as well as those from other underrepresented groups, who demonstrate talent in the fine arts. As part of the Golden Anniversary, an exhibit will be hosted by the Community Folk Art Center in addition to a virtual showing.

Ribbons and monetary prizes will be given in 2D drawing, painting, 3D, mixed media (including photography, collage, prints, etc.), as well as specialized categories for Most Eclectic, Director's Choice and Best in Show.

New this year is a special category titled Student Choice with a theme of activism that focuses on resistance through acts of kindness and joy.

Students may submit one entry per category.

To submit: For virtual show, submit using the Artsonia (artsonia.com) platform. For in-house exhibit, deliver artwork April 25 through May 6.

An in-person Awards Ceremony is set for 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, at 805 E. Genesee St. A virtual show of all student submissions may be viewed at cfacgallery.org.

For more information, contact CFAC at (315) 442-2230 or cfac@syr.edu

First Syracuse J-Lab Wraps

A celebration was held Feb. 18 to honor 15 Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central media students who graduated from the newly launched Syracuse Journalism Lab.



The Stand's winter issue featured a story by one J-Lab participant — Cashmere "Cash" Dancil — and an overview story on the program.

Previously, The Stand also published photos by student Samantha McGiveron to accompany a story on a Thanksgiving turkey giveaway, whose volunteers

also included members of the ITC football team.

Launched by Syracuse Press Club and local media partners, the J-Lab's long-term goal is to expand diversity in local newsrooms by increasing the pool of talented journalists from Syracuse to hire in the future. The initiative was funded by a grant from the



John Ben Snow Foundation. The Stand served as the fiscal sponsor, and Advance Media New York was a corporate sponsor.

From the entire Stand board, we want to again recognize and congratulate all the students. We look forward to seeing more of their voices in print in the future.

| Photos provided by Katrina Tulloch

Quindell Williams

Nominated by his mother Desiree Odom

By Ashley Kang
The Stand Director

Q. *What did it feel like when you became a father?*

A. Before I came a dad, everyone would say: “You’ll look at things differently when you’re a father.” And my greatest title in life is Dad. It’s life changing and has been so rewarding. It is something I get to do for the rest of my life.

Q. *What can you share about your children?*

A. I think they’re very different. Jasai’s the oldest. He’s very sharp, smart and teaches himself how to do flips and cartwheels. He enjoys football, drawing and reading. Jasai is more reserved, and Qaiel is outgoing. He’s



MEET FATHER QUINDELL “Q” WILLIAMS: The Williams men, Qaiel, 4, Grandpa Corre, Quindell and Jasai, 7, pose for a photo on their favorite day of the week — “Sunday funday.” | Jamey Bulloch, Staff Photographer

“My greatest title in life is Dad”

like his mom and will take more risks, while Jasai analyzes things, more like me. Qaiel loves music, basketball and just having a good time. He has this really great smile that can light up the room, and he’s a kid that really holds us accountable. Maybe we say that we’re going to do something but don’t do it. He’ll remind us quick.

Q. *What was your relationship like with your father?*

A. My parents were teenage parents. My mom was 16 and my dad 17. So, that could have gone any way. But my dad has always been there. He’s always been supportive. I’ve tried to instill in my kids the lesson he’s taught me: to forge your own path, to have your own mindset and not to allow too many people to influence the way you think and maneuver the world. He would always advise me: “Be your own person.”

Q. *What is your opinion about the commonly held stereotypes about Black fathers?*

A. I disagree because I know a lot of great fathers — in my generation and the generation that came before me. There are a lot of great Black fathers who have been there, and not just in my own family but in my neighborhood and community. And it’s not only the dads, but those who step in to fill voids. You have uncles, you have mentors, you have coaches. People talk about the village ... there’s more than one person who can have a positive influence on your child.

Q. *Any advice for first-time dads?*

A. Take your role as a dad seriously but don’t take yourself too serious. Remember these are kids who look up to you. Give them the tools that

they need to grow, but allow them to make mistakes. Also have a good time. I’ve grown a few gray hairs over the last seven years, but it’s fun and rewarding. Every day, just hearing the things that come out of their mouths. Seeing them grow into little people and watching how smart they are becoming. So, enjoy the ride and allow kids to grow up and be the best versions of themselves, not the version that you hope them to be or the version of you that you didn’t get to be. Allow them to be the best versions of themselves.

Q. *What has been a favorite family tradition?*

A. On weekends, I try to set aside Sundays as “Sunday funday.” We’ll go to Sky Zone, race go-karts, go sledding ... anything just to have fun. I’m like a big kid, so I’m right in there with them. I had a great childhood. I grew up sledding, doing outside sports, playing video games or Uno. So, maybe it’s surprising to say, because my wife is fun too, but I’m the one like: “All right kids, let’s have fun. Let’s do this.” It’s definitely one of the things that my kids gravitate toward me for.

Q. *Final thoughts?*

A. I want to shout out to all the dads who are putting in the work. And to the moms who support that, handling their roles and the work that they do as well. I think this is a cool spotlight. Again, this is a role that I think is my favorite role to play.



Does anyone in your church/congregation need help with hot, nutritious meals? Do you know anyone who is homebound, elderly or disabled? Our friendly volunteers will bring hot meals directly to them.

To learn more, call 315-478-5948 or visit us online.



MEALS on WHEELS

Caring to feed, those in need!



More than just a meal



Family Blessing



> Eva and Lawrence Williams agree on the secret to their lasting marriage: “To make time for each other no matter what.” The couple will celebrate their 38th wedding anniversary April 21. | Emily Kenny, Staff Photographer

By Ashley Kang
The Stand Director

How Eva and Lawrence Williams have established a home in Syracuse’s South Side community

While traveling on a bus from Binghamton to Montreal on a long weekend during college, Eva Williams says God spoke to her.

“On I-81, the Lord said to me: ‘This is going to be your city; these are going to be your people,’” she says, recalling the premonition that came more than four decades ago, driving past Upstate Hospital along the viaduct.

Just as quickly as it came to mind, it left. Then one day, decades later, the memory resurfaced.

“I was driving, and the whole thing came back,” she says. “Truly, Syracuse has been my city. Syracuse has been my people. It has been my place ... where I was supposed to be.”

Turning to look at her husband, Lawrence Williams, she adds: “Who we were supposed to be.”

SHE KNEW FROM THE START

In the late '70s as freshmen at Binghamton University, Lawrence and Eva shared one class.

“Lawrence never knew I was there,” Eva recalls. “He couldn’t discern me from another girl. He never paid attention to me.”

But she was drawn to him.

She told herself: “I’m gonna keep seeking him out, and he’s gonna notice me; one day, he’s going to pay attention.”

Her plan took shape the following year. The two bumped into each other often and spoke in the student union. Before that year’s semi-formal dance, Eva traveled to New York City to buy a dress — the one she knew would capture his attention.

“All I had in my mind,” she says, “is ‘this guy’s gonna notice me.’”

DETAIL RECALL

“Let me take a wild guess,” says Lawrence, now CEO for Syracuse Community Connections, taking a long look at his wife of 37 years. “She’s got favorite colors ... I know it wasn’t purple,” to which Eva, who is principal at Van Duyn Elementary School, huffs and shakes her head in the negative.

He finally narrows to two guesses: “It was either black or white.”

“No!” she snaps. “Oh, you don’t remember.”

With a sweet tone he responds, “All I can remember was your eyes.”

Then with a quick look with raised eyebrows, he asks, “How’s that for a comeback?”

With a wide smile and sparkle in her blue eyes, she agrees. It’s a worthy response.

“Her eyes outshine anything,” he adds.

Then he asks, “Really, when you went to buy the dress you were thinking of me? *This is the dress that’s gonna do it?*”

He surrenders, “What color was the dress?”

“Pink,” she responds. “Hot pink to be exact.”

He laughs. “Shows you what I know. Pink would have been the last color I’d guess.”

Eva has the last say.

“Not pink,” she corrects. “Hot pink.”

THE ONE

From that night on, they were a couple — college sweethearts.

“Just like that we were fast and furious,” Eva says. “We became one.”

And she knew Lawrence was “the one” after he passed the family test. “If you can pass my African family test, you’re going to be great,” she says, noting in her Liberian lineage, family is number one. Lawrence immersed himself into her family with ease. “That’s when I knew, we were going to be forever.”

After their graduation in 1982, Eva’s mother handed her a one-way ticket home. But six months later, Eva bought her own ticket back, with a stern warning from her mother: Marriage had better be on the table.

“We decided, we would be together,” Eva says. A timeline was set, and an understanding was in place.

The proposal was mutual.

“We both were of the same mindset,” Lawrence says. “We knew we can’t play house.”

They married in 1984. America was dry. Jobs were hard to come by.

Salaries were low, and the couple lived on a shoestring budget. They used their tax return — the whole \$1,200 — to plan a wedding held at her grandmother’s house in Queens.

Her mother made it to the wedding but never returned to Liberia, as the country entered a full-scale war.

The home Lawrence and Eva established in Syracuse became a pit stop for escaping family members, before resettling in New York City or the D.C. area.

“Our relationship has been a huge blessing to our family,” Eva says. “We were like a hub for my sisters and then cousins who came over.”



MAKING A HOME

They describe their relationship as a journey — one with celebrated moments revolving around family, many that centered in Syracuse.

“Our core was always the belief of each other,” Lawrence says. “I’m her biggest fan. And she’s mine.”

For both, home has been the foundation. Each agree if they had settled anywhere else or made a move, things might have been very different.

“We’ve been in this community for a reason,” he says. “This community is part of our love story. It’s helped us in so many ways.”

Here they raised three daughters — Lauren, Adjuah and Ayanna — and taught them to appreciate their blessings. Additionally, their current Syracuse home has served as a refuge for local children with issues on the streets.

“One o’clock in the morning, there could be four or five little kids sitting on the porch, because this is the house of love. This is the house that Mr. and Mrs. Williams live in,” he says choking up. “This is the house that everybody understands ... this is love in action.”

It may come as a surprise, but they tried to leave Syracuse — three times. At each attempt, they say, the Lord closed the door on the next opportunity.

“Every time we tried to leave, we ended up staying,” Eva says. “That is really part of our story as our couple self. We always had this vision for our lives, of being supportive of each other, of our community, for our values and pushing the agenda for our people, children and those in need. That’s the heart that God gave us, to be people who served. And we may not have been able to fulfill that vision somewhere else.”

Both feel Syracuse has allowed them to thrive.

“If perhaps we had been anywhere else,” Eva concludes, “we would not have learned to stand by each other. We could have failed each other. But being here has allowed us to grow, be strong and to share our collective vision for what we wanted for our family and for ourselves.”

Trades Teacher: Ebony Farrow

By Ashley Kang
The Stand Director

Advocacy, says Ebony Farrow, is how she got into workforce development. “I’ve been an advocate for as long as I think I could talk,” she says with a laugh. “With the Pathways to Apprenticeship program, I wanted to make sure Syracuse residents had an opportunity to access jobs paying livable wages.”

The 11-week, pre-apprenticeship program under the city’s Syracuse Build initiative helps prepare residents to move on to careers in the construction field. The exposure to different unions and the wide variety of job options, she says, is an important feature of the program, ensuring participants know what to expect in their next steps.

As the program manager, she’s combined her knowledge of construction, workforce development and social justice to design a training that addresses potential barriers to entry and offers support not only during sessions but even after students graduate.

She finds no two work days are the same and is drawn to the hands-on nature of the program. “I have a joy for teaching, sharing knowledge I’ve gained and passing it down,” she says. “But I also get a lot of joy out of learning from those I share the classroom with.”

Q. How does your prior experience make you the best fit for this role?

A. I’ve worked in workforce development for 10-plus years, and I’ve done residential construction, doing side jobs for almost as long. I’ve noticed a topic that surfaced in all of my classrooms was the ability to have sustainable income. Generally, the

qualifications to gain access will often knock somebody right out the box before getting an opportunity to get in the door. So in helping to design Pathways, I wanted to make sure it wasn’t setting up barriers for people to get into the program.

Q. What are your top priorities in leading this program?

A. At the top of my list is ensuring each student understands that they’re fully supported and backed by



MEET EBONY FARROW: As program manager for Syracuse’s Pathways to Apprenticeship program, Farrow’s goal is to see her work come full circle by having former students return as instructors to future cohorts. | Ashley Kang, Staff Photographer

us and by every agency that works with us. I want them to know they are not doing it by themselves. The program offers a micro version of what will happen when they join a union. It’s intense. I want them to understand this is one step of many in preparation for the next 20 to 25 years of their life. I want to see them develop the skills that will help them succeed once they leave Pathways and move on to an apprenticeship.

Another priority is evaluating how we designed the program and how we continue to develop it by keeping in mind ways to support our most vulnerable populations. In doing that, anyone who enters the program will have the adequate services they need. If we’re designing around the most vulnerable and someone only needs a couple of

FOLLOW FOR MORE

Stay up-to-date on Syracuse Build: Pathways to Apprenticeship news by following at [facebook.com/SYRBuild](https://www.facebook.com/SYRBuild)

Applications for Cohort 4 open in April, with training set to start in November

services, those services will already be included. Universal design is key for the program's integrity and longevity.

Q. Is additional support offered to cohort trainees? For example, it's a paid training, but what about help with childcare? Transportation? Necessary supplies?

A. We provide basic tools — measuring tape, speed square, hammer, hi-vis vests, hardhat, safety goggles — and then when they graduate, we give them steel toed boots.

In terms of other support, we're connected with P.E.A.C.E. to help people with child care services. And the Syracuse Financial Empowerment Center comes in to teach financial literacy. Transportation assistance is on a case-by-case basis. We understand how essential having a vehicle is for construction. We've provided Uber gift cards and are in the process of developing a pilot program to further assist with transportation.

Q. How do you motivate students?

A. I try to be creative. Often people don't understand their knack for taking things apart or for putting things together correlates directly to construction. These are the people that will be drawn to this work and are often hands-on learners. So I plan hands-on activities. One example, I made a competition out of the blueprint reading. Now those who are naturally competitive take to it. They don't understand that the learning that's happening is innate. They are trying to win, but here's the thing, they still gain the knowledge.

Q. As a Black woman, what challenges have you faced?

A. I've faced the typical ignorance around my knowledge base, (questioning of) the reason I'm sitting in the room to having my opinions or presence ignored. But more often than not, I'm faced with people attempting to use my expertise, when they can no longer ignore it, against me, in the form of calling me aggressive or threatening because I dare to know what I'm talking about.

I'm not willing to be quiet in a room full of big egos or (perspectives) that this is how it has always been done. I think much of time, the reason something is not working is because it never did; it was just in place because somebody put it there and didn't have the courage to change it. Now, previous ways of thinking are being challenged and also being changed. I think that my experience in life, growing up in Syracuse and having friends and family members who have been locked out of places that they should have not just been granted access to but been in charge of, has taught me a lot about what barriers are in people's way. I'm not talking about the people trying to get in, I'm talking about the people who are sitting at the

gateway of those opportunities. Often they haven't been cultured to anything other than that type of business culture.

During the pandemic and with George Floyd, as tragic as it was, both granted people a different type of understanding. I think that shined a different light and allowed folks to really see how people of color have been systematically locked out of places ... to see how some people were never afforded that step in the door, to even get an opportunity.

Q. What are some of the barriers you still see?

A. One common denominator is mindset. One example, if a woman is seen, it becomes a question: "Is she supposed to be on this site? Can she do the work?" Gender has absolutely nothing to do with someone's ability or desire to do something.

I think that people are coming around to a better understanding that that mindset is ineffective and

not productive. And there are unions who not only accept women, but advocate for women to be in the union. I've even heard it said that women are more detail oriented and get the job done better when it comes to craftsmanship than a lot of their male counterparts.

Q. What is something in this field that people are surprised to learn?

A. For those not used to cycle work, understanding that weather plays a major part, and understanding that the building they're building is not built yet. So, when it's cold outside, it's just as cold inside the structure. The structure may have a roof and a floor, but it has no walls. It can even become a wind tunnel, making it colder inside where you're working. Same thing with the heat. If you're working on a roof and the tar is reflecting the sun directly into your face over a long period of time, you have to make sure you're hydrated. The weather plays a major part in how effective you will be to sustain your work over the duration of your shift.

Additionally, political events play a factor, too. During the pandemic, the price of lumber skyrocketed. So there are times when even incidents that are not local but happening globally will affect material prices, even the supply chain and ability to get materials. So politics can affect construction, just like it affects everything else.

Q. What is your top goal for Pathways?

A. To see students from our early cohorts continue to advance. To move up into supervisory positions, instructor positions, to be involved in the union interview process, be in administrative positions. This way they're able to affect the entire community once they're inside the union. I want to see them circle back by returning to teach part of the training.

“Gender has absolutely nothing to do with someone’s ability or desire to do something.”

Representing Syracuse in Photos



| KATHE HARRINGTON



| STEVEN FRIEDMAN



| NICK LISI



| DAVID SUTHERLAND

View Exhibit

What: Opening Reception for FROM WHERE WE STAND: Photographs from The Stand's Annual Photo Walk

When: 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 2

Where: ArtRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave.

On View: 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 2 through May 14

Exhibition features photographs taken during the Photo Walks 12-year history and is a visual testament to the struggles and resiliency of the neighborhood.

Additionally, an exhibit talk by The Stand's Director Ashley Kang and volunteers will be given 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 7.

More Info: Visit artragegallery.org or call (315) 218-5711

ArtRage Gallery to exhibit 12-year retrospective of Photo Walk images

By Ashley Kang
The Stand Director

How do I best summarize The Stand's annual Photo Walk for those not familiar?

Every aspect of this collaborative undertaking works to fulfill The Stand's mission and has grown in popularity because not only is it engaging for all involved, it's also fun.

"It's become a signature event for The Stand," said Steve Davis, who founded the community newspaper project. "It really became much more than I ever thought that it would be."

He says the Photo Walk helped project organizers discover the many shades of character in the community and just how beautiful a neighborhood can be.

The annual event was initially modeled off an established event that brought together a community of photographers from across the world — Scott Kelby's Worldwide Photo Walk. More than a decade ago, Kelby's event was

held each July and thus why I chose to organize a group in 2010 to snap photos throughout the South Side. Kelby's walk has continued but moved from July to the Fall following many grumbles concerning that month's sweltering heat. His event culminated in a gallery of images, all taken on the same day from nearly every crevice of the globe.

Our Photo Walks have done the same, at the micro level, by capturing the neighborhood on a typical Saturday for 12 straight years, although we continue to hold our walks each July.

I love most how the Photo Walk creates a moment for all to remember — the volunteers, participants and those we meet along the way — constructively and deeply.

"The Photo Walks provide a visual way to share the people, culture and environment of this community with the greater Syracuse area," said participant Lisa Salisbury Hackley, who believes by participating people are pulled out of their comfort zones.

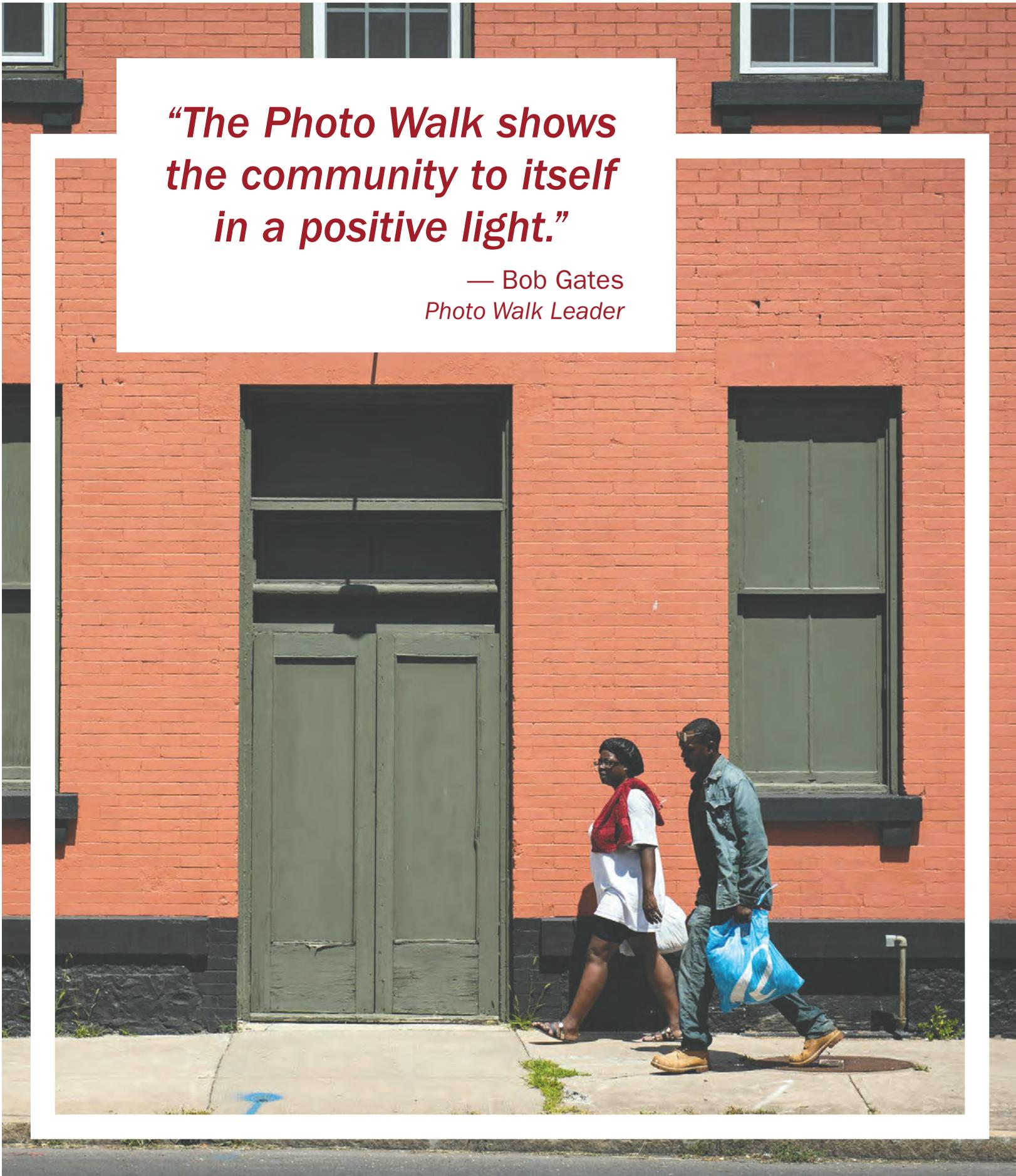
Continues on Page 12

"I love that they want to flood the city with images that the city doesn't always get to see."

— Ruthnie Angrand
Photo Contest Judge

***“The Photo Walk shows
the community to itself
in a positive light.”***

— Bob Gates
Photo Walk Leader



“Telling from a local perspective gives the story a chance to develop in a way that reflects the mindset of the people in the community.”

— Reggie Seigler
Stand Board Member



| DARRYL STROSZKA

HOW IT'S EVOLVED

The first flurry of walks followed a set path with groups ranging from eight to two dozen or more. After a few years, interest rapidly grew.

A single walk morphed into multiple options, allowing participating photographers to document multiple sides of the neighborhood. Two routes added were a historic walk focused on the neighborhood's architecture led by David Haas, creator of the popular Instagram @SyracuseHistory, and a trek under the I-81 viaduct to document this area before it is impacted by construction of the community grid.

There aren't many pursuits I can think of that can draw such a diverse crowd around a united focus. Thus the Photo Walk is unique in the dynamic of those involved — both young and old, professionals to novices, city residents to outlying areas (even attendees from as far as Canada once), with one commonality shared: curiosity.

PANDEMIC PIVOT

In 2020, we were forced to rethink our plans to avoid large gatherings. I still wanted to find a way to capture this moment and how life continued in the city despite the pandemic. I worked to find new partners

and develop our first photo contest as a way to continue to collect images and document this historic moment.

We expanded the call citywide and incentivized photographers with prizes to share their images.

Top picks were revealed online during a Facebook live and displayed publicly by the Urban Video Project (UVP). This partnership offered a great way to showcase winners and safely bring the community together. This outdoor display projects videos and images on the façade of the Everson Museum of Art from dusk to dawn. Each summer, a community exhibit is featured and organizers felt The Stand's project was an ideal fit because of the array of images, all taken by city residents.

Rolling into another pandemic summer, this time with lower transmission numbers, we offered a hybrid option in 2021: multiple, mini Photo Walks along with the photo contest. Five different walks, held three weekends in July, were planned on all sides of the city.

Final image picks were again shared by UVP and celebrated with an award presentation and evening parade through downtown streets to Everson's fountain plaza led by the Unity Street Band. Photo Walk participants and volunteers wielded smiles, cameras and noise makers.

“The Photo Walk captures and represents everyday life.”

— Diana Green
Photo Walk Participant

“I don’t know of any other event that asks individuals to go to an area, pause and really look around you.”

— David Haas
Historic Guide



| JON GLASS

MIRROR IMAGE

In the end, our Photo Walks have helped The Stand capture the faces and stories that define our community. They’ve allowed not only our contributors to engage with residents in a genuine way, but also helped to open the community to many who may otherwise bypass visits to some neighborhoods.

“I don’t know of any other event that asks individuals to go to an area, pause and really look around you,” Haas noted.

Thanks to the Finding Common Ground grant awarded in 2018, we were able to pull from the thousands of images taken that year and share the bounty with the wider Syracuse community. In addition to gallery shows, selected Photo Walk pictures found permanent homes and have hung in five South Side locations: Blue Brothers Barbershop, Beauchamp Branch Library, Cut Kings, Elks Lodge and Colonial Laundromat on South Salina Street.

The grant committee sought projects that worked to turn people toward the world and amplify unheard voices.

Our hope in securing spots for images throughout the community is for residents to feel represented and seen. When someone in a photo is recognized, I hope a Duchenne smile lifts across the viewer’s face. What scientists consider the most authentic expression of happiness is this smile, one that extends up to the eyes and crinkles the corners with crow’s feet.

Additional reporting contributed by Calvin Milliner



> Clockwise from top left, SUSAN MORISON, DEBORAH PUTMAN, KRISTINA RUSSO AND DEBORAH PUTMAN

UPCOMING EVENT

The **Strathmore Speakers Series** and Onondaga

Free Library will host an evening with author and Syracuse native M.C. Antil as he discusses “Floor Burns” 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 12, over Zoom.

A brief Q&A will follow Antil’s talk.

This presentation is free and open to the public.

To register, visit bit.ly/36k3hpB

BOOK REPORT

What: “Floor Burns: Love, Passion and the 1967 Syracuse All-City Championship”

Synopsis: This five-book box set centers on a high school championship basketball game and has been described as “a sprawling, affectionate ... portrait of a city being transformed by the 1960s, the people who lived there and the game they loved.”

To Purchase: Visit floorburnsbook.com or locally at the Onondaga Historical Society’s gift shop, the DeWitt Barnes & Noble and Doyle’s Books, an independent bookseller in Fayetteville

Cost: \$89.95

ON THE REBOUND

Book revisits epic 1967 Syracuse All-City Championship game, life pre-81

By Jeff Kramer
The Stand Reporter

Basketball game recalls city’s golden age, serves as a metaphor for wrenching urban change

Author M.C. Antil had a problem. He set out to write a local basketball history on the long-defunct Syracuse Parochial League, the colorful 10-team affiliation of Catholic high schools and its outsized contributions to the game. But what happens when — after hundreds of interviews — you come to understand that the most important player was the construction of a 1.4-mile viaduct that was cleaving the town in two? And what if that epiphany leads to hundreds of additional interviews and a whopping 1,600-page manuscript?

The conventions of book publishing typically demand tough creative choices to trim so much material, but Antil is no conventional writer. He and his editor, Pete Alson, a relative of Norman Mailer, demolished expectations and produced a behemoth of their own, a five-volume set that uses a single high school basketball game as a lens to tell the larger story of how Interstate 81 decimated one of America’s most eclectic and successful urban neighborhoods.

“That was our city,” Antil said emphatically during a recent book signing at the Onondaga Historical Society. “It’s my soul on these pages.”

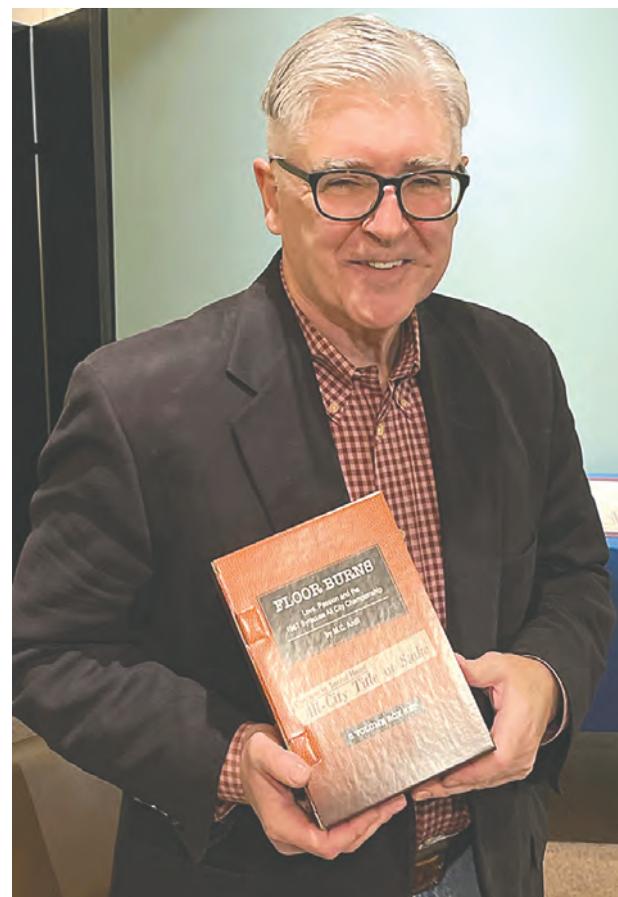
The Chicago-based freelance writer grew up in Westvale and attended Christian Brothers Academy. He began his project in 2003, got bogged down, abandoned it for eight years, got cancer in 2014 — and then got serious. He dove in again, this time releasing excerpts online as he worked. The tactic generated interest, feedback, free fact-checking, more angles and, most importantly, motivation to keep going.

“At some point this was no longer writing a book,” said the 67-year-old author, now fully recovered. “It was a spiritual journey.”

So far 250 Syracusans, most of whom came of age in the heyday of the Parochial League, have purchased copies. Assemblyman William Magnarelli bought a set at the signing.

“Those were good years,” Magnarelli told The Stand, concisely capturing the nostalgic vibe of the crowd of approximately 45 people.

Better for some than others. Dolores Brulé, 91, lived in the 15th Ward as the bridge went up. The Nob Hill woman was the first Black student to attend a



> M.C. Antil’s account centers on a high school championship game where an all-white team from a tiny Polish school is pitted against the racially-mixed team from Corcoran High School, making it also the story of a working-class city, its people and the turbulent times they shared. | Jeff Kramer, Staff Photographer

Catholic High School in Syracuse — Cathedral — until she was told by the Mother Superior she’d be better off “with your own kind.”

Brulé, who is in the book and was the only African-American at the talk, said she sees the 81 overpass as the consequence of pre-existing racism more than the cause of racism in Syracuse. That said, the bridge has provided handy justification to make subsequent race-based planning decisions. She cited the closing of Central Tech High School and replacing it with Fowler, a windowless, doomed-from-the-start institution erected in a waste field, as an example.

“The racism is what allows (81) to exist so governments can make (similar) decisions — because who’s going to care?” she questioned.

Of course, the ravages of “urban renewal” in the post-war era are not unique to Syracuse, but that’s a point Antil embraces. He hopes the universal aspects of

the story, particularly in the Rust Belt, will lead to a miniseries.

An audiobook is in the works.

Antil describes his book as a mosaic of stories, all building toward the epic 1967 All-City Championship between Corcoran High — a big, new and racially-mixed city school — versus the Parochial League champion Sacred Heart, a neighborhood fixture with 19 boys in its graduating class. Some have compared the book to “Friday Night Lights,” which used a small town high school football team in Texas as a backdrop to explore larger issues in American culture, including racism and economic hardship.

Still, at its core, the history is a tender ode to a bygone Syracuse and a tragic chronicle of its transformation into a less cohesive city, all hastened by an ugly overpass. Focusing on the basketball game works as both “an explanation point on Syracuse’s Golden Age” and a metaphor for wrenching change — change that was especially destructive to African-Americans and their descendants uprooted and isolated by the span.

Antil writes in the forward: “...into that void would step a new generation of working poor, many of them African-American, whose own unique and vibrant neighborhood had been plowed under in the name of progress, and whose quest for a small piece of the American Dream was going to be far more complicated than the people they displaced.”

It’s a happy accident that the tome arrives just as plans are being finalized to most likely raze the viaduct and replace it with a manicured boulevard. While Syracuse can never bring back the overlapping neighborhoods and parishes — Polish, Jewish, African-American, German



> Dolores Brulé greets Antil at the conclusion of his March 3 book talk at Onondaga Historical Association. | Jeff Kramer, Staff Photographer

and others that encircled downtown — it does give Antil’s work a relevance beyond pre-viaduct nostalgia.

As Brulé reflected after the talk: “I was there when they built it, and I might live long enough to see it come down.”

THE BLACK EQUITY & EXCELLENCE FUND

supports community-based projects for the Black community of Central New York that promote and encourage self-sufficiency and improve the physical and economic conditions that affect quality of life.

It also encourages dialogue that will strengthen race-related matters and support social and educational growth in the community.

Since its inception in June 2020, The Black Equity & Excellence Fund has already distributed over \$500,000 in grants. For more information or to support the fund, visit cnycf.org/equity.



CENTRAL NEW YORK
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
315.422.9538 | CNYCF.ORG



ACT OF CONGRESS

Following the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan, tens of thousands of U.S.-affiliated and at-risk Afghans were evacuated to the United States and granted entry via humanitarian parole. Those individuals must now pursue a more permanent status: either asylum or Special Immigrant Visas (SIV).

The **Afghan Adjustment Act** allows them to apply for permanent status after one year of being paroled. It relieves the immediate burden on the SIV process — which currently has over 18,000 cases in the backlog — and asylum process — which currently has over 1 million cases in the backlog — and prevents Afghans paroled in the United States from losing their jobs or being deported while their applications are pending.

Congress has passed similar legislation before. Three noteworthy examples occurred following Fidel Castro's rise to power in Cuba, after America's withdrawal from Vietnam and following U.S. military actions in Iraq. Individuals from these conflicts entered as non-immigrants or parolees and then were granted the opportunity to adjust to permanent status.

— Source: *Afghan Adjustment Act Factsheet*

STATUS: IN LIMBO

Roughly 400 Afghan refugees now in Syracuse face an uncertain future



> Mohammad Raziq, front, is one of thousands of translators, cultural advisers and other Afghan support staff who fought alongside American troops against the Taliban. Zac Lois, in brown, served in Afghanistan and continues to help many former Afghans trained by the U.S. to escape the country. | Provided Photo

By Jeff Kramer
The Stand Reporter

Separated families and a home country in chaos leave a community traumatized

Mohammad Raziq and his family were safely aboard a flight from Kabul to Qatar when a suicide bomber struck the airport they'd left behind three hours earlier, killing 170 Afghan civilians and 13 U.S. troops. Six months later, Raziq, a father of four who served as an interpreter attached to U.S. Special Forces in Kandahar, works at a convenience mart in East Syracuse.

"We are all OK," Raziq emphasizes. "We are all safe. We know the meaning of life now. Before, all the time we were in danger."

Similar expressions of relief and gratitude echo through the population of roughly 400 Afghans resettled in Syracuse after the fall of Kabul last August. But while genuine, those sentiments don't tell the full story.

Their journey here was chaotic, perilous and heart-wrenching. Careers and dreams were abandoned in the span of a week. Key documents were destroyed

in the panic to avoid detection by the Taliban. Because they are considered "humanitarian parolees" versus UN-sanctioned refugees, their immigration status is muddled — except for the looming deadline.

"It's a two-year status," said Kate Holmes, refugee resettlement director at Catholic Charities.

Then there's the biggest worry of all — friends and relatives left behind in a Taliban hellscape. In a cruel twist of technology, many escapees need only pick up their cell phones to hear the anguish of loved ones suffering from insufficient food, medicine and freedom of movement.

Sharifeh Mohammadi, a caseworker at the refugee resettlement agency Interfaith Works, said her uncle, Chopan Ali Qambari, escaped to Iran but his wife and children never got out. Yet he is still able to communicate with them and with Mohammadi. The updates are excruciating. Sharifeh knows in terrible detail how her young cousins can no longer go to school or play outside but don't understand why. And that her Uncle Ali is shattered.

"He is always crying — a grown man crying on the phone," Mohammadi said, near tears herself.

Not surprisingly, mental health issues are cropping

up among the 76,000 Afghan newcomers to the United States since August.

Andrea Shaw, an Upstate Medical University physician who heads its Refugee Health team, noted in a hospital podcast that Afghans who worked with the U.S. Army might have envisioned immigrating here one day, but others “did not expect their whole lives to turn upside down” — in many cases with husbands separated from wives and parents from children.

“That’s been the most jarring thing for those who are here, without a clear path forward as to how they’re going to reunite their families,” she said.

Arsalan Sultani, 25, a new resident of Syracuse’s North Side, served as a military guard in the deposed regime.

Now he’s being treated at Upstate for depression. He said he worries constantly about his brothers, Hares and Arian, who are in grave danger of retribution from the Taliban. Hares worked in national security; Arian was a TV journalist.

“There is no hope they can get out,” Arsalan said forlornly during a recent interview at Interfaith.

Due to so many stressors, local advocates say this population is different from previous waves of refugees — more likely to experience depression, survivor’s guilt and disorientation. Unlike refugees who arrive via more conventional pipelines, these newcomers have not had years in refugee camps to process their losses and contemplate a new life. As the adrenaline of August has subsided, observers have increasingly seen the mental health consequences of so much trauma in so little time.

“You left behind Mom, Dad, home, your job — this is a big deal, a bigger deal than we first thought when they first started to come,” said Interfaith Works President and CEO Beth Broadway. “This is going to take people years to sort out emotionally.”

Financial pressures, which include inflation and an eviction moratorium that has driven up rents, aren’t helping. Interfaith was recently awarded a \$65,000 grant from the Central New York Community Foundation to help defray basic living expenses. Initially the federal government provided no transition funds for Afghan arrivals, placing the burden solely on local relief agencies. Although that has changed, Broadway said many families are getting a crash course in what it means to be poor in America — in a harsh Central New York winter no less.

“We have snow two or three times a year (in Afghanistan),” Raziq said. “But here there is snow every day.”

Some breadwinners aren’t just cold — they’re beset by feelings of uselessness because they can’t legally work as their immigration cases languish. Even if they can work, like Raziq, there’s the complication of telling prospective employers you might not be living in the United States after September 2023 if the door to permanent residency slams shut.

Refugees have less than two years to apply for asylum. Their outcomes are far from certain as each case will be adjudicated individually.

A call has gone out for pro bono legal assistance.

As byzantine, intimidating and urgent as the legal drama has become, its source is simple. The usual vetting that takes place long before refugees can immigrate to the United States didn’t happen here because Afghanistan’s government unexpectedly collapsed within days. People arrived, but their paperwork did not.

Add to that the life-or-death decision to destroy personal documents, and it’s easy to see why Syracuse’s newest refugee population faces unprecedented uncertainty.

Sultani, who lives on the North Side with his wife Fatima and their 3-month-old, Rahel, said he was one semester shy of a political science degree from Esteghlal Institute of Higher Education in Kabul. His transcript never made it onto the military transport out of Kabul. Now there’s no way to prove he even took a course there. Fortunately he, too, is authorized to work. Expressing a sentiment common among his displaced compatriots, he said he is open to “any kind of job.”

Despite his melancholy, Sultani made a point of repeatedly stressing that American military and civilians have been kind and helpful through the ordeal and that he has “no problems” in Syracuse.

“My only worry is about my family there,” he said.

Tragically, time and hope is ebbing away for those left behind. Anyone with ties to the U.S. war effort isn’t safe in their own homes — merely having a relative who fled to the United States puts people at risk — so they’re hiding elsewhere in Afghanistan.

“It’s not safe for them to be where they were,” said Holmes, of Catholic Charities. Family separations are tragically endemic. Syracuse is seeing fathers with wives, children left behind and the reverse. And there’s almost no hope of a reunion.

Zac Lois, a retired U.S. Army Green Beret who served in Afghanistan and teaches social studies at H.W. Smith Middle School, echoed the dim appraisal.

“They’re essentially Anne Frank right now,” he said of the thousands in hiding. Lois is a member of Task Force Pineapple, the post-evacuation generation of Pineapple Express, the all-volunteer Afghan War veterans group that pulled people out of the country. One of the comrades he got out was Raziq, his translator, although he says that title does not do justice to the brave allies who assisted Special Forces far beyond translation duties. Many translators also performed recon and logistics support without which U.S. troops would have been effectively blind.

Lois is still working to liberate many former Afghan soldiers who were trained by the U.S. and fought the Taliban until the end. One is Mohammad “Taqi” Ibrahim — a Special Forces Command Sergeant major — who stayed behind to provide intelligence critical to the evacuation. The hope was there’d be a way to extract him later. It’s starting to look like a long shot at best.

“All the intelligence he brought back helped build the Pineapple Express, and then he himself did not get out,” Lois said.

“This is going to take people years to sort out emotionally.”

— Beth Broadway

WORKING TOGETHER

Antonisha Owens works with the Syracuse Urban Food Forest Project (SUFFP), an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional initiative by Syracuse University and SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

SUFFP weaves together ecological sciences, landscape design, urban food policy and community engagement, encouraging individuals to rediscover an edible urban landscape.

The group has even created a 5-mile publicly accessible community food forest on the southwest side of Syracuse.

Antonisha is also the owner of beauty product salon **AficaPure** on the West Side, located at 303 Gere Ave., currently open from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends.

Her products are also available online at aficapure.com

CONNECTED TO LAND

How Black, entrepreneur sources local ingredients to sustain business

*Contributed by
Syracuse Urban Food Forest Project*

Interest in sustainable farming, foraging handed down from previous generations

West Side resident Antonisha Owens is proud to say she is a farmer. She is also a licensed cosmetologist, beauty product artisan and self-proclaimed forager. If her name rings a bell, it may be on account of her previous article detailing connections between urban foraging and entrepreneurship.

As owner of beauty product salon, Antonisha sources local ingredients by foraging for mint, rosehip and motherwort for her line. Now she even grows them.

“It got to a point where I felt like I couldn’t sustain myself if I didn’t have a farm and wasn’t growing my own ingredients,” she said.

This desire to purchase land and grow ingredients inspired her to seek further training. She recently graduated from the Groundswell Center in Ithaca. The seven-month program readies farmers for no-till production — focusing on hands-on vegetable production, livestock farming and farmer apprenticeship. The program emphasizes Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) farmer training, speaking to the historical and modern-day structural issues marginalized farmers face.

“They want to educate and re-educate us on getting back connected with the land,” she said. “They’re also educating us on the possibility that one day we will go out and purchase land and farm in more responsible ways.”

Despite growing up in a farming family, prejudice and circumstance have robbed Antonisha of the more traditional transfer of knowledge and land. Her great great-grandparents owned land in Alabama until it was no longer affordable. Farmers around them received financial assistance from the government to keep their land, but not the BIPOC farmers. A generation later, her great-grandmother and grandmother — tired of being sharecroppers — migrated to Syracuse where they became residents of Pioneer Homes. As a kid, Antonisha lived with her grandparents until she was 13. She learned the basics of growing produce while watching her grandmother tend an outdoor vegetable garden. That plot was taken away, too.

“I was young when the gardens disappeared,” she explained. “We were told in the projects, we couldn’t have a garden anymore. So everyone just stopped.”

Talking about this clearly strikes a nerve, but it never



> Antonisha Owens with her great-grandmother and cousin. | Provided Photo

squashed her desire to cultivate land. The self-taught, beauty product maker built a relationship with nature a long time ago, describing foraging as a way to do more for her body, her children, her business and her community. Sourcing her own ingredients comes from experience of understanding that relying on companies to provide safe ingredients that will arrive on time, is a business risk.

“I needed to be more in charge of my process and how it might affect me if I couldn’t get ingredients,” she said.

Now, Antonisha wants to share what she’s learned with her community, the residents of Syracuse.

“Don’t be afraid to step out and take your own freedom,” she said. “Start by growing your own food. You are entitled to grow your own food. You are in control of what you eat. This is how we become stronger as a community.”

In her quest to buy land, armed with the knowledge of how to cultivate it, she has taken back some aspect of what was robbed of her, of her grandparents and her great-grandparents.

“I have a sense of freedom,” she said. “When you grow your own food, you have freedom. You are in control of your livelihood, and I think that is something that has been taken away from a lot people.”

**AMERICA'S
BEST LARGE
EMPLOYERS**

Forbes
2021

POWERED BY STATISTA

UPSTATE IS A
GREAT PLACE TO WORK.

**COME
JOIN US.**

UPSTATE

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

SEE AVAILABLE POSITIONS
AND LEARN MORE:

VISIT [UPSTATE.EDU/JOBS](https://www.upstate.edu/jobs)

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE SPECIALIST | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 ADVANCE PRACTICE PROVIDER | ANESTHESIA SPECIALIST
 ATHLETIC TRAINER | CLERICAL
 SPECIALIST | CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST
 COURIER
 DERMATOLOGY NURSE | DIETITIAN | DISPATCHER, PATIENT
 STATION CLERK | OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST | OFFICE ASSISTANT
 OPERATING ROOM ASSOCIATE | OUTPATIENT ADMINISTRATIVE
 SPECIALIST | PAYROLL ASSOCIATE | PHARMACIST | PHARMACY
 TECHNICIAN | PHLEBOTOMIST | PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
 PROJECT COORDINATOR | PSYCHOTECHNICIAN | PURCHASE
 ASSISTANT | RADIATION THERAPIST | RECREATION/ART
 THERAPIST | REGISTRATION | FRONT DESK COORDINATOR
 REGISTERED NURSE | RADIATION THERAPIST | SECRETARY
 SENIOR COUNSELOR | SOCIAL WORKER | SPEECH PATHOLOGIST
 SUPPLY ASSISTANT | SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST | TEAM
 LEADER | ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGIST | ACCOUNTS
 RECEIVABLE SPECIALIST | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 ADVANCE PRACTICE PROVIDER | ANESTHESIA SPECIALIST
 ATHLETIC TRAINER | CLERICAL
 SPECIALIST | CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST | COURIER
 DERMATOLOGY NURSE | DIETITIAN | DISPATCHER, PATIENT

**DAD IS
TRAILING
OFF IN THE
MIDDLE
OF HIS
SENTENCES.**

**KNOW
WHERE
ALZHEIMER'S
AND ALL
DEMENTIA
HIDE.**

alzheimer's 
association®

New problems with words or speaking
is a warning sign of Alzheimer's.
Learn more at alz.org/10signs