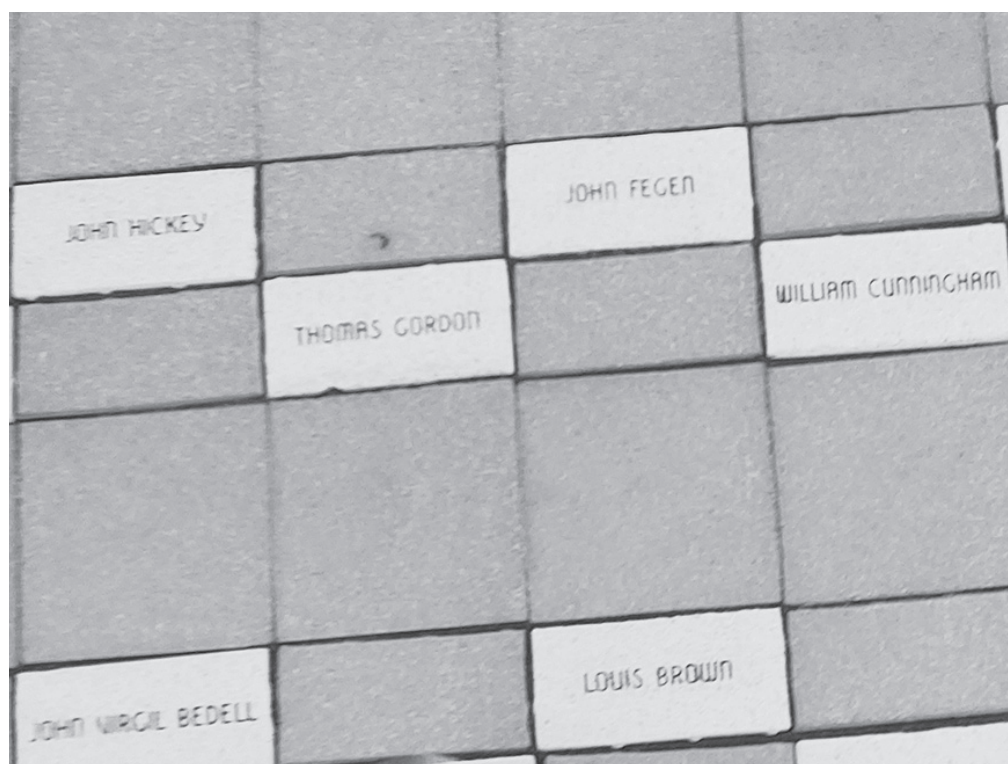


DeGlopper Memorial Project



The Civil War veterans from Grand Island are recognized at the DeGlopper Memorial. (Photo by Michael J. Billoni)



The finished engraved brick with the name of an Islander who served in the Civil War. (Photo by Michael J. Billoni)

and raised two sons. "After last year's unveiling was postponed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I was thrilled to see the work resume. I actually called someone who noted on their paver request form that they wanted to be present when the stones were installed, and they came right down to watch."

Like everyone on the committee, they are all looking forward to the unveiling of the Memorial Park, which includes stations at the south end of stories of each of the Island's 18 Killed in Action veterans.

"If all goes as planned, June 5 will be a spectacular and memorable event, rain or shine and full of surprises for every age group," she said. "We hope all the coverage we have received through the weekly articles and advertisement in the Island Dispatch will show people just how big of a historical event this is for the Island and we will have a huge turnout."

In addition to the importance of paying homage to all included at the site, the committee believes it is essential for all to understand the historical and educational significance of this project. The hope is that the memorial, in its full completion, will be a destination point on the Island for students, residents, and visitors from afar. Who knows, long after most of us are gone, maybe this story will appear in the «Let's Go Back» section in the Island Dispatch.



Martino and Chris Taylor, chair of the fundraising committee, are grateful for all donations they have received, saying most have come from Islanders, both corporate and individuals. They were ecstatic last week after receiving nearly \$3,000 from a grassroots fundraising event coordinated by Meagan Shores. After learning the Easter Bunny would not be at Kelly's Country Store because of COVID precautions, she arranged for an Easter Bunny to be outside at the DeGlopper site for photos. Donations were accepted, and her family donated a 3-foot-tall chocolate Easter bunny, and proceeds from a raffle went to the fund.

Anyone interested in volunteering or making a donation can visit www.degloppermemorial.org and scroll to Let's Work Together and click your choice. The committee is in need of funds to cover costs for additional items to complete the project: Granite Taps Bugle with Lyrics statue, \$15,000; Granite Purple Heart Memorial statue, \$15,000; Four plaques around the base of the DeGlopper statue, \$20,000; Thank You Wall, \$5,000.

ROOFING

Celebrating 45 Years in Business

FREE ESTIMATES
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Castle
ROOFING & SIDING
FULLY INSURED - OWNER OPERATED
683-0826
www.castlesidingandroofing.com

Nickel City Opera to premier 'The Second Sight'

The world premiere of "The Second Sight," an opera in three acts by composer and librettist Jessie Downs will be performed at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 26, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 27, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 696 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo.

Composed for her Ph.D. in Music Composition at the University at Buffalo, "The Second Sight" will be directed by Nickel City Opera Artistic Director Valerian Ruminski, along with Creative Director Samantha, and conducted by Matthew Chamberlain. This production has been rescheduled from 2020.

"The Second Sight" is a mythic tale exploring the spiritual connections between generations of women as developed through the experience of grief. The music conjures mystical spaces and psychological dramas utilizing a sound palette inspired by a combination of bel canto, folk and experimental music. The story centers around Diskana, a young woman with clairvoyant ability called "second sight" who foresees the death of a young child (Sashatya) feeling the pain of the child's grieving mother (Freyaria). Diskana vows to defy fate attempting to intervene to prevent the child's death. Supernatural forces ultimately weave together the lives of mystic, mother and child in unexpected ways.

The production features mezzo-soprano Ola Rafalo as Diskana, soprano Claudia Brown as Freyaria, composer Jessie Downs as Sashatya with members of the Sotto Voce Vocal Collective: Julia Anne Cordani and Suzanne Fatta with Stephen Walley and Brandon Mecklenberg as meddling Spirits.

Downe' personal story was catalyst for creating the opera.

"A few years ago my family experienced two great losses – my half-sister, Sasha, at 2 from an unexpected brain malfunction and my maternal grandmother after years of health struggles. The strangeness of losing a child, the loss of a life that

was never actually lived – and the different but just as profound mourning of the family's matriarch led me to explore the spiritual connections between generations of women and how our loved ones live on through us."

Sotto Voce Vocal Collective, sponsored by Arts Services Inc., was founded by Downs in 2016 as a vehicle for presenting new works promoting both the capabilities of the human voice and the diversity of living composers. Downs' work with Sotto Voce was formative in shaping the Spirit Chorus in "The Second Sight" with knowledge of the specific voices involved and how they combine to create surreal sonic landscapes.

Executive Director Eileen Breen said Nickel City Opera is thrilled to be working with Downs on this important endeavor.

"Jessie is part of the burgeoning force of women in film, music and theatre who are bringing many new themes to theatrical works. NCO is proud to be lending our history of presenting opera and classical events to Jessie and Sotto Voce in making the production of 'The Second Sight' a reality. We are looking forward to continuing to work with new and upcoming composers to further the reach of opera and musical theatre in WNY."

Tickets are available at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-second-sight-a-new-opera-tickets-139116183249>

Nickel City Opera, Inc. is a Western New York based 501 c3 arts organization with a mission to produce high quality opera productions, expand and develop the opera audience with particular emphasis on young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience opera in addition to developing local talent through education and performance opportunities.



The Ultimate Social Distancer

Put some miles between you and the world this summer with a new or used RV or camper.

Our record low RV loan interest rates can help ensure you still have the vacation adventure you've always dreamed of!

Let Financial Trust help you make it happen!
Anyone can Apply.
Rates as Low as:
Call or Visit us Today.

4.25% APR*



Financial Trust
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



2014 Grand Island Boulevard
Grand Island 773.1707
Additional Branches Located in Blasdell, Buffalo, Cheektowaga, Orchard Park & West Seneca

*Annual Percentage Rate. Subject to application and loan approval. Terms and conditions apply. Visit us for more details.

financialtrustcu.com