

SiCM News

Year 51, Number 1, Spring 2018



SiCM Celebrated 50 Years March 20, 2018

NEW NAME & LOGO

SURPRISE!

SiCM announced to 250 people who attended the March 20, 2018, 50th Jubilee at The Glen Sanders Mansion, that it has a new name and logo. **Rev. Dustin Wright**, Vice President stated, *"Reflecting our call to bring new life to our community both within and beyond our city limits, while still doing business as SiCM, we'll now be known as **Schenectady Community Ministries**. Our new logo reflects this focus. You'll notice a heart takes the place of the cross ... a person with outstretched arms takes the place of the 'I' [in SiCM]... building community means serving, working with and reaching out to neighbors of all walks of life. ... shoots of new leaves and sunshine ... inspired by our community garden ministry. We believe building community means working with our clients to cultivate new skills."*



Randy McGough welcomed the SiCM guests and introduced Subrina Dhammi, News Anchor, WNYT, Channel 13 Emcee for the evening.

Shirley Readdean delivered the invocation prior to dinner - **Wisdom of the Hopi Elders**.

After a delicious dinner, **Rev. Phil Grigsby** thanked all for coming and unveiled a new video of current SiCM services.

The 50th Anniversary honored the past, celebrated the present and embraced the future. **Rev. Jim Miller and Rev. Robert Pierce** shared stories from the early days of SiCM. Rev. Miller was pastor at Emmanuel Baptist; Rev. Pierce was the first Urban Agent/Executive Director. A special Meet and Greet event was held prior to the main event to welcome Revs. Miller and Pierce.



Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck offered the benediction, *"People from far and wide, from different churches, beliefs, denominations, and faith traditions all gathered for one purpose."*



The event raised over \$36,000 and there have been requests to make this an on-going fun/fundraising event; please speak to SiCM staff or a Steering committee member if you want to weigh in on this.

Steering Committee 2018-2019

Rev. Peter JB Carman
President

Rev. Dustin Wright
Vice President

Secretary-vacancy

Randy McGough
Treasurer

John Carter

Anne Cole

Amy DeCoitis

Rev. Jason Fulkerson

William Monaghan

Marsha Mortimore

Adrienne Silva

Sr. Ann Christi Brink

Emerita Member:
Rev. Diana Fletcher

Rev. Phillip N. Grigsby
Executive Director

*Schenectady
Community
Ministries*

SEFA #50-00396



Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM) celebrates the partnership of 52 member congregations "relating the resources of the congregations to the needs of the community," supporting ministries of social service, education, witness and social action.

The SiCM newsletter, 2017 Annual Report and more detailed financial and program information is available from SiCM at 1055 Wendell Ave., Schenectady, NY 12308 or 518.374.2683.

SiCM's finances are audited annually by an independent auditing firm.

**SCHENECTADY COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES**

1055 Wendell Avenue,
Schenectady, NY 12308
Phone: 518.374.2683

E-mail: infomation@sicm.us
Website: ww.sicm.us

The Assembly of SiCM includes one clergy and two lay delegates from member congregations:

Alplaus UMC, Altamont Reformed, Bellevue Reformed, Bethel AME, Burnt Hills UMC, Carman UMC, Christ Church Episcopal, Church of St. Adalbert, Duryee Memorial AME Zion, Eastern Parkway UMC, Emmanuel Baptist—Friedens UCC, Faith UMC, First Baptist, First Reformed, Sch'dy, First Reformed, Scotia, First UMC, Friendship Baptist, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Holy Name of Jesus PNC, Immaculate Conception, Immanuel Lutheran, Lynnwood Reformed, Parsons Memorial-COGIC, Messiah Lutheran, Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist, Niskayuna Reformed, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Refreshing Spring, Rotterdam UMC, St. Anthony's, St. George's Episcopal, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. John the Evangelist, St. Joseph's, Sch'dy, St. Joseph's, Scotia, St. Paul the Apostle, St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Stephen's Episcopal, Scotia UMC, Society of Friends (Quakers), Stanford UMC, State Street Presbyterian, Tabernacle Baptist, Trinity Presbyterian, Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, Zion Lutheran

Ministry Notes

Remembering, celebrating and giving thanks. As you have seen elsewhere, our 50th anniversary gala was one of remembering, celebrating and giving thanks! We recalled this shared ministry over the years; we celebrated leaders and friends; and gave thanks as we look to the future. Thanks to all who took part at the wonderful evening on March 20, 2018. To borrow a book title, it truly was, "*A Night to Remember*." Special thanks go to the planning committee and to Laurie Bacheldor who worked "above and beyond" to make it come together so well. In addition to Laurie, the planning committee members were: Sharon Carter, Gwen Clow, Janet Mattis, Pat Mattry, Randy McGough, Jo-Anne Rafalik, Shirley Readdean, Barbara Vivier, Don Wheeler, and Rev. Dustin Wright.



Thanks with staffing changes. It is a time of transition. We give thanks for the dedication of three staff members who have moved on. Janet Mattis developed our internship and communications initiatives, and coordinated special events such as the Harvest for the Pantry, Spring Bags, and others. Rev. Horace Sanders Jr. took on the Schenectady County Embraces Diversity program with youth, and added an adult emphasis. He initiated Community Conversations and provided leadership on multiple community initiatives. Dave Taylor directed the Summer Meals Program last year in a challenging environment. Thank you to all, and we wish them the best as they move on.

We are fortunate to welcome new staff members. Jo-Anne Rafalik comes from her experiences at the YWCA and is working both with Summer Meals and in the new emphasis on volunteer coordination and civic engagement. Last fall, Ariel White shifted from Camp Director to become our Food Pantry Coordinator, now with us full time. This shift became available as Shelly Ford became the overall Food Program Director with broader responsibilities. Clyde Tatum comes from several experiences to join us in the warehouse at the pantry. Kira Feurstein joins us as Camp Director from her background in education. Pat Mattry came on board to work with Laurie on the 50th anniversary and other database projects. We are grateful that all can join our team as we seek to move ahead!

Rev. Phil Grigsby

Thank You to Retiring Steering Members

Three members move on ...

SiCM gives thanks to three long-term board/steering members for serving on the Steering Committee: **Rev. James McDonald, Ms. Shirley Readdean and Mr. Donald Wheeler.** Their terms of service are up and we must say good-bye!



Father McDonald is the rector at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and was first involved with SiCM at the Damien Center. Ms. Readdean was past President and will continue to serve on the Development Committee. Mr. Wheeler will continue to serve as the Food Pantry Taskforce Chairperson. These steering members have given many years of service to SiCM, including working tirelessly for over the past two years (and so many meetings) as SiCM envisioned a new name, logo and mission.



PROGRAM UPDATES

SiCM Summer Camp at Steinmetz Park

SiCM Summer Camp at Steinmetz Park is a free faith-based camp for children ages 7—12. It offers engaging hands-on activities designed to motivate campers, and take advantage of the beautiful natural surroundings at Steinmetz Park. The 45-acre park resources include a large stocked pond with beautifully sculptured nature walks, a playground, and picnic areas. The camp offers treasure hunts, arts and crafts, music, fishing, recreational activities, and more. Off-site field trips are scheduled weekly. The program includes breakfast and lunch.

The camp is open from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm for six weeks (July through August). Registration is now open. The camp is staffed with professionals, interns and volunteers. The camp offers a one to six ratio of staff to children.



Fishing time with campers!

For information on SiCM's Summer Camp, contact Kira Feurstein at SiCM's administrative office: 518.374.2683 or email: information@sicm.us.

Registration Open!



Summer Nights at SPAC—Returning to SiCM! July 20Th!

SiCM is partnering for the second year with SPAC (and The Wright Family Foundation) to offer local residents an opportunity to enjoy various programs at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC). Offerings begin July 20, 2018, and continue through August 9, 2018.



Summer Nights — Performances

The New York City Ballet - July 20, 2018, 8 pm
 Trinity Irish Dance - July 30, 2018, 8 pm
 The Planets: An HD Odyssey - August 3, 2018, 8 pm
 Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone in Concert - August 4, 2018, 8 pm
 Carnival of the Animals Matinee - August 9, 2018, 2 pm

Sign up for Summer Nights - Performances at SPAC!

Free transportation, food, show and fun!

Participants are provided transportation, meal vouchers, and admittance to the event. To reserve a spot, contact Shelly Ford or Ariel White at the Food Pantry: 518.346.4445 or email: foodpantry@sicm.us.



**Thank you to all who helped to make the 50th Anniversary
such a successful celebration!**

Corporate or Agency Support

1st National Bank of Scotia	Price Chopper/Market 31
Albany Damien Center	Regional Food Bank of NENY
Bethesda House of Sch'dy	Rose & Kiernan
Create Community Studios	Safe, Inc. of Schenectady
Daily Gazette	Saratoga National Bank
Digital Xpress	SCAP
Ellis Hospital	Scotia Rotary
Home Furnishings	St. Joseph's Place
M&T Bank	The Schenectady Foundation
Matthew's Signs NY	Troy Area United Ministries
Music Company Orchestra	WNYT - Channel 13
Open Door Bookstore	

Congregation Support

Altamont Reformed	Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist
Bellevue Reformed	Niskayuna Reformed
Christ Church Episcopal	Our Lady Queen of Peace
Christ Community Reformed	Roman Catholic Diocese
Duryee Memorial AME Zion	Sisters of St. Joseph
Emmanuel Friedens	St. Kateri Tekakwitha
First Reformed of Sch'dy	St. Stephen's Episcopal
First United Methodist	Stanford United Methodist
Friendship Baptist	Trinity Presbyterian
Messiah Lutheran	Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady



***Thank you to all who attended
the 50th Jubilee!!***



SiCM Welcomes New Staff & Says Goodbye to Others



Summer Meals Director & Volunteer Coordinator: The Summer Meals program welcomes **Jo-Anne V. Rafalik** as the new Summer Meals Director, succeeding David Taylor. Her position includes not only overall management of the summer meals program, but also developing civic engagement opportunities, and working with community volunteers. Jo-Anne held several positions at the YWCA. She has also served as the Secretary to SiCM's Steering Committee.

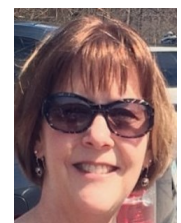


Summer Camp Director: SiCM welcomes **Kira Feurstein** as the new Camp Director. Kira will begin work soon. She is a special education teacher with the Schenectady School District and brings many years of experience working with children. We look forward to her leadership.

Welcome Jo-Anne, and Kira.



Special thanks to Rev. Horace Sanders, Jr. and Janet Mattis who have accepted new positions. Rev. Sanders, Jr. was the SiCM program Director for two years for Schenectady County Embraces Diversity (SCED) and Community Conversations. Rev. Sanders, Jr. is the Senior Pastor at Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist. Janet worked for 12 years in development, communications and the Internship Program. Both Janet and Rev. Sanders, Jr. will be missed and wished only the best as they begin their new positions.



Thank you, Rev. Horace Sanders, Jr. and Janet Mattis!

SiCM Food Program

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The **SiCM Food Program** (viewed as a model program by the NYS Health Department) addresses public health needs through integrated services: The Emergency

Food Pantry; Community Resources; Senior Services; Community Garden and Summer Meals Program. For more information, call Shelly Ford, Food Program Director at 518.346.4445; email: sford@sicm.us.



The Emergency Food Pantry is located at 839 Albany Street and is open weekday mornings (except Tuesday). It offers once a month mass food distribution. Van rides home are offered from the pantry and to the homebound. Wrap-around services include information and assistance to help guests learn about community resources, such as SNAP, health insurance, nutrition education, job information, voter registration, etc.

SiCM partners with community organizations, including Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP), Schenectady Co. Dept. of Social Services (DSS), etc.

Senior Services provides socialization and education programs to encourage healthy food and lifestyles at the Pantry. Senior Connect and the Sit & Knit programs are offered one Tuesday a month—check website for dates.



Ariel White Shelly Ford

All are welcome at the pantry.

Many community organizations and individual volunteers assist in many areas. For information on the pantry, contact Ariel White, Pantry Coordinator at 518.346.4445 or email: foodpantry@sicm.us.



Iva Gay

The SiCM Community Garden is located at 333 Hulett St. and offers 24 community residents plots where gardeners can grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables. Each gardener maintains their own plot. SiCM staff and volunteers provide support, including soil preparation, seeds, plants, tools, Master Gardener, etc. Community and faith-based organizations support the Garden. For information contact Iva Gay at the Pantry at 518.346.4445 or email: garden@sicm.us.



The community garden needs tools — see website for list. Can you help?

The **Summer Meals Program** will be led by new director, Jo-Anne Rafalik. It offers breakfasts and lunches to children and teens at various sites throughout Schenectady and Scotia. The program opens on Monday, June 25th, will be closed on July 4th, and finishes on Friday, August 31st.



Summer meals start soon.

In July SiCM will host a Summer Lunch Kickoff in conjunction with United Way of the Greater Capital Region. This event will feature dignitaries and special activities for children.

The Summer Meals Program provides breakfast and lunch for our youth. In Schenectady and in our surrounding community the need is great: 85% of families are eligible for free or reduced price meals. The Program is available at parks, churches, housing authority complexes, and other sites such as the downtown public library and the MiSci Museum. The [site locations and schedule](#) is now available; check the Schenectady Community Ministries Facebook and website for further detail.

The program operates with site supervisors and teams of volunteers from many groups such as G.E. Global Research, MVP, Schenectady ARC, congregations, and others. Often the volunteer teams provide books or other resources; some provide games and activities. This year, we anticipate 1,200 volunteers will support the program. For information on SiCM's summer meals program or to volunteer, call Jo-Anne Rafalik at 518.374.2683 x 108; email jrafalik@sicm.us.

Schenectady Community Ministries

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The Last Word

by Randy McGough, President



President John F. Kennedy made many quotes during his short tenure as President of the United States. One of his least famous quotes was, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." This has been one of my favorite quotes of President Kennedy who was big on giving back to the community which is something that I have always tried to do to because it is the right thing to do.

This month marks the end of my tenure as the President of the Steering Committee. Much has been accomplished during this time, including holding of the 50th Anniversary Gala; the renaming of the agency from Schenectady Inner City Ministry to Schenectady Community Ministries; the introduction of a new agency logo; the hiring of new staff for key agency positions; the addition of several new congregations; and the beginning of a development plan that will guide the agency for the next 50 years.

I want to thank the staff for all the excellent work that they do and, in addition, thank the volunteers who work to serve the needs of the many folks who are served by SiCM in its many programs. Lastly, I want to thank my colleagues on the Steering Committee for making the job of President an easy one to perform.

Special Thanks! SAFE, Inc. Honors SiCM

Safe Inc. honored SiCM at its 6th Annual Garden Party Dinner on Thursday evening, **May 17th** at the Mohawk Golf Club from 5:30-8:30 pm. Safe Inc. recognized the 50th Anniversary of Schenectady Community Ministries at their event.

SiCM began Project Safe in 1985 to provide comprehensive services on an outpatient basis to individuals between 12-35 years old who were engaged in sex trafficking, survival sex or were at risk of sexual exploitation.

Safe Inc. of Schenectady became an independent corporation in 1996 to include Project Safe and Safe House, both of which serve at-risk youth not just in Schenectady, but throughout the Capital District region.

