



# CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

## Notes from the Chapter Chair

Did you miss our December Holiday Party? If so, you missed getting together with a great bunch of people and lots and lots of giveaways.

I want to thank our **Steering Committee** for all of their help in preparing for this event and for their help during the party itself. We couldn't have done it without all of their help and help from members **Paola Bartley, Jean Brooks** and **Susan Gewinner** in selling raffle tickets. Thanks also to **Robert Baniak** for the goody bags he prepared for each person. Also, thank you to **Sheri Dozier Owens** of the NYS Comptroller's Office for helping everyone find their unclaimed funds. Thanks everyone!

Each meeting we have donation jars on each table and donations go to a different not for profit each time. December, as we usually do, were monetary donations to food pantries – **St. Lucy's (Onondaga County; Calvary Food Pantry (Cayuga County); First United Methodist Church (Oswego County); Preble Congregational Church (upper Cortland County) and Harmony Food Pantry (Seneca County)**

Our **50/50 Raffle** was won by **Diane Justian**. The lucky winners of our many **Gift Baskets** were: **Paola Bartley, Sandy Cisco, Lorraine Dardani, Sue Friedland, Sue Gewinner, Brenda Holliday, Diane Justian, Rick King, Donna LePage, Diane Miller (2), Mary Nortman, Billy Pierce, Kim Stafford, Sally Starr, Paul Tennant, Frank Visser and Kathy Visser (2).**

Many Individuals and companies donated either gift baskets, items for gift baskets, gift certificates or gift cards. We want to acknowledge and thank all of them for their generosity: **Applebees, Robert Baniak, Barnes & Noble, Bella Domani, Dawn Bennett, Peggy Chase, Rita Gram, Mary Klementowski, Lasca's Restaurant, Ray Muldoon, Therese Risley, Rudy's, Syracuse Mets, Tully's Restaurant, Walmart and Lilie Welych.**

In addition, the **Central New York Chapter** donated **30 gift cards**, which were won by many different individuals. Our **April luncheon** will have **John Tumino** of **In My Father's Kitchen** as our **Speaker**. This is a not for profit corporation founded by John and his wife Leigh-Ann. It is a faith-based organization offering non-denominational and non-discriminatory assistance to homeless people through direct street outreach. They build relationships with chronically homeless people who have a disability that prevents them from adequately caring for themselves. They bring food and emergency supplies to these people as well as bottled water, blankets, toiletries, clothing and medical attention when needed. They are accompanied at times by a physician, dentist, and veterinarian as needed.

They will talk about the history of **In My Father's Kitchen**, homelessness and street outreach as well as what to do if you see a homeless person. In addition, they will share information about their **Hire Ground** program.

We will be collecting for **Francis House** at this meeting. This is a home in Syracuse for the terminally ill. They have specific items on their wish list – Campbell's Soups ((10.75 oz) of Tomato, Chicken Noodle, Coffee: Decaf, Regular, Cookie Mixes, Fruit and Granola Bars, Individual Snack Items: Nuts or Dried Fruits, etc., Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Pudding Snack Packs, Soda (2 Liters): Ginger Ale, Pepsi/Coke, Tuna (5 oz cans) White Albacore in Water, Baby Wipe (unscented), Chapstick or Lip Balm, Toothpaste, Unscented Lotion, Women's Deodorant (no aerosol). Travel size toiletries are preferred as stays are not usually long. They can also use Liquid Hand Soap, Napkins, Room Deodorizers, 9-Volt Batteries, Food Gift Cards (Aldi, Price Chopper, Tops, Walmart, Wegmans), Home Improvement Gift Cards (Lowe's, Home Depot), Postage Stamps (Forever ones are best).

Check out the flyers for our two Syracuse Mets games. The first is on Monday, April 8 – "Total Eclipse of the Park" plus a baseball game. Also, Sunday, June 23 for a game. See flyers for details.

We will need at least two people to sell **Raffle Tickets** for this meeting. You should plan on arriving by 10:30 am to set up and you would be done and free to join your friends at a table by 11:30 am. Please let me know if you are interested – email at [dbennett18@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dbennett18@twcny.rr.com) or call 315 437-7464.

# Total Eclipse of the Park

Gates open at 2:30pm

Syracuse Mets vs. Worcester

Monday, April 8, 2024

Game Time: 5:05pm

**Cost: RPEA Members: \$19.00 Non-Members: \$24.00**

Ticket prices have gone up but seats are same as we had.

**Includes:** First 10,000 fans through the gates will receive commemorative eclipse glasses upon entry; Ticket to game/NBT Stadium; Give-Aways, if any; a \$7.00 parking pass (1 per each ticket request). Elevators to seats are available – one step down to seats - between Home Plate and Mets Dugout. Several wheelchair & walker seats directly behind us. Closest seats to elevator. Seats under roof & in shade.

**Fans will be able to enjoy popular Dollar Thursday specials for this special occasion,** including \$1 16 oz. fountain Coca-Cola beverages & a \$1 item in the Team Store, \$2 Hofmann hot dogs & Coney's and \$3 16 oz. Coors, Labatt, Budweiser, Saranac products as well as 1911 hard ciders.

### \*\*\*Important Notes\*\*\*

Eclipse begins around 3pm and lasts just over 1 minute

No outside food or drink allowed

Clear totes only 12x8x12

Purse no larger than 8x12

No knives or weapons

No smoking or vaping on Mets property

No Exit/Re-entry

Bags will be searched and person wanded

**Questions? Dawn Bennett:**

**315-437-7464 or [dbennett18@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dbennett18@twcny.rr.com)**

**Return Reservation Form and Payment by March 16, 2024**

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## REGISTRATION FORM: Syracuse Mets Game

April 8, 2024

Please List All Attendees By Name:

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ RPEA Member/Spouse/Domestic Partner: \$19.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-RPEA Member: \$24.00 each

**Make Checks Payable To: CNY Wanderers.**

**Mail Checks To: RPEA Central NY Chapter, PO Box 3475, Syracuse, NY 13220-3475**

## Notes from the Chapter Chair continued

We are always looking for donors (anonymous or not) to help subsidize our luncheons to help keep the cost down. Many of our members have small pensions and are feeling the pinch. You can choose to donate any amount but for approximately 50-70 people. We will accept anywhere from \$1/person on up. This would mean that some people who wouldn't ordinarily be able to afford to come, would then be able to. If you have questions, call me.

For those of you who are having problems with the price of groceries, the **CNY Food Bank** has a way to help. **Food Sense** is a monthly food buying co-op for anyone who wants to stretch their grocery dollars. Food Sense provides a monthly box of staple grocery items at a discounted price as well as a selection of family-sized specials. Each box is \$20.50. Each box contains 4-5 meat items like chicken, ground beef or fish; 4-5 staple pantry items like pasta, soup and rice; 2 fresh produce items like apples, carrots or oranges. Rotating monthly specials like stuffed pork chops, American cheese, meatballs, lasagna and chicken tenders can be purchase in addition to the basic unit.

You can go to their website to check on this and order at:

<https://www.foodbankcny.org/our-programs/food-sense-program/> or you can call (800) 444-1562 or (315) 437-1899. You must pick up your order at the end of the month but they have many pick-up sites: Adams, Boonville, Brewerton, Café Sankofa (Syracuse – several locations), Camden, Camillus, Canastota, Canton, Baldwinsville, Cazenovia, Central Square, Cortland, Fulton, Oneida, Liverpool (several locations), Mexico, Phoenix, Pulaski (2), Oswego, Dewitt, Tully.

**There are no qualifications, no subscriptions, and no requirements to participate in Food Sense.**

If there are any Chapter members who need a ride to and from our luncheon meetings, please let me know. I know there are some of you who no longer drive and otherwise would not be able to attend. We will try to find someone in your area to provide transportation and in the process, make a new friend. Don't wait until the last minute to call me at **(315) 437-7464** or e-mail me at [dbennett18@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dbennett18@twcny.rr.com).

**Steering Committee Members** – we are always looking for new members with ideas and suggestions. Our next meetings are on Monday, May 6, Monday, June 24, Monday, October 7 and Monday, November 4, 2024 (if needed). They are held at Denny's, 7 North & Buckley Rds., Liverpool. Please call if you are thinking of coming.

You might also want to make note of our luncheon meetings for the rest of this year: Monday, July 8, Monday, September 9, and Monday, December 2.

**Dawn Bennett**  
**Chapter Chair**



# PLAY BALL

Syracuse Mets vs. Rochester

Sunday, June 23, 2024

1:05pm

**Cost: RPEA Members: \$19.00 Non-Members: \$24.00**

Ticket prices have gone up but seats are same as we had.

**Includes:** Ticket to game/NBT Stadium, giveaways, if any. The first 15 to sign up will receive \$10.00 in Conductor Bucks (food voucher), and a \$7.00 parking pass (1 pass per vehicle). Elevators to seats are available-one step down to seats. Section 211 between home plate and the Mets dugout. Several wheelchair/walker seats directly behind us. Closest seats to the elevator. Seats under roof & in shade.

**\*\*\*Important Notes\*\*\***

Gates Open 1 hour before game

No outside food or drink allowed

Clear totes only 12x8x12

Purse no larger than 8x12

No knives or weapons

No smoking or vaping on Mets property

No Exit/Re-entry

Bags will be searched and person wanded

**Questions? Dawn Bennett:**

**315-437-7464 or dbennett18@twcny.rr.com**

**Return Reservation Form and Payment by May 31, 2024**

**REGISTRATION FORM: Syracuse Mets Game**

June 23, 2024

Please List All Attendees By Name:

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ RPEA Member/Spouse/Domestic Partner: \$19.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-RPEA Member: \$24.00 each

**Make Checks Payable To: CNY Wanderers.**

**Mail Checks To: RPEA Central NY Chapter, PO Box 3475, Syracuse, NY 13220-3475**

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER  
**Annual Meeting**  
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024  
BELLA DOMANI RESTAURANT  
5988 E. TAFT ROAD  
NORTH SYRACUSE, NY 13212

11:00am: Registration  
11:30am: Business Meeting  
11:45am: Buffet Lunch  
12:40pm: Speaker: *John Tumino, In My Father's Kitchen*  
**Topic:** *History of My Father's Kitchen Homelessness and Street Outreach*

**Menu:** Sausage & Peppers, Meatballs, Baked Ziti, Chef Salad, Vegetable, Rolls, Coffee, Hot Tea, Dessert.  
Other beverages available at bar on a cash basis.

**Cost:**  
\$15 per person (Members, Spouse, Domestic Partner) \$20 per person (Non-RPEA)  
Subsidized by Chapter & Anonymous Donors

**Directions to Bella Domani:**

From Downtown – Take I81 North to Exit 28 Taft Rd. Turn right at light. ½ mile on right hand side.  
From Thruway – Get off at Exit 36. Take I81 North to Exit 28 Taft Rd. Turn right at light. ½ mile on right.  
From North – Take I81 South to Exit 28 Taft Rd. Turn left at light. ½ mile on right hand side.

**HANDICAP PERMIT MAY PARK IN GRAVEL AREA AT ENTRANCE SIDE OF BUILDING**

**PAYMENT AND RESERVATION DEADLINE: March 20, 2024**  
**Reservations Are Mandatory!**

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**REGISTRATION FORM: Central NY Chapter Annual Meeting**  
April 1, 2024

Please List All Attendees By Name:

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ RPEA Member/Spouse/Domestic Partner: \$15.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-RPEA Member: \$20.00 each      Total Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable To: RPEA-CNY**  
**Mail Checks To: RPEA Central NY Chapter, PO Box 3475, Syracuse, NY 13220-3475**

Retired Public Employees Association, Inc.  
165 Jordan Road  
Troy, NY 12180

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**CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER**  
**News and Notes**