



NEWS RELEASE

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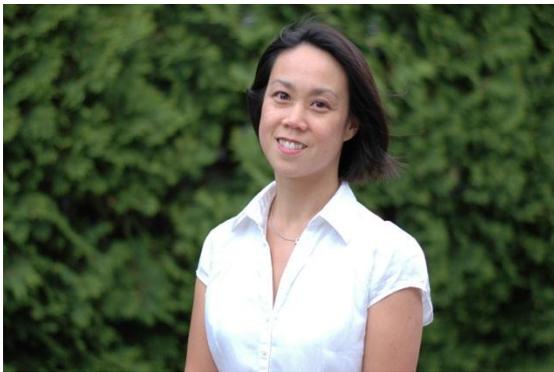
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Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park

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Friends of the Zoo Announces New Board Members

Syracuse, N.Y. (September 12, 2014) – Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is pleased to welcome to its board of directors Esther Feng, Irving T. Lyons Jr. and the Honorable Jeffrey Merrill.



Esther Feng is fund development strategist for MOPS International (Mothers of Preschoolers), a grassroots organization based in Denver, Colo. A graduate of Cornell University, she holds a master's degree in education and a bachelor's degree in biology with a concentration in biochemistry. She resides in Syracuse with her husband, Michael, and their two children.

Irving T. Lyons Jr. is executive director of the Cayuga Community Health Network. His experience includes a diverse background in health and human services, marketing and sales, special events and diversity consulting. A 20-year veteran of the U.S. Army, Lyons holds an associate's degree from the State University of New York Regents College, Albany and is a graduate of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, Cocoa Beach, Fla. and Powell-Reese Facilitators Course, Washington, D.C. He resides in Camillus.



The Honorable Jeffrey Merrill is a retired Supervising Syracuse City Court Judge. Prior to his election to the City Court bench, Merrill served as Senior Assistant District Attorney, the Onondaga County STOP-DWI coordinator and Deputy Sheriff in Onondaga, Seneca and Ontario counties. He holds a bachelor's degree from Colgate University and juris doctor from

Syracuse University College of Law. He and his wife, Genevieve, reside in Jamesville. They have three children and two grandchildren.

The officers serving on the board of directors are:

- Carl I. Austin, Jr., chairman | Bowers & Company CPAs, PLLC
- Dr. Douglas Wojcik, DVM, vice chairman | Liverpool Village Animal Hospital
- Thomas Giufre, treasurer | Fust Charles Chambers LLP
- Daynia Dodd, secretary | community volunteer

Founded in 1970, the Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) support organization to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, which is operated by Onondaga County Parks. Friends of the Zoo supports the mission of the zoo by providing educational programming to zoo visitors and the surrounding community. The Friends organization supports the zoo with marketing efforts, as well as fundraising and development activities such as Brew at the Zoo, Penguin Palooza and Snow Leopard Soireé. Friends of the Zoo operates the gift shop, catering department and Jungle Café. Over the years, the Friends organization has helped build new exhibits, improve existing habitats and upgrade facilities. Membership offers discounts on programs and in the gift shop, a quarterly magazine and free admission to the zoo.

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Founded in 1914, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is dedicated to connecting people to the natural world by providing engaging guest experiences, exceptional animal care, and unparalleled conservation education.

The zoo actively collaborates with Friends of the Zoo to provide its guests “the best day ever,” ensuring experiences that excite, memories that endure, and knowledge that inspires worldwide conservation.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults (19-61), \$4 for youth (3-18) and \$5 for seniors (62+). Children two and under are free. For more information, call the zoo at (315) 435-8511 or visit rosamondgiffordzoo.org.

One Conservation Place, Syracuse, NY 13204 • (315) 435-8511 • (315) 435-8517 fax

www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org

County Executive, Joanne M. Mahoney • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

ACCREDITED BY THE
**ASSOCIATION
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AQUARIUMS**