

WHEN MY HUSBAND ACCEPTED AN OFFER TO join the Theatre Arts Ph.D. program at Cornell in 2013, I was thrilled to start the next chapter of our lives in Ithaca. Not only did it mean moving into larger digs (our Manhattan studio apartment didn't fit much more than a futon and two dressers), it also meant moving to a more intimate community and one to which I have many personal ties. My mother was born and raised in Syracuse and our extended family spends every Christmas at my aunt's home in Rochester. My husband and I met at Hamilton College in Clinton and on a gorgeous July day we got married there. So moving from the bustle of the city to familiar territory was a change I embraced.



But when the decision to move to Ithaca was made, naturally I was concerned about my own career path. Leaving New York City meant stepping down from my writing/editorial position at a national wine, beer and spirits trade magazine, a move I was ready to make but about which I was nonetheless nervous. Enter *Edible Finger Lakes*. Familiar with and impressed by the *Edible* community of magazines, I reached out to *EFL* to inquire about freelance writing and before I knew it I was having coffee with Editor-in-Chief Michael Welch, discussing opportunities for me on the staff.

I'm delighted to now be entering my second year as Managing Editor of *Edible Finger Lakes*. At the risk of sounding like a braggart, I'm really proud of my position at *EFL*, the work I've done here, and the ways in which I've grown not only as an editor and professional, but as a member of this community. I like to think that even without this job I would have discovered all the terrific restaurants, wineries and artisanal products this region has to offer, but I know that my position at *EFL* has helped immensely in that regard. Thanks to this magazine, I've carved out my own little place in the Finger Lakes, which is why I'm so excited to be presenting this issue, with a focus on our 2015 Local Heroes, to you now. The businesses that make up this year's Heroes are exactly why moving to the Finger Lakes from the Big City has been such a great—not to mention delicious!—experience.

And I say this to you even considering the winter we've been having this year! We've all stuck it out because we know what lies ahead for us this spring in our gardens, on our plates and in our wine glasses (hello Dry Rosé!). I hope you enjoy this issue's celebration of what's to come in the warmer months and what makes the Finger Lakes such a wonderful and worthwhile place in which to live.

Looking forward to the year ahead,
Sally Kral
Managing Editor



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edible FINGER LAKES

THE STORY ON LOCAL FOOD



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