



March 2006 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 47 No. 7

45th Birthday of The Stockade Spy

The first issue of *The Spy* in 1961 was printed in green! Here's the first "Letter from our President." James D.J. Schmitt was a founding father and first president of the Stockade Association. Werner Feibes designed the original mast-head, continuing to grace the top of each *Spy*. Jim and Werner are still vital Stockade neighbors.

THE STOCKADE SPY
Published Monthly By
The Stockade Association
Schenectady, New York
January, 1961
Editor Barrie C. Covert, 33 Front St.
Telephone: Franklin 7-7263

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT 1661-1961

This is the year of the Tri Centenary. Since Arent Van Curler settled his band on the Right Bank of the Mohawk and established the Schenectady Stockade, three hundred years have passed. Today the Stockade Area is a small portion of the Schenectady Metropolis, yet its distinct position as founder and leader has not diminished through the centuries of growth. This venerated area which lies immediately west of Schenectady business district contains the original seventeenth century settlement laid out in the time of its founders and is one of the few communities in America where properties in close proximity to the central business district have been held in residential uses, where the descendants of the original settlers are still living, and where architecture of every historic American period is still to be seen.

Throughout America historic architecture in the urban scene has been subjected to a continuous process of

loss and deterioration. The art that is architecture cannot be collected in a gallery, but lives on in the museums of buildings and the people are their curators. The citizens of old areas are responsible for finding ways to safeguard, renew and bring historic architecture into living use in the contemporary world. If over a period of time, the best structures of the past can be saved and the poor ones replaced, the cities will become repositories of man's outstanding architectural achievements.

It is to this goal of preservation and progress that the Stockade Association and this publication, its official organ is dedicated. The Stockade Association stands for an active plan to safeguard the heritage of Schenectady by preserving a district which reflects elements of its cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; to stabilize and improve the property values of our entire residential area from Erie Boulevard to the Binnie Kill, from State Street to the river; to check encroaching blight upon this area, to chart future growth, to strengthen the local economy through the building of needed modern housing and neighborhood facilities, to make good use of vacant lands, to ease traffic and parking situations, to foster civic beauty, to create a meaningful environment and to promote the use of this historic district for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people. Let us form a living expression of our founding father's ideal of the city beautiful.

- James D.J. Schmitt

Stockade Association	<u>Stockade Dates</u>		
• General Meeting see page 3			
• Thurs., March 9	Secret Garden Tour	Sidewalk Sale	April
• 7:00 PM - pastries	Fri., June 23 3 - 8 PM	Saturday, June 3	<i>Spy</i>
• 7:30 PM - brainstorming	Sat., June 24 10 AM - 4 PM		Deadline
			March 15

Around and About the Stockade

Schenectady Civic Players presents

Harold Pinter's "Betrayal"

March 17, 18, 19 & 22-26

Evening curtain is 8 PM, matinees 2:30 PM. Schenectady Civic Playhouse, 12 South Church Street. Tickets are \$12. Call 382-2081. See page 10 for play description.

"Jewish History and Community in Schenectady,"

Exhibit and Program. (2005 was 350 year celebration.) Sat., March 11. Speaker, Harvey Strum, Professor at Sage College. The same recent exhibit at Sage. 1:30 PM. Refreshments, 2 PM Program. Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue. Call 374-0263 for more info.

Events at the Open Door Bookstore

128 Jay St. 346-2719

- Sat. March 4 Will Moses signing "**Hansel and Gretel**" 1-2:30 PM
- Sat. March 18 Jana Laiz signing "**Elephants of the Tsunami**" (a portion of the proceeds from this book will be donated to Tsunami Relief Gulf States Recovery) 1-2:30 PM
- Fri. March 24 Michael Buckley, creator of the Sisters Grimm series will sign "**The Fairytale Detectives**" & "**The Unusual Suspects**" 4-5:30 PM.

Schenectady County Community College

78 Washington Ave. 381-1250

- **Lincoln Mayora, Artist-in-Residence**
Lecture, Monday, March 13, 7:30 PM, Begley Building, Room 160. Free. Master Class, Tuesday, March 14, 11:30 AM, Begley Building, Room 160, Free. Performance, Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 PM, Carl B. Taylor Community Auditorium. Free.
- **The Schenectady Theater for Children presents The Great Minds Series of: Mother Jones, in celebration of Women's History Month**
Thursday, March 16, 11:30 AM, Carl B. Taylor Community Auditorium. Free.
- **Faculty Recital, Tony Sano, Guitar**
Tuesday, March 28, 11:30 AM Begley Bdg., Room 160 Free
- **Dr. Thomas Ryan, NYS Department of Health, presents Proteomics: Diagnosis and Drug Target Identification**
Thursday, March 30, 7 PM, Taylor Community Aud. Free
- **SCCC Chamber Music Series with the Weilerstein Duo** Friday, March 31, 7:30 PM, Taylor Auditorium. Free.

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Stockade Association General Meeting

This is a must affair. The subject is the Stockade and what you would like your association to be doing to improve our local environment, living conditions, etc.

Thursday, March 9, 7:00 PM.

Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Wash. Avenue - entrance in back

Everybody will be heard, and your idea recorded for further consideration. The plan is for a brainstorming session, where all ideas are presented, recorded, with no immediate discussion. The idea is to allow people to express their real feelings and get them out in the open for later discussion and review.

We will eventually have to prioritize, at the meeting if time allows, if not, later for presentation at a subsequent meeting.

The City is in the mood to cooperate. Now is the time to act.

Last, but not least. As an additional incentive - skip dessert and come prepared to partake of a delicious selection of fine pastries from our new neighbors, the Villa Italia store on South Broadway.

The Stockade Association Membership 2005- 2006

The Stockade Association has been carrying out its mission, "the protection and improvement of the properties" within its boundaries, for 48 years. Its objectives are to preserve the Historic District and the quality of life for its caretakers. The Association helps assure stability in a neighborhood that has been termed "a national treasure" and is enjoyed by visitors from all parts of America and abroad. Please support the Association and become a member by returning the coupon below.

Membership: October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006. \$15 per person, \$20 per household. \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Address _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Business _____ e-mail _____

Please indicate if you would like to help with any of the following useful efforts:

Art Show Membership Riverside Park Walkabout Neighborhood Watch
 Garden Group Neighborhood Celebrations Sidewalk Sale *The Stockade Spy* Government Affairs

The Stockade Spy is distributed to the neighborhood monthly, September through May.

If you are a non-resident and

• would like to be mailed *The Stockade Spy*, it is \$10 per year. \$ _____

• would like to become a "Friend of the Stockade" (an associate membership) and support the efforts of the Stockade, your contributions are very welcome. \$ _____

If you would like to give *The Stockade Spy* as a gift, it is \$10 per year. \$ _____

Name of recipient _____

Address of recipient _____

Name of sender _____

Please make check payable to "***The Stockade Association***" Total Amount enclosed \$ _____
and send to: Stockade Association Treasurer, 10 North Church Street, Schenectady, NY 12305.

Neighborhood News

Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

Stockade Association Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday February 7, 2006

Present: Joe Fava, Mary D'Alessandro, Bob Briber, Gloria Kishton, Lyn Gordon, Fred Kindl, Dale Miller and Peter Rumora. Ellen Desmond, Frank Gilmore and Steve Kowalski were present as guests. Elena Alvarez, Diane DeMeo and Bob Preville had indicated they would be absent.

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:05 and introduced the visitors, who were there to discuss two items: extending **plumbing to the gardens of Riverside Park** and the May CleanUp Day. Ellen described six areas which could use a controllable faucet. Peter said the lilac bushes don't need watering; they survive by themselves. Gloria suggested that we think more broadly, should other locations become desirable in the future. Hope was expressed that the River Street Planning group's initiatives could lead to progress in the matter. It was agreed that the Garden Group would write a letter to the Mayor, indicating what they would like, and the Association would write in support.

Frank and the group wondered if we could make the **Park CleanUp, scheduled for May 20**, more of a community event, to elicit more volunteer effort. Perhaps it could be made into a "rite of spring" event, with Morris Dancers or other activities. Several suggestions were offered. Frank and Steve will discuss making more dumpsters available and related issues with Carl Olsen. The event could be promoted in the two remaining issues of the SPY; Bob suggested that Frank or others write text for the SPY.

The **sidewalks of the Stockade** were discussed. All agreed that Dale's map illustrating the condition of the sidewalks was a sterling first step. Peter commented that each sidewalk area is different,

and they need to be repaired one by one. Bluestone, if that were the chosen alternative for a location, is substantially cheaper bought in bulk.


Lily had emailed several members her promised initial statement about the "**Infrastructure Committee**" and Frank and Peter agreed they would continue working with her. Dale said he would be happy to help [but he wanted no more committee meetings.] Lily reported in her email that she had talked with the area Grant Manager of the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Office, who had said we can apply for funds in March. She said she and her committee would be meeting with City officials soon.

The minutes of the meeting of January 3 were approved, as was the Treasurer's report. Lyn reported that she had bought a **\$5000 CD as approved by the Board, and recorded \$2746.96 in additional expenses in January, and \$580 in income.**

Dale distributed an excellent map, drawn from reports by Board members, about plaques in the neighborhood. **Seventy of the 350 buildings in the Stockade have historic plaques.** Dale indicated several sets of prices for plaques and hopes to have a complete report for the May meeting of the Association, incorporating the Historical Society's input and suggestions for enlarging the program.

Fred brought up the March 9 meeting. He said again the purpose is to get neighbors to identify projects they would like the Association to do. The goal at the meeting is to elicit ideas, without debate, and then later on to prioritize them. He said he would like two people, each with a flip chart and magic marker, to record the ideas.

Gloria reported on the **work of the Heritage board**, which met the previous week. She said they are working on the "Livable Cities" program, and had meet with the Mayor's office to continue pursuing City



**Spring 2006
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Wednesday, April 12
3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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(Neighborhood News continued from page 4)

efforts to take action against demolition by neglect. She said that the owner understands that to get the substantial financial support available to renovate 221 Green St., he has to have clear title and pay taxes. Gloria said he had paid up to this year's taxes.

Gloria also reported that she and her neighbor had periodically had someone deposit bags of garbage on her front step. After discussion, Gloria agreed to get a quotation on the cost of a motion-activated camera, to try to identify the perpetrator.

The group discussed the continuing issue of the **YMCA**. Gloria said she has gotten volunteers who want to work on the issue. The YM collects some \$28,000,000 a year from various sources to support their programs, including housing. **Joe agreed to be the "point man" for the issue, which all present needs to be handled thoughtfully.** He has sent a letter to legislators which Dale said he would put on the Stockade's Yahoo! site.

Peter pointed out that Rob Gavel has been paying for the lights on Lawrence since he started the 1795 Café. It was moved, seconded and passed [MSP] that we **give the 1795 Cafe \$100 to cover his continuing electricity expenses.**

Gloria reported that a neighbor had been struck by a car in front of the Van Dyck and that she and others had tried to console and help her. Based on this event - and the continuing concern expressed for years by the Board — Dale moved and it was MSP that **"The Board of the Stockade Association feel the speed limit in the Stockade should be 20 mph."** Though the City has not so far seen fit to change our speed limits, we can at least indicate what the Association wants.

Lyn reminded the group that Annetta August had applied for \$450 in sidewalk and painting incentives, and the subject was discussed at length. Annetta had not been a member of the Association when she applied, and the conditions of the grant require membership. **It was MSP [by 6 positive votes, one negative and one abstention] that we oppose the grant.**

The YWCA of Schenectady Board of Directors invites you to join in the celebration of the

**2006
Women of Achievement
and Reach
Awards Dinner**

Thursday, March 23, 2006

**Glen Sanders Mansion
Scotia, New York**

**Reception 5:30 PM
Dinner 6:30 PM
\$75**

**RSVP by March 17
Call 374-3394, ext. 105**

* * * * *

Other issues:


- Discussion of the sidewalk sale was postponed until the next meeting. The sale date will be June 3, to be consistent with past sales.
- Joe said there was nothing new to report on the issue of low flying airplanes.
- The location for the next Kerst Kermis has not yet been identified but planning is proceeding.
- Joe said the bulletin board outside of Arthur's needs attention, and asked Board members to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

- Respectfully submitted
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Happy 45th Birthday Spy!

Reprinted From the January 1996 Stockade Spy:

The beginning of a new year is always exciting but this one is special: January 1996 we celebrate the STOCKADE SPY's 35th birthday. Back in 1961 the Association was a four year old infant. The neighborhood was re-awakening. The SPY was born, the brainchild of Association president Jim Schmitt, who also acted as president. Barrie Covert was Editor and Werner Feibes, as Art Director, designed its now famous mast-head. It was printed on legal size stationery in green ink on the old mimeograph machine at the State Street office of Van der Bogert, Feibes & Schmitt Architects.

By its third issue in March 1961, in fast growing SPY expanded to its present format (in 1996 it was an 11" x 14 1/2" size page), in black ink, printed by a professional printer; Feibes suitably expanded the mast-head by adding three more historic homes. "Tidings" was initiated by Dorothy Landon, and Giles Van der Bogert had begun his series "Walls Have Ears"* illustrated by Feibes.


A March 1961 guest editorial was reprinted from the Scotia-Glenville Journal, titled "Bouquet;" it read in part: "Not many years ago the Stockade Area was rundown and attractive only to those tenants looking for cheap rent. Then a group of people with imagination as well as dollar sense saw the area as it had been, once in its history, and went to work with colors and a use of the architecture already under their noses. Anyone who has been around there recently knows what has happened to real estate values in that 'village'."

What a timely reminder of the treasure we have in the Stockade "village" and in the 35 year old SPY.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- James D. Schmitt

*The book, "Walls Have Ears," started as a *Stockade Spy* column, is a series of charming Stockade stories, history and lore.


Editor's Note: During the time I have been editor, since September 1996, Jim Schmitt has been a guiding light with *The Spy*. Through those years he has contributed over 20 articles highlighting architectural details and interesting histories in his *Spy* column called "Stockade Stoppers." Jim and Werner Feibes continue to be treasured Stockade friends.



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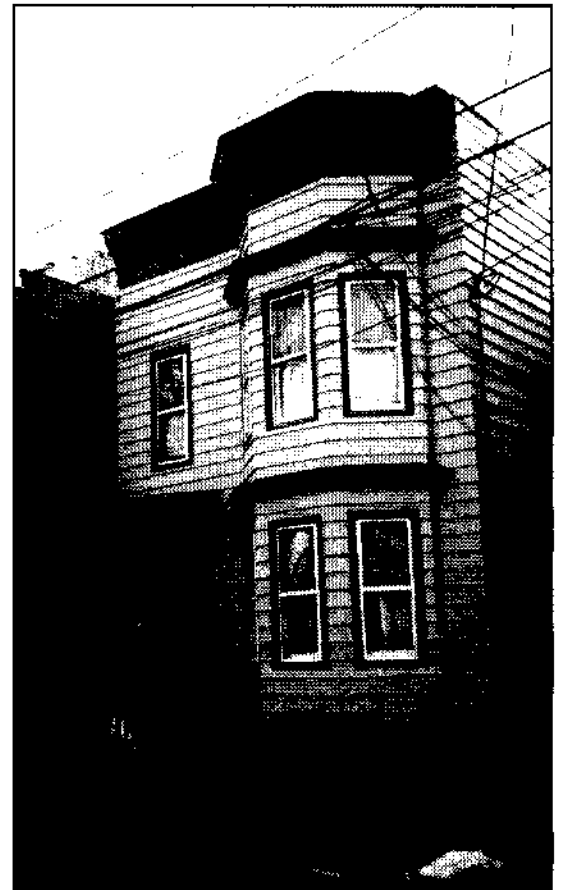
Great on Green Street

- Photos by Beverly Elander

Have you noticed all the freshly painted houses cropping up on Green Street lately? Here's some highlights, however, color photos printed in black and white can only tease at their beauty. Stroll down yourself and celebrate the hard work and care of our good neighbors!



220 Green Street
tasteful and subtle beige tones, highlighting door details.



242 Green Street
A pretty green on green house on Green Street!



238 Green Street. Celebrated on the 2005 Walkabout, here dressed for the winter with ornamental tree, wreath and window decorations.

A warm and happy kitty in the window at 242 Green Street!

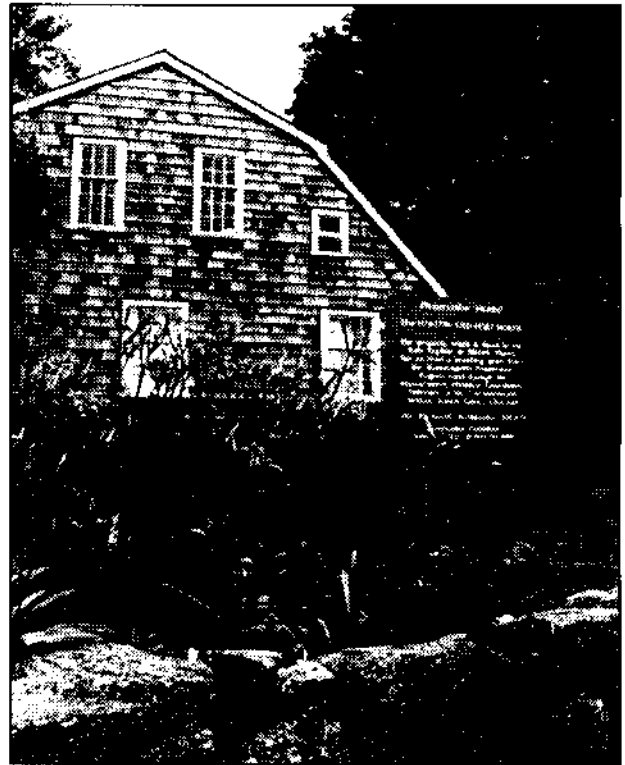


From One Historic Area to Another - Priscilla (Harlow) Gocha

My Dad, H. Gilbert Harlow, was born in Plymouth, Ma. in 1914. He lived there until attending college at Tufts University. Part of my Dad's heritage was a small gambrel house which dates back to the 1600's when Sgt. William Harlow resided there. The house is at 119 Sandwich Street and is in need of extensive restoration. My Dad's father, Elmer Randall Harlow, was the last family member born there in the 1800's. The Harlow House then became a museum open to generations of local children learning about New England's beginnings. All Harlow "Cousins" who are members of the Harlow Association are part of a fundraiser to save the building. The archaeological exploration has just been completed and the restoration is moving forward. Our family always spent Thanksgiving Day in Plymouth while marching in Pilgrim's Progress and always a stop at the Harlow House for cider and donuts.


In 1941 my Dad purchased the Governor Yates home on Front Street and he is still living there at age 92. The house had been badly neglected and empty for four years. After much work on the house and four terraced gardens with swimming pool, he opened the residence as a home for 36 GE engineers as well as his family of five children. It remained this way until the early 60's when Paul Schaefer restored the house to 6 apartments and that is how it remains today.

A large and important part of my Dad's life has been his involvement in the restoration of these important homes.



Bright red sign at Harlow House, Plymouth, Massachusetts, announces "Preservation Works!" in acknowledgement of the contribution of \$60,000 from the Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Projects Fund.

(Photo from Plymouth Antiquarian Society's "Archives & Anecdotes" publication, November 2005.)




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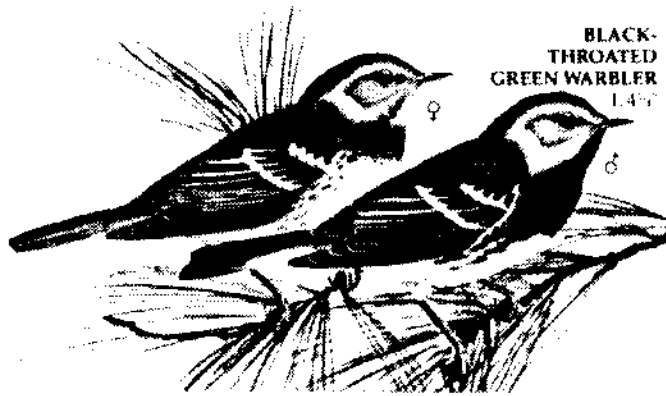


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Birds of the Stockade



Black-throated Green Warbler

The advent of the breeding season in spring is heralded each dawn by a chorus of bird song that continues intermittently throughout the day. With practice, we can identify a species by its songs and calls even without seeing the vocalizer, and we infer that birds can similarly distinguish between members of their own and other species by voice alone. For example, some Black-throated Green Warblers sing the following: zoo-zee, zoo-zoo zee, while others do zee, zee, zee zee, zoo-zee. I've heard both variations, but I've heard one go zoo, zee warble, warble, warble, zee south of Bath, Maine.

- James L. Taft
AKA Captain Eagle Eyes

Planning to Do Some Outside Repairs & Painting?

If you are planning repairs and painting, including those that are identical to what was there before, you may need to file an application. Applications, full deadline and meeting schedule, and further information are available from Christine Slovak, 382-5147, or Tony Tozzi, 382-5054 in the Department of Development, Room 14, 105 Jay Street, City Hall, Schenectady, 12305. Fees for Historic Commission applications are \$10 for residential applications and \$20 for commercial applications. Following is the schedule for application deadlines and 7:00 PM review meeting dates for 2005:

<u>Application deadline</u>	<u>Review meeting</u>
March 6	March 20
April 3	April 17
May 1	May 15
June 5	June 19
July 3	July 17

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First Reformed Church Offers Lenten Courses & Suppers

First Reformed Church of Schenectady will offer three 5-week courses during Lent preceded each week by suppers. The public is invited to participate in either or both. The suppers (6 pm) and courses (7 pm) begin **March 8, 2006**. On Ash Wednesday, **March 1, 2006**, a simple dinner at 6 pm will be followed by a 7:00 service in Poling Chapel behind the main sanctuary. The public is also invited to either or both of these.

The course offerings beginning March 8 are: **"Dynamic Tensions in the Reformed Church of America Today"** led by Senior Pastor Dr. Robert White and church member and Vice President of the RCA Brad Lewis; **"Caregiving as Christians"** led by Associate Minister Daniel Carlson; **"Reformed History and Theology"** led by Minister for Families and Youth Justin Meyers.

The suppers will be held in the church's Friendship Hall below the sanctuary off Church Street. A donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per family is suggested for the supper. The courses will begin at 7:00 pm and are free of charge. Room listings are available at the Church St. entrance. If interested in attending a course, please call the church office at 377-2201 or feel free to drop in. Childcare and activities for young people will be provided after the supper. The Church is located at 8 North Church St. in the Stockade.



SCHENECTADY CIVIC PLAYERS
77th SEASON - 2005-2006
BETRAYAL
 Mar. 17-19 & 22-26
OVER THE RIVER & THROUGH THE WOODS
 May 12-14 & 17-21
 12 South Church Street, Schenectady
 Tickets: \$12 Call box office at 382-2081

First Reformed Church of Schenectady
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 8:00 Fresh Faith service in Poling Chapel
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Schenectady Civic Players presents

Harold Pinter's

"Betrayal"

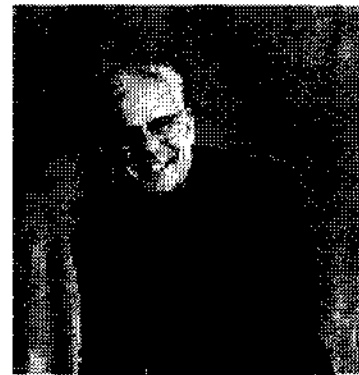
March 17, 18, 19 & 22-26

Harold Pinter's classic "Betrayal" begins in the present, with a meeting between Emma and Jerry, whose seven-year affair ended two years earlier. Emma's marriage to Robert, Jerry's best friend, is breaking up. The play moves backward in time, from the end of the affair to the beginning. Silence reveals more than any spoken word.

Evening curtain is 8 PM, matinees 2:30 PM. Schenectady Civic Playhouse, 12 South Church Street. Tickets are \$12. Call 382-2081.

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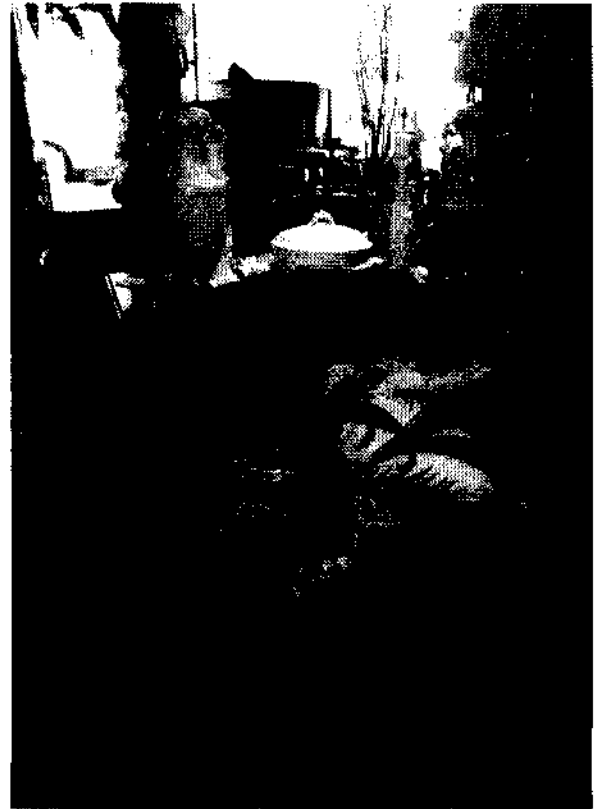
Located Off Exit 6, I-890 - Corner of Duane & Craig St
 134 Duane Ave. Schenectady

Village Books and Art

- Catherine de Salle



Note: Village Books and Art is open eleven-ish to four-ish Monday through Saturday or phone 518-878-2991 anytime.



A shop at 118 South Ferry Street. A "Vintage" shop. In this case vintage simply means a period of origin. Like furniture from the fifties, or jewelry from the thirties, etc. It's a neighborhood place. Laid back and browsy. The extraordinary windows that face South Ferry Street are loaded with recent finds, and change all the time. Things don't hang around getting stale. Edith Alois (proprietor) has a knack for pulling things together and I have been there when she's on hands and knees window-dressing. Or taking down or putting up shelving, moving sofas, or just playing solitaire (with cards, of course, not the computer version).

It's so easy nowadays to go to a mega-store to get what we need (or don't need). But it is so much more fun to find a genuine shop with a person inside who makes it come alive. The quality of our lives always improves when we have small businesses we can walk to.

When I recently broke an antique spoon-rest I'd used for years, I headed for Edith's warm interior filled with prints and vases, china and chests, pillows, lamps, pottery and glassware. Clothes, jewelry, old frames, tables, paintboxes and scarves. The hunt was on.

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2005-2006**

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Thank you, Spy Patroons

The following businesses have paid for advertising for the entire year. We thank them for their commitment to *The Spy* and the community. Please support them by your patronage.

Artur Wachala Painting & Construction
Brigitta Strelka, Veronica Lynch
Capital Printing
Daily Gazette
Daniel C. Ertel CPA, P.C.
Dragonfly Pottery
Family Tire and Auto Service Centers
Joe Fava, Realty USA
First Presbyterian Church
First Reformed Church
Frank Gallo & Son Florist
Moon and River Cafe
Mr. James Family Hair Care Center

Open Door Bookstore and Gift Gallery
Parcel Post Plus
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Preville Technology Services
St. George's Episcopal Church
Schenectady Civic Players
Schenectady County Community College
Stockade Inn
Studio 232
Trudi Thun, Veronica Lynch
Witecki Law Offices
YWCA of Schenectady

Didn't Get a Spy?

You can usually pick up a copy of the *Stockade Spy* at: Cafe 1795 at the Indian; The Stockade Inn, corner of N. Church and Union Streets; Slick's, corner of S. Ferry and Liberty Streets and The Van Dyck at 237 Union Street.

The *Spy* is also on the web at: www.historicstockade.com

If you consistently do not get a *Spy*, please tell our delivery guy, **Josh Mlodzianowski at 382-7654.**

Please Be A Good Neighbor:

- **For evening stroller safety during these long nights, keep your porch lights on.**
- **Avoid honking car horns**
- **Do not park on sidewalks**
- **Put trash out only at appropriate times** (Please tell new neighbors to check back page of *The Spy* for trash pick-up dates)
- **Remove emptied trash containers from streets ASAP**
- **Help frail neighbors clean their front yards**
- **Pick up dog poop (in plastic bags)**

Important Numbers

Emergency 911
Sch'dy Police 382-5200
Trash Collection, Waste Collection Schedule & Recycling 382-5144

Articles that appear in *The Stockade Spy* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Stockade Association Board of Directors.

The Stockade Spy

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Founded in 1961

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James D. J. Schmitt

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Werner L. Feibes

First Editor
Barrie C. Covert

March Waste Collection Dates

All Wednesdays

March 1 8 15 22 29

Waste Collection starts at 6:15 AM. Please put waste on the curb only **after 2 PM** the day before. To help keep our neighborhood beautiful, please remove trash cans ASAP from the street when emptied.