

# THE STOCKADE SPY



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## People of the Stockade: The Morris Family

- Beverly Elander

Philip Morris walks to work everyday and swims in the Mohawk River, "But it's not easy-access," he admitted, which is one of the reasons he's excited at the prospect of docks being built on East Front Street. "The Union College studies show the (Mohawk) water's ok, but I still wouldn't swim in the Hudson."

Philip and his family moved from Jamestown, NY and settled in the area in July 2002 because of his job (CEO of Proctor's), but they chose Schenectady because of the quality of the public schools (his kids - 25 year old Meghan who is in law school in Boston, 19 year old Sophia, a theater major at Ithaca, and 17 year old Lecco, a Junior at Schenectady High School who is planning to spend his senior year studying music at Schenectady County Community College, all love the arts. SCC has an "extraordinary music program," Morris added.) The Stockade eventually became home because they already had an "urban bias" and "the high taxes of the (GE) Plot scared us off," he explained.

An added inducement was that the Morris children would be able to bike and walk to places like the library, as they had in Jamestown.

Further, he loved Arthur's Market (now Rob Gavel's trendy 1795 Cafe where we were sipping herb tea and cappuccino). "We had stayed overnight at the Riverside B & B on 109 Front Street, and found out it was up for sale. So we bought it."

The Morrisises have redecorated their home and are planning on painting the exterior this year. Philip told me that his wife, Kathleen, a published poet and photographer, is a quilter in the winter, and an avid gardener in the summer. In fact, her gardens will be available for enjoying during this year's Secret Garden Tour (Friday-Saturday, June 23-24).

I recognized that Philip's work at Proctor's was primarily behind-the-scenes, so I asked him if he himself ever performed. "I sing with the Burnt Hills Oratorio Society, and with Albany Pro Musica." "Is time a factor?" I wondered aloud. "It's only once a week," he responded.

(continued on page 7)



Left to Right: Kathleen, Sophia, Lecco and Meghan Morris with friend Nate Ela. Philip behind the camera and Kathleen's quilt behind the family.

### Stockade Dates

| <u>Park</u>     | <u>Sidewalk Sale</u> | <u>Secret Garden Tour</u>  | <u>Art Show</u>         | <u>MaySpy</u>     |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Clean-up</u> |                      |                            | Sat., Sept. 9           | <u>Deadline</u>   |
| <u>Saturday</u> | <u>Saturday</u>      | Fri., June 23 3 - 8 PM     | <u>Walkabout &amp;</u>  | <u>April 15</u>   |
| May 20          | June 3               | Sat., June 24 10 AM - 4 PM | <u>Waterfront Faire</u> | <u>Last issue</u> |
|                 |                      |                            | Sat., Sept. 30          | until Sept.       |

## Around and About the Stockade

### Historic St. George's Church, 30 North Ferry St.

A Traditional Holy Week & Easter 374-3163

#### April 9 The Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday

8:30 am Morning Prayer

9:00 am Sung Mass with Procession (St. Nicholas

April 13 Maundy Thursday Choir)

7:30 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper Following the Mass, a vigil before the Altar of Repose until day break

#### April 14 Good Friday

12:15 pm Good Friday Liturgy/Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

#### April 15 Holy Saturday

9:00 am Pro-Anaphora (Chapel of the Holy Family)

10:00 am Confessions (Chapel of the Holy Family)

#### April 15 Easter Eve (Holy Saturday)

7:30 pm The Great Vigil - The First Mass of Easter Baptism, Saint Sebastian Quartet

#### April 16 The Sunday of the Resurrection Easter Day

8:30 am Morning Prayer

9:00 am Solemn High Mass of the Resurrection (St. Cecilia Choir) Missa Brevis "Capella Regalis"

### Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Avenue 374-0263

"Old Schenectady Through Postcards" Sat., April 8.

See and hear about Wayne Tucker's extensive collection.

1:30 PM. Refreshments, 2 PM Program.

### Events at the Open Door Bookstore

128 Jay Street 346-2719

•Sat. April 8, 1 - 2:30 PM Sister Anne Bryan Smollin signing "Live, Laugh and Be Blessed."

•Thurs., April 20, 7:30 PM Poetry Reading and signing by Melinda Perrin, author of "Goldenrods: Love Poetry for the Old and Foolish" and "Prairie Smoke: Writings from the Heartland."

•Sat., April 29, 1 - 2:30 PM "The Funny Cide Team" signing their new children's book, "A Horse Named Funny Cide."

### Schenectady County Community College

78 Washington Avenue 381-1250

#### • Performance by the Boston Brass

Friday, April 7, 7:30 PM, Auditorium. Free

#### • Empire Jazz Orchestra Jazz Masters Series

Performance, featuring Rufus Reid, Tues., April 11, 8 PM, Auditorium. Tickets: \$15 public; \$6 students

• SCCC Chamber Music series with Pianist John Kamitsuka, Thursday, April 20, 7:30 PM Elston Hall, Lally Mohawk Room, Free.

#### • SCCC Players -

##### "How I Learned to Drive"

Fri., April 21, 2:15 pm Sat., April 22, 8:00 pm

Thurs., April 27, 8:00 pm Sat., April 29, 8:00 pm

##### "In The Blood"

Thurs., April 20, 8:00 pm Fri., April 21, 8:00 pm

Fri., April 28, 2:15 pm Sat., April 29, 8:00 pm

Tickets: \$5 public; \$3 seniors & students.

Free to SCCC community.

#### • SCCC Chorus -

Tues., April 25, 7:00 pm. Sch'dy High Auditorium. Free.

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30 North Ferry Street

Schenectady, New York 12305

The Reverend Dr. W. David McSwain, Rector

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. Parish Mass

10:00 a.m. Brunch & Fellowship


Phone: (518) 374-3163

## Do You Know About the Neighborhood Bulletin Board?


There is a bulletin board located on the Front Street side of the 1795 Cafe (Arthur's Market) for the use of Stockade neighbors and is the property of the Stockade Association. Here's how it works:

1. Only for items that relate to the Stockade neighborhood
2. Size - no larger than business cards and 3" x 5" cards
3. Label items "For Stockade Bulletin Board."
4. Put date on the back of item.
5. Drop in the mailbox at 27 North Ferry Street.

Items will be posted immediately and taken down after 30 days. For any questions, please call Joe Fava, 374-6190.



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## 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

Bob Briber, Secretary

Stockade website: [www.historicstockade.com](http://www.historicstockade.com).

## Stockade Association

### Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday March 7, 2006.

Present: Joe Fava, Lily Alvarez, Bob Briber, Mary D'Alessandro, Diane DeMeo, Lyn Gordon, Fred Kindl, Gloria Kishton, Dale Miller, Bob Preville and Peter Rumora. Sylvie Briber, Editor of the SPY; Carole Merrill Mazurek, Director of Services to Women and Families at the YWCA; and Shirley Readdean, YWCA Board President, were present as guests. Fred Kindl and Lyn Gordon had asked to be excused. The minutes were approved as distributed; no Treasurer's report was available in Lyn's absence.

The March 9 general meeting was discussed. Joe will run the meeting and Dale and Lyn will handle flip charts. Procedures for the meeting were discussed.

Carole and Shirley joined the meeting to discuss a new program at the YW which has been the subject of inaccurate rumors. Carole, who has worked there for 17 years, said the YW has done phenomenal work with its major task of empowering women, and this will be a new effort. Both emphasized the continuing desire of the YW to be good neighbors to the Stockade, their understanding of potential conflicts and their determination to deal promptly with problems. Their clients are proud of their surroundings and take pride in belonging in a pleasant and attractive neighborhood.

Carole distributed brochures describing their new "**Children and Moms program**" which was suggested by the County District Attorney and has been successful elsewhere in the nation. It will bring 5 local, non-violent women and 9 children into a newly-renovated "Mary Hill House" for an intensive program (with education, parenting training, bonding programs between mother and child, recreation, etc.) intended to serve as an alternative to the court system.

Participants - some of whom have come from detox programs and/or are first-offense parolees - must demonstrate active and drug-free participation in the program; if they "screw up", they're will be back into the court system, e.g., perhaps jail.

She said the win-win nature of the program means that these women will be empowered to get back into society, hold jobs and pay taxes like everyone else. The children obviously will benefit. She said the most likely change neighbors will notice is that the Mary Hill House has been renovated. But, she said, should neighbors wish to help - she mentioned suitcases and clothes - their help will be greatly appreciated.

Following a number of questions, Joe thanked the visitors for their presentation.

Gloria mentioned an idea she had, that Schenectady's Business Improvement District (BID), the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corp., is not really geared for the Stockade, and wondered **if the Stockade could have its own BID**. We are still not getting the streets cleaned up adequately, she said; they are "our face to the world" and they're dirty. Bob said he had felt for some time that **the Association needs a part-time employee**, to help with grant-writing and with interfacing with city and county officials and others. We have enough money to get started with, say, a quarter-time employee, and perhaps in time such a person could find ways to bring in additional support. The group tabled the ensuing discussion for a future meeting. Joe will arrange a meeting with Peter to meet with Carl Olsen, to get a relationship started on cleaning and other issues.

Dale discussed plaques, which at Lee's Trophies would cost about \$225 for bronze or \$200 for aluminum. They had drawn one - unsatisfactory - version of a logo. Accordingly it was Moved, Seconded and Passed (MSP) that we allocate up to \$100 to



Spring 2006  
Open House

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

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Gloria Kishton for her professional help with design of a Stockade logo.

Lily reported on the "Infrastructure Committee" and described matching grants available from the NYS Parks and Recreation Department. Proposals are due by 5/26, and need City or County support. Lily asked for more help with the effort; Greg Sauer has agreed to help and she hopes that Frank Gilmore will also help. Lily also said he planned this weekend to send reminder letters to people who haven't renewed their membership in the Association.

The group discussed the bulletin board outside Arthur's Market, which belongs to the Association and is our responsibility to maintain. He and Sylvie agreed to develop rules for use of the space - such as dating them, size, etc., - and report at the next meeting.

Miscellaneous notes: • Mary said she felt the Park Cleanup was under control. • The group agreed that the Christmas tree lighting and associated activities - including Kerst Kermis - will be held December 3, 2006. • Joe said he would ask at the general meeting if anyone would help with the Sidewalk Sale scheduled for 6/3. • Gloria said that she understood that the "WiFi" service discussed for the City would make motion sensing cameras possible so that subject was postponed temporarily. • The group also discussed the Valentine's Day brunch which was identified as a great success, but no financial results were available. After discussion of the costs of the program to Civic Players - whose building we used - it was MSP "to pay \$100 to the Civic Players for their costs of the event." • The group also discussed using SCP for the Christmas event, as well as the brunch. • Dale handed out a calling card which describes how to gain access to the newsy Stockade area website he maintains. • Gloria described the April "Livable Cities" program, its two interesting lectures and various walking tours. • Gloria also said she believed 108 Union would be incorporated into the Stockade Historic District shortly. • The group then discussed other items without action and adjourned about 9:20 pm.

And with that, minutes respectfully submitted  
Bob Briber

**Minutes of the General Meeting  
Stockade Association March 9, 2006  
Schenectady County Historical Society**

President Joe Fava called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm with about 30 people present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, as was the Treasurer's report which showed we had expenses of \$960.43 and deposits of \$395.47 since the last meeting of the Association.

Lyn Gordon gave a brief report on progress of

planning for the Walkabout; the committee is currently working on sponsorships, with some success to date, and other facets of the event. Jennifer Wells reported that the Secret Garden tour will be held June 23rd and 24th, and the cleanup workday is May 20th. Sylvie Briber reminded the audience that the final 2005-2006 issue of the SPY will be in May, and that the deadline for submissions is April 15. (The SPY is not published in the summer months.) The Sidewalk Sale is June 3.

Dale discussed plaques; 70 (of 350) Stockade houses have them and they are not uniform. Lidia Pasamanick asked which houses qualify for a plaque; Joe said they are working on that issue and that there are a lot of reasons to get a plaque. The group discussed the logo for the Stockade; Joe said we have employed professional help to get it designed.

• Peter reported that they were over 100 people at the Valentine brunch and that it was a great success (applause). • It was also reported the "House and Garden" is doing an article on the Stockade and is looking for things uncovered during renovations.

• Mary Ann Ruscitto asked if those present would sign a petition to urge the City to proceed with the project in the East Front St. area described by Frank Gilmore at the last meeting. • Steve Strichman reported that the City hopes to have the few-foot long path from the Union boathouse to Riverside Park completed by summer; they have just finished negotiations for the private property. • He also reported that the design of the complete bike path is still under discussion.

Joe described the major purpose of the meeting, to gather suggestions from Association members as to what projects the Board should focus on. He described the process: Attendees were asked to suggest projects (without debate) and then we would each be given five dots to place next to the projects of greatest interest to each of us. An individual could place as many of their five dots on any one project as they wished. The following are very brief descriptions of the suggested projects and, in descending order, the number of votes (dots) each received:

- 14 Co-op grocery store
- 10 Preservation/code enforcement
- 10 Snow removal coordination/emergency snow plan
- 9 Deteriorating properties
- 8 Sidewalk repair
- 8 Historic street signs/posts
- 6 Speed limit
- 5 Communication ("lobbying") committee for city/county gov't
- 5 Finish Gillette/Millington houses
- 5 Restore Lawrence
- 5 Beautify all entrances to Stockade
- 4 Fix potholes

(continued on page 6)

## Tom Killeen Receives Certification for 223 Green St. Rehabilitation

Thomas Killeen has received certification for 223 Green Street from the United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service. This is a three part Application for Investment Tax Credits for the Rehabilitation of an Historic Structure. The certified historic structure is consistent with the character of the Stockade Historic District. The project was started in January 2004 and completed September 2004. Final certification was issued on January 10, 2006.

223 Green Street is a two story residential, Italianate brick structure. Seven pediment window cornices of cast iron are featured. They are adorned by ornate cast iron lintels and window sills. The entrance way is a typical example of Italianate double doors with an ornate pediment cast iron portal.

Although the house was originally one family, it has been used as two units, and remodeled to adapt to this use.

Features of the first floor include a marble mantle piece, window shutters on all front windows, sliding pocket doors, heavy profiled baseboard, door and window trim. The second floor plan resembles the first floor plan. Less detail exists on this floor, and a mantle piece of wood is much less grand than that of the first floor living room. Window shutters on the front windows, oak flooring and detailed trim of the house exist on this floor.

Thomas Killeen is a restorationist and has a great feel for how an old building should be preserved. We are proud to have him as part of our small community here in the Stockade Historic District.

- H. Charles Schneiderwind, Jr.  
Consultant - Rehabilitation of Historic Structures

If you would like assistance in processing an application for Investment Tax Credits do not hesitate to call upon my services: 346-711.

(Neighborhood News continued from page 5)

- 4 Expand Stockade borders to original (State/Erie)
- 4 Hire part-time employee for Stockade Ass'n work
- 3 Beautify Lawrence intersection/cobblestones
- 3 Street lights - design and number
- 3 Park upkeep/beautification
- 3 Catalog of contractor references
- 2 Speed bumps
- 2 Traffic control
- 2 Parking improvements
- 2 Regular neighborhood cleanup
- 2 Identify historic repairs advisor
- 2 Block leader program
- 1 Water in the park
- 1 Cooperate with churches
- 1 St. George's fence/yardwork
- 1 Establish a Community Garden
- 1 Neighborhood watch
- 0 Maintain Bulletin board
- 0 Stockade BID - Business Improvement District

When this process was complete, the meeting adjourned about 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Bob Briber

## Stockade Sidewalk Sale Saturday, June 3

For all Stockade neighbors wishing to participate, there will be a flyer distributed at a future date.



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# The Night Sky Cafe

- Gerald Plante

First things first faithful *Spy* readers: The Night Sky Cafe at Broadway and Union opened February 20 and, yes, there is free parking adjacent to the building - a rarity for a downtown business. The building is "wireless" or wi-fi for those of us who know little-to-nothing about those things. Be sure to bring along your laptop and once in the building or, "bubble" you're "wired" for the 'net. It's that simple.

Now, for the cafe part: I walked into "Sky" on a windy, sunny day and slipped into the very nicely decorated emporium of many teas and impressionist posters of that very articulate night sky artist: Vincent van Gogh. Van Gogh's "Night Stars" is a favorite of many 'Gogh followers, but nevermore so hung on a wall painted with the color of a blue night sky. The blue hue-tiled walled bar in the back sets the rest of the cafe area off from the cozy living room like atmosphere of a couch, chairs and tables set about which sit bottle vases filled with fresh flowers. Underneath the glass tops that adorn the tables are scattered stars as if from a starry night sky. The high ceiling room allows for two sets of windows that sit under the interior ceiling looking east which allows a lot of natural light during the day. The two window bays that are separated from the main entrance offer views of busy lower Union Street.

Cathie Russell is the proprietor of downtown's latest "in" cafe scene. So far, weekends have been good for business. A pleasing variety of food, drink and music top the menu. Service was very attentive. After looking over the food menu I would highly recommend the Greek or Scandinavian salad. "Metzas" are a popular item for its "little plates of food." 'Divini Teas' and coffees are served. Also, wine is served and The Night Sky Cafe label in white and red would make a perfect gift or beverage for a dinner party.

Hours for visiting this comfortably quiet place housed in perfect rarity of Dutch design are: Mon- Fri 7 AM to 11 PM, and Sat-Sun, 5 PM to Midnight. See you there.

# The Historic Boat The "Onrust" Building the Replica in Rotterdam Junction

A panel of speakers will discuss the sponsors, builders, site, and plans for this project, scheduled to begin May 2006, presented by the North River Friends of Clearwater on Wednesday, April 12 at 7:00 PM in the McChesney Room of the Schenectady Library, 99 Clinton St. Attend and learn how you can adopt a piece of the "Onrust," observe re-construction of this historic ship, participate in traditional boat-building, and support development of educational programming for this floating classroom.

*(Morris Family continued from page 1)*

A self-proclaimed 30 minute chef, Morris and his family attempt to dine together frequently. They don't have cable TV. "I offered to pay the kids the cost of cable for a year," he explained, "and the result was The Morris Family Film Literacy Program. As a family, they watched films that are an important part of society. Originally, Philip and Kathleen chose what they would view, but later, their children began to recommend films.

Conversation at some point naturally turned to the impressive improvements at Proctor's (as well as the further development of 440 State Street and the Extreme Screen Theater at the former Carl Company), and the recent development of Downtown Schenectady (the Bow Tie Cinema Project, improvements on Erie Boulevard, inclusion of more restaurants). Philip Morris this final thought: "When everything is done, living in the Stockade will be an arts consumer's delight." This writer believes that forecast is well on its way to being realized.



Philip Morris

## Glenn J. Witecki

Attorney

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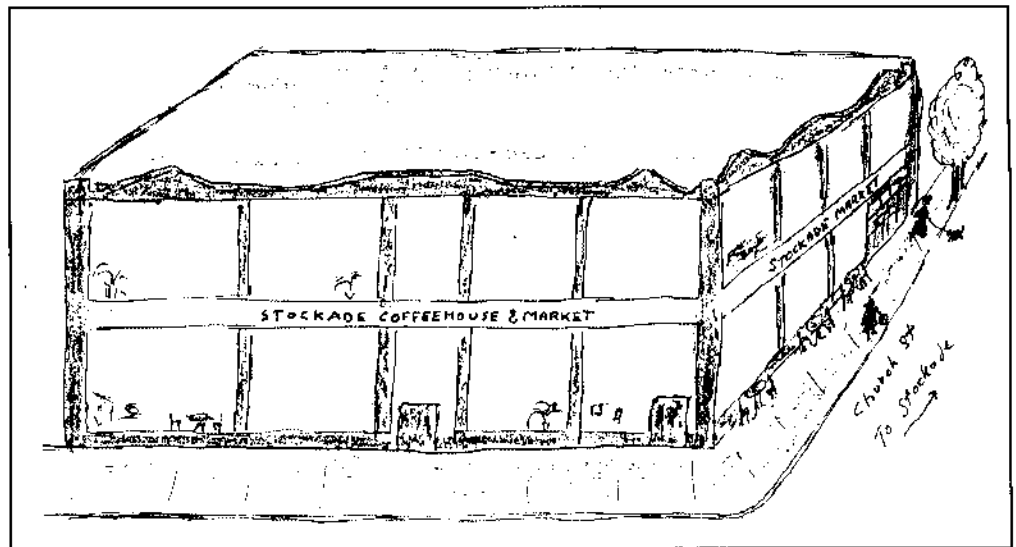
# WALKING TOURS OF HISTORIC SCHENECTADY

- Richard Genest

*A Spring Walk Around the Stockade Sat., April 22, noon*

(Editor's Note: Due to the overwhelming popularity of the fall walking tour, Richard Genest is conducting a spring one.)

Starting from the Moon and River Cafe at 115 South Ferry Street (between Liberty and Union Streets), this tour will be a leisurely stroll around the Stockade. Highlights will include 1830 rowhouses along the railroad tracks, the old synagogue (now a Catholic Church), secret passageways and gardens, the subway (1832-8) path through the Stockade, and the former Anne St. (the wharf on the Binnekil that was the commercial center of the city in the 1700's).



We will also look to the future at the corner of Church and State, envisioning this corner revitalized and outfitted with welcoming and practical businesses such as the co-op market pictured here.

The tour is free but gratuities will be accepted. Tour starts at noon at the Cafe and will end there at 1:30. The Cafe will open at 11 AM for those who wish to gather early and get a bite to eat. After the tour, walkers are welcome to stay for lunch.




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# Birds of the Stockade



American Robin

The advent of the breeding season in the spring is heralded each dawn by a chorus of different bird songs that starts in the early morning and continues intermittently throughout the day. We can identify individual species by their own unique songs and calls even without seeing the vocalizer. A good example is the Fish Crow. It is smaller than the American Crow and has a different voice, much more nasal than the American. Sometimes a two syllabled ca-ha. Another good example is the American Robin. The song is a clear caroling; short phrases, rising and falling, often prolonged. They are both in this area.

- James L. Taft  
AKA Captain Eagle Eyes

Keep your ears open for  
Mourning Doves and N. Cardinals

# 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 2006:

| <u>Application deadline</u> | <u>Review meeting</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| April 3                     | April 17              |
| May 1                       | May 15                |
| June 5                      | June 19               |
| July 3                      | July 17               |
| August 7                    | August 21             |

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## Watrous Family Art Exhibit Former Stockade Neighbors

The April Art Show at the Moon and River Cafe, 115 S. Ferry St. will be "The Watrous Family Art Exhibit." The show will represent five artists with important ties to the Schenectady art scene. The show will hang **April 1 - 30** with the Cafe open 4-11 PM, 7 days, opening 2 PM on Saturdays. An artists' reception will be held on Saturday April 8, 2-5 PM with music by Schenectady folksinger Terri Roben at 3 PM.

The Watrous family lived in the Stockade in the 40's and 50's and were part of the early art scene there. Mother, father (both deceased), two sons and one daughter-in-law:

Aria Watrous - taught art at SCCC

John B. Watrous - one of the founders of the Oakroom Gallery at the Unitarian Society on Wendell Ave., which is now celebrating its 50th anniversary with a show at the Schenectady Museum.

John P. Watrous - an art teacher with Schenectady City Schools

Peggy Watrous - (Mrs. John R. Watrous) an art teacher in Amsterdam City Schools

Peter Watrous - Children's social worker at Parsons School in Albany and a watercolorist. Peter is putting together the show and is willing to talk to the press about it. Phone 895-8861.

(Another sibling Becky Watrous Weinheimer is the curator of the Cherry Hill Mansion Museum in Albany).

Call Richard Genest for further information, 382-1938.

## What Exactly Is Functional Art?

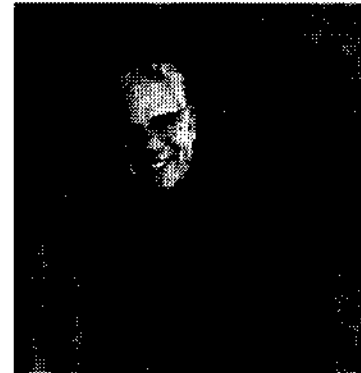
You can find the answer at The Katbird Shop, just a short walk from the Stockade. Located at 425 Liberty Street (once a home to Chester Arthur), The Katbird Shop features an array of gifts and functional art. Most of the items for sale have been handcrafted by American Artisans, so if you are looking for something unique, this is a good place to investigate.

The Katbird Shop represents about 40 artists, and the list is growing. Kathy Fitzmaurice, the proprietor, is always on the hunt for unique work to place in the shop, searching not only locally but throughout the country as well. Kathy's inventory includes greeting cards, pottery, glass, jewelry, candles, handbags, and even gifts for your cat or dog.

The Katbird Shop is open Monday through Friday from 10-6, and Saturdays from 10-5. If you can't get to the store during regular business hours, call 518-381-1691 and schedule an appointment to see the shop; Kathy won't mind as she lives above.

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## New CAMP Program at YWCA

In keeping with their mission of empowering women and its long history of providing supportive services (including domestic violence services, developmentally appropriate early childhood education, parenting education, counseling and advocacy) the YWCA of Schenectady has developed a new initiative called CAMP, the **C**hildren **A**nd **M**oms **P**rogram. This Community Corrections Alternative (CCA) is in response to the need for alternative sentencing opportunities for homeless women facing incarceration for non-violent crimes.

Since 1999, the YWCA has committed significant resources to provide counseling, support groups, parenting education and post-release services to incarcerated women. CAMP will utilize these existing resources while offering a safe and secure post sentencing residential facility for formerly homeless women to reunite or remain living with their children. The women will be identified by the District Attorney's office, Probation and/or Parole and then be screened by program staff for appropriate placement in the program. The program will provide participants with an opportunity to learn the skills necessary to live a life free of crime, strengthen their family stability, and become productive citizens.

The preliminary site for the project is the Mary Hill House located on Washington Avenue which for 30 years has housed women in transition. The house will be renovated to become a five unit residential facility that can accommodate 5 women and their children for a total of up to 14 program participants. The program would be staffed 24 hours per day, 365 days of the year. The length of participation in the program will be between six months to one year. Participants entering the program will meet with a case-manager, complete a general intake and develop a comprehensive assessment of their needs.

The CAMP implementation date is scheduled for 2007.

*Editor's Note: The above text has been extracted from the handout given to Stockade Association Board members at their last meeting March 7, 2006 at which YWCA staff members, Carole Merrill Mazurek and Shirley Readdean gave a presentation. For a copy of the complete project overview, contact Carole at the YWCA, 374-3394.*

## Everyday Art - Catherine de Salle

I believe there are times, between the seasons, when the spirits within us are restless. When we need to start something new - and maybe finish what is old. Our creative pursuits may waver or stop altogether. Perhaps the best we can do is immerse ourselves in the subtle changes around us.

Take a walk on a windy day and listen to the wind chimes. There are dozens of them all over the neighborhood, but if you go on a still day you'll never hear them. Smell the odor of Winter's end. The old oak leaves, cold drizzle and Lenten fish fries. Hear the hesitation in a Robin's song on a freezing afternoon.

On an April morning, you might pick up the soft fragrance of something undefinable. A fragrance that will promise strands of violets on the ground around your feet. And white muslin pillowcases swinging on clotheslines. Rains from the west, and sun as warm as afternoon tea. And lilacs. Lots of lilacs. Wet, sweet, Spring.

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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](http://www.historicstockade.com)

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

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- **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)**

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

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**Founded in 1961**

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Werner L. Feibes

**First Editor**  
Barrie C. Covert

**April Waste Collection Dates**

**All Wednesdays**

**April 5 12 19 26**

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