



January 2007 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 48 No. 5

2007 - 50 Year Anniversary of Stockade Association

It was on that wonderful night of September 18, 1957 that a group of "representatives of Land Owners of Down Town Schenectady" met at Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Shanklin's house, 109 Union Street at 8:00 o'clock. The meeting was called to order with Giles Y. van der Bogert acting as temporary Chairman, Mary van der Bogert acting as temporary secretary.

Present at the meeting, and later to be known as the sixteen founders, were:

Lavinia Shanklin, Katy Blodgett, Elizabeth Joyce, Ellsworth and Dorothy Langdon, Gertrude Naylor, Jim Gilliland, Alice and Nick Colangelo, Ann and Bob George, John Bradbury, Bill Quinn, Mary and Giles van der Bogert and Jim Schmitt.

It was moved and approved that the area to be represented include:

Green Street from the Indian to College Street; Front Street from Washington Avenue to Ingersoll Avenue; Union Street from Washington Avenue to College Street, Washington Avenue from The River to State Street; Church Street from Front Street to Liberty Street; Ferry Street from The River to Liberty Street; Ingersoll Avenue from Front Street to the River; North Street from Front

Street to the River; Governors Lane from Front Street to the River; and Cucumber Alley from Washington Avenue to the River.

It was suggested that representation will be by:

Owner of Land as voting members, and Tenants as associate members.

The General Purpose of the Group was thought to be:

- 1) To protect and improve the area by:
 - a) Encouraging replanting of trees, and preservation of present trees by Land Owners.
 - b) Reporting overcrowding and unhealthy conditions.
 - c) Preserving Zoning Laws.
 - d) Investigating possibility of having wires run underground rather than cutting trees by Power Company.
 - e) Promoting clean sidewalks.
 - f) To request street cleaning service once a week with cars moved off street.
 - g) Representation at City Council and Zoning Board meetings.

The following appointments were made to carry out a "Plan of Action."

- 1) Mr. Ellsworth Langdon appointed Chairman to set up constitution and by-laws.
- 2) Mrs. Bryan Shanklin,



109 Union Street - meeting place for the first Stockade Association meeting sketch by Werner Feibes from the book "Walls Have Ears" by Giles van der Bogert

**February Spy Deadline
January 15**

Stockade Association General Meeting

Thursday, January 11, 7:00pm Social, 7:30pm Meeting (see page 3)

• Stockade Valentine Brunch - Sunday, February 11 Civic Playhouse

Calendar In and Around the Stockade

Arthur's Market & World Village Cafe

a non-drinking, all ages

New Year's Eve Party 7 PM

with 16 musical acts! Kitchen open!

Corner of Front & Ferry Streets
Come Celebrate!

Sunday, Jan. 7 noon, Jazz Brunch with
Greg Henderson

Tues., Jan. 9 8pm Landfill Mt. Boys, folk trio

Sat., Jan. 13 1-4pm 12 year old rock'n roller Aaron Civic, plus free food demonstration by his Dad, Jed Civic. Try some free vegan "chicken" nuggets!

Tues., Jan. 16 8 pm Sgt. Dunbar, outrageous exuberant band with trumpet, accordion, saw & even typewriter as a musical instrument!

Wed., Jan. 17 8 pm Jazzmin- jazz classics, a real smooth professional band with sax!

Tues., Jan. 23 7:30 Catherine Norr, songs in Spanish, French & English, & guitarist Johnny D.

Moon and River Cafe

115 S. Ferry St. 4-7pm 7days

Fine Vegetarian Fare & Dessert Paradise-382-1938

Live Music at mostly 8 pm & Free

Mon., Jan. 1 11am-3pm, "50's something" New Years Day Brunch with 6 performers all in their 50's including Catherine Norr & Terri Roben

Tues., Jan. 2 8pm String Dusters

Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Avenue 374-0263

- **Sat., Jan. 13**, 1:30pm refreshments, 2:00 Program, "New York's Historic Armories," an illustrated talk by Nancy Todd, author of New York's Armories: An Illustrated History, ten years of research of architectural gems and monuments.

- Exhibit: Dec.1 - Jan. 31 "Thomas Nast: Creating Christmas"

"The Tale of the Allergist's Wife"

at Sch'dy Civic Players

Jan. 26- 28, & Jan. 31 - Feb. 4

"The Tale of the Allergist's Wife," by Charles Busch will open on Friday, January 26. Both Linda Lavin and Valerie Harper played the anguished, middle-aged Jewish wife in the original production, which earned a Tony nomination for best play.

12 South Church at the Schenectady Civic Playhouse. Evening curtain is 8 pm; matinees, 2:30 pm. Great price of \$12. Call 382-2081 for tickets.

First Reformed Church, 8 Church 377-2201

Post Service Programs for January

11:15am with coffee in Assembly Hall,

Jan. 7 "Schenectady County Update: What's New, What's Happening!" by Ed Kosior

Jan. 14 "A Passion for the Possible: Reflections on the life, words and echo of William Sloan Coffin," by Joe Doolittle

Jan. 21 Welcome to Dr. William Levering, new Senior Minister

Jan. 28 Ministry Fair, an invitation to participate in FRC programs.

(First Stockade meeting continued from page 1)

Chairman to make arrangements for meeting place.

3) Mr. John Bradbury, Chairman, to draw up purposes of this group.

4) Mr. James Schmitt, Chairman Education Committee, to inform citizens of their rights, privileges and duties; and to draw map showing area and zoning.

5) Mr. Quinn, legal advisor.


The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm with decision to meet again on Wednesday, October 2nd at the same place and time with the present representatives plus representatives from Ingersoll Avenue, Washington Avenue, Cucumber Alley, and Union Street.



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Stockade Association Meeting - All neighbors welcome!

Thursday, January 11 7pm Social 7:30pm Meeting
Schenectady County Historical Society 32 Washington Ave. (entrance in back)

Speaker: Carl Olsen

General Service Agency:
How that is working to improve services for residents of the Stockade

Agenda
Heritage Foundation Year in Review
Historic Plaques
Spy Distribution
Report from Mary Hill House Committee

Future Stockade Association Meetings

January - Thurs. 11 March - Thurs. 8 May - Thurs. 10

Look for speakers and programs for General Meetings announced in that month's *Stockade Spy*.

The Stockade Association Membership 2006 - 2007

The Stockade Association has been carrying out its mission, "the protection and improvement of the properties" within its boundaries, for 49 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, 2006 to September 30, 2007. \$15 per person, \$20 per household. \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Address _____ Zip _____
Phone: Home _____ Business _____ e-mail _____ Date _____

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.

Thank you for joining
The Stockade Association

(as of December 18, 2006)
 To join, please see page 3

Joan Aigner
 Elena Alvarez
 Christine Angione
 Meredith Anker
 Paul Basile
 Nancy Bell
 Ruth Bergeron
 Joan Besserab
 Theone Bob
 Bob Briber
 Sylvie Briber
 Allan Brown
 Liane Brown
 Bob Burger
 Maureen Burger
 Brendan Burns
 John Chequer
 F. Richard Churchill
 Connie Colangelo
 Marty Colangelo
 Mary D'Alessandro
 Carol DeLaMarter
 Andrea DellaVecchio
 Anthony DellaVecchio
 Diane DeMeo
 Ron DeMeo
 Ellen Desmond
 Morgan Desmond
 Vivian d'Estienne
 Jim Dickson
 Jim Duggan
 Darlene Duggan
 Marjorie Eastham-Austin
 Lydia Eis
 Neil Eklund

Amanda Eng
 Beverly Elander
 Shirley Fahey
 Joe Fava
 Michaela French
 William Garcia
 Frank Gilmore
 Priscilla Gocha
 William Gocha
 Lyn Gordon
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 Gloria Kishton
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 *Jim Lane
 Ray LaRoche
 Anne LaRoche
 Robert Lemmerman
 Theresa Lemmerman
 John Lombard
 David Lowry
 Jack McDonald
 Jeff Mallia

Karen Mallia
 Patricia Marshall
 George Marshall
 Elio Matarazzo
 Lynne McIlravy-Ackert
 Richard McIlravy-Ackert
 Elizabeth McMath
 Donald Mealy
 Betsy Meyer
 Dennis Meyer
 Dale Miller
 Lauralee Moore
 Jane Oble
 Steven Oble
 Margaret O'Donnell
 Joseph O'Donnell
 Elizabeth Orsini
 Lisa Orsini
 Zoe Oxley
 *Donald Penta
 Beth Petta
 Mike Petta
 Pete Polachek
 Joan Purtell
 Jack Quinn
 Sally Quinn
 Jim Reynolds
 Peter Rumora
 Jim Ryan
 John Samatulski
 Robin Sanders
 Marilyn Sassi
 Barbara Sauer
 Gregory Sauer
 Owen Schelenz

Jennifer Schmidt
 Larry Schmidt
 Sandy Schoonmaker
 *Van Shanklin
 *Mary Shanklin
 Dorothy Sheehan
 Peter Sheehan
 Susanna Sherwood
 *Jessica Spacil
 Donald Stracher
 Rochelle Stracher
 Gertrude Sullivan
 Elizabeth Taft
 Eli Taub
 Ann Thomas
 Janice Thompson
 Joan Vlaun
 Debra Volks
 Matt Volks
 Christopher Waldron
 Deborah Weinheimer
 Matthew Weinheimer
 Barbara Weinheimer
 Jennifer Wells
 *Robin White
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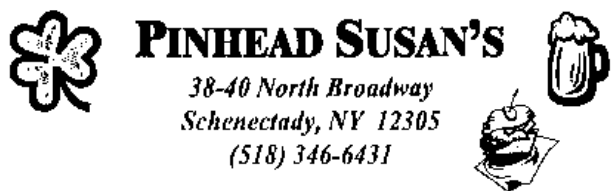


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Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

Stockade Association Board Meeting December 5, 2006 Summary

Carol DeLaMarter took notes in Dave Lowry's absence. Board Members Present: Joe Fava, Dale Miller, Lyn Gordon, Mary, D'Alessandro, Peter Rumora, Diane DeMeo, Beverly Elander, Carol DeLaMarter, Gloria Kishton. Board Members not Present: John Samatulski, David Lowry. Guests of the Board: Sylvie Briber, Editor of *Spy*

No minutes were available for review from November Board or General meeting. Board approved the treasurer's report that included \$460 revenue from membership fees and \$60 from *Spy* subscriptions. Expenses: Park cleanup \$150, Kerst Kermis carriage \$100, Christmas \$232 and *Spy* expenses of \$971.17.

Diane DeMeo reported on 12/3 Kerst Kermis. Net proceeds from brunches, vendors and sponsors exceeded \$1500. Board felt event has potential to be winter event like the Walkabout as a money raiser and discussed lots of ideas to expand this but will need more volunteers and another venue for vendors.

Board thanked Peter Rumora and his volunteers for successful and festive Tree lighting event. Board thought new venue of Arthur's and music added to festivities. While no official count thought 200

attended and well covered by the *Gazette*. Would like to see several Town Criers added next year.

Sylvie Briber reported on ways to improve *Spy* distribution including mailing. This will be further investigated and presented at next Association meeting.

February Brunch is being planned for February 11 at Civic Playhouse. Board members got their assignments.

Dale Miller submitted a revised Stockade Association logo for which was approved by the board - the revision was very minor, concerning the dimensions of one of the windows. The logo will be used on approved Association projects, such as historic plaques and streetsigns. The application for house plaques has been revised by the Historical Society and is ready. The Stockade Association has made \$1500 available to homeowners to offset part of the cost of new plaques. Gloria Kishton will give a year in review at the January 11 Association General Meeting including an update on the Green Street property.

Board members also received updates on repair to fencing at Lawrence, repair of Community Bulletin board. Mary Hill House committee will meet and report prior to the next General membership meeting.

Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Stockade Parking In Snow (typed 12/18 - if it ever snows!)

Winter and snow are coming soon. And with enough snow comes snow emergency: odd/even side parking and car towing. Stay up-to-date on snow emergencies by joining the neighborhood email list. Just send a blank email to: HistoricStockade-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and reply to the confirmation email you will get. Call Dale at 381-6189 if you have problems.

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I would like to thank all the friends who came to my birthday & benefit on Nov. 20. The evening was an enormous success! The proof is in the results: the kitchen is almost finished and we will be open in the evenings starting in January! We'll be **open 'til 10 pm nightly, offering hot meals and live music**. Again, thank you so much!

- Richard Genest
proprietor of Arthur's Market
& World Village Cafe

Stockade to Publish Neighborhood Cookbook

by Beverly M. Elander

About five years ago, there was a plan to publish a Stockade cookbook. Although the cookbook was never written, the idea lay fallow until it reached the fertile minds of Stockade residents Joan Bassarab, Lydia Eis, Jennifer Wells, and Beverly Elander.

Over the next 12 months, this group, under the auspices of the Stockade Board Association, expects to collect recipes with their histories, publish a Stockade cookbook, and sell it in various neighborhood locations like Arthur's Market and Cafe, and St. George's Gift Shop. Residents will be invited to submit their recipes (with a brief history of the recipe, and possibly a photo or sketch of their home) on a standard form via a number of convenient methods: the Stockade website (www.HistoricStockade.com), the Yahoo email list, and regular mail to list a few.

More details will follow in the February issue of the *Spy*, but in the meantime, here is a cookie recipe to start off the New Year with pizzazz and to get the culinary ball rolling (this recipe can also currently be found with others on the Stockade website).

Spicy Oatmeal Crisps

—adapted by Beverly Elander

"Pepper may sound like an odd ingredient for a cookie, but it complements the other spices well (although you can omit it if you prefer).

- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon grated whole nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper (optional)
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 5 tablespoons butter or stick margarine, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 cup regular oats
- Cooking spray

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups; level with a knife. Combine flour and next 7 ingredients (flour through pepper) in a medium bowl. Beat sugar, butter, and vanilla in a large bowl with a mixer at medium speed until light and fluffy. Add egg; beat well. Stir in flour mixture and oats. Drop by level tablespoons 2 inches apart onto baking sheets coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 12 minutes or until crisp. Cool on pan 2 to 3 minutes or until firm. Remove cookies from pan; cool on wire racks.

Yield: 2 dozen cookies


(NOTE: This recipe originally came from AOL FOOD. I have modified it as follows: 1) I use white pepper instead of black 2) I also add 1/2 t. ground cardamom (in honor of my Scandinavian heritage), 1/2 c. chopped walnuts, and 1/2 c. golden raisins.)




(Editor's Note: Beverly brought these cookies as holiday cheer to our December board meeting and they disappeared!)

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7:00 Prayer Meeting
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"Why Schenectady?" is Good for Stockade

- Beth Petta

Schenectady's Public Access Channel (SACCTV-16) had the first of what they hope to be an annual film festival called "Why Schenectady?" featuring documentaries on the history or story of some person, institution, place of natural beauty, sports legend, work of architecture, event, invention or the like that is directly related to the city or towns of Schenectady County. The competition offered two categories: long (20+minutes) and short (5-20min.), with total cash prizes totaling close to \$2000. This year's festival took place on December 2nd at Union College; however, the station has already talked to Proctor's about being the home to future festivals.

Films of particular interest to Stockadians include: a film by Stockade resident Katherine Delain "An Afternoon with Joseph Yates," in which she has an informative conversation with the former governor at a recent Stockade Walkabout and ends with random videography of some of the day's pleasantries; another film "The Old Courthouse" by SHS Senior, Gordon Hendrick, gives the history of both the many changes of use and the innovative architectural design of the grand building with the enormous columns on Union Street; and finally, "The Era of Erie: A Day to Remember" by Stephen Drew takes the viewer on a ride from Buffalo through our area to Waterford on a historic ship built especially for the canal.

SACCTV-16 has set aside time in January, every Tuesday starting at 10pm, to show several of the winners and honorable mentions in both categories. The films of particular interest to the Stockade are scheduled as such: "Afternoon with Joseph Yates" Jan. 16th; "The Old Courthouse" Jan. 2nd & 16th; and "The Era of Erie" Jan. 9th.

Many of you will want to watch some of the other entries which include: "1954: A Year of Champions;" "Tea Cups and Dragons, Cabbages and Kings;" "West Glenville: A Post Foliage Videography;" "YWCA: Our Voice;" "Just Off Broadway! A Story of Proctor's Theatre;" and "Feel the Breeze." Remember: Tuesdays starting at 10pm!

An event like this not only gives filmmakers a chance to compete for prizes and viewers interesting programming, it helps the overall effort by many area people and organizations to lift Schenectady out of its "Post-Industrial Depression" and into the blissful financial state other cities enjoy pursuing Historic/Scenic Tourism along with Urban Revitalization. Watch for info on both next year's festival and air times for 2006 winners on the Stockade website and at www.sacctv.org or call 346-3181.

(Beth Petta is SACCTV-16 President of the Board)

Attorney Glenn J Witecki
8 South Church Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

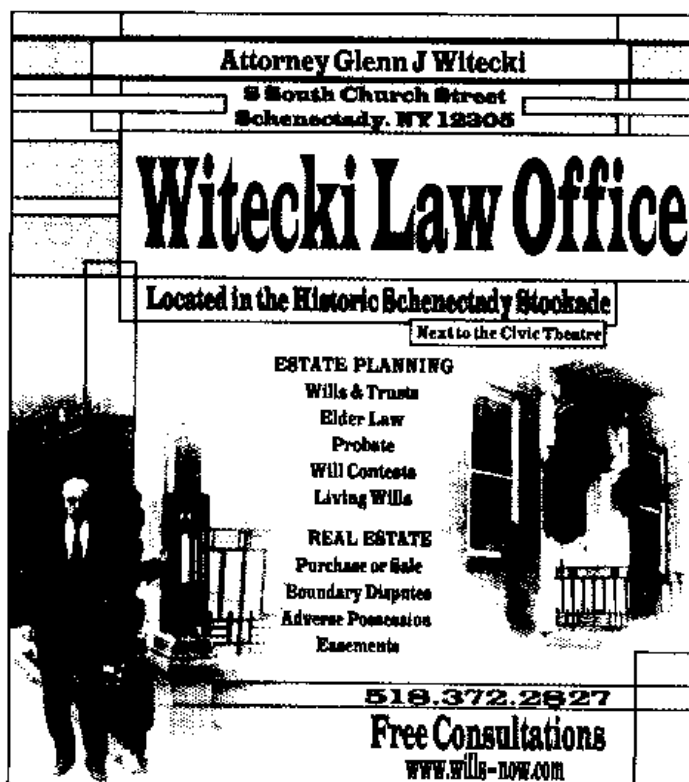
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Planning to Do Some Outside Repairs & Painting?

Now is a good time to get your paperwork done for Spring projects

If you are planning outside repairs and painting, including those that are **identical to what was there before**, you may need to file an application. Any repairs, painting, or sidewalk replacement **seen from the public right of way** must have approval from the Schenectady Historic Commission. Applications, full deadline and meeting schedule, and further information are available from Cari Hourigan, 382-5054 (CHOURIGAN@GMAIL.COM) 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. Call for application deadlines and review meeting dates for 2007.

Dogs of the Stockade

- Frank Gilmore



Whether you laugh or cry at this little piece, I offer it to you none-the-less.

Mary and I buried our beloved "Jakie's" ashes Sunday afternoon under a rock in our garden. Mr. Jake had loved his last years with us and his mate Emily at 7 Washington Avenue. He was not quite 10 when he peacefully and suddenly slipped away at home on November 18. Years before we had gotten each baby Golden "heart mender," at different times, after the deaths of Mary's earlier Golden.

Jaker and Emily were inseparable, each vying for our affection. They would stage mock battles in the entry hall with furious growls and yelps (for dramatic effect). When Riverside Park was empty, we would let them chase a soft Frisbee. Our Jake would try to look fierce and go into a frozen crouch some 50 feet away; wait for the Frisbee to define its flight path; and race to where it would, or should have landed. Emily always rewarded his skillful fetches by stampeding into him and ripping his catch out of his mouth. Jake's wisdom and generous spirit allowed Emily to think she was the Alpha Dog, but he was really our powerful "lion." When Emily became bored with this game he would pick up the Frisbee and prance happily home, stopping every twenty yards or so to see if we were following,

Because we talked to him a lot as a puppy, and because he was, without question, the world's smartest dog, Jakie knew many words and even understood simple sentence structure. He also invented games to amuse himself and Emily. His "Chase the Tail" defied gravity...he always came up with a mouthful of his or Emily's "feathers."

Jake was the happiest, most loving spirit we've ever known. Mary, Emily and I will miss him always.

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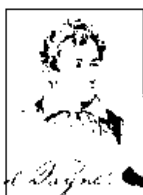
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10:00 a.m. Brunch & Fellowship

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Schenectady Heritage Foundation invites you to attend

"Home, Sweet Home" Music of the Civil War era



Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz

A Musical Fundraiser featuring the
Musicians of Ma'alwyck

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Director

Please join us! Saturday, March 31, 2007 6:00pm

A first-ever musical fundraiser at the beautiful Stockade Inn to *benefit historic preservation projects in Schenectady.*

Festivities begin at 6:00pm with a delicious buffet, followed by a performance at 7:00pm, featuring music popular in America in the Civil War era: music of Stephen Foster, music immortalized by Jenny Lind, instrumental parlor music, and of course, the most beloved song in America in the 19th century *Home, Sweet Home*, written by John Howard Payne. The evening concludes with a dessert table. Tickets: \$60 per person. **Limited seating!**

Please make checks payable to Schenectady Heritage Foundation and mail to: Heritage Concert, c/o the Stockade Inn, 1 N. Church St., Schenectady, NY 12305. For further information call the Stockade Inn at 518-346-3400.

Thank you to All the Folks That Made the Holiday Festivities in the Stockade Another Memorable Experience!

- Diane DeMeo for organizing Kerst Kermis
- Mary D'Alessandro and Peter R umora for organizing the Tree Lighting Festivities
- Arthur Polachek for throwing the switch
- Rev. William McSwain for blessing the trees
- Mabel (Ms Santa) Leon for donning the red suit
- John and Patti Conboy for supplying the llamas
- Bruce Holden for supplying the music
- Richard Genest for loaning us his warm Cafe
- Joe Fava for MCing and wearing his top hat
- Julie White and Chris Waldron for setting up the food
- All the wonderful neighbors who donated goodies
- Mayor Brian Stratton and City Council Members Barbara Blanchard and Peggy King for attending and supporting the Stockade Neighborhood.

It wasn't only the Christmas lights that were shining yesterday in the Stockade.

- Beverly Elander, Proud Stockade Resident



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January Evening

Full moon,
brighter than it had been all day.
Windless.
Quiet.

There was no sleep for me that night,
(and glad of it) I sat watching the
pattern of old maple branches against
the fields.

So much whiteness, light; the lace
of the curtains in the darkened room.

I stood finally to gaze through the
window, my hand separating the thin
lace panels,
and there, bounding across new snow

were nine raccoons,
all in a row,
all delight, on a fun
expedition to heaven

knows
where.

- Catherine de Salle

Stockade Market & Deli

Ray Ali and Abdul Abdullah are opening Stockade Market & Deli at Church and State Streets on Monday, December 18. At this writing, the shop will be open, to the joy of many Stockade residents, with a variety of groceries, plus a meat counter with deli meats, plus fruits and vegetables, before the January *Spy* comes out. They also sell the "New York Times."

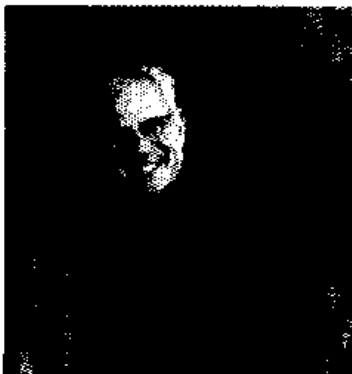
Ray and Abdul tell this reporter they plan to sell, seven days a week, very good quality under very clean conditions.

-Dorothy Dietrich



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STORY SUNDAYS



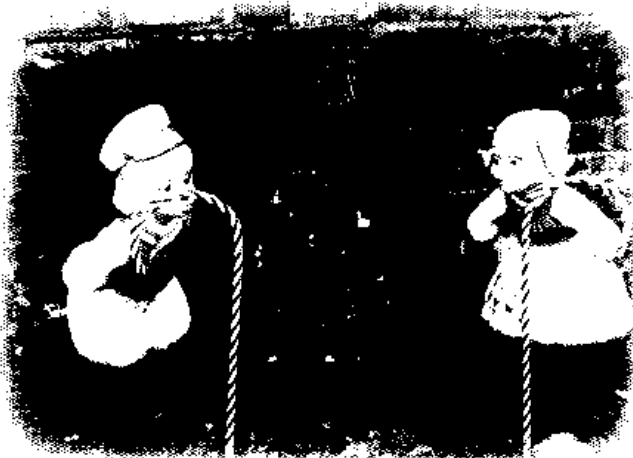
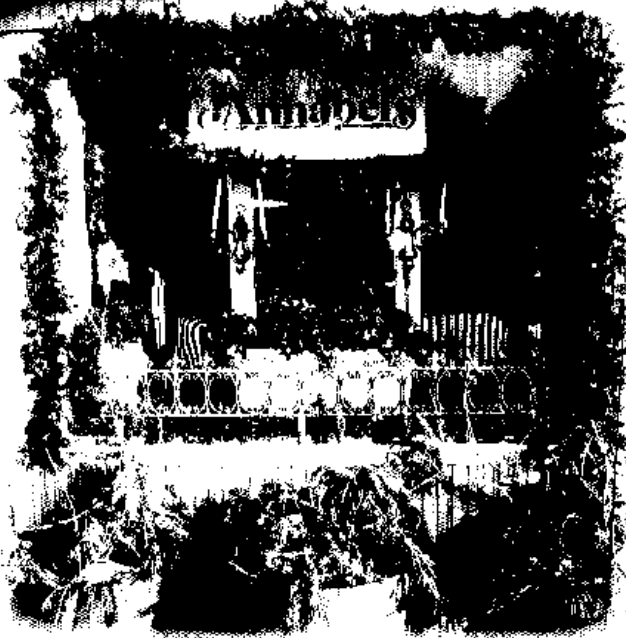
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Entrées: Home Style Pot Roast; Mediterranean Chicken; or Eggplant Parmesan

The Sunday Stroller

photos by Beverly Elander

Happy Holidays from the Stockade! There are some great sights of the season - from elegant snowmen to little Dutch boys and girls, to Santa Lane! Hope you've enjoyed them. Thanks to all our neighbors who did a little or a lot to beautify the Stockade!



Legislature Honors

Former Stockade Association President and American Hero

- Greg Sauer

On November 14, our County Legislature passed a resolution honoring Lt. Col. James Sherwood for his service to both his country and to his community. Lt. Col. Sherwood graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1944 and was a Marine platoon commander during the invasion of Okinawa where he was wounded. In China, he served on the Staff of Admiral Willard Kitts whose daughter was to become Suzanna Kitts Sherwood. During the Korean War, Lt. Col. Sherwood commanded a tank company and received 2 Bronze Stars for bravery, a letter of commendation from the Turkish government and a Distinguished Unit Citation.

In our community, Jim Sherwood served as a vestryman and acolyte at St. George's, as president

of the Linton High School PTA and as president of the Stockade Association. In 2000, Jim and Susanna Sherwood received the Schenectady Heritage Foundation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation in recognition of their work on behalf of the Widow Bohanan House (1815) and the Adolf Van De Moor House (1872).

Lt. Col James Sherwood died on June 25, 2005


Barbara and I were privileged to call Jim Sherwood a dear friend for more than 35 years. As noted by the County Legislature, Jim Sherwood was a community activist and a veteran... but he was also a hero and a gentleman. We miss him and his wise counsel.



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IN HISTORIC SCHENECTADY



Ruscitto Family Reunion 1917

As I was surfing the web, which I find myself doing for many hours, working on my family tree, I came across a dissertation submitted to the State University of New York at Albany by Robert R. Pascucci: "Electric City Immigrants Italians and Poles of Schenectady, NY 1880-1930." This paper is posted on the Schenectady Digital History Archive, www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/pascucciindex.html

I often wondered what East Front St. was like when my great grand parents settled here. My great grandfather, Nicola Ruscitto, came to America June 15, 1901 aboard the Nord America that departed from Naples, Italy. The manifest from Ellis Island shows that Nicola was 22 years old and single, (I believe that his first wife, Tullia Pizulo, passed away in Italy), and it also showed Nicola was a carpenter and he had \$20 in his pocket. He was going to see his brother Giuseppe in Schenectady, NY who lived at 8 1/2 Jefferson Street.

Nicola (my great grandfather) and Christina (Listorti) lived at 210 Front St. with their son Achille and his wife, Carmela. His daughter Tullia (Ruscitto) Villano lived at 214 Front St. Gaetano and Carmela Ruscitto lived at 205 Front St.

Around 1902 a group of Italian immigrants (Nicola was one of them) wanted to establish a church in which their growing Italian Community could worship. They sent for an Italian priest and founded St. Anthony's Church, at the corner of Nott St. and Seward Place. In 2002 St. Anthony's Church celebrated 100 years and is still a vibrant and growing parish.

My descendants gathered often for family parties and picnics. Music was a big part of their lives. Marching bands would go down Front St. and through

the City and they would love to watch. At gatherings, there was always someone ready to play the mandolin or guitar.

The above picture is a gathering from around 1917-1918 with all the living descendants at that time. The reunion was held at Dente Hall. The building was located at the corner of Front St. and River St. It is something to see how my family has grown. As of 2006 there are 658 names on the family tree and I am sure more need to be added! The family tree is 14 ft. long when printed out!

In the 1930 census, it shows Achille and his wife Carmela living at 210 Front St. (this is now the parking lot for BL's Tavern). Achille and his wife were 28 years old and Achille was a salesman who sold fruits and vegetables. The 1915 City Directory shows that my great grandfather Nicola had a grocery store at 210 Front St.

According to Dr. Pascucci's article, the decade of the 1880's closed with the two immigrant groups similar in size. The count in the City of Schenectady contained 221 Italian and 196 Polish foreign-born residents. By 1899, the Italian population had stagnated and the Polish continued to grow.

The City's growing need for laborers were satisfied largely by immigrants. Large scale Polish immigration to Schenectady extend from 1890 to 1910, with the peak of 4,315 foreign-born Poles was reached in 1900, while the City Foreign-born Italians increased 174.7 %. In 1900 Italian immigration groups numbered 5,387 and the Poles numbered 4,316. In 1930 Schenectady had 5,910 Italians and 3,648 Poles.

(continued from page 14)

Italians settled downtown, primarily in the Third Ward (East Front St.) 3/4 of the Italian population in 1899 lived in workers' housing that had been built largely by the locomotive company in 1848. Almost 80% had an address in the Third Ward. Most lodged in the Front, Monroe, Jefferson and John St. areas.

The article tells how there was a varnish factory on River St. where 177 individuals were "herded together" and how families struggled to survive on a father's salary of seventy to eighty cents a day. It tells that in the 1900's male boarders were found in 20% of all Polish households, and Italian boarders were a part of almost half of all Italian families. This could explain why there were so many tenement houses in our area. These tenement houses were similar in style to Uncle Ben's, BL's and the rehab house located at the corner of Front and River St. The apartments did not have hot water and the bathrooms were located in the halls and were shared by all.

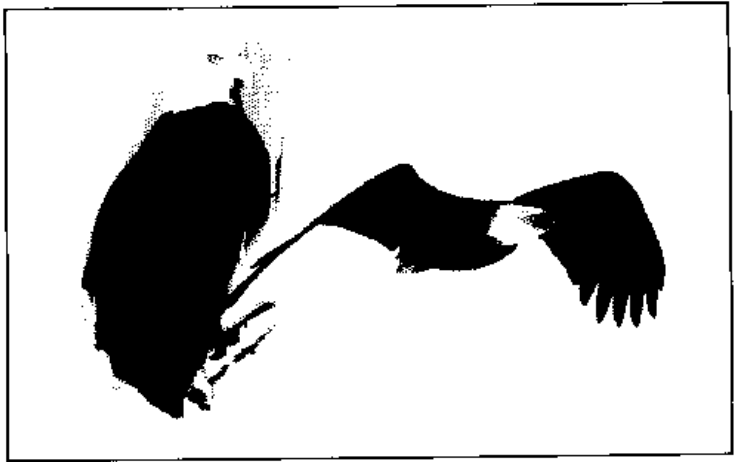
As I continued to read this article, it gave me an insight of how our families struggled to survive. It tells how hard it was being in a new country and living through the depression. By reading this paper I can understand why people who did not live in our neighborhood often would form the impression that our area was dangerous and poor. What they do not realize is that these immigrants were strong hard working, family oriented people who were determined to make a new life in a new country. Because of this the new generations are proud of the struggles and conditions that our ancestors had to endure and vow to make (which is happening!) our area a growing and prosperous neighborhood.

Quite often I run into people whose families lived in the East Front neighborhood or who grew up in the neighborhood, reminiscing about the old days. They say that they are just driving through the old neighborhood and they can notice the changes and how nice the area looks!

It is hard to put into words, how our neighborhood was when my father's family was growing up. I know that everyone was family. If someone was sick or their children were sick, or if someone needed work done on their house, everyone would pitch in to help them get through their hard times.

I urge everyone to read Dr. Pascucci's paper, and see how our neighborhood was a stepping stone in the City of Schenectady's history and how 80% of the immigrants that settled in Schenectady, stepped through the streets of East Front St!


Birds of the Stockade



One of the birds to look for when travelling along the Hudson or Mohawk Rivers is the Bald Eagle. They come in various plumages from the juvenile which is dark brown with white wing linings, to the characteristic white head and tail in the adult. It takes 5 years to attain the adult plumage. I've seen nesting eagles in Maine. I know the juveniles as "flying pianos." You can sometimes find them in the area of the Cohoes Falls in the winter and near Lock 7, either perched or in the air. They are attracted to the fish that get ground up in the turbines.

Thursday marks the start of the 107th Annual Christmas Bird Count which is always held December 14 - January 5. For more information about the CBC go to the CBC home page www.audubon.org/bird/CBC and click "Get involved."

- James L. Taft AKA Captain Eagle Eyes



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Didn't Get a Spy?

You can usually pick up a copy of the *Stockade Spy* at: Arthur's Market 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 call our delivery guy,
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Important Numbers

- **Stockade Safety**
Kevin Green – 378-6536
4pm – midnight Mon. – Fri.
- **Emergency – 911**
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- **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.

January Waste Collection Dates

Wednesday, Jan. 3 Thursday, Jan. 18
Wednesday, Jan. 10 Thursday, Jan. 25

You can pick up your 2007 schedule at City Hall. 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 sidewalk when emptied.

Please Be A Good Neighbor:

- **For safety, keep your front and back 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 ASAP**
- **Help frail neighbors clean their front yards**
- **Pick up dog poops (in plastic bags)**
- **Report wrongdoings to the police ASAP**

The Stockade Spy

Editor

Sylvie Briber 377-0469
23 Washington Avenue

Staff

Diane Buckley
Gerald Plante
Catherine de Salle
Beverly Elander

Photography

Bob Briber

Finance

Janie Hayner 374-6216
6 Front Street

Delivery

Josh Mlodzianowski
382-7654

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Founder
James D. J. Schmitt

Designer
Werner L. Feibes

First Editor
Barrie C. Covert