

THE STOCKADE ★ SPY

March 2007

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Vol. 48 No. 7

Join us! Schenectady Heritage Foundation's concert & buffet benefiting Historic Preservation in Schenectady

On March 31, **Schenectady Heritage Foundation** will hold its first ever concert/buffet fundraiser at the Stockade Inn. Festivities begin at 6pm with a delicious buffet prepared especially for the occasion, served in the new banquet room.

The concert begins at 7pm in the parlor, featuring music popular in America during the Civil War era. Performing will be the highly acclaimed **Musicians of Ma'alwyck**, a local ensemble group recognized for its unique and historically innovative programming. The hour-long concert will feature music of Stephen Foster, instrumental parlor music, including soldiers' songs, and the most popular song in America in the 19th century, *Home,*



Stephen Foster

Sweet Home, written by John Howard Payne. Also featured will be melodies immortalized by the famous "Swedish Nightingale," Jenny Lind. After the concert, a dessert table will be served.



Jenny Lind

The ensemble will include Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Director and violin; Sten Isachsen, guitar; Gene Marie Callahan Kern, soprano; and C. F. Schwartz, baritone. The **Musicians of Ma'alwyck** bring their performances alive with vivid commentary on the origins of the music they perform. They hold residencies at Schuyler Mansion Historic Site & SCCC.

Since 1979, **Schenectady Heritage Foundation** has focused on preserving Schenectady's historic architecture and places. This fundraiser will help fund grants that the **Foundation** gives to worthwhile projects in Schenectady. This year, the **Foundation** plans to begin dispersing its \$25,000 grant to the

Jacob Clute House at 221 Green St. in the Stockade. The House was built during the Civil War era, but has been badly "remuddled" over the years. The **Foundation** was recently successful in assisting owner Tom Killen in getting approval from the Historic District Commission for his restoration plan. Joining this effort is the Stockade Association, whose Board recently voted to sponsor the engineering drawings for the project.

HERITAGE CONCERT ■ SATURDAY, MARCH 31 Reservations: \$60.00/person.

For reservations, please write a check payable to: Schenectady Heritage Foundation & mail to: Heritage Concert, Stockade Inn, 1 North Church Street, Schenectady, NY 12305.

For more information, call the Foundation at 377 1160

The **Foundation** is the leading voice for historic preservation in Schenectady County and is committed to protecting Schenectady's five historic districts, and to the diligent enforcement of the Historic District Ordinance. The **Foundation** regularly appears before governmental bodies that have jurisdiction over preservation issues. Later this year, we invite you to join upcoming **Foundation** activities:



Annual Preservation Awards during National Historic Preservation Month in May; continuing work on the "Orrust" ship building project at the Mabee Farm (\$10,000 **Foundation** grant); Livable Cities educational programs; the Preservation Fair at the Stockade Walkabout featuring contractors & organizations specializing in historic preservation.

Next Stockade Association General Meeting
Thursday, March 8 7:00pm Social; 7:30pm Meeting
Guest Speaker: Ray Gillen, see page 3 for details

April Spy Deadline:
March 15

Calendar In and Around the Stockade

Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Avenue 374-0263.

• Sat. March 10, 1:30pm refreshments, 2:00 Program, "**Schenectady's Spanish Flu**," by Dr. James Strosberg of Sunnyview Hospital. Please see page 8 for article.

First Reformed Church, 8 Church St. 377-2201

Join us for two March programs of interest to Stockade neighbors. Join us for worship at 10am in the sanctuary or coffee and discussion at 11:15 in Assembly Hall (8 Church St.)

March 4, "Metroplex Update," Ray Gillen, Chair/CEO
March 25, "Mayan Hands and Fair Trade Coffee," Paula Griffin and Jean Shoulder

Arthur's Market & World Village Cafe

corner of Front & Ferry Streets. Newly Completed kitchen, open 'til 10 pm nightly with music most nights.
Sun. Mar. 4 noon-2 Paul Cronin, classified piano &

Brunch: Debussy, Ravel, Chopin, Satie

Tue. Mar. 6 7pm String Dusters-over the top bluegrass
Wed. Mar. 7 8pm Disco Party - 60's to 80's hits with added techno beat by DJ Rick

Thur. Mar. 8 7pm Blueberry Dan - think young Dylan
Thur. Mar. 15 7pm Jack's Back! our Canadian Folk Star Jack Harlan with local stars the amazing Rosanne Raneri & Brittany Searl

Fri. Mar. 16 7pm Jack Harlan with Sgt. Dunbar & the Hobo Banned - a truly theatrical band, witty, exuberant
Sat. Mar. 17 7pm Sgt. Dunbar & The Hobo Banned - horns, accordion, saw & typewriter!

Fri. Mar. 23 7pm The Barker Band - 60's & 70's, top musicians, lots of soul

Sun. Mar. 25 11am Patricia Kernan - Celtic Harp & Sunday Brunch

Thur. Mar. 29 7pm Jazz by Dennis McCafferty-Schenectady Hero

Sun. Mar. 31 7pm The Rogues - a professional Beatles Tribute band

Sch'dy Civic Players 12 South Church Street

"Inventing Van Gogh"

A haunting self-portrait about the making of art, "Inventing Van Gogh" tells of a rumored self-portrait, painted just before the artist's death, which has never been seen until ... Patrick Stone, a contemporary artist is hired to paint it. The result is a compelling mystery about the obsession to create and the fine line that separates truth from myth. March 16, 17, 18 & 21 - 25 Evening, 8 pm; matinees, 2:30. Great tick-

Schenectady County Community College

78 Washington Ave. 381-1250 www.sunysccc.edu

• **Flute and Percussion Concert** featuring **Kristin Stewart**, flute, and **Michael Zell**, percussion. Thur. Mar. 8, 7:30pm Community Auditorium. Free.

• **Ed Mann, Percussionist**, Artist-In-Residence, lecture, performance and Master Class. Mon., March 12 - Friday, March 16. Call 381-1231 for details and performances. Free.

• **Guitar Recital** featuring **Tony Sano**, Associate Prof., performing "Bach Cello Suite No. 2." Tues, March 27, 11:30pm, Begley Bld., Room 160. Free.

• **The Empire Jazz Orchestra** featuring **Trumpet Player Lew Soloff** of "**Blood, Sweat and Tears**." Tues., March 27, 8pm, Community Auditorium. Tickets: \$15. \$6 students. Call 381-1232 for tickets. Call or check website for full schedule of events.

• **SCCC Chamber Music Series Concert IV. Rising Star Series** featuring vocalist **Emalie Savoy**. Wed., Mar. 28, 7:30pm Community Auditorium. Free.

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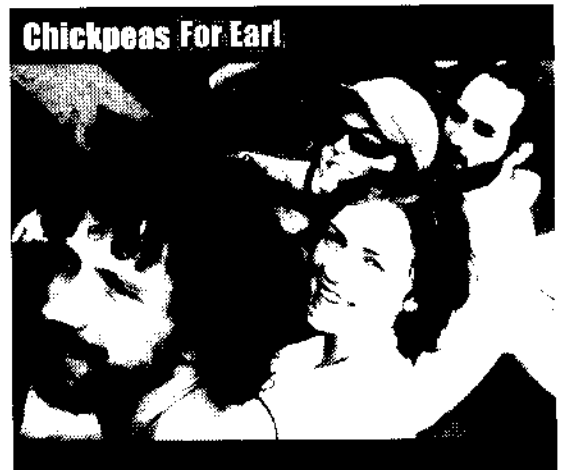
Mon. Mar. 5 7 pm Story Telling Circle, 1st Mondays
Wed., Mar. 7 6pm "To Peace & Justice: the Politics of Transformation" monthly discussion, 1st Wed.

8 pm Terri Roben, folk concert for Iraq

Fri. Mar. 9 7pm Cavanaugh & Cavanaugh, folk duo with dulcimer

Sat. Mar. 17 7pm The Philabusters - 60's folk & pop

Sat. Mar. 31 7 pm Chick Peas for Earl - 4 recent Union grads (& 2 married couples!) have formed this very hip indie band: think Neil Young, Pearl Jam & Wilco



Stockade Association Meeting - All neighbors welcome!

Thursday, March 8 7pm Social 7:30pm Meeting
Schenectady County Historical Society 32 Washington Ave. (entrance in back)

**SPEAKER: Ray Gillen - Chairman of the Metroplex Authority
and the Commissioner of the Schenectady County Planning Department**

TOPIC: "Latest Developments in the Rebuilding of Schenectady"

Agenda Committee Reports Report from Mary Hill House Committee 2007 Walkabout - September 29

Next General Meeting Thursday, May 10 7:00 pm Social 7:30 PM Meeting

Schenectady County Historical Society 32 Washington Avenue

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 this coupon.

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 February 14, 2007)

* means Friends of the Stockade

To join, please see page 3

Joan Aigner
Elena Alvarez
Christine Angione
Meredith Anker
*Richard Askew
Paul Basile
Nancy Bell
Michael Bennett
Ruth Bergeron
Joan Besserab
Theone Bob
Bob Briber
Sylvie Briber
Allan Brown
Liane Brown
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Bob Burger
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F. Richard Churchill
Connie Colangelo
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Ellen Desmond
Morgan Desmond
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Jim Dickson
Franca DiCrescena
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Lydia Eis
Neil Eklund
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Amanda Eng
Shirley Fahey
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*First Reformed Church

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William Garcia
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Lyn Gordon
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H. Gilbert Harlow
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*John Hoff
Paul Hoff
Evelyn Holmblad
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Kathy Johnson
Karen Johnson
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Margaret King
Gloria Kishton
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Neighborhood News

David Lowry, Secretary

Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

Photo by Beverly Elander



Don Rittner, City and County Historian

The following is a summary of the February 6, 2007 Stockade Association Board Meeting. For a copy of the full minutes, please contact Board secretary Dave Lowry at:

stockadedave@nycap.rr.com

Board President Joe Fava commenced the meeting at 7:05pm and welcomed Board guest, Schenectady County Historian, Don Rittner. Don informed the Board that recent excavations revealed

the site of the Liberty Pole at the corner of Church and Union Streets dating to 1771. He gave some history of the pole and informed the Board that an effort was underway to construct a replica and asked the board if they would be able to provide some financial support. The board was enthusiastic about the project and suggested Don return in the Spring with more specifics for the Board to consider.

Lyn Gordon gave the Treasurer's report and stated the financial status of the Association was good. After some discussion, Gloria Kishton made a motion to approve up to \$2500 for architectural drawings for the restoration of 221 Green St., the historic Jacob Clute House, c. 1850. Dave Lowry seconded, and it passed unanimously. Gloria also suggested the formation of a landlord interest group. Board members agreed it was a good idea and Joe suggested discussing it in detail at a future meeting. Beverly Elander suggested creating a Stockade cookbook. The board members shared many ideas and Joe suggested forming a committee to plan the book. The board also discussed early plans for the 2007 Walkabout.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

First Reformed Church Lenten Classes

The First Reformed Church, at the corner of Union and Church Streets, invites anyone interested to join in its Lenten classes, dinners and worship services. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 21. That evening there will be a simple dinner at 6:00 pm followed by a worship service for all ages in Poling Chapel at 7:00pm. On following Wednesday evenings, dinners will be served at 6:00 in the basement Fellowship Hall and three classes will be offered at 7:00 upstairs most easily accessed from the Church Street office entrance.

The three classes offered this year are:

The Cutting Edge of Theology will be taught by new Senior Minister Bill Levering who explains that, "In the last 50 years, new ideas have sprung from both the left and the right. We will look at process, theology, postmodernism, the emerging church theology and intelligent design as well as the lingering impact of existentialism and modernism."

A Season for the Spirit will be taught by Associate Minister Daniel Carlson. "A Season for the Spirit" is a book by Martin L. Smith, a monk within the Episcopal Church, currently living in Washington D.C. Participants of this class will be expected to set aside at least twenty minutes a day to read, meditate, and pray.

The Gospel According to Harry Potter taught by Minister for Youth and Families Justin Meyers. The course will use Connie Neal's book "The Gospel According to Harry Potter." The class will discuss how Christianity and culture meet and what Gospel messages might be found in the Harry Potter series.

Stockade Parking in Snow

Winter and snow are here! 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@yahoo.com and reply to the confirmation email you will get. Call Dale at 381-6189 if you have problems.

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8:15 A.M. Contemporary
11:00 A.M. Traditional
6:00 P.M. Informal
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Wednesday Evening
6:00 Family Devotions (Sept - May)
7:00 Prayer Meeting
Youth groups

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See it - Hear it - Report it Neighborhood Watch in the Stockade - Beverly Elander

The Schenectady City Police Department website lists this as its motto for the Neighborhood Watch. In a recent phone conversation, Lt. Brian Barnes described the philosophy of the Watch as going "back to basics." He explained that, "it involves looking out the window, and getting to know your neighbor."

Lt. Barnes will train us in our own neighborhood as soon as we have 6-7 volunteers. If you are unsure of your ability to commit to helping out, please consider that you can participate to the extent that you are able. There is no hourly or weekly commitment. You would attend an initial training meeting at Arthur's Gate (thanks to the kindness of proprietor Richard Genest), and thereafter, volunteer whatever time you can. Attendance at monthly meetings for the purpose of education and meeting with other Stockade residents would be voluntary, and would be open to all neighbors. Each meeting would include about a half

hour devoted to a topic related to safety (Megan's Law, identification Theft, etc), and a half hour of socializing.

You know as well as I do the problems we face in this wonderful neighborhood of ours. You can make a difference in the Stockade. Please consider volunteering for the Neighborhood Watch. As I used to remind my students:

If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

The application for the Neighborhood Watch is available on the Stockade website: <http://historicstockade.com/communitycenter/nwatch-app.pdf> or can be downloaded from the Schenectady Police Dept website: <http://timesunion.memlink.com/memfiles/10026333> or call Lt. Barnes at 377-4137.


Winter Haiku

mid-March winds -
a too-warm coat
suddenly too thin

sudden scent
of moth balls -
the widow's open window


frozen river -
snow hides
the elm's reflection

by David Giacalone

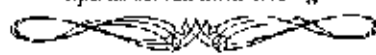



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The 1918 Spanish Flu in Schenectady

Throughout Schenectady's history, epidemics have threatened the community. Killing as many as 25 million people in the first weeks world wide, the Spanish Flu became a dreaded disease for soldiers and civilians alike during World War One. Given its name because of the wide amount of coverage in Spain, the Spanish Flu hit countries around the world. Aided by troop movements in Europe because of World War One, the Spanish Flu made an impression on many communities, devastating some but affecting many. As part of the Schenectady County Historical Society's exhibit "Facing the King of Terrors: Death and Society in Schenectady" we would like to welcome Dr. James Strosberg from Sunnyview Hospital as he talks about how this deadly disease affected Schenectady when it hit in 1918.

Sat., March 10, 1:30 refreshments, 2pm program. Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, 374-0263. Free and open to the public. -*Kate Waller, Curator*

- - - Tidings - - -

Welcome to:

- Connie Ellison and Mike Bennett to North Ferry Street who also have their office on North Church Street.
- Jone Jensen and Scott Andrus to Washington Avenue.



Peter Rumora & Mary D'Alessandro flipping omelets at Valentine Brunch

Stockade Cookbook

- *Beverly Elander*

A group of Stockaders are considering gathering recipes for a neighborhood cookbook. Below is a possible entry.

My junior high school student Anita gave me this recipe in 1978. I can't remember whether she made the cookies for a class party or as an unabashedly submitted bribe (I remember Anita as an A student, so it probably wasn't a bribe). At any rate, they are as close to Reese's Peanut Butter Cups as anything I've ever tasted. Furthermore, they are simple to make, requiring no baking, and therefore would be a great project for weekends when you are entertaining the grand-kiddies.

Anita Graziane's Candy Cookies

1 c butter softened
1 c crunchy or plain peanut butter
1 box (1 lb) confectioner's sugar
1 1/2 c graham cracker crumbs
1 pkg (6 oz) semi-sweet or milk chocolate pieces

1 Blend butter and peanut butter in a large bowl. Work in confectioners sugar and graham cracker crumbs with a wooden spoon until thoroughly combined (I use a food processor when I'm feeling lazy).

2 Press mixture firmly and evenly into a 13x9x2" baking pan.

3 Melt chocolate pieces in the top of a double boiler over hot water (I use a microwave). Quickly spread over top of cookies. Place in refrigerator and chill until firm. Cut into small squares.

Photo by Beverly Elander

Photo by Gloria Kishten



Stockade Garden Group Announces 2007 Garden Coordinators

The Stockade Garden Group membership welcomes 2007 garden coordinators Meredith Anker, Mary D'Alessandro and Ellen Desmond. They will coordinate garden design, purchase and planting for the Lawrence garden, and Washington and Ingersoll Avenue Riverside Park entrance gardens respectively.

We also wish to thank Karen Johnson, a 2006 Stoop award winner, who generously donated her award back to the group for use in garden projects. Karen's donation will be used to purchase a tree rose

for the Lawrence garden.

Membership in the Stockade Garden Group is open to all Stockade residents who would enjoy working together in one of the Stockade public gardens. Our next planned activity is Spring Planting Day, **Saturday, May 19.**

If you are a Stockade gardener and think you would enjoy gardening with us, please join us by mailing the coupon below to Meredith.

I wish to join the Stockade Garden Group.

Please notify me of the next meeting and other planned Garden Group activities.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

PLEASE MAIL TO:

Meredith Anker
4 Washington Avenue
Schenectady, New York 12305



**Spring 2007
Open House**
Wednesday, April 25
3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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City Assessor Addresses Stockade Residents

- Beverly Elander

City Assessor Patrick Mastro recently addressed a group of Stockade home-owners at the Historical Society on the reassessment now taking place in Schenectady.

According to the brochure which was distributed:

"A reassessment is the process of re-certifying the value of property of land for tax purposes. New York State's Real Property Tax Law requires all properties in Schenectady to be assessed fairly and at a uniform percentage of market value."

Although there has been some resistance to internal data collection (where data collectors actually enter the home), Mastro explained that while costly without it, assessment is a "crap shoot."

If the homeowner is not at home, or is unavailable when the data collector arrives, the collector will leave a signed letter with a contact number. The owner may then schedule an appointment that is mutually convenient.

While a home owner has the right to refuse an interior inspection, should (s)he choose to later grieve the assessment, an interior inspection will be mandat-

ed to confirm the information supplied by the homeowner in an effort to lower the assessment.

The Schenectady City website <http://www.cityofscheneectady.com/reassessment.htm> and the *Daily Gazette* will publish the locations of the data collectors. Also shown at the City site is a photo of the data collector's police-issued ID badge.

Mr. Mastro estimated that the City's cost for the total project of reassessing 20,500 parcels will be approximately \$700,000.

Numerous questions were raised during the meeting about the concern over the possible increase in property taxes due to the reassessment. Mastro reminded Stockade homeowners that the assessment was based on the "overall" condition of the property, and that cosmetic changes (like new carpeting, wallpaper, etc.), as well as furnishings are not factored in to the assessment.

Residents attending the meeting requested another meeting with the City Assessor for the purpose of learning more about the form used by the data collectors.

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Feathers, Fences and Flamingoes

The Trials and Tribulations of Lawrence the Indian - Christopher Waldron

Standing stoically in the center of the Stockade, Lawrence the Indian forms the nexus of our neighborhood. From its location, the statue radiates to the rest of the Stockade, connecting the ends of Ferry St., Front St., and Green St. This symbol, which was erected to commemorate the February 8th 1690 attack by the French, stands unique in history.

Okay, so maybe it's just one of a series of statues that originally sold for \$500 and is seen in towns and neighborhoods throughout the United States, and even South America, if reports are accurate. But none of these clones can hold a candle to our Lawrence. And, undoubtedly, none has endured the recent misfortunes, be they by design or accident, that have fallen him, in the past year or so.

First of the many woes to hit Lawrence, and a major blow to his dignity, was the loss of his feathers, which fell victim to some well meaning event organizers. While taking down a banner, the feathers were unceremoniously dislodged. Perhaps as revenge for this disgrace, we were subjected to the curse of Mother Nature, in the form of a flooding Mohawk, this past July. The feathers were repaired and replaced, hopefully sparing us from future calamities.

Then this past October, a wayward motorist struck the wrought-iron fence that surrounds and protects Lawrence. The statue itself was undamaged, perhaps sparing us another wrathful act of revenge, but an empty space remains, leaving Lawrence vulnerable. Measures are currently underway to remedy this situation, as well.

And finally, while it causes no damage, other than to his dignity, a persistent prankster has adorned the garden surrounding Lawrence with plastic flamingoes every February 14th, to commemorate Valentine's Day. While no one has ever stepped forth and admitted installing these tacky denizens of suburbia, there are many on the look out for whosoever is installing them around Lawrence. Long-time Stockade residents state that they awoke one Valentine's morning, to find them there several years ago, and that they have been making their annual appearance ever since, placed around the statue like so many pink Christmas trees.

Yet despite its many trials and tribulations, Lawrence stands, bloody but unbowed. He brings a smile to my face, as he welcomes me home to the Stockade each day. I wouldn't have it any other way.

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1906 Love Letters Discovered

It was discovered, one fall day in 2005, in a dark corner of the cellar at 22 Washington Avenue, secreted away and neatly tucked into two black tin boxes, the love letters between Joe Clements, Jr. and Bertha Platt. Two boxes, because one contained the letters to her, and the other to him, all carefully folded, and many preserved in their original envelopes, all numbered as they were received. Over 300 letters were found that represent their courtship correspondence between 1906 -1907, the year leading up to their marriage on January 12, 1907. Written in a charming and candid style, they capture some interesting details of life in 1906 when Joe was living in Schenectady and Bertha in New Britain, Connecticut.

Joe and Bertha owned #18-24 Washington Avenue from 1909 to 1956 and lived at #22 Washington on the third floor from 1937 until their deaths - Joe in 1945 and Bertha in 1960. They had a door put in, connecting #22 with #18 because Joe's sister, Edith, lived next door. The Colangelos bought the house in 1956 and Bertha rented from them.

Marty Colangelo discovered the letters and then Elinore Schumacher, residing at #22, bitten by curiosity, researched the family and was unable to find any living descendants. Elinore lovingly typed all 300 letters! Here, and in future issues of *The Spy*, are some interesting excerpts from them.

Thursday, 7pm March 1

My dear Bert:

That is too bad you're not getting my letters in time. I'll see about the reason tomorrow. I think of you getting them when you come home in P.M. I like mine best at night. It's a reward for the day - something to look forward to all day. When I enter the P.O. and see others getting their letters, I just "soliloquize." Hum! You poor deluded mortals. You don't know what a letter is! I just know nobody gets letters like I do.

Bert, I just hunger for the time when I can come home to you. What does hard work and worry amount to in comparison? I did not want to marry until my hard work was all done, and then just be companionable on all things, but really never expected my wife to be interested in earnest in my work - always expected to do that alone, didn't mind if you know, just tho't it was natural. I know Mrs. Clements and most women are just customarily interested and so work is tiresome. Father would talk work too much, and when I have been home have made it a rule not to mention work at table or during evening. You see, Bert, I never have talked about the things I do and like best. Now that I have the chance, you'll be in for it. You see, Bert, you are so much more than I ever dreamed of.

And, now, your talk about furniture. How I love your ideas. Yes, we'll have so much fun economizing that is choosing. And, do you know "Hoffy" say "Character is result of choice." It wouldn't be any fun if we could just have anything we wanted. Howard judges you by what you do rather than by what you are. He does not see that you have the sense of the eternal fitness of things - that is, he sees part way but he don't see all the way.

Well, it's another day gone and now listen. I'm coming to N.B. the 10th instead of 17th. I may start digging about 15th, and then, more contracts are to be let there in Mar. and I need time to look them over, and the work here is not teaching me a thing - only giving me big head because it makes me feel I know so much more than they do. You know, I make it a rule to get with those who are better than I. By so doing, one feels humble and learns. That's why I want to be with you ever. O, I can't tell why I want to be with you, but I just do.

I rec'd a fine letter from my Father to-day. I'll read it to you Sunday. Distance lends enchantment - he likes me better aways off. So beware!

Enclosed is a clipping. I wondered why things have not been said before. Bert, we never have had our work criticized in paper and you may remember N.B. Lakers never had any complaints about us.

I just hope you get this to-morrow p.m. I'm so glad I get yours at 6 p.m. - they mean so much and now Good night, Bert.

EKYUXNS

Joe

East Front Street

- Mary Ann Ruscitto

THE LITTLE RED DOLL HOUSE BY THE BRIDGE - 203 FRONT ST.

The Mangino family lived in this house for a very long time, I traced this house back to 1905 and the Mangino family was occupying it. There was Carlo Mangino, Rose (his first wife) and then in 1930, the census shows Lucia Mangino his second wife. Between them they had 13 children!

In the 1905 city directory 203 Front Street is listed as a saloon and home - Carlo is the proprietor. The stories I hear is that it was called MAMA'S Spaghetti House. This is WAY before my time.

There used to be a big oak tree in front of the house, which has been replaced with the red maple. The memory that I have about Lucia is that she would sit under this tree, and she would chase us kids with her broom!!! She would not allow us to walk on her sidewalk!!

In my growing up years, Mary and Bernie Mangino lived in the house. Mary worked for the American Laundry and Bernie worked for the Army Depot for many years. They were very close friends with my mother and father. I can remember them having such a good time together. The pictures show Mary and Bernie in the kitchen of the little red house. Bernie is dancing and Mary is sitting on Bernie's lap. I can remember Mary and the ladies having their card games and Bernie and the other men in the neighborhood getting together to watch the fights on our TV because we were the only ones to have a TV set. Mary and Bernie never had any children so they treated my sister and I like family.

Mary and Bernie were very giving people. They took in a young man when he was very young. His name was Alfred Villano, and they use to see him sleeping in the box cars that were parked on the tracks in the dead of winter. They knew that the family had come upon hard times and that his mother has passed away and the father was

not around. So they took him in and raised him like he was their own son. And let me tell you, what a great job they did, because Alfred was the kindest man anyone would have ever wanted to know.

Mary was a jolly lady, she reminded me of a storybook Grandmother. She was as round as she was tall. She would speak of 203 Front St. as her little doll house. Walking into the house, you can see that it is small. It had a very cozy feeling. Bernie loved the house just as much as Mary. I can remember when he planted the pine trees in the backyard. They came from the camp he owned on Sacandaga Lake. The trees were only about two feet tall and look at them now!!

As life passed on Mary and Bernie did too. Bernie's family did not want the house. So they sold it, and this is when Joan Sheridan moved in. Joan was a single mother with three sons. She lived there for many years and came to love the house as much as the original owners, and it is funny because she use to say that it was her little doll house!! Again life passes on and Joan's sons are grown and living their lives and Joan has passed on. Again the house is left to fend for itself, but this time the family just abandoned it!!

For me it is very sad, because that house has so many wonderful and fun memories. You don't know how I wish it could be saved, but it has gone passed that point. Now, the house has a horrible smell of mold, there are squirrels and birds, and mice going in and out of it. I look in the windows now and it has such a strange feeling. From my bedroom window I can see into the second floor. I can see the sun shining bright and alive, but you can still get the sense that death has come for the house. All I see is an empty floor and nothing. So it is time to close the story of the little red doll house by the bridge.

Think Spring, Think Trees

- Beverly Elander

Our Front Street neighbor, Beth Petta, told me about this wonderful service: Re-tree Schenectady. Essentially, the not-for-profit organization will suggest the names of several trees that would be appropriate for your urban site, and you make the final choice. My understanding is that Peter Rumora, our neighbor and board member, is very active in the April and late October planting. Trees are free, though upon inquiry, I learned that it was perfectly acceptable to make a donation. Stan Hickock came out the same day I called to check my site. He can be reached at 374-2477.

Some trees that have been planted recently are:

Serviceberry (opposite the First Reformed Church on Union at the corner of North Church)

Japanese Lilac (several on North College)

Pear (on Front Street opposite North Street)

Cherry (Washington Avenue)

Newport Plum corner of Front and North Church

Birds of the Stockade



American Tree Sparrow

The 107th Annual Schenectady CBC (Christmas Bird Count -always held December 14 - January 5) went well. We saw a lot of different species of birds such as Eastern Bluebirds, American Goldfinches, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and American Tree Sparrows. This species winters here and breeds in the Artic. It is a medium sized sparrow with rufous crown, a darkspot or "stickpin" in the center of its unstreaked beak - dark over yellow. Keep your eyes open for Eagles when along the river, and for Cooper's Hawks in the neighborhood.

- James L. Taft AKA Captain Eagle Eyes

P.S. If you want to know how I got the moniker, I'll gladly tell, or keep your eyes peeled to *The Spy*, because it's an interesting story.

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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, N. Church and Union; Slick's, corner of S. Ferry and Liberty, Van Dyck at 237 Union. The *Spy* is also on the web at: www.historicstockade.com

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

Important Numbers

- Stockade Officer - Kevin Green 378-6536 4pm- midnight Mon. - Fri.**
- Emergency 911**
- Non-emergencies 382-5263**
- Police Emergency 382-5200**
- Trash Not Picked up**
- Solid waste - 386-2225 hotline 382-5144**
- Code Enforcement -382-5050**
- Waste Collection Schedule & Recycling 382-5144**

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**

March Waste Collection Dates

All Fridays March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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.

The Stockade Spy

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