



February 2010 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 51 No. 6



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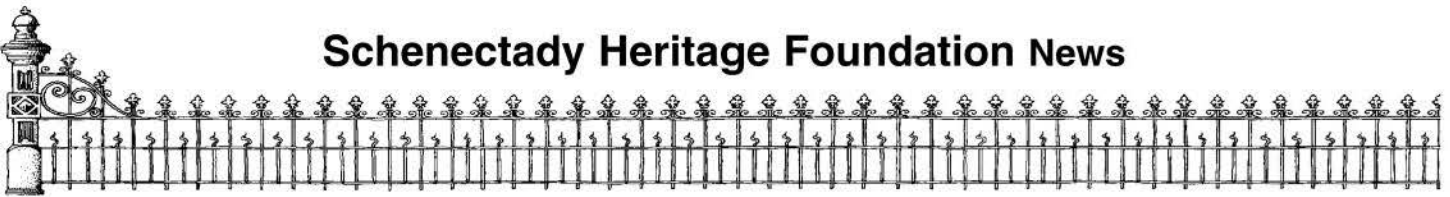
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As of Jan. 22, 2010

To join the Association, please see page 2

Thank You for Joining the Stockade Association

Schenectady Heritage Foundation News



Good News! The McDonald family (owners of the Van Dyck, Stockade Inn, and other businesses) has purchased the historic Gillette and Millington Houses at 250 and 252 Union Street. The Gillette House has a rich history and Schenectady County actually deserves credit for rescuing it a decade ago. Using various funding sources, the County restored the house exterior to the highest NYS standards. This also protected the interior which had been gutted in preparation for eventual rehabilitation. Next door, the Millington House did not fare as well, and has been an eyesore for years. The surrounding area has become more commercial, reducing the probability of continued single-family use. Last November, Schenectady Heritage Foundation spoke before the City's Planning Commission to support the McDonalds' plans for professional offices in both buildings. Controlled professional office use will help to insure the preservation of these historic properties.

The Foundation also appeared at a City Council committee meeting to ask questions about the local "Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Exemption" law. Both the Assessor, Pat Mastro, and the City's lawyer, John Van Norden, had no definitive answers to some of our questions about specifics of the law. They promised to get back to us with information, but we've heard nothing yet. We have again enlisted the help of neighbor and City Council member Peggy King to look into the matter. If you are planning an extensive rehabilitation project and want to take advantage of the tax exemption law, you must contact the Assessor, Patrick Mastro at 382-5075. The City will assess your property BEFORE your project is started AND AGAIN after your project is completed to determine the "value" of your improvements. The law exempts the "increased value" from taxation for the

first 5 years and, in the next 5 years, that "value" gradually increases to 100%.

The Foundation is continuing to plan activities for the year ahead. Under consideration is a joint effort with the Stockade Association to offer incentives for repairing cast ironwork. Decorative and functional cast iron can be seen in the historic district as front porch railings, fences, balustrades and the occasional hitching post. Much is in disrepair or has disappeared altogether. For example, old photographs of what is now the Stockade Inn shows a double row of cast iron fencing around the front and side of the building. The out-

most fence sat on top of the low stone wall that remains today. A second fence was closer to the building. Several local metal workers will be contacted to investigate their interest in working on this project. Details to follow.

May is National Historic Preservation Month and the Foundation is accepting nominations for its annual Preservation Awards. To nominate a Schenectady County property for "outstand-

ing contribution to historic preservation" just forward the name and address to the Foundation at the address below. You will be contacted for details. The award ceremony and this year's honorees will be announced later this spring.

Many thanks to those who have supported Schenectady Heritage Foundation this year with donations or volunteering! To discuss the Foundation's work, or opportunities for giving, please call me, Gloria Kishton, Foundation Chair, at 377-1160. All donations fund historic preservation, can be restricted to use in the Stockade area only, and are, of course, tax deductible. Donations can be sent to the Foundation at: P.O. Box 1173, Schenectady, NY 12301-1173.

Stockade Inn (formerly The Mohawk Club) 1905 - 1914




Time to Think About Making Plans for Some Outside Repairs and Painting?

You may need to fill out an application

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 Jesmarie Soto, Economic Development Programs Coordinator, Department of Development, Room 14, 105 Jay Street, City Hall, Schenectady, 12305. Phone: 382-5199 ext. 5393; fax: 382-5275; email: Jsoto@schenectady.gov www.sgedz.org. Fees for Historic Commission applications are \$10 for residential applications and \$20 for commercial applications. Meetings in City Hall, Room 209, at 7pm.

<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>
Feb. 1	Feb. 16
March 1	March 15
April 5	April 19
May 3	May 17
May 24	June 7
June 7	June 21
July 5	July 19
August 2	August 16
September 6	September 20
October 4	October 18
November 1	November 15
December 6	December 20

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Restoration of 14 North Ferry Street

Another Robin White Property

Mr. Robin White, a local investor and preservationist, currently renovating 43 Washington Avenue, is also taking on the responsibility of bringing 14 North Ferry Street back to life. The home at 14 North Ferry is a testament to an earlier life in Schenectady's Stockade. It has held its charm through the ages. When the home was built it was in the hub of the trading center of New York State. The home sits in the fashionable early neighborhood we know as the Stockade. Number 14 North Ferry is an 1790's Dutch Colonial period two story brick structure built on the East side of Ferry Street. The rear portion had an addition added sometime between 1840 and 1870. Its architectural style complements the older Colonial, Victorian and Federal period homes which abound in the neighborhood.

The home at 14 North Ferry represents the historical, cultural and architectural significance of Schenectady's Stockade from a commercial center to a residential enclave. Historian of the period, Jonathan Pearson, wrote in his notes that the property at 14 North Ferry (formerly known as 55 North Ferry) was "bought and owned by Isaac Degraaf." Historians are not in complete agreement as to who built the house but the weight of evidence is that the house was originally built by Jemmie Boyd in 1792.

The offspring of well known Schenectady builder Samuel Fuller was John J. Fuller who once owned the house and sold it to Mrs. Van Dyck. The house then passed to John G. Fuller, son of Dr. Robert Fuller (who was at Ford's Theatre when Lincoln was shot.) Ernest A. R. Cohen owned the house conveying it by deed dated July 2, 1962 to Lydia M. Serrel. She died a resident of Schenectady County. The Estate of Lydia M. Serrel conveyed the property to Robin T. White, who is the current owner of the property.

The original (Ferry Street) portion of the house was built circa 1792 as a residence. It is a two-and-a-half story side-gable Dutch Colonial style residential building. The house has a brick facade and frame side and rear walls. A frame rear extension was added circa 1840 and another extension was added around 1870. A back "porch" was placed on the back of the building during the 1960's. A major conversion and renovation also took place in the 1960's when the property was divided into three apartment units. This work was done by Paul Schaffer, a well known

contractor in this area. The present project will upgrade the converted units and includes structural, weatherization, and re-siding components along with typical repair and modernization efforts.

Site work includes extended grilled basement window wells for the front of the building. New roofing will include placing two skylights on the (non-visible) back gable slope and replacing the existing rolled material on the low sloped roofs of the additions with insulation board and either membrane or asphalt shingles. The brick front will be cleaned, re-pointed as needed and repainted. The frame additions will have their deteriorated siding removed and replaced with matching clapboards that will be painted. All windows will be repaired, reconditioned, re-glazed (as needed) and reinstalled. The existing vanned shutters on the main facade will be replaced with age appropriate paneled shutters and movable hardware.

There will be minor partition modifications throughout the apartments to accommodate closets, bathrooms and other room functions. Ceilings, walls, trim and wide-board floors will be repaired and repainted. Hardwood floors will be refurnished. Bathrooms will receive new fixtures and tile floors, while kitchens will receive new countertops and cabinets.

The overall project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Preliminary certification for the project has been approved by National Park Service. Rehabilitation of 14 North Ferry Street will start sometime in 2010. Of course, all work is contingent upon approval of the Historic District Commission.

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Valentine's Day Love

- Kim Mastrianni

I grew up in a wonderful family and was blessed in having four loving grandparents. I spent a lot of time with my paternal grandmother, Theresa ("Nana Tressie") who was a wonderful cook and baker. We learned so much from her! She died a few years ago at 104 and I will always miss her . . . one of my best friends ever. Her cookie recipes are so good. I've had my share of baking disasters but have gotten much better - when I made these for Christmas, my aunt Mikey said they were just like Nana's. That's the best compliment ever!

This recipe is kind of a jellyroll - not always easy to form, but it makes a lot of cookies for not too much effort. It would be pretty for Valentine's Day with the raspberry jam.

Tea Biscuits

grated rind of 1 orange
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 cup sugar
4 eggs
4 cups flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup walnuts
(toast for best flavor)
1 cup raisins
Raspberry jam
Confectioner's sugar

- Grate orange rind in bowl, and add oil, sugar and eggs.
- Beat well, and add flour, baking powder, and salt.
- Combine and stir in nuts and raisins.
- If dough seems too soft, add a little more flour.
- Divide dough into 4 parts.
- Take one part and pat out on a wooden board into a long rectangle (no need to use a rolling pin).
The final cookie will be one third as wide as the narrow edge.
- Spoon jam onto the dough, spreading it all over but not too close to the edges.
- Fold one side of the narrow rectangle over onto the middle section, and then fold the other side over on top of that. You may need a spatula to help fold the long side over.
- Lightly press all edges down to seal.
- Use a spatula or two to help transfer the long jellyroll to a cookie sheet (I line it with foil since the jam may leak).
- Repeat with the other 3 parts of dough. You can fit 2 rectangles onto a single cookie sheet.
- Bake at 350 F. for about 35 minutes.
- Let cool slightly. Make a glaze with confectioner's sugar and water and drizzle it over the jellyrolls. When they are completely cool, slice them crosswise less than an inch wide. These keep well and freeze well too.

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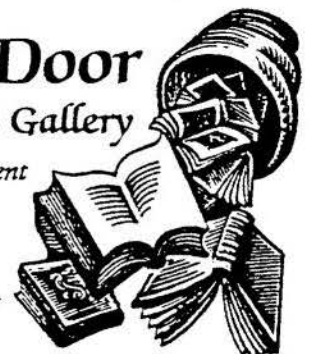
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Schenectady Neighborhood Watch Captains' Meeting

- Linda Muralidharan

On January 5, the Schenectady Neighborhood Watch held its monthly captains' meeting. I attended the captains' meeting to represent The Stockade Neighborhood Watch.

Fred Lee, the head of the city wide Neighborhood Watch, reported that more radios will soon be issued to the Stockade group and that training for walking patrols and radio use will shortly be available at one of our own neighborhood meetings. In the Stockade, we meet the fourth Tuesday of each month. Volunteers are invited to come to the trainings, and people who want to walk can do so on their own individual schedules.

When we call in on the radios, there is a Neighborhood Watch monitor who then transfers relevant information to central dispatch. Also, there is a need for volunteer monitors who would contribute a few hours a month to handling the monitoring duties from the comfort of their homes.

Schenectady Fire Chief Robert Farstad spoke at the meeting and announced he seriously wants there to be cooperation and increased communication between his department and the various neighborhood watches. The groups could help with information about any suspicious fires and also assist with crowd control if a fire occurs or with information about who might be in a burning building. Additionally, he is planning to distribute medical information kits to people in the city who may be ill or otherwise housebound. He wants the watch groups to assist in the distribution. The kits provide forms for data on medications, allergies, and other information that would be relevant to emergency medical personnel in the case of an emergency, and the information would be displayed inside the house in a spot easily seen by the emergency responders.

The next Captains' meeting is at City Hall, Tuesday, February 2 at 7pm.

Stockade Neighbors Cruises

The Historic Quarter Cultural League announces the following Stockade Historic District Exclusive Norwegian Cruise Line Group Rates. These fares include round-trip motorcoach transportation from The Stockade, Unlimited Gourmet Meals (including room service) and All Government Taxes and Fees! Not included are alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature.

- 2010 Departing Friday, September 10 - Returning Friday, September 17, NCL Spirit 7-Day Bermuda Cruise Round-trip Boston, New York-King's Wharf-New York, Inside Cabin \$860 pp, Ocean View Cabin \$980 pp, Balcony Cabin \$1250 pp.
- 2011 Departing Wednesday, February 2 - Returning Saturday, February 12, NCL Jewel 10 -Day Eastern Caribbean Round-trip New York, New York-San Juan -St. Thomas-Antigua-St. Maarten-Tortola-New York. Inside Cabin \$1,120 pp, Ocean View Cabin \$1,390 pp, Balcony Cabin \$1810 pp.

Reservations require a \$250 pp deposit. Space is limited! For reservatons, please contact Rob Gavel at rgavel@robgavel.com or (917) 716-2674.

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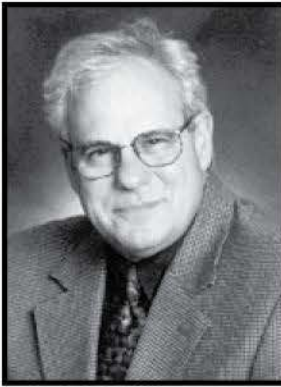
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Stockade Neighbors

Boston Bus Trip

The Historic Quarter Cultural League announces the following motorcoach sojourn to Boston Saturday, February 20. \$45 Per Passenger (plus Driver's Gratuity).

Departing The Stockade 7:00AM-Arriving Boston Approximately 10:00AM. Departing Boston 7:00PM Arriving The Stockade Approximately 10:00PM. There will be one brief "stretch/smoke" stop in each direction. There will be 3 drop-off locations: The Museum of Fine Art, Quincy Market/New England Aquarium, Newberry Street, and 2 Pick-up Locations: Newberry Street (Back Bay), Quincy Market/New England Aquarium. Passengers may mix-and-match drop-off/pick-up locations, but are on their own for transportation between sites.

Space is limited! For reservations, please contact Rob Gavel at rgavel@robgavel.com or (917) 716-2674.

Snow and Parking!

Stay up-to-date on snow emergencies, neighborhood news, projects, and events by joining the neighborhood email list.

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and reply to the confirmation email you will get.

Call Dale, 381-6189 if you have problems.

The Mysterious Gnoman!



Photo by David Giacalone

Stockade Bulletin Board Bill Ackerman of 212 Union Street has kindly offered to arrange notices. You can email your news to him: ackermwi@yahoo.com

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Sunday, February 7 Historic Schenectady County: A Bicentennial History

Rededication Sunday is an annual Feb. commemoration at Schenectady's first Church, the First Reformed. 10:00 AM, 11AM Forum hour. Corner of Church and Union Streets. Senior Minister, Dr. Bill Levering preaching & Bill Buell sharing his new publication of Schenectady County.

Jazz Vespers - with a Storied Colonial Flare 5:00-6pm First Reformed Church. Jazz trio and storytellers reprise the events and times of Schenectady's Colonial past. Free.

Electric City Boogaloo: An Iconic Art Show Plugged into Schenectady's Eclectic, Electric Grid

Works of Fran & Vincent Giordano. Sow's Ear Studio & Gallery, 1597 Upper Union Street. Opening Reception Friday, Feb.12, 5-8pm. Show thru March 27

Programs at the Sch'dy County Historical

Society:

See page 11

• Saturday, February 13

New York's First Canals the National Waterway

• Monday, February 15

Delft Tile Painting

• Tuesday & Wednesday, February 16 & 17

Basket Making

• Thursday, February 18

Wool and Felt Crafts - Hand Sewn Bookmaking

Saturday, February 20

Old Ideas/New Evidence, see page 2

On-Going The Way We Were A collection of photos from the Upper Union Street, Sch'dy area. Aperture Media & Photography, 1019 Keyes Ave. 10AM - 5 PM Free.

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Calendar In and Around the Stockade

Stockade Association General Meetings

Future meeting dates

Thursday, March 11 Thursday, May 13

Schenectady County Historical Society

32 Washington Avenue, 374-0263

Mon. - Fri. 1-5 Sat. 10-2

Sat., Feb. 13 “New York’s First Canals” The National Waterway - 1790 to 1820 by Phillip Lord, Jr., retired Director of Museum Services for the New York State Museum. Thanks to his relentless study of documents, maps, aerial photographs and on site fieldwork, the history and location of this first ever New York canal was resurrected. He writes, “The natural streams and lakes of the Mohawk/Oneida waterway served as an inland corridor for European exploration and military expansion for a century before becoming a vital transportation link for the new Nation between the Hudson River and the Great Lakes.” 1:30 refreshments; 2pm program. Free and open to the public.

Feb. 15-20 Monday-Saturday Arts & Crafts Classes

Spend an enjoyable afternoon introducing a young person in your life to a new art form and bring home a beautiful basket, decorated tile, hand sewn book or wool craft. The Historical Society will host arts and crafts classes for adults, and for school age children accompanied by an adult, during the public school vacation week. The classes will be taught by well known local artists: Delft Tile making - Cynthia Turgeon; Basket making - Beverly Cornelius; Wool and Felt Crafts - Betsy Neal; and Hand Sewn Bookmaking - Samantha Couture.

“Aaron’s Horizons” Bret Wery, Conductor Wednesday, February 10, 7:30pm

The SCCC Chamber Music Series collaborates with Musicians of Ma’alwyck, SCCC’s Artists-in-Residence, in an evening of exciting chamber orchestra works by Copland, Wagner, and McGlaughlin. Copland’s *Appalachian Spring* is a perennial favorite, and its use of the Shaker theme “Simple Gifts” gives it a unique local tie. It is paired here with Bill McGlaughlin’s *Aaron’s Horizons*, a work dedicated to the spirit of Copland. McGlaughlin is nationally recognized for his work as host of the radio programs *Saint Paul Sunday* and *Exploring Music*. The *Siegfried Idyll*, which Wagner composed for his wife Cosima to celebrate the birth of their son, rounds out the program. The chamber orchestra will feature several noted guest artists from the Capital Region. Free and open to the public and held in the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium at Schenectady County Community College. For information on any of our concerts, please call 518-381-1231.

Bring the Kids!

Civic Players offers THREE LITTLE PIGS

Join us for a fun and free afternoon presented by The Lake George Opera Co. **THE THREE LITTLE PIGS**, a thirty minute opera for children, will be presented on **Saturday, February 27th at 2:30pm**. There is no charge for admission, but reservations are recommended by calling 382-2081. A punch and cookies reception will follow the show.

For adults, our next staged reading will be on Valentine’s Day and will feature **four short comedies about love and romance**. Love at first sight, first loves and lost loves are among the topics covered. Join us on Sunday, February 14th at 2:30pm. The performance is free and reservations are not needed.



Civic Players “Beau Jest”

Jan. 29-31 & Feb. 3-7

Our mainstage production of *Beau Jest* continues with performances on Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30pm, Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm and Sunday at 2:30pm. All seats are \$15 and are available online at www.civicplayers.org or at 382-2081.

The plot: To keep her mother from trying to fix her up with “nice Jewish boys,” Sarah invents the perfect boyfriend. When her parents insist on meeting him, Sarah hires Bob, an actor, to pretend to be her “beau.” Although the plan works flawlessly for a time, Bob quickly realizes that he has gotten himself into much more than he bargained for. But the charismatic Bob rises to the occasion, and the antics that follow are only the beginning of a side-splitting tale that will have you rolling in the aisles.

The Civic Playhouse is located right in the Stockade at 12 South Church Street, next to the Witecki Law Office. **See page 9 for ad and calendar.**

**Stockade
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2009-2010**

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Thank you, 28 Spy Patroons

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

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Steve Becker, State Farm
Stockade Inn
Studio 232
The Van Dyck Restaurant & Lounge
Witecki Law Offices

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.

Please report any wrongdoings to the police immediately.

Important Numbers

•**Emergency 911**
•**Non-emergencies 382-5263, 382-5264**

•**Stockade Neighborhood Watch Officer - Lt. Thomas Harrigan call non-emergency # and request him**

•**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 7:30-4**
•**Animal Control Voicemail 382-5200 ext. 5655**

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 cantainers ASAP**
- **Help frail neighbors clean their front yards**
- **Pick up dog poops (in plastic bags)**

February Waste Collection Dates

Fridays, Feb. 5 & 12 Monday, Feb. 22

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

The Stockade Spy

Published monthly
September to May

Editor
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23 Washington Avenue

Deadline for entries
is the **15th** of
the previous month.

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Parcel Post Plus

Consultant/Techie
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6 Front Street

Founded in 1961

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March Spy
• **Deadline Feb. 15** •
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