



# Neighborhood News

Stephen Boese, Recording Secretary

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

The Stockade Association held a general membership meeting on Jan. 16, 2014 at the First Reformed Church.

Vice President Carol DeLaMarter introduced long time neighbor and veteran Director of the Schenectady Civic Players, Joe Fava.

Joe discussed the Schenectady Civic Players building on South Church Street. The Schenectady Civic Players was started in 1926 by Union College professors. The building was originally purchased with shares of stock bought by the actors. It is one of the three oldest continuing operating theaters in the Country. The Civic Players also now owns the building next door (commonly known as the Witecki Law Office).

Joe then introduced Joel Bramer, the Civic Players General Manager. The Civic Players are now engaged in a major fund drive to put in an elevator to make the theater accessible, and to construct an infill structure that would connect the two buildings. Stockade neighbor Frank Gilmore is the architect. In addition, there will be a second floor lobby and an accessible restroom. Neither building will change in appearance from the front. The next priority is to install a new heating and cooling system. The theater, which seats 240 people has no air-conditioning, making it unusable in the summer. Their fundraising goal is \$400,000, of which \$300,000 would be needed for the elevator. Joe Fava is the Chairman of the Fundraising Committee, and all are encouraged to contact him for donations and fundraising support.

Carol then introduced longtime neighbor and Chair of the Schenectady Heritage Foundation, Gloria Kishton. Gloria discussed a 20% state tax credit that could benefit homeowners renovating historic homes. The tax credit has been in effect since 2007, but the Stockade only recently became eligible. This state tax credit applies to work on a qualified historic property. To be eligible, the applicant needs to own and live in the house and pay for renovations valued to at least \$5000, of which five percent must be for exterior work.

More information and the application can be found on the website of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Homeowners in the Stockade are also eligible for a local partial tax exemption for their property. This local credit has been in effect since 2000. It can be found in the Schenectady City Code (which is now on the Schenectady City website).

This exemption is for owner occupied residences. The City assessor must assess the property before the start of the project. Plans also need to be approved by the Historic Commission. The value of the improvement that is made is then exempt from taxes for five years. From years five to ten, the higher value is phased in.

Sylvie Briber reported on *The Stockade Spy*. Sylvie invites anyone in the community to make contributions to *The Spy*, articles or photos.

After the special presentations, President Mary D'Alessandro called the meeting to order.

**Secretary's Report** - The minutes of the November meeting as drafted by Robert Stern and as appeared in the December *Spy* were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report** - Carol and Treasurer Karen Mallia handed out the budget. The Association earned about \$8800 from the Walkabout and also raised an additional \$1800 from Schenectady County for additional support of the Stockade walking tour. The budget includes \$4000 for neighborhood incentives (sidewalk, paint) for this fiscal year. About three months into the fiscal year, \$3300 is already spent. The Association may need to rearrange the budget for the rest of the fiscal year to meet demand for the incentives. The General checking balance is \$6,559, the Soiree checking is \$274, the *Spy* checking is \$2,146, the Morgan Stanley account has \$24,644 for a grand total of \$33,633. Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

## Committee Reports

**Oral History Project** - Susannah Hand reported that the unedited interviews are now posted on YouTube. The most recent interview was with Peter Hornby. The next interview will be with Joe Fava. They hope to complete project by May.

**Events** - Joe Fava reported that the Walkabout Committee did a great job of organizing a successful and profitable event. The next Walkabout has been scheduled for September 27, 2014.

**Nominating Committee** - Diane DeMeo reported that a few board seats will open this year. Anyone who is interested should contact Diane.

Mary noted that the Association really needs new volunteers. There is especially a need support for a Membership Committee chair and a Treasurer. Anyone interested should contact any Board Member.

## Open Forum

Werner Feibes mentioned that Saint George's Church has spent over \$90,000 to repair their steeple, which is a major contribution to the neighborhood. It was previously in very bad shape. Werner noted that the church and steeple have been in the Stockade for a very long time and that the newly renovated steeple should be recognized appreciated by the neighborhood.

Gloria noted that it would be very helpful to the Association if it could attract younger people who are moving into the neighborhood to participate.

Stephen Boese lamented the continuing problem of empty and neglected homes on Ingersoll Avenue, which have for the most part been left vacant since the flood two and a half years ago. The deteriorating condition of these houses presents the entire neighborhood with a challenge in our efforts to keep the community attractive and livable while maintaining a continuing its historic charm. Empty decaying houses erodes the Stockade's charm. In addition, due to mold growth, they present a continuing health threat for the surrounding neighbors. City Council President, Peggy King, who was in attendance, said that she would look into the problem.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

# Stockade Association General Meeting

All Stockade Neighbors Welcome

Thursday, March 13, 2014 First Reformed Church North Church St.  
7:00 pm Program and General Meeting to follow

Program: **Trash Talking with Floyd Slater**, City of Schenectady Solid Waste Supervisor

According to recent *Stockade Spy* article, only about 50% of neighborhood residents are using recycling bins. Confused about which items can be put in bins or what your responsibility is as landlord or homeowner? Bring your questions about single stream recycling or what to do with all those plastic bags and yogurt cups. Even though the Stockade neighborhood has the highest number of recyclers we can do better.

**General meeting** will include **Open Forum** for any neighbor to raise concerns or bring announcements about "stuff" that impacts the Stockade neighborhood.

We encourage participation of Association members in the business part of this meeting. Welcome to new neighbors. Meeting is always a good time to come and introduce yourself and to hear all that is going on in the Historic Stockade.

## Planning on Some Spring Repairs?

### A Historic District Commission application may be required

If you are planning any **outside repairs, painting, landscaping, sidewalk replacement, or tree removal**, you may need approval from the Schenectady Historic District Commission. Any physical changes to the exterior of your property that can be seen from a public right-of-way (including streets, parks, and waterways) must have prior approval from the Historic District Commission. However, **if you are simply repairing an exterior part of your house using exactly the same materials, colors, etc. and there are no changes visible from the public right-of-way, you**

**do not need approval.** If you have questions as to whether the work you're proposing will require approval, please contact Matthew Smith ([msmith@schenectadyny.gov](mailto:msmith@schenectadyny.gov) or 382-5147). Fees for the Historic Commission are \$10 for residential applications, and \$40 for commercial applications. The review meetings are held the third Monday every month at 7pm in City Hall, with applications due two weeks prior. The full schedule is available on the City's website: <http://cityofschenectady.com/development.htm>

## There's \$\$\$\$\$ to Help with Your Painting, Sidewalks and Lighting

forms and explanations for all incentives are on the website [www.historicstockade.com](http://www.historicstockade.com)



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## Historic Stockade Walking Tour Seeks More Electronic Visitors

Are you aware that a video tour of our neighborhood is accessible to people anywhere who have a laptop, Smart phones and tablets? In the summer of 2013 funding to expand the audio cellphone walking tour was received from Schenectady County Initiative.

Our tour needs more local visitors. If you haven't checked out over 80 photos then and now of many of our unique houses, you have many options to hear and see what makes this neighborhood unique. You can access a link to stream video photos and audio at <http://myoncell.mobi/stockade>.

You can print the list of stops and map from

[www.historicstockade.com](http://www.historicstockade.com) or pick one up at the Historical Society or at Arthur's Market. Take the tour yourself. Dial 518-387-3282 (on any phone) to start the tour and enter a stop number when prompted to hear the audio content. Of course having a cell phone as you walk gives quick access to content.

The Stockade Association has again applied for funding from Schenectady County Initiative to continue the tour for 2014. Comments from local visitors will help make updates to the tour content. Please contact Carol DeLaMarter [cde-lam6533@aol.com](mailto:cde-lam6533@aol.com) with any feedback.

## First Reformed Church Lenten Series

## How the Civil War Touched Our Hearts

### Series Schedule

- 3/12 **How Schenectady was Positioned for the War** - Overview from the church archives
- 3/19 **Union College and the Civil War** - Speaker TBA
- 3/26 **Isaac Duryee, Slavery, Abolition in Schenectady** - Marsha Mortimore
- 4/2 **The Great Fire of 1861** - Building a New Church during Wartime - Dr. Carl George
- 4/9 **Effect of the War on Religion** - Speaker TBA

Wednesday evenings, March 12 through April 9, five programs at First Reformed Church, will feature speakers discussing Schenectady and the church during the Civil War, 1861-1865. In the Stockade Historic District we pay close attention to our colonial history, but the Civil War had equally distressing, traumatic and life-shattering circumstances that strained and tested our community. Events in the 19th century also necessitated demonstrations of strength in accepting and coping with great losses, and in collecting resources to move forward in significant ways.

The Civil War was fought on distant battlefields but it had intimate and dire effects on the families and communities of the thousands of soldiers from the Empire

State. The war touched every home, every hearth. All New Yorkers were affected in some way. Local situations in their growing town, in addition to the terrors and travesties of the ongoing war, affected all Schenectadians.

These programs are at 7:00pm and are part of other Wednesday evening Lenten activities at the church. For other March activities at the First Reformed Church call 377-2201 or [www.1streformed.com](http://www.1streformed.com).

## Maria Riccio, Creator of "Hearts of Fire" Presents Her Own Story March 22

On Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 1:00pm, Maria Riccio will be performing "Act One" of her new one-woman show. She calls it a "work in progress," a "Musical Memoir" about her life. "Act One" is the central theme of her childhood, the discomfort of not quite fitting in, combined with the mysterious nature of being "gifted." It is 35 minutes long and will be presented at the main branch of the Schenectady County Library at Liberty and Clinton St.

Those of us who were privileged to attend either the

1990 or 1991 Proctors Theater performances of "Hearts of Fire," Ms. Riccio's original musical, staged during the time of the **1690 Stockade Massacre**, remember her brilliant score, book and musical composition. After her "Act One" presentation she has been asked to speak of how she came to write "Hearts of Fire," about her life at the time, and how the themes of Home, Loss, and Commitment played out in her own story. Registration suggested by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511.

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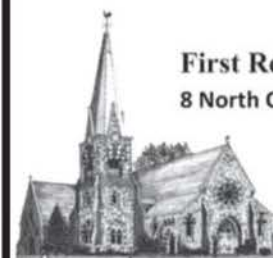
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### First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street in the Stockade

Sunday Worship, 10am

Sunday Church School, 10:20am

Sunday Vespers, 5pm

An open congregation. 518-377-2201 [www.1streformed.com](http://www.1streformed.com)



**Arthur's Market**  
35 N. Ferry St. Schenectady, NY

precise, it was never really uprooted. Arthur's Market is still known and valued by the people of this city. There's a quickening and thickening as the days get longer and warmer. Arthur's gets more integrated and woven into the life of the neighborhood and the city.

Monday Community Dinners (6pm-\$10) have been lovely and the March lineup is as follows: 3/3 **Pierogies**, 3/10 **Mexi-feast**, 3/17 **Pot Luck-o-the-Irish** - bring a dish (doesn't have to be Irish) or pay \$10, 3/29 **Moroccan Eggplant & Chicken** (or soy chicken). On Wed. nites we let a band practice from 5-8pm so we also stay open for dinner.

## Arthur's Gradually Expanding to Evening Hours

What am I kwazy opening Arthur's Market in the middle of the worst winter ever? Well, yes, perhaps. Crazy in love with Arthur's Market. But even with the hardships the Market is taking root. Or to be

And on Thurs. nites we have **Edith's Acoustic Jam** from 7-9pm. And Thurs. is now Italian Night - eat in or take out. Edith is a retired Schenectady Music teacher. So we are open late Mon., Wed., and Thurs. nites; well on the way to being open for dinner till 8pm every nite. On Sun. March 16 two 19 year old guys from Buffalo will play their guitars at noon. And on Sun. March 23 the one and only **Joe Sinatra** takes the stage at 3pm. On Sat. Mar. 15 Emily Costa, a Schenectady High Senior, is having a benefit to help pay for her **community service trip to India**. She and her fellow students will perform at 2pm. And on Sat. March 22 will be a **Waffle Brunch** from 9am-1pm by guest chefs Mike & Aaron Burdick - a father/son team. Mike is a past president of the Goose Hill Neighborhood Association. On that day will also be **Live Bellydancing** at noon and a **Spring Fling** at 2pm for **Foster and Adoptive Families** hosted by the organization 1000 Moms. Music will be by Pat Timme and his wife who have been foster parents for 15 years.

So think of Arthur's when planning events. And stop in to see our expanded menu. Try the potato salad with dill.

Cheers, Richard Genest 382-1938

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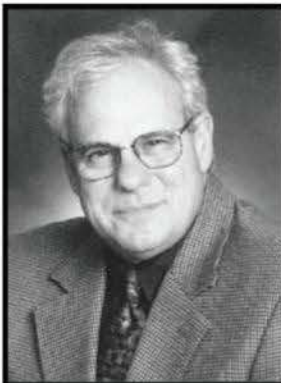
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## Schenectady Civic Players 86<sup>th</sup> Season

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www.civicplayers.org

Paul Osborn's **Morning's at Seven**  
October 18-20 & 23-27, 2013

David Sedaris' **The Santaland Diaries**  
December 6-8 & 11-15, 2013

Steven Dietz'

**Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure**  
January 24-27 & Jan 29-Feb 2, 2014

Theresa Rebeck's **The Understudy**  
March 21-23 & 26-30, 2014

John Murray and Allen Boretz'  
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May 2-4 & 7-11, 2014

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# -- The Stockade Scene --

The Stockade calendar is on the website, listing meetings, events, etc. [www.historicstockade.com](http://www.historicstockade.com)

## Schenectady Civic Players

### "The Understudy"

**March 21, 22 & 23 26 - 30**

In this biting witty and entertaining comedy, the lights of Broadway cast an affectionate glow on one of the most notorious roles in the theater: the understudy.

Personal and professional lives collide when Roxanne, charged with running the understudy rehearsal for a new play, finds out that her ex-fiance Harry has been cast as the understudy. The other understudy is Jake, a famous action movie star yearning for legitimacy in the theater. Roxanne attempts to navigate the rehearsal despite friction between the actors, a stoned lightboard operator, her feelings for both actors, not to mention the producers who threaten to close the show. Wednesday and Thursday curtains are at 7:30pm; Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; and Sundays are matinees only at 2:30pm. Tickets, \$17. Order and charge by phone through Proctors box office 346-6204. Order on-line at [www.civicplayers.org](http://www.civicplayers.org). More info call 382-2081.

### "The Billy Goats Gruff"

**An Opera for Children  
at Schenectady Civic Playhouse**

Children and families of all ages are invited to Opera Saratoga's Opera to Go production of "The Billy Goats Gruff" at the Schenectady Civic Playhouse, 12 So. Church Street, Schenectady, on **Saturday, March 8 at 2:30pm.**

"The Billy Goats Gruff," a short, one-act opera, is free of charge and open to the public. The performance is underwritten by Schenectady Civic Players' Gwen Fraser Memorial Fund to give back to the community and excite young people on the magic of the arts.


Based on the familiar classic story, the production presents a charming and humorous anti-bullying story told in an operatic style. Featured are arias, duets, ensembles and choruses by Mozart, Donizetti, and Rossini. Words and story adaptation are by John Davies who also did the same for last year's full-house, heart-warming production of "Pinocchio."

"The Billy Goats Gruff" features a talented cast of young professionals chosen from hundreds of singers who audition for Opera Saratoga's Young Artist Program. A cookies and punch reception follows. Open seating. No advance reservations. Just walk in. Free Admission. 382-2081.

## Explore Your Family Heritage

With Genealogy Programs at Schenectady Library

All programs (list to the right) take place in the McChesney Room, Schenectady County Central Library, 99 Clinton St., Schenectady. Registration suggested by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511. [www.scipl.org](http://www.scipl.org).




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also see Arthur's Market Bulletin Board

Tues. 3/4 7pm String Dusters - country with yodelling  
Sat. 3/8 7pm Missing Link - 60's rock  
Tue. 3/11 7pm Landfill Mt. Boys - witty folk trio  
Fri. 3/14 7pm Vermont folk rock band plus  
Stockader Rick Sacchetti  
Mon. 3/17 2pm Calling Cali - 2 guys from Buffalo  
Thurs. 3/20 7pm Running The River - oldies  
Sat. 3/22 7pm Latin Music - Raymondo & Raymondo  
Thurs. 3/27 7pm Stockader Kay Pasternak's Birthday Party  
music by her son Eric Pasternak  
Fri. 3/28 8pm Kitchen Hop with Kitchen Jazz  
Bring your Dance Shoes!

## Arthur's Market and Historic Coffee House

**35 North Ferry Street 382-1938**

**For other events see article on page 5**

Mon. 3/3 7pm music by Mabel Leon's brother Charlie  
Tues. 3/4 7pm Open Mic & Storytelling with Joe Doolittle  
Sat. 3/8 noon Terri & Linda - folk brunch  
Sun. 3/9 noon Lynn Gross - talk & performance:  
"20th Century Women Lyricists"  
Mon. 3/10 7pm Ukulele nite  
Wed. 3/12 7pm Movie Nite "The Electric Apricot"  
(about music)  
Sat. 3/15 5pm Kitchen Jazz - with tap dancing  
7pm Dave Fisk Quartet (dinner available)

## Finding Missing Pieces of the Family Tree

Saturday, February 15 at 10am

## Genealogy 101

Saturday, March 15 10-11:30am

## Preserving Family Photographs & Documents

Saturday, May 17 at 9:15am

## Documenting Your Ancestry

Saturday, May 17 at 10:15am

**Stockade Association**  
**Officers & Directors**  
**2013-2014**  
**historicstockade.com**

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 valmapack1@yahoo.com

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 374-6190

**Didn't Get a Spy?**  
 Current issues and back issues of *The Spy* can be found on The Association's website - [www.historicstockade.com](http://www.historicstockade.com) - click on Spy.

Also, you can usually pick up a copy of the *Stockade Spy* at: Arthur's Market, Front & Ferry Streets, The Stockade Inn, corner of N. Church and Union Streets; Slick's, at the corner of S. Ferry and Liberty Streets and The Van Dyck at 237 Union Street or call our delivery person, Adam Boese at 817-9573.

**Stockade Safety**  
 Keep your porch lights on front and back for your safety and nighttime walkers

**Please report any wrongdoings to the police immediately.**

**Important Numbers**  
**Emergency 911**  
**Non-emergency 382-5263, 382-5264**

**Stockade Neighborhood Watch Officer -**  
**Lt. Mark McCracken**  
**mmccracken@schenectady**  
**pd.com**  
**call non-emergency # and request him**

**Police Emergency 382-5200**  
**Code Enforcement 382-5050**  
**Waste Collection Schedule & Recycling 382-5144 7:30-4**  
**Animal Control Voicemail 382-5200 ext. 5655**

**March Waste Collection Dates**

**All Thursdays March 6, 13, 20, & 27**  
 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. For full trash schedule - website - [cityofscheneectady.com/garbage.htm](http://cityofscheneectady.com/garbage.htm)

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