



December 1998

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Stockade Calendar

Tree Lighting
Sunday, Dec. 6, 5 PM
at the Indian

"A Civil Action"
 Lecture by lawyer &
 environmentalist,
 Jan Schlichtmann
 on this movie
 Thursday, Dec. 3, 7 PM
 SCCC Auditorium

Holiday Bake Sale
& "Basket of Cheer"
Raffle

Sat., Dec. 5, 1-5 PM
 Sun., Dec. 6, 8-10 AM
 Holy Cross Church
 19 College Street

"The Nerd"

Schenectady Civic
 Players, Dec. 4-6 & 9-13
 17 South Church Street
 Tickets, \$10
 Call 382-2081 for details

SCCC Vocal Chamber
Ensemble and Guitar
Ensemble

Works About Water
 Wed., Dec. 9, 7:30 PM
 Lally-Mohawk Room
 SCCC Elston Hall

January *Spy* Deadline:

December 15

Christmas Tree Lighting

The tradition, begun decades ago by Mildred Cohen and Alice Colangelo, who have long passed away, continues in the Stockade. On Sunday, December 6, friends and neighbors will gather for the official Stockade opening of the holiday season. Retail stores may think the season begins as soon as the Halloween decorations are down, but we know this annual gathering with its emphasis on family and neighborhood evokes the true spirit of the season!

Father Harold V. Reed of St. George's Episcopal Church will give the blessing. The guest speaker will be Robert Farley, County Legislator, friend of the Stockade and proponent of Metroplex.

The tree will be lighted by a young boy who has lived on Front Street

all his life. Can you guess who it might be?

To lead us in singing of the carols will be the quartet, *In Good Company* - Sylvia Briber with friends, Vesta Sager, Marjorie Jennings and Donna Allard.

As in the past, we will all stroll over to St. George's Great Hall for food and drink. Please bring a plate of finger foods to the hall, for all to share, on your way to the tree lighting or anytime after 4 PM.

Helen and Al Giuletta and Susanna

Sherwood are planning this lovely event for us along with Priscilla and Bill Gocha, helping with the treats and fun at St. George's Hall.

See you at 5 PM, Sunday, December 6 at Lawrence, the Indian.



Lighting
 of the
 tree
 at the
 Indian
 will be
**Sunday
 Dec. 6
 at 5pm.**
 we will see
 you there.

Check out the STOCKADE WEB PAGE !!!

"www.historicstockade.com"

Thanks go to Jennifer Wells for all her great work!

SCCC Chorus Concert

"Wondrous Mysteries: Music About Birth and Death"
special guest, Karen Hosmer, oboe

Mon., Dec. 14, 7:30 PM, Community Auditorium

SCCC Wind Ensemble: Two American Symphonies

Fri., Dec. 18, 7:30 PM, Community Auditorium

For all SCCC events, call 381-1250 for more information.

Living Nativity

Sunday, Dec. 20, 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM

First Reformed Church, corner of Church and Union

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24

4:00 PM, Midnight Liturgy

Dec. 25, 9 AM, Liturgy

Holy Cross Church, 19 College Street

5:00 PM, Service of Lessons and Carols:

Pageant by the Children

8:30 PM, Music for the Season:

choir, organist, musicians

9:00 PM, Candlelight Community Service

First Reformed Church, 8 North Church

6:30 PM, Candlelight Community Service

First Presbyterian Church, 115 Union Street

11:00 PM, Midnight Mass

St. George's Episcopal Church, 30 North Ferry Street

December at the Schenectady Historical Society

The Old Curiosity Shop:

Victorian dolls, cake and cookie molds, a penny farthing (bicycle), Little Nell, an original Dickens' letter, and other items that would be found in an old curiosity shop.

The house will be decorated by the Hugh Plat Garden Club in true Victorian style as an entry for the Statewide Historic Garden Club Competition.

And, as usual, teddy bears will be visiting the doll house!

(reprinted from *The Stockade Spy*, December 1973)

Christmas Wreath

Recipe from Jim Lane's Aunt Dot Cummings

Melt together:

30 large marshmallows

1/2 cup margarine

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 teaspoons green food coloring

Add 3 1/2 cups cornflakes

Spoon onto buttered waxed paper. Form into ring.

Add cinnamon candies for berries. Chill.

The Jay Street Business Association

presents our

Holiday Open House

Music of the Holidays

Saturday, Dec. 5th, 11-4

Handmade & Traditional Crafts

Saturday, Dec. 12th, 11-4

The Spirit of Giving

Saturday, Dec. 19th

Join us in helping others - a percentage of the day's sales will be donated to the United Way and the Humane Society

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**We wish you
and your family
a safe and happy
holiday season!**

Laugh Your Way Through the Pre-holidays!

"The Nerd," by Larry Shue, is now playing at the Schenectady Civic Players, December 4-6. and 9-13.

North Ferry Street resident Debbie Paul is the assistant director of this comedy. It is the story of a young architect visited by a man he's never met, but who saved his life in Vietnam. The visitor turns out to be an incredibly inept, hopelessly stupid "nerd" who outstays his visit with vengeance. *Variety* says, "the audience almost never stops laughing - handkerchief wiping away tears of merriment." (see Stockade calendar, page 1 for details.)

You are cordially invited to attend a Studio Sale and Open House

given by
Crystal Daigle, artist
Saturday, Dec. 5th and
Sunday, Dec. 6th

from 12 noon - 7pm at 124 Front Street
♦ original works of art for giving and for keeping ♦
♦ note cards ♦ unique conceptual gifts ♦ limited edition prints ♦



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The Stockade Association Membership Drive - 1998

Please support the Association and become a member by returning the coupon below.

•Membership dues (10/1/98 to 9/30/99)
\$10.00 per person, \$15.00 per household, tax deductible.

\$ _____

•The Stockade Spy contribution

\$ _____

• Gift of *The Spy*, One year subscription, \$10

\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

The Stockade Association

Send to: David Marhafer, Treasurer
3 Washington Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12305 Thank you!

(Please print)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Gift of *The Spy* recipient:

Name _____

Address _____

Give *The Spy* as a Holiday Gift

Many friends, relatives, and previous Stockade residents would love to keep up with the news of the neighborhood with its special people and its unique buildings. This idea has been very popular and so we offer it again. All you need to do is complete the box below, and make out a check for \$10 to The Stockade Association, and mail it to Dave Marhafer's address. Lidia Pasamanick, who is doing the mailings, will send a card with the first issue indicating that you are the happy sender of *The Spy* as a gift!

**Stockade
Association
Officers &
Directors
1998-1999**

President

Bob Hayner
6 Front Street
374-6216

Vice President

Barbara Sauer
19 Washington
Avenue
393-8081

Treasurer

David Marhafer
3 Washington
Avenue
377-0331

Recording Sec.

Emily Curtis
215 Green Street
381-1818

**Corresponding
Secretary**

Jack Zegger
15 Governor's Lane
393-7669

Directors to 5/99

Helen Giulietti
109 Front Street
372-6039

Lidia Pasamanick
12 N. Ferry Street
377-0802

Van Shanklin
1 Marilyn Drive
Scotia 12302
399-4407

Directors to 5/00

Paul Mlodzianowski
109 Union Street
382-7654

Bob Ritter
17 Ingersoll Avenue
393-3215

Jennifer Wells
17 Wash. Avenue
382-1471

STOCKADE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Jack Zegger, Corresponding Secretary

Board Meeting, November 1998

Board member Jennifer Wells reported that the initial Stockade web page has been approved; further additions will be received and approved by the ad hoc Association committee. David Marhafer reported that, as of November 3, there were 53 members from 39 households in the Association (see membership form, page 3). Bob Hayner reported on a recent BRACE (Business Representatives Aligned for Community Enhancement) subcommittee meeting on YMCA relations. Guest Mayor Al Jurczynski indicated that the new head of development, John Barr, will also become involved in YMCA matters.

Bob Ritter reported that the 106/108 Front Street property will soon be on the market. The Board voted to draft a letter encouraging trustees of vacant properties to see that properties meet code requirements and place them on the market as soon as possible. Jack Zegger reported that at the October SUN meeting, President Hutton indicated that SUN had not yet taken a position on Metroplex or the 72 hour eviction notice legislation based upon uncertain economic benefit and enforceability, respectively. Guest speakers were Carl Olsen and Assistant Police Chief Mike Seber.

The Board discussed how to cover important City meetings which may affect the Stockade. Barbara Sauer reviewed the status of reported code violations in the Stockade (Note: there are currently 2,000 reported property code violations throughout the City, according to Jean Hawkey).

Bob Hayner reported on the thefts of several wrought iron gates and of a mantel from inside a vacant house. A Stockade resident has offered to provide photographs of the stolen items to the publisher of a weekly newsletter for auction dealers. (Lidia Pasamanick agreed to coordinate).

It was noted that the initial version of the Metroplex legislation did not mention The Board will review local zoning requirements, e.g. B-2 Historic District Ordinance, in the final version of the Metroplex legislation with guests Robert Farley and Bob Serotta at the December meeting.

November 12, 1998 General Meeting

After a brief business meeting, about 30 residents viewed segments of a video of the 1997 Heritage Awards Ceremony at City Hall (the Empire Data Systems, Inc. building at 2 Union Street; the St. George's house at 23 Front Street, and the Zautner house at 13 North Ferry Street). Also shown were Bob Briber's slides, "Four Seasons of the Stockade" which the Spectrum theatre in Albany showed in September before their feature film.

THEFTS IN THE STOCKADE

Four small iron gates were taken from Stockade properties along Front Street and Union Street during the month of October. Also taken was a mantel from inside a vacant house. See Board minutes for details. Residents are urged to secure features outside their houses and have adequate lighting at night. In case of theft, contact the police immediately.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you spare an hour once every few weeks? "Members of Neighborhood Watch visibly patrol their neighborhoods as additional eyes and ears of the police, watching and listening for suspicious criminal activity or unsafe conditions." The patrols usually involve two or more people who are non-confrontational observers. Applicants must be at least 18 years old. A background check is made and each prospective member undergoes a short training program. Applications can be obtained by calling Carmella Ruscitto, 372-0036, or Jack Zegger, 393-7669.

HOW WE CAN ALL HELP

The strength of the Stockade neighborhood depends upon a commitment to historic preservation and an adequate quality of life for resident homeowners and renters. People show respect for their community by following some basic rules of living in a special community like the Stockade.

Several ways that we can all help include:

- maintaining property both inside and outside. The B-2 Historic District guidelines must be followed when making changes visible from the public way. If unsure of protocol, contact Jim Kalohn, 382-5049 at City Hall.
- ensuring that trash is placed for pickup on the scheduled day and time and empty containers are promptly returned.
- arranging adequate sidewalk care including removal of leaves, trash and debris; dog owners should observe leash and pooper-scooper laws.
- reducing noise, e.g. avoid playing loud music, having visitors refrain from beeping horns to pick-up passengers.
- stressing to tenants the need to be considerate of neighbors (landlords are responsible for their tenant's actions).
- encouraging homeowners and renters to report questionable activities to our Community Police Officers.
- taking an active role in the community by volunteering for any of the several Stockade events during the year.

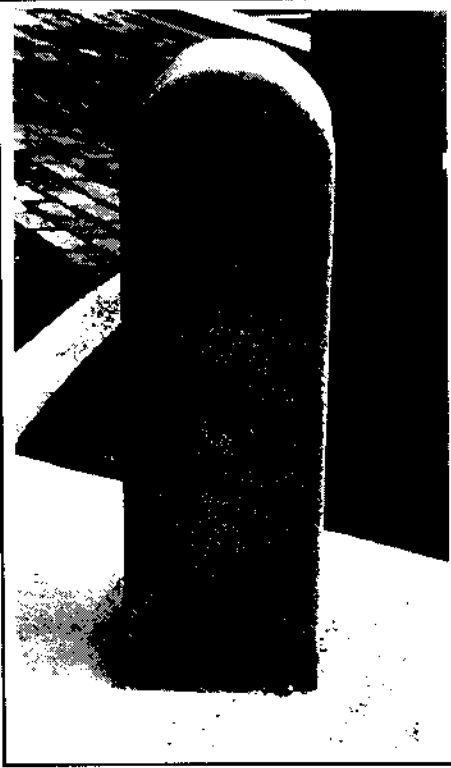
WHY THE BINNE KILL MUST BE DREDGED

The Stockade Association Waterfront Development Plan for Schenectady County presented to the City and County in September 1997 included, among other proposals, the need to dredge the Binne Kill. The reasons for this are;

- Rapid Buildup of Silt: The inlet to the Binne Kill has been silting-up rapidly so that one-third of the inlet is now blocked and the boat draft is less than one foot at normal river level (212 feet above sea level). It will also prevent boats from using the Gateway landing.
- Health and Safety Concern: Blockage of the Binne Kill entrance would result in a backwater marsh and a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other pests. Ultimately, the marsh water will evaporate and provide easy access to the rear of properties at the west side of Washington Avenue.
- Blocked Stream and Storm Sewer Drainage: The stream and storm sewer effluent at the rear of Schenectady Community College's Science Building flows into the south end of the Kill providing a refreshed source of water and dissolved oxygen. This maintains a relatively clean environment for plants and water fowl.
- Need to Preserve Habitat for Waterfowl: The Kill is a natural habitat for waterfowl, especially geese and herons. Disruption of the local ecology would destroy this environment.

Your Association will continue to push for the dredging of the Binne Kill by the State and will seek resident support at the appropriate time.

STOCKADE STOPPER



Can you guess where this is in the Stockade? Look for the answer in the January issue of *The Stockade Spy*.

December Waste Collection Dates

Friday, Dec. 4
Friday, Dec. 11
Friday, Dec. 18
Monday, Dec. 28

Do not put garbage out before 2:30 PM the previous day.

ARTHUR'S

Public Market

is now closed
for exciting renovations!
See you in 1999!

HISTORIC COMMISSION NEWS

On Monday, November 16, the Schenectady Historic Commission made the following decisions:

- The proposed paving by the Schenectady County Historical Society at 32 Washington Avenue was approved.
- John Desmond has been asked to submit detailed plans for replacement steps at 21 North Ferry Street.
- A plan by Theresa Musco and Rosann Rogers to demolish the existing garage at 147 Front Street and Ingersoll Street was met with approval.
- Christopher W. Dobson came before the board for approval after the fact for changes he made to the property at 106 Union Street. The Commission is requiring that the new fence be clad with wood and stained; the new banisters and steps in the rear are to be painted. The landscaping along the side of the building was approved.

- Lidia Pasamanick

Tidings

We have several new residents on Front Street.

Welcome to:

- Denise Giles, who has lived here before.
- Catherine DeSalle and Tom Baker
- Megan Chiplock and Adam Wohlman
- Madeline and Todd Pillar

Our sincerest condolences to the families of Laura Mlodzianowski of North Street and Jean Wasson of Front Street, both longtime residents of the Stockade who passed away recently. Mrs. Mlodzianowski was the mother of Paul Mlodzianowski of Union Street and Cheryl Russell of North Street. Mrs. Wasson is survived by her husband, Richard.

Call your tidings in to Lidia Pasamanick or Sylvia Briber.

The Stockade Spy

Editor

Sylvia Briber 377-0469
23 Washington Avenue

Staff

Gerald Plante
Lidia Pasamanick
Susanna Sherwood

Ads

Emily Curtis 381-1818
215 Green Street

Finance

Janie Hayner 374-6216
6 Front Street

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