



April 2000

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. 41 No. 8

Stockade Calendar

Future Dates

Mohawk Club

Open House Dinner
Wed., Apr. 19, 7:00 PM
(see page 3 for details)

Secret Gardens of the Stockade

sponsored by the Friends of the Stockade Garden Group, June 23-24. Fri. 3 - 8 PM, Sat. 10 AM - 4 PM

Stoop Beautification Awards

Criteria to be announced in May

Park Clean-up

Sat., May 20

Stockade Sidewalk Sale

Sat., June 3

"ALCO: Its History and Highlights" Speaker:

George Terwilliger
Sat., April 8
1:30 PM Refreshments
2:00 PM Program
Historical Society
32 Washington Avenue

3rd Saturday

Poetry at Arthur's

Featured Poet: Andrea Willison, Sat., April 15,
7:30 PM Sign up, 8:00 PM Readings (see page 5)

May Spy Deadline Early! April 12

Spring Walks in the Stockade

Stones of the Stockade

Did you know that the Stockade and downtown Schenectady contain some of the best examples of rock types and medium and small-scale geologic features that the general public can readily view?

Kurt Hollocher, from the Geology Department at Union College and his wife, Janet have put together a self-guided walking tour. The tour highlights examples of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks containing interesting minerals, unusual textures, fossils and sedimentary features.

The first Stockade stop is at the **Mohawk River wall** at the bottom of Washington Avenue. These stone blocks are composed mostly of limestone

The second stop is at the **The First Reformed Church** where in its foundation you can see highly fossiliferous limestone that contains abundant bryozoans, brachiopods, corals, crinoids, and cephalopods (squid-like beasts). The Church has front steps of slate, pillars of pink granite containing pink orthoclase, white etc. The rock surrounding the doors is sandstone rich in white and pink feldspar grains. The brown sandstone of quartz grains are carved into forms of corn, grapes, wheat, pine, and oak. The steps below the east side doorway near the front of the church are of fossil-rich limestone containing gastropods up to 1.5 across. You can also find black bits of trilobites, and oval stracods.



(continued on page 8)

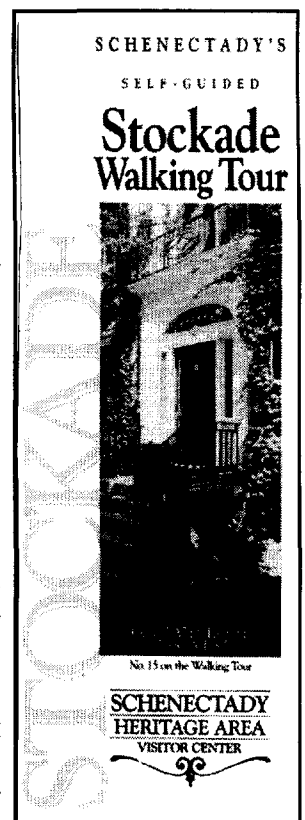
History and Architecture

Another self-guided walking tour of the Stockade that is now out and about was cooperatively developed by Schenectady County Chamber of Commerce and Schenectady Heritage Area, with help from the Schenectady Historical Society and many others.

With an easy to follow format and map, strollers can revisit our rich history, enjoy stories behind the facades, and learn architectural styles and features. This is a great tour for your out of town visitors.

This tour brochure is available at Arthur's Market, The Chamber of Commerce and the Heritage Area Visitor Center.

For a more comprehensive Stockade tour, pick up the dramatized audio tape and extensive history and map developed by Stockader, Susan Staffa, available at Arthur's, the Schenectady Museum, and the Main Library.



Happy Spring strolling!

Jazz Night at Arthur's

Fri., April 7, "Accoustic Jazz"
Fri., April 14 & 20, "Hot House"

YWCA Women of Achievement Awards

April 27, 5:30-9:00 PM, GE R & D Center
Tickets \$50 - RSVP by April 17, 374-3394, Ext. 124

"Overcoming Adversity"

Speaker: Bob Love, 1970 lead scorer & Community Relations Director for the Bulls
Thursday, April 6, 7:30 PM, SCCC Community Auditorium, Free and open to public

"Big Band Renaissance"

by The Empire Jazz Orchestra
Tuesday, April 18, 8:00 PM

Featuring some of the best works from the modern era of big band - Maynard Ferguson, Oliver Nelson, Gil Evans, others. Tickets \$15. SCCC Community Auditorium, 381-1250. (Or precede the concert with the Albany/Schenectady League of Arts Benefit with dinner at the SCCC Casola Dining Room. \$45 for dinner & concert. Call 449-5380.)

Rich Lamanna and 'The Last Word'

CD Release Party for *Introspective*
Friday, April 21, The Van Dyck Restaurant, 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM, tickets \$24. Call 381-1111

Yours Jazz Nightclub, 145 Barrett St., Open Mics

8:00 PM Sign-up; 8:30 PM Showtime
"The Poet's Lounge," Tues., April 4
"The Acoustic Rendition," Wed., April 12
"Your Night for Humor," Tues., April 18

The Open Door, 128 Jay Street:

Sat., Apr. 1, 1-2:30 PM, Bob Cudmore, signing "You Can't Go Wrong: Stories from, Nero, N.Y. & Other Tales" Sat. Apr. 8, 1-2:30 Susan Rosenthal signing "Schenectady: Images of America" Sat., Apr. 15, 1-2:30 Rachel Ray signing "Rachael Ray's Open House Cookbook" (with tasting samples)

Vanguard Preview, Sun., Apr. 30, 3-5 PM
(see page 6 for details)

**Stockade Walkabout
Saturday, September 30**

If you would like your house to be on the tour or would like to take part in this wonderful event, call Anne Bernat at 393-5770 or Sylvia Briber at 377-0469.

Stockade Churches Easter Week Schedule

First Reformed Church, 8 North Church Street

- **Maundy Thursday, April 20, 7:30 PM**
Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae
- **Good Friday, April 21, 12:00 Noon**
Mid-day Service of Reflection on Christ's Passion
- **Easter Day, April 23, 10:00 AM**

Holy Cross Church, 18 North College Street

- **Stations of the Cross & Benediction**
Friday, April 14, 7:00 PM
- **Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale**
Sat., April 15 - 3:00 - 5:00 PM &
Sunday, April 16 - 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
- **Palm Sunday Services**
Sat., April 15, 4:00 PM & Sun., April 16, 9:00 AM
- **Holy Thursday Services, Liturgy of the Lord's Supper followed by Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Repository, Thurs., April 20, 7:00 PM**
Church Open For Adoration Until 10:00 PM

- **Good Friday Services**
Church Open for Private Devotions, 12 - 3:00 PM
Liturgy of the Passion & Death of our Lord
Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion Service - 3:00 PM
- **Holy Saturday Services, Blessing of Easter Foods, 11:00 AM, Easter Vigil Service- Liturgy of the Resurrection - 7:30 PM, Sat., April 22**
- **Easter Sunday Services, Liturgy of the Resurrection, 9:00 AM, April 23**

First Presbyterian Church, 115 Union Street

- **Good Friday: 12:00 noon and 12:30 PM**
Soup & Sandwich lunch served from 11:30 - 1:00 PM, at cost; 7:30 PM Communion Service
- **Easter: 8:15 & 11:00 morning services**
6:00 evening service

St. George's Episcopal Church, 30 North Ferry

- **Palm Sunday, 8:00 AM Low Mass**
10:00 AM High Mass with Solemn Procession & Singing of the Passion
- **Mid-Week: Daily Matins: 9:45 AM**
Daily Evening Prayer: 5:30 PM
Mon. Masses at 12:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Tues. Mass at 5:45 PM
Wed. Holy Hour at 12:00 PM
Tenebrae at 7:00 PM, Mass at 7:30 PM

- **Maundy Thursday: Liturgy & Mass with the Maundy, Thurs. Ceremonies at 7:30 PM**
Vigil Altar of Repose to follow.

Good Friday: Liturgy & Mass of the Pre-Sanctified at 12:00 PM

- **Easter Eve: Pro-Anaphora at 9:00 AM**
Great Vigil at 7:30 PM
- **Easter Day: 7:45 AM Matins, 8:00 AM Low Mass**
10:00 AM High Mass

Mohawk Club's New Wednesday Night Special & Open House Dinner

Members of the Stockade Association will now be able to enjoy a special dinner on Wednesday nights at the Mohawk Club. Richard Jones, the manager at the Mohawk Club, tells us that \$9.95 plus tax and gratuity, includes a soup or salad, relish tray, a choice of two entrees (fish and beef or chicken), dessert and beverage. This special is in addition to ordering from the menu, and lighter fare, such as hamburgers and club sandwiches. **Reservations must be made before noon of that day. (374-8476)**

Also, on Wednesday, April 19, at 7:00 PM Stockade Association members are invited to an Open House Dinner. The Wednesday night special above will be followed by a tour of the facility to see its lovely banquet rooms and bedrooms. Please make reservations.

The Mohawk Club and The Stockade Association are still refining the new arrangements as outlined in the March *Stockade Spy*. Room rates are now \$55 for a single and \$60 for a double. To best accommodate you, Mr. Jones would greatly appreciate it if Stockaders would phone him to set up an appointment to discuss planning your future events.

Y2K - AOK

- Krystyna Kusielewicz

Not only the new millennium is here
But a new decade, a new century and a new year.
The computer bug has not bitten
Despite all warnings, the world was not smitten.
All around the globe there was celebration
With mirth, gaiety and great elation.
It started on Kiribati Island
With dances and drums that were not silent
In Moscow the Red Square was glowing
The Eifel Tower with rockets throwing.
The pyramids of Giza were lighted atop
And the Washington Monument was also aglow.
In Times Square the great ball of light
Slowly dropped - it was a memorable sight.
The fireworks exploding with color and joy
And rivers of champagne did not recoil.
We expected a computer glitch
But the numbers changed without a hitch.
Everything was going quite flawless
Even a midnight baby - no less.
There will be stamps, momentos and coins
Let's hope we'll be remembered though
For finding promising new roads.
Here we are in the new millennium.
Let us look forward to a positive new addendum.

The New Millennium


- Krystyna Kusielewicz








I wonder what will it be,
In the new millennium?
Will there be an end,
Or will it all just continue?
Will the sun still rise,
And the moon still twinkle,
Will I be surprised?
Will there be a frenzy
Or fear, zeal and toiling?
Or will that very same ball
Just keep on rolling?
Will the rain still fall
And the grass still grow?
Will the baby still cry
And the rainbow straddle the sky?
Will there be love and harmony
Or throngs of discontent?
Will there be noise and clamor
Or repentance and amends?
Will there be joy and laughter
Respect and understanding?
Or will there be pain and sorrow
With no laws abiding?
I wonder what will it be
In the new millennium?
Will the earth just keep turning
Ad infinitum?

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Coming Soon... 154 Jay Street Schenectady



Rich Lammanna and "The Last Word"

All Star band featuring Alex Acuna, Othello Molineaux and Kenwood Dennard
 Stockade resident Richard Lamanna will be releasing his upcoming cd "Introspective" at the Van Dyck Restaurant on Friday, April 21st. There will be two shows at 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM. Rich's latest venture, "The Last Word" is a Jaco Pastorius and Weather Report inspired afro-latin project featuring Alex Acuna on percussion (Weather Report), Kenwood Dennard on drums (Larry Coryell), Othello Molineaux on steel drums (Santana) and Chuck D'Aloia on guitar (Nick Brignola). Rich, a graduate of the Berklee College of Music, 1979, is a masterful, contemporary, bop-fusion alto and soprano saxophonist whose modal approach and technique will leave an indelible impression upon you. Major influences include Cannonball Adderly, Michael Brecker and John Coltrane. Rich directed orchestras in the Carribean, the US and South America and performed with the Contemporary Orchestra of Peru, with Brazilian guitarist Ricardo Silveira and Jay Azzalino of Spiro Gyra. (See *Spy* calendar, page 2, for ticket details)

The Stockade Spy

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----- T i d i n g s -----

We have some joyful news to report:

Cindy and Chris Dobson of Union Street have a daughter! Myla Nancy Dobson was born on January 10, 9 lbs, 22 inches.

The Stockade Association's Recording Secretary, Emily Curtis of Green Street, is engaged to be married to James Klotz of Upper Union Street.

Please welcome our new neighbors:

- Major Richard and Lyn Gordon on North Church Street, moved to the Stockade from Burnt Hills.
- Jennifer Mlodzianowski, who grew up on North Street has come to live on Union Street.
- Dennis Meyer of North Street.

We mourn the tragic death of Frank S. Yazum of Washington Ave. and extend our condolences to his family.

Sweet Hearts Team

The Sweet Hearts volunteers focus on the education/awareness of diabetes in the local African-American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American populations. They train to run or walk 13 or 26 miles, committed to raising \$35,000 to benefit the American Diabetes Association. Team members would be happy to run in honor or memory of your loved ones. Make your tax-deductible donations payable to the American Diabetes Assoc. and mail to: Sweet Hearts, c/o Claudine Malcolm, 26 Washington Ave. 12305, or call her at 346-9969.

First Presbyterian Church Message

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, Union Street, would like to extend a humble, yet heartfelt 'thank you' to all of the Stockade residents who graced us with your company Saturday evening, February 19, 2000. Though weather was typical for this time of year in upstate New York, we all enjoyed a wonderful Italian Dinner, complete with music and great company. Please feel free to join us again. We are open for fellowship every Sunday and Wednesday!

Mark Sokol

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Pete's Poetry at Arthur's

On Saturday, April 15, starting at 7:30 PM at Arthur's Market, Ferry and Front Street, the next event in the Pete's Poetry series will be a celebration of life, with readings from the poetry of **Andrea Willison**, as well as poems about Andrea and on themes from her life - the search for spiritual values and justice, authenticity and creativity, love and laughter. Everyone is invited to come and to participate in reading and reciting. **Charlie Rhyhart**, a talented local guitarist, will accompany the readings. The Poetry Series, every third Saturday of the month, is organized and hosted by Debra Bump (381-6713), with the assistance of Malcolm Willison (374-0244), thanks to Peter Polachek's support.

Uncovering: A Spring Poem

- by Andrea Willison

Pierce the earth,
swollen
dark
its small green buds enclosed
and find the cool rock
worn by time's long breath.

Pierce the breast
soul's cushion
and find heart's stone
worn, too
with its beatings toward death.

Time pushes buds
to leaves
I see them
born perfect green (to their mother, the sky)
Death, you will wait awhile
for my heart catches
in awe of this
one moment's
bursting.

BIRDS OF THE STOCKADE *The Red Tailed Hawk*



One of the most common raptors I've seen in, around and over the Stockade is the Red Tailed Hawk. It's a large, common and widespread hawk. One of its best field marks is the rufous tail. In adults it can appear pinkish from below. The dark patagial marks on the underwings are diagnostic field marks. They soar with wings raised slightly above horizontal. Red tails are Buteos. They are characterized by robust bodies, long and broad wings, and tails of short to medium length.

Patagial marks in the wing means the area on the front of the wing between the wrist and body. Red tails have been nesting near the Western Gateway bridge to the left on a high tension tower. As with most raptors, females are larger than males.

- James L. Taft
AKA Captain Eagle Eyes

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Best Buddies

by Kimberly Hawkey



My name is Kimberly Hawkey. I am 11 years old and attend Brown School. I live on Front Street here in the Stockade. I participate in many activities during the week and also on the weekends. Some of the activities include piano and flute lessons, dancing, drama, skiing, and horseback riding. Horseback riding is one of my favorite things to do. I go to a barn located in Charlton where I ride once every two weeks. A favorite horse at the barn is a beautiful palomino named Norman. He's fun to ride bareback on. I have a lot of other pets, also. I have a dog named Petey, two gerbils, named Sam and Dexter, two parakeets, named Buddy and Saturn, and a Beta fish named Splash, but I'll tell you about Petey.

Petey is eight years old, but is still extremely playful. She is part cocker spaniel, but we don't know the other half. She can do many tricks such as sit, roll

over, dead, lay down, sit pretty, speak, and she can even play volleyball by bouncing a balloon on her head. Even though she does good tricks, there are some bad tricks. First of all, she chases the squirrels; second of all, she tears up all of the mail that comes through the slot and lastly, she barks at everyone that walks by (you may have heard her while walking past our house).

Petey and I love to go for walks down at the park. Petey can also run very fast. I usually take her for morning runs around my house or in the parking lot across the street.

Petey is very good with children (wouldn't even hurt a flea) even though she'll bark like crazy when she first meets you. Lastly, she also has to have the spot right exactly in the middle of the bed when you are trying to go to sleep.

(Note: We plan to have more columns by kids about their pets.)




Vanguard Event Includes Stockade Tour

Vanguard's 20th Anniversary Designer Showcase 2000 will present "A Symphony of Musical Styles" to benefit the Albany Symphony Orchestra, May 1 - May 21. This year's featured house is 1300 Union Street, designed by Cortland Van Rensselaer in the early 1900's for Nicholas I Veeder and Katherine Weldon Veeder. It is now owned by local architect Michael Szemansco and his wife, Kimberly Monaco. 25 designers are decorating 25 spaces. Hours are MTF - 10:30-3:30 PM; W Th until 7; Sa until 5; Su noon to 5 PM. with a donation of \$15. Trolley guided tours will include the Stockade,

the Realty Plot, Nott Memorial, and St. John the Evangelist.

Vanguard-ASO will hold a Preview on Sunday, April 30 from 3 - 5 PM, with a Champagne Reception from 4 - 7 PM and music by pianist, Findlay Cockrell at 1322 Stratford Rd., the home of Fe Mondragon, MD and Lisa Schoonmaker, Esq. For more information and reservations call 533-2275 or 463-7524.



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374-6216

6 Front Street

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377-0331

3 Washington Ave.

Treasurer

Meredith Anker 5/01
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Emily Curtis 5/00
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Jennifer Wells 5/00
382-1471
17 Washington Ave.

Gerald Plante 5/00
240 Green St.
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Frank Marro 5/00
250 Green St.
381-9764

STOCKADE ASSOCIATION *Emily Curtis, Board Secretary*

Stockade website:

www.historicstockade.com.

Board Meeting Highlights

March 7, 2000

There was a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Stockade Association on Tuesday, March 7, 2000. Connie Colangelo nominated Joe Fava to the board to fill a seat vacated by Frank Marro. Mr. Fava shall complete a term ending May.

The board discussed the possibility of hosting an "open house" at the Mohawk Club for members of the Stockade Association. The open house could include a dinner and tour of the meeting and guest rooms available for rent. The board agreed to pursue this, for a possible date in April. (see page 3)

The board voted to send a letter of acknowledgement and commendation to Joe Allen, President of City Council, for his public statement regarding moving nonprofit organizations away from downtown.

The stoop and garden awards annually given by the garden club were discussed. The board voted to continue this program, but will ask the garden club to present the criteria for approval.

Joe Fava agreed to head the Code Enforcement Committee.

The board then discussed working with SCCC and Empire State College to create a historic preservation program.

Elections for board members will be held in May. Expiring terms include: vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, and four board members. These positions will carry a two-year term, except for one board member and the treasurer, which will hold one-year terms. This schedule results from last year's mid-term appointments.

General Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2000

The Honorable Mayor Albert Jurczynski spoke about the Metroplex and downtown Schenectady to about 30 Stockade residents. He said that we need a strong and vibrant downtown - going 18 hours a day,

with attractions that continue to bring people downtown where they can spend money. He requested Stockade participation on the proposed task forces for the Mayor's Advisory Board for the Master Plan. The Hunter/Sasaki Report is available at the library, and executive summary can be obtained from the Mayor's office. He supports the design standards proposed in the Hunter/Sasaki Report. He stated that parking is critical to a city: \$9,000,000 targeted for the MVP parking garage; \$6,000,000 for improvements and additions to the Broadway garage. He had no qualms about preserving the Hough Building or City Hall, but felt the buildings to be replaced by the new DOT could be improved upon. Regarding street cleaning, the Mayor said he would look into options - opposite side parking was suggested. The Mayor said he would ask the SNAP crew to clean up the former Ladd property.

Janie Hayner presented the site plan by Synthesis Architects for improvements to Riverside Park pump-house at the end of Ferry St. Learn more at the next General Meeting, Thurs., May 11.

The motion to hold future Assoc. meetings at the Mohawk Club was defeated 8/13/2.

The BZA Lawsuit is still on the docket and should be heard in the next 60 days.

The motion to appoint Connie Colangelo, Karen Engelke, and Debbie Lambert to the nomination committee for this year was passed 12/0/0.

Stockade Association Membership

To become a member of The Stockade Association, please make your check out to **The Stockade Association** and send to treasurer, Meredith Anker, 4 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, 12305 along with your name, address, and phone number. Tax deductible membership is \$10 per person, \$15 per household.

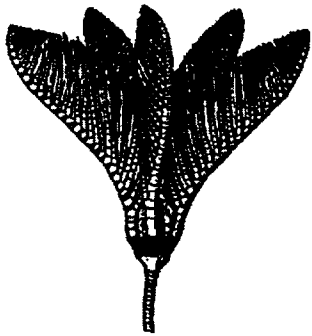
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SCOOP the POOP!

1. Before you set out for a walk with your dog, look for and locate a plastic bag in your kitchen, or wherever you keep plastic bags. Plastic grocery bags work well. (Make sure you appropriately match the size of the bag with the size of your dog!)
2. On your walk, when first seeing your dog seriously stop and stiff, try to move him/her away from piles of leaves or debris. (locating poop in leaves certainly proves to be a difficult task, especially at night.)
3. On spying poop piles, completely insert your left or right hand into plastic bag.
4. With hand completely protected, grab poop.
5. With the other hand, turn bag inside out, completely enclosing poop.
6. Carry poop to nearest trash container, or even better, to your home trash receptacles.

BENEFIT: You will feel good that you have done your part in keeping the Stockade beautiful. **BONUS:** Your neighbors will like you even more than ever!!!

Crinoids



Ptilocrinus
Modern



Close-up of
crinoid stalk




Close-up of
crinoid segments

YWCA of Schenectady
Women of Achievement Awards

Come Celebrate Outstanding Women!

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April 27, 2000
5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
G.E. Research & Development Center
Dinner tickets are \$50 per person - RSVP by April 17.

For more information or to RSVP, please call Claudine at 374-3394, ext. 124.

Brachiopods



Glyptorthis
Ordovician



Platystrophia
Ordovician



Microspirifer
Devonian

(continued from page 1)

St. George's Episcopal Church is next. The stone around the front door is made of gray limestone slabs that have parallel grooves on their sides where some beds have weathered away faster than others. The blocks to the sides of the steps are made of fossiliferous limestone that contain big blocky and cone-shaped coral, bryozoans, thin dark trilobite fragments, and crinoids, fine-grained rip-up clasts. Most of the church is made of gray sandstone that weathers brown.

The First Presbyterian Church at 209 Union Street contains red quartz sandstone and blocks of gray sandstone. **The Turnbull House** next door is made of red quartz sandstone that has many pockmarks, some diamond-shaped and up to 1/8 inch across, caused by calcite crystals that dissolve and fall out when exposed to the weather. The steps are made of red feldspar-rich sandstone with numerous black grains which are sand-size slate fragments.

Across the street is **The Van Antwerp House** at 220 Union with a variety of different colors of slate on its roof, including black, red, gray, green, and purple.

At 108 Union is the **old Schenectady Court House**. The steps are made of gray sandstone slabs that have parallel grooves on their sides where some beds have weathered away faster than others. The blocks to the sides of the steps are made of fossiliferous limestone that contain big blocky and cone-shaped corals (best seen to the left of the steps), and brachiopods, and other fossils. A nice cephalopod piece is just to the right of the steps.

For a more complete walking tour of the stones of the Stockade and also of downtown Schenectady, (featuring many State Street buildings) pick up the tour brochure at Arthur's Market.



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AMBITIONS



I visited the Old Jay Tavern on a recent Saturday morning. I was greeted by Greg, who, as soon as I entered, excitedly showed me an architect's rendering of the new **Ambition Coffee and Eatery**. And how ambitious this project is! The new proprietor's of the Old Jay St. Tavern are Marc Renson and Greg Salomon, who live on Green St. As Marc put it: "running a restaurant has been a long time dream." I didn't ask how long this dream was in coming, but it couldn't have come at a better time for downtown Schenectady. Greg said that they were inspired by the location on Jay Street. They love Jay Street and all its architectural splendor. Instantly they fell in love with the Old Jay Tavern and as Greg puts it: "the rest is history." Yes, gentlefolk, Jay Street Business District will have a new business open by April 3rd along with another business venture that Greg is will be known for, but that'll have to wait for an upcoming *Spy* article.

For starters, the facade will get a facelift, so, expect a new sign/awning and paint job. To greet customers Marc will place a vintage policeman sign at the restaurant's entrance that will stand guard to entice hungry stomachs to feast their eyes on the day's specials. Marc is a 1992 graduate of SCCC. He's been in the food service business industry for over 10 years. For four years he was a chef at the Shipyard Restaurant as well as other prominent establishments throughout the Capital District. He has two reasons for the start of his restaurant. He was inspired by the theme song from the movie "9 to 5;" "Pour yourself a cup of ambition ..." because, for the second reason, Marc explains: "food and beverage are what give the body ambition."

Soups are a specialty of Marc's and all his desserts will be homemade. He will do all the cooking and baking. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Coffee beans will be sold along with grinders and other specialty items for the coffee lover. There is a small

kitchen, but, Greg and Marc assured me that it will be used with maximum efficiency with storage just in back.

There isn't anything that Marc and Greg haven't thought of to make this the new, best spot in town. They have preserved the best of the past and updated **Ambition** for the present. The tile floor will stay and is getting a spruce up. The booths will also stay but will be covered with a warm, contemporary look. Tables will be preserved but with new tops, edged with mahogany. The old wooden phone booth stays but will be moved further into the restaurant. The back room will feature a coffee lounge with 40's and 50's deco style furniture and hardwood floor. Bistro style tables and chairs will be added outside for the warm weather. Without elaborating, Greg saved information about "Theme Thursday" as a surprise.

To round out homemade desserts and soups there will be gourmet sandwiches and salads, fresh coffees and other specialties making this a fun, enjoyable atmosphere. There will be table service. April 3rd can't come soon enough. So, visit Jay Street and the **Ambition Coffee and Eatery** soon. See you there!

- Gerald Plante

Historic District Commission

When the Schenectady Historic Commission met on March 20, they approve Martha Huggins plans to repair and restore the enclosed back porch at 19 North Ferry Street. They also approved Linda E. Patrik's proposal to replace the roof on the house and sheds and rebuild and repoint the chimneys at 119 Front Street.

Schenectady Historic Commission Approval

As you plan improvements to your property, remember that any external work visible from public rights-of-way will need approval from the Schenectady Historic Commission. Please call Anthony Tozzi, the City's Principal Planner, at 382-5054 for more information.

You may also need to speak with Jay Sherman, Zoning Officer, regarding building permits. He can be reached at 382-5049.

STOCKADE STOPPER - TOWERING TOWERS

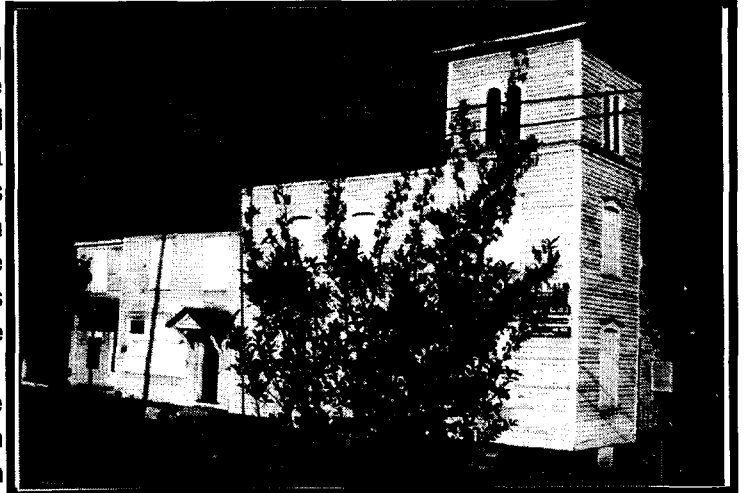
There is a certain magic about houses with towers. They evoke a mysterious world of romance and refinement, dignity and elegance. One would almost expect to see them prefaced by a moat and a drawbridge. Even this hypothetical requirement is accommodated in this ca. 1900 tower house, shown in the Stopper photo, that was built on the bank of the Erie Canal just at the Union Street Canal Bridge. This union of building with site was almost too good to be believed.

There were no tower houses built in the Stockade until around the turn of the last century when two sprang up on Union Street. The first, just down

Union Street, was built in 1884 for Charles Ellis and has a tower capped off with a dome and spires in the Romanesque manner. Very different indeed is our subject which was inspired by the Italianate villas of Tuscany. This "Villa" at 254 Union is certainly one of the more successful examples in our town of the bold nature of late Victorian asymmetrical planning for picturesque effect. The exterior is worthy of note for its simplicity, beauty of form and harmony which pervades it in a manner not often seen around here.

Winston Churchill told us that we shape our buildings and in turn our buildings shape us. This tower house could well have been built by Dr. Elizabeth Van Rensselaer Gillette who came to the Stockade in 1900 at the age of 25 from her native Grandby, Connecticut, and moved into that house where she lived and practiced medicine until her death in 1965. During her residency she achieved the status of a tower among her peers.

She came here of distinguished pioneer stock. A lineal descendant of Thomas Rogers, a Mayflower passenger, she counted among her maternal ancestors many of the Jewett family, most of whom were pioneer physicians; George Hughes, whose son captured by Indians at the age of ten, returned ten years later after walking through the Adirondack forests from Montreal, and General Channcy Pettibone and



Governor J. Trumbell of Connecticut who was called Brother Jonathan by George Washington. Carrying on in the tradition of her New England ancestors, she embroiled herself in medicine, politics and history. At the onset she settled in the Stockade as a physician and surgeon, a definite rarity to have a woman in the medical ranks of that day. But she, the first woman physician in this city, became a distinguished and honored part of the profession.

Like her Connecticut Yankee forefathers, she too became a pioneer early in the Twentieth Century when she distinguished herself by becoming the first upstate woman to be elected to the New York State Assembly. In a year of feminist action she joined the Democratic ticket led by Dr. George Lunn, mayor of Schenectady and later NYS Lieutenant Governor. What a towering victory for her. This was the year that the National Women's Suffrage Amendment was passed and made effective AFTER she was elected! Elected by men only voters. "Vote" she preached to women, "vote in every election, go to every political meeting possible, learn all you can about political affairs - and always be a lady."

And a towering lady she was, a physician, a surgeon, suffragette, politician, assembly member, a founder of the Schenectady Humane Society, life member of the National Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of the Mayflower Descendants and the Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic. She lived until 1965, dying at the age of 90 in her Stockade "Villa."

Today the "villa" stands boarded up and abandoned, decaying from the elements. Is that our future, a derelict building in the heart of our Stockade? Is this our memorial to this towering giant of a woman?

- Jim Schmitt AIA

April Waste Collection Dates

Monday, Apr. 3
Monday, Apr. 10
Monday, Apr. 17
Monday, Apr. 24