



December 2000

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. 42 No. 4

Stockade Calendar

Tree Lighting

Sunday, Dec. 3, 5 PM

At the Indian

During December
at the Historical Society
32 Washington Ave:

"Teddy Bears on Parade"

Winnie the Pooh,
Paddington, Silvester, etc.

The Dora Jackson Home
decorated as it would have
been in 1895 with tree -
"Long Ago in Old Sch'dy"

At The Open Door, Jay St.:

Lyn Lifshin, reading &
signing her recent poetry
"before it's light" book,
Thurs., Nov. 30, 7:30 PM

Cookbook signing & tast-
ing samples, Lisa Fasburgh
signing Soups & Stews for
Fall & Winter Days, also
Rachael Bay signing
Comfort Foods, Sat. Dec.
2, 1 - 2:30 PM

240th Anniversary First
Presbyterian Church
Historical Program
Sat., Dec. 2, at 2 PM

Sch'dy Historical Society
Annual Holiday Party
1:30 PM, followed by
Wayne Harvey talking
about historic postcards,
Sat., Dec. 9, 32 Wash. Ave.

Jan. Spy Deadline
December 15

Come One, Come All to the Annual Stockade Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Reception

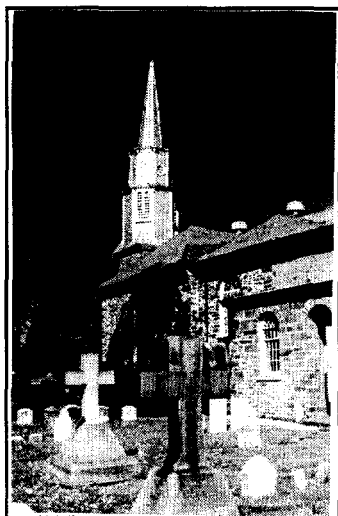
Stockade residents are invited to attend the Annual Tree Lighting at Lawrence the Indian on Sunday, December 3, 2000 at 5:00 PM. We will have the Blessing of the Tree by Reverend Robert White, and the Choir from First Reformed Church, directed by the Choir Master, singing Christmas Carols by candlelight. Legislator Robert Farley will be the guest speaker. Joe Fava, our Stockade President, will be the Master of Ceremonies. Richard Brown will ring the bells as our Town Crier at 4:30 PM to alert the neighborhood of the event. A reception will follow in the Great Hall of St. George's Church on Green Street.

The tree is in place and is decorated - thanks to the efforts of Al Strack

and the men from the City of Schenectady Department of Parks. The tree was donated by Joe and Anne Bernat - and a very beautiful tree it is. By decorating the fence surrounding the Indian, Janie Hayner and Edna Eldridge

have certainly added to the beauty of the new landscaping.

Emily Curtis and Connie Colangelo are co-chairing the Tree Lighting events for the Stockade Association. The reception at St. George's will be held immediately following the ceremony at the tree. Everyone is encouraged to donate finger foods for the buffet and to please bring them to St. George's Hall anytime after 3:00 PM on Dec. 3. There will be a table and games for the children.



First Presbyterian Church Celebrates 240 Years

As part of its observance of its 240th anniversary, the First Presbyterian Church is planning a historical program in the church building at 209 Union St., 2:00 to 4:00 PM Saturday, December 2.

Dr. James Stewart, an elder of the church, will present a slideshow and lecture including highlights of the intertwined story of the First Presbyterian Church's buildings, people and community. Historic photos, Bibles, record books and hymnals from the 19th century will be on exhibit. The public is welcome. Stockade residents will be interested in the earlier appearances and modifications to the church and chapel buildings through the changing styles of different periods.

"High Tea" at the Mohawk Club

Sunday, Dec. 10, 3 - 5 PM, fundraiser for the English Speaking Union (see page 3)

A Dickens Christmas at The Van Dyck

Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 - 8 PM (see page 8)

"The Last Night of Ballyhoo," Sch'dy Civic Players,

Dec. 8, 9, 10 & 13-17, 8:00 PM; 2:30 PM, Sundays
12 South Church St., \$12. Call 382-2081.

Third Saturday Poetry at Arthur's, Sat., Dec. 16

7:30 PM sign-up, 8 PM reading

Christmas Church Events:

Pre-Holiday Bake Sale & Book Sale, cookies, nut

breads, cakes, hardcover & paperback books

Holy Cross Church, 18 N. College St.

Sat., Dec. 9, 3 - 5 PM, Sun., Dec. 10, 8 - 10 AM

39th Annual Presentation of the Living Nativity

A 20-min. live presentation retelling the nativity story with children, animals, music, Sun., Dec. 17, 5:00 & 6:30 PM, First Reformed Church, 8 N. Church St.

Christmas Eve Services:

Holy Cross Church: 4 PM, Christmas Midnight Liturgy - The Nativity of the Lord

First Reformed Church: 10 AM Worship Service - Fourth Sunday of Advent

5 PM Family Service of Lessons and Carols - A service of music & pageantry presented by the children

8:30 PM Music for the Season

9:00 PM Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

St. George's Episcopal Church, 30 N. Ferry St.

9:00 AM Mass, 4:30 PM Mass with Carols

(Children's Liturgy), 10:30 PM Carols with Strings and Winds, 11 PM Solemn High Mass

First Presbyterian Church, 6:00 PM Christmas Service

Christmas Day Service

Holy Cross: 9 AM Christmas Day Liturgy -

The Nativity of the Lord

St. George's: 10 AM Mass

SCCC Events Free and Open to Public, 381-1250:

The SCCC Chamber Woodwinds, Mon., Dec. 4,

7:30 PM, Lally-Mohawk Rm., Elston Hall

The SCCC Vocal Chamber and Guitar Ensembles,

Wed., Dec. 6, 7:30 PM, Lally-Mohawk Rm., Elston Hall

The SCCC Chorus, Mon., Dec. 11, 7:30 PM,

Carl B. Taylor Community Auditorium

The SCCC Jazz Ensemble, Wed., Dec. 13, 7:30 PM

Community Auditorium

The SCCC Wind and Percussion Ensembles,

Fri., Dec. 15, 7:30 PM, Community Auditorium

Lawrence Park Has Taken On A New Look!

It all started when a group of neighbors drinking coffee at Arthur's on a cold wintry day decided that Lawrence needed to look more like a European City park. After many meetings and compromises a plan materialized. The soil in the park was prepared, grubs removed. Funds provided by The Stockade Association were used to lay bricks and purchase seven commercial quality boxwoods to start a hedge around the base of the statue. Several more meetings, work parties and donations of funds and materials by individual members of our committee have resulted in a beautiful park that won recognition by the Stockade Garden Group. We want to thank the following members of our committee: *Ron Chard, Joan Bessarab, Jennifer Wells, Bruce Jordan, Gerald Plante and Bob Hayner.* Donations for the Spring planting may be sent to Janie Hayner, 6 Front Street.

- Janie Hayner and Edna Eldridge



Irma The Cat

Ann Perry of Green Street writes:

I would like to submit a news item. It's about Irma the Cat. Jim Bouton of Green Street owns her. On any given day she can be seen resting and sunbathing half in

the street or smack dab in the middle of the alley.

It is up to you to step around her, or in the case of a car, make a detour.

Everyone who passes greets her. Just the other day my husband observed a young girl stop and pour some milk for Irma to sip. Her explanation was that the cat always meows when she passes by.

Jim says the cat is 16 years old. His old landlord left her behind when he moved away.

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374-6190

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347-2742

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STOCKADE ASSOCIATION

Jennifer Wells

Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

Recording Secretary

Board of Director's Meeting Tuesday, November 7, 2000

Gloria Kishton, a Stockade Association member and an officer of the Schenectady Heritage Foundation, spoke to the Board about Foundation activities. The Stockade Board asked for a meeting of both Boards in the near future to discuss mutual concerns.

In other business the board voted to support a proposal by GE to provide signage and a statue of Steinmetz talking with Edison at the Ladd Triangle.

A letter of concern regarding renewed activities to recruit section 8 housing tenants was to be sent to John Flynn and Peter Pink of the YMCA.

It was decided to recommend paying the Mohawk Club membership from general funds next year.

A new Welcoming Committee has been formed under the leadership of Susanna Sherwood; and the Holiday Committee reported that the tree lighting festivities to be held December 3.

General Meeting Thursday, November 9, 2000

County Legislator Bob Farley explained the project and plans for the Gillette House and Ladd Triangle. The County will attempt to purchase 250 and 254 Union Street as well as the old firehouse on N. College St. The old garage behind the Gillette House will be replaced with green space. Small County offices will be sited in the Gillette House

once renovated. The second house will have space for an outreach center for the museum with Stockade Association meeting space or offices upstairs. The rest of the Ladd lot will be converted to a parking area. Mr. Farley also spoke on the cost of providing video surveillance in the Stockade and cited a figure of \$6,000 per station. Historic lighting was also mentioned with a figure of \$15,000 per pole for similar projects.

Greg Solomon and others spoke on behalf of the Jay Street merchants and the holiday events downtown; and distributed a packet of coupons, discounts and promotions.

Meredith Anker treasurer's report indicated \$8,355.22 in the checking account, which includes income from the Walkabout, and about \$12,000 in the Certificate of Deposit. She also reported that in January, we would discuss whether to renew our membership with the Mohawk Club.

Since a quorum of members was not present no business was brought before the membership.

The Welcoming Committee is preparing folders for Stockade newcomers. Please let Susanna Sherwood know of any new neighbors.

Connie Colangelo presented the plans for the Tree Lighting and urged everyone to bring finger foods to share at the gathering. See page 1 for details.

Board members can be reached by:

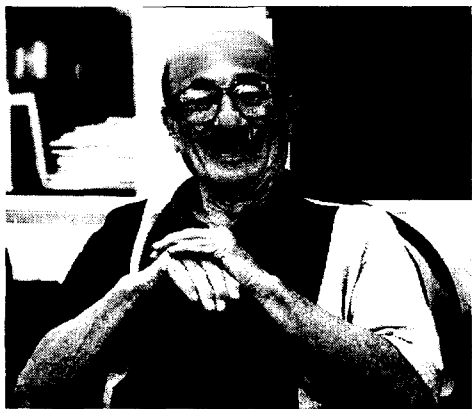
www.historicstockade.com/board.htm

High Tea at The Mohawk Club, Sun., Dec. 10, 3 - 5 PM

Stockade Association members are invited to a High Tea with a Christmas Carol singalong as a fundraiser for the English Speaking Union to benefit their Shakespeare competition in the high schools. Substantial hors d'oeuvre and spiked and unspiked punch will be served. The \$10 contribution is tax deductible.

Deadline for reservations is Friday, Dec. 8. Call 374-8476.

People of the Stockade



(continued from The October Spy)

The people who have helped out at Arthur's over the years have been legion. Maggie, his wife, still comes down-stairs from read-

ing her *New Yorkers* and *Harpers* to sit behind the counter for an hour or two. I always look forward to finding her in the store in the morning, so we can exchange magazines and political opinions - - we see eye to eye, thank goodness, because Maggie has sharp opinions, and gives them. And her silences can speak louder than most people's speaking.

Arthur's has had a whole stable of others helping out, great butchers, wonderful cooks, and especially Michele Martinez, whom we've all watched grow up there, quietly in charge when Arthur, and then Peter, were busy. We miss her when she's away at college. In the early days, a cat or two would also be "visiting" at the Market. When the last of these cats died in the 1980's the kitten strays that turned up at Arthur's had to find homes around the Stockade. A tough cat we called "Orange Bob" or "Charlie" when he hung out around Arthur's now lives with Mary down Ferry Street, where he's taken command and has been renamed "Arthur" appropriately.

In the mid-1960's, when I first came to Schenectady, Arthur's carried the freshest of vegetables and fine meats - we would go to Arthur's to get especially good cuts there, and our friends who lived in the Stockade depended on Arthur's for their daily dinner purchases. And Arthur would, as Peter still will on occasion, order something special that you needed for a dinner party, or even go and get it for you from another market! Where else can you get such service, and free delivery, too.

When Peter, Arthur's son, took over the business in 1989, Peter began to make changes. Peter and Arthur occasionally disagreed, but Arthur enthusiastically let Peter take the business into the next generation. Peter shifted from butchers to cooks (for prepared meals), which many have taken advantage of in these more hectic days. Peter first squeezed tables and chairs into the narrow aisles of the store, and set up the coffee maker. Then he began putting warm-weather picnic furniture and then round cafe tables and chairs outside. In warmer weather, people sit out there from breakfast to dinner, to eat, drink, and talk.

Many of us have taken to meeting regularly at Arthur's in the mornings before work.

In the last year, Arthur's has changed even more, now that Peter has completely refurbished the store. He closed it for five months - too long for those of us dependent on Arthur's for food, emergencies, coffee, and socializing. When, to everyone's relief, Arthur's reopened in the spring of 1999. Track lighting had been installed, the fixtures had been rearranged and shelves removed so that there's a big open space with comfortable tables and chairs by a full view out the enormous windows. The beautiful new oak floor is "good enough for a line dance," we tell Peter, and he nods. In fact, Peter had brought in monthly jazz events, and let Debby Bump organize a regular poetry reading every third Saturday of the month. Meanwhile, Peter still sells lunches and keeps some green groceries and household supplies for us old-timers, as we've found ourselves ever-so-gradually becoming. We love Arthur's and wish it a long, long life into the new century and the next millennium.

- Malcolm Willison

Community Archaeology at SCCC



Schenectady County Community College offers local hands-on archaeological experience through a variety of non-credit courses in the Spring and Fall by instructors Ron Kingsley and Louise Basa. Recently Professor Kingsley and his class visited Katy and Fred Kindl's historic Dutch home on North Church St. Courses include Historical Archaeology and Field Study, Pre-Colonial Archaeology and Field Study, Researching and Interpreting Documents in Archaeology; and Collections Management. Call SCCC's Office of Continuing Education at 381-1423.



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| Susan Bennett | Lynne McIlravy-Ackert |
| Theone Bob | Richard McIlravy-Ackert |
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| Jewel Buff | Helen Mealy |
| Marvin Buff | Dale Miller |
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| Walter Cicha | Susan Mlodzianowski |
| Tim Coakley | Browen Murdock |
| Connie Colangelo | Jay Musler |
| Nicholas Colangelo | Zoe Oxley |
| David Cummings | Maria Papa |
| Sally Demarest | Kipling Papa-Silveria |
| Diane DeMeo | Lidia Pasamanick |
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| Morgan Desmond | Robert Perry |
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| Neff Dietrich | Gerald Plante |
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| Priscilla Gocha | Gregory Sauer |
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| Richard Gordon | Harold Schneiderwind |
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| Cybele Hijar | Brandon Silveria |
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| Natalie Lasky | Jennifer Wells |
| Allison Lee | Jean Zegger |
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The Stockade Association Membership Drive 2000 - 2001

For 43 years, The Stockade Association has been carrying out its mission, defined in the Constitution as "the protection and improvement of the properties" within its boundaries. Its specific objectives relate to preservation of the Historic District and quality of life for its caretakers. The Association helps assure stability in this neighborhood that has been termed "a national treasure" and is enjoyed by visitors from all parts of America and abroad.

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

To contribute to the neighborhood, also have fun and make new friends, circle the following projects that you will help with:

- The Walkabout fund-raiser • *The Stockade Spy*
- Block Representatives • Secret Garden Tour
- Community Tree Lighting event • Annual Sidewalk Sale
- Neighborhood Watch • Riverside Park Projects
- Lobbying city and county government regarding Stockade issues

Membership dues (10/1/00 to 9/30/01)

• \$15.00 per person, \$20.00 per household, tax deductible. \$_____

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

Total \$_____

Please make check payable to: **The Stockade Association** Send to:
Meredith Anker, Treasurer
4 Washington Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12305

(Please print)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

Gift of *The Spy* recipient:

Name _____

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Gift of *The Spy* Giver

Name _____

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Give *The Spy* as a 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. All you need to do is complete the box above, make out a check for \$10 to The Stockade Association, and mail it to Meredith Anker'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!

Sidewalk and Painting Incentives

To be eligible for Sidewalk and Painting Incentives in 2001, you need to be a Stockade Association member with dues paid by the end of December 2000! A \$300 per property sidewalk incentive is for slate, concrete, or brick installation or repair - no blacktop. A \$150 painting incentive is to help pay the cost of painting building exteriors visible from the public way. Colors must be approved by the Historic Commission (see color charts at City Hall, Room 9). Incentives are not available for work which was the result of a City citation. For more information, please contact Joe Bernat, 216 1/2 Union St., 393-5770.

Our 2000-2001 **Spy Patroons**

The businesses on these two pages have paid for advertising for the entire year. We thank them for their commitment to *The Spy*. Please support them by your patronage.

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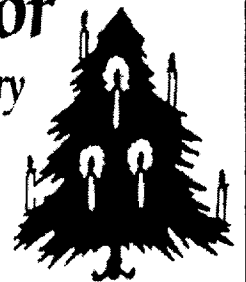
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Not Just Parcel Anymore

'Not long ago Parcel Post meant to wrap a parcel for postage,' says Greg Salomon of **Parcel Post Plus** - the newest of businesses along Jay St. The name belies what services are actually offered. Along with wrapping and boxing parcels for mailing there are a myriad of services that Greg offers. On the postal end he'll receive items from FED EX/UPS for pickup. This is a convenience especially if you're one who won't be home to receive an item from these postal services. Also, there are personal post boxes for mail delivery. If you're working on a project for personal/office use this is a perfect stop for services ranging from renting a computer terminal (there are three) at 20 cents per minute for online use, programming for design, high quality/high volume copying for just about any size project which includes binding documents for reports. Resumes, business cards, color postcards and typesetting are also offered.

The retail end is growing faster than the NY Stock Exchange so Greg keeps up by offering gifts and gift baskets with a personal/professional touch. For example, one gift basket includes coffees, candies, and miscellaneous items along with mugs from Two Spruce Pottery, another Jay St. business. Also, there are office supplies galore and if you're looking for self improvement (who isn't ?) Greg offers the top ten best selling audio tapes and books. Motivational artwork is also available.

Parcel Post Plus's brochure states: "Around the Block...Around the World" ... But you don't have to go around the world - Just around the block to Jay and Franklin Streets ...It's a plus!

- Gerald Plante

Dear Editor,

Most people, as I've heard you say, are kind but as Christmas stress escalates this is very easy to forget. You know that presents are my primary business so please convey an idea to your readers for a pre-holiday gift. (No money. No wrapping).

Give kindness when you're tired, patience when you're cross and minutes you don't have to quietly do a good deed. Reassure, empathize, and listen longer than you really want to. Patch up an old grudge or forget about it. You'll think of something.

Call this a Stockade Christmas Present. Only you will know you've given it and that elusive feeling of Christmas spirit will add a special sparkle to the candle lights in your windows.

Gotta go - the elves are getting restless. Catch you on the 25th.

Kriss Kringle
@truenorthpole.com

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

- Congratulations to Pinhead Susan's, recently named Outstanding New Enterprise by The Schenectady County Chamber of Commerce.
 - Farewell to the McGregor family that operated the McGregor Supply Company on Erie Blvd. for 31 years. Welcome to Santo Genovese who is the new owner.
 - Condolences to the family of John Bradshaw, a long-time Stockade resident who recently passed away.
 - Condolences to the family of Arthur "Pops" Innes of North College Street.
 - Farewell to Claudine Malcolm of Wash. Ave. who has a new job in Colorado Springs.
- Welcome to the following new neighbors:
- Paul Basile & Peter Rumora of Front St.
 - Susan Schmidt of College St.
 - Dana & Jason Nemic of Front St.
 - Carmela Romanello & Martin Shaden of Front St.

If you know of any items for "Tidings" please call The *Spy* Editor, Sylvia Briber, 377-0469.

Dickens Christmas at the Van Dyck

The Van Dyck will be hosting a very special event this year: its first Dickens Christmas Party on Sunday, December 10 from 4-8 PM. Your evening will consist of a lavish hors d'oeuvre reception with live entertainment, an elegant 3-course sit-down dinner served by staff in period costume, carolling by a local church choir, and a "mystery" guest reading "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Tickets are available for \$60 per person plus tax and gratuity. With only limited seating this event is sure to sell out, so call The Van Dyck at 381-111 to make your reservation or for more information.

The Stockade Spy

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23 Washington Avenue

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Krystyna Kusielewicz
Diane Buckley

Photography

Bob Briber

Finance

Janie Hayner 374-6216
6 Front Street

December Waste Collection Dates

Thurs., Dec. 7
Thurs., Dec. 14
Thurs., Dec. 21
Fri., Dec. 29

Reminder

As it gets darker sooner, remember to lock your doors and windows and close your blinds for best security and privacy.