



May 2000

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. 41 No. 9

Stockade Calendar

Stockade Association General Meeting

Thur., May 11 (see page 3)

Heritage Awards 2000

Thurs., May 18, 12 noon
City Hall Rotunda

Park Clean-up Day

Sat., May 20

Secret Gardens of the Stockade

June 23-24. Fri. 3 - 8 PM,
Sat. 10 AM - 4 PM

Stockade Sidewalk Sale

Sat., June 3 (see page 5)

"America's Song: Yankee Doodle"

Speaker: Stuart Murray,
Sat., May 13

1:30 PM Refreshments

2:00 PM Program

Book Signing

Historical Society

32 Washington Avenue

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Directed by Stockader,
Joe Fava

Sch'dy Civic Players

May 5, 6, 7 & 10-14. 8:00
Sunday matinees, 2:30 PM.

12 South Church St.,

Tickets \$12. Call 382-2081

**Next Spy - September
Deadline Aug. 15**

"Secret Gardens of the Stockade" Tour

We're all familiar with the architecture of the Stockade, and we've seen many of the houses on the Walkabout, but some of the most enchanting places in the neighborhood are tucked away from public view. This June, these hidden places will be revealed for the first time in the "Secret Gardens of the Stockade" Tour. Sponsored by the Stockade Garden Club, the tour will raise funds to enhance the public spaces in the Stockade. Organizers hope, too, that this will be the first of many garden tours on a biannual basis.

The featured gardens range in size from tiny to the truly grand, and most have never been shown publicly before. The owners' creativity in using limited space and adapting their gardening desires to the variable local climate will amaze visitors. Each is a work of artistry and much love.

In addition to the tour itself, there

will be several garden-related activities in the Stockade that weekend. On Friday evening, Rudy Grant, owner of Experience & Creative Design on Jay Street will offer a demonstration. At the Schenectady County Historical Society, members of the Hugh Platt Garden Club will exhibit their flower arrangements and on Saturday, June 24, demonstrate Japanese flower arranging. Pamela Jones, professional garden designer and author of two gardening books, will be on hand to answer your gardening questions.

Dates: Friday, June 23, 3 - 8 PM

Saturday, June 24, 10 AM - 4 PM

Tickets before June 23: \$12.50, valid for both days; available by calling Susanna Sherwood, 346-5735, or Helen Giulietti, 372-6039.

Tickets June 23 & 24: \$15.00, valid for both days; available at Arthur's Market, Front & Ferry Sts., *continued on page 2*

National Historic Preservation Week:

Heritage Awards 2000 Announced

Six historic building restorations in Schenectady County will be honored on Thursday, May 18 for their outstanding contribution to revitalizing our County's historic heritage.

The Schenectady Heritage Foundation and the Schenectady Heritage Area jointly sponsor the awards at twelve noon in City Hall Rotunda in celebration of National Historic Preservation Week. This will mark the tenth Annual Awards Presentation. The public is warmly invited to attend to

honor the awardees.

This year's coveted awards will be given for outstanding restoration at:

- Arthur's Market, the Old Public Market since 1795, at No. 33 North Ferry Street in the Historic Stockade District. Owned and operated by Peter Polachek, the market recently underwent a major restoration and renovation of the interior.

- The Old Campbell Mansion at 101 State Street built in 1762 by the master architect of the Mohawk Valley, Samuel Fuller, as the resi-

(continued on page 2)

Fourth Annual May Crowning,
Sun. May 7, During 9 AM Liturgy
Holy Cross Church, 18 North College St.

Mother's Day Liturgy
For All Mothers Living & Deceased
Sun., May 14, 9:00 AM, Holy Cross Church

Patronal Festival
St. George's Episcopal Church, 30 North Ferry St.
Sunday, May 21

Organ Recital by Elinore Farnum
First Presbyterian Church, 209 Union Street
Sun., May 7, 4:30 PM, Free & Open to Public

Summer in the City

For more information call the Schenectady County Chamber of Commerce, 372-5656

- MAY -

Vanguard Showhouse, 1300 Union St., May 1 -21
Schenectady Museum Festival of Nations, May 13

- JUNE -

Car Show and Brooks Barbecue at Vale Park, June 3
Community Day, Breakfast with the Mayor, June 3
Kids Art Day, June 3

Jazz on Jay, Wednesdays, June 7 - August 30
5th Annual Central Park Rose Garden Party

Fund Raiser, June 8, 6-9 PM

Schenectady 2000 Gala-Union College Campus, June 16
Solstice X-Sport Day, June 17

3rd Annual Forefathers Day at Mabee Farm, June 17
call Schenectady County Historical Society, 374-0263

The Refrigerators followed by fireworks, June 30

- JULY -

Capital Region Festa Italiano, July 1, 12 -10 PM,
July 2, 12-9 PM, benefit Agnes Macdonald Music Haven

- AUGUST -

Tuesday in the Park, Aug. 1

Fundraising Dinner and Concert in Central Park,
Aug. 30, benefit for Agnes Macdonald Music Haven

dence of Daniel Campbell and later restored by architects, van der Bogert, Feibes & Schmitt. This major historic landmark was recently renovated for offices for the S. A. Casale Inc. Insurance by Richard Wercholuk

- The adjacent Victorian residences at 140-142 Front Street owned and restored by James and Susanna Sherwood represent their decades of devotion and loyalty to the cause of furthering restoration in the Stockade.

- The Niskayuna colonial farmhouse at 1725 Van Antwerp Road which recently has undergone a notable restoration by Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey S. Moak.

- The Dutch style "Twenty One Apartments" built at the turn of the 19th century at No. 21 North Ferry Street in the Stockade has recently received a complete facade restoration by Attorney and Mrs. John L. Desmond.

- The Bradt Farmhouse in Rotterdam on Route 5S, owned by The County of Schenectady and recently recycled into the "Keepers of the Circle Native American Cultural Center."

In announcing the awards, James Schmitt, Schenectady Heritage Foundation's Chair Emeritus, pointed out that "the focus and thrust of Historic Preservation today is really community based. It is individual owners demonstrating stewardship of the Historic Treasures of Schenectady's historic and cultural resources."

(*"Secret Gardens"* continued from page 1)

and First Reformed Church, North Church Street.

Parking: St. George's Episcopal Church parking lot on Green Street, as well as on-street parking.

Restrooms: St. George's Church Parish Hall; Schenectady County Historical Society on Washington Avenue.

(All information is correct at time of going to press; full details about the gardens and their location and further information about related events will be available with the purchase of a tour ticket.)

- Anne Siddall

Mark Sokol

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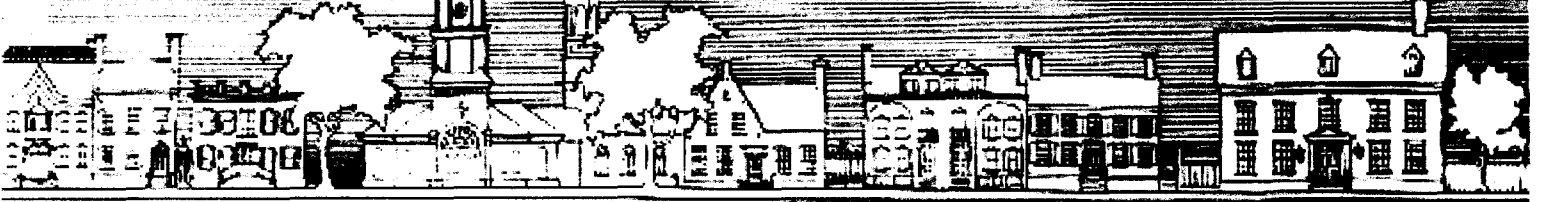
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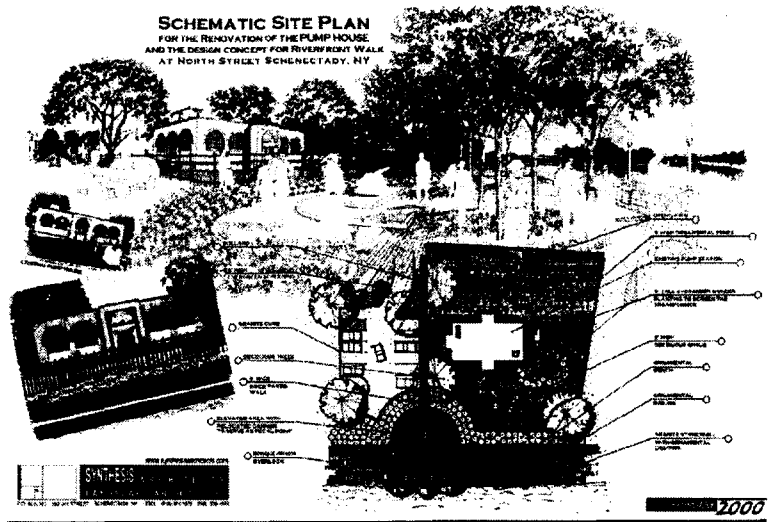
GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2000

32 Washington Ave.

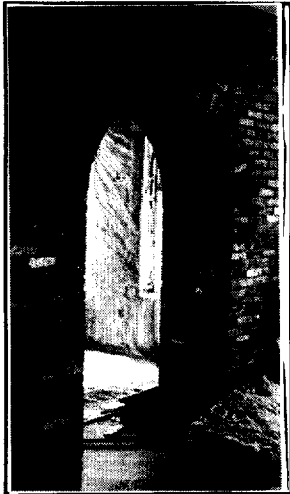
7:00 P.M. SOCIAL

7:30 P.M. PROGRAM AGENDA



- A. Milton Mitchell, Commissioner of Public Works, will present the plans for the renovation of the **PUMP HOUSE** located in Riverside Park.
- B. **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH** – Lt. Mark Chaires will inform us on how we can increase our participation in this program.
- C. Minutes of the March, 2000, General Meeting for approval.
- D. Treasurer's Report.
- E. The Nomination Committee will present their slate of candidates for officers and directors. This will be followed by the annual election.

PINHEAD SUSAN'S PUB



Graffiti suggesting that "Susan is a Pinhead" graced the long Amtrak wall and became a loved but controversial landmark. Jack McDonald and his brother, Dennis, are about to continue the saga. The boyish dream of having their own Irish Pub is a reality and will be known as "Pinhead Susan's." It will open in early June at the corner of Broadway and Liberty Street.

The painted message was teenager Claire Duggan's friendly comment about her younger sister. It was eventually eradicated and version 2, author unknown, quickly appeared - "Susan is still a Pinhead." Again removed, again author unknown, version 3 stated in very tall letters that "Susan remains to be a pinhead." Schenectady chuckled. Anti-graffiti paint in 1996 ended the 15 year old game.

Jack and Dennis value the past and spend evenings and weekends with the crew while personally removing - and preserving - evidence of the 150 year history of their building. But how to create and design a friendly pub atmosphere and retain some of the past? Dennis is more into the management phase and Jack, as a civic engineer, prefers reconstruction and preservation. Jack got some ideas bicycling around Boston, photographing its ubiquitous pubs and talking with owners. He did the same in New York City - walking.

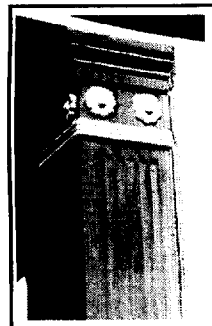
The rehabilitation started and "if walls could talk..." ran through Jack's mind as he knocked them down. He found his message in a 4/4 wood box buried in a wall near a window frame he was removing. The box contained a newspaper clipping from July 1944 by William Efner (later to be City Historian) about the building's colorful past, the 1884 Germania Hotel - in several forms, the saloon where Union College students in bowler hats "regularly greeted slumbering residents with barbershop harmonies." Jack and Dennis were unaware that 15 years prior to the Civil War the building was originally constructed for making carriages and wagons with a grand showroom for them.

The article breathed life into site audits and old maps. So did the 4 coins in the box - all dated 1944. The newspaper and coins will be displayed on the pub walls.

Two graceful side by side parabolic arches will be restored at the interior entrance - along with 100

year old tongue and groove board with purple and yellow stencils still visible. After a long search Jack found his perfect old bar in nearby Hudson. It's 27 feet long, of walnut wood topped with green marble and will be set at a back wall of old brick.

"Pinhead Susan's" welcomes you with beautiful dark green mullion windows. It rounds out the ambiance of the Stockade with a walking distance pub deliberately planned for an amiable drink and conversation. Or a banquet for 40. No live music is planned for the 100 patron capacity - just a quiet background.




Jack and Dennis McDonald are happy men.

-Diane Buckley

Schenectady Historic Commission

When the Historic Commission met on April 17, they considered a proposal from William M. Musgrove to replace and repaint the front soffit and replace the front rain gutter at 113 Front St. They also considered Ray Mahoutchian's plan to demolish the garage at the rear of 210 Union Street. On April 5, the Board of Zoning Appeals granted Ray Mahoutchian a special permit for 210 Union St. (the former children's shelter). In order to have a dentist's office on the first floor and two flats above, he is required to provide a minimum of five off-street parking spaces for the professional office.



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377-0331
3 Washington Ave.

Treasurer
Meredith Anker 5/01
347-2742
4 Washington Ave.

Recording Sec.
Emily Curtis 5/00
381-1818
215 Green Street

Corres. Secretary
Lidia Pasamanick
377-0802 5/00
12 N. Ferry Street

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374-7355 5/01
111 North Ferry St.

Bill Gocha 5/01
347-1720
17 Front Street

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382-7654 5/00
109 Union Street

Jennifer Wells 5/00
382-1471
17 Washington Ave.

Gerald Plante 5/00
240 Green St.
377-3176

Joseph Fava 5/00
27 Ferry St.
374-6190

STOCKADE ASSOCIATION *Emily Curtis, Board Secretary*

Stockade website:

www.historicstockade.com.

**Board Meeting Highlights
April 4, 2000**

Arkley Mastro, the attorney hired by the Stockade Association to file suit against the Board of Zoning Appeals for granting a special use permit for 232 Union Street, visited the board to explain Judge Caruso's ruling on the case. According to Mastro, Judge Caruso's decision stated that while he did not agree with the BZA's decision, he did not find it irrational, arbitrary or capricious. Mastro explained that if the Stockade Association wished, it could appeal to the Appellate Court. However, the Appellate Court could only rule on whether or not Judge Caruso was plainly wrong in his decision. This appeal would cost the Stockade Association a minimum of \$2,000. Mastro advised against an appeal, stating that he felt that it was within Judge Caruso's authority to make the decision that he did. Mastro also advised the Stockade Association to work with the City Council to change the language of the zoning ordinance if the

Association desired to prevent like businesses from moving into the Stockade in the future. Mastro went on to explain that the BZA made several stipulations in the grant for a special use permit. The business at 232 Union Street may not display signage, it may not have retail sales, and its parking is restricted to no more than two cars or two people at a time.

The board made a motion to create a committee that would draft a letter to the city council and begin work on proposing specific changes to the zoning ordinance.

The board decided to continue the Stoop Awards this year, awarding monetary prizes at the same level as last year (1st - \$200, 2nd - \$100; most improved - \$100). Judging will be done by the Garden Club by August 1, 2000.

The board also decided to continue the Jack Zegger Memorial Award and will put \$250 into the Jack Zegger Memorial Fund in the name of the awardee.

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.

**Emily and Percy Phelps Memorial Fund
Established**



Emily Phelps lived a good part of her remarkably long life right here in the Stockade, first on Front Street at the old family home at No. 15, then across from St. George's on N. Ferry in the mid-sixties, and at 7 Washington Avenue where her husband and eventually she died. She died as she had lived, quietly and nobly, at the age of 96. The Schenectady Heritage Foundation, working with the strong support of her brother, George Rickey, the world renowned kinetic sculptor, has established The Emily and Percy Phelps Memorial Fund

with the purpose of fostering preservation in the Historic Stockade.

Donations may be made to:

Schenectady Heritage Foundation
Emily and Percy Phelps Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 1173,
Schenectady, New York 12301-1173



When I Leave

When I leave,
I will worm my toes
ten squirming drills
down through clumps of cold black dirt,
and wrap my ankles
around the hungry
clinging roots
of an oak tree.

And the thing will suck me
like a vine,
like a newborn snake,
like a wriggling starving thing
the roots will drink of me
until I am thin and dry,
and my limbs curl in,
and I am like a dead spider, weightless,
blown onto a freeway,
beneath a tractor,
into the mouth of a yawning dog -
I don't care.

Because my spirit is subdued
in the permanence of bark
and my breath passes
through the pores of leaves,
and I am owned, at last
by a gentle master.

- Emily Polachek
Read unrevised 5/11/93

Emily

still by the mohawk at winter's end
frozen in time
spring never forgets to come back
like the emily tree
about to blossom for
decades and some
nigh, emily, three decades less
earth eternal
still by the mohawk ...

- Gerald Plante
January 1995

Remembering Emily Polachek: Grafton Peace Pagoda Poetry Pilgrimage

Friends and admirers of Emily Polachek are planning a gathering in her honor at the Peace Center in Grafton, Rennselaer County, early this summer. Her poetry will be read, as well as work about her and about her life and the things she loved. The organizers are Stockade residents Debra Bump (381-6713), Gerald Plante (377-3176), and Malcolm Willison (374-0244). Anyone interested in the event, helping to organize it, or ideas about its format, is invited to call them. Publicity, including flyers at Arthur's Market, will be available before the event.



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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.


Walkabout 2000 To include Antique Car Show

To complement the usual historic homes, the Walkabout this year will sport an Antique Car Show, "Memories of the Past." If you own a vehicle that pre-dates 1965 and would like to exhibit it, call Harold or Debbie Schneiderwind at 346-1711. Further details will be in the September *Spy*.

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Deja Vu - The Stoop Awards

Once again, we will be giving Stoop Awards. It was so successful last year and the neighborhood really looked great!

As they were last year, awards will be given for overall condition and appearance. It could mean one pot of flowers or ten, but the stoop itself must be in good condition. Awards will be:

- 1st Prize: Cash award - \$200
- 2nd Prize: Cash award - \$100
- Most Improved: Cash award - \$100

"Most improved" requires before and after pictures submitted to the Garden Club c/o Helen Giulietti at 109 Front Street (We can't count on our memories!)

Judging will be completed by August 1, 2000. A complete walkabout by the judges will determine the winners. Each stoop, (including board member's) will be considered. All decisions will be at the discretion of the judges.

- Committee for 2000

Betty Lane, Shirley Burris, & Helen Giulietti

Riverside Park Link Acquired

The Gazette of April 11 reported that the City Council had approved city purchase of 34 Ingersoll Avenue as part of its acquisition of property to link Riverside Park to the waterfront park around the Union College Boat House and the municipal swimming pool.

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BIRDS OF THE STOCKADE


Great Blue Heron



One of the largest birds that I've seen around the Stockade is the Great Blue Heron. It is a lean blue-gray bird with long legs, a long neck and a daggerlike bill. When feeding it stands motionless staring intently into shallow water or wading with measured steps as it searches for prey. It is fairly easy to distinguish juveniles from adults by looking at their heads. The juveniles have an all dark head; the adults have a white crown. They are colonial nesters. They nest in tall trees away from human disturbance. I've seen them around the Binnekill. I've also been on an island in Maine that has around 150 pair of Great Blue Heron.

- James L. Taft
AKA Captain Eagle Eyes

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The Stockade Spy

Editor
Sylvia Briber 377-0469
23 Washington Avenue

Staff
Gerald Plante
Lidia Pasamanick
Malcolm Willison

Ads
Lisa Perl

Finance
Janie Hayner 374-6216
6 Front Street

**See you in
September!**

The Spy Staff

Waste Collection Dates			
May	June	July	August
Mon., May 1	Tues., June 6	Wed., July 4	Wed., Aug. 2
Mon., May 8	Tues., June 13	Wed., July 12	Wed., Aug. 9
Mon., May 15	Tues., June 20	Wed., July 19	Wed., Aug. 1
Mon., May 22	Tues., June 27	Wed., July 26	Wed., Aug. 23
Tues., May 30			Wed., Aug. 30

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

Congratulations to Debbie & Harold Schneiderwind of Union St. on the birth of their daughter, Sarah Mae, 20" long!

Bravos to Kimberly Hawkey of Front Street on performing in the Civic Players *Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has the role of "Cobweb," one of the fairies. In addition to being the Producer/Director of this play, Joe Fava is also Co-set Designer.

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