

THE STOCKADE SPY



October 2022

Published by The Stockade Association

historicstockade.org

Vol. 64 No. 2

Candlelight Tours are BACK!

Wednesday,
Thursday and Friday
evenings in October

Join us for spooky tales of Schenectady's macabre past! We'll explore the historic Stockade after dark, and discover the neighborhood's most blood-curdling stories of spirits, murders, and ghouls. Choose either the "Colonial Hauntings" or "Ghostly Victorian" tour. The two tours feature different stories from different periods of Stockade history, and venture through different parts of the neighborhood.

Pre-registration required! Tickets are \$13 at schenectadyhistorical.org/programs

or by phone at: (518) 374-0263

Space is very limited & tours sell out fast!
Don't miss out - get your tickets now!
Bring a flashlight; wear sturdy shoes.

Tours leave from Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue on:

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Thursdays, October 13, 20, & 27

Fridays, October 14, 21, & 28

**Colonial Hauntings & Ghostly Victorian tours
leave at 6:30 and 7:30pm**

Co-sponsored by Schenectady County Historical Society and Schenectady Heritage Foundation. Proceeds support Historical Society programs and Schenectady Heritage Foundation's incentive grants.



Photo by Chris White



2022 ELECTION - Vote Early, Absentee or In-person...

The Schenectady County Board of Elections has all the information you need to plan your vote!

Online: schenectadycounty.com/boe

Phone: (518) 377-2469

In person: 2696 Hamburg St, Schenectady, NY 12303

You must be registered to vote! Check your registration status at the County website (link to **NYS Board of Elections**). To register (citizens 18 & over), download an application and submit it by **October 14, 2022**.

Three ways to vote:

1. Early in-person voting, Oct. 29 - Nov. 6
2. Submit absentee ballot application; vote by absentee ballot
3. In-person on Election Day at your polling place.

Early In-person Voting, Oct. 29 - Nov. 6 at 4 locations:

Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library, South Schenectady Fire Department, Glenville Senior Center, Niskayuna Town Hall. Go to: schenectadycounty.com/earlyvoting for addresses and times. The voting process is the same as Election Day.

Absentee voting: Check qualifications at the County website. Complete a ballot request online or call for an application. Then, complete and sign your absentee ballot, and mail early with the correct postage. Check your ballot status on the county website.

IN-PERSON ELECTION DAY VOTING NOVEMBER 8, 6AM - 9PM

District 1 - vote at Ten Eyck Apartments, 375 Broadway. Residents living on the south side of Union St. (even house numbers) or the east side of Washington Ave., from State St. to Union St.

District 2 - All other Stockade residents vote at St. George's Church Great Hall, N. Ferry St.

Voters who request an absentee ballot can choose to vote in person (early or day of) instead.

**Regardless how you choose to vote in 2022,
make your plan and VOTE!**



PLAN YOUR VOTE



**SAVE THE
DATES**

Stockade Ass'n Social Hour - Mondays, 3pm, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, at Arthur's Market
Stockade Association Board Meeting - Monday, Oct. 3, 7pm. Contact Suzanne Unger at suzanne.unger@gmail.com if you would like to observe a board meeting.
Secret Stockade Tour - Wednesday, Oct. 5, 10am. Tickets: schenectadyhistorical.org
Candlelight Tours - Wednesdays - Fridays, Oct. 12-28. Tickets: schenectadyhistorical.org
Election Day - Tuesday, November 8. See article above.
Stockade Association General meeting - Thurs, Nov. 17. Start time: 6:30pm. See pg. 2
Stockade-athon - Sunday, November 13. Info: <https://stockadeathon.com/>

**November Spy Deadline
OCTOBER 15
Please email editor:
sylviebriber@gmail.com**

President's Message - Suzy Unger

We just wrapped up a very busy month. Our 58th Walkabout was a huge success. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible. We needed lots of help; taking tickets, being house docents, not to mention house owners, and committee members. Sylvie Briber does a wonderful job organizing our Walkabouts and we owe her a big "thank you" for all her hard work. I would also like to recognize committee members: Gloria Kishton, who did all the graphic design, especially the ticket booklet. Colleen Macaulay helped with publicity and designed our unique "cockades." Victoria Gatta brought a wealth of knowledge and energy to our effort. Carol DeLaMarter organized the ticket sellers. Dianne Crozier, Chris White and Bob Lemmerman worked on publicity and coordinating our wonderful sponsors. Our costumed characters also did a great job. This list reflects just some of the many volunteers who made the Walkabout possible. These annual events, the garden tour one year and the Walkabout the next, keep us afloat financially and enable us to take care of so many amenities in the Stockade.

In the midst of getting ready for the Walkabout, we remembered to renew our memberships (You can go online if you forgot! There is still time!), attended a general meeting, and an art show. Last month the city awarded \$750,000 from the city's share of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help determine and develop a new use for the old pump station. This will be the focus of much of our work in the months to come as we identify additional funding and coordinate our efforts with the city. Membership Chair Chris White was a huge help in developing our ARPA application.

Thank You!
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Photo by Gloria Kishton

Gov. Yates (Chris LaFlamme) greets his constituents during the Walkabout

See a follow-up on this year's Walkabout and more photos in next month's SPY!



November General Membership Meeting - Thursday, November 17, 2022
"The Citizens Preparedness Corps." NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). Manned by The Air and Army National Guard.
Program (for this meeting only) starts at 6:30pm. Location TBD

CUT HERE **STOCKADE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM: October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023**

To pay by credit card or electronically, send an email to historicstockade.org/membership and you will be sent a link that will allow you to pay online.

Regular Membership: Upon the payment of dues, *voting* membership is available to any individual owning property, renting, or owning a business entity within the Stockade Historic District

Affiliate Membership: Upon the payment of dues, any individual or organization not eligible for regular membership is eligible to become a *non-voting affiliate* member designated as a "Friend of The Stockade."

Dues: Individual - \$20; Household - \$25; Business owner - \$25; Affiliate - \$15.

- Individual Household Affiliate
- Non-resident Stockade property owner(s)
- One designated representative of a Stockade business entity

Circle one -
New Member Renewing Member

**Join on line at:
historicstockade.org**



Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Email(s) _____ Date _____

The *Stockade Spy* is distributed free to the neighborhood monthly and mailed to non-resident members and "Friends." Please make checks payable to: The Stockade Association
Mail to: Stockade Association Treasurer, 32 Washington Ave., Suite 100, Schenectady, NY 12305

SCHENECTADY HERITAGE FOUNDATION

- Gloria Kishton, Chair

Mid-century Modern: Feibes & Schmitt Architecture New Downtown Walking Tour

Schenectady Heritage Foundation is partnering with Schenectady County Historical Society to offer a new walking tour in downtown Schenectady focusing on the mid- to late 20th-century modern architecture designed by Feibes & Schmitt Architects between 1963 and 1991.

The tour will stop at five downtown buildings including MiSci Museum; Schenectady County Correctional Facility; Schenectady Fire Headquarters; Karen B. Johnson Public Library; and Schenectady Police Headquarters. A guide will accompany groups with commentary on each building. The tour narrative and a tribute brochure (available to attendees) was written by Paul Turner, Professor of Architectural History (Emeritus) at Stanford University, and a close life-

long friend of the architects.

The architecture of this period includes different innovations, developments and competing schools

of thought. Frank Lloyd Wright was still a major influence with his principles of "organic" architecture and the use of natural materials. The International Style, with origins in Europe, is seen in the steel and glass buildings of Mies van der Rohe, which influenced urban and corporate buildings in the US. Another influential figure was the French architect Le Corbusier, whose work included the dramatic use of reinforced-concrete forms, and contributed to the style "Brutalism."

The work of Feibes & Schmitt doesn't fit neatly into any of these developments or styles. Their guiding principles were functionalism and contextualism. They were pragmatic, approaching each commission on its own terms, responding to its functional needs and context, but frequently using beautiful or striking forms to dramatic effect. These traits and influences can be seen, in various ways, in all of Feibes & Schmitt's downtown Schenectady buildings.

Mid-century Modern: Feibes & Schmitt Architecture A New Downtown Walking Tour

Tickets - \$13

<https://schenectadyhistorical.org/events/>

The tour meets at MiSci, 15 Museum Dr., Sch'dy, NY 12308

Stockade Association Board Meeting Summary September 8, 2022

Zakhar Berkovitz, Daniel O'Neill, James Addison, Keith Dayer, Donna Doll, Susan DuFour, Colleen Macaulay, Suzy Unger and Carol DeLaMarter attended the meeting at the Stockade Inn. The board reviewed the financial report and discussed the budget for the next fiscal year. The board also discussed the September membership drive, plans for the Walkabout, safety issues, the installation of new benches, new funding for the old pump station, landscaping in the park, odors near the new pump station and tree maintenance plans. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

3

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(matthewmierski@gmail.com). It would be our delight!

Search for "First Presbyterian Church Schenectady" on YouTube.
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Dine-In or Take it To Go Every Wednesday!

We're back! Stop by 8 N Church St (First Reformed Church Schenectady) for a fabulous lunch - have a seat or take it to-go every Wednesday from 12 to 1. Plant-based options are available and donations are happily accepted.

What's Up in the Atrium
at First Reformed Church of Schenectady
- Gay Doolittle, Art Committee

This recurring and ever changing Atrium art display added its newest pieces in time for the Stockade Walkabout.

Local Stockade artists such as sculptor, Steve Kowalski, water colorist, Bob Laper of Broken Art Studio and Holly Van Voast, a Stockade resident whose family were early settlers here, are featured, as well as several pieces by FRC members, Kitty Trimarco and Lisa Etkin. Two paintings of the Stockade from the Stockade Association collection are also on display.

Many of you may remember Pat Goodale when she and her family lived in Niskayuna and attended FRC. Pat's fine arts master's thesis was a silk screened depiction of twelve doors from the Stockade. We are grateful that her family is willing to let us show this intricate, A+ work of art, as dearly missed Pat passed away a couple of years ago.

Some of you may have attended the most recent Stockade Art Show. Vince Forte, Jr. was exhibiting and kindly loaned us three of his black and white digital paintings of the Stockade.

And lastly is an award winning art quilt of "Lawrence the Indian" like you've never seen him before. Fabric artist, Meg Dalton, was also exhibiting at this year's Stockade Art Show and everyone was awestruck by her work, including the judges.

Neighbors who want to visit Art in the Atrium can stop by on any Wednesday, or Sunday for Jazz Vespers at 5pm. Other times, ring the bell at the church entrance at 12 N. Church St. and church staff will greet and give you access. This is a varied, mixed media, Stockade-inspired show which we hope you will all enjoy.



Photo by Gloria Kishton

First Reformed Church parishioners Gay Dolittle and Bill Brooks undertake the semi-annual weed-ing of the "green roof" near the church's Atrium.

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Stockade Beautification - Jac Solghan, Chair

The Beautification Committee executed a three-phased approach to this year's undertakings. The first was to assess the current conditions of the common areas surrounding the Stockade. We reviewed previous growing plans and implemented new planting schemes based upon environmental and logistical restraints. This included, but was not limited to, refurbishing the areas surrounding the Pump Station,



Photo by Gloria Kishton

pruning the lilac beds, and the cleaning of undergrowth among certain plantings throughout the riverfront park area. After the assessment, the team evaluated a selection of viable plantings, along with current potential beddings. This was done in conjunction with the clearing of weeds and tree overgrowth. Once

these objectives were met, our team reestablished walking paths within these collective areas. Then with city-supplied mulching materials and locally procured seedling donations and mature plantings from various neighborhood benefactors came the implementation of newly established beds.

The beautification team, for the reestablishment of the Riverside Lookout Point areas, consisted of Richard Quick, Vincent Giammattei, James Addison, Jared Shortmeier and Michelle McColl. Thank you for all for the countless hours and manpower it took to reconstruct these scenic points in the Stockade.

Thank you to Ms. Joanne Mikalson for her planting expertise and support with the planting donations, and acting as a liaison between the beautification committee and the city.

A humbled thanks to Emmanuel and Olivia Maillet, Sylvie Briber, Gloria Kishton, Lynn Carman, Stephanie Legere, Robert Laper, Michelle McColl and Haley Priebe for their beautiful and generous seedling donations – thus creating a potential "Stockade Plant Donation and Relocation Venue."

A huge thank you to a private benefactor for their very generous perennial plantings donation which supported this year's Ingersoll Ave. mission.

Now that the beds have been landscaped, next year they will be ready for some major plantings, which will include the newly purchased free-standing planters.

Stockade Safety LIGHT UP THE STOCKADE!

Keep your front and back porch lights on for your safety and for nighttime walkers.



The Open Door - October Events

- Sat. Oct. 1, 1-2:30 Jon Sorensen signs *One Mommy was a Commie*
- Sat Oct. 15, 1-2:30 Joseph Bruchac signs *A Year of Moons: Stories from the Adirondack Foothills*
- Sun. Oct. 16, 12-1:30 Jacqueline Boulden signs *Her Past Can't Wait*.
- Sat. Oct. 22, 1-2:30 Logan Kline signs *Bringing Fire*.
- Sun. Oct. 23, 12-1:30, Susan Richmond signs *Bioblitz*
- Sat, Oct. 29, 1-2:30, Greg Wolos signs *Green Ray and other Stories*

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The Revolutionists by Lauren Gunderson
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Dinner with Friends by Donald Margulies
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GJW 6-16-1975

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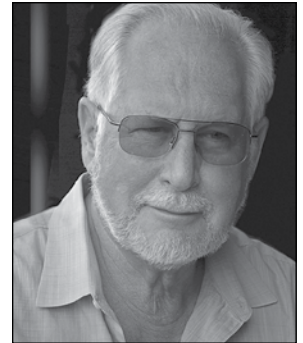
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Remembering Frank Gilmore

Frank Gilmore Stockade Resident of nineteen years on Washington Avenue passed away on May 25th, 2022.

Renowned architect, gifted painter who possessed an unerring eye for beauty. His magnificent touch is all over the Capital Region and beyond including the Stockade, a place he loved and was his home.



As a young man while working for the Mayor in lower Manhattan he went to Iran to design a City for the Shah. From the Rensselaer train station, the Albany Airport to the columns at the entrance to Riverside Park, and most recently the pump station, his artistry and vast knowledge of preservation is forever present. During the warm season you could see him on his porch greeting and listening always with great interest to passersby.

There have been many heartwarming beautiful comments to me, but the following, written to me by a great lady and friend, stands out in my mind.

"To say this man was one of a kind does not do him justice. A true gentleman, a visionary, immensely talented and fiercely passionate, May his fantastic light shine down and bless us in all creative and entrepreneurial adventures we take on. Frank wouldn't have it any other way."

His Wife and Love,
Mary D'Alessandro-Gilmore

STOCKADE FURRY FRIENDS

PHOTO STORY BY THOMAS HALSEY PALMER



The Spy profiles Stockade pets and their families. To be featured, text or call Cindy Wolf at 443-386-5959. On Instagram: @tails@the-stockade.

'Supermodel' of North St.

PANTS, 5, strikes a regal pose to passers-by heading to Riverside Park. Michelle Nivins says her domestic short-hair with a swirled tabby pattern is a "supermodel" — but with an attitude. Pants likes to "redecorate" their home frequently by clawing curtains and breaking antiques from 1840 to 1865. Most of all, he loves children and adults. 🐾

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As was reported in the news, on Saturday, September 17, **James Addison** died in an accident with his scull on the Mohawk River.

James and his partner Jared moved to the Stockade in 2019. By 2021 he had been elected to the Stockade Association Board of Directors and was well along with the restoration of the spectacular west gardens in Riverside Park. In the short time he lived here, James made lasting contributions to the Stockade.

As a retired Naval officer and corporate executive, James generously shared his knowledge, skills and experience with our neighborhood. I will miss the perspective and expertise he brought to our board of directors. We will all miss him as a leader and a friend in our community.

On behalf of the Stockade Association, I extend our deepest condolences to Jared and all of James' family.

- *Suzy Unger, Stockade Association President*

Condolences to the family of **David Cummings**, a long time Stockade resident on Union St., on his passing on Sept. 2.

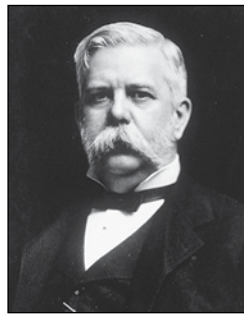
Condolences to the family of **Lisa Orsini** and her mother **Elizabeth Orsini**, who lived at the corner of Ferry and Green Streets. Lisa passed away on August 24 and her mother, 108, passed away 5 weeks earlier.

There will be a memorial service for former neighbor, **Lydia Eis** on Saturday, October 29, at 10:30am at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady, 12308. Lydia lived a very interesting life, living many years on Front Street in the cooperative opposite Arthur's terrace. She was a wonderful ambassador for the Stockade, welcoming new neighbors and celebrating them in the Spy.

GEORGE WESTINGHOUSE, JR'S 176TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**October 6 at 5pm
Corner of Erie Blvd. & S. Ferry St.**

Celebrate George and his newly installed granite pedestal! (The statue, being done by Penn Yann artist Dexter Benedict, isn't ready to be unveiled yet, but the celebration will go on.) Mayor Gary McCarthy and Metroplex Development Authority Chairman, Ray Gillen will speak, along with a surprise guest! Could it be Westinghouse himself???



Westinghouse was the inventor of the air brake in 1869 and he was a big part of Schenectady's motto: "The City that Lights and Hauls the World!" His family home was in Schenectady, right where Liberty Park is today.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck will perform period music and refreshments will be offered. (Rain location: Wolff's Biergarten)

Birds of the Stockade

- *Jamie Taft (AKA Captain Eagle Eyes)*

With a lot of birds in the Stockade, some will switch from insects to fruit, while others passing through will keep on going. Most birds have hollow bones. The Common Loon has semi-solid bones. They will use different coloration for camouflage to deter predators.



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The Stockade Spy

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The Stockade Spy was founded in 1961 by James D.J. Schmitt. Designed by Werner L. Feibes. First Editor: Barrie Covert.

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Emergency 911
 Non-emergency (518) 630-0911
 Code enforcement (518) 382-5050
 Animal control voicemail (518) 382-5200, ext. 5655
 City website: cityofscheneectady.com



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Planning on Changes to a Historic District Property?

Special rules apply! Questions? Call Matt Smith at City Hall at (518) 382-5147, or email: msmith@scheneectadyny.gov.

Google Group for Stockade Neighbors

Join the new Stockade Google group! Join by going to <https://groups.google.com/g/historic-stockade> and clicking "ask to join," or email administrator Mary Zawacki directly at: zawacki.mm@gmail.com.

Trees of the Stockade

- Joe White

The Sassafras Tree

(sassafras albidum)

A unique tree that has three different type leaves: a tri-lobed leaf, an elliptical leaf and one that looks like an oven mitt.

The light brown bark consists of many stalks with dark green shiny leaves. If one scrapes the stem it emits a lemon-like spicy smell. It was once used by early American settlers to supply "oil of sassafras" for perfuming soaps - one of our first exports. It's also used in making tea and thickening Creole foods like Gumbo.

In autumn it turns a striking reddish purple.

Look for this bush-like tree along Riverside Park adjacent to the skateboard area and check out its unusual leaf structure.


Next time: The Ginkgo Biloba Tree.



OCTOBER WASTE COLLECTION DATES

THUR, OCT. 6; MON, OCT. 10; THUR, OCT. 14, 21, & 28

Single Stream Recycling: Put all recyclable material into one container for collection. YARD WASTE must be in brown yard waste bags; same day as your regular pick up. Pick up starts 6:15am. Put waste to curb the day before, after 2pm. Please remove emptied containers promptly. Questions? visit: www.cityofscheneectady.com, click on "services," or call the hotline at (518) 382-5144.



City of Schenectady
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 City Council Member

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