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## STOCKADE SPY

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Tidings  
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## Editor's letter

Dear readers,

For over eight years I have written one of these letters with each issue of the SPY. It has been an opportunity to talk with you about Stockade problems and joys, as well as sometimes inserting some of my own editorial comments, both personal and general; I have found much pleasure in this, especially when I met some of you and received your supportive responses -- usually in person rather than in letters. This led me to believe that this column was more of a dialogue than a monologue, which is what I had always hoped.

For the past few months I have felt the time had arrived when I pass on the position of editor to another Stockade resident, perhaps one who has been waiting for the occasion to become involved in our community paper. As this feeling became stronger, and while I was out of the country and able to think without any deadlines or requests, I decided to send Jack Zegger my resignation upon my return. I have done this. I know there will be regrets on my part, but when we make choices we take risks. What I will never regret is being your editor for these years. Not only have I become better acquainted with the Stockade and its residents through the SPY, I have also been privileged to work with a committed staff who have become friends. We have had a great deal of fun as we struggled with hand written bits and pieces, evolved into a paper that goes to the printers camera ready, and sometimes argued about layout or what should take precedence on the rare occasions when we had too much copy. I cannot thank Diane Buckley, Hal Thompson, and Paul Spencer enough for their steadfast support, their gustatory contributions to our meetings, and, most of all for the camaraderie that has kept us going all these years. Also to Eileen Camasso who is currently our Business Manager and doing a fine job. Others who have been important to me are Dawson Van Eps, Wendy and Noel Espina, and Mike Powell. The SPY could never have endured without any one of them. Thanks too to the many who have delivered the SPY each month, through snow, sleet, and sun. Pete Polachek has been great in organizing them over the last few years, as well as letting Arthur's be a place where one could pick up an extra copy as needed.

So, the old order passes, and if any of you would like to become involved in this interesting and rewarding experience, call Jack Zegger at 393-7669. He is looking to fill several positions on the paper. I, and some of the staff, decided that by leaving after the May issue is complete, he would have several months to consider what direction he would take. We wish good luck to whoever replaces us, and say once more, it can be a wonderful and joyful experience, one we will never forget.

Thanks to all of you too. I will miss you.

Michaela

## President's Corner

"Spring's Here:" The sun seems noticeably brighter and warmer, the days longer, and the ice is out of the Mohawk River. Unfortunately, the sidewalk snowmelt also reveals several months of accumulated leaves, dirt, and litter which will require cleanup. It is also time for home improvement efforts such as painting, sidewalk repair and landscaping. Stockaders should take advantage of the special incentives for both sidewalk repair and outside painting [December 1995 SPY] and the recently announced retree program [March 1996 SPY]. And keep in mind the three gardening prizes to be awarded to those residents whose gardens improve the esthetics of the Stockade.

The City of Schenectady has requested Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] funds to cover repair and cleanup costs from the January storm and flood. Some funds have been included for Riverside Park recovery. Also, there still may be some grading work needed to complete last fall's water distribution installation in the Park. Therefore, it's premature at this time to schedule our annual Riverside Park cleanup in conjunction with the Parks Department (for Upper Erie Boulevard cleanup with Schenectady 2000, see Sauer article. If you did not sign up at the March General Meeting and would like to participate, please call me).

At a February 28, 1996 joint meeting of the Schenectady City Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Van Dyck Restaurant owners received site plan approval and use and area variance approvals for proposed changes to the building and backyard [fermentation pavilion]. This clears the way for preparation of final drawings; it is expected that renovation and construction will start by summer.

The Stockade Association was requested by the City to provide a list of qualified candidates to serve on the Schenectady Historic Commission. We submitted the names, listed alphabetically, of Paul Lefebvre, Barbara Panetta Sauer, and Robert Woods. I commend the candidates for their willingness to serve on this important municipal body. Mayor Jurczynski will make the final selection sometime this spring.

**Preservation Watch:** The number of cosponsors of legislation that would provide a 20 percent tax credit for expenditures for historic home rehabilitation now stands at 58 in the House and 8 in the Senate. The

## From Helen Witts

Whether you are a homeowner or a tenant this affects you. If you plan to live in your present home for at least a year and your street was affected by the Mohawk River's flooding in January but you were not called by the Telephone Communication Network, call Helen Witts at 346-5745. If you are not listed in the current phone directory, or have an unlisted number, you will not be called. You must give your number in order flood information to be passed on to you. Helen Witts see that you are added to the list of those to be called in case of any future flood emergency. Again, call Helen at 346-5745 and give her your number.

## Stockade Association Board Meeting

March 12, 1996

### Agenda

1. Secretary's Minutes of February 6, 1996
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Discussion of actions regarding 210 Union Street Plan
4. SPY staff search
5. Van Dyck Restaurant update
6. Discussion of Tree Planting Plan, Park cleanup
7. Nominating Committee for May Elections
8. Possible Sidewalk Sale

legislation is called the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act [Historic Preservation, January/February 1996].

Each year the National Historic Trust lists America's eleven most endangered historic places. According to President Richard Moe "the list represents concepts as well as places. It's ... an educational tool to help people understand preservation and...we try to list a variety of sites in different parts of the country with different types of threats". The 1995 list included historic structures, a neighborhood, historic districts, an island, a parkway, a four state area of cultural ruins, and a vanishing way of life. In 1993 the Trust listed the entire state of Vermont on its list. Perhaps Downtown Schenectady should be listed as an endangered area for 1996!

**Union College Boat House Update:** A recent [March 1, 1996] article in The Daily Gazette noted that the proposed Union College Boathouse at the rear of Front Street Park had hit a snag. It was reported that last fall the College contacted Michael Brockbank, the City's Chief Attorney, regarding terms for using the Park. The City wants to own and maintain the Boathouse. The College desires a 10 year lease on the property, while the City could only agree to an annual lease. The cost of the project is estimated at about \$200,000, but the City could agree to pay back a portion of the cost if Union College canceled or did not renew the lease.

The Stockade and East Front Street Associations have supported the project since it was first proposed as a potential benefit to the community. The Park would be improved for off-street parking and by additional lighting and surveillance. The Boathouse would be built at the 100 year flood level [231 feet] which would virtually eliminate the threat of flood damage. This cannot be said for the already completed Gateway Landing Platform [218 feet] at the head of the Binnekil which recently suffered damage and loss of the unanchored Gazebo.

The two neighborhood Associations have requested the City to review this matter, and hope to come to some resolution with Union College favorable to the community.

Jack Zegger

## Schenectady Heritage Foundation

Heritage is asking for nominations for the Schenectady Restoration Awards. These are given each year to projects representing the best of historic building restoration in Schenectady County.

Seven nominations have already been received for consideration: four in the Stockade and one each from the Union Triangle Historic District, the Union corridor Historic District, and the Village of Scotia. **Deadline for nominations is April 24, 1996.**

Nominations may be sent to James Schmitt, Chair, Schenectady Heritage Foundation, 217 Union Street. Please include building name, address, dates of construction and restoration, owner's name and telephone.

The Awards will be presented at the Sixth Annual Heritage Awards Ceremony at City Rotunda during National Historic Preservation Week in May.

Jim Schmitt

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## Tidings

Hooray, April is here and regardless of what our editor says, it isn't all cruel! When T.S. Eliot wrote that April was the cruellest month, he was in a bad mood, and that's no way to usher in our promise of spring -- so come on, let's look at the better side of this month's possibly fickle behavior. It could be great!

At the General Meeting on March 21, 1996, Chief Pardi introduced our new Bike Officer, Joe Lazzari. He is very energetic, congenial, and interested in getting to know everyone. His voice mail number (Voice Mail) is (518) 341-5189. Joe's partner, who is on duty when Joe is off, is Michael Goldman (?). They both have many other duties, especially working on programs for youths, so don't expect to see them at all hours around the Stockade. While we will miss Mike White, we wish him all the best in his new assignment.

Joann Perko of Front Street is back from several months in St. Augustine in Florida. She is one of our intrepid Stockaders who drove there and back, encountering a few obstacles, but arriving safe and sound. It will be good to see her cheerful face again, and know that she will be busy helping to plant and care for shrubs and flowers to brighten the sidewalk in front of 137. Ruth and Jens Brondel took their canoe to Florida where they enjoyed the Okefenokee Swamp and Ocala Park. They also had a change of pace and returned recently from a skiing trip on the frozen lakes and glaciers of Jasper and Banff National Parks in Alberta, Canada. They saw elk walking on the main streets of Banff where it is illegal to kill them. Also, snowmobiles are forbidden, a real time warp. Our roving editor, Michaela French was in Arizona to visit her daughter, and said they had what they called a snow storm while she was there! Between us north easters, it was just a dusting! However she said it made the fantastic mountain views even more dramatic.

On the better late than never list we are pleased to announce the arrival, just before Christmas, of Samuel McCoy Bartlett, son of Mike and Deb Bartlett of Washington Avenue. No way they will be tied down by this happy addition, he has already been on Caribbean vacation with them! From what we hear young Samuel is the spitting image of his father. Congratulations Mike and Deb!

That's all I have for this month -- send any contributions to us for May by the deadline of April 19, 1996. Remember May will be the last issue until September.

As you may have heard, Paul and I have been wanting to resign from our work on the SPY. We have enjoyed it, but after so many years there comes a time when enough is enough. Paul is forever wanting to play volleyball or go horseback riding, so he will not feel hampered on Sunday mornings (when we usually do our proofing and layouts).



Canoe or Ski? The adventurous try both!

## Boulevard Task Force Modifies Plans=

Cooperation between Schenectady 2000's Upper Erie Boulevard Task Force and the Stockade Association has resulted in a change in the plans for improving those portions adjoining the Stockade. Last year the Task Force consulted the Association to discuss plans for Erie Boulevard. At that time the proposal was to paint a mural on the railroad embankment wall running from Union Street to Liberty Street across the Amtrak parking lot. This plan has been modified to fulfill the Association request to use natural plantings and vines in place of the mural. The recommendation was made because of concern about vandalism. The wall will be repainted prior to any plantings.

The Task Force, formed in 1993, consists of Steve Balsler, President of PTI, Chair; Judy Brodeur and Alan Holmes, PTI, are Corporate Liaisons; Winnie Wilhelm, Stockade Travel, is Community Leader. The first major clean-up of Erie Boulevard was in spring 1994. In October 1994 landscaping to the Amtrak lot was completed. Peter Loyola, a landscape architect with Continental Placer in Albany, donated his services. Callanan Industries did the curbing, and Frank Santoro provided the excavation and back filling, free of charge. Christman Nurseries, Schenectady Seed Company, Van Curler Greenhouses and Pedrick's donated plantings. Many Task Force volunteers provided the labor. The fall of 1996 there are plans to paint the North Jay Street railroad bridge. The Task Force has also expressed interest in helping to improve the Van Dyck Parking lot.

Stockaders can show their appreciation by donating time and labor to the upcoming cleanups scheduled for April 17, 27, and May 15. Help is also needed for the Amtrak wall re-landscaping on May 18 and 19. Watch for the "Special Events" section of the SPY for details each month. For further information contact Judy Brodeur at 395-5013 or Kim Perone at 374-2000.

Barbara Sauer

## Call for Submissions

Remember that after the May issue there is no SPY until September. So please send in news of summer events for the May issue.

As always we are happy to receive your comments, news, literary works, etc. Without them the Spy is dead! Just a few reminders, along with my thanks.

All contributions must be received by Friday, April 19, for publication in the May 1996 issue. Please be sure they are typed, double spaced, signed with the writer's name, address, and phone included. You may mail materials to Riverside Condos, 137 Front Street, #105, clearly marked for the Spy editor, or leave them in the SPY basket in the open foyer in back of the building. Thank you for your cooperation. In case of undue hardship in getting information typed, we will consider clearly written letters (not articles). We would appreciate finding your submission on an MS-DOS disk in WordPerfect or ASCII format, so we don't have to typeset. Disks and any original material will be returned upon request; otherwise no responsibility for them is taken by the Spy staff.

# L'etoile

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## A concert to remember

On Sunday, March 17, 1996, Stockaders were treated to a free concert at the Riverside Condominiums. The program was arranged by John Aasmundstad. We were privileged to hear Adelina Krivosheina who is the soloist (piano) in the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra's April concert.

John is a retired member of the first clarinet section of the United States Air Force Band in Washington, DC. He and Adelina were partners in Mozart's "Clarinet Concerto" and "Time Pieces for Clarinet and Piano" by Robert Muczynski.

Ms. Krivosheina and her son, Alex, a graduate student in bassoon performance at Yale University, were musical partners in Weber's "Concerto for Bassoon." Another featured soloist, Jason Sundram -- who is Concertmaster of the Empire State Youth Orchestra, performed a Sonata for Solo Violin, by J.S. Bach, and a Sonata for Solo Violin by Ysay.

Jim Metz, co-owner of Cat Trax Recording on Green Street, was responsible for making a professional master tape of the concert.

All performances gave the audience great pleasure, and since I am far from understanding the finer points of musical performance I can say no more about that. However, I can say that Ms. Krivosheina spoke to us about her experiences in the Russian labor camps where she lost members of her family, and about the music of Shostakovich (1906-1975). She said that this much misunderstood composer was writing for all those who suffered in the camps; then she played his "Prelude and Fugue in D b M." Listening to this piece after hearing her describe what it meant to her was a powerful experience, emotionally and musically.

Thank you John for giving us this opportunity.

RMF

## Lights are out?

Good lighting is an important crime deterrent and safety factor. If there is a street light in your area with an erratic performance, or completely out -- do this:

Call Schenectady Department of Engineering -- 382-5082. They will notify Niagara Mohawk. The response is usually excellent, but be persistent if nothing is done.

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(Guests receive calls on 370-5972.)

## Environmental Notes

In 1993 the Legislature established the Environmental Protection Fund. This was to assist programs such as landfill closure, local recycling, and open space acquisition. Governor Pataki proposed to put \$115 million in the fund this year, an apparently good sign. However, much of this money is earmarked to fund costs of compliance by state agencies, a controversial "brown-fields" cleanup program, and salaries of people administering grant programs (\$3 to \$4 million). Pataki also wants to put into the general fund any money not spent. How can there be any left if the real objectives are met? Doesn't sound much like parks, local recycling and open space (Sierra Atlantic, Winter 1996).

Earth Day Lobby Day is April 22, 1996. Last year it attracted 600 volunteers, and more are needed for this year. For those who have not lobbied before, there is a thorough orientation session in the morning. Call 426-9144.

Just a thought: who or what is an endangered species? Scoff about the butterflies, the owls, and the salmon, nod wisely about the elephants, the buffalo, and the whales, but what do any of these really mean to us? Perhaps that we are the endangered species, because once the ecosystem that has supported our planet for millions of years is destroyed, do you really think DNA tomatoes will save us? The Internet may help us to find esoteric subjects, even those no longer in existence, but an image on a screen will hardly sustain our need for pure air and water. What is it to be for our grandchildren? Already we pollute daily, even as we commute daily, for those two actions are inextricably intertwined. Do I therefore walk whenever I can? No, I am as guilty as the thousands on the Thruway, rushing to get nowhere as fast as I can. I would like the choice of a transportation system and hope I would use it -- I do when in New York City -- which is hardly an example of a clean environment though. So many things we have allowed to become part of our lives, killing off wildlife and ultimately killing those who succeed us, both in our bloodline and globally. There is no political division in what we do, only humans who think beyond today and those who can only think of monetary profit. I searched for positive comments for this issue of the SPY, but seem only to find them occasionally, as I did last month. Perhaps . . .

RMF

## Special Events

April 1996

### Drawings, Paintings & Carvings of George Weinheimer

First Unitarian Church, 1221 Wendell Avenue  
Exhibit runs through April 30th.

April 12, 13, 14

### Royal Palace Circus

Schenectady Armory 125 Washington Avenue  
377-8581

April 17

### Upper Erie Blvd. Task Force

Noon: Mini clean-up -- sign in at Power Technologies Inc. (PTI)

### Upper Erie Blvd. Task Force

April 27

9 a.m. -- noon Spring Clean-up -- sign in at PTI

Possible replanting on this day.

May and September events will be posted in future SPY issues.

April 21

### Schenectady Symphony Orchestra's

Final Concert of the Season, 3 p.m., Sunday at Proctor's Theatre.

Der Rosenkavalier Suite, Strauss

Adelina Krivosheina is the soloist for --  
Konzertstück for Piano, Weber, and  
Piano Concerto No. 1, Prokofieff.

Pines of Rome, Respighi

Box Office 346-6204

Best Wishes To All  
Our Neighbors In  
The Stockade



## April Waste Collection Dates

April 3	Wednesday
April 10	Wednesday
April 17	Wednesday
April 24	Wednesday
May 1	Wednesday

\*Waste Collection Pickup Starts at 6:15 a.m.

\*Don't put waste on the curb before 7:00 p.m. the day before.

Remember to recycle:

Green, clear and brown bottles and jars; plastic bottles with necks, metal cans and clean drink boxes & juice/milk cartons should be placed into a recycling container marked "Container Product."

Separate magazines, newspaper, brown paper (grocery bags), corrugated cardboard, junk mail, catalogs and telephone books and place into a recycling container marked "Paper Product."

Please note: County residents can now recycle any type of gray cardboard, known as boxboard, from cereal and cookie boxes to paper towel tubes. The material, boxboard, will be accepted at recycling centers throughout the county. City residents who want to recycle boxboard also can place it curbside with their other recyclable materials.

For answers to recycling questions call the Recycling Hotline 382-5144.

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April 21, 1996 • Sunday, 3 p.m.  
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Der Rosenkavalier Suite .....	Strauss
Konzertstück for Piano .....	Weber
<i>Adelina Krivosheina, soloist</i>	
Piano Concerto No. 1 .....	Prokofieff
<i>Adelina Krivosheina, soloist</i>	
Pines of Rome .....	Respighi

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