

THE STOCKADE SPY



November 1997

Published by the Stockade Association

Vol. 39 No. 3

Stockade Calendar

Stockade Association
General Meeting
Sean D. O'Brian
City Council Member
will speak on city issues
Thurs., Nov. 13
Social 7 PM Meeting 7:30

Stockade Tree Lighting
Sunday, Dec. 7, 5:00 PM

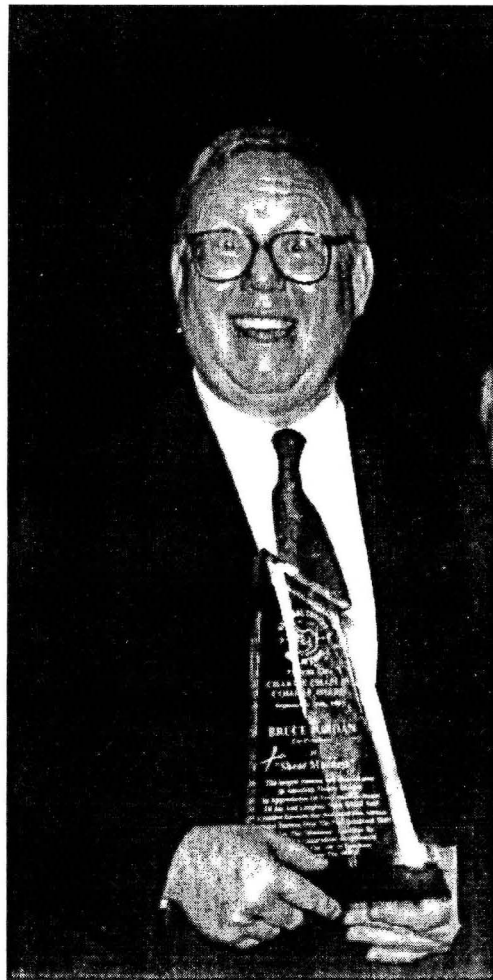
Election Day
Get Out and Vote!
Tues., Nov. 4

Ziti Dinner with meatballs
salad, coffee, dessert
\$6 adults, \$4 children
Take out available
Nov. 4, 4-8 PM
Holy Cross Church
College Street

"Schindler's List:
A Survivor Celebrates
Life"
Speaker, Zev Kedem
Thurs., Nov. 6, 7 PM
SCCC Community
Auditorium

December Spy Deadline
November 15

The "Boy Next Door"



One of the Stockade's great attractions is the diversity of its population. We have residents of all ages, occupations, backgrounds and lifestyles. One of those neighbors is an actor director entrepreneur and producer of world renown. Bruce Jordan grew up in Amityville, Long Island and traveled far and wide before settling into his charming house on Ferry Street.

Bruce graduated from GENESEO with a degree in Speech and Theatre and plunged right into producing plays. While heading the Speech and Theatre Department of the Glens Falls Schools he founded the River Bend Players, later to become the Lake George Dinner Theatre, which this year is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary.

In his high school classes in Glens Falls, Bruce had many gifted students who often asked him how to get started in show-business. He decided to find out for himself and in 1970 took a leave of absence and went to New York, planning to return in a year to be able to give his students practical advice. It was the beginning of a new career.

Bruce found he was the perfect "boy next door" character actor - open face, freckles,

(continued on page 2)

Walkabout Memories

The 1997 Walkabout was a great success thanks to the efforts of many Stockaders and the greater community who helped out in so many ways to make this event memorable, from the home and apartment owners who graciously opened their houses, to all the guides in all the buildings, to all the ticket sellers, to The First Reformed Church for that delicious lunch of chicken croissants, to the Holy Cross Church for their White Elephant Sale and Bake Sale, (the apple pie was superior!) to the Historical Society (continued on page 6)

"Presidents' Ladies: From Martha to Hillary"

Speaker: Bill Massoth

Sat., Nov. 8, 1:30 refreshment,s 2:00 Program
Schenectady Historical Society.

Open Door Holiday Open House

Sat., Nov. 8, 1-3 PM (see page ?)

"Ellington Masterpieces in Miniature"

The Empire Jazz Orchestra

Tues., Nov. 11, 8 PM

SCCC Community Auditorium

Call 381-1232 for tickets

Graduation Recital

Guitarist Townsend Plant, SCCC Alumnus

Thurs., Nov. 13, 11:30 AM

SCCC, Begley Building, Room 160

SCCC Wind Ensemble in Concert

Friday, Nov. 14, 7:30 PM

SCCC Community Auditorium

Organ Recital of Local Composers

Dan Foster, Al Fedak, Brian Hoffman

St. George's Episcopal Church

Sun., Nov. 16, 3 PM Tea following

"Mediterranean Cuisine"

Demonstrations by Sous Chef

Bill Bradley, Culinary Institute in Sonoma, Ca.

Mon. Nov, 17, 6:30 PM

SCCC Van Curler Room, Elston Hall

"Rashomon," drama set in Medieval Japan

by SCCC Drama Department

Thurs., Nov. 20, 8 PM

Fri., Nov. 21, 2:15 PM, 8 PM Sat., Nov. 22, 8 PM

\$5, \$3 students/seniorsSCCC Auditorium

Harvest Bazaar, St. George's Episcopal Church

Sat. Nov. 22, 10 - 4 PM, High Tea, 2-4 PM

Community Thanksgiving Workshop Service

First Presbyterian Church, Nov. 27, 10:00 AM

An Old Fashioned Christmas of 1895

Small trees decorated by local nursery schools

November and December at the

Schenectady County Historical Society

("Boy Next Door" continued from page 1)

and a wonderful smile. On his 26th birthday he had two Beechnut and one Downy advertisement running. What a revelation! He could do commercials and have the time and money to do the acting and producing he loved so much. At one point he had eight national ads running at the same time.

With four English actors and three other American actors Bruce founded the GEVA Theatre which is now in its 25th season in Rochester. They do ten shows a season from October to May. Each summer he produced and acted in three plays at Lake George.

In 1978 Bruce bought the rights to a play called "Sheer Madness" written by a german psychologist. A study in perception, it was a serious, heavy play which Bruce turned into a comedy. The audience participates in the performance so that it has a different ending each night. The actors have to be able to improvise on a moment's notice.

It is always played as on the present date and takes place in the city here it is performed. And the list of cities is stunning. It has been in

Boston for 18 years at the Charles Playhouse, fifteen years in Chicago, ten years at the Kennedy Center . It ran six years in Philadelphia and seven years in Tel Aviv. There are companies in San

Francisco, Budapest, Bologna, Rome, Milan, Mexico City, Johannesburg and Iceland. It runs in London as "Scissor Happy." It is the longest running non-musical play in the U.S. and received the

Charlie Chaplin Award by the National Comedy Hall of Fame.

Through all these years Bruce came often to this area to visit friends and finally decided to make the Stockade his home. With an office in

Albany and a 57th floor condominium on Lake Michigan in Chicago, plus his travels to work with each new production, we're fortunate to

have Bruce as a neighbor a good part of each year.

Susanna Sherwood

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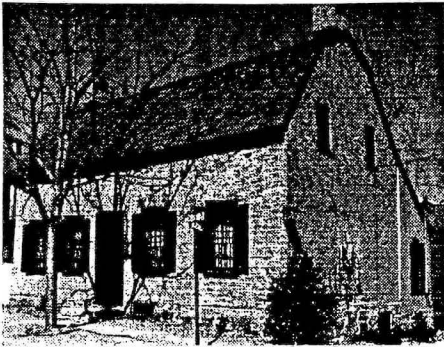
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"A Peek in the Window"



The other day, a young woman was strolling down Front Street, taking pictures of its houses - not an unusual sight in the Stockade. As I passed her, she exclaimed, "I am Dutch! I am taking pictures because this looks just like home. I can't wait to show everyone how incredible it is!" One of the houses she was photographing was 121 Front Street, a gorgeous example of Dutch Colonial architecture and the home of Linda and Richard Wegener.

The brick house at 121 Front Street, known as the Johannes Teller House, was built circa 1740 on the corner of North and Front Street. It was originally built with doors at the gambrel ends of the house, typical of urban Dutch homes. The interior was painstakingly restored in the 1970's, copying details typical of Dutch Colonial

architecture. Everything from the pine kitchen cabinets to the paint colors was chosen to replicate the Dutch style of the mid-eighteenth century. Two of the three large working fireplaces are surrounded with delft tiles. One of the most endearing rooms of the Johannes Teller House is the keeping room, a cozy space in the rear of the house which contains a box bed, a working fireplace and a beehive oven. This oven has been one of the Wegener's favorite features in their home, every winter using it to bake bread and pizza. Besides having enormous charm and character, the Johannes Teller House has spacious rooms - great for entertaining. There is ample storage and closet space, two bedrooms, two and one half bathrooms, and off-street parking. The Wegeners have even cultivated an award-winning garden. Unfortunately, the Wegeners are planning to move, and must sell their beloved house. If you love wide plank floors, double Dutch doors, and the coziness of three working fireplaces, you will love 121 Front Street. For more information on the Johannes Teller House, call Joan Bessarab at Caldwell/Banker Realty, 377-8881.

Emily Curtis

Long-Awaited Tax Break for Owners of Historic Properties

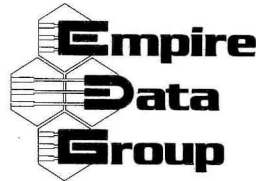
Until earlier this year, owners could expect to be saddled with higher property taxes soon after completing rehabilitation work on a historic building. Thanks to a new law vigorously promoted by the Preservation League of New York State, local governments now have the authority to offer a tax incentive to private owners of historic properties. The incentive allows a property owner to defer a tax increase for five years, and then spread the increase over an additional five years. The tax incentive is the first of its kind for historic properties in New York State. **How the Tax Incentive Works**

Both residential and commercial properties are eligible for the tax incentive, but a building must be a locally designed historic landmark or lie within a local historic district. (This includes all properties in the Stockade Historic District.) In addition, rehabilitation work planned for the property must be approved by the local landmark commission-and completed by the owner-before the tax incentive is granted.

Making Sure It Works While enactment of the tax incentive represents a huge victory for historic preservation in N.Y.S. its usefulness depends on how many municipalities decide to implement the law. The Preservation League of New York State can provide advice, as well as training workshops, for property owners and local governments to help them take advantage of this historic opportunity. The first workshop will be offered as part of the League's Annual Conference, May 1-3, 1998, in Ithaca, New York. In the meantime, please contact Kathie Ridley at the League with your questions, (607) 722-4568, or Emily Curtis at (518) 462-5658.

Schenectady Historic Commission News

At the October hearing of the Schenectady Historic Commission, the Schenectady Civic Players presented plans for their newly-acquired building at 8 South Church Street, the former Red Cross offices. They will be upgrading, painting, and replacing the basement windows. The special permit was approved to use the rear one-story portion of the building for Playhouse storage and rental of the front two rooms on the first floor for Empire State College offices.



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Thank you!

Please make checks payable to:

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Schenectady, NY 12305

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Give *The Spy* as a Holiday 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 special buildings. This idea was very popular last year and so we offer it again. All you need to do is complete the box below, make out a check for \$10 to The Stockade Association, and mail it to Dave Marhafer's address. Lidia Pasamanick, who will be doing the mailings, will send a card with the first issue indicating that you are the happy sender of *The Spy* as a gift.

Gift of *The Spy* recipient:

Name _____ Address _____

Christmas Tree Lighting

Something New - Drawing for Tree Lighter

One of the nicest events of the year is coming soon! Family, friends and neighbors will celebrate the season with each other at our Christmas Tree Lighting. We'll meet and greet, light the tree, sing carols and usher in the Christmas season together. The big question is - who will light the tree? Knowing this can be important to our young people - we will have a drawing at the November 13th General Meeting of the Stockade Association. To be eligible for the drawing: 1. Parent must be present at the meeting to submit his/her child's name. 2. Parent must be a paid up member of the

Association. 3. Child must be between 4 and 10 years of age. 4. Parent and child must be a resident of the Stockade for at least 12 months. 5. Sorry, previous "lighters" not eligible. We've tried to make these rules simple and fair. And of course we need volunteers for almost everything - so call me at 372-6039 - or sign up at the meeting. Thanks to you we always have wonderful refreshments at St. George's Great Hall afterward - so bring your finger foods to the Great Hall after 3:00 pm and before the Tree Lighting. If you've never come, please join us; the rest of you know what great fun it is! See you there December 7 at 5:00 PM at Lawrence the Indian.

Helen Giulietti

Welcome to new members this year!

•Karen Mahoney • D. Delos Wampler • Louise Waterman • Jonathan Urqubart • Peter and Michele Stabinski

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PAINTING AND SIDEWALK INCENTIVES

The Board of Directors has voted to continue the incentive program for people to spruce-up their properties in calendar year 1998. 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 District Commission (see color charts at City Hall, Room 9). Both these programs are available to Stockade Association members in good standing as of December 31, 1997, i.e. dues paid. The incentive is not available for work which was the result of a City citation.

For more information on the incentive program, contact Greg Sauer, 19 Washington Avenue, telephone 393-8081.

RIVERSIDE/ROTUNDO PARK

Paul Mlodzianowski reports that the playground equipment will be ordered this fall; also that existing the tree stumps will be removed this fall. The five trees planted in June survived the summer drought and are doing nicely.

GATEWAY PROJECT UPDATE

Work is progressing rapidly—granite curbs and brick sidewalks have been installed together with tree grates. The granite street pavers have been delivered and will be set soon. The street lights and granite monuments (from Barre, Vt.) will not be delivered until mid-December. The City is expected to submit a grant request for rehabilitation of the Ladd property; details will be available later.

FRONT STREET BRIDGE PAINTING

Several area bridges were painted on September 6 by the Schenectady 2000 Upper Erie Boulevard Task Force with the help of hundreds of Union College students. The Front Street bridge was excluded because it would have restricted access to the Art Show. It is hoped that the bridge can be painted next spring.

BOATHOUSE CONSTRUCTION STARTED

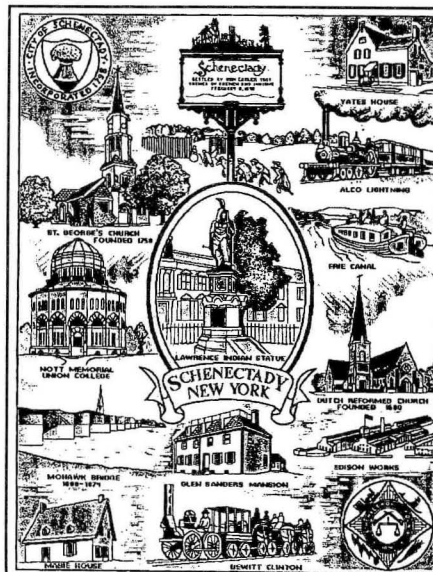
Construction has started on the Union College Boathouse at the rear of Front Street Park. The concrete foundation was completed by mid October and landscaping was underway. Improvements such as lighting and paving are expected to the parking lot by the City.

BE PREPARED

If you have not yet joined the Association, there will be an opportunity at the November 13 General Meeting. Membership forms will be available and officers ready to take your contribution.

Open Door Annual Holiday Open House

Saturday, November 8, 1 - 3 PM with refreshments and prizes and three artists: local harpist Elizabeth Huntley; Adirondack jewelry maker Lorelei Rodgers; and photographer Kristen Soderlind of local card company Wild Indigo. The purchase of an afghan will contribute \$2 to the Schenectady County Historical Society.



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Sat. 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

"Thank You"

Stockade Stopper

(WalkAbout Memories continued from page 1)



Gingerbread, anyone?

for providing all the balloons, their warm hospitality, and tea and cookies, to St. George's Hot Chili lunch on the lawn, to the First Presbyterian's historical photographs of their building's interior, to the Empire Data staff for their rich architectural notes, to ending the day with the Civic Playhouse Celebration. About 700 people attended the Walkabout on a beautiful golden autumn day! Several community members spoke of their enthusiasm for the event. Ruth Harvey of Washington Ave. said, "when you participate as a neighbor, you have the opportunity to get a real sense of the neighborhood." When asked if she would help with another Walkabout, Ruth said she'd be ready tomorrow! Chris Cohen of Front Street said it was her first experience with a Walkabout and she enjoyed it very much. And Teresa Smith and Sue Harasimowicz of North Ferry said they can't wait for next year they had so much fun. Emily Phelps of Washington Ave. has sold tickets at the Walkabout at the First Reformed Church corner for over 30 years - that's a lot of Walkabouts to see! She and Marie Nitchman have sold tickets in all kinds of weather - rain and snow. Emily and Marie said the most common questions are: "Where are we?" "Where do we start?" "Where do we park?" "Aren't you cold?" New this year was the policeman who patrolled the event while riding his bicycle!

Sue Mlodzianowski who, with her husband Paul, opened their home this year at 109 Union Street, remembers how her grandmother, Lavinia Shanklin, had opened the very same house for many Walkabouts. In discovering some old copies of *The Spy* in her attic, Sue learned that her grandmother, who had lived in the house since 1926, had opened the house for one of the early Walkabouts in 1963, and there were eleven houses on the tour! Sue was very enthusiastic about her experience, with people being very polite and respectful. She said the Walkabout "shows a piece of Schenectady that people don't know about." She urges more people to put their house on the tour. She and Paul finally got around to completing many overdue projects. "People shouldn't wait until their house is perfect. Relax! I've got a lot of 300 year old cobwebs!" *Sylvia Briber*

The Stockade Spy

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T I D I N G S

• *The Stockade Spy* welcomes **Emily Curtis** to its staff. Emily lives on Green Street and is the Program Assistant at the Preservation League of New York in Albany. • **Peggy King** of Front Street is seeking to retain the City Council seat she has held for two years. Peggy is Assistant Dean for Student Development at SCCC. • **Gordon Lefebvre** of Front Street across from the Indian died recently. He and his wife, Nina, have maintained the Stockade Association Bulletin Board at Arthur's for many years for which we are all grateful. • **Roberta Czerwinski** and **Paul Steele** of North Ferry Street were married on September 27. Congratulations! • **Shirley** and **Colin Burris** moved from their apartment on North Church Street into the house on Front Street. This house was formerly owned by **Alice Duell** who has now moved up two blocks on Front Street, and is living across from the former Riverside School, where she taught grade school for many years.

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Lily Alvarez



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NOVEMBER WASTE COLLECTION DATES: Friday, Nov. 7 Monday, Nov. 17 Monday, Nov. 24