

Annual Stockade
Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:45pm - Gather at Lawrence Afterglow at St. George's Great Hall

Our tree has arrived and Santa is getting ready to greet neighbors at the Stockade's Annual Tree Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 5:00 pm.

Calling neighbors to gather after 4:45 at the circle at Lawrence, intersection of N. Ferry Street and Green Street.

Neighbors are invited to join in the singing of carols.

We all look forward with great anticipation to the joyous look on the faces of our neighborhood children (ages 5-12) as they magically light our beautiful tree from The Saratoga Tree Nursery, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. A big thank you to Schenectady Heritage Foundation for donating this year's tree.

## Join in The Afterglow!

Follow the luminaries from Lawrence to The Great Hall at St. George's to continue the holiday celebration with friends, refreshments, and music - Bruce Holden at the piano with Sylvie Briber leading carols.

A DISH TO SHARE...neighbors are asked to drop off finger food snacks and sweets to The Great Hall before the Tree Lighting, starting at 4:00 pm. Beverages will be provided.

Dress warm and bring your best singing voice!



Tappy Holidays



Don't miss Ruthie and David's festive decorations on Green Street!

Tis the Season in the Stockade!

Season of Light

Dec. 2 - Jan. 5. See pg. 3

**Holiday Ramble** 

Sat, Dec. 2, 10am-4pm. See pg. 7

Stockade Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 3, 5:00pm

**Stockade Association Social Hour,** Mondays in December,
3pm at Arthur's Market

**Hanukkah:** Thursday., Dec. 7 - Friday, Dec. 15

First Reformed Church Festive Christmas Services, see pg 2

St. George's Church Christmas Services, see pg. 2

First Presbyterian Church Christmas Services, see pg. 2

Sch'dy County Historical Society Holiday Events

www.schenectadyhistoric.org or call 518-374-0263

- Night of Lights Fri., Dec. 1. See page 2
- Festival of Trees December 2-23
- Holiday Stockade Stroll Thursdays, Dec.14 & 21, & Fri., Dec. 22. 5:30-7pm

**Kwanzaa:** Tuesday, Dec. 26 - Monday, Jan. 1



Stockade Snow - Avoid a
Ticket and a Tow! When snow
is predicted, plan ahead to avoid
a ticket or a tow! See the Stockade Snow article on page 4.





## President's Message - Colleen Macaulay

There's a new seasonal commercial this year by a leading retailer, and it stirs all the right feelings. As the youngster presents a pair of cozy slippers to Santa for when his work is done, a multitude of emotions sweep over the gentleman in the red suit. First he's surprised, then the feeling of gratitude and appreciation and love fill his eyes; the little boy's expression tells you his Christmas giving is complete.

Our Stockade community has always evoked these feelings as neighbors do and care for one another in generous ways.

There will be a Giving Basket at the tree lighting Afterglow and we're asking that you bring a new hat, scarf or gloves that will be presented to our neighbors at the YWCA.

May the coming weeks be filled with peace and light and warm hearts.



## Night of Lights – Toast the Season!

## **Schenectady County Historical Society** Friday, December 1, 6pm

On Friday, December 1 at 6:00pm, the Schenectady County Historical Society will host the "Night of Lights," a preview reception for the treasured holiday event, the Festival of Trees, at 32 Washington Ave.



The galleries will be aglow with uniquely decorated Christmas trees and holiday decor. Live music from Running the River will fill the halls. Food from Wagon Train BBQ and treats from Villa Italia and Kingsway Community will be served, along with a seasonal drink crafted by John Gearing, and hot cocoa.

Tickets are \$25 and available for purchase on their website: schenectadyhistorical.org/event/nightoflights

## **Need Help with Your Energy Bills?**

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help. Call (800)470-3546 or go to: otda.ny.gov/programs/apply/#heap

## Christmas Church Services in the Stockade



First Reformed Church – see ad on pg. 3 for details

December 3, Sunday - Advent Season begins. Each service with choral selections, cello, oboe, flute, percussion, folk band accompaniment.

December 24, Sunday - 10 am service featuring Klokken Ringer Bell Choir and Chancel Choir.

### **Christmas Eve Services**

5pm-6pm - Youth Nativity pageant, Family Service with animals, shepherds, angels

8:30pm - Candlelight Concert with string ensemble and choir, featuring composers Ola Gjeilo, Elaine Hagenberg, Dan Forrest and Morton Lauridsen. Gorgeous music expressing the profound mystery and sacrament of the birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

9 pm - Candlelight Worship with singing of carols 11-12pm - Jazz Vespers

Please join in person, but all services are also streamed virtually and can be viewed at Freschenectady.church

St. George's Episcopal Church – see ad on pg. 6 for details Sunday, December 24 - 10am Advent IV, sung mass **Christmas Eve Services** 

5pm - Mass with carols & sermon for children & families 9:30pm - Pre-service music, carols for choir & congregation 10pm - Christ-Mass, traditional midnight mass

First Presbyterian Church – see ad on pg. 5 for details **Christmas Eve Service** 

Sunday, December 24 - 6pm Service with prelude music

## STOCKADE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM: October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024 Join on line at: historicstockade.org

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 (regular membership

Anyone living in the Stockade is eligible for a

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; H	ousehold: \$25; Busii	ness owner: \$25; Affiliate	: \$15.	
	Individual	☐ Household		Check one:	Check one:
u	Non-resident Sto	Stockade property owner(s)  In the discrete disc			
	One designated	representative of a S	Stockade business entity	Homeowner	□ Renewing Member
Name(	(s)				
Addres	SS				
Phone					
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

## # Season of Light # # \*

YWCA NorthEastern NY - 44 Washington Avenue December 2nd to January 5th from 10am to 8pm Free and open to the public

With the help of First New York FCU, the YWCA NorthEastern NY changes the way they celebrate the holiday season to honor the rich tapestry of traditions.

"Season of Light" embodies a message of unity, cultural appreciation, and the celebration of diversity," said Lauren Trunko, Chief Development Officer at YWCA. "Our goal is always to stay true to our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. We hope everyone who comes into our building, learns something they may not have known before Season of Light about how holidays are celebrated not just in our community, but worldwide."

Featuring displays will represent **Diwali**. Hanukkah. Bodhi Day, St. Lucia Day, Las Posadas, Winter Solstice/Yule, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Lohri.

Community groups, classes, teams, businesses, and organizations are invited to be a part of this inaugural event. Each group or individual will be provided with a 6ft space at YWCA NENY's main building, located at 44 Washington Ave. in Schenectady to highlight their creativity, learn and share their traditions, and foster a sense of togetherness during this season of unity and light.

All proceeds from participant registrations for the **Season** of Light will contribute to YWCA NorthEastern NY's Holiday Assistance Program providing holiday cheer and gifts to clients and their children in our domestic violence program, spreading joy and hope to those who need it most.

For more information and to register your group, please visit www.ywca-neny.org/holidays.

## A Unique Holiday Gift - \$35

Looking for a holiday gift for someone who may not need more stuff?

How about a gift membership to the Schenectady County Historical Society, our Stockade neighbor at 32 Washington Ave.? A gift membership grants exclusive benefits and supports local history. Members get free general admission to all SCHS sites and access to other participating museums in the Empire State Museum Reciprocal Program or the North American Reciprocal Museum Association depending on the level of membership. A basic membership is \$35. Check out all that this local neighbor has to offer at schenectadyhistorical.org or call 518-374-0263.

Schenectady Civic Players Fundraising Event

# 4 Holiday Cabaret

An afternoon of holiday theater, music, food & fun!

Sunday, December 17th

1pm: a light brunch of juices, mimosas, coffee, tea, breakfast pastries, & snacks

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## Let it Snow...But Get Your Car Off the Street!

As we watch the lovely snow falling outside our windows, it's important to remember a few things. Union St. is a priority street. If you have a car parked on Union Street, you need to move it so the plows can come through and clear the street.

You are running the risk of a ticket or even being towed if the city declares a snow emergency. You can park in the city parking garage on Broadway for free IF the city declares an emergency. Even if you are parked on another street, it is a good idea to move your car. The plows could bury it otherwise.

You can also park in the church parking lots AFTER they have been cleared. If nothing else, leave your name and phone number on the dash of your car so the police can call you if you need to move your car. The Stockade Association will send out updates as they get them from city officials on our Stockade google group. (see page 8 on how to join.) The First Reformed Church lot (corner of Church and Front) requires cars be moved for plowing during the night. Park on the street until after 7am or until the lot is plowed.

> Birds of the Stockade by Capt. Eagle Eyes (Jamie Taft) will return next month.

## Stockade Association Board Meeting Summary

Attending: Colleen Macaulay, Dan O'Neill, Keith Dayer, Zakhar Berkovich, Chris Marney, Susannah Hand, & Jan Haeck. Excused: Rebecca Cleary. Via zoom: Katherine Stephens.

Also attending: Sylvie Briber, Gloria Kishton, & Suzy Unger.

## **Topics Covered:**

Treasurer's Report: Review of current assets- \$58,784.36, review of profit and loss for last budget year, and review of proposed budget for next year. Reporting of recent donations. By unanimous vote, the budget was approved.

President's Report: North College Street Sidewalk project well done, except for replacement of trees. Discussion on addressing that issue. Further discussion on opportunities for donations in the Stockade.

Spy Report: New Spy delivery team is siblings. Jo'linda. Brianna, and Brian Reed of 116 ½ North Ferry Street.

Sidewalk Incentive Program: By unanimous vote, applications received for the Sidewalk Incentive grant program were approved.

Preservation Report: Pump House update delivered to the board via email. (available on the website)

**Upcoming Events:** General Membership meeting 11/16 where Paul La Fond and Willie Deane are invited to speak. Tree Lighting 12/3 at 5PM. Events committee will meet soon to discuss future events.

Arena at Rivers Casino: Impact of traffic from the arena discussed. The Association will send a letter to City Hall expressing concern.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM. Full Board Minutes and Treasurer's Report available at historicstockade.org

## The Open Door - December Events

Saturday, Dec. 2, 1-2:30 pm: David Pietrusza will sign Gangsterland: A Tour Through the Dark Heart of Jazz-age New York Citv.

Saturday, Dec. 9, 1-2:30 pm: Phil Bailey will sign *The Man* Who Had Nine Lives.

Sunday, Dec. 10, 10:30 am-12 noon: Pamela McColl will sign 'Twas the Night: The Art and History of the Classic Christmas Poem.

## Remembering Jean Zegger - Sylvie Briber



Our dear Jean Zegger, recently passed away at 90 years old.

Jean loved the Stockade and the people in it – always passionate and respective, Jean was the essence of an elegant lady! I and others were often invited for tea to her tasteful home, spiced with conversations about important concerns.

Jean cared a great deal about the pres-

ervation of the Stockade, being on the board of the Stockade Association and Schenectady Heritage Foundation.

We have Jean to thank for the beautifully written text of four centuries of Stockade history that grace the pillars at the Gateway entrance to the Stockade (Union St. at Erie Blvd.). Jean was married to John (Jack) Zegger, Stockade Association president for several years in the 1990's, and together they were a great leadership team in our midst. They raised their four children here in this beautiful neighborhood.

Shortly after I came to the Stockade in 1995, Jack encouraged me to become editor of the Spy, and I hold his blessing in my heart to this day! He created the column, "Letter from the President," and later "Stockade Association News." I dedicated my book, "The Inscription in the Window" to Jack and Jean helped me craft the memorial to him.

Jean was a crackerjack proof reader and often helped me with the Spy, catching errors and writing articles urging preservation. In reading her obit, I learned she had been a secretary to administrators at Columbia University!

Susannah Hand, who spearheaded the Stockade Project "Voices of the Stockade,", reminds us that in the video Jean Zegger speaks about her passion for the Stockade. Keith Dayer and Chris White are working on getting Jean's interview up on our website under Explore/Videos.

To remember Jean in a special way, a contribution may be made in her memory to the John L. and Jean B. Zegger Memorial Fund of The Schenectady Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 1173, Schenectady, New York 12301-1173; or online at https://www.schenectadyheritage.org. This fund is restricted for use in the Stockade Historic District.

## PLANNING ON CHANGES TO A HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY?

Changes to the exterior of property viewable from a public right-of-way (including parks & waterways) require prior approval from the Historic District Commission (HDC). Some changes may only require staff approval. Call City Hall to determine the appropriate level of review for your project. Other permits may be required. Applications available online at: cityofschenectady.com/203/Historic-District-Commission. Questions? Call Jack Connelly at (518) 382-5147 or email: jconnelly@schenectadyny.gov.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

Please join our fellowship both online and in person. There are many ways to be connected.

<u>Sunday:</u> Worship at 10:30am & 6pm <u>Wednesday:</u> Prayer meeting at 7pm



Please feel free to visit our website at fpcschdy.org or contact the Church office for further information at fpcofficeschdy@gmail.com or phone 518-374-4546. Search for "First Presbyterian Church Schenectady" on

Search for "First Presbyterian Church Schenectady" on YouTube for the live feed to join morning worship online beginning at 10:30am every Sunday.

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## Evidence of "old" Schenectady: The Old Mohawk Bank

- Carol DeLaMarter

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As I walk around the Stockade neighborhood, plagues and markers only tell some of our Stockade history story. Most readers and residents know the story of the Massacre on a cold February night and other stories of historic floods and fires. Besides the incredible architecture that also tells the Stockade story, there are other hidden signs of the early days that we pass every day and may not know the story. Starting this month we're inviting anyone to uncover this evidence and investigate the story or ask a question here and we'll research it.

You may have noticed this plaque at 10 North Church St. Here's what I've learned about this important first in "old" Schenectady. As Schenectady grew from a



bustling trading post with business along the Binnekill and Mohawk, local leaders in 1807 chartered the area's first bank and issued the first paper money. At 10 North Church St., the bank occupied the first floor and David Boyd, the cashier lived upstairs with watchdogs so bank assets could be guarded. In 1817 The Mohawk Bank invested in bonds to help finance construction of the Erie Canal. When the bank outgrew this location it relocated to a new building at the corner of North Church and Union (now the Stockade Inn) for another 50 years.

## Dine-In or Take it To Go Every Wednesday!

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. Donations are happily accepted.

## **Update from City Hall** – Carol DeLaMarter

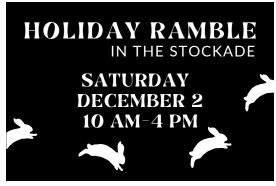
The Stockade Association invited two city leaders to the November general meeting. Paul LaFond, Commissioner of Office of General Services, presented the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) need to survey/inventory and monitor lead water in single family houses in the city. There may be funds for the city, based on this inventory.

Forms are available at https://www.citvofschenectadv.com/ CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=569. Return forms to Phyllis in Rm. 9, City Hall or email to: pgaumond@schenectadyny.gov

Residents with concerns about intermittent smells from the new Pump Station should call Paul LaFond directly so his staff can assess the issue in a timely fashion. Please call Paul at 518-378-0835. Staff continues to monitor it daily but resident reporting helps.

The Historic Pump Station has had an environmental assessment to identify asbestos and lead paint to begin bidding and contracting to restore historic windows.

Willie Deane oversees Parks and Recreation that includes maintenance and improvements in 26 city parks as well as islands and trees in city owned spaces. The City has hired an arborist to provide education on which trees are at risk and how to sustain greenery in the city. He works with ReTree and recently with Northeast Woodworkers who will rescue wood for benches, tables and sculpture. Residents should use "See Click Fix" (find on city website) to photograph and report issues with tree branches and other 6 concerns. For other questions for Willie, call 518-417-0169.



Immerse yourself in holiday cheer in Schenectady's historic Stockade neighborhood for a day of joyful festivities and local shopping. Explore quaint streets with unique activities at local establishments:

**Arthur's Market** (35 N. Ferry St.): Enjoy a Wreath Pop-up by Mud Road Farm and indulge in seasonal treats.

Sweet Sprig + Brouwer House Creative (14 N. Church St.): Experience artist open studios, a hot cocoa bar, and complimentary refreshments. Featured artists include Deborah Angilletta, Mary Ann Van Alstyne, Sizz Handmade, and Thistle and Clover. Explore Sweet Sprig for artisan soaps, gifts, candles, and skincare with a free gift with every purchase.

Mohawk Valley Art Shoppe + Last Nerve Tattoo (101 State St.): Attend an art, poetry, and music event supporting the "Things Of My Very Own" charity. Enjoy free morning poetry readings, afternoon live music, and special promotions at Last Nerve Tattoo's grand opening.

**Bex Salon** (234 Union St.): Get a complimentary gift with any purchase and festive refreshments.

**Schenectady County Historical Society** (32 Washington Ave.): Experience the Festival of Trees, 10am to 4:45pm with beautifully decorated Christmas trees - \$6 admission.

**Hardwired Fitness** (23 N. College St.): Join a FREE Community Class at 9:00 a.m., suitable for all fitness levels. Register online and bring family, friends, and neighbors.

Don't miss this special day of holiday cheer and local shopping in the Stockade's festive spirit!



Congratulation to Front St. neighbors, **Jac Solghan** and **Ryan Weber**, who recently were married and celebrated with a bash at Stella's.

A big thank you goes out to our new Spy Delivery Team, **Jo'Linda**, **Briana**, and **Brian Reed** of North Ferry Street. We wish them good luck in delivering to our doorsteps in all kinds of weather!

## Need help finding your direction?



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Term expires 5/2025 Katherine Stephens

kathstephens2003@yahoo.com Term expires 5/2025

Rebecca Cleary bex@bexsalon.com Term expires 5/2025

## 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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Lemmerman, Gloria Kishton, Jan Haeck.

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Didn't Get a Spy? Pick up a copy at Arthur's Market, Front & N. Ferry, Slick's Tavern, S. Ferry & Liberty, and Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave. Or call Editor, Sylvie Briber, at 518-377-0469, and she will bring you a copy. Current and back issues of the Spy can be found on the Stockade Association website: historicstockade.org. Click on "The Stockade Spy Archives."

Google Group for Stockade Neighbors

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

## WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

Weekly updates on downtown happenings: www.downtownschenectady.org

## **DECEMBER WASTE COLLECTION DATES** TUESDAYS, DEC. 5, 12, & 19. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27 **APPLIANCES PICK UP: DECEMBER 19**

Single Stream Recycling: Put all recyclable material into one container for collection. YARD WASTE collection resumed April

1, 2023. Pick up starts 6:15am. Put waste to curb the day before, after 2pm. Please remove emptied containers promptly. Questions? visit: www.cityofschenectady.com, click on "services," or call the hotline at (518) 382-5144.



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