



April 2001

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. 42 No. 8

Stockade Calendar

"Livable Cities" Series
April 4 & 8 (see page 4)

"Death in the Backstretch"

**Murder Mystery Dinner
Theatre - Mohawk Club,**
Apr. 12, 13, 18-20.
Dinner 6:30 P M (see p. 4)

"Antique Cars"

Speaker: Bill Massoth,
Sat. April 14
1:30 Refresh. 2:00 Pgm.
Historical Society
32 Washington Ave.

**Earth Day 2001 AKA
Arbor Day, Fri., April 20 -
Sat., April 21: Peace Vigil
to Heal the Earth, 24
hours, midnight to mid-
night at Spring Eagle
Gallery, 123 Jay St. Sign-
up for a 30-minute slot to
present your performance
or ideas; continuous potluck
food. Call 631-0556 for
info & reserve your time.**

**Third Saturday Poetry at
Arthur's, Sat., April 21
7:30 PM sign-up, 8 reading**

Stockade Association Future Dates/Events

Gen. Meeting/Election:

Thursday, May 10

Park Cleanup & Picnic:

Saturday, May 19

Sidewalk Sale:

Saturday, June 2

Stockade Architects' Library Building Ranked With Greats of the 20th Century in New York State



This millennial year, marking the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st Centuries, the American Institute of Architects/New York State published "Celebration and Reflection: 100 Years of Architecture in New York State," as a way to showcase buildings erected within the last 100 years which are judged to be the most outstanding and significant buildings that have shaped

the State of New York. The book features 59 notable buildings from across the state.

The Schenectady County Public Library Building, designed in 1969 by Stockade residents, Werner Feibes and Jim Schmitt, was chosen as one of these projects of greatest significance amongst such company as New York City's Grand Central Terminal, Rockefeller Center, and the Guggenheim Museum, as well as Frank Lloyd Wright's Buildings in Buffalo.

In singling out the Schenectady Library Building, the Institute noted it "is above all significant in its contribution to urban design in that the building provides a generous arcaded facade on the two street fronts and a grand two story interior reference "hall." The central space is a magnificent interior, a triumph of modern architecture's ability to shape and direct interior space. "In addition the use of materials and structure create a timeless tectonic aesthetic."

The Institute called out New York State as the nucleus for imaginative architects for many years, and this publication allows the Institute to commemorate their accomplishments.

42nd Walkabout "Goes Dutch" For 2001

On Saturday, September 29, 10 - 5 PM, the Stockade will yet again open its historic homes to visitors. This year we will celebrate our Dutch heritage through guided tours of the Dutch Mabee farm, Dutch foods, Dutch dancing, walking tours highlighting Dutch architecture, carriage rides through our charming streets, and live music throughout the day.

Enthusiastic Stockade residents and Historical Society members have already begun planning. If you would like to join in the fun, help is needed with events of the day, publicity, house docents and tickets. Call Anne Bernat at 393-5770 or Sylvia Briber, 377-0469. More in the May Spy.

"Dawson McAllister," call-in radio speaker answers teen questions/concerns, Fri. Apr. 27, 7 PM Parents Night; Sat., Apr. 28, 7 PM, Youth Rally, concert by **NICO & 11th Hour**, free pizza. First Presbyterian Church, 374-4546.

SCCC Spring Events:

10th Annual SCCC Foundation Gala and Dinner Food for Thought and All That Jazz, Tues., Apr. 3, 5:45 PM. Call 381-1323.

The Empire Jazz Orchestra presents a Jazz Masters Concert Series, featuring composer and tenor saxophonist **Benny Golson**, Tues., Apr. 10, 8 PM, Aud., \$15 & \$6, students.

SCCC Players present "Working,"

Wed., Apr. 18 - Sat. Apr. 21, 8:00 PM, includes songs written by James Taylor, Craig Carnelia, Micki Grant, Mary Rodgers, Susan Birkenhead, Stephen Schwartz; Auditorium. \$5, \$3 seniors.

The SCCC Chamber Woodwinds Ensemble, Mon., Apr. 30, 7:30 PM, Lally-Mohawk Room.

Guest Chef James Peterson demonstrates restaurateur, prof., & author of "Peterson's Sauces: Classical and Contemporary Sauce Making," Mon., Apr. 30, 6:30 PM; Tues., May 1, 10 AM, Van Curler Room.

SCCC's Casola Dining Room Schedule

WEEK OF: April 2 Thailand;
9 Middle Eastern
16 Latin
23 Japanese

Lunch: \$13.60 (includes tax and surcharge) Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: Noon and 12:30 PM. Dinner: \$18.55 (includes tax and surcharge) Monday and Wednesday: 7 PM and 7:30 PM. Reservations will be taken for either Monday or Wednesday evenings beginning Wednesdays at 9:00 AM two weeks in advance of the desired date, by calling 382-9210. Reservations for lunch accepted at any time.

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

- Best wishes to Nick Colangelo on his 90th birthday!
- Welcome to our new neighbors on Front St., The Mitchells: Robert and Elizabeth, and children Amanda and Andrew.

Correction:

- Zoe Oxley and Dale Miller, formerly of Washington Avenue, have moved to Green Street and not Front Street as reported in the March *Spy*.

Holy Week Services

First Reformed Church, 8 North Church Street

- Palm Sunday, Apr. 8, 10:00 AM, The Passion According to Matthew
- Maundy Thursday, Apr. 12, 7:30 PM, Service of Holy Communion & Tenebrae

- Good Friday, Fri., Apr. 13, 12 Noon Service
- Easter Day, Sun., Apr. 15, 10:00 AM Service

Holy Cross Church, 18 North College Street

- Stations of the Cross & Benediction, Fri., April 6, 7:00 PM
- Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale - Sat., Apr. 7, 3:00 - 5:00 PM, & Sun., Apr. 8, 8:00 AM - 10 AM Easter breads, nut breads, cookies, cakes, etc.
- Palm Sunday Services, Liturgy, Blessing & Distribution of Palms, Sat., April 7, 4:00 PM, Sun., April 8, 9:00 AM
- Holy Thursday Services, Liturgy of the Lord's Supper, followed by Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to Repository, Thurs., April 12 - 7:00 PM, Church open for Adoration until 10:00 PM.
- Good Friday Services, Church open for Private Devotions, 12 Noon - 3:00 PM, Stations of the Cross, 2:30 PM Liturgy of the Passion & Death of our Lord, Veneration of the Cross & Holy Communion Service, 3:00 PM
- Holy Saturday Services, Blessing of Easter Foods, 11:00 AM Easter Vigil Service, Liturgy of the Resurrection, 7:30 PM (Usual Saturday Vigil Mass is not scheduled for Holy Sat.)
- Easter Sunday Services, Liturgy of the Resurrection, 9:00 AM

St. George's Episcopal Church, 30 North Ferry Street

- Palm Sunday, 8 AM, Low Mass
- 10 AM, Liturgy of the Palms and Solemn High Mass
- Holy Week:
 - Monday - 9AM Matins; 9:15 AM Mass; 12 Noon, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5:30 PM, Evensong; 5:45 PM, Mass
 - Tuesday - 9 AM Matins; 12 Noon, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5:30 PM Evensong; 5:45 PM Mass
 - Wed. - 7 AM Mass; 9 AM Matins 12 Noon, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5:30 Evensong
 - Maundy Thurs. 9 AM Matins; 12 Noon, Exposition of Sac. 5:30 PM Evensong; 7:30 PM Liturgy of Lord's Supper- following Mass, a vigil before the Altar of Repose (to 11:45 AM on Friday)
 - Good Friday - 9 AM Matins; 12 Noon, Liturgy and Mass of the Pre-Sanctified; 5:30 PM Evensong
 - Holy Saturday - 9 AM Matins; 9:15 AM, Pro-Anaphora 9:30 - 10:30 AM, Confessions
 - Easter Eve - 7:30 PM, The Great Vigil, The First Mass of Easter
 - Easter Sunday - 7:30 AM Matins; 8 AM, Low Mass 10 AM Solemn High Mass of The Resurrection

First Presbyterian Church, 115 Union Street

- Palm Sunday, Apr. 8, 6 PM, "The Witness," Easter Cantata
- Prayer Vigil, Apr. 12 Noon - Apr. 13 Noon, The church will be open for prayer for this 24-hour period with officer of church present
- Good Friday, Noon & 12:30, half-hour services with meditations on the crucifixion; soup & sandwich lunch served at cost, 11:30 - 1 PM. 7:30 PM Communion service
- Easter services, 8:15 & 11 AM, Resurrection Day services in church building, 6 PM evening service in Mckeel Hall.

Stockade Association

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STOCKADE ASSOCIATION

Jennifer Wells

Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

Recording Secretary

Board members can be reached by: www.historicstockade.com/board.htm

The Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2001 was cancelled due to the blizzard.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Stockade Association, March 8, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Joe Fava. The floor was turned over to the Honorable Vito Caruso who explained that the county needed a new court house to accommodate Jury assembly area for a jury pool of 200-300 people, as well as expanded area for staff, offices, and courtrooms which are currently spread throughout the city. Several sites and proposals are being considered for 100,000 square foot of space at a perceived cost of \$200 per square foot, parking for 300 cars and a construction time of two years. Sites under consideration are 400 Block of State Street which is supported by Proctors and would preserve the Key Bank facade; Erie Blvd. near Scotia Bank, Gordon Brothers Market site, behind the lottery, Buhmaster's property on Erie, Family Goodyear Tire across from current offices, White Castle, Nott Street near MVP, and bridging Clinton to the current facility.

Next John Flynn and Jackie McDonough spoke on the YMCA. The YMCA serves a membership base of 2600 with a residency program that is currently around 160. This is down from 200 in recent years. The program mandates rehabilitation services for those eligible. More than half of the residents are in programs and no violent or sexual offenders are allowed. Currently, 9 have police records and 2-3 are on parole. Only one client has been asked to leave in the last year for violating the terms of the residency program. 65% are eligible for section 8 housing. Three quarters of their residents are considered Schenectady residents by

virtue of identification presented on entering the residency program. It was stressed that the purpose of the residency program was to make the clients become viable members of the community and that the residents are readily available for community service programs by contacting the Y. Problems with residents should be directed to Dick Abrams at 374-9139 extension 133.

No business was conducted due to the lack of a quorum. Meredith Anker stated that the CD reached maturity yielding \$1,239.00 at 6.6% since July. The board motion added \$2000 to this amount and the total was re-deposited in a new 6 month CD at 5.2%. Checking account has \$6630.91. There was no final bylaw report. Nominations Committee are seeking volunteers to fill five Board vacancies. If you are interested, contact Bob Hayner. Bob Hayner mentioned that the city will hold a meeting in April about Riverside Park. The location and time were unknown but those interested should contact Steve Strichman at City Hall. Mohawk Club has a new chef, the dinner show was very well done and more Association members should take advantage of this benefit of membership. We are continuing the membership on a \$60.00 per month basis for the time being. Safety committee announced that the person suspected of the rash break-ins has been arrested. Patrolman Kevin Green can be reached by his pager 341-2078.

Under new business, complaints were aired about residents being forced to move their cars due to the recent snowstorm and then their roads were not snowplowed. The Heritage Foundation announced a new series of lectures and meetings beginning March 18 at 3 PM.

Home Security Tips

During the January General Meeting our neighborhood police officer, Kevin Green, passed on the following information:

- Lock Doors
- Leave Lights On
- Call Kevin to report suspicious activity on his Pager **341-2078**
8 AM - 12 Midnight
- Police Station - Emergency 911
- Police - Non Emergency 374-7744

Call for Association Board Members

Anyone interested in serving on the board of The Stockade Association should contact Bob Hayner from the nomination committee for the May elections. We need people willing to work to improve their neighborhood.

Stockade Association Membership

Omitted earlier: Krystyna Kusielewicz

New members: James I McKinney,
Charles J. Sacco, Greg Solomon

Lawrence Park Donations

The Lawrence Park Garden Group wishes to thank those who have made donations towards the Spring planting. The group will continue to make improvements to the park and additional funds are needed. Please drop off or send contributions to Janie Hayner, 6 Front Street. *Donations will be recognized in the September issue of the Spy.*

New Murder Mystery "Death in the Backstretch" Premieres at Mohawk Club



Barry Corlew, Grace DiBattista Hepburn, and Bill Hickman takes place at a party to honor the impending race of the horse "Wanderlust" four days before The Travers at Saratoga.

April 12, 13, 18-20
6:30 PM

Riverview Productions will present an interactive mystery where the audience participates in solving the murder. It

It is written and directed by Martin P. Kelly, who also wrote the murder mystery, "The Recital," which has played throughout New York State for more than 10 years.

This new production involves a leading jockey, his girlfriend, a horse trainer, his wife, a horse owner and his wife, and a reporter from a sleazy tabloid. Cast members include Bill Hickman, Mary Keane, Barry Corlew, Janet Stasio, Mike Ryan, Carol Jones, Keith Caldwell, and Jim Troyan. Dinner starts at 6:30 PM. For Stockade Association members there is a special price of \$16.50 (a 25% discount off \$22). Reservations are necessary at 374-8476, and indicate Stockade membership to obtain the discount. For information about productions, call 393-8024.

Livable Cities 2001

How can we create vibrant cities where people want to live and work? How can we attract businesses downtown?

To help answer these questions, The Schenectady Heritage Foundation, in partnership with the Preservation League of New York State, is sponsoring four programs featuring authors, preservationists and community leaders. All programs will be held at the State Street Presbyterian Church, (corner of State and Catherine Streets) and are free and open to the public. The remaining two programs are:

- **The Economics of Historic Preservation**
Speaker: Tania Werbizky, Director of Technical and Grant Programs for NYS Preservation League will discuss the value of historic preservation in urban revitalization.

Wednesday, April 4, 7:00 PM

- **The Hough Building, A Look At Its Future**
Panelists: Harry Apkarian, Board President of Proctors; Frank Gilmore, Architect; Jayme LaHut, Executive Director, Metroplex; Moderator: Steve Fitz; Introduction: Joseph Fava, President, Stockade Association.

Sunday, April 8, 3:00 PM.

For further information, call Lidia Pasamanick at 377-0802.

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Spring Is Coming

by Krystyna Kusielewicz

Winter going away,
Melting snow,
Taking with it
Winter's woe.
I look through the window;
There is a bird!
Oh, it is a crow.
Spring is coming though;
And coming;
And coming.
Relentless turning
Of the wheel,
That never stops running.
The sky is gray
But turning blue.
Now it is a different hue.
Rainbow colors
In celestial sphere,
Like hope and promise
Peering through - not frail.
Life is bursting out - too.
Untamed forces
Weaving a tapestry
Of wonderment - so true.
Spring is coming!
Nothing can stop it.
Not me - not you.

Stockade House Files At Historical Society

When I moved to the Stockade a few years ago, I was interested in finding out the history of our house. I went to the Historical Society across the street, thinking there would be a whole file of information gathered by past owners waiting for me. To my surprise, not only was there no file for our house, there were no files for any houses.

How wonderful it would be if these house files existed; when someone new moved into our historic neighborhood, there would be a file for them. Ginny LaGoy, the librarian at the Historical Society, was excited about this idea, when I mentioned it to her, and I am willing to help coordinate this effort. Now we need your help gathering data. Many of you have had your home on the Walkabout and may have this information already.

If you have anything on your house, eg. old and current photographs, histories prepared for Walkabout tours, interior photographs documenting architectural features, etc., please give copies to the Historical Society. You can make your own copies or the staff there can make them. Mail the information to 32 Washington Avenue, 12305, or drop it off. Their hours are Monday through Friday, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM and Saturdays, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 377-0469, or Ginny at 374-0263. What an important collaboration this could be between Stockade neighbors and The Historical Society!

- Sylvia Briber

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Birds of the Stockade

One of the common birds that I've seen in and around the Stockade is the Northern Cardinal. The male is bright red overall while the female is warm brown with reddish overtones. Both sexes have a crest, a black mask, and a red or orange heavy seed eating bill. Both sexes also sing a series of high, clear, sharp, mostly slurred whistles. *woit woit woit chew chew chew chew chew or pichew pichew tiw tiw tiw tiw tiw tiw*; many variations. The call note is a high hard tik.

- James L. Taft AKA Capt. Eagle Eyes



Our 2000-2001 *Spy* Patroons

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STOCKADE STOPPER - THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Measuring, counting, recording. That trilogy was certainly an American mania of the 20th Century and will no doubt remain throughout the 21st. The "FLOOD GAUGE" at the foot of North Ferry Street, shown in last month's Stopper is physical evidence of just that.

Why measure the height of the river? Well, philosophers know that every question possesses a power that does not lie in the answer, and we know that every Spring the river spills over its banks more or less and then recedes. It's been doing that ever since the river was old enough to flow. Everyone is familiar with the famous humorist and author, Samuel Clemens who adopted the Mississippi River leadsman's call "Mark Twain" as his nom de plume which translates to "two fathoms sounded" assuring depth enough for boats. While Mark Twain was concerned about the depth of the river from the surface to the bottom, we're interested in the height of the surface in relation to the bank.

The height of a river's surface is measured in terms of elevation above sea level. The normal level of the Mohawk at the Stockade is 212 feet. The flood level when it inundates its banks is 223 feet.

Now river flooding is not all bad. As a matter of fact that's the main reason why the Stockade was built exactly where it is. As early as the winter of 1638 Van Curler journeyed up the ice bound river and noted the snow covered great flats. Then four years later in the Autumn of 1642 he returned. This time he stood at the height of what is now Broadway Hill and surveyed the sweeping view of the river bend below. The land lay before him in all its verdure-clad beauty. On his right a great sweep of pine woods sloped down to the river. On his left the great flats gleamed with Indian corn. The nearly mile wide river was cut through with emerald islands. Beyond rose the hills that stood as sentinels to the Gateway to the West. Later he described what he saw: "On the Mohawk River there lies the Most Beautiful Land that the Eye of Man Ever Beheld."

But it was not beauty alone that determined Van Curler's choice of location for his settlement. One thing that he did know about the river was that it did flood over its bed into the great flats and that's what rendered them such rich, fertile land and that's exactly why he settled there. But the settlers never built any houses in the flood plane, only later and dumber generations did that.

It is recorded that each settler was allowed a lot in the Stockade, which remember was never built closer to the river than Front Street - hence its name, and also a farming plot on the great flats where the soil fertility depended upon

the flooding. Later generations tuned out the alarm bells and the reality of the situation and built hard along the river's edge. Consequently the need for the Flood Gauge.

In the past half century there have been only a dozen years when the river rose above flood stage of 223 feet. One of those years, 1979, it rose right to the top of the gauge - 229 feet! Also there was the really freak year of 1977 when the river flooded three times. Once in March which is the normal Spring flood time, but also once in September and again in November! How do these elevation numbers translate into the number of homes affected? Well,

in 1979 at 229 feet the water reached almost all the houses on Ingersoll Avenue, more than half the houses on North Street and a few at the tip of North Ferry Street, Governors Lane, Washington Avenue and Cucumber Alley.

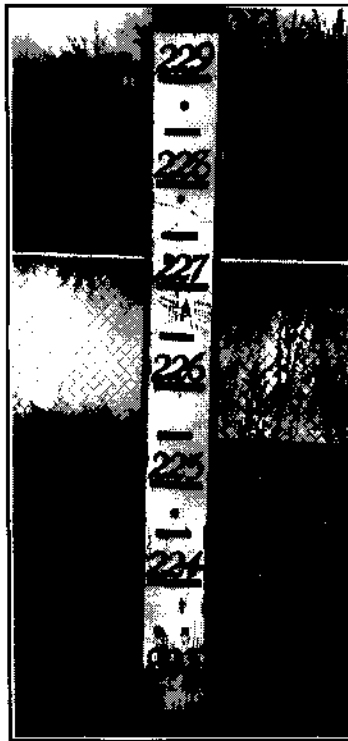
In our grandfather's day the Stockade experienced one of the most disastrous floods that comes once in a life time. Only it came twice, and in succeeding years! In 1913, swollen by Spring run-off, it went on a rampage. Spreading over its banks and into the streets and houses of the Stockade, it finally crested at 233 feet. That's 21 feet above its normal level! All agreed that was that for their lifetime. Then on March 28, 1914, exactly one year to the day of the last great flood, the river repeated and EXCEEDED its previous beastly rampage. By noon of that day all of the houses from Front Street to the river were under six to ten feet of water and as a precaution all Stockaders from Union Street to the river were evacuated from their homes. Then the greatest flood in modern history crested as the waters reached

235 feet on the flood gauge, exceeding the previous years record by two feet!

In the Autumn of 1961 Douglas Haskell, the editor of Architectural Forum Magazine, strolling along the river edge, turned to me and proclaimed, "This romantic lawn along the Mohawk that has been created out of the Stockade park strip is probably the finest thing of its kind in America."

Undeniably, Van Curler was right on all counts.

- Jim Schmitt, A.I.A.



April Waste Collection Dates

Wed., April 4

Wed., April 11

Wed., April 18

Wed., April 25

The Stockade Spy

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