



January 2004 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 45 No. 5

Stockade Calendar

Stockade Assoc. General Meeting

Thurs., Jan. 15

Speaker: Fred Miller

Executive Director of the
Mohawk Valley
Heritage Corridor

“How to Improve the Stockade Infrastructure Through Community- wide Teamwork”

7:00 PM refreshments

7:30 Meeting

Schenectady County
Historical Society

32 Washington Ave.
(back entrance)

“Death Takes A

Holiday” (see p. 5)

Sch'dy Civic Playhouse
Jan. 30, 31 Feb. 1 & 4-8

Save the Dates

Sun., Feb. 1 - Sat. Feb. 7

Colonial Festival 2004:

Schenectady Underground
Railroads, Shivering
Stockade Walking Tour,
Maritime Academy Open
House, Flint House Open
House, Victorian Ball,
Colonial Lighting, etc.
call 382-5147 for brochure

Jan. Spy Deadline

February 15

Dreaming of Tulips in January!

Visit Nijkerk, birthplace of our founding father, Arendt van Curler



April 22 to May 6, 2004 is set for another visit to Nijkerk, the Netherlands. The Nijkerk-Schenectady Foundation has invited 35 guests representing Schenectady to come and visit their community for

these two weeks. Three annual Dutch holidays will be celebrated: The Queen's Birthday, Remembrance Day and Liberation Day. And it's tulip time!

2004 is a special year as it marks the twentieth anniversary of exchanges between the two localities. It all began in 1984 when a delegation came to Schenectady from Nijkerk to see and learn about the city founded by their native son, Arendt van Curler.

This is how the trip plans work: participants pay for their round trip airfare (\$645 from Albany Airport), for thank you gifts and a farewell dinner for their host family, \$25 dues to join the Schenectady/Nijkerk Council, and a \$50 processing fee.

Also, you may want to be part of a youth exchange. In July of 2004 (exact dates still to be determined) 10 teenage youth are coming from Nijkerk to visit Schenectady. Host families, drivers, and day guides are needed as well as financial and other forms of support. Time aboard the replica of Henry Hudson's 1609 exploration ship, the *Half Moon*, is being planned as part of the exchange. Contact Connie Colangelo, 374-7355, C R C N M C @ a o l . c o m , www.timesunion.com/communities/nijkerk, or www.Nijkerk-Schenectady.nl.

On Sunday, February 1, at 11 AM in Assembly Hall, The First Reformed Church on 8 N. Church Street, will host guest speaker, Janny Venema of the Netherland Project and author of “**Beverwijck: a Dutch Village on the American Frontier, 1652-1664.**” She will explore the people, businesses and everyday life in Beverwijck's new “American” Society. Arendt van Curler played a key role in founding Beverwijck, our present day Albany. All are welcome.

Stockade Brunch For Those Mid-Winter Blues

Blow those blues away by joining in the fun and great food with friends at the Stockade Brunch on **Sunday, February 15. Mark the date!** Your Stockade Association intends to help in your recovery from cabin fever by inviting you to this free Sunday Brunch where you can have a personalized omelet while you watch it cook. Also, there will pastries, other sweet treats (feel free to contribute) along with coffee, juice and surprises! So stroll on over to the Civic Playhouse, 12 South Church Street, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. All are welcome, so take a neighbor to brunch!

STOCKADE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY & KERST KERMIS ENJOYED BY ALL on Sunday, Dec. 7

Stockade Residents once again enjoyed the Annual Ceremony of Lighting the Tree at Lawrence the Indian Circle on Sunday, December 7, 2003, surrounded by the beautiful setting of new snow and welcoming weather. Father Carlino, Pastor at St. John the Evangelist and Holy Cross Churches, did a moving Blessing of the Tree. Christmas Carols, under the leadership of Sylvie Briber, were sung by neighborhood residents. Joe Fava, President of the Stockade Association, was our Master of Ceremonies. Richard Brown rang the bells as our Town Crier. There was a special visit by Mrs. Claus (Karen Johnson), reciting a story about a Christmas Tree. A reception followed at St. George's Great Hall with refreshments provided by residents of the Stockade.


A very, very special THANK YOU to Peter Rumora (with the assistance of Connie Colangelo and Elizabeth Volks) for decorating the tree and supervising the entire event for the Tree Lighting. Thank You to: Lyn Gordon for the donation of the tree in memory of her husband, Maj. Richard M. Gordon, and her granddaughter, Erica Lynn Kastberg, the men from the City of Schenectady Department of Parks: Greg Davenport, Tom Jacobs, Danny Zocco and Joe Vitello and three others that are nameless. The tree was lit by Kipling Papa Silveria, a 5 year old resident of Washington Avenue. Thanks to the Polachek family of Arthur's Market, for providing the lighting for the tree. A new loud speaker system was provided by Joe Fava. Debra Volks chaired a special table and activities for children. Very big thanks go to Diane DeMeo once again who chaired the KERST KERMIS (Holiday Bazaar at The Van Dyck Restaurant).
- Connie Colangelo

Thanks to all our Stockade neighbors that came and enjoyed our Second Annual Kerst Kermis on Sunday, December 7th at the Van Dyck Restaurant. In spite of the snow, we had a good turn out.

With more artists showing their talents it was a great shopping day! Downstairs and up we had talents of jewelry makers, candy (chocolate and fudge), silk and dried flower designs, folk art and antiques, pottery, bread knives and boards, ornaments, cards, silver guitar picks, candles, photography, hand made baskets and more. Upstairs the Van Dyck put out a fantastic brunch in a warm holiday atmosphere and we had holiday entertainment while you brunched. Laurie Larsen, vocal teacher, and nine of her students sang holiday songs, and, from our own neighborhood, talented Lecco Morris on the piano and Kimberly Hawkey singing made for the most enjoyable listening pleasure. For those of you that missed it this year, mark your calendar now for next year to stop by and get into the spirit of the holiday.

Thanks to all my helpers: Joe Fava, Eli Taub, John Rotundo, Denise Brucker and my family.

- Diane DeMeo

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Stockade Association General Meeting - All Welcome!

Speaker: Fred Miller

Executive Director of the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor

"How to Improve the Stockade Infrastructure Through Community-wide Teamwork"

Thursday, January 15, 2004 7:00 Social 7:30 PM Meeting

Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue (back entrance)

Neighborhood News

Bob Briber, Recording Secretary

Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

Stockade Association Board Meeting 12/2/03 Minutes at SCHS

President Joe Fava called this meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Others present included Bob Briber, Connie Colangelo, Diane DeMeo, Brad Fisher, Dale Miller, Peter Rumora and Susanna Sherwood. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, as was a Treasurer's report submitted by Lyn Gordon: only one \$150 check, for a house painting award, had been issued since the last meeting. Brad Fisher will inquire about Walkabout income, which has not been received to date. Eli's suggested topic, that we more thoroughly organize the Board, was postponed until he could be present.

A motion was made and seconded, "to abolish the sidewalk and painting awards," and considerable discussion ensued. The arguments in favor seem to be that since the award is targeted to only a few people, it is discriminatory. The money should be spent more widely to benefit the whole Stockade and not just a few homeowners. Furthermore, the amount is too small to serve as an incentive for painting a house or repairing a sidewalk. The rules for the awards are not widely understood so some qualified recipients have not applied. The arguments against seem to be that the award represents a real value for the Association, in that we want house improvements. House painting and sidewalk repairs are important goals – as such, it doesn't matter if the amount helps much or not; think of it as a "reward." However, the amount, to some, is significant – it may pay for the paint. Finally, the Board has been under some criticism for not spending the money we have amassed. To eliminate modest expenditures like these seems unjustified and possibly unpopular. The motion was tabled until Connie gath-

ers the rules for the awards.

The Board reviewed Association membership requirements: Dues are to be paid between 9/1 and 12/31, to be in good standing. It was agreed that Joe would collect all the addresses of people who live in the Stockade, and a letter would be sent to all, in August, urging them to join the Association. Bob Briber will do a first draft. The SPY should have a banner headline in its first fall issue, urging folks to join or renew.

Joe will write the President's letter for the SPY by its deadline of 12/15.

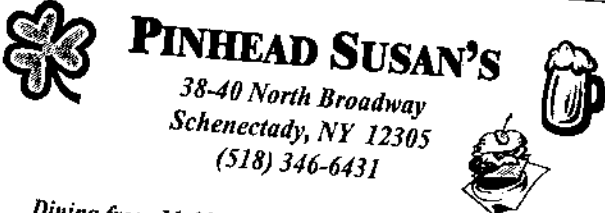
Eli, Diane and Peter met to discuss the Memorial Day picnic idea. Their resolution was that a SPY article should be written which describes the pleasant history of the event and solicits new workers to help reinstitute it. Eli knows its history well. The event is a lot of work and needs lots of participation; if no one comes forward as a result of the solicitation, there is not enough interest.

The Board then spent considerable time reviewing the Tree Lighting ceremony and social gathering, Kerst Kermis and other administrative matters.

Under new business: • the next general meeting, January 15, was discussed. Eli has already scheduled Fred Miller to talk. • we need a big sign, at the entrance to Washington Ave by SCCC that says "NO TRUCKS." They remain a major problem. • finally, it was argued that we need someone to specialize in publicity for the Association; a name or two was suggested. These matters can go on the agenda for the **next meeting, January 6, 2004**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Briber



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Chris Dobson and Jazz

The December of 1996, a little black puppy, with white on his nose and feet, started making friends with the people of the Stockade. Jazz the dog, known for his tail wagging, face licking friendliness took to the hearts of many people in his life. Sadly, on December 1, 2003, Jazz passed away after a year long illness.

We, Chris, Cindy and Myla Dobson, of 106 Union Street thank all of you who made Jazzy's life extra special by taking the time to pet him with a gentle hand and with friendly conversations along his way. We will miss him forever.


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Everyday Art - Catherine de Salle

When I travel out of Schenectady, I tend to go west. Traffic thins, and I love the Mohawk Valley. The drive along route five offers lovely vistas of the river. It is my own personal continuation of walking in Riverside Park.

My favorite place is the Schoharie Crossing in Fort Hunter. It is here where the Schoharie Creek meets the Mohawk River, just past lock number twelve in Tribes Hill. In summer the creek is a busy boat launch, often filled with children, frisbies and picnics enjoyed in the shade. Here I can gaze on the aqueduct engineers designed during work on the Erie Canal. The aqueduct is a crumbling mountain of art and in the last few years portions have tumbled into the creek. Nonetheless, it is still a feast for the eye and the imagination.

Across from this spectacle is perhaps ten acres of cow corn. Bleached a pale yellow color the corn dries and waits for harvesting. I don't know why the farmer hasn't gotten in there yet, but unknowingly he has done something wonderful for me. My senses cannot get enough of this corn. Color and texture. The rich Southwestern yellows of the kernels I've peeked at in my walks through the stalks. The wind beating the leaves like paper drums and the damp warm smell of earth.

A friend has made photographs and I keep them in my studio. My space filled with canvases of corn. Can't make enough paintings. The images in my brain come back again and again. This simple field. This beautiful place.

"Death Takes A Holiday" at Civic Playhouse Jan. 30 & 31, Feb. 1 & 4-8

Albert Casella's play, "Death Takes A Holiday," directed by Barry Corlew and performed by the Schenectady Civic Players, is a romantic drama fantasy. Death appears (in human form) and suspends all activities for three days during which he falls in love with a beautiful girl who shows him why mortals fear him. Charged with exciting moments, "Death Takes a Holiday" is a love-story as simple as it is appealing. A charming and classic 1930's Broadway hit still has broad appeal with the recent movie version starring Brad Pitt and Anthony Hopkins.

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~ Spy Patroons ~



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DEATH TAKES A HOLIDAY

Jan. 30-31, Feb. 1 & 4-8

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**Collection starts
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Don't put waste
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the day before.**

**New Hours At Schenectady County
Historical Society**

In order to accommodate families and folks busy during the week, The Schenectady County Historical Society, starting in January, will open their **House Museum on Saturdays 10 AM to 4 PM, be closed Mondays** and be open Tuesday through Friday, 1 - 5 PM. For special Group tour arrangements phone 374-0263.

The Grems-Doolittle Library hours will remain the same: Monday through Friday, 1:00 - 5:00 PM and Saturdays, 9:00AM to 12 noon.

Birds of the Stockade

One of the birds that I have seen in and around the Stockade is the Slate-colored race of the Dark eyed Junco. It is 6 1/4 inches long. The male is pretty much dark gray, the female is brownish gray overall. Both sexes have a pink bill, white underparts and white outer tail feathers. The song is a musical trill on one pitch. They breed in coniferous woods, and occasionally feed under feeders. A few years ago in Maine I watched a Junco with its mouth full of mosquitoes feed its chicks.

- James L Taft AKA Captain Eagle Eyes

Shivering Stockade Walking Tour!

Friday, February 6, 7 PM On the night before the 314th anniversary of the Massacre, The Schenectady Heritage Area will be conducting an after-dark walking tour of the Stockade. The Cost of \$10 includes refreshments. Call 382-5147.

Important Numbers

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**January Dates
Waste Collection**

**Tues., Jan. 6
Tues., Jan. 13
Wed., Jan. 21
Wed., Jan. 28**

**Stockade
Dates**

**Next Stockade
Association Meeting**

**Thurs., Jan. 15
7:30 PM**

at Historical Society

Stockade Brunch

**Sun. Feb. 15
11 AM - 1 PM
Civic Playhouse**

Park Cleanup

Sat., May 15

Sidewalk Sale

Sat., June 5

Garden Tour

Fri. & Sat.

June 25 & 26

Art Show

Sat., Sept. 11

Walkabout &

Waterfront Faire

Sat., Sept. 18

The Stockade Spy

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