

November 2005 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 47 No. 3

Walking Tour of Historic Schenectady

Sat., Nov. 12 - 11 AM - 1 PM conducted by Richard Genest & John Wolcott

Be sure not to miss this special tour of the Stockade and nearby area. Richard Genest, proprietor of Moon and River Café, has teamed up with his long time friend, John Wolcott, who was recently featured in the *Daily Gazette*, discovering an old wall of the City. This partnership proves to be the start of many historic adventures yet to come!

The walking tour begins at 11 AM at the Moon and River Cafe at 115 South Ferry Street on Saturday, November 12. It will make a circle around old Schenectady, both inside and outside the Stockade walls.

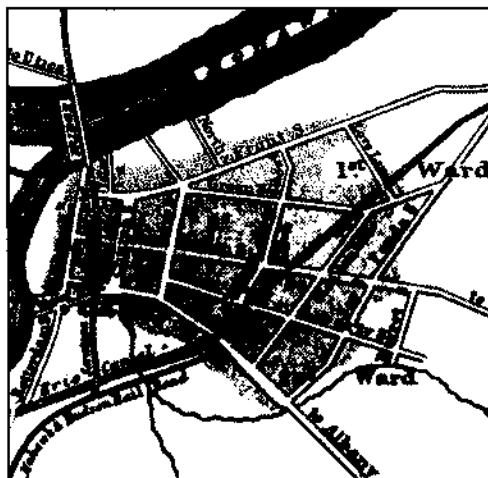
The itinerary will include:

- the former Ann Street - Wharf on the Mohawk - site of boat building, warehouses, commercial center of the city until 1819 fire
- Stockade Subway Tunnel North Entrance (S & S railroad)
- Secret Gardens of Stockade
- Site of Traditional Nude Beach on the Mohawk!
- Whitmyer Broom Factory - operated until 1980's
- Perrecca's Bakery - making a short stop for a slice

of tomato pie.

- Newly discovered brick wall of Colonial House on the road to Albany - outside the Stockade
- site of future Balcony Cafe & Historic Gift Shop in the Great Hall of Schenectady
- First grist mill on Mill Kill built in 1666 by Dutch settler Sweer Teunise

- South Entrance of Railroad Subway Tunnel (1832-46)



Stockade railroad tunnel 1832-37

Their flyer says, "This will not be your typical nose in the air tour, but will be informal, humorous and fun!" The tour is free but gratuities will be accepted at the end.

The tour is from 11 AM to 1 PM, and walkers may gather starting at 10 AM at the Moon and River Cafe for coffee and vittles, and after the tour to warm up, use the bathroom, and for more coffee and vittles. Through the winter instead of walking, they will meet on the 4th Mondays at 7 PM at the Cafe.

The first meeting is Monday, November 28. For more information, call 382-1938.

Stockade Dates

Stockade Association General Meeting

Thursday, November 10 7:30 pm
32 Washington Avenue

"Phantastic Plans for Proctor's"

Speaker: Karen Johnson, Campaign Director

All neighbors invited! see page 3

**Kerst Kermis - Holiday Bazaar
&**

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, November 27

December

**Spy
Deadline**

Nov. 15

Around and About the Stockade

Events at the Open Door Bookstore

128 Jay St. 346-2719

- Sat., Nov. 5
12:00-1:30PM. Stockade neighbor, Karen Pandell, signing **Saint Francis Sings To Brother Sun: A Celebration Of His Kinship With Nature.**
1:00 - 3:00PM - **Annual Holiday Open House**
- Sat., Nov. 12. 12:00-1:30 Daniel Mahoney signing **A Really Good Snowman.**
- Sat., Nov. 19. 1:00-2:30 Barbara Livingston signing **Barbara Livingston's Saratoga - Images From the Heart.**
- Sat., Nov. 25. 10:30, Meet **Curious George** and share stories (age 3+)
- Sat., Nov. 26. 2:00-3:30 Nature photographer Carl Heilman & author Charles Brumley will sign **Wild New York: a Celebration of Our State's Natural Beauty.**
- Sat., Dec. 3. 1:30-3:00 Jane Yolen & Mark Teague signing **How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?**

Schenectady County Community College

78 Washington Ave. 381-1250

- Wed., Nov. 2 Musicians of Ma'alwyck **Viola and Voice Concert.** Lucille Beer, Keith Kibler, Tania Halko-Susi. 7:30PM Community Auditorium. Free/open to public.
- Fri., Nov. 4 SCCC Wind Ensemble. 7:30 PM. Auditorium. Free/open to public.
- Sun., Nov. 6, Capital Region **Wind Ensemble**, 3 PM. Auditorium. Tickets \$8-adults; \$6-students; Call 381-1231 for tickets.
- Fri., Nov. 11. An Afternoon with **Ellen Gootblatt** "Enhancing Our Relationships for More Effective Leadership" 2-4 PM. Stockade Building, Rm. 101. For info call Martha Asselin, Elston Hall, Room 222.
- Thurs., Nov. 17, 8 PM, Fri., Nov. 18, 2:15 and 8 PM, and Saturday, Nov. 19, 8 PM. The SCCC Players present "**Hey Florida!**" written by Kevin Dobies '05. Romantic, spiritual, political comedy, Auditorium. \$3 seniors and students, \$5 general public. Free to SCCC Community.
- Tues., Nov. 29, SCCC Foundation presents "**A Dicken's Feast,**" 6:15 PM. Glen Sanders Mansion. Tickets: \$100 per person. Call 381-1490.
- Wed, Nov. 30, **Guitar Ensemble**, 7:30 PM Lally-Mohawk Room, Elston Hall. Free/open to public.

* * * *

Vale Cemterery Talk - Saturday, November 12, 1:30 PM, by Bernie McEvoy at the Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave. See article, page 10.

Vale Cemetery Tour - Sunday, November 13, 2 PM by Chris Hunter. See article, page 10.

Moon and River Cafe

115 S. Ferry St., 382-1938 4-11 pm

Vegetarian Fare and a Dessert Paradise!

For a complete schedule please call or drop by.

- Tues., Nov. 1** String Dusters - Sch'dy Bluegrass
- Fri., Nov. 4** Art Reception 7 pm - photos of Japan 8 pm - 11 year old guitarist Aaron Civic rocks the house!
- Sun., Nov. 6** 4 pm - Stockadian Mabel Leon talks of her trip to New Orleans to help hurricane victims 6 pm - poetry open mic featuring Alan Catlin
- Mon., Nov. 7** 7pm - Story Circle open mic
- Wed., Nov. 9** 7:30 pm - Ukulele Club - come learn to play this 4 string wonder. There will be extra ukuleles
- Mon., Nov. 28** 7 pm - Historic Schenectady Discussion Circle
- Thurs., Dec. 1** Stockadian Dr. Walter Cicha talk: "Einstein - The Man & Philosopher."

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Stockade Association General Meeting

Thursday, November 10 7:00 PM Social 7:30 PM Meeting

"Phantastic Plans for Proctor's"

Speaker: Karen Johnson, Campaign Director

All neighbors invited!

Schenectady County Historical Society 32 Washington Avenue entrance in back

The Stockade Association Membership 2005- 2006

The Stockade Association has been carrying out its mission, "the protection and improvement of the properties" within its boundaries, for 48 years. Its objectives are to preserve the Historic District and the quality of life for its caretakers. The Association helps assure stability in a neighborhood that has been termed "a national treasure" and is enjoyed by visitors from all parts of America and abroad. Please support the Association and become a member by returning the coupon below.

Membership runs from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006.

\$15 per person, \$20 per household.

\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Business _____ e-mail _____

Please indicate if you would like to help with any of the following useful efforts:

<input type="checkbox"/> Art Show	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Riverside Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Celebrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalk Sale
<input type="checkbox"/> Government Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Stockade Spy</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Walkabout

The Stockade Spy is distributed to the neighborhood monthly, September through May.

If you are a non-resident and

• would like to be mailed *The Stockade Spy*, it is \$10 per year. \$ _____

• would like to become a "Friend of the Stockade" (an associate membership) and support the efforts of the Stockade, your contributions are very welcome. \$ _____

If you would like to give *The Stockade Spy* as a gift, it is \$10 per year. \$ _____

Name of recipient _____

Address of recipient _____

Name of sender _____

Please make check payable to "**The Stockade Association**" Total Amount enclosed \$ _____
and send to: Stockade Association Treasurer, 10 North Church Street, Schenectady, NY 12305.

Neighborhood News

Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

Deb Douglas, Recording Secretary

Stockade Association Board Meeting Minutes October 4, 2005

Present: Joe Fava, Mary D'Alasandro, Diane DeMeo, Lyn Gordon, Peter Rumora, Fred Kindl, Dale Miller and Elena Alvarez. Gloria Kishton and Jean Zegger were present as guests.

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Gloria Kishton, Vice-Chair of the Schenectady Heritage Foundation, informed the Board of the multi-year history of trying to rehab 221 Green Street. She stressed that it is still a top priority of the SHF and asked that the Stockade Association support their efforts. The Board agreed to send an official letter of support and designate a representative to attend any pertinent meetings.

Jean Zegger discussed the continuing problem of large planes frequently flying very low directly over the Stockade. The Board agreed that the problem is still an important one, especially since it became much more severe during the August and September. Joe will initiate contact with people who might be able to assist the neighborhood in alleviating this problem.

Joe reported that Connie Colangelo had resigned from the board and that he was appointing Mary D'Alasandro to fill her term.

Meeting minutes – Dale made a motion to accept the minutes from the September board meeting. Peter seconded and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's report – Lyn gave the financial report, noting that membership is running less this year compared to last. Peter made a motion to accept the report. Elena seconded and it passed unanimously. Lyn reported that the cost for running the web site

has increased by \$200. Peter made a motion that the Association pay that. Mary seconded and it passed unanimously.

City Council – Dale reported that he is organizing volunteers to go to the bimonthly city council meetings to speak about Stockade events or concerns. He is keeping minutes on who spoke and about what, as well as the response, if any, from the city. Anyone with ideas to present or who wishes to volunteer should contact him.

Master Plan – Dale reported that about 20 people attended the Stockade meeting on September 29th and it went very well. He is working through the suggestions to organize them into the existing documents. The first Master Plan meeting with River Street Planning would be October 18. The second and third meetings will most likely be early in 2006.

Suggestions – Dale reported that he received zero reply from his request in the September *Spy* for suggestions from the general membership about neighborhood priorities.

Walkabout – Lyn reported approximately 3000 people attended the Walkabout and Waterfront Faire. Final ticket sales and profits were not yet available. She lauded the number of volunteers who helped out, especially those from outside the neighborhood who came and helped on that day.

Christmas – Peter reported that plans are continuing for a fabulous November 27th tree lighting.

February Brunch – Peter announced the date as February 16.

Dale made a motion to adjourn. Peter seconded and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

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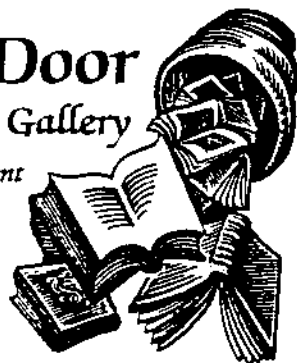
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A Glorious Walkabout & Waterfront Faire!

It was the most perfect autumn day imaginable and the Walkabout and Waterfront Faire team was indeed ready! After last year's early morning down-pour, everyone was up at dawn this year, celebrating the bright blue heavens and delightful temperatures.

Stockade street strollers smiled, while soaking up the rich history and sunshine. Counting the strollers, the house visitors and the Waterfront Faire celebraters, it totalled about 2,000 people.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the homeowners who went to so much effort to ready their homes for tons of visitors to go through them.

Thanks also to the many, many volunteers who made all the mechanics and behind the scenes coordination go so smoothly. This year we had several groups outside of the Stockade helping, including neighborhood watches from other neighborhoods, and volunteers from the boxing gym. Thanks to the Steel Band from Hamilton Hill and the Union College Jazz Ensemble. This is truly becoming a citywide event as shown by this support.

On a completely different note, it was the first year that our sponsors showed such confidence in

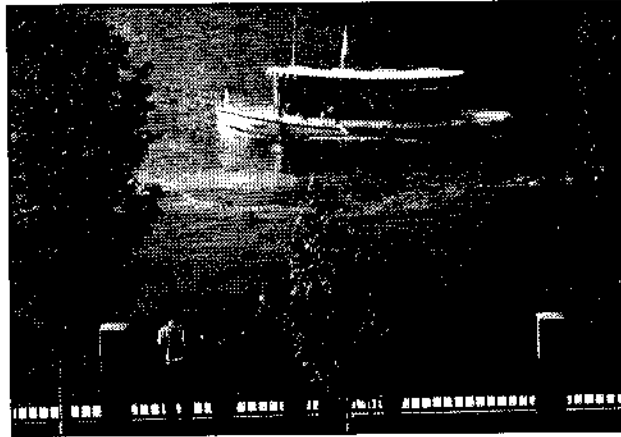
the event by presenting their contributions well before the day even took place! Thanks to our major sponsors Time Warner, MVP, and First Niagara, and also to Eastern Office Supply (donating all the printing costs!), *The Gazette*, Union College, Amtrak, Realty USA, and *The Times Union*. The Chamber did a fabulous job of publicity for the event, and the major sponsorship of I Love NY.

We want to thank all the many businesses, restaurants, and churches that were open and added special activities and touches in celebration of the day.

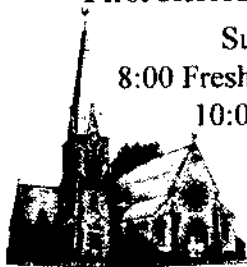
The Waterfront Faire looked beautiful and fun with banners waving at the

Esplanade and colorful cafe tables and chairs inviting visitors to relax, eat, and enjoy views of the river - a popular spot the whole day through. The river banks were overflowing with carriage rides, horseback riding, face painting, children's games, delicious foods, creative crafts, and toe tapping music.

This was the fourth year for the unique partnership of the presenting organizations: The Stockade Association, The Schenectady County Historical Society and The Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corp.



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10:00 Traditional service in main sanctuary

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BARBARA & MICHAEL NAUMOFF

The Phantom on Front Street

by Beverly Elander

There's a mysterious presence rising up from the sidewalk in the Stockade. The entity has been historically reported and witnessed by residents on every street in the neighborhood. Some claim it's only a legend. Others swear to have witnessed its awesome power. Its origin unknown, this strange object has entangled those who dare to saunter casually down Front Street. It has been said that espresso drinkers leaving the 1795 Café have stumbled upon it and been hurled by sheer force out into the path of unsuspecting sight-seers driving PT Cruisers.

What is this mysterious creature? Believers have deemed it a gnarled witch, bent on thwarting the pursuits of dedicated archeologists looking for splinters of the original Stockade timbers. Others support the theory that it is a failed experiment from some misguided GE engineer gone terribly awry. Historians suggest the monster may have evolved from the fertile soil of the Green Street Burial Plot.

Other theories about these strange creatures have been proposed as well.

One story currently circulating is that it escaped from a tree farm in Galway, NY, settled in the rich flood plain of the Mohawk River and rapidly reached gigantic proportions. Perhaps, the Erie Canal brought a seed, attached to a barge traveling from Buffalo, to its current location.

Another theory, proposed by the scholars at the Historical Society is that these creatures are avocado trees which have evolved from a "supposedly prehistoric family indigenous to California," a species that was highly successful in living in both "temperate and subtropical areas." On the other hand, they could have come from Asia during the Pleistocene era.

Other creative possibilities include linking these creatures to UFO sightings. It's been hinted that Lawrence the Indian may have inadvertently spawned the monstrosity by accidentally scattering seeds clung to his quiver as he relentlessly pursued the Indians and French after the 1690 raid.

Regardless of its origin, those whose families have lived in the Stockade for generations simply call the creature BIGROOT. New-comers refer to it Sassafrassquatch. Regardless of its name, neighbors whisper that its hold is so strong it could pick up a chair with a man sitting on it with its gnarled appendages.

Observers have reported that what they had encountered was at the time "frightening, damn frightening."

Halloween in the Stockade is by nature an eerie affair, with the ghosts of the Veeders and the Schermerhorns, the Van Curlers and the Van Vrankens darting about among the gravestones of St. George's Church cemetery. Residents trick or treating on this night in particular are warned to avoid at all costs the danger lurking from BIGROOT!



Photo by Beverly Elander

The "remains" of "Bigroot"

(Postscript: Sometime between Thursday evening on my walk home after listening to jazz artists Sonny Daye and Perley Rousseau at the Stockade Inn, and Sunday afternoon when I walked to Front and North Ferry to try to capture Bigroot on film, the creature had vanished. Only a mournful pile of sawdust remains of the legend.) B.E.

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Laughing Out Loud at the Whisperdome

TENTH ANNUAL BENEFIT PERFORMANCE FOR CAPITAL DISTRICT STORYTELLING

Sunday, November 13 First Unitarian Society of Schenectady
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 1221 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady, NY

Come hear humorous stories for adults. Proceeds from our previous benefit events have funded 60 storytelling programs in the Capital District.

Reservations: Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door
(518) 384-1700 Buy 7 tickets, get the 8th FREE

A Little Financial Aid for Ailing Sidewalks & Painting

The Stockade Association has an incentive program to help neighbors with home improvements. A maximum of \$300 per property owner is available for sidewalks. For painting building exteriors readily visible from the public way, the maximum is \$150 per property owner. To be eligible, one must be a paid-up member of the Stockade Association for 2005-6. (See membership form page 3). All sidewalk and painting work must be approved by the Historic District Commission. (See page 9).

For more information on this program and to obtain forms, please contact Lidia Pasamanick, 377-0802.

New at the Stockade Inn

The Stockade Inn now offers live jazz in its newly renovated Lounge from 7 to 10 PM every Thursday and Friday night with no cover charge.

- Thursday 11/3 - Tommy Verrigni Trio
- Friday 11/4 - Michael Louis-Smith Trio
- Thursday 11/10 - Lee Shaw Trio
- Friday 11/11 - Rich Lamanna Trio
- Thursday 11/17 - Jazz Unlimited feat. Paula Harbour
- Friday 11/18 - Jody Shayne Trio
- Thursday 11/24 - Thanksgiving
- Friday 11/25 - Sarah Pedinotti Trio



Photo by Beverly Elander



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10:00 a.m. Brunch & Fellowship

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Return to Illyria

by Macolm Willison

Enameled, a river surface
recasts the after-glow
and evening star
to someone calmly on the brink
whom half moon now watches the south
sideways through the ragged trees
all older by forty years
than laughing picnickers had been
under younger cottonwoods
here losing leaves but then
awaiting oil barges' slow
passage to the West,
whose each wake washed
more micron grains from granite
rick-rack shore laid
ninety years ago, perhaps
sometime renewed
against the ice-floe floods of spring
down from melted snow
which could foretell
an ocean that will drown
the future, and upend
our seaward hopes
the river so smoothly
flows toward, tonight.

Riverside Park, September 12, 2005

Stockade and City Plan Update

On October 18th, Margaret Irwin of River Street Planning presided over the first of three meetings concerning the Stockade's portion of the city's comprehensive plan. About 35 residents attended the meeting. For the first half, Ms Irwin covered the history of comprehensive plans in Schenectady as well as how the Stockade neighborhood's demographics compare to others in the city. The most interesting nugget of data was that the Stockade accounts for 1.5% of the city's land but provides 3.4% of the city's taxes.

The second half of the meeting was a wide-ranging discussion of what needs to be improved in the Stockade, which included such topics as the conditions of streets, sidewalks and curbing, cut-through traffic, parking, speeding, traffic laws enforcement, code enforcement, excessive signage, street cleaning, inequitable property assessment, Riverside Park, communication with the city, burying utility lines, street lighting and pedestrian access to downtown. Many excellent ideas and comments were made and collected by River Street.

The second and third meetings will be held in January and February. During these meetings, Stockade residents will help craft and prioritize concrete solutions to be included in our section of the comprehensive plan. These meeting dates will be published in the *Spy* as soon as we know them. Additionally, Dale Miller will provide updates on the process during the November and January general meetings. To get even more up-to-date information about the comprehensive plan (and many other neighborhood happenings), send a blank email to HistoricStockade-subscribe@yahoogroups.com then reply to the confirmation email you will receive. Call Dale if you need assistance.

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK!

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Planning to Do Some Outside Repairs & Painting?

If you are planning repairs and painting, including those that are identical to what was there before, you may need to file an application. Applications, full deadline and meeting schedule, and further information are available from Christine Slovak, 382-5147, or Tony Tozzi, 382-5054 in the Department of Development, Room 14, 105 Jay Street, City Hall, Schenectady, 12305. Fees for Historic Commission applications are \$10 for residential applications and \$20 for commercial applications. Following is the schedule for application deadlines and 7:00 PM review meeting dates for 2005:

<u>Application deadline</u>	<u>Review meeting</u>
November 7	November 21
December 5	December 19

To find out about financial aid for sidewalk and painting incentives, please see page 7 of this *Spy*.



SCHENECTADY CIVIC PLAYERS
77th SEASON - 2005-2006
GO BACK FOR MURDER Dec. 9-11 & 14-18
ENCHANTED APRIL Jan. 27-29 & Feb. 1-5
BETRAYAL Mar. 17-19 & 22-26
OVER THE RIVER & THROUGH THE WOODS May 12-14 & 17-21
12 South Church Street, Schenectady Tickets: \$12 Call box office at 382-2081

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- Catherine de Salle

A Backyard Excursion

Someone has parked their car on the street and placed a lawn chair at the edge of the Rose Garden at Central Park. It is a soft, warm October morning. There are no bugs. No crowds. Plaques within clumps of bushes have names like "starry night" and "hybrid tea." As the light reaches each sparkling gem, hundreds of roses perfume the air. Walking through the grassy paths, I measure some long stems against my nose. They must be six feet tall! They'll be cut back in a couple of weeks, and the plants covered with straw for winter. But today, there are double flowers and singles, gentle yellows and creamy pinks.

I suppose this is Indian Summer and this afternoon will be hot. The sky is a brilliant cobalt and some towering white pines, cones dangling, are a lovely sight. I've taken the path around the lake enjoying the reflections in the water as joggers pass.

The person in the chair has gone now. A wonderful way to start the day? If you missed the roses this time around, they'll be back come June. Promise to come.

Note: On the off-chance you're not aware of this marvelous place, Central Park is just a short drive by car (ask anyone), and is easily accessible by CDTA bus. It is open all year.

	Robert D. Preville 2 Union Street Schenectady, NY 12305 Voice: 518.441.9946 E-mail: bob@preville.us
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA 209 Union Street Schenectady, NY 12305 (in the historic Stockade District)	
Sunday Worship 8:15 A.M. Contemporary 11:00 A.M. Traditional 6:00 P.M. Informal (7:00 P.M. in July & August)	Phone: 518-374-4546 Fax: 518-374-2505 Email: fpcsrmin@nycap.rr.com Website: www.1stpreschurch.org
Wednesday Evening 6:00 Family Dinner (Sept.-May) 7:00 Prayer Meeting Youth groups	<i>You are always welcome!</i>

	PINHEAD SUSAN'S 38-40 North Broadway Schenectady, NY 12305 (518) 346-6431	
Dining from 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Monday - Friday 12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Saturday - Closed Sunday Spirits served until closing		

- Tidings -

Happy News!



Some of you may have received the poster announcing the disappearance on September 2 of 6 year old "Spike" the kitty. Spike belongs to Marion of Front St. and friend Marilyn was helping her find Spike. Malcolm Willison of North Ferry reported to the *Spy* editor on Tuesday, October 18 that he had been feeding a kitty that fit the description in the poster and wanted the phone number to call. Marilyn reported on Thursday, October 20 that Marion called the kitty at her door and Spike just ran in. A happy ending for all!

Thank you to:

Janie Hayner, Carl Olsen, Eli Taub and Assemblyman Jim Tedisco for the painted crosswalks in the neighborhood.

Statuary and Symbolism Tour At Vale

The final tour in Vale Cemetery for this season will be on **Sunday, November 13th at 2:00 PM**. This tour will be devoted to Statuary and Symbolism. The Tour leader will be Christopher Hunter, archivist at the Schenectady Museum. Those interested in going on this tour should assemble at the Caretaker's House, 907 State Street. The tour will begin promptly at 2 PM and last about an hour to an hour and a half. Wear comfortable shoes and warm clothing! There is no charge but donations toward cemetery maintenance are most appreciated.

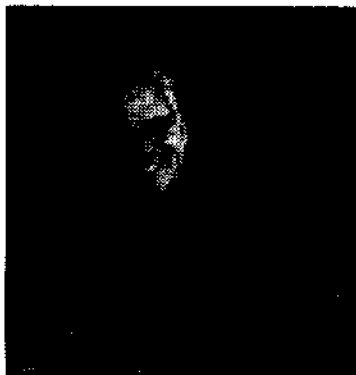
As for Statuary and Symbolism, Vale has an abundance of both. One of the more striking statues is referred to as "The Black Angel" around which there has grown up a number of stories that she watches over the cemetery. It's one of the Veeder memorials and over the years the metal from which it was fabricated oxidized to green and then to green and black. Yet another distinctive statue sits atop the memorial for the Ellis brothers, John and Charles, who were the founders of the American Locomotive Works (ALCO) - the statue is that of a commanding figure atop a column overlooking the Vale toward the locomotive works. These are prime examples of what is often referred to as Monumentalism and Dynasty Plots in Cemeteries - a central monument circled by smaller grave markers for family members.

At Vale Cemetery, examples of iconography are particularly interesting because of the age of some of the headstones. Vale opened in 1857 and in 1859 there was a major reinterment of the bodies and grave markers from the First Reformed Church Cemetery from its previous location on Green Street not far from Ferry Street. Around the same time there was also a reinterment to Vale Cemetery of members of the Van Guysling family which had been buried on Van Slyck Island in the Mohawk River. The earliest grave markers tended to be simple - and one or two are in Dutch including the one for Ian Meebie - but are very difficult to read today because of erosion of the material used for the markers. The iconography on these early colonial stones represents familiarity with death and the uncertainty of making it to heaven. There are a number of examples in the Dutch Reformed Cemetery Plot that feature icons such as winged skulls (dead heads) complete with crossed bones. Later examples in this area feature winged soul effigies - a less graphic depiction of a skull. Some icons are capped with a stylized tulip, the symbol of righteousness. By the mid 1800's one can detect angels, urns and weeping willows.

On the day before the tour on **Saturday, November 12th, 2005 at 1:00 PM** at the Schenectady Historical Society on Washington Avenue Dr. Bernard F. McEvoy, President of the Vale Cemetery Board of Trustees will give a talk on "Vale Cemetery - Past, Present & Future." This is an historic treasure in the heart of an industrial city. Few people are aware of the amount of history associated with this cemetery - and who better to tell you all about it but the person who has devoted the last 5 years working diligently with his wife to be sure that this treasure not only survives but thrives.

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Birds of the Stockade

One fall day, I was doing some serious stoop sitting on Washington Avenue with neighbor, Karen Pandell, and enjoying her recent book, "Saint Francis Sings to Brother Sun: A Celebration of His Kinship with Nature."

Suddenly, an unusual sight appeared before us. Along came a sweet young woman dangling a little turquoise cage on her arm. At closer look, we discovered a small bird inside!

On talking to this passerby, we meet our neighbor, Melissa Klein, of Union Street, who tells us she often takes her gray cockatiel, "Baby Cakes" for a walk down Washington Avenue on their way to Riverside Park. Melissa tells us that six year old Baby Cakes was a rescue bird and that an elderly lady used to own her with the last name of Mahoney. Melissa changed the name slightly to Baby Cakes "my honey!"



Melissa Klein with "Baby Cakes" and "Sweet Pea," a Cinnamon Pied Cockatiel

On their walks, Melissa says Baby Cakes loves the bright colors of the flowers (maybe because cockateils are bright feathered themselves) and also it likes to hear the sound of other birds.

B a b y Cakes enjoys eating shredded carrots and cheese. Its wings are clipped so he won't fly away. Melissa used to

have to wear gloves to stop getting nipped but that never happens now.

We have wonderful neighbors of all kinds in the Stockadel!

(Along with this cute photo, Melissa left off a little bundle of the most delicious chocolate cake tied up with orange satin ribbon and black lettering of "Happy Halloween" - an unexpected "thank you" for working on *The Spyl!*)

- Sylvie Briber

All of the birds that occur in and around the Stockade go through different changes in their different plumages. Most of the Warblers which pass through are a good example. In the spring migration they are of mostly bright coloration. In the fall their colors go from bright to mostly dull so that they blend in with the tropical vegetation on their wintering grounds. Male Scarlet Tanagers go from Bright Scarlet to olive green but they still retain the black wings and tail. Keep your eyes open for passing Geese.

- James L. Taft,
AKA
Captain Eagle Eyes

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Didn't Get a Spy?

You can usually pick up a copy of the *Stockade Spy* at the following locations: Cafe 1795 at the Indian; The Stockade Inn, at the corner of N. Church and Union Streets; Slick's at the corner of S. Ferry and Liberty Streets and The Van Dyck at 237 Union Street. If you consistently do not receive a copy of the *Spy*, please call the editor, Sylvie at 377-0469.

Important Numbers

Emergency 911
Sch'dy Police 382-5200
Trash Collection, Waste Collection Schedule & Recycling 382-5144

Articles that appear in *The Stockade Spy* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Stockade Association Board of Directors.

Please Be A Good Neighbor:

- * **Avoid honking car horns**
- * **Do not park on sidewalks**
- * **Put trash out only at appropriate times**
(Please tell new neighbors to check back page of *The Spy* for trash pick-up dates)
- * **Remove emptied trash containers from streets ASAP**
- * **Help frail neighbors clean their front yards**
- * **Pick up dog poops (in plastic bags)**

The Stockade Spy

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Founded in 1961

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James D. J. Schmitt

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Werner L. Feibes

First Editor
Barrie C. Covert

November Waste Collection Dates

(holidays on Nov. 11, 24 & 25 create only 3 pick-up dates)

Fri., Nov. 4 Tues., Nov. 15 Tues., Nov. 22

Waste Collection starts at 6:15 AM. Please put waste on the curb only **after 2 PM** the day before. To help keep our neighborhood beautiful, please remove trash cans ASAP from the street when emptied.

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