

February 2006 Published by The Stockade Association www.historicstockade.com Vol. 47 No. 6

## Website - It's A Hit !!!

In November the Stockade Association obtained a new comprehensive web statistics package that let us track visits to the historicstockade site in an unprecedented manner. What did we find? During the last two weeks of November and the first week in December nearly a thousand pages were viewed at our site daily with the heaviest peak over the holiday weekend. This is derived from 9258 pages viewed over the last two weeks in November on **3,638 distinct visits - 47 from European countries!** So who is looking at the Stockade website? Apparently, the whole world!

Have you noticed the changes made recently to the Website (<http://www.historicstockade.com>)? Since October 2005, the site has gone through a number of changes and additions. A new color scheme and composite banner heads the site and the opening page mosaics are updated more frequently.

Although not quite complete at this time, in the months to come, we will be adding a new navigation tool bar and a **Maps and Tours** section which will display a number of both historic and modern maps. In addition, other areas of the site are being reorganized into several main sections: a **Visitor's Center** where newcomers and visitors to the Stockade can easily find items of interest; a **History Center** which will contain links within our website and other websites that deal with the history of the Stockade; a **Community Center** where those who will be living in the Stockade can easily find what they need and items of concern, including Home Owners info, Community Discussion and Stockade Arts; and a **Stockade Association Area**, featuring items related to the governance of the neighborhood association and the position papers issued. *The Spy* is there, too!

- Jennifer Wells

*(Editor's Note: Many thanks to Jennifer Wells for creating, maintaining and continually redesigning the Website over the years. Check it out!)*

## Schenectady Colonial Festival

**Colonial Dinner and Concert, Thursday, February 9, 6 PM, 8 PM Concert.** \$50 per person. An authentic Colonial menu from the Schenectady County Historical Society's copy of *De Vestandige Kock (The Sensible Cook)* will be prepared by the students of Schenectady County Community College Culinary Program. Following dinner, the Musicians of Ma'alwyck will present music from the late 1700s and early 1800s, featuring Mozart, Handel, Sammartini and Vanhal. Limited. For reservations, call 374-0263.

**Shivering Stockade Ghost Tour, Friday, February 10, 7 PM.** Conducted at the same time of year as the historic **1690 Massacre**, participants will understand the horrors of that night. The tour will include other lore and legends of the ghostly inhabitants of the Stockade. Cost of \$10 includes refreshment. Call the Van Dyck for reservations at 381-1111.

**Dutch Vernacular Architecture in North America, Saturday, February 4. 1:30 Refreshments, 2 PM Program.** Historical Society. Author John Stevens will introduce his new book of the same title, available at the Historical Society. Get an in-depth look at the Dutch culture that once dominated New York's landscape.

**The Myth of "The Last of the Mohicans" Saturday, February 11. 1:30 Refreshments, 2 PM Program.** Historical Society. Local historian and active Stockbridge-Munsee Native American member, Steve Comer, talks on the importance of Mohicans in politics.

For complete Festival brochure call **382-5147** or stop in to the **Sch'dy Heritage Area, City Hall, Room 14.**

• • • • •

**Stockade Dates**

<b>Brunch - Free</b>	<b>March</b>
<b>Sunday, Feb. 12 11 AM - 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Spy</b>
<b>Schenectady Civic Playhouse</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>All Stockade Neighbors Invited</b>	<b>Feb. 15</b>
See top of page 2	

• • • • •

**- - - Around and About the Stockade - - -**

**Schenectady Colonial Festival 2006 Feb. 4 - 11**

A tribute to our forefathers and the spirit and commitment with which they faced the challenges of colonial life. See page 1 for details.

**YWCA Events 44 Washington Ave. 374-3394**

**February 5, 3:00 PM 13th Annual Black History Month Celebration**

In a one woman play, Wanda Webster, a local actor and playwright, will portray Dorothy Height and her involvement with the YWCA. She will wear a purple hat because purple and lilac are Ms. Height's favorite colors. The YWCA will honor four African-American business owners. Free.

**February 10 & 11 7:00 PM Vagina Monologues**

As part of the 2006 V-Day Worldwide Campaign, Schenectady is proud to present a benefit production of *The Vagina Monologues* to raise awareness and funds for local organizations working to end violence against women & girls.

\$12 advance, \$15 at door.

**Schenectady Civic Players presents "Enchanted April"**

Follows four English women as they vacation at an Italian villa and, in the process, rediscover laughter, romance, and themselves. **Jan. 27, 28, 29 and Feb. 1-5.** Evening curtain is 8 PM, matinees 2:30 PM. Schenectady Civic Playhouse, 12 South Church Street. Tickets are \$12. Call 382-2081.

**Moon and River Cafe, 115 S. Ferry St. 382-1938 4 - 11 pm**

Vegetarian Fare & Dessert Paradise! For full schedule of events, call or stop in. From JJ Johnson (poetryman@seedsandweeds.com.): Monthly Poetry Readings, first Saturday evenings, open mic and featured poets, starting at 6 PM. Featured poet for February 4 is Gundy.

**Celebrate Valentine's Day with the poetry of Scotia's Melinda Perrin from her book, "Goldenrods - Love Poems for the Old and Foolish." Tues., Feb. 14, 8 PM.**

**Old Fool and Sweet Thang**

You Old Fool  
I love you with foolish pleasure.  
You make me smile, wondring,  
Where you've been all my life?  
What kept you? Were you waiting for me  
To come along and whistle in your ear?

You Sweet Thang  
I was waitin for you to fatten up and ripen.  
Green fruit leaves a sour taste  
But woman you are just right.  
You can whistle any tune you like.  
I'll play your Fool.

*Melinda Perrin  
December 18, 2004*

from *Goldenrods*  
*Love Poems for the Old and Foolish*

**Bring your Valentine or neighbor to brunch, free!**

**Sunday, Feb. 12, 11 - 1 PM.**  
Sch'dy Civic Playhouse, 12 S. Church Street. Omelets and baked goodies. All goodies are welcome!

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# Neighborhood News

Bob Briber, Secretary

Stockade website: [www.historicstockade.com](http://www.historicstockade.com).

## Minutes

### Stockade Association General Meeting January 12, 2005 Schenectady County Historical Society

President Joe Fava called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm; about 40 people were present. Joe asked Fred Kindl to introduce Frank Gilmore, Stockade neighbor and member of the architectural firm of Stracher-Roth-Gilmore.

Frank, aided by slides, described an urban rebuilding project on 5 1/2 acres in the East Front Street area. The development team, well regarded by city officials, consists of a number of local firms with many different capabilities.

Frank described in detail the 80 or so residential properties planned for the project, which will echo many of the qualities of the Stockade, New "mews" housing, duplex townhouses and other market-rate housing will join a number of renovated homes - some of which go back to the 19th century - plus local thru streets, trees, pedestrian access to seasonal docking facilities and other attractive, river oriented facilities. Frank said the city offered 219 Front St for \$1 as an incentive to develop the area - now composed of many different properties - and has been very helpful. He said the involved neighbors have been very cooperative and that Steve Strichman of the City has been particularly supportive. Frank answered questions and was applauded warmly.

The minutes of the Association general meeting of November 11, 2005, were accepted as reported in the SPY, and Lyn Gordon's Treasurer's report was accepted. She reported that since that earlier meeting the Association has had expenses of \$9807 and income of \$9008, leaving a balance in our checking account of \$16,484. The Walkabout realized a net income of \$4755, a very good return. The total financial assets of the Association are \$42,343.29.

• Lyn reported on encouraging progress toward next year's Walkabout. The planning group plans to extend the children's entertainment area, and is looking actively for houses to feature in the event. Suggestions were sought from the group. • Diane DeMeo reported on Kerst Kermis, the craft fair held on the day of the tree lighting, which this year netted \$985.25. A planning meeting for next year's event will be held shortly. • Joe - in Peter Rumora's absence - described the free brunch to be held from 11 to 1 on

February 12 in the Civic Players' building. Everyone is warmly encouraged to attend, and those choosing to do so can bring in baked goods for the assembled crowd that morning as early as 9 am. • Dale reminded the group of the City Master Plan meeting at 6:30 pm on Jan. 24 at 6:30. He said he would put the results of the first of these planning meetings on his Yahoo site. • The group was also reminded of the information meeting about the Gilboa dam at 6:30 pm on 1/17/06 in City Hall. • Fred described the plans for the March 9 general meeting of the Association, a "brainstorming" session, so members of the Association can describe the directions in which they would like to see the Association proceed.

Jack MacDonald reported that he has heard the 185 residents of the YMCA will stay there as the YMCA's other services are moved to the "Big N" site. The group discussed the issue at length, and unanimously passed a motion (moved MacDonald, seconded Kishton) saying that "the Stockade Association supports having the YMCA residency program move out of its present building. The building should be renovated for other uses such as housing for SCCC students."

Carmella Ruscitto spoke about the "Neighborhood Watch" program, and asked for volunteers to help a couple hours a week. She said the requirements are not at all difficult; they can be carried out, for example, while walking the dog - but police respond very quickly when alerted by the participants. Jennifer Wells said she had names of people who said they would work with the program when they joined the Association.

The meeting was adjourned a 9:00 pm.

- Respectfully submitted, Bob Briber

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# Everyday Art

- Catherine de Salle

Memory seems to unlock some creative doors for me, and so when the word "Greece" was mentioned at lunch a few days ago, my mind filled itself with images from a distant past.

There were fragrant chickens slowly turning on a spit, their skins stuffed with lemon slices in a tavern on a narrow street in Panormo, a fishing village on the north coast of Crete. We'd come to this place by ferry from the mainland to Heraklion, and then by car. Silver Olive groves and herds of sheep on the drive. And why we settled in that town I can't remember. But it was close to the sea and there was a beach for swimming. It was not a tourist place and there were no shops except to buy food and a general store with a telephone. Siesta was at two in the afternoon and people got up again around four to go back to work, or to have a drink outdoors in the square.

We took an excursion one day to Chania (pronounced Hannah) the capitol of Crete to shop and see the ancient harbor, its stone pillars rising from the sea and filled with boats of brilliant colored sails. In a restaurant our appalling Greek was ignored as we were

taken to the kitchen to choose our fish from ice-packed drawers. Our dinner was accompanied by potatoes fried in the local olive oil. Cheese was only sheep's cheese and very creamy.

I remember fish jumping out of the sea and a man with a brazier roasting chestnuts. No dogs on the island. Only sheep dogs and seeing-eye dogs. But hundreds of cats prowling around. Thin and hungry.

It only rains in Crete in January. The rest of the time it is sunny and about sixty degrees. No humidity. Perfect for olives. Humans too.

Nice to sit with my coffee on this gray, wet day a million miles from the Aegean and the sun. Isn't it wonderful to have memories? To slow the pace a little, to pause, and remember?

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## 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: October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006. \$15 per person, \$20 per household. \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Art Show     Membership     Riverside Park     Walkabout     Neighborhood Watch  
 Garden Group     Neighborhood Celebrations     Sidewalk Sale     *The Stockade Spy*     Government Affairs

*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. \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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## Front Street Antiques

Beverly Elander

There's no challenge shopping at Macy's or Walmart's. Everything is totally predictable. But mosey down Front Street (sometime between 9 am and 1 pm), under the railroad bridge toward Erie Boulevard, as I did one uncharacteristically warm day recently, and you might notice a white façade on the right with a large "OPEN" sandwich board on front step. You've just discovered one of the best kept secrets on the outskirts of the Stockade: Front Street Antiques.

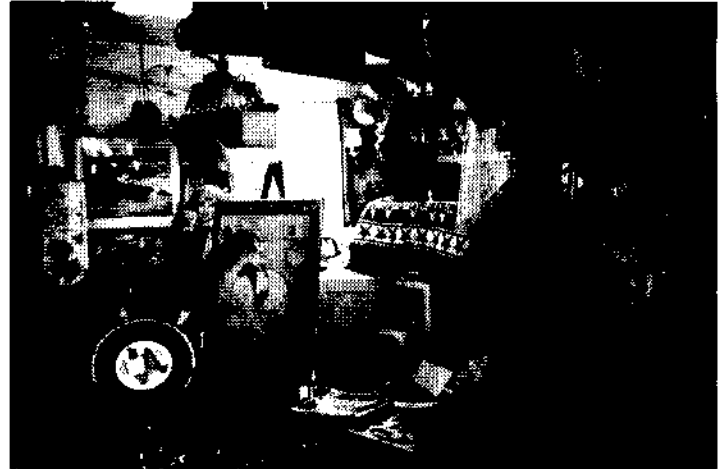
"You really need a sign, Lillian," I said to proprietor Lillian Goodspeed. "I'm working on it," she replied, "but I didn't want the nails to cause rust spots on the new exterior," she explained.

For ten years, Lillian has worked at the Front Street establishment, its sole proprietor for the last five. After a stint at running a day-care business, she began buying box lots from auctions. She stripped and caned furniture for a while, read lots of books, and gave birth to Front Street Antiques.

Besides tending the store from 9-1 Tuesdays through Saturdays, Lillian brings her vintage treasures to the Brimfield (MA) Antiques Show each summer (this year: May 9-14 • July 11-16 • September 5-10). One year, she adorned her table with 5000 salt and pepper shakers!

But you can find more than shakers in this unique emporium. In the brief time I inhabited the store, I noted vintage clocks, radios, cameras - and an enamel bedpan. Lillian has collections of photos, posters, paintings, lps, glassware, toys, dishes, jewelry and hats. I left the shop with an ornate pewter (I think) creamer, sugar bowl and larger bowl set, engraved with my initial "E." I also purchased four pressed glass berry bowls, a creamer, two small punch cups, and a spatula-like utensil with a copper handle for which I have absolutely no use but love. I must add that I still had money in my pocket. No items are priced, but everything is reasonable - so much so that I heard no bartering done during the hour I was there.

During my visit, two "regulars" and a young couple



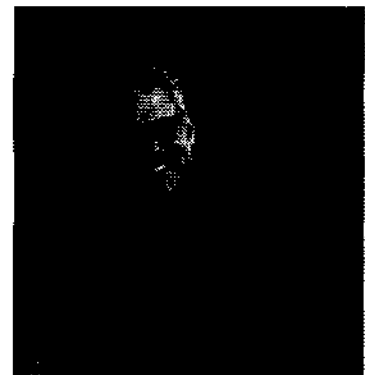
browsed the crowded aisles. Lillian adds items to her store daily, and she remembers what her customers collect. Gerald left the store with a life size cardboard standup of Glamour Girl Marilyn Monroe, while another gentleman was delighted with a baggie full of tiny plastic figures.

A life-long area resident, Lillian has 6 children, 14 grand children and an almost 6 year old great grandchild. Her roots are firmly established in Schenectady - as evidenced by her ever-growing, always changing little shop on Front Street.

(Front Street Antiques, 302 Front Street, Schenectady, NY 12305, 518-346-3051, Hours: 9-1 Tues-Sat, closed Sunday and Monday)

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2005-2006**

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YWCA of Schenectady

**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 tell our delivery guy, **Josh Mlodzianowski, 382-7654.**

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

**Important Numbers**

**Emergency 911**

**Sch'dy Police 382-5200**

**Trash Collection, Waste  
Collection Schedule &  
Recycling 382-5144**

**Snow Parking Info  
382-5279**

**Please Be A Good Neighbor:**

- For evening stroller safety during these long nights, keep your porch lights on.
- 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 poop (in plastic bags)

**February Waste Collection Dates**

**Tues., Feb. 7    Tues., Feb. 14    Wed., Feb. 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 emptied trash cans from the street ASAP.

**The Stockade Spy**

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Sylvie Briber 377-0469  
23 Washington Avenue

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6 Front Street

**Delivery**

Josh Mlodzianowski  
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*The Stockade Spy* is published monthly, September to May, distributed to Stockade residents at the beginning of each month.

**Deadline** for entries is the **15th** of the previous month.

**Founded in 1961**

**Founder  
James D. J. Schmitt**

**Designer  
Werner L. Feibes**

**First Editor  
Barrie C. Covert**