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## *Stockade Ghosts!*

*What goes on at the bottom of Washington Avenue?*

*Who is the folded blanket for?*

*Is it a ghost or spirit?*

Find out on the **Stockade Ghost Tour**, starting on Friday, October 9th. Because of the tour's great popularity, the Schenectady Heritage Area is doing it again for the fifth year. Join one of the several tours a night, starting at 7:00pm, and then at half hour intervals. Held on Friday evenings, October 9, 16, 23, and 30, all tours start at Clinton's Ditch, 112 South College Street. The tour cost is \$10 and includes a beverage. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call 346-8376 between the hours of 9:30 to 11:30am or after 1pm. You just might get spooked!

## **Gravestones In Our Backyards**

*- Heather Cunningham*

Walking around the Stockade today, few would realize that a cemetery was once located on the lot between Green and Front Streets. The cemetery belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church and, as the first cemetery in Schenectady, contained the city's earliest citizens and oldest gravestones. In the 1840's the entire country experienced a cultural transition in its view of death and burial, known as the Rural Cemetery Movement. This movement led away from intercity burial sites. Vale Cemetery, opened in October of 1857, is Schenectady's own rural cemetery, conceived from these changing cultural perspectives. With the opening of Vale cemetery, interment was stopped at all of the graveyards that had formerly serviced the Stockade community, including the Green Street cemetery.

In 1879 the decision was made to develop the area that had once been reserved for the Dutch Reformed cemetery. A great effort was made to transport the stones from Green Street to Vale. However, with such a large undertaking, many stones did not find their way into the cemetery. Today there are roughly 430 stones located in the Dutch Reformed section of Vale, just inside the State Street entrance. Many other stones were removed from the Green Street cemetery by families to their private plots purchased in Vale. And many of the stones never made it to Vale. Many of them can be found today in the gardens and walks

of Stockade homes. Four such stones can be found at #48 Washington Avenue, and seem to have been used to reinforce the terraced lawn of the property. Other stones were



*Photo by Kathleen Bradley*

used to decorate garden paths, as can be seen in the garden at #3 Front Street. Whether stones such as those found in the gardens of the Marshall's and Ms. Johnson were stolen or discarded for scrap is unknown. Many of the stones still are unaccounted for, and it may be impossible to find them all.

*Heather Cunningham is a Union College graduate, Class of 2008, and was a summer intern at the Schenectady County Historical Society.*



## Schenectady Heritage Foundation News

The good summer weather was conducive to preservation work in the Stockade!

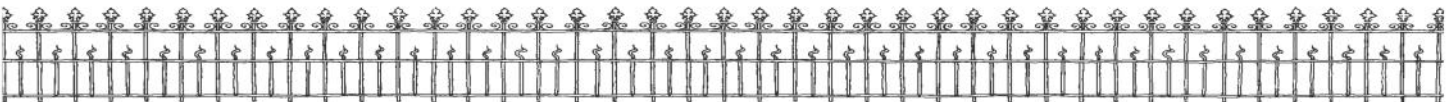
First Presbyterian Church is completing "Phase 1" of their stained glass project - restoring an 1880's opalescent stained glass window dedicated to the Ellis and Schermerhorn families. Cohoes Design Glass, recently relocated to the former Holy Cross Church, is performing the \$87,500 restoration. The Foundation wrote a letter of support for the Church's application to the Environmental Protection Fund, seeking a grant to help fund the restoration of other stained glass windows in the sanctuary. First Pres also plans to reconstruct their Union Street sidewalk. Next year, the parish will celebrate their 250th anniversary. And a big "Welcome!" to their new pastor, Larry and his wife Betty!

Tom Killeen made substantial progress on the restoration of 221 Green St. Essentially building a "house within a house" to stabilize the structure, the home now has a new roof, reconnected utilities, and reconstructed masonry walls. This fall, look for the restored front entrance. Kudos to Tom for working so hard on the restoration, with the help of a \$25,000 grant from the Foundation!

The southeast corner of the Stockade saw major

improvement over the summer. Robert Werner made tremendous progress on his restoration of 5 N. College St. His work has made a positive difference, with another neighbor planning to repaint their house in historic colors. The reopening of the Van Dyck Restaurant and improvements made there by the new owners, the McDonald family, have further enhanced the area. This fall, at the Stockade Gateway (corner of Erie Blvd. and Union Street) the Foundation plans to partner with the Stockade Association to replant several trees that have died since the Gateway was built a decade ago. Also, in the area, restoration of the facade and roof of 218 Union St., a commercial building owned by Paul LeFebvre, will begin, assisted by a matching grant from Metroplex.

Many thanks to those who have supported Schenectady Heritage Foundation this year with donations or volunteering! To discuss the Foundation's work, or other opportunities for giving, please call me, Gloria Kishton, Foundation Chair, at 377-1160. All donations fund historic preservation, can be restricted to use in the Stockade area only, and are, of course, tax deductible. Donations can be sent to the Foundation at P.O. Box 1173, Schenectady, NY 12301-1173.



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# THE STOCKADE ASSOCIATION

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## The Stockade Association Membership 2009 - 2010

The Stockade has been described as “a national treasure, enjoyed by thousands of visitors from across America and the world for more than a half century. At the same time, The Stockade Association has continued to preserve this Historic District and quality of life for its caretakers, and provide protection and improvement of the properties within its boundaries.

Your support of The Stockade Association by becoming a member greatly helps in furthering its mission. Membership for voting members is \$15 per person, \$20 per household. Businesses and non-residents can join as non-voting members. Simply complete this form and mail with your remittance to the address indicated below.

**Membership: September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010. \$15 per person, \$20 per household. \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Name(s)            Include all members with household membership:

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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” (non-voting) 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make check payable to “**The Stockade Association**” Total Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

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## Spotlight on Stockaders

### Joan Purtell - Beverly Elander

I recently sat down in the lounge of the Stockade Inn one evening with neighbor Joan Purtell. Joan, an Amsterdam native and resident of the Stockade for the past 11 years, has participated in the Walkabout, Soiree, and Garden Group events. And now, she added Habitat for Humanity to her roster.

Joan was appointed by the board this past month because of her background in real estate, as well as her work with various ministries, and will serve the board in all areas of the construction phase. She will also be on an inter-faith committee which enlists religious organizations to become involved in the Habitat family.

According to the webpage for the Capital District Habitat for Humanity ([www.capitaldistricthabitat.org](http://www.capitaldistricthabitat.org)) the mission of the organization is to ensure that everyone in our community has a decent, affordable home. That mission is made possible through partnerships and the generosity of our volunteers, sponsors, and donors and our Habitat Homeowners. Habitat for Humanity operates as a construction company; we build houses, as a bank; we offer 0% interest loans to Habitat qualified families to own their home; and, as a social service agency; serving in partnership our families over the term of the mortgage.

Purtell believes her extensive background in the field will enrich Habitat for Humanity. Beginning in the early 80's she and her mother opened Century 21 Purtell in Amsterdam. During the latter part of the 80's she started appraising property. In the mid '90's she was mentored by one of the finest MAI (Member of the Appraisal Institute), William S. Hafner of Hafner Valuation Group, Inc. Commercial Division. To further her career, she completed the requirements for CCIM (Certified Commercial Investment Member) and is scheduled to sit for the final exam in Chicago this fall.

"My desire is to utilize my knowledge to advance the Habitat family as a whole," says Purtell.

The current state of the economy "is a great time for Stockaders to support Habitat for Humanity," she adds. Donations may be made in the form of labor, money, or items (sinks, counters, cabinets, toilets, lighting fixtures, household items such as couches, chairs and tables) given to the Habitats ReStore.

Stockaders interested in donating to Habitat for Humanity may email Joan at [joanpurtell@yahoo.com](mailto:joanpurtell@yahoo.com) or contact her by phone at 813-0135.



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**August 8, 2009**

**R. I. P.**



**Lawrence Speaks! - Peter Rumora**

This past summer while trimming and shaping the plants around Lawrence I asked him what he thought about my work. He answered me! There were two very strange things about his answer. The first was he has not spoken to me since the last time I did the Christmas decorations in the circle. At that time I asked him what he thought about the decorations and he told me he was disappointed that there were no traditional Indian design or symbols included in the project. The second strange thing was his answer, "KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE GROUND." What the hell does that mean?

I continued to work and while raking I noticed what I first thought was a bottle cap but upon picking it up saw there was some sort of engraving of a head on one side of it. I thought it was probably some other country's money. I put it on Lawrence's base next to my glasses, finished my chores and went home. When I reached for my glasses I realized I had left them at Lawrence and went back and got them along with the coin which I had forgotten about. It turned out to be an 1853 United States One Cent Coin.

**MORAL: When Lawrence speaks - LISTEN**

**Doing Outside Repairs and Painting?  
Need to fill out an application?**

If you are planning outside repairs and painting, including those that are identical to what was there before, you may need to file an application. Any repairs, painting, or sidewalk replacement seen from the public right of way must have approval from the Schenectady Historic Commission. Applications, full deadline and meeting schedule, and further information are available from Cari Hourigan (CHOURIGAN@GMAIL.COM) or 382-5147, Department of Development, Room 14, 105 Jay Street, City Hall, Schenectady, 12305. Also, <http://www.cityofscheneectady.com>. Fees for Historic Commission applications are \$10 for residential applications and \$20 for commercial applications. Here is the schedule for application deadlines and review meeting dates for 2008. Review meetings are in Room 209, City Hall, 7pm.

<u>Application deadline</u>	<u>Review meeting</u>	<u>Room</u>
October 5	October 19	209
November 2	November 16	209
December 7	December 21	209

**Katbird Kitties**

It's always a delight to stop in to visit (and perhaps pet) Roger and Ophelia, the kitties at the Katbird Shop. Now our opportunities have increased with their evening hours on Friday until 9pm and open on Sundays 11am -2pm.

Kathy Fitzmaurice, their owner, is a delight, too, plus her special one-of-a kind handcrafted items. Don't forget to peek in the lower level for antiques. - Sylvie Briber

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# Calendar In and Around the Stockade

**Open Door BookStore**  
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## Events for October

- Sun., Oct. 4 11-12:30 Nancy Castaldo signs "Keeping Our Earth Green."
- Sat., Oct. 10 1-2:30 Ellen Graf signs "Natural Laws of Good Luck: A Memoir of an Unlikely Marriage."
- Sat., Oct. 17, 1-2:30 Susannah Applebaum signs "Poisons of Caux."
- Sat., Oct. 24 James Preller signs "Bystander and Mighty Casey."

**Moon and River Cafe** 382-1938  
115 South Ferry St. 9am-11pm 7 days  
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## Events for October All shows start 8pm

- Fri. 10/2 Oldies Night w/Ed Salvo  
Sat. 10/3 Boston singer Paul Cataldo  
Sun. 10/4 1-3 Jazz Brunch w/piano & sax  
Tues. 10/6 String Dusters! - bluegrass  
Fri. 10/9 John & Eric - fingerstyle & blues guitar  
Mon. 10/12 7pm Ukulele Night  
9pm twin bros. from Calif. Chris & Mike play jazzy bluesy hiphop  
Thurs. 10/15 Running the River - folk & Irish  
Fri. & Sat. 16 & 17 American Vagabond Paul Lee Kupfer & Canadian singer Ian Thomas  
Fri. 10/23 Fairview Ave. - bluegrass band

## Civic Players Opens Season with "Rebecca"

Daphne DuMaurier's classic tale of REBECCA will open the 82nd season of the Schenectady Civic Players on October 16th at 8pm.

Maxim de Winter returns to his beloved Manderley mansion with his new bride, one year after the death of his first wife, Rebecca. Adjustment is difficult for the new Mrs. de Winter as the ghosts of the past seem to linger in every room. The housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers, is particularly devoted to the memory of Rebecca. The mystery of how Rebecca died comes to a head at the end of the play, when guilt, loyalty, revenge, and passion all become intertwined for a thrilling conclusion.

REBECCA runs **October 16-18 and 21-25** with performances on **Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30pm**, Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday matinee at 2:30pm. Tickets are available at 382-2081 and [www.civicplayers.org](http://www.civicplayers.org).

Our first staged reading of the season will be the fast moving farce THE PRESIDENT on Sunday, November 1 at 2:30pm. Admission is free for all staged readings.

**SCHENECTADY CIVIC PLAYERS**  
2009-2010 Season



**Rebecca**  
Oct 16-18 & 21-25

**Little Women (The Musical)**  
Dec 4-6 & 9-13

**Beau Jest**  
Jan 29-31 & Feb 3-7

**An Ideal Husband**  
March 19-21 & 24-28

**You Can't Take It With You**  
May 7-9 & 12-16

**Reservations (518) 382-2081 • [www.civicplayers.org](http://www.civicplayers.org)**

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**Didn't Get a Spy?**

You can usually pick up a copy of the *Stockade Spy* at: Arthur's Market at the Indian; The Stockade Inn, corner of N. Church and Union Streets; Slick's, corner of S. Ferry and Liberty Streets and The Van Dyck at 237 Union Street.

**Please report any wrongdoings to the police immediately.**

**Important Numbers**

- Emergency 911**
- Non-emergencies 382-5263, 382-5264**
- Stockade Neighborhood Watch Officer - Lt. Thomas Harrigan call non-emergency # and request him**
- Police Emergency 382-5200**
- Trash Not Picked up Solid waste - 386-2225 hotline 382-5144**
- Code Enforcement -382-5050**
- Waste Collection Schedule & Recycling 382-5144 7:30-4**
- Animal Control Voicemail 382-5200 ext. 5655**

**Please Be A Good Neighbor:**

**For safety, keep your front and back 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 cantainers ASAP**
- **Help frail neighbors clean their front yards**
- **Pick up dog poops (in plastic bags)**
- **Report wrongdoings to the police ASAP**

**October Waste Collection Dates**

**Tues., Oct. 6      Wed., Oct. 14, 21, 28**

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.

**The Stockade Spy**

**Editor**  
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23 Washington Avenue

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