

Press release: Contact person Barb McKeever 646-2321

## **Concerts on the Waterfront**

**Presented by the Sackets Harbor Historical Society every summer Sunday afternoon  
at the Battlefield State Park in Sackets Harbor**

Note - For 26 years, the Sackets Harbor Historical Society has presented the Concerts on the Waterfront series in Sackets Harbor. In honor of the thousands who have attended over the years, we have brought back audience favorites this year, plus new groups that are sure to become favorites.



Soft Spoken- July 11, 2010

The Sackets Harbor Historical Society continues its 26<sup>th</sup> season of the Concerts on the Waterfront on Sunday July 11th with **Soft Spoken**, a seven piece rhythm and blues group with stellar musicians. Soft Spoken's sound is described as "neighborhood" music, the kind of music one might hear at any African American social gathering; "the kind of music Denzel Washington might have on his I POD.

Reggie Siegler is the bass player and founder of the Soft Spoken band. Reggie records numerous commercials and voiceovers for both radio and TV in his own studio, the Bishop Marguerite studio. With the SSB he has played nearly every venue available to a regional act. He enjoys doing the business of the band as well as putting together an occasional arrangement for their live performances. He majored in voice at Alabama State University and currently plays bass and acts as elder statesman for the SUNY Cortland Gospel Choir.

A child prodigy brought up in church choirs, Donna Alford (Reggie's wife) can really sing. Blessed with the gift of song, she delivers a sound that can touch the hearts of anyone. In addition to her nearly 17 years of performing with the Soft Spoken Band, she has recorded numerous jingles and commercials. She is also responsible for the vocal harmonies for which the SSB is noted. Donna has been nominated for a Syracuse Area Music Award (SAMMY) three times. She also sings for ceremonies and events, and with her husband, have traveled the Caribbean performing on cruise ships.

Keith White, aka "the Kool One", is the heartbeat of the SSB. Keith keeps the beat steady and tight and not too light. Like Donna, Keith was introduced to music in church at a very young age. He understands the dynamics of how to raise the enthusiasm of a crowd with a funky beat and how to keep a party going strong.

Rob Brown (trombone and keyboard) is a music teacher at Blodgett elementary in the Syracuse schools and a Crane graduate with a master in music education from Syracuse University. He has played with the Black Lights and the Paul Robeson Company. He is also Music Minister at the Temple of Praise Church. As adjunct professor, he directs the SUNY Cortland Gospel Choir which has competed nationally in the National Gospel Choir competition. Rob and Reggie have both traveled widely to Germany, England, Canada, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Two recent additions to the band hail from Ghana West Africa and have played throughout Europe. On saxophone is Kofi KariKari and Oboubi Ashlong plays guitar. Reggie suggests that they may wear authentic African Garb if weather permits on July 11.

Dave Kuykendall alternates with Oboubi Ashlong on the guitar. He attended the Music Institute in Hollywood California where he studied theory, composition, improvisation and ear training under the guidance of internationally famed jazz guitarist Norman Brown. In addition to playing with the Soft Spoken Band he also does solo guitar work. His personal quest is to master the art of finger style solo guitar.

The Concerts on the Waterfront is a free program of the Sackets Harbor Historical Society. Major sponsors for the series are the Watertown Savings Bank, the village of Sackets Harbor and the Town of Hounsfield Committee for the Advancement of Tourism. This event is made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Decentralization program, administered in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties by the St Lawrence County Council on the Arts. Additional support is provided from businesses and organizations throughout the North Country, and our tradition of "Pass the Hat".

All concerts are held from three to five o'clock on Sunday afternoons at the Battlefield. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, picnics welcomed. Rain site is the United Presbyterian Church.