

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 1-13-2009**

**RE: Two Upper Union Street Businesses “Cross the Street” to Relocate in Same Business Neighborhood**

**SCHENECTADY, NY** --- Two Upper Union Street businesses, **Gayne Optical** and **Empress Travel & Cruises** have relocated within the Upper Union Street Business District. **Gayne Optical** and **Empress Travel & Cruises** didn't need a “welcome wagon style” introduction when they recently moved their businesses. Both chose locations within sight of their former addresses.

Heather Gayne, a licensed optician, moved **Gayne Optical** from Keyes Ave. to 1628 Union St. Ed Plog moved **Empress Travel & Cruises** across the street to newly renovated space at 1711 Union St., Union Street Plaza (the former Kem Plaza). Gayne's move was prompted by the sale of 1019 Keyes Ave. to Eric Crowley who is doing extensive upgrades on the building which will be offered for lease when remodeling is completed.

Gayne Optical, with a licensed optician on premise features eyewear, corrective lenses, advanced contact lens fitting, anti-reflective lenses, and astigmatic lenses. Heather Gayne is accepting new patients and accepts most insurance plans. The phone number is 370-7040. Empress Travel & Cruises is a full service travel agency offering vacation, business, and group travel planning. The phone number is 374-3176.

“I wouldn't be anywhere else,” said Heather Gayne of Upper Union Street. “When I needed to find new quarters, I felt so fortunate to find just what I needed in the virtual center of the Upper Union Street business district. The foot traffic is exceptional and there is a free public parking lot directly behind the new office.”

“Empress Travel & Cruises has been on Upper Union St. for 10 years,” said Ed Plog, the company's owner. “An opportunity to move into newly renovated quarters with an attractive new façade was very appealing. We cater to travelers who live in the 12309 zip code and work nearby. Our convenient location, with parking right out front, is ideal.” Ed Plog also mentioned, “The owner of the Plaza, Sonya Stall, was great to work with during the renovation and move and she has a large space for rent next door to us which would be a great spot for a variety of retail businesses.”

“We are so fortunate to have long standing, loyal tenants like Empress Travel & Cruises and relative newcomers like Heather Gayne have found their business niche here,” said Guy Sementilli, Chair of the Upper Union Street BID. “So many businesses, like Empress Travel & Cruises have been here for many years. These businesses become the mainstay of our business district.”

Upper Union Street is a traditional business and residential neighborhood located in the City of Schenectady near the eastern (Niskayuna) border. The Upper Union Street BID (Business Improvement District) offers services to the district including marketing, maintenance, events, and façade improvement matching grants administered through Metroplex Development Authority. Guy Sementilli, chef/owner of Scotti's Restaurant, is the chair of the bid. [www.upperunionbid.org](http://www.upperunionbid.org).