

This community newsletter publishes information, events, problems and concerns affecting the people of Palisades. 10964 needs your moral and financial support. Please send a contribution for 10964 to Box 201, Palisades, NY 10964. With your help you'll find 10964 in your mailbox every month.



For this December issue we thought it might be nice to hear from people in our community who have been born and raised in countries other than the United States, and to have them share with us their recollections of this time of year and the traditions and customs of the country or region from which they came. We have also included two American "Memoirs" and we hope you enjoy this special feature of 10964.



**HIROKO TSUJIMOTO FELTON: JAPAN**

Hiroko, known as Susie to most of us, was born in Osaka, Japan. She cites 2 reasons for coming to the United States: 1 - Because it was desirable for a university graduate to come here to do post-graduate study, and as she was finished with medical school, she applied for internships to New York hospitals. 2 - She was fascinated by Eleanor Roosevelt who had come to Japan while Hiroko was still in medical school, and with whom she had the honor to be seated at a special banquet.

Because Japan is mainly Buddhist, Christmas is not celebrated nationally or officially. Instead, New Year's Day, January 1, is our most important day of the year. It is the beginning of a three-day holiday. Whatever you do on this first day of the new year will set the tone for what the year will be like for you. If you do good things you will continue to do them the rest of the year. So New Year's Day is important. One tries to smile, not cry; one gives money to the poor; one greets people warmly, teachers, friends, elders, showing them respect. Giving and caring is traditionally emphasized on New Year's Day.

(Con't P. 2)

**ORESTA HAMERSKY: UKRAINE**

Oresta was born in Chodorow, Ukraine, USSR. She and her family came to the United States in 1950 and settled in Pittsburgh, Pa. Oresta and her husband, Bohdan, moved to Palisades in 1968 and have a home on Horne Tooke Road. They have two daughters, Alixandra (Lesha) and Romana (Romy).

The holiday season for some American-Ukrainians is a long affair and it is so with our family. Some Ukrainians adhere to the traditional Julian calendar, which is a Christmas season from Jan. 6 to the 13th; while others choose to celebrate under the Gregorian calendar from Dec. 24 to Jan. 7. Since we have relatives that celebrate both, we have the pleasure of enjoying the Christmas festivities from Dec. 24 through Jan. 13.

We start celebrating on Dec. 24 with my husband's family, in Wenham, Mass. Christmas Eve is the most important part of the holiday and it is a rich blend of Ukrainian tradition. The main feature is the "Svey-ata Vechera" (Holy Supper). The supper on Christmas Eve differs from other meals because tradition holds that 12 meatless dishes be served, in that Christmas Eve is considered part of the pre-Lenten Christmas fast.

Con't P. 3)

Con't. from P.1

If you do good to others, good things will happen to you.

We send greeting cards to people who are far away and opening these cards on New Year's Day is a very big deal. Hundreds and hundreds of cards come to the house. In fact, the only official building open on New Year's Day is the Post Office! All other government and public buildings are closed.

Because women do not cook during the three days of the holiday, they frantically prepare on the three days in December just prior to it! And on New Year's Eve a special noodle is eaten, made from special wheat, not flour. And the women busily prepare the ozoni and omochi, which is explained below. Everyone pitches in to get ready for this three-day celebration.

In this holiday it is the morning meal which is the most important and significant. The whole family gets together to eat this meal. A special soup is prepared, called "ozoni" or white bean soup. In it is placed "omochi," a rice cake made with special rice. Other food eaten at this meal are fish (such as barbecued salmon), beef, ham, lots of vegetables. However, the ozoni is the main feature of the meal. It is good because it is said to give one strength, energy and good health for the new year. This morning meal signifies the beginning of the big celebration.

Special clothes are worn on New Year's Day, many made just for this occasion. Everyone dresses up in the traditional kimono, little kids as well as adults. Modern people in Japan no longer wear the kimono but on New Year's Day everyone dons this traditional national costume. My mother made a beautiful kimono for New Year's Day when I was 6 or 7, and I remember it to this day. It was the color of deep salmon pink and it had little white flowers all over. And it was sewn with silver and gold threads. The obi (sash) was of a very vivid red and had butterflies crocheted on it in silver and gold brocade.

Everyone goes to the Buddhist Temple or the Shinto Shrine sometime during the day, but one may go on any one of the three days of the holiday. And when you go, you pray

for good things to come in the New Year. I remember so well praying real real hard the year I took the entrance exam to get into medical school at Osaka University!

During the remainder of this three-day holiday one visits friends and family. Toso, a special sake reserved for this occasion, is offered when you visit other people's homes or when they visit your home. The first day one celebrates the New Year at home with one's family. On the second day you are truly on vacation and you do nothing but relax and visit with friends. On the third day the young people usually go to parties.

To all of you in Palisades, I want to say: "Shen nen O medeto Gozaimas!" (I wish you a Happy New Year!)

SUSIE FELTON



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STEFANY BERGSON: NEW JERSEY, USA

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Stefany grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey, met husband Simon in Manhattan where they were both working, fell in love with the Palisades setting and in 1984 bought their home on Century Road. They have one daughter, Brianne, and are expecting their second child in January.

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Every year my father cooked latkes (potato pancakes) on a Sunday during the eight day holiday known as Chanukah. The house would smell from the onions and potatoes frying and would hold that delicious odor for days. It was my dad's own special recipe and I have yet to taste latkes as good anywhere.

Chanukah gelt (money given to children during the holiday as a gift) was always well received. My grandmother's presentation was certainly the best! She would sew small drawstring bags of wonderful scrap materials (she was a seamstress by trade). Inside the bags she would place brand new coins, usually half dollars and silver dollars, that we would cherish and save.

STEFANY BERGSON

Con't. from P.1

The first star in the eastern sky announces the time for the commencement of the meal. Normally it is the children's duty to watch for the first star of Bethlehem; at the same time a lighted candle is placed in the window as an invitation for any homeless stranger to join the family in celebrating the birth of Christ.

Members of our family gather around the table, which is set according to time honored custom. Bread (Kalach) symbolizing prosperity, constitutes the central table decoration. Three rounded breaded loaves are placed on top of each other with a candle inserted in the top loaf, and the bottom of the loaf is encircled with twigs of evergreen. Candles on both sides of the loaves complete the table decoration.

If a member of the family has died during the year, an extra place is set for him in the belief that the spirit of the deceased unites with the rest of the family and participates in the "Sveyeta Vechera."

The meal begins with the Lord's Prayer. The first dish is "Kutya," a preparation of cooked wheat dressed with honey, ground poppy seeds, chopped nuts, and raisins. This ritual dish is of ancient origin and it starts the meal in a ceremonial manner. The head of the family raises the first spoonful of the Kutya and greets the family with a traditional Christmas greeting: "Khrystos Rashdayetsa" (Christ is born). Following this ritual everyone must have a taste, while the head of the family gives a well-wishing toast to every member of the family. There is no American equivalent I know of, to Kutya. It is a special dish prepared once a year only on Christmas Eve.

Kutya is followed with a serving of borscht accompanied by a dumpling called "vushka." The main course consists of a variety of meatless dishes such as pirogi, holubtsi (stuffed cabbage), and various fish dishes, and ends with a fruit compote and an assortment of tortes and pastries.

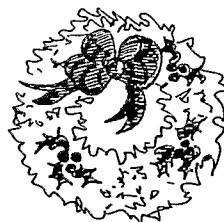
After the meal the older members of the family join in singing Ukrainian and American Christmas carols, while the younger generation anxiously opens the presents under the Christmas tree.

Christmas day marks the end of the fast. After church services it is time for visiting with friends and yuletide greetings. In the afternoon a Christmas dinner is served which usually consists of a meat dish, turkey or duck, added to the dishes of the previous evening. In some urban areas where there is still a large Ukrainian community, carollers still visit homes singing carols and carrying a large star of Bethlehem.

The following weeks are filled with special holiday activities including New Year's. The Feast of Jordan, which comes on Jan. 13th, brings the Christmas season to a close.

In ending this article, our family wishes every reader of 1964 to have a Happy Holiday, a Merry Christmas, and a Joyous New Year.

ORESTA HAMERSKY



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MARY ANN LUCKMAN: ENGLAND



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Born in Weymouth, England, Mary Ann came to the United States in 1964 as a mother's helper in California. She settled in Palisades in 1972 and now works at Lamont as a draftsman. Mary Ann and her husband, Hannes Brueckner, live on Route 340 with their children, Fiona, Jacob, Steven and Laurie.

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At this time of year my thoughts always return to my childhood in England and to Weymouth, my home on the English Channel.

My brother, Patrick, and I were so different. He always dropped off to sleep easily on Christmas Eve and slept until awakened by me the next morning. I, on the other hand, lay awake, restless, anxiously waiting for Father Christmas.

For some reason Old Saint Nick gave us special treatment. Instead of leaving our presents under the tree he would tiptoe into each bedroom and leave the goodies in a pillowcase on the end of the bed.

One particular Christmas Patrick and I had to share a room in the back of the house. (The front was more fun because you could lie in bed and listen to the waves pounding the pebble beach just outside.) My brother, as usual, was snoozing peacefully as the minutes ticked by slowly for me. The church clock struck midnight and the Salvation Army band played carols on the street corner.

After what seemed like an entire night's sleep I woke up, and feeling the weight of the presents on my feet, knew it must be time for the fun to begin. So I turned on the light and began the difficult job of waking the slumbering sibling. "Patrick! Patrick!" I hissed. Finally he woke up and very reluctantly joined me in opening everything in the pillowcases. What loot, what joy -- and all this at 2:00 a.m.!!

Suddenly the door was flung open and there was Mummy -- imagine her mood! After all, Father Christmas had had less than two hours sleep.

Well, all the excitement was over and I had no trouble falling asleep. But I admit that when morning dawned it was pretty disappointing to watch everyone else opening their presents and nothing left for Patrick and me.

MARY ANN LUCKMAN

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BOYCE LENI: GEORGIA, USA

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Boyce was born in Blue Ridge, Georgia. She and her husband, Jules, lived in Manhattan for a while and then decided to buy property in Palisades. They moved into their Lawrence Lane home in 1977. Boyce titles the memoir below, "Christmas in July."

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As children growing up in a small town in the mountains of north Georgia, my younger brother and I sang in the youth

choir of the church we attended. At our Christmas program each year, we processed up the stairs and into a side balcony where we looked out over boughs of evergreen attached to the rail and down into the candle-lit glow of the upturned faces of parents and friends. In the semi-darkness we sang "by heart" the traditional carols of the season.

Our next-door neighbor and friend, Frank, never got to hear our Christmas programs because he worked in Chicago at the Fischer Music Co. most of the year. But in the summer months he'd return to Blue Ridge on the L. & N. Railroad, and we'd meet him at the depot. How strange he looked in his heavy tweeds and brown felt hat, especially since our daddy had been in his straw hat for some time. After Frank got the American flag hung for the Fourth and the hammock hung for his relaxation, he'd settle in for some serious rest. My brother, Weymon, and I would join him for conversation.

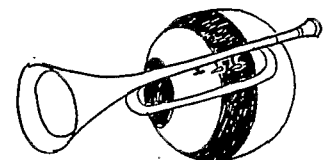
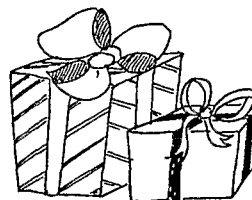
One particularly sultry day in July the three of us piled into the hammock and were slowly swaying back and forth. Nothing was happening. Then a little voice piped up, "Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la laa, la la la la. 'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la laa, la la la la."

Frank was amused. Our spirits were lifted. "Silent night, Holy night! All is calm, all is bright." And "O little town of Bethlehem! How still we see thee lie."

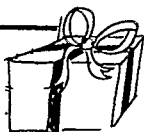
Weymon sang on; he knew all the verses. We were refreshed. "Hark! the herald angels sing"; "It came upon the midnight clear"; his repertoire was extensive. "Away in a manger, No crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus Laid down His sweet head" sang a little boy's own sweet innocency.

Frank long remembered that Christmas in July, and so have I.

BOYCE LENI



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**ANTONIO ESTADELLA: SPAIN**



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Born in Barcelona, Spain, Antonio came to the United States in 1963 to see the World's Fair. He was working for the Spanish Government at the Spanish Pavillion. He met Ronnie Kaplan from Hartsdale and the rest is history. They reside on Woods Road in Palisades.

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Growing up in Spain, I always wondered why distant parts of the world celebrated Christmas with present giving under a forest tree ... we celebrated Christmas by going to the traditional "Misa del Gallo" (equivalent of midnight mass).

Christmas day always was a big family gathering with lots of food. Grandma always killed a couple of handsome turkeys. About two hours or so after we sat down to the feast, food kept coming and coming and that was our giving.

Of course, the Christmas season was always the most festive time of the year. But what I remember most was that Christmas day meant we were twelve days away from the arrival of the three Kings, Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar, the last being my favorite. Christmas day meant twelve days until finally getting some of those wonderful toys I wrote the Kings for and that I always feared I would not get because you had to be a good kid (at least for a month) to qualify. Somehow my favorite King always managed to come when I was in my deepest sleep. He would fill my shoes, which I left neatly under the living room window, with lots of black sugar candy. He probably thought that I was cold because he persistently, year after year, substituted the biggest toy I had asked for, for a sweater.

January 6, the Day of the Epiphany, was a day of long lasting happiness, because this day was the day we got almost everything we had dreamed of.

ANTONIO ESTADELLA

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**MARIE-NOELLE GROUSSET: FRANCE**


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Born in Angers, France, Marie-Noelle has been in this country for a little over a year. Her husband is a scientist at Lamont-Doherty and they live on the campus here in Palisades.

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When Santa Claus is named "Pere Noel" you are in France. Christmas, the most important celebration of the year, is symbolized by the pine tree with lights and ornaments, even in the smallest village, on the biggest "plaza," or in front of the City Hall. There are many lights in the streets, in the stores, inside the houses, but only now are people beginning to light their houses and gardens on the outside.

Christmas is a family gathering. In each house or each apartment you will find the traditional pine tree, with multicolored balls, garlands, and flashing lights. Very important also: the creche. Each family has a different one, coming sometimes from the ancestors. Each generation adds new hand-made pottery figurines or animals. Children put their little treasures and ornaments around the creche, instead of hanging them on the tree.

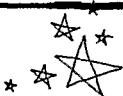
Santa Claus comes at midnight, the 24th, after the Mass, and puts down the presents in front of everybody's shoes waiting around the pine tree.

The menu of the grandparents used to be the same everywhere: oysters, turkey or goose, chestnuts and "buche de Noel" (a log-shaped Christmas cake). Now it can be any fancy food, but the "buche de Noel" is still the same dessert on every table.

MARIE-NOELLE GROUSSET



PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER



THIS IS A SINCERE SOS. Our funds are down to \$250. In view of the fact that our heating bills for the winter are usually in the \$300 range we fear that the Center will have to close its doors unless we hear from you, the community.

We also have a leak in the roof near the chimney that has to be repaired, and the chimney has to be replastered or the plaster removed to expose the original chimney. (The concensus is to remove the plaster and expose the chimney.)

The rentals are not enough to keep the building going. Our funding comes from you. Please keep in mind this is an historical building and if you want to preserve a small part of American history in Palisades, you must support the upkeep of this building. Please give today by mailing your donation to PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER, BOX 222, PALISADES, N.Y. 10964.

Thank you,

EILEEN LARKIN

[Nina Vilonen has volunteered to handle the rentals at the Center. Please call her at 359-4580 if you wish to rent the building. Fees are \$7.50 per hour for members and \$10 for non-members.]

DECEMBER EVENTS AT THE PALISADES LIBRARY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH AT 4 P.M.

Origami program with T. Morimoto. Help decorate our Christmas Tree with paper cranes. Age 6 and up. Please register. Our space is limited.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 11 A.M. TO 12 NOON

At the Greenbush School Auditorium in Orangeburg: Children's Special Christmas Show, age 5 and up, with Charles Jessamy the magician. Seating is limited (25). Please sign up at our Library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



VICTOR POWELL IN ORGAN RECITAL AT THE TAPPAN REFORMED CHURCH, DEC. 7, 3:00 P.M.

Victor Powell is Associate and Choir-master of the American Guild of Organists. He has taught piano and organ to many of the children in our community. On Dec. 7 his program will include selections by Bach, Cesar Franck, and Louis Vierne.

CONGRATULATIONS to Nina, Dale and Eric Prusinowski on their new addition to the family. Ann Prusinowski weighed in at 8 lbs. 6 oz. on Saturday, Nov. 1st.

PAID POSITIONS OPEN AT PALISADES SWIM CLUB

Marie Firestone is resigning as secretary/bookkeeper of the swim club after seven years of service. The club wants to hire one or two individuals to replace her. For more information, call Marie Firestone, 359-0599, or Nellie Knudson, 359-0160.

MARIE FENTON GRIFFING AND BILL GRIFFING

have sold their home on Washington Spring Rd. and wish to say goodbye to all their friends in Palisades. David and Holly Seeger are the new owners and are welcome additions to the neighborhood.

Marie and Bill invite you all to Florida. Rent a bus! New address: 3180 S. Ocean Drive, Apt. 1721, Hallandale, Florida 33009.

Elmwood Theatre, 16 Park St., Nyack (353-1313). "She Loves Me," musical. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until Dec. 20.



PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The annual Sunday School pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 21 during regular worship services at 11 a.m.

On Christmas Eve, there is a family service at 5:30 p.m., and at 11 p.m. will be the traditional service of lessons and carols.

**PALISADES VOTERS BACK 6 WINNERS, BOND ISSUE  
RESIST STATE-WIDE SWEEPS OF D'AMATO, REGAN**

A modest total of 508 Palisadians trooped to the polls on November 4 to participate in the predicted reelection of seven incumbent state officers and state and federal legislators as well as the upset victory of Democrat Sondra Miller for the sole State Supreme Court vacancy.

Palisades closely mirrored the statewide result for governor, giving Mario Cuomo 323 votes (18 of them on the Liberal line), more than twice as many as the 133 Republican and 27 Conservative votes cast for Andrew O'Rourke. Denis E. Dillon (Right to Life) collected 12 votes and Lenora B. Fulani (New Alliance) 3. Ignoring the 10 voters who skipped the governor's race, Cuomo took 64.8% of the Palisades vote, almost identical to his statewide 64.7% -- which greatly surpassed the previous high for a New York gubernatorial candidate, Buffalo mayor Stephen Grover Cleveland's 58.5% in 1882.

Close behind Cuomo in votes and slightly ahead in percentage, Democrat Sam Colman garnered 316 votes (65.6%) of the 482 cast in Palisades for Assemblyman. Colman swept the 93rd District, which consists of all Orangetown and most of Ramapo, with 63.4% to Orangetown Councilman William Griffith's combined total of 36.6% on the Republican, Conservative and RTL lines. Colman carried Orangetown by a startling margin of 1,506 with 55.3% of the 14,254 votes cast.

Attorney General Robert Abrams (D-L) won 305 votes (65.2%) to 158 (33.8%) for Peter King (R-C-RTL) and 5 for Michael Hardy (New Alliance).

Next highest local vote-getter was surprise winner Sondra Miller (D) with 285 (63.3%) to 149 (33.1%) for Adrienne Hoffmann Scancarelli (R-C) and 16 (3.6%) for John J. Barry, Jr. (RTL). Both major party candidates are Family Court Judges in Westchester. According to the Journal News, Judge Miller is only the third Democrat in this five-county district to win a Supreme Court seat without Republican endorsement since 1895. She carried West-

chester by 14,000 votes, lost Orange, Putnam and Dutchess Counties by 15,000 and carried Rockland by 9,000, thus winning by 8,000.

Palisades rejected the state-wide reelection sweeps of Republicans Alphonse D'Amato and Edward Regan. Democrat Mark Green received 262 votes for U.S. Senate (53.5%), to 218 (44.5%) for D'Amato (R-C-RTL) and 8 (1.6%) for John Dyson (L). State Controller Regan did slightly better than D'Amato with 226 votes (48.2%) to 232 for Herman Badillo (D-L), 8 for Mary Jane Tobin (RTL) and 3 for Mary Fridley (New Alliance).

The only Republicans to carry Palisades were Congressman Benjamin Gilman and State Senator Eugene Levy. Gilman received 226 votes (50%) to 212 (46.9%) for Eleanor Burlingham (D) and 14 (3.1%) for Richard Bruno (RTL). Levy led his ticket with 247 votes (53%) to 210 (45.1%) for Democrat Joel Berg and 9 (1.9%) for William A. Martin (RTL).

Almost 40% of Palisades voters failed to vote on the Environmental Quality Bond. Those who did supported it by almost 5-1 -- 255 yes, 52 no -- compared to a 2-1 statewide yes vote.

This was the first general election in many years in which no absentee ballots were received at either of Palisades' two polls.

ANDREW E. NORMAN

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**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND COUNTY NEWS**

**11TH ANNUAL DOLL HOUSE EXHIBIT**

Antique and contemporary dolls, toys, miniature rooms, etc., Wed., Sat., and Sun, 1-5 p.m., Nov. 30 through Jan. 25, 1987. At the Society's History Center, 20 Zukor Rd., New City. 634-9629.

NEWS FROM ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR BEGINS FRIDAY DEC. 5

Celebrating the 21st anniversary of its Annual Craft Invitational, the Center is bringing together the finest of craftspeople throughout the Northeast for a holiday exhibition and sale. The fair will begin with a preview for members and guests on Friday, Dec. 5 from 7 to 10 p.m., and will open to the public, free of admission, on Saturday, Dec. 6, continuing through Tuesday, Dec. 9. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

CALLIOPE: A RENAISSANCE BAND IN CONCERT SATURDAY, DEC. 13

Rockland audiences of all ages will have the opportunity to experience the old world pageantry of the Middle Ages when Calliope performs a special holiday concert. The quartet performs 13th to 17th century music on rare, centuries old instruments. The concert is part of the Rockland Center's Tappan Zee Chamber Music Concerts series, and begins at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$9 for the general public, \$8 for students, senior citizens and members of the Center. Call the Center for reservations.

ROCKLAND CENTER SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS

A number of scholarships are available for the spring term for both children and adults in drawing and painting, watercolor, ceramics, music and dance.

Scholarships are granted on the basis of both talent and need. The arts faculty of the school will participate in selecting the scholarship winners. Those who are interested are urged to apply to the Rockland Center School for the Arts before Monday, Dec. 29.

[Rockland Center For The Arts is located at 27 South Greenbush Road, West Nyack. Telephone: 358-0877.]

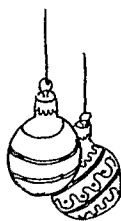
PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

We have had to reschedule our Annual Meeting, which we were hoping to have November 18, to December. We hope that by the time you read this, the Master Plan will have been accepted by the Town Board together with the new zoning code.

Judge Kelly's decision to overturn the Zoning Board of Appeal's denial of the special permit needed to build the condominiums on Rte. 340 was a blow to the PCA. However, we still have a case pending against the Town's decision to allow condominiums on 340/Oak Tree Road.

A special flyer will be sent out announcing our Annual Meeting. Please support the Civic Association by attending.

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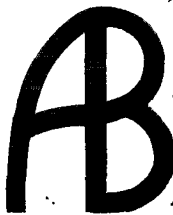
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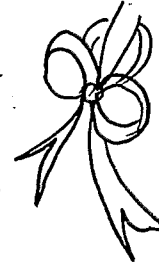


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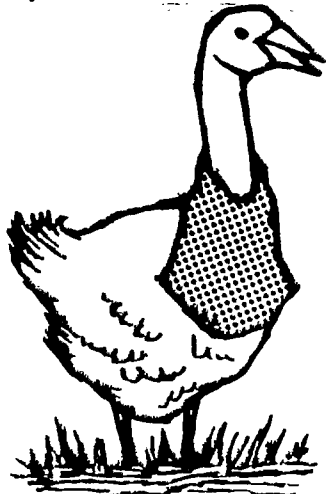
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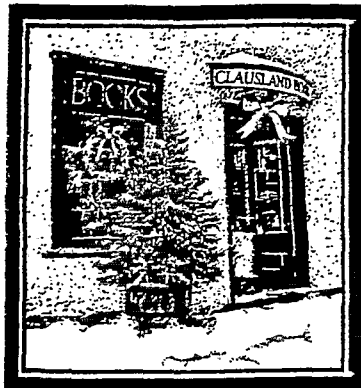
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10964 DEADLINE

The deadline for copy for the January issue of 10964 is December 15. The January issue may appear in your mail a little later than usual because of the holidays.

10964  
PO Box 201  
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