

# 10964

JANUARY 1987 No. 87

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.



The staff of 10964 wishes our friends and neighbors a healthy and happy New Year. In March, 10964 celebrates its 10th anniversary, and we hope to commemorate this significant milestone by bringing out a special issue -- so be looking for it! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported this newsletter through the years either by monetary or creative contributions; and to thank our advertisers for their continuing support.

10964 would also like to give special thanks to Jules Leni for making his company's laser printer available. As a result, we will be able to publish 10964 in a professional looking format.  
EDITOR



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## CARPOOL CAPERS

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or:

### **Reminiscences by Reginald Thayer Regarding Some Lighter Moments in the Lives of Four Palisades Commuters.**

(Ed. note: Knowing that Reg had acquired some wonderful anecdotes during the many years he went in and out of Manhattan, I kept at him mercilessly until he agreed to share them with 10964 readers. Reg was reluctant to reveal his nutty escapades, but I know you will be glad he did.)

Bill Eberle, who lives on 9W and who drove in each day, would pick up Rudy Gregus on Swan Street, then Joe Freil in Heyhoe Woods, and then come for me last on Closter Road. The four of us comprised a pretty staid group, serious business people on their way to work. It was a very congenial group but sometimes a bit too serious for my taste. Sometimes I felt the need to break the routine just a little.

#### Episode 1: The Missing Pants

One morning I got myself dressed for work as usual in my Brooks Brothers suit with vest and fedora hat

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## OUR SCHOOLS:

### **An Interview with Dr. JoAnn Shaheen**

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I dialed the telephone number for the William O. Schaefer Elementary School and was quite surprised when the principal of the school, Dr. JoAnn Shaheen, answered the phone. Surprise turned to stunned realization. It was Veteran's Day. I should have known what day it was and that schools were closed; but then, if the schools were closed, why was Dr. Shaheen there?

"Working," said she.

Please forget what this incident says about me. It tells a great deal about Dr. Shaheen and her devotion to the Schaefer School.

A mid-westerner, she was graduated from De Pauw University where she majored in Spanish with minors in art history and archeology. But she eventually realized that education was the direction in which she wanted to go. Back to school she went to earn two master's degrees, one in elementary education, the other in administration.

If you ask Dr. Shaheen why she chose the elementary level, she replies, "Because that's the

(Cont'd p. 3)

(Cont'd from p. 1)

- (those were the days when everyone wore hats, before John F. Kennedy stopped wearing a hat and then everyone in America stopped wearing hats). I watched through my window until I saw Bill pass my house on his way to pick up Rudy and Joe. Then I stepped out onto my porch and waited. Bill soon came driving up, stopped the car, saw me standing very business-like on the porch in my Brooks Brothers suit and vest with my hat and briefcase, and called out to me, "Reg, you don't have your pants on! You forgot your pants!"

I looked down and said, "Well, by golly you're right, Bill. I must have forgotten to put them on. Excuse me." With that I walked back into my house, put on my pants, and off we went into Manhattan.

### Episode 2: The Duck in the Suitcase

Bill, Rudy and Joe picked me up one day and I had a large suitcase with me. As I got into the car Bill asked, "Going on another trip, Reg?"

I answered, "Yep."

"Where to this time?" Bill asked. I gave some city like Chicago or Los Angeles. I put the suitcase in the back seat and we started for New York City. A few seconds into our ride I turned to Joe Freil, who was puffing on his pipe, and said, "Joe, would you mind opening my suitcase for me? There's a file in there I need to look over before I get to the office."

Joe opened the suitcase and out flew my daughter Nina's, duck, which I had put in there as a gag. Bill stopped the car and we all had a good laugh. Then we brought Nina's duck and my suitcase back to my house and started off again for work. We were a few minutes late that day.

### Episode 3: The Poppyseed Strudel Party

For months, Rudy Gregus had been telling us about his wife's wonderful cooking, particularly her strudel making. We asked him which was his favorite strudel, was it apple or cherry? But time and time again, Rudy would insist that his favorite was poppyseed strudel, that no one could make poppyseed strudel as delicious as that made by his wife, that his wife's poppyseed strudel was the best in all the world. We would ask Rudy to bring some to us and he would always answer, "Well, someday I will."

Finally, I decided to call him on it. "Rudy, I said, "If you will bring us some strudel tomorrow, I will supply the coffee."

Rudy answered, "You're on."

I am sure the boys were expecting coffee in a thermos with styrofoam cups.

The next morning Bill, Joe and Rudy came by to pick me up, and true to his word, Rudy had brought along his wife's poppyseed strudel. And there was I to greet them, with a silver tray in my left hand, a linen napkin draped over my right arm, and on the tray were a silver sugar and creamer and elegant china cups and saucers. We all sat there eating poppyseed strudel and drinking coffee and just having a marvelous time. Once again we were a little late getting into Manhattan that day.

### Episode 4: The Burning Hat

About 1963 or '64 I had bought a brand new fedora. Rather than just throw out my old hat which this new one was replacing, I decided it was time to have some more fun with my carpool cronies. I soaked my old hat in lighter fluid. Then I stuffed it with wet toilet paper for insulation purposes, and placed it on my head. When I saw Bill and the boys drive up, I ignited the hat with a cigarette lighter and ran out to join my carpool with a three-foot plume of flame streaming behind me.

Bill cried out, "Reg! Your hat's on fire!"

"What?" I said.

Bill repeated, "Your hat's on fire!"

I took off my hat and said, "By George, you're right!" I threw the hat on the ground, stomped on it and put out the fire.

Just then my wife, Dossie, came running out of the house asking me what in the world was going on and wondering loudly if I were crazy or what!

I said, "No problem, Dossie," at which point I took the stomped-on burned-up fedora which was now looking more like a pancake, tossed it up onto my porch, and said to her, "Can you get that cleaned and blocked, please?"

With that I got into the car and away we went into Manhattan.

REG THAYER

(Cont'd from p. 1)

age where it starts." She taught kindergarten, third grade, Spanish in the fifth and sixth grades and then did a stint in guidance for a state pilot program. As the principal of William O. Schaefer, she has steered the school to national prominence. She gives credit to her staff which, she says, is not only competent but truly caring about children.

Every afternoon at 3 o'clock Dr. Shaheen can be seen outside the building watching her charges board buses for the trip home. She can tell by looking at their faces what kind of a day it has been. From her youth she has been a people watcher and this kind of sensitivity has added another dimension to the elementary school curriculum at Schaefer.

Dr. Shaheen believes that if you want to hook children, give them the big ideas at five: How do you settle your problems without fighting? If you have rights, then isn't it true that there are corresponding responsibilities?

The quality of the thinking is astounding.

They may be little people at Schaefer, but they are learning to think big - thanks to Dr. JoAnn Shaheen.

GERALDINE MIRAS, TRUSTEE  
SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

### LYNN SYKES GIVEN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Lynn Sykes, who resides on Washington Spring Road, received notice from the Federation of American Scientists that he has been chosen for the 1986 F. A. S. Public Service Award for "... leadership, effectiveness, and courage in the application of seismology to the banning of nuclear tests, through public education and bureaucratic struggles."

Congratulations, Lynn, for your efforts in behalf of this planet's most worthy cause!

Dr. Sykes, Higgins Professor of Geological Sciences at Columbia University and a seismologist at Lamont-Doherty, has applied much of his recent research to arms-control issues. In the January issue of Scientific American, he and his colleague, Dan M. Davis, have an article, "The Yields of Soviet Strategic Weapons," in which they discuss their findings - basically, that "... the yields of Soviet underground nuclear-weapon tests had been consistently overestimated by analysts both inside and outside the government."

Their studies have concluded that a rough overall parity in total destructive power has prevailed for the past decade between the two superpowers. Moreover, the study indicates that the Soviet Union has complied with treaty limits and has been compelled to restrict warhead development as a result. Drs. Sykes and Davis used seismographic data from around the world to calculate the magnitudes of the seismic waves generated by Soviet nuclear tests.

(Nuclear weapon testing is conducted underground since the Limited Test Ban Treaty prohibits testing in the atmosphere, underwater or in space. Seismology, therefore, provides the main tools for detecting and characterizing nuclear explosions, because underground blasts generate vibrations that propagate as seismic waves, and are distinguishable from those created by earthquakes.)

At the conclusion of their article for Scientific American, the authors express concern that "... the price for inaccurate estimates may well have been high." They write, "Inflated estimates undoubtedly contributed to the perception that the U.S.S.R. was way ahead of the U.S. in various measures of strategic strength. Even U.S. officials were misinformed about the size of Soviet weapons, hampering their efforts to negotiate arms-control agreements."

Again, our congratulations to Lynn Sykes of Palisades, for his F. A. S. award.

### NEWS FROM THE PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

Martha Bosch will be back at the library for Storytime every Wednesday at 4 p.m., starting Jan. 7.

Remember the library's Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan. 25. Guest Speaker: Dorothy Davis. Vote for two trustees from the following candidates, Antonio Estadella, Patricia Lindgren, John Poppen and Caroline Turoff. Residents of Palisades over 18 are eligible to vote.

The library will again have State and Federal income tax forms available.

Winter Hours are: Mon-Thurs., 3-9; Thurs., 10-noon; Fri., 3-5; Sat., 2-5; Sun., 2-4.

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## ART EXHIBIT TO BENEFIT PALISADES LIBRARY PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 1

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An open letter to fellow Palisadians:

One evening recently I was at the library researching a 19th century artist. While scanning the indexes, I noticed a few familiar names and remembered that paintings by some of these artists were owned by people in Palisades. I suggested to our librarian, Beatrice Agnew, that we have an art exhibition as a fund raiser for the library, and she was excited about the possibilities it presented. Beatrice then took the idea to the library board of trustees; and they agreed: "Let's do it."

Here are the particulars:

- o We are asking everyone with a landscape oil painting to lend it to us for approximately five hours on Sunday, March 1st, for exhibition at the Community Center (not at the Library).

- o One of our committee will come to your home and take measurements of the painting so we can make a dummy of craft paper to "pre" hang the painting. We will observe how the painting is hung at home so that proper hooks will be already in place prior to the exhibition. A Polaroid photo will be taken to help the committee prearrange the exhibition. Spotlights and other lighting will be pre-arranged also.

- o Artists' names will be given to the library staff to research, if possible, all data available on each artist. As usual, this will be displayed on a card below the painting. Owners will decide if they want this card to read, "Anonymous Collection" or "Collection of . . . ."

- o The owner will bring the painting to the exhibition an hour or two before and will remove the painting after the exhibition. Thus, as you can see, only five hours or so of your painting is all we need. We can arrange help with transportation if necessary.

- o Of course, we must ask that each owner sign a release from all damages - just in case; but risk is very minimal under these conditions. Security can be provided if warranted.

- o A donation will be requested on entrance with the proceeds going to the library. As an extra dividend, a fee will be paid by the library to the Community Center for the use of its services. So, the whole community benefits.

It is hoped that other collections and collectibles will then surface and that owners will make them available to the library for future exhibitions. Subject matter may include vintage photos or old lace; sculpture or antique porcelains; old prints, maps, or manuscripts; antique musical instruments or scores; coins or American Indian artifacts - whatever! The free use of showcases can be made available.

To help us get started with this first exhibition, please call me or anyone on this committee if you would like to help or if you have a painting you would consider exhibiting or an item or collection for future display. Let's actively support our library while we're learning, sharing, and enjoying our decorative, visual, and fine arts firsthand.

Sincerely,

Maryann Sahadi,  
for Barbara Algert, Lynn Seidler, and  
Jacqueline Webster-Anderson

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## PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER

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To all those who so generously answered our call for contributions, we are forever grateful. We now have enough funding to carry us through into the new year.

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Johanna Farley's cub scout troop decorated the center for the holidays and raked the front lawn.

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Maryann Sahadi held a sale in the building which served as a fund raiser for us.

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The Palisades Library will hold an art show at the Center in March.

We hope that in 1987 the Center will be used by local community groups for their events.

And a healthy and happy 1987 to all of you.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Our third annual meeting was held in December at the Community Center. The purpose of the meeting was to elect officers for 1987 and to present a summary of reports from our sub-committees. Officers elected for the 1987 year are: Eileen Larkin, President; Andy Norman, Vice-President; Lou Leonard, Treasurer; Dossie Thayer, Corresponding Secretary; Carol Elevitch, Recording Secretary. Members-at-Large are: Irene Frederick, Paul Prisco, Bill Miller, Ethan Sher, Welton Gersony, and Donald Tapley.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

o A meeting was held recently by the Department of Transportation to consider the plan for a new bridge between Rockland and Westchester. Even though a new bridge is more costly, the consensus is that it would be the most practical. A site will be determined sometime in 1987.

o The lawsuit against the condominiums on Rte. 340 is still pending. Recently Judge Kelly overruled the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals's decision to deny a special permit which the builder needs to go ahead. We understand that Judge Kelly's decision will be turned over to the Planning Board by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

o The committee working on the scenic road designation for Oak Tree Road (from 9W to Rte. 340) reported that the town, so far, was not looking favorably on this request.

### NEW BUSINESS

o We spoke about the lawsuit filed by a local builder to overturn the town's 1968 law which created a historic district in the hamlet of Palisades. The judge's decision in this case will not only affect the parcel of land owned by the builder, but all parts of Palisades which lie in the historic district.

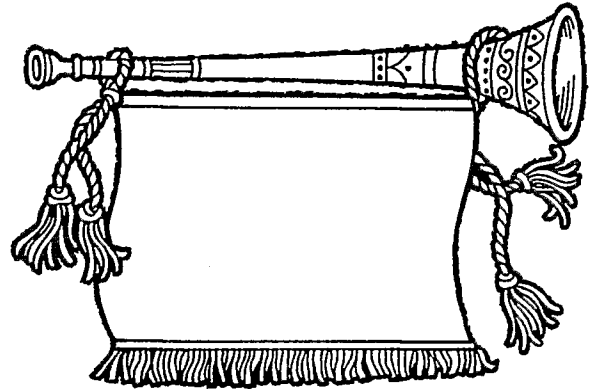
o The new Master Plan has been approved by the Planning Board and turned over to the Town Board for their final approval. We ask all of you to support the Master Plan and the new zoning code which has favorable codes for Palisades. Please visit the library and read a copy of this plan and then let our elected officials know that you want them to approve both the Master Plan and the zoning code.

Congratulations to Kim and Bill Miller on the birth of their second child, Kerry.

Our condolences to the family of Nellie Knudson who passed away in December.

We thank all of you who have supported the Civic Association since its inception. Your financial and moral support enables and encourages the Board to serve our community, the hamlet of Palisades.

EILEEN LARKIN




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### **PALISADES STUDENT TO APPEAR IN ELMWOOD PLAYHOUSE PRODUCTION**

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Ilena Elevitch, a junior at Tappan Zee High School, has been chosen to play Ismene in Jean Anouilh's play "Antigone" which opens on Friday, Jan. 16 at the Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack. The play, a modern and powerful re-telling of the story of Antigone, was written and produced in Paris in 1943 during the German occupation and centers about the classic struggle between the individual and the state, as embodied in a tyrant. It is directed by Kathleen Davies and members of the cast include Mary Ann and John Garland, Anthony Lardaro, Donna McGarry, Bill Raker, Matthew Smith, Frances, Derek and Geoff Tarson and Yvonne Trinkwater.

Although Ilena has appeared in many productions directed by Jean Brock in the South Orangetown School District, this will be her first venture into community theater. She has studied at Rockland Center For The Arts and SUNY Purchase Youth Theater as well as privately. Last spring Ilena was admitted, by audition, to the Chautauqua Summer Theater School, headed by Michael Kahn, teacher of drama at the Juilliard School and New York University, and director of the Shakespeare Theater at the Folger in Washington, D.C.

"Antigone" will be performed at the Elmwood Playhouse on Jan. 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and Feb. 6 and 7. For reservations, call 353-1313.

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## NEWS FROM ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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### ART TEACHERS EXHIBIT THEIR WORK

High school art teachers throughout Rockland County will have the chance to bring their talent out of the classroom and into the public eye as they participate in the Rockland County High School Art Educator's Exhibit sponsored by the Rockland Center for the Arts. The exhibit will open on Jan. 11 with a reception from 1 to 4 PM and continue through Jan. 25. On opening day a panel discussion will take place at 3 PM; the topic, "Creativity and Beyond."

### SPRING TERM BEGINS

The Center spring term begins on Monday, Jan. 12. Among the new courses scheduled are "Introduction to Color," "Writing to Sell," "Fiction Workshop," and "Beginning Calligraphy."

### JAZZ SERIES BEGINNING IN JANUARY

A new jazz series, "Two's A Crowd," beginning in January, comprises three programs of famous jazz duos, each featuring identical instruments: pianos, vibraphone/marimba, and guitars. Opening the series on Saturday, Jan. 17 will be David Friedman and Dave Samuels who combine their talents on the vibraphone and marimba for a rich and dazzling sound.

The second program in the series, Friday, Feb. 13, will feature keyboard technicians, Vinson Hill and Derek Smith performing great jazz standards and original compositions. The third and final program on Saturday, April 25 will feature America's renowned father and son jazz guitar duo, Bucky and John Pizzarelli who are among the top jazz guitarists working today.

Subscription tickets are \$25 (\$20 for Center members, seniors and students); tickets for individual concerts are \$10 (\$8 for Center members, seniors and students).

### ARTISTS' REGISTRY

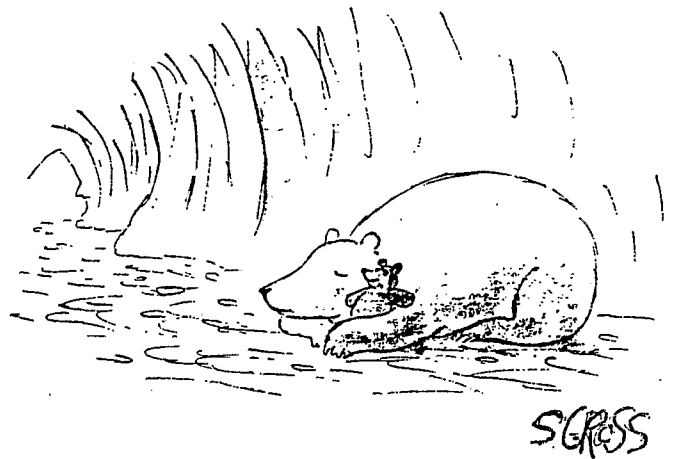
The Center is now accepting applications from artists who wish to submit their work for the Center's slide registry. Artists are chosen from the registry for exhibitions in the Rockland County Legislature, the Clarkstown Supervisor's Office, and various corporate offices throughout Rockland and Westchester Counties.

### BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT THE CENTER

The Rockland Center School for the Arts has the perfect present for children's birthdays: the Rockland Center Birthday Party. Parents may bring as many as 15 children to spend one hour with an instructor in ceramics, crafts, dance, shadow theatre, painting and drawing or music. An hour will be set aside for refreshments (provided by parents) prior to the class.

For further information about any of the Center's programs, call 358-0877.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Congratulations to Tappan Zee High School's new Honor Society inductees from Palisades: 11th graders Patricia O'Prey and Ilena Elevitch.

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A retrospective exhibition of paintings by Carlotta Petrina will be held at the Brownsville Art League Museum in Brownsville, Texas, from February 1 to March 1, 1987.

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A new edition of "The History of Rockland County", by Rev. David Cole, D.D. includes a new name index. Originally published in 1884, Cole's "History" includes county baptismal records from 1694 and much valuable information on local families from the earliest Dutch settlements in New Amsterdam. The new book is available for the special pre-publication price of \$40 at the Rockland Historical Society's History Center in New City or by mail. Call 634-9629.

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**WANTED TO BUY:** Old and antique items. Best prices paid. Call Maryann Sahadi at 359-2058.

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**10964 DEADLINE**


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The deadline for copy for the February issue of 10964 is January 25. The February issue will appear in your mail as close to the first of the month as possible.

10964  
PO Box 201  
Palisades, NY 10964

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**CONTRIBUTORS**


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Thank you!

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