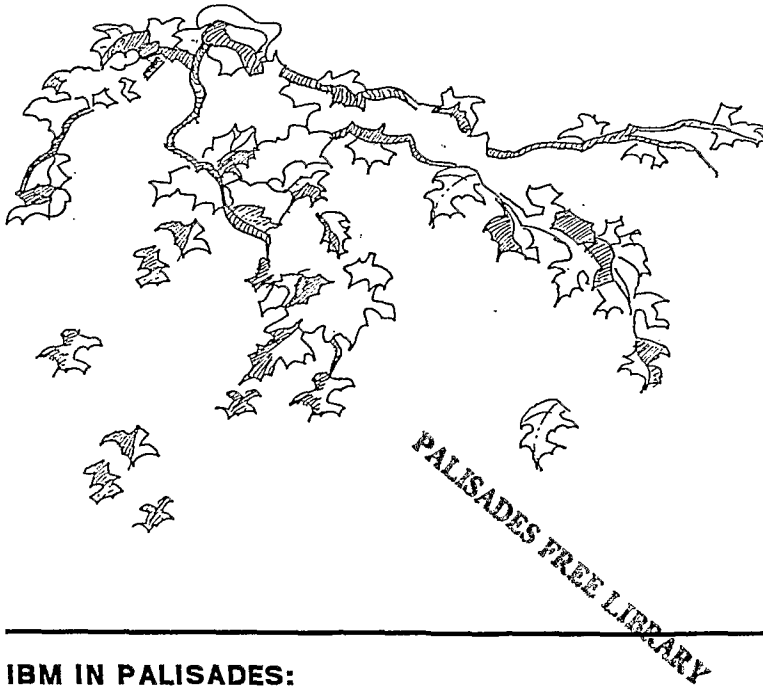


# 10964

OCTOBER 1987

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.



## FROM THE EDITOR:

October brings us the cool and colorful outdoors, as well as thoughts of Halloween, upcoming elections, etc. This month we are happy to feature our own beloved Palisades Post Office, the hub of our community. We also have a piece by Sam Gerard on the L-DGO Research Vessel, ROBERT D. CONRAD, now docked in Piermont. You will also find some truly charming prose on the subject of Halloween, contributed by some of our younger writers: Katie Hooker, Jane Lattes and Deanna Ecke, Jacob and Fiona Lawrence, Lara Galinsky and Jaime Fitzgerald.

LPH

## **IBM IN PALISADES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE** by Max Bond

Those residents of our hamlet who have recently ventured north on Route 9W have good reason to ponder the future impact of the IBM Center on the quality of our environment. Although the road widening now under way was indicated on the plans that residents of Palisades were shown in June of 1985, the extensive clearing and grading were not shown at that time and were never shown on any of the approved plans. IBM has claimed that they expected to find rock near Route 9W which would have permitted the saving of trees close to the 9W right-of-way.

We all remember the description of a rural retreat that IBM architects and community affairs officers promised when they presented a slide show and scale models. This echoed the representation of Richard C. Holliday, Jr., counsel for IBM's Real Estate Construction Division, who told the Orangetown Town Board, "We want to be good neighbors and we want to enhance this beautiful piece of property." This statement, reported in "Our Town," was made when IBM sought the zoning amendment to allow the project in an L.O. (laboratory/office) district.

Many of the other representations made at that meeting have already been revised. For example, it was stated that 400 would be the maximum number of persons on the site at any

given time, including the support staff of 100. Further assurances included reduced parking requirements because visitors would be bused to the site. In the course of time, the amount of parking has doubled and the number of guests and staff has greatly increased. Can we expect that the maximum number of planned helicopter visits will have to be increased in the same manner that other revisions have occurred?

The most recent example of change from original concept is illustrated by the complete change in the character of Route 9W in the area of the IBM site. To some it may appear that to increase density and activity and widen roads to accommodate the greater traffic volume, is the best way to enhance this "beautiful piece of property." To many residents of Palisades enhancing a piece of property has a different connotation.

A short time ago, Sir Lawrence Olivier stopped at the gas station north of Oak Tree Road to ask if he had passed the turn-off for Washington Spring Road. I presume he was revisiting Palisades because of fond memories. One can only wonder: if his visit had occurred today and he had observed the present state of 9W, would he have even bothered to ask where Washington Spring Road was?

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**THE PALISADES POST OFFICE**  
**A special feature for 10964**  
**by Karen Jefferies**

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Palisades is unique in that while there is no shopping center in our town, there is a central meeting spot for the residents. I'm talking about the pulse of the community: our very own little Post Office. We all meet there at one time or another to say hello, to pass the time of day, to comment on how fast the children are growing up, to gossip. What would we do without it - besides not receive our mail?

Our little Post Office has a rather interesting history; it has not always been on Oak Tree Road. Back in 1885, it was located in James Post's house on Closter Road (The Burcaw's old house) when Mr. Post was postmaster. At one time it was housed in Ernie Quick's present home. Later, the Post Office moved to the Country Store across the street from its present site.

Why this constant change? Politics. The postmaster was appointed by the administration in power. When the Republicans won, a Republican postmaster was selected and vice-versa. Each postmaster was responsible for housing the Post Office. So back and forth, to and fro it would go until sensible Harry Truman put a stop to such nonsense by making the postal service employees part of the Civil Service.

Laura Ebmeyer became our postmaster in 1957. When she and her late husband, Ed, moved to Palisades in 1945, she had no idea she would end up working with the mail. It was her luck to have moved next door to Mr. Cahill, the postmaster. The Post Office was then in the Country Store, sharing space with a grocery store. As Mr. Cahill neared retirement, he asked Laura if she would be interested in his job. She became acting postmaster but then had to go through all the red tape: The Republican Committee of Palisades had to nominate her, Congresswoman Katherine St. George interviewed her, and Laura had to pass the Civil Service examination. Finally, she was appointed postmaster by President Eisenhower.

Soon after Laura became postmaster, the Post Office once again had to find new quarters. For eighteen months, Laura and Ed's living room was the Post Office while the search was on for a new site. She found it rather inconvenient, to say the least. Kids toured her house, used the bathroom, and people knocked at the door at all hours to ask for their mail. When no other spot could be found, the Ebmeyers built the Post Office on the front of their property. The building was dedicated in January, 1962. Our wandering Post Office had finally found a home.

So what does go on in the Post Office that we don't know about? There is rural delivery to 264 households, usually handled by Brian Thomas who has been with the Post Office for fourteen years.

He also takes care of Sparkill's rural route. The office opens before 6:00 a.m., and if you're up that early you'll see Bernie Doyle emptying the U.S. postal box, processing the mail, getting ready for the first truck at 6:00. The mail trucks arrive again at 8:00, 1:45, and for the last pick-up at 4:45 in the afternoon.

Laura is proud, and justly so, that the Palisades Post Office is known for its fast and reliable service. We all can attest to that. She said that not one piece of processed mail is left when the Post Office closes. A test run was held between the Northvale and Palisades post offices, whereby ten letters from each were mailed to isolated places. Palisades got there first. Laura doesn't know the secret and attributes it partly to good luck and perhaps that it is easier in a small place. Could it be her executive ability?

Everyone pitches in to help. There are no set responsibilities for each. Whether it be unloading, clerking at the window, dispatching the mail, or sorting between boxes and rural routes, John Morgan, Joe McNally, Anita McLeish, Brian Thomas, Bernie Doyle, and Laura Ebmeyer can do it. Laura, however, is responsible for the daily cash reports which record every transaction. "A glorified accountant," she said. She also has to account for all registered and certified mail. Lamont accounts for the largest volume of business. Before Academic Press moved to California, it brought in a million dollars in mail receipts.

Laura has been ably assisted for twenty years by Anita McLeish, mother of five, grandmother of twelve. Anita always has a ready smile and a cheerful comment for all. She says the people here are so nice and friendly.

Bernie Doyle was born and raised in Palisades. After serving in Vietnam, he returned home and has for fifteen years helped us all in one way or another. He is noted for his quick/funny/sarcastic (take your choice) comments while clerking at the counter. Bernie, an avid fisherman, once caught too many mackerel which he then brought to the Post Office one Saturday morning to dispense with largesse. He says he was sorely tempted to put one in each box!

Laura said if she had to do it all over again, she would; although ideally, she would wish for everything to remain the way it was - no one moving, no one dying, no changes. She has many fond memories and made many good friends.

"Changes or not, we've been successful in providing excellent mail service for the community," she commented at the end of the interview. "That's what the Post Office is all about - to provide a public service."



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## **HALLOWEEN**

by Katie Hooker

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Halloween in Palisades has always been very special to me even though I've always been pretty terrified of it. Next to Christmas it is my favorite holiday. I remember one Halloween when I was four years old. I had just finished trick-or-treating with my daddy and I was counting my loot when the doorbell rang. I ran to open the door but when I saw all the monsters, ghosts and goblins waiting for candy, I was too scared to open the door so my daddy had to do it. I remember staying in the hall, because I still was scared of them and watching, with eyes as big as saucers, as my daddy gave the monsters each a handful of loot.

That same Halloween I was very excited about the Little Red Riding Hood cape that my mother had made for me a week before. So at about 6:00 I set out carrying a Snoopy tote bag. The trick-or-treating went well and I was amazed by all the candy I had gotten.

Then we got to a house I had never been in before and I wondered who lived there. It was Sheila Asch's but I didn't know that at age four. The moment we walked up the driveway, I knew this house would be scary. I rang the doorbell. Someone answered the door and said, "I'll get the witch." I froze. The front door creaked and opened sloooowly. The moment I saw those red and white striped stockings, I came to my senses. I screamed the loudest that I had ever screamed in my life and buried my face in my father's shirt. Nothing happened.

I turned around slowly and looked into her face. There was an ugly mouth with green lipstick, a big nose with a wart on the end of it and two beady little eyes. She said, "Come, have your treats but watch out for the snakes!" and cackled loudly. I held tight to my daddy. He reached into a barrel full of leaves and pulled out a bag of M&Ms. I reached in, felt around, and pulled out a Hershey bar.

As we walked down the driveway I took one last look, and we went home.

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## **HALLOWEEN MEMORIES**

by Jacob Lawrence

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Halloween in Palisades has always been a fun experience for me. With the friendly people handing out plenty of candy, I would always come home with my friends from trick-or-treating with more than my share. Then David Alison, J. T. Farley, Kenny Chung and I would proceed to spread all of our candy out on the table and trade everything we didn't like for something we did like.

After everyone had left, my mother would inform me that my candy would be kept downstairs, and I would be able to have some of it for dessert each night. Little did I know that each night after I went to bed my mother would throw away and/or eat much of my candy. If I had found out then what she had done, I would never have forgiven her. But now that I look back on it, I am glad she did.

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## **OUR HALLOWEEN CANDY**

by Fiona Lawrence

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We had spread our candy out on the dining room floor. My brother, Jacob, looked over to me, his innocent eyes hiding the greed coiled up inside him, ready to strike.

"I'll trade you a jumbo Snickers for those Reese's pieces and a pack of gum."

"Which pack of gum?" I asked suspiciously.

"The one J. T.'s mom gave to you."

I thought it over, he sure drove a hard bargain.

"How about the Trident?"

"No," he insisted, "I'll only settle for the Doublemint. It's that or nothing."

"OK, you win."

I hated Reese's pieces anyway.

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**A FOUR YEAR ODYSSEY**  
**R/V ROBERT D. CONRAD**  
by Sam Gerard

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What is large and white and can be seen tied up at the Piermont Pier about once every four years? Veteran river watchers know the answer: it's the Lamont-Doherty Research Vessel ROBERT D. CONRAD. The good ship CONRAD last departed from Piermont (and the U.S.) in January 1984 and returned this year in mid-August. During her nearly four years away, the ship zig-zagged her way around the world, carrying out oceanographic studies and adding some 200,000 miles to her long record of world travels.

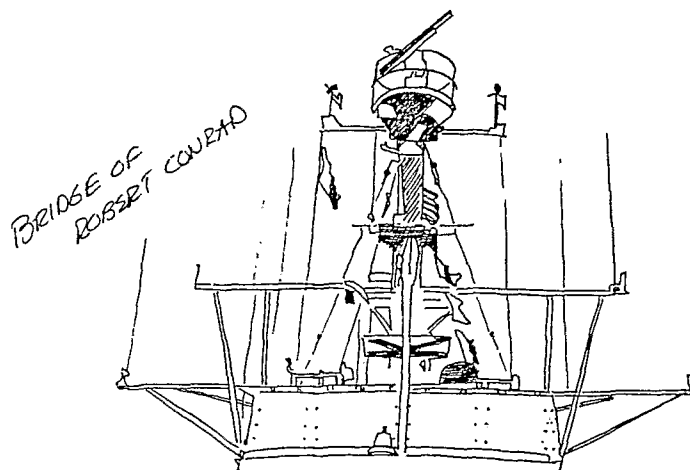
The scientific projects concentrated mainly on sea floor studies using equipment with which the ship is especially well outfitted. Scientific projects aboard R/V CONRAD last 30 to 60 days and are arranged in succession with few gaps in between. Scientific parties of 10 to 15 come aboard for such periods and are then replaced by another group pursuing a different scientific mission.

Among the most significant achievements since 1984 have been the improvements made in the scientific equipment carried aboard the ship. When R/V CONRAD left the U.S. a remarkable new echo-sounding system called SEA BEAM had just been installed which vastly improved both the quality and quantity of the ship's sea floor-plotting capability.

R/V CONRAD stopped in Singapore recently for repair during which additional improvements to her scientific capabilities were made. One such improvement was the installation of three new winches each equipped with six miles of cable used to lower instruments and samplers to the ocean floor or to survey instruments at various depths. The new winches have automatic compensation for ship's motion as well as remote control of all functions. An operator can monitor a TV picture of the sea floor while manipulating controls of the winch, all from inside the ship's laboratory.

R/V CONRAD'S odyssey has been truly global, visiting all of the continents save for Antarctica. After leaving Piermont in early '84 the ship worked her way slowly across the Atlantic through the Mediterranean to the Red Sea. The Red Sea in July is hot enough but that year it was a special "hot spot" due to mines placed at the north end which damaged several ships -- fortunately not CONRAD. Upon returning through the Mediterranean, scientists from Lamont stopped to survey an ominous underwater bulge in the Bay of Naples which Italian volcanologists fear may be an emergent "Vesuvius." Once again the ship escaped unscathed.

Returning west across the Atlantic, Lamont scientists carried out a detailed SEA BEAM survey



to determine the route of a new undersea fiber optic telephone cable between western Europe and North America (Newfoundland). 1984 ended with CONRAD off to Brazil on a project studying ocean waves.

In 1986 R/V CONRAD worked through the Caribbean and crossed the Pacific via Tahiti, Honolulu and Guam. In November and December the R/V CONRAD worked with a Chinese research ship in the South China Sea. During this time R/V CONRAD passed an important milestone: the vessel became the second oceanographic research ship on record to attain one million miles of scientific cruises. The first research ship to reach this goal was also a Lamont vessel: R/V VEMA, a three-masted schooner remembered by many local residents, which retired in 1981 with 1 1/4 million miles to her credit.

The ship passed New Year's 1986 (as well as the Chinese new year) in Singapore, leaving in March for Australia. She made four summertime cruises in the Indian Ocean, operating in and out of Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, this proved to be another "hot spot" with much terrorist activity during R/V CONRAD'S four visits. By November the ship reached Cape Town, South Africa, then crossed the South Atlantic to Rio de Janeiro. For the first six months of 1987 R/V CONRAD was occupied in the western South Atlantic, calling on the ports of Montevideo, Rio, Recife, Fortaleya and Barbados.

The vessel arrived at Piermont on 18 August looking much the same as on her last visit. But looks are deceiving and on closer inspection there are many new installations which Lamont scientists have made in order to stay in the forefront of the marine sciences.

For those interested in a close inspection of R/V CONRAD, the vessel will be open for tours, as part of the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory Open House on October 17. This may be the last chance to see the venerable, 25-year-old ship. Lamont-Doherty has recently requested to become the operator of a new, larger research ship to be built by the U.S. Navy beginning in 1988. There are many crossed fingers at Lamont while awaiting the Navy's decision, which is expected by the end of October.

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**ESSAY ON HALLOWEEN**  
by Jaime Fitzgerald

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One year my sister and I went trick-or-treating in the Horne Tooke development. My sister was a devil and I a karate master. We had a great time and collected lots of candy. My essay is about a certain peculiar treat we did obtain.

We got lots of different treats, gum, chocolate, lollipops and potato chips. One house gave us a nice puffy paper bag, stapled closed. We wondered what it was but resisted the temptation until we arrived home.

When we did, we took out the paper bags. What was it? . . . popcorn? My sister Shannon opened hers. . . . Leaves! That's a sneaky way to save some money!

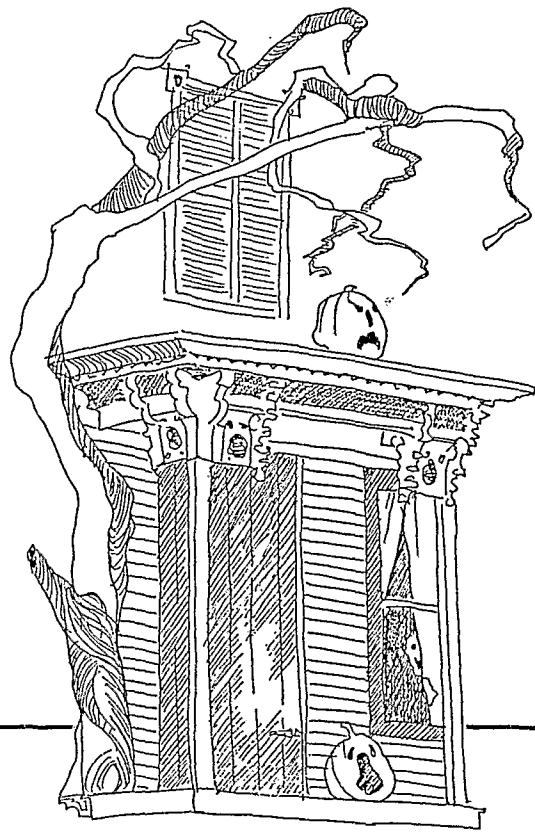
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**TRICK OR TREAT**  
by Lara Galinsky

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Every year I look forward to dressing up at Halloween. One year I was a cheerleader, other years I was a ballerina, pumpkin, witch, Marilyn Monroe, Cinderella, ballroom dancer, clown, and of course, the ever so common ghost made out of an old sheet with two eye holes.

I think the best part is dressing up because it is so much fun to see how different one can look. I



also like trading candy with my friends after trick-or-treating. Another great thing about Halloween in Palisades is that the houses are sometimes very far apart or have long driveways, and while walking to the house I get very scared.

I love trick-or-treating, and I don't plan to stop doing it for a couple years.

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**THE EYE OF MRS. JONSTON:  
A GHOST STORY**  
by Jane Lattes and Deanna Ecke

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As the blood seeped through her face she screamed helplessly. The window slammed and the murderer was gone. The next morning, as the maid brought the breakfast into the room, she fainted because the eye of Mrs. Jonston was staring straight at her from the top dresser drawer. The eye rolled off the dresser and onto the floor. Just as it was going through the door it shot a pale green juice straight at the maid and she died. It closed the door and rolled down the stairs.

As the eye was rolling down the stairs it saw Bucksworth, the butler, coming, so the eye squirted the pale green juice at the man's face and he died instantly. The eye took Bucksworth's right eye and left with it. The first eye needed a companion. They set out for the house next door. When they got there they pushed the door open and went in. Since the first eye was green, it could shoot a pale green juice at a person and they would die. Since the second eye was blue, it would shoot a blue juice at someone and their face would fall off. They killed everybody in the house.

Just as they were leaving they saw a police car pull up so they hid behind the door. When the policemen came in, the eyes went to work at once. They killed one policeman but the other one stepped on the first eye. Blood and guts flew all over the place. Only one eye was left. It waited so long without killing anybody it almost blew up. It rolled to the next town and by the time it left, there were people walking around without heads, with blood gushing out of their necks. There were eyes, noses, mouths and demented brains rolling around in the road.

The next place it went was the graveyard. The eye made all the skeletons come to life. Their job was to pull people's legs and arms off. They did it easily. By the next 12 hours everybody in the country was dead. The rivers turned into blood rivers and the trees looked like they grew brains. The grass was made out of arms and legs.

As the eye was admiring its masterpiece land, a brain fell off a tree and squished it.

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## EDITORIAL

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10964 is the only communications organ in the hamlet of Palisades. Because it comes out monthly, e.g. regularly, it can become a useful, and maybe crucial, means of sharing vital information about political, environmental, and topographical problems which affect you who live here. Here is how our By-Laws describe the purposes for which the 10964 corporation was organized:

"To exercise, promote and protect the privileges and interests of the community; to foster a healthy interest in the civic affairs of the community; to develop good citizenship; and to inquire into civic abuses and to seek reformation thereof."

Please use this newsletter. It is a communication opportunity for you. Our beautiful and unique hamlet is subtly disappearing before our very eyes. The swim club has changed; condominiums may "suddenly" crop up; 9W and Oak Tree Road traffic will become a real-life daily burden we will have to bear; and the ambience of our lovely secluded hamlet will change forever. We will be outraged. But it will be too late.

Recently I saw several issues of September's "10964" in the waste basket at the Post Office. This means that some of you took the newsletter out of your mail boxes and, without reading or noting its contents, threw it away as if it were junk mail.

10964 is not *The New York Times* and we don't pretend that it is. But what it *can* be is the communications medium for us, the residents of the hamlet of Palisades.

LPH

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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Charles "Skip" Vezzetti, Superintendent of Highways for the Town of Orangetown and a representative to the Southeastern New York State Superintendent of Highways Association, was nominated and elected as one of the eleven members of the New York State Superintendent of Highways Association Executive Board. The Executive Board develops policy, promotes legislation related to the highway field, and represents the 932 Superintendents of Highways throughout the State. Skip has served two terms as President of the Rockland County Superintendent of Highways Association and will present the views of those people in the Southeastern Region, as well as towns of similar demographics to his own, on the Board.

Also, Skip is the first Superintendent of Highways from Rockland County to serve on the New York State Executive Board since Sterling Theis in 1962, who served as President of the New York State Superintendent of Highways Association.

We would like to hear from kids in their first year of college: how do they like their classes, roommates, living arrangements, professors. . .

Let us hear from you! Parents, prompt your kids to send us an article!

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## NEWS FROM ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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**Saturday, Oct. 10, 8:00 p.m.:** Walt Whitman constructed a dramatic persona for himself in his poetry, deliberately concealing his true identity. Justin Kaplan will discuss how he hunted down the many different Whitmans until he arrived at his own interpretation in *Walt Whitman: A Life*. Justin Kaplan's *Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain* won the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. He is also the author of *Lincoln Steffens: A Biography*, and *Walt Whitman: A Life*, which won the American Book Award.

**Tuesday, Oct. 13, 10:30 a.m.:** Singer and songwriter Elaine Silver will present a program of original and traditional folksongs, ballads, blues, swingtunes and a 30s and 40s sing-a-long, at the Center's Free Morning Concert for Senior Citizens.

### Center Seeks Loan of Pony Shots and Penny Arcade Photos

The Center will mount a unique exhibition opening on November 13. Entitled "The Instant Image," it will trace the history of instant (or polaroid) photography from early days to the present. Curator, Ned Harris, would like to include pony shots and penny arcade photos which were popular in the early part of the century and through the 1950s. If you have such memorabilia in a family album or photo collection and would like to lend it to the Center it would be appreciated and returned intact.

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## PLAYGROUP UPDATE

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Thanks to the Church board and Laurie Ferguson, the Palisades Playgroup is a reality, though we're starting with only a few toddlers as of this writing. There's plenty of room for more, and we hope others will join us in the weeks to come. The group will be cooperative, with mothers taking turns watching the kids, but there will also be one steady presence, Nancy Vlahos, a college student, who will spend her mornings helping out. We'll be meeting in the church on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 am to noon. Children from ages one to three are welcome. A small charge will cover the fixed costs of Nancy's salary and incidentals--the more participants, the smaller the charge per child--and we plan to have ironed out the many other details of day-to-day operation by the time this announcement appears.

The church space seems ideal; we're looking forward to a lively (for the young ones) and restful (for us!) Fall. If you're interested in participating in the playgroup, call Annie Gerard (359-4338) or Milbry Polk (365- 0297).

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## 10TH ANNUAL PALISADES POTTERY SHOW AND SALE

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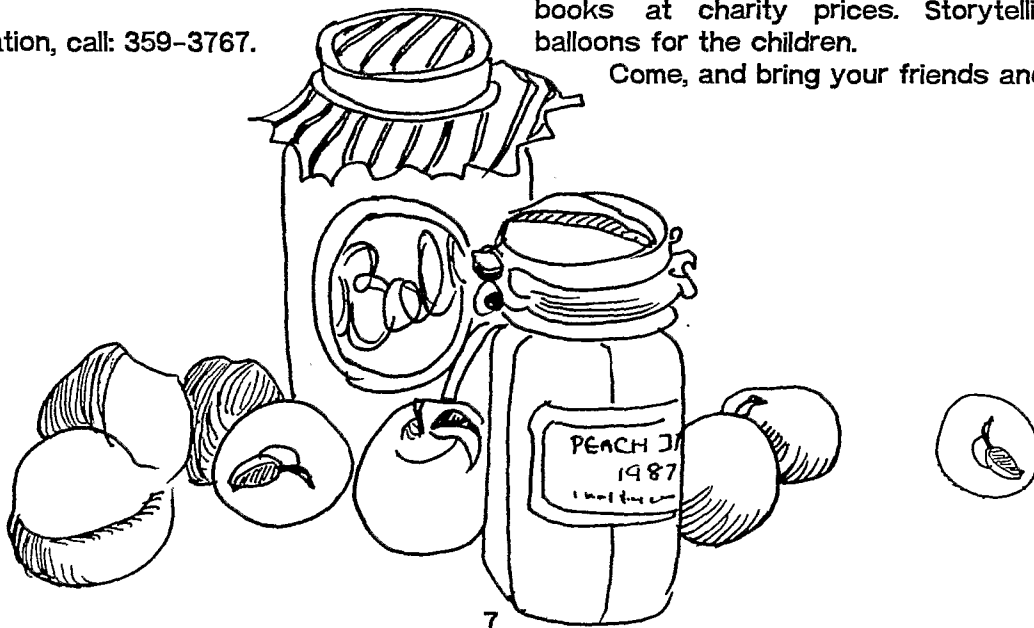
The local potters, Alice Gerard, Jane Herold, Sylvia March, and Beatrice Sinclair, invite you to see their recent work.

DATE: Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7 and 8.

PLACE: Ludlow Lane, on Grace Knowlton's lawn.

TIME: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For further information, call: 359-3767.



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## BLUE HILL CULTURAL CENTER

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The paintings of Roger Howrigan and Carie Manke, and the sculpture of Seymour Meyer, will be exhibited at Blue Hill Cultural Center from October 19th, 1987, through January 31st, 1988.

Seymour Meyer's sculpture consists of highly polished rhythmic and sensual abstract Meyer's abstract, high-gloss bronze sculptures have been displayed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Royal Academy in London, the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, and the Bat Yam Museum in Israel.

The large watercolor paintings of Roger Howrigan consist of realistic floral and natural forms combined with architectural detail. Howrigan has studied and taught in some of America's most prestigious schools of art, and his exhibitions of watercolors and oil paintings have been acclaimed in prominent reviews in art magazines and newspapers.

Sensitive, realistic portraits of familiar and weathered American objects, and people who radiate quiet strength and beauty, are the subject matter of Carie Manke's watercolors.

### FALL PLANT SALE

To Benefit THE PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

Saturday, October 10th


10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This traditional community celebration of the Fall season will feature an unusually wide variety of bulbs, mums, shrubs and houseplants. Celebrated chef Joe Hyde's culinary wizardry will highlight the ever-popular Bake Table with a sumptuous paella. Exotic prizes will be raffled. Rare and treasured books at charity prices. Storytelling and free balloons for the children.

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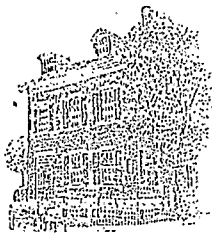


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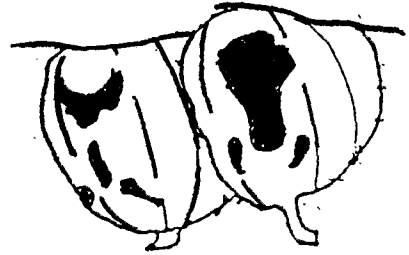
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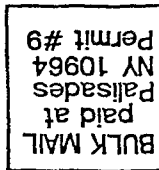
- Bedrooms
- Living Rooms
- Dining Rooms
- Kitchens
- Dens/Offices
- Solid Woods
- Veneers
- Formicas
- Brass
- Down
- Platform Beds
- Sectionals
- Modular Units
- Accessories
- Ralph Lauren



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## CONTRIBUTORS

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Contributions were received last month from Jane and Conrad Lattes and Dionyse Price. Thank you!

Thank you to our local businesses for their support of 10964. They will appreciate your patronage.

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## 10964 DEADLINE

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The deadline for copy for the November issue of 10964 is October 15. The November issue will appear in your mail as close to the first of the month as possible.