

# 10964

MARCH 1988

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.



## PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

FROM THE EDITOR:

Because the subject of village incorporation has again reared its fascinating head and has received coverage in other news publications, I got in touch with people in Palisades on both sides of the matter and asked them for updates from their respective committees. We will not have our newsletter used as a battleground, but we do feel we need to acknowledge important community issues and to act as a communications organ, when we can, on behalf of the community. I hope we can look forward to articles from both committees in our next issue. And of course we welcome Letters to the Editor on this or any other subject of concern to Palisades residents.

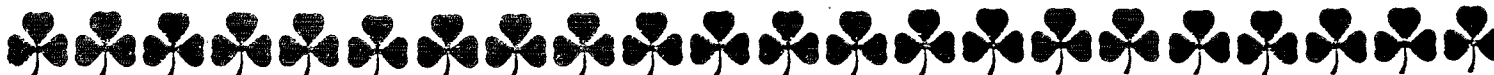
We would like to welcome Eden-Lee Jellinek to our 10964 staff. She will be covering the performing

arts and entertainment in our area and will report to us on what is available to see, hear, attend. There is really so much of cultural interest in our area about which most of us are not aware. We are so happy to have Eden-Lee join our newsletter.

Also in this issue: a book review from Maggie Gundlach about Judy Tomkins; a consumer article by Annie Gerard; more on the structure of local government from Andy Norman; an excerpt from Marina Harrison's new book; AIDS education in our schools by School Board President, Gerry Miras -- and lots more.

We are excited that this newsletter is attracting more submissions and an increasingly involved readership. We hope you are, too.

LPH



## AIDS EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To date, not many adolescents have been diagnosed with AIDS. Fewer than 1% of all United States cases are among teenagers. About 21% of AIDS victims, however, fall in the 20-29 year old age range. Because of the long incubation period, we know that many of these adults were first infected with the virus as teenagers. Since there is no medical solution to AIDS, prevention is the only available strategy for controlling it. That is why education is the most valuable tool against the spread of the disease.

Although AIDS education is already in the curriculum in the South Orangetown Central School District, the recently mandated state program now being put into effect makes us again focus our attention on the program.

A most important requirement of the program is that the curriculum be age-appropriate. In the elementary grades, the aim is to relieve fears about the disease. The secondary level builds on facts previously learned and emphasizes social and behavioral issues. Learning about behaviors that

put a person at risk, such as drug abuse and sexual promiscuity, enables young people to make choices that will protect them and others.

As required by the state, an AIDS Education Advisory Committee has been formed. Coming from the Board of Education, the administration, community health agencies, the three Parent-Teacher Associations, students, clergy and the community at large. AIDS education may very well be THE most important subject now being taught in our schools.

It is a terrible thing to have to grow up in the shadow of AIDS. Relationships taken for granted by their parents years ago must be viewed by their children with fear and anxiety. The only way to protect our young people is to give them the knowledge that will allay their fears and enable them to feel more in control of their lives.

Geraldine Miras  
President, School Board  
S.O. Central School District

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## THE HUDSON RIVER DEFENSE LEAGUE: UPDATE

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The Hudson River Defense League, is currently focused on issues that threaten to disrupt or destroy the quality of life along the Rockland Hudson river villages--and inevitably the adjacent communities and sooner or later the county at large. It is our intention to keep the readers of 10964 informed of the League's activities and concerns on a regular basis, particularly as they affect Palisades.

1. The proposed condominium development on the old factory site by the Piermont Pier, as well as potentially associated developments: a proposed 700-slip marina, and a public boat launch site at the pier itself. Such developments will affect Palisades considerably because of the substantial increase in traffic along 9W, 340 and Oak Tree Road, not only as a result of the additional high-density population, but because of the commercial development that will surely follow. There are also serious environmental concerns, not least that such a development will seriously impact the important wetlands which lie just to the south, along the Tallman Mountain State Park, as well as the Park itself. The League, together with the Hudson River Fisherman's Association, funded an expert assessment of the environmental impact statement prepared by the developers, and presented it formally to Mayor Goswick of Piermont in December, 1987.

2. The proposed second bridge. If the site is south of the present Tappan Zee Bridge, the threat is obvious. But any second bridge in this region is bound to bring rapid local development and pressure on this community. The League is working with the Tappan Zee Coalition on this issue.

3. The proposed Pyramid Mall at Route 59/303, West Nyack. The Clarkstown Town Board rejected the proposal, but there is reason to believe there is life in it yet. This mall would be by far the largest in Rockland County and would be a magnet for traffic and further development that would have a major ripple effect for miles around. The traffic and development would themselves become powerful arguments for the need for a second bridge.

4. Garbage disposal. As we all know, the county in general and Orangetown in particular are heading for a major garbage disposal crisis. [DiPerna, our local hauler, says he would like to sell his business (for personal health reasons)--but cannot do so because potential buyers know that before long they will not be able to dispose of the garbage they haul at a reasonable price.] The League was active in defeating a proposal for a huge incineration plant in Haverstraw, which would have drawn major truck traffic along 9W, and would have been a serious source of poisonous air

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## MARINA HARRISON HAS A BOOK

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Marina Harrison, of Palisades, and Lucy D. Rosenfeld, have written *A WALKER'S GUIDEBOOK: SERENDIPITOUS OUTINGS NEAR NEW YORK CITY*, to be published this spring by Michael Kesend Publishing Ltd. Forty-two separate excursions are included in the book and the following piece is an excerpt from one of them. We will be featuring other walks from the Guidebook in future issues of 10964.

### **A REFLECTIVE LAKESIDE WALK: Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Tarrytown**

How to get there: Take the Major Deegan to the New York Thruway to exit 9 to Route 9 northbound, through the villages of Tarrytown and North Tarrytown. Follow signs for the Preserve. Entrance to the Park is on the right, north of the villages (across from Phelps Memorial Hospital).

This is a country walk surprisingly close to the city. The mixture of meadows, lake and wooded paths (with occasional horseback riders appearing on the bridle paths) gives the walker the feeling of being on an English country estate. The grounds and paths are well tended, but not overdone, the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley landscape unspoiled, the lake clean and rippling. The preserve is indeed that - preserved for walking and enjoying the weather and feeding the ducks, or observing nature. Despite its proximity to a bustling village and highways, once inside the Rockefeller Preserve you'll find it hard to believe these 750 acres are not a hundred miles from civilization.

The park was given by the Rockefeller family estate to the public only a few years ago, and apparently not many people know about it, for it is wonderfully uncrowded. There are some fourteen miles of carriage and walking paths running through the preserve, and the beautiful little lake covers 24 acres. There is a variety of terrains for walking, including riverside lanes - the winding Pocantico River makes its way through the park - wetlands, woods, fields, and the path around the lake named - yes - Swan Lake. There is no picnicking or camping, but you can bring trail lunches to designated areas.

It is an ideal place for reflection as well as energetic walking. The lakeside, in particular, is an oasis of still beauty, where you can watch the concentric ripples of water as a duck swims by. This is an ideal walk for families, including elderly walkers or children. Most of the trails are not difficult and your walk can be as long as you wish to make it, for a good map (available at the entrance in a box on the side of the shed) will allow you to criss-cross and combine one trail with

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## **OUR THICKET OF DISTRICTS: A HISTORY OF PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS AND CITIZEN INITIATIVES**

by Andrew E. Norman

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The most puzzling area of our government landscape is the thicket of "districts" that enrich our lives and clutter our tax bills.

Palisades is typical of suburban New York. We are in the S.O. Central School District #1 (there is no #2), the Sparkill-Palisades Fire, Orangetown Library, South Orangetown Ambulance and Palisades Water Districts. We have two Election Districts (12 east of the Palisades Interstate Parkway and 50 from the PIP to Sparkill Creek). And most of us are in the Orangetown Sewer District. Every one of these districts has its own history, its own tax rate (except the Election Districts) and its own totally independent boundaries.

Dense as this tangle may seem, it has been weeded. Until 10 years ago, most of us were also in the Palisades Lateral Sewer Benefit District. Until 20 years ago we were in the Palisades Lighting District. And for a few recent years we were taxed for a Palisades Library District, even though it had no legal existence.

Of all these districts, the biggest, most expensive and most important is the South Orangetown School District, formed in 1958 by consolidating the Tappan, Blauvelt, Orangeburg and Palisades districts (none of which had high schools), with Union Free School District #1 (Piermont, Sparkill and Grand View). Before consolidation, Palisades high school students had a choice of Tappan Zee High in Piermont or Nyack High, with their tuition paid by the Palisades district. Most Tappan, Orangeburg and Blauvelt children took a train to Congers High School or even to the larger North Rockland High School in Haverstraw.

All five of these districts had been formed as Common School Districts, administered by a County Superintendent, as the newly linked ideas of universal compulsory education and free public schools swept 19th century America.

The first school in Rockland, as Palisades was then known, was built in the 1840s on Closter Road, near the present Post Lane. The building now known as the Community Center was either the third or fourth school in Palisades (historians lost count a century ago). It was built in 1867 to replace the nearby, one-room Red Schoolhouse on land donated by Jacob Post, a fifth-generation Palisadian (grandfather of Chester Post and Mildred Post Rippey). The present Palisades School was built in 1936, and the flat-roofed section in the back was added amidst furious aesthetic controversy in 1953.

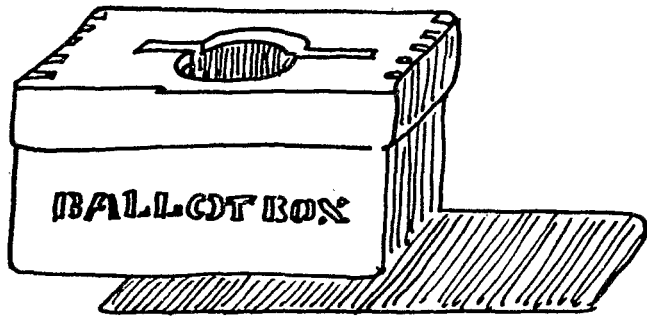
The present school district is governed by an unpaid board of five, elected to three-year terms in a 2-2-1 sequence. Since it began, both voters and candidates have, with one exception, kept a "gentlemen's agreement" to have one member from each predecessor district. Palisadian Geraldine Miras, first elected to the Board in 1982, has been its president since 1986.

The board's two major duties are appointing the superintendent and preparing the annual budget for submission to the district's voters. If the voters reject the budget, the board must submit it for a second vote, with or without amendment. If it is rejected again, the district operates for the year under a state-regulated "austerity budget," which is generally the same as the rejected budget except for reducing or eliminating funds for transportation, sports and lunch.

The only other district with a board elected directly by the public is the fire district, with one commissioner elected each year to a five-year term. The board adopts an annual budget to support the fire-fighting expenses of the volunteer fire company, a separate entity which raises its own funds from public donations to finance its social, recreational and charitable activities. The fire district holds its own elections separately from all others. Palisadian William Yuda has served as commissioner for 30 years, and as president since 1959.

Local library financing deserves a close look, for it is a case study in the complexity, flexibility and citizen initiative that typify suburban New York government. In the early 1960s, the Free Association Libraries in Palisades, Blauvelt, Orangeburg, and Tappan were starving for funds following the merger of their local school districts, which had provided some modest support. There were two conventional solutions to the problem, but both were politically unworkable. A tax on the whole school district would have been unacceptable to Piermonters, who support their library through Village taxes, and also to Grand View, which pays annual tribute to the Nyack Library. Similarly, a town-wide tax would have been unfair to Pearl River, whose library is supported by the Pearl River School District, and also to Nyack and South Nyack, since the Nyack Library is supported by the Nyack School District, which includes a large area of Clarkstown.

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### Annual General Meeting

An impressive crowd showed up not only to vote in record numbers, but also to hear former Palisades resident Lee Savage talk about the origins and the making of his film on the Hudson River School of painters. The hour-long film has been broadcast by PBS and was a featured element of the Metropolitan Museum's show on the same subject last Fall. The artist most generously donated a copy of the video to the Library, and it may be borrowed.

The audience watched as they enjoyed the celebrated Sears Champagne Punch, kindly provided and brewed by Dick and Debbie Sears.

The candidates for two seats on the Board of Trustees, replacing outgoing President Bob Williams and Treasurer Roger Jellinek, were Jack Hoffmeister, Oriol Kriz, David Lipkin and William McGivney. The new president, Lynn Seidler, announced that the vote had been very close, and that Messrs. Hoffmeister and Lipkin had been elected.

### Some New Titles on Order:

#### Fiction

Bitov	Pushkin House
Burroughs	The Western Lands
Francis	Hot Money
Lessing	The Fifth Child
Ludlum	The Icarus Agenda
Updike	S

#### Non-Fiction

Angell	Season Ticket
Ching	Ancestors
Gleick	Chaos: Making a New Science
Greider	Secrets of the Temple
O'Keefe	Georgia O'Keefe: Art & Letters
Quinn	A Mind of Her Own: The Life of Karen Horney
Strasberg	A Dream of Passion

### Tax time Again

The library has received IRS reference publications and a cassette with step-by-step instructions to help you complete your federal income tax form 1040 and Schedule A & B. Also available are federal and N. Y. State reproducible tax forms.

**Copier.** We are happy to announce the arrival of a new copier. It can reduce, enlarge, zoom and copy up to 11" x 17." It can make up to 99 letter size copies per minute--all for 10 cents per copy.

### THE HUDSON RIVER DEFENSE LEAGUE (Cont'd from p. 2)

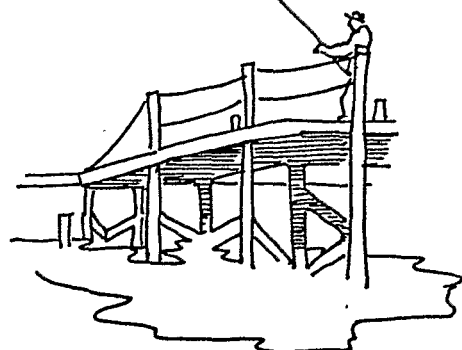
pollution along our portion of the Hudson Valley. The League is supporting efforts to make recycling mandatory in the county, and to make Rockland a model in this respect.

5. Sewage in the Hudson. The League has formally protested to the County Health Department against the dumping of raw sewage from some 40 homes in South Nyack. The League is monitoring the subsequent action by South Nyack officials.

6. Greenway Project. The League is joining other organizations, notably Scenic Hudson, Inc., in trying to get special recognition of the Hudson River as a heritage corridor and greenway.

These problems and the actions and programs of the Hudson River Defense League will be presented individually in greater detail in later issues of 10964. We hope that you will join us in our efforts by becoming members. The membership fee is \$5, which is used to cover immediate expenses. For information, write to P. O. Box 606, Nyack, N. Y. 10960.

Roger Jellinek, Trustee



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## CONSUMER'S CORNER

by Annie Gerard

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You may have noticed enticing signs above some of the produce in our local supermarkets recently, signs above beautiful out-of-season fruits, for instance, proudly announcing the fruit is imported from Chile, or another of those wonderful warm Central or South American countries where they frequently use enormous quantities of pesticides that have been banned for use in America. And only about 1 percent of imported produce actually gets tested on the way to your supermarket. Makes you think, doesn't it?

And those bright red apples, still looking just-picked; they could be treated with a chemical called daminozide to keep them looking that way. Daminozide is known to cause cancer in lab animals and becomes even more dangerous when cooked--in apple pies, or applesauce, or even commercial apple juices--all things that small children are fond of. The chemical permeates the whole fruit, so removing the skin doesn't help. Daminozide is also used on grapes (where there's an awful lot of surface area for each little fruit) and other produce.

The good news is that several supermarket chains won't accept fruits and vegetables that have been sprayed with the chemical, and many juice manufacturers follow the same practice. The bad news is that most of the chains, like A&P, seem content to simply trust their suppliers' word on the subject. The same way they trust that government testing of as little as 1 percent of their imported produce will insure that their customers aren't being poisoned by DDT and other hazardous chemicals. And what about all the other chemicals, like aldecarb -- remember the poisonous watermelons? -- that are rarely tested at all until people actually become ill?

This is scary stuff to ponder, especially if you have young children. But you probably think, as I always have, that someone else will do something about it eventually. After all, what can you do? You don't want to start a crusade; you're a busy person.

In California, consumer efforts and a conscientious response by management has led to independent testing programs in several supermarket chains. It's good business, they've found, to advertise such programs--it gives them an edge over the competition. When I read about this, I began to think that maybe there was something I could do: I could call the consumer relations people for the various local chains, and ask them if they'd thought about starting similar programs. I could encourage others to make a few calls, too. And if they told a few more people... it could start to make sense to some of the people in

upper management at Grand Union, ShopRite, A&P, etc. Then at least, as I walked down the produce aisle and worried, I might be able to imagine a time when I didn't have to.

If you are concerned, too, and would like to have more assurance that your fresh produce is safe, contact (and copy this article for friends!):

-ShopRite/Wakefern Public Affairs Spokesperson Mary Ellen Gowin, 201-527-3300;

-Grand Union V.P. of Corp. Comm. and Consumer Affairs Donald Valancourt, 201- 890-6000;

-A&P V.P. of Quality Control Dr. Gene Bilenker, 201-930-4231.

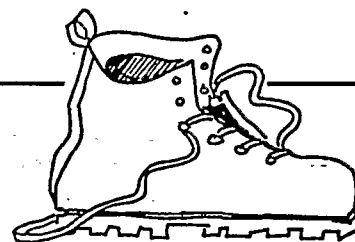
For the names of consumer affairs executives at other chains, call your local store manager.

Next time: have you thought about what happens to all the plastic you throw away? ☆

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MARINA HARRISON  
(Cont'd from p. 2)

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another. A number of the trails are listed as steep grades. These provide wonderful upward climbs that will take you to spots from which you will get a panoramic view of the Hudson below. The map at the gate lists the difficulty and length of each trail, so be sure to read it before you set out.

We recommend this walk in any season, including winter and in snowy weather. Those walkers who enjoy a winter hike can't find a better one than this: parking is easy, the terrain is mostly level, and there are no snowmobiles or other noisy intrusions. Winter birds enjoy the lake and woods. In fall the foliage is glorious and its reflection in the still lake waters lovely to look at. Summer and spring are, of course, perfect times to visit such wooded trails, so this is, indeed, a year-round site for walkers.

### AFTER YOUR WALK

The location of this Preserve is conveniently close to several tourist attractions. The historic region of Tarrytown (the Sleepy Hollow of earlier times) includes several historic restorations, fine antique homes, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery where Washington Irving is buried, and the wonderful Pocantico Union Church with its Chagall windows. ☆

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**ABOUT JUDY TOMKINS'S NEW BOOK**  
by Maggie Brown Gundlach

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Her triumph over the profound mental and physical trauma of divorce is movingly told by Snedens photographer Judy Tomkins in her recently published book *Coming Back: Recovering from the Breakup of a Marriage* (E. P. Dutton, New York, 1987, \$19.95).

This handsome small book, with its deceptively casual black-and-white photographs and sparse, conversational text, some of it extracted from her journals, has a strong impact. With candid understatement the photographer-author outlines her emergence from near physical paralysis, and even angina pectoris, to the status of an independent woman who proudly "paid my own bills."

The reader first encounters a woman who had fallen "madly in love" and found in her second marriage a sense of herself as well as the security that had been lacking in her bohemian upbringing. When her husband of 14 years left her in 1976 for a woman a few years younger than her daughter, "I lost my courage, my will and my strength," she recalls.

In the first two years, she writes, "getting out of bed every day was my first exercise of will power." With the help of her children, a therapist and friends, she slowly crawled out of a morass of self-pity. "It's a bitter pill when you realize he won't be back, but as soon as you do (mind you, you won't like it), you are on the road to recovery."

In an interview, she noted with wry amusement that she was of the generation of wives who had expected to be supported. She had to learn in mid-life to earn a living by her photography, a somewhat precarious occupation, she has found. Despite repeated advice to sell her stone-and-wood house perched precariously on a hillside in Snedens Landing (part of which dates back to the 18th century), this striking and slender woman of 61 years has clung stubbornly to it as "my only security." Her "deep-rooted" attachment is quite understandable as she talks and pours an aromatic Russian tea in her charming living room, with its beamed ceilings, wide-planked floors and spectacular view of the Hudson River at one end. To hold on to it, she has had to rent it to strangers from time to time, including a movie company shooting a Burt Reynolds film entitled, ironically, "Starting Over."

"It is good to be creative again," she emphasizes. She plans a photography show for the fall at the Leo Castelli gallery in New York where she has had several one-woman shows. Its subject, "Absence," is difficult to define, she finds, even though she has been engrossed in the

subject for about 15 years. "Some of it is architectural, but a lot is just an image where I feel somebody has been. . . and will be back. . . but at the moment there is absence."

She is moving from portraits, on which she has concentrated in the past, to work that is "more and more abstract" -- although she says her portraits are "offbeat enough" that "when someone commissions me, I ask them to see my work. . . because I don't want them to be disappointed." Earlier she did a photographic study of the black community of Bridgehampton, Long Island, which appeared in the book, *The Other Hampton*. She has also focused on the people of Hell's Kitchen.

In her book she sums up her credo as follows: "I live each day fully. . . The excitement in my life is not knowing what each day will hold. I see that things are impermanent. I no longer expect things to remain the same, and welcome change. By conquering the suffering, I have become free."

She encapsulates her experience with a quotation from Sadaharu Oh, whom she identifies as a baseball star in Japan:

"Every end point is an opportunity for the new to enter our lives." ☆

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**OUR THICKET OF DISTRICTS**  
(Cont'd from p. 3)

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Innovation was the only hope, and the upshot was a special state law authorizing a unique Orangetown Library District. Its boundaries result from a petition signed by most of the residents of Palisades, Orangeburg, Blauvelt and Tappan, as well as parts of Sparkill. Its board is appointed by the Town Board, which is bound by tradition though not by law, to follow the recommendations of the four hamlet library boards. This library board submits a budget each year for Town Board approval, and divides the tax revenues by agreement among the libraries. This was the first, and remains the only, district of its kind in the state.

At a time when the Town Board had rejected a proposed increase in the Library District tax, the four hamlet libraries successfully recruited Piermont Library leaders to help circulate a petition to levy a small extra tax on the School District to give supplementary support to all five libraries. The tax was approved by the School District's voters (it has since been increased twice by the same process), thus furnishing a perfect example of what horticulturists call "layering": a branch with roots at both ends.

The other districts will be covered in April, and county government in May. ☆

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**THEATRE CALENDAR FOR ROCKLAND COUNTY AND NEW JERSEY**  
(or: Who says you must commute for theatre?)  
by Eden-Lee Jellinek

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**In Rockland:**

**ANTRIM PLAYHOUSE**

Spook Rock Rd., Suffern. 354-9812 after 4 p.m.

"I Never Sang For My Father," by Robert Anderson

**BELFRY REPERTORY COMPANY**

S. Broadway, Nyack. 358-8583

"Marry Me a Little," by Stephen Sondheim

A charming, 2-character musical.

Through Sun., 3/20.

Thurs., Fri., Sat., 8:30 p.m.

Sun.: 7:30 p.m.

**St. Paul's Church** sponsors a musical series every Saturday evening featuring great national and international concert artists. Check week-end listings in the Journal News or call the Rev. David Roberts at 358-1481 for current and last-minute information.

The Belfry is a professional Equity theatre operating under the umbrella of St. Paul's Festival of the Arts.

**ELMWOOD PLAYHOUSE**

Park St., Nyack. 353-1313

"The Lady's Not for Burning," by Christopher Fry

A scathing and delightful romantic comedy about witch hunts in 15th-century England. First performed in London by Richard Burton and John Gielgud and performed in New York in 1950.

Through Saturday, April 16.

Fri., Sat., 8:30 p.m.: 3/18,19,25,26; 4/8,9,15,16.

Sun. 2:30 p.m.: 3/27, 4/10.

Tickets: \$8.00. Call for student and senior citizen rates. Season subscriptions available.

**HUDSON VAGABOND PUPPETS** studio at S.O.M.S., Van Wyck Rd., Blauvelt. 359-1144

Splendid giant puppets under the artistic direction of Lois Boheveski. Watch this space for news of upcoming performances.

**PENGUIN REPERTORY THEATRE**

Crickettown Rd., Stony Point. 786-2873@JUSTOFF;

"Waiting for the Parade," by John Murrell

Through Sunday, March 13.

Thurs., Fri., 8:30 p.m.: 3/10,11

Sat., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.: 3/12

Sun., 2:30 p.m.: 3/13

Suggestions: The Bouldenburgh Manor, north of the theatre on 9W, offers a generous brunch-theatre tie-in on Sundays: brunch and theatre for \$20. Highly recommended.

**In New Jersey:**

**BERGEN COUNTY PLAYERS**

298 Kinderkamack Rd., Oradell. 201-261-4200

"Wait Until Dark."

For ticket info. call the box office at these times:

Thursdays: 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Fridays: 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 2:00-10:30 p.m.; Sundays: 5:30-9:30 p.m.

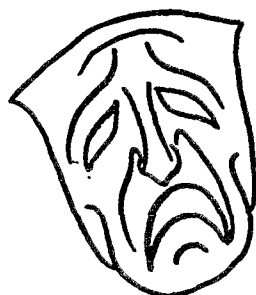
**PLAYERS GUILD OF LEONIA**

201-947-9606

"Mornings at Seven"

Fri., Sat., 8:30 p.m.: 3/11,12

Tickets \$7.00 (\$5 for students and senior citizens)

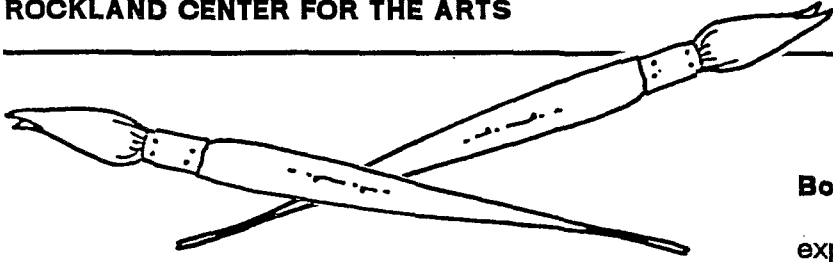




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## ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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### Out Loud

A new series of short story readings will feature Rockland County actors, writers and performers. Produced by Palisadian Frank Platt, Friday, Mar. 4 kicked off the first performance.

Guest readers include the following Palisadians: Bill Murray, Eden-Lee Murray, Joan Hooker, Harry Davis, Margo Kidder, and Ellen Burstyn.

Tickets: \$10 (\$8 for Center members)

### 1988 Paul Y. Keating Photo Competition Underway

This annual competition, now in its seventh season, is accepting entries from high school students in Rockland, Orange, and Bergen counties. It culminates in an exhibition and cash awards ceremony on April 10, 1988. It has grown to be the most important of its kind in the tri-state area. Deadline for the submission of entries is March 26.

The competition is held annually in the memory of Paul Y. Keating, a young photographer who lost his life in 1980 in New York City when he came to the aid of a youth being attacked by muggers.

### Exhibit of Clay Works and Works on Paper

An exhibit and sale of works by Rockland artists Cliff Mendelson and Margery Deckinger-Myerson opened February 28, and is scheduled to run until March 31. "Works on Paper, Works in Clay" features the works of two of the county's most highly respected artists. A noted abstract artist, Ms. Myerson is also known for her pen and ink drawings. Mendelson will feature non-traditional, non-functional works in the exhibit including free-standing and wall mounted sculpture pieces. His work is characterized by highly textured geometric forms, glazed fragments superimposed.

Gallery hours are 10-4 Monday through Saturday, and 1-4 on Sundays.

### Egg Decoration

The delicate folk art of "pysanky," Ukrainian Easter egg decoration, will be taught in a one-day workshop by Yaroslava Surmach Mills at Rockland Center for the Arts on Saturday, March 19, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Ms. Mills, a noted scribe, illustrator and teacher who lives in West Nyack, will demonstrate this ancient craft with slides and "hands-on" instruction. Students are requested to bring an uncooked egg in a cup.

The fee for the workshop is \$15.

### Book Art and Maskmaking

The ancient art of papermaking will be explored in a series of three workshops on three Saturdays: March 12, 19 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Under the direction of Patricia Inglese, students will create handmade paper with which they will bind their own books and create life-size masks.

Fee for the 3 sessions is \$90.

### Tappan Zee Chamber Players

Led by noted concert pianist Abba Bogin, the program for March 26 features the Center's resident ensemble, the Tappan Zee Chamber Players, and includes the Haydn trio for Flute, Violin and Cello; Chilara's Duo Concertante for Violin and Viola; and Schumann's Quintet for Piano and Strings.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$9 for Center members, seniors and students.

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## BLUE HILL NEWS

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Four contemporary Chinese artists will be exhibiting their works from March 1 through May 12. Qiu Deshu, of Shanghai, is considered one of the outstanding artists and thinkers of his generation. In addition to being a prolific painter he is the author of many articles exploring Chinese Art.

C. J. Yao, of Taiwan, came to the United States in 1970 and has been a major contributor to the photo-realist movement here for more than a decade. He has also established his reputation as an international painter and printmaker.

Wang Keping, of Beijing, is a self-taught sculptor whose early works were biting satires of China's political figures. He was spokesman for a dissident group of artists who set up their shows of protest outside the Beijing National Art Gallery in 1979. A year later the gallery invited the group to exhibit their work representing styles and subjects forbidden in the People's Republic up to that time.

Yuan Yun-Fu is Professor of Fine Art in Painting at the Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing. He is also Deputy-Chief of the Chinese Fresco Art Committee and a Consul of the Government of Beijing City for the Arts and Crafts. He is known for his monumental murals which cover the exterior and interior walls of many of China's most important corporate and public buildings.

Blue Hill Cultural Center is located on Orangeburg Road in Pearl River. ☆



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Justyn Vreeland Honored

Justyn Vreeland, Sales Director with the Mary Kay Cosmetics Company, was recently recognized at a banquet for top achievers, in Miami, Florida. Justyn will be receiving her third company car, a Buick Century, in March.

### A Kitten for Katz

Patti and Howard Katz became the proud parents of Daniel Scott on December 12, 1987.

### Palisades Playgroup

The Palisades Playgroup may go to 4 days a week (pending church board approval), and they are eager for new members between the ages of 1 & 3. Anyone interested in more information can call Annie Gerard, 359- 4338, or Milbry Polk, 365-0297.

### Palisades Post Office

The Palisades Post Office is now closed Wednesdays from 12 noon, for any financial or stamp transactions. The lobby will remain open, but there will no longer be window service after 12 on Wednesdays, due to Congressional budget cuts.

### Rotary Club

The Piermont Rotary Club, whose territory consists of Piermont, Palisades, Sparkill, Tappan and Grand View, meets every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. for a dinner meeting at "Tony's Lobster House." Rotary is an organization of business and professional people united world wide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build good will and peace in the world. Membership is by invitation and is on the basis of one representative of each business, profession and institution. Like the Marines, our club is looking for a few good people. For information contact our president Skip Vezzetti, vice-president Bill Crable or George Walter, Piermont Liquor Store.

### Rockland Amnesty International Group

In May of 1987 ten to fifteen residents of the county met at the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Upper Nyack to be instructed on how to set up our own Amnesty International group. By July we were on our own, established as Group 359 (a significant number in Palisades!). Of the over eighty people who have attended meetings three of us, Frank and Judy Platt and Shawn Frederick, are from Palisades. We now meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 in the Fellowship of Reconciliation, 523 North Broadway, Upper Nyack.

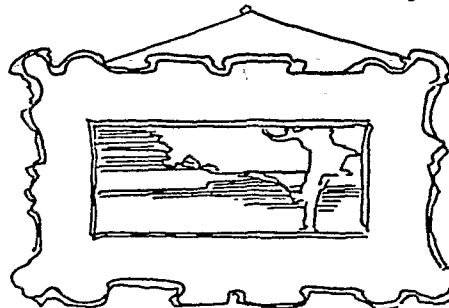
For those of you who are not familiar with Amnesty International, I will try to summarize its

beliefs and goals. All over the world governments of different ideologies imprison people for their beliefs. AI is an independent, impartial movement which plays a specific role in the worldwide protection of human rights, focusing on such prisoners.

Frank Platt and Chip James jointly run the Urgent Action activities, sending letters to government officials in countries on behalf of prisoners in imminent danger of torture and/or execution, or in dire need of medical attention. Chris Iosso is working with the Palisades Presbyterian Church on Amnesty's Inter-religious Urgent Action Network.

Our group members have different levels of activity. Approximately twenty to twenty-five meet regularly each month and numerous others occasionally come to meetings but remain active letter writers. We hope that some readers of 10964 will consider joining AIUSA and the activities of Group 359. Bud McCord of Orangeburg and I are presently joint coordinators of the group. If anyone is interested in joining or in getting more information on Amnesty International, call me at 359-0635.

Judy Platt



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## THORPE INTERMEDIA GALLERY

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The first and third Sundays of each month are open studio days at the Thorpe Intermedia Gallery in Sparkill, N. Y. Between 1 and 4 p.m. on these days, the public is invited to visit the artist-in-residence, Barbara Meise, who is working on large fresco paintings. Groups may make appointments for weekday visits by calling the gallery at 359-6400, Ext. 256.

### EXTRA COPIES

People wanting extra copies of our newsletter may call the Editor.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Palisadians again face the possibility of becoming an incorporated village. For those who are undecided regarding this issue, I offer a brief description of local politics in Palisades during the period 1947 to 1954, which I believe teaches a lesson regarding what incorporation might entail.

When I moved my family to Palisades in 1947, my six-year-old son entered first grade at the Palisades School -- kindergarten through eighth grade, financed and operated by the Palisades School District. High school students were sent to Nyack High, with their tuition paid by the Palisades School District. The Board of Trustees and the school budget were decided by closed ballot at the annual meeting of Palisades residents held in May of each year. This meeting was a major event for Palisadians -- attendance ran in excess of one hundred voters, at a time when the population of Palisades was a fraction of its present size.

You went to the annual meeting because you knew your vote counted, and because you held strong convictions on the issues before the meeting. Should John B. or Henry C. be elected as the new Trustee? Should the budget include funds for a playground, for hot lunches? Should teachers' salaries be increased by 3%? You made phone calls to neighbors prior to the meeting, in the hope of persuading them of your views. In short, the school district was a tangible force that served to bring Palisadians together for the common good.

The meetings were a fascinating study in grass-roots democracy. Very few issues went unchallenged; voices were raised and derogatory remarks were not uncommon. Despite differences of opinion, the issues were resolved -- by majority vote. Most who were opponents at the meeting, greeted each other a few days later at the post office or the library, and remained friendly neighbors -- until next year's meeting. Best of all -- ask any Palisadian of that period -- we ran a primary school of superior quality. Why superior? Because we, the residents of Palisades, wanted a superior school and we had a direct voice in its operation.

In the mid-fifties, the State of New York pressured our school district to centralize with other small school districts to form the South Orangetown Central School District. The annual meeting of Palisades residents became a mass meeting of people from the many hamlets that comprised the new central district. In this type of meeting your voice, as a Palisades resident, was lost in the multitude. Which of you thinks of himself or herself as a South Orangetownian? In fact, just where is South Orangetown?

Regrettably, Palisades probably cannot again operate its own school district -- at least in the

foreseeable future. By becoming an incorporated village, however, we have an opportunity that has many similarities to a school district. As a village, we once again should have an annual meeting of residents to debate the village budget, the person of the next mayor, zoning and traffic regulations, and other communal matters. The village (and its annual meeting) would create a sense of belonging to a recognizable community, and the desire to preserve and improve that community through participation in village affairs. There should be no shortage of talented residents willing to serve as village officials, and we, the voters, could replace them if they failed to act in our interests. Once again there would be disagreement on the issues -- a natural and welcome feature of true democracy. Best of all, once again we, the residents of Palisades, would be more nearly in control of what the future holds for Palisades -- to maintain it as a superior place to live.

Herbert Kellogg

To the Editor:

As is generally well known, I am in favor of a village for Palisades, but not by the proposed means. Assuming that the petitioners have rectified the fatal defects in the description of the boundaries for the proposed village and the required list of inhabitants, which was the basis for the rejection of the prior petition, this application should now be rejected for the following:

"Gerrymandering" of a territory on some reasonable basis--existing state, county, town or village boundaries; rivers, streams, parkways, roads and highways; fire, postal, library, sewer and school districts-- even if to ensure that a majority of the residents will support village incorporation, may be acceptable. However, to purposely include and exclude individual residents, next to, across from and behind each other, on the same streets, based solely on their beliefs and preferences, in order to guarantee almost unanimous consent, is immoral, undemocratic, discriminatory and totally illegal. A public referendum, under such circumstances, would therefore be a farce. In effect, why not let all the residents vote and just destroy or disregard the negative votes.

If, for example, residences excluded from the proposed village were owned by blacks, Jews, Catholics, Hispanics or other minority ethnic, religious or racial denominations, there would be no doubt that gross discrimination was being perpetrated.

It is sincerely hoped that a more reasonably based and democratic proposal for village incorporation will be submitted.

Arthur J. Firestone

### A Study of World Religions

From February 28 to March 27, Dr. Charles Kimball will lead a five week study series exploring themes of interreligious understanding and dialogue. The series examines such issues as creation, scriptures, spirituality, and community, in a religiously plural world. The sessions will be every Sunday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Parish House of the Palisades Presbyterian Church. Participants need not be members. It is hoped, however, that the participants will attend all the classes since this series is part of a process being carried out in churches around the world.

Dr. Kimball currently serves as the Middle East director for the National Council of Churches. He has his doctorate from Harvard in the History of Religion.

### March 20, 4 p.m.

"I Am His Wife": A portrait of Helene Schweitzer.

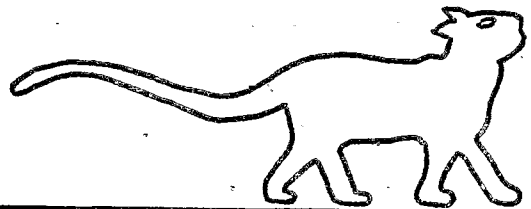
A remarkable one-woman performance by Lilly Lessing to present the life of Albert Schweitzer through the eyes and voice of his wife will be presented at the Palisades Church. Albert Schweitzer was world-famous, and yet very few people are aware of the role played by the person who knew him longest, was closest to him, and shared his extraordinary life: Helene Schweitzer.

### Holy Week

Maundy Thursday is held Mar. 31 at 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

### Tobey, Aja, Hairy and Me

Young mother Tobey from Singapore  
Brought her baby Aja to my door  
She is a little Pakistani girl  
Who sets everyone's heart a-whirl.  
She sat on the floor beside Hairy, my cat,  
I knew he was very pleased with that,  
He listened to every baby word,  
And loudly he purred, and purred, and purred.  
Suddenly Aja thought, "Enough of that,  
I'm going to sit on this big cat!"  
And Hairy without demurring,  
Just continued purring and purring.  
When Tobey and Aja said goodbye,  
We all threw kisses and I would cry.  
Why did they live in Singapore  
Where I couldn't see them anymore?  
But God is good we all agree,  
And some day they'll come back to  
Hairy and me! (I hope)



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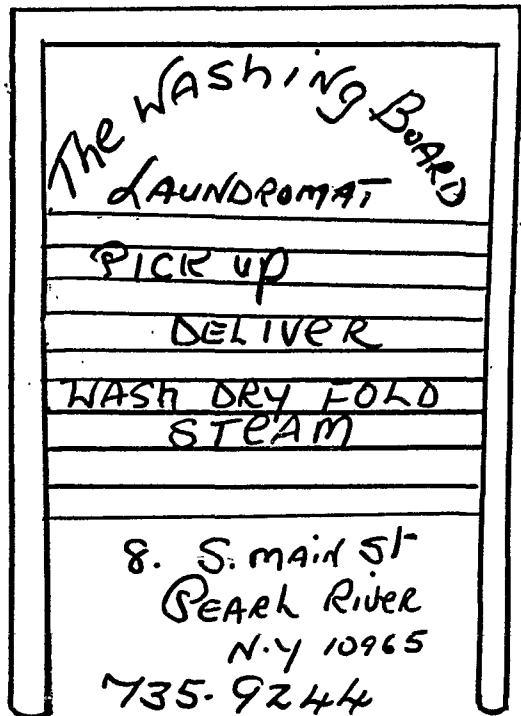
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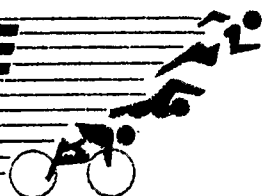
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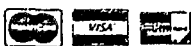
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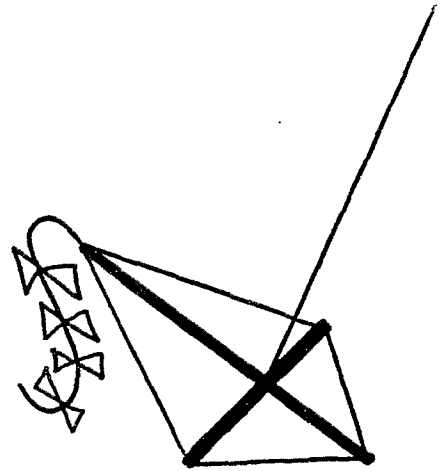
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#### CONTRIBUTORS

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Contributions to 10964 were received last month from Anne Gugler, Lowell Iberg, and Waldine Zinnel. Thank you very much.

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#### 10964 DEADLINE

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The deadline for copy for the April issue is March 15. Please send copy to 10964, Box 201, Palisades, N. Y. 10964. The April issue will appear in your mail as close to the first of the month as possible.