

10964

SEPTEMBER 1988 No. 103

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:

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

Welcome to the 11th year of 10964. We hope the new season will introduce new writers among you, new column ideas, and lots of donations from our loyal community readership. We have some new staff members but we still need more! Please contact

someone on the newsletter if you think you may be interested in getting involved.

This first issue has been put together by the hard-working staff in my absence. My thanks to you all for coming to my rescue.

LPH



SCHOOL DAYS AGAIN

Tappan Zee Elementary School Reopens

A cup of coffee in one hand, a piece of Danish in the other, we wandered through the halls of Tappan Zee Elementary School the morning of August 17th. The occasion was an opportunity for South Orangetown School District staff members to preview the grand reopening of the school. The rooms and halls were freshly painted. Cartons, piled high in each room waited to be unpacked. That afternoon a visit to the Cottage Lane School showed a similar picture--fresh paint and cartons, cartons, cartons. Teachers anxiously awaited word that renovations had progressed to the point where they could occupy the buildings and prepare their classrooms for the September opening.

The reorganization of our elementary program due to rising enrollment was decided upon last semester by the Board of Education.

The newly formed South Orangetown Community School is one school with three parts. Kindergarten and grade 1 are at the Tappan Zee Elementary School with Carolyn Spence as the principal. Mrs. Spence has worked with young children as a teacher and administrator. Before coming to T.Z.E., she was Director of Curriculum and Staff Development at the Trinity School in New York City.

Grades 2 and 3 are at the William O. Schaeffer School. The new principal, Joseph Zambito, comes to

(Cont'd p. 2)

HUDSON RIVER DEFENSE LEAGUE

Suit brought against Piermont Trustees

The Hudson River Defense League has been extremely active this spring and summer, and has focussed mainly on three interrelated issues that are of considerable concern to Palisades: The Carlyle Corporation's plan for developing the Piermont Pier, the Pyramid Corporation's project for a huge new mall on Routes 303/59, and the continuing threat of a second Tappan Zee Bridge.

The Hudson River Defense League, together with Robert F. Kennedy on behalf of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association and the Hudson Riverkeeper, has brought suit against the Board of Trustees of the Village of Piermont. The suit seeks to halt any further development of the Piermont Pier condominium and commercial space project by the Carlyle Corporation. A response to the August 5 complaint is due September 9th.

The suit charges that the Piermont Trustees permitted the change of zoning required by the development despite the presence of toxic waste materials on the site (deposited there by the factories and railroad yards that operated there). The suit also charges that a number of other factors were inadequately considered: the threat to Piermont Marsh; the impact on an inadequate Orangetown sewage system; the inability of the village to handle the additional traffic resulting not only from the condominiums which will increase the population of the

(Cont'd p. 3)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Stork Business

The stork has been quite busy over the sweltering summer months. As he was rushing off to prepare for his next deliveries, he paused to say that there have been at least three births during the 10964 hiatus. In order of their appearance, the newest little Palisadians are:

Frederick Corwin Gerard-Little, born on June 7 to Annie Gerard and Fred Little.

Daniel Vincent DiGiacomo, born on June 14 to Lori and Ralph DiGiacomo.

Milbry Catherine Polk-Bauman, born on Aug. 3 to Milbry Polk and Phil Bauman.

We wish them all health and happiness.

A Party for Laura Ebmeyer

In June a surprise birthday party was held for Laura Ebmeyer, our Postmistress. Nancy Hall, Edith Ryan, Blanche Dansbury, Marge Weigel and Anita McLeish were responsible for organizing the event which was held in the Palisades Presbyterian Parish House. Over 50 people attended. Laura wishes to thank everyone for the lovely occasion and gifts.

Walker's Guide Comes Out

A Walker's Guidebook: Serendipitous Outings Near New York City by Marina Harrison and Lucy D. Rosenfeld will be published by Michael Kesend Pub., Ltd. in September. Ask for it at your bookstore.

"Art at the Mansion" Benefit Concert

Jacquelyn Drechsler, Palisades' very own flutist, will be performing with her group, the Palisades Chamber Players Quartet, at Montebello Park, a magnificent turn-of-the-century mansion in Suffern, N.Y. on Sunday, October 2. The mansion will be open for viewing an indoor-outdoor sculpture exhibit by Jeff Burtch.

The festivities will begin at 3 p.m. with refreshments, and the concert, featuring a mostly baroque program, will start at 4 p.m.

The event is sponsored by Century 21 Otto, Bishop, Reed, as part of its fund raising efforts for Easter Seals.

For further information concerning tickets and reservations, contact Jacquelyn at 359-3112 or 624-3071 or the Century 21 office at Montebello, 368-2200.

Post Office News

Very soon the Post Office will have new stamps. Ask for them. The Post Office will still be closed from noon on Wednesdays, but that may change in the near future. The P.O. will keep us . . .er. . .posted!

TOWN HALL EXPANSION

On June 14, a referendum was held in Orangetown on whether to authorize a bond issuance to finance expansion of the Town Hall in Orangeburg. Orangetown voters defeated the proposal by a vote of 865 in favor, 2,139 opposed. In Palisades' two election districts, there were a total of 47 votes in favor and 136 opposed.

SCHOOL DAYS AGAIN

(Cont'd from p. 1)

us from Southern Westchester B.O.C.E.S. where he was a supervisor and principal.

Grades 4 and 5 at the Cottage Lane School are headed by its new principal, Pat Doyle. Pat, an old friend to our district, has served us as teacher, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and as Assistant Principal at Schaeffer. Coordinating the three community schools is Dr. Joann Shaheen, the former principal of Schaeffer, who now occupies the new office of Director of Elementary Education.

On the secondary level, Nancy Posnick was a popular choice for the position of principal when Larry Glickman, the former principal, became Director of Middle and High School Education. Nancy has taught at the Middle School for 17 years.

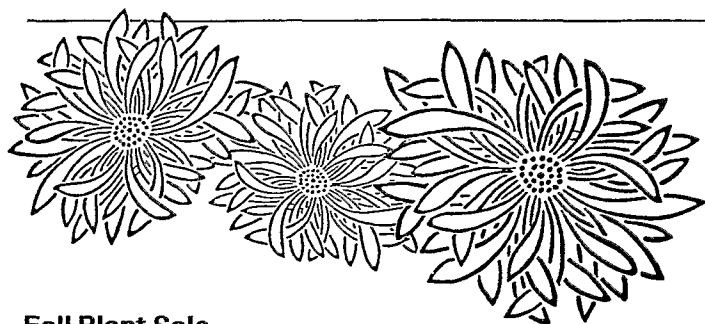
Reorganization and a high number of retirements last June necessitated adding staff. In new positions are 19 teachers, four Special Education people and one nurse.

With all the changes and additions, the coming year promises to be an exciting one.

Welcome back, kids!

Geraldine Miras
President, Board of Education
South Orangetown School District

THE PALISADES FREE LIBRARY



Fall Plant Sale

Amid pumpkins and apples, the colors of fall will come alive Saturday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the library's traditional fall plant sale. Co-chairpersons, Linda Ewig and her mother Marge Novosad, are organizing a wonderful display of mums, bulbs and shrubs. Stop in, have a glass of cider or lunch at the food table presided over by the great short order chefs of Palisades and featuring a special creation by a guest chef.

The bake table is being organized by Oresta Hamersky and all contributions are more than welcome including sweets, quiches, relishes, vinegars, anything one might put in the fall larder. Dinny Price and Nina Prusinowski are already roaming the local stores gathering prizes for the raffle. We hope for a Grand Prize as well and donations are appreciated.

Barbara Eberle has books galore that all can afford, and our new friend "BIBLIO" the bookworm will be on hand to survey the scene. BIBLIO welcomes all Palisadians and their friends and neighbors with a special wiggle for children of all ages.

The Bookworm Gets a Name

The contest to name me is over and am I relieved! In a bookworm, tension yields extension and towards the end (heh, heh, a double entendre) I was gaining a centimeter per day. But all that's behind me (Oh, what a wit) for they chose a name from all those submitted at the Spring Plant Sale. I am no longer anon, I am BIBLIO! Yes, that name is now mine and by it you shall know me. Biblio, the elegant, intelligent, greenly handsome denizen of the Palisades Free Library.

"Who gave you this name?" the populace cries, and I answer, "'Twas Lily Ransom Seidler!" This success has gained Lily both my admiration and a lovely pair of bookworm bookends.

For those of you who submitted names, let me say that it was a close contest and that I appreciate all your efforts. But when you start out anonymous, you can only handle one name at a time. Being *loooong* and slim, it takes awhile for an idea to get distributed. But understand that I fully intend, as my career develops, to publish new ideas under a pseudonym, and for that, I will ask for your help in the future.

A photograph of Lily, her new friend, BIBLIO, and her prize will be on view at the library this fall.

Lynne Seidler and Andy McIntyre

Library Calendar:

Winter Hours starting Sept. 6

Monday - Thursday	3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. to 12 noon
Friday	3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday (starting Oct. 2)	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Plant Sale: Saturday, Sept. 24.

Storytime: Will resume Wednesday, Oct. 5. Please come and register Sept. 19 through 23.

HUDSON RIVER DEFENSE LEAGUE

(Cont'd from p. 1)

village by 25%, but also from the more than doubling of the village's commercial space; and the impact of the implied development of an associated new marina for 500-700 boats.

The suit was prepared by Michael S. Elder, a Poughkeepsie attorney specializing in environmental law. A number of affidavits were supplied by various experts, including one by Nash Castro, Palisades resident and Executive Director of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Carlyle says they intend to clean the site up. Their progress is being monitored closely by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

In a related development, Robert F. Kennedy, on behalf of the Fishermen and the Riverkeeper, formally warned the Town of Orangetown of an impending suit to block further hookups with the inadequate town sewer system. The DEC has also placed a moratorium on any further sewer hookups in Orangetown. Orangetown is trying to work out an arrangement with the County to alleviate the problem. The League has requested to be a party of interest in the review process, to ensure that the environmental impact of any solution is properly assayed.

The next issue of 10964 will describe HRDL's activities on other fronts.

If you are interested in joining the League, please write to: Hudson River Defense League, P.O. Box 606, Nyack, NY 10960. Individual membership is \$10, Contributing is \$25, and Supporting is \$100.

Roger Jellinek, Trustee

PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Adult Seminars

Beginning on Sept. 18 there will be an adult discussion forum at 10 a.m. in the manse. Over six weeks, the group will view a series of videotapes titled "Questions of Faith." Each tape examines an issue such as "Who is God?," "What Good is Prayer?," "What's Being Good Good For?" and various people, such as Madeleine L'Engle, Rabbi Harold Kushner, Mary Gordon and William Sloane Coffin, respond to each question from their own religious experience.

Following the tape, there will be an opportunity to discuss our reactions to both the question posed and the speakers' reflections. Coming from diverse and ecumenical backgrounds, the 14 contemporary Protestant, Catholic and Jewish thinkers provide provocative images and possibilities. They will help us think through our own beliefs and questions. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend. If you have questions, please call the church office (359-3147).

Laurie Ferguson

Art '88

Mark this date--Saturday, November 12--on your calendar and plan to spend an enjoyable afternoon viewing the Art Exhibit and Auction in the Parish House. Proceeds will go to the church's restoration fund.

Sip champagne and sample scrumptious hors d'oeuvres from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. while you wander around and examine the art objects. At 2 p.m., get ready to bid on your favorite.

While the committee has already collected some exciting pieces, additional art work is needed. If you have a painting, a piece of sculpture, interesting jewelry, silver, etc., which you would like to contribute, or know of an artist we might contact, please call one of the following: Joan and Don Bracken (359-1765), Bob Burcaw (353-1815), Karen Jefferies (359-1146), Ernie Quick (359-2692) or Maryann Sahadi (359-2058).

Karen Jefferies

Church Calendar

September 11: 11 a.m. church worship begins again.
September 18: Sunday school begins at 10 a.m.

PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER

We are pleased to announce that the Palisades Community Center will be the home of The Blue Rock School again this year. We are sorry to report that the School is outgrowing the limited space provided by the Center and is now looking for larger quarters somewhere in Palisades.

As before, the Center will be available as a meeting place for Palisades organizations during every evening, every weekend, and all school holidays. To reserve the Center for your organization, please contact Nina Prusinowski at 359-4580. Reservations should be made by the Saturday preceding the day of your meeting. The Center is available free of charge to Palisades organizations.

To better serve the groups using the Center, we have installed new overhead lighting and have purchased a good set of folding chairs. Please let us know whether your group has found the accommodations satisfactory.

This year the Center has hosted meetings of The Palisades Civic Association, Palisadians for Incorporation, The Committee to Preserve Palisades, and most recently, a meeting held by State Assemblyman Colman.

At present the Community Center is in good financial shape as a result of the rental income from The Blue Rock School. We have enough money, for example, to replace the furnace should it fail this winter. However, old buildings such as ours need frequent repairs and **donations to keep the Center operating are still needed.** In addition, residents of Palisades can demonstrate their support for the Center by becoming Members for the nominal fee of \$5 yearly [P.C.C. - P.O. Box 222].

John Converse

THEATRE EVENTS

"Crimes of the Heart" opens at the Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack on Sept. 9 and plays for 4 weekends, closing on Oct. 1. Performances are Friday and Saturday nights with two matinees (Sept. 18 and 25). Tickets are priced at \$10 (ask about discount for senior citizens and students). For more information or reservations, call 353-1313.

"The Middle Ages" (a comedy) opened at the Penguin Repertory Company's Barn Playhouse in Stony Point on Aug. 26. Performances are on Thursdays and Fridays at 8:30 p.m., Saturdays at 6 and 9 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30. For reservations call 786-2873. (Ask about their Sunday Brunch Theatre Special.)

A NEW YEAR AT BLUE ROCK SCHOOL

The Blue Rock School will begin its second year in Palisades on September 15th in the old schoolhouse on Oak Tree Road. Enrollment has more than tripled in one year, and the program has expanded to include kindergarten through 4th grade. The efforts of the Advisory Board and friends in the community have helped tremendously in the establishment of a new independent school. The atmosphere created in the old schoolhouse grew out of the questioning and searching of the staff as they worked with students and responded to what each one needed. These efforts were supported by the community's response and interest.

The Blue Rock School is committed to maintaining small classes even as it grows. This year, groups will be limited to eight students with each teacher. In this familial atmosphere the school strives to keep each child's curiosity alive through programs designed to encourage exploration and direct experience, while nurturing the self-confidence and self-respect of each child.

Much thought precedes the opening of school. This year will begin with stories and projects exploring ancient civilization. Dr. Kristina Leeb-Lundberg is working with the staff to expand the science program, to open new directions in creative mathematics and to encourage children to explore the meaning and beauty of the spoken and written word through the process of writing. Music, drama and opportunities for artistic development will

continue to be an integral part of the school. Plans are being made to include more physical education and introduce foreign language study in the coming year. Materials with which to explore, stories filled with wonder and high ideas, and an atmosphere of warm support combine to create a place in which the children and their teachers have a chance to develop what is inherent in them.

It has become increasingly clear that the beautiful, sunlit schoolhouse leased from the Palisades Community Center will not be big enough next year. Efforts are being made to find property in the Palisades-Piermont area that would allow the school to become a full elementary school as soon as possible. Your continued good wishes and financial support are essential.

There are still a few openings in some grade levels for the 1988-89 school year. Interested parents may contact the school at 365-2644.

P.S. Some neighbors may have wondered why the school bell did not ring last spring. Feathered families were nesting in the belfry and the commotion created by the bell was too much for them. The bell has remained silent while children watched and listened. Maybe the bell will ring again--it depends on the birds!

Barbara Wadsworth

ROCKLAND PROJECT SCHOOL

On September 7, the Rockland Project School, located in the old Rockland Lake school building inside Rockland Lake State Park, will open for its 20th year. The Project School was started in 1969 by four former South Orangetown public school teachers. Three teachers lived in Palisades, and a number of students also came from the community. The school opened in the Quaker Meetinghouse on Leber Road in Blauvelt and moved three years later to its present location. The school is still small, with a maximum enrollment of forty students between the ages of 4 and 12, and a staff of three full-time and several part time teachers.

At the beginning of its existence the school was highly experimental and unconventional. Teachers and students gathered in the morning to make the day's schedule, and class attendance was voluntary. Palisadian Alice Gerard, the last of the original founders

left on the staff, explains, "When we began the school we believed more freedom was the answer to the problems which had frustrated us as public school teachers. The kids who came to us already had the basic academic skills and flourished in the atmosphere of free choice and equality with teachers. These students remember the school as a very special place and still come back to see us."

Over the years the staff noticed that students began to arrive with poorer academic preparation, and parents were less involved in the school community. Class attendance and homework became mandatory, and the staff found it necessary to reorganize and limit the students' freedom.

In spite of these changes, the Project School has retained many aspects of a progressive school. Student affairs are discussed at morning meetings. Teachers are

(Cont'd p. 6)

QUICK RESTAURANT REVIEWS

by Ernest S. Quick

Ernie Quick has graciously agreed to review eating places in our area for 10964 readers. Hopefully we can look forward to reading his column on a fairly regular basis. Here, then, is Ernie's first review to start off our new season.

A New Face for China Watchers in Sparkill

China Tea House III ****
Route 340 & Kings Highway
Sparkill, New York
(914) 359-1107

Several years ago, we watched with regret as the Mountain House--known for its down-home German cooking--was sold. The new owners offered a quasi-middle-European fare of little distinction. In late spring, we noticed that the place had changed hands once again, this time to a Chinese restaurant called, rather unglamorously, China Tea House. But being an avid Chinese food buff, I decided to give it a try. And to my complete surprise, the meal turned out to be a real treat--certainly comparable to any Chinese restaurant in the area, and better than many in New York's Chinatown. I am pleased to report that after several visits, the quality of food (all with no MSG, by the way) has remained consistently high, in spite of a change of chefs since opening.

The appetizer and soup menu offers a predict-able assortment of choices--egg rolls, shrimp balls and egg drop soup. If you are a little more adventurous, however, you'll enjoy the generous portion of Cold Noodles in Spicy Sauce (\$4.25). This version of a Szechuan favorite is done just right with the piquant flavor of peanuts and soy. Also, the Velvet Corn Soup with Crabmeat (for 2) (\$3.95) is truly velvety smooth with small chunks of crabmeat (perhaps sea legs) and kernels of corn in an egg-suffused, chicken-based broth.

The menu lists 17 House Specialties, starting with Peking Duck. My first exposure to this magnificent dish was in Beijing at The Sick Peking Duck Restaurant. It was unforgettable. The China Tea House's version does the dish proud with the time-consuming preparation done on the premises. A whole duck is sliced at your table with the flavorful crusty skin wrapped in a thin pancake laced with hoisin sauce and fresh scallions. The price is less than other local restaurants--\$19.95. (I hope it stays that way!) We opted to have the remaining duck mixed with Chinese vegetables for a second course. The result was not memorable. Other truly outstanding dishes include General Tso's Chicken (\$9.45), a recipe from the Qing Dynasty of chunks of chicken lightly breaded and served in a sauce which is not too spicy, even though those

dangerously hot szechuan peppers are included.

Another must on the menu is Seafood In The Bird's Nest (\$10.95). A basket of deep-fried thin potatoes holds delightfully flavored shrimp, scallops, lobster (yes, lobster) and crabmeat all tossed with snow peas, water chestnuts and wild mushrooms.

Other dishes I can recommend are the Lemon Chicken (\$9.45), Orange Flavor or Sesame Beef (\$10.95) and Chicken with Sugar-Glazed Walnuts (\$6.95).

Service is always pleasant and prompt. One thing to note, however. As of yet, China Tea House III has no liquor licence so if you enjoy a drink with your dinner, bring a chilled bottle of white wine. They'll be happy to serve you.

The name "China Tea House III" is no coincidence. Hosts Harry and Mary Chern own two other China Tea Houses in River Edge and Ramsey, N.J. This, their newest establishment, deserves to succeed.

*With this issue of 10964, we are initiating a rating system for restaurants. Here's how it works: ***** Outstanding, **** Excellent, *** Very Good, ** Good, * Average, Poor*

ROCKLAND PROJECT SCHOOL

(Cont'd from p. 5)

known by their first names and have caring, affectionate relationships with students. Students are not tested or given grades, but are individually evaluated in written reports and parent conferences. Reading and math classes are ungraded, with individualized curriculum for the younger students. The year ends with an all school camping trip to Harriman Park.

Alice Gerard, who is now the director, feels that it's a wonderful place to work. She says, "It's like a family in many ways. Both we and the children enjoy coming to school. In two years the first children of alumni will be old enough to begin school as four year olds, and we can't wait." One of the children is her own granddaughter, Peregrine.

Alice is excited about the coming year, even though it is her 26th year as a teacher. "We're doing several new things, such as working with a Quaker peace curriculum and planning a play about Henry VIII. It's interesting that when the school began we were responding to a need for one kind of freedom, and now, 20 years later, we see that there's still a real need for caring, personalized education--freedom from the conformity and inappropriate academic pressure seen in many classrooms today."

Rockland Project School staff

ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Center Begins New Year

More than 80 courses are being offered at the center this fall beginning Sept. 26 for 12 weeks. They are for children, teens and adults, in all areas of the arts, from ballet and jazz dance to drama, ceramics, basketry, drawing, painting and writing. All the instructors are highly qualified and are also creative artists in their fields.

For example, Pamela Sheehan, who teaches locally and has exhibited widely, will offer a course in portrait sculpture, Terry Fish will teach a hands-on Abstract Art course, and John Simon, a songwriter who has written for more than 100 popular and rock artists (including Blood, Sweat & Tears, Gordon Lightfoot and Peter Yarrow), will teach songwriting.

The Center is also offering some exciting week end workshops focusing on specialized arts and crafts such as ceramic jewelry, Oriental bookbinding and photographing children.

Fall registration is underway now at the Center and if students register by Wed., Sept. 7, they can take advantage of an "Early Bird" discount. For a free course catalog, call 358-0877.

Open House/Faculty Exhibit

The Rockland community is invited to attend an Open House, featuring demonstrations by musicians and crafts people and a Faculty Art Exhibit, on Sunday, Sept. 11 from 1-5 p.m. at the Center in West Nyack. The Open House/Faculty Exhibit provides a unique opportunity for local residents to talk with instructors and to see demonstrations of such varied arts and crafts as fencing, ceramics and basket-weaving.

Raffle for BMW Convertible Dream Car

Next year, some lucky person may drive to the Center's activities in a beautiful, new 1989 BMW 325i Convertible if they have the good fortune to win one in the Center's Raffle '89. And it is a raffle with great odds because there will be a maximum of 500 tickets available for sale. The raffle will culminate in a drawing on March 18, 1989, at the Woodcliff Lake Marriott where the Center will hold its elegant Rainbow Auction. Tickets are \$100 each and are tax deductible.

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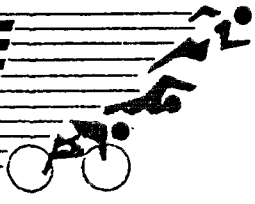
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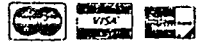



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Glyn Frederick Nixon, M.A. Music Education, is offering Creative Piano Lessons to children of all ages. Emphasis is on developing comprehensive musicianship at the piano. Students use the entire keyboard and all ten fingers from the very start. Special Early Childhood Programs are designed for children ages 4-7. Please call 359-5985 for more information.

10964 DEADLINE

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

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Editor: Leslie Price Hayes
Entertainment: Eden-Lee Jellinek
Treasurer: Lori DiGiacomo
Advtsg. and Production: Boyce Leni
Lay-out and Illustrations: Holly Whitstock Seeger
Consultant: Carol Elevitch
Founder: Lois Rich Cowan