

# 10964

*The Palisades Newsletter*

*May 1990 • No. 121*



## Spring Has Finally Made It!

There were many false starts, or so it seemed. The sun shone brightly as the heat grew in an unnatural way on a late January or mid-February day of false promises. Skiers, snow plowers and cold weather lovers all grumbled at those portents of spring defying the logic of the season. Those deceitful rays of hope were food to

the warm weather breed. But their time had not yet come. Oh, conflicts of feeling that divided us into those wishing to stay and those wishing to migrate to warmer phases of the yearly calendar. And yet variety can be the spice of life and the rites of spring a powerful stimulus to the body and the soul. The time has come for the cleans-

ing renewal and wondrous growth apparent in the explosive force of nature's rhythms. And so it is with fair weather lovers who once again greet neighbors openly embracing the warmth of the sun in the knowledge that this is it. This time it's real. Born again and stronger every day.

Roger Bester

## *An Open Letter from the Staff*

In the Fall of 1989 we sent out a call for help with the production of 10964 and several people responded; therefore, we decided to continue monthly publication for ten months out of the year. Our last issue of the ten will be in June. During these months we have experienced considerable fluctuation among the staff and find that we

once again need to ask the community for more volunteers. If you have management and editorial capabilities, writing or artistic talents, and would like to contribute toward the production of this newsletter, please telephone any staff member. Also, if you would be interested in learning to use a desktop publishing program to lay

out this newsletter, we would be happy to hear from you.

Your contributions of money and notes of appreciation and encouragement lead us to believe that many of you value our newsletter. Let us hear that you are willing to work with us to continue this thirteen-year-old publication in our 10964 community.

**W**E MUST PROTEST the wanton atrocity that has recently taken place on our corner. We're infuriated, shocked and in mourning. On March 21, upon coming home from work, we saw, to our horror and disbelief, that the beautiful giant horse chestnut tree on our corner (Horne Tooke Road and Closter Road, Palisades) had been mercilessly destroyed without forewarning of any kind! Little remained but a naked trunk, a limbless skeleton in silhouette against the evening sky!

Why? Who would commit such a heartless act of vandalism? We were outraged! The next morning, my husband, Martin, called the Town, who said they knew nothing of the incident. Furthermore, their policy would have been to write a letter of notification first had they been responsible. They suggested we call the County Highway Department in New City.

"Yes," the Highway Department of the County flatly replied. They claimed to have received "complaints" (from whom we could not learn) that the tree not only blocked a clear view of the road but that it was dead besides! It seemed that no sooner had Martin hung up the phone receiver than a road crew appeared back on the corner "to complete the job." In moments chain saws blared insult by cutting down the crippled trunk, scattering its hefty logs like blocks of firewood.

The highway workmen insisted they were merely following orders while someone in authority maintained that the tree was dead for he had himself examined it! Martin lifted the thick branches from the ground to prove that they were not dead, to show him the rich buds that hung heavy, almost ready to explode into blossom. But the

## In Memoriam



County Highway Department already had its mind made up; it leveled the proud horse chestnut tree that reached four stories tall and almost 3 feet in diameter.

Is this the manner in which the Rockland County Highway Department and its officials treat their residents? Is this the way they respect and preserve our precious natural resources? I have always been inclined to feel that trees, like people, should be taken care of, cured, helped, supported, nurtured... NOT DESTROYED... without warning, without dialogue, without opportunity to protest!

What will future seasons be like without it... our glorious tree... that reliably showed off its blooms in spring celebration and dropped its large nuts to the ground in autumn? What sights and secrets did it witness, having survived one hundred years at least, as one of the oldest living

residents of our hamlet?

Our neighborhood has now lost a landmark: "The Big Tree on the Corner." We will miss the "community bulletin board" where sometimes notices were posted of lost cats, meetings, parties, or sales. We will be vulnerable to some of the Parkway noise its foliage absorbed and the view of Parkway traffic, perhaps even the pollution. Above all, we'll sorely miss an old friend, a beautiful, reliable, blossoming, living wonder of nature! Most of us have chosen to live here and pay enormous taxes because of the hills and streams, the birds and trees, the still undisturbed wooded areas of nature.

We wish to protest the ugly barren spot left as a memorial, an unnecessary reminder that man still has the capacity toward insensitive, callous destruction!

Barbara Gotkin

## Tapley Appointed to Historic Areas Board

Dr. Donald Tapley was recently appointed to the Historic Areas Board of Review to represent Palisades. His name was submitted to the Town Board by the Palisades Civic Association, and he was elected unanimously. Donald has lived in Palisades since 1960. He is Vice-President for Health Sciences at Columbia University and former Dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The Historic Areas Board of

Review was established for the historic area of Tappan in 1965. In 1968 the Town of Orangetown, at the request of Palisades residents and in response to a petition, established an historic area in Palisades, and the law was amended to have one 7-member board appointed by the Town for the two historic areas.

This board requires that all applications for building permits within the two historic areas must

be accompanied by a set of detailed plans which will be submitted to the Historic Areas Board for approval. Proposed exterior changes and additions shall be in keeping with the existing structure. Proposed new structures shall harmonize with the surrounding area.

Dossi Thayer  
Palisades Civic Association

## Why I Wish for A Village of Palisades

Thirty years is a long time to spend in a community. For my two daughters, who attended local schools through college, it is a lifetime. We've all been good citizens and faithful taxpayers, and I have done volunteer community work for the past twenty years. But I have just had a rude awakening - all of this means nothing to the Town of Orangetown.

Despite my warnings and com-

plaints, and those of my next-door neighbors (the Corbetts, Funks, Burges and Tans) and despite the support of our many friends and neighbors from Palisades who attended the eight or so Town meetings dealing with our problems, the Town of Orangetown has permitted new construction to take place around our homes with an inadequately designed and constructed drainage system that has

transformed my once dry property into a swamp when it rains. The Town also failed to require the contractors, despite our repeated objections, to repair the damage to Park Avenue which their heavy equipment had caused.

**I wish we had a Village of Palisades.** Village officials would have listened to us and not let the contractors damage our roads and our homes.

Paul Prisco

## The Republican Party in Palisades

Palisades residents who may be interested in becoming active in the Republican Party should contact one of the two Republican Committee persons in their election district. Palisades is made up of two election districts. District Leader "Skip" Vezzetti and Jim Feddich represent Palisades residents living east of the Palisades Parkway, while District Leader Eileen Larkin and Pat Haugh represent residents living west of the Parkway.

The South Orangetown Republican Club meets the first Thursday of every month at Bishops in Tappan. There is always a guest speaker and residents are encouraged to voice their opinions and concerns.

This month's meeting will take place on May 10 at 8 p.m. The guest speaker will be Ron Delo, the Director of the Rockland County Sewer District.

All Palisades residents are invited to attend.

Eileen Larkin

## Civic Association

At the Annual Meeting of the Palisades Civic Association, the membership elected the following candidates:

President - Eileen Larkin  
Vice President - Andy Norman  
Treasurer - Lou Leonard  
Recording Sec. - Carol Elevitch  
Correspond. Sec. - John Converse  
Members-At-Large  
Arthur Firestone, Irene Frederich  
Paul Prisco, Ethan Scher,  
Donald Tapley, Dossi Thayer

# Spring Events

## Library Spring Plant Sale

This year's spring plant sale will be held at the Palisades Library on Saturday, **May 12**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - just in time for Mothers' Day.

All your usual favorites will be available - fuchsias, geraniums, bleeding hearts, columbines, begonias, impatiens, forget-me-nots, poppies, violas, cosmos, petunias and marigolds - as well as culinary herbs, tomatoes, peppers and some

special shrubs. If you are planning on buying large quantities of any one plant for your garden (ivy, pachysandra, impatiens, for example), let us know and we'll try to get them for you at a discount.

If you have anything you'd like to donate, bring it along, and don't forget the bake sale table. Please direct questions, requests, and offers of help to Ann Brooke at 365-1375.

## Good Stuff Sale

The sale will be held on Saturday, **June 2**, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Palisades Presbyterian Church. (Rain date is Saturday, June 16.) Set up time is from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and the registration fee is \$5 with an additional \$5 for table rental if you need one. Please call Diana Green at 359-8137 to register and reserve a table.

The Good Stuff Sale is open to all who wish to sell their own "good stuff," as well as crafts people who want to have a table. You are responsible for your own set up and removal of your goods. We plan to have a truck to take any "junk" to the dump and encourage local thrift shops to pick up any leftovers they want. All proceeds are your own.

Refreshments will be sold, and donations will be accepted for the church bake table. Please note that the next meeting for volunteers is Thursday, May 10, at 10 a.m. at the church.

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## Don't Forget the Annual Strawberry Festival

During the afternoon of **June 9** on the lawn at the Church Marise.

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## Annual Lakeside Loop

Maura and Brian Carroll of Broad Avenue, Palisades, are helping to sponsor the Fourth Annual Lakeside Loop for the Rockland County Association for Retarded Citizens. They are hoping to attract as many runners and walkers as possible to raise funds for developmentally disabled children and adults of Rockland County.

Mark your calendar for **May 19** when this 5K Walk and 5K Run will take place at Rockland Lake North, Congers, N. Y. First and second place awards will be made in seven age categories for both walkers and runners and to overall winners in both events. Professionally computerized results will

be available. All racers and walkers are eligible for exciting Mystery Raffle Prizes which include an overnight stay at the Pearl River Hilton.

The event is sponsored by Par Pharmaceutical, WRKL Radio, and Mutual of America and is held on a flat path around scenic Rockland Lake. The course is TAC certified, and the race is sanctioned by The Rockland Lake Runners' Association.

Come "Loop the Lake" to benefit children and adults who are developmentally disabled! Applications are available by calling (914) 354-0200 ext. 2346 days or (914) 354-7185 evenings.

## Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast

On Memorial Day, Monday, **May 28**, the Palisades Presbyterian Church has its annual Pancake Breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. Come and enjoy pancakes and sausage before the parade, and thus avoid the rush! Or come after and have breakfast with your neighbors in the Parish House. Everyone in the community is invited.

## Rockland Center for the Arts Calendar

**May 20** Raku Firing Workshop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the ancient Japanese method of raku ceramics firing run by Rosemary Aiello.

**June 1** The Tappan Zee Chamber Players present a Candle light All-Mozart Chamber Music Concert followed by a Viennese dessert reception, Friday, 8:30 p.m.; a recreation of the "Schlosskonzerte," candlelight concerts which were held in the castles in Austria during Mozart's time.

### Mothers' Day Roses

If you haven't yet selected a Mothers' Day gift, why not consider a half-dozen chocolate roses in a handsome gift box? For a \$20 donation your mother can enjoy the roses and the fact that six shut-in persons will be assisted in the funding of a nutritious, home-delivered hot lunch. Both regular and sugar free chocolates are available.

Meals on Wheels will also provide bulk delivery in Rockland County. For more information or to place an order you may call 624-MEAL, the Meals on Wheels office, or write to Meals on Wheels of Rockland County, Inc. at their new office in the Demarest Mill Office Park, 121 West Nyack Road, Suite 9, Nanuet, N. Y. 10954.

### Palisades Swim Club

The Board of the Palisades Swim Club is accepting applications for membership. Now is the time to submit your application as the current cost of a membership bond is only \$2,000. All applications received after June 1, 1990, will be considered at increased membership bond cost of \$2,400. Write to the Palisades Swim Club, P. O. Box 192, Palisades, N. Y., 10964 to request information on how to secure your place on our waiting list.

The Palisades Swim Club is a pleasant, low-key, family-oriented club with excellent swimming, tennis, picnicking, and playground facilities. We welcome visits to our open house on Sunday, May 27, from 1 to 5 p.m.

### Birth Announcements

Palisades welcomes **John Pasquale**, new son of Anna and Franco Desposati, born March 9, and **Alexander Cook Lalire**, son of Greta Nettleton and Rex Lalire, born April 3.  
Congratulations!

## Palisades Free Library

### Directory of Programs For Children and Families Available

Need a clown for a birthday party? Need a puppet show for your nursery school? Need a speaker for your next PTA meeting? Your library has the answer. Among the many resources at your library is a directory of approximately 180 entertainers, performers and speakers for children, young adults, families and parents.

The programs are indexed under 60 categories from ACTING to MAGIC to ORIGAMI to YOGA. Complete information is given including fees, performance requirements and audience level. You may use the Program Directory in your library or purchase a copy through your library for \$3.50.

### New Books

Angelou	<i>I Shall Not be Moved</i>
Bair	<i>Simone de Beauvoir</i>
Freedman	<i>Small Victories</i>
Just	<i>Twenty One</i>
Levi	<i>Sixth Day and Other Tales</i>
Miller	<i>Family Tales</i>
Millett	<i>Loony Bin Trip</i>
Orlean	<i>Saturday Night in America</i>
Potok	<i>Gift of Asher Lev</i>
West	<i>Spy Master</i>

### Reference Books

Standard & Poor's Register  
Stan. Directory of Advertisers  
Directory of Medical Specialists

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feet long,  
46 feet  
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weighs two  
thousand  
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run by a fax  
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You don't know? OK, that's forgivable, since you won't see it around here for a couple of months. But here's another clue: its 3,200 horses can push it along at a steady 15 mph.

Not impressed? Well, you try that in your van 24 hours a day for 60 days at a stretch. And it only costs just two bucks a mile for fuel (maybe three bucks from Henry Kennell's), though other costs do add up to \$13,000 a day. Sounds a bunch, but the thing can carry, feed and sleep 50 to just about anywhere on 70 per cent of the planet.

If you still can't guess, ask two long-suffering Palisadian sea widows, Leslie Hayes and Alice Gerard. This new toy has bewitched Denny's and Sam's every waking (and sleeping) moment for the last two years: Sam Gerard has been writhing in the red tape of a New Orleans shipyard since last November, while Denny Hayes has been imprisoned in his top floor office overlooking the Hudson, manacled to the fax machine with his head inside a telephone. They let him out for meetings ten times a day. These two men of science are in the last throes of an epic campaign to complete the refit of Lamont-Doherty's R/V *Ewing*, the latest and most powerful addition to the U.S. academic fleet.

This is the third ship Denny has been responsible for at Lamont. In addition to being a Columbia Professor of Geological Sciences, going to sea on marine geophysical missions in the Atlantic, Pacific and Antarctic Oceans almost every year (he reckons he's been at sea for a total of three years since he came to Lamont from the cornfields of Washington, Kansas, in 1960), Denny is now Chairman of the Department of Geological Sciences at Columbia (15 faculty, 15 adjuncts, 110 Ph.D. students).

But easily the most demanding task just now for this trim, bearded and most purposeful scientist is bringing the new ship to the line. Fortunately he can draw on the offbeat ingenuity and technical wizardry of Sam Gerard, who came to Lamont in the 1950s and has worked full-time on Lamont ships for the last ten years. Denny is well-equipped for the task, having managed Lamont's marine affairs since 1972 (spelled in the early eighties by fellow Palisadian Marcus Langseth).



Lamont has been operating research vessels for the last thirty years. Founder and Director Maurice Ewing rescued the *Vema* in 1959 from the scrap heap. She had been a luxury sailing yacht and was originally fitted with fireplaces, tapestries, tiled bathrooms and a grand piano. The boat was converted to diesel propulsion, and refitted as a spartan geophysical research vessel that proceeded to work 24 hours a day, 330 days a year for 21 years; *Vema* explored every ocean and voyaged an unprecedented million-plus miles before her retirement in 1981. (She has since been reconverted into a charter yacht in the Caribbean. R/V *Robert D. Conrad*, built as a 200-ft, 1,000-ton research vessel and technically owned by the U.S. Navy, but maintained and operated by the Observatory, joined *Vema* in 1962, and maintained the same tough schedule. By the time *Conrad* was retired in 1998, she too had gone more than a million miles. No other research ships have come close to a million miles.

The new ship isn't quite new. She was built in 1983 as the M/V *Bernier* for PetroCanada as a geophysical research ship for oil exploration. In 1988 her owners put her up for sale to the highest

bidder. To plan, design and build a ship of that size and specialty would normally take six or seven years, and would cost between \$35-50 million. Lamont had just been terribly disappointed in a bid to get the next new Navy research vessel, and faced the prospect of several years without a ship—which for Lamont would be like being a Big League baseball team without a ballpark.

Lamont bought six months' leeway for full acquisition of the ship with a \$250,000 non-returnable option against a purchase price of \$6.5 million and an eventual commitment of a further \$4 million for converting the ship into a state-of-the-art scientific platform (to use the jargon of that trade). But no one in the institutional world the Observatory operates in has that kind of money to spend on demand. Purchases of major capital equipment usually require exhaustive review and careful budgeting within Columbia University and the National Science Foundation; Lamont was asking for reviews that normally take three to four years to be completed in six months. To secure such a decision and commitment, everyone involved, and everyone is involved, had to drop everything and act. All parties recognized the extraordinary opportunity. Columbia guaranteed the purchase price until NSF could find the funds. Denny Hayes mounted an elaborate proposal—some of it from the hospital, where he was being treated for a blood clot in his leg.

Despite this effort, the proposal was turned down. Some of Lamont's sister institutions felt that the more expensive and specialized equipment on the new ship could be rented by scientists on an ad hoc basis from the commercial

fleet (maybe a fancy phrasing of plain old jealousy). Lamont asked for a reprieve; they were given two weeks! Denny and Sam and many colleagues re-wrote the proposal to meet every objection that had been raised. They worked 50 hours straight to meet the deadline. The NSF secured positive final reviews immediately, and presented the project to the National Science Board, which must approve any exceptional NSF expenditures over \$1 million. NSB said Go.

Now the real work began. The ship had to be reflagged for U.S. registry, which meant that innumerable detailed specifications had to be modified to meet the U.S. shipping codes. The ship must be kept working full-time, or the operation becomes uneconomical, so extensive refitting was required to attract the widest possible variety of scientific work—from mapping the sea floor, to seismic profiling of the ocean crust in depth, to geochemical and biological sampling, to oceanographic surveys of every kind. All this to a sharp deadline because in the hiatus since the *Conrad*'s retirement in May, 1989, many experiments have piled up, and commitments have already been made through mid-1991. The *Ewing* is already programmed into a number of tremendously ambitious global surveys scheduled through the nineties.

As you read this the refit is just being completed, and the first scientific cruise is set for later this month off the coast of New Jersey before the ship arrives in New York harbor in late June for viewing and a formal renaming ceremony that will propel the *Ewing* into its million mile voyage well into the next century.

Roger Jellinek

# Disposable Diapers, Disposable Plastics, Disposable Planet

I am definitely **not** the Mother Nature type. When we started our family my basic philosophy was, "this is hard enough, make it easy on yourself." Just give me a can of formula, a box of Luvs and a baby sitter every Saturday night, and I'm on my way. Sure, I had heard something about how my baby's diapers were taking a toll on the environment. But, cloth diapers? No way, not for this mom.

I went through three years of disposables with my first baby and 15 months with number two. And then suddenly, three months ago it hit me. What happened to the spirit of my youth? I was a 60s liberal after all. How did I become so complacent? I realized that **IF I COULD SAY GOOD-BYE TO DISPOSABLE DIAPERS, THEN THERE WOULD BE HOPE FOR THE PLANET!!!**

Disposable diapers. All right moms, we've all heard it, but here it is once more. The average Pampers/Luvs/Huggies does not break down for about 400 years. Even the new biodegradables need to be exposed to the air to degrade more quickly. And, what is even more troublesome, tons of untreated waste from these diapers end up being a contributing contaminant to our ground water. Here's something to think about: Remember the garbage barge last year, containing medical and industrial waste that was turned away by 5 states and 3 countries. In the U. S. alone, 18 billion disposable diapers are buried untreated in landfills every year. That's enough to fill the barge every 6 hours.

Now, back to the awakening of my environmental conscience. Realizing how I still like to keep things as easy as possible, I did not go out and buy 4 dozen cloth diapers and begin the hours of rinsing and washing, rinsing and washing. I had six brothers and sisters, so this memory is still very fresh in my mind. No, I called General Diaper Service (1-800-356-8602). Every Monday morning at 8 a.m., like clockwork, a nice man brings me a big bag of clean and fresh diapers, and in return I give him a big bag of wet and smelly ones. Such a deal! It works like a charm, no soaking, no rinsing and no washing.

And to make it even easier, they now have a diaper cover that closes with velcro, which eliminates the hassle of plastic pants and pins. you can purchase these through General Diaper, or another source I've used is Moonflower Birthing Supplies (1-800-747-8996). Ask them about NIKKY diaper covers.

It takes a few weeks to get used to, but it quickly becomes a habit... one that makes you feel good, and in the long run will help your baby more than you'll ever know.

## Another Thought

I took a ride to the Clarkstown Landfill the other day. No, I don't like to hang around dumps. I had to get rid of some old construction debris that had been dumped in the woods behind our house. What an experience! Trucks lined up one after another, with tons and tons of

garbage everywhere. Who knows how long the dump will be open, but the days are numbered. Solutions have been offered, but the bottom line is that we have to find a way to do more recycling and to produce less garbage to begin with. Unfortunately, there is no place in Rockland County to take any recyclables that are not already being collected (colored glass, plastics, magazines, etc.). Bergen County has facilities in Northvale and Montvale, but they frown upon out-of-county people taking recyclables to these facilities. So what can we do?

First try to "precycle" as much as possible; don't buy items in containers that can't be recycled. We can significantly reduce waste by changing the way we shop. Buy vegetables loose, buy detergents in boxes rather than plastic bottles, buy canned soda and beer instead of bottles or plastics. Forget the plastic milk containers, peanut butter jars, plastic bags, colored juice bottles, etc. When you are at the grocery store, think clear glass and cans... and then recycle.

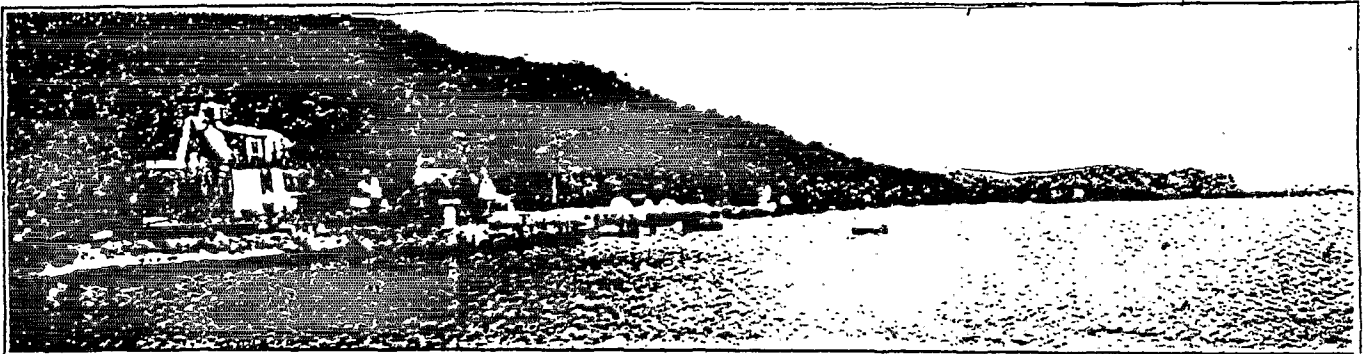
You can also write to your County Legislators requesting recycling facilities in our area. The names and addresses are:

Hon. Edward Clark  
Hon. Patrick Maroney  
Hon. John Murphy

County Legislature  
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*Continued On Back Page*





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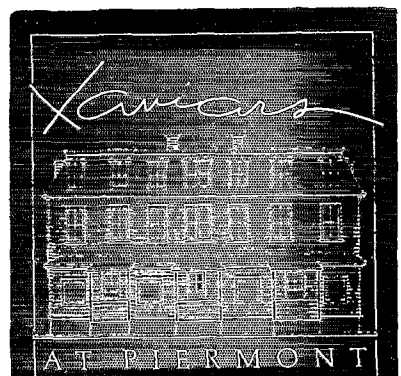
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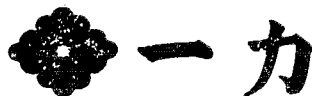
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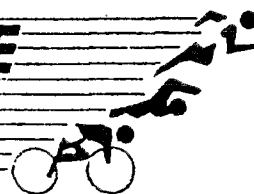
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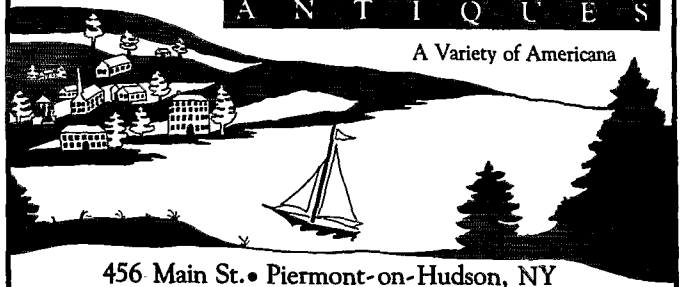
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# About 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades.

**10964 needs your moral and financial support.** Please send a contribution to **10964**, Post Office Box 201, Palisades, NY. With your help we'll be able to put **10964** in your mailbox every month.

The following staff members worked on this issue.

John Converse  
Lori DiGiacomo  
Carol Elevitch  
Boyce Leni  
Mary Ann Luckman  
Kwibin Park  
Judy Zehentner

The deadline for submission of material for the June issue is **May 15**. Issues appear in your mail as close to the first of the month as possible.

10964 Newsletter  
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## Classified

**MERCHANDISE TO SELL:** Oval fruitwood traditional dining room table with 3 leaves & 8 chairs, oak reproduction 36" pedestal table with 2 leaves & 4 chairs, 2 upholstered 6' sofas with ottomans, 2 "Jensen 6" stereo speakers. All very good condition and reasonable. Call 365-2193.

**FOR RENT, PIERMONT:** Fully equipped 3 bedroom house with garden, porch, splendid river view for rent last 3 weeks of July. No smoking, no dogs. Prefer limit of 3 people. \$950 + security, references. Sally Savage, 359-5735.

**FOR SALE, PIANO:** Antique Steinway Grand, 1913, Model M, walnut finish, completely rebuilt, perfect condition, \$14,000. Joyce Kineke, 634-6065.

## Disposable Planet...

### One More Thought

Speaking of grocery shopping, how about those wasteful plastic bags? Forget it. Take your paper bags back and reuse them as often as possible. Or better yet, you can purchase string European market bags that can be used over and over again, or cotton shopping bags. One source for string bags is The Paragon (1-800-343-3095). And for cotton bags, check out Organica Natural Foods in the Shoprite center on Livingston St. in Northvale.

If you have any helpful ideas that you'd like to share, contact us at any time. Every effort, no matter how small, helps.

Judy Zehentner



The **Palisades Community Center** is available every weekend and every evening for meetings of Palisades Groups and organizations. To reserve the Center, contact Glyn Nixon at 359-5985.

## Contributions

We wish to thank Barbara and Joseph Hovsepian, Martha and Julian Krainin, and Sally Savage for their contributions to **10964**.