

# 10964

*The Palisades Newsletter*

June 1990 • No. 122



## 10964 Salutes Our Graduates!

*Congratulations to all the High School and College Graduates from Palisades.*

*We wish you the best of luck and success in the exciting years ahead.*

### Tappan Zee High School Graduates

**Kenneth Chung** is a New York State Regents Scholar whose high school activities include varsity track and cross country, choir and the Tapress Newspaper. Next year Kenny will be attending the University of Michigan and will be studying Economics. When asked what he most looked forward to in the future, he answered, "Independence... and the new challenge ahead!"

**J. T. Farley**, a New York State Regents Scholar, participated in Eagle Scouts, the Drama Society, track, and was the editor of the literary magazine in high school. J. T. is looking forward to the "change of pace" that the upcoming years in college will bring. He will be attending the Georgetown School of Foreign Science in Washington, D. C.

**Jacob Lawrence**, a New York State Regents Scholar, was a Varsity tennis and soccer player at Tappan Zee. After summer employment at Lamont, Jacob will be studying science at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Jacob is looking forward to "starting my new life... and the freedom of being on my own."

**Monica Wernicki** was very active in the Italian and German Clubs, SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving), and was on the Girls' Varsity soccer team. In the Fall she will be attending the New York Institute of Technology, where she will be studying Psychology. In addition to looking forward to being on her own, Monica will be working toward becoming a psychologist. She says, "To try to help even one person in a meaningful way will make the years of studying worthwhile."

# GRADUATES...

## College Graduates

*Once young women and men leave Palisades for college we find it more difficult to learn of their progress, graduations, and future plans. This year we did hear from Lew and Josephine Thatcher who brought us up to date on their daughter and two sons.*

**Christopher Thatcher** graduated from the University of Miami School of Law in May, 1989. He passed the New York Bar examination in July, 1989, and the Florida Bar examination in February, 1990. He was admitted to practice law in New York in April, 1990.

**Michael Thatcher** received his B. A. in Musical Composition from General Studies of Columbia University in May, 1989.

**Evelyn Thatcher** graduated from Bard College with a B. A. in Literature on May 26, 1990.

*Also, we learned of two Palisadians who are graduating from college with considerable kudos and ambitious plans. They grew up together here, went to the same schools—they saw the last of Palisades Elementary School, went on to TZE, then Rockland Country Day School, where they shared many experiences, including the co-captaincy of a notable soccer team.*

**Mark Felton** went on to Stanford University, where he will be graduating in mid-June with Honors in two and a half

majors—in Education, Psychology and Religion. Active in volunteer work in AIDS education and teaching in an inner-city school, Mark also found time to play bass guitar for a combo that played gigs at weekends, and to go camping in the Sierras and the Northwest. After a couple of months in Europe this summer, he is going to teach elementary school kids in San Francisco for a year, before going on to take a Ph.D. in Education at either Harvard or Columbia.

**Mark Jellinek** has just graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Hamilton College, with Honors in both Geology and History. His Geology thesis, based on field work and research last summer on the prehistoric eruption of a Galapagos volcano, is being submitted for journal publication. Mark won the Geology Prize, and was awarded an Elihu Root Fellowship—a grant of \$8,000 to be used towards any graduate school of his choice. Mark was co-captain of the ski team, leader of the rock climbing club, and was lighting designer for numerous theater and dance performances. He will spend six weeks in the Southwest, and plans to study for a year in New Zealand before returning via Antarctica for a graduate degree in Geology.

*We would like very much to hear from other college graduates and will be happy to publish their news in the Fall.*

## Palisades Architect Appointed to Historic Areas Board

Palisades architect William Walther has been appointed to serve on the seven-member Historic Areas Board of Review by unanimous vote of the Town Board. The Historic Areas Board reviews plans for new buildings and additions within the historic areas of Palisades and Tappan and approves those which are in architectural "harmony" with the existing homes in the area. Walther joins recent appointee Donald Tapley to become the second Palisades resident on the Board.

Although most of the plans reviewed by the Historic Board in recent years are proposed new homes in Palisades, the Board is composed predominantly of Tappan residents. Indeed, although the Town Law creating the Historic Areas Board requires that at least two of the seven-member-board **must be** Palisades residents, for many years, Palisades has had only a single representative.

The Palisades Civic Association has been working to end this imbalance by recommending the appointment of several qualified residents, including Tapley and Walther. Since most of the Board's decisions affect Palisades rather than Tappan, the Civic Association believes that Palisades is entitled to greater representation on the Historic Areas Board of Review.

Palisades Civic Association

## So Long, Sahadis

We will miss the Sahadi family who moved from Palisades in May. Maryann was Editor of 10964 from October, 1984, through May, 1985. Just prior to that she organized a highly successful Goods and Services Auction for the benefit of 10964. To further place this newsletter on sound financial footing, during her term as Editor she set up a new bookkeeping system and established an ongoing advertising program.

Thanks, Maryann, for your generous spirit of community concern and service. And to all the family, we wish you the very best.

## Births

Laurie Ferguson, Chris Iosso, Caleb, and Jake welcome their new daughter (and sister) **Caroline Taylor**, born May 10, 1990.

Cristina Biaggi, Arinna, Meli-Maki, and Li-Ho cheer on Patricia Walsh and welcome the twins, **Aidan Francis and Noah William**, born May 16, 1990.

## Strawberry Festival

*Don't forget the Annual Strawberry Festival during the afternoon of Saturday, June 9 on the lawn at the Palisades Presbyterian Church Manse.*

## Community Center News

Until recently, we had expected our friends at the Blue Rock School to leave the Center at the end of June to take up residence in their newly acquired home in West Nyack. However, Palisades resident and Blue Rock Treasurer, Lew Thatcher, has contacted our Board to request an option to remain at the Center for at least another six months. It seems that the conversion of Blue Rock's property for school use may take longer than expected and the Blue Rock Trustees wish to guarantee that Blue Rock will be able to begin classes on schedule in the fall.

The exterior of the Center was last painted about ten years ago and the paint on its south and east walls is in very poor condition. While no formal decision has been made at this time, it seems likely that the Center will receive a fresh coat (or two) of paint this summer.



Drawing by Andrea Williams

Several members of the Board favor a return to the traditional colors of white with black or dark green trim. The cost to paint the Center is approximately \$3500.

As before, the Center will remain available to the community every evening and every weekend. To reserve the Center for your group or organization, contact Glyn Nixon at 359-5985.

John Converse

## Calling All Creative Kids!

The staff of 10964 is proud to announce the first annual (we hope) "**Palisades Kids Writing Contest.**" This summer writing competition is being initiated to encourage the children of Palisades to express their creativity and to share their talents with all the 10964 readers.

To be eligible, children must reside in Palisades and be between the ages of 6 and 17. The essay should be 250 words or less and complete the following sentence, "**PLL NEVER FORGET THE SUMMER OF 1990 BECAUSE...**"

All entries must be received by 10964 by September 1, 1990. The writing will be judged for creativity, form, interest and enjoyment by an independent panel of judges. Prizes will be awarded in several age categories.

*Each winner will receive a \$100 savings bond (thanks to a slight surplus in 10964's bank account) and all the winning essays will be published in an upcoming issue of 10964. We hope to receive lots of entries and look forward to sharing the best with you next Fall.*

# Musings on... Having it All!?

**A**LTHOUGH I AM USUALLY in favor of technological progress, I am very grateful that videophones are not yet available to the masses. If they were, my lifestyle would undoubtedly be in serious jeopardy. The reason for this is obvious in light of changes that have occurred in recent years in my work situation.

Three years ago, a programmer with whom I worked at a cable network told me that if I ever tired of corporate life and decided to go out on my own, she would be my first client. "Done!" I exclaimed gleefully, before any specifics were arrived at such as salary, working hours and the like. All of those "minor" details mattered less to me at that moment than being able to give up the gruesome (for me) grind of commuting daily during rush hour to Manhattan and being away from my then four-year-old daughter from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thus began my "having it all" lifestyle. And now, back to the potential dangers of the videophone. Imagine this scene from my work life, if you will.

I am sitting in my office in my home, amid FAX, phone, computer, printer, and scores of files, paper clips, and other appropriate office "stuff." I am negotiating a major programming deal for my client with a prestigious cable network and carrying on the task in a most professional manner on the telephone. The deal is good, I am doing the best for my client yet not being too greedy because these cable people are eminently fair. I am also wearing a turquoise blue, green, silver and fluorescent pink tinsel wig which three giggling girls had put on me just before I took my important call. I have rosy

red painted cheeks and sport nothing resembling a business costume. I think every so often how lucky I am that no one can see me. The people I am talking to picture me, of course, in the fashionable business suit I wear when we meet. Through the office door I can still hear faint peals of laughter. Of course, my office door is locked—otherwise I would be trampled, overrun by exuberant children. I stay in my wig and rosy cheeks for the duration of the negotiation, hang up and then run screaming and giggling into my daughter's bedroom to instantly become the center of the fun. A half hour of rollicking and jumping about, then I'm back on the phone drumming up new business and no one sees me for an hour as our babysitter takes over.

There is something totally confusing and yet wildly energizing about being able to be home and available to my daughter and her friends, and to conduct exciting business ventures from my office which is a 20-second "commute" from my bedroom as opposed to 1-1/2 hours. I love the work I do and while there is some travel and frequent, non-rush hour appointments in the city, I am the one in control of my life most of the time. I don't have to report to silly bosses who get grumpy if I go to see my child in a school play or stay out too long on my lunch hour to do something nice for myself.

These days, I can make 20 calls in an hour, get great results and then go for a swim at the health club, come back and do more work—all before my daughter comes home from school.

Is this "having it all?" Sometimes I question the concept because there is still never enough

time. I continue to feel torn between work and family. My office is a horrendous mess, totally disorganized and yet somehow I manage to find what I need. I get frustrated when I get business calls at 7 p.m. during dinner, 9 p.m., or even 3 a.m. because of international projects I am engaged in. I am also occasionally jolted awake, with my heart thumping wildly, by the sound of the FAX machine bringing me an update from Thailand or Hong Kong, Japan and Korea. Yet when I go to my office the next morning and pull the message out of my machine, a message which has come to me from the other side of the world, I know I am truly privileged. Then I tiptoe into my daughter's bedroom and kiss her gently awake to get ready for the day. What better combination of living, loving and working could there be, I wonder to myself.

The down side of this "having it all" lifestyle is that I must use tremendous discipline to prevent my work life from totally infiltrating my home life. I must artificially set aside Thursday afternoons as my date with my daughter when we go out—just us girls—to do something fun together. I must tear myself away from the phone which, like the mythological Sirens, keeps calling to me. Yet I have the time to be with my child as I choose and we have a ball together, no matter what we do.

I know I am not alone in blazing this trail. Other Palisades people are creating their own version of a nurturing lifestyle and achieving a relatively balanced work and home life. Karen Freedman, who runs her own law firm specializing in the needs and legal interests of foster children, started her firm with a friend and col-



# Smooth Move

**W**HEN THE STAFF of 10964 asked me to do an article on real estate, I thought, "What could I possibly say that hasn't already been said by various publications of late?" Then I began to realize that there are quite a lot of things that the general public may not know about the Multiple Listing Service which could be beneficial.

The first thing that comes to mind is pricing. There is one cardinal rule in real estate which says that if a house is priced properly, it should sell in two to three months. Often when people decide to place a home on the market, they will call in a Realtor familiar with the area. If a broker tells you that you can get a price which seems unrealistically high to you, beware. Often some brokers will give you an absurdly high appraisal just to get your listing. If they succeed at this tactic several times, suddenly they have control over an entire area. Remember, the listing broker gets 35 percent of the commission regardless of which MLS broker sells your home.

The practice of over-pricing does no one any good, especially the seller. An unrealistic price translates to prospective purchasers and other brokers that a sale is not possible. So often I have watched a house placed on the market at an incredibly high price stagnating indefinitely. Finally, after valuable time has been lost, the price begins to drop to a reasonable point at which time the house is ultimately sold.

Moral: Price a property properly and it will sell well in a reasonable amount of time.

Fine, you've agreed with your broker upon a fair price, what now? Having the property shown as often as possible to qualified buyers by as many brokers as possible is the key. Some brokers may request to make your listing a "Blue Star" listing. This means that someone from the listing office must always be present when the house is being shown by other Realtors. It sounds good, but in reality it can be a hindrance. Most brokers resent having to be accompanied by their competitors and will often shy away from showing your home in favor of showing a less encumbered property. The "Blue Star" designation can be another way of controlling your listing. If someone is often at home, I suggest having your broker designate it "owner appointment" or "key at listing broker." Other realtors will pick up the key and return it after showing.

Now your broker has the difficult task of finding a buyer who is ready, willing and able to purchase your realistically priced but still expensive piece of real estate. Let him handle it. On your end there are quite a few things which will help to get the job done. Here is a list of helpful hints to file away in the event that you decide some day to part with your little piece of paradise.

1. Make good first impressions. The grounds should be properly maintained summer and winter. Have the lawn mowed, the shrubs trimmed, driveway and sidewalks swept or shoveled clean and all debris removed from the property.

2. Arrange shades or curtains to give a maximum amount of light

in dark rooms. Replace all burned out light bulbs and repair faulty switches. Light colors add cheerfulness to dark rooms, especially kitchens.

3. Badly cracked plaster, loose door knobs, crooked light fixtures are among the small items that can be easily repaired. Small things sometimes hinder a sale more than large repairs.

4. Display your storage and utility space by removing all unnecessary accumulations in attic, stairways, basement and garage. They will appear much larger than they actually are.

5. Correct faulty plumbing. Leaky faucets can discolor porcelain and call attention to plumbing defects.

6. Minor redecorating is recommended, if needed, such as painting, rug shampooing, etc. It will create a much more appealing appearance.

7. Keep radios and televisions off or turned down during the showing to eliminate any possible distraction when the prospective buyer is viewing.

8. If you have pets, it's recommended they be kept out of the way or out of the house, if possible. Some people are uneasy around animals and they may distract the prospect's attention.

9. Your home should be comfortably warm in cold weather and moderately cool in hot weather, through air conditioning, if available, or any other alternative measures.

10. Apologies should never be made for any adverse appearance



of your home. It only emphasizes the defects.

11. Buyers ask a great many questions of brokers when being shown through a home, and most prefer to do this in privacy. The inspection should proceed without your immediate presence. The buyer usually feels more relaxed.

12. It is important to furnish your broker with accurate figures on taxes and utilities and inform him of all recent major improvements such as a new roof, driveway, etc.

13. Remember, if a reasonable offer is presented, it is wise to negotiate immediately. It may never be repeated.

14. Always be prepared to show your property. If you delay a prospect, it may lose you the sale. Your real estate salesperson should always arrange appointments with you in advance.

15. Always keep your sales agent informed of where you may be reached at all times.

Hooray! You have a buyer. The selling broker has taken an offer to purchase in writing. My advice is to tell your selling broker that you wish the house to continue to be shown for back-up offers. Tell him to designate it "Direct To Contract, Continue to Show" while the engineer's inspection and contract are being prepared.

If you familiarize yourself with the process of selling before you sell, you should have less hassle when the time comes. As they say in the TV ads, "An educated consumer is our best customer."

David Sanders

## Rockland Center For the Arts Summer Classes

A six-week summer session at the Center begins Monday, June 25, and will include Landscape Drawing and Watercolor Painting out-of-doors and a variety of courses inside the air-conditioned building.

Some of the offerings this summer include quilting, calligraphy, portrait painting, figure drawing, ceramics, and jewelry making. There will also be short workshops and classes for children. New courses include "Mud Fun," and "Rainbow Bright," ceramics classes for young children; "Close Encounters with the Third Dimension," a ceramics class for ages 8 through 12, and "Travel Writing" for adults. Traditional favorites include "Life Drawing," "Centerstage" with Paddy Maloney, and "Fitness without Frenzy," a special low-intensity aerobic dance class. Short workshops include a Portfolio workshop for high school students, a Marbleizing workshop, Fiction Technique and Raku Firing.

Registration for classes is underway now and pre-registration is required. There is a discount on full-course fees if registration takes place before June 8. Call the Center at 358-0877 for a free brochure or information.

### Events

Young students at the Center will display their work at the annual students' show which runs from June 3 through 15.

On June 7, ArtQuest offers a tour to three New York museums. The tour includes transportation, lunch and a guide.

## Citizens' Watch

For those interested in attending Town meetings, here is a partial listing for the months of June and July. Information about other meetings may be obtained by calling 359-5100.

Town Board	June 11 and 25 8:00 p.m.	Town Hall
T. B. Workshop	June 4 and 18 7:30 p.m.	Town Hall
Planning Board	June 12 and 27 8:00 p.m.	Greenbush School
	July 11 and 25	
Zoning Board	June 6 7:30 p.m.	Greenbush School
	July 3 and 18	
Historic Areas Board	June 19	Greenbush School
	(if any applications are filed)	

## The Palisades Soccer Club

After posting a disappointing record in the fall, the Palisades Soccer Club has returned to form this spring, earning 4 victories and 3 ties against 2 defeats with 5 games remaining to be played this season.

During the summer months practises are held every Tuesday and Thursday evening beginning at about 6:15 on the grounds of the Rockland State Hospital. Any interested person is invited to practise with the team. Men and women of any age are welcome.

For further information contact William "Tony" Gerard at 623-3459.

# Pack it Right

*With all the interest in environmental issues and recycling, we thought the following excerpts from the article, "Pack It Right," in the April issue of Nutrition Action Healthletter would be worthwhile. The article is an interview with Jeanne Wirka, an authority on plastic packaging and solid waste. Thanks to Leslie Price Hayes for sending it along to us.*

**Q: How can shoppers have the gentlest impact on the environment?**

A. Avoid excess packaging, choose packages that are recyclable, and recycle them.

**Q: It seems like most people are better at choosing good packaging than recycling.**

A. That's true. When many peanut butter manufacturers recently switched from glass to non-recyclable plastic jars, I started getting calls from people who were upset. "What do I do?" they asked.

The first question I asked them was: "Do you recycle your glass jars?" Many said they didn't. Yet they still were bothered by peanut butter in plastic jars. Well, if you're not going to recycle the glass, it doesn't make a whole lot of difference which you buy. They'll both end up in a landfill.

Generally, we encourage people to think about the recycling options that are available to them. If they can choose their products based on packages they can recycle, and can get those packages into the recycling system, then they can have a real impact.

**Q: What about the new "degradable" plastics?**

A: They're a big hoax and a waste of money. In fact, we've called for a boycott of them. A degradable plastic, like most garbage, is probably going to end up in a landfill, and landfills are designed to minimize

the rate at which waste degrades. What's more, degradable plastics are hindering plastic recycling. Some plastic recyclers have stopped recycling bags because degradable bags get mixed in and cause problems.

**Q: What about packaged microwaveable foods?**

A: Avoid them. Something like good old-fashioned Green Giant frozen spinach is perfectly microwaveable. All you need is your own dish. The idea that you need a separate tray or dish or a special bag in order to microwave is a marketing gimmick.

Generally speaking, the amount of packaging in microwaveable products is huge compared to the amount of food the packages contain. Within the microwave world there are variations of ridiculousness. Campbell's Souper Combo (Food Porn, NAH, March 1989) has an outer box, then a tray inside and a plate for the sandwich and a bowl for the soup, both with lids. It's a level of disposable packaging that is just ridiculous.

But then there's a (relatively good) product like Budget Gourmet, which you serve right out of the package.

**Q: What about fresh produce?**

A: Try to avoid packaging altogether. Of course, in some cases you can't. It's difficult to buy ten tomatoes, for example, without using a plastic bag.

Just stay away from pre-packaged produce. You know: four tomatoes on a tray wrapped in plastic. When it comes to produce, just about any packaging is overpackaging.

And, the plastic produce trays are often polystyrene.

**Q: What's wrong with polystyrene?**

A. Polystyrene is made from styrene, a very toxic and possibly car-

cinogenic chemical. The process by which polystyrene is produced results in a huge amount of hazardous waste.

**Q: Other than polystyrene, are there any plastics to watch out for?**

A. Yes, Polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which is a huge contributor to toxic pollution. Supermarkets package their meat, fish, and poultry in polystyrene trays, and then wrap them in PVC wrap. Reynold's Wrap is also made of PVC. Saran Wrap is made from polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC), a close cousin of PVC which is just as bad.

If you can, go to the deli counter and get them to cut the meat for you and wrap it in freezer wrap. Some deli departments use molded pulp trays, which are better.

Stores use PVC instead of polyethylene wraps (like Handi-Wrap) because polyethylene allows oxygen to get through, which turns the meat brown. PVC is the only packaging resin that completely keeps oxygen out. PVC is also the clear plastic that some bottles, especially those used for oils and imported mineral waters, are made of.

**Q: What about polyethylene, which those plastic milk jugs are made of?**

A: You might be surprised to hear this, but you're better off buying your milk in those jugs than in cartons—if you recycle the jugs. A lot of people have complained that milk cartons are being replaced by plastic. Well, the plastic milk jugs are eminently recyclable. In places that have plastic recycling, polyethylene is the second thing recyclers target—soda bottles are first.

The problem with the cartons is that they are made of paperboard which has been coated with polyethylene, and you've got to separate the two materials before they can be recycled. It becomes too costly, so no one bothers. Like everything else, the carton will go to a landfill and stay there forever.

*Continued on Back Page*

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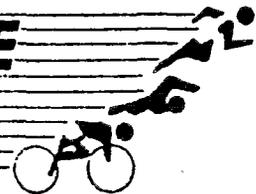
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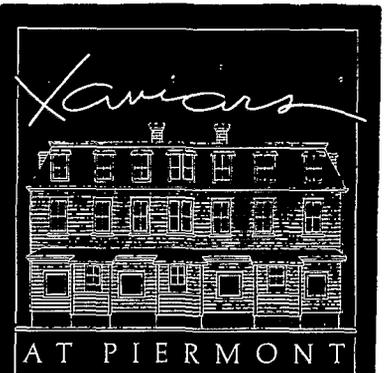
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# About 10964

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, N. Y. With your help we'll be able to put **10964** in your mailbox in the Fall.

*The following staff members worked on this issue.*

John Converse	Lori DiGiacomo	Carol Elevitch
Boyce Leni	Mary Ann Luckman	Kwibin Park
David Sanders	Judith W. Umlas	Judy Zehentner

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## An Open Letter From The Staff

With summer fast approaching we wish you all a fine vacation, change-of-pace, or whatever you have planned for the season. When you're driving about our pleasant hamlet, please remember the children who are out of school, the mothers pushing their baby strollers, the walkers, runners, and joggers who may also be sharing the road with you. A reasonable speed set by resident drivers can help to slow traffic moving through Palisades.

During the next couple of months we will be considering various options regarding the future publication of **10964**. If you have constructive ideas, please share them with us. We need your ideas, and we also need your help for the season ahead. Volunteer work on the staff of this newsletter can be very rewarding—especially when we hear from our readers that **10964** means something to them, serves a useful purpose in the community, and is enjoyed. Write us a note to Box 201, or give a telephone call to any staff member. We'd be very pleased to hear from you.

## PACK IT...

The best thing to do is find a dairy that will deliver in refillable bottles. (For a free list of these dairies, write to Greenpeace's Shelley Stewart at 4649 Sunnyside Ave. North, Seattle, Washington 98103)

**Q: It sounds like the more things you reuse, the better. Right?**

**A:** Not necessarily. The only way that reusing reduces waste is if a reused item replaces something that we would otherwise purchase. If you bring your plastic bags back to the store instead of getting another bunch, that's reuse.

We are not going to solve the waste problem by rinsing out our jelly jars and using them to store our buttons.

## Classified

**FOR SALE:** 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 SALE:** Antique oak wash stand and telephone table. Please call 359-9109.

## Contributions

We were glad to receive a note and contribution from Nick and Cass Luddington this past month. Nick, who is Chief of Middle East Services for The Associated Press in Nicosia, Cyprus, wrote, "I do hope you are able to continue production. We are a long way from Palisades and enjoy the connection tremendously." Contributions were also received from Donald and Helen Fischer and newcomers Christopher and Deborah Capezzuto. Thank you all.