

10964

The Palisades Newsletter
February 1992 • No. 130



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

It is not beauty alone
it is not the abundance of wealth
it is not shared poverty
it does not depend on goals
it might give birth to gods
it might grow on beaches
it is more colorful than the rainbow
it is indescribable
it does not drip like blood
it might seem untouchable
it is definitely imaginable
but you still always wonder
if it ever exists
the warmth, the tears, the jealousy,
the aggression, the beauty...

LOVE

-- Kevork Kalayjian

The 10964 "Share The Spirit" Holiday Appeal was a terrific success again this year. So many generous and thoughtful Palisadians helped our two needy families have joyous holidays. The mothers who received the gifts for their children were touched by the spirit of giving that helped them celebrate the fun of Christmas. We were able to give each child at least one item of clothing and one "toy." The little ones loved their Barbie dolls, trucks, arts & crafts projects and Ghostbusters. The little three-year-old boy even received the bike he had asked Santa for. The older kids received watches or Walkmans and are enjoying them every day.

The cash donations were used to purchase additional items of clothing the children needed: sweatsuits, jeans, sweaters, etc. We were even able to purchase kitchen utensils needed by one of the families.

We hope to put together the 3rd annual Holiday Appeal next year. If you have any suggestions on how we can make this effort even more fruitful, please contact a member of the staff of 10964 at any time throughout the year. Again, thank you for your generosity. It really made a difference.

-- Judy Zehentner



Choosing a School

Where to send your child to school? This is an important and sometimes difficult decision. Our local public schools are pretty good in the early grades, and you shouldn't give up on them too easily. Yet there are also many alternatives to public school in our area. Both public and private schools will usually allow prospective parents to talk to school administrators and to visit classes, as long as you set up an appointment beforehand. It's a good idea to have a list of questions ready and also to ask for a list of students and parents in your area who might be willing to tell you how they feel about the school.

If you decide to send your child to a private school next September, you must apply for busing by April 1st. This can be done at the transportation office of your local school district. Busing is available to every child who will reach the age of five by December 1, 1992 and who is attending a school less than fifteen miles from his/her home. It is not necessary to apply for busing if your child is going to public school.

I have recently visited some of the kindergarten and first grade classes in local schools and will summarize information about them in the following article.

Tappan Zee Elementary

Kindergarten classes in this school contain about twenty-three students and are taught by a teacher and an aide. The classrooms are huge and most contain reading corners, a place to play house with dress-up materials, blocks, pets, a computer, manipulative math materials, games, art materials, toys and tables to work at. Students leave class to go to music, art, library and physical education. There are some excellent teachers in the school and the program includes various activities which prepare students to learn more formally in first grade, such as letter and number recognition, listening to stories and learning songs. For three days a week, the program runs for two and a half hours. Twice a week, half of each class stays all day, giving the students an opportunity to do things like cooking, ceramics and other projects which work better in a small group.

First grade classes vary somewhat, depending on the teacher. Class size is about the same and there is still an aide with the class for part of the day. These students leave class to go to art, music, physical education, library and computer. They are learning reading in formal reading groups which meet each day, as well as practicing writing letters and doing math, science and social studies. Some teachers still give them free time to play several times a week and others run a more structured program. One classroom I visited had an audio center where kids could listen to books, as well as a piano, blocks, a sink, a sand table, a computer, books, games, manipulative math materials and tables for the kids to work at. The atmosphere in the building is pleasant and one has the feeling that the students are respected and are having a good time. The telephone number of the school is 365-2102.

The River School

The two-year-old River School is located upstairs in the classroom wing of the First Baptist Church at Fifth Street and Broadway in Nyack. At present it consists of a full-day kindergarten class of thirteen, taught by Carol Caprara, and a first and second grade class of ten, taught by Marcia Hanners. Next year there will be a third grade and, hopefully, the school will be in new quarters. Dottie Goren, director of the River School and the Montessori preschool program (which is located downstairs in the same building), has been searching for a new site for the expanding school.

The day is divided into two parts: a morning academic program and afternoon activities which include music, art, dance, French, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, woodworking, violin, drama and puppetry. Free time in the afternoons is used for reading, playing games or finishing work from the morning.

The kindergarten room is small for thirteen students, but packed with two tables, a rug, a computer, books, a listening station and a fish tank. The daily schedule begins with free time and goes on to activities connected with the subject of the day. These include drawing pictures, listening to stories, telling stories, studying the alphabet and phonetics and number exploration. Kindergarten students join the first and second graders for afternoon activities.

The first and second grade class begins their day with journal writing and continues with work in other academic areas until 11:30 when it's time for recess, lunch and quiet reading. Math and reading are individualized. In the Montessori tradition, children work at their own pace and govern their own work. They are allowed to move freely around the classroom as long as the atmosphere remains conducive to learning. Marcia told me that she stresses politeness and manners as well as learning, and that she considers every child a gifted child. She doesn't assign homework regularly for the first graders, but, when she does, it is usually individualized. The students go on 8 - 10 field trips a year.

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Tax Tips For Artists And Writers (A Poem)

First you have to add all your expenses.
An expense is any outlay of cash
(Or anything of monetary value)
which is deemed necessary
to get you that which drives you;
to repeat the noises you hear,
to convey the feelings you live,
to express the things you imagine,
to transform the pain to laughter,
to put tears in the eye of a cynic,
(to put a smile on a child's face)
that which you call inspiration.

Everything you do to achieve
inspiration, is a deductible expense;
the trip you took to Utah
to see the gas station attendant
who replaced the murdered one,
your search of your roots
in Upstate New York, Rumania,
England, France or Tasmania,
Your trip to the corner drug store,
your experience of 'love' on 42nd Street,
your train ride just to witness
the walls pass you by,
are all deductible expenses,
as long as you can document them
with your proofs and receipts.
And then, of course, your entrance fees
at T.T., The Bears, or the other place you buy
your beer, your cigarette, your...as long as
it's instrumental in getting you inspired.

Once you add all your expenses,
it's time to figure out your income.
An income is anything of monetary value
which you obtain in the process of
dispensing inspiration.
So you add all your royalties,
a "thank you" here, a "good work" there,
sale of your book, 13 cents each,
sale of your waterbed, 89 dollars,
sale of your soul to your creative impulse.

Add to your income the profit you share
from throwing yourself into the ocean,
don't forget to say something about
the survival of the whales,
the concentration camps -
they are still popular - and a good source
for a quick return on investment,

they are the in thing, and they will bear fruit.

Don't forget the income you obtain
from your part-time work at McDonald's,
your full-time trial period at the museum,
the hospital, the grocery store, the office job.

When you have all these facts and receipts,
place them all in a shoe box and go to
the IRS Taxpayer Assistance line,
or you can all come to me.
I have no problems in
counting your blessings
for only a nominal fee.

— Kevork Kalayjian

Library News

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High Technology Speeds Our Reference Services

The library has a new computer system called "Magazine Index Select" on InfoTrac. It allows patrons in seconds to search more than three years of issues of more than 200 magazines and the most recent 2 months of the New York Times for articles written on a specific topic. The listings of relevant articles are displayed on the computer screen and all or any part of the listings can be printed out for future reference.

Patrons simply sit at the computer terminal, type in the subject they wish to search, press a button and voila! They'll see a listing of articles as well as other related topics they may wish to view.

Library Card Renewal Time

Please bring your Palisades Free Library Answer Card to the circulation desk to be updated with a new "Free Access" sticker. Do not discard your barcoded library card.

Taxes???

The library has tax forms for State and Federal Income Tax. We have several books to assist in filling out the forms.

Large Print Book Collection

Our collection of large print books is growing. We recently received a small grant to enlarge this service.

New Non-Fiction

Cheever	<i>Journals of John Cheever</i>
Columbus	<i>Encyclopedia of</i>
Dowling	<i>You Mean I Don't Have to Feel This Way</i>
Faludi	<i>Backlash</i>
Hughes	<i>Barcelona</i>
Mathabane	<i>Love in Black & White</i>
Rifkin	<i>The Beef Culture</i>
Sully	<i>Architecture</i>
Steinem	<i>Revolution From Within</i>
Talese	<i>Unto the Sons</i>
Wells	<i>Simply French</i>

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A Musical Love-Letter For Valentine's Day

by Leslie Price Hayes



Dear Heart,

The first time ever I saw your face, my heart stood still!
You are so beautiful to me -- you are too beautiful.
You've got possibilities! Just imagine!
I can't believe that you're in love with me!

Why did I choose you? What is there to say?
I've got a crush on you. Night and day you do something to me.
These foolish things -- chantilly lace, a rose and a baby ruth,
a pink cadillac, blue suede shoes, a yellow submarine --
There's always something there to remind me!

What now my love? Part-time lovers? Strangers in the night?
Just friends?
Let me call you sweetheart! (Tutti-Frutti?)
There's a small hotel, and some enchanted evening love me tender.
Kiss me once and kiss me twice -- I'm in the mood for love!
Make the world go away!
I wanna hold your hand. You don't have to say you love me!
I love all of you, body and soul. The nearness of you
in the still of the night -- Temptation! Help!
The night was made for love, and when the lights go down low
I surrender, dear.

Chances are, if you go away,
After you've gone I'm gonna laugh you right out of my life.
See you later, alligator! Stand back, Buenos Aires!
It's not unusual.
Am I blue? (A fine romance! Here's that rainy day.)
Don't go breaking my heart -- call me!

Call me irresponsible, I only have eyes for you,
Because when my baby smiles at me I go to Rio!
That face that face that fabulous face! Unforgettable!
Baby face, funny face, you are my sunshine,
My love,
My Funny Valentine.

P.S. I love you



Marika Hahn

Note from Leslie: Can you find all the song titles in this masterpiece? Answer is on page 14. Winner wins a mobile home, a toaster oven, and three weeks at the Orangeburg Holiday Inn (losers have to stay for six weeks).

Lamont News

The campus of Lamont-Dougherty Geological Observatory (L-DGO) is situated on 138 acres of land in Palisades, and consists of Lamont Hall (former home of Thomas Lamont, now a science library, large lecture room and rooms for visiting scientists) plus 10 other buildings. L-DGO houses some 500 scientists, students and staff, many of whom reside in Palisades and nearby hamlets. Visiting scientists often come from other countries to spend a year working at the observatory.

The director of L-DGO, Gordon P. Eaton, along with four Associate Directors, administers the varied scientific activities of the observatory as well as scientific personnel, a new state-of-the-art research vessel, an annual budget of \$40 million and an endowment of \$30 million. Before coming to Lamont in 1990, Dr. Eaton served with the United States Geological Survey, at Texas A&M University, and as President of Iowa State University. Dr. Eaton presently serves on four major Columbia University committees and is part of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council and the World Food Prize Foundation's Council of Advisors, an international body.

L-DGO Leads U.S. Contingent in Joint American-Soviet Antarctic Research Station

The National Science Foundation has announced that American and Soviet scientists will launch a joint Antarctic research station in February on an ice floe that will drift more than 5 months and 400 miles through the Weddell Sea.

The U.S.-Soviet ice station will drift in roughly the same path of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance* in 1915. The ship became trapped in the ice and, over more than nine months, was carried 570 miles north, where it was crushed and sank. Escaping onto an ice floe, Shackleton's men dragged boats to open water and reached Elephant Island, from which Shackleton and five others crossed 870 miles of ocean and organized the rescue of every man.

First Manned Station on Floating Ice

"This will be the first manned Antarctic research station ever established on floating ice of the Southern Ocean," said Arnold Gordon, professor of oceanography at Columbia University and senior scientist at L-DGO. Dr. Gordon will lead the U.S. contingent of scientists and is the designated coordinator for the combined U.S. and U.S.S.R. science programs.

Ten American and 10 Soviet scientists, and 11 support personnel, will disembark from a Soviet icebreaking research ship in February, about 1,300 miles south of the tip of South America. They will set up the station and an airstrip on the frozen surface of the Weddell Sea on a floe at least 10 feet thick, one mile long and a half-mile wide. After drifting northward several miles per day on the moving ice floe, they will be evacuated in June or July, depending on the speed of the ice drift, near the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula before the ice floe reaches the open ocean or begins to melt.

The scientists will use helicopters, icebreaking research ships, satellites, and experiments on the ice floe to gather the first extensive data on the complex and poorly understood interactions of air, ice and sea in the ice-infested Weddell Sea. The delicate balance of this system has a strong impact on global climate and ocean currents.

- from The Lamont-Doherty Newsletter, Summer, 1991.

On Saturday, February 8th, the Central American Education Association is having a fundraiser at the Nyack Center. It will be a fun evening with Hispanic music played for dancing and refreshments will be served.

Donations are encouraged, and all proceeds will be used to help the Association bring medical supplies and other necessities to Nicaragua.

For more information, please contact Hazel Kim at 359-0018.

Golf Range Report

Following is a status report on the Building and Zoning Code violations at the golf driving range on Route 9W.

As previously reported in 10964, a Criminal Summons and Complaint were served on the owner, C&L Golf, Inc., in September, 1991 for failure to correct a number of violations. Due to C&L Golf's failure to eliminate the violations, the matter was headed for trial.

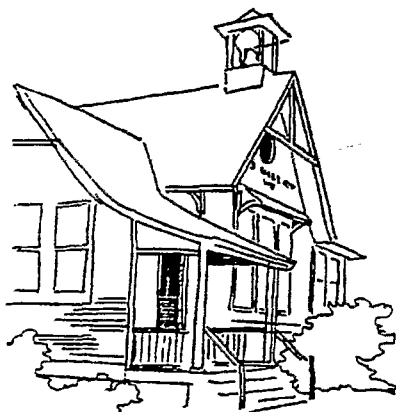
On January 15th, Deputy Town Attorney Raymond Icobelli gave me the following information. No trial date has been set as C&L Golf has agreed to plead guilty and clear up the violations. The amount of the fine resulting from the guilty plea has not yet been determined and will depend upon how quickly C&L Golf clears up the violations. Pending their cooperation, a temporary license to continue operating has been granted them by the Town of Orangetown. The license is for a period of 60 days starting January 14th and will be extended to December 31, 1992 if the violations are eliminated within the 60 day period.

There is always the possibility that C&L Golf will apply to the Zoning Board of Appeals for variances to permit continuation of some of the violations, in which case a public hearing will be held, enabling the residents of Palisades to express their views on the matter. It is my understanding that no further expansion of the facility is permissible.

As I have stated before, I have no objection to having the driving range on Route 9W in Palisades. It has been there throughout my 34 years here. I enjoyed taking my children there to play miniature golf and it is a part of our community, but I also feel that it should comply with applicable Building and Zoning Codes.

— Reg Thayer





The person to call to reserve the Community Center is Janis Cavanagh at 359-1026.

Community Center News

The **Holiday Bazaar** was a fun afternoon despite a gray and gloomy day. There were 12 craft tables as well as baked goods and scrumptious hot chili and soup. Santa dropped in for a visit and lots of happy little smiles were captured on film, much to the delight of the parents. As dusk fell, the big evergreen in front of the Center was transformed - after a few electrical set-backs - into a beacon of Christmas cheer to the tune of caroling voices. Thanks to all who lent a hand to help make the Bazaar a success!

Note: All craftspeople should keep in mind that the Bazaar will be held again next year. If you didn't reserve a table this year, you have a year to plan for the next time. The Bazaar will most likely be held earlier next year to accommodate more Christmas shoppers.

Help Wanted: For a few months last fall, some lucky citizens of Palisades enjoyed the benefits of an invigorating aerobics class led by Grace Ryan. Since Grace is now expecting her second child (congrats, Grace and Bill!), the class has been cancelled. However, those enthusiasts who attended Grace's class are now in search of someone to continue the class and lead them on in the quest for fitness. If anyone is interested in teaching aerobics at the Community Center, please call Marika Hahn at 365-3317.

New Class Possibility: If anyone is interested in taking a pottery class at the Community Center which will focus on handbuilding and tile-making, call Martye Krainin at 359-2242. Martye is also interested to know of anyone who has a kiln and is willing to fire work from this class.

Designing Your Own Garden

— A Workshop —

There are many blessings attached to living in this area, but carefree gardening is not one of them. The weather is either too cold, too hot or too wet for plants to flourish. The soil consists of a 1/2" layer of earth on top of a 100' layer of rocks and boulders. Weeds grow faster than you can pull them out. There are so many trees that the idea of a 'sunny garden' is a joke for most of us.

In spite of all this, you can have a beautiful garden here. Two workshops to be offered in March at the Community Center are intended to help you design and maintain a garden suitable for our particular environment and for your personal needs.

The workshops will be held on Saturday, March 7th and Saturday, March 14th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The first will cover the history of gardens in this area; different types of gardens; deciding what sort of garden you want; some simple rules of design that will help you achieve this; and making a layout for your garden. The second workshop will include a discussion of plants used historically in this area; choosing appropriate plants for our climate and setting; maintaining your garden; and garden construction and ornament. Emphasis will be on doing things oneself, using materials easily available locally and at minimal cost. Printed materials and a booklist will be given out.

The cost is \$15 for each workshop (\$25 for both if you register in advance). To register, or for more information, call Ann Brooke at 365-1375.

Church News

Regular services will be held on Sundays at 9 & 11 a.m..

An adult seminar entitled "A Death in the Family" will be conducted on Feb. 9th & 16th at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish House. The program for the 9th includes a panel of a doctor, a lawyer, a funeral director and the minister sharing their information on "end of life" decisions. They will cover living wills, funeral arrangements, memorial services, etc.

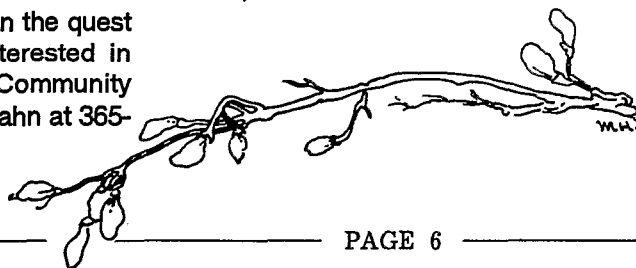
On the 16th, several people will talk about how they made decisions for their loved ones and things they might do differently. Reverend Ferguson will talk about funeral planning and a worksheet will be available. For more information, please contact the Church Office.

On Feb. 23rd, the Chancel Players are presenting an adaptation by Jim Gardner of Flannery O'Connor's short story "Revelation." The play begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary and will be followed by coffee and dessert. This production is open to the community.

Environmental Tip

Orange and Rockland provides a service which they call the Home Energy Survey. It is a free home energy analysis of where and how the energy is being used in your home. An energy specialist from O&R will visit your home and inspect it thoroughly to determine where you can install conservation measures to make your home more energy efficient. After the inspection, they provide you with a detailed report listing their recommendations. Some are easy-to-do procedures that homeowners can do themselves, others might be more involved. For larger improvements they provide a breakdown of estimated costs and will also discuss payback you would get on these investments.

The survey is available to O&R customers who own homes or live in dwellings that were constructed before 1980. For more information or appointments, call (800) 422-6230.



More Palisades Boyhood Reminiscences

by John Garrison
as told to Milbry Polk

Note: Due to the overwhelming response to Mr. Garrison's last article, the editor decided to include more stories of his boyhood days. The next issue will feature his life in Palisades after the war.

There are some more of my boyhood days I don't want to forget. It is a life that has passed. It was a good life.

The Quidor sisters were the librarians. At that time, the library was at the Big House where the Sandhaus' live today. Every morning they would walk from their home (Lieval's house now) past Park Square (now known as the Triangle) to the Library and every afternoon about three they would walk home. They wore high button shoes and ankle length dresses. They were right out of the Victorian era.

Since the last article a lot of people have asked me about crabbing. I will tell you how we did it. We used a flat bottom skiff or row boat. We had four drop lines with a weight and bait attached over each side and four from the stern. The lines were pulled up very slowly without any jerking or we would lose the crab. When the crab was seen below the surface, the scapnet was used to scap up the crab and we'd empty the crabs into the boat. They would run around the boat. We had bare feet, but it didn't bother us. We only got bitten once in a while.

We went to the old wooden schoolhouse where the Community Center is now. Col. Eliot Post and his sister Jennie were the custodians. We had a coal furnace. We had two outhouses in the back - one for boys and one for girls. Every March 1, at the break of the weather, we boys played marbles - migs, reelies, aggies and shooters - while the girls played hopscotch on the sidewalk. Jerry O'Brien was the best shooter I ever saw.

I made a little extra money pumping gas after school and on weekends at Joseph Pollack's gas station. It was on the flat ground right across the street from where IBM is today. Gas was 12 cents a gallon. We got deliveries of gas on Monday, but sometimes we'd get such a heavy demand from cars coming across the new GW Bridge from the city that we'd have to get up to two extra deliveries of gas on Sunday! Shortly after I started to work there, the Dyckman, Piermont, Alpine and Nyack ferries stopped service due to the new bridge.

The Depression hit Palisades as hard as the rest of the country. The construction of the new Palisades school was a godsend to some of us lucky ones. Able bodied young men all reported for work under the WPA. Some of the older men in town such as Jerry Walsh and Ed Grotz, shop steward of the Carpenter's Union, were in charge of building the forms for the footing and the concrete walls. There were no ready-mix concrete trucks back then. All the mixing was done by two men under the guidance of Oscar Olsen. A few of us actually lasted

until the final bricks were laid. I consider myself lucky to have been employed during those hard times.

In my mind's eye, I can still see Joey Hyde driving a wicker pony cart up from the landing with his mother and sometimes his grandmother, Mrs. Tonetti, as passengers. Those days are long gone, but a few of us here still remember them: Mildred Rippey, Chester Post, Helen Stansbury, Eunice Hagen, Bill Knudsen, Lorraine Hill Stevens and Elizabeth Foxx Finck. Palisades was a wonderful place to grow up in, but it was rapidly changing. Next time I'll tell you about the changes I found when I got back from the war.

EDITORIAL

I would like to bring to your attention an urgent matter which is of personal concern to me and should be to every parent who has children in the public school system.

The Tappan Zee High School Music Department has been one of the school's most successful programs over the past two decades. The students who participated in it were often recognized with distinguished awards, and the enrichment it brought to their lives was without measure. Now the Music Department is facing a serious crisis. This year, Choir, Orchestra and Band have been moved to after school and A.P. Theory has been eliminated. These groups are now suffering because students have conflicts with school clubs, tutoring and sports. The change was not made to save money. In fact, the district is spending extra money for after-school music department buses. The time put in by the staff has remained the same.

I am outraged that this extraordinary program is being wantonly dismantled! I believe that the School Board needs to reconsider their decision and reinstate the program next year. They need to be reminded how much the program has enriched the lives of students, whether they went on to a career in music or not, and that, in fact, T.Z. has produced a great number of music teachers! Music education itself is being betrayed by this decision.

If you would like to know who to write to or call to add your voice to this protest, please call Diana Green at 359-8137. You can also lend your support by attending a meeting of the School Board which will take place on February 11th at 8:00 p.m. at the South Orangetown Middle School (unfortunately this is the last in series of 5 meetings - the others took place before this issue of 10964).

Consider the quality of our future!

Thank you.

— Diana Green

...Choosing a School

The school day runs from 8:30 to 3:30 and the tuition is \$4,750 per year. The school accepts all applicants except for situations where students would need special conditions not available in the school. The teachers and director are warm, capable people who obviously like children and are liked by them. The address of the school is 77 Marion St., Nyack, and the telephone number is 358-9209.

Blue Rock School

Founded by Palisades resident, Margaret Flinsch, and a small group of teachers with strong backgrounds in the arts, Blue Rock began in 1987 in the Palisades Community Center. The school rapidly outgrew the Center so, in December of 1990, it moved to a larger building on 3 1/2 acres in West Nyack. Fifty-two students, from four-year-olds to fifth graders, now play and work in the attractive new building.

Curriculum in the early grades is as likely to develop from the childrens' own interests as from teacher input. Formal academics are avoided in the half-day kindergarten, which is skillfully supervised by Ellen Voumard, one of the founders and the school's drama teacher. I sat in as the school day began and was impressed by her ability to let students help solve the problems which arose while settling the classroom guinea pig into its home. A large part of the room was filled with complex, imaginative block constructions created by the students.

Performances by visiting artists from different cultures have become a tradition at Blue Rock, which runs a summer arts program each year. There is a strong emphasis on storytelling as opposed to reading aloud from books in the belief that it fosters a different kind of attention. To quote from the school brochure, "At the Blue Rock School, we are concerned with learning *how* to learn. *What* one learns is a simple matter if one understands *how* to learn."

I also sat in on a first grade math class in which the students were using Cuisenaire rods. Mia, the first grade teacher, gently suggested and questioned as the students built with the colorful rods and made discoveries about them. She told me that Dr. Kristina Leeb-Lundberg, co-director of the school, was coming to teach the class a math lesson the next day. Dr. Leeb-Lundberg has been working with the older students in different number bases and they have become proficient in changing from one base to another.

Reading is taught through a whole language approach. Homework is not assigned to first graders. Music and dance are also part of the curriculum. Older students are studying Asia this year, and many of their explorations in the arts relate to the current social studies theme.

The day at Blue Rock runs from 9:00 to 3:00, and the tuition ranges from \$3,200 for the half-day kindergarten to \$5,800 for the fifth grade. There will be an **Open House** on Saturday, February 8th, from 10:00 a.m. till noon. The school is located at 110 Demarest Mill Road, West Nyack. The phone number is 627-0234.

Rockland Country Day School

This school, the most academic of the ones I visited, was begun in 1959 by a group of parents and educators who wanted excellent, individualized education their children. The 16 acre campus is located just off of Kings' Highway in Congers. The school used to begin with sixth grade and run through high school, but in the last few years it has expanded all the way down through preschool. Enrollment today is 180 students, 70 of them in the Lower School which runs through third grade in its own new building. Classes range in size between 9 and 13 students, except for one kindergarten class of 19 with two teachers.

I started out in the large, airy first grade classroom. Nine students were having snack time at tables in the center of the room. Shelves and desks around the walls contained books, games, a computer, a science center and manipulative math materials. A bin of blocks stood by the door. Students in this class begin with a language arts activity, which can include the teaching of punctuation and grammar. These first graders, already reading and writing, are learning about nouns, adjectives and verbs. After snack and recess, there is an individualized work period and the day continues with science, social studies, more reading and math. The extensive school campus is used as an integral part of the hands-on science program. First grade students have homework every night.

Math and reading occur at the same time in several grades so that children who are above or below grade level can work at their own developmental level by going to another classroom for a skills period. Curriculum is often integrated through a major theme which is developed in art, music, reading, drama, science and social studies. Lower school students also have classes in French, music, art and physical education, and also visit the school library regularly.

Nicholas O'Han, the articulate director of the school, described the kindergarten class (which I was not able to visit) as having a structured but flexible approach to the teaching of math and reading readiness. By this time of the year, some of the kindergarten students are beginning to read. He also talked about the philosophy of the school which is to work with students to help them become capable, mature, compassionate members of a learning community through a structured approach to a rigorous, exacting academic program.

The school day at RCDS runs from 8:00 to 3:30, with a shorter day on Friday. Tuition ranges from \$6,000 for a full-day kindergarten to nearly \$10,000 for twelfth grade. Applicants are screened to insure that they have the skills to be successful in the program. Forty percent of the students receive some sort of scholarship aid. The school's telephone number is 268-6802 and the address is King's Highway, Congers.

Rockland Learning Center

This small Montessori school has been located in the former Rockland Project School building in Rockland Lake State Park since September, 1990. At the present time the school has 30 preschool students and 10 students in grades one through four. The high ceilinged old building has been attractively converted into colorful classrooms full of enticing

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Speeding Truck Report

This is an update on the traffic situation on Route 9W and on Oak Tree Road.

In recent weeks there has been an increase in police surveillance of traffic on 9W. This has involved both the Orangetown Police and the NY State Police. On January 13th, I spoke to representatives of both police forces and I got the distinct impression that they do not intend to ease up on their activities.

Orangetown Detective Sergeant Harold Johnson told me that inspection of the truckers' documents on route 9W reveals that a goodly number of the trucks, although exceeding the ten ton limit, are legal by reason of having an Orangetown point of origin or destination.

The traffic situation on Oak Tree Road is less encouraging. Residents on that road, parents of children in the Palisades Schoolhouse (in the Community Center) and in the Oak Tree Cooperative Playgroup, and patrons of the Palisades Free Library and Post Office are all concerned over the frequent violations of the truck weight limit (5 tons) and speed limits on Oak Tree Road.

I have presented the Orangetown Police with a petition signed by 182 people (from the above-mentioned groups) requesting greater enforcement of these limits on Oak Tree Road. In addition, I have pointed out to the Orangetown Police that, although there is a 15 MPH sign for eastbound traffic approaching the schools, there is no such sign for westbound traffic. They agreed to check this out.

Marianne Armistead, Director of the Oak Tree Cooperative Playgroup has also written a letter to the Orangetown Police requesting greater enforcement of the weight and speed limits on Oak Tree Road.

— Reg Thayer

Rockland Center for the Arts

Contemporary American Folk Art Exhibition: In tribute to the 500th anniversary of the founding of the Americas, the Center will present an exhibition which recognizes the cultural diversity of artistic expression in the United States. "Folkways," an exhibition of contemporary American folk art, opens with a public reception on Sunday, February 2 and runs through March 19. A slide lecture will be presented on Sunday, February 23rd at 2:00 p.m. and a catalog will be available. Ruben Teles of Piermont, a noted folk art specialist, is curatorial consultant.

Modern Folk Art - sometimes called "naïve" art - is a form of artistic expression by artists without formal training. The results are vibrantly colored and clearly expressed artworks with an often whimsical personal view of the world. This exhibition departs from the utilitarian objects such as quilts and pottery which are often thought of as typical of this genre. Instead, it focuses on primitive painting, sculpture, carved reliefs and forged and welded objects.

The talented but untutored artists exhibiting represent a broad range of ethnicities and regionalism. Their work appears in such collections as the Museum of American Folk Art, the Whitney Museum and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Works on exhibit have come from public and private collections including that of Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Sears of Palisades and Ruben Teles of Piermont.

In conjunction with this exhibition, two performances in celebration of the traditional arts will take place. "Tantalizing Traditional Tales," given on Sunday, March 8th at 1:00 p.m., features professional ethnic storytellers. The second event is a concert by "The Voice of the Turtle" which traces the paths of the exile of the Spanish Jews through song and music on authentic folk instruments of 15th Century Spain and the Mediterranean. The concert will be given on Saturday, April 4th at 8:00 p.m..

Other News From The Center: The Center began its spring semester of classes the week of January 27th. They are offering more than 50 classes in the fine arts and crafts, writing, acting, fitness and fencing for adults and children. Call 358-0877 for a free brochure or information.

Two musical events will take place at the Center in February: the Alexander String Quartet on Friday, Feb. 28th at 8:30 p.m. and two virtuoso jazz guitarists, Bucky Pizzarelli and Gene Bertoncini, on Saturday, Feb. 29th at 8:00 p.m..

Rockland Center for the Arts has received an anonymous gift of \$10,000 to be used for their Arts in Education program. In this program, public high school students visit the Center's exhibitions and work in their art studios. In this way they gain the ability to think critically and gain a greater understanding of the multiplicity of America's culture.

"Photostructures" by Gordon Rapp Opens at Photo Space Gallery: "Gordon D. Rapp's love affair with photography grew out of his struggle to align the Tower of Pisa with the sides of his viewfinder. When he took the picture at the age of 9, he didn't know the tower was leaning. And with that photograph Rapp's life...would never be the same." This amusing anecdote, which appeared in the magazine Popular Photography, accurately reflects Gordon Rapp's wonderfully bemused view of the world.

Now an accomplished photographer, Gordon Rapp will open a solo exhibition entitled "Photostructures" on Sunday, February 2nd with a public reception from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Center's newest gallery, Photo Space. Mr. Rapp is a widely known freelance photographer from Tenafly, NJ. He has frequently worked in Rockland and is a lecturer at the International Center of Photography in New York City.



...Choosing a School

things to do. Children choose from a variety of Montessori materials and work at their own pace and developmental level. There are group activities in music, movement and rhythms, and weekly gymnastic classes at Universal Gymnastics in New City. Rockland Lake State Park, which surrounds the school, provides a beautiful setting for outdoor play and exploration.

School hours are from 9:00 to 3:00 and tuition ranges from \$227 a month for half-day preschool to \$597 a month for a third or fourth grader. The school will provide transportation for preschoolers in a minibus for \$100 a month. They also run a summer program on the site. The school's address is Rockland Lake Road, Valley Cottage, and the telephone number is 268-7791.

Green Meadow Waldorf School

Although I was not able to visit this school, I am including it since it is the largest and oldest in the area. The first Waldorf school was founded in 1919 in Stuttgart, Germany. Now there are over 400 world-wide and more than a hundred in this country. Although each Waldorf school is an independent entity, they share an approach based on the writings of Rudolf Steiner, a 19th century Austrian writer and mystic. Only Waldorf educated teachers can teach in a Waldorf school.

Green Meadow, housed in impressive buildings on Route 45 in Spring Valley, has 400 students from preschool through high school. The kindergarten this year has 20 students and the first grade has 30. Although students begin to write in first grade, reading is discouraged until the third grade. There is a strong arts program and all students learn to play a stringed instrument. Students remain with the same teacher from first through eighth grade, a unique feature of Waldorf schools.

Green Meadow's address is Hungry Hollow Road and Route 45, Spring Valley, and the telephone number is 365-2514. Prospective parents can visit the school but cannot observe in the classroom. Tuition ranges from \$3,900 for a half-day preschool program to \$6,800 for a twelfth grade student.

-- Alice Gerard

....Library News

New Fiction

Adams	<i>Best Short Stories 1991</i>
Crichton	<i>Rising Sun</i>
Grisham	<i>The Pelican Brief</i>
Innes	<i>ISVIK</i>
Ludlum	<i>The Road to Omaha</i>
McBain	<i>Kiss: A Novel of the 87th Precinct</i>
Paretsky	<i>Guardian Angel, a V.I. Warshawski Novel</i>
Simpson	<i>Lost Father</i>
Stone	<i>Outerbridge Reach</i>
Weldon	<i>Life Force</i>

Pre-School Storytime

Story hours for ages 3 and up continue from 1:30-2 p.m. on Wednesdays. They include the enjoyment of stories told through a variety of media, the fun of words and the fun of being together. If you have any questions, phone the library at 359-0136.

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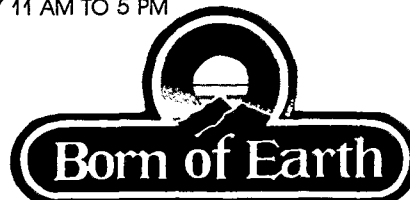
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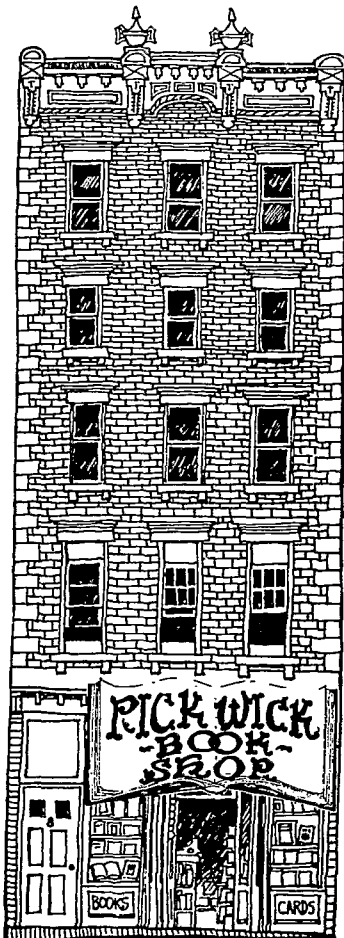
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ABOUT 10964

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 10964. With your help we'll be able to put 10964 in your mailbox every other month, October through June.

The following staff members worked on this issue:

Lori DiGiacomo, Carol Elevitch, Diana Green, Marika Hahn, Kevork Kalayjian, Gina Vermandel and Judy Zehentner.

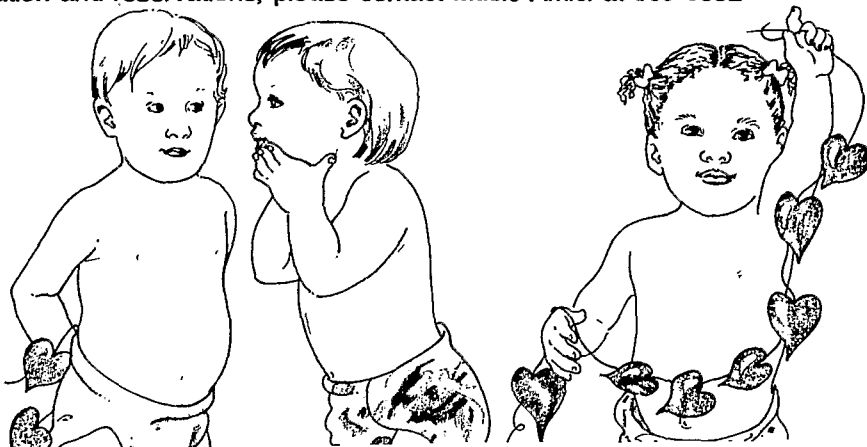
Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge the following Palisadians who contributed to **10964** recently: Dr. Donald and Caroline Tapley, Miriam G. MacAllister, Robert and Beatrice Rasmussen, Irving Alpert, Roger Weissberg and Karen Friedman, and C. William Knudsen. Thank you!

Media Watch

Patti Katz will perform with the chamber music ensemble Music Amici in an all-Schubert program on Sunday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Threefold Auditorium in Spring Valley. The program will be repeated on February 9th at 4:00 p.m. at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, at Madison Avenue and 73rd St. in Manhattan.

Patti will be singing "Der Hirt Auf Dem Felsen" ("The Shepherd on the Rock") for soprano, clarinet and piano. The program also includes the famous Quintet for Piano and Strings ("The Trout") and Quintet for Two Violins, Viola and Two Cellos. For information and reservations, please contact Music Amici at 359-3892



***Answer to musical love letter: there are 67 song titles.

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Births

We welcome Andrea Theresa Bucciarelli who was born on January 14th to Larry and Nancy Bucciarelli. She is the sister of Luke.

Congratulations!