

10964

The Palisades Newsletter
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An Interview With Dr. Morton Sherman

10964 staff members Judy Zehentner and Paula Boren interviewed South Orangetown's new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Morton Sherman, in hopes of presenting our readers with his views on his upcoming agenda and the problems and strengths of our school district. The following is that interview in its entirety. When you have read it, please fill out and return to 10964 the survey that you will find enclosed in this issue, and we will try to bring more of your specific concerns to Dr. Sherman's attention.

10964: After 6 months working in the South Orangetown School District, what do you feel are the greatest challenges we are facing?

Sherman: There are many challenges, but I feel that there are three general categories. The first is to take a very good school system and to make it even better, to make it an exceptional school system. It has a good foundation and a history of success, but as we look forward to the year 2000 and look forward to meeting the changing needs of families and students, we have a major challenge of having this very good school system meet its very great potential. Secondly, there's the whole challenge of finances. I know that the taxpayers of Orangetown question having to pay more taxes each and every year, so there's the question of how we finance education without bankrupting our taxpayers. Third is the challenge of accountability. We must make sure our taxpayers and our students are getting exactly what we, as a school system, say they should be getting.

10964: There's been a lot of talk about trying to get private funding into the district from local corporations. Is that a program that is being worked on now and is that something you think is realistic?

Sherman: Yes, I do think it is realistic. It is happening across our country and it is something that we will be talking about later on this spring as we get involved in particular projects. I'll give you an example: At the High School, we are talking about creating a television studio. We have many people in the community who are involved in the arts, in theater, or producing television shows, things like that. These people might be interested in coming together to form an advisory committee, donating some money and creating a television studio in our High School. We could even name it after some

donor, somebody who might be willing to give a significant amount toward that kind of project. I think there are many opportunities out there. The attitude of claiming that if it serves the public good it always comes out of the public pocketbooks is not always the right answer. Universities serve the public good, but they're not funded entirely by public dollars.

10964: Every year, when we go through the budget, we hear that our cost per student is exorbitant (around \$13,000), and people feel that the quality of education is not at this level. Have you found a lot of waste in the system?

Sherman: My philosophy is to give every dollar we can to the children. That's what I'm here for. Some of the goals that were adopted this year included one which was to look at administrative reorganization to see if we could share services. Therefore, what you'll be hearing through the budget process in the weeks to come is the reallocation of dollars towards instruction. Are we spending too much? I think that, for a quality school system, the dollars per student are pretty much on target. I don't think we're spending too much. What I am concerned about is the allocation of those dollars. We'll be talking about looking at specific positions - Director of Transportation, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds - and whether or not we need those kinds of administrative support services. We'll be looking at whether we can eliminate them and move those dollars into instruction for kids. Is there waste? Right now there isn't.

10964: What are your priorities right now? What are you going to be spending the majority of your time on in the next six months?

Sherman: The major concern that I've heard from teachers and parents is that there is not a K-12 articulated curriculum; that you as a parent can't say, "Tell me what my kid is going to learn in Kindergarten. Tell me what my kid is going to learn in the 6th grade, the 12th grade." A general curriculum council met for the first time last week to begin the process of developing such a curriculum. This is the first time in recent history that there is a concerted effort on the part of the district to pull together parents, administrators, teachers and students for such a committee, to look at these issues and try to put together some answers. That is our major goal this year.

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William K. O'Neil: A Short Story of a Long and Wonderful Life

William "Tippy" O'Neil, Palisades resident for nearly 60 years, died December 31 after a long illness. Tippy was the proprietor and auctioneer at the nationally known Yonderhill Antiques.

Tippy was born in 1911 in Newark, New Jersey. From an early age, he decided that his life would involve antiques. Self educated, he became an expert on Early American Furniture. His first venture in Rockland County was on South Mountain Road in New City with fellow auctioneer George Connor. There he established a reputation coast to coast and acquired a considerable following of antique collectors.

Tippy decided to move his auction house to Palisades. Route 9W had expanded and more people were traveling out from the city. At that time, if you can believe it, Nyack did not have a single antique shop. Today they have over 40! When Tippy opened shop, the closest antique store to Palisades was in Englewood. The building Tippy chose was erected in 1859 as a Methodist Church and functioned as such until 1922. Then it was abandoned. Tippy purchased it in 1935. He named it Yonderhill Dweller for the Yonderhill Farm in New City which had been near his previous business.

Tippy's life story is also, in large part, the story of Yonderhill. The people who came to work for him have made Yonderhill their lives. Together they formed a business 'family' which is truly unique. Attracted by the personality of Tippy, the quality of his auctions and the atmosphere of Yonderhill, many people, including numerous movie stars and other luminaries made the trip to Palisades time and again.

Tippy was quickly joined in his new enterprise by a local lad, John Garrison. John was born and raised in Palisades in what is now known as the Finck house. Business grew rapidly, particularly the weekly auctions for which Tippy quickly gained a reputation as one of the best auctioneers around. Miss Hylda Marshall, a native of nearby Sparkill, joined the men in 1941. "It was a temporary job!" she says with a sprightly smile. Fifty some years later, she's still there keeping track of records and sales.

On June 10, 1942, both Tippy and John were inducted into the army, both into the infantry. They were granted a furlough later that year to come back and hold the final auction which lasted three days in Tuxedo Park, NY. "They let you close down your business before sending you off to war," explained John.

In a series of ironies, the two men were sent independently to the South Pacific. Both men were wounded in the Philippines and ended up in the same hospital and, in December 1945, both were discharged. Tippy came out of the war a First Lieutenant and, like John Garrison, was awarded a Purple Heart and other medals for his bravery.

During the war, Yonderhill was run by Miss Marshall and Tippy's wife, Dr. Charlotte Munn. Dr. Munn also worked as a psychiatrist at Rockland State Hospital. After the war the auction business picked up again. Tippy held auctions in Tuxedo Park, Hicksville, Sands Point, and New York City as well as at Yonderhill. For a while they also did the Jr. League of New York's benefit auctions.

The last member of the team, Loni Garrison - married to John's brother - joined in 1965. "I'm the new kid on the block

and they never let me forget it," she laughs. Loni was hired to do odds and ends at the auctions and gradually moved into a full-time position.

The list of Tippy's friends and customers is lengthy, so the following vignettes will have to suffice to describe it. One Christmas Eve, Katherine Cornell's husband, Guthrie McClintic, came in and asked for some items he had purchased to be delivered right away in time for Christmas morning. It had snowed, so John had to take them down the hill on an antique toboggan. Katherine Hepburn once bought a star and dewdrop plate for a friend who had a flop on Broadway. Dennis Wartman and James Cagney came to an auction. Wartman, a famous cartoonist, did some drawings of the auction that were published. You can see them displayed in frames near the entrance to the building. Brenda Forbes, then living in the Landing, asked Brian Ahern, an actor, to bid on some furniture for her. Unfortunately, he fell asleep and missed the items. One day, John came in for work and found Sterling Hayden eating breakfast with Tippy. "He had come down from his home in Pomona on foot. He had on his hiking boots," John marvelled.

The auctions were discontinued in 1989. Though ill, Tippy kept up a day to day interest in Yonderhill to the end of his life. Tippy had many friends and was such a vital part of our community. His passing will be mourned for a long time. Yonderhill will continue, business as usual, as Tippy wished.

-- Milbry Polk



William "Tippy" O'Neil : A Neighbor's Remembrance

There's one thing I know for sure. There never was a more colorful person to live in Palisades. Not now. Not ever.

Everything Tippy did was outlined in bold, sometimes strident colors. You could love him. You could hate him. But there was no way, none at all, that you could ignore him.

For Tippy, life was a stage. He started out to be an actor with his dear friend Burgess Meredith. He didn't end up performing in movies or on television as Burgess did, but he certainly found his stage at the Methodist Meeting House in Palisades which he renamed "Yonderhill Dwellers." It was there that he gave unnumbered performances every day, most especially on those days when he held his fabled auctions.

On the auction block, Tippy was without peer. His native Irish charm could work wonders. The dullest silver spoon was transformed into something of transcendent beauty. And if the audience didn't respond with enough enthusiasm, Tippy would insult them, saying, "I can't expect you to know. This is only for collectors." Then the bidding would begin again, this time in earnest, and the price would rise and rise and rise. If a particularly ugly object came up for sale, he would laugh at it and still sell it well. He would tell you what to buy and what not to buy, but he always got what he wanted - the highest price possible. He was so good that he had regular members of the audience who had no intention of buying anything at all. They simply came for the show.

You could trust Tippy. He knew his antiques through and through. When he didn't know, he'd say so...sometimes. But more than things, Tippy loved people. He loved to tell stories and reminisce about the "long ago." That must have given him the name for his building on Oak Tree Road which he called "Long Ago." He loved to intimidate people - particularly strangers who wandered into the shop for the first time. He could be gentle. He could be abrasive. He could be kind. He could be tyrannical, but he was always, always interesting.

Tippy was a true connoisseur of the visual. He loved to discover new things about old things. Antiques were his passion. He could discuss the architecture of a wing chair or the turning on a bannister back armchair in a way that left you captivated. He loved words. He would explore the nuance and meaning of new words for hours. The dictionary was the most battered volume at Yonderhill.

Tippy loved this hamlet and the people who live here. He was a good neighbor who understood profoundly what makes this community so special. In fact, he himself was one of the reasons.

Tippy was a master of the unexpected with his own agenda. Many was the time I tried to get from him a simple answer to what I thought was a simple question. That was my mistake. Before I got to the answer (if I did), Tippy took me to a myriad of places through a maze of ideas that was positively fascinating. I would end up saying, "I'm not sure you've answered my question, but it really doesn't matter. I've enjoyed the trip."

Tippy was a man of incredible character and physical courage. His enormous physical handicap was beside the point. Many was the day I would look out my bedroom window and see Tippy arduously going into Yonderhill, step by painful step. Yet once he had ascended onto his stage, he was a new creature, ready to take on the day and all comers with a zest and verve that seemed inexhaustible.

Tippy, wherever you are, we know you're charming someone and offering to sell their antique for what must surely be a heavenly price. We love you for it.

- - Ernest S. Quick

Transition

Nature asks a ransom
For days of red and gold,
Undressed trees and fallen leaves
And winds of wintry cold

Life demands a payment
For youth's bright springtime ware,
Man must then accept the fee
Be it harsh or fair.

Bette Castro
October, 1992

...Sherman Interview

10964: How do you feel about the lack of continuity in the elementary schools in what the children are learning now? In other words, one class may focus on one area and one class may be learning something else, then, the next year when the children are all in different classes, they all have different bases of information.

Sherman: I use, as a guideline, what I call the 80/20 rule. Eighty percent of what goes on in the classroom should be controlled by the curriculum guides, but 20% of any classroom activity should be left up to the individual personalities of the kids and the teacher and effected by current events. For example, as this crisis in Iraq is continuing - even though it is not a formal part of the curriculum - I think it is incumbent upon us to spend time with it. However, to assure you that there is an articulated and sequential form, 80% of what the kids do in every single class should follow a basic curriculum.

10964: Do you feel that is happening right now?

Sherman: I think that it is happening because we have good teachers who talk to one another. But is it happening in a formal way right now? No, not across the district. I think that the elementary schools, generally, are in pretty good shape and have a handle on that, but I think we need to improve in all areas.

10964: Are you familiar with Hirsch's *Cultural Literacy*? What do you think of that philosophy?

Sherman: I think that Hirsch and Bloom from Chicago have struck a nerve in American education, but part of it minimalizes what we need to know. They answer by saying, "We need to know a line from a Shakespeare play, an author or a historical event." I think they ignore part of what we're becoming as a country. What we need to know is how to learn and how to continue learning. It's projected that, in a lifetime, each of us is going to have 4 or 5 careers. All we have to do is look to the past 11 years when the PC first came into existence. It's only 11 years old and who's to say what is going to happen 11 years from now? Our responsibility in education is to balance the quickly changing information available with the kinds of issues he's raising in *Cultural Literacy*. To have a reductionist mentality and say you need to know all these things ignores how quickly information is doubling and tripling in volume. Part of what we have to learn is how we can access this information, use it and come to wise decisions. Just having the information is not a good definition of what an educated person is. To use that information in a productive way as a citizen is, for me, a better way of using knowledge.

10964: Everyone talks about reorganization and says it's inevitable. Is it, and, if so, why?

Sherman: Yes, it is inevitable, for three reasons. The first is increasing enrollments. We have 100 more students now than we did at the end of the year last June. Cottage Lane is bursting at the seams. Our second grade class at Schaeffer now consists of 216 students. When that group gets to Cottage Lane there's not going to be enough room.

10964: They can't handle it?

Sherman: Well, they can handle it. If you just take kids and divide them up as if they were mice into equal groups of 22 or 23, I think we could handle it. But for me, the question of reorganization is a programatic one. What kinds of programs do we want our kids involved with? There are a couple of issues that need to guide us in answering that question. One is class size. My daughter is in fourth grade in a class of 29 kids. I find that appalling. I think we have to concentrate, as a community, on our commitment to smaller class size. If we get to smaller class sizes and stop using 25 to 28 as a guideline, and start using 21 or 22, or even smaller, then we not only run out of space because of increasing enrollments, but also because we need more classrooms. That's one issue.

The second is what I call the integration of curriculum. Take again my daughter in the fourth grade and look at the number of teachers that she has during the week. I am concerned that what we've created at some of our grade levels is a mini high school situation. My daughter has a wonderful teacher as her home base teacher, but then she goes to a different teacher for reading, music, instrumental instruction, art, library, computers, physical education and science. My nine year old daughter has nine teachers in the course of a week. Therefore, the second problem, in terms of reorganization, is whether or not we're making connections among the different curriculum areas. Yet, if we say we want to keep our kids in one classroom - or however we're going to define it - I think that's going to have some impact upon how we use our buildings.

The third issue is how we look at nurturing our kids. If you look at how our buildings are used now, there is one for K-1, another for 2-3, and another for grades 4-5. Our littlest kids spend only two years in a building until they get to the Middle School where they spend 3 years, and then on to the High School where they spend 4 years. It seems to me that we need to examine the issue of whether or not that program is working the best we think it can or whether something else should be in its place. So we'll be spending the next year and a half examining that with the goal of answering that question by 1994.

10964: Do you ever see returning to the neighborhood schools, where the children go to the same school for K-5 and then to the Middle School and High School?

Sherman: I think that's for all of us to sit down and discuss together. I'm going to ask Dr. Shaheen to organize an elementary committee starting in February to begin answering these questions. I'm going in with wide open eyes and I'm going to listen to what the teachers, the administrators and the parents have to say. I don't have preconceived concepts of what we're going to come up with. Besides neighborhood schools, there's the whole concept of Magnet Schools. Some kids learn in a different way from others so, perhaps even as a small district, we might have each elementary school be slightly different from the others.

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...Sherman Interview

10964: What exactly is a Magnet School?

Sherman: In a Magnet School situation, each school has a distinct personality. Some school districts believe that because kids are different, there should be different programs for them; a magnet school for science, a magnet school for arts, etc. I don't necessarily believe in that, because all our kids should have science and all our kids should have arts, but maybe we could look into magnet schools where, for instance, one school would be a nongraded situation wherein the parents could elect to say, "I really like putting my kids with the same teacher for 2 or 3 years in a family setting." That would be one idea. Maybe another set of parents would say, "I like the traditional K-1-2-3-4-5 setting, and I'd like to send my kids over there." Perhaps there's even another model we haven't thought of. In terms of reorganization, I'd like to say to this committee, "Examine all the models."

10964: Is there a place that you could put a K-5 program in this district?

Sherman: Again, that's a programmatic question. Schaeffer is certainly our largest school and there was a time when it was the elementary school in this district. Then, because of increasing enrollments, Schaeffer was no longer large enough. I don't think that the numbers would allow us to go to one elementary school. We also need to look at how we're using the High School. There's a part of the High School that we rent to Iona - a whole wing. Maybe there are some programs we could put over there to increase total usage of that building.

10964: What do you think about gifted/talented programs? Do you think we should have one in the elementary schools?

Sherman: There's a new theme in our school system, which is "Raising Expectations and Making Connections." Raising expectations means raising the ceiling and raising the floor for all kids. Howard, from Harvard University, talks about kids having different talents and abilities. It's too often we measure giftedness in limited sorts of measures. The fact is, if we look at any of our children, they each have talents. Our job, as a school system, is to learn how to nurture them, how to raise expectations for all kids. I strongly believe that the best education for the best is the best education for all. What I mean by that is that sometimes we allow, understandably so, the gifted and talented kids to go to very exciting programs and we take the other kids and say, "Back to the workbook, back to the drills, rote, memory, etc.," but that's all they get. What we need to do is transform the whole way of thinking about how we instruct children and what we expect of them. We could go about that in a couple of different ways. We have to offer special and unique opportunities from Kindergarten all the way through High School, with Honors and AP programs. We also have to make sure there is some individual instruction going on in our classrooms. This is why, when we talk about reorganization, I talked about smaller classes. The teachers need to get to those kids.

10964: Can you tell us what is happening at Tappan Zee High School?

Sherman: I think Mrs. Trager is going to be a great High School Principal. In the couple of months she has been there, we have created a sense of purpose, a sense of direction and a sense of order which was needed at this school. If you go in and walk through the building, you'll find a terrific environment - good feelings among the teachers and kids. You'll find a spirit of cooperation - something that wasn't there, from what I understand, in years past. I think that Mrs. Trager is to be congratulated for taking hold of a very difficult situation and moving ahead on behalf of the kids in a very positive way. The high school staff is the one that wrote the goal of raising expectations. We know that only 50% of our kids go into the Regents Program. I believe that we should have all kids taking the toughest courses possible.

10964: What can parents do to make their concerns heard?

Sherman: Involvement with the PTA is the first line. Next is to come to Board meetings - it's a much more open environment. Third is to call me! I take great pride in having an open door policy. I try to call every parent back the same day that I am called. If parents don't talk to me, the alternative is to sit at the bus stop and complain to each other. How does that help anything? Unless I hear the concerns and problems, how can I do anything about them? Also, talk to your principals and teachers. I wish that parents would recognize and start assuming the mentality of a consumer. When we buy cars or houses we get warranties or guarantees. We need to adopt the mentality in American education that says, "This is what the school system is spending \$13,000 per year per kid on, and therefore they owe us." We, as the school system, must show you that we are achieving and, if we don't, you need to hold us accountable. If you really become good consumers, you need to say, "Wait a second, what is going on here? You're spending this kind of money and we're not getting results." I think that's very unfortunate.

This whole argument has two sides - a parent's side and a teacher's side. Part of the teacher's side is to understand that we have a responsibility to communicate better, to let you know what's going on, because we are dealing with something very important - your children.



Palisades Presbyterian Church News

Congratulations Chris!

Reverend Chris Iosso was elected designated Pastor of the Scarborough Presbyterian Church in Westchester and began his duties as head Pastor on December 20. His installation ceremony will take place at the Scarborough Church on February 28 at 7:30 pm. Reverend John Fife, Moderator of the General Assembly, will be participating in the ceremony.

Reminders:

Food cupboard collection is every third Sunday of the month. Donations of non-perishable food are accepted at any time.

Monthly prayer meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

Wednesday Bible study group continues to meet at noon for an hour. Come and bring your lunch. The group is presently studying the book of Romans.

A Prayer Chain is available for anyone who wishes prayers for loved ones in crisis. Please call Laurie or Priscilla Scott (359-3147) or Joanne Conde (359-9066).

As a follow-up to last spring's gardening seminar, Ann Brooke will be offering two more classes:

Saturday, April 3 : Making a Vegetable Garden
and

Saturday, April 17 : Making a Flower Garden

Call 365-1375 for information, or watch for more details in the next issue of 10964.

Audrey Reber Dowling 1910 - 1992

We all lost a faithful friend of the community with the passing of Audrey Dowling on November 18 after a sudden illness. Audrey was the wife of the late Robert W. Dowling and she lived for the past 25 years in Palisades and, most recently, in upper Grand View. She was very active in a number of community organizations including the Helen Hayes Tappan Zee Theater and the Tappan Zee Preservation Coalition. Mrs. Dowling was born in Montana. Her father was one half Sioux, a heritage in which she took great pride. She graduated from the University of Denver and she met her first husband, the late Paul Merchant Taylor, while they were working at Boulder Dam during the depression. She leaves four children and eight grandchildren.

Her parish, Christ Church, celebrated her life with family and friends on December 19 with a Requiem Eucharist.

Civic Association Joins Battle to Keep Oversize Trucks Off Oak Tree Road

The Palisades Civic Association joined with local elected officials and Tappan residents to battle the new effort of Consolidated Freightways to bring "special dimension" (trucking industry euphemism for oversized) vehicles down Route 303 and Oak Tree Road to their depot in Palisades. The scene was a State Department of Transportation "informational hearing" at Town Hall on January 12.

The hearing was conducted by Michael Mignogna, regional DOT engineer from Poughkeepsie, for the information of the head of the department in Albany. That individual will then decide whether or not to designate Route 303 and Oak Tree Road as "access" routes to the Thruway.

The same application was turned down eight years ago, following a mass demonstration by the PCA on Oak Tree Road, and a heavily attended hearing at the Tappan Zee High School, also conducted by Mignogna. Since then, trucking industry lobbyists secured revision of Federal Highway regulations, essentially granting oversized rigs equal rights with smaller trucks to traverse congested and/or dangerous roads unless their size creates demonstrable special hazards.

Strong statements of opposition were made by Supervisor Roger Pellegrini, Council members Eileen Larkin and Niel O'Sullivan and, by letter, Assemblyman Sam Colman and State Senator Joseph Holland. Many residents of Oak Tree Road in Tappan and Palisades testified passionately about the importance of keeping "the monsters" off this heavily and diversely traveled rural street. A notably eloquent plea was delivered by Jocelyn DeCrescenzo, who also entered letters from several neighbors into the record.

An argument raised by the Civic Association may give the opposition it's strongest case. Consolidated Freight has claimed that it only wants to bring about 3 of the smallest tandem rigs (tractor plus two 28.5-foot trailers) in each night. However, approval of the route would automatically allow any operator to bring any of the seven listed types of "special dimension vehicles" to any destination on the route. The list includes tandem rigs with 34-foot trailers, single trailers up to 53 feet long, and auto carriers up to 75 feet long. If any of these vehicles are technically unfit for Oak Tree Road, approval should, logically, be denied entirely.

According to Mignogna, a decision is expected within about two months.

-- Andrew E. Norman

**** A word about the new street numbering:** On January 11, I spoke at the Town Board hearing in support of the 911 emergency system. Contrary to the report in the January 13 *Our Town*, I did not request that existing RR#1 box numbers be used as street numbers - a totally absurd and unworkable idea that nobody has suggested. I have asked the Town Board to support correction of errors and confusing irrationalities in the previously announced numbering of several streets in Palisades.

Old Friends From Near and Far: News of The Jellineks Eden Lee, Roger and Everett

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The Jellineks have finally reached their longtime destination of the paradise of Hawaii. They have bought a house on the big island and are settling in to their new life.

After leaving their home here in Palisades, the Jellineks lived in Washington D.C. for a few months while they collaborated on a novel about the KGB. They sold the book and it will be published by the Naval Academy Press. It is entitled *The Keep*. Roger's next literary project will be a collaboration with two Lamont scientists.

While Roger finished up business in Washington, Eden and Everett continued on to Hawaii to set up housekeeping. As both are charming and gregarious, they soon made friends in the neighborhood. But, Eden wrote, "Starting out from scratch certainly makes me appreciate even more (if that's possible) friends far away."

Eden and Everett jumped right into the swing of their new life and auditioned for a local production of *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof*. Eden did not get a part, but Everett did! His first stage review read as follows:

"Buddy Becker, Everett Jellinek, Kathleen Stuart and Kamakani "Nani" Weinberg portray the kids - the pawns Maggie calls "no-necked monsters." Jellinek has a genuinely cute moment when the kids are lined up to confront Big Daddy with their rendition of "Happy Birthday." Otherwise, they are appropriately loud, rude and intrusive throughout. As someone in the next row commented on opening night, "They're enough to make you hate children!"

Congratulations Everett!

10964 will keep you posted on the Jellineks and all of our old friends. Please drop us a note if you have a piece of news that you think should be shared in this feature column.

Experts Give Tips On Antiques and Art at Rockland Center

A unique pair of Sunday afternoon lectures at Rockland Center for the Arts in West Nyack offers behind the scenes insights into the art world.

On Sunday, February 7 at 2:00 pm, antiques expert Helaine Fendelman answers the question "Is There Money in Your Attic?" Audience members can bring a favorite antique for a verbal evaluation by this professional appraiser who co-authored the book, *Money In Your Attic - How To Turn Your Furniture, Antiques, Silver and Collectibles Into Cash*. Ms. Fendelman will discuss methods for distinguishing between the treasures and trash that most of us accumulate in our basements and attics.

Jeffrey Greene, who specializes in decorative painting, will speak on Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 pm about his "Adventures of a Modern Michelangelo." Mr. Greene, a noted muralist who is president of Evergreen Painting Studios Inc. in Manhattan, will show slides and recount the adventures he has had while creating and restoring major murals around the world.

Call (914) 358-0877 for information on these lectures or for a free brochure listing spring classes at the Center.

Stop The Presses! Palisades Diva Going to Germany

Patricia Potter Katz is leaving Palisades, temporarily, to become a member of the LANDESTHEATRE DESSAU, the Opera House of Dessau, Germany. She will be a principal singer for the remainder of this season - January through July, 1993 - and for next season - September through the following July, 1994.

Patty did her undergraduate work at Carnegie Mellon, majoring in music. She then received her M.A. from the Manhattan School of Music. She has sung in New York in small companies, including The Opera Ensemble of New York, and was the soloist at The New Church. More recently, she has sung with Music Amici here in Rockland County.

Singing in Dessau will make a spectacular comeback for Patty after a five year hiatus during which she raised her two sons, Daniel and Andrew. Howard and the children will become frequent fliers while Patty is in Germany!

For anyone planning to go to Europe this spring or next year, Dessau is just south of Berlin. Its Opera House is the largest in what was formerly East Germany. The conductor is a Canadian, Daniel Lipton. The Opera Director is Johannes Felsenstein, son of the famous stage director, Walter Felsenstein. Patty's first role will be AMALIA in I MASNADIERI, one of Verdi's earlier operas. The opera will be sung in German. 10964 will keep you posted on her schedule. Hurrah for Patty!

- - Milbry Polk

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Over 80 people attended the joyous celebration of Margaret and Chappy Deiderich's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Friends from then and now, from far and near were delighted with the whole afternoon. Of course, all of their children - who organized this momentous day - and their gorgeous grandchild, Alana Vidal, were there. Every woman at the celebration was dressed up in honor of Margaret, who, as we know, is always impeccably attired in either tailored suits or dresses. The party was held at Anthony's in Piermont and the ambience was wonderful. The terrific occasion was enjoyed by all. As Margaret said, "It was an emotionally incredible time!"

- - Jocelyn DeCrescenzo

Palisades Free Library News

Please Help Us Save Books

1. Please keep books away from food and drinks and away from excessive moisture. Increasingly, we are finding books with water damage.

2. Please notify us if you discover a damaged book.

3. Please close books when not in use to protect inner pages and relieve stress on bindings.

4. Please turn pages carefully. Rips and tears take years off a book's life.

5. Please take notes on separate sheets. Writing or underlining reduces a book's life.

6. Please use bookmarks instead of turning down page corners or using paper clips which destroy books.

Tax Forms

Tax time is just around the corner. Once again, the library will have tax forms for patrons.

Bar Codes

Bar codes can give you access to the collections of the 10 automated libraries in Rockland County. When you register for a new library card or renew your card, a bar code is placed on the back of your card. If you use other libraries in the county, you must have this bar code. You may even have begun to see bar codes appearing in the books that you've checked out at our library. These bar codes are early signs that an automated check out system is on the way.

Children's Programs

Story hours for pre-school and kindergarten children continue every Wednesday. Many young children and their mothers have enjoyed this break from daily routine and the chance it brings to meet others and borrow books. Children 3 and over are welcome.

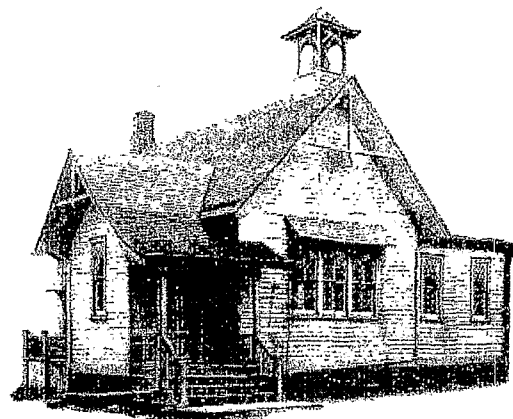
Watch the library desk or give us a call for information on future children's craft programs.

New Adult Non-Fiction

Elderfield	<i>Henri Matisse</i>
Gore	<i>Earth in the Balance</i>
Hoving	<i>Making the Mummies Dance</i>
Kennedy	<i>Preparing for the 21st Century</i>
Konner	<i>Medicine at the Crossroads</i>
Lynch	<i>Beating the Street</i>
McPhee	<i>Assembling California</i>
Margolick	<i>Undue Influence</i>
Motherwell	<i>Collected Writings</i>
Paulsen	<i>Eastern Sun, Winter Room</i>
Peck	<i>World Waiting to be Born</i>
Troyat	<i>Flaubert</i>
Winnicott	<i>Talking to Parents</i>

New Adult Fiction

Auchincloss	<i>Three Lives</i>
Brust	<i>Agyar</i>
Cornwell	<i>Rebel</i>
Grant	<i>Raven</i>
Greeley	<i>Fall From Grace</i>
Grisham	<i>The Client</i>
Hijuelos	<i>14 Sisters of Emilio Montez O'Brien</i>
James	<i>Children of Men</i>
Joyce	<i>Finn's Hotel</i>
Keneally	<i>Woman of the Inner Sea</i>
Lescroart	<i>Hard Evidence</i>
Pirinci	<i>Felidae</i>
Suskind	<i>Mrs. Summer's Story</i>
Symons	<i>Something Like a Love Affair</i>
Tartt	<i>Secret History</i>
Uhnak	<i>Ryer Avenue Story</i>
Waller	<i>Bridges of Madison County</i>
Weber	<i>Targets of Opportunity</i>
Yoshimoto	<i>Kitchen</i>



PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER

The Community Center is looking for new members. Memberships are only \$5 per adult. As a member you are entitled to use the Center for a nominal fee for private functions. You can also use the Center for classes or meetings of community groups/organizations.

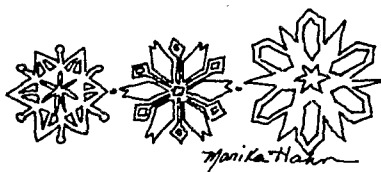
The newly renovated Center can accommodate 75 persons. You can use the kitchen, tables and chairs.

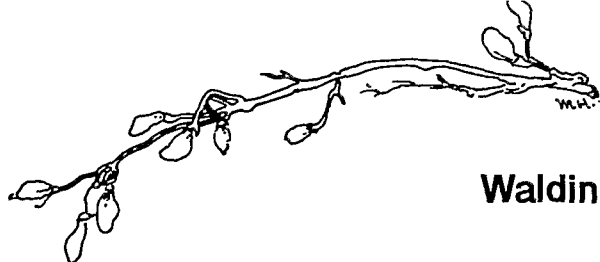
For more information, contact Janis Cavanagh at 359-1026.

Annual Holiday Appeal A Great Success

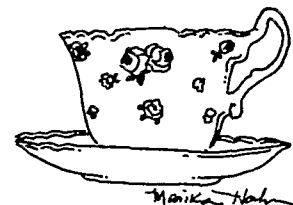
For the third year in a row, the people of Palisades showed their extreme generosity in supporting the Holiday Appeal. The 1992 Appeal provided gifts for 2 very needy and very worthy families in Rockland County. Both families were overwhelmed with the wonderful presents they were able to give their children for the holidays. When we delivered the presents to one family, a little boy of five was still talking about the car he had received the year before. Many dreams were fulfilled by your thoughtfulness. We wish that we could thank each one of you personally, but you know who you are. If you have any ideas to help make next year's Holiday Appeal even more successful, please let us know.

Again, thank you so much! Have a wonderful 1993!





Waldine Zinnel: A Life Remembered



In 1909, Waldine Zinnel moved with her family from Brooklyn to the Yale Estate in Sparkill where her parents were the caretakers. She graduated from Tappan Zee High School and embarked on a career in nursing. She went on to graduate from Elizabeth, NJ General Hospital and then returned to Sparkill. In 1926, she was offered a job as the second nurse/teacher employed in Rockland County. She was responsible for seven schools in South Orangetown including the Palisades School.

Billy Knudson remembers his first meeting with Miss Zinnel: "When she was first hired the kids were nervous. We wondered what the school nurse was going to do to us. She checked us all out - our eyesight, hearing, TB and so on. She taught us about nutrition. We never had that before. I'm amazed now that we thought she was an old battle axe because she was young - only in her 20's."

During this time, Waldine worked her way through a BS degree in Public Health and an MS in School Nurse Teaching at Columbia University. She also formed the Future Nurses Association and encouraged many young girls to follow her lead toward a nursing career. After 44 years of service, she retired in 1970.

Waldine Zinnel was "a strong-willed woman. There were no two ways about it," recalled her sister, Helena Wenis. Being the eldest in her family - 20 years separated from Helena - Waldine took an active role in raising her siblings. In 1937, the family left the Yale Estate and all moved to Palisades. "Wally was the head of the family," Helena continued. "She helped us grow up. She gave of herself all her life - helping children. Everybody you talk to has a story about her. Her wake was a reunion. People she took care of years and years ago came. Someone came that I hadn't seen since the fourth grade."

"She gave of herself whenever she was needed," recalled Loni Garrison. Once Wayne Garrison, at age 6, was watering his flowers. His kitten, Beebee,

was stuck in a toy truck cab and drowned. Distraught, his Aunt Loni ran to get Waldine who lived across the street. She knew just what to do and miraculously revived the kitten to the everlasting joy of young Wayne.

We will miss Waldine Zinnel - a good neighbor, valued friend, devoted health care provider. She rests now in the Palisades Cemetery beside her brother, her parents and her grandmother.

- - Milbry Polk

Notes on Aunt Wally: A Fond Farewell

Our family lived next door to Waldine Zinnel for almost 10 years. To our family, on her insistence, she was neither Waldine nor Miss Zinnel but Aunt Wally.

On the surface, Aunt Wally appeared formal and austere. However, we knew and loved a warm, caring, sincere and generous woman. She was ahead of her time. She claimed she didn't care much for "this women's lib business," yet she had purchased her own home and put herself through nursing school sixty years ago! She was a force to be reckoned with, a true individual.

Aunt Wally fondly recounted stories of her school nursing days. She didn't hesitate, if necessary, to pull naughty schoolboys out of the bathroom by the scruff of the neck. She was amused when relating that story. She secretly laughed at the look of horror on the shocked boys' faces. Of course, these students are now senior citizens.

I remember Aunt Wally speaking of Young Billy Knudson. I was confused because Bill Knudson lived on the other side of us and had grown children of his own. "Yes," she would affirm, "Young Billy is a good boy, and smart, too." Till this day, I giggle when I see Young Billy Knudson.

Aunt Wally was an avid and knowledgeable gardener. She spent many evenings walking us through her beautiful garden. She remembered the origin of each and every tree, plant and flower in

her treasured yard. She generously gave us cuttings and plants to nurture in our own barren yard and helped to foster a love of gardening in our family.

One night, around midnight, we received a call to come and see her Midnight Blooming Cereus. House guests and all, we promptly put on bathrobes and scurried over. "Whatever is Aunt Wally thinking," we pondered. Yet we never entertained the thought of not going! Weren't we surprised to find a magnificent flower with an unusual beckoning scent blooming in a pot on her front porch. It was truly fascinating! We took photos and marvelled at the flower's beauty and then returned to bed. How sad we were to see the wilted flower the next day. "You see, they only bloom for one night, but what a night it is!" Aunt Wally explained. She promised to phone us the next summer when the Cereus bloomed again and, of course, she did.

Our children adored Aunt Wally. She never forgot their birthdays or any of the holidays. There were always thoughtful cards, presents and lots of candy. Each year, at Christmas, the children looked forward to that special chocolate house that only Aunt Wally could find.

I fondly remember that one Christmas our son, Jevon, suggested that we bring Aunt Wally a Christmas tree because she had mentioned that she wouldn't be putting one up that year. We decorated a miniature tree with birds and flowers and brought it to her. What a fine day that was! It really felt like Christmas.

In addition to her love of plants and children, Aunt Wally was extremely fond of animals. She owned a dog, cat, chickens and a rooster, and she religiously fed the birds. She could effortlessly name all the feathered friends in her yard and was quick to correct us if we mistakenly identified one of them.

We'll miss Aunt Wally's eccentric ways, wealth of knowledge and fond remembrances of days gone by. We knew a side of Miss Zinnel that not everyone was fortunate enough to meet and we loved her.

- - Linda Ewig & Family



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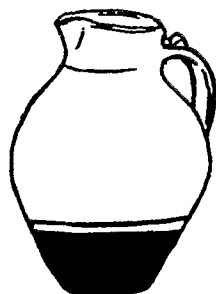


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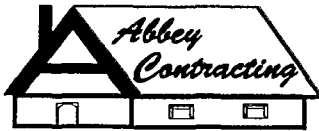
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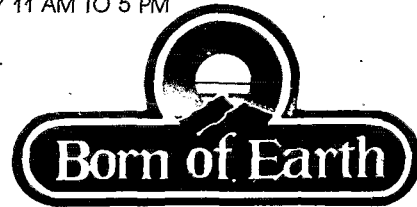
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The following staff members worked on this issue:

Paula Boren, Lori DiGiacomo, Jocelyn DeCrescenzo,
Carol Elevitch, Diana Green, Marika Hahn, Martye Krainin, Boyce Leni,
Milbry Polk, Gina Vermandel and Judy Zehentner.

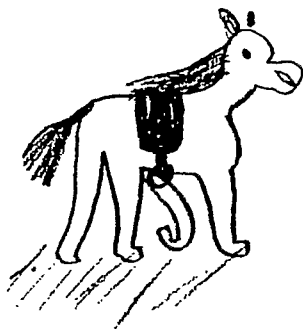
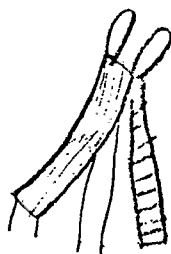
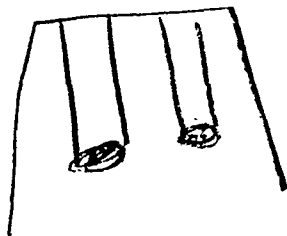
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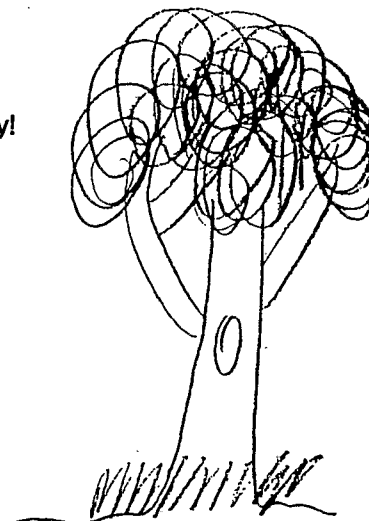
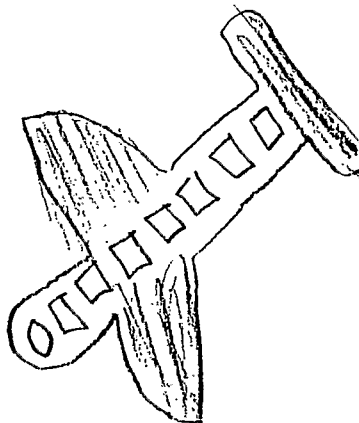
In Fairy Land

In fairy land,
You have a span,
Of life so big,
that you could eat
one thousand figs,
and
children
play,
Oh, every day!
and parents go,
on p

l
a
n
e
s

to yonder, and give
their children gifts of joy!
Oh, wouldn't you,
like to,
live there,
and ride upon a
gallant mare,
Oh, I would too,
If you would go,
With me!

Maryam Moody



Correction

On page 7 of our Holidays issue, we inadvertently left off the name of the author of the poem entitled "November? November?." The author is Bridget Benson, age 8.

Contributions

Nicholas and Cassandra
Ludington, Michael and
Jennifer Shapiro, C. William
Knudson, Melvin and
Phoebe Rosenwasser.

Thank you!

Happy Valentines Day!