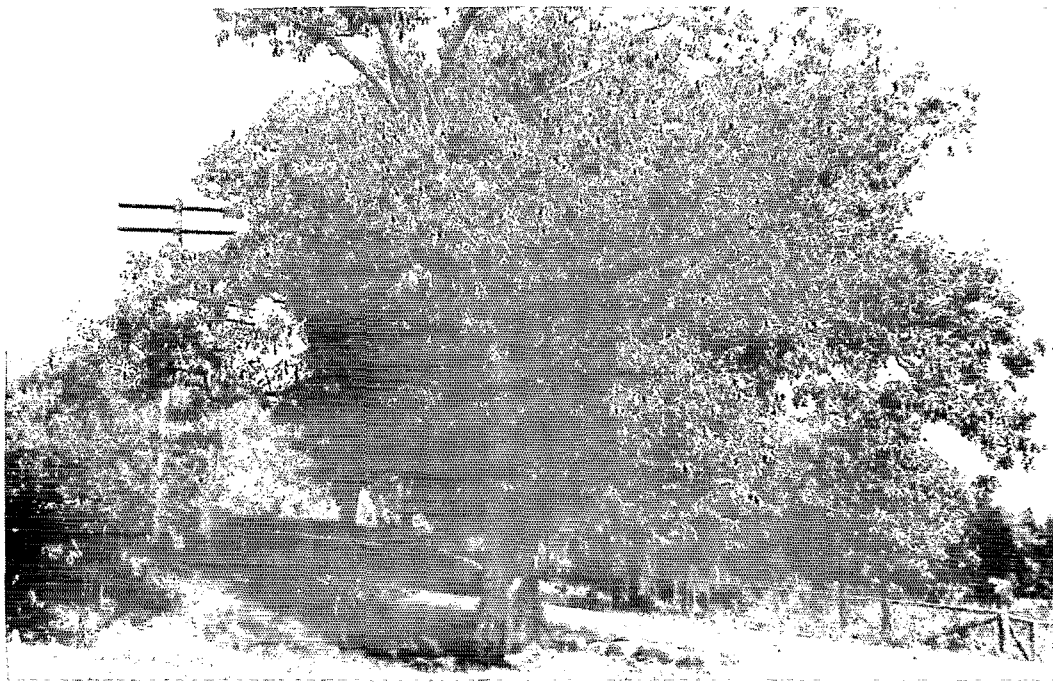


# 10964

## The Palisades Newsletter

### June 1993 • No. 137

## Historic Roads and Paths in Palisades



THE MAJESTIC OAK WHICH GAVE OAK TREE ROAD ITS NAME

Until 1687, Palisades was the home of Munsee Indians, of the Algonquin tribe, who traveled from their riverside summer camps to their more permanent winter shelters by way of shoulder-width trails, in many cases worn eighteen inches deep over many years of use. These trails led inland from the few breaks in the Palisades cliffs, often following stream courses.

Even before 1700 the colonists traveled between Tappan and Snedens Landing. William Merritt had acquired the patent which included Snedens Landing in 1687. From 1693 on, Tappan, first settled in 1686, was the county seat for Orange County which originally included Rockland. Merritt, who built the first house in the Landing, "Cheer Hall", was a judge in the Court of Sessions in Tappan and was put in charge

of the 1702 census of Orange County. His son John was also a judge in the Tappan court. The Dutch Reformed Church in Tappan, organized in 1694, was the only church in this area for fifty years. Travelers from the Landing either went to Tappan by boat, on the Sparkill Creek, which was navigable all the way to Tappan, or followed the old Indian trails inland.

Later, in 1735, when a prominent New Yorker, Henry Ludlow, married the heiress of the patent, Mary Corbett, the young couple built the "Big House" at the top of the hill, and a road was built directly up the hill to it. It is shown on the Verplanck map of 1745. Mary's mother was still living in Cheer Hall at the river landing.

During the Revolution, the road to the ferry was changed to the present zigzags to make it easier for

## HISTORIC ROADS CONTINUED

the great wagons going up and down the hill to the ferry and the blockhouse. Erskine, Washington's geographer, shows the road straight in one map and zigzag in a later one.

More houses were built at the top of the hill, but for a long time the only direct way to Tappan was by the "cow path" (probably an old Indian trail) a little to the north of the route of the present road.

By 1745 there were roads going south-west to New Jersey - the Closter Road - and north to the Slote (the area at the mouth of the Sparkill Creek) as shown on the Verplanck map, but these were very roundabout ways of reaching Tappan.

Finally in the 1820's and 1830's a road was built from the settlement at the top of the hill to Tappan. Nicholas Gesner, the local diarist, refers to the "new road" in 1836. This was called the Tappan Road as late as 1874, when the Serviss Map was made, and the part of the road through the settlement at the top of the hill was called Corbett Avenue. Then the road down to the Landing was already called Washington Spring Road.

By 1832 the new road must have extended at least as far as the Manns' Woods, where Palisades Gardens now is, because there was a camp meeting held there that year, lasting a week, in which a thousand people came to listen to the "very powerful preaching". Judging from Gesner's accounts of regular Methodist services, this must have been a dramatic affair. Of the Methodist Episcopal service, he said: "The whooping and screaming in the Meeting House was never equalled in this place," and of one of his own Reform Methodist preachers: "He is considerably noisy in his devotion."

The name which was finally given to the road came from the majestic oak at the corner of the County Road (Route 340) Constance Price reported that it was enormous, with a spread of nearly a hundred feet. At its base, she said, was a clear cold spring.

In the 1880's and 90's Gypsies used to camp near the oak tree. Helen Park Stockman, who was a child at that time, tells of seeing them from the carriage, when she was driven to meet her father at the Tappan Station. "The carts were the real Romany ones, curtains and bedding sticking out the back. As a rule two carts, and they camped at the spring - came, and just as suddenly departed. The women in long full skirts and necklaces, the men scary looking. Our old cook told me tales of Gypsies stealing children and horses." On the other hand, Frances Sisco Pierson said that her grandmother, Mary Sisco, always felt sorry for the Gypsies and gave them food.

About thirty years after the road was built, Abraham Post, one of the prominent inhabitants in Palisades, gave pieces of land along the south side to seven of his children (two were already provided for), and the pleasant frame houses which they built became known as Post Row. Mrs. Mildred Rippey, the only Post still living there, is the descendent of two of the original builders.

There were several mansions built on both sides of the road on the slope going down to the County Road. Perrys, Marders, Wallaces, Baileys, Sears, Nestlers, now all gone. The Perrys are remembered because the American Legion Post was built in memory of their son, who was killed in the First World War, the Wallaces for a magnificent stone wall they built near the road, and Mr. Nestler, who invented the Nestle permanent wave, for his pet deer, and for the fantastic house he built, only to save himself by jumping out a window as the house burned down.

In the early days of this century, Oak Tree Road was a charming country road. Constance Price described what she saw, walking to school in about 1913. "As you proceeded up the hill, the road was heavily wooded on both sides. On the south the rocky woods

were covered with clouds of Dutchmans Britches, vast quantities of red and yellow columbines. At the base of the mountain were more springs with watercress, blue hepatica in quantity among the oak leaves, and a low pink flower that grew only in cracks in the rocks.

Near the road was a small pond . . . fed by a spring . . . The pond had water lilies, some ducks, and a rowboat."

Oak Tree road has changed since then, but it is still a pleasant road, and our hope is that it will not change too much more.

When we came to Palisades in 1941, there was a network of paths all over the village, shortcuts over the twists and turns of the original roads. For example, from the Woods Road, which was most familiar to us, there was a path from the Haagensen house north to the Standard Oil, now Tallman Park; the vestige of another path straight back to route 9W, marked by a stone wall; one past the Powell's straight down the hill crossing the then Dirt Lane (now Corbett Lane) and coming out near the Captain John house; another to Route 9W past Miss Yeager's and the Old Library (now the Sandhaus's); another from the Whitney's, now Pinchas Zuckerman's, which cut off the corner and went straight past the manse to Washington Spring Road.

Besides these from Woods Road, there were two other famous paths. One was the "W Path" which in the nineteenth century ran up the hill from Mr. Lawrence's Cliffside to Mr. Gilman's Niederhurst, so the two old friends could visit each other, and the

### "IN THE 1880'S AND 90'S GYPSIES USED TO CAMP NEAR THE OAK TREE"

other was the path through the woods to the waterfall used by guests at Mrs. Tonetti's parties.

Then there were at least a couple of convenient roads used as shortcuts, now closed. One, just south of the Kriz house, went down the hill past the Asch's little guest house and up to Washington Spring Road. The other ran from Washington Spring Road past the Bedell Smithhouse to the Pacino and Twitchell houses, more or less on the same level.

**"FAMOUS PATHS . . ONE  
WAS THE PATH THROUGH  
THE WOODS TO THE  
WATERFALL USED BY  
GUESTS AT MRS.  
TONETTI'S PARTIES"**

I'm sure these were not unique - there must have been such paths all over the village at a time when people used to walk most places rather than drive as they do now.

Of course conditions particularly favored these short cuts in Snedens Landing at the time. Mrs. Tonetti owned many of the houses and rented them to artists and friends for almost nothing. Her tenants were not likely to protest when her grandchildren and their friends ran past their front doors or through their back yards.

After Mrs. Tonetti died in 1945 the houses were sold, or rented for much larger sums, and the new tenants gradually closed the paths and roads which interfered with their privacy. Now paths have almost disappeared, travelling is done by road, and each house prizes its privacy.

- Alice Haagenen

## Palisades Free Library



### Summer Reading: Non-Fiction

Bloom	<i>Love &amp; Friendship</i>
Castaneda	<i>Art of Dreaming</i>
Chopra	<i>Ageless Body, Timeless Mind</i>
Fulghum	<i>Maybe (Maybe Not)</i>

### Fiction

Adams	<i>Almost Perfect</i>
Adler	<i>Legacy of Secrets</i>
Alexander	<i>Blood Sacrifice</i>
Archer	<i>Honor Among Thieves</i>
Dobyns	<i>Sara Toga</i>
Freely	<i>My Year With the Stork Club Missing Joseph Horse You Came On Bohannon's Country Night Manager Britannia Contract The Laws Hill Towns Vanished Forbidden Zone</i>
George	
Grimes	
Hansen	
LeCarre	
Mann	
Palmen	
Siddons	
Steel	
Strieber	

### Summer Hours

Mon - Wed.	3-9pm
Thurs.	10am - noon, 3-9pm
Fri.	3-5pm
Sat.	2-5pm
Sun.	Closed from 6/20 thru Sept.

### Holiday Closings

Mon, July 6th (Independence Day)  
Mon, Sept. 6th (Labor Day)

### Book Banquet at the Palisades Free Library This Summer

The Library invites all young readers to join in the fun of the state-wide reading game, Book Banquet. Children are invited to sample, taste, devour and savor selections from our appetizing menu of books. The game is non-competitive and non-academic. It will enliven our library and

(we hope) your homes. Please encourage your readers to stop in the library to begin their Book Banquet on June 28th or any time thereafter. There will be a party for participants in September.

### Food Related Activities For Children

There will be several for children for which pre-registration is required. They are as follows:

#### Wed., June 23, 4:15pm.

Our annual Teddy Bears Picnic for ages 3-6.

Children should bring a teddy bear or stuffed animal and an appetite for stories, songs and food.

#### Mon., June 28

Reading Game begins.

#### Wed., June 30, 4:15pm

Making food magnets from felt. Ages 5 and up.

#### Wed., July 7, 4:15pm

*Stone Soup*: the story and the soup. Ages 3-6. Bring a vegetable.

#### Wed., July 14, 4:15pm

Vegetable Printing - Making beautiful designs using vegetables, paper, paint. Ages 4-8

#### Wed., July 21, 4:15pm

Being Creative with food. Bring clean hands and an imagination. We will make something tempting to eat. Ages 4-8

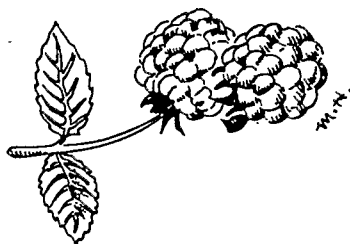
### Story Hours for ages 3 - K

They will continue throughout June and July on Wednesdays at 1:30pm and they will also be based on a food theme. We'll share stories (from *The Hungry Caterpillar* to *Bread and Jam for Frances*), songs and fun with delicious results.

## LIBRARY NEWS CONTINUED

### The Read and Feed Program

The Palisades Library and other local libraries will participate in a Read and Feed program this summer. A large basket for food donations will be prominently displayed in the library. Please encourage your child to bring non-perishable items to the library when borrowing books or coming for activities. The food will be collected on a regular basis and distributed to the needy through the Social Services Department.



## Plant Sale

This fall, the Library will be holding its Plant Sale on Saturday, September 11 from 10am until 2pm at the Library. The Sale will be held rain or shine and, in the event of rain, will be in the gymnasium of the Palisades Early Learning Center, across the street from the Library on Oak Tree Road. Of course we will have our renowned raffle as well as select fall plants - both indoor and outdoor - and an unique bulb, *The Pride of Palisades*, never before sold **anywhere**. We will offer a gourmet lunch and a bake table of delicious desserts and, continuing a new tradition, there will be a weigh-in for the purchase of rare and unusual books.

Please call Ann Brooke (365-1375) or Phoebe Rosenwasser (365-2441) for plant requests (including indoor varieties and bulbs) and Nina Prusinowski (359-4580) for book donations.

## Civic Association Wonders: Can Palisades Accept a Little Good News?

The Palisades Civic Association, whose general function is to clang the alarm bell and muster the citizenry to the barricades, has only favorable developments to report for now. True, all the good news is procedural and inconclusive, but it is good as far as it goes.

On Monday, June 7, the Town Board unanimously adopted a resolution asking the State Department of Transportation to take its road-widening millions elsewhere and leave Route 303 alone. A detailed, highly intelligent study by a Tappan- and Orangeburg-based "Coalition for Route 303" completely exploded D.O.T.'s assumption that widening was necessary for safety reasons. The Palisades Civic Association was delighted to endorse the Coalition's recommendation that the only "improvements" that would actually improve anything would be left-turn lane markings and light signals at Oak Tree Road and King's Highway.

The following evening, the Historic Areas Board of Review unanimously rejected a proposal from the Board of Education to stick a temporary building smack in front of the Palisades School for at least a year or two. The present arrangements for three speech therapists in the building are inadequate, in the opinion of the staff. The HABR decision put the responsibility back on the School District staff to make more effective use of underutilized space inside the building.

The HABR took favorable action on the request of the PCA that Oak Tree Road and Washington Spring Road, from the Tappan Library to the Hudson River, be designated Historic Roads under the recently adopted Orangetown ordinance. The matter now goes back to the Town Board for early approval.

At the suggestion of the Town Board, the HABR also recommended designation of Closter Road, although it is a County highway. Supervisor Roger Pellegrini has indicated that he hopes to persuade the county government to consent to the designation, which would require specific Town Board approval of any public or private action to alter the road.

The Association's May meeting with Orangetown Police Chief Homer Wanamaker, his top aide, Lt. John McAndrew and Councilman Niel O'Sullivan was well attended and produced lively discussion on the need for systematic enforcement of the truck limits on both Oak Tree Road and Route 9W. Not only did Wanamaker and McAndrew appear to understand the issue more thoroughly as the discussion progressed, but subsequent enforcement seems to have improved. This, of course, will bear watching.

On the tandem truck issue, there are no significant new developments to report. The Town's appeal ("Article 78 proceeding") of the D.O.T. approval of "special dimension vehicle access" to the Consolidated Freight terminal on Oak Tree Road had not yet been filed by press time, and no action could be expected for months to come.

As for Palisades Clean-Up Day, continue to hold your breath.

-Andrew E. Norman

## Chester Post: 1906 -1993

Chester Post, one of the last members of the famous Post family in our village, died on April 17, 1993, in Ridgewood New Jersey. At the funeral service Mildred Post Rippey, his cousin, read the poem which follows:

"For Chester -

We sat in a circle, you were there  
Sitting tall and erect in your chair  
We shared bread and wine at the common  
board

And sang 'Kum by ah, my Lord'  
Now in memory we'll always hear  
Your strong young voice singing loud and  
clear."

Chester's grandfather, James Post, was the off-and-on postmaster in Palisades. He lived in the Prusinowski house, and during Democratic administrations a small moveable wing was attached to the front of the house. This became the postoffice. When the Republicans were in power, the wing moved across the village green to another postmaster.

Chester was born in the Big House, (now the Sandhaus house) before it became the Palisades Library. At some later time his family moved to his grandfather's house and when Chester grew up he helped with the family business. Chester's father Holstead Post supplied ice and coal to the community. The ice came from the Post pond, near the Martine house, and was preserved under sawdust in barns behind the Post house. Later Chester and his brother Harold took over the business.

From an early age Chester loved music, and he had a beautiful singing voice. Mildred remembers that when he came to deliver ice he would stop in and ask for help from her mother, who was a fine musician. "Aunt Lida, can you help me? I want to learn to sing this music." The two of them would settle down at the piano until Chester was satisfied. He had an impressive tenor voice and was a soloist with the Palisades Presbyterian Church Choir. He also sang with the Mendelssohn Glee Club of New York City, whose concerts were given in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Manhattan.

Chester Post was a self-employed landscaper and gardener, who retired many years ago. He and his family originally lived in the Englander house, but once the family was grown Chester moved to Highland Avenue, where he lived until 1991, when he moved to a nursing home. He was 86 years old when he died. His son Richard lives in Nyack and helped with the facts for this article.

- Alice Gerard

## South Orangetown School Survey Reports

In the January issue of 10964 we published a survey, with several questions regarding the South Orangetown School System. This survey was printed in conjunction with an interview with Dr. Morton Sherman, the Superintendent of Schools. The following is a summary of the answers from the seven questionnaires which were returned to us.

1. How do you feel our school system could be improved?

All responded that some improvements could be made. Specific ideas included:

- More attention to reading, writing and science.
- Reevaluate busing situation.
- Get back to the basics, including the "3 R's and geography.
- Addressing curriculum at all levels, discontinuing the current organization of the elementary schools.

2. How do you feel about the amount of taxes we are spending for the quality of education we are receiving; the cost per student? Explain.

Four respondents felt the cost per student was very high. Three felt that the cost per student was not out of the ordinary, with the comment being made that if the quality were there, the cost would be acceptable. Other comments included:

- There is never enough money for programs, but always money available for unnecessary construction projects.
- The cost per student is outrageous, compared to other schools in our area.

3. Do you have any ideas of how we could be more cost efficient as a school district, without sacrificing quality of education?

- Cut out the patronage jobs.
- Why does the Palisades school need a new gym floor?
- Central office is "too heavy at the top."
- Too much is spent on administration.
- Reorganize the schools and have K-5 in one building.

4. Are there any areas of curriculum in which you feel our school district excels or needs improvement? What types of curriculum changes would you like to see?

- The computer program is good at the elementary level. In general the K-5 curriculum seems good.
- Improve the science curriculum.

## SCHOOL SURVEY CONTINUED:

-A much fuller arts curriculum in the High School is needed.

-Everything is geared to the lowest denominator. We need more creative and stimulating extras for the gifted students.

-Many of the subject areas are not challenging enough; not enough emphasis on writing skills.

5. Do you have any ideas on how you would like to see the elementary schools reorganized? Do you like the idea of a return to neighborhood schools, the development of magnet schools? Any other ideas?

Four respondents favored a return to neighborhood schools, two agreed with the consolidation of the school district the way it is and one thought this was a ludicrous question as all alternatives were too expensive.

6 Do you agree with Dr. Sherman that many of our elementary school children may have too many teachers in the course of a week? Would you like to see this changed?

All respondents agreed. The following are some of the comments.

-Cottage Lane uses some team teaching that seems to work well; teacher's strengths (math vs. reading) are encouraged and classes are split to move with the ability of the students.

-Yes, there are too many teachers involved at the elementary level.

-Yes; it is distracting and confusing to be shuffled around so much.

-Every child should have a core teacher. Then, special teachers can come in—language, music, art, theater and science.

-Yes, it should also signify a need for fewer teachers. Every teacher should be able to teach all subjects.

7. Do you see our current approach of having three different schools at the elementary school level as a positive or a negative? Would you like to see this structure changed?

Six people felt this is a negative structure and one person felt it was positive. Comments included:

-Cottage Lane could be the school for second and third grades and WOS could be the school for fourth and fifth grades.

-Every two years the children worry about being in a new building. Consolidate K-5 in one building.

-Siblings should have the opportunity to go to school together for the sake of family support.

-The current structure does not allow children a sense of security and familiarity with their surroundings.

-Bring back a Palisades school. I would want my children growing up with their neighbors.

-There is too much time wasted every two years when the child changes schools. It takes months of adjustment before learning can begin.

8. Do you think we should have a Gifted/Talented program in our schools? Why or why not?

Five people said "yes," one person said "no," and one person agreed with Dr. Sherman's philosophy.

-This should not be the responsibility of a Public School system.

-Currently, the bright children are put on "hold" until everyone else catches up. In the meantime, they are not challenged and have nothing to strive for.

-Bring the level of expectations up for all.

-Yes, if the program would not add to the cost per student.

-Yes, the above average child is left to be patient or serve as a teacher to others.

9. How do you think the Middle School or the High School could be improved?

-If textbooks are used, enough books should be purchased so that each student has one and they can bring them home to study.

-Model them on a good private school.

10. Do you currently have children in So. Orangetown Schools? What grade levels/schools? Do you have children who attend private schools?

Four respondents have children in the So. Orangetown Schools, two have children in private schools and one is without children in school.

- Judy Zehentner

## Congratulations to our High School Graduates

### Tappan Zee High School:

Brian Bosley - going to Central Connecticut University

Jaime Fitzgerald - going to Harvard/Radcliffe

Eric Guzman - going to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida

Annie Kim - going to Yale University

Hiram Miranda - going to Rockland Community College

Dana Whitney - going to Rockland Community College

### Albertus Magnus High School

Matthew Guiney - going to Iona

Patrick Kiley - going to New York University

Christine Roche - going to Mount St. Mary



# People Who Do:

## Anna Hammond, Celebrated Palisades Author

Many of you know Anna in one of her other guises: Sanskrit scholar, Indian art expert, painter, hat maker, Italian teacher at the River School, gardener, Indian cook, mother of Isaac and Henri, and wife of Jeremy. Now she is an author of a very special book. Luckily, its uniqueness has been recognized and the book has been reviewed in New York News Day, Publishers Weekly, El Diario, the Daily News and a television segment on Channel One New York News. All for a first book! Extraordinary!

*This Home We Have Made/ Esta Casa Que Hemos Hecho*, by Anna Hammond and Joe Matunis, (Crown Publishers), is a book inspired by a unique project Anna co-directed in the Bronx in the summer of 1991. With funding from the Dept. of Juvenile Justice, Anna led a mural painting project and taught art to a group of previously homeless children. Anna and the children painted a story on the side of an apartment building where the children had just been moved to.

The book tells of a modern odyssey of a young homeless child's quest for a home. It captures the magic of dreams and the reality of the importance of family and home. The story is told in vivid and colorful images with a text in English and Spanish. The images and story were culled from hundreds of pictures drawn by the children involved in the project about their lives and their hopes for the future.

The children now live permanently in the building where the mural was painted. Anna taught some children to paint on the wall. Those children taught other children and eventually more than 50 were involved in the project. The painting became the focal point for the community. The great pride the

people have in their art is shown by the fact that today, two years later, the painting is still there unmarred. The book is the end result of a positive community project that has had a profound impact on its participants. The book has a four page foldout showing the completed mural.

Anna has a rich and varied background. Raised in Buffalo, New York, daughter of a scholar poet and an urban architect, she studied Classical Archaeology at the Univ. of Michigan, and did graduate work at the Univ. of Chicago, in South Asian Studies. She also studied painting at the Art Institute of Chicago. While there she met and married Jeremy Paul, a molecular biologist. Anna and Jeremy moved to Palisades in 1990.

### "THE BOOK TELLS OF . . . A YOUNG HOMELESS CHILD'S QUEST FOR A HOME"

Shortly after moving here Anna received a prestigious grant to study in India. Taking along eight month old Henri and four year old Isaac, she went to Baroda for 2 months to study Indian mural techniques and fresco paintings. When she returned she got involved in public art projects and teaching children. She continues to direct projects and is working on trying to set up a permanent community center in the South Bronx.

Anna's book is available in fine bookstores. As a special treat she will be selling the book at the Palisades Arts Fair and the Palisades Free Library Plant Sale on September 18, to benefit the library.

-Milbry Polk

## Arts News

### Back Door, Teen Cafe at Nyack Center

Nyack Center is now offering an extension of the Slow Down Cafe for teenagers. The Back Door is a coffee house for young people, neither serving alcohol nor allowing smoking. It is a place with food and entertainment for teenagers to go on a Saturday night. There are adult chaperones who help plan the events but the entertainment, food preparation, and service is provided by students from Tappan Zee and Nyack High Schools. Nyack Center received a grant from the Rockland Council of the Arts to offset the costs of the teen cafe. Other funds for this project come from Catholic Charities and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

The Back Door is open on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. For a monthly calendar or more information, call the Nyack Center at 358-5364.

### Palisades Artists Exhibit At Rockland Center

Watercolorist Frances Breer and painter Edgar Jerins are participating in the Rockland Center for the Arts bi-annual Member's Art and Photography Exhibition which opened June 6th and will continue through the 21st. Admission to the exhibition is free or by suggested donation. Gallery hours are 10:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M. daily, and 1:00- 4:00 P.M. weekends. The Center is located at 27 South Greenbush Rd., West Nyack. For further information, call 358-0877.

## A Sign of the Times At the Palisades School



**WARNING**  
UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS  
FOUND ON SCHOOL PROPERTY  
ON SATURDAY,  
SUNDAY, OR HOLIDAYS OR  
AFTER 5 PM ON A SCHOOL DAY  
WILL BE SUBJECT TO  
ARREST AND PROSECUTION  
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION

**A**S SOON AS I WAS OLD ENOUGH to ride my bicycle in the street, and until I was old enough to drive a car, I spent a lot of time playing games and "hanging out" with the other kids in the neighborhood in the playground at the Palisades Public School. I remember playing tag, baseball, stickball and basketball with the likes of Kevin Weber, Gaby Diederich, Nick and Mike Ludas, Alan Nichols, Chris Gray, Tony Gerard, Shawn Frederich, Jimmy and Kerry Costello, and "wild man" Bobby Kowaulsky. I also played mini-league baseball there for three years as a proud member of the Palisades Mets. I also remember a big hop-scotch court that was used by the girls. Then, in my early teens, I remember that I first kissed a girl while hiding under the low branches of the willow that still stands in the front of the school. I have many fond memories of those days and, playing there, I began several life-long friendships.

Neighborhood kids don't play at the Palisades School any more and I suspect that most of them are barely aware that the playground exists. This is particularly strange since the Palisades School has the only playground in town that kids can ride their bikes to. What hap-

pened? Well, when I was young, say in 1960, there was a Palisades School District and most of the kids in the neighborhood went to school there through 6th, or was it 8th grade. The elementary school continued to operate for a while under the new consolidated South Orangetown District, but in 1970 or so, the elementary school was closed (perhaps forever). Some kids continued to play there but, as the years went by, the baseball diamond was not maintained, the basketball court and hop-scotch courts were replaced by parking spaces, the low branches of the willow tree were trimmed, and finally, signs were erected which threaten to arrest any kid who dares to use the playground on weekends or holidays or after 5 p.m. "You're under arrest kid for playing baseball on School property on Saturday!"

It saddens me very much that our Palisades kids are growing up without the fun and especially the sense of community that I experienced playing at the Palisades School. Things have changed in Palisades over the years. Some things are better, some are worse.

John Converse

## Art News Continued:

### June Arts Calendar

#### Tuesday the 22nd.

Finkelstein Memorial Library Events. Video and discussion with FML's Opera Discussion Group. Maria Callas' Paris debut. -7:30 P.M.

\* 14th Annual International Film Festival continues with *The Story Of Boys And Girls*.

#### Friday the 25th.

Rockland County Concert Band. Program includes Broadway, classical and popular music. Lawrence Keith Zaidan, conductor. 8:00 P.M. Cultural ARTS Center, Rockland Community College. 145 College Rd., Suffern. For tickets call 735-7530.

#### Monday the 28th.

Rockland Center for the Arts. The Center's art school begins its six-week summer session the week of June 28th. Call 358-0877 for a free brochure listing classes.

#### Wednesday the 30th.

Rockland Community College. Printmaking Workshop begins Monday through Thursday, from 12:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. Ends July 27th. For more information call 574-4251.



# People Who Do:

## Katherine Matheson: Artist of Relics

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I recently walked into Katherine Matheson's studio in Nyack to find her in a frenzy of work. Thousands of tile and pottery fragments littered the floor. On every surface stood half completed pieces: candle sticks, shrines, mirrors, lamps, picture frames, sconces, and two intricately covered wrought iron tables. Victorian roses and cherubs, southwestern lizards and geometric patterns, flamboyant Moorish colors and swirls, strange ceramic animals and old-fashioned sayings were carefully pieced together with colorful, deliberately broken pieces of pottery and tile that Katherine has collected from a hundred different sources. Each object radiated a unique feeling, a strong presence and a simple beauty.

"Nyack just had a street fair and my store was completely sold out! And I am not even officially open yet!" Katherine beamed. Her store is called *Relics: A Secret Museum*. Relics is a place to find ancient and modern treasures. The underlying theme is objects of beauty, worship and desire. Katherine wanted objects with a spiritual feeling, viewing The Secret Museum as a place where the spiritual and material meet.

Katherine's art is known as Pique Assiette. "This is an old folk art done all over the world," she explains. "Gaudi was a well known Spanish artist who worked in this medium. There are temples of tile in Thailand. In Arkansas, there is the Temple of the Black Madonna made out of tile. Many cultures around the world and through time have shrines made in this style. I had always loved this art style and could never afford it, so I decided to start making it. In 1989, I lived in a small apartment in New York which had a fireplace. I sat in front

of the fireplace and smashed up all the pottery I had collected. I stuck the pieces on a wall pocket and that was the beginning. I still have that piece and I call it *Artifact #1*. I had trouble with success in filmmaking, but, with this, success was instantaneous."

Katherine was born in Manhattan and raised in Manhattan and Long Island. She went to NYU Film School and began her career in film. She made a feature documentary entitled *Comedienne* which took her five years to complete. She began screen writing professionally and taught the craft at NYU Film School and the School of Visual Arts. Katherine moved out to Palisades in 1990.

"My luck really changed when I left the city. The first week I was in Palisades, I saw an ad for an art studio in Nyack. I wasn't sure what I was going to do there, but once I saw it I knew I had to have it. It was luck. Then my next-door neighbors, Dale and Nina Prusinowski, came over and invited us out to have pizza with them. Nina saw the things I had been working on in the city and asked me to be in the Palisades Arts Fair. The rest is history." We Palisadians can be especially proud of Relics as it grew out of Katherine's phenomenal success at the last three Palisades Arts Fairs where she sold out! (This is a hint for all you artists and art lovers who have read thus far - come to the Fifth Annual Arts Fair on September 18th at the Palisades Presbyterian Church.)

Besides the Arts Fair, Katherine began selling her art at other street fairs and stores, including Cobweb and Distant Origin in Soho, and ABC Carpet in New York City. Her success convinced her to take the big step and open a store in Nyack. She found a lovely

location just up the hill on Main Street. For the last two months, Katherine and her fiancée, Mitch Kaplan, have been painting and plastering, hammering together shelves and hanging the art.

Once the store has been firmly launched, Katherine has plans to start a mail order business featuring unique artworks in the spirit of Relics. To that end, she has been featuring the work of other artists in her store as well. Currently one can find bird houses by architect, David Hoggatt. His specialty is making a bird house that is a replica of your own house. He is often found at work in the back of Relics by the windows overlooking the stream, carving, gluing and painting his houses. Hand-embellished jackets by Cynthia Olin are another feature item. Cynthia collects antique fabrics and semi-precious stones and sews them into her designs. (Her commercial line, People for the Planet, sells at Macy's and at Nieman Marcus. At Relics they are a bargain!) Milbry Polk's spiritual photographs of Buddhist shrines, prehistoric sites, trees and various locations in the Middle East are also on display.

Katherine welcomes everyone who comes by the store. She will also make individual designs to fit your particular need. For example, she had an all white mirror she was making as a wedding gift hanging in her studio. Sayings can also be worked into the piece to commemorate an event or express a particular sentiment.

Katherine and Mitch will be getting married in the fall. We hope they find their way back to Palisades!

*Relics: A Secret Museum, 192 Main Street, Nyack, 353-5816. Open Thurs - Sun, 1-5pm or by appointment: 358-2196.*

- Milbry Polk

# Fifth Annual Palisades Arts Fair

Saturday, September 18  
Palisades Presbyterian Church  
10am - 3pm

The Arts Fair is entering its 5th successful year. As you all must know by now, we live in an unique neighborhood. Many of our neighbors are artists and craftspeople. Many of them have participated in past Arts Fairs: Cristina Biaggi, Edgar Jerins, Katherine Matheson, Jane Herold, Sylvia March, Milbry Polk, Annie Gerard, Holly Seeger, Henriette Lubart Ross, Dorothy Davis, Pat Walsh, George Zipparo, Jossie DeCrescenzo, Jimmy DeCrescenzo, Alice Gerard, Helen Norman, Norman Galinsky, Maral Kaladjian, Franny Breer... to name but a few! This year, to mark our 5th year, we want everyone to participate! Don't be shy!

Every type of art and craft will be represented: pottery, oil painting, sculpture, books, baked goods, photography, jewelry, clothes, dance, music, water color, sundials, stained glass, film, cabinetry, you name it. We expect to have craftspeople demonstrating their work on the back lawn of the Church. Inside will be the hanging art. Tables outside will have all the crafts. There will be special displays of children's art as well.

Some of the highlights this year will be David Hoggatt demonstrating his craft of homemade bird houses. He specializes in making a miniature copy of your own home (he is an architect). Diana Green will again have an overflowing table of children's clothes, photo albums and other crafts plus her photographs and greeting cards. Katherine Matheson will have her tile work, which sold out at the last few Arts Fairs, so come early.

The Church will provide a delicious lunch at rock bottom prices.

We need more artists, especially anyone who has not participated in the past. The more the better! Please call Diana Green (359-8137) or Milbry Polk (365-0297) to sign up. The cost is \$10 to exhibit. We can't find you. You must find us!

We also need volunteers to put up signs, to help set up the walls on Friday the 17th and to clean up after the Fair. If you are not necessarily artistically inclined, volunteering is a great way to be involved in this fun event and to get to know more of your neighbors. There will be an Arts Fair meeting on June 29th at 10am at Milbry's house (Rte 9W opposite the Gulf station). Everyone who is interested is welcome. This is truly the event of Palisades in the fall. Be a part of it! Come and support your community, have a great day and go home with some goodies!



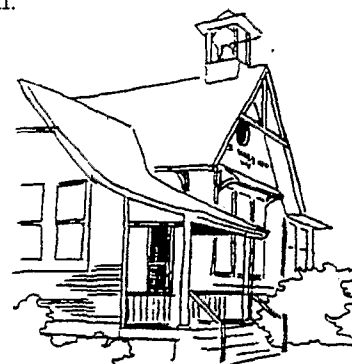
## Palisades Presbyterian Church News

Summer service will start at 10am beginning with the 4th of July Tulipwood service at the home of Ann Grey and Frances Pellegrini on Rockland Road in Sparkill.

July 11: Touch Picnic, 11:30 - 2:30. Annual picnic for people with Aids and friends and family.

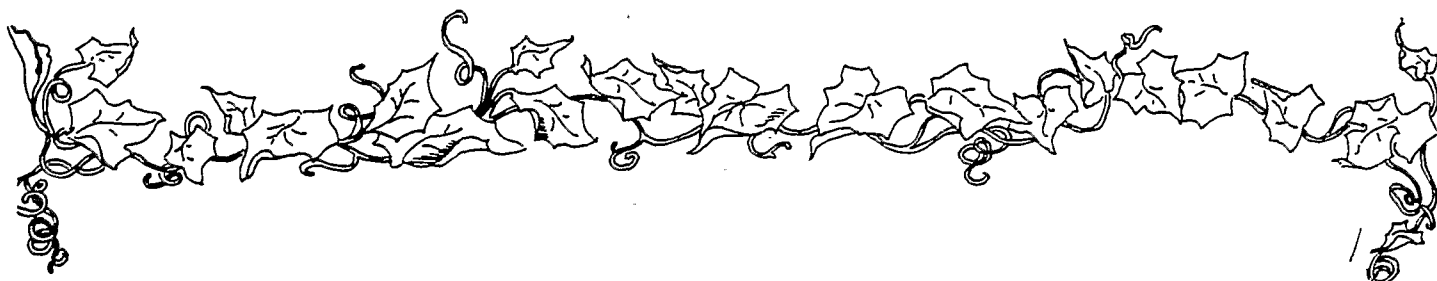
August 29: Annual Church Picnic at the home of Arnold and Liz Finck.

September 18: Palisades Arts Fair, 10am - 3pm.



## Palisades Community Center News

As the dance classes have finished for the season, we hope that during the summer months, the members of the Palisades Community Center will avail themselves of the building. If any person or group is interested in presenting a series or creating a program, please contact Janis Cavanagh at 359-1026. Please don't forget the June 27th Rummage Sale at the Community Center. Contact Janis if you have donations for the sale. We hope you have a lovely and relaxing summer!



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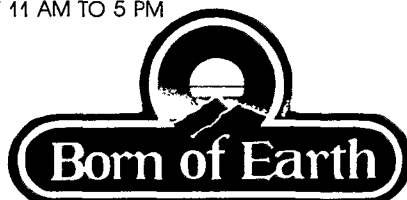
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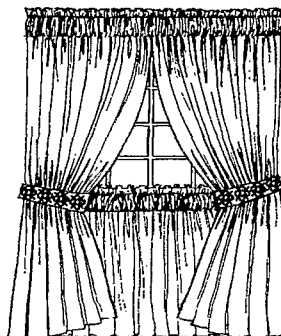
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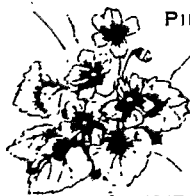
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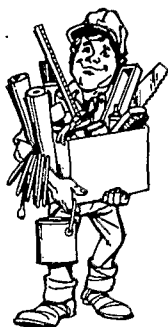
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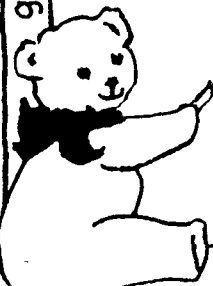
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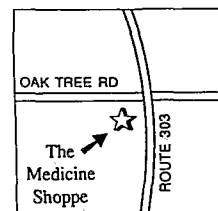
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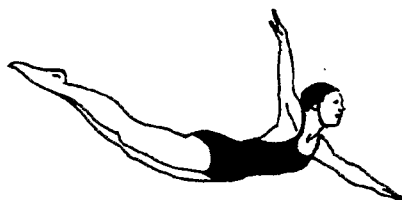




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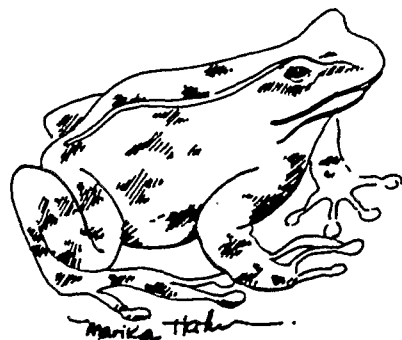
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## Palisades Swim Club:

Are you making plans for this summer? Why not spend June, July and August right here at home with us at the Palisades Swim Club? We're a family- oriented small club of just under 200 families from Palisades and its surrounding areas. In addition to our kiddie pool, pool, swim lessons, and a competitive swim team, there are tennis courts and tennis lessons for all to enjoy. For more information about joining the club this summer, call Barbara Loweree at 359-3935 or write to the Palisades Swim Club, P.O.Box 192, Palisades, New York, 10964.



## 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, New York 10964. With your help we'll be able to put 10964 in your mailbox six times this year from October through June.

### *The Following Staff Members Worked On This Issue:*

John Converse, Lori DiGiacomo,  
Jocelyn DeCrescenzo, Carol  
Elevitch, Diana Green,  
Boyce Leni, Gina Vermandel  
and Judy Zehentner

Page Design by Alice Gerard  
Drawings by Andrea Williams  
and Marika Hahn

## Classified:

**Help Wanted:** Babysitter for two children, 5+8 years old. Saturday evenings and occasional week-nights. Mature, responsible teenager preferred. Call 365- 2470.

**Births:** Greta Nettleton and Rex LaLire joyfully welcome a new son, Luc Pierre, born on May 17th. He is the baby brother of Alexander.

**Contributions:** We are most grateful to the following Palisadians for their generous contributions to 10964: Mary Jane Whitstock, Deborah and Christopher Capezzuto.

## Ours

*what's the use of looking  
beyond the transparent glass  
when you cannot let your soul  
travel out and away from you,  
to experience the wildness of the  
forests,  
the infinity of the skies,  
the uncertainties beyond the first  
horizon.*

*and don't you look at me like  
that!  
I am not the one who can show  
you how!  
you have to give birth to your love  
within you!  
as for me, well I . .*

*I may put together some utter-  
ances,  
so that you may create your  
meanings  
through the recognition of my  
words.*

*I may put together some colors,  
so that you may envision your  
portrait  
through the vibrations of a travel-  
ing rainbow.*

*I may select some sounds  
from animal calls or cosmic waves  
so that you might live the music  
you need.*

*I may also generate some  
thoughts  
so that you might choose your  
religion  
to draw boundaries on your life.*

*But all I really want to do  
is to transfer some feelings  
from my heart to yours, so that  
my love, and your love, could be  
ours.*

*-Kevork K. Kalayjian*