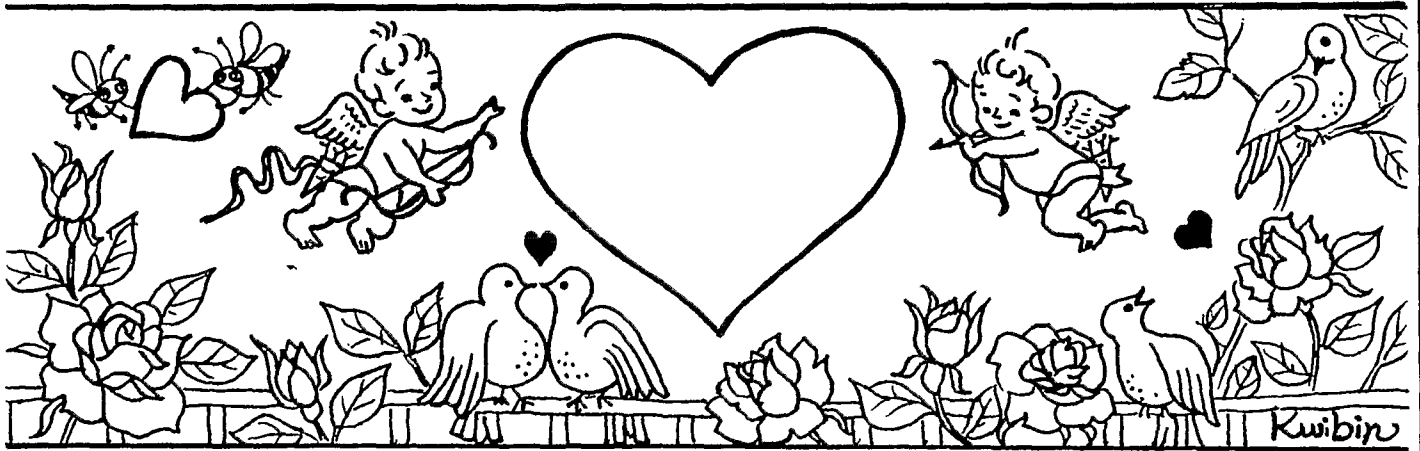


10964

The Palisades Newsletter

February 1994 • No. 140



*It's February, that oddest of months during which Valentine's Day is the only respite to long, dark, cold nights and short, dark, cold days that seem to drag on as if spring would never come. We at 10964 have decided that the only solution is to throw another log on the fire, pray for a "snow day," and curl up with a good book. To that end, we have here reviewed two of the latest releases from some very talented Palisadians; the first will leave you dreaming of getting out in the fresh air for a long explore and the second will take you off on thrilling adventures in far-off places. Go ahead, expand your horizons.*

**Art On Site: Country Artwalks From Maine to Maryland**, by Marina Harrison and Lucy D. Rosenfeld (just published by Michael Kesend at \$16.95) is a very special kind of guidebook. It describes 48 "outings," all of which involve both a site — for art or for an artist — and a walk. The sites are all out-of-the-way, unspoiled places with something unique about them; well-known urban art centers and tour-bus destinations are omitted. The authors do not pretend that their guidebook is comprehensive. As they explain,

they selected these particular places "because they captured our imaginations." What better criterion could there be?

The artwalks are grouped into five sections, each focusing on a different aspect of "art on site." In the first section, we follow in the footsteps of Thomas Cole, Grandma Moses, Morris Davidson, and a dozen others, locating the particular landscapes and seascapes that inspired these artists. Next comes a short section devoted to environmental art (a memorial to miners set in the historic heart of coalmining, for example) and archaeology (stone structures in North Salem, NH, which may date to megalithic times — and, then again, may not).

In the third section, "Architectural Pleasures," the authors guide us through two small historic towns, a large cemetery filled with eccentric memorials, and a planned community, Frank Lloyd Wright's "Usonia" in Pleasantville, NY. Then come fascinating visits to the studios and workshops of contemporary painters, sculptors and fabric artisans, plus a look at work in progress at a foundry.

The authors lead us next among *allees* and lily

*Continued on page 8*

# Jawonio Comes to Palisades

The rumors have been flying around Palisades about a home for the mentally handicapped that will be joining our community in the near future. Mostly due to an appalling lack of information, Palisadians began to worry about all kinds of possibilities in connection with the proposed new residence. They feared for their safety, for the appearance of the building in our lovely, residential hamlet, and for the impact it might have on the value of property.

An information meeting was finally held on January 5th at the Community Center with Paul Tendler, Executive Director of Jawonio which is the agency that will be administering the home. The hall was filled to capacity with anxious Palisadians as well as some residents of Pomona who live next door to such a facility and who came to tell their side of the story. It was a highly charged, emotional and often hostile meeting, and most of those in attendance agreed that a lot of the anger would have been dissipated had this meeting taken place six months ago. As it stood, many felt disempowered since they did not get to voice their concerns and be heard before the situation became a closed issue.

Mr. Tendler began by saying that he came "to create an atmosphere of understanding and acceptance." He told about Jawonio which is a comprehensive rehabilitative agency that has been serving Rockland County since 1947. The residence that they are presently in the process of renovating is located across Oak Tree Road from the Palisades Gardens. They chose that particular house because it was only one level — which makes it perfectly suited to their wheelchair-bound patients — and because it had neighbors on only one side. The home is tentatively set for occupancy sometime in March and their intentions are for the residence to house 8 mentally challenged individuals with 3-5 staff members in attendance at any given time. These patients are also physically handicapped to such a degree that they cannot even move their own wheelchairs. Suffice it to say that the patients themselves could not possibly give anyone any cause for alarm.

Yet, Palisadians still had a number of unsettling questions which needed to be addressed. Arthur Firestone read a statement which he had prepared which covered most of the issues. He began by formally protesting the "secretive" manner in which the home was approved and put through. He felt that such proceedings did not make for a good start for such a project. He also wondered whether there would

be "adequate security and supervision on the premises" and lastly (and this was the big issue for many of those present) how the presence of the group home would affect property values and taxes of the other properties in Palisades.

The three residents of Pomona added fuel to the fire when they described their experience with proximity to such a home (which is not a Jawonio facility, however). They claimed that a house down the block sold for \$30,000 less than what was expected, and also that the staff members of the home "stay up and party until 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning."

Disturbing news indeed, but Mr. Tendler rose to the defense of his staff. He affirmed that he was responsible for hiring and that he felt that those individuals who came to work at such a place viewed it as "a calling" and were very serious about their work. Furthermore, he pledged that if anyone in the community had reason to think otherwise, they were always welcome to contact him and bring the situation to his attention. He went on to say that there are no statistics to prove that group homes affect property values in any way. It is true, however, that Jawonio is a not-for-profit organization and will therefore not be required to pay taxes. When another Palisadian asked that he clarify the alleged "misinformation" printed in *Our Town* by revealing what price he paid for the house, he refused, saying that he felt it was nobody's business.

Eileen Larkin jumped in at that point. "I take issue with you on that one," she exclaimed. "It's the taxpayers' money and they have every right to know what you spent on that house and what the renovations are costing." Mr. Tendler continued to decline, which left many unsatisfied.

Mrs. Larkin then made a statement about her position on the group home. "I felt that this particular home was right for Palisades, and that Palisades was right for the people who are going to be placed in this home. Aesthetically, it will be an improvement to the community." She went on to testify that other communities in Orangetown were nearing saturation with four or five homes of this type and that it was time for Palisades to do its part. In fact, she felt fairly sure that Palisades would soon see the introduction of at least one more group home sometime in the near future. She concluded with a challenge to residents: "Take a different approach. Be part of this project."

Mr. Tendler also finished by saying that he hoped the community would embrace the Jawonio home and

*Continued on page 3*

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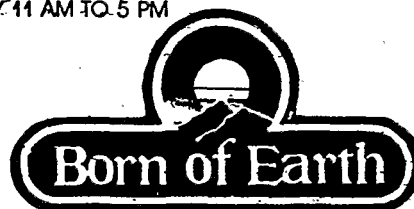
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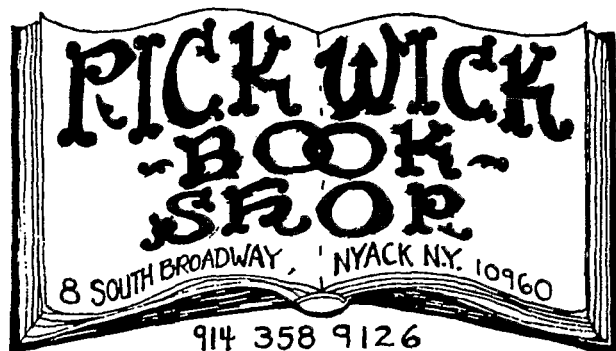
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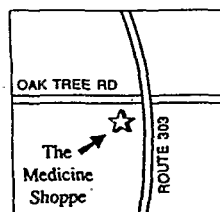
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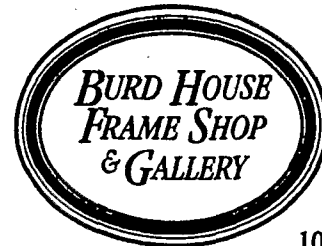
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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The placement of the modular unit behind the Palisades School was a great exercise in having neighbors and governmental agencies working together. Our children received the additional therapy space they needed. The neighbors were fully informed and involved in all steps of the placement of the unit. The Historic Areas Board of Review, the school district, and the Palisades Civic Association all cooperated in solving a problem.

Thank you to everyone involved. It is rare that so many people have the opportunity to work together with the outcome being a win-win-win situation!

Perhaps the greatest achievement coming out of several months of lively debate was the warm way in which the Palisades community welcomed our school and its playground. After all, we are proud that we are public schools, serving our children and our communities.

Sincerely,  
Morton Sherman, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## Music Amici

### Final Concert for the Season

On Sunday, March 20 at 7:00 pm, **Music Amici** will present its final concert of this season at Threefold Auditorium, 260 Hungry Hollow Road, Spring Valley. It will be an all-Mozart program.

Tickets are available at the door: \$14.00 general admission, \$10.00 students and seniors. For reservations and information call 359-3892.

# Henry Kennell

Henry Kennell, who has been a familiar figure at his gas station on Route 9W in Palisades since 1929, died in Nyack Hospital on December third, 1993, aged ninety-three. His wife still lives in the house across the road; his daughter Sandra Acri, lives in Pearl River, and his son Henry Kennell Jr. lives in Nyack and runs the station now.

***Mr. Kennell was  
always a good  
neighbor . . . ready to  
help in emergencies***

There were only four cars in Palisades when Henry Kennell came here, but his was the only station in Rockland County to take care of transient traffic. He was able to survive the Depression, partly by selling hot dogs.

He lived in the station with his dog, Sunshine, until his marriage in 1936. By then Winthrop S. Gilman's magnificent mansion Heyhoe, across the road, had burned down. Mr. Kennell bought the property and built his house there. When he plowed the land he kept finding pieces of marble, and no wonder - because Heyhoe was said to have had twenty-six marble fireplaces.

After the Depression he had gas rationing to cope with and then the more recent gas shortage, not to mention perhaps forty robberies. Many people would have given up, but Mr. Kennell stuck to it and found various ways to add to his income during difficult times.

When, in the thirties, the Palisades Interstate Park bought the Standard Oil Property in Palisades, they engaged him to take down the buildings in return for what he could salvage from them. During the forties, instead of hot dogs he sold motorcycles. And over the years the station has been used in many movies and commercials. He was a fine gardener, and with the help of Johnny Drab, who has been working with him since 1941, he grew and sold the produce from his orchard and flower and vegetable gardens at a stand next to the station. This was one of the few commercial enterprises in Palisades, and surely the most pleasant - our own Farmer's Market.

Mr. Kennell was always a good neighbor, and even people who were not his regular customers found him and Johnny always ready to help in emergencies. Henry Kennell Jr., who has been running the station with Johnny Drab for the last few years, bids fair to continue the tradition.

Alice Haagensen

## Jawonio: Continued

that he would like to see Palisades residents become involved with the patients and allow them to become part of the community. He says he is open to the input and comments of any resident, so if you have questions or concerns, you can call and ask for Paul Tendler or Jill Warner at 634-4648 or 638-3345.

Diana Green



# Growing Up on the Last Farm in Palisades



by Andrew Drab as told to Milbry Polk

**M**y mother and father came over from Hungary about 1908. They came alone and met on Ellis Island. They went to work in factories in Jersey, my mother in a cigar factory and my father in a foundry. They kept in contact and got married. They came up to Piermont because Dad got a job at the Robert Gairs factory making boxes. He was the head machinist. I was born in Piermont in 1924.

Our family moved to Palisades in 1925. We came here to farm because there were other Hungarian families farming here: the Salmas were where Tippy O'Neil's is and the Fazekas had a farm in Rockleigh. First we moved to Closter road next to the Martines. Across the way was the potato and corn field. We had lots of patches - tomato, cucumber and so on - behind the house. Then we moved to Rockleigh and finally we moved over to 9W where Mr. Kennell's is now.

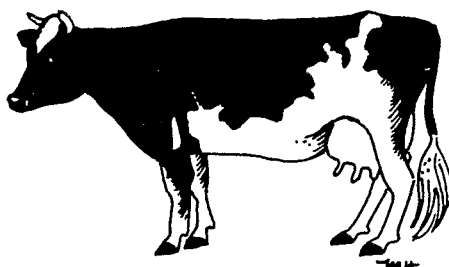
There was a big old house, built in the 1800's, sitting at the front of the property right on the road called the Luden Estate. It had burned before we got there, but we could still go in it. Our house was just behind. It was called John Day's house. Kennell has torn it all down. There was a big barn there too. All that is left is the little part the ponies used to be in.

There were 12 of us in the family. I had seven sisters and four brothers. Nine of us are still in the county today. Lots of people know my brother, John. He works at the gas station for Mr. Kennell. My

other brother, Alex, volunteered for the war and was killed at sea. His name is on the stone in front of Yonderhill.

We took the land on 9W. My father cut down the trees and farmed. He had his own fruit and vegetable stand. We would take the cart to the sand pit and set it up. The sand pit is where the golf driving range is now. We grew so many things—pears, peaches, plums, strawberries, apples. We picked wild raspberries and blackberries. We grew tomatoes, parsley, onions, cucumber, string beans, peppers.

We grew and sold flowers. We



had so many flowers - dahlias, zinnias, peonies, daisies, marigolds, cups and saucers, gladiolas, and roses. I sold the flowers on the road. I'd go into the woods and look for wildflowers and sell those on the road too. The wildflowers were my own money. We would cut and sell cord wood too.

We had a cow, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, a horse, rabbits and goats. Each child had their own animal. My first one was a rabbit. Then I had a goat. I had the goat up until the time I went into the

army. I kept my billygoat in the old ice shed.

When we were growing up we never had any grandparents or aunts, uncles or cousins. Years ago, we tried to get information about our family in Hungary. My parents had never talked about it. I guess my parents missed their own family so they had a big one over here. They spoke Hungarian. We can all speak it. We'd speak English to them and they'd answer in Hungarian, that's how we learned.

My Dad was very hard working and stern. He had big square shoulders. He cut our hair and repaired our shoes. I didn't go to a barber until I went into the army. Dad was also a butcher. We made all our own sausages and bacon by hand. We had pigs feet for Easter. My father was a great machinist. He made his own tractor with wheels made out of wood. I loved to plow with the tractor. I rode on the tractor with my Dad and I loved to jump behind the wheel and do it myself.

My Dad even made his own sawmill. I liked to start the sawmill and cut wood. I like to run the forge and watch my father make things. I ran the drill press. He taught me to make things and repair things and I still like to tinker around with things today.

My mother was very hard working. She was a good cook. She made Hungarian food. We always had soup on the stove and beans and potatoes. During the Depression it was hard times. We made everything on our own - bread, sauerkraut, cakes. My mother

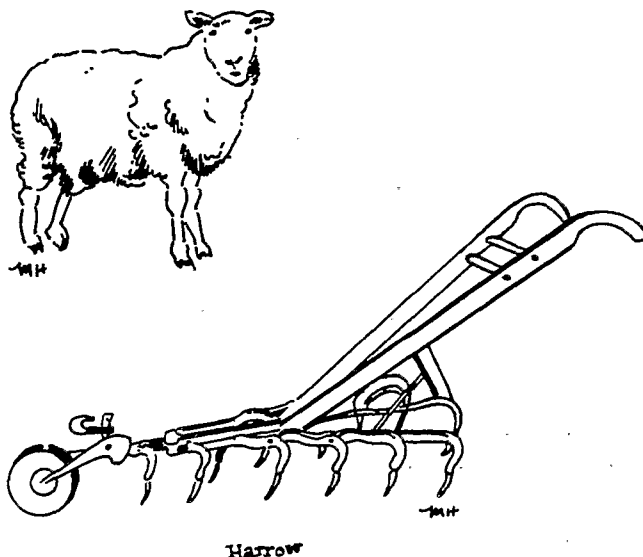
sewed everything. We made blankets out of duck and goose down, pillows too. That is all you needed to keep warm in winter. She made her own aprons out of feed bags which had pretty designs on them. She made pillow cases out of them, too.

While we were on the farm, a man and woman came who were travelling across country in a covered wagon. They wanted to stay with us a few days so their horse could graze. Our property had a lot of dry wells and the horse went over one and it caved in. They got a veterinarian and we got a wrecker (a tow truck). We put a belt around the horse's stomach and pulled him up. The horse was OK, but the people had to stay a little longer for the horse to heal. They had a case of chocolate drink in their wagon. I guess I wound up drinking it all up while they were there because I visited with them so much. They slept in their wagon.

I started school in Palisades. It was a two room school house. Grades 1-4 were in one room and grades 5-8 were in the other room. I also went to that new school that they built. There were five of us in my class— Harriet Hollenback, Flora Schaeffer, Sarah Blake and Bill Sneden. What I remember best about school was my teacher, Mr. Roda. He was good. And playing marbles. My best friends were Eugene Blake and Donald Krawchuck. Miss Zinnel was our nurse. Every winter she came by weekly with cod liver oil and a peppermint to eat after so we didn't mind taking it. All of us went to work after 8th grade. Only Alex went to High School.

I always worked. I worked on the farm. I sold vegetables and flowers at the stand. I had a paper route and the mail route in Palisades. I had the special deliveries, too. I worked for Simmons who had the grocery store here. Every Saturday we'd load the station wagon and take it down to Sneden's Landing. My father passed away when I was 16 and I had to help the family. After Palisades School I went over to Lederle Lab in Pearl River. I had to get my working papers. Growing up we all had to work.

Joe, I remember, always had money in his pocket. He got permission from Arthur Fox to cut any tree he wanted up on the land he owned behind where the Fincks are now. He sold white birch to a thread factory to make spools. He sold Christmas Trees on 9W. Alex worked for Mr. Kennell at his gas station on top of the hill across from the Rockland Country Club. Mr. Pollack had a gas station on 9W across from where the Andersons are now. John Garrison worked there. Alex was a hunter and fisherman before the War. That is how he made a living. He trapped muskrats in the Sparkill creek and sold them to Fox in New York for coats. He also had a place on the Standard Oil docks. Mr. Garrison, John's father, had the Sneden dock, Alex had the next one up. They were commercial fishermen.



When the War came, my brothers and I, except Alex who enlisted in '39, were drafted. I was in the medics in England and France. At first, Alex was stationed in Pearl Harbor, then he joined the War in the Pacific. He was on the Bataan Death March when he got wounded. Then the Japs sunk his hospital ship. We got a letter from his commanding officer giving the longitude and latitude of his burial. John Garrison reminisced, "I followed in his footsteps to the Pacific. When I was on Corregedor I thought so much about Alex on that Bataan Death March. He was my best friend."

I was on the US Army Hospital Ship, Jarrett M. Huddleston. We used to sail between England and France. Every so often we'd bring a load of wounded back to Staten Island, or Charleston, or Newport News. After the War we took back POWs.

When the War was over, I bought a house in Nyack with a GI loan. I moved up there with my mother, my sister, Ethel, and my brother, Johnny. I worked at Orangeburg Pipe for 25 years until it went out of business, then I worked at the Phillips 66 Bottling Factory until they closed. Because there were no more factories around, I worked at Pathmark Supermarket in Nanuet for 10 1/2 years until I retired. I was married to Loretta Goodson from Haverstraw. She worked at Letchworth. She loved kids. She and our son passed away.

Palisades is still my home. I enjoy coming here to see my friends - John Garrison at Yonderhill and Mr. Kennell at the old farm. My Palisades will never leave me, even in my resting place, since the cemetery borders the old farm. We will all be there- my father, my mother, my wife and my son. Palisades has changed so much, but I'm a country boy. I hate to see all the farm land going. I hope that the new people coming here will have an interest in the past and will do their best to save what is left.



# Bears in Palisades!?

*Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from an article that appeared in The Nyack Evening Journal on Saturday, March 6, 1920. This is the Rockland County that Andrew Drab knew, and I thought it might give you some perspective on the issues people dealt with some 70 years ago. At least, it will give you a chuckle.*

William H. Harbeck announced today that he would buy the first dead bear brought to him and with fresh snow on the ground he believes some agile nimrod can easily track Mr. and Mrs. Bruin and their cubs and make a killing.

The Sparkhill Herald this week tells its readers that "grizzly bears are roaming at large" and attacking commuters "and the thing is getting serious." List to the pipe dream:

One man is near death in the Nyack Hospital, another is badly shaken up and another man succeeded in capturing a bay cub for a pet. James Laidlaw of South Nyack is the man who was severely injured. Police Justice Edick also of South Nyack is the man who was badly shaken up and Joseph Gallo living in the same neighborhood is the proud owner of the cub.

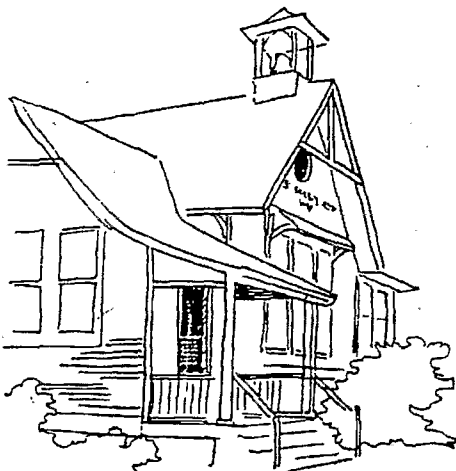
The three bears came galloping through the South Nyack Park towards the station. The largest bear made for James Laidlaw. The bear stood on his hind legs. Laidlaw pulled a revolver from his hip pocket and stood waiting the attack. The bear advanced and took the muzzle of the revolver in his mouth. Laidlaw

fired, and before he had time to think was in the clutches of the bear.

The South Nyack Reserves found the man and bear together. The latter died with a bullet through his brain; Laidlaw had received but one stroke from each paw of the grizzly. One fore-paw had passed over the shoulder, and a claw had hooked under the shoulder blade and tore it out entirely; the other fore-paw tore all the flesh from the left side. A hind-paw tore open Laidlaw's abdomen and the other hind-paw tore away the muscle from the man's right leg.

Police Justice Edick was knocked senseless by one blow from the other large bear. The bear smelt him carefully and being satisfied that he was dead he retired. The South Nyack reserves were just about to proceed to recover the body of the South Nyack Police Justice when the body sprang to its feet and made the best possible time to the station. Police Justice Edick is uninjured. His clothes were badly torn and he said that he came to his senses when the bear was smelling him.

*And thereby hangs a tale!*



## Palisades Community Center

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**For Parties, Meetings  
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# An Opportunity to Participate in Public Education

Exciting things are happening in public education, and some of these changes will provide an opportunity for participation in important decisions currently being made by the South Orangetown School District. Members of the community concerned with the workings of our local public schools can now have a voice in what happens.

These changes have come about for two reasons. Several years ago Thomas Sobol, the New York State Commissioner of Education, introduced the Compact for Learning. This concept challenges public schools in the state to develop new methods of decision-making, ones which give more autonomy to the individual school building and which involve teachers, parents and community members in shared decision-making using the process of consensus.

Our new superintendent, Mort Sherman, who succeeded Superintendent Olcott in the fall of 1992, shortly after set up a committee to develop a district plan following the mandate of the Compact for Learning. This group released its working draft on December 6, 1993 at a meeting of the Board of Education. Following the recommendations of this report, the district has now set up five site-based budget committees, one for each South Orangetown school, incorporating the principles of the Compact for Learning.

Each committee is composed of three teachers, one non-certified staff member, two parents of children attending school in that building, the building principal, and a community member. These committees, called Building Teams, have major responsibility for many aspects of school management. They are being asked to determine staffing needs, to conduct screening interviews for new staff, to establish procedures for discipline, to develop budgets, to make course recommendations, to assist with textbook selection and scheduling, and to develop a five year plan for the building. Decisions will be made based on consensus, a process which emphasizes the need to keep working on an issue until all members of the team are willing to live with the decision.

School staff and parent members were recommended by their respective organizations. Community members were chosen by the Superintendent from recommendations made by the Board of Education. All team members are expected to serve as delegates, making decisions which reflect the desires of the groups they were chosen to represent. They are

also encouraged to dream and to communicate their dreams to the Board of Education.

Three Palisades residents are serving as team members. Linda Ewig is a parent member of the Tappan Zee Elementary team. Kindergarten through third grade children from Palisades will attend this school next year. Phoebe Rosenwasser is a parent member of the Schaeffer School team and Alice Gerard is the community member for the same team. Palisades fourth and fifth graders will attend Schaeffer next year.

Teams meet frequently, outside of school hours, and are taking their responsibilities seriously. It is exciting to participate in this new process. However, it is very important that the community be aware of the existence of these teams and that everyone understands that their concerns can be expressed to members of the team. All meetings are open to interested parents, teachers, and community members.

If you would like to attend a meeting, express an opinion to your parent or community representative, or learn more about the new process, please call Linda Ewig at 359-1344, Phoebe Rosenwasser at 365-2441, or Alice Gerard at 359-4338. We urge you to take the time to share your feelings about school issues with the new building teams. This is a real opportunity to join in the process of creating better, more democratic schools for our children.

## Update on Trucks

On November 4, 1993, Judge Thomas W. Keegan J.S.C. of the State of New York Supreme Court handed down his decision against the town of Orangetown in the matter of tandem trailer usage by Consolidated Freightways in the town of Orangetown. By law, then, tandems will be operating in Orangetown and on Route 303 and Oak Tree Road, so please be careful. Much to our dissatisfaction, this concludes a lengthy disagreement on the part of many devoted area residents with the New York State Department of Transportation.

## Art On Site: Continued

ponds and whimsical topiary creations in an exploration of a number of gardens, very dissimilar, but all designed following artistic principles. Then we're invited to see the homes and studios of some of America's most celebrated nineteenth-century artists. We also stop in at Miss Florence Griswold's boardinghouse in Old Lyme, CT, where Childe Hassam and his friends passed many pleasant and productive summers. The final section of the book demonstrates triumphantly what treasures of modern art are accessible in such public settings as sculpture parks, campuses, and corporate headquarters.

A useful appendix helps with the choice of an outing. After checking the listings under "Walks through the landscape," for example, you might decide on a trip to the Susquehanna Valley to see the Starucca viaduct that Jasper Cropsey painted in 1865. Entries under the heading "Of interest to schoolage children" might suggest an artistic treasure hunt at Untermyer Park in Yonkers — and so on, through nine categories.

Also at the back of the book is a listing of additional art sites and museum collections headed "...And Bear in Mind" which is full of surprises. In Tenafly, for example, there's a collection of African art and artifacts amassed over more than a century by Catholic missionaries. In Peekskill, a new art colony is flourishing and some twenty studios and galleries are open to the public. In Cooperstown, there's the Fenimore House, an outstanding collection of American paintings.

Practicalities are not forgotten in this guidebook. Driving directions are clear, opening hours (or months) are listed and telephone numbers are provided. The authors also have an eye to the difficulty of the terrain: a hike up to the Kaaterskill Falls, for example, requires sturdy shoes, and shouldn't be undertaken when the trails are muddy. They are alert to the possible presence of crowds — Old Westbury Gardens should be visited on a weekday — and they take children's interests and energies into account, noting, for example, that there is plenty of grass to run around on at Storm King Art Center.

Reading *Art on Site* will leave you longing for spring, and busymaking plans. The problem, though, is where to start. Should it be the abandoned blue-stone quarry near Woodstock, NY, where the landscape itself has become art? Or historic New Castle, Delaware? Or...?

Caroline Tapley



## Palisades Library News

**The Library will be closed** on February 21st in honor of President's Day. On a separate note, those Palisadians that want to get a jump on the tax man this year can obtain their tax forms at the Library.

### New Books On Tape Now Available

More and more Palisadians are enjoying the Library's growing collection of books on audio cassette. In response to their popularity, the Library has just placed a new order for additional Books On Tape. In the meantime, be sure to come by and browse through the broad range of titles already available, including:

Grisham	<i>The Firm</i>
Harris	<i>The Silence of the Lambs</i>
Hart	<i>Damage</i>
James	<i>The Aspen Papers</i>
Lawrence	<i>Women In Love</i>
McCarthy	<i>All the Pretty Horses</i>
Salzman	<i>Iron &amp; Silk</i>
Tan	<i>The Kitchen God's Wife</i>
Wharton	<i>Collected Stories</i>

### Children's Program Set for Winter and Spring

The Library's "Storytime for Children" program will continue to take place on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm. This program is open to children ages 3 - 6. No advance registration necessary.

In addition to storytime, the Library is pleased to announce several new programs for children. Mark them on your calendar today!

**Valentine Mobile Day** — Scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 9th at 4:15 pm, this special event is open to children ages 6 and up who register in advance. The children will make colorful mobiles for Valentine's Day.

**Basket Weaving Day** — The children will explore the tradition of weaving baskets using cardboard and fabric. This event will take place on Tuesday, March 22nd at 4:15 pm and is for children ages 5 and up. Sign up early so you won't be disappointed.

*Continued on page 10*

# Tower of Secrets

By Victor Sheymov

edited by Roger Jellinek and EdenLee Murray Jellinek

Reviewed by Milbry Polk



*Tower of Secrets* is an absolutely riveting new spy thriller. It chronicles, in chilling detail, the inside workings of the KGB. Through the eyes of a bright rising star in the KGB's inner circles is revealed the macabre Machiavellian workings of this sinister and unexpectedly drab organization. *Tower of Secrets* is also about a love affair between the KGB star and a beautiful artist and their desperate attempt to escape the web of the KGB. *Tower of Secrets* is all the more shocking because it is a true story.

Victor Sheymov was a young, bright star on the Soviet fast track. He was born into the communist elite. His father was one of the founders of the Soviet ICBM program and his mother was a physician. He began his career at the prestigious Bauman Institute in Moscow, where he trained as an engineer. He went on to work at the Ministry of Defense working on the Soviet StarWars Program. He joined the KGB when he was 25, and was immediately put into one of the most secret and sensitive parts of this most secret of all institutions. He was chief trouble shooter for cipher communications security. Victor Sheymov is the most senior KGB officer ever to defect to the West.

The book chronicles some of his fascinating missions, each more incredible than the next. One, for example, took place at the Soviet Embassy in Beijing. There was a serious security leak and no one could figure out how the Chinese, who were technically very unsophisticated, were doing it. Victor was sent from Moscow to solve the problem. Although assured that failure would be tolerated in this one instance, Victor knew otherwise. Failure was never an option. Despite the fact that he knew no Chinese, had never been to China and was not allowed, for security reasons, to travel much beyond the Embassy (he was so far 'into the loop' that in all his foreign travel he was never permitted to go beyond the Embassy

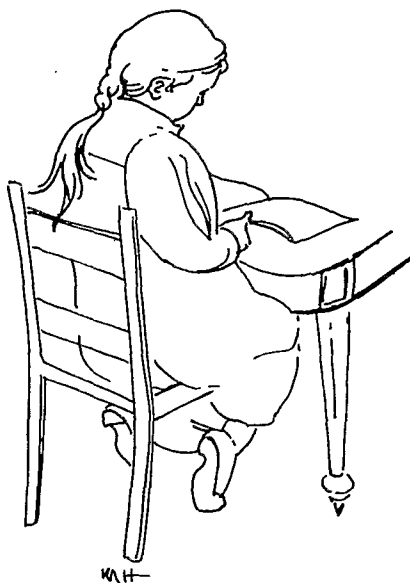
unaccompanied for fear he might be kidnapped) he managed to unravel the Chinese riddle. How he solved the problem is revealing of a brilliant mind at work.

One day Sheymov spotted a beautiful girl in one of the endless lines that weave through Moscow. Only someone who was KGB trained could have pulled off the approach and subsequent meetings. The two fell madly in love, married and trusted each other enough

to discuss their disillusionment with Communist society. Together they planned an unprecedented daring and dangerous escape from Russia with their five year old daughter. They even succeeded in convincing the KGB that they were all dead.

In effect the book is Sheymov's passport to a new life. By revealing so publicly much of what he knows, he buys a little insurance for himself and his family. But he is still regarded as a traitor and, should he meet up with any of his old operatives, his life is forfeit. The book was published by The Naval Institute Press, which achieved enormous success with Tom Clancy's *The Hunt For Red October*.

Now why is this review in 1964? Because it was edited by Roger Jellinek and EdenLee Murray Jellinek. In fact the reason it took Eden and Roger so long to get to Hawaii, after leaving Palisades, is because they had to spend nearly two years in Maryland working on this book. They got the project because Roger was approached by Sheymov's agent due to his previous editing of Hedrick Smith's *The Russians* and Fox Butterfield's *The Chinese: Alive in the Bitter Sea*. Roger was also in counterintelligence in the British Army and had edited the CIA Saigon station chief's memoirs, so he knew his subject!



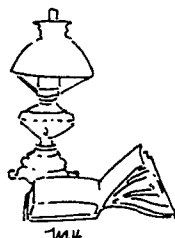
Continued on Page 10

## Library News Continued

**Egg Decorating Day** — Just in time for Spring, children between the ages of 4-7 are invited to the Library to color eggs both for themselves as well as for the Library's Children's Room. Children must register in advance and bring their own hardboiled or blown eggs. For exact date and time, please call the Library at 359-0136.

### New Books at the Palisades Free Library

Amado	<i>War of the Saints</i>
Berger	<i>Robert Crews</i>
Bergman	<i>Anonymity</i>
Blum	<i>Gangland</i>
Brookner	<i>Dolly</i>
Cleary	<i>Black Spring</i>
Condon	<i>Fatal Cure</i>
Coyle	<i>Hardball</i>
Crichton	<i>Disclosure</i>
Cronkite	<i>The Edge of Darkness</i>
Ernaux	<i>Simple Passion</i>
Fitch	<i>Anais</i>
Franck	<i>The Queen of Puerto Rico</i>
French	<i>Our Father</i>
Gaines	<i>Family Place</i>
Gore	<i>Gore Report on Reinventing Government</i>
Hersey	<i>Key West Tales</i>
Kurzman	<i>Left to Die</i>
Leach	<i>Children First</i>
Martin	<i>Great Divorce</i>
Murdoch	<i>Green Knights</i>
Narayan	<i>Love, Stars &amp; All That</i>
Piercy	<i>Longings of Women</i>
Roth	<i>Mercy of a Rude Stream</i>
Salzman	<i>The Soloist</i>
Seymour	<i>Ottoline Morrell</i>
Theroux	<i>Millroy the Magician</i>
Trzebinski	<i>Lives of Beryl Markham</i>
Updike	<i>Brazil</i>
Windle	<i>True Women</i>
Wouk	<i>Hope</i>



<b>Winter Hours</b>	Monday thru Thursday	3pm - 9pm
	Thursday	10 am - noon
	Friday	3 pm - 5 pm
	Saturday	2 pm - 5 pm
	Sunday	2 pm - 4 pm

### Elmwood Playhouse News

Elmwood's current production, *Ladies in Retirement*, a classic mystery thriller suitable for the entire family, will play through February 5. Their next offering, *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Freil, winner of a Tony award, will run from March 11 through April 9. Call 353-1313 for further information.

## Tower of Secrets: Continued

Originally there were to be two books. The first on Sheymov's last year in the KGB with flashbacks on his career. The second was to be on his escape. The Naval Institute Press combined them into one. Roger explains how they worked on this unusual project: "Victor tends to be extremely terse and easily bored, and it required my journalistic skills to draw him out, and especially to elaborate on the technical and professional intelligence detail. Eden's dramatic skills as director and actress were especially useful in finding color that would make the characters more three-dimensional. As a result, we were able to dramatize the story more effectively and give it more authority. Every change and amplification was rigorously tested by Victor, usually in day-long face-to-face sessions in our veranda "office" overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. These weekly sessions always elicited new stories. Victor was especially reluctant to get into the more technical stories. I'd write them up and Victor would edit them with incredible attention to nuance. A mistake might lessen his credibility with his peers, or might clarify something he insisted remain vague. Eden and I went through the same intense process between ourselves on the rewrites. The book was probably written a dozen times."

Now, as everyone knows, Roger and Eden have moved on to Hawaii. Roger is pursuing his Pacific Rim Project and the Great Flood Project among others. Eden has been appearing on stage! She recently got rave reviews in the Star-Bulletin and other local papers for her role as Amanda in *Private Lives*. She is about to play Maggie in *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

*Tower of Secrets*, which came out, October 1, is now widely available. The reviews have been excellent. Many of you probably read the New York Times Magazine adaptation of the book by Roger that appeared on September 26. We hope *Tower of Secrets* will soon be seen in the cinema — it certainly deserves further acclaim. Bravo Roger and Eden!

## Spring Art Classes at the Rockland Center for the Arts

Spring comes early to the Rockland Center for the Arts in West Nyack with an array of favorite classes and a sampling of new ones for artists, writers, potters and actors — as well as any who would like to learn these crafts.

New this semester are several workshops that tie in with the Center's current gallery exhibit: "Masks: The Magic of Illusion." For example, Barbara Pollitt, master puppetmaker and maskmaker, teaches an 8-session class on "Sculpting the Face," a portrait maskmaking workshop for adults beginning Saturday, Jan. 22. The workshop "Crafts of Mali," taught by Pamela Lawrence, takes place on Sunday, Feb. 27 from 1:00 - 5:00 pm. Other new offerings include Painting On Silk, taught by Hariklia Fenner; Rubber Stamp Art, taught by Dorothy Cochran; and Applied Calligraphy, taught by Yaroslava Mills.

Call 358-0877 for a free brochure and registration information.

### Night of the Grape

Rockland Center for the Arts pays homage to the grape! On Friday, March 11 beginning at 7:00 pm, the Center will be sponsoring a seven-course gourmet dinner and wine tasting gala event. The featured attraction of this elegant evening will be an auction of fine wines hosted by world renowned winemaster, Kevin Zraly, who is the winemaster at Windows on the World. The event will take place at the historic Old '76 House in Tappan. Among the fine wines for auction are a bottle of Chateau Petrus 1970, considered a great vintage for this wine which has become known as the "world's most expensive Bordeaux." For further information and reservations, call the Center at 358-0877.



## Palisades Presbyterian Church

On **February 13th**, Justin Hartz will give an organ recital in the sanctuary at 4:00 pm. Mr. Hartz, the church's former organist and choir director, is now the director of the Hercules Company Chorale in Wilmington, Delaware. He has given concerts at Saint Patrick's Cathedral and the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City, and he recently completed a series of 36 Christmas concerts at Longwood Gardens in Delaware.

The program for the recital is:

JS Bach	<i>Piece D'Orgue</i> ( <i>"Fantasy in G"</i> )
Franz Lizst	<i>Prelude and Fugue</i> on Bach
Louis Vierne	<i>Carillon de</i> <i>Westminster</i>

Suggested donation \$10.00, seniors and students \$7.00. Proceeds go to the building fund.

**February 16th:** Ash Wednesday Service, 8 pm

**March 31st:** Holy Communion Service

## Update on Route 303 Widening

The proposed expansion of Route 303 continues to be a threat to our community although the New York State Department of Transportation is reassessing its plan. The DOT is currently redoing area surveys and reanalyzing project related information. Hopefully, their results will be available by the end of the summer. The Coalition for Route 303 has asked to be included in these survey efforts, but so far has not been contacted. The Coalition has been moving forward in its efforts with newly elected public officials, and feels that County Executive Jack Cassidy continues to support the Coalition's opposition to widening the road. For information about the status of all Coalition activities, or to become a member, contact Deborah Slivensky at 422-5687; or write **the Coalition for Route 303, P.O. Box 419, Orangeburg, New York, 10962.**

## 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.

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Drawings by Marika Hahn  
and Kwibin Park



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Diana Green, Boyce Leni,  
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### Contributions

We are very grateful for contributions from the following Palisadians:

William and Rose Ngai  
Marshall and Irene Davidson  
Irving Alpert  
Alice Haagensen  
James and Helen Moran  
IJ and Bette Castro  
Jacob and Delta Rosoff  
C. William Knudson  
Donald and Caroline Tapley

### Births

We are delighted to welcome Matthew Christopher DiGiacomo, son of 10964 staff member Lori DiGiacomo and Ralph DiGiacomo. He was born on December 22nd and will soon be bouncing around with his older brothers, Daniel and Stephen.

### Classified

**For sale:** Kitchen cabinets, almond formica with oak trim, 8 years old, excellent condition. Whirlpool double oven with cooktop. Best offer. Call Ralph at 365-1050.

.....

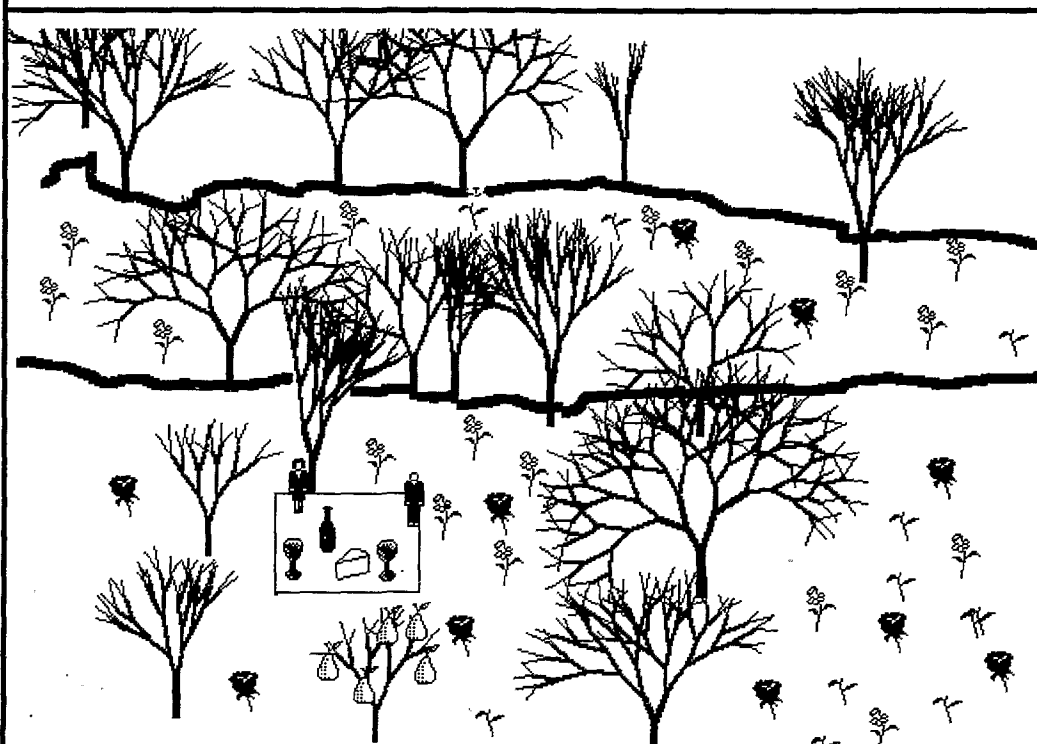
**Fred Little** of Woods Road was recently awarded his first-degree black belt by the International Aikikai Foundation, based in Tokyo. In celebration the Palisades Aikikai is now forming a new beginner's class. For information and practice times call 359-3261.

.....

**Simon Gerard's** famous cooking classes start with the Mediterranean. In the midst of this dreary weather, think *sun-drenched shores*. Call Simon at 365-1908 for further information.

### Kid's Corner

Computer drawing by  
Perri Gerard-Little  
aged 7



## WINTER PICNIC