

10964

The  
Palisades  
Newsletter

December 1996 Number 154

## A Gift From All of Us To Mother Nature

It is our custom to celebrate the spirit of giving in our December issue, and traditionally, we like to publicize ways that people can share gifts with others during the holiday season. This year, we hope that our readers will continue to contribute to deserving holiday charities, but we have chosen to highlight the happy circumstance that this year, Palisadians can join with many others around our region to give nature an irreplaceable gift. Sterling Forest, and all the wildlife within it, has been given a future by a recent vote in the U.S. Congress. The 17,500 acre forest is only 40 miles from New York City and had been slated for intensive development by its current owners, a Swiss insurance company.

In October, the fight to save this critical link in the stretch of wilderness between the Hudson and Delaware rivers was nearly won after more than ten years of effort when the Senate and the House both approved a bill that authorizes \$17.5 million in federal funds to help buy more than 90 percent of the land. Additional money has been pledged by New York, New Jersey, and



## Happy Holidays

by two well-respected environmental groups (The Trust for Public Land in San Francisco and the Open Space Institute in New York), and numerous private donors. However, an additional \$10 million in donations is needed by 1998 to attain the full purchase price of \$55 million before the forest can be given over to the Palisades International Park Commission (PIPC).

Many thanks to two Palisades residents who helped this process, Mr.

Robert Binnewies, the executive director of the PIPC, who spearheaded the effort to save the forest, and Mr. Nash Castro, now retired from that same post, who contributed a great deal of time and energy as well.

Mr. Binnewies' involvement in the process began immediately when he assumed his job eight years ago, but at first progress was slow. It required quite a lot of time and effort to develop enough momentum so that about four years ago during the 103rd Congress, about four years ago, the issue finally gained national attention as a political issue. According to Mr. Binnewies, the PIPC set out to forge a working partnership comprised of federal, state, and private donors to raise the funds required. Support from state and private donors came fairly easily—both Governors Pataki and Whitman

were strongly in favor of saving the forest from the outset, both for its value as a clean watershed for New Jersey drinking water and for its important wilderness beauty. Shortly after his election, Pataki showed his support for the process when he shared with reporters his memories of hiking in the area during his childhood in Peekskill. Likewise, many private and nonprofit organizations were quick to lend their support.

The hardest part was securing federal participation, and the congressional

(Continued on page 20)



# Prominent Palisadians

## Spotlight on Bernie Doyle

For many Palisadians, a trip to the post office means a visit with Bernard "Bernie" Doyle who holds several unofficial posts in the community:

*Social historian.* Bernie came to Palisades as an infant in 1948 and with short breaks has been here ever since. He has a good memory, many friends, an interest in community affairs of all types and a willingness to share his knowledge.

*Town wit.* Bantering with Bernie is a favorite activity of many postal clients. Many have been skewered by Bernie's sharp but gentle wit. A Palisadian once invited Bernie to attend the "talent show" at the church saying he could see the post office boxholders make fools of themselves. "I see that on a daily basis," Bernie shot back. Some don't even notice Bernie's barbs. Some fight back. The late Gert Macy, a fierce Democrat, scored one on Bernie. Noticing the extremist Republican former postmaster Laura Ebmeyer nearby one day, Gert loudly engaged Bernie in talk implicating him—true or not—in shared Democratic activity. When she left, Ebmeyer chastised Bernie for "dealing with the enemy."

*Mayor.* If Palisades had a mayor—which it does not—and if Bernie wanted to be mayor—which he does not—he would be a viable candidate. Most people know him, like him and trust him and he plays a pretty good game of golf. What more does an unofficial mayor need?

Bernie was born in Brooklyn in 1947. His grandparents lived in the Palisades area and his family moved to Route 340 in Palisades a year later. Bernie's grandmother played piano in a Sparkill movie

theatre and she also gave piano lessons in the Sparkill area. Bernie went to Palisades elementary school and Tappan Zee High School. He was drafted in 1966, served a tour as an infantry combat medic in Vietnam, and was discharged in 1968. The next year he started at the Palisades post office branch then located in the Academic Press book warehouse on Oak Tree Road (now Lederle Packaging Services).



At one time the main post office was in the country store across the street from the current location. When it was forced to move, about 1962, the Postmaster, Laura Ebmeyer, built a building next to her house on the corner of Closter Road and leased it for use as a post office. Ebmeyer and her husband have both died but the post office still leases the building from her estate, handled by Mann, Mann & Lewis of Nyack.

Bernie was drawn to go west twice for brief periods in the 1970's: once to attend the University of Utah for a year and once to work in a Utah post office for two. He came back from the second trip in 1979 and has been here ever since. He has watched great changes over the years and says Palisades, Sparkill, Tappan, and Piermont have weathered the storm of development better than most other nearby communities.

"It's been slower here because the people who lived here cared enough to slow it down," he said.

Bernie has friends among all groups, whether their bank accounts are full to bursting, modestly healthy or overdrawn. He is nostalgic about the older generation of prominent Palisadians, mostly gone now. He said they were "relaxed, never extreme, and shared their experience with everyone. They were committed to family and community."

"What set this place apart," he said, "Is that you didn't tell how rich people were by their wallets, but by the way they behaved."

Bernie noted the influx of people from the arts with a characteristic friendly barb: "What did they do, advertise for wacko artists? They're all over."

He can hold his own with the Snedens Landing celebrities. While renting the Presbyterian Church Manse, comedian Bill Murray stopped at the post office and asked jovially, "Bernie, what the (bleep) is a Manse?"

"Better watch your language while you live there," Bernie replied.

Movie actress Margot Kidder turned her dazzling (capped) smile on Bernie one day and he was overheard telling her, "Margot, you don't have a tooth in your mouth you can call your own." She cracked up and Palisades' unofficial mayor had a new supporter.

—Nick Ludington

## Palisades Has A New Postmaster

10964 has learned that Denise Madura will be the new Postmaster of Palisades. Her official appointment by the White Plains regional office covering Westchester, Orange, and Rockland Counties came through in late November.

Denise is 34 and has been working at the Palisades Post Office for several months. She and her husband, a corrections officer, and two children live in Slate Hill, in Orange County. She commutes to Palisades.

Before coming to Palisades, Denise worked in the Harriman Post Office. She replaces Anne Welch, who was reassigned after fracturing her ankle in an accident.



*Palisades' new Postmaster, Denise Madura*

## Christmas Mailing Dates

| International Mail Addressed to: | Air Letters and Cards | Air Parcel Post |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Africa                           | Dec. 2                | Dec. 2          |
| Australia/New Zealand            | Dec. 9                | Dec. 2          |
| Canada                           | Dec. 13               | Dec. 13         |
| Caribbean                        | Dec. 2                | Dec. 2          |
| Europe                           | Dec. 9                | Dec. 9          |
| Far East/Southeast Asia          | Dec. 9                | Dec. 9          |
| Middle East                      | Dec. 9                | Dec. 9          |
| Central and South America        | Dec. 2                | Dec. 2          |



## Spotlight on Milbry Polk

If you'd been watching the television program "Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood" on October 13th you would have seen neighbor Milbry Polk and her daughters Elisabeth, Bree and Mary. They served as an introduction to a show Milbry has created about women explorers called "They Also Dared." Over the last year or so, Milbry selected 30 women and has recorded first-person narratives with the first five.

Her segment that aired on the Osgood show included such inspiring examples as Nicole Maxwell, an ethnobotanist, jungle explorer and herbalist who spent 40 years documenting the

medicinal plants of the rain forest, and Ruth Robertson, who led the first successful expedition into the Venezuelan interior to map Angel Falls.

As often happens with good ideas, this project led to something equally interesting. Milbry currently is working to establish an interactive mentoring site on the Internet that will enable 8 to 14-year olds to meet different kinds of explorers of the scientific world on line. She believes kids need this personal link, to be able to talk to what she calls "guides," men and women with experience in diverse fields. With such a link, kids can learn about the world through the guide's life experiences and, in the course of learning, be inspired by them to acquire a new sense of their own possibilities, to become explorers too.

And if this weren't enough, Milbry has written an accurate "pop-up" book about mummies. Published by Visual Books, it should be available by Christmas.

Anyone who missed her "Sunday Morning" segment and wants to see it can call her at 365-0297 for a copy of the tape.

—Cellen Wolk

# South Orangetown School News

## Bond Issue Vote on December 18

Enrollments are growing rapidly in our school district. Compared to 1988 levels, when the current SOCES configuration was initiated, enrollments are expected to rise 27 percent by the year 2000. The projected increases in the elementary schools alone are 25 percent, up from 1,057 to an estimated 1,312 students.

To accommodate this growing pupil population, on Tuesday, October 29 the Board of Education approved a bond resolution for approximately \$8.9 million. Through state aid, New York State will reimburse 31.7 percent of this to the school district, thereby reducing the total to about \$6.1 million dollars. This bond would be used to upgrade and improve the existing school facilities. The planned changes would prepare all schools, from elementary through high school, to meet the challenges posed by the growing student body into the next century without compromising instructional levels or caps on class size. If passed, the bond issue would finance the following things:

### *Elementary School*

All the elementary schools need repairs for items such as heating systems, toilet fixtures, temperature controls, and roof drains.

*Tappan Zee Elementary*, which will serve kindergarten through third grade after 1998, will have 6 classrooms added. Plans call for *William O. Schaeffer* to house pre-kindergarten through third grade, incorporating the preschool and transitional kindergarten currently at the Palisades School (which will be closed). Five additional classrooms will be

needed at WOS. Five classrooms will also be added to *Cottage Lane*, which will continue to serve grades 4 and 5. In addition, playgrounds and parking lots will be improved and the gymnasium will be expanded and will include a stage that is accessible to the handicapped.



*And if the bond issue doesn't pass...*

### *Middle School and High School*

The bond issue would provide for upgrading science labs, infrastructure improvements, and replacing the auditorium seats in the Middle School. Major repairs will be made to the fire alarm systems and ventilation at both buildings.

### **Voting on December 18**

The bond resolution will be presented to the community for a vote on December 18.

If the bond is approved by voters, these improvements and renovations are scheduled for completion by September of 1998. All registered voters who have voted in a school or general election within the last four years are eligible to vote on the bond resolution and do not

need to re-register. If you have not previously voted, you may register on Wednesday, December 11, 1996 at Tappan Zee High School between the hours of 12 noon and 8 p.m.

## **Remember! Vote on the Bond Issue on December 18**

### **Voting Hours**

Voting hours are between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. on December 18. Residents of Palisades vote at the Tappan Zee Elementary School on Route 9W in Piermont. Absentee ballots can be requested from District Clerk Lillian Stuercke at 365-4203, and applications are due on December 11 at the District Clerk's office in the South Orangetown Middle School.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please call Lisa Horton at the Office of Communications at 365-4204 or the Superintendent's Office at 365-4200. You can also send an e-mail message to Dr. Sherman at MDARS@aol.com.

### **Lend-a-Hand Committee**

The Lend-a-Hand Committee was formed last year by Palisades resident Margie Goldstein and William O. Schaeffer (WOS) School principal Dr. Marianne Tully. In its first project, recycling of paper, milk cartons, and cans was begun at the Schaeffer school. As of November, the effort was expanded and now all of the elementary schools participate in recycling.

This year, the Lend-a-Hand Committee initiated a Keep Us Warm drive, which was held at WOS on Dec. 4 and 5. Residents of the South Orangetown School District donated clean coats and blankets to less fortunate families and children via several charitable organizations in Rockland County, just in time for the winter.

—Ellen Chayet Kidd



## Palisades School Faces Uncertain Future

The recent decision by the South Orangetown school board to reorganize the SOCES school district will have a direct impact on Palisades. Under the new plan, scheduled to be implemented in September 1998, the pre-kindergarten and special education programs currently housed in the old brick school on Oak Tree Road at the Palisades School will be relocated to the William O. Schaeffer School in Tappan.

According to SOCES Superintendent Morton Sherman, the future use of the building is somewhat uncertain, but he declared that "I am certain that the Board wants to retain the building and property for future school district uses." He went on to emphasize that the Board has no intention of selling off the property, pointing to the many mistakes made in the past when school properties were sold in haste to the overall detriment of the district. There is little chance that the school could return to its current use in the distant future, since state funding for separate, stand-alone programs serving special education needs is declining in response to the need to cut costs.

*Built in 1930 as a neighborhood elementary school, the Palisades School will have to find a new role in the school system in 1998.*

The process to determine how the property will be used after September 1998 is just beginning, and Mr. Sherman mentioned that community input will be sought to help determine what will be done. He declared that the Oak Tree Playgroup has always been a good partner with the district's programs, and he indicated that he would like to see some way to work out a continued relationship. Whether they could continue at that location could not be predicted now. One possible new occupant of the building mentioned was BOCES.

—Greta Nettleton

## Local Cross-Country Paths for Hiking, Biking, and Skiing

Last winter gave us snow beyond any local skier's wildest dreams, and 10964 staff had many chances to explore good places to enjoy winter sports right out of their own front doors. These trails are just as good without snow for off-road bikes and walking shoes. (Too

much talk about more skiing during the winter of 1997 could possibly jinx the spirits of copious snowfall.)

**The old railway line from Sparkill to Nyack.** The first section of this, from Finn McCools on Oak Tree Rd to the center of Sparkill, is too rough for biking, but is fine for hiking and skiing, given enough snow cover. Bikers can pick up the trail as it continues into Piermont, right underneath the "Diplomat" side of the viaduct over Sparkill, and can follow the graded surface all the way to the center of Nyack.

**Alpine Lookout (Exit 3 from Palisades Parkway).** This rest stop has a network of cross-country ski trails, graded from easy to expert. They are relatively short, but include some nice up and downhill terrain. The abandoned stretch of old 9W leads from these trails down to the Lamont trails, through a break in the fence. Hikers can continue down to the waterfall.

**Tallman Park.** The wide trail between the driving range parking lot and the main entrance is great for biking, but last winter, hikers quickly spoiled the cross-country ski tracks with deep footprints. The paths off to the right and left are closed to bikers, but good for skiing. Thrill seekers can try skiing the gas pipeline down towards the river as far as they dare, and to make a skiing circuit, a small path connects the pipeline to the end of Woods Rd.

**Hook Mountain.** Hiking trails go right to the top, starting from a parking spot on the right on 9W (north) just past the crest of the ridge between Nyack and Haverstraw. This is a good spot to watch migrating hawks in the fall. Another good trail suitable for walking, skiing, and hybrid bikes goes from the parking lot at Nyack Beach for 5 ½ miles to Haverstraw, along the edge of the river.

—Greta Nettleton

# Bulletin Board

**P**alisades resident **Margie Goldstein** recently competed in the New York City Marathon. She ran the 26.3 mile course in 4 hours and 29 minutes. Way to go, Margie!

**Lauren Hamilton** and husband **Richard Selesnick** proudly announce the birth of their son **Mac Bindon Selesnick** on September 19, 1996. Mac joins older brother **Fergie Chambers**.

**Jane Herold's** annual Holiday Pottery Sale will be held on two weekends, Sat/Sun December 7 & 8, and Sat/Sun December 14 & 15, from 1-4 p.m. each day. If these times are not convenient, please call for an appointment at 359-5421.

**Robert Adzema** recently completed a lovely, bronze sundial/fountain for the Lamont Rose Garden. He has a show of paintings at the Piermont Flywheel Gallery from Nov. 14 through Dec. 1. For more information, in case you do not make the show before it closes, please give him a call at 359-5421.

**Carpool seat needed:** Rebecca Norman needs a carpool seat to the Columbia U. area by 8:50 a.m. weekdays during January and February. Please call her at 359-2155.

More wonderful Palisades pottery! **Sylvia March** runs a pottery class for children 5 years and up on Tuesday afternoons from 4-5 p.m. Instruction for adults is also available; please call for more information at 359-3767. Sylvia will also hold a holiday show and sale at her house, 224 Route 9W, on Sat. Dec.

7 and Sat/Sun Dec. 14-15, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Lois and Robert Burkaw** write from Kentucky that they are settled in a condo and that their son, **Barry**, is building a new house nearby. They miss their friends in Palisades, and hope to keep in touch with everyone. Their new address is 3620 Hurstbourne Ridge Blvd., Louisville, KY 40299-6533.

## Volunteers are needed!

**Head Start of Rockland** is looking for people to help out with kids in the classroom, with adult literacy, and in other ways. If you can help, please drop by the building in Nyack at 85 Depew Ave, or call 358-2234.

**The Tappan Zee Thrift Shop** is an important source of income for the Palisades Free Library. Volunteers are *urgently* needed. Even 3 hours a month would be helpful.

Anyone wishing to contribute time as a regular or substitute worker may call 359-5753. Hours are Tues., Thurs., Fri., and Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Rev. Debra Dresser of the Episcopal Church in Sparkill has formed a **neighborhood language program** to help those whose native language is not English. They meet Tues/Thurs from 7-9 p.m. and are seeking volunteers to help with tutoring, fundraising, etc. Please call Rev. Dresser at 359-2858 if you can help.



## Palisades Presbyterian Church News

- The Children's Christmas Pageant will take place during the Sunday service on Dec. 22, at 11 a.m.
  - On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, the family service take place at 5:30 p.m.
  - A service of lessons and carols will take place at 11 p.m. on the 24th.
- At the 5:30 family service, the traditional "white gifts" will be collected for distribution to children in Harlem Hospital. Please bring a new toy wrapped in white tissue paper and note the appropriate age on the outside.

The Palisades Historical Committee needs to know if Palisades residents would be interested in attending an evening meeting in February or March to hear about the work of the committee and to discuss historical issues in Palisades. Please contact Liz Finck at 359-1452 or Alice Gerard at 359-4338 if you would come to such a meeting, or if you are interested in the work of the committee in general.



## Palisades Voters Give Democrats A Sweep

Assemblyman Sam Colman led an unsurprising Democratic sweep of Palisades on November 5, with a run-away 486 to 246 margin over Armand Miele. President William J. Clinton was close behind, besting former Senator Robert Dole by 452 to 270.

The highest Republican votegetter in the combined Districts 12 & 50 was Congressman Ben Gilman, who collected 331 votes versus the 367 votes cast for former Lamont seismologist Yash Aggarwal, the Democratic and Liberal nominee. State Senator Joseph Holland fell just short of Gilman, with 317 votes, compared to 393 for Democratic challenger Christopher St. Lawrence. 1996 was only the second time in his 16-year career that Gilman failed to carry Palisades; he lost with 48 percent of the vote in 1992.

In the two State Supreme Court contests, which are considered to be the standard measure of basic party alignments, J. Emmett Murphy and Michele L. Bermel received 410 and 388 votes on the Democratic line and 20 each on the Independence (H. Ross Perot) line. W. Denis Donovan and John R. LaCava reaped 226 and 224 Republican votes, 15 and 11 Conservative, and 26 and 23 Right to Life. Averaging the two pairs of candidates, the percentage alignments were 57.5 percent Democratic (compared to 59.3 one year ago), 32.4 percent Republican (27.7), 3.75 percent Conservative (3.5), 2.9 percent Perotist (2.3), and 3.5 percent RTL (6.4).

Palisadians, including the handful of Sparkill residents in District 12, gave overwhelming support to all four propositions at the top of the ballot. The state "Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act" was a 393 to 182 winner. Voting on the Rockland County proposals was as follows: #1 (allowing the County

Legislature 60 days instead of 30 to review County Executive appointments) passed by 342 to 167; #2 (mandating legislative review of contracts in excess of \$100,000) by 342 to 167; and #3 (eliminating two staff positions from the Administrative Code) by 346 to 135. (All the proposals were adopted.)

Comparing Palisades to all of Orangetown, the hamlet continued its long-time tradition of giving Democrats a helping hand, although Clinton's 57.8 percent in Districts 12 & 50 barely exceeded his 55.8 percent of the town's presidential balloting and 56.7 countywide. (Four years ago, Clinton lost Orangetown to President George Bush, 42 to 45 percent, with 13 percent supporting Perot.) Colman did far better, with 66.4 percent in Palisades, 57 percent townwide and 63.9 percent in his Orangetown-Ramapo district. Aggarwal won 51 percent of Palisadian ballots, miles ahead of his 37 percent in Orangetown. St. Lawrence's 55 percent in the hamlet also far outstripped his 41 Orangetown and 40.5 countywide percentages.

Palisades votes for other Presidential candidates were: H. Ross Perot (Independent) 30, Ralph Nader 20, Howard Phillips (RTL) 5, Harry Browne (Libertarian) 4, and John Hagelin (Natural Law) 1. Ira Goodman (Independent) received 8 votes for Congress and Robert F. Garrison (RTL) 23.

—Andrew Norman



## National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist

Congratulations to Palisadian **Jacqueline Hui**, a senior at Tappan Zee High School, who is one of three South Orangetown students named as National Merit Scholar semi-finalists. According to Superintendent Dr. Morton Sherman, the three semi-finalists represent the best in South Orangetown and the district is proud of them. "They excel not only in their academic work, but in community service and in other areas," he said, "and theirs is a significant achievement." Jacqueline plans to major in engineering in college and to study medicine in graduate school.

Among the honors Jacqueline has received are the Rensselaer medal, the Rockland County Teachers Music Guild gold and blue ribbons, the Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award from the Chinese Medical and Health Association, second place in the Rockland County VFW Oratorical Essay Contest, membership in the Math Honor Society, Science Honor Society, and the National Honor Society, and admission to Columbia University's science honor program.

During her senior year, she has taken AP courses in Chemistry, Physics, Calculus, English, and Government. She plays flute in the band, the orchestra, and the chamber orchestra, and also plays piano and in the hand bell choir. Her other activities include ballet, student government, Mock Trial Club, Asian Society, musical theater and community service at Nyack Hospital, the geriatric center of Rockland Psychiatric Center and the Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research.

All semi-finalists now go on to the nationwide finalist competition in an attempt to earn National Merit Scholarship awards.

# Art News

## Nutcracker Ballet

The Rockland Youth Dance Ensemble (RYDE), and the Coupé Dance Theatre Studio will be presenting the Nutcracker ballet during the month of December. Palisades residents **Amelia Kidd**, **Allie Rosenwasser** and **Emily Ullman** will each be dancing in these performances. Look for them as party children and mice.

**Amelia** and **Allie** are in the Coupé Dance Theatre cast, with performances on Saturday, December 7 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and on Sunday, December 8 at 4 p.m. at Clarkstown South High School. **Emily** is in the RYDE cast, with performances on Saturday, December 14 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, December 15 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Rockland Community College.

Tickets are \$15, \$12, and \$10 for the Coupe performances; and \$15 for RYDE. Tickets can be charged by calling 624-7933, and are available at the door one hour prior to each performance.

Good luck to these dancers!

## Elmwood Playhouse

The Elmwood Playhouse will present the musical comedy "Company" from Nov. 15 to Dec. 14. In January, they will present "Glengarry Glen Ross" from Jan. 17 to Feb. 8. Performances are Fri. and Sat. evenings at 8:30 p.m., Sun. matinees at 2:30 p.m., and Sun. evenings at 7:30 p.m. For reservations and more information, please call the box office at 353-1313.

## Antrim Players

The Antrim Players will present "I Hate Hamlet," by Paul Rudnick from Jan. 17 to Feb. 1; they will do "The Heiress" from Mar. 7 to 29. Please apply by mail for tickets c/o Marc Factor, 5 Burlington Ave., Suffern, NY 10901.

## Rockland Center for the Arts

A concert titled "Sam Waymon is Back: A Tribute to 60s Music" will take place Sat. Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. For more information, please call 358-0877.

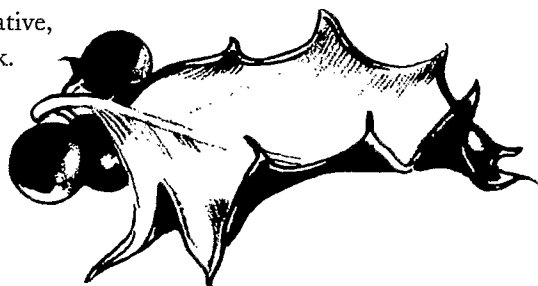
- RCA will also hold its 3rd Annual Pottery Sale on Dec. 6, from 7-9 p.m., Dec. 7, from 10-5 p.m., and Dec. 8, from noon-5 p.m.
- The Emerson Gallery will be holding a show of nine local artists called "Rockland Sampler." The opening reception for this is Dec. 8, from 1-4 p.m. The show closes Dec. 27. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is free or by suggested donation.
- In January, the gallery will feature "Hugh Mesibov: Sixty Years of Work," opening Jan. 12 and closing the 26th. The opening reception is from 1-4 p.m. on the 12th. Mesibov is an American artist whose work has evolved to reflect the changing scene of the twentieth century. The exhibition displays elements of the American experience as well as Abstract Expressionist, figurative, Surrealist and Cubist work. Mesibov's work is included in collections such as the



Metropolitan Museum, the Philadelphia Museum, the Barnes Foundation, and the Whitney.

## Blue Hill Cultural Center

Robert Martin's Blue Hill Plaza invites local residents to view an exhibition of works entitled "Celebrating Sports," with paintings by four artists: Barry Ferine, Andy Jurinko, Jeffrey Rubin, and Murray Tinkelman. The paintings include baseball portraits, collages comprising assembled bits of baseball memorabilia into a frame design, and mixed-media images combining painting and photography portraying a wide variety of different types of sports. The exhibition continues through April 30, 1997.





# Hornblow and Giants

## A Profile of Jamie Kitman and Marjorie Galen

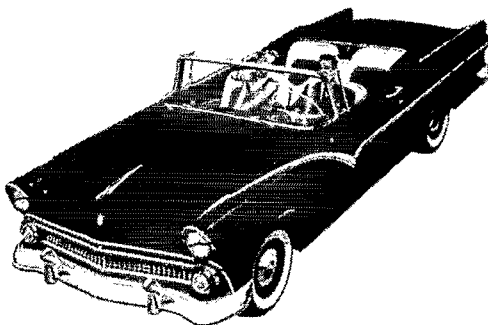
On a recent foray to the post office, I was told by one of my trusty sources to check out the really cool music being produced by one of our Palisades neighbors for a group called They Might Be Giants (one of their songs is about an ancestor of mine!). The CD, called "The Factory Showroom," was promptly stolen by my preteen daughters. Frustrated, I decided to go to the source.

So, one sunny morning, I drove down the road to meet the Hornblow Group USA, a.k.a. Jamie Kitman and Marjorie Galen. While not new Palisades residents, having been here since 1992, they are new homeowners. Marjorie and Jamie, with daughter Ellie Beatrice, 9 months, and son, Ike Clement, 2½ years, moved into the former Thatcher house on Washington Spring Rd. last spring.

Jamie and Marjorie's quiet demeanor and low profile hide an amazing array of successful talent. Marjorie was born in Brooklyn and raised in Westchester. After getting a degree in Philosophy from Bryn Mawr, she worked for a newspaper, then an architectural firm, all the while playing guitar in a comedy rock and roll band called Life in a Blender. Mixing her managerial and rock and roll skills, Marjorie's next job was with Bar None Records. It was there that she met Jamie.

Jamie was also born in Brooklyn, but raised down the road in Leonia, N.J. He had heard about Palisades from his father, the TV critic for Newsday, Marvin Kitman. Jamie often drove north in his spare time to visit the river towns, and eventually he selected Palisades for his home and business. Jamie went to Columbia for a degree in

History and then to Northeastern for a law degree. After law school, he clerked for the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. Though well on the way towards a Wall Street career, Jamie's passion, automobiles, led him down another road. In his spare time Jamie wrote for a number of magazines, including *The Nation*, *Spy Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and the British magazine *Automobile*. Just before Jamie began his law career in Manhattan, *Automobile*



sent him on assignment to drive to every baseball park in the United States (there are 28 of them), and then to cover the 1986 World Series. He never showed up at the law firm.

Jamie was also friendly with the rock group They Might Be Giants (TMBG). They needed a manager. So Jamie formed the Hornblow Group in 1987 to manage the band's business. For those of you in the dark about TMBG, the group has a wide following both in numbers and years. They appeal equally to 6 and 60-year olds. Two of their songs are theme songs for the cartoon show "Tiny Toons."

Meeting Marjorie was fortuitous. Not only did they become a couple, but

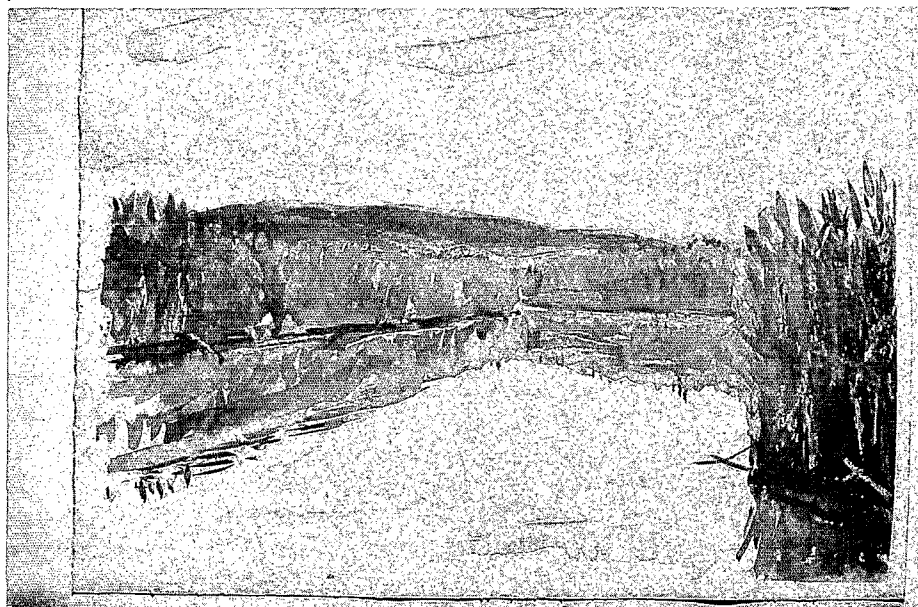
she brought a formidable array of managerial talent to Hornblow. Marjorie's innovative creations include *Hello*, a CD of the Month Club, which is based out of Palisades. Ten times a year, CDs featuring brand new recordings by the best alternative bands are mailed out to subscribers. Interested? Call 1-800-Hello-41. Marjorie also coordinates the They Might Be Giants Web Site ([www.tmbg.com](http://www.tmbg.com)). Here you can learn about the band's latest music, follow their tour schedule (currently they are opening for Hootie and the Blowfish), or order a T-shirt, hat, video, bumper stickers, or postcards.

The Hornblow Group has expanded to manage other bands like Freedy Johnston, Beautiful South, and Chainsaw Kittens. Freedy Johnston's song, "King Pin," is the theme song of Palisadian Bill Murray's new film of the same name.

Jamie's law practice, also part of the Hornblow Group, specializes in musical talent. Jamie continues his writing about automobiles. His most recent publications include articles in *Automobile* magazine and, hot off the press, a story in a collection of automobiliana called *Road Trips, Head Trips, and Other Car-Crazed Writings*, edited by Jean Lindamood. Noted racing car driver and fellow Palisadian Howard Katz had this to say about Jamie's chapter: "I thought his article was very funny. But then I have a sick sense of humor. I can't wait to read the rest of the book." It is a must-read for humor addicts, car buffs, and general readers. It is available in book stores now.

Marjorie and Jamie offer internships at the Hornblow Group for aspiring lawyers and others interested in the music business. Interested? Call them at 358-7270.

—Milbry Polk



*Inspired by nature and painted on location along the Sparkill Creek, these recent oil and watercolor paintings by Robert Adzema can be seen at the Piermont Flywheel Gallery at the Piermont Landing.*

At left: *Sparkill Creek, Piermont Marsh, Watercolor*

## A Break In The High Land— The Sparkill Creek

**O**n the west bank of the Hudson River near the New York–New Jersey border runs a small creek, not more than twenty-five miles in length. It rises on the backside of Clausland Mountain above Grandview, then loops south into Northvale, New Jersey, where it is joined by another stream, called the Sparkill Brook, just at the edge of Palisades (where the dredging was done last year). The creek then cuts back east towards the Hudson through a large break in the Palisades cliffs and empties into the river through the Piermont marshes. The break in the hills is called the Sparkill Gap; although the creek is tiny, the gap is large, and geologists believe that the Hudson River may once have flowed through it southwest to the Atlantic.

Sparkill Creek's location has made it the scene of historic events stretching back to the earliest history of this area. Tappan Indians frequented the area, and several Indian trade routes met here. In 1609 Henry Hudson sailed up the river and into a broad expanse of water that he at first hoped would be the Northwest Passage to China, but that we now call the Tappan Zee. On the

west bank, he found a break in the high land. Tradition says that this may have been where Hudson first stepped ashore in New York.

*17th and 18th Centuries* In 1683 several Dutch families purchased land behind the Sparkill Gap from the Tappan Indians. During this era, the creek was called the Tappan Slote, *slote* being the Dutch word for "ditch." There was some commerce from the farms to the river and a tavern at the mouth of the slote served as transshipment point to the city.

In the summer of 1776, British and American battleships appeared in the Tappan Zee and subsequent naval action on the river played an important role in the outcome of the American Revolution. Local inhabitants suffered raids by soldiers and guerilla bands of renegades. Militiamen guarded the shore day and night because a mile inland from the mouth of the creek, local patriots had turned a mill into a warehouse for war material.

Up until the earliest part of the 19th century, the mouth of the Slote continued to serve as the region's chief port for shipping produce down the Hudson.

The gap in the hills made it easy for wagons to reach the river's edge, although access from the water was limited, since sloops of shallow draft could only enter the creek at high tide and these often had to be towed back to open water with ropes. Nyack had a deep harbor, but did not have a good route through the hills to the farms in the valley until 1839. When a good road was finally built, most trade switched to Nyack.

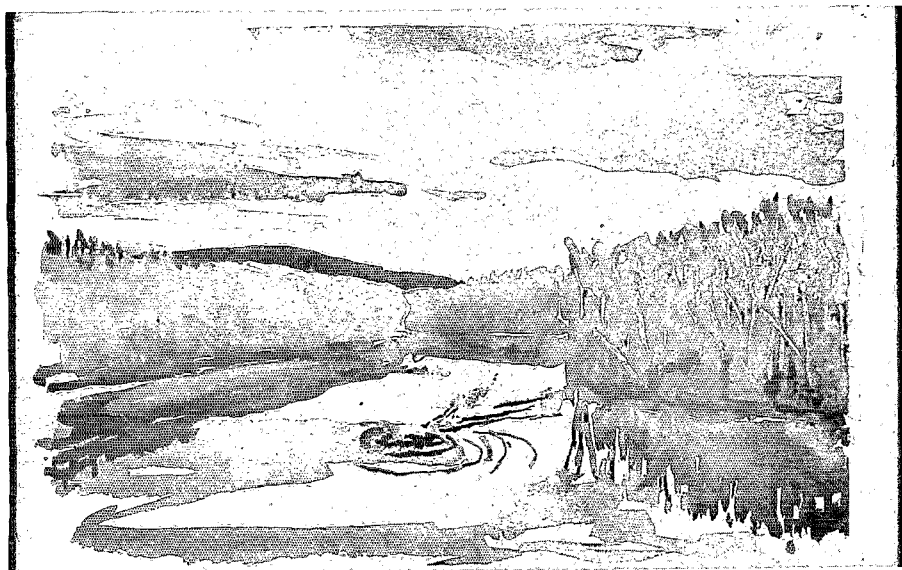
*19th Century* Just twelve years later, in 1851, the Erie Railroad came through the Sparkill Gap, and its eastern terminus was placed at the opening of the creek at Tappan Landing. An extended pier, which today is a park owned by the village of Piermont, became the terminus for what was then the longest railroad line in the Western Hemisphere, linking the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean. Present on the day of the dedication of the new railhead were President Millard Fillmore, Daniel Webster, most of the Cabinet, and numerous Governors, Senators and Representatives.

The settlement at the mouth of the creek was renamed Piermont. The stream became Sparkill Creek, a redundancy since "kill" is the Dutch word for "creek". For awhile, Piermont continued to grow, until a new charter allowed the railroad to start its westward passenger service for New York City directly across the Hudson in New Jersey. Piermont soon withered as a major railway terminus. Manufacturing took over; a factory was built on the northern side of the pier that made corrugated cardboard boxes and a silk ribbon factory was built right on the creek. (This was converted to residential use in the 1980s.)

*The 20th Century* For most of this century, the military has owned a substantial part of the creek's drainage. At the time the U.S. joined World War I, the military acquired the land along the back of the ridge where the creek rises, and built a rifle range there for training raw recruits. For World War II, the government built Camp Shanks, a huge staging area for army troop transportation in Orangeburg. During its active phase, Camp Shanks processed an average of 40,000 troops per month and a total of 1,362,630 American soldiers traveled the rail line through the Sparkill Gap to waiting vessels and war overseas. During the 1950s, the Cold War brought nuclear missiles to the area as well, when the Nike missile launcher was built a few hundred yards from the source of the creek at the top of Clausland Mountain.

The 1950s also saw a mushrooming growth in population following the completion of the Tappan Zee Bridge and construction of new highways in the area. The small villages surrounded by family farms of the past were rapidly absorbed by housing developments, shopping centers and light industry. Sparkill Creek did not fare well with the

*Tallman Mt. From Piermont Pier with Ducks, Oil on Board 12" by 17"*



*Sparkill Creek, Piermont Marsh, Watercolor*

development. The stream was no longer free-flowing. Some of the natural springs that fed it were covered, dams were built, and channels were dredged to control mosquitos and flooding. Population, roads, and services contaminated the water. Silt began to fill up the stream bed.

In the 1970s, residents noticed the decline of the Creek, and began to care for, and about, the stream. Water-quality tests were performed. Clausland Mountain, the stream's source, was preserved as a "natural state" parkland. The Brookside Sanctuary in Sparkill was created. The creek was stocked with trout. The Piermont Marsh is now one of several protected marshes along the

Hudson. Today, the area drained by Sparkill Creek is valued for its natural beauty, quietness and small village atmosphere.

When you stand on the cliffs above the creek, or along the edge of the marsh, try to imagine that Indians once stood there too to watch ships across the broad expanse of water, that battles were fought, that farmers prospered on fertile land, that high-rolling investors brought steamships and railroads, workers manufactured cartons and silk ribbons, and soldiers boarded ships for war overseas in this same break in the high land that Henry Hudson first saw in 1609.

*This article was adapted from a pamphlet funded by a grant from the Hudson River Foundation and produced by the Hudson River Defense League. The League is a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to safeguard the beauty and health of the Hudson River, its tributaries and communities, to uphold the laws that sustain the river, and to inform and educate the general public on environmental issues impacting the region. They may be reached by writing to P.O. Box 606, Nyack, NY 10960.*

# Library News

## The Local Authors' Shelf

With the expansion of the Library has come space for a shelf of books by local authors. Beatrice Agnew, the Librarian, defines "local author" as a person who lives or once lived in Palisades; any book by that writer qualifies for the local authors' shelf, whether it was written in Palisades or Paris.

As of now, the shelves are furnished—somewhat sparsely—with books that were already in the Library's collection. There are some expected names here (Dorothy Salisbury Davis, Horace Gregory, Benz Plagemann, Edgar Snow, Ellen Galinsky) and some that will surprise everyone except very longterm residents (John Masefield, John Dos Passos, Ben Hecht). But many books that one would expect to see on these shelves are not there. There's nothing by Roger Angell, for example, or by E.B. White, Katherine White, Thomas Berger, or Toni Morrison. There is only one of Calvin Tomkins's books, only one of Polly Cameron's, only one of Margaret Parton's. In some cases, this is because the Library owns only a single copy of the book, which is currently circulating and therefore not available for the local authors' shelf. But in other cases, a book has gone missing and hasn't been replaced, or was never purchased by the Library (for lack of funds or space) nor donated by the author.

Given the very large number of people who meet the definition of local author—and the continued production of books by Palisadians—the Librarian does not expect ever to amass a comprehensive collection. But she asks that people look at their bookshelves and, if they have works by local authors that the Library lacks, to contribute them. She hopes to be surprised by the unanticipated!

—Caroline Tapley

## Children's Programs

The library continues to offer story-time for preschool-aged children. The half-hour story is on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.

Crafts programs for older children are also held on Wednesdays ages 6 and up. You must sign up ahead of time for these at the check out desk. On Dec. 11, the project is making a folded paper star for a window decoration; on Dec. 18, the project will produce a finger-knitted necklace with a large, shiny bell on it; on Wednesday Jan. 15th or Thurs. Jan. 16th—Making "stained glass" windows. Create a beautiful transparency using colored tissue.

## Library Hours

|             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mon. – Wed. | 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.                      |
| Thurs.      | 10 a.m. to noon<br>& 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. |
| Fri.        | 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.                      |
| Sat.        | 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.                     |
| Sun.        | 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.                      |

## Holiday Closings

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Wednesday, Nov. 27th -   | Thanksgiving Eve Day   |
| Thursday, Nov. 28th -    | Thanksgiving Day       |
| Tuesday, Dec. 24th -     | Christmas Eve Day      |
| Wednesday, Dec. 25th -   | Christmas Day          |
| Tuesday, December 31st - | New Year's Eve Day     |
| Wednesday, January 1st - | New Year's Day         |
| Monday, January 20th -   | Martin Luther King Day |

## New Books

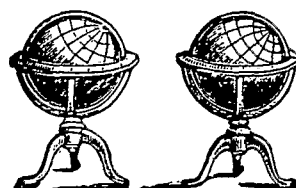
### Fiction

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Brookner  | <i>Altered States</i>                  |
| Cook      | <i>Chromosome 6</i>                    |
| Cornwell  | <i>Hornet's Nest</i> (mys)             |
| Griffin   | <i>Blood and Honor</i>                 |
| Guest     | <i>Errands</i>                         |
| Johnson   | <i>Le Divorce</i>                      |
| Shreve    | <i>The Weight of Water: A Novel</i>    |
| Connelly  | <i>Michael</i> (mys)                   |
| Pearson   | <i>Beyond Recognition</i>              |
| Ellison   | <i>Flying Home &amp; Other Stories</i> |
| Hoeg      | <i>The Woman and the Ape</i>           |
| Fraser    | <i>I'll Sing You Two-O</i> (mys)       |
| Kellerman | <i>The Clinic</i> (mys)                |
| McMurtry  | <i>Zeke &amp; Ned</i>                  |

### Non-Fiction

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Chopra    | <i>The Path of Love: Creating a Passionate Life</i>                           |
| Coles     | <i>The Moral Intelligence of Children: Teaching Good Values</i>               |
| Cronkite  | <i>A Reporter's Life</i>  |
| Mahfouz   | <i>Echoes of an Autobiography</i>   |
| Peck      | <i>Road Less Traveled &amp; Beyond: Spiritual Growth in an Age of Anxiety</i> |
| Rosenfeld | <i>Dr. Rosenfeld's Guide to Alternative Medicine</i>                          |
| Sacks     | <i>Island of the Colorblind</i>   |

Reminder: The annual meeting will be held at the end of January 1997. Notice will be sent with date and time.



# Palisades Mall Update

Since Pyramid Co. announced its plans to build a mall at Routes 59 and 303 in West Nyack 11 years ago, the company has finished 14 malls and 4 outdoor shopping centers at other New York sites, according to a retrospective article in the *Rockland Journal News* on November 11. The latest event in our local, ever changing "mall battle" is that in October, Pyramid agreed not to build the nation's second largest mall (3.05 million square feet) but wanted its original plan (1.85 million square feet) approved by the Clarkstown town board meeting of November 8. Clarkstown town officials said they could not hold to that date, but hoped to process it as fast as possible. Site work other than road improvements is on hold while Pyramid awaits the town's approval.

Previously, in October, the Clarkstown town board approved a road transfer without a referendum in return for Pyramid's promise not to expand above 1.85 million for a minimum of two years. But Clarkstown Board Supervisor Charles Holbrook wants another vote on his proposal that would make the transfer of the three key roads to the developer contingent on offering a permissive referendum to the public. If Holbrook is unsuccessful, opponents of the mall still have another option. They have already filed a lawsuit against the town, claiming it allowed the transfer of roads without a public vote, a legal action headed to the New York State Supreme Court in the next couple of weeks. Saga to be continued....watch for the next installment!

Lester Steinman, Director of the Michaelian Municipal Law Center at Pace University in Westchester County, which specializes in suburban governments, predicts that problems such as those facing Clarkstown are going to increase as more developers chase fewer parcels of land. According to Steinman,

not enough attention is paid to high levels of planning, and there are fewer municipal resources available for it outside of urban centers. "I don't think you see a Pyramid situation in Westchester. Communities here are much more aware of doing master plans and looking forward."

Martus Granirer, President of West Branch Conservation, agrees, emphasizing that too little attention has been paid

to planning issues in Rockland in general, and Clarkstown in particular. Granirer has sued Clarkstown over environmental and land-use issues eight or nine times since starting West Branch Conservation in 1971, and is part of the pending lawsuit against both the town of Clarkstown and Pyramid to overturn the road transfer agreement.

—Carol Elevitch

## Local Holiday Recipes

Here are two recipes to make on a day when you are stuck in the house because of the weather. Both are delicious; the first is very easy, the second a little more time-consuming. The jam cookies go perfectly with a cup of tea and also make good presents. The almond torte makes an elegant dinner-party dessert.

### Frances Pierson's Jam Cookies

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1 stick butter | 1/2 tsp vanilla                           |
| 1 egg yolk     | 1/2 cup (or a little more) chopped pecans |
| 1 cup flour    | jam—apricot is good                       |
| 1/4 cup sugar  |   |

Cream sugar and softened butter with spoon. Add egg yolk, vanilla, and flour. Blend well. Make small balls of the dough and dip each one in beaten egg white, then in chopped pecans. Put on a greased cookie sheet and bake in a 350° oven for 3 to 5 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and press your thumb in the center of each cookie. Bake 20 minutes more. Fill the depression in each cookie with jam while they are still warm.

### Annie Gerard's Almond Torte

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 cups whole blanched almonds   | 2 tsps. almond extract      |
| 1 1/2 cups confectioner's sugar | 3 Tbls. sugar               |
| 4 egg whites                    | 1 1/2 cups flour            |
| 3 eggs                          | 2/3 cup raspberry preserves |
| 1 cup softened butter           |                             |

Grind the almonds. Blend with the confectioner's sugar, egg whites, two eggs, 1/2 cup of the butter and the almond extract. Chill.

Cream the remaining butter with the sugar very well. Beat in the remaining egg. Add flour to make a dough and chill 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350°. Roll the pastry into a circle and fit into a ten-inch pan with a removable bottom, allowing it to extend up the sides.

Spread half of the jam over the pastry. Top with the almond mixture. Cover with the rest of the raspberry preserves, using more if you need to.

Bake about 45 minutes or until done. Remove the outer ring and leave the torte in the pan to serve.

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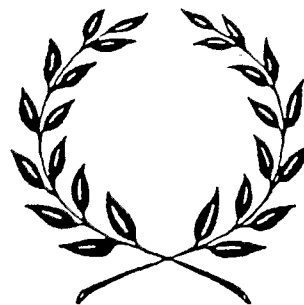
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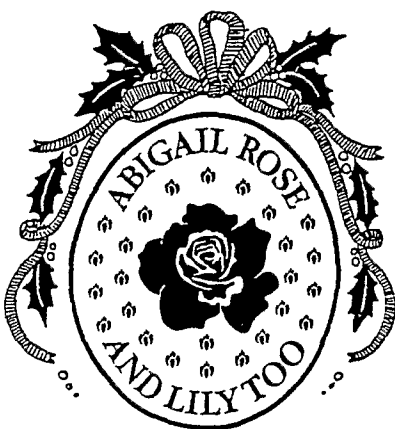
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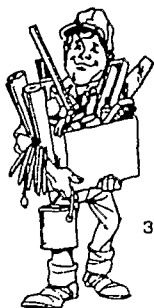
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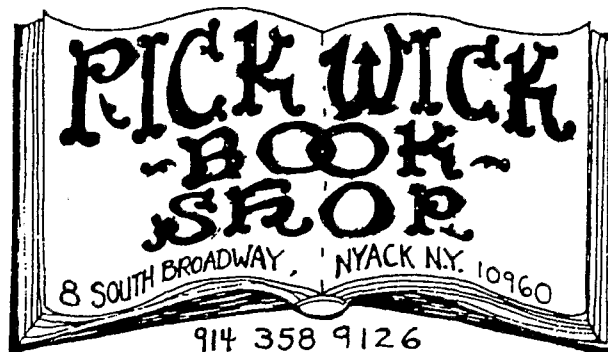
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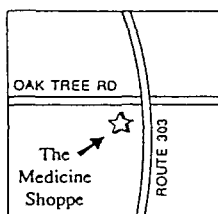
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(Continued from page 1)

haggling over funds for Eastern lands vs. funds for Western lands was well-reported in the *New York Times* and other national media during the 103rd and 104th Congresses. In the end, Mr. Binnewies says, the biggest factor in the successful passage of the Sterling Forest Protection Act of 1995 was unified, bipartisan support from the New York and New Jersey congressional delegations, combined with a broad demonstration from many other groups that preservation of the tract was of national importance. It was towards this goal that Nash Castro spent so many hours working with the Public/Private Partnership to Save Sterling Forest, a loosely aligned group of people and organizations who were concerned about the future of the forest tract.

While the framework of the federal/state/private sector financing of the purchase is now in place, the process is not over yet. The actual negotiations with the Swiss company, the Zurich Insurance Group, are being handled by the Trust for Public Land and the Open Space Institute in private negotiations. Given that the additional funds can be collected, the title will not pass to the PIPC for a year, and the whole arrangement could collapse if the additional monies are not found in time. Under these circumstances, any contributions will be enthusiastically accepted by the PIPC whether they be small amounts from individuals or larger ones from organizations with deep pockets. The PIPC executive offices are located at Bear Mountain, and can be reached by phone at 786-2701 for more information on how to make a contribution.

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## TO BOXHOLDER PALISADES, NY 10964

### About 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades. **10964** is always looking for new talent—we need your writing, your editing, your management, and your computer layout skills! If you are interested in helping out, please contact any one of our staff members. We also depend on financial support from the community—please send contributions to **10964**, Post Office Box 201, Palisades NY 10964. With your help, we can put our newsletter in your mailbox five times a year, from October through June.

#### *Staff Members for this issue:*

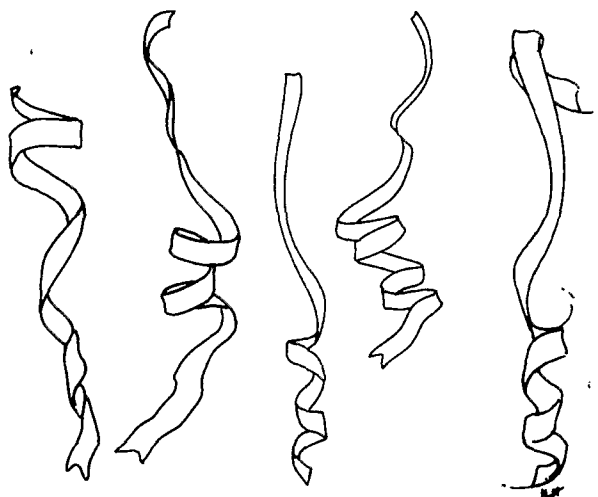
Judy O'Neil-Castagna, Ellen Chayet-Kidd, Jocelyn DeCrescenzo, Carol Elevitch, Nick Ludington, Greta Nettleton, Milbry Polk, Caroline Tapley, Andrew Norman, Gina Vermandel, and Cellen Wolk.

*Design and layout:* Nik Elevitch

*Drawings:* Marika Hahn

*A contribution from Prof. Lynn Sykes in memory of Katherine Flanz and a contribution from Lois and Robert Burcarw are gratefully acknowledged.*

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