

10964

THE
PALISADES
NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1997 NUMBER 157

OCEAN TO OCEAN FOR STERLING FOREST

Local Students will bicycle from Seattle to New York to Raise Funds
for the Preservation of Sterling Forest.

They're doing what?? That's right, four local students are riding 4,000 miles in a coast-to-coast crusade to raise funds for a cause they believe in. Joining the fight to save Sterling Forest from development, the students are bicycling from Seattle to Palisades as a fundraiser for the Sterling Forest project. By publicizing their ride in the counties of Rockland, Westchester, Orange, and Bergen, they hope to raise as much as possible for the cause. "We hope our ride will encourage residents throughout the region to contribute to this extraordinary and timely cause," explains Jaime Fitzgerald, the group's organizer.

Jaime graduates from Harvard on June 6, three days before the epic trip begins. His sister Shannon, who will be a junior at Cornell next fall, is joining him. Other members of the group are Lauren Starke of Tappan, who will be a sophomore at Brown University, Patrick Farley, a former resident of Palisades who will be a junior at Clark

University this fall, and Alon Ferency, a friend of Jaime's who is also graduating from Harvard this year.

The group decided to organize the fundraiser after reading an article about Sterling Forest in the December edition of *10964*. The article, entitled "A Gift From All of Us to Mother Nature," chronicled the decade-long struggle by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) to preserve the ecologically crucial forest. It profiled the role played in this struggle

by Palisades residents Robert Binnewies, executive director of the PIPC, and Nash Castro, now retired from that post.

The article explained that although a coalition of Federal, State, and private pledges had been assembled for the purchase of Sterling Forest from prospective developers, an additional \$10 million in private donations is still needed to reach the agreed-upon purchase price (after additional private donations, that shortfall has shrunk to \$6.5 million). If the environmentally crucial land can be purchased from developers, it would become

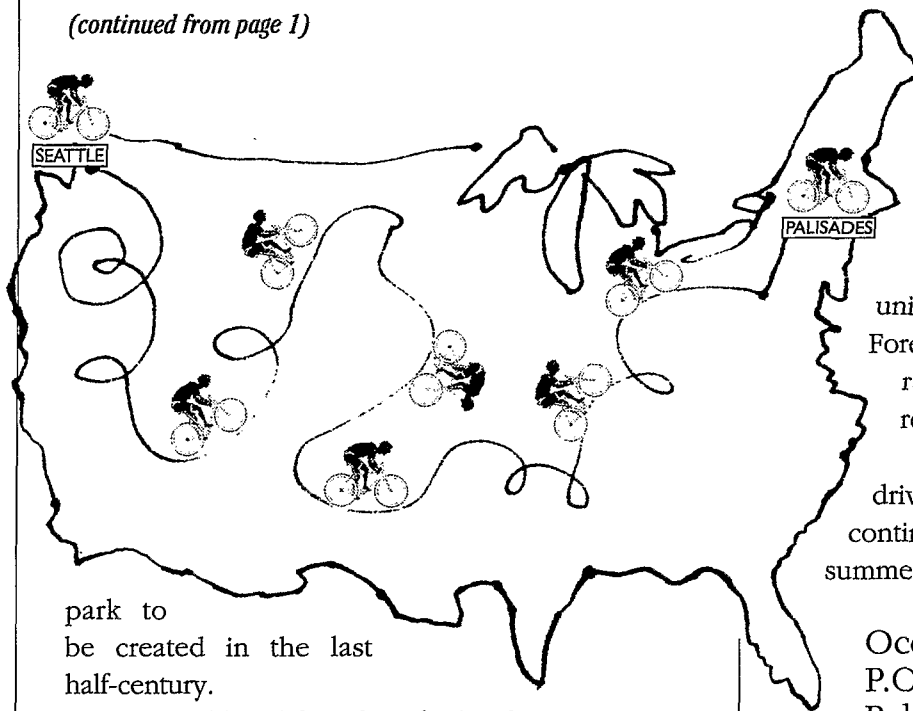
the largest New York state

(continued on page 2)



Jaime Fitzgerald and Patrick Farley

(continued from page 1)



park to
be created in the last
half-century.

Fitzgerald and four friends decided to lend their support to the cause, planning a cross-country trek with a community service theme. They hope to travel 77 miles per day, six days a week, and they will camp and volunteer their time to perform maintenance in parks and wildlife preserves along the way. The trip will actually begin June 9th; the group expects to be back in Palisades between August 10th and August 20th.

The students are asking local residents, merchants, and corporations to pledge funds toward the Sterling Forest cause, for which they hope to raise \$12,000 or more. They are paying for the entire trip

and the cost of fundraising so that 100% of donations sent in will go straight to Sterling Forest.

"We hope our trip will help the Hudson River Valley to capitalize on a unique conservation opportunity at Sterling Forest, while allowing us to gain increased respect for our nation's land and resources," states Fitzgerald.

Following their active fundraising drive in late May, the young fundraisers will continue to accept pledges throughout the summer at the following address:

Ocean to Ocean for Sterling Forest
P.O. Box 153
Palisades, NY 10964

Please make checks payable to "Palisades Interstate Park Commission - Sterling Forest Fund." Please make sure your name and address appear on your check, as all donors will receive an update on the success of the fundraising—and the ride—when the cyclists return in August. For an update on the group's progress across the United States, Palisadians may call Sylvia March at 359-3767.

Jaime Fitzgerald & Alice Gerard

Palisades Presbyterian Church News

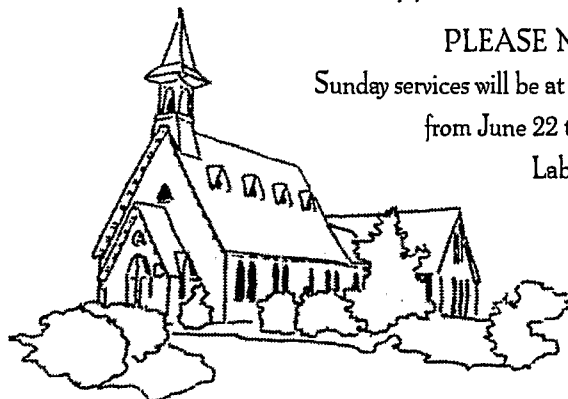
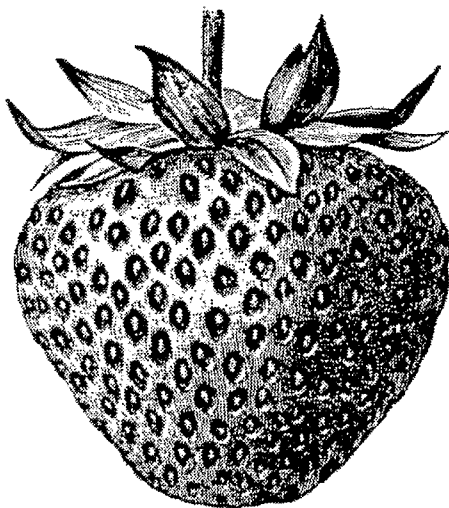
ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 14, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

On the manse lawn, Washington Spring Rd,
opposite the church

PLEASE NOTE:

Sunday services will be at 10 a.m.
from June 22 through
Labor Day.



The excitement in the neighborhood was palpable two years ago as news ricocheted through the preschool crowd that Stacey Jones, the Station Master of the television hit, *Shining Time Station*, was moving to Palisades. This excitement was still evident two years later as neighborhood families streamed to the library's sellout event featuring Stacey, otherwise known as Didi Conn, performing songs from her latest work, a delightful recording entitled, *Mommy Gimme a Drink of Water*. The event was one of the most successful fundraisers of the year for the library.

Didi was born in Brooklyn to a theatrical director and a psychologist. Didi studied at the American Dramatic Academy, but after just six months, she left to spend a year and a half on the road with The National Theater Company, Mimika, doing pantomime.

"A turning point came when a good friend of mine said, 'Didi, you should be in commercials. Go see my agent.' So I went. There was a sign on the door, DO NOT ENTER UNDER PENALTY OF DEATH. But I just went in. Then the agent stuck her head out of the door and said, 'Do you really talk like that?' No one had ever told me I had a strange voice. That day I was cast for an A&W Root Beer commercial."

Didi was only 23 when she moved to LA and made her first television show, *The Practice*, with Danny Thomas. Her biggest laugh came when her character, a goofy doctor's secretary, responds to her date's confession that he is gay by throwing herself on him and exclaiming, "That's great! I'm gay too. I'm happy all the time!" "It was the

Didi Conn Performs Stories and Songs for a Library Fundraiser



first time homosexuality was featured on a sitcom," says Didi. "We were way ahead of Ellen DeGeneres!" Didi's really big break in Hollywood came with her portrayal of Frenchie, the beauty school dropout in *Grease*.

Didi's personal life changed one day when she was listening to a radio interview with a composer named David Shire. "His music was so beautiful. I called a girlfriend who knew him. She gave me his number and I called him up!" That was it.

David, too, has numerous theatrical and movie credits, including an Academy Award for *Norma Rae*, two Grammys for his contributions to the legendary *Saturday Night Fever* soundtrack, four Emmy nominations, and three Tony nominations.

His songs have been recorded by numerous artists including Barbara Streisand, Melissa Manchester and Maureen McGovern. Didi and David were married in 1984.

Since then, Didi has been very busy. One day she got a call to see if she wanted to be in a TV show with Ringo Starr. "A Beatle! Of course I wanted to be in the show!" That show was *Shining Time Station*. It has been on the air now for nine years and a movie is in the works.

Five years ago Didi and David were blessed with the arrival of a son, Daniel. Two years ago, thanks to some friends in Piermont, they came out to Palisades. "When I walked down the path of this house, butterflies came out and flew all around me. It was magical."

We are so glad that Didi has brought her magic here to our neighborhood.

Milbry Polk

New Rails-to-Trails Park Coming Our Way

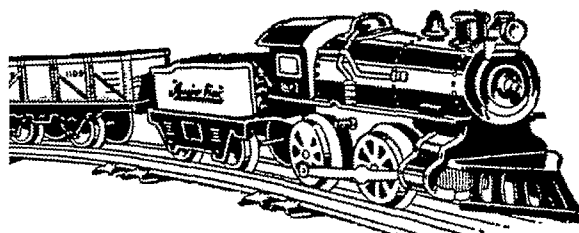
Palisades has always been short of safe routes for families and children to ride bikes and walk together. However, this may soon change. After nearly five years of debate and planning, six miles of unused Erie Railroad corridor in nearby Tappan is to be developed as a linear park, part of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy program that parlays abandoned railroads into hiking and biking trails.

According to Richard L. Rose Jr., the superintendent of the Town of Orangetown's Department of Recreation, Parks and Buildings, the new park, or rail-trail, would run along the corridor commencing at the north side of Oak Tree Road, just east of Finn McCool's, continuing into Sparkill and crossing Route 303 into Blauvelt. A short spur would connect with the existing Piermont rail-trail, which leads to the bicycle path in Tallman Park, a part of the Hudson River Greenways trail system, and which circles back to the heart of Palisades. In all, approximately 15 continuous miles of trails, with the possible inclusion of several handicapped-accessible sections, would provide an unbroken path for local hiking and biking.

But Mr. Rose stresses that the transition from railroad corridor

to park is not yet complete. Presently, Conrail has accepted the Town of Orangetown's purchase offer of \$250,000 for four miles of corridor. An additional stretch of nearly a mile has been donated to the project by the town, and another mile-long stretch, connecting to the Blauvelt rail-trail, has been

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donated by Rivervale Realty. In addition, the town has access to another \$250,000 to be used toward surveying, zoning and development costs. Of the potential \$500,000 earmarked for the project, \$400,000, or 80%, is to be reimbursed through grants from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, known as Istea (pronounced "ice tea"), with a breakdown of 50% of the funds geared toward the enhancement of facilities and another 50% dedicated to the preservation of abandoned railroads.

The town is scheduled to take title of the property within the next few months, though a firm date has not been set. Once that happens, says Mr. Rose, the intent is to use the property as a trail for walkers, joggers and, possibly, bikers, and the development stage will begin.

What does this mean for

Palisades? While technically not within our hamlet, the addition of this 6-mile-long branch of parkland, located just a short walk down Oak Tree Road, would provide a greater outlet for recreation and exercise to residents who until now have been confined to heavily traveled local roads for their morning jogs and strolls. The park would be protected from the ever-increasing truck and automobile traf-

fic on Oak Tree Road and Route 303, and would most likely be paved with crushed limestone, making it, in theory, bicycle and even stroller friendly, and allowing for better use by parents and children and by cyclists desiring a reprieve from the fast-moving packs on 9W. This new parkland will be a welcome supplement to the small, poorly fenced School Board property at the corner of Oak Tree Road and Route 303, an intersection noted for its preponderance of traffic accidents.

Another advantage to the creation of the parkland, says Mr.

Rose, is the preservation of wetlands along Sparkill Creek, including the Brookside Bird Sanctuary. The Heritage Task Force for the Hudson River Valley, a state environmental group, has in the past recommended banning development around the three county waterways to control drainage and pollution problems affecting the Hudson River.

And except for a brief time during trail construction, the Rail-to-Trail Conservancy says that rail-trails have a positive effect on wildlife, sheltering and providing habitat for endangered species and promoting environmental education.

While Mr. Rose says there has been no major opposition to the parkland's development, he is aware that homeowners adjacent to the park have expressed concerns about strangers having access to their property and the effect of the trail on property values. "We're listening," he says. "These questions have to be dealt with and alleviated." He hopes that statistics from the conservancy's studies of the impact urban trails have had on property values and public safety will do just that.

According to Patrick Kraich, the Eastern Community Affairs Coordinator for the conservancy in Washington, these studies, based on surveys with community officials, police officers, property owners and buyers, and real-estate brokers, have concluded that rail-trails are generally

considered an amenity to a community. A 1994 survey of residents living near a trail indicated that 42% believed that the trail would increase the selling price of their home, 17% were influenced to move to the area because of the trail, and no respondents believed that the trail decreased the selling price of their home. Privacy issues were usually solved by the planting of vegetative screening; fencing was rarely deemed necessary.

In terms of public safety, the

15 CONTINUOUS MILES OF TRAILS WOULD PROVIDE AN UNBROKEN PATH FOR LOCAL HIKING AND BIKING.



survey found that no issues could be directly linked to the trails. The most serious violations were graffiti and tagging at underpasses, but none of these incidents were focused toward other trail users, and they usually occurred where there were no other people on or around the trail. Typically, said the police officers, lawful trail users served as eyes and ears for the community.

The studies concluded that rail-trails are beneficial, rather than detrimental, raising property values and lowering crime by virtue of tidying and drawing

people to once-abandoned sites. And increased use was directly correlated to increased revenues for local businesses.

The Rail-to-Trail Conservancy does, however, advocate that communities develop a management plan designed to enhance safety, such as landscaping in a manner that limits deep shadows and hiding areas, or installing emergency telephones in key areas along the trail. Various programs can be implemented once the trail opens, ranging from limiting use to daylight hours to establishing volunteer trail-ranger programs to instituting regular police patrols.

The success of Orangetown's new park depends on the efforts of community groups to assist in its clean-up, maintenance and patrolling, says Mr. Rose, who notes that the department is hoping to affect an Adopt-a-Park program similar to highway programs where groups "adopt," and thereby maintain, their portion of the road.

But the price is a low one to pay for year-round benefits, he adds. With a modest amount of participation, Palisadians can reap the rewards of being tied into the park network that has, for nearly a decade, graced neighboring hamlets and upped the quality of life. And next spring? Already the possibilities seem endless.

Kathryn Shattuck Papay

SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOL NEWS

OPERATING BUDGET PASSES

On May 7, the voters of South Orangetown approved the proposed school budget of nearly \$37.4 million. While the vote was relatively close — 1,319 voted yes while 1,136 voted no — residents of Palisades and the other river towns of Piermont, Sparkill and Grandview overwhelmingly approved the budget, with 388 yes votes and 190 no votes.

The new budget will serve to maintain the school district's continued commitment to a comprehensive program for our children. Among its highlights are: increased support for the Reading Recovery program for early elementary students with reading difficulties; increased support for the special education co-teaching model; providing a new initiative for a Gifted and Talented program at the elementary schools; maintaining commitment to computer instruction and support; continuation of selected Advanced Placement and honors classes at the high school; and re-instatement of the diving team.

The budget amount represents an increase of 4.25% over last year's allotment. Primarily, these funds are devoted to instructional expense (71%), general support (12%), transportation (5%), debt service (4%), and interfund transfer (1%). Finally, a small amount of money will be used for selected capital improvements, such as fencing and sidewalk repairs; fixing auditorium seats and classroom furniture; and accessibility for the disabled.

SUMMERSTAGE SUMMER PROGRAMS Once again, this summer students in the South Orangetown school district will be able to register for workshops in the creative and performing arts.

Administered under the auspices of the South Orangetown Central School District, all workshops will be held at Tappan Zee High School.

JULY PROGRAMS:

Summerstage Kindergarten, for entering kindergarten students. Two half-day workshops per week (5 weeks) in creative theater, music and movement games, culminating in a performance.

Summerstage Juniors, for students entering first grade. Five half day workshops per week (5 weeks) in creative theater, music and movement games culminating in a performance.

Summerstage Players, for students entering grades 2 to 5. Morning theater workshops including acting, singing, movement and comedy, culminating in a performance.

Summerstage Troupers, for students entering grades 6 to 12. Theater workshops and rehearsals leading to an evening of "Summerstage Troupers" theater using the all-star, no-star policy.

AUGUST WORKSHOPS

"Rocking Teen" Shakespeare, for students entering grades 6-12. Production of a Shakespeare play, adapted for teens, which will use Shakespeare's language and also incorporate contemporary teen music and movement styles.

Artsmarts, for students entering grades 1 to 5. Five half-day workshops per week (2 one-week sessions). Students explore their creativity based on experiences working with writing, art, acting, music and storytelling.

August TV Live, for students entering grades 6 to 12. Hands-on TV workshop in the Tappan Zee High School studio, including TV production, script writing, story boarding, and acting for the screen, culminating in a cable TV broadcast and a field trip to a NYC film or TV shooting location.

Photography Week, for students entering grades 6 to 12. Hands-on photography course culminating in a photo exhibit and desk-top published photo album.

For more information about these programs, please call
914-426-1858.

BULLETIN BOARD



Lynn Seidler hosted a book signing for **Marina Harrison** and **Lucy Rosenfeld** at her store, Aubrey Flowers, on June 1st in Piermont. Marina and Lucy have just published *Garden Walks*, a book about touring gardens along the East Coast. A large turnout enjoyed elegant snacks and bought up personally dedicated copies of the latest book put out by the two authors. A review appears in this issue on page 11.

The Palisades Church is running a **food collection drive** for hungry families and needy people in Rockland County. They have collected less than 200 pounds of food since December, although the goal is to collect a full ton by the end of the year. Please bring nonperishable food (in cans etc.) to the Parish House to help out.

DID YOU KNOW?? If you need to dispose of **hazardous household wastes**, such as paint thinner, pesticides, or other noxious chemicals, you can call the Rockland county Solid Waste Management Authority in Pomona at 364-2444 to schedule an appointment to drop off your

Authors Marina Harrison and Lucy Rosenfeld (left and right) and Lynn Seidler (center).

substances for safe disposal. Now that you know this, how can you possibly not *rush* down to your basement and get started on straightening out those shelves and cleaning everything up...

The **Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives** will be holding a reenactment of a mid-Victorian wedding on the front lawn of the museum at noon on June 14th, at 213 Blue Hill Road in Pearl River. A reception will follow at the 76 House in Tappan, and an encampment of the 40th New York Volunteer Infantry, a Civil War Regiment is also featured. The exhibit, "Sentiment, Marriage and the Home in the Mid-Victorian Era" will continue through the summer, ending on September 3.

After the recent library book sale, the unsold overflow overflowed into **The Dragon and the Unicorn Bookstore** in

Sparkill. This atmospheric book nook is a great spot for rainy days. The knowledgeable proprietors, George and David Hiller, can tell you nearly anything about most of the books in stock.

ARTS NEWS

On Sunday, May 18, **Jacquelyn Dreschler** performed as a featured soloist in a special Pops concert given by the Rockland Symphony Orchestra. She played the flute in a performance of the Mozart Concerto for Flute and Harp; soloist Lisa Tannebaum played the harp. The two women had to work closely with each other and with the orchestra to carry off the work. In the third movement of the piece, they played a lovely, free-sounding cadenza that they had written. A large and enthusiastic audience attended the concert, which was given in the auditorium at Rockland Community College.

Alice Gerard

Jackie's sister **Jocelyn Dreschler DeCrescenzo** will give a reading of her short story "Road Kill" at the Hopper House on June 14th at 5:30pm.

Our story so far...

JOHN WAS A BOY OF ELEVEN, WHO FELL THROUGH A MYSTERIOUS PORTAL INTO DIMENSION 4 DURING HIS 12TH BIRTHDAY PARTY. HIS MOM WENT TO LOOK FOR HIM AND FELL THROUGH ALSO...

PART 2

John saw the violet woods ahead of him and slowed down. He saw a stream, and drank from it. As soon as he drank from it, he turned a shade of red. He tried it again, but this time he fell unconscious, and woke up to see his mom looking at him.

She said, "What happened? I think we should go to where we started. Maybe we can get back in time for the birthday party."

They went back towards the portal, John first. When he did, he flipped head over heels into the air. He never came back. His mom tried, and the same thing happened. Three hundred feet up, she saw John floating down with a parachute.

"Where did you get that?" she asked.

"At the gas station, two miles up," he answered.

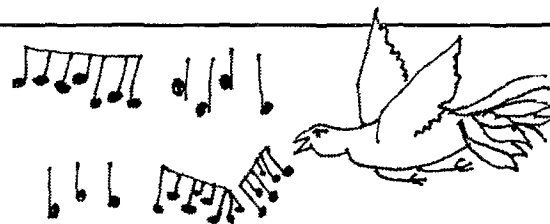
"Gas station?"

"Never mind."

On the ground, there were not any marks of falling through. Only there was a TV. The TV had swirling colors, like the portal. "Let's try it."

John looked doubtful. John put his hand through. He went through, and a bat came out. Then his mom turned into a mosquito. The bat ate her, but said, "Moms taste yucky." Then everything in dimension 4 turned normal. They saw that if they thought about something, it appeared. They thought about home...and it came. Then everything turned back to normal.

THE END



it is the season of spiders,
the season of frogs and...
mosquitos... toads too.
hot in the sun, cool in the pool.
water balloons bursting all day long.
birds trilling and rushing headlong into song.
you swim, swim, swim,
it is great refreshing fun.
you stay outside so long,
that houses become extinct.

—by Paula De Crescenzo

SOMEDAY

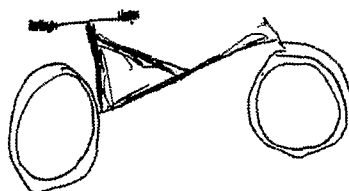
*Small white flashes
Against the bark
Waving dashes
In the rising dark*

White-tailed deer.

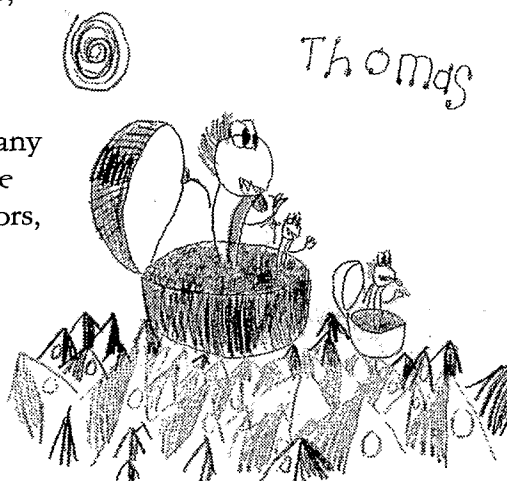
*They stand
Motionless
I see their eyes
And their ears
And their minds
They see me very well
I look away
Slowly
Returning
My eyes
I see
They are still watching
Me.*

*After a moment
That seems eternity
They turn their heads
And swish their tails as if to say
We'll come again
Someday.*

Maryam Moody
age 12



Alexander Lalire age 7



Tommy Griffin age 6



LIBRARY NEWS



NEW BOOKS

Non-Fiction

Devlin	<i>Goodbye Descartes</i>
Garcia Marquez	<i>News of a Kidnapping</i>
Gates Jr.	<i>13 Ways of Looking at a Black Man</i>
Harrison	<i>The Kiss</i>
Hoffman	<i>Inventing Mark Twain</i>
Kubler Ross	<i>Wheel of Life</i>
Love	<i>Dr. Susan Love's Hormone Book</i>
Nuland	<i>The Wisdom of the Body</i>
Salzman/West	<i>Struggles in the Promised Land</i>
Yalom	<i>History of the Breast</i>

Fiction

Beattie	<i>My Life, Starring Dara Falcon</i>
Bellow	<i>The Actual</i>
DeMille	<i>Plum Island</i>
Donleavy	<i>The Lady Who Liked Clean Restrooms</i>
Jong	<i>Inventing Memory</i>
Mailer	<i>The Gospel According to the Son</i>
McBain	<i>Nocturne</i>
Perry	<i>Shadow Woman</i>
Truscott	<i>Heart of War</i>
Westlake	<i>The Ax</i>

Reference

America's Garden Book
Encyclopedia Americana 1997
Yale Guide to Children's Nutrition
Encyclopedia of Medicinal Plants
Best Doctors in America
Northeast Region, 1996-97
Cat World: A Feline Encyclopedia
and many new juvenile books

LIBRARY PLANT SALE

The annual spring plant sale took place on May 10, in spite of the threat of occasional sprinkles of rain. As in previous events, there were plants, food, used books for sale and two raffles—one for the grownups, and one for the kids. Lucky winners enjoyed meals at local restaurants including 3B in Nyack, and kids won free videotape rentals from Piermont Pictures, free miniature golf games from 9W Golf, and free meals at Wendy's.

ADIOS, BOB!

The library board of directors would like to express its heartfelt thanks to departing Treasurer and board member Bob Williams, who, with his wife Andrea, has recently moved to Pride's Crossing, Mass, north of Boston. His hard work and sound advice has been greatly appreciated by all. Many thanks also to Palisadians Didi Conn and David Shire, who together provided us with a wonderfully successful fundraiser and a great day of fun for local children (see review of this event on page 3)

"GO WILD! READ..." is the theme of the 1997 Summer Reading Program to be held at Palisades Free Library. A series of Wednesday programs will include a variety of activities, including crafts and nature programs, to encourage children six years old and up to come for an enjoyable time at the library and keep up their reading skills over the summer. The program will be fun, relaxed, and non-competitive. A "Read-to-Me Club" for preschoolers will also be part of the summer activities.

Sign-up sheets for programs and craft activities will be available in the library early in June. Please come in or phone.

The reading part of the program will begin on Wednesday, June 25. Come to the library, borrow some books, and go wild reading. This annual program is sponsored by the libraries in New York State in order to encourage year-round reading.

For more information, phone 359-0136 or visit the library.

Looking for the Magazine Index Computer?

Then look for the PAC (Public Access Terminal) on the Reference floor. The indexing and abstracting of over 400 popular general interest magazines as well as the current 2 months of the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* are available in one place. A librarian will be happy to assist you.

Monthly Book Club

The book discussion group meets one morning a month at the library. Call Nancy Hall at 359-6237 for information.

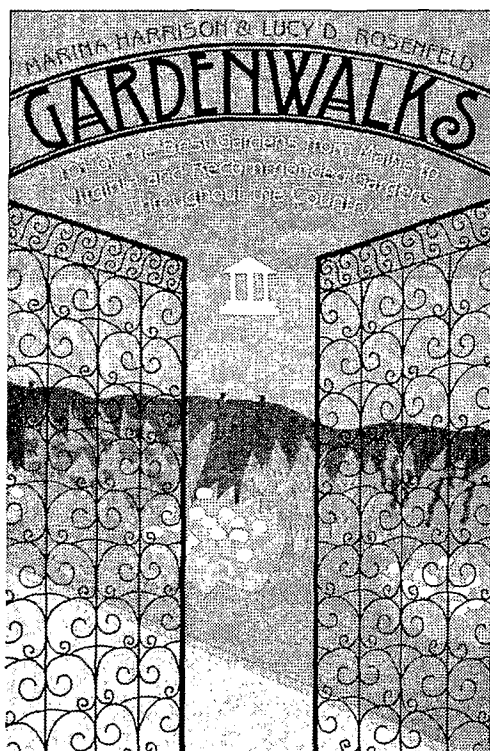
SUMMER SCHEDULE:

Mon - Wed	3 pm - 9 pm
Thurs	10 am - noon and 3 pm - 9 pm
Fri	3 pm - 5 pm
Sat	11 am - 5 pm
Sun	(closed June 15-Labor Day Weekend)



BOOK REVIEW:

GARDENWALKS



GARDENWALKS is the latest volume in Harrison and Rosenfeld's series of guidebooks on places of interest and beauty one can visit within range of New York. This delightful book takes you through 101 of the most beautiful gardens from Maine to Virginia.

GARDENWALKS is divided into three sections. The first consists of short thoughtful essays on garden styles. It is a very useful beginning and one that the visitor will refer to again and again to help interpret the design, function and point of view of the selected garden. It is easily the section of the book that will make you want to transform your own garden into a place of wonder. To think it might be possible to model your own garden on the first topiary garden ever recorded, nearly two thousand years ago, by Pliny! Each garden description is filled with nuggets of history, descriptions of unusual plantings and the special discoveries of the authors. Helpfully, there is an appendix that lists the gardens by style—including categories such as Colonial and Federal Period, Gardens Children will Enjoy, Gardens with "Garden-Rooms", Rock, Rose, Eccentric,

Local History

The latest project of the Library's Historical Committee is the facsimile publication of Winthrop Gilman's *Local History*. This is a remarkable document by a remarkable man. Gilman, a New York banker, came to live in Palisades in 1861. From then until his death sixty-two years later, he concentrated his enormous intellectual vigor on the history, institutions, families and personalities of the tiny hamlet.

Local History is part notebook, part scrapbook — the raw material of history. It includes maps, photographs, drawings, and recollections of people who had formerly lived in the village. There are notes on events in Orangetown during

the Revolutionary War, and descriptions of old roads and buildings, of houses and their inhabitants. Genealogies of local families are among the most important of Gilman's entries: the older people he spoke with often had records and family traditions going back to the earliest days of the nation. And there are ephemera, too, such as an invitation to the Demonstration and Shredded Wheat Luncheon held to benefit the Library!

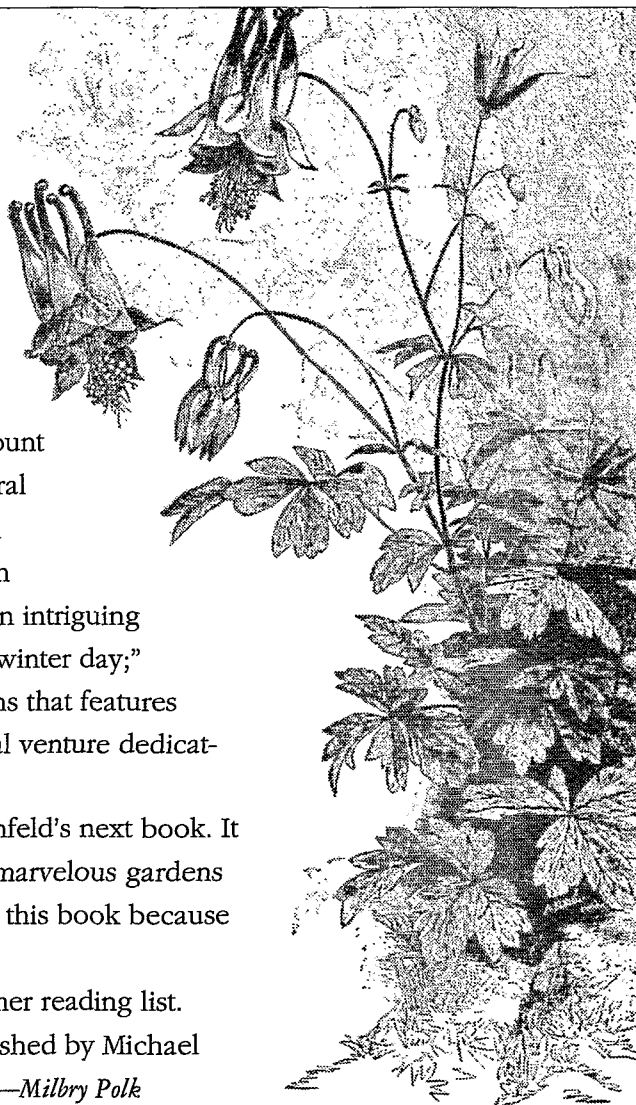
The Committee hopes that facsimile copies of *Local History* will be available later this year. The estimated cost is \$25 - \$35, depending on how many copies are produced, how many inserts are included, and so on. To reserve a copy, please call Alice Munro Haagensen at 359-0097.

Topiary, Wildflower, and Water.

The second section takes the reader on a delightful excursion down the East Coast from Maine to Virginia to visit a variety of public and private gardens. One of the most striking facts that emerges after reading this section is the enormous amount of care and expense Americans have been lavishing on the natural landscape for quite some time. Just a short driving distance from Palisades are three unique gardens: Skylands Botanical Garden in Ringwood, NJ features 96 acres of showcase gardens including an intriguing Winter Garden, designed as an eye feast for "even the dreariest winter day;" Ringwood Manor is a 33,000 acre estate in the Ramapo Mountains that features ornate sculpture gardens; and Waterford Gardens is a commercial venture dedicated to water gardens in Saddle River, NJ.

The final section is really the prelude for Harrison and Rosenfeld's next book. It is an enticing but tantalizingly brief sketch of a small sample of marvelous gardens in other parts of the country. We hope they are hard at work on this book because once the reader hits the garden road there is no stopping.

This inspiring book should be at the top of everyone's summer reading list. *GARDENWALKS* by Marina Harrison and Lucy Rosenfeld is published by Michael Kesend Publishing, New York, NY. To order, call 800-488-8040. —*Milbry Polk*



JUNE GRADS

Congratulations to all the graduates! **Dawn Fallon** graduated from the Academy of the Holy angels in Demarest, N.J. and will attend Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Connecticut, majoring in Communications. **Jake Seidler** is graduating from the Hackley School in Westchester, and will attend Kenyon College in the fall. Tappan Zee High School graduates are as follows: **Kristien Barreto** will begin Rockland Community College next fall and plans to go on to study law. **Joe DiChristina** will also attend RCC, taking the general program of study. **Margaux Guerrard** will go to Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania in September, majoring in theater. **Daniel Guzman** will enter SUNY Oneonta College in the fall and plans to major in psychology. **Samantha Hahn** has chosen Syracuse University, where she will enroll as an art major, working toward a BFA degree. **William Loweree** will attend Iona college in New Rochelle in the School of Business Administration, and plans to try out for the college baseball team. **Jean-Christophe Jouas** graduated from the United Nations International School in Manhattan and will attend SUNY Oneonta in upstate New York.



CRISTINA BIAGGI LEADS PROGRAM ON THE GREAT GODDESS

On Saturday March 22, a panel of women involved with studies of the Great Goddess in prehistory, culture, and art presented a program on that topic in the Kaufmann Theater at the American Museum of Natural History. The program began with a brief invocation to the Goddess by Donna Hennes, an urban shaman. Donna



used New York City water and incense in her ritual and ended by asking the audience to chant "Mom." Dr. Cristina Biaggi, the organizer of the event and a resident of Palisades, followed with an archaeological and architectural overview of the Goddess in prehistory. She showed

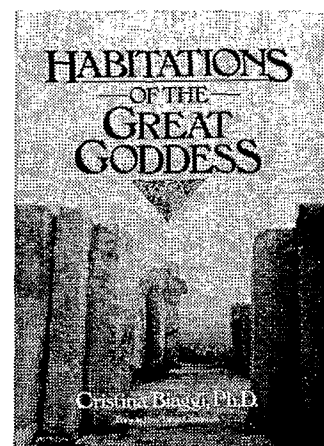
slides of representations of the deity dating from Neanderthal culture to the Neolithic. Dr. Biaggi, author of *Habitations of the Great Goddess*, believes that during this pre-patriarchal period, in contrast to later periods, women were respected and treated as equals.

Donna Wilshire, who came next, dramatized three versions of the Goddess in early Greece. Barefoot, ululating and beating a drum, she described temples dedicated to Hera as a virgin, Hera the mother, and Hecate, the crone. Ms. Wilshire is the author of the book *Virgin Mother Crone: Myths and Mysteries of the Triple Goddess*. Members of the audience joined her in invoking and praising the goddess at the end of her presentation. She was followed by Mei Mei Sanford and Adeline Igho Apena who dis-

cussed modern African incarnations of the Goddess in the worship of Osun, the Yoruba Goddess of fresh water, and Olokun, the Goddess of the Sea in Nigeria.

Virginia Dare, another resident of Palisades, talked briefly about music as part of rituals celebrating the Goddess and then sang a song honoring Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan woman who was responsible for starting the Green Belt movement in Africa. She urged the audience not to abandon their own creativity, but to celebrate it by joining with others to make music. Virginia finished her presentation by dividing the audience into three parts and asking them to sing a round, *Jubilate Dea*. Although the sound was a little ragged, most of us participated and enjoyed this group activity. Next the actress and activist Olympia Dukakis told of her discovery of the Goddess in early Greek religion and of the ways that that discovery have influenced her life and her work in the theater.

The event closed with another short talk and ritual by the urban shaman Donna Hennes, who handed out blue corn seeds for the large and enthusiastic audience, mostly made up of women, to take home and use as they saw fit.



—Alice Gerard

Families and Work Institute in the National Spotlight



This is the year that late-breaking research into the early development of infants' brains has jumped over the traces of academic publications into the mainstream media, including Washington and Hollywood. How could this possibly happen? It's not easy to get jaded reporters and editors of the mainstream press to switch from the tabloid beat to the "Mommy track."

However, Palisadian Ellen Galinsky, who is the president of the Families and Work Institute, a nonprofit research group in New York City, has gotten everyone in the country talking about good parenting skills, the importance of children, and even, heaven forbid, about the importance of loving one another.

The momentum began two and a half years ago, when Galinsky was visiting Rob Reiner and he told her about his long term dream to do something about increasing public awareness of the importance of early childhood parenting skills. As the idea of a full blown public awareness campaign developed, AT&T lent its corporate backing and FWI sponsored a national con-

ference on brain development in 1996 attended by 150 of the nation's leading brain scientists, child development and early education experts, business leaders and policy makers.

The "I Am Your Child" campaign that grew out of this is now seeking to reach out to the public at large to spread a positive message about how to cherish and love young babies, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because it's so important for basic brain development. The initiative that Galinsky has spearheaded has led the White House to hold a "Conference on the Brain" in April, has gotten ABC to run an hour-long program on child development directed by Rob Reiner, and has gotten Newsweek to devote a special issue to child development.

Two goals for the campaign as visualized by Galinsky, Reiner and others have been to keep partisan ideology out of it and to keep rigorous scientific accuracy in it. Outreach to all parents, no matter what their situation in life, has been the overriding dream of all involved in the effort.

Meanwhile, everything has happened so quickly and

growth of involvement has been so fast that Galinsky barely has time to sit down and catch her breath. She kindly made time to speak with 10964 about the initiative in between trips and phone calls all over the country. Currently there are 126 national organizations that have gotten involved and 50 coalitions have been formed to take up the message of the campaign.

In response to a question about her greatest frustrations with the whole process, she mentioned the heavy time pressures and the difficulty of finding ways to sustain the good work being done over the long run. However, she also spoke of the immense sense of gratification she feels for having helped to get Americans to take up discussion of a positive issue that will have so much impact on so many tiny little lives. Clearly, this is a masterful effort to help children and their parents make the best of a tough, tough world.

Greta Nettleton.

The Great American Pastime



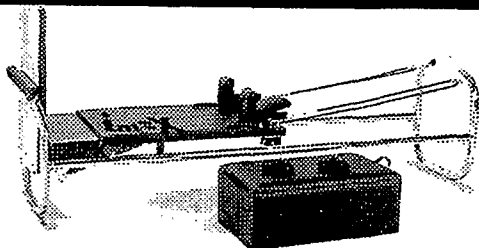
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The Palisades Sparkill Little League held a photo day on May 10-- While everyone was lining up for their formal shots, 10964 caught some candid images of local sluggers and pitchers fine tuning their in-field skills. Parent David Seeger watched the action with children Sam, Max, Lilly and Ben.

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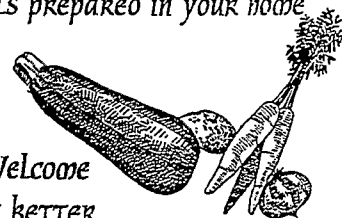
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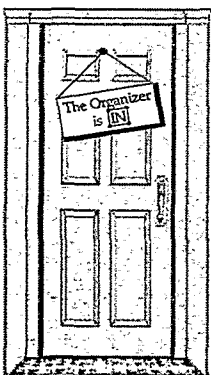
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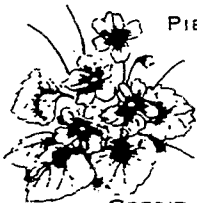
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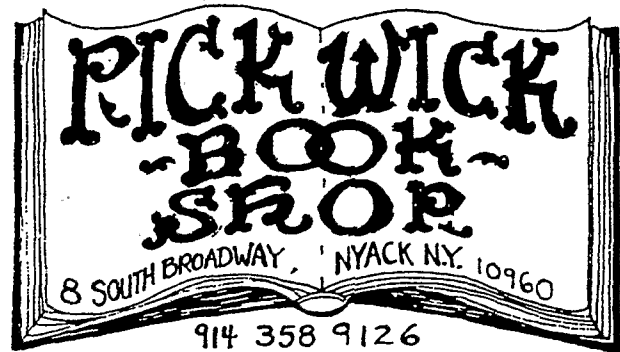
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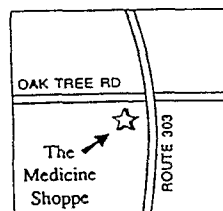
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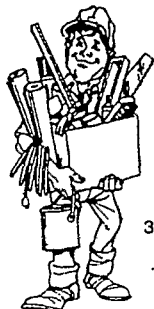
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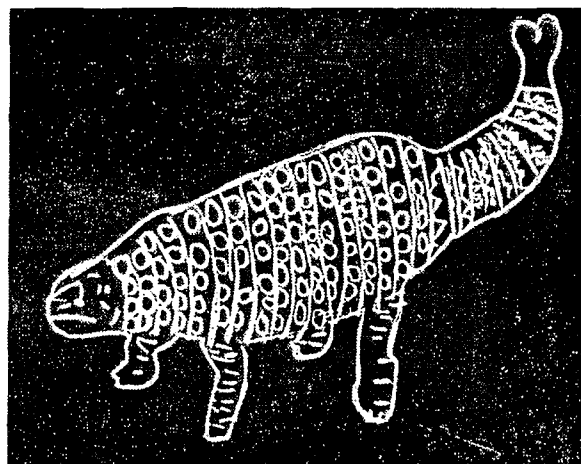
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