10964

PALISADES NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1997 NUMBER 158



Palisades kindergartners who began school in September (pictured top to bottom, left to right):

Top Row: Dakota Green, Lily Ryan, Suzy Lee, Melissa Hirsch, Sophia Signorelli, Luke Vermandel
Middle Row: Nicole Arzoomanian, Eden Jacob, Anthony Anselmo, Meagan Cohen, Joseph Flannery
Bottom Row: Elizabeth Mayer, Andrea Bucciarelli, Nancy Kilerciyan, Kristi Grammatica, Dayna Maresco,
Mary Polk-Bauman, Anna Baryshnikov

Not pictured: Audrey Gensel, Reed Neuendorf, Ben Seeger, Jared Umlas

WELCOME, CLASS OF 2010!

WE NEED YOU!

he Palisades Community
Center is currently suffering
from a lack of funds needed
to continue maintaining this historic
structure properly. It costs approximately \$8,000 a year to adequately heat,
maintain and insure the Palisades
Community Center — to be open and
functioning for you, the members. And
costs only continue to escalate. We are
almost as dry as desert sands, almost as
dry as a bone.

Even worse, we are suffering from a lack of interested Palisadians who are actively concerned for the health and welfare of the Palisades Community Center. This is a dire predicament indeed! If Palisadians do not use the Center in ways which will benefit the community and are unable to cover the cost of maintaining the building, it will revert to the South Orangetown School

district. We urge you to join the

Palisades Community Center Board on

October 15 at 7:30 p.m. for a forum on

this question.

was built by the residents of Palisades just after the Civil War. Since then it has undergone relatively little change. Except for a kitchen, toilet, and small office which seem to

have been added to the rear of the building in the early 20th century, the entire structure appears to have been constructed in 1867. In Alice Haagensen's book "Palisades and Snedens Landing", Mildred Rippey was able to date a photo of it as taken around 1910. She was one of dozens of children in the photo and graduated from elementary school in 1914! "I loved my little two room school house... and I lived so close to it that I could leave home when the last bell started to ring and be there on time." Reminiscences, 10964 Newsletter,

At the May meeting in 1942, according to Alice Haagensen, a group

Dec. 1977.

of mothers, including Christine Ratcliff, Connie Price, Jo Walden and Helen Nichols, brought up the suggestion of hot lunches for the children, and there

they had managed perfectly well in their day, going home for lunch or bringing sandwiches.

But the "hot mothers," as someone called them, were well organized and won the day.

I spoke with Dinny Price recently and she recalls being a tiny six year old (as anyone who knows her can well imagine!) and having to sit atop a prune box in order to be able to reach the right height for eating at the lunch room tables — actually planks on saw horses. She remembers the pleasure of eating those delicious nutritious hot lunches without having to walk home.

In 1963, when I was five years old, I remember going to kindergarten in the Old School, as the building was then called. I was in love with being five, with my school and with my teacher. I called her Mommy. I remember the wonderful paintings of grim faced forefathers that ringed the high ceiling — of Washington crossing the Delaware and of the vari-

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ous people and scenes which made up the history of this country. Those marvelous paintings are still there, hidden behind white panels thoughtfully put up years ago to protect them. Generations of children have tumbled on the wooden steps where the class of 2010 now sit. Diana Green could hardly take their picture for the ants in their pants which kept them wiggling and squiggling so excitedly.

In the late 1960's, when the building stood empty and idle for the first time in over a century, it was finally sold by the school district — for \$ 1.00 — to a non-governmental agency and the Palisades Community Center was born. Incorporation papers were signed on November 16th, 1969 and exactly three months later the Secretary of

State made the Palisades Community
Center official. Since 1969, the P.C.C. has
housed salvaged furniture and saggy
couches, bumpy pool tables and old T. V.
sets. An ideal teenager's hang out... I
hung out. Over the years, different
groups, agencies and individuals have
made a wide variety of activities possible. Paula Babalis's ballet classes. Val

Hendrickson and Mike Gnazzo's drama workshops. Art exhibits and flea markets. Palisades Swim Club, Free Library Meetings and the Civic Association have all used the P.C.C. Getting to Know your Public Officials, graciously hosted by Andy Norman and John Converse. Board Meetings, most excruciatingly boring, although there has been the occasional heated meeting over community issues of the day.



Bridge games and Yoga and Didi Conn.

A Korean Church and elegant late night dinners. Halloween parties and numerous children's birthday parties.

According to Palisadian Gerry
Miras, South Orangetown School
District Trustee, the Palisades
Community Center cannot make its
money to pay for the Center through

commercial or business usage of the building: i.e. ... renting the building out for office space. We can only use the building for educational purposes or community minded events which benefit the community.

Perhaps in this day and age of "virtual reality", internet networking and computer literacy among even our very young, a center like this, where once upon a time, people spent "real time"

together, just doesn't make sense.

Or does it? Could it?

If you think it could, please make the time to come to the Forum on October 15th, at 7: 30 p.m. We need you — to generate ideas, to find viable solutions to the problems that face the Palisades Community Center as we near the close of this century. We don't want to close the

doors of this wonderful old building, but are at a crossroads and must decide how the building is to be used.

Jocelyn De Crescenzo

Some of the information in this article was excerpted from previous issues of the 10964 Newsletter. Thank you John Converse, Andy Norman, Alice Haagensen and dear old Mildred.

BULLETIN BOARD

NEW ARRIVALS

Our congratulations to Per and Tara Johansson on the birth of Matthew Peter Johansson on August 2-

Paul and Kathryn Pappay on the birth of Spencer Shattuck Pappay on August 21-Willian and Grace Ryan on the birth of Liam Ryan on July 21.

PLAYGROUP BEGINNING

Anyone interested in joining a toddler/infant playgroup being formed by Palisades' mothers (weekday mornings at the Palisades Community Center), call Grace Ryan at 365-1640.

BURGLAR FRIENDLY?

Because a number of daylight residential burglaries took place this summer in Orangetown, the Community Policing Unit of the Orangetown Police Department surveyed neighborhoods finding many unsecured homes and others to be "Burglar Friendly" - a term used for homes which because of physical design (lighting, shrubbery, building access, locks, etc.) attract potential burglars. If you wish to have a "Security Survey" of your home, call 359-2121, the Orangetown Police Detective Bureau.

OAK TREE ROAD TRAGEDY

After the Aug. 8 accident at Oak Tree Road and Rte. 9W in which 22 year old Aaron Gastellum was killed instantly 10964 welcomes news
items from Palisades
residents "to pin up"
on the Bulletin Board.
Please write us at P.O.
Box 201 or call a staff
member.

by a speeding,

unlicensed driver as he walked across 9W to the bus stop at about 8:30 p.m., some steps have been taken by Orangetown officials to make a dangerous intersection safer.

Eileen Larkin, Palisades resident and Orangetown Councilwoman, examined the intersection shortly after the accident finding the one O & R street light was not working making the area pitch black. Her report to Supervisor Thom Kleiner and the Town Board brought results and O & R have now fixed the street light.

Because the intersection has more than a dozen bus routes passing by on the way to New York City, and lies on a short straight stretch of road with winding and dark stretches on either side, cars and trucks going at high rates of speed come upon it without warning and are often unable to stop when they suddenly come upon a traffic light.

Therefore, Eileen has asked the Town Board to go further in order to make this intersection safer and URGES Palisades residents to call Supervisor Thom Kleiner's office (359-5100) and strongly request that the Town Board instigate the following:

- A N.Y. State study for the purpose of putting in more safety features (proper traffic light signals, lower speed limits and postings, more visible warnings for cars & trucks approaching the area).
- The replacement of wooden bus shelters with lit clear shelters so that those waiting for buses need not step into the road to hail buses.
- ■An O & R study to add an additional light on the S.E. corner in order to properly light the intersection.

Aaron Gastellum, the victim of this accident, was the nephew of Palisadian Robert Binnewies and was spending the summer with his uncle while serving as an intern for the Enrivonmental Defense Fund. His home was in Mount Vernon, Washington.

Former Palisades resident John Alden Harvey died in May in New York City. A social worker, then the administrator of a city shelter for homeless and battered women, John retired when stricken with Parkinsons disease. He grew up on Closter Road along with his parents Ferdinand and Polly Harvey, and his younger brother, Michael (actor Michael Harrington) and will be remembered by many Palisadians who still live in that area.

OCEAN-TO-OCEAN FOR STERLING FOREST

Four young cross country bicyclists went on a 4,000 mile summer trek from Seattle to Bear Mountain beginning their adventure in Seattle on June 9th.

We are very proud to say that three of the four are from Palisades, brother and sister Jaime and Shannon Fitzgerald, and Patrick Farley. Alan Ferency of Hingham, Mass. was the fourth. Jaime and Alan are both 22 years old and 1997 graduates of Harvard; Patrick is a Junior at Clarke University in Worchester, Mass. and Shannon is 19 and a Cornell University Junior.

The four made this trek to bring attention to the need to raise \$6.5 million by the end of the year to complete the \$55 million purchase price of Sterling Forest and prevent it from being developed. Their goal was to raise \$12,000 as part of this effort.

Their journey ended on Aug. 6, four days ahead of schedule, at the top of the tallest peak at Bear Mountain. Reg and I were there to greet them along with Sylvia March, Jaime and Shannon's mother, friends, and members of the press including Richard Gutwillig of the Journal News who did a wonderful job of covering their trip on a day-to-day basis. The cyclists called him every Sunday night and he gave a weekly progress report in the paper.

It was very exciting standing there at the top of the mountain on Aug. 6th and keeping an eye on that last bend in the road to the top. Then suddenly there they were! Pedaling their way to the top - a 3 1/2 mile climb and they weren't even winded, which shows what tremendous shape they were in.

They had many stories to tell. They averaged 83 miles a day, had 20 flat tires, spent many days in 100 degree temperature and one day in Montana at 30 degrees and snowing, and spent one night beside the railroad tracks as it was the only flat land to pitch their tents. Trains rumbled through all night and no one slept.

Robert Binnewies of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the agency that will handle the Sterling Forest acquisition, put it well when he said, "These kids showed how strongly young people feel about protecting the environment for their generation and future generations." We couldn't agree with him more. They are a group of four really fine individuals and we have known Jaime and Shannon since they were very young.

This trip (which they totally financed themselves) has raised approximately \$7,000 as of this writing. Anyone wishing to make a donation to this very worthy cause may do so by sending a check payable to Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Sterling Forest Fund; send to Ocean to Ocean for Sterling Forest, Box 153, Palisades, NY 10964. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Dossi Thayer

MORE HOUSES PLANNED IN PALISADES: HOMEOWNERS CONCERNED

On September 10, the Orangetown Planning Board held a preliminary hearing on a builder's request to erect 3 new houses on Lauren Road. The construction was proposed by the same developer who built the original 13 houses that line the road.

The proposed site is bordered by Lauren Road and Route 340. It is a wooded area, with a wide variety of mainly deciduous trees, wildflowers, cattails and reeds. A small creek, which is a tributary of the Sparkill Creek, transverses the land. The woods are home to a number of wildlife including many different kinds of birds, frogs, rabbits, the occasional deer and other animals.

The meeting was attended by many residents of Lauren Road, who believed when they purchased their properties that the wooded area would remain a conservation zone. Two main concerns were expressed to the Board. First, the proposed construction is sited in a protected wetlands; however, New York State law may permit construction in a wetlands area provided certain guidelines are met. Second, residents were also concerned that the proposed properties will have the Tenneco gas pipeline running through their yards and/or driveways; damage could occur to the pipeline during the construction and excavation stage, as well as when homeowners make improvements to their properties.

There is no decision as yet, since the process has just begun. Many of your neighbors on Lauren Road ask for the support of other Palisadians to successfully oppose the construction of more homes.



ANCIENT ART NEW SETTING

rtist Norman Galinsky has been a practitioner and student of Tai Chi and Chi Kung for nearly fourteen years and has taught these ancient Chinese disciplines in his Palisades studio for the last six. More recently, though, he has been working in a new and at first glance surprising location: the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City — specifically, in the Complementary Care Center, a program of the Department of Surgery. We asked him to tell us something about the disciplines and how they are being applied in a Western clinical situation.

At Columbia Presbyterian, Norman works mostly with Chi Kung (also spelled Qigong). Loosely translated, it means "energy skill or exercise." The discipline has many variants or forms, but all use a relaxed mind, gentle movement, and regulation of breath to open pathways in the body (meridians) so that the flow of intrinsic life energy (Chi) can be enhanced. The understanding in Chinese medicine and philosophy is that Chi permeates the body, flowing through all the organ systems. Stagnation or restriction of Chi may eventually lead to disease; daily practice of Chi Kung can be an effective measure in maintaining good health.

The form of Chi Kung which Norman teaches — Chi-Lel — is the therapy used in the Huaxia Zhineng Qigong Center in Qinhuangdao, China, five hours by train from Beijing. Thousands of people are treated here each month, using only Chi-Lel. The average stay is 24 days; eight or more hours each day are spent practicing Chi-Lel. Those who can stand, practice standing up; those who can't, practice in their beds. They are called students, not patients, because they are learning an art, the goal of which is to heal oneself. The Center claims that it has treated more than 100,000 people with 180 different diseases in its nine years of existence, and that in 95 percent of the cases positive change has been seen.

Norman also teaches Tai Chi at the Complementary Care Center. He explained that this series of exercises, hundreds of years old, is essentially a martial art (its full name is Tai Chi Chuan, "Grand Ultimate Fist"). It is one of several "internal" arts whose intent is to generate a balance of Chi in the body and use the resulting energy for self-defense. The

movements of Tai Chi are slow, rhythmic and focused; it is often called "moving meditation." Today it is practiced mostly for its health benefits, rather than as a martial art. These benefits include increased vitality, stress reduction, improved balance, lowered blood pressure, and improved immune function.

The Complementary Care Center at Columbia Presbyterian originated with the work of a well-known cardiac surgeon and a nurse/profusionist. These colleagues in the Department of Surgery began to use "non-traditional" techniques — therapeutic touch, a form of energy healing familiar to many nurses, and hypnotherapy — to enhance recovery in patients undergoing open heart surgery.

They found that patients treated with these techniques recovered much more quickly, and needed much less pain medication. Other techniques were then explored. Today, the Center offers Tai Chi, Chi Kung, yoga, hypnotherapy, guided imagery, massage therapy, music therapy, foot reflexology, and acupressure, as well as audio tapes designed to promote relaxation, speed recovery, and boost immune response.

In the three years that the Center has been in existence, there have been notable positive results from the interventions offered, particularly with cardiac patients. Tai Chi and Chi Kung are used with these patients to lower and stabilize blood pressure and to promote deep relaxation through the parasympathetic nervous system. The medical benefits and cost effectiveness of this kind of relaxation are well recognized. In coming months, research studies are planned to examine further the effects of therapeutic touch, and to explore the role of Chi in reducing tumor growth.

How do surgical patients respond to the Center's approach? Norman reports that many are unaware that complementary therapies can be valuable additions to the healing process. But when they have experienced one or another of the modalities available — not all are for everyone — they begin to realize the benefits of lessened stress and anxiety and, especially, reduced pain. Many patients, too, do not realize that they can take an active part in their own healing. This is where Chi Kung and Tai Chi can be significant. The process is slow, perseverance is needed, but the effects can be positive and long-lasting.

When ancient Eastern practices are used alongside modern Western medicine, and traditional modes of care are complemented by less traditional ones, the integration may hold valuable clues for the future. Working at the Center, Norman is ever more strongly convinced that this is so.

Caroline Tapley

A DREAM FIELD

parkill-Palisades Little Leaguers may consistently but the ball out of the park, but players and their parents have long wished for a field of their own on which to show off their stellar skills. Now, says Richard Di Loreto, who son the leagues board of directors, this field of dreams may become a reality with the sale of

the Rockland Psychiatric Center.

Not that there's really a problem with the league's current home of the Veterans Field on Route 340, stresses Mr. Di Loreto. The field, which is owned by the American Legion in Piermont, fills the league's basic needs and is well-maintained through the use of funds both from the Town of

Orangetown and league enrollment fees. But it lacks certain features that have become standard fare at other Little League fields around the area - things like a dugout, a club-house and adequate parking - and which make traveling to these more luxurious sites, as well as hosting games at home, increasingly disheartening for players and parents alike.

"Sure, there are things we'd like to do, but it's just not economically wise," says Mr. Di Loreto, who notes that the \$65 enrollment fee (siblings are charged \$35 after the first child), just doesn't stretch far enough to cover more than basic upkeep on top of uniform and umpire costs. "Besides, we don't own the field, so we don't have carte blanche to do with it what we want."

The real problem seems to lie with the fact that, unlike the South Orangetown Little League, which also draws players from our area, the Sparkill-Palisades league is not officially sanctioned by the national Little League hierarchy and is therefore not eligible for funding from the organization. But that's not to say that the league, in existence for nearly 45 years, doesn't have a lot to cheer about.

The Sparkill-Palisades Little League has long been the choice of many local parents for the very reason that, because it isn't sanctioned, it allows for more leeway in doing things "the way we want to," surmises Mr. Di Loreto. "We've always been able to bend the rules a bit to suit our needs." And enrollment figures seem to prove his point, with this year's figure of 320 children from the ages of 5 to 15 participating in five divisions, about the same as the

rival South Orangetown league.

And the talent is just as good,

says Mr. Di Loreto, who proudly claims that the Sparkill-Palisades league is an underdog in theory only, boasting a consistent winning streak in Little League contests, as well as the New Jersey All-Stars division, in which they participated this summer.

The league is now looking ahead to the pending decision on the distribution of land at the Rockland Psychiatric Center, with the hope that a parcel of land will be allocated to the league for a new field, as has been discussed by the town. "It's still all up in the air," says Mr. Di Loreto, who estimates that, even with the donation of the land, a field will cost at least \$50,000 to build. And that's a challenge the community will have to meet.

"I have no doubt we can all work to the same end," he says. "We have a supportive community full of generous and creative members, and we hope we could utilize their talents to raise the necessary funds."

If so, Palisades ballplayers could be hitting homers in the not-too-distant future on a field Mr. Di Loreto envisions as "well-manicured with a dugout, nice fencing, a batting cage, good stands, a clubhouse for meetings and to sell refreshments, and enough parking for everyone. Oh, and maybe even advertising in the outfield."

"That would be my field of dreams," he says with a laugh, and enough, it seems, to make even our neighbors in the majors a little envious.

Kathryn Shattuck Papay

HIKES TO THE SOUTH OF THE PALISADES

CLOSE TO HOME

The first three hikes begin and end at the same place: outside the Lamont Earth Laboratory entrance on Route 9W. (You can leave the car next to the bus stop, where a row of rocks bars access to Old Route 9W.) All three involve some rough walking over rock and up or down one of the "stairs" on the cliffs; non-skid soles are a must. We've given an estimate of the time that each hike would take, at a steady moderate pace, rather than noting distance — a mile along the cliffs is a very different thing from a mile on level pavement.

HIKE NUMBER 1: TO THE WATERFALL (UNDER 1 HOUR)

Just short of the Lamont gatehouse, a path leads southward into the woods. Marked by blue-green blazes, it is part of the Long Path that runs from the George Washington Bridge to the John Boyd Thacher State Park near Albany. Follow this down to a stream-bed and then east toward the Hudson. After a short while, the Long Path turns off to the south (see 2); continue to follow the rocky path by the stream. A steep descent alongside a waterfall brings you to the shore and the picturesque ruins of a pergola built by Mary Tonetti in the early years of the century. From here, you have to retrace your steps since the path to the south along the high-water line quickly peters out and the one to the north leads to private property.

HIKE NUMBER 2: TO POINT LOOKOUT (1 HOUR)

Beginning as above, follow the blue-green blazes across the

stream. Within a few hundred yards, a stone stair leads southward up to High Gutter Point (a.k.a. Eagle Rock). In the days when steamboats were fueled with wood, logs were cut on the top of the cliff and pitched down where the water was deep close to shore, as it is below this Point. From the bare bluff, there are wonderful views to the north. The Long Path follows the cliff edge (there's a strong guard-wire where needed), passes the monument that marks the New Jersey boundary, and

comes out on Old Route 9W just before Point Lookout and the Palisades Interstate Park buildings at the state line. An easy walk north along the old road gets you back to the Lamont entrance

HIKE NUMBER 3: TO FOREST VIEW (2 1/2 HOURS)

Rather than following the Long Path up the stone stair to High Gutter Point (3), continue on to the white blazes that mark the Shore Path. A sign warns: Difficult and Hazardous Trail, Closed When Slippery. It should be taken seriously. A long descent on rough stairs leads to a pleasant wooded stretch by the river, then to almost a mile of rockslide, a chaos of huge angular slabs fallen from the cliffs above. The path then skirts abandoned picnic-grounds and the remains of a dock where steamboats from the City once tied up — Forest View. (There is a good view of this from the top of the cliff). Leaving the Shore Path, head up the cliff, following the blue-and-white blazes. This section of the trail is sometimes called the Thousand Steps. but it is not easy to tell what is a step and what is a slide. At the top, turn to the south along the Long Path. More steps --- wellmade stone ones, this time — connect with a cross-country ski trail leading to the Palisades Interstate Parkway (PIP) buildings at the state line and the way back (see 2).

FURTHER A FIELD

These walks start — and 4 and 6 also end – at the Alpine Boat Basin. There is year-round parking here, with a \$4 charge from April through the end of October. No dogs are allowed, even on leashes.

HIKE NUMBER 4: TO POINT COMFORT (I HOUR)

Pick up the Shore Trail (white blazes) at the northeast corner of the parking lot. At the first major fork, bear right along the lower path. The path is mostly grassy, but becomes rocky as it approaches the water. Just short of a middling-size stream, at Point Comfort, the upper path comes in at a sharp angle. Take this wide and pleasant woodland trail back to the Boat Basin.

HIKE NUMBER 5: TO THE TOWER, A ONE-WAY WALK (1 1/2 HOURS)

Beginning as in 4, at Point Comfort continue on the Shore Path around Bombay Hook. The path is wide and for the most part level, running at the foot of sheer dark cliffs that are the highest in the Palisades. When round Bombay Hook, you can clearly see a stone profile in the cliff: Indian Head. Take the Thousand Steps up the cliff (see 3), then continue straight ahead to the Tower that commemorates the work of the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs in securing the first lands of the Park. From here it is an easy walk to the footbridge over the PIP, or to the State Line Lookout.

HIKE NUMBER 6: TO GREENBROOK FALLS (1 1/2 HOURS)

From the Boat Basin parking lot, take the Shore Path to the south along the river, through delightfully varied terrain. A large boulder on the shore (Hay-Kee-Pook, "his body") marks the place where, according to legend, an Indian brave drowned himself for love. The path here is wide and woodsy, with a few stone steps, and remains easy as far as the Falls. The Falls are at their most impressive in the spring or after a heavy rain, but they are dramatic even in August. Turn back at the causeway that crosses the water.

HIKE NUMBER 7: TO THE ENGLEWOOD BOAT BASIN, A ONE-WAY WALK (2 1/2 HOURS)

Beginning as with 6, continue south after Greenbrook Falls. The path becomes narrow and is rocky close to the shore

(there is also some well-grown poison ivy). Before the Park came into being, farmers worked the land "Under the Mountain" all along here. From the Shore Path you can see the



ruins of houses, a few docks, and some monumental walls. (There is also a small cemetery close to the PIP parking area at Undercliff, on the River Drive.) The last part of the trail runs right along the high-water line — when the tide is in, some of it is under water. Just past Frank's Rock, an enormous boulder poised between the path and the shore, you reach a large parking lot, one of two that serve the Englewood Boat Basin.

A BICYCLE RIDE

FROM THE ALPINE BOAT BASIN TO THE ENGLEWOOD BOAT BASIN (5 1/2 MILES)

The Hudson River Drive runs through the Park parallel to the Shore Path. Cars are permitted on the drive, but the speed limit is 25 mph and there are few of them. Park rules are that cyclists must be 14 or older, must wear helmets and be riding full-size bikes. The road is pleasant, shaded by deep woods much of the way, and mostly level.

Caroline Tapley



ELMWOOD PLAYHOUSE 1997 FALL SEASON

The Playhouse opened its new season on September 12 with Angels in America, a Tony Award and Pulitzer prize winning drama which ran until October 4. Other productions scheduled at the Playhouse are:

Nov. 7 - 29: After-Play by Anne Meara — "Hilarious...the perfect New York comedy" (Vincent Canby, The New York Times).

Dec. 20 & 21; 27 & 28: The Gift of Love, the world premiere of a new musical based on O. Henry's beloved classic "The Gift of the Magi," music by David Christian Azarow, lyrics by H.L. Price. "A Holiday treat for the entire family."

ship Fund for the Arts and is located on 10 Park Street in Nyack; performances are Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30. Sunday matinees at 2:30, and Sunday evenings at 7:30. For reservations or information, call 353-1313.

ARTS CENTER OPENS MAJOR FILM EXHIBIT

This month, Rockland Center for the Arts opens "The Dream Machine," a major historic exhibition paying tribute to one of the most dynamic of all the 20th century arts — the movies. The exhibition, the centerpiece of the Centers' 50th Anniversary celebration, will focus on the art, history and sociology of the American cinema with a special emphasis on the role of Rockland County residents who have made significant contributions to the film industry in the areas of talent and production. The exhibit opens with a reception on Sunday, October 26 from 1-4 pm and continues through January 25, 1998.

At 3:30 on opening day, Ralph Sessions will present a special gallery talk entitled "Adolf Zukor and the Silent Film Era." Mr. Sessions, an art historian and curator, is currently a guest curator at the Museum of American Folk Art. Additional enhancements to the exhibition will be held in upcoming months including panel discussions, gallery talks and an evening of stories and the music of Kurt Weill.

Notable Rockland legends of the past whose work will be saluted include Adolf Zukor, the New City resident who creat-Hayes, playwright Maxwell Anderson, The Elmwood Playhouse receives film writers Charles MacArthur and Ben

support from the Community Partner- Hecht, composer Kurt Weill, and singer Lotte Lenya. Film clips and other items of work by some of today's film stars and directors who live in Rockland County will also be featured.

> "The Dream Machine" exhibit and attendant events are funded by The Community Partnership Fund for the Arts with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. Gallery hours are 10 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday; 1-4 pm weekends; closed holidays. For further information, call the Center at 359-0877.

WRITERS' COMPETITION

The Arts Council of Rockland (ACOR) invite Rockland County writers to enter their third annual contest by submitting unpublished manuscripts by October 31 deadline.

There are four literary categories, Poetry, Short Story, Arts-Related Essay, and "My American Story" — and three age categories: 12 through 15 years of age, 16-19 years of age, 20 years of age or older.

Writers may submit no more than one piece in each Literary Category. Poems are limited to no more than 50 lines. Short stories, essays and "My American Story" are limited to no more than 800 words.

Judges for the competition will be professional writers and teachers and professors of English who are employed in and/or are residents of Rockland County. Competition results will be announced in the January 1998 issue of Arts Happenings.

Submissions must be received in the ed Paramount Pictures, actress Helen Arts Council no later than 4 pm on Friday, October 31. Call ACOR at 426-3660 for details of submission.

A NIGHT WITH RAVI:

ight. A swift breeze passed across my face as I walked along 57th street. The air was calm and the New York City lights were as bright as the stars above. It was the perfect night for a recital at Carnegie Hall.

On Tuesday night I had the privilege of seeing one of the most amazing talents and renowned artists and composers from India, Ravi Shankar. He is the legendary sitarist that first captured the imagination of westerners in the late sixties. He is also India's most esteemed musical ambassador. He appeared on stage at one of the finest concert halls in the world, in which I was seated in the last seat of the last row of the last section of the highest balcony. The evening's performance was made more special by his accompanist....his sixteen year old daughter, Anoushka Shankar.

Ravi Shankar has received many awards and honors from

the US and all over the world. In the West he is recognized the most for playing in the period of the awakening of the younger generation of the mid 60's. His three most memorable appearances are the Monterey Pop Festival, the concert for Bangladesh and the Woodstock Festival. He has received the Premium Imperiale Arts Award for his pioneering work in bringing Indian music to the West. This is one of the world's most prestigious awards, and often referred to as the Nobel Prize of the arts. The sitar is Ravi's instrument of choice which he has played for nearly fifty years. The sitar is the most popular instrument of India and has existed there in its present form for nearly seven hundred years. During the concert there were three other instruments played, the mridangam and the tabla, both classical drum instruments along with the tamboura, a five string instrument similar to that of the sitar. The raga is the main form of Rayi's music. It is traced back nearly two thousand years to its origin in Vedic hymns of Hindu temples. It is the projection of the artist's inner spirit; manifestation of his

most profound feelings and sensibilities. This is his **rasa**, or mood in which he plays.

The recital opened when Ravi began with the alap section, the serene exploration of his chosen raga. It was a slow introduction, almost saddening. Soon the music moved into the jor, when rhythms enter and different variations begin. Then the music moved onto the gat, a fixed composition of the raga. Here drums and the tamboura enter to create a wonderful rhythmic structure. The artist had complete freedom to improvise as long as he did not depart from the format of the raga. Then came the jhala, the final movement and climax of the raga which is more playful and exciting. Finally the sawal jabab, the dazzling interplay and rapid exchange between the sitar and the tabla, had the power to enthrall the most

raga to a conclusion.

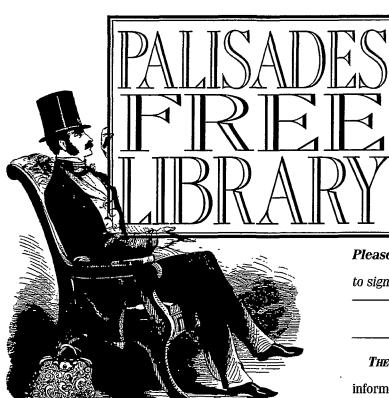
I felt that Ravi's music brought the audience into a new dimension of

musical sound. He played the sitar in a rhythm that was nearly hypnotic. The sound sent pulsating vibrations through my whole body, especially through my face. Each time he plucked a cord it sent a sensation to my face like endless raindrops cascading onto my forehead. There was no sense of time passing. His sounds gave off immense feelings of relaxation and freedom. There was passion, depth and explosion in his music like nothing I had ever heard of before. Throughout the recital I swayed hypnotically from side to side as if the music had taken over my body, and at times I felt as though I was no longer in control. My imagination took over. I fell into a deep meditation. Thoughts and images conjured in my mind and my consciousness was brought to another level. I found myself sitting on a cliff overlooking my world.....

As I left the theater, the sound of the raga accompanied me through the crowd and out into the street.

What a gift, this night with Ravi.

Jonathan Leach



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Story time for ages 3-K on Wednesdays at 1:30 (with the exception of school vacations). Children will experience rhymes, fingerplays, simple games and stories, including some with puppets and role-playing. Children must be *fully three years old or older*. Kindergartners are welcome. Story time lasts approximately one-half hour, with time afterward to choose books for borrowing.

DECORATED WREATHS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 4:15 PM - AGE 6 AND UP Decorate a small vine wreath with dried flowers and other dried materials.

LANDSCAPE WITH BOATS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 4:15 PM -AGE 5 AND UP Create little sail-boats from walnut halves, then float them in a miniature lake landscape

Paper Decoration

Wednesday, December 10 4:15 pm - Age 6 And Up Make folded and cut decorations that can be used for package trims, window decorations, etc. Bring a pair of scissors that cut well for you. Older children might enjoy creating many variations on this theme.

Please note: Because of space limitations, it is essential to sign up for programs in advance.

LIBRARY NEWS

THE READING BOOK CLUB meets monthly — for more information, call the library at 359-0136.

SEARCH YOUR LIBRARY'S CATALOG FROM HOME: Holdings of the 52 Public Libraries in the Ramapo Catskill Library System database can be viewed from any personal computer equipped with a modem between the hours of 8 am and 9 pm, 7 days a week. Dial 352-8231.

You can also search IAC SuperTom (Information Access Company's Magazine Index) from your home or business through your Internet web access. There is a link on the RCLS home page that leads to IAC's Searchbank web site.

You will need to input your ANSER card barcode to access. SuperTom is an index, abstract, and full-text database designed for secondary school students.

MAGAZINE INDEXES: We will be offering two additional full-text magazine indexes on the PAC terminal. Information Access Company's Health Information Center and Business Index will be added as options along with the Magazine Index currently available. The Ramapo Catskill Library System will be offering these indexes to member libraries at no charge for one year, so stay tuned!

TAKE A CHANCE WITH THE CASH RAFFLE

The Library's second cash raffle is now underway. Tickets, at \$50 each, are for sale at the circulation desk at the Library, and are tax-deductible. Winners will be drawn at the Fall Halloween Fair, on October 26. Proceeds will be shared with the Library. The grand prize is \$1500, with 3 additional prizes of \$1000, \$500 and \$500. If the Library sells more than its goal of 200 tickets, the prize amounts will be increased proportionally.

Here's an opportunity to help the Library pay off its mortgage, buy furniture, and have some extra cash just in time for the holidays. For more information, call the Library at 359-0136.

HALLOWEEN PLANT FAIR ON OCTOBER 26

The Fall fundraiser this year, just before Halloween, features the popular pumpkin decorating, hay rides, fall plants, bulbs, shrubs, food, books by the pound and more! The fair will be held on Sunday, October 26, from 1-4 p.m. at the Library. (In case of rain, the festivities will be moved to the Palisades School on Oak Tree Road.) Kids (and adults) should come in costume, if they wish, to celebrate the Halloween theme.

If you can help, donate books, or contribute to the bake table, please call Mary Viviano at 359-1664 or Carole Heinemann at 359-2725.

LIBRARY HOURS

Mon.-Wed. 3 pm to 9 pm

Thurs. 10 am to noon & 3 pm to 9 pm

Fri. 3 pm to 5 pm
Sat. 11 am to 5 pm
Sun. 1 pm to 5 pm

ADULT FICTION

Closings

*Oct.1&2-Rosh Hashanah 5 pm Oct.11-Yom Kippur Oct.13-Columbus Day Nov. 26-Thanksgiving Eve Nov 27-Thanksgiving Day



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South Orangetown School News



BOND UPDATE

Over the past several months, the Board of Education, administrators, and involved members of the community have been meeting to consider the nature and timing of a bond that would enable construction and renovation work in South Orangetown Schools. These meetings have explored alternatives and options for performing the work necessary, including reviewing the state aid ratios, to project the likely state funding for the proposed work. As of this writing, the Board expects to make a decision about the bond referendum, probably by the end of September, with the hope that it will be submitted for a public vote on the issue within the next few months.

It is noteworthy that school enrollments continue to rise. As a whole the District gained 102 students between the end of June and the beginning of September, with a third of this gain entering Grades 1 to 5. These numbers are also higher than projected enrollments. Please watch your children's backpacks and other school literature you receive in the mail for notice of the bond vote.

WHO'S WHO IN SOUTH ORANGETOWN ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Morton Sherman resigned as Superintendent, effective September 1, to take a position in Cherry Hill. Dr. Sandra Kolk has been named Interim Superintendent, and will serve in that capacity until the vacancy has been filled. The Board of Education has launched a national search for South Orangetown Superintendent of Schools and although it is possible that the position will be filled by January at the earliest, it is likely that the search may take the entire academic year.

CHILD CARE SURVEY

In order to provide information on child care services and providers available to South Orangetown parents, as well as determine child care needs, the District has been conducting an extensive survey. If you have not completed a questionnaire, please contact Lynn Gorey, Principal of Tappan Zee Elementary School at 365-4280, or Central Administration at 365-4200. Your input is very valuable.

Palisades Community Center



Available days and evenings for meetings, parties, classes and events.

Contact Caroline Tapley at 359-0013.

Children's Acting Classes starting up at the P.C.C.

Please call Eileen Geiger for more information at 358-7630





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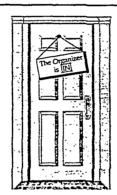
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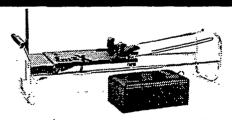
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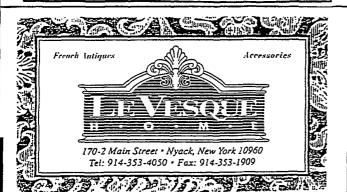
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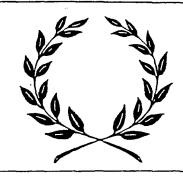
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About 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades. 10964 staff greatly appreciates the response from its late summer mailing asking for Palisadians to join up. If you are still "thinking it over," don't hesitate! Call Carol Elevitch at 365-3772 and ask how you can help. We

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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.

Many thanks to Jerry McSpirit, Sanford and Evelyn Shukat, and Caroline Pool Turoff for their generous contributions.

Staff Members: Judy O'Neil Castagna, Jocelyn De Crescenzo, Carol Elevitch, Alice Gerard, Susan Gersony, Ellen Chayet Kidd, Barbara Leach, Jonathan Leach, Greta Nettleton, Andrew Norman, Kathryn Shattuck Papay, Milbry Polk, Caroline Tapley, Mary Tiegreen, Margaret Umbrino, Judy Umlas, Gina Vermandel and Cellen Wolk.

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