

10964

THE PALISADES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1997 NUMBER 159



Dedication of the Palisades, NY Post Office, January 27, 1962

POST OFFICE RENOVATION

The recent upheaval at the Palisades Post Office is only the latest of many changes made since the first Palisades Post Office opened its doors. Until the middle of the nineteenth century this village, then called Rockland, had no post office of its own. Mail was brought from the Slote (Piermont) each day by someone who worked there. In 1855 it was decided that the community should have its own post office. The postal authorities were not willing to call it the Rockland Post Office because they said there were already too many communities named Rockland in the county. Palisades, chosen as the new name for the village, has produced problems of its own because it is often confused with Palisades Park, New Jersey. Henry Coles, who lived down the hill towards the river, was appointed the first postmaster on Janu-

ary 30, 1855. But it was soon decided that he lived too far from the center of the village. George Lawrence, who lived next to the Country Store, was appointed postmaster in his place on February 26, 1855.

Later the office of postmaster was passed back and forth across the "Timothy meadow," as the central triangle was then called, depending on which political party was in power. When the Democrats were in office, a small annex was added to the house of James Post, who lived on the south side of the triangle, and he became postmaster. When the Republicans won an election the annex was moved across the meadow to stand by itself near the house of Frederick Wahrenberger, the new postmaster, close to the location of the present post

Continued on page 2.

Continued from page 1

office. The post office moved from one side of the triangle to the other five times between 1882 and 1915. The changes ended only when the patronage system was abolished.

The next memorable postmaster was Walter "Simmy" Simmons who ran the post office and a general store in the same building, the house next to Yonderhill now owned by Ernie Quick, from 1919 to 1922 and from 1928 to 1933. "Simmy" was known as a kind man who would take in a neighbor's laundry if it began to rain when she was away.

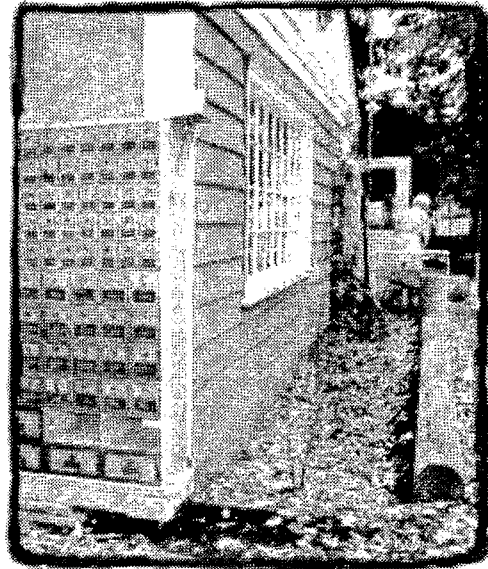
In 1933 Clarence Cahill became postmaster and held the post, assisted by his wife, until 1955. The post office occupied one side of the front room in the Country Store and Mrs. Waldron ran a small general store in the other side. The post office boxes provided a barrier between the two parts of the room. It was a cozy affair. One could leave library books with Mrs. Waldron and get the latest news from the Cahills. They would even telephone to let you know if an important letter came.

When Mr. Cahill retired his place was taken by Laura Ebmeyer, who lived across the street. In 1961 Laura and her husband Ed Ebmeyer were awarded a contract to build a new post office on vacant land next to their house. They would still own the land and the new building but would lease it to the Post Office Department. The building was completed in December 1961 and enthusiastically dedicated, with speakers, a band, and refreshments, on January 27, 1962. Laura continued to serve as postmistress until her retirement early in 1989.

Since then there has been quite a turnover at the post office. Laura was succeeded by Ann Welch, who retired last year after breaking her ankle. Many people still remember Anita McLeish, who left in 1992 after working at the post office for 25 years. Bernie Doyle has been at the post office ever since 1979 and worked there occasionally before that. Denise Madura is the current postmistress.

The Recent Renovation

Postal authorities inspecting the building last year were dismayed to discover that the window sills were rotten and the floor was in bad shape, with asbestos underneath. They felt that changes should be made to provide more security for the



Alice Haagensen picks up her mail during renovation.

building. But the building is still owned by the estate of Laura Ebmeyer. Appeals to the lawyers for needed repairs went unheard, and eventually the Postal Department decided to do the work itself, combining the repairs with a complete renovation which would modernize the building.

The work started at the beginning of September and is not finished yet, although the worst of the disruptions to normal postal service are now over. The building still needs repainting and there has been exterior damage which must be repaired. Feelings are mixed about whether the changes are an improvement. There is more light, but less counter space. You can no longer see whether there is mail inside your box. Some people now have smaller boxes than they had before, and a few have larger boxes.

What happened to the old boxes? One section of boxes was given to George Zipparo at the Country Store, one to the Palisades Free Library, and one to someone who had asked a long time ago for a few of the discarded boxes.

When asked what other changes might improve life at the post office, Bernie said that the people who work there really need a 20 mile an hour speed limit for cars passing the post office, that crossing the road to get the mail from the boxes is dangerous because too many cars drive past at high speed.

Alice Gerard

PALISADES VOTERS SWARM TO INCUMBENTS IN 1997 ELECTION

By Andrew E. Norman

Voters in Districts 12 and 50 gave heavy support to the incumbent Orangetown Supervisor, Rockland County Executive, County Clerk and Town Clerk on November 4, as all four also carried Orangetown in landslides. Palisadian Charles "Skip" Vezzetti, who had wrested the nomination for one of two Town Council seats from fellow Republican Eileen Larkin, a Palisadian who had served for five years, carried the hamlet in extremely close voting but had a much easier time in the town as a whole.

The top local vote-getter was Supervisor Thom Kleiner, a Democrat seeking his second two-year term. With absentee votes not yet reported by district, he won 429 of the 527 votes cast for the office, an impressive 81.4 percent. Robert Roman received 73 votes on the Republican line and James Leman 7 Conservative and 18 Right to Life. Kleiner's townwide percentage was 68.5 to 25 for Roman and 6.5 for Leman.

Almost equally impressive, Republican Scott Vanderhoef pulled 324 votes in the hamlet, or 61 percent, to northern Rockland Assemblyman Alex Gromack's 191 on the Democratic (176), Conservative (10) and Independence (5) lines; Arnold Miele polled 20 Right to Life votes. Vanderhoef's showing contrasts sharply with the 180-vote average cast for the two R-C-RTL candidates for State Supreme Court in Palisades, a humble 37 percent. The two Democratic candidates averaged 306 votes.

County Clerk Edward Gorman's successful bid for a third four-year term was endorsed by more than 60 percent of Orangetown voters and 71 percent of Palisades's. He won 326 votes on the Democratic line, 20 Conservative, 9 Liberal and 5 Freedom Party, for a total of 360.

In the two Town Council races, Democrat Ellen O'Han Murphy topped the Palisades voting with 294. Vezzetti's 266 votes edged out Democrat Barry Rogers's 252 and Republican incumbent Robert Bergman's 199. Townwide, Vezzetti was number one with 30 percent and Bergman retained his seat with 27 percent. O'Han Murphy trailed with 23 percent and Rogers with 20. Robert Stewart, a Conservative candidate, received 2.6 percent of the Orangetown total, and only 1.4 percent in Palisades.

Both Democratic candidates for Legislature narrowly carried Palisades: Marilyn Troy with 266 votes and Jamie Howarth with 258. Incumbent Republicans John Murphy and Patrick Moroney received 252 and 223 votes. But Orangetown was a different story. Murphy cruised to a seventh term with 32 percent of the vote and Moroney to a third term with 30. Troy and Howarth trailed with 18 and 15. The remaining 5 percent was divided among three minor party candidates.

Long-time Orangetown Receiver of Taxes Eileen Bonner, a Republican also backed by he Conservative, Independence and Right to Life Parties narrowly won Palisades over Democratic challenger Kuruvilla Cherian, 263 to 251, but swept Orangetown by more than 65 percent. Democrat Charlotte Madigan, running also on the Conservative line, who was an upset winner of the Town Clerk office two years ago by some 41 votes, waltzed to a second term with 60 percent of the



Palisades polling place to close.

Orangetown vote and 69 percent in Palisades. The Democratic candidate for the newly elective position of Town Superintendent of Highways, E. Philip Herman, carried Palisades over James Dean (R, C, Ind. and RTL) by 253 votes to 245, but suffered a crushing defeat in townwide voting.

On the five referenda at the top of the ballot, about 25 percent of Palisades voters passed altogether. Those who did vote came out about the same as the rest of the world.

Continued on page 20

LIBRARY NEWS



Palisades Library, 1997

New Adult Fiction

Golden	Memoirs of a Geisha
Gurganus	Plays Well with Others
James	A Certain Justice
Keillor	Wobegon Boy
McCarthy	Cities of the Plains
McMurtry	Comanche Moon
Matthiessen	Lost Man's River
Patterson	Cat and Mouse

New Adult Non-Fiction

Ambrose	Citizen Soldiers
Bookreev	The Climb
Foveaux	Any Given Day
Hass	Permanent Remissions
Hersh	The Dark Side of Camelot
Kincaid	My Brother: A Memoir
Makine	Dreams of My Russian Summer
Tilberis	No Time to Die
Viorst	The Perfect Control

New Reference Books

Complete Food and Nutrition Guide
Encyclopedia of World Sports
Genetics Disorders Sourcebook
An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles
Merck Manual of Medical Information

Winter Schedule

Closed Dec. 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday.
Closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for New Year's holiday.

Library Hours

Monday through Wednesday 3 P.M. -9P.M.
Thursday 10 A.M. -12 P.M. and 3 pm -9 P.M.
Friday 3 P.M. -5 P.M.
Saturday 11 A.M. -5 P.M.
Sunday 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Library announcements

Two positions on the Board of Trustees of the Palisades Free Library are becoming vacant in January of 1998. Following a change in our bylaws last year, there will no longer be an election for these posts. Instead, a nominating committee will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, who will then vote in new members.

The Board would like to invite any Palisadian who is interested in getting involved in library activities, whether by joining the Board of Trustees or by joining any of the library committees, to contact any library trustee or a member of the nominating committee or to talk to Beatrice Agnew, the head librarian, during early December.

The Annual Meeting for the Palisades Free Library will be held, as usual, on the last Sunday in January, which this year falls on January 25, 1998, in the afternoon.

LIBRARY NEWS

In January, the Library's public ANSERnet terminal will be installed. ANSERnet is the internet service of the Ramapo Catskill Library System's automated network (ANSER). The terminal is a PC dedicated to internet access via ANSERnet. ANSERnet uses LYNX, a text-only browser that is fairly user-friendly and faster than a graphic browser since there is no delay waiting for images to load.



Snedens Landing, January 1997

Library computer-use policies apply to the ANSERnet terminal:

- *Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult when using the terminal.
- * Use time is limited to 30 minutes when someone is waiting. The fee is \$1 per half hour.
- *There is a \$.25 charge per page for items printed.

In addition, chat lines and e-mail are not available. This service is offered as a research tool to enhance the reference collection. Reference staff is available to offer assistance in using LYNX, so when the on-screen commands seem difficult to interpret, human help is at hand.

Books on Tape.

Don't have time to read? Check out our growing Books on Tape collection. Listen while you drive or work around the house. There are some titles for children to listen to in the car.

Mark Your Calendar.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 1998. Guest speaker to be announced. "Children Around the World," an exhibition of photographs by Geraldine Miras, will be on view.

The library wishes to hear from those interested in participating in library committees and activities. Please call Larry Bucciarelli at 365-0520.

BOOK REVIEWS

"Adventures From the Past — True Stories of Children Who Lived Long Ago in Orangetown."

By Alice Gerard.

Published by the Historical Society of Rockland County, 1997.

Reviewed by Caroline Tapley

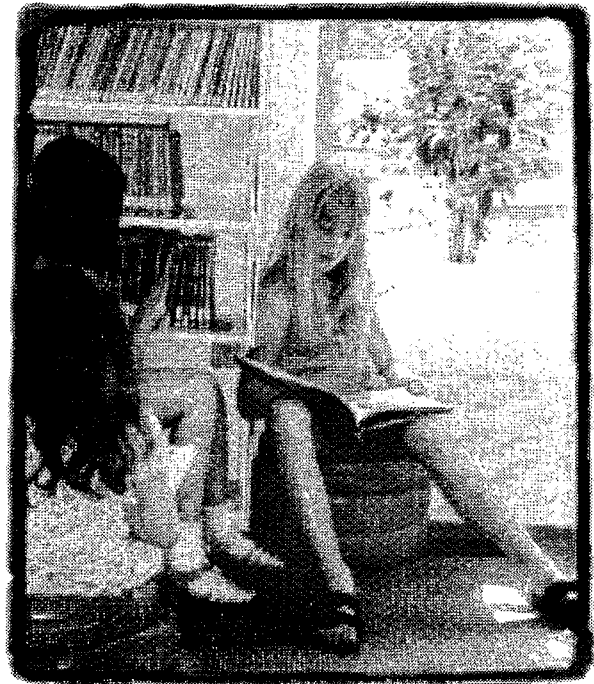
New York State's social studies curriculum suggests that local history be taught to fourth-graders. However, teachers — at least three in Rockland — have had a hard time with this because of a lack of suitable material. Alice Gerard wrote "Adventures From the Past" to remedy this situation, but it would be a pity indeed if the book were restricted to the fourth-grade classrooms. The book takes us in time from the days of the first Dutch settlers, clearing the forest to plant corn, to those of the first commuters, traveling by train from Sparkill to New York City. There is a lot of history, local and otherwise, in this timespan. But, reading true stories about real children, it is absorbed painlessly.

The first story concerns Ide Van Vorst, whom we meet stumbling along a narrow path on a cold night at the end of a rope. It is September 1643 and the Dutch settlement at Pavonia, near Jersey City, has been attacked by Indian tribes. Thirteen-year-old Ide has been captured and is being taken to the village of the Lenape Indians near Tappan — perhaps to be killed, perhaps adopted. Necessary background information is introduced carefully and unobtrusively: We learn in a conversation about the causes of the bad feeling between the settlers and the river tribes.

Many of the characters in the story are real people — not only Ide and his family but also the Dutch-speaking Wicquaskeek Jan Claus and Captain De Vries, landowner and friend of the Indians. The descriptions of the Indian camp in the forest, and of the Dutch farmhouse where Ide is taken after his rescue (yes, he is rescued), are rich with detail, authentic and vivid. We smell the Indian corn stew, taste the herbal medicine, watch the firelight from deep within the cozy cupboard-bed.

The story of Ide's capture is both preceded and followed by short expository sections that provide detail about places and people and set the story firmly in its time in history. The author follows this

same format with the other stories, in which we meet Marretje Haring, the daughter of Dutch farmers; Richard Blanch, a schoolboy in Tappan in Revolutionary days; Cornelia Lawrence, living through changing times in mid-nineteenth century Palisades, and Anna (Nanny) Gilman, the daughter of a wealthy New York businessman, one of the "new people." All the children are real people, historically, and their times are times of historical import — times of conflict, war, development and change. They are also real children in that they speak impetuously, get ravenously hungry, resent the time spent on chores, and are sometimes more

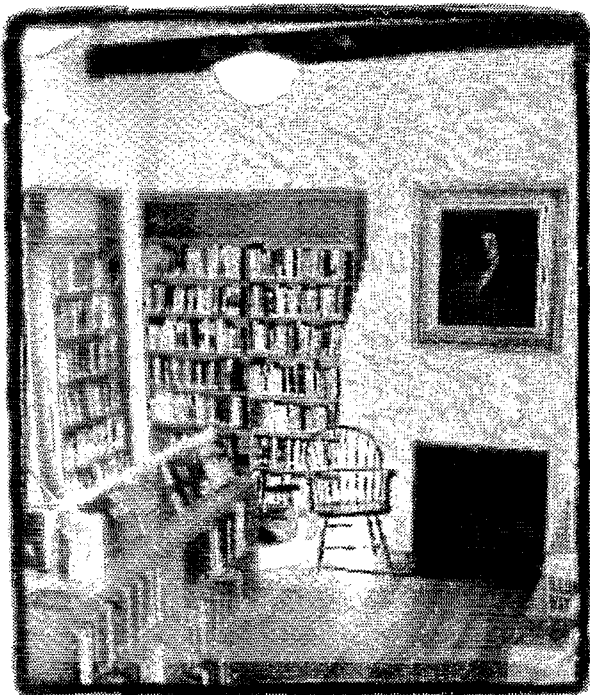


Perri Gerard-Little and friends enjoying a good book.

scared than they will admit. The farmland, the village and the river are clearly realized, as necessary to the stories; so are the pertinent aspects of the children's daily lives — school, games, clothing, meals (one notable one: a fine stew made of 31 robins). As in Ide's story, many of the other characters are real people, from Major Andre to Andrew Carnegie.

"Adventures From the Past" is written with clarity and color. It is also profusely illustrated, has maps and, as a bonus, tested historical recipes. Fortunate fourth-graders!

[The book is available at the Hopper House in Nyack; at Pickwick Bookshop, also in Nyack, or through the Historical Society of Rockland County in New City.]



Palisades Library in the afternoon light.

"The Legend of the Villa della Luna."

By Jana Kolpen and Mary Tiegreen.

Published by Stewart, Tabori & Chang,
New York, 1997.

Reviewed by Greta Nettleton

This luscious sequel to "The Secrets of Pistoulet" carries the reader on a journey from Paris to the rocky coast of northern Italy as the mysterious Mademoiselle J. realizes that she must search for a way to heal an unnamed wound deep in her soul. Laced with romance, the allure of the exotic and numerous recipes for classic Italian food, the book is a graphic feast of images and sensual experiences. It all begins with a cup of tea at a shop on the Rue des Reves, a missed appointment and a tarot card reading. Soon, Mlle. J.'s spirit begins its transformation under the influence of the scent of cardamom and almond crescent cookies.

In Italy, she disembarks from her train to find herself welcomed at the Villa della Luna, a Visconti-esque retreat clinging to the rocky cliffs of the Italian Riviera. As she absorbs the wisdom and beauty of the ancient walls and gardens of the villa, she meets several remarkable people, including a small child named Chiara "who does not speak...but is very wise nonetheless." Each recipe carries our

reader and Mlle. J. forward on her journey toward understanding herself and others, infused with aromas of mystical efficaciousness, including gardenia bath oil, risotto laced with saffron, wildflower tea, and the memorable "Focaccia of Forgiveness and Release," prepared with fresh rosemary, coarse salt and olive oil.

As the pages turn, images seem to float up off the surface of the paper, helped from time to time by ingeniously constructed fold-out shapes and translucent sheets strewn with tarot cards or musical notations. Palisadian Mary Tiegreen designed the book, as well as doing the photography, scanning and electronic assemblages. Many of the most spectacular images in the book came from her stay at the Ligurian home of the Biaggi family that is now the seat of the Bogliasco Foundation. Some of the images came from right here in Palisades, including Mary Polk Bauman, who appears as the small girl Chiara, and Daisy, who appears as one of the golden dogs in the villa's garden. Yet another secret charm of the book is to examine each page for other tiny familiarities merged into the dreamy atmosphere of its pages.

This is a special book to read for yourself, but also one to share as well — first, by cooking one or another of the tasty dishes for somebody close to you, and second, by giving a copy or two away to family or friends for the holidays.



Winter's day .

BULLETIN BOARD

Jane Herold's next holiday pottery sale will be held on **December 12, 13 and 14, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. each day**, at her home at 67 Ludlow Lane. If these times are not convenient, call 359-5421 for an appointment.

More wonderful **Palisades pottery!** Sylvia March runs pottery classes for children 5 to 15 on **Tuesdays and Fridays from 4 to 5 P.M.** and a wheel-throwing class for adults on **Fridays from 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.** Sylvia will also be showing and selling her creations, as well as silk scarves by her niece MaRianne Von Der Heide and clay animals by her daughter Shannon Fitzgerald, from 1 to 6 P.M. on **December 13 and 14, at 224 Route 9W.** For information on the classes, or to make an appointment, call 359-3767.

Please join Jocelyn DeCrescenzo, Director of Literary Programs at the **Edward Hopper House Art Center** in Nyack, on **March 15 at 4 P.M.** to celebrate the work of the prize-winning poet **Stephen Dunn.** Mr. Dunn will present a reading of poetry from his books "Local Time," "Stephen Dunn, New and Selected Poems, 1974-94" and his most recent, "Not Dancing," from Carnegie Mellon. It is sure to be a most intimate and enjoyable evening.

In memorium



Moluka, 1997

Palisades Presbyterian Church News

The Palisades Presbyterian Church welcomes its new interim pastor, the **Rev. Robert Chase**, now in residence at the manse at 124 Washington Spring Road. His first service was November 23 at 11 A.M. As we enter the season of Advent and Christmas, the church returns to two Sunday services at 9 and 11 A.M., beginning November 30. **All are welcome.**

Christmas Eve observances this year will include a family service at 5:30 P.M. and a candlelight service of lessons and carols at 11 P.M.

Volunteers are needed!

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

The Neighborhood Language Center in Sparkill is seeking volunteers to help tutor those whose native language is not English. **Classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9 P.M.** at the Christ Church rectory.

**If you can help, please call:
Eric Alcin at 358-2234.**



Washington Spring Road, January 1996

POST OFFICE NEWS

Now that winter is coming, and we can expect some snow, the Post Office asks that everyone who has a box along the road please try to keep the area around the box cleared so that the mail deliverer can reach it easily.

Post Office Hours

Monday thru Friday 8 A.M - 5 P.M.

Saturday 8 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Sunday closed.

Holiday Schedule

Closed Christmas, December 25, 1997

Closed New Year's Day, January 1, 1998



Mail cards early.

Christmas Mailing Dates

International Mail Addressed to:	Air Letters and Cards	Air Parcel Post
Africa	Dec. 1	Dec. 1
Australia/New Zealand	Dec. 8	Dec. 1
Canada	Dec. 12	Dec. 12
Caribbean	Dec. 8	Dec. 8
Europe	Dec. 8	Dec. 8
Far East/Southeast Asia	Dec. 8	Dec. 8
Middle East	Dec. 8	Dec. 8
Central and South America	Dec. 1	Dec. 1

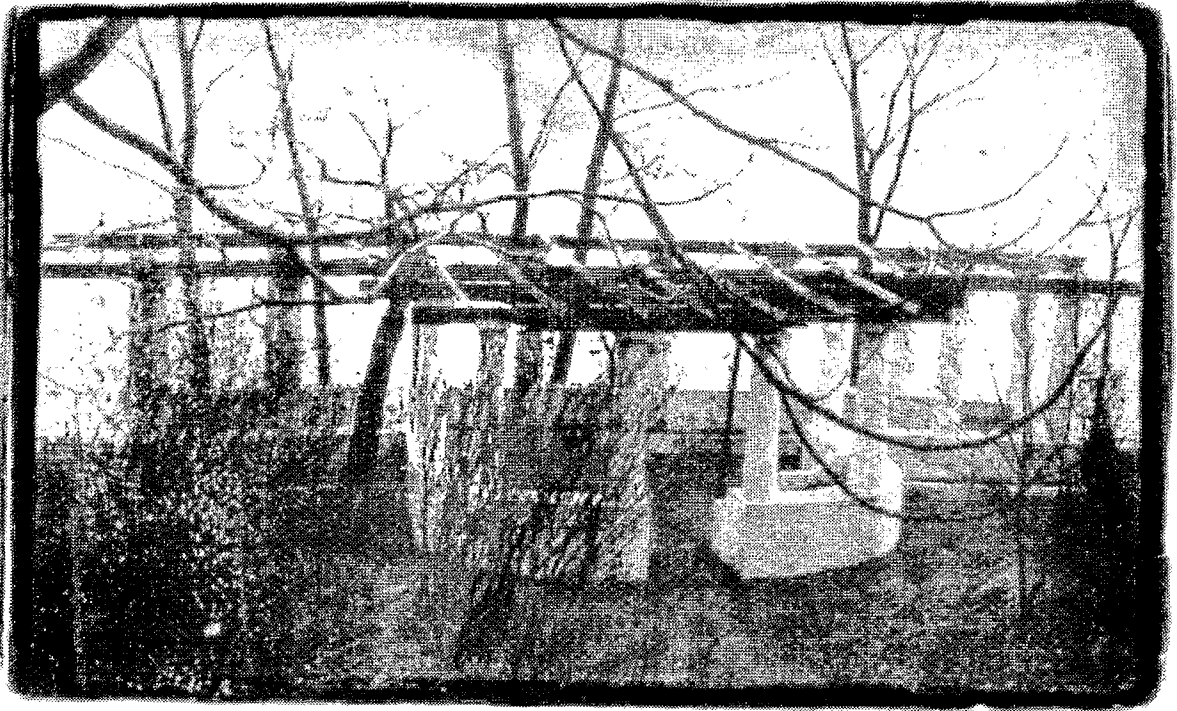
COMMUNITY CENTER FORUM

The people who attended the Palisades Community Center forum of October 15 came up with many good ideas, the first of which is for all of the residents of Palisades to kindly fill out and return the enclosed questionnaire. This questionnaire was developed at the forum and discussed extensively, and we need your input, feedback and ideas as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you again on Thursday, January 8 at the first board meeting of the new year, where we plan to discuss further our tabulations from the questionnaire and to see how we can better serve the community at large. All members, and Palisadians in general, are invited to attend this board meeting. We are also looking for a dedicated person who would be interested in running various programs at the P.C.C. for the coming year.



Palisadians gather to discuss the future of the Community Center in October meeting.

LOCAL HISTORY



The Pergola at the waterfall in Snedens Landing, in the 1930's.

THE WATERFALL IN PALISADES

Mary could not remember a time when she had not known and loved the Waterfall. It was linked with her earliest recollections and she began to embellish its precinct when she was a girl. She made sketches for a garden on the level ground at the foot of the cascade which her friend, Charles McKim, developed into working drawings. She planted fruit trees, Rhododendron and beds of ivy and in the spring brought down, on donkey's back, tubs of oleanders and delicate flowering shrubs which had spent the winter in Miss Underhill's greenhouse. She later built the pergola, decided the number and size of the columns by hanging strips of cloth from a frame work and assured a generous and comfortable form to the bench by seating herself in the soft cement.

She completed the pergola before her marriage and during their honeymoon she and Francois made the reflecting pool and the bathing pools above, as well as the handsome flights of steps with their proud architectural line. Francois enjoyed the work for he was strong and could move huge rocks with ease. One day, in undershirt and old pants, he was happily tossing the rocks about when a launch appeared and

an elegant lady, complete with butler and picnic basket, stepped ashore and said in a cultivated Hudson River voice, "Workman, will you

Continued on page 13



Mary Lawrence Tonetti, spring of 1918

ART NEWS

Nutcracker Ballet

The Rockland Youth Dance Ensemble (RYDE) and Coupé Theatre Studio are presenting performances of the Nutcracker ballet during the month of December. Performance dates and times are as follow:

Clarkstown South High School:

Saturday, December 6 at 4 and 7 P.M.
Sunday, December 7 at 2 P.M.

Cultural Arts Theater, Rockland Community College:

Friday, December 12 at 7 P.M.
Saturday, December 13 at 3 and 7 P.M.
Sunday, December 14 at 1 and 4 P.M.

Palisades residents Allie Rosenwasser, Emily Ullman and Shelby Yamin will dance in the performances at Clarkstown High School; Amelia Kidd and Emily Ullman will dance in the performances at Rockland Community College.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call **RYDE at 624-7933**. Tickets are also available at the door one hour prior to each performance.

Good luck to these dancers!

"First Night"

David Sanders, a former Palisadian, will perform in cabaret on Nyack's **"First Night"** on New Year's Eve. The 45-minute show will begin at 11 P.M. at the River Club Restaurant.

Selections include works by Berlin, Weill, Gershwin, Rodgers, Kern, Stein and Sondheim. "First Night" is a family-themed, alcohol-free evening. Other venues will offer events ranging from puppet shows for children to country line and ballroom dancing and to big band music.

A street fair featuring bag pipers will connect the venues, with the event culminating in a **midnight fireworks display** at Memorial Park. **Buttons** providing entry to all events can be **purchased at the Nyack Village Hall for \$7 to \$10**.

Elmwood Playhouse

The Elmwood Playhouse will present their family holiday musical, **"The Gift of Love,"** on December 20 and 27 at 2:30 and 7:30 P.M. and December 21 and 28 at 1 and 3:30 P.M. **Tickets are \$8; \$5 for those under 22.** Beginning January 16, the playhouse will present Edward Albee's **"Delicate Balance."** Performances, which run through February 7, are held on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 P.M.; Sunday, January 25 at 2:30 P.M., and Sunday, February 1 at 7:30 P.M. Tickets are \$12; \$10 for students and the elderly. For information and to purchase tickets, **call the box office at 353-1313.**

The playhouse is at 10 Park Street in Nyack.

Helen Hayes Performing Arts Center

Beginning December 12, Andrea McArdle, best known for her role as "Annie" in the Broadway musical, stars in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's **"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Coat."** Performances, which run through December 28, are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 P.M., with matinees on Wednesdays and Sundays at 3 P.M. **Tickets are \$20 to \$32.50.** The schedule will vary over the Christmas week, so the center advises calling first.

Holiday family shows at the center include **Paul Peabody's marionettes** on December 20 at 10:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M.; **Tom Chapin**, performing on December 27 at 12:30 and 3 P.M., and the tenor Frank Patterson in **"An Irish Christmas"** on December 22 at 8 P.M. **Tickets range from \$8 to \$20.**

For information and to purchase tickets, **call the box office at 358-6333.**

The center is located on Main Street in downtown Nyack.

Rockland Center for the Arts

On view in the Emerson Gallery through January 25, **"The Dream Machine"** focuses on the art, history and sociology of the American cinema with an emphasis on the role of Rockland County residents who have made significant contributions to the film

continued on page 14

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE REV. ROBERT CHASE

The Rev. Robert Chase remembers the first time he set foot in Palisades early this autumn, when freshly fallen leaves blanketed the ground in vivid hues and bare branches offered glimpses into secret gardens.

"I was amazed," he sighs. "Here I was, standing in the middle of an idyllic setting. That sealed it for me."

The "it" was Chase's decision to accept the position of interim pastor of the Palisades Presbyterian Church, following the departure of the Rev. Laurie Ferguson after 15 years.

Hers were admittedly large shoes to fill. But if the hamlet's beauty had gone unsung, the reputation of the tiny congregation already loomed large in Chase's mind when the Interim Pastor Search Committee approached him in September.

"Word had spread all the way up to Kingston," Chase says of the town on the northern boundary of the church's ruling district, where he was living at the time. "I knew about their progressive stance on social issues and that it was a mecca for artistic expression. It was by all reports an exciting congregation."

For the pastor-turned-film producer, it was a match made in heaven.

Chase first came to the attention of the committee when Jim Vande Berg, a member of the presbytery's hierarchy who had known Chase for several years, recommended him as "a good match with the spirit and energy of Palisades."

Committee members Mercy Garland, Annemarie Siefert and Blythe Anderson had already spent the months of August and September listening to sermons, checking references and interviewing prospective candidates — an arduous task designed to unearth the talents of someone with the leadership and skills to help the church define its character, shape its future and fulfill its mission statement, all in the course of only two years, or until a permanent replacement for Ferguson could be found.



Bob Chase, second from left, with his crew from Creative Connections In Media in the highlands of Bolivia, where they worked on a video on rural healthcare for the United Methodist Church.

And though the fact that Chase had never before served as an interim pastor initially caused some concern with the committee, 11 applicants later he emerged at the forefront, a candidate whose qualifications and goals seemed, as Vande Berg had promised, to mesh with those of the church.

For Bob Chase, the road to Palisades was a long one, marked by a shifting focus in his vision of God's calling. A Long Island native, Chase had majored in political science at the University of Pennsylvania and, like so many of his generation who hoped to make

a change in the world, pursued a Master of Divinity from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, graduating in 1972. A stint in youth ministry led him in 1975 to the position of senior pastor at the Teaneck Presbyterian Church, where he stayed for seven years while working simultaneously with TEAM, an organization that supported ministry through the fine arts.

For someone whose recollections of Sunday-morning worship services growing up call to mind rock bands and a jungle gym in the sanctuary, Chase believes art and religion to be basic components of faith. "Religion and art are one and the same," he says. "The bible is filled with song and artistic expression. How we express our faith is integral to how we define ourselves culturally."

In 1983, after extensive soul-searching, Chase decided to leave full-time ministry to pursue his own artistic inclinations, but stayed involved in the church as a pastor-at-large while working at the administrative level. At the same time he founded Creative Connections In Media, a communications company in Rhinebeck that served organizations — many of them church-oriented — at both the national and international level, winning numerous awards in the process. As a producer of videos and print media, Chase traveled around the world at the behest of clients including One Great Hour of Sharing, UNICEF and the World Conference on Religion and Peace.

Continued on page 14

CHRISTMAS RECIPES

Stollen — German sweet bread flavored with cardamom.

This wonderful recipe is from the classic among vegetarian cookbooks, "The Vegetarian Epicure," by Anna Thomas, published in 1972.

2 1/2 cups flour
1 egg
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
3/4 cup sugar
1/3 tsp. almond extract
1/2 tsp. salt
2 Tbs. brandy
1/2 tsp. mace
1/2 cup currants
seeds of 5 to 6 cardamom pods, crushed
1/2 cup golden raisins
3/4 cup ground blanched almonds
1/4 cup chopped candied lemon peel
1/2 cup butter
melted butter (optional)
1 cup softened cream cheese
confectioners sugar

Sift together the flour, baking powder, sugar, salt, mace and crushed cardamom seeds. Stir in the ground almonds. Cut the butter in with a pastry cutter or two knives until the mixture resembles coarse sand. (This step can also be done extremely quickly in a Cuisinart.) In a blender, cream the egg with the cream cheese, vanilla, almond extract and brandy. Pour it into a bowl and stir in the dried fruit. Gradually stir in the flour mixture, until everything is well-blended. Work the dough into a ball and turn it out on a lightly floured board. Knead it for a few minutes, just until it is smooth. Shape it into an oval, about 10 inches long and 8 inches wide. With the blunt edge of a knife, crease it just off center, length-wise. Fold the smaller side over the larger and place the stollen on an ungreased baking sheet. You may want to brush it lightly with melted butter before baking. Bake the stollen in a preheated 350-degree oven for about 45 minutes. Allow it to cool slightly before dusting it with confectioner's sugar.

Greta Nettleton



Happy Holidays!

Snickerdoodles — Soft spicy cookies

This is a family recipe — my Texas grandmother used to make these for us at Christmas time, and I always associate them with the wonderful tree ornaments she used to bring us from Juarez that were made out of pressed tin, dyed in a rainbow of colors.

1 cup butter (softened)
2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 tsp. baking soda
2 eggs
1/4 tsp. salt
2 3/4 cups sifted flour

Cream butter and sugar; add eggs. Sift together dry ingredients, and add them to butter/sugar mixture. Form dough into walnut-sized balls and roll them in a mixture of:

2 Tbs. sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. ground cloves

Place 2" apart on an ungreased cookie pan and bake 10 minutes at 400 degrees. (Don't overcook — they should be soft.) Cool on a rack.

WATERFALL

continued from page 10

please to remove so that I can enjoy my lunch." Exit Francois, grinning.

The garden and waterfall were often the scene of large parties for the Tonettis' artist friends. At one of the first of these, the guests were members of the Architectural League of New York. They came in full evening dress by train to Dobbs Ferry and crossed the Hudson to a dock by the pergola in a launch, gay with Japanese lanterns and the tinkle of guitars. Lanterns like fireflies spangled the cascade and cliffs and an orchestra mingled its music with the voice of the Waterfall. The guests feasted off caldrons of spaghetti laced with sago and cheese, great bowls of salad and a delectable sweet. A famous Spanish dancer entranced them and a host of speeches followed, given by Elwood Hendrick, Donn Barber, Bertram Goodhue and Tom Robins. The little girls helped to serve the meal and at intervals took catnaps underneath bushes. The gentlemen and ladies' retiring rooms were bowers of leaves and branches.

Excerpt from the book, "Mary Lawrence Tonetti" by Barry Faulkner.

Published by the Palisades Free Library and the Palisades Historical Committee, January 1996.

Continued from page 12

Kathryn Shattuck Papay

It's OFFICIAL! Our regulation size Bacci court is open! If any one is interested please call Andy Norman at 359-2155

Zip@rt

Continued from page 11

industry, among them Adolf Zukor, the New City resident who created Paramount Pictures; the actress Helen Hayes; the playwright Maxwell Anderson; the screenwriters Charles MacArthur and Ben Hecht; the composer Kurt Weill, and the singer Lotte Lenya. Film clips and other works by film stars and directors who currently live in Rockland County will also be featured. Gallery hours are **Monday through Friday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 P.M.** **Suggested admission is \$2.**

Children's programs include "Holiday Gift-Making and Games," a workshop on December 21 from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. in which those 4 to 9 can make surprise gifts for their families and friends, and "Chasing Rainbows," December 29 and 30 from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M., fun-filled days of arts, crafts, music and dance for those 4 to 7. Admission for each day is \$20; \$15 for members.

On Sunday, January 11, Pearl Bowser, a film historian and the founder and director of African Diaspora Images, will present a lecture and screening examining African Americans' influence on cinema. Suggested admission is \$5; reservations are required.

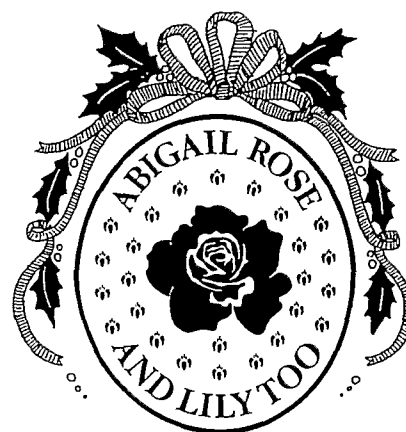
AMerica House
FINE CRAFTS & FURNITURE
IN THE ♥ OF PIERMONT
**EXHIBITING THE FINEST
AMERICAN CRAFTS FOR 25 YEARS**
CLAY, GLASS JEWELRY, CLOTHING
FURNITURE, MIXED MEDIA ART
466 PIERMONT AVE. • 914/359-0106 • TUES - SUN.

VAL TARASENKO • TASIA TARASENKO • KATYA TARASENKO

*Find A
Fortune*
CONSIGNMENT/RESALE SHOP

264 B. Main St.
Nyack, NY 10960

(914) 358-0477



*Beautiful clothing and accessories
to wear and give for the holidays*

Abigail Rose and Lily Too, 516 Piermont Ave. Piermont, N.Y.
914-359-4649

Holiday Hours
Monday-Wednesday, Saturday 11:30-5:30
Thursday, Friday 11:30-7:00
Sunday 1:00-5:30

Country Cottage

A World of Gifts for All Occasions

Wood Crafts • Jewelry • Florals • Dolls • Dream Catchers •
Pottery • Candles & Incense • Ceramics • Baby & Bridal •
Paper Quilling • Ty, Green Mt & Boyd Bears • Lizzie High •
Yankee • Dept 56 • Sheila's and much more

25 Route 303 • Tappan Plaza, Tappan, NY (914) 398-1112
Tue-Fri 11-7; Sat 10-6, Sun 11-3(holidays) • Space for Rent •



Aubrey Flowers, Ltd.

Lynne Aubrey

510 Piermont Ave.
Piermont, N.Y. 10968
914.359-1411



You've got 30 or 40 **years**
before you retire?

Phew!

Looks like I caught you just in time.

Sure, it sounds funny now. But these things do have a nasty way of sneaking up on you. So call me. And let me help make sure you retire with more than a hearty handshake from the boss.

Kevork K. Kalayjian, Jr.
Prudential Representative
The Prudential Insurance Co. of America
100 Dutch Hill Rd, Suite 130
Orangeburg, NY 10962
(914) 365-0055 Ext 410 Fax (914) 365-1716

ThePrudential 

Kevork K. Kalayjian, Jr.
Prudential Representative



Prudential

Prudential Insurance and Financial Services
100 Dutch Hill Road, Suite 130, Orangeburg NY 10962
Tel 914 365-0055 Ext 410 Fax 914 365-1716
Customer Service 800 778-2255

A Division of The Prudential Insurance Company of America

CONSOLIDATED SERVICES

Maral Kalayjian

- Insurance
- Accounting Services
- Business Management
- Tax Preparation
- Investments

256 Livingston Street, Northvale, NJ 07647
Tel: (201) 768-5530 - (914) 359-5770
Fax: (201) 768-5759

MASON SAMETT ASSOCIATES, INC.
REALTORS®

118 MAIN STREET, TAPPAN, NEW YORK 10983
914-359-4940

MOLLY MASON SAMETT, GRI
REALTOR®

Rose Petals Electrolysis by:
Marilyn Carfi-Rose R.E. R.N.
Registered Electrologist and Registered Nurse

Free Consultation

Permanent Hair Removal

914-353-6243

567 N. Greenbush Rd.
Blauvelt, NY 10913

**Shop by
Telephone**

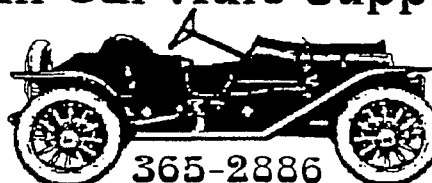


COME TO
OUR NEW STORE
*The name is Hy -
the price is low*
HY'S WAREHOUSE - APPLIANCE & BEDDING

204 Livingston Street
Northvale, NJ 07647

201-784-5390
914-365-1112

All Car Auto Supply



365-2886

51-57 Route 303, Tappan NY

Located in the Tappan Shopping Plaza

FRED & CANDY BERARDI

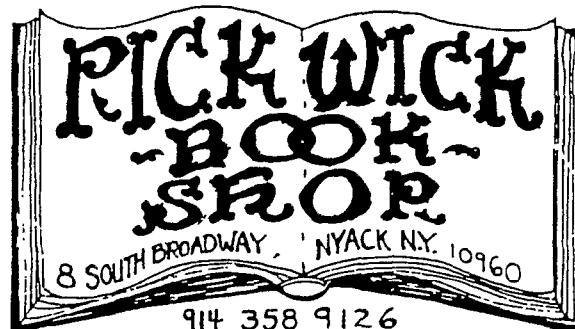
E & F Florist & Garden Shop

249 FERDON AVENUE
PIERMONT, NEW YORK 10968
(914) 359-5604



Weddings • Funerals
Dried & Silk Arrangements
Fruit Baskets • Plants • Balloons

CREDIT CARD PHONE ORDERS ACCEPTED



914 358 9126

Century 21



AB Realty

193 Main Street
Nanuet, New York 10954
Fax (914) 623-4747
Bus. (914) 623-0044

97 Route 303
Tappan, New York 10983
Fax (914) 359-3269
Bus. (914) 359-0099

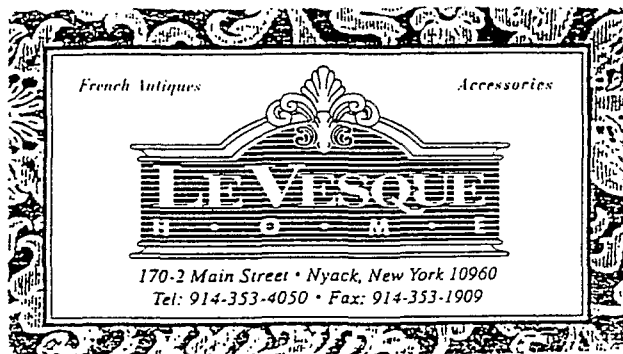
Ann V. Brodsky, GRI
Owner / Broker

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



*Specialty Coffees & Teas
Fine Baked Goods
&
Gourmet Ice Cream*

460 Piermont Ave., Piermont, NY 10968 • 914-359-7103



Oasis Grill

Mideastern / American Cuisine
take out and catering

140 Main Street, Nyack, NY 10960



Khaled Elkady
(914) 353-5090



Janice Mirijanian
21 Burd St.
Nyack, NY 10960
914-353-3415

Personal Training
For all levels

AFAA Certified Free Consultation

MARGARET TAYLER ANDERSON

Independent Broker
Selling Palisades Real Estate Since 1951
We'll give your listings loving care
Blythe Anderson, Joe Hyde

286 Rte. 9W, Palisades, NY
(914)-359-4225

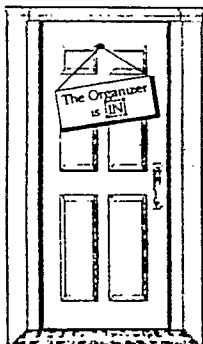


211 ASH STREET, PIERMONT, NY 10968 • 914-359-6295



BICYCLE CENTER, INC.

27 TAPPAN PLAZA (ROUTE 303)
TAPPAN, NEW YORK
(914) 359-0693



Donna Yannazzone
Personal/Business Organizer
914-429-9522

OVERWHELMED?

- Eliminate Household Clutter
- Home Office Management
- Organize Files
- Estate Dismantling
- Simplify Things
- Pre-moving Assistance
- Organize Clothes Closets
- And Much More...

Call for a free consultation

What's for Dinner



Gourmet Take Out Daily for Lunch & Dinner
Customized Fine Catering

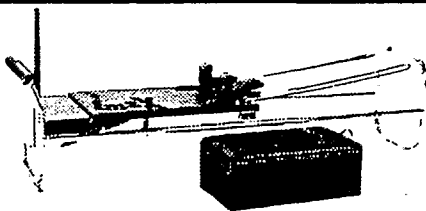
201 784-5688

33 Old Tappan Rd
Tappan, NY

914 359-2228

NEW! at ADVANCED BODY...

THE IM-X FITNESS FORMULA™



A new cutting-edge program integrating the
JH PILATES METHOD™ and the ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE.
Improve strength, flexibility, posture, and motor coordination!
Come experience the Xercizer™ Reformer for the ultimate stretch!

Exclusively in Rockland at

Advanced Body

1-2-1 PRIVATE FITNESS CENTER • PERSONAL TRAINING

174 Main Street, Nyack, NY 358-5187



The Medicine Shoppe

Prescription Centers

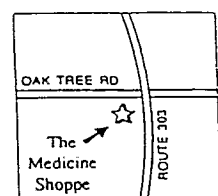
OFFERS YOU

- Senior Citizen Discounts
- FREE Monthly Health Screening
- FREE Consultation
- We accept most insurance plans including:
EPIC, PAID, PCS, MEDICAID, etc.
- Ask about transferring your prescriptions

Give us a call or stop by
for a Free Price Quote!

The Medicine Shoppe
86 Route 303
Tappan, NY 10983
(914) 365-3800

Steve Whiting, R.Ph.



PACKAGING DEPOT

We Wrap, Pack, and Ship... the Right Way.
FORGET THE HOLIDAY HASSLE
LET US HANDLE YOUR SHIPPING NEEDS
84 Rte. 303, Tappan (914) 359-0770

Karen Houghton
INTERIORS

41 N. Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960 914-358-0133



Floral Expressions, Inc.
Elegant Flowers - For Every Occasion

Jeanne Di Meglio

914-359-7763
88 Route 303
Tappan, NY 10983

THOMAS F. O'CONNELL
ATTORNEY AT LAW

O'CONNELL & RILEY
144 EAST CENTRAL AVENUE
PEARL RIVER, NY 10965
914-735-5050

NEW JERSEY OFFICE
111 CHESTNUT RIDGE ROAD
MONTVALE, NJ 07645
201-930-1196

JANE BERNICK

JUDY SHEPARD

TRAVEL HORIZONS

207 C LIVINGSTON ST.
NORTHVALE, NJ 07647
TEL: (201) 767-6760

FAX: (201) 767-4222



(914) 359-9647

TAPPAN AUTO SERVICE CENTER
FAST PROFESSIONAL SERVICE SINCE 1972

USED CAR SALES

VINCE or SAL
Volvo Specialists

RT 303 at OAK TREE RD.
TAPPAN, NY 10983



485 MAIN STREET, PIERMONT, N.Y. 10968
(914) 359-0369

ALAN KRAVITZ
PROP.

SARA KRAVITZ
CATERING

MADHU B. AHLUWALIA, M.D.
BOARD CERTIFIED PSYCHIATRIST

11 Medical Park Drive, Suite 106 • Pomona, New York 10970
Tel 914-362-2115 • Fax 914-362-2102

Free Delivery



TappanTown Liggett

19-23 Route 303 • Tappan, N.Y. 10983
(914) 359-0202 • (201) 666-1156
Fax (914) 359-1156

The Friendly Pharmacy
With the Computer Touch

Open Seven-Days-A-Week

ELLIS REALTY

Richard W. Ellis
Licensed Associate Broker

76 N. Broadway, Nyack, N.Y. 10960 (914) 353-4250
Fax (914) 353-4253



914. 359-0700

Piermont
Wines & Liquors

503 Piermont Avenue, Piermont, NY 10968

Suzanne Calegari



& Kitchen, Too
of the Hole Hole

Luanne Henderson
Lynn Boone - Owners
Susan DeLorenzo - Manager

486A Piermont Avenue
Piermont, New York 10968

(914) 398-1045
Fax (914) 365-2655

FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY



AT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS
MONTHLY BILLING AVAILABLE



NYACK BUSINESS CENTER

ELEGANT OFFICES & CONFERENCE ROOMS

BY THE DAY • BY THE YEAR
WITH SUPPORT SERVICES

99 MAIN STREET NYACK, NEW YORK 10960
TEL: (914) 348-0099 • FAX: (914) 348-0102



Free Estimate
Fully Insured

J & H Wood Flooring

Staining • Bleaching • Pickling
Stenciling • Installations • Repairs

Sanding and Refinishing Specialists

914.359-2533 Skip Panettiere



SANDERS
Properties Inc.

358-7200

Visit our website: www.sandershomes.com



Alfred & Benita Ginsberg

AB ARTISANS

Fine Estate Jewelry & Custom Designs
Vintage Watches

474 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, New York 10968

(914) 359-6639

MINUTEMAN PRESS
of Northvale

*Yes, we can print that for you!
Bring us your copy,
your ideas, your wish list
and we will turn it into a
printed masterpiece!*

*We are pleased to be
the printers for 10964*



MINUTEMAN PRESS of Northvale
260 Livingston Street (Route 303)
Northvale, New Jersey 07647
Tel: (201) 767-6504 • Fax: (201) 767-6471



We're So Much More Than Quick!

The following anecdote appeared in the January 1987 issue of 10964:

Carpool Capers by Reg Thayer.

Bill Eberle, who lives on 9W, would pick up Rudy Gregus on Swan Street, then Joe Freil in Heyhoe Woods, and then come for me last on Closter Road. The four of us comprised a pretty staid group, serious business people on their way to work...About 1963 or '64, I had bought a brand new fedora... Rather than just throw out my old hat, I decided it was time to have some more fun with my carpool cronies. I soaked my old hat in lighter fluid. Then I stuffed it with wet toilet paper for insulation purposes and placed it on my head. When I saw Bill and the boys drive up, I ignited the hat with a cigarette lighter and ran out to join my carpool with a three-foot plume of flame streaming behind me. Bill cried out, "Reg, your hat's on fire!" "What?," I said. I took off my hat, threw it on the ground and stomped out the flames. Just then, my wife, Dossie, came running out of the house asking me what in the world was going on. "No problem, Dossie," I said, at which point I took the stomped-on, burned-up fedora and tossed it up onto the porch and said to her, "Can you get that cleaned and blocked please?" With that, I got into the car and away we went into Manhattan.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

10964 Newsletter
P.O. Box 201
Palisades, NY, 10964

Carrier Route Sort
Standard Mail
Permit #9
Palisades, NY 10964

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, 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 you help, we can put our newsletter in your mailbox five times a year, from October through June.

STAFF MEMBERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

Ellen Chayet Kidd, Jocelyn DeCrescenzo, Carol Elevitch, Alice Gerard, Annie Gerard, Susan Gersony, Greta Nettleton, Judy O'Neil Castagna, Kathryn Shattuck Papay, Caroline Tapley, Mary Tiegreen, Margaret Umbrino, Gina Vermandel, Robby Whitstock, Cellen Wolk and George Zipparo.

Design and layout: Robby Whitstock

A contribution from Frank and Janet Carlson is gratefully acknowledged.

1997 ELECTION

Continued from page 3

The proposed 1999 state constitutional convention was rejected by 203 to 178. The raising of civil court jurisdiction in New York City and Long Island passed by 240 to 229 and the veterans' civil service credits amendment passed by 282 to 104. The proposed \$2.4 billion state bond issue for school construction, crippled by wide publicity of its lack of any legitimate procedure for allocating the money, received only 185 yes votes to 265 rejections.

Finally, despite awareness that a public town swimming pool would be no closer than the Hackensack River valley, Palisadians joined the rest of the town in voting to authorize an Orangetown pool by 236 in favor to 169 opposed.