

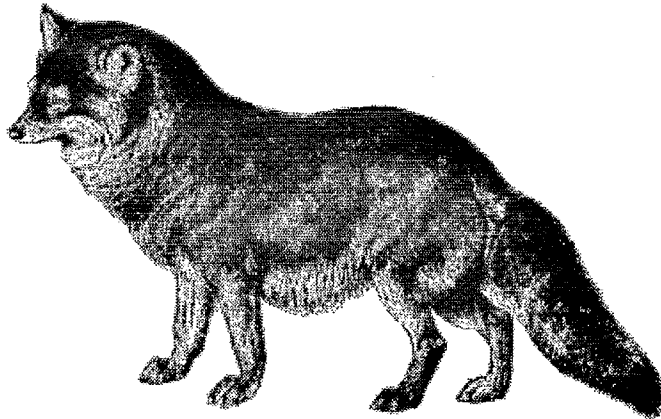
10964

THE
PALISADES
NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1998 NUMBER 161

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COYOTES: OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

One night at the end of January Greta Lalire dreamed that wolves were howling outside her window. When she awoke she still heard the howls. Wendy Yamin, who also lives on Heyhoe Woods Road, was awakened the same night at four AM by the same scary sounds coming from animals close to her house. She described the noise as "nerve wracking," especially once her own dog joined the chorus. The next night the same thing happened, and a few days later the nocturnal serenade moved to a neighbor's house.

Although the eerie howls sounded like wolves, coyotes were responsible. Originally natives of the western states, coyotes have been extending their range eastward since the beginning of the century. They first appeared in northern New York State in the 1920s and have been in Rockland County for at least twelve

years. An estimated fifteen to thirty thousand coyotes are now firmly established in New York State.

Other Palisades residents have encountered coyotes recently. Last fall a car driven by Woods Road resident Victor Powell killed a coyote at the beginning of Woods Road. Margaret Anderson reports seeing coyotes near her chicken pen. What implications do the coyote sightings have for pet-owners in the community?

Lillian Langseth asked her vet this question. He suggested that with coyotes in the area, cats and small dogs should not be left out at night. Coyotes are opportunistic carnivores and will eat any small mammals they can, as well as fruits, vegetables, insects, and birds. He also told her that he was concerned about possible cases of rabies in the coyote population.

CONTINUED: *Page three*

SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL BOND PASSES

When Mr. Luisi's sixth grade science class starts the eighth grade, they will be learning science in newly renovated science laboratories. Mrs. Stern's third grade class will benefit from the smaller elementary school class sizes that are a hallmark of this school district. Citizens of South Orangetown, by passing the bond on March 4 by a vote of 57% to 43%, guaranteed these major improvements for all South Orangetown students. The \$7.8 million will also be used to make system infrastructure improvements not already provided for in the school budget.

The comprehensive effort to "bring out the yes vote" was clearly a success. There were 50% more yes votes across the board, compared to the unsuccessful bond of December 1996 – in other words, 544 more people from all voting districts voted in support of the bond this time. The numbers in Palisades and the river towns of Sparkill, Grandview and Piermont were even more remarkable. Compared to 1996, there were 201 more yes votes, an increase of fully 68%.

Many Palisades residents, parents and non-parents alike, worked extremely hard to achieve this goal. The resulting success was the product of all community members working together to further public education.

Budget, School Board Members Vote on May 19

The annual budget for the South Orangetown school district is scheduled for a public vote on Wednesday, May 19. While as of this writing, the details had not been finalized, interested citizens should contact the Central Administration (365-4200) for more information.

On the same date, voters will be asked to vote for 2 school board trustees. Incumbent Palisadian **Geraldine Miras** is seeking another term; incumbent Anna Stellwag is also running to retain her seat on the Board.

All registered voters are urged to vote. Palisades residents vote at the Tappan Zee Elementary School.



Cottage Lane will get additional space

For more information about voting times, and registration information, contact Lillian Stuerke, District Clerk, at 365-4203.

Superintendent Search Update

As **10964** goes to press, South Orangetown will be very close to naming a new Superintendent of Schools. This will have resulted from a lengthy and comprehensive recruitment and selection process that involved parents and other community members, teachers, staff, administrators, and the Board of Education.

During the month of March, the search consultants will have brought the names of 3 or 4 potential candidates for consideration by the South Orangetown community. These individuals, who were first interviewed by the search consultants, experienced "marathon days," which began on March 17, in which they met the community, and were able to observe all aspects of the South Orangetown School district.

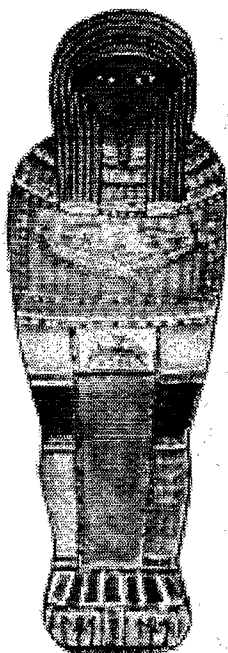
During the marathon day, each candidate met with committees comprised of 3 parents, 3 teachers, 2 support staff, 2 non-parent community members and 1 administrator; had breakfast with Central Office Administration; visited 5 schools; lunched with the principals; took a tour of South Orangetown neighborhoods; and attended a reception with community members. The School Board also conducted a 2 hour interview with each candidate.

Following these interviews, all groups will have reported on each candidate's strengths and weaknesses to the Board. Once the first choice is identified, negotiations with the candidate will begin. The District's goal is to name the new Superintendent by the end of April, and for him or her to assume responsibilities by July 1. Read the next issues of **10964** for the outcome of this intensive effort, and for a profile of the new Superintendent.

Ellen Chayet Kidd

Egyptian Mummies:
A Pop-Up Book by Milbry Polk

Dutton Children's Books,
375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014.

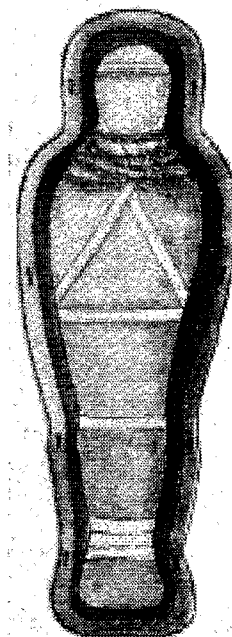


If your child wants to know more about Egyptian mummies, (and what child does not?) then this book is a very good bet. My two sons, aged 4 and 7, read it with me and both were extremely interested in the colorful images, wonderful 3D effects, and beautifully written description of the significance of Egyptian funeral customs in the culture of the ancient kingdom.

Published in November 1997, the print run of 50,000 copies has been selling rapidly, and has been spotted for sale at venues ranging from The Metropolitan Museum to Costco. You can order a copy from Barnes and Noble or amazon.com, and a copy is also available at the Palisades Library.

Young fans of this book will be happy to know that Milbry is now working on a new project, a book about women explorers. She is working jointly with Mary Tiegreen, who is doing the graphic layouts for it. Look for this new reading adventure in the near future!

Greta Nettleton



COYOTES: *Continued from page one*

I spoke to a Palisades Interstate Park naturalist who reassured me that he knows of no rabies cases in the coyote population in this area. He said that there were several coyotes living in Rockland Lake State Park, and that although they seemed to be having no impact on the local population of geese, they had cleaned the stray cats from the area. He sees no problems with their presence in the area and enjoys having them as neighbors.

Eastern coyotes resemble German shepherd dogs and range from 35 to 60 pounds in weight. Unlike dogs, they carry their tails at or below a horizontal level when traveling. Most coyotes form pairs, sometimes for life, and breed during the month of February, which may explain why they were so vocal two months ago. Although coyotes often just curl up in a concealed and protected spot, female coyotes make dens for whelping and raising pups. Their young will be born this month, in litter sizes varying from two to ten. As many as half of all juvenile coyotes die before reaching adulthood. Those who survive typically live three to five years. Human-related causes, including hunting, trapping, and vehicle collisions, are responsible for most coyote deaths.

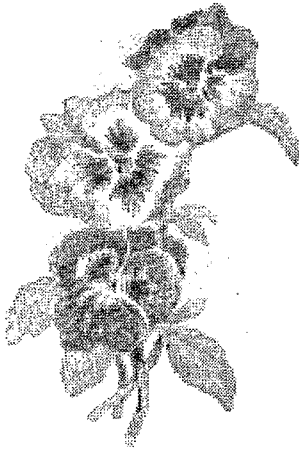
The coyote gets its name from the Aztec word "coyotl." Coyote is a powerful trickster figure in the myths of Southwestern Indian tribes. These animals

have relatively large brains and exceptional senses of smell, sight and hearing. They mark out territory for themselves, using many displays and postures to show antagonism, dominance and greeting. Coyotes are wily and adaptable, responding to anything novel in the environment. They do well in suburban areas, where they prey on rabbits and squirrels. They have even moved into some cities; one was spotted last year in downtown Seattle and coyotes have been observed passing through the Bronx. Contrary to some reports, however, they have not yet been seen in Central Park. Coyotes generally hunt at night but can sometimes be seen early in the morning or in the later afternoon.

If you want to learn more, a 4-H Family Program on Coyotes in New York is being held at Rockland Lake State Park on May 9, from one to two PM. It will include a talk and a slide presentation. You can register to attend the program by calling the park office at 914-268-3020. The program is free but there is a \$4 parking charge. An adult must accompany every three children.

There are no validated reports in New York State of coyote attacks on humans. Coyotes are protected by the Environmental Conservation Law. For gardeners, there may be a positive side to the coyote invasion; they eat woodchucks.

Alice Gerard

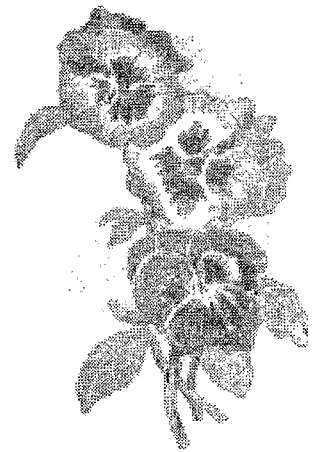


LIBRARY PLANT SALE

SAVE THE DATE!!

SATURDAY, MAY 9, from 10 am to 2 pm

This year's plant sale will be the best ever



NEW FOR THIS YEAR

- International Foods Table
- Shady Garden Plant Table featuring ferns and woodland plants.
- Lots of shrubs that everyone wants, such as lilacs, verberna, laurel, etc.

ATTENTION GARDENERS: Please call Margaret Anderson (359-4225) if you have extra plants from your garden that you would like to donate to the sale. These shared plants are our most popular offering and last year we heard some feedback that we did not offer enough of them!

TRADITIONAL FAVORITES

- Wonderful plants & flowers from Palisades' best gardeners
- Raffle
- Fire Engine Rides
- Kid's Flower Pots for Mother's Day gifts
- Book sale
- Hamburgers and bake sale table

ATTENTION COOKS: Please call Greta Nettleton (359-0513) if you would like to make something for us to offer at this table.

MARKET: *Continued from page seven*

shoppers can borrow quilted jackets kept for that purpose on hooks nearby. Inside, endless racks of meat stretch out across four aisles; one for luxury cuts, one for pork and lamb, one for beef and one for poultry.

It is a good place to stock up on special items such as organic, free-roaming chickens—a good sized roaster can be gotten for about \$5. The beef is always firm and red-looking, not flaccid, watery and greyish as is common in many supermarkets, and the fish department offers many less common varieties such as king fish and tile fish.

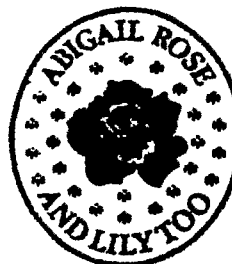
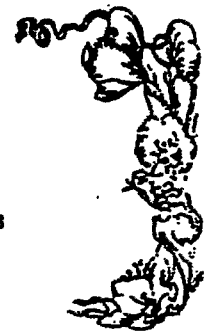
The firemen at the Vinegar Hill Firestation at 132nd St. have been regulars since the store opened and have branched out from preparing their own firehouse suppers to providing Cooking Instruction to the General Public right at the store at the end of May. Many other local residents are equally enthusiastic customers. It only costs \$4 to get over the bridge, and this store is worth it, even if it is only for the thrill of going somewhere in the city that offers convenient free parking!

Greta Nettleton



**AUBREY
FLOWERS, LTD**
Lynne Aubrey

510 Piermont Ave.
Piermont, N.Y. 10968
(914) 359-1411



Bonnie Chapin
Abigail Rose and Lily Too
516 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, New York 10968
914 359-4649

MUSICAL NOTES

EAST VILLAGE GIGS, ETC.

On Saturday March 14, three Palisadians were coincidentally performing their music in Manhattan — Katie Elevitch at CBGB's Gallery on Bowery and Andy and John Boose at Brownie's on Avenue A. It was Katie's fourth appearance at CBGB's since September singing her songs solo and with her back-up band. Andy and John, with their band *Mommy*, have been playing New York clubs for the past two years — Andy as singer/song-writer/guitarist and John on drums (see picture below).

Meanwhile, back in Recife, Brazil, Philip Galinsky is working on research for his Ph.D. dissertation in Ethno-Musicology. Philip was invited to be a visiting scholar at the Joaquim Nabuco Foundation, a federal organization which does research on the people and culture of North East Brazil. In April, he will give a paper to the Brazilian Anthropological Association in Vitorio. He recently played with the well known Samba Group *Patuscu* in Olinda, a small colonial city near Recife. Philip will continue his interviewing, recording and research in Recife, Brazil. He has two specific areas of study. The first, Maracatu, is a local rhythm from Pernambuco. The second is Mangubeat, a blend of the traditional samba rhythms with an American Pop/ Rap/ Punk type fusion twist. Oh, that Mangubeat

And speaking of the beat and equatorial temperatures, you must catch Palisadian musician, drummer and singer with a voice so sweet, John Ballesteros, as he plays with his group *60 Degrees Celsius* at the hottest restaurant in Nyack, The 3B'S. Israel Arce plays absolutely persuasive percussion and arranger Peter Dowdall gives everything he's got on upright bass and bass guitar. Swinging from the chandeliers on soprano, tenor, alto sax and flute is the inimitable David Bandom. The ebony baby grand in the corner has never ever sounded better because arranger/composer/pianist Aziza Miller AKA Linda Williams, is playing straight from the heart, so rhythmically, so beautifully, that you can hardly stand it. And Miche

Braden, consummate singer that she is, has a voice like molten gold and sings not only with her heart and soul but has technique which will sweep you off your feet and take you places you've never even dreamed of going. She will make you cry. Starting March 25th, *60 Degrees Celsius* plays every Wednesday night from 8-11 PM at the 3B's. For very fine dining specializing in French/ Japanese cuisine, call for reservations at 358-2900 or, for a nominal cover, you can sit with something to cool you off at the bar. John, Aziza and Peter are also performing at Miriams in Nyack on Thursdays. For private bookings, you may get in touch with John Ballesteros - Sound, Sealed, Delivered Music Productions - at 398-1328.

If, however, you prefer music which has charms to soothe the savage breast, then you will want to attend the first R.S.I. (Rockland Summer Institute) Symphony Concert. This new, entirely professional

orchestra will be giving it's Premier Concert March 29th at 2:00 PM, Pardington Hall, Nyack College, Nyack, to benefit a worthy Rockland County cause — Nyack Hospital.

The R.S.I. Symphony has as its members distinguished artists from the metropolitan area, members of the New York Philharmonic, the faculty of the Rockland Summer Institute and Rockland County residents, including flutist Jacquelyn Drechsler who has performed for and delighted audiences in the Tri-State area.

Conductor Dr. Edward Michael Gold, Founder of R.S.I. and the R.S.I. Sym-

phony, will be conducting Beethoven's Symphony #7. Professor Oscar Ravina, member of the New York Philharmonic, Coordinating Director of the New York Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble and Associate Director of R.S.I. Symphony will be conducting Beethoven's Egmont Overture as well as Beethoven's Piano Concerto #4 with Professor Tammy Lum as soloist.

A reception for the audience and orchestra will follow the concert. Please come and enjoy this all Beethoven program from R.S.I., The Symphony With A Cause !

Tickets are \$45.00, \$35.00 or \$25.00. For ticket information and reservations, please call 353-3333 or call Jacquelyn Drechsler/Bach's Children (359-3112).

Jocelyn DeCrescenzo



APRIL BULLETIN BOARD

A THANK YOU LETTER

Detective Sgt. Hank Johnson,
Orangetown Police Department

March 11, 1998

Dear Sgt. Johnson,

At approximately 1:30 pm today, I was walking my dog Eastbound on Oak Tree Road in Palisades. Just as I came to Rte 9W, a huge northbound flatbed rig carrying construction equipment and followed by several smaller trucks turned left onto Oak Tree Road. They apparently were all traveling together as all had New Jersey plates and several had the same name of a New Jersey construction company. The rig was so large and so wide and making the turn so wide I had to jump off the road into the bushes to avoid getting hit.

A few seconds later, I heard a police siren and an Orangetown police car northbound on 9W turned left onto Oak Tree Road. I thought how wonderful it would be if he was after this caravan so I turned around and walked back along Oak Tree Road. Sure enough, he had pulled the whole gang over in front of the Palisades School on Oak Tree Road! I wanted to hug him or at least shake the hand of that policeman but thought better of it since several not-too-happy truck drivers standing there would have seen me. So all I could do was smile at him and say, "hi." I think he knew how I felt.

I am writing this as I do want you to know how grateful we in Palisades are for any help we get in controlling the heavy and high speed traffic (both cars and large trucks) we get on Oak Tree Road and fear it will only get worse when the new mall is in full swing.

If you know who that "hero" policeman was, please thank him for us.

Sincerely,

Dossi Thayer

BUS STOP SHELTERS

On March 16 Henry Ottley and I attended a workshop meeting of the Orangetown Town Board and requested funding for the proposed new bus stop shelters on Route 9W. The Board responded that the Town will request the Red and Tan Bus Line to fund the project. They then indicated that if Red and Tan denies the request the Town will provide the funds although they did not pass a formal resolution to that effect.

I am optimistic that we will have the new shelters without further delay. I will provide a status report for the next issue of **10964**.

Reg Thayer

SQUARE DANCE, APRIL 4

Come as a couple or come alone to the Palisades Presbyterian Church Parish House on Saturday, April 4 for an old-fashioned square dance with a professional caller. No experience needed - just be ready to have fun. \$5/person.

CONGRATULATIONS to Daniel Gotkin who made the Dean's List and Honor Roll after his first term of study in the Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Juris Doctor program. Daniel is a graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas College, and Tappan Zee High School. He is the son of Martin and Barbara Gotkin of Palisades.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Palisades Historical Committee needs a volunteer to do typing, working with Liz Finck to update information on the older houses in the village. Liz has an old Smith-Corona available for the work. Please call her if you are interested at 359-4338.

LIKE NO OTHER MARKET

No one who drives down the West Side Highway past 125th St. can fail to notice the 50-foot high billboard with flashing messages trailing across the top—the one and only, in-your-face, big city wise-guy advertising medium devoted solely to good food—the Fairway billboard. There must be some Dave Letterman wannabes in charge of putting up the messages—for instance, last July they drew attention to a produce special with “Hey Mike Tyson! Fairway corn on special—4 ears for a dollar.”

Ever since Fairway, an upper West Side food market, decided to expand its operations uptown to Harlem, the sign has been flashing information about the prices of cases of Coke, pounds of free range chickens and hundreds of other grocery specials out over the Hudson River, and it would appear, right on into Outer Space.

The expansion uptown was designed to give Manhattanites exposure to a real novelty—convenience, bulk buying opportunities and low prices. But why is this urban supermarket getting coverage in 10964? Unbelievably, it is actually very convenient to Palisades for regular shopping, and offers casual visitors and fanatic “foodies” alike an unexcelled opportunity to fatten up their larders with some really good food at very reasonable prices.

Because of its location directly at the bottom of the 125th Street off-ramp, and because of the ample, free parking across the street supervised by a vigilant attendant, Fairway is really accessible for suburbanites with cars. An hour and 15 minutes for a round trip expedition (not at rush hour, obviously) compares well with the time it takes to trudge through shopping chores at Shoprite in Northvale. But most shoppers do not find the uptown Fairway errand to be as much of a chore—the place is simply too interesting.

The produce at the uptown store is usually pretty good, but Foodworld in Tappan can often beat them on price and quality in this area. Although Foodworld never carries Yukon Gold potatoes and only recently started offering a mesclun salad mix, Fairway never has the tiny baby eggplants and other fine items for Indian and Far Eastern cooking that can always be found at Foodworld.

However, Fairway has everything else you could want. It boasts a marvelous bakery that carries bread from Eli's, Bread Alone, and numerous other gourmet bakers in the city. They have a brick oven that turns out Italian specialties such as foccacias and garlic twists. The tea and coffee department by itself is worth the trip. The standard Fairway blend of coffee sells for under \$5 a pound and is always perfectly fresh and rich tasting. They offer dozens of other roasts and varieties, most costing about half of what you would pay for equivalent quality at a place like the Runcible Spoon. Fine teas in bulk are also available.

Right around the corner from the coffee department is the cheese counter, where you can travel vicariously across the finest cheese-making regions of Europe in about 15 feet of space. They offer an excellent Cantal, a Burgundian Chambertin that is to die for and a pretty good Reblochon. Another stand-

out is a Corsican goat cheese rolled in dried herbs. Recent customers were even able to snag some boxes of raw-milk Alsatian muenster that had somehow slipped into the store through the impenetrable tangle of USDA import restrictions that are also keeping Americans very safe from foie gras and those little chocolate-covered cherries filled with slivovic and high-octane eau de vie.

The deli nearby offers freshly roasted whole chickens, spicy sausages, smoked fish of all types, and cold cuts of the finest

quality. Ten barrels of different varieties of olive stand in front, such as black Moroccan olives roasted with fresh rosemary and a touch of salt. Above them sit shelves with fresh pasta and home-made mozzarella, sold in fist-sized pieces for about \$3 apiece.

Perhaps the most showy feature of the store is the huge cold room, containing the fish, meat, and dairy departments. In the winter, warmly dressed shoppers bash their carts straight through the industrial strength swinging doors to go in. Summer-time

Perhaps the most showy feature of the store is the huge cold room, containing the fish, meat, and dairy departments

CONTINUED: Page 4

MADHU AHLUWALIA:

AN INTERVIEW

Every January, Madhu Ahluwalia returns to India, her son Nicholas in tow, and retraces the steps of her childhood.

It is a journey that offers an education far greater than what seven-year-old Nicky might miss out on in the classroom during their month long trip, says Dr. Ahluwalia, a psychiatrist, and with good reason. If Nicky is surrounded by the creature comforts provided by Dr. Ahluwalia and her husband, Thomas O'Connell, in their lives here in Palisades, she knows what it's like to do without and to survive.

Madhu was born in New Delhi. Her memories of her childhood are often poignant: those of being the only girl in her school from a broken home after her parents separated when she was three, of living in one room with no running water and only a lantern to read by as her mother struggled to provide for herself and her three children on a meager teacher's salary.

But if her life was marked by financial deprivation, it was bolstered by her mother's sense of independence and by the esteem her family granted women. "My mother," she says, "is such a survivor. I didn't want to bring more burdens to her. I felt a great sense of responsibility." So Madhu did what came naturally: she excelled. By the 11th grade, she had advanced two years ahead of her class in school. After pre-med at Delhi University, she started her medical training at Lady Harding Medical College, where she won a scholarship along with 100 girls hand-picked from all over India. She chose as her mentor her aunt, who was a professor of anesthesia at the college.

"My family believed that education is extremely important and that women must have a profession," she says of the inspiration behind her achievements. In keeping with this belief, her older sister became a teacher. Madhu initially wanted to become a surgeon, but her family discouraged it. She turned then to obstetrics and gynecology, spending six months of "house jobs" (the equivalent of an internship) in the field. But she was 23 years old, working from 7 AM to 7 PM almost every day, and though she loved the

field, she found that she could not physically work that hard.

It was then that she made the decision to search for her destiny. Twenty-five years later, she remembers the day clearly. It was July 21, 1972, and she had just stepped off a plane from India with \$8 in her pocket, a tourist visa and a handful of friends proffering blessings.

Most people would balk at setting up a new life in any city halfway around the world from their home, let alone New York, with such meager means of support. But Madhu believes it was the obvious next step in a life that she knew, even as a child, was destined to be different.

Not that she didn't have moments when she questioned her decision. After her arrival in New York she studied extensively for her medical boards. But her life was in such turmoil — shuttling among friends' couches and working as a housekeeper, hostess in a restaurant and then as a venipuncturist to make ends meet — that she failed them.

Her second attempt was more fortuitous, and in 1974 she interned at Misericordia Hospital for one year and then at Albert Einstein Hospital in radiation therapy. It was there that

she attended a support group held by psychiatrists for resident physicians dealing with cancer patients. She loved it and decided she had found her calling. She applied for a psychiatric residency at St. Vincent's Hospital in 1976 and her life, as she says, "found its course."

That course led to a series of jobs at various New York hospitals — a state facility in Brooklyn, and then a Veterans Administration hospital in the borough where she "heard more about the Vietnam war than I ever wanted to know." But it was her time at St. Barnabus Hospital in the Bronx that Madhu valued the most. "It was heart-rending," she says. "It was hectic, stressful, and I was dealing with very, very sick patients — often violent — through in-patient, emergency room and consultation services. It was always stimulating."

July 21, 1972 ... she had just stepped off a plane from India with \$8 in her pocket, a tourist visa and a handful of friends proffering blessings.

CONTINUED: Page 10



PALISADES LIBRARY NEWS

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The following craft programs are offered for elementary school children in first grade and up:

Wednesday, April 8th, 4:15 PM

SPRING ROOSTERS: We will each be making a colorful cock o' the walk to crow about the arrival of spring.

Wednesday, May 13th, 4:15 PM

BUTTERFLY MOBILES: We will each be making a mobile of one, or multiple butterflies, to celebrate nature — a nice decoration for a child's room.

Please register at the library. Space is limited. Story times for children ages three through kindergarten continue on Wednesdays at 1:30 PM.

Watch for news of the SUMMER READING PROGRAM. We'll give you a clue about it: this year's statewide theme is "Solve It at the Library."

LIBRARY RECEIVES GRANT

Thanks to a \$10,000 grant obtained through the generous assistance of Senator Joseph R. Holland, the library will soon have a four station Local Area Network. This network will allow our patrons to have graphical access to the Internet and ANSER. A word processor station and laser printer will be available.

Anser Training: Training for ANSER (Automated Network Services) will help you use our public access catalog (PAC) here and in any other library in the system. **May, Thursdays — 6 to 7:30 PM**

Internet Orientation: Program designed to introduce you to the Palisades Free Library's policies and procedures for internet use.

May, Mondays — 6 TO 7:30 PM

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

The Palisades Library Board of Trustees meets monthly every 2nd Wednesday at 7:30 PM, except during July and August. Meetings are open to the public. Please call the library to verify date in case of postponement or cancellation. Any resident wishing to address the Board should notify it for inclusion on the agenda, 359-0136.

NEW BOOKS

Adult Fiction

Patrick Chamoiseau
Stephen Coonts
Louise Erdrich
Delia Falconer
George MacDonald Fraser
Paul Garrison
William Hoffman
Milan Kundera
Jane Smiley

Robert Stone

Adult Nonfiction

Isabel Allende
Jacque Hassoun
Lorian Hemingway

James Jones

Maude Sayer

Julia Scully
Simon Singit

Solibo Magnificent
Fortunes of War
The Antelope Wife
Service of Clouds
Black Ajax
Fire and Ice
Tidewater Blood
Identity
The All-True Travels
and Adventures of
Lidie Newton
Damascus Gate

Aphrodite
Cruelty of Depression
Walk on Water: A
Memoir
Alfred C. Kinsey: A
Public/Private Life
Dreamtime Alice: A
Memoir
Outside Passage
Fermat's Enigma

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LIBRARY: *Continued from page nine*

Books-on-Tape for Young People

Natalie Babbitt	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i>
Roald Dahl	<i>Matilda</i>
Bette Greene	<i>Summer of My German Soldier</i>
S. E. Hinton	<i>The Outsiders</i>
S. E. Hinton	<i>Rumble Fish</i>
Robert C. O'Brien	<i>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH</i>
Robert Newton Peck	<i>A Day No Pigs Would Die</i>
Robert Newton Peck	<i>Soup</i>
George Selden	<i>The Cricket in Times Square</i>
E. B. White	<i>Charlotte's Web</i>
Paul Zindel	<i>The Pigman and Me</i>

SPECIALIZED DATA BASES OFFER ACCESS TO UNIQUE COLLECTIONS

Library users will notice that our computer terminal contains an option called "Specialized Databases," which can be accessed by typing #6 on the Main Menu (then enter #1 and type "c" for connect). Just as the name implies, this will give access to databases geared to specific research needs.

General Reference Center 1985-Current. Use this database to search magazines, newspapers, and reference books for information on current events, arts and science, popular culture, sports, health, etc.

Business Index Backfile 1980-1994. Use this data base to find articles on finance, acquisitions and mergers, international trade, money management, new technologies and products, business trends, investments and banking.

Business and Company ASAP 1995-Current. With access to backfile (1980- 1994), use this database to research all business and management topics. Includes direct listings for over 150,000 companies as well as finance, trade, new technologies and trends.

Health Reference Center 1994-Current. Use this database to find articles on fitness, pregnancy, medicine, nutrition, diseases, public health, occupational health and safety, alcohol and drug abuse, HMOs, prescription drugs, etc.

Supertom 1985-Current. An index to magazine titles of interest to middle and high school students. It provides indexing as well as some full text articles. (Hit the down arrow key to scroll to this database.)

MADHU: *Continued from page eight*

In the meantime, at a dinner party on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, she met Thomas O'Connell, a partner in the Pearl River law firm of O'Connell and Riley and now the Co-Town Attorney for Orangetown, with James K. Riley. For a few months after they married in 1987, Madhu, not wanting to leave New York City for New Jersey, suggested they split their time between the two places. It wasn't long, however, before Tom arrived at the city apartment saying he was packing her up. Madhu laughs remembering he needed a whole large suitcase just to haul out all her makeup. She is quick to add that, unlike traditional families in her caste in India, her family neither offers nor accepts dowries. "Tom got me as I am."

Madhu has worked in private practice in Pomona since 1993. In addition to psychopharmacology and cognitive behavior therapy, she also performs hypnosis — "self-hypnosis, really" — to assist in alleviating phobias and to treat certain ailments.

An elegant woman with luminous eyes and an introspective manner, Madhu says she is blessed. Her friends, her family, her deep belief in God — all helped to pull her through life's unexpected twist and turns. "God blessed me in a crisis," she says of her first years in New York. "And the New Yorkers who opened their doors to me were wonderful. Those people are still valued friends."

She also credits Eastern philosophy in helping her to attain a higher understanding. She and her family have attended an ashram in Pennsylvania for six years. "It centers me a lot," she says. "I discovered that it didn't matter about the material things in life. What matters is other people."

These are values she hopes to impart to her son. "I know what it is like to struggle and still come out ahead. I would Nicky to understand this."

"But mostly," she adds, "I would like him to discover the best in people."

Katherine Shattuck Papay



ARTS NEWS

ELMWOOD PLAYHOUSE

The upcoming production at the Playhouse is the Pulitzer Prizewinning *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser. Directed by Jane Hunt, it opens on May 22 and runs through June 26.

The Elmwood Playhouse, at 10 Park Street in Nyack receives support from the Community Partnership Fund for the Arts. Performances are Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 PM, Sundays at 2:30 and 7:30 PM. For reservations or more information, call 353-1313.

HELEN HAYES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The 1998 Spring Season continues with *Nunsense*, "the Mother Superior of all musical comedies," starring Dody Goodman (May 1 - May 17). The romantic comedy *Millions of Miles*, with Milo O'Shea and Gloria DeHaven, rounds out the season (June 19 - July 5).

Memorial Day Concert, Saturday, May 23 at 8:00 PM. Favorite marches by John Philip Sousa will be performed by the Allentown Band, the world's oldest civilian professional concert band.

Upcoming children's shows: *Animal Tales*, a presentation by Theaterworks/USA, with Felix Petre (April 4); a program by Red Grammer, whose golden tenor voice and energetic performance style will keep the audience on its feet (April 11); *A Winnie the Pooh Birthday Tale* given simultaneously in spoken English and American Sign Language (April 15); *Sheer Magic*, a dazzling display of prestidigitation (April 19); and a zany adaptation of the popular tale *Jack in the Beanstalk* (May 9). Performances at 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call the box office at 358-6333. The Center is on Main Street, in downtown Nyack.

ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

A solo exhibition, "Michael Zansky: Selected Works 1990 - 1997," opened at the Center on March 15 and will continue through April 19. Biology, cosmology, mortality and culture serve as the subjects of the four series of works that will be shown: "History

of Ruin," "Traces," "Manifolds," and "Giants and Dwarfs." In this last series, the most recent, a light of absurdity is cast on the predicaments of life.

The Center's Student Exhibit will open with a reception from 2:00 to 5:00 PM on May 9, and will continue through May 23.

Admission to the gallery is free or by suggested donation of \$2.00. Gallery hours are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday, 1:00 to 4:00 PM on weekends. For more information, call 358-0877.

ARTISTS' CO-OP GALLERIES, PIERMONT

Upcoming shows -

At the Fine Arts Gallery:

June Ann M. Sullivan's *Bikeworks 1988 - 1998*, mixed media: (April 2 - April 19).

Watermedia, collage, and woodcuts by Dorothy Dallas (April 23-May 10).

Floral paintings, landscapes and impressionistic images in watercolor by Carolyn Pascarella (May 14 - May 31).

At the Flywheel Gallery:

Paintings by Linda L. Longo-Muth, works that "are metaphors for issues of concern" (April 2 - April 19). Pen and ink drawings and etchings by Margery Deckinger Myerson (April 23 - May 10).

Win Zibeon's realistic oil "anti-landscapes" (May 14 - May 31)

Both galleries are on Ash Street in Piermont and are open during the afternoon Thursday through Sunday, with late hours on Friday and Saturday. You can also visit the Flywheel Gallery at its new website: WWW.Piermontflywheel.com.

HOPPER HOUSE ART CENTER

Exhibitions:

April 4 - April 12: Rockland County High School Art Show. Coordinated by Paula Madawick.

April 18 - April 26: Focus on the Figure. Featured artist, Lee Storch. Curated by Patricia Catanzaro.

May 2 - 30: Collage by backstroke artist Ray Johnson. In cooperation with Rockland Community College. Curated by Leena Hyun.

ANNA GILMAN: NOVEMBER 1884

*This is one of the five stories told in Alice Gerard's book, **Adventures from the Past**. The stories are about real children who lived in our area between 1643 and 1884. The details in this story come from an unpublished manuscript Anna Gilman Hill wrote in the 1950's, in which she described Palisades as it was in her childhood. Anna, whose father built Niederhurst, where Andy Norman now lives, was always called Nanny. The picture below shows Nanny Gilman as a young woman. The picture on page 13 shows Niederhurst.*

The sound of the big dinner bell rang out with an echoing clang, a signal to the Gilman children that it was time to leave to meet their father at the Sparkill railroad station. Twelve-year-old Nanny, who had been helping the gardener plant spring bulbs, ran back to the house and tidied herself quickly. Today she was the only one riding with George Williamson, the coachman, in the open carriage.

The trip took fifteen minutes of fast driving. As always, Nanny enjoyed the brief sight of the brook on Valentine's Hill, which ran down to the small village of Sparkill in a series of pools and cascades.

The 5:15 express train from New York was just pulling into the small station as they arrived. Carriages belonging to several of their neighbors were also standing by to pick up family breadwinners. Nanny's father came home on this train when he went to the city to work in the banking house his father had founded.

Nanny waved to Dominie Blauvelt, the conductor, and watched eagerly to see if Papa was carrying the usual white paper cone full of stick candy that was sold on the train. He was, but he put it behind his back for a moment.

"Have you been a good girl?" Winthrop Gilman asked.

"Yes, Papa," Nanny answered, and held out her hand for a piece of candy. It came in three flavors, peppermint, wintergreen, and lemon. Nanny liked peppermint best, as her father well knew.

Once seated beside him in the carriage, Nanny asked the question that had been bothering her all day. Politics had never mattered to her before and she had been too young to remember much about the last presidential election. But this year she was continually reminded that Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, was running against James G. Blaine, a Republican. The other night the Republicans had marched with a band through the village in a torchlight parade in support of their candidate. All the Democratic households had turned off their lights, but lights in Republican houses were as bright as the owners could make them.

Nanny knew her family were Democrats but she had no idea why.

"Papa, what is the difference between the Democrats and the Republicans?"

Winthrop Gilman paused a moment to organize his thoughts. Then he began, trying to explain the difference in a way that Nanny could understand.

"You know that I am a businessman."

"Yes, Papa," Nanny answered.

"I am an honest man as well as a businessman. But that is not true of some wealthy men today. Many of them are corrupt and dishonestly try to influence the government in Washington to give them special privileges in exchange for gifts of money. The Republican party supports these men and they support the party. James Blaine, their candidate for president this year, has personally profited



from his position as Speaker of the House of Representatives. His wealth comes not from public service, but from money given him by rich men who want favors done. And he has lied under oath about these favors."

"That seems very wrong," commented Nanny.

Her father continued. "There are dishonest Democrats also, of course. You may have heard the name of Boss Tweed, who some say has stolen 100 million dollars from New York City. Both the Republican and the Democratic party machines are pyramids of corruption that start at the bottom with party workers and go right up to the officials in Washington. They control thousands of government jobs. The jobs are given to those in favor, who pay for the privilege, instead of to those who deserve jobs because they can do the work well."

"I think I understand," said Nanny. "Does this have anything to do with why the post office in Palisades will move across the meadow to Mr. Post's if the Democrats elect Mr. Cleveland president?"

"Yes," answered her father. "Mr. Frederick Wahrenberger is a Republican, and as long as the Republicans stay in power he will continue to be postmaster in Palisades. If the Democrats win this election, the post office will be moved across the meadow to the annex next to Mr. Post's house, and he will become postmaster, since he is a Democrat. I believe this is the wrong way to assign government positions. Instead, if a man can prove that he is the best one to do a job, he should have the job, no matter what his political party. I am voting Democratic because Grover Cleveland is an honest man who has promised to reform the patronage system and the civil service in this country."

"I am glad we're Democrats," said Nanny. "It seems like the right side to be on. Can I march with the rest of you in the Democratic parade tomorrow night?"

"Why not?" answered Winthrop Gilman. "You are growing up, my dear."

The next night Nanny was so excited she could hardly eat her supper. After supper Winthrop Gilman, his three children, and Cousin Tom, who lived with the family, gathered with the rest of the Palisades Democrats at the flagpole by the Methodist Church. It was a dark, windy night and the torches carried by the marchers threw fantastic shadows as the parade passed through the village. Nanny was given a torch to hold and allowed to walk right



behind the brass band beside her sister Bertha and brother Charles. She felt the "oom-pahs" from the big drums reverberate through her whole body and was almost deafened by the blare of the trumpets. The Democratic houses they passed blazed with the light from kerosene lamps. The Gilman house, illuminated by newly installed gaslight, was one of the brightest.

Back at the flagpole, Mr. Gilman made a speech to the whole group, urging everyone to vote and promising victory. After a final ragged cheer for Grover Cleveland, the parade was over. Neighbors shook hands with each other, united in a common purpose. As the Gilmans made their way home, Nanny felt exalted by her part in this community event.

Two days later it was time for the election. The fate of the country would be decided by the voters before the day was over. The adults in the Gilman family voted early, because they were expecting important guests for lunch. Mr. Andrew Carnegie and his wife were coming to visit with Winthrop Gilman and to look at land on the hillside above. Old friends of the Gilman family, the Carnegies had heard so much about the delights of living in Palisades that they were thinking of buying property and building a house in the village.

"Now remember, Nanny, not a word about politics!" Winthrop Gilman told his youngest child, known for her impetuous nature. "Mr. Carnegie, though an honest man, is a well-known businessman who supports the Republican party and he is our guest today."

"Yes, Papa," Nanny responded meekly. But she reserved judgment on Mr. Carnegie. Someone who supported James G. Blaine could not be a good man.

Winthrop Gilman, with his three children and Cousin Tom, stood on the pier, stretching out into the Hudson, and watched as Captain

Coates's sailboat neared the shore. The boat was bringing Andrew Carnegie and his wife across the river from the railroad station on the far side. Today was sunny and warm, unusual for November. Far out in the river, where the water was deep, a string of barges loaded with ice from Rockland Lake and pulled by a red tug puffing steam from its smokestack was headed towards the city. A windmill to pump out the water from the melting ice could just be seen on each barge. Empty barges going up river were probably on their way to pick up brick from Haverstraw or more ice from Rockland Lake.

After the boat landed, Mr. Carnegie and his wife climbed out and were greeted warmly. Winthrop Gilman introduced the great man to Cousin Tom and to his three children: Nanny, Bertha, twenty-one years old, and Charles, nineteen.

"He looks just like anyone else," Nanny thought, as she looked at the financier whose name was known throughout the country. "But she is very elegant. They might be nice neighbors, even if they are Republicans."

Everyone got into the carriage and started up the hill, with Mr. Gilman pointing out sites of interest as they went. He had been collecting information about the history of Palisades, including facts about the old houses and past inhabitants. Nanny and Bertha waved to their friend Ella as they passed the white house on the corner belonging to Captain Coates.

A little further up the hill, her father told the guests, "We are passing the Washington Spring, an old living spring that was named during the Revolution because Washington's troops drank from it. The water is delicious. And on the top of that hill are the remains of the blockhouse built by Washington's troops," he added.

When Nanny realized that the carriage was passing the turning into Ludlow Lane, the road to their house, she wondered where her father was taking them. The carriage soon stopped across the road from the Presbyterian church, a beautiful white building with a tall steeple. Winthrop Gilman was very proud of the church, which he had designed and helped to build. He told the guests a story about it which Nanny had heard many times before but still found exciting.

"On New Year's Eve in the year 1864, I and my father-in-law Park climbed the roof of that church, still unfinished, to ring in the New Year for the first time. I will never forget that



Winthrop Gilman, Nanny's father

adventure twenty years ago; a fierce snow-storm was blowing loose snow into our faces and making the roof very slippery. Today I would think twice about doing it."

The carriage turned around and headed back to Niederhurst where they were welcomed by Nanny's mother, Anna, who was delicate and did not leave the house often. After a delicious lunch, the guests, the children, and Winthrop Gilman walked up the hill. On their way to look at the property, they passed Seven Oaks, which belonged to Nanny's grandmother. The house was empty now because she and Nanny's uncle, Charles Park, and his family lived there only in the summer. Continuing beyond the large Victorian house, the group reached the piece of land on the crest of the hill that Winthrop Gilman hoped the Carnegies would buy. He had carefully cleared off some of the brush so that the magnificent view of the Ramapo Mountains to the west and of Hook Mountain to the north was unobstructed.

"What a splendid vista!" said Mr. Carnegie. And Mrs. Carnegie added, "I did not think there could be a view as fine as yours, Mr. Gilman, but this is equal in its way." From Niederhurst one looked out over the Hudson River to an ever-changing picture of wind, waves, and white-sailed sloops.

As they walked back down the hill, Bertha and Nanny dropped behind. "What do you think, Bertha? Will they buy it?" Nanny asked.

"It looks promising," Bertha answered.

"Father will be very happy if they do."

Late in the afternoon the whole group was at the river again to see the guests off. Although Mr. Carnegie hadn't committed himself, he had been very cordial and had obviously enjoyed his visit. But, as they waited for Captain Coates to ready the boat for the sail across the river, Mr. Carnegie brought up the election.

"By this time tomorrow we should have a good idea about who our next president will be," he said. "Not that I have any doubt. How could the Democrats ever have believed that Grover Cleveland, a man of loose morals, a coward who sent a substitute in his place to the last war, can win!"

Nanny looked quickly at her father, but his expression told her nothing. She was outraged at the lies Mr. Carnegie was telling about Grover Cleveland and wanted to protest. But she remembered what Papa had said to her and kept silent.

As they pushed off the dock, Mr. Carnegie stood up in the boat and called out, "Here's hoping for a sweeping Republican victory!"

It was too much. Nanny ran down the dock to the very end and called out to the departing boat, as loudly as she could, "Blaine, Blaine, James G. Blaine, the biggest liar in the state of Maine!"

The boat headed out across the river, but there was no doubt that Mr. Carnegie had heard her.

Nanny's walk back down the dock to the rest of the family seemed to take forever. Papa looked very angry and grasped her firmly by the arm as they got into the carriage. No one spoke a word on the way home. Once there, Papa told her to go to her room and wait until he called her. It was not until after supper, which she ate in her room, that he sent for her.

Bertha came to get her. "Is he very angry still?" asked Nanny.

"I am afraid so," Bertha answered. "You were really awful, Nanny. He wants to see you in his study."

Nanny knocked on the door of her father's study and reluctantly entered when she heard him say, "Come in."

He looked at her, standing shamefaced in front of him, and shook his head.

"Nanny, you were insufferably rude to a guest in our house. And a friend of mine. How could you have behaved in such a wild, thoughtless, uncontrolled way after what I had said to you?"

"Papa, I couldn't stand hearing him tell lies about Grover Cleveland."

"Oh, Nanny! They weren't lies, at least not exactly. No man is all good or all bad. It is true that Grover Cleveland is the father of a child but is not married to the child's mother. Although this is not a good way to behave, many men have done the same. It is also true that he did not fight in the Civil War but sent a substitute instead. The law allowed men who felt they were needed at home to pay someone else to fight in their place."

"But then he's no better than James Blaine!" Nanny protested.

"Yes, he is better. But he's not perfect. The fact that he is an honest man is more important to me than the mistakes he may have made in his youth. And, Nanny, you have to respect the rights of others to disagree with you. You cannot burst out and shout names at people because they hold opinions different from yours. Mr. Carnegie values certain qualities in James Blaine and he has a right to do that. The same facts are seen differently by different people, according to their own experience and values."

Nanny was speechless. Life was much more complicated than she had thought it was. She stammered, "I'm sorry, Papa."

Winthrop Gilman stood up and came around his desk to give her an affectionate pat on the shoulder. "I hope you understand what I am saying. We'll talk about this again."

He led her out of the room. "Tomorrow we may find out who won the election. Come with me now to say goodnight to your mother; it's time for you to go to bed."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grover Cleveland won the election, but he was not as good a president as Winthrop Gilman had hoped. Andrew Carnegie did not buy land in Palisades. Instead, he bought a castle in Scotland and spent the last twenty years of his life giving money to worthy causes, such as American libraries. The Nyack Library was built with Carnegie funds, and Andrew Carnegie's portrait hangs inside, opposite the front door.

Nanny Gilman continued to live in Palisades until she married the financier Robert C. Hill in 1894, when she was twenty-two years old. In 1920 she came back to live at Niederhurst for the rest of her life and became well known for her beautiful gardens and her writings on gardening subjects.

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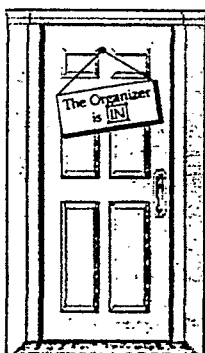
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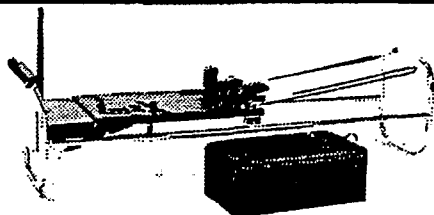
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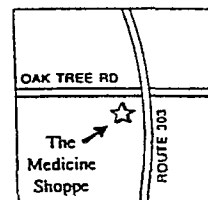
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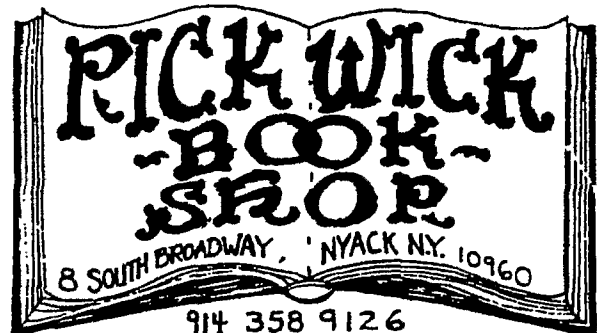
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We also need your moral and financial support! Please send a contribution to **10964**, Post Office Box 201, Palisades, New York, 10964.

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