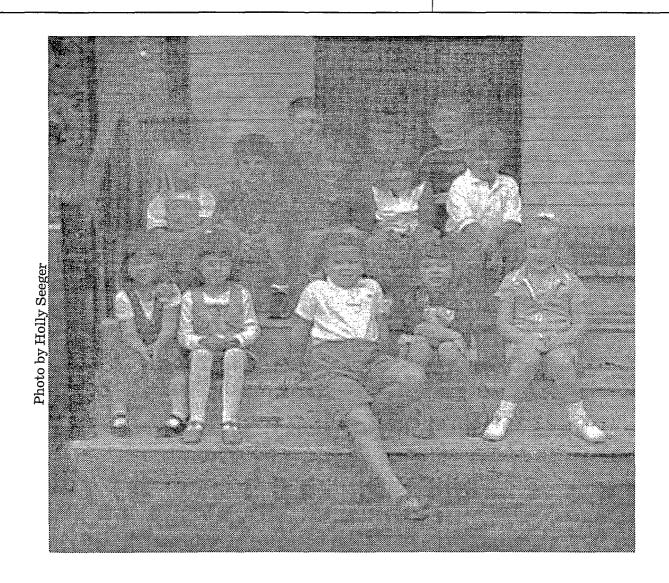
10964

PALISADES NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1998 NUMBER 163



Palisades kindergartners who began school in September.

Front row, left to right: Sherry Hrynenko, Sarah Hodash, Daniel Shire, Laura Lynch, Jessica Kroeneart Middle row: Ciri Lonberg, Hank Woodward, Luke Lalire, Ariella Ewig, Andrew Schwartz Top row: John Daly, Caleb Murray, Anthony Calli— Absent: Danny Flannery and Taylor Verdigi

Welcome, Class of 2011

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

NEW FINDINGS ABOUT WORK AND FAMILIES

"It's a circle. I'm a

vegetable at home,

and I'm a lot more

scattered at work."

he most recent study conducted by the Families and Work Institute, located in Manhattan and headed by Palisadian Ellen Galinsky. found that growing demands on the job are creating problems at home for time-starved employees who then end up feeling too stressed to work effectively. The five-year study, entitled The 1997 National Study of the Changing Workforce, interviewed nearly 3000 employees and concluded that productivity is far more likely to be hurt these days by job-related stress than by family problems stemming from child care or elder care.

With women entering the work force in massive numbers in the last 20 years, families are coping with child care concerns, new roles at home for men and women, and the burdens of caring for elderly relatives. Yet employees report little spillover of family problems into their work. Only 13 percent of employees reported that their personal lives sometimes kept them from getting work done.

On the job, it's a different story. Growing pressures on employees are often affecting home lives and in turn work lives — for the worse. Although employees report more autonomy, opportunities to learn and fulfillment on the job, they also say they are working longer hours — 47.1 hours a week, from 43.6 hours in 1977. In addition, one in three now brings work home once a week or more, compared with just a quarter of work-

ers in 1977. And job insecurities are higher.

As a result of their jobs, nearly 30 percent of employees believe they often or very often don't have enough time for their family or important others in their lives. Another 61 percent sometimes feel that way. Such stresses then spill back into the workplace, reducing job performance.

Brenda Frost, training coordinator at Washington Mutual Bank in Seattle reports, "You get to a point where you just can't do it all." She says she loves her job but often feels so overloaded at work that she getshome and gives her four-year-old a video so she can

have some time to herself. Then, feeling guilty about her home life, the next day she doesn't even feel like greeting her co-workers in the morning. "It's a circle. I'm a vegetable at home, and I'm a lot more scattered at work."

Up until recently, companies almost always focused on helping solve workers' family problems so they could work better. But few companies have acknowledged how interrelated the two domains are, and how much work actually creates problems at home that then hurt productivity. "This study takes the work-family debate out of the feel-good, do-good arena," said Bernie Milano, partner in charge of diversity and work-life at KPMG Peat Marwick accountants, the primary sponsor of the report. "It's a business issue, it's a bottom-line concern."

It is felt that demands on workers stem from American businesses' drive to transform themselves into lean global competitors. "The pace of business

has gone up, but companies have cuses on employee commitment.

Carol Elevitch

adapted better to the external marketplace than they have responded to the internal marketplace of their own employees," said Fran Rodgers, chief executive officer of WFD, a Bostonbased consulting firm that fo-

The Families and Work Institute is a non-profit organization that adresses the changing nature of work and family life. The Institute is committed to finding research-based strategies that foster mutually supportive connections among workplaces, families, and communities. It is located at 330 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10001 (212-465-2044). A list of publications available upon request.

A copy of the 1997 National Study of the Changing Workforce, published in 1998, is available at the Palisades Library.

In a Simpler Time

Mildred Post Rippey (1901-1977) wrote extensively about her childhood in Palisades. Her roots run deep in our history; in 1765 Jacob Post bought ninety acres spread across the area beween Closter Road and Oak Tree Road. The excerpts which follow are from a book that Mildred Imady, Mildred's daughter, is writing about her mother. They also appear in the next publication of the Palisades Historical Committee, In a Simpler Time.

My life followed an even pattern — school during the week and Sunday School at both churches on

Sunday, Presbyterian in the morning and Methodist in the afternoon. Monday afternoons I had my weekly piano lesson with my teacher Mrs. Greene. We had picnics in the summer, sleigh rides and hay rides in the winter, and weekly trips to the library — all the things that children did in those lovely peaceful days in quiet little towns. ...

In those long ago days the seasons seemed more sharply defined — three months of spring, three of summer, three of fall and three of winter. We had ice skating all winter. A brook ran through the field behind the school house, ... and it made a good sized pond when it was dammed. Since the pond was just below our back yard, I could put on my skates at home and walk down to it. ... I wasn't much of a

skater because my feet got too cold. The young boys built big bonfires around the edge of the pond but they didn't warm me. ... More than skating, I believe I enjoyed the sleighriding parties and sledding down the hills on bob sleds.

Papa didn't always allow me to do some of the exciting things I would have enjoyed doing such as sledding in the winter after dark. And oh how thrilling that was! Throwing yourself bellywhoppers on your sled and rushing down hill in the dark and dragging your feet so you wouldn't plunge into the river. I am glad that, thanks to my mother, I had a few furtive trips. Sometimes the river froze over and horses and sleds could drive across to the other side because there were no boats keeping the channel open. ...

Then spring would arrive at its appointed time, around March 21st. The air became balmy, the mud gooey, the birds came back to Palisades, and to our great joy we shed our heavy itchy long drawers and serge sailor suits. This was known as the "mud season." Cars, when they finally came on the scene, got stuck in the mud on spring Sundays on the so-called "Boulevard" (now 9-W) and my uncle and cousins

pulled them out with their great team of horses hitched to a block and tackle. We all watched and as

the cars drove off we shouted, "Get a horse!"...

Playing Snap the Whip, Red Rover and marbles was the thing in the spring. ... When the weather became pleasant, the boys started playing baseball and ... as regular as clockwork, the gypsies came to Palisades. They camped below Oak Tree Hill and each day went through the town looking for handouts of money and food. They read palms and told fortunes if you were brave enough to let them come that close.

In the months of April and May, my friends and I went for long walks in the woods to where there was a pretty little brook rushing over the rocks. Sometimes we sailed sticks down the brook. Other times we

picked wildflowers which we took home When our lilac bushes bloomed purple and white we took fragrant bunches to neighbors and relations.

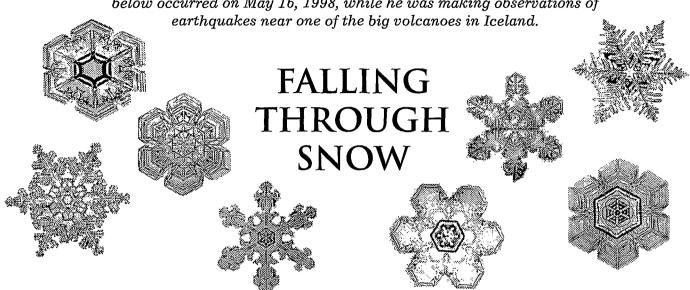
On June 21st summer arrived. One morning you woke up and the thermometer would be hovering around 80 degrees and you knew it was summer when church picnics and fairs were in order. Swimming holes were popular and Sunday afternoons we would sit outside under the trees and read the funny papers. In the evenings we enjoyed sitting in the lawn swing and singing. Some of my friends would walk together down to the river, but that was another thing Papa didn't approve of unless there was a grownup with us. It was great fun to be taken down to the river at night ... to see the lights across the river.

During these years we always held a strawberry festival in the month of June, a really elegant affair. A big sign was stretched across the road from tree to tree saying "Palisades Presbyterian Church Strawberry Festival." Small tables and chairs were set up on the front lawn under the great elm tree ... and every lady involved in the festival loaned her lovely tablecloths and napkins. ...

Continued on page five



Bill Menke is a professor of Geophysics in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University and has been based at Lamont here in Palisades for the last twelve years. The incident he describes below occurred on May 16, 1998, while he was making observations of earthquakes near one of the big volcances in Iceland.



ast Wednesday I fell 900 feet down a snow covered mountainside. We were returning to our seismological field laboratory, in a snug mountaintop hut at Grimsfjall, Iceland, when Bryndis Brandsdottir, who was driving our pickup truck, became momentarily confused by the foul weather. I tried to help by looking at the navigation display, and saying "GPS indicates we're moving away from the hut." Bryndis replied, "It's OK, Bill, I have the feel for where we are now." But at that moment the pickup started to roll down a very steep white hill, so smooth that it looked just like a wave. I knew then just where we were. We were rolling over the edge of the cliff that bounded one side of the mountain.

I had no sense of the car moving. Just white snow roaring past the car, and a sense of twisting, as in a winding cave or tunnel. The snow snatched at my arms, trying to pull them outward, and I countered with all my strength, inward. Three times I would feel an irresistible force pull me and slam me into the ceiling of the pickup. I did not experience any sense of fear or regret, only an awesome determination to struggle against the wildness. Then came silence. We were at the bottom. What was left of the pickup was right-side up in the snow. Wreckage was strewn everywhere.

I exited the pickup through its now glassless front window. I didn't need to look upward to confirm my initial certainty, but did to see the cliff face looming in front of me.

I checked myself over, trying to understand why my bright yellow rain-suit was covered with equally bright red blood. Most seemed to be coming from fairly shallow cuts on my hands. The suit, and the ski helmet I had been wearing, had protected the rest of me from the abrasive effect of the snow.

Bryndis did not look too good, although I was relieved to see that she was at least alive. She was bleeding from a head wound. From its misshapen condition, I knew that her left arm was broken. Worse still, she seemed very disoriented, saying in a childlike voice that was very uncharacteristic of her normal manner: "What car is this? How did I get into this car? My hand hurts." She started to climb out. I urged her to be still for the moment, but then helped her when it was clear that was her intention. Her leg was jammed between the seats in some funny way. As I eased it free, I saw that it didn't look too good either. I urged her to rest on the snow, and began to look around to find something to help us keep warm.

My state of mind then was very peculiar, almost hyper-rational. Neither then, nor in any time in the ensuing hours before our rescue, did I experience any sort of fear or uncertainty. Survival strategies and priorities boomed into being. The world around me was crystal clear. I saw a tent on the snow.

It was of course a mountaineering tent that Bryndis has packed in the pickup as an emergency measure. I set it up close to Bryndis and urged her to slide in, which she did, although she still didn't seem to understand where she was. Looking around, I saw my torsopack, with its water bottle and GPS receiver. I pulled that into the tent after me. I was not happy with the tent's proximity to the cliff face, because of avalanches, but didn't dare risk moving Bryndis far.

After an hour or so in the tent, Bryndis' head started to clear. Unprotected by any sort of helmet, she had taken some nasty blows. Meanwhile, I used

my GPS receiver to fix my location. We were only 600 feet horizontally from the hut we were aiming for, but 900 feet below it. I also saw that we were 1.5 miles from the base of the road up to the hut. That was bad, for it meant a 3 mile uphill hike. That was certainly impossible for Bryndis. My neck and shoulder injuries were also becoming apparent — it would have been a very risky trek for me, too. I knew that waiting for rescue was our best — maybe only — option.

Bryndis and I discussed trying to contact the others in our party, but the car radio had been destroyed. Another pickup and a heavy snow tractor had been with us at the mountain top. Or had they fallen off too? If they had, our chance for rescue was slim. Yet at no time did we give up hope. After a few hours, we began to hear occasional airplanes and once — maybe — a distant snow tractor. Though we knew it couldn't hear us, we sang a song for the sake of solidarity. Bryndis also urged moving the tent, an idea I discouraged because of our poor physical condition and the freezing rain that had begun. We decided not to move, a decision that almost proved disastrous.

An avalanche did begin. We heard it roar down the cliff face above us, a deep thunder that was felt as much as heard. Blocks of snow started to cover the tent, but then suddenly stopped with us only half covered. We were able to get out and drag the now collapsed tent downhill. Before we did, I found some string and flags, and strung them out to leave some kind of sign that we had survived, and to give the general direction in which we had gone.

We crawled back into the tent, and resolved to wait it out. I could see that even traveling a few hundred yards had seriously weakened us, and that Bryndis was now having some difficulty breathing. I was shivering badly, and had severe pains in the shoulders and neck. We spent 15 minutes teasing closed the tent-flap zipper. We sipped some water from my pack bottle. We lay with our heads on a piece of foam I pried out of a shipping crate for seismic instruments that was amongst the wreckage. We shivered and we waited. Then, unexpectedly, a hand reached down through the tent from above, and grabbed my shoulder. Rescue had come!!

The eight hours we had survived below the mountain was followed by another twelve while the rescuers — an amazing snowmobile-mounted team from the town of Hofn — moved us stage by stage to the Reykjavik hospital. But I let my own focus blow away like a puff of vapor, left our future in their capable hands. (After describing our injuries to them, as best I could, of course, and asking for a neck brace.)

Our fall and long ordeal has had a curious effect on me. At no time have I felt any anger at its happening. I learned that I have absolutely no fear of death, and that I react very well under stressful circumstances. Virtues, perhaps, but too painfully learned to be worth boasting over. People who know that I am a Christian believer as well as a scientist have asked me the role that my faith played in our survival, and whether the prayers of my friends were in some way efficacious, and what, over all, our survival meant. Good questions perhaps, but not ones that I myself would now ask.

During those hours I became faith. There was never a moment when I felt abandoned or cut off. Although I did my utmost to work toward our survival, there was never a moment when I cared whether I would live or die. The experience was vaster than I on an incomprehensible scale. I felt no sorrow, no anguish, there on the snow, nor numbness. Perhaps I felt a fierce joy. I was in some crazy way in harmony with all that was happening. I was not so much seeking a prayer — or an answer to a prayer — as I was the prayer itself.

And yet the experience does not really mean much to me in retrospect. I don't see any special message. Terrible things sometimes happen. When they happen, people do what is necessary. Those who survive must pick up the pieces and go on, having been reminded perhaps how precious life is and how much worth living.

William Menke

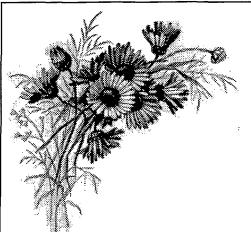
Simpler Time, continued

For the Glorious Fourth Papa would put up our flag and we would shoot off our cap pistols and light our sizzlers and our tame little firecrackers ... Everyone, fathers, mothers and grandparents as well as the children, came to the annual Sunday School picnic which was sometimes held in a field down Oak Tree Road....

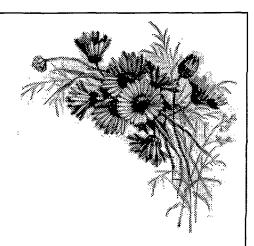
When we heard the peepers or tree frogs we said, "Fall is here, and in six weeks we will have our first frost." This was a happy season, raking leaves and filling the air with their pungent smell as we burned them. School would begin again, but there was always time for walks through the woods to watch the little creatures preparing for winter. For Halloween we dressed up in funny old costumes and carried out all kinds of devilish pranks, though not as devilish as the pranks Papa and our Uncles used to think up.

Thanksgiving was the really big event of the fall. The day started off with a service called Harvest Home at our church. The front of the sanctuary was piled high with all sorts of produce — fruit, vegetables, homemade canned goods, baked goods, everything edible you could imagine. The pumpkins were especially beautiful as well as the piles of corn. Later, all

Continued, page twenty



Planting for Fall Color



Late blooming perennials and annuals are not the only source of fall color. Although asters and mums, Japanese anemonies and phlox are beautiful, the real color arrives as the leaves turn. Because most of us shop and plant in the spring, we often forget to plant for fall color. It's not too late, however; now is a good time to plant most trees and shrubs.

For trees, the Threadleaf Japanese maples are especially beautiful. When back lit, the deep red-orange leaves look iridescent. The leaves of the Golden Threadleaf start a pale green and gradually turn to yellow orange. The bare trees look like winter sculpture. The Ginko biloba turns golden yellow and its leaves shimmer in the breeze. Plant only male trees, however. The Franklinea is a small tree that not only produces spectacular red-orange-burgundy color, but also flowers when it seems that nothing else does. The Stewartia is a medium sized tree that offers

a similar show of reds and oranges and develops mottled, peeling bark over time.

Viburnum setigerum produces bright red-orange berries that are set off by dark green foliage that deepens to burgundy. Although the ordinary Burning Bush (Euonymus alata 'Compacta') is common enough, its hot pink-rose red color is arresting even in a parking lot. The leaves of some rhododendrons (ie, Krume azalea) turn deep red to shades of bright pink in the fall. Blueberries do the same thing.

Sedum 'Autumn Joy' and Big Root Cranesbill geranium both offer great color this time of year. The flower heads of Autumn Joy begin green, turn dusty pink, later mahogany, then dry and persist all winter. The aromatic geranium turns shades of rose, red and purple. Plumbago puts on a similar show, spreads and chooses to produce its deep blue flower like a parting gift.

Cellen Wolk

Palisades Community Center



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

Contact Caroline Tapley at 359-0013.

YOUR COMMUNITY CENTER NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

GRAVESTONE OF CONTINENTAL ARMY VETERAN TO BE REDEDICATED NOVEMBER 8, 1998

Ceremony at the Cemetery to be Followed by Library Exhibit

Readers will remember the article in the last issue of 10964 that reported on action being taken to

restore and rededicate the red sandstone grave monument marking the Palisades Cemetery burial site of Revolutionary War veteran Jonathan Lawrence Jr.

The stone has been professionally restored, maintaining all of the historic fabric that reflects the 196 years that the stone has marked the grave site. Shortly it will be reinstalled, once again marking the gravesite of the only Continental Army veteran known to be buried in the cemetery.

A public rededication ceremony will take place at the cemetery at 2PM on Sunday November 8, three days before Veteran's Day. Palisades' resident Mitch Warner, a direct descendant of Jonathan Lawrence, will represent the Lawrence family in acknowledging the restoration.

Alice Munro Haagensen, in her wonderful book *Palisades & Snedens Landing* makes the statement, "The Palisades Cemetery, like the village in general and

Jonathan Lawrence in particular, has never been given its true place in history." November 8 will help to mend the oversight.

We encourage you to come. Burials have taken place in the cemetery since 1774, and burials continue. It is an "active" cemetery and interesting to see. But most of all you will appreciate the opportunity to explore the historic section where many Lawrences are buried along with many many others with family names long connected with this lovely hamlet. While at the cemetery we will hear presentations of period music by local musicians.

Driving into the cemetery is very limited so we suggest that you park along Closter Road or elsewhere and walk into the property. Members of the volunteer Palisades Lot Owners Tribute (P.L.O.T.) will be there to greet you and to answer questions. Representatives of the Library's Historical Committee will

also be there to welcome you and to invite you to visit the Library at 3PM to see a special one day historical

exhibit. Remember, 2PM, Sunday November 8, 1998 at the Palisades Cemetery.

Lee Sneden

Lee Sneden, President of P.L.O.T., can be reached by phone: #914-368-0243 or mail: P.O. Box 295, Tallman, N.Y. 10982.

After the rededication ceremony, a special exhibit at the Palisades Library will provide information about six famous Palisadians from the past. They include Molly Sneden, who ran the ferry in the 18th century; Jonathan Lawrence Jr.; the 19th century diarist Nicholas Gesner; Winthrop Gilman, the author of several books on Palisades; Mary Lawrence Tonetti, who was responsible for so many changes in Snedens Landing; and Mildred Rippey.

Refreshments will also be served at the library. The occasion provides an opportunity to learn more about the past in Palisades and we hope many readers of

10964 will attend.

The Palisades Historical Committee, which is responsible for the exhibit, is about to publish a book titled In a Simpler Time: Reminiscences of Growing Up in Palisades Between the Civil War and the First World War. Memoirs by Anna Gilman Hill and Mildred Rippey form part of this book, which also includes a diary kept for three months in 1897 by 17-year-old Lizzie Leonard and an interview with Charlie Lundstrom, who grew up on Turkey Ridge, just to the south of Palisades.

An excerpt from the book,written by Mildred Rippey, begins on page three of this issue. If you cannot attend the rededication but are interested in obtaining a copy of *In a Simpler Time*, please call Liz Finck at 359-1452 or Alice Gerard at 359-4338.

Alice Gerard



SCHOOL NEWS

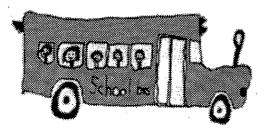
South Orangetown Schools Look Ahead To New School Year

he South Orangetown Central School District begins a new school year with newly appointed Superintendent of Schools Eileen Gress looking forward to a year filled with many exciting projects as the district moves ahead with plans for school expansion and reorganization of the current elementary grade configuration.

Gress, who most recently served as superintendent in Darien, Ct., will begin her first year in South Orangetown with approximately 2,724 students and 462 employees, and a budget of over \$40 million. The district, established in 1957, serves the communities of Blauvelt, GrandView, Orangeburg, Palisades, Piermont, Sparkill and Tappan. It includes three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school and more than 92% of graduating seniors attend college. The district was also recognized for its exemplary Advanced Placement program in Jay Mathew's book, "Class Struggle," which was featured in an article in Newsweek on March 30, 1998 entitled, "100 High Schools that Work."

The district will undergo expansion during the school year to accommodate increased enrollment at the elementary grades and to upgrade science facilities at both the middle and high schools. A \$7.8 million bond to support these initiatives was approved in March 1998.

Simultaneously, the district is implementing a reorganization of the current elementary school configuration from three separate schools housing grades K-1, 2-3 and 4-5 to two K-3 schools and one 4-5 school. The pre-K program will move from the Palisades School on Oak Tree Road to the William O. Schaefer School, a K-3 building. Construction is expected to be completed by the 1999/2000 school year.



South Orangetown Schools' Success Stories

- Ranked #14 in Regents test scores out of 649 New York State K-12 school districts
- Founding member of the Tri-state Consortium for Higher Standards
- Computers in every elementary school class; labs at Cottage Lane School, Middle School and High School
- Over 65 clubs highlighting community service, the arts, and thinking skills at the Middle School and the High School
- Recognized as a model district for the arts by the Lincoln Center Institute
- W.O. Schaefer School is a pilot school for community involvement in the arts
- Nominated past two years for the County Executive Arts Award
- Conference champions in Volleyball, Swimming* and Boys Winter Track* (* also recognized as scholar athlete teams)
- Over 45 interscholastic sports teams
- High School Youth Summit, developing leadership skills and bias reduction

Board of Education Meetings

October and November:

Regular Meetings: Oct. 5 & Oct. 19;

Nov. 2 & Nov. 23

Workshop Meetings: Oct. 26 & Nov. 30

Meetings are held at the S. Orangetown Middle School, Van Wyck Rd., Blauvelt, scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM. All residents are welcome.

THE DISEASE THAT WHISPERS

A n unfortunate yet perhaps predictable forecast of when or when not you and/or your disease has fashionably arrived can be found in the "In Style" section of the Sunday, September 6th, New York Times. A sad commentary on our times indeed when such a deadly disease as ovarian cancer, which kills at least an estimated 14,500 women annually in the United States alone, is relegated to the fashion section of the paper. Incensed as I was to see it there, thinking that this disease would at least rate the Health or Sciences sections, I was grateful none-theless that it was mentioned at all. I suppose that one has to be happy for small favors and kindnesses wherever they may be found.

September, 1998 was, for the very first time, designated by the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition as National Ovarian Cancer month. This dreadful disease comes quietly, stealthily, whispering in the night with a vengeance. It is a silent killer, a truly hidden disease. Even during yearly gynecological exams, there is not much to indicate its presence. Not much which shows up before you are at, let's say, level 3B. Level 4 being, for all intents and purposes, a death sentence. Some of the symptoms can mimic what you might experience after a bad day at the office, or too much greasy food: achiness, cramps, bloating, gas, a heavier than normal period, lower abdominal pain. Even fatigue. Who among us doesn't ache with weariness at the end of the day? Symptoms which even you, let alone your busy doctor, would simply ignore, not take seriously. There are, however, predictors and risk factors. And heredity plays its part as well. Be advised that early detection gives you a four times greater chance of survival.

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month. Both women and men are at risk for this disease. With a 1998 United States Breast Cancer death rate estimated at 43,500 women and 400 men, you had better pay attention. Perhaps research and funding will kick into high gear now, since it is obvious that men also have a chance of developing the disease. You can, with a bit of experience and the willingness to learn, know the shape and weight, the texture and little eccentricities of your own breasts. You should, you must! examine them every month. Learn to recognize any external (sometimes internal) or lumpy change which could be indicators of breast cancer.

October has also been designated as National Uterine Cancer Month. This cancer, which is also difficult to diagnose, can sometimes, though generally not in a timely enough fashion, be detected during gynecological exams and through yearly Pap tests. The symptoms and signs are: abnormal vaginal bleeding (especially after menopause), difficult or painful urination, pain during intercourse, and pain in the pelvic area. The 1998 United States estimated death rate is 6,300 women.

Cervical Cancer, not yet having an awareness month, does have an estimated 4,900 deaths annually. Its most common symptoms are: abnormal bleeding, bleeding after menopause, bleeding which may start after sexual intercourse, or bleeding after a pelvic exam.

There are tests for Ovarian, Uterine, Breast and Cervical Cancer that you should ask for if you think you are at risk, most of which are expensive and not wished for at the hands of most of our HMO's. INFORM YOURSELF AND BE DEMANDING! Be prepared to battle your HMO and perhaps even your doctor for the most basic of diagnostic procedures. You might have to fight just to receive appropriate, timely, perhaps alternative and compassionate care and treatment.

There seem to be so many women in this small community who have been diagnosed with cancer. Some of whom have, sadly for those of us left behind, succumbed after lengthy and horrifying battles—some of whom are declared, at least for the time being, cancer free—and some of whom are still waiting at the edge of time, in that flat grey landscape where logic has quite simply disappeared. Dancing that terrific dance of hope and despair. Sweating it out. Just waiting for the final word.

Jocelyn DeCrescenzo

For more information from the National Cancer Institute Cancer Information Service call: 1-800-4 CANCER. Their hours are Monday to Friday, 9 AM - 4:30 PM. They have a large reference data base. You may also call: 1-888-OVARIAN for the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. And call: (914) 638-1251, The American Cancer Society in Rockland County.



Bulletin Board



OUR TOWN HERE ON OCT. 23, 24, 25

Many Palisadians will be appearing in the Chancel Players production of Thornton Wilder's play Our Town to be performed at the Palisades Presbyterian Church Parish House. Stefanie Umlas plays Emily, one of the three lead roles, and Caroline Iosso appears as Rebecca, Vincent Umbrino as Howie Newsome, and Eric Prusinowski as Si Crowell.

Performance times are 8 PM on Oct. 23 and Oct. 24 and 7 PM on Oct. 25. For further information see the Church News article on page 14.

MANHATTAN EXHIBIT

Cristina Biaggi's new show "Images of Medusa" will be on exhibit in New York City from Oct. 13 through Nov. 3 at the Ceres Gallery, 584 Broadway, Suite 306. Call (212) 226-4725 for information.

PALISADES POTTERS

Jane Herold will be scheduling her seasonal pottery sale at her studio on Ludlow Lane. Call her at 359-5421 for further information.

Sylvia March will be offering pottery classes for children on Tuesday afternoons and for adults on Fridays at her studio in Palisades. Call her at 359-3767 for information. Her annual pottery sale will be held on the weekends of Dec. 5 & 6 and 12 & 13 from 1 until 6 PM.

PALISADES RESIDENT WEDS AUTHOR

Dr. Lynn R. Sykes, a resident of Palisades for 23 years, and **Kathleen M. Sykes** of New York City were married at the United Nations Chapel on April 19, 1998.

Ms. Sykes, who uses her maiden name Kathleen Mahoney professionally, is a Senior Editor for House Beautiful magazine. Barnes and Noble held a book signing in July for her new book Wisdom from a Shaker Garden, published by Penguin Studio, a division of Penguin Putnam Inc. She is also the author of Simple Wisdom: Shaker Sayings, Poems and Songs (Penguin Books, 1993) and Gothic Style: Architecture and Interiors from the Eighteenth Century to the Present, (Harry N. Abrams, 1995).

Dr. Sykes is Higgins Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University and conducts his research in earthquake studies and the control of nuclear weapons at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades. In March he received the Medal of the Seismological. Society of America at the Society's annual meeting.

On August 28, 1997, the Washington Times carried a lead story "Russia suspected of nuclear testing." Dr. Sykes' subsequent article "Small Earthquakes near Russian Test Site Leads to U.S. Charges of Cheating on Comprehenive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty,"* argued that the small event in question on August 16, 1997 was, in fact, a very small earthquake in the Arctic Ocean about 100 miles from the former Russian nuclear test site. His article and work by Lamont scientists Paul Richards and W.Y. Kim led to a front page story in the Washington Post on October 20, 1997 by their national security correspondent Jeffrey Smith and subsequent retraction by the CIA and other government agencies of claims that the small event was an illegal nuclear test under the terms of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty of 1996.

* Published in the *Public Interest Report* of the Federation of American Scientists, Nov., 1997

FROM THE EDITORS

The 1998-99 publishing schedule for 10964 Newsletter will be October, December, March and May. Because we had just four editors and four layout people volunteer for the coming year, we can only publish four issues rather than five. Sorry! Maybe next year? Please call one of our staff members if you can help.

Also, we hope you will "check out" our pages of ads in every issue. While we do get contributions from you throughout the year (and thank you!), the bulk of our publishing expenses are met by our advertisers. Please show them your appreciation by using their services — and let them know you heard about them through 10964.



Leah K. Dalto

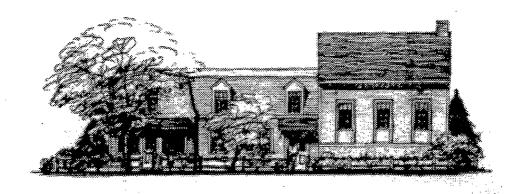
eah Kinstlinger Dalto died of a brain hemorrhage at Nyack Hospital on February 20, 1998, at the age of 78. Leah and her husband, Livio C. (Lee) Dalto, moved to Palisades in 1957. Their house was one of 15 built on Horne Tooke Road and Indian Hill Lane by a group of World War II veterans living at Shanks Village in Orangeburg and their friends. The group formed a corporation which purchased 16 acres of land in the area of Palisades once known as Nestle's Deer Park, developing it by having two roads built and a water line installed, getting Planning Board approval and selling individual lots to members of the group. Members then made their own arrangements to have houses built.

Leah was born on December 3, 1919, in New Brunswick, NJ. She received her Bachelor's degree from New Jersey College for Women, now Douglas College, part of Rutgers University, in June, 1940, having majored in romance languages and education. She was active in language club activities and was elected to Sigma Delta Pi, the National Honorary Spanish Society. As a matter of fact, she and Lee met at her induction ceremony, when Lee had the pleasure of fastening her pin to the gown she was wearing. She and Lee both received scholarships to do graduate work at Rutgers, where their friendship blossomed into romance. While still doing graduate work in the spring of 1941, they took civil service examinations in several foreign languages and were put on a list of qualified translators. After World War II broke out on December 7, 1941, they were offered and accepted positions in the Office of Censorship, a function of the War Department, in New York City. Lee enlisted in the Army in March, 1942, while Leah continued working for the War Department. She later applied for a commission in the Navy but was unable to qualify because of her eyesight. Lee received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1944 and was assigned to the European Theater, where he served until 1946. He returned to the States on R&R as a Captain in February, 1946, and Leah and he were married on April 1. In May he went back to Germany to accept a civilian position in the US Occupation Forces. Leah

also accepted a similar position and joined Lee in Berlin. They subsequently were assigned to Nurenberg, Frankfurt, Esslinger and Munich. After the move to Frankfurt, Leah became a full-time wife and homemaker. They did a lot of traveling throughout Europe, much of it in a funny little car they bought through the PX, one of the first VW Beetles made after the war.

Back in the USA again, Leah continued her role as supportive wife while Lee got his law degree. During those years, among the best in their lives, they lived in Shanks Village where they made a large number of talented friends. In 1949, Leah assumed a new role, that of mother, when she gave birth to their first child, David. Philip was born two years later and Martha four years after Philip. In 1963 she began still another career as a teacher of Spanish at the Nyack Middle School. She taught until 1985, at which time she retired.

For years after her retirement she enjoyed being greeted in various parts of Rockland County by young men and women who had been her students and still addressed her as "Señora" Dalto. She also enjoyed her final career as a grandmother and volunteer. She relished visiting and being visited by her granddaughters in Maine, Rachael and Georgia Dalto, and grandson and granddaughter in Teaneck, NJ, Seth and Gabriella McCann. Her volunteer activities included, at various times, the Rockland Center for Holocaust Studies, the Literacy Volunteers of Rockland County, Music Amici, the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop, the William O. Schaefer Community School Lincoln Center Project and St. Thomas Acquinas College, where she served as a mentor. Representatives of these organizations were at a memorial service on February 22. Among others attending were former residents of Shanks Village from Litchfield, CT, and Chapel Hill, NC, not to mention many locations in Rockland County. Both relatives and friends were effusive in their recognition of Leah as a warm, friendly, eversmiling, and compassionate human being. Several referred to her knitting and culinary skills, which combined the Northern Italian recipes learned from Lee's mother and the Hungarian delights learned from her mother.



Palisades Library News

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 2-9
Tuesday 2-9
Wednesday 2-9
Thursday 10-12, 3-9
Friday 2-5
Saturday 11-5
Sunday 1-5

The library will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday, October 12th, Columbus Day; Wednesday, November 25th, Thursday, November 26th, Thanksgiving; Thursday, December 24th, Friday, December 25th, Christmas; Thursday, December 31st, New Year's Eve

Check our web site: www.rcls.org/pal.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

STORY TIME FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND KINDERGARTNERS

Children aged three through five are invited to Story Time at 1:30-2 on Wednesdays. We will share songs, games and stories presented with the use of small figures, story-telling dolls, feltboard, and, of course, books. Along with having a good time and acquainting the children with the library, the Story Time seeks to help children learn how to be in a group. Please come in to sign up during September. First Story Time: 1:30, Wed. October 7th. There will be no Story Time on the following dates: November 11th, December 23rd, and December 30th.

CRAFT ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

Wednesday, September 16th. 4:15 PM. Making necklaces from natural materials. Ages 5 and up.

Wednesday, October 14th, 4:15 PM. Making all-occasion cards using dried leaves and flowers. Ages 8 and up.

Wednesday. November 18th, 4:15 PM. Making bead people. This is absorbing and lots of fun. Ages 5 and up.

Wednesday, December 9th, 4:15 PM. Making folded paper stars. It would be hard to find a more beautiful holiday decoration than this. The pattern of light through the folded paper points creates a beautiful symmetry when placed in a window or in front of a light. Older children enjoy this program and achieve beautiful results. Children should be at least 8 years of age for this program.



LOCAL HISTORY DISPLAY

At 2 PM on Sunday, November 8th, a rededication ceremony for the tombstone of Jonathan Lawrence Jr., Palisades' only Revolutionary War veteran, will be held at the Palisades Cemetery. After the ceremony the public is invited to the Palisades Library for refreshments and to look at an exhibit giving information about important people in the past history of the community.

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

ADULT NONFICTION

Alexis, Andre
Dickey, Christopher
Ernaux, Annie
French, Marilyn
Gaines, Steven

Childhood
Summer of Deliverance
Shame
Season in Hell
Philistines at the
Hedgerow

Vaill, Amanda Everybody Was So Young:

Gerald and Sara Murphy

Wilson, Edward Consilience

ADULT FICTION

Ambrose, David Superstition Scarpetta's Winter Table Cornwell, Patricia Francis, Dick Field of Thirteen Harrison, Jim The Road Home King, Stephen Bag of Bones Kingsolver, Barbara The Poisonwood Bible O'Brian, Patrick The Hundred Daus Parker, Robert Trouble in Paradise Pietrozyk, Leslie Pears on a Willow Tree Rice, Anne The Vampire Armand Trevor, William Death in Summer Updike, John Bech at Bay

PALISADES BOOK CLUB

The Palisades Reading Group meets monthly at the library. For further information call the library at 359-0136.



NEW PAC TERMINAL

The library has a new Public Access Catalog in the children's room. The funds for this terminal were obtained through a local initiative grant. We are very grateful to Congressman Sam Colman for his help and support.

We would like to remind our patrons that they may now reserve their favorite books, instructional videos, etc. from any library. At a PAC terminal:

- 1. Search by author, title or subject until you find the book you want.
- 2. At the screen where there is a description of the book or the screen that lists the libraries owning the book, enter S (Select) and press return.
- 3. Enter barcode number from the back of your library card and press return.
- 4. Enter the last four digits of your phone number and press return.
 - 5. Enter number 2. Notify by phone.
- 6. Read message and verify that your telephone number is correct by entering Y (Yes) or N (No) and press return.
 - 7. Read message and press return.

HELP US GET READY FOR THE GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION!

The Goods and Services Auction Organizing Committee will meet Sunday, October 4th at 3 PM at the Library. The meeting is open to all members of the community who cherish the library and would like a chance to help support it in a direct way. We not only expect to raise funds for the Library, but we also expect to have a lot of fun doing it. Please join us.

LIBRARY FALL FESTIVAL — Sunday, October 25, Noon to 3 PM.

This year, our traditional fall plant sale has evolved. We are featuring a Chile Taste-Off Contest, and a Blue-Ribbon panel of distinguished judges will pick the best Chile of Palisades. All entries will be sold off after the judging, along with baked goods, books by the pound, and bulbs for fall planting. Other activities will include a raffle, children's crafts, and the hayrides will be back!! Save the day, rain or shine.

PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Busy Fall Season Planned

The autumn leaves are in full splendor and the Palisades Presbyterian Church is busily engaged in activities that make a difference in the life of our community.

This season's largest event is the Chancel Players' production of Thornton Wilder's Our Town, now in the final stages of rehearsal. Wilder's amusing, but haunting drama is set at the turn of the century in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. The play reminds the audience to appreciate life as we live it, "every, every moment..." The ensemble cast includes many Palisades residents and Director Cass Ludington reports that enthusiasm is high among cast and crew. This full scale production will be presented in the church's Parish House at 8 PM on Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24; and at 7 PM on Sunday, October 25. Tickets are available from cast members or by calling the church office at 359-3147. Prices are: \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and senior citizens, with a special family maximum of \$40. Proceeds benefit the Palisades Church.

Other programs have resumed their fall schedule. Worship is at both 9 and 11. The Rev. Robert Chase, Interim Pastor, says, "there will be a greater contrast between the two services this year, with the 9 o'clock service having more opportunities for silence, prayer, and meditation."

There is a Bible Study Class at noon on Wednesdays; the class is led by the Rev. Chase and is currently working its way through the Gospel of Luke. Also on Wednesdays, there is a program—Wednesday Club—for young people in grades 2-6. Recreation, crafts, singing, Bible study, refreshments and special events fill a two-hour time slot. Youth in grades 7-12 meet at 4 on Sunday afternoons in a program that combines mission work with fun and includes several trips and a retreat during the course of a year.

The third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM features a healing service under the leadership of the Rev. Lee Hancock of Upper Nyack. The Rev. Hancock is a Presbyterian minister and seminary professor who has had an emphasis on healing throughout her career. Members and non-members alike have come to share in prayer and the "laying on of hands," ancient rituals that have prompted wellness.

The congregation will continue its outreach through Rockland County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, the 127th Street Mission in New York City, and People-to-People in Nyack.

"The involvements of this congregation are wonderfully diverse," said the Rev. Chase, "and in virtually every activity we have participation from the community-at-large. We welcome this."

There have been some changes at the church since the early summer. Priscilla Scott of Orangeburg, who served diligently as Church Secretary for fifteen years, has retired. Ms. Scott was honored at a reception following worship on September 27. Her position has been filled by Loretta Jones of New City, a former administrator at Bloomingdale's, who is returning to the work force now that her son, Nicholas, age four, is entering school. Ms. Jones began her work September 1.

The congregation is deeply involved in selecting a new pastor. According to Presbyterian policy, the Rev. Chase, who is Interim Pastor, is not eligible to fill the position permanently. The congregation recently completed an intensive self-study. The process, under the leadership of Elder Kim Brainard of Piermont, involved more than half of the congregation who filled out surveys and participated in dozens of small group meetings to determine the congregation's goals and objectives.

A Pastoral Nominating Committee was formed at a congregational meeting on September 13 for the purpose of reviewing potential candidates for the position and, ultimately, making a recommendation to the congregation. It is an important and arduous task, one that will occupy significant time and energy in the year ahead.



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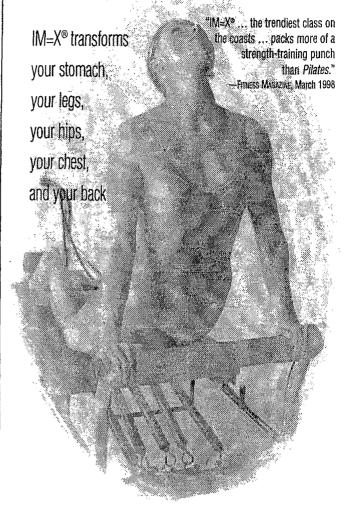
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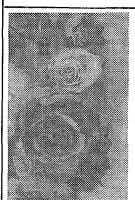
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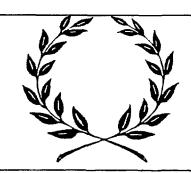




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Simpler Time, continued from page five

this bounty was delivered to the Nyack Hospital and to the poor in our midst.

We listened to a Thanksgiving sermon and we sang all the great hymns of thanksgiving such as "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing."

On to winter and a beautiful Christmas, with snow squeaking under our feet and the church festooned with wreaths that we had helped to make. All the grownups went up into "the mountains" and picked green ground pine which they made into wreaths and long ropes. Night after night people would meet in the session room to make these wreaths and garlands. Best of all I loved the pine ropes which

extended across the sanctuary, converging at the peak of the roof. "How did they hang them so high?" I would marvel. It seemed like magic to me as a little girl. The church when decorated looked beautiful and smelled piney and woodsy. We had kerosene bracket lamps then which were placed where we now have the candles at Christmas. All the children had some part in the Christmas entertainment. We were given a "piece" to learn and by George we learned it or else. There was usually a Christmas tree and a Santa Claus, ... every child got a present of sorts. ... A box of hard candy and an orange came with each gift. The orange was a great treat; we rarely had oranges in those years.

And so the seasons went.

