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THE
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NEWSLETTER

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THE MILLENNIUM

ISSUE



BETTY FRIEDAN

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY FRIEDAN AND
THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Contemporary historians generally agree that the advance of women in the last half of the 20th century is the deepest social transformation of our time. Although women in the United States got the right to vote in 1920, until the early 1960s economic independence and equal access to employment were still so implausible for the vast majority of women that marriage or menial jobs continued to be their dominant social and economic opportunity. Women did not hold important positions of corporate and governmental responsibility because it was unthinkable that they would.

But what happened then? A simple thing, it would appear. A good listener who happened to live in Rockland County started to examine the world of women as it existed around her. For five years between 1959 to 1963, she wrote down her opinions about what she saw. These opinions were full of fire, passion, and intelligence, and the book they were in, *The Feminine Mystique*, touched off the modern women's movement in America.

Not only did Betty restart the revolution for women's rights by insisting that "women are people too," she recognized that men are here to stay and they, like women, are people, too. She had, and continues to have, a utopian vision that readjusting the balance of power between men and women will raise everyone to a better level of existence, based on mutual respect and cooperation, rather than on exploitation, conflict and condescension.

Her career since *The Feminine Mystique* has rollercoasted from triumphant heights, with her leadership role spearheading the creation of key women's movement institutions such as NOW and the National Women's Political Caucus to lows such as her long-running hostility to lesbian rights and bitter conflicts with other leaders of the women's movement.

Betty has survived it all. She has survived to find herself listed in book after book of lists of the millennium's most influential people. Four published since 1994 sprang to the surface of the New York Public Library card catalog in a recent search; there she is, indexed as one of the "100 most influential..." among historical celebs such as Indira Ghandi, Rachel Carson, Emile Durkheim, David Sarnoff, Eva Peron, Diane Arbus, and Ida Bell Wells-Bernett.

A testimonial dinner held in her honor at the National Arts Club in New York City in November provided glowing proof of the admiration and respect so many powerful and influential women feel for her. Muriel Fox, NOW cofounder and an almost-in-Palisades resident of Hickory Hill in Tappan spoke for many of those present when she said the following words to Betty: "You gave me the privilege of helping you make history in building the most important social revolution of the 20th century. What a thrill to think that my great-great-granddaughters will tell their own daughters with pride about the miracle our small group of feminists accomplished!"

Greta Nettleton



FRANCES PELLEGRINI TOOK THESE PORTRAITS IN 1963 FOR THE FIRST EDITION OF *THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE*. BETTY EVENTUALLY CHOSE A SHOT FROM A DIFFERENT DAY'S SESSION AS HER AUTHOR PHOTO. PHOTOS © 1963 BY FRANCES PELLEGRINI

BETTY FRIEDAN

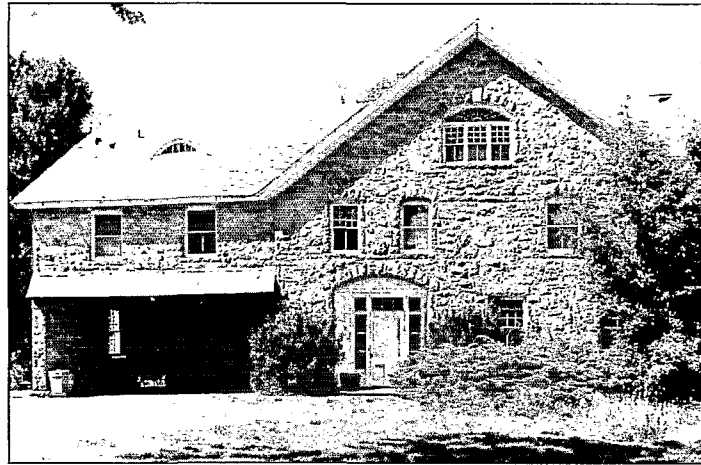
THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES POOL

Betty and her family moved to Palisades from Parkway Village, in Queens, in April of 1956, renting the stone barn that is now the Galinsky's house from Lael Wertenbaker. Although the Friedans left Palisades less than a year later in the spring of 1957, they liked the area and they didn't move far. They bought a rambling Victorian at #205 River Road, next door to Isabelle Savelle (author of *The Tonetti Years at Sneden's Landing*) in Grandview.

The Feminine Mystique was written while Betty lived in Grandview, and strictly speaking, cannot be considered a Palisades book. However, Betty did begin work on another, far less famous, but very interesting project shortly after she moved to Rockland County. This was the educational enrichment program she started that was eventually incorporated into the South Orangetown Schools and known variously as the Saturday seminars, the Intellectual Resources Pool, and the Community Resources Pool.

She started the seminars with the interests of her own children in mind. Concerned that her sons (Emily was still a baby at this time) were not getting enough stimulation at school, she decided to organize supplementary classes for local kids. A lifelong extrovert, she already knew many local residents with distinguished careers, and her organizational energy quickly drew them into the plan as instructors. Another key connection was the Rockland Foundation (later known as the Rockland Center for the Arts), which provided seed money, access to teaching talent, and early organizational support for the seminars.

Betty felt that the standard school curriculum failed to provide children with the opportunity "to find their own identity and to find the work to which they could commit themselves and thereby realize their human potential." Idealism animated the whole program; organizers, instruc-



CONVERTED BARN IN SNEDENS RENTED BY THE FRIEDAN FAMILY IN 1956. PHOTO COURTESY OF PALISADES HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

tors and parents all shared the expectation that the young boys and girls would be inspired by their contact with real working professionals to an awakening of their own creativity, self-awareness, and commitment to solving the important problems of society.

By the fall of 1959, the Rockland Foundation was fully behind the project. Betty was listed in their Spring 1960 program catalog as Chairman of the Intellectual Resources Pool, a position which also put her on the Foundation's Board of Directors. The Pool referred not to the classes, but to the list of participating experts, all recruited by Betty or by other members of the Pool. At its height in 1962, the Pool comprised 100 instructors, including mystery writer Dorothy Davis, Lamont geophysicist Charles Drake, playwright Horton Foote, Columbia sociologist Si Goode, NYU anthropologist John Landgraf, Rockland historian Carl Nordstrom, poet Robert Sennish, writer Eliot Tozer and novelist Harvey Swados.

Betty was explicit in stating that these Pool instructors had to be highly respected experts in their respective fields. A sense of faith in the power of the excellence of these instructors permeated the program; having reached the top of their field, these leaders would be filled with enthusiasm for the ideals and methods of their metier. More than anything else, this spontaneous excitement was felt to be the key ingredient in their ability to connect with their young students and inspire them.

The program expanded rapidly in 1961, supported by a \$13,000 grant from the New World Foundation, and after its initial period of independent operation, the IRP was incorporated into the South Orangetown school system. According to a report prepared by the NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) in 1963, this arrange-

ment was central to the planning of the venture and was a key condition of the New World Foundation's interest and funding. Eventually, the New World Foundation contributed a total of \$40,000 to support the program.

Perhaps owing to Betty's year in Snedens, there were plenty of Palisades residents in the Pool. Dorothy Davis taught a creative writing course for several years; when observed by a Herald Tribune reporter in the spring of 1961, Dorothy was asking a group of 10 and 11-year-olds to figure out how to write descriptions of common objects so that a blind man could feel he was "seeing" them. Alice Gerard, a student at Bank Street at the time, taught a class in playwriting in 1962 and 1963.

Sometime in 1963 or 1964, Dr. Donald Tapley taught a medical anatomy class that included a dissection session in which a rat was eviscerated. First the children were riveted by measuring the length of the rat's intestinal tract, which of course stretched out exceedingly long, much longer than any of them expected. Then, Dr. Tapley noticed with foreboding that the rat was pregnant. Immediately, a bright little girl asked him what the lumpy thing in its tummy was. "Er, ah, it's part of the reproductive system," he answered. "What does that mean?" Dr. Tapley hedged wildly for several beats until a little boy broke in and took him off the hook: "It means we know and we ain't going to tell ya!"

This interesting nonexchange of information between peers occurred shortly after an explosive community meeting about the IRP was held (perhaps in Piermont or at the High School; sources are not sure about this point), kindled by the fact that anthropologist John Landgraf had used the word "menstruation" during a cultural anthropology lesson. A young girl went home and told her mother what was being discussed in the group, and the pot boiled over immediately.

During the meeting, opponents of the IRP stood up and said that it was being dominated by leftists. Then Dr. Landgraf was pressed to repeat to the assembled parents and outraged upright citizens what he had told his students about human growth. "Yes," he admitted, "I did use the word menstruation." The girl's father hissed into the micro-



HOUSE ON RIVER ROAD IN GRANDVIEW WHERE BETTY WROTE
THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE. PHOTO © 1999 BY SALLY SAVAGE.

phone, "If you ever say that word to my daughter again, there will be another Sputnik in the sky!" Several Palisades parents who were at the meeting remember the evening's events with horror; they each recall a level of anger so intense that it verged on violence. Clearly, Dr. Tapley's reluctance to elaborate on the functions of the rat's reproductive system was not

owing to mere prudishness.

Cultural and intellectual divisions in Rockland County in the 1950s tended to be defined more by politics and ideological outlook than they are today and political and ideological undercurrents undoubtedly played a role in the eventual demise of the Intellectual Resources Pool (which was renamed the Community Resources Pool by 1962 in order to make it sound less elitist). However, most observers agree that the main reason that the Pool dried up was that Betty moved out of the county and the project lost its main driver. One year after *The Feminine Mystique* was published, Betty moved to New York City to an apartment in the Dakota, and the CRP petered out shortly after that.

Its only legacy seems to be a lingering awareness among South Orangetown school administrators that external program enrichment benefits students. Geraldine Miras remembers hearing the Pool being mentioned during Board of Education meetings even as late as the 1980s, and at least one other outside enrichment program has been picked up by the system. The Lincoln Center Focus School music and arts education program at William O. Schaeffer School flourished during the years the Morton Sherman was superintendent of schools, but in the tradition of preceding educational enrichment efforts, faded immediately upon his departure from the district.

Betty's idealism and passion for learning drew people into collaboration on her ideas with an excitement that was so contagious it could draw press attention, even for a topic as blatantly unnewsworthy as local education. Not a single clipping about the Resources Pool appears in the Rockland Foundation files after Betty's departure...left an orphan, the Pool seems to have dried up and blown away.

Greta Nettleton

KLEINER RE-ELECTED

LARKIN WINS PALISADES, BUT LOSES ELECTION

Democrat Thom Kleiner swept Palisades (election districts 12 and 50) in the November 2 election by 3 to 1 on his way to a 2-to-1 Orangetown-wide romp for a third two-year term as Supervisor. Kleiner, now a resident of Sparkill, received 338 votes -- 300 on the Democratic line, 27 Independence and 11 Working Families. Sullivan, of Piermont, a last-minute choice of the Republicans, received 84 on their ballot line, 10 Conservative and 19 Right to Life, for a 113 total.

Palisadian Eileen Larkin, a former Councilwoman running for Town Clerk, led the Republicans in Palisades with 186 votes, plus 23 on the Green Party line and 9 Working Families, for a total of 218. She fell 12 votes short of incumbent Charlotte Madigan, who reaped 197 Democratic votes, 18 Independence and 15 Conservative. Mrs. Madigan had less trouble in the rest of Orangetown, winning her third term with a reported 66 percent of the 10,409 votes cast.

Another Palisadian, first-time candidate Joseph Cavanagh, fared little better, running third in the voting for two Town Council positions, both in Palisades and town-wide. The winners in the election were incumbents Denis

O'Donnell and Dr. Edward Fisher, leaving the Town Board unchanged with a 3 to 2 Republican majority. Fisher topped the Palisades vote with 260 (236 D, 24 I). Marie Manning trailed with 233 (224 D, 9 WF). Cavanagh ran well ahead of O'Donnell with 199 votes (172 R, 27 C) to 161 (128 R, 14 C, 19 RTL). Town-wide, however, O'Donnell led the voting with 5,842; Fisher ran a close second with 5,685; Cavanagh received 4,756 and Manning 4,439.

In the other local contests, Robert Simon, appointed by the Republicans on the Town Board to fill out the term of Receiver of Taxes Eileen Bohner, who died earlier this year, was elected with 5,517 votes to 4,833 for Democrat Kuruvilla Cherian, although Cherian carried Palisades by 254 to 171. Incumbent Town Justice Paul Phinney III defeated Democrat Barry Rogers 6,320 to 3,832; Rogers squeaked past Phinney in Palisades by 208 to 203. And in the first election in the 16th County Legislative District, running from southeastern Pearl River through Tappan to Palisades, incumbent legislator John Murphy (R-C-RTL) routed Democratic challenger Arnold Shore by 2,220 to 1,131 but lost Palisades by 187 to 217. *Andy Norman*

Palisades Presbyterian Church News

DECEMBER 12TH AT 11:00 A.M. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

At this service we will also be collecting toy and gift donations which will then be delivered to hospital-bound children in Harlem on Christmas Day. In the past we collected gifts at the Christmas Eve service, but this often meant the gifts could not be delivered to children until after Christmas. Our hope is that the majority of gift donations can be made on the 12th, so there is time for a Christmas Day delivery. Of course, Christmas Eve gift donations are still welcome! Donations can either be gift-wrapped or unwrapped (if they are wrapped, please include a card on the outside which tells us the appropriate age and gender for that gift)

DECEMBER 24TH, CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 5:30 P.M. AND 11:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 26TH- NO 9:00 A.M. SERVICE, 11:00 P.M. SERVICE ONLY

Fundraiser at Elmwood Playhouse

The Palisades Presbyterian Church will be hosting a benefit performance of Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women* at the Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack, on **Wednesday, February, 2, 2000**. This show stars Mary Ann Garland - Don't miss it! For more information, please call Cass Ludington at **398-2621**.



FORETELLING THE FUTURE: TEN PREDICTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2050

IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION:
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE
WORLD WILL BE LIKE IN 2050?



CHENEY LONBERG, 8, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT

I think there'll be new stuff, they'll make more streets. Palisades won't be the same. I think they might build more on the Hudson River, more dams and more bridges. I think there'll be a new millennium car — they might make a new sport, or a new hairstyle. I think life will be better.

JEVON EWIG, 15, TENTH GRADER

It's going to be a lot scarier. Everything's going to be artificial, like pets and things, because of what we're doing to the environment, like global warming. People are probably going to live alone. Everything's going to be amazing because of the technology, cars will fly, everyone will be just wearing the computer, you know, with a little microphone to run it. A computer virus can probably destroy the world. And then there'll be billions and billions and billions of people. Cities will be huge with skyscrapers three times the size of the World Trade Center. *There will be Artificial Intelligence.*



JAIN LATTES, 23, STUDENT IN MIDWIFERY SCHOOL

I think that Snedens Landing won't be anything recognizable anymore, unfortunately. If we don't self-destruct, there's a possibility that as a society we'll learn to live with each other better, to communicate better, and I hope that I'll see that.



PHILIP GALINSKY, 30, ETHNOMUSCIOLOGIST AND MUSICIAN

I think that first of all we're going to see the proliferation of technology, starting with the Internet, and I think that this new era, symbolized by the internet, allows for greater communication among people across the globe. This historical moment offers the possibility of both greater good and of greater evil. By 2050 the computer itself may become obsolete and we may be able to transfer these advances in technology to advances in spirituality.





LAURIE FERGUSON, 44, DOCTORAL STUDENT IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

I've been thinking about this because what we imagine, is what's going to be. I hope for people to be more connected to each other around the globe, as well as in our community, and that life will become more simple, that we will work through the crisis about the environment, and in working this through that people will find more meaningful work, that they will enjoy life and work more. I think that we'll begin to tell myths and stories that help us. I believe that we're at the brink of a serious crisis and that we'll find a way to work through it.

BERNARD DOYLE, 52, POSTAL WORKER

I think there's going to be a whole new conservation movement taking place — everyone will want to be outside, seeing the trees — but they're going to find out that they should have done it sooner; while they were playing around with virtual reality on their computers, the land was being paved over.



NICHOLAS LUDINGTON, 69, RETIRED JOURNALIST

The first thing that comes to my mind is grim. In 2050, if everybody doesn't start thinking about it and doing something, the aging population will be a tremendous problem. The Social Security system was set up so that people could retire at 65 and die at 75 — the same is true of Medicare. By 2050, if the trend we're on now continues, people will retire at 65 and live to 100. Social Security and Medicare will have to support people for 35 years instead of ten. The country will go broke. So some combination of shortening retirement or increasing taxes paid into them or increasing the investment returns from the Social Security fund or something new will have to be done.

There is a good side to people living longer and staying healthy and active longer, in that we might have a great surge in volunteerism. A lot of people, if there was a system for registering and assigning them, would volunteer. Large numbers of active older people with skills and experience could make a real difference to society.

HERBERT KELLOGG, 79, RETIRED PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING

I hope, but I don't have too much confidence, that life will be as satisfactory, as challenging, as it was for us during the 20th century. I see life getting more complicated because of increasing over-population, leading to possible catastrophes — war, pestilence, environmental degradation. Even if the world stays relatively peaceful, it won't be as pleasant, because of the overcrowding.



DOROTHY DAVIS, 83, WRITER

It's a world I wouldn't recognize, because I'm not really cognizant even with the language of today. I think it will be better — I'd settle for one percent better. We will know more about the universe and perhaps care less about ourselves. I think today we are in a me-me-me age. We may be driven to be better in order to survive.

ALICE HAAGENSEN, 99, SURVIVOR

By 2050 the Republicans will have elected a series of presidents, some actors, all attractive, all opposed to campaign reform, the United Nations, gun and tobacco control, and abortion, all advocates for tax and welfare cuts, school prayer, and more prisons. The country will be in trouble.



—Photos and interviews by Alice Gerard



LIBRARY NEWS



New Books

NEW ADULT FICTION

Brookner, Anita	<i>Undue Influence</i>
Chevalier, Tracy	<i>Girl with a Pearl Earring</i>
Coetzee, J. M.	<i>Disgrace</i>
Grass, Gunther	<i>My Century</i>
Haruf, Kent	<i>Plainson</i>
Jin, Ha	<i>Waiting</i>
Minot, Eliza	<i>The Tiny One</i>
Perry, Thomas	<i>Blood Money</i>
Rossi, Agnes	<i>Houseguest</i>

NEW ADULT NON FICTION

Anker, Conrad	<i>The Lost Explorer</i>
Bell, Art	<i>The Coming of Global Superstorm</i>
Brownmiller, Susan	<i>In Our Time</i>
Jamison, Kay	<i>Night Falls Fast</i>
Morris, Edmund	<i>Dutch</i>
Naipaul, V. S.	<i>Between Father and Son</i>
Sobel, Dav	<i>Broken Wings</i>
Wiesel, Eli	<i>And the Sea Is Never Full</i>

READING CLUB

The Reading Club meets monthly -- if you wish to join please call Ms. Joan Sanders at 623-8262.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The library's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30th, 2-4 PM.

CHILDREN'S NEWS FROM PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

Story time for children aged three through kindergarten continues on Wednesdays at 1:30 with the exception of days when there is school vacation. A nice group has formed which is learning to love stories and participation. Friends and newcomers are always welcome.

COMING IN DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 15th at 4:15 PM

Make holiday decorations for Christmas or Chanukah. Please come to the library to sign up. (For children grade one and any grade above.)

Wednesday, December 29th at 7:15 PM

Special Evening Program - Magic Show. Our magician will be Susan Dickens, who not only performs, but also teaches magic. A magic trick will be taught to participants that they can later perform for friends and family. Come to the library to sign up. Space is somewhat limited, and you won't want to miss this! (All children 4 and above will enjoy this program.)

COMING IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Wednesday, January 19th at 4:15 PM

Make stand-up figures from buttons, beads and bows. This was one of our favorite programs in the last century, and we are happy to offer it again. Please come to the library to sign up. (For children in 1st grade and beyond.)

February 16th at 4:15 PM

Another craft program to be announced. Watch the circulation desk for details.

INTERNET TRAINING

The library is offering free non-technical orientation sessions on how to use the Internet. Basic familiarity with computers is required. Space is limited so please register at the library or call 359-0136.

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

Tel: 359-0136

Fax: 259-6124

www.rcls.org/pal/

Closed Dec. 24, 25, 31

Closed Jan. 1, 17

Closed Feb. 21

Library Hours

Monday -Thursday 1:00-9:00

Friday 1:00-5:00

Saturday 11:00-5:00

Sunday 1:00-5:00

IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT HOLIDAY PRESENTS

Just reprinted in time for the holidays, this book would make a fine present for someone interested in the past, or in Palisades.

The book can be bought at the Palisades Library for \$15 plus tax. Alice Gerard (359-4338) also has copies.

In a Simpler Time

Reminiscences of growing up
in Palisades, New York,
between the Civil War
and World War I



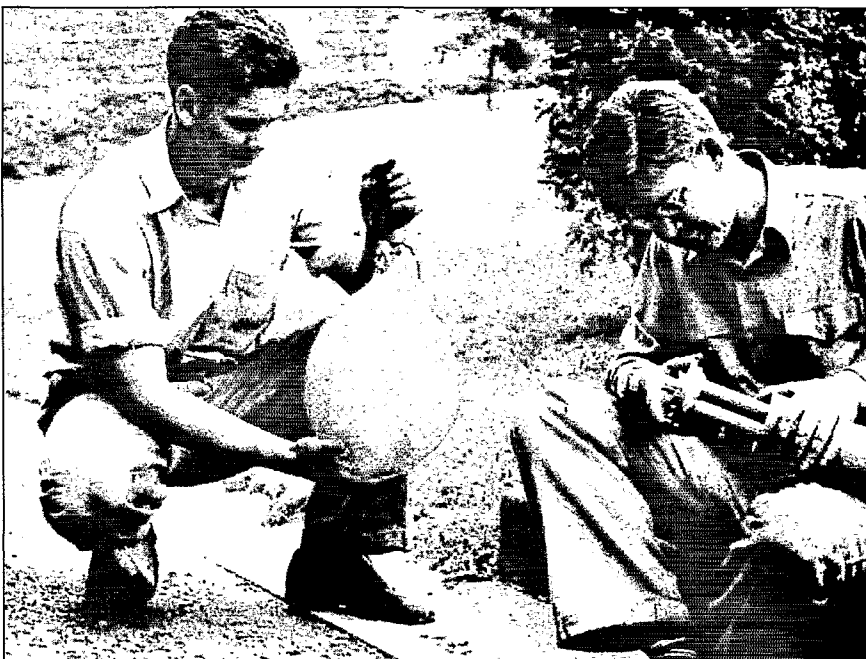
LAMONT Fifty Years of LDEO

To many of us in Palisades, LDEO is a mysterious place on the hill above our village. Few appreciate this unique research institution and realize that basic discoveries made at Lamont since its founding have changed the picture of the world we live in.

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory celebrated its 50th anniversary on October 2 and 3, 1999. The observatory was established half a century ago in Palisades, New York, by Columbia University geology professor Maurice Ewing, its first director, on a 115-acre estate donated to the University by the family of the financier Thomas W. Lamont. In 1949, the institution consisted of Ewing and about fifteen scientists and graduate students working out of the old Lamont home, now Lamont Hall. Today nearly 450 scientific, technical, and support personnel, including 120 scientists and 100 graduate students, work at Lamont, which has become the world's preeminent earth sciences research institution.

The two-day 50th anniversary celebration began on Saturday, October 2, with the annual Lamont Open House. More than 4,500 visitors wandered through eighteen exhibit tents, looked at the displays set up in many buildings, and listened to lectures on the work of the institution.

Close to 200 returning alumni, some from as far away as Russia and Denmark, enjoyed the Open House, where they had their own welcome and refreshment tents. That evening they met with current Lamont staff at a reception given at the IBM Conference Center in Palisades.



JOE WORZEL, LEFT AND DOC EWING, RIGHT. PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICE GERARD.

Former friends who had not met for many years had so much to say to each other that planned announcements were drowned out in lively conversation.

The celebration continued on Sunday, October 3, at the IBM Conference Center. The weather was beautiful and gave the attendees a chance to admire the grounds and facilities at this impressive place. The morning was devoted to reminiscences given by former Lamont staff members, including Joe Worzel, who worked with Ewing for nearly 40 years, Lawrence Kulp, Frank Press,

Jack Oliver, and George Sutton. In the afternoon talks were given by two scientists still at Lamont, Paul Richards and Wally Broecker, and by the Interim Director John Mutter.

The event ended Sunday evening with a gourmet barbecue for the alumni and other members of the Lamont community served in a tent next to Lamont Hall.

Because my husband, Sam Gerard, worked at Lamont for 37 years, we attended all the alumni events. By the end of the weekend my head was full of names and faces, memories and ideas. (And my body

was full of good food!) But the most important part of the occasion for us was the recognition of Lamont's importance to the world of science and its uniqueness as an institution.

Maurice Ewing, its first director, began his career at Lehigh University as a physicist and never had a course in geology. As a professor at Columbia, he taught geophysics, creating the science as his data came in. Ewing had the foresight and creativity to search in the oceans for the answers to earth science problems, the charisma to attract a group of dedicated young men to work with him, and the energy to go non-stop. At Lamont, Doc was often in his office from seven in the morning to eleven at night.

At sea, the Lamont ships took measurements all the time. As Dennis Hayes wrote, "Lamont was the first institution to routinely collect precision depth recording of the seafloor, seismic reflections of the layers below the seafloor, gravity and magnetic measurements, probes of the heat flow through the sea floor, as well as seafloor sediment cores and ocean bottom photographs." During the first years the handful of scientists who worked with Doc designed their own research projects, built their own equipment at the Lamont machine shop with the help of Angelo Ludas, collected their data at sea on the Lamont research vessels, and published data that changed the history of science. Frank Press, one of Doc's first graduate students who went on to become Science Advisor to the President and Chairman of the National Academy of Sciences, remarked that Ewing's formula for success was to go to a place that no one had been before and to take measurements that no one had taken before; over and over again the result was a major discovery.

When Doc began his work, no one understood the relationship

between the continents and the ocean basins separating them. The ocean floor was generally believed to be a static region where sediments accumulated over millions of years. Data collected by the precision depth recorder, designed by Lamont engineer Bernard Luskin, revealed the existence of mountains and valleys beneath the sea. Joe Worzel pioneered the use of gyrostabilized platforms to take gravity measurements, which provided information on deep crustal structures below the seafloor.

Detailed maps of the ocean floor were developed by Bruce Hazen and Marie Tharp, using the new data. These two people were responsible for

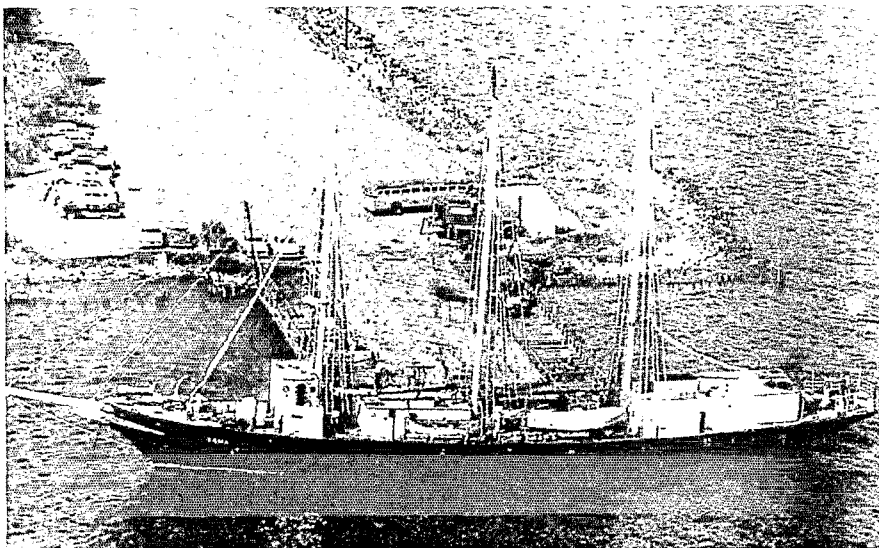
**During the first years the
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more geographic discoveries than anyone before or since. Marie Tharp's discovery of the rift valley marking the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which later turned out to be the center for seafloor spreading, provided an important stimulus to the development of the theory of plate tectonics. Although Harry Hess from Princeton first suggested that continental plates move outward from zones of seafloor spreading, it was the magnetic measurements taken on Lamont ships by Jim Heitzler and Walter Pitman, showing banded reversals in the magnetic field, that provided the final evidence of a dynamic seafloor moving away from both sides of mid-ocean ridges, where new volcanic material was being introduced.

Prior to the ocean studies by Lamont, sediment cores were rarely taken at sea. Doc developed a new, practical corer. He wanted - and usually got - a core a day. The core library, begun by Dave Ericson in the fifties, now holds more than 18,000 cores from more than 11,000 sites worldwide. Information from these cores has been used to identify many features of ocean history, including powerful turbidity currents, recurring climate cycles, levels of pollution, and volcanic eruptions. It is currently being used to develop an accurate chronology of the 66-million year Cenozoic period.

The geochemistry department, begun by J. Lawrence Kulp and continued by Wallace Broecker, pioneered in dating techniques using radiocarbon and other isotopes. Their accurate measurements of increasing levels of strontium-90, a cancer-causing isotope produced by atomic bombs, were important for the development of the treaty banning atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons. Radiocarbon dating of shells in the sediment cores helped to establish climate shifts. Broecker's theory of interruptions of the Great Ocean Conveyor, a current driven by the cold salty waters of the North Atlantic, helps to explain climate variation and to identify a mechanism for the possible harmful effects of Global Warming.

The first seismographs set up to measure vibrations from earthquakes were located in the old Lamont root cellar. Frank Press and Ewing later developed their own improved seismographs; a modest network of these recorders established by Lamont in the 1950s became the prototype for the World Wide Standardized Seismic Network, which now consists of 125 stations around the globe, enabling scientists to pinpoint the location and severity of earthquakes anywhere in



LAMONT'S FORMER RESEARCH VESSEL, THE VEMA, MOORED AT THE PIERMONT PIER.
PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICE GERARD.

the world. Lynn Sykes used seismic data to map undersea earthquakes, eventually identifying a great fracture zone intersecting the mid-ocean ridges. Jack Oliver and others found the first evidence for subduction, the process in which a section of oceanic crust moves against an oceanic plate and plunges down and thrusts beneath it. Sykes and Paul Richards have recently developed criteria for identifying and locating underground nuclear tests, making a ban on underground nuclear testing more feasible.

Researchers at Lamont today are still helping us to understand the earth we live on. Among others, Mark Cane is producing computer models to predict El Niño and La Niña. Gordon Jacoby learns about past climactic events by studying tree rings. In their recent book, *Noah's Flood*, Bill Ryan and Walter Pitman tell the story of their research on that famous deluge.

The first seismographs set up to measure vibrations from earthquakes were located in the old Lamont root cellar.

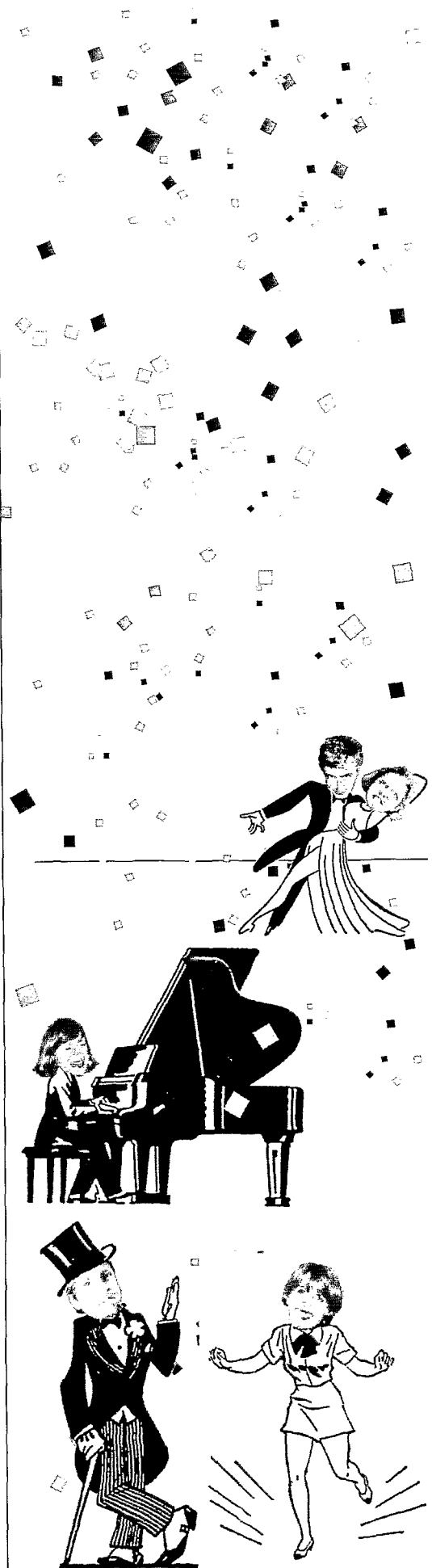
Lamont scientists are using Biosphere 2, now associated with Columbia University, as a resource for teaching and learning. Doc Ewing's work continues.

Even as the 50th anniversary celebration took place, the construction of

a new scientific facility on the LDEO campus was nearing completion. This new laboratory, expected to be finished in November, will house the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction and will be a major center for research on seasonal to interannual climate changes.

As John Mutter said in his closing speech at the reunion, no one can predict the next fifty years at Lamont. That will depend on the vision of the scientists now there, carrying on the past traditions of this unique institution.

Alice Gerard



YONDERHILL

A R E M E M B R A N C E

Yonderhill Dwellers—Palisades' own antique shop and auction gallery—was more than a place of business. It was a phenomenon. A community institution that will never be duplicated. The story of Yonderhill is the story of a group of extraordinary and colorful people who purchased the Old Methodist Meeting House (circa 1859) on Rte. 9W in 1934 and converted it into a place where one could find anything from a cracked crock to a sophisticated sideboard fashioned by Duncan Phyfe himself.

Dominating the scene at Yonderhill (until his death in 1992) was William "Tippie" O'Neil. As brilliant as he was theatrical, Tippie conducted the Yonderhill auction with a style peculiarly his own. Sometimes flamboyant. Sometimes deeply serious. Sometimes inclined to instruct his audience like a school marm, Tippie was always, ALWAYS interesting.

His wife, Charlotte Munn O'Neil, was a close second in the "interesting character" department. She was a psychiatrist and head of female psychiatry at Rockland State Hospital. Coming from Prince Edward Island (a fact she never let you forget), Charlotte was remarkable for her time—not only a psychiatrist, but a woman! Long after she retired from Rockland State to help Tippie at Yonderhill, Charlotte continued to wear her hospital uniform and low-quarter shoes with ankle socks to work. She had frequent conversations with the birds and animals who came to the door for food, and where Tippie was extroverted, Charlotte was self-effacing.

The heart of the business at Yonderhill was John

Garrison, a local Palisadian who joined the Yonderhill crew before World War II and stayed until his death earlier this year. John was a man of complete integrity and unflinching honesty. Much of Yonderhill's success and reputation for knowledgeable integrity came from John. That isn't to say he was always serious. Not John. A twinkle in his eye and a suppressed smile would follow the deadpan delivery of an unexpectedly off-color joke.

Managing the office was Hylda Marshall, also a native Palisadian, who kept the business going with Charlotte while Tippie and John were off in the Pacific fighting a war. Miss Marshall was a fixture in the Yonderhill office wreathed in a cloud of smoke, with a cheery "hello," and a willingness to help anyone with any question except when it came to antiques. Mr. O'Neil or John were the antiques connoisseurs and always deferred to.

Loni Garrison, John's sister-in-law, kept the shop running and the flame burning when the others were indisposed. She continues to be a source of Yonderhill stories that still fascinate today.

That's the cast that filled the principal roles on the Yonderhill stage. Over the years, scores of "extras" played smaller roles, from moving merchandise to making sandwiches on auction

day (two slices of ham and one of American cheese on white, with mustard or mayo).

Richard Benizio and I came to Yonderhill from New York in the mid-1960s in search of antique treasures. And did we find them, like almost everyone who came to Tippie's celebrated auctions. We were often outbid—but



JOHN GARRISON (FOREGROUND) AND TIPPIE O'NEIL (BACKGROUND) AT WORK AT YONDERHILL. PHOTO COURTESY OF LONI GARRISON.

not always, as many of the furnishings in our house will attest.

Auction day always bristled with excitement – summer, fall, winter, spring. Expectation ran high that you would win a work of antique art at a bargain price. Yonderhill was filled with dozens of competitors, many examining exactly the piece you wanted.

Expectation built as the crowd found places in uncomfortable folding chairs and the 10:00 a.m. starting time approached. Then there was a stir as Tippie laboriously mounted the front stairs with two canes, sat in his wheel chair and was ushered to the auctioneer's stand like The Queen of Sheba.

And you were off: "Lot number 1. This is the silliest cup and saucer I've ever seen! Who'll give me five dollars? Now ten. Fifteen. Twenty. Twenty-five. Any more? Sold at \$25. There's no accounting for taste. Lot number 2..."

And so one, through 300 or 400 lots until late in the afternoon.

Tippie's self-deprecating style served him well. Often you found yourself bidding on something you had no interest in at all, but Tippie made it sound appealing. Some auctiongoers were not buyers at all. They came for the show with free seats for a performance that only Broadway could equal.

There was always a break for lunch (remember those

Yonderhill sandwiches) followed by the best objects in the sale. These were the big-money lots that could make the sale a success. They usually did.

Over the years, Yonderhill sold an infinite variety. New York dealers like Israel Sack would come to Palisades for a chance to own a rare William & Mary lowboy or a Chippendale period chest of drawers. Once here, they might find a set of garden furniture owned by Tippie's friend Burgess Meredith or a family portrait from Katherine Cornell.

They also found "box lots" – those things deemed too trivial to sell alone. Sets of embroidered linen. Collections of ephemera that could include a long-forgotten antique toy. The opportunities were endless. And so was Tippie's capacity to wax enthusiastic.

Rich and I were not at Yonderhill in "the long ago" as Tippie would say. (He named his building on Oak Tree Rd., now Henry Ottley's house, "Longago.")

The stories passed on were of exciting times when Palisades was a closer knit community, far away from the urban din. Stories like the time it snowed heavily on an auction day and NO ONE showed up, except Maurice Evans in snow shoes!

Yonderhill, your doors may be close, but you will live in our memories forever. *Ernie Quick*

YONDERHILL'S LAST DAY

On Saturday, October 30, Loni Garrison hosted the final gathering of long-time friends and associates at Yonderhill Antiques before shutting the doors for good on Palisade's longest running business. Since first opening its doors 65 years ago, Yonderhill has been a magnet for antique connoisseurs in the tri-state area.

For decades until he passed away in 1992, the effervescent owner, Tippy O'Neil, presided over the auctions that established Yonderhill's reputation for quality and conviviality. Throughout the last decade during Tippy's and then John Garrison's final illness, Loni Garrison kept Yonderhill going. The last two treasures,



JOHN GARRISON, HYLDA MARSHALL, AND LONI GARRISON

an 1825 Duncan Phyfe cabinet made for John James Audubon and an 1840 chandelier were sold in mid-October. Although the auctions effectively ended in 1989, a number of people still regarded Yonderhill as a sort of second home and would gather regularly for lunch with John Garrison, his sister-in-law Loni, and Hylda Marshall.

The farewell gathering was full of laughter and tears.

"The times we had," Loni remembered wistfully, "The auctions and the parties. People came from all over. We had a ball." At the farewell party, Ernie Quick led the round of toasts with stories from the auction days (see accompanying article). *Milbry Polk*



BULLETIN BOARD



Special Events: December/January

FINE WINE AUCTION, WINE TASTING & GOURMET DINNER, DEC. 11

Carol Plotkin is part of a committee organizing this Rockland Center for the Arts benefit to be held at the IBM Conference Center in Palisades on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 pm. The evening's auctioneer and host will be Michael Green, wine expert and wine consultant to *Gourmet* who has worked in the wine trade writing and tasting his way through the great vineyards of the world for the last 14 years.

In addition to the live and silent auctions of collectible bottles of fine wine and luxury lifestyle items, Green will give an informative talk about the wines specially selected to accompany the six-course dinner. For information or reservations, call the Center at 358-0877.

NEW YEAR EVE GALA AT MAURA'S-ON-MAIN

Palisadians Larry Bucciarelli and Henry Ottley, co-owners (along with Maura Martin) of Maura's-On-Main restaurant in Nyack, invite you to a special New Year celebration on Dec. 31 beginning at 10:30 pm.

Music and dancing, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts and pastries, party favors and a champagne toast at midnight are all included in the charge of \$50 per person. Reservations are limited so call early: 348-1921.

Elmwood Playhouse, Nyack

Through Dec. 11: *Tim* by Neil Berg and Nick Meglin, a world premiere musical; continuation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, a holiday entertainment for the entire family.

Jan. 21 - Feb. 12: *Three Tall Women* by Edward Albee, 1994 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. "A truly moving work," New York Times. For information and reservations, call 353-1313.

December Events for Children, Nyack

HELEN HAYES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Dec. 4, - Jan. 2: *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. Music, dancing, ghosts. For the whole family.

Dec. 18, Saturday: Tom Chapin performing children's music. 12:30 & 3 pm. All ages.

Dec. 27, Monday: *Peter and the Wolf*, musical stage version by the Pushcart Players. 12:30 & 2:30 pm. Ages 3-10.

Dec. 28, Tuesday: *Rumplestiltskin*, a musical. 12:30 & 2:30 pm. Ages 3-11.

Dec. 30, Thursday: *Aesop's Fables*, giant puppets and masks by Poko Puppets. 12:30 & 2:30 pm. Ages 4-12.

For reservations and information, call 358-6333.

HUDSON VALLEY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Special Events: Family Friday, Dec. 18, 6-8 pm; Story Time, week days at 2 pm; New Years at Noon, Dec. 31 at 12 pm.

Weekend Workshops: Open Art Workshop, Saturdays 11-1 pm, 1:30-3:30 pm, 3:30-4 pm. Sundays 1-3 pm, 3:30-5 pm. All ages.

Sensational Sundays: Dec. 12, 2-2:45 pm. Holiday stories with Ben Jacobs. Ages 3 & up. December weekday workshops are also scheduled. Call 358-2191, 358-2314.

Palisades Post Office is Award-winner

Our post office was selected by the U.S. Postal Service as a Silver Award winner for highest sales of breast cancer awareness stamps in the second quarter of 1999. Keep buying those stamps!

Holiday Pottery Sales

JANE HEROLD is holding her annual Pottery Sale Saturday, Dec. 11, from dawn to dusk, or call 359-5421 to arrange another time. Black dinnerware and serving pieces can be made to order.

SYLVIA MARCH will hold her annual Pottery sale on Dec. 10-12 from 1-5pm.

WWI Medal Awarded

Last summer, Joseph Kabakow, a 10 year resident of Palisades Gardens, the senior citizens home on Oak Tree Road, was awarded a medal 81 years after serving in the American army in France during World War I. Now 104 years old, he was awarded The Legion of Honor, France's highest award, by French Consul General Richard Duque at a ceremony at the home on July 8.

Born in Minsk, Russia in 1894, Kabakow left Russia in 1913 at age 19 during a time of increasingly anti-Semitic Russian government. Shortly after arriving in America, he enlisted in the American army and was sent to France in 1917, serving there until 1919.

French President Jacques Chirac ordered the medal awarded as a tribute during commemorations last year of the 80th anniversary of the Nov. 11, 1918 armistice ending the war.

IN SERVICE

Surviving veterans who served in the armed forces in these eras.

CONFLICT	ROCKLAND	STATE	NATION
WORLD WAR I	1	200	3,400
WORLD WAR II	5,370	400,023	6,299,600
KOREA	4,410	243,000	4,147,600
VIETNAM	6,850	411,000	8,131,900
PERSIAN GULF	1,310	112,000	2,037,000

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

After-School Enrichment Program

The South Orangetown Community Elementary School system runs enrichment programs for children in grades 1-5. The next session runs from February 28-April 7. We are looking for additional teachers to teach new and interesting classes for the children. Some suggestions are: sewing, crafts, quilt making, magic tricks, juggling, puppetry, clowning, card game or board games, writing, movement, music, language, calligraphy, storytelling, mask making, acting, or gardening. Each class meets once a week, after school, for six weeks and is one hour in duration. If you are interested in teaching, please call Karen Tagliente, asap, at 359-6380. (Sponsored by the SOCES PTA)

BUS STOP SHELTERS

No doubt most of our readers have noticed the bus stop shelter recently placed on the west side of Route 9W near the Oak Tree Road intersection. This should have been accomplished much sooner but was delayed by bureaucratic red tape, including the need to obtain permits from county and state authorities.



PHOTO BY ALICE GERARD

Palisades resident and architect Joe Tonetti provided an excellent design for the structure. We could have gotten an aluminum and plastic shelter much sooner, but Joe's design is far superior and more appropriate in our historic area.

Orangetown Highway Superintendent Jimmy Dean and his workers and the Rockland County Highway Department played an important role in site preparation and the laying of the concrete foundation slab. Red and Tan Bus Lines helped in financing the purchase of materials.

Gary Lawrence and Bob Colombo, instructors in the Construction Trades Program at the Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) and their students constructed the shelters. Palisades residents Henry Otle and Joe Tonetti monitored the construction phase. In addition Henry has agreed to do the finishing touches (some trim and a bench). Jimmy Dean's workers installed the structure at the site. Palisades resident Frank Valerio, Sr. did the shingling.

The project has had the support of Orangetown Supervisor Thom Kleiner and Deputy Supervisor Eliot Tozer, and Mr. Tozer coordinated the overall effort.

We owe a thank you to all those mentioned above for their contributions to this project.

BOCES is willing to construct a second shelter to be placed on the other side of Rte. 9W, but is unable to schedule the work until the spring semester. Therefore, Mr. Tozer is attempting to make other more expeditious arrangements. This project has been frustratingly slow in coming to fruition, but we have made progress and in due course we will have two fine shelters.

Reg Thayer

SCHOOL NEWS

No Reorganization After All— Schools Will Keep SOCES

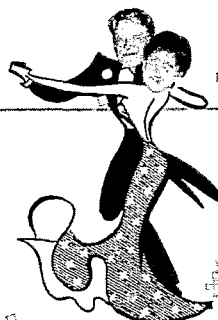
On November 1, 1999, the South Orangetown Board of Education voted on whether or not to carry out previous plans to reorganize our elementary schools. Reorganizing would have made both TZE and WOS into grade K-3 buildings. Because it had been three years since the vote to reorganize, the Board felt it was important to revisit this decision to see if anything of significance had changed before implementing the reorganization. The Board voted to remain SOCES.

Palisades Pre-school, which has lived on Oak Tree Road for 20 years, is scheduled to move into its newly built wing at the William O. Schaefer School in September 2000. Three ways to integrate Palisades Pre-school into the SOCES model are being considered:

1. Interchanging TZE and WOS next year, making TZE grades 2 and 3 and WOS grades K and 1.
2. Phasing in the interchange of TZE and WOS over two years, making TZE a grade 1 and 2 building and WOS a K and 3 building next year; in 2001 WOS would become grades K and 1 and TZE would become grades 2 and 3.
3. No change. TZE would remain grades K and 1 and WOS would remain 2 and 3.

The public is encouraged to come to the Board of Education Meeting at the South Orangetown Middle School on December 13, at 7:30 p.m. to learn more about the strengths and limitations of each option and to participate in the discussion.

Carol Plotkin



Palisadians Joining Piermont Rowing Club



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PETER FERNBERGER

Five years ago as Peter Fernberger was finishing renovating his house in Piermont he began to dream about the river. Then one day during a visit to a marina he noticed an old rowing shell filled with ice slung on the roof of a shed. Here he realized was the answer he was looking for. Since college days he had wanted to row, but because of his small size he had never tried. Now was his chance. He bought the boat, restored it and taught himself to row on the Hudson River.

In the beginning he said, "I didn't think this sport fit into the family so I only rowed early in the morning before they woke up. But I began to realize this was a sport not only my family but that others might be interested in so I got the idea of starting a rowing club."

Later during a school meeting with his daughter's teacher, Ann O'Brien, he mentioned his dream of rowing and discovered that she had been the lightweight stroke on the Radcliffe boat at Harvard University. She immediately offered to help out and train interested people. Then Peter met Dan and Kerrie Bates of Sneden's Landing. Dan rowed his single across the river to work in Irvington. They both joined Peter to help him put together a rowing club. Gradually by word of mouth people began contacting Peter about rowing. Realizing his dream was close to reality, Peter joined the US Rowing Club to acquire insurance and to become officially registered in the national association. The Piermont Rowing Club was born. Peter acquired 2 four-man boats, a double, the use of several private singles and a motor boat for coaching. The Tappan Zee Marina in Piermont generously offered space to house and launch the boats.

During the 1999 season, more than 30 families from

Piermont, Palisades, Nyack, Grandview, Sparkhill and New City joined. Rowers from Palisades include Dan and Kerrie Bates, Jane Herold, Greta Nettleton, Milbry Polk, Nina Prusinowski, Tom Ryan, and Christian Schneider. A junior program is being organized by Peter's daughter Emma and includes Bree Polk-Bauman and Senia Hardwick.



TOP: MENS TEAM COMPETES AT THE HEAD OF THE CHARLES RACE IN OCTOBER. L TO R: PETER FERNBERGER, COX, LINCOLN COLWELL, ANDY HARNETT, TOM RYAN, AND MIKE BRENNAN. ABOVE: WOMENS TEAM CELEBRATES THEIR FINISH. L TO R: ANN O'BRIEN, COX, BRONWEN WOODHEAD, LAURA HUDSON, GAYLE FITZPATRICK, AND PAM HUDSON.

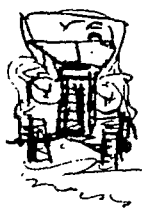
The Club entered its first regatta in Mystic, Connecticut, in September, where the men's boat took 3rd place. The women's boat came in 2 seconds behind the next boat for a fourth. In October the Club went to Cambridge, Mass. to row in the pre-eminent Head of the Charles Regatta. Given that they were racing against college teams, Peter said they considered their 47th place finish out of 66 "a complete and utter victory for a new club and for the boat with the oldest crew in the race." The women's boat did well too.

Just because the Hudson is now freezing cold doesn't mean the season is over. During the winter the Club plans to design and build a specially designed launching dock, develop a training program for new rowers, continue working out on rowing machines, dream of a boat house, and continue its active social program-- rowers love to party and talk about rowing.

For more information on the sport visit the web -- www.row2K.com. To join the Piermont Rowing Club call Molly MacQueen: 359-0417. The initiation fee is \$250 per family and annual dues are \$100 per rower.

The Piermont Rowing Club is a not-for-profit 501C-3. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to support this exciting new venture please contact Peter Fernberger 365-2452. *Milbry Polk*

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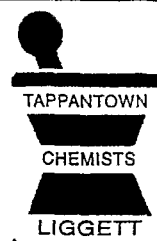
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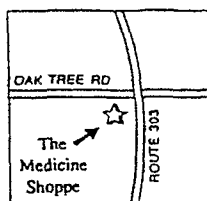
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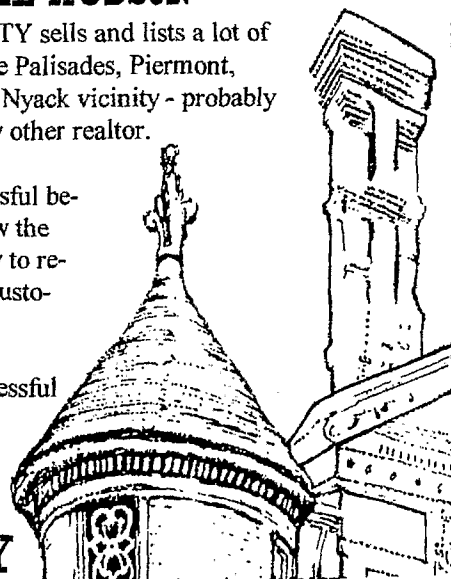
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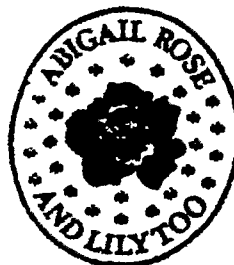
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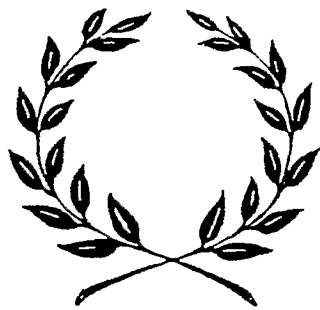
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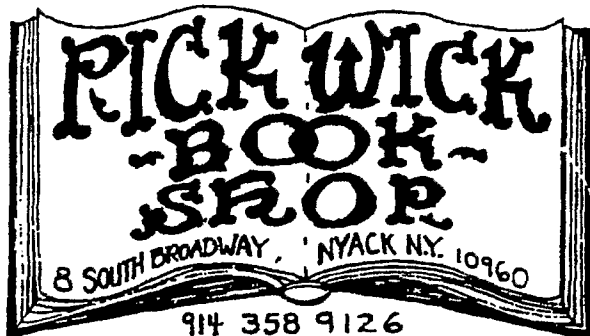


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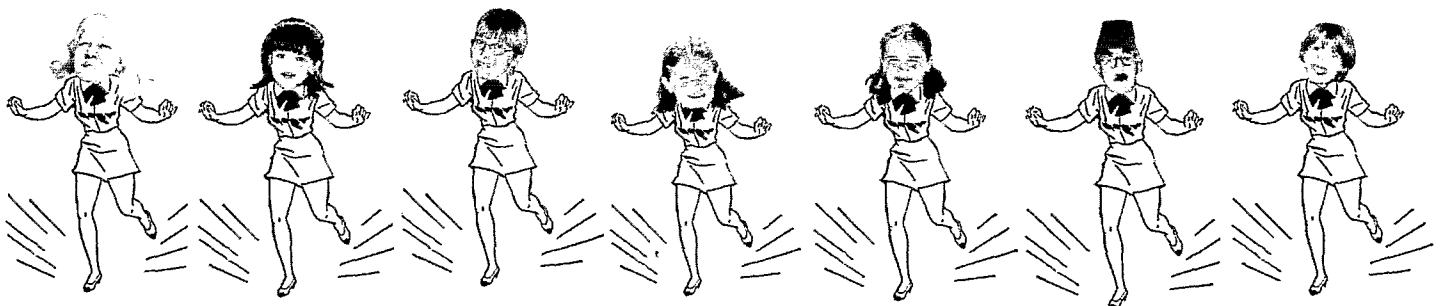
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About 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades. **10964** needs your support and contributions are welcome. Send ideas, items for publication, offers to join the staff, and financial help to **10964**, Post Office Box 201, Palisades, New York, 10964. We will be putting **10964** in your mailbox four times this year from October through June.

10964 Staff Members.

Judy O'Neil Castagna, John Converse, Jocelyn DeCrescenzo, Carol Elevitch, Alice Gerard, Diana Green, Tad Hyde, Ellen Chayet Kidd, Greta Nettleton, Andy Norman, Milbry Polk, Holly Seger, Caroline Tapley, Mary Tiegreen. Treasurer: *Susan Gersony.*

Editor for this issue: Greta Nettleton

Designer for this issue: Mary Tiegreen

Contributions:

We are grateful for a contribution from the Friends of the Palisades Free Library.

October issue correction: Margaret Anderson was stricken in her garden on June 21st and died three days later on June 24th.

10964 Newsletter
P.O. Box 201
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PALISADES LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING



ELLEN GALINSKY

AUTHOR OF

**ASK THE CHILDREN: WHAT AMERICA'S
CHILDREN REALLY THINK ABOUT
WORKING PARENTS**

will be the speaker at 2000 Annual Meeting,
to be held at the Library on
Sunday, January 30, at 2-4 pm.
Refreshments will be served

All Palisades residents are invited to attend. At this meeting, two new members of the Board of Trustees will be elected. Anyone wishing to join in supporting the Library's activities, either as a Board member or on a volunteer basis, should contact the Library Director, Beatrice Agnew, or any one of the current trustees.