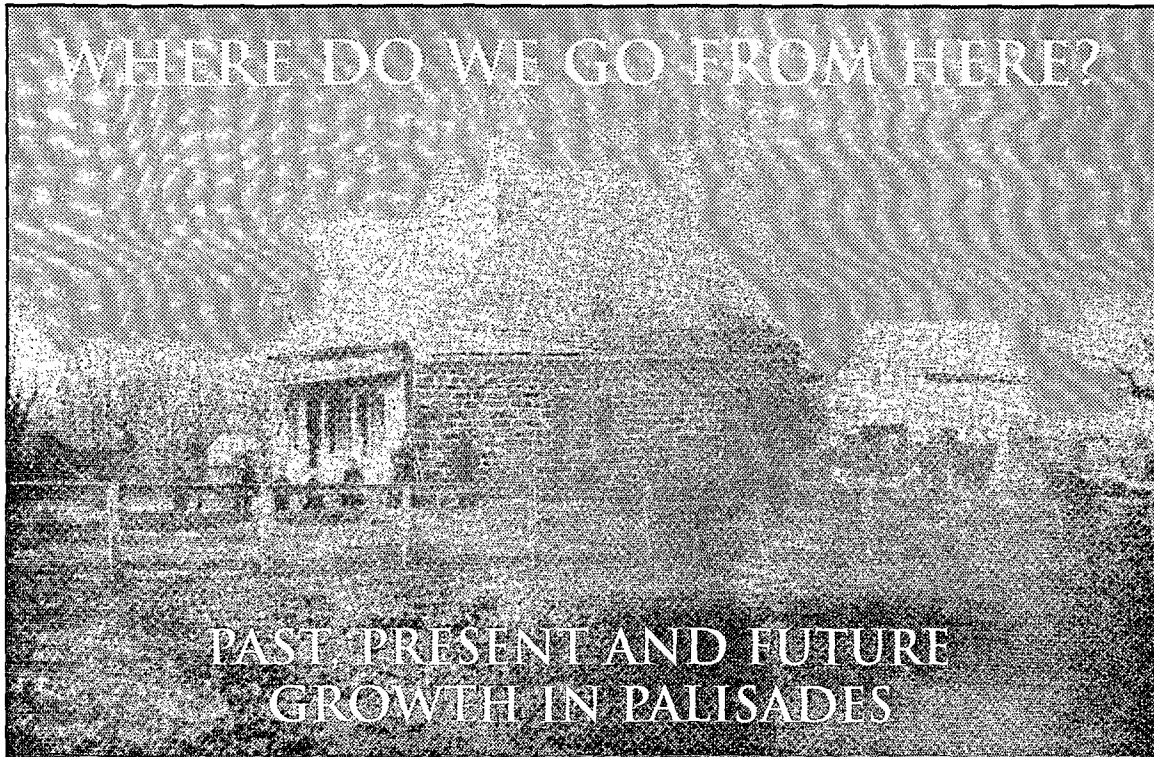


10964

THE
PALISADES
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2001 NUMBER 173



The Abraham Post House on Closter Road.



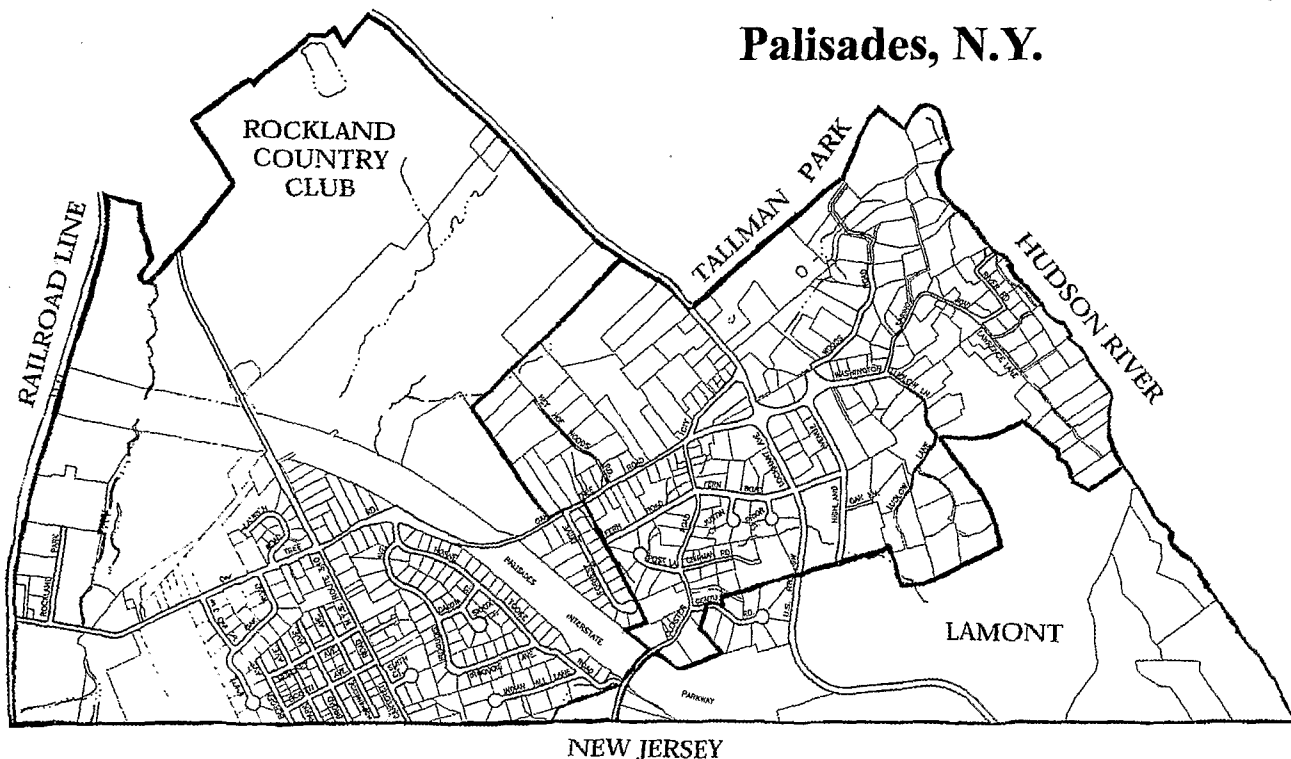
As one who has worked with the historical archives of Palisades and studied the growth of this community from earliest times, I have a long-range perspective on how the village has changed. In 1700 one man owned the whole area, with a large house and probably several outbuildings for servants. By 1800 there may have been twenty houses, ten of which are still standing, in the area included in the historic district. In 1850 there were still only thirty to forty houses, reflecting the fact that many people did some farming and needed quite a bit of land. By 1905, the census showed 73 households in all of Palisades. In 1925, there were 132 households. Today one can count about 500 houses in the whole hamlet. Within the historic district, 91 of the 210 houses have been built since 1950.

Houses are becoming larger. Until the second half of the nineteenth century, when the Lawrences and Gilmans arrived and built large houses like Niederhurst and Cliffside, most Palisades houses were small. The first developments in Palisades, built in the 1950s, were composed of modestly-sized houses.

But recent developments along Closter Road are composed of large houses and new houses on both sides of 9W are generally much larger than older ones surrounding them. The pace of construction of all kinds — new housing, additions and alterations to existing buildings — has speeded up significantly. Bulldozers and heavy construction equipment are a common sight; they create noise, damage the roads, alter the drainage, and often interfere with the passage of local traffic on the narrow side roads.

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Palisades, N.Y.



Below is the current tax map of Palisades, New York. The area enclosed within a dark line on the upper right hand side of this map is the Historic District.

The problem is not unique to Palisades. In all parts of the US, new houses built by affluent owners are becoming larger and larger, displacing older houses and changing the nature of communities. This exponential growth is at present limited by the available land for building and current zoning laws. But these may change. Will we be able to preserve the unique character of Palisades, or are we looking forward to a time, not too far in the future, when the smaller, older, houses will have been torn down and replaced by either monster mansions or high rise apartments?

In 1967 Palisades became the second historic district in Orangetown, an area within which new construction had to be approved by a special board concerned with preserving the nature of the community and protecting the older houses. At the same time the zoning in parts of Palisades was increased from R-15 (1/4 acre lots) to R-40 (one acre) or R-80 (two acre) lots. Although the Historic Board has the power to deny permission for construction or major alterations if the proposed construction is not in harmony [defined in the Historic Law as being in congruity in features such as building height, width, square footage, position on site and architectural style] with houses in the surrounding area, it has seldom used this power. Recently owners in Snedens Landing were allowed to nearly double the size of a house built in the 1930s, in close proximity to five of the oldest historic structures in this area, all much smaller in size. The resulting size of this house is not in congruity with that of the neighboring houses. Board members apparently feel that once one large house exists in the community, they can't say no to others. They may also fear being sued by wealthy applicants. Although it is too late to correct past mistakes, the Historic Board should be encouraged to apply the letter and spirit of the existing law.

As an example, an application a few years ago for construction of a large new house on Oak Tree Road opposite Post Row (a series of modest-sized houses built by members of the Post family in the mid-nineteenth century) was only defeated because neighbors opposed to the construction appeared in force at HABR meetings. They also sued the Zoning Board of Appeals, which had given several variances to the owner, and won

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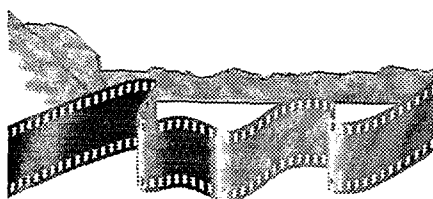
NEW FILM SOCIETY PLANNED FOR HELEN HAYES THEATER



Reimagined by the recent demise of so many theaters in the area (Nanuet, Spring Valley, etc.), a group of local enthusiasts has banded together to form the Rivertown Film Society. Some of the key founding members include Rick Pantale, owner of Piermont Pictures video store, Kris Burns, Rich Guay, Mercedes Ross, Robin Mooring, Matthew Seig, Cara Haycak, Joe Baer, and Joan May.

Back in December, Nyack resident Joan May sent a letter to the editor of a local newsletter asking people if they were interested in seeing foreign films at the Helen Hayes Theater. She got a call from her neighbor, Kris Burns, who was part of a group already working on the same idea, and they immediately joined forces. The project is snowballing; the mailing list has

Rivertown Film Society



rivertownfilms.org

over 300 names and continues to grow as more names pour in. Publicity, financial planning, and grant-writing are underway.

Currently, the plan is that next fall, Rivertown will lease the Helen Hayes Theater in Nyack once a month on Sunday evenings to show an eclectic variety of films otherwise not available in Rockland, including recent releases of independent, foreign, and documentary films, as well as classics from past decades. The bulk of tickets will be sold by subscription, in 3- and 6-movie packages, but walk-ins will be welcome too.

The theater has a rehearsal space next door where something better than popcorn can be served, so after the shows, subscribers will be able to socialize and sit in on workshop discussions with local luminaries. Director Jonathan Demme, who will also be on the society's advisory board, is already lined up to participate. During the summer, Rivertown will co-sponsor two free outdoor films with Friends of Nyack in Memorial Park.

The Society is planning a gala benefit this April to honor founding donors and raise additional money for

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WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Continued from Page 2



One of the older houses in Palisades:
Can we preserve them for the future?

the case in New York Supreme Court, forcing the builder to construct a smaller house.

At present, the Board does not seem to have a firm policy on the enlargement of smaller houses, in spite of clear provisions in the historic law. One of the real issues is: What would the Board do if an applicant bought a house built before 1918 and petitioned to tear it down and replace it with a much larger house? According to the Historic Law, this cannot be done without permission from the Board.

Palisades currently has only two members out of seven on the Historic Board, and our concerns, different from those in Tappan, are not adequately represented. For example, the Palisades Historic Area has much more undeveloped land than the Tappan Historic Area. Appointments to the Board have become political instead of being based on residence or interest in the preservation of the historic district.

The Historic Board of Review and the Town Board need more and better input from Palisades residents. I suspect that many readers of 10964 have strong feelings about the issues discussed above. Supervisor Kleiner has offered us an opportunity to discuss our concerns about the Historic Areas Law and the current and future functioning of the Historic Areas Board of Review in relation to our community at a Workshop Meeting with the Town Board. **The meeting is presently scheduled for 8 p.m. on March 19, at Town Hall, and we hope that many Palisades residents will attend. It's a good idea to confirm the date by calling Town Hall a day or two ahead of time.** Please call me at 359-4338 if you have questions or comments relating to this article.

Alice Gerard
Palisades Historic Committee

BAPS CARE INTERNATIONAL APPEALS FOR HELP TO REBUILD SHATTERED TOWNS, LIVES AFTER INDIA'S EARTHQUAKE



January 26, 2001. India is ravaged by its most powerful earthquake in a century, measuring 7.9 in the Richter scale.

Today. The landscape is dotted with makeshift shelters of those who have lost their homes, their belongings, their families. Handcarts and wagons pass, carrying bodies wrapped in blankets and sheets of plastic, telling a tale of unparalleled anguish and loss. For the victims, there will be no traditional funeral rites. There is no time. Their names, if known, are written in notebooks. The air is filled with smoke from the many cremation pyres. While it is feared that many bodies will never be recovered from under the debris, more than 25,000 have been confirmed dead, and some estimate the death toll to be as high as 100,000.

There are some wounds that can never be healed entirely. For example, in the town of Anjar, 55 kilometers south of the quake's epicenter, nearly 400 schoolchildren were buried under tons of steel and mortar. "We have lost an entire generation," says Bhaoraji Saifuddin, who mourns 32 relatives.

The survivors, the "lucky" ones, will battle nightmarish visions for years to come, their trauma almost unimaginable. Tiny Mahima Patel, swathed in bandages, is among a handful of children saved. She sits, trancelike, at a medical camp in Anjar. Staring straight ahead, she hums a tune she had been rehearsing for the school's Republic Day parade. Relatives say the quake killed six of her close friends and wiped out the entire junior class of her school.

However, India must quickly address the most immediate physical concerns it faces right now. Hundreds of thousands of homeless, hungry survivors have endured many days and nights in the open, huddled together against the night's chill. Tents are in short supply. "We are freezing cold and we don't know how our children will survive," says a woman who camps with several other families along the road to the Bhuj airport.

Nearly 5,000 volunteers affiliated with BAPS Care International have fed over 41,000 people at relief kitchens in areas affected by the earthquake. Pre-packaged, freshly-cooked food, snacks and drinking water pouches have been distributed daily to towns and villages along with thousands of blankets to fight the winter chill. Medical camps have been set up to prescribe and distribute medicines. BAPS engineers are in the process of installing three water filtration plants. But, with the magnitude of the disaster, so much more is needed.

"Cash donations would be the greatest help," says Chinu Jani, a BAPS volunteer and long time resident of Palisades "so that we can ensure that these many homeless people will be provided with basic necessities to begin to rebuild their lives."

BAPS can be reached by phone at 1-800-301-5594, or on-line at www.baps-care.org. Donations can be charged to major credit cards or made by check, payable to "BAPS Earthquake Relief Fund, PO Box 890626, Dallas, TX 75389-0626. All donations are tax deductible.

EL SALVADOR EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

For the third time in five weeks, a major earthquake rattled the streets of San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, terrifying thousands of people. This recent quake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale, is one of thousands of aftershocks being felt by the residents of this small Central American country. A 7.6-magnitude quake on Jan. 13 killed at least 844 people and damaged or destroyed 278,000 dwellings. One month later, a 6.6-magnitude quake killed an additional 402 people, injured 3,153 and destroyed 45,000 homes.

Those wishing to help the victims of these devastating earthquakes can contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-HELP-NOW (1-800-435-7669). The American Red Cross, along with other relief agencies are still helping in the recovery efforts in both El Salvador and India.

CONVERSATION WITH DIANA GREEN

DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE TROUPE

By Milbry Polk



When Diana Green was growing up in Palisades she had the extraordinary opportunity of acting in a Shakespeare troupe organized by Director Jean Brock. In 1999, Diana realized her life long dream and created her own Children's Shakespeare troupe. Using the Palisades Presbyterian Church as her base she led her troupe of 20 students through a year's worth of workshops and rehearsals which culminated in the highly successful production of *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*. This March her theater troupe will be performing their second production, *As You Like It*.

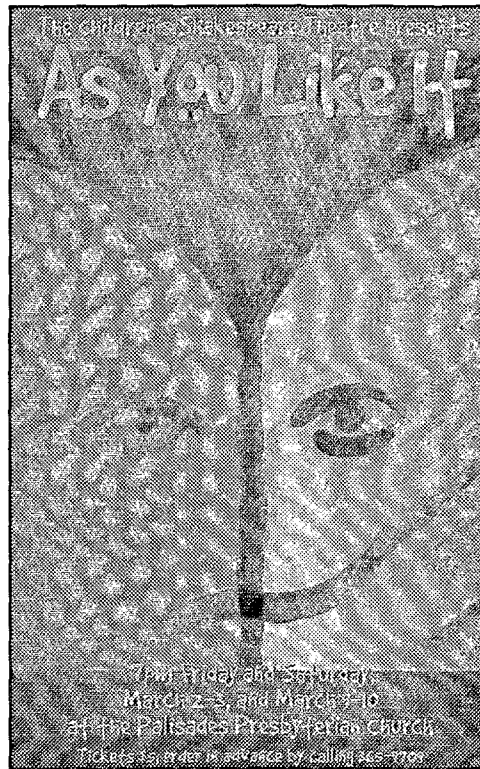
MP: Why do feel it is important for children to be involved with Shakespeare? It is difficult for many children to comprehend the language and many words in his plays that are no longer used.

DG: There are so many reasons why Shakespeare should be part of a child's education. His stories are universal. Quite a bit of modern literature and films are based on Shakespearean themes, which were, in turn, based on ancient stories. Also there are characters in Shakespeare's plays that almost any person can identify with. I think that in school Shakespeare is taken too seriously and children become intimidated by his work. Through performing plays they get to approach Shakespeare on his own terms and play with the material. Shakespeare is fun! If children become comfortable with Shakespeare it never leaves them. They will gain a wide vocabulary, an appreciation for different types of people, insight into a variety of human conditions, and have an exposure to history. The children gain a facility for recognizing universal truths.

MP: How is this year different than last year?

DG: Well we have a lot more kids. I had to double cast the play to give more children a chance to be lead parts. But it has also been frustrating because I don't see each child as much as I saw them last year. I am still working out the format and perhaps next year we will change again. The response has been overwhelming. We experimented with different methods for learning this year. In the workshops the kids learned techniques for voice and movement and

explored the story of the play. We attended a performance of *Richard III* in New York City. We plan to attend more professional performances because I would like the children to gain comfort with Shakespeare's language by exposure to a variety of his plays.



Poster by David Green

MP: What plans do have for your own education?

DG: This past summer I took a workshop for teachers of Shakespeare at Shakespeare and Company in the Berkshires. I discovered that my program was unique in their sphere of contacts. Most other programs are affiliated with schools. I was the only independent director. I plan to return for a month's intensive actor-director workshop next summer in which I hope to gain more experience with innovative ways to teach Shakespeare.

MP: How old are your actors?

DG: Currently I work with kids between the ages of 8 and 14 with younger siblings added as extras. This age grouping is ideal because the youngest have the ability to read well and the older ones are wonderful

OPEN SPACES

COUNTY'S STREAM CONTROL PROGRAM PLANS ACQUISITION OF TWO PROPERTIES IN PALISADES

Rockland County is planning to purchase two pieces of land abutting the Sparkill Creek and Oak Tree Road for flood control according to District county legislator, John Murphy. In an interview with *10964* in early February. One lot of 20 acres is on the south side bordering the New Jersey line, and a smaller, one-acre lot is on the north side of Oak Tree Road adjacent to Tobar Excavating Inc.

Mr. Murphy recently walked that part of the creek with Palisades resident Skip Vezetti, the Rockland County Superintendent of Highways, and they agreed that the purchase of these parcels, along with two others in Blauvelt, were important in preventing future flooding problems. According to Mr. Vezetti, the highway department will dredge the creek to open up the stream channel and increase the flow rate. Water retention and detention basins may also be constructed on the site.

The Tenneco gas pipeline that supplies most of New England with pressurized gas through a 24-inch pipe runs right across the parcel. Readers of *10964* will recall that in 1995, a backhoe operator working next to the creek was only inches away from puncturing the pipe with the machine's metal bucket when Palisades resident Richie Vickerman alerted town officials just in time to stop the work. This action narrowly averted a catastrophic explosion. The backhoe had been hired by the borough of Northvale to dredge the swamp around the creek for mosquito control. Richard Farry, Orangetown's Highway Superintendent at the time, had given his OK for the digging without checking for buried utilities in the area, and without obtaining any permits from the Department of Environmental Conservation for digging in a Federally protected wetlands area.

In the February interview, Mr. Murphy stated that "it would be criminal for the property to be sold to a developer for building, because it's a floodplain." He did not foresee any difficulties in acquiring the property, which is currently owned by a New Jersey company located in Northvale. The purchase would not be part of the county's Open Spaces initiative. Instead, funds would come from Rockland's \$3 million construction bond/capital improvement program; and the land would be maintained in the future by the county's drainage program, a subdivision of the highway department.

Another one-acre parcel of land on Oak Tree Road, just over the line in Tappan near the corner of Lawrence Street, was also under consideration by the county, but was transferred to the Town of Orangetown's Open Spaces list because of its proximity to town parkland along the old railroad tracks.

Mr. Vezetti remembers many floods in that area, but feels that there has been less of a problem in the last ten to fifteen years since the dredging started. He said that there is the possibility that dredging will not be enough to solve the problem, and a holding pond might have to be built on the 20-acre parcel, although this would require further study. He stressed that any project would be carried out according to environmentally sound methods to avoid unnecessary damage to the creek's ecosystem, and all DEC permits would be obtained as required for construction in a wetlands area.

Mr. Murphy told us that flooding and damage caused by Hurricane Floyd spawned more calls and letters than any other single issue he has handled in 29 years as a public official in the area. As a result, he has made the Sparkill Creek his number one legislative priority for this year.

Mr. Murphy emphasized that he is as interested in restoring the creek as he is in flood control. As part of his campaign to raise community awareness for restoration and preservation of the creek, Mr. Murphy is in the process of approaching local representatives of the Sierra Club with a proposal to organize a series of walking tours of the creek that would take place in the spring or summer. He is also sponsoring an exhibit entitled "Orangetown's Waters," focusing on the Sparkill Creek. This exhibit will open for viewing at the Orangetown History Museum in October.

Greta Nettleton

LIBRARY NEWS

BOARD MEETINGS

The Palisades Library Board of Trustees meets six times a year. Meetings are open to the public. Please call the library to verify date and time.

Any resident wishing to address the board should notify it for inclusion on the agenda (359-0136).

ADULT WRITING PROGRAM

Sunday, April 1st, 2001, 2:00 to 4:00PM. Join Warren Dittmar for "Birds Dancing on the Winds," a program exploring the many aspects of writing, including creative writing and journal keeping. Mr. Dittmar has lectured on writing, photography, art, and neuro-linguistic programming. He is the director of the Focus Center in Suffern, and is a psychotherapist.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Please come to the library to sign up, as space is limited.

Bird Mobiles: Tuesday, March 20th at 4:15. Come and make a bird mobile to enjoy at home. Ability to use scissors well will be important. For children grade 1 and up.

Origami with Myrna Sigel: Wednesday, April 4th at 4:15. Especially for older children, we will be creating spring things using the ancient Japanese art of paper folding. It is challenging and rewarding; and Mrs. Sigel is an excellent teacher. Participants must be at least 9 years old.

Something to Crow About! Thursday, April 5th at 4:15. A rooster, a nest, an egg or two. Children must be at least in grade 1.

Story Hour continues on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30. For children ages 3 and up.

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

Tel: 359-0136 Fax: 359-6124

www.rcls.org/pal

E-mail: pal@rcls.org

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 1:00-9:00

Friday 1:00-5:00

Saturday 11:00-5:00

Sunday 1:00-5:00

Closed Sunday Apr. 15th, Easter Sunday

NEW ADULT FICTION

Lois Battle, **The Florabama Ladies' Auxiliary & Sewing Circle**

Maeve Binchy, **Scarlet Feather**

Barbara Taylor Bradford, **The Triumph of Katie Byrne**

Peter Carey, **The True History of the Kelly Gang**

Don DeLillo, **The Body Artist**

Xingjian Gao, **Soul Mountain**

Allegra Goodman, **Paradise Park**

Stephen King, **Dreamcatcher**

Terry McMillan, **A Day Late and a Dollar Short**

Joyce Carol Oates, **Faithless: Tales of Transgression**

Maggie O'Farrell, **After You'd Gone**

George Pelacanos, **Right as Rain**

Amy Tan, **The Bonesetter's Daughter**

CD ROMS

The following CDs have been added to the juvenile collection:

Big Action Construction,

Blue's 123 Time Activities

Brain Quest 3rd Grade

Curious George Paint and Print Studio

Curious George Reads, Writes & Spells

JumpStart Preschool, JumpStart Spelling

JumpStart Toddlers

Magic School Bus Explores the Age of Dinosaurs

Magic School Bus Explores the Earth.

READING CLUB

The reading club meets monthly. If you wish to join please call Ms. Joan Sanders at 623-8262.

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CONSTANCE FAUST REMEMBERED

We mourn the accidental death of Connie Faust who was struck by a car, December 12th, while crossing Route 303 in Valley Cottage.

A graduate of Swarthmore College and the University of Michigan, Connie taught French and Latin before becoming a library media specialist for the Clarkstown schools. In 1999 after retiring she joined the Palisades Library staff as a permanent part-time reference librarian. She was an excellent and dedicated librarian. Connie was also a gardener and an animal lover. She liked to swim and hike and read, of course.

We miss her very much, as do her friends and those who came to know her while she worked at our library.

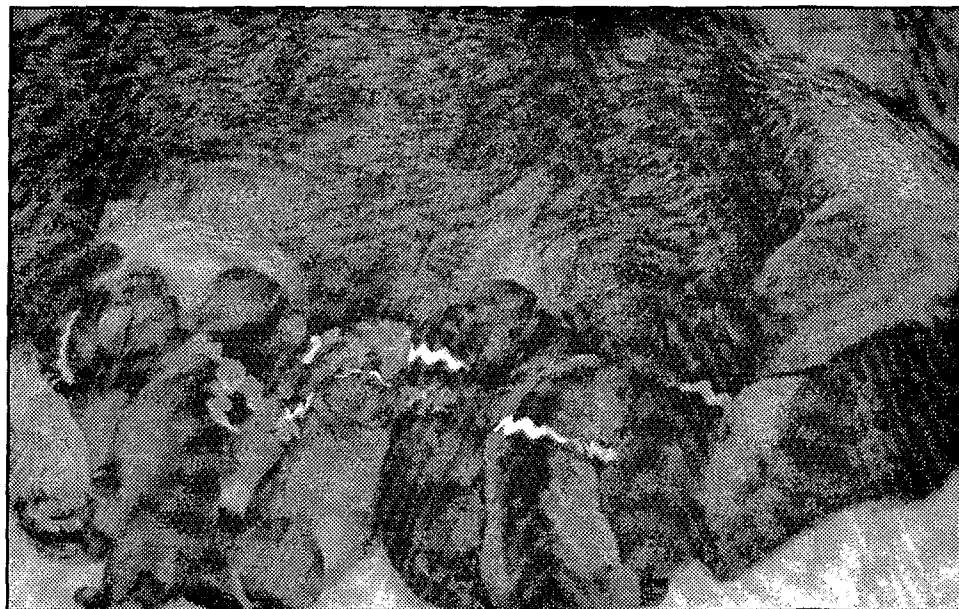
FIRST THERE WERE FOUR . . .

by Christina Biaggi



et me start by saying that we planned for our wirehaired Dachshund Dandelion to have puppies. We had her mated to a miniature wirehaire named Eliot, a very determined little dog with a considerable amount of *sang-froid*. When we began to notice her waist was thickening, we decided to take her for a sonogram to see how many puppies she was carrying so we could find homes for them (except the one we planned to keep). The sonogram showed that she was carrying four puppies and so we lined up three happy dog parents. Meantime, as her January 15th due date was edging closer, Dandelion was getting enormous, as if she was carrying a football sideways in her stomach.

On the morning of Saturday, January 13, Dandelion's temperature dropped --- a sure sign that labor would start within 24 hours. All Saturday she appeared restless and walked around the house with a worried, anxious expression on her face. Around 8 p.m. she started panting and having mild contractions. During this period, she chose the location for the birth of her puppies — our guestroom bed



The happy family.

(the most comfortable in the house). Pattie and I stayed close to her, waiting for the contractions to become more pronounced to herald the birth of the first puppy. Our sons Noah and Aidan came in periodically to check on Dandelion. And Pattie and I stayed up all night, with the contractions and panting continuing, but nothing happened. Around six a.m., the contractions ceased and Dandelion fell asleep. During this time we fed her small meals of goat's milk and raw organic honey to keep her strength up and help her milk come in.

Dandelion stayed in the guestroom on Sunday, periodically wandering around the house looking anxious. We took her on several walks to try to start labor. At seven p.m. the contractions started again and at eight the first puppy made his appearance feet first. It was a difficult, intense birth. I had to deliver the puppy by his legs, worrying that I might break his tiny bones or his fragile back if I pulled too hard. Pattie was coaching Dandelion, telling her, "Push, Dandelion, push!"

Dandelion seemed in an altered state, her eyes were huge and staring, her body rigid. Finally the puppy emerged, Gigilo, an 11 ounce male. Amazed and uncomprehending she gazed at it for the first few moments and did nothing. After we freed the puppy from its sac and cut the umbilical cord, Dandelion sprang into action and started licking the puppy and cleaning up the afterbirth.

Continued on Page 13

CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE TROUPE

Continued from Page 7

role models. We have created a community of children that care for each other, respect each other and work together for a common goal.

MP: Tell me about this production of *As You Like It*.

DG: I chose this play because I felt it was a good follow up to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The children needed another year to read comedy, which is an easier genre to absorb. This year we have involved the children in more aspects of production. They have had opportunities to make costumes and work on set construction. This way they feel a deeper sense of ownership of the whole production. They can look at the final product and say "I did that. I made that. I am more than just an actor, I am part of a troupe."

MP: What are your future plans?

DG: Next year I want to do a tragedy, *Macbeth*. This will involve emotions that the children are not as familiar with and they will have to work a little harder. I plan to have two productions, one in the winter and one in the spring. The children can act in one season and be understudies for the other. I would like to be able to offer more opportunities to sharpen skills like working with a vocal coach and a dance, fencing and fight choreographer. In the long run it would be really wonderful if we could have a space to call our own. I would like to have open air theater like Shakespeare had in his day which would mean expanding the program year round. Personally I would like to be able to lead arts and education programs in the local schools working with directors and teachers using the program and learning techniques I have developed.

MP: What is the deadline for applications for next year?

DG: I will give priority to returning actors. I cannot accept more than 35 children. Children who are interested need to contact me by the beginning of May. In all likelihood I will hold auditions for the next play by the end of the school year so the children will have the summer to begin memorizing their lines and become familiar with the play. Over the summer we will attend more productions in NYC and at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Conn.

CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE PLAYDATES

March 2-3 Church 7 pm

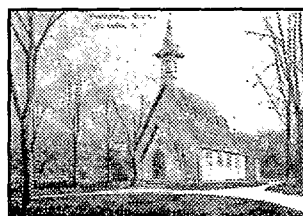
March 9-10 Church 7 pm

March 16-17 South Orangetown Middle School

Tickets are \$5 each. To reserve tickets Call 365-9709

The Children's Shakespeare Troupe is a not for profit tax deductible enterprise. Donations are gladly accepted. Checks can be made out to *Wings Trust* and sent to Diana Green, PO 558, Palisades, NY 10964

PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



arch and April news for the Palisades Presbyterian Church:

March 23rd - Midnight Run. Food and clothing will be distributed to the homeless in New York City.

During the month of March we are collecting toiletries (like hotel sample size). We also need volunteers to set up on Thursday March 22nd and also food preparation and clean up on March 23rd. Please call the church for more information. In addition, monetary donation to help offset the cost of food and to support the program are always welcome.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK:

April 12th at 8:00 PM. Maundy Thursday Service with AME ZION at the Palisades Church (service follows a potluck supper at 6:30 PM. All are welcome)

GOOD FRIDAY, April 13th: The church sanctuary will be open for quiet meditation

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES, April 15th:

6:30 AM Sunrise service, call the church office for more information 9:00 and 11:00 AM identical services.

CONTACT US

Church Office phone number: 359-3147

Church Office hours: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Tues., Thurs., & Fri.

SCHOOL NEWS



Old Palisades Schoolhouse

SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS:

Board of Education March 5, 19, 26 at the SOMS at 7:30 pm in the Board Room.

SOCES PTA: March 28 at 7:30 pm at William O. Schaefer Elementary.

SOMS PTA: March 14 at 7:30 pm at the Middle School.

TZHS PTSA:

March 22 at 7:30 pm at the High School

All the above meetings are open to the public.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:

March 20 (A-G) 6:00-9:00 pm at SOMS

March 21 (H-N) 6:00-9:00 pm at SOMS

March 22 (O-Z) 6:00-9:00 pm at SOMS

For more information, call 680-1300.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES:

March 16 & 17 SOCES PTA presents

The Children's Shakespeare Theater

performing "As You Like It". 7:00 pm at the Middle School. \$3 per person, general seating tickets sold at the door. Doors open at 6:30. For further information, call 398-1231.

March 23 **SOMS vs TZHS faculty basketball game.** For further information, call 680-1600.

March 30 & 31 **TZHS Spring Musical**

"On the Town". 8:00 pm at the High School. For further information, call 680-1600.

April 20 **TZHS International Show** 6:00 pm - dinner, 7:00 - show. At the High School.

April 21 **Earth Day 2001** 1:00-4:00 at the Middle School. For information, call 398-1231

All the above events are open to the public.

SOUTH ORANGETOWN FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER AT THE PALISADES SCHOOL:

680 Oak Tree Road, Palisades Tel: 365-4277

Story Hours (3 & 4 yrs) @ 10:00 am on March 5, April 18, May 1, & June 13.

Sing-A-Longs (3 & 4 yrs) @ 10:00 am on March 13, April 26, May 16, & June 19.

Playgroups (3 & 4 yrs) @ 10:00 am on March 17, April 23, May 3, & June 4.

EPIC workshops (0-2 yrs) @ 10:00 am on March 21, April 3, May 22, & June 20.

EPIC workshops (3 & 4 yrs) @ 10:00 am on March 7, April 17, May 10, & June 6.

The **SOCES PTA** is looking for local visual or performing artists to participate in an in-school arts presentation, "Artists in Our Midst". An hour and a half of your time would be appreciated. We want to expose children to the incredible richness of talent that lives and works in our area. Call Carol Plotkin at 398-1231.

Earth Day 2001, Environmental groups, environmental artists, natural artisans, etc are wanted to participate in the Earth Day festivities to be held at the Middle School on April 21. Call Carol Plotkin at 398-1231.

Give your kids the **SUMMERSTAGE** experience this summer!

1) Summerstage, five weeks mornings in July. This five week July Summerstage program culminates in two evening performances presented by the students during the last week in July. Summerstage is attended by approximately 80 students, attending for four hours each morning, five days a week.

2) Summerstage August, one week, mornings in August. August Summerstage, new this year, replaces previous August programs such as Photography Week and TV Live. This program will focus on process rather than lead towards a performance and will meet in the mornings five days a week. A minimum enrollment of eight students is required.

3) All Day Artsmarts, five weeks afternoons in July. An extended day option for families who need full-day care. Offered only to students enrolled in Summerstage.

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FIRST THERE WERE FOUR...

Continued from Page 10

Ninety minutes later Coriopsis, another 11 ounce male, emerged. Then Hilary arrived head first, a 10 ounce female. Now we had five puppies and surely it must be over. We congratulated Dandelion and left her as she peacefully suckled her brood. Now, over a luxurious glass of wine, we noted the interesting significance that all the males had emerged feet first while the females had come out head first. We laughed a lot and then went to see how Dandelion was doing.

When we walked into the "birthing chamber" all was not well. Dandelion looked terribly worried; another pup was half out of her. Its body was out and its head still inside her. I quickly pulled the puppy out and discovered that it was lifeless and cold. It was another large male that had been born feet first. It was not breathing and its little pink tongue was sticking out of its tiny mouth. We felt extremely sad. Pattie named it Blossom. I started rubbing the puppy vigorously, trying to stimulate its circulation. I rubbed and rubbed; Pat was weeping and kept urging me not to let up my efforts. Suddenly the puppy took a spasmodic breath and after a while another. It was the reverse of witnessing someone dying. Then the spasmodic breaths became more frequent and soon Blossom was laboriously breathing, but breathing nevertheless. I kept rubbing. The breathing became more regular and then small twitching movements appeared but the tongue was still sticking out. So we warmed up some goat's milk, and fed it from my finger. All of a sudden the puppy started to suck and the legs began to move. It was alive at last! Following some lusty, high-pitched screams, we coaxed it to start nursing from its mother. It was four a.m. Exhausted, we all fell asleep in the birthing room with mother and pups.

The next day, our housekeeper, Jovelina, discovered a seventh pup. She had given birth to another one after we had gone to sleep and we had not even heard her giving birth. This one was another male (we didn't know whether it had emerged head or feet first), a small nine ounce puppy which Noah named Cal Ripkin Jr.

Immediately we brought Dandelion to be checked out by the local vet, who, after thoroughly palpitating her uterus pronounced her puppy free. She gave Dandelion a shot of oxytocin to ensure all afterbirth would be expelled; and we began to drive home. Less than two minutes later, Noah noticed something coming out of Dandelion and Pattie said that it was just fluid and was normal. Noah yelled, "No mom, it's a puppy!" Within seconds the puppy was howling in the back seat of the car. Instantly, Pattie made a u-turn and sped back to the hospital. This time we insisted on having an x-ray performed to ensure there wasn't a ninth puppy. Dandelion was finally finished. Eight puppies! This one, a small nine-ounce male we named Makolino in honor of Pat's car (the final puppy's birthing room) whose license plate is MELI-MAKI — named after our dearest dog Maki who died three years ago.

And so ends the story of Dandelion's birth to eight puppies. She is well, as are all of the puppies, and is getting adjusted to her new role as super-mom with a little help from the four of us. We take turns supplementing the feeding of the puppies with tiny baby bottles to help out Dandelion. It's like having eight little new babies because that is what they are. Birth is such a miraculous event.

LIBRARY NEWS

Continued from Page 17

DO YOU HAVE A LIBRARY CARD?

It's free and easy to get one for any resident of Palisades or Sparkill. Come in with some identification of name and address such as a driver's license, check book, lease, etc. On the day you sign up for a card, you can check out two items and you'll receive your card by mail.

USE THE LIBRARY FROM HOME

Search the library's catalog. Search for and retrieve thousands of magazine articles. Arrange to receive your reserved book notification by E-mail.

INTERNET TRAINING

The library is offering free orientation sessions on how to use the internet. Basic familiarity with computers is required. Please register at the Reference desk or call 359-0136.

TAPPAN ZEE THRIFT SHOP

The library appreciates all the donations made on its behalf. The thrift shop welcomes clean, seasonal clothing as well as small household items. Donations are accepted on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 10:30 and 3:30. Anyone interested in volunteering a few hours a week to this wonderful organization should call the library at 359-0136.

TAX FORMS

Federal and New York State forms are available at the reference department.



Palisadian David Seeger and his Son, Max getting ready for some ice-skating.

SCHOOL NEWS

Continued from Page 12

Fifteen to twenty-five students will participate in this program.

4) All Day Artsmarts, 1 week afternoons in August
An extended full-day recreational option for students enrolled in August Summerstage with the same programs as the July program. A minimum enrollment of eight students is required.

5) Summerstage Intensive, 2 weeks mornings in July.
A program offered to students with experience in theater who are unable to attend the 5 week program. These students work intensely with instructors creating their own work and participating in the final two performances. Enrollment must be at least four and is limited to twenty.

Held at the South Orangetown Middle School.
For information and fees call, 426 1858 or
e-mail: wendytaucher@mindspring.com

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Continued from Page 3

The PCA executive committee, meeting on February 7, decided to try to set up a meeting this spring at which Palisadians with private wells, located in the western portion of the Muroney Avenue neighborhood, could discuss the possibilities and technicalities of securing piped water with appropriate representatives of United Water NY.

RIVERTOWN FILM SOCIETY

Continued from Page 5

expenses such as film rentals, projectionist fees, publicity etc. Interested donors should send \$100 (or more, if possible!) to the Riverview Film Society c/o Friends of Nyack, P.O. Box 120, Nyack, NY 10960. To get on the mailing list, send your name and address to Joan May, at 45 Washington St., Nyack, NY 10960, or sign up at Piermont Pictures Video store, at 535 Piermont Ave in Piermont.

REMEMBERING POLLY



olly was my best friend. We lived together for nearly thirty years in the house she bought from her friends, Anne Gugler and Sandy MacAllister. Polly loved that house. Anne had bought it for one dollar, had it moved from Blauvelt, taken apart, and rebuilt on Sandy's land, preserving most of the original details. Anne's husband, Eric, an architect, gave advice. Polly directed the placement of big boulders from the excavation. She saw them as Noguchi sculpture and used to sweep them clean.

Polly thought of herself as a Westerner. Born in Pinole, California, she went to the University of California at Santa Barbara and spent much of her early years on her grandparents' ranch outside of Phoenix which they had



Polly Cameron

homesteaded before Arizona was a state. In her twenties, Polly built a house on the ranch out of adobe bricks, using the old ways. She loved her family: her younger brother Don McQuiston, who was a graphic designer; her older sister, Pat Harris, who lived in Alaska and Saudi Arabia; her uncle Bill, an architect who had studied with Frank Lloyd Wright.

During the McCarthy years, Polly married Rick Cameron, an actor, and they moved to Paris, ostensibly to learn the restaurant business. The marriage didn't last, but Polly went on to work and live in Mallorca and Morocco. She loved the Sahara and camels.

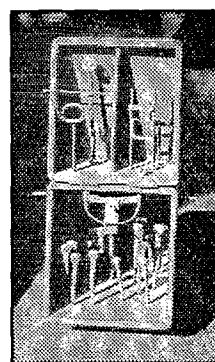
Back in New York City in the early 50's, she worked as a graphic designer for *Time*, rented a converted barn on Closter Road, and began writing and illustrating children's books. She painted, made sculptures from found objects, had a vegetable garden, a French sheepdog named Stilt and a rabbit named Peter. When she moved to Palisades, she built a large model of her house for Peter.

Of the trips we took together, I remember driving west to visit Polly's family and sailing in the Grenadines. At home we had a Belgian cattle dog named Woofers who ate furniture and doors and Polly worked as a graphic designer for The Center For Humanities in Pleasantville making great friends there. When Roger Jellinek moved next door, he and Polly worked together on the Lamont Yearbook and Newsletter which he edited. Polly loved his imagination and his ability to explain all things geological.

It is wonderful to remember Polly's energy and enthusiasm for life. In her last years, when pain and illness made her world so much smaller, that energy was diminished, but still present in her humor, her wonderful way of seeing and her ability to love."

NAOMI KATZ

"I suppose for ten years there was hardly a day I did not see or talk to Polly. We were friends, colleagues and collaborators. She was already virtually bedridden even then. But never a victim. She adapted quietly to her physical limitations, and created a remarkable world for herself. Despite her painful frailty, she ordered her space with impeccable taste and determined intelligence, and everything she touched seemed to be of a piece. She made firm, careful decisions about her every choice: the books she read, the house she adored, the garden she worked when she could ... When I think of Polly I think of the simplest textures and spare simplicity. Her art seemed to be a natural extension of her voice -- there was no mistaking who had made it. Her design could range from the most austere (her gray Honda painted black) to the startlingly playful (an invitation she designed for our goodbye party: a repeated rubber-stamp image of a couple in formal evening dress dancing their way across the card). But what I remember most vividly is Polly's smiling affection and loyalty, her delight in hearing about one's adventures and discoveries, the intensity of her listening."



ROGER JELLINEK

POLLY CAMERON (1928 - 2000) wrote and illustrated 12 children's books including the now classic, *I Can't Said The Ant*; copies are in the Local Author collection at the Palisades Library.

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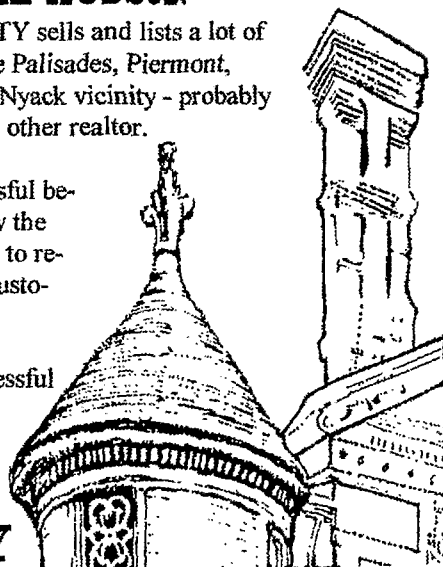
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CIVIC ASSOCIATION TO HONOR ALBON MAN AS OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AT MARCH MEETING

By Andrew Norman



Albon Man will receive the 21st century's first Outstanding Citizen Award from the Palisades Civic Association on Wednesday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Perry Post, American Legion, on Route 340. Among many of his quiet contributions to the community, Albon maintained and cleaned the bus shelters on Route 9W for many years, succeeding William Eberle, and can often be seen giving company and mobility to wheelchair-bound residents of the Jawonio residence on Oak Tree Road.

After the ceremonial festivities, Thomas O'Connell will conduct an open seminar on estate and "elder law" planning, covering various types of trust, "living wills" and ways to cope with nursing home costs.

Featured guests at the January 17 meeting of the PCA at the Legion, South Orangetown's acting School Superintendent, Kenneth Smith, and School Board members Cee Guarino and Anna Stellwag discussed the present and future use of the Palisades School. Smith announced that the playing field behind the school is now once again open to all.

All agreed that the school has become essential to the district and will remain in use for a long time to come. It is currently being fully utilized by three programs:

-- The Family Resource Center has been operating since late October under a grant secured with the help of former Senator Daniel P. Moynihan and Rockland County's 21st Century Collaboration for Children. Based on a model developed at Yale, it offers parent workshops, play groups, story and singing sessions, and parent workshops, as well English as a Second Language and "drop-in day" on Fridays, where parents can come for information on any aspect of the School District's programs.

-- The SEEC program moved to Palisades from the William O. Shaefer School last September. About 200 children, from kindergarten to 5th grade, participate in South Orangetown Extended Educational Care's after-school programs, coming from two to five afternoons a week. A fee of \$4 an hour or less makes the program self-supporting.

-- The Children's Enrichment Center is an independent, private agency that leases the old gymnasium and much of the front of the school and concentrates on speech and language enrichment for children from 2 to 4 years old.

Palisades residents raised the question of Palisades representation on the School Board, in accordance with the "gentlemen's agreement" that prevailed from the founding of the centralized school district with only one exception prior to the present. There are currently members from Blauvelt, Orangeburg and Piermont/Grand View, two from Tappan and none from Palisades. Cee Guarino, one of the two Tappan residents, noted that her seat comes up for election this year and that she hopes to be reelected.

Town Councilman Robert Bergman, who attended the meeting, answered questions from the floor about the Town Board's failure to reappoint Larry Bucciarelli to the Historic Areas Board of Review and his replacement by a Tappan resident, leaving William Walther and Janice Cavanagh, who was appointed in place of the late Donald Tapley, as the only two Palisadians. The Civic Association emphasized the importance of having at least three and preferably four Palisadians on the seven-member board, which deals with both the Tappan and Palisades Historic Areas.

Continued on Page 14

BULLETIN BOARD



Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory lecture series -- open to the public -- will resume this spring. For information call Lamont at 359-2900.

Baseball Opening Day for the Palisades/Sparkill

Baseball League is March 31 at the American Legion field on Rte. 340. Some 300 players, ages 5 to 14, have signed up for the five minor teams, five major teams, seven junior teams, and ten T-ball teams. This year the organizing group staff includes some 16 coaches, all volunteers, and League President is Peter Costellano. Players and staff are grateful to the American Legion Post who own the land the fields are built on and have been generous hosts for over forty years. For information, call Joe Checchi, past President of the League, at 365-3282.

Ric Pantale, owner of Piermont Pictures (our local treasure trove of new and classic rental videos) can help you participate in the film series being planned in Nyack. Stop in at 535 Piermont Ave., or e-mail him at: ricvid@aol.com.

Jacob Blauvelt House tours sponsored by the Historical Society of Rockland County will be held on Sundays (March 4, 11, 18 and 25) from 1 - 5 pm and on Saturday, March 24, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. This 1832 Gambrel-roofed brick house is located at 20 Zukor Rd., New City. Guides; admission \$4 adults, \$3 children.

Hudson Valley Children's Museum, Nyack, reports it has been awarded a \$77,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as well as a significant grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. A not for profit organization, the museum is also supported by funds from the Rockland County and NY State Legislatures and has served over 150,000 children and their families. Visit the Museum's website at www.hvcm.org or call 358-2191 or 358-2314.

A parking warning from a Palisades resident who received a \$50 fine for parking a car at the curb facing oncoming traffic. Police warned that cars must be parked facing the same direction as the flow of traffic (driver's side cannot be against the curb).

ELMWOOD PLAYHOUSE, 10 Park St., Nyack
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March 2 - 31, **The Sunshine Boys** by Neil Simon.
April 27 - 29, **An Evening of One-Act Plays**.

HELEN HAYES THEATER, 117 Main St., Nyack
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March 11 at 7 pm, A reading of **The Women**, a play by Claire Booth Luce.

March 17 - April 1, Charles Dickens' **A Tale of Two Cities**, a musical.

March 18, **Halley's Comet** with John Amos;
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March 26, Green Linnet's **Celtic Music Festival**, featuring Niamh Parsons and Old Blind Dogs.

April 6, **Little Red Riding Hood & Other Stories**; audience participation. 1:30 and 3:30 pm.

April 7 -- May 6, **Last Night at Ballyhoo**, a comedy; 1997 Tony Award for Best Play.

An AIDS benefit featuring an **Evening of Entertainment** hosted by Alan Ruck of Spin City will take place on Saturday March 3rd at 8 p.m. at the Helen Hayes Theatre in Nyack. The goal is to raise money to furnish Joseph's Home, a group residence for AIDS victims. Call the theater at 358-6333 for ticket information.

CALLING ALL DOGS!



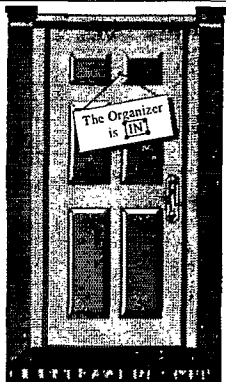
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10964 would like to honor the amazing dogs of Palisades with a piece in our next issue. If you're interested in having your dog included, please send in a photo either by mail to (whoever the editor is on the next one) or email to mary@tiegreen.com. If you're emailing a photo, please send it as a jpeg and try to make it a high resolution. Please include the dog's name, birthday (if known), favorite food/toy/hobby, and anything else that is special about your pet. We'll try to include everyone!



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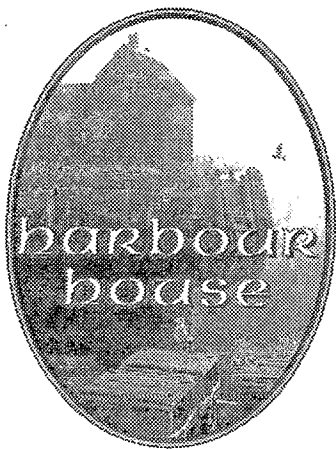
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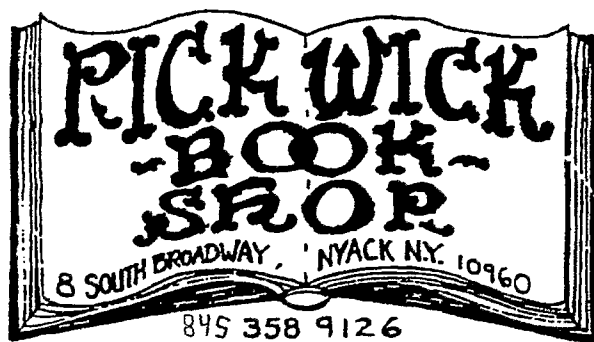
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EDITOR/COORDINATOR FOR THIS ISSUE:

David Gottlieb

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Robby Whitstock

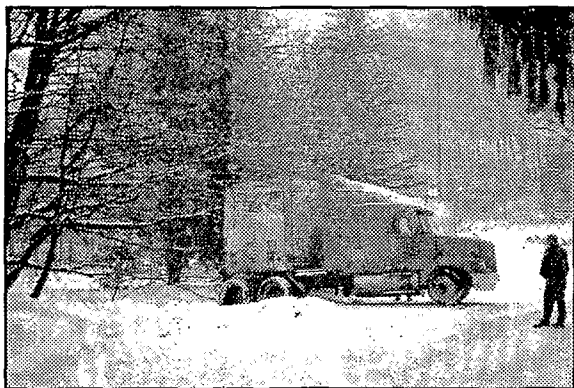
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THOUGHTLESS DRIVING IN PALISADES

As ridiculous as the above photo may seem, there has been an increase in the alarming rate of incidents involving automobiles in the area. Every week there are numerous accidents at the intersection of 9W where Oak Tree Road crosses to meet Washington Spring Road. The 45 mph signs northbound and southbound at this intersection invite drivers to step on the throttle and not to slow down. By the Palisades

Post Office on Oak Tree Road, vehicles regularly speed by and ignore people crossing the road to use the Post Office.

Sadly, a well known and liked pet of a Washington Spring Road family was recently hit and killed. Also, two local residents walking along Woods Road witnessed an individual in a white pick-up truck lose control of his vehicle and proceed to leave a path of destruction halfway down the road. The police were notified.

It is everyone's responsibility to exercise caution and to inform visitors and contractors that the roads and lanes of this hamlet are narrow and heavily used, and not just by other vehicles but by pedestrians — adults and children and their pets. Compounding speeding and reckless driving are winter storm damage, construction debris, and unswept and icy road surfaces — all of which make driving and walking even more hazardous. Please make an effort, while driving, to be thoughtful of others and back off the gas pedal a little.