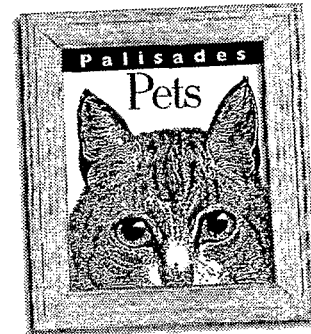
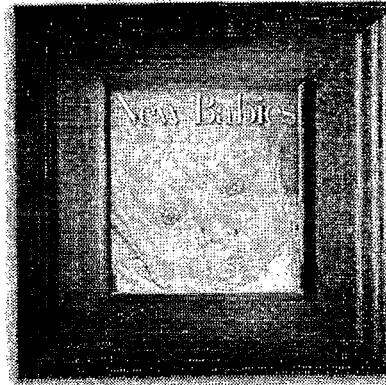


# 10964

## THE PALISADES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2001 NUMBER 176

# WWW.10964.COM

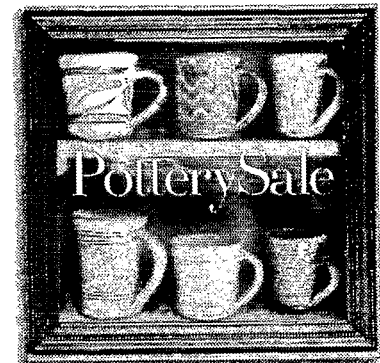
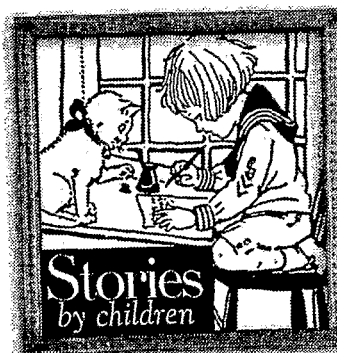
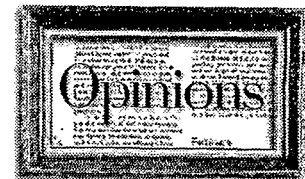
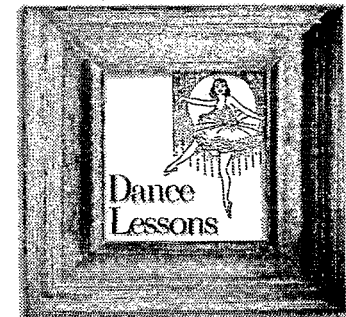


YOUR NEWSLETTER  
IS NOW ON THE WEB!

- READ ABOUT PALISADES
- POST YOUR OWN NEWS
- WE'RE NOW ON THE INTERNET--

ALL YEAR LONG!

STORY ON PAGE 2



# WWW.10964.COM

Our first issue, published in March 1977, set out our original mission statement: "This community newsletter is an attempt to centralize and publicize information, events, problems and concerns affecting the people of Palisades." Over the years, 10964 has done just that, continuing to present gentle investigative journalism on issues of interest and concern as well as moments of community pride, whimsical fiction, profiles of artists, kindergarten class pictures, births, deaths, arrivals and departures, historical information, book reviews, travel reports, and, of course, the five years of articles covering the triumphant birth of the new bus shelters! All this has been possible because the people of Palisades have contributed their time, their financial support and their creativity.

In the interest of continuing this long-standing tradition, we've decided to put up a web site for the hamlet of Palisades in order to provide a more dynamic forum for the presentation of ideas and the discussion of current topics. You can post your own news right on our server all year long—and we will still be putting out our print version four times a year. It will be a place for creativity and for sharing special times, and for bringing our community together. We're hoping that Palisadians will continue to contribute their ideas, opinions and creativity. The site will have a place for your letters and editorials, a section for you to submit articles and photos (Pets of Palisades, local plays, essays, children's stories, anything you can think of!), a bulletin board (to post short bits of information on people and events; classifieds; things for sale; rent or barter; services offered or needed; lost and found; etc.), and a page of links to sites created by or about Palisadians.

We'll continue to mail you four issues of this newsletter each year, but we're looking forward to trying something new as well! So stop by for an e-visit and see how we're doing around December 15th! We're counting on you!

Join us on the web!  
Happy holidays!

**The 10964 Staff**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

A most important issue has surfaced since 9-11, and that is the danger of the nuclear power plant at Indian Point as a target for terrorism. The consequences would be almost unspeakable. We need to close Indian Point immediately.

I am circulating a petition with the goal of collecting a minimum of 1,000 signatures locally, with the aim of building up a campaign to close the plant.

Spokesmen for Entergy (the company that bought the plant from ConEdison) say it can withstand any crash. However, the plant was built long before 757 planes were developed. The plant is also built on a fault line and in view of the fact that we have had an earthquake recently (true it was a minor one) this is also a hazard. Yes, Indian Point has National Guard protection, but it no longer has 24-hour river patrol, and most important, there is no air patrol.

I urge your readers, if they have not already signed the petition that is circulating, to please call 845-359-0469 if they choose to sign or help in these horrific times. For more information please go to:  
**[www.closeindianpoint.org](http://www.closeindianpoint.org)**

Thank you.

**Judy Tompkins**

### Doesn't ConEdison Own IndianPoint?



"It's time to think about the energy business in a new way," proclaims the website for Entergy Nuclear. As the nations' public utilities are steadily being privatized, this has opened up business and investment opportunities in new areas for aggressive energy companies like Entergy Corporation, a Fortune 500 global energy company headquartered in New Orleans, LA. Entergy

Continued on Page 3

# BULLETIN BOARD

## Elmwood Playhouse

*Our Town* by Thornton Wilder

Jan 18 through Feb 9

"The Pulitzer Prize-winning American classic—a poetic portrait of everyday life in a New England village, a masterwork rich in humor and humanity."

For information call 353-1313

located at 10 Park St., Nyack

## Arts Council of Rockland

Nominations are being sought for the 2002 County Executive Arts Awards, in the categories of performing artist, literary artist, visual artists, supporter of the arts, arts organization, and arts education (for a student and his/her teacher). The deadline for receipt of nomination forms at the Arts Council of Rockland (7 Perlman Dr., Spring Valley, NY 10977) is Thursday, January 3, 2002.

## TV Documentary: Women in the News

Palisades resident **Joan Konner**, (former Dean of the Columbia University graduate School of Journalism), and Barbara Rick have teamed up to make "She Says—Women In News", a documentary exploring how women in news are changing the news, that will be shown on PBS stations on Dec 18 at 9 p.m.

## Documentary Film: Sound and Fury

Palisades resident and documentary filmmaker **Roger Weisberg** is the producer of "Sound and Fury", a documentary film about the communication wars of the deaf that was released theatrically last year. Focusing on the painful struggle within a family over whether to choose the cochlear implant for a deaf child, it will be shown on PBS stations on January 8th at 9 p.m.

## Local Author Featured on NPR

Palisades resident **Reg Thayer** sent a story he wrote called "Celebration" to Paul Auster, host of the National Story Project on National Public Radio's "Weekend All Things Considered" that was accepted, read on the air, and later published in the follow-up anthology titled, *I Thought My Father Was God*. He wrote the story for a class at Dominican College; it is his first published work.

## Local Bear Leaves For Trip

According to the Piermont Newsletter, a bear was spotted in **Joe Hyde's** backyard, took down some birdfeeders behind houses on Rockland Rd. (going down into Sparkill), and was reported to have been cornered, treed, and tranquilized somewhere near Lamont-Doherty. Presumably, it was sent upstate along with all the other disorderly elements and criminals from the City's environs when nobody knows what else to do with them.

## The Vema Lives On As a Caribbean Cruise Ship

**Sam Gerard** writes that Lamont's original research vessel, the Vema, has begun a new career after her retirement as a research vessel. At age 57, with her Swedish wrought iron hull still in good shape, she was sold to Windjammer, a Caribbean cruise ship operator, for the exact same price that Columbia paid for her in 1953. They have refurbished her and renamed her Mandalay and there is loose talk of hiring her back for a Lamont charter through the beautiful Grenadine islands next spring.

## Who Owns IndianPoint?

Continued from Page 2

sees itself as a nuclear operator with a history of sustained excellent performance at the five nuclear power reactors it operates under state regulatory jurisdictions in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and feels it can use nuclear power to compete with other energy sources in our area as well.

Serving over 2.5 million customers, mostly in the deep South, Entergy generates about \$11 billion in annual revenue and can produce about 30,000 megawatts of power. The company has expanded into the competitive power market in the Northeast by purchasing Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, Mass in 1999, James A. Fitzpatrick in Oswego County, NY, in 2000, and Indian Point (plants 1,2,&3) in 2000 and 2001. (Indian Point Unit 1 has been shut down and in "safe storage" since the early 1970s.) Regional headquarters are in White Plains. [Editor]

# LIBRARY NEWS

## Palisades Free Library

Tel: 359-0136 Fax: 359-6124

www.rcls.org/pal

E-mail: pal@rcls.org

## Board of Trustees

Lisa Rinehart, President, Mary Anne Baumgold, Don Bracken, Albert T. Hyde, Nicholas Ludington, Henry Ottley, Uma C. Shah

## Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 1:00-9:00

Friday 1:00-5:00

Saturday 11:00-5:00

Sunday 1:00-5:00

Closed Dec. 24, 25, 31, Jan. 1

## Mark Your Calendar

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday January 27, 2002, at 2 PM. Guest speaker to be announced.

## Shorts for Winter???

Monday Winter Shorts: Warm your spirit at the library with readings of selected short stories. Please join us Mondays, January 28, February 25, March 25; 8 to 9 PM.



The Library Building circa 1900

## Children's Programs

Wednesday afternoon story times for children age three and up are in full swing. These enjoyable times together will continue through the school year. They begin at 1:30.

**Flag Pins:** Beaded pins to wear on shirt, sweater, hat or jacket. This is a small motor activity with a good-looking result. Ages 7 and up. Sign up is necessary. Wednesday January 9, 2002, 4:15 PM.

## Reminder to Parents and Caregivers.

The library works diligently to create a warm, pleasant atmosphere. The children's room is especially

welcoming to little ones as a place to read and share experiences. But when it comes to children, it would be foolish to become complacent or to take their safety for granted. Children should never be left unattended anywhere, including the library.

## Join the Library

Anyone residing in Palisades or Sparkill may join the library. All that is needed is proof of residency such as a driver's license, utility bill or check showing your current address. Fill in and sign the registration form at the circulation desk. Your library card will be mailed promptly. With your card you will have access to all the libraries in the Ramapo Catskill service area.

## New Adult Nonfiction

*Ackerman, Diane* Cultivating Delight: A Natural History of My Garden

*Binnewies, Robert O.* Palisades, 100,000 Acres in 100 Years

*Enquist, Per Olov* Royal Physicians Visit

*Hawking, Stephen* The Universe in a Nutshell

*Jasper, Joy W.* The USS Arizona

*Junger, Sebastian* Fire

*Lovell, Mary S.* The Sisters: The Saga of the Mitford Family

*Miller, Judith* Germs

*Terkel, Studs* Will the Circle be Unbroken

*Wilson, Edward O.* The Future of Life

## New Adult fiction

*Allende, Isabel* Portrait in Sepia

*Bellow, Saul* Collected Fiction

*Chee, Alexander* Edinburgh

*Cornwell, Bernard* Sharpe's Prey

*Frey, Stephen* The Day Trader

*Munro, Alice* Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage

*Norfolk, Lawrence* In the Shape of a Boar

*Oates, Joyce Carol* Beasts

*Thompson, Jean* Wide Blue Yonder

*Trillin, Calvin* Tepper Isn't Going Out

*Vargas Llosa, Mario* The Feast of the Goat

## Reading Club

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

# CHURCH NEWS

## Palisades Presbyterian Church Calendar of Events

### Sunday, Dec. 16th

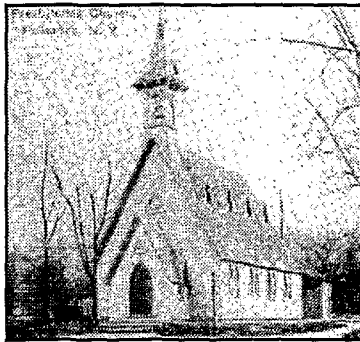
9:00 a.m. regular service

11:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant. After the pageant, there will be a Christmas cookie sale.

### Sunday, Dec. 23rd

9:00 a.m. and 11: a.m.

Regular services



Palisades Presbyterian Church

**Monday Dec. 24th Christmas Eve**  
5:30 p.m. family service,  
11:00 p.m. candlelight service

### Sunday, Dec. 30th

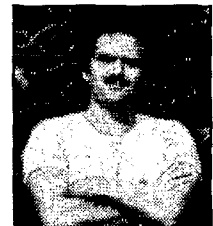
9:00 a.m. and 11: a.m.

Regular services

PEACE  
ON EARTH.

## IN MEMORIAM

*10964 recently lost one of our long-time supporters and staff members, John Converse, who died suddenly of a heart attack playing tennis on September 24, 2001. [Editor]*



## WHAT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW ABOUT MY BEST FRIEND, JOHN CONVERSE.

by Karen Siminsky

John was devoted son to Sheila and loving papa to Alison. He cherished the simple things in life, a good cup of coffee, a warm fire, making dinner for his friends in the cottage that he had built with their help. Those of us who spent any time with John can picture him sitting in his kitchen, enjoying the view of the Palisades woods, and savoring a cup of coffee – with his faithful dog Arthur at his feet. We can picture John at his computer, working on local politics, or enjoying his substantial music collection.

John once told me that his dream was to sing back-up harmony in a rock and roll band. John did sing in a band growing up in Palisades. He said he was the lead singer – not so much for his singing ability but because the band rehearsed in his house. More recently he sang at Christmas with the St. Stanislaus choir in Hastings-on-Hudson. John's favorite carol was Silent Night...he really had the bass part down. He sang because he wanted to help and show support for a friend.

John loved Palisades, where he was involved in community service. He served on the boards of the Palisades Civic Association and the Palisades Community Center for more than twenty years – for the last ten years he was president of the Community Center board.

John was a stickler for details – in everything from how to make a good cup of coffee, to which computer to buy (he used to refer to Bill Gates and PC's as the "dark side" of computing). John believed that anything worth doing was worth doing right. Some might say that he was arrogant and difficult to get to know. His friends and family will say that he was honest and direct and they will tell you that inside he was more like a teddy bear that wouldn't hurt a fly. They loved and respected John for his intellect, the strength of his convictions, the depth of his emotions, and his great sense of humor.

In addition to food and music, John's other passions included Star Trek – he could talk techno-babble like no one I know – and of course, tennis was his passion too. We may find some comfort in knowing that John died doing what he loved to do.

John, until we meet again, those of us who know you best will miss your quiet strength, your wisdom, and your love.

# PALISADIANS LEND SUPPORT TO ROCKLAND'S FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FUND

By Helen Nelson

On Sunday, October 28th, Palisades showed its colors – and they were red, white, and blue. In a remarkable outpouring of support for the victims of the September 11th tragedy, an estimated 600 residents of Palisades, the surrounding towns, and even people from as far away as Long Island participated in and contributed to a fund-raiser that generated nearly \$5,000 in donations to support the Rockland County Fallen Fire Fighters Fund. Rockland County lost 22 valiant fire fighters in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, and the fund has been set up to help support their families.

The Palisades fund-raiser was conceived of and coordinated by Laraine Slavitt, who wanted to take action to help. Deciding to help our own local heroes' families, Laraine contacted the Fallen Firefighters Fund organizer, Dave Weinstein of the Fire Training Center in Pomona, NY. The fundraiser committee consisted of Tracy Garrison, Diana Green, Carol Knudsen, and Mary Tiegreen. The event was held on the grounds of the Yonder Hill Antiques store on Route 9W.

Many local businesses generously contributed their services or products. Tony's Pizza in Northvale generously sent over ten pizzas every half hour; the Mountain House in Sparkill contributed over 100 appropriately named hero sandwiches, Carousel Cakes of Nanuet donated delicious baked goods, while others donated hot dogs, hamburgers, beer and wine. There was face and pumpkin painting and hay rides for the kids. For services that could not be consumed on-site, the businesses contributed gift certificates that were raffled off.



Fund-raiser for the Rockland County Fallen Fire Fighters Fund  
Palisades, NY Sunday, October 28, 2001

A festive air reigned all day, as contributors and visitors mingled, consumed, and donated the day away. The attendance was very strong, a result of the 500 leaflets that were printed and distributed by the committee. The heavily trafficked location next to Route 9W also helped to attract passers-by. By the end of the day, as the last of the contributions was converted into cash to help the families of the tragedy, all who participated were reminded that, indeed, Palisades is "a small town with a big heart."

If anyone is interested in making a donation, please send your check payable to the Rockland County Fallen Fire Fighters Fund c/o Dave Weinstein, Fire Training Center in Pomona, NY 10970.

# LOW TURNOUT FOR ELECTION PALISADIANS SUPPORT KLEINER, MANNING

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By Andy Norman

**\*In** typically tepid "off-year" voting, 502 voters in Districts 12 and 50 (all of Palisades and a few streets in Sparkill) gave strong support to a long list of winning candidates on November 6, led by Supervisor Thom Kleiner and Town Board candidate Marie Manning, both Democrats.

Kleiner won a fourth term with the help of a 323 (65.7 percent) to 157 (31.9 percent) margin in Palisades over the Republican candidate, Eileen Larkin of Palisades. Gail Raffaele, the Conservative nominee, netted 12 votes (2.4 percent). Townwide, the margin for Kleiner was 69.12 percent to 26.7 and 4.15. (The County Board of Elections had not finished adding in the absentee ballots in time for 10964's deadline.)

In the race for two Town Council seats, Manning, in her third run in three years, upset incumbent Republican Robert Bergman by finishing second, behind incumbent Republican Denis Troy, and ahead of Democratic running mate Dana McKee. In Palisades, Manning led all candidates with 302 votes to 263 for McKee, 182 for Troy, and 159 for Bergman. Townwide, Troy had 6,187, Manning 5,667, Bergman 5,279, and McKee 4,588.

A year ago, in a head-to-head contest with Troy, who had been appointed to the un-expired term of Palisadian Charles Vezzetti, Manning swept Palisades by 506 to 242 but lost townwide by 37 votes (67 before absentee votes were counted).

Denise Kronstadt, the Democratic candidate for Town Judge, carried Palisades by 2,612 to 213, but the Republican incumbent, Richard G. Ramsey, carried Orangetown easily, 6,242 to 4,661.

Running without opposition, Charlotte Madigan, a Democrat was reelected as Town Clerk with 332 votes in Palisades, 7,309 townwide; Robert Simon (Republican) as Receiver of Taxes with 256 and 7,222; and James Dean (R) as Superintendent of Highways with 261 and 7,057.

In the election for Rockland County Executive, C. Scott Vanderhoef (R) received 254 votes in Palisades and 36,772 in the county to 37 and 3,722 for Irving Feiner, the Working Families candidate, and 13 and 1,903 for Right to Life nominee Donald E. Mellon.

Democratic candidates for State Supreme Court garnered 60 percent of the Palisades vote, up from 57.6 percent in 1999. Challenger Jo Ann Friia led the Democrats with 230 votes, plus 10 on the Working Families line. Incumbent George M. Bergerman, a resident of Orangetown, led the Republicans with 161 votes, plus 12 on the Independence line, 8 Conservative, and 9 Right to Life.



# RUNAWAY PATRIOTISM: A LICENSE TO ASSAULT OTHER AMERICANS?

by The Rev. Dae Eun Jung, Pastor of Palisades Presbyterian Church

Closter, NJ Nov. 3rd Angry shouts of "Go back to where you came from!" echoed all around me. It came out of nowhere from complete strangers, from passers-by who had no idea what had taken place. All they saw was the non-white, Asian American who was now the unnamed suspect against America.

A woman rolled down her car window and screamed, "If you don't like it here, go back to your country!" adding more injury to an already highly charged atmosphere. As other drivers passed on by, I noticed all the visible flags everywhere.

I asked myself, "Who is American? The one who waves the flag?"

So what happened? On Saturday morning, November 3, I took my family to the Closter Diner in New Jersey, our usual weekend morning haunt. I came to a stop in front of the diner, ready to make a right turn that would steer me to the tiny parking lot in the rear. The crossing guard was helping a pedestrian cross the street. As he was almost to the other side of the street, I preceded with my right turn when I heard a scream to stop.

I stopped immediately. I had not even crossed over the pedestrian white line. As I looked over to the guard coming toward me, waving his stop sign, I readily formed an apology that disappeared as soon as he started to scream, "What are you, stupid?" Pointing to the sign in his hand, he fumed, "What's the matter with you, can't read the sign? Go back to where you came from!"

My wife, sitting next to me in the front seat, challenged him for his derogatory remarks as he continued to shout. These remarks changed into threats to call the police to issue a citation and to have our vehicle towed. As he began to walk away, my wife was so upset she got out of the car and went up to him to demand an apology for such unwarranted behavior. He did not offer an apology but rather more obscenities that turned into derogatory racial obscenities and more shouts of "Go back to where you came from!"

But what happened next? Suddenly we found ourselves surrounded by people who jumped onto the bandwagon like a mob. Shouts came from all sides, from the street corners and from customers who were coming out of the diner. They were all screaming, "Go back to where came from!" and "Go back to your country!"

It was a horrific display of what happens when a group of people is ready to pounce on someone for no reason other than to vent their anger, hatred, fear and pain. No one cared to ask what had happened as they arrived at the scene. In my own defense and because I had been utterly silenced and denied my rightful place, I shouted at the top of my voice, "This is my country!"

Out of concern for our safety, my wife decided to call the police herself. With our two children in the back seat, we decided not to tolerate bigotry and racial slurs that rendered us to be foreigners. The incident was no longer a matter of traffic law but took on a larger issue. The violence done to me and my family was the denial of our existence as Korean-Americans in the United States.

After the entire skirmish and the mob scene, when the police finally arrived, they took careful notes from all the witnesses, who told their side of the story. Our vindication finally came when a brave soul stepped forward, the very pedestrian for whom we had first stopped, who stood closest to the whole incident. He said to the police officer, "I was there from the very beginning. They did nothing wrong and didn't warrant such verbal attack."

Continued on the next Page





## NEW PLACES

### THE BAKER'S WIFE OPENS IN TAPPAN

**Fine Baked Goods & Catered Lunches**

**33 Old Tappan Rd., Tappan, NY**

**359-2228 or 201-784-5688**

Eagerly awaited by cognoscenti of fine breads and baked treats, The Baker's Wife finally opened right before Thanksgiving, the brainchild of chef/baker Daniel Foti. You will find it on Old Tappan Rd. in the center of Tappan, with its full name splashed across the window where What's For Dinner used to be. This full-name business finally resolved the Jeopardy-style word game challenge posed by that window for several weeks previously; pedestrians were overheard puzzling over the cryptic name: The Baker's wife. Did the baker have a knife? play the wife? get a life?

Well, the baker, it turns out, has a wife who is also a baker, at the famed Balthazar Bakery in Fort Lee, which supplies bread to some of New York City's finest French restaurants, including Alain Ducasse, Jean Georges, and Les Celebrites. So now Tappan has a convenient outlet for these fabulous breads too-- whole grain, levain, cranberry nut, ciabatta, etc., as well as breakfast treats such as small brioches, sticky buns, and perfect desserts, including fruit tarts and roasted plum galettes. Excellent Equator coffee beans and coffee to go are available, as well as soups (butternut squash with five spices, French white bean & vegetable, potato & leek), salads (always served with that wonderful bread), and sandwiches.

Pressed sandwiches (think croque monsieur) are a specialty--the ham & cheese version contains Tramezzine prosciutto ham and Fontina cheese; another is a focaccia stuffed with chicken, sweet peppers and smoked bacon. The daily soup special with bread goes for \$3.50--surely the best lunch value in the area. I think that this same approach may be a key part of the secret process by which French people eat so well without gaining too much in the way of excess poundage: few things in life are as satisfying as real luxury at a practical price.

### RUNAWAY PATRIOTISM

Continued from Page 8

There is nothing wrong with patriotism when it unites people for that which is noble and brings out the best in us and our feelings toward others. But when it becomes a license to lash out in hatred for the subjection of others by linking race with being American, we succumb to self-righteousness. It then says: "We are Americans because we are white, and you are not, because you are non-white". The fear of otherness is pervasive and mixing racism and nationalism is a dangerous game.

Throughout the whole ordeal that Saturday morning, there were two other silent and frightened witnesses. Huddled in the back seat of our car were our two children. They stayed silent until my older son charged out of the car in the end to hand a note to the police officers who arrived at the scene. The note, hastily written in a

childish scrawl, read: "Don't even think about arresting my parents!" They have now inherited not only the pain inherent in this whole affair but also, surprisingly, the spirit of defiance and resistance.

I am convinced more than ever that during this time we must be alert and mindful of what is happening inside and outside of ourselves. What I remember most distinctively were those who stood by watching silently, transfixed and mesmerized by what was unfolding. We cannot be like those paralyzed with fear. Undecided. Silenced. There is something decent about us Americans. As much as we often stumble into being a bully, we are also often rebels who charge in (however ungracefully) to help the underdog. That is the virtue of being Americans. I would like to remind Americans of this heritage; the independent, fearless spirit of those who speak their mind.



## ROUTE 303: DOWN AT THE HEELS RETAIL

by Greta Nettleton

Traditionally, Palisadians have done most of their errands and grocery shopping at stores grouped along route 303 near the intersection with Oak Tree Rd. and spilling over into Northvale, NJ. Many of these merchants are, or were, small, family-owned establishments, with loyal clientele and many common roots with their patrons, many having grown up in the same neighborhood together.

### Businesses Vanish

Several years ago, these familiar establishments started to melt away. It began gradually, when the liquor store closed; then the dry cleaners in the next block of stores also departed leaving an empty space that is still vacant. Now the melt has swelled into a flood of departures. The packaging company left, the Medicine Shoppe left, the bakery with the great bagels left, the TV repair shop left, the deli that sold Greek Haloumi cheese left, the video store went out of business, the jewelry and appliance stores closed, the crafts shop left, the Chinese restaurant left, the auto parts store closed, and both the barber shop and the beauty parlor closed. All of the businesses that have gone have an important link in common: they were all tenants in commercial space owned either by Mr. Elias Tsiouinis and George Tzoulafis of Stony Point, or by Mr. Anthony Zacharakis and his family, of Tappan.

Few of these departures appear to have been happy ones. For instance, those who relied on Tappantown Liggett for prescriptions were unpleasantly surprised in the middle of last year when it suddenly 'disappeared'. Startled customers read the note taped to the front door to find that their prescriptions had been sold off with no notice to the CVS in Orangeburg. Empty shelves askew inside and the torn shreds of paper hanging from the ceiling spoke of a rapid exit. A sales clerk at a neighboring business told the following story: on a Wednesday, the pharmacist had received a call from his landlord, Mr. Zacharakis, informing him that starting immediately, his lease was 'month-to-month'. Declaring that he couldn't run his business on that basis, by Friday the pharmacist had decided to close. By the following Wednesday, the entire inventory had been liquidated.

Then, this past summer, after 42 years of business, Rispoli's Hardware across the street shut its doors. No more quick visits to pick up that odd lot of screws, and no more fixes by the famous Kurt, king of the service department and savior of worn-out kitchen counter appliances. According to former owner Joe Rispoli, this exodus was as sudden and painful as Tappantown's. Mr. Rispoli told of feverishly negotiating with the building's owners, Elias Tsiouinis and George Tzoulafis, of Stony Point, right up to the last minute, as another hardware store from Northvale, NJ was pressuring to take over the space. In spite of what Joe Rispoli described as strenuous efforts he and his family made to hang onto their lease, the landlords did not reach an agreement with either party, so one more well-loved store was gone, leaving a gaping, empty window to drive past every day.

### Empty Stop Windows

The Tappan Plaza looks like a set for a remake of *The Last Picture Show*. Weeds are growing out of the flower pots on the curb all along the northwest side of the highway. Gravel and litter are everywhere. Paint is peeling off the façade of the convenience store. But we're not living in an abandoned cattle town in West Texas—this is a prosperous area, with many other thriving commercial centers nearby not suffering from this kind of disintegration.

Continued on the next Page



## STRIP STRUGGLING FOR A NEW VISION

### Important Role of Longtime Local Landlords

10964 was able to talk at length about this issue with Mr. Zacharakis who, together with his brother and sister, owns about 80% of the frontage on the southeast side of Route 303, and about 30% of the frontage on the northwest side between Oak Tree Rd. and the New Jersey state line, including the State Line Plaza and the Orangetown Plaza, totaling somewhere around 11 acres overall. The shopping centers were put in over 30 years ago by Mr. Zacharakis' late father, Gus, who also developed much of the housing in Palisades along Oak Tree Rd. and in the Home Took Rd. neighborhood during the 1950s. Anthony began to assume the major responsibility for managing the properties in the late 1980's, and took over complete responsibility last year after his father passed away.

Mr. Zacharakis described many separate efforts he has made to improve his properties that might not be immediately visible, such as putting new roofs onto the buildings housing Bishops Restaurant and Bravo Cleaners, and upgrading the interiors of many of the so-called "vanilla box" spaces for existing tenants with air conditioning, new electrical systems, better signage, new ceilings and paint, etc. Some new businesses have been doing well as tenants for Mr. Zacharakis, including Oak Tree Printers, Bravo Cleaners, and of course Food World. And happily, V & S Variety is hanging in there, selling thousands of useful items in one tenth of the time it takes to find a parking place at Target, and doing a thriving business on the side in lotto tickets and cigarettes.

Two new stores have opened in Tappan Plaza, The Old and Weary Car Shop, a model train store, and *art*, a cooperative gallery recently opened by a group of artists newly migrated to this area from the Williamsburg neighborhood in Brooklyn. According to one of *art*'s owners, Artur Arbit, a painter, and also the owner of the Bravo Cleaners across the street, Mr. Zacharakis has been easy to work with, and he can't understand the complaints he has heard from some of the other tenants that Mr. Zacharakis is a difficult landlord. However, another business owner in a Zacharakis space told 10964 that the landlord has a reputation for making repeated visits to some of his tenants, demanding that they stay open for particular hours and in effect, telling them how to run their businesses.

But Mr. Zacharakis also described many difficulties he has been struggling with, ranging from vandalism, to negligent employees who failed to take care of his plantings installed along the edge of the parking lots, to cash flow problems, to a fierce, long-running struggle with neighboring landlords Elias Tsionis and George Tzoulafis over tenant parking access for their two competing Italian restaurants. (The two landlords also lease space to adjacent, competing laundromats.) However, he stated that "My main problem is the town of Orangetown." Amplifying this point, he added, "The administration is not business friendly."

### A Bitter Fight With City Hall

In his eyes, the major roadblock preventing Mr. Zacharakis from moving forward with any substantive commercial improvements is a conflict he has with the town of Orangetown over a very specific legal issue relating to affidavits attached to certificate of occupancy applications that the town requires he sign, but which he feels he cannot sign. He allowed that he actually has no objection to the content of the affidavits, which are a declaration that everything in a newly leased space meets town building codes for safety standards; rather, he objected to signing these affidavits in principle, because they are a violation of his citizen's rights. When pressed for further details about why this might be so, he suggested that it should be the town's responsibility to verify that he has met all

Continued on Page 13

# BOOK REVIEW

## WOMEN OF DISCOVERY

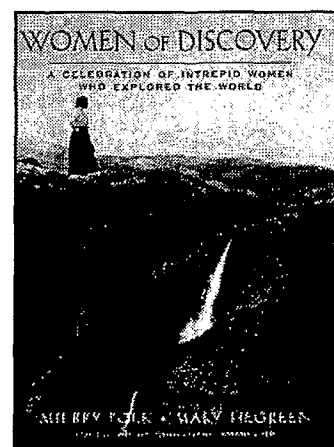
### A Celebration of Intrepid Women Who Explored the World

by Milbry Polk and Mary Tiegreen

forward by Christiane Amanpour

published by Clarkson Potter, New York \$40

Reviewed by Louise Hart



Just in time for the holidays, this compilation of biographical essays describing the often-overlooked careers of women explorers delivers a visual feast of information spanning the globe and almost two thousand years of history in a stylish, richly detailed presentation. The illustrations were drawn from an extraordinary wide-ranging assortment of historical maps, photographs, drawings, documents, paintings, and old letters, and graphic artist Mary Tiegreen has made the most of these raw materials. In leafing through the book, the reader will see these women spring to life right off the page in fullest color and character. And what characters they were! Ranging from ascetic, reclusive intellectuals to tough-skinned survivors to glamorous film-business celebrities, these women never followed any ordinary path to get where they were going.

Although the short biographical essays are easy to dip in and out of, the book is based on years of dedicated research by author Milbry Polk, who has made it her life's work to collect information on the topic. She may know more about women explorers as a group than anyone else on earth, and she has been in a position to rescue a number of collections of papers abandoned by the descendents of deceased explorers after their ancestors' careers were forgotten in the passage of time and indifference. The book includes ten pages of detailed notes and bibliography for further reading and research, a clue to the depth of research and information underlying the text.

Although a few of the names in the book are instantly recognizable, such as Dian Fossey and Amelia Earhart, most of the women whose stories are collected here will probably be appearing onstage for the first time for many readers. For instance Lady Wen-Chi, the daughter of a Han-era bureaucrat, 'explored' Inner Mongolia after she was kidnapped at the age of 12 by Mongols sometime around the year 190 A.D., and later wrote a series of poignant poems about her fifteen years of captivity called *Eighteen Songs of a Nomad Flute*. In the mid-16th century, Catalina de Erauso fled her life in a Spanish convent to become a miner, conquistador, and mule driver in New Spain. The careers of quiet and careful botanists such as Amalie Dietrich, Alice Eastwood, Ynes Mexia, and Margaret Fountaine contrast with the spectacular way that others such as African explorer Mary Kingsley, wild-life filmmaker Osa Johnson or astronaut Kathryn Sullivan made their marks. The diversity of who's who in this collection makes for some unexpected propinquities—for instance, Leni Riefenstahl immediately precedes Zora Neal Hurston. The drive to excel and discover would seem to spring from the fire and steel of a woman's own spirit -- in spite of, as much as because of, her political beliefs.

There are, in addition to the two authors, several women linked to our hamlet who are featured in the book. Marie Tharp, an oceanographic cartographer who worked at Lamont for almost her entire career, combined her training as a geologist with superb map-making skills to become one of the first researchers to provide convincing evidence of the theory of continental drift (plate tectonics). Her map of the World Ocean's floor, completed in 1977, remains the standard in use today. Another Palisadian profiled in the book is Cristina Biaggi, a protégé of the renowned archaeologist, Marija Gimbutas. Biaggi has devoted her professional life to proving Gimbutas's Neolithic goddess theories, and to increasing public awareness of our ancient past.

The book is available in all major bookstores and on the web, or may be purchased directly from Milbry Polk.

## ROUTE 303 RETAIL STRUGGLE

Continued from Page 11



the requirements of what he termed “thousands of pages of line items,” not his responsibility.

Orangetown's chief supervisor, Thom Kleiner has a different view of the situation. He characterized this section of Route 303 as “the most difficult” of the three key ‘hamlet center’ intersections designated as a focused commercial center in the comprehensive town plan prepared by Saccardi and Schiff. He also added that the planners were still working out the specifics for recommendations as to signage, vegetation, etc. for our area. “We are eager to work with the landlords there to redevelop that area,” he continued, “but one of the landlords has refused to sign the affidavits that accompany the application for certificate of occupancy for new tenants.” Kleiner said that he has been looking for a middle ground to help increase occupancy and emphasized how anxious he is to work with the property owners in the area to accomplish that.

Mr. Zacharakis admitted that all other landlords in Orangetown sign these affidavits regularly, and also said that town officials have even suggested that he should just go ahead and implement his improvements and renovations, including the installation of improved signage, without adhering to this legal technicality. But Mr. Zacharakis feels it is very important to follow the strict letter of the law, preferring instead to try and change the law that he feels is so unfair. So far this approach hasn't been effective. “Kleiner won't issue an executive order to change the affidavit requirement, because he doesn't like me,” declared Mr. Zacharakis.

### Hope for the Future

The September 5 cover of *Our Town* featured a colorful architect's vision for Pearl River's central commercial area taken from the Saccardi & Schiff plan, portraying trees, antique lampposts, brick sidewalks, diagonal parking, relocated electrical wires, and ornamental benches along the town's main street. Pearl River's Rotary Club is raising \$45,000 to pay for an ornamental clock that was recently installed in Braunsdorf Park. Clearly, in that part of Orangetown, business leaders and property owners are working together, using their political connections and financial skills to make good things happen for their local-

ity. It is also clear that our area of Route 303 is not a part of any effective improvement effort. Because of the rapid pace of economic and population growth we see all around us, planning and a well-organized approach to development would seem to be critical at this time.

Mr. Zacharakis emphasized that he is aware that he needs to make his properties productive, not just for himself and his family, but for the community as a whole. When asked what his vision for the area would be going forward, he said that he wants all his stores to be occupied, and that he has been making strenuous efforts to locate new tenants. However, a note of discouragement crept into his voice at the thought of long term planning. “My family is not going to be here indefinitely—my brother's family is in Indiana and my two daughters live in Chicago, where one is a lawyer, who was just married in April, and the other is an international economist.” Sounding somewhat overwhelmed, he went on to add, “I want to leave Tappan looking nice, but I don't think I can do it.” When asked about whether it would be helpful for him to work together with business groups and other landlords to try to solve the vacancy problems with a collective approach, he bristled, “We don't need help.” But then after a long pause the discouraged tone returned as he wondered aloud, “With all these vacancies, what do we do with the space?”

### Orangetown Planning Efforts— A Summary

#### Comprehensive Town Plan

Private Consultants Saccardi & Schiff have prepared a comprehensive study of Orangetown, focusing on managing future growth. Commercial, community, and land-use issues have played major roles in the study. For details, visit the town's website at:  
[www.orangetown.com](http://www.orangetown.com)

#### Traffic Study on Route 303

A two-year study of traffic patterns, focusing on improving safety as the area grows, was recently completed by the NY State Department of Transportation together with county and town officials. It is tied to legislation that is pending for passage early in 2002. For details visit the website: [www.route303.net](http://www.route303.net)

## LAST CHANCE TO ORDER YOUR COPY OF THE BOOK ON HISTORIC HOUSES IN PALISADES

This definitive work on the older houses in Palisades will be available by the end of December. The book, *Historic Houses of Palisades, New York*, is based on the information and photographs in the House Files of the Palisades Historical Committee and on the work of the architectural historian Michael Rebic. It also includes material about the houses from interviews with Mildred Rippey, Anne Tonetti Gugler, Alice Haagensen, Mrs. Van Blarcom, and Anna Gilman Hill. The files include architectural evaluations and photographs as well as personal recollections, newspaper stories, and historical facts relating to almost every house in Palisades built before 1940. It is a fascinating collection and would be of interest to anyone in the community.

The book will have a hard cover, will be ten and a half by eight inches in size, will be three hundred pages long, and will cost thirty-five dollars. Because this is a major financial undertaking for the Palisades Historical Committee, we are asking people to order in advance and to pay by publication time. We will decide on the number of copies to print when we know how many copies have been ordered. There will be very few extra copies and the book will be much more expensive if it is ever reprinted. This is your last chance to order; the book will go to press by the middle of December.

Alice Gerard



The Log Cabin Studio to which half of the Mann house was added was the result of one of Mrs. Lawrence's shopping tours. At Wanamakers she saw a prefabricated log cabin which she decided would make an excellent summer studio for her son-in-law. Wanamakers agreed to assemble and erect it. The cabin arrived on flat cars from the West. Wanamakers sent up a construction crew of clerks and floor-walkers who knew nothing of carpentry and they bungled the job of putting it together. After a sumptuous lunch with Mrs. Lawrence at the Stone House, the city lads became completely helpless and Mary Tonetti took over, and by her inspirational methods put the cabin together, strengthened by iron tie-rods and beams of locust wood.

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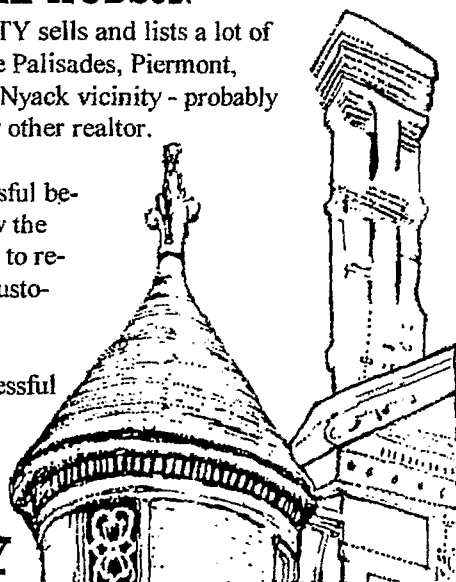
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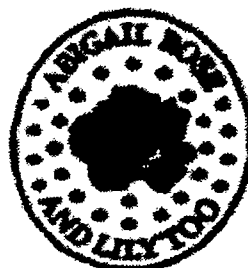
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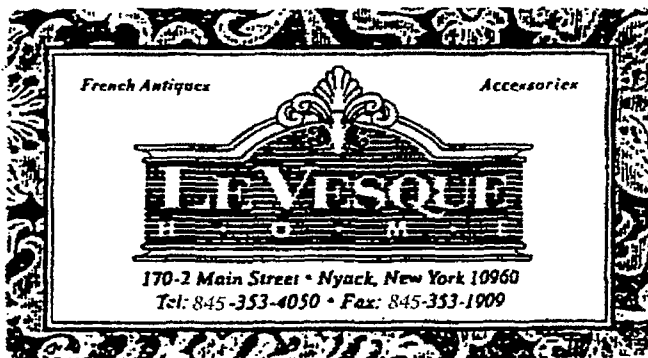


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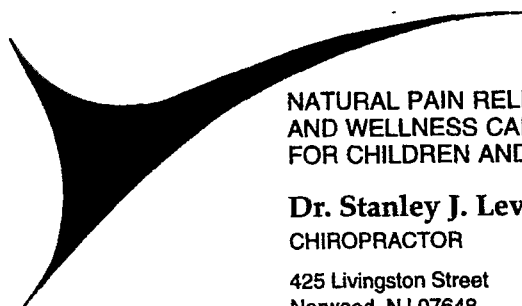
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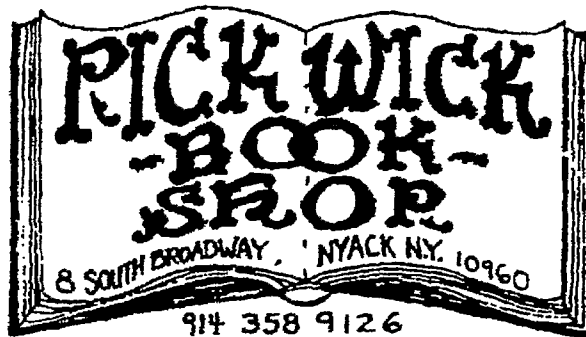
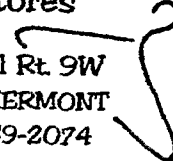
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