

# 10964

## THE PALISADES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2002 NUMBER 179



# PEACE ON EARTH

good will towards all

## A SCHOLAR'S PERSPECTIVE

*10964 interviewed the well-known Middle East specialist and scholar, William R. Polk, who was in Palisades visiting his daughter, Milbry, in mid-November. Among other topics, our interview focused on how Americans need to inform themselves about the gravity of our current foreign policy situation.*

*Mr. Polk has had a long and distinguished career as a Middle East expert, stretching from the Kennedy administration to the University of Chicago to the private sector. For the last 30 years, he has been an investment banker and a corporate consultant, and has written a number of books. He is the author of the classic *The United States and the Arab World*, reprinted in 1991 by Harvard University Press under the new title, *The Arab World Today*, as well as *Neighbors and Strangers: The Fundamentals of Foreign Affairs*. Currently, Mr. Polk lives in France.*

*10964: Could you talk about your background?*

**Mr. Polk:** I went into the government as a member of the Policy Planning Council under John F. Kennedy and I was in charge of planning American policy for the Middle East, North Africa, and Central and South Asia. I was in the second tier of people in the Cuban Missile Crisis -- I was a member of the Crisis Management Committee, that in effect, tried to organize our handling of the crisis. I left the government in 1965, and became a professor of Middle Eastern History at the University of Chicago, and founded the Middle East Studies Center there. I was also the Director of the American Middle Eastern Studies Association, and I became President of the Adlai Stevenson Institute of International Affairs. Then I left that job in 1972, and have been working as an investment banker, corporate consultant, and writer since then.

*Continued on Page 2*

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*Compared to situations where global war threatened in the past, such as pre-WW I, the Cuban Missile Crisis, etc. how would you rank the danger of the situation we are all in right now?*

I think that the situation is particularly dangerous in terms of the threat of escalating, widespread conflict. The administration is determined to get into a war, regardless of what their own intelligence people are telling them. The administration is suggesting we are in major danger because Iraq has nuclear weapons. But I am tied in with a group of former CIA chiefs all over the Middle East, former Ambassadors, etc. and they all agree that there is no danger at all from this at the present time. All of the intelligence people I have talked to, and a lot that I have not talked to, are all saying that there is no danger at all of nuclear weapons in Iraq.

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, as I said, I was very deeply involved in it. We did everything we could to take the public into our confidence, to tell them what they needed to know about what was happening. I helped to write the President's speech on the Monday of the missile crisis. And there were two important things about that speech. One was, we tried to tell the public about what we knew and second, we were trying to find ways other than violence to end the crisis.

And unfortunately, a part of the thing that is very dangerous today is the government policy on secrecy that has not revealed very much to the public. We're all being, in effect, told "Don't think, don't talk, don't analyze, go along with this."

So the question is why is our government so intent on doing this? This is not to defend Saddam Hussein. He is a thug, he's a murderer, but is he a danger to the United States? The answer is flatly, No. Iraq is a small country of 23 million people, half-way around the world from us, fragmented into a northern Kurdish region and southern Shiite region. Its army was virtually destroyed in the Gulf War and hasn't been rebuilt since, and it is surrounded by its much more powerful enemies Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Israel (which has one of the strongest armies in the world as well as 400 nuclear weapons). The idea that Iraq could do anything to us is absurd. Their delivery systems could not even reach the Mediterranean.

We are also fed the story that Iraq is in league with

Osama bin Laden. But bin Laden is a religious fundamentalist, and to him, Hussein is almost the devil incarnate because he is a secularist. And indeed during the 1990s Gulf War, bin Laden offered to the United States to create a brigade of religious fundamentalists to attack Hussein. There is no relationship at all between bin Laden and Hussein. One after another, stories about intelligence contacts between them in Budapest and various other places have been shown to be false. Yet our government has not admitted that they are false.

There is some other reason why Iraq is being attacked. Everybody I know is speculating on what these reasons could be, without any consensus. However, it is not the case that Iraq is a danger to the United States. That is a reason that you can forget about.

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*What is the reaction of people in France, where you live, to current American foreign policy?*

The Europeans are appalled by America at the present time because we have the world on our shoulders, and what we do here is going to affect our lives, our children's lives and our grandchildren's lives, and their grandchildren's lives for the foreseeable future. We need more than ever to think, to ask, to talk. But right now, it is very hard to get most Americans even interested in it. Look at the turnout on the vote during the last Presidential election. Europeans couldn't believe that the Americans didn't care even to vote. Only 40 % of the registered voters voted. Give or take a little, let's say that 21 out of 100 people actually voted for this current policy. It would be fascinating to find out how much any of those people knew about what is really going on.

People that I talk to in France are just dumbfounded by our actions because they are a complete reversal of more than a half century of American policy. Among other things, the action that we are proposing to take in Iraq is a direct violation of the UN Charter, which we played a major role in setting up in the first place, and which all the member countries are supposed to subscribe to.

*Isn't that the fundamental reason that the UN was created? To avoid wars by solving security problems in an international forum instead?*

The UN Charter, which was confirmed by the US Senate, and therefore is the law of the United States,

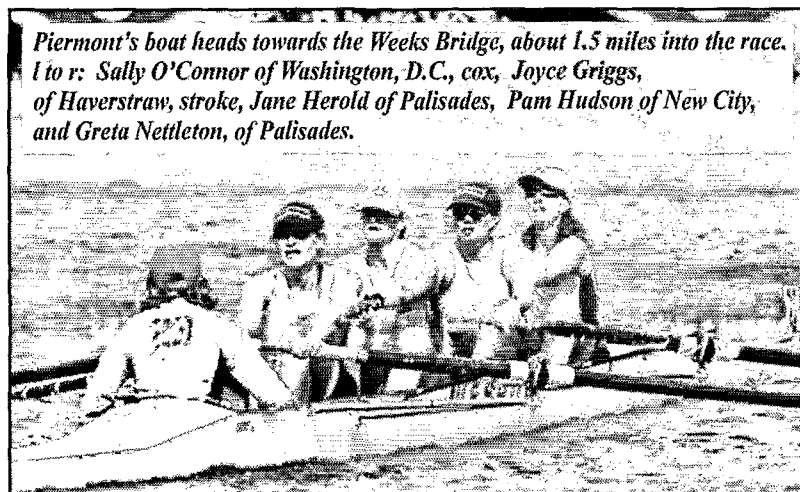
*Continued on Page 14*

TWO PALISADIANS  
PARTICIPATE IN

## HEAD OF THE CHARLES REGATTA IN BOSTON

Going to the 38th Head of the Charles rowing regatta in Boston is like going to Mardi Gras in New Orleans and the Pan American Games all rolled into one. Billed as America's Fall Rowing Festival, this year's event attracted 7,000 competitors and tens of thousands of spectators who lined the river on both sides to cheer on their favorites. The three-mile race through the heart of Boston rowing territory brings together competitors ranging from world-class elite competitors at the Olympic level to top high school teams to senior veterans (over-80 category). This year, rowing for the Piermont Rowing Club, two Palisadians, Jane Herold and Greta Nettleton, participated in the Women's Master Four (a sweep boat with four rowers, four oars, and one coxswain).

How they got there is a history of underdogs not giving up. Four years ago a group of people with almost no rowing experience, including many from Palisades, got



*Piermont's boat heads towards the Weeks Bridge, about 1.5 miles into the race. l to r: Sally O'Connor of Washington, D.C., cox, Joyce Griggs, of Haverstraw, stroke, Jane Herold of Palisades, Pam Hudson of New City, and Greta Nettleton, of Palisades.*

together and formed the Piermont Rowing Club. As the group grew, their training became more rigorous and the club began to enter races throughout the mid-Atlantic region and New England. Then, in December, 2001, disaster struck. The club's home, on the beach behind the former Mariner Restaurant at the Tappan Zee Marina, had to move to make way for an extended cocktail deck.

Thanks to the generosity of the Village of Piermont, by

Labor Day of 2002 the Club finally had a new home in the parking lot behind Piermont Pictures Video and club boats were able to return to the water. But the club had lost most of its 2002 rowing season. Even for those members with their own smaller boats, rowing was difficult because access to the water was nearly impossible. Do you realize how little public beach front land there is in all of our river communities?

Despite this setback a band of hearty women persevered, and managed to practice and enter one of the most hotly contested races in the country, indeed the world.

**Milbry:** *When did you begin to row and what has it meant to you?*

**Jane:** I rowed for the first time four years ago this past October, in blue jeans and sneakers, not having any idea how to dress for the occasion. A gentleman from the new club carried me over the water to the boat, and I decided then and there that this was the sport for me. No one had carried me anywhere in years! In sweep rowing, each person has one long oar, and you work together to balance and move the boat. It takes a wonderful combination of individual concentration and willingness to be just a part of the whole boat. I like the feeling of solitude within the group, the focus and the feeling of almost effortless motion when for a few moments you are all working together and it all comes right. There is also nothing more lovely than being out on the river at dawn.

**Milbry:** *When the Piermont Club lost its home this past year how did you manage to keep training? Where did you row?*

**Jane:** I was very lucky; fellow club member Debbie Rasiel and I found a pair (two-person sweep rowing boat) for sale and were able to buy it and row right out of Palisades due to the generosity of some wonderful riverfront neighbors.

**Milbry:** *When did you decide to go for the Head of the Charles?*

**Jane:** I never made a very clear decision; right up until the race I was still wondering, "Do I really want to do this?" The minute

I'm in a boat though, the questions disappear and there's nothing at all to think about but rowing as well as I can. Seat racing, to determine who from the club would be in the race boat, was a good challenge, and fun. It's nice to find out what you can really do.

**Milbry:** *When the day finally arrived, what did it feel like to be in Cambridge with hundreds of other boats and people from all around the world competing? What was your race category?*

*Continued on Page 4*

## HEAD OF THE CHARLES ...continued from pg 3

**Jane:** When we got to Cambridge I finally understood what all the excitement was about. It's a sea of boats and trailers, well organized, but full of nervous energy. Sitting in a boat out on the Charles with the Boston skyline above you, the crowds on race day, it's a thrill. Now that I've done it, I'd have hated to have missed it. We all got to feel like a team, and to appreciate each other, through all those early morning practices, the logistics, and shared responsibilities. Several club members supported us throughout the training period, and came to cheer us on in Boston. We were in the Women's Master Four category, which means women "of a certain age" (technically, in rowing, masters are anyone over 30, which I think is very nice, and you can be sure we are!), rowing four to a boat, plus coxswain. We saw some absolutely beautiful rowing. The US National Team rowed in the Championship Fours and Eights on Sunday afternoon and they were amazing.

**Milbry:** Describe the actual race. Who were some of your competitors? I understand you had some tight moments.

**Jane:** There were 25 boats in our race, and we were bow number 23. The fastest boat (bow # 1) starts first. We, being rather unknown, were right near the end. They start a boat about every 10 seconds, and until you've passed under the Boston University bridge, you're not allowed to pass other boats. So unfortunately, we had some slow pokes in front of us, and had to row at about half pressure in order not to overtake them until we'd cleared the bridge. Once under the bridge we gave it all we had, and passed two boats right away. By the midpoint in the race, we'd passed another, and then, while passing bow #18 under the Anderson Bridge, we had an unfortunate disagreement about who should be on the inside of the curve. In other words, we had a crash. Our oars were locked together, we nearly scalped the poor coxswain in the other boat, and after the longest 25-30 seconds, and some rather foul language, we broke free. Amazingly, we managed to get back up to speed and pass yet another boat, to finish up near bow numbers 17 and 10! Having started at 23, that was not too shabby. We received a 1-minute penalty for turning rowing into a contact sport, but even so, finished 16th!

**Milbry:** What was the outcome of the race?

**Jane:** The outcome was that we all want to do it again, and even better! All four of us are basically self-taught, we have no coach, we have limited time for training because of family and work responsibilities, and our club didn't even have a place to launch its boats for most of this season. I went into the training hoping not to come in last, but we did so much better than that!

Next time we'd like to automatically re-qualify for the following year's race, which means finishing within 5% of the top time in our category. We didn't do that this time. We were 16th out of 25, with a one minute penalty for that little crash I mentioned. Without the penalty we'd have been 14th. It was a very respectable performance but I think we'd all like to do it again, even better.

**Milbry:** What are your plans for the future?

**Jane:** Mostly I love to row my pair, and that's what I hope to do a lot of next season. I also discovered what a difference a trained cox can make, and I'd like to get some good coxing going in our club next spring. Our cox, Sally O Conner, lately of the Potomac Boat Club, came up from Washington D.C. to do the race for us, and she was magnificent. We learned a tremendous amount about racing strategy and how to be effective competitors from her.

**Milbry:** Would you encourage novices to take up this sport? If there are people interested in finding out about the club and learning how to row, who should they call?

**Jane:** Nearly everyone in the Piermont Rowing Club is some form of novice, though there are a few who rowed in college or high school. The rest of us are largely self-taught, with help from each other and from an occasional coxswain or coaching session or a trip to a weekend rowing camp. It is a great sport for people of any age, and it's wonderful to feel some connection to this beautiful river we all live so near. I cross the George Washington Bridge, or the Tappan Zee Bridge now, and right away, I feel at home, on my river. I think Elizabeth Tapley is keeping a list of people who'd like to join when we start the beginners program in December.

by Milbry Polk

Interested people (who don't have to be athletes!) should contact Marge Boyd, at 735-2544, or Nina Prusinowski, at 359-4580, or send a letter to the club at P.O. Box 443, Piermont, NY 10968. The first orientation sessions for potential new members for the 2003 season will be held at Valley Family Fitness, 184 Central Ave. in Old Tappan at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday Dec. 5th and from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7th. For those who cannot attend these sessions, other ones are planned. The club will offer access to this gym and rowing oriented training sessions and workouts throughout the winter months as part of its membership. Both beginners and experienced rowers are welcome.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## UPDATE ON INDIAN POINT

Since my last letter to the editor in the October issue of 10964, several important things have occurred in the ongoing saga of the effort to close Indian Point.

### Consultants Role in Evacuation Drill

On September 24, FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) held a paper drill of the evacuation plan for Rockland, Westchester, Putnam and Orange counties. This year for the first time the only independent observers were from James Lee Witt and Associates, a consulting firm hired by Governor Pataki to review the evacuation plans and present their conclusions at the end of the year. Local supervisors and police who would be called upon in the event of an emergency were not permitted to participate or observe. Entergy, the owners of Indian Point, helped FEMA formulate the drill scenario. By the time this article is printed, FEMA will have released its final results.

Several questions have been raised about this drill. During the exercise, Rockland County emergency services forgot to call Bergen County to let them know that our school children would be evacuated to their reception centers. What other mistakes did they make? And what are the criteria FEMA uses to pass or fail the evacuation plan?

In order to meet with the public, Mr. James Lee Witt came to a meeting at the Ramapo town hall that was televised on Cablevision. Christopher St. Lawrence, the town supervisor, reported that for the last few years several police officers have been run over and hospitalized after the annual 4th of July fireworks show at Rockland Community College when drivers refused to be rerouted by the police to help the traffic flow. He asked, If people fail to follow directions after a fun event like the fireworks display, what will happen in an emergency?

Steve Hurley, Supervisor of the Town of Stony Point, and Superintendent Dr. Dodge R. Watkins, of the North Rockland School District, told Mr. Witt that they would not be able to evacuate their school district in a timely manner in the event of a radiological incident at Indian Point. They based this statement on their experience during the explosion of a generator at the Mirant power plant last year.

Mike Katz, a resident of Pomona, told Mr. Witt what happened when he noticed a small aircraft circling over

the Indian Point site. He had been vigilant, as President Bush, has asked all citizens to be, and had programmed the terrorist hotline number into his cell phone. He called. The operator he reached asked, What's Indian Point and where is it? It turns out she was in Albany. After being transferred to the New York City number and being passed around, he finally spoke to someone who said they would look into it. This took 20 minutes.

### County Executives Differ in Approach

Just a few days before this article was written, Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano announced he wants to fund a six-month study to investigate the possibility of buying out or condemning Indian Point, and converting it to a gas-fired generator system. This could be a big step forward for the movement to improve safety for the area. Mr. Spano declared that it was "time for us to be masters of our own fate." He seems to feel that there is a general consensus among the majority of residents of this region that even the best evacuation would never work.

In January, Mr. Spano, along with Rockland County Executive Scott Vanderhoef and county executives for Orange and Putnam will have an opportunity put a wrench into the recertification process for the evacuation plan by not forwarding their checklists to Governor Pataki. It is time for our county executive, Mr. Vanderhoef, to listen more carefully to his constituents. Currently, he is opposed to shutting down the nuclear power plant.

The Rockland County Legislature has passed a resolution preventing the County Executive from sending the "checklist" for the State certification forward without the Legislature's approval. Mr. Vanderhoef has said that he is planning to ignore this resolution.

As a county we stand together. We are inviting Mr. Vanderhoef to join his constituents and put a wrench in the certification process and join Spano's effort to close down the plant. It is within his control not to send in the "checklist."

*Call and write him to protect our public health and safety.*

C. Scott Vanderhoef, County Executive:  
11 New Hempstead Road  
New City, New York 10956  
(845) 638-5122

*by Susan Shapiro*

# GALA FUNDRAISER

## FEATURES LOCAL STARS AND GREAT MUSIC

The CLOSE INDIAN POINT fundraiser held on Saturday evening, October 12, and hosted by Lorraine Bracco was a smashing success, with music, great food and lots of dancing. That night the IPSEC (Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition) documentary "NO WHERE TO RUN" was also shown for the first time.

The party took place at the historic Kuyper Van Houten farmhouse on Sickletown Road, the home of Annette Azan and Gerry Goggin, and was co-sponsored by ROCK-CAN and RIVERKEEPER. Alex Matthiessen, Riverkeeper's Executive Director, also joined the party.

Elisabeth Shue, Jonathan Demme and Nancy Savoca co-hosted. A core group of elected officials, including Thom Kleiner, Christopher St. Lawrence, Thomas

Morahan, Alex Gromack, Ryan Karben, Harriet Cornell, and Ellen Jaffee were in attendance.

Well-known local musician John Pousette-Dart performed. The event was deejayed by Bottomless Grove, with flowers by Dina Trow and garden sculptures by Santi Hito.

All the refreshments and hors-d'oeuvres were donated by local restaurants and stores, including Easy Gourmet, The Baker's Wife, Oasis Grill, Nyack Gourmet, The Riverclub, Organica, Da Nina's, Marcellos, Back to Earth, DeCicco, Rockland Bakery, New City Farms, Hard Wok Cafe, Gary & Company, Goldberg's Bagels, and Taste of Distinction. The bartender, caterer and waitresses were all volunteers.

The funds raised will be used to support public education, outreach, and legal support to have Indian Point decommissioned and to entomb the spent fuel in hardened on-site storage. If you would be interested in making a donation or having a fund raising party at your home please call ROC-CAN at (845) 371-2100.

*by Susan Shapiro*



## THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING LAWN SIGNS

Prior to the recent election on November 5, volunteers placed at least 50 of the bright yellow "Close Indian Point" signs around the county, mostly in locations alongside other election lawn signs for the candidates. Mysteriously, within 24 hours most of the yellow Indian Point signs had disappeared, while all the other signs remained standing. In Palisades, it was reported that four of the signs vanished from the same location on Oak Tree Rd. within one week, two of them vanishing in less than 2 hours after being put up.

## THE MILLENNIUM PIPELINE

The **Millennium Pipeline**, proposed to carry natural gas from Lake Erie to Mount Vernon, NY, may be **re-routed through Palisades**. The route would parallel the existing Tennessee gas pipeline that crosses the Palisades Parkway behind IBM, crosses 9W at the old gas station, passes next to Snedens Landing on wetlands in Tallman Park, before crossing under the Hudson River at the end of the Piermont Marsh. **A 50-foot portion of the cliffs in Tallman Park might have to be blasted for the route to be built.** For more information, contact Orangetown Supervisor, Thom Kleiner, or the Rockland County Coordinator of Environmental Resources, Allan Beers.



## CHURCH NEWS

**PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**WASHINGTON SPRING ROAD**  
**PALISADES, NEW YORK 10964**  
**CHURCH OFFICE: 845-359-3147**  
**PASTOR: REV. DAE JUNG**

### **ADVENT WREATH MAKING AND DINNER – DECEMBER 1**

The Palisades Presbyterian Church's annual event for making Advent wreaths will be held on Sunday, December 1, at 5 p.m. This family event includes a pot-luck supper. Those who wish to make an Advent Wreath should bring their own wreath-form and candles. The greens will be supplied.

People may come to build their own wreath or just for the dinner. There will be a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin-board or call the church at 845-359-3147 for reservations to see what foods are needed to complete the dinner. Pot-luck food should serve at least eight people. Entrees, salads and of course, desserts are needed. There is no charge for admission and all are welcome.



## **THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!**

And we have a great suggestion for a gift that will be especially appreciated by Palisades residents. The revised, second edition of *Historic Houses of Palisades New York* is still in print, and is available at the Palisades Free Library for \$40. It contains information and pictures on 104 houses in our historic hamlet, as well as an overview of the architectural and social history of the community. The first edition sold out quickly; the second edition contains new material, some new pictures, and corrections of the many errors discovered after the first edition of the book had been printed.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES IN PALISADES**

The Palisades Presbyterian Church will hold two special services on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. both in the Sanctuary. The early service is geared for families with young children. People who attend this service are asked to bring new toys for children in Harlem hospital who have sickle cell anemia and AIDS-related diseases. At one point during the service, people will be asked to bring the toys forward and place them in the chancel area.

Toys for this service should be wrapped in white tissue paper loosely tied. The people at the hospital need to decide which toy is most appropriate for each individual child so wrapping toys in traditional ways makes the giving process more difficult. There are so many children that need special gifts at this season that we cannot have too many. Volunteers from the church will deliver the toys on Christmas day.

The later service at 11 p.m. is a traditional service of Lessons and Carols. It features bible readings of the Christmas story, special choir anthems and Christmas carols sung by the congregation. The Palisades choir is often enhanced by area singers who join their voices in praise of this wondrous night.

The Sanctuary will be decorated with wreaths, greens and candles making an already lovely setting even more beautiful. All are welcome. Please come early to both services as they generally are well attended. For more information, call the church office, 845-359-3147. People who would like to sing with the choir should call Choir Director, Michael Shapiro at 845-359-5660 to learn when rehearsals will be held.

The church's French Baroque organ has just been rebuilt in time for this service. The church has been undergoing extensive restoration and the steeple portion of the work is complete and is now in pristine condition.

The late service ends at midnight with the joyful ringing of the magnificent, antique church bell.

## PALISADES VOTERS FAVORED ROCKLAND PSYCHIATRIC PURCHASE

Election districts 12 and 50 (including the hamlet of Palisades) voted more than two-to-one in favor of Orangetown's issuing nearly \$7 million in bonds to buy 248 acres of Rockland Psychiatric Center land, primarily for recreational use. The tally was 261 Yes and 120 No. The whole town of Orangetown adopted Proposition 1 by a five-to-two margin, 7,530 to 2,980 (a sharp contrast with Clarkstown's Proposition to allow the Palisades Mall to expand; it was defeated by almost exactly 2 to 1).

In an apathetic turnout — 25 percent less than in 2000 — Palisadians decisively backed all the incumbents seeking reelection, all of whom won easily. Governor George Pataki received 339 votes to 175 for his Democratic challenger, Controller H. Carl McCall and 54 for Independence candidate Thomas Golisano, maintaining a long-standing tradition that a Republican who carries Palisades will win election in Orangetown and Rockland County. Eight Palisadians voted for Stanley Aronowitz (Green), 5 for Thomas Leighton (Marijuana Reform), 3 for Andrew Cuomo (Liberal), 1 for Jeffrey Scott (Libertarian) and 1 for Gerard Cronin (Right to Life).

The closest race was for retiring Assemblyman Sam Colman's seat in Albany. Democrat Ryan Karben tallied 255 votes in Palisades to 238 for Republican Gerald Walsh, 46 for Ellen Jaffee (Green), and 5 for Alan Simon (Working Families). Walsh swept Orangetown, 8,918 to 5,349 (Karben), along with 908 (Green), and

200 (Working Families), but the Ramapo portion of the 95th Assembly District gave Karben the election by 16,470 to 13,396, 1,832, and 481.

New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi (D, L, WF) running for the position of State Controller to replace Carl McCall had a narrow victory: he carried Palisades, winning 295 to 235 for John Faso (R, I, Conservative), though he lost in Orangetown by 6,369 to 8,044 and barely carried Rockland by only 1,221 votes out of 75,000. Attorney General Eliot Spitzer (D, I, L, WF) was handily reelected over Dora Irizarry (R, C), winning Palisades by 362 to 170, Orangetown by 8,324 to 6,110, and Rockland by 48,006 to 24,906.

Congressman Eliot Engel (D, L, WF), whose 17th District now includes all of Orangetown and some of Ramapo, narrowly lost Palisades to Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef (R, I, C) by 262 to 275 and widely lost Orangetown by 5,476 to 9,567. But the rest of the district, running from Riverdale through Yonkers and Greenburg, gave him an easy victory.

State Senator Thomas Morahan (R, I, C, WF), who had no Democratic opponent, received 303 votes in Palisades. Right to Life candidate Richard Bruno of Piermont had 4 and Green candidate Leslie Farney 23.

In the voting by Palisades for State Supreme Court, the five Democratic nominees averaged 219 votes and the Republican-Conservative candidates 221. These totals include Independence line votes for three Democrats and two Republicans; Working Family votes for one of each (plus 11 for another WF candidate); and Right to Life votes for three Republicans (plus 9 and 6 votes for two other RTL candidates).

*by Andy Norman*

## A L L \* N E W S

### Jackasses Invade Village

Yesterday in Hanrove, a very peaceful village, jackasses or donkeys attacked them. Only 103 people lived in the village and 3/4 of those people got killed or were hurt from the attack. The donkeys destroyed four farms before they ran into a natural gas tank. A man accidentally threw a cigarette butt at the tank and it blew up half of the town. The explosion killed the donkeys too.

### Lifeguard Saves Olympic Champion From Kiddy Pool

Joe Davis just got back from winning a gold medal in the High Dive competition in the Olympics. He decided to take a trip to a local pool with his family. While he was putting his daughter, Melissa, in the kiddy pool, he fell in too! The lifeguard saw this and rushed to the rescue and saved Joe just before he went under. The lifeguard commented, "It was the most daring rescue I have ever done."

*\*ALL NEWS is Alexander, Louis, and Luc Lalire (ages 12, 10 and 9)*



# BOOK REVIEW

## ROCKLAND COUNTY CENTURY OF HISTORY 1900-2000

*Edited by Linda Zimmerman*

**A publication of The Historical Society of  
Rockland County**

The cover of the book puts it succinctly. 1900 - a farmhouse with its barns and orchards. 2000 - an aerial view of the Palisades Center Mall, with its attendant roads and ramps. Of course, Rockland was not exclusively agricultural in 1900, nor is it now entirely devoted to consumer goods. But Rocklanders living at the turn of the century would recognize very little of their land and their experience if transplanted to the millennium.

The story of those momentous hundred years is told in first-person narratives, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, letters, mini-biographies, lists, charts, maps - and in a vivid archive of photographs. The photographs show the dirt tracks that gave way to gravel roads that were superseded by tarmac. They introduce us to the men of the Knickerbocker Ice Company of Rockland Lake, the brickmakers of Haverstraw, workers at the shoe factory in New City, swimmers at Fort Comfort in Piermont, skiers at Ski Stony Point. They take us to log cabins and drive-in movie theaters, to Shanks Village in Orangeburg and to the Samsondale mansion in West Haverstraw. And they bring us up to date with today's Main Streets, hospitals and libraries.

There is a wealth of material here. It is ordered by the decade: "1900 - 1909: Life on the Farm." "1950 - 1959: The Bridge and the Boom." "1990 - 1999.- In with the New." This scheme is somewhat arbitrary (and occasionally an anecdote strays from the appropriate chapter), but it is probably the only way in which this very large amount of very diverse material could have been organized. Following the "decade-chapters," a section titled "Our Home Towns" gives text and photographs to the less-publicized areas of the county, Palisades among them.

There are some substantial narratives here. One, for example, follows seventy years of controversy about the Tappan Zee Bridge. Another ("The Story of the Decade") chronicles the long-drawn-out battle over the Palisades Mall, its location, design, construction and impact on the area. The story of the Jewish community in the county is given in sequence, decade by decade; the growth of the Asian and Hispanic communities is discussed in detail in "The Changing Face of Rockland." However, this book is less a sustained read than a resource. Dipping into it yields a fascinating glimpse of the events, places and people that made - and are making - our county's history.

Rockland County. Century of History is available from The Historical Society, 20 Zukor Road, New City, and from Pickwick Books, South Broadway, Nyack. The cost is \$34.99.

*by Caroline Tapley*

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## JOAN KONNER IS EMMY WINNER

Documentary producer and retired Dean of the Columbia Journalism School Joan Konner received an Emmy Award in the Long Documentary category for her film, *She Says: Women In The News*, shown last December on PBS. The Director and Co-writer was Barbara Rick.

The 23rd Annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards were presented by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) at a black-tie dinner and ceremony on September 10, 2002. A stellar line-up of prominent newsmakers and industry executives including Barbara Walters, Bernard Shaw and Pat Mitchell, president of PBS, presented the awards to a distinguished group of broadcast journalists at the Marriott Marquis hotel in New York City. Garrick Utleigh of CNN acted as Master of Ceremonies during the event.

The finalists were chosen by blue ribbon panels composed of broadcast industry professionals. A record number of entries were submitted this year for the News and Documentary Awards. Entries totaled 1654, up from last year's 1450.

The presentation of the News and Documentary Emmy Awards was part of a series of events titled "9/11 to 9/11: A Tribute to News Professionals." The tribute began on Monday, September 9, at the Essex House with a noontime lunch for newsmakers and leading television journalists and executives. Later that day, a symposium attended by journalists, television executives, newsmakers and students was held at Fordham University to study the role of television in covering the current world crisis. Text from presentations made by journalists during the event are available on the web at the official Emmy website.

# SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL NEWS

## As Town Grows, School District Responds With A New Master Plan

The South Orangetown Central School District has begun the 2002-2003 school year with action towards the development of a Master Plan. A Master Planning Committee has been established to identify our short and long-term needs which will lead to a Master Plan recommendation to the Board. The Board and administration have been working with our construction management firm (J.M.O.A.) and architect (Cannon Design) to actively gather, review, and study the short and long-term needs of all of our district facilities. The three key areas of focus are: Increasing enrollment, infrastructure and maintenance needs and athletic facilities.

Our enrollment has been steadily increasing over the past ten years by 2-3%, with projections showing similar growth expected over the next ten years, which means an increase of approximately 550 students. This growth will have an impact on our instructional space and class size. We already know that we have an immediate need for additional space at Cottage Lane beginning in September 2003.

Infrastructure and maintenance needs exist at each of our schools, based on the Facilities Conditions Survey performed two years ago. This is currently being updated. Roofs and walkways needing to be repaired and boilers and lighting needing to be replaced are just a few examples of our needs.

With regard to our athletic facilities, our high school track and tennis courts need to be replaced so that our athletes can play competitive games on their home facilities. These needs and the addition of playing fields were recommended to the Board in last year's Athletic Facilities Committee Report.

As the Town of Orangetown develops its Rockland Psychiatric Center Plan, the South Orangetown school district's Superintendent and Board members will continue their dialogue with town officials so that facilities and services are not duplicated. How we plan on meeting these needs will be presented to the Board, staff and community over the next few months. Strategies on how to address these needs financially, whether through a Bond in March, or later, will be determined as we finalize the plan. At each Monday Board of Education meeting, committee reports are given and information about the Master Plan is

discussed. The community is encouraged to attend these meetings. Up-coming Board of Education meetings will be held on: December 2, December 16, January 13, and January 27. All meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Board room at the South Orangetown Middle School, on Van Wyck Road in Blauvelt.

Additional meetings to present Master Plan information and provide the community with opportunities to share concerns, issues, and feedback on the Master Plan will be held in the future, on dates to be announced.

*by Carol Baxter*

## SOCSD is looking for a Logo!

Attention graphic artists, students and community members! SOCSD is seeking a logo design to be used on all School District publications. For details and to learn how to submit a design, visit [www.socsd.org](http://www.socsd.org) and click on Logo, or call Carol Baxter at 680-1011.

## December Activities at South Orangetown Central Schools

The public is welcome to attend all meetings and events.

### Board of Education meetings:

Dec. 2, 16 and January 13, 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Orangetown Middle School Board room.

### Coffee with the Superintendent

Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Orangetown Middle School Board room.

### PTA meetings:

¥PTA Council Meeting: Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the South Orangetown Middle School.

¥Tappan Zee High School PTSA Meeting: Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

¥South Orangetown Middle School PTA Meeting: Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

¥SOCES PTA Meeting: Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Tappan Zee Elementary School.

### Workshops:

¥PEP Meeting: "ADHD Alternatives for Parents and Children" Dec. 7, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the South Orangetown Middle School Library.

¥GEAR (Gifted Education Advocates of Rockland) meeting Dec. 10, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the South Orangetown Middle School.

### Concerts

¥South Orangetown Middle School Winter Concert, Part 1: Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

¥South Orangetown Middle School Winter Concert, Part 2: Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

¥Tappan Zee High School Winter Concert: Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

# LIBRARY NEWS

## PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

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### Library Hours

Monday-Thursday — 1:00-9:00  
Friday — 1:00-5:00  
Saturday — 11:00-5:00  
Sunday — 1:00-5:00

Closed Tue/Wed December 24, 25 for Christmas  
Closed December 31 and January 1 for New Year's Day  
Closed January 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Closed February 17 for Presidents Day

### Mark Your Calendar

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th at 2pm. This year's guest speaker will be Linda Zimmerman who will take us on a journey through historic Rockland. Linda edited the recently published book, *Rockland County Century of History*.

### Children's Programs

Story Time for youngsters age 3-K continues every Wednesday at 1:30. We are having fun with rhymes, songs, finger plays, table puppet tales, felt board stories and, of course, picture books. Come along and join our happy crew.

### Punch Tin Lanterns

This program is for older children. We'll be making our own designs and letting our light shine through. The results can be beautiful. Bring a hammer. Please sign up at the library. Wednesday, December 11th, 4:30 pm. Grades 1 and up.

## Children's Winter Sunday Afternoon Specials

### The Unhuggables Animal Program.—

Joan Berlin of Everything Animals will present a program to help you appreciate a variety of animals that aren't exactly cuddly. She'll have a number of surprises — spiders, lizards — who knows what else?! It's a secret! This program is child-friendly and safe. Sign up at the library. Sunday, January 12th, 3pm.

Ages 5 and up. Snow date — January 19th.

### Kurt Gallagher —

popular children's entertainer. Chase the winter blahs with song, dance, clapping and laughter. This musician loves children and they love him back. You'll be glad you came! Please sign up at the library. Sunday, February 9th, 3pm. Ages 4-7, age 3 on lap.

## New Adult Non Fiction

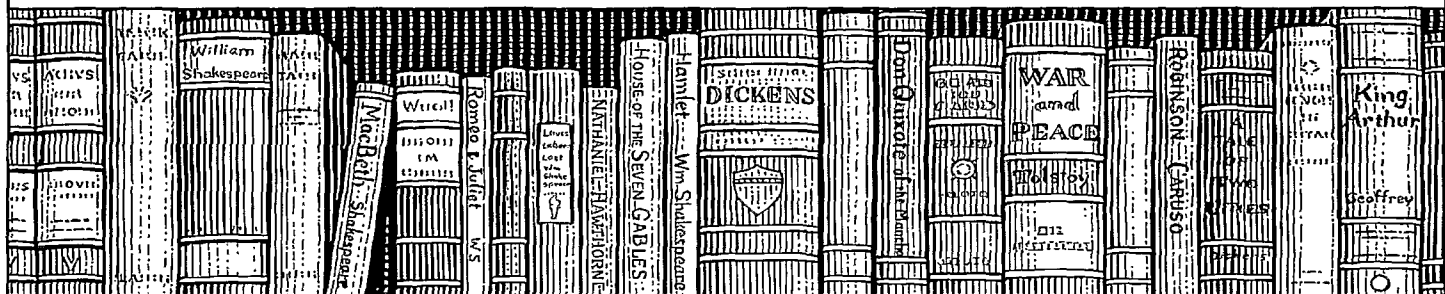
Ambrose, Stephen	<i>To America</i>
Beschloss, Michael	<i>The Conquerors</i>
Ellsberg, Daniel	<i>Secrets</i>
Goleman, Daniel	<i>Destructive emotions</i>
Mailer, Norman	<i>My Spooky Art</i>
McElhenny, Victor	<i>James Watson and the DNA Revolution</i>
Morris, Roger	<i>A Land We Never Knew</i>
Nuland, Sherwin	<i>Lost in America</i>
Woodward, Bob	<i>Bush at War</i>

## New Adult Fiction

Brookner, Anita	<i>Making Things Better</i>
Byatt, A. S.	<i>A Whistling Woman</i>
Crichton, Michael	<i>Prey</i>
Fairstein, Linda	<i>The Bone Vault</i>
Follett, Ken	<i>Hornet Flight</i>
Griffin, W. E. B.	<i>Final Justice</i>
McCullough, Colleen	<i>The October Horse</i>
McDermott, Alice	<i>Child of My Heart</i>
Proulx, Annie	<i>The Old Ace in the Hole</i>

## Tax Forms

Federal and New York State tax forms will be available at the library February 3, 2003.



# BULLETIN BOARD

## LOCAL ARTS NEWS

Filmmaker **Roger Weisberg's** latest production, *The Main Stream*, is an offbeat journey with humorist Roy Blount, Jr. down the Mississippi River. The two-hour film will be shown on PBS on Channel 13/WNET New York on December 17, at 9:00 p.m. Blount's unpredictable odyssey, captured in rich, often amusing detail by the cameras, celebrates a broad range of American eccentricity, from an off-the-rack wedding at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, to a "guts-and-glory" rodeo at the state penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana. "The 20 public affairs documentaries I've made for PBS leave little room for levity," Weisberg said. "But, every once in a while, I need a good laugh and I think our audience deserves one as well. I can't imagine a more quintessential American journey than a trip down Mark Twain's river or a host more affable and amusing than Roy Blount, Jr."

*The Main Stream* is a production of Public Policy Productions, Inc. in association with Thirteen/WNET New York. Over the past two decades, Thirteen has presented 20 PBS documentaries by Roger Weisberg on subjects ranging from health care, aging, and the environment to defense policy, child welfare, adolescent sexuality, and criminal justice. These documentaries have won more than 70 awards, including Peabody, Emmy and duPont-Columbia Awards, and recently, an Academy Award nomination.

Artist **Robert Adzema** has a show of watercolors at the Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, through December 12. Adzema's paintings are representational landscapes that are direct and spontaneous, focusing on strong, often unexpected, compositional points of view. The painter seeks to capture a time of day and the quality of light of local landscapes with his free and expressive brushwork. Reflective and transparent light on water and other surfaces give life to local scenes such as the Hudson River and the Piermont Marsh. The gallery is open 4-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 2-5 p.m. on Sundays, or by arrangement with the director. For more information, please call 398-4195.

**Rockland Center for the Arts** has on a major retrospective called "Function & Fantasy: The Design Show", which features fourteen of the world's leading contemporary designers, including three Rocklanders. The show originated at Pratt Institute and was curated by David and Joanne Weinrib. Among the objects visitors will be able to experience and touch are furniture, fabric, clothing, costumes, lighting, and tableware. One of the featured designers is Eva Zeisel, of New City, who is considered one of the most accomplished ceramicists of

the 20th century and who, at 95, is still creating new, challenging designs for industry. Her tableware designs are so well-known that you will recognize them instantly they became a template for casual elegance during the 1950s and 1960s in the United States and abroad. The show runs through December 15. While you are there, you can check out the Wild and Witty outdoor sculptures by ten artists from Rockland and the Hudson Valley. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and weekends from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call 358-0877.

**Helen Hayes Theatre.** You mean you haven't seen it yet? Maybe not recently, anyways! *The Sound of Music* is back, being performed live at the Helen Hayes Theatre Company through December 29. Tickets are \$35 to \$49.50. In February, they will be performing *Master Class* by Terrence McNally. This play is an illuminating portrait of genius and artistic temperament, featuring the legendary opera diva, Maria Callas, near the end of her illustrious career, as she puts two promising students through her demanding and exacting regimen. For more information and tickets, visit the box office at 123 Main Street, Nyack, or visit [www.hhtco.org](http://www.hhtco.org).

## SEVENTH ANNUAL KEEP US WARM DRIVE

The South Orangetown School District's Lend-A-Hand Committee, led by Palisadian Margie Goldstein, is helping the community stay warm by collecting used, clean children's and adult-sized coats, blankets, boots, hats, and mittens.

Please bring these winter items to the William O. Schaefer School auditorium (on Lester Dr. in Tappan) on Friday Dec. 6 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or on Monday Dec. 9 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The following food items will also be collected for the Tommy Ross Memorial Food Drive: cereal, tuna fish, macaroni and cheese, powdered milk, pork and beans, pasta, and any other non-perishable food items. Also dog and cat food and torn or stained blankets donated on Dec. 6 or Dec. 9 will be donated to two local animal shelters.

We invite any families in need of free coats or blankets to come to WOS on Mon., Dec. 9 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. to make their selections. To reserve coats in confidence or to volunteer, call Margie Goldstein at 359-9232.

## A TRUE SHORT STORY

# THE WONDERFUL MRS. MILNER

It was a beautiful, bright, sunny summer morning. Abie and I, about seven years old at the time, were walking from Mr. Hirschfield's candy store to Abie's house, planning to play in his backyard. As we neared his house he suddenly stopped, looked up at a streetlight, and said, "Betcha a nickel ya can t pop that one with one shot."

"Gimme two shots and I ll betcha a dime I can do it," was my reply. "Okay, it s a deal," he said.

From past experience we knew that when a lighted street light is knocked out by a rock or a shot from a BB gun it puts out a beautiful blue flame for about 15 seconds along with a plume of black smoke. An unlighted street light was less spectacular when broken — no flame and no smoke — but it was a worthwhile target if it provided a chance to win a dime.

I scrounged around in a nearby driveway and found a couple of good throwing rocks. One was the size of a large walnut and the other was a bit larger. I fired them off one at a time and missed twice. "Ha ha, ya owe me a dime," was Abie's immediate reaction.

"Not yet. I ll bet you a dime you can t pop it in two shoots. If you do, you ll get twenty cents and if you miss both times we re even." Abie agreed to the second bet and picked up a couple of rocks.

The streetlight was a fairly large bare bulb hanging down vertically from a white porcelain reflector that looked like a large inverted dinner plate. Abie's first shot missed the bulb but hit the reflector with a clanging sound. His second shot was a complete miss.

"Okay, we re even," I said.

Just then we saw a large policeman striding toward us. I took off like a scared rabbit. When I had gone about fifty feet I looked back to see whether Abie was also escaping. His tactic differed from mine. Instead of running away from the policeman he tried to run past him, toward his house, dodging, turning, and twisting. He was good at that and was difficult to tackle when we played football in the schoolyard, but it didn t work this

time. The policeman grabbed his wrist as he tried to run past him. Seeing this I resumed my effort to escape, but I soon heard a loud "Hey kid! Halt!"

Realizing that escaping prisoners and criminals are sometimes shot when they fail to obey the command to halt, I came to an abrupt stop, and sheepishly walked back to the policeman, wondering whether he would put handcuffs on us. He soon had each of us by the wrist.

"What s yer name, kid?"

"Abraham Baum."

"Where do ya live?"

"Right there (pointing to his house). "

"And what s yer name, kid?"

"Boy Thayer."

"Boy Thayer? What kind of a name is that?"

I was too flustered to reply, but Abie came to my rescue and said, "His real name is Reginald Thayer," and added, "Boy is his nickname and he lives down there in that gray house."

Just then Happy Milner's mother, who was driving by, stopped and got out of her car. Happy was the guy I had my first-ever fistfight with about a year earlier. I didn t like him and I didn t like his brother, Philip or his mother because they were related to him.

"Officer, what have these boys done?" she asked.

"They been throwin rocks at that street light an I m takin em home to tell their mothers.

"Don t take the Thayer boy home. His mother just got home from the hospital. She s quite ill and this would be too upsetting for her."

Turning to me the officer said, "I ll let ya go this time, but if ya ever do that again I ll take ya down to the station house. Now go on home," he said, while giving me a gentle kick in the seat of the pants. The policeman then took Abie by his hand and headed up the steps to his front door.

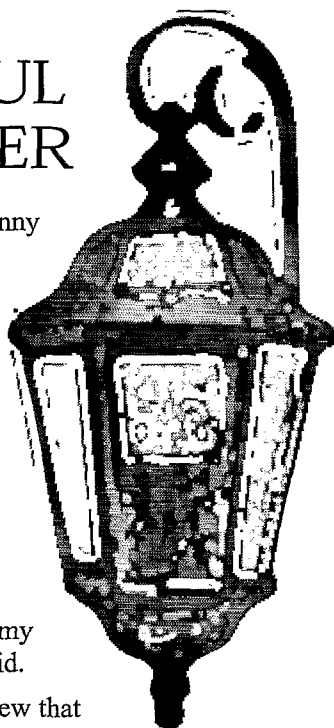
I suddenly decided that the Milner family, whom I had disliked ever since that fist fight, were nice people, even Happy Milner, but especially that wonderful Mrs. Milner.

Abie, who was quite resourceful when he had a problem, looked up at the officer and said, "My mother s not feeling well either. Maybe we shouldn t tell her about this."

"She ll be okay," was the officer's reply.

"See ya tomorrow, Abie," I said as I waved goodbye and headed home.

*by Reg Thayer*



specifies quite clearly that it is against the law to attack another country, as we are proposing to do in Iraq. That is a war crime, as was defined during the Nuremberg Trials against the Germans.

*So we ourselves defined these things?*

Yes, it was our prosecutors, during the Nuremberg Trials, who pushed the definition of that law.

*What about Iran, which is an ancient enemy of Iraq. Wouldn't they be secretly hoping that we will go forward with our plans to attack Saddam?*

Oh no, they're very much opposed to it. I think that everybody believes that America has embarked on a program that is placing itself above the law. The program which we are about to embark on is a violation of the UN Charter, almost every country that I know of is very frightened by this policy. Iran has received delegations from Iraq recently, and while they have old wounds that make them hostile to each other and they have religious differences, Iran is still very much opposed to us attacking Iraq.

As are the British, the French, the Germans, the Russians, but we have effectively twisted everybody's arm to make them go along with this.

*What is the biggest mistake that our Government could make in the short term, right now?*

Keep on doing what it's doing.

I heard one estimate that the financial cost of a war on Iraq would be something like 3 or 4 or even 5 billion dollars to engage in the policy that we're engaged in. If this policy brings on an American Depression, which it might well do, that's not a move that's patriotic for America. It's an anti-patriotic move. You read the headlines in newspaper after newspaper, the drum beats along the Potomac, there's been a war fever that's been built up. And it's going to cost, who knows, maybe 10,000, 30,000 casualties in Iraq. It's estimated that maybe one million people there have already died under the sanctions program. And if the Iraqis fight, or try to

fight, then surely Americans are going to die too. And for what reason? What's this all going to do? It's not any good to any of us. It seems to me just madness what we're doing.

*What, in your opinion, is the most important thing that America should do?*

I think if we pull back and say: "We've now committed ourselves and everyone else to sending inspectors into Iraq, let them go in, and do a thorough examination of Iraq." And insist that they be allowed to see everything that they want to see and make their report. As everyone that I have talked to believes that the report will be negative,

and that there is no evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, then I think we ought to back off. We should declare that we don't like Saddam's government, we don't like what he's doing, but this is also not a danger to world peace, and therefore we don't intend to invade Iraq.

Then we need to concentrate on the terrorist problem. And there we need to differentiate between (1) the psychopaths (such as the snipers in Washington D.C.), (2) those in the middle group who are partially psychopaths (such as Osama bin Laden, who have

terribly diffuse programs that we have no real way of accommodating or dealing with), and (3) the large group who simply want to join the world system, which is a system of nation states. In the case of the third group, we have to do everything we can in places like Kashmir, Northern Ireland, Chechnya,

Palestine, among the Basques, etc. to negotiate or use our good offices to help these groups fulfill themselves. If we do that, we'll find that within these groups, the moderates will tend to control the extremists. If we don't do this, we can be absolutely certain that there will be more terrorist attacks, and that they will continue all the rest of our lives.

*interviewed by Greta Nettleton*

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**IS SADDAM HUSSEIN  
A DANGER TO THE  
UNITED STATES?**

**THE ANSWER IS FLATLY,  
NO.**

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**THE ACTION THAT WE  
ARE PROPOSING TO  
TAKE IN IRAQ IS A  
DIRECT VIOLATION OF  
THE UN CHARTER.**

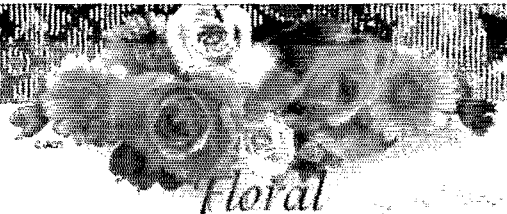
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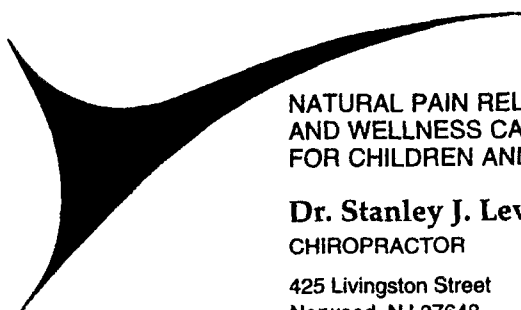
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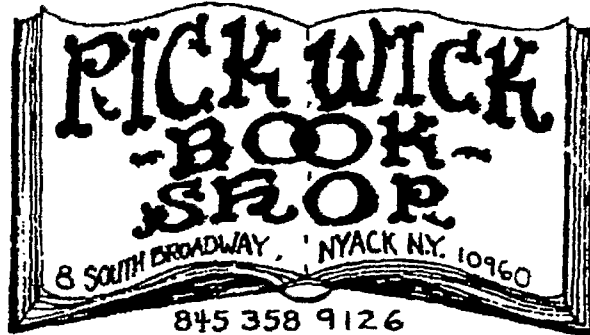
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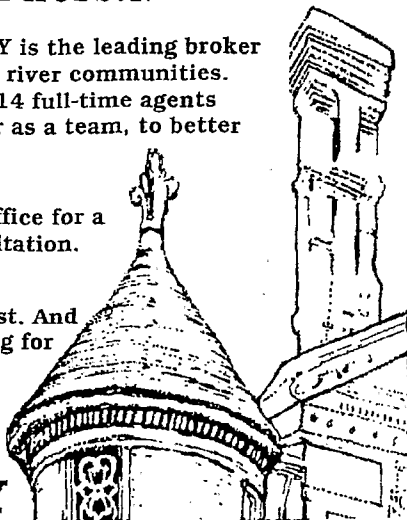
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## ABOUT 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades.

10964 depends on your support and financial contributions are welcome. We are particularly hoping to hear from anyone interested in writing or editing no previous experience is necessary! Please send ideas for articles, items for publication, offers to join the staff, and checks to: *10964 Newsletter, P.O. Box 201, Palisades, NY 10964*

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## PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

On November 17, many people from the community turned out to dedicate two plaques in memory of John Converse, who made so many contributions over the years to both the Community Center and to the Palisades Civic Association.

The Palisades Community Center is happy to announce that the building is now available for meetings, special events and private parties. Lots of good things are going to happen at the center, now that Eileen Larkin has come on board as the program director. Supervisor Thom Kleiner has promised a town board meeting at the center in the early spring. We welcome suggestions from the community for events that you would like to see at the center. We have a bocce court in the back yard. If you would like to put together a group for bocce, just call Eileen.

Please call Eileen at 359-6589 to schedule an event. A fee will be charged for each rental to offset the yearly maintenance costs and also to make any repairs that are necessary. Please become a member by sending a check for \$5.00 per person to Box 222.