

10964

THE PALISADES NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2003 NUMBER 182

GOODBYE OPEN SPACE? GOODBYE GREEN?



Rte. 9W Golf Range

Photos: Margorie Galen

10964 has received many communications expressing concerns about the expected sale of the Rte. 9W Golf Range to a developer. Along with adjoining land, the parcel could total 24 acres.

The overall question is: what would be the impact of this kind of development on Palisades, a residential community with open space and trees?

And what does this foretell for the future? What other parcels of land in Palisades could be developed? Connected to this 24 acre parcel is 85 acres belonging to IBM (they use only 15) and 10 acres of School District property, making a large block of 119 acres for possible development.

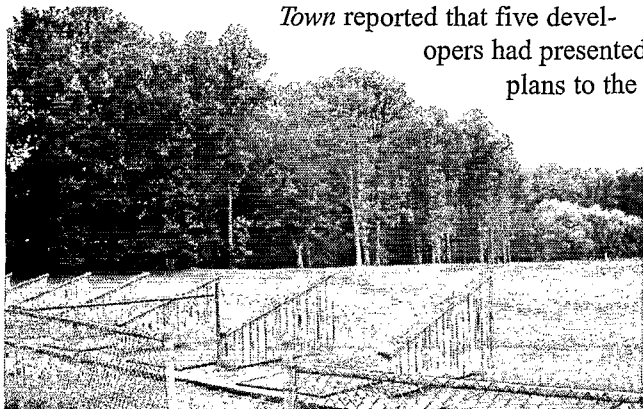
Once one parcel goes, will the others fall - as in a set of dominos? Can this land be re-zoned, allowing high-density houses or condos? What would happen to the trees? Instead of wooded land, will we see a landscape of buildings?

It all began about a year ago. Word came that the Rte. 9W Golf Range was up for sale and there was a proposal to build "senior housing condos/townhouses" on the land (a total of about 80 units). A meeting was held in the Palisades Community Center attended by residents very concerned about the proposal. Rex Lalire gave a presentation including large scale maps and projected costs. It was determined that with the estimated asking

price of 7 million, this would not be senior subsidized housing but rather an upscale and expensive development. Other issues were raised: Eileen Larkin pointed out that Rockland has a severe water shortage and this would tax reserves; others pointed out problems on Rte 9W, a scenic roadway.

As for suggested alternatives, Ernie Quick had brought Carol Ashe of the Palisades Park Commission to the meeting and she expressed interest in investigating acquisition of the land for the park. Thereafter, some residents began to work on creative ways to raise money and involve the town. Attorneys were contacted. The Palisades Park Commission sent word they had no money to contribute to the purchase of the land. Then word came that the owner of the Golf Range was not going to sell and all further plans subsided.

What we know now. Early this spring, *Our Town* reported that five developers had presented plans to the



PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

It's hard to believe, but the Palisades Civic Association will be 20 years young next year. We began back in June of 1984 to fight a proposed down-zone change on the corner of Rte. 340 and Oak Tree Rd. where a developer planned to build over 100 condominiums. Subsequently a total of 13 homes were built on the site, now Lauren Rd. Along the way, we successfully defeated other zone changes and stopped the use of tandem trailers on Oak Tree Rd., all of which would have made Palisades a far different place to live.

The issue which concerns most residents is a down-zone: rarely does a developer request an up-zone. In Palisades, there are 15 to 119 acres of potentially developable land. The future of these parcels will be what defines Palisades as the years go by.

The need for adult communities is very much an issue at Town Board meetings (Orangetown has the largest

Town Board for "senior housing" in Orangetown. While none of the sites were the Rte. 9W Golf Range, it was suggested in the article that the Palisades site might be considered in the future.

Then, early this summer, an offer was tendered by builder/developer Jay Theis to purchase the 18 acre Golf Range property plus 6 acres of the adjacent Anderson property. Palisadians are told his intent is to put up 18-20 high end homes. Both properties are zoned R40 (1 acre). The Golf Range is within the Historic zone, the Anderson property is not. Word is that Theis does not intend to down-zone the property further and is willing to put in a "significant" berm (as IBM did) to screen the development.

To date, no applications have been filed with the planning and zoning board.

Some Palisadians are still concerned that 18-20 large houses will add to over-crowding in our schools; that there will be more stress on our water supply; that the loss of many trees will affect our air quality and the natural beauty of our hamlet.

However, many seem to agree that the only choice we have, other than finding another buyer or group of buyers for the property, is to encourage the Historical Review Board to be diligent when Mr. Theis's proposal for high-end houses comes before it.

Ed. Note: See the following article from the Palisades Civic Association about this topic.

population of seniors in Rockland). The need for affordable housing is another. We also have a "water deficit" in Rockland County. How a town Board decides on a request for a down-zone [from 1 acre to half acre, third of an acre, or multiple family residential (8 units or more per acre)], will affect all of us.

We are fortunate that the Master Plan recently adopted by the Town recommended that Palisades remain a single family hamlet. Also that a portion of Palisades is designated an historic district, and that we have the senior residence called "Esplanade" (here for over 30 years), as well as the Palisades Community Center, the Palisades School and our Library. All good things.

But we must pay attention! You can help by becoming a member of the Palisades Civic Association (\$5 per person) or by joining the Board. We need your involvement to stay alive!

Eileen Larkin

President, Palisades Civic Association

P.O. Box 222, Palisades, NY 10964

WHEN THEY WERE BOYS...

WAR STORIES BY THE
PALISADES VETERANS OF
WORLD WAR II

**Sunday, November 9th, 2 p.m.
Veteran's Day Weekend**

**Presented by the Palisades Free Library
at the Community Center**

It is called the Greatest Generation. A best selling book named it so, and the name took. It was a generation of young men and women who swarmed from villages and cities to the army and navy recruiting stations after the attack on Pearl Harbor and all went ready to forfeit their private lives for the public defense. Most of them were unaware as to what that forfeiture would bring. They would learn soon enough. Some of them are now residents of Palisades.

Morton Elevitch of Washington Spring Road not only learned well but wrote and sketched of it and well enough for Southern Illinois University Press to publish his collection of letters and cartoons some sixty years later. His forthcoming book *Dog Tags Yapping*, is laced with G.I. wit and humor but in France and Germany, Morton Elevitch also saw the darker side of war.

A rifleman with the 94th Infantry Division which left from Camp Shanks and in time reinforced Gen. George Patton's Third Army, Morton Elevitch was one of many soldiers making ready to breach the dreaded wall of concrete dragons teeth called the Siegfried Line and lead the thrust to the Rhine River. In the village of Butzdorf at the confluence of the Saar-Moselle Rivers, he and a few of his squad members of Company A, 376th Regiment were pinned down in a house by a German pillbox and mortar placements. Incoming friendly artillery made the location particularly hazardous.

When water ran out some had to be brought in from the nearby village of Tettingen. Rifleman Elevitch made the trip hauling a jerrican and anti-tank mines and as he moved quietly

in the night, German flares lit up the dark sky. He froze. Bodies littered the field. Some friends and others he did not know lay in the frozen snow. As darkness returned he struggled forward but again the flares lit the dark sky and again he froze amid the lifeless forms in the field. He waited for the shot that would bring oblivion but it did not come.

Then the flares stopped and somehow he returned to the house. Two weeks later on January 27 at the village of Sinz, a mortar shell found him and its fragments tore into his body. It is a moment he will never forget, along with the frozen nightmare in the field at Butzdorf.

To the west, Rifleman Stanley Weber of Swan Street was with Gen. Omar Bradley's Ninth Army. He had arrived as a replacement in Normandy on July 14th shortly after D-Day and was assigned to the 30th Infantry Division. His 120th Regiment was battling in the hedgerows ever fearful of the tremendous firepower of the German 88's which would fire overhead into the trees sending a downpour of limbs and branches on the troops below. It was at Normandy with 88's firing in their direction that the harshness of war entered his life. At the edge of a hedgerow, grouped with three of his comrades from Company C, he passed his canteen to one of his buddies and then moved down to the other edge of the hedgerow to gauge direction of the enemy. After hunkering down during incoming fire he returned to his squad members. Two were dead. One was missing. A bloody canteen lay on the ground.

Morton
Elevitch



Reg Thayer

Continued on Page 4

That day Rifleman Stanley Weber prayed. He learned at day s end that he had made it through that day and that if he got through the night then all he had to do was to get through the next day.

And it was on one of those next days just thirty miles from Paris that he too was hit by a mortar shell. He heard a **WHOOOF** and then felt the explosive impact tearing open his lower thigh. Six months later he returned to action rejoining the 120th regiment during the Battle of the Bulge.

Arriving at Thirimont, a village near Malmedy shortly after the infamous atrocity bearing its name, he found the ground covered with snow, the firing pin in his M-1 frozen and the skies heavy with clouds promising more snow. It was the coldest winter in years. As he looked to the battles ahead and the ominous sky above Stanley Weber thought it was the coldest winter he had ever known.

In England, United States Army Air Force Bombardier Reg Thayer of Closter Road looked at the skies too. A veteran of fifty missions in Africa and bored by his new assignment as an instructor in the States, he had requested an assignment to B-17s with the Eighth Air Force. He wanted to lend support to the invasion. He finally got it on August 10, 1944. Assigned to the 368th squadron of the 306th Bomber Group at Thurligh Air Base 20 miles west of Cambridge, England, he was soon wedged into the nose of a B-17 and peering through the lens of a Norden bombsight. Missions to such heavily guarded targets as the aircraft factories at Schweinfurt and the rail yards at Koln were behind him as well as eleven other critical sites but as the Battle of the Bulge raged he was looking at the dark, heavy skies overhead anxious for the clearing that would let him go up.

It came on December 24th, eight days after the German offensive in the Ardennes began. His squadron had taken off, the target: the rail yards at Giessen in Germany. As his B-17 approached the target and the bombs were released, his eyes followed them as they riveted the honeycombed tracks below. He flew fifteen more missions over Germany after that. Then the war ended. Reg Thayer flew seventy nine missions in all. It is estimated that there were over thirty thousand bombardiers in the Army Air Corps. Very few flew more

than Reg Thayer.

Halfway across the world, U.S. Navy motion picture cameraman Paul Guttman of Indian Hill Lane was breathing the salt air as the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Yorktown cut through the dark swells of the South Pacific. Recording on film the actions of U.S. submarines, naval aircraft and naval air and sea battles in the Pacific under Admiral Chester Nimitz and others, his mobility made him eyewitness to the heat and horror of the large scale sea battle. Recipient of numerous awards and citations for his skill and courage, he would soon be heading for one of the most famous battles in the Pacific, and one of the most highly regarded in U.S. Marine Corps history: Iwo Jima.

Those are parts of the stories of the men of Palisades who are part of the greatest generation. The rest of the stories will be told on Sunday afternoon, November 9th at 2 p.m. It will be a very special Veterans Day event. Open discussion to follow.

— Don Bracken



Pictured above – Stanley Weber

Pictured below – Paul Guttman



BULLETIN BOARD

★ ★ ★ ATTENTION PALISADES KINDERGARTEN PARENTS ★ ★ ★

On Saturday, Oct. 18, 12:30 p.m. at the Palisades Library, 10964 Newsletter will take a group picture of all Palisades Kindergarten children (the class of 2016!) which will be published in our December issue. Gerry Miras, photographer. For information call Carol Elevitch, 365-3772

Roxana Bartolomé, a Tappan Zee High School senior, has left for France where she will complete her high school education along with her French peers in an historic area in central France. The program, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tappan Zee-Piermont, promotes cultural and educational exchange in the spirit of international understanding.

Gillian, who lives in Australia, sent 10964 a message on our web site 10964.com: "Hi there. Congratulations on your interesting website. Palisades sounds a charming area. Although I live in Australia, reading your site lets me believe that I am actually there. Keep up the good work. Cheers, Gillian."

Bridge anyone? If you are interested in playing — preferably in the afternoon — call Jane Bernick at 359-8382.

Rivertown Film Society announces two new series:

Community Cinema, on the first Saturday of each month (contemporary and classic films);

Secret Cinema on the third Saturday of Oct., Nov. and Dec. (cult-classics, sneak previews, still-to-be-released films), featuring discussions with noted members of the film community.

All showings at 8 p.m. at The Nyack Center, Broadway & Depew, Nyack. Suggested donation: Adult \$8, Student-Senior \$6. For information: (845) 729-1506 or rivertownfilms.org.

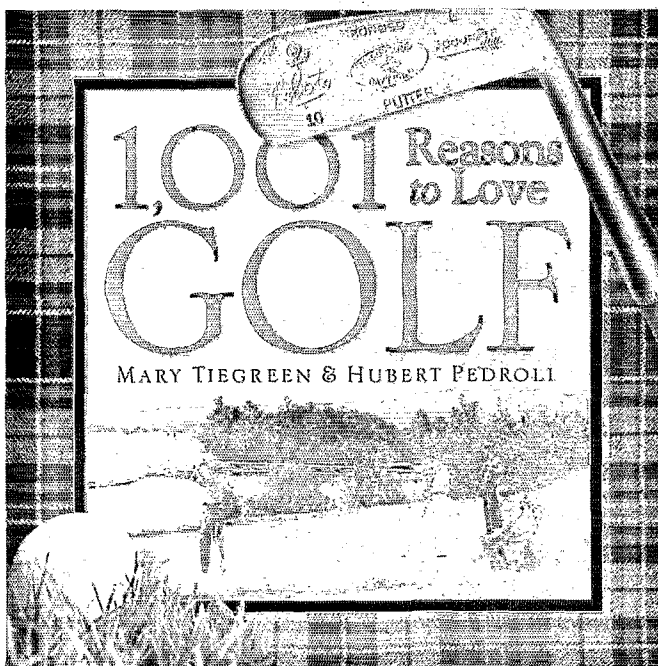
Volunteer Wanted: Man, possibly retiree, needed to lead small group of men at the Esplanade in Palisades a couple of hours a week, doing things like organizing card games and stimulating discussion of current events. If interested, call 359-7870, ext. 205.

Hubert Pedroli & Mary Tiegreen have just published their latest golf book, *1001 Reasons to Love Golf*. In 320 full-color pages they cover: The Lure of Golf; The Promise of Improvement; The Joy of Playing; Great Golf Courses; The Natural Beauty of Golf; memorable Moments & Inspirations Characters; Champions; Tournaments, Celebrities & Famous Caddies; Golf Stuff. It will be available at bookstores and on amazon.com. To see some pages, visit their website at www.1001reasons.com.

"Next time you have a bad day at the course, pick up this gorgeous, joyous book and count your 1,001 blessings." George Peper, author of *Golf in America* and former editor of *Golf Magazine*.

LAMONT OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, October 4 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Interactive displays, science lectures, refreshments available.

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BULLETIN BOARD CONTINUED ...

The Nyack Farmers' Market is bursting with color!

Although each season is wonderful at the Farmers Market, autumn is certainly the most colorful. Pumpkins, squash, eggplants, tomatoes, broccoli, apples, plums and gourds provide a vibrant backdrop for all the other wonderful agricultural offerings such as cheese and bread, pickles, free-range chicken, pastries and deserts, flowers and home-made soaps.

Mark your calendars for the Seventh Annual Harvest Festival on October 9th from 11:00am-1:00pm. Children's story/craft hour is held every Thursday at 10:00am.

The Farmers Market is held every Thursday, rain or shine in the municipal parking lot at Main Street and Cedar Street, from 8:30am-2:30pm. The Farmers Market is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of the Nyacks. For further information, call 353-2221.

Mildred Returns

On Sunday, September 14, Mildred Rippey returned (at least in spirit) to the Palisades Free Library, where she presided over the circulation desk from the late 1940s to the early 1980s. The occasion was a book signing for *Postscripts from Palisades, Mildred Post Rippey's Story*, written by her oldest daughter, Elaine Imady and published by the Historical Society of the Palisades Free Library. The book tells the story of Mildred's eventful life, which almost spanned the last century.

The book signing was also a occasion for a Rippey family reunion. All three of Mildred's daughters Elaine Imady, Janet Chesnut, and Jo Cole were present, with their husbands, as well as their step-brother Jim Rippey and assorted children and grandchildren. *Postscripts from Palisades* is available at the Palisades Free Library desk; the book is a paperback and costs \$15.



Rippey family members on the library steps

ALL ★ NEWS

ALL NEWS is a four-part series about making fun of James Bond (not that we hate it, we love it). Part 1, The Meaning Of Spy Briefings; Part 2, The Meaning Of Annoying Telecom; Part 3, The Meaning Of Useless Gadgets; and Part 4, The Meaning Of Car Chases. Anyways, here's Part 1

THE IDIOCY OF JAMES BOND, PART 1: THE MEANING OF SPY BRIEFINGS

The scenario: M is briefing James Bond about a mission

M: Your mission will be from Mission Impossible.

Bond: But if the mission is impossible, how will I do it?

M: Good point. Your next mission will be to stop a madman who is trying to take over the world. Don't kill him right at the beginning because we want to make this a two-hour movie. Be sure to use expensive gadgets and do exciting action scenes with lots of explosions, even if it is totally unnecessary. Remember, making out with girls is not part of your job. That will be all.

Bond: Two questions before I leave.

M: Yes?

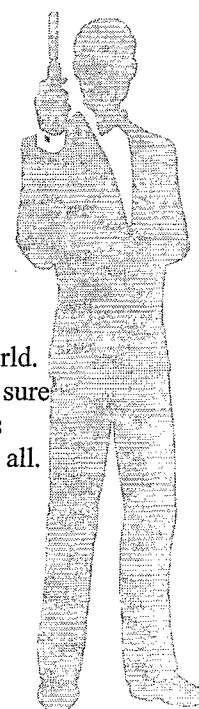
Bond: How come Q always has the exact right gadgets for the job. Is he telepathic?

M:

Bond: The other question is, what does your codename "M" stand for?

M: Oh, mayonnaise.

★ ALL NEWS is Alexander, Louis, and Luc Lalire (ages 13, 11, and 10).



VOTERS FACE FULL LOCAL SLATE IN NOVEMBER, WITH FIVE INCUMBENTS UNOPPOSED

Palisades voters helped nominate candidates for two County Legislature seats in the Sept. 9 primary. In Legislative District 17, Denise Kronstadt defeated Audie Moran, both Piermont Democrats, by nearly three to one -- 644 to 222, aided by a 63 to 7 margin in Election District 12, the eastern half of Palisades. In L.D. 16, in a contest between two long-time Republican incumbents thrown together by the redistricting that split Palisades, John Murphy of Pearl River beat Frank Fornario of Blauvelt by two to one -- 427 to 211, and carried E.D. 50, Palisades west of the Parkway, by 20 to 9.

On November 4, Kronstadt will face Gerald C. Walsh (R, Ind., Cons.) of Blauvelt and Murphy will face Richard M. Struck (D) of Pearl River.

Incumbent Supervisor Thom Kleiner's name will appear on the Democratic, Independence and Working

Families lines, with the Republican and Conservative lines empty. Also unopposed for reelection will be Surrogate Judge Alfred Weiner, Sheriff James F. Kralick, Town Justice Paul B. Phinney III and Superintendent of Highways James J. Dean.

Two Town Council races pit incumbent Denis A. O'Donnell (R, C, I) and Thomas A. Morr (R, C), both of Pearl River, against David Howe of Tappan (D, I, WF) and Nat Wasserstein of Pearl River (D, WF). Incumbent Dr. Edward Fisher (D) is not seeking reelection.

For District Attorney, Mike Diederich of Stony Point (D) is running against incumbent Michael Bongiorno of New City (R, Independence and Conservative), and Helen K. Murphy of Pearl River (R) is challenging the incumbent Town Clerk, Charlotte E. Madigan, also of Pearl River (D, C).

There will be three state Supreme Court seats on the ballot, but the Board of Elections had not listed the candidates by 10964's deadline.

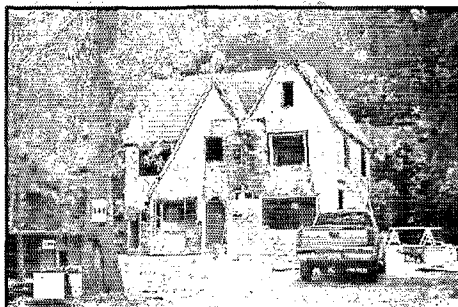
— Andrew E. Norman

THE HOUSE OF GABLES

For at least three years the sole occupants of the dilapidated house at 141 Washington Spring Road had mice, squirrels, and snakes. Ceilings had caved in and the basement flooded. With gutters plugged, water drained behind its stucco exterior rotting interior walls. "If it had wood shingles it wouldn't be standing," said one of the workmen renovating the 1929 property. "The only thing holding up the walls is the stucco."

When it came on the market early this year neighbors were concerned a McMansion would spring up in its place. Fortunately, Eli Josephs, a nine year resident of Palisades, came to its rescue. "I feel it's important because it's one of the first houses you see as you enter off Rte. 9W. I bought the house to keep the architectural integrity of the site. I want it to be true to the period it was built." Josephs, a developer, builds mostly shopping centers, office buildings and the like. "I don't get the pleasure out of doing them as I do building houses. My father was a home builder in Rockland County. I remember Sunday mornings running around sites with him."

Josephs and Jo Machinist, a New York City architect he hired, researched the house as it was being demolished. "We felt many modifications made through the years



compromised the design," said Josephs. They discovered cedar shakes under the asphalt roof and decided to go to the added expense of replacing them even though the community board had first given approval for asphalt.

"The house is in the vernacular English cottage style of the 1920s,"

said Machinist. "I want it to have the charming eccentric feeling it originally had." Exterior walls will be stuccoed the same color, casement windows will be replaced, and doorways will be rounded. While it will have the same footprint and square footage, the living room will be two stories high with an inglenook for window seats and will incorporate a small room that had been a porch. In place of the garage Machinist has designed a large kitchen with a breakfast area. Above it will be a master bedroom and bath. On the exterior, a third gable will join the original two steeply pitched ones.

Former owner Jane Lattes who was six months pregnant, moved into the diminutive house in 1967 with her husband and two small children from a city apartment. Their first house, it had only one bathroom. They sold it in 1975, moving to a larger home on Woods Road. She relates, "My children and I have such happy memories of living there. Although it fell into such sad shape after we left, the house has known a happier time. I'm looking forward to seeing the finished renovation."

— Kathleen Sykes

BILL KNUDSON

A REAL OLD-TIMER

Although few people have lived in Palisades as long as Bill Knudson, he wasn't born here, but in Rockleigh, New Jersey (then East Northvale), on February 23, 1916. One of Bill's earliest memories is of banging on the big Rockleigh firebell to celebrate Armistice Day in 1918. His maternal grandfather, William Blancken, lived in the old house diagonally across from the present Rockleigh Town Hall, and across from the firebell. Bill also remembers walking with his mother down a long lane lined with cattails, in 1920; his mother was on her way to cast her first vote after Women's Suffrage was passed.

William and Babette Blancken had previously lived in the John Post house on Oak Tree Road; Bill's mother was born there. In the early 1900s they moved to Rockleigh, where Anna married Carl Knudson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Knudson, who had just built a house across the street from them. After Bill's parents divorced, Anna and young Bill lived with her parents and moved back to Palisades in about 1921 when William Blancken, who worked as a gardener for the Agnews and other local people, bought a house on Closter Road from Sandy Brown. Bill is still living in the same house, 82 years later.

Bill went to the Palisades School, then in the Community Center. There were two rooms, with grades 1-4 in the smaller room and grades 5-8 in the larger front room, with one teacher in each room. You can see from the picture of some of the big room students in 1930 that proper attire for school was different; boys wore shirts and ties to school and girls wore neat skirts or dresses.

Bill remembers some other differences between long-ago times and Palisades today. Neighbors knew each other better than they do now, and there were fewer houses. There were not nearly as many trees then. You could see the houses on Oak Tree clearly from Closter Road. Across the street from his house was the Salma dairy with a big pasture behind filled with cows. Because so much of the land was cleared, many animals we are used to seeing today were uncommon. Deer were never seen. Bill remembers once seeing a squirrel in a tree on their property and calling his mother to look at it, because it was so unusual to see one near a house.

Shopping was different, too. Bill's mother and grandparents made a shopping trip once a month, going

up to Nyack in a horse and buggy. On the way back they would often stop to see their friend Mrs. Chownes, who had a tavern in the building that was most recently Tony's Lobster House. They would park behind the tavern to avoid being seen by the Misses Agnew, William Blancken's employers, who were strong temperance advocates and would have been shocked to see members of the Blancken family frequenting a tavern.

Generally delivery men came to the house instead of people going to the store. There was a vegetable delivery man, an ice man, and a fish man. Other vendors would take orders and deliver once a week. Bill's family had a very feisty rooster, who would attack one particular delivery man every time he came. In self-protection, the man took to keeping a stick in the hedge so that he could beat the rooster off. Henry Wolf had a route for a Spring Valley bakery. He was a very likable fellow, and although his baked goods weren't really anything special, people bought from him because they liked him. When he sold the route the new man, who was much less friendly, couldn't make a go of it. Eventually a small A&P opened in Sparkill, then later a Grand Union in Nyack.



Walter Simmons, who was a Republican, kept a general store and post office next to Yonderhill on Closter Road. When the Democrats

came into power, Mr. Cahill, a Democrat, became the postmaster at the old Country Store across the street from the Library. Switching due to this patronage system continued until Laura Ebmeyer became postmistress and the law was changed in Washington.

Kids in those days played ball, went skating, walked to the Waterfall - it was easier to get there then - and messed around in the Hudson. Bill and two friends built a 14 foot boat in his backyard. Someone helped them get it to the river, and they kept it on the shore near the Pirate's Lair. It was used for fishing and crabbing. At first they rowed it, but later they had a sail. Although they took it down to Alpine and up to Nyack, they never had any serious problems with it and their families didn't worry about them the way people would today. Bill and his friends went to the movies in Nyack - he saw Rin Tin Tin there. Bill also remembers selling lilacs on 9W, which was completed in 1928. He and his friends would buy lilacs from their neighbors and then stand by the road selling them to passing cars for 25 cents a bunch. When people stopped and asked directions from the kids, they would misdirect them unless they bought a bunch of lilacs.

After the Palisades School, Bill went on in 1931 to Tappan Zee High School in Piermont. Bill's class was the first to be driven to school by Harold Post in a real school bus; before that year the students rode in an ice wagon, with fold-down seats in back. Bill remembers that when the bus came to the Gumpert house, which was destroyed when the Palisades Parkway came through, Howard and Ed Gumpert would climb out a ground-floor window to get to the bus. When someone asked them why they did it, they explained that there was a dresser in front of the door—it was the only place to put it—and it was easier to climb out the window than to move the dresser.

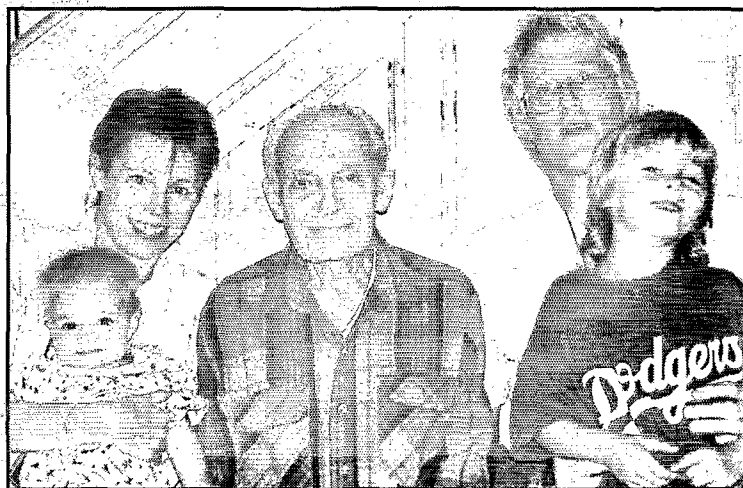
After high school Bill worked in construction in New York City. His father and his paternal grandfather had a contracting firm on West Street, just where the World Trade Center was later built, and did a lot of jobs for real estate companies. In 1941 his father died (his grandfather having died a few years previously) and being in the middle of the great depression, the company went under. Bill then went to work at Peterson's boatyard in Nyack as a boatbuilder. He was deferred at the beginning of the war because he was working in a defense plant, but in '43 the army came after him. It turned out he had a hernia, so the only service he could get into was the Merchant Marine. He applied as a ship's carpenter and within a week was on his way to North Africa in a convoy of 80 or more ships. The ship he was on carried 500 GIs. The trip took 30 days because they went a long way south to avoid submarines. They had no trouble in the Atlantic, but were attacked several times by German planes in the Mediterranean.

After landing the troops in Oran, the convoy went on to Naples; it was the first convoy to arrive there after the Germans had left. They found the harbor covered with oil and full of sunken ships. The convoy was attacked several times in Naples by German planes, and Bill found it easier to live through the attacks when they were shooting back. After a few days they were told to let the shore batteries deal with the planes, and after a week the attacks stopped.

Bill stayed in the Merchant Marine until 1945. In June 1944, at the time of the Normandy invasion, he was on a ship that went into the French port of Cherbourg. The port was under martial law and no one was allowed to fraternize or to be ashore after 4 p.m. Bill and a couple of friends got caught by the shore police in a French bar after 4 p.m. and they were taken off to a Navy brig for two days. They were well treated in the brig, and no one on his ship made a big thing of their misdeed.

Bill was barred from other branches of the service because of his hernia. In January 1945 Bill had a hernia operation so that he could go to radio school, which ran for three or four months. After graduation in August 1945 he was sent to San Francisco with a couple of other students to wait in a hotel for a job; they spent a very pleasant month there. However, once the war was over there was much less need for radio operators. The program was canceled and he came back home.

Deciding that he wanted to see more of the world, he went back to sea and worked for several years on ships traveling to interesting places. One ship went to and from Havana, another traveled the west coast of South America, and a U.S. Line ship took him to the Far East, to Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila, where the harbor was still full of sunken ships.



Around 1950 shipping started to slow down and Bill came home and went to work in Peterson's boatyard again. He worked there altogether for more than 50 years, retiring about ten years ago. Bill married in 1956; his wife Nellie Knudson, who was active in starting the Palisades Swim Club, died in 1986. She and Bill had two daughters. Barbara lives in Vermont, and Carol, along with her husband John Guzewich, son Ellis and daughter Vienna, live with Bill in the Closter Road house.

Since his retirement, Bill has kept busy with maintaining the Palisades Cemetery and serving as Vice President and Treasurer of P.L.O.T. (Palisades Lot Owners Tribute). He is involved with the American Merchant Marine Veterans, who meet monthly in Newburgh, NY, and is a member of the Hoffman Island Radio Association, attending yearly conferences. Bill likes to do small blacksmithing projects and is a member of ABANA (Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America), and several of its local chapters. He is an avid gardener and still does a lot of carpentry work around the house.

— Alice Gerard

LIBRARY NEWS

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

Member of Ramapo Catskill Library System
Tel: 845-359-0136
Fax: 845-359-6124
Email: pal@rcls.org

LIBRARY HOURS

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

Closed Oct. 13, Nov. 26 & 27

It is with deep sorrow that we wish to share with you the news of Martha DeLaney Bosch's passing.

She died Sunday, June 15th, after living with cancer for nineteen years. She is survived by her husband of 39 years, four children and two grandchildren.

Martha joined the library in 1972 and wore many hats. She worked at the circulation and reference desks and later took charge of the children's reading programs. She was eminently suited for this task, having taught high school English as well as kindergarten.

She was very active at the Rudolph Steiner Fellowship Foundation where she cared for the elderly. She served on the Board of the Green Meadow Waldorf School. She and her husband Willis hosted sixteen foreign exchange students in their home.

Her gentleness, her creativity, her love and understanding of children will long be remembered. Her quiet strength, her spirit linger on.

**Palisades' Own
Antiques Road Show.**
Appraiser/Auctioneer
Marc Stolfe values your family treasures. Bring a maximum of two items. Saturday, November 1st, noon to 3:00 p.m. Register by phone: 359-0136.



Special Veteran's Day Program.

Palisades Veterans of World War II tell of the Battle of the Bulge, Iwo Jima and flying with the 8th AF. Morton Elevitch will discuss his new book *Dog Tags Yapping: The WWII Letters of a Combat G.I.* At the Community Center, November 9th at 2 p.m.

Check it out at www.rcls.org/pal.

Online journals, magazines and databases can be accessed from your home or business with just your library card. Your library's web site can direct you to databases organized in broad categories: general interest, health, business, literature, biography, etc. It includes the complete Encyclopedia Britannica. For more information, ask at the reference desk.

Weekend and evening tutorials are available for the internet and automated catalogue. Inquire at the reference desk.

The Tappan Zee Thrift Shop is accepting donations of winter clothing and small household items. The Palisades Library is one of eight organizations to benefit from the operation of the shop. Stop in with your contributions and enjoy the serendipity.

Visit the Museum of Natural History with a membership card borrowed from the library. Check the passes out on your library card and enjoy an afternoon at the museum. The pass is good for 2 adults and 4 children.

FORTHCOMING DVDS

Bend It Like Beckham
Blue Car
Camp
Chicago
Cuckoo
Finding Nemo

France Is a Woman
Freaky Friday
Gangs of New York
Housekeeper
I'm a Born Liar
The Italian Job

Lord of the Rings
The Magdalene Sisters
Man on the Train
A Mighty Wind
Monster's Ball
Nowhere

Rabbit Proof Fence
Seabiscuit
Swimming Pool
Thirteen
Whale Rider

LIBRARY NEWS

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

STORY TIME. Come along and join our happy crew.
Every Wednesday, 1:30-2:00. For ages 3 to K.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS. Hear spooky stories, feel the phantom's body parts and create a creepy craft. Sign up at the library.

Wednesday, October 8, 4:30 p.m. Ages 5 & up.

HALLOWEEN CRAFT. Come make a spooky Halloween decoration for your house! Sign up at the library.

Wednesday, October 15, 4:15 p.m. Ages 5 & up.

FAMILY ORIGAMI. Double the fun when you pair up for some easy paper folding. A parent/child program for K through grade 2. Sign up at the library.

Wednesday, October 22, 4:15 p.m. Grades K-2.

ORIGAMI MAGIC. Fold a square of paper into a toy, a decoration or an animal without cutting or gluing. Sign up at the library.

Wednesday, November 5, 4:15 p.m., Grades 3 & up.

BRANCHING OUT! Create your own family tree. Fill the tree with family names and leaves. Sign up at the library.

Wednesday, November 12, 4:15 p.m. Ages 5 & up.

PILGRIM AND INDIAN GATHERING. Did you ever wonder about the very first Thanksgiving and what they really ate? Learn more about it and make a Thanksgiving scene. Sign up at the library.

Wednesday, November 19, 4:30 p.m. Ages 5 & up.

BALLOON SCULPTING SHOW. Amazing balloon creatures and characters. Sign up at the library.

Wednesday, December 10, 4:15 p.m. Ages 5 & up.

SNOWMAN SENSATIONS. Share some snowman fun. Hear stories and make a frosty friend.

Wednesday, December 17, 4:30 p.m. Ages 5 and up.

New Adult Fiction

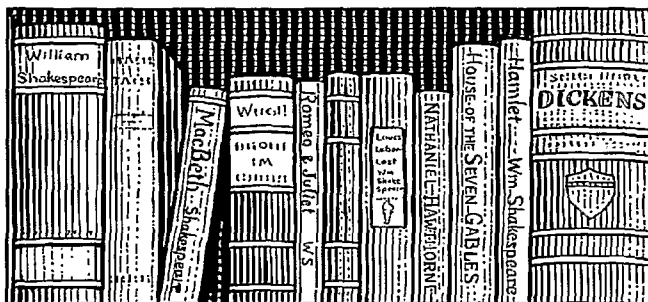
Burke, James Lee
Browne, Marshall
Cornwell, Bernard
Crace, Jim
Cussler, Clive
Docx, Edward
Forsyth, Frederick
Fuguet, Alberto
Hazzard, Shirley
James, P. D.
Ludington, Max
Perry, Anne
Sparks, Nicholas
White, Edmund

Last Car to Elysian Fields
Eye of the Abyss
Heretic
Genesis
Golden Buddha
The Calligrapher
Avenger
The Movies of My Life
The Great Fire
The Murder Room
Tiger in a Trance
No Graves as Yet
The Wedding
Fanny

New Adult Non Fiction

Alexander, Caroline
Eleventh, M. D.
Kersten, Jason
Kidder, Tracy
Kingston, Maxine H.
Matthiessen, Peter
Nicholi, Armand
Pipher, Mary
Sheehy, Gail
Spence, Gerry
Stern, Jessica

The Bounty
Dog Tags Yapping
Journal of the Dead
Mountains Beyond Mountains
The Fifth Book of Peace
End of the Earth
The Question of God
Letters to a Young Therapist
Middletown, America
The Smoking Gun
Terror in the Name of God



PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Palisades Presbyterian Church has resumed its regular Sunday worship schedule at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The services are similar except that the early service attempts to be fragrance-free so that members and visitors suffering from fragrance allergies can worship in an environment that is more comfortable for their

worship experience. The early service is also slightly more informal since there is no choir.

The 11 a.m. service offers the full church choir. Child care is provided at this service for infants through age three. Religious school classes are held at the 11 a.m. service for pre-school through eighth grade. Junior and Senior high school students meet at 10 a.m. two Sundays a month. Please call the church office for more information: 359-3147.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

INDIAN POINT UPDATE

On the eve of the 2nd anniversary of 9/11, the update on Indian Point is most disturbing. Indian Point has continued to prove that it is neither safe, secure, nor vital. Since the last update much has happened including the big blackout seemingly caused by lack of grid infrastructure and transmission lines. However, the entire New York metropolitan region had power restored before Indian Point had been restarted.

New underground transmission lines along the New York State Thruway will bring 2000 megawatts of electricity to our region, the same amount Indian Point produces. These transmission lines are in the process of being approved.

EVACUATION PLAN

On July 25, FEMA said it has "reasonable assurance" that the evacuation plans for Indian Point will adequately protect the public health and safety, despite the fact that the local authorities and first responders with first hand knowledge of the situation refused to sign off on the plan. Within hours of FEMA's letter to Governor Pataki, the NRC issued a press release that they are approving the current plans.

The Congressional delegation, including Clinton, Engel, Lowey, Hinkley, Kelly, were clearly enraged by this seemingly arbitrary and capricious decision to protect Entergy over the lives of 20 million citizens.

Since then Westchester County Executive Spano filed an appeal of this decision and the Rockland County Legislature passed a resolution that condemns the FEMA approval of the emergency plan, asks for the withdrawal of the approval, documentation of all information used for the approval, congressional hearings and oversight, and the exploration of legal remedies against FEMA and NRC for this decision.

EVACUATION PLAN, STUDIES & TESTS

The Rockland County attorneys office has been working on this issue; however, because FEMA and the NRC

have not yet published a final decision on the Federal Registry, they have virtually frozen any legal appeal of this interim approval. This side-stepping of proper legal procedure allows Entergy to continue operating Indian Point despite the fact that Entergy's own recent independent traffic studies by KLD Associates, shows that evacuating the region will take twice as long as previously thought, therefore sheltering in place may be the only option.

This is no longer an emergency evacuation plan. The public will be placed in danger as there can be no "reasonable assurance" of timely evacuation, which is in direct contradiction with the NRC and FEMA guidelines.

This has become a plan to shelter in place. Our schools, reception centers, and hospitals are not equipped with food, medicine, water, decontamination equipment, and basic supplies necessary for even short term sheltering. Despite James Lee Witts report and hundreds of signatures of first responders and elected officials that the evacuation plan is inadequate, FEMA approved the plan based on table top drills conducted last September, which excluded local police

commissioners, firemen, and supervisors as observers or participants. Any other documents or conversations FEMA has had in its decision making process, which are part of the public record, have been shrouded in secrecy.

During the first week of August the NRC conducted force-on-force drills in secrecy. These drills do not require a pass or fail, and the results of the drills have not been released. These drills only test whether the security guards can repel five terrorists in a four wheel drive vehicle with hand held assault weapons, not air strikes,

even though there continues to be no no-fly zone.

On August 26th the siren network was tested. The counties found 30 failures on their computers, however Entergy claims there were only 3 failures. The county's computers found there were 15 inoperable sirens out of 77 in Westchester, 10 out of 51 in Rockland, 2 out of 10 in Putnam and 2 out of 16 in Orange.

NRC INVESTIGATES

Indian Point is currently under NRC investigation because there have been 9 unplanned shutdowns and electrical disturbances over the past 18 months. Also the

Continued on Page 14

SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL NEWS

South Orangetown School District Presents Lowest Tax Rate in 5 Years!

Two years ago, the South Orangetown Central School District made a commitment to its residents to provide financial stability and to control tax rate increases to homeowners. We are pleased this year that the tax rate increase to residents is 6.30%, which is the lowest rate increase since 1997. This was accomplished by the adoption of a moderate budget increase of 5% and the Board's commitment to return \$525,000 of fund balance to its taxpayers and also \$576,000 of the additional state aid awarded by the Legislatures to its taxpayers.

Our work does not stop here. As we move forward, the District continues to work on strategies to reduce and/or moderate our expenses. This goal is accomplished by continually reviewing and evaluating all programs and services to ensure that they are educationally effective and financially responsible.

The following are Tax Rate increases from 1998 to 2003:

1998-1999 8.56% ; 1999-2000 8.57%; 2000-2001 9.89%; 2001-2002 11.51%; 2002-2003 10.17%; 2003-2004 6.30%

Master Plan Update

The South Orangetown Central School District is at a critical crossroads. We need more space today and for tomorrow. Like other school districts in our area and across the nation, our buildings need expansion and renovation. We are already experiencing overcrowding and know our enrollments will continue to increase by 405 students in the next five years and 604 students in the next 10 years. Our athletic fields and facilities are inadequate to accommodate our growing numbers and provide acceptable programs. Health, safety and security issues must be addressed. Infrastructure and facilities need to meet both safety and instructional requirements.

In May 2002, a Master Planning process that included the establishment of a Master Planning Advisory Committee (MPAC) comprised of key stakeholders was initiated. Committees and subcommittees were formed

to provide input to the MPAC regarding the extent and nature of programmatic and space needs at each of our school buildings. A construction management firm (JMOA) and an architectural firm (Cannon Design) were contracted by the District to assist with determining the infrastructure and space needs and associated costs. They also provided viable and creative educational and cost-effective solutions to meet our needs.

The MPAC's charge was to assist the Superintendent and administration in developing and presenting to the Board of Education a Master Plan that would address our

short- and long-term space and facilities needs.

In November 2002, the District's chosen architectural firm, Cannon Associates, presented early concepts of various designs to meet our space needs. Throughout the winter, the MPAC, the community, the Board of Education, and District administrators and staff

considered important issues:

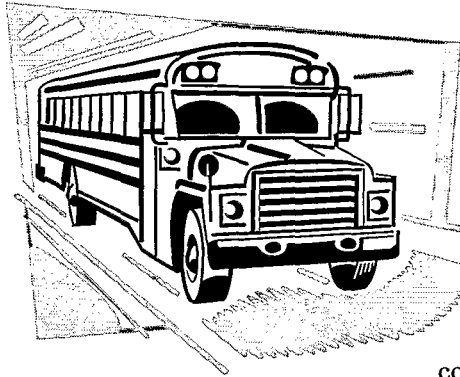
elementary grade-space configuration, and instructional, facilities, and programmatic priorities in each building. In February, the Superintendent recommended that the Board of Education continue to endorse our SOCES model and move ahead with the Master Plan.

In Spring 2003, the following committees and subcommittees reported to the MPAC on their findings: Athletics, Kindergarten, Transportation, Technology, Special Education Programs, Health and Safety, Facilities and Demographics. Additionally, space implications and revenues received from facilities rented to Iona College, Dominican College, and the Family Resource Center were assessed. Security and environmental issues emerged as key in some buildings.

It is not possible to address these needs through the regular budget process. The District is, therefore, proposing a November 2003 bond referendum to ensure that all of our schools have the capacity and support to best meet the needs of all of our children.

At the Wednesday, September 24th Board meeting, the Board will finalize the scope and total cost of the Master Plan, and consider adoption of a resolution to present a Bond Referendum to the public for voter approval on November 25, 2003.

Over the next two months, information and details, as well as opportunities for questions and discussions will be provided through public forums, and District mailings, and will be posted on our District website at www.socsd.org.



Continued on Page 14

INDIAN POINT UPDATE ...continued from pg 12

high number of worker allegations filed are under investigation. Security guards who have not been paid for extensive overtime are suing, and another security guard is suing for anti-Semitic discrimination.

In the past 18 months, a security guard's gun has disappeared and swastikas have been found in secure areas; however Entergy has not accused anyone.

This week the Union of Concerned Scientists is petitioning the NRC to shut down Indian Point immediately until the problem of potential debris (that could clog the emergency cooling systems meant to protect the reactor from a melt down) are fixed.

A lawsuit against the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for failing to issue required cooling towers permits for Indian Point, (to prevent the super heating of the river water which is killing billions of fish daily) has been successful. The DEC has been ordered by the judge to issue such permits this November.

For more information, names, addresses and telephone numbers of people to contact, please call: **Rockland County Close Indian Point** at (845) 371-2100. We need people to help get postcards and petitions signed.

— Susan Shapiro

SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS ...continued from pg 13

SOME UP-COMING ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER:

- Our Board meetings have moved to Wednesday nights! Please join us on October 8th and 22nd at 7:30pm in the Board room at the South Orangetown Middle School.
- TZHS Homecoming Football Game: October 18 at 1:30pm at TZHS.

- SO CASA (South Orangetown Community Awareness of Substance Abuse) meeting on October 21 at 7:30pm at the South Orangetown Middle School. The community is encouraged to participate in creating ways to reduce substance abuse in our teens.

- SOMS PTA Halloween Happening: October 25 from 11:00am-2:00pm at the South Orangetown Middle School. Open to all.

— Carol Baxter

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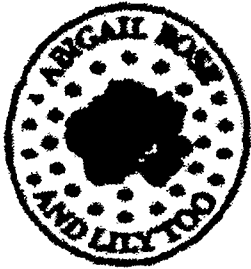
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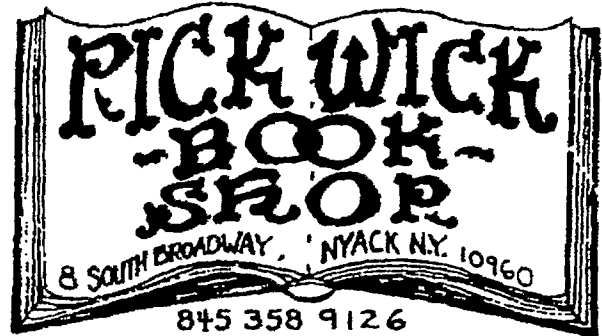
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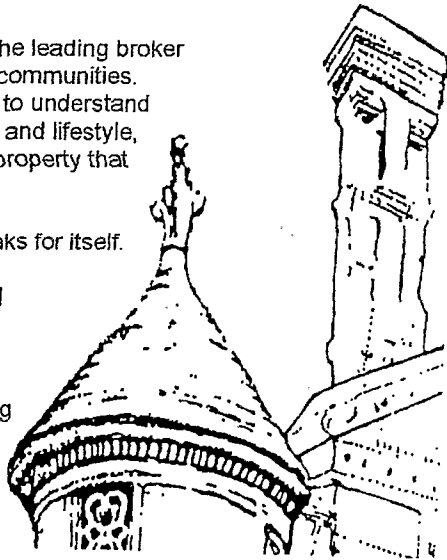
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PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER

The Palisades Center has been having an incredible summer. You may have noticed the much-needed facelift thanks to Henry Ottley, along with his fellow community board members, and many other volunteers. For the first time in years there are many interesting and creative programs in our community.



If you noticed the wonderful aromas emanating from the center this summer it was "Who's Cooking....Kids!" In July and August Maryellen Ledwith and Gale Barrett creatively transformed the center into a cooking camp for kids ages 6-14. Eager young chefs learned the cooking skills of accomplished chefs. They had hands on experience with a wide range of recipes and menus. Their experience even included growing fresh vegetables and herbs. We are delighted with the cooking program and look forward to their program continuing in the fall!

In the afternoons this summer, Julia Breer provided youngsters with valuable chess skills. She also started

a creative writing camp with many wonderful topics to stimulate the creative juices of these budding writers.

This fall we look forward to these programs continuing on with great success! We also want to promote more growth and activity for all. If you are interested in starting a class, or in using this wonderful space for an event, please let us know. We are eager to keep our doors open and our center thriving! In order for our continued success as part of the Palisades community, we need your ongoing support. Donations are eagerly welcomed at P.O. Box 222, Palisades, NY.

To contact us for an event, please call our marketing coordinator Eileen Larkin at 359-6589. To discuss an idea for the building, please contact me at Miepbalm@aol.com. — Michele A. Balm

Upcoming Events:

- October 4 — Craft Fair 10 AM - 4 PM
- November 9 — Palisades World War II veterans (Co-sponsored with The Palisades Library)
- November 22 — Flea Market: 8:30 AM — 4 PM

