

10964

THE
PALISADES
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2003
NUMBER 183

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO TOWN...

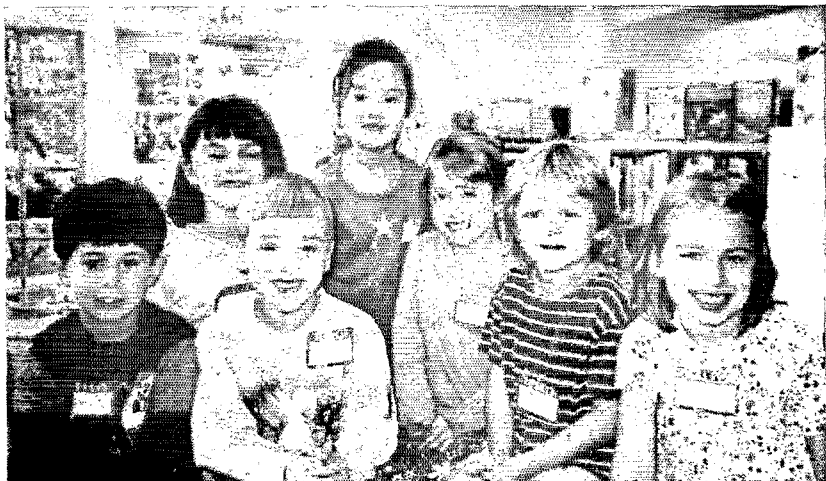
Some of the Palisades children who began kindergarten this past September met recently at the Palisades Library to have their picture taken.

Have you been naughty?



Bottom Photo: Front Row, left to right (not standing): Tyler Dubbs, Michael Anelli, Ellis Guzewich, Livia Bartels. Back Row, left to right: Marisa Cooke, Sydney Nelson, Juliana Bartels.

Or Nice?



Photos by Gerry-Miras

SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOL NEWS



Bond Referendum Fails in Close Vote

The \$30,000,000 school Bond Referendum was defeated in a close vote. The final results were:

Yes	897
No	954

The money was to address space needs due to increased enrollment over the next five years, to improve and repair school athletic facilities, and to make necessary building infrastructure changes.

Math Scores Add Up!

The NYS Education Department released the scores of the 4th and 8th grade math assessments on October 22, 2003. These tests were taken last spring. At Cottage Lane, 97% of 4th graders scored at or above the standards on the state-mandated math test (Levels 3 & 4). This percentage is up from last year's 94%. At the South Orangetown Middle School, 79% of 8th graders scored at or above the standards on the state-mandated math test. (Levels 3 & 4). 79% represents a tie for the highest percentage within Rockland County schools. This percentage is up from last year's 76%.

TZHS 2003 Halfmoon Yearbook Wins Highest Honor

The Empire State Scholastic Press Association (ESS-PA) recently awarded its highest award, the Gold Award, to the TZHS 2003 Halfmoon yearbook. The Halfmoon also received the Gold Award for outstanding achievement in the category of Divider Pages and won the following awards: Bronze Award for sports photograph (swimming picture); Bronze Award for use of type; Overall Honorable Mention for the coverage of 9/11 Anniversary for "Red, White and Blue Day"; and Honorable Mention in the category of theme presentation for their theme "Transitions." The 2003 Halfmoon staff members were TZHS 2003 graduates Christina Abraham, Rebecca Martin and Jennifer Ha and current TZHS senior and current Halfmoon Editor-in-Chief, Amanda Ngai.

TZHS Boys Varsity Cross Country Team Victorious

In September the TZHS Boys Varsity Cross Country Team returned home triumphant from the Walt Disney meet in Orlando, Florida, placing #1. On November 8, the boys not only came home from Rochester, NY with the coveted 1st place win in the boys Class B race of the state PHSAA championships, but also made school history. The last time TZ held this state champion win was in 1954. So, after 50 years, bringing their school back to the top position was a victory charged with great emotion! Congratulations to Coach Steve Sutton and the team: Lou Maturo, Tony DeRobertis, John Alaimo, Justin Kopunek, Chris Goldrick, Justin Maturo, Mike Panebianco and Brenden Clift.

National Association For Gifted Children

Educators Kottie Christie-Blick and Kerri McBride made presentations at the National Association for Gifted Children's Annual Convention in Indianapolis, November 12-16. They discussed the gifted clustering program in place at South Orangetown. Mrs. McBride discussed the role of the Gifted and Talented teacher in the elementary schools, while Ms. Christie-Blick described the ways in which she differentiates to meet the needs of gifted children in the regular classroom on a daily basis.

Ms. Christie-Blick, a Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar, also recounted her experiences in Japan last summer as a guest of the Japanese Government. She focused on elementary education in Japan and provided information about the Fulbright Memorial Fund program itself.

In between presentations, both attended several lectures and workshops related to working with, and educating, gifted children. What a wonderful opportunity to share their knowledge and speak with colleagues from across the United States who are interested in providing the best possible education for gifted children.

Carol Baxter

BEWARE 9W SPEED TRAPS IN ALPINE, NJ

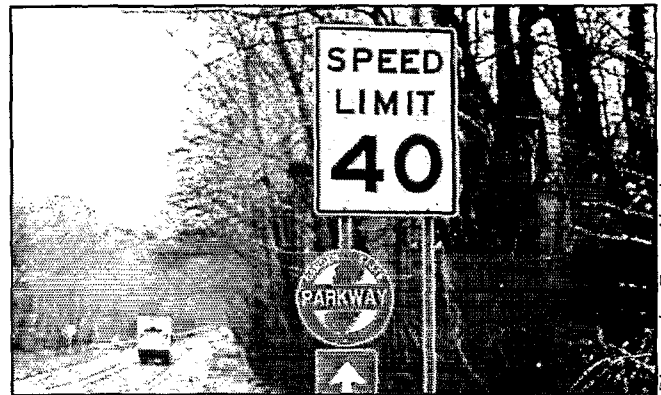
*Richest Town in America
Fines Neighbors
to Generate Revenue*

On a Wednesday evening this fall, a 10964 staffer spent several hours at the borough hall in Alpine NJ. to answer for a \$200 speeding ticket issued on Route 9W just past the Kiku restaurant. The crime? Traveling at 61 mph in a 40 mph zone. 10964 was startled to encounter three other friends and neighbors from Palisades and Tappan in the crowd waiting their turn on a similar errand. The majority of the penitents waiting for the session to start in the theater-style courtroom appeared to be hard-working delivery people, gardeners, and others who serve the high-end developments along that road.

Recent US Census data shows Alpine NJ to have one of the highest per capita income levels of any town in the United States. Nevertheless, they are running a classic speed trap on 9W that would warm the revenue-raising heart of any small-town southern sheriff. In Alpine, Route 9W is a clear, wide, rural highway running parallel to the parkway with few driveways or intersections. Most traffic travels on it at about 55-60 mph, and laggards get honked at. According to a

However, Alpine has craftily lowered the speed limit on its part of 9W to just 40 mph, so that a motorist traveling a few mph over 60 is subject to a 4-point violation (i.e. traveling more than 20 mph over the limit).

Oh, but you always drive slowly? Never mind, they'll get you anyways. Another friend waiting at the court-



Photos by Greta Nettleton

house took a family hike to the waterfall next to Lamont, and received a \$45 parking ticket for parking in a bus zone! (As if the Red & Tan buses ever pulled all the way over to the curb near Lamont's entrance.)

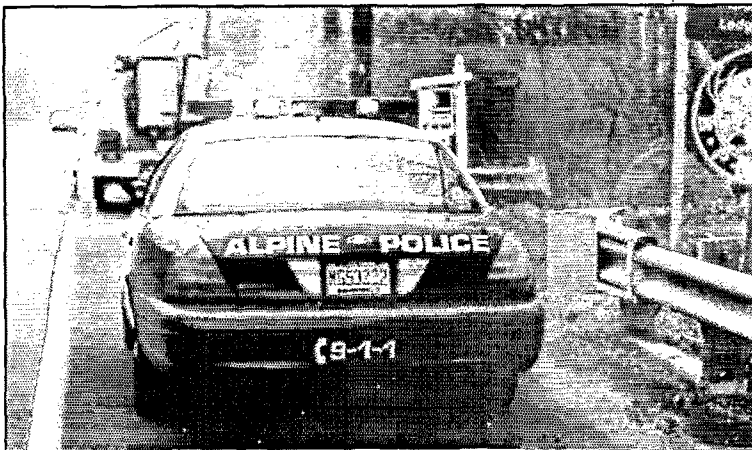
At the start of the session, the judge warmed up the crowd with a few short jokes and then announced in a soothing voice that his court does not hand out points.

Each perpetrator was told to plead "Not Guilty" and go out in the hall and "settle up" with the village prosecutor. Several speeders stood up and tried to plead guilty. The judge waved them out of the room anyways, declaring, "I'm changing that plea to guilty—Go out and talk to the prosecutor."

The prosecutor's line took over an hour to go through. The bargaining process was, however, quick. The "four-point" violation could be changed to a "no-point" violation for \$180; a one-point violation cost another speeder \$78.

They might save people the trouble by just posting the prices on the bulletin board out front in the lobby!

Greta Nettleton



highly placed source in the Bergen County Police Department, in New Jersey, statewide rural highway speed limits are 50 mph, unless posted otherwise.

BULLETIN BOARD

Pedro A. Sanchez, Director of tropical agriculture at **Lamont's Earth Institute** and a senior researcher at IRI, was awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant in October. His research creates practical ways to increase the productivity of tropical soils, particularly in Africa, where hunger and infant mortality are huge problems for small-scale farmers. Mr. Sanchez is also co-chair of the UN-funded Millennium Project's Hunger Task Force.

In other Lamont-related news, Governor Pataki announced recently that **Lamont-Doherty**, together with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, will be a partner in running the new Rivers and Estuaries Center on the Hudson, a \$26 million program that will be headquartered in Beacon, NY, with satellite sites at Lamont and RPI. The headquarters building is scheduled to open in 2006.

Cristina Biaggi's one-person exhibition of large collages on cloth titled *9/11 – 11/16* will be held at Rockland Center for the Arts from December 6 through December 23. The opening reception is Saturday, December 6, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., with a gallery talk from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sylvia March is holding her annual pottery sale at her new gallery space (next to the studio) at 224 Route 9W in Palisades. Dates: Dec. 5, 6, 7 and 12, 13, 14 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) from 12 noon to 4 p.m. There will be a special wine and cheese showing on Sunday, December 7 from 4 to 8 p.m. For more information call Sylvia at 359-3767.

On October 11, in Vichy, France, **Sam and Alice Gerard** were awarded a medal by the city of Vichy for their work over the last ten years on the archaeological site of Glozel. During the conference (*Colloque*), Alice also presented a paper giving the results of all the scientific analyses made at the controversial site since its discovery in 1924. After the presentation of the medal, it was discovered that only Sam's name was on it. This seemed wrong to so many people at the *Colloque* that the medal is still in Vichy, having Alice's name engraved on it as well.

Sally Savage is having a one-day show and sale of her photographs, posters, and postcards (50% off her gallery prices) as part of a group show on Saturday, December 13, at the Piermont Flywheel Gallery (open 1-9 PM).

The **IBM Palisades Conference Center** is now available for private events. For more information, visit their website at: www.ibmpalisades.com.

More pottery!! **Jane Herold** will sell pottery from her studio on Dec. 6-7 & 13-14 from 2-4 p.m. each day. Give her a call at 359-5421 or visit her website at www.janeherold.com.

On the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 7, the internet-based political organizing group **MoveOn.org** will be holding a community meeting at the Palisades Presbyterian Church during the afternoon. Please call Milbry Polk at 365-0297 for more details.

COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

It was good to see so many friends and neighbors attending the Palisades Library's **Living History Program – A Tribute to WWII Veterans**, held at the community center on Nov. 9th and hosted by **Don Bracken**, President of the Library's Board of Directors. Nearly one hundred people came to hear five of Palisades' WWII veterans (**Morton Elevitch**, **Stanley Weber**, **Peter M. Abel**, **Reg Thayer**, and **Paul Guttman**) narrate their personal experiences, which were supplemented with movie clips. There was also a can-teen-style buffet that was served up courtesy of the ladies from Who's Cooking... Kids! (**Mary Ellen Ledwith** and **Gale Barrett**, ably assisted by **Charlie** and **Sam Hyde**). The event was an important remembrance of the men and women who bravely aided and



(Continued on next page)

ALL NEWS THE IDIOCY OF JAMES BOND PART II

THE MEANING OF ANNOYING TELECOM

A.L.L. NEWS is *Alexander, Louis, and Luc Lalire* (aged 13, 12, and 10): If you had read the last issue of 10964 and ALL NEWS you would have heard all about "The Idiocy of James Bond." This is the second part of the series of four parts making fun of the James Bond movies. Part 2 relates to a specific movie, *Tomorrow Never Dies*. I don't know how many of you have seen it but even if you haven't, anyone who uses a cell phone might enjoy this.

The scenario: Eliot Carver, a media madman, tries to call James Bond's cell phone from his office. He is going to say, "I believe you have two things of mine, the red box, and my wife, Paris Carver, in your hotel room!"

Carver: Ah, here's that idiot Bond's cell phone number.

He dials. Beep boop beep beep.

Cell phone: *doo doo do* Your call cannot be completed as dialed. Please check your number and dial again.

He tries two more times and hears

doo doo do.

Carver: Darn it!

On the third time, someone finally answers.

Cell phone: Bond here.



Carver: I believe you have two things..."

Cell phone: What are you talking about? I'm Sylvester Bond.

Carver: Sorry, wrong number. Oh yeah, that's the wrong idiot Bond roommate from college.

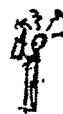
He dials again.

Bond: This is James Bond.

Carver: Finally! I believe you ha...

Cell phone: *doo doo do* We're sorry, this cell phone number has lost service, please try your call again later.

Carver: rrrragh! I hate cell phones! I'll just walk over and tell him.



COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS (Continued from previous page)

fought in wars past. It was a great success!

Looking at the calendar for December, a flea market sponsored by the Lions Club is planned for Dec. 7th. A defensive driving course will also be scheduled during this month. During the month of January, Annie Prager will be teaching four acting classes: January 10, 17, 24, and 31.

Also planned for the late winter, early spring: A screening of the film *A Secret Not Best Kept* by **Dara Silverman Berger**, which deals with the suicide of a young girl's mother, and her personal exploration into this tragic event. Dara grew up here in Palisades. Another event planned for the spring is "Palisades Rich in History", sponsored by the Palisades Historical Society. We are looking forward to these and many other future events.

If you have any questions about any of these events or would like to use the center, please call Eileen Larkin at 359-6589. Contributions are always welcome. Thank you for your continued support of this great historic building.

Sue Dillon

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Christmas Eve Services for the Presbyterian Church in Palisades include two full worship services with choir. The first, a family-oriented service is at 5:30 p.m.

During the traditional Christmas offering, the congregation is asked to donate new toys for children at Harlem Hospital. The gifts are to be wrapped only in tissue paper with an indication of if it is meant for a boy or a girl and the approximate age. The gifts will be taken to Harlem Hospital on Christmas morning for immediate distribution.

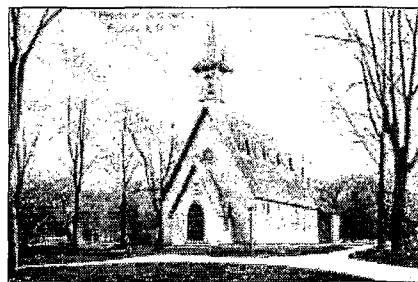
The later service of "Lessons and Carols," is at 11 p.m. It features Bible readings of the Christmas story interspersed with special anthems by the enhanced choir as well as traditional Christmas carols sung by the congregation. The service ends with a singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight.

The Pastor Dae Eun Jung will give a short Christmas homily; the readers are members as well as local friends of the church. The choir, led by organist Michael Shapiro, has a few special rehearsals readying for this event. Anyone wishing to be in the choir for Christmas Eve should speak to Michael.

The church is decorated with wreaths and roping and many, many candles. The original church bell will ring at midnight with enthusiastic peals by the seasoned bell-ringers. Both services fill up so it is best to

come early.

For more information or to get directions to the church, please call the office at 359-3147 Tuesday, Thursday or Friday mornings.



KITCHEN CONSTRUCTION CREEPING TO CONCLUSION

The revitalized kitchen in the Parish Hall, originally planned to be ready for September, may be ready for use at Christmas. All of the carpentry work is completed, the new cabinets waiting to be installed, the new fixtures waiting to be connected and the new tile floor has been laid.

The revitalization project was made possible by the bequest left to the church by Palisades resident and long time church member, Helene Stansbury.

The kitchen has been enlarged and new, more efficient pass-throughs installed. All of the end cabinets have been replaced as well as new lighting installed. In addition to the kitchen work, one of the two restrooms has been enlarged so it is handicapped accessible.

(Continued on page 11)

LETTER TO PALISADES FROM JACK HOFFMEISTER

Last fall the Presbyterian Church asked me to write a stewardship letter specifically for the people of Palisades. It became something more, a kind of personal testimony. But sometime later I was chagrined to learn that the mailing went wrong and most of the letters were returned unsent. So now I've submitted it to 10964, which seems like an appropriate venue, and this time it will be sure to reach all the people I wrote it for.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The other day a friend sent me this prayer: "Dear God, protect us from your followers." Amen to that!!

But today I want to ask you for support for our church, and I can't get that prayer out of my head...Why would any of us finance a church when organized religions are making such a mess of the world? Well, consider this: however secular the neighborhood or how flawed the religion, this church belongs to us all. For one thing there's the building. It's so beautiful—I fell in love with it years ago. I think it says something about this place where we live, about the importance of beauty in architecture, and in all the arts, that draws people here. It's also useful: weddings and funerals, a space for classes in

(Continued on next page)

OBITUARY

LOUIS MELVIN FREDERICK, 12.6.1917–10.24.2003

The following obituary is excerpted from a eulogy delivered by Shawn Frederick at the Palisades Presbyterian Church on November 1.

"I am a human being on the planet earth!" True for each of us, but for my father, Louie Frederick, it defined and proclaimed the essence of his existence. My father was born in a mill town along the Allegheny River near Pittsburgh, PA. His father died in the influenza epidemic a year and a half later. His mother married again and Louie and his sister were joined by three more siblings...But within a few years that father also died, and a widow with five children straggled back to Pittsburgh in pre-New Deal America. Louie was heroic. He conquered the absence of a father in his own life by becoming a father himself....When he left Pittsburgh in the 1930s, he rode the rails with other hoboes, and our family history has turned it into romantic mythology. But much of the experience was frightening, and a time of hunger and cold...then he fought at Guadalcanal in World War II. He traveled so much all his life that, unlike Thoreau, whom he admired, he did not spend much time in his own Concord.

He loved drama and the stage, and the spoken word...He would take me by the shoulders when I was little and fiercely peer into my eyes and say, "Remember the Greeks! Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes!"...He graduated first in his drama class at Carnegie Tech in 1950. He continued to travel all over the world with the job he settled into at ABC's Wide World of Sports, where he was a legend. He was the consummate perfectionist...or do I mean consummate professional. He respected everyone, and deferred to no one. He did his job so well because he was never distracted by the glitz and glitter of other's so-called stardom.

Louie Frederick worshipped no particular God...but he had a spirit of selflessness and generosity to which most religions aspire...Where did such grace come from? He had compassion for the human race, such respect and understanding for others. He leaves three generations of a loving family, including middle-aged children who until this week have known neither loss nor want. So now this song of praise to my father and his life reaches its end. No matter where his travels led him, he would have found us. Here. For Palisades is his Concord.

LETTER TO PALISADES FROM JACK HOFFMEISTER (Continued from previous page)

Tai Chi and other mysteries, for AA and Al Anon, birthday parties and most spectacularly the Children's Shakespeare Theater. And there are church events like the famous Strawberry Festival, concerts, suppers, sales, poetry readings, and a lot more. But what about the church? I make no apology for belonging to this congregation. It includes people from Palisades and all the surrounding area. The language and stories are Christian but the spirit is universal. It gives us a place where the history of human questioning for truth is preserved and raised to relevance. Like most of you, our political conscience leans strongly to the global and multicultural. In defiance of Presbyterian polity

we take a strong stand for inclusion of gays and lesbians. And the pot luck meals are awesome. It's true, we can really use your help. Our membership is younger (families with children) and the building needs work. You've seen the restored belfry and steeple; there's more to be done, and our finances are hurting. Your contributions would be received very gratefully. But even more it's our hope that you will come to know the church better, to think of it as yours and take pride in it.

Sincerely,
Jack Hoffmeister, Elder
November 2002/3

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY NEWS

New Library Cards

The Palisades Free Library is issuing new library cards. If you do not have a card, please take this opportunity to get a choice of a wallet or key ring card, and enjoy the many services and materials your library offers.

Getting a Palisades Free Library card is easy. You need to:

- Live in Palisades or Sparkill
- Bring proof of current residence (license, utility bill, etc.)
- Parent or guardian must sign in person application for child
- Children must be in kindergarten.

If you have a card, trade it in. Simply come to the circulation desk with your card and identification - we will be happy to assist you.

Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendar:
Sunday, January 25, 2004, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. A flyer will be mailed.

Museum Passes

The library has purchased a membership to the Museum of Natural History for the use of our patrons. The family pass can be checked out on your library card and entitles 2 adults and 4 children admission to the museum and discounts for the Planetarium and gift shop.

Children's Programs

Story hour continues every Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:00, for ages 3 to K.

Balloon Sculpting Show.

Amazing balloon creatures and characters. Sign up at the library.
Wednesday, December 10th, 4:30 p.m. Ages 5 and up.

Snowman Sensations. Share some snowman fun, hear stories and make a frosty friend. Wednesday,

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

Adult Program

An introduction to genealogy research will be offered by historian Robert Protzman on Thursday, February 12th, at 7:30 p.m. He will discuss how to begin a search and the sources and tools available for those interested in recording their personal history.

Adult Nonfiction

Black, Conrad

Cahill, Thomas

Carey, Peter

Franken, Al

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel

Philbrick, Nathaniel

Seierstad, Asne

Wiencek, Henry



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Sailing the Wine Dark Sea: Why the Greeks Matter

My Life as a Fake

Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them

Living to Tell the Tale

Sea of Glory

The Bookseller of Kabul

Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America

Adult Fiction

Amis, Martin

Auchincloss, Louis

Brookner, Anita

Coetzee, J. M.

Harris, Robert

Harrison, Colin

Hegi, Ursula

Mulisch, Harry

Sa, Shan

Swann, Maxine

Wolff, Tobias

Yellow Dog

The Scarlet Letters

Rules of Engagement

Elizabeth Costello

Pompeii

The Havana Room

Sacred Time

Siegfried

The Girl Who Played Go

Serious Girls

Old School

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday - 1:00-9:00

Friday - 1:00-5:00

Saturday - 11:00-5:00

Sunday - 1:00-5:00

Closed

December 24, 25, 31,
January 1, February 16

Contact

Tel: 845-359-0136

Fax: 845-359-6124

www.rcls.org/pal

E-mail: pal@rcls.org



PALISADES AUTHORS

POSTSCRIPTS FROM PALISADES

Mildred Post Rippey's Story

by Elaine Rippey Imady

Illustrated. 213 pp. Palisades, NY

Palisades Free Library and the Palisades Historical Committee

Sept. 14, 2003 was a beautiful and moving experience when Mildred Rippey returned to the Palisades Library via a book. [ed. note.: the occasion was a book signing with author Elaine Imady] *Postscripts from Palisades*, written by Mildred's daughter, revived many happy memories of Mildred, her family and friends, and provided a special warmth to the occasion.

Mildred Rippey was our longtime librarian, a friend to many and one of Palisades' outstanding residents. Her warmth and outstanding personality touched her every encounter. Even Andy, her hairdresser, speaks of her in glowing terms. And then there were her poems - each one a bit of her own or Palisades' history. She kept the Palisades Presbyterian church alive by her "important" announcements every Sunday. There is, indeed, a vacancy where she sat, in church or library.

Elaine Imady has captured all of this in a warm and loving tribute to her mother. Starting with an account of the Post family and Mildred's childhood, the book then turns to excerpts from her diaries. Many of these excerpts include an illustrating poem. We also learn of the many community affairs Mildred was involved with and, of course, her long association with the Palisades Library. Some of the most interesting episodes are the accounts of her visits to Elaine in Syria, with fascinating descriptions of the country and its historic places. When in her eighties, Mildred philosophizes about old age, adding informative reflections for the older generation.

Palisades Library is fortunate to have such a fine tribute to one of its librarians. Reading Elaine's book is a rare pleasure and rewarding experience. I think that everyone left Palisades Library that afternoon with a glow from the spirit of Mildred, and eager to read *Postscripts*.
Jeannette Kellogg

POSTSCRIPTS FROM PALISADES is available for \$15 at the Library's front desk.

Dog Tags Yapping:

The World War II Letters of a Combat GI

by M.D. Elevitch

200 pp. Carbondale, IL

Southern Illinois

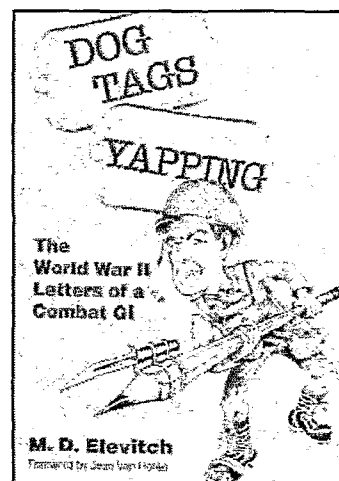
University Press

The National Arts Club has invited **Morton Elevitch** to read from his book of letters, *Dog Tags Yapping*, on **January 13 at 8 p.m.** (15 Gramercy Park So., NYC). The event is open to all.

The letters—including drawings and cartoons—were sent home as he trained for combat in the U.S., fought in France and Germany, recuperated in hospital in England and returned to France to guard prisoners of war.

"...the most eloquent writing I have ever read on the war." —Thomas Berger, WWII veteran, author of *Little Big Man*.

Dog Tags Yapping is available at Pickwick Books, Nyack, Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com; and all local libraries.



On Thursday, December 4, between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m., **Max Ludington** will sign copies of his new novel, *Tiger in a Trance*, at the Palisades Free Library. Max is the son of Palisades residents Nick and Cass Ludington. The book has received some excellent reviews. The *New York Times* said about it, "Good writing about what it is like to be 18 and free for the first time in your life. *Tiger in a Trance* is a strong first novel ... a merry romp through a wholly American subculture." Wine and cheese will be served at the book party.

GOLF IN PALISADES

The most accessible manifestation of golf in Palisades is the excellent 9W Driving Range, bordering the IBM Conference Center on the south, whose future development has been described recently in this publication. Another is the private Rockland Country Club, bordering IBM to the north. The club was founded in 1906 by Palisadian Dr. Harry M. Smith and a group of nine friends. They purchased, for \$20,000, the Blauvelt Farm from Miss Catherine Letitia Blauvelt. A nine-hole course, designed by Harry Stark, greenskeeper of the venerable Englewood Country Club, was completed in July, 1907.

A substantial clubhouse was completed in the early 1920's. New funds were raised in 1928 – just in time before the October 1929 stock market crash – and new land bordering the club was acquired to expand to an 18-hole course. The course was completed in the spring of 1930. At that time, membership was 166.

The Depression took its toll and by World War II members had dwindled to 39 and the club was under pressure to sell the land or convert to a public course. But the leadership stubbornly hung on. After the war

demand, an additional 90 golf privilege-holding members have been added. The membership includes an active contingent of Palisadians.

One source told 10964 on condition of anonymity that [PIGS] stands for Palisades International Golf Society. Another source, also wishing to remain anonymous, insisted the name stands for Pathetic and Incompetent Golfers' Support...

The only two holes on the east side of Route 9W were sold to the Palisades Park in 1963 and leased back as a practice area. They were replaced by two new holes neighboring the IBM property. The par-71 course, with fast, subtle greens, sloping fairways and deep, cleverly-placed sand traps, is a good test of golf skills at 6,703 yards with a slope rating of 134.

It has stayed largely the same since 1963 except for landscaping improvements and new tees to lengthen and improve some holes, notably six different tees from which one can risk a devilish shot over the pond at the par-3 8th hole. The present clubhouse was built in 1968-69 and remodeled extensively two years ago.

A third (dubious) pillar of golf in Palisades is a shadowy organization known

only by its acronym PIGS. Information about this group is hard to come by. One source told 10964 on condition of anonymity that it stands for Palisades International Golf Society. Another source, also wishing to remain anonymous, insisted the name stands for



Photos by Cullen Wolk

the membership picked up and in 1958 the 1928 construction mortgage was paid off. Since that year voting membership has been limited to 200 active members who own and run the club. More recently, because of



A more solid pillar of Palisades golf is the team of Hubert Pedroli and Mary Tiegreen, two Palisades residents who work hard to satisfy the reading lusts of golfers and golf lovers. Pedroli and Tiegreen this fall published "1001 Reasons to Love Golf" (Stewart, Tabori & Chang), a beautifully designed collection of pithy text and gorgeous photos describing golf's legends, great practitioners, finest holes and notable equipment. Pedroli and Tiegreen previously published "A Passion for the Game of Golf," "The American Golfer's Guide," and "Let the Big Dog Eat."

Golf writers Pedroli and Tiegreen, in their books, avoid the subject of the mysterious PIGS. But an intelligence report by a local golf inves-

Pathetic and Incompetent Golfers' Support. Both sources said the membership list was a closely-held secret and possibly nonexistent. A waitress at a local pub reported a possible PIGS sighting saying a group of men eating and drinking in a manner befitting the organization's name and telling interminable golf stories had met there twice and disappeared. "Good ride," she said. "The only tip I got was a brass ball marker."

tigator noted that Pedroli was born in — hmmm — France. The report said Pedroli attended the raucous pub gatherings and that unnamed sources voiced suspicion that he is a founder and driving (Callaway) force in the shady cabal. It should be a source of relief to readers of 10964 that, so far at least, no issues of homeland security have been raised.

Nick Ludington

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS (Continued from page 6)

MIDNIGHT RUN COMING LATE IN JANUARY

The Palisades Presbyterian Church will hold a Midnight Run sometime in late January and will need donations of food, clothing, toiletries and blankets. The Midnight Run involves taking useful items into New York City very late on a Friday night and distributing them to the homeless people that walk those very cold streets.

The items to be distributed include toiletries (small shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, deodorant), jockey shorts and large size T-shirts, wool or heavy cotton socks (all these items should be new and unused), long sleeved shirts, jeans, sweatshirts and heavy wool coats, wool hats and gloves.

Please do not give cocktail dresses or similarly fancy clothing. All clothing should be clean and not frayed. There will be a sign up sheet posted in the parish hall in mid-January, listing the kinds and quantities of food needed. Generally, hard boiled eggs, hearty sandwiches, oranges, cookies and juice are also sought.

The church brings hot coffee and chili on the run. Occasionally extra drivers and/or people to hand out the food and clothing are needed.

Please do not bring any items to the church before late January and only bring food on the day of the event, which will be announced in the church newsletter.

INDIAN POINT UPDATE

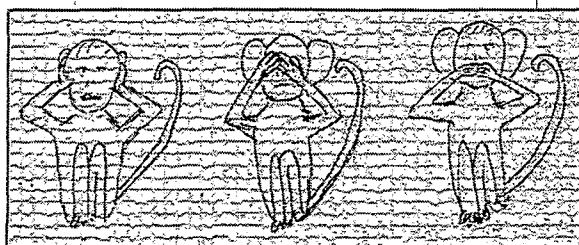
FEMA IGNORES EMERGENCY PLANNING FINDINGS

On November 5th, Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, D-Elmsford and nearly 50 elected officials appealed FEMA's July 25th approval of the Evacuation Plan for the Indian Point in Washington, DC. Rockland County Executive, C. Scott Vanderhoef, has also separately appealed FEMA's approval. Brodsky, who organized the appeal, said FEMA had ignored all the major emergency planning issues raised by a 2002

Assembly study and 2003 analysis prepared by former FEMA Director James Lee Witt. The Witt report, commissioned by Gov. George Pataki, concluded that the evacuation plans could not work.

The Brodsky appeal argues that the Evacuation Plan continues to fail the federal requirement to

"adequately protect the public health and safety." The specific flaws are: (1) that the Evacuation Time Estimates, which calculate travel times for the region around Indian Point, do not meet federal requirements; (2) the Evacuation



Art by Alexander Lalive

Plan arbitrarily limits the area it considers for shadow evacuation and does not consider family separation; (3) it relies on government information control and secrecy, and does not account for non-English speakers; (4) it does not consider a radiation release from outside the containment building; and (5) FEMA has

ignored petitions from local first responders stating they could not adequately protect the public.

On November 13, Senator Clinton called on Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Homeland

Security Secretary Tom Ridge to provide protection of New York State's nuclear power plants by considering the use of Combat Air Patrols. This request is in light of recent news reports indicating that the FBI and the Department of Defense

have warned government and industry officials to be on guard against terrorists hijacking cargo jets in Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean and then flying them into the United States to attack nuclear plants.

Susan Shapiro

TRUE STORIES FROM MINE HOLE (Continued from next page)

memory build into a large, sharply detailed picture. There are no stereotypes here, except for the whites, who fade into an ominous background.

Cooke's humor overcomes any harsh judgment about the fighting, wife beatings, stealing and drunkenness. He accepts their preoccupation with sex and gambling as natural entertainments, and racial oppression as a fact of life. He understands that living in poverty demands moral relativism.

But Lawson disagrees. When some white kids burned a cross in Piermont for fun she writes:

"The fact that Cooke saw the burning cross as a prank by 'friends' is interesting. 'They didn't do this to be mean,' he says—even today. Cross burning is a racist, negative act that upsets any community, colored or white, in

Mine Hole or out. For Southern folks looking for a better life up North it was an especially tough experience. Nevertheless they talked about it, faced the reality of the act and went on with their activities of coping and surviving. When facing life's uncertainty an old slave expression describes it best: 'Just keep on keeping on.'"

This book is a collaboration, the result of years of not one but two strong-minded, big-hearted people sifting through the past together. It's a book to be cherished.

Jack Hoffmeister

[Editor's note: Hoffmeister lived in Mine Hole in the seventies. His house can be seen in the photo on p. 59 (R) in the book.]

TRUE STORIES FROM MINE HOLE

Leonard C. Cooke and Audrey S. Lawson.
Illustrated. 73 pp. New City, NY.
Historical Society of Rockland County. \$10.00

Main Street in Piermont runs south beside the Hudson, over the tracks, and turns west at the Macedonia Baptist Church along Sparkill Creek. A block later at the silk mill it becomes one-way, out-of-town, into Sparkill. That final half-mile is called the Mine Hole, referring to a mysterious tunnel dug long ago into the hillside by the road. Looking at it now it's hard to imagine that this quiet road through this pretty valley was once the wild side of town.

Among the people who live here are a number of African-American families whose roots in the area go back to pre-Revolutionary days. Leonard Cooke, a native Mine Holer, became a prominent activist for civil rights, was a past president of Nyack NAACP, and recipient of an honorary degree for community service. And his reputation for storytelling and poetry is still growing. Now at 89 he remembers vividly the days in the twenties and thirties when working people on the move came here from all over looking for jobs, and found cheap rooming houses, liquor, and women at the Mine Hole.

Some ten years ago he teamed up with Audrey Lawson, retired college teacher honored for her social activism, and wife of another Mine Hole native, Benjamin Lawson, and they started collecting these memories for a book. They talked for countless hours; instead of taping their conversations she memorized the stories and the sound of his voice until she could fit all the pieces together to compose this poetic portrait of a time and place. It has taken ten years.

Reading TRUE STORIES FROM MINE HOLE is like listening to Leonard Cooke reminisce about the characters he knew when he was a boy. These are tough people, larger-than-life men and women who had to fight to stay alive. There were strongmen like De-Troit, a strike breaker recruited from North Carolina by the paper mill who dealt in stolen coal on the side, construction workers like Pop Smith and Curly the Indian, and Brook who showed young Leonard that he could walk on a railroad track carrying five buckets of water, one on his head and two in each hand, without spilling a drop.

There were smart guys like Sam Boston, famous for his hams and the best corn liquor anywhere, Howard who organized the Mine Hole baseball team, numbers runners like Bob Powell and Bill Jackson, and Rev. Edward Jones, self-ordained preacher who moved into an empty Catholic church and whipped up wildly charismatic services complete with speaking in tongues and rolling on the floor. And there were the professional drinkers and gamblers, who included all of the above.

And there were the women: Sarah Gaskins Cook, midwife and healer, "brown soap for abortions, horse liniment for sore muscles and sassafras tea for a spring cleanout," and lonely Dot ("one ugly broad"), faithful worshiper at the very proper St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church in Sparkill but famously promiscuous back in the Mine Hole, and Mrs. Town, tough as any man:

"Think of Mrs. Town and you think big. She was big in size, had a big bulldog, lived in a big house, and only the big gambling games were at her joint...bootleg



liquor for sale by the shot...On the weekend you could count on three or four prostitutes, beautiful colored women who were equal opportunity ladies and

who came from other places."

Cooke loves to talk about them all, speaks of them with affection and admiration, but he's never sentimental. Even when Carri, a sweet, innocent girl from a farm down south is repeatedly seduced, beaten and betrayed by the Mine Hole men, and ends up in a life of "prostitution, day work, ironing, and house rent parties" he allows that "she managed well enough..."

This is a short book, only 73 pages, but it's bigger than the sum of its parts. The picture of the Mine Hole that emerges is so full of life we wonder how it could all fit into this little place. As we read it the fragments of

(Continued on previous page)

RESTAURANT REVIEW

RELISH IN DOWNTOWN SPARKILL

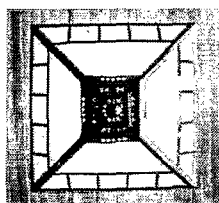
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Back in the tech-boom days, a pioneering entrepreneur rented a run-down deli on the triangle in the center of Sparkill and started the Filling Station, an Internet-linked take-out restaurant that unfortunately Dot gone last year.

That establishment has since been replaced by **Relish**, a dressed-down but hip eatery that gives displaced urbanites a place to get a tasty lunch or take their kids out for dinner nearby and still get them home to bed on time. After the lights are turned down at 7:00 p.m. the atmosphere gets very social, and the crowd thickens with adults and lots of lively conversation.

The Relish menu is the quintessence of informal. A set of b&w photocopied sheets stapled together lists items without separating them into categories of appetizer or entrée. Let the diners choose exactly what they want, when they want and make an end to the rigid confines of separate courses!

Chef Brian Moyers, formerly of Nobu (also Lotus & Olives) has successfully married culinary

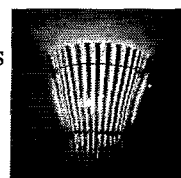


flights of fancy with a diverse range of basic fare that will be pleasing particularly to

those interested in the new fad for high-protein diets. The list of daily entrees includes roast chicken, fish, fancy cuts of beef, pork chops, salmon steaks, etc. and the seasoning is strongly influenced by the flavors of the ethnically diverse neighborhood in Brooklyn where the owners formerly lived.

For lunch, you can try a tempura

fennel. Salads and a risotto are always available for vegetarians.



Co-owner Michael Gross (along with partner Stacey Cretekos) is the soul of courtesy as he seats diners and attends to their comforts, as do all the members of the wait staff. The house

wines are very tasty, although the servings feel awfully scanty if you are buying by the glass—what appears to be a 4 oz serving looks quite lost in the regular-sized glass globe in which it is served.

Be prepared to eat a lot—the food is filling. Items are reasonably priced, depending on your appetite—soups and salads are in the \$7 - \$10 range, and main courses go from \$14 up to \$22.

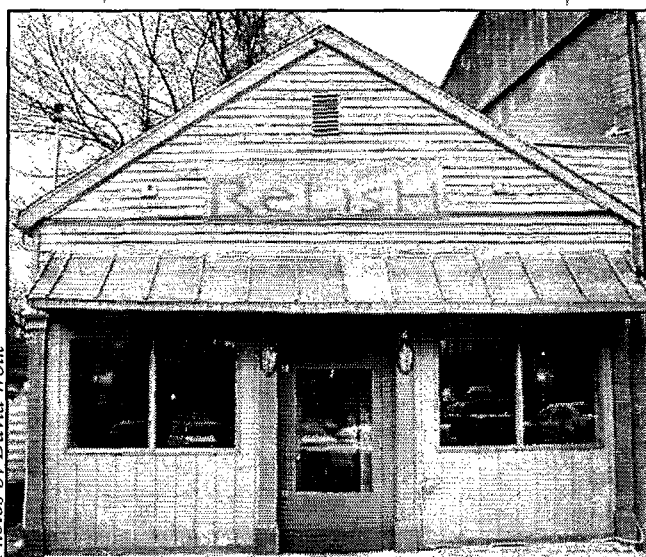
The atmosphere is so convivial that it is almost pub-

like—many people seem to be running into friends throughout their meal. Clearly it fills the niche for this area left empty by the demise of Maura's on Main; after a slow start early this spring, word has spread and the restaurant is now so filled on a Friday night that advance reservations are recommended.

Hours: Closed Mondays.

Lunch weekdays only (Tue.-Fri.) 12:00 -3:00. **Dinner** Tue.-Sun. 5:00-ish to 9:30ish. Please call ahead to verify times—their schedule sometimes changes.

Greta Nettleton



Photos by David Wolk

shrimp Po'Boy, or a pork-filled Cuban sandwich, or a pulled chicken panini. Grilled fish is served with Israeli couscous. At dinner, move onto tempting appetizers ranging from clear gazpacho broth (served with goodies bundled inside a thin wrapper of nearly transparent cucumber flesh) to New Zealand cockles prepared with orange and ginger. The dinner entrees have homespun foundations but wear exotic accessories; for instance the strip steak comes with asparagus and shitake mushrooms and the pan-seared striped bass is served with braised artichoke, black olives and shaved

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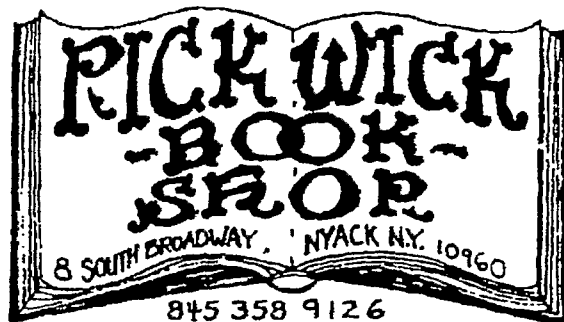
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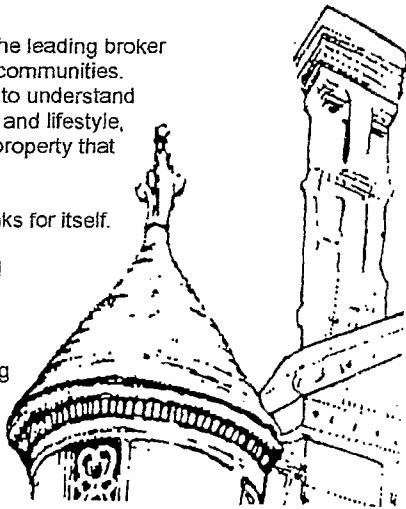
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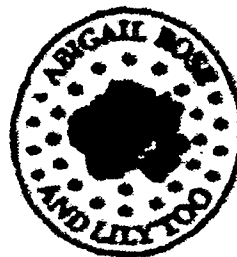
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Editor: Greta Nettleton

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PALISADES POST OFFICE GETS SPRUCED UP FOR THE WINTER

Postmaster **Mary Whatley** has seen to it that the post office looks its best as winter closes in. A fresh paint job has brightened the façade, and patrons now enjoy some shelter from the rain as they enter the doorway under the new canopy overhang. As always, patrons can buy stamps and other postal



needs in convenient, "no-waiting" circumstances. Staffers **Bernie Doyle, Helen Douglas, Deborah Bozzone,** and 'loaner' **Laura Flatley,** along with others, are ready to help you hurry your messages and gifts on to their final destinations. But your holiday mailings cannot get to their destinations on time unless you mail early. It's

already way too late to mail packages overseas at the Economy (Surface) rate, but Global Airmail Parcel Post and Letters & Cards mailings will get to most locations on time if you mail by December 15th. For mailings to Africa and Central & South America, you have to mail by December 8th. For people mailing packages and letters to servicemen and women, deadlines for Parcel Post and Space Available Mail were back in November, but Parcel Airlift Mail can go out by Dec. 4th, and Priority and First Class Letters & Cards can go out as late as Dec. 11th.

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