

## INDIAN POINT CRITICAL DECISIONS AHEAD

By Lynn R. Sykes



Two pending issues are likely to impact the operation and safety of the Indian Point nuclear power plants for decades ahead. One concerns the extension of the operating licenses for reactors 2 and 3 for an additional 20 years beyond their present 40 year permits; the other involves the storage of spent (used) fuel rods onsite. In addition, the creation of Limited Liability Corporations for each of those units by the Entergy Corporation, which is not widely known, is a major concern.

**License Extensions.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and its predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, have granted 40-year licenses to about 100 nuclear power generating stations in the United States. A few of the earliest units have been decommissioned; some, like Indian Point 1, have not operated for decades and are unlikely to be restarted. Most of the commercial reactors in the U.S., like Indian Point units 2 and 3, are still operating.

During the last several years, NRC renewed the licenses of 19 reactors nationwide for an additional 20 years. Some licenses, which do not expire for more than 15 years, have already been extended until 2041 and 2043. Permits for Indian Point 2 and 3 expire in 2013 and 2015; while Entergy has not yet sought extensions formally, it is widely expected to do so in the next year. A 20-year extension would mean that each reactor is now only halfway through 60 years of permitted operation. By 2033 and 2035, each will have produced about twice as much high-level radioactive waste as exists today in the spent fuel pools of the two reactors.

**Limited Liability.** The electric power industry has changed remarkably in the last several years under deregulation. A few corporations purchased (and are continuing to buy) existing reactors. Entergy, a publicly traded company based in Louisiana, now owns and operates a number of power reactors in the Northeast. It purchased Indian Point 2 from Con Edison and unit 3 from the Power Authority of the State of New York and renamed them the Indian Point Energy Center (thereby exercising the word "nuclear").

NRC regulates nuclear power plants—including licensing, inspection and safety—with appointed commissioners setting overall policy. NRC permitted Entergy and other owners of multiple reactors to establish Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs) for each of the reactors they own. Reactors 2 and 3 at Indian Point are each separate LLCs. Congress passed the Price-Anderson Act of 1957 specifically to provide government insurance in the event of a major accident to facilitate the growth of the nuclear power industry.

Commercial operators are required to carry \$200 million in primary insurance. A second level of retrospective premiums in the event of an accident is capped at approximately \$88 million per reactor. Yet a major accident to a reactor itself or to its spent-fuel pool could result in a loss in excess of \$100 billion, about a thousand times the coverage under Price-Anderson. Also, it is not clear if an LLC could file for bankruptcy and walk away from its obligations to decommission the reactor and dispose of its spent fuel. These issues require careful political and legal scrutiny.

**Nuclear Waste Disposal Crisis.** I was an expert witness in 1976 in a long legal hearing before the NRC about the earthquake safety of Indian Point. Units 2 and 3 had not been started at that time and concern focused on the reactors themselves, not on the adjacent structures where spent fuel rods are stored. Spent fuel produces a

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tremendous amount of heat and is highly radioactive as a result of its enriched uranium having undergone nuclear fission in the reactor. When nuclear power was in its infancy in the 1960s, it was expected that spent fuel would be allowed to cool partially for about five years underwater in the onsite spent fuel pool before being sent offsite to a reprocessing facility where unused uranium would be separated from the plutonium and various fission products. Then the separated fission products would be shipped to a permanent underground repository where they would be isolated for more than 10,000 years.

This concept broke down after India reprocessed fuel rods from a reactor it purchased from Canada and used the separated plutonium in its first nuclear test in 1974. The U.S. banned this procedure in 1979 in an effort to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons by other countries. While the U.S. lifted the ban in 1981, the price of uranium dropped and reprocessing became uneconomical (as it is today). Now, storage of spent fuel rods at nuclear power plants until some indefinite time when they can be shipped to a permanent underground storage facility has become the U.S. disposal policy by default.

The search for a technically and politically acceptable underground site for disposal of high-level radioactive wastes from commercial reactors has been underway for about 40 years. Choosing, certifying and opening a site has been delayed many times. In 1987 Congress mandated the U.S. Dept. of Energy to focus solely on a site at Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada. Opening that site was postponed from 1998 to 2003 and then to 2010. While the federal government is moving toward opening Yucca Mt., the date is likely to slip again as Nevada continues its opposition to the facility and others challenge inter-state shipment of spent fuel. If a permanent waste site finally opens, probably a decade or more will be required to move the great inventory of spent fuel to it from commercial reactors, which are mainly located in the East and Midwest.

A typical reactor like Indian Point 2 or 3 contains about 190 fuel assemblies, each weighing about half a ton and consisting of many fuel rods. About 75 assemblies are discharged and replaced every 18 to 24 months. More than 100,000 spent assemblies have been created in the U.S. to date. Even if all reactors ceased operation today, permanent disposal of this waste still would be essential. Storing it at 70 sites in the U.S. is less secure and the risk of eventual contamination is higher than permanent storage at one or a few sites.

As the inventory of spent assemblies at reactors increased, the NRC permitted the density of spent fuel in pools to be increased by about four times. Even at that density, the pool at Indian Point 2 is nearly full and that for unit 3 is about 75% full. On December 29, 2003 Entergy notified NRC of its intent to begin transfer of spent fuel from Indian Point 2 to dry casks on site starting in July 2005 and to make similar transfers in the future from units 1 and 3. Since they are air-cooled, dry casks of proper construction are thought to be safer than dense storage in water-filled pools. Entergy stated that they had chosen one of the several dry casks approved by NRC. Nevertheless, several technical experts have strongly criticized that particular cask, which is manufactured by Holtec International and is among the less expensive.

According to the local environmental group Riverkeeper, Entergy and the NRC will discuss technical aspects of the proposed storage system at a public meeting during the first quarter of 2004. The public will be allowed to observe but not comment. No formal public hearing or opportunities for public interest groups to intervene in the regulatory process are planned.

More is involved than the choice and price of a particular dry cask. The spent fuel pools at Indian Point still will be kept at dense packing, with dry casks handling overflow. In a 2003 publication Robert Alvarez and eight co-authors describe the consequences of a fire in a densely packed pool that had lost water either as a result of terrorism, an earthquake or human error. This could lead to a major release of highly radioactive materials from the spent fuel. The amount of radioactive Cesium contained in a densely packed pool is greater than that released in the Chernobyl accident of 1986. Soil in a huge area of the Ukraine and Belarus will be contaminated by radioactive Cesium for at least 100 years.

To reduce the risk of a similar release, those authors advocate moving spent fuel older than five years at U.S. reactors to dry casks, returning spent fuel pools to their original lower density of storage. They estimate the cost nationally as \$3.5 to \$7 billion. Others argue that dry casts should be protected from terrorist attack by placing them in bunkers surrounded by a thick layer of earth, much as Germany has done. They also urge enclosing the relatively unprotected spent fuel pools by containment structures, similar to that which exists for reactors

## ANDREW E. NORMAN 1930-2004



When Andrew Norman died on February 8, a neighbor said to me, "He was our mayor." Mayor or shepherd, Andy served Palisades and a much larger community for over forty years. He simply could not not serve.

Andy was born into a distinguished New York family, one long concerned with civil and human rights. As journalist, philanthropist and political activist, he followed the tradition. From when he first became chairman of the Norman Foundation his concerns went more and more to what he called "civil realities," housing; education; the paving and lighting of streets where minorities lived. He had an eye for where people hurt the most. Recently he was honored by Rockland Family Shelter for his service to them.

Andy and his wife, Helen Davis, who died in 1995, came to Palisades in 1960. They raised their four daughters, Abigail, Sarah, Margaret and Rebecca here. He was affianced to Barbara Kent at the time of his death.

Andy was long a presence in the Democratic party on national and local levels. In his early days in Palisades he didn't have much company. He changed that. He recruited, wrote letters, carried around petitions. Who can forget him at the door, half-smiling, clipboard in hand?

He served on the board of Rockland Community College; for many years he was on the board of the Palisades Free Library; he was a founder of the Palisades Community Center, and at the time of his death co-president of the Civic Association.

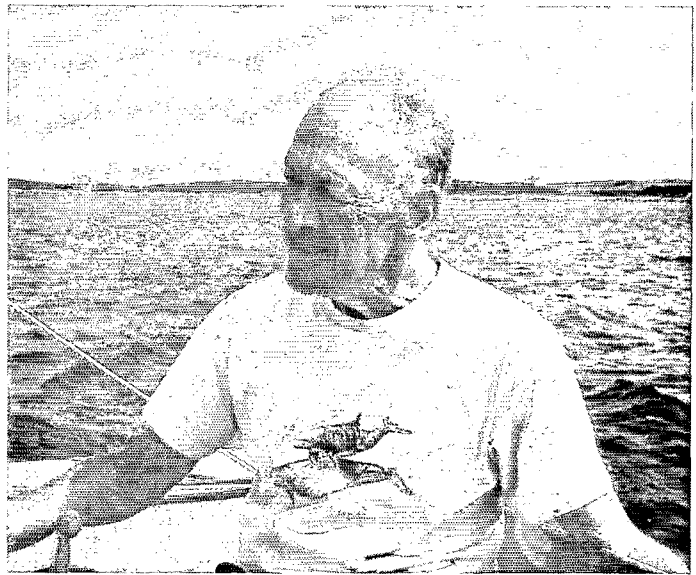
Andy was a kind man, generous, modest as the V.W. bugs he drove. He was frugal; he composted. He was not afraid to work with his hands. He loved his garden, especially the iris and the raspberry patch. He was a trusted consultant on mushrooms. And on snakes, of which he was fond. He loved good wines and shared them. He loved to sail - the Hudson, Cape Cod waters, the Caribbean, the Aegean Sea. And he loved the sky, the whole outdoors. He drove too fast, often with the car top down, never mind the weather. Indeed, he drove through life with the top down.

It was his pride and pleasure to assist Helen in her splendid venture, designing, making and distributing miniatures and dollhouses. They collected fine seashells together. Andy got to use the burnt matchsticks he'd been saving. He wrote promotional copy. They exhibited in London.

But here in Palisades he was best known as a neighbor. He did love parties. He was rarely the first to arrive, but almost always the last to leave. He loved to talk. He was curious. Well read in history, the arts, science, even religion, he was more than willing to share what he knew, sometimes at considerable length. A person who caught a ride into town with him now and then used to say Andy could start a sentence at Oak Tree road and finish it on the G.W. Bridge.

The Norman hospitality is a story in itself: the parties after Christmas caroling. Everybody came. Benefits and Protests, weddings, and other blessings. Take the Vietnamese family of five sponsored by a group Andy and Helen were part of. They arrived before their housing had been arranged and lived for five months with the Norman family.

Andy was a baseball fan. He loved maps, puzzles and games, and there couldn't have been anything he enjoyed more than supper and a unisex poker game at a neighbor's table. He enjoyed nonsense. He could be a tease. He was always available to help the vulnerable, and he was himself sometimes vulnerable. And was a most uncommon common man.



ANDY ABOARD HIS BOAT ON CAPE COD.

*By Dorothy Davis*

# BULLETIN BOARD



tained glass artist and Palisades resident, Harriet Hyams, is one of forty featured artists in, "Women Working in Glass." by Lucartha Kohler. Published last December by Schiffer Publishing, the book features contemporary woman artists from the 1960s to the present who tell their stories in their own words. It also documents the early history of the studio glass movement and women who worked with glass dating back to Roman times, including those who designed works for Tiffany Glass.

**Dr. Kimball P. Woodward** has recently relocated his ophthalmology practice from Langerman Eye Institute in Nyack to the Interactive Health Sciences building at 348 route 9W in Palisades. Dr. Woodward is a local, having grown up on Indian Hill Lane here in Palisades. Phone: 845-680-0800.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW NEIGHBORS.

**Jackie and Eric Vorenkamp** have just moved to Washington Spring Road. Both work at New York Presbyterian Hospital; Jackie is a doctor of occupational medicine and Eric is an insurance broker.

**Maria DiAngelo** moved into a house on Century Road the first of December 2003. Maria has practiced pediatrics in the county for nineteen years and has two nine-year-old children, Alex and Ian. She moved to Palisades because she loves the community.

**Burke Anderson and Elizabeth Hanson**, formerly of Palisades have moved to South Nyack, NY. Recently Burke and Betsy became the proud parents of a son, Taylor. Burke is the son of the late James and Margaret Anderson, long time Palisadians who lived in the Van Dien-Anderson house on 9W. Burke is a school teacher with the South Orangetown School District. Elizabeth works in the Office of the President of Rockefeller University in New York City.

A new house is going up on Woods Road. It was on this site that a blockhouse was built in 1780 under orders of George Washington; the fortification played an important role in the Revolutionary War. Homeowners Joanie and Jerry Lebman hope to have their home completed by early summer. Joan & Jerry are fine artists.

**Bob Schmetterer**, a leader in the business community and one of our Palisades neighbors, has recently published, "Leap: A Revolution in Creative Business Strategy." Mr. Schmetterer is CEO and chairman of Euro RSCG Worldwide, which is among the top five advertising and communications agencies worldwide. His book is already an overwhelming success, with editions in Spanish, Portuguese, French and Mandarin. Italian and German publications are scheduled by the end of the year.

**Robby Whitstock** has rejoined our community, moving into the Post Rippey house on Oak Tree Road. He recently moved from Nyack after living there for 3 years. Before that Robby spent 2 years (1998-2000) successfully circumnavigating the globe in Chay Blyth's "Millennium Yacht Race." Sailing aboard S/Y COMPANY, out of Southampton, England the crew of COMPANY, finished in 5th place out of 38 yachts that began the race in the fall of 1998. Only 22 yachts crossed the finishing line in the summer of 2000. Robby works in public relations.

**Roger Weisberg & Murray Nosset's** documentary short called "Why Can't We Be a Family Again?" was premiered on PBS's "Independent Lens" in January.

Congrats to Bill Murray and Al Pacino for their Golden Globe awards.

On Saturday, March 20th, the Rivertown Film Society will present, "Secret Cinema" at 8pm. Audiences won't know what's in store for them until they arrive that night. Watch for our upcoming "Reel Clues" which will drop hints at the identity of an upcoming film. If you miss one you may regret it! The screening is at The Nyack

## DOROTHY SALISBURY DAVIS - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

**D**orothy Salisbury Davis has been called "a national treasure" and "one of the most admired writers of American mystery fiction." She holds the Edgar Award, (mystery writing's highest recognition), as a grandmaster. She is a founder/member of Sisters of Crime, a member of the Adams Round Table and winner of the Bouchercon Award and Malice Domestic Award, both for lifetime achievement. At home in Palisades, where she shares a Victorian house with her cat Pookha and eight decades of memories, she wears her laurels lightly. A petite woman with white hair, lively eyes and a great big smile, she asks that we call her Dorothy.

Dorothy grew up on farms in Illinois and Wisconsin. There is still something of a country-woman's self-reliance about her: she grows vegetables and herbs as well as flowers; after a wind storm she can be found picking up twigs for kindling; she cooks without short-cuts; walks wherever she can whatever the weather.



DOROTHY SALISBURY DAVIS

She went to the local Catholic schools, then on to Barat College in Lake Forest, run by the Religious of the Sacred Heart. There she had her first taste of the world of letters as the editor of *Forest Leaves*, the college quarterly. It was a brief taste: after she graduated, she learned that she was "overqualified" for the jobs available. Eventually she found work as advance fundraiser for a traveling magician - say, two hundred dollars for a week of telephone pitches. She came to know a lot of small-town America and also grew to hate the telephone (as she still does).

The next job was more congenial: working in public relations for Swift, the meatpacking company in Chicago. It was wartime. Dorothy was sent to New York to promote programs for Swift's employees in service. (Swift had over 80,000 men in the armed forces.) By way of a visit to the Stage Door Canteen ("photo-opportunities" with Celeste Holm and Gypsy Rose Lee), Dorothy came to meet the actor Harry Davis. Back in Chicago, where Harry was playing in *Jacobowski and the Colonel*, she double-dated with him and his roommate, E. G. Marshall. Marshall was best man at their wedding.

She started writing with Harry's encouragement. Her first novel gathered rejection slips from publisher after publisher, until it reached Burroughs Mitchell at Scribner's. "We like the

book," he said, "but we don't like the denouement." Dorothy nodded her agreement, said that she would work on it, and went home to the dictionary to see what he meant.

That novel was *The Judas Cat*, published in 1946. Her most recent book, a collection of short mystery stories titled, *In the Still of the Night*, came out in 2001. In all, she has written fourteen mysteries, four "mainstream" novels and thirty short stories, published again and again in such collections as *Murder Most Sacred*, *Lost Ladies* and *Senior Sleuths*. Four of the mystery stories have the same sleuth, Julie Hayes, an amateur and a woman in what has traditionally been a professional man's world. Dorothy works mostly on her journal now, but every few pages a sentence starts, "What if\_?"

Of her books, her favorites are *Men of No Property* (1956) about the Irish in New York and, among the mysteries, *Where the Dark Streets Go* (1969). Here the central character is Father McMahon, one of several priests in her work. Together with a search for roots, crisis in faith is a recurrent theme in her books. She herself left the Roman Catholic Church in the 1940s - however, as she says, you don't leave the church, you take it with you. As a member today of the Palisades Presbyterian Church, she considers herself the beneficiary of two communions.

*Where the Dark Streets Go*, was optioned for film by Paul Newman, but he let the option lapse. Frank Sinatra did the same. With the title, *Broken Vows*, it became a CBS movie starring Tommy Lee Jones.

"Write!" "Just sit down and do it!" These are her words of advice to aspiring writers. She herself worked

# CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE THEATRE - RICHARD III

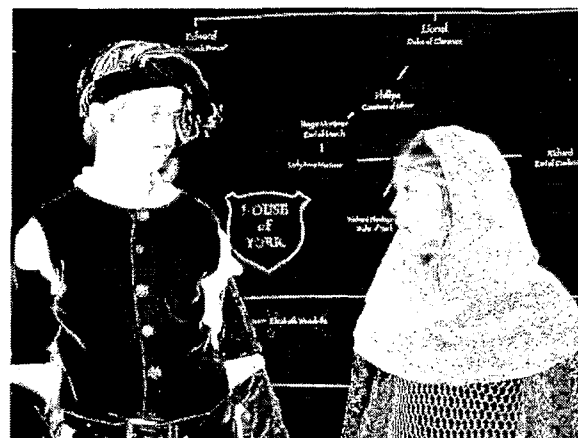


Richard III was the seventh production done by this ambitious little company and audiences proclaimed it their best yet. From full houses on January 9 to 11 and 16 to 18 came rave reviews. It was generally agreed that the children had all taken a large step forward in their understanding of the text, their clarity of speech and their overall confidence. From the masterful portrayal of the deadly king himself by 13-year-old Chad Milando, to the fierce and enthusiastic sword fighting of those with very few lines like 10-year-old Ike Kitman, there was a strong sense that the children were very committed to the play and to each other.

"This was the first time that I really got the sense that the kids absolutely understood their relationships to each other," said Palisadian John Lenihan. "From the smallest part on up, they knew exactly how they fit into the story." And a complicated story it was indeed, but the children unearthed more and more interesting details, which drew them into the history as each week of rehearsal went by.

Learning a bit of English history was one of my goals for the kids with this play. As the director, I am always looking for ways to challenge them and make them grow in their skills as actors as well as in their understanding and appreciation of Shakespeare as a writer and a pivotal character in history. As the years go by and this company continues, I hope that those children who participate for a number of years never say that the plays are the same from one to the next, but that they learn new things about human relationships, history, language and theater with every new effort.

What better way to learn these things than in a group that provides the comfort of community and the safe feeling of knowing that people can be themselves without judgment. "It's fun doing the plays because we are a family," said 11-year-old Mary Polk-Bauman who played the revengeful Queen Margaret in Richard III. This is a feeling that is widely expressed by many of the members of this company.

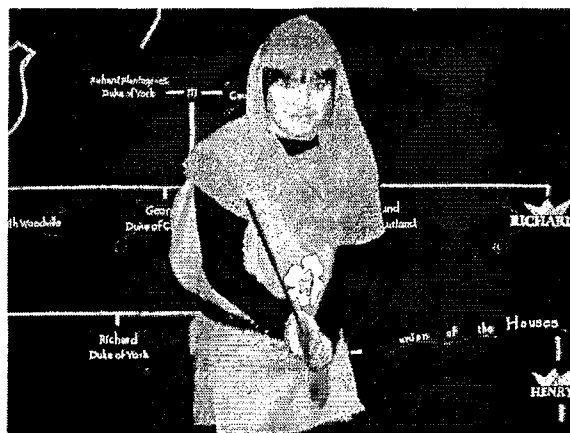


DAKOTA GREEN & MARK POLK-BAUMAN

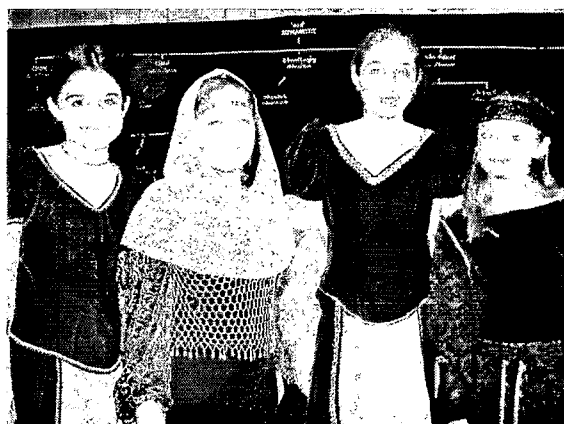
"It's not like school," explained 13-year-old Nell Skoda. "In CST you know you can let your defenses down and be all the parts of yourself and not have to hide anything that your friends might not think is cool."

There are 42 children in the Children's Shakespeare Theatre and they range in age from 8 to 15. Thirty-four of them were in Richard III and the rest will be involved in the spring production, "The Merry Wives of Windsor." Rehearsals have already begun for that show which will be performed at the Palisades Presbyterian Church in May. For more information on performances or about the company itself, please email the director at dianacst@optonline.net. You can also send your street address if you would like to join the mailing list and receive notices of future productions.

By Diana Green



ARI EWIG READY FOR BATTLE.



(L TO R): ROSE MILANDO, MARY POLK-BAUMAN, SOPHIA SIGNORELLI, ANNA BARYSHNIKOV

Photos by Marjorie Galen, Milbry Polk and Sara Tucker

# SCHOOL NEWS

## 2004-05 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION!



Kindergarten registration for September 2004 will be held during the following four sessions: March 9 and 11 from 9:00am until 12:00pm and March 16 and 18 from 5:00 pm until 8:00pm. All registrations will take place in the South Orangetown Middle School Board Room, 160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt. For more information, call 845/ 680-1300.

## MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Board of Education Meetings:** March 24 and 31.

All meetings are held at 7:30pm in the boardroom at SOMS. The public is encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted on our website two days prior to the meeting.

**SOMS PTA Parent Workshop,** March 30 from 7:00 pm in SOMS Library

### **Family/Community Events**

**SOCES Family Fun Night Luau,** March 19 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at WOS

**SOCES PTA "We The People" Event,** March 20, 11:00am-4:00pm South Orangetown Middle School, 160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt. (Entrance at Erie Street parking lot.) Thirteen countries will be represented through exhibits, performances, demonstrations and sports. Continuous entertainment every half hour. Special performance at 1:00pm by Paula Larke "Blackgrassrootsafrolbillyfunk." Admission is free.

### **Sports**

Come to a game! Visit our website for a schedule of sporting events, [www.socsd.org](http://www.socsd.org).

**TZHS Faculty vs. Seniors Basketball Game,** March 19 at 7:30pm at TZHS

### **Musicals**

**SOMS Spring Musical: "The King and I"** on March 12 and 13 at 8:00pm and March 14 at 2:00pm. Adults \$8.00, students and senior citizens \$6.00. Sunday matinee, space permitting, senior citizens are free.

**TZHS Spring Musical: "42nd Street"** on March 26 and 27 at 8:00pm and March 28 at 2:00pm. Adults \$8.00, students \$5.00, senior citizens are free.

**Generations Exchange Theater Café** on March 28 at 1:00pm at TZHS.

### **Annual Blood Drive**

**TZHS Senior/PTSA Blood Drive,** March 30 in TZHS Gym, 7:30am -1:30 pm and 2:30 -7:00pm. This is a community blood drive. For appointments, call 845/680-1647.

### **Attention all families with pre-schoolers!**

The Family Resource Center at the Palisades school at 680 Oak Tree Road runs many programs and workshops for pre-schoolers and their parents and guardians. For more information, call Margaret A. Umbrino at 845/ 365-4277.

**March 16:** "Tuna for Tots" Meals on Wheels Campaign, 10:00am. Bring cans of tuna and join the fun!

**March 18:** Sing-a-long with Stacey Meredith at 9:45am

**March 22:** Baby' n Me (0-2 yrs) at 9:45am

**March 23:** Yoga for Tots with Eileen Carey at 9:45am

# ART IN THE COMMUNITY

## AN ABUNDANCE OF ARTISTIC OFFERINGS

### Rockland Center for the Arts

Rockland Center for the Arts (RoCA), located at 27-29 South Greenbush Road in West Nyack, presents a wide variety of cultural arts programs for people of all ages. These include an extensive School for the Arts, a prestigious exhibition program, a performing arts series, an outdoor sculpture garden and the popular RoCA Summer Arts Day Camp for children ages 5 to 12 offering a creative alternative to the traditional summer day camp experience.

RoCA was founded in 1947 by a group of community leaders and renowned artists including Aaron Copland, Paulette Goddard, Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya, Maxwell Anderson and Helen Hayes. Their intention was to "make use of the abundant artistic talent" in Rockland County. Fifty-eight years later, RoCA's mission is still to provide opportunities for artists to exhibit, perform, create and teach and to make the arts accessible to all members of the community.

RoCA's School for the Arts presents a variety of classes taught by professionally trained artists in fully equipped studios. Courses and workshops include ceramics, drawing & painting, sculpture, creative writing, drama, stained glass and stone carving.

Late spring classes for adults include: Introduction to Abstraction, Memoir Writing, Digital Camera Workshop, Glass Bead Workshops, Mosaic Stepping Stones, and Contemporary Poetry. Classes for children this spring include Nature and Art, Toy Making, Paper Kites, Chinese Landscape Painting, Fantasy Bird Houses and more!

RoCA presents exhibitions, performances and readings by major contemporary artists and emerging local artists. Its formal spaces include the Emerson Gallery, PhotoSpace Gallery and a Sculpture Park.

### UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT ROCKLAND CENTER:

**Artists Under the Influence:** This exhibition explores the reciprocity of relationships and the interactive nature of artists who influence each other. Artist's reception Sunday, March 7, 1:00-4:00 pm (on view through April 4).

**Sculpture in the Park:** Stroll our two-acre Sculpture Park and new nature trail. Major works on view through May.

### Performing Arts Series 2004: Cabaret Program

Sue Matsuki and Marcus Simeone: "Somewhere Along the Way"; Saturday, March 13 at 8:00 pm.

**Carol Channing starring Richard Skipper;** Saturday, March 27 at 8:00 pm.

**Joan Crowe: Women of Note;** Saturday, April 24 at 8:00 pm.

Tickets for performances are \$20 and \$15 for members and seniors.

For complete information about our programs, visit our website at [www.rocklandartcenter.org](http://www.rocklandartcenter.org) or call 845-358-0877 for a free catalog.



# ART IN THE COMMUNITY

## **Art Students League**

In 1995 the Art Students League of New York City received five acres of property and funding from the family of the late artist and League instructor, Vaclav Vytlacil, to establish the Vytlacil School of Painting and Sculpture in Sparkhill to be operated by the Art Students League.

The school is open Monday through Friday mornings from January through November, with weekly and monthly tuitions. Dan Dickerson will be teaching a class, scheduled for May and June, titled, "Painting and Drawing from Life and Landscape." July through August, H. Max Horbund will be teaching "Painting – Still Life and Landscape."

The Vytlacil School is located at 241 Kings Highway, Sparkill; call 845-359-1263 or go online at [www.theart-studentsleague.org](http://www.theart-studentsleague.org) for more information.

## **92nd Street Y Village**

Located in Pearl River at the Henry Kaufmann Campgrounds, 667 Blauvelt Road, the 92nd Street Y Village is a nature center as well as a center for art with classes in painting and drawing, pottery and photography. The spring session for adults runs from March to May. Classes this year are connected with the Rockland Community College. All-day classes for adults will be offered during the summer. Call director Mara Lewin at 845-357-0532 for more information.

## **Sylvia March**

Sylvia March, a producing artist/potter whose work is sold at a gallery adjoining her studio at 224 route 9W in Palisades, teaches two pottery classes to children on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 to 4:30 pm and 4:00 to 5:00 pm and on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Classes include hand-building and throwing on the wheel for those over 8 years old. "I charge by the class. I want children to come because they want to."

Pottery classes for adults are offered on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:00 Noon. "I give individual attention to students and encourage them to work at their own pace. I try to teach the value of practice when working on a potter's wheel and, when working by hand, a sense of the nature of clay. I allow children to find their own forms." A one hour class for children including material is \$20 and a two hour class for adults is \$40. Silvia has five kick wheels and an electric kiln. Call 845-359-3767 for more information on other times.

*By Kathleen Sykes*

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## **BULLETIN BOARD**

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Center located at the corner of Depew Avenue and Broadway. For more information call 845-353-2568 or [www.rivertownfilms.com](http://www.rivertownfilms.com)

## **Palisades Trailway**

After four years of planning, the first phase of the Palisades Trailway is in its final design stage. This paved multi-use trailway, when completed, will run 26 miles, starting at the New Jersey/New York state line and ending at Bear Mountain State Park. Free of motor vehicle use, it will be ideal for walking, jogging, biking and rollerblading. Phase one, expected to start late spring of 2005, will run 3 miles along the Erie Railroad right-of-way from Oak Tree Road to route 303 with a pedestrian bridge built over 303. Phase two will cover from route 303 to Western Highway. The project, which met with overwhelming community approval at a meeting held last year, is a cooperative effort between New York State Department of Transportation and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

# IN MEMORIUM

## CATHERINE KONNER, 1954-2003

**C**atherine "Cathy" Konner, formerly of Snedens Landing, Palisades, N.Y., died on December 27, 2003 at her home in Chevy Chase, Maryland. She was 49 years old. The cause of death was non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Cathy, the daughter of Joan Konner of Palisades and Jack Konner of Ridgefield, Connecticut, is survived by her husband, Stuart Garfinkle; a daughter, Harper, 7 years old; her sister, Rosemary Konner Steinbaum of Upper Montclair, N.J.; her parents and step parents, Alvin Perlmutter of Palisades and Carol Konner of Ridgefield, Connecticut.



CATHY KONNER

Cathy grew up in Palisades. She attended the Palisades Elementary School and Rockland Country Day School. She graduated from New Lincoln High School in New York City and received a B.A. from American University in Washington, DC. She worked for many years for ABC, first in Washington at WMAL Radio, where she was music program director. She moved to WJLA, the ABC television station in Washington, where she worked as a programming assistant. It was there that she met her husband Stuart. Stuart is now program director for Montgomery Community Television, supervising all public resources and channel operations.

Cathy also worked for six years as a senior controller for ABC News in NY, in charge of the business affairs of many of ABC's news and public affairs programs. She returned to Washington where she was married in 1992. In Washington, she worked in business affairs for PVS, an independent television production company, later called Slingshot Productions, until she became ill in October of 2002.

According to her mother, she passed away comfortably, bravely and peacefully at home, surrounded and supported by an exceptional number of devoted friends from the many different chapters of her life. A service was held at Temple Sinai in Washington where her friends and family gathered to celebrate her life and hear testimony to her loving, playful and generous nature.

*By Alice Gerard*

## SHEILA CONVERSE, 1911-2003

**F**ew current residents of Palisades knew Sheila Converse, who died on January 15th of this year. She lived quietly in the old Mann house, opposite the triangle on Washington Spring Road, behind a high hedge of rhododendrons and tall pine trees. Although she and her husband and son John had been summering in the house since the early 1960s, (she and John moved here for good in 1964, after her divorce) she had become a recluse in the last few years. By the time she died, at the age of 92, the only Palisades residents who saw her were the small group of neighbors who stopped by to sing Christmas carols to her every year. She was always gracious, and pleased to see us. We didn't know this December that she was listening to us for the last time.

Sheila was born and grew up in France, where she met her husband John Converse while she was still a student — they met on the tennis court. Sometime after her son John was born in 1951 the family moved to the United States, where Dr. Converse became a celebrated plastic surgeon. After the divorce he married Rocky, Gary Cooper's widow, but Sheila never remarried. Instead, she devoted herself to raising her son John and painting still lifes of flowers — the house was full of her work. The Palisades Library had a small show of her paintings in the early 1990s. Sheila Converse owned and lived in the Mann house, built in 1794, for forty years.

For a while she had two good friends here, Helen Zimbalist who lived down the hill and Dorothy Yaeger, who lived in the stone house across the triangle from the Mann house. The three friends would talk to each other every day. But after Helen Zimbalist died, and Dorothea Yaeger moved away and then died, Sheila became increasingly isolated. When her son John died in 2001, at the age of 50, and then her sister died, only her granddaughter Allison, a student at Sarah Lawrence, was left of her immediate family. To those of us who remember her from an earlier, happier time, her departure is a reminder of the rapid disappearance of the past and the ever-changing character of our community.

*By Alice Gerard*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

# PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

Pastor Dae Jung, 845-359-3147

### **Lenten/Easter Worship Services are:**

Ash Wednesday, February 25, at 8:00 p.m.

(A quiet, meditative service marking the beginning of the Lenten season)

**Lenten Services**, February 29 through March 28, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

(All 9:00 a.m. services are fragrance-free)

**Palm Sunday**, April 4, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

(This service commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem for the feast of Passover)

**Maundy Thursday**, April 8, at 8:00 p.m.

(This joint service at the AME Zion church of Sparkill commemorates Jesus' last meal)

**Easter Sunday**, April 11, at 6:30 and 11:00 a.m.

(This service celebrates Jesus' resurrection.) An early service, held at Nick and Cass Ludington's home on Lawrence Lane, is followed by a potluck breakfast.



THE PALISADES CHURCH. 1900

## EMERGENCY COMMUNITY FUND

Many years ago, the Session of the Palisades Presbyterian Church established the Pastor's Community Fund. This fund is separate from the church's finances and independent of the Session. Under its terms the pastor may help whomever he or she feels needs special, one-time financial assistance; funds are disbursed by the pastor so that confidentiality is maintained. Occasionally, a family will undergo hardships; the pastor's fund has helped many area residents over the years - a fire, job loss, sickness, any number of problems where a family or an individual desperately needs a helping hand. These one-time grants are not expected to be repaid.

From time to time, the church has sent out letters at Christmas asking the community to donate to this fund and the community has always responded generously. Some time ago, Palisades resident Helen Norman left a bequest to the Pastor Community Fund and so fund raising letters ceased. The fund is stable right now but on the low side. If anyone wishes to contribute please send a check to the Palisades Presbyterian Church with the notation, "Pastor Community Fund." These contributions will not go into the church's general fund. Any outlays by the pastor from this fund are confidential.

## CHURCH KITCHEN NEARING COMPLETION

The remodeling and expansion of the church's kitchen is nearing completion. The purpose was to enlarge the working space, add more appropriate storage and modernize the aging equipment. The kitchen now has additional electrical outlets, new lighting and much new equipment. A new dishwasher takes under five minutes. The annual Pancake Breakfast and the Strawberry Festival both will benefit from the new five-burner stove and separate double oven. The ceramic tile floor and cabinets are new. A new door has been added to help the traffic flow. There is a new pass-through window fronted by sliding doors above a new small utility sink. The restroom on the south side is now handicapped-accessible.

The kitchen committee is headed by Sarah Page with help from Karen Consolini, Marjorie Douglas, Sally Green, Fred Griffing and Frances Pellegrini. Steve Van Dyk, chairperson of the Restoration committee, commented, "The old kitchen, which served the church since the Parish House was built in 1965, was simply too small and too inefficient to handle larger events." It did not have enough electrical power for the coffee

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# LAMONT DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY



## LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY

Spring 2004 Public Lectures

Monell Auditorium, Palisades, NY.

(Use Rte 9W Entrance)

### **April 4, 2004 "Earthquake Prediction in the Shadow of Chaos"**

Dr. Bruce Shaw, Doherty Research Scientist, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Did you know New York City is ranked number four in terms of earthquake risk for U.S. cities? Learn why this is so and, more generally, about how earthquakes work. Learn also about new understandings of chaos theory in earthquakes and how this suggests limits to some aspects of earthquake prediction.

### **April 18, 2004 "Revealing the Deep: Science and Engineering in Deep Ocean Exploration"**

Dr. Daniel J. Fornari, Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Dr. Fornari, a Lamont-Doherty alumnus and Chief Scientist for Deep Submergence at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, will describe a broad spectrum of innovative engineering/science developments that are reshaping how we conduct research at the seafloor which have far-reaching implications for future seafloor observatories and the science they will be involved in.

### **May 2, 2004 "African Climate Changes and Human Evolution"**

Dr. Peter Bedloe deMenocal, Associate Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Environmental theories of African evolution suggest that important evolutionary changes in African mammalian lineages over the last (circa) 5.3 million years were mediated by changes in African climate. The deep-sea sediment record contains a rich history of these changes which, when linked to the fossil record of African faunal evolution (including the emergence of our own genus Homo), allows us to test African climate-evolution ideas.

### **May 23, 2004 "The Air We Breathe: Air Pollution and New York City Subways"**

Dr. Steven N. Chillrud, Doherty Research Scientist, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Learn how Lamont geochemists and Columbia University public health investigators used backpack air monitors to track down the source of potentially hazardous air pollutants in the New York City subway system, and how they are currently investigating the potential for health impacts from elements in steel dust in the subways.

*By D. Brusa*

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## CHURCH NEWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

maker and the microwave oven to operate at the same time."

The money for this project was taken from the generous bequest of Helene Stansbury whose wish during her lifetime was to see the Palisades Presbyterian Church in a safe and pristine condition so that it could serve members, friends and others in the Palisades community. Most of the work was done by Garrison Construction; the architect on the project was William Pfaff. AIA.

*By Henry Shaw*

# LIBRARY NEWS



## Palisades Free Library

Tel: 845-359-0136, Fax: 845-359-6124,

Email: pal@rcls.org

### Interesting Statistics for 2003

Library holdings 23,388

Reference questions 5,475

Items circulated 21,592

Registered patrons 1,079

Patron visits 12,713

A new high for circulation in the RCLS system: 1995 - 2,737,884, 2003 - 5,722,656

### Children's Programs *(Sign up at the library)*

Storytime continues every Wednesday at 1:30 for children ages 3 and up.

**March 24**, 4:15-5:30. Wind Sock Craft. Hang your wind sock outside and watch what happens when the wind blows!

**April 21**, 4:30-5:30. Outragehiss Pets. Up close and fascinating - strange and common creatures from around the world will amaze and entertain.

**April 28**, 4:30-5:45. Mystery and Detective Mayhem. Who dun it? Hear some mystery stories and play some detecting games. Make a detective kit.

**May 12**, 4:30-5:30. Macaroni the Clown. A comedy magic and juggling show with lots of audience participation and funny business.

### DVDs

American Splendor

Pieces of April

The Housekeeper

Secret Lives of Dentists

Lost in Translation

Swimming Pool

Magdalene Sisters

Sylvia

Man on the Train

Under the Tuscan Sun

### Library Hours

Monday-Thursday - 1:00-9:00 p.m.

Friday - 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Saturday - 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 1:00-5:00 p.m.

### Board Meetings

The Palisades Library Board of Trustees meets six times a year. Meetings are open to the public. Please call the library to verify the date and time. Any resident wishing to address the board should notify it for inclusion on the agenda. (359-0136)

### Board of Trustees

Mary Anne Baumgold

Don Bracken

David Gottlieb

Marika Hahn

Dr. Nadine Keegan

Paul Papay

Charles Shimel

### Adult Fiction

Linda Barnes

Edwidge Danticat

David Liss

Vyvyane Lott

Murakami Ryu

Olen Steinhauer

Laura Wilson

*Deep Pockets*

*The Dew Breaker*

*A Spectacle of Corruption*

*Breaking the Tongue*

*In the Miso Soup*

*The Confession*

*Telling Lies to Alice*

### Adult Nonfiction

Ben Bova

Lynne Cox

Perri Klass

Stafford Cliff

Diane Middlebrook

David Moats

Nicolas Shradly

*Faint Echoes, Distant Stars*

*Swimming to Antarctica*

*Quirky Kids*

*Album of a Century*

*Her Husband*

*Civil Wars*

*Tilt: A Skewed History of the Tower of Pisa*

**Books on CD**

Richard Atwater	<i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i>
Caroline Cooney	<i>The Face on the Milk Carton</i>
Lois Duncan	<i>Killing Mr. Griffin</i>
Fred Gipso	<i>Old Yeller</i>
Barbara Kingsolver	<i>The Bean Trees</i>
Jack London	<i>Call of the Wild</i>
Scott O'Dell	<i>The Black Pearl</i>
Johanna Reiss	<i>The Upstairs Room</i>
John Steinbeck	<i>The Pearl</i>



THE PALISADES LIBRARY ON OAK TREE ROAD. 1903

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Public Access Catalog (our electronic card catalog), where patrons can access the computerized catalog in the library or from home ([www.rcls.org/pal](http://www.rcls.org/pal)) and search for books, videos, DVDs, recorded books and CDs; place holds and renew items; find book lists and local organizations; access articles and find company statistics and information; access medical information from journals, newspapers and directories; and use the Encyclopedia Britannica and Books in Print.

The library maintains a public access computer, internet and word processor for public use in the library. A public copier is available for black and white copies at 10 cents a page. Microfilm and microfiche may be read and printed at 10 cents per page.

Large print books, audiobooks on tape and CDs, videos, DVDs, CDRoms for children and local history archives are available for our patrons.

**IN MEMORIAM**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10



Remembering Gina Vermandel,  
March 11, 1959 - December 19, 2003

**A reflection.....**

mother of three beloved children, Kristin, Jon and Luke.

devoted wife of Hans.

beautiful engaging blue eyes.

her passion for children.

"kind" neighbor to all.

loved to play tennis, watch baseball, especially PSBL and the New York Mets.

volunteer in our school community.

past treasurer of 10964.

loved living in our hamlet of Palisades.

We'll always love you, Gina ~ all your friends in Palisades. We miss you.



GINA VERMANDEL WITH ONE OF HER SONS.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

### LA BAMBA

627 Main Street, Sparkill  
845-365-1859



Hidden in plain sight, at the back of a grocery store on Main Street in Sparkill, is a really welcome find: the Mexican restaurant La Bamba. In a small dining room decorated with colorful wall hangings and featuring a large jukebox full of corridos and polkas nortena, you can find some of the most authentic Mexican food in the area, with an informal family atmosphere to make you feel at home. The food is simple, portions are generous and they serve an impressive assortment of beverages - varieties of beers, tropical fruit drinks and sodas.

We tried a number of the usual dishes like quesadillas, soft shell tacos and enchiladas, all of which were tasty. Of the appetizers, I've tasted the ceviche de camarones, which was excellent but would have been even better without the fake crabmeat, and some small soft shell tacos with pork and sausage. We have sampled a few of the house specials as well; the Pollo con Mole Poblano placed a bit too much emphasis on chocolate flavor, not enough on poblano or spices, but the chicken was tender and not the least bit dry. Beef Chalupas were soft moist tortillas containing morsels of meat and a flavorful sauce. The flan, which I've had several times, has always been creamy, delicate and perfect, with just the right amount of bittersweet caramelized sugar syrup.

The ever-present soupy refried beans must be a taste I have never acquired, and the rice that comes with almost everything is sometimes soggy, but the bottomless container of fresh soft tortillas that's served with many menu items makes up for these weaknesses in my book. Their large Tortas (sandwiches) are enough to feed two (or save half for later) and were proclaimed wonderful by a visiting friend from Aguas Calientes. There is also a take-out menu that seems to have most, if not all, the regular menu choices.

All in all, this is a place worth patronizing; if not for its good food, friendly staff and reasonable prices than for giving us an alternative to the overpriced mediocrity of Mexican chain restaurants. They are open every day from 10:30 am to 9:30 pm. Credit cards are not accepted but there is an ATM machine just down the street.



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*By Annie Gerard*



CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN PALISADES WOULDN'T BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A STOP AT VICTOR POWELL'S ON OAK TREE ROAD. VICTOR, SEATED AT HIS PIANO, PLAYS A MEDLEY OF HOLIDAY SONGS AS CAROLERS JOIN IN.

*Photos by Cass Ludington*

themselves.

Probably a carrot and stick approach will be needed to increase the safety of spent fuel storage at Indian Point. Entergy may well not opt for more expensive methods without financial incentives. Utilities have contributed to a federal Nuclear Waste Fund now being used for construction at Yucca Mountain. It could be used to increase safety of onsite storage in spent fuel pools and dry casks. Plant owners, however, have opposed doing so.

NRC has long favored the nuclear industry; many regard it to be as even more so today. NRC's Inspector General recently observed that NRC appears to have informally established an unreasonably high burden of absolute proof on those contesting safety issues. Getting NRC to take a stance for greater safety will require much political and legal muscle. One of the strongest recent arguments for nuclear power is that reactors do not burn fossil fuels and hence do not contribute to global warming. This view is widely quoted by the nuclear industry and NRC. Regardless of the merits of nuclear energy, Indian Point is unique in being located closer to more people than any other commercial reactor in the country. The United States needs to face up to global warming as a real issue; it is also essential that we adopt a wise long-term energy policy.

I have placed a folder with additional material in the Palisades Library.

*Lynn Sykes, a long-time resident of Palisades, is Higgins Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University. He works on earthquakes and the control of nuclear weapons at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.*

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## FROM THE GARDEN

---

**B**y the beginning of March I'm itching to get out in the garden and mess around, as I'm sure you are too. But the plants aren't showing yet so what to do? You can always look and cut. First, any excuse like cleaning up forgotten pots or downed branches is a chance to go out and think about the garden. The winter is the best time to see structure, and your garden can be beautiful and satisfying in its clean lines, shapes and well-placed evergreens and stone.

It's also the best time to see the shapes of deciduous trees before they leaf out. So about now I get out my Felco's (good hand pruners -look on the internet for the best price) and cut off sucker growth on crabapples and ornamental pears. Suckers grow straight up toward the sky from limbs and even the trunks of fruit trees and some ornamentals. They grow thickly and obscure the lines of the tree.

Other trees can be shaped now too if a limb is out of balance with the rest of the tree or if you want to get foliage away from your house, or if the center of the tree is too thickly grown. Be brave, trees really do well when they are lightened up and their shape becomes more balanced and harmonious. Just be sure to make a good clean cut. After pruning, if your cuttings have buds on them, mash the ends, put them in water and bring them inside to bloom.

While you've still got the pruners in your hands you can cut down and shape lavender and, when forsythia blooms attack your roses, cut out the dead wood and bring them down to 10 to 15 inches and they will push with renewed vigor. If you don't have lavender or roses, order them now for this year. Well enough writing, I'm off to the muddy outdoors to cut things.

*By Neal Harris, Hey Hoe Garden Design, 845-359-8335*



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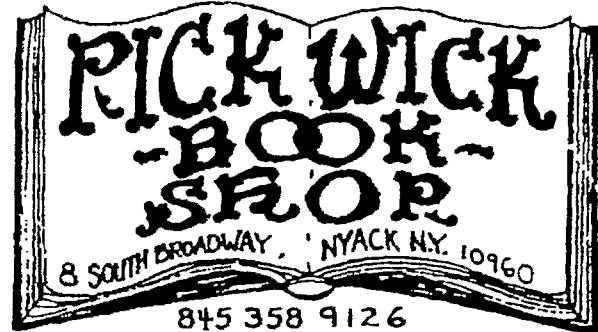
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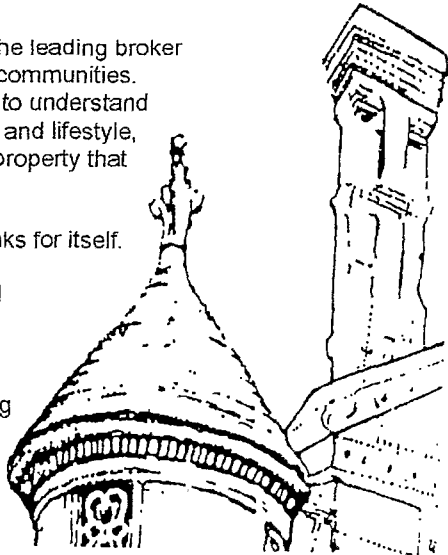
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## ABOUT 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades and welcomes any and all types of community involvement. 10964 depends on your support and financial contributions are welcome. Please send ideas, items for publication, offers to join the staff, and financial contributions to: **10964**, P.O. Box 201, Palisades, NY, 10964.

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## DOROTHY SALISBURY DAVIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

every day from 9 to 1 at the typewriter, a manual until the '80s, then an electric. She has never owned, nor wanted to own, a computer. Friends and fellow-writers suggest that it would be a useful tool but, "It's one more gadget," she says. She doesn't put a great deal of stock in the value of courses/classes/workshops for writers, although she has taught at the Rockland Center and elsewhere. She would have liked to have succeeded as a mainstream novelist, but has no apologies for being a mystery writer. "You are guaranteed to write in a bizarre fashion for mysteries. Something violent has to happen, something that is showy. Being bizarre means color, too, and I like that."

An affinity for color often means travel for Dorothy. She went to Greece when Harry was filming *America, America* there, and then returned with her novel *Enemy and Brother* in mind. She has traveled frequently and thoroughly in northern Europe, especially in Ireland and in Ireland especially in Yeats country, County Sligo. Recently, in Scotland, she visited the remote hill-farm where Robert Burns was born. He is one of her favorite poets, if only for the zest of his language; his birthday is a red-letter day, celebrated with good food, good drink and a reading.

Dorothy and Harry were introduced to Rockland County by Burroughs Mitchell who was then living in Piermont. At first they rented a little house that hugged the river behind St. John's. They had moved away before the church burned, but Dorothy went back and watched the dreadful sight with Tom Berger, who lived opposite. Moving to Palisades, the Davises took a lease on a complicated half of a house on Washington Spring Road (known as "The Hashette") and then, in 1968, bought the gray nineteenth-century house across from the Presbyterian Church. Harry died there, full of years, in 1993.

Dorothy has an inviolable writing room, facing south and west but opaque from the road. There are walls and walls of books, a large collection of classical CDs, paintings by friends (Ann Poor, Stephen Greene), many photographs of many friends, and some of Harry's elegant small sculptures by the window overlooking the garden. A peaceful retreat for a lady with laurels.

by Caroline Tapley