

ETHAN SCHER
CANDIDATE FOR THE PALISADES SEAT

At press time, it has been confirmed that Ethan Scher, currently Vice President of the South Orangetown Board of Education, is running for re-election to the Palisades seat on the Board — in a vote to be held on Tuesday May 18th.

Ethan has been a Palisades resident for eighteen years along with his wife Polly, a NYC hospital administrator. They have two children, Brooke, a South Orangetown school system graduate, who is a junior at George Washington University, and Kenny, a tenth grader at Tappan Zee High School.

When first elected in 2001, he brought to the Board over ten years experience as a PTA leader and years of business experience. Ethan holds a B.B.A. in Business Administration from Pace University. He had served as Elementary PTA Co-President, Vice President and Treasurer, Tappan Zee High School PTSA President and PTA Council President. He had worked with Board members, administrators, teachers and parents on education programs, budget issues, and New York State legal mandates and guidelines. Acting as a spokesman for parents and children, he participated on committees regarding curriculum, athletic facilities, School Board policies, budget

deliberations, and teacher and administration selection. He received the Jenkins Award from the PTA in 1999.

Throughout his thirteen year involvement with our school district, Ethan's goals have always been centered on the building of a strong, enriched school environment for all children. As a Board member he has advocated strategic/master planning, thorough financial review and analysis of the budget, and slowing the rate of tax increases. For children, he has supported the Early Childhood Program, instrumental music program, the gifted and talented program and full-day kindergarten. He believes a

board member needs a deep knowledge of educational issues and the reality of fiscal controls in order to protect the quality of education we provide for our children.

Carol Elevitch



Vote Tuesday May 18th 7am – 9pm
at TZ Elementary School on Rte 9W.
Also running for the Palisades seat is
Steven Spiro, Blauvelt resident.

WINTHROP GILMAN, ASTRONOMER

In January of this year the Palisades Library received a request for information about Winthrop Gilman, the local historian and former banker who moved to Palisades in 1866 and built and lived in the Andrew Norman house from 1874 until his death in 1923. The request came from Richard Taibi, Historian at the American Meteor Society. Johanna Lo sent Mr. Taibi the information he needed, and in response received a letter giving some interesting facts about Mr. Gilman.

Richard Taibi wrote, "During the late 1860s he [Winthrop Gilman] was a contributor to astronomical research. In 1868 he contributed pictorial and quantitative observations of the Leonid meteor storm that occurred in November of that year. He sent his data to Hubert A. Newton of Yale College and Newton published Gilman's report, along with others, in the American Journal of Sciences and Arts.

In 1869, Gilman was one of a party of astronomers who traveled to observe a total solar eclipse. One goal of the expedition was to search for

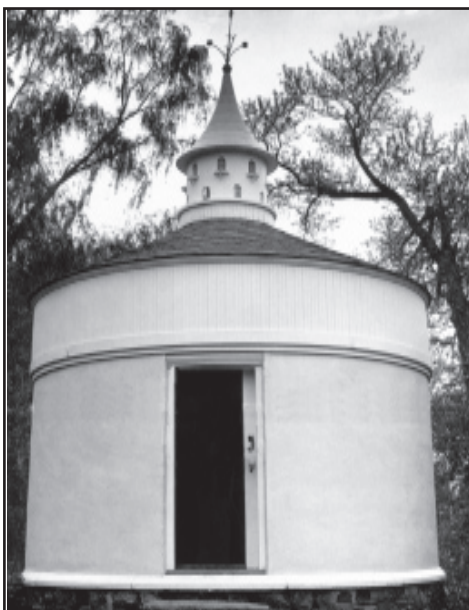
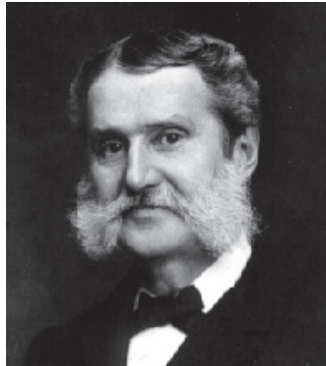
planets that might exist between the Sun and Mercury, the planet closest to the Sun. There were some observers who believed they saw such 'intra-Mercurial' planets. Mr. Gilman was one. In making his report, he needed to assert his opinion in the face of Simon Newcomb, then the best known and most respected astronomer in the US. Newcomb had not observed a new planet. Newcomb apparently had a forbidding manner and no one cared to voice an opinion to him that wasn't in agreement with his. However, Mr. Gilman apparently did and he is in the history book for doing so. (Incidentally, no planet has ever been confirmed to exist between Mercury and the Sun.)

The 1874 map in Local History reveals the location of 'Fern Lodge Observatory,' just north of Gilman's home.... Mr. Gilman had a telescope in the observatory with a four-inch diameter lens. This was a sizeable telescope for an amateur to possess, but since Gilman was a banker, it was within his means, I suppose." [It was given to him by his parents.]

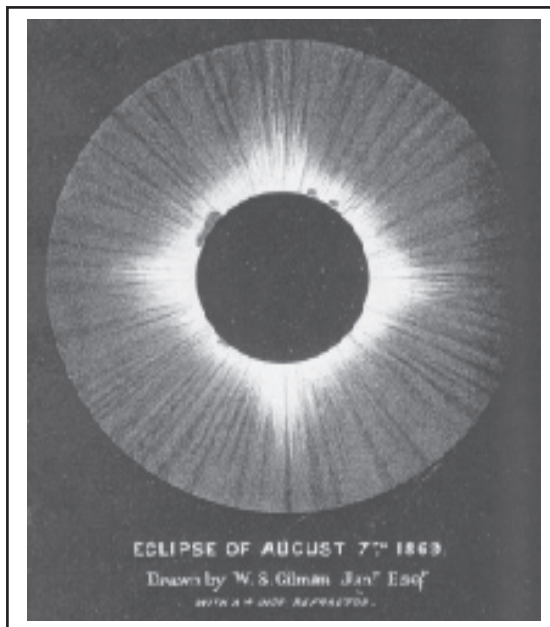
When asked, Mr. Taibi sent more details. Mr. Gilman had traveled to Woodbury County, Iowa, in August 1869 to observe the total solar eclipse occurring on August 7th. He was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Farrell, Mr. Phelps, and Mr. Locklin. All the observers saw the planet, either through a telescope or with their naked eyes, and were very positive about what they had seen.

Mr. Newcomb's description of the eclipse and finding that no planet between Mercury and the Sun existed was printed in the Sioux City Daily Times, a Woodbury County paper. After the Sioux City paper printed Newcomb's report, Mr. Gilman got in touch with the editors and sent them a portion of his notebook observations on the planet observed by his group. The paper printed a story ending, "...each was very positive of the reality of the appearance. The star was located independently by each observer, a little

Continued on page 3



The former Gilman Observatory, built in 1869, now converted into a dovecote.



to the right of the moon's centre, and below it. The approximate position of the little brilliant, with reference to solar disc, was about 225° from the north point." The discrepancy was never resolved.

An illustration of the sun's appearance while eclipsed, showing its corona, was painted by Mr. Gilman and later appeared in *The Sun*, written by Richard Proctor and published in 1971.

We are grateful to Richard Taibi for enlarging our understanding of Winthrop Gilman: astronomer as well as banker, architect, historian, educator, and community benefactor.

Alice Gerard

SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT: COTTAGE LANE STUDENT RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL READING IS FUNDAMENTAL (RIF) POSTER CONTEST

The SOCES PTA is proud to announce that fifth grade Cottage Lane Elementary student Joshua Joh-Jung has earned an Honorable Mention in the 2004 National Reading is Fundamental (RIF) poster contest. Joshua was one of fifty South Orangetown elementary students who entered the contest, whose theme was "Read to Imagine." Only one poster per school district can be submitted to the national contest, which was held in Washington D. C. this year. At the national level, one winning poster, two runner-ups and 50 honorable mention posters were selected out of thousands of posters received.

National RIF awarded Joshua a \$25 gift certificate to Waldenbooks and awarded the SOCES PTA RIF committee a \$50 gift certificate. Last year, Joshua also won the National Honorable Mention award for his "Together We Read" poster. Both of his winning Honorable Mention posters for 2003 and 2004 can be viewed on the RIF website at www.RIF.org.

Joshua is the son of Anne and Dae Joh-Jung of Palisades, NY.



Cottage Lane student Joshua Joh-Jung with his winning Honorable Mention poster in the National Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) "Read to Imagine" poster contest.

LILA WELLINGS

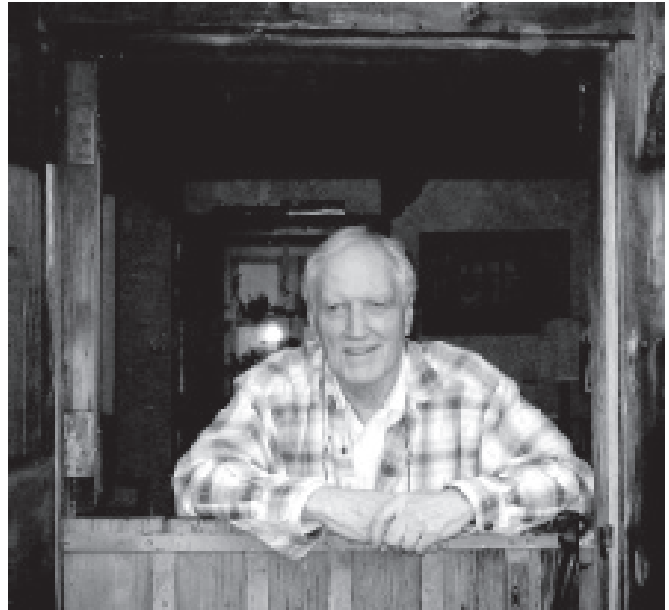
It was a dark and stormy night ...it really was... At about 10:00 the phone rang. It was my neighbor Liz Finck, to warn me that a strange woman had come to their door looking for a place to sleep! She'd told them that the Lord had sent her, so they directed her down the street to the Manse, thinking the minister might know how to deal with this, but thought she might try my house first.

I had just begun having sherry and cheese in front of the TV. I heard a noise at the door, a sort of scratching rather than a knock. I opened the upper half of the Dutch door and saw the face of a small, wild-eyed woman in the darkness. She said she was Lila Wellings; she was on a walk for the Lord, she had walked from the Bronx and needed help. I grilled her suspiciously for a minute or two, but her gentle voice and the rain got the better of me, so I let her in.

She wanted a place to sleep. I didn't know what to do, but made her no promises. She looked like any other homeless person, clothes wet and nearly worn out. She wore an old jacket of mashed green corduroy and dirty blue jeans torn at the knees, and had a leaky knapsack on her back. She'd stuffed her dark gray hair into a black baseball cap, and carried an absurd red umbrella with broken spokes.

She seemed quite rational. We stood in the kitchen while I asked her basic questions: why had she waited until so late in the evening to find shelter? where did she eat? how did she get by without a bathroom? She spoke with a slightly English accent that suited her face, particularly her large eyes, encircled with little lines that gave them great mobility and told you what she was thinking.

She answered my questions modestly in delicate laments: yes, she was all right, and she didn't really need anything. When I asked her when she had eaten last she answered very seriously that resisting the temptation to eat was part of her discipline for the Lord, but allowed that accepting food was one of her weaknesses. I looked around for food, something my kitchen is not famous for, but there were some cans of Ensure in the refrigerator; she downed one of



Jack Hoffmeister in his front doorway

them while I made her a peanut butter sandwich. I didn't push the bathroom question, though I detected a faint odor about her — the smell of homelessness.

She pulled some old papers out of the knapsack. There were a few letters from Catholic sisters and other religious people thanking her for one thing or another. I'd seen too many such references from the young toughs who come around selling magazine subscriptions to be reassured by these grimy documents. On the other hand I have a weakness for those door-to-door salespeople who are selling their religion — the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons. I like to argue with them about their bizarre beliefs.

I showed her into the living room, offered her some cheese and bread which she accepted gracefully. And I asked if she might like a glass of sherry. "Yes," she said, "that would be nice." By now, of course, I'd decided to let her stay. I don't have a guest room, but she could sleep in the loft over the den, which had long since been given over to my two cats. Although no one had slept on the small bed for years, I could put on clean sheets and covers. But first I wanted to talk a while.

I guess she was about 60. She'd been walking for three years. She said that after her husband

died the Lord told her she must give away everything she owned and follow Him. She described how she gave her home and all her belongings to her family and friends in a sort of ceremony, like Christmas, and that when it was over she'd experienced a feeling of glorious freedom. She started to walk having no idea where she was going. She just walked. And she prayed. Apparently she was quite oblivious of the road and the landscapes around her, focused as she was inwardly. On the Lord.

I wanted to hear about the Lord. As we talked I realized that this lady just might be the real thing, maybe even a saint. She sat on the couch with the tentative composure of a wild animal who was willing to be tamed. I asked her more about her faith trying to find an opening where I could nudge her into a discussion of Biblical literalism, or at least someplace where we might find common ground. At first I was trying to think of questions that might challenge her perfect certainty, but I soon realized that she knew what I was doing, that she had my number. Feeling rather ashamed I began to wind down the conversation by explaining the sleeping arrangements. But instead she gently asked me if she could have another glass of sherry.

I was surprised, and amused. But as I thought about it afterwards I understood. She was telling me that she was comfortable, but that I was the one who needed to be tamed. And indeed as we talked another hour or so the strangeness and mystery had dissolved, and I don't remember a word.

But later, when I went upstairs to my bedroom I was a bit apprehensive about having a stranger in the house, not knowing if she was going through my desk or the china cabinet, but it didn't keep me awake.

I slept soundly until 7:00 o'clock when I turned on the bedside TV to watch C-Span to find out if the world had come apart during the night. But when I remembered my house guest another fear occurred to me — what if she didn't want to leave?! How would I ever get rid of her? I worried about that for a while, then dressed, and went downstairs, and turned on C-Span in the living room.

I found Lila in the kitchen looking quite at home, busily washing the dishes. She had survived the lumpy bed, slept comfortably, had a

shower and an apple. I fixed us some breakfast and served it on the coffee table, still listening to the TV which discouraged conversation. That, of course, was my plan. She ate her breakfast in silence looking rather unhappy. But soon she'd had enough, and made a very pointed remark about the noise and why did we have to listen to it, and I sheepishly turned off the sound. She went to the kitchen to get something, returned with a very stern expression on her face and told me that I should never, ever watch television! Clearly television epitomized everything she had so deliberately eliminated from her life. I tried to explain why I care about those worldly events, but she was way beyond me; she had no use for anything that interfered with her life of prayer.

Soon she was packed and ready to walk. There was no place I could drive her to — she had no destination beyond the walking. To walk and to pray, that is where she wanted to go, and when she reached the street she was there.

After she left I looked around at the house, knowing there was something I should have done that I didn't do. I had missed the boat somehow. I felt empty and angry at myself. Then I thought, "How stupid! I didn't even give her some food to take with her." I looked in the refrigerator — it was maybe 20 minutes since she had left, but I grabbed several cans of Ensure, put them in a plastic bag and hurried out to the car.

I caught up with her some distance down 9W and pulled over a little ahead of where she was walking; I got out and handed her the bag. I wanted to say something, so I took her hand, but all I said was that I wanted her to know that I really heard what she was trying to tell me. We stood there for a long moment looking at each other. Then we both said "thank you." And "good bye."

I got back in the car, and made a U-turn towards home. As I passed her she was standing at the edge of the road smiling at me. It's a picture I want to remember always.

Jack Hoffmeister

February 24, 2004

PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

MEMORIAL DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST, A PALISADES TRADITION

Whether you are an early or late riser on a holiday, a morning feast awaits those seeking a hearty breakfast with friends. On Memorial Day, Monday May 31st, the Palisades Presbyterian church will once again host this delicious meal starting at 8 a.m. through 10:30 a.m. Generous-sized pancakes (with syrup or butter), sausage links, coffee, tea, milk and orange juice await the hungry.

This full breakfast for \$5.00 (\$3.00 for children under 10) is a real bargain. This gathering place for the people of Palisades and visitors is busiest after the end of the Memorial Day ceremony at the flagpole. There are plenty of places at the tables in the Parish house behind the church and leisurely time to sit with a cup of coffee and chat with friends.



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SATURDAY JUNE 12, 2-6 p.m.

The place to meet on a June afternoon is at the back lawn of the Palisades Presbyterian Church for the annual Strawberry Festival. Each year the wonderful home made strawberry shortcake loaded with luscious berries and whipped cream seems to get sweeter. But strawberry shortcake is only one of the delights awaiting visitors.

Children can have their faces painted, play with helium balloons or visit the pocket lady whose apron is filled with tiny, gift-wrapped toys. And who can resist strawberry ice cream cones? There are coffee, tea, soda, water and strawberry concoctions to drink. A specialty table features a potpourri of strawberry-based foods: strawberry jelly; strawberry jam; strawberry vinegar and other imaginative gifts made of, or looking like strawberries or at least red.

For those averse to sugar, unsweetened strawberries and whipped cream are every bit as eye pleasing and taste tempting as their traditional twin. Pints of strawberries and other edibles are available for take-out.

One of the most popular sites at the festival

is the cut-flower section where colorful spring blooms can be combined to make gorgeous bouquets. Tables and chairs are scattered on the lawn so that friends, new and old, can sit together for a comfortable afternoon.

Sponsored by the church Deacons, many members and friends pitch-in to bake the cakes, hull and clean the berries, set up and clean up to make this event possible.

Bring your children, bring your friends; the prices are reasonable and the good cheer overflowing. See you there — rain or shine!

THE LITTLE CHURCH THAT COULD

Three members of the Palisades church are at various stages in the process of serving the Presbyterian Church (USA) in ministerial capacities. At the February 5th meeting of the Hudson River Presbytery,

Henry Shaw was commissioned as a lay pastor, Jenna Tiitsman was approved as a candidate for ordination and Amy Harbo was named an inquirer and is just starting on the path toward ordination. According to Pastor Dae Jung, "It is highly unusual for a little church such as Palisades to have two members on an ordination track and a third as a lay pastor."

The Palisades church recognized Shaw's commissioning at the 11 a.m. worship service on March 7. Shaw started serving as co-pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church in Haverstraw, last September. Jenna Tiitsman, who preached at Palisades on February 29, graduated from Swarthmore College and is presently completing her Master of Divinity degree at Union Theological Seminary. Amy Harbo, mother of two teenagers and a college student, is just starting divinity courses at Drew Theological Seminary. She graduated from Rutgers University.

Continued next page

LETTERS FROM NEAR AND FAR

FROM GAIL HYDE, NOW IN TEXAS, WHO LIVED IN PALISADES FOR MANY YEARS. SHE CAME HERE AS JOE HYDE'S WIFE AND STAYED FOR A FEW YEARS AFTER THEIR DIVORCE. HER CHILDREN ANNIE, PHILIP, AND BARRY GREW UP HERE.

"Dear Friends;

It was with great pleasure that I received a copy of 10964 ... I was glad to be reunited to the happenings in the community. So often these chapters in our lives get lost in the living of present ones. ...The Hyde family is well here in Houston, TX. Philip and his wife Tonda work hard at their trades. Philip is a financial coordinator for Nissan/Jackson Car Dealership. He plays a lot of golf with bankers during the week and on weekends can be found on the golf course with his sons, Austen — 14 yrs and Kyle 12 yrs. Their daughter Margaret — 10 yrs — plays soccer. Tonda has gone back to school in the evenings to get her Masters in paralegal work.

Annie, her two daughters, Alissa 18 yrs and Mary Paige 14 yrs, live with second husband Michael Dunsmore in Tarzana [CA]. Annie is a fundraiser for the Republican Party. Michael is a professional golf caddie. Joe [Hyde] is with them.

Barry and his wife Katie live in Rye NY. He works for Mastercard and is in charge of golf properties. He flies all over the world. Katie works for Mill Sports. They are thinking of starting a family.

I continue to be interested in promoting classical musicians and caring for our grandchildren. At the end of this month [April] I'll be coming east to attend graduation and reunion activities at Westminster Choir College. I also teach piano to children and adults. Recently we gave a recital.

Your newsletter has grown over the years. I remember it as a one sheet edition. ...

Gail"

Gail can be reached at <gailwrenn@aol.com>
or at Promotions
9807 Chriesman Way
Missouri City, TX 77459

FROM JOAN LEHMAN AND JERRY LIEBERMAN, WHO ARE BUILDING A HOUSE ON WOODS ROAD:

"Regarding the 10964 March issue Bulletin Board paragraph about our new house on Woods Road, we think your readers would like to know the following:

We expect to commission a plaque commemorating the location of the 1780 Block House on our property.

Our house, which is a modernist structure of cedar and glass, with copper trim, was designed by Asfour/Guzy, a Manhattan-based architectural firm.

Also, our names are Joan Lehman and Jerry Lieberman (there was a typo in the article). Joan is a painter and has exhibited her works in NYC and out of state. She is currently showing two paintings at the Mystic Seaport Museum. Jerry is an animation producer-director whose work has been seen on TV for several decades. Joan and Jerry have a nine year-old daughter, Dana."

CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

A DISCUSSION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH

There will be a discussion on Sunday, May 16, at 12:15 p.m. of the implications of being an open and inclusive church. The Palisades Presbyterian Church declared itself "More Light" nearly 20 years ago; this means that despite denominational practices to the contrary, our church will elect anyone the congregation feels is qualified to be an Elder, a Deacon or a Minister whatever their sexual orientation, gender, race, disability or country of national origin.

Since many people and some churches have defied state laws against matrimony among gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans- gendered people, the Session feels it is time for an open discussion by members and friends as to how the church might deal with these issues, should they arise locally. This is an information meeting only. All are welcome.

By Henry Shaw

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Member of the Ramapo Catskill
Library System
Tel: 845-359-0136
Fax : 845-359-6124

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday – 1:00-9:00 p.m.

Friday – 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Saturday – 11:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday – 1:00-5:00 p.m. (closed from June 20
through Sept. 5)

Closed May 30 and 31 for Memorial Day

Closed July 5 for Independence Day

Closed September 5 and 6, Labor Day

Good News!

We are pleased to announce that the mortgage taken in November, 1995 for the renovation work has been paid. This is more than a full year ahead of its term. We sincerely thank all of our friends and patrons whose long-term support transformed this goal into a reality.

We have received a grant from the State of New York for the resurfacing of the stone parking and drive areas, scheduled for completion in June. Senator Thomas P. Morahan, Assemblyman Alexander J. Gromack and Assemblyman Ryan S. Karben were instrumental in the introduction and approval of the grant. We are currently obtaining approvals and permits from the Town and County for the work, as well as soliciting bids. We will keep you informed when the work is expected to start.

Lastly, we will be holding our annual Plant Sale and Fair on Saturday, May 8, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Palisades Presbyterian Church, rain or shine. As in the past, we will have plants for sale and cards to make in time for Mother's Day, books for sale, food, music, arts & crafts, raffle, pony rides, hay rides and the famous pie throw. Please join us at this traditional community event which will surely be fondly remembered.

Paul A. Papay, President



Children's Programs

Summer Reading Program – All Ages

Read, White and Blue is the New York State theme for this summer's reading program. All children who are residents of the South Orangetown School District through grade six are invited to participate either in the Reader's Group or the Read-to-me Club. Our programs, crafts and activities will reflect this theme. Come into the library any time after June 28th to register and learn all about the program.

Programs for ages 3-4

July 8, Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. – Stars and Stripes Sensations
Celebrate America with stories, song and crafts. Limit 15.

July 22, Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. – Barnyard Hoe-Down
Here a moo, there a cluck – books, farmyard bingo and crafts. Limit 15.

Programs for ages 5 and up

July 6, Tuesday, at 4:15 p.m. – Uncle Sam Shindig
Who was Uncle Sam? Was he a real person? Find out at this Read, White and Blue program. Bring an empty oatmeal or stuffing canister. Limit 20.

July 13, Tuesday, at 4:15 p.m. – Monster Mania
Who's hanging out under your bed? Hear about
monsters and create a creepy creature. Limit 2

July 20, Tuesday, at 4:15 p.m. – Hawaiian Luau
Summer books and crafty fun at the beach
with a tangy Hawaiian flavor. Limit 20.

July 27, Tuesday, at 4:15 p.m. – I Love New
York Picnic
What's summer without a picnic? Hear
stories, play games and create a banner.
Limit 20.

Summer Specials for Children

The following performances are for chil-
dren ages 5 and up. These performances are
in cooperation with the Orangeburg, Tappan
and Blauvelt Libraries and will be held at the
Sacred Heart Church Hall, 120 Kings Highway,
Tappan. Tickets will be available for both per-
formances at the circulation desk.

June 30, Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m. – The Uncle
Brothers

Danny Quinn and Tom Gardner bring magic
with their music and lyrics that focus on
educational themes and values.

August 2, Monday, at 7:00 p.m. – Will Shaw
Comic and juggler Will Shaw performs a pro-
gram that blends physical comedy, verbal wit
and dazzling skill.

Forthcoming DVDs

21 Grams

Aileen: The Life and Death of a Serial Killer
Big Fish

Capturing the Friedmans

Cold Mountain

Fellowship of the Ring:

The Return of the King

The Fog of War

Girl with a Pearl Earring

Girlhood

House of Sand and Fog

In America

The Last Samurai

Master and Commander:

The Far Side of the World
Monster
The Murder of Emmett Till
Mystic River
Osama
Something's Gotta Give
The Station Agent
The Triplets of Belleville

Adult Fiction

Berger, Thomas

Byatt, A. S.

Doctorow, E. L.

Dunne, John G.

Haruf, Kent

Isegawa, Moses

Redfern, Elizabeth

Trollope, Joanna

Wouk, Herman

Adventures of the
Artificial Woman
Little Black Book
of Stories
Sweet Land
Stories
Nothing Lost
Eventide
Snakepit
Auriel Rising
Brother and Sister
A Hole in Texas

Adult Nonfiction

Arbus, Diane

Arendt, Hannah

Bell, Adrienne

Berg, Frances

Browning, Dominique

Clarke, Richard

Dean, John W.

Klass, Perri

Sedaris, David

Schmetterer, Bob

Stern, Daniel

Underage and
Overweight

Diane Arbus:
Revelations
Letters 1925-1975
George Innes and
the Visionary
Landscape

Paths of Desire:
The Passions of a
Suburban Gardener
Against All Enemies:
Inside America's
War on Terror
Worse than
Watergate
Quirky Kids
Dress Your Family
in Corduroy and
Denim: Essays
Leap: A Revolution
in Creative Busi-
ness Strategy
Present Moments
in Psychotherapy
and Everyday Life

SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Calendar of Events for May

Important 2004-05 School Budget

Related Dates:

Please mark your calendar for the Budget vote and Board member election

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2004. Come out and vote! Every vote matters!

May 3: PTA Council Candidate Forum 8:00 pm at South Orangetown Middle School Cafeteria. Meet the candidates running for school board at this formal Q & A session.

May 4: Board of Education Regular Meeting: Budget Hearing 7:30 pm at South Orangetown Middle School Board Room. A detailed presentation of the proposed 2004-05 school budget. Q & A to follow.

May 12: Voter Registration 9:00 am-1:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm.

Palisades residents register at the Tappan Zee Elementary school on Rte. 9W.

May 18: Board Member Election and Budget Vote 7:00 am-9:00 pm. Palisades residents vote at the Tappan Zee Elementary school on Rte. 9W

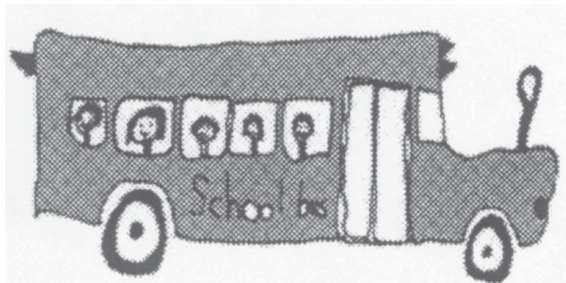
PTA meetings:

May 10 PTA Council 7:30 pm at South Orangetown Middle School

May 11 TZHS PTSA 7:30 pm at Tappan Zee High School

May 13 SOCES PTA 7:30 pm at Cottage Lane Elementary School

May 24 SOMS PTA 7:30 pm at South Orangetown Middle School Library



Community Events:

May 13: "Secrets of the Street – What Youth Know that You Need To Know" presented by Isabel Burk, Director of Health Network. 7:30 pm in Tappan Zee High School library.

Find out the latest trends among youth and take a lively peek inside youth culture. Learn about Ecstasy, GHB, date rape drugs, Special K and others. We will also discuss successful strategies to help keep your families and communities healthy and safe. This presentation is for adults only and is sponsored by SO CASA (South Orangetown Coalition Awareness of Substance Abuse) and SADD.

May 14 SOCES PTA Family Swim and Gym 7:00-9:00 pm at South Orangetown Middle School for SOCES students only.

May 15 TZHS Student Organization sponsored Senior Citizens Barbecue 12-2:00 pm at Tappan Zee High School. All community senior citizens are welcome at this annual free "rain or shine" event.

ATTENTION Incoming Kindergarten Families!

May 12 Family Resource Center Kindergarten Prep Night 6:30-8:00 pm at the William O. Schaefer School. Call 365-4277 for more information.

Spring Into Kindergarten. New kindergarten children can spend an afternoon in a kindergarten class and on the playground while parents attend a kindergarten workshop. To register, call 680-1303.

Family Resource Center in the Palisades school. Call 365-4277 for a calendar of events.

Concerts:

May 5 & May 11: SOMS Spring Concert (Part I & II) 8:00 pm in South Orangetown Middle School Auditorium

May 20 & 27: TZHS Spring Concert (Part I & II) 7:00 pm in Tappan Zee High School

BULLETIN BOARD

Dates to Remember

May 2 - 3:00 Chamber Music Concert at the Palisades Church: tickets at door

May 2 - 3:00 Lamont Lecture, African Climate Change and Human Evolution

May 8 - 10 to 2, Palisades Library Plant Sale
Merry Wives of Windsor, 7 pm at Palisades Church
May 14, 15, 21, 22: May 16, 4:00 pm.

May 18- School Board Vote

May 23- 3:00 Lamont Lecture, The Air We Breathe: Air Pollution and N Y C Subways

June 12 - 2 to 6: Strawberry Festival

See Community Center information below.

From Annie Gerard:

I noticed this year, for the first time I can remember, that there was a huge amount of algae growing in the stream that runs past our house and down to the river. After the recent heavy rains it's better, but I wonder if perhaps the many new/expanded lawn areas on Woods Rd. may be resulting in more nitrogen (from fertilizer runoff) finding its way into the stream and even

the river. I encourage my neighbors on the road and elsewhere in Palisades to be mindful of this problem and use organic fertilizers or reduce the quantity/frequency of chemical fertilizer application.

Thanks!

David Englander has sent us the following notice: Large, sunny two room office space available in Tappan historic area;\$1250 plus utilities. Single offices may also be available. Call David Englander at 398-3427.

A recently published biomedical thriller by Jamie Lankford, The Jesus Thief, is set in Italy, New York City and "Cliffs Landing" which is really Snedens Landing. At 7 pm on Wednesday, June 16, Ms. Lankford will give a reading from the book at the West Nyack Barnes & Noble. The Jesus Thief is the story of a scientist who steals DNA from the Shroud of Turin and tries to clone Jesus Christ. You can look up the book on <http://www.thejesusthief.com>.

PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

We look forward to celebrating Palisades History Day working with the Palisades Historical Society and the Palisades Civic Association. Date to be announced for October. If you have any information or photos to share with us please contact Eileen or Alice Gerard, 359-4338.

We are also in contact with local authors to have a "meet the authors" night and discuss their books.

We are also planning an "antique road show" event. Look for Events posted at the Library and Post Office.

Please join the PCC and be part of our community so that we can preserve this 1870 building. It is in need of tender loving care, inside and out. Annual costs are over \$10,000 just to keep the doors open. Send your contributions to Palisades Community Center, PO Box 222, Palisades.



Upcoming events at the Center. If anyone wishes to participate, please call Eileen Larkin at 359-6589

May 4th at 7:00 pm. Meet the Author: Audrey Lawson, author of True Stories from Mine Hole, a recollection of memories of the African-American population who lived in this section of Piermont in the 1920s and 30s. Books will be available for purchase, refreshments will be served.

May 17 & 18th - Defensive Driving Course- 9:00 am to 3:00 pm \$40.00.

May 22nd - 2nd Annual Flea Market, table space \$35.00.

May 25th - TOM GATTO, FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR HSBC WILL DISCUSSRecent changes to Medicare/Medicaid, Long Term Care, Insurance

and retirement planning (Guaranteed Pensions). Time: 7:30 pm.

June 19th - Defensive Driving Course 9 am to 3 pm. Fee \$40.00. Call 359-6589.

ALPINE PROTESTS JANUARY ARTICLE

Re: Your article "Beware 9W Speed Traps in Alpine, NJ" [published in our January 2004 issue].

Dear 10964:

Perhaps the purpose of your article was to amuse, to poke fun at our town, or simply to fill space. But I believe your readers would benefit from more accurate information. You state that "In Alpine, Route 9W is a clear, wide, rural highway running parallel to the parkway with few driveways or intersections." In fact, there are about 40 accidents a year on Alpine's portion of this narrow, curvy, dimly-lit, often damp and foggy State-owned and maintained road, many of them very serious accidents; there have been 47 fatalities on it in Alpine since 1946. Because there are driveways and intersections, speeders often cause accidents as an unexpected vehicle suddenly enters 9W or a vehicle ahead slows down to exit.

You say that "Alpine 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." Alpine did urge the State to lower the speed limit to 40. This "crafty" action was prompted by a particularly bad accident in 1994 where two young people were killed and another permanently injured at the same site where there had been a previous fatality. A blinking light was added as further warning to proceed with caution. Maybe it is just coincidence, but we have not had a single fatality on Alpine's 9W since the speed limit was lowered to 40 mph....

If you speed, we will stop you. The fine is stiff so that you will remember it the next time you are passing through Alpine and will stay within the speed limit (we hope). We'd much rather give you a ticket than clean you off the highway.

Why travel at 61 mph in a 40 mph zone? Why

not take Palisades Parkway, where the speed limit is 50 and you wouldn't be going quite as much over the limit. Maybe the Parkway Troopers won't stop you, but don't count on that. And do you really think cars should be allowed to park in a bus stop so that the bus remains in the road blocking traffic as passengers get on and off? We wish you all a safe trip home, but we suggest that you try to be in less of a hurry. Our goal is to protect our residents from those who put themselves and others at risk as you pass through Alpine. We hate bad accidents.

With best regards,

Paul H. Tomasko, Mayor

Vicki Frankel, Council President

Author's response:

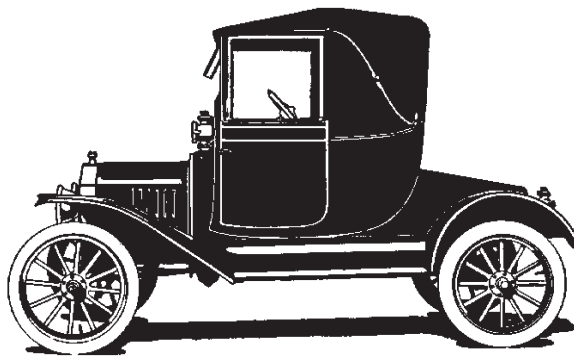
It's hard to understand why Alpine borough officials were so offended by the article I wrote which, just like their letter, specifically urged local motorists using 9W in New Jersey to slow down and obey the posted speed limits to avoid paying fines.

For the record, I would like to point out that the statement "If you speed, we will stop you" may be true for everyone, but the part about the stiff fines should be understood as applying only to non-Alpine residents. During the same week during which I received my ticket, an acquaintance who lives in Alpine was also stopped in the same area of 9W, going the same speed, but was not

given a ticket and did not pay a fine. Apparently it is only the out-of-town speeders whose recklessness causes accidents.

10964 is glad that the Alpine city officials are taking an interest in local journalism, and we have put them on our mailing list for a free subscription.

Greta Nettleton



LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY NEWS

Hudson River Estuary Enters Middle Age; History of sediment accumulation points to a new phase in the formation of the lower Hudson River

The Hudson River Estuary, a stretch of the Hudson River from Troy, N.Y. to its mouth in New York Harbor, has begun a new stage of its life according to geologists at Queens College in Flushing, N.Y. and Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Researchers at both institutions have found that, aside from a few very specific locations, the estuary may have largely stopped filling in with new sediment.

"The Hudson has gone through many stages of evolution," said Cecilia M. G. McHugh, the lead scientist on the study being published in an upcoming issue of the journal *Geology*. "Now it's entering a new phase." Some new deposits are being laid down as a result of annual rise in sea level, McHugh continued, but on the whole, the river is at equilibrium.

Every year the Hudson tributaries to the north discharge sand and silt into the river. The sand is trapped around islands and shoals near Kingston, while the silt washes down into the Hudson River Estuary, filling areas where scouring or dredging has occurred. Most of the silt is being trapped in a section of the river near the George Washington Bridge known as the Estuarine Turbidity Maximum (ETM). A small amount of silt is also being washed out to areas around the mouth of the Lower New York Bay.

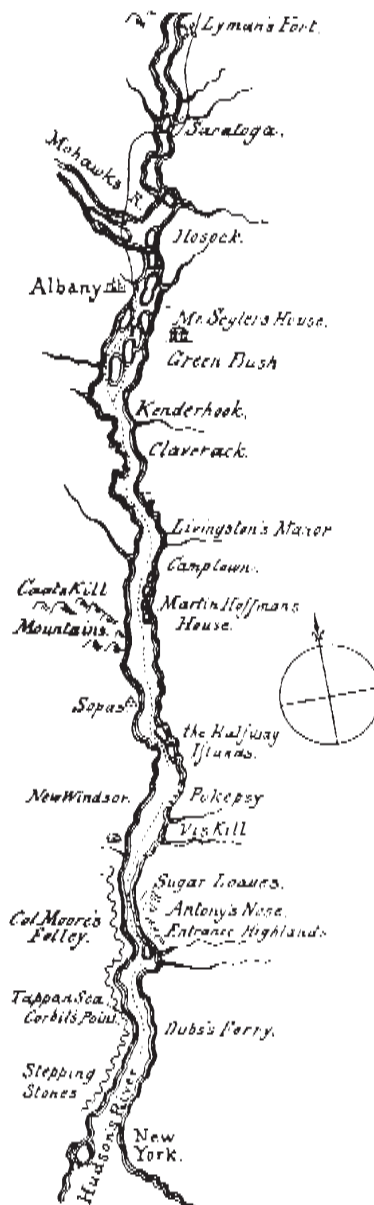
The valley that the Hudson River occupies is a deep gouge in the bedrock that geologists believe was formed over the course of tens

of millions of years. During the last glacial maximum, nearly 18,000 years ago, the valley was filled with ice from the Laurentide glacier. As the glacier receded, ice and melt water formed a series of interconnected lakes in the valley that eventually merged to form the Hudson River. The

valley filled with river sediments for nearly 3,000 years until sea level rose and the river merged with the encroaching Atlantic Ocean forming the Hudson River Estuary.

The estuary, the section of river where river and ocean water mix and that rises and falls with the tide, formed nearly 6,000 years ago. In places, sediment deposits beneath the estuary are more than 700 feet thick. Previously it was thought that this process of sedimentation was continuing today.

However, McHugh and her colleagues believe that accumulation ceased some time in the last 3,000 - 1,000 years. The researchers examined more than 100 two-meter-long sediment cores taken from the estuary and bay as well as high-resolution sonar and seismic imagery of the bottom. They found that the current rate of sedimentation in the estuary as a whole is approximately 1 millimeter per year — about the same rate as sea level rise — which, together with scouring or dredging, are the only



Continued next page

processes that are providing space for new sediment in much of the estuary.

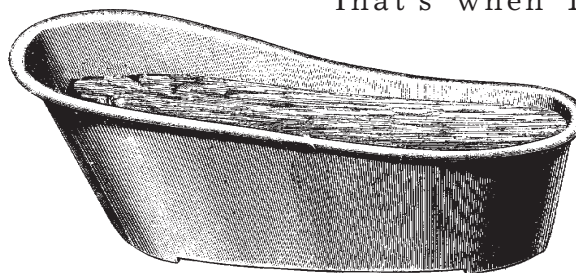
Of the estimated 1.2 million to 5.6 million metric tons of silt and fine sediment that wash into the river each year, about 300,000 metric tons is trapped in the ETM — the place where friction between seawater and river water creates turbulence that causes fine sediment to drop out of suspension. Currently, the ETM is centered roughly at the George Washington Bridge, but its daily position is influenced by the tides and the strength of the river current. If sea level ever stopped or reversed, said McHugh, the ETM could push all the way out into the mouth of the river and we could see the formation of an entirely new feature — a Hudson River Delta.

About 50,000 metric tons of fine sediment is trapped every year in bays and bends of the river as well as on the river bottom in the Hudson Highlands where the river is narrow and most of the natural scouring occurs. In many places, only scouring of the river bottom caused by current and tides or human dredging is creating space for an appreciable amount to accumulate. As a result, said McHugh, these localized areas of new accumulation offer the potential for pollution to concentrate, creating toxic “hot spots” in the river bottom. A small

amount of sediment carried by the Hudson is flushed out into the Lower New York Bay and settles at Sandy Hook Bay in New Jersey, where it accumulates at a rate of about 5 millimeters per year.

McHugh said she had a flash of insight several years ago that something about the river must have changed when she saw sediment cores that displayed unusual scouring marks at the top and found localized accumulations of new sediment next to large expanses of old sediment.

That’s when I thought of the Hudson as a bathtub filled with sand,” she said. “Only if it’s scoured out can you fill it with new material.”



The research was supported by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Hudson River Foundation, the Lamont-Doherty Climate Center, the City University of New York, and the National Science Foundation.

By Ken Kostel

May
is Client Appreciation Month
at "Riverwaves Salon"

**222 Ash Street,
Piermont, NY**

*Mention this ad and Receive 10% off
all Hair Services,
including Waxing*



JOE PRINTZ / PROPRIETOR

845-EL9-2141

99 MAIN STREET
TAPPAN, NY 10983

Support
our
Advertisers

Annie Gerard

JENNIFER DUMERIL

*Floral
Expressions, Inc.*

200 South 10th
Tomball, TX 77375

281-292-7343
281-292-0883

www.floralexpressions.net

**THOMAS FINSTERWALD
DEEMING**

CUSTOM MADE STATE AND NATIONAL

845-365-0483 finsternwold.com

The ADD/ADHD Diagnostic and Treatment Center

The Family Stress Reduction Institute Providing
Quality Holistic Mental Health Care
for Children, Teens, and Adults



- Therapeutic Teaching
- Behavior Enhancement
- Social Skills
- Group Therapy
- Parenting Skills
- Anger Management
- Psychoeducational Testing
- EEG Neurofeedback

• Recovery Support Program

Improve Academic Performance, Self-Esteem & Confidence
Develop Positive Attitude That Leads to Success
Learn and Master the Classroom

DR. VINCENT D'AMICO

NY AND NJ STATE LICENSED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
27 Souderton Boulevard • Suite 200 New City, NY 10956
Phone (845) 878-2400 (TJ/FJ)

www.drvincentd.com

★ ★ ★ ★
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

FISHMONGERS
Fine Wine & Spirits

Wine Tastings Every Saturday & Sunday
1PM-5PM ON WINE CASES

Tues-Sat 12-8, Sun 12-6
5555 Paramount Ave, Paramus, NY
Tel: (845) 866-6366 www.fishmongers.com



gold premier
mariposa golden
photography
www.mariposagolden.com
wedding • newborn

WHERE EVERY CHILD IS AN HONORED STUDENT



At Blue Rock School we offer
unusually high quality, a nurturing
environment and hands-on experience
from 8:30am-5:30pm, 10 weeks
• They follow the grade levels
• Summer Camp Programs
• After School Programs

BLUE ROCK SCHOOL

1777 FARM ROAD BOX 1000 FARM, NY 10964 • 845-427-0234
• Blue Rock is a not-for-profit day school
• www.bluerockschool.org

paol newfield

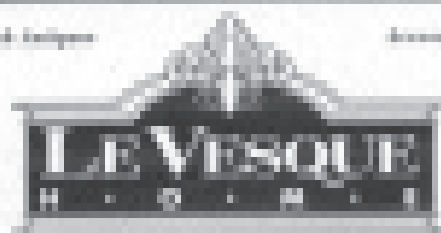
917-251-2185

painting & decorating

preparation & painting, custom colors, free estimates and more...

French Antiques

Antiquities



177 West Street • South, New York 10980
Tel: 845-233-1900 • Fax: 845-233-1900

Debbie Blankfort
Liv. Real Estate Associate Broker



Spring House for Special People

4 Round House Road
Piermont, NY 10968
(845) 359-8989 Ext 321

Fax (845) 349-1601
E-mail (845) 300-8000
Cell (314) 522-5428

E-Mail: debbie@baer-mcintosh.com
www.baer-mcintosh.com



Spring Program

Beginning March 15

Kids ages 6 - 10

Sign Up! Call: 845-680-0386

AUBREY FLOWERS
GOODS & GARDENS



LYNNE AUBREY

210 PIERMONT AVENUE, PIERMONT, NY 10968
845-359-1411

Why Live With Pain?

QUAN VIN



ACUPUNCTURE WORKS!

Headaches?
Nervous?
Neck Pain?
Arthritis?
Indigestion?
Painful Joints?

An alternative to
drugs and surgery,
acupuncture has
had great success
in treating these
conditions.

Marie A. Gonzales
Acupuncturist
101 Main Street
Tappan NY 10983

Call Today for a Free
Consultation....Your
health and quality of
life may depend on it!

(845) 398-1312

Sparkill Cleaners

Free Pickup and Delivery

You don't need to be home to use our service.

- Shirts & Leather specialists
- Free Storage
- Rug cleaning and Restoration
- Laundered Shirts
- Tailoring and Alterations

Our only job is to make you look good!

Call today for more information: (845) 365-6121
641 Main St. Sparkill, NY 10976



Alfred & Benita Ginsberg

AB ARTISANS

Fine Estate Jewelry & Custom Designs
Vintage Watches

474 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, New York 10968

(845) 359-6639
e-mail: abartisans@aol.com

Neil R. Borodkin, M.S., LMT, LAc.
Licensed Acupuncturist and Massage Therapist

Acupuncture Health Services In Nyack

Extensive individualized attention for

*Stress related disorders
Musculo-skeletal difficulties
Digestive and elimination
Your self-care prevention program*

Free Consultation 353-0289
Serving Rockland, Westchester & Bergen Since 1980



Sanders Properties Inc.

MEMBER OF
Sotheby's
REALTY GROUP

Call us for the latest in Lake and Sound with 181 Offices in 17 Countries.

123 S. Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960

Tel. (845) 358-1200

Cell. (845) 572-8562

www.sandersrealty.com

email: info@sandersrealty.com

Caroline Tapley

NYS Licensed Real Estate Broker



**PREVENTATIVE
MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST**

845-359-5900

505 Piermont Ave.
Piermont, N.Y. 10068

ACTING FOR TEENS

Acting UP

a theatrical workshop



Explore, Create, Imagine

experienced instructor

classes for ages 13-17

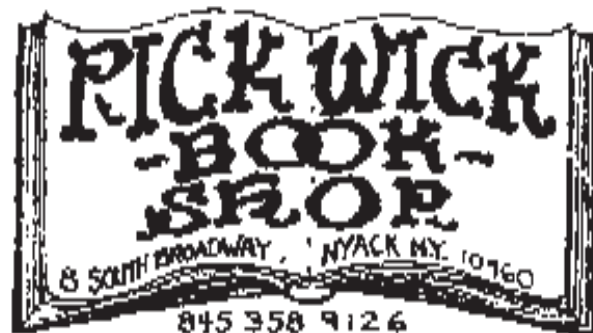
non-competitive

convenient location

reasonable rates

starting April 2004

Andrea Pecorino • 845 558-7616



MASON SAMETT ASSOCIATES, INC.

REALTORS®

113 MAIN STREET

TAPPAN, NY 10983

845-358-1810

FAX 845-365-1701

www.masonsamett.com



CHRISTIE'S
GREAT ESTATES

MOLLY MASON SAMETT, GRI

Minuteman Press

*When was
the last time
your printer
made a
helpful
suggestion?*



**MINUTEMAN
PRESS**

Fliers
Newsletters
Stationary
Forms

Wedding Invitations
High Speed Copying

Bigger
Easy Parking
Easier To Serve You

Come visit us at our

New Location:

169 Paris Avenue • Northvale, NJ

www.minutemannorthvale.com

201-767-6504

*Quality Printing • High Speed Copying
Responsive Staff*



LAUREN BLANCH

845-309-9000

**O'CONNELL
& RILEY**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

THOMAS F. O'CONNELL
JAMES K. RILEY

(845) 735-5050

144 E. CENTRAL AVENUE
PEARL RIVER, NY 10965



**CAR &
LIMOUSINE
SERVICE**
We Go The
Distance

COUPON
"We will beat any competitor's price
on out of town calls!"
"Hammill's First Choice"
LUXURY RATES
NYC As Low As \$49
Newark \$54
LaGuardia \$64
JFK \$84

We Also Pick-Up From The Airports
We Include Corporate And Private
Change Accounts

359-2800

TOLL FREE 800-849-9444

Excludes NY City 1212 numbers

OFFER VALID WITH THIS COUPON

**\$4.00
OFF**

ANY TFP

Coupon Not Valid On
Holidays Some
Restrictions Apply

EXP. 6-31-04

Taxes & Tips Not Included
(Prices Subject To Change)
www.marathonlimo.com

NO ONE SHOWS MORE BY THE HUDSON

ELLIS REALTY is the leading broker in Rockland's river community. We will do our best to understand your needs, budget and lifestyle, in order to find the property that suits you best.

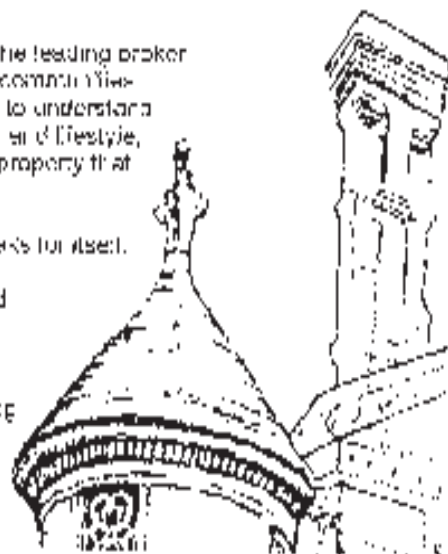
Our reputation speaks for itself.

Ethical, honest. And always working for you!

Ellis Realty can bring you home!

**ELLIS
REALTY**

78 North Broadway, Nyack, NY 10980
(next to Hopper House) www.ellisrealty.com
845.363.4214



Serving Palisades & Rockland for 11+ Yrs.
Quality Work—Competitive Prices
ORGANIC DRYCLEANING

I pickup & deliver Dry-Cleaning & Laundered Shirts to your home or workplace 2X's per week. In addition to my regularly scheduled services, I welcome "call call when service is needed" accounts.

- No need to be home
- Monthly Billing
- Owner Operated
- Full Service Drycleaner
- Call for free brochure

NOV ORGANIC
NON TOXIC
NO ODOR
NO PERC



KURT LIEBMANN

MOR POWER EQUIPMENT

270 OAK TREE ROAD
PALISADES, NY 10964
(845) 398-7368

*Repairs on Lawnmowers, Leaf Blowers, Snow Throwers,
Chain Saws & all other Power Equipment, Stump Pulling*

Tappan Plaza

NEW AND NOW OPEN:

*N. Y. JUNGLE SALON
(Hair, Nails, Skin Care, Massage)

*WONKERS BONKERS (Children's Party Place)

*PREMIER DANCE CENTER

*FAST LANE AUTO

AND FROM BEFORE:

*TAPPAN BARBERS

*FLORAL EXPRESSIONS

*BRAVO DRY CLEANERS

*LEO'S BIKE SHOP

*PODIATRIST, DR. TALJA

*WHY'S APPLIANCES

*NORGE LAUNDERMAT

*R2K KICK BOXING

*OLD AND WEARY CAR SHOP

*LA FONTINELLA, RISTORANTE

*MARATHON CAR AND LIMO SERVICE

*WENDY'S

*OAK TREE PRINTING

*V&S DOLLAR STORE

*CORDON CARPET

*FOOD WORLD



FLORIST & GARDEN SHOP

244 FERDON AVENUE
PIERMONT, N.Y.
(845) 359-5604

CUTS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

MON-THRU-FRI 9AM-6PM
SATURDAYS 9AM-5PM
SUNDAYS SEASONAL



SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1980



Sanders Properties Inc.

Our agents are your key to the best in sales and service

Exclusive Affiliate of
Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

181 affiliates in 17 countries

69 South Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960

sandershomes.com

Tel: 845-358-7200

info@sandershomes.com

Fax: 845-358-4140

HEY HOE GARDEN DESIGN
DESIGN • INSTALLATION • MAINTENANCE

CILEN F. WOLK
NEAL HARRIS

HEY HOE WOODS • PALISADES • NEW YORK • 10964
(845) 359-8335 • (845) 365-1633 • (845) 359-3490 fax



Est. 1972
Hal Parker, CFF, proprietor
E-Mail: halburd10@aol.com

125 Main Street
Suite 4
Nyack, New York, 10960
(845) 358-7979

GOURMET

646 Main Street, Space 11
North of the Post Office
We're in your neck, or the woods

FREE DELIVERY
845.680.2688

Gourmet Pizzas
Pastas & Salads

Open 7 days: 11 AM - 9:30 PM



Clothing for women and girls

Abigail Rose and Lily Too
516 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, New York 10968

845-359-4649

Hopscotch

books and curiosities for kids

The best of the new, old favorites & classics
Creative games, puzzles and puppets too!

140 Main Street (Entrance on Franklin)
Nyack, NY (845) 727-2038

CONTRIBUTIONS

We are grateful for a generous contribution received from Jenny and Richard DeScherer

EDITORS AND LAYOUT PEOPLE NEEDED

In order to keep **10964** coming out four times a year, we need more volunteers to assist with layout and editing. Let us know if you have either of these skills and would like to help us.

ABOUT 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades. **10964** needs your moral and financial support! Please send a contribution to **10964**, Post Office Box 201, Palisades, New York, 10964. With your help we'll be able to put **10964** in your mailbox four times each year from October through May.

10964 Newsletter
P.O. Box 201
Palisades, NY, 10964

Carrier Route Sort
Bulk Mail Paid
Permit #6409
Monsey, NY 10952

To Boxholder
Palisades, NY, 10964

10964 Staff Members

*Carol Elevitch, Alice Gerard, Susan Gersony,
Mary Ellen Ledwith, Greta Nettleton,
Kathryn Shattuck Papay, Milbry Polk,
Susan Shapiro, Kathleen Sykes,
Caroline Tapley, Mary Tiegreen,
Robby Whitstock, and David Wolk*

Edited by Alice Gerard
Design and layout by Alice Gerard
Drawings by Andrea Williams

THE PALISADES SEAT ON THE SCHOOL BOARD: A History of the "Gentlemen's Agreement"

Our South Orangetown Central School District was formed in 1957 when Blauvelt, Orangeburg, Palisades-Sparkill, Piermont, and Tappan turned over their hamlet-owned school buildings and education charters to form a central school district. They did so only if each of the five hamlets would be guaranteed a seat on the five-person board.

This became known as the "Gentlemen's Agreement." Its aim was to assure neighborhood and community representation of all the hamlets and prevent the more populated areas from holding multiple seats on the school board.

For 47 years there has been a resident of Palisades in the Palisades seat on the school board except for two terms. In 1974 and 1998, for one term each, the Palisades seat was held by a resident of another hamlet, thereby giving that hamlet two seats on the five member board.

There has been only one district-wide vote on the issue of local representation (the "Gentlemen's Agreement"), held in May 1992. The result was 1,576 to stay with the agreement, against 699 to change.

Carol Elevitch

VOTE ON MAY 18