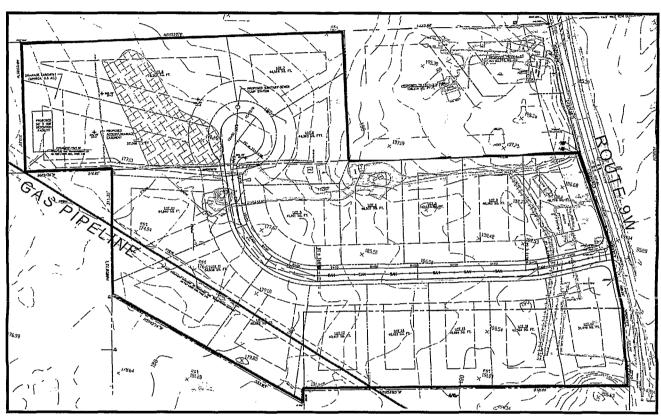
Palisades Erge Library

# 10964

# Palisades Newsletter

March 2005 Number 188



# PROPOSED SUBDIVISION FOR 9W GOLF DRIVING RANGE

BY CAROLINE TAPLEY 4



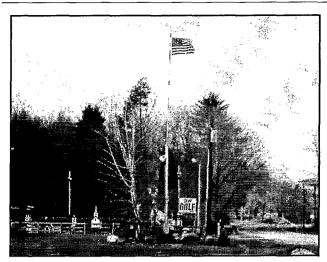
he property is an eighteen-acre piece on Route 9W, about a thousand feet north of Oak Tree Road. Once there was a sandpit on the site, but for the

last fifty-plus years it has been a driving range. It is believed to be the oldest commuter driving range in the State. When George Kopac started in 1948, there were 15 tees; when he sold it in 1991 there were 49 - and a guest book with a roster of celebrity names: Ginger Rogers, James Dean, Ed Sullivan, Willie Mays, Floyd Patterson, Bill Murray, Mikhail Barishnikov.

The new owner was Jin K. Shin who had been a professor of English in Seoul. He paid more than \$7 million for the driving range and almost immediately made an application to build a two-story multi-purpose building running practically the full length of the property, increasing the number of tees to 88. This application was formally withdrawn within a few weeks in direct response to the organized opposition and legal efforts of the Palisades Civic Association. Golfers continued to enjoy the sleepy range, much as they had for decades.

Now, however, the property is changing hands again.

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THE GOLF DRIVING RANGE ALONG 9W.

The prospective new owners (it is currently under contract) are proposing a single-family subdivision of the land - the driving range and the back six acres of the 10-acre Anderson parcel, which abuts it on the north. The project as submitted is zoned R-40 (one residence per acre) and it is proposed that thirteen new singlefamily lots be approved on a new road that terminates in a cul-de-sac and four new lots carved out of the Anderson parcel for a total of seventeen new homes. As to potential environmental impacts, the engineers for the developer believe that there is enough land to "insure compliance with the quantity and quality regulations." It is also expected that channeling traffic from seventeen single-family homes to one access point on 9W will be safer than the existing conditions on the driving range.

The land that makes up the driving range property (a total of 18.5 acres) lies within the Palisades Historic District. Construction would be subject to the provisions of Chapter 12, Historic Area, of the Code of the Town of Orangetown. (The Anderson property is outside the Historic District.) The pertinent part of the law requires that new structures be harmonious in general character with structures built in the immediate surrounding area. "Harmonious" is understood to mean congruity in features such as building height, width, square footage, position on site and architectural style. New structures are not required to be copies of any particular style or architectural period.

The prospective new owners of the land, MWD Star Group, LLC, had a consultation with the Planning Board in late November 2004. Comments were made

on the need for information about drainage, runoff calculations and details of the proposed detention basin. There are not many trees on the property, but a tree protection plan was to be drawn up for those that are there.

The next step in the process will be a preliminary hearing before the Orangetown Planning Board. This is on the calendar for February 23, and so will have taken place by the time this issue of 10964 reaches you. It is hoped that many Palisadians attended this meeting, making their opinions about the project known. Meetings of the Planning Board, the Architectural and Community Appearance Board of Review and the Historic Areas Board of Review are public and are advertised in the Journal News on Wednesdays.

#### **SUBDIVISION UPDATE:**

On Sunday, February 13, a number of residents including several people from the Historic Board met to discuss the proposed subdivision and to meet Keith Michaels, an architect and one of the four principals in MWD Star Group.

Michaels presented a plan of the subdivision that the developer intends to submit to the Planning Board on February 23. He reported that they will build a pumping station on the property and will pay for sewer lines along 9W to connect with the existing one. He also answered numerous questions that were of concern.

The top three issues include a major long-distance pipeline owned by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company that runs directly under four of the proposed lots and is believed to be buried at a depth of about five feet or less. Its easement needs to be kept open and free of growth. Another concern is the protection of wetlands currently on the Anderson property that the developer plans to include in the sale of two lots. It was suggested that to insure its preservation, this land be donated to the township.

Finally, many voiced their concern about the layout and overall appearance of the subdivision and requested that its design be more in keeping with the area. The average size of a house would be about 6,000 square feet, Michaels reported. Houses would be priced in the neighborhood of \$2 million.

By K.M. Sykes & Caroline Tapley

# A CAUTIONARY TALE

BY KATHRYN PAPAY



t was a dark and not-so-stormy November night when our family heard, and felt, what seemed to be an explosion. The house

shook. The lights flickered. And then the monotonous wail of an alarm -- a sure indicator of a crash at the intersection of 9W and Oak Tree Road or the aftershock of an electrical transformer short-circuiting. Curious, I left my computer and ventured out the front door. And there they were: a pair of young adults staring at the wreckage. Their car was crumpled like a wad of paper, wedged in the ditch that fronts our yard and halted in its tracks by a utility pole, now threatening to topple. I asked them what happened. The woman glanced nervously at her companion. "I thought I saw a deer," she said. Maybe so. But I wondered whether, had they been traveling the speed limit, they might have been able to stop safely rather than to have met such a potentially catastrophic end.

And, O.K., I admit it: I was more than a little annoyed. After all, it was the second time in two years that a car had veered off the road just feet beyond our house and found its way into the woods where our seven-year-old son and his friends often play. I cringed to think how long it might be before the odds shifted out of our favor and someone died.

Just about everyone who lives on Oak Tree Road has a story to tell. The rattling windows and speedway special-effects as cars roar through the hamlet on their way on and off of 9W, careering ever nearer to our historic homes precariously close to the road. The horror at watching drivers disregard the flashing warning lights and extended stop signs of our children's school buses. The near misses as we pull out of our driveways. The games of chicken as we dart through traffic on our way to the post office or library. And forget about allowing our children to walk to a friend's house. As parents, we wouldn't dare.

At the request of 10964, Thom Kleiner, Supervisor of Orangetown, recently spoke with Capt. Terry Sullivan of the police department about the situation on our local roads. The result was a commitment to step up enforcement on Oak Tree Road and 9W. But that might be easier said than done, said Sgt. Steve Fisher of the department's patrol unit, in a subsequent conversation. "We have two officers currently assigned to traffic con-

trol for the entire town, but at this point they are handling other assignments, so we don't have anybody there. That's two officers," he added, "for an area extending from the Nyack border to the New Jersey line, and from roughly Route 340 to the Hudson River. That's all of Clausland Mountain, all of Upper Grandview, all of Orangeburg, all of Snedens Landing, and parts of Sparkill and Piermont."

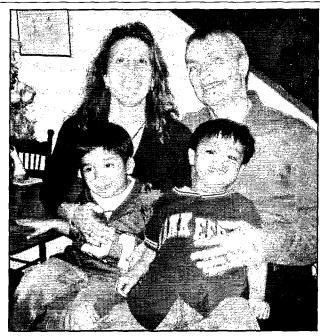
The department's shortage of traffic control officers has been a recent topic of conversation, Sgt. Fisher added. "Some of these patrol districts were drawn up over 30 years ago. There would need to be an administrative decision here to implement a change. Part of the problem may arise from the fact that immediately south of us, the New Jersey speed limit is 40 miles an hour, vs. the 30-mile-an-hour posted limit in Rockland County or the 15-mile-an-hour speed limit technically in effect between the post office and the school in Palisades."

"Is the speed limit too outdated, and does it need to be revisited throughout the town?" he asked. In certain cases, like on parts of Route 303, that might mean raising the limit to meet the New Jersey norm. In others, for instance by Veterans Field on Route 340, "inquiries were made about having the speed limit lowered because of pedestrian traffic and parked cars. We did an analysis, looking to get it dropped," he said. "But the state did not concur with us. We will probably resubmit our findings and ask them to revisit it."

And then there is 9W, with its perilous downhill swoop just 1/4 mile north of Exit 4 off the Palisades Interstate Parkway, after which drivers are met with a substantial straightaway on which to gather speed. The temptation of accelerating through the traffic light at the intersection of Oak Tree Road and 9W becomes all too great. Some residents have suggested lengthening the time of the yellow light so that cars have a longer period to stop. But the light is maintained by the New York State Department of Transportation, Sgt. Fisher said, and timed according to their standards.

Despite a pedestrian fatality at the intersection a few years ago and an average of four automobile collisions there annually, it appears that the accident rate at that intersection, compared to many in Orangetown, is

# MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: RICHARD COOK



THE COOK FAMILY: ELLEN, RICK, (L) DAVEY & (R) JOHNNY.



ank of America, in conjunction with the Durst Organization, began construction last August of a 2.1 million square foot

crystalline skyscraper at One Bryant Park (6th Avenue and 42nd Street) that will serve as its New York head-quarters when completed in 2008. It will be the world's most environmentally responsible high-rise office building, with innovative technologies that use dramatically less energy, consume less water and provide a healthier indoor environment.

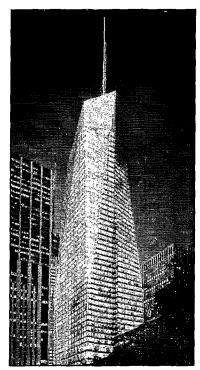
The architectural firm of Cook + Fox is responsible for its groundbreaking design. Richard Cook, one of the principals, lives in Palisades with his wife Ellen and their twin four-year-old sons John and David, born in Pursat, Cambodia. Rick who grew up in Latham, New York relates, "I can't remember not wanting to build buildings." He received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Syracuse University where he was named Hull Scholar, a Gillette Scholar and was awarded a fellowship to study in Florence.

Rick's first job was with the architectural firm of Fox & Fowle where he served as project designer for the American Craft Museum and other award-winning projects. Rick left seven years later to form his own company, Richard Cook & Associates, which won numerous design awards. The New York Construction News honored 360 Madison Avenue for its glass cur-

tain wall and sensitivity to its surroundings. The Chelsea Grande, a residential development, won The Congress for New Urbanism's 2002 Charter Award.

In 2003 Cook joined forces with Robert Fox to form Cook + Fox Architects. The duo believe that architectural excellence and environmental sustainability are fundamentally linked; they also recognize the importance of historical research of a site and its surrounding structures. A project for the South Street Seaport Historic District involves preserving eleven existing buildings and designing three new ones. Sustainable technologies include geothermal wells and a rooftop photovoltaic system that reduces energy consumption.

Cook's first major foray into sustainability was with the master planning and site design of the Ross Institute, an environmentally sensitive institution in East Hampton, New York founded by Courtney Ross Holst. Its first structure, designed by Rick, takes advantage of the upper glacial aquifer below the site for geothermal heating and air conditioning. "Sustainability research is rapidly expanding," relates Rick. "I want to be part of changing the way we do things. The new



ONE BRYANT PARK

Bank of America building will transform the way companies think about architecture; green technology will no longer be viewed as fringe."

"We worked with a team of incredibly talented professionals in specialized disciplines when designing this skyscraper." The building incorporates new technology that will have a major impact on the health and productivity of employees and on the environment. There's filtered under-floor displacement air ventilation that removes 95% of particles compared to 35% in most buildings, and floor-to-ceiling insulating glass for maximum daylight. Daylight dimming and LED lights will reduce electric usage. When there's a heavy downpour, New York City's sewerage plants can't handle all the water so raw sewerage runs into waterways. All storm water will be captured and reused to flush toilets and for cooling tower makeup. Power produced on site will be 90% efficient versus the 27% efficiency of typical older power plants. Some of it will be generated by methane created by composting two tons of shredded paper and food scraps produced each day. Planted roofs will reduce the heat island effect. To help reduce the strain on the city's electrical grid during peak

demand for air conditioning, a thermal storage system will produce ice in the evening; during the day air will cycle through it.

The glass, steel and aluminum building is constructed largely of recycled and recyclable building materials. The Crystal Palace built in 1853 at 42nd Street and 6th Avenue inspired its design as did a painting by Lyonel Feininger entitled "Manhattan II" and crystals found in nature.

Back in Palisades, the Cooks are reinterpreting the exterior of their home on Woods Road. "We thought it was important to create a strong composition of light and shadow as an abstraction of the natural wooded environment." Sustainably harvested Brazilian ipe wood was selected and will ultimately turn a silvery gray, like the bark of trees.

The house was designed for Jane and Conrad Lattes

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## LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY

Hollywood courts Lamont-Doherty's Maya Tolstoy for James Cameron's Aliens of the Deep



ames Cameron, Academy Award-winning director of *Titanic* and *The Terminator*, has a passion for deep-sea science. For his most recent work, the science documentary *Aliens of the Deep* just released in IMAX theatres, the director called Lamont Doherty marine seismologist Maya Tolstoy and asked her

to sign on for the *Aliens* voyage as technical advisor and on-screen talent. Tolstoy studies mid-ocean ridge earth-quakes and how water flowing through thermal vents captures minerals and nutrients, which then feed the life gathered at the vents. Her research on volcanic sites at the bottom of the ocean indicates that biochemical activity at deep-sea sites may one day reveal the processes and origins of earliest life on earth, and possibly beyond.

Shooting a documentary about sea-floor life means being on the ocean floor—and that means mini-subs. (Think dank, dark, wee can, under tons of pressure.) The site featured in *Aliens* is in an area called the 'East Pacific Rise', which runs roughly from the Gulf of California to south New Zealand. By placing monitoring instrumentation at three sites, scientists hope to capture a sea-floor eruption that might otherwise go unnoticed except by some two-meter long tube worms, mussels or crabs. Capturing the actual process of new tectonic plate formation is fundamental: understanding how plates are formed is essentially getting a sneak-peek into the workings of the earth's basic building blocks.

In Aliens, Tolstoy is first seen lowering equipment overboard then, about two miles below the surface, we see her in the mini-sub, talking about the sea-floor. The sub hovers directly above a black plume of vent-smoke, which, at its hottest point is about 400 degrees Celsius. Tolstoy says, "I hope the film gets young people excited about science and exploration, because science is exploration."

## CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE THEATRE - HENRY IV- PT 1



DYLAN KEEGAN AS KING HENRY IV

his, with its second part, is Shakespeare's most history-heavy play. Its world is one of conclaves at court, messages from outlying parts, past battles recounted. But of

course (and most fortunately) this isn't all: as well as the palace, there's the pub; as well as noble lords bearing the names of towns and counties, there's a colorful roster of lowlifes. The play survives its daunting story line.

An ad hoc prologue shows us the recently abdicated Richard II (Savannah Green) and introduces his successor, the "bloody Bolingbroke," King Henry (Dylan Keegan). Helpfully, the rebel lords are grouped to one side of the tableau, those loyal to the new King on the other. Dominating the rebels is the high-spirited Hotspur (Dakota Green), one of the iconic characters of the play, the others being Prince

Hal (Harris Tucker), who of course is to become the popular hero Henry V, and that sweet creature of bombast, Sir John Falstaff (Ryan Uhl).

All of the above-named give fine accounts of their parts, with Harris and Ryan outstanding in the scene in which Falstaff plays king to Hal's Falstaff. Also notable are Luke Warren, a clear-spoken Worcester; Amelia Martin as the noble Northumberland; and Phoebe Keegan glittering ominously as Glendower. Among the lowlifes, Anna Baryshnikov (Gadshill), Andee Bucciarelli (Poins) and Ariella Ewig (Vintner — also, elsewhere, The Douglas) played with appropriate zest, and Maya Martin (Francis) makes the very most of her line. Understudying Meagan Cohen in the role of Mistress Quickly, Savannah — last seen as a memorable Hamlet — demonstrates her range. The only other women's parts are taken with poise and spirit by Lily Plotkin (Lady Percy) and Suzanna Buck (Lady Mortimer). It's a large, enthusiastic and confident cast.

Against a blood-red backdrop lit by flares, the clash of swords brings the play to a fitting conclusion. But the story is not done. Can we look forward to seeing The Children's Shakespeare Theatre in Part Two?



IN THE LATEST CST PRODUCTION OF KING HENRY IV (L-r) maya martin, meagan cohen, ari ewig & Anna Baryshikov

By Caroline Tapley

# THEATER: CST, THE ROGUE PLAYERS, AND ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN



e all appreciate that we live in a special community. One thing that sets us apart is that we have a unique theater group in our appreciate that is reaching and changing the lives of

midst, one that is reaching and changing the lives of an increasing number of people.

Six years ago Palisadian Diana Green started The Children's Shakespeare Theatre. Building on its success, she has expanded the company each year. One of the first additions was the adult company Strange Bedfellows. Then came weekend workshops for young people and, in 2004, The Rogue Players,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

made up of high-school-aged veterans of CST. They performed an outstanding *Hamlet* last fall. Now Diana has joined actors from the three companies to produce *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, under the direction of Vincent Umbrino.

Vincent, who grew up in Palisades, began his theater career at TZHS when he tried out for and, to his surprise, was cast in a play. He went on to act in other high school plays and in *Our Town* directed by Cass Ludington. At Gettysburg College he majored in philosophy and discovered directing. "I started off acting but I had the opportunity to direct plays; I found I enjoyed this more."



FIRST ROW: NATALIE KORMAN, COURTNEY KELLY,
ARI EWIG, CAROL IOSSO, SIMON HOWE
SECOND ROW: MEGAN RIBAR, KIT LUKAS,
ELIZABETH UMBRINO, SAVANNAH GREEN,
VINCENT UMBRINO, DIANA GREEN, DAKOTA GREEN,
SUSAN BARUFALDI, AIDAN WALSH, NATE AURELL

His participation in CST came about by chance. His sister Lizzie had been a cast member of CST since it began but Vince was too old to participate. One day, home from college, his mother Margaret asked him to stand in as a cast helper (a commitment from all parents). That was the beginning. He helped with the production of *Hamlet* and was an assistant director for *Henry IV*. Vince thought *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* would be a great segue for The Rogue Players since the play is based on two characters from *Hamlet*. He presented the idea of directing it to Diana and the CST Board voted approval. Vincent's fascinating version of *R and G* will be presented in March.

Recently, 10964 sat down with Vincent and several

cast members to find out what the experience with theater has meant to them.

# What do you like about CST and The Rogue Players?

Megan Ribar: I just joined this group for Hamlet. I really love the spirit of the whole thing. I'm involved in different theater groups but I like this atmosphere the best. It's about doing the best you can.

*Aidan Walsh*: I am in it to do something after school. I like everything about the theater.

Caroline Iosso: I have been in the group since I was in fourth grade. It's a place to meet people and grow as an actor. I have made a lot of friends.

#### What do you like about R and G?

Lizzie: It is very deep. You learn so much about the characters beyond *Hamlet*.

Savannah Green: After acting as Hamlet I can now see what we didn't realize was happening; it is really jarring. It's great to get to know Vincent and learn from him.

*Lizzie*: We are trying new techniques. Our parts don't have that many lines so we practice movement and expression.

Savannah: In this play they talk about Hamlet like he is a complete wacko. He doesn't do much. Still, we use the lines we learned from Shakespeare.

Dakota Green: Only the characters from Hamlet use Shakespeare's lines, the rest is modern.

#### How does this affect your lives beyond the troupe?

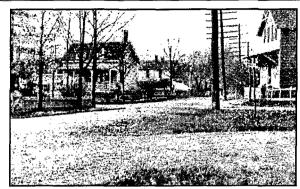
Savannah: My Mom is always explaining everything so we really understand what we are saying. Being in *Hamlet*, I could analyze it myself and come up with new ideas about how I play a scene. I like learning about the history. Basically Shakespeare stole everything and made it better.

Lizzie: In CST Diana would tell us what it meant. With *Hamlet*, she gave us more freedom.

Megan: I think it's funny that I know more about Hamlet than my history teacher does. It is very cool to have all this knowledge.

Courtney Kelly: I was in CST and the Rogue Players, but now I'm a senior. It's sad to be leaving the group. In college I won't have time with all the partying I have to do to be in theater, but I'm going to miss it. Savannah: I feel really close to the people in my scenes. It's OK to make mistakes.

# PALISADES LIBRARY



PALISADES LIBRARY, 1900



alisades Free Library, Member of the Ramapo Catskill Library System Tel: 845-359-0136, Fax: 845-359-6124 pal@rcls.org, www.rcls.org/pal

#### **Library Hours**

Mon.-Thurs. 1:00-9:00 Friday 1:00-5:00 Saturday 11:00-5:00 Sunday 1:00-5:00

Closed: Sunday, March 27th, Easter Sunday

#### **Board of Trustees**

Mr. David Gottlieb, Dr. Nadine Keegan, Ms. Mary Ellen Ledwith, Ms. Helen Nelson, Ms. Kathryn Papay, Mr. Charles Shimel and Ms. Carol Stewart

#### City Delights

The library lends membership passes to the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of the History of New York. The passes check out for two days, admit two adults and four children, and may be reserved for a specific date.

#### **Story Time**

Wednesday at 1:30 is story time for ages three through kindergarten. The children meet with Nancy Russell for stories, games and songs.

#### **Preschool Evening Storytime**

May 4, Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m. Mother Goose Gathering. Celebrate Mother Goose with rhymes and fun before snuggling into bed.

#### Children's Programs

March 16, Wednesday, at 4:30 p.m. Bunny Hop. Spring should be here now! Hear stories about bunnies and make a beautiful bunny.

April 13, Wednesday, at 4:30 p.m. National Library Week. Come celebrate National Library Week with stories, book bingo and a mini-book craft.

#### Are You Being Served?

The library would like to provide programs of interest to the community and we need your input. Our area is rich in talent and history. Art, music, genealogy, gardening, bridge, photography, decorating, consumer information — let us know what you would like to know! Call or come by with your ideas.

#### New Database RosettaStone

The library now subscribes to the language learning online program, RosettaStone. Twenty-eight languages are offered, using thousands of real-live images, written text and the voices of native speakers. Imagine – learning to speak, read and write a new language quickly and easily. The program can be accessed from home by clicking our Online Databases, then clicking the "student" category. This new program, along with Ancestry and HeritageQuest, brings our online subscriptions to twenty-six.

#### **Forthcoming Fiction**

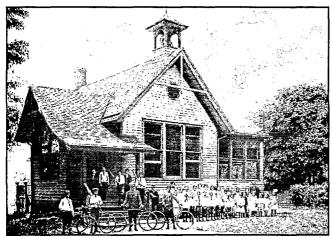
Block, Lawrence – All the Flowers Are Dying Dunning, John – The Sign of the Book Gaige, Amity – O My Darling Grondahl, Jens – An Altered Light Lucas, Michale C. – A High and Hidden Plea McEwan, Ian – Saturday Prose, Francine – A Changed Man Schwarzschild, Edward – Responsible Men Siegel, James – Detour

#### **Forthcoming Nonfiction**

Barasch, Marc Ian – Field Notes on the Compassionate Life
Bedford, Sybille – Quicksands
Chilton, Floyd – Inflammation Nation: The First
Clinically Proven Eating Plan
Goldstein, Rebecca – Incompleteness: The Proof and
Paradox of Kurt Godel
Oppenheimer, Jerry – Front Row: Anna Wintour
Orman, Suze – The Money Book for the Young,
Fabulous and Broke



# PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER



PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER, 1918



hristmas caroling at the Community Center got off to a damp start but, despite the bad weather, the kids had a great time caroling indoors and sipping hot chocolate

with Tony Gerard our cool Santa in shades. To help spread some holiday cheer Michele Balm and Bernadette Vero led a precession of carolers down the road to Jawanio where residents warmly greeted them. A special thanks to Carol Knudson, John Guzewich and Louise Amico for your help.

Our annual town meeting will be held March 9 at 7:30 pm with guest speaker Orangetown Supervisor Thom Kleiner. This is an open forum and all are welcome to

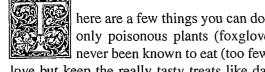
discuss pressing town issues such as the sale and development of the golf range. We will also be electing new officers and board members.

Start your spring-cleaning now; there will be a flea market on April 2 from 10am-4pm. Anyone interested in reserving a table for \$30.00 call Eileen Larkin at 359-6589. The Center's use has substantially increased with evenings of entertainment as well as weddings, parties, art shows and book readings. The Center is available to all for a nominal fee. Contact Eileen Larkin to reserve this space for your next event.

By Susan Dillon



### In The Garden: Dealing with Deer



here are a few things you can do to reduce deer damage in the garden. You could design a garden using only poisonous plants (foxglove, monkshood, peony, daffodils, lavender etc.) and plants deer have Inever been known to eat (too few to mention). Many reasonable gardeners simply plant the garden they

love but keep the really tasty treats like daylilies, hostas and tulips to a minimum and hope for the best. Being somewhat passive about my own garden, I find my tolerance for deer similar to that for squirrels at the birdfeeder: I don't like it but can deal with it until a moment of brazen excess occurs and I feel compelled to act.

An existing fence can be made higher by adding several strings of wire at the top to 8' or by adding a shorter section that angles out. However, my preference is for an effective and inexpensive fence that can ordered from Benner's (800-753-4660, www.bennersgardens.com.) This black UV stable 8-foot mesh comes in 100 foot rolls and is relatively easy to wind through the woods, attaching it to trees and securing it to the ground. It's virtually invisible even in the winter and is long lasting. Benner's will sell you all the necessary component pieces and supply you with instructions and tips.

Repellents are temporary and marginally effective. Melorganite is a fertilizer made from sewage with an unpleasant odor only deer can smell. I use it in the spring as tulips are budding and again later when daylilies are making their valiant deer-defying effort and it works pretty well. Of the sprays, "Deer Solution" is my current favorite. It smells nice and claims to last 3 months, although it should be applied more often in the spring as the new growth emerges. It's a good idea to alternate repellents frequently. For extremely precious and beloved specimens, spray daily, tether the dog next to them, enclose in ornate wrought iron cages, arm yourself with pot lids and stand guard.

By Cellen Wolk, Hey Hoe Garden Design

# Palisades Civic Association



e are beginning to see large plots of land being developed either for McMansions or town houses throughout Orangetown. Palisades has been fortunate so far. The 9W

driving range development is the first, I believe, since the homes on Horne Tooke Road were built in the 50s and 60s. We have a right to petition our Town Board not to allow zone changes if the community feels it would impact on our quality of life. Residents living on HeyHoe Woods should be concerned about flooding and tree removal as the 9W driving range development proceeds. I suggest they ask for a meeting with the developer so that the guidelines set forth in the Town's historic zone/ building laws are complied with. The Palisades School has 9 or 10 acres. I do not know whether this recently surveyed property is scheduled to

be sold. However, it does abut the driving range and is in an R 40 zone.

The 2004 Memorial Day Parade was cancelled for various reasons but there will be one this May. Anyone who wishes to help put this event together, please contact the Palisades Civic Association at Box 222, Palisades. We are looking for two new Board members to replace John Converse and Andy Norman, who passed away. We are also in need of funding; \$5.00 will make you a voting member of the Association. Money raised allows us to do mailings to the community when something important comes up. The Town Board recently adopted a "car tag" necessary to drop items off at the town's recycling center. There is no charge for the tag; it can be picked up at the Town Clerk's Office.



By Eileen Larkin, President PCA



#### THEATRE: SHAKESPEARE

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*Dakota*: Besides, not many people in the audience know if you mess up your lines or forget things.

Simon Howe: Wearing the fat suit when I played Falstaff allowed me to try a different way of life and made me want to eat healthy.

Vincent: One of the things that attracted me to the group was that it was not so competitive. Once everything is arranged, there is a relaxed atmosphere and we can experiment. No one is afraid of criticism.

By Milbry Polk

Strange Bedfellows and The Rogue Players in association with The Children's Shakespeare Theatre Inc. present Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard, March 18 and 19 at 8:00 pm. Palisades Presbyterian Church, Washington Spring Road, Palisades. Adults \$10, Children 14 and under \$5.

Call 845-365-9709

#### Lamont-Doherty

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### Spring Lecture Series 2005

The popular Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Public Lecture Series, in its seventh year, features a fascinating lineup of topics on the origin, evolution and future of the natural world. Aliens of the Deep: The Science Behind the Movie will be one of the lectures. Stay tuned to the Observatory's website for specifics; www.ldeo.columbia.edu.





# PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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Palisades, New York 10964

Fax: 845-365-0396 palisadespc@aol.com

PR:Henry Shaw 201-767-6245, Merceret@cs.com

#### The Rev. Dae Jung Resigns

At a specially called congregational meeting held on January 30, Reverend Dae Jung announced his resignation as pastor of the church. His last Sunday in the pulpit at Palisades was February 6.

Rev. Jung began his ministry here in October 1999. He had previously served as pastor of three churches in Sullivan County. His next assignment will be in new church development, where he plans to start a congregation for liberal Korean American Presbyterians. The location and the starting date of when his new ministry will begin has not yet been announced. Rev Jung will continue to live in the manse through the end of June. Members and friends of the Palisades Presbyterian Church wish him well in his new endeavors.

#### **Church Services**

The Palisades Church will continue to offer worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. with church school held at the same time. Bible study will be held at 9 a.m. on Sundays and the ongoing Wednesday noon Bible study group will also continue. Both study groups are led by Elder Jack Hoffmeister.

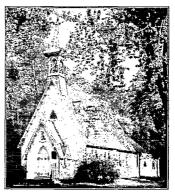
The pulpit will be filled each Sunday by an experienced worship leader and communion will be served on the first Sunday of each month; the church school teachers will give the children's message during the service.

#### **Easter**

Palm Sunday, March 20, 10 a.m. Palms will be distributed to all worshippers.

Maundy Thursday, March 24, 8 p.m. This joint service with the AME Zion Church, Sparkill will be held at the Palisades Church.

Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m. at the home of



THE PALISADES CHURCH, 1940

Nick and Cass Ludington, Lawrence Lane in Palisades. For directions, call the church office. A potluck breakfast will follow the service.

Easter Morning Service, 10 a.m. with full choir. An Easter egg hunt for the children will follow the service. This glorious service traditionally ends with the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*.

#### **Talent Show April 16**

Church members and friends in combination with the Children's Shakespeare Theatre will hold a talent show to benefit both organizations. Local area residents are encouraged to participate in this talent show, the third held in the past 15 years. American Idol it is not. While no star contracts await the few. all who have heart (possibly even some talent) are welcome. Try-outs are on Friday, March 4, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 5, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the church Parish House. For more information call Elaine Silver at 398-0354. The other talent coordinators for this event are Roger Buck, John Lenihan and Gary Tacon. Anyone who has an idea for this show that he or she wants to explore is encouraged to call Elaine. The show is on Saturday, April 16 at 7 p.m.

#### Cinco de Mayo Supper April 30

The church will host a Cinco de Mayo potluck supper on April 30. All who attend are encouraged to bring Mexican dishes. Be sure to indicate if the dish is One, Two or Three Alarms (mild, hot or impossible). More information on the specifics of the dishes will be available in April. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the church bulletin board and flyers will be distributed locally.

# Bulletin Board

#### New Grandchildren

We congratulate several of our neighbors on the recent births of grandchildren. Caroline Tapley's daughter Kate Tapley-Gonzales gave birth on December 16 to Collin Donald. Cass and Nick Ludington's son Nicholas and his wife Jennifer who live in Portland, Maine are proud parents of twin boys, Samuel and Dylan, born in early January. Mary Ann Bruecker's son Jacob Lawrence's wife Sue Busby gave birth to Emily last August. The couple live in NewPaltz.

#### **Palisades Post Office News**

Postmistress Mary Whatley is presently at the Piermont Post Office filling in for the retiring Postmaster there. She hopes to return to Palisades by June. Meanwhile, Carol E. Rebsch is acting chief officer in her place.

Mary would like to remind Palisadians that they can apply for passports at the Palisades Post Office. Ask for Subu who is in charge of this unique service.

#### **Exploring a Walking Path**

Have you ever walked along Oak Tree Road just off 9W and wondered if you would make it in one piece as traffic speeded by? Perhaps you were going to the library or the post office. Or you may have been walking to a church service or an event held in its community center. At a recent 10964 meeting many voiced their concern that there wasn't a walking path along the small stretch bordering the triangle. Stephen Munno, assistant administer to Jim Dean with the Orangetown Highway Department, has said he would request it be put on the agenda of the Traffic Advisory Board.

#### **Books Wanted**

Hearthstone Alzheimer Care has just opened a facility at 640 Oak Tree Road in Palisades (located in the Esplanade). We are putting together a library for our residents and are in need of book donations. We are looking for fiction or non-fiction, short stories, reference books, dictionaries, encyclopedias - all books are welcome! *National Geographics* are great as well. Books donated are eligible for a tax deduction; a receipt will be sent to you. If you have any questions, please call Kerry Mills or Julie Simms at 845-365-6500.

#### **Student News**

Congratulations to Palisades resident Carrie Ann Horton who graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She received her B.S. in Animal Science from Cornell and her M.S. in Laboratory Animal Science from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. Dr. Horton is presently practicing at the Animal Clinic of Bayonne in Bayonne, N.J.

Max Seeger was honored at a luncheon in January at



MAX SEEGER RECEIVING STUDENT EMMY AWARD.

the Old '76 House by the South Orangetown Rotary Club for his community service. Max received a National Student Television Regional Emmy Award last May for a half-hour show he created for Local Access Cable TV commemorating two years of 9/11 memorials in the Town of Orangetown. His Emmy sits in a showcase at Tappan Zee High School. Max is off to college this fall.

#### **Garden Events**

The Butterfly Garden in Nyack, open from May to October in Memorial Park along the Hudson River, is planned and maintained by the Garden Club of Nyack. Call Joanne Scarmato, 845-353-4606.

Group Tours of Piermont Community Garden start in May on River Road. Groups of over 3 people preferred. Call Joan Gussow, 845-359-1884.

Demonstration Garden Tours are free at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Stony Point, N.Y. at 1 pm on some Sundays from May through October. Call 845-429-7085.

For a composting demonstration at Cornell Cooperative Extension call Mary Hegarty, 845-429-7085, ext. 125. (Those attending a workshop get a free plastic composting receptacle.)

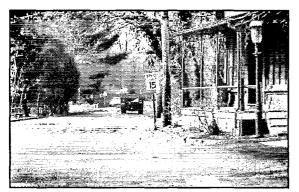
Visit The Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden in North Salem, N.Y. A restaurant is on the premises. Call 914-669-5033.

**New Neighbors** 

# Bulletin Board

We extend a warm welcome to all our new neighbors. Carol Stewart purchased the Country Store last March complete with Molly the ghost who resides in one of its bedrooms. Built around 1840, it was one of the few commercial structures in Palisades.

Carol grew up in Buffalo, earning her doctorate in edu-



THE OLD PALISADES COUNTRY STORE ON OAK TREE RD.

cation from the University of Buffalo. She moved to our area several years ago after her husband died to be closer to her two daughters and five grandchildren. Daughter Sarah Buterbough lives close by on Closter Road; Kerstin lives in Wyckoff, New Jersey. Carol now works for the Rockland Board of Cooperative Services as an administrator training teachers of grades K to 12. Recently named to the board of the Palisades Library, she loves to quilt, paint, knit and read.

Ernest de la Torre and Kristopher Haberman are moving into Sally Sloan's house on Washington Spring Road. Ernie, an interior designer who opened his own studio in 2001, grew up in Lake Forest, Illinois. He began his career at Peter Marino Architects then moved to London for graduate studies at Sotheby's. While there, he met English designer David Collins and worked with him on several projects, including Madonna's Central Park West apartment. After returning to New York, he teamed with Ian Schrager to reconstruct the Library of the Morgan Hotel in New York. This was followed by a position with Ralph Lauren Home where he was responsible for designing furniture, lighting, tabletop and textiles.

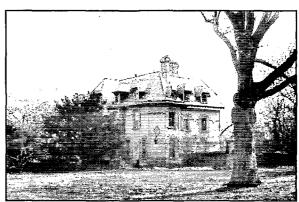
Kris Haberman, a landscape designer, started Stonecott Designs, Ltd., in 2002. Born in Waldo, Ohio, a small farming community, he graduated from Denison University with a degree in sociology and anthropology. Moving to New York, he worked for Edwin Schlossberg Incorporated, an interactive museum design firm, on such projects as the Pope John Paul

II Cultural Center, the Ellis Island Museum and the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Center. Kris interned with Robert Dash, a well-known artist and garden designer in Sagaponack, NY.

Anne Johnston recently moved from Brooklyn Heights to Angus Sinclair's house next to the library on Closter Road, which was built in the 1950s by his parents. Anne who is originally from L.A. is vice president of permanent installations for Production Resource Group in North Bergen. The entertainment technology company handles lighting, audio and scenery for live performances and TV productions. Anne works with architects in the design of new permanent constructions and renovations. Her main hobby is yoga.

#### **New Owners for Niederhurst**

Niederhurst, which celebrates its 125th birthday this year, is one of the most formidable houses in Snedens Landing. Home for many years to Andrew and Helen Norman and their family of four girls, it was built by Winthrop S. Gilman, a wealthy New York banker, in 1874. After the death last spring of Andy Norman, a guiding light in our community, Niederhurst was put up for sale. Jo Baer (Baer & McIntosh), listing agent reports that there is a signed contract and that the future owners hope to close shortly. Because the Norman family plans to retain a four-acre parcel purchased later



NEIDERHURST

called Solly's Folly, the sale needs the approval of the Planning Board. Baer says that while there was considerable interest from numerous developers, the daughters were determined to preserve the integrity of the property by selling to a family who recognized the historic importance of the house and its grounds.

### A CAUTIONARY TALE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

dramatically lower. Sgt. Fisher said, "If we were going to pick out the top 50 interactions sections where there are problems, that wouldn't even be on the list."

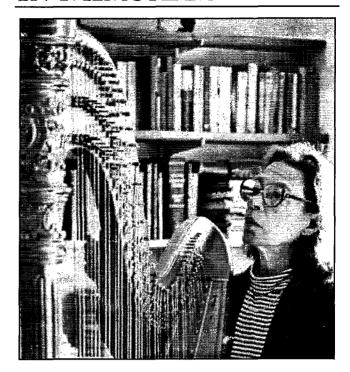
Sgt. Fisher acknowledged that when the vehicle speeding through the intersection is a truck, it becomes another, more dangerous, issue entirely. While 9W is accessible to anyone making a pickup or delivery within the Town of Orangetown, trucks are limited to weights of 80,000 pounds or less. If they don't have a pickup or delivery within Orangetown, they are restricted to 20,000 pounds. "Periodically, we'll stop trucks and examine their manifests and highway use permits, which is the weight of the truck and its load," he said. "If those cumulatively don't exceed 20,000 pounds, they are authorized to be there."

Trucks are not authorized, however, to travel on Oak Tree Road unless they have business on that stretch of road. "We've had a number of episodes, generally people going into Rockleigh Industrial Park," he said. "And rather than use the New Jersey roads, they cut through Palisades." But because of budgetary cuts, he said, the department's truck enforcement unit has been suspended.

With increasingly limited resources in the police department, Sgt. Fisher suggested that one way to help monitor traffic might be for residents to enact a little vigilance. In the last year, Coach USA responded to frequent complaints of speeding along Oak Tree Road by sending its safety director to surreptitiously clock buses and then reprimand drivers caught exceeding the speed limit. The result was a marked decrease in bus speed. Residents may also call the police department at (845) 359-3700 with specific issues or e-mail the Traffic Advisory Board at traffic@orangetown.com, Sgt. Fisher said. Mr. Kleiner noted that he would be happy to discuss traffic concerns when he meets with Palisadians at the Community Center on March 9.

Finally, said Sgt. Fisher, there is the admittedly small consolation that things could be worse. "We haven't found that the use or rate of speed on Oak Tree Road and 9W is any higher or lower than in any other part of town," he said. "Still, everyone needs to keep in mind when driving that it's our friends and families with us on the road out there."

# IN MEMORIAM





argaret Ross Diederich, a long-time Palisades resident and wife of the late William (Chappy) Hunt Diederich, passed away recently after a long illness. Mother

of Susan, Michael and Lynn, she was also an accomplished professional harpist, who started her career at the age of 13, and continued to play throughout her life.



#### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: COOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

in the mid-1970s by architect Charles Winter, a sweetheart of Rockland's own homegrown modernist movement. Jane gave the Cooks his original model and drawings. Winter met with the couple after its purchase explaining his concept for a modern house in the woods based upon opening up views through a central atrium and bedrooms focused in on exterior terraces. "I have always believed that you can tell something about the quality of architecture by how fun kids think the building is," says Rick. "I have talked to the Lattes family and they loved it - my boys love it too."



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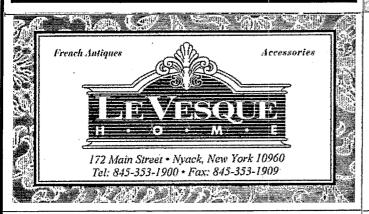
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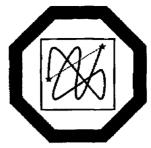
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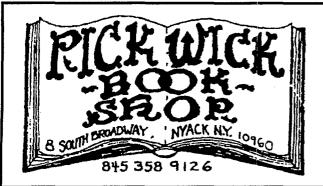
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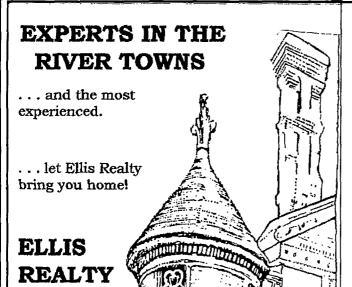
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This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades and welcomes any and all types of community involvement. 10964 depends on your support and financial contributions are welcome. Please send ideas, items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

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Layout: Robby Whitstock

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## Music Review

PALISADES' STAR, LUBA MASON, HAS DEBUT ALBUM



hese days, the bright lights of Broadway and Hollywood Boulevard are reflected in the treetops on Swan Street where Luba

Mason, the daughter of Rudy and Ellen Gregus, grew up dreaming of a career in the footlights in the big city nearby. Luba's dramatic singing voice, beauty and acting talents have propelled her into starring roles in many musicals (*Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Capeman*, and *The Ten Commandments*.) Now she has a solo CD, just released, called *Collage*.

A classically trained musician, Luba's voice is warm, strong and full of dramatic expressiveness; it's every inch a Broadway sound, with a huge range and incredible technical control and precision. In 2003 she made a guest appearance on Ruben Blades' Grammy Award winning album, *Mundo*. Her debut solo CD features many contributions from him.



LUBA MASON

Collage draws together an eclectic group of songs ranging from the powerful anthem by Lou Reed,

The Calm Before the Storm, commemorating the 9/11 attack, to love songs by Tom Waits and Gerry Mulligan. On other tracks she spices things up with Latin, jazz and honky tonk arrangements. The album's highlights are her cover of Van Morrison's Moondance, which creates a seductive atmosphere of love in a tropical paradise and Six Degrees of Azimuth, which could be a spectacular stand-alone pop hit.

Luba started piano lessons at age six with Victor Powell, who she credits with laying the foundation of her musical skills. "Oh Luba, you like to sing!" he observed and so began to give her voice lessons after each piano lesson and to have her sing at the Tappan Reformed Church. At Tappan Zee High School she performed in each year's musical, finally, as a senior, starring in *Gypsy*. She went on to earn a BFA in drama at NYU and was part of Circle in the Square.

Her Slovakian heritage plays an important role in her life—in fact Slovak was her first language at home. She chose a haunting Slovakian folk song that tells of joy mixed with bitter tears called *Materinska Moja Rec* (Motherland) as the final track on *Collage* because of the deep connection she feels with the country of her parents' birth. Luba's website is: www.lubamason.com

By Greta Nettleton