

# 10964

THE  
PALISADES  
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2005 NUMBER 190



October in Palisades

**This Fall You Can  
Make a Difference!**  
Join Us! You can  
help by baking,  
donating collectibles,  
working the day.  
We Need You!

**Fundraiser to help people  
hurt by the Hurricanes**

**Palisades Community Center  
Sunday, October 9 • 11 am - 3pm**

**All contributions go to the Red Cross**

**Contact:**

**Laraine Slavitt 845-359-8929 or Denise Maione 201-767-0646 / fsfitness@aol.com**

**Palisades Free Library**

CAKE SALE  
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES  
JEWELRY • MAKE-UP  
POTTERY  
HAYRIDES  
PUMPKINS • PLANTS  
FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT  
RAFFLE DRAWINGS



# SOME THOUGHTS ON HURRICANE KATRINA

It's an extremely difficult task to try to write about the recent catastrophe caused by Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast. The grinding loss of family members, friends, homes, neighborhoods and livelihoods across Louisiana and Mississippi is overwhelming.

My sister Charlotte, a resident of New Orleans since the late 1970s, has, unfortunately, had plenty of practice for this upheaval—she and her husband had to pack everything they wanted to continue to own into their car three times over the last several years for hurricanes Dennis, Georges and Ivan. She confessed that by the time Katrina struck, they had gotten worn down, and they took less stuff than usual. Moreover, the storm came up very fast. Some things were still unpacked and ready to go from last year, but they had only Saturday to think it all through, pack and leave for good.

They have been able to check on their neighborhood north of City Park via satellite photos—fortunately, these have showed that while their street was flooded, the water only went half-way up their driveway. The neighborhood where they used to live back in the 1980s was next to the now-infamous 17th Street canal opposite Bucktown, and in fact their back yard fence had a gate that opened directly up onto the levee a few yards from where the break occurred. That house is now completely gone, washed off its foundations and floated away.

In spite of the extensive damage, I refuse to write any kind of memorial to the city of New Orleans. It is an unbearable thought to lose this magical, complex, impenetrable, corrupt, flawed and ancient masterpiece. It is not a transient city where people move in and out in search of a better life—New Orleans people don't really need to move, because everything that they really like is already there, in their city. Tourists bounce right off the surface, leaving their dollars and a trail of powdered sugar behind them as they swallow the last tasty morsel of Vieux Carre beignet on their way to the airport. The typical New Orleans resident is already convinced that modernity is a disaster and feels most alive in the most disastrous of circumstances (This local

'I'm tired of hearing these helicopters.

I want to hear some jazz,'

—New Orleans Mayor, Ray Nagin

insight and others following are courtesy of *Times-Picayune* cartoonist Bunny Matthews).

New Orleans is the very antithesis of WalMart; it is a crazy mixture of high and low culture, where poetic charm prevails over thrift and prudence, where poor and rich families alike are proud to trace their ancestry back for many generations (the really notable ancestors being generally labeled according to their elected leadership role in a Mardi Gras krewe or for their musical talent), where many people are proud to speak Cajun French, leading most others to "make their groceries" at Schwegmann's, where almost everyone gets fat on the local food ("It ain't da seafood dat makes ya fat anyway—it's da batta!"), and where the majority tend to contemplate out-of-towners with suspicion ("We ain't got no Japanese beer an' we ain't got no Joymun beer—da only fo'run beer we got is from Milwaukee!!"). New Orleanians are hold-outs against the generally accepted Imperative Destiny that everyone in America must live a safe, ambitious, sensible, predigested life, every aspect of which has already been planned and sold to them from a boardroom somewhere—in short, "Going Houston" is the worst fate anyone in New Orleans can think of.

This Devil-may-care approach to life clearly has some drawbacks where flood control is concerned. But I believe the city's residents carry in their core a genius for survival through the worst of fates, including Hurricane Katrina.

One Orleans parish blog posted the following message that encapsulates the local spirit of hope, faith, and courage:

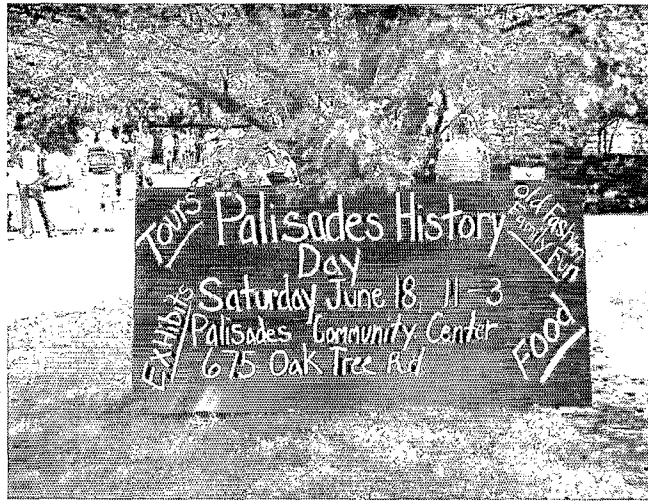
"We will rebuild our neighborhood and the city we love so much and I pray for the people who are still there in harm's way."

Greta Nettleton

# PALISADES HISTORY DAY

## PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

On behalf of the Palisades Community Center Board, I would like take a moment to thank those who worked so hard on making Palisades History Day a success. The planning and undertaking of producing this event took a group of people who not only knew the history of Palisades but who were not daunted by creating such a production. The day brought in close to \$2,500, a fundraising event success! Also, many of you became first time PCC members, which entitles you to discounts in renting the building.



Mrs. Kellogg. Please call 359-3776 or email [miepbalm@aol.com](mailto:miepbalm@aol.com) if you would like to be placed on the list to obtain a set in the near future.

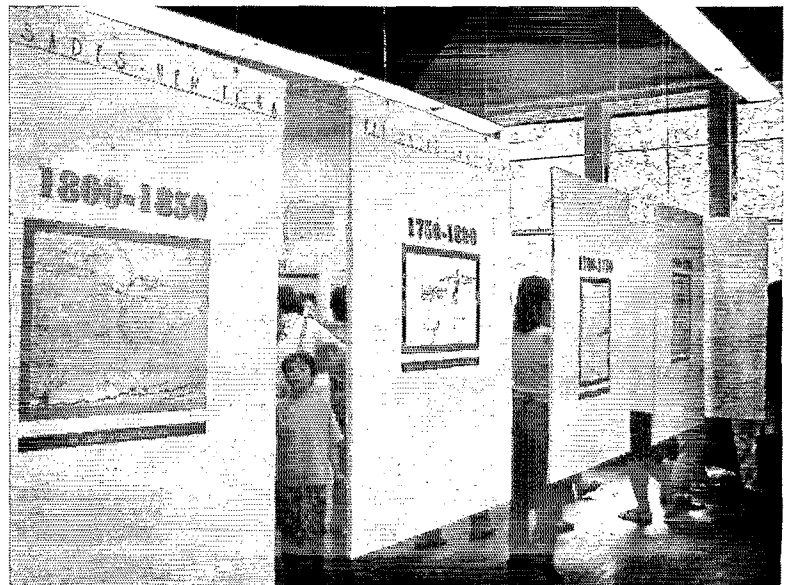
A fantastic father-daughter team created the Palisades Cemetery tour: Carol and Bill Knudson. They spent countless hours going through the cemetery and library to find interesting facts about those

who are so peacefully laid to rest there. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for allowing us all to discover this unique Palisades piece of history.

The diligent attention to historic detail and the actual creating of the panel exhibit showcasing the time line of Palisades from 1500 to the present, was the labor of love of the Palisades Historical Society and in large part due to Alice Gerard and Mary Ellen Ledwith's powerful energy. We thank them for providing our entire community with a permanent Palisades historical exhibit.

The movie component to the exhibit was also a labor of love by Palisadian Susan Shapiro as well as myself. On behalf of all of the sponsors of the event, I must thank Susan Shapiro for her commitment to the project and creating a wonderful archival documentary, which hopefully will be Part A of more parts to come. Robert Pechin, Director of Digital Services, from Ascent Media in Northvale came to the rescue making all the copies of the 2-part DVD set. We thank him and Mark Jeffers, Vice President of Ascent Media/East Coast Sales for their wonderful support. We hope you will consider purchasing this amazing documentary, which brings to life a personal retrospective of Palisades in the early years as reflected upon by many including Bill Knudson, Alice Gerard, Joe Hyde, Albon Man, Dorothy Thayer, Mr. and

A wide variety of tasks were undertaken, such as making the wonderful large signs and signs for the cemetery stones, researching/buying and selling old fashioned candy for the candy store, buying flowers at the flower market in the Bronx at 2 o'clock in the morning, lending DVD projectors, tents, karaoke machines, hanging curtains/panels, and cleaning the Center inside and out. These were all done quietly, efficiently, and knowing that it would all come together as a cohesive whole.



*continued on Page 9*

# SPRING BULBS

With the exception of a few shrubs like forsythia and witch hazel and perennials like hellebores and pulmonaria, if you want early Spring flowers you have to plant bulbs. And though many of us are feeling discouraged because the deer eat the bloom off nearly everything, there is hope when it comes to bulbs, despite the fact that the deer are often starving at this time and willing to eat anything.



For starters try daffodils. Animals don't eat them because they're poisonous. Narcissi come in all sizes, many colors and shapes and if you plan it right can begin blooming in early March and continue through May. Some are fragrant and most will naturalize. They can be planted almost anywhere, in moist soil, in semi shade at the edge of the woods or in full sun. They can be planted in drifts by themselves or mixed with other bulbs like chionodoxa, scilla and muscari, which bloom about the same time. These bulbs, like fritillaria, hyacinthoides and galanthus (snow drops) are also "deer proof" and

can tolerate some shade and wet and will spread. Alliums don't spread but they can handle shade, drought and deer and they come in lots of wonderful shapes, sizes and colors.

Tulips of course are candy to deer, like day lilies and hosta. However, we've had luck with the small species tulips if they're planted in semi-protected spots near the house. It's hard to give up the beautiful tall tulips, but it's harder to plant them, watch them come up, bud and get eaten. These little species tulips are not a substitute but they are very nice.

These bulbs are just part of a long list of possibilities you can try. We've had good luck buying bulbs from Van Engelen (860-567-8734; [www.vanengelen.com](http://www.vanengelen.com)). Though they sell bulbs in bulk, they also sell collections of a variety of bulbs in smaller quantities. Whatever you plant, remember bulbs need fertilizing three times a year—when you plant, then in the early Spring to boost the foliage and flower and in late Spring to feed the bulb.

*Cellen Wolk*

# SIMON SAYS

*This is a family recipe we make a lot in the fall. It's easy, and it's fun to make with kids. I like to use two different kinds of apples in any apple dessert. I find that it adds a depth of flavor and texture. Some people like a handful of oatmeal in the topping. In that case leave out some flour. Use whole wheat pastry flour if you want to feel extra healthy. Serve Apple Crisp warm with vanilla ice cream.*

## APPLE CRISP : 6 Servings

6 tart apples

1/4 cup sifted flour

3/4 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup white sugar

1/8 teaspoon salt

grated nutmeg

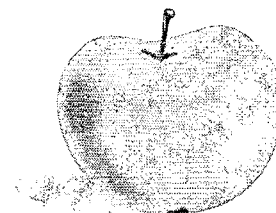
2 teaspoons lemon juice

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

6 tablespoons butter

1/4 cup or more chopped walnuts

Whipped cream or ice cream



1. Preheat oven to moderate (350°).
2. Peel, core and slice the apples into a bowl. Add 3/4 cup of the sugar (1/2 cup white, 1/4 cup brown), the spices and lemon juice. Mix lightly and pour into a buttered 1 1/2 quart casserole.
3. Blend the remaining sugar, flour, salt and butter to a crumbly consistency. Add the nuts and sprinkle over the apple mixture. Bake forty-five minutes, or until the apples are tender and the crust is nicely browned. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

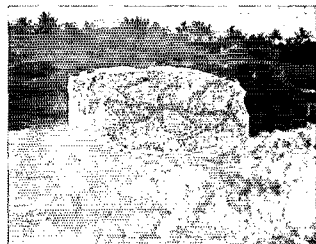
*Simon Gerard*

## RAPANUI



**P**alisadian Susan Shapiro, a documentary film maker, reports on her two month stay on Easter Island this summer where she shot 70 hours of film. "Rapanui (Easter Island) is the most remote place on the

planet where people live and civilization has flourished. It is best known for the nearly 1000 monolithic stone statues, the Moai. Being Rapanui we decided to make a documentary about the island from the perspective and in the words of the Rapanui people using the exquisite petroglyphs to illustrate the history of the island. Most other projects about the island have been from an outsiders perspective focusing on the Moai, rather than the people. The Rapanui culture, language, art, music and people are alive and vibrant. The project has been partly financed by a small seed grant from National Geographic and independent investors."



## EASTER ISLAND



**EDITORS NOTE:** Easter Island, a tiny 64 sq. mile volcanic Island, lies in the South Pacific, 2,340 miles from South America. Over the years studies have tried to understand the culture that produced these gigantic stone statues—some 30 to 40 feet tall and weighing 60 to 70 tons—called Moai.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR - INDIAN POINT UPDATE

**F**or past weeks the entire country has seen FEMA's competence in dealing with Katrina called into question, yet our region surrounding Indian Point has been forced to rely upon FEMA's rubber stamp that the evacuation plan is viable to protect public health and safety — even though former FEMA director James Lee Witt found the plan to be unworkable and unfixable. Sunsequent director Michael Brown, who resigned after Katrina, overrode our state and local authorities who refused to sign the unworkable evacuation plan and has permitted the NRC and Indian Point to continue endangering the lives of 20 million New York residents.

FEMA and the NRC seem clearly to be protecting the nuclear industry, not the public. At a recent NRC and FEMA meeting in Washington, D.C. it was shocking to hear that the two agencies are accepting "sheltering in place" as adequate, when evacuation is impossible. This is a 180 degree change from the 2003 recommendation by both FEMA and the NRC that evacuating, even directly under a radioactive plume, is always preferable to "sheltering in place" in order to reduce the public's radioactive exposure and injury.

Even though the America Thyroid Insitute and the

*Continued on Page 11*



# "DRAWINGS" BY HENRY SHRADY



Palisades Sculptor Henry Shradý's recent book "Drawings" is now at the Palisades Library. A signed, limited edition, consisting of 64 plates, the book's publication coincided with an exhibition of Henry's work in September at The Tasting Room in Manhattan.

Copies of "Drawings" are available by contacting the artist directly.

*"Henry Shradý's drawings have freshness and intimacy."*

—Michael Train, New York, 2005



## RIVERTOWN FILM SOCIETY

Saturday, Oct. 15, 8 p.m.

### PIZZICATA

Directed by Edoardo Winspeare  
93 minutes, Italy, 1996, in Italian  
with English subtitles

Saturday, Oct. 29, 8 p.m.

### STEAMBOY

Directed by Katshuhiro Otomo  
Animation, 126 Minutes, Japan, 2004 PG-13

Saturday, Nov. 19, 8 p.m.

### OFF THE MAP

Directed by Campbell Scott, 111 Minutes, USA,  
2003 PG-13  
Post-Film Discussion with Producer/  
Distributor Paul Cohen

Monday, Nov. 28, 8 p.m.

### GREY GARDENS

Directed by David and Albert Maysles  
Documentary, 94 Minutes, USA, 1975  
Post-Film Discussion with Director Albert Maysles

Saturday, Dec 3, 8 p.m.

### JAZZ ENTERTAINERS

Presented by The Chertok Jazz on Film Archive  
With Fats Waller, Cab Calloway, Luis Jordan, Louis  
Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, Slim Gaylord and others.  
Post-Film Discussion with Archivist Michael Chertok

All programs take place at the Nyack Center, Broadway at De Pew, in Nyack, except *Grey Gardens* to be shown at the Helen Hayes Theatre.

Tickets: \$10, \$8 students and seniors - May be purchased at the door.

Information (845) 353-2568 [info@rivertownfilms.org](mailto:info@rivertownfilms.org)

## FALL SEASON 2005

# PALISADES FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Member of the Ramapo

Catskill Library System

19 Closter Road

Palisades, NY 10964

Tel: 845-359-0136

Fax: 845-359-6124

pal@rcls.org, www.rcls.org/pal

**Library Closed: Columbus Day, October 10 and**

**Thanksgiving, November 23 and 24**

## LIBRARY HOURS:

Mon.-Thurs. 1:00-9:00

Friday 1:00-5:00

Saturday 11:00-5:00

Sunday 1:00-5:00



Receive timely overdue notices by email also. We recommend this system of notification as fast and cost effective, saving on paper and postage. From our home page click on "online forms," then "sign up for email notices" and fill in the request form.

## BECOME A LITERACY VOLUNTEER

The Literacy Volunteers of Rockland County work closely with our public libraries to provide this wonderful service. If you are 18 years or over and are willing to be trained for tutoring, you could be part of an exceptional experience. Imagine not being able to read for a day (an hour!), and then imagine being able to remove that handicap from someone's life. Applications are available at the reference desk.

## FALL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

All programs are free. Please register at the circulation desk.

### Story time with Nancy Russell

is held on Wednesday at 1:30. This program follows the school vacation calendar and is for ages 3 and up.

### Scarecrow Sensations

**Wednesday, September 21, 4:30 p.m.**

Read about scarecrows and make one to take home.

For ages 5 and up.

### Halloween Fun

**Tuesday, October 18, 4:30 p.m.**

Come in costume and hear some not-so-spooky stories.

For ages 2 to 4.

### Howling Halloween Hunt

**Wednesday, October 19, 4:30 p.m.**

Spooky stories, Boo-tiful bingo and creepy crafts.

For ages 5 and up.

### Spooky Songs and Stories

*A special program with Felix Pitre*

**Thursday, October 27, 4:30 p.m.**

Stories and music from South of the Border.

For ages 5 and up.

### Thanksgiving Gathering

**Wednesday, November 16, 4:30 p.m.**

Reading and crafts about the first Thanksgiving.

For ages 5 and up.



## EMAIL NOTIFICATION

Order your books from home and receive notification via email when your material arrives. We will be happy to show you how to search our online catalog, which includes the holdings of all the RCLS libraries. To access our web page use www.rcls.org/pal, then click on "library catalog" and search for desired items. Click on "request" and follow instructions.

## CITY DELIGHTS

Stop by the library and borrow one of our free museum passes – The Museum of Natural History or the Museum of the City of New York.

## INTERNET TUTORIALS

The library offers internet tutorials on Monday and Thursday evenings, and some weekends. Schedule an appointment at the reference desk.

## NEW NON FICTION

Diamond, Jared

Garen, Micah

Kellman, Stephen G

Levitt, Stephen

Winchester, Simon

Woodward, Bob

*Collapse*

*American Hostage*

*Redemption: The Life of Henry Roth*

*Freakonomics*

*A Crack in the Edge of the World*

*The Secret Man*

## NEW FICTION

Bernays, Anne

Coetze, J. M.

Gaitskill, Mary

Helprin, Mark

Myamoto, Teru

Plain, Belva

See, Lisa

Smith, Zadie

Tan, Amy

*Trophy House*

*Slow Man*

*Veronica*

*Freddy and Fredericka*

*Kinshu: Autumn Brocade*

*Red Leave*

*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*

*On Beauty*

*Saving Fish from Drowning*

## FORTHCOMING DVDS

*Because of Winn Dixie*

*Brothers*

*Mad Hot Ballroom*

*Mulan II*

*My Summer of Love*

*Mysterious Skin*

*Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*

# PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

P.O. Box 687, Palisades, New York 10964

Tel. 845-359-3147, Fax 845-365-0396

Church Office: 845-359-3147

## Palisades Presbyterian Church Calls Interim Pastor

It is with great pleasure and pride that the session of the Palisades Presbyterian Church, Palisades, NY, after an extensive search, announced that it has hired **Ray Bagnuolo** to serve as part-time Interim Pastor under a renewable one-year contract. Mr. Bagnuolo will begin his ministry on October 1, 2005. Because this is his first call in the Presbyterian Church (USA), he will be ordained on November 13, 2005 if the way be clear, at South Presbyterian Church, Dobbs Ferry, NY, where he served as ordained elder for six years and member and chair of committees for many more. He also served as Chaplain Intern for three CPE Units at Westchester Medical Center, and as Web Manager for the Presbytery of Hudson River and as Web Spinner for That All May Freely Serve, a national organization working for the ordination of qualified gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender candidates in PC (USA).

Ministry is Mr. Bagnuolo's third career. He spent several years in retail sales and marketing followed by many years as a special education teacher. He will continue his teaching while he serves in the Palisades church. He graduated from New York Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in 2003 and was certified to receive a call by the Hudson River Presbytery

in 2004. He has also completed the first half of interim training.

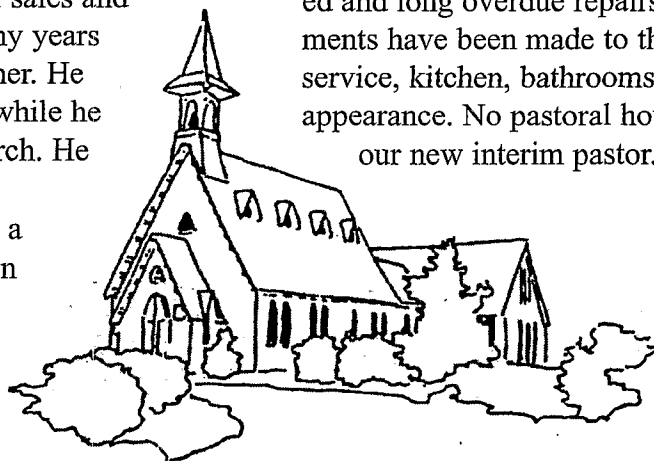
The congregation of Palisades Church already knows Ray because he has been a much-applauded Supply Pastor in the months since February and eagerly anticipates his further ministry.

### Hurricane Katrina

For additional opportunities to contribute to the victims, consider *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance* because it spends less than other organizations on administration and thus more of each dollar goes to relief. Send a check to Palisades Presbyterian Church with PDA in the memo or donate through [www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda).

### Palisades Presbyterian Church Manse

We are blessed that a friend of the church has moved into the manse. In exchange for living in the manse for two years, many much needed and long overdue repairs and improvements have been made to the roof, electrical service, kitchen, bathrooms and general appearance. No pastoral housing is needed by our new interim pastor.





# PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

Thursday, Oct. 20

7:30 p.m. at the Palisades Community Center

*Sponsored by the Palisades Civic Association.*

This is your opportunity to meet the candidates from the Republican and Democratic parties who are running for Supervisor, Town Council, Receiver of Taxes, and Highway Superintendent.

If you wish to become a member of the Civic Board Association, please call 359-6589. Membership contributions are welcome, P.O. Box 222, Palisades, N.Y.

*Eileen Larkin, President*

**VOTE**

**Tuesday Nov. 8  
6 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

**District # 12 at Palisades red brick  
school on Oak Tree Rd.**

**District # 50 at American Legion Hall  
on Rte. 340**

*Continued from Page 5*

## PALISADES HISTORY DAY



**O**n behalf of the Palisades Community Center Board, I would like take a moment to thank those who worked so hard on making Palisades History Day a success. The planning and undertaking of producing this event took a group of people who not only knew the history of Palisades but who were not daunted by creating such a production. The day brought in close to \$2,500, a fundraising event success! Also, many of you became first time PCC members, which entitles you to discounts in renting the building.

The diligent attention to historic detail and the actual cre-

ating of the panel exhibit showcasing the time line of Palisades from 1500 to the present, was the labor of love of the Palisades Historical Society and in large part due to Alice Gerard and Mary Ellen Ledwith's powerful energy. We thank them for providing our entire community with a permanent Palisades historical exhibit.

The movie component to the exhibit was also a labor of love by Palisadian Susan Shapiro as well as myself. On behalf of all of the sponsors of the event, I must thank Susan Shapiro for her commitment to the project and creating a wonderful archival documentary, which hopefully will be Part A of more parts to come. Robert Pechin, Director of Digital Services, from Ascent Media in Northvale came to the rescue making all the copies of the 2-part DVD set. We thank him and Mark Jeffers, Vice President of Ascent Media/East Coast Sales for their wonderful support. We hope you will consider purchasing this amazing documentary, which brings to life a personal retrospective of Palisades in the early years as reflected upon by many including Bill Knudson, Alice Gerard, Joe Hyde, Albon Man, Dorothy Thayer, Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg. Please call 359-3776 or email [miepbalm@aol.com](mailto:miepbalm@aol.com) if you would like to be placed on the list to obtain a set in the near future.

*Michelle Balm, President  
Palisades Community Center*



# BULLETIN BOARD



## Attention Palisades Kindergarten Parents

10964 wants to publish a photo of your kindergartner in the December issue. Please send photo to 10964 newsletter, P.O. Box 201, Palisades, NY no later than November 10.

**Note:** Photos will be returned. Include child's name and your phone number.

For information call Carol Elevitch, 365-3772.

### Children's Shakespeare Theater

will perform *A Winter's Tale* over two weekends in November at the Palisades Presbyterian Church: Nov. 11 & 12 and Nov. 18 & 19 at 8 p.m.; also Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. For information contact Diana Green at 365-9709 or [Dianacst@optonline.net](mailto:Dianacst@optonline.net)

**Leslie and Dennis Hayes** were blessed with two new grandchildren last December. Leslie's daughter, Elan Barish, who lives in Manhattan with husband, Jeff, gave birth to her first child, a baby girl, Sunny Hope, on December 8, 2004. Dennis' daughter, Elizabeth Elliot (Libby), who lives in London with her husband, Stephen, gave birth on December 11, 2004, to a baby girl, Caroline Frances. They also have a son, Nicholas, 2.

### Piermont Farmers' Market

every Sunday at M&T Bank Parking lot on Ash Street and Piermont Ave., rain or shine, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through October 30.

Farmers set up their tents filled with locally grown orchard fruits, tomatoes, corn, peppers, heirloom vegetables and unusual greens.

Shoppers will also find New York State wines and hard ciders, cakes, breads and organic cut flowers, locally grown pickled vegetables & eggs.

The Piermont Farmers' Market is a celebration of great food and community and is sponsored by Piermont Fine Wine and Spirits.

### Congratulations to Palisades Graduates Amanda Vogt and Samantha Orenstein.

Amanda, a Tappan Zee High School June graduate, has been selected for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars. The Society recognizes top scholars in the nation and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence.

Membership entitles students to a variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities and academic competitions.

Samantha graduated from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY and received her degree in Neuroscience and Behavior. In addition, she won the Neuroscience and Behavior Senior Prize for Excellence in both academic and independent work in the major.



**Simon Gerard** continues to teach his art classes for children and adults this fall as usual. The classes provide both fun and information: call Simon at 365-6312.

### Update: Rte. 9W golf range development

Larry Bucciarelli reports that the builders of the 16 house development have received a "condition of approval" from Orangetown's ACABOR (Architecture and Community Appearance Board of Review) and the town planning board.

They are now in the process of going before various agencies to get clearance to build a road from Rte. 9W into the development. This could take from 2 to 6 months and could involve changes demanded by the agencies.

After all the agencies have signed off, then a road can be built and a berm constructed as requested by Palisadians at the last public meeting. Before any houses can be built, the developers must meet with ACABOR and with HABR (Historic Areas Board of Review). These meetings will be open to the public and the public may comment; watch 10964 for notice of time and place.

**Marjorie Galen's** 2005 book *Summer Crafts: Fun and Creative Projects for the Whole Family* is filled with ideas, how-to directions, and photographs for kids and adults, check it out at the Palisades Library.

### Remember

"Meet the Candidates" October 20  
Vote Day: November 8

# LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY NEWS

## GEOPHYSICIST LYNN R. SYKES RETIRES

Lynn, a long-time resident of Palisades who held the title of Higgins Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences, has no intention of resting on his laurels. "I am currently working on a catalog of earthquakes in the greater New York City area going back to 1677 and look forward to writing a book on nuclear disarmament, a subject I have been involved with for the past forty years. In addition, I am completing a study entitled, When is long-term earthquake prediction possible: Examples from California, Japan, Alaska and Turkey."

Sykes says that interest in large earthquakes in California is growing as the centenary of the great San Francisco quake approaches in April 2006. For the past seven years he co-taught an undergraduate course at Columbia and Barnard on environmental hazards and disasters, which featured among other things the dangers to New Orleans of a major breach of its dykes. A symposium

in his honor on earthquakes is planned for the fall American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco, the prime international gathering in studies of the earth's interior, oceans, atmosphere and space. Pleased to have more time to travel, Lynn and his wife Kathy have just returned from three weeks in Europe visiting Prague, Budapest and Berlin.

Sykes is one of seventy-eight men and women featured in a newly released photographic book entitled, *Faces of Science*, published by W.W. Norton & Company with photos by Mariana Cook. "I feel honored to be included among the likes of James Watson and Francis Crick, discoverers of the structure of DNA, and Hans Bethe, one of the developers of the atomic bomb and how stars burn nuclear fuel." Photos from the book are on exhibition at the New York Academy of Sciences at 3 East 63rd Street, New York City, until October 14.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR - INDIAN POINT UPDATE

FDA have done extensive research on Potassium Iodine (KI) and have found it to be the most effective protection against radioactive iodine available, the NRC, the NEI (Nuclear Energy Industry) and FEMA are now questioning "the science."

Unbelievable that at this meeting when the NEI submitted a white paper regarding the need for only a 2 mile evacuation radius, rather than the currently accepted 10 mile one, the NRC endorsed it without question.

Early this year the NRC turned down a petition to require back up power for warning sirens. This summer and continuing into the fall the sirens for Indian Point have failed in Rockland, Westchester, Putnam and Orange numerous times. Embarrassed, Entergy finally agreed to replace them, in 2 years. If such a low tech problem as sirens cannot be fixed by the nuclear plant operators immediately, it makes you wonder how they keep the plant running safely. Tony Sutton, the head of Westchester Energy Services, put it succinctly "fix-

ing the sirens and having back up power for them is a no brainer."

Although Entergy and the NRC knew about the radioactive leak from the spent-fuel pool at Indian Point since September 2nd, they only reported it to the local authorities on September 20th. Radioactive cesium and cobalt were present.

To add insult to injury, during this time the county emergency planners have been meeting regularly with Entergy, FEMA and FDHS discussing safety issues at the plant. Both Spano and Vanderhoef expressed outrage at Entergy's failure to communicate with them and lack of confidence in Entergy's ability to run the plants.

It is imperative that we stop the relicensing of Indian Point so that other sources of power including geothermal, solar, wind and new generation clean coal can be funded and constructed to replace our aged and unnecessarily dangerous radioactive neighbor.

*Susan Shapiro*

# VICTOR POWELL, 1906 – 2005

Victor Powell, prominent musician and teacher, died May 1 at his home in Palisades at the age of 98. Mr. Powell was an accomplished organist, accompanist and pianist who continued to perform publicly until weeks before his death. He was the recitalist and assistant organist at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where he coached voice and rehearsed the Cathedral Boys Choir. Until recently, he was an examiner for the American Guild of Organists and was the original author of the A.G.O. Choirmaster's examination. A newspaper article two years ago suggested he was likely "the oldest working organist in the world". Mr. Powell played his last church service on March 6, 2005. He is best remembered as a beloved teacher and mentor for many musicians.

Victor was born on December 5, 1906 in the home of his Grandfather Michael Paggi, an early entrepreneur in Austin, Texas. The family still owns the ancestral property in downtown Austin which is a designated historical site. Victor learned to play the piano and read music as a young boy and according to news reports was considered a prodigy by many Austinites. His mother died when he was 4 and when he was 12, his Aunt Marie Paggi took him to Paris to study with pianists Isadore Phillippe and George Jacobs at the Schola Cantorum. He also studied organ under Louis Vierne, then organist at Notre Dame Cathedral, for whom he was required to turn pages and pull organ stops as part of his studies. He related the story of how Organist Vierne instructed him to deliver a basket of wine to the bowels of the Cathedral for the men on treadmill bellows of the grand organ, to ensure their stamina for an upcoming crescendo. Today, pipe organs are powered by electrical bellows.

He returned to Austin to attend the University of Texas. Because the university had no music department at the time, Victor obtained his B.A. in Romance Languages. During that time he served as organist for the University Baptist Church and supported himself by teaching pri-

vately. He performed frequent piano and organ recitals in Austin and Georgetown. His skill at sight reading and transposing music were fully developed by that time.

"After graduation, Victor returned to France to continue his organ study under Ribolotov at the Nice Cathedral and piano under Vincent D'Indy. During this time he prepared for and passed the examination to become a Fellow of Trinity College, London, before returning home.

In 1934 Victor married Mary Louise McDaniel of Austin. They moved to New York where Victor was assistant organist and recitalist at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine. He continued his organ studies under Coke-Jephcott and Carl Weinrich of Princeton University. In the mid 1940's he left the cathedral to become organist and choirmaster of Christ Episcopal Church on 71st and Broadway in Manhattan. There he assembled a professional choir of 24 voices who presented many outstanding performances. During these years



he completed his masters degree and professional diploma in musicology at Columbia University under Paul Henry Lang. He moved from New York City to Rockland County in 1944 and worked first at Grace Episcopal Church in Nyack. Later he went to the Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd in Pearl River completing his service on the lovely organ at the Tappan Reformed Church. He retired in the 1990's.

After retirement, Victor devoted himself with renewed focus to the keyboard, renewing his repertoire of Bach, Beethoven, Clemente, Liszt and Mendelssohn. His recent attention to his favorite composer, Chopin resulted in practice and performance of favored etudes.

The Powell's routinely spent summers in the mountains of Ruidoso, New Mexico. A skilled trout fisherman, he seldom returned home without a full creel of brown trout for the table. He also loved the game of bridge, enjoying duplicate tournaments. In later years, he played bridge with friends. He is survived by a son, Ernest who lives in Austin and Ruidoso, two daughters, Helen White of Diamond, Ohio and Robyn Fleenor of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

# MARGARET ROSS DIEDERICH

## 1925 – 2005

Margaret, who lived on Washington Spring Road from 1950 to 1998, died of a heart attack on January 23rd, 2005 in New York City at age 79. A Memorial Service was held at the Palisades Presbyterian Church on September 25th.

Margaret initiated her musical studies on the piano at the tender age of three and was switched to the harp by her late step-father, the Russian-born violist, composer, and fellow Palisades resident, Samuel Zimbalist, at age twelve.

Her professional career commenced just six months later, with her appearance as a harpist playing in the orchestra of a Deanna Durbin movie, "That Certain Age". A scholarship student of the great Marcel Grandjany and graduate of Juilliard, she performed and recorded under the batons of Toscanini, Ormandy, Stokowski, Mitropoulos and Bernstein and with such musical luminaries as Leontyne Price, Isaac Stern, Beverly Sills, Yehudi Menuhin and Joan Sutherland.

Staff harpist at both ABC and NBC before becoming a successful, free-lance "studio musician", she was one of the busiest in the commercial field, recording countless jingles, film & television scores as well as albums with Frank Sinatra, Miles Davis, Liza Minnelli, Tony Bennett, Barbra Streisand and the Beatles, to name but a very few. She was awarded the "Most Valuable Player Virtuoso" award by the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences in 1986, an honor bestowed only upon previous five-time winners.

Oddly, she herself seemed most impressed with having soloed at the White House for President Eisenhower. Odd, because she was to the left of left, politically speaking, somewhat reluctant to shake his hand at the time and would only, in much later years, come to appreciate his warnings about the military-industrial complex.

--"I'm one of the few people in this world who loves what she does. Whether I'm playing rock and roll or at the Philharmonic, I love the harp and what can be done with it, no matter what type of music I'm playing."



In her spare time, Margaret concertized and played weddings, funerals and fundraisers, just for the joy of it, many of them at the Palisades Church, which we lived next door to. She also raised three children.

Margaret worked at a time when not many women did, in a field with few female colleagues, which may account for her having been a fanatical poker player and equally avid Brooklyn Dodger's fan, known to swear like a sailor. She was intolerant of intolerance and did not generally suffer fools gladly, but under her sometimes brusque exterior, was one of the most compassionate, generous, gentle and loving persons I have ever known.

Margaret was blessed with a wonderful sense of humor and an extraordinary husband and marriage. She and my father eloped when she was seventeen, he twenty-one and as she was underage, had to go to South Carolina to do so. They were a love story "until death do us part". My father, an architect, photographer and artist, died one day short of his 80th birthday in July of 2000.

My parents were such a part of each other's lives for so long that it is near impossible for me to think of one without the other. They will be much missed. Margaret is survived by her half-sister, Hannah Harris, three children, Susan, Lynn and Michael, daughter-in-law Elizabeth, and two grand-daughters, Alana and Mikayla.

*Susan Diederich*





# EARLY DETECTION IS KEY TO SURVIVING BREAST CANCER



By Lisa Weinstock, MD

**R**ecent studies are beginning to confirm the link between early diagnosis and increased survival rates for breast cancer patients. The survival rate for breast cancer patients increased significantly from 1992-1996 with the largest increases in younger women. Medical experts attribute the gain to both earlier detection and treatment that is more effective. When breast cancer is detected before spreading, the five-year survival rate is now 97%.

The gold standard for early detection of breast cancer is still an annual mammogram. A 2004 study conducted in Finland found that the 10-year survival rate was higher among patients diagnosed by an annual screening mammogram than any other method. Other screening tools, including ultrasound and MRI also have a role in breast cancer detection. However, a mammogram is the place to start.

## **BASELINE AND REGULAR SCREENING RECOMMENDED**

Every woman should have a baseline mammogram by age 40, according to The American College of Radiology (ACR). Yearly mammograms are recommended thereafter. However, if you have a first-degree relative (mother or sister) who had breast cancer at a young age, you should have your first mammogram ten years prior to the age when your relative was diagnosed. A family history on your father's side is equally as important in determining when to start mammography screening.

## **TWO TYPES OF MAMMOGRAPHY**

There are two types of mammography screening that look for tumors: Conventional Film Screen and Digital. Conventional Film Screen technology was the standard until recently. X-ray films are taken of the patient and then developed and evaluated, a time consuming process. Digital Mammography is faster and uses less radiation than Film Screen. With Digital, the images are much clearer and can be manipulated electronically. The radiologist can magnify and optimize different views without having to take

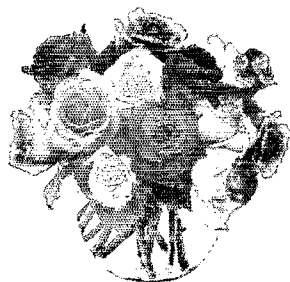
additional images. Additionally, Computer Aided Detection (CAD) acts as a second set of eyes and a second reading following the radiologist. It has been found to increase the early detection of cancer by 20%. With no film to develop, the radiologist can quickly analyze and evaluate the pictures. From a patient's perspective, the exam is shorter and minimizes anxiety since results can be presented immediately.

## **INNOVATION MAKING MAMMOGRAMS MORE COMFORTABLE**

Admittedly, many women put off their mammograms because of the discomfort involved. The Journal Cancer reported last year that a study of 72,000 women found that only 6 percent of the women who had mammograms in 1992 continued to have annual mammograms for the next 10 years, and the most frequently given reason for not continuing was discomfort. Some discomfort is unavoidable; compression of the breast is necessary for the image to be clear. However, technological innovations are addressing this problem. The newest mammography devices have flexible paddles that are more comfortable. Additionally, a new cushion called Mammopad is reducing the discomfort - by half according to many patients. The added comfort allows the technologist to increase compression for even better images. If you are a woman of forty years old or more, make sure your "to do" list includes scheduling an annual mammogram. It's more than a matter of health; a mammogram can save your life.

*Dr. Lisa Weinstock has over ten years experience reading mammograms since completing her fellowship in Imaging at Columbia Presbyterian University Medical Center in 1995. She completed a four-year residency in Diagnostic Radiology at Hackensack University Medical Center and an internship in Anatomic Pathology at Montefiore Medical Center. Dr. Weinstock attained her M.D. from the SUNY-Health Sciences Center in Brooklyn. Her practice, Women's Digital Imaging of Ridgewood, is located in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Dr. Weinstock can be contacted at 201/444-4484.*

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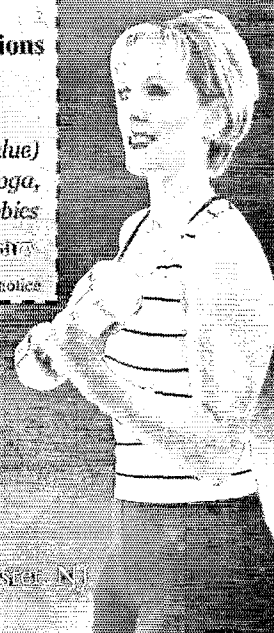
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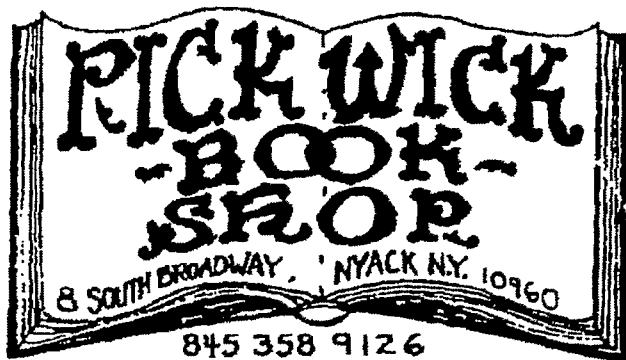
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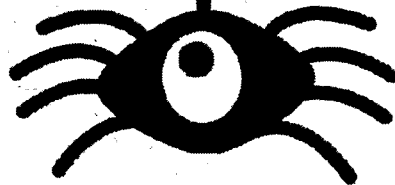
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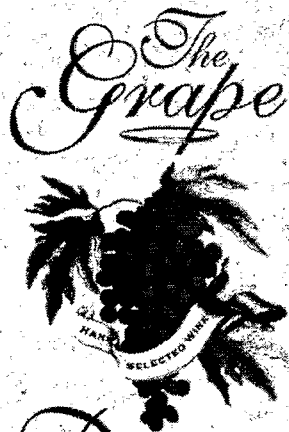
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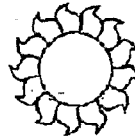
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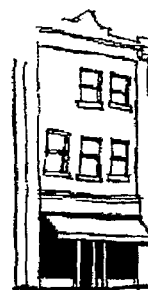
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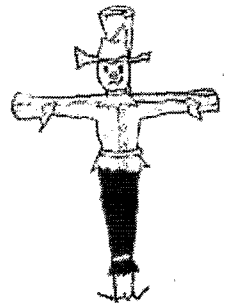
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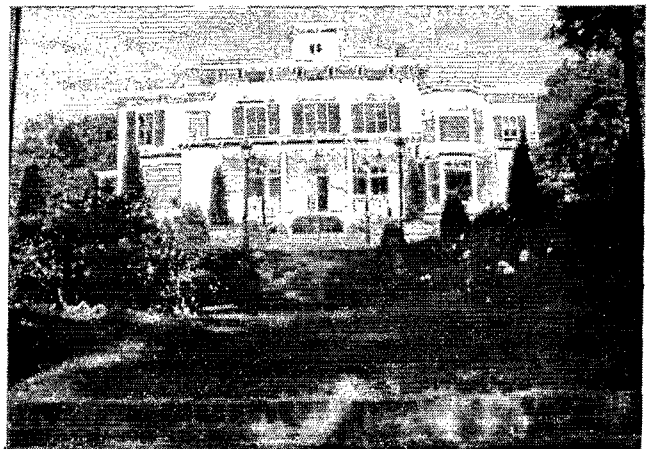
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