

10964

THE PALISADES NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2006 NUMBER 192

Notable Historians REMEMBERED



ALICE MUNRO HAAGENSEN

was born in 1900 at Waquoit Bay on Cape Cod, where her family had a summer place. Her father, a medieval historian, taught at the University of Pennsylvania, then at the University of Wisconsin in Madison (she remembered the lakes, the winter sports, walls of snow), and finally at Princeton as the head of the history department, always summering on the Cape.

Alice, the second youngest of five children in an "articulate family" (her words), attended Wellesley College and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1921.
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ELIZABETH ANN FINCK

On November 27th, 2005, Palisades lost one of its oldest residents, Elizabeth Ann Finck, who had lived in our village for 81 years. The pictures shown in the Parish House at her memorial service document her life here as a beautiful young girl, a happy bride, a busy wife and mother, a volunteer in local organizations, and a proud and affectionate grandmother. Liz was a gracious lady who established a warm and loving environment for her children and family. She also had a sharp wit and a keen understanding of human nature.

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It was through her work on the Library board that Alice first became interested in local history.

ALICE MUNRO HAAGENSEN

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She knew that she wanted to be a writer. After a year at the Sorbonne, she worked in New York as a reporter on the *Globe* (making \$5 a day) and then for awhile at Scribner's Press.

She met her husband, Cushman Haagenzen, whose family had come to North Dakota from Norway in the 1850s, on a transatlantic ship - he was the ship's doctor, newly qualified, and she was returning from Europe. She told how he saw her coming aboard and had her seated at his table. By the end of the voyage, they were engaged. Throughout their sixty-year marriage, she was his constant helpmate. She ran the house, entertained colleagues and students and visiting dignitaries, helped with the editing of his book, *Diseases of the Breast* (he was a foremost expert on breast cancer), taught herself Greek when he opened a clinic in Athens and needed an interpreter.

THE HAAGENSENS came to Palisades in 1941, renting Dean and Mrs. Robbins's house on Woods Road for \$85 a month. A year or two later, they bought the house, paying much less than the real value because the Robbins's wanted them to have it. It was a medieval-revival house with fourteen outside doors, a secret room, a tiny consecrated chapel, and three furnaces. They made it very much theirs for fifty years.

After her husband's death, in 1990, the house was sold. Alice moved to an apartment in the home of her daughter, Alice Gerard, and then, for the last four years of her life, to Nyack Manor in Valley Cottage. She died there, in her sleep, in January, at the age of 105.

Alice was a walker, out every day in all seasons. Liking to walk was among her

secrets for a long life (the others were having intellectual interests, a good family and being an optimist). She was a hands-on gardener who hated to see a plant go homeless and always brought boxes of perennials, freshly dug, to the Palisades Library spring plant sales.

IN THE VILLAGE Alice involved herself with the school and with the Library. Her daughters Alice and Karen attended the Palisades school, which had two classrooms for its eight grades. Parents took a great interest in school affairs - there were meetings and arguments about lunches and plays. The Library was run entirely by volunteers - it was not until 1962 and after much soul-searching that it joined the Orangetown library system. It was through her work on the Library board that Alice first became interested in local history.

In 1944, the Palisades Library had to move from its quarters in the Big House on 9W. Alice was packing up books when she realized how much history was there - maps, deeds, photographs, a many-volume early nineteenth-century diary, Winthrop Sargent Gilman's notes describing the village over a century ago - almost all of it unknown. Then, in 1957, Alice and others formed a Historical Committee associated with the Library. In the 1970s members decided to write a book on the history of Palisades, each member taking a topic. Alice worked on the story of the blockhouse that had guarded the ferry route and been an important communications center during the Revolutionary War. The rest of the group dropped out. So Alice went ahead and wrote the book they were planning by herself. It took an extraordinary amount of work, searching through old documents, maps and photographs, not only locally but throughout national, state and county records. *Palisades and Snedens Landing* was published in 1986 and was dedicated "To my helpful husband." It is no less than a source book for the history of Palisades from the time of the

Tappan Indians to the turn of the century, a book that is lively, scholarly, readable, and comprehensive. Its miscellany of appendices shows the range of the author's interests: material too interesting to leave out but too particular for inclusion in the main text.

Historic Houses of Palisades, published by the Historical Committee in 2001, is largely based on Alice's encyclopedic knowledge of the village and its inhabitants. In the 1980s she helped with applications that resulted in two Palisades districts and several individual houses being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. She was consulted on Sneden family history by the Virginia Historical Society and received the Rockland County Historical Society's Zehner award for her work. She continued to collect material on the early twentieth century and her own period in Palisades, planning for a continuation of her book.

— CAROLINE TAPLEY

ELIZABETH ANN FINCK

continued from Cover

Liz was born on June 16, 1923, in Toronto Canada. When she was six months old she was adopted by Miss Jennie Fox of Palisades. Liz's childhood years were spent in Seven Oaks, the grand house at the top of Ludlow Lane, where Miss Jennie lived with her brother Arthur and his wife Ada. Liz graduated from Dwight School for girls and then attended Katherine Gibbs School. During her teen-age years she was active in the Palisades Presbyterian Church. She also played the piano and enjoyed opera. In 1944 she married Arnold Finck, who had grown up in Grandview. They moved to Washington Spring Road where Arnold still lives.

The couple had three children: Donald, Robert, and Carolyn.

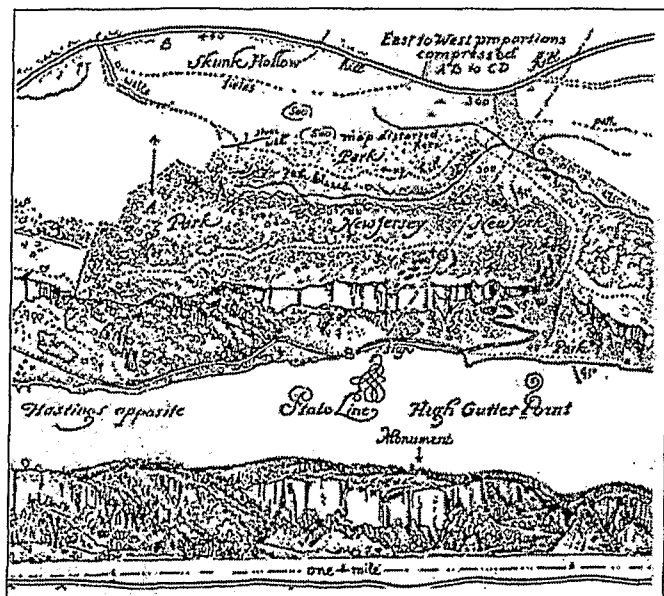
LIZ WAS ALWAYS A GOOD NEIGHBOR and an active presence in the community. She became chairman of the Palisades Historical Committee in 1961 and was so satisfactory that, in spite of her frequent protests, she was kept on as chairman for twenty-five years. The historic files with information and photographs of Palisades houses were in her care until she died. Liz was a trustee of the Historical Society of Rockland County for more than ten years. She also actively supported the Community Playgroup and served on its board of trustees for 18 years. The Palisades Presbyterian Church was an important presence in her life: she and Arnold were married there, as was her daughter Carolyn and later her granddaughter Heather. Over the years her family grew and by 2005 she was the loving grandmother of eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

It feels as though our community lost a dimension, a particular perspective on time, when Liz left us. As her nephew John Arnold Finck said, "Liz and Palisades are inseparable. How could it be otherwise? She is the only person I know who lived an entire life, not only in the same town, but on [almost] the same piece of land. The house where she grew up, Seven Oaks, looks down on the house, next door to the church, where she grew old. Her mother's pasture, which bordered this church, where cows once grazed, became in time the backyard where her boys Don and Bob played football and soccer....it was fascinating to walk with her along Ludlow Lane or down to the Landing or along Woods Road because she knew the history of every house along the way, who lived there, when, and usually a tale or two about its former resident." This information, preserved in her files, became an essential part of the book *Historic Houses of Palisades, New York*.

— ALICE GERARD



It feels as though our community lost a dimension, a particular perspective on time, when Liz left us.



PALISADES HISTORY

Skunk Hollow

BY KATHLEEN SYKES

THROUGHOUT MOST of the nineteenth century, a small community of free blacks existed along the New York/New Jersey state line about a mile south of Palisades. Known as Skunk Hollow, it was settled by former slaves and their descendents 60 years before slavery was abolished in New Jersey. The first known deed was to Jack Earnest, a former slave, who, on January 1, 1806, paid \$87.50 for five acres and 30 square rods; in 1822 he purchased another six acres.

While blacks initially referred to the entire area as "The Mountain," whites sometime later called the New Jersey community Skunk Hollow (perhaps for a spring plant that proliferates in area swamps) and the land just into New York they called Turkey Ridge. The wooded terrain had been deforested by its white owners, then sold off because of difficulty farming the land with its rock outcroppings, steep hills and swamps. Blacks, willing to buy degraded land for a home site even though it was marginal for agriculture, may have been drawn to its isolation.

DETAIL OF 1921 PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK MAP

indicating Skunk Hollow.
Map charted
approximately 10 years
after abandonment
of the community.

It appears from tax records that Skunk Hollow settlers, while poor, were more prosperous than other black families in the township. By 1854, most Skunk Hollow residents owned property. Indications sug-

gest a stable and enduring male-dominated family structure. It is likely that freed blacks worked for former owners. The family name most frequently documented is Oliver. Jim Oliver, a former slave, acquired land in 1840 when Johannes Blauvelt, his master, died and gave him his freedom. The Olivers and the Whiteheads established burial grounds on their property. (The Palisades Cemetery includes a tombstone of baby Jane Sicso who died in 1846. It was moved from Skunk Hollow in 1974.) Some of the long time inhabitants of Skunk Hollow were the Cartwrights, Siscos, Treadwells, Millers, Browns and Johnsons.

Economic and social ranking existed within the group. By 1860, the wealthiest man in Skunk Hollow was William Thompson (Reverend Billy), an African Methodist minister who had purchased Jack Earnest's property upon his death at 71. The religious leader was a binding force in the community, building a church between 1856 and 1860. Most likely the first church of its kind in Bergen County, it occupied a pivotal position in the black community.

In the 1850s, a piece of land on present Route 340 was also purchased and the "Old Swamp Church" built to accommodate members who had moved from the Mountain. Thompson was its pastor until his death in 1886. In 1889, with a declining community, the Swamp Church was moved several miles north to Sparkill. Called St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church, it was completed in 1897 and in 1910 became incorporated with the Methodist-Episcopal Church in Piermont. As more people moved out of Skunk Hollow, the Mountain church had only limited services and by 1900 was abandoned.

Skunk Hollow reached its greatest growth by 1880 with thirteen households and 75 people but, according to census records, five years later the number of households had dropped to six with 26 inhabitants. Joan Geismar, a doctoral student of anthropology at Columbia University who based her 1982 dissertation, *The Archaeology of Social Disintegration in Skunk Hollow: A Nineteenth-Century Rural Black*

Community, on fieldwork at the site coupled with census data, tax records, an unpublished diary and local history states, "The disintegration of Skunk Hollow can be chronologically tied to the loss of status of its ranking individual, the Reverend William Thompson... perhaps the result of his death or inactivity."

This was a time of change. The passage of New Jersey's first major civil rights law in 1884 guaranteed all New Jersey residents equal access to public

THIS WAS A TIME OF CHANGE.

The passage of New Jersey's first major civil rights law in 1884 guaranteed all New Jersey residents equal access to public accommodations and jury service.

accommodations and jury service. Rural areas had become less isolated with technological changes, new roads and railroads. A road built in the 1870s linked Skunk Hollow with Closter four miles to the south and Palisades less than a mile north.

Ms. Geismar reports that Skunk Hollow was abandoned between 1907 and 1911 with some of the inhabitants moving to Turkey Ridge, a small community of both blacks and whites. (The original road to Turkey Ridge ran to the east of 9W through the Mann farm orchard at Highland Avenue and what is now Washington Spring Road.) Others settled in Closter or Sparkill.

While large parts were abandoned by 1911, other sections of the Mountain continued to be lived in. The February 20, 1979 issue of *The Journal News* reports, "Several families remained until the Great Depression when much of the Mountain properties were sold for unpaid taxes and the families evicted. Even so, the houses still continued to be used as summer homes...right up to WWII."

Geismar states, "By the 1930s, the land constituting the core of Skunk Hollow was purchased by the Rockefellers and donated to the Palisades Interstate Park." In 1954 the Palisades Park Commission bulldozed a number of the abandoned buildings while constructing the Parkway. The land now belongs to the Borough of Alpine, Columbia University

(Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and the Florence Lamont Nature Sanctuary) and the Palisades Interstate Parkway. Little remains of the original structures.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Slavery existed in New Jersey for 200 years, ending in 1865 with the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment. Prior to this, slaves were freed after serving in the Revolutionary War or with their masters' approval. Some were descendents of slaves freed during colonial times by the Dutch West India Company and others, like the Ciscos whose American ancestor arrived by Spanish ship in 1640, were never slaves. Free blacks were denied the right to vote; 1807 legislation, in effect until 1875, limited the vote to free white males.

Copies of Ms. Geismar's dissertation are available at the Palisades Library. Much of this information is based on her findings.



On April 1st, Eric Nelson, with New Jersey Palisades Interstate Park, will be leading a walk to Peanut Leap Cascade (also referred to as Half Moon Falls and Eagle's Ledge), the Mary Tonetti Italian Gardens and Skunk Hollow. The four mile two-hour hike starts at 10:00a.m. at the Stateline Lookout. Several of the trails are steep.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
call Eric at 201-768-1360, x 208
www.NJPalisades.org

DEVELOPERS MAKE STEADY PROGRESS WITH 9W GOLF SUBDIVISION

BY GRETA NETTLETON

THIS SPRING you'll probably have to move quickly to get in your last swings at the 9W Golf Range. Approval for the residential subdivision on the 24.5-acre site is rapidly nearing completion, according to Debbie Arbolino at the Orangetown Building Department. "This one has gone pretty fast—they are pretty professional and right on top of things," she added.

The developer, MWD Star Group LLC, of Closter, New Jersey, will be able to close the deal to buy the property from its current owners when the Orangetown Planning Board, the lead agency in their approval process, gives its final approval. The conditions required by both boards have been largely resolved to the Planning Board's satisfaction. At a February 8 meeting, it was determined that the developers will put in street lights. Their map will be amended when light specs are received from Orange and Rockland. The final approval will be secure once the street light scheme is added to the plan.

In early February, Keith Michaels, a partner in the architectural firm of Michaels and Waldron Architects, of Edgewater, New Jersey and a principal of MWD Star Group, told 10964 that he expects to close the deal without any further delays and to begin construction this spring. Michaels said that it is still an open question whether MWD will be the builder, or whether some other party will undertake that task. The houses are planned to sell for \$2 million and up, and to be 5,000 square feet and up in size.

And what will these new houses look like? Unlike

most residential architectural firms, Michaels and Waldron Architects does not appear to maintain a website. Michaels' partner, Robert E. Waldron, was the architect for Diamond Beach, a 96-unit, 7-story residential complex in Long Branch, N.J. Plans for the development called for a façade made of white stucco and quartz crystal on floors one through six, with clear, non-reflective, insulated glass, so that "the crystal will reflect, sparkle and shine in the sun," according to Waldron. A 27,000-square-foot roof garden was planned and the unusually shaped roofline was to "seem as though eight consecutive waves are cresting," with roof areas, including the top of the wave design, to be colored light blue and green.

So will these \$2 million houses sell? This uncertainty has fueled an active rumor mill about the ultimate fate of the 9W golf development. Some locals are even wondering if the entire \$14 million parcel might be coming up for sale again, or be flipped, with its changed use status, adding substantial value even before the first brick has been laid. Although one area realtor claims that houses at this price point are selling well, other knowledgeable observers are inclined to be more pessimistic. It's not hard to notice that a number of \$2 million houses with historic charm and a river view have been for sale for months, even years in Palisades. By the time these new, less-advantaged ones get through the lengthy Historic Board's approval process, the boom could really be over.

THE PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

THE PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION was formed more than 25 years ago to preserve the quality of life here in Palisades. The issues we faced were zoning, flooding and trucks. Today, Palisades is still the bucolic community we moved into. However, all around us, zone changes are being proposed. The most significant is for the Rockland Psychiatric Center. At least 600 residential units have been proposed for this site. Nearly 250 of these for seniors (over 55 years of age) have already been approved and another 175 are before the Town Board. The property alongside Lowe's is to be developed into two hotels plus a strip mall.

The effects of these developments will affect all of us. We will see an increase in our taxes because of their impact on sewers, police, parks and recreation, and our volunteer ambulance and fire departments. Concerns have been voiced about the devaluing of homes if the real estate market becomes a "buyers" market.

Recently, the Town Board voted not to allow the public-portion of their meetings to be televised by Cablevision. The above issues are usually talked about during this portion; now they will not be aired. A disservice to all of us.

A new Orangetown Citizens Committee is being formed to address taxes, development, quality of roads, air pollution, etc. It is open to all who wish to make their voices heard. We hope to make this a town-wide citizens committee. If you are interested, call me after

February 16th at 359-6589.

Please join the Palisades Civic Association. We need three new Board members and increased membership to continue. Membership fee is \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 for two people from the same family. Contributions can be sent to the Palisades Civic Association, Box 222. We are planning a meeting for April 19th, Wednesday, at 7:30 pm and our guest speaker, hopefully, will be Legislator, Denise Kronstadt.

— EILEEN M. LARKIN, PRESIDENT

IN THE GARDEN

HELP SAVE NATIVE PLANTS and beautify your garden too! On Saturday, April 29th, the **Wildflower Native Plant Center** at Winchester Community College in Valhalla N.Y. will host its annual plant sale. This event is a great way to buy beautiful additions to your garden, whether it be a woodland environment or in a sunnier locale. The sale also supports the legal propagation of native wildflowers and other plants threatened by habitat loss, over development and other factors.



find a good selection. Many people pre-order, but that deadline of March 1 has already passed. Get on their mailing list for next year: The Native Plant Center, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, New York 10595. The Native Plant Center is the first national affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. The Center offers lectures and there's The Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden on campus containing native species that thrive in the Northeast.

— GRETA NETTLETON

Other area plant sales include the following:

Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens

203-322-6971
www.bartlettarboretum.org
151 Brookdale Road
Stamford, Connecticut 06903
Saturday, May 13th
10:00am to 3:00pm
Perennials, trees and shrubs.
There are ninety-one acres of formal gardens, wildflower meadows and red maple wetlands here.

Lyndhurst

914-631-4481, www.lyndhurst.org
635 So. Broadway
Tarrytown, N.Y. 10591

Reading the list of plants sounds like a recitation of poetry fragments. Fireweed, Dungeness Rose, Quaker Ladies, Willow-leaved Mountain Mint, Lady Slipper Orchid, Yellow Trillium and other rare plants range in price from \$6.50 to \$40.00. These are plants that evolved right in our area and are therefore tough and resilient and will naturalize easily. They also lend a magical, delicate quality to plantings.

The sale is so popular that you must arrive the minute it starts to

ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

Saturday, May 6
10:00am to 2:00pm
Featuring hard-to-find-perennials, woodland plants and alpine along with trough containers.

GARDEN CLUB

OF IRVINGTON-ON-HUDSON

Saturday, May 13
10:00am to 2:00pm
Yearly sale of annuals and perennials by knowledgeable Garden Club members. The Gothic mansion is surrounded by 76 landscaped acres, which includes lovely fern and rose gardens. Sales are held at the Greenhouse.

The New Jersey Botanical Garden at Skylands

973-962-9534 or 962-7527
Ringwood State Park
Morris Road, Ringwood, N.J.
Saturday and Sunday, May 6 - 7,
10:00am to 4:00pm
Perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs, vegetables, herbs. Skylands estate has a Tudor-style house designed by architect John Russell Pope for investment banker Clarence McKenzie Lewis. The 96-acre botanical garden is open every day.

Palisades Library Plant Sale

845-350-0136
Palisades Community Center
Saturday, May 13
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
This annual event features fun, food and plants.

WELEDA OPENS ITS DOORS

THE IMPRESSIVE Greek Revival structure at the corner of 9W and Closter Road has just added a new page to its colorful history. Built as a Methodist Meeting House in 1859, it has also served as a location for numerous movies. In 1935 it was transformed into Yonderhill, an antiques shop and auction house and last October, after extensive restoration, the classic building reopened as the U.S. headquarters and flagship shop for Weleda. An 85-year-old Swiss-based pharmaceutical and cosmetics firm located in over thirty countries, Weleda is the largest biodynamic company in Europe.

The new location has an apothecary for prescriptions and over-the-counter homeopathic and anthroposophic remedies as well as a wide range of personal care products from skin lotions, toners and oils to lip and foot balms, hair oil and deodorants. All are a blend of natural substances free from synthetic additives, colorants and fragrances. Weleda grows over 300 plants in their gardens in Switzerland, France and Germany with no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Some of the natural ingredients include wild rose (Weleda is the number one user of rose oil in the world), iris, lavender, almond, rosemary, birch, pine and lemon.

Weleda plans to offer holistic facials and massages in the near future. For more information call 800-241-1030 or go online at www.weleda.com.

The shop is open Monday to Friday from 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

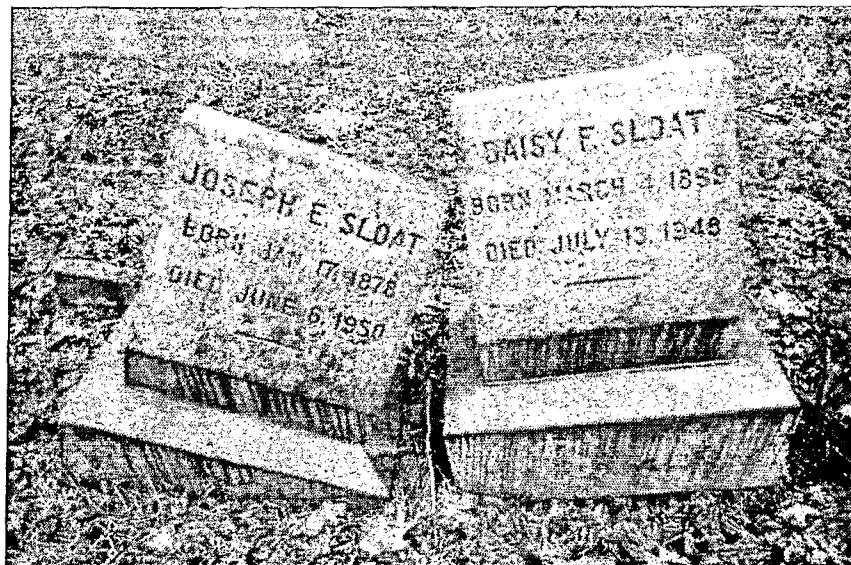


PHOTO: ROBERT POMANN

PALISADES HISTORY

PALISADES CEMETERY

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS of "Palisades History Day" last June was a tour of the Palisades Cemetery, which contains the gravesites of many locally renowned people. Consisting of three acres on the north side of Closter Road, its entrance gate is behind 15 Closter Road. It was originally the Lawrence family burial ground and stayed in the family until about 1892 when it was bought, in pieces, by Sam Brown. It passed to his son, George, then to his widow, Helen, who sold it to real estate dealer Karl Kirshner in 1949. It was then sold to Adolfo Luca, of Brooklyn, in the early 1960s. There are close to 370 plots; of these about 200 are unsold. Plots can still be purchased from Mr. Luca (845) 566-0979. The cemetery is open daily.

Below is a brief description of some of the gravestones.

Mary Lawrence (d: 1774) and **Jonathan Lawrence** (The "Elder Senior") (b: 1695-d: 1777). These are the oldest stones in the cemetery.

Jonathan Lawrence Jr. (b: 1759-d: 1802). Revolutionary War veteran and grandson of Jonathan Lawrence. The Palisades Lot Owners Tribute (PLOT) structurally restored his headstone in 1998.

Mary "Mollie" Sneden, (b: 1709-d: 1810). Mollie and her husband were the first Snedens of Sneden's Landing. Robert died before 1756. Mollie then became the operator of the ferry across the Hudson River to Dobbs Ferry. A new headstone was erected in 1982.

Nicholas Gesner (b: 1765-d: 1858). He kept a diary from 1829 to 1850 that chronicled life in Palisades. Besides being an active farmer, he was a schoolteacher, surveyor and lawyer for his neighbors. Gesner was the original owner of one of the oldest area houses at 95 Closter Road built in 1793.

Baby Jane Sisco (d: 1846, fourteen days old). Jane's stone is the only one left from the 'Mountain Church' cemetery at Skunk Hollow settlement. The stone was moved to Palisades Cemetery in 1974.

Sam Brown (b: 1847-d: 1918). He owned the cemetery and greenhouses where the Palisades Library now stands. His son George who was Sheriff of Rockland County inherited these.

Winthrop Sargent Gilman, Jr. (b: 1839-d: 1923). An early historian of Palisades, he built and owned Neiderhurst estate on Ludlow Lane. In 1863 Gilman designed and founded Palisades Presbyterian Church. He also wrote an extensive Library subject index.

Adele (b: 1910-d: 1977) and husband **Harry Sisco** (b: 1904-d: 1976). Adele was the first cook at the Palisades School in the 1940s.

Mike Evans (b: 1886-d: 1940). African-American World War I veteran. Buried in the farthest northwest corner of the cemetery.

Post Monument - Abram (Abraham) Post (b: 1814-d: 1872) and his descendants. Mr. Post gave land to seven of his eight children on the south side of Oak Tree Road, which became known as Post Row. His family donated land for the Palisades School (now the Community Center).

August Dumpkin (b: 1854-d: 1922). He operated a blacksmith shop on Oak Tree Road next to present day post office in the late 1800s to early 1900s.

Holstead "Hollie" Post (b: 1870-d: 1948). Post cut and delivered ice in a horse-drawn wagon from his family's large ice pond on Closter Road behind Albon Man's house at 61 Closter Road.

Charles Waldron (b: 1858-d: 1935) and wife **Catherine** (b: 1885-d: 1955). Proprietors of the Country Store located at the intersection of Oak Tree and Closter Roads from 1930 to 1940s.

Harry Schaffer (b: 1884-d: 1957). He owned land along Oak Tree Road. Locally famous for his turkey shoots and his baseball field where semi-pro teams played. Spectators watched the games

on Sunday afternoons in the 1920s.

Harold Post (b: 1898-d: 1970). Son of Hollie Post. In the 1920s he delivered ice in a truck, which doubled as a school bus. He also owned a gas station on the western side of 9W next to Yonderhill.

Fay Hollingshead (Ellison) (b: 1948-d: 1988). First female pastor at the Palisades Presbyterian Church from 1975 to 1981.

Kathleen Stewart Martine (b: 1887-d: 1991). She was the organist and choir director at the Palisades Presbyterian Church from 1944 to 1980.

Mildred Post Rippey (b: 1901-d: 1995). A local personality and historian, she was the librarian at the Palisades Library from 1948 to 1983 and the last "Post" to live on Post Row.

Helene Stansbury (b: 1912-d: 1999). Founder of PLOT in 1982. This organization was started to maintain and preserve the cemetery after it had been neglected for many years.

Much of the historical information about the cemetery was obtained from Alice Haagensen's book, *Palisades and Snedens Landing*.

— CAROL AND JOHN KNUDSON

RESTAURANT REVIEW

THE EXCELLENT VILLAGE GRILLE restaurant has been reviewed by the New York Times in May 2003 and again by the Journal News in March 2004 as well as by Zagat Survey.

Rather than concentrate solely on the food, we would like to remind readers of the restaurant's link to Palisades. The owner and chef, Khaled Elkady, is recognized by many for his mouth-watering Middle-Eastern and American food at the Oasis Grill, located in the old gas station on Route 9W in Palisades. Khaled was born in Egypt, one of four siblings, and arrived in the United States in 1991. Learning to cook "on the job" he attracted lunchtime food-lovers to the Oasis from 1991 until 1997.

Several of the dishes, including his famous falafel sandwiches, had a Middle-Eastern flavor, but the old reliables like hamburgers and hot-dogs were also popular. Each day a line formed at lunch time - at last, we had a great alternative to the usual fast food in the area.

First moving the business to Nyack, he then opened the Village Grille in Tappan in 2002. It's a charming addition to the neighborhood - a very pretty room, nicely lit and furnished, with a soothing atmosphere. The service is always friendly and efficient, even on busy weekend evenings. Khaled handles nearly all of the food preparation and still manages to be up front in the dining room to greet customers. He is justifiably proud of his wine list

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LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2006 PUBLIC LECTURES
MONELL AUDITORIUM
All Lectures 3:00 - 4:00 pm.
Admission is \$5.00 at the door.
Space is limited. For more information, contact: (845) 365-8634 or www.ldeo.columbia.edu

Sunday, March 26, 2006
Is the Earth's Core Leaking?
*David Walker, PhD, Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory*

Against probability, the Earth's liquid-metal outer core may be leaking. How this happens is not yet clear. Maybe cooling upsets chemical balances. Perhaps activity in the biosphere produces materials that are corrosive to the core. How do we understand what

goes on thousands of miles deeper than any mine? High-pressure chemistry laboratory experiments provide some answers.

Sunday, April 9, 2006
Climate Change Problem: A Permanent Underground Carbon Storage Solution?
*Juerg Matter, PhD,
Doherty Associate Research Scientist
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory*

Enhanced global warming as a result of carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion is one of the most significant environmental problems of this century. Juerg Matter will discuss the potential of carbon sequestration as a climate mitigation technology, and will show how rocks in the deep underground can be used to convert carbon dioxide to a stable mineral form.

Sunday, April 30, 2006
The 100th Anniversary of the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906: What have we learned since then about the earthquake process and prospects for earthquake prediction?
*Lynn Sykes, PhD,
Higgins Professor Emeritus
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory*

The Sumatra and Pakistani earthquakes and Hurricane Katrina are reminders of the great damage and loss of life that can accompany natural disasters. The anniversary of the damaging San Francisco shock of April 1906 is an opportunity to examine progress that has been made in understanding earthquakes and what critical knowledge is still elusive.

Sunday, May 21, 2006
The Katrina Disaster: A Poor World Tragedy in a Rich Country
*John Mutter, PhD, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Deputy Director/Associate Vice Provost,
The Earth Institute at Columbia University*

The Hurricane Katrina catastrophe and the tsunami of 2004 bear disquieting similarities in their consequences on human populations. The number of lives lost in Katrina is comparable to developing world disasters, with the majority of the fatalities among the poor. The vulnerability to natural catastrophes of the poorest within rich societies has never been as apparent as now.



PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER WELCOMES NOTED ARTIST

ELAINE SMOLLIN will be working as artist-in-residence at the Community Center this spring. Elaine was a visiting scholar at New York University's Center for Art and Public Policy at the Tisch School of the Arts for 2004-2005: serving as a cultural historian, she worked with earth scientists and archaeologists who allowed her to draw or photograph their findings. These drawings have been exhibited in Europe and are the center of several essays published in the British Magazine, *Next Level*.

A graduate of Pratt Institute, Elaine taught painting and

drawing at Rhode Island School of Design and NYU. Her specialty is drawing from nature. After living in Sneden's Landing in 2003, she amassed hundreds of sketches of elevations of the Palisades landscape and is now at work on five drawings in handmade cherry branch charcoal on watercolor paper, each measuring 8 x 10 feet. She is also a field archaeologist; her naturalistic drawings recently won a National Endowment for the Arts grant.

Recently interviewed about her feelings for Palisades, Ms. Smollin commented, "The first time I saw this landscape in 2001, I was deeply moved by not only its intimate beauty, but, moreover, by how the great variations among land forms defy the ability to make a straightforward pictorial depiction of a scene here."

"My student life in New York City, with studies at Pratt and NYU, led to a long association with intellectual matters that threatened to overpower my eagerness to be true to naturalist form. The film essay I wrote in

Palisades in 2003 combined philosophy and semiotics (the study of symbolic visual language); this made my non-verbal appreciation all the more pleasurable! I was saved from over-intellectualization by the force of beauty in nature here. The opportunity to work here again will allow me to advance the naturalistic side of my work over the intellectual."

Ms. Smollin's drawing workshops/demonstrations will be held from 2:00 to 4:00pm on Sunday, March 12; Sunday, April 30 and Sunday, May 12 at the Palisades Community Center. For further information or to reserve tickets contact Michele Balm at 359-3776 or via email: miepbalm@aol.com.

Note: We are currently searching for new artists from the area who could utilize the space for their creative endeavors on a limited basis.

— MICHÈLE A. BALM



BULLETIN BOARD

The Rivertown Film Society returns with more award-winning films that seldom make it

to local theatres. Here are several upcoming ones.

Sunday, April 2, at 7:30 pm

Me and You and Everyone We Know (R rating), won awards at Sundance and Cannes Film Festivals.

Saturday, April 22, at 8:00 pm

This Land is Your Land, selected for the 2006 Whitney Biennale. There will be a discussion with filmmaker Daisy Wright afterwards.

Films are shown at the Nyack Center, Broadway and Depew Avenue, Nyack. Admission is \$10 (seniors and students \$8). Call 845-353-2568 or visit www.rivertown-films.org for additional films.

The Joyous Art of Marionettes: Remembering Paul Peabody opens on Sunday, March 12, at The Historical Society of Rockland County and runs through June 11. The exhibition will present Paul

Peabody's creations in an exhibit of works that have delighted children and grownups for close to forty years. Paul Peabody's legacy encompasses a world of marionettes and puppets, illustrations and a children's book, miniature furniture, toys and crafts.

The Society is located at 20 Zukor Road in New City. There will be an opening reception Sunday, March 12, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Show Hours: Tuesdays through Sundays, 1:00 to 5:00 pm. For more information call 845-634-9629 or www.rocklandhistory.org.

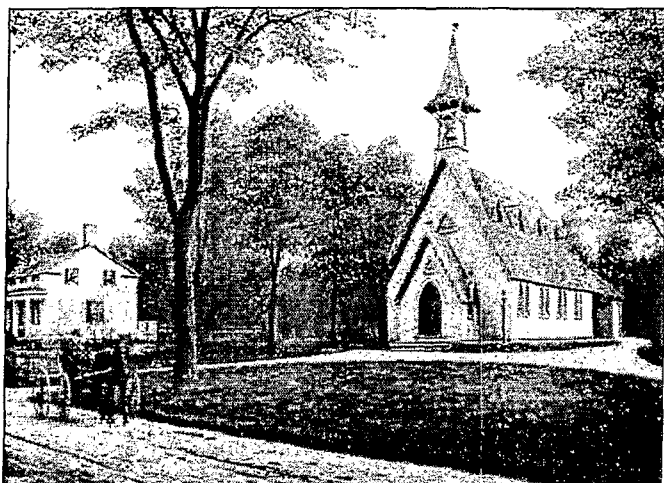
The Rogue Players, an extension of the Children's Shakespeare Theatre, traveled to Fort Worth, Texas on February 8, to perform *The Winter's Tale* for six public schools under the aegis of Imagination Celebration.

The Orangetown Museum's next show, which will run from February 25 through April 9, will be *Palisades, New York* and will be dedicated in memory of Alice Haagensen, one of Rockland County's foremost historians. The museum will display the Palisades History Boards and folding panels that were on exhibit at History Day, last June 18. The Orangetown Museum, located at 213 Blue Hill Road, is open on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and on Sundays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Coming Soon!!

10964 will re-launch its website with a new domain name and active updates.
palisadesny.com

Palisades Presbyterian Church



Lept and Easter Week SCHEDULE FOR SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY: March 1, 8:00 pm
 PALM SUNDAY: April 9, 10:00 am
 MAUNDY THURSDAY: April 13: 6:30 pm Pot-Luck
 Supper, 8:00 pm Service
 (A joint service with St. Charles A.M.E. Zion in Sparkill
 at their Church)
 GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 14: Service at 12:00 noon
 (Sanctuary to remain open for meditation until 3:00 pm.)
 EASTER SUNDAY: Regular Service, 10:00 am
 Sunrise Service 6:30 am at the Ludington Home,
 36 Lawrence Lane, Palisades

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 1: The beginning of One Great Hour of
 Sharing, an annual collection of funds to be distrib-
 uted to those in need over the year. Dedication is on
 Palm Sunday.

MARCH 26: Poetry Corner, 7:00 pm. Come share
 your favorite poems or readings on the subject of
 war, peace, or other current events.

APRIL (Date to be announced). MIDNIGHT RUN...to
 distribute essential clothing items and food to the
 homeless in New York City.

MAY 21: Poetry Corner, 7:00 pm. Stanley Barlow
 reading his own work.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Date to be announced.
 A work day in Yonkers building a home.

Note: Please check our website: www.ppc10964.org to
 get dates and times, which are not yet available at
 printer's deadline.

Also, throughout the year, Palisades Presbyterian will
 be holding periodic Palisades Pot-Luck and Picture
 Show evenings on selected Saturdays at 6:00 pm. Join
 us for good food and fellowship. We will put them on
 our web site as we decide on dates and movies. We
 have had two such evenings so far. On February 4th,
 we showed John Cleese in *Clockwise* and had to help
 a few members up off the floor from laughing so hard.
 It's a wonderful way to get to know your neighbors.

A Child's Spiritual Awakening

Occasionally in life, a moment happens that seems to
 glue itself onto your memory and you know it will be
 there forever. On Sunday, February 5th, PPC re-insti-
 tuted the practice of sharing Communion with our
 children; they re-entered the Sanctuary (from Church
 School) and sat in the pews with their families.

As a server, I walked down the aisle and watched as
 each parent, almost silently, and with great love,
 affection and spirituality, showed their sons and
 daughters how to tear the bread, and which glass to
 take (the white one holding grape juice), and to wait
 until all were served when Rev. Bagnuolo completed
 the service.

It was so tender a moment, and I know those chil-
 dren will hold that memory for as long as I do. Their
 faces, as well as their parents, told me so.

— KAREN CONSOLINI

Song (Sexuality: Our Needed Gift) Workshops

PPC is sponsoring SONG Workshops, conducted by
 Jenna Tiitsman, M.Div., to offer a new look at sexuali-
 ty in a Christian context. Described as deeply trans-
 formative and a lot of fun, these workshops are based
 on the understanding that sexuality is a gift from

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PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

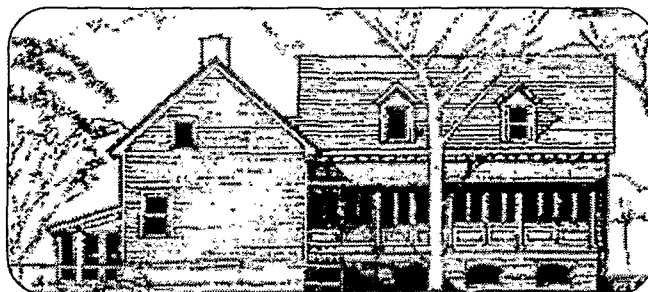
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THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public. Please verify dates.

NEW FOR YOU
Palisades Free Library is now offering digital eBooks, eAudio books and eMusic for your enjoyment at home or while traveling. A brochure is available at the circulation desk or log on to <http://efiles.rcls.org> for information on how to download and enjoy! All you need is a library card.

CITY DELIGHTS
The library has memberships to the Museum of Natural History, the Museum of the City of New York and - new - the Guggenheim Museum. The cards may be reserved for specific dates and are free for the borrowing. Inquire at the circulation desk. We also offer coupons for discount theater tickets, both Broadway and Off-Broadway at the reference desk.



Spring Programs for Children

POTATO AND SHAMROCK PARTY

Wed., Mar. 15 - 4:30 p.m.
Pretend to be Irish and have green fun. Ages 5+

PAPER BAG PHOTO ALBUM
Tues., Mar. 21 - 4:30 p.m.
Bring photos and make a cool photo album from paper bags. For tweens and teens. Ages 8+

Fun with Ventriloquism

Wed., Mar. 22 - 4:30 p.m.
A program of audience participation, balloons, ventriloquism and fun. Come meet Bob Conrad who will turn inanimate objects into living creatures. Ages 3+

Bunny Hop

Wed., April 5 - 4:30 p.m.
Stories and fun games with a rabbit theme. Ages 5+

Mother's Day

Wed., May 3 - 4:30 p.m.
Make a gift and card for your mother or grandmother. Ages 5+

Homework Help

A new program will soon begin at the Palisades Library. High school students will be available to help younger students with homework after school. Those interested in earning community service hours should sign up at the circulation desk. Students wanting help should also leave their names at the front desk.

Children's Services

Recently, we have added an additional service for children. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lillian Gunther will be available in the Children's Room for students with reference questions, as well as guidance with book selections.

NEW NONFICTION

Bawer, Bruce
While Europe Slept
Branch, Taylor
At Canaan's Edge

Dowd, Maureen
Are Men Necessary?
Giesbert, Franz-Olivier
The American
Ives, Colta
Vincent Van Gogh: The Drawings
Jong, Erica
Seducing the Demon: My Life as a Writer
Mayes, Frances
A Year in the World
Nazario, Sonia
Enrique's Journey
Sheehy, Gail
Sex and the Seasoned Woman

NEW FICTION

Barnes, Julian
Arthur and George
Dew, Robb Forman
The Truth of the Matter
Enquist, Perolov
Book about Blanche and Marie
Fugard, Lisa
Skinner's Drift
Goodman, Allegra
Intuition
Makine, Andre
The Woman who Waited
Picoult, Jodi
The Tenth Circle
Trollope, Jeanne
Second Honeymoon
Vine, Barbara
The Minotaur
and many new mysteries

FORTHCOMING DVDs

Be Here to Love Me
Best of Youth
Capote
Dreamer
Chronicles of Narnia

continued on Page 14

RESTAURANT REVIEW

continued from Page 9

which, in addition to full bottles, includes a nice selection of wines by the glass and several half bottles. The menu suggests appropriate wines to complement the various dishes. The food still reflects his roots and several of the best selections have interesting spicy undertones.

On a recent Saturday our meal began with grilled pita bread and olives accompanied by a good chardonnay. After a first course salad of baby arugula with goat cheese we chose main courses from the specials offered that evening. Perfectly grilled lamb chops were served with mashed potatoes and grilled vegetables. Free-range chicken topping penne, feta and spinach, a glorious mixed seafood grill with farfale, and my grilled shrimp with rice, spinach and tomatoes, rounded out the foursome. Even though we were delightfully satisfied, it was impossible to resist Khaled's famous baklava and an outrageously good chocolate truffle terrine. Not content with providing wonderful food at the restaurant, Khaled also provides take-out dishes and will be happy to cater your next event at your home.

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-MARY ANN BRUECKNER

THE MAKING OF A DOCUMENTARY

A Living History - Palisades, a documentary, features interviews with long-time residents Alice Gerard, Bill Knudson, Joe Hyde, Dorothy Davis, Albon Man, Herbert and Janet Kellogg, Loni Garrison and Dorothy Thayer. The documentary presents a rare glimpse into our hamlet's past as they recall their memories.

DVD sets are now available through the Palisades Library.

Palisades Presbyterian Church

continued from Page 12

God of which we must be good stewards. The first workshop, designed for parents and other adults, will look at sexuality holistically and inform parents of the content of the youth workshop.

The second workshop is for our 13-14 year-olds and their friends. We have taken vows to nurture every child of the church in a life of faith. Teenagers are twice as likely to cite religious beliefs and morals as factors when making sexual decisions. It is time to speak the sacred message that our youth are special and worthy of great care. The focus will be on responsible decision-making, self-esteem and communication skills.

First workshop: Friday, April 28, from 7:00-9:00 pm; *second (for youth):* Sunday, April 30, 4:00-6:00 pm.

Sign up at church or email John Guzewich: www.aiyana@optonline.net or Kathi Tiitsman at www.ktiitsman@earthlink.net

Palisades Free Library

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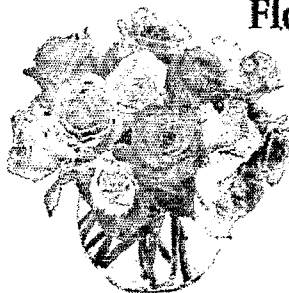
Everything is Illuminated
Good Night and Good Luck
Hired Hand
A History of Violence
In Her Shoes

Memoirs of a Geisha
Pride and Prejudice (2005)
Proof
Shopgirl
The Squid and the Whale
Upside of Anger

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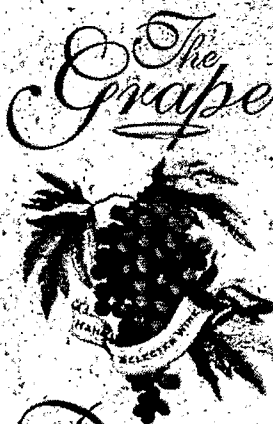


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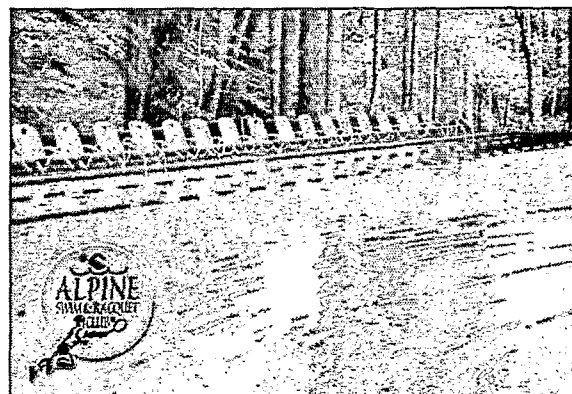
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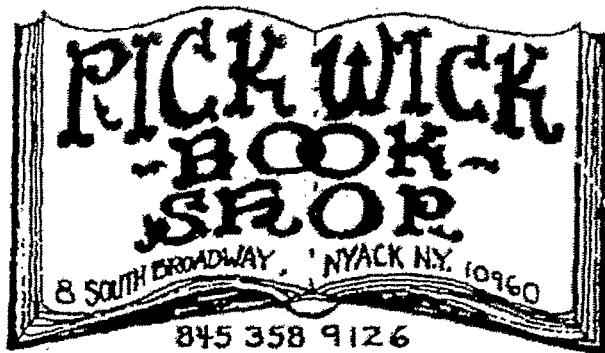


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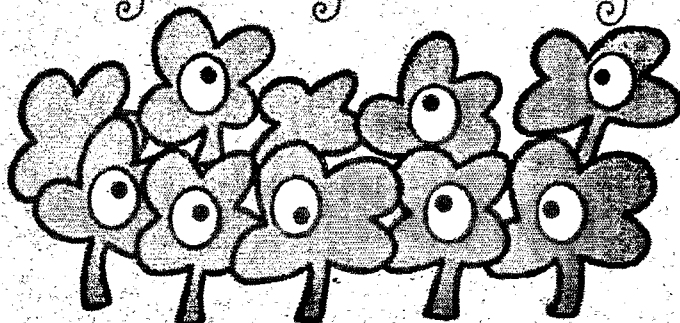
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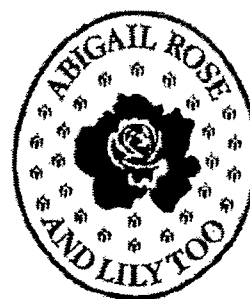
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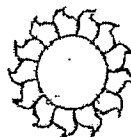
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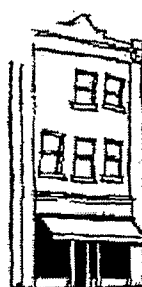
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This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades. In order to keep 10964 coming out regularly, we welcome volunteers to assist with writing, photography, layout and editing. Please drop us a line if you would like to try your hand at helping to produce an issue. Financial contributions can be sent to:

10964 Newsletter, P.O. Box 201, Palisades, NY 10964.
With your help, we'll be able to put 10964 in your mailbox four times each year from October - May.

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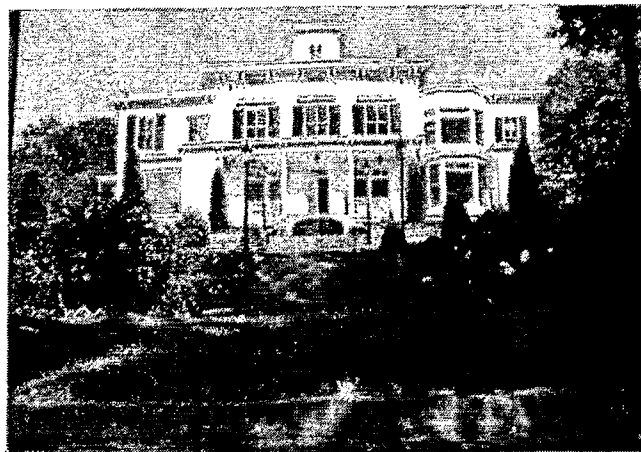
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