

# 10964

## THE PALISADES NEWSLETTER

DEC 2006 NUMBER 195

### THE LEND-A-HAND COMMITTEE— ELEVENTH ANNUAL KEEP US WARM DRIVE & LEND-A-HAND FOOD DRIVE



BACK WHEN her college sophomore aged son was in 2nd grade, Margie Goldstein

### LOCAL LITERACY PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY PALISADES VOLUNTEERS

ONE-ON-ONE LEARNING was founded almost ten years ago in February 1997 by Sister Cecilia LaPietra O.P. of the

# The Spirit

OF GIVING

(not just for the holidays)

noticed that several of his classmates at W.O. Schaeffer school were coming to class during the winter in nothing but shirt sleeves. All the other children had warm coats, and some even had two or three beautiful coats to choose from each day. She couldn't stand to see those few shivering children come in to class each morning without proper clothing. A venue for sharing was needed.

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Dominican Sisters of Sparkill together with Palisadian Judy Platt. Sister Cecilia was part of an education committee at the convent. They noticed the growing community of Hispanic laborers in the hamlet and decided to use their educational skills to help solve the language difficulties prevalent among their new neighbors.

Sister Cecilia put together an effective,

*continued on page 13*

## "The Reserve at Palisades"

LENNAR INC. IS NEW OWNER  
OF 9W DEVELOPMENT

# The 9W

Golf Range

property has changed hands for the second time since being sold by the Kopac family to MWD Star Group LLC last year. Star sold to an intermediary company who then resold the tract to Lennar Inc., the nation's third largest developer. Starting this past summer, Lennar carried out improvements (road, drainage, berms etc.) according to a plan prepared by the Star Group and signed off by the Orange-town planning board a year ago.

According to Palisades resident Larry Bucciarrelli, when Lennar presents plans for the first several houses to HABR for approval it will be extremely important for Palisades residents to appear and make themselves heard. Most of Palisades is protected by a legally defined set of historically based aesthetic criteria and Lennar's corporate design proposals can be adapted to blend in with surrounding context if neighbors speak up promptly and firmly. This is the only way to educate the developer about our hamlet, which is already a cohesive community with a strong point of view.

With annual sales of \$9 billion, Lennar is the third largest home building corporation in the nation (behind Horton and Pulte) and is headquartered in Miami, Florida. In 2005, they built 42,000 houses. According to Business Week (April 3, 2006), Lennar's corporate strategy is to maintain a strong cash position and use this leverage to buy out smaller builders and undeveloped tracts at favorable prices; in other words, they have "plenty of money for vulture acquisitions in a softening market."

The company does not do individual houses—they build only in planned community groups. It is not clear from their marketing approach what kind of relationship they envision ought

to develop between one of their prefabricated communities and an older community surrounding it.

Lennar supports a number of charitable causes with corporate donations ranging from Habitat for Humanity to cancer treatment facilities. They also claim to support environmental issues via energy efficiency and choice of construction products that are safer for the environment. In California, in 2004, Lennar Homes of California, Inc. helped to pass a \$12.3 billion (yes, billion!) state public education facilities bond act (Prop 55), with a \$100,000.00 donation. It's hard to argue with a sincere commitment to support funding to improve schools. Let's pretend we don't notice the obvious correlation between better schools and higher real estate values...

Lennar sells houses ready to move into—using standardized, highly controlled design offerings to restrict customers to a short list of cookie-cutter architectural options. Houses sold as "Everything's Included" come with all the luxuries pre-selected and ready for you to move in; others sold as "Design Studio" options allow the buyer to pay extra for some features to customize the house while it's being built. The luxury aspect emphasizes electronic systems designed to provide security, control and convenience.

New York law requires that builders register their communities and plans with the state before any sales information or anything that can be considered soliciting can be given out. Once this hurdle is crossed, Lennar's perky promise to keep new customers "*Tickled, Delighted and Happy throughout the entire new home experience*" will soon become a public proposition in our community.

### The Palisades Reserve

The Windsor 3 model home at 4,827 square feet, might be one of the new houses built in our neighborhood for some of Lennar's "*Tickled, Delighted, and Happy*" customers.



# SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT ON PALISADES SCHOOL PROPERTY: "8.4 ACRES OF HIGHLY DESIRABLE REAL ESTATE"

BY GRETA NETTLETON

**C**URRENTLY, the South Orangetown Central School District is in the process of getting four parcels of their land appraised to see what our district's assets are worth and what the costs are to maintain them. In late November, concerned residents were told that any decision to sell the Palisades school, or any other school property, was "a long way off." That nothing would be decided before the appraisals were completed and that the district would hold public discussions before any decisions about a sale were made.

But in a blink of an eye, the pace of the process is apparently accelerating quickly. When the issue of selling school land in Palisades was brought up at the (most recent-take out) December 6th SOCS D school board meeting, board president Rich DiLoreto referred to the Oak Tree Road parcel as "8.4 acres of highly desir-

able real estate" and declared that the board may not even wait to review all four appraisals of school property parcels being considered for sale before making a decision to sell the Palisades property.

The four properties being considered for sale are:

- Palisades school and 8.4 acres on Oak Tree Road
- Cowboy Fields (near TZ Elementary school)
- Orangeburg Elementary School
- playground at corner of Oak Tree and 303

The school board also held out no hope to current Palisades school building tenant Children's Enrichment Center (CEC) that they would be able to renew their lease for next year, since, according to board member Steve Spiro, if the property were to be sold, a lease with CEC would "paint them into a corner" with a prospective buyer. In response to the passionate plea from the contingent of parents and administrators from CEC to give them one more year at the Oak Tree Road address, both Mr. DiLoreto and School Superintendent Dr. Zambito could only offer to make a few phone calls to try to help them move to a new location. No representative from the building's other tenant, the Fred Keller School, was present. This prompted Mr. DiLoreto to quip that the Keller school people weren't there because "they're out looking for real estate."

Although unlikely, appraisal information for the Palisades School may be ready as early as Dec 21 (the next school board meeting) but most likely all appraisals will be completed in the next few weeks.

With regard to the Palisades School building, currently there are two tenants, the Fred S. Keller School, (for preschoolers with learning disabilities) and the Children's Enrichment Center, a non-profit cooperative nursery school. Both tenants like the building, but the Fred Keller School is very interested in expanding their space, and the district has considered in the past ending the CEC's lease to make room for Fred Keller. The Keller School has apparently made considerable contributions towards the maintenance, repair and upkeep to the building. But if the leases are not renewed, then it seems logical that an empty building becomes even more attractive to the possibility of a sale.

It is important to note that the sale of this building has been an on and off again topic of conversation for decades, as has the Orangetown school, The Greenbush Academy on Western Highway and the Cowboy Fields in Piermont. Alternative uses for school assets are always a possibility as well: for instance, it has been suggested the Palisades property could be a good site for the school district central offices, so that expensive code alterations could be avoided.

## PALISADES SCHOOL BUILDING TENANTS LOOKING FOR NEW HOME

**T**HE CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT CENTER (CEC), a non-profit cooperative preschool, has been a wonderful addition to the Palisades community for the past six years. Now, according to director Joanne Volpe, the CEC has been asked to vacate the building at the end of June, as the local school district may soon sell the entire 8.4 acre property on which it sits. If the property is not sold by that time, the district is planning to rent the entire building to the Fred S. Keller School, which, according to its Facility Manager Christopher D. Manikas, is very pressed for space and wishes to occupy the entire building.

The CEC rents most of the Palisades School building from the South Orange



town Centralized School District (SOCS D), and mainly serves families from the district. (The Fred S. Keller School

leases space in the back, where the Oak Tree Playgroup used to be.) About 60 four and five-year olds from Palisades and Tappan come every day for varied play-oriented activities, including arts and crafts, nature studies, music & movement, and indoor/outdoor play. Along with the Piermont Playgroup, CEC is the only non-profit cooperative in the immediate area, and unlike many for-profit nursery schools, has a sliding scale tuition that is affordable for many families.

At the invitation of director Joanne Volpe, 10964 recently visited the school's Thanksgiving Feast. (see photos on [www.palisadesny.com](http://www.palisadesny.com), 10964's website)

*continued on page 4*

## HOLIDAY TURKEY PREPARATION

*Simon says:*

**Please brine your Bird**

**PALISADES-BASED CATERER  
SIMON GERARD SENT US THIS ADVICE  
ABOUT BRINING YOUR TURKEY FOR  
A PERFECT HOLIDAY MEAL.**

Brining is marinating in a flavorful saltwater solution. When you brine a turkey, the result is a tastier, tender and moist bird. With a little advance planning it's easy to do. This amount is for a 12 - 14 pound turkey.

**TO PREPARE THE BRINE SOLUTION:**  
Put one gallon of water in a large pot.

Add:

1 cup kosher salt  
3/4 cup sugar  
1 peeled, chopped carrot  
1 large onion, chopped  
1 stick of celery, chopped  
2 bay leaves  
1 tablespoon peppercorns  
1 tablespoon coriander seeds  
1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes  
1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds  
a big pinch of fresh or dried thyme

Bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve salt and sugar. Cool.

**TO BRINE THE TURKEY:**

Find a big pot or clean a container that will fit the bird. Line it with a large, sturdy garbage bag. Put the turkey in the bag in the container and add the cooled mixture you made, plus a second gallon of water. Pull the bag close around the turkey and tie closed. Keep refrigerated for about 72 hours, then take the bird out and bring to room temperature.

Cook the way you usually cook a turkey, stuffed or not. After you take your beautiful bird out of the oven, make sure you let it rest for at least 1/2 an hour before carving.

*Enjoy!*

## Palisades School Building Tenants Looking for New Home *continued from page 3*

The school provides an atmosphere of warmth, happy laughter and close community relationships for the children. Some of the parents of CEC children grew up attending elementary school in the same building (before the school district was centralized). Continuity with the rich history of our hamlet is an important part of what makes this school so special.

Ms. Volpe described how difficult it will be for her to find a new space that would be convenient as to location and suitable in size and layout. They are talking to churches and other organizations locally but have not yet found the right place. She has been told that the district is looking at selling several of its properties, and that the Palisades lot is #1 on this list, because the building is expensive to maintain.

CEC parents are trying to organize an effort to slow down this process, and even to try to save the building as a school facility. SOCS school board meetings are held about once a month Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in the library at the South Orangetown Middle School (on Van Wyck Rd. in Blauvelt) and interested people should check the school's website for specific details. Any Palisades resident who would like to express an opinion about this issue should plan to attend meetings this winter to speak out.

Children's Enrichment Center, tel: 845-398-3370 or e-mail: cec3983370@aol.com

## THE POWER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

by Judith W. Umlas  
published by IIL Publishing  
New York, NY

**P**ALISADES RESIDENT Judy Umlas has just published a wonderful book called *The Power of Acknowledgment*. Echoing the spirit of the December holiday season, this short, uplifting volume advocates one thing: In the course of daily life at work, at home, and at school, peo-

ple should not be ashamed to openly give praise and admiration to others where it's due.

The concept is so simple and personal. Yet it is also profoundly powerful. In the book we see how the power of sincere acknowledgment not only benefits individuals in their own lives, but, in a ripple effect, its contagion might also benefit our society on a much wider scale.

Judy writes with the personal conviction that each individual's actions can combine with others to make a difference in this world. She is not ashamed to think big: Why not start a revolution based on kindness? Then this book is the new manifesto.

If something so easy has so many good results, why aren't people doing this already? She reports that many people believe that if they praise too often, their opinions will be devalued, or that people will value their praise more if it is hard to earn. Other reasons for stinginess: too busy, too preoccupied, and too embarrassed. In the workplace, "tough" bosses are worried that profligate distribution of praise might make employees soft and complacent, so that they would not work hard enough.

None of these fears are true, says Judy! No investment in good opinion when it is well-earned is wasted. Think of this often-seen



snippet of inner thinking by a dissatisfied worker: "Why should I put so much effort into it [whatever it is] if people don't even care?" Clearly this is a moment where acknowledgment might be the key to unlocking pent up effort and feeling. Instead of

making slackers out of a team of workers, acknowledgement is actually an incredibly effective way to build enthusiasm and commitment.

In personal relationships, the dynamics are similar—the giver gets as much from this gift as the receiver. How many material goods can you say that about? (Visit online: <http://iil.com/publishing/acknowledgment.asp> for more details, and to order.)

## MORTON ELEVITCH

**A**LTHOUGH HE WAS PRIMARILY a writer of fiction, Morton's most recent book, *Dog Tags Yapping* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2003) was a collection of letters he wrote and sent home as an 18-year old soldier in World War II. The letters chronicle his experiences through training, combat, convalescence, and occupation duty to the end of the war. He was discharged in December 1945 and received the Purple Heart.

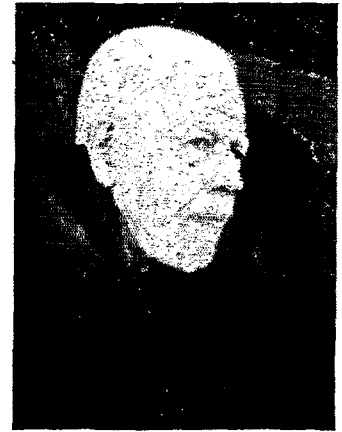
As Thomas Berger, author of *Little Big Man* notes, "This collection is the most eloquent writing I have ever read on the war." Morton's 1943 letter – "This week they are teaching us to kill." – was selected by Andrew Carroll for his anthology *War*

*Letters, Extraordinary Correspondence From American Wars* (Scribner, 2001).

Aside from writing, Morton also acted as an editor for *The Pushcart Prize, Best of the Small Presses*, an anthology published yearly since 1976. Previously, he was one of the founding members of an organization which promoted American literary magazines, and edited his own literary magazine titled *First Person*.

Morton's books, fiction and non-fiction, are available in the local author collection at the Palisades Library.

On November 4, Katie Elevitch dedicated her concert at the Palisades Presbyterian Church to his memory.



LONG-TIME  
Palisades resident,  
Morton Elevitch, 81,  
died September 30  
after a brief  
illness.

## A HERO OF HUMANITY

**Dr. Pedro Sanchez**, the director of tropical agriculture at Lamont's Earth Institute was recently recognized by the global charity Heifer International as a Hero of Humanity for his important research into ways to restore fertility to marginal soils. According to Heifer's president, Jo Luck, Sanchez's research means that many farmers in destitute areas are able to convert dusty, steep or otherwise unusable plots into rich, productive land. Dr. Sanchez is also project leader of the Millennium Project Hunger Task Force. In 2002, he received the World Food Prize, and the next year, was awarded a MacArthur Foundation "Genius Award."

To learn more about Dr. Sanchez, visit  
[www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/tropag](http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/tropag)

To learn more about Heifer International, visit [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

**The 31st Annual Miniature & Dollhouse Show: Small Wonders Comes to The Historical Society of Rockland County**

SHOW: runs through January 28, 2007  
SHOW HOURS: Tuesdays through Sundays, 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.

The Historical Society of Rockland County, located at 20 Zukor Road in New City, is pleased to announce the return of the ever-popular Annual Miniature and Dollhouse Show, now in its 31st year. This year's show, entitled *Small Wonders* showcases two galleries full of early and contemporary dollhouses, horse drawn carriages, dolls, early airplane models and much more. The show is a delight for both children and adults.



Special holiday admission: \$6; \$5 HSRC members; \$3 children under 12. Price includes free admission to the 1832 Jacob Blaauvelt House on Sundays, 12noon-4p.m. Half-price for groups of ten or more by reservation.

FOR INFORMATION: call The Historical Society of Rockland County at 845-634-9629 or visit [www.rocklandhistory.org](http://www.rocklandhistory.org)

**Our Sparkill-Palisades Fire Department** would like to encourage everyone in the community to increase their awareness of the organization's activities. Any interested young person in the community is welcome to join as a Junior Fire Fighter, and adults can participate as auxiliaries or be trained to become active fire fighters as well. Contact the firehouse by leav-

ing a message for department personnel at: 359-1324.  
(In case of emergency, call 911.)  
Financial contributions can also be made by sending a check to:  
John Paulding Engine Co.  
P.O. Box 164  
Sparkill, NY 10976

Please Help Palisades Cut Back On Our Very High Rate of False Calls!!!  
It's Not Pranksters Anymore—  
Use Your Automatic Alarm System Wisely.

After power-outages, dead batteries in your alarm panel will send a false distress signal. Keep batteries up-to-date & charged. Sawdust, shower steam, leaf-blower exhaust and many other particulate clouds can easily set off your alarm. Cover detectors during renovations, and locate them carefully to avoid repeated

ner's daughter Catherine in October of this year. The centerpiece of the memorial is a sundial constructed by Palisades artist Robert Adzema. (Additional photographs are posted on our website, [www.palisadesny.com](http://www.palisadesny.com)) Currently the park features works by Cynthia Harper, Gillian Jagger, Arny Nadler, and Lee Tribe. ROCA also recently received a grant from the Christopher Reeve Foundation to offer a ceramics program for adults who have suffered traumatic brain injuries during October and November.

**As most of you know**, our postmaster, Mrs. Mary B. Whatley, lost her son Jamarr this past April. Cristina Biaggi is volunteering her time to create a bronze sculpture in his honor which will be dedicated to Nyack High School; his alma mater. There has been a profound response to the call for contributions and people from the Palisades area have

## BULLETIN BOARD

false alarms from daily activities. New homeowners must learn how to use their pre-installed alarms correctly when they move in.

**Sylvia March: Pottery Show and Sale**

224 Route 9W, Palisades  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday December 15, 16, and 17th, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.  
Or call for an appointment: 845-359-3767.  
[www.sylviamarch.com](http://www.sylviamarch.com)

**Christopher Choi of Palisades**, a 2006 graduate of Tappan Zee High School, entered West Point as a cadet this past June. Christopher decided to apply during his sophomore year in high school and was nominated by Representative Eliot Engle. He completed the tough six and a half weeks of CBT basic training held during the summer, and his proud parents report that he is extremely busy and doing well this fall.

**The Catherine Konner Sculpture Park** at Rockland Center for the Arts (ROCA) was dedicated in memory of Joan Kon-

been most generous. As one of the contributors wrote, "Thank you very much for making our community truly one of a kind, sharing and caring for those who are in need." Cristina will keep the community informed as she progresses on the sculpture and the dedication at the High School. Though we have set a deadline of November 30, contributions to The Jamarr Whatley Sculpture Fund can still be sent, payable to: Cristina Studio, 149 Washington Spring Rd., Palisades, NY 10964. Please write a memo, "In Memory of Jamarr Whatley."

**Area Charities Need Help with Holiday Food Donations**

**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE**, 121 West Nyack Rd. in Nanuet (across from Teplitz junkyard) is seeking food of all types, including turkeys and household staples, for needy families during the holidays. Please call 845-352-9577 for more details.  
**MEALS ON WHEELS OF ROCKLAND** is also seeking donations.  
Call 845-624-6325.

# The Palisades Community Center

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Holiday Carolers of all ages are sought as December approaches.*

ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, everyone in the community is invited to come sing in the true spirit of the holidays to all of those who are home alone, sick, or in need of some cheer. The Carolers have been meeting at 11 Horne Tooke Drive for the past five years and will be doing again so this year. At 4:00 p.m. sharp, sheets of music will be handed out, and vocal chords will be warmed up. This song fest will end at the Palisades Community Center around 5:30 p.m. where we will host a reception with hot chocolate, holiday treats and maybe a surprise visitor?!

**The inventory of our 2-part, 3-hour, DVD set of "A Living History - Palisades, Part I" has been replenished at the Palisades library and is again on sale there for \$35.**

The documentary, "A Living History - Palisades, Part I" gives us glimpses of years past in our hamlet of Palisades. For instance - When Dumkin's blacksmith shop became the Blacksmith Tea Shop, a very successful eatery; When roosters were a milkman's worst enemy and when crazy parties with Vivien Leigh, Orson Welles, Noel Coward, Gertrude Lawrence, Laurence Olivier and countless other famous artists who wanted to retreat from their city life, were part of the Palisades landscape.

The movie reveals the unique history behind the Palisades Cemetery. The iron gates that spell "Palisades Cemetery," now hidden from view by foliage and fencing, make this secretive, overgrown plot its own never-ending story. Dorothy Thayer and Bill Knudson, share viewpoints and memories about the cemetery, including a story about the grave of one lone 'ave, buried far away from the main area of the cemetery.

Albon Man tells us how library dues once needed to be collected by knocking on peo-

ple's doors and asking for a contribution. Alice Gerard's keen historical sense of Palisades/Snedens Landing allows us further insights into what a wonderful area we live in. Chef Joe Hyde wonderfully expounds upon the "Double Bubble" cooking theory. (For those who did not know, his cookbook is still available in the library. His Chicken Noodle Soup recipe is a must for any household!)



There are so many wonderful stories told by so many one really needs to own a copy to listen to them all. Purchase your copy(ies) at the Palisades Library, or contact Michèle Balm (359-3776). To make you feel even better about this purchase, please note that all proceeds from sales of the movie go to support the upkeep and event planning at the Palisades Community Center.

**Come January, our annual Town Hall meeting will take place.** Please check the [www.palisadesny.com](http://www.palisadesny.com) website for date and time.

**We are working on a Spring fundraiser** that will bring together the community in the form of a celebratory dinner. More details to follow in the next issue of 10964.

### DON'T KNOW

what to get for that special Palisadian?

The perfect holiday gift - a DVD about Palisades History

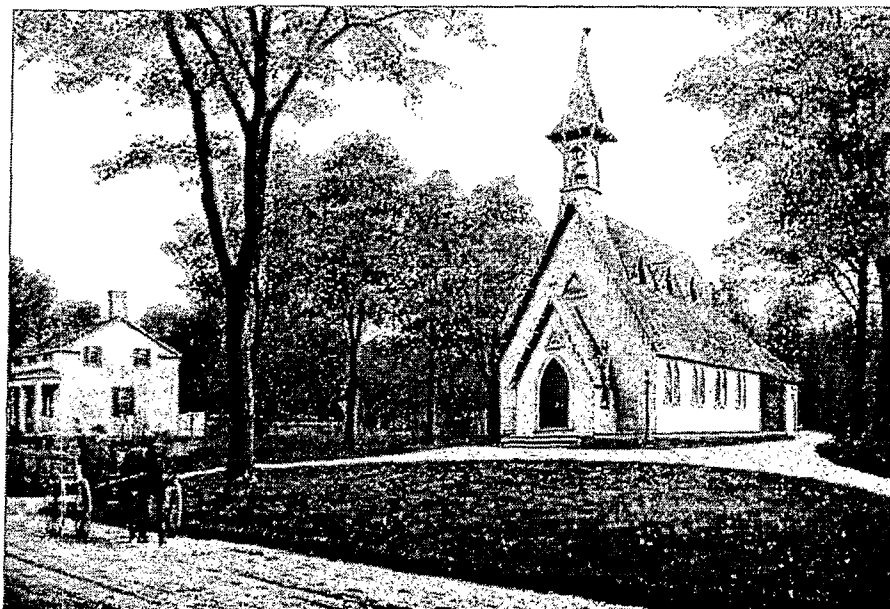
## IN MEMORIAM

On Friday, November 19th, a Memorial Service was held for Edith Margaret Ryan, a beloved member of the Palisades Church who passed away on October 17th. Her 81st Birthday would have been on November 11th.

Edith and her husband Jack settled in the Palisades area after WWII, and spent the rest of their lives here. They had 4 children, were very active in community and Church activities and when the children were grown and out of the house, Edith went to College, and graduated 4 years later.

She was remembered at the service as an out-spoken, passionate woman and a friend to many who told personal stories of their long and caring relationships with her.

She will be missed by all who ever had the good fortune to know her.



## THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT THE PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Palisades Church will welcome the Christmas season's beginning on the First Sunday in Advent, December 3rd and will continue through the month, ending with a Grand Festival and Feast on 12th Night, January 6th.

### THE CHRISTMAS CALENDAR:

December 3rd  
10:00 am: Worship  
6:00 pm: Pot Luck Supper, Advent Wreath Making & Caroling.

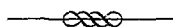
December 17th  
10:00 am: Children's Christmas Pageant.

December 24th  
10:00 am Worship  
5:00 pm Family Christmas Worship  
11:00 pm Lessons and Carols  
*(There will be no service on Christmas Day.)*

January 6th  
6:00 pm: Twelfth Night Pot-Luck Supper and Festival.

### BAPTISMS:

During the month of October, Interim Minister Ray Bagnuolo performed three Baptisms and welcomed Sophie Merritt Fisher, Sophia Donofrio and Ruby Son-Mae Sellinger into the Palisades Church Family.





# PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

19 Closter Road  
Palisades, NY 10964  
Phone: 845-359-0136  
Fax: 845-359-6124  
email: pal@rcls.org  
www.rcls.org/pal

Member of the Ramapo Catskill  
Library System  
Closed December 24th, 25th for Christmas,  
December 31st, January 1st for New Year's Day  
February 19th for President's Day

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mary Ellen Ledwith, President  
Charles Shimel, Vice President  
Helen P. Nelson, Treasurer  
Dr. Carol Stewart, Secretary  
Kathryn Papay  
David Shire

## Adult Programs

OUR SUNDAY SYMPOSIA  
CONTINUE ON JANUARY 21ST WITH:

### Doctors and Their Patients:

#### Kudos and Complaints

A pain-free appointment with Doctors Ray Bernick, Welton Gersony, Mel Rosenwasser, and Jeffrey Sandhaus. Stop by or call the library to register. The suggested donation is \$10 to benefit the library.

### March 4th

#### Question: What do the Hudson River and Lake Vostok in the Antarctic Have in Common?

Answer: Dr. Robin E. Bell, Senior Research Scientist, Lamont-Doherty Observatory.

## Children's Programs

PLEASE CALL THE LIBRARY TO REGISTER

### Gingerbread Gathering

**Wednesday, December 13, 4:30 p.m.**

Learn about the custom of the gingerbread house and hear the famous story about the Gingerbread Baby. Bring your own box of graham crackers and we'll build a house that tastes good enough to eat! For ages 5+.

## Snowman Sensations!

**Tuesday, January 23, 4:30 p.m.**

Brrr, it's cold outside. Warm up with snowman stories and build a snowman to take home. For ages 2 to 4.

## Calendar Capers

**Wednesday, January 24, 4:30 p.m.**

Create a 2007 calendar to keep track of all your reading times. Bring photos if you wish. For ages 5+.

## Book-A-Trip

**Wednesday, February 28, 4:30 p.m.**

Travel around the continents through books and crafts. For Ages 5+.

## Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

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

Celebrate the Dr.'s birthday with your favorite stories and a Cat in the Hat craft. For ages 5+.

## Garden Gathering

**Tuesday, March 27, 4:30 p.m.**

Paint a flower pot and make some spring flowers from paper to put inside. For ages 8+.

## Story Time

**Wednesday at 1:30 is weekly story time**

for ages 3 to K. Come listen to stories and choose some wonderful books to take home. Story time follows school vacation calendar.

## After a Holiday Break...

**"Study Buddies" will resume.** We continue to need homework helpers to guide younger students with their assignments. Call the library if you are interested in participating.

## Museum Memberships

The library has memberships to the Guggenheim, the Museum of Natural History and the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum.

These free passes are available at the circulation desk and may be reserved.

## We're Wireless

The Palisades Free Library is now providing free wireless access during the hours it is open.

## Reading Machine

### for the Visually Handicapped

The library has received a low vision magnifier for the written page. Inquire at the reference desk for help using this machine. Our thanks to Evan Berardi for this donation.

## Digitization

The photographic collection of the Palisades Free Library is now available on the internet. On our homepage ([www.rcls.org/pal](http://www.rcls.org/pal)) click on the LARC logo, click "view historical photos," click "view the collection," type Palisades in the search box and enter. You can search for a particular subject using the advanced search screen. This project is made available through the Library Association of Rockland County and funded by grants from the Rockland County Legislature. It's a marvel!

## Tappan Zee Thrift Shop

Volunteers are needed to fulfill our contract with the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop. If you can donate time on a fairly regular basis - weekly, bi-weekly or monthly - please call the library (359-0136).

## New Adult Nonfiction

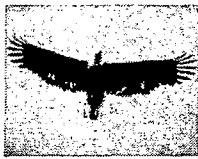
Alpert, Stanley - *The Birthday Party*  
Buchwald, Art - *Too Soon to Say Goodbye*  
Cheever, Susan - *American Bloomsbury*  
Dalai Lama - *How to See Yourself as You Really Are*  
Ehrenreich, Barbara - *Dancing in the Streets*  
Gopnik, Adam - *Through the Children's Gate*  
Stone, Robert - *Prime Green*  
Trillin, Calvin - *Alice*  
Zinsser, Judith - *La Dame d'Esprit*

## New Adult Fiction

Amis, Martin - *House of Meetings*  
Cornwell, Bernard - *Lords of the North*  
Crichton, Michael - *Next*  
Cusk, Rachel - *Arlington Park*  
Hoffman, Alice - *Skylight Confessions*  
Mailer, Norman - *The Castle in the Forest*  
Pynchon, Thomas - *Against the Day*  
Wambaugh, Joseph - *Hollywood Station*  
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# Bald Eagles in the Lower Hudson Valley

**F**ROM ALICE AND SAM GERARD'S PICTURE WINDOW that looks out over an expanse of the Hudson, birds of prey are frequently spotted skimming across the river's surface then soaring heavenward with their treasured catch. "We've seen considerably more eagles lately," Alice commented one recent morning.

Many people aren't aware that bald eagles have made a comeback and can be found during winter months along the Hudson. In recent years the stretch from Kingston to Croton has become increasingly popular with bald eagles, according to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which holds an eagle count each January. They migrate to the Lower Hudson Valley in search of food from Canada and the U.S. North Woods, especially during hard winters when inland waters freeze. Ship traffic keeps our waterways open and fish killed by nearby power stations provide a ready meal for the birds.

Hawk watches take place in the fall on Hook and Bear Mountains. Conducted by knowledgeable volunteers, they attempt to monitor the migration and population patterns of birds of prey. Only five bald eagles were spotted in 1984. Ten years later, in 1994, 31 were listed. In 2005, 77 bald eagles were recorded. For a fascinating look at recent bird counts, check the website, [www.battaly.com/hook](http://www.battaly.com/hook). Three years ago, Bear Mountain's league of naturalists decided to do an evening count of roosting eagles at nine known locations and turned up between 150 to 200 bald eagles during peak season in late January and February of 2005.

**There were fewer than 450 nesting pairs** of bald eagles in the lower 48 states in the early 1960s as their habitat was destroyed and their food supply contaminated by DDT that made their eggshells so thin they cracked during incubation. In response to this dire situation the bald eagle was declared an endangered species in 1967. By 1995, as their numbers increased, their status was upgraded to "threatened." The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is now moving forward to remove the bald eagle from the list of threatened and endangered species, which some environmentalists believe to be premature.

Eagles on average live about 30 years and frequently mate for life. These powerful fliers can reach speeds of 100 miles per hour during a dive and, with their excellent eyesight, can spot a rabbit a

mile away. Adult males have a 7-foot wingspan, measure 30 to 42 inches head to tail and weigh 7 to 11 pounds. The larger females, some reaching 14 pounds, usually have one or two eaglets and breed in Ontario and Labrador in late April, using nests called aeries that are up to 8 feet wide. In recent years their nesting range has expanded southward.

At around four or five years of age juvenile bald eagles take on adult plumage with head and tail feathers turning white. Immature bald eagles are sometimes mistaken for golden eagles, which at maturity, are distinguished by striped gray banding on their tails. Other birds of prey in our area include osprey, peregrine falcons, northern harriers, turkey and black vultures, owls and a wide range of hawks.

**The bald eagle is unique to North America.** Over the objection of Benjamin Franklin, who felt that the turkey was considerably more respectable than the eagle, it was adopted in 1782 as a national symbol of the United States.



As the bald eagle population increases, bald eagle fests are springing up throughout the country. The nearest in our area is the Hudson River EagleFest to be held in Teatown, New York (Westchester) on Teatown Lake, February 11, 2007. The event will feature eagle viewing along the Hudson, live bird demonstrations and educational

programs. Call 914-762-2912 or go online at [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org) for more information.

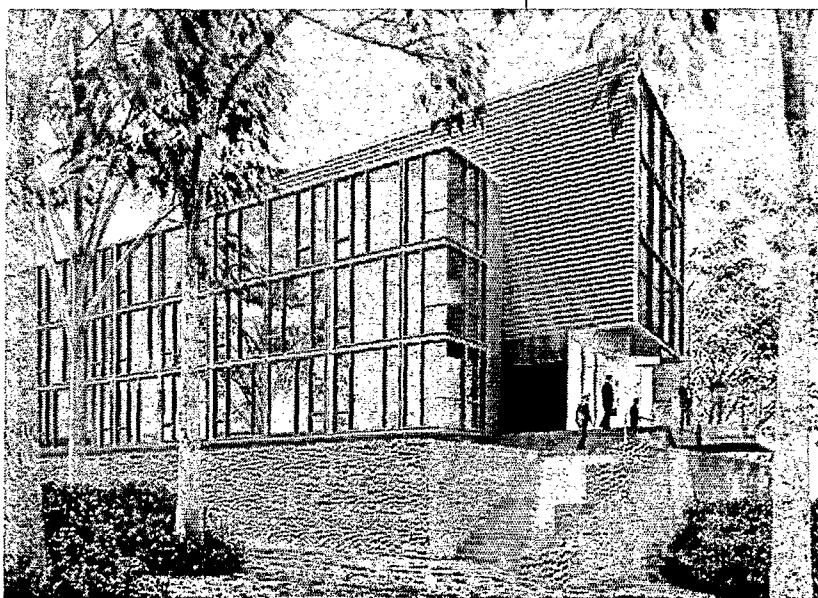
For those of us not lucky enough to have a view of the Hudson, bald eagles can frequently be spotted during the winter at the following locations: Route 6/202 overlook above Iona Island; Constitution Island from North Dock (West Point), Ansville Creek (north of Peekskill) and China Pier (Peekskill). Eagles can also be seen at Constitution Marsh, an Audubon Society Sanctuary just across the Bear Mountain Bridge. Composed of 270 acres of tidal marsh, Constitution Marsh's trails and boardwalk are open all year.

For additional locations check the Rockland Audubon Society's website, [www.rocklandaudubon.org](http://www.rocklandaudubon.org). The Society holds its meetings the first Friday of every month at the Palisades Community Center with free programs on nature-related topics. All are welcome.

BY KATHLEEN SYKES

# LAMONT-DOHERTY BREAKS GROUND ON NEW GEO-CHEMISTRY BUILDING

BY ALICE GERARD



**O**N WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, members and friends of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory broke ground on a new geochemistry research building. The Observatory's existing geochemistry building dates from the early 1950's and can no longer support the kinds of leading-edge research needed to answer the most pressing questions about Earth and its climate.

The new building was made possible by an \$18 million gift from Gary Comer and the Comer Science and Education Foundation. Columbia Trustee Gerry Lenfest also made a substantial gift in support of the new facility.

Site selection and building design took into consideration the aesthetics of the scenic location as well as the rural nature of the campus and surrounding community. Construction plans call for a two-story, 63,000 square-foot building that will house Lamont-Doherty's Geochemistry Division, which is currently scattered among different buildings on campus. It will contain more than 70 offices and nearly 30 laboratories for scientists, students and support staff. A ribbon-cutting is scheduled for November 2007.

The laboratory building will be designed to meet the best practices described in the EPA's Labs21 Approach, a voluntary program sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy to improve the energy efficiency and environmental performance of laboratories. Labs21 partners commit to:

- Employ a range of energy and water efficiency strategies.

- Measure energy and water consumption and track emission reductions.
- Evaluate on-site power generation, combined heat and power technologies, and renewable power purchases.
- Build with "green" construction materials.
- Promote energy and water efficiency efforts.
- Expand the improvement effort beyond the laboratory building.

A replacement 24,000 square-foot parking lot incorporates porous pavement on top of a groundwater infiltration bed. The lot is expected to reduce or eliminate storm runoff from the site. Rain washing off of a conventional, asphalt surface can carry oil, grit and other unwanted materials into local sewers or surrounding water bodies. A porous surface, however, permits rain to pass through the pavement to a gravel storage bed beneath. Over time, this water will gradually percolate into the ground, where many of the impurities will be filtered out or captured by sub-surface geology and soils.

The only drawback to the technology is that it requires slightly more attention than a traditional paved surface. In order to prevent it from becoming clogged, the pavement will have to be vacuumed twice a year.

Taken together, all the technologies used in the construction of the new geochemistry research laboratories will reduce emissions, streamline energy and water usage, and decrease overall costs—all while preserving the integrity of the laboratory's mission and creating a visually striking, extremely functional building.

"IT IS GOING TO CAPTURE VIRTUALLY EVERY DROP OF RAINFALL THAT WILL HIT IT," SAID DANIEL WEIBEL, AN ENGINEER FROM CAHILL IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT. "THAT'S WHAT IT WAS DESIGNED TO DO. RIGHT UP TO THE 100-YEAR STORM."

*Information for this article was supplied by Ken Kostel of the Earth Institute.*



Margie's youngest child is about to graduate from high school this year, and she is looking for someone, perhaps a person with school-aged children to replace her at the helm of this magnificent operation.

**"IT'S A SIMPLE MODEL," SHE SAYS, "AND IT SHOULD BE A MODEL FOR EVERY COMMUNITY."**

### Lend-A-Hand Food Drive

*continued from page 1*

She and her family discussed the problem at the dinner table. The solution to the problem was simple but brilliant—why not ask all the families with extra coats to bring them to school and give them to the kids without coats? As a result, the "Keep Us Warm Drive" has become a regular event each December at the William O. Schaeffer School.

Margie recognized right away that her idea needed to happen in a non-threatening environment because of the feeling of shame on both sides. Subtle but powerful social barriers make it hard to share material goods face to face, one on one. But a group effort through the school avoids that problem—the people with excess and people with nothing needn't meet each other directly. The coat drive permits sharing without the emotional baggage.

She also decided that the best tactic was to take direct action by avoiding any kind of bureaucracy and instead relying directly on other parent volunteers. The working model is still the same, eleven years later. You get a flyer.

You bring your extra coats (etc.—boots, hats, gloves, blankets, & canned food are needed too) to the school on the appointed Friday and/or Monday. The volunteers sort through it all. People who need coats come later in the day on Monday to pick up. Extras are donated to other charities. Then it's all done.

We asked Margie, a physical therapist, how she has the time to organize this event. After filling us in on her training program for running the New York Marathon, Margie added with a laugh, "I have absolutely no time!" but she estimates that by now it only takes her about 30 hours a year to make the coat drive happen, plus the block of time Friday through Monday of the drive itself.

The operation is extremely efficient. Fifty to sixty volunteers take part, many of them regulars who come back each year. The volunteers sort the mountain of donated stuff by size and category throughout the weekend, and set up tables and mirrors, coffee and cookies. Categories include coats, blankets, boots, hats, mittens, non-perishable food items for local food banks, as well as dog and cat food and old/stained blankets for animal rescue efforts.

Donors should not mistake this drive as a way of getting rid of unusable items! Unfortunately, some things that are donated are in very bad shape and have to be thrown out. Blankets that are not fit to give to people are now given to local animal rescue groups. Margie also reports that she has actually gotten some criticism from people who say that all the coats donated should stay in the community. She disagrees. "A cold child is a cold child!" says Margie.

When the drive began, they gave away about 450 coats. In 2005, they received between four and five thousand coats and even so there was a shortfall. (There are never enough warm-blankets, coats for babies and toddlers, and

She and her family discussed the problem at the dinner table. The solution to the problem was simple but brilliant—why not ask all families with extra coats to bring them to school and give them to the kids without coats?

coats in extra large sizes.) Currently, twenty-one organizations request coats for their caseloads from this drive, a result of contacts Margie has developed over the years.

The people who receive the donated clothes are typically recent immigrants from warm countries in the south, who have never needed winter clothing before. They sometimes have to sleep with nothing but a sheet to cover them as winter comes on. Many recipients are Hispanic day laborers who come to the school from Piermont, while volunteers deliver coats pre-ordered by size / gender to recipients in Spring Valley, Haverstraw and other communities in Rockland county.

Over the 12 years the drive has taken place, Margie has observed that the gap between haves and have-nots has widened in our area. In particular, because of anti-immigrant undercurrents, undocumented immigrants are feeling much less comfortable about coming forward to ask for aid. On the positive side, awareness of their neediness has also increased, and the response rate of coat donations has grown ten-fold in ten years. Many people have gotten into the habit of saving appropriate items throughout the year especially for this one event.

## One-on-One Learning

*continued from page 1*

teaching program that now serves between 100 and 200 students. Judy is an experienced teacher of ESL (English as a Second Language) and knew how to choose the right teaching materials and texts the One-On-One Learning program needed. Sister Cecilia approached St. John's Church in Piermont and the program was given the use of Connolly Hall twice a week, on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 8-9:30 p.m.

Many volunteers have contributed their time to make all these aspects of the program work—including Palisadians Pat O'Prey, Judy Platt, Ralph Olsen, Joyce Gavin, Roger Hooker, and Elisabeth Moody. (More are always welcome—you don't need to speak Spanish—just go there during a regular session and get involved.)

The focus is on teaching new immigrants literacy in English. The students are grouped by ability, ranging from beginners to those preparing to take the High-School GED equivalency test. There is also a children's program, since many of the students bring their children with them to the sessions. The children receive help with their homework and reading

readiness. At a separate location in Tappan supported by another benefactor, One-On-One Learning offers about 25 students computer classes on ten computers, also donated by the same benefactor.

The students are really dedicated and according to Judy Platt, never miss a night, even in terrible weather. She says that the atmosphere is wonderful—the room buzzes with energy as different learning-level groups sit around their tables, making it a very cheerful place. This spirit of optimism and sharing extends to the holiday season. Every participating family gets a holiday gift including wrapped toys and turkeys.

The future calls for increased growth. Sister Cecilia would like to find a new, larger space to combine all the programs under one roof, and expand the type of teaching offered. One-On-One Learning held a hugely successful fundraising dinner this past fall at the Nyack Seaport Restaurant that featured dancing and was attended by 90 teachers, supporters and volunteers and raised about \$23,000. For more information, or to make a contribution to this effort, you can call Sister Cecilia at 359-4239.

BY GRETA NETTLETON

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FALL 2006

## Palisades Kindergarteners

We are thrilled to publish these photographs of three of the Palisades kindergarteners who started at William O. Schaefer School this fall.



L TO R: PATRICK DALY  
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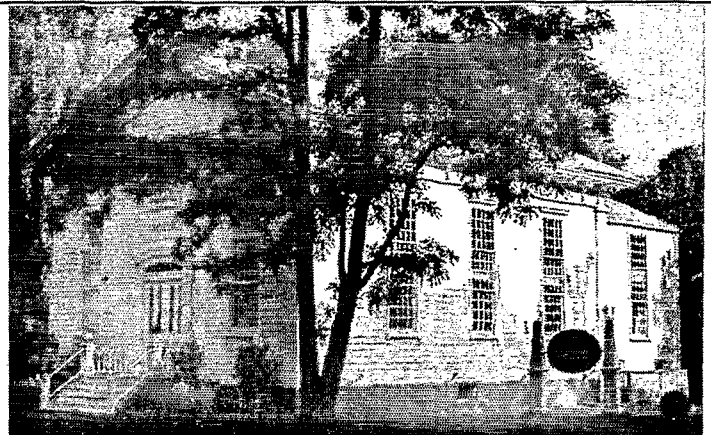
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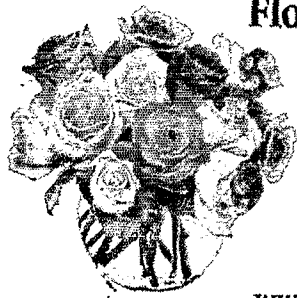
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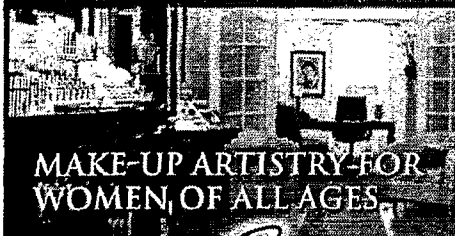


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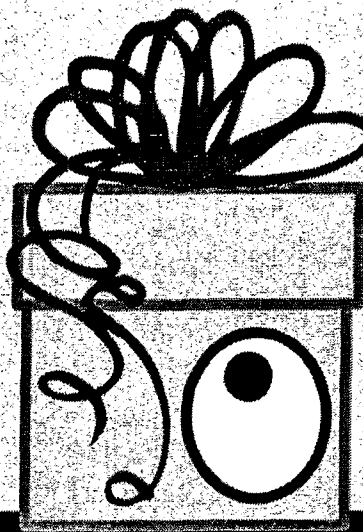


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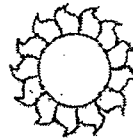
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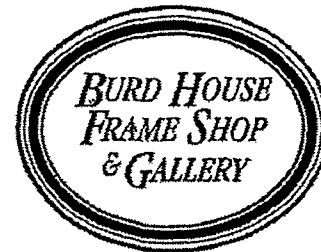
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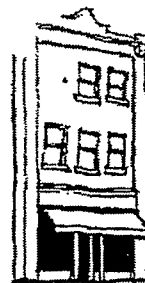


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## about 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades. Visit us on the web at [www.palisadesny.com](http://www.palisadesny.com) to get new information and web exclusives throughout the year. In order to keep 10964 coming out regularly, we welcome volunteers to assist with running our website, writing, photography, layout and editing. Please drop us a line if you would like to submit material or 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 print issues of 10964 in your mailbox four times each year from October through May.

### 10964 Staff Members and Contributors:

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### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR

## Palisades Post Office

During this holiday season and all through the year, Subu, Bernie, Brian and Santhosh are ready to help each of our customers and the entire Palisades community in any mailing need. Our advice to you is—MAIL EARLY. International letters and packages should be mailed by December 11. The Palisades Post Office has been a full service passport agency since 2004 and Subu stands ready to give you all the assistance you need to obtain a passport.

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