

10964

THE PALISADES NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006 NUMBER 193



Photo by Rajesh Dhawan

What kind of message are you getting from our medium?

10964 LAUNCHES WEBSITE WWW.PALISADESNY.COM WITH HELP FROM THE PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER

Our venerable community newsletter began its life as a circular hand-typed on purple mimeograph stock almost thirty years ago. Over the years our graphic style has evolved quite a bit. Personal computers and desktop publishing software became available in the 1980s, making design and layout much easier. These tools have continued to grow more sophisticated over the years, giving us the ability to produce issues with polished layout and graphic design once only available to professional publishers.

Now we are launching an on-line edition that can be updated throughout the year in between our four published issues, offering late breaking news, color photography and even a free, centralized Notices feature where you can post bulletin board and classified-type information. The Palisades Community Center will maintain a calendar for all upcoming events in our community that you might want to know about.

Although **10964** is going electronic, our message will stay true to our original mission, which is to focus on news that would be of interest to people in our community. **10964** will continue to be personal and local, purely as a matter of principle.

The site's structure has been developed based on features and articles from the past three decades of publication, and will attempt to serve the evolving future needs of the community in a way that is consistent with our past in terms of tone, look, and content. Many thanks to our talented web designers, Rajesh Dhawan and Helena Peskova of Piermont Web Design, for their excellent work on this project.

Visit us at www.palisadesny.com, and come back again soon in mid-May, when the Palisades garden photos will be posted.

(Continued next page)

(Continued from page 1)

Web Site Features

News: articles from our print issues, as well as web-exclusives that will keep readers informed about local issues throughout the year.

Photo Feature: This graphics-oriented feature will debut in mid-May with a photo essay on Palisades gardens blooming this spring.

Palisades Community Center home page: Viewers can find out about upcoming scheduled events for the whole community, including all Community Center activities. In addition you will be able to download printable forms:

- to join the Community Center
- to rent the building for your own events
- to order a copy of the DVD documentary on Palisades History

Notices: Free posting of notices (for Palisades residents only). Please go on-line and follow the directions to make your posting. Potential topics would be lost pets, baby-sitters, house sitters, pet sitters, tutoring, art classes, graduations, births, moves, etc. etc.

Other Community Organizations: communicate by e-mail with the Palisades Library, the Palisades Civic Association, and find links to local schools and the church.

History resources and links: downloadable books on Palisades history, pdf files of the Palisades History Day panels, and coming soon, a link to the complete collection of archived historical photographs from the Palisades Library collection on-line, as well as archived 10964 articles on the topic of Palisades history and back issues in pdf format.

People: profiles of local artists, filmmakers, authors and musicians from our files of previous articles, as well as obituaries for Palisades residents. Coming in the future—soundbites from Palisades musicians.

Click early and often—we look forward to your patronage!!

The 10964 staff

A DVD Documentary: A Living History - Palisades

Michèle A. Balm & Susan Shapiro, Producers

PART I (1:20 minutes) includes an introductory Rooster Segment with Albon Man and Joe Hyde, then interviews with Alice Gerard, Bill Knudson and Joe Hyde.

PART II (1:46 minutes) includes Dorothy Davis, Albon Man, Herbert and Janet Kellogg, Loni Garrison, Dorothy Thayer, a Cemetery Segment, and a Chicken Noodle Soup Recipe by Joe Hyde.

The documentary *A Living History — Palisades* gives us glimpses of years past. When Dumkin's blacksmith shop became Blacksmith Tea Shop, a very successful eatery. When roosters were a milkman's worst enemy or 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 grave of one lone slave, once buried far away from the main area of the cemetery. The iron gates that spell "Palisades Cemetery," now hidden from view, due to an overgrowth of foliage and fencing, make this secretive, bewildered plot its own never ending story. Dorothy Thayer and Bill Knudson express viewpoints and memories about the cemetery in the film.

Albon Mann tells us how library dues needed to be collected by knocking on people'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. 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.

Copies are being sold at the Palisades Library. The purchase of the DVD set will help towards maintaining the Palisades Community Center. To reserve a copy of the DVD, email <miepbalm@aol.com> .



ANN GRAY: THE FLOWER LADY REMEMBERED

Once you met Ann Gray, it was hard to forget her. Although small in stature, at 87 years old, she had the enthusiasm and energy of youth, a passion for flowers and gardening, and was involved in a number of local civic and environmental organizations. Ann passed away after a short illness on March 9th. Up until two weeks before her death, Ann could be seen zipping around town in her car, on her way from one commitment to the next.

Ann Gray was born on May 26, 1918. A year later, her parents Ada Bruner and George Gray, a well-known science writer and author of books, moved to Rockland Road in Sparkill. It was here that she developed her life-long love of nature. She grew up in a time when Sparkill was a hub of activity. The train that ran through Rockland made a stop in Englewood and then Sparkill. She remembered Sparkill as a bustling village that had many shops, among them a fine butcher shop and a large grocery store (where *Relish* is today). All that dissolved when the trains stopped running.

Ann attended high school at the Dwight School for Girls in Englewood. In 1940, she graduated from Wellesley College and immediately moved to New York City to pursue a career in publishing and advertising. She later returned to Sparkill, moving back into the house of her youth where she remained with her sister, Frances Pellegrini, until the end. Surrounded by beautiful gardens, she was always willing to share a root or clipping of her rare plants and loved to speak about new plantings in her garden. She was an active member of the Nyack Garden Club and for a number of years served as their president. Weeks before her illness, she would easily turn a conversation to the annual Nyack Garden Show which she helped to coordinate every April.

Anyone walking into the magical children's shop *Buttercup and Friends* in Piermont will remember Ann behind the counter. The shop, owned and operated by her sister Frances, has been part of the fabric of Piermont for 21 years. Ann was able to help their customers find the perfect



baby, birthday or "just because" gift while catching up with the latest news. Up until her death, she did the daily "sums" at the end of each day.

A dedicated member of the Palisades Presbyterian Church, for years, Ann could be counted on to bring the flowers for the Sunday service. She and Frances were active in the planning of the church's community events. Many were lucky to purchase Ann's charming hand-made bouquets at her flower booth at the annual Strawberry Festivals. Palisades residents will also remember her every election day at the Palisades school where she spent the day as a poll watcher.

It was fitting that on Saturday, April 22 — Earth Day — a memorial service was held for her at the Palisades Church. After the service, in the back of the church, a garden was planted in her honor and filled with plants donated by friends and family. Ann was laid to rest in a private ceremony in the Palisades Cemetery on March 11.

Loyal, enthusiastic, full of life and an inspiration to many, Ann will be missed in our community.

Carol Baxter

Vanished Houses

A number of historic houses have survived more than 200 years in Palisades. They include the Big House, the Ding-Dong House, the Mann house and the Captain John house on Washington Spring Road, as well as the Nicholas Gesner house, the Willsey house, and Chimney Cottage on Closter Road. Many more old houses have disappeared forever, in most cases leaving no trace. We are fortunate to have photographs of a few of the vanished houses.



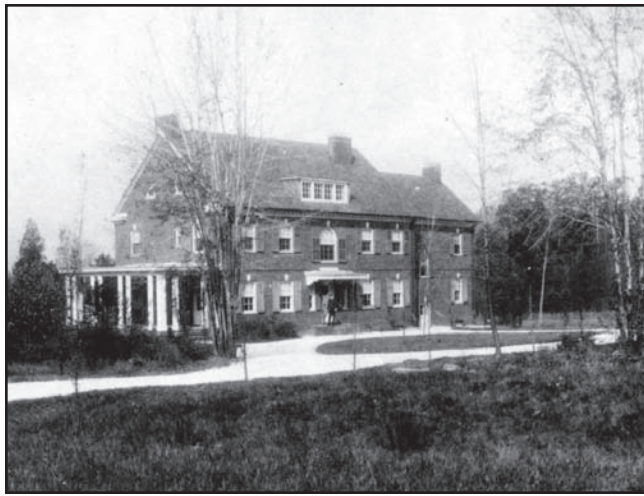
The Abram Post house on Closter Road (above) is shown on the Erskine map of 1780. This old stone Dutch house may have been built by Jacob Post about 1765. It — or its replacement — burned down in 1909. The Zinnell house, 47 Closter Road, was built in 1911 on the site of the old Post house.



Tradition says the David Mann house (above) was built in 1793 by David Mann, one of the sons of the George Mann who built a house on Washington Spring Road in 1784. It was originally a stone house in the Dutch style, but was greatly altered in the 19th century. A porch, a wing, and a second story were added. The farmer David Mann, a grandson of the original builder, was living in the house at the beginning of the 20th century. It was torn down in 1955 when the Palisades Parkway came through Palisades.



The Marder house (above) was built around the beginning of the 20th century on land purchased from David Mann. It was located on the north side of Oak Tree Road, partway down the hill, and was torn down before 1913 to be replaced by the Perry house.



The Perry house was built in 1913, replacing the Marder house. Mrs. John Perry was a Marder. Their only son, John Marder Perry, was killed in World War I. The Perrys built the American Legion Hall on Route 340, the John M. Perry Post, in his memory. In 1970 this house was torn down and replaced by Palisades Gardens, a residence for senior citizens, now the Esplanade. (House picture on left)

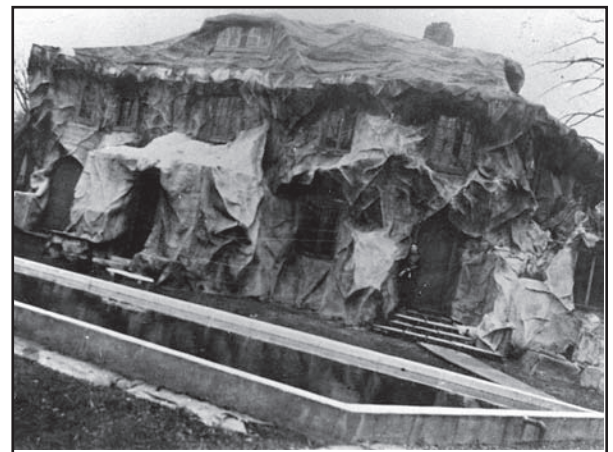
The Austin Abbott house was located inside Tallman State Park, at the end of the road, overlooking the river. It had been built by Peter King in 1867 and was torn down in 1932, after the Standard Oil property was acquired by Tallman Park. Holly Post's horses fell over the cliff here once, while delivering ice, but were rescued unharmed. (House picture to the right)



Heyhoe, shown here after the fire that destroyed it in the 1930s, was probably built by Warren Gilbert in 1841. In 1871 Winthrop Gilman Senior, father of the Winthrop Gilman who built Niederhurst, bought the house and lived in it until he died in 1884. It is said that the doorknobs were of solid silver and the house had 26 marble fireplaces. (House picture on left)

The Nessler house was built by Karl Nessler, who invented the permanent wave in England in 1906. He came here after World War II and opened a series of salons, probably building the house in the 1920s. The walls of the house were made of a very unusual kind of stone. It was replaced in the late 1950s by a development called Palisades Gardens. (House picture to the right)

Alice Gerard





Memorial Day 2005

Upcoming Calendar of Events at the Palisades Community Center:

On Saturday, **May 6**, there will be a defensive driving course given at the Center from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$45.00 and reservations are a must. Contact: Eileen Larkin at ileenog@aol.com or 359-6589.

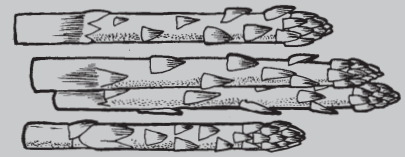
On Saturday, **May 13** the Palisades Free Library's annual plant sale will be held at the Center.

The Palisades Community Center is proud to host the last of two drawing workshops with artist Elaine Smollin on Sunday, **May 21**, 2006 from 2-4pm, not on May 12th as previously stated in the last 10964 issue. Elaine Smollin is working this spring as the artist-in-residence at the Palisades Community Center. A graduate of Pratt

Institute, Elaine's specialty is drawing from observation in nature. As a direct result of living in Snedens Landing in 2003, she amassed hundreds of sketches that refer to the elevations so characteristic of the Palisades landscape.

Tickets for the workshop are \$6 per person and to make reservations email miepbalm@aol.com or call 359-3776.

Keep tuned in by checking out the Palisades new website about future PCC events that will be scheduled for the month of June such as Appraisal Day and our annual Flea Market tentatively scheduled for **June 10th**.



Macaroni with Asparagus, Cream, and Ham

Asparagus used to be a springtime treat — now you can get it all year round but this is still a nice recipe for this time of year.

Heat 2 tablespoons of butter in a large sauté pan and add 1 1/2 lbs. lightly cooked asparagus cut in 1 inch pieces on the diagonal and 6 ounces of ham cut into cubes. Heat and sizzle in the butter for a minute. At the same time cook 1 lb. of macaroni or small penne in boiling salted water until al dente. Add 1 cup cream to the asparagus mixture; heat until it's hot. When you drain the pasta save a cup of water from the pot.

Now add the drained pasta to the sauté pan and heat the whole mixture for a minute or so. Add some of the reserved pasta water if it looks too dry. Toss with 2/3 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese, add a little salt and pepper to taste if you want, and serve with a bowl of cheese on the side.

If you add other lightly cooked spring vegetables to the butter with the asparagus (and you would cut back on the amount of asparagus in that case) this becomes Pasta Primavera, and leave out the ham if you wish. The important technique is to mix the cooked pasta with the sauce for a minute or so, so that the pasta absorbs the flavor of the sauce. This is equally important when you are using a tomato based sauce.

Simon Gerard

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY NEWS



19 Closter Road, Palisades NY 10964

A member of the Ramapo Catskill
Library System

Tel: 845-359-0136, Fax: 845-359-6124

www.rcls.org/pal

Board of Trustees

Mary Ellen Ledwith, President

Charles Shimel, Vice President

Helen P. Nelson, Treasurer

Dr. Carol Stewart, Secretary

Marianne G. Brown

Katheryn Papay

David Shire

Summer Activities for Children

Books: a Treasure is this year's Summer Reading theme. All young readers are invited to borrow and read new books, old favorites and everything in between. Catch up on your favorite series that you just didn't have time for during the school year. Our summer activities begins with:

AN EVENING OF MUSIC WITH ANN TEED.

Monday, June 26, 7:00 p.m. Original songs, dances, stories and mime will captivate all age groups. Tickets will be available at the library in June. This program will be held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart auditorium in Tappan. **For all ages.**

DRAGON DISCOVERY. *Wednesday, July 5, 4:15 p.m.* Find out about the mythical dragon creature and create one of your own. **Ages 5 and up.**

MONKEY BUSINESS. *Wednesday, July 12, 4:15 p.m.* Swing on by for some monkey tales and crafts. **Ages 5 and up.**

FAIRY TALE FUN. *Tuesday, July 18, 4:15 p.m.*

Listen to your favorite fairy tales and make a fairy tale project. **Ages 2 to 4.**

PIRATE TREASURE PARTY. *Wednesday, July 19, 4:15 p.m.* Yo ho ho, scallywags, shiver me timbers! A pirate's life in story and craft. **Ages 5 and up.**

ROYAL READINGS. *Wednesday, July 26, 4:15 p.m.* Kings and queens and their entire royal treasure for you to enjoy in story and fun. **Ages 5 and up.**

CARD SHARKS. *Thursday, July 27, 4:15 p.m.* Design your own deck of cards, using rubber-stamping techniques and make a box to store them in. **Ages 8 and up.**

MAGIC AND STORYTELLING BY TERRY PARRETT. *Monday, July 31, 7:00 p.m.* His magic will amaze, his stories will captivate. This program will be held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart auditorium in Tappan. Tickets available at the library in late July. **For all ages.**

PIZZA!PIZZA! *Wednesday, August 2, 4:15 p.m.* Books and fun about everyone's favorite food to eat. Which toppings do you like? **Ages 5 and up.**

Please sign up for all children's programs at the circulation desk.

Free Museum Passes

Museum passes are available at the circulation desk for the following museums – *American Museum of Natural History, Guggenheim Museum, Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, and Museum of the City of New York.* They may be reserved for a specific date, are valid for two days, and carry a late fee of \$15.00.

(Continued next page)

Digitization

The photographic collection of the Palisades Free Library will soon be available on the internet through a new service established by LARC (Library Association of Rockland County) and funded by grants from the Rockland County Legislature. The digitized images can be viewed at the "Hudson River Valley Heritage" website www.hrvh.org, Collections Directory, LARC.

You will be able to access not only the Palisades Library's collection of photographs but also New City's and Pearl River's postcard and photography collections, followed shortly by other Rockland libraries' historical materials.

Digital Books and Music – Remember 78s, 45s, LPs?

An E-Book is a version of a print book that can be read on your PC, PDA or listened to on your MP3 player. Many classical music titles are available too. Enjoy them anywhere, anytime. All you need is a valid library card, and access to the internet. To get started, go to our website, www.rcls.org/pal. Click on the link to the digital download center and its instructions. Download your books or music – you may enjoy them for 21 days when they will automatically be returned. No late fees.

NYPL Picture Collection Online

<http://digital.nypl.org/mmpco/> From the New York Public Library, this is a collection of 30,000 digitized, public domain images from books, magazines and newspapers as well as original photographs, prints and postcards, mostly created before 1923. It consists of images of New York City, Costume, design, American History: and more than 12,000 other subjects. It is searchable by keyword or by browsing a variety of indexes.

Learn a Language

The library has purchased the Rosetta Stone software. This program offers 28 languages and emphasizes the four key language-learning skills:

Listening: Native speakers are used throughout the program

Reading: Learners see a combination of words

and images to increase understanding of phrases and dialogues.

Speaking: Learners compare their speech to native speakers for pronunciation and receive immediate feedback.

Writing: Learners write the language they are learning with the program to guide them. They write what they hear. The program carefully checks their work and helps them correct any mistakes.

New Titles

Adult Non Fiction

Albright, Madeleine – *The Mighty and the Almighty*

Angell, Roger – *Let Me Finish*

Bracco, Lorraine – *On the Couch*

Galbraith, Peter – *The End of Iraq*

Klein, Joe – *Politics Lost*

Rosenberg, David – *Abraham: The First Historical Biography*

Tabor, James – *Jesus Dynasty*

Thomas, Helen – *Watchdog of Democracy*

Van Heerden, Ivor – *The Storm*

Adult Fiction

Douglas, Lawrence – *The Catastrophist*

Dunant, Sara – *In the Company of the Courtesan*

Lansens, Lori – *Girls*

Mosley, Walter – *Fortunate Son*

Nemirovsky, Irene – *Suite Francaise*

Roth, Philip – *Everyman*

Sykes, Plum – *The Debutante Divorcee*

Tyler, Anne – *Digging to America*

and many mysteries and best sellers

Forthcoming DVDs

The Devil's Miner

Enron: The Smartest Guys

The Family Stone

A History of Violence

Little Fish

Match Point

The New World

The Producers

The Squid and the Whale

Syriana

Transamerica

White Countess

PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

Spring was greeted on Saturday April the 8th at Palisades Presbyterian Church by our annual, ritual Spring Cleaning. In the rain, members climbed ladders, cleaned gutters and raked away the winters' detritus.

On April 22nd, Earth Day, there was a Memorial Service Celebration for a dearly beloved life-time member of the Church, Ann Gray, who died on March 9, 2006. Ann, who was born in Rockland and spent the greatest part of her life living on Rockland Road, was the Church's resident Florist and Horticulturist. Each Sunday for over 40 years, the sanctuary was graced by a floral arrangement of Ann's making. She delighted in being able to say that she never bought anything — it all came from her garden. Even in the dead of winter, a lovely flowering plant would appear on the organ as if by magic.

After the Church Service, led by Ray Bagnuolo, Palisades Interim Pastor, a brunch was enjoyed and then plants, brought by friends and family, were placed in a prepared bed in the back yard, with the help of the Nyack Garden Club, where Ann was an enthusiastic member for years. In the future, the garden will be expanded so that others can plant flowers in memory of a loved one.

Ann was a very young 88 years old.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS;

MAY 5, 6, 12, 13, 14: Children's Shakespeare Theatre: "The Tempest".

MAY 21: Stanley Barlow, a long time friend of Palisades, reading from his own book, *Appalachia and Beyond*.

Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30: Reading at 7:30.



MAY 29: Our Annual MEMORIAL DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST — an event always anticipated by loyal Palisades residents: 8AM TO 10:30AM in the Parish House Juice, Sausage and Pancakes. Adults; \$5.00: \$3.00 for children under 10.

JUNE 10: STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL; Palisades residents always know when summer arrives when the banner is strung across Washington Spring Road to announce the Church's annual Strawberry Festival. Open from 2:00 to 6:00, they serve delicious strawberry shortcake (all home-made), ice cream, punch, soft drinks: there are games and face-painting for the children, and flowers and plants for sale.

JULY 14: A BASTILLE DAY FRENCH DINNER; Our young children are taking a few lessons in May and June to learn some French recipes, and will be joining their parents in this lively evening of POT-LUCK and all things FRENCH. 6:00PM. Everyone welcome.

AUGUST 5: AN AFTERNOON WITH TILLY GREY; Tillie Grey, who was raised in Snedens Landing, has written a book about her six years experience with Habitat for Humanity, in AFRICA. She will be speaking about her experiences, and signing her book, from 3:00 PM to 5:00PM in the Parish House. Refreshments will be served.

This is a wonderful chance to say hello to an old friend. ALL are Welcome.

Karen Consolini

THE NYACK FARMERS' MARKET BEGINS ITS TENTH SEASON WITH A NEW HOME ON MAIN STREET

Thanks to community support, the Nyack Farmers' Market is pleased to begin its tenth season. On Thursday, May 18 beginning at 8:30AM the Market will open in its NEW location in the municipal parking lot on Main Street. Opening day festivities will include a Story/Craft hour at 10:00AM followed by The Bossy Frog Band performing at 11:00AM.

Ten years ago, there were no other weekly farmers' markets in Rockland County. The Nyack Farmers' Market continues its commitment in bringing locally and regionally grown fruits, vegetables and flowers and a variety of agricultural specialty products direct to the community. Beginning its first season with eight vendors, the Nyack Farmers' Market has grown to the current fifteen, which include:

The Orchards of Conklin (vegetables, fruit, pies & cookies), Blooming Hill Farm (organic produce, eggs, goat cheese), R & G Produce (vegetables), High Meadow Flower Farm (cut flowers, wildflowers, & herbs), Dines Farms (free range poultry, lamb and pork products), Warwick Valley Winery (fine local wines & ciders), Valley Shepherd (hand-made, artisanal cheeses), Just Rugelach (rugelach, quiches & pastries), Doctor Pickle (fresh pickles & sauerkraut), Panzarella Foods (fresh mozzarella, pastas, gourmet foods & soups), B & B Jams (all natural jams & jellies), Milford Chocolates (fine chocolates, confections & baked

goods), Comfort Crème (natural skin care products), Scotty's Soul Food Café (collard greens, bread pudding, chutneys & more), and The Baker's Wife (artisanal breads & baked goods).

Continuing the tradition of creating a weekly community gathering place, throughout the season a variety of agricultural and entertaining events will be planned. Story/craft hour will be held most Thursdays at 10:00AM and The Bossy Frog Band is scheduled to perform once a month.

Purchasing food in season not only keeps us in touch with the natural world that we are a part of, but it simply tastes better! There is no doubt that there's nothing better than eating fresh picked asparagus in May, a succulent strawberry in June, a juicy peach in July, a ripe tomato in August, an apple plucked off the tree or a hearty winter squash in October. Fruits and vegetables are picked the day before, so you are getting the freshest produce possible.

The Nyack Farmers' Market is open every Thursday, rain or shine, from May 18 through November. It is located in its NEW location in the municipal parking lot on Main Street. The market is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of the Nyacks, Inc. For further information, call Lorie Reynolds at the Chamber of Commerce at 353-2221 or visit their web site at www.nyack-ny.com.

Carol Baxter



BULLETIN BOARD

REMINDER:

Tuesday, May 16, 7AM to 9PM — South Orangetown School Budget Vote and School Board Election. All Palisades residents vote at Tappan Zee Elementary School on Route 9W in Piermont.

On the ballot are two propositions: one on busing, the other eliminating the “Gentlemen’s Agreement,” which came about in 1957 when Palisades-Sparkill, Piermont, Tappan, Orangeburg and Blauvelt turned over their NYS school charters and school buildings to form a central school district. They did so under the non-legal agreement that each of the hamlets would have representation on the five member Central Board of Education. Passage of the proposition would end this agreement; school board members would be elected “at large”.

If you have previously voted in a general election, or a school election, you are registered to vote. For further information, call the District Clerk at 680-1012.

PALISADES RESIDENT HONORED

On April 8, Tony Gerard was among the honorees at the Annual Benefit Dinner of the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center in Spring Valley.

Gerard, who is an attorney, received Certificates of Merit from the Towns of Ramapo and Clarkstown, an Award of Appreciation from the Rockland County Executive, a Certificate of Merit from Senator Thomas Morahan, a

Certificate of Achievement from the County of Rockland, and a Citation from the New York State Assembly. The awards were given for his legal work representing the underprivileged in Rockland County.

LAST LAMONT LECTURE

On Sunday, May 21, at 3PM, John Mutter will give a lecture titled “The Katrina Disaster, a Poor World Tragedy in a Rich Country.” Admission is \$5 at the door.

DOROTHY TURNS 90

At 11:30AM on Sunday, April 30, the Palisades Presbyterian Church hosted a reception in honor of Dorothy Davis’s 90th birthday. The event was attended by many friends, old and new, who wished to join in the celebration of Dorothy’s long and productive life.

TRAGIC LOSS FOR POSTMISTRESS

Jamarr Whatley, son of Mary Whatley, Palisades Postmistress, died on April 15. Jamarr, who was only 22, suffered a massive heart attack and collapsed during football practice. He was a student of Culinary Arts at the University of Akron in Ohio.

WE WILL HAVE A MEMORIAL DAY!

There will be a parade and Memorial Day observance at 9AM at the Palisades flagpole on Monday May 29th. Everyone come!



*Goodbye to the Palisades Driving Range!
(photos by Carol Baxter)*

WINTER REFLECTION: “DEER” PALISADES

In three decades of living by the Tappan Zee Bridge we never owned property of any size. Thus becoming fairly recent newcomers to Oak Tree Road has held great delight for me and my husband, because of all the wild animals its looming trees and large yards support.

The first wild turkey which planted itself in the middle of our backyard and stayed for about an hour brought whoops of amazement from the family. But the first three deer, remotely seen grazing by a little stream at the back of the property, created instant and avid deer watchers.

As we settled in our first fall, one muddy November produced a tattoo of thousands of deer prints around an island of hosta in our front yard, leaving only the barest indication of what had been planted there. We now call it “deer candy”—and our nursery specialist said we should never hope to have roses or hosta—but we have had both for some unexplainable reason in subsequent seasons. Our arborvitae plants have begun to have feminine waistlines as the deer graze midway up them when we’re not looking.

During our second year here we had even more striking deer communication—on the Esplanade lawn driving to a flea market in full daylight, four grown deer munched placidly on fallen apples from the dwarf trees on the entrance lawn. We stopped to talk to them. Their expressions said something like, “Don’t watch....we know it’s daylight but we can’t resist ...”

Driving west on Oak Tree Road back from Newark airport at two in the morning during the holiday season, a doe and her fawn were standing statue-still in the left lane on Oak Tree Road,

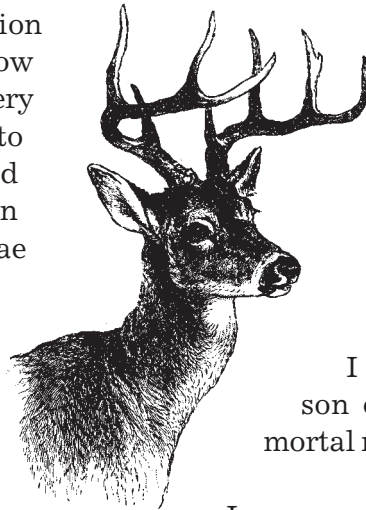
just after the post office. We again stopped to wish them a happy holiday and suggested not standing in the street. They moved slowly to the side lawn as if it was actually their idea.

Our recently added bird feeders have attracted at least 13 varieties of birds, some I never knew remained in the North in winter: tufted titmouse, downy woodpeckers, red bellied woodpeckers, slate back juncos, and nuthatches, along with the familiar winter birds, cardinals, jays, chickadees, morning doves. A recent gaggle of grackles have descended who create clouds of small seeds as they perch, frantically brushing them out of the bird house tray with their wings to get to the larger sunflower seeds.

And along with the birds, we observe one burly fellow we have named Supersquirrel because of his ability to push over the feeding station, creating a glorious splay of seeds on the porch and then in a single bound, leap to the porch railing. From time to time I catch my husband applying Wesson oil to the bird house stand, but mortal man is no match for Supersquirrel.

In a recommended book, *Cultivating Delight*, the author Diane Ackerman remembers saving small apples which escape pies in the fall, instead giving them to the deer in mid-winter, then watching them quizzically savor the surprising sweet flavor in the midst of snow. Sounds like a lovely plan to me. Drawing all the animals closer with whom we share our Palisades property remains one of life’s great pastimes, as our lives become measured by unexplainably satisfying animal sightings.

Judith Thomas



Palisades Incorporation, Past and....Future?

In the wake of recent hearings relating to proposed luxury real-estate development on the site of what was, for many years, the 9W Driving Range, many local residents have expressed concerns about the effectiveness, responsiveness, and integrity of the Historic Areas Board of Review process. Notwithstanding the clear language of the law — which gives both the HABR and ACABOR authority over the size and scale of new construction within the Historic District — as well as strong representations with broad-based community support made by Historic District residents to the HABR and ACABOR, in this as in other cases which have come before these boards, they have declined to respond meaningfully to community views or to exercise their full legal mandate in regard to new construction in the Historic District.

So it isn't surprising that more than a few local residents have tentatively broached the question of whether Incorporation of the Village of Palisades might provide a more effective local land-use and construction decision-making process. As long-time residents are aware, this wouldn't be the first such effort. However, the failures of previous incorporation attempts have left many with the sense that however desirable incorporation might be, it simply isn't in the cards.

That assumption bears careful examination. The first step of that examination is a look at the history of previous incorporation efforts and the reasons they were ultimately unsuccessful. Prior efforts to incorporate were undertaken in 1985, 1987, and 1988, due in no small part to the indefatigable Andy Norman, whose leading role in local politics often led local wags to refer to him as the "Mayor of Palisades," although no such incorporated entity or position actually existed as a matter of law.

In the instance of the 1985 effort, the boundaries of the proposed incorporated community were drawn broadly, encompassing 1282 residents, or more than double the minimum population of 500 required under state law for the incorporation. A petition with 262 signatures submitted to the Orangetown Supervisor — a position then held by long-time Republican stalwart Joseph Colello — was initially denied. However, following a successful legal appeal of that decision through an Article 78 filing, a referendum on the incorporation proposal went forward. In the end, hopes for incorporation were not realized: when the ballots were counted, the proposal went down to defeat by a margin of 369-294.

Building on the lessons of that first defeat, a second effort commenced in 1987. This time, the proposed boundaries of the town were adjusted significantly. Although the difference in territory amounted, according to contemporaneous accounts in *Our Town* and *The Journal-News*, to five percent or less, the population of the district as proposed in 1988 was cut almost in half, leaving 656 residents and 441 eligible voters. Once again, on April 1, 1987, Supervisor Colello denied the request, raising objections to the accuracy of the territorial description, the lack of a complete census, and alleging that the boundaries amounted to an illegal gerrymandering scheme. No appeal of Colello's denial was undertaken. But the story does not end there.

Incorporation advocates regrouped and on February 23, 1988, submitted a third petition, signed by 253 of the 398 eligible voters in the proposed Town of Palisades, out of a total population of 642 inhabitants. Following a hearing on April 29, 1988, Colello *again* denied the petition, citing the same grounds asserted in his previous denials. As in 1985, the petitioners brought an Article 78 proceeding to vacate Colello's denial, ultimately resulting in a June 30, 1988 decision by the Honorable Kenneth Lange. In that decision, although Judge Lange dismissed Colello's assertions regarding the description of metes and bounds as well as the allegation of gerrymandering, he ultimately upheld Colello's denial on the ground that petitioners had failed to provide a "complete list" of inhabitants. The matter was then appealed to the Supreme Court of NY Appellate Division, which ruled on December 31, 1990 that:

"The petition for incorporation was legally insufficient in that it did not include a 'complete' list of the regular inhabitants of the territory in accordance with clear statutory mandate. (See Village Law §2-202[1][c][2] Matter of Luria v. Conklin, 138 AD2d650, Matter of Village of Viola Hills [Lempent-Conklin]...."

Although that decision was curious for its reference to a "complete list" — a term found nowhere in NY State Village Law §2-202 — because it did follow a clear line of precedent within the Second Appellate Division, no further appeal to the NY State Court of Appeals was undertaken by the petitioners, and the question of incorporation has lain dormant since that time.

(Continued next page)

So What Has Changed?

Clearly, the underlying community concerns regarding inappropriate development in Palisades which led first to the formation of a Historic District, and later to three efforts at incorporation, have not been significantly assuaged by the composition of the HABR, its manner of operation, or its specific decisions in a number of cases which have attracted widespread interest.

The first significant difference between 1988 and 2005 is that unlike Joe Colello — a Republican Supervisor with a strong base of support in inland communities and a history of consistent hostility to the interests of river communities such as Palisades — the current Orangetown Supervisor is Tom Kleiner, a Democrat with a strong base of support in the river communities.

However, even were Supervisor Kleiner to look more favorably on an incorporation effort, several parties with deep pockets, among them IBM, Columbia University, and the developers of the driving range, might conceivably take legal action to stop incorporation. Should that occur, we arrive at the second significant difference: the legal landscape has shifted significantly since 1990.

In an August 25, 2005 decision in the NY Appellate Division of the Supreme Courts Third Department (Matter of De-freestville Area Neighborhoods Association, Inc. et al., Respondents, v. Paul Tazbir, Supervisor of the Town of North Greenbush 23 AD3d70) the court addressed a factual issue precisely the same as that on which the 1990 Second Department decision upholding Colello's denial rested, and not only came to a diametrically opposite finding, but demolished the legal reasoning on which the prior Second Department decision rested.

Responding to the determination of Supervisor Tazbir that the petitioners in that case had failed to provide a "complete" list of all inhabitants of the proposed area of incorporation, the court not only noted that the word "complete" does not appear in NY Village Law §S-202 and cited a prior Third Department decision that "certainly a list that is absolutely complete and accurate would be impractical to obtain and this court has

concluded that a list that is substantially complete complies with the statute," but it went on to specifically note the line of cases in the Second Department, including the 1990 Palisades decision discussed above, saying that "to the extent that cases from the Second Department can be read as subscribing to a more stringent standard in compiling this list, namely, a list free from any imperfection....we simply disagree and decline to follow them."

We may be thankful that back in 1990 local residents and attorney Martin Cornell declined — perhaps more wisely than they knew — to appeal the 1990 decision to the New York State Court of Appeals. Such an appeal could well have resulted in a higher court upholding the wrongheaded Second Department decision, establishing an extremely odious statewide precedent.

The entry of last year's Third Department decision, a decision which is much more rooted in the clear language of the State Village Law, as well being considerably more careful in its legal reasoning, creates a rift between two Departments — precisely the sort of matter which the higher court is charged with taking in hand.

The natural conclusion of all of the above is that, should an additional effort at incorporation go forward in 2006 or 2007, the likelihood of opposition at the level of the Town Council and the Office of the Supervisor is lower than it was in 1988. Even if anti-incorporation entities with deep pockets choose to fight the matter in the courts, the chances that they will prevail at that level are much reduced.

The only question that remains is whether there is sufficient local interest to pursue the matter.

The writer, Fred Little, expresses his gratitude to the Palisades Historical Committee and the Palisades Library for access to their historical files, and to William A. Gerard for assistance with legal research and analyses. Any errors of omission or commission are the writer's alone.

ROCKLAND'S MOST UNIQUE & AFFORDABLE SENIOR RESIDENCE.



THE ESPLANADE AT PALISADES

845-359-7870 • www.esplanadeatpalisades.com
640 Oak Tree Road • Palisades, NY





Photo by Rajesh Dhawan

10964 Newsletter
PO Box 201
Palisades, NY
10964

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 6409
Monsey, NY 10952

To Boxholder Palisades, NY, 10964

ABOUT 10964

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 get in touch with one of the staff if you would like to help. Financial contributions can be sent to **10964**, Post Office Box 201, Palisades, New York, 10964. With your help we'll be able to put **10964** in your mailbox four times each year from October through May.

And remember our web site:
www.palisadesny.com

10964 Staff Members

*Mary Ann Brueckner, Carol Elevitch,
Alice Gerard, Susan Gersony,
Mary Ellen Ledwith, Greta Nettleton,
Kathleen Sykes, Caroline Tapley,
Robby Whitstock and David Wolk*

Editing, Design and Layout
this issue by Alice Gerard

Contributions

We are grateful for a contribution received from
Nicholas and Cassandra
Luddington.

**Smart, faithful, friendly,
eager to please and
always there for you!**



Sanders Properties



regents.com

845-358-7200

sandershomes.com

Ellis

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Ellis Sotheby's International Realty ardently unites extraordinary properties with extraordinary people. Price is not always a factor. Quality, style, location and detail define unique and special properties. Let us guide your search. Your year member of "Who's Who In Luxury Real Estate."

353-4250

76 North Broadway, N.Y.C., NY 10060

www.ellissothebysrealty.com