

10964

THE PALISADES NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007 NUMBER 196

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



We celebrate our 30th anniversary with this March issue – quite an accomplishment for an all-volunteer publication. Throughout its existence many people have generously contributed their time and effort to keep this endeavor afloat. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to them all for their dedication and their caring. We extend a special thanks to Carol Elevitch, one of the founding members, who has remained actively involved and is, to a large part, responsible for its continued existence.

Writer Lois McCoy, the first editor, came up with the idea of a newsletter in 1977. She felt it was important to keep everyone informed of problems as well as events relevant to the community. Jane Bernick was the first treasurer and fundraiser. Johanna Lo thought up its name. John Converse joined the staff in 1989 and introduced the computer for layouts. (For more information, see Alice Gerard's upcoming book, *Palisades and Snedens Landing: The Twentieth Century*. Last year a website (palisadesny.com) was introduced with additional stories like Alice's fascinating look at lost area mansions as well as up-to-the-minute information on important issues.

Stories in our first two-page March 1977 publication reflected issues that are still relevant – the environment, schools and traffic. The length and frequency of the newsletter fluctuated throughout its 30 years. Today we produce a twenty-page issue that comes out four times a year. Funding the newsletter, distributed free to everyone in Palisades, was a perennial problem. To help cover the costs for printing and mailing, an auction was held in 1980 followed by three others in the next few years. It is now supported by advertisements and generous contributions from neighbors. We sincerely thank all who have given us much needed financial support throughout the years and hope you will continue to remember us in the years ahead.



PHOTO BY: GERRI MIRAS

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: CAROL BAXTER, ROB WHITSTOCK,
CAROL ELEVITCH, DAVID WOLK. BACK ROW: ALICE GERARD,
KATHY SYKES, GRETA NETTLETON.

Each 10964 issue has a different volunteer editor. In most recent years, Carol Elevitch has been responsible for the October issue, Greta Nettleton for the December, Kathleen Sykes for March and Alice Gerard for May. Susan Gersony is our treasurer and Alice Gerard, David Wolk, Lisa Powers and Rob Whitstock our layout artists. Carol Baxter is a contributing writer. We extend a warm welcome to anyone interested in joining our staff. We also encourage you to contact us if you have story suggestions and information you would like to see included. Please send it to P.O. Box 201.

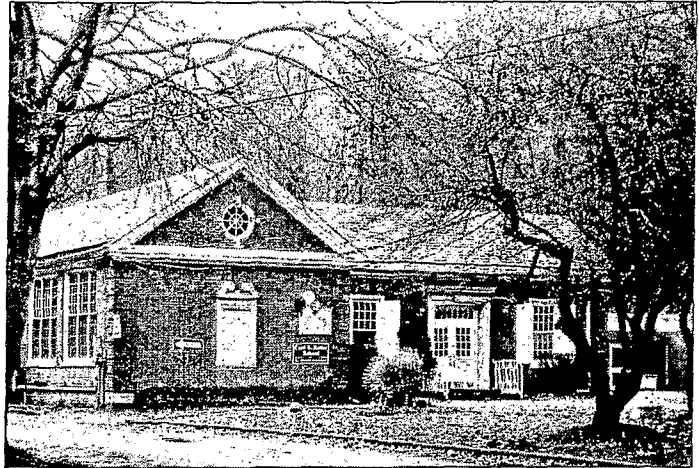
Kathleen Sykes

SCHOOL NEWS

THE PALISADES SCHOOL FOR SALE?

Since 1936, the red brick Palisades School has quietly held a solid position in the center of our Palisades hamlet. It wasn't until a recent rumor that it was to be sold that we learned just how shaky is the ground it sits upon.

Palisades' residents built and owned the school until 1957 when, after the school district was unified, the school was incorporated into the South Orangetown Central School District. Palisadian Alice Gerard was a young student at the Palisades School and remembers fondly that the building had a principal's office, a nurse's office and two classrooms. It held grades K-8, with four grades taught in each room. Over the years additional classrooms and a gym were added.



THE PALISADES SCHOOL ON OAK TREE ROAD.

The Palisades school was used for elementary education until 1977. The following year the Oak Tree Playgroup moved into the building. Through the years, it has housed programs such as Rockland Center for the Arts, the South Orangetown Early Childhood Program, South Orangetown SEEC After School, Orangetown Children's Society and the South Orangetown Family Resource Center. The Children's Enrichment Center and the Fred Keller School are current tenants. It is also the voting site for local and national elections.

In December, when word started to spread about the possible sale of the building, many members of the Palisades community became concerned about the negative impact of considerable development to our hamlet's center. However, at a December community meeting the discussions shifted from it being a Palisades issue to a greater issue concerning the entire South Orangetown school district.

When student population decreased a few decades ago, the school district sold the Tappan Grammar building (now condominiums) and rented the Orangeburg School to Dominican College. The Tappan Zee Elementary School on Route 9W was also slated for sale. A group of concerned citizens (including Palisades residents Andy Norman and Eileen Larkin) challenged the school district and blocked the sale. It is unimaginable to think where the current 500+ students would go if that school had been sold.

A few years ago, the district put up a bond to cover the costs of expanding and repairing the infrastructure of its schools. (A demographic report predicted a steady increase of students over the next 10 years.) The first bond wasn't passed. Removed from the second bond, which passed, was infrastructure repair that now needs to be done (five school roofs need repair). In an attempt to look for ways to cover these costs, four properties are being appraised by the school district to determine their worth: the Palisades School, the Cowboy Fields in Piermont, the Orangeburg Elementary School and the playground at Oak Tree Road and Route 303.

While district officials say that a sale is not necessarily imminent, those attending various public meetings received a different message. Two board members have stated, "The Palisades School is on 8 ¾ acres of prime real estate"... "We don't need to wait for the appraisals to come in, we can sell the building now"... "We won't sign any renewal contracts because we don't want to paint ourselves into a corner."

The Town of Orangetown has approved construction of over 1,000 senior citizen units. It is reasonable to assume that many seniors will be selling their South Orangetown homes to families with children, increasing student population.

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BULLETIN BOARD

MARCH 2007

Henry Shrady has been appointed by the Town Board to the Historic Area Board of Review (HABR), replacing **Caroline Tapley** who recently resigned. **William Walther** is the only other Palisadian on the seven-member board.

Nick Seaver has just completed a training program in Nashville led by **Al Gore** on global warming-related issues. Nick will spend next year making presentations on how we all can become part of the solution. He is founder and director of a climate-change initiative in partnership with **Treehugger.com**, the world's leading environmental website and a major media company. Seaver also works as a screenwriter, doing re-write and consulting work on independent films and is currently marketing his first spec feature film. Anyone interested in the global warming presentation can contact him at nlseaver@earthlink.net.

Mary Frances Murphy, who lived on **Closter Road** for forty years, died January 31. After graduating from the University of Alabama and Columbia Teachers College with a graduate degree, she headed for Europe with a Ford Foundation scholarship. Mary taught English in area high schools and was active in the Palisades Church and the Library.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

Amy Lehman, co-owner of **Hudson House**, a popular Nyack restaurant, has recently moved from South Nyack to Oak Tree Road. Before opening the restaurant in 1990, Amy was a dancer with the American Dance Machine. She has three daughters; her oldest, **Maris**, is an actress in Chicago. **Carlyn** is at SUNY Purchase at the Dance Conservatory and her twin sister **Hannah** is a student at SUNY Albany.

Michael Tersigni, **David Palachek** and their two-year-old son **Zane** have moved from Mill Valley, California, into a home on Washington Spring Road. Michael is vice president of store design and planning for the Children's Place and Disney stores. David, a free-lance retail designer, tells us, "When we moved east we did a comprehensive canvas of five counties. When we came to this area it became clear to us that this is where we wanted to be."

Paul Goldman, his English wife **Alice** and their two sons, **Alex 9** and **Angus 6**, moved from London to Woods Road about six months ago. Paul works out of the house as a free-lance director of TV commercials. He discovered Palisades while working on one that was filmed in the area.

Welcome to new neighbors **Dexter Sun**, his wife **Mei Zhao** and their two children who have moved to Washington Spring Road. Dexter is a neurologist in the city and Mei is a consulting civil engineer who used to work for the Port Authority.

Carine Joannou, president of **Jamis Bicycles** headquartered in Northvale, New Jersey, has purchased **Caroline Tapley's** home, known as the Laundry. Since Jamis is just three miles away, Carine anticipates dividing her time between her city apartment and Palisades. She relates, "I wanted to show my boyfriend this special area called Snedens Landing. Driving down to the Sneden House we saw Caroline's house for sale. We called the realtor to see it and put an offer on it within days. I was not house shopping, it was a complete impulse buy."

MOVING ON OUT

We bid farewell to long-time resident **Caroline Tapley**. A member of the community since 1960, she served on our newsletter for the past ten years, on the Historic Area Board of Review for three years and on the Library Historic Board for four. Caroline and husband **Donald** initially rented half of **Chateau Hash** on Washington Spring Road with **Dorothy** and **Harry Davis** sharing the other half. Every ten years the Tapleys got the moving bug, buying a house half way up the road then the Spite House at the end of Woods Road and finally the Laundry. Her new home across from the Piermont Marshes is two doors away from one of two daughters and just a stone's throw from putting her kayak into the water.

The **Panettiere** family of Palisades recently relocated to Los Angeles. **Skip Panettiere**, a retired NYFD Lieutenant, and wife **Lesley Vogel**, an actress, along with their two children **Hayden** and **Janson**, will be missed by many in the community. Their daughter **Hayden**, following in her mother's footsteps, is an actress; she is starring in the new NBC hit series, **HEROES**. **Janson** is also an aspiring actor who is currently working in Mexico in his first starring role in a major motion picture. Best wishes to the whole family in their new home.

BULLETIN BOARD

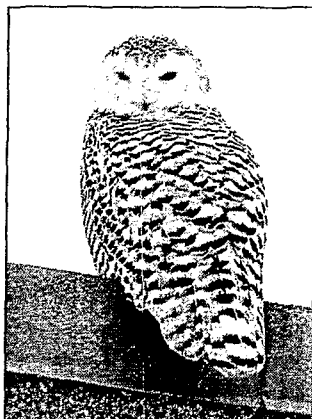
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RETURNING HOME

Sabelle Breer, youngest of Frannie Breer's four daughters, and her husband Curt have recently purchased the Stewart House on Closter Road. Sabelle is a successful songwriter as is her husband who also has his own song publishing company. Frannie is delighted to have them so close, especially with the appearance of granddaughter Hanna who is now 16 months old. "I do drive-bys to make sure they are still there," she relates.

OWL ALERT

David Gottlieb who lives on Lawrence Lane reports spotting a snowy owl from his backyard. Normally found in the Artic tundra of the North Pole, it's rare for them to be in the Lower Hudson Valley. The unexpected visitor was first seen in Piermont around the pier and marsh.



EXHIBITIONS OF INTEREST

Renowned local artist **Grace Knowlton** who is currently teaching a course on mixed media at the Art Student's League in Manhattan has a new show entitled *Bones* at the Anita Hart Balter Gallery, which runs to March 25. The gallery, open daily from noon to 5:00 pm, is located at 23 Garrison's Landing in Garrison, N.Y. near the junction of 9D and Route 403. Grace will give a gallery talk on March 18 at 3:00 pm. For more information go to: garrisonartcenter.org.

Last December, local photographer **Greta Carlstrom** exhibited a collection of her photographs at the Grape D'Vine Gallery in Tappan. The show was titled, *Photographs in Sweden*.

Artist **Elaine Smollin**, artist-in-residence at the Palisades Community Center last year, has an upcoming exhibit titled, *Drawings from Palisades*, at the Kentler International Drawing Space at 353 Van Brunt Street, Brooklyn. The exhibition of 10 x 20-foot drawings opens March 30 and runs through May 5. An artist and curator's discussion will take place April 14, 4:00 to 6:00 pm. The gallery is open 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

INFORMATION WANTED

Alice Gerard is close to completing her book on Palisades history titled *Palisades and Snedens Landing: The Twentieth Century*. However, she needs more personal reminiscences from the 1980s and 1990s, especially from the non-Snedens part of the community. If you have any interesting stories or vivid memories from this period please get in touch with her at gerard55@optonline.net. She could also use pictures of community events during these two decades. The deadline for any new material is March 15 since Alice hopes to complete the layout by the end of March. The book will probably appear in May or June and will be available from the Palisades Library or from Alice.

ALERT: Election for Palisades Seat on the South Orangetown School Board Coming Up in May. Palisades needs a candidate: anyone interested should contact the School Board Clerk at 845-680-1012. Palisadian Gerry Miras, a school board member for 15 years, is happy to answer questions. Call her at 359-1720.

School district voters have twice voted (1992 and 2006) to keep the original "Gentleman's Agreement," which provides representation on the School Board by designating each of the five seats to a hamlet of South Orangetown: Blauvelt, Orangeburg, Palisades, Piermont and Tappan.

Editor's Note: On March 28 at 7:30 pm in the South Orangetown Middle School, the School Board will discuss next year's budget. All are encouraged to attend.

TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE NEWS

Michael Anderson, Deputy Project Director with New York State Department of Transportation, the agency in charge of the Tappan Zee Bridge, reports, "There will be a significant milestone occurring at the end of February as the project team conducts the first in a series of open house sessions. These sessions will present the public with an overview of the work underway for the past several months, including preliminary engineering solutions under consideration for each alternative. In the near future our website will be re-launched and regularly updated to reflect current events as well a schedule of upcoming meetings." For more information contact Michael at: manderson@dot.state.ny.us

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PALISADES PLACES

49 WOODS ROAD

by Katie Elevelitch

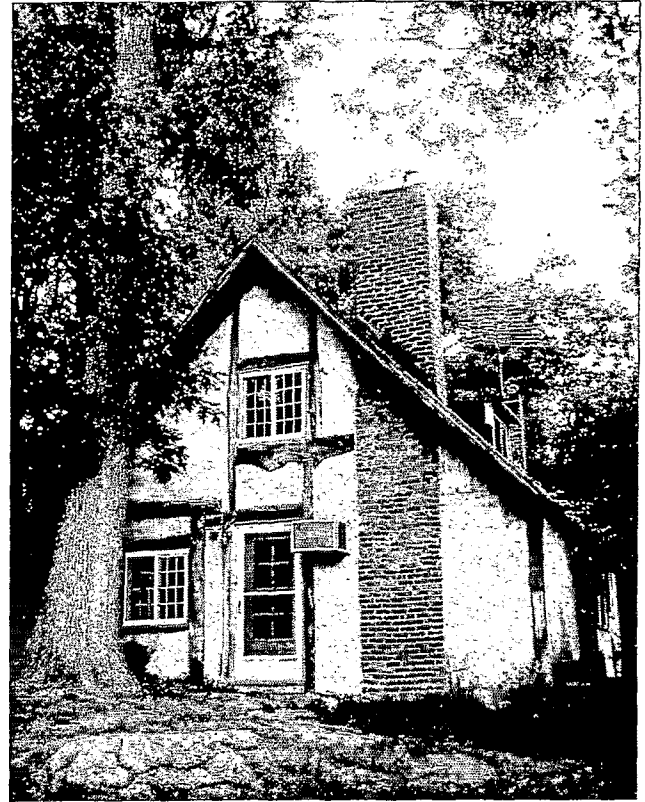
On November 4, 2006, a few weeks after my Dad died, I received flowers and a note from long-time Palisades resident Dorothy Davis after my concert at the Palisades Church. What she had written was a premonition: "Welcome Home".

One month later, fate intervened to allow me to rent, for way below market rates, the little 1928 hand-built cottage down Woods Road where the late Victor Powell, beloved piano teacher for many Orangetown residents, lived for 50 years. As of this writing, prospective new owners are preparing for possible construction of a new house in late spring.

I have never been so in love with a place. I have a running list of the reasons why: The unbearably perfect river views, the full moon as bright as the sun beaming through the windows in the middle of the night, the tiny, irregular staircase that I climb to the cathedral ceiling bedroom, the bike riding to church for celestial singing on Sunday mornings, the late night starlit walks, the new unexpected friendships with people 20, 30, 40 years older than I, the piles of books from the Palisades Library, the no TV, the 10 years of anxious NYC living melting away, the new kind of familiar quiet, the sound of the wind, the 100-year old trees creaking, the deer and birds that have befriended me in the wildness of this nearly abandoned house, the magical memories of my childhood home on Washington Spring Road, its 150-year old wooden frame nestled into the valley beneath the watchful eye of my new home's owl-like perch, my nearness to Dad...

Maybe, I reason finally, the house represents the long goodbye I didn't have the chance to have with Dad. That death was sudden, this, a slow goodbye, a visible transformation, a strange twilight of constant joyful sadness. Here, time has expanded, almost stopped. Each moment has never felt so free, so full.

This place is alive. A creature as wild and glowing as the birds and the moon. It reverberates and rings like the inside of an acoustic guitar, a solid wood sounding board for over 50 years of piano playing, singing and art making. Like a painting on the wall, whose paint strokes represent the vision and decisive energy of the painter's hand, frozen in time, this house is art born of builders who cemented their creativity, foresight, playfulness and



ARTIST'S COTTAGE

individuality with their bare hands into the ground: This is our home, we will make it here.

To be able to be – and appreciate being – within the walls of this singular stroke in time is such a gift. Dad gave me that gift as well – he taught me to always see the potential and the value in the rustic, the peculiar, the non-conformist. To proudly pursue and inhabit one's own vision.

For 79 years, this small place has been holding the space for those people willing and able to enter into its individual beauty. And now this place holds me. I feel embraced, safe, loved and very alive, attuned to the house's powerful vibration. "I can't believe this is my home", I say to myself. "This is my home."

When Dad was in the hospital, he had his own mantra, "I want to go home, I want to go home." To which I responded without pause: "But I am your home. I am here. You are already home."

So now I say to little 49 Woods Road: I am your home, and you will live through me, no matter what your slightly dilapidated but inspired walls may become.

PALISADES LIBRARY NEWS

Palisades Free Library

19 Closter Road, Palisades, NY 10964

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

email: pal@rcls.org, Website: www.rcls.org/pal

Member of the Ramapo Catskill Library System

Closed April 16th for Easter

Adult Programs

Our Sunday Symposia continue:

March 18

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.

May 20

Do You See What I See?

The artists Grace Knowlton and Joan Hooker try to understand each other's perspectives.

Scrapbooking for Adults –

Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy a child-free night out and learn how to scrapbook like a pro. Bring photos and design beautiful, creative pages for your book.

Children's Programs

Family-Origami: Fun with Paper –

Wednesday, March 7, 4:15 p.m.

A hands-on program for children from kindergarten and up. This activity for beginners is an opportunity to have fun and create origami from a sheet of paper with no cutting or gluing. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Limit 15 families.

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. Ages 5 and up.

Garden Gathering –

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

Paint a flower pot and make some spring flowers from paper to put inside. Ages 8 and up.

Book & Bird Watching –

Wednesday, April 25, 4:30 p.m.

Fine feathered friends stories. Make a treat for the birds. Ages 5 and up.

Celebrate your MOM! –

Wednesday, May 9, 4:30 p.m.

Hear some mom stories and make a card and goodie for mom or grandma. Ages 5 and up.

T-Shirt Stenciling & Decorating –

Thursday, May 17, 4:30 p.m.

Bring a t-shirt and learn how to stencil. Embellish with beads and ribbon. Many stencils to choose from animals, sports, letters, flowers, beach scenes and more. Ages 8 and up.

Please call or come into the library to register.

Great Web Sites for Kids

The American Library Association (Website: <http://www.ala.org/greatsites>) features kid-friendly sites for animals, the arts, history and biography, literature and languages, mathematics and computers, reference desk, sciences and social sciences. Check it out! They also highlight special sites for parents and caregivers.

Study Buddies

Once again, we will be offering high school students an opportunity to help younger children with their homework and special assignments. High school students can sign up to help a student one day a week for an hour at the library. Students who would like help should sign up too.

Museum Passes

The library has memberships for the Museum of Natural History, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, the Guggenheim and the Whitney. These free passes check out for two days and may be reserved for a specific date. Ask for details at the circulation desk.

Wireless - wireless service is available during the hours the library is open.

Tappan Zee Thrift Shop

The thrift shop continues to be a bonus source of income for the library. Remember to specify your donations to benefit the Palisades Free Library. Anyone wishing to volunteer on a weekly, biweekly or monthly basis may call the library for further information (359-0136).

New Non Fiction

Abagnale, Frank

Stealing Your Life

Groopman, Jerome

How Doctors Think

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: ARNOLD FINCK



ARNOLD FINCK

In 1947, shortly after his return from the war, Arnold Finck and his wife Liz moved into the 1830 Stansbury house on the corner of Washington Spring Road and Ludlow Lane. Liz had grown up just a short distance away at Seven Oaks, a 25-acre estate at the top of Ludlow Lane, built in 1862 by Charles Park. One of three major estates in the area along with the Lamonts' Torrey Cliff and Niederhurst built by Winthrop Gilman Jr., Seven Oaks was purchased in 1911 by Liz's grandfather Seth William Fox, a flour merchant, who moved his family there from Brooklyn.

Liz lived at Seven Oaks with her mother Jennie, her uncle Arthur and his wife Ada. Her uncle William who was a bit of a recluse lived next door. The family was staunchly Methodist and no liquor was allowed. To manage the large property the Foxes had a staff of six, Fritz the butler, Frieda the cook and four who tended the grounds. Ada loved to garden and had an outstanding flower garden, a frequent stop for local garden clubs. They owned six cows and a bull that wandered down Ludlow Lane to graze. Arthur had originally purchased Stansbury house for he and his wife but Ada became ill and couldn't walk up stairs so, after repairing the rundown house, he gave it to the young couple.

In 1922 the Finck family moved from Jersey City to Grandview to a house on River Road where Arnold's younger brother Howard was born. It was called the Carabia Spring House because a spring flowed down behind it and through pipes into the house. His father worked for Orange and Rockland. His mother had grown up in Piermont where her parents owned a rooming house (now the Turning Point) with a restaurant and bar on the lower level. Arnold's grandfather was shot and killed when he tried to stop an argument in the bar.

After high school Arnold attended the New York Business Institute. He met Elizabeth Fox in 1940 at a meeting of the Christian Youth League formed by several local churches. In early 1942 Arnold enlisted in the army and was stationed in Antigua in the Caribbean. With German subs in the area, an air base was needed on the island to keep shipping lanes through the Panama Canal open for American ships carrying men and supplies to fight the Japanese in the Pacific.

Arnold was sent to Virginia for training. While there his parents came down to visit with Liz and Arnold proposed. They were married in 1944 at the Palisades Presbyterian Church and had their reception at Seven Oaks. Since it was not known until the last minute when Arnold would be able to get leave, Liz had invitations printed without a date then hand-wrote it in.

When Arnold and Liz first married area traffic was light; snowy days brought sledding from the top of Ludlow Lane straight down to the river. It was a long walk back. When Jennie died in 1960 the Seven Oaks property went to Liz and two cousins who sold it to Jack Macrae and Winthrop Knowlton. Jack took the big house and Win converted the barn into his home. Other parcels were sold off including the machine shop and cottages. In 1954 the Foxes had sold Lamont a ten-acre plot, now part of the current entrance off 9W. The main entrance to the Lamont estate had been by way of Ludlow Lane, which became a problem when the university took control because of increased traffic through the community.

Arnold worked for New York Life before joining the newly formed Lamont Geological Observatory as administrator in 1950 and stayed for 31 years. (Frances Corliss Lamont donated the property to Columbia U. in 1948.) Arnold's broad range of responsibilities included contracts and grants, buildings and grounds and supervision of non-scientific personnel. In addition to the conversion of existing buildings, he oversaw the construction of five new buildings, working closely with architects and engineers.

Geochemist Wallace Broecker, a long-time member of the Lamont staff, recalls, "I sometimes wonder how Arnold, when faced with what must have been chaos surrounding Maurice Ewing's fund raising and spending, was able to steer Lamont's financial course. Yet he

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ARNOLD FINCK

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always appeared to be calm, happy and in control. Amazing. I do remember when we built the first addition to the Geochemistry building (circa 1974), Joe Worzel who was Associate Director assured me that we didn't need to go to the trouble of getting a building permit. All went well until the daughters of the chairman of Orangetown's zoning board reported the existence of a new building at Lamont to their father. A stern letter to stop and desist appeared on Arnold's desk two days later. Just one more problem for a man with a very tough job."

In 1968, the Palisades Geophysical Institute, was formed to handle classified contracts related to long-range sound transmission. Arnold took on the running of this as well for its first year then remained on its board until its dissolution in 2004.

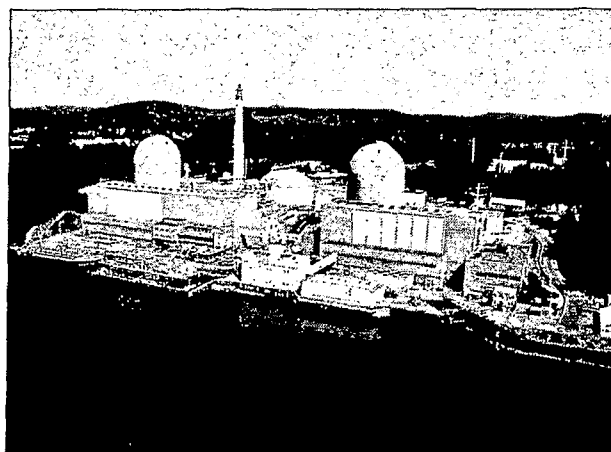
Liz and Arnold had three children. Don who lived just across the road from his parents for about ten years is now in Piermont; Carolyn lives nearby in Demarest and Robert is in Minneapolis. The family has expanded to eleven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Sadly Liz passed away a little over a year ago. Arnold keeps active as a director of the Alumni Association of Lamont, spends quality time with his family and gardens, tending his roses the deer haven't yet demolished.

Kathleen Sykes

LIBRARY NEWS

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Nuland, Sherwin	<i>The Art of Aging</i>
Orman, Suze	<i>Women and Money</i>
Pagels, Elaine	<i>Reading Judas</i>
Sedgwick, John	<i>In My Blood</i>
Tenet, George	<i>At the Center of the Storm</i>
Wilson, David	<i>Evolution for Everyone</i>
New Fiction	
Binchy, Maeve	<i>Whitethorn Woods</i>
Bowen, Rhys	<i>In Dublin's Fair City</i>
Edge, Arabella	<i>The God of Spring</i>
Hill, Reginald	<i>Death Comes for the Fat Man</i>
Larsson Asa	<i>The Blood Spilt</i>
Mason, Daniel	<i>Far Country</i>
McDermid, Val	<i>The Grave Tattoo</i>
Picoult, Jodi	<i>Nineteen Minutes</i>
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Steel, Danielle	<i>Sisters</i>



LICENSE RENEWALS FOR INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR STATIONS

Indian Point Nuclear Power Plants 2 and 3, like other nuclear generating plants in the United States, were originally licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for 40 years. Phillip Musegaas, Staff Attorney for Riverkeeper, reports that Entergy, the owner and operator of the reactors, notified the NRC in November that the company would submit 20-year license renewal applications for the two facilities in March 2007.

A public meeting describing the license renewal process is usually held about a month later. About two months after the application is submitted, NRC posts a notice in the Federal Register that starts a 60-day clock for the public to submit petitions to intervene or request a hearing. Potential interveners have about four months from the time the application is first made public to the petition deadline. After that, the hearing process can take anywhere from two to three years, depending on how successful the intervention is. If approved by NRC, this would extend the operation of reactors 2 and 3 to 2033 and 2035, a total of 60 years each.

In 2005 Entergy started construction of facilities to move highly-radioactive fuel assemblies from the spent fuel pool of reactor 2, which is nearly full, to dry casks. Water containing radioactive strontium and tritium was discovered during excavation. This issue continues to be in contention among environmental groups, NRC and Entergy. For more information go to the following web sites: www.ipsecinfo.org or www.riverkeeper.org.

Dates of meetings will be listed on our website, palisadesny.com, when available. If you have concerns about the power stations, it's important you make the effort to attend.

Lynn R. Sykes

CHURCH NEWS



THE PALISADES CHURCH

LOOKING BACK 30 YEARS AT PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Congratulations 10964 on 30 years of serving this little area of Rockland County with such intelligent, informative and illuminating history and news. Palisades Presbyterian Church salutes you. Thirty years ago, the Rev. Fay Ellison was the pastor at PPC, the first woman to lead our Church and one of the first in the Hudson River Presbytery, let alone the entire USA.

Looking through our Session Minutes for the year 1977, we find that permission was granted to the Children's Shakespeare group to hold rehearsals in the Parish House every Tuesday and Thursday. Jean Brock was the director, the (single) play that year was, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and included among the cast members were John Anderson, Laura and Phil Harrison, Alice Kriz and John Garland. Diana Green recalls that it was the last play that Jean Brock directed. Diana herself was not in it, "too old" she says, but she certainly made up for that disappointment with her subsequent and triumphant revival of the players, which she has expanded and now includes the Rogue Players. Rehearsals and performances are still held in the Parish House to this day -- to the delight of us all.

That same year, the Session of the Church voted to ban the use of chemical fertilizers on the Church grounds, formed its first Personnel Committee, sent a group of people to Wheeling, West Virginia (Appalachia) for a work week and voted to keep the Palisades Library and other community organizations and churches informed of all our activities, which continues to this day.

A NEW LOOK FOR THE ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

This year, on June 9, PPC's much-loved Strawberry Festival will include a Silent Goods and Services Auction. The front yard of the Church will be tented and passers-by will be tempted by exciting opportunities to bid on unusual items.

The Parish Life Committee is putting this auction together and is looking to its neighbors in Palisades for contributions. We would dearly love to have items such as:

- A week at a summer camp for a child
- Lessons - piano, photography, cooking, computer skills
- The services of a handy-man (for a day or more)
- A landscaping consult
- Time-shares in a vacation home
- The loan of a vacation home in the U.S. or elsewhere
- Membership gifts - spa, museum, and gym
- A web site design
- Signed articles or letters from well-known people etc.

Anyone wishing to contribute to our fund-raiser, which will help maintain the Church buildings and grounds, please contact Karen Consolini @ 212-569-0602 or leave a message on our Church answering machine.

EASTER SERVICES AT PALISADES CHURCH

Maundy Thursday, April 5. A potluck supper at 6:30 pm with a service following at 8:00 pm. We will be joined by members of the St. Charles AME Zion Church of Sparkill.

Good Friday, April 6, 12:00 Noon. Good Friday Service at Noon. Church Sanctuary will be open from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm for any who wish to come and pray.

Easter Sunday, April 8, 6:00 am. Sunrise Service at the Ludington's in Sneden's Landing.
Easter Traditional Service at 10:00 am

MARCH DOINGS AT PPC

Sunday, March 18, 6:00 pm: Irish Poets and Readers. Join us, bring your favorite Irish poems and share an evening of Irish poetry and community fellowship.

LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

G. Michael Purdy, director of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, received the 2006 Maurice Ewing Medal at the fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco. Honored for his more than 30-year commitment as a researcher, administrator and innovator in the earth sciences, the award recognizes Purdy's "significant and original contributions to our understanding of oceanic crustal structure and as a developer of new geophysical instrumentation for use in the deep sea." The Ewing Medal was established in 1974 and is named after the founding director of Lamont-Doherty, William Maurice "Doc" Ewing.

SPRING 2007 PUBLIC LECTURES

Sunday, March 18

A New Era in Ocean Exploration:

Introducing Research Vessel Marcus G. Langseth

A panel presentation by:

Suzanne Carbotte, PhD, Doherty Research Scientist

John Diebold, PhD, Senior Research Scientist

G. Michael Purdy, PhD, Director

Oceans cover about three quarters of the Earth's surface. Although much has been learned about the seafloor and sub-floor in recent decades, much remains to be explored. The panel will describe a wide range of ship operations and scientific investigations of Lamont's newest ocean-going research vessel, the 235-foot Marcus G. Langseth.

*Note. Lamont-Doherty's new research vessel, which will begin service at sea this summer, is named after Marcus G. Langseth, who earned his PhD at Lamont in 1964 and was a leading international geophysicist there until his death in 1997. Mark and Lillian Langseth moved to Heyhoe Woods in Palisades (where Lillian still lives) in 1980.

Sunday, March 25

Cosmic Impact! Evidence from Madagascar

Dallas Abbott, PhD, Adjunct Research Scientist

A tsunami wave as high as a 30-story building. Ocean water vaporized, seafloor rock and shells melted, and unprecedented torrential rains. What could cause such an event? Did it ever actually happen? Giant sand dunes in Madagascar are revealing strong clues. Hear exciting new evidence for a massive cosmic impact in the Southwest Indian Ocean during the Middle Ages.



LAMONT-DOHERTY MANSION

Sunday, April 15

From Satellites to Camels: In East Africa Studying the Biggest Magmatic Rift Event Ever Seen

Roger Buck, PhD, Doherty Senior Research Scientist

In September 2005 a 40-mile long crack opened in the Earth. Satellite images showed that this was the largest magmatic rifting event ever seen. Is the African continent splitting at the seams? Roger Buck will describe the science behind the cracking event and similar ones in Iceland, and will share his experiences traveling and working in this remote and dangerous desert area at the southern end of the Red Sea.

Sunday, April 22

Climate Change in Greenland: Perspectives from the Present and Past

Meredith Kelly, Post Doctoral Research Fellow

Meredith Nettles, Post Doctoral Research Scientist

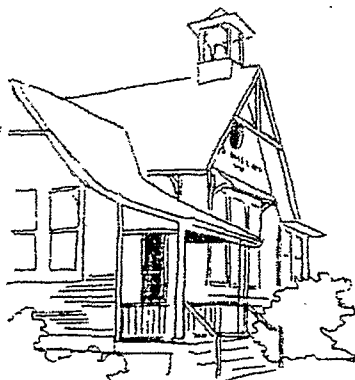
Determining what caused significant and abrupt climate changes in the past is essential for understanding current and future climate change. The extremely rapid response of earth systems to global warming continues to surprise researchers, particularly in the Arctic. This lecture will discuss the stability of the Greenland Ice Sheet because of its potential influence on global sea level and ocean circulation. Meredith Kelly will discuss past climate changes as recorded by Greenland glaciers. Meredith Nettles will discuss the effects of present global warming on the Greenland Ice Sheet.

Location: 61 Route 9W, Palisades, NY, Monell Building Auditorium

All Lectures 3:00 - 4:00 pm, admission is \$5.00 at the door

Due to space limitations, advance registration is recommended. For more information, contact: (845) 365-8998 or events@ldeo.columbia.edu.

Palisades Community Center Award



The members of the Board of the Palisades Community Center are excited to announce the inauguration of the Palisades Community Center Award. This award will be presented annually to celebrate and honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Palisades community.

To help the Board select the worthy recipient(s) for this award nominations will be accepted from all members of the community. Please complete the form below and return by April 15, 2007. Please provide as much information about the nominee as possible and offer insight into why you feel this individual is deserving of this honor.

Please join us when we honor the award recipient(s) and initiate the Palisades Community Center Capital Campaign on June 2, 2007 at our first annual fundraising reception.

For any questions please contact Leo Keegan: keegansmd@aol.com



2007 NOMINATION FORM



Person you are nominating: _____

Nominated by: (Your name) _____

Your phone number/Email address: _____

Your mailing address _____

1. *What is the person's main contribution to the Palisades community?*

2. *How was this person an advocate for our Palisades community?*

3. Why is this individual deserving of the award?

USE ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NEEDED AND ATTACH TO FORM
PLACE IN ENVELOPE & MAIL TO ADDRESS BELOW

**** RETURN BY APRIL 15, 2007 ****



(Fold along the dotted line)

From:

**TO: PCC Nomination Committee
Palisades Community Center
P.O. Box 222
Palisades, NY 10964**

(staple or tape closed bottom)

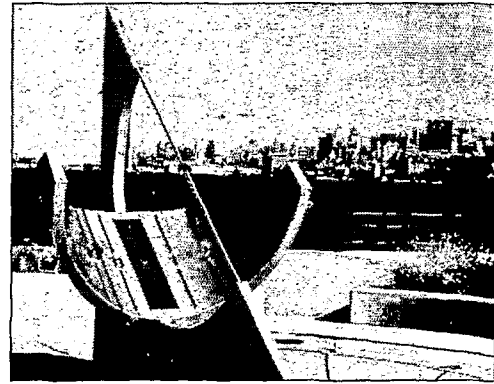
THE ART OF SUNDIALS

Palisades sculptor and watercolorist **Robert Adzema** has a show of his sundials and watercolors coming up at the Belskie Museum of Art and Science, 280 High Street in Closter, N.J. Sundials and Watercolors by Robert Adzema opens April 15th and runs until May 9th. The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00pm.

Sundials in the exhibit are constructed of a wide range of materials; the show includes full-size bronze sundials, maquettes and models as well as photographs of public commissions. Architectural models used to develop a design to work out form, materials and scale of large sundial installations, provide a fascinating look at the workings of a sculptor's imagination.

Robert will also exhibit his plein-air watercolors of the Hudson River, local landscapes and some from his recent summers in Canada. These colorful and expressive landscape paintings bring a complementary balance to the math and geometry found in his sundials.

Robert Adzema received a Bachelor of Industrial Design degree from Pratt Institute in 1966 and a Masters of Fine Arts degree from Indiana University in 1968. He is co-author of *The Great Sundial Cutout Book* and received the Sawyer Dialing Prize from the North Ameri-



JERSEY CITY HYATT SUNDIAL

can Sundial Society in 2001. Sundial commissions can be seen locally at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory rose garden; Thorp Village, Sparkill; The Robert Yeager Health Center, Pamona and The Rockland Center for the Arts' Katherine Conner Sculpture Park, commissioned by Joan Konner and Al Perlmutter of Palisades.

An opening reception will be held on April 15 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Robert will give a free sundial talk and workshop on Saturday, April 21, at 1:30pm. Call to register by April 15. Tel: 201 768-0286.

To get directions look up: www.belskiemuseum.com

More photos are found on Robert's website: www.robertadzema.com

COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

IN SEARCH OF EXTRA ORDINARY PALISADIANS

By Sheila Chin and Michèle Balm

As we all know, Palisades has been truly blessed by being inhabited by charismatic, progressive and globally conscious individuals who have diligently strived to have a positive impact on our precious community as well as that of the world around us. Some young, some old, some in between, you know who they are. They are your neighbors, friends and family, they are Palisadians. Some have made small, humble change; some have stirred the soup and turned it into chili. These individuals deserve to be duly honored and thanked for their service to our community. The Palisades Community Center Board feels this is long overdue.

The Palisades Community Center itself is also long overdue for attention as well. A serious leak in the ceiling caused by roof and gutters that desperately need replacing, a 40 year old boiler that is on its last legs,



PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER, 1890

the need for signage and dead tree removal, a sinkhole in the front yard, un-insulated walls leading to astronomical heating bills in the winter, the repair list goes on and on. What is a Board to do? The Palisades Community Board has coupled both the needs of the Center with the need to honor special Palisades individuals and are initiating the first annual fundraiser reception to kick off the Palisades Community Center Capital Campaign. On Saturday evening, June 2nd, 2007, we will honor one or more deserving individuals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

SCHOOL SALE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

At a December board meeting and the February 12 Palisades Community Center meeting, a number of residents spoke in favor of not selling the Palisades building, recommending that the board look for creative ways to retain the building until needed in the near future. They asked the board not to make a short-sighted decision to sell it for quick cash. With increasing student population, even though the building itself needs infrastructure work, the true value of this building is that it can be used for administrative or educational programming when needed. Once the building is sold, it is gone forever. New real estate when future needs arise will be prohibitively expensive.

Appraisals are expected in early March. The community needs to keep a watchful eye on this situation and come out to future meetings to voice their opinions. (Meetings will be posted on www.palisadesny.com.)

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I have recently noticed, with alarm, the number of people walking their dogs UNLEASHED past my house on Washington Spring Road. Because I am concerned for my two cats who have been chased by dogs running into my property, I call the attention of all Palisades residents to a town law which states: "It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog in the town to permit or allow such dog to :

A. Run at large unless the dog is restrained by an adequate leash or unless it is accompanied by its owner or a responsible person and under the full control* of such owner or person. ..." *i.e. staying close beside its owner. A dog running onto my property is not under the full control of its owner.

For other provisions of this local law, go to the Orangetown website, www.orangetown.com. At the bottom of the list at the left there is a link to the Town Codes.

Carol Elevitch

P.S. One dog who came into my driveway was attacked and chased away by my 15 year old female calico cat — however it could easily have ended differently.

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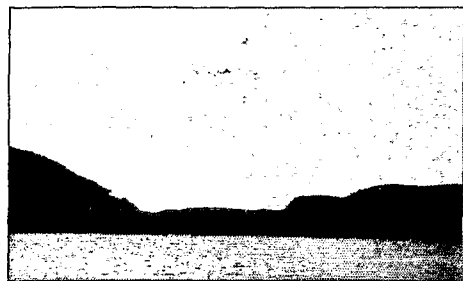
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HIKING IN THE PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK



THE HUDSON RIVER

Everyone already knows about walking through Tallman Park to get to Piermont and the swimming pool—just use the parking area opposite the 9W golf range development and follow the gravel path. However, there are also great views of the river from the top of the cliffs south of Lamont, and a beautiful trail threads through the woods along the river at the cliffs' base.

You can access these trails in several spots. First, you can go directly from the intersection of Route 9W and the main Lamont entrance, just look for the painted blazes in the woods behind the large rocks marking the old parking area. Since there is no parking there now, you have to walk up through Lamont from Snedens Landing to walk this trail. This is also a good way to get to the Peanut Leap waterfall. Another option is to drive a short distance south on Route 9W into New Jersey, and just past the Boy Scout Camp you'll see the pedestrian overpass that carries a blue-blazed trail over the Parkway. There is a gravel area by the side of the road on the northbound side where you can park. This trail leads to the wonderful folly—a kid-sized stone castle that is a monument to the contribution made by the women's clubs of New Jersey in the creation of the park system in the early 20th century.

If you follow the trail past the castle, down a hill to a ravine with a stream, you will intersect with the trail that leads down to the edge of the river. The descent is nicknamed "The 400 Steps" and requires a bit of stamina, but is worth it. Another option is to go the other way, i.e. south from the castle along the top of the cliffs. In July, this is an excellent area to find wild raspberries. This cliff-top trail goes past all the rest stops along the Parkway between Fort Lee and us so you can pick it up from any of them to hike a different section. The woods are very dog friendly, although it is a good idea to bring a leash with you because rangers have been known to fine people as much as \$75 for not having one.

Greta Nettleton

Spring Palisades Interstate Park Hosts Guided Walks and Lectures

Sunday, March 4

"The Riviera" winter history hike with Eric Nelsen. Meet 11:00 am at Fort Lee Historic Park (access from Hudson Terrace, immediately south of the George Washington Bridge). About 2 miles, 2 hours. Easy. Snow or icy trail conditions may cancel. Free. To confirm the morning of the hike if conditions seem questionable: 201-768-1360 ext. 208.

Thursday, March 22

"A New Deal for the Palisades," a video lecture with Eric Nelsen for the HYPERLINK "<http://www.rcls.org/tapl/index.html>" Tappan Public Library. 7:30 pm at the Library, 93 Main St., Tappan, NY. Free, but please register: 845 359-3877.

Saturday, April 14

"Peanut Leap Cascade" history hike with Eric Nelsen. Meet 11:00 am at Stateline Lookout (northbound PIP opposite Exit 3 in Alpine). About 4 miles, 2 hours. Moderate with some challenging slopes. Free.

Wednesday evenings, April 18 & 25

"Punch & Pie at Mrs. Kearney's Tavern." Tavern night programs at Kearney House with food & drink, music, tall tales & more. 7:30–10:00 pm. \$18/guest. Reservations and prepayment required. (Mail check to Palisades Interstate Park, Box 155, Alpine, NJ 07620, attn: Kearney House.)

Sunday, April 29

"Closter Landing Loop" history hike with Eric Nelsen. Meet 10:00 am at the Kearney House at the Alpine Boat Basin & Picnic Area (PIP Exit 2). About 5 miles, 3 hours. Moderate. Free.

Sunday, May 6

"Shad Bake at Mrs. Kearney's Tavern" with food and drink, music, activities, a shad sampling (at 2:00 pm) and more. 11:00 am–3:00 pm at the Kearney House, Alpine Boat Basin and Picnic Area (PIP Exit 2). \$4/participant (suggested donation), \$2/child. Sponsored by the Hudson River Foundation, Palisades Nature Association and the Kearney House.

Sunday, May 13

"Mother's Day Hike to the Women's Federation Monument" with Eric Nelsen. Meet 11:00 am at Park Headquarters in Alpine (PIP Exit 2). About 3 miles, 2 hours. Easy. Free.

For more information on walks and events call:
201-768-1360 ext. 208.

You can find other programs at <http://www.njpalisades.org/calendar.htm> or, for a printer-friendly listing, at <http://www.njpalisades.org/caleprint.htm>.

BOOK REVIEW

THE SIMPLE HOME: THE LUXURY OF ENOUGH

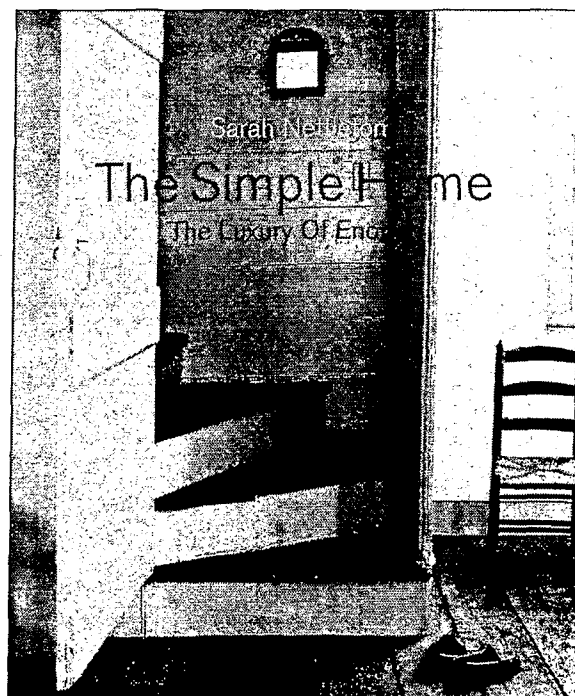
by Sarah Nettleton and Frank Martin

published by The Taunton Press and A.I.A.

The Simple Home is a book for anyone who craves a simpler lifestyle, not only in how we live but also where we live. The book features 21 houses and presents six different approaches to creating a serene home that realizes its full potential in elegant style.

We live in an over-stimulated culture, laden with commodities and virtual reality. One response to this complexity is to acquire more things like closet organizers to attempt to simplify by better storage methods. But the real answer lies elsewhere—it is better to divest—to have less things. The road to a simpler, more satisfying life begins with a clear-eyed examination of the choices we are making for our time—and that includes choices about where we want to live.

The Simple Home presents six philosophical paths to guide the reader. Each is illustrated by human-scaled, unadorned homes with straightforward floor plans and forms. These are open, light-filled houses that express their beauty in their utility and practicality. Rooms and spaces are usually multipurpose. Simple homes are low maintenance and often environmentally “green”. These buildings will inspire homeowners who wish to incorporate a different set of values into their housing choices than is typical in today’s housing market.



THE SIMPLE HOME

IN OUR BACKYARD

These days, yoga studios are as ubiquitous as wheat grass on juice bar shelves. Only a few, however, provide top-notch teaching and therapeutic massage along with a pleasant ambiance and friendly staff. The Birchwood Center, directed by Charlene Bradin and Betsy Ceva, manages all these niceties and more.

Started in 1995 in their Upper Nyack apartment on Birchwood Avenue, Ceva gave Hatha yoga classes in the living room while Bradin used a second bedroom for deep tissue Swedish massage. Word spread, and in 1998 the pair moved to a sunny studio overlooking the Hudson in South Nyack. Bradin’s steady business hand has guided the Center to its present size of two studios, three massage therapy rooms and a boutique stocked with chic yoga wear and quality gift items to soothe the soul.

What makes Birchwood truly special, however, is its wealth of teachers combined with a welcoming atmosphere for every level of student. With twelve certified teachers and six licensed massage therapists, there’s a style and touch to suit everyone. “We want to make things comfortable,” says Ceva, “we want it to feel safe

for people to come and explore what might be a new way of being for them.” To that end, Bradin and Ceva offer a schedule of beginning, intermediate and advanced classes, as well as free early morning meditation, an annual teacher training program, Gentle Yoga (for seniors and special needs), Yoga for Kids (6-13), and workshops ranging from Sanskrit Studies to Building a Home Practice. They’ve also hosted book signings, lectures and the popular Playback Theater (stories told by the audience are translated into movement by experienced dancer/actors).

Ceva, a former modern dancer, describes Birchwood as a place to “go beyond the asanas,” meaning the focus is as much on the inner self as on the body. “This is not an exercise studio,” she says, smiling, “but a place to find balance.”

And it’s right here in our backyard.

Birchwood Center, 85 South Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960 (845) 358-6409, www.birchwoodcenter.com

Lisa Rinehart

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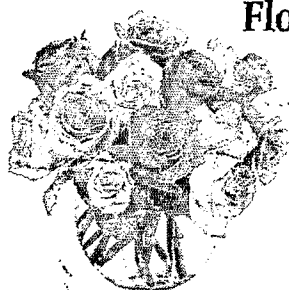


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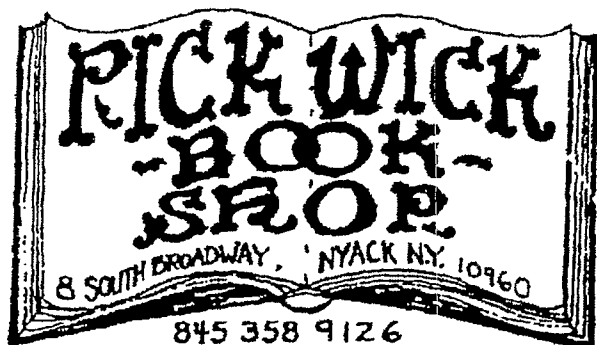
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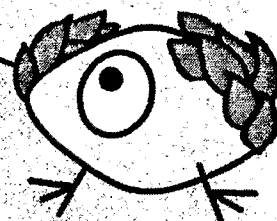
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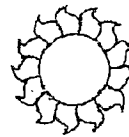
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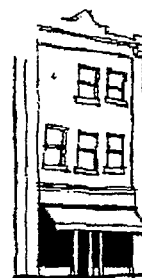


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ABOUT 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades. In order to keep 10964 coming out regularly, we welcome volunteers to assist with writing, photography, layout and editing. Please drop us a line if you would like to 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 10964 in your mailbox four times each year from October through May.

10964 STAFF MEMBERS

Carol Baxter, Carol Ellevitch, Alice Gerard, Susan Gersony (treasurer), Greta Nettleton, Lisa Powers Pomann, Lisa Rinehart, Kathleen Sykes, Rob Whitstock & David Wolk.

Editor this issue: Kathleen Sykes

Design and layout for this issue: Rob Whitstock

Thanks to the following contributors:

Charles & Young-Ji Choi

William Knudsen

Tyler & Sharon Schmetterer

49 WOODS ROAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Katie's 49 Woods Road creative projects include: a series of abstract landscape paintings, a new recording project featuring her entire band recorded in January at the house over three days, a DVD documentary of the house/recording project filmed by Rob Barrett, writings/a memoir on ideas of Home, Reiki Healing Arts, singing in the church choir, and playing the piano late into the night.

On **Saturday March 31**, Katie will perform her music at the house as part of a Spring Solstice Celebration concert: "Salon 49". All are invited. For more information, email Katie at ktecreator@yahoo.com or visit www.katieellevitch.com.

10964

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BULLETIN BOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Joe Hyde, celebrated chef and longtime resident of Palisades, died on February 23 at the age of 79 in Nyack Hospital as the result of complications from emphysema. In the course of his career Hyde catered for celebrities like Katherine Cornell, Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, and Princess Margaret. A web site created by his family - www.celebratingjoehyde.com - gives more information about his life and career.

COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

ing Palisadians with an award to show our appreciation, but we cannot do this without your help! A nomination form enclosed in the newsletter will allow you to choose a worthy resident that has made a difference in our community. A unique reception with specialty food items, a silent auction, and possibly some musical offerings will be presented along with marking several key milestones such as the 30th anniversary of the 10964 newsletter and its newly created website. Information about tickets will be offered through the Palisades Newsletter on-line, or by contacting Michèle Balm at miepbalm@aol.com.

As the Center heads into 2007, the Center's Board is pleased to welcome new Board member Carol Baxter. A warm congratulation goes to Dr. Virginia McCauley for becoming an honorary board member after several decades of dedicated service to the Palisades community.