

# 10964

## THE PALISADES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007 NUMBER 199

### HARVEST MOON BENEFIT RAISES OVER \$350,000 TO SUPPORT NYACK HOSPITAL



The Harvest Moon Happening was held at Lamont Doherty on September 29th to benefit Nyack Hospital and the event was a resounding success. As the first major community fund-raising event to be held in Palisades in years, the benefit inspired scores of local residents along with hundreds of other guests from around Rockland County to show how much they care about supporting our local hospital. It seems that the invitations were so alluring that few who received them were able to resist; having torn open their envelopes, everyone immediately realized that they had to go out dancing under the full September moon.

The unique occasion was far in spirit from the usual “rubber chicken” fundraising circuit because a special magic was in the air. The lawn of the old Thomas Lamont mansion provided a perfect backdrop for the luminous tent, filled with guests in long dresses and tuxedos and surrounded by copper beeches and ancient box hedges fading into the darkness. Cicadas in the grass blended with soft Brazilian rhythms provided by Philip Galinsky’s Samba New York. The scene evoked moments of long-ago glamour when the mansion, built by J.P. Morgan’s personal banker, must have often been filled as it was this fall, with live dance music and waiters circling with trays crowded with bites of caviar on crackers and tiny pastries filled with delicious surprises.

#### DRAMATIC LIFE AND DEATH STORIES

During the sit-down part of the evening, as the guests enjoyed the main course and dessert elegantly prepared and presented by chef Peter X. Kelly, the party organizers made it abundantly clear how important our local support is to Nyack Hospital. Long-time Palisades resident Roger Hooker, who was the driving force behind the entire event, spoke about how the hospital’s emergency room saved his life when he had a heart attack several years ago. During the emergency, his doctor in the city warned his wife, “Don’t try to cross the bridge.” He had to be taken to Nyack or it would be too late. When seconds counted, that barrier of traffic congestion was the absolute margin of life and death. In another dramatic story, Nyack’s emergency room staff saved the lives of both Sarah McNitt, a fundraiser for the CARON Foundation, and her unborn child, when she began to hemorrhage uncontrollably during her pregnancy.



LEFT TO RIGHT: JUDY PLATT, ROGER HOOKER & FRANK PLATT

The family of Joe Hyde, represented by his daughter, Anne Hyde Dunsmore, spoke movingly about how much the quiet compassion provided by the staff at Nyack Hospital meant to them in easing their sadness when Joe died last spring. One after another, county residents stepped to the microphone to recount in clear terms what might have happened had they not had access to a good, local hospital. The highlight of the evening was the announcement of a gift

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# HARVEST MOON BENEFIT

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of \$250,000 by Jerome and Simona Chasen, residents of Nyack, to the cause. The Peter Anderson Orchestra then took up their instruments and the dancing continued on well after the moon had fallen below the horizon.

## LOCAL HOSPITALS STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE

Because we live close to New York City with all its world-class medical institutions, most hospitals in the outlying regions near Manhattan are struggling for economic survival. Even Westchester-Valhalla, a massive medical resource filled with world-famous specialists, has recently gone through bankruptcy. Smaller community hospitals such as Pascack Valley in Bergen County, and Community Hospital at Dobbs Ferry are in immediate danger of closing or have already closed. This is a dismaying situation, since the need for their services is unchanged, and will go unmet if nothing is done. Our hospital in Nyack must not be allowed to slip under either.



CASS & NICK LUDINGTON

Roger Hooker took a long look at this situation and in view of his gratitude to Nyack Hospital for saving his life, he decided to personally take action to address this situation. Together with Ann and Joe Tonetti, and with Joe Hyde's family, he spearheaded the idea of holding a benefit to strengthen Nyack Hospital financially and to raise local awareness of the hospital's importance to the community. A goal was set after consultation with David Freed, the hospital's chief administrator, and Eve Borzon, its chief fundraiser, to raise capital to purchase state-of-the-art digital mammography equipment to use in Nyack's new breast health treatment center, headed by Dr. Michele Blackwood, MD., who also spoke at the benefit.

The team of indispensable Palisadians who helped with the event grew rapidly to include Mat & Lindsey Lonberg who worked with Eve Borzon to organize all the seating, Ned Kelly and Lynne Aubrey, who together designed and created all the decorations; Mary Ann Brueckner, who worked for months to prepare Lamont's gardens for the event; Bill Murray, who contributed three tables and a fun, short film; Marjorie Galen and Leslie Hayes who were responsible for the music; Tyler Schmetterer, who was the event treasurer; Mary Tiegreen, who designed the invitations; and many contributors of items to be auctioned, including painter John Beerman, who donated a moonlit Hudson River landscape to the cause. G. Michael Purdy, Lamont Doherty director, contributed the venue and his staff really put out tremendous effort to help make the event successful.

Anyone wishing to make an additional contribution to this cause should contact Nellie Rodriquez at the Nyack Hospital Foundation at 845-348-2772.

*Greta Nettleton*



LEFT TO RIGHT; NANCY BUCCIARELLI, LINDA EWIG & DIDI CONN



LEFT TO RIGHT: MARY PAIGE LAGASSIK, NED KELLY & ANNE HYDE DUNSMORE

## PEDESTRIANS UNITE!



Since June, when the yellow blinking light at the intersection of Oak Tree and Closter Roads was swiped by a truck and had to be removed, simply crossing the street has become an even more treacherous undertaking for some Palisadians.

Consider Arnold Finck, who regularly parks in the triangle to pick up his mail at the post office and, at 87, finds himself constantly dodging traffic. "I don't know that the light did all that much good to begin with, but now there's nothing," he said. "A great many people park in the triangle and find it difficult to cross safely. Somehow they should cut down the speed of cars going from 9W to Oak Tree Road."

Indeed, for residents up and down Oak Tree Road, that blinking light provided peace of mind, however scant, that speeders — whether Red and Tan buses, illegal trucks or oblivious locals — might apply their brakes. But it could be two more months before the illusion of safety is returned in the form of a new light, said Jim Dean, superintendent of the Orangetown Highway Department.

And according to both Mr. Dean and Officer Frank Buhler, head of the Orangetown Police Department's traffic division, any long term solution to the flow and speed of vehicles on Oak Tree Road will be most effectively brought about by community involvement. "The problem is only going to get worse," Officer Buhler said. "This area is completely saturated with homes. And some have four cars in the driveway."

But back to that light for a moment. Lights on town roads are typically under the jurisdiction of the police department. Mr. Dean of the highway department was brought in a month ago, he said, because the light, which was strung between two wooden utility poles — one on Closter Road, the other alongside the green triangle — could not merely be re-hung. "We can't repair it and we can't replace it 'as is' because the poles are sagging too much," he said.

In mid-November, Mr. Dean and a representative from Verde Electric, which holds the town's signal maintenance contract, determined that a metal pole must be erected on the southeast corner of Closter Road, on the post office lot, in order to re-hang the light. "We're waiting for a time line and a quote from the contractor,"

Mr. Dean said. "The thing that may take the most time is finding out where the right of way is. Within a few weeks we should have a plan."

Mr. Dean said he intends to reach out to the Historic Areas Board of Review to determine whether the pole meets the group's standards. He also hopes to put together an informational meeting with the Palisades community about traffic-calming procedures in general. "Each year we have more and more issues with the volume of traffic and speed in the area," he said. "We need to develop a town-wide program that looks at targeted enforcement and how you control speed." Those controls currently include counters, which report the number and speed of vehicles using a road, and solar-powered monitors that shout out a car's velocity in large orange lights. "They get people's attention, but they cost about \$20,000 and they're bulky," he said. The department is looking into smaller versions, like the ones on River Road in South Nyack, which are more adaptable to neighborhoods.

But the most effective approach, he suggested, would be to form a community group to bring its case before Orangetown's Traffic Advisory Board. Residents of the Contempra condominium complex on Route 303 and Lexington Street in Tappan have found some solace to their traffic woes by appearing as groups at board meetings. "There's strength in numbers," Mr. Dean said.

As for seeing more traffic-enforcement officers on Oak Tree Road: not anytime soon. Despite the increasing discussion about traffic issues in Orangetown in recent months, one of the items subtracted from the police budget was money for additional officers to patrol the town's roads.

"Clarkstown has four full-time traffic officers," Officer Buhler said. "They write the tickets that need to be written. They have the means. Right now Orangetown has only one," he added. "And that's me."

*Kathryn Shattuck*

### **PRIVATE YOGA SEMI-PRIVATE** Beginner – Advanced

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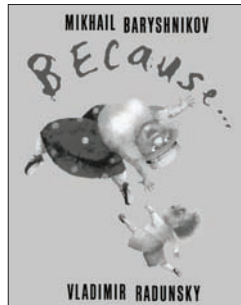


## BULLETIN BOARD



ongratulations to *Snedens Landing Tennis Association's* 2007 tournament winners. They are: **Mary Ann Brown** – women's singles, **Danny Leherecke** – men's singles, **Mark Cohen** and **Cynthia Kling** – mixed doubles.

Multi-talented **Mikhail Baryshnikov** has joined the ranks of children's book authors with his charming new book, "*Because...*" Published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers and illustrated by Vladimir Padunsky, it tells of a young boy who lives with his grandmother and is embarrassed by her but comes to realize that she has a good reason for her strange behavior.



Palisadian **Luke Freeley** was singled out by *Rockland Magazine* in its August issue as one of ten "A+" Rockland teachers who "motivate students with varied, lively approaches; who are accessible and enthusiastic; and who simply love going to work every day." Luke teaches 4th and 5th grade English Language Arts and Social Studies in the South Orangetown School District.

**Sam Patrick Busby Lawrence**, the sixth grandchild of **Mary Ann and Hannes Brueckner**, entered the world on August 18th. His parents are Jacob Lawrence and Sue Busby.

**Jeannie and Andy Boose** are celebrating the birth of grandson **Hudson Avery Boose** who arrived on October 17th; he's their third grandchild and the first child of **John and Erin**.

**Leslie and Dennis Hayes** have added another grandchild to bring their impressive total to eight. **Bennett** was born November 2nd to Jeff and Elan (Kaplan) Barish.

The Captain Larry Sneden House sold this month after having been owned by **Bob and Stacy Schmetterer** for the past 30 years. They considered themselves "caretakers" of this historic property and they were intent on selling to someone who valued the house, its history and its significance to the community. After rejecting offers from parties interested in expanding it, changing it and even tearing it down and building new



on the magnificent site, they had the good fortune to find a buyer in our own community (the new owner asked not to be identified) who is known as an ardent preservationist and who plans to leave the house exactly as it is. The Schmetterers also sold their abutting property to the north to their son and daughter-in-law **Tyler and Sharon Schmetterer** who have now completed their own beautiful addition to the community.

**Cynthia Fuller-Kling and husband Scott** joined our community the end of June, renting a Highland Avenue house owned by **Mickie Hahn**. Scott is a sculptor; Cynthia has been teaching yoga for over 20 years. The couple has two daughters; **Lucie** is in 10th grade and **Julia** attends Hampshire College in Massachusetts.

Welcome to all the new homeowners on Heyhoe Woods Road. **Paul and Lysette Georges** are building a house on the lot at the end of the road where Maurice Ewing's brother John used to live. **Bob and Kim Seaman** have moved into the house recently vacated by **Patty and Eric Moser**, who moved around the corner onto Oak Tree Road. Several other houses on the street are for sale or were recently sold; we look forward to meeting all our new neighbors.

**Avi Barak** (better known as BJ), son of **Tuvia and Joanne Barak**, is running his 6th Arizona marathon as a member of the *Leukemia and Lymphoma Society* team. If you would like to help sponsor him or just learn more about his impressive efforts click on his website:



AVI BARAK

<http://www.active.com/donate/tntnyc/tntnycABarak5>



One to One Learning provides English classes for recent immigrants. This successful program, supported by numerous Palisadians, celebrated its 10th anniversary the end of September. It is run by Sister Cecilia La Pietra, O.P. and meets in the basement of St. John's church in Piermont on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 8:30 pm. Palisadians who would like to participate in this very rewarding program as volunteer teachers should call Sr. Cecilia at 359-4239.

# BULLETIN BOARD

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## Palisades Route 9W



PALISADES ROUTE 9W PROPERTIES LEFT OUT IN THE COLD

All the so-called desirable properties in Palisades on Route 9W are looking a bit shabby these days. The medical center has been a thorn on Route 9W since its construction. Few people understood how that project was approved and its purpose remained a mystery. Since the summer, the building has been on the market for sale or rent. In September, a call to JD Venture Capital revealed that a sale was in the process and that it will be used for offices, not medical purposes. The sale price was reported at, "very close to the asking price," which was over \$4 million. However, a more recent call revealed that the property has not been sold and they are still actively seeking a buyer.

Over the last three years, it's been hard to keep track of who owns the golf course as it has passed through different owners and developers. In 2005-06, MWD Star Group developed plans and received building approvals from the various Town Boards and agencies. Then Lennar Homes purchased the property in March of 2006 and began developing it. By mid-summer 2006, they put it back on the market for \$12 million. In February 2007, after no consumer interest, the price was dropped to \$9 million. This past spring, a Lennar representative said that they were not representing the Palisades property and that it was in a title transfer. On the land records, however, there is no indication of any sale and the Lennar sign still remains on the property. Recent calls of inquiry were not returned. On Lennar's voice-mail menu of their five "new home communities," the Reserve at Palisades has been removed as an option.

Across the street, the gas station owned by the Kennel family for seventy years, sits over-grown and abandoned with its windows broken, dirt and garbage piled up and graffiti spray painted on its historic walls. The small Kennel brick home across the street has been abandoned for years.

*Carol Baxter*



## How We Voted

Palisades Vote, November 6th. It was a good turnout in Palisades for an off-year election with approximately one half of registered voters voting – 329 in District #12 and 205 in District # 50. The Palisades vote was in synch with the total vote in Orangetown where Democrats won in all contested races except Rockland Sheriff.



## Palisades Districts # 12 and #50

Town Supervisor and Town Council:

Kleiner – 238 & 112 vs. DelPizzo – 84 & 70

Low-Hogan – 212 & 101 vs. Morr – 94 & 75

Maturo – 215 & 108 vs. O'Donnell – 68 & 77

Legislature District 17:

Coker – 219 vs. Valentine - 100 (in Palisades district #12)

Town Clerk:

Madigan – 235 & 124 vs. Murphy – 68 & 57

District Attorney:

Zugibe – 204 & 103 vs. Bongiorno – 109 & 85

State Supreme Court:

Slobod – 225 & 81 vs. Krahulik – 74 & 67

Nicolai – 200 & 85 vs. Bellantoni – 99 & 76

Berliner – 209 & 83 vs. Sherwood – 97 & 74

Rockland Sheriff:

O'Neill – 227 & 100 vs. Kralik – 89 & 88

*Ed. Note:* All Palisades registered voters are in Districts #12 and #50; a few adjoining Sparkill streets are included in these districts. The total votes in Orangeown and Rockland County can be found on the internet.

Last chance to be in the new Palisades Community Directory. Send your name, address, phone number and E-mail (optional) along with \$7.00 to Lynne Sandhaus, 201 Route 9W, Palisades, N.Y. 10964. Make checks payable to Palisades Community Directory.

Don't forget to visit the 10964 website at:  
[www.palisadesny.com](http://www.palisadesny.com)

## ART NEWS

### ERIC VORENKAMP EXHIBITS AT GRAPE D'VINE



**J**oe Printz's exhibition space in his shop, Grape D'Vine, on Main Street in Tappan is just at eye level above the racks of wine. Looking up from reading his suggestions for pairing wine with food, one notices the interesting range of artists who exhibit on his walls. Waiting for Joe to finish with a customer gives one an excellent opportunity to examine the art from across the room for perspective, or up close for technique.

Joe Printz has shown over 50 artists since he opened in 2002. Some of them have been notable, such as Sue Badalamente; others have been merely wonderful, such as Joe's young daughter Emma, and all of them are of merit. Together with Joe's engaging personality and the quality of the wine, they make patronizing Grape D'Vine a social and cultural event.

This past November, Eric Vorenkamp of Palisades exhibited his black and white photographs. Eric's principle avocation is photography. He is a devotee of film and silver gelatin prints and his work represents a collaboration with Chuck Kelton, master printer in New York City, and Luise Weischowsky, expert framer in Blauvelt.

As Eric was preparing for the exhibit, he mentioned that this was his first. He has been taking pictures essentially all his life, for pleasure, beginning at age 12 when his father, also a photographer, gave him a brownie box camera for his birthday. He quickly became entranced with the notion that a fleeting moment can be made to reveal intense emotion and complex narrative. Essentially self-taught, he has taken classes at ICP with Chuck Kelton and Paula Barr. Eric is planning his next exhibit for the autumn of 2008 in New York City.

*The Grape D'Vine is open Mon. thru Sat. from 11 am - 8 pm.*

### ART IN GARNERVILLE



**A**bout a half hour drive north, a community of artists has found a home at the Garnerville Arts and Industrial Center located on Minisceongo Creek near Haverstraw. Originally a pre-Civil War textile mill, 18 years ago one third of its space was divided into small studios for artists. About 50 artists and artisans including sculptors, painters, wood workers, mosaic and stained glass artisans and musicians now occupy part of the large 341,000 square foot complex, which also encompasses performance and exhibition areas.

The Center has had a fascinating history. Built in 1828 as a calico printing factory, it was purchased ten years later by the Garner family and was called the Rockland Print Works. During the Civil War the plant manufactured uniforms for the Union forces. It closed during the Depression, but textile manufacturers, lured back with an offer of free rent, occupied the space for the next forty years. The remaining two thirds of the thirty buildings house light industrial and warehouses.

The Center has garnished its share of accolades. In 2004 the Historical Society of Rockland County presented it with its Preservation Award for Adaptive and Continuing Use of a Historic Building. In June of this year Robin Rosenberg, President of the Garnerville Arts and Industrial Center, was presented with The Arts Alliance of Haverstraw's Supporter of the Arts Award for her commitment and cultivation of the arts in Rockland County.

Rockland magazine has declared GAGA (Garnerville Arts Project Gallery, the arts part of the Center) its "favorite place to get some culture." The first weekend of June, GAGA sponsors a two day Arts Festival, which draws over 4,000 people. The event offers open art studios and exhibitions in 14,000 square feet of gallery space plus live music, performance art, film, art workshops and demonstrations. (Go online at [garnervillearts.com](http://garnervillearts.com) for specifics on the 2008 festival closer to the date.)



## AGING-IN-PLACE - HELP FOR PALISADIANS



he term, "Aging-Place," has appeared recently in news articles. It means continuing to live in your house and in your community as you grow older, as opposed to moving to an assisted living facility; moving away, perhaps to Florida; or moving in with your children somewhere else in the country. There are real satisfactions that come from continuing to live in the same community over a long period of time. But as people age, the many tasks necessary to maintain a household become more difficult, and sometimes additional help is needed. Different parts of the country have experimented with programs that provide assistance to older residents who want to continue living in their own homes.

According to the latest census, there were 160 men and women over the age of 65 living in Palisades in the year 2000. Some of them lived with a spouse, some with their extended families, and some lived alone. A few members of this group have begun to meet to discuss the idea of creating a support group for senior citizens in Palisades. To identify problems facing members of this age group, we will soon send out a questionnaire to people in Palisades 75 years of age or older. We hope that you will respond. Once we have information about the needs and desires of older Palisadians, we plan to hold a meeting at the Community Center to discuss the issue.

We were curious about what help was already available from Rockland County. To answer this question, one of us went north to the Robert Yeager Health Center to interview Marilyn Wekar at the Rockland County Office for the Aging. The department offers many helpful services. For a small fee, or for nothing, people over 60 can obtain transportation, find help with minor home repairs, have meals delivered to their homes if needed, spend the day at a Senior Center (there is one in Sparkill), obtain medications at reduced fees, and get information about health insurance and long-term care from informed advisors. There is a respite program for caregivers, and an organization that provides home health aides for ten to twelve hours a week if you need non-medical help in your home, at a cost based on your income. There are subsidies for heating bills, assistance with weatherization of your home, again based on income, and other helpful services for older people. A list of the most useful programs, identified by acronyms, follows. A senior care helpline at 845-359-3444 can provide more information, assistance and referrals to specific programs.

TRIPS is an important Rockland County program that offers shared curbside-to-curbside bus service for disabled residents and those over the age of 60. The service is provided Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, and Saturday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The cash fare is \$1 each way; discount tickets costing 75 cents each for a book of ten may also be purchased. To request a pick-up, call the TRIPS office at 364-8747 between two and fourteen days in advance. Unfortunately, TRIPS cannot take people to Shoprite because it is in New Jersey.

To use this service you need a photo ID card, which can be obtained from the Rockland County Office for the Aging or from the Department of Public Transportation, both in Pomona. The card costs \$2. To get more information about how to enroll you can call the Office for the Aging at 364-2110.

A new Rockland County program provides a \$6 voucher for taxi rides from your house to a doctor's office. To obtain a voucher by mail or for more information, call Madeline Hudson at the Office for the Aging (845-364-2108.)

CHORE SERVICE brings help with simple household repairs to disabled homeowners and those aged 60 and over. Members of this volunteer group will take on tasks like repairing leaky faucets, hanging screens and storm windows, and installing smoke detectors, without charge (except for materials). For questions about CHORE, call 364-2114.

EISEP provides case management and in-home non-medical services, 10-12 hours a week, to disabled residents and those over the age of 60. Services include helping with bathing and dressing, helping with light housekeeping, laundry, shopping, etc., assisting with meal preparation and other daily needs. Fees are based on income. For more information call 364-2115.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS offers several very useful programs. A Homebound Meal Delivery service uses volunteers to deliver meals to people who are shut-in due to illness, physical handicap or advanced age and who cannot cook or shop for themselves. There are modest fees, based on income.

Another program offers a day (9 am to 3 pm) of activities and recreation at Thorpe Senior Center in Sparkill to anyone over the age of 60. A donation is suggested but

# LAMONT DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY NEWS



The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; nine of Lamont's current scientists contributed work to IPCC's most recent 2007 global warming assessment. This prestigious award clearly acknowledges that changes are now taking place that could threaten our environment, economy and social stability. Lamont Doherty has been involved in seminal climate work since the 1950s.

Lamont's new geochemistry building was dedicated on November 30th with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Land's End founder Gary C. Comer donated \$18 million toward the construction of the 60,000 square feet new home, which will encompass 70 offices and 30 laboratories. It replaces an outdated 1950s structure.



LILLIAN LANGSETH SPEAKING DURING  
CHRISTENING CEREMONY

## RESEARCH VESSEL CHRISTENED

Palisades resident Lillian Langseth christened Lamont's new seismic-research vessel in Galveston, Texas on November 12th. The ship is named the R/V Marcus G. Langseth for her late husband, a prominent Lamont scientist. Funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation for use by universities, research institutes and government agencies, it will generate CAT-scan-like 3D images of magma chambers, faults and other structures miles below the world's seabeds. As the most advanced vessel of its kind, it promises to open potential new windows on natural hazards, earth's evolution and other vital questions.

Michael Purdy, Director of Lamont, was master of ceremonies at the event. Speakers included a National Science Foundation representative and former Lamont Director Manik Talwani who was a close colleague of Mark's in the early days of Lamont. Following the talks, Lillian and the ship's captain, James O'Laughlin, un-

veiled a large bronze plaque with a brief biography of Mark's scientific work and a relief of his face.

Lillian reports on the events: "November 12th was one of the two best days of my life - the other being the day I got married. The day of the ceremony started out gray and rainy but cleared by noon. By the time the official ceremony started the sea was calm and it was a perfect day - beautiful, clear and sunny. There were several speakers, including a colleague of Mark's who was best man at our wedding. The talks were variously moving, touching, and humorous. The youngest Marcus Langseth (8 years old) was also introduced."

"When the talks were over we got off the ship and went on to the pier for the official champagne bottle-smashing on the bow. 'May God bless this ship and keep safe all those who sail upon her. I name this ship Marcus G. Langseth.' Then I gave the bottle a good whack, it broke nicely, everyone cheered and we went back onto the ship for champagne and munchies. It was wonderful to meet many of Mark's colleagues that I had not seen in years. I also enjoyed having Mark's family there - some of whom I knew well and others that I met for the first time."

"The evening of the ceremony, I was given the honor of sleeping in the chief scientist's cabin on the ship. In the morning I had breakfast in the mess hall with some of the crew and then sailed back on the ship to its place at the work pier. It was all wonderful and a day to remember - the experience of a lifetime. Mark has been gone for 10 years now and I was first told about the ship naming about three years ago so it has been somewhat of a wait. But it was all worth it."



THE NEW RESEARCH VESSEL MARCUS G. LANGSETH

If you would like to read more about the ship go to the following website:

[www.earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/1978](http://www.earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/1978)



# GARDENING



It's that time of year again to bring in my rosemary. I am tempted to leave it out in the garden where it is flourishing and, with global warming, I wonder if this is the year it can finally stay out. The Farmer's Almanac predicts a severe winter yet I find woolly bears prognosticating a mild one. The fact is, I am an amateur and, with experts in our hamlet, I thought it better to find out from them how to nurture one's tender plants through the cold months.

Kris Haberman is one such person. One evening over drinks he offered the following advice: To begin with, choose a hardy variety like *rosmarinus officianalis* Arp that can do well as far north as zone 6. Kris considers Palisades to be in zone 6, even northern zone 7. Since it is not so much the cold that kills rosemary as it is the desiccating wind, burlap walls around your bush may get it through. If you bring your rosemary inside take care not to overwater.



ROSMARINUS  
OFFICIANALIS

Plant scented geraniums in the same pot as your rosemary to soak up extra water. Dig up your geraniums a few weeks before the first frost and cut their stems back to one third before planting them with the rosemary. Keep them in a sunny spot, around 65 degrees. A southern exposure will mitigate white fly infestations. Or, take 6 inch cuttings and place them in water with rooting hormone. Several willow branches in the water with the geranium cuttings will exude natural rooting hormone. When roots appear in about 4 to 6 weeks, plant the cuttings with your rosemary.

If you are not pairing, wait until the first frost to dig up your geraniums, shake off the soil from the roots and hang them upside down in a moist, dark place such as a root cellar. The leaves will turn brown and drop off. If the plants get too dry, plunge them into water to revive them. In the spring, after the last frost, trim them back to 6 inches and plant them out.

When I knocked on Judy Tomkins' door, she invited me in to a fire and a cup of tea. She said she doesn't bring in plants because she prefers to use plants indigenous to the area. As for rosemary, she doesn't have room. Judy does bring in her scented geraniums for wintering in her windows after potting them in the spring. Her oleander luxuriates indoors in a prominent place near her private porch. They flourish with frugal watering and a cool place with good winter light.

I asked Judy about camellias since Eddy Ewald of Arbor Hill Landscaping gave some out this season as an experiment. He had assured me that this camellia would make it through our winter. When I told Judy that the camellia's tag claims hardiness to zone 6, she expressed her doubts. She contends that our area is in zone 5 although, with recent warmer winters, we may have migrated to zone 6. In any case, she definitely recommends bringing in camellias. She noted that Roger Hooker has a large and ancient one thriving in a pot.

I still have my rosemary out. My own ritual is to wait for the temperature to drop to 20 degrees, then put it in our south-facing gallery. I usually forget to water it but I do spray its leaves from time to time. As for the camellia, my bargain with Eddy was to leave it out. We shall see how that goes. More good advice can be found on the White Flower Farm website.

*Jaclyn Vorenkamp*

## PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

117 Washington Spring Road  
PO Box 687  
Palisades, NY 10964  
Phone: (845) 359-3147  
Website: [www.ppc10964.org](http://www.ppc10964.org)

The Palisades Church will welcome the Christmas season beginning on the First Sunday in Advent, December 2nd.



## THE CHRISTMAS CALENDAR:

### December 2nd, 2007

5:30 pm: Pot Luck Supper, Advent Christmas Wreath-Making & Caroling

### December 16th, 2007

10:00 am Service: Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsals during Sunday School with dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 15th, 9:30 am

### December 24th, 2007

5:00 pm: Family Christmas Worship

11:00 pm: Lessons and Carols

(There will be no service on Christmas Day)

# LIBRARY NEWS

## Palisades Free Library

Member of the Ramapo Catskill Library System  
19 Closter Road  
Palisades, NY 10964  
845-359-0136, Fax 845-359-6124  
<http://www.rcls.org/pal>>[www.rcls.org/pal](http://www.rcls.org/pal)  
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Closed Dec. 24, 25, 30, 31, Jan. 1, Feb. 19, Apr. 8

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## SUNDAY SYMPOSIA

**From *Desperately Seeking Susan* to *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*** Actor Aidan Quinn, in conversation with Didi Conn, travels over 20 years with as many characters.

## Adventures: Armchair or Otherwise

Artist, adventurer and author Christina Biaggi and Milbry Polk, author and co-founder of Wings World Quest, discuss their work and expeditions.

## Do You Believe in Normal?

Work-Family researcher and author Ellen Galinsky discusses The New Normal reflected in the changing family and workplace dynamics.

Dates of the above programs to be announced. And Save the Date for the annual meeting - January 27th, 2008. Watch for the flyer.

## Children's Programs with Carolyn Travers

Holiday Photo Fun, Tags and Cards  
Thursday, Dec. 6, 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Bring some family photos to design a photo book to give as a gift for someone special in your family. Make holiday cards and tags, using stamps and punches. Ages 8 and up.

## Seasonal Story Time

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Hear about the different winter holidays and create a decoration for your holiday house. Ages 2 1/2 to 4.

## Gingerbread Gathering

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Create your own gingerbread house. Bring a box of graham crackers. Fun to make and yummy to eat. Ages 5 and up.



## Outragehiss Pets Coming

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Get ready for a very special program. Back by popular demand, "Outragehiss Pets" is returning to the Palisades Library. A variety of reptiles, mammals, insects and arachnids will be here to see and touch. Ages 5 and up.

## Mardi Gras Madness

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 4:30 to 6 pm. Celebrate Mardi Gras with some crafts, games and stories about this worldwide festival. Ages 5 and up.

## Happy Birthday Elmo!

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Come to a birthday celebration for beloved Elmo, whose special day is February 2nd. Learn about his life and make an Elmo craft and card. Ages 2 1/2 to 4.

## Valentine's Day Gathering

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4:30 to 6 pm. Learn about Hershey's chocolate, founded on February 9th, and taste some samples. Hear Valentine stories and play Heart Bingo. Ages 5 and up.

## Spring Sensations

Wednesday, Mar. 12, 4:30 pm. Say goodbye to "Old Man Winter" and enjoy springtime stories and folklore. Create a bunny bucket and some goodies to put inside. Ages 5 and up.

## Family Tree Wreath

Thursday, Mar. 27, 4:30 to 6 pm. Bring some small pictures of you and your family to frame and place on a wreath to decorate your room. Ages 8 and up.

***Please register at the front desk for all our children's programs.***

## Going on a Trip?

Take a course while you drive. The library has a number of "Great Courses" on CD covering history, religion, fine arts and music. Sample titles include Ancient Greek Civilization; World War I: The Great War; How to Listen to and Understand Opera; Thomas Jefferson, American Visionary; The Symphonies of Beethoven; The English Novel and Famous Romans. Learn from the best university professors without the exams, homework or expense!

## LIBRARY NEWS

### BEYOND THE JOB - AN INTERVIEW WITH LILLIAN GUNTHER



Shh! Keep your voices down! We're interviewing a librarian this month. Just who are the people who immerse themselves in the nuts and bolts of books and research – particularly children's books? Lillian Gunther who has always wanted to work within a library setting has been Coordinator of Children's Programs at the Palisades Library for the last two years. Previously, Lillian was a 7th grade social studies and English teacher at the George White Middle School in Hillsdale, New Jersey. Lillian had worked at the Palisades Library from 1973 to 1984. Back then the library was much smaller. "Everyone was a jack of all trades. I worked the circulation desk, did reference work and worked in the Children's Room."

Librarians, with the notable exception of Laura Bush, aren't often in the spotlight and publicly appreciated, which is exactly why this writer decided to interview Palisades' own community librarian. The notion of the sourpuss book marm long depicted in literature and film bears little resemblance to this enthusiastic colleague. Today's librarian is less likely to be a "mousy Marian" than the passionate, highly trained facilitator of a one-stop community library, navigating everything from social services to educational programming – and doing it on a budget.

Let's take a closer look at one of the more recent programs held in the Children's Room. Carolyn Travers who plans and presents many of the craft and story programs was creating library magic for our younger audience. There were 20 youngsters present to respond to a single question, "What has green skin? Black hair? And two bolts through the sides of his neck?" Many of the 2 to 4 year olds replied, "FRANKENSTEIN." During the share-a-story time at the "Halloween Haunting," Miss Carolyn read the story, *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything* by Linda Williams. Carolyn completed the program with a picture storyboard, a craft project, apple juice and a goodie bag.

When asked for her own favorite book, Lillian hurried over to the shelves to share her most liked book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle. "It's so creative. I read this book to my own children and recently to my granddaughter. The simple story is enhanced by the caterpillar eating its way through the pages of the book. Its great visual fun." She also loves historical fiction that

combines both history and a fictionalized story line. "I recently finished *Harry Potter and the Deadly Hallows* and was completely won over by the author's creation of this magical world."



LILLIAN GUNTHER

One of things Lillian thinks has really enhanced children's services at the library is the Homework Help Center "Study Buddies" program. "We are beginning our third year of this program and already have three pairs that work together once a week. The interaction between the high school students and the younger kids is really great to see and is also a very productive partnership."

When asked about technology versus books, she is well aware that children tend to rely a great deal on "Google" and other web sites. While acknowledging that the school of the future will enable greater and faster use of technology, she holds a healthy skepticism for sources found too quickly with questionable authorship and reliability.

What would she like to have on a dream list to increase children's attendance and programming? She replies, "More space where we could do additional things with and for kids. When we plan programs we are limited simply because of space restrictions. I would love a large children's meeting room with a big screen TV, a small puppet theatre and a piano for singing songs."

As a vociferous reader all her life, Lillian Gunther has never needed any inducements to keep on reading. "My job here at this stage of my life is a wonderful opportunity. I get to work in a beautiful setting with great people and pass my joy of books to future generations. What could be better!"

Carol L. Stewart, Ed.D.

### PALISADES POST OFFICE

Postmaster Mary Whatley urges all to mail your holiday packages and cards early. Domestic, international and military cut off dates are available in the Post Office.

Mary wishes everyone happy holidays and thanks you for your patronage.



## IN OUR BACKYARD



efore you point and click on Amazon.com, call Kenny Sarfin at **Books and Greetings** in Northvale, N.J. (OK -- it's not technically Rockland County, but it's veritably perched on the border.) Better yet, take a quick spin to his well-stocked store, munch on some homemade cookies and enjoy a rare thing; congenial interaction with knowledgeable sales help.



BOOKS & GREETINGS AT THE NEW STRIP MALL  
IN NORTHVALE, NJ

Sarfin's family boasts 49 years in the Manhattan book business -- that is, until last year when their rent tripled, and Sarfin decided to bring New York City standards to Northvale. "We offer personal service," says Sarfin, "and we sell books the old-fashioned way -- we read them." He's not kidding. Sarfin takes pride in knowing the titles in his store, and is happy to recommend books he likes. If Sarfin's mother, Florence, isn't in when you stop by, you can check out her favorite reads on the store's website, as well as those of Sarfin's wife and teenage kids -- mighty helpful when looking for that perfect gift. And if Sarfin doesn't have the book you're looking for, he can most likely get it in a day, but chances are you'll be consoled by something else from his 25,000-title inventory.

Easy access to bestsellers, classics and cookbooks isn't the only thing this comfy shop has going for it, however. **Books and Greetings** offers an ample selection of upscale children's toys (brands such as ALEX and Melissa & Doug), greeting cards by Papyrus, stuffed animals, gift wrap supplies, high quality notebooks and journals, Filofax items, and soon, Godiva chocolates. Sarfin also sponsors author events such as talks and signings, and hopes to start a children's story time. This high quality store is a breath of fresh air in the neighborhood, and as Sarfin says, "If you come in once, you'll be back."

### **Books and Greetings**

271G Livingston St. (next to Applebee's)  
Northvale, NJ 07647  
(201)784-BOOK  
[www.booksandgreetings.com](http://www.booksandgreetings.com)



And while we're on the subject of excellent family businesses, let's talk about **Bravo Dry Cleaners**. Bravo is, hands down, the best dry cleaner I've ever used. The storefront is clean and pleasant, there's no nasty chemical smell on the clothes, and everything is returned beautifully hung and padded. It's also an ersatz art gallery, but more on that later.

Alex and Olga Arbit, émigrés from Ukraine, opened their first dry cleaning business in Brooklyn in 1985, moved it to Pomona, then opened Bravo in Tappan in 2000. Their son David, after moonlighting as a musician and d.j., bought the business in 2002. "I got married and bought a house, so it was time to get serious," he says. David learned the business from his father, and developed the various hanging and packing techniques that distinguish Bravo from other dry cleaners. "I listened to the customers. They'd tell me where things got wrinkled and I'd figure out how to avoid it," he says. In addition, stains are individually marked and given special care, advice is dispensed on how to handle a troublesome item, and sweaters are de-pilled and mended if necessary.

Such attention to detail is enough to set Bravo apart, but dropping off a few shirts offers a surprising aesthetic experience as well. David's older brother Arthur, not only works as a tailor in the shop, but also displays his bold and lively paintings in a rotating exhibit on the shop walls. Abundant natural light makes for a vivid gallery space alongside the rotating rack and drop off bins, and the paintings really pop. There's usually some great music playing, and glossy design magazines beckon. Who knew going to the dry cleaner in the burbs could be fun?

For the ecologically aware, Bravo offers wet cleaning wherein solvents are combined with water to wash dry-clean-only items using fewer chemicals. Shirts are pressed on sight, cleaning of rugs, leather and drapery is available, and everything can be delivered to your door. It doesn't get any better -- and it's right here in our backyard.

### **Bravo Dry Cleaners**

38 Route 303  
Tappan, NY  
(845) 398-0368

*Lisa Rinehart*

# PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

## BRINGING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT CLOSER



CHILDREN BUILD THEIR OWN SCARECROW AT THE PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER

**A**utumn brought twenty scarecrows to Palisades, all dressed up and ready to bring that special Halloween spirit to our hamlet. A huge thank you goes out to Larry Bucciarelli who provided the lumber, labor and homemade honey! Another heartfelt thanks to Carol Baxter who got this great idea going as well as Carol Knudson, Sheila Chin and Michèle Balm for working on covering the production aspects from clothing and stuffing for the crows to warm apple cider and donuts, to pumpkin carving tools. The event was a big crowd pleaser and sure to be repeated in years to come!

The Board is working diligently on producing several events bringing the holiday spirit closer to the Community Center. First up was the Women's Artisans Holiday Craft Bazaar on Saturday, November 24th, from 10 am to 5 pm. We showcased finely made crafts by women artisans from the surrounding area just in time for holiday gift giving. Also, holiday wreaths and rustic décor items were sold outside from Blooming Hill Farm. Soups and goodies to stay or to go were available on site through the help of Mimi's Plate.

On Friday, December 21st, holiday carolers of all ages are sought to bring holiday cheer to those who are home alone, sick, or in need of some cheer. The carolers will meet at 11 Horne Tooke Drive. At 4 pm sharp music will be handed out and vocal chords will be warmed up. This songfest will end at the Palisades Community Center around 5:30 pm with a reception with hot chocolate, holiday treats and maybe even a surprise visitor to culminate the evening.

Don't know what to get for that special Palisadian during the holidays? Think about purchasing the documentary, "A Living History - Palisades, Part I," which gives us glimpses of years past in our hamlet of Palisades,

when Dumkin's blacksmith shop became Blacksmith Tea Shop, a very successful eatery, or when crazy parties with Vivien Leigh, Orson Welles, Noel Carter, Gertrude Lawrence and countless other famous artists who were part of the Palisades landscape.

Alice Gerard, Dorothy Thayer, Albon Mann and Bill Knudson express viewpoints and memories about Palisades and Snedens Landing while the late Joe Hyde reviews the "Double Bubble" cooking theory. There are so many wonderful stories told by so many, one really needs to own a copy to listen to them all. The inventory of the two part, three hour DVD set of "A Living History - Palisades, Part I" has been replenished at the Palisades library and is again on sale there for \$35 or by contacting Michèle Balm (359-3776). All proceeds of the DVD sales go towards the PCC restoration campaign.



**NEW THIS YEAR!** There is a possibility that we will be selling Christmas trees at the PCC on Saturday, December 15. Mark your calendars! A percentage of the sale of each tree will go to our Restoration Campaign Fund. To get a sense of how many trees we will need, please e-mail Carol Baxter to "reserve" a tree by December 7th. We will have 4 to 5, 7 to 8, and 9 to 10 foot trees available. Watch for flyers and signs and we will post the announcement on the 10964 website at [www.palisadesny.com](http://www.palisadesny.com)

Also, on December 15, PCC will be a People-To-People Donation Center! Join with us by donating a gift item or clothing for boys or girls 12 to 18 years old. Bring gifts to PCC between 10 am and 4 pm. For further information about reserving a tree as well as People-To-People, email [carolbax@optonline.net](mailto:carolbax@optonline.net)

There's still time to submit your favorite recipe to Alice Gerard ([gerard55@verizon.net](mailto:gerard55@verizon.net)) or Mary Tiegreen ([mary@tiegreen.com](mailto:mary@tiegreen.com)) for inclusion in the upcoming Palisades cookbook to benefit the Community Center.

Last but not least, the annual PCC membership meeting will take place Wednesday, January 30th, 2008, at 8 pm in the Center. Possible guests will include Thom Kleiner, Nancy Low-Hogan and Michael Maturo. Additional discussion will focus on the future of the Community Center, updating the PCC by-laws, as well as inducting new board members. All residents of Palisades are invited to attend and participate in this open forum.

## PALISADES SCHOOL UPDATE



he new Fred S. Keller School sign outside the Palisades School on Oak Tree Road is an indication that its possible sale has been tabled, at least for the moment.

At a March 2007 Board of Education meeting, William Beckman of Beckman Appraisals gave an abbreviated report of the value of the four “excess” properties that are part of the South Orangetown Central School District (SOCSD). The District’s Finance Council had recommended the sale of these properties as a way to generate profit to offset impending crucial infrastructure costs. In his report, Beckman identified the Palisades school as the most desirable of the four, indicating its best use was for the development of eight homes with the potential of a \$3.3 million plus sale.

At the end of May, SOCSD negotiated a year’s renewal with the Fred S. Keller School with the possibility of 10-year lease and the option to purchase the building and its property. According to Dr. Zambito, SOCSD Superintendent of Schools, the Board has been looking at short and long-term options as a means to maintain this as an educational site. The Fred S. Keller School, which serves children with autism and related disabilities, is privately owned and is registered for CABAS (Comprehensive Application of Behavior Analysis to Schooling). The Keller School will make much needed repairs to the building and there is also talk of their enlarging it. “The appraisals are not completed because the final document needs to reflect the use,” states Dr. Zambito. “Therefore,



THE PALISADES SCHOOL

when it is decided what the outcome would be for this facility, the appraisal would reflect the value based on the specific use.”

For seventy years the Palisades school has been an educational facility serving Palisades and the greater South Orangetown community. Many in the community continue to hope that the building is not sold for a housing development and remains a school building under the jurisdiction of SOCSD. Also, before any long-term rental decision is made or an “option to purchase” agreement or sale is even considered, a complete appraisal needs to be made public and the community kept informed of this.

The Children’s Enrichment Center, which also rented the building for six years, was not offered a lease renewal and has settled into the Manse Barn in Tappan.

*Carol Baxter*

## AGING-IN-PLACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

there is no fee to participate. Door-to-door transportation is provided.

Meals-on-Wheels also runs a computer-learning center, called Senior Net, administered by volunteers. Instruction is in small classes, open to anyone over the age of 50. Modest fees are charged for the classes. For more information on any of these three programs call 624-6325.

CAREGIVER RESPITE gives a free weeklong stay at a licensed adult facility for persons 60 and over to provide relief for the caregiver. For information, call 364-3444.

HICAP provides information and counseling on Health

Insurance. For information, call 364-2102.

WRAP offers assistance with essential home repairs and weatherization for financially eligible seniors. For information, call 364-2101

HEAP provides subsidies on heating bills for people over 60 meeting income guidelines. For information, call 364-2108.

All of these programs are helpful but may not solve the specific problems that some individuals are having. That is why we urge you to fill out the questionnaire we will send you, and to express your feelings on the subject. If you have questions or comments about this issue, you can call Alice Gerard at 359-4338.



## 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 Elevitch, Alice Gerard, Susan Gersony (treasurer), Greta Nettleton, Lisa Powers Pomann, Lisa Rinehart, Kathleen Sykes, Jaclyn Vorenkamp, Rob Whitstock & David Wolk.

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**Jonathan and Linda Ewig,**  
**and Frances Lapin.**

## AL PERLMUTTER & JOAN KONNER HONORED



Palisades residents Al Perlmutter and his wife Joan Konner received **Rockland Center for the Arts' Outstanding Achievements in the Arts Award** at the Center's 60th Anniversary Celebration on November 10th. The accomplished couple was cited for their support of the arts on a worldwide stage and their work in journalism, public affairs programming and documentary filmmaking. Palisades actress Didi Conn was mistress of ceremonies for the event.



JOAN KONNERS & AL PERLMUTTER

Joan is Professor Emerita and Dean Emerita of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. A television producer, writer and editor, she is responsible

for over 50 documentaries, receiving 16 Emmy Awards as well as the prestigious Peabody Award and the Alfred DuPont Columbia University Award among others. Joan began her career as a reporter for the Hackensack Record. She then jumped over to television as a reporter, writer, director and producer, first for NBC News then PBS. She was Executive Producer for *Bill Moyers Journal*, creating Public Affairs Television Inc. with Moyers in 1986. In 1988 Ms. Konner joined Columbia, becoming the first woman dean of its Graduate School of Journalism.

Al is an independent television producer and has been producing programming for over 30 years. Prior to forming his own company, he served as NBC News Vice President and earlier as Director of Public Affairs Programming at WNBC-TV. Al originated more than 100 PBS documentaries and is the recipient of six Emmys.

One of the couple's most acclaimed works was a six part series, *Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth with Bill Moyers*. Their most recent two-hour documentary, *The Mystery of Love*, shown on public television this spring, was previewed and discussed at a recent Palisades Library lecture.

Joan's latest endeavor is a newly released book titled, *An Atheist's Bible: An Illustrious Collection of Irreverent Thoughts*, published by Harper Collins.