

Calendar of Events

- JAN. 6- FEB 3. Palisades Presbyterian Church Film Festival.
11 through FEB 1, Hustle lessons for beginners. Community Center.
11 Rockland Center for the Arts, West Nyack, M.D. Elevitch, guest speaker, 8 p.m.
28 Library's Annual Meeting, 2-4 p.m.
29- 30 Rockland Community College Registration, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
FEB 4 Community Center's Annual Meeting, 2 p.m.

Leading Ladies -- Gertrude Macy and Katherine Cornell

For anyone who cares about how American theatre and music and dance evolved, who considers it a rare treasure to be close to the source of artistic creation and artistic success, Palisades, a cul-de-sac on the Hudson, has certainly emerged as a place to be.

In 1928, Gertrude Macy was a graduate of Bryn Mawr with a degree in physics, a fine business mind and a strong emotion for the theatre. She had summered, during her growing up years, in Santa Barbara and had met Susie Hyde there. Susie Hyde was, in the late 20's, working as secretary to Katherine Cornell. "I asked her about her job and she said she didn't need to know shorthand, she answered invitations and kept up correspondence. I thought that sounded like a nice job and with interesting people so when Susie went off into publishing and since the McClintic's knew I was eager for the job, I became secretary to Katherine Cornell. I never dreamt that would lead to the next 35 years of my own life in the Theatre, since I, too, knew very little of the skills required for even a secretarial post." As with most things she had done, Gert Macy's sense of organization made her successful at that job and eventually she became Katherine Cornell's producer. They were friends from the beginning. It was such a close and special relationship that it isn't possible to tell the story of one without the story of the other.

LEADING LADY is not only the biography of Katherine Cornell but a chronicle of Gert Macy as well. "I tried to keep myself low key while writing the biography," says Miss Macy, "but how low key can one be when one has done everything from buying the family cars to producing Miss Cornell's plays?" Miss Macy doesn't mind being revealed to her neighbors and her own career is inspirational to people with generalist talents in a specialized world. Little by little, Gert Macy began to take on the responsibilities of all Katherine Cornell's activities, supervising not only the function of her households, but the management



of her assets as well. It was not a one sided association by any means: when Gert was about to produce *I am a Camera*, Miss Cornell insisted on investing in that since she didn't want there to be a Macy production on the boards without some Cornell money in it. Gert Macy led Miss Cornell through many different places. Katherine Cornell, in turn, led Gert Macy to Sneden's Landing and to us. Miss Cornell had rented the Log Cabin for 25 winters and, when she decided to build the famous house on the river, she chose Eric Gugler as the architect and bought the land from the Tonetti family. Anne Tonetti before her death, left instructions that Gert Macy was to be given a reasonable price for land on the Palisades if she wanted to buy here. She did and, in fact, her house -- called Rive Gauche and also designed by Eric Gugler -- was built before Katherine Cornell's. Gert Macy has lived here for 30 years.

Peter Rock, the Cornell house named for the durability of Katherine Cornell's father Peter and the majestic Palisades, was begun with a barn purchased on Long Island, taken apart and reconstructed in the center of Katherine Cornell's land. It grew -- it took years -- it was chisled out of the rock because Eric Gugler would not "dynamite a big hole and then fill it in with house. Instead, he insisted that the Palisades rock be drilled out a little bit at a time, just enough to fit each angle, each level, each corner of the house as it was needed. The rock had to be forced to accommodate the house -- not the other way around."*

When Miss Cornell moved out of the house, after Guthrie McClintic's death, she didn't want any of the files that had been stored in Peter Rock and told Gert Macy to take them. Eventually they will probably go to the Lincoln Center Library of the Performing Arts for the Theatre Collection.

After Katherine Cornell died, several publishers approached Miss Macy to write the biography. "I told them I couldn't write and they said 'Oh, don't worry about that, you just talk into a tape recorder and we'll find a ghostwriter.' Well, I was rather snobbish about that and said I'd find my own. I first asked Thorton Wilder who said he couldn't do anything if it didn't emanate

from within himself. Finally I found Tad Mosel and went to the publisher who accepted him on my recommendation."

LEADING LADY took three years to write, mostly from Gert Macy's files and recollections. It tells not only the career of a fine actress, but the story of the American theatre over 40 years or more. Gert Macy gives us timeless insights and inspirations in addition to having given her own notable successes as a producer in her life.

She says she's retired now and wouldn't do anything more in the theatre anyway because it's so absurdly expensive. It cost \$30,000 to produce *I am a Camera* in 1951 and, by comparison, *Ballroom* cost \$2,000,000 and received not nearly as favorable notices as Gert's production of *I am a Camera*.

It was inevitable that a biography of Katherine Cornell would be written but it was chance that Gertrude Macy should have found herself here and in a career leading to that biography.

HOLLY M. REDELL

**LEADING LADY*, p. 499.

Palisades School Council

All school activities are back on a regular schedule since the heating system was repaired a few weeks ago.

Rockland Community College is again offering two credit courses beginning the week of Feb. 5, 1979. They are:

Principles of Accounting II

English-Freshman Composition I.

These courses are described in the Spring 1979 credit brochure. If you did not receive this brochure in the mail, call 356-1527 and one will be mailed to you. Mail registration packets may be obtained in room 130 of the Administration Building at the Main Campus or by calling 356-1527. Instructions for completing a mail registration packet are included and you should carefully complete and return all required forms by January 26th.

In person registration at Palisades will take place on Monday, Jan. 29, 1979 and Tuesday, Jan. 30, 1979 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m..

Please watch for their credit-free brochure in January. The Saturday workshop for children was a huge success and we look forward to the spring programs.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Open Gym - Supervised by Sue Schweikert every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:00-5. Boys and girls from 3rd grade thru 8th grade are welcome.

Teen Evening - every Thursday from 7-10 p.m. Supervised by Harold Smith

EILEEN LARKIN

Oak Tree Playgroup

The Playgroup is back in its home now, thanks to the repairs on the furnace, and everybody is warm and happy again. It is with enormous thanks and gratitude that we wish everyone on the Board of the Community Center good things in the New Year.

Come and see us for a while if you would like to consider the Playgroup for your child; you'll be pleased with what you find here.

HOLLY M. REDELL

Palisades Free Library

The Library's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, Jan. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. Six residents are on the ballot for three Board positions. They are as follows:

Bob Burcaw
William Eberle
Mary Francis Murphy
Jack Rossoff
Estelle Sollysh
Andrea Williams

Come enjoy a poetry reading by Mildred Rippey and a performance by Harry Davis. Refreshments will be served.

BARBARA HOVSEPIAN

Palisades Community Center

December was another active month for the Center. Although the Nursery School returned to their home base across the street, they did express their gratitude for the "Spirit of Cooperation" of our community in allowing them to use our beautiful building.

A catered luncheon for a T.V. crew filming on Oak Tree Road was served in the Center. Their donation plus several others from the community made it possible to pay the roof in full.

The Annual Christmas Party held on Dec. 10 was enjoyed by many of our local children and their parents. The Senior Citizens also enjoyed a holiday celebration.

Beginning Thurs, Jan. 11, a four-week "Hustle" group will meet at the center. This will be for beginners 18 years and over. The class will be limited to 10 couples and the cost will be \$20 per couple for the entire session. Advance registration is a MUST. Pick up your application in the Post Office and make your check payable to "DANCING" P.O. Box 222, Palisades, N.Y. More complex steps will be offered at a later date. Join the fun -- dancing is popular again. See the Community Center Bulletin Board in the Post Office for more information. EDITH RYAN

Burt Reynolds

Burt Reynolds and company came to town in mid-December to shoot scenes for his new movie *Starting Over* which also features Candice Bergen, Jill Clayburgh and Charles Durning. The Tompkins' house in Sneden's Landing was chosen for location because the film needed a traditional New England type home and atmosphere.

The subsequent inconveniences and bizarre traffic patterns were insignificant compared to all the fun the kids and parents had. Burt Reynolds cheerfully signed autographs and lingered to chat with residents at the end of each day. He said he enjoyed the kids and was very gratified by their warm response to him.

He was equally complimentary about Mrs. Tompkins, who, he said, took the invasion with amazing equanimity. He thought she was just great, and admitted that he would never in a million years allow a movie crew into his home. Someday, he added, he would like to come back and explore the area further because he's fascinated by its artistic and historical significance.

LESLIE PRICE HAYES

Letters

To the people of Palisades: I want to give my sincerest apology for the inconvenience that you've been put to by the shooting of some scenes of the film *Starting Over*. You have all been patient and I thank you.

Blessing and a good holiday to you all--
JUDY TOMKINS

Palisades Presbyterian Church

The Palisades Presbyterian Church will hold another Film Festival this year, featuring the early films of some of our most famous contemporary directors plus some prize-winning short subjects and a *Sneak Preview* of a current motion picture.

The schedule is as follows:

- Jan. 6 Francis Ford Coppola's *The Rain People* with James Caan, Shirley Knight, Robert Duvall.
- 13 George Lucas' science fiction classic *THX-1138* with Donald Pleasance.
- 20 Arthur Penn's *The Chase* with Robert Redford, Jane Fonda, Marlon Brando.
- 27 Arthur Penn's *Themes and Variants*, an Academy Award winning documentary portrait of Penn with Warren Beatty, Dustin Hoffman, Arlo Guthrie.
- Feb. 3 Bryan Forbes' *The Wrong Box* with Peter Sellers, John Mills, Ralph Richardson, Michael Caine, Peter Cook, Dudley Moore.

BARBARA HOVSEPIAN

Lamont

Nearly 20 billion tons of carbon dioxide are now being released into the atmosphere each year as a by-product of the burning of fossil fuels, according to a recent study by Wallace Broecker. The output of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels has been growing steadily at about 4 percent a year. At the same time the oceans are slowly losing their capacity to soak up the increasing amounts of carbon dioxide.

Should this trend continue, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will double in about 50 years. If it does, the best estimates are that the average global temperature in the year 2025 will be 2 to 3 degrees Celsius (3.6 to 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than it is now because carbon dioxide has a way of trapping radiant heat.

Unfortunately, such a global rise of temperature will not be an unmixed blessing. To be sure it will make possible wine making, for example, in England, but it will also lead to melting of the Antarctic ice cap, the Greenland ice sheet, as well as mountain glaciers, sea-level will rise enough to flood the sites of most of the great cities in the world, including New York.

GOESTA WOLLIN

Community Health Notes

It has been brought to our attention that concern is being expressed over the poor eating habits at lunchtime and lack of protective winter clothing on children at T.Z.E. We will investigate this further, but need your input. Please, let us know your suggestions and observations.

Community Services #3 -- Three different ambulance services are available to our residents. So. Orangetown Ambulance Corps. in Tappan (359-3030) is a volunteer service with no charge to Nyack Hospital in emergency. Transportation to other hospitals is available only after 7 p.m. Empire Hose Company in Piermont (call Operator, or Orangetown Police, 359-3700) is a volunteer emergency service only, with no charge and limited to Rockland County. Hudson Valley Ambulance Service in Haverstraw (429-2300) is a private service with a fee by mileage charge. They will transport all over the United States. However, in an emergency they will take patients only to Nyack or Englewood Hospitals, at the driver's discretion.

VIRGINIA W. BARRETT, BS RN
MYRA B. RICHARDSON, RN MPH

Classified

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE. SEND TO BOX 201 OR CALL JEANNE BOOSE (7154). DONATIONS ARE REQUESTED FROM BUSINESSES OR NON-PALISADIANS.

FOR SALE - Hand built outside firewood rack 5' high x 6' wide; holds 1/4 cord wood - waterproofed. Call regarding price. Post (2716).

FOR SALE - IBM Electric Office typewriter, \$150. Metric socket wrench set, unused, \$35. Joe Sullivan (2074).

FOR SALE - 10-speed bike, Raleigh Grand Prix 21", excellent condition, new tires, tow clips, \$105. Rasmussen (5188).

FOR SALE - Ice skates, black hockey sizes 7 and 10, black (child) figure, sizes 2 and 3. Rasmussen (5188).

FOR SALE - 2 snow tires L78-15 used one winter. Larkin (6589)

Unclassified

10964 thanks Anne Gugler, Sandy McAllister, the Ned Starks and the Joseph Santuccis for their contributions this month.

WRITING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME. 10964 RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION.

If at any time you do not receive your copy of 10964, call Jane Bernich (8382).

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