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The
Palisades Newsletter
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I passed it hundreds of times.

The beige ranch house at 605 Oak Tree Road. Although it was in a residential area, it didn't appear to be a private home, yet it didn't look like a business, either. What always caught my eye was how well maintained it was. For a long time, I thought it had something to do with Palisades Gardens across the street. Then someone mentioned that it was owned by Jawonio. But it wasn't until a bake sale that I really got to find out.

Last fall, my daughter, Lily, was desperate to have a bake sale with her friend Anna. The motivating factor was that she wanted to raise money to give to a charity. After clearing everyone's schedule, a Sunday morning was chosen. The girls made the sign and decided what was to be sold: hot cider, banana cake, and cookies. Lisa and I, ready for action, fulfilled our baking assignment. Although it was their bake-sale, they graciously agreed to let the siblings (Kate, Sofia, and Peter) in on the fun, too. So, the seven of us set up shop at the triangle at Washington Spring Road. In less than two hours, we made \$43.00 and had a delightful time. But we had a hard time de-



There's No Place Like Home On Oak Tree Road

*Anna Baryshnikov, Lily Plotkin, Kate Plotkin,
Carol Baxter, Lisa Rinehart, Sofia Baryshnikov
Peter Baryshnikov, and Keith Philips*

cidng who to donate the proceeds to. We wanted it to be a neighborhood organization and wanted the money to go directly to the ones who were in need. After mulling over a couple of suggestions, Lisa mentioned Jawonio. Having a vague idea that physically handicapped people were serviced there, we all decided that it would be the perfect choice.

So, we piled in the car and went directly there. Lisa went in first to see if they would accept our money. The woman she spoke with was quite dumbfounded; no one had offered money, out-of-the-blue, (in quarters and dimes) from a bake sale before. She invited us all in. Immediately, I was taken by how neat and clean the foyer was. We were led to

the dining room. The Direct Care Workers were outgoing and appreciative and they encouraged the residents to say hi to us and thank us for the donation.

Our little group was not prepared for what we saw. In the main room, there were eight severely disabled adults, in various kinds of electric wheelchairs, watching sports on TV. One young man was lying on his stomach, on a scooter board, and scooted over to see us.

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In 1946, the Jawonio organization began as the Cerebral Palsy Society of Rockland County, providing out-patient treatment for children with neuromuscular and other similar disabilities. The next year, they incorporated as Rockland Center for the Physically Handicapped and United Cerebral Palsy Affiliate, and opened a treatment center in Suffern. In 1949, they established the first camping program for the handicapped in Rockland County. And years later, they opened a "sleep away" camp. For fifty years, Jawonio has been growing and changing and its programs and services now reach 4,000 children and adults annually. Jawonio provides comprehensive medical, clinical, rehabilitative, educational, employment/vocational, case management and community living services to children and adults with physical, developmental and or emotional disabilities. Their goal is to provide programs that assure opportunities for individuals with disabilities, to help them reach their optimal levels of functioning by enhancing their health, education and employment opportunities and to help them live as valuable members of the community.

"We'll be celebrating our fifth anniversary in June," says Suzanne Tuttle, Resident Manager of the John W. Cumming Home in Palisades. "At first we had resistance from the community, but now we have very good relations with our neighbors. We are very happy to be here. Jawonio is a Native American word meaning Independence, and we try to help them to be independent. We certainly keep them busy." The eight residents are aged 28-35 and they are the most severely disabled. Daily, they are engaged in therapy programs, arts and crafts, and fun and games. The residents go on group field trips, including trips to the movies, theater and sporting events. A Direct



Care Worker showed me the sleeping area, four bedrooms, with two beds in each. The rooms were cheerful and immaculate. "We like these guys. They're special," he said. "We want to keep the place nice for them." The home employs a staff of 27 workers.

We were so impressed with the facilities, we wondered how else they could use help. We were told about an air mattress that they would love to secure for the home, but it costs \$2,000. The residents can be taken out of their chairs and put on the vibrating mattress. It is soothing and therapeutic, and by pushing down on it they can stimulate different muscle groups. "Right now we take one of our guys, in a van, to the air mattress at SkyView at Letchworth," said Suzanne. "He really likes it." She also welcomes visitors and encourages interaction with civic organizations. They accept donations of books, video tapes, adult clothing, etc.

Suzanne bought a bird bath with our donation. It sits in front, just outside the picture window so they can watch the birds while they eat. We received two lovely thank you notes. One an official typewritten letter, the other a charming, glittering hand made card—with all their names.

I have been back to Jawonio four times. And each time, I am struck by how neat, clean, and peaceful it is. There are always tasteful holiday decorations in the windows. It feels like home. As I glance into the main room, I can't stop thinking about how they would enjoy and benefit from the air mattress. Lisa and I left the first day, trying to figure out how many cookies we'd need to sell. If any one wants to make a donation or have a bake sale call me! To contact Jawonio, call 359-3937.

Carol Baxter

Bulletin Board

S. Orangetown Sports Club

In December, the South Orangetown Sports Club (the parent group that supports Tappan Zee High School athletics) awarded **Mel Rosenwasser** the club Community Service Award for "...providing the Tappan Zee Athletic Program and its student athletes with the finest medical care (on) any field, any time, anywhere."

Palisades/Sparkill Baseball

April 10 is scheduled as Opening Day for the **Palisades/Sparkill Baseball League**. Applications are still being accepted for children ages 5-12. For more information call Joseph Checchi, 365-3282. Pictured below: Palisades/Sparkill League of 9 and 10 year olds, winners of the minor and championship playoffs last summer.



Left to right Bottom Row: Matt Goldfarb, Bruce Baez, Brian Delancy, Jon Vermandel, Chris Collechio, Zach Boren; Middle Row: Sean Gibney, Patrick Rienzo, Matt Unger, Hudson Solomon, Colin Taylor, Nicholas Saraco; Top Row, Coaching Team: D. Rienzo, C. Saraco, H. Vermandel, Ed Goldfarb (Head Coach), Steve Unger, Greg Collechio, Michael Boren.

Arts Council Grant Winner

The Hopper House Art Center received a \$600 award to be used to continue the series "Readings, Writings and Rhetoric" developed and directed by **Jocelyn DeCrescenzo** during 1998. The first event on this year's calendar, February 7, was centered about an exhibit of Haitian paintings on loan from filmmaker Jonathan Demme, and consisted of readings from Haitian poetry and prose and the performance of Haitian drum and dance rhythms.

Route 9W Bus Stop Shelters

Reg Thayer reports that, based on conversations with Supervisor Kleiner and John Giardiello of the Orangetown Building Department, as of February 9 there has been no real progress: "The New York State Dept. of Transportation (DOT) required the County to apply for a permit for the work to proceed and the permit was applied for weeks ago. No valid reason has been given to me for the delay, but I understand that the Town and the County are following up on the DOT for this permit."

Lamont Scientists Discover Noah's Flood

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory has begun a new monthly Public Lecture Series in which prominent scientists discuss aspects of current research in their special fields in a way that is understandable to a general audience.

On January 17, 1999 Dr. William Ryan, a marine geologist, and Dr. Walter Pitman, a geophysicist, initiated this series with a lecture on their recently published book, *Noah's Flood, The New Scientific Discoveries About the Event That Changed History*, Simon and Schuster, 1998.

Ryan described the initial research which took him and Pitman to the Black Sea in 1993 aboard a Russian research vessel. Their purpose was to study the recent geologic history of this large inland sea while their Russian colleagues investigated contamination from the Chernobyl nuclear accident. They obtained data using a sonic probe to measure the strata below the sea

floor and a device to obtain core samples of sea floor sediment. The results of their investigation showed that the Black Sea had been a fresh water lake some 350 feet lower in the past and that a surprisingly rapid change from fresh to salt water had taken place when the sea abruptly rose to its present level. The crucial questions were when and how this remarkable change had taken place. The answer to "when"

proved to be 5,600 BC by radiocarbon dating of shells at the boundary between the fresh and salt water sea floor sediments. The answer to "how" required further thought and another set of measurements in the Bosphorus Straits.

Some twenty years earlier Ryan had conducted research aboard the deep sea drilling ship *Glomar Challenger* in the Mediterranean. An important result of that cruise was the discovery that the Mediterranean basin had completely dried out some seven million years ago leaving thick deposits of salt on the former sea floor. About two million years later, the Atlantic Ocean, at a level not much different from the present, broke through the dam at Gibraltar. The catastrophic flooding of the empty, mile-deep Mediterranean basin probably continued for several decades before its level reached that of the Atlantic. Pitman and Ryan wondered if this same kind of flooding had occurred in the Black Sea 5,600 years ago.

To test this theory, Pitman obtained records from the Turkish navy showing depth profiles through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits. This allowed him to calculate the flow when the rising water level in the world oceans and the Mediterranean, caused by the melting of Ice Age glaciers, finally broke through the narrow strip of land at the Bosphorus. The scale of



the flow which carved a deep channel through these straits was astonishing. At an earth-shaking volume 200 times that of Niagara Falls, salt water cascaded 350 feet down to the

fresh water level of the Black Sea. At this rate, people residing along the lake shore would have to travel a half mile or more per day in order to escape the onslaught of the rising tide. Within a year or two an estimated 60,000 square miles of land was flooded as the Black Sea level rose some 350 feet.

About one-third of the book is devoted to these matter-of-fact scientific measurements

and conclusions. The other two-thirds deal with more speculative issues like the consequences of such a natural catastrophe upon a Neolithic population residing around the borders of the Black Sea and the reverberations of the memory of the flood through legend and story continuing until Biblical times.

Archaeological research has shown that farming communities had become established in the Near East by 7,000 BC. Recent studies indicate that a change to colder and drier climate followed from about 6,200 to 5,800 BC. This climate change coincides with findings that many upland Neolithic farming sites were abandoned during this period. From this evidence the authors propose that a movement of the population took place to the warmer, fertile lowlands surrounding the Black Sea, the last remaining large fresh water lake in the region. Such an oasis could have supported a dense farming population which, over many generations, would tend to become more homogeneous in language, culture, and genetic traits.

It has long been recognized by prehistorians that abrupt cultural changes occurred throughout Europe and the Near East in the sixth millennium BC. Hunter-gathering cultures were suddenly replaced by societies based on farming and the raising of domesticated animals. The question among archaeologists has always been whether these changes represented colonization by incoming people or transformations within the native societies. Ryan and Pitman come down strongly for colonization. They believe

that the catastrophic inundation of the Black Sea in 5,600 BC triggered mass migrations of refugees up the valleys of the Danube, the Dniester and the Dnieper into central and western Europe and southeast-

ward into the Levant, Egypt and Mesopotamia. Hence, from their subtitle, "the Event That Changed History."

The authors admit that their linkage of this dispersal of farming culture with the permanent flooding of the

Black Sea is only a working hypothesis. "Short of finding the remains of Neolithic settlements beneath the mud of the present Black Sea shelf," they say, "no archaeological observation can prove a human occupation of the now submerged landscape." With the recent advances in the technology available for the study of undersea archaeology such answers may not be long in coming.

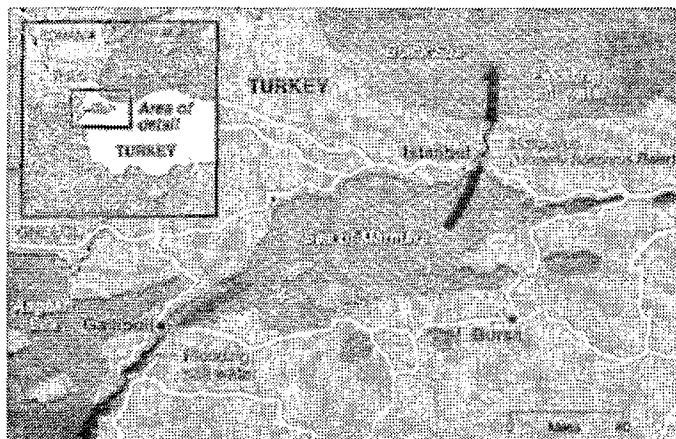
Readers who find it tough going to make their way through a book about science are in for a pleasant surprise. *Noah's Flood* is engag-

ing in a way that almost makes the reader feel like a fellow researcher seeking out his own family history. The writing is not only well crafted but in places paints vivid and sensitive pictures of those early people whose legends are still remembered.

Palisadians should feel themselves fortunate

to have access to these provocative talks by world-class scientists through the Lamont-Doherty Public Lecture Series. It's like having our own home town NOVA show.

Sam Gerard



• Public Lecture Series at •
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
 March 21— Paul Richards. *The Earth Sciences and Nuclear Arms Control*
 April 11— Mark Cane. *Predicting El Nino*
 May 16— Klaus Jacobs. *What Can We Expect if New York City Gets Hit by an Earthquake?*
 Call 365-8565 to Reserve a Seat.

Obituary

Helene Stansbury

Several Palisades institutions lost one of their strongest supporters when Helen H. Stansbury, a lifelong resident, died on January 5, 1999. Helen was born April 21, 1912, to August and Theresa Tietz of Palisades. She married H. Archer Stansbury in October 1954; he died in 1978. Helene worked for the New York Telephone Company at one time and was a member of the New York Telephone Pioneers Club. She was proud of the fact that she was the only woman to complete the US Power Squadron Course and to become a navigator.

Helene played an active and important role in several Palisades organizations. She was a valued member of the Palisades Historical Committee; as one of the oldest inhabitants in the community she could give committee members important information on past events and people.

She and her husband worked tirelessly to preserve the Palisades Cemetery. Lee Sneden, who grew up in Palisades and is currently the President of the Palisades Lot Owners Tribute (P.L.O.T.), wrote about Helene:

"I have a snapshot of nine members of the Palisades Presbyterian Church volunteer choir. Eight women and one man each dressed for the annual autumn 'choir hay ride.' They are squeezed into the back of Chester Post's shiny Ford pick-up truck. The year was 1938. Riders included my mother, Miriam Hill Sneden, Elizabeth Fox (later Mrs Arnold Finck) and Helene Tietz (later Mrs. Archer Stansbury). Truly, Helene's face reflected the inner strength and friendly self assurance that to me was forever a part of this fine person.

Back then I was a young boy. Many years later, in the late 80s, I became a member of the volunteer group (P.L.O.T.) that was led by Helene and that worked to renew and

maintain the Palisades Cemetery. I found that she had never changed. Always earnest, always open, always positive. Helene was wonderful.

In 1995 members of P.L.O.T. had a small bronze plaque mounted in the Palisades Cemetery to honor Helene for her years of leadership in the organization. The brief statement on the plaque includes the three words, 'we thank you.' Indeed, Helene, we thank you."

In her quiet way, Helene also made many contributions to the Palisades Presbyterian Church, a central focus of her life. The greens decorating the church each year at Christmas were given by Helene, as was the fire alarm system and several other improvements to the building.

Palisades residents shared their memories of Helene at a service held on Saturday, January 9, at the Palisades Presbyterian Church. Carol Knudson, a close neighbor, later contributed some of the things she remembered about Helene for this article.

"Mrs. Stansbury was one of the surrogate aunts in our neighborhood when I was growing up. She could always be counted on to support us as well as keep us in line when necessary.

Halloween was special for us at her house. Not only did she give great treats, but she always made such a big deal over our costumes. I was glad my son got to visit her on his first Halloween.

She was genuinely interested in our daily accomplishments, but we had to take care not to mess up her immaculate yard and flower beds when we were playing. She scolded me for riding my horse in the cemetery.

My favorite recollection happened just a few years ago. I was walking to the post office barefoot, as I usually do in the summertime. She saw me and said she wished she could still go barefoot, like she always did when she was 'my age.' I was touched at the connection — I had never thought about what she had been like at my age. I hope I can still be living as full and active a life as she was when I get to be 'her age.' "

Alice Gerard

Lois Burcaw

Former Palisades Resident Dies At 84

Friends in Palisades have learned recently of the death on November 27 in Louisville, Kentucky, of Lois Burcaw, a long-time local resident who was active in musical circles here. She died after emergency surgery for an intestinal blockage, according to her husband, Robert Burcaw of Bartlett, N.H. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 17, at 1:30 pm in the Palisades Church where she was a member and sang in the choir. Memorial gifts may be made to the church.

Born Lois Mary Weiler in Mauch Chunk, Pa., she was a board member of the Philomusica of Orangetown and a member of the American Bach Society. In addition Lois was expert in embroidery and needlepoint and acted as a museum docent and instructor in these arts in Atlanta, Georgia, where the Burcaws lived before settling in Palisades.

In later years when Lois suffered serious eye problems which prevented her from driving, the Burcaws moved to an apartment in Nyack overlooking the Hudson River. They left Nyack several years ago to move to Lou-

Oak Tree Road And 303 Safety

Anthony Zacharakis reports that the latest accident at this intersection occurred on Jan. 22 when a southbound vehicle traveling on Rte. 303 struck a northbound vehicle turning left. Any Palisadians interested in attending a meeting about traffic safety on Rte. 303 in conjunction with the N.Y. Metropolitan Council grant should call Supervisor Thom Kleiner's office at 359-5100.

isville, near their son R. Barry Burcaw. Bob, a retired foundation executive, moved after Lois's death to the new house in Bartlett which they had just built, adjacent to the home of their daughter, Jane P. Ross. He describes the area as "very beautiful."

"Everyone loved Lois," Dossi Thayer, friend and neighbor, recalls with warmth. Others recall her wit. Liz Finck of the Palisades Historical Committee remembers, with admiration, the generosity of the Burcaws in opening their swimming pool, built before the advent of the Palisades Swim Club, to the children of this hamlet.

The Burcaws also occupy a place in Palisades lore, Liz points out, because of the spectacular fire which consumed the house in which Leslie Butler, their daughter, lived with her husband and children next to her parents. The date of the fire, March 1967, is lodged indelibly in Liz's mind. She and her husband Arnold Finck abandoned plans to attend a concert in New York as they heard the fire sirens wail and saw the red glow and smoke in the sky, which were visible throughout the area. To this day charred bits of detritus still surface on the property. The young family was rescued, which in the case of Leslie was quite a feat since she was a polio victim confined to a wheelchair.

The calamity galvanized the entire community into action. The late architect Wally Heath produced plans for a new house, and there was an outpouring of clothing, household goods and temporary shelter for the devastated Butlers.

In addition to her husband and Jane Ross, Lois is survived by three sons: R. Barry Burcaw of Louisville; Richard Williams of Rush, New York; and Curtis Williams of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania; sixteen grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by Leslie Butler.

Bob Burcaw's new address is Cobb's Farm Road, Bartlett, NH, 03812-0392. His telephone number is 603 374-9068.

Maggie Gundlach

Theodora Mead Abel

99, Multi-faceted Psychologist

Theodora Mead Abel, a product of Columbia University during its "Golden Age" of psychology, made significant contributions to many different aspects of the field including Rorschach testing, cultural and personality studies, family therapy, experimental research, and clinical psychology, during a career that spanned 65 years.

Dr. Abel, a onetime resident of Palisades who died of congestive heart failure at 99 on December 2, received the American Psychological Association's 1997 Gold Medal Award for Life Achievement in the Practice of Psychology. For 23 years (1947-1970), Dr. Abel was director of psychoanalysis and co-director of the family therapy training program at the Post Graduate Center for Mental Health in New York City. The New York Society of Clinical Psychologists honored her as "Psychologist of the Year (1969-70)." In 1998, she received the Bernard F. Riess Alumni Award, which honors alumni of the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health who have made outstanding contributions to scholarship or professional service in the field of psychoanalysis.

Dr. Abel probably became best known for her cross-cultural studies. Her best-known books, both published in the 1970s, are *Psychological Testing in Cultural Contexts* and *Culture and Psychotherapy*, co-authored with Rhoda Metraux.

Theodora Mead Abel was born on September 9, 1899. Her father, Robert G. Mead, was a lawyer in New York City. Theodora and her parents lived in a brownstone house on West 11th St. in Manhattan. In 1908, she began attending Miss Chapin's, a private school in New York City. After graduating from there in 1917, she went to Vassar, where she majored in history. As a sophomore she took her first course in psychology, taught by Margaret Washburn, and became hooked. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from

Vassar in 1921, Theodora traveled to Poland with her mother and met her future husband, Theodore Abel, who had been in the Polish army fighting the Russians and was now working for the YMCA in Cracow. That same year, Theodora began graduate school at Columbia.

During the 1922-23 school years she attended the Institut de Psychologie at the Sorbonne in Paris. An accomplished violinist, Theodora had supper at Marie Curie's house almost every Friday and would play sonatas with Eve Curie.

By the fall of 1923, Theodora was back at Columbia continuing her graduate work in experimental psychology. She befriended classmate Margaret Mead, who sat next to her when seating was assigned alphabetically. In November she married Theodore Abel, now a Columbia graduate student in sociology. "Margaret told me that I would never be a success, because I did not minor in anthropology or some other subject besides psychology," Dr. Abel recalled in 1996. "When later in the fall I got married and took my husband's name, she said that would finish me." Nevertheless, Mrs. Abel received her M.A. in 1924 and her Ph.D. in 1925. During her Columbia years, she worked part-time at the Manhattan Trade School for Girls and her doctoral dissertation was based on data collected there on subnormal (retarded) girls.

Beginning in 1926, Dr. Abel continued her research on the galvanic skin reflex at Cornell. From 1929 to 1935, she taught at Sarah Lawrence College. Next she spent four years as director of research at the Manhattan Trade School, where she studied and tested subnormal girls. That work resulted in her first book, *The Subnormal Adolescent Girl*, co-authored with Elaine F. Kinder and published in 1942.

Theodora and her husband lived part-time in Palisades from 1934 to 1938 before having a house built on Heyhoe Woods Road in 1939 and moving to Rockland County full-time in 1940. Theodora worked at Letchworth Village from 1940 to 1946. For the next two years, she worked part-time on a Columbia University Research in Contemporary Cultures project, first with Margaret Mead and Ruth Benedict and then with Mead and Rhoda Metraux. Dr. Abel also began her work at the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health. In 1968, she heard Dr. Nathan Ackerman

Obituary

talk about family therapy and soon began training with him. By 1969, Dr. Abel was teaching family therapy at the center.

Theodora and her husband, Theodore (longtime sociology professor at Columbia University and Hunter College), moved from Palisades to Albuquerque, N.M. in 1971. They sold their house on Heyhoe Woods Road to one of their daughters, Caroline Lalire. Several years later, the house was sold to Rex Lalire, one of Theodora's grandchildren. Although Dr. Abel had moved to Albuquerque supposedly to retire, she began a second career in New Mexico, teaching family therapy at the Child Guidance Center, becoming a clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of New Mexico, and maintaining a private practice. All through the 1970s and '80s, Abel, who was able to speak and/or write in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Arabic, gave lectures and demonstrated family therapy in other parts of the world. Her husband died in 1988. In 1995, she moved to Hamilton, Virginia, to live with her oldest daughter. In 1998 she moved to Hartwood, N.Y., to live near a granddaughter who had followed in Abel's footsteps and become a psychologist. Theodora is survived by three children, Peter Abel of St. Davids, Pa., Caroline Lalire of Hamilton, Va., and Zita Emerson of Albuquerque, N.M., ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

PCA Annual Meeting

The Palisades Civic Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 11, 1999, at 8 p.m. in the Palisades Community Center. All residents of the hamlet are not only invited but urged to attend.

Following election of the new board, the present directors will review current and recent issues, including the planned office building on Route 9W, which the Association has struggled unsuccessfully to prevent and somewhat successfully to minimize; commercial development questions in the western portion of the hamlet; the future of the Palisades School, the 9W bus shelters and the former Kennell gas station; the trend to replace old houses with much larger ones, and other matters of concern.

Residents will be asked to raise issues that concern them, whether limited to Palisades or of wider scope, and to recommend action by the Civic Association.

If the future of your community is not worth an hour or two of your time, what is?

Palisades Presbyterian Church News

Several coming events at the Palisades Presbyterian Church — in mission, education and worship — are of interest to Palisadians.

In mission, the congregation is featuring both local and global initiatives. Globally, the church will again participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, an appeal that provides development aid, refugees resettlement assistance and disaster relief to people in 70 countries around the world. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of One Great Hour of Sharing, a video, "Through the Eyes of Children," will be shown at the Palisades Church on March 14 at 11:00 am worship. It features thoughts of children from the Palisades Church and also from St. Charles AME Zion Church in Sparkill as they reflect on the past and on their hopes for the future.

Locally, there is a new effort to reach out to "caregivers and kids" from the Palisades Community. On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am, moms and nannies are invited to get together for sharing, learning, and recreation under the leadership of Cass Ludington. It is a time to build relationships, allow kids to play together, and discuss issues common to those caring for young children. Refreshments are served and everyone is welcome.

One exciting educational event will take place on April 11 at 7:30 pm in the church's sanctuary. Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, an internationally known astronomer, lecturer, author and Jesuit brother, will speak on the topic, "God, Astronomy and the Search for Elegance." Dr. Consolmagno is presently curator of the Vatican's meteorite collection, one of the largest in the world. His research explores the connections between meteorites and asteroids, and the origin and evolution of small bodies in the solar system. Dr. Consolmagno's talk is free and open to the public.

South Orangetown School News

Sent to the Principal: An Interview With Anne Meatto

Anne Meatto believes in information and communication. This was a distinct theme during the course of my recent interview with Ms. Meatto, who began her duties as the new principal of Cottage Lane Elementary School in August, 1998. But, before we began discussing her priorities for education of our district's 4th and 5th grade students, I asked Ms. Meatto about herself, and discovered a woman with varied and often surprising experience in education. Above all, Principal Meatto is a parent, with three sons, ages 23, 21 and 14. She speaks of them, and their accomplishments in academics, music and sports with pride, as any parent.

Ms. Meatto's pathway to elementary education administration in South Orangetown began with a Bachelor's degree in psychology. Her interest in the psychology of learning then led her to pursue first a Master's in psychology and reading, and then a Professional Diploma in Educational Administration and Supervision. She plans to begin work towards her doctorate. Before coming to South Orangetown, Ms. Meatto was Assistant Principal of an elementary school in Garden City, New York. And, while her recent experience has been with grades Kindergarten through fifth, she actually began teaching English and math in high school, and was also a reading teacher at the middle school. Much of her experience was with non-traditional student populations; in particular, with emotionally disturbed children.

Over all, Ms. Meatto's background and experience have nurtured her interest in how children of all abilities learn, and her quest to create perfect learning opportunities for all children. In her words, her role as principal

is to stimulate and sustain children's excitement in learning.

Parent Involvement and Communication

Ms. Meatto's emphasis on information sharing is reflected in many of the initiatives she has instituted so far: monthly parent coffees on topics of interest such as the new language arts assessment and the controversial Mathland program; a monthly newsletter describing not only events at Cottage Lane but also addressing issues that might be of concern to parents; and an evening curriculum meeting for parents specifically devoted to Mathland.

At several points during our conversation, Ms. Meatto extended an invitation to parents to increase their involvement with activities at Cottage Lane, in both formal and informal ways. Right now there is the opportunity for parents to either join the Playground Committee, which Meatto co-chairs with Ed Dolan, or to communicate their recommendations and concerns with the committee. Parents are also urged to schedule classroom presentations in order to share their professional expertise in the areas of building construction and design with students, and, looking forward to the addition of a stage at Cottage Lane next year, to help bring performing artists to the school.

Construction and Expansion

In fact, construction at Cottage Lane, which will add 10,000 square feet to the building, looms as one of the greatest challenges Ms. Meatto will face. She is planning, however, to transform this challenge into a positive educational opportunity for her students. While acknowledging the myriad of both physical and scheduling alterations that will be necessary at the school — for example, where parents pick up children, bus lineups, playground facilities, and above all, ensuring everyone's safety — the topic of construction generally is being integrated within the 4th and 5th grade curriculum in a number of ways. In Meatto's view, students will become active participants in the building process by

Continued on page 11

documenting its progress using panoramic cameras recently purchased for that purpose, constructing timelines of events and milestones, and writing about the experience. To extend deeper into the academic classroom curriculum, the school has acquired educational software on construction which contains 3-dimensional design capabilities, allowing the students to create their own buildings. These CD-Roms also offer a historical component, with designs for computerized construction of Native American, medieval and contemporary villages.

Goals and Priorities

Ms. Meatto also believes in engaging in community building with students, focusing on respect and responsibility and what these concepts mean to children. In a concrete initiative, an entire wall of the cafeteria at Cottage Lane has been established as a student bulletin board, and 4th and 5th graders are urged to express themselves through posters, other artwork, poetry, or other media.

Overall, as students pass through their last years of elementary school en route to secondary education, Meatto stresses the importance of gaining and reinforcing self-confidence through the development of skills in all areas — academic, physical, emotional and social — in a nurturing elementary environment. Her goal is "...to send the best prepared and confident children to middle school." At a time when academic demands are becoming more rigorous, and standards from the state and national level are being raised, Ms. Meatto believes that the best we can do for our children is to teach them how to be powerful thinkers. She emphasized once more the importance of harnessing the power of information — to teach children not only how to access information, but how to process the information they receive. We could all appreciate such a lesson in this age of information excess and technology.

Ellen Chayet Kidd

Maura's On Main

Palisadians Larry Bucciarelli and Henry Ottley are partners with chef Maura Martin in a great new restaurant that opened last month in Nyack. Using the space behind the Art Nouveau storefront at 82 Main St., the partners have created a sophisticated but informal space that welcomes customers with two floors of dining, an open kitchen on the first floor, and a comfortable bar upstairs with a fireplace, just in time for long, cold winter evenings. Diners wearing casual weekend clothes mix easily with people dressed for a special evening, and children are welcomed.

The food complements the atmosphere. Chef Maura takes down-home favorites like hot turkey sandwiches, crab cakes, quesedillas and babyback ribs and jazzes them up by making them with fine quality ingredients and dressing them with sophisticated sauces and seasonings. The menu changes frequently, to bring you back for new sensations, and is designed to be flexible. All sizes of appetites can find what they want — children can order appetizers or side dishes of things like macaroni and cheese, while their hungry parents can order up full-sized entrees.

Maura performs final assembly of most dishes in the open kitchen on one side of the first floor. Curious diners can scrutinize how various options look before they order, and children can be kept fairly busy watching the cooking action during those grueling intervals of waiting for the food to be brought to the table.

The design credits for the stylish interior look go to Henry Ottley and Nyack architect Bob Silarsky. The walls are covered with textured plaster and deep blue paint and tile that makes for a warm and serene feel. The second floor has been half cut away, leaving a two-floor atrium in the middle of the restaurant and above the open kitchen is a dramatic skylight that can be opened for ventilation in warm weather. An elegant staircase takes diners to the second floor at the rear of the room. Barflys wishing to get to the upstairs bar unobserved can use the separate outside entrance.

Maura's On Main is located at 82 Main St. in Nyack, and is open from 5:30 pm to 10 pm Tues-Thurs, 5:30 - 11 pm Friday and Saturday, and 4:30 pm to 9 pm on Sunday. Reservations are recommended for peak times on weekends. Call 348-1921.

Greta Nettleton

Access the Library on the Web

Use our Home Page URL (<http://www.rcls.org/pal/>) to access the library's catalog; to access over 1 million magazine and newspaper articles free; to find answers to your health and business questions.

New Library Hours

Monday 1 - 9
Tuesday 1 - 9
Wednesday 1 - 9
Thursday 1 - 9
Friday 1 - 5
Saturday 11 - 5
Sunday 1 - 5

Closed Thursday,
April 1 at 5:00
(Passover)
Closed Sunday,
April 4 (Easter)

Palisades Free Library



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Spring Programs for Children

Wednesday, March 24, 4:15 PM: Welcome spring with a bright, handcrafted basket woven of oak tag and cloth strips. For ages 7 and up. Please come to the library to sign up.

Wednesday, April 20, 4:15 PM: Make a "stained glass" window by mounting colorful tissue paper on a frame. The result will be beautiful against a window or in front of lamplight. For ages 6 and up. Please come to the library to sign up.

Story time for preschoolers is held every *Wednesday at 1:30 PM* and children must be 3 years old through kindergarten.

Library Phones

Voice: 914-359-0136

Fax: 914-359-6124

Tax Forms: The library has available reproducible tax forms and income tax reference books. Please feel free to use both.

Some Interesting Library Statistics

Visits by patrons - 12,470

Reference questions answered - 12,390

Library holdings - 20,566

Materials circulated
per capita - 14.4

Items circulated
- 18,187

Population served
- 1,294

Registered patrons -
1,262 (1990 census)

New Non Fiction

Ball, Howard
A Defiant Life:
Thurgood Marshall
Bayley, John
Elegy for Iris
For the Time Being
Years of Renewal
Another Country
Stalin's Spy

Reference

American National Biography

New Fiction

Berger, Thomas	<i>Return of Little Big Man</i>
Binchy, Maeve	<i>Tara Road</i>
Brookner, Anita	<i>Falling Slowly</i>
Cook, Robin	<i>Vector</i>
Dubus, Andre	<i>House of Sand and Fog</i>
Godwin, Gail	<i>Evensong</i>
Guterson, David	<i>East of the Mountains</i>
Harris, Joanne	<i>Chocolat</i>
LeCarre, John	<i>Single & Single</i>
Leonard, Elmore	<i>Be Cool</i>
McEwan, Ian	<i>Amsterdam</i>
Okuizumi, Hikaru	<i>Stones Cry Out</i>
Rendell, Ruth	<i>A Sight for Sore Eyes</i>
Rice, Anne	<i>Vittorio the Vampire</i>
Rushdie, Salman	<i>The Ground Beneath Her Feet</i>
See, Carolyn	<i>The Handyman</i>

Art News

Compiled by Carol Elevitch

Elmwood Playhouse

March 19 - April 17: *Kindertransport* by Diane Samuels; past and present collide as one child of the rescue operation called "Kindertransport" reveals the true cost of survival. "Provocative. It will turn every emotion upside down." *New York Times*. Performances Friday & Saturday evenings at 8:30, Sunday Matinees at 2:30, Sunday Evenings at 7:30. Call 353-1313 for reservations. The Playhouse is located at 10 Park St., Nyack.

Helen Hayes Performing Arts Center

Theater & Music:

Through March 7: *Big Rosemary*, written and directed by Blake Edwards. Call for performance times.

March 15: *Jurys Irish Cabaret*, comedy, music, dance. 8 pm.

April 1 - April 25: *Missing Footage* by Gen Leroy.

Films:

March 6: *Captain Blood* with Errol Flynn. 2 pm. March 9 & 10: *Nights of Cabiria*; Fellini's Oscar-winning chronicle; fully restored version; in Italian. 7:30 pm.

April 11 & 12: *Lolita* (1998; recent adaptation). 7:30 pm. April 18 & 19: *Gods and Monsters* (1998); Actor Ian McKellen nominated for 1999 Academy Awards. 7:30 p.m.

Children's Programs:

March 11 - March 14: *The Flaming Idiots*; juggling, tumbling & audience participation.

March 20: *Robin Hood*; for ages 3-11, 12:30 pm. March 21: *The Three Little Pigs*; a modern-day version for ages 3-11. 12:30 pm & 2:30 pm.

The Helen Hayes Center is located at 117 Main St., Nyack. Call 358-6333 for April Children's Programs or other information.

Hopper House

March 6 - April 3: Margery Theroux & Sarah Wells Exhibition.

April 10 - April 25: *Focus On The Figure*; feature artist, Robert Kassel, Esq.

Life Drawing Workshop every Tuesday evening 7:30 - 10 pm.

Hopper House is located at 82 N. Broadway, Nyack. Gallery hours: 12 noon to 5 pm, Thursday through Sunday except before an opening. Call 358-0774.

Rockland Center For The Arts

Exhibits:

March 7 - 28: *The Photography of Victor Edelstein*; opening day reception 1-4 pm.

9 *Choose 9*; fourth Annual show of work by artists living and working in Rockland county. Each year nine exhibitors pass their places in the show to another artist whose work they know and respect.

April 11 - May 2: *Bi-Annual Members Show*; public reception April 11, 1-4 pm, paintings, drawings, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, photography, glass, jewelry.

Workshops:

March 7: *Drawing & Painting the Portrait*; 9 am - 4 pm. *Collage*; 10 am-3 pm.

Pre-registration required.

Children's Programs:

April 7 & 8: *Chasing Rainbows*; Ages 4-7, Arts & Crafts, entertainment. 10 am-1 pm.

The Rockland Center is located in West Nyack on S. Greenbush Rd.
Call 358-0877.

Commercial Filming in the Town of Orangetown

Many residents may not be aware that the Orangetown Town Board adopted a law on commercial filming on January 16, 1996. Entitled "Chapter 14C, Filming," it applies to filming for commercial purposes. Space does not permit us to print the entire two page document, which is available from the office of the Town Attorney. We summarize its main points below.

"No person shall film or permit filming within the Town of Orangetown on public lands or utilize public lands for filming on private property without first obtaining a permit therefor, which permit shall set forth the location of such filming, the date or dates when filming shall take place, name, address, and telephone number of the applicant, a brief description of the activities, . . . type of equipment and props to be used, number of persons to be employed, specific locations where the work will be done and vehicles which are to be used, including the description thereof and their license numbers." Permits must be obtained from the Town Clerk and accompanied by a permit fee. "One permit shall be required for each location."

Under "Rules and Regulations" it states that no permit shall be issued unless the applicant provides proof of insurance coverage and agrees in writing to save harmless the Town from liability or damages resulting from the use of such public lands. The holder of the permit shall take all reasonable steps to minimize interferences with the free passage of pedestrians and traffic, shall conduct filming in such a manner as to minimize the inconvenience and discomfort to adjoining property owners, shall, to the extent practicable, abate noise and park vehicles associated with such filming off the public streets and minimize the creation and spread of debris and rubbish.

"Filming shall be permitted only Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. or sundown, whichever is earlier, in residential zones." Filming at other

days and times shall be permitted, provided appropriate arrangements are approved by the Police Department. Under Violations and penalties it states "Any person violating this chapter or rules and regulations contained herein shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or to imprisonment for a term not to exceeding [sic] 90 days, or both." The document defines "filming" and "public lands."

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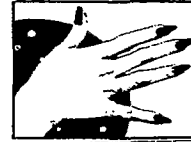
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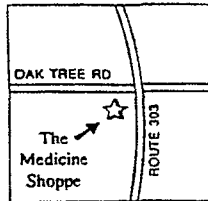
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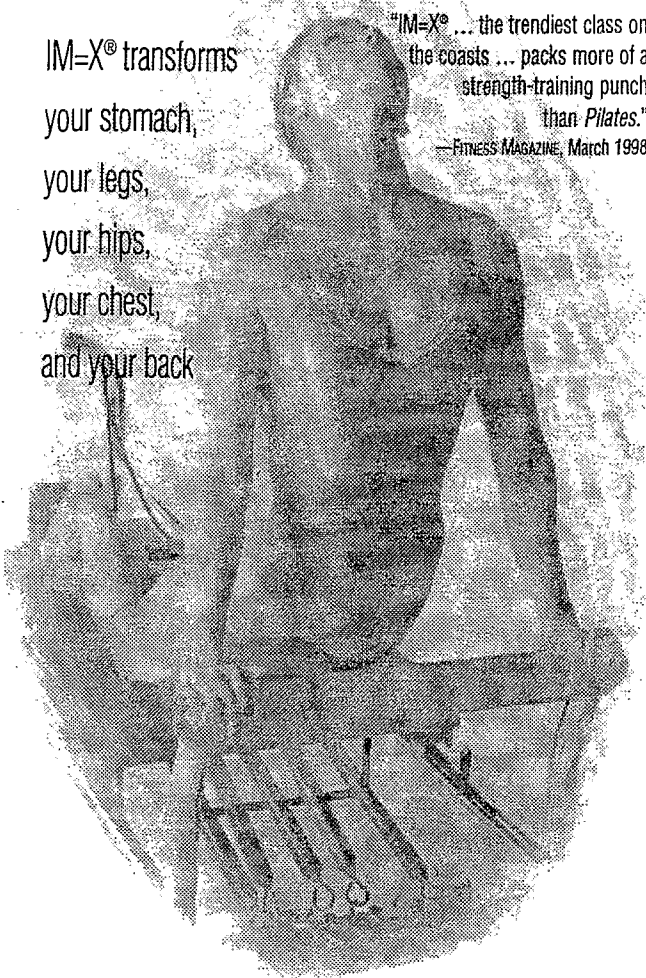
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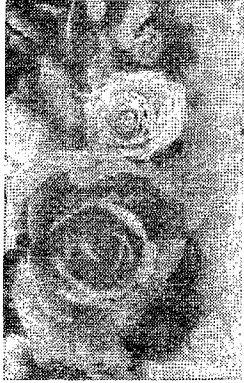
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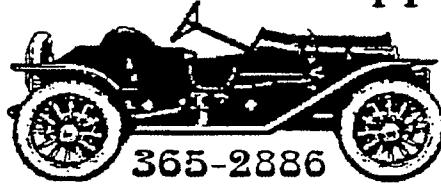


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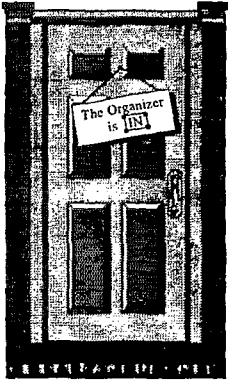


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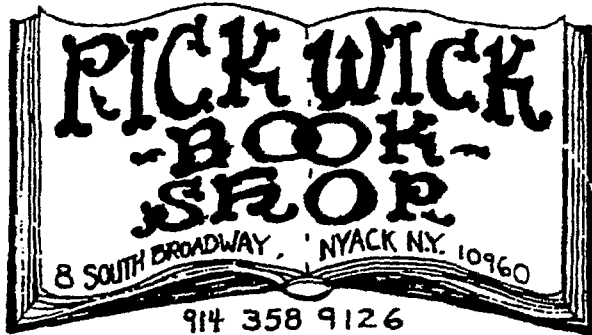


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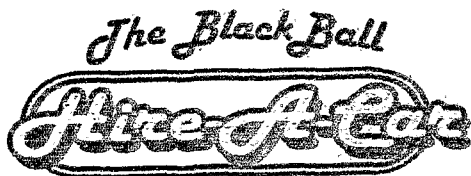
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Design and layout by *John Converse*

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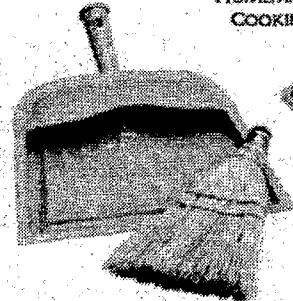
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HELP US GET READY FOR THE GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION!

The Library is planning an exciting event for next spring. The Goods and Services Auction promises to be a fun evening, offering a chance to socialize with your neighbors in a festive setting. The gala will include a cash bar, delectable foods and wonderful entertainment. The Goods and Services Auction Organizing Committee is open to all members of the community who cherish the library and would like a chance to help support it in a direct way. We not only expect to raise funds for the Library, but we also expect to have a lot of fun doing it.

We're presently seeking contributions from anyone who wishes to donate an object or a service to the auction. Contact Henry Outley at 363-1520 or Lynn Sandhaus at 359-7212 to contribute or volunteer.

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