In the late 1950s Palisades Gardens, located to the left of Oak Tree Road above Route 340, was built on 50 acres of land that had most recently belonged to Charles Nessler, the inventor of the permanent wave.

Originally part of the old Mann farm, the land had been bought in the late 19th century by Floyd Bailey, who built an estate called Valley View. Early in the 20th century Bailey sold the property to the banker James Wallace, who founded the Sparkill Bank, and built an imposing stone wall along the road. Nessler bought the property in the 1920s.

Two builders, Harry Degenshein and Nick Guttman, were given permission to build 25 houses each year on this property for three years, 1957, 1958, and 1959. These ranch style and split-level houses were originally advertised as “Palisades Gardens.” At the same time Horne Tooke Road, which had been built as a dead end road when the Indian Hill development was created a few years earlier, was extended to enter Oak Tree Road a short distance above Route 340. The houses were built along two new roads, Iroquois and Dakota, and on Sioux Court. Oak Tree Road was also widened and straightened.

10964 staff interviewed a number of long-time residents who contributed their recollections of those early days.

Judith Hata, 2 Dakota St.

“It was 1956, my fiancé Jack and I had set a November wedding date. We started to look for a place to live outside of Manhattan. One September Sunday afternoon we drove to Congers, but Jack decided the commute was too long to his office in downtown New York City. On our way back, we took Route 303. When we reached Tappan, we made the turn to go towards 9W at the Oak Tree Road intersection. That fateful path brought us past a model house after crossing Route 340. We decided to stop in. It was a new development with plans similar to the place we just left, but it had features that we liked better such as the attached garage and location. We were excited to commit to this new place and new life and picked the last corner lot.

The builders promised that we would be able to move in by December 1956, but the house was not ready until almost a year later. We were part of the first group to move in on September 1, 1957 and by December 1957 the first section of Palisades Gardens was occupied.

Palisades Gardens was a very quiet place within Palisades. Fortunately, Nick and Harry didn’t cut down all of the trees and this provided the area its beauty from the beginning. From my house, I could see the original native dogwood trees survive as the buildings went up around them. In the wooded section, there were an abundance of
Helen Fischer, 10 Sioux Court
Helen remembers that on December 21, 1958, she, Don and their two boys moved into a newly-built house completely surrounded by trees with a large pond behind them. The neighborhood children met and played in the open land behind the house and the families held barbecues on summer evenings.

Charles Geraldi, 12 Sioux Court
“Felicia and I have been here on Sioux Court for over 51 years. We bought in May 1958 and moved in January 1959. The area then was heavily wooded — we had a large white dogwood tree on our lot right where the driveway was to be installed so we made the builders move the house about 10 feet so as to save the tree, which then survived about 40 years more until it died naturally. The builders provided only five bushes. Four of the bushes were evergreens and one was a forsythia. There are five houses on Sioux Court. Four of the five have been continually occupied by the same families for over 50 years.”

Bob Weigel, 12 Iroquois Avenue
Bob recalls one weekend in 1958 when he and his wife were house hunting in Bergen County. On their way back to Route 9W they passed the new development and turned into Horne Tooke Road, seeing empty plots and half-constructed houses. Later, while driving upstate to go skiing, they returned to the site, found the builders’ office, and were shown a lot they decided to make an offer for. (It had originally been promised to someone else but that first bidder dropped out.) The builder agreed to turn the house so that it faced west and have a good view of the sunset, and add a deck and a two-car garage. The price for the house was $25,000; they moved in on January 1, 1960.

The area was full of wildlife, including deer and foxes. (Nessler had kept a herd of fallow deer on the property.) Everyone there was young and a lot of them were veterans. Kids could safely play all over. There was a lot of community socializing; their street had a bowling team that met on Monday nights, and each year there was a big New Year’s Eve party.

Barbara Clarkson, 2 Horne Tooke Road
Barbara says she was two in 1957 when her family left Yonkers and moved into their ranch home in Palisades. “The Development,” as Barbara refers to her neighborhood, was half built when the family moved. There were no trees or shrubs, nothing but mud. Her mother remembers crying a lot. It rained heavily in the spring of that first year and so much topsoil washed down the hill that Route 340 at the bottom was blocked to traffic.

When Barbara was young everyone played and rode their bikes in the street. In the summer of the late 50s and early 60s, there were block parties with food and dancing. The swim club off 9W had just opened. Mrs. Knudson was the swimming teacher. “There used to be a gravel path off Closter Road leading to it but it’s gone now. We kids spent all day there, stopping at the country store on our way home – it smelled of bayberry. We would buy candy and sit on the steps eating it.” There were parties at night for the grownups at the swim club.

Jeanne Di Meglio, 1 Iroquois Ave.
Jeanne told us that she has lived in the same house for 50 years. Her parents, with 5 kids, moved into a split-level house at #1 Iroquois in 1959. She remembers tulip trees in the back yard, and bushes her grandmother planted. She is the third generation in her family to be in the flower business; her father commuted to the city with a flower truck.

The backyard connected to miles of woods. The children spent a lot of time playing there, venturing as far as the Alpine Boy Scout camp. Everyone in the development was friendly and children spent a lot of time outside.

Buyers first moved into the development a little over fifty years ago. Some have died or moved away; new people, sometimes their children, have replaced them. Many of the houses have been altered and expanded. The area is still heavily wooded. Let Judy Hata have the last word:

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“Fifty-three years have passed, residents have come and gone. ...there were many friends and fair people who called this place, “home.” I love Palisades and I miss the “old timers,” their children and all of the good times we had.”

Alice Gerard, with the help of Eileen Larkin, Carol Elevitch, and Kathy Sykes

This is the second in our series focusing on a specific area of Palisades. We welcome any memories or photos you would like to share with us related to the areas we have featured.
Rodney Smith, photographer extraordinaire, has a new book out, a stunning 16 x 20" limited edition portfolio composed of over 100 of his most iconic images. The End, as it is entitled, has a witty insightful text written by Walter Thomas and is exquisitely designed by former Palisades resident David Meredith. Smith has been a Palisades resident since 1988. He lives here with Leslie Smolan, his wife of 20 years, and his 15-year-old daughter Savannah. In 1998 they purchased the house next door, converting their former home into a studio with a darkroom and an administrative office.

Rodney grew up in Manhattan and attended the University of Virginia where he majored in English. He originally wanted to be a novelist; “I had the sentiment but not the skill,” he admits. When he decided to attend Yale graduate school he chose theology as a major – “they were asking the right questions” – even though he had decided by then to become a photographer. He spent close to half his time in the photography department, which was then under the guidance of renowned photographer Walker Evans. “What I liked best was the technical acumen of the program, learning how you take something that is three dimensional and translate it into a static two dimensional image on paper.”

Most of the students were shooting with large format 4 x 5" or 8 x 10" cameras while Smith chose the more flexible 35 mm. He had decided from the beginning to only shoot black and white film, to work with available light and not to alter or retouch any of his pictures, all of which he still adheres to.

Shortly after graduation he received a Jerusalem Foundation Fellowship and spent three months in Israel. Days were filled shooting photographs and sitting in on master classes taught by the likes of Arthur Rubenstein, Isaac Stern and Alexander Calder who were also in the program, then hanging out with the group in the evenings. “It was the best time of my life,” he says. In a meeting with Golda Meir, she asked him how she could help with setting up photo shoots. He told her he wanted to shoot Bedouins in the desert. She told him he was on his own.

In 1983 he published In the Land of Light: Israel, a Portrait of Its People. “There is an intensity and passion in the people, everything is life and death. When selecting people to photograph I looked for inner strength and a depth of character; I was drawn to people who had endured.” Smith also photographed Coptic and Franciscan monasteries during his stay.

Back in the U.S., Smith joined Magnum, a photographic cooperative, for a short time. “We laughed like crazy at the meetings, that was the best part,” he recalls. In the early 70s it was impossible to make a living shooting in black and white. He began teaching photography at Yale, The New School and NYU, supplementing his income purchasing photographs for corporations and private clients, then taking a commission. Money was tight; he ingeniously convinced wealthy people with second homes throughout Europe and in Haiti to let him use their houses during off-season. In exchange he would give them a copy of the prints he shot there.

In 1986 Smith’s world changed. “I found a new voice,” he relates. Black and white photography had begun to be more acceptable. He received an assignment to shoot ten divisional CEOs located around the world for H.J. Heinz’s annual report. Up until then he had been shooting landscapes and closely cropped portraits. He now had to shoot his subjects in their environment, following them around for days. The photographs were like nothing that had been seen before and garnered an article in The New York Times praising his work. American Express, IBM, Goldman Sachs and other corporations soon followed. “This was the beginning of a transformation for me,” he says. “It forced me to integrate landscape with portraiture.”

About five years later he met with Alexander Liberman, the formidable editorial director at Conde Nast who suggested he shoot fashion. “I had a tough father who was CEO of a number of fashion companies; I had decided early on I wanted nothing to do with fashion.” But he did finally accept a small fashion assignment for Bergdorf Goodman that won numerous awards. “I realized here I was right back to where I started.”

As fashion assignments came in he knew he had to turn away from the somber, serious approach of his earlier photographs and to figure out how to make pictures with beautiful young models compelling and powerful. “It was not about their soul and character, but rather about their style, beauty or their clothes.” His solution when photographing men was humor and whimsy while his shots of women tended toward the romantic. “When shooting women I am inspired by images from my youth when women were looked upon as delicate, alluring, graceful,
Robert “Sam” Gerard died peacefully at his home in Palisades on January 28, 2010, after a long illness.

Sam was born on February 4, 1926, in Huntington, Long Island, where his father, Leo, had a seafood restaurant on the Jericho Turnpike. Sam attended local elementary schools and started high school at Mount Hermon, in Greenfield, Massachusetts but he was diagnosed with tuberculosis at the age of 15 and spent time in a Long Island sanitorium. Once cured, he briefly attended Huntington High School. After six weeks there he passed all the New York State Regents exams and was accepted as a student at Cornell University’s Hotel School.

Sam discovered he was more interested in science than in learning about hotels and restaurants. He spent a summer with the Geological Survey in Alaska, then transferred to the University of New Mexico and began a major in geology. His parents were not willing to support him in this new endeavor, so he worked in the summers and paid his own tuition. He met his wife Alice at the University in the spring of 1951 — she also had transferred from an eastern college — and they were married in September of that year. Simon, the Gerards’ first child, was born in May 1952, the same month his parents graduated.

The Gerards spent the next year in Montreal where Sam had been accepted into the Master’s program in geography. Returning to the United States in the summer of 1953, they settled in Palisades, home of Alice’s parents. The next year, 1954, Sam started work at Lamont Geological Observatory as a research scientist. He remained at Lamont for 37 years, eventually moving from science, where he was studying ocean circulation, to the Marine Department, where he served as the Marine Superintendent and as Marine Technical Coordinator.

Two more children joined the family: William “Tony,” born in 1954, and Annie, born in 1955. In 1957 the Gerards built a house in Palisades, the same house where Sam died 52 years later. The house is full of unusual lamps, desks and tables that he created over the years.

During his years at Lamont, Sam designed, built and refined ocean floor and mid-water sampling equipment that was subsequently introduced on board Lamont’s research vessels, the R/V Vema and the R/V Conrad, and later adopted by other scientific institutions. He was known for his mechanical creativity and for his elegant solutions to engineering problems. Among many accomplishments, Sam designed the famous “Gerard Barrel”— a water-sampling instrument — and he discovered an undersea seamount off the coast of Africa, now named the Vema Seamount. He was also instrumental in identifying the location of the Thresher, a nuclear submarine that sank off the coast of New England in 1963. Sam’s last major project before retiring from the Observatory in 1991 was to oversee the conversion of the R/V Ewing into a fully outfitted oceanographic ship and part of the U.S. fleet of academic research vessels.

He and Alice enjoyed traveling to visit archaeological sites and cooperated in researching and writing about the controversial site of Glozel in France. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren Perri and Cory.

Sam is survived by Alice, his wife of 58 years, by his sisters Genevieve Conroy and Carol McCann, his son William, his daughter Annie and his grandchildren Perri and Cory. The family plans to celebrate Sam Gerard’s life with a memorial party at the Palisades Community Center, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Saturday, March 13.

Contributions in Sam’s name can be sent to: Development Office, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, 61 Route 9W, PO Box 1000, Palisades, NY 10964-8000
Checks should be made out to Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory.

Alice Gerard
LAMONT DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY

Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory
Public Lectures-Spring 2010

March 28: “Detecting and Measuring Landslides with Seismology,”
Göran Ekström, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University

April 18: “Dust in the Wind-Dust, Stardust and the Earth’s Climate Center,”
Gisela Winckler, Ph.D., Doherty Research Scientist, LDEO

April 11: “Currents, Conveyors and Climate Change,”
Jerry McManus, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University

April 25: “Rockland County’s Water Resources,”
Paul Heisig of the U.S. Geological Survey. After the presentation, a panel of Lamont scientists will discuss their research on Rockland water issues followed by a Q & A session. Panelists include: Stuart Braman, Steve Chillrud, Brad Lyon and Martin Stute. This will be a two-hour presentation with live video feed to the Comer building if seating capacity is exceeded.

LDEO, 61 Route 9W, Palisades, NY 10964
Monell Building Auditorium
All Lectures 3:00 to 4:00pm (April 25 is 2 hours long)
Admission is $5.00 at the door. Due to space limitations, registration is highly recommended. For registration and more information, contact 845-365-8998 or events@LDEO.columbia.edu.

NEW MEMBERS WANTED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Are you concerned about our environment and related quality of life? Would you like to do more to keep Orangetown’s environment healthy and beautiful? If you answered yes, then consider joining the Orangetown Environmental Committee (OEC). Membership is open to residents ages 16 and over. This is a great opportunity to become more involved in your community and to have a positive impact on our environment.

Founded in February 2008, the OEC is an advisory committee composed of Town Board-appointed volunteers that work with the Town of Orangetown to protect and improve our environment. The OEC is divided into subcommittees in the following areas: water resources and conservation, land use and open space, energy and climate action and waste reduction and recycling.

Current projects include organizing this year’s Recycling Fair, developing a climate action plan for Orangetown, promoting green infrastructure techniques to conserve water, participating in the environmental review process for Suez/United Water’s proposed Hudson River desalination plant, increasing protected open space in Orangetown and developing pesticide-free landscaping plans. Past projects and accomplishments have included promoting Orangetown’s Energy Star Law, participating in the environmental review process for the Town’s Rockland Psychiatric Center property and completing a greenhouse gas inventory for Orangetown.

The OEC is open to new project ideas from new members. There are many training and educational opportunities available for those interested. For more information, contact Martyn Ryan, Chairperson, at mjr273@gmail.com, 845-359-2327, or Michael Maturo, Town Council Liaison, at mmaturo@orangetown.com, 845-641-3580. Visit us on the web at www.orangetown.com/town_boards_andcommittees/environmental_committee.jsp.
Fast forward now to 1972, six years later. Dennis and Judy Hayes sadly have gone their separate ways, she and the kids go back to Kansas, and he is living alone on Orchard Terrace in Piermont. Another family moves into the same Vanderbilt property in HeyHoe Woods: Leslie and Arnold Kaplan and their one-year old daughter, Élan. They had moved out of Manhattan, relishing and adoring the beauty and privacy of HeyHoe Woods and all the space. They weren’t quite so thrilled with the Lalire’s Doberman, Eric, who terrified Arnold as he made his daily twilight walk home from the 9W bus down HeyHoe Woods Road. He even took to hiding a baseball bat in the bushes and carried it with him in case Eric was loose, which he often was. Leslie, a young mother of 29, was also occasionally chased by Eric as she raced her baby in the stroller up HeyHoe Woods to meet up with Betsy Crumb and her little boy, Ross, or Ann Tonetti and her little girl, Katie.

One lovely spring day in 1974, Leslie and her little girl, Élan, were poking around the woods behind their house in HeyHoe Woods, when Leslie spied some sort of wooden object half buried under the leaves. They brushed away twigs and leaves and debris, and slowly but surely the outline of some type of apparatus began to emerge, a structure of some sort. It was too heavy to pull out on her own, so Leslie waited until Arnold came home from work that evening. Together they pulled and prodded until they could drag it into the open to see plainly what this thing was that had been buried for so many years: It was a jungle gym. Clearly, someone had left it behind and it had deteriorated, but perhaps not beyond repair. Leslie waited until Arnold came home from work that evening. Together they pulled and prodded until they could drag it into the open to see plainly what this thing was that had been buried for so many years: It was a jungle gym.

But little Jenny steadfastly expressed her strong disinterest in having that jungle gym. Dennis REALLY wanted her to have it, though, and, over many days, and with his persuasive rhetoric skills (I’ve always thought he should have been a lawyer), finally whittled little Jenny down. And so, with just a few days left before Christmas, she finally gave in and agreed to be happy to get from Santa this special jungle gym for Christmas. Dennis raced with glee to the telephone to order it from the catalog, and to his utter shock and horror learned they were all sold out! And after all his efforts to cajole and persuade! And now there were just two weeks left until Christmas! What to do? There was only one thing Dennis could do: He’d have to build the jungle gym himself, which he did. Using two wooden ladders he bought from the local lumber company, plus other assorted cross pieces and other wooden supports, he fashioned his own version of the Creative Playthings jungle gym in time for Christmas, and made it look as much as possible like the one Jenny thought she was getting from, um, Santa. Oh, these Lamont scientists are so resourceful!
ELLEN GALINSKY LAUNCHES BOOK ON LIFE SKILLS FOR CHILDREN

“How can families and teachers give kids the skills they need to cope in our multi-tasking, multi-media modern world?” That’s the question that Palisader Ellen Galinsky sets out to answer in her ground-breaking new book to be released in April. Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs, published by HarperStudio, will be launched with television appearances, an event in Congress and the National Press Club in addition to events across the country. There will be a Vook (a video book), book clubs for parents and teachers, videos of the experiments and learning modules for teachers and parents.

Throughout her career, Ellen has been studying how children and adults learn best and using what she has learned to fuel change—at Bank Street College of Education where she helped to create the field of work and family life; as the elected president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the largest professional group of early childhood educators; and later as president of the organization she cofounded, Families and Work Institute.

When asked what led to this book Ellen recounted experiences from conversations with parents. “Parents today,” she said, “feel overwhelmed about the amount of information out there—they don’t have time to read everything and they don’t know what to read.”

In response, Ellen and colleagues from New Screen Concepts, a film production company, spent eight years filming over 75 leading researchers in action as they conducted actual studies so that Ellen could pull together what we know about children’s development and learning.

“As we interviewed and filmed child development researchers,” she said, “I had an ‘aha’ moment: we have focused on the content that young children need to learn, but we have paid much less attention to promoting the life skills I know are essential from the research I have conducted both on children and on adults in the workforce. My new book, Mind in the Making, explores seven essential life skills.”

All of these skills involve the part of our brain that weaves together our social, emotional and intellectual capacities and that enables us to use what we know in pursuit of our goals. If that sounds intimidating, it isn’t. Ellen says, “These are skills that any child can learn, any adult can teach—no expensive equipment needed—and it is never too late. They just involve doing everyday things with children.”

Ellen gives two examples. One of her skills is Focus and Self Control. “We have only to think of our multi-tasking lives to know how hard this can be and we don’t want to pass our feelings of being overwhelmed or distracted on to our children!” As one way to promote this skill, she suggests playing Simon says do the opposite. “If the leader says, ‘Simon says touch your head,’ your kids should touch their toes. They have to resist the temptation to go on automatic to play that game.” Another skill is Perspective Taking, which means understanding that someone else can think and feel differently than you do. The skill of perspective taking is essential in school and relationship success as well as conflict prevention. To promote this skill, Ellen suggests asking kids why the characters they read about in books or see on TV might have acted as they did.

Ellen concludes: “This has been an inspiring journey for me—to distill the latest scientific research into the seven understandable, teachable skills that predict success in the 21st century—skills that everyone can work into their daily lives.”
January 16 was a rare winter day in Palisades, balmy with a brilliant sky, and perfect for boys eager to get out of the house when spring can’t come soon enough. At around one o’clock that afternoon, Jordan Barreto and his brother, Jonathan, set out from their Closter Road home with a friend for the purpose of taking a walk. A short time later, Jordan died after being hit by a car as he crossed 9W in search of his favorite climbing tree.

Jordan was 11 and an enthusiastic sixth grader at South Orangetown Middle School, the kind of boy classmates and teachers alike couldn’t help but smile at, if only because they knew they would receive one of Jordan’s infectious grins in return.

“How’s life?,” they might ask, and whether it was or not, Jordan inevitably replied, “Great!”

“He was always very optimistic, always with a smile,” said his grandmother, Nilsa B. Barreto. “You couldn’t tell when he was upset or sad. He was just a wonderful little boy — well mannered, a gentleman and a very loving person. He would put other people first, and he was much loved by his family.”

With his bubbly personality and caring ways, Jordan always brought a sparkle to the eyes of his mother, Kristien Barreto-Hurtt. As for Jonathan, the way Jordan saw it, he was the most excellent brother and best friend a guy could have. Jonathan felt exactly the same.

In the summer the boys would catch frogs, throw a Frisbee and ride their bikes, with Jordan saying hello to everyone he saw — sometimes, Jonathan surmised, just to bug him. In the evenings, the brothers might watch “Total Drama Action” on Cartoon Network or play the video game “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2,” and on special occasions chow down on Domino’s pizza and Fudge Stripe cookies. And it was hard to top the memory of going on a cruise with their mother and grandmother.

Jordan was good with his hands and wanted to be a sculptor when he grew up, Jonathan said. His prized creations included an alien frog and a Pacman constructed out of cardboard and duct tape.

We’ll never know what Jordan could have been. But already he had brought unforgettable joy to those whose lives he touched. The community deeply mourns his loss.

Kathryn Shattuck

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THE BARRETO FAMILY, JONATHAN, KRISTIEN AND JORDAN ON THE RIGHT.

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OAK TREE TRAFFIC AND RT 9W INTERSECTION UPDATE

Palisades representatives continued their pressure on the town to correct a number of issues residents have complained about for years. In response to our recent e-mail campaign, about three-dozen residents wrote to town officials requesting a re-evaluation of the Route 9W intersection including lowering the speed limit on 9W, installing a sidewalk and traffic calming on Oak Tree Road.

Supervisor Whalen was pro-active, coming out to view the intersection and to walk Oak Tree Road. He was surprised at rampant traffic violations coupled with packs of cyclists that whizzed through red lights. He set up a number of meetings, which included Assemblywoman Jaffee, County Representative Coker, Senator Morahan and the NYS Department of Transportation.

- **Installation of sidewalk on the north side of Oak Tree Road between the Post Office and Route 9W:** Jim Dean, Superintendent of Highways, and resident Henry Ottley will be meeting to address joint ownership of the property and the logistics of installing a sidewalk.
- **Route 9W intersection:** The NYS Department of Transportation has begun a traffic study of the intersection.
- **Oak Tree Road:** At our request, radar feedback signs have been re-installed on Oak Tree Road. Although there are still problems, the feedback signs
**A REFLECTION FROM REVEREND MADDALONE:**

I saw a bumper sticker the other day that read: “Blessed by the Best.” It stuck with me as I reflected on my first year here as the pastor of the Palisades Presbyterian Church. I certainly have felt “Blessed by the Best” as I’ve gotten to know people in the church and the community and as I have had the privilege of journeying with many people through this miracle of consciousness we call life.

It has been a joy to discover the community at large and we appreciate your support of our ministries. Please know we are available to you for pastoral needs and spiritual direction whether or not you are a member of the church. In the coming year I know we will continue to draw upon our strengths as we discern how God is calling us to embody God’s presence on earth in our ministry and witness.

Blessings,

Rev. Angela Maddalone

**LENTEN CALENDAR:**

**March 28** – Palm Sunday: service at 10:00 am
**April 1** – Maundy Thursday: Shared worship at St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church and the Palisades Presbyterian Church. Pot-luck dinner at 6:30 pm followed by 8:00 pm service
**April 2** – Good Friday: The sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation from 12 noon to 5:00 pm
**April 4** – Easter Sunday: 6:30 am Sunrise Service at the Ludington’s in Sneden’s Landing. Easter traditional service at 10:00 am. Children’s Easter egg hunt after service.

**HEALING SERVICE SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH—11:30 am**

There will be an opportunity once a month to gather for healing prayer at 11:30 am in the sanctuary. Prayer for healing of our body, mind and spirit has been a part of the Christian tradition from the very beginning of Jesus’ ministry. Whether you are in need of healing or you wish to pray on behalf of someone else, you are most welcome to join us. Sundays, March 14, April 11, May 9 and June 13.

**PARENT SUPPORT GROUP AND BOOK STUDY SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

Join us as we gather at 6:00 pm with our families for a meal and a discussion of the book, *Prodigal Sons and Material Girls: How Not to Be Your Child’s ATM* by Nathan Dungan. After dinner the children will gather for activities while the parents meet for support and parental nourishment. All are welcome. Next gathering March 12.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

Throughout January and February, the District has been in the process of developing the 2010-2011 school budget. State funding has been slashed so school districts are struggling to keep next year’s budget low. Especially in this economic climate, it is important to attend a meeting to learn what is added and removed from next year’s school budget.

**Upcoming School Board Budget meetings:**

(All board meetings are held at South Orangetown Middle School, room 165, 160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt. Park in Erie Street parking lot.)

**Thursday, March 11** 7:30pm Budget Workshop

**Thursday, March 25**
7:30pm Adoption of the 2010-2011 Budget

**Thursdays April 8 and April 15**
7:30pm Regular meetings with Budget discussion

**Tuesday, May 11** Budget- Public Hearing

**Tuesday, May 18** 6am-9pm Annual Budget Vote and Board Election

Palisades residents vote at Tappan Zee Elementary on RT 9W
New Restaurant Opens in Tappan

Daniel Foti, former proprietor of The Baker’s Wife, has opened “Commissary” in the prior location of the Village Grille (65 Old Tappan Road, Tappan, N.Y.). Commissary features contemporary American cuisine, highlighting local and seasonal fare. Daniel, a Culinary Institute graduate, has previously worked for the Santo Restaurant Group in Manhattan, including the “Sign of the Dove.” Commissary is open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Reservations accepted. Available for private events. (845) 398-3232.

Palis-Agers

Next meeting is at 2:00 pm on March 18 at the Community Room of the Palisades Presbyterian Church. We will have a special guest at this meeting. Palisades resident Roger Bester is a British multimedia artist who graduated from the Regent Street Polytechnic School of Photography in London. As an international photojournalist, editorial and advertising photographer, he has lived in London, Amsterdam, Sao Paulo and New York. His personal work is focused on nature and the mystery of life.

Roger is the creator of WowPowerNow!, a revolutionary new path to outrageous health and longevity. He has presented this program at the Esplanade in Palisades and is currently teaching a class on it at the Jewish Home for the Aged in Rockleigh. Our meeting will give you a chance to hear about his work and ask him questions.

Palisades Market Update

For those of you anxiously awaiting the opening of the Palisades Market on 9W – don’t despair. Owner Diane Fuhrmann has a new partner, Danny Tanner, and she assures us the market will be opening in the near future.

Attention Local Photographers

We would love to include your photographs of the area on our Palisades website, www.palisadesny.com. Send jpeg pictures to Alice Gerard at: gerard55@verizon.net.

GraceMusic’s 40th Season presents:
Happy Birthday, Johann!
Sunday, April 25, 2010: 4:00 pm.

Sebastian Bach & his mentors: cantatas & concerti performed by the Grace Church Choir & Orchestra conducted by Robert Barrows to celebrate Bach’s 325th, including birthday greetings from Dietrich Buxtehude & Antonio Vivaldi.


Haitian Artist comes to Palisades

Internationally acclaimed Haitian sculptor André Eugène visited Palisades briefly in February. The Gerard-Little family hosted the artist during his stay. Mr. Eugène came to New York to meet with several organizations interested in showing his work and hearing about his experiences. The artist, whose studio is in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was being interviewed by Belgian TV in his studio’s courtyard when the first earthquake struck. “All of a sudden, in the middle of the interview, the ground beneath me turned into a rolling sea. My legs told me to run before my mind could understand what was happening and so I ran toward the openness of the street,” Mr. Eugène said. The Belgian reporter and cameraman weren’t as quick thinking. One of the artist’s very large sculptures fell on the reporter, slightly injuring him. The artist commented, “The reporter was very lucky he was only hit by art, the people of Haiti have been hit with much worse. For them, their lives have been changed forever.” The artist’s home, studio and artwork survived with only limited damage. Currently André Eugène is in London, England, for a month lecturing at the University of London about Haiti, the earthquake’s aftermath and his art work.

Panther Watch

If you have a sighting, e-mail Pantherhotline@gmail.com. All leads are investigated and the cameras continue to be monitored.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Burglaries
In January, many Palisades residents experienced a disturbing helicopter search that spanned route 9W into the Horne Tooke Road neighborhood. Helicopters hovered above homes shining floodlights into yards while police cars raced along the streets from 8:30 pm until well after midnight. Around 9:30 pm most received a pre-recorded message informing people of a burglary, recommending calling 911 if a suspicious person was spotted and keeping doors locked. The good news is the residents of the robbed home were unharmed. (The bad news is that, a week before, there had been a robbery on Closter Road near Horne Tooke, another a few weeks prior in Sparkill and, supposedly, yet another in Palisades.)

The January burglary occurred around 6:00 pm. One man was apprehended in a car but the other escaped on foot. They were members of a New Jersey burglary ring. An extensive manhunt followed. Because many did not know about the burglary until 9:30 pm, the lag time prevented residents to be of help. A call to Chief Nulty recommended that he contact the Palisades Community Center right away so that word can get out sooner.

A situation such as this brought up the issue of how can we get accurate information out to our neighbors in times of crisis and avoid misinformation. If you live in Palisades and did not receive the pre-recorded phone message, call the Fire Training Center at 845-364-8800 and ask for City Watch.

The Palisades Community Center has a large e-mail list and sends out community alerts. If you do not receive PCC e-mails, sign up at PCC@Palisadesny.com. Indicate you live in Palisades so that you are added to the Palisades list. If you have an alert of a serious nature, contact PCC@Palisadesny.com.

Form “Neighborhood Watches.” Designate someone on your block to be your point person who will spread the news to others. Let your neighbors know when you will be out of town or if you see something suspicious. Studies reveal that “Neighborhood Watch” programs are the number one method of crime prevention.
New Website for the Library!
Check out the new library website. The user-friendly format will keep you abreast of upcoming events, new books and new DVDs. Find us at our new cyber address: www.palisadeslibrary.org

Old is News Again
Ever wish you had kept that old issue of 10964? Do you want to research the last thirty years of Palisades’ history? Find it at the Library. We recently scanned all the 10964 newsletters, going back to the first issue in 1977. 10964 is now keyword searchable and you can easily re-search past issues for people or events.

New Periodicals
We have added six magazines to our list of 69: American Girl, Atlantic Monthly, Fine Gardening, Harpers Magazine, Nintendo Power, and Sports Illustrated for Kids. All periodicals circulate for 7 days, including current issues.

Take a trip to the Intrepid Museum
Enjoy a day at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. The museum pass admits six and can be checked out for three days. On display now until June 30 is a special Mission to Mars exhibition featuring a full-scale model of the Mars Rover. We also have museum passes to the Guggenheim, Museum of Natural History, New York Botanical Garden, Museum Village, NYC Fire Museum and the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum.

Study Buddies
High school students Charlie Hyde, Luc Lalire, Jamie Lee and Laura Lynch help younger students with their homework after school. If you would like to volunteer or if your child would like after-school help, call Lillian Gunther for more information, 359-0136.

Programs
All programs are free and held at the Library. Registration is required.

Children’s Programs

Bunny Hop, March 23, 4:30-5:30 pm
Hop on down to the Library for some bunny fun. Poems, finger plays, flannel board time, simple crafts and refreshments at 4:30 pm. Ages 2 1/2 to 4.

Bunny Egg Dye & Baskets, March 24, 4:30-5:30 pm
Have a hare-raising experience decorating eggs and creating a bunny basket. Bunny trivia and spring bingo. Ages 5+

Teen Programs for ages 10+
Monday Night Knitters, Every Monday from 6:30-7:30 pm Beginners are welcome any Monday night.

Top Teen Chef, Thursday, March 4, 3:30-4:30 pm
Ellis Guzewich is the reigning champion. Compete to create the best sandwich. The sandwich creation takes place at the Library and we supply the ingredients.

Karaoke, Wednesday, March 10, 7:30-8:30 pm

Coming in April

Teen Poetry Workshop: “Who will know us when we breathe through the grass?” (ages 11 to 15). Explore the playfulness of poetry and unleash the inner poet that lives in all of us. Bring your five senses, your imagination and a pencil to experience the freedom and fun that is poetry.

HeyHoe Karma: A Love Story

Continued from page 6
Six months and playing piano a few nights a week at the Alpine Lodge on 9W, eventually gravitated towards each other.

One spring day Leslie invites Dennis to her house in HeyHoe Woods, where he discovers a jungle gym in her back yard and inquires about it. She explains that her little girl Elan plays on it all the time, that they had discovered it in the woods two years prior.

“This is my jungle gym!” Dennis said. “I made this for my daughter Jennifer when she was a little baby girl.” Leslie looks confused. Then Dennis revealed: “We used to live in this very house.”

Leslie and Dennis were married in 1978 and celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in May 2008. The End.
We are pleased to announce our two newest board members: Lyn Fowler and Michael Tersigni. Lyn has a MBA and has worked in publishing for over twelve years. Michael has been a leader in the international design industry for over twenty years specializing in creative development and implementation of design concepts. We welcome their experience and enthusiasm and look forward to their contributions as we move forward.

Thank you to those who donated their time and expertise in January: Wayne Garrison for installing a plaster ceiling, Dorian Tunell for donating electrical services, John Concklin of Reddi-Alarm for installing a fire alarm, Brenda Josephs for donating Valentine flowers for us to sell, Lewis Hahn for designing our farmers’ market materials, Larry Bucciarelli for plowing our driveway, Susan Nemesdy, Chris Chin, Annie Gerard, Robby Whitstock, Jane Herold for lending a hand and Leslie Smolan and Savannah Smith for sorting 25 bags of clothing donated by our community to be delivered to Haiti.

We need your help! Our goal for 2010 is the installation of a handicap ramp and handicap bathroom. This will be very expensive and we will need help to finance this endeavor.

The market will run through May 15 and is held every Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We have everything you need to prepare delicious seasonal meals. Stop by and enjoy a market treat with a cup of Fair Trade coffee in a Jane Herold mug!

The market has been a win-win for the farmers, the community and the restoration efforts of the community center. Thank you for your support. Spread the word! Join our e-mail list to receive farmers’ market e-newsletters.

Volunteers are needed on Saturdays from 1:00-2:00 pm to help clean-up after the farmers’ market. E-mail us at: PCC@Palisadesny.com.

Mark your calendars! Something for everyone.

March:

PCC ANNUAL MEETING (rescheduled from January)
Sunday, March 7, 3:00 pm

Game nights for March & April- Dates TBA
Children ages 11 to 15 can hang out at the PCC with their friends and play games. Admission is free and snacks will be available for purchase. For further information: Alice Buchanan at 359-0091 or Carol Knudson at 359-0160.

April:

Saturday, April 24 “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Our annual Earth Day tag sale. Clean out your closets, donate your gently-used clothing and household items to the PCC and we will sell them with the profits going towards our restoration efforts.
There is a ritual that takes place each month on a Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm. A select group of Palisades residents gather in an obscure location for a ceremony that will determine a part of their future. They sit in rows of chairs that face a long table but they cannot sit at the long table, which is reserved for officiates rarely known as the HABR-7. At the appointed time the HABR-7 enter the room and the ritual begins. Everyone stands and in unison they utter a pledge. The doors are closed. The master of the HABR-7 calls out the name of a Palisades resident who must either come forward or send a substitute. Someone intones a set of numbers and letters: Section, block and lot designation. The Palisades resident makes his petition to the HABR-7: He wants to replace a kitchen window.

Some readers will by now have recognized this vaguely gothic description as a meeting of the Historic Area Board of Review. Not everyone is affected. It applies to those living in the historic area who wish to make changes to the exterior of their house. Those changes must be approved by the Board of Review. The purpose is simple enough: To protect and preserve buildings and “other objects” that relate to early colonial history, the American Revolution and to nineteenth and early twentieth century Rockland County.

Putting into practice this legislative intent is more difficult than it sounds. It requires the eye of a craftsman, the temperament of an artist, the skill of a brain surgeon and the wisdom of Solomon. After all, a man’s home is his castle and if he wants to paint it orange or double his square footage or replace his front porch with a three-car garage that’s nobody’s business but his own, right? Wrong, says the HARB-7. While the home belongs to the individual, its history belongs to the community.

When my wife and I bought our house in the historic area we wanted to do the usual renovations such as upgrading the kitchen and bathroom. There was some exterior work as well. One such change was the addition of a portico at the front door; another was window replacements that would alter their size and placement. We prepared our materials for the Board of Review: drawings of the proposed changes and relevant examples of similar architectural styles from the period. Local historian Alice Gerard attested to the appropriateness of our proposals. Although vaguely reminiscent of going before a court -- our renovation was in the dock to be judged -- the questions the Board asked were relevant, insightful and sympathetic to our desires as well as their mandate.

The seven member Board of Review is composed of citizens appointed to four-year terms by the Town Board. At least one is an architect; all have a background and interest in the architectural history and heritage of our area. Currently, three of the members are from Palisades, four are from Tappan. Decisions require at least two members be present from the particular historic area under review.

It turns out there are various levels of protection afforded historic buildings. Homes built before December 31 1918 are subject to a stricter criteria. A few homes of special significance are listed in the State or National Register of Historic Places whose authority supersedes that of Orangetown. Owners of these homes are eligible for tax breaks and low-cost mortgages as an aid and incentive to maintain them using materials and craftsmanship that are consistent with their original construction.

There is also a lexicon associated with historic preservation: Contributing Structure. Harmonize. Consistent with. Alteration. I imagined a secret language when I heard them during our presentation to the Board of Review. We discussed details like using individual panes in replacement windows rather than plastic inserts. Eventually a vote was taken. It was a public voice vote, not the ominous dropping of stones into a velvet-lined jewelry box, white for “yes,” black for “no.” As we left the inner sanctum of the HABR-7 that night the clouds parted, flooding the parking lot with moonlight. Behind us we heard the agonized screech of metal gates swinging slowly shut. Well, no, nothing so dramatic. We were approved. The renovation could proceed. We went to celebrate and drink a toast to the Board of Review. Palisades remains a special place in no small part due to their protection of its architectural heritage.

Richard Aellen

PALISADES TRAFFIC UPDATE

are extremely efficient in calming traffic. Studies reveal that 85% of motorists travel 10 mph or more over the 30 mph speed limit creating a hazardous situation for residents and motorists.

- Closter Road and Route 340 have also been identified as roads that need safety improvements. Closter Road is a County road so the county needs to be consulted.

We have requested that officials meet with the community to discuss safety measures and steps to be taken to move these issues forward.

Carol Baxter
Coming in the Spring- “A Celebration of Everything Palisades” Children and adults can exhibit whatever it is you love about Palisades: paintings, poems, photographs, etc. or sell things you create or bake. Palisades authors can sell their books at our book table. Think “Made in Palisades.” Start brainstorming now. Stay tuned. For more information, e-mail PCC@palisadesny.com.

Rental opportunities: The PCC is perfect for your next class, workshop, photo shoot, or party. You can rent it as is, or for an additional fee, we will set up the room beautifully and take it down. Leave it all to us. Contact: Eileen Larkin at 359-6589 or ileenog@aol.com.

BECOME A MEMBER!
Support the Community Center and enjoy member benefits (discounts on special events and rentals). Upon becoming a member, we will thank you by sending you a coupon for 2 free Balthazar pains au chocolat which you can redeem at the Palisades Farmers’ Market.

COMMITTEE CENTER NEWS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Memberships:
Individual - $25
Family - $40
Senior Citizen - $15

The PCC is managed and operated solely by volunteers, donations and rentals. Your tax-deductible donations are vital to fund our operational costs, programming and restoration efforts.

Checks for membership and donations can be made payable to:

Palisades Community Center
Mail to: PCC PO BOX 222 Palisades, NY 10964

TO JOIN THE PCC E-MAIL LIST TO RECEIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND THE FARMERS’ MARKET E-NEWSLETTER: PCC@PalisadesNY.com
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ABOUT 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades. In order to keep 10964 coming out regularly, we welcome volunteers to assist with writing, photography, layout and editing. Please drop us a line if you would like to submit material or try your hand at helping to produce an issue. Financial contributions can be sent to 10964 Newsletter, P.O. Box 201, Palisades, NY, 10964. With your help, we’ll be able to put 10964 in your mailbox four times each year from October through May.

10964 STAFF MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS

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THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS:
Nicholas and Cassandra Ludington
Tyler and Sharon Schmetterer
Yuri Shigeura

Don’t forget to visit the 10964 website at: www.palisadesny.com

A SINGULAR MAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

on a pedestal.” His work has appeared in the pages of many leading publications.

Rodney Smith’s haunting images frequently question the notion of reality. Distinguished by their clarity, they all incorporate classical elements of symmetry, proportion and scale. A number of the photographs in the collection are shot in Palisades. He relates, “I never shoot in a studio. I find them sterile and artificial. Light with all its glorious variation is my source of inspiration. I have found that when I am able to let go the most, my pictures are the best. If I keep my eyes open and my sense of awareness keen, good things come from it. Spontaneity of the moment creates great photographs.”

A current source of income comes from licensing his images. Casino mogul Steve Wynn selected one for a construction wall in Las Vegas. Smith also lectures and gives workshops; an upcoming workshop will be held in Buenos Aires the end of March. Rodney Smith is once again at a turning point in his career. The full title of his portfolio is, The End is Just the Beginning. “It refers to what’s next for me. Perhaps it’s time to come up with something different.”

The portfolio is a limited edition of 975 copies and sells for $750. It is available at Rizzoli in New York City and at select bookstores worldwide. Anyone interested is invited to visit Rodney at his studio to view and purchase it.

For more information visit Rodney’s website, www.theendofrodney smith.com.

Kathleen M. Sykes