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THE PALISADES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009 NUMBER 207

HEYHOE WOODS ROAD THROUGH THE AGES

The first thing asked about Heyhoe Woods Road by postal workers, catalog order takers, and friends on other coasts and continents is, "Ho Ho what? Where did they come up with that name?" Fortunately, Alice Munro Haagensen has preserved detailed information on this point in her book about the history of Palisades and Snedens Landing.

PALISADES AND ITS COMMUNITIES

Our special hamlet of Palisades is composed of a number of small communities, all comfortable, close-knit enclaves yet each uniquely diverse in its history and make up.

With this issue we are launching a series that will focus on a specific neighborhood and celebrate its past, its diversity and its people. We begin with HeyHoe Woods, made up of approximately 24 acres and bordered by South Orangetown School District property, IBM, The Esplanade and Oak Tree Road.

In future issues, we will highlight Iroquois Avenue, Indian Hill Lane, Horne Tooke Road, and other areas. We welcome writers, stories and pictures for this series.

Heyhoe Woods Road is located on the grounds of an old estate called Heyhoe built by Winthrop S. Gilman Sr. around 1871, fronting on what was then called Rockland Road (roughly today's 9W). One of Gilman's daughters chose the name Heyhoe to commemorate an ancestor, Frances Heyhoe, who married into the Gilman family in 1740. Even in 1871, the choice of name was deemed "whimsical." (This name really exists; I met a woman named Ruth Heyhoe at an educational technology conference in St. John, Labrador, in 1992.)

Gilman was a wealthy banker and a friend of Andrew Carnegie. In his early years, he was a supporter of the cause of abolition. In 1837, he leased a warehouse he owned in Alton, Illinois to the abolitionist newspaper, *The Alton Observer*, for

its presses. The building was soon burned down by an angry pro-slavery mob. Gilman escaped with his life, but was later put on trial for the crime of riot.

The original Heyhoe mansion was huge, housing 13 children, servants and visitors in legendary grandeur. According to Mrs. Haagensen, the doorknobs were said to be of solid silver, and the house had 26 marble fireplaces. An 1874 map of Rockland County shows a road about where Heyhoe Woods Road is now. This road was called Forest Avenue, and had no houses on it. It connected at a right angle to a now-vanished road called Heyhoe Road. This road passed the side of the Gilman's house and connected to Rockland Road.

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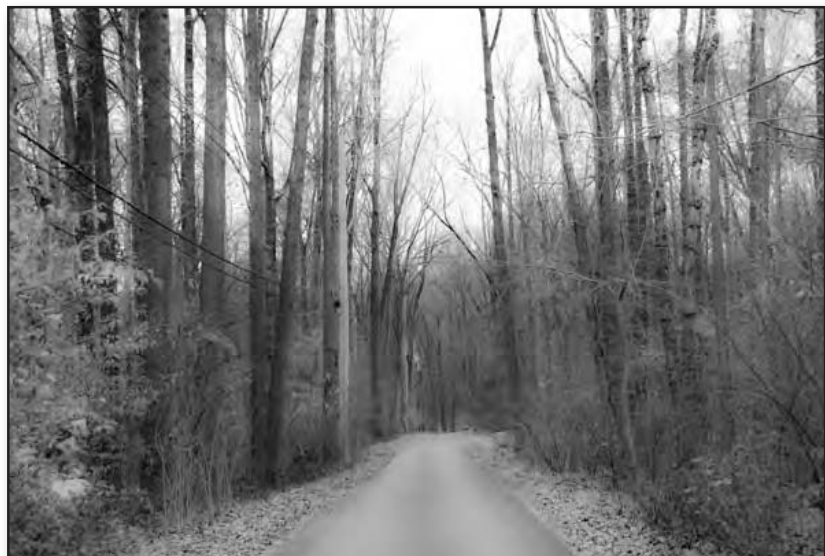


Photo: David Wolk

HEY HOE WOODS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sadly, the abandoned mansion burned to the ground in the 1930s shortly after Route 9W was built. The small brick house where Mr. Kennell lived, opposite the former gas station, now stands approximately on the mansion's site. Mr. Kennell used to plow up marble fragments and other artifacts while gardening in his orchard.

In 1939, Theodora Abel, a psychologist, and her husband, Theodore Abel, a sociology professor at Columbia University, decided to move out of New York City along with her aged parents, Robert and Elsie Mead. Theodora's mother was a great friend of Nannie Gilman Hill who lived in Niederhurst, surrounded by her famously magnificent gardens on Ludlow Lane. Elsie and her daughter enjoyed their regular visits to Snedens Landing in the summers to visit the Hills, so they decided to look for a place there. The Hills also built a house with a fine garden in the Hamptons, on Long Island, called Grey Gardens, which has since become famous on stage and screen as the home of the two eccentric Edith Beales.

Together with Columbia sociologist Professor Robert Maclver, NYU physicist Jean Cooley, and one of Abel's former students, George Weiss, the Abels purchased 24 acres on Oak Tree Road, which was subdivided and became

Hagopian used British Columbian cedar siding ...to blend the stark ...geometry of the houses into the rural setting, and created unique interiors that made use of the edgiest 'glamour' materials of 1939 – flourescent lighting, linoleum, plywood and sheetrock.



Photo: David Wolk

Heyhoe Woods Rd. Each party was supposed to own four acres, but the math does not come out right, and it is likely that Weiss, being quite wealthy, owned a larger portion. During World War II, no buyers could be found for the other two lots.

At the beginning, the town tried to insist that the road for the new subdivision be extended to connect with 9W, roughly following the old right-angled pattern shown on the 1874 map. The new owners, however, stopped this plan and went their own way, trading regular civic road services and through traffic for potholes and wildflowers on a privately maintained dirt road. The dirt surface nearly made it to the 21st century, but was finally paved about nine or ten years ago.

The Abels hired an Armenian architect from Switzerland named Hagopian, who was a strict devotee of the ultramodern Bauhaus style. Theodora's mother, Mrs. Mead, was the one who chose him, considering and rejecting several more traditional designs by American architects. Then the Cooleys and Maclvers hired the same man to do their houses. Hagopian used British Columbian cedar siding instead of stucco to blend the stark rectangular geometry of the houses into the rural setting, and created unique interiors that made use of all the

edgiest "glamour" materials of 1939, such as fluorescent lighting, linoleum, plywood and sheetrock.

The Cooley's house, today owned by Michael and Wendy Yamin, reflects a number of subsequent additions and renovations, the most recent having been designed by Rex Lalire. (Not only an architect but also the next door neighbor.) Both Cooleys were musicians. Together with Theodora Abel, who was a fine violinist and another cello player from New York City, they played quartets once a week at their house. When the cellist suddenly died, Edith Cooley learned the cello so they could continue as a string trio.

After the war in the early 1950s, Jo Chamberlin, another Columbia professor, and his wife, Mary, bought the lot next to the Abels. John Ewing, an oceanographer and the brother of the director of Lamont, built a house at the end of the road.

The Cooley house was later sold to Sandy and Tinka Vanderbilt. He was an editor at The New Yorker and quite a city slicker when he first arrived. One evening he shouted to his wife from the yard that there was a God-Damned Cocker Spaniel up in the tree howling at him. It proved on closer inspection by more sober observers to be an owl.

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LAMONT TEAM DISCOVERS OYSTER BEDS, WRECKS AND A TSUNAMI

On Sunday, October 25, at one of the Palisades Free Library's Sunday Symposia, Bill Ryan gave us fascinating glimpses of the floor of the Hudson River. Bill, a Doherty Senior Scholar and Adjunct Professor Emeritus at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, described the findings of a recent project intended to increase our understanding of the Hudson habitat. Originating with the Riverkeeper, the project was funded by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

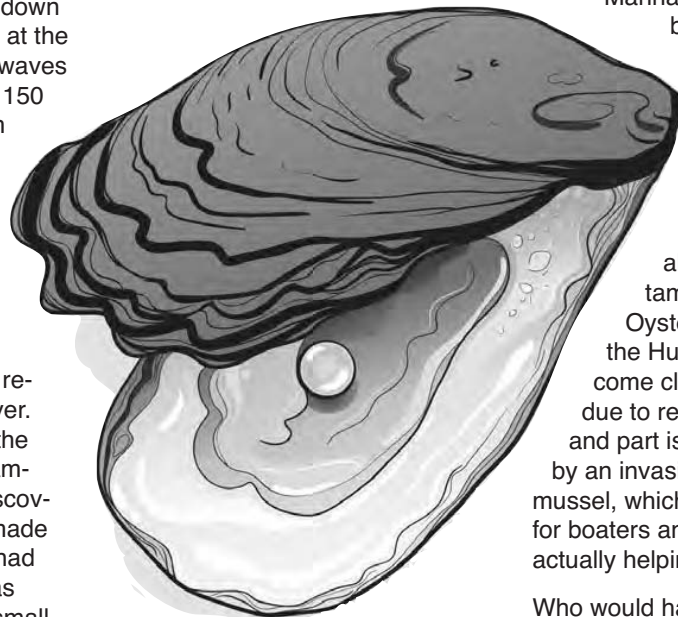
As part of the project, Lamont scientists and their instruments were involved in mapping the river floor and gathering information on the sediments below. They worked in the early spring season over a period of three or four years, going back and forth across the river in an area from the Verrezzano Bridge to the dam at Troy, then up and down the river. Sonar, used to look at the riverbed, showed them sand waves and wrecked ships, including 150 sunken barges. A multi-beam echo-sounder was used to establish the depth of the river and a sub-bottom profiler gave information about the sediment layers.

In the course of their work, the scientists identified a strange pattern of alternating reflective bands crossing the river. When, in the second year of the survey, they began to take samples from the bottom, they discovered that these bands were made of oyster shells. The oysters had established their beds in areas undisturbed by streams and small rivers entering the Hudson and bringing silt that might cover them. Most early travel in our area was by boat. But mooring a boat above an oyster bed was difficult, as opposed to setting an anchor in the sediment

off stream entrances. So early settlements like Nyack and Sleepy Hollow were placed between oyster beds, near stream mouths.

Cores taken from below the river floor found a layer of dirt and leaves deep in the sediment that was later dated to 400 BC. The layer exists throughout the bodies of water in our area and is hypothesized to be the result of a large tsunami that would have washed right over Manhattan Island. Very large oyster shells were found in the sediment below this layer, some of them seven thousand years old; smaller ones appeared after the tsunami.

The river bottom continually changes its shape, affected by weather, tides, and alterations in the shoreline. New York City



has filled in many areas to create more land for building. Debris taken from the foundations of the World Trade Center when it was being built during the 1960s

“ The layer exists throughout the bodies of water in our area and is hypothesized to be the result of a large tsunami that would have washed right over Manhattan Island.”

was later used to extend the Manhattan shoreline for the construction of Battery Park City. This constriction of the Hudson River caused it to cut a deep channel that creates a potential threat to the security of the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels.

Dating of the bottom sediments has revealed that, in the area between Manhattan and the Newburgh bridge, 80% of the riverbed dates back to a time before Henry Hudson's arrival. The incoming and outgoing tide scours the river bottom, eventually sending most contamination out to sea.

Oysters are returning to the Hudson as its waters become cleaner. Part of this is due to restrictions on pollution and part is due to water filtration by an invasive species, the zebra mussel, which produces problems for boaters and power plants but is actually helping to clean the river.

Who would have dreamed of the history under the surface of our neighbor, the Hudson!

– Alice Gerard

LORRAINE BRACCO AND ELLEN BURSTYN IN CONVERSATION

If you weren't sitting in the IBM Conference Center auditorium on Sunday afternoon, November 15th, you missed a rare experience. Those of us who were had an opportunity to listen in on a conversation between two distinguished actresses, Ellen Burstyn and Lorraine Bracco.

They talked of their early years, their current and future projects, the process of acting, the Actor's Studio and, since this talk was sponsored by the Palisades Library, their pleasure in reading. They both possess a wonderful sense of humor that was apparent throughout the afternoon. They also have a house in common; when Ellen sold her house in Snedens Landing about 18 years ago Lorraine purchased it.

Ellen started out as a showgirl on the Jackie Gleason Show. "We always knew when he arrived in the theatre; oxygen tanks would be brought in to get him sober." Lorraine became a model in Paris for designer Jean Paul Gautier. "I met Harvey Keitel in Paris then came back to New York with him."

When asked who influenced her, Ellen replied "Betty Grable. I wanted to wear sequins and dance around a stage but I had to fall back on dramatic acting." Lorraine found her inspiration in Bette Davis in the movie, *Now Voyager*. "I was a tall skinny girl and related to the ugly woman who turned into a swan. I wanted to be her."

The Actors Studio played a role in both their lives. For Ellen, "It was the most transformative experience in my life. I was an emotional mess

when I got there." She failed her first audition but made it on her second try, continuing to study with Lee Strasberg until his death. "I learned how to focus my will. Strasberg could really see; it gives you confidence to be recognized for who you are." Ellen was named co-president of the Actors Studio in 2000 and continues to teach there. Lorraine came into the Actors Studio from the side door, first accompanying

Harvey to his classes then studying with Stella Adler.

Ellen takes great pleasure in acting. "I find doing research



fascinating – how by my behavior I can tell who a character is. There is a moment, especially on stage, where the play plays us, where you get totally carried away; it's one of the most exhilarating feelings. With the dark parts like the role in *The Exorcist*, I take an elevator ride down into my psyche to find the character within me. I feel like I'm flying at the end."

Lorraine on the other hand finds acting painful. "I love the set and the activity. I come prepared but I am still terrified. Acting is soul searching. The rape scene in the *Sopranos* took a lot out of me. It was so physical. I carried it around



for months." Lorraine spent ten years working on the series, winning a Screen Actors Guild award for her performance. "It allowed me to stay in one place and lead a normal life." There were some fun times. "Jimmy (Gandolfini) who played Tony Soprano had long speeches in our scenes together. When he finished and the camera was on me he would do all sorts of things like mooning me and dancing around to crack me up."

Ellen related that one of her best work experiences was *Same Time Next Year* where she played the role on stage, winning a Tony for best actress in a play, and in the movie version. Lorraine said her most enjoyable experience was working with Penny Marshall on a recently completed comedy pilot called, *Women Without Men*. "I am looking for things to produce myself; at the moment I'm interested in *The Connie Francis Story*."

Ellen who has no interest in producing is on the lookout for interesting scripts, not, she said, "should we put mama into a nursing home. I have found many of the projects for myself. I put *Alice Doesn't Live Here Any More* together and found Marty Scorsese, who was still an unknown, to direct." Ellen won an Oscar for her performance in it. She has just completed *Main Street*, a movie written by Horton Foote shortly before his death and is trying to get a play called *Vengeance is Mine* on Broadway. She is also working on a book incorporating her favorite poems and her own photographs.

Both women have published books. Lorraine wrote *On the Couch* in 2007 about conquering clinical depression. Ellen's book, *Lessons in Becoming Myself*, was released in 2006.

– Kathleen Sykes

PANTHER CUBS, COUGARS, AND BEARS



After the July panther sightings, there was a hiatus. Then, at the beginning of October, four different people saw what they thought were panther cubs. Two of the sightings were at Lamont, one was in Tallman Park, and one was on Rockland Road. Another sighting occurred on November 3.

On October 7 at 6:00 pm, a panther “cub” was reported on the back trail up to Lamont by a scientist (larger than a large cat, sleek, black with a long tail...). Another Lamont scientist told my daughter Annie about seeing what he thought was a panther cub around the same time.

On October 10, Cory Gerard-Little saw what he thought was a panther cub in Tallman State Park. It ran across the trail in front of him when he was walking the family dogs. PJ Mouquin, who lives on Rockland Road next to Tallman Park, saw the same animal one early afternoon at the beginning of October. She wrote, “My friend Ellen and I both agreed that it looked like a panther cub, but we didn't report it because I hadn't heard of any panther cubs about.

It was dull black, more charcoal, about twice the size of a house cat, but with the distinctive solid thick legs and tail.”

On November 3 at 6:00 pm, Cory Gerard-Little had a close sighting of the cub on the road outside his house. Hearing a rustling as he went outside to get into his car parked on the road, he shone a flashlight in that direction and saw the panther cub crouched on the leaves about twenty-five feet away. Disturbed by the light, it stood up and ran away but he got a good look. There was no possibility of confusing it with a large domestic cat.

When I researched Jaguars on the Internet (there is no such animal as a panther – our big cat is probably a black jaguar) I discovered that cubs live with their mother until they are about two years old and begin to hunt when they are six months old. Our cub has only been seen alone; perhaps something happened to its mother.

There are now two cougar sightings as well. At the end of July, Phoebe

Rosenwasser, who lives on Ludlow Lane, and her husband and daughter saw a cougar on their back lawn. It was long, very thin, tan, and had a long tail and a head like a cat. On October 23, Piermont's Marjorie Derven reported, “I was coming back from a meeting in the city and rounding the bend on Rockland Road around 12:30 am last night and a large animal leaped across the road in a streak. At first I thought it was a deer because it had that tawny coloring, but then I saw its long rope-like tail. It jumped up over the rock wall and was just gone.”

That isn't all. Scat identified by tracker Shane Hobel as being from a large bear was found on Caroline Turoff's swimming pool cover and in Tallman Park. The park is only four miles square and surrounded by populated areas. Many Palisades and Sparkill residents are beginning to feel threatened by the number of carnivores in the area, and especially by the idea of panthers breeding here.

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Above: Alison Gadd of Piermont plays "Snowflake" and Grace McLary of Nyack plays "Bottom"

Left: Jaclyn Wecht of Palisades plays "Titania" and Grace McLary of Nyack plays "Bottom"

LORD WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE!

What is it that makes an eight-year-old kid decide she wants to be in a Shakespeare play? Does she wake up with this idea one day and comb the internet for possibilities for realizing this ambition? More likely she has a friend who is in a play and asks her to come and see it. She sits in the audience in the front row on a tiny chair and she is so close to the actors she can touch them. They look right in her eyes when they talk and, though she may not understand all the words they are saying, they are having so much fun up there on the stage that their joy bubbles over onto the audience and she knows she just has to be one of them.

This is the reality when a child comes to see the plays put on by The Children's Shakespeare Theatre. We hear it time and again from the new children who join us every year. The children who are lucky enough to discover that Shakespeare is fun, long before they study it at school and have to hear the groans of other kids who don't understand the words on the page and therefore don't have any fun with Shakespeare. To bask in the beautiful words of these great classics at a young age is a great gift. It is a gift that keeps on giving as company members who go on to study Shakespeare in high school can attest. They find that papers and tests come very easily after they have experienced the words out loud and in action. High school students in CST report very high scores on the

Literature SAT and the stories of the plays even serve them in history classes.

What does this all mean to you, the audience? It means you should bring your children and grandchildren to our upcoming production of *A Midwinter Night's Dream* and see if they might enjoy this delightful live theater right here in your own backyard. You just might be opening a door for them that will allow them to see the world in a whole new way. Not that the kids in CST all want to be actors when they grow up. Far from it! Most of them are just having a blast meeting new friends and working on a project with a wonderful community of people. They are learning to speak and to listen. They are learning to cooperate and to make choices. They are learning to trust others and rely on them to create a final "product" they can all be proud of. It is team-building at its best. These skills will serve them as they go on to become architects, doctors and CEOs or whatever their hearts tell them they must pursue. They will have strengthened their confidence to follow their dreams.

The Children's Shakespeare Theatre will present its final production for 2009, *A Midwinter Night's Dream*, on December 4 & 5 at 7:00 pm and December 6 & 12 at 4:00 pm. It will be a wintry re-telling of this beloved classic, set in the 1920s with flapper fairies and slapstick comedy. Join us as the season of lights begins and celebrate a child's imagination and joy. This show includes a cast of 26 children from ages 5 to 14, many of them from Palisades and a fair number of them new to CST. Bring a child to share in this delightful production.

– Diana Green, Director

RECALLING SCULPTOR FRANCOIS TONETTI

Have you had a chance to visit Kykuit yet, the beautiful Rockefeller estate overlooking the Hudson? I went with a Palisades friend recently. As we toured the gardens, the guide stopped at a fountain by the teahouse, telling us that its sculpture was by Francois Tonetti. The two of us looked at each other, immediately recognizing his name. I knew a bit about his formidable wife Mary Lawrence who was instrumental in turning Snedens into an artist's colony in the early 20th century but I knew little about her sculptor husband and had been curious about his work. It was time to find out more.

Francois M.L. Tonetti had a dreadful childhood. Born in Paris in 1864, his father died when he was about six. His mother took in laundry to support him and his two sisters, but during the siege of Paris she and his sisters sadly died of starvation. Francois survived by begging.

When his grandfather, originally from Genoa, Italy, had immigrated to Paris with his family, he opened a marble shop. He finally took Francois in and taught him to cut marble. A member of the French Academy visiting the shop saw a statue Francois had done and invited the boy to move in with his family. There he was exposed to artists and writers. When he was

old enough he was sent to the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. After school Francois became an assistant to sculptor Frederick MacMonnies who had been an early assistant in the U.S. to Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

Mary Lawrence was also a sculptor, studying with Saint-Gaudens at the Art Students League in New York City then becoming his first woman assistant. When Saint-Gaudens turned down an assignment to design a statue of Columbus for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago celebrating the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America, he recommended Mary who was then twenty five. She



modeled the figure in clay then executed it in plaster and a fibrous material. Over twenty-seven million people attended the exposition and saw the prominently displayed figure.

Mary moved to Paris in December 1893, set up a studio, and became

part of the exciting bohemian art world. She studied at the Academie Julian – the Ecole des Beaux-Arts did not accept women until 1897. There she met Francois at a ball given by Charles Dana Gibson. Francois has been described as dark and muscular, passionate and temperamental, with great charm. He was quite taken with Mary and when she returned to the States the following year he convinced MacMonnies to send him to New York to assist with the completion of sculptures for the Brooklyn Memorial Arch on Grand Army Plaza. Before Francois left Paris, he did a 10 1/2 foot plaster sculpture representing Art, one of eight figures created for the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress in Washington.

Mary took on small commissions and when Saint-Gaudens moved to Paris she took over his classes at the Art Students League. In 1899 she finally agreed to marry Tonetti. When Saint-Gaudens learned of the couples' impending marriage he commented, "Mary Lawrence is going to marry Tonetti, half Italian, half French faun who was Mac's assistant for many years. He is a regular picnic feller and she is a regular picnic girl and I suppose there will be lots of festive children."

In 1900 Francois and Mary married at Grace Church; she was thirty-two and he thirty-six. They moved into the former Murray Hill Presbyterian Church at 135 East 40th Street that they had converted into a home with a spacious studio in a space that once housed an auditorium.

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IN OUR BACKYARD

I'm going to let you in on two not-very-secret secrets for excellent family dining at reasonable prices: Cassie's Pizzeria in Orangeburg and The Greek Village in Northvale, NJ.



First launched in Englewood in 1998, Cassie's of Orangeburg opened in 2005 and is serving up some of the best thin crust pizza around. Relaxed, often crowded and extremely family friendly, Cassie's is a great place to go with a crowd. A full bar, friendly service and decent ambiance are added pluses, but delicious food that's easy on the wallet is Cassie's forte. Portions are generous -- individual sized salads or pastas easily feed three -- and family sized orders can satisfy six hungry gymnasts! A standout appetizer is the fried calamari served with plenty of lemon (individual \$9.75) and the chopped salad of Romaine lettuce, cucumber, feta cheese, tomato, olives, chick peas and roasted red peppers is a winner (individual \$9) even though the peppers are limp little creatures from a jar. The Penne alla Vodka is creamy and comforting at \$15 for a colander-sized bowl of yumminess.

But it's the pizza (\$16 for an eight slice pie) that makes Cassie's worth the trip. Supported by a crisp crust with just the right hint of smokiness from Cassie's coal fired ovens, the pies are perfect combos of tangy sauce, mozzarella cheese, fresh basil and added toppings of your choice. This is Italian style pizza -- meaning it's not greasy, doughy or spiked with medicinal amounts of garlic. Perfection on a plate, I'd say.

Cassie's offers a full bar along with six choices of beer and a basic wine list, but you won't need alcohol to enjoy this easy-going establishment.

Take out service and catering menu available. Open seven days a week, lunch and dinner. Check website for hours. No delivery.

Cassie's Pizzeria
203 Rte 303
Orangeburg, NY 10962
(845) 359-8000
www.cassiespizzeria.com

Another place to eat hearty without maxing out your credit card is The Greek Village in Northvale. Full disclosure: I don't want to tell you about this one because it's a tiny place (seats about 12 to 15 people) and it's always busy. Go and you'll understand why. The spicy lamb gyro with a cucumber tzatziki sauce

dashes any hopes of going vegetarian. The chicken soup will knock all viruses out of your system and the ample Greek salad is a miracle of creamy feta, crisp cucumbers, tasty tomatoes (year round somehow) salty olives, marinated onions, stuffed grape leaves and an oregano infused dressing. One of my personal favorites; shrimp with feta cheese and orzo, is enough for two and simply de-lish. I won't even bother mentioning prices because they're all ridiculously low for the quality.

FYI: the Greek Village isn't a place to soak up atmosphere with a special someone. The decor is brightly lit white walls, simple wooden tables and faded pictures of the Greek Islands. Service is expertly efficient with an eye towards clearing tables for the next customer and it's BYOB only, but who cares when the food is consistently fresh, tasty and reasonably priced?



Parking can be challenging and expect to wait for a table on a weekend.

Take out service. Lunch and dinner. Call for hours. Closed Sundays

The Greek Village
211 Livingston St. (Rte 303)
Northvale, NJ 07647
(201) 750-8570

— Lisa Rinehart

CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

Suzanna Buck, left, a high school senior who played Beatrice in the recent Rogue Players production and her sister Charlotte, right, a freshman who played her cousin Hero, have been involved with the CST for years (Suzanna since 6th grade – she was Ariel in The Tempest and Cymbeline in Cymbeline; Charlotte has been in CST for 4 years appearing in The Comedy of Errors, Henry IV and Richard III) but this is the first time they have appeared together in the same play. They are shown with their parents, Roger Buck and Sharon Quayle.



FRANCOIS TONETTI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

The studio doubled for everything from grand dinners to children's parties. The March 1909 *New York Times* reported, "Noted Women Dance to Aid Shop Girls." The event, held in the studio, raised \$600 "to maintain a dancing class for factory and sales girls." Summers and weekends were spent at Snedens Landing where Mary had spent her summer holidays growing up. The couple surrounded themselves with creative friends in the city and the country.

Their first child died shortly after it was born but five more followed. Mary assisted Francois on several projects but her main focus was her family. Francois' first U.S. assignment was a large plaque for the Library of Congress. Tonetti, along with Chester French, Saint-Gaudens and a number of other eminent sculptors, were chosen to create statues for the façade of the U.S. Custom House at Bowling Green and Broadway designed by architect Cass Gilbert (now the National Museum of the American Indian). Francois sculpted the Doge as a representation of Venice and Queen Isabella personifying Spain. He used Mary's mother as a

model for the Doge's imperious head. Mary collaborated on this as well as on the "Birth of Venus" fountain in 1901 for the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo.

Among his many commissions, Francois did a beautiful statue of Victory for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904 and a bas-relief sculpture for the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court. He also recarved three heads in the entrance arch of the New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue and a mantel and overmantle for the director's room there.

“ A statue of Silenus, son of Pan, was rejected by the straight-laced Rockefeller because of its inebriated appearance. ”

When John D. Rockefeller, Senior's Kykuit was first built at Pocantico Hills, Tonetti did a number of pieces for the house and grounds. Several years later in 1913 when the façade was changed, he was commissioned to design and execute a

pediment that runs across the front facade and two groupings of four cherubs holding baskets of flowers that now stand on either side of it atop side balconies. Tonetti's youngest daughter Alexandra was the model for the angelic figures. A statue of Silenus, son of Pan, was rejected by the straight-laced Rockefeller because of its inebriated appearance. Mary finished the figures and oversaw the installation; Tonetti, feeling it his duty, had left to serve in the First World War as a doctor's aide. While there he contacted pneumonia and returned in ill health at war's end, dying in 1920 at the age of fifty-six.

When Mary sold the New York house many years later she had a number of his works brought out to Snedens in the dead of night, had a hole dug and the sculptures buried. The site has remained a secret. Mary died in her beloved Snedens on March 14, 1945. She was seventy-seven years old. Much of the information here comes from Isabelle K. Savell's informative book, *The Tonetti Years at Snedens Landing*, which can be found at our Palisades library. I encourage you to pick it up if you are interested in more information about this fascinating couple.

– Kathleen Sykes

PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Sunday worship service: 10:00 am

Sunday School: 10:00 am

Bible study:
Wednesdays 12:15 pm
Parish House

Play Group:
Thursdays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal:
Thursdays 8:00 pm

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

December 20th, 2009

10:00 am Worship
Children's Christmas Pageant

REHEARSALS for Pageant
will be held after service on
Dec. 6th & 13th

Dress Rehearsal on Saturday,
Dec. 19th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

December 24th, 2009

5:00 pm – Family Christmas
Worship
11:00 pm – Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS GIVING

As part of our annual outreach, the Palisades Presbyterian Church will collect Christmas gifts for children in the hospital. Our friend, Howie Friedman of YOUTH FOR SENIORS, will deliver gifts to hospital-bound children in the Harlem area as well as children from the neighborhood, many living with grandparents with limited means and fixed incomes.

Everyone is invited to donate gifts for this wonderful program. Thanks to a donation from a commercial vendor, Howie does not need stuffed animals, but we do need new and unopened gifts for all ages (and especially for 8-12 year olds). Good gift ideas include cars and trucks, board and card games, art supplies and books. We can also use some clothing for very small children (infant to age 3). Donated gifts can be dropped off at the church between December 1st and December 24th (they will be transported down to Harlem after the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service). Gifts can be wrapped (with a note indicating the appropriate gender and age) or unwrapped.

COLD WINTER AHEAD

Do you have extra blankets and sleeping bags? We can put them to good use. Midnight Run is a volunteer organization that brings food, clothing and toiletries to the homeless in New York City. Palisades Presbyterian Church has participated in these runs for almost a decade. The Midnight Run Main Office has put out an alert – asking their friends to collect sleeping bags and blankets for the upcoming cold winter season. Bring them to the Palisades Presbyterian Church; please include a note saying "for Midnight Run" and we'll make sure they get to the office in Dobbs Ferry (and we can also save a few for the Midnight Run we plan to do in January). Donations of toiletries (travel size) are also welcome!

COMING UP IN 2010 - PARENT SUPPORT GROUP AND BOOK STUDY

Beginning Friday, January 8, and continuing once a month for six weeks, we will gather at 5:30 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.

For more information call or email, Rev. Angela Maddalone
845 - 359 - 3147
pastorajm@gmail.com.

Book description:

Prodigal Sons and Material Girls: How Not to Be Your Child's ATM, by Nathan Dungan

In today's possession-crazed society, the average child has unrealistic expectations about money. From the preschooler who begs for another toy to the college student who graduates buried in \$10,000 of credit card debt, today's youth lack a sense of financial responsibility.

This book has been written to help parents influence and shape their child's financial habits. Within this book, Nathan shares the numerous lessons he's learned as a longtime financial advisor. By blending real-world stories with the tools and techniques needed to teach children the real value of money, Nathan offers a practical road map for instilling your children with a sense of financial responsibility that will last a lifetime.

BULLETIN BOARD

Welcome to A New Resident

Skyler Rose Schmetterer was born May 1, 2009 at 8:15 am weighing in at 7 lbs., 8 oz. (19.5 inches). Her thrilled and delighted parents are Tyler & Sharon Schmetterer. Skyler Rose is the 3rd generation of Schmetterers at the Landing.



Leslie Hayes in *The Glass Menagerie*

Palisades resident **Leslie Hayes** starred in Elmwood Playhouse's September production of *The Glass Menagerie* playing the iconic role of the mother, Amanda Wingfield. Leslie tried out for the role in May and was one of two finalists but lost out. Two and a half weeks before the opening she was asked to take on the complex role. "I worked all day to memorize 50 pages of dialogue and spent each night in rehearsal. I couldn't have done it without Mary Ann Brueckner and my husband Dennis who spent hours helping me practice my lines." Leslie has appeared in several other Elmwood Playhouse productions including *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

Frannie Breer Profiled in *Hook*

Long time resident **Frannie Breer** garnered the spotlight in the recent fall issue of *The Hook* magazine.

Frannie recalls her time in Paris in the 40's and 50's with her artist husband and their return to New York in 1960. "It was a wonderful time, it was one big party; every weekend was a new show and you went because you wanted to see what other artists were doing." Frannie is a talented artist in her own right, but she declares her four daughters to be her finest creations.

Attention Pottery Lovers

The Art School at Old Church in Demarest, N.J. is holding its 35th Anniversary juried Pottery Show and Sale on December 4th to 6th featuring work from twenty-seven leading potters around the country. Over 2,000 handmade and one-of-a-kind pieces that range from functional to sculptural will be featured. The Pottery Show & Sale serves as the chief fundraiser of the Art School at Old Church, a not-for-profit arts and cultural resource center.

The show kicks off with a festive champagne reception with desserts provided by Harold's of Edison, N.J. on Friday, December 4th, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. A donation of \$20 is suggested. It continues on Saturday, December 5th from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm and on Sunday, December 6th, from 12:00 to 5:00 pm with a suggested donation of \$10.

GraceMusic's 40th Anniversary Messiah Sing

GraceMusic began 40 years ago with its first Messiah Sing and has presented concert programs every fall and spring season since then. GraceMusic's Messiah Sing, the only one in Rockland, has become a holiday tradition where professional soloists perform the arias of Handel's masterpiece and the audience sings the choruses, especially the rousing "Hallelujah." Sunday, Dec. 6, 4:00 pm, Grace Church (130 First Avenue) in Nyack. Admission to Messiah Sing is \$10.

SLTA Tennis Tournament FINALS

On Sunday, November 1st, the **SLTA Tennis Tournament FINALS 2009** were played after a number of rain delays. The winners are:

Women's Singles - Marianne Brown

Men's Singles - Mark Cohen

Mixed Doubles - Jane Bernick and Nick Ludington

Featured Designer

The interior design and architectural firm of Palisades resident **Ernest de la Torre** was featured on the cover of the November issue of *Elle Décor*, the number one shelter magazine in the United States. The featured project was the restoration of an historic 17 bedroom Tuxedo Park mansion originally owned by the Cooper family associated with the Cooper Hewitt museum in New York City. For more information about Ernest's work, visit his website at www.delatorredesign.com.

Book by Alice Gerard Newly Translated

Glozel: Bones of Contention by Palisades historian **Alice Gerard**, originally published in 2005, will soon be available in French. The English version is currently available on Amazon.com. In it she discusses a controversial archeological discovery made near Vichy in 1924 in which approximately 3000 artifacts were found dating from the Iron Age and Medieval period. While much of the archeological world considered



the find a hoax, more advanced dating technology has confirmed that the artifacts are most likely genuine.

For more information, visit her website www.glozel.net

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during business hours

e-mail: PCC@palisadesny.com

Website: www.Palisadesny.com

During this holiday time of gratefulness, we would like to thank all those who have made donations, both financial and in-kind, to the Palisades Community Center. The PCC receives no funding and relies solely on donations, membership and rentals to maintain this very special building.

We are pleased to have made so many necessary improvements. In two years, we have done exterior painting and repair, installation of gutters and roof repair, electric and plumbing improvements, installation of a fire system, floor restoration, new lighting, fencing, landscaping and gardening.

Our membership drive will begin in December. We encourage all to become members of the PCC. Your membership and donations enable us to maintain this building built in 1870 and support our programming.

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

We thank those who donated their time in October and November: Curt Frasca for installing tile in our bathroom, Janet Coombs for donat-

ing plants from her garden, Cub Scout Pack 88—Webelo Den 2 for fall clean-up, Frank Umbrino, CPA and David Howe, Esq for advice, Cellen Wolk and Neal Harris of Hey Hoe Garden Design for planting, Dorian Tunell for discounting electrical services, Joyce Gavin for her continued volunteer services, Mary Tiegreen for designing our Holiday Craft Bazaar flyer each year, Susan and Dominic Nemesdy, Chris Chin, John Guzweich, Robby Whitstock, Bernie Doyle for lending a hand and thank you to the dozens of book donors.

DECEMBER

People-To-People Holiday Gift and Food Drive:

Sunday, Dec. 6, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Donations of gifts and clothing items for infants, teens and adults (especially teens) and non-perishable food can be brought to PCC between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. For further information, PCC@palisadesny.com

Art & Antique Dealer Sale:

Saturday, Dec. 12 and Sunday, Dec. 13, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. A unique antique makes a lovely gift for your special someone. Country Antiques to Modernist Design including American textiles, vintage posters, estate jewelry, lamps, furniture, home décor, original paintings and more. We have a few openings for art and antique vendors or if you have quality items you would like to donate to the PCC table, contact Eileen Larkin at ileenog@aol.com or 845-359-6589.

Annual Community Christmas Caroling:

Wednesday, Dec. 23 4:00-6:00 pm - Meet at 11 Horne Tooke Road promptly at 4:00 pm. Carolers will sing through the neighborhood, at Jawanio and the Esplanade. Music will be available. Pizza party at the PCC after with a visit from Santa. For further info, contact: Michele Balm at 845-359-3776 or miepbalm@aol.com

JANUARY

Defensive Driving Course:

Saturday, Jan. 9, 8:30 am-3:30 pm. The fee is \$32 for this 6 hour course for beginning drivers and seasoned drivers who would like to lower their car insurance. Paid registration by December 31 is necessary. Space is limited, register early: Eileen Larkin at 845-359-6589 or ileenog@aol.com.

ANNUAL PCC COMMUNITY MEETING

Watch for meeting announcement.

Movie & Game night

Friday, Jan. 29, 6:30-9:00 pm:

Children ages 7-13 are welcome to come and hang out at the PCC with their friends, play games and watch a movie. Admission is free and snacks will be available for purchase. Stay tuned for more information in January.

FEBRUARY/SPRING

Palisades Indoor Farmers' Market returns on Saturday Feb. 6, 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

Our farmers all commented on what a wonderful community we have and are anxious to return.

Coming in the Spring- "**Palisades, As I See It- A celebration of everything Palisades**": Children and adults can exhibit whatever it is they love about Palisades – paintings, poems, photographs, etc. Or do you collect things or make things and would like to exhibit or sell your creations? Think "Made in Palisades." Start brainstorming now. For more information, e-mail PCC@palisadesny.com

Rental opportunities: The PCC is perfect for your next class, workshop, photo shoot, or party. For social events, you can rent it as is, or for a fee, we will set up the room beautifully and take it down. Leave it all to us. Contact: Eileen Larkin at 845-359-6589 or ileenog@aol.com

NOVEMBER 3, 2009 ELECTION RESULTS

Contrary to the final tallies for Rockland County and the Town of Orangetown where Republicans won in all the contested races, Palisades, with less than half the registered voters voting, gave Democrats a win for all seats except the Town Receiver of Taxes. For the first time, both Palisades voting districts 12 and 50 voted together, thanks to the Esplanade who opened their doors for the occasion.

Elected Office	District 12	District 50	Palisades Total	County and Town Totals
County Executive				
Kleiner (D)	212	99	311	27,441
Vanderhoef (R)*	135	120	255	32,052
Town Supervisor				
Barclay (D)	230	90	320	5,119
Whalen (R)	113	123	236	7,785
Town Council				
Manning (D)*	223	103	326	5,573
Salmon (D)	215	108	323	5,166
Troy (R)*	118	113	231	7,566
Diviny (R)	108	97	205	7,157
Town Justice				
Knoebel (D)	200	77	277	5,123
Finning (R)	128	134	262	7,147
Receiver of Taxes				
Gmucs (D)	187	65	252	3,992
Simon (R)*	132	137	269	8,288

*Incumbent

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New Year's Eve & Day
Feb. 15, President's Day

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INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event that the library must close due to inclement weather, we will announce the closing on our telephone message (845) 359-0136, and post the closing on our blog, <http://palisadesfreelibrary.wordpress.com/>. No fines accrue on snow days.

NOW ACCEPTING BOOK, DVD, AND CD DONATIONS

We are pleased to accept donations of books, DVDs and CDs. Most donations will be sold in our book nook to raise money for the library. We have limited space to store donations, so we can only accept 10 items per patron, per week. Due to the low resale value, we cannot accept magazines, textbooks or abridged books. Please do not leave books outside the library door. If you have a large number of books you would like to donate, please call ahead.



LET'S TALK

Neighbors have been gathering at the Library on the first Tuesday of the Month at 11:30 am to talk about current events or whatever is on their mind. Join us and share your opinions.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Library Annual Meeting to elect Trustees will be Sunday, January 31.

COMPUTER INSTRUCTION

Are you new to computers or the internet? Our Librarians can help you get started with the internet or Microsoft Word. Instruction is available for individuals or couples. Please call to schedule a time.

On November 5, I interviewed Major David Herrick, head of the Palisades Interstate Police office at Bear Mountain, to find out how the Park Police viewed this situation. Major Herrick is well-informed about the panther sightings and obviously concerned. He understands the frustration of the local residents but says that his hands are tied until he is provided with evidence and/or a photograph of the animal in question. The Park Police rely on experts from the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP), who are skeptical of the reported sightings. They have stated that there is no hard evidence of the presence of a panther and are even more unwilling to believe in cougars in our area.

Those of us in Palisades who are very grateful to Shane Hobel of Search and Forensic Investigation (SFI) and the other team members for the pro bono work that they have done would like to see them allowed more access to Tallman Park. When I brought this up, Major Herrick

told me that the SFI team is restricted to the trails in Tallman, as is everyone who enters the park, to protect the animals that also live there. The irony is that on any given day, you will find hikers traipsing around off the trails in Tallman. Tracker SFI uses Native American techniques with respect for the environment as its priority. Unfortunately, the denial of tracking in Tallman has hampered the gathering of evidence.

Reports of sightings have fallen off recently— for example only one of the panther cub sightings was reported to the police. Major Herrick told me that it's important to report sightings, even though they might not convince the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), because the sheer number of them gets attention.

"If we had 50 sightings in two years, instead of eight, it might be taken more seriously. The inability of anyone to photograph or report the animal while it

remains in the area for police to identify, is a problem. And if ten years from now we have a panther population in the woods, it will be a real problem." He

stated that the police would respond promptly to reports in order to protect life or to gather evidence. Any sighting reported to the Bear Mountain police at 845-786-2781 will also be followed up by a visit from Ed McGowan from OPRHP. He may not be convinced, but he will document all reported sightings.

Our valiant Panther Team of Carol Baxter, Milbry Polk and Susan Nemesday continues to monitor the cameras located around the community in the hopes of obtaining a picture good enough to convince the DEC. Once a picture is obtained, the DEC can take steps to trap the animal and relocate it. The

Panther Team has made arrangements with a sanctuary in the event of its capture. Major Herrick tried to reassure me that panthers are not known to survive the cold winter here, and that neither panthers nor cougars are aggressive toward people unless threatened or hunting food. However, Shane Hobel believes that panthers can adapt to this



climate if there is an adequate food supply. Ours have been here since last February. Although the adult panthers may have been brought up with people, the cub is truly wild. We have all heard tales of people being attacked by cougars. To help prevent an eventual attack by one of these creatures, please continue to report sightings and keep your cameras ready. We keep records of all sightings and e-blast up-dates.

EYEWITNESSES ONLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS TO:

Orangetown Police: 845-359-3700

Palisades Interstate Parkway Commission Police: 845-786-2781

e-mail: pantherhotline@gmail.com

— Alice Gerard

HEY HOE WOODS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

All the children on the road attended the Palisades School, which went through the eighth grade. They walked to school on a path that cut directly through the woods. Zita Abel had a dog named Tony with a mysteriously accurate sense of time. Every day at around two o'clock, he jumped up from the floor, barked, and rushed out the door through the woods to meet her as she walked home from school. The two Chamberlin girls were sometimes invited to tea by Mrs. MacIver. She considered the caffeine in tea to be dangerous to their health and gave the third and fourth graders sherry instead! She also used to write them notes in Latin and leave the notes pinned to a tree.

Zita's sister, Caroline Abel, married a Frenchman, Pierre Lalire, and the Lalires later bought the house on HeyHoe Woods Road from her parents in the early 1970's. Caroline also had a dog, an elegant Doberman Pinscher named Eric, who

used to lie in the sun with his front legs crossed like a fashion model, before leaping up to chase strangers down the driveway at full tilt.

Two evening wedding receptions have been held in the yard of the Abel/Lalire house, thirty years apart. Both were decorated by Pierre Lalire with luminous white Japanese paper lanterns hung in the trees. At the first reception, it rained, and the guests padded through the mud. At the second, a beautiful, riderless white horse appeared at a gallop, weaving through the trees in the twilight. It seemed to have been sent onto the scene by one of Federico Fellini's stage directors, although it was later corralled by its frantic owners and returned to its paddock on the other side of Oak Tree Rd.

Since that time, more subdivisions have gradually accumulated on Heyhoe Woods, and some of the houses have changed hands sev-

eral times. Sadly, Mary Chamberlin and Theodora Abel, the key sources for most of the old stories, have now been dead for many years since the first version of this article was written in the early 1990s. Among the newer houses, the Fowlers live across from the Seamans, and the Ewings house was torn down to make way for a new house built by Lisette and Paul George. The Wolks are in the Maclvers' house, the Chamberlins' house is for sale, and Eugene Kohn has bought the house next door to the Yamins. The Kupferschmidts built a new house across from the Wolks. Next to them, the Riccobonos recently moved into Lillian Langseth's former house. Rex Lalire, Theodore and Theodora Abel's grandson, along with his wife, who is the author of this article and their two children, Luc and Alexander, still live in the house his grandparents built. Luc and Alexander are the fifth generation of the family to live there.

— Greta Nettleton

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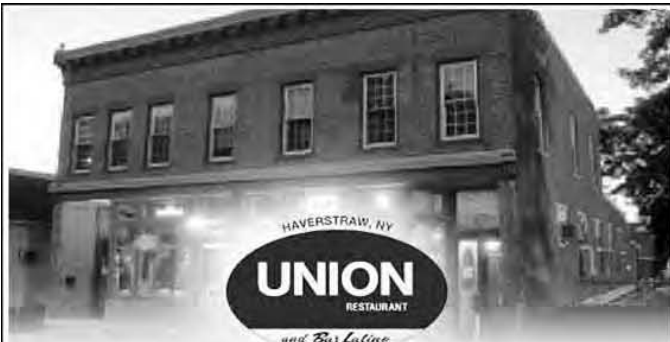
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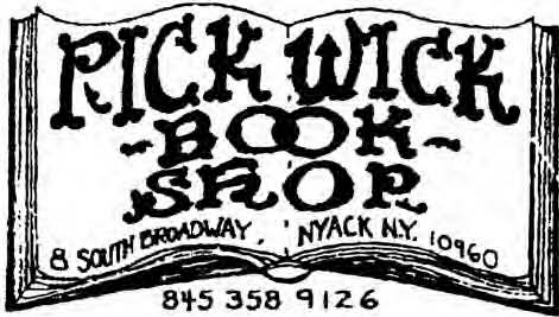
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With your help we'll be able to put 10964 in your mailbox four times each year from October through May.

Keep up with the news in Palisades:

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DR. ED KALOTKIN, PHYSICAL THERAPIST, WILL SPEAK TO PALIS-AGERS ON DECEMBER 10

The next meeting of the Palis-Agers will take place on Thursday, December 10, at two o'clock in the Community Room of the Palisades Presbyterian Church. Dr. Kalotkin's talk, titled "Back Pain, Posture and Space Travel?" will discuss low back pain and postural imbalances, and how specific weak muscles can contribute to them. The lecture will present strategies for prevention, and specific exercises to help reduce the risk. Interesting research will be discussed and participation is encouraged.

Dr. Kalotkin's credentials include Doctor of Physical Therapy from Columbia University, Master of Science, Physical Therapy also from Columbia University, and a Certificate to perform Orthopedic Manual Therapy from Maitland. Before he became a physical therapist he worked for Lindblad Expeditions. Dr. Kalotkin lives and practices in Palisades, as well as holding office hours in other locations.



WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO COOK?

The next Palis-Agers' meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18 at 12:00 in the Community Room of the Presbyterian Church and will feature favorite dishes made by those who come. We are inviting attendees to bring two portions of a dish that is tasty and easy to prepare. We will provide drinks, plates, and utensils. Please call Alice Gerard at 845-359-4338 if you wish to participate. We hope that the occasion will be a pleasant social event as well as a chance to learn some new, easy recipes.

— Alice Gerard