

# K E N S I N G T O N O U T L O O K

April 2004

A publication of the Kensington Community Council

Volume 61 Number 3

## District seeks new parcel tax to save programs

The financially troubled West Contra Costa Unified School District will ask voters to consider a new parcel tax in a June 8 special election, three months after voters narrowly defeated Measure J.

The new parcel tax would raise an estimated \$8 million and be used to restore sports, libraries and counselors to the schools following their planned elimination as part of a set of Draconian measures intended to close the district's \$16.5 million budget gap.

"I'm hopeful that with all the media attention we've gotten that people now realize the incredible financial pressure we are under to balance our budget. The budget that we had passed is now the status quo," said West Contra Costa Unified School District trustee George Harris, III. "In the absence of pass-

ing this ballot measure on June 8, there will be no counselors, there will be no libraries, there will be no athletic programs. This is reality. This is what is going to happen if the new measure doesn't pass."

In addition to restoring certain programs now slated for elimination, the funds from the parcel tax would also be used to maintain reduced class sizes, purchase textbooks and teaching material, improve custodial services and attract and retain qualified teachers, aides and counselors.

Property owners would be assessed 7.2 cents per square foot of total building area or \$7.20 per vacant lot. The measure would sunset after five years. That's slightly more than the 6.8 cents Measure J would have cost property owners.

The election will be conducted by mail

with ballots expected to arrive at residences beginning May 10.

In March, measure J garnered a little more than 62 percent of the vote, just shy of the two-thirds majority needed for passage. The new parcel tax will also require a two-thirds majority to pass.

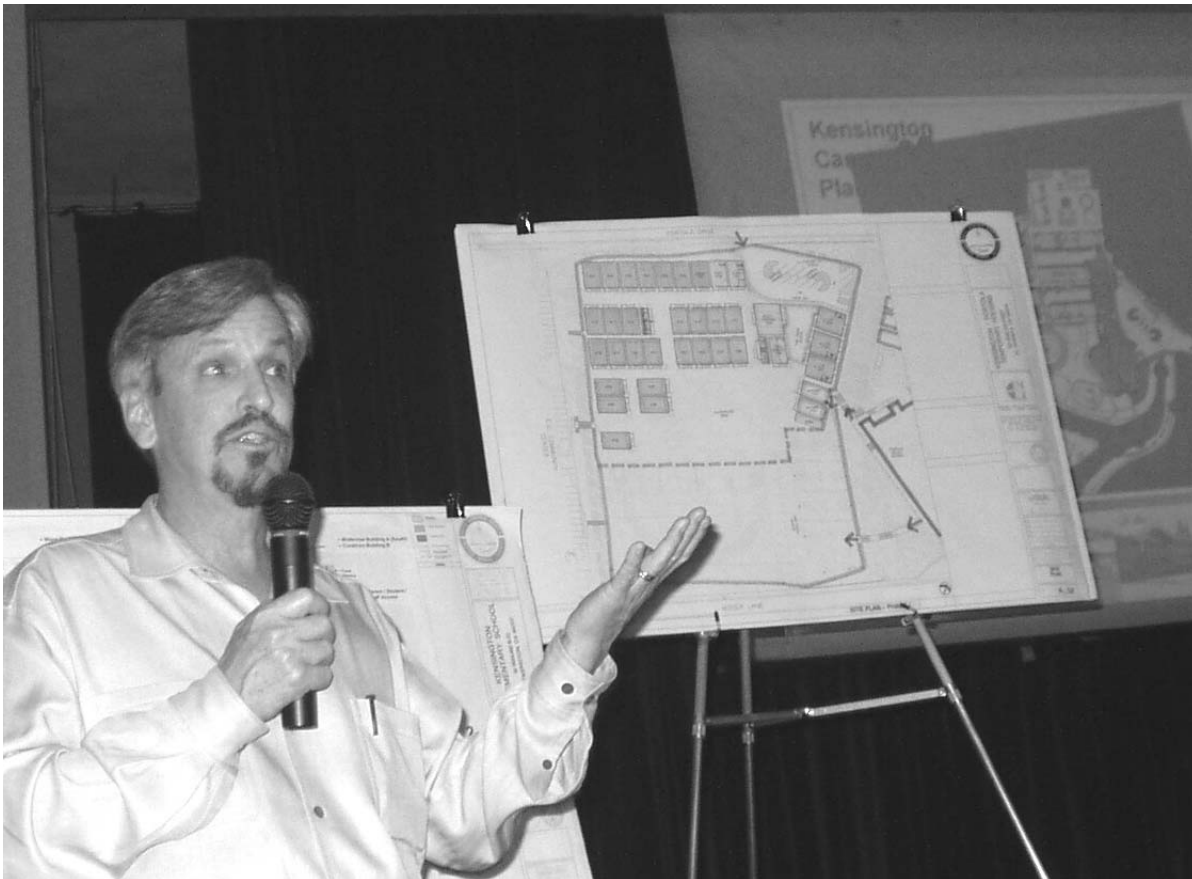
While supporters of the new measure believe heightened awareness of the district's financial problems, it will be on the same ballot as the West Contra Costa Health Care District's measure for a \$52 parcel tax to keep Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo open once Tenet Healthcare walks away.

"They are both needed and are both important," said WCCUSD's Harris. "I'm supporting the healthcare district's and the people at the healthcare district I talk to are supporting ours."



Photo by Max Blum

HARD KNOCKS: Portola student Russell Tamura protests cuts with nearly 300 others March 12.



**THE ASPHALT'S IN OUR STARS:** West Contra Costa Unified School District engineer officer Bill Savidge explains the reasoning behind the district's plan to use part of the asphalt at Portola Middle School as a temporary home for Kensington Hilltop School students. Parents expressed concerns about transportation, safety and the dissolution of community.

## Hilltop sees home away from home

*District presents parents with plan to relocate Hilltop students to Portola campus during construction, but questions remain*

Parents got an overview of a planned relocation of Hilltop Elementary School students to the Portola Middle School campus during planned construction next year, but the crowd sought more answers than a school district representative could provide.

The \$15.5 million reconstruction and expansion of Hilltop is expected to begin in July and run through the entire 2004-2005 school year.

One thing that was made clear to the audience of more than 100 people March 8 at the school was that the plan to cover about two-thirds of the asphalt playground of Portola with portable classrooms was racing ahead and the district was not seriously considering any alternatives.

The move, said district engineering officer Bill Savidge, is necessary to protect children from the noise, hazards and disruptions from holding classes on an active construction site. But unanswered questions remain about a range of concerns includ-

see **MOVE** on page 8

## Opponents strike rare note of harmony on ordinance

A proposed Kensington noise ordinance brought together both sides in the controversy over fundraising concerts held at the property of concert promoter Danny Scher in a moment of rare agreement.

The ordinance, presented at a joint meeting of the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council and the Kensington Community Services District won praise from many of the 15 people who gathered to voice their opinions about it.

The ordinance grows out of the ongoing dispute between Scher and some of his neighbors over occasional fundraising concerts he holds at his home amphitheater on Coventry Rd.

But Scher and members of the Coventry Neighborhood Group found common ground in faulting the proposed ordinance for not establishing an objective standard such as decibel levels to be used to determine when someone would be in violation of the law.

"It would be tantamount to giving someone with a red Corvette a ticket for speeding and not knowing how fast they were going," Scher said.

Toni Folger-Brown, co-chair of the Coventry Neighborhood Group and a leader in the call for a noise ordinance, praised the effort, but also raised concerns

about the absence of objective standards.

"It seems somewhat subjective in determining what is an annoying noise," she said.

Kensington Police chief Barry Garfield, who reviewed other noise ordinances to assist the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council in creating a draft that the department felt it could enforce, explained the absence of decibel measures was intentional because with the small staff it would be "nearly impossible for us to enforce."

Others expressed concerns that the ordinance didn't go far enough to address problems such as lawn blowers.

See **NOISE** on page 3

### *A Dee-lightful time*



Kensington Community Council president Don Specter, sponsor Dee Andronico and KCC board member Ted Blanckenberg talk during this year's Spring Celebration. The event in March helped raise needed funds to support KCC's education and recreation programs

see page 4

### New Listings

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## Letters to the Editor

### Hilltop move is bad for students

To the Editor:

Though keeping students at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School during its planned reconstruction and expansion will pose challenges, the district’s plan to move them to Portola’s playground risks a rush to judgement. To suggest that hazardous material removals can’t be scheduled during times when children are not present or that there’s a real possibility of a gas main break are examples of exaggerated rhetoric from officials.

Why can’t we work with the Kensington Community Center to use some of their space for locating a few of the temporary classrooms and thus further facilitate the on-site renovations?

Why not build the new building first and leave the renovations of the current office/entry buildings until next June so there would be no entryway disruptions during school?

Moving to Portola raises unanswered questions - none of which should be trivialized with superficial answers or time-driven deadlines that preclude factual informing, including:

○Site safety: There’s a PG&E substation directly across the street, with exposure risks to electromagnetic fields and PG&E truck fleet traffic.

○Middle-school age commingling: A fence isn’t going to keep kids separated. Sharing rides with older siblings and neighbors; walking home; and mingling with “bigger kids” will add influences that our younger children will see, hear and absorb.

○Safe transportation: Putting a traffic light on Moeser Lane at Navellier St., though welcome, will not solve additional risks and unanswered questions. These include such things as shuttle frequency, equipment, drivers, tracking of students, staging and sheltering for rainy weather, late arrivals.

○Traffic and environmental studies: Rushed results, selected data and shortened reviews are all likely to involve questionable conclusions and leaps of faith.

○Possible changes to school hours: This will have an impact on working parents.

○Real estate impact. The start of the 2005-2006 school year is 18 months away and moving to Portola will probably result in added disclosures to interested home buyers. This could mean fewer buyers, less liquidity and lower prices.

Moving presents risks to our special school Community that will impact our children in many ways beyond the classroom.

The proposed relocation to temporary buildings fenced in on the tarmac is wrong and not in the best interests of the children. The special site of the Hilltop School is part of the community and part of what makes the school special.

I believe any renovation plan should allow the Hilltop School to remain open on its present site without incurring the many risks associated with a “quick fix” approach of moving to a faceless, all-temporary setting on the tarmac of Portola, directly across from the PG&E substation.

Eric Spector  
Kensington Hilltop Elementary School parent

### Return of papers leaves Kensington resident grateful

To the editor:

This is a letter of appreciation to the Good Samaritan who mailed important papers I lost on the streets of downtown Kensington. These papers pertained to my taxes. Luckily, the papers also included a stamped, addressed envelope. Bless your heart (and smarts) for seeing this information was important, taking the time to fold the papers, put them in the envelope, seal and then mail. Thank you. This is a good place to live.

A grateful Kensington resident

Kensington Outlook

Editor

Daniel S. Levine  
editor@kensingtonoutlook.com

Advertising Manager

Alma Key  
advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com

The Kensington Outlook is available online at [www.kensingtonoutlook.com](http://www.kensingtonoutlook.com) courtesy of [www.aboutkensington.com](http://www.aboutkensington.com)

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The Kensington Outlook is published ten times a year by the non-profit Kensington Community Council. It is published monthly except for combined December/January and July/August issues. For advertising rates, space, availability and size restrictions please call. The advertising and editorial deadline for the May issue is April 10. Send mail to: Kensington Outlook, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707. The Kensington Outlook welcomes letters to the editor and reserves the right to cut and edit those for clarity and length.

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Kensington Community Council

## Noise ordinance should ban the use of leaf blowers

To the editor:

Since Kensington is considering a noise ordinance, it would be nice if a banning of leaf blowers could be included with it.

Leaf blowers are noisy, polluting, and of no real value since the wind blows leaves back to where they came from shortly after the blower is turned off.

Japan, where these gadgets come from, outlawed their use. Several communities in the Bay Area have done the same. I know that police forces are worried about enforcement and the drain on their manpower, but this need not be a problem.

If the police were to distribute to each household leaflets that could be shown to offenders by dwellers in the area disturbed by the noise, that should do it. Also, neighbors could notify the homeowner on whose property the blower is used that they are illegal and that the homeowner should inform the gardener accordingly.

We should address these annoyances.

Sincerely  
Ed Spiller  
Kensington

## Annual photo of graduating high school seniors set

Graduating high school seniors who live in Kensington are invited to meet Saturday, May 15 at 2:30 p.m. at Kensington Park’s building E (beyond the tennis courts) for a group photograph. Pizza will follow.

The photograph will be published in the June issue of the Kensington Outlook.

For additional information, please contact Michelle Hellerstein at 524-2466.

## KCC acknowledges donation

The Kensington Community Council gratefully acknowledges a \$50 donation from Warren and Helen Tyron in memory of Albert B. Capron. The funds will be used to help support the education and recreation programs of the KCC.

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## Service district rejects request to help fund general plan amendment for ordinance

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District unanimously voted to deny a request the district contribute \$2,500 to pay a portion of the cost associated with enacting Kensington's planning ordinance.

The vote came at the district's March board meeting. It followed a legal opinion that such a donation from the district would like violate the California law and leave officials open to requirements that they repay the district out of their own pockets.

The ordinance, which is designed to protect property owners views, light and privacy from construction on neighboring properties, requires an amendment to the county's general plan. Though supervisor John Gioia secured \$15,000 from a developer's mitigation fund that will cover half the cost, Kensington must raise \$15,000 in matching funds.

The Kensington Property Owners Association, the Kensington Improvement

Club and the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council jointly made the request to the district. Already the KPOA and KIC each pledged \$5,000.

The opinion from Ray McDevitt of the San Francisco law firm Hanson Bridgett Marcus Vlahos & Rudy LLP warned that the district is limited to spending money only to further the particular purposes for which it was formed. This includes police protection, solid waste management and parks and recreation. Expenditures for other purposes could constitute a gift of public funds.

The Kensington Fire Protection District is expected to vote on a similar request made to it at its April meeting.

A representative for supervisor John Gioia said individual community members have stepped forward and offered to contribute to the cost and the decision by the board is not expected to pose a barrier to enacting the ordinance.

## Fire safety improvements could mean better insurance rates for Kensington homeowners

The actuarial and statistical and underwriting information provider ISO is upgrading Kensington's fire risk rating, a reflection to improvements made in fire prevention and protection.

The rating organization, which generally reviews communities' fire services once every ten years through its Public Protection Classification survey, will raise Kensington to a class 3 community as of June 1. ISO classifies communities on a 1 to 10 basis with 1 being the best. Currently Kensington is rated a class 4.

Most insurers use the classifications for underwriting and calculating premiums, although it is unclear what saving residents might realize from the change.

Separately, the Kensington Fire Protection District identified ten new locations for fire hydrants following a study of hydrant distances with the community in order to recommend ten new fire hydrants.

The new hydrants are part of the Kensington Water System Improvement Plan. The proposed locations for the new hydrants are: 228 Cambridge Ave., Arlmont Dr. and Marguerita Rd., 309 Rugby Ave., 81 Kingston Rd., 1625 Oak View Ave., 221 Colgate Ave., Cowper Ave and Kenilworth Dr., 124 Ardmore Rd., 221 Amherst Ave., 325 Vassar Ave.

During fiscal 2004, the district budgeted \$90,000 for the installation of additional hydrants throughout the community.

**The Kensington Fire Protection District will show its new fire engine during an open house May 1**

## NOISE: Call for objective standard not likely to be met

Continued from page 1

While the ordinance would prohibit construction prior to 7 a.m., one woman said it would not address the slamming of car doors and "male bonding" that happens before the workday officially begins.

Both Garfield and Kensington Municipal Advisory Council vice chairman Jim Carmen emphasized that the ordinance before the audience represented an early draft and would be undergoing changes. After county staff reviews it and makes recommendations, Carmen expects it to be

presented at another community meeting.

Kensington Property Owners Association president Gail Feldman called for a balance between the desire for quiet and the need of property owners to repair their homes and do landscaping. She also expressed concerns that people having a party in their backyard might risk a visit from the police under the ordinance.

"In general there's probably a reason to have portions of this ordinance approved," she said, "but I think it would be to the benefit of this community to have as simple a noise ordinance as possible."



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# Neighborhood Notes

## Spring Celebration puts bloom on KCC finances

The Kensington Community Council's Spring Celebration drew one of the biggest turnouts ever for the annual event and raised an estimated \$6,500.

The funds, which will support the group's education and recreation programs in Kensington, as well as the publication of this newspaper, will help close the \$9,000 budget deficit the organization has been fighting during the current fiscal year due to increases in workers' compensation insurance rates.

An estimated 100 people attended the event March 13, which was held in the evening for the first time in its 16 years.

Andronico's Market and Marvin Gardens Real Estate sponsored the event. The Mechanics Bank underwrote the decorations.

The businesses that provided food and beverages for the party included Arlington Wine & Spirits, Arlington Meat Market, Nations Foodservice, Inc., Inn Kensington,

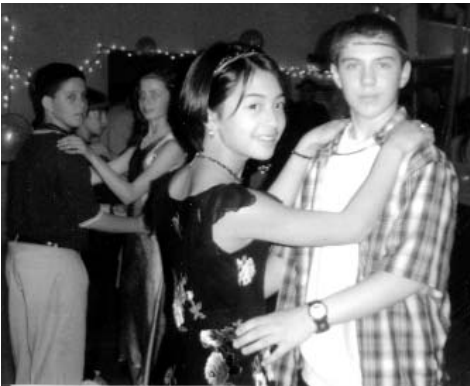


Sponsor Dee Andronico (center) talks with KCC president Don Specter (left) and board member Ted Blanckenburg.

The Junket, Virginia Bakery, Fat Apple's, SemiFreddi, Masse's Pastries, Shai's Delicatessen. Lisa Kirkby, Ying Lee, and John and Diane Gossard also provided food and drink.

Kensington Flower & Gift Shop provided flowers.

## Rite of passage: Hilltop sixth graders dance the night away



Rebecca Pangelina and Beau Cardall share a dance

Sixth grade students at the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School in February enjoyed their first school dance.

The annual rite of passage was made possible in part through donations from Acme breads, Albertsons, Colusa Market, Extreme Pizza, Kensington Flower & Gift Show, Krispy Kreme, La Val's Pizza, Phoenix Pastificio, Safeway-El Cerrito, Safeway-Albany, Semifreddi's, Shai's Deli, Virginia Bakery and Young's Market.

The dance donated leftovers to the Women's Shelter.

## Girl Scouts hit the pavement for annual cookie sale

Though there may not seem to be much of a connection between goats and thin mint cookies, there's actually a very direct one for Girl Scout Troop 1655.

The troop will take the proceeds from its cookie sales this year to buy goats for villages in third world countries.

The goats are used to produce cheese and milk. There was no mention if the troop would be supplying cookies to go along with the milk.



Kensington Troop 1655 selling outside Longs Drugs

## Gregory Littlejohn weds



Newlyweds Gregory and Meagan Littlejohn

Gregory Littlejohn, son of Kensington's David and Sheila Littlejohn, married Meagan Griffith March 8, 2004 at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley.

Gregory has worked as a chef in Nevada City, Calif. since 1997. It was there that he met Meagan, daughter of Janine Jones of Los Angeles. Meagan, a home-care nurse, was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, and raised in Pittsburgh and Los Angeles. The couple live with their dogs and cat on ten acres in Penn Valley, Calif.

## Wijsen to marry in Mexico

The parents of Marcella Nelly Charlotte Wijsen announced the marriage of their daughter to Channel Bingham Wasson April 17, 2004 in Los Barriles, Baja, Mexico. Marcella is a former resident of Kensington. Both Marcella and Channel Chip are graduates of The University of California at Berkeley. They will reside in San Francisco.

## Hertzer rows to victory

John Hertzer won the collegiate lightweight division of the Crash-B World Indoor Rowing Championship in Boston, Mass. Feb. 22. Competing against hundreds of athletes, John posted a winning time of 6:17 for a three-second margin of victory in the 2,000 meter race. The competition takes place on individual indoor rowing machines. John is a senior at Dartmouth College, where the college newspaper named him athlete of the week. He is the son of Kensington's Anna-Maria and J. David Hertzer.






David Hertzer




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# Kensington Community Education

## COME JOIN US AT KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP!

Located in the Berkeley hills at 59 Arlington Ave. in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in the Fall 2004. The camp runs from June 14, 2004 through August 20, 2004, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Campers enroll on a weekly basis. To ensure the best experience for each child, our camp has a maximum of 60 children per week. We employ one director, eight counselors, and a “specialty consultant” each week to work with the campers. Drop-ins are not permitted.

### Day Camp Staff Returns

Director Jessica Smith is returning for this year's camp along with head counselor Joe Starkey, Andrew Erdmann, Valeria Fike-Rosales, Teddy Firestone and Ryan Del La Rosa.

### COST

The cost for the Kensington Summer Day Camp is \$170.00 per week. This fee covers all transportation costs, snacks, entrance fees, activities and a KCC Summer Camp T-shirt for field trips. A limited number of partial scholarships will be available. All fees must be paid by the stated due date and before the week begins. Children whose parents or guardians have not paid fees in full may not attend until fees have been paid to the KCC administrator. Registration, emergency cards and release forms must be tendered prior to the start of the week. **A nonrefundable deposit of \$25 per child per week requested is required with the application.** The \$25 deposit is deducted from the balance due of camp. If a week is full and space is not available, applicants will be notified immediately. We cannot refund fees if a child drops out after a week begins.

### Brochures available

For further information or a brochure, please call KCC office at (510) 525-0292.

### SPECIAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE\*

**Carpentry with Sandy Thacker**  
Week 1 June 14 - June 18

**Carpentry with Sandy Thacker**  
Week 2 June 21 - June 25

**3D Painting, Clay & Paper Mache Work with Celeste Conner**  
Week 3 June 28 - July 2

**3D Painting, Clay & Paper Mache Work with Celeste Conner**  
Week 4 July 5 - July 9

**Gymnastics with Judy Baker**  
Week 5 July 12 - July 16

**Gymnastics with Judy Baker**  
Week 6 July 19 - July 23

**Drama with Kelly Donahue**  
Week 7 July 26 - July 30

**Drama with Kelly Donahue**  
Week 8 August 2 - August 6

**Treasure Boxes, Jewel Books & Fimo Treasurers with Celeste Conner**  
Week 9 August 9 - August 13

**Treasure Boxes, Jewel Books & Fimo Treasurers with Celeste Conner**  
Week 10 August 16 - August 20

Tennis with Alex Brown, three days a week.

### REGISTRATION

Registration will take place as follows:

Thursday, March 18, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
at the Community Center for Kensington residents & camp alumni.

Friday, March 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
KCC Office Kensington residents and camp alumni.

Monday, March 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Open registration.

Parents may register their children on a space available basis during KCC office hours.

### FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

June 16	The Jungle
June 23	Jelly Belly Factory & Bowling
June 30	Exploratorium
July 7	Scandia
July 14	San Francisco Zoo
July 21	The Jungle
July 28	A's Baseball Game
August 4	Waterworld
August 11	A's Baseball Game
August 18	Academy of Sciences



## Youth Classes

### KASEP

#### Kensington After School Enrichment Program

Building E, 59 Arlington Ave.  
Kensington, CA 94707-1037

OFFICE HOURS  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Monday to Friday  
Closed April 12 through April 16

Helen Horowitz, Director  
525-0292, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

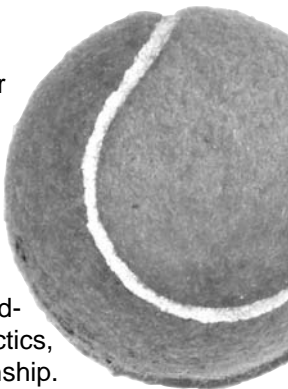
Elma Conley, On-Site Supervisor 525-0292, during class hours

Sandy Thacker, Curriculum Coordinator  
482-1258

SPRING SESSION  
Began on Monday, March 29, 2004.  
Classes may be joined in progress and fees will be prorated.

### Tennis

In this class for students in Grades 6,7,and 8, Alex Brown teaches the fundamentals of tennis, including strokes, tactics, and sportsmanship. Classes consist of instruction, drills, and play, and continue through the school year. Students must register by the month for one or two days a week.



### Instructor:

Alex Brown 524-5495

### Session:

Tuesdays and/or Thursdays  
3:40-5:00 p.m.

Fees (payable monthly):

\$10 per class/resident

\$11 per class/non-resident

### TENNIS COURTS

## Adult Classes

### TENNIS

Alex Brown, USPTA tennis pro, offers classes to a minimum of four students.

### To register

Call Alex Brown at (510) 524-5495.

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-10am**

5 classes/\$40 per resident

5 classes/\$45 per non-resident

**TENNIS COURTS (WEST COURT)**

### DOG OBEDIENCE

Handlers must be at least 14 years of age. Dogs must be at least five months old, have had all their shots, and be accustomed to a leash. Instructor: Lewis Cuccia (233-4500) Wednesdays Beginners: 7-8 p.m. Current session started: March 17 Next session begins: April 28 6 weeks: \$40 per resident/ \$45 per non-resident

Conformation: 8-8:45 p.m.

\$4/class

Intermediate/Advanced: 9-9:45 p.m.

\$4/class

COMMUNITY CENTER



### Instructor:

Barbara Ward

### Portrait

Thursdays, 7:00p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

### Still life:

Fridays, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Ongoing -- 8 weeks

\$200 for residents

\$220 for non-resident

### BUILDING E

### EXERCISE TO MUSIC

Non-impact aerobics; ongoing.

### Instructor:

Michele Dorntge

Monday, Tuesdays and Fridays

9 a.m. -10 a.m.

\$40/1 x week

\$80/2 x week,

\$120/3 x week

\$4.50 drop in

Non-residents add 10 percent

### COMMUNITY CENTER



### KCC

#### Kensington Community Council

Helen Horowitz, Administrator  
Kensington Community Council  
Building E, 59 Arlington Ave.  
Kensington, CA 94707-1037  
525-0292

### OFFICE HOURS

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.  
Closed April 12 through April 16

### NOTICES

To Register for Classes  
Call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits. Those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

### Tennis Court Reservations

Reservations are taken for weekends and holidays only. The earliest reservation is for 9 a.m. Fees are \$2 per hour for Kensington residents, \$5 for others.

### Community Center

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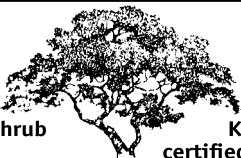
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Classroom Visits  
Welcome

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# Kensington Calendar

To air is divine



The Friends of The Kensington Library present author and aerial photographer Barrie Rokeach Monday, April 19 at 7 p.m. He will discuss his book **Time Escapes - California Aerial Images**, which features visually stunning and unique perspectives on California

**Sunday, April 4**  
**Personal Theology Seminar:** Minister Cathleen Cox Burneo: The Journey of a UU Christian and Pagan Mystic at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

**Tuesday, April 6**  
**Family Storytime** Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

**Monday, April 5**  
**Eight-week fiction workshop** begins at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd. Share and discuss you works in progress and discuss how the masters have handled the intersection of belief and literature with Willa Rabinovitch, fiction director of the Napa Valley Writers' Conference.

**Wednesday, April 7**  
**The Kensington Study Group of the League of Women Voters** - West Contra Costa County meets at the home of Sheila Lichtmans, 21 Camelot Court, Kensington. Call to confirm: 527-1332

**Wednesday, April 7**  
**Kensington Hilltop School** holds an informational meeting for parents of incoming 2004-2005 K-6 students as well as those interested in finding

out more about our school at 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the school at 90 Highland Blvd.in Kensington

**Thursday, April 8**  
**The El Cerrito Garden Club** holds its regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Kaye Rosso, docent of the Ruth Bancroft Garden, speaks on "Propagation of Succulents." \$3 at door. Info: 234-0135

**Thursday, April 8**  
**Grizzly Peak Flyfishers** holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m at the Kensington Community Center. Experts will demonstrate casting, fly tying, knot tying and insect identification. Info: 547-8629

**Thursday, April 8**  
**Kensington Community Service District** meets at the Kensington Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Call to confirm: 526-4141

**Friday, April 9**  
**A performance of Rutter's Requiem Mass** will be presented at 7 p.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

**Tuesday April 13**  
**Teresa LeYung Ryan's writers' forum** resumes at 7 p.m. at Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa Ave. Learn to polish your work or find an agent. \$10 to \$2- sliding scale donation to support the book-store. Info:559-9184 or www.bookpride.com

**Tuesday, April 13**  
**A discussion and book reading with Nona Mock Wyman**, author of Chopstick Childhood, a moving memoir which casts new light on a little-known Bay Area institution: the Ming Quong Home Orphanage at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Info:526-7512

**Tuesday, April 13**  
**Family Storytime** Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

**Wednesday, April 14**  
**Kensington Fire Protection District** meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 527-8395

**Sunday, April 18**  
**Personal Theology Seminar:** Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Separately author and tehologian Dody Donnelly on Modern Mystics. Both begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

**Monday, April 19**  
**Connie Lynch of MindWorks** talks about maintaining superior mental fitness for older adults at 1:30 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Info:526-7512

**Tuesday, April 20**  
**"Farewell to Winter, Hello to Spring"** with floral designer Charlotte Mayfield at the theme of the Spring Tea and Floral Design Presentation at the Berkeley Garden Club at 1 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley. Tickets \$8. Info: 524-4374

**Tuesday, April 20**  
**"Dream Interpretation, Past, Present and Future"** with Brother Brendan Madden of St. Mary's College at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Info: 526-7512

**Tuesday, April 20**  
The Friends of the Kensington Library present **Storyteller Maria Cartusciello** at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library Info: 524-3043

**Thursday, April 22**  
**The League of Women Voters** - West Contra Costa County holds its annual luncheon at Denny's restaurant, 11344 San Pablo Ave. in El Cerrito. Meeting begins at 11:30 and lunch at noon with guest speaker supervisor John Gioia. Cost is \$15. For reservations and info: 232-3767

**Saturday, April 24**  
**The Three Penny Players** perform for children and families at 11 a.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Info: 526-7512

**Saturday, April 24**  
**Kensington Symphony** with guest conductor Geoffrey Gallegos and young soloist competition winner Patrick Galvin perform Schubert, Vieuxtemps, Beethoven at 8 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury

Ave., El Cerrito. Suggested donation: \$10; seniors, \$8. Children free. Info: 534-4335.

**Sunday, April 25**  
**Personal Theology Seminar:** Bede Griffiths, Where East Meets West. Separately author and tehologian Dody Donnelly on Modern Mystics. Both begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

**Tuesday, April 27**  
**Family Storytime** Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, April 27**  
**Kensington Municipal Advisory Council** meets at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 526-5546

**Tuesday, April 27**  
**The El Cerrito Democratic Club** meets at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. Marshall Windmiller, professor emeritus of international relations at San Francisco State University and a Pacifica radio commentator speaks on Intelligence and Empire: its relation to foreign policy.


**Tuesday, April 27**  
**Readers Anonymous**, the library's book club, will discuss Leif Engler's Peace Like a River at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Info: 526-7512

**Wednesday, April 28**  
**The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club** will hold its regular meeting at Noon at Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito featuring a skit on "Famous Women in History." Luncheon \$15. Reservation deadline April 23. Info: 524-5689.

WWWWhat?

**Information Literacy:** a free series of programs at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue, teaches how to use a computer mouse, set up an e-mail account and do research online. The program runs Mondays from 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call to reserve a seat 524-3043

Join us this Easter  
as we celebrate  
and renew our life  
in the Spirit.




—Sunday, April 4, 10:00 a.m.—  
Service of Palms


—Maundy Thursday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.—  
Traditional Meal with communion


—Good Friday, April 9—  
• 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. •  
Sanctuary open for meditation  
• 7:00 p.m. •  
Rutter’s “Requiem”


—Easter Sunday, April 11, 6:00 a.m.—  
Sunrise Service (Near Kensington Hilltop School)  
• 10:00 a.m. •  
Easter Worship

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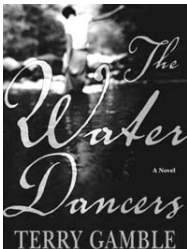


Kensington Library book recommendations

*The Water Dancers*  
by Terry Gamble

This fascinating insight into Indian culture takes place over a 40 year period, from 1945 to the mid 1990s. Rachael, a 16-year-old Indian orphan girl, is sent to work at the summer home of an upper class family on Lake Michigan. She becomes pregnant after a brief fling with their surviving son, a mentally and physically wounded World War II veteran. Over the succeeding decades, Rachael discovers her heritage, her son suffers from post traumatic stress disorder after service in Vietnam, and tragedy results when cultures clash. Gamble spins age-old themes into a compelling story that is difficult to put down and gives fresh insights into the challenges Native Americans face in trying to assimilate while still maintaining their cultural heritage.

-- Louise O'Dea



*The Story of Little Black Sambo*  
by Helen Bannerman

Long off library shelves because of its questionable use of terms that have become derogative and insulting to African Americans, this 1899 children's classic returns with glorious illustrations and a hero as brave and ingenious as his colorful clothes. While recent retellings of the tale have chosen to change Sambo's name, obscure his nationality or rework the story, this edition embraces the original text and with magnificent watercolors and softens the controversial text by creating a beautiful and courageous child who cleverly outwits his ferocious striped foes. A long afterword from the publisher explains in great detail the book's checkered past, but it's the lushly designed book itself that pays homage to its author's original intent.

-- Pamela McKay

Obituaries

Nancy Cuccia, dog trainer and teacher, dies at 65

Nancy Cuccia, who taught scores of Kensington dogs to sit, heel and stay, during the past 20 years, died Feb. 14 from cancer. She was 65.

Born in Albany and a graduate of Albany High School, Cuccia started breeding and showing dogs in the early 1960s with her husband Lewis. The couple's dog won numerous prizes and claimed four champions rated in the top ten in the United States during the last decade.

In addition to teaching dog training classes at the Kensington Community Center, Cuccia spent 35 years working as an office manager and assistant at the El Cerrito Pet Hospital.

She is survived by her husband Lewis, her sister Barbara Shea; brother Donald Brownell and children and their families Andrew and Liz Cuccia, Leo Cuccia, Vicky Cuccia and David Murphy and Dino and Susan Cuccia. She had seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Her husband continues to offer dog training classes at the Community Center.

Albert Capron, who shaped community life, dies at 85

Albert B. Capron, a longtime Kensington resident who helped establish the Kensington Community Center and the town's annual parade, died Feb. 20. He was 85.

Capron, a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, lived in Kensington for 54 years. During that time he served on the Kensington Community Council, the Friend of the Kensington Library and was the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department.

Along with his late wife Sue, Capron helped establish Kensington's summer program and the teenage drop-in program.

He also served for many years as the treasurer of the Richmond Food Pantry and the Oakland Museum History Guild.

He is survived by his children Ann Bornfleth of Walnut Creek, Lynn Hughes of Fountain Hill, Ariz.; seven grandchildren and one grandchild.

Donations may be sent to the Albert Capron, Rosa Gilmore Emergency Scholarship Fund at UC Berkeley, 2440 Bancroft Way #4200, Berkeley, CA 94720

Jeanne Tetrault, author and home designer, dies at 59

Jeanne Tetrault, an author, designer of homes and founder of two magazines, died Jan. 5 from a metastasized melanoma. She was 59.

A Kensington resident, Tetrault was born in St. Petersburg, Fla. She dropped out of Vassar College in her junior year and eventually moved out West. While farming in Albion, Calif. in 1975 she founded. *Country Women* magazine and a year later co-authored the book *Country Women, A Handbook for the New Farmer* (Doubleday, 1976).

In 1980 she moved to Berkeley where she joined Seven Sisters Construction Company. She worked as an independent contractor and designer of unique homes (one built outside of Paris, France) for over twenty years.

During that time, she edited a comprehensive anthology of women-built projects, *A Woman's Carpentry Book* (Doubleday,1980) and founded



Jeanne Tetrault and friend

*Tradeswomen Magazine* in 1980.

In 1999, Tetrault became a building inspector at the Contra Costa Building Department in Martinez where she worked in its neighborhood preservation program. She continued to write both fiction and non-fiction.

She is survived by her partner Jan Zaitlin, her husband Ben, their two children Joshua and Matthew and her brother Paul Tetrault.

Contributions can be sent to Best Friends Animal Society, 5001 Angel Canyon Road, Kanab, Utah, 84741.

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# From the case files of the KPD

*This report is based on the police logs of the Kensington Police Department. The Kensington Outlook is solely responsible for the writing and editing of this report.*

## Events in February

○A Coventry Road resident called police after she heard a popping sound in her house and feared a someone might have broken in. Police found the noise was caused by eggs left on the stove and said there was no sign of fowl play.

○A Highgate Rd. Resident apparently scared off a man attempting to break into an parked automobile by yelling at him.

○A Berkeley Park Blvd resident reported the theft of \$4,238 in property including an Apple Powerbook and a \$400 pair of sunglasses from his unlocked Toyota Forerunner.

○The owners of a 1994 BMW 740i body damage to his parked car on Berkeley Park Blvd.

○A man visiting a Kingston Rd. resident was charged with battery after he placed his girlfriend in a headlock and kicked her for refusing to give her his car keys. She bit him on the arm and on the back and hit him in the face. He fled the scene.

○Police arrested three men after stopping a car for running a stop sign. The driver, who was unlicensed, was arrested for a parole violation. Police arrested the other two men for possession of burglary tools and narcotics paraphanalialia.

○Police responded to a report of a door that had been open for two days on Norwood Ct. The owners were believed to be traveling. Police inspected the property and locked the door.

○A Kerr Ave. resident reported that two men in a white pick-up truck offered to sell her meat. Police checked with the men and found they were making meat deliveries and routinely sell any leftovers.

## MOVE: Meeting provided more questions than answers in relocation

*continued from page 1*

ing transportation, traffic safety, changes in school hours and after-school care.

“My frustration is that there are so many assumptions that haven't been finalized,” said one parent explaining the difficulty in supporting the move. “We all want to do what's in the best interest of our kids, but there are a lot of unanswered questions with all of these assumptions.”

Some parents pushed to have the district consider alternative locations, but part of the advantage to using the Portola site is that the district will realize savings because portable classrooms will be needed for Portola students once the Kensington construction is completed and Portola con-

○A Coventry Rd. resident who witnessed the theft of a 1991 Honda Civic valued at \$2,000 alerted police. The vehicle was later recovered by the Richmond Police Department.

○An El Cerrito man and woman were arrested on Colusa Ave. For possession of a controlled substance. The woman also had an outstanding warrant for petty theft.

○A York Ave. resident complained that someone had poured a substance on a mountain pine tree on his property. The tree had been a subject of controversy with neighbors.

○A Norwood Ave. resident reported that mail he had left in his mailbox for pick-up had been removed before the over the weekend before a mailman could have picked it up.

○The Kensington Chevron station reported the theft of seven plastic numbers valued at \$50 from its price board. Gas prices appear unaffected.

○A Windsor Ave. resident reported a rain-drenched man going door-to-door during a recent storm. The man was gathering signatures on behalf of a non-profit organization and was ill-prepared for the weather.

○Police cited a motorist for driving with a suspended license at 3 a.m. and towed his vehicle. The police drove the man and his passenger to the El Cerrito BART station.

○A Columbia Ave. resident reported men selling meat from a minivan. Police found the men were selling meat and also cited the driver for a driver’s license violation.

○Police arrested three men for auto theft, possession of a controlled substance and possession of burglary tools.

○A Sunset Dr. resident reported a woman knocked on her door around 6 a.m. and said she was lost and had spent the night in the driveway.

struction begins. The district would also realize savings from not having to perform the the Hilltop construction in phases if students are relocated.

Some parents asked if part of the savings the district would realize by the relocation could be used to pay for shuttle service and finance an art and music room already on the drawing board, but not now budgeted for by the district. Savidge indicated that it was a possibility.

The school board is expected to vote April 7 on preliminary approval of the plan. Final approval will depend on the outcome of a mandated environmental impact study.

“This is a solution that works,” said Savidge. “It's only for one year. You just have to keep saying that.”

## Classified Advertising

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