

Bringing The Community Together

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

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APRIL 2012

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VOLUME 69 NUMBER 3



Last month, the German International School of Silicon Valley – Berkeley Campus, held its 3rd annual German Family Karneval at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Kensington. Above, the Karneval staff – these folks know how to party!

3 Officers Promoted – 2 Directors Walk Out – 1 Shocked Community

At last month’s Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) meeting, in acknowledgement of excellence, and in accordance with the agreement negotiated between the KPPCSD and the Kensington Police Officers Association (KPOA) over more than 18 months of discussion, Chief Greg Harman publicly announced the promotion of Corporal Keith Barrow and Temporary Acting Sergeant Kevin Hui, each to the rank of Sergeant, and Sergeant Ricky Hull to the rank of Master Sergeant.

As the officers were introduced, they received a standing ovation from the audience, with two notable exceptions – in apparent protest of the promotions, Directors Cathie

Park Buildings Master Plan Final Report

Last August, the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) retained Muller & Caulfield Architects, in association with BAE Urban Economics, to evaluate potential repairs and future uses of the three buildings located in the Kensington Community Park – the Community Center, the Annex, and Building E.

The consultants were charged with the following tasks:

- Professional evaluation of the current physical state of the three buildings, along with recommended repairs and code upgrades;

- Assessment, with community input, of uses the buildings could serve;
- Proposal for renovations or new construction to meet community needs;

see Master Plan, Page 8...

see Promotions, Page 9...

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E

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Listing agent: Candace Hyde-Wang





630 Colusa Ave. Berkeley

Nearly new 4++br/3ba. Captivating views & elegant open plan. Eat-in chef's kitchen, luxurious master suite, large rec room, level garden. Thousand Oaks location. \$925,000.

Listing agents: Todd & Ron

6948 Wilson Way El Cerrito

Coming Soon! Well designed 4br/3ba mid-century home. Open living room/dining room with views of SF, bridges & Mt Tam. Kitchen with spacious eat-in/den area that opens to a secluded courtyard. Master bedroom includes large walk-in closet. Recently remodeled lower level. Price upon request.

Listing agent: Barbara Kaplan



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9:45 a.m. Egg Hunt

10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

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O U T L O O K

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another Invitation to Attend KPPCSD Meetings

At the last Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District public meeting, Director Kosel protested the promotion of several police officers immediately before the scheduled ceremony. Kosel questioned the right of Chief Harman to make the promotions without detailed board scrutiny. Kosel read a prepared list of a dozen plus questions. This seemed to shock the majority of those in the audience, including the families of all affected officers seated throughout the room.

Why did Director Kosel choose this moment to question the new ranks and fiscal impact of same? The board is on record having discussed the fiscal impact of the new ranks and agreed to them as part of the governing Memorandum of Understanding. The inappropriate behavior on the part of Director Kosel suggests a few possibilities: 1) She does not understand agreements and authorities previously approved by her board; 2) She could not determine or would not choose a way to voice her concerns earlier, through proper protocols; or 3) She persists in an effort to act as line management where her proper role – as in the case of all directors – is governance and setting policy. I believe it is the latter, as she continues to repeatedly distract the workings of the board with unproven allegations against the Chief of Police on what are relatively trivial matters. Given our increasingly great crime statistics of the last four years and improving budget this is quite counterproductive and begins to look irrational or vindictive.

I urge citizens to come to the District board meetings and get involved. The board needs to hear your voice.

Andrew Reed

Another Viewpoint on the Franciscan Way Debate

Editor, Kensington Outlook:

To the person who concluded her discussion of the Zero Tolerance policy with the comment, “If you don’t want a speeding ticket, then don’t speed. Simple!” I respond, “If you don’t want to feel threatened by traffic when you walk your dog on Franciscan Way, then don’t walk your dog on Franciscan Way. Simple!”

I had not heard of “Zero Tolerance” until a few weeks ago when I got my first traffic ticket since I moved to Kensington 35 years ago. I was irritated at the officer because I felt the ticket was unjustified. I forgave the officer when I heard about “Zero Tolerance,” and now blame the residents on Franciscan Way who pressured the KPD to overturn decades of police protocol on ticketing. Ok, I will admit I was over the speed limit, but not excessively so, because there were no pedestrians, dogs, cars, or other hazards on the road at the time.

IMO, the traffic safety concerns on FW are due to the fact that the road was not designed to accommodate pedestrians. Because there is an upslope on the east side and a downhill slope on the side adjacent to the cemetery, pedestrians have to

walk on the macadam surface and hop off when a car passes by. If pedestrians walk on or close to the edge of the road, they are going to feel uneasy even if speed is not an issue. I, and most other drivers I’ve met, slow down and give a wide berth to pedestrians on FW, but walkers won’t know that if their backs are to the approaching cars. Pedestrians feel most vulnerable when cars are approaching from both directions, even though there is ample room for two cars to pass a pedestrian simultaneously without danger. I have hiked the road, and suspect that pedestrians’ fear of traffic on the road is mostly illusionary, even though it is understandable. The only area I felt uneasy was at the curve onto Sunset. In my opinion, some people would be unable to walk on the road and feel perfectly at ease unless there were no traffic at all.

To the people who live on Franciscan Way, I understand your plight, and sympathize with your desire to walk on “your own road” instead of navigating the morass of weeds and other impediments that makes it difficult to walk alongside the road, but it’s just not practical to attempt to slow traffic with radar gun vigilantism, draconian barriers, or by pressuring the police into Orwellian ticketing policies in order to accommodate the few pedestrians who attempt to walk on a road that was not designed for walkers. My suggestion to you is to disband your police watchdog group and let the KPD do the work they were entrusted to do. After all, it’s their job, they are the professionals, and I sure don’t trust you to know how to handle a radar gun, or make the decision on when I am ordered to donate several hundred dollars to the traffic bureaucracy.

As I see it, there are only two options; you could find somewhere else where it’s safer to walk your dogs, or you could construct a walkway. I don’t think it would cost much to dig a trench for a drainpipe, cut a few feet into the uphill slope of Franciscan Way and construct a packed-gravel pathway. A concrete sidewalk would be even better. If the homeowners on Franciscan Way paid part of the cost, and together with the county agreed on a common retaining wall design to hold up the cut-bank for the complete stretch of road from Sunset to the top of the hill, then that would be a significant improvement to what is now an esthetically-challenged area (so is my home, but I’m working on it). The expense to the residents would be more than offset by the increase in the value of your homes, you could walk your dogs in peace, and drivers wouldn’t risk running over you for having to keep their eyes glued to their speedometers.

Don Hitchcock

And Another Request to Attend KPPCSD Meetings

I delivered the following letter to the KPPCSD Board at their March meeting, and would encourage the community to attend these meetings scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Community Center:

Dear Board Members,

I read the letter in the Outlook entitled John Stein KPPCSD Board Needs to Hear From You (Feb. 2012). That same

see Letters, Page 6...

The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors. They do not necessarily represent the opinion of The Outlook, its editor, or the publisher, the Kensington Community Council. Residents are invited to submit letters on matters of interest to the community. Letters must be signed and include the author’s address and telephone number. Publication is subject to space limitations. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. (Please note that modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after periods.)

K E N S I N G T O N

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Kensington Community Council’s After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) offers 56 different classes for children, kindergarten – sixth grades. Spring Session started Monday, March 19th and continues through to Friday, June 1st.

KASEP classes will not be held during Spring Break, April 9 – 13th.

KCC office hours are Monday – Friday, 10am – 4pm. We can be reached at kccrec@yahoo.com, or by calling 525-0292.

KCC SPRING BREAK: April 9-13th
LEGO MINDSTORM 2.0 ROBOTICS 1/2 DAY CAMP
MONDAY- FRIDAY
9:00am – 12:00pm
KCC Recreation Building, Room A

The feedback from families attending February’s Robotics Camp was overwhelmingly positive and a big thumbs up. Back by request, Peter Margolis (instructor) will host a 5-day camp during spring break, April 9 – 13th.

Grades 3- 6
Cost per session is \$175.00 for 5 days. This is an opportunity to build robots and program them to move, race, and compete. Each team of 2 students will use a laptop computer running LEGO Mindstorms 2.0 software. Students explore concepts in science, technology, and math by building and programming a self-designed project. No prior experience is necessary.

As an experienced, credentialed teacher, Peter Margolis provides hand-on instruction for beginners and students new to robotics and programming. Peter presently teaches LEGO Robotics in the after-school programs at both Harding and Fairmont Elementary Schools, located in WCCUSD. He holds a California secondary teaching credential for English, Social Science, and Business.

To register, call the KCC office at (510) 525-0292.

Nicki and Thomas Spillane
Andre and Natalia Kusubov

KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP 2012

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering 1st through 6th grades in the Fall 2012. The camp runs from June 11th through August 17, 2012, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00pm. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. Cost is \$225 per week/per camper. 5% Sibling discount. Extended care 8:00 – 9:00am and 5:00 – 6:00pm is available for an additional fee.

Each week campers enjoy a field trip by private bus to points of interest around the Bay Area such as Angel Island, Scandia, Oakland Zoo and the Bladium in Alameda. Kim Roots, our KASEP tennis instructor, continues to teach campers tennis 3 days a week. Different hand-on crafts such as carpentry, jewelry making, cooking and engineering are afternoon workshops taught by talented specialty teachers.

KCC Summer Camp Registration forms can be downloaded from the website www.AboutKensington.com

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE
Week 1 June 11– June 15
Carpentry with Sandy
The Jungle

Week 2 June 18 – June 22
Print Making with Allyson
Oakland Zoo

Week 3 June 25 – June 29
Engineering w/Lance Akiyama
Adventure Playground/
Fishing Berkeley Pier

Week 4 July 2 – July 6
Golf with Aida Wong
Camp Closed on 4th /Short Week \$190

ADULT RECREATION CLASSES

ACRYLIC PAINTING
Wednesdays, 9:45am - 1:30pm
\$32/month (\$36/nonresidents)
Community Center

Stan Cohen leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning adult artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting, with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited. Instructor approval required. To join this creative group, contact Stan directly at 533-3003.

BEGINNING WATERCOLOR
Marge Essel, Instructor
New Date and Time:
Fridays, 10am-Noon
Recreation Building, Room A
\$50.00 per month for Kensington residents, or \$54.00 for non-residents.
Drop-ins are welcome.

Start your day with creativity in a relaxed artful setting. Marge will teach basic drawing skills and help you develop your technique. Call KCC Office to register at 525-0292. Pre-registration required.

CLASS REGISTRATION

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Building E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. Email: kccrec@yahoo.com. Telephone: 510-525-0292.

Kensington Community Center Rental Information: Please call KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection & Community Services District) at 526-4141.

(Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances)

Week 5 July 9 – July 13
Gymnastics with Judy Baker
Lake Anza/Little Animal Farm

Week 6 July 16 - July 20
Cooking with Vicky Brodt
Bladium-Alameda: Soccer/
Rock Climbing

Week 7 July 23 – July 27
Hip Hop and Break Dancing
Scandia-Miniature golf

Week 8 July 30 – August 3
Sports & Games with Kim Roots
Lake Temescal/Baskin Robbins

Week 9 August 6 – August 10
Jewelry Making for Everyone w/Shelly
Angel Island Picnic and Exploration

Week 10 August 13 – August 17
Cooking with Vicky Brodt
Bladium-Alameda: Rock Climbing/
Inflatables

Graduating High School Seniors

Each year, *The Outlook* publishes a picture of Kensington students graduating from high school.

The annual picture-taking event is scheduled for Sunday, May 6th at 3pm at the Recreation Building.

Seniors from Berkeley, Albany and El Cerrito who attended Hilltop Elementary, come join us!

Sunday, May 6th, 3pm at the Recreation Building.

Thanks Continue to Our KCC Annual Fund Drive Contributors!

The KASEP Oversight Committee, below, is a group of parent volunteers who provide a great service to our community and are to be congratulated for their speed, enthusiasm, service and dedication. These are the faces behind the scene that make registration go so smoothly and quickly!



February’s Robotic Camp
Teams built, tested, and competed.
Lots of cheering and enthusiasm!



KASEP Tennis
Learning life-long skills.
Great form!



KASEP Art and Bookmaking
Carved Block Prints.
Wow - I made it!



KASEP Creative Drama
The art of dressing the part!



A big thanks to Anna Sira Ortiz, Cathy Wagoner, Michael Bahn, Suzie Kito, Becky Stephens, Kim Johnson, and Maya Woodson-Turman.

Market Update



29 Latham Lane, Berkeley
Mid-century Modern with Bay views.
Three bedrooms, two baths.
SOLD! Originally offered at \$775,000



210 Yale Avenue, Kensington
Traditional with view. Three-plus bedrooms,
three baths with in-law potential.
PENDING! Offered at \$1,395,000

Coming Soon

315 Vassar Avenue, Kensington
4++BR/3++BA. Bee Renovated latest preservation.
Classic Modernist showcase home with views!
Price upon request.

236 Cambridge Avenue, Kensington
3BR/2BA. Fabulous describes this stunning
updated home with panoramic views!
Price upon request.

1066 Keith Avenue, Berkeley
3+BR/2+BA. Special Brown Shingle with
beautiful updates on oversized parcel. Lush and
private setting. Separate in-law unit.
Offered at \$1,198,000

Buyer Needs:

- Berkeley, Kensington or Albany property in need of renovation. Buyer will pay market value. As is. All cash.
- Berkeley. Spanish or Mediterranean updated in move-in condition with views. 3 or 4 BR/2+BA. King School district.
- Berkeley. Fixer Duplex in the King School district under \$500,000.
- Albany (Hill). 3+BR/2+BA up to \$600,000.
- Berkeley or Upper Rockridge. 4+BR/3+BA with Bay views. New or high quality updates. Up to \$2,500,000.

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Lalia BenMohamed—French teacher, eighth grade advisor, and High School Counselor is a beloved educator with over 30 years of experience in the Bay Area.

“Lalia cares deeply about the kids and ensures that they have the best possible opportunities open to them. Her personal relationship with the students and her extensive knowledge of each high school were invaluable in determining the best fit for our child. We could not be happier with the process and the outcome.”
—K.H., parent



Please call the school for more information.

Elementary School (K-4)
510•236•5800

Middle School (5-8)
510•528•5800

WWW.PROSPECTSIERRA.ORG

Neighborhood Notes

Three Officers Promoted

At last month’s KPPCSD meeting, General Manager and Chief of Police, Greg Harman, announced the promotion of Sergeant Ricky Hull to the rank of Master Sergeant, Corporal Keith Barrow to the rank of Sergeant, and Temporary Acting Sergeant Kevin Hui to the rank of Sergeant. The officers received a standing ovation from the audience. (Left to right: Master Sgt. Ricky Hull, Sgt. Keith Barrow, Chief Greg Harman, and Sgt. Kevin Hui.) *Congratulations, Sergeants!*



GISSV 3rd Annual Karneval

Last month, the GISSV (German International School of Silicon Valley) - Berkeley Campus, held its third annual German Family Karneval. The event took place at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Kensington and featured the band Slim Pickens, a parade with Brazilian drummers, a silent auction with fabulous prizes, and authentic German food and drink. Everyone arrived in costume and ready to party! Organizers say they’re already looking forward to their 4th annual celebration next year.



A parade of Brazilian drummers headlined festivities at the GISSV Karneval

Pharmaceutical Disposal Program - Saturday, April 28

The Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD), in conjunction with in conjunction with the Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD), will be holding a free community pharmaceutical drop-off event on Saturday, April 28, 2012. They will be accepting unwanted/expired medications through the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency’s nationwide *Got Drugs?* program. Drop off is from noon to 4pm at the Kensington Fire Station, 217 Arlington Avenue. Fire Chief, Lance Maples informs us that they are now able to accept all medications, including narcotics, asks that residents be sure to put any unused sharps into a container, and requests no drop-offs at any other time. They do not accept any household hazardous waste. Lance advises everyone not to flush their unwanted medications down the toilet, as they will pollute our drinking water and ground soil. Unwanted medications left in your medicine cabinet put children and teens at risk. Call 215-4450 with any questions.



A local resident, Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Murphy, and (now) Sgt. Keith Barrow at last November’s Drug Take-Back Event

Location, Location, Location! – Kensington House \$1!

This charming handcrafted farmhouse, built by George Sideris, is the perfect home for dolls of all ages. The two-story home has a wrap-around porch, and the cozy interior features country style floral, plaid and striped wallpaper. Sideris, an 85-year-old retired technical writer, has recently taken to building dollhouses as a hobby. He donated this house to the Kensington Library in the hopes that it be used to raise money for the library. The Friends of the Library are hosting a raffle for this prime piece of real estate – all proceeds will be used to support the Kensington Library. The dollhouse will be on display at the library until Mother’s Day weekend, and at the Kensington Farmers’ Market on 4/15 and 5/6. Buy one ticket for \$1 or six tickets for \$5 – tickets are available at the library and at the Friends of the Kensington Library’s book sale on Mother’s Day weekend (5/12 & 13). The winning ticket will be drawn on Mother’s Day – winner need not be present to win.



Karaoke Now Monthly at The Arlington w/Doug Wilson

Officer Doug Wilson is not only a life saver (see “Hey Chief,” February 2012 Outlook), but is also quite an accomplished singer with his own CD, and, in his spare time, now leads Karaoke one Wednesday night a month at The Arlington Café. Enjoy coffee or dinner, some good music, and even sing a tune! March 28th, 6-10pm. Adult performers only (*with their clothes on, thank you*). Last month Doug was voted by his peers as *Kensington Police Department’s Officer of the Year*. As Kensington’s Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Doug arranged over 20 *National Night Out* parties last year, produces a *Neighborhood Watch* bulletin, and is the main component in the department’s community policing efforts. *All this, and he can sing, too!*



Life-savin’, neighborhood watchin’, Karaoke hostin’, officer-about-town, Doug Wilson

Neighborhood Notes

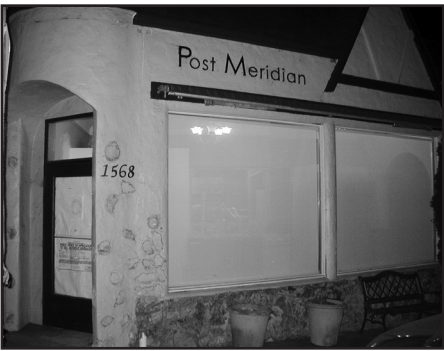
Nancy Skinner Honors Kensington's Chris Sorenson

Last month, on International Women's Day – and on the heels of the 100th anniversary of California women gaining the right to vote – Assembly Member Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) held the 3rd Annual AD 14 Women of the Year celebration, and presented awards to 15 extraordinary women and organizations that are strengthening our communities and increasing opportunities for women. Honorees were selected from nominations submitted by residents of Assembly District 14 – with our own Chris Sorenson among those singled out for an award. A multi-decade volunteer, Chris has been pivotal to improving education at Kensington Hilltop and Portola Schools and El Cerrito High; she led the PTA and presided over the Kensington Educational Foundation. A former Board Chair of Planned Parenthood Shasta-Diablo, Chris was instrumental in bringing Planned Parenthood's clinic to El Cerrito Plaza...Neighbors, community groups and civic leaders were invited by Skinner to submit nominations of women and women's organizations that have made a significant difference for women and girls in our communities. Last month's dinner was a celebration to recognize the accomplishments of these women before their families and friends. Honorees received copies of Keynote Speaker, Belva Davis' book, *Never in My Wildest Dreams*, documenting her history as a pioneering Bay Area woman journalist. *Congrats, Chris – and thank you!*



Post-Post Meridian

One night last month, workers were burning the midnight oil, revamping the recently closed Post Meridian restaurant on Colusa Circle. Chef-Owner, Robin Valerie Low regrettably decided to throw in the napkin after four and a half years. We wish her happy trails. A new pizza place is rumored to be on tap. *That's amore!*



Richmond Paratransit Serves Kensington, Too!

Richmond Paratransit provides safe and reliable transportation for seniors, 65 and older, and individuals with disabilities, so as to improve their access to community services and activities, decrease their experience of social isolation, and to enhance their abilities to remain living independently in their chosen communities. A one-way trip scheduled up to 10 days in advance costs 2 coupons (\$4). A one-way trip scheduled the same day costs 3 coupons (\$6). Coupons are sold in books of 10 and cost \$20.00. Coupon books must be purchased prior to booking a trip, in person, by mail, or by phone. The cashier's office is at 450 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor, Richmond, 94804. 620-5533. (You could take Paratransit to get there to purchase a book in person, but of course you'd need a coupon to do so.) *Ba-da-bing!*

Drama Docent Delivers Delightful Discussion

Last month, the Kensington Library hosted Dale Marshall, a docent from the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, who discussed the Theatre's recent product of Moliere's *A Doctor in Spite of Himself* – according to Berkeley Rep, "the traditional story of a girl feigning illness to avoid an unwanted wedding;" a story proving once again that love and laughter remain life's best medicine. *Take two and call us in the morning!*



'Kensington Past & Present' Update on New Edition

Work on the Centennial Edition of *Kensington Past and Present* continues. As mentioned herein last month, the complete update of this book about our community will include a new chapter covering those Kensington scientists, architects, chefs, artists, authors, residents and business owners, past and present, who are known outside of our borders. The Kensington Improvement Club, sponsor of the book, now tells us it is looking to build a list of Cal professors, past and present. The club invites your suggestions of categories and/or people, via email to kicpresident@gmail.com.

Kensington Artist Leads Art & Culture Visit to Kyoto

Local resident, Keiko Nelson, tells us that, in addition to being an exhibiting artist, she is also Kyoto's International Tourism Ambassador. She's leading a one-week tour and offering a discount to Kensington residents. "The true Kyoto lives off the map," she says, "in its back alleys and its well-tended secrets. I look forward to spending a week with you showing my Kyoto, this ancient capital of Japan that shaped my own art and my life." She invites you to experience Kyoto's inner secrets with her on what she promises will be an unforgettable journey. Contact Class One Travel, Inc. at 415-788-6121, or email info@ClassOneTravel.com.



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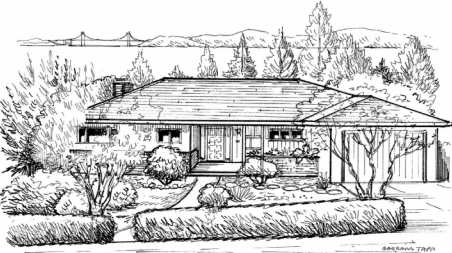
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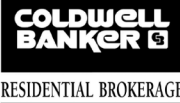
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KENSINGTON JEWEL WITH A BAY VIEW



20 Anson Way, Kensington




RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

COLDWELL BANKER

Rare four bedroom, three bath mid-century home on the market for the first time in 40 years. The 2,451 square foot home is sited on an 8,800 square foot lot. The family room opens to a spacious low maintenance garden, mature fruit trees and two decks. Plenty of storage. Kensington Hilltop Elementary School.

Listed at \$738,000.

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- PLANT SALE
- BIKE SALE
- PRIZES
- QUILT RAFFLE

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2012 • 11AM – 3PM

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO KENSINGTON HILLTOP SCHOOL

★ hilltopcarnival@gmail.com ★

★ Thank you Ruth Frassetto and the Grubb Company for your generous support. ★

Spring Vegetation Management Tips

Last October marked the 20-year anniversary of the 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Hills fire. Much of the street layout and topography in Kensington is similar to that in the Oakland/Berkeley hills. Fire District Ordinance and state law require all home and property owners – and renters – to remove flammable vegetation around their residences. Protecting your home *and the community* from the devastating effects of wildfire is your responsibility.

Kensington is in a *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone*. KFPD is requesting voluntary compliance and citizen involvement in the reduction of fire hazards in our community. Fire department personnel will check for compliance with these standards, beginning in May.

For the past several years, voluntary compliance by the community has been outstanding, and KFPD is looking forward to everyone's cooperation this year. If you need guidance in resolving a fire hazard on your property please contact the department at 215-4457 for assistance.

Taking Care of Business Since 2009

General Manager, Greg Harman reports that, as per the East Bay Regional Park District representative, the park restroom project has passed its final inspection.

The project and all required documentation has been accepted and approved, and Kensington can expect its \$100,000 reimbursement within the next month.

Thanks again go out to Andrew Mixer, Jack Griffith, and Italo Calpestri for all their work to complete this 3-year project.

Despite any rumors to the contrary, Greg has confirmed there is no additional funding available with the grant. Of the original \$258,000 grant allocation, \$100,000 was used for the restroom project, and \$158,000 remains to use for capital projects. There are 6 years remaining in which to use this funding.

Vegetation Management Tips

All Lots:

- Trim trees up 10 feet from the ground. Remove dead and dying branches, loose and papery bark, and fallen branches.
- Cut trees 10 feet back from chimney openings.
- Install a spark arrestor on all chimneys and stovepipes.
- Keep roof and decks free of leaves, needles, twigs, or other dead vegetation.
- Fire resistive plants and shrubs are recommended.
- All abatement must be maintained throughout fire season.

Large Lots:

- Maintain a 30-foot firebreak from all structures to property lines. Only well-tended, properly irrigated, ornamental vegetation is allowed. Remove all dead, diseased, or otherwise flammable material.
- For parcels that extend 30 to 100 feet from the house, reduce the height of flammable vegetation (grass and weeds to 6 inches or less; brush to 18 inches or less).

Full vegetation management guidelines and a list of recommended plants and trees are available at www.KensingtonFire.org/links.shtml.

Excerpted from The Fire Plug, published by the Kensington Fire Protection District.

"Sanity is madness put to good use."

— George Santayana

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Kensington Police Officers Association Letter in Support of COP/GM, Greg Harman

Chief of Police/General Manager Gregory Harman's contract is up for renewal soon (sic). Because of this, the Kensington Police Officer's Association (KPOA) met on February 14, 2012 and, by unanimous vote, elected to submit this letter of support for Chief Harman.

Based on many years of working with Chief Gregory Harman, we feel his level of competency and commitment to this department, community, and profession coupled with his extraordinary professionalism and knowledge of the law enforcement profession makes him an outstanding candidate for remaining in the position of Chief of Police for the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District.

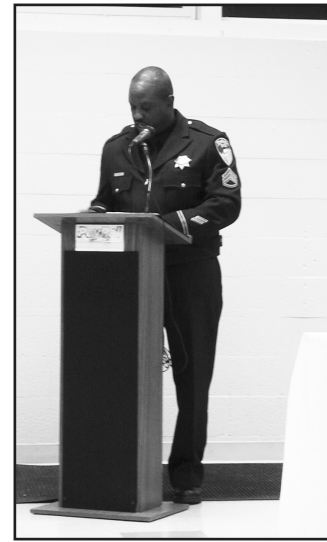
Chief Harman's leadership style is exemplary because it is demonstrated daily. Chief Harman has shown he can work with individual community

members, community organizations, the KPPCSD Board, the KPOA, County Agencies, and State Agencies, all while General Manager, and successfully so. Chief Harman has never lost sight of working to maintain and improve upon the quality of life Kensington residents enjoy.

From his years of service, Chief Harman has shown personal interest in this department, its people, and the community. Chief Harman's vision has resulted in KPD being able to deliver a better and more professional police service to the District of Kensington. Chief Harman and his ideas, decisions, and approach to law enforcement have directly contributed to making Kensington a safer community.

Sincerely,

*Keith Barrow, President
Kensington Police Officers Assoc.*



Master Sgt. Ricky Hull presented KPOA's letter in support of Chief Harman at last month's KPPCSD Meeting

Sunset view



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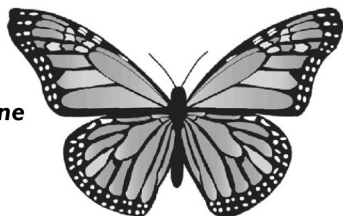
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Park Buildings Master Plan Final Report...Continued from Page 1

- Assessment of the costs of various alternatives;
- Evaluation of projected revenue for each potential use.

The design team, with input from the Park Buildings Committee, conducted meetings with the building users, two public meetings for the Kensington community, and an online survey of Kensington residents.

The Master Plan is conceptual in nature and should not be interpreted as the final detailed design for the buildings. Should funding sources be identified, and phases of the plan move forward, more detailed design for each structure would be required to establish the best total design solution – including issues such as storage, materials, finishes, etc. – to meet current and future user needs.

The consultants’ conclusions were these:

1. There is strong public sentiment, as expressed in community meetings and an on-line survey, to improve the buildings in Kensington Park.
2. Full implementation of the recommended Master Plan for both the Community Center and the Annex requires capital investment of approximately \$2.5 million. Minimal necessary renovation of the Community Center only could be completed for approximately \$700,000.
3. Similar to other public community buildings, revenue from event rentals will not pay for capital improvements, nor will it totally eliminate the annual operating deficit of approximately \$35,000.

BAE Urban Economics did a market analysis comparing rental facilities in other communities with the Kensington Community Center and analyzed the potential for improved revenues from the facilities.

The design team evaluated each building for code and safety problems and evaluated its suitability for continued use.

Options were developed for improvements for the Community Center and Annex.

Construction costs and project costs were estimated for each renovation option.

The most significant findings were as follows:

- The community expressed desire to improve the Community Center facilities and the Annex, balance public programming with private rentals, and provide discounts to residents and non-profits.
- Municipal community centers with a strong public programming component do not achieve a break-even bottom line from rentals. Therefore, decisions on facility investment cannot be made solely on a “return on investment” basis.
- Potential income from increased rental space will decrease the existing operational deficit, but is not a key determinant

in what to do with the buildings.

- The Community Center and Annex have code and safety problems needing repair, while Building E is OK.
- The Community Center has opportunities for improvements to both aesthetics and user circulation that will enhance user experience, increase program potential for celebrations and family events, and improve overall utility and enjoyment of the building.
- It would cost nearly as much to improve the Annex for community use (rather than a classroom) as it would to demolish and build a new building up to the current codes.



Proposed Community Center remodel. All this and more can be ours for \$2.5 million (Approx. \$1,000 per household.) Illustration: Muller & Caulfield Architects

Renovation Options

The design team used their own assessments, along with the public input, to define two or three options for repairs and upgrades to the buildings.

Option 1 is to “do as little as possible”, with no changes in the existing patterns of use. It includes repairs and code and life safety upgrades that are necessary or prudent for continued use of the buildings for the next 30 years.

- The Community Center bathrooms and kitchen would be brought up to meet accessibility and health codes.
- The Annex would be made accessible for continued classroom use (daycare or other classes).
- No work is needed for Building E.

Option 2 is to “do as much as is reasonable” to meet expressed community needs and to resolve some of the issues documented in the building assessment. It includes the repairs and upgrades of Option 1, but also includes modifications and limited building additions to improve the aesthetics and function of the buildings and increases their availability for

community use.

- The Community Center would be improved for large community meetings and ceremonies.
- The Annex would be made usable for some of the events and activities that currently take place in the main room of the Community Center.
- No work is suggested for Building E.

(The plans and illustrations submitted by the architects for Option 2 illustrate what is possible for each building, but are not a completed design. If the community decides to upgrade the buildings, the subsequent design phase will include an opportunity to refine or revise the design

and choose colors and materials.)

The Option 2 goal of increased rental use of the Community Center may not be achievable unless the Annex is also renovated to the Option 2 level. Some of the smaller existing weekend events at the Community Center must be moved to the Annex in order to free up the Community Center for other uses.

Option 3, an option to demolish the building, was defined only for the Annex.

Recommendations:

What: The consultants recommend improving the Community Center according to Option 2, which includes aesthetic and functional upgrades to the building, as well as code required improvements.

Why: Option 2 will address building code, safety, and maintenance issues, as well as provide better program and event support, improved aesthetics, comfort and energy efficiency and general community utility and enjoyment.

How: Develop the Community Center as one project if the funding can be secured. This will be the most efficient, cost effective, and least disruptive option. However,

phasing is also an option.

Cost: Estimated total project cost (for the Community Center) is \$1,405,050. If the project must be phased, the recommended first phase could be the main room and bathrooms for \$750,000, or the combined meeting rooms and bathrooms, for \$547,000.

What: Using the annex as a temporary structure during construction of the Community Center is recommended, followed by its demolition and construction of a new structure when program demand and funding are more clearly defined.

Why: There are currently no specific plans for programs to go into the building; demolition will reduce the ongoing expense and liability of a vacant building; a new building will cost little more than the defined renovation; a new structure can be more program-specific and better seismically.

How: Use the Annex as a temporary structure during construction of the Community Center, and possibly also as a temporary library during library renovation. Demolish after the temporary uses are complete.

Cost: Accessibility code compliance for temporary use: allow \$35,000 for site improvements. Monthly portable toilet rentals: \$600, including servicing.

- Demolition: \$14,000 to \$40,000
- Eventual replacement: \$1,135,000

What: Improve the Community Center to better accommodate use for special events. Raise rental rates, hire part-time staff, and institute recommended policies after the improvements are completed.

Why: Residents have expressed a desire to have a facility that they could reserve for special functions such as weddings or family celebrations.

• Once building improvements are made, rental rates and the number of rental events can be increased, and the additional income would decrease the current operating deficit.

• Increased rental income will pay for the additional staff hours, even though it will not totally eliminate the current operating deficit.

Excerpted from the Kensington Park Buildings Master Plan, submitted to KPPCSD by Muller & Caulfield, in association with BAE Urban Economics, and the report to the KPPCSD Board by the Ad Hoc Buildings Committee. The entire Master Plan is available at: www.kensingtoncalifornia.org. (Scroll down the page to KPPCSD Regular Board Meeting Agenda for March 8, 2012; a link to the report is in the 2nd paragraph of that item.)

The KPPCSD Board has empowered the Buildings Committee to research methods of appropriate public and private fund raising to implement the goals and objectives of the Master Plan.

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...Promotions, from Page 1

Kosel and Mari Metcalf left the room.

When the promotion ceremony was announced at the beginning of the meeting, Cathie had presented a laundry list of her concerns about the promotions: 1) an allegation that they were not consistent with the Board’s Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the POA; 2) that they were “without justification;” 3) that they appeared to install an inverted pyramid organizational chart, with five people supervising four people; and 4) that the fiscal impact of the plan had not been detailed.

Cathie said she was unclear on 5) what the review process was for promotion and identification of the need for additional supervisory positions, 6) whether there had been other internal or external candidates, 7) whether these were probationary positions, and if so, for how long, 8) whether help from outside the department was used to evaluate the candidates; 9) whether or not there were job descriptions for the positions into which the officers were promoted, 10) whether the jobs had been posted internally and externally, 11) why the Master Sergeant position had been created, and 12) whether or not the Board had ever authorized such a position.

In addition, she maintained that the Board had never been consulted about the promotions, but only learned about them when the KPPCSD meeting agenda was published, approximately a week prior to the March meeting.

“There was absolutely no background provided with the agenda. There are too many questions to proceed with this, this evening,” Cathie opined. Mari Metcalf said, “I’d like to echo Cathie’s concerns.”

When asked by Cathie to respond to her concerns about the promotions, Chief/GM Harman said, “I don’t know where Directors Kosel and Metcalf are getting their comments from because the Board negotiated the contract with the KPOA – for the Master Sergeant and the two sergeants positions (as well as for a currently unfilled corporal position). As far as the promotional process, that too has been vetted by the POA and myself. We have no issues between us regarding these promotions. They’re well-deserved and have been approved by the Board...The fiscal impact was reported to the Board during negotiations.”

The discussion that ensued included these exchanges:

Kosel (to Harman): “Why do you have 5 people supervising 4 people?”

Audience Member (to Kosel): “Why did

you approve it?”

Kosel: “We didn’t.”

Harman: “The Board approved the contract.”

Director Linda Lipscomb (over interruptions by Kosel): “All directors were present in the room when these positions were added to the KPOA contract. All directors requested the fiscal impact at that time... (I)t was agreed by all directors present that this was a very good deal for the citizens of Kensington, and that the KPOA had been particularly flexible in approaching this contract period running to June 2013, by shaping the interior structure of the dept to provid(e) (for) our small department a place of respect and reward for existing officers...with a minimum impact on our fiscal resources. This has been approved by all directors. I see no impediment to going forward with these promotions.”

President Chuck Toombs: “This is a matter of the Chief’s discretion. We (the Board) provided for these positions, we provided for the promotional opportunities. The Chief administers them as he sees fit. I don’t think we’re going to have five cops...managing four cops; that’s not how it’s going to work, as I understand it. The Chief can explain whatever management structure he envisions here – he runs the force; we run him.

“I don’t know why we’re having this debate at this point, considering we’ve spent a long time getting the MOU exactly in the shape it is, which provides for these very positions we’re talking about. We explained the fiscal impact during negotiations; all board members knew what the fiscal impact was. It was a negotiation of equal sides between the KPOA and the District. It was reasoned, and it was approved by the Board as a whole.”

Chuck ended the discussion and asked the Chief to begin the ceremony, at which time Cathie and Mari walked out of the room.

Cathie’s reservations are all debatable points – though it appears that there was plenty of opportunity to raise them for discussion over the course of 18 months of meetings spent negotiating the contract that ultimately called for the new positions to be created, and the contract’s subsequent endorsement by Cathie and Mari, along with all other board members. *The Outlook* found her questions to be satisfactorily addressed when put to the Chief in a telephone conversation subsequent to the March meeting.

One resident had this to say: “If Director Kosel had questions about the promotions, why didn’t she stay in the room to hear the

see Promotions, Page 12...

From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From February 2012

- 2012-0818 – On 2/1/2012, Acting Sergeant Hui responded to the unit blk of Stratford Rd. on a report of a residential burglary.
- 2012-0834 – On 2/2/2012, Officer Martinez responded to the unit blk of Franciscan Way on a report of a petty theft.
- 2012-0840 – On 2/2/2012, Officer Martinez responded to the unit blk of Franciscan Way on a report of financial abuse of an elderly subject.
- 2012-0878 – On 2/4/2012, Officer Martinez responded to the 1600 blk of Oak View Ave. on a report of a petty theft.
- 2012-0993 – On 2/9/2012, Officer Martinez responded to the 300 blk of Colusa Ave. on a report of a commercial burglary.
- 2012-0994 – On 2/9/2012, Officer Martinez responded to the 200 blk of Lake Dr. on a report of a petty theft.
- 2012-0980 – On 2-8-2012, Detective Barrow was contacted by a juvenile in the City of El Cerrito, who reported a possible failed abduction attempt.
- 2012-1063 – On 2-12-2012, Officer Turner conducted a traffic enforcement stop and arrested the driver who had a misdemeanor traffic warrant from Pleasanton PD.
- 2012-1081 – On 2-13-2012, Officer Turner responded to the unit block of Kingston Dr. to a report of robbery.



- 2012-1101 – On 2-14-2012, Officer Turner and Officer Ramos were responding to assist ECPD with a home invasion. While they were enroute, the suspect carjacked a vehicle and drove at high rates of speed into Kensington. The suspect almost collided with one KPD officer and carjacked a second vehicle from a Kensington resident, with a gun. Driving this vehicle erratically and at high rates of speed, the suspect almost collided with a second KPD officer. A pursuit ensued but the suspect eluded capture. The suspect subsequently committed similar crimes in the cities of Martinez and Vacaville before he was located in Richmond later in the evening. Another pursuit ensued whereby the suspect stole a Richmond patrol vehicle and attempted to evade capture. This pursuit ended with the suspect’s arrest in the city of Richmond.
- 2012-1103 – On 2-14-2012, Reserve Armanino responded to the 1600 block of Ocean View Ave. to a report of theft from a vehicle.
- 2012-1257 – On 2-20-2012, Officer Turner responded to the 1600 block of Oak View Ave. to a report of a dog bite.
- 2012-1261 – On 2-20-2012, a Berkeley resident came to KPD to report she was a victim of identity theft. Officer Turner took a courtesy report for the Berkeley Police Department.



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• LENTEN THEME: “Renewed Living” •

• Palm Sunday, April 1, 10:00 a.m. •
Renew the Story with our joyous
Procession of the Palms.

• Maundy Thursday, April 5, 6:00 p.m. •
Renew the Past with a ritual dinner and worship.

• Good Friday, April 6, 12-3:00 p.m. •
Renew the Passion of the World
through meditative worship.

• Easter Sunday, April 8 •
Renew your Relationship with God
in our 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service on the Patio,
or 10:00 a.m. Worship with Children.

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Proposed New Annex, looking east from the service road off The Arlington.
Illustration: Muller & Caulfield Architects

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April 1 Palm Sunday/Communion Service at the Arlington Community Church. 10am. All are welcome. Info 526-9146.

April 1 Personal Theology Seminar: Rev. Cathleen Diane Cox, Community Minister at UUCB. “The Parables of Jesus: Radical Social Activism at Work.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, One Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

April 1 Trombone quartet, Trombonga, appears at the Kensington Farmers Market, Colusa Circle at Oak View Ave. Free. Noon-2pm

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Kensington Farmers’ Market. Live produce and live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle at Oak View Ave. 847-0801 or KensingtonFarmersMarket.org

April 2 “Castoffs” Knitting Group. All levels welcome and some help provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.


April 3, 10 & 17 New Day: Family Story Time. Fun stories, songs & rhymes for young children and their families. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 4: The Power of Myth at the Movies: Wings of Desire (1987). View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7-9 pm. \$7. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302, www.uucb.org

April 4, 11, 18, 25 Yoga at the Arlington Community Church. All ages. 4:45-6pm. Drop-ins welcome; small fee. Call Antonia Fokken at 381-0997.

April 5 Maundy Thursday Service at the Arlington Community Church. 7pm. All are welcome. Info: 526-9146.

April 5, 12, & 19 Baby & Toddler Story Time. Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.



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Nicholas Carlozzi performs as piano soloist in his *When in Our Music for piano, chorus and orchestra*. Saturday, April 21st at 8pm Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley 1 Lawson Road, Kensington

April 5, 12, 19, 26 In My Craft or Sullen Art: Helene’s Own Poems. Helene Knox, published poet and teacher, offers an inside look at how a serious poet composes and gives readings of a wide range of poems and how they evolve and change over time. Includes class discussions. 3:30-5pm. Suggested fee \$40. To register: hknox@juno.com or 654-1667. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302, www.uucb.org

April 6 Good Friday Service at the Arlington Community Church. 12pm. All are welcome. Info 526-9146.

April 6 & 7 Ethical Will led by Rev. Jane Ramsey. What would you want your legacy to be? What can you leave your loved ones that can last beyond all material possession? Come learn about ethical wills and how to write one. 10am-noon. Suggested fee: \$35. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. (4/6 class repeats on 4/7) Information: 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

April 7 KFPD Community Shredding Event. Bring old files and papers to be securely disposed of and recycled. *Vial of Life* and 24-hr Emergency Kits on hand for those who have not received them yet. Mobile Document shredding truck, 10am-2pm, Community Center/Kensington Library parking lot. Free. More information at 215-4450.

April 7 Bunnies at Berkeley Animal Shelter. Check out the rabbits rescued by the Berkeley shelter that are now available for adoption. Learn about feeding, grooming, playtime, and medical needs of house rabbits. Don’t buy an Easter bunny – Adopt! 11am-3pm, Berkeley Animal Care Services, 2013-2nd Street, Berkeley. Info: 981-6600

April 7 & 8, Make Mine Chocolate Easter Celebration Open House. Celebrate Easter without buying a baby bunny! Learn how to make your own *Peeps*, join the Bunnies ‘n Books Reading Club for a reading and discussion of Beatrix Potter’s classic *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, and enjoy our annual wine and chocolate tasting bar (milk and coffee also available) 2-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC. 356-4233

April 8 Easter Sunday Services at the Arlington Community Church. Early service at 7:30am on the patio; plus traditional service at 10am. All are welcome. Info 526-9146.

April 8 Knitting at the Arlington Community Church. 11:30am. Knit shawls, hats, scarves and mittens for those in need. We pray over each item before giving it away. Info: 526-9146.

April 9 Patient Advocate Program. Linda Garvin, a Nurse Health Advocate, will speak on how to derive the most benefit from a doctor’s appointment. She is experienced in patient advocacy, wellness, chronic care management and pain management. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 10 Bruce Gagnon on “Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space.” Hear the founder of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space explain the military science, as well as the moral dilemmas, involved in the United States’ stated goal of “full spectrum dominance” of Earth’s land, sea, air, and space. Sponsored by the BFUU Social Justice Committee. 7pm, Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists’ Hall, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. \$5-10 suggested. No one turned away. W/chair access. www.bfuu.org or www.space4peace.org. 841-4824

April 12 Women’s Fellowship at the Arlington Community Church. 6pm. Join us for a potluck, wine and good conversation. Info 526-9146.

April 12 Book Study Group meeting in the Fireside Room at the Arlington Community Church. 6:00-7:30pm. This four-session evening group will come together to reflect on the spiritual life using Fr. Richards Rohr’s book, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for Two Halves of Life* as a framework. Info 526-9146.


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KENSINGTON KALENDAR

April 12 The Water is Wide: Songs of the Oceans and Rivers. Sing along as folk singer, Tim Holt performs and discusses our heritage of traditional songs and sea chanteys. 7pm, El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. EC. Sponsored by the Friends of the El Cerrito Library. Information at 526-7512.

April 14 Bay Area Classical Harmonies Presents Two Masterpieces – Henry Purcell’s 1688 opus *Dido and Aeneas*, the seminal work of English-language opera, and one of the most tragic love stories of all time – fully-orchestrated and semi-staged; Paired on the program with Tchaikovsky’s *Serenade for Strings in C*. \$25 in advance or \$30 door/\$15 Student. 8pm, Arlington Community Church. Tickets at: <http://bacharlington.eventbrite.com>.

April 14 CPR/First Aid Classes. CPR 9am-noon; First Aid 1-4pm. \$26 for either class. Register at 215-4450 or email KensingtonFirePD@aol.com.

April 15 Personal Theology Seminar: Stan Klein, Physicist and Professor of Neuroscience at UC Berkeley, believes progressive religion can be a strong force for enabling a healthy, sustainable society. “The Duality Principle: How Science and Religion Can Help Each Other.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, One Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

April 17th Berkeley Garden Club’s Annual Spring Tea. Includes silent auction of garden/gardening books, jewelry, and other items, and a raffle of flower arrangements a la “Bouquets to Art.” Non-members \$5. 1-3pm, at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany.

April 18 & 25 Potluck Community Dinner and Spirit and the Arts Program at the Arlington Community Church. Potluck for everyone; families welcome. 5:30pm. Spirit and the Arts Program for children at 6-9pm. Children’s Choir with Shanti Moorjani; dancing and acting with Rev. Dr. Michael Mansfield. \$50 for materials. Info: 526-9146

April 21 El Cerrito’s Annual Earth Day Work Parties & Volunteer Lunch. The City of El Cerrito welcomes hundreds of volunteers to help pull weeds at Baxter creek, remove invasive scotch broom from the Hillside Nature Area or along Moeser Lane, pick up litter along the Ohlone Greenway, tidy parks, and promote a local healthy environment. From 9am at many EC locations. www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?NID=645

*“Life is a rollercoaster.
Try to eat a light lunch.”*

– David A. Schmaltz



Trombonga plays April 1st and 27th.
Pat Mullan, Curtiss Mays, Justin Mar,
David Hemphill. Photo: Linda Hanson.

April 21 Berkeley Earth Day. Sing Out with *Occupella*, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center’s *Earth Day Dance*, *The Stairwell Sisters*, and *The Bad Goods* perform + Farmer’s Market, climbing wall, veggie food court, craft- and community booths, and more. Noon-5pm, Civic Center Park, MLK & Allston Way. 1 block west of Berkeley BART. Valet bike parking. www.hesternet.net/events.html

April 21 Rainy Day Story and Craft. Ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11:15am. Free. More information at 524-3043.

April 21 Franciscan Mysticism: Why is it Unique? is the first of Richard Rohr’s 2012 four-part webcast series. It will be shown in the Social Hall at the Arlington Community Church at 9am. The webinars can also be viewed from your home. Suggested donation for the whole series: \$10. Info 526-9146.

April 21 Kensington Symphony Orchestra and Luminescence Choir of UUCB, present works by Mozart, Elgar, Sibelius, Hoiby, and Vaughn Williams, plus premieres of choral-orchestral works by their respective Composers-in-Residence, featuring singers from the Golden Gate Boys Choir and UUCB Youth and Children’s Choir; and pianist, Nicholas Carlozzi. 8pm, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. \$20 at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/235192 or at the door; no one turned away for lack of funds. Free parking. Wheelchair accessible. Info: www.kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org. or 525-0302.

April 21 & 22, Celebrate Work Day on Earth Day at RabbitEARS. Volunteer to work in the garden, plant critter-friendly veggies and sunflowers for the bees, make rabbit poop paper, make critter toys from recycled materials, socialize the critters, make posters, clean habitat, learn how you can become a humane educator through our *No Bunny Left Behind* Community Literacy Program. 11am-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC. 356-4233

April 22: Personal Theology Seminar: Cordell Sloan, dream expert, jazz singer, and UUCB friend, will share his home recipe for turning life’s lemons (personal challenges) into lemon meringue pie through Emotional Freedom Technique, Neurolinguistic Programming, Focusing, etc. “Easy As Pie.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

April 23 Book Club Discussion of D.H. Lawrence’s *Sons and Lovers*. 4th Mondays. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 24 Animals at the Library. Come to the library for “Fur, Scales, and Tails.” Meet Tracy Hill and his fuzzy, scaly, and feathery animal friends. All ages. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 26 Five Senses and the Farmer’s Market. Use your five senses to learn about fruits and veggies from the local Kensington Farmer’s Market. Hear a story, see lots of colors, feel some peels, smell yummy scents and get a taste to go. Children ages 2-5 and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 10:30am. Free. 524-3043.

April 27 Bridge at the Arlington Community Church. Potluck at 5:30pm. No experience necessary. 526-9146.

April 27 Trombonga, the trombone quartet, returns to The Arlington Cafe, 269 The Arlington, in its continuing “Cafe Society Tour.” 6:30-8:30pm. Supper options, snacks and drinks. All ages welcome, bistro-style.

April 28 Karaoke with Officer Doug Wilson hosting, at The Arlington Cafe, 6-10pm. (Adult performers only.) Free.

April 28 The University of California Alumni Chorus presents “C U in Cuba”—a pre-tour concert of American and Cuban music. *The Alumni Chorus* will be joined by the premier student group, *Perfect Fifth*, and the *UC Men’s and Women’s Chorales*. 3pm, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana St. \$20/\$15 students, seniors, and disabled. UC Berkeley students, \$6. At the door or in advance at 642-3880 (by 12:30pm, 4/27). Info: www.ucac.net

April 28 Community Pharmaceutical Drop-Off Event, presented by KFPD, in conjunction with KPPCSD. Accepting unwanted/expired medications through the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency’s “Got Drugs?” nationwide-program. Noon-4pm at the Kensington Fire Station, 217 Arlington Avenue. Free. Info: 215-4450.

April 29 Personal Theology Seminar: Shamanist practitioner, Ann Riley, on “Shamanism for Today’s World.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302, www.uucb.org

May 1 Beading for Teens. Expert beader, Yolanda Seay, teaches teens how to make the “Double Wrap Bracelet.” For students in grades six through twelve. 4:30-6pm, El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., EC. Call the library to sign up or register online at ccclib.org. 526-7512. Sponsored by the Friends of the El Cerrito Library.



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Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

KCC - April 2nd
Kensington Community Council
7:30pm • 525-0292 • 1st Mondays

FKL - April 3rd
Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm at the Library, 61 Arlington Avenue. 1st Tuesdays

KPSC - April 9th
Kensington Public Safety Council
EQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays 6:30pm. 501-8165

KFPD - April 11th
Fire Protection District
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD - April 12th
Police Protection and Community Services District
2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

KIC - April 23rd
Kensington Improvement Club
4th Mondays 7:30pm. 527-3062

KMAC - April 24th
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tuesdays 7pm.

KARO/ECHO - May 14th
Amateur Radio Operators
2nd Mondays of odd months.
7:30pm. 524-9815

KPOA
Property Owners Association
Meets quarterly. 559-8232

KFM
Kensington Farmers’ Market
Sundays, 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle at Oak View Ave. 847-0801 or KensingtonFarmersMarket.org



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...Promotions, from Page 9

Chief’s reasons for the promotions, which were explained in some detail to the audience? Did she forget in March that in January she voted to approve a new contract that specifically provided for new ranks so that promotions could be made? Why is she raising questions about posting these openings – there were no new positions created in the contract, and these were not job openings in the Police Department. These were promotions in rank of currently employed officers, based on merit and years of service. It is anybody’s guess what Cathie is trying to achieve with these questions, but it does seem clear that she is contradicting her own vote of just two months ago, and wasting the time of Chief Harman and the taxpayers.”

The Board has met in closed session – with Cathie present – to discuss the recently ratified contract with the POA a minimum of nine times since August of 2010. Five of those meetings have taken place since Mari was elected to the Board.

Below is an excerpt of the January 2012 minutes which summarize the Board’s

discussion of, and action taken on, the POA - District MOU. (These minutes were approved by the Board at the February meeting.) Salient passages (**in bold**) show that the agreement was discussed at the January meeting – including the creation of two new positions, the fiscal impact of such additions – and the agreement ratified unanimously by the Board:

DISTRICT - NEW BUSINESS #1 – **The Board will discuss the proposed Extension Agreement between the District and the KPOA...**President Toombs said that the Board had been working for some time with the KPOA and had reached an agreement. In short, he said that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is left pretty much as is and will be in effect from July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2013...**He also said there were no new wage increases but noted two positions are being created: Master Sergeant and Corporal.** He noted that Detective Keith Barrow had been promoted to Corporal but the MOU did not have a Corporal rank in it. **He said that the Master Sergeant monthly**

see Promotions, Page 13...

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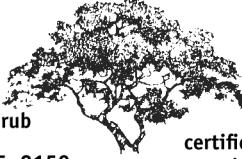


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...Promotions, from Page 12

starting salary was \$7,614.05, which is 3% above current step grade for a Sergeant. He said that the monthly step two for a Master Sergeant is \$7,842.47. The monthly base pay for a corporal would be \$6,576.71, with no step increase. He noted that this represented a 2% increase over an officer's top pay grade. He also said the new salaries are not retroactive but would be in effect January 1, 2012. He noted that this new MOU was a substantial savings for the District as the incremental cost to the District is about \$20,000 over the three years. He said the KPOA had already approved the proposed MOU extension.

Director Kosel thanked all the negotiators from both sides and said she thought they came up with a fair deal. Her one disappointment, she said, is that this proposal does not address the...unsustainability of th(e) retirement plan.

President Toombs moved that the extension agreement as presented be passed by this Board of Directors, executed by the District, and submitted to KPOA for its execution as well...YES: Toombs, Lipscomb, Lloyd, Cosel, Metcalf.

Many in the audience reportedly felt Cathie and Mari had embarrassed themselves and the community in front of the officers' friends and families, who had come to see their loved ones recognized.

Other residents said they found it difficult to understand how these two directors could sit through months of meetings overseeing the negotiations of a contract without apparently understanding key portions of it or having their reservations about the contract addressed; then ultimately vote to approve it, only to complain about it later – and treat with such disrespect the public servants whom they are charged with overseeing when the results of that Board-endorsed policy came to fruition.



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