

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

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Volume 60 Number 10

Tauscher defends vote on \$87 billion package for Iraq

Democratic congresswoman blasts Bush, but says money will bring troops home sooner

Democratic congresswoman Ellen Tauscher offered sharp criticism of the Bush administration's policy in Iraq as she defended her vote in favor of the \$87 billion package to continue operations there and in Afghanistan.

"This is a mess. Did we make it a mess? Yes," Tauscher said of the situation in Iraq during comments last month at the Kensington Improvement Club's annual meeting. "We've broken this china and we own it."

It was the four-term congresswoman's first formal appearance in Kensington since she began representing the community in her cur-

rent term following reapportionment. Tauscher spoke to a receptive standing-room-only crowd at the Kensington Community Center.

She used the opportunity to introduce herself to her new constituents in Kensington and began with a brief autobiography before launching into her attack on the administration for the way it "baited and switched" the country into war and its failure to win support in the United Nations.

Nevertheless, she said, now that we were there it is necessary to provide the additional funding to support U.S. troops.

"We have soldiers, sailors and airmen in the field who don't have the equipment they need to come home safely," she said. "Why I supported the \$87 million is so our soldiers can come home sooner, safer and with honor."

Tauscher said she believed the \$20 billion

dollar portion of the appropriations for rebuilding efforts should have been structured as a loan, but the administration defeated efforts to do so.

The audience seemed very focused on issues surround Iraq. Most of the questions posed by audience members centered on concerns over the United States' continued involvement there.

The only other major topic addressed by Tauscher during her talk was when she turned her attention to the latest Bush tax cut. Tauscher said she voted against the last tax cut because she believe it was "irresponsible" and heavily weighted to benefit the wealthiest individuals.

"The tax cut failed as an economic stimulus," she said. "I'd be happy to have the whole thing rolled back."



IRAQ AND A HARD PLACE: Rep. Ellen Tauscher



photo by Michael Abraham

A FOUR HAT TOUR DE FORCE -- KRON-TV movie critic Jan Wahl gave an Oscar worthy performance as an auctioneer at the 20th anniversary Garden Party. Wahl auctioned off a range of items from a signed lithograph by Marc Chagall to a romantic get-a-way to the Ventana Inn & Spa in the hillside along Big Sur's dramatic coastline. Wahl's efforts helped raise \$13,750 through the live auction.

A reason to celebrate

Garden Party bash beats expectations raising more than \$90,000 for school

By the time auctioneer Jan Wahl cried "sold!" on an eight-person tour of the Emeryville-based animation studio Pixar, the fierce bidding drove the price for the a behind-the-scene glimpse to \$1900.

For winning bidder Julie Ward, champagne might have loosened her purse strings, but did nothing to dampen her competitive spirit. "It wasn't about Pixar anymore," said Ward with a laugh. "It was about winning."

The bargain price included a "Finding Nemo" DVD and large plush toy of asymmetrically finned Nemo himself. Ward said all she has to do now is figure out who her "seven, best, favorite friends are."

With an estimated 500 person turnout, the jazz stylings of the John Herbst Trio and fine food and drink, the Garden Party raised more than \$90,000 to support programs at Kensington Hilltop

Continued on page 9

Gioia scraps plans for noise ordinance, but offers alternative

Needed support not there to pass ordinance, but sees alternative in temporary use permit

Supervisor John Gioia is scrapping plans to pass a countywide noise ordinance saying that the support for such a measure isn't there for it to succeed.

Gioia said among other concerns voiced about such a measure were those from the county's sheriff, who feared a noise ordinance would be a burden that would pull resources away from addressing more serious crimes.

"I said I was going to explore and investigate a countywide noise ordinance," said Gioia. The response is it is not a pressing issue countywide."

Some Kensington residents have called for the passage of a noise ordinance as means of addressing the controversy with concert promoter Danny Scher, who from time to time has used the amphitheater at his Coventry Rd. home to hold concerts as fundraisers for a variety of causes. Though some neighbors say they have had no problems with the daytime events, others complained the events, which used amplified sound, are loud, disruptive and inappropriate

for the residential neighborhood.

The county did warn Scher in July that a planned fundraiser for Berkeley's JazzSchool would violate zoning law and that he would need to land use permit to hold the event. Though the county sent investigators out to the event and threatened to fine Scher, it never took action.

Scher had said he didn't seek a permit for the afternoon JazzSchool event because he believes it his right to hold fundraisers on his property and that it represents a normal use of his home.

Gioia, though, is now pursuing an alter-

continued on page 12

Get the lowdown



KCC president Don Specter leads the organization's annual meeting Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Building E at Kensington Park. The public is invited to come listen to presentations from various community groups about their work.

see story page 4

Letters to the Editor

Parcel Tax will maintain school's excellence and our property values

To the editor:

The West Contra Costa Unified School District Board is considering placing a parcel tax measure on the March 2, 2004 ballot in response to a severe fiscal crisis faced by the school district.

Unlike general obligation bonds that can only be used for facilities, parcel tax revenues can be used for teachers, programs and supplies to improve the education program. A parcel tax provides a means to raise and use money locally to preserve and enhance programs for children.

The details of the tax, such as the amount, how property will be assessed, its term and the specific programs it would fund is still being finalized as of this publication's deadline. What is known is that the school district faces an estimated \$21 million deficit for 2004-2005.

Initial tabulations of surveys and comments from the community to the school board show that counselors, after school programs, class size reduction, music and art classes and safety programs ranked as the highest priorities among people. The School Board is expected to approve the final ballot language for the parcel tax at its Dec. 3 meeting.

Voters in West County will be asked in March to do what many others in our area have done to maintain quality education in an era of shrinking support from Sacramento. Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont, and Orinda all have parcel taxes to support their schools.

A parcel tax requires a two-thirds majority approval at a regularly scheduled election to be successful. Because of this high voter threshold, we need strong, vocal support for the parcel tax and many volunteers to work on the campaign.

Details about the campaign and parcel tax can be found at www.childrenofwest-county.com. If you are interested in volunteering, contact campaign manager, Todd Plate at toddmplate@yahoo.com.

Kensington Hilltop School is the shining jewel in the crown of the district, and its excellence plays a big role in the appreciation of our property values. To maintain this excellence, we must maintain our funding levels.

Cathy Garza
Secretary
Kensington Education Foundation

Helen Bean
Co-President
PTA Kensington Hilltop School

Agreeing (sort of) with Jones we need to get the planning ordinance right

To the editor:

Last month Bart Jones castigated "the ugly aspect of the county effectively depriving homeowners of their right to improve their home" through a proposed Kensington planning ordinance (Letters to the Editor, Nov. 2003).

Nobody says homes cannot be improved. However, it should not be done to the detriment of other people's long established views.

It is about time that the county intends to change a building code that is grossly unfair and that would not be tolerated anywhere else.

I suspect architect Jones does not like the proposed ordinance because he would not be able to design "improvements" like the one he constructed in my neighborhood. By extending the existing outside walls by not more than three feet (according to code) he was then free to add two steeply pitched roofs and, for good measure, a huge chimney in between.

The result? A house that is more than twice its original height and now depriving four neighbors of significant views. Was this done to accommodate children or aging parents? No. The owner was and is a single person.

Indeed, let's get it right with supervisor Gioia.

Elisabeth Waldburger
Kensington

Making noise about no ordinance

To the editor:

I have just come from a meeting of the League of Women Voters where considerable time was spent questioning why the Kensington area can't seem to get support for a noise ordinance such as the one recently passed in Orinda.

We have a situation in Kensington where the police department advises that there is no ordinance against construction noise even on Sunday.

At our League meeting the statement was also made that the sheriff is opposed to any such ordinance because it would increase the workload of that office. As Kensington is hardly a high crime area the question naturally arises as to whether or not our tax dollars are being properly allocated.

Winifred Marshall
Kensington

Kensington Community Council continues annual fund drive



Kensington Park's Tot Lot is one example of what community donations to KCC do.

The Kensington Community Council thanks the following people for their recent donations to its annual fund drive. The generosity of community members provides critical support for Kensington's recreation and education programs and the Kensington Outlook. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution, please send it the Kensington Community Council, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington 94707.

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David E. McClun, D.V.M.

Firefighters return from battling So Cal firestorm

Firefighters from El Cerrito responded to calls for assistance from communities in Southern California at the end of October to battle the firestorm that claimed 22 lives, destroyed more than 3,500 homes and scorched more than 740,000 acres.

On October 26, four El Cerrito firefighters volunteered to go to Southern California and join the battle against the raging fires. The California Office of Emergency Services assigned the four to a strike team that directly fought the fire and is credited with saving many lives, according to a report to the Kensington Fire Protection District from chief Mark Scott.

Two days later the state requested that Captain Hugh Henderson served as a communication unit officer on one of the 15 active fires burning at the time.

That same day, the State Office of

Emergency Service also requested additional help and El Cerrito and Richmond Fire joined together to staff one engine and one command team that joined with other engines from surrounding communities to form a strike team.

Though the fire weather soon subsided, the intense heat from the conflagration created its own fire weather for an addition two-and-a-half days. The El Cerrito personnel returned home November 2 except for Henderson, who remained for several additional days.

"The real story of this fire siege is the number of structures saved," said chief Scott in his report. "It is nice to know that as signatories to the State of California Master Mutual Aid Agreement we have access to the mutual aid system should we ever need it."

Commission seeks the 411 on how well the 911 guys do

Kensington residents will get a chance in December to support - or report - their local police department.

As part of the voluntary accreditation process the Kensington Police Department is undergoing with the independent Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, the department is asking residents to call in December 15 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and share their comments with a representative of the commission at 526-1178.

"We are encouraging people to call whether they've had a positive interaction or if they've had negative one," said chief Barry Garfield. "It's a standard part of the review process."



Chief Barry Garfield

Garfield said he hopes to have the review, begun in January, concluded by the end of the year. If successful, the Kensington Police Department would be the first department in California and the ninth in the country to complete the organization's recognition program.


The recognition program evaluates police departments on 98 standards, a scaled down version of the full accreditation process the organization also offers. The standards relate to all facets of police operations.

Garfield said the ten-person department has made policy changes and physical alterations to its facilities to bring it into compliance with the program and raise it professionalism.

"With all of these changes, all of the officers have to work really hard to stay up. That's the biggest push right now," said Garfield. "It's hard all at once."

Remember how wonderful it is to be in church at Christmas?

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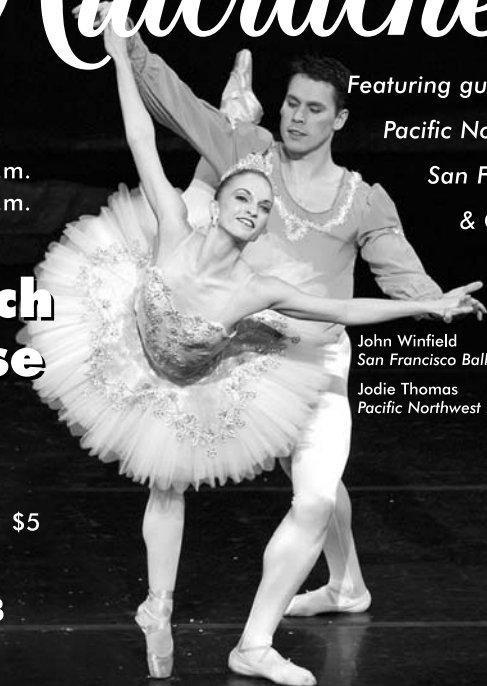
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Neighborhood Notes

Friends increase funding to Kensington library after successful book sale and fund drive



PAPER CHASE: Book lovers search through the titles at the book sale. The Friends of the Kensington Library fundraiser was held in conjunction with Kensington's annual parade and picnic.

Friends of the Kensington Library will provide an additional \$6,000 to the library's material budget thanks to the success of the October book sale and the group's fund raising drive.

The book sale, held in October in conjunction with the Kensington Community Council's Annual Picnic and Parade, raised more than \$2,400.

The increase in funds is welcome news for the Kensington Library. It comes at a time when state and county budget pressures resulted in a 25 percent cut in the Contra Costa Library budget.

Children's librarian Pam McKay said she already spent all of the funds allocated to her in the county's library budget and that the additional money will allow her to address some immediate needs.

The Friends of the Kensington Library is dedicated to improving library services in Kensington through membership donations and book sales that provide the library with books, tapes, magazines compact discs and cultural programs.

The organization accepts donations of records, videos and books during library hours. The group will also arrange to pick up donations.

Community Council holds annual meeting in Jan

The Kensington Community Council, which oversees the Kensington After School Enrichment Program, adult education programs and publishes the Outlook, is inviting all community members to attend its annual meeting.

The council will hold its annual meeting, which will include presentations from a number of community groups, in Building E of Kensington Park at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 5.

Participating groups invited to present reports at the annual meeting include Boy Scout

Troop 100, Cub Scout Pack 82, Girl Scouts, the Kensington Improvement Club, the Kensington Property Owners Associations, the Kensington School PTA and Dads' Club, Kensington Education Foundation, Kensington Nursery School, Arlington Community Church, the First Unitarian Church, the Friends of the Kensington Library and the senior center.

The council's nominating committee will also present a slate of officers at the meeting.

Groups interested in making a presentation should contact Helen Horowitz at 525-0292.

Church launches holiday sponsor-a-family drive

Arlington Community Church is volunteering in the North Richmond Neighborhood House Project this year and inviting people to provide gifts and food staples to families in need.

This year the church committed to sponsoring fifteen families and five seniors.

People interested in participating can sponsor one or more families by giving a holiday party, especially for the North Richmond Neighborhood House Christmas Project. People interested in sponsoring a family should register by Dec. 7. Shop for gifts for the family (about \$10 per gift per child). Homemade gifts are great, but please do not give perishables.

At your party, the church suggests letting everyone, including kids, get involved wrapping presents. If you wish, include non-perishable food such as flour, sugar, coffee, and canned vegetables.

Call Sydney Bell at 848-3130 by Dec. 7 to register to sponsor a family. Gifts and food staples may be boxed or in large bags and must be delivered to the Arlington Community Church basement (the first door on the Rincon Road side), on Sunday, Dec. 14 between 9 and 11 a.m.

Turkeys are purchased by Neighborhood House. To donate a turkey, send \$15 per turkey to Neighborhood House of North Richmond, 305 Chesley Ave., Richmond 94801.

One for the Record Book



Kensington man earns spot in the Guinness Book of World Records

Kensington's Robert Uomini demonstrates his record-setting technique for lip trilling, an exercise used by singers. Lip trilling creates a motorboat-like sound, (although unlike the traditional raspberry the tongue remains inside the mouth). Uomini entered the *Guinness Book of Records* with a time of 80 seconds, although it took substantially longer to get Guinness to accept the category. It's a nice thing. "I wouldn't have been crushed if they hadn't accepted," said the software developer and consultant. "My four year old could care less, but my eight year old though it was pretty cool."

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Office closed: Dec. 19 - Jan 2

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

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

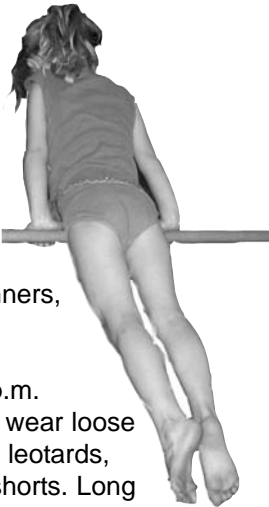
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482-1258

WINTER SESSION
January 5 to March 26

Gymnastics

Morning
Kindergartners
11:45 a.m.-1:05 p.m.
Advanced
Beginners,
Grades 1-3
Tuesdays 2:30 p.m.-3:20 p.m.
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2:50 p.m.-3:40 p.m.
Students should wear loose clothing such as leotards, sweatpants, or shorts. Long hair must be tied in a ponytail.

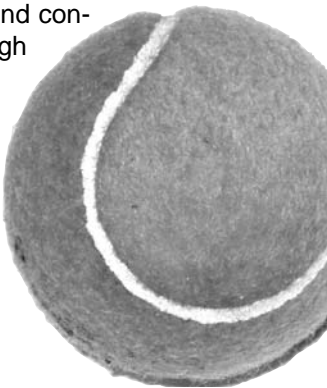
To enroll
call Judy Baker at 233-1833.
Instructors: Judy Baker and Jean Jay
Session:
13 weeks
September 24 - December 17
Fees:
Kindergartners:



\$140/resident
\$155/non-resident
Other students:
\$125/resident
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Fees (payable monthly):
\$10 per class/resident
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TENNIS COURTS

KASEP WINTER SESSION

Jan. 5 to March 26

Registration for the KASEP winter session will be held in the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., on Tuesday, December 2 at 7 p.m. for kindergartners, and at 7:15 p.m. for first through sixth graders. Registration packets will go home with Kensington School students on Thursday, November 20, and be available in the Kensington Library and the KCC office on Friday, November 21. Classes will begin on Monday, January 5. For more information call Helen Horowitz at the KCC office.

Adult Classes

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Alex Brown, USPTA tennis pro, offers classes to a minimum of four students.
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5 classes/\$40 per resident
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Conformation: 8-8:45 p.m. \$4/class
Intermediate/Advanced: 9-9:45 p.m. \$4/class
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Linda Walker
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\$135 per resident
\$150 per non-resident

COMMUNITY CENTER

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Barbara Ward
Portrait
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Still life:
Fridays, 10:00am - 1:00pm
Ongoing -- 8 weeks
\$200 for residents
\$220 for non-resident
BUILDING E



KCC

Kensington Community Council

Helen Horowitz, Administrator
Kensington Community Council
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10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Office closed: December 19 - Jan. 2

NOTICES
To Register for Class
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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2:45 PM to 4:00 PM.

Kensington
Community
Center
59 Arlington Ave.
Kensington

Gary Lapow mixes humor and playful audience participation to engage children from preschoolers through sixth graders. Full of wit and style, he uses his original compositions and other contemporary as well as traditional songs in a multicultural winter song festival. Lapow has performed his songs for millions of children, parents and teachers in both the United States and Canada. Children are invited to bring a homemade ornament to hang on the center's Christmas tree. For more information, call Helen Horowitz at (510) 525-0292 during KCC hours.

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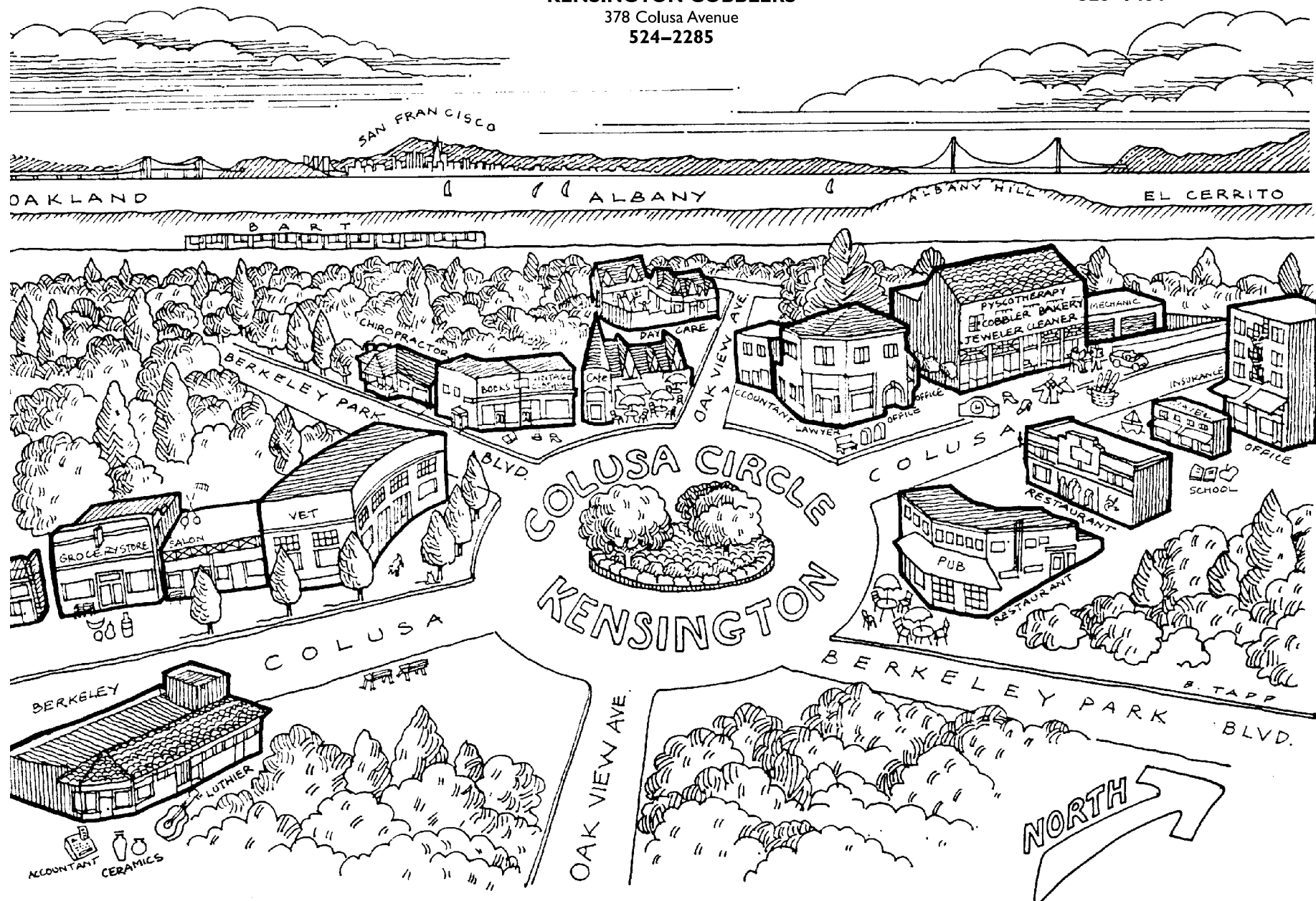
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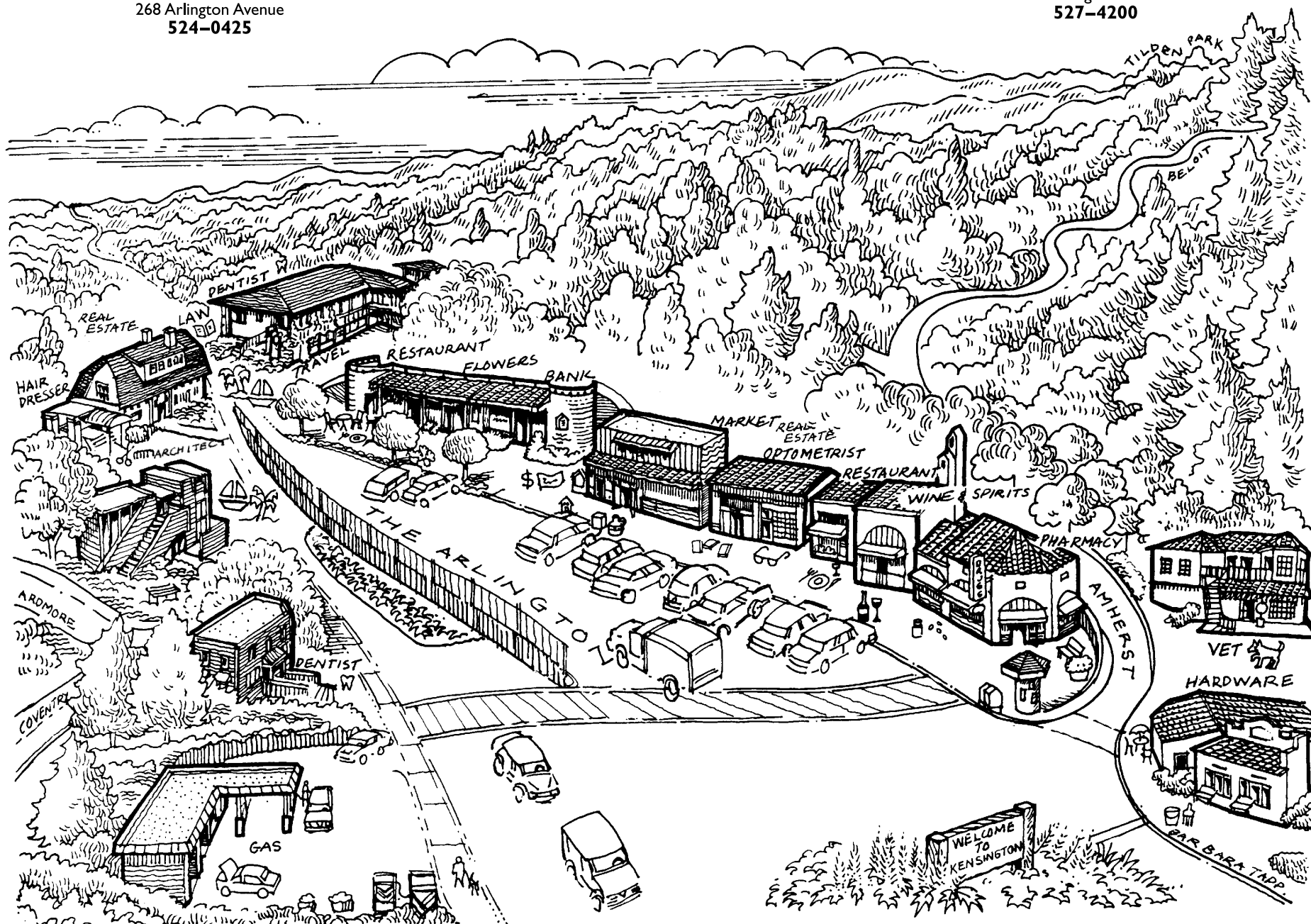
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Kensington takes to the streets for annual picnic and parade



CAN YOU SAY "LOUIE, LOUIE": The El Cerrito High School Marching Band makes its way along the parade route along Arlington Avenue.

The Kensington Community Council's Annual Parade and Picnic in October filled the street with fire trucks, nursery schoolers, candy-tossing cub scouts and the El Cerrito High School Marching Band.

John and Lois Hoagland, long active members in Kensington's community life, served as grand marshalls. The duo sported fresh flower leis provided by the Kensington Flower Shop & Gift Shop.

Thanks in part to The Mechanics Bank's generous support, the event was a financial success for the Kensington Community Council, which raised nearly \$2,500 to support the Kensington After School Enrichment Program, adult education in Kensington and the continued publication of this newspaper.

"We had a great time," said Tony Kallingal, The Mechanic Bank Kensington branch manager. "It was another great event that brought the friends and family of the Kensington community together."

The Mechanics Bank awarded prizes of \$50 U.S. Savings Bond to four children in its "Let Freedom Ring" poster contest. Winners included Ardalan Terman (age 9), Joe Scarpa (age 7), Maggie Scarpa (age 7) and Julian Levine (age 9). The bank awarded Kaiya Levine (age 7) a separate prize for her poster.

This year marked the return of Kensington's pumpkin carving contest. The contest inspired an impressive array of gourd-carving talents among Kensington's kids who produced everything from a Frankenstein with neck bolts to a whiskered cat.

Marvin Gardens Real Estate sponsored the contest and awarded prizes of gift certificates. Winners in the age 6 and under category included: Cameron Thorpe (first); Star Wyrzkewski (second) and Ray Hirata (third). In the age 7 to 12 category winners included: Maggie Scarpa (first) Jonathan Lim (second) and Joe Scarpa (third).



Grand Marshalls Lois and John Hoagland display Kensington's Aloha spirit



Not everyone realized that the lunches at the picnic included dessert



Scouts prepare to raise the flag while everyone else waits to raise the roof



El Cerrito High Jazz Ensemble takes a solo. No, the trombone wasn't clogged.

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Going once, going twice, sooooooold on a good cause



BIDDING NEMO: Kensington's Julie Ward outbids the crowd as she scores a tour for eight to Pixar studios for \$1900. Ko Ushigusa smiles because his wife was not bidding.

School.

The stronger-than-expected results from the night, coupled with the success earlier in the year of Kensington Education Fund's annual telethon, closed about two thirds of a budget gap that stood at \$43,000 at the start of the fiscal year.

"Once the dust settles and we know how much we spent and how much we made It will be one of the best Garden Parties we ever had," said Esther Hill, president of the Kensington Education Foundation. "We're doing really well at making up our projected deficit and we should be able to fund all of our programs this year."

In total, the live auction raised almost \$14,000 for the foundation's programs, which include music, art, science and computers. Art produced by children at the school and sold through the silent auction raised more than \$5300. Fine art items, including a \$4,700 Picasso that sold in the silent auction, brought in nearly \$9,000.

The Garden Party organizers began planning this year's event in April. It involved the work of more than 200 volunteers over many months to pull off the effort. Christy Wise, Nette Barry and Betsy Quayle served as co-chair of this years event.

Among future issues organizers will be considering is security. During the silent auction two rings with a combined valued of more than \$500 disappeared. Organizers believe the items were stolen from a jewelry display.

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and an especially
Happy New Year

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Kensington Calendar

Tuesday, December 2
The Kensington After School Enrichment Program holds registration for its winter session. Please see page 5 for info.

Tuesday, December 2
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Thursday, December 4
The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. KPD officer Escobar presents "Senior Safety in Our Community." Potluck lunch. Bring food for 4-6 people, or pay \$3. Info: 526-9146

Sunday, December 7
Personal Theology Seminar: Film: *The Life of Dorothy Day*, about the founder of the Catholic Worker movement 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, December 9
Family Storytime at the Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, December 9

Where Are You on Your Writer's Journey? with Teresa LeYung Ryan, author of *Love Made of Heart*, at 7 p.m. at Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa Ave. in Kensington. Sliding scale donation of \$5-\$20 to support Boadecia's, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Info: 510-559-9184 www.bookpride.com

Wednesday, December 10
The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club holds its Christmas luncheon at noon at the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd. in El Cerrito. Tickets \$15. Christmas music. Reservation deadline Dec. 6. Send checks to Kay Weeks, 317 Rugby Ave., Kensington, CA 94708. Info: 524-5689

Wednesday, December 10
The Kensington Fire Protection District Board meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call 527-8395 to confirm.

Thursday, December 11
The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Jackie Hetman shows slides of the Orimoco River in Brazil. German Conversation Group lunch \$3. Info: 526-9146

Thursday, December 11
Classic Trekking in the Himalayas with Cathy Ann Taylor, expert guide from Mountain Travel Sobek, for a slide presentation through the three picturesque kingdoms of Nepal, Tibet, and Bhutan at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Info: 526-7512

Thursday, December 11
Join the Kensington Library for Holiday Tree Trimming with arts and crafts for all ages from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Thursday, December 11
Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District meets at 7:30 p.m. in room 3 of the Kensington Community Center. Call 526-4141 to confirm.

Friday, December 12
Jean Shinoda Bolen, author of *Goddesses in Older Women* will read from her new book "Crones Don't Whine: Concentrated Wisdom for Juicy women at 7:30pm: at Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa Ave. in Kensington. This event is free, and everyone is welcome. Info: 559-9184

Saturday December 13
Young People's Chamber Orchestra performs at the Kensington Library at 3:30 p.m. Info: 524-3034

Saturday December 13
The Kensington Symphony Orchestra welcomes guest conductor California State University Hayward music director Timothy Smith as guest conductor when they perform a holiday concert at 8 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. The orchestra will perform music of Richard Strauss, Arcangelo Corelli and Felix Mendelssohn. Tickets available at the door for a suggested donation of \$10; \$8 seniors; and children free. Info: (510) 524-4335

Sunday, December 14
Personal Theology Seminar: Bill Garrett, Professor of Religion and Philosophy, John F. Kennedy University Liberal Arts Department, *Bad Karma: Thinking Twice about Re-incarnation* 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, December 16

Visions of Sugar Plums



The Berkeley City Ballet rings in the holiday season at Zellerbach Playhouse with its 30th annual production of the holiday classic The Nutcracker Dec. 5 to 7. The production features a diverse cast comprised of world-class dancers from Pacific Northwest Ballet, Oakland Ballet and San Francisco Ballet, students from Berkeley City Ballet's renowned professional training program, as well as members of the local community. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors. Info: 642-9988 <http://www.berkeleycityballet.org/>

League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa County will be hold its annual holiday party on at 6 p.m. Info: 232-3767

Tuesday, December 16
Family Storytime at the Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Thursday, December 18
The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Dorthelle Fites plays piano accompaniment for Christmas Carolers. Lunch \$3. Info: 526-9146

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 runs. The program runs Mondays from 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call to reserve a seat 524-3043


Beginning Internet Workshops at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the Internet - mouse skills, web searching, and the library's online catalog and databases. The free class meets Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Registration is required, call 526-7512 to sign up.

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- ★ **Sunday, Dec. 14 at 12:30 p.m.**
Santa Lucia Lunch & Holiday Craft Party
- ★ **Sunday, Dec. 21 at 10:45 a.m.**
Wholly Family Service honoring & celebrating the beauty & diversity of families
- ★ **Wednesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve:**
5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

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Kensington Calendar Continued

Sunday, December 21
Personal Theology Seminar: Jeremy Taylor, UU minister, founder of an internationally famous method of projective dream work: *Meditations on the "G" word* 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, December 23
Family Storytime at the Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Sunday, December 28
Personal Theology Seminar: Sarah Lewis, teacher of spirituality at Graduate Theological Union and New College, Spiritual director, *Incursions of the Divine: Personal Glimpses* 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, December 30
Family Storytime at the Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday December 30
Kensington Municipal Advisory Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. At press time KMAC was considering canceling this meeting. Interested parties should call 526-5546 to confirm.

Monday January 5
Mid-year auditions for the The Berkeley Youth Orchestra begin and run through the week for its 2003-2004 season. Auditions are open to orchestra musicians ages 10 to 15. Info: 510-663-3296 or www.byoweb.org

Monday Jaunary 5
Kensington Community Council holds its annual meeting in Building E at Kensington Park at 7:30. Hear presentations from community organizations. Info: 525-0292

Tuesday, January 6
League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa County's Kensington Study Group will meet at 1 p.m. at Pat McLaughlin's, 39 Stratford Rd., Kensington to consider local issues. Anyone interested in attending should confirm by calling 524-6071 or 525-5187

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

Feed your soul and your stomach
Thursday evenings the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley at 1 Lawson Rd. in Kensington holds Worship and Core Curriculum Programs. This mid-week gathering includes times for socializing (5:30-6 p.m.), sharing a meal (6-7 p.m.), worshipping (7-7:30 pm) and learning together in the Core Curriculum Programs (from 7:30-9 p.m.). Dinner reservations are required. The programs include a series of sessions on UU Heritage and Values, Powerful Non-Defensive Communication, Community Building: Skills for Successful Group Process, Opening Our Hearts: Developing Spiritual Practices, and Higher Purpose. Contact the church office at 525-0302 for more details.

Thursday, January 8
Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District meets at 7:30 p.m. in room 3 of the Kensington Community Center. Call 526-4141 to confirm.

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

Wednesday, January 14
The Kensington Fire Protection District Board will meet at 7:30 at the Kensington Community Center. Call 527-8395 to confirm.

Tuesday January 20
Berkeley Garden Club presents public program and development coordinator Staci Markos on "Jepson Herbarium: Its Purpose and Origin" at the Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley. Guests welcome.Meeting at 1 p.m. and free program at 2 p.m. Info: 524-4374

Tuesday, January 20
Family Storytime at the Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Wednesday, January 22
The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting at the Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito. Luncheon at noon. Tickets \$15 per person. Send checks to Kay Weeks, 317 Rugby Ave., Kensington, CA 94708

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

Tuesday, January 27
Kensington Municipal Advisory Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. At press time KMAC was considering moving this meeting to earlier in the month. Call 526-5546 to confirm.

Obituaries

William "Bill" Losekoot, former corporate secretary-treasurer of Sunset View Cemetery Association, died Nov. 6 in Oakland at the age of 89.

Born in Amsterdam, Losekoot came to the United States in 1948 and worked as an accountant for a printing company. He lived in Berkeley before moving to Kensington, where he stayed for 31 years.

In 1953 he went to work for Sunset View Cemetery Association and remained there until his retirement in 1979. He served as a member of the cemetery's board of directors until his death.

Losekoot was a former member of the U.S. Coast

Guard Auxiliary. He was also a ham radio operator for more than 50 years. He was especially fond of sailing and photography.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years Letty Losekoot of Kensington; son Frank and daughter in-law Kathleen Losekoot of Redding; grandchildren Karl, Barbaranne, and Gina; and four great grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews in Holland, Canada and the United States.

Contributions in his memory may be made to your favorite charity.

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