

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

December 2005 / January 2006

A publication of the Kensington Community Council

Volume 62 Number 10

Judge rules fines violated scher's free speech rights

Judge to issue final ruling December 19 when he decides on attorneys fees that may be awarded to Scher

Contra Costa Superior Court Judge John Sugiyama threw out \$800 in fines the county assessed against Danny Scher over three fundraising concerts held at the amphitheater at his Coventry Rd. home.

Judge Sugiyama delivered his tentative decision orally November 16 and found that the county's zoning laws were vague and overbroad and that the fines levied on Scher violated his first amendment right to free speech.

The decision did not address the county's recently passed temporary events ordinance, which permits such events, but places limits on their size and frequency.

Scher left open the possibility that he would challenge the new law if he is fined for violating it.

"The judge understood that using your home for a charitable fundraising event is not a violation of zoning and restricting me from doing that is a violation of my first amendment right," said Scher.

The ordinance, passed in October, followed a long dispute between Scher and some of his neighbors over concerts held in the amphitheater on his property that drew more than 200 people at a time and used amplified sound.

Opponents have long contended that the fundraising events were commercial in nature and a violation of residential zoning restrictions. Scher, though, has contended the events represented a normal use of someone's home and were protected by the first amendment.

The county fined Scher three times in 2004 for events held at his amphitheater. The fines escalated with each event and included fundraisers for the Berkeley Jazzschool, the political action committee MoveOnPac.Org and a benefit the Indonesian musical group Gamelan Sukar Jaya. He unsuccessfully appealed all three fines to the county.

Supervisor John Gioia crafted the ordinance after failed attempts to reach a compromise between Scher and his neighbors and a threat that more onerous legislation would be pushed by Senator Don Perata, D-Oakland, at the state level.

Gioia said he does not expect the county to appeal any decision because he believes the issue is now resolved with the passage of the temporary events ordinance, which he said removes ambiguity over

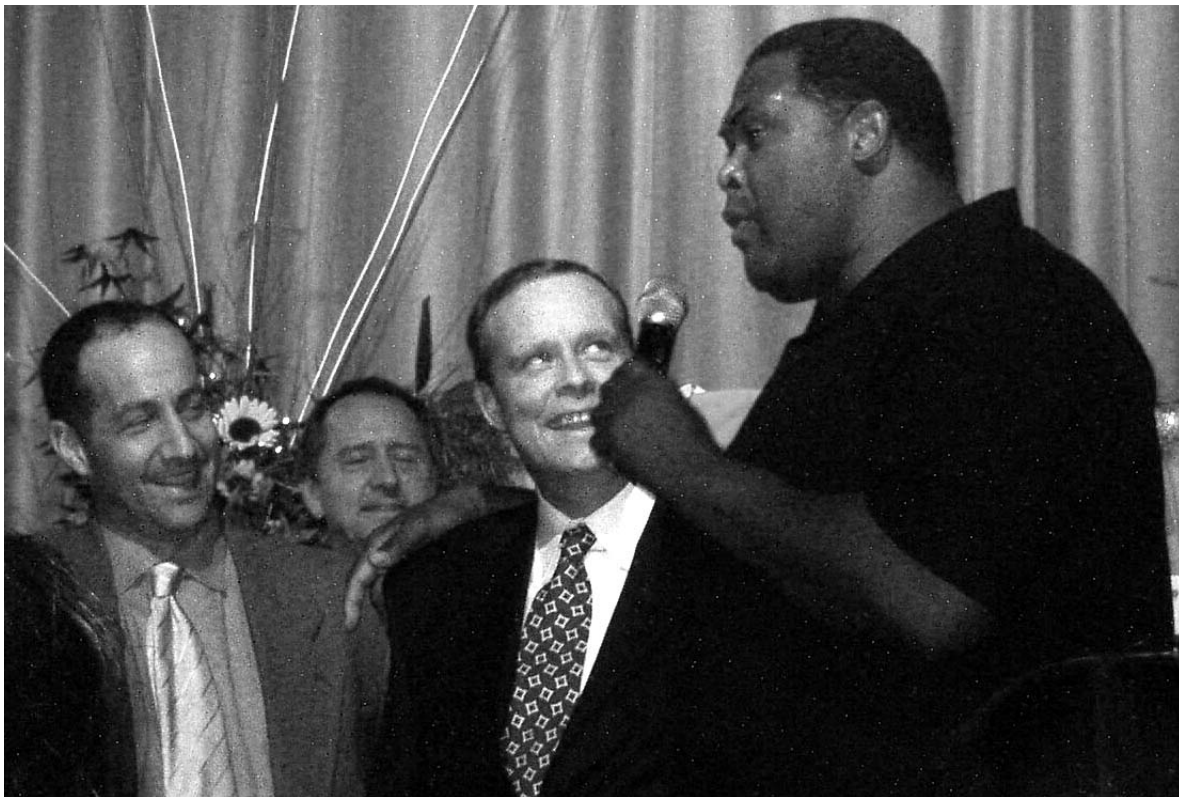
what and what is not allowed.

"The issue is now moot," said Gioia. "I do not see a need for an appeal. We'd be risking thousands of dollars more over an issue now resolved by a new ordinance."

The judge has ordered Scher and the county back to Court on December 19 to discuss attorney's fees that may be awarded to Scher. Scher has not totalled his legal bills, but estimated the costs of his ongoing fight with the county at tens of thousands of dollars.

The county has not said how much it has spent on fighting Scher, holding hearings, monitoring his events and passing new legislation, but with his attorney's fees Scher believes the price tag could exceed \$100,000.

"That's what this whole thing was about," he said. "Trying to collect \$800 from me."



Raider Humili-nation: Two members of the Dad's Club who volunteered their labor as part of an auction item at this year's Kensington Hilltop Elementary School Garden Party with auctioneer and former San Francisco 49'er Bubba Paris. The two men made the mistake of identifying themselves as fans of the Oakland Raiders and Paris went on to question their intelligence before tripping them up on a series of trick questions. When the carnage was over, the item raised \$1,600 to support programs at the school.

'49er Strikes Gold for kids

Former '49er tackle Bubba Paris showed his off his skills as a motivational speaker to help cajole, joke, embarrass, intimidate and inspire attendees of this year's Garden Party into spending more than \$75,000 to support programs at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School.

The annual event in its 22nd year represents the single largest fundraising event for the Kensington Education Foundation, which relies on it for about half of its annual budget. More than 500 people attended the event, which was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley in Kensington.

The proceeds from the evening, which featured a live auction with Paris serving as auctioneer, will be used to support music, computer, art, reading and other programs at the school not funded by the district.

Christy Wise, chair of the Garden Party, said despite concerns over donation fatigue from people giving to help victims of recent natural disasters, they were pleased with the results of the night.

See "Party" page 11

School district may consider expanding Hilltop to K-8

A committee studying the possibility of expanding K-8 schools within the West Contra Costa Unified School District is expected to make recommendations to the board Dec. 14.

The efforts come about in part as the district looks for ways to stem the exodus of students from the district because of concerns over programs, safety and poor academic performance.

"They are leaving for all of those reasons," said Trustee Charles Ramsey, who is opposed to expanding K-8 schools in the district. "Instead of looking at creating a model that might not be effective in our district, why not look at how we strengthen our middle schools so that they can be similar to what is going on in neighboring districts."

Already the district's Stewart School in Pinole operates as a K-8. The board is divided on the issue with Karen Pfeiffer widely seen as the swing vote. While parents in schools spread throughout the district are supporting such a move, issues of race and class are inflaming the discussion.

"There is a concern that by keeping kids closer to the community schools longer you perpetuate some kind of segregation," said Trustee Dave Brown, who supports K-8 schools. "I'd like us to have that conversation because race and class issues underlie just about every conflict we have in this district."

There are challenges to K-8 schools including not having a gymnasium or science labs, inadequate library space as well as administrative

space as well as administrative issue. But supporters of K-8 schools argue they will not only halt declining enrollment, but improve academic performance, make better use of resources and improve parental involvement in middle school grades.

The Kensington Hilltop Parent Teacher Association endorsed converting Kensington to a K-8, but parents lobbying for the change are concerned the board could kill any hopes of that at the Dec. 14 meeting or knock Kensington out of consideration under any such plan.

They are pushing for the committee to craft a proposal that will allow continued exploration of K-8 schools and keep Kensington as one possible site for such a plan.

Outlook seeks editor



The Kensington Outlook is seeking a new editor to replace Daniel Levine, who announced his intention to step down after publication of the February issue. Applications for the position are due in to the Kensington Community Council by December 10.

See page 3

marvin gardens

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KCC continues fund drive

The Kensington Community Council thanks all of the recent contributors to its annual fund drive. The generosity of community members provides critical support for Kensington's recreation and education programs as well as 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. Gifts of \$25 or more are acknowledged below.

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Kensington Outlook

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The Kensington outlook is delivered free to residents. Non-resident subscriptions are available for \$10 a year by sending a check made payable to KCC to the Kensington Outlook, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707

The Kensington Outlook is published ten times a year by the non-profit Kensington Community Council. It is published monthly except for combined December/January and July/August issues. Please call for advertising rates, space, availability and size restrictions. **The advertising deadline for the February issue is January 8.** The editorial deadline is January 10. Send mail to: Kensington Outlook, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707. The Kensington Outlook welcomes letters to the editor and reserves the right to cut and edit those for clarity and length.

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Letters to the editor

People peeved about pooches who poop in park

To the Editor:

As the new administrator for the Kensington Community Council, I have the great pleasure to work with wonderful teachers, bright and energetic students and committed board members.

One less than pleasant part of working at our KCC recreation office is the need to pick



up dog waste left behind by negligent owners.

I'd like to ask community members to remember to clean up after their dogs and to keep their dogs on leash at the park. We need to create a safe, sanitary place for our children to play.

Esther Hill
KCC Administrator



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KCC to hold annual meeting January 9

The Kensington Community Council, which oversees the Kensington After School Enrichment Program, Kensington's adult education programs and publishes the *Kensington 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, at the Kensington Community Center in Kensington Park at 7:30 p.m. January 9.

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



KCC President Ted Blanckenberg

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 Esther Hill at 525-0292.

Kensington Outlook seeks new editor

The Kensington Community Council is seeking an editor for the Kensington Outlook to replace outgoing editor Daniel Levine.

The Outlook is published ten times a year with combined issues in Dec-Jan. and July-Aug. Levine has agreed to continue producing the paper through the February issue.

The editor is a paid, independent contractor who is responsible for all aspects of the production of the newspaper with the exception of advertising sales. The candidate selected will be responsible for all hardware

and software needs to perform the job, including necessary desktop publishing software. Ability to meet deadlines a must.

Applicants should send resumes, work samples and references to Kensington Community Council Job Selection Committee, c/o Esther Hill, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington 94707. Materials can also be sent via e-mail to kccec@yahoo.com.

The deadline for applications is December 10.

Hancock call for campaign finance reform at KIC's town hall meeting

Assemblywoman Loni Hancock called for the public financing of political campaigns in California, saying it was necessary to free politicians from the influence of special interests.

Addressing about 100 people at the Kensington Improvement Club's annual town hall meeting October 29 at the Kensington Community Center Hancock, a Democrat who represents Kensington, spoke about the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act (AB 583), a bill she authored.



Loni Hancock

"It is the reform that makes all other reforms possible," Hancock said.

The effort in California follows successful efforts to pass such measures in Arizona and Maine. Hancock said public finance would bring under control the wild spending now driving political campaigns and allow politicians to serve their constituents free of the financial pressures imposed by special interests that corrupts the political process and

undermines the democratic process.

Though most legislative campaigns in the state have limited spending because they are not competitive, contested election costs can exceed \$1 million.

In states operating under clean money and clean election laws, Hancock said a larger and more diverse pool of candidates run, voter turnout has grown and campaign costs have fallen. The existing system, she said, encourages corruption by encouraging elected officials to take money from private interests that are directly affected by governmental actions.

Separately, the Kensington Improvement Club announced that it soon expects to distribute a survey of residents in the hopes of revitalizing an effort to underground power lines within Kensington.

Supporters of such an effort argue it would not only beautify the streets and improve views, but also increase safety during a natural disaster. But doing so would also be expensive and the cost would likely be borne largely by Kensington residents.

West County voters narrowly approve \$400 million bond measure for school construction

West county voters narrowly approved measure J, which will provide \$400 million in bond funds for reconstruction projects throughout the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

The measure passed with 56.58 percent of voters approving it. A 55 percent majority was required to pass the measure.

The district will use the \$400 million in Measure J funds to pay for additional reconstruction projects, as funds allow, at the following schools that have been added to the district's reconstruction program: Elementary schools-Castro, Coronado, Dover, Fairmont, Ford, Grant, Highland, King, Lake, Nystrom, Ohlone, Valley View, and Wilson.

Secondary schools-De Anza High School, Kennedy High School, Pinole Valley High School, Richmond High School.

Measure J funds will also be used as needed to complete existing school

construction projects.

"The passage of Measure J continues to signal a positive direction the district has taken with its facilities," said board member Charles Ramsey. "Passing Measure J means we will be able to continue rebuilding our schools with a spirit of equity."

Measure J is the fourth school bond measure passed by voters since June 1998, when \$40 million in Measure E funds were approved to make badly-needed district-wide school repairs and to build Lovonya DeJean Middle School in Richmond.

In November 2000 voters approved the \$150 million Measure M, and in March 2002 Measure D was passed, bringing an additional \$300 million to the district's school construction programs. Currently construction has been completed or nears completion at 17 schools; five additional schools are in earlier phases of design or reconstruction.

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Neighborhood Notes

Kensington celebrates library's 40th anniversary

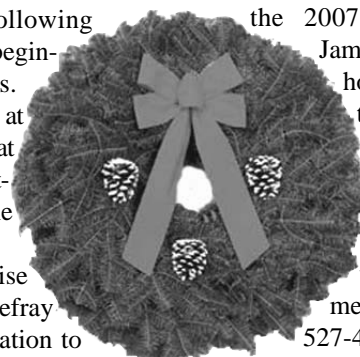


THEYDUNNIT: On October 30th, the Kensington Library celebrated its 40th anniversary with an open house and program narrated by head librarian Liz Ruhland. The event featured personal commentaries by previous librarians Barbara Furgason, Anne Bottomly, and Agnes Chen and by original Friends of the Kensington Library board member Gretchen Gillfillan. A scrap book prepared by librarian Louise O'Dea and will be on display in the library. The event also featured the performance of the play "Murder in the Library" featuring Esther Hill as Agatha Mystery. In the photo from left to right are: Esther Hill; "suspects:" Debbie Hamati, John Gioia, Larry Sullivan, Mar Jennings, Suzanne Vito, Amy Collen, and as Inspector Sam Slade: John Collen. A survey from the Friends of the Kensington Library will be sent out to residents with the next newsletter from the organization. The survey will be used to determine how the library is used and what ideas residents may have about its future. The surveys represent an important step in securing possible state library construction funds from a bond measure that will be on the June ballot.

Scouts wreath sale to fund trip to Jamboree

The weekend following the 2007 International Boy Scout Thanksgiving marks the beginning of holiday wreath sales. The scouts will be selling at two locations: Fat Apples at the top of Fairmount, and outside the stores on The Arlington.

The troop is hoping to raise money this year to help defray the cost of sending a delegation to the 2007 International Boy Scout Jamboree in England near the home of Robert Baden-Powell, the Founder of Boy Scouts. Anyone in the community who would like to purchase a wreath, but are unable to reach a regular sales location, please contact troop member Adam Zimmerman at 527-4847.



Hilltop students form connection with new mothers displaced in hurricane Katrina

Fifth graders in Jim Aiken's class at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School responded to a request for help from a shelter in Baton Rouge, Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina.

The shelter was set up to house pregnant women and newborns displaced by the hurricane.

The students made "Congratulations" cards containing heart-felt messages and donated new clothing and individually wrapped new baby gifts for each new mother.

The project came about after Amy Kurzer, a parent of one of the students in the class, read a request on the Craigslist web site from a woman working at the shelter that is run through a local church in Baton Rouge.

Kurzer suggested to Aiken that since students at the school had already done a lot of fund raising for Katrina victims, it might be



Jim Aiken

nice to try something more personal that would let them connect with victims directly through cards and gifts.

The students combined art work and personal messages in the cards they prepared. The families of the students were so generous that the shelter had a surplus and forwarded it to other needy families in that area.

The surplus items were sent to several families of sheriff's deputies, who lost everything in the disaster.

Library's Yiddishe cup runneth over thanks to grant

Nextbook and the American Library Association has awarded a \$1,500 grant to the Kensington Library in conjunction with the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center to present a series of five book discussions on Jewish literature.

The theme of the discussions is "Between Two Worlds: Stories of Estrangement and Homecoming."

Naomi Seidman, professor of Jewish Culture and director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union, will lead the discussions.

The following books will be discussed on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m at the Kensington Library:

- Jan. 14 *Lost in Translation*, by Eva Hoffman
- Feb. 11 *Mr. Sammler's Planet*, by Saul Bellow
- March 11 *Out of Egypt*, by Andre Aciman
- April 8 *The Centaur in the Garden*, by Moacyr Scliar
- May 6 *Kaaterskill Falls*, by Alegra Goodman

The Kensington Library will have limited numbers of copies of the books on reserve.

The book discussions are free events. Registration is recommended but not required. Call the library at 524-3043 or drop by to pick up a packet, including an essay to be read before the first discussion.

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Kensington Community Education

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KCC

Kensington Community Council

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Kensington Community Council
Building E, 59 Arlington Ave.
Kensington, CA 94707-1037
525-0292
kccrec@yahoo.com

OFFICE HOURS

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
The office will be closed during the winter break for school, December 19 through January 2.

KCC OFFICE

Building E is located across the grassy field from the Community Center Annex that houses The Neighborhood School.

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 for weekends and holidays only. The earliest reservation is for 9 a.m. Fees are \$2 per hour for Kensington residents, \$5 for others. Call Esther Hill at 525-0292 for classes and tennis court reservation information. For information on renting the community center, please call Helen Horowitz, 526-4141.

Gymnastics

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

Morning Kindergartners:

11:45 a.m.-1:05 p.m.

Advanced Beginners, Grades 1-3:

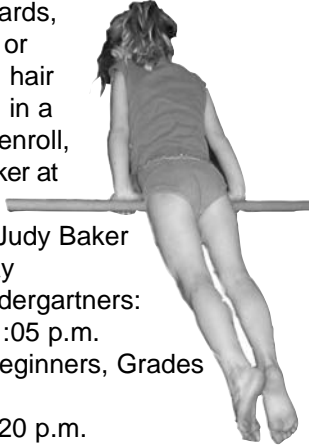
2:30 p.m.-3:20 p.m.

Advanced Beginners, Grades 4-6:

2:50 p.m.-3:40 p.m.

Tuesdays, 11 weeks

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Tennis

In this class for students in Grades 6, 7, and 8, Alex Brown teaches the fundamentals of tennis, including strokes, tactics, and sportsmanship.

Classes consist of instruction, drills, and play, and continue through the school year. Students must register by the month for one or two days a week

KASEP winter registration set for December 6

Registration for the winter session of KASEP will take place on Tuesday, December 6. Kindergarten registration begins at 7 p.m., and registration for students in grades 1 through 6 starts at 7:15 p.m.

Classes begin on Tuesday, January 3rd and end on Friday, March 24. There will be no KASEP classes on Monday, January 16, and Monday through Friday, February 20-24, when the Kensington Hilltop school is on break.

Instructor:

Alex Brown (524-5495)

Tuesdays and/or Thursdays

3:40-5:20 p.m.

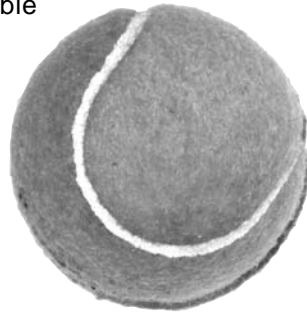
Fees (payable monthly):

\$10 per class/resident

\$11 per class/non-resident

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The office will be closed during the winter break for school, December 19 through January 2.

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Adult Classes

Acrylic Painting

Stan Cohen leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting, with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited.

Instructor approval required.
Instructor: Stan Cohen (533-3003)

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COMMUNITY CENTER



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This course will cover the building blocks of good painting, composition, values, and paint application. All levels welcome. To register and for a materials list, please call (510) 528-2983. Instructor: Barbara Ward

Session A runs: 8 weeks, Wednesdays, 7- 9 pm, January 18 through March 8, \$200.
Community Center

Session B runs: 8 weeks, Fridays, January 20 through March 10, course fee \$200.

Recreation Building (Bldg. E)

Tennis

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

To register, call Brown at 524-5495.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10 a.m.

5 classes/\$40 per



resident; \$45 per non-resident
TENNIS COURTS (West Court)

Soul Food 101

NEW CLASS

Come join in the fun preparing a dinner for the soul! This two class session will focus on the "good ole, down home" cooking of Soul Food. The session will begin with an introduction to Soul Food, where students will learn the history and origins of these dynamic tastes and flavors, and go on to prepare finger licking fried chicken, an assortment of fresh collard, mustard, and turnip greens, sweet and savory candied yams, buttermilk baked corn bread, and zesty black-eyed peas. Instructor Patricia Sandoval is a Kensington resident who owns a catering business, P.S. Scrumptious!, and has been cooking for over 30 years. For more information about the class, please contact Patricia at (510) 207-3497.

Session runs: Wednesdays, January 18 and 25, 7 - 9 pm; session fee is \$70 for Kensington residents and \$77 for nonresidents. To register, call the KCC office at (510) 525-0292. Classes will be held in the Community Center kitchen.

Yoga for Health

NEW CLASS

Harmonize your body, mind, and spirit. This class involves basic Yoga poses, correct body alignment, breathing techniques, and relaxation. Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck and back pain, and stress reduction will be addressed. No prior experience required - all ages welcome. Please bring a mat to the class. Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered Yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara

Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information about the class, please contact Nicole at (510) 798-8148.

Classes begin Tuesday morning, January 3, and will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Fees for residents: \$12 for drop-in, \$40 for 1 class per week for 4 weeks and \$80 for 2 classes per week for 4 weeks. Nonresidents please add 10 percent. To register, call the KCC office at (510) 525-0292. Classes will be held in the Community Center.

Swing Dance

NEW CLASS

East Coast swing is one of the most popular and easiest to learn of all

swing styles. Instructor Nick Lawrence will start with the basic steps and have everyone dancing by the end of the first class. The classes will build on the basics to create a repertoire of steps by the end of the session.

Nick Lawrence started swing dancing 22 years ago and has been teaching for the past 15 years. He teaches at Ashkenaz in Berkeley and is committed to making dance accessible to everybody. Please call Nick at 524-2546 for more information about the class. Session runs: 4 weeks, Fridays, January 27 - February 17, 8 - 9 pm. Session fee for the four classes is \$48. Nonresidents please add 10 percent.

No partner is needed to sign up for the session. Please call the KCC office at (510) 525-0292 to register. Classes will be held at the Community Center.

Gary Lapow Family Concert and Holiday Party

Tickets
\$5



Bring an
ornament

Wednesday, December 14, 2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue, 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 and 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 Community Center's tree. For more information, call Esther Hill at 525-0292.

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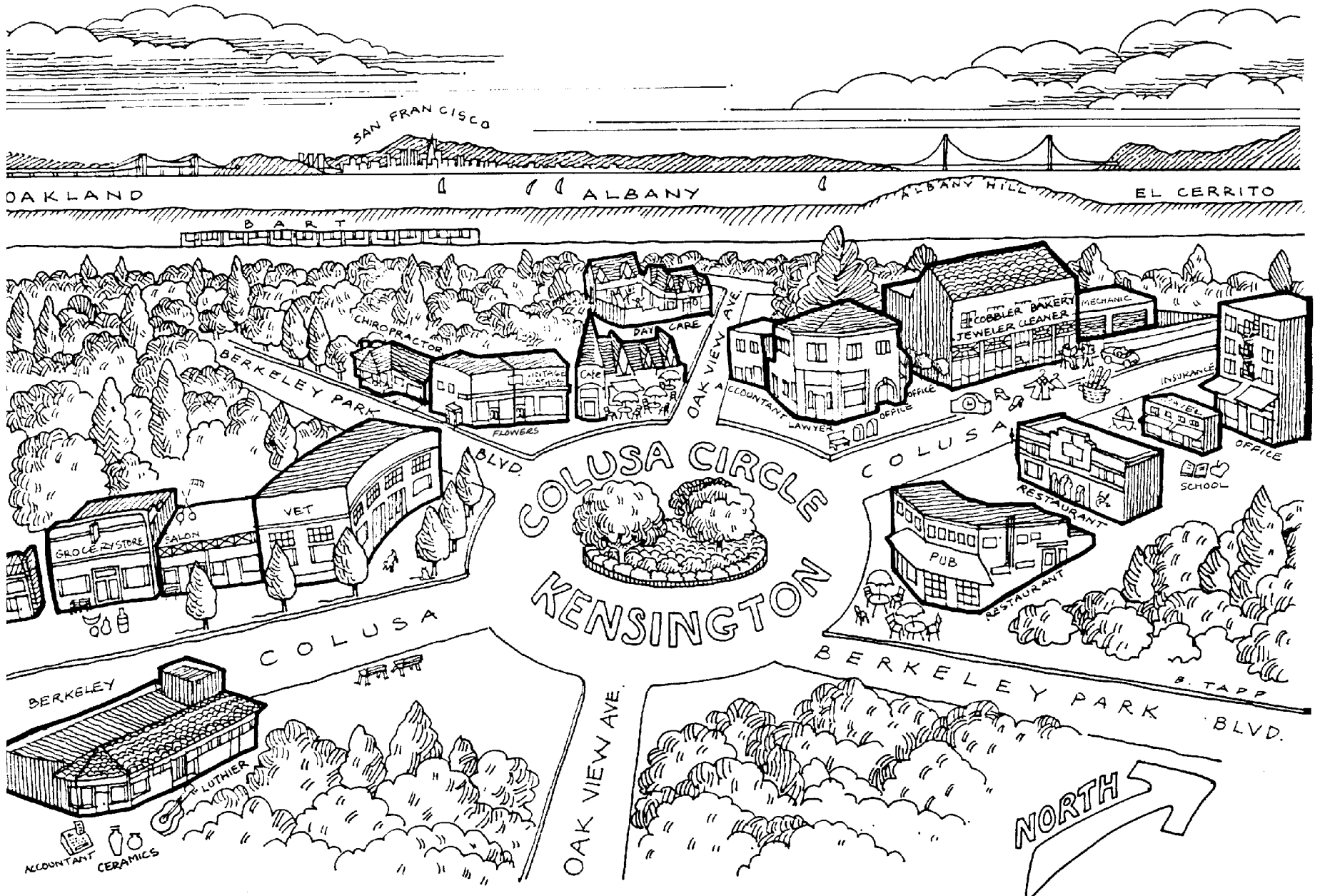
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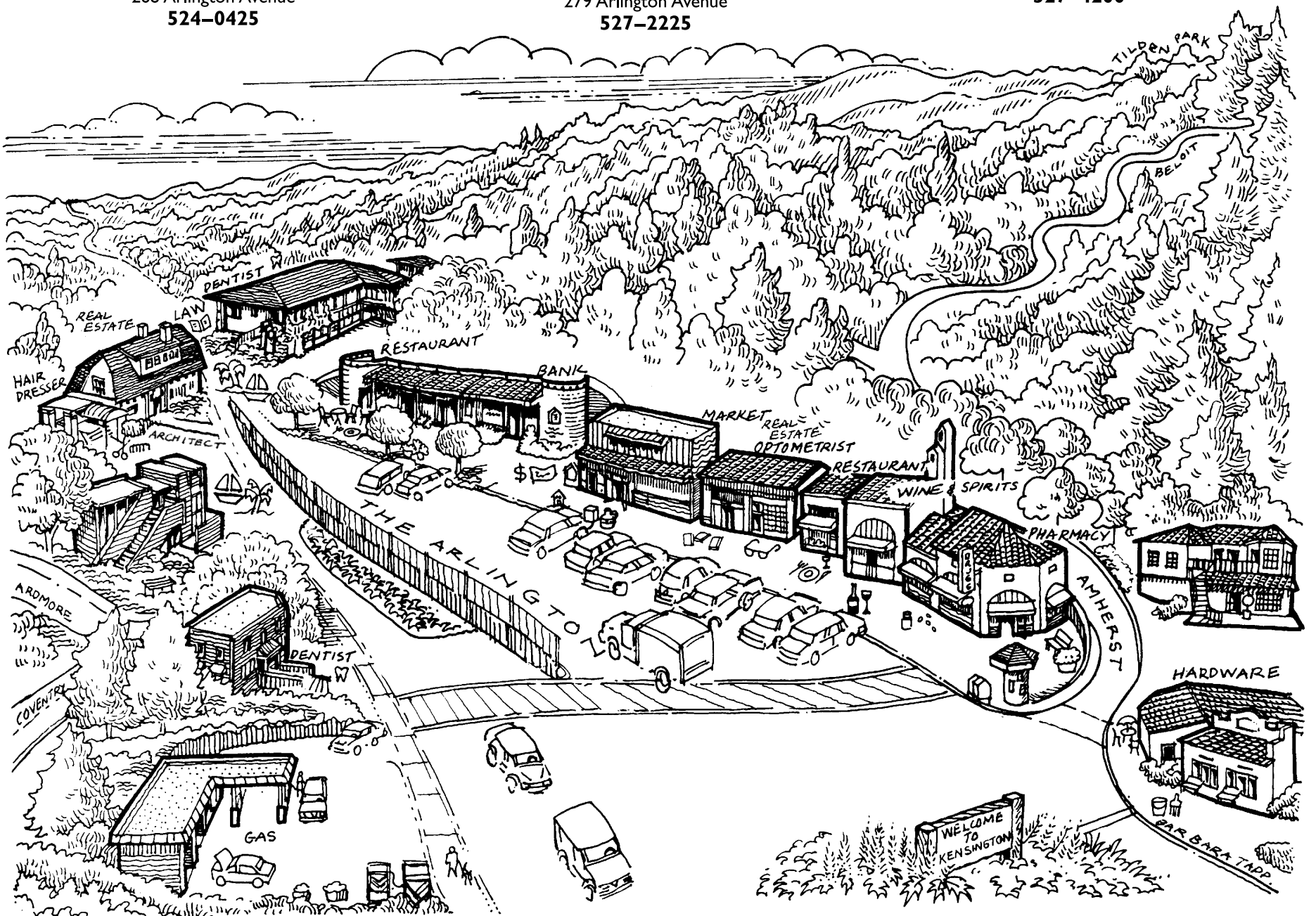
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Kensington Calendar

Sometimes you feel like a nut



Visions of sugar plum fairies will dance on the stage as Berkeley City Ballet performs **Nutcracker**, featuring guest artists from the Oakland Ballet and the Joffrey Ballet at the Zellerbach Playhouse on the UC Campus Dec. 2, at 7 p.m.; and Dec. 3 and 4, at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Adults \$25, under 12 and seniors \$15 Call for tickets: (510) 642-9988 or order on the web: <http://tickets.berkeley.edu/>

Saturday, December 3, Samanic Journeying: Meeting your Spirit Animal Allies 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at RabbitEARS, 303 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Communication with spirit allies in animal form in unseen worlds offers a bridge to communicating with embodied animals in the myriad ways that animals speak Cost: \$60. Info:526-6155.

Sunday, December 4 Annual Art Show & Holiday Faire at the Kensington Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 4 Personal Theology Seminar: Bill Garrett, Professor of Religion and Philosophy at JFK University: The Da Vinci Code. Bill will look at the religious and church themes in Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info:525-0302 ext. 306.

Sunday, December 4 Bunnies and Bagels: Have breakfast with us while meeting the bunny of your dreams at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at RabbitEARS Rescue Store, 303 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Info: 525-6155 www.rabbitears.org

Monday, December 5 The Kensington Community Council meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Info: 525-0292

Tuesday, December 6 Family Storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, December 6 Join Yiyun Li, author of "A Thousand Years of Good Prayers", for a talk on her debut collection of short stories about modern life in China and the United States at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito. Li is this year's recipient of the largest short story prize in the world, the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. Info: 526-7512.

Thursday, December 8 The American Red Cross of Northern California Region will hold a mobile blood

drive at the Albany High School Multi-Purpose Room from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 603 Key Route Blvd., Albany. Sign up in the attendance office. Walk-ins are welcome. Info: 594-5165.

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

Saturday, December 10 Kensington Symphony Holiday Concert with Geoffrey Gallegos, Conductor. Paul Cheak, bass-baritone; Dana Kemp and Lindsey Leslie, trumpet; Mozart, Handel, Humperdinck, Anderson, and others at 8 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. Suggested Donation: \$15; Seniors, \$10; Children free. Info: 524-9912.

Sunday, December 11 Personal Theology Seminar: Bill Garrett: The Cathar Heresy: A Sub-Text of The Da Vinci Code at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info:525-0302 ext. 306.

Monday, December 12 The East Bay Youth Band holds its Winter Concert & Raffle at 7 p.m. at the Holy Names University Studio Theater, 3500 Mountain Blvd. in Oakland. The concert features concert band selections, small chamber group ensembles and demonstration pieces from the Medieval Renaissance to contemporary favorites like "Oyo Como Va." Participate in the one dollar raffle and win a great prize! A \$5 donation is suggested for concert admission. Info: 444-4857

Tuesday, December 13 Family Storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, December 13 Join the Kensington Library for a special holiday music program performed by The First Presbyterian Church and Berkeley High School Choir under the direction of Erika Myers at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Call for performance time: 524-3043.

Wednesday, December 14 The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club holds its monthly luncheon meeting at noon at the Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito. The organization will install new officers and hold a musical program. Make reservations by Dec. 10. Tickets are \$15. For reservations and information call Catherine Weeks at 524-5689

Get a Handel on the holidays



Bryan Baker continues a tradition begun in the 1960s as he conducts the sing-along concert of Handel's Messiah Sunday, December 4 at 6 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. This performance features the New Millennium Strings Orchestra, Organist Sandra Soderlund, and soloists: Phyllis McCaughey, Pat Brunotts, Rod Lowe, Will Carroll and Barry Zuckerman. Scores are available for borrowing. Suggested Donation: \$10.00. Info: 525-0302.



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Kensington Calendar Continued

Wednesday, December 14

Gary Lapow Family Concert and Holiday Party at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington at 2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lapow mixes humor and playful audience participation to engage children from preschoolers through sixth graders. Tickets \$5. Children are invited to bring a homemade ornament to hang on the Community Center's tree. Info:525-0292.

Wednesday, December 14

Kensington Fire Protection District meets at 7:30 in the Kensington Community Center. Call to Confirm: 527-8395

Thursday, December 15

Help craft ornaments for the Kensington Library's holiday tree from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. The Friends of the Kensington Library is providing the tree. Info: 524-3043.

Saturday, December 17

Party Dog Nail Trimming: Get your pooch looking good for the holidays with a pedicure from vet tech Marilyn Hanson at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at RabbitEARS Rescue Store, 303 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Cost: \$12. Info:525-6155, www.rabbitears.org

Saturday, December 17

Join the Kensington Library for a special holiday music program performed by the Young People's Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Rem Djemilev at 3 p.m. at the Kensington Library at 61 Arlington Ave. This all-string orchestra is comprised of talented young musicians between the ages 8-13 from West Contra Costa County. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Info: 524-3043.

Sunday, December 18

Personal Theology Seminar: Sarah Lewis, teacher at Graduate Theological Union and New College, Spiritual Director: Extended Metaphors of Christmas at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info:525-0302 ext. 306.

Tuesday, December 20

Family Storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

Saturday, December 24

A Christmas Eve Family Candlelight service will be held at 5 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Additionally, there will be a candlelight service held at 10 p.m. Info: 525-0302.

Sunday, December 25

UU Sangha: A gathering for meditators of all paths led by members of the church community at 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info:525-0302 ext. 306.

Tuesday, December 27

Family Storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, December, 27

The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council meets at 7 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 273-9926

Saturday, December 31

New Year's Eve Worship Service at 5 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Sunday, January 1

Personal Theology Seminar: Sarah Lewis: Toward a Unified Theory of the Sacred at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info:525-0302 ext. 306

Tuesday, January 3

Family Storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

Sunday, January 8

Personal Theology Seminar: Lois Gilbert, teacher of languages: The Aramaic Lord's Prayer Revisited. Lois has been doing further study on the Lord's Prayer in the original language at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info:525-0302 ext. 306

Monday, January 9

The Kensington Community Council will hold its annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. For more information, see article on page 3. Info: 525-0292.

Tuesday, January 10

Family Storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

Wednesday, January 12

Kensington Fire Protection District meets at 7:30 in the Kensington Community Center. Call to Confirm: 527-8395

Thursday, January 13

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 526-4141

Shot in the arm



A lines extends outside the Arlington Pharmacy for flu shots in October

It's not too late to get a flu shot. The Arlington Pharmacy will once again be offering flu shots through Test-Med Services on Thursday, December 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$25. Traditional Medicare patients will pay nothing provided they have their Medicare card with them. HMO Medicare (Kaiser, Secure Horizon, etc.) patients will pay the \$25 fee and be given a receipt for submission to their insurance company for reimbursement. For further information, call 526-6414.

Julian Levine

Sunday, January 15

Personal Theology Seminar: Anna Matt, teacher of world religions at the Graduate Theological Union: The Indigenous, Native, Earth-based Religions at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. First of three sessions that explore what these traditions have to teach us today. Their teachings have parallels to those of modern ecology and cosmology. We will look at traditions from North and South America, Asia, the South Sea Islands, and Europe. Info:525-0302 ext. 306

Tuesday, January 17

Family Storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

Sunday, January 22

Personal Theology Seminar: Anna Matt, teacher of world religions at the Graduate Theological Union: The Indigenous, Native, Earth-based Religions at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Second of three sessions that explore what these traditions have to teach us today. Their teachings have parallels to those of modern ecology and cosmology. We will look at traditions from North and South America, Asia, the South Sea Islands, and Europe. Info:525-0302 ext. 306

Tuesday, January 24

Family Storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

Monday, January 28

The Kensington Library Book Club discusses its current selection at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. For further information call 524-3043.

Sunday, January 29

Personal Theology Seminar: Anna Matt, teacher of world religions at the Graduate Theological Union: The Indigenous, Native, Earth-based Religions at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Third of three sessions that explore what these traditions have to teach us today. Their teachings have parallels to those of modern ecology and cosmology. We will look at traditions from North and South America, Asia, the South Sea Islands, and Europe. Info:525-0302 ext. 306

Tuesday, January 31

Family Storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, January 31

The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council meets at 7 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 273-9926

Tuesday, January 31

Ring in Chinese New Year. Join Rosemary Gong, author of "Good Luck Life, The Essential Guide to Chinese American Celebrations and Culture" at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito. Say goodbye to the Year of the Rooster and hello to the Year of the Dog and learn how Chinese families celebrate the two week "Spring Festival." Info: 526-7512.

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• December Offerings •

- December 9
8:00 p.m. Celtic Christmas Music, Distant Oaks (Mini Concert Series)
- December 24
5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Service with Pageant (All children are welcome to participate. No rehearsal is necessary.)
- December 24
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Service with handbells and carols.
- December 25
10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Informal Service in the Fireside Room. Bring a gift to be blessed and wear comfortable clothing.

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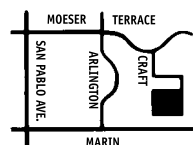
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- ★ Sunday, December 4—
9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.:
Annual Art Show & Holiday Fair
6:00 p.m.: Messiah Sing-A-Long
- ★ Saturday, December 24,
Christmas Eve— 5:00 p.m.:
Family Candlelight Service
10:00 p.m.: Candlelight Service
- ★ Saturday, December 31,
New Year's Eve—
5:00 p.m.: Worship Service

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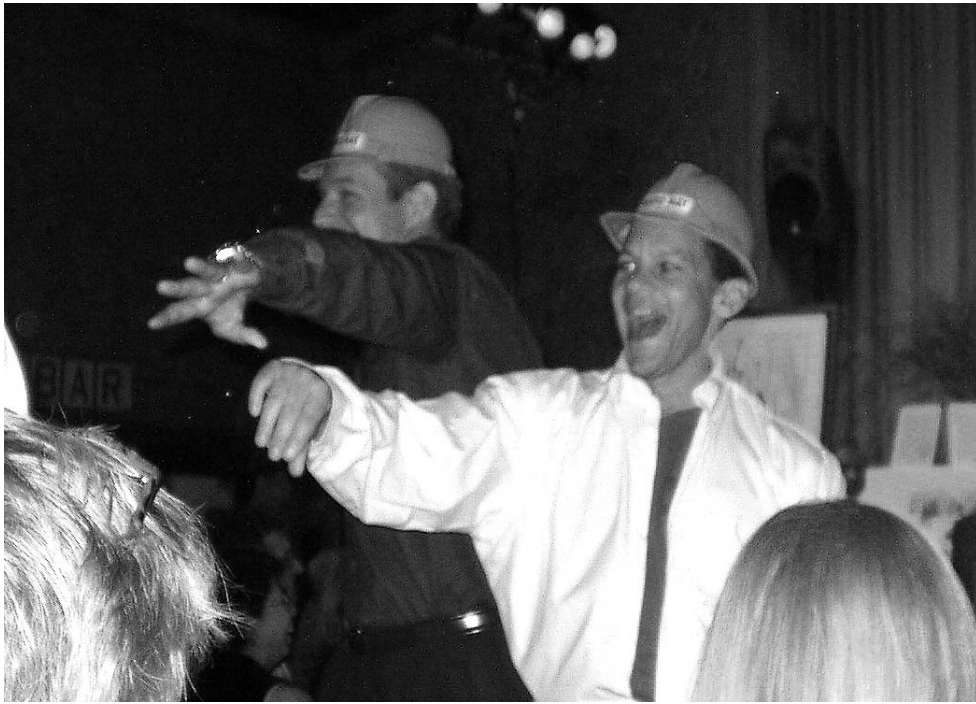
Season's Greetings

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Party: The Monty was far from full, but the bidding rose



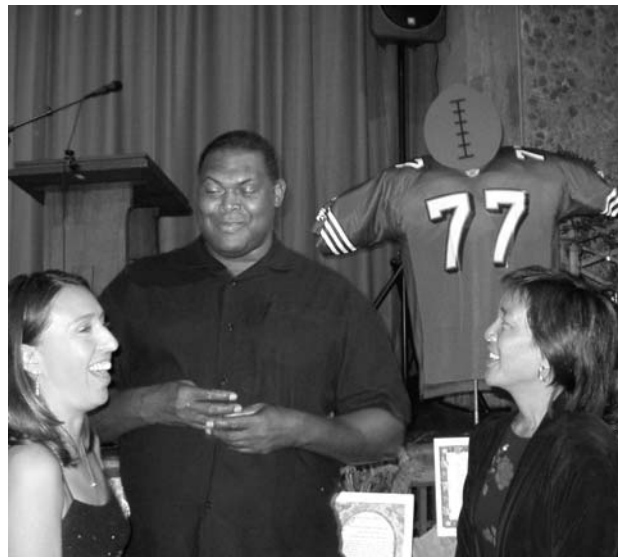
MONTY BALL: Dad's Club members try to juice the bidding at the Garden Party. (Below left) Patrick Schlesinger on sax with Tomas Schoenberg on bass and Gael Alcock on cello. (Below right) Garden Party Chair Christy Wise (left) with Kensington Education Foundation President Nora Hirose and Bubba Paris. Paris is the tall one in the middle.

Continued from page 1

The three time Super Bowl champion Paris took charge of the microphone for the live auction, which raised \$17,450 as audience members bid on items ranging from a Picasso lithograph to a firehouse birthday party with El Cerrito and Kensington fire crews that each went for \$1,000. The top item in the auction was an apartment for a week in New York City's theater district that sold for \$2,500.

Another big winner for the Garden Party was artwork made by students at the school. Those items brought in \$7,700. Classroom gift baskets, which offered themes ranging from wine to auto repair, raised \$4,800 and the raffle another \$3,200.

But perhaps the most memorable moment was the Dad's Club's offered the labor of a crew of volunteers for for a day. In the midst of bidding several hard hatted members of the Dad's Club danced their way down the isle to music from *The Full Monty*. Though clothes remained on, they still managed to raise \$1,600 on the item.



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From the case files of the KPD

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

Events in October

○A Kensington man reported his adult stepson threatened him by phone.

○A Cowper Ave. resident reported that at around 11:30 p.m. he heard an object hit his house and teenagers speed off in a vehicle. The object appeared to be a filled water bottle.

○A Beloit Ave. resident reported a vehicle sped away after throwing a piece of concrete at the left rear door of his Toyota Camry.

○The Kensington Library turned over two suspicious letters to police. The rambling missives - one intended for the Federal Bureau of Investigation - also appeared to have been sent to local media outlets and several judges. The letters did not appear to be threatening.

○A Kensington resident reported he was a victim of identity theft after he contacted PG&E to begin service at a new address and was refused because his social security number is on file for another person. PG&E instructed the man to make his request in writing.

○A Kensington woman on vacation called police to tell them that her adult son phoned her to tell her he had set off the alarm at her home after he pried open the garage door and broke into her house. The man, who is homeless, was taken to a shelter.

○A Cambridge Ave. resident involved in an ongoing dispute with his neighbor, called to complain that a work crew hired by his neighbor to trim a tree was allowing the trimming to fall into his yard.

○A sex offender registered with police as he is required to do annually.

○A Coventry Rd. resident reported hearing possible gunshots. An officer conducted a search and found no evidence of gunshots, but suspected someone may have been shooting at a deer.

○Residents reported that someone broke into two vehicles on Eureka Ave. and stole more than \$600 worth of goods.

○An Antelope man (from the city, not the animal) was driving in a pick-up with a refrigeration unit going door-to-door selling meat (presumably not antelope). Police told him to beat it (meaning leave).

A Purdue Ave. resident reported that a credit card statement contained an unauthorized transaction to a seed company for \$395.95.

○A Kerr Ave. resident reported as she was being evicted by a Contra Costa Sheriff's deputy that she had received harassing phone calls from a former resident.

○A Kerr Ave. resident reported that someone had broken the window on her garage door with an unknown object.

○Police provided security during a funeral at the Sunset Cemetery of an Oakland rap artist who had been killed in a multiple shooting.

○Police nabbed three Berkeley juveniles in the act of spray painting graffiti on the roof top of Young's market. Police contacted the parents.

○A Stafford Rd. resident reported a burglar broke into her home and stole more than \$5,000 worth of jewelry.

○A 1996 Honda Civic on Arlington Ave. was sideswiped by a hit-and-run driver.

○An Ocean View Ave. woman smacked a police officer in the leg with her aluminum cane after he responded to a call from her caretaker of a disturbance. The officer grabbed the cane and the woman stepped on his toe before he was able to calm the woman.

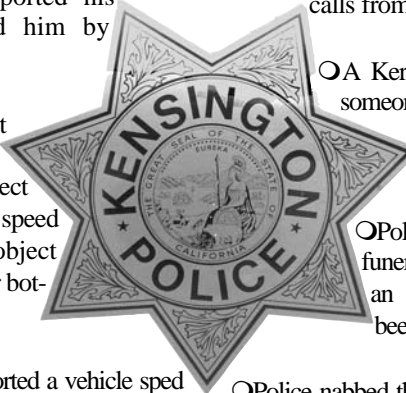
○An Ocean View Ave. resident reported someone cashed a fraudulent check on his account for \$6,000. Two bank branches refused to cash the check, but a third put it through. The bank has reimbursed the resident.

○Police responded to a call that an Ocean View woman who was unarmed, but had a cane, was out of control. The woman was taken for psychiatric help.

○A former Kerr Ave. resident evicted from where she was living broke in to get her belongings.

A man walking his dog on Norwood Ave. engaged in a shouting match with a resident whose dog was not on a leash. The dog walker threatened to spray the unleashed dog with pepper spray and the Norwood dog owner responded with a threat to shoot the dog walker (something the man later said he did not mean). Police responded with a discussion on pet owner responsibility and the limits of the first amendment.

Police Phones
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 Other police business: 526-4141



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