
Bringing The Community Together

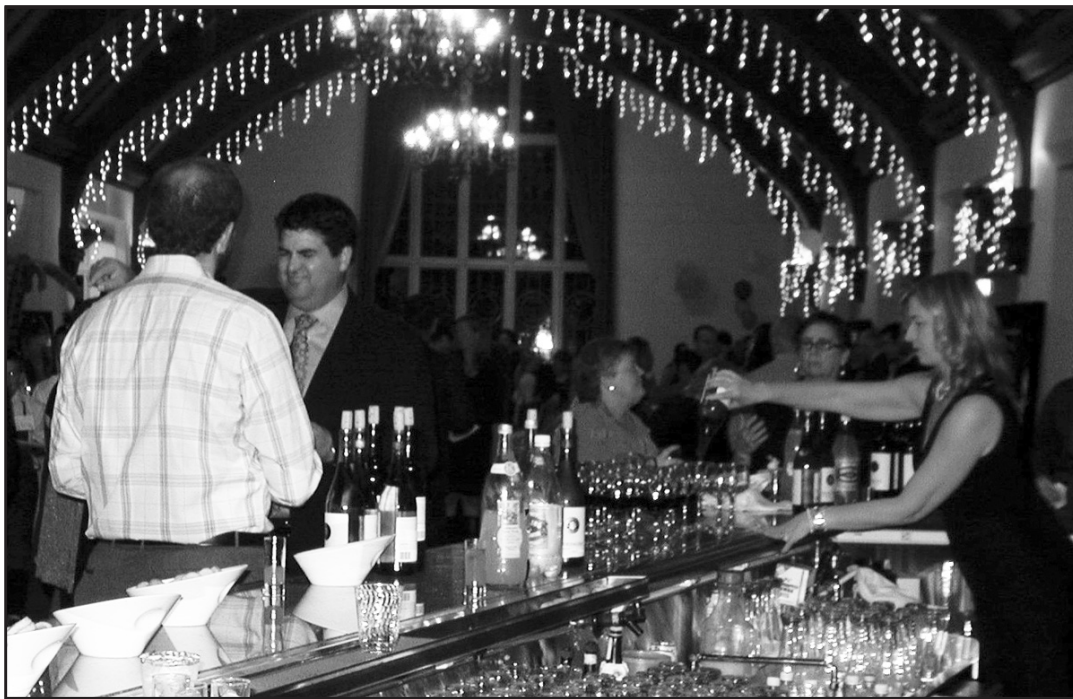
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O U T L O O KAvailable Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

DEC 2011/JAN 2012

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 68 NUMBER 10

28th Annual Garden Party a Big Hit!



"Can you imagine what it would be like if every community put this kind of effort into supporting its school?" – Supe. John Gioia

Park Buildings Plan – Design Alternatives

KPPCSD is planning for the future of the buildings in Kensington Park. Consultants will present and get community feedback on alternatives for building programs and conceptual designs – including revenue and expense projections.

They want to hear from YOU!

Saturday, December 3rd, 10am
Community Center (Youth Hut) 59 Arlington Ave.

Twinkling lights; twinkling stars. A red sky over the hills of San Francisco and Mt. Tam reflected in the waters of the bay, as the sun set, the still-full moon rose, and the luminaries of Kensington began arriving at *the* social event of the year – November's fundraiser for the Kensington Education Foundation.

Kensington's finest – those who know how important schools are to our community – gathered in their finery, on a cool, clear night, high in the hills at the Mar Vista Country Club, overlooking the bay, the bridges, and The City.

Soon, the band would be cooking, the wine flowing, the people dancing.

A Latin-infused jazz combo, featuring two tenor saxophones, trap and conga drummers, keyboards, and an unusual-for-a-jazz-band female upright bass player, provided the

background for the Kensington Hilltop Kids to wend their way through the throng with offerings of appetizers, including new-this-year, chicken & waffles – and later, desserts, including out-of-this-world mini cheesecakes.

Complimentary cocktail shots at the door kicked things into gear for many who arrived – some safely chauffeured both to and fro' by the Dad's Club shuttle – with brisket-, pulled pork-, turkey-, and crabmeat sliders, or cold peeled jumbo shrimp, new potatoes, green beans, and dip taking the edge off for the revelers.

Among those in attendance were Contra Costa Supervisor, John Gioia and his wife, Jennifer; KCC Administrator Emeritus, Esther Hill; KMAC President, Patrick Tahara; KFPD Director, Nina Harmon; Arlington Community Church Pastor, Rev. Tony Clark

see Party, Page 9...

Happy Holidays!




from all of us at

MARVIN GARDENS

Mark P. Choi
Celia Concus
Ron Egherman
Melissa Eizenberg
Susan Grant

Todd Hodson
Candace Hyde-Wang
Sheri Madden
Tom Modic
Toba Schwartz



Donate a new, unwrapped toy to our Kensington office for donation to the Marines' Toys for Tots Gift Program. Please drop off your donation any time during our regular business hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. The deadline for drop-off is Thursday, December 15th.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scarcity of Civility;
Surfeit of Surveillance

Dear Editor:

As noted in several letters and articles in *Kensington Outlook*, we’re experiencing a marked decline in civility among our neighbors as well as our elected officials. As a small community that prides itself on old-fashioned neighborliness, we need to recognize and address this problem before it gets even worse.

Over the past few years, I had begun to notice more people disobeying traffic laws regarding stop signs and speed limits. Plus, I observed discourteous behavior and lack of yielding when traveling the hills of our town.

As a result, I joined with two other residents who were similarly dismayed. We met with Chief Harman to get his perspective on the problem. We appreciated his support and his suggestion that as private citizens we meet with some of the K-committees to seek their help about the decline of civility. What we saw at the meetings, however, reinforced our feelings that some of our residents are losing sight of what makes Kensington a special place. Not only were neighbors arguing with neighbors at the meetings, but committee members were arguing among themselves. In short, it was very discouraging, as we were trying to increase awareness of the core neighborly attitudes that attracted us to this community in the first place.

And then, most recently, my wife and I have experienced right next door a new neighbor who seems clueless about what being a good neighbor entails. Not only has she erected a fortress-like fence around her property, but she also has installed a number of video surveillance cameras, including one aimed directly at our bedroom window. Despite what Robert Frost said, good fences do not always make good neighbors.

So what’s making residents of our community act with such little regard for their fellow neighbors? Is this part of a trend we are seeing across the country where people are becoming so self-absorbed that they cannot see the impact their actions have on others? Are they so stressed that they want to lash out at others? How does a neighbor justify aiming a video surveillance camera at her neighbor’s bedroom window, especially when our homes are just 75 yards from the Kensington Public Safety Building? Is it fear? Is it selfishness? Is it insensitivity?

Perhaps more residents should have participated in the recent Fall Festival & Parade, where Kensington’s special features were on display. Neighbors walking with neighbors. Drivers showing patience as the parade made its way up Arlington. Everyone joining the Boy Scouts in the Pledge of Allegiance. Call it old-fashioned, yet it gave me a good feeling about living here. It also reminded me that we all need to be more courteous to each other all the time.

Sincerely,
David Matthews

One View From
Inside KMAC

Dear Editor,

The Arlington building issue that was the subject of a letter in each of the last three issues of the *Outlook* has been resolved, at least temporarily. This letter conveys MY (and only my) understanding of what happened in relation to this project.

First, the project proponent applied for and received a building permit for the work to be performed. Since neighbors did not request a hearing when the project was noticed, it did not come before the KMAC. It was subsequently determined that the project involved a variance, thus triggering a KMAC hearing, at which several versions of events were presented. At that meeting, the item was “continued” pending submittal of additional materials for KMAC review. Finally, a variance request was made and heard at the October (2011) KMAC meeting, where the committee voted unanimously to recommend approval.

I would like to take this opportunity to retract my characterization of the project proponent as a “bad actor” and to apologize for using this term. I based my word choice on information presented in the first KMAC meeting that I should have confirmed myself.

If there’s any message in here for Kensington residents, it is: contact the county (not the KMAC) regarding possible building code violations. Read the code and the Kensington Combining Ordinance to determine if procedures are being followed. Check your facts before you act.

Gordon Becker
Gordon is on the board of the Kensington Municipal Advisory Commission

More Memories of
Kensington Past

I really enjoyed the ‘Memories’ in the recent *Outlook*. Thank you! I have a few to pass on.

We moved to Kensington in 1961. I was teaching in Berkeley and my husband was a new lawyer just out of Boalt. Our realtor talked about how we just had to live here!

The schools had just been written up in a national new magazine as being the ideal school situation...Kensington Hilltop School, Portola, and then El Cerrito High. The children in the community walked to school sans parents. There were many vacant lots, and after school and on weekends the children played outdoors, and even could gather berries.

Often a person on horseback would ride down Arlington Court and the two lovely ladies that owned the Blake Estate would walk down the street with big picture hats on their heads. So charming!

The Arlington Community Church would play music with the chimes, and one could hear the bells at the Carmelite Monastery early in the morning. Reminded one of the villages in Europe!

We had weekly egg and dairy deliver-

See Letters, Page 13...

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

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Ave., the Kensington Community Council offers an After School Enrichment Program (KASEP). KCC office hours are Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm. Contact us at 525-0292 or kccrec@yahoo.com.

The fall session of the Kensington After-school Enrichment Program began September 26th and will continue until December 16th. **Winter registration will take place on Wednesday, December 7th.**

KASEP Brochures for Winter Session will go home in your child’s backpack from Hilltop School the week of November 28th. Brochures will also be available for pick-up at the Kensington Library and KCC office.

Lottery slips are due Monday, December



Sewing October Creations Stitch by Stitch!

5th by 11:00am. There is a drop-box at the KCC office to put lottery slips. Notice of your lottery number will be posted at the KCC Office, the Community Center and on the website, “AboutKensington.com” on Tuesday, December 6th. If you are registering for karate or gymnastics, you do not need to come to registration night, register directly with the instructor.

Registration takes place at the Kensington Community Center. Kindergarten registration on Wednesday, Dec. 7th is at 6:45pm and at 7:15pm for grades 1-6. If you cannot be at registration, another family can list you on their lottery slip and sign-up both families at registration. Families can also register for any spaces left in classes after registration in the KCC office.

KASEP Winter Session begins Tuesday, January 3, 2012. KCC wishes you a safe and special holiday season.

ADULT RECREATION CLASSES

HOOP POWER IS BACK!
6 Week Hoop Series: starting Thursday, January 12th - February 16th

Hoop Power:
Thursday Morning Hoop Dance Class
Thursdays, 8:45 – 9:45 am
Min. 5 students and Maximum of 10 students \$75.00 for the 6 week session
Located in the Kensington Community Center (Youth Hut)

Fun and fitness, movement and meditation are all found in hoop-dance. We will start with basic waist hooping, moving on to more intermediate moves both on and off the body, all while discovering your own dance in a hoola-hoop and the soothing, meditative aspects of hooping. No hoop experience necessary. This is a beginning class. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring water. Hoops provided for class and will be available for purchase.

About the teacher: Kaye Anderson is the founder and lead hooper of Hoop Power. She is also a clinical social worker who has been working with children, teens, and families for over 15 years. A lifetime student of music and yoga, and a lover of dance, Kaye discovered hoop-dance in 2007. Kaye teaches both children and adults in Berkeley

2ND ANNUAL WILD-CRAFTED WREATH MAKING EVENT
Join us on Friday, December 2nd, from 6-8pm for a hands-on Wild-Crafted Wreath Making Workshop at the Kensington Community Center; hot apple cider and cookies served.

We will be using a diverse array of evergreen cuttings, as well as eucalyptus and succulents to create the wreaths. We’ll have everything you need to create a unique, festive and long-lasting wreath to complement a front door or any room of your house. Wreaths will be bound with raffia ties and will be completely compostable.

Please bring pruning shears (if you have them), as well as, accents and ribbons to personalize your wreath (if you want).

Cost of \$40 includes all materials. You will be able to select evergreen boughs and boughs of contrasting foliage and accents from a diversity of those that we will provide.

Taught by two experienced floral and event designers, Catherine Johnson and Ondine Boulter. Please call or email Catherine at csings2faye@yahoo.com, (510) 367-7977 with questions.

To register, call the KCC office at 510-525-0292, or e-mail kccrec@yahoo.com., or mail a check to KCC, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707.



The Sewing Workshop Group Learns to Spool Knit Keychains and Bracelets

Many Thanks to Our Generous KCC Annual Fund Drive Donors!

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Community Center

Stan Cohen (533-3003) 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.

BEGINNING WATERCOLOR
Marge Essel, Instructor
Thursday Evenings, 7-9pm
Recreation Building, Room A
\$50.00 per month for Kensington residents, or \$54.00 for non-residents.
Drop-ins are welcome.

The Adult Water Color class is taking a break for the holidays. It will resume January 2012. The first class is scheduled for Thursday, January 12th from 7:00 - 9:00pm. No experience is necessary. To register, send a check made out to KCC at 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707 or call 525-0292 for more info.

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.


Tennis Court Reservations:
For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am.
Call the KCC office for information. Court Fees: Residents – \$2 for a 45-min. singles reservation. Non-resident: \$5.

Winter Holiday Cheer!
Parents & Families Join KCC in Celebration
Thursday, December 15th, 5-6pm

Leave work earlier and join us! This late afternoon event will host Kensington After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) class projects: Share in an exciting KASEP drama class production. Our Chorus Ensemble will lead us in holiday songs. Hip Hop dancers will demonstrate their fancy footwork, and children enrolled in the recorder class plan to share their talents in musical delight. Tables with children’s work will also be on display. Hot cider and cookies will be served.

At the Community Center (Youth Hut)

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Rev. Tony Clark
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No matter who you are or where you are
on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Welcoming the Light

Join us as we prepare to welcome the light of God
through Hope, Peace, Love and Joy this Advent Season.

We extend to you a warm invitation to these special events...

November 27 10:00 a.m.	<i>Welcoming the gift of Hope</i>
December 4 10:00 a.m.	<i>Welcoming the practice of Peace</i>
December 11 10:00 a.m.	<i>Welcoming the reality of Love</i>
December 17 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.	<i>Procession of Light along Arlington Avenue presented by Young People's Music and Arts Programs</i>
December 18 10:00 a.m.	<i>Welcoming Joy</i>
December 24 4:00 p.m.	<i>Family Christmas Eve Service, Pageant and Carols, Children of all ages invited to participate</i>
December 25 11:00 a.m.	<i>Lessons and Carols welcoming the Light of God</i>

• Where faith is a verb ~ Arlington Community Church •

Neighborhood Notes

Pasta Feed to Benefit the Firefighters Toy Program

Join our Fire Chief and the Kensington Firefighters on Saturday, December 3rd, when at a Pasta Feed to benefit the Firefighters Toy Program. In exchange for the donation of a new, unwrapped toy or a monetary donation of at least \$10 per person, the firefighters will serve you a pasta dinner. The Kensington station has been participating with the El Cerrito and Richmond Fire Departments collecting and delivering toys to the needy every holiday season since 1995. Mark your calendar and plan to join your fellow Kensingtonians for this family-style pasta feed that will help other, less fortunate families in West Contra Costa during the holiday season. If you are unable to attend, the Kensington Fire Station will have a toy barrel to accept donations for the 2011 holiday season through December 21st. Pasta Feed, Sat., 12/3, 5-8pm, Kensington Fire Station/Public Service Building, 217 Arlington Avenue.

Kensington resident, writer, and sometime-artist, David Kundtz, recently published this (color) post card, from an original painting (www.DavidKundtz.com). It is now available at the Arlington Pharmacy.

Kensington Put On, Then Wiped Off Map!

A fourth-generation Californian, longtime Kensington resident, David Littlejohn, recently published his third novel, *The Big One: A Story of San Francisco*. The book centers on an imagined horrific earthquake of the future, but Littlejohn himself looms pretty large hereabouts, too. A well-known literary and arts critic for PBS, The Times (London), The Wall Street Journal, and KQED, and a Cal professor of English and journalism for 35 years, he is also the author or editor of 15 books to-date. Littlejohn prides himself on his pioneer heritage as the great, great grandson of a gold-seeking '49er. But it's Northern California's other big motif – the inevitable quake to end all quakes –that's the subject of his current novel. David says, "I actually place the epicenter of my (imaginary, not-too-far-future) 'Big One' in Kensington, so that all the world's press ends up calling it 'The Kensington Earthquake' – thereby putting us on the map at the same time it wipes us off it." In 400 pages or so, you can read all about it! <http://sbpra.com/davidlittlejohn>

A Guffy Halloween

Chief of Police, Greg Harman, said he had to close Ardmore Road on Halloween night, due to the number of trick-or-treaters attracted to Kensington by the haunted house built annually by the Guffy family at 10 Ardmore Road. Their haunted house this year was truly frightening – seems like it gets "better" every year. Make a note to walk through it next Halloween – that is, if you happen to be one of those who enjoys listening to the screams of others – as well as your own!

Farmers' Market Grows Readers Too

This spring, Chris Hall, the Market manager, teamed up with Connie McCullough, former owner of Sweet Tomato Farms, and Becky Stevens, head of the Hilltop Elementary School PTA, to create a "Food Explorer" program, introducing first- and second grade students to fruits and vegetables, which parts of the plants we eat, and how the plants grow. As an outgrowth of this program, Berkeley realtor, Barbara Henderson of Red Oak Realty, chipped in to sponsor a program called *Kensington Farmers' Market Grows Readers*, to raise money for the libraries at Hilltop and Thousand Oaks elementary schools. Each child at these schools received a coupon worth \$5 towards book purchases at their school. The children were invited to drop off the coupons at the Sunday market at Colusa Circle, and at the end of the summer the Farmers' Market gave a check to each school for the value of all their coupons they collected. Kensington Library's haul from the Kensington Farmers' Market: \$465. (*It appears, despite what we have all been told by our parents, that money may indeed, grow on trees – and vines; or may possibly appear as a root vegetable!*) Good work, Chris and Connie!

The Kensington Farmers' Market presented a check to the Hilltop School Library from the Kensington Farmers' Market Grows Readers program that they ran last summer...

KIC members and friends at the Gore lot clean up on October 9th. From left to right: Gretchen and Walter Gillfillan, Linda Lipscomb, Lorraine Osmundson, Janet Hittle, Julia Newton, Mia Brenner, Amelia Newton, Susan Brenner, and Russ Graham.

Kensington Hilltop kids, shown here last year at the Kensington Library, appear in Kathryn Roszak Children's Dance Program's "Nutcracker" on December 12th at Ashkenaz in Berkeley

Kensington Improvement Club’s November Town Hall Meeting

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia kicked off the November 5th meeting with the cheery news that county property tax revenues are down by more than 10% over the last three years – something that has never happened before, even during the Great Depression. “Contra Costa is one of the hardest hit counties in the state, and trying to maintain services is a challenge,” Gioia said. To deal with the crisis, the County is negotiating with its employee unions to make benefits more sustainable, reducing salaries, and having employees contribute more to their pensions, among other strategies. “Our hope is that we can keep from having to lay off more employees or cut more services, like library hours,” said Gioia.

Subsequent to the Town Hall Meeting, Measure J on the recent mail-in ballot passed, and Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo will remain open, at least for the time being. Supervisor Gioia explained what was at stake in that referendum, including the importance of keeping West County’s only full-service emergency room open.

According to John, there are two public hospitals in Contra Costa – the County Hospital in Martinez and Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo. Doctors filed for bankruptcy in 2006 and emerged from bankruptcy in 2008, and has been struggling to become financially sustainable since that time.

60% of 911 emergency calls in West County are transported to Doctors Hospital. Heart attack and stroke victims are transported to Doctors’ because of its specialized ability to provide care. If this hospital closed, there would be longer ambulance transport times and longer wait times at other area hospitals.

Luckily, the ballot measure assessing a \$47/yr parcel tax, tied to the hospital continuing to stay open, was approved by nearly 74% of voters – which will raise \$5 million to help close an \$18 million gap. The hospital’s governing board, which John chairs, is working to close the rest of the financial gap by cutting expenses, increasing revenues, refinancing debt, and forming partnerships with other area hospitals.

On another front, Supervisor Gioia informed residents that the County is working on taking responsibility for the drainage line under the Highland path (the work is now complete) and researching how, as a first step, it can cooperate with KPPCSD to take ownership of that path.

Lastly, Supervisor Gioia recommended that Kensington homeowners voluntarily install seismic shutoff valves, which automatically stop the flow of gas to a house in the event of a leak in the line. Currently, under a County ordinance sponsored by Gioia, Kensington homeowners are required to install these valves when they sell their home, or as part of a major remodel of their house.

14th District Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, next on the dais, described the bill she carried to create new revenue for the State.

Representative Skinner informed the

crowd that ours is one of only a very small number of states that has a 2/3 requirement for passage of new revenue measures.

Nancy was able to get her bill (ordering national companies to pay taxes on items purchased online) passed, as it enabled the State to collect revenues it is already legally owed and, as such, only a simple majority was required to pass it. Companies will now have to collect sales tax on items purchased online – with potential revenue for the State of \$250-500M yearly, beginning July, 2012.

Unfortunately, Rep. Skinner said, at the same time we are facing “trigger” cuts to schools, which will be enacted by the governor if tax revenues don’t meet the projections that were made in the current budget – as it appears they will not.

Janice Kosel, President of the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD), gave an update on the renovation of the Public Safety Building – including structural work, drainage and ADA access issues, rotting shingles, and installation of new fire-resistant windows – all of which are practically complete.

She also informed residents of a little-known perk we have here in Kensington – firefighters will check installation of child seats in cars, or verify that yours is properly installed.

The Fire District also has a new director this year – Joe DeVille – replacing Don Dommer after years of Don’s fine service.

Greg Harman, KPPCSD General Manager and Chief of Police was pleased to inform the crowd that, while the Kensington force ranked a very respectable 4th best, county-wide, in response to 911 calls, it was also rated first in Contra Costa County for violent crime clearance, with a 65% clearance rate, as well as in property crime, with a 17% clearance rate – all over the last three years.

Since the “Zero Tolerance” policy for moving violations was instituted in January, there have been 1327 moving citations issued, as compared with a total of 570 (2010) and 327 (2009).

This year there have been 8 non-injury accidents, as compared with 22 in each of the previous two years.

Greg also reminded everyone that there is street sweeping on many Kensington streets on the first Friday of every month. (Info at: www.kensington-california.org/latest-news)

Chuck Toombs, President of the Kensington Community Services and Police Protection District, reported that the KPPCSD has been working with the County, KIC, and Bryce Nesbitt to assess what should be done with the Kensington paths, with some progress having been made in talks with the County.

In somewhat of an under-the-radar bombshell, Chuck mentioned that, while documents requested from Bayview Refuse regarding Bayview’s request to assign the garbage contract have yet to be provided by Bayview, KPPCSD is still hoping to avoid transferring the contract(!).

See Town Hall, Page 13...



Representative Nancy Skinner
Photo: Anthony Knight



KIC President, Melissa Holmes Snyder, presents Bryce Nesbitt with a Certificate of Appreciation, beautifully calligraphed by Elena Caruthers, for his work spearheading the maintenance – and what is hoped to be the eventual acquisition – of the Kensington Paths.

• Experience Matters •

- Alexandra Crisafulli
- Vivian Fendel
- Linda Gerson
- Jennifer Jonak
- Estelle Kent
- Linda Lipscomb
- Stuart Marson
- Lorraine Osmundson
- Gene Millstein

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Serving the Kensington community since 1980

Pre-School Schedule

Pre-School 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

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We offer music with a teacher from the Crowden School of Music

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90 Highland Blvd., Kensington, CA 94708

Classroom Phone 510 526-5871

Office Phone 510 236-5901

email neighborhoodschool@comcast.net

We are located on the kindergarten yard at Kensington Elementary School

Neighborhood School also offers before and after school care for K-6 grades for students attending Kensington Elementary School

Listen Believe Emerge

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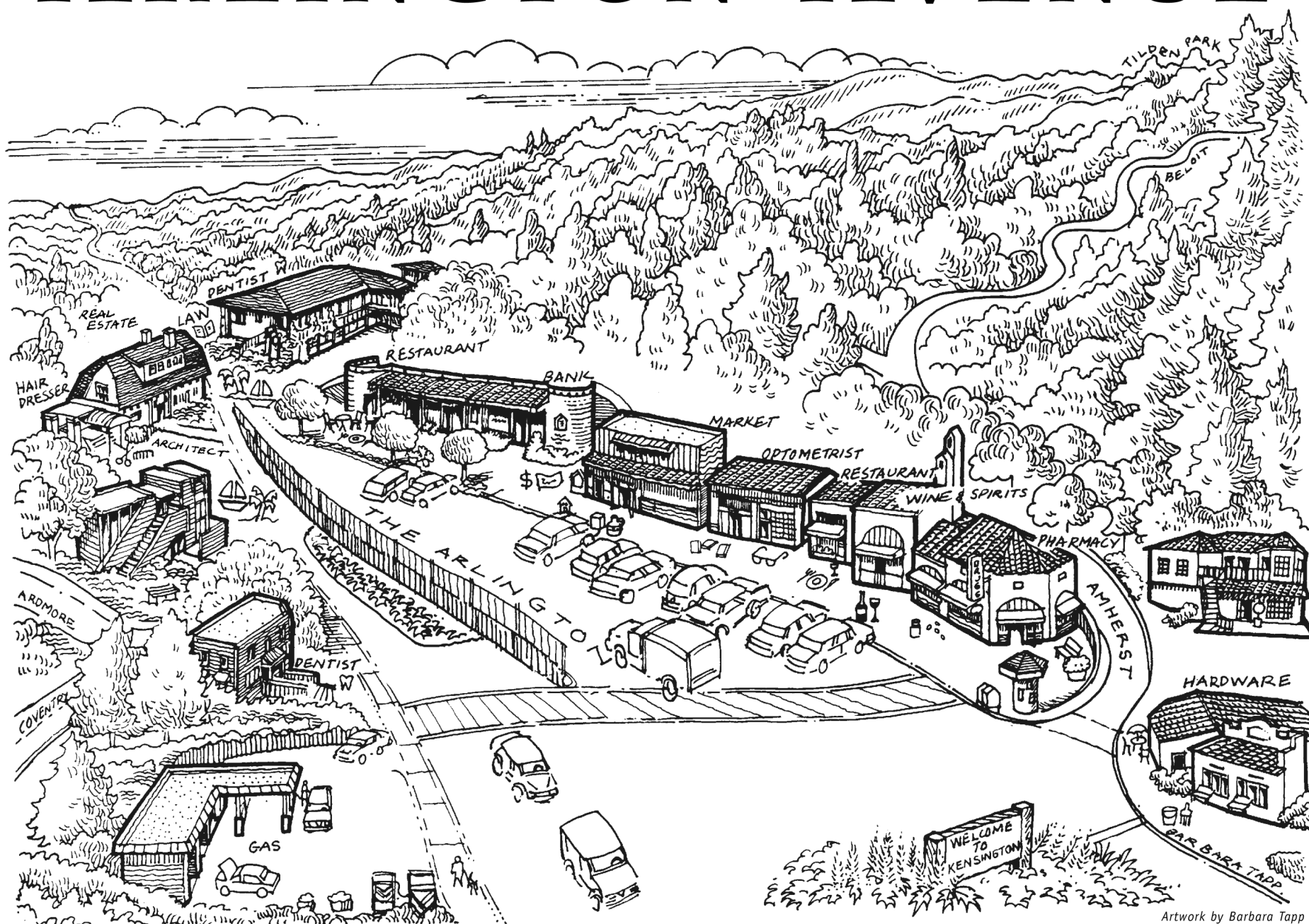
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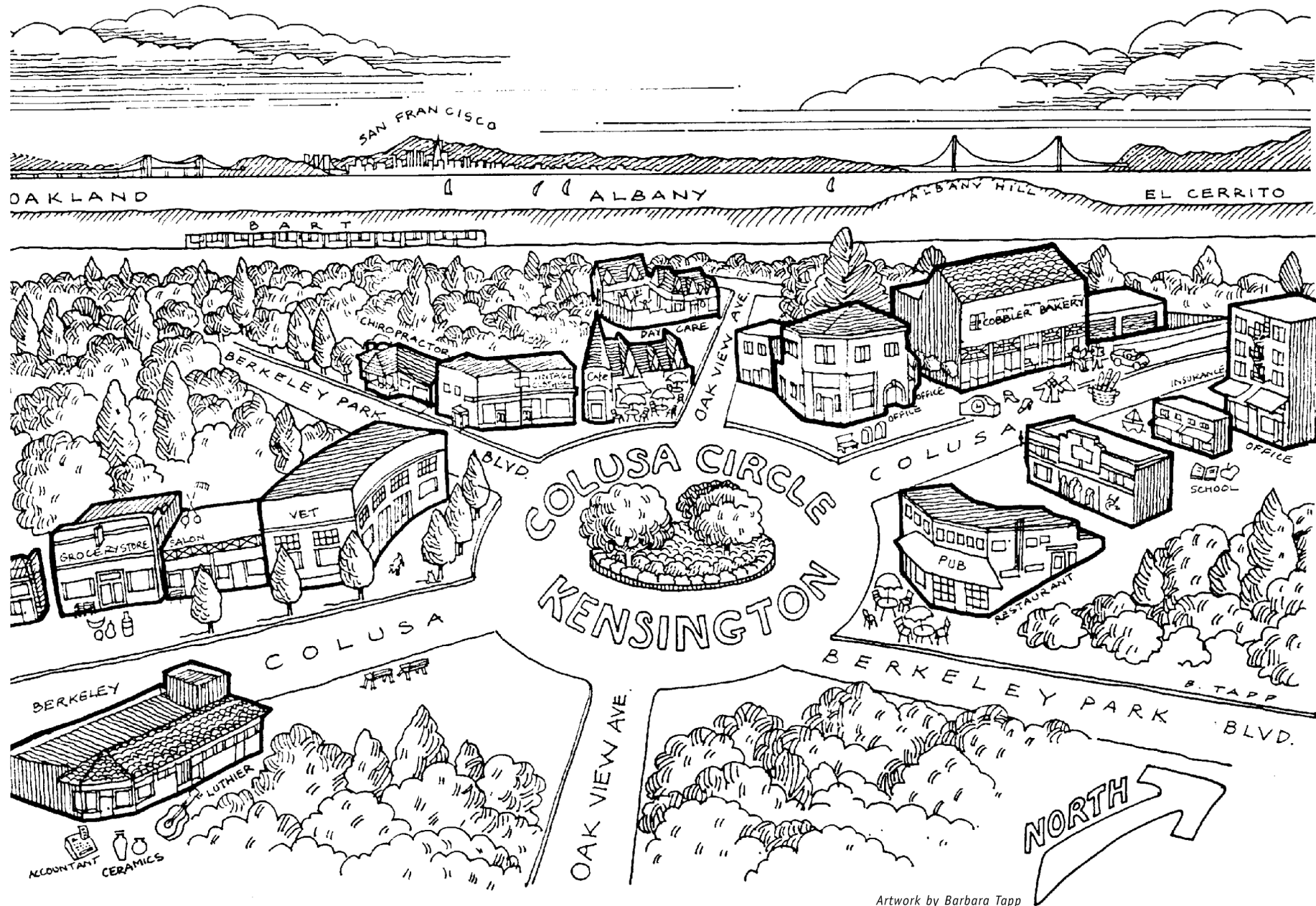
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COLUSA AVENUE



Contra Costa County Canine Ordinance Puts Owner in Dog House

The “Dangerous Dog” Ordinance is an ordinance put in place in 2005 to address the issue of dogs maiming and killing humans. Unfortunately, it is wrapped up in the same law, that addresses dogs maiming and killing animals. As the recent sad experience in Ohio shows us, humans are more valuable than animals. Tranquillizing those loose animals was not an option, since it takes 30 minutes to take effect, and they can hide, wake back up, and maim or kill a human. In my case, Animal Control was so overwhelmed by all the dogs in the county that it took 8 days to impound my animal. If the dog had maimed a human, then 8 days would be far too long!

My dog was taken away during dinner and my three children were all crying and didn’t know if they would see him again. Ironically, the next morning my friend in El Cerrito called me for advice, as her dog was taken the day before. Her dog was the constant companion to her 3-year-old son who doesn’t have any siblings, so the dog is a sibling. This is also a dog that saved a 5-year-old from falling into a ravine. She is going for a hearing, so her son probably won’t have his dog back for 1-4 months! The dog was impounded for allegedly attacking a person, with no documented human injury. Like me, she requested the records on the dog the day after the impoundment, only to be told that they can’t release the records until the investigation is closed. So, they hold all the information and charge a \$25 impoundment fee per day while this goes on.

Due to budget cuts and this law making any dog biting an animal as bad as biting a human, the County can’t keep up. (I also wonder how many dogs get destroyed just because their owners aren’t as stubborn as I am, and willing to go to Animal Control multiple times, and pay over \$850 to get their animal back. I wonder if, since 2005, the dog surrender rate has skyrocketed.)

As the Superintendent of Animal Control urged me, a citizen like me can make a positive change and try and separate the animal from the human part of this law. This same kind person stayed two hours after his shift, not getting paid, to fast-track me and my dog back into society. I urge us to separate these laws, as we don’t know which dogs out there are really dangerous to our children.

My experiences with the staff and officers of Animal Control were entirely positive. They let me cry, they listened, they did their best to discharge a law foisted upon them. They gave me cell numbers so I could get in the building after hours for meetings. They really went above and beyond to advocate for me and my dog. When I eyed another dog to adopt so my more contained dog would have a

friend, they helped me. They took my cell number so they could schedule my home inspection. I’m very thankful to them!

As the Animal Control officer pointed out, my dog breed (Husky) is, by nature, an escape artist. I have had an incredibly hard time containing him to my yard. What is also typical of dogs of this breed is that they are kind to humans, but if pestered by another dog will defend themselves.

Can defense be called aggression? Apparently, according to this law, it can. (I was told if someone punches you in the face and you react aggressively, your actions are considered unprovoked.) I was also told my dogs had no rights. I was quite surprised by this, given that he is my property and he was being judged and jailed without bail before the investigation was even completed.

There is also the option to post bail for your dog for \$1,000. Both my friend and I requested this but were denied. It’s only at the discretion of the lieutenant of Animal Control. Why would they allow it, since they have to argue their case for a hearing later? Sounds like a conflict of interest. This bail should be automatic, so long as the owner is pledging that they will be responsible and liable for the dog. I have a \$2M umbrella policy, but this didn’t change their mind about the bail. (Mafioso get bail so why not dogs?)

So why didn’t I fight it and do a hearing? Well, for the benefit of my dog, of course. A hearing means he would have been impounded until they had time to have a hearing. A sleepless, worry-filled late-night Internet search turned up one man in El Sobrante who had to wait 4 months to get his dogs back! He got the charges and fees dropped, but had a \$10K legal bill.

Do I think my dog is guilty? Yes, of hurting a dog, not a human. And I am also guilty of not having leashed him enough and chained him when I wasn’t home, so he couldn’t escape our yard. Will I change my behavior? Absolutely. Can my dog? Probably not. Will I get this breed again? Absolutely not! Sadly, when I called the rescue society from which I adopted him originally, they said I should put him down. I won’t put down my animal for playing too rough when I didn’t have him on a leash. This is my fault – not my dog’s.

We need to amend that Dangerous Animal Ordinance so that hurting humans has a higher penalty than hurting animals.

Submitted by Kim Zvik

Contra Costa County’s Dog Ordinance at: <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=1432> (See Ch. 416-12.402: Potentially Dangerous Animal, and 416-12.404: Dangerous Animal)

From the Files of the KPD

—Excerpt From October 2011—

- 2011-6655 - Officer Stegman responded to the unit block of Arlington Ave., to investigate a person reported as missing.
- 2011-6668 - Officer Wilson responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave., to a report of found property. The property was part of a burglary that occurred in Berkeley. The property was returned to its owner.
- 2011-6726 - Reserve Armanino responded to the 300 block of Colusa Ave. to mediate an ongoing neighbor dispute.
- 2011-6730 - Officer Stegman responded to the 100 block of Purdue Ave. to check the welfare of an elderly resident.
- 2011-6898 - Sgt. Hull responded to the 300 block of Berkeley Park Blvd. to a report of vandalism.
- 2011-6925 - Officer Wilson responded to the 600 block of Oberlin Ave. to a report of petty theft.
- 2011-7045 - Officer Stegman initiated a traffic stop on Arlington Ave. that resulted in the driver being arrested for a felony warrant from Sonoma County.
- 2011-7172 - Officer Stegman made an arrest for a misdemeanor warrant out of San Mateo Superior Court.
- 2011-7312 - Officer Wilson responded to the unit block of Arlington Ave. to a report of vandalism.
- 2011-7314 - Sgt. Hull responded to the 1600 block of Oak View Ave. to a report of petty theft.



- 2011-7315 - Sgt. Hull responded to the 200 block of Colusa Ave. to assist ECPD with a missing persons report.
- 2011-7501 - Officer Wilson responded to the 500 block of Coventry Rd. to a report of assault as a result of a neighbor dispute over noise.
- 2011-7502 - Officer Wilson responded to the unit block of Arlington Ave., where he took custody of a former resident for 72-hour mental evaluation. This person had also been reported missing out of Placerville.
- 2011-6641 - On 10/01/2011, Officer Ramos responded to the unit blk of Kensington Ct. on a report of a residential burglary.
- 2011-6955 - On 10/12/2011, Officer Turner met with a resident at the Kensington Police Department on a report of harassing emails.
- 2011-6146 - On 10/15/2011, Officer Turner responded to the 300 blk of Berkeley Park Blvd. on a report of a petty theft.
- 2011-7069 - On 10/15/2011, Officer Martinez responded to the 200 blk of Coventry Rd. on a report of a petty theft.
- 2011-7186 - On 10/20/2011, Officer Turner responded to the 100 blk of Arlington Ave. on a report of a burglary.
- 2011-7378 - On 10/21/2011, Officer Turner responded to the 1600 blk of Ocean View Ave. on a report of a petty theft.

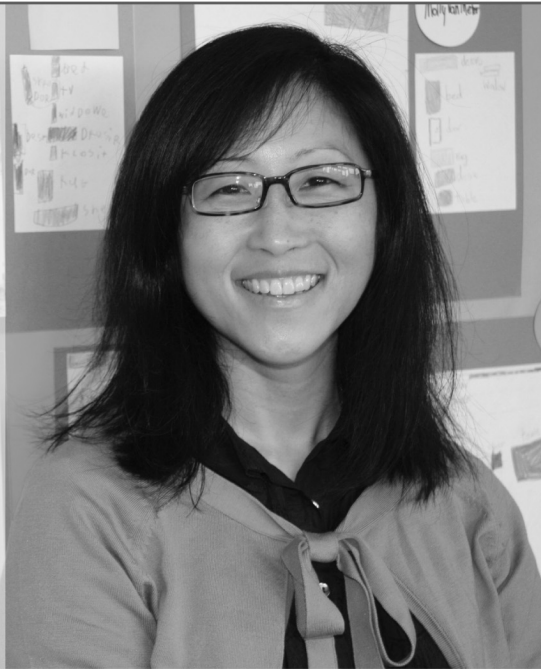
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Dec. 1 Coffee and Cookies, current events, German conversation, and “Turtle.” 9:30-11am; Chile & Easter Island slide show with Tony and Laura Bushman, 11am; Noon: Lunch, including organic salad, fresh fruit, and entree (\$3). Kensington Senior Center, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue. Information at 409-0606.

Dec. 3 Park Buildings Plan – Design Alternatives. Join KPPCSD and the Kensington Park Buildings Committee for the 2nd of 3 opportunities for the community to comment on the future of the park buildings. Consultants will present, and get community feedback on, alternatives for building programs and conceptual designs – including revenue and expense projections. 10am, Community Ctr., 59 Arlington Ave.

Dec. 3 Sidewalk Art Sale. Find great deals on fine, folk and funky animal art, learn how to paint your own pet’s picture in watercolor demonstrations, afternoon wine & cheese reception for local artist Benita Gaudier, 11am-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC. 356-4233

Dec. 3 Kensington Firefighters’ Pasta Feed to Benefit the Firefighters Toy Program. Pasta dinners served in exchange for the donation of a new, unwrapped toy or a monetary donation of at least \$10 per person. 5-8pm at the Kensington Public Safety Building, 217 Arlington Avenue.

Dec. 3 6th Annual P.E.O. Holiday Boutique 11am-3pm, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Holiday gifts, home cooked food, handmade crafted items, jewelry, and more. Fund-raiser for women’s scholarships.

Dec. 3 Kensington Trails. Leaders, Bryce Nesbitt and Jordan Herrmann will explore the intriguing Kensington Trails. 10am, corner of the EC BART station parking lot, next to Fairmount and Liberty. Heavy rain cancels.

Dec. 4 Personal Theology Seminar: David Richardson, Quality Controller of the Linear Accelerator at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. “Religion

and Science Can Be Friends.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

Dec. 4, 11, 18 Farmers’ Market, every Sunday, rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle at Oak View Ave. Live music and live produce. 847-0801 or KensingtonFarmersMarket.org

Dec. 5 “Castoffs” Knitting Group. All levels welcome and some help provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Dec. 7 The Power of Myth at the Movies: Alice (1990). View this movie before class, then join the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7-9pm. \$7. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

Dec 7, 14, 21, 28 Yoga at the Arlington Community Church. All ages. 4:45-6pm. Bring balance to mind, body and spirit. Drop-ins welcome; small fee. Call Antonia Fokken at 381-0997.

Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 Potluck Community Dinner and Spirit and the Arts Program at the Arlington Community Church. Everyone welcome. 5:30pm. Spirit and the Arts Program for children at 6-9pm. Children’s Choir with Shanti Moorjani, M.A, dancing and acting with Rev. Dr. Michael Mansfield. \$50 for the semester. Info: 526-9146

Dec. 8, 15, 22, 29 Baby & Toddler Story Time Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15am and 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

Dec. 8 El Cerrito Garden Club Annual Christmas Luncheon with sing-along entertainment at the EC Community Ctr, 7007 Moeser Lane. Guests welcome. \$20 advance only, at 237-4192.

Happy Holidays!

Dec. 8 Coffee and Cookies, current events, German conversation, and “Turtle.” 9:30-11am. Then, a presentation from Officer Martinez, Kensington Police Dept. about recent scams, etc., plus Q&A. Chinese lunch at noon; \$4. Live music by the Kensington Senior Serenaders. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue.

Dec. 10 All Small Critters Adoption Day. Meet the house rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and mice galore. Make toys, learn about feeding and grooming and playtime, enjoy holiday refreshments. 2-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC. 356-4233


Dec. 11 Personal Theology Seminar: Ann Riley, UUCB member, shamanic practitioner, and member of the Foundation for Shamanic Studies. 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

Dec. 11 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.

Dec. 12 Swedish Folk Music. Mark Walstrom returns to the library with his daughter, soprano singer Jennie, for an evening of traditional Swedish folk and holiday music. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Dec. 12 Kensington Hilltop kids appear in Kathryn Roszak’s Children’s Dance program’s “Nutcracker” at Ashkenaz in Berkeley at 5pm. Children dance almost all the parts. Admission is free. Chance to enroll in January classes where kids will dance as part of the 75th Birthday of the Golden Gate Bridge. Information at 233-5550 or www.dlkdance.com


Dec. 13 The Fratello Marionettes present their North Pole Review. A wonderful performance acted out with gorgeous, handcrafted marionettes. Ages 3 & up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.



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KENSINGTON KALENDAR

Dec. 15 Kensington Senior Center Annual Christmas Party, 10:30am-1:30pm. Bring a “white elephant” or other gift. The Preschoolers will sing and we’ll sing too. Includes lunch, sponsored by the Kensington Police Dept. and WCC Adult School. Free. RSVP by 12/11 to: 409-0606.

Dec. 15 Women’s Fellowship at the Arlington Community Church. 6:15pm. Potluck with wine and good conversation, followed by a presentation on topics of interest. 526-9146.

Dec. 16 Wave Christmas Concert 2011. The Women’s Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE) and the men of the Schola Cantorum of St. Albert Priory present their annual Christmas concert, following the traditional format of a Festival of Lessons and Carols. Includes works by J.S. Bach and others, including music from 14th century England & Germany, and Christmas carols. 8pm, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. \$20/\$10 studs & snrs. wavewomen.org or 233-1479.

Dec. 16 Bridge at the Arlington Community Church. Potluck before at 5:30pm. No experience necessary. All are welcome. Info 526-9146.

Dec. 18 2011 Sing-Along Concert of Handel’s “Messiah” w/live orchestra and soloists, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Suggested Donation: \$15 general, \$10 students/seniors.

No one turned away for lack of funds. 6pm. Wheelchair accessible; free parking. www.uucb.org or call 525-0302.

Dec. 18: Personal Theology Seminar: Jeremy Taylor, on “The Problem with the Unconscious is That it Really is Unconscious—Dealing Honestly With What we Don’t Know.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

Dec. 19 Book Club. Discussion of Josephine Trey’s “Daughter of Time.” Note change in date from normal 4th Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Dec. 22 Light of God Within All Workshop at the Arlington Community Church 7:30–10pm. “Awaken your heart when love appears, fear disappears – claim it.” Led by Patricia Sun. \$45. Call 843-7100 for information.

Dec. 24, ’Twas the Night Before Christmas Open House. Meet the house bunnies, guinea pigs, hamsters and mice. Enjoy kid art and refreshments, make a toy for a shelter critter or your own pet, learn how to make your own healthy dog treats and other simple ways to be kind to animals. 2-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC. 356-4233

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: Family Service at 5pm and Late Service at 10pm. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Free. 525-0302.

Jan. 1 Personal Theology Seminar: Jeremy Taylor, “Myths, Dreams, and Religion.” Is the search for reliable and responsible perspectives really an individual championship sport, or is it actually still a team sport (even for Unitarian Universalists)? 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

Jan. 3 “Castoffs” Knitting Group. All levels welcome and some help provided. Note date change from usual 1st Monday. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Av., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043

Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 Potluck Community Dinner and Spirit and the Arts Program at the Arlington Community Church. Potluck for everyone at 5:30pm. Spirit and the Arts Program for children, 6-9pm. Children’s Choir plus dancing and acting. \$50 for the semester. Info: 526-9146

Jan. 4 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters, 1:15pm, 44 Beverly Rd. to discuss local issues. Guests please confirm at 524-6071.

Jan. 4 The Power of Myth at the Movies: “13 Conversations About One Thing” (2002). View movie before class, then come to discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7-9pm. \$7. UUC of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 Yoga at the Arlington Community Church. All ages. 4:45-6pm. Bring balance to mind, body and spirit. Drop-ins welcome, small fee. Call Antonia Fokken at 381-0997.

Jan. 5, 12, 19 & 26 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.

Jan. 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.

Jan. 8 Personal Theology Seminar: Stephen Hermann, clinical psychologist. “Moby Dick, a Myth for our Time.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 /www.uucb.org

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

Jan. 8 El Cerrito to Wildcat Canyon & Tilden Park Hike. Carpool/meet at 10 am sharp, in the corner of the El Cerrito BART Station parking lot, next to Fairmount and Liberty St. Heavy rain cancels. Dave Weinstein leads; 524-1737 or davidsweinstein@yahoo.com.

Jan. 9 Author Laura Cunningham will discuss her book, “A State of Change: forgotten landscapes of California.” Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Jan. 12 Women’s Fellowship at the Arlington Community Church 6:15pm. Potluck with wine and good conversation followed by a presentation on deep change by the Rev. Faye Orton Snyder. Info 526-9146.

Jan. 12 Coffee and Cookies, current events, German conversation, and “Turtle.” Kensington Senior Center, ACC, 52 Arlington Avenue. Slide show of Tony and Laura’s trip to Machu Picchu and the Galapagos at 11am; \$3 lunch at noon, w/the Kensington Senior Serenaders ‘til 2pm. 409-0606.

“We must become the change we want to see.” – Mahatma Ghandi

Jan. 14 Small Critter Adoption Day. Check out the house rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and mice. Learn about feeding, grooming, health and play time. 2-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC. 356-4233

Jan. 15 Personal Theology Seminar: Helene Knox on “Meet Your Spiritual Ancestors.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

Jan. 19 Men’s Fellowship at the Arlington Community Church 5:30pm. Dinner, wine, beer and good company \$5-10. Presentation on topics of interest. Info at 526-9146.

Jan. 19 Coffee and Cookies, current events, German conversation, and “Turtle.” 11am: slides of Spain by retired principal, Jackie Hetman. Chinese lunch at noon; \$4, with live music until 2pm. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 409-0606.

Jan. 21 GI Stasis: How to Care for Your Bunny Until you Reach the Vet. The first few hours after gastro-intestinal upset can be critical to saving your bunny’s life. Learn how to administer subcutaneous fluids, take bunny’s temperature, and other measures to restore bunny’s appetite. Pre-registration is required. 2-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC. 356-4233

Jan. 21 Karaoke with Doug Wilson at The Arlington, 6pm. Adult performers only after 8pm.

Jan. 22 Personal Theology Seminar: Hana Matt on “Bliss in World Religions” – ways to find lasting happiness from indigenous, native, earth-based traditions and from Hinduism. 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

Jan. 23 Book Club. Discussion of “The Surrendered” by Chang-rae Lee. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Jan. 24 Storyteller Clara Yen will share Chinese folktales & stories in celebration of Chinese New Year. Ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Jan. 27 Bridge at the Arlington Community Church. Potluck 5:30 pm. No exp. needed. All welcome. 526-9146

Jan. 29 Personal Theology Seminar: Hana Matt on “Bliss in the World’s Religions II,” exploring ways to find happiness through Buddhism and Kabala. 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. www.uucb.org

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

KCC - Dec. 5th & Jan. 9th
Kensington Community Council
7:30pm • 525-0292 • 1st Mondays

FKL - Dec. 6th & Jan. 3rd
Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm at the Library, 61 Arlington Avenue. 1st Tuesdays.

KPSC - Dec. 12th & Jan. 9th
Kensington Public Safety Council
EQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays 6:30pm. 501-8165

KFPD - Dec. 14th & Jan. 11th
Fire Protection District
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD - Dec. 15th & Jan. 12th
Police Protection and Community Services District
2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

KIC - Dec. 26th & Jan. 23rd
Kensington Improvement Club
4th Mondays 7:30pm. 527-3062

KMAC - Dec. 27th & Jan. 31st
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tuesdays 7pm.

KARO/ECHO - Jan. 9th
Amateur Radio Operators
2nd Mondays of odd months.
7:30pm. 524-9815

KPOA
Property Owners Association
Meets quarterly. 559-8232

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...Town Hall, from Page 5

Laura Martinengo, our interim librarian, who’s subbing for Liz Ruhland while she’s on temporary assignment in Concord for the next year or so, provided the best introductory line of the morning – “People don’t usually become librarians because they want to be public speakers.”

Laura was up to the task, however, and courageously reported that over 700 people participated in the discussions of Mark Twain’s *Tom Sawyer*, sponsored by the first *Kensington Reads* program.

Laura also informed attendees of a new free service provided by all county libraries – *Discover and Go* offers free access to 40 museums, zoos, and other local attractions all over the Bay Area – for library card carrying residents of Contra Costa County. (<http://ccclib.org/DiscoverGo>)

The library also has several hundred books available for download into different readers – <http://guides.ccclib.org/ebooks>.

New Kensington Community Council Administrator, Marty Westby, reminded residents that KCC has been providing education and recreation for local children and adults for over 60 years. It provides those opportunities to over 250 kids every week, K-6, with a staff of 19 teachers, including carpentry, yoga, karate, gymnastics, cooking, and more – as well as adult classes in watercolors, acrylic, and oils. KCC’s summer camp serves approximately 60 children, five days a week.

Marty invited residents who have a talent they’d like to share in a class environment to contact her at 525-0292.

...Letters, from Page 2

ies from a place up in Napa. There was a Fixit shop down at the stores where one could get appliances repaired. The Hansen family led an orchestra and played for neighborhood events, and in GG Park.

We had several volunteer firemen and when we heard the horn, we then saw the cars of the volunteers dashing up the street. The Fireman’s Ball was a real social event...

There was a lot of volunteering, as there is to this day. Hopefully, we shall always have this Kensington – a wonderful place to live.

Jeanne Lageson

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