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VOLUME 69 NUMBER 10

LANDSLIDE!

TOOMBS AND GILLETTE WIN BIG – KOSEL OUT



Reelected KPPCSD director, Chuck Toombs, and incoming director, Patricia Gillette, shared a light-hearted moment with friends, last month.

Director and President, Chuck Toombs and incoming Director, Patricia Gillette prevailed with large majorities in the November Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) Board election.

The results were, in first place: Chuck Toombs, with 32.91% of the vote (1863 votes); 2nd: Patricia Gillette, with 32.75% (1854 votes); 3rd: Cathie Kosel, with 12.68% (718 votes); 4th: Jim Hausken, with 12.58% (712 votes), and 5th: Kim Zvik, with 8.92% (505 votes). There were a total of 5,661 votes cast in this race, including write-ins of 0.16%. In a less-watched race, Barack Obama was reelected

President of the United States.

As the two top vote getters, Chuck Toombs will retain his seat for a second term and Patricia Gillette will replace Cathie Kosel on the Board, effective December 6th. There will be a swearing in ceremony for these two directors at the upcoming KPPCSD meeting at 7pm, December 13th, at the Community Center.

At the November 8th meeting following the election, Jim Hausken – aside from the two who prevailed, the only other candidate to attend that meet-

see Election, Page 13...

• **The Concession Speech We Didn't Get to Hear** – Page 2

• **November's ECHS Swing Dance** – Lynn Gardiner and Tim Michaels >



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Letters to the Editor

One Last Go-Around About the Credit Card and the Raise

This letter was omitted from the November edition of the Outlook due to space considerations.

Letter to the Outlook:
Your bias for the current KPPSCD board majority was apparent in the last Outlook (Oct. 2012). You obviously showed my letter to others and allowed them to comment, yet did not ask me for my response to those. They should have to write their responses and wait for the next Outlook, as I now must do.

Tony Lloyd's response does not dispute that he had the wrong cpi; he only says that his committee thought that the raise was appropriate. Yet in his presentation he based much of the raise on the cpi increase. He claimed a 5% cpi for 2012 & after, yet through August it has only averaged 2.3%. For the years 2009-2011 he claimed a 3% average when they were 2.7%, 1.5%, and 3.0%. All of the actual numbers are well below the 3.4% average he claimed in the last Outlook. Lloyd needs a lesson in the concept of averages. Clearly he was looking for rationalizations for the very large pay increase. CalPERS has been critical of districts that have used salary spiking to increase pensions. This looks like that to me.

Greg Harman has not supplied to the public the ledger accounts showing if/when he repaid the credit card charges (these are public records). When were they repaid?

Was it only after Kosel brought this to the Board's attention? In any event, the card should never have been used for his wife's tickets. It is incredulous to claim that she was representing Kensington. She lives in Concord! I find this sort of conduct by an employee of our district unacceptable.

Mabry Benson
1. The Outlook prints most Letters to the Editor without comment. On those occasions when letters include statements of fact that are in dispute, and particularly those that have been addressed in previous issues, the editor will sometimes comment, refer to the public record on the matter at hand, and/or consult other knowledgeable parties for their input.

The Outlook will not stand by without comment, for example, while correspondents continue to ignore the fact that Chief Harman has already been cleared of charges of credit card misuse by three different professional oversight bodies.

2. The Chief's raise has been extensively debated – in many KPPCSD meetings, in these pages, and, no doubt, in living rooms across Kensington. This editor is of the opinion that there comes a time when the Board's decision on such matters – right or wrong – needs to be respected, and we, as a community, need to move on to addressing other concerns.

3. In answer to the question posed, the credit card charges were made by Chief Harman at the California Police Chief's Conference in Pasadena, from March 1-5, 2009. Charges made to the District credit card for items that included airfare for the Chief's wife, Yolla, were reimbursed with his personal check #2752, in the amount of \$459.00, dated March 7th, 2009 – two days following the conference. – Ed.

Editorial

The Concession Speech We Didn't Get to Hear

"I'd like to congratulate my fellow board member, Chuck Toombs, and incoming director, Patricia Gillette, on their resounding election victories.

"As you might imagine, I'm disappointed not to have been returned to the Board for a second term. It has been a privilege to have served the community of Kensington for the past four years, and I will miss it.

"While it's now clear that the majority of Kensington residents has a different vision for the community than the one I hold, I'm proud to have done what I thought was best for Kensington during my term. I look forward to supporting Kensington and its newly constituted KPPCSD Board in whatever way I can, as a private citizen. Thank you again for the opportunity to have served as your representative."

That is the speech that Cathie Kosel could have given at last month's KPPCSD meeting, following her unsuccessful bid for reelection – but didn't. Instead, she opted not to speak at – nor attend – the final Board meeting of her term.

While she campaigned on "transparency in government" and "fiscal responsibility," her candidacy was one of obfuscation, and her record, one of obstructionism – leading to the spending of estimated tens of thousands of dollars in legal and consulting fees by the District, and additional costs to all Contra Costa County taxpayers for investigations of meritless charges – carried out by County law enforcement at

her instigation. Untold hours of staff time were wasted, and action on critical community issues was delayed by her tactics.

Cathie attacked the police chief, other officers, fellow board members, the press, and even her own constituents – and then turned around and claimed that she was being persecuted.

This personalization of politics, with which Director Kosel was so closely identified, and which was convincingly rejected by the Kensington electorate, has divided our community; and it is hoped that, with the end of Cathie's term on the Board, we can begin to heal those wounds and return to civility and respect for each other and the differing opinions held by all those who are sincere in their concern for Kensington's future.

Kosel's heir-apparent, Mari Metcalf, however, appeared determined to carry on her version of "politics as usual," as she rebuffed incoming board member, Pat Gillette's overture just prior to the convening of last month's KPPCSD meeting, turning away with a curt, "Sorry, I'm busy."

That sort of divisive behavior was overwhelmingly rejected by the residents of Kensington in the recent election, and we invite Director Metcalf to reconsider the manner in which she carries out her Board duties, going forward.

Thankfully, Mari was in the minority in this regard, and the tone of public discourse at the November meeting seemed, in the main, refreshingly respectful – and at times, even light, airy, and – dare we say it – fun!

There is now an opportunity for all Kensingtonians to usher in a new era for our town, where ideas can be discussed, and different opinions heard and considered, without demonization of fellow residents whose viewpoints may differ from our own – a chance to make manifest the promise of "Mayberry."

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February Advertising Deadline.....Jan. 8
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The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors, and don't necessarily represent the opinion of The Outlook, its editor, or the publisher, KCC. Letters must be signed and include the author's address and phone number.

(Address and phone will not be published.) Publication is subject to space limitations. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. One letter per person, per issue, please. E-mail preferred, to: Editor@KensingtonOutlook.co.

K E N S I N G T O N C O M M U N I T Y E D U C A T I O N

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Kensington Community Council's After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) offers a wide variety of children's classes for kindergarten through sixth grades. Classes are kept small so that our talented instructors can focus on each student, giving individual, as well as group instruction.

Kensington After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) staff shout a big thanks to the many families supporting our program and participating in our classes. We wish you a safe and enriching holiday season filled with lots of joy and loving memories.

KASEP Winter Registration was held November 28th. If you were not able to attend registration, call the KCC office to check out what classes still have space available. KASEP Winter session starts Wednesday, January 2, 2013.

Current class schedule: KASEP FALL classes (now in session) continue through to Friday, Dec. 14th.

The KCC Office will be closed, December 17th through January 1, 2013.

REGISTRATION

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: kccrec@yahoo.com. 510-525-0292. M-F, 10am-4pm.

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. Nonresident: \$5.

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

KCC Winter Performance Bring a Can of Food to Donate!

**Parents & Families Join KCC in Celebration • Community Ctr
Thurs., Dec. 13, 5-6:15pm**

Leave work earlier and join us! This late afternoon event will present Kensington After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) students. Share in your child's success as he/she performs: KASEP Creative Drama production of *Our Dream World*, Hip Hop moving their bodies to Michael Jackson's *Monster Walk*, Chorus Ensemble in holiday sing along songs, Circus Stilt Walking, and Recorder, solo performances. Tables will display other student's finished work, as well. Hot cider will be served.

MAYBECK WALK with Paul Grunland and Bob Shaner

What a delightful day! An enthusiastic crowd joined Paul Grunland, host of the Maybeck Historic Walk, in a wonderful morning of shared stories, land use information, laughter, and blue skies. A special thank you to Paul Grunland and Bob Shaner for donat-



ing their time and hospitality in telling their stories of living in the area, of Bob purchasing land from the Maybeck family and his building his own home on Purdue, living next to the Maybecks. Both men did extensive research in putting this walk together. Well done!



**New! BODY SCULPTING/
CORE CONDITIONING**
Ongoing from Tuesday, Jan. 15th
Instructor: Catherine Martikan, M.A.
• Certified Zumba Instructor
• AFAA Certified Instructor

Are you interested in slowing your aging clock? Would you like to look and feel stronger? Have you been looking for a fun and effective way to incorporate strength training into your life without joining a gym or hiring a personal trainer? Are you aware that, if you suffer from symptoms of the following conditions or diseases, strength training might help: arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity, back pain and depression? Then this class is for you!

Beginning January 15th, Catherine Martikan will be offering a Body Sculpting/Core Conditioning class at 9am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Kensington Community Center. Please join her for this 60-minute strength training and flexibility class, during which free weights and exercise bands will be used to strengthen and sculpt your body. Particular emphasis will be placed on the core muscles (muscles that support the spine). Just to make it more fun, Catherine incorporates motivating music with play lists that appeal to everyone. And the price is right: only \$7.00 a class! Drop-ins welcome.

Catherine has been a fitness instructor for more than 20 years, and offered this class for the past 3 years, during which time she has seen very noticeable transformations in her students' bodies and self-confidence. She works with students of varying ages, physical capabilities, and fitness levels, and is confident that this class is for everyone. Modifications will be offered to those with injuries or other physical limitations.

You'll need a mat, at least one set of free weights, and an exercise band. If there's an item you don't have, please contact me prior to class, as some equipment may be available for your use. Email Catherine to register at jazreat@comcast.net.

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ADULT RECREATION CLASSES

**ADULT CERAMICS CLASS
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November 7th - December 12th
**\$20 per class, plus \$60 for clay,
glazes, and firing costs.**
Kensington Community Center

Teresa Altschul, an artist with over 35 years experience, is teaching this adult ceramics class. Teresa has created a wonderful world to be creative, share community, and produce exquisite handmade pieces of original work. She has built a reputation for her unique clay creations and is sharing her love of clay with her students. Give yourself the gift of time. Come explore, relax, and engage. Call KCC to register. Drop-ins OK. Class runs thru 12/12, then takes a break in January.



**New! STUDENT LEGO ROBOTICS
WORKSHOP • Grades 3 through 8**
During Winter Break, Dec. 17th - 21st
9am - Noon at the Recreation Building
\$160 for 5 days of instruction (15 hrs)
Register thru KCC office at 525-0292

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

As a credentialed teacher, Peter Margolis provides hands-on instruction for students new to robotics and programming. Peter taught LEGO Robotics in prior KCC Robotic workshops as well as teaching in the after-school programs at both Harding and Fairmont Elementary Schools, located in WCCUSD.

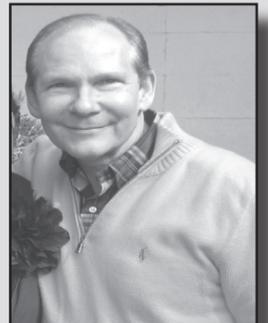
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Community Center

Bring your paints, easel, canvas, and creativity to this experienced group of artists. These artists are supportive and provide community and conversation around art. To join this informal yet professional group of artists, call Stan at 533-3003.

JAZZERCISE
New Class in Kensington!

Instructor, Kevin Knickerbocker leads students through a low impact, muscle-safe exercise routine. On-going Low Impact Jazzercise classes are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:15am at the Kensington Community Center.

Burn up to 600 calories in one fun and powerfully effective 60-minute total body workout! Every Jazzercise fitness class combines dance-based cardio with strength training and stretching to sculpt, tone, and lengthen muscles for maximum fat burn. Choreographed to today's hottest music, Jazzercise is a fusion of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, and kickboxing. Start dancing yourself fit and change the shape of your body! Drop-ins, pay-as-you-go, and monthly electronic funds transfer are available payment schemes. Join Kevin, bring water and your mat. Questions? Call Kevin at 510-486-2728. Bring in this *Outlook* article and receive one free Jazzercise class!



Jazzercise instructor, Kevin is waiting for you!

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Neighborhood Notes

Goodbyes & Hellos at Kensington Vet Hospital

In October, local vet, Dr. Gayle Vial retired from her practice, and is already missed greatly by people and pets alike. Not to worry though, Dr. Vial leaves the Kensington animal community in the good hands of Dr. Beth Phimister. Like Dr. Vial, Dr. Phimister earned her doctor of veterinary medicine at UC Davis. For the past eight years, Dr. Phimister has worked locally as a veterinarian focusing on general practice with expertise in internal medicine, dentistry, dermatology, ophthalmology and surgery. Her mission is to work with people to create healthy and happy pets; maximizing quality of life through excellent care and heartfelt compassion...Drop by Colusa Circle to meet new owner, Dr. Phimister, and her Kensington Veterinary Hospital staff, or join them at their Open House Brunch on January 13th from 11am-1pm, 400 Colusa Ave. 528-0797 or info@kensingtonvethospital.com. (At her previous location, Dr. Phimister took care of the Outlook editor's dog, Dixie-Belle; both DB and her owner have been quite happy with their friendly vet.)



Fuse Fitness on Colusa Circle Expands Offerings

Committed to the entire family being healthy and happy, *The Fuse Fitness* introduces new classes for both children and seniors. Owners and instructors, Pascha Brown and Kristin Rios, know that fitness at any age is important and this winter they are adding new classes to support younger and older people take their next steps in personal fitness... Soon, *The Fuse Fitness* will be offering Kung Fu classes for children aged 3 to 5 and 6 to 8, and new senior fitness small-group personal training. Info: 558-8638.



Meet Local Author of 'The Doctor and the Diva'

"In this brilliant, debut novel, Adrienne McDonnell gives us bouquets of fresh flowers in modest apartments overlooking the Arno, where passing strangers pause, enraptured, to listen to exquisite music being sung from above." - *Washington Post*. On Thurs., Dec. 6, at 7:30pm, Kensington author, Adrienne McDonnell, her book, at Arlington Community Church. (Or bring a dish and join Ms. McDonnell for a community potluck dinner at 6:30pm, preceding the discussion.) 52 Arlington Avenue



Go for Baroque at UUCB

On Sunday, December 16th at 6pm, Bryan Baker (in Baroque dress) will conduct a sing-along concert, with live orchestra, of Handel's "Messiah," at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Costumes admired but not required. Scores are available for borrowing. \$15/\$10 students. Info: www.uucb.org or 525-0302.



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- December 2, 10:00 a.m. *A Great Light*
- December 9, 10:00 a.m. *Mary's Light*
- December 12, 5-6:30 p.m. *Procession of Light along Arlington Avenue presented by Young People's Music and Arts Program*
- December 16, 10:00 a.m. *The Light of God's Glory*
- December 23, 10:00 a.m. *Angel's Light*
- December 24, 5:00 p.m. *Family Christmas Eve Service, Pageant and Carols, Children of all ages invited to participate*

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Neighborhood Notes

Voting Day in Kensington

John Jensen tells us he was surprised to see some “get out the vote” volunteers just across the street from his home at Arlington and Westminster. “I grabbed my camera and went across Arlington to get some photos of the event. I believe the children are all students at Kensington Hilltop School, and they seemed pleased to be doing something like this – like being in the Kensington parade, but without the marching!” *(And if that’s not a good description of politics, we’ve never heard one! – Ed.)*



KPSC Presents: Identity Theft Education Seminar

Identity theft is the #1 crime in America. There were 18 identity theft victims in Kensington last year, and 14 so far this year. *Life Lock*, which will be presenting this seminar, is a group of specialists that educates the public on: Identity Theft Today – different trends, methods, and examples of identity thieves caught in the act; Statistics – customized to our area; Methods – from dumpster diving to high tech maneuvers; Consumer Protection – including many free resources for protecting information on a daily basis; Plus – the risks individuals face, and what you can do to help protect yourself and your family. Sponsored by the Kensington Public Safety Council (KPSC). At the Community Ctr, Thursday, Jan 17th at 7pm. Free. Reserve via dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org, or 526-4141, ext. 38.

Mountain Lion Spotted – This Time in Kensington!

Linda Lipscomb checks in with the latest mountain lion spotting – this time even closer to home: “My neighbor was walking with her dog and young child when she spotted what she believes to have been a mountain lion in her neighbor’s backyard. The animal got up, walked to the front of the house, and disappeared onto Lake Drive... Kensington police were eventually called after my neighbor’s call to 911 resulted in her being told (after a long wait) that it was “not something we handle.” Kensington police responded promptly... Please be careful when walking on the ridge trail from the back of the school over to Grizzly Peak Blvd. Program your cell phone with the KPD dispatch number: 236-0474.” See *How to Survive a Mountain Lion Attack* at www.ehow.com/how_2041418_survive-mountain-lion-attack.html.



If there’s an event happening around town, you’re likely to find KCC board member, and Chair of Friends of El Cerrito Music, Debbie Hayakawa behind the scenes, as she was at last month’s swing dance at the EC Recreation Center – a fundraiser for the EC High School music program. Debbie is shown here on hot cups with her group, The Kitchenettes.



While this photo captures the spirit of the evening if not the detail, Black Cedar Duo, with Steve Lin on guitar and Kris Palmer on flutes and recorders, transported listeners at the Arlington Community Church’s Second Friday Concert Series, last month. Positively riveting music, straight from heaven! The series continues Friday, December 14th with the Bella Piano Trio.



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

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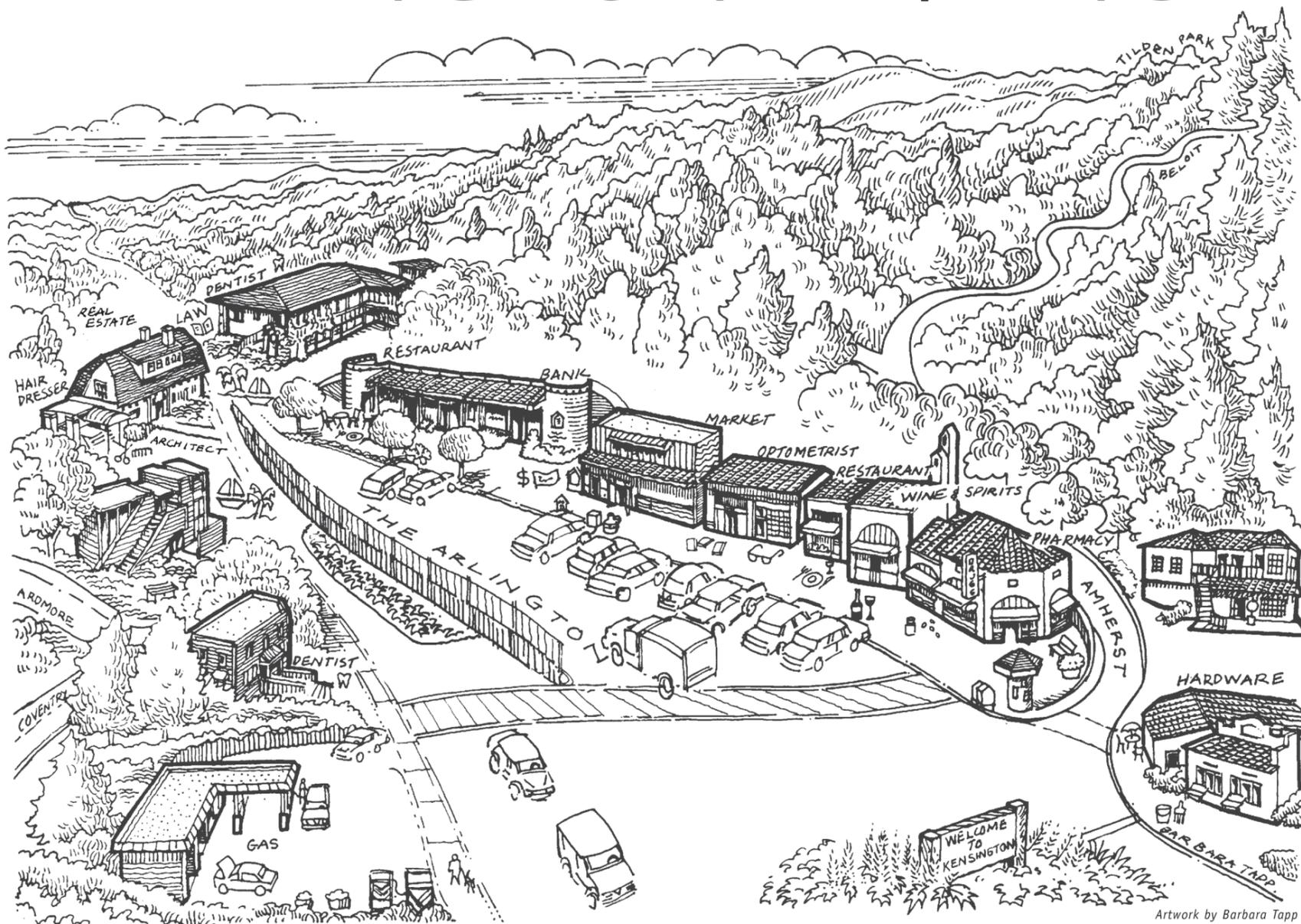
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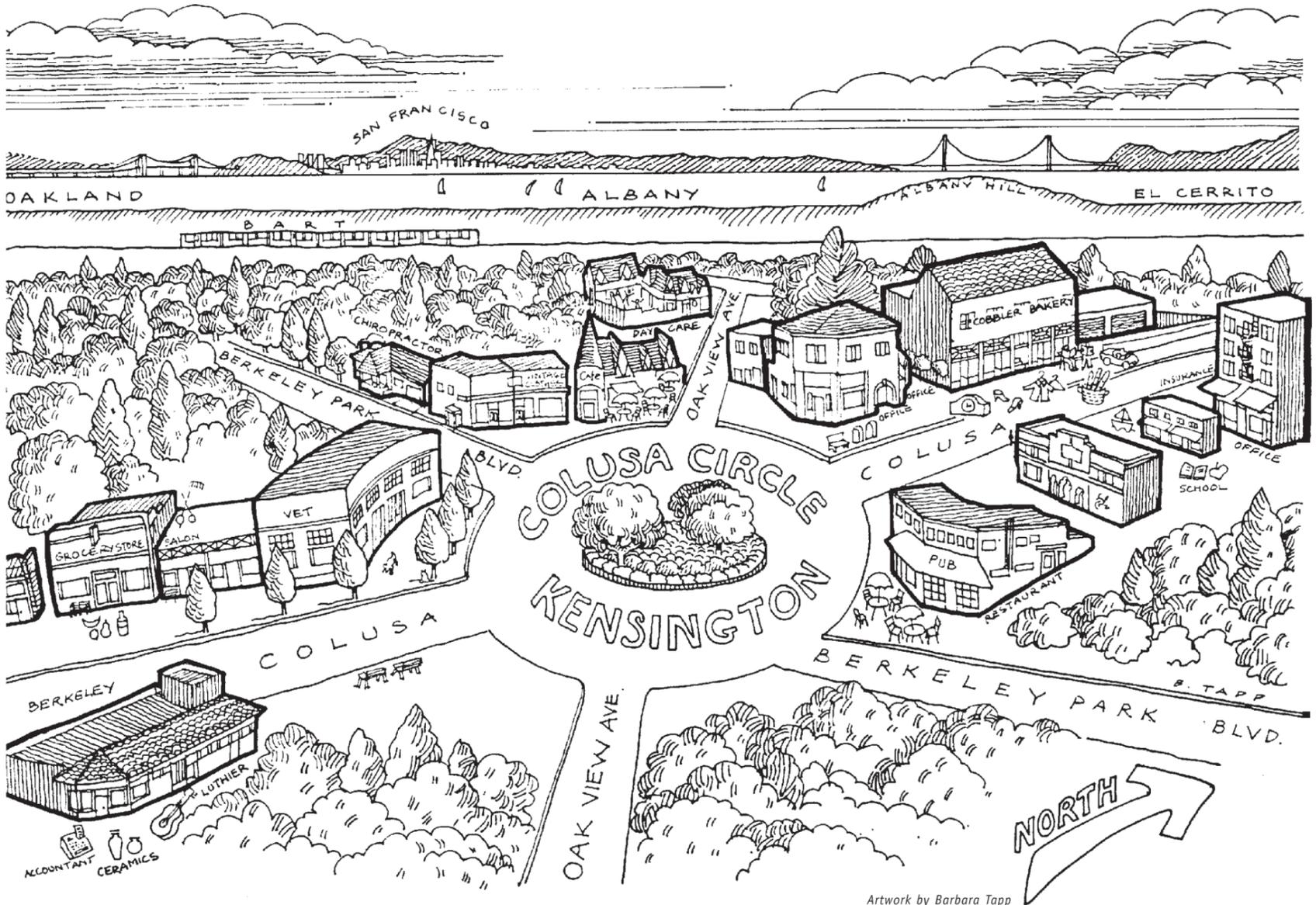
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In Memory



Carlotta Earlene Bates
Oct. 14, 1935 – Oct. 8, 2012

Carlotta Bates, long time resident of Kensington, passed away at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley, just shy of her 77th birthday.

Carlotta was born to Rollis and Essie Hollis in Sterling, Oklahoma. (*Interestingly, her father's name was apparently Rollis Hollis. – Ed.*) The family moved west in 1942 where her father got a job at the shipyard during the World War II. She was raised primarily in the South Berkeley/West Oakland area. She used to tell stories of growing up in the neighborhood and walking to the "show" at some of the great old theaters in Oakland.

Carlotta attended Oakland Technical High School. Classmates included Ron Dellums and future NFL Quarterback John Brodie. She was popular, but always spoke her mind.

She met Jamieson Bates in 1951, and they married in early 1955. They had their first daughter later that year, followed by a son in 1958, and another daughter in 1961.

Carlotta and Jamieson moved to Kensington in 1985, where she spent the rest of her life. She spent much of her life as housewife and mother, but also worked in various local retail stores. She always enjoyed helping people. Through Jamieson, she developed an interest in genealogy, and enjoyed keeping in touch with many relatives across the country. Carlotta never learned to drive a car.

Jamieson and Carlotta enjoyed almost 55 years of marriage, until Jamieson's death in January 2010.

She was very proud of her Choctaw Heritage, her Mother Essie being an original enrollee.

Carlotta will be missed by her oldest daughter, Wendy Tunnessen, and Wendy's husband Jim, of Walters, OK.; her son Steven, his wife Pamella, and her step granddaughter Liliana, all residents of Kensington; her youngest daughter, Victoria Hoffmann, and grandson Bryon, both of Las Vegas.

From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From October 2012

2012-6506 – On 10/11/2012, Officer Martinez responded to the unit block of Edwin Dr. on a report of a motor vehicle theft.

2012-6507– On 10/11/2012, Officer Martinez responded to the unit block of Edwin Dr. on a report of a motor vehicle theft.

2012-6531– On 10/12/2012, Officer Martinez responded to the unit block of Arlington Ave. and arrested a subject for motor vehicle theft. (*Third time's the charm!*)

2012-6649 – On 10/19/2012, Officer Turner arrested a subject for DUI on the 100 block of Colusa Ave.

2012-6762 – On 10/25/2012, Officer Turner arrested a subject for DUI on the 900 block of Arlington Ave.

2012-6295 – On 10-01-2012, Officer Ramos took a reported vehicle theft in the 00 block of Franciscan Way.

2012-6301 – On 10-01-2012, Officer Ramos took a report of a theft from an unlocked vehicle in the 00 block of Anson Way. Some of the items were recovered nearby in a neighbor's driveway.

2012-6350 – On 10-03-2012, Sgt. Barrow responded to the corner of Colgate and Beloit Ave. for a reported hit and run vehicle collision. Sgt. Barrow arrived and contacted owner of the

victim vehicle. The vehicle was side-swiped by a vehicle that left the scene toward Berkeley. This case is under investigation.

2012-6351 – On 10-03-2012, Sgt. Barrow responded to the corner of Colusa and Santa Fe Ave. for a reported vehicle versus pedestrian collision. Barrow arrived and contacted a ten-year-old girl who had been crossing the street in a marked crosswalk and was subsequently struck by a vehicle. The girl was later taken by ambulance

to Children's Hospital Oakland for her injuries. The vehicle sustained a smashed windshield and stayed at the scene until police arrived. The girl was released from the hospital the next day.

2012-6429 – On 10-08-2012, Sgt. Barrow responded to the 100 block of

Arlington Ave. for a reported vehicle collision. Barrow arrived and contacted both parties who were still on scene. They advised one of the subject's had been parked at the west curb and had opened their driver's door into traffic. The other subject was driving south bound and struck the open door, causing damage to both vehicles.

2012-6578 – On 10-15-2012, Officer Wilson responded to the 200 block of Cambridge Ave. for a reported vehicle tampering. Wilson determined a subject attempted to steal a vehicle but was



unable to. (*"Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning?"*)

2012-6580 – On 10-15-2012, Officer Wilson and Sgt. Barrow responded to the 00 block of Avon Dr. for a reported marijuana grow. Officers contacted the resident and found nothing illegal.

2012-6700 – On 10-21-2012, Officer Wilson and Sgt. Barrow responded to the 200 block of Grizzly Peak Blvd. for a reported fire. Officers arrived and contacted the homeowner, who only found out about the fire due to his neighbor. The fire started as a result of a bad outdoor light. The neighbor and resident were able to contain the fire prior to the Kensington Fire Departments arrival. No injuries were sustained during the incident.

2012-6708 – On 10-22-2012, Officer Ramos responded to the corner of Stratford and Beverly Rd. for a reported vehicle collision. A vehicle drove into an open manhole that caused damage to the underside of the vehicle. The manhole cover had been lifted off during a rainstorm.

2012-6710 – On 10-22-2012, Officer Ramos responded to the 00 block of Arlington Ave. for a reported non-injury vehicle collision that had occurred weeks prior. The resident wished to make a late report, as involved parties were unable to settle the incident on their own.

2012-6818 – On 10-01-2012, Officer Ramos took a reported vandalism on the 600 block of Wellesley Ave. A resident reported several branches being cut from his front yard trees without permission.

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Their Office Runneth Over

According to Marvin Gardens Real Estate co-owner, Ron Eggherman, it all started when a \$15 plastic valve that connects the water supply to the toilet burst early Sunday morning, Oct 21st, the day of the Fall Festival and Parade. (Parade organizers at that very moment were wondering where Reliable Ron and his convertible were, and brainstorming what sort of a ride they might arrange at the last minute for Grand Marshalls, Gretchen Gillfillan and Joan Gallegos).

"It was gushing water for hours, flooding our entire office as well as the optometry clinic next-door. Someone from Inn Kensington, who arrived early to work, saw water flowing out of our front door and called one of our agents – Mark Choi. Mark arrived around 7am and turned off the valve supplying the toilet.

"Fortunately for us, other than our hardwood floor and some carpeting that got ruined, almost nothing else was damaged. Agents Mark Choi, Sheri Madden, Melissa Eisenberg, Tom Modic, Susan Grant, Candace Hyde-Wang, and Celia Concus, as well as staff, have temporarily relocated to either the Marvin Gardens El Cerrito or Berkeley/Hopkins office.

"I would guess that the damage to our offices will total around \$20,000. With the need to thoroughly dry out everything that got wet, then rebuild the floors and patch the walls, plus some upgrades, we antici-

pate we'll reopen our Kensington office in early December. Folks can call us at 527-9111 to reach any of our agents, or for any other help."

Next door neighbor, optometrist, and fellow flood victim, Dr. Russell Cotteral, reports, "The EC Fire Dept was having breakfast at Inn Kensington and stepped in to help with the water clean up after the Marvin Gardens agent opened the floodgates onto the Arlington.

"When we all noticed the electrical fire starting in the wall between Marvin Gardens and Dr. Cotteral's Kensington Optometry, they became Sunday heroes and prevented the building from burning down too!"

Building owner, KIC board member, and Russell's former business partner, Dr. Larry Thal stopped by for a short wade through to survey the damage, as Ron Eggherman watched his agents scurrying in and out of the office to haul away their computers and files.

Dr. Cotteral waded about for two days saving records, computers, and sensitive electronics from perishing in the floodwaters of upper Kensington. He has relocated his office to a deluxe VSP Mobile Clinic-on-Wheels, outfitted with two state-of-the-art exam rooms and full dispensary, on Colusa Circle.

Check it out – you won't believe your eyes. (And in that case, you should make an appointment. – Ba-da-bing!) You can reach the good doctor at 527-1714.



Let There Be (Less) Light

"We're here because the poles are too tall and the lights are too bright. They're interfering with our views." "The pole in front of our house was 6 feet shorter than the new poles. We bought a house that had an unobstructed view of the Golden Gate Bridge; today, we cannot get a picture without getting a light pole in the middle of the bridge." "The first order of business is the light pollution. Secondly there should be a look to the poles that match(es) the community."

Such were some of the varied concerns of approximately forty Kensington residents who showed up at the Community Center to give PG&E and Contra Costa County Public Works a piece of their minds – many of whom attested to the fact that they had little peace of mind left after having their views ruined and their sleep interrupted by the new, 32-foot streetlights that have been installed throughout what was formerly our sleepy little burg.

According to host and moderator, Supervisor John Gioia, the lights poles are owned by PGE – not by the County. "A couple months ago we found out that PGE was in midst of a public light replacement project," Gioia said, at which time he asked for the project to be put on hold. "My preference would have been to have a meeting like this *prior* to the installation of the new poles," Gioia intoned, "and, (due to concerns voiced by many residents) I asked for the project to be put on hold so we could sort things out."

According to Joseph Cussary, PGE Project Manager for streetlight replacement, "The lights we're replacing are PGE-owned. The wooden poles previously used were in need of replacement. The poles we're replacing are 'center bore wood streetlights,'" he said; "These poles are like big wooden straws, in touch with the ground and water, and eventually they deteriorate and need to be replaced. The project has been going on since the end of 2011. In Kensington we've replaced 41 of the 56 to be done. PGE is getting rid of all wood poles – their life expectancy is just not the same as the metal poles with which they're being replaced.

"What was there before were 200-250 watt, high pressure sodium lamps – the same as the replacement bulbs," Cussary continued. "No additional lights were added or relocated.

"When lights were first installed, the lenses were white and transparent, and over years they have turned almost brown. The amount of light coming out of the light bulb is the same – the lenses are now new and clear and so there would be more light reaching the ground through the new lenses, though the amount of the light that is being omitted from the bulb is the same as before.

"(What's being installed are) approximately 32-ft. high galvanized steel poles with available wattage of 70-400w; what we've got here is 200-250 watts." Though the audience disagreed vociferously, Cussary maintained that the height of the poles they're installing is approximately the same height as the poles they're replacing, though, according to Cussary, the height can vary, depending on the soil and landscaping, in terms of depth and the amount of erosion over 30-40 years. (Additionally, the old pole arms were about 2-ft.; the new arms are 6-ft.) There are shields available to minimize backlighting into the houses.

The other pole options are the acorn fixtures, as in Berkeley along the Arlington – 14-ft. poles, with 70w, 100w, or 150w lamps; or teardrop, with the same pole you see on the Arlington in Berkeley, but with 16-ft. poles, and an arm and a fixture that hangs down – 70-150w, like the acorn

fixture. These lower wattage fixtures put out less light than what is currently being installed in Kensington.

According to Brian Balbas, the Deputy County Public Works Director, "It's our fault. Public Works did a very poor job of communicating, and in this case we dropped the ball – we should have coordinated better with PG&E and also with the Supervisor's office. We generally go out and get feedback from the residents in the communities that we serve, and we dropped the ball on this one. We didn't fully address all the questions we thought might have come up with the community.

"In terms of streetlight selection, we looked closely at the existing infrastructure: Existing lights were 32-ft., 250w bulb, center wood bore poles – considered standard installation at the time, so our thought was to replace them with the current standard installation – which is what we started to do – with an approximate distance of 175-200 ft. between poles, depending on the roadway, and 100-150 ft. between poles in commercial districts.

"The County views this stretch of Arlington in Kensington as a 'minor arterial roadway' – with a large amount of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and several fairly high traffic areas. Given those considerations, we installed lighting that is appropriate to that type of roadway. We considered the poles that were installed would be the most appropriate to light the roadway.

"The options that were available to replace the existing fixtures were three: 32-ft. steel pole, w/200-250w bulbs, 16-ft. teardrop, w/70-150w bulbs, or 14-ft. acorn w/70-150w bulbs. Given the existing pole spacing and the geometrics of the roadway, we determined that the 32-ft. steel poles with 200-250w bulbs were appropriate to light the roadway, from a safety standpoint.

"Berkeley owns its own streetlights, so it gets to decide what type of lighting it wants to have: 76-150 ft. between poles (with an average of 120 ft. – significantly closer than in Kensington, which has about 175-200 ft. between poles). Berkeley considers its streets to be residential, rather than commercial. It has chosen to go with the 14-ft., 150w acorn light. Its lighting is more consistent with residential lighting, rather than that of our minor arterial roadway. A taller, decorative light could be manufactured at additional expense, but is not commercially available.

"We have recommended to Supervisor Gioia that we go forward to complete this project the way it has been designed. We have some potential alternatives we can explore. We could acquire the streetlights from PGE. That would probably involve a condemnation proceeding, as PGE doesn't want to sell their lights; We could petition the PUC to potentially get alternative types of lights for PG&E to use throughout the state – however there are no guarantees that PUC would approve such a request, and it is potentially costly. The other option is we could work with PGE to install decorative lights – which would involve the formation of an additional assessment district, in all likelihood – which would be a very expensive proposition – we'd also have to install additional lights to provide for sufficient lighting."

PG&E and County Public Works assured residents they would digest the ideas presented at this meeting in light of available options, and schedule another community meeting, before going ahead with any additional light replacements – meeting date TBA. Email Kate Rauch in Supervisor Gioia's office to be notified of the next meeting: krauc@bos.cccounty.us. Public Affairs Representative, Roxanne Cruz invited residents to contact her in the meantime with any concerns, at PG&E Government Affairs, 510-437-2554.

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Kensington Kalendar

Dec. 1 Annual Garden Party Fund-raiser and Auction at the Mira Vista Country Club, 5-10pm. \$50/adv. or \$60/door. rock_yank@yahoo.com

Dec. 1 P.E.O. Holiday Boutique at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 11am-3pm. Holiday items, gift baskets, and refreshments available for purchase.

Dec. 1 Kathryn Roszak's "Dance on Center Children's and Teen Dance Program" features Hilltop students performing a chamber recital version of "The Nutcracker" at 2pm, at the Osher Studio, Arpeggio Building, 2055 Center St., Berkeley. Kids free. Info: 233-5550 or www.dlkdance.com

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Kensington Farmers' Market. Live produce and live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle. 847-0801

Dec. 2 Personal Theology Seminar: the Rev. Dennis Kuby, on "My Theological Journey from Roman Catholicism to the Unitarian Ministry." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Dec. 3 "Castoffs" Knitting Group. All levels welcome and some help provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Five Mondays in December: Come for respite from the holiday hustle, for succor if needed, during what for many is not a merry time, or to set your direction for the New Year! Led by Dr. Camille Parker, 6-7pm. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Dec. 4 The Power of Myth at the Movies: *Out of Africa* (1985) View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7-9pm. \$8. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Dec. 4 & 18 Family Pajama Story Time Fun. Stories, songs & rhymes for young children and their families. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Dec. 5, 12, 19 Potluck Community Dinner and Spirit and the Arts program at Arlington Community Church. Potluck for everyone, families welcome at 5:30 pm. Adult study from 6-7 pm. Spirit and the Arts Program for chil-



TROMBONGA, featuring Pat Mullan, Curtiss Mays, David Hemphill, and Justin Mar returns to The Arlington Cafe on Sunday, December 14th, from 6:30-8:30pm. Free!

dren from 6-9pm. Children's choir with Shanti Moorjani; dancing and acting with Rev. Dr. Michael Mansfield. \$50 for materials. Info: 526-9146.

Dec. 5, 12, 19 Yoga at 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. 6 The Doctor and the Diva Discussion and Book Signing with the author at Arlington Community Church. Potluck at 6:30pm, program at 7:30. Free.

Dec. 6 Women's Fellowship at Arlington Community Church; 6:30pm. Bring a dish to share. Info 526-9146.

Dec. 6 and 13 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. 9 Knitting at Arlington Community Church. 11:30am. Knit shawls, hats, scarves, and mittens for those in need. Info 526-9146.

Dec. 9 Personal Theology Seminar: Author, Sam Keen on: "A Spirited Life: 10 Rules of Thumb." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Dec. 9 Holiday Fair Noon-1:30pm. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Dec. 10 Czech/Slovakian Folk Music. Sing along with Czech and Slovakian folk songs with the "Golden Voices" folk group. Words and translations provided. Kensington Library, 7pm. Free.

Dec. 11 The Fratello Marionettes perform "Aladdin" with handcrafted marionettes. Ages 3 & up. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

Dec. 13 El Cerrito Garden Club Annual Christmas Luncheon with sing-along. EC Community Ctr., 7007 Moeser Lane. Happy hour at 11:30am; lunch at noon. \$20/person. Guests welcome. Reservations (required) at 237-4192.

Dec. 14 Bridge at Arlington Community Church. Potluck at 5:30pm. Info: 526-9146.

Dec. 14 Second Friday Concert Series at Arlington Community Church, in partnership with Bay Area Classical Harmonies. www.bayareabach.org.

Dec. 14 Trombonga Trombone Quartet, returns to The Arlington Cafe, 269 Arlington Ave., 6:30-8:30pm. New jazz arrangements, some holiday fare, and a little classical on the side. Free. Dinner buffet and beverages available for purchase. 525-3900

Dec. 15 Bows & Boxes Preschool Story & Craft. Listen to a winter story, make bows, and decorate boxes just in time for the holidays. Kensington Library, 11:30am. Free. 524-3043.

Dec. 15 Personal Theology Seminar: Steven B. Herrmann, Ph.D, on "William Everson and the Shamanic Archetype." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Dec. 16 Annual Messiah Sing-Along at 6pm. \$15/10; scores available (w/ deposit). Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Dec. 16 & 23 Annual Holiday Fair at Kensington Farmers' Market, including local juried craftspeople. Colusa Circle, 10am-2pm.

Dec. 17 Book Club. Discussion of Toni Morrison's *Sula*. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free.

Dec. 23 Las Posada: All Ages Holiday Pageant at 9am and 11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Free. 525-0302 or uucb.org.

Dec. 23 Personal Theology Seminar: Jeremy Taylor, on "Two Streams Converge in the River of Truth; The Political is Personal, the Personal is Political." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or uucb.org.

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

Dec. 30 Personal Theology Seminar: Jeremy Taylor on "How does the Institutional Church Serve the Needs of Individuals?" 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302.

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

**KCC - Dec. 3rd; Jan. 7th
Kensington Community Council**
1st Mondays 7:30pm. 525-0292

**FKL - December 4th
Friends of the Kensington
Library,** 7pm (at the Library, 61
Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesdays

**KPSC - Dec. 10th; Jan. 14th
Kensington Public Safety Council**
Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays 6pm. 501-816.

**KFPD - Dec. 12th; Jan. 9th
Fire Protection District**
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-839.

**KPPCSD - Dec. 13th; Jan. 10th
Police Protection and
Community Services District**
2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

**KIC - Dec. 24th; Jan. 28th
Kensington Improvement Club**
4th Mondays 7:30pm. 527-3062

**KMAC (Tentative) - 12/25; 1/29
Municipal Advisory Council**
Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia's
ofc to confirm: 374-3231, ext. 5)

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

**KPOA
Property Owners Association**
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**KFM - Every Sunday
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Kensington Kalendar

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Jan. 6 Personal Theology Seminar: Sheri Prud'homme, associate faculty member of Starr King School for the Ministry, "Harmonies of Natural Beauty: Exploring Thomas Starr King's Nature Sermons." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 Kensington Farmers' Market. Live produce and live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle at Ocean View Ave. 847-0801

Jan. 7 "Castoffs" Knitting Group. All levels welcome and some help provided. Note change in date from normal first Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Jan. 8, 22 & 29 Family Pajama Story Time. Fun stories, songs & rhymes for young children and their families. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Jan. 8 The Power of Myth at the Movies: Jean de Florette (1986) View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7-9pm. \$8. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Jan. 11 Second Friday Concert Series at Arlington Community Church, in partnership with BACH (Bay Area Classical Harmonies). Tickets at www.bayareabach.org.

Jan. 12 Rubber Duckie Preschool Story & Craft. Listen to a duck story and make a bubble-wrap bubble bath. Age 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11:30 am. Free. 524-3043.

Jan. 12 German Int'l School of Silicon Valley - Berkeley Campus: Open House, 11am, Free. 1581 LeRoy Ave., Berkeley. 558-0436 or www.gissv.org

Jan. 13 Personal Theology Seminar: Martin Verhoeven, Research Professor of Buddhist Classics on, "Meditation as a Mirror." 10-11am, Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Jan. 13 Open House Brunch, at Kensington Veterinarian Hospital, 400 Colusa Ave., 11am-1pm. Free. 528-0797 or info@kensingtonvethospital.com.

Jan. 13 Knitting at 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. 14 Berkeley Repertory Theatre Docent Talk. A docent will discuss the most current play at the Berkeley Repertory theatre: "Troublemaker." Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Jan. 15 Pajama Art. Listen to a story, learn about famous artists and make your own special creation. For young children and their families. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Jan. 16 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters meets for a film and discussion at 1:15pm. 50 Avon Road. Guests are welcome. Please confirm at 527-8683.

Jan. 17 Free Consumer Identity Theft Education Presentation. 7pm, Community Center. Reserve via email to dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org or call 526-4141. ext. 38

Jan. 17 Men's fellowship at Arlington Community Church. 5:30pm. Info 526-9146.

Jan. 20 Personal Theology Seminar: Hana Matt, teacher of World Religions at Graduate Theological Union and the Interfaith Chaplaincy Institute in Berkeley; teacher of spiritual direction in each of the world's religions, and Interfaith Spiritual Director. "The beautiful teachings of the medieval mystics: Rumi and Hafiz." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or uucb.org.

Jan. 24 Relaxation Techniques for the Mind, Body, & Spirit. Certified health coach, Jamie Duvnjak, will present tips on maximizing relaxation, such as deep breathing and reflexology, as well as vitamins and foods. 7pm, El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

Jan. 25 Bridge at Arlington Community Church. Potluck at 5:30pm. Info 526-9146.

Jan. 27 Personal Theology Seminar: Hana Matt, "The beautiful teachings of the women medieval mystics: Hildegard of Bingen, Mechthild o. Magdeburg, Julian of Norwich, and Teresa of Avila. 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302 or uucb.org.

Jan. 27 The Healthcare Movie at Arlington Community Church. A documentary comparing Canadian and American healthcare systems; discussion to follow. 12-2pm. Info 526-9146.

Jan. 28 Book Club. Discussion of Orhan Pamuk's *Snow*. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

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Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services
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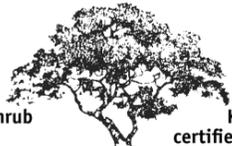
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...Election, from Page 1

ing – extended gracious congratulations to Chuck and Pat.

At that same meeting, Bruce Morrow, 23-year Kensington resident and former president of the Kensington Community Council and KPPCSD, congratulated Chuck and Pat “for their very impressive victories,” and also “thank(ed) the community for saying ‘No’ to the politics of divisiveness driven by personal petty bourgeois vendetta, and ‘Yes’ to the return to civility, focus on the community, and respect for the truth.”

Andrew Gutterrez, who endorsed Cathie Kosel in the election, said, “I too am glad that the ‘food fight’ in Kensington is over. I read an article today in *The Patch*,” he continued, “in which Chuck Toombs was quoted as saying that we need to negotiate a new contract with our police officers that is fair to them and sustainable to the community; that we need to find common ground with our waste haulers that constitutes a fair rate for their services within the confines of our current agreement, while we also prepare for...the expiration of the current contract in 2015; and we have to have a discussion with our community on their appetite for such public expenses as renovation of our community buildings and restoration of community paths. When I first read this, I thought that Cathie Kosel had written it. But it turns out that we now have Chuck Toombs saying these sorts of things, and if he really believes it (sic), I can only applaud him.”

Judging from the election results, it would not be the sound of only one hand clapping.

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