



— Bringing The Community Together —

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

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

DECEMBER 2014/JANUARY 2015

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 71 NUMBER 10



KPPCSD Board President, Len Welsh, presents retiring Directors Linda Lipscomb and Tony Lloyd with plaques of appreciation.

KCC's Matching Gift Challenge For the Community Center

Way back in July of 2006, I wrote a letter to the community about the "Flush Fund" fundraiser to raise money to build a community bathroom in the park. At the time, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) pledged \$15,000 towards the project and asked the community to "step up to the plate" and help match the KCC's donation with matching gifts up to \$15,000. Kensington showed it cared, the money was raised, and the bathroom was built!

The Kensington Community Council is again reaching out to the community with another matching gift challenge. Even though Measure L did not pass, the Community Center still needs some safety renovations and some tender loving care to make it a place for all community activities. A number of community members have already sent in donations.

Let's keep the ball rolling! Your contribution, of any amount, will be greatly appreciated and matched by the KCC. The KCC maintains a separate account for the Community Center renovation. If you would like your contribution committed to the renovation project and matched, please write "Community Center Fund" on your check. Please send your donation to Kensington Community Council, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA, 94707. Thank you for your continued support!

— Anne Forrest, KCC President



2014 Election Results

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all candidates for their participation and willingness to step up and contribute to our community in last month's election.

The Contra Costa County Elections Division reported the following results:

Three KPPCSD Directors were elected, including, Alan (Len) Welsh (incumbent, with 19.86% of the vote), Vanessa Cordova (16.52%), and Rachelle Sherris-Watt (14.83%).

Appropriations Limit, Measure V, prevailed with 66% of the vote, out of a total of 2,015 votes.

Winning Directors for the Stege Sanitary District included Alan C. (Al) Miller (incumbent, with 29.12% of the vote), Dwight Merrill (incumbent, with 28.10%), and Jay Z. James (23.50%).

A huge thank you, also, to retiring Directors Richard (Tony) Lloyd and Linda Lipscomb for their years of devoted service to the Kensington Police Protection and Community

see Election, Back Page...

Garden Party 2014 – It's a Hit!

Story on Page 2
Photos on Back Page

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KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE



293-295 Colusa Ave ~ Duplex
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SOLD ~ 239 Willamette Ave
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SOLD! 130 Norwood Court
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SOLD ~ 390 Yale Ave~ 9 offers!
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• KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE •

	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	BR/BA
•Yale Avenue	\$1,079,000	\$1,388,000	4/3
•Yale Avenue	\$795,000	\$1,150,000	3/2
•Willamette Ave.	\$850,000	\$949,000	3/3
•Yale Avenue	\$685,000	\$790,000	3/1
•Norwood Court	\$849,000	\$775,000	3/2

Wishing You a Joyous Holiday Season!

Source: EBRD-MLS Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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For each Kensington home I sell, I make a donation to the Kensington Education Fund.

I just want  
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again for the  
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~B. Lundgren,  
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## 2014 Garden Party – It’s a Hit!

The crowd of over 400 revelers was in a decidedly festive mood for this year’s Garden Party at the Mira Vista Country Club in November, where tens of thousands of dollars was raised to benefit the Kensington Education Foundation and the academic enrichment classes at Hilltop Elementary School.

According to Garden Party Chair, Kim Keller, a concerted effort was made at this year’s party – including a short film featuring Hilltop kids – to focus everyone’s attention on the fact that the Garden Party raises more than 40% of the annual income for the Kensington Education Foundation, the organization that funds supplemental teachers who provide instruction in art, math and reading intervention, physical education, science lab, and music, as well as a library, a librarian, and more.

“Many of the donations were moved to the online system, with the intent of having fewer items at the actual event so that we could focus on the live auction, the students’ art, and the fine art,” Kim said.

Two notable examples of students’ art this year were the homages to Picasso and Monet, each painting an assemblage of two dozen or so images painted by the students, each image duplicating a small square of the masters’ works.

Works by Renoir, Miro, Magritte, and others were also available at the auction, as were jewelry, special parties, dinners, getaways both near and far, “Teachers’ Treasures,” a moonlight kayak trip, patio

see Garden Party, Back Page...

## East Bay Community Solar Project

The East Bay Community Solar Project (EBCSP) is a non-profit project that aims to help East Bay community members go solar.

The “Solarize” model of going solar in bulk, employed by EBCSP, was pioneered in Portland in 2009. Since then, communities around the country have taken notice of the Solarize model’s success, and adopted Solarize programs of their own. This model helps communities go solar by making the process easier and the savings from doing so, larger. The Costco-style bulk discounts Solarize projects have been able to provide typically amount to thousands of dollars in savings per home on top of the standard savings that can come from going solar without a bulk discount.

The Solarize model has been promoted by the Department of Energy and has worked for countless communities across the country.

EBCSP allows participants to delegate the due diligence of picking a contractor to its selection committee, comprised of volunteer East Bay residents who are hoping to go solar themselves. The committee has reviewed bids from five different solar companies to provide installations to participants at a bulk-discounted rate.

Organizers proffer that the bargaining leverage, due diligence, and expertise the model provides offer participants a better way to go solar than doing so individually. The tiered pricing structure of the model means that the more participants, the bigger the discounts each participant receives.

More info at [www.ebcsolarproject.com](http://www.ebcsolarproject.com).

## New Business in Kensington

At last year’s East Bay Open Studios, we met a sweet young couple, Yvette and Joel, who had just moved here from out of state, and were showing Yvette’s art in their sunny second floor loft in Kensington (lofts in Kensington?).

Then, a year ago, Joel and Yvette stepped into a new endeavor as artisan chili sauce makers! Yvette tells us they started cooking *Dark Heart Chili Sauce* in their kitchen and now use the commercial kitchen of Benchmark Pizzeria on Colusa Circle. “Chris Hall with the Kensington Farmer’s Market gave us our start,” says Yvette, “and it’s still our home base every other week. On top of all that, we’re having our first baby in November!”



*“A sensuous chili sauce of organic Cayenne, New Mexico and Senise chili peppers roasted in oils of walnut, hazelnut, almond, and pecan to create indulgent layers of taste. Unlike most chili sauces, we use no vinegar or preservatives. Our savory varieties are complex, with a mix of nuts, garlic and tomato...our sweet flavors are romanced by cacao, dates, glazed nuts, cardamom, and rose.”* – From the Dark Heart Chili Sauce website.

Check out their eight different varieties online at [www.DarkHeartChiliSauce.com](http://www.DarkHeartChiliSauce.com), or, for a more sensual experience, get a taste from Yvette and Joel at their booth on the first and third Sundays at the Kensington Farmer’s Market – or at other select retailers around the Bay.

K E N S I N G T O N

OUTLOOK

EDITOR  
JOEL KOOSÉD

ADVERTISING MANAGER  
ALMA KEY

PUBLISHER  
KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
59 Arlington Ave.  
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February Advertising Deadline.....Jan. 8  
February Editorial Deadline.....Jan. 10

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Letters are on Page 9.



From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From October 2014

10/7/14, Officer Turner attempted to stop a vehicle occupied by two subjects, which subsequently fled. Officer Turner found the vehicle abandoned a short time later on Wellesley Ave. and determined it was stolen. Officer Turner coordinated KPD personnel as well as officers from ECPD to contain the suspects, who were believed to be hiding in the area. A canine and helicopter were requested to aid in the search but ultimately the suspects were not located. A search of the stolen vehicle yielded a concealed firearm and several articles of stolen property.

Hours later, a Good Samaritan who had apparently witnessed the suspects fleeing, reported she saw the suspects walking on Arlington Ave. KPD responded to the area. When the suspects spotted KPD units they again fled on foot through the back yards of several residences. Detective Sergeant Barrow and Corporal Stegman engaged in a foot pursuit of the suspects, eventually containing them in the block between Arlington Ave. and York Ave., with the assistance of Chief Harman, Officer Ramos, and Officer Turner.

Chief Harman took the female suspect into custody nearby while the other officer attempted to locate the male suspect. After an extended search and the assistance of an ECPD canine unit, the suspect was located hiding inside a house on York Ave. It turned out both suspects had extensive criminal histories, including home invasion robbery, and auto theft. The male suspect was a parolee-at-large and a member of a large street gang.

(At press time), the male suspect has been held to answer on multiple felony charges stemming from this arrest, and is currently in custody awaiting trial.

10/9/14, a resident was reported missing by a family member. Days later the subject's vehicle was located

unoccupied in a desolate area of Arizona. The local Sheriff's Department conducted an extensive search with negative results. Twelve days after the subject went missing Det. Sgt. Barrow located him in a hotel in Laguna Beach. Local police were called and conducted a welfare check and found him in good health.

10/20/14, Corporal Stegman responded to a report of a prowler in the unit block of Edgcroft Rd., where a woman was walking around a resident's yard and acting strange. The subject is well known to KPD as a drug user and burglar. Corporal Stegman obtained a citizen's arrest from the resident and took the suspect into custody. During the booking process the suspect first attempted to bribe Corporal Stegman, and then threatened Corporal Stegman and Officer Turner's lives.

10/20/14, Officer Ramos took a report of a hit and run on the 100 block of Highland Blvd.

10/28/14, Team One personnel, with help from Det. Sgt. Barrow and Officer Wilkens, carried out a probation search in the 200 block of Arlington Ave. The officers located methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia in the residence and took the only occupant into custody on related charges.

10/28/14, Det. Sgt. Barrow, Corporal Stegman, Officer Ramos, and Officer Wilkens responded to a disturbance on the 100 block of Arlington Ave. The victim claimed her son had been using drugs, was extremely agitated, and making threats to kill her. The son was arrested for making criminal threats.

10/29/14, Corporal Stegman took a report of a hit and run on the 200 block of Kenyon Ave.

10/29/14, Officer Turner stopped a vehicle on the 400 block of Grizzly Peak Blvd and arrested the driver for an outstanding warrant.



- Team #1 Took 4 Traffic Collision Reports During the Month of October.
- 12 Moving citations were issued on Arlington Ave.
  - 4 Moving citations were issued on Colusa Ave.
  - 2 Moving citations were issued on Sunset Dr./Franciscan Way.
  - 5 Moving citation was issued on Grizzly Peak Blvd.



Board packets, monthly reports, minutes, recordings of the KPPCSD Board Meetings, and Bay View County Solid Waste contracts are available for review at [www.KensingtonCalifornia.org](http://www.KensingtonCalifornia.org).

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Miraculous Peace ~ December 7, 10:00 am

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Godly Love ~ December 21, 10:00 am

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— George Carlin

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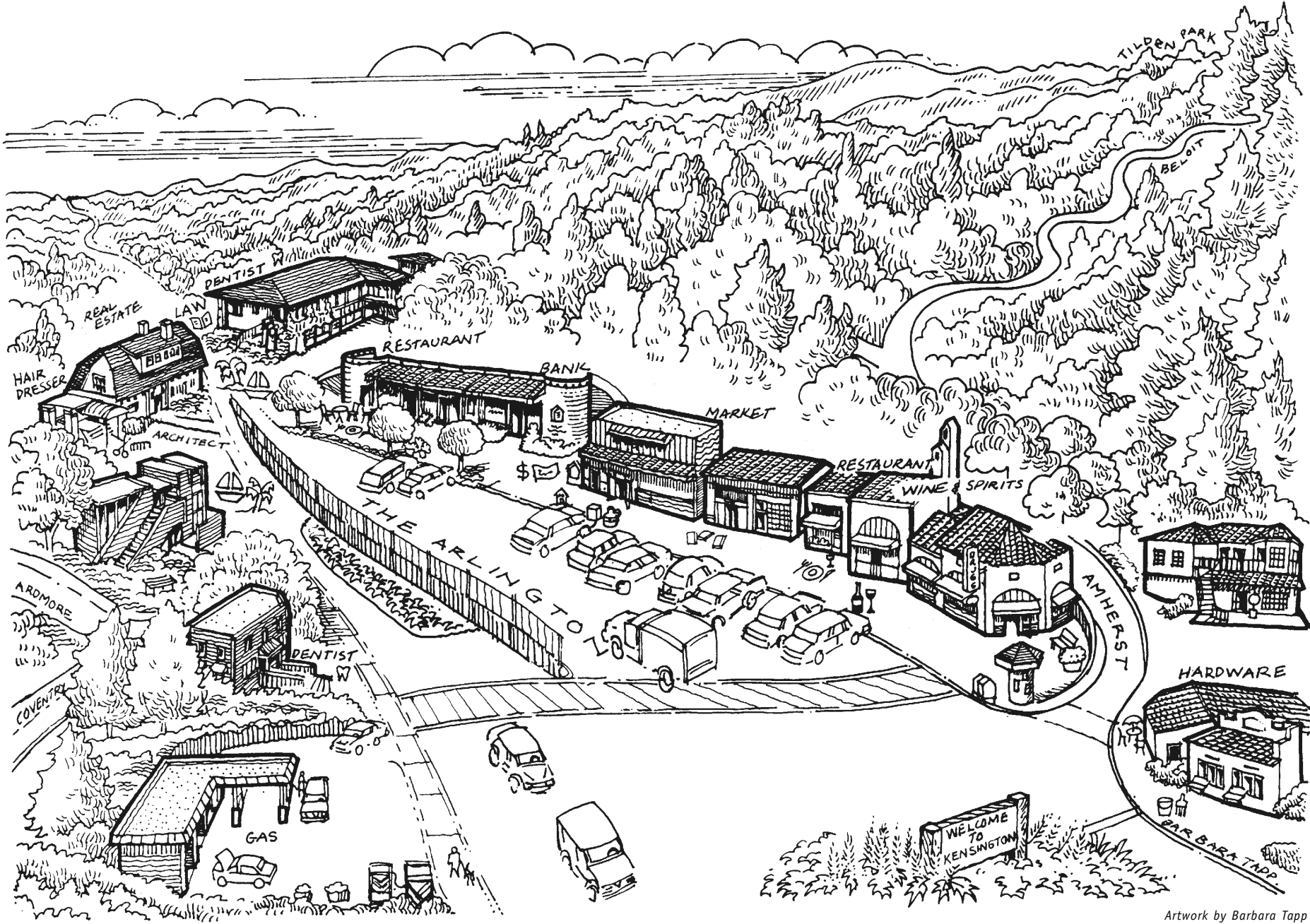
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## ARLINGTON AVENUE



Artwork by Barbara Tapp



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Joel Koosed, Editor 236-8632  
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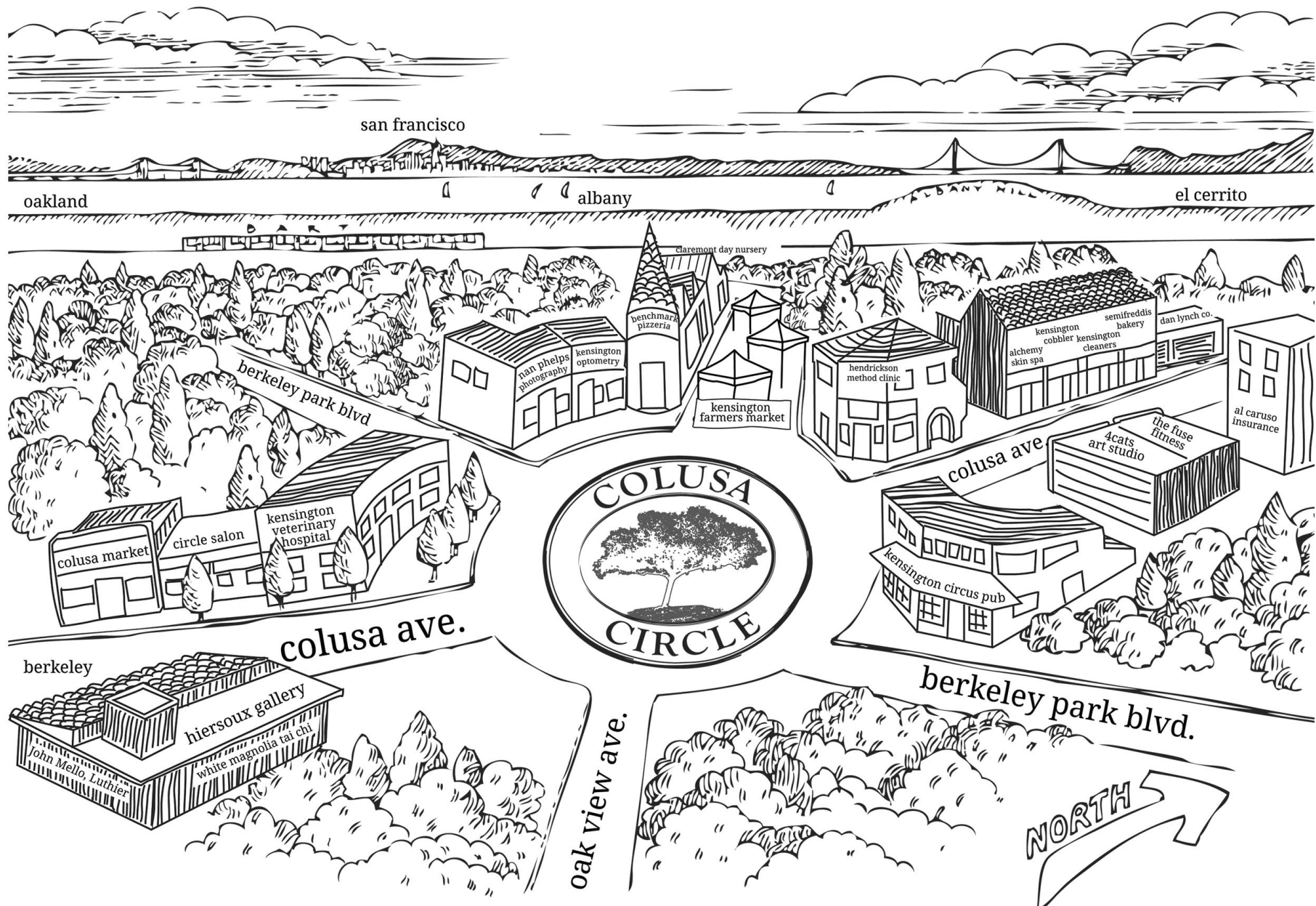
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## COLUSA AVENUE



Artwork by Barbara Tapp







## Neighborhood Notes

### Colusa Circle Halloween Celebration

Colusa Circle merchants celebrated Halloween this year in their usual style, including a “Where’s the Witch” contest co-sponsored by Nan Phelps Photography and Benchmark Pizza, Fuse Fitness’ Kid’s Obstacle Course, art projects for kids at 4Cats Art Studio, Giant Pumpkin weight-guessing and pumpkin carving contests at the Farmer’s Market, Kensington Optometry’s Maze Game, and Kensington Veterinary Clinic’s annual Animal Show, by *Fur, Scales, and Tails*, pictured, above right (note chicken on head); Marvin Gardens Real Estate sponsored live music at the Farmer’s Market Halloween Celebration – as well as every Sunday (*Chrome Fever* plays at right); 4Cats Art Studio’s art projects for kids at the Halloween Celebration; and Market manager, Chris Hall, below right. *A frighteningly good time!*



### Holiday Hoodie Drive

For the past 16 years, Supervisor John Gioia’s office has supported the Verde Elementary Toy and Coat Drive. John invites you to join him in providing a hoodie for each student – which will provide warmth and also become part of their school uniforms. They’re also accepting donations to provide a new toy to every student. To make this happen they need to raise over \$7500 to cover 320 hoodies and toys. Donations of new age-appropriate toys (K - 6th grade, unwrapped), and especially, cash or check donations are much appreciated and tax deductible. (Must be received by Friday, Dec. 12.) Checks should be made payable to the non-profit Neighborhood House of North Richmond c/o 2014 Verde Toy Drive. Donations and checks can be dropped off or mailed to Supe. Gioia’s office, 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, EC 94530. More info at 231-8692. *Happy Holidays from Supervisor Gioia!*



### Tour Through the Ages of Britain

Long-time Kensington resident, Jacqueline Klaassen, in partnership with the non-profit European Studies Association, has organized a small group tour “Through the Ages of Britain,” visiting treasures of the Neolithic, Roman, Saxon, Viking, Medieval, Elizabethan, and Georgian periods.” Jackie says they’ll traverse “vibrant cities, picturesque villages, extravagant manor houses, and cozy country inns.” And who could argue with that? Coming in June 2015. Check it out at [jackieklaassen.wix.com/england2015](http://jackieklaassen.wix.com/england2015).



### Thanks, Volunteers!

Thanks to Charli Danielson, Katie Gluck, Gretchen Gillfillan, Ray Barazza, and Lisa Coronna, for pitching in to thin the vegetation around the community center on Thursday afternoons, these last few months. More volunteers are always needed, so please join them any Thursday from 2-4pm!

### Outlook Editor’s Photo Exhibit: Opening Jan. 2nd

While editing the *Outlook* keeps Joel pretty busy, it also allows him a bit of time to snap a few photos following his own muse – and he’s been clicking away now for more than half a century. This month, for the first time, he is presenting his photographs to the public in an exhibit, *Wabi-Sabi – Decay, Emptiness, and Other Ephemeral Beauty*. “Wabi-Sabi” is a meme from Japanese culture that “seeks beauty in the imperfection of all things as they evolve from – and devolve back into – nothing.” Opening: January 2, 6-10pm, in conjunction with Oakland’s *First Fridays Art Murmur*. Also: Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 1-5pm. Warehouse 16 Gallery 416-26th St., Oakland. Free. More info: 236-8632.



“Cuba”

### Fraud and ID Theft Tips

Though they are not, by any means, the only group targeted, senior citizens tend to be more trusting and therefore more vulnerable to scams. More than one local resident has lost money through nefarious hoaxes perpetrated on them.

Peter Liddell, Co-Chair of the Kensington Public Safety Council, passes on these valuable guidelines, provided by the California Legal Aid Society, on how to protect yourself: 1) Don’t give money based on a promise to deliver something in return, except for legitimate businesses; this includes advertisements on TV, phone, email, or web site solicitations; 2) Don’t give strangers your personal information, such as social security number, driver’s license number, bank account numbers, credit/debitcard numbers, phone number, mailing/residential address, city of birth, mother’s maiden name, etc.; 3) If someone is asking you to get involved with something that is “urgent” or must be kept a secret, can be a warning sign of a scam. Common scams include: A) A grandchild,

friend, or other relative is stranded or in trouble, often in a foreign country, and needs money – usually done via email or phone; B) You have won a prize but must send money to receive it; C) You receive a large check but you are asked for money to cover expenses, pay taxes, or other fees. The check may be accepted by a bank but will turn out to be worthless; D) Someone will offer to help with debt management. They will consolidate your bills and offer to pay them for a small fee. The fee will turn out to be large, or one of several fees. They will take your consolidated monthly payment and never send it to your real creditors and you will start getting payment demands from them; E) You receive jewelry or other goods and then get charged for it. If someone sends you something without your having ordered it, you are not liable for payment; F) You are offered a free lunch or a lecture. They will try to get your personal information and/or try to sell you something, such as insurance, a time share, or other goods

*see Fraud, Back Page...*



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# 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

## KASEP

### Kensington After-School Enrichment Program

**Happy Holidays from KCC!** December starts out with KASEP Winter online class registration, December 2nd at 7:30pm. The KASEP winter brochure and class schedule is online on the same website as class registration: [www.Kensington-CommunityCouncil.org](http://www.Kensington-CommunityCouncil.org). Staff will be in the KCC office the eve of registration to take walk-in registrations for families paying with cash or check and to provide telephone support for anyone having difficulty online (525-0292). Extra KASEP winter brochures are available at the Kensington library and at KCC's office.

Winter KASEP session starts the same day as Hilltop School, Monday January 5, 2015 and continues for 10 weeks, ending Friday March 20th. Your enthusiasm for our new classes offered this fall set the tone for our winter session. *Digital Photography* and *Puppet Movie Club* classes continue. Starting 2015, there will be two *Science and Invention* classes. Vicky Brodt heard the cries from older students: "We want to take *Muffin Madness* too!" so Vicky is teaching a class just for them late Mondays. Thanks to the Heaslip family – we have a new teacher and a new class – *Beginning Knitting*!

We are saying goodbye to Elaine Chu, our *Art and Bookmaking* instructor. Elaine has taught with KASEP for over 8 years. A woman who brims over with creative ideas and enthusiasm for art, she has worked with students to create their own magical books and other fun projects of all sizes and shapes to take home as wonderful keepsakes. She will be greatly missed.

**The KCC Office will be closed for Winter Break: December 22 – Jan 2nd.**



*Stir it up, and then let's eat!*  
KASEP Cooking



*Digital Photo Fun!*



*Sewing up a delightful fright*  
– KASEP Sewing



*Thanks, Elaine, for amazing  
Art and Bookmaking class!*



*Hairy beasts get haircuts  
in Junior Gardening.*



*Chocolate Cooking class  
– delicious delights!*

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**2014**

## JAZZERCISE

**JAZZERCISE**  
Monday-Wednesday-Friday,  
8:15-9:15am • Ongoing w/Kevin

**New JAZZERCISE**  
Classes Added • Ongoing  
Tuesday-Thursday, 8:15-9:15am  
Instructor Susan Brown

New Year's Resolution to work off those extra holiday pounds? Join Kevin to get moving. Workout without injury, be with other people, and have fun – a recipe for a healthy start of the new year!



**BODY SCULPTING with Kevin**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
9:15-10:15am • Ongoing

Body sculpting is shaping your body to look leaner, more toned, and strengthened. Register at class. Come join the fun and get healthy. Just bring a mat and weights and we'll get started!

**Holiday Schedule: Jazzercise and Body Sculpting**  
No classes December 22 through January 2nd.  
Classes resume Monday, January 5th.

Classes at the Kensington Community Center  
Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728

## 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](mailto:kccrec@yahoo.com), or call 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: 45-minute singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5.

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

**ACRYLIC ARTISTS**  
Wednesday, 9:45am – 12:30pm

Open Studio, easels and tables provided. You bring your creativity and paints. Paint in community of other artists. The Community Center is spacious, with lots of natural light. Bring a lunch, as the morning is spent painting, then lunch and time for optional critique. Questions? Call KCC at 525-0292.



*I can hear the ocean!*  
– KASEP Critter class

**ZUMBA GOLD®**  
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**New Class for Seniors, Age 55+**  
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**More Info:** Contact Stacey Jennings at [staceysavage@msn.com](mailto:staceysavage@msn.com).





Letters to the Editor

Dir. Gillette on the Election

(Editor):

The election is now behind us and we start in December with a new configuration of the board. But, contrary to the ill conceived campaign to try to make this about the “old” board vs. the “new” board, I think we will have a board that will follow in the footsteps of the current board – with respectful yet spirited discussion among board members and the public, attempts to build consensus and to problem solve for the serious issues facing our community, and an open and honest flow of information. That appears to be what the voters wanted with the three persons they voted into office. That is what I will strive to ensure they get.

I also personally hope that members of the community who took an interest in the issues at the time of the elections, will continue to show that interest by coming to the meetings or, if that isn’t possible, watching the videos or reading the minutes of the meetings. If we can get more community participation at the time issues arise, we can ensure that the Board is fully attuned to the pulse of the community and we can be more effective at doing our jobs.

Finally, as someone who has lived here for over 36 years, it is my true hope that we can continue our efforts to return our community to a point where we listen actively to each other, engage the various parts of our town in discussions, and respectfully disagree while continuing to adhere to our core values: trust, honesty, civility, and reason.

We will be facing some difficult issues ahead. So, I hope to see as many of you at our meetings as possible. For others, I encourage you to email me and other board members to share your thoughts and opinions.

Pat Gillette

Thank You Kensington!

Dear Neighbors,

I extend my deepest thanks to those who placed your confidence in me by electing me to the board of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District. It is an honor and privilege to be called to serve our community in this challenging new capacity.

No doubt this was a spirited campaign. I congratulate Len Welsh and Rachelle Sherris-Watt on their shared success and look forward to working with them both. I thank our fellow challengers, who stepped-up to serve and shined a light on the critical matters that will continue to inform the future of Kensington. Each deserves our gratitude and respect for their hard work and I will look to their counsel as we navigate several key issues in the months ahead.

I also wish to thank the many supporters I now consider friends. Your kind words and generous acts affirmed my affection for and devotion to this wonderful community I’ve called home for nearly 15 years. I will work very hard to reward your trust in me.

Warm regards,  
Vanessa Cordova

“I’m not a real movie star. I’ve still got the same wife I started out with twenty-eight years ago.”  
– Will Rogers

Osmundson on the Writ

To the Editor:

I am thrilled that the KPPCSD board members who were sued over a procedural item successfully defended themselves at the State Court of Appeals. On top of that the court indicated that the case was frivolous and meritless. Of course the ones who were sued, defended themselves. Wouldn’t you? Now we have hundreds of thousands of dollars of charges that were paid.

Now, in union with all who want a stronger fiscal position for Kensington, let’s encourage our board to get all of our legal fees back from those who initiated and pursued such a waste of time, treasure and energy.

Lorraine Osmundson

Now is The Time for ‘Nattering Nabobs’

(Editor):

Len Welsh has been elected to the KPPCSD board, receiving the most votes. That’s an important signal from the electorate: The majority of our citizens appreciate what Len and the board have done in the last two years. They want to get past the negativity, acrimony, and trivial arguments. It’s time for the “nattering nabobs of negativism” to become part of the solution and support our district officers through civil dialogue, assuming good intentions, and volunteerism.

Andrew Reed

Community Input

The conduct of several Board members at the November meeting suggests new procedures are needed on how important business is conducted. This meeting included an “opportunity” for the public to comment on two essential contracts; the 8-year \$10.0 million Bay View refuse contract and a 4-year extension of the Police officer’s contract affecting 90% of the KPPCSD’s \$3.0 million annual budget. These are the largest financial decisions the Board makes affecting Kensington’s viability.

Neither the Bay View contract nor the Police contract was posted to provide sufficient time for meaningful public review and dialogue with the Board. At the November 13 Board meeting citizens offered a number of suggested changes to the Bay View contract that were either ignored or described as inaccurate without any opportunity for reply. The Board then discussed the Police contract, and stipulated the vote would be taken in December. Several citizens asked that the vote be postponed to January; giving the public, and new Board members, time to review this important document and its impact on our depleted budget. They were told the December deadline was firm, and the Board was elected to make these decisions.

It is time to reign in this imperious behavior. The public is entitled to a thoughtful and reasoned process concerning their questions and suggestions. Procedural changes should be adopted requiring that expenditures over \$500,000 be posted at least 3 weeks before two consecutive Board meetings, thereby providing meaningful public discussion before voting.

Jim Watt

“I have the simplest tastes. I’m always satisfied with the best.” – Oscar Wilde

Bergen on the Writ

Dear Editor,

I have been very concerned about the tenor of some of the letters to the editor regarding our neighbors who attempted to hold the KPPCSD responsible for their improper actions regarding the police department and its chief. I wish to express a differing view.

I think that our neighbors who called the board to account for their actions did all of us a great favor, and I applaud them for it.

The board should have simply revisited their vote and redone it properly once they were called out on their mistake instead of using our tax money to hire expensive lawyers to fight the Writ of Mandate, which all citizens have the right to pursue.

Now they want to have those who spent their time, effort and money to pursue some justice for all of us to pay the board’s legal fees. I believe that the members of the board who voted for hiring the lawyers should pay their legal fees themselves.


In all the time I’ve lived in Kensington I have never seen such behavior of our elected officials.

Please read Thomas Peele’s article in the Contra Costa Times, he says it all:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/columns/ci\\_25950700/thomas-peelee-kensington-leaders-make-big-stench-stifling](http://www.contracostatimes.com/columns/ci_25950700/thomas-peelee-kensington-leaders-make-big-stench-stifling)

The definition of a Writ of Mandate: (mandamus) n. a court order to a government agency, including another court, to follow the law by correcting its prior actions or ceasing illegal acts.

David Bergen



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The Kensington Community Council is dedicated to the improvement, development, and education of the community and to the promotion of social welfare in Kensington. It enriches the community by providing educational and recreational programs for all ages and by publishing the *Outlook*, a monthly newsletter that covers local events and issues.

KCC also provides a forum for all Kensington community groups to meet and coordinate their respective efforts toward the common good of the community.


The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors, and 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 phone number (address and phone will not be published). Publication is subject to space limitations and the editor’s discretion. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. One letter per person, per issue.

PLEASE NOTE: Modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after all periods. E-mail preferred, to: Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com.



### Holiday Boutique

Saturday, December 6  
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# Kensington Kalendar

**Dec. 1-5 Jazzercise.** On-going. Drop-ins welcome. 8:15-9:15am, Community Center (M-F)

**Dec. 2 KASEP Winter Online Registration.** 7:30pm

**Dec. 1 Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs.”** All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. Meets on the first Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043

**Dec. 2 The Power of Myth at the Movies: Millions (2005).** View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7:30-9pm. First Tuesdays of the month; \$8 each. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

**Dec. 2, 4 Body Sculpting,** 9:15-10:15am; drop-ins welcome. Ongoing, Community Center (Tues-Thurs)

**Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 Family Storytime.** Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

**Dec. 4 & 11 Baby & Toddler Storytime.** 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.

**Dec. 5 Zumba for Seniors,** 9:45-10:45am. Ongoing; Community Center

**Dec. 5 Little Marvin and the Gardeners,** featuring Marvin Gardens Real Estate owners, Todd Hodson and Marion Henon. 8:30-11:30pm, at the Ivy Room, 860 San Pablo Ave., Albany. \$5 cover

*“I have a very strict gun control policy: if there’s a gun around, I want to be in control of it.” – Clint Eastwood*

**Dec. 6 The Fratello Marionettes Perform** the *North Pole Review* just in time for the holidays. Come see this wonderful performance acted out with gorgeously handcrafted marionettes. Appropriate for ages 3 and up. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 2pm. Free. 524-3043.

**Dec. 7 Richard Stromer,** personal mythologist, archetypal astrologer, psychospiritual counselor. “Rekindling the Light Archetypal Reflections at the Darkest Time of the Year.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

**Dec. 7 & 14 Holiday Fair:** Handcrafted & recycled gifts and decorations. 10am-1:30pm. No entry fee. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

**Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 Kensington Farmers Market.** Live produce & live music Sundays, 10-2. Free. Colusa Circle.

**Dec. 11 KASEP Celebration Children’s Performance.** 5-6pm, Community Center.

**Dec. 13 Read to Izzie the Dog.** Izzie is a registered therapy dog and she loves to have children read to her. Sign-up sheet will be at the door; first come, first served. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 2-4pm. Free. 524-3043.

*“Aren’t we forgetting the true meaning of Christmas? You know, the birth of Santa.” – Matt Groening*

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**Dec. 14 Rev. Jeremy Taylor,** pioneer in dream work, author of several books on dream symbolism, mythology and archetypal energy; teacher, Unitarian Universalist minister. “How Can We Know the Dancer from the Dance?” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

**Dec. 19 WAVE Christmas Concert 2014.** The Women’s Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE) and the men of the Schola Cantorum of St. Albert Priory will present their annual “Festival of Readings and Carols.” In addition to musical selections, poetry appropriate to the season will be read. The performance includes early music from England and France, selections from Llibre vermell de Montserrat, and music composed by Adam de St. Victor, Heinrich Schütz, Francisco Guerrero, and William Billings. The concert will also include a sing-along of some traditional Christmas carols. 8pm, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. \$20 General/\$15 Students and seniors. All tickets will be sold at the door. www.wavewomen.org, or 730-2068.

**Dec. 21 Rev. Jeremy Taylor** (see Dec. 14 listing for bio). “Dreams Who Writes this Stuff?” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

**Dec. 21 Annual Messiah Sing-Along,** 6pm. \$15/10, scores available (\$10 deposit). Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

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

**Dec. 29 Kensington Library Book Club.** Discussion of *Run* by Ann Patchett. Book Club Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

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# Kensington Kalendar

**Jan. 1-4 Wacky Winter Wonderland at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.** \$10-\$15. 10am-5pm. 10979 San Pablo Ave., EC. 592-3002 [www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org](http://www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org)

**Jan. 5 KASEP Winter Session classes start**

**Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 Kensington Farmers Market.** Live produce & live music Sundays, 10-2. Free. Colusa Circle.

**Jan. 4 Carolyn West, storyteller** published poet and essayist at Northbrae Community Church: “What Gives? Epiphany Then and Now.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**Jan. 5 Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs.”** All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. First Mondays of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

## Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center  
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

*(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)*

**KCC - Dec. 1st, Jan. 5th  
Kensington Community Council**  
1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

**FKL - Dec. 2nd, Jan. 6th  
Friends of the Kensington Library,** 7pm (at the Library, 61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesdays

**KPSC - Dec. 8th, Jan. 12th  
Kensington Public Safety Council**  
Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness  
2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

**KFPD - Dec. 10th, Jan. 14th  
Fire Protection District**  
2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

**KPPCSD - Dec. 11th, Jan. 8th  
Police Protection and  
Community Services District**  
2nd Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

**KMAC (Tent.) - Dec. 30, Jan. 27  
Municipal Advisory Council**  
Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s office to confirm: 231-8691)

**KARO/ECHO - January 12th  
Amateur Radio Operators**  
2nd Mondays of odd months,  
7:30pm. 524-9815

**KIC - Jan. 26th** (No Dec. Mtg.)  
**Kensington Improvement Club**  
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 527-3062

**KPOA  
Property Owners Association**  
Meets quarterly. 559-8232

**Kensington Farmers’ Market**  
Live produce & live music every  
Sunday, 10am-2pm, Colusa Circle.



Bryan Baker performs at Unitarian Universalist Church’s Annual Messiah Sing-Along – See December 21st

**Jan. 6 The Power of Myth at the Movies:** *What Dreams May Come* (1998). View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7:30-9 pm. First Tuesdays of the month; \$8 each. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**Jan. 6, 13, 20 & 27 Family Storytime.** Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043

**Jan. 7 The Kensington Unit of the WCCC League of Women Voters** meets to discuss local issues at 1:15pm, 44 Beverly Road. Guests are welcome. To confirm call 524 6071.

**Jan. 8, 15, 22 & 29 Baby & Toddler Storytime.** 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. 10 & 11 “Ring” In the New Year at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.** \$10-\$15. 10am-5pm. 10979 San Pablo Ave., EC. 592-3002, or [www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org](http://www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org)

**Jan. 11 Donna Lerew,** violin teacher, performer, and UUCB member, who studied violin on a Fulbright Scholarship in Paris, will discuss her personal spiritual journey. “Spirits I Have Known.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**Jan. 12 KCC Annual Meeting of all KCC Group Members,** 7:30pm, Recreation Bldg.

**Jan. 12 Art Talk and Slideshow with Artist Michael Stehr** “Painting with Flowers—Monet’s Garden in Giverny” Part 1 of his “Three Monuments of France” series. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

**Jan. 13 That’s Just Ducky Game Night** at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach’s “After Dark” (Grown-Ups Only). \$10. 6-10pm. 10979 San Pablo Ave., EC. 592-3002, or [www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org](http://www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org)

**Jan. 17 Lori Goldrich, Ph.D.,** Jungian analyst and clinical psychologist, teaches active imagination at John F. Kennedy University and the C. G. Jung Institute of San Francisco, presents “Active Imagination as a Spiritual Practice.” 9am-1pm. Suggested fee: \$40 (includes artistic materials). Contact: [lorigoldrich@comcast.net](mailto:lorigoldrich@comcast.net). To register, contact Lonnie Moseley at (510) 655-1444 or email [lonniemoseley@hotmail.com](mailto:lonniemoseley@hotmail.com). Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

*“No matter how cynical you become, it’s never enough to keep up.” – Lily Tomlin*

**Jan. 17-19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend** at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach. \$10-\$15. 10am-5pm. 10979 San Pablo Ave., EC. 592-3002. [www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org](http://www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org)

**Jan. 18 Hana Matt,** teacher of world religions at Graduate Theological Union and Interfaith Chaplaincy Institute, on “The Neuroscience of Joy.” (Pt. 1) 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**Jan. 23 Senior Day at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach** (Grown-Ups Only). \$10. 11am-4pm. 10979 San Pablo Ave., EC. 592-3002, or [www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org](http://www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org)

**Jan. 24 & 25 American Folk Heroes Weekend** at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach. \$10-\$15. 10am-5pm. 10979 San Pablo Ave., EC. 592-3002, or [www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org](http://www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org)

**Jan. 25 Hana Matt** (see Jan. 18 listing for bio). “The Neuroscience of Joy.” (Pt. 2) 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**Jan. 26 Kensington Library Book Club.** Discussion of *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami. Book Club generally meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.



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Holiday Fair

December 7 & 14

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Messiah Sing-Along

Sunday, December 21

6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley

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BACK PAGE

Scams to Watch For

...*Fraud, from Page 7*

or services you don’t need; G) If you bring your car in for service or repair, the shop must provide a quote for each item that is to be repaired. If the shop does a repair without your approval you are not liable for it; H) You may get an offer to refinance an equity using a complicated financial arrangement or service; I) You may get email offers from people or companies you don’t know; J) You may get an offer for home repairs from someone who claims to be a contractor working nearby who has leftover material and offers you a deal. You will be asked to pay them up front and then never see them again. Or they may come back and do a little work but demand a payment each time. The

work may be substandard or faked; K) A towing company may take your car away because of parking overtime. You must be informed before your car is towed for overtime parking; L) A friend or family member may ask to borrow your credit/debit card and offer to pay you back. You may not get paid and they will have your account information; M) Never sponsor someone for a credit card; N) Never co-sign a loan for any more money than you can afford to lose; O) Be very careful of giving power of attorney to someone, even a family member – they will essentially have access to all your assets; P) A cemetery company may call you to offer a deal on a plot. The company may not exist; Q) A land auction company may call to offer a deal on a parcel of land. The land may not be for sale – or even exist!

Thanks Tony & Linda!

...*Election, from Page 1*

Services District. An incredible amount of time goes into this position behind the scenes, including research and committee work, as well as broad expertise in negotiation (Tony and Linda) and law (Linda), that multiplied their contributions many-fold. Kensington thanks you!

Congrats to KEF!

...*Garden Party, from Page 2*

furniture, a Pixar Animation Studio tour, a Dad’s Club work party, and much, much more.

Hilltop Principal, Judy Sanders was in attendance, of course, this time, she said, for her 23rd Garden Party...The entree bar this year was Greek-themed, and featured lamb, chicken, or vegetarian shish-kebabs, with traditional cucumber, tomato, and feta salad, pita bread, hummus, and tsajiki. Best appetizer: squash tartlet on puffed pastry. Dessert included chocolate eclairs, two varieties of cheesecake bites, and chocolate-covered strawberries. Mini cocktails at the door, and free-flowing wine and beer prepared everyone for the fund raising auction that capped off the evening, with master of ceremonies for the second straight year, the very entertaining auctioneer, Steve Haworth (“Like Rita Hayworth without the ‘Y’ – and the legs.”). Live music this year was provided by The Coyotes.

To all who donated, volunteered, contributed, and attended, Kensington’s children thank you!



The Buffet



The Dad’s Club – spoofin’!



The Auction



Chair, Kim Keller and 2013 Co-Chair, Rochelle Clewer