

New Directors *...from front page*

ing the tenor of meetings could help get people involved.”

Hacaj also plans to prioritize finances. “We need to paint a clear picture for residents of what choices we have in front of us.” She advocates asking possible contracting agencies not for RFPs (Requests for Proposals) but rather RFIs, or Requests for Information—“such as,” she said, “what would your approach be to offer this service profile?” At the very least, she said, they would gain valuable insights into the differences between possible partnering agencies.

Then she returned to the subject of the atmosphere at meetings. “One thing that got me interested in running is when I realized that you could not bring a student to these meetings because the atmosphere is so toxic. We need to model civility and good behavior, both board members and the community. I have neighbors who said that they would not go to meetings, and we need to change that. For Kensington to work well, we need to engage everyone.”

That same afternoon, Eileen Nottoli, together with foster dog Ruby, a guide Labrador whose owner was on vacation, said that she planned to do a lot of reading and talking to people before she takes her seat on the board. She has already studied old board packets and now plans to delve into financial audits and analy-

ses, the Brown-Taylor report, and the full ad hoc committee report. “We have so many people here with fantastic backgrounds who can help,” she said, noting that she was meeting with Kensington Property Owners board president Gail Feldman later on.

Her focus, she said, “is to put the district on a more sound financial footing. We need to look at contracting because we may get the same services for a lower cost. And we’re required to have a GM, but that person doesn’t have to be full-time. A GM could help the directors with better use of finances. I’m also very interested in improvements to the Community Center and fund-raising for extras to make it a nicer building.”

Nottoli campaigned, she said, on every street in Kensington, sometimes several times, accompanied by Flare, whom she was fostering earlier, or Ruby for the past three weeks. She said that she was thrilled to meet so many neighbors, and she, like Hacaj, wants everybody’s input on the issues facing Kensington. “I appreciate Len reaching out,” she said. “And I recognize that there’s a lot that needs to be decided in a short time. And there are a lot of strong feelings. We can disagree but let’s not be disagreeable.” On the issue of public comments, Nottoli said that she was not in favor of limiting them “because I don’t feel that they’ve gotten out of hand. I find most of them constructive. There are just so many incredible people in Kensington.”



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Two New Directors Join KPPCSD



Eileen Nottoli—Photo by David Bergen



Sylvia Hacaj—Photo by Dave Tuft

By Linnea Due

Eileen Nottoli and Sylvia Hacaj, who received over 33 percent and 30 percent of the vote respectively on November 8, will join Len Welsh, Rachelle Sherris-Watt, and Vanessa Cordova on the five-member KPPCSD board starting in December. Dave Spath came in next with over 18 percent of the vote, while incumbent Chuck Toombs received 16 percent.

On the morning of November 10, board president Welsh met with Hacaj and Nottoli to welcome the newcomers into the fold and explain the process of taking their seats. The two will be sworn in for their four-year terms December 2 at a special meeting. “I feel so excited and energized at the idea of doing things the community wants,” Hacaj said in an interview shortly after her welcoming meeting with Welsh.

She said that one of her primary interests is reengaging the community. “There’s even a community engagement subcommittee that has not been active,” she said. “I intend to reach out, especially to those people who did not support me. I really want to hear people’s opinions. We have a lot of things to focus on that have the potential to bring people together, such as the renovation of the Community Center.” KPPCSD owns the building, and its seismic retrofit and renovation plans are the responsibility of the board and its building subcommittee, chaired by Sherris-Watt. “Because Kensington has such limited resources,” Hacaj continued, “we need to rely on citizen participation. Chang-

See New Directors back page



Kevin Kyle Hired as New Interim GM/COP

By Linnea Due

After the resignation of Kevin Hart October 31, one of the other finalists in that search process, Kevin Kyle, was hired to take his place as interim GM/COP. The choice was finalized at the regular KPPCSD board meeting on November 10.

Kyle is a retired annuitant; he cannot participate in the district’s retirement plan or receive health benefits and is restricted to working 960 hours during a fiscal year. From December 2010 to 2012, Kyle was the acting chief of police of the Santa Clara Police Department; before that he was assistant chief of the same department. He was responsible for overseeing a large staff of over 200 full-time employees and a budget of nearly \$45 million. An interview with the incoming chief will appear in the February issue.

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Letters to the editor

Words to the Wise

Dear Editor:

It has been my pleasure to serve this community for the past eight years on our KPPCSD board. I am proud of my many accomplishments and wish to thank our community for letting me serve it.

As I prepared for my final board meeting, I listened to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s concession speech on November 9 as she said goodbye and was heartened by her parting words. Among other things, she said all of us should never stop fighting for what is right—it is always worth it. I spent my eight years in service continually fighting for what I believed was right for this community and have few regrets as I leave this board.

I wish the two new board members, Eileen Nottoli and Sylvia Hacaj, and our new board success as they all wrestle with pressing issues regarding Kensington. I have some parting thoughts on what that success looks like to me.

First, the two new board members and the remaining directors absolutely must heal the wounds of what has been a bitter, ugly, divisive and ultimately unnecessarily hostile campaign. If the new board fails to heal these wounds, it will fail our community.

Second, the new board must learn to work cordially and respectfully with all directors. Much has been said about how this departing board is dysfunctional, laying blame at the feet of directors Gillette, Welsh and I.

I do not accept all of that blame—this dysfunction has its groundings in all five directors who seemingly failed at every opportunity to find common ground or consensus, putting political agendas ahead of the business of the people. That is shameful and each director must equally bear the responsibility for that omission and resulting dysfunction.

As Director Sherris-Watt said, each director must move towards his or her best self and build consensus. If the new board fails to set aside their personal political agendas and animosities, and fails to work together in good faith for the benefit of all of Kensington, it will fail our community.

Third, this new board must wrestle with the three key issues set forth in the Ad Hoc committee report, and it absolutely must engage with our community to see what the community wants on all three issues. Do not think for a minute that the five of you will make decisions that affect 5,000 people without seeking their input first.

When we began this process, Director Cordova famously said there are no sacred cows and that everything was up for a top down review as she and I put forth our proposed outline for this committee’s work.

That outline covered the type of police service and whether or not to contract out, the type of management and whether we should separate the GM and COP roles, and whether or not we should unify both the police and fire districts. I think that this community remains curious about all three issues—I know I was.

If you ignore or fail to adequately and accurately investigate all three issues and obtain community consensus on them for political reasons or otherwise, you will fail our community.

You have been handed a clean slate on which to write the future of our local governance—I hope you do your best to write well on it. Your success will be measured by how well you perform these tasks. I truly believe our community will focus very carefully on whether you measure up to this work and whether you are inclusive, listening to all voices or not.

As I told one of the successful candidates, this job will be the hardest thing you ever do, but if you proceed conscientiously with your best efforts, and with the best interests of this entire community first and foremost, you will succeed.

Finally, Secretary Clinton said: “Our best days are still ahead of us.” With that in mind, I wish the best of luck to you and your new board—the future of our entire community is in your hands.

Chuck Toombs

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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. Obituaries for Kensington residents are published at no charge. E-mail preferred to Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

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Letters

...from page 2

Two Definitions of Success

Dear Editor:

Mr. Hart, our recently retired interim GM/COP, served the district for 18 months, resigning 4 months early in order to leave “on my own terms.” During his tenure, three officers have been placed on administrative leave (two of three disciplinary actions are being appealed), and two officers have been on extended light duty and are now on disability. Because the ten-officer district is short-handed by three officers, overtime and disability insurance costs are increasing. Between FY 15/16 and 16/17 the district’s budget related to police salary, benefits, and police expenses is projected to increase from \$2,435,000 to \$2,616,000, or 9.3 percent. For these results we have paid Hart approximately \$300,000 in salary and benefits, plus the purchase of his own \$33,000 automobile that is no longer necessary. Mr. Hart has stated that he has righted the ship and “can leave knowing I was successful.”

Let’s compare this “success” with that of our outsourced fire department. Kensington’s El Cerrito fire department contract provides the Kensington fire station with three firefighters 24/7 to include all administrative costs. The entire El Cerrito fire department comprises 31 sworn firefighters, and over the last five years none of these firefighters have been placed on administrative leave and there were only 60.5 hours of disability time. In this same five-year period, there has not been a single complaint filed against the Kensington fire department, which has responded to 28 fires and 928 medical emergencies. And, as a result of improvements to our water delivery system the ISO rating used for evaluating homeowner fire insurance policy costs has dropped from a 4 in 1995, when Kensington first contracted with El Cerrito, to a 2 (on a 1= excellent; 10 = poor scale). Now that’s what I call success.

Jim Watt

Kensington Property Owners Group Suggests Next Steps for KPPCSD

By Linnea Due

Concerned about losing momentum on the evaluation of the KPPCSD’s Ad Hoc committee’s report, on October 24, the Kensington Property Owners Association (KPOA) board sent a letter to KPPCSD directors regarding possible next steps. KPOA board members decided to send the letter in October since it was the current KPPCSD board that formed the Ad Hoc committee—and KPOA members believed those directors would identify additional information needed to assist with decision-making. “Even after the election, we expect that the Ad Hoc committee report would continue to be part of the KPPCSD directors’ work plan,” added KPOA board president Gail Feldman.

KPOA board member Rob Firmin said that he believes that the Ad Hoc committee’s report gives insights on how to understand the complex issues of governance before the Kensington community. “KPOA wanted to ensure that this major investment of effort gets properly considered and utilized in further analysis,” said Firmin. Two KPOA directors also served on the Ad Hoc committee, Feldman and Garen Corbett.

Said the letter: “The KPOA board has not developed any recommendations on the direction the district should take on the specific issues addressed in the report. However, we offer some guidance on what next steps the KPPCSD should take to assist in decision-making.” The letter then lists a series of questions and actions:

Bifurcation of the General Manager/Chief of Police

The board will need to evaluate the need for and viability of bifurcating this position. There needs to be further elaboration and specificity of what Kensington would gain by creating two positions.

- > What would the General Manager’s responsibilities be, and within what timeframe should certain projects of high priority be accomplished? A strategic planning process could be used to help the board identify what the bifurcated General Manager would be responsible to accomplish. Once that is determined, the board should get the opinions of other GMs and City Managers on the time commitments these activities would require.
- > What is the time commitment (i.e., average hours per month) required to accomplish the work of the General Manager and Police Chief, respectively?
- > Would Kensington need a full-time Chief of Police and/or a full-time General Manager? We recognize that the Chief position depends on whether the district contracts out for police services.
- > How would both positions be funded both in the short-term and long-term? The board may want to refer this question to the Finance Committee for review and presentation of options.

Contracting for Police Services

The report identifies opportunities and constraints for contracting with another police department. The benefits and risks of these options require further analysis, including the costs of continuing an independent police department or contracting with another agency. There are several actions that the KPPCSD can take to move forward with its analysis.

- > Conduct a community survey to rank and measure priorities for services in alignment with cost considerations, such as willingness to pay additional taxes and use that information to prepare a matrix to identify what police services and levels of services (e.g., 24/7 patrol, police response to emergency medical calls, etc.) are important to the community and the operational options and possibilities for providing these services.
- > Review and disseminate evidence-based data that show the relationship between safety outcomes and police services in determining what is necessary for policing the Kensington community. Collection of this data can happen at the same time as further discussion with local jurisdictions begins regarding the information they would need to make a proposal.
- > Determine whether other jurisdictions would require an RFP in order to prepare a contracting proposal and what specific information they would need to prepare a proposal that would meet the service requirements of the community.

Consolidation of the Police and Fire Districts

- > The financial projections of both districts need to be modeled within the total context of Kensington finances and other strategic decisions. This includes realistic expectations of property tax revenue along with expenses. This is essential in understanding how consolidation would affect the two districts’ ability to provide services, maintain reserves and provide capital improvements.
- > Surveying the community to measure the value and services desired for all public safety services and community park facilities would also help the districts understand how the Kensington community would like to see its aggregate tax dollars spent. The survey should include an assessment of whether people would be willing to increase additional taxes and what alternatives to increasing taxes would be considered.
- > Work with the fire district on the financial projections and discuss whether there could be agreement on a process to review consolidation and continue to identify areas of collaboration.

KPOA president Gail Feldman signed the letter, which was addressed to KPPCSD directors, the fire board, and those running for KPPCSD director. KPOA treasurer Kris Hafner said, “The Ad Hoc committee work is in alignment with KPOA’s mission—to bring together volunteer and professional resources to analyze issues facing the community, develop policy options, and communicate findings to Kensington property owners. This is why KPOA’s board is underscoring the need for KPPCSD to actively pursue next steps for the ad-hoc process it initiated. It is urgent to do so in light of the pressing nature of the issues explored and the high level of community interest and involvement in vetting these issues and possible solutions.”

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Date Change A Winner for Parade and Picnic



County Supervisor John Gioia and Kensington liaison Kate Rauch enjoy a moment in the sun. The two served as Grand Marshals at the parade. Photo by Marty Westby.

By Anne Forrest

Did we get lucky this year! The original date for the Kensington Community Council’s Parade and Picnic was to be October 16, the date of the first heavy rain we had seen in the Bay Area in months. But instead, we changed this year’s Parade and Picnic to October 23, which turned out to be a beautiful Fall day!

A crowd of participants followed behind the Grand Marshal’s car, which carried honorees Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia and Kensington’s county liaison, Kate Rauch. The KCC was pleased to be able to honor two people in our greater community who are always there for us! Following the parade, the weather was nice enough for everyone to eat their BBQ lunches outside while enjoying the sun and music provided by the Korematsu Middle School Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Tiffany Carrico.

Congratulations go to our three pie winners, one for each pie category. It seems that pie-making runs in some families—and for the second time running, fathers and their children did very well! First place in the cream pie category went to Helen Stephens, while her father Eric Stephens won in the fruit pie category. The golden rolling pin was awarded to Melinda Dennen for her seasonally appropriate harvest pumpkin pie.

Thanks as always to our sponsors Mechanics Bank and Marvin Gardens Realty for making another successful event possible. Thanks also to our pie contest judges, local foodies Karen Shebek and Lisa Kirkby, the Korematsu Middle School music program, and to all the community members from KCC, KIC, the KPPCSD and its ad hoc committee, and the Kensington School Dads’ Club who worked hard to make it such a happy occasion. A special shout-out to Dads’ Club member Doug Diego: Without his quick work, the BBQ grill at the Community Center would not have been operational on parade day. Thanks, Doug!



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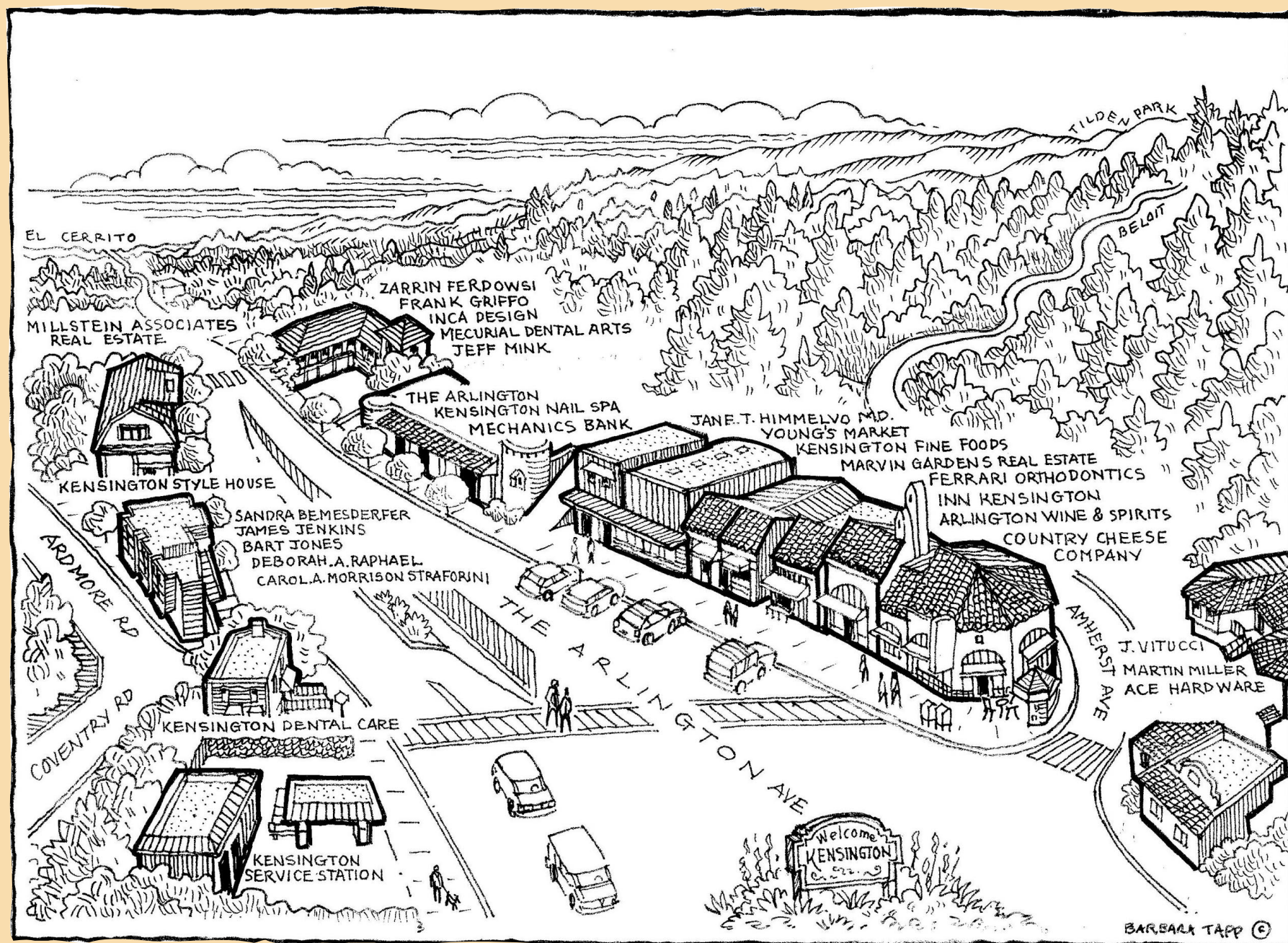
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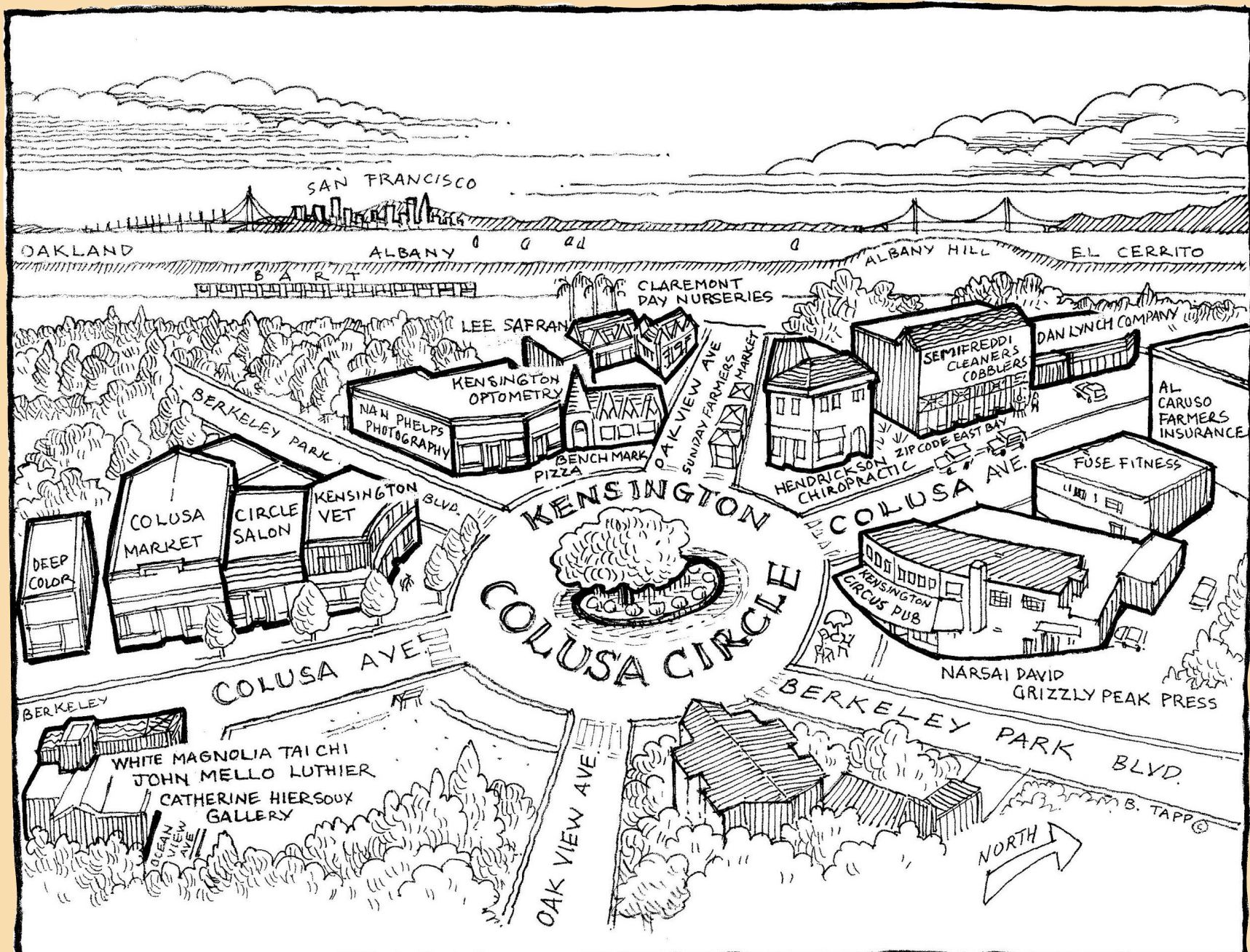
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Meet two of our new KASEP teachers.



Jeanne Rehrig
Jeanne is a true artist. Her earliest memory of doing art was when she was 5 and wanted to paint a giant tulip for her teacher. She took a paper bag, unglued it, stretched it over the radiator and then painted on it, using the radiator as her table. What ingenuity!
Jeanne says that throughout her life she has always come back to Art and that it really is part of her identity. Her goals for students are to learn a little bit about Art History and fall in love with art. She is a practicing artist with a studio and currently has a show at UCSF Women's Health Center in San Francisco through January. We are lucky to have such a talented artist on staff! www.jeannerehrig.com



Darci Read
Darci came here in 2013 and became involved with the East Bay Modern Quilters. She fell in love with the sewing community and felt a true affinity with them. In her KASEP sewing class she wants to instill a love of the creative aspect of sewing in the students. She focuses on making everyday objects that students can actually use, such as drawstring bags, pj's, holiday decorations and embroidered frames. Come sew with Darci!

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9:30-10:30am Fridays, Community Center, \$10
Want to be stronger and more flexible? Then come see what Tai Chi is all about. Tai Chi is a gentle martial art that improves strength, balance, flexibility and dexterity. The gentle exercises help to calm the mind, which relaxes the body, which reduces stress. It's a great time of year to reduce stress!

Jazzercise -being fit is always hip!
8:15-9:15, Monday-Friday, Community Center
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Dance Fusion Strength Core

Body Sculpting
9:15-10:15, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Community Center
Body sculpting is shaping your body to look leaner, more toned and strengthened. Come join the fun and get healthy. Just bring a mat and some weights. Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728

Acrylic Artists
9:45-12:30pm, Wednesdays, Community Center, \$9
The beautiful natural light in our Community Center makes it a great place for painting. Our Acrylic Artists have been here for over 20 years and rely on each other for inspiration and support. They would love to have a few more artists join them, so please feel welcome and stop by Wednesday mornings.



Lacrosse returns to KASEP!



Nature Craft, making habitats for owls



Creative Drama is all about observation and connection



Cartooning is creativity on steroids

Important KASEP dates

KASEP is closed from Dec 17-Jan 2
Winter KASEP begins on Tuesday, January 3rd, the first day students are back at school.

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, or call 525-0292. M-F, 11am-4pm.
Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am. Call the KCC office for info. **Court Fees:** 45-min. singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5.
Kensington Community Center Rental Info: Please call Andrea at KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.

Kensington Calendar

Kensington Community Center 59
Arlington Ave., 525-0292
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave.,
524-3043
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berke-
ley (UUCB), 1 Lawson Rd., Kensing-
ton, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

Ongoing:

Low Impact Jazzercise, 8:15-9:15am
Mon-Fri, Community Center.
Positive Posture, 9:30-11am, Mondays,
Community Center.
Body Sculpting, 9:15-10:15am, Tues and
Thurs, Community Center
Acrylic Artists, 9:45am-1pm, Wednes-
days, easels provided, Community
Center
Tai Chi, 9:30-10:30am, Fridays, Com-
munity Center

December

December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. Kensington Library.
December 1, 8 Pilates with Ernie Adams Free intro Pilates classes for new students 6-7pm. Free 20-minute Pilates consultations for new students Saturday afternoons through January 28 (by appointment). Mind Body Dojo, 7512 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito (across from Fat Apples). 510-619-9223.
December 4 Edwin Rutsch is the director of Building for Culture of Empathy and the founder of the International Empathy Trainers Association. “How might we build a more empathic culture?” 9:30am. Free. UUCB.
December 4 Holiday Gifts & Crafts Fair 10am-1:30pm. No entry fee. UUCB.
December 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. Meets on the 1st Monday of the month. 6:30pm. Free.
December 5 and 19 Kensington Library’s Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1pm. This one-on-one 60-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up onsite at Kensington Library Info Desk. Free. Please bring your device.
December 6 Fratello Marionettes North Pole Looking for a unique way to celebrate the holiday season? Join the fun with our puppet extravaganza, The North Pole Review! This production showcases the high kicking antics of the Russian Trepak Dancers, our graceful ice skater Crystal Chandelier, and features the dazzling acrobatic penguins. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Best for ages 3 and up. 6:30pm, free. Kensington Library.
December 6 Supervisor John Gioia’s Holiday Open House & Verde School Drive. Light refreshments with Gioia’s staff and friends and

neighbors. Please donate to Verde Elementary School in North Richmond with cash at the open house or check to 11780 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 94530. Open house 5-7pm.
December 10 Holiday Boutique Arlington Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington 11am-3pm. Hand-crafted items, gift basket drawing , white elephant treasures. Proceeds support scholarships for women.
December 11 Dr. Jeremy Taylor, pioneer in dream work, author of several books on dream symbolism, methodology and archetypal energy, teacher, UU minister. “Looking Below the Surface of Appearance: Ethical and Historical Necessity of Acknowledging the Unconscious.” 9:30am. Free. UUCB.
December 11 Holiday Gifts & Crafts Fair 10am-1:30pm. No entry fee. UUCB.
December 13, 20 & 27 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm, free.
December 17 Kensington Symphony Orchestra Holiday Fiesta Ole! Manuel de Falla- Ritual Fire Dance from El Amor Brujo. John Carmichael - Concierto Folklorico for Piano & String Orchestra, Eliane Lust, piano. Alberto Ginastera - Idilio Crepuscular. Morton Gould - Latin American Symphonette. 8pm. UUCB.
December 18 Dr. Jeremy Taylor, (see bio above). “An Oak Tree is NOT an Unsuccessful Evergreen: Finding Our Own Unique Paths Through the Forest of Conventional Possibilities.” 9:30am. Free. UUCB.
December 18 Handel’s “Messiah” in a sing-along concert with live orchestra and soloists, conducted by Bryan Baker. Scores are available to borrow (deposit: ID or \$10) or bring your own; limited scores for sale. UUCB, 6pm. Tickets: \$15 general, \$10 students, available at door or through Brown Paper Tickets; all are welcome.
December 19 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *God Help the Child* by Toni Morrison. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month (3rd Monday this month due to holiday). 6:30pm. Free.
December 21 Annual Messiah Sing-Along, 6pm. \$15/10, scores available (\$10 deposit). UUCB.
December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. Family Service at 5pm. & Lessons & Carols at 10pm. Free. UUCB.
January
January 3, 17, 24 & 31 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free. January 5, 12, 19 & 26 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free.
January 7 Drop in Winter Craft Drop by and create a fun project to take home with you. Available all day (10am-5pm) while supplies last. Kensington Library.

January 8 Merrin Clough, director of Family Ministry at UUCB; trained as an educator; hiker, seamstress and poet. “Searching Truth, Finding Purpose.” 9:30am. Free. UUCB.
January 9 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. Normally Meets on the 1st Monday of the month. 6:30pm. Free.
January 10 Family Night—Make Your Own Toys! Join us for a short talk about toys, then make your own toys to take home. We’ll talk about the science that makes toys work using magnetism (Etch-A-Sketch), gravity (Slinky), Chemistry (Play Dough), toys that move with levers and gears, and others. Then have fun with making your own toys including a paper helicopter, a windmill, and more. We will also explore static electricity using balloons and confetti. A fun hands-on event for all families. Sponsored by the Friends ofthe Kensington Library. 6:30pm.Free.
January 15 Cordell Sloan, technology guru; dream expert; jazz musician and son of Rev. Cordell Sloan, Sr. “The History and Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr.” 9:30am. Free. UUCB.
January 16 and 30 Kensington Library’s Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1pm. This one-on-one 60-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up onsite at Kensington Library Info Desk. Please bring your device. Free.
January 22 Hana Matt, teacher of world religions at GTU and Interfaith Chaplaincy; author, spiritual director, and counselor. “Increase Your Happiness: Methods from Scientific Studies and World Religions,” Part 1. 9:30am. Free. UUCB.

January 23 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *It Can’t Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis. Book Club meets on the 4th Monday of the month. 6:30pm. Free.
January 29 Hana Matt, (see bio above). “Increase Your Happiness: Methods from Scientific Studies and World Religions,” Part 2. 9:30am. Free. UUCB.

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

KCC-Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

FKL-Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm (at the Library) 1st Tuesdays

KPSC-Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

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

KFPD-Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Fire Protection District 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD-Dec. 15, Jan. 12, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

KIC-Jan 30, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 524-7514.

KMAC (Tent.)-Dec. 27, Jan. 31, Municipal Advisory Council Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s office to confirm: 231-8691)

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

Chanukah Bazaar



Sunday, December 11, 2016
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Holiday Gifts & Crafts Fair
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10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Messiah Sing-Along
Sunday, December 18
6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Saturday, December 24
5:00 p.m. Family Service
10:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols

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HOLIDAY FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS – What better way to feel part of the Holiday Season than to give both yourself and your loved ones a festive floral arrangement. Call Judy at 510-525-7232 or email at: antiquesdjour@aol.com Happy Holidays!

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Kensington Hilltop alums, now seventh graders at Korematsu Middle School, traditionally act as the servers at the annual Garden Party. Photo by Kim Paige.

Wow—What a Night at the Garden Party!

By Laura Heath

It was a packed house at the Mira Vista Country Club on October 29, as the community showed up in force for the annual Garden Party to raise money for the enrichment programs at Kensington Elementary School. Live music by Coyotes Interrupt Us, a parent-organized band, set the mood as masqueraded revelers bid on silent-auction items such as gift certificates to local restaurants and stores, photography sessions with local photographer Nan Phelps, and fine art donated by Masterworks Fine Art.

As the evening continued, guests raised their paddles in a strong show of support at the live auction. Popular items included the annual Dads’ Club work party (useful for when your Honey-Do list reaches monster proportions) and the party for forty at The Arlington Café. Countless school boosters worked magic behind the scenes to make it all happen, and Hilltop alums who are now Korematsu Middle School seventh graders did a great job passing hors d’oeuvres in a traditional show of thanks. It was a fantastic, festive night, one the kids of Kensington will thank us for!

The Garden Party supports the Kensington Enrichment Fund’s programs, which include a science lab, art, Reading Naturally, the Math Olympiad, music, a running club, and curriculum enhancements to teachers, among many others.



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Rain No Hindrance for Circle’s Popular Halloween Event



All photos by Nan Phelps Photography

By Nan Phelps

On Sunday, October 30, the Kensington Farmers Market and Colusa Circle merchants hosted the annual Colusa Circle Halloween Festival. Participants found plenty to do besides cruise the always-popular farmers’ market: visitors could decorate a pumpkin, play the ‘Where’s the Witch Game’ by finding all of the Colusa Circle witches hidden in participating businesses, and enjoy a free ice cream from Benchmark Pizzeria. Fuse Fitness had an obstacle course set up for kids, which is always a huge favorite. And Kensington Optometry offered a photo op with a witch.

A costume parade around the circle was scheduled for 11am but rain came down in buckets all morning. Still, hardy parents and kids showed up for the Kids’ Costume Contest, and perky pets showed up with their owners for the Pet Costume Contest. Luckily, the skies cleared by noon, and festival hosts were able to proceed with the animal show put on by Tracy of Furs, Scales and Tails at Kensington Vet Hospital. Rain or shine, it was a really fun day.



Tracy of Furs, Scales, and Tails brought a plethora of fun animals for kids



Special Days

Dear Friends in Kensington,

I am writing to congratulate my parents, **Beverly and Bob Prowse**, on the celebration of their 71st wedding anniversary on November 11! My parents were married on Veteran’s Day, 1945. In 1954, they bought their house on Highland Blvd. in Kensington and have been here ever since! Both of them have recalled how they fell in love with their house, which was built by architect Millar White. They didn’t think they could afford it at the time, but they made sacrifices, worked hard, and made their dream come true. Never once, in all these years have they thought about leaving.

After 71 years of marriage and 62 years in Kensington, they are still proud homeowners of a Millar White house and grateful for their Kensington community. With great appreciation and respect for my parents, Elise Prowse

And longtime resident **Freta Maine** will celebrate her 100th birthday on Christmas Day. She and her husband Harold, now deceased, lived on Richardson Road for decades, and Freta still manages her own household at the same address.





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