

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

FEBRUARY 2007

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 64 NUMBER 1

## New manager at Mechanics Bank

Long-time traditions to continue



Nancy Zhang is the new manager of the Mechanics Bank on Arlington Avenue. Zhang comes from the Solano Avenue branch, and this is her first position as manager. A

graduate of UC Davis, Zhang says she appreciates that the bank is a meeting place for locals. She sees the bank as one of the focal points for the citizens of the community, many of whom have been banking there for many years. Zhang intends to keep the Mechanics Banks' focus on the community and to maintain the connections that have been established by her predecessor, Xavier Abrams, and others.

In other news from the bank: Financial services manager Chris O'Brien has started management training. Joyce Huang has been promoted and is now working in El Cerrito; she has been replaced by a new teller, Kryisia Flores. The new customer services operations manager is Natalie Pappageorge. Zhang invites everyone to come in and meet the new staff.

## Kensington Community Council leadership change



*Out-going Kensington Community Council president Ted Blanckenburg captured with in-coming president at the 2006 community parade.*

Ted Blanckenburg has been president of the Kensington Community Council and has led the organization with humor and dedication for many years. But due to the mounting responsibilities in his job, which take him out of town frequently, he has resigned as president and has been replaced by Bruce Morrow. Blanckenburg will instead serve as treasurer. Morrow was until recently a member of the KPPCSD board and previously served with KCC. Once again, he has stepped in to help the community by leading KCC, bringing his

interpersonal and organizational skills as well as experience with insurance. Morrow also has a lot of experience with the Kensington Park. Clif Taylor, whom members hoped would be on the KCC forever, has resigned as secretary and left the board.

The KCC also welcomes Vida Sarrafan to the board. Anne Forrest will serve as vice president, and Danielle Power and Laurie Ushigusa will be cosecretaries. We look forward to their continued service.

## Gallegos honored among Women of the Year

Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, award long-time KPPCSD Director

March has been designated as Women's History Month, and as usual John Gioia, Contra Costa supervisor for Kensington and West Contra Cost County, is going to honor three women for their leadership within the community: Joan Gallegos from Kensington, Ruby Molinari from El Sobrante, and Marciela Navarro from North Richmond. Previous Kensington honorees have included Gail Feldman, Gloria Morrison, Esther Hill, and Gretchen Gillfillan. The award will be presented on March 17 at 3 p.m., at the Knox Center, Contra Costa College, 2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo.

## Garfield settlement

The negotiations between attorneys for KPPCSD and attorneys for Barry Garfield, the expolice chief and general manager, have almost concluded. The last step in the proceedings is in the hands of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS). Garfield has been diagnosed with an undisclosed ailment and will receive a settlement from CalPERS. If it approves the arrangements made to date, Garfield will receive \$55,000 and will then officially retire from the Kensington Police. If CalPERS agrees to the arrangement, the District will save over \$91,000 in unpaid wages for Garfield; if they do not, the savings will be \$50,500. The KPPCSD is preparing an accounting to calculate the total cost incurred as a result of Garfield walking out last May. This will include the cost of hiring an interim chief, the recruitment, and the cost of legal representation. The request for this accounting originated from comments made by citizens at the KPPCSD board meeting in January. Since May, the job of chief has been undertaken by Sgt. Rickey Hull and Interim Chief Brown Taylor. The search for a full-time replacement is being conducted by Ralph Andersen & Associates, a company that specializes in executive search services to cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, and other organizations. It is expected that a new chief will be in place by June of this year.

## KPPCSD reaching out



*(Left to right) Cindy Kimball, Pat McLaughlin, and Bill Wright get sworn into office as directors of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District.*

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District is looking for new ways to reach out to the community. Meetings have always been open to the public and in recent months have moved from a small room to the large room in the Community Center, to accommodate a larger audience. Meetings now have a podium, microphones, and loudspeakers to assist those that may have difficulty hearing. Many meetings now have useful local information. Since the November elections, two new members have joined the board; Cindy Kimball and Bill Wright were sworn in in December. At

the December meeting, Pat McLaughlin was elected president and Cindy Kimball was elected vice president. Joan Gallegos and Paul Haxo are the remaining board members.

"We want the community to feel welcomed at meetings, to feel that all of their concerns are heard, and most of all to feel continuously updated and listened to," said Kimball. "We want to serve our community and make sure they are involved in that process."

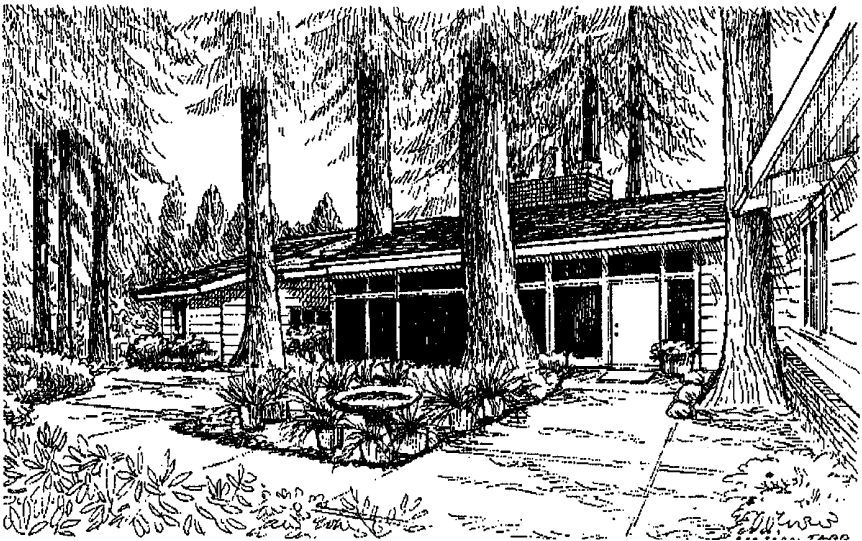
The board is looking into various ways to involve the public in the decision-making process. This may involve public

workshops and town hall-style meetings. Through these, people will be invited to help KPPCSD define their priorities for the upcoming 6 months, 12 months, and beyond. "We are leaning toward several informal meetings at different times to accommodate everyone who'd like to attend, along with articles in the *Outlook* and other newspapers to inform the public of our progress," said Kimball.

Meanwhile the board members have allocated new tasks for themselves. The positions are now staffed as follows:

- Solid Waste*  
Joan Gallegos and Cindy Kimball
- Finance and Administration*  
Pat McLaughlin and Bill Wright
- Intergovernmental External Issues*  
Joan Gallegos and Bill Wright
- District Policies & Procedures*  
Paul Haxo
- Public Safety Building*  
Paul Haxo
- Park and Recreation*  
Cindy Kimball
- Police Liaison*  
Pat McLaughlin and Cindy Kimball
- Community Outreach*  
Bill Wright and Cindy Kimball
- Executive Search Committee*  
Pat McLaughlin, Paul Haxo, and community members Lynn Wolter, John Stein, and John Ream.





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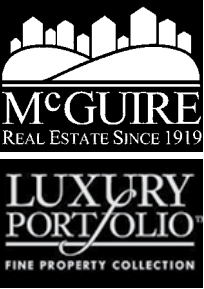
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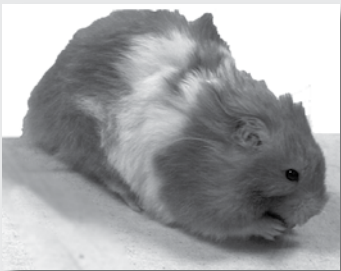
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LETTERS

Dual roles

*Editor*—There has been a lot of discussion within the Kensington community about the dual Police Chief/General Manager position and whether or not the positions should be split in two. As currently structured, the dual role is 60 percent Police Chief and 40 percent General Manager. That hardly justifies separation. Because of the stunt pulled by Barry Garfield as Police Chief/General Manager in walking out May 25, 2006, the District was left without a Police Chief and without a General Manager.

To avoid the possibility of this happening again, I would support the role of a full-time Police Chief who not only oversees the officers but who also patrols the area. This would allow the Chief to nip harassment, hostile environment, and other in-house issues, in the bud. I further believe we need to search outside the KPD for a Police Chief to avoid conflict of interest with our current Police Officers.

I would support a General Manager who not only oversees the budget and the refuse but one who would take on Facilities and Park Administrator to ease the burden of the district secretary. This would allow the secretary to focus full time on critical administrative assistant duties.

Valerie Paola

Police blotter

*Editor*—I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the report “From the case files of the KPD.” Not only is it informative, alerting us to neighborhood problems, but the person writing it has a great sense of humor! Please give him/her my compliments.

Barbara Steinberg

Reflections on a fire

*Dear Kensington Neighbor*—I had long been planning a block party for the time when we Holsings had finished our modest mystery house on the Arlington. How sad that my Stupid Smoker Trick moved up the timing of the Block Party. We’ll have that block party yet, within the year where Hans can jam an afternoon to his heart’s content while you enjoy our California Native Patio and wander about the grounds where Hans tends his rare native California plant species.

We deeply appreciate the countless offers of consolation, food, and even lodging from so many of you on the scene. When we first bought the vacant lots in 1975 and started to build under the careful guidance of the Contra Costa County Building Permit Department as an owner/designer/builder, two neighbors were named Bob and two were named Bill. One each remains, but I gave up remembering names after years in the industrial world where I was more or less in charge of naming the names of things on the cutting edge of technology in the computer industry. All I know are the warm and friendly faces in our remarkable full service village.

Our deepest thanks go to the exemplary response, teamwork, and skill of our El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department, who confined the blaze to two rooms and saved our rude hut from all but the most minor structural repair, albeit keeping up with the now more stringent permit requirements.

Thank you all.

Norm Holsing

Hilltop father and firefighter dies at gym

Lt. Kevin Reed, a 16-year veteran of the Oakland Fire Department, collapsed and died recently, while working out at a gym with fellow firefighters after completing a three-day shift. Reed, 47, was part of the crew at North Oakland’s Station No. 8. He will be missed by many people.

Reed will be remembered for his infectious good humor and community involvement. He was an active member of the firefighter’s union Local 55 and played on the department’s softball team. He was also a member of the Kensington Dads’ Club, where his enthusiasm and team spirit were greatly appreciated. His daughter is in the fourth grade, and his wife Debbie has been very active in the school and the community.

Rod Dunican, of the Dads’ Club, said “We are all deeply saddened by the passing of a loving husband, father, and friend. Our thoughts, love, and prayers are with Kevin’s family and friends. The Dads’ Club will join with the rest of the Kensington community in supporting Debbie and Jessica through this time of sorrow.”

Police attrition

Interim Chief Brown Taylor made a preliminary report on attrition in the Kensington police department during the period from 1999 to 2006. The average time employed officers were not available for duty was 12.4 months, while over the last two years this figure has risen to 35 months.

This is the equivalent of being understaffed by 2.9 officers. The average attrition for the period was 15 percent, which is also the national average, while attrition in the last four years was 23 percent. The report states that one officer was on sick leave with cancer for one year, one exofficer cited a “hostile work environemt,” and other departing officers were said to have left to join other agencies, sometimes seeking higher wages. Then there is the exchief, who is on medical/workers compensation leave. The report states that the conclusions about the departures were made based on performance reviews, letters of resignation, and follow-on staff interviews.

The estimated cost of recruiting and training a new officer is \$47,239. The preliminary report is on record at the Public Safety Building. We look forward to the full report.

Secondhand smoke ordinance

At the end of last year Contra Costa Health Services issued a Secondhand Smoke Protection Policy. The ordinance (#2006-66) states that smoking is banned in any workplace or indoor area open to the public and all areas within 20 feet of doors, windows, air ducts, and ventilation systems of any worksite or enclosed space open to the public, except while passing by. Smoking is also banned on public trails, in public parks, and at farmers’ markets. It is estimated that 13.3 percent of Contra Costa youths smoke. A 1999 report stated that deaths from smoking will soon outnumber those from AIDS, tuberculosis, traffic accidents, murder, and suicide combined. There are more than 440,000 smoking-related deaths a year in the U.S.

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488 Kentucky Avenue, Berkeley  
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1620 Dwight Way, Berkeley  
(Buyer's agent: Darrell Hoh)

2140 Acton Street, Berkeley  
(Buyer's agent: Gloria Polanski)

8619 Arbor Drive, El Cerrito  
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## Kensington officers commended

"Avoid the 25" was an anti-drunk-driving enforcement and educational campaign that targeted drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The 18-day county-wide initiative included officers from Contra Costa County's 25 law enforcement agencies. In the 24-hour period when the police were concentrating on



Left to right: Kensington police officers Eric Stegman and Keith Barrow.

arrests of drivers under the influence, 34 arrests were made during a "saturation patrol" during which officers covered the whole county. Of these arrests, 22 were for suspicion of drunken driving. Of these 22 arrests, made by a total of 40 police units, two were made by the Kensington officers Keith Barrow and Eric Stegman in one unit. The two officers were officially commended for their performance. Besides the suspected drunken drivers, officers arrested 6 people who had outstanding warrants—3 for drug violations and 3 for vehicle theft.



## KFM Plans Valentine's Day Market

*By Lindy Hough*

The Kensington Farmers' Market, held from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. in the parking lot of Ace Hardware at 303 Arlington Avenue, rain or shine all year around, is hitting the ground running in the New Year with plans for increasing visibility and customers. On the theory that it takes more of a market to attract more people, KFM will be adding a few more vendors—farmers, a bread baker, an oil and fine vinegar seller, a few more craftspeople, and possibly a few neighborhood booths (PTA, CERT.) The market is also forming a board of directors made up of Kensington merchants, townspeople, and market vendors.

Plans are brewing for a festive Valentine's Day celebration market on Sunday, February 11. These include a new chocolatier who will be joining permanently; Berkeley vintner Byan Harrigan of Harrigan Wines, who will be offering tastings with his Napa grape grower; book signings, music and entertainment; and a jeweler, art card maker and specialty book marks artist. Antiques d'Jour & Floral Shoppe of El Cerrito will furnish flowers, so people can buy their roses on Sunday at the market.

Started in the summer of 2006 by Judy Hardin with help from Judith Adamson, the market flourished in the summer when kids were out of school, and has had a more challenging time during the fall and winter months when attendance has dropped off. Greater publicity and visibility is planned, as well as fundraising and outreach explaining the purpose of farmer's markets through the formation of the board of directors.

The mission? To offer organic produce direct from farmers with no pesticides or middlemen, to stimulate community, and to bring together specialty growers, herb

and vegetable producers, farmers, meat and fish retailers, poultry and egg producers, bakers and candy makers in one central area. Farmers make money by developing repeat customers who buy direct without wholesale discounts. Townspeople are able to buy locally, visit with friends and meet new neighbors. Village retail shops are stimulated by the weekend foot traffic, and community spirit is enhanced.

Strengths of the Kensington market so far are a wonderful setting, the wide variety of vendors, and the dedication of our vendors, hanging in there and making less money to get this market rolling. Hudson Fish offers fresh and smoked wild king salmon, California halibut and albacore tuna. Lone Oak Ranch from Reedley offers fruits and vegetables. Antiques d'Jour and Floral Shoppe of Fairmount Avenue in El Cerrito offers flowers, and Firme Farm and Lidwig Farms continue as anchor farmers.

Come to the market, bring a friend, and enjoy meeting others on Sunday in Kensington.

Want to join the KFM board of directors? We have four slots open for Kensington residents and several for merchants with backgrounds in event planning, fundraising, publicity, management and business. Contact Lindy Hough, [lindyhough@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindyhough@sbcglobal.net).

Want to be a vendor, or know someone who can make a commitment to sell weekly at the market? We could use an organic/free range butcher, candle-maker, fine oils and vinegars producer, cheese seller, and seedlings/plants grower. And music—we can always use vocal and instrumental groups—the livelier the better (dancing is possible!) Contact Judith Adamson, [jkadamson@comcast.net](mailto:jkadamson@comcast.net) or Judy Hardin, [jhardin@tenspeedpress.com](mailto:jhardin@tenspeedpress.com) 559-1600 x 3037.



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**Where:** At the Kensington Tennis Courts

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Instructors: Jean Jay and Judy Baker.  
For more information call Judy Baker at 233-1833.

**When:** *Morning Kindergartners:* 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.  
*Advanced Beginners Grades 1–3:* 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.  
*Advanced Beginners Grades 4–6:* 2:50 p.m.–3:50 p.m.  
**Where:** At the Community Center

SAVE THE DATE!

2007 KCC Summer Day Camp

Registration for the 2007 KCC Summer Day Camp will take place Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m., at the Community Center for Kensington residents and alumni of camp.

Registration for nonresidents will begin Monday, March 5, at the KCC office. Camp brochures will be available late February at the KCC office.

ADULT CLASSES

Tennis

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

To register, call Brown at 524-5495.

**When:** Tuesday and Thursday, 9–10 a.m.  
**Fees:** 5 classes: \$40 per resident/\$45 non-resident  
**Where:** At the Tennis Courts (West court)

Hatha Yoga

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Instructor Claire Lavery has been practicing and teaching yoga since 1988. She focuses on breathing, alignment, and adjustment to help students enjoy the journey. To speak with Claire, call 681-3077.

To register, call 525-0292.

**When:** Monday, 6:15–7:15 p.m.  
Thursday, 5:30–6:30 p.m.  
**Fees:** Residents—\$12 for drop-in. One-month pass (4 classes) for \$40. Nonresidents—add 10% (\$13.20/class—\$44 or \$88 for monthly pass)  
**Where:** At the Recreation Building, Room A (Building E).

Yoga for Health

Harmonize your body, mind, and spirit with basic yoga poses, correct body alignment, breathing techniques, and relaxation. Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck and back pain, and stress reduction will be addressed. No experience required. All ages welcome. Bring a mat to class.

Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered Yoga teacher, trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information, contact Nicole at 527-6443.

To register call 525-0292.

**When:** Tuesday 9:15–10:15 a.m.  
**Fees:** Residents \$12 for drop-in, \$40/4 weeks (1 class/week), \$80/4 weeks (2 classes/week) Nonresidents add 10% (\$13.20/class; \$44 or \$88)  
**Where:** At the Community Center

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Swing Dance

East Coast swing is one of the most popular and easiest to learn of all swing styles. Instructor Nick Lawrence will start with the basic steps and have everyone dancing by the end of the first class. The classes will build on the basics to create a repertoire of steps by the end of the session.

Nick Lawrence started swing dancing 22 years ago and has been teaching for the past 15 years. He teaches at Ashkenaz in Berkeley and is committed to making dance accessible to everybody. Please call Nick at 524-2546 for more information about the class.

**When:** Session runs 4 weeks, Fridays, March 2, 9, 16, and 23, 8–9 p.m.  
**Fees:** \$48 for the four classes. Nonresidents please add 10% No partner is needed to sign up for the session.  
**Where:** At the Community Center.



new

Art for the Closet Artist

Have you always wished that you had the “artistic gene?” Have you always thought that art was for other, more talented folks, but wished it wasn’t so? Then these adult art workshops are for you. Instructor Carolyn Holm is a collage and assemblage artist and the author of *Everyday Art for Kids*, a book that has inspired both children and adults to roll up their sleeves and “do art.” She has been teaching KASEP classes for twelve years and has taught at the Richmond Art Center. Over the years, Carolyn has worked with many children, teens, and adults who didn’t consider themselves artists, helping them find their person path to creativity and artistic satisfaction.

new

The Art of Collage

In two 1½ hour sessions create two beautiful collage pieces, including a self portrait, using tissue papers, gift wrap, art papers, photocopies of photos and documents, fabric scraps, shells, leaves, and more. Bring to the first class: a clean, large bottle with an appealing shape (wine bottle, square olive oil bottle, etc.) and label removed.

**When:** February 26 and March 5, 7:30–9 p.m.  
**Fees:** \$30 (non-residents, \$33)  
**Where:** Room B, Kensington Recreation Building (Building E)

new

The Art of Drawing

In two 1½ hour sessions gain tangible drawing skills, learn about color, and create a colorful piece you’ll want to frame and hang in your home. Bring to the first class: One or more of your favorite shoes.

**When:** March 19 and 26, 7:30–9 p.m.,  
**Fees:** \$30 (nonresidents, \$33)  
**Where:** Room B, Kensington Recreation Building (Building E)

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE CLASSES AT THE KCC OFFICE, 59 ARLINGTON AVE., KENSINGTON, 525-0292

K C C KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Esther Hill, Administrator, 525-0292

**To register for class:** Please call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

**Tennis court reservations:** Reservations are for weekends and holidays only; the earliest is 9 a.m. Call Esther Hill (525-0292) for tennis court reservation information.

**Tennis court fees:** Kensington residents—\$2/45-minute reservation (singles); Non-residents—\$5.

**Community Center rental:** For information on renting the Community Center, call Helen Horowitz at the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, 526-4141.

K A S E P KENSINGTON AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Office hours:** Esther Hill, *Director* (525-0292), 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Elma Conley, *On-Site Supervisor* (525-0292) during class hours  
Sandy Thacker, *Curriculum Coordinator* (482-1258)

The office will be closed February 19–23 during the school break.

**Sessions:** Winter session began January 8, and runs through Friday, March 23. Registration for the spring session of KASEP is Tuesday, March 6, starting at 6:45 p.m. for kindergarten families and 7:15 p.m. for families of 1st–6th graders.

For information about after school classes visit [www.aboutkensington.com](http://www.aboutkensington.com)

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Kensington Home Sales Comparison

	2005	2006	Change
<i>Total Home Sales</i>			
Number of Sales	75	67	-11%
Days on Market	18	19	6%
Price per Square Foot	\$524	\$511	-2%
Avg Price ~ Total Sales	\$900,000	\$875,000	-3%
<i>Typical 3br/2ba Home Sales</i>			
Number of Sales	16	24	50%
Days on Market	14	18	29%
Price per Square Foot	\$484	\$413	-15%
Avg Price ~ 3br/2ba	\$917,000	\$840,000	-8%

2005

2006

Avg Price ~ Total Sales    Avg Price ~ 3br/2ba

Source: East Bay Regional Data MLS. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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60th Annual Hilltop Spring Carnival Set for May 5th

The Kensington Hilltop School's PTA and Dads' Club will host the school's 60th Annual Spring Carnival on Saturday, May 5th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The 2007 Carnival will include a wide variety of games for kids of all ages, a great selection of prizes, superb lunch offerings from the Dads' Club grill, and tempting treats from the bake sale. And, as has been the case for the previous 23 years,

a beautiful quilt designed and crafted by Kensington parents will be raffled off that afternoon. Proceeds from the Carnival fund Dads' Club and PTA activities to benefit students and teachers at the school. The Grubb Company Realtors and Ruth Frassetto have once again made a generous donation to the Carnival's as its Title Sponsor. For more information please contact Alison Roberts (Kensington PTA) at [alisonroberts@aol.com](mailto:alisonroberts@aol.com) or Walt Gill (Dads' Club) at [wwgill335@comcast.net](mailto:wwgill335@comcast.net).

Library launches e-card service

It's midnight, you need research information for a presentation you're making the next day, and you don't have a library card. Not a problem! The Contra Costa County Library has a new remote online library card registration service called Library e-Card Service which is available from the library's Web site. The service is available to any resident of Contra Costa County. A library e-card can be used from your home or office to access the library's electronic resources and to place holds using the online catalog. Looking for a good book? Check out an e-book! Besides animated talking books for kids and technical and legal e-books, our extensive collection includes popular titles that are downloadable to your portable device. Completing research from home? You can find full-text magazine and newspaper articles, biographical profiles, business and medical information, and other resources for students of all ages. The library e-card is valid for three years. If you decide to check out materials, pick up holds, or use the computers in any Contra Costa County Library location, you must exchange your e-card for a full-access library card; positive ID and proof of address are required. Current Contra Costa County Library customers do not need to register for an e-card. They can simply use their existing, full-access library card to log on to the library Web site and take advantage of the full array of resources available. Contact your local Contra Costa County Library community library or go to [http://ccclib.org/faqs/e\\_Cards.html](http://ccclib.org/faqs/e_Cards.html) for more information.

Library fund drive

The fall newsletter from the Friends of Kensington Library announced their annual fundraising drive. Money raised by this initiative is to fund community programs held at the library; to buy furniture, equipment, and supplies; and to broaden the collection of special books, publications, CDs, DVDs, and books on tape. Some of the generous donors on the still-growing list:

\$1000

Joan Gallegos

\$500

Carl and Lisa Brodsky

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Leo Ruth

\$150

Virginia Fox

\$100

Wendy and Robert Bergman

Mary French

Gordon and Jeannette Dey

Beverlee French

Harold and Maria Draeger

John and Diane Gossard

Marilyn Reynolds

Hanni Lederer

John Ferreira

Glenn and Gloria Morrison

David and Asa Goldstein

Edward Gordon

Lisa Hotchkiss

Jean and Richard Stenquist

Vivien Williamson and Dean Arts

Library picture curator leaves

Gretchen Gillfillan has spent 44 years as "curator" of the artwork in the Kensington Library, placing a wide variety of local artists' work on the walls. Last month, the Friends of the Kensington Library (FKL) honored Gillfillan with a certificate of appreciation, presented by FKL President Debbie Hamati. Gillfillan served on the original FKL board, a body that was responsible for the establishment of a County Library Service Area. She began hanging art for the library when it was still located in the Arlington Community Church. In 2003, Gillfillan was presented with an award for Community Advocacy during the Contra Costa College's Women's History Month celebration. She has also been named County Teacher of the Year and given the Bay Area Girl Scout Council's DAISY award for excellence. Gillfillan has been a teacher and researcher at UC Berkeley with the Elementary School Science Project. Gillfillan retired from teaching in 1995. Since that time, she has been involved with the Kensington Park Advisory and has worked on many local issues, including those related to zoning and building. She is being replaced as curator by Lorraine Bruce. She will continue to be secretary of the FKL.



# Emergency preparedness

Did you know that several ham radio transmitters are operating in Kensington? They are owned by Kensington Amateur Radio Operators (KARO). These radio transmitters are located in public buildings (the Police/Fire Public Safety Building, Hilltop School, and the Community Center) as well in members’ homes. If there is ever a big emergency, such as a fire or earthquake, these radios will be one of the most effective ways of communicating with the outside world. KARO is always looking for people who would like to become involved or even certified as radio operators. They meet on the second Monday of every odd-numbered month in Room 2 of the Community Center. Come find out more, and get to see how the system works.

When there is a major emergency, the Hilltop School will be allocated for medical emergencies, and the park can be used as a campsite for people not able to use their homes. At a recent meeting of the Police Community Committee, it was

suggested that a large emergency water tank be installed in or on the ground at the park.

There are several groups in Kensington that will be ready to assist you in times of emergency. These are almost all staffed by volunteers. If you would like to help organize your neighborhood, block, or street, or are just curious, everyone is welcome to attend the Police Community Committee held at the Community Center. For dates and times, call Helen Horowitz at the Public Safety Building 526-4141. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program recently replaced the Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team (NEAT). CERT Training will take place March at the Fairmont Neighborhood Center, 715 Lexington Ave., El Cerrito, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturdays, March 3–31. Classes are free. For reservations, call 215-4450 or [fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

The next meeting of the Police Community Committee will be held at the Community Center March 5 at 10 a.m.

# Learning to drive

By Erin Olivella-Wright  
KENSINGTON OUTLOOK YOUTH CORRESPONDENT

It’s a time feared by most Kensington parents and eagerly anticipated by most fifteen-year-olds: No, it’s not the first homecoming dance, or the first date. It’s teens learning to drive.

After sweating through the permit test at the El Cerrito DMV, the Kensington teenager is ready to hit the road with an anxious and overprotective parent. Of course, unlike the average new driver, these Kensington kids have a lot more to deal with than their counterparts in Alameda. Before they can even hit the road, the teens must master pulling out of steep driveways and around blind corners. Once on the road, the teens have still more battles to face. They begin to notice that nobody ever goes slower than 30 miles per hour on the Arlington, even with the police cars’ ubiquitous presence, and that most “two-way” roads cannot accommodate approaching cars.

Teens may think they have it rough learning to drive shrouded in fog at 800 feet above sea level, but it’s not a walk in the park for their parent

“instructors” either. More fights have probably broken out over a child’s driving technique than over their attire. A father may have a problem with his daughter’s miniskirt, but his angst over the ever-shortening hemline is nothing in comparison to when she drives too close to a parked car or slams on the brakes a little too late and a little too hard.

However, let me say this to the well-meaning, stop-sign-running, turn-signal-avoiding, speed-limit-violating parents: Calm down and realize that your kid has read the DMV handbook more recently than you. And besides, in six months your child will be licensed and won’t be begging you for rides.

And a word to all Kensington residents: When you see a car going 25 mph, making slow turns around the bends, and stopping at all the stop signs, breathe, slow down, and don’t honk. Just realize that the driver may be a law-abiding teenager keeping you from getting a ticket.

*Erin Olivella-Wright is a sixteen-year-old student driver and “long-time” Kensington resident.*

# OBITUARY

Elizabeth “Betty” Tipton, a resident of Kensington for 56 years, died December 27, 2006, after a long illness. She was 85 years old.

She was active in the PTA, serving as president of both the Kensington and Adams PTAs and on the board of El Cerrito High School PTA. She was also a Girl Scout troop Leader.

Betty was born in San Pedro Sula in Honduras, where her grandfather had settled. He was a colonel in the Confederate cavalry whose Georgia plantation had been burned by General Sherman and who refused to surrender. He established a prosperous business in Honduras, which her father continued. Later their company and warehouses as well as their plantation-style house were burned down by revolutionaries. The family was rescued by a United Fruit Company banana boat,

and they made their way to Los Angeles, where they started over with nothing in 1929, hardly a favorable time.

Betty graduated from UCLA in 1942 and taught in the schools of Burbank. When her fiancé, Army Lieutenant James L. Tipton, received his overseas orders after the invasion of Europe, they were married on June 22, 1944, despite the warnings of her pastor that “war-time marriages never last.” Five days after their wedding, her husband deployed, returning two years later. Their marriage lasted 62 years.

Betty is survived by her husband Jim, their three children, Carolyn, Jamie, and Tom, and two grandchildren.

Betty’s memorial service was held January 7, 2007, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Berkeley, where she was an active member for over 50 years.

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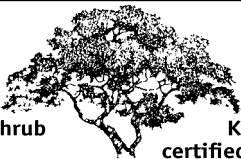
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Neighborhood Notes

Save on your phone taxes

Outlook reader, Mark Haas, suggests that you spend a little time getting to know your telephone bill. He did just that, and with a couple of phone calls he was able to significantly reduce his bills. Because Kensington is unincorporated, there are no city taxes, and this includes the local utility user’s taxes that routinely appears on phone bills in other areas. Some telephone services mistakenly include this charge on their phone bills for Kensington. This is because phone long distance service providers assume that Kensington is part of Berkeley and so charge the same taxes as Berkeley. This is usually about 7 percent. Other companies that charge the same or similar taxes include cell phone companies. All these charges are applied to the billing address, so if you have a billing address in another location, the tax may be correct.  
Haas informs us that SBC is now billing him correctly, with no utility user’s tax applied to his bills.

Three teenagers make Eagle Scout



Three scouts from Kensington Troop 100 have passed their Eagle Board of Review, earning scouting’s highest rank: Eagle Scout. Adam Zimmerman (17) of Kensington, James Mangrum (18) of Pinole, and Jeromy Guadagne (16) of Hercules each completed the merit badge and leadership and project requirements, making them members of the 2 percent of scouts that reach Eagle worldwide.

In the process of working for these awards, the Scouts completed a backpacking trek of 11 days, through rugged New Mexico wilderness, spent two weeks every summer at the BSA’s High Sierra camp, and climbed the six Bay Area mountains—Mission Peak, Mt. Diablo, Mt. St. Helena, Mt. Tamalpais, Mt. Wittenberg, and Pinnacles.  
For their Eagle projects, Zimmerman renovated a trail bridge in Tilden Regional Park, including dredging a clogged spillway and replacing a footbridge; Guadagne constructed a labyrinth at Hope Lutheran Church in El Sobrante; and Mangrum sought and collected donations, then assembled care packages for troops stationed in Iraq. This project was made a more formidable task when, shortly after beginning it, Mangrum was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. After surgery and between stays in the hospital, continuing chemotherapy, and radiation treatments, Mangrum completed his project in November with the support of his family, his troop, and his friends and neighbors. He became an Eagle Scout in December.

Local real estate still strong

If you read the mainstream press, you surely will have heard that the real estate bubble has burst, and all real estate investments are depreciating. Ruth Frassetto of Grubb Company has some figures comparing the housing market between 2005 and 2006.

KENSINGTON REAL ESTATE	2005	2006
Houses sold	73	66
Total prices of all houses	\$66 million	\$61 million
Average house sale price	\$904,000	\$924,000
Average days on the market	17	19

The prices for El Cerrito, Albany, and Berkeley are very similar. In fact the *LA Times* said the East Bay was the bright spot in the states’ real estate market.  
Other reports show around a 7 percent median decline. If the atypical \$4 million sale is removed from the 2006 totals in the chart above, the figures would show a small decline but not a bursting bubble.

New physical therapist in Kensington



Jennifer Zimmermann, DPT, recently opened Kensington Physical Therapy, located at 303 Arlington Ave., Suite A, behind Ace Hardware. Zimmermann comes from Boston, where she had more than 10 year’s experience treating children, athletes of all ages, and ambulatory geriatric patients. Zimmermann offers a wide range of treatments, including massage therapy, personal training, and the latest advancements in treating those with joint replacements.  
Kensington Physical Therapy offers one-on-one training sessions, a circuit-training group exercise class, and massage therapy. Zimmermann also offers a life coaching class for those in need of exercise help or in a recovery program. More information can be found at [www.kensingtonpt.com](http://www.kensingtonpt.com) or by calling 527-7737.

PagePoint provides free calendar and classifieds

PagePoint Web Solutions, the host of [www.AboutKensington.com](http://www.AboutKensington.com) and other local businesses, has discovered that people who contribute to their Kensington calendar of events or advertise on the About Kensington web site are indexed and linked in Google within just a few days. This is a significant marketing tool for local business and event organizers; getting listed on Google, and near the top of the page, is a valuable asset, and normally a difficult task. Because PagePoint has been around for so many years with links to Kensington, Google knows to check it on a regular basis for updates. Other web sites may take weeks or even months to get indexed by Google. So if you need people to notice your Kensington event or business, check out PagePoint. It has free classifieds for Kensington and a free calendar of events. It is also the internet host for several local companies.

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911 calls record

The response times for 911 calls can be the difference between life and death, so prompt responses are very important. The state mandates a 12 second response time, although many districts do not achieve this. The record of the 911 calls the last five months of 2006 are:

Total calls from Kensington:	267
Answered in less than 10 seconds:	182 (68%)
between 10-20 seconds:	43 (16%)
over 20 seconds:	42 (16%).

The total number of 911-calls the center handled was 51,100, of which approximately 1.1% originated in Kensington. These calls are answered by the Richmond Communications Center, which has be chronically understaffed for some time. It takes about one year to fully train a 911 operator. Many people do not make it through the training.

911 experiences

If you have needed to call the 911 service, or the fire, or police department, Interim Chief Police Brown Taylor would like to hear about your experience, good or bad. You can contact him at [kpdchief@aol.com](mailto:kpdchief@aol.com) or by calling the Public Safety Building, 526-4141.

Park Annex building progress

The Annex building in the park has been closed for some time, since the Neighborhood School left and moved to the Hilltop School premises. The occupancy of the building has been an ongoing legal issue which resulted in the tenants being evicted in November, after the building was found to be contaminated with mold caused by winter flooding. The tenant’s property was put up for auction, but there were no bidders. The Kensington general manager has asked permission to remediate the mold, and refurbish and repair the building for other use. The KPPCSD is looking to the community to find creative uses for this building.

Poetry bench sought



Local Kensington poet Rella Lossy died more than ten years ago. Shortly afterward, her husband Frank thought it would be nice to have a memorial bench dedicated to her, in a quiet spot she liked to frequent when she needed quiet time while writing poetry. He chose a couple of somewhat isolated locations high up in the park, near the tall pine trees, and farther north on flat land, and he sent \$1000 to the Kensington general manager to cover the cost of the bench. Many months later, Barry Garfield, then general manager, returned the money, stating that the request did not fit in with current plans for bench locations. Now, with a new board and Chief Taylor as interim general manager, Lossy is trying again. He made his case at the January KPPCSD board meeting and read a poem, “Leavings,” by his late wife. “Money is not an issue; it is dedicating a quiet space in her memory that concerns me,” said Lossy. He hopes it will be on the agenda for the next Community Service District meeting.

Wright asks for your opinion

New KPPCSD board director Bill Wright has posted a question for Kensington citizens on the Kitchen Democracy web site. The question Wright asks is “Should the Kensington Chief of Police continue to be the General Manager of our town?” He has a fairly lengthy article putting both sides of the question, and he asks for citizens to voice their opinions. He does not fully describe what a general manager would do as a full-time employee or, as he suggests, a part-time employee. This is because the focus of the general manager has been limited to the garbage contract and management of the park and facilities. If it were to become a separate job, the person would have to spend time organizing the community, getting grants for community improvement, and undertaking other civic functions that are often conducted by towns and cities. Such items as roads, buses, and schools are all dealt with by the county, and the general manager would have no jurisdiction in these matters.

At the website [www.kitchendemocracy.org/kensington/police\\_chief\\_role](http://www.kitchendemocracy.org/kensington/police_chief_role) you can read the comments of other concerned citizens, including past KPPCSD and KMAC members. Feel free to voice your comments, but be aware that the ad hoc committee of the KPPCSD board is busy with their newly hired recruitment company who, at present, is looking for someone to perform both roles.

Brotherly Jazz DVD by Kensington resident receiving rave reviews



The new jazz DVD *Brotherly Jazz*, recently reviewed in *Downbeat Magazine*, and largely filmed in Kensington, is getting rave reviews in the jazz press. The full-length film features the Heath brothers—Percy, Jimmy, and Albert—all famous jazz musicians playing with the Modern Jazz Quartet, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis, and John Coltrane. Percy was also a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the

first black fighter pilots in the US military. Since the film was made, Percy Heath has died, but his two brothers continue to perform. The concert that is the main feature of the film was filmed in the garden of Danny Scher, who also produced the film. The director, Jesse Block, has made many other films about musicians. *Brotherly Jazz* has been included in many national and international film festivals, including those in Mill Valley, Miami, Barcelona, and New York City. The film will be featured at this years Monterey Jazz Festival. It is being shown at no charge at the Kensington Library on February 26 at 7 p.m. There is also a web site for the film, [www.brotherlyjazz.com](http://www.brotherlyjazz.com) where it is available for purchase.

Kensington featured on local television program, Eye on the Bay

On Monday, January 22, CBS channel 5 profiled Kensington on its regular *Eye on the Bay* series. The show said Kensington has been “hidden for decades, and that’s they way they like it.” Featured were interviews with KPPCSD director Joan Gallegos; Drew Lehman for Inn Kensington; John Norcross, the person mainly responsible for the beauty of Blake Garden; and *Outlook* editor John Feld. It also visited with a rabbit at RabbitEars, mentioned breakfasts at the Kensington Bistro, interviewed two residents who had run into a deer in the street, concluding with, “Kensington, a little posh, a little bohemian, and more than a little reluctant to be discovered.”

Recycle for the benefit of the kids

Hilltop School is once again having a Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge. Last year the collection was done by a single class; this year it is a school-wide effort. The 2006 collection raised a significant amount of money for the school. The kids are collecting plastic bags of any color and any thickness; they must be clean and not contain anything, not even register receipts. Nearly 1 trillion plastic bags are used each year, accounting for billions of pounds of unnecessary trash in landfills. Hilltop School will earn \$5 for every 60-gallon collection bag full of plastic bags. The pupils are hoping to raise thousands of dollars, which will go toward the PTA and the school’s Education Fund. Bring your bags to the green collection receptacles around the school and in the front entrance.

Service above self

The Rotary Club of Albany will hold its Third Annual Celebration, “Service Above Self,” on February 10 at 7:30 p.m. The party includes live music, dancing, a silent auction, cocktails, snacks, and desserts. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Albany Rotary Club’s Community Fund, which assists those in need locally and regionally. The event will take place at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available by sending an email to [party@albanycarotary.org](mailto:party@albanycarotary.org) or by calling 558-1534. The immediate past-president of the Albany Rotary Club is Kensington resident Aaron Gobler. The Albany Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Solano Grill and Bar, 1133 Solano Ave., Albany.

Los Altos lots

There are two undeveloped lots on Los Altos Dr. that are in an active slide area. These have been for sale for nearly two years, and now the owners, the Stone Living Trust would like to donate them to either Tilden Park or to the community service district. The combined lots are in excess of 24,000 square feet and face east overlooking Wildcat Canyon. The Los Altos Neighborhood Group has asked KPPCSD to accept the donation and has suggested that either the district employ someone to maintain the land, or they will take care of it themselves. Neighbors suggest that the local residents do not want building to take place as it may spoil their views and disturb what is generally considered to be a very fragile environment. The board briefly discussed this issue at their January meeting and decided that it was too great a liability for Kensington, due to the slides and the proximity to Los Altos Dr. At this time, the properties both remain for sale with Prudential California Realty.

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KENSINGTON

FEBRUARY


Thursday, February 1

Acting/Dancing Classes for Youth (ages 9-14). All levels of experience welcome. 5:30-7 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

What Is Your Story? Rev. Cathleen Cox Burneo. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Ballroom Instruction and Circle Dances for Peace. All levels of experience welcome. 7:30-9 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

Friday, February 2



Piece of My Heart. Art exhibit. Opening Reception, 7-9 p.m. Show open thru March 11. Eclectix Gallery 7523 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito.

Saturday, February 3


Introductory Workshop in Projective Dream Work. Jeremy Taylor. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Donation: \$45. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. To register, call 528-3417.

Sunday, February 4

Personal Theology: Tim Weitzel. The Spirituality of Deep Democracy. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Kensington Farmers' Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fresh local crab and smoked fish from Hudson Fish, music by fiddle duo Gift Horse. 303 Arlington Ave. (Ace Hardware parking lot)

Monday, February 5



Mobile Blood Drive. Noon-6 p.m. East Pauley Ballroom, MLK Student Union, Bancroft & Telegraph, Berkeley. 594-5204

Make Art at the Library. For teens and tweens (ages 9-18). Come make stuff to decorate the library, give as a gift, or enhance your own space. 3 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Castoffs Knitting Group. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043

KCC board meeting (Kensington Community Council), Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 525-0292

Bell Choir Rehearsals. 7:45-9 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 843-7745.

Tuesday, February 6

Animal Communication with holistic pet psychic Delphine Hano. 6:30-7:30 p.m. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. (behind Ace Hardware). 525-6155 for appt.

Arlington Children's Choir rehearsals. 4-5:30 p.m. 10 years old and up. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 843-7745.

Family Storytime. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Dream Work Class. Jeremy Taylor. 7:30-9:30 p.m. (Six weeks) Donation: \$100. 528-3417 to register. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Arlington Community Church Choir. Rehearse the John Rutter Requiem. 8:30-9:15 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 843-7745.

Wednesday, February 7

Arlington Children's Choir rehearsals. 4-5 p.m. 7-10 years old. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 843-7745.

Adult Choir Rehearsals: 7:30-9 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 843-7745.

Thursday, February 8

El Cerrito Garden Club, Bob Spotts, Everything You Want to Know about Daffodils. 9:30 a.m. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. \$3. 526-6827.

KPPCSD board meeting Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District. 7:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave.


Introduction to the Enneagram; Women's Fellowship. Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

Sparks for Growth. Revs. Chris Craethnenn, Bill Hamilton-Holway, Barbara Hamilton-Holway, and lay leaders. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Acting/Dancing Classes for Youth. See February 1.

Ballroom Instruction and Circle Dances for Peace. See February 1.

Friday, February 9



Sri Alam Khan in concert. 8 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. \$15; children, \$5. 526-9146.

Saturday, February 10

Non-Anesthetic Teeth Cleaning for Cats and Dogs. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave (behind Ace Hardware). 525-6155 for appt.

Sunday, February 11

Personal Theology: Rabbi Harry Manhoff, A Rabbi's Consideration of the Da Vinci Code. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Fall in Love at the Farmers' Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wine, flowers, handmade valentines, Italian food, and chocolate. Everything for your Valentine's Day celebration. Check out the bunny kissing booth and local torch song diva Jessica Rice. 303 Arlington Ave. (Ace Hardware parking lot)

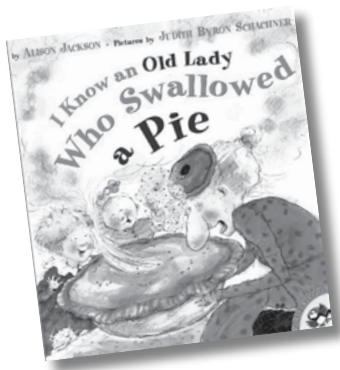
Monday, February 12

Annual Poetry from the Heart reading. Maggie Morley and friends. 7 p.m. Open mic and refreshments. Free. Sponsored by Friends of the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave.

Make Art at the Library. See February 5.

Bell Choir Rehearsals. See February 5.

Tuesday, February 13



Storytime: Children's author and librarian Alison Jackson (sister of our librarian Pamela McKay) will share stories from her books. For children ages 3 and up, sponsored by Friends of the Kensington Library. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.



# CALENDAR

**Tax Time.** Dorotha Bradley of H&R Block: New tax saving strategies and laws to reduce your taxable income. 7 p.m. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

**Animal Communication.** See February 6.

**Arlington Community Children’s Choir.** See February 6.

**Dream Work Class.** See February 6.

Wednesday, February 14

**Kensington Fire Protection District board meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 527-8395.

**Arlington Community Children’s Choir.** See February 7.

**Adult Choir Rehearsals.** See February 7.

Thursday, February 15

**The Radiant Center:** Spiritual Practices for Modern Life. Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Acting/Dancing Classes for Youth.** See February 1.

Friday, February 16



**Brazilian jazz concert—Carlos Oliveira, Mauro Correa.** Carlos Oliveira, 7-string guitar; Mauro Correa, 7-string guitar; Harvey

Wainapel, clarinet, saxophone; Claudio Bebianno, percussion. 8 p.m. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. \$15/\$10 seniors, members.

Saturday, February 17



**Year of the Pig Celebration.** 2–4 p.m. Rescued guinea pigs looking for homes. Learn all about guinea pigs. Make an origami pig to take home. Fortune cookies and lemonade. See if a guinea pig is in your future family. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. 525-6155.

Sunday, February 18

**Personal Theology:** Alex Pappas. Duality and Non-duality: Salvation. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.



**Farmers’ Market** 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Maple syrup tasting from Two Old Saps organic maplers in Vermont. 303 Arlington Ave. (Ace Hardware parking lot)

Monday, February 19

**Make Art at the Library.** See February 5.

**Bell Choir Rehearsals.** See February 5.

Tuesday, February 20

**One-on-One Animal Communication,** Healing, or Energy Work with holistic pet psychic Delphine Hano. 6:30-7:30 p.m. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave (behind ACE Hardware). 525-6155

**Family Storytime.** 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043

**Arlington Community Children’s Choir.** See February 6.

**Dream Work Class.** See February 6.

Wednesday, February 21

**Ash Wednesday Service.** 7 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**Arlington Community Children’s Choir.** See February 7.

**Adult Choir Rehearsals.** See February 7.

Thursday, February 22

**Unitarian Universalist Roots and Branches.** Rev. Bill Hamilton-Holway. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Acting/Dancing Classes for Youth.** See February 1.

Saturday, February 24

**Write for Your Life:** Pieces and Patterns, Beth Glick Rieman. 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Donation: \$40. Bring lunch and snacks. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. To register, 524-2858.

**Meet the Bunnies.** 2–4 p.m. Adoptable bunnies; learn about bunny care. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. (behind Ace Hardware). 525-6155.

**Music and Sacred Space.** Carolyn Margrete. 1-3 p.m. Donation: \$10. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. To register, 236-0376.

**A Spirituality of Diversity:** Deep Democracy through Jungian and Liberation Psychology Perspectives. Tim Weitzel. 9 a.m.–noon (six weeks). Donation: \$40. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. To register, 841-1557.

Sunday, February 25

**Personal Theology:** Alex Pappas. Duality and Non-duality: Liberation. 9:30–10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Kensington Farmers’ Market Kid’s Day.** 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 303 Arlington Ave. (Ace Hardware parking lot).

**The Joy of Rats.** Pet rat care with rat expert and rescuer Debra Mendelsohn. 2:30–4 p.m. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave (behind Ace Hardware). 525-6155.

Monday, February 26



**Brotherly Jazz:** The Heath Brothers, a new documentary by Danny Scher. 7 p.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Kensington Library Book Club.** The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald. Maybe the closest thing to the Great American Novel ever written. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Make Art at the Library.** See February 5.

**Bell Choir Rehearsals.** See February 5.

Tuesday, February 27

**Musical Storytime.** Deborah Bonet. Interactive story with lots of instruments. Age 3 and up. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**KMAC** (Kensington Municipal Advisory Council). 7 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 273-9926.

**Animal Communication.** See February 6.

**Arlington Community Children’s Choir.** See February 6.

**Dream Work Class.** See February 6.

Wednesday, February 28

**Arlington Community Children’s Choir.** See February 7.

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# From the case files of the KPD

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

## Events in November and December

■ A woman was seen wandering around Oberlin Ave. in her bathrobe, but she was gone when an officer came to offer assistance.

■ The police were able to extricate a very cooperative 4-year-old girl who was locked in her bathroom, without harm to the girl or the bathroom.

■ During November there were 18 incidents of car windows being shattered by a pellet gun. One of these was while the car was in motion, and the pellet not only smashed the windshield but also hit a young passenger in the car. These incidents occurred on Ardmore Rd., Kingston Rd., Stratford Rd., Berkeley Park Blvd., and Colusa Ave.

■ A dead deer was removed from the sidewalk on Wellesley Ave. Another was found on Arlington Ave. A dead raccoon was reported blocking an entry on Kenyon Ave. It was not stated if the cause of deaths were old age, disease, or Yuletide drivers.

■ Strong winds blew open a garage door on Kerr Ave., triggering the burglar alarm. The high winds instigated several such false alarms.

■ A young door-to-door salesperson from Michigan was informed that she needs a permit to solicit in this manner. Several other people from other states were also asked to leave the area. Some said they thought they were in Berkeley, to where they were given a courtesy ride.

■ The police stopped traffic while a towing company removed a car from a drainage ditch on Sunset Dr. The elderly driver was advised that it was time to retake her driving test at the DMV.

■ A white Dodge parked on Colgate Ave. was found to have a registration that had expired over six months ago. It was towed.

■ Graffiti was found on and around a gas pump at the Chevron station on Arlington Ave.

■ Someone complained about some teenage boys camping in front of the school in sleeping bags. The complaint was made a little after 9 a.m. on a Sunday morning.

■ When returning items from the Garden Party at Dads’ Club member set off an alarm at the school.

■ A resident of Coventry Rd. reported the theft of a Honda Acura. By the time the police arrived to document the crime, San Pablo police telephoned to say it had been recovered.

■ A transient sleeping on a trail in the Tilden was gently awoken and told to move on.

■ A man of “foreign appearance” was reported as being suspicious on Beloit. He was here from Africa visiting a friend.

■ A car owner on Coventry Rd. reported someone had removed all but one lug nut from each wheel of her car. Luckily she noticed them before an accident occurred.

■ Someone reported that the mortar was deteriorating on a wall near the flag-pole at the community center.

■ A woman on Kensington Ct. saw a man trying to break into her car. When he left she gave chase but soon lost him. Nothing was stolen.

■ A worker at Semifreddi’s Bakery on Colusa Ave. saw a truck back into her parked car while she was at work.

■ A car was pulled over on Windsor Ave. The driver was found to have “shaved keys” for stealing cars, and was in possession of what was believed to be crystal methedrine.

■ A resident asked the police to attend the swapping of guitars that were the subject of a sale that struck a sour note. The police cordially attended the exchange.

■ A suitcase full of wet clothing was found at the Hilltop School. It is presently decomposing in the police locker.

■ An unidentified gray sedan on the corner of Coventry Rd. and Arlington Ave. was reported because the driver “looked dangerous.” The car was gone when police arrived.

■ A light sleeper on Highland Blvd. complained to police about an electric light from their neighbor’s yard.

■ A lemon tree and pot were stolen from in front of the Marvin Gardens office on Arlington Ave.



■ A fire in the bathroom of a house on Kingston Rd. was caused by faulty wiring. The resident suffered from smoke inhalation.

■ A woman on Ardmore Rd. turned in three guns that had belonged to her late husband. The Kensington police will always accept firearms to get them off the streets.

■ A couple who live in the same apartment on Lennox Dr. ended their engagement, and when a new boy-friend moved in with them, arguments ensued.

■ A truck delivering to the Colusa Market backed into and damaged a parked car.

■ Household trash was found in the cemetery. The police soon ascertained the owner of the trash by looking at envelopes in the pile. The owner declared they had no idea how it got there, but decided to remove the garbage when offered a more consequential alternative.

■ Someone stole the license plates from an Infinity on Berkeley Park Blvd. A few days later a rear plate was taken from a Toyota on the same street.

■ A homeowner on Yale Ave. saw a suspicious man in her neighbor’s yard taking photographs with a cell phone. He was gone when police arrived.

■ A zealous Beloit Ave. resident called police to report a man hanging caution tape on the fence of the reservoir. It seems he was an employee of EBMUD and was doing his job.

■ Some kids accidentally dialed 911 while playing with a parent’s Blackberry mobile phone.

■ A child told police the names of two other kids who had thrown a rock through the library window. The parents were contacted and agreed to pay for the repair.

■ A woman complained to the police about the noise of plastic blowing in the wind on a neighbor’s house. The neighbor’s house is undergoing renovation.

■ A man, presumably homeless, was reported walking in the rain, wrapped in a comforter and with plastic bags on his feet. When the police arrived to assist, the man was not to be found.

■ A woman living on Coventry Rd. complained to police that she was having a physical argument with her husband about their impending divorce. She declined to press charges against him.

■ A Willamet Ave. resident received an unsigned letter from the “neighborhood association” asking the person to remove their deteriorating cars and fix up their home. Police were unable to discover such an association.

■ A suspicious person on Arlington was said to have a “Gothic look.” Police were not able to find or identify the person.

■ An Oberlin Ave. couple argued over her purchase of a new kitchen table. He complained to police they always agreed on purchases before making them, but she said she knew he would disapprove so she bought it without telling him. The police listened patiently.

■ A 35 year-old man made harassing calls to a 15 year-old girl. Her parents talked to the man, who said he was besotted with the girl. Apparently he has psychological issues and has agreed not to call again.

■ An older lady driver drove her Volvo into the rear end of a Porsche parked near the police station on Arlington Ave. There was no other traffic around, the Porsche suffered considerable damage, and the driver was stopped from driving until she has passed a new driving test. The event was witnessed by an off-duty police officer.

■ Kensington police were asked by U.C. Berkeley to use their heat detection scope to find people living in trees on university property. No one was found in the trees.

■ A neighbor complained about noisy guests as they left a Christmas dinner on Highland Ave.

■ A woman who works on Arlington Ave. reported her car was stolen. Seems that her husband had parked it in the BART parking lot and had forgotten about it. They remembered the next day.

■ Police were called to an address on Ardmore Rd. because a 17 year-old female had an adverse reaction to marijuana.

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Classified ad forms are available online at [www.kensingtonoutlook.com](http://www.kensingtonoutlook.com) at the bottom of the page. Ads are \$6 a line with a minimum of 2 lines at \$12. A line consists of 45 spaces or characters. Deadline for classified ads is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. Payment must be made prior to publication. Mail ad copy with check made payable to KCC to:

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