



TM

— Bringing The Community Together —

K E N S I N G T O N

OUTLOOK

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FEBRUARY 2013

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 70 NUMBER 1

Lloyd Takes the Helm at KPPCSD • Metcalf Resigns

There were two surprises at this past December's Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District meeting. After Chief Harman gave the oath of office to incoming KPPCSD Director, Patricia Gillette, and returning Director, Chuck Toombs, Chuck stepped aside as Board President and Director Tony Lloyd was elected to fill that position. Director Gillette was elected Board Vice President.

But before the passing of the gavel, Director, Mari Metcalf announced she was resigning. This is what she said:

"Tonight I announce my resignation from this Board. Many people in Kensington don't understand that this Board is essentially our town council. Because we are an unincorporated community, our town funnels its major decisions regarding police, garbage, and parks to this board of five volunteers. Board members are elected at the general election, but we are not paid. Just over two years ago I ran on a platform of fiscal responsibility. I have tried to bring transparency and fiscal responsibility to this Board, and to

see KPPCSD, Page 5...

Dance the Night Away!

The holidays are over and the kids are back in school – so now it's time for a little romance! The Kensington Community Council is having its first ever **Valentine Dance on Friday, February 8th**, from 7-10pm at the Kensington Community Center. Come dance the night away to the music of the past decades with a local DJ. Jessica Kronenberg, who grew up in the neighborhood, and who is now a dance instructor at El Cerrito High, will be there to give quick demonstrations for some smooth moves on the dance floor. Childcare will be provided for attending families with children between the ages of 3 and 11, to make this the perfect "Parents' Night Out!" Advance tickets at 525-0292.



2011 Party Co-Chairs, Beth Thomsen and Nanette Erdtmann, flanked
2012 Party Chair, Rochelle Clewer at KEF's Garden Party in December.

Garden Party Another Hit

The Kensington Education Foundation hit it out of the park once again, at their 29th annual Garden Party fundraiser at the Mira Vista Country Club, high in the hills overlooking the Bay, the City, and the Mountain. According to party chair, Rochelle Clewer, the group raised over \$100,000 to help fill in the blanks in the annual multiple choice test provided to educators in lieu of the required budget to actually educate our children. Funds raised will help keep Kensington's kids from falling further behind those in Finland, South Korea, and 14 other countries in the developed world, in such extraneous subjects as math, computer science, physical education, and music.

How did they do it? With bacon-wrapped dates with cream

see Garden Party, Page 9...

MARVIN
GARDENS
REAL ESTATE

Your local Real Estate Resource for Kensington, North Berkeley & beyond...

Angel's Trumpet Flower, photograph by Heidi Rand

YOU ARE INVITED!

Please come to our Kensington office re-opening party
Thursday, February 21st, from 5-7:30pm. We will be
celebrating our remodeled digs & showing an exhibit of
gorgeous crafts by members of the art collective ARTFIRST!

289 ARLINGTON AVENUE 510.524.0800
WWW.MARVINGARDENS.COM

Riley welcomes Dr. Beth
as the new owner of the
Kensington Veterinary Hospital
and promises not to eat any more
mushrooms! Thanks from Margo
for the splendid care!

...from your secret admirer

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

7:00-10:00 PM

KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO A

Valentine Dance

THE
PERFECT
PARENTS'
NIGHT OUT!

CHILD CARE PROVIDED

Community Center
59 Arlington, Kensington
Desserts and Drinks
Tickets: \$25 Each in advance
(tickets held at the door - Checks to KCC)
\$30 each at the door
All proceeds go to KCC Community Projects
Contact Info: Marty Westby
at KCC Office-525-0292

Come Dance The Night Away to the Music of Past Decades!

Dance Lesson Included!

Letters to the Editor

From The New KPPCSD Board President...

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of appreciation to the many community members that voted in the recent local election. Our citizens demonstrated an overwhelming voice regarding the direction they want to see our town government take, and further confirmed that direction in their support of Measures G & E.

Thanks to prudent budget management by the GM and staff, our District financials are in good shape. Our public safety record continues to lead the surrounding communities, and our parks and recreation programs are well organized and meeting projected commitments.

Our waste management issue is being addressed. The District goal is to reach an equitable and reasonable resolution with our vendor(s). The relationship with our sworn public safety employees continues to be positive. We also continue to be committed to our park building program and the acquisition of the Paths.

I believe the voters have picked the right leadership team to allow us to be successful in our tasks.

I want each of our police officers, whose mantra is "To Protect and Serve," to know how much they are appreciated by their community and their Board. Their accomplishments – which are many – and their commitment have been significant. I invite residents to take a moment to express your appreciation to our officers when you see them on patrol on the street around town.

Best holiday wishes to you all in this new year, and thank you to our citizens for entrusting the Board with this governance opportunity.

R. W. (Tony) Lloyd
President, KPPCSD

Confidential Information Disclosed?

Editor,

In an article dated December 17, 2012 regarding Mari Metcalf's resignation from

the KPPCSD, Contra Costa Times reporter Rick Radin wrote that Ms. Metcalf told him the Board was "dealing with a harassment claim against police Chief Greg Harman by a clerical employee." On January 5, 2013, a correction appeared in the West County Times. The correction stated that the information about the employee's complaint against Mr. Harman was "incorrectly attributed" to Ms. Metcalf. Rather, it was "Board President Tony Lloyd [who] said the board is dealing with a harassment claim against police chief Greg Harman by a clerical employee." According to the agenda for the Board meeting of December 13, these claims were to be discussed in closed session, which session occurred after Ms. Metcalf resigned and left the meeting. Are we to understand that Mr. Lloyd disclosed confidential information about an ongoing District matter as one of his first acts as Board president? If so, what other "foot-in-mouth" incidents may we expect as his term continues?

Eileen Nadolny

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. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. One letter per person, per issue. (PLEASE NOTE: Modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after all periods.) E-mail preferred, to: Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

Park Bldg. Upgrades

In August, 2011, KPPCSD retained Muller & Caulfield Architects to develop a Master Plan for park buildings, based on community input, and to evaluate costs of potential repairs and improvements and existing, and possible future uses, for the Community Center, the Annex, and Bldg. E. Three scenarios for improvements to the buildings were identified, ranging from \$700K to \$2.5M (detailed in the Kensington Park Buildings Master Plan, under *Parks and Recreation* at KensingtonCalifornia.org).

Included in those scenarios were options to make the Community Ctr. (which is designated as an emergency gathering place in the event of a disaster) more quake-resistant, bring the restrooms into ADA compliance, meet health and safety codes for a commercial kitchen, install French doors along the west wall, and to renovate – or tear down and rebuild – the Annex.

In March 2012, subsequent to that report's presentation, Craig Hill of NHA Advisors was contracted to provide estimates of the cost to move forward with the financing of any of the three scenarios.

At the Park Buildings Renovation meeting held at the Community Center last month, three financing options were presented: 1) Use of existing District funds – including savings out of the current budget over a period of years, donations, and contributions; 2) Issuance of a general obligation bond (an annual tax based on % of assessed value of property); or 3) A parcel tax (often the same annual tax for each property).

Based on these findings, the Park Buildings Committee was empowered by the KPPCSD Board to educate the community on the recommendations in the Master Plan and their costs, and return for discussion on the level of interest, on March 14.

K E N S I N G T O N
OUTLOOK

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March Advertising Deadline.....Feb. 8
March Editorial Deadline.....Feb. 10

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K E N S I N G T O N

C O M M U N I T Y E D U C A T I O N

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Kensington Community Council’s After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) winter session is in progress, ending Friday March 22, 2013. There is one more KASEP session starting Monday, March 25th, which continues through to the end of the school year; last day is Friday, May 31st, 2013. SAVE the date for spring KASEP Registration – Tuesday, March 12th.

The KCC office will be closed President’s week, February 18-22.



“Let Me Read You My Story”
– made in Art and Bookmaking

New! STUDENT LEGO ROBOTICS WORKSHOP • Grades 3 through 8
President’s Week, Monday, February 18 - Friday, February 22.
9am - Noon at the Recreation Building
\$160 for 5 days of instruction (15 hrs)
Register thru KCC office at 525-0292

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

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

REGISTRATION

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

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

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

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Time to Stop, Think, and Plan!

Don’t miss out on what’s happening this summer in your neighborhood! KCC Summer Day camp offers traditional camp activities like games, sports, and arts & crafts fun. These activities run side-by-side with a variety of innovative and exciting camp options: saw and hammer in carpentry, build thought-provoking projects in engineering, play drums in an ensemble, design your own jewelry, and learn the art of clowning around in circus week. Each week enjoy a different experience.

Come explore our beautiful camp setting nestled in the Berkeley hills. Enroll by the week. Camp runs for 10 weeks, starting Monday, June 10th through Friday, Aug. 16th. Self-directed, unstructured time is part of the camp experience too, allowing time for children to socialize, make personal choices, and have a voice in the activities they choose.

KCC Summer Day Camp is for children entering 1st through 6th grades in fall 2013. Camp is a full, fun day – from 9am to 5pm. Morning-care and after-care is available. Just \$235/week per camper!

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE*

- Week 1: June 10-14**
Carpentry with Sandy
+ Field Trip: *The Jungle*
- Week 2: June 17-21**
Engineering with Lance
+ Field Trip: *Oakland Zoo*
- Week 3: June 24-28**
Mask Making with Shelly – Spirit Week
+ Field Trip: *Adventure Playground*
- Week 4: July 1-5**
Sports & Games with Kim Roots
\$190 for the week/Closed on the 4th
- Week 5: July 8-12**
Fun with Drumming w/Scott
+ Field Trip: *Lake Anza*
- Week 6: July 15-19**
Gymnastics with Judy Baker – Olympic Week
+ Field Trip: *New Exploratorium*
- Week 7: July 22-26**
Gymnastics with Judy Baker
+ *Miniature Golf at Scandia*
- Week 8: July 29-Aug. 2**
Jewelry & Leather Creation
– Spirit Week + *Indoor Soccer & Rock Climbing at Bladium*
- Week 9: August 5-9**
Circus Fun with Doug
+ *Lake Temescal/Ice Cream Treats*
- Week 10: August 12-16**
Cooking with Vicky Brodt
+ *Playland Not at the Beach*

* Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances.

ADULT RECREATION CLASSES



New! BODY SCULPTING/ CORE CONDITIONING
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10am
Instructor: Catherine Martikan, M.A.

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

Please join Catherine for this 60-minute strength training and flexibility class, incorporating motivating music with play lists that appeal to everyone. Only \$7.00 a class! Drop-ins welcome.

Catherine has been a fitness instructor for more than 20 years. You’ll need a mat, at least one set of free weights, and an exercise band. If there’s an item you don’t have, please contact Catherine prior to class, as some equipment may be available for your use. Email Catherine to register at jazrcat@comcast.net.



Emmitt, on Guitar at Bandworks

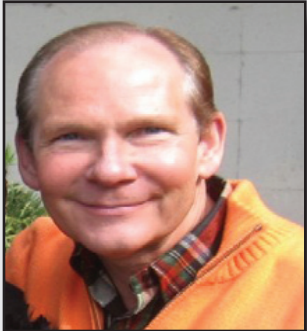
ACRYLIC PAINTING
Wednesdays, 9:45am - 1:30pm
\$32/month (\$36/nonresidents)
Community Center

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



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


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



Thanks to Our Generous KCC Fall Fund Drive Donors!

\$100 Walters’ Family Lisa and Carl Brodsky	Up to \$25 Ray and Betty Barraza Helmut and Chinda Blaschczyk Patricia and Joshua Bortman Philip (Dr.) Charney Ray and Melinda Dennen Joseph DeVille Egon and Annette McCoubrey-Hoyer Ken and Linda Jones Les and Ida Michael Valerie and Jeffrey Meyers Eileen Nottoli Rudi Nunlist Arno Schniewind David Spath Edward Spiller Barbara and Fank Lossy Steinberg Adelaide and Ronald Tolberg Mike and Robin Winton
\$50 Elena Caruthers Richard Carll Earl and June Cheit Russell Dedrick Laurie & Tony Lehman Freeman David and Susan Garfin Susan Nabeta-Brodsky Nancy Okasaki Conway Peterson Robert and Olive Shaner	
Welcomed Donations as of Jan. 8th. Donations are still being accepted.	

Coming Soon in Kensington



37 Ardmore Road

Spacious 3++BR/2++BA Craftsman with handsome period details throughout. Family room and kitchen with breakfast room. Formal dining room, office and state-of-the-art wine room holds 700+ bottles. Beautiful garden and Bay views.
Offered at \$1,189,000

57 Edgcroft Road

Trophy tri-plex (c. 1940) on a coveted tree-lined street. One 2BR/2BA and two 1BR/1BA spacious and inviting units, each with it's own charm. Light and bright with verdant view to the Bay. Attached two-car garage, many updates. Excellent income.
Offered \$898,000

202-204 Princeton Avenue

Rare side-by-side duplex with 1BR/1BA units. Diamond in the rough with some systems updated and hardwood floors. Prime location, just a block to Village shops. Some Bay view. Level garden in need of inspired gardener. Two-car garage.
Offered at \$625,000

Market Snapshot

1/1/12 to 12/31/12

- 64 Sold
- Average List Price: \$391. per. sq. ft.
- Average Sales Price: \$407. per. sq. ft.
- Average days on the market: 28

Compared to 1/1/11 to 12/31/11

- 47 Sold
- Average List Price: \$399. per. sq. ft.
- Average Sales Price: \$393. per. sq. ft.
- Average days on the market: 43

4 current pending sales • Average days on market 14 • Average List Price: \$431. per. sq. ft.


Available properties for sale on Jan. 9, 20130

Have you been waiting to sell for a sellers market? That time has arrived! My team can work with you to prepare your home for sale in as little as two weeks time. If you would like to know the value of your home in todays market, call me. The meeting is confidential and complimentary.

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Neighborhood Notes

What's 4 Dinner? Check w/Kensington Fine Foods

Owner and chef, Larry Lefebvre, is serving up mouth-watering daily specials over at Kensington Fine Foods, and he can help you with menu planning, as well. Among their specials you'll find: Rotisserie roasted porchetta (pork loin wrapped with the belly, or bacon, of the pork), seasoned with savory herbs; Braised lamb shanks with orange and fennel; Braised beef with zinfandel; and Roasted leg of lamb with mint, garlic and feta. Thursday night is Fried Chicken Night – served with fresh-baked cornbread. KFF also has an unpublished “not so secret” sandwich menu their regular customers love. To get the daily specials and soups you can follow them on Twitter: @KFFdailyupdate (or <http://www.KensingtonFineFoods.com>, and click on *Twitter*.) Luddites can still crank up the wall phone and ring 'em at 526-9858, or hitch up the wagon and drop by their shop, just inside Young's Market, Mon-Sat 'til 7pm 'n' Sundays 'til 6. *Bon appetit!*



...And Speaking of Young's Market...

Have you tried their organic produce? We picked up some outrageous berries there last summer at an unbeatable price. *Stop in and see what's in season!*

Kensington Optometry Relocates

Evacuated from 291 Arlington Avenue due to extensive flood damage in October, Dr. Russell Cotteral of Kensington Optometry is settling comfortably (he said, drily) into a new space at 396 Colusa Circle, between Nan Phelps' photography studio and Benchmark Pizza. If you can see your way clear, drop by and visit Dr. Cotteral in his new office space anytime, at 396 Colusa Circle. *(And if you can't see your way clear, then make sure to make an appointment – you need one!)*

Changes at Kensington's Commercial Districts


Market Manager, Chris Hall says Colusa Circle is rockin' with all the pedestrian traffic generated by the Farmers' Market – which, incidentally has recently added a knife sharpening service – and where else can you hear live music while you have your knives sharpened?...Semifreddi's is reportedly doing a land office business on Sunday mornings, pre-Market, the new owners are serving weekend brunch at Circus Pub, and you can even get a pizza – though not that early – at the recently opened Benchmark Pizza; and Kensington Veterinary Hospital celebrated its new ownership with a delicious open house brunch one weekend in January, which included smart pet tricks, photos, and canine pedi-pedi's...All this, and crosswalk flags now available on The Circle to increase safety when crossing the street, to boot, courtesy of Kensington Hilltop Elementary PTA... Fate has not been smiling as broadly on upper Kensington, which saw the closing of the Sugar Cone Cafe after two years, the end of prescription drugs at Kensington Pharmacy, and two – count 'em – floods that decimated Marvin Gardens Real Estate. (Just got done fixin' the place from the broken water pipe the day of the Fall Parade back in October, and then at Christmas, after replacing the wood floors, re-painting, and moving all the furniture and files back in, the roof leaked and ruined everything! Check out their grand re-opening party and craft show, Feb. 21st – if the creeks don't rise! See *Kalendar, Page 7*, for details).

No Drugs at Pharmacy • Sugar Cone Cafe Closes

Wing Gee, owner and pharmacist at Arlington Pharmacy announced last month that he'll no longer be dispensing prescriptions at that location. Arlington Pharmacy is reported to have been filling prescriptions since the time of the Great Depression; now, on the heels of the Great Recession, its prescription records have been transferred to CVS Pharmacy at 1382 Solano Ave. (559-3414), where Wing will be wearing his pharmacist hat part-time, while continuing to manage the retail portion of the former pharmacy at the heart of downtown Kensington. Wing and his staff will be sponsoring an open house party in February (date TBA) to celebrate this transition and solicit the input of Kensingtonians on what sorts of merchandise – in addition to the current line of books, cards, gifts, and non-prescription drugs – they'd like to have available. And yes, Victoria, the post office will remain...RIP, Sugar Cone Cafe. *So long, sugar!*

Fire District Installs New & Returning Directors

Late last year, now former KFPD President, Janice Kosel, administered oaths of office to Directors Joe deVille (center) and Laurence Nagel. Laurence is filling the seat vacated by Leslie Michael (insert), who retired from the Board after nine years of service. Joe has been on the Board for the past two years, and took his oath to commence his new four-year term, stepping into Board President shoes for 2013. (Janice continues as a director.) *Welcome, Laurence, welcome back, Joe, thanks to Janice for a bang-up job as President, to Les for all his good work, and to the entire department for keeping the conflagrations – as well as the elephants – away! Now about those mountain lions...*



...*KPPCSD, from Page 1*

our District. I have not succeeded.

“Director Cathie Kosel and I both attempted to ask questions that were relevant and pertinent, and in response we have been mocked and slandered. Now that Ms. Kosel will be off the Board, I will be the lone voice asking for rational fiscal decisions, and I cannot do that alone with such an impossible group of people.

“As the Contra Costa Times said in its editorial piece, ‘It’s mind-boggling how governance of the highly-educated little community of Kensington has become so dysfunctional.’

“This is an understatement. For over two years, Cathie and I have been subject to defamation by our town newspaper, as well as by fellow Board members.¹ At a recent meeting, the Chief of Police was allowed to read a letter written by his own attorney, in which his attorney vilified Board member, Cathie Kosel. Our Board President sat idly by as this letter was read. I will no longer attempt to participate in an agency where there is so little regard for professionalism, where there is rampant sloppiness, where the Board Policies and Procedure Manual is followed when and if the Board President feels like it.

“There are certain people in this dynamic that seem very partial to secrecy, because it serves them well.² If the rest of you want to continue to engage in negligence, I refuse to be a part of it.

“People in town have told me I can’t step down, because I am the only Board member who will continue to ask questions – questions like, ‘How in the world, in the year 2012, do we have a police department with zero female officers – let alone, commanding officers?’³ Questions like, ‘How is the public supposed to be able to evaluate the legal fees that are so far out of budget, if the legal fees are all kept confidential?’⁴ And, ‘Why are we losing so many employees?’⁵ Questions

like, ‘Is anyone else interested in asking why we have so many complaints for racial profiling?’⁶

“But even though these questions remain essential, I cannot stay on this Board, because this is a farce. I hope the audience will have the strength to continue to ask questions, even in the face of mocking, and derision, and cowardly attacks.⁷

“Three years ago, Cindy Kimball resigned her position on this Board because she was bullied until she could not stand it anymore. She had to step down because this Board was toxic, and she could not fix it. Now I do the same. Someone might want to ask, ‘What is really going on here?’

“Good night.”

Mari’s speech was received with a smattering of applause and a yelled, “Congratulations, Mari; thank you,” from the audience.

In a unanimous decision, and in accordance with California regulations, the remaining directors decided to fill the vacancy left by Director Metcalf by appointing a successor. (Other options were to hold a general election – judged too expensive – or to let the County Board of Supervisors appoint a new director – which the Board rejected out of hand.)

In January, in response to the announcement of the vacancy, interested candidates submitted letters to the Board indicating their interest and qualifications.

At press time, the Board’s plan was to conduct interviews of the three candidates under consideration – Becky Stephens, Len Welsh, and Kim Zvick – at a public meeting at the Community Center on Jan. 30th. If the Board was not able to make a final decision at that time as a result of those interviews, its plan was to schedule an additional meeting for Feb. 7th, where a final candidate would be selected, and then submitted to the County by Feb. 8th. (For more information, contact General Manager, Greg Harman, at 526-4141.)

It was interesting to note that the January KPPCSD meeting wrapped up in approximately two hours, as opposed to the three or more hours they have typically run, over the past few years. Many speculate that the recent dysfunction of the Board – a fact with which no one in Kensington would disagree – may now have been resolved. The proof, as always, will be in the pudding – and the addition of a new board member – Ed.

¹ Past complaints by Director Metcalf about the *Outlook’s* coverage of her have been found to be specious. (See “*Dare to Print the Facts,*” *Outlook*, Sept., 2011, Page 2, Letters to the Editor).

² Regarding the lack of a female officer on the force, it’s not clear why Metcalf, who is a lawyer, continues to raise this as an issue, as it is against the law to discriminate by gender when hiring. The police force has had female officers in the past, and the Chief has assured the community that its outreach for new officers is extensive and gender-neutral. (“Since I’ve been here, we’ve been lucky; every new hire has been from a protected class [re: gender, race, or religion] – our goal is to continue to be diversified.” – COP Greg Harman.)

Officer Stephanie Wilkins has just been added to the force, and is expected to complete her field training by the end of February. (Stephanie is the daughter of Kimberly Wilkins, KCC Board member and Financial Services Manager at Kensington Mechanics Bank.)

³ The “secrecy” to which Metcalf refers, pertains, it is believed, to matters relating to the personnel files of District employees, and those of police officers – files that, by law, are private. It is up to the discretion of an employee, or officer, whether or not to make information in his or her file public.

In some cases, District employees have needed to evaluate whether to release some of the information in their personnel files and risk setting a precedent, which may affect the privacy privileges of other current and future employees.

⁴ A large percentage of the “secret” legal fees to which Metcalf refers, according to an informed source, involves thousands of dollars paid by the District for lawyers and consultants in an effort to protect itself against possible litigation resulting from allegations against other public employees by Metcalf and former Director Kosel – charges that, as reported previously by *The Outlook*, were all proved meritless by a variety of oversight bodies. Since these costs involve current and former District employees – including Kosel and Metcalf – they are private, and are not available for public discussion, as per California law.

⁵ Since COP Harman’s tenure began in Sept., 2007, fifteen employees have left the District, including 5 police officers (2 retired, 2 resigned, and 1 terminated); 6 reserve officers (2 took full time jobs with other agencies, 2 resigned and left law enforcement, and 2 moved out of the area); and 3 civilians (1 took a full time job elsewhere, 1 position was eliminated, and 2 were terminated) Two other reserve officers became full time Kensington police officers.

⁶ There were two racial profiling cases in Kensington last year – one judged unfounded, and one that remains open. (*It would be surprising to find a significant amount of racial profiling here, given the mainstream ethnic homogeneity of the town – and those who drive through it – and the current makeup of the police force, which has significantly larger representations of ethnic minorities than is proportionate to their numbers in the local population. – Ed.*)

⁷ Res ipsa loquitur.



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Our experienced, professional staff will treat you like royalty and take care of your guests as if they were our own. We offer competitive rates and a money-back guarantee if you are not completely satisfied with our services.

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oncallstaffing@ymail.com



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In Memory



Beryl Evelyn Bates
Dec. 10, 1909 – Nov. 5, 2012

Beryl Bates, a long time resident of Contra Costa County and the city of El Cerrito, passed away in the early morning hours at her home on November 5, 2012. She was 102 years old, just shy of her 103rd Birthday.

Beryl was born in Veblen, South Dakota on December 10, 1909 to George and Eva Flick. She graduated early from high school, and at the age of 16 took the train to California to attend UC Berkeley.

Around 1933, Beryl met and married Richard F. Bates, a resident of Kensington. Beryl and Richard had two sons – Jamieson and Harry. Both were raised in the family home on Lenox Road, and were graduates of Kensington Hilltop School (1944 & 1954).

Graduating from UC Berkeley with a teaching credential, Beryl eventually got a teaching position at Meadow Homes Elementary School in Concord, the school from which she would eventually retire. After retirement, she worked for a time at Windrush School in El Cerrito.

Beryl and Richard moved from Kensington to a home they built in El Cerrito in 1949. Beryl lived in the house for 63 year, eventually passing away at that same home.

Beryl and Richard were able to do a little traveling during their time together, including a trip to Europe on the ocean liner, Queen Elizabeth I in 1966. After Richard's death in 1979, Beryl was able to travel again to Europe, and also to Canada, Panama, and many places within the United States.

At home, Beryl was a supportive member of the First Unitarian Church of Berkeley. She often walked to book club meetings at the church, until walking became too difficult.

Beryl is survived her youngest son, Harry, of El Cerrito, grandson Steven Bates of Kensington, grandson Robert Bates of Oakland, granddaughter Wendy Tunnessen of Walters, OK., and granddaughter Victoria Hoffmann and great grandson Bryon, both of Las Vegas.

From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From December 2012

2012-7424 – On 12-03-2012, Officer Ramos responded to the 00 block of Yale Ct. for reported vehicle tampering.

2012-7418 – On 12-03-2012, Officer Wilson responded to the 800 block of Coventry Rd. for a reported vehicle vandalism. A fire hydrant was thrown onto the windshield of a parked vehicle. *(No truth to rumors it was an irate husband responding to his wife's repeated requests for him to wash the car.)*

2012-7533 – On 12-10-2012, Officer Ramos responded to the 00 block of Highland Blvd. for a reported arson.

2012-7556 – On 12-11-2012, Officer Ramos responded to the 00 block of Sunset Dr. for a reported identity theft.

2012-7574 – On 12-12-2012, Sergeant Barrow, Detective Stegman, and Officers, Ramos and Wilkens, responded to the 00 block of Stratford Dr. for a reported residential burglary. Some of the items taken were recovered, and a suspect was taken into custody during the investigation of this case.

2012-7647 – On 12-16-2012, Officer Ramos responded to the 00 block of Kingston Dr. for a reported identity theft.

Complete report at <http://www.KensingtonCalifornia.org/police-department/police-monthly-reports>.

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Feb. 1, 2, 3 Claudio Monteverdi L'incoronazione di Poppea, in Italian with English supertitles. 2/1 & 2/2 at 8 pm; 2/3 at 3pm. Performing Arts Theater at ECHS, 540 Ashbury Ave., EC. www.westedgeopera.org or 841-1903.

Feb. 2 “Celebrate Portola,” a night of jazz, food and fun in support of Portola Middle School academic and music programs, featuring their Jazz Band and Jazz Ensemble, and a silent auction. 6pm, EC Comm. Ctr., 7007 Moeser Ln. www.portolanews.com/auction.

Feb. 2 Introduction to Projective Dream Work w/Jeremy Taylor. 9:30am-5pm. \$45 suggested; bring a lunch. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302.

Feb. 3 Personal Theology Seminar: Bill Garrett, Ph.D. “Emerson’s Legacy to Unitarian Universalists Today.” 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Feb. 4 The Poet’s Toolbox: A Workshop for Practicing Poets, led by Pamela Barnes. Mondays, 7-9pm thru Mar. 4th. \$10/class suggested. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Feb. 4 Jazzercise. On going, Mondays, Wed’s, and Fri’s, 8:15-9:15am. Community Center. Drop-ins welcome.

Feb. 4 “Castoffs” Knitting Group. All levels welcome and some help provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Feb. 4 eReader Clinic. Learn how to borrow eBooks and audio books free from the library. Bring your eReader and library card. Adv. reg. at 524-3043. Kensington Library, 6-8pm. Free.

Feb. 4 Chinese New Year Story Time & Craft. Celebrate the Year of the Snake. Hear stories; make a snake. Ages 3 & up. 7pm. Free. EC Library. 526-7512.

Feb. 5 Comic Book Workshop. Oliver Chin shows teens how to create their own comic books & graphic novels. Free comics! Grades 6-12. EC Library, 4:30-6:30pm. Free. Pre-reg: 526-7512.

Feb. 5 Body Sculpting and Conditioning Class. Ongoing Tues. and Thurs., 9-10am at the Community Center.

Feb. 5 The Power of Myth at the Movies: *Manon of the Spring* (1986), w/Richard Stromer. 7:30-9pm. View movie before class. Donation \$8. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Feb. 5, 12 & 26 Stories & Songs. Lullabies and bedtime stories. Kensington Library. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

The Kensington Public Safety Council presents Pam Grossman speaking on Earthquake Preparedness — February 21st at 7pm at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Info: 501-8165 —



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Kensington Kalendar



Christine Brandes and Emma McNairy in Claudio Monteverdi L'incoronazione di Poppea. At El Cerrito High, Feb 1, 2, & 3. Photo: Jamie Buschbaum.

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27. Yoga at Arlington Community Church. All ages. 4:45-6pm. Drop-ins welcome; small fee. Antonia Fokken, 381-0997.

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 Potluck Community Dinner and Spirit & the Arts Program at Arlington Community Church. Potluck for everyone at 5:30pm. Adult study and kids choir, dancing, & acting. \$50/materials. 526-9146.

Feb. 7 Women’s Fellowship at Arlington Community Church. 6:30pm. Bring a dish to share. Info 526-9146.

Feb. 7, 14 & 21 Baby & Toddler Story Time. Stories, songs, & action rhymes for kids and their caregivers. Kensington Library. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

Feb. 8 KCC’s Valentine Dance. 7pm at the Community Center. (See Page 1.)

Feb. 8 Friday Concert Series. Arlington Community Church. bayareabach.org

Feb. 9 Dragon Story and Craft for preschoolers. Listen to a funny story; make a fire-breathing dragon. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

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Feb. 9 ¡Vamonos! Let’s Go! Hear a story; stay for arts and crafts w/Matilde Hollander. Emphasizes early literacy and kindergarten readiness skills. Age 2-5. 11am. Free. EC Library. ccclib.org

Feb. 10 Knitting at Arlington Community Church. 11:30am. Knit shawls, hats, scarves, and mittens for those in need. Info: 526-9146.

Feb. 10 Personal Theology Seminar: Bill Garrett. “Unitarianism, Transcendentalism, and Emerson’s Religious Realism.” 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd. uucb.org.

Feb. 11 The Kensington Afternoon Book Club. Age 11-14. Contact library for the title of the book to read. Kensington Library, 1pm. Free. 524-3043.

Feb. 11 Art Talk with Michael Stehr. *3 Days in Rome: Michelangelo.* Kensington Library, 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Feb. 14 ‘I Heart’ Button-Making. Make fun VDay pins. Grades 4 & up. 3:30pm. Free. EC Library. 526-7512

Feb. 14 El Cerrito Garden Club meets, 9:30am-Noon. Paula Shiu, on “Growing Orchids from Seed to Bloom.” EC Community Ctr. Guests \$3. 233-9365.

Feb. 16 & 17 Concert: Love Songs and Chocolate. 2/16 at 7:30 pm; 2/17 at 1pm. \$20/\$15/\$5. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

Feb. 17 Personal Theology: Bill Garrett. “Emerson’s Unitarian Influence on the Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche.” 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

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Feb. 18 Lego Robotics Workshop. Monday-Friday, 9am-noon; grades 3-8. KCC Rec. Ctr.. 525-0292 to register.

Feb. 19 Pajama Music. Song-filled stories and hands-on musical fun for kids & their families. Kensington Library. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Feb. 19 Berkeley Garden Club. “Zen and the Art of Mushroom Hunting,” by Debbie Viess. 2pm, Albany Community Center. berkeleygardenclub.org

Feb. 19 Legal Workshop. Attorney, Deborah Moritz-Farr, on wills, durable powers of attorney, advanced health-care directives, and more. EC Library, 6-8pm. Free. 526-7512

Feb. 21 Marvin Gardens Real Estate Re-Opening Party, & craft exhibit by ARTFIRST, 5-7:30pm. 289 Arlington Ave., 514-0800.

Feb. 24 Personal Theology: Nancy and Leonard Becker. “Sacred Sites and the Spirit of Place.” 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302.

Feb. 25 Book Club. Discussion of *Jane Eyre*. Kensington Library. 7pm. Free.

Feb. 27 Karaoke, with Officer Doug Wilson at The Arlington. Plus a few originals sung and played live by *Outlook* editor, Joel Koosed. 6pm. Free.

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

**KCC - February 4th
Kensington Community Council**
1st Mondays 7:30pm. 525-0292

**FKL - February 5th
Friends of the Kensington Library,** 7pm (at the Library, 61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesdays

**KPSC - February 11th
Kensington Public Safety Council**
Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays 6pm. 501-8165

**KFPD - February 13th
Fire Protection District**
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

**KPPCSD - February 14th
Police Protection and Community Services District**
2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

**KIC - February 25th
Kensington Improvement Club**
4th Mondays 7:30pm. 527-3062

**KMAC (Tentative) - Feb. 26th
Municipal Advisory Council**
Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s ofc to confirm: 374-3231, ext. 5)

**KARO/ECHO - March 11th
Amateur Radio Operators**
2nd Mondays of odd months
7:30pm. 524-9815

**KPOA
Property Owners Association**
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**KFM – Every Sunday
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...Garden Party, from Page 1

cheese, portabella mushroom puffs, spanikopita bites, paella plates, chicken empanadas, and endive/pomegranate/apple appetizers with blue cheese, along with free-flowing wine, and live jazz – plus silent- and live auctions – including original etchings by Rembrandt and Van Dyck, and lithographs by Renoir, Miro, and Magritte – all in good company with an inventive cityscape by students at Neighborhood School – topping off a night to remember! (Thanks to the estate of Alex Adelman for the donation of much of the fabulous art, and to the many, many other donors – groups, businesses, and individuals without whose generosity the auctions would not have been possible. Our children thank you!)

Among the celebrants were Supervisor John Gioia, West Contra Costa County Unified School District’s Elementary Principal of the Year, Judith Sanders (Hilltop) and Middle School Principal of the Year, Matt Burnman (Portola), Marvin Gardens realtor, Amy Kurzer, KCC’s Laurie Ushigusa, KMAC’s Patrick Tahara, and Arlington Cafe owners, Trish McDermott and Marc LaJoie. Party Chair, Rochelle Clewer reported how happy she was with how well attended the event was, despite the rainy weather. *A good time had by all!*

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