

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

July / August 2004

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Volume 61 Number 6

Two tax measures pass as open space faces vote

Voters o.k. parcel taxes to support schools and hospital as property owners weigh \$175 million bond

Contra Costa County property owners vote this month on a \$175 million bond measure to protect open space, improve trails and creeks and preserve wildlife habitat.

"This county has shown it values open space and parks consistently," said supervisor John Gioia, who has been a driving force behind the measure. "We're optimistic. It's a historic measure. It is the largest open space funding in the county's history."

The vote comes on the heels of the success of two West Contra Costa County parcel tax measures passed in June.

Measure B, a parcel tax that will provide about \$8 million in annual funding to the West Contra Costa Unified School District, passed with more than 70 percent of voters approving the measure.

Measure D, a parcel tax that provides about \$6 million in funding to Doctors Medical Center to ensure it remains open, passed with more than 84 percent approval.

Like the two parcel tax measures just passed, the open space bond measure will be voted on by mail, but the election will differ significantly.

The open space measure is a county-wide vote, but only property owners will get to vote on the measure. There will be one vote per parcel with those votes weighted in proportion to the cost the

measure would impose on the owner.

Of the total raised by the measure, \$130 million would be used to acquire parks, creeks, watersheds, trails and shorelines, as well as be used for the perseverance of wildlife habitat and the use of local parks and recreation.

The balance of the funds would provide maintenance to existing parks and open space.

The funds would likely be used to preserve the Richmond shoreline, expand the Bay Trail and expand Mt. Diablo State Park among other projects.

Single-family homeowners will pay between \$20 and \$30 a year on the 30-year bond. The measure needs a simple majority to pass. Ballots must be returned by July 27.

June 8 Special Election Results

Measure B - Schools

Vote	Count	Percent
Yes	32,829	70.8
No	13,568	29.2

Measure D - Healthcare

Vote	Count	Percent
Yes	40,874	84.1
No	7,718	15.9

Source: Contra Costa County Elections Dept.



Clif Taylor

Moving up

Kensington students may disperse during their high school years, but graduating seniors continue to come together for a traditional graduation photograph.

Below is a list of this year's graduates, the high school they attended and where they will be going comes the fall. Michelle Hellerstein coordinated the photo and compiled the list below.

Kneeling: Wiley Rodgers, Marin Academy, Colorado College; Josh Blonz, Marin Academy, Pomona College; Brian Zimmerman, El Cerrito High School, UC Santa Cruz; Harris Cohn, Berkeley High School, UC Berkeley.

Middle Row: Rebecca Parsa, El Cerrito High School, San Diego State University; Brittany Sims, El Cerrito High School, Northridge State University; Corynn Brodsky, El Cerrito High School, Brown University; Aditi Shastri, College Preparatory School, UC Berkeley; Emily Springhart, Occidental College; Jay Teng, El Cerrito High School, Harvard; Vanessa Pratt, El Cerrito High School, Harvard; Andi Dommer, Berkeley High School, Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo; Leah Hellerstein, Berkeley High School, Mount Holyoke College; Susan Crook, El Cerrito High School, UC Berkeley; Kelsy Neddersen, El Cerrito High School, Academy of Art-SF.

On Stairs: Bizzzy Hemphill, El Cerrito High School, Swarthmore College; Catherine Charpentier, St. Ignatius, Holy Cross (Mass); Eli Botchin, Cole Watanabe, El Cerrito High School; Niklas Altenberg, Berkeley High School, UC Santa Cruz; Chris Rothacher, El Cerrito High School; DVC, Ryan Gillette, College Preparatory School, Middlebury College; Tyler Block, St. Mary's High School, UC Berkeley; Doug Weil, El Cerrito High School, University of Oregon; Daniel Gruen, El Cerrito High School, UC Santa Barbara.

Not pictured: Catherine Ramsey, El Cerrito High School, UC Santa Barbara; Anna-Nora Bernstein, Berkeley High School, New York University; David Bordow, Bishop O'Dowd High School, UC Los Angeles.

Fire Dept. issues orders to 27 homes to clear fire hazards

The Kensington Fire Department issued notices to 27 Kensington property owners warning them that if they don't address fire hazards on their property from vegetation growth they will be declared public nuisances and subject to costly abatements.

The California Department of Forestry and the Kensington Fire Protection District have declared Kensington a Very High Fire Hazard Severity zone. Under state law, property owners within this zone must take special precautions with their property, including vegetation management, to reduce the risk of fire.

Beginning in May, the fire department

began touring all of the properties in Kensington to make sure property owners are in compliance of standards for vegetation management.

The department identifies fire hazards from grasses, weeds, refuse, brush and other vegetation that's dried out and become highly flammable. If it finds the properties do not comply with the standards established by the department, it orders property owners to correct the dangers.

Among those standards are requirements to maintain firebreaks within 30 feet of any occupied dwelling, creation of fuel

breaks from 30 feet to 100 feet surrounding a structure and the establishment of firebreaks on vacant lots 30 feet wide along the property line and 100 feet from neighboring structures.

Dave Gibson, fire marshal for the Kensington Fire Department, said that since the program's inception there has been 100 percent compliance with notices and the department has never had to perform abatement because of a lack of compliance from a property owner. However, the fire department is currently in the process of performing abatement on a

see "Fire" page 3

Family fugue



The Kensington Symphony Orchestra completed its current season with a Kensington family affair as violin soloist Robin Hansen (center) played with brother Lawrence on trumpet (left) and brother Eric Hansen (right) serving as guest conductor.

see page 4



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New Listings



1016 CEDAR ST., BERKELEY **\$699,000**
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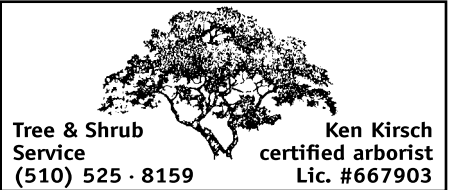
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Letters to the Editor

Childish prank no laughing matter

To the Editor:

The Friends of the Kensington Library promotes the quality of library services at the Kensington Public Library, and raises public awareness of its benefits and contributions to our community.

We depend on our local publication, the Kensington Outlook, as a venue for communicating in a respectful manner the activities, accomplishments, and concerns of the hard-working volunteer members of FKL and Kensington Library Staff.

Recently, FKL has sponsored several events meant to benefit family members of all ages, sponsored the Book Sale, and made several valuable contributions to the library including library materials, subscriptions, and supplies for the summer reading program. However, instead of an article or photograph highlighting the positive details of any of these events, the June issue contained an embarrassing photograph and caption depicting a childish vandalism prank, which did not deserve valuable space in the newspaper. ("Behind the Green Door Lies Kensington" June 2004). The FKL strives to represent our community in an uplifting manner, and expects the Kensington Outlook to do the same.

Sincerely,
Debbie Hamati
President

Nancy Okasaki
Vice President
Friends of the Kensington Library

People who cut trees for views miss the forest from the trees

To the editor:

I woke up this morning to the all too familiar sound of chain saws. Just another mature old tree to fall in the continuing clear cutting of Kensington.

As if I needed to be reminded of the day two years ago when one of the most beautiful trees in the neighborhood got the ax. Everyone was shocked. Who did it benefit? One homeowner. They got an improved view (to which, under law, they were not entitled) and we got a demonstrative reduction in our quality of life. On paper, I'm sure their property values went up. (Oh smug, smug, smug).

And the critters who call these old trees home? Well they can just hit the road.

Why do people want to live in an old established neighborhood if not partly because of the nice big trees? It kind of gives the place the feeling that its been around for awhile and wasn't thrown up five minutes ago.

Anybody up for taking a vacation to one of the numerous clear cuts up north? We'll scramble over the stumps and slash and hey, the views go on as far as the eye can see. What no takers? I didn't think so.

Jim Blakeley
Kensington

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The Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District took advantage of low interest rates to refinance its outstanding bonds, a move expected to save more than \$350,000 over the term of the debt.

“It’s going to save a tremendous amount of money over the life of the bonds, which benefits all of the homeowners in a reduction of the liens,” said Barry Garfield, general manager of the district.

Though the precise savings to individ-

ual homeowners is not yet known, Garfield said it is expected to reduce homeowner’s individual annual tab by between \$11 and \$15.

The district issued the bonds to fund the purchase of property from the West Contra Costa County Unified School District to expand Kensington Park. Those bonds carried an interest rate of 5.3 percent and 5.8 percent.

The new bonds, which will not extend the term of the debt, carries an interest rate of 4.25 percent and matures in 2020.

KPPCSD Debt Service Savings from Reassessment and Refunding			
Amount	Old bonds	New bonds	Savings
Interest Rate	\$1,975,000	\$1,868,600	\$106,400
Ave. Annual Debt Service	5.30%-5.80%	4.25%	1.05%-1.55%
Total Debt Service	\$191,729	\$163,105	\$28,624
Est. Annual Taxpayer Savings	\$2,870,469	\$2,515,933	\$354,536
			\$11 - \$15
Source: Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District			

Fire: clear dangers or pay the price of abatement

continued from page 1

property on Yale Ave. after ongoing discussion with the property owner failed to produce the results the department sought.

When a fire hazard is identified, the department sends a notice to the property owner and provides the date of a hearing before the Kensington Fire Protection District Board. If the problem is not corrected prior to the hearing, the board can declare the property a “public nuisance” and order the fire department to proceed with abatement measures.

“Our goal is to get the hazard cleared,” said Gibson. “We always want to do the abatement as a last resort. We prefer to work with the property owner.”

The cost of any abatement, including administrative and legal fees, is billed to the property owner. Gibson said abatements can be costly depending on the extent of them, but estimates at minimum they would cost \$5,000.

The fire department will conduct a second round of property inspections throughout Kensington in early July. Hearings for anyone who has received notices will be held August 11.

School district sets new hours, buses for Hilltop

During the construction relocation of the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School at the Portola campus, the school will alter its hours to minimize traffic congestion on Moeser Ave.

School start and finish times will be:
Morning K: 8:05a.m. -11:25 a.m.
Afternoon K: 11:35 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Grades 1-6: 8:05 a.m. - 2:17 p.m.
(end time for grades 1-6 Weds. is 1:38 p.m.)

The district will provide bus service to and from the Portola campus. The bus will pick up students Monday through Friday at 7:45 a.m. at the Kensington Community Center parking lot. The bus will depart the Portola campus at 2:45 except Wednesdays, when it will depart at 1:55 p.m.

Karen Shebek is acting as the carpooling coordinator. She can be reached at hilltop-carpool@aol.com or (510) 525-1539. Additional carpooling information will be available at www.kensingtonschool.com.

The school will hold an orientation for the new campus Saturday, Aug. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Kensington Portola campus. Check the www.kensingtonschool.org and www.wccusd.k12.ca.us websites for updates.

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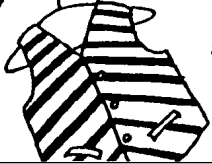


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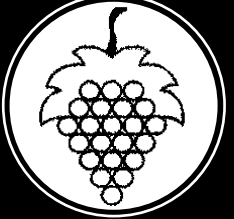
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Neighborhood Notes

The family that plays together at the symphony

Kensington's premiere musical family was featured in June at the final performance of the 26th season of the Kensington Symphony Orchestra season.

Robin Hansen, a violinist in the San Francisco Ballet, received three standing ovations as the featured soloist.

She played under the baton of her brother Eric, music director of the Prometheus Symphony and instructor at the University of California at Berkeley, who served as guest conductor. Brother Lawrence also joined playing violin during Dvorak's Symphony Nol. 8 and trumpet during Aaron Copland's Ceremonial Fanfare for brass and tympani.



Lawrence, Robin and Eric Hansen

Business blooming for Kensington Flower and Gift

The Kensington Flower and Gift Shop, a fixture on Arlington Ave. since 1978, will relocate to Colusa Ave. as part of an expansion.

Denise Felts, who purchased the store in 2000, plans to open July 6 in the space previously occupied by Boadecia's Books.

The 1,000 square-foot store more than triples the shop's space and follows the acquisition of the customer list earlier this year of Berkeley-based University Flower Shop.

"We are going to be able to carry a lot more different flowers and plants and expand our gift and greeting card line," said Felts.

To help with the growing business, Felt s recruited her sister Janice Clark from Clear Lake to serve as manager and designer.

Though Felts will be gone from Arlington Ave. she promised that she will continue to offer treats to all neighborhood dogs.

Schlatter turns 90 and celebrates 63rd anniversary

Roberta Schlatter, a Kensington resident who taught at Kensington Hilltop Elementary from 1959 to 1979, celebrated her 90th birthday last month and will celebrate her 63 wedding anniversary July 12 with her husband Maury.

After retirement the Roberta Schlatter couple traveled extensively around the world. Many trips were in conjunction with Maury's scuba diving groups.

The couple has seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

All in all, it's not just another brick in the wall

The Kensington Education Foundation is using the occasion of the reconstruction and expansion of Hilltop Elementary school to raise money to support programs one brick at a time.

The foundation is selling bricks to allow people to honor children, family members, recognize teachers or immortalize themselves.

There are only 350 bricks available for

the special wall where they will be. Orders will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Each brick will be inscribed with a maximum of three lines with each line containing a maximum of 20 characters or spaces. The cost of the brick is \$100. All text is subject to approval.

For information on ordering a brick contact Nora Hirose at (510) 215-1942

Parents organize effort to Save music in schools

Hilltop band students

A group of West Contra Costa Unified School District parents and teachers have joined together to form a committee to save music in the elementary schools.

The district needs \$500,000 to fund music programs. While donations poured in to save sports programs for the financially troubled district, the district only received \$15,000 in donations for elementary music program.

Donations can be made to Mechanics Bank Music Account #039646564. This is a tax-deductible contribution - tax I.D. #680000495.

Kensington Community Education

Youth Classes

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Mark your calendars now.
Registration for the fall session will be held on September 7 at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue.

SEPTEMBER

7

REGISTRATION

COME JOIN US AT KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP!

Located in the Berkeley hills at 59 Arlington Ave. in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in the Fall 2004. The camp runs from June 14, 2004 through August 20, 2004, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Campers enroll on a weekly basis. To ensure the best experience for each child, our camp has a maximum of 60 children per week. We employ one director, eight counselors, and a “specialty consultant” each week to work with the campers. Drop-ins are not permitted.

Day Camp Staff Returns
Director Jessica Smith is returning for this year's camp along with head counselor Joe Starkey, Andrew Erdmann, Valeria Fike-Rosales, Teddy Firestone and Ryan Del La Rosa.

COST
The cost for the Kensington Summer Day Camp is \$170.00 per week. This fee covers all transportation costs, snacks, entrance fees, activities and a KCC Summer Camp T-shirt for field trips. A limited number of partial scholarships will be available. All fees must be paid by the stated due date and before the week begins. Children whose parents or guardians have not paid fees in full may not attend until fees have been paid to the KCC administrator. Registration, emergency cards and release forms must be tendered prior to the start of the week. **A nonrefundable deposit of \$25 per child per week requested is required with the application.** The \$25 deposit is deducted from the balance due of camp. If a week is full and space is not available, applicants will be notified immediately. We cannot refund fees if a child drops out after a week begins.



Brochures available
For further information or a brochure, please call KCC office at (510) 525-0292.

REGISTRATION
Parents may register their children on a space available basis during KCC office hours.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE	
June 16	The Jungle
June 23	Jelly Belly Factory & Bowling
June 30	Exploratorium
July 7	Scandia
July 14	San Francisco Zoo
July 21	The Jungle
July 28	A's Baseball Game
August 4	Waterworld
August 11	A's Baseball Game
August 18	Academy of Sciences



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Carpentry with Sandy Thacker
Week 2 June 21 - June 25

3D Painting, Clay & Paper Mache Work with Celeste Conner
Week 3 June 28 - July 2

3D Painting, Clay & Paper Mache Work with Celeste Conner
Week 4 July 5 - July 9

Gymnastics with Judy Baker
Week 5 July 12 - July 16

Gymnastics with Judy Baker
Week 6 July 19 - July 23

Drama with Kelly Donahue
Week 7 July 26 - July 30

Drama with Kelly Donahue
Week 8 August 2 - August 6

Treasure Boxes, Jewel Books & Fimo Treasurers with Celeste Conner
Week 9 August 9 - August 13

Treasure Boxes, Jewel Books & Fimo Treasurers with Celeste Conner
Week 10 August 16 - August 20

Tennis with Alex Brown, three days a week.

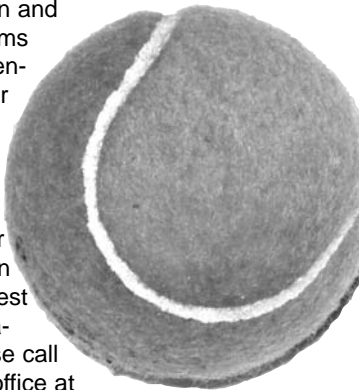
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Session 2: July 5 - July 9
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Session 3: July 12 - July 16
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Session 4: July 26 - July 30
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Session 5: August 16 - August 20 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Clinic includes stroke instruction, play, ball-machine practice, refreshments and prizes. For information about racquets, please call, Alex Brown, (510) 524-5495. There will be a minimum of four students in each session. Registration is on a first come first served basis in the KCC office, 59 Arlington Ave.,

Kensington, Monday through Friday 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Emergency card, registration and waiver forms must be tendered prior to the beginning of the session. For further information or to request an application, please call the KCC office at (510) 525-0292. Instructor: Alex Brown 510-524-5495 Weekdays: 1-3 p.m. \$80.00 /session (Kensington resident) \$88.00 /session (non-resident)
TENNIS COURTS

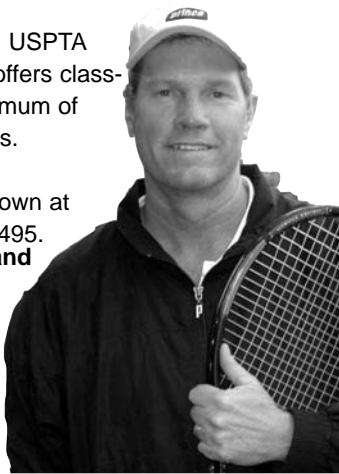


Adult Classes

Exercise to Music
Non-impact aerobics; ongoing.
Instructor: Michele Dorntge
Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9-10 a.m.
Fees per resident (10 weeks):
\$40/1 x week, \$80/2 x week
\$120/3 x week, \$4.50 drop-in
Non-residents add 10 percent
COMMUNITY CENTER

Dog Obedience Training
Lewis Cuccia will be taking a sabbatical from teaching Dog Obedience. He hopes to return to KCC in January 2005. Call the KCC office for details.

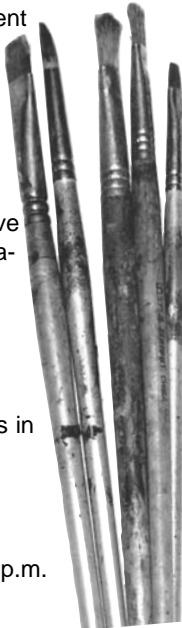
TENNIS
Alex Brown, USPTA tennis pro, offers classes to a minimum of four students.
To register
Call Alex Brown at (510) 524-5495.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-10am
5 classes/\$40 per resident
5 classes/\$45 per non-resident
TENNIS COURTS (WEST COURT)



ACRYLIC PAINTING
Stan Cohen leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited. Instructor approval required.

Instructor:
Stan Cohen
Wednesdays, 9:45a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
\$32/month per resident
\$36/month per non-resident
COMMUNITY CENTER

PORTRAIT AND STILL LIFE
OIL PAINTING CLASS
Beginning and advanced students will paint from live models. For more information or to sign up call Barbara Ward (510) 528-2983. Works by Ward include portraiture, landscape and still life. Ward also offers private classes in oil painting.
Instructor:
Barbara Ward
Portrait
Thursdays, 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Still life:
Fridays, 10 a.m. - 1p.m.
Ongoing -- 8 weeks
\$200 for residents
\$220 for non-resident
BUILDING E



KCC
Kensington Community Council

Helen Horowitz, Administrator
Kensington Community Council
Building E, 59 Arlington Ave.
Kensington, CA 94707-1037
525-0292

OFFICE HOURS
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mon.- Fri.

NOTICES
To Register for Class
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 taken for weekends and holidays only. The earliest reservation is for 9 a.m. Fees are \$2 per hour for Kensington residents, \$5 for others.

Community Center
Call Helen Horowitz for rental and reservation information.

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Kensington Calendar

One mo' time



1962 photo of teacher Robert Shogrun with students.

The **First annual Homecoming and School Celebration** will be held at **Kensington Hilltop Elementary School** July 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students, parents, teachers and community members are invited to visit the school one last time before its renovation. Tables will be set up with pictures and artifacts from previous graduating classes, past teachers and administrators will reminisce about the school, architectural blue prints for the school renovation will be available. Come learn about current programs and challenges facing the school. There will be plenty of food and drinks (suggested donation \$10 for the entire family). Entertainment will be provided. To RSVP or volunteer call Esther Hill at (510) 524-3713 or e-mail esther.hill@mindspring.com.

Thursday, July 1
The **Kensington Library's Summer Reading Program** continues through Aug. 28. Read all summer for prizes and special treats from the Friends of the Kensington Library. Visit the library for details.

Thursday, July 1
Poetry open mike featuring Sonoma County poet laureate Terry Ehret from 7 p.m. in the Edith Stone Room at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave. Info: 526-3720.

Sunday, July 4
Summer Forum: Palestine and Israel 2004. Karen and Craig Scott, UUCB members, describe their visit to the Middle East last January 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Sunday, July 4
Fourth of July at the Berkeley Marina, noon-9:30 p.m. Free admission, alcohol-free event. Two stages of bands, arts & crafts, kid stuff.

Fireworks at 9:30pm. Sponsored by the City of Berkeley. Info: 548-5335.

Tuesday, July 6
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Sunday, July 11
Summer Forum: Significant Roles of the UN. Rita Moran of the United Nations Association speaks 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Tuesday, July 13
Preparing for Your Remodeling Project: A two-evening class will demystify the design and

construction process. Learn how to be prepared and organized and what to expect along the way. \$57/\$67, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue 6:30 p.m. To register: (510)524-9283. For information: (510)526-2100. Class repeats Aug 5.

Tuesday, July 13
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Wednesday, July 14
Drop-in Poetry Writing Workshop led by Albany poet and teacher Alison Seevak 7 p.m. in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave. Info: 526-3720.

Wednesday, July 14
Kensington Fire Protection District meets at 7:30 in the Kensington Community Center. Call to Confirm: 527-8395

Thursday, July 15
The Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District meets at 7:30

p.m. in the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 526-4141

Saturday, July 17
Chocolate Chip Cookie Tasting at the Albany Library 1247 Marin Ave. in the Edith Stone Room from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The event, sponsored by The Friends of the Albany Library, will raise money for new children's books for Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps, a non-profit, volunteer relief corps. Suggested donation for the tasting is \$5 per person and \$7 per family. A prize will be given to the baker of the most popular cookie in each of three categories. Entry forms available at the Albany Library reference desk.

Sunday, July 18
Summer Forum: What You and I Must Do For Peace. A presentation of the Peace Committee of UUCB 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Tuesday, July 20
El Cerrito author Margaret Judge reads from her book *Time and Time Again*, a debut novel about a young woman's struggle to survive parental sexual abuse, at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito. Info: 526-7512

Tuesday, July 20
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Saturday, July 24
Cub Scout Pack 82 Sign Up & Summer Swim Party from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the El Cerrito Swim Center. RSVP by July 15 at 525-1807. Info: 232-1087.

Sunday, July 25
Summer Forum: Current Activities of PSR. The Physicians for Social Responsibility bring us up to date on this organization which formerly focused solely on stopping nuclear war 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Tuesday, July 27
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, July 27
The El Cerrito Democratic Club meets at 7:30 p.m. in the downstairs conference room of the Northminster Presbyterian Church. The group will discuss the November ballot initiatives and voting on endorsements at this time also. All welcome.

Sunday, August 1
Summer Forum: Justice For All. Colleen Patrick-Goudreau, organizer of the UUFETA at the UU Church of Oakland speaks 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Tuesday, August 3
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Sunday, August 8
Summer Forum: The Story of Meena. Melody Chavez, author of the compelling narrative of the remarkable young woman, Meena, who founded the Revolutionary Association of Afghani Women speaks 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Tuesday, August 10
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Thursday, August 10
Susan Halpern, founder of the New York Cancer Help Program and author of "The Etiquette of Illness: What to Say When You Can't

WWWWhat?

Computer Literacy: a free series of programs at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue, teaches how to use a computer mouse, set up an e-mail account and do research online. The program runs Mondays at 7 p.m. The classes include computer basics, how to search online, how to set up a free e-mail account and more. Call to reserve a seat 524-3043.


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Kensington Calendar Continued

Find the Words" for a reading and discussion at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito. Info: 526-7512.

Wednesday, August 11
Kensington Fire Protection District meets at 7:30 in the Kensington Community Center. Call to Confirm: 527-8395

Thursday, August 12
The Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 526-4141

Sunday, August 15
Summer Forum: Current Difficulties of the school district. Patricia Player, President of the Board of Trustees of the West Contra Costa Unified School District, shares some of the pressing financial and other problems facing these schools 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Tuesday, August 17
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Sunday, August 22
Summer Forum: Accomplishments and Future of the UN. Chris O'Sullivan, UN historian, and recently returned from England with the Council on International Affairs, looks at the work and importance of the United Nations in the years to come 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Feed your soul and your stomach
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley mid-week gathering includes times for socializing (5:30-6 pm), sharing a meal (6-7 pm), worshiping (7-7:30 pm) and learning together in the Core Curriculum Programs (from 7:30-9 pm). Dinner reservations are required. Call the church office at 525-0302. The Core Curriculum Programs will include a series of sessions on UU heritage and values, Powerful Non-Defensive Communication, Community Building: Skills for Successful Group Process, Opening Our Hearts: Developing Spiritual Practices, and Higher Purpose. Contact the church at 525-0302 for more details.

Tuesday, August 24
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, August 24
The El Cerrito Democratic Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito, in the downstairs meeting room. After discussion, the club will vote on endorsements for the School Board of the West Contra Costa Unified School District. All welcome.

Wednesday, August 25
Pot luck dinner and read-through session of all the Fall music and Christmas music for the Arlington Community Church Choir will be held at the church. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and the read through begins at 7 p.m. The church is seeking singers for its choir. The only criterion is a pleasant singing voice and a desire to sing. Last names beginning with A to I should bring a main course; J-Q salad; R-Z dessert. Info: 843-7745

Sunday, August 29
Summer Forum: Gay Marriages. Robert Cromey, social activist, retired Episcopal priest, and founder of the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, discusses the controversies and ramifications of same-sex marriage 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Tuesday, August 31
Ventriloquist Tony Borders and his Australian Animal Puppets performs at the Kensington Library at 6:30 p.m. After the performance there will be a drawing to award a kangaroo puppet to one lucky child.

Thursday, August 31
Kensington Municipal Advisory Council meets at 7 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 273-9926

Wednesday, September 1
The newly formed Arlington Children's Choir will audition boys and girls ages 8 to 14 at 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 52 Arlington Ave. Your child should come prepared to sing a song of his or her choice. No previous experience is necessary, only a love of singing and a desire to perform. Additional auditions will be held September 8. Info: 843-7745

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