

Bringing The Community Together

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

JUNE 2009

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 5



Congratulations, Graduating H.S. Seniors!

Continuing our annual spring tradition, we'd like to congratulate the graduating high school seniors – those who live, or used to live, in Kensington, and all those who attended elementary school here for some or all grades – regardless of where they may currently live.

Below is a list of the seniors, including their current high school and the school they will be attending in the fall. (The photo, which was taken by Clif Taylor, can be ordered from *snappfish.com*.) Bon voyage, seniors – and good luck!

1st row, kneeling: Rexland Miller (NA, American River CC), Corey Scher (El Cerrito, UCB), Colin Toombs (El Cerrito, UCB), Stephanie Peters (Middle College High, Contra Costa), Denise Gaviria (Middle College, NA), Julia Ensler (NA, Berkeley CC), Courtney Collier (Albany, SFSU), Jared Jawad (El Cerrito, Cal State Maritime), Rebekah Irby (NA, Santa Rosa CC), Kasey Hamana (El Cerrito, SJSU), Matt Heslop, Zeke Wheeler (Salesian,

SJSU), Chris Silva (El Cerrito, UCSC), Sophie Baker (El Cerrito, UCSC), Roxanne Porter (St. Mary's, Sonoma), Rosario Martinez (Berkeley, Humboldt), Andrew Yun (Berkeley, UCSD).

1st row, standing: Tyler Burkhart (El Cerrito, Humboldt), Alec Takemiya (El Cerrito, SLO), Robert Luan (Berkeley, UCB), John Bennett (El Cerrito, SLO), Corey Tam (Leadership, SLO), Ray Schieh (Miramonte, UCSC), Elisa Jones (El Cerrito, Central Ore. CC), Jack Betterly-Kohn (Albany, SLO), Jordan Bishop (El Cerrito, SFSU), Emma Hodson (Berkeley, UCSD), Emily McAfee (St. Mary's, Swarthmore), Amelia Appell (St. Mary's, UCB), Caroline Vasco (Berkeley, UCSC), Dylan Bulkeley-Krane (Branson, Stanford), Stephen Erdman (St. Mary's, Chapman), Alison Green (St. Mary's, UCSB).

2nd row, standing: Derek Fukumori (Berkeley, Brown), Kasimir Brotz (Berkeley, Brown), Andrew Lowe (Berkeley, UCB), Justin Ow (Hercules, UCSD), Hugh Green (Head-Royce, Emory).

See Grads, page 5...

Inside: 'K' Groups Reference Guide • Annual KPOA Meeting Report

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'K' is for
Kensington

As an unincorporated area, Kensington has a variety of different public boards that oversee the business of running things on the local level. If you want to know what's going on around here, you'll want to be familiar with these groups. (See the Calendar section for meeting times.) Info: aboutkensington.com/government.html

Kensington Community Council (KCC)

Kensington Community Council (KCC) is a non-profit corporation that provides educational and recreational programs for the community, such as the Kensington After School Enrichment Program (KASEP), Summer Day Camp, and adult classes. KCC sponsors two annual fundraising events: the Spring Celebration and the Fall Picnic and Parade, and publishes the *Outlook* ten times a year, funded by advertising and the KCC's annual fund drive.

Overseen by a board of directors, KCC has traditionally served as an "umbrella" for Kensington community organizations. It's funded by contributions from the community, class fees, and *Outlook* advertising. aboutkensington.com/kcc.html

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD)

KPPCSD provides police protection services – including patrol, response to crimes in progress, traffic enforcement, first aid and CPR, investigations, warrant and subpoena service, and other law enforcement duties. KPPCSD also manages Kensington Park grounds and facilities (including rentals of the community center). The KPPCSD owns and manages the Kensington park and has a longstanding agreement with the KCC for use of the recreational building and community center, and for providing community recreational services. KPPCSD also contracts for garbage collection and solid waste disposal and recycling programs.

The District General Manager (currently Police Chief, Greg Harman) works under the oversight of a five-member board elected by the Kensington community to serve staggered four-year terms. KPPCSD is funded primarily via property and special police tax assessments, and occupies part of the public safety building under a rental arrangement with the KFPD. <http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/>

Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD)

Contracts with the City of El Cerrito for all fire prevention, fire suppression and emergency services provided to Kensington and maintains automatic response agreements with other West Contra Costa County fire agencies. The District public safety building houses two Kensington-owned fire engines, one specifically engineered for our steep, narrow streets, and the other, a wild land engine for use during high fire season.

The District recently completed a series of water system improvements (with EBMUD) to enhance the provision of water along the wild land interface and to optimize the placement of hydrants throughout the community.

KFPD provides paramedic and advanced life support services and delivers a Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT) program. Funding is provided by property tax revenues and a special tax approved by voters. KFPD is governed by a five-person board of directors elected by the voters. www.kensingtonfire.org.

Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC)

KMAC is an appointed advisory body to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors with a broad charge to advise the supervisors on county services and community concerns, and to serve as a liaison between the community and the District One Supervisor, John Gioia. KMAC collaborates with, and provides input and recommendations to, the County Community Development Department on matters related to land-use, planning, zoning, variance applications, code enforcement, and code changes. (If you want to make structural changes to your home that involve expanding its "envelope", KMAC will be the first reviewing body.) www.aboutkensington.com/kmac.html

Kensington Property Owners Association (KPOA)

KPOA is a non-profit organization that collects and disseminates information on issues affecting Kensington property owners. It publishes an annual directory, hosts an annual meeting of Kensington property owners, serves as key liaison to Contra Costa County and other bodies on infrastructure-related issues, such as road resurfacing, undergrounding of power lines, and other topics which require property owner input and coordination.

Membership is open to all property owners and annual member dues are used for educational outreach and to promote civic projects. KPAassoc@gmail.com

Happy Father's Day!

See K Groups, page 6...

Young's Kensington Market

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K E N S I N G T O N

OUTLOOK

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Classified ad rates are \$6 a line with a minimum of 2 lines at \$12. A line consists of 45 spaces or characters. An online ad form is available at: www.KensingtonOutlook.com, at the bottom of the back issues listings.

Please send all display and classified advertising mail to: *Kensington Outlook*
18 Kingston Rd. Kensington, CA 94707.
All other mail to: 59 Arlington Road, Kensington, CA 94707.

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Editorial Deadline.....June 10

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KPOA Meeting

Hardly a vacant seat could be found at the Community Center for the May 7th annual general meeting of the *Kensington Property Owners Association* – and no wonder, what with LAFCO nipping at the heels of the Fire District, the Police Protection District running an annual deficit, the County hinting that El Cerrito might someday annex us, the Contra Costa District Attorney threatening to stop prosecuting misdemeanors and “non-violent crimes,” and an early fire season upon us.

At the meeting, KPOA President, Gail Feldman, presented John Gioia, District One Supervisor, Bill Wright, President of the Police Protection Community Services District Board, Nina Ramsey, President of the Fire Protection District Board, and LAFCO Director, Louann Texiera – all to discuss the nature of the issues facing our community, and the options being explored to deal with them.

Supervisor Gioia reassured all residents that, despite threats from the District Attorney, the full range of crimes will continue to be prosecuted in Contra Costa County, as it has been in the past. He also clarified for the audience that, while two of the LAFCO Commissioners are also County Supervisors, LAFCO and the County are separate entities. (See the May *Outlook* for LAFCO details, online at aboutkensington.com, and/or the LAFCO web site: contracostalafco.org).

LAFCO Director, Louann Texiera, described the responsibilities of LAFCO – which include *Municipal Service Reviews* (MSR's) and evaluation of *Spheres of Influence* (SOI's); looking at population,

see KPOA, page 5...

Neighborhood Notes

First Friday Art Walk - Colusa Circle - June 5

Kensington is joining with other cities across the country, including Albany, to participate in *First Friday Art Walk*. Once a month on the first Friday, participating businesses stay open from 6-9pm and greet art lovers with art, music, wine and more! This month there will be street musicians, local artisans, and free refreshments at these participating businesses: Nan Phelps Gallery, Kroll Realty, Catharine Hiersoux Gallery, RabbitEARS, Circle Salon, Kensington Cobbler, Post Meridian Restaurant, and Faces Skin Studio.

Celia Concus Visits Australia

Alma Key, our advertising manager, suggested we run photos of Kensington residents reading The Outlook in cities around the world. Space allowing, that's just what we intend to do! Here's Marvin Gardens Real Estate agent, Celia, in front, reading The Outlook from front to back, in the Outback. Take The Outlook with you on your next trip and email us a photo in front of a local landmark!



Open Studios - Kensington

You can see the work of Kensington participating artists, including painter and photographer, David Kwett, and sculptor, Grayson Malone, in their local home studios, on June 6-7 and 13-14. (*East Bay Open Studios* holds its Preview Gala and Artists Reception on Thursday, June 4th at Jack London Square.) See Calendar for details. Info: 763-4361 or www.proartsgallery.org. Photo: David Kwett.



Earth Day - April 25th

Long-time friends of Kensington and The Outlook, Marvin Gardens Real Estate turned out to plant fifteen trees last month on Earth Day. Shown here are owners, Todd Hodson (also a KCC Board Member), Ron Egherman, and Marion Henon, with Mary Lou Loomis, friends, neighbors, and tree.



Donations Wanted

Donations of saleable items are always welcome and needed at *The Turnabout Thrift Shop*, 10052 San Pablo Avenue, in El Cerrito. New or gently used books, clothing, jewelry, linens and small household items are offered at the shop, run by the volunteers of the *Berkeley Clinic Auxiliary*. Local members Anna-Maria Hertzner (524-3225) and Diana Jones (527-9328) would be happy to pick up clean and suitable donations; or items may be dropped off at the shop Thursdays through Saturdays, 11am to 3pm. Proceeds mainly benefit BCA's orthodontia program for needy children in Berkeley or West Contra Costa County. For information about joining BCA and becoming a volunteer, call Anna-Maria or Diana, or drop by during store hours.

New Daisy Girl Scout Troop

Officer Doug Wilson (in black) with the recently formed Daisy Girl Scout Troop #32222 – fifteen kindergarteners from Kensington Hilltop School. Last month, Officer Wilson spoke to the group on the subject of “responsibility,” and being “honest and fair.” And who better to speak about such topics than one of Kensington's Finest? Pass the s'mores!



Beacon Hill Village Movement

Beacon Hill Village, a nonprofit organization, was founded by and for people age 50 and over who live in Boston. This organization helps seniors and the disabled continue to live healthy and meaningful lives in their own homes, rather than moving to assisted living facilities. The idea has spread down the East Coast, across the county, and as far away as Canada and Australia. There are villages soon to be up and running in the Bay Area. Local resident, Joan Gallegos, thinks it would be a good idea to incorporate that concept here in Kensington. More information online at www.beaconhillvillage.org, or contact Joan at 525-7962 if you'd like to get involved locally.

New Format for The Outlook

Compliance with new mailing regulations recently put into place by the post office has necessitated a change in the format of our newspaper. This modification allows us to continue to provide your paper at the same low, low rate (free!) and have it delivered in the most timely fashion. We hope you like our new look. Please send any compliments to the editor; complaints to the post office. Thanks for reading!

Coming Soon

1415 Devonshire Dr. El Cerrito
3+BR/2BA, Golden Gate Bridge views
and gorgeous garden.
Offered at \$768,000

55 Kenyon Ave. Kensington
Remodeled 3+BR/2BA with beautiful
garden and views.
Offered at \$750,000

Available Listings - El Cerrito Hills

6960 Fairview Drive
3BR/1.5BA S.F. and G.G. Bridge view \$635,000

8616 Edgchill Court
5BR/3BA Fabulous Bay Views! \$875,000

8436 Wildcat Drive
Prime lot with Regional Park land view \$299,000

Pending Sales - Kensington

12 Jessen Court - 5BR/3BA \$950,000 *
66 Eureka Avenue - 4BR/2BA \$825,000
642 Beloit Avenue - 5BR/2BA \$878,000
33 Edwin Drive - 4BR/3.5BA \$1,095,000**
*Pending bank approval
**Representing the buyer

Recent Sales

300 Vermont Ave. Berkeley 3BR/2BA
441 Michigan Ave. Berkeley 3BR/1.5BA
8715 Don Carol Dr. El Cerrito 4BR/2BA
246 Carmel Ave. El Cerrito 3+BR/1.5BA
421 Yale Ave. Kensington 2+BR/1BA
912 Everett St. El Cerrito 3BR/2BA

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K E N S I N G T O N

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KASEP

Spring session ends Friday, June 5th.
Office hours are Monday-Friday,
10am to 4pm. We can be reached at
(510) 525-0292 or kccrec@yahoo.com.

KCC Summer Camp

Please call (510) 525-0292 to register for
summer camp. (Registration forms are
available at www.aboutkensington.com.)

Located in the East Bay hills at 59
Arlington Avenue in Kensington,
the Kensington Community Council
(KCC) Summer Day Camp is for chil-
dren entering first through sixth grades
in fall 2009. The camp runs June 15
through August 21, 2009, Monday
through Friday from 9am-5pm. Camp-
ers may enroll on a weekly basis. Cost
per week is \$205. To ensure the best
experience for each child, our camp has
a maximum of 62 children per week. We
employ one director, a head counselor,
eight counselors, a tennis instructor,
and a *specialty consultant* each week to
work with the campers. Extended day
care is available 8-9am and 5-5:30pm
each day for an additional \$7 fee paid
to our camp director.

- Each week the campers will enjoy:
- Field trip on Wednesday by private
bus to points of interest around the
Bay Area such as Scandia, Water
World, the Exploratorium and the
Jungle.
 - Special activities such as carpentry,
gymnastics, golf, dance and cooking.
 - Tennis with Kim Roots, three days
per week.
 - Games, arts & crafts, hiking and fun!

SUMMER CAMP SPECIAL



ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE*

- Week 1, June 15-June 19, Carpentry
with Sandy Thacker; field trip to The
Jungle.
- Week 2, June 22-June 26, Carpentry
with Sandy Thacker; field trip to Lake
Anza.
- Week 3, June 29-July 3, Environmen-
tal Art with Chris Lack; field trip to
Oakland Zoo.
- Week 4, July 6-July 10, Golf with Alex
Brown; field trip to The Explorato-
rium.
- Week 5, July 13-17, Gymnastics with
Judy Baker; field trip to Scandia.

- Week 6, July 20-24, Gymnastics with
Judy Baker; field trip to Oakland A's
game.
- Week 7, July 27-31, Hip Hop with Tati
Argue; field trip to Lake Temescal.
- Week 8, Aug. 3-7, Sports and Games
w/Kim Roots; field trip to Waterworld.

Week 9, Aug. 10-14, Cooking with
Janet Martorano; field trip to Pier 39/
Alcatraz/Aquarium.

Week 10, Aug. 17-21, Cooking with
Janet Martorano; field trip to The
Jungle.

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

ADULT CLASSES

New Location for Summer!

User-Friendly Pilates

Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt
Wednesdays 7:30-8:30pm



Series of 7 classes starting June 17 and
continuing through July 29. Students
may join after 1st class, space permit-
ting. Please call instructor for info.

This class is for anyone who wants an
introduction to Pilates and for those
who want to get stronger without get-
ting hurt. Your core muscles protect
your spine and prepare you for strenu-
ous activities. Developing core strength
involves engaging your deepest abdom-
inal, lumbar, and pelvic floor muscles.
Where: Kensington Community
Center (*Youth Hut*)

Minimum of 7 students required
for class; Cost: \$84 for seven classes
(residents); Non-residents add \$1 sur-
charge. Please register with KCC.

The instructor, Ernie Adams, pres-
ents an intelligent, less stressful way
of learning Pilates and has 16 years
experience specializing in movement
education and injury prevention. He
is a Certified Pilates Instructor and
Feldenkrais® Practitioner with an
extensive background as a professional
dancer.

In addition to private practice, Ernie
Adams has many years clinical expe-
rience collaborating with physical
therapists and chiropractors to treat
orthopedic, neurological, and dance

and sports injuries. These include
improving walking, balance, posture,
back care, scoliosis, MS, CP, Parkin-
son's, traumatic brain injury and
stroke, repetitive strain and chronic
pain, and movement re-education. He
offers individual sessions and classes
at his offices in Albany and El Cerrito.



Ernie Adams

For more information about the class,
please contact Ernie at (510) 619-9223
or adams@bodyinaction.com. Website is
www.bodyinaction.com.

Yoga for Health

Tuesdays 9:15-10:30am

Harmonize your body, mind and spirit.
This class involves 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
prior experience required – all ages
welcome. Please bring a mat to class.

Where: Kensington Community Center
(*Youth Hut*)

Fees: For residents: \$15 for drop-in;
\$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresi-
dents please add \$1 surcharge. To regis-
ter, call the KCC office at 525-0292.

Meditative Yoga Series

Thursdays, 7-8pm

The summer class will explore gentle,
resotrative, and relaxing yoga poses,
with a short meditation in each class.

Where: Room A in the Recreation
Building (Building E)

Fees: \$55 for a series of 5 classes: June
18, 25, July 9, 16, 23. Pre-registration
recommended.

For questions about the class content,
please contact Instructor Claire Lavery
at 681-3077. For questions about regis-
tration or location, please call KCC at
525-0292.

See a very short video about our camp,
filmed by Kensington Hilltop graduate
and Kensington resident, Beau Cardall:
www.kccdaycamp.com

*Spaces are still available in camp
if you'd like to register for the summer!*

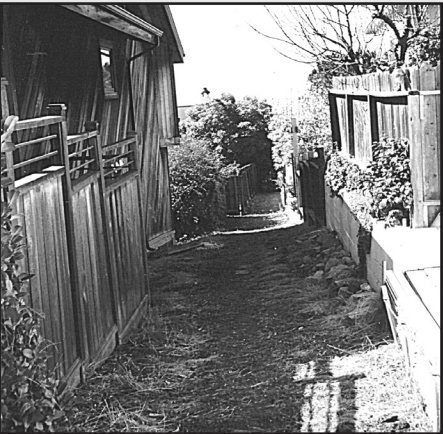
Registration

To Register for Classes:
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 9am. Call
the KCC office at 525-0292 for tennis
court reservation information.

Tennis Court fees:
Residents – \$2 for a 45-minute singles
reservation. Nonresidents – \$5.

Community Center Rental:
For information on renting the
Kensington Community Center, please
call KPPCSD (the Kensington Police
Protection and Community Services
District) at 526-4141.



Discover the
Kensington
Pathways

Afternoon Stroll
Saturday, June 27th, 1-3pm

1pm at Grizzly Peak Road
and Kenyon Avenue (for those
interested in walking to Hilltop
School on the woodland ridge
trail bordering Tilden Park);

OR 1:30pm at Hilltop School,
Highland Avenue at Kensington
Park Road, where the path walk
begins.

Paul Grunland, veteran *Berke-
ley Historical Society* and *Path-
ways* walking tour guide, and
local Kensington resident, Kris
Hafner, will lead a walk on sev-
eral of the historic pathways
established during Kensing-
ton's early development to serve
as shortcuts between winding
streets. This walk will focus
on paths east of the Arlington,
some of which are hidden and
overgrown, while others are
maintained and used frequently
by local residents.

Come prepared for steep up
and downhills on often unpaved
trails. Information: Call Kris
Hafner at 847-1159. Free.

... *KPOA* from page 3

present infrastructure needs and deficiencies, service gaps and overlaps, the status of shared resources, and opportunities for operational efficiencies.

There is currently a tentative LAFCO recommendation pending for the KFPD’s SOI to be incorporated into the KPPCSD – effectively merging the Fire District into the Police/Community Service District.

An MSR has been completed for the Fire District, and a similar review is in process for the Police/Community Services District, to be completed this summer. LAFCO sub-committees are deciding when – and with whom – they’ll meet, prior to finalizing their recommendation.

A query about the potential for tax rebates of any monies saved through consolidation of the two districts yielded this from Texiera: “There are provisions in the taxation and revenue code that pertain to the allocations and what happens in the event of a (SOI) boundary change.” She admitted that, in her ten years at the helm, she was not aware of a reduction of assessments resulting from a consolidation.

Texiera’s mention that Kensington currently lies within the SOI of El Cerrito – which means that it’s possible that at some time in the future an attempt may be made to annex Kensington to El Cerrito – raised many an eyebrow in the audience.

According to Texiera, LAFCO actions are subject to a vote by the residents its actions affect, so, while threats to the autonomy of our Fire District and to that

of Kensington remaining an unincorporated area are real, she assured residents that the configurations of the police and fire departments – and that of the town itself – are ultimately the decision of those who live here. She invited interested parties to attend LAFCO meetings, call, mail, and/or email the LAFCO Commissioners.

The current LAFCO issue has brought increased focus on the budgets for the police and fire districts. Bill Wright, President of the KPPCSD Board, reported that, on average, the Police District receives about \$700 a year per household from property tax revenue (some quite a bit higher and some lower), and another \$300 per household from the special police assessment tax – in total, approx. \$1,000 each. With revenues flat and expenses growing, largely as a result of maintaining a fully staffed independent police force, the District will have a 2009/2010 deficit that could be approx. \$200 per household.

According to Wright, options to bridge that gap include: increasing the special assessment from the \$300 per household to approximately \$500 (subject to a vote of the community); laying off one or two officers; contracting with another municipality to provide police services (as the Fire District contracts with El Cerrito for fire protection services); consolidation of the police and fire districts (*a la* LAFCO); and/or becoming more efficient and effective in using resources for income – such as renting out buildings in the park – though, Bill noted, such income was expected to be difficult to increase in the

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- Jennifer Jonak
- Estelle Kent
- Linda Lipscomb
- Stuart Marson
- Lorraine Osmundson
- Gene Millstein

current recession. The board plans to hold a series of public meetings before making a decision on how best to proceed.

The KPPCSD currently has approximately \$1.5 million in liquid reserves, with \$800,000 allocated for future allowances that have to be kept aside for personnel costs, commitments related to the Bay View Refuse contract, and to building commitments; leaving about \$700,000 (or \$350 per household) for District use.

Further complicating matters has been recent discussion of potential State-initiated “borrowing” of property taxes

collected by local municipalities, which would result in an add’l \$100,000 deficit.

There are currently 9 police officers, 1 chief, reserve officers, and administrative staff on payroll. Each officer costs the district approx. \$150,000 annually, including salary, health, and retirement benefits.

In response to a query about the hiring by the board of attorneys and special consultants to advise the district, Bill reported, “(the board is) dealing with personnel

... *See KPOA* page 6

Obituaries

Edward Setchko passed away March 25th in Napa, California. He lived in Kensington for 37 years with his wife, Penny, and five children, Marc, Kip, Robin, Jan and Dirk, who attended Kensington School. He will be missed.

Clyde W. Henry, Jr., a charismatic figure in the northern California steel industry, died of cardiac arrest, age 81, on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at his home in Kensington. Born in San Francisco in 1928, he earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering, and served with the U.S. Army in Germany, from 1951-53. He then worked in the steel industry until retiring to his home in Kensington in 2000. He was an avid golfer, a member of his high school and college alumni associations, the Delta Chi Fraternity, the Assoc. of General Contractors and the World Dredging Assoc.

Clyde is survived by his first wife, Joan Benton Barber, and his second, Margaret; five children, six grandchildren, two brothers, and two cousins. He loved his family, his home, classical music, good books, wine, sports, and many great, great friends. He was a vigorous and devoted walker of the Kensington-Berkeley hills, engaging and entertaining those he found along his route. Clyde was a warm and open man who truly will be missed.

Phyllis Ruby Pencovic Maslan, resident of Kensington since 1952, passed away on April 30th. She died peacefully at home, surrounded by her family.

A native of San Francisco, Phyllis lived her entire life in the Bay Area, punctuated by frequent travels around the world. She worked many years as a medical social worker in various agencies and continued volunteering her time after retirement, in Contra Costa County.

An avid reader, perpetual student, tenacious bridge player, skilled writer, and wonderful cook, Phyllis’ many avocations enriched her life as well as that of her family and friends. Her many interests enabled her to establish new friendships throughout her life while remaining loyal

to her many old friends. Phyllis cherished her family, and was known for her generous spirit, quick wit, and wry sense of humor, all of which continued to shine through even during her final illness.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband of 47 years, Jack Maslan. She is survived by her three daughters, Sharon Bushnell, Marsha Maslan and Candy Smith, her grandchildren, Megan and David, her sister, Janice Silverman, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws. She will be deeply missed by the many whose lives she touched.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Early Childhood Mental Health Program, 4101 Macdonald Ave., Richmond, CA 94805. www.ecmhp.org

Helen Ellis Thiele (April 21, 1920 - April 23, 2009), was born on a farm in Illinois. Helen had decided by age 5 that one day she would leave home for the bigger world. After graduating from Western Illinois Normal, she became a *Harvey Girl* working as a railroad waitress during WWII. Later, during the war, she also taught English to internees at the Japanese Relocation Center in Poston, Arizona. After the war she moved to Hawaii where she met and married Bob Thiele.

Helen’s teaching career spanned 33 years, 25 of them in Berkeley. She loved teaching and both of her daughters became teachers. She was an active member of Northbrae Community Church.

She is survived by daughters, Beverly and Natalie; and son-in-law Cres Gilbert. Helen will be missed.

A Memorial Service was held at Northbrae Community Church, on Saturday, May 16th. Donations may be sent to: *Nat’l Parkinson Foundation* (800-327-4545).

Berton H. Wilson, long-time Kensington Resident, passed away peacefully on April 11, 2009. A memorial celebrating his life will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 2pm at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. (Please see next month’s *Outlook* for full obituary.)

*Obituaries are run on a space-avalable basis.
E-mail to Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com*

... *Grads* from page 1

Back row and stairs: Jack Mazzera (El Cerrito, SLO), Joel Bovey (El Cerrito, SFSU), Zak Altenburg (Berkeley, UCSB), Elly Ghodsi (Bayer High, Southern Ore. U), Julia Cotteral (El Cerrito, UCD), Leticia Miner (Kentwood High, UCD), Aimee Alejandre (Berkeley, UCSC), Heather Alarab (Liberty High, UC Merced), Finianne Umali (Pleasant Hill Adventist, undecided), Leah Forrest (El Cerrito, Southern Ore. U), Rachel Dunaway (El Cerrito, UCB), Chelsea Elliott (El Cerrito, U of O), Ainsley Blattel (El Cerrito, UCSC), Alec Scott (Head-Royce, Carleton), Becky Fitch (El Cerrito, U of O), Asher Litschwartz (Berkeley, UCSC), Josh Magid (Jewish Community High, Columbia/List).

Not Pictured: Daniel Bayer, Sam Best, Nina Budaeva, Tom Buell (Central Wash U.), Akira Chin, Sam Chordas (US Army), Anthony Combs, Meredith Comnes (U of O), Taran Crawford, Carlo Cresci, Ian Crook, Sophia Dandele, Claire Dedrick (UCSD), Daniela del Pinal, Skye Elvin, Franchele Erving, Stephanie Escobar, Sky

Eurich, Emma Fineman, Michael Firestone, Misheel Ganbat, Miles Gardner, Don Gordon, Giacomo Guamieri, Safia Guergah, Assafa Harris, Lea Hernandez, Stacie Hettrick, Wayland Hoang, Wennie Hoang, Bryon Hoffman, Ronald Hua, Jeffrey Alex Jones (Chico), Simone Jones, Clarke Jones, Sarah Kahl, Mateusz Karbowiak, Jeremy Kary, Mary Koro, Emily Korwin, Anson Leung, Yuan Hung Lin, Yanaki Lopez, Robert Marchant, Jake Masterson, Luis Mata, Devin McBain, Phenix Messersmith, Gazelle Moinzadeh, Jessica Moore, Amane Nara, Kristin Osterholt, Elana Pera, Tamika Pettigrove, Steve Phrasavath, Nicola Pilcher, Will Provost, Jessica Reynolds, Katy Ross, Erica Salmeron, Nadeer Sarid, Jaguar Sasmito, Rebecca Simon (Berkeley CC), Kathleen Solano, Fumiaki Tagawa, Amir Thomas, Ryan Thomas, Will Thomson, Millie Triano, Trevor Warrenburg (ASU), Dorian Webster, Ben Weston (UC Santa Cruz), Ze’ev Wichner, Jared Wong, Deanna Woods, Shyla Wynn, Tiffany Xu, Katherine Ybarra.

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Fundraising Drive: KEF

Thanks to community members who value public education, KEF has already received nearly \$2300 from residents who do *not* have children at Kensington Hilltop Elementary!

To reduce paper and mailing costs, instead of mailing over 5000 letters to all the homes in the school's attendance area, this year the *Kensington Education Foundation* sent letters only to *new* homeowners, as well as to prior community donors.

KEF is now close to reaching its goals for the Community Neighborhood Drive, which helps maintain the school's enrichment programs (science lab, art, Read Naturally, PE enrichment, primary vocal music, primary computer lab and more!).

KEF encourages and welcomes tax-deductible contributions of any size, from all community members. Please send your donation to: *Kensington Education Foundation*, 90 Highland Blvd., Kensington, 94708. Call Kathryn McCarthy 526-1130.

... K Groups from page 2

Kensington Improvement Club (KIC) is dedicated to promoting and fostering the general welfare of the community and to cooperating with county and local authorities on necessary community improvements, including installation of the Kensington Kiosk, the community sign boards on the Arlington, community landscaping design, planting and maintenance projects, and trashcan replacement in the business districts. KIC hosts an annual Town Hall Meeting and an annual Forum for Candidates and Issues. It published *Kensington Past and Present* and the *Kensington Earthquake Booklet*. KIC is currently looking into the issues of undergrounding power lines and a Kensington Centennial project.

The KIC welcomes the involvement of all Kensington residents and property owners. <http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/kensington-improvement-club>

The Friends of the Kensington Library is dedicated to improving library services. Through membership donations and book sale earnings, the *Friends* provides books, tapes, magazines, and compact discs, and supports children's and cultural programs for the community. *Friends* helps with exhibits, programs, membership development, volunteer coordination, fundraising, book sales and sorting, and publicity. aboutkensington.com/fkl.html

Kensington Education Foundation (KEF) is a non-profit corporation that provides enrichment programs for Kensington Hilltop Elementary School and funding for supplemental classroom supplies, a discretionary grant to each teacher for curriculum enhancements, and annual, one-time funding for special school proj-

see K Groups, page 9...

... KPOA from page 5

and communication issues, and the structure of the Police Dept. We're bringing in a former police chief as a consultant, to help deal with these items. Legal expenses (2-3% of the District's budget), have been incurred to deal with personnel issues."

Nina Ramsey, President of the Kensington Fire Protection District Board, also provided a concise report on the KFPD. "The District is on track financially *because* we contract with El Cerrito for fire services – a contract which expires in 2012. (Regarding the) supposed surplus, most of the money we get goes to contract for fire service. Considering our reserves a "surplus" doesn't take into account the legally mandated 6-month reserve for that contract, capital replacement funds for the public safety building, previous fire fighters' benefits, or engine maintenance and

replacement (at over \$650,000 each)."

Nina pointed out that the Fire District reserves are actually diminishing over time, "due to expenses increasing, while taxes are not." She informed those in attendance that the recent water system improvements have not yet been tested – which could mean additional costs to fix any undiscovered problems – "because it's a drought and we don't want to waste the water needed to test it."

She also provided an update on the public safety building (which houses the Fire and Police Departments, at 217 Arlington Ave.), including details of a major overhaul in 1998 and a seismic upgrade in 2004. The office portion of the building is presently being reinforced. The Fire District anticipates the building will need over \$150,000 in improvement and repairs in the next year (of which a portion is expected to be paid by the Police Dis-

trict, as has been the case in the past.)

The KPOA board of directors meets quarterly, with an annual meeting for all property owners every spring. 525-1709


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Kensington Court	4	3	\$599,000
Rincon Road	3	2	\$695,000
Trinity Avenue	4	2	\$895,000
Edwin Drive	4	3	\$1095,000
Arlington Avenue	4	2	\$1,250,000

This information is taken from public records and deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

Elected Boards

KCC – June 1st
Kensington Community Council
1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

KFPD - June 10th
Fire Protection District
2nd Wednesday, 7:30pm. 527-8395.

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

KMAC - June 30th
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tuesdays, 7pm. 273-9926

Volunteer Organizations

Friends of the Kensington Library
7pm at the Kensington Library, 61
Arlington Ave. 1st Tues. – June 2

KIC - June 22nd
Kensington Improvement Club
4th Mondays, 7:30pm.

KPOA
Property Owners Assoc.
One annual general spring member-
ship meeting; Board of Directors
meets quarterly. 525-1709

KARO
Amateur Radio Operators
Provides assistance to community
emergency response teams in the
case of natural disasters. Actively
soliciting new members interested
in operating amateur radios as a
community service. 2nd Mondays
of alternate months. 524-9815

Online Neighborhood Newsgroup
http://groups.google.com/group/
kensingtontips?hl=en

Calendar Submissions

We include events on a space-available
basis. Submissions in the format of the
calendar items above are appreciated.

Calendar@KensingtonOutlook.com.

June 1 “Castoffs” Knitting Group. All
levels welcome and some help pro-
vided. 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library,
61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. Free.

June 1-30 Art Exhibit: Students of El
Cerrito Canyon Trail Art Center’s
acrylic landscapes on canvas, spon-
sored by Friends of the Library. Kens-
ington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue.
Info: 237-0112; Hours: 524-3043

June 2, 9, 23, & 30 Family Storytime.
Best for preschool and up. Kensington
Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7 pm. Free.
524-3043.

June 3, 10, 17, 14 Wake Up To Al-Anon.
7-8am. Fireside Room, Arlington Com-
munity Church, 52 Arlington Avenue.

June 4 Open Studios Preview Gala and
Artists Reception. Preview 6-8pm (\$);
Reception 8-10pm (Free). 550 Second
Street, Jack London Square, Oakland.
www.proartsgallery.org. or 763-4361

June 4, 11, & 18 Babies & Toddlers Sto-
rytime. For young children and their
caregivers. Kensington Library, 61
Arlington Ave. 10:15am & 11:15am. (2
identical sessions). 524-3043. Free.

June 5 Mini-Concert: Bay Area Classi-
cal Harmonies conducted by Andrew
Chung. Arlington Community Church,
52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. \$15/
door. 526-9146.

June 5 First Friday Kensington Art
Walk. Participating Colusa Circle
businesses stay open late with street
musicians, free refreshments, and dis-
play of the work of these talented local
artists: architecture photographer,
Treve Johnson; stonework jeweler,
Sahaja Cuvaj; acclaimed ceramicists,
Catharine Hiersoux and Mila Visser
’tHooft; matchbook cover artist, Mary
Patterson; painter and sculptor, Step-
hanie Cline; watercolorist, Cody Turtle;
nature photographer, Genevieve Sand-
ers; and the world-renowned papier-
mache mask makers of Portola Middle
School. Colusa Circle, 6-9pm. Free.



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June 6 Kensington Symphony. Geof-
frey Gallegos, Conductor. Daniel
Glover, piano soloist. Khachaturian,
Rossini, Beethoven. 8 p.m. Unitarian-
Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road,
Kensington. Suggested donation: \$15;
Seniors \$12; Children free. 524-9912.
Kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org.
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June 6-7 & 13-14 Open Studios, Kens-
ington: Sculptor, Grayson Malone, 281
Grizzly Peak Blvd., & artist/photogra-
pher, David Kwett, 16 Beverly Ct. Both
11am-6pm. https://db.proartsgallery.
org/ebosGallery_09php or 763-4361.

June 7, 14, 21, 28 Farmers’ Market.
Every Sunday from 10am-2pm.
Oakview Avenue at the Colusa Circle.
farmersmarket@aboutkensington.com
or 524-5604.

June 8 Latin American Music with
Rafael Manriquez. Vocals with guitar,
charango, cuatro, and tiple. Kensington
Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free.

June 8 Summer Reading 2009 @ Your
Kensington Library. Babies through
teens can read (or be read to) and win
great prizes. Adults can read and enter
a raffle. Ages 3 and up. Kensington
Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 3:30pm.
524-3043. Free.

June 13 Dance to traditional jazz played
by the Gateswingers Jazz Band at 33
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10086 San Pablo Ave. at Central, El
Cerrito. 7:30pm. 898-1836.

June 13-14 39th Annual Live Oak Park
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www.liveoakparkfair.com or 227-7110.

June 16 The Red Panda Acrobats.
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presents Wayne Huey in a spectacular
performance incorporating exceptional
acrobatic skills, traditional Chinese
music, and colorful costumes. Ages 3
and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arling-
ton Ave. 6:30pm. 524-3043. Free.

June 20 Daffy Dave the Clown. Friends
of the Kensington Library sponsors
the popular Daffy Dave, in celebra-
tion of our Summer Reading Program.
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave.
3:30pm. 524-3043. Free.

June 20 Celebrate RabbitEARS 5th
Birthday and Small Critter Adop-
tion Party! Storewide sale and crit-
ters galore; 1-4pm. RabbitEARS, 377
Colusa Avenue. 525-6155

June 22 Book Club: Discussion of *People
of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. Kens-
ington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm.
Free. 524-3043. (4th Mondays)

June 27 Discover Kensington Path-
ways. 1:00 (or 1:30) to 3pm. Join
hike leaders for a walk along his-
toric Kensington pathways. Free. See
Kensington Community Education
(pg 4) for details, or call 847-1159.



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Kensington Outlook Classified

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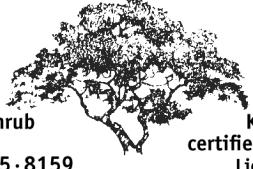
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... K Groups from page 6

ects. Programs have been offered in science, art, reading, music, computer skills, math and physical education.

The KEF Board is elected by KEF members and includes the principal,

a teacher representative, and representatives of the *Dads Club*, the Parent/Teachers Association, and The School Site Council. www.kensingtonhilltop.org/kef

Other Community Resources. See www.kensingtonoutlook.com for the web sites or phone numbers for these neighborhood groups: Kensington Library, Kensington Hilltop Elementary School, Kensington Nursery School, Dad's Club, PTA, Skytown Parent Cooperative Preschool, Growing Light Montessori, Arlington Preschool, Claremont Day Nursery, Arlington Community Church, Universal Unitarian Church of Berkeley, Kensington Symphony Orchestra, Kensington Business and Professional Association, and Kensington Seniors.

This is an excerpt of an article by Kensington resident, Kristine Hafner, recently retired Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer of the U.C. Office of the President. The entire article is available at www.kensingtonoutlook.com.

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