

Bringing The Community Together

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

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

JUNE 2012

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 69 NUMBER 5



Congrats, Graduating High School Seniors!

Continuing the *Outlook's* annual spring tradition, we'd like to congratulate our graduating high school seniors – those who live, or used to live, in Kensington, and all those who attended Kensington Hilltop School for all or part of their elementary school experience.

Below is a list of the seniors, including their current high school and the school they will be attending in the fall. Bon voyage seniors – and good luck! Many thanks to Wenyan Petersen, the photographer and Kensington parent volunteer.

1st Row: Melinda Lyall (Albany, UC Davis); Irene Tait (El Cerrito, Vassar College); Sophia Siegel (Maybeck, Humbolt State University); Zoe Altenberg (Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara); Naomi Burkhart (El Cerrito, UC Santa Barbara);

Roschelle Hood (El Cerrito, College of Marin); Jenna Guffy (Berkeley, UC Davis); Jennie Walstrom (El Cerrito, UC Berkeley); Leticia Iversen (Tilden Prep, Undecided).

Bottom to Top of Stairs: Elliot Spector (El Cerrito, Chico State); Henry Ward (St. Mary's HS, Saint Mary College) Jordan Riker (St. Mary's HS, San Diego State); Aidan Brorsen (El Cerrito, UC Santa Barbara); Colin Bashor (Albany, UC Berkeley); Charlie Davis (Berkeley, UC Berkeley); Jimmy Duval (Berkeley, University of Miami); Koji Ushigusa (CPS, Seattle University); Thomas Miller (El Cerrito, UCLA); Julian Levine (Albany, UC San

see Grads, Page 8...

Summer Fun
at the KCC
Family Movie
Night

To kick off the summer in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council is trying something new!

For years, our neighboring communities have held family movie nights in the summer with great success. Now it is our turn to join the fun! The KCC is having its first-ever *Family Movie Night Fundraiser* on Saturday, June 9th at the Community Center.

Thanks to generous help from Pixar Studios and our two local sponsors, Mechanics Bank and Marvin Gardens, we will be showing *Toy Story 3* on an outdoor screen. The movie will start at 8:30pm, but we are encouraging families to come at 7:30 with a picnic dinner and join neighbors and friends. Bring everything you

see Movie, Page 4...



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Listing agent: Holly Rose





831 Hearst Avenue Berkeley

Stroll to 4th Street! Lovely 2+br/1.5ba w/remod kitchen, charming breakfast rm, liv rm with fireplace. Beautifully landscaped yd. Backyd studio perfect for guest cottage or office. \$525,000.

Listing agent: Sheri Madden

NEW ART EXHIBIT: “San Francisco Bay – Portrait of an Estuary”

We are pleased to exhibit a selection of David Sanger’s photographs from his book “San Francisco Bay – Portrait of an Estuary” with author John Hart (UC Press). David has photographed for editorial and commercial clients all over the world. We are hosting a reception for the photographer Friday, June 8th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Please join us!



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Putting a Dollar
Value on Safety

Dear Chief Harman,

Thank you for taking the time to provide crime statistics in the May 2012 edition of the *Kensington Outlook*. As a recent resident and first time homeowner, here’s my take on the situation. From 2001 to 2010 Kensington averaged 3 violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and assault) and 132 property crimes (burglary, theft, auto theft and arson) per year, respectively. My data is from www.city-data.com, and appears to match your DOJ data. Also, please note that we had no murders, 1 rape, and 2 arsons during that entire period.

Using your clearance rates, this means that, in an average year, 2 of the 3 violent crimes and 22 of the 132 property crimes are solved. For 2010/2011 our 2,200 (+/-) households contributed most of your budget of approximately \$2.5 million, or \$1,100 per household on average. Dividing your budget by the number of crimes means we pay on average \$18,000+ per crime and \$100,000+ per cleared crime. Where do we go from here? I don’t know but hope that these numbers can help facilitate a constructive discussion and lead to changes which benefit our community.

Casey Bowden
16 Highland Blvd.

‘Yes’ on Measure K June 5

Dear Editor:

Most people in Kensington are probably aware that Measure K, which is on the June 5th ballot, is needed to maintain small class sizes, science laboratories, librarians, and many crucial programs at Kensington Hilltop School. District funding provides the core academics that have helped to make Hilltop a highly ranked, desirable school. Most residents probably also know that our extraordinary school helps support home prices that are over \$450 per square foot in Kensington, while the county-wide average is \$150 per square foot (source: redfin.com). This is the dividend earned by Kensington residents for having supported Kensington Hilltop School over so many years!

Fewer residents realize that passing Measure K will require every “YES” vote that we can garner here in Kensington. The campaign’s success relies on heavy turnout in school- and family-friendly communities like Kensington.

We, the presidents of parent groups at Kensington Hilltop, write today to urge every Kensington resident to vote for Measure K on June 5th. Even if there is no other issue that brings you to the polls on June 5th – please go and vote for Measure K. If you vote by absentee ballot, please mail in your “YES” vote today. The Measure will add only \$44 per year to the average property tax bill in Contra Costa County, while supporting home prices in Kensington that are \$400,000 over the county median. Property tax bills for those over the age of 65 need not increase at all, as Measure K provides a senior exemption for those requesting it. Far more importantly, the measure will

help to provide a quality education for our children and future citizens.

Sincerely yours,

Felicia Robertson. President, Kensington Hilltop PTA; Dennis Hartigan-O’Connor, Co-President, Kensington Education Foundation; Nathalie Van Linder, Co-President, Kensington Education Foundation; Robert Dunn, Co-President, Kensington Hilltop Dads’ Club; Glenn Flinchbaugh, Co-President, Kensington Hilltop Dads’ Club; Meg Shean, President, School Site Council

Just Don’t Depress Us

Dear Editor,

I believe Mr. Morrow owes an apology to all Kensington residents for being depressing. He writes that two board members left a meeting “to show disrespect.” He says they attempted intimidation. These are just two of his opinions he presents as if they were established facts. Ironically he characterizes a statement one of them made as “particularly inflammatory and slanderous.” I think we all get it – Mr. Morrow doesn’t like these women. This isn’t 7th grade, I’d appreciate Mr. Morrow keeping his unpleasant opinions to himself.

Anna Shane
Ardmore Road

‘Yes, Yes’ on Measure K

Dear Editor,

I am writing to encourage the entire Kensington community to come out and “Vote YES ON K” on Tuesday June 5th. We desperately need you to show up and vote to pass this critical school funding measure.

Measure K is not a new tax. It is an extension of an existing parcel tax and a very slight increase. This small increase will only contribute \$4 million more to the district, but that amount will be enough to sustain key classroom programs. The average homeowner will pay \$44 per year, or 12 cents per day. There is a senior exemption.

In the past five years, our district has lost \$40 million in state funding. We are operating on less than a shoestring here. My son has over 30 kids in his 5th grade class; my daughter, 28 in her kindergarten class. Class size at Portola Middle School is close to 40 kids. Nope, not a typo...40 kids.

With this funding, the district will be able to decrease class size, retain teachers, keep some sort of art and music alive, and keep sports and librarians. Without the funding, all the monies that pay for librarians, high school athletics, middle and high school counselors will disappear. Oh, and hard to believe, we’ll have even bigger class sizes too.

There is a wonderful renaissance happening at our long-troubled Portola Middle School. Last year, Kensington was the largest feeder school into Portola. They have a great principal, Mr. Burnham. who is trying hard to turn that school around. He really needs our support. The funding will help him to lower class size and keep

See Letters, Page 9...

The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors. They 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 telephone number. Publication is subject to space limitations. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. (Please note that modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after all periods.)

K E N S I N G T O N

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Kensington Community Council’s After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) offers a wide variety of children’s classes for kindergarten through sixth grades. Classes are kept small so that our talented instructors can focus on each student, giving individual as well as group instruction. Class sessions are either 10 or 12 weeks long.

The FALL KASEP Registration and catalog of classes will be on our website, www.AboutKensington.com, late August 2012. In addition, KASEP Registration Packets will be sent home the last week in August from your child’s teacher at Hilltop Elementary. Check the backpacks!

KASEP Registration night is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11th. FALL KASEP classes start Monday, September 24th and run until December 14, 2012. Lottery slips are due at the office by noon, Monday September 10th. Questions? For more information contact Marty Westby at KCC email kccrec@yahoo.com, or call 525-0292. Walk-In: KCC Recreation Building Office, Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm.

Thank you, parents, for a wonderful, creative, and full year of KASEP activities. Your children have made some amazing things during KASEP classes – treasures! Have a safe summer. Hope to see you at this year’s KCC Summer Day Camp.

KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP 2012

Summer Day Camp reservations are on a first come, first served, space available basis. Good News: there is a limited number of spaces left in each of the summer camp weeks! Plan now and call 525-0292 to lock-in your week.

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Ave. in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering 1st through 6th grades in the Fall 2012. The camp runs from June 11th through August 17, 2012, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00pm. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. Cost is \$225 per week/per camper. There is a 5% sibling discount. Extended care 8:00 - 9:00am and 5:00 - 6:00pm is available for an additional fee.

Each week, campers enjoy a field trip by private bus to points of interest around the Bay Area, such as Angel Island, Scandia, Oakland Zoo, and the *Bladium* in Alameda. Kim Roots, our KASEP tennis instructor, continues to teach campers tennis 3 days a week. Different hand-on crafts, such as carpentry, jewelry making, cooking, and engineering are afternoon workshops taught by talented specialty teachers.

KCC Summer Camp Registration forms can be downloaded from the website www.AboutKensington.com

Thanks continue to our
KCC Annual Fund Drive
Contributors:

Sally Fraser and Allen Meacham
Robert and Frida Flath

KCC Summer Camp
ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

- Week 1** June 11– June 15
Carpentry with Sandy
The Jungle
- Week 2** June 18 – June 22
Robots, Dinosaurs and Tote Bag Printing
Oakland Zoo
- Week 3** June 25 – June 29
Engineering w/Lance Akiyama
Adventure Playground/
Fishing Berkeley Pier
- Week 4** July 2 – July 6
Golf with Aida Wong
Camp Closed on 4th /Short Week \$190
- Week 5** July 9 – July 13
Gymnastics with Judy Baker
Lake Anza/Little Animal Farm
- Week 6** July 16 - July 20
Cooking with Vicky Brodt
Bladium-Alameda: Soccer/
Rock Climbing
- Week 7** July 23 – July 27
Fun with Percussion and Drumming
Scandia-Miniature golf
- Week 8** July 30 – August 3
Sports & Games with Kim Roots
Lake Temescal/Sugar Cone Cafe Ice Cream
- Week 9** August 6 – August 10
Jewelry for Neck, Wrist, Waist w/Shelly
Angel Island Picnic and Exploration
- Week 10** August 13 – August 17
Cooking with Vicky Brodt
Bladium-Alameda: Rock Climbing/
Inflatables

*(Changes in the schedule may be made
for unexpected circumstances)*

ADULT RECREATION CLASSES

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

Stan Cohn and his band of artists are taking a break for the summer. They’ll resume painting their artwork on Wednesday, September 5th. To join this creative group, call Stan directly at 533-3003.

CLASS REGISTRATION

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Building E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. Email: kccrec@yahoo.com. Telephone: 510-525-0292.

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



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. Non-resident: \$5.

Family Movie Night in the Park
FREE Community Event!
Saturday, June 9th at 7:30pm
Save the Date!

Bring your family, your picnic basket, and your blanket to sit on the lawn outside the Community Center. KCC will set up a huge inflatable movie screen and show *Toy Story 3*, a Disney-Pixar movie, for FREE. The movie will start at 8:30pm. For more information call 525-0292.

Raffle tickets are sold at the KCC office and the night of the event – 1st prize: a free week at KCC Summer Day Camp or a KASEP class of your choice! Other prizes: Pixar memorabilia.

Raffle Tickets: \$5 for 5, or \$10 for 12. (The movie is FREE!)



Jewelry: Macramé Chokers, Wrist Bracelets, Painted Belts, and More! Don't miss Week 9 at KCC Summer Day Camp, August 6th.



*Sandy Thacker
Long-time KASEP instructor*



*“Look, Mom – pink hands!
Just like the Flamingo I made in KASEP Zoo Art.”*

SANDY THACKER –
Celebrating 27 Years with KASEP

When Sandy started teaching carpentry skills to kids in Kensington in 1984, she was just a little older than most of her students’ parents. Now 27 years later, at the age of many grandparents, Sandy is still helping young kids create wonderful projects out of wood. After thousands of geo boards and marble mazes, bridges and boxes, dollhouses and birdhouses have gone out the workshop door and into homes throughout Kensington, she still delights in each child’s excitement and pride in their creations.

And there are always kids who come up with ideas that challenge her imagination and teaching skills: What about building a model of the new Bay Bridge? How about a replica of the Titanic? A roly-poly house? A dog bed for a new puppy? A bat house? A sled for an American girl doll? These were all projects completed this spring session!


Born in Southern California, and a graduate of Stanford University with a Master’s degree in education, Sandy has had a lifelong interest in teaching, and in the creative process. She taught high school, co-founded a private middle school in

Oakland, and also built houses and worked as a professional photographer.


Fulfilling a long-time dream, Sandy recently collaborated with two other KASEP teachers, Lynn Crook and Elaine Chu, to write a book about how to teach the skills of their three crafts to young children – titled, *WOOD PAPER SCISSORS Carpentry, Book Arts and Sewing with Kids*, and includes detailed, step-by-step instructions for 18 fun projects.

KCC thanks Sandy for her outstanding contributions to our community’s children, and for the nearly 3 decades of joy they received, creating hand-made treasures.


Market Update




226 Cambridge Ave. Kensington
Charming Traditional with three bridge view
2BR/1BA and a versatile separate guest suite.
Offered at \$638,000



1066 Keith Avenue, Berkeley
Magical Craftsman! 3BR/2.5BA plus
additional one bedroom guest quarters.
Offered at \$1,198,000




478 Vermont Avenue, Berkeley
50's Modern with 3+BR/2.5BA
Offered at \$825,000



463 Michigan Avenue, Berkeley
Shingled 3BR/2BA Traditional. Panoramic views.
Offered at: \$885,000

Sold in Kensington!




315 Vassar Avenue
5BR/3.5BA Fabulous Mid-Century
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Neighborhood Notes


Kensington Farmers' Market Among Best in Bay Area


Market Manager Chris Hall reports that, after just a little more than one year in operation, Kensington scored big with a third place showing in the *Your Favorite Farmers' Market* category in the recent *Best of the Bay* competition. "Well, Chris says, "someone had to bring up the rear behind the Ferry Building Plaza – not bad for a town whose location needs to be explained to most Bay Area residents." *Thank you for your votes!*




Where Recycling is a Pleasure

The El Cerrito Historical Society and the City of El Cerrito present a tour, open house, and historic overview by the people behind the El Cerrito Recycling Center, on Thursday, June 21st at 6pm. *In Our Lifetime*, a movie about the history of the center will also be shown. . . The El Cerrito Recycling Center is among the nation's oldest, longest-lived, and best-loved centers, according to local recyclers in the know. Started by volunteers in 1972, and later taken over by the city, it was overseen by Joel Witherell, who did much to ensure its continuity. The center was completely rebuilt earlier this year – a commitment of El Cerrito to a green future. Recycling Center, 7501 Schmidt Lane. Free. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 524-1737 or davidsweinstein@yahoo.com.







The Rhea Wilson Plant Sale was featured at the annual Hilltop Elementary School Carnival on a beautiful sunny day in May.



Firefighter Joe Grupalo, Officer Eric Stegman, and Kensington resident at April's Drug Take Back event, co-sponsored by the fire and police depts.



One of Kensington's biggest boosters, Gretchen Gilfillan, and friend, at the Friends of the Kensington Library's annual book sale in May



Tracy Hill and his fuzzy, scaly, and feathery animal friends delighted young and old alike, last month at the Kensington Library.

...Movie, from Page 1

will need, especially jackets, blankets, and beach chairs for comfort in the evening air.


This event takes the place of the annual KCC Spring Party as a way to re-energize the council's community fundraisings for future projects, such as the Center's remodel.

The movie is free to everyone who wishes to come, but in the spirit of a fundraiser, the hope is that people will be generous with their donations. KCC will be selling popcorn and bottled water as refreshments and glow bracelets for the kids. There will

also be a raffle.


Raffle prizes will include a free week at KCC Summer Day Camp or a KASEP class of your choice, and other prizes, including Pixar memorabilia. Raffle tickets will be sold at the KCC office from May 27th through the night of the event. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$5 for 5 tickets or \$10 for 12 tickets. For more information, call Marty at the Kensington Community Council office at 525-0292.

See you on Saturday, June 9th for an evening of summer movie fun at the Community Center!



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Police Department Staffing

Police Chief/General Manager, Greg Harman

Comments, Questions...and the Facts.

A number of comments and questions about the staffing of the Kensington Police Department have been put forth in recent weeks during Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District Board meetings, via email, and most recently, in a Letter to the Editor (*The Outlook*, May 2012). While most, if not all, of these questions have been addressed previously, in an effort to put these inquiries to rest, I thought it worthwhile to address them once more, for the public, below:

Comment: *“Questions about the chaos and lack of systems in payroll, receivables, payables, and reimbursements go unanswered, and Chief Harman has proposed no new systems.”*

Fact: Changes in personnel have been made, and all of the suggestions in both the KPPCSD Fiscal Year Audit of 2010, prepared by our auditor, and the suggestions made in December 2011 by the forensic auditor hired by the District, have been implemented, and have been in place since the first of the year.

Comment: *“Questions about the source for data Chief Harman cited when he claimed to have reduced crime in Kensington by 50% last year and 62% over 4 years has gone unanswered for over 3 months.”*

Fact: All questions about the source of data cited in the reduction of crime were reported at the April 12th meeting of the KPPCSD Board of Directors, on Page 8 of the May 2012 issue of the *Outlook*, and also in the April 2012 Police Monthly report, which is available online at www.kensingtoncalifornia.org.

Question: *“Why is it that during Mr. Harman’s tenure we have lost 15 employees? We only have 10 full time employees?”*

Fact: Since taking office in September of 2007, we have had 10 full-time sworn positions in the police department. Over the course of the last 5 years, we have had one full-time officer resign, one officer resign during probation, one officer retire, one officer retire due to a medical condition, and one officer that was terminated. That would be five officers in five years, for an average of one a year, or 10% attrition rate of the sworn force a year. In Brown Taylor’s *Audit of the Police Department* completed and presented to the Board in January 2008, Taylor identified industry standards: “(O)fficer attrition can be anticipated to be 15% per year.” The Kensington Police Department attrition rates are lower than industry standards.

What about the reserve officer positions that have been in place at the Kensington Police Department? Upon my hire, there was one reserve officer position. That reserve officer resigned his position after moving out of the area.

I have hired five reserve (unpaid volunteer) officers, two of whom resigned after moving out of the area, one who left to take a full-time sworn position with another agency, one who took a position at a large agency in another state, and two who have been promoted from the reserve program to full-time paid status.

What about the civilian employees that have left the District? One left to take another position, one left to take a full-time job, one left because the position was eliminated, and one was released before completing probation.

Question: *“What is the rationale for promoting officers so that we now have 5 officers supervising 4 patrolmen? California Police Officer Standards & Training (POST) requires that sergeants have an advanced degree.”*

Fact: I explained this to everyone in attendance at the March 8th KPPCSD Board meeting: First, the KPPCSD Board negotiated the new positions of Master Sergeant and Corporal with the Kensington Police Officers Association. The costs of these promotions were fully discussed by the Board during negotiations. With these promotions, the structure of the department is as follows: 1 chief, 1 master sergeant, 2 sergeants, 4 officers, 1 detective, and, when we are fully staffed, 1 traffic officer. The master sergeant’s patrol duties include the supervision of the detective and the traffic officer. His administrative duties include the mentoring of the two newly-promoted patrol sergeants that each supervise two officers.

The sergeants also supervise the reserve officers when they are on duty in the District. In addition, the creation of the Master Sergeant position has allowed us to increase the shift coverage throughout the week, limiting the time officers would have to patrol the District alone.

In fact, in Brown Taylor’s audit he states, “As part of the 2007/2008 financial plan, a new District Organizational Structure was adopted. The new structure, with full analysis, in the “Organizational Structure” Chapter III of this report, made the following modifications. (1) Reclassified 1 of 4 authorized Police Sergeant positions to Police Officer classification, moving authorized sworn to one Chief, three Sergeants, and six Officers.”

By increasing the two sergeant positions funded in 2011 to the three that include the Master Sergeant in 2012, the Board and the KPOA negotiated the supervisory positions back to the recommendation of 2007/08.

The intent of the creation of the paid status of the Corporal position was to provide a salary increase for the duties and responsibilities that are associated with the Detective position.

As for the POST requirement that all sergeants have an advanced POST certificate, that is simply not true. The only POST requirement for sergeants is that they hold the Basic Peace Officer certification and that they eventually attend supervisor training in order to receive their supervisory certificate.

Comment: *“The funding measures were sold to the community on the basis that we needed 11 officers to adequately provide patrol and safety to our community. We have never had 11 officers, currently we have just 9, and the first funding measure was passed in 1994.”*

Fact: The number of officer positions in the department is determined and approved by the KPPCSD Board and is authorized in the yearly budget. Quoted from Taylor’s 2008 audit, “Nine Field Officers (3 Sergeants and 6 Officers) are recommended as optimum authorized strength.” (Plus the Chief, equals 10 total officers, as delineated below).

Staffing and funding for sworn positions since 1993/94 have been as follows:


| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1993/94 8 Officers | 2003/04 10 Officers |
| 1994/95 8 Officers | 2004/05 10 Officers |
| 1995/96 10 Officers | 2005/06 10 Officers |
| 1996/97 10 Officers | 2006/07 10 Officers |
| 1997/98 10 Officers | 2007/08 10 Officers |
| 1998/99 10 Officers | 2008/09 10 Officers |
| 1999/00 10 Officers | 2009/10 10 Officers |
| 2000/01 10 Officers | 2010/11 10 Officers |
| 2001/02 10 Officers | 2011/12 10 Officers |
| 2002/03 10 Officers | |

The KPPCSD has never authorized or funded 11 officer positions. The funding measures that were voted in over the years were passed to increase revenue to offset the increase in District costs. Even in *Measure G*, that was passed in 2010, there is no mention of the number of sworn positions that were to be authorized by the District.

Since September of 2011, we have been at 9 sworn positions (including the Chief). Until the employment status of the 10th officer is determined, we need to maintain our staffing level at 9 officers, total.


I hope this information will put to rest any questions which may have remained about the staffing of the Kensington Police Department. The Department remains fully ready and committed to protecting the citizens of Kensington – as always.

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From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From April 2012

- 2012-2427 – On 4/10/2012, Officer Ramos met a resident at KPD on a report of a petty theft.
- 2012-2744 – On 4/24/2012, Officer Wilson responded to the 100 block of Windsor Ave. on a report of a petty theft.
- 2012-2340 – On 4-5-2012, Officer Turner was assisting El Cerrito Police with a search for a stolen vehicle. Officer Turner contacted a similar subject who was wanted on a no bail warrant out of Richmond. He took the suspect into custody without incident.
- 2012-2385 – On 4-7-2012, Officer Turner and Sgt. Barrow responded to the 400 block of Colusa Ave. for a reported



strong-arm robbery. A female adult victim was walking in the 400 block of Colusa Ave. when the suspect grabbed her purse and ran southbound Colusa Ave.

• 2012-2455 – On 4-11-2012, Det. Stegman and Sgt. Barrow responded to Wellesley Ave. for an attempted suicide by hanging. The subject telephoned 911 after the tree branch gave way causing injuries. We arrived and found the subject and cut him down. The subject was unresponsive and as we prepared to begin CPR the subject coughed and gasped for air. The subject was given medical aid and transported to the hospital. The subject is expected to make a complete recovery.

In Memory...



Clyde Larson
1941 – 2012
Caretaker, Arlington
Community Church

Clyde Larson, long-time caretaker at Arlington Community Church UCC, died on Monday, April 30, 2012; he was 71 years old. Although Clyde spoke sparingly of his own life, he said that he grew up in Illinois and Wisconsin, and was raised by several family members until the age of 16, when he traveled alone to the Bay area.

Throughout his career, he worked in maintenance and as a caretaker at several

religious institutions, notably the Pacific School of Religion (Berkeley) and Arlington Community Church UCC (Kensington). Clyde lived and worked at ACC for approximately 20 years; he touched the lives of children, parents and teachers at Arlington Preschool, Growing Light Montessori, and Kensington Preschool, as well as older adults in the Kensington Senior Center, participants in many community groups using the building, and the congregation.

He loved history, western movies, and a wide variety of music from big band to bagpipe to opera, and many people remember his music playing as he worked in the kitchen of ACC.

Clyde died surrounded by the love of friends and co-workers from Arlington Community Church UCC. Although surviving biological family is unknown, he is survived by a family of love in and around Kensington.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, June 2, at 1 pm, at Arlington Community Church UCC, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Memorial gifts can be given to ACC, where a garden is being planned in his honor.

Rest in Peace

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KENSINGTON KALENDAR

June 3 Toward a Just World – Social Action Summer Forum: Herb Behrstock, President of United Nations Association-USA’s East Bay Chapter, speaks on *The Role of the UN in Developing Countries*. 11am-noon. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302. www.uucb.org

June 3, 10, 17, 24 Kensington Farmers’ Market. Live produce and live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle at Oak View Ave. 847-0801 or KensingtonFarmersMarket.org

June 4 “Castoffs” Knitting Group. All levels welcome and some help provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free.

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Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

KCC - June 4th
Kensington Community Council
7:30pm • 525-0292 • 1st Mondays

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

KPSC - June 11th
Kensington Public Safety Council
EQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays 6:30pm. 501-8165

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

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

KPOA - June 16th
Property Owners Association
Meets quarterly. 559-8232

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

KMAC - June 26th
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tuesdays 7pm.

KARO/ECHO - July 9th
Amateur Radio Operators
2nd Mondays of odd months 7:30pm. 524-9815

KFM – Every Sunday
Kensington Farmers’ Market
Sundays, 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle at Oak View Ave. 847-0801 or KensingtonFarmersMarket.org

June 5 Music From the Trecento. The Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE), with guest instrumentalists, performs a concert of music from 14th century Italy. 8pm, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. \$20. Students & Seniors \$10. www.wavewomen.org

June 5 & 26 Family Story Time. Fun stories, songs & rhymes for young children and their families. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

June 6, 13, 20, 27 Yoga at the Arlington Community Church. All ages. 4:45-6pm. Bring balance to mind, body and spirit. Drop-ins welcome, small fee. 381-0997.

June 7 The El Cerrito Garden Club’s Annual Spring Luncheon and installation of officers. Happy hour at 11:30am and lunch at noon, at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, EC. This meeting is limited to members and their guests, and the cost is \$20. 233-9365

June 7, 14, 21, & 28 Baby & Toddler Story Time. Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 2 identical sessions: 10:15am, 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

June 9 First Annual Family Movie Night. The Kensington Community Council holds the first annual family movie night. Bring a picnic and the family. At the Community Center. The movie will start at dusk.

June 10 Knitting at the Arlington Community Church. 11:30am. Knit shawls, hats, scarves and mittens for those in need. We pray over each item before giving it away. 526-9146

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June 10 Toward a Just World – Social Action Summer Forum: Robert Fuller, on *Reason to Hope: New Deal for Science and Religion*. 11am-12 noon. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302. www.uucb.org

June 10 & 12 BandWorks School of Rock Student Concert. Ashkenaz Community & Dance Center, 1317 San Pablo, Berkeley. \$5 at the door, kids 5 and under free. 6/10: 2-8pm, 6/12: 7:30-9pm.

June 12 Camp Sing-along. Kickoff Kensington Library’s Summer Reading Festival with an old fashioned camp sing-along. Songs and snacks for all ages. 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

June 14 Hunger Games Fun and Crafts from Panama. *May the Odds Be Ever in Your Favor @* Kensington Library. Kickoff teen summer reading and join us for Hunger Games inspired crafts and trivia for t(w)eens ages 10 and up. 4pm. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Free 524-3043

June 14 Women’s Fellowship at the Arlington Community Church. 6:30pm. Join us for a potluck, wine, and good conversation. 526-9146

June 15 Opus Q Men’s Vocal Ensemble, performs a wide range of music, by composers who’ve shaped American music and culture. 7:30pm, Arlington Community Church.

June 16 The Kensington Property Owners Association Annual Meeting will be held from 10-11:30am at the Community Center. All residents are invited. Speakers TBA.



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June 17 Toward a Just World – Social Action Summer Forum: Jon Peterson, author of *Searching the Andes for Albert Schweitzer*, speaks about his novel. 11am-noon. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kens. 525-0302. www.uucb.org

June 18 Art Talk. Art historian, Michael Stehr will discuss and present a slide show on Gian Lorenzo Bernini, who was the Michelangelo of the Baroque period. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

June 20 Karaoke with Doug Wilson. 6-10pm at The Arlington.

June 22 Bridge at the Arlington Community Church. Potluck at 5:30pm. No experience necessary. All are welcome. Info 526-9146.

June 24 Toward a Just World – Social Action Summer Forum: Video on Barack Obama. 11am-noon. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kens. www.uucb.org

June 25 Book Club. Discussion of *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok. Normally meets on 4th Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 7pm. Free.

June 28 Gamelan Sekar Jaya performs. Free 45-minute program provided by the Contra Costa County Library Summer Reading Festival. 7pm, EC Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

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...Grads, from Page 1

Diego); Jennifer Welden (El Cerrito, UC Berkeley); Madison Malatesta (Berkeley, Northeastern); Sabrina Iacullo (Berkeley, Santa Barbara City).

Not Pictured: Dalal Ayyad (El Cerrito, Berkeley City College); Martin Cottoral (El Cerrito, San Jose State); E.J. Crowley (Albany, UC Davis); Taylor Doty (El Cerrito, Duke University); Henry Hodson (El Cerrito, Chico State University); Maddie Kirkby (Albany, UC Davis); Dylan Roehl (El Cerrito, Laney College); Brian Seegers (El Cerrito, University of Wisconsin Madison); Caroline Umali (El Cerrito, Oberlin); Marcus Wansick (El Cerrito, Chico State University); Marissa Wise (Albany, UC Santa Cruz); Beth Magid, (Jewish Community High School of the Bay, Case Western Reserve University).



A few grads couldn't make last month's official photo. One of them was the dapper Henry Hodson.

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...Letters, from Page 2

the turnaround going.

We need 66% YES votes to pass this measure. Every single vote really really counts. Polls are open 7 am to 8 pm. Polling locations are expected to be Arlington Community Church and Kensington Community Center. Please join me and take just a few minutes out of your Tuesday to support our school communities.

With Kind Regard,

*Leslie Reckler
Kensington Hilltop parent*

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