

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

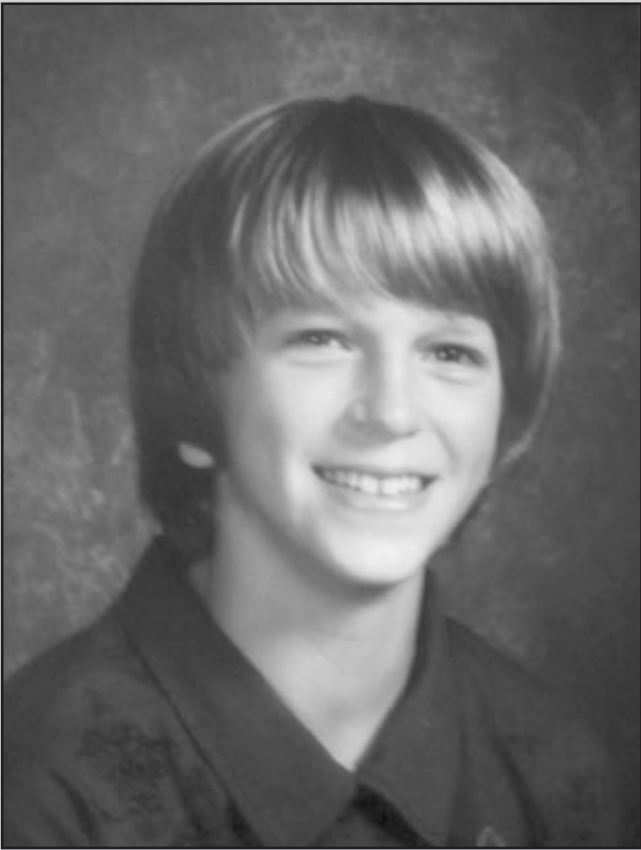
MARCH 2009 A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL VOLUME 65 NUMBER 12

Stuart Swanson Chosen As Student Ambassador

Local resident Stuart Swanson, a young man of 14, has been chosen out of many, many applicants to go to Europe with the People to People Ambassador Program.

Darda Swanson, Stuart’s mom, offered the following comments on Stuart’s participation in the program: “What we hope for Stuart to accomplish with this trip, first and foremost, is what the program was originally created for, and that is to promote a greater sense of world awareness, peace and understanding. The benefit that comes with meeting people from other cultures and places sets the groundwork for a stronger sense of self-confidence and responsibility. Many past participants and parents of this program have said their children returned more confident, mature and understanding. The students have to write in journals and participate in group discussions throughout their trip. Because of the richness of this program and what it teaches our children, it also provides some school and college credit”. Visit the website: www.studentambassadors.org for further information about the program.

Prior to attending high school Stuart volunteered at RabbitEars for quite a while after he adopted a homeless bunny. RabbitEars would like to help defray the financial cost of the trip by hosting a fund-raising event for Stuart. Join us at St Alban’s Episcopal Church on Friday, April 3 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. for a wholesome and delicious European-style meal. Enjoy local music, friends and good food as we help to insure Stuart’s success in fostering global peace and cooperation. “We’ll be asking for help in setting up, serving, cleanup and of course, monetary donations for Stuart’s trip” said Judy Hardin, owner of RabbitEars. RSVP or volunteer to help at RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave, phone 510-525-6155.



Stuart Swanson

KPPCSD Exploring Ways to Reduce Their Deficit

In January, the board held a public two-day planning workshop to address the budget situation. Only six members of the public attended. The workshop also addressed organization of the board, planning, and community outreach. The group concluded that they needed to provide services to enhance the community, develop stronger ties to other Kensington organizations, establish a series of advisory task forces, and examine all possible financial solutions to the shortfall while maintaining fiscal responsibility. “Nothing is going unexamined,” Harman said at a recent Board meeting. “Everything is being investigated in an effort to achieve fiscal soundness, while maintaining the levels of service that Kensington residents have come to expect.” Areas to be investigated include expense reduction, merging the Community Services District with the Kensington Fire Protection District, contracting out police services, and issues related to the leasing of the Annex building in the park.

The task forces are expected to submit their findings by April 1. The board is also seeking ways to work with non-elected community members, specifically the “K Groups” already organized in the community.

Among the non-repeating costs that the board has already budgeted for are approximately \$72,000 for the building of public restrooms in the park and an estimated \$150,000 for renovations necessary to bring the Annex up to code so that it can be leased. A preschool was scheduled to move into the Annex last year, before the building problems were discovered. Now the board is reconsidering whether this tenant would be the most advantageous to the community.

The board also is reexamining the organization of the following committees: finance, solid waste and recycling, parks and recreation, police liaison, community outreach, policies and procedures, intergovernmental affairs, and emergency preparedness.

A major reason for the financial burden being faced by Kensington is the need to fund the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASBY 45) guidelines that entail budgeting former, present, and potential employee retirement accounts. This law, enacted in 2004, demands that small communities such as Kensington initiate these savings issues by December 2008. The approach calls for projecting retirees’ health-care costs, and then funding them over 30 years.

The KPPCSD board will be receiving funds from the East Bay Regional Park District, made available by Measure WW. Measure WW passed at the last election with a more than two-thirds majority. These funds, which amount to \$258,358, are to be spent over the next ten years and come with strict spending conditions. But even if there were no constraints, the monies would be insufficient to eliminate the shortfall. Approximately 70% of District funds are related to personnel, so any cost reduction measures will almost certainly directly impact personnel and services.

One of the items on the agenda for the March meeting of the KPPCSD board is the construction of public restrooms in the park. At present, public restrooms are not always available to those who use the park. Restrooms are available in the library during its hours of operation and for children attending the Kensington After School Program in the Recreational Building. But at other times, children and adults, including tennis players, have no bathrooms available. (Prior to the closure of the Annex building on safety and code grounds, the bathroom in that building was available during daylight hours.) Some years ago, the Kensington Community Council and Kensington residents helped raise \$48,000 toward the cost of the restrooms, which are now estimated to cost about \$125,000. The board has budgeted \$82,000 for the bathrooms in 2008–2009.

As always, the KPPCSD board invites all members of the Kensington community to come to their meetings and participate in discussion of these important issues.

Health Care Activism Training

President Obama has called on all Americans to become involved in shaping the future of their country. An opportunity for community members to become more informed and involved in health care reform is being planned for the East Bay in early March. The event is sponsored by Health Care for All - Contra Costa, Green Party of El Cerrito-Kensington, Hillside Community Church, and the El Cerrito Democratic Club.

“We’re planning this training on healthcare activism for the community,” say planners of the event, “because currently discussions are being held in both Washington and Sacramento about major changes in the system that will affect all citizens. It is crucial that citizens advocate for a system that is best for all involved.”

The training will be held on Friday, March 6th from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 7th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Hillside Community Church, 1422 Navellier St. in El Cerrito.

The planners hope to attract anyone who wants to become more informed about healthcare reform as well as people interested in recruiting and training others to become more informed and involved.

The seven and a half hour program will begin with a brief presentation by County Supervisor, John Gioia, on the merits of Single Payer Healthcare reform. The program will then include analysis of healthcare systems in other [See Training on Page 9]

KCC Summer Camp Registration

Registration for summer camp is on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in Fall 2009. The camp runs June 15 through August 21, 2009, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. Cost per week is \$205. Extended day care is available 8-9 am and 5-5:30 pm each day for an additional fee paid to our camp director. For further information call Esther at 525-0292.

KCC March 14 Spring Celebration

Join friends and neighbors in helping to support the many recreational and educational programs that the KCC provides for the community. See invitation on page 3 or call 525-0292 for further information.

KCC WELCOMES DONATIONS FOR SILENT AUCTION

Please contact Danielle Power at 524-6737

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Our Recent Sales in Kensington

PENDING: 15 Arlington Avenue. Mid-century 3+br, 2-bath home with stunning San Francisco and Bay views. Partially remodeled home with wonderful open floor plan, hardwood floors, and natural light. Offered at \$685,000.

Seller's agents: Todd Hodson & Ron Egberman

PENDING: 259 Cambridge Avenue. With exhilarating views of SF and the Bay, this home has spacious rooms, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a lovely patio & garden. Offered at \$799,000.

Seller's agent: Celia Concus

PENDING: 811 Coventry Avenue. Beautiful 1920's Mediterranean-style two-bedroom home with loads of charm, living room with vaulted ceiling and lovely fireplace. Wonderful landscaped private yard. Offered at \$619,000.

Seller's agent: Tom Modic

SOLD: 253 Trinity Avenue. Four-bedroom, 2.5-bath, 1950's home with a remodeled kitchen and beautiful views. Offered at \$657,000.

Seller's agent: Melissa Eizenberg



Susan Grant
504.2292

We are proud to announce that Realtor Susan Grant has just joined our Kensington office. Susan is a third generation Realtor with over 20 years experience in customer relations. She takes an active part in community events throughout Richmond, El Cerrito and Kensington, where her children are currently attending school. Drop in sometime to say hello!

Don't miss our new exhibit of colorful, evocative "Dreamscape" oil paintings by Audrey Kral. Please come celebrate with us at the opening reception Thursday, March 19th, 5:00 to 7:00pm. 20% off any purchase during the reception. Exhibit open now through April.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

We want to thank the Kensington Outlook for the article written about "Brighter Beginnings." The merchants on Colusa Avenue collected many toys, books and clothes for the "adopt a family" program. Six brand new bicycles, donated by an anonymous family in Kensington, were given to six surprised children that were delighted with this very special gift. If Kensington residents would like to contact Brighter Beginnings for more info about the kids or the program, please contact Jody Parsons, Development Director, email jodyparsons@sbcglobal.net.

Judy Hardin

Editor,

Thanks for the "STROKE HAPPENS" info. It would be great if a real estate office or some other business had them made up as magnets and made them available to Kensington residents.

M. Allen

Editor,

Please add my profound thanks and appreciation on behalf of the students, teachers, staff, and parents to the Hilltop Dad's Club. You're an amazing group of people to work with, and I can't thank you all enough. The school looks great -- you're all the best!

Judy Sanders, Principal
Kensington Hilltop School

Editor,

As a Kensington resident since 1974 I, along with many other residents, am appalled at the hideous monstrosity that greets us each day as we return from work - i.e. the hideous sign and its companion, the Roman Urn.

I realize that while the KIC obviously has bad taste, it may have had good intentions. At this point I have been considering asking Kensington residents whether they would be willing to donate funds to demolish the monstrosities.

I hope that the KIC will respond publicly to this letter, and tell all of us on what authority they acted to so adversely impact our community. Having this information would be useful for the KMAC to take action to assure that our community is not once again despoiled by a tiny fraction of the community.

Thank you.

Jan Behrsin



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AND
ADVERTISING MANAGER
ALMA KEY

P U B L I S H E R
KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
59 Arlington Avenue

Kensington, CA 94707-1307
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Bound copies of the newspaper going back to the 1940s are available at the Kensington Library.

Contact us

Editorial 510 526 3241
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Advertising 510 526 3241
advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com

Advertising

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. Send all display and classified advertising mail to:

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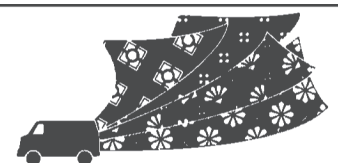
Deadlines

Advertising deadline March 8
Editorial deadline March 10

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RabbitEARS Sleepy Hollow Rat Memorial & Adoption Event

Please join us on Saturday, March 21, 12 noon - 4:00 p.m. in remembering a beloved member of the rat community, Brian Shafer, who passed away on February 3rd in Oakland. Brian leaves behind an extended family of many fantastic rats who are now finding themselves in need of a new home. Please come down to remember Brian, visit with the rats, and adopt a pair of wonderful rats if you have space in your home and your heart. RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave, 510-525-6155, fixpets@yahoo.com



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Portola Middle School Jazz Explosion IX!

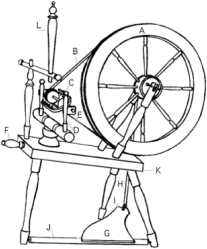
Jazz Explosion IX, Portola Middle School's signature jazz concert, will be tearing down the house in a final performance in Portola Gym on Thursday, March 19, 7 pm. A fabulous line-up of professional musicians will perform with our middle school students. The Berkeley Jazz School high school studio band will also join the performance. Guest artists include Wayne Wallace on trombone, Marvin McFadden on trumpet, Larry De La Cruz on saxophone, and Frank Martin on keyboards. All three of Portola's jazz bands will perform. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and can be purchased by contacting Liane at latwong@comcast.net or going by the band room at Portola Middle School, 1021 Navellier St, El Cerrito.

Another Antigone

Blended Voices presents A Staged Reading of A.R. Gurney, Jr.'s play. Gurney's wit and humor transform Sophocles' story of the individual versus authority into a conflict between a conservative professor and a rebellious student. Directed by Donna Davis, the play features John Cahoon, Margaret Gudmundsson, Paul Worhach Hudson, and Teri Hudson. Performances will be on Saturday, March 14 at 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. \$10.00 suggested donation. For further information call 525-0302

Spinning and Weaving Demonstrations

Golden Gate Weavers Guild, located in Berkeley, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the arts and crafts of spinning and weaving and to foster excellence in those fields. For the outreach program, three or four guild members go to a school to demonstrate the process of how wool is transformed from raw wool coming off the sheep into yarn spun on the spinning wheel, and finally woven into fabric on the loom. Guild members bring 3-4 looms, drop spindles and a spinning wheel along with samples of different fibers used for making clothing. The children will get ample opportunity to try their hands at both spinning and weaving. The activity is suitable for all grade levels from kindergarten and up. Finished textiles, either woven by guild members or from the countries a class may be studying, are brought to each class. The demonstration will fit in with many areas of the schools curriculum, such as farm animals and the products we get from them, Colonial times, Thanksgiving, pre industrial times, arts and crafts. The demonstration lasts a class hour. Spinning and weaving are still active arts and crafts around the world, either in communities aiming to carry on ethnic traditions or as an innovative contemporary art form. To arrange a classroom visit, please contact Valborg Thomas at 10 Windsor Ave., Kensington, CA 94708 or call 524-9275. The services are strictly volunteer so they will fit into a school's tight budget.



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You Are Invited To

Kensington Community Council's

21st Annual

Spring Celebration

Enjoy a delicious appetizer buffet, fine wines, soft drinks and a silent auction featuring art, collectibles and services. The silent auction will close at 8:30 pm.

Child care is provided! Children 3 years and older will have their own pizza and movie party at the recreation building, free of charge.

Saturday, March 14, 2009

6:30 - 9:30 pm

Kensington Community Center

59 Arlington Avenue

\$25 per adult

Payable to:

KCC Celebration, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707

Please reply by March 9th to Esther Hill at 525-0292. Tickets will be held at the door.

Proceeds benefit KCC programs.

This event is underwritten by Andronico's Markets and Marvin Gardens Real Estate, Kensington

Pet of the Month

Roo is a ten-week Berkshire rat born in rescue along with a brother named Badger. They are very energetic and playful. Their favorite game is fishing for frozen peas with a plastic drinking straw, but Roo also loves to read and spends hours on the bookshelves picking out the bestsellers. Meet Roo and Badger, along with other rats of all shapes, sizes and ages at RabbitEARS, 7 days a week at 377 Colusa Ave, 510-525-6155, www.rabbitears.org

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Spring Celebration

Yes! We would love to come to the Spring Celebration on Saturday, March 14th.

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$25 per adult for:

Name _____

Phone _____

Number of children attending the free pizza/movie party _____

Regretfully, we are not able to attend, but please accept this tax-deductible donation to KCC.*

Enclosed is a check in the amount of _____ payable to KCC Celebration.

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Listing Update



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Child Safety
Seat Program



The Fire Department is now providing child safety seat checks and installations. This program allows residents to schedule car seat installation at the Kensington Fire Station. Three of our firefighters have completed Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician Training and will be taking continuing education in order to keep up with ever-changing automobile standards and car seat models. Con-

sidering that most child safety seats are installed incorrectly by mostly well-meaning parents and guardians, this service is critical to the survival and well-being of Kensington's youngest citizens. Please call 215-4450 to schedule an appointment. Walk-in requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis dependent upon availability of the certified staff.

Community Service
At Colusa Circle

Just days before the Red Cross Blood Mobile was coming to Kensington for the scheduled Valentine's Day Give From The Heart Blood Drive, the engine blew. There is only one blood mobile in the entire San Francisco Bay Area and the staff is completely volunteer. The Red Cross volunteer set up a table next to ME911, a child safety and security organization that specializes in free fingerprinting for kids, in the overhang of the old Porto Brazil restaurant. Even though no blood was given, the Red Cross volunteer took almost 100 names and email addresses of people who wanted to give blood and will come back to our next blood drive in June. Both of the organizations were pleased with the turnout, even though the weather was a little wet and chilly. Both have agreed to participate in our June street fair and again at Halloween. John Muir Hospital has just recently agreed to donate a second blood mobile for the Red Cross.

This event was sponsored by the newly formed Colusa Circle Merchants Association. After the success of the Christmas drive through Brighter Beginnings for East Bay families needing urgent help, the group decided that in order to bring more shoppers to the area, we had to give

something back to the community. There are plans for community services, arts and entertainment for ten months out of the year presently, and every month next year. All of the merchants and businesses at Colusa Circle will attempt to be county certified green businesses by Earth Day in late April so that we can promote the Circle as the Greenest Shopping Spot on Earth. We have plans, not just in Kensington, but at neighboring towns' street events such as El Cerrito's 4th of July Celebration, to promote Colusa Circle community involvement, shops and services.

The Kensington Farmers' Market's 4th Anniversary in June will be celebrated with a day-long street fair and market. The participating merchants will have sidewalk sales and there will be lots of food and music and fun for the whole family.

In addition to the merchant's collective responsibilities to the community, individual storefronts will begin to offer more for the community as well. For instance, Nan Phelps Photography is the premier studio in the Bay Area showcasing silver gel prints. RabbitEARS is developing "No Bunny Left Behind," a reading program specially designed for adults and older kids to read out loud to younger children every day. Other merchants and services will be unfolding their plans for entertainment and/or informational presentations for Kensington, North Berkeley, Albany and El Cerrito neighbors in the near future.

Residents can rely on getting the information they need about the various events by reading the Kensington Outlook every month and by checking the flyers the merchants are using each month to identify the events.

Arlington
Community Church



United Church of Christ
52 Arlington Ave. • 526-9146
Rev. Alfred Williams, Pastor
www.acc-ucc.org

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Join Us for Lent and Easter

Arlington Community Church has a series of events planned for Lent and Easter. Come worship with us during this season.

• JESUS, THE LAST WEEK •

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| March 1 10:00 a.m. | Jesus' Perspective |
| March 6 7:30 p.m. | Mini Concert, Shira Kammen, Medieval and Renaissance music |
| March 8 10:00 a.m. | The Widow's Perspective |
| March 15 10:00 a.m. | The Unknown Woman's Perspective |
| March 22 10:00 a.m. | Peter's Perspective |
| March 29 10:00 a.m. | Pilate's Perspective |
| April 5 10:00 a.m. | Palm Sunday—Our Community's Perspective |
| April 9 7:00 p.m. | Maundy Thursday, Last Supper Celebration |
| April 10 12:00 noon—3:00 p.m. | Good Friday Meditation Time |
| April 12 10:00 a.m. | Easter Sunday—"Resurrection" |

God is still speaking—at Arlington Community Church

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K E N S I N G T O N C O M M U N I T Y E D U C A T I O N

KASEP

The winter session of KASEP began on Monday, January 5, and will continue through March 20. Registration for the spring session of KASEP will be held on Wednesday, March 4, in the Kensington Community Center starting at 6:45 pm for kindergarten students and 7:15 pm for grades 1-6.

KCC office hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We can be reached at 510-525-0292 or kccrec@yahoo.com.

KCC Summer Camp

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in Fall 2009. The camp runs June 15 through August 21, 2009, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Campers 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 8-9 am and 5-5:30 pm each day for an additional fee paid to our camp director.



Each week the campers will enjoy:

*Field trip 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 and crafts, hiking, and fun!

Our brochures for summer day camp have been mailed out and are available in the KCC office. We’ll hold registration for camp on Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m., in the Kensington Community Center.

NEW CLASS for INFANTS and TODDLERS!

Circle Time with Sarah

Join Sarah Torney for stories, songs and movement geared toward Infants and Toddlers (newborn up to age 2). Every week we’ll focus on new material for you to use at home with your children. Bring your favorite blanket or floor mat. Parent/Care-giver participation is required.

Sarah Torney has been a preschool teacher in the Kensington Community for over 16 years. She has a background in children’s music and literature. With over 25 ECE units, CPR current, and 2 children of her own (9 yr old girl and 5 month old boy) she has embarked on a new venture doing what she loves.. working with children and music!

When: Tuesdays 8:45 - 10:15 a.m.
Fees: \$15 for drop-in or \$50 for a series of 4 classes. Siblings are a 15% discount.
Where: Kensington Recreation Building (Building E)
Contact: Sarah at 525-2811 or KCC at 525-0292

ADULT CLASSES

NEW CLASS!



Ernie Adams

User Friendly Pilates: Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt

When: Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., March 4 through April 15.

Where: KCC Recreation Bldg, Room A
Seven class series starting on Wednesday, March 4
Minimum of 7 students required for class; drop-in allowed only for first class on March 4

Cost: \$84 for seven classes for residents; \$93 for seven classes for nonresidents
Please register with KCC

This class is for anyone who wants an introduction to Pilates and for those who want to get stronger without getting hurt. Your core muscles protect your spine and prepare you for strenuous activities. Developing core strength involves

engaging your deepest abdominal, lumbar, and pelvic floor muscles. The instructor, Ernie Adams, presents an intelligent, less stressful way of learning Pilates and has 16-years experience specializing in move-



ment 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 experience 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, Parkinson’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, CA.

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 – 10:30 a.m.

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 the class.



Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered Yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information about the class, please contact Nicole at 510-527-6443.

When: Classes are Tuesdays, 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Fees: For residents: \$15 for drop-in; \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add 10 percent (\$16.50 per class/\$82.50 for six classes). To register, call the KCC office at 510-525-0292.

Where: Classes are held in the Community Center.

Thursday Hatha Yoga: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Classic yoga postures and breathing practices for revitalization. Learn to listen to your body and your breath; explore and enjoy. On the second and the final Thursdays of the month, relax in a blissful restorative practice. First and third Thursdays are a more active practice. All levels of experience welcome.

Fees: for residents: \$12 for drop-in
One-month pass (4 classes) for \$40
Non-residents please add 10% (\$13.20 for drop-in and \$44 for month pass)

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

Classes are held in Room A in the Recreation Building (Building E).

Acrylic Painting

Stan Cohen (533-3003) 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.

When: Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Fees: \$32/month (\$36 for nonresidents)
Where: Community Center

TENNIS

Kim Roots offers classes for youth and adults. To register, call Kim at 526-6730.
Adult classes: 5 classes \$40 per resident; \$45 per non-resident
Youth classes: \$10 per class for Kensington residents; \$11 per class for nonresidents.

TENNIS COURTS (West Court)

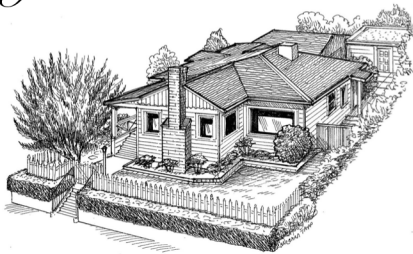
To Register for classes:
Please call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

Tennis Court Reservations:
Reservations are for weekends and holidays only; the earliest is 9 a.m. Call the KCC office at 525-0292 for tennis court reservation information.

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

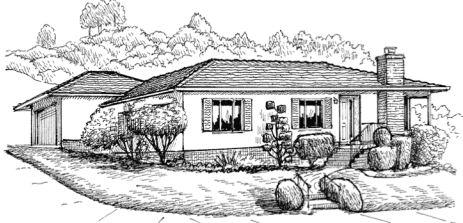
Community Center Rental:
For information on renting the Kensington Community Center please call KPCCSD (the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 526-4141.

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Common Ground

The new President and I have something in common. We are both TCKs or, more appropriately, ATCKs. TCK is an acronym for Third Culture Kid; an ATCK is an Adult Third Culture Kid. TCKs are those who, as children, spent a period of time in a culture other than their passport culture and integrate elements of their birth culture and the cultures they are exposed to into a third culture which is uniquely their own.

President Obama was born in Hawaii and spent a portion of his childhood in Indonesia. In my case, I spent enough time in Germany and Taiwan to acquire a second language and a working knowledge of another.

TCKs can be those raised in missionary homes, military, business, government or other homes where the sponsor (parent) spent time overseas.

We've also been called Global Nomads. What makes us different, or rather unique, is the way we tend to look at the world around us. There are many similarities among TCKs. We tend to feel at home anywhere and nowhere at the same time. TCKs also are culturally accepting and have a high level of acceptance of diversity.

One study of TCKs showed that 90% of those answering a survey reported feeling as if they understand other cultures/peoples better than the average American and 80% said they believe they can get along with anybody.

I remember the first time I heard the term. It was in a crowded room full of former classmates. It was during the first class reunion we had, 30 years after we graduated from a missionary high school in Taiwan. There were the twelve other students from my senior class and about 50 others from classes that followed ours with their various spouses and family members.

The speaker was a PhD from the class that followed mine and she started asking questions like: "Have you ever felt alone in a room full of people who've never traveled out of the country?" Have you ever had a problem answering the question, "Where are you from?" "Have you ever returned to your passport country and felt homesick?"

By the time the speaker was finished, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. We all knew exactly what she was saying and we all knew there was a name for the kind of people we are...Third Culture Kids.

When I returned to California from Taiwan, I had nothing in common with others my age. In school, they talked about going to drive-in's, both food and movies, about high school football games and a few card games I was unfamiliar with.

Where I'd just come from, instead of drive-in's, we ate at noodle stalls; our high school team played soccer and we all played Bridge. It didn't translate well if someone talked about the great burger they'd eaten and I chimed in with, "at the Mongolian bar-b-que stall we could pick out our meat and vegetables."

When girls talked about their prom dresses, was I supposed to talk about the great Indian Sari material we'd had turned into gowns by our dressmaker? When my friends talked about a great date they had when the guy picked them up in a '56 Chevy and took them to dinner and a movie, what stories could I tell? Well, first we caught a Pedi-cab and went down to snake alley and picked out our dinner, then we went to the local movie house where we stood for the Chinese National Anthem and then munched on watermelon seeds and sour plums while watching a movie with Chinese sub-titles? I don't think so.

Moving from country to country was easy; it was coming back to my passport country that presented some challenges.

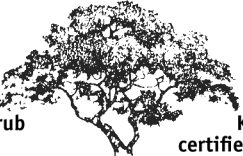
One of my high school friends was from a Norwegian missionary family. He was born in China, lived in a Japanese POW camp, raised in Taiwan and spoke Norwegian, Chinese (both Cantonese and Mandarin), Japanese and English. My culture shock was not nearly as difficult as his. He lives in Marin County.

Another thing TCKs have in common, we tend to invest more in relationships than things. As long as the relationships are strong, the rest is just noise. Guess that's one reason my sisters and I have a strong bond. While other folks came and went, they were always around and, since they had the same background, we never had to explain our "eccentricities."

The good news about President Obama is that being an ATCK is a real advantage in his job and the lessons he learned as a young man will stand him in good stead. He probably sees no big lines between cultures and has shown that he is able to create community from diversity.

His Third Culture will stand him in good stead as he navigates the rough waters ahead, what with all the problems facing the country today. But, another trait of TCKs is the ability to adapt and overcome and I wish him all the best. If the new President does well, we will all do well, and isn't that what we all want for each other?

Musings by B.J. Sibley



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Neighborhood Notes

Welcome To The World

Former *Outlook* editor Diane Gossard and her husband John became first-time grandparents on February 21, 2009, when Lisandro Spencer Ortega was born in Berkeley. Lisandro lives in Oakland with his parents, Allison Gossard and Takashi Ortega.



Welcome To The Neighborhood

Family-owned J. Vitucci Financial Services, Inc., at 303 Arlington Avenue, Suite B3, has recently merged their investment management practice with Lillian Lea’s tax preparation firm here in Kensington. Lea Tax Planning & Preparation has been serving clients in the East Bay for nearly 30 years.

Husband and wife owners Jason and Sonia Vitucci are excited about the synergy that this merger creates. “The unique opportunity presented itself to merge with a very well-respected tax firm and we could not resist, as this practice matched our core values. Having tax, investments, and planning all under one roof is a real value-add for clients. Quite often, you meet with clients to find that the ‘left hand’ of tax advice doesn’t know what the ‘right hand’ of investment management is doing,” said Jason. “The ability to combine financial plan formulation with implementation on the tax and investment side is a real win for us as advisors, but also a win for the client.” The firm offers a full financial overview at no cost and with no obligation.

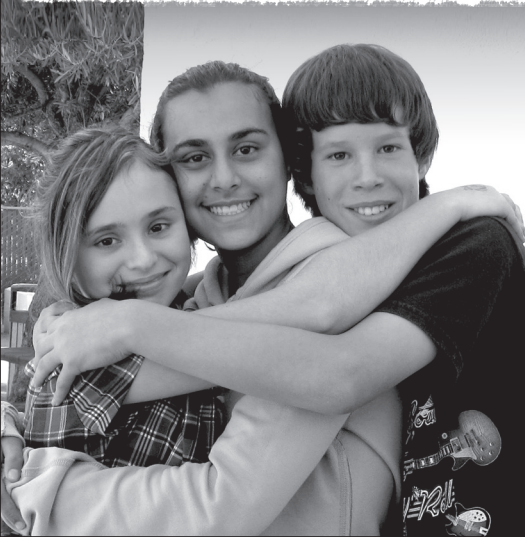
Golden Wedding Anniversary

Former *Outlook* advertising manager Jean Cannon and her husband, Bob, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January 2009 with a reception in their home for family and friends. Daughter Connie Jones, her husband Mark and their sons Stuart and Bob came from Fresno, and their son Rob attended with his wife Melinda.



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Crazy for Kanji: A Student’s Guide to the Wonderful World of Japanese Characters

Eve Kushner, a local resident, is a freelance writer and incurable kanji-holic. She writes *Kanji Curiosity*, a weekly blog about kanji, for JapanesePod101.com. Her Japan-related writing has also appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *East Bay Monthly* and other publications. Kanji (the most complicated script used in Japanese writing) may look daunting, but actually

the characters and words are full of fun and life—if you know how to approach and decode them. *Crazy for Kanji* provides a map to the infinitely complex system of kanji, always approaching the topic with a playful touch. Her new book will be available on March 1 and is published by Stone Bridge Press.

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• Kensington Market Update •

Address	Beds	Baths	Sold Price	Days on Market
Santa Fe Avenue	2	1	\$525,000	40
Trinity Avenue	4	2	\$650,000	116
Coventry Road	3	2	\$710,000	17
Windsor Avenue	2	2	\$715,000	72
Coventry Road	3	2	\$765,000	8

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

\$500 donation to Kensington Education Foundation for each of my Kensington home sales.

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Community Emergency Response Team Training - 2009 Training Calendar
Utilizing the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) curriculum, this 20-hour program is designed to assist residents of Kensington and El Cerrito to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster. Classes are offered free of charge. For reservations, please call 215-4450, visit our website or E-mail: fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Session 2 El Cerrito Community Center – 7007 Moeser Lane 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
March 7th Introduction to CERT and Terrorism
March 14th Search and Rescue and Disaster Psychology
March 28th Fire Suppression and CERT Organization (Kensington Community Center)
April 4th Disaster Medical Part 1 and 2 (Kensington Community Center)
Simulation/Drill April 25th Fire Training Facility, 3506 Cutting Blvd., Richmond
Session 3 Kensington Community Center – 59 Arlington Avenue 6:30 – 9:00 PM
September 2nd Introduction to CERT September 30th CERT Organization
September 9th Fire Suppression October 7th Search and Rescue
September 16th Disaster Medical Part 1 October 14th Disaster Psychology
September 23rd Disaster Medical Part 2 October 21st Terrorism
Simulation/Drill October 24th Fire Training Facility, 3506 Cutting Blvd., Richmond

CERT Boot Camp

The CERT Boot Camp is designed to provide those participants who cannot dedicate the required 20 hours for training. This non-certified one-day training will introduce participants to CERT in all program areas in a condensed format.

May 16th El Cerrito Community Center – 7007 Moeser Lane 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
October 10th Kensington Community Center – 59 Arlington Avenue 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

CERT Certification Classes

CERT Certification classes are offered to those community members who have completed and been certified through the Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team (NEAT) program & want to be certified in CERT. The class will consist of the Terrorism & CERT Organization modules.

April 16th Certification Fire Station 72, 1520 Arlington Blvd. 6:30 – 9:00 PM
November 19th Certification Fire Station 72, 1520 Arlington Blvd. 6:30 – 9:00 PM

- **Adult CPR with AED**
- **Child CPR**
- **Infant CPR**
- **Basic First Aid**



WANT TO GET CERTIFIED IN ANY OF THESE CLASSES, OR NEED TO RENEW YOUR CERTIFICATION? THE KENSINGTON/EL CERRITO FIRE DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING THESE CLASSES ON DESIGNATED SATURDAYS.

CPR will begin at 9:00 a.m. There will be a break from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch on your own. First Aid will resume from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Registration has already begun for these classes and space is limited! Priority registration is available for El Cerrito & Kensington residents.

Processing Fee: \$23 for CPR & \$46 for CPR/First Aid

2009 CPR/First Aid Class Schedule

March 21st	Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave, Kensington
April 18th	Station 72, 1520 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito
May 16th	Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave, Kensington

For more information, please call the El Cerrito Fire Department at 215-4450 or email fire@ci.el-cerrito.org



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OBITUARIES

Berit Dahl-Chemla

A native of Honefoss, Norway, and 18-year resident of Kensington, Berit Dahl Chemla passed away Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 67 years of age.

Survived by her daughter, Britt Chemla Jones and her husband, Eric, of Pearland, Texas; son, Yann R. Chemla and his wife, Tomo, of Champaign, Illinois; parents, Hans and Petra Dahl of Drammen, Norway; brothers, Harald Dahl and his wife, Ingrid, and Frank Dahl and his wife, Anne, all of Drammen, Norway; and grandchildren, Sebastian, Teo, Lukas, and Liliane. Preceded in death by her husband of 42 years, Daniel S. Chemla, Professor of physics at UCB and former director of the ALS Lab at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, in 2008.

Mrs. Dahl-Chemla was brought up in Norway, and later lived in Paris, where she met her future husband. She moved to the U.S. in 1981 with her husband and two young children, and settled in New Jersey; in 1991, they moved to California, where they made their home in Kensington. Mrs. Dahl-Chemla was a homemaker most of her adult life, and enjoyed cooking, gardening, traveling, and making pottery.

Member, University Section Club. Memorial services were held at the UC Men's Faculty Club, Sunday February 22. Memorial donations, if desired, may be made to American Cancer Society, 1710 Webster Street, Oakland CA 94612.

Kensington Elementary School Says, "Hello Obama!"

"On my way to work the morning of the inauguration," Kensington Elementary Principal Judy Sanders said, "I was thinking to myself that I wanted the kids to get a true sense of the significance of the day, and I was looking forward to sharing it with all of them as a community."

Minutes later, armed with 3x5 cards, Judy visited all 24 classrooms where students (and teachers) were watching history being made live (via television). "I asked teachers to invite their students to write about what happened that day, what it meant to them," she said. While the children put pencils to cards, Judy and two volunteers set up an inaugural display in the school's Multi-Purpose Room. Thanks to 4th grader Tre Curran's mother Gloria, a life-sized Obama cardboard cutout appeared beside the display the following day.

The response to Mrs. Sanders' request was overwhelming, with more than 500 reflective, insightful, sometimes emotional and often humorous offerings. Some were short and to the point, like first grader

[See School on Page 12]

◆ TRAINING from page 1

countries, as portrayed in *Sick Around the World*. The rest of the program will be based on the highly regarded *Visions and Voices* curriculum.

Kinds of Blues Concert and Dinner Fundraiser

Don't miss your chance to hear musicians Tom Lucas and the Baja Blugrass Band, Judy Rogers, Cordell Sloan, Anthony Carlson, Erica Page, Michael Heath, and others at the *Kinds of Blues* concert at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. Delicious Southern cooking will be served at the concert and dinner fundraiser from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6. \$25 per adult, \$10 for children 12 and under, \$60 for family of 4-5. For additional info: www.uucb.org 510-525-0302.

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Health Care Activist Training Schedule

Training will be held at the Hillside Community Church, 1422 Navellier St. in El Cerrito Friday March 6th, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

- 6:45 p.m. Doors open; sign-in
- 7:00 p.m. Speakers: The great need for Single Payer Healthcare now.
- 7:30 p.m. View Documentary "Sick Around the World" looks at how other countries do without health insurance companies to make health care available to everyone.
- 8:30 p.m. Discussion based on "Vision and Voices" training Saturday March 7th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 9:45 a.m. Doors open; sign-in
- 10:00 a.m. Reflections on Friday night's experiences.
- 10:30 a.m. "Vision and Voices" training
- 12:30 p.m. lunch
- 1:00 p.m. "Vision and Voices"
- 3:00 p.m. Action plans

This training is sponsored by Health Care for All-Contra Costa, Green Party of El Cerrito-Kensington, Hillside Community Church and the El Cerrito Democratic Club based groups.

A \$5 donation is requested but no one will be turned away. Snacks, Saturday lunch and handouts are included. To RSVP or to get directions, please contact revdecker@msn.com or Sandra Decker at 510-526-0972. Health Care for All-Contra Costa provided information for this article.



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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

March 1 Personal Theology Seminar, 10:00 a.m. Alex Pappas. The Philosophy, Meaning, Origin, and Fundamental Principles of Theosophy, Unitarian Universalist Church.

March 2 “Castoffs” - Knitting Group, 7:00 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue, 524-3043.

March 2 Spirit and the Arts Theater, Dance, Song & Story for Youth 7–14 years, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 526-9146 for more information.

March 3 Family Storytime. Best for Preschool and older. 7:00 p.m. Kensington Library, 524-3043.

March 4 Book Study - *A Hidden Wholeness* by Parker Palmer 1:00- 2:00 p.m. Arlington Community Church.

March 4 KASEP Registration Kensington Community Center 6:45 p.m. / kindergarten, 7:15 p.m. / Grades 1-6, 525-0292.

March 4 Wake Up To Al-Anon, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Fireside Room Arlington Community Church 52 Arlington Avenue.

March 4 Book Study - *A Hidden Wholeness*, by Parker Palmer, 1:00- 2:00 p.m., Arlington Community Church.

March 6 Concert and Dinner Fundraiser “Kinds of Blues,” 6:30 – 10:00 p.m., \$25 per adult, \$10 for 12 and under, \$60 for family of 4-5, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. For info: www.uucb.org, 510-525-0302.

March 6 Health Care Activism Training, Hillside Community Church, 1422 Navellier St., El Cerrito, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., \$5. Donation requested. RSVP: Sandra Decker at 526-0971 or revdecker@msn.com.

March 7 Health Care Activism Training, Hillside Community Church, 1422 Navellier St., El Cerrito, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., \$5. Donation requested. RSVP: Sandra Decker at 526-0971 or revdecker@msn.com.

March 7 Bunny Maintenance 101, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Feeding, grooming, healthcare basics with House Rabbit Society educator, Carolyn Mosher. Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. 525-6155, email: fixpets@yahoo.

March 7 Dr. Seuss’ Birthday Party with drama, food, stories, games and prizes 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ages 5 and up. Kensington Library. Free, but free tickets are required. Available at the library, 524-3043.

March 8 Personal Theology Seminar, 10:00 a.m. Alex Pappas, *The History and Main Characters in Theosophy*, Unitarian Universalist Church.

March 9 Spirit and the Arts Theater, Dance, Song & Story for Youth 7–14 years. 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Arlington Community Church 526-9146 for more information.

March 10 Family Storytime. Best for Preschool and up 7:00 p.m. Kensington Library, 524-3043.

March 10 Dads’ Club General Meeting, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Multipurpose Room, Kensington Hilltop School.

March 11 Wake Up To Al-Anon, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Fireside Room, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue.

March 11 Lenten Book Study, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Arlington Community Church, 526-9146 for more information.

March 11 KCC Summer Camp Registration 7:00 p.m., Kensington Community Center, 510-525-0292.

March 12 Kensington Police Protection & Community Services District 7:30 p.m., Kensington Community Center.

March 13 Mini Concert 7:30 p.m., Shira Kammen Early Music Troupe will perform medieval and renaissance music. Arlington Community Church.

March 13 “Bunny-licious” at Eclectix Gallery, The Artist’s Opening Reception, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., 10082 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito

March 14 KCC 21st Annual Spring Celebration, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue. Tickets \$25.00 per adult. For information call: 525-0292

March 14 Jeremy Taylor’s Dreamwork Workshop, 9:30-4:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church. Suggested fee \$45. To register, call Martha Helming at 528-3417.

March 15 Personal Theology Seminar, 10:00 a.m., Helene Knox, Ph.D., “My Spiritual Odyssey as Embodied in my Poems.” Unitarian Universalist Church

March 16 Kensington’s Architectural Gems, Dave Weinstein, author of *Signature Architects of the SF Bay Area* will talk about Kensington’s unique buildings, 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Library.

March 16 Spirit and the Arts Theater, Dance, Song & Story for Youth 7–14 years, 6:00 p.m., Arlington Community Church 526-9146 for more information.

March 17 Berkeley Garden Club Extending your Garden Season with Perennials by Nicole Hackett, 2:00 p.m., Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St. Berkeley, 524-7296

March 17 Magician/Comedian Timothy James and his silly sidekick Rocky the Racoon. Ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 524-3043.

March 18 Lenten Book Study, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Arlington Community Church 526-9146 for more information.

March 18 Wake Up To Al-Anon, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Fireside Room, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue.

[See Calendar on Page 11]

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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

March 18 Beyond Fear and Anger, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Led by Cathleen Cox, Unitarian Universalist Church, Suggested Fee: \$100. for 6 meetings – Mar. 18-Apr.22. To register, call Cat Cox: 707-297-6798

March 19 Reception for Artist Audrey Kral, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. ,Marvin Gardens Real Estate, 289 Arlington Ave. Call Laurie for further information 524-0800.

March 19 Portola Middle School Jazz Explosion IX, 7:00 p.m., Portola Gym, Portola Middle School, 1021 Navellier St, El Cerrito. Tickets: \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Contact: lat-wong@comcast.net.

March 22 Lynn Gardner, Intern Minister at UUCB: “Transformation Thoughts from a Seminarian: When in doubt, laugh, love, and eat chocolate.” 10:00 a.m. UUCB / 1 Lawson Way, 525-0302.

March 25 Lenten Book Study, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Arlington Commu-

nity Church 526-9146 for more information.

March 23 Kensington Book Club, 7:00 p.m. *Jude the Obscure*, by Thomas Hardy, Kensington Library, 524-3043

March 24 Family Storytime. Best for Preschool and up. 7:00 p.m. Kensington Library, 524-3043.

March 25 Wake Up To Al-Anon, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Fireside Room, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue.

March 25 Lenten Book Study, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Arlington Community Church 526-9146 for more information.

March 25 Kensington Area Republican Women’s Club, 12:30 p.m. Lunch Mira Vista Golf & Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd. El Cerrito. Cost \$20. Reservations by March 20. Call 524-5689

March 25 Beyond Fear and Anger, 7:00

– 9:00 p.m, Led by Cathleen Cox, Unitarian Universalist Church. Suggested Fee: \$100. for 6 meetings – Mar. 18-Apr.22, To register, call Cat Cox: 707-297-6798.

March 29 Natalie DaSilva: Mindful Parenting, Part 2: “The Practice of Bringing a Mindful Presence to Parenting.” 10:00 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 525-0302.

March 31 Family Storytime. Best for Preschool and up 7:00 p.m. Kensington Library, 524-3043.

April 1 Kensington Unit of the League Of Women Voters Discussion of local issues. Guests are welcome 1:15 p.m., 28 Camelot Court, Kensington. Call to confirm: 527-4240



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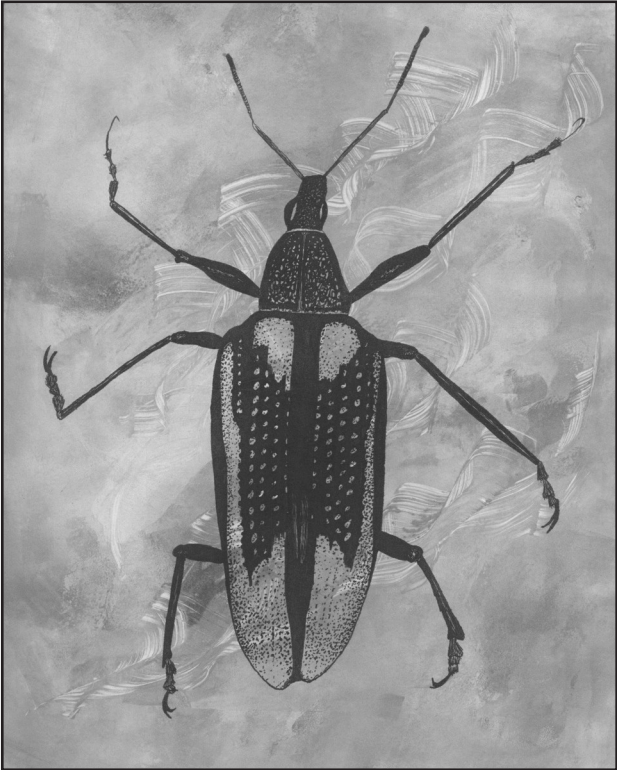
Insect Monoprints Showing

Artist Gail Morrison will be showing a selection of her Insect Monoprints in the lobby of the El Cerrito Community Center from March 3 to April 29, 2009.

The Insect Monoprints begin as larger-than-life pen and ink drawings which are transferred to solar etching plates, using the sun to expose the plates and water to develop them.

Meanwhile, using either oil paint or etching inks, Morrison prints colorful mono-type backgrounds on fine printmaking paper. Then, in a second pass through the press, she prints the etching over the background. The result shows a dramatic contrast between the swirling abstract colors and the crisp drawing of the insect.

Morrison’s hope is that by getting a closer look, people will come to regard insects as our fellow creatures on the planet, and not just annoyances. They are everywhere, and although they sometimes bother us, they are just trying to make



their way in the world like everybody else. They are small, but their bodies have very complex shapes and structures. The more closely you look, the more interesting they become.

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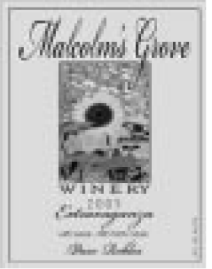
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From the case files of the KPD

February events will be available in the April issue

Applications for Grand Jury Service Sought

Citizens interested in serving on the 2009-2010 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury must submit applications by April 15, 2009. The Grand Jury is made up of 19 people and serves for one year, July through June, to monitor, review and report on city and county governments and special districts. “Grand Juries are the citizen watchdogs of civic functions,” says current Grand Jury Foreperson Leslie Lea. “All county citizens have the authority to call the juries’ attention to issues within their governmental agencies that they think should be reviewed.”

Every effort is made to ensure that the Grand Jury reflects the makeup of the residents of the county. Approximately 60 applicants will be selected to be interviewed by the Grand Jury Selection Committee, which is composed of Superior Court Judges. After interviews, the judges will nominate approximately 30 applicants to constitute a grand jury pool from which the final panel of 19 will be selected by random drawing. The drawing is scheduled to be held on Friday, May 29, 2009, and the members of the 2009-2010 Grand Jury will officially be sworn in on Friday, June 26, 2009.

Individuals selected for service will be expected to be available primarily on Tuesdays through Thursdays, during the month of June to meet with outgoing jurors, tour

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Non Emergency office (daytime)	526-4141
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Emergency	911
Non Emergency office (daytime)	527-8369

county facilities, meet with department heads, become familiar with their colleagues, learn about juror responsibilities and procedures, and select committees on which they will serve.

Grand jurors must be United States citizens, 18 years of age or older, who have been a resident of Contra Costa County for at least one year prior to selection. They cannot currently hold any elected position within the county. Applicants should be in good health, have reliable transportation to Martinez, and be prepared to spend at least 20 hours per week on Grand Jury business. Citizens who work should apply only if they can be released from their jobs to perform the jury duties. Applicants selected as one of the 30 nominees will be fingerprinted before the drawing.

Jurors receive a stipend for attending full jury and committee meetings and are reimbursed for allowable jury travel. Martinez parking permits are provided.

Application forms are available at the Office of the Court Secretary at 649 Main Street, Suite 101, in Martinez. They may also be obtained by sending a written request and a self-addressed envelope to the Office of the Grand Jury Commission, P.O. Box 911, Martinez, Ca 94553. Additional information regarding service on the Countra Costa Grand Jury may be obtained by calling (925) 957-5638.

◆ SCHOOL from page 9

Eleven Thewlis who wrote: “After Obama is president, he gets to change the rules.” Other students described how watching the ceremony made them feel mentally and physically. “When I watched Barack Obama become president, I could hear my heart beat. I am so excited,” wrote third grader Brenda Rodriguez.

Several shared political observations, thru personal experiences, like another third grader Reshma Grewal: “I’m happy that it’s the first black president. ... it makes me feel like black people like me can be anything they want,” and fourth grader Patrick Godfrey: “I think Obama will be good as president because he’s for peace and so am I.”

While many wondered what the Obamas would be having for lunch, a few

others, including sixth Grader Gabe Lee, chose the more serious and direct letter format: “Dear Mr. Obama, My favorite thing you said in your inaugural speech was, ‘people will judge you on what you can build, not what you destroy.’”

Somewhere deep down Judy Sanders must have known this project would be well worth her while. Upon reflection, she added, “One student commented to me that morning, ‘Today was the first time in my life I got to see history being made.’ I think a lot of us felt the same way, and I’m thrilled that I got to share the day with all of our students. Seeing the inauguration through the eyes of our children gives me hope for our future.”

Submitted by parent Kathryn McCarthy with help from 6th grader Julia Celestia Hollander

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