

Bringing The Community Together

# KENSINGTON UTLOOK

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

**MARCH 2013** 

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**VOLUME 70 NUMBER 2** 



# Love Was in the Air!

The word that best described the Kensington Community Council's first annual Valentine Dance on February 8th was FUN! The Community Center was transformed with fairy lights and purple fabric into a romantic dance hall. Dance

instructor, Lynn Gardiner, got everyone on their feet with a dance lesson, and DJ, Devin Pennix, and his partner Mike, played all the right music to get people out on the floor. The dancing didn't stop till the very end.

KCC would like to thank the many local businesses who provided delicious food and drink for the evening: Arlington Wine and Spirits provided sparkling wine; Savory treats were provided by Kensington Fine Foods and The Junket; Nation's Foodservice Inc. provided cheese cakes and gift certificates; Fat Apples, Semifreddi's, La Farine, and Virginia Bakery provided a plentiful supply of cookies and confections to sample; Betty Anne Engel made chocolate strawberries and Lisa Kirkby made dozens of her specialty éclairs; Inn Kensington and Monterey Market provided fruit, and Edible Arrangements provided a fruit bouquet; Finally, all the food was arranged around a donated flower arrangement from D'Jour Floral and Boutique. And as usual, KCC is very grateful for the support of its sponsors, Mechanics Bank and Marvin Gardens Real Estate. KCC sends thanks to all contributors for their support!

Everyone agreed that not only was the evening the perfect way to dance away the winter blues, but that it should definitely be an annual event!



Dancers, Mary and Michael Abraham, Todd Hodson, and Cara Marasco, respond to directions from dance instructor, Lynn Gardiner, at February's Valentine's Dance. More Photos on Page 7.

# **Len Welsh Joins KPPCSD**

As planned, at a special KPPCSD meeting on January 30th, the Board of Directors interviewed the three candidates who applied to fill the director seat recently vacated by Mari Metcalf – Becky Stephens, Kim Zvik, and Len Welsh.

At the public meeting, the candidates were asked these questions: 1) What motivates you to serve on KPPCSD? 2) What special professional or vocational skills would you bring to the management of District business and affairs? 3) What are the top three issues you see affecting Kensington, and how would you approach them? 4) Talk about a time when you were part of a group working on a complex problem; what was your role? How did it work out?

see KPPCSD, Page 6...

# **New Vacancy on KMAC**

Fast on the heels of her unsuccessful bid for the vacant KPPCSD Board seat, Kim Zvik has resigned from the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, to which she was appointed by Supervisor John Gioia, in 2010.

Supervisor Gioia is now looking for a motivated Kensington resident to fill that KMAC seat. This voluntary board, which meets in the evenings on the last Tuesday of most months, provides advisory input on Kensington building and zoning matters, such as applications for building permits that are being considered by the County. This local input, while non-regulatory, is an important part of the County's building zoning and building review process

For more info contact Kate, in Supe. Gioia's office, at 231-8691

# No.1 IN KENSINGTON\*

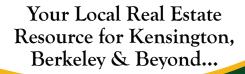
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# OUTLOOK

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# **Classified Advertising**

Classified ad rates are \$6 a line (45 spaces or characters), with a 2-line minimum. Online ad forms are available after the back issues listings at: www.KensingtonOutlook.com.

Display and classified advertising: Please mail to Kensington Outlook, 18 Kingston Rd., Kensington, CA 94707. Other mail to: 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707. *Thank you!* 

April Advertising Deadline......March 8 April Editorial Deadline.....March 10

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The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of The Outlook, its editor, or the publisher, the Kensington Community Council. Residents are invited to submit letters on matters of interest to the community. Letters must be signed and include the author's address and phone number (address and phone will not be published). Publication is subject to space limitations. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. One letter per person, per issue. (PLEASE NOTE: Modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after all periods.) E-mail preferred, to: Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

# **Letters to the Editor**

#### **Cell Phone Towers Here?**

Dear Editor:

Are Kensington residents aware that AT&T has requested approval of a land use permit to attach 6-foot wireless cell hardware equipment on top of telephone poles on Highland Blvd., Windsor, Purdue, Highgate and Rincon? We cannot continue to let the county destroy our community's beauty, the health and welfare of its residents, and value of our property.

I am a 43-year resident of Kensington and am completely opposed to the proposed AT&T cell phone installations. I am asking the entire community to join me to say a resounding NO to this project. Call Supervisor Gioia's office to voice your concern, 374-3231.

Let me point out three facts: 1) The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified radio frequency electromagnetic fields as possible carcinogenics (Group 2B), with children more vulnerable and fixed installations the most dangerous.

- 2) With "co-locating," once one company has installed a fixture, that company can expand, or other companies can join in, without approval.
- 3) Property values absolutely go down research shows from 4% to 24%.

We cannot compromise here. It would be like saying yes to just a little bit of cancer.

Thank you,

Sheila Kogan, Kensington Resident

At press time, there was a public discussion of this issue scheduled for the Feb. 26th KMAC meeting. County planners were expected, and ATT representatives had been asked to attend. The cell tower applications are available at www.co.contracosta.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Index/2660 (scroll down to KMAC). For more info on the applications, contact County Planner, Aruna Bhat at aruna.bhat@dcd.cccounty. us. For a strategy tip sheet by experienced cell tower activist, Phil Zimmerman, see KensingtonOutlook.com. For the results of the 2/26 KMAC meeting, contact Kate Rausch in Supe. Gioia's office, at Kate. Rauch@bos.cccounty.us, or 231-8691. -Ed.

# Footnotes: Fact Checking or Editorial Bias?

Dear Editor:

Although I've lived in Kensington since 1989, I don't know any present or past KPPCSD members, and I've never attended a meeting. It seemed that things were running just fine, and I was grateful for neighbors who performed this community service, as well as for the *Outlook*, although I don't know the current editor.

But things have deteriorated on the KPPCSD over the past two years. My information has almost completely come from the *Outlook*, and I've noted that the *Outlook's* recent editorial bias has seemed clearly against some KPPCSD members, notably Kathie Kosel and Mari Metcalf. I don't know these people, and I haven't formed opinions about right and wrong in these regrettable Board scuffles. Twice in the past months, statements by these Board members, reproduced in the *Outlook* (thank you), have been accompanied by editorial statements criticizing them, which is of course the prerogative of the editor

However, in both instances, unless I'm mistaken, the *Outlook* editor has annotated with his own critical footnotes the statements made by these two Board

members. I don't remember comparable fact-checks or editorial views footnoting the statements of other Board members or community servants. Yet the *Outlook* has elsewhere reported allegations of lack of transparency, mishandled procedures, and financial mismanagement by others, and the Contra Costa Times and the Albany/ El Cerrito/Kensington Journal have been critical of the Board's current majority. There is clearly a variety of views in the community. Shouldn't the editor's opinions and experiences be separated from the statements of our public servants?

Kevin Padian
Kensington Resident

The Editor Responds:

While you mention you've never attended a KPPCSD meeting, in my four years as editor, I've attended almost 50 of them. With that experience, and the advice and counsel of many long time Kensington residents at my disposal, I have some context and perspective to offer that I think can assist residents in understanding what transpires at those meetings. (Other local media don't have that breadth of experience, and so arrive at different conclusions about, for example, where responsibility for the Board's recent dysfunction rests.)

I think you bring up a good point, however, and it is one that I have debated with myself on many occasions. I have repeatedly come down on the side of challenging erroneous statements, however, rather than letting them stand without comment.

The Outlook has previously documented more than 30 incidents in which Cathie Kosel appears to have misled the citizens of Kensington, to have misrepresented her record, to have violated election laws and to have accepted potentially illegal campaign contributions. She has been rude to her constituents and fellow board members, lobbied for the police department to adopt illegal hiring policies, spearheaded investigations of the COP/GM and other police officers (all of which were found to be without merit), and more.

Similar behavior on the part of Mari Metcalf has also been reported. Statements she has made in Letters to the Editor have been factually incorrect. She's hurled epithets at a fellow board director and then denied she did it. She threatened to sue the Outlook editor and members of the KCC Board for publishing the name of a public official (hers). She joined Kosel in making confidential personnel records of a District employee and police officer, public, and in investigations of the COP/GM (investigations found to be meritless).

The Outlook has found no remotely similar actions on the part of any other director of any local board – nor of the COP/GM. Information provided to the Outlook by other board directors in Kensington over the past four years has proved to be in the main reliable, and to be generally supported by the public record and by the statements of other public servants (Kosel and Metcalf excepted).

Simply put, the statements of these two parties, on the other hand, have often been found to be unreliable; and when their comments are not congruent with those of other board directors and/or the public record, then, in the interest of providing a complete and accurate picture to our readers, those comparisons have been appended to their statements.

The differing views of other public officials, and comparisons with the public record, were included as footnotes in order to specifically separate them from the main text of published articles. (To date, not a single footnote's veracity has been challenged. If those footnotes were

See Letters, Page 6...

# Since We're Neighbors, Let's Be Litigants

Kensington Residents Sue KPPCSD

On October 10, 2012, a Petition for Writ of Mandate and for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief was filed in the Superior Court of California, Contra Costa County, by former KPPCSD Director, Mari Metcalf, on behalf of plaintiffs, Leonard Schwartzburd, Schwartzburd's wife, Dairlyn Chelette, Mabry Benson, Catherine De Neergaard, Metcalf's husband, Jeffrey Koehler, Celito (Celia) Concus, former KPPCSD Director, Cathie Kosel, Llewellyn Stanton, and the treasurer of Kosel and Jim Hansen's 2012 KPPCSD campaign committee, Eyleen Nadolny. (For unknown reasons, two of those plaintiffs, Kosel and Koehler, were removed from the petition on November 2, 2012.)

A writ of mandate is a court order to a government agency to follow the law by correcting its prior actions or ceasing illegal acts.

The action is being brought against COP/GM, Greg Harman, the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board, and individual directors, Charles Toombs, Linda Lipscomb, and Richard (Tony) Lloyd – the three remaining directors who were on the Board on July 12th of last year.

This action arises out of the KPPCSD Board's July 12, 2012 vote (of 3 to 2, with Kosel and Metcalf in the minority) to increase Harman's salary, and to pay him a one-time cash payment, allegedly "to constitute retroactive pay increases for years in which no salary increase had been awarded," which the petitioners maintain was impermissible on the basis that it constituted a gift of public funds.

The petitioners also maintain that the 7/12/12 meeting was not extended in

accordance with the KPPCSD Policy and Procedures Manual, thereby nullifying the decision to award Harman his raise and one-time payment.

The petitioners further allege that the noticed meeting agenda specified only the contract period encompassed within July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2014, though "the Board majority voted on salary increases that fell outside this parameter, voting to increase...Harman's salary retroactively to 2009."

They are asking that the KPPCSD Board be directed to vacate its vote to increase Harman's compensation package, enjoin any gift of public funds, such as they claim was awarded to Harman in retroactive pay by the Board on 7/12, and that costs of suit and reasonable attorney fees be awarded to the petitioners.

In the past, the rules regarding the ending time of the KPPCSD meetings have routinely not been followed to the letter – meetings have begun at 7pm instead of 7:30pm, for instance, and have been frequently extended in the same manner in which the 7/12/12 meeting was extended – about which there is nothing mentioned in the Procedures Manual. Should the petitioners prevail in their suit, it may set an interesting precedent for a review of past Board actions taken after 10pm, for the past four years, and perhaps beyond.

Kosel and Metcalf both campaigned for KPPCSD on planks of "fiscal responsibility." Now, after being rejected by the electorate and abdicating the Board, respectively, the action by these two exdirectors and other plaintiffs is likely to cost the District tens of thousands of dollars, regardless of the outcome.

Board President at the time of the action, Chuck Toombs, said: "I firmly believe that there is no merit to the writ of mandate filed by members of the community, and that a court of law will completely vindicate me, Chief of Police and General Manager Harman, the District, and my fellow board members who were named in this suit. I am saddened, however, that the District will need to spend scarce resources defending this utterly unnecessary and frivolous litigation."

A Kensington resident pointed out that the cost of the defending the suit is apt to be more than the annual salary of the COP/GM, and that the petitioners and their attorney are basically suing their own neighbors (as well as themselves), as it is the residents of Kensington who will ultimately pay to defend the suit. Any attorney fees collected by Metcalf would likely also come from District funds. Should the suit fail, the District would still have to pay to defend the suit. A court date has not yet been scheduled. (The writ is available at www.KensingtonOutlook.com.)

Unfortunately, this is not the only litigation the District is currently facing. Board President, Tony Lloyd, said, "At its February meeting, the KPPCSD discussed its concern over the rapid rise of the District's legal costs — in particular, unanticipated litigation.

"Currently legal expenses are trending at 115% of the annual budget for such expenses (\$65K)," Lloyd reported, "with only six months of the year accounted for. (We do not have an in-house legal staff)."

He said the District budget committee has been asked to re-comb the budget for possible add'l funding or expense reductions.

According to Lloyd, "The upward pressure is due to unanticipated legal cost and

defenses attached to those actions brought against the District by citizens and two former board members, a legal challenge to the compensation award of the Chief of Police, and a demand for arbitration by the District's refuse vendor (Bay View).

"The current volume of litigation against the District, while unfortunate, is being dealt with in the most effective manner possible," he said, "and the District feels it has a reasonably good chance to prevail."

Lloyd reminded residents that the Board has a fiduciary responsibility to manage the resources of the District, including prudent defense of legal attacks that may have not been anticipated. "We will always try to resolve business disputes without litigation," he continued. "We will be diligent in our management practice and responsibilities. There will be times when litigation presents the only resolution option. We will aggressively protect the District assets and authority over those assets."

# Kensington Park Bldgs Committee Update

Set on the hillside overlooking the SF Bay, Kensington Park is the major physical asset owned and operated by the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District. The construction of outdoor park activities is superb; with children's play areas, tennis courts, basketball, pathways, playing fields, and most recently, the addition of public restrooms.

The Community Center, also known as the Youth Hut, is the building we all share and attend for recreation programs and community-sponsored activities and events. The Center should be the "jewel" and focus of the park. However, it is sadly in

see Park Bldgs., Page 7...



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# Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ
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Rev. Tony Clark, Pastor
www.acc-ucc.org

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

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# Join Us for Lent and Faster

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

- LENTEN THEME: "Renewed Living"
  - Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:00 a.m.
     Renew the Story with our joyous
     Procession of the Palms.
  - Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. Renew the Past with a ritual dinner and worship.
    - Good Friday, March 29, 12-3:00 p.m.
       Renew the Passion of the World through meditative worship.
      - Easter Sunday, March 31 •

Renew your Relationship with God in our 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service on the Patio, or 10:00 a.m. Worship with Children.

God is still speaking—at Arlington Community Church

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# **Neighborhood Notes**

# Coming Soon: Bruce Lee Meets Vincent Van G.

This spring break, Colusa Circle neighbors, *The Fuse Fitness* and *4Cats*, join

forces to offer a combination martial- and fine arts camp for children, ages 5-12. Campers will start their day at 4Cats, exploring the world of mixed media. Kids will design a beautiful springthemed acrylic-on-canvas painting, learn about baby wildlife, make paper mâche, and more...After lunch, campers will go next door to The Fuse Fitness for Kung Fu classes. All levels of experience are welcome. Sessions run Mon-Thurs, 9am-4pm, April 1-4 or April 8-11. \$145 for martial arts and/or \$180 for mornings at 4Cats. Register for art classes at www.4cats.com/ berkeleyhills.com, or call 525-1655;



Afternoon Kung Fu classes at www.thefusefitnessstudio.com, or 558-8638.

# ECHS Casino Night Becomes 'The Event' Mar. 9th

After years as *Casino Night*, the Grad Night Committee is launching *The Event – A Night Out for a Good Cause –* a fundraiser for a safe and sober grad night for the El Cerrito High School Class of 2013. Includes disco and salsa dancing and foosball and pool tables in the sports lounge, with finger food and wine, beer, sangria, and 70's-themed gin & tonics, plus live- and silent auctions. Sat., March 9th, 6-11pm at the EC Community Ctr. \$25 adv./\$30 door. For tix or info about the event, or about your business making a tax deductible donation, email Beth Crespan at *vlek@pacbell.net*, or call 526-5844. *We'll drink to that!* 

#### **Guide Dogs in Kensington?**

Renee Hoyer-Nielsen tells us that she and her family are now volunteer puppy raisers for Guide Dogs for the Blind. The group meets each week, and also has a monthly outing for the dogs, so they can be socialized and evaluated. (*I get that same thing most weekends at the singles bar, down on the corner. –Ed.*) Her club recently visited the Kensington Fire Dept. and the shops in Kensington Village. ("Do you have anything in bone?") Renee's Hilltop 5th grade daughter got the family involved originally; now Renee says it's quite a sight to see a pack of well-behaved Guide Dogs in Training on an outing. You, too, can become a puppy raiser (or donate) at www.GuideDogs.com.

# Which is Better - This...or This?

Kensington Optometry's Dr. Russell Cotteral reports having moved his entire office three times in as many months, poor guy, and we were hoping this would be the last time we'd need to update you on its whereabouts. You may remember KO was flooded out of its original location, along with Marvin Gardens Real Estate, last October. Last issue, Russell was happy to announce his new location on Colusa Circle. Recently, as building owner, Larry Thal, had decided to replace the roof, he moved back into KO's former digs at 291 Arlington. However, in late February, there were For Rent signs posted on *both* his Colusa and Arlington offices! What gives, Doc? The good news is, March is *Save Your Vision* month. Call the good doctor for details and special offers – wherever he may be found.

# Help Keep the Paths Clear • Mark Your Calendar!

Stratford Path clean up March 23; Lower Ardmore Path clean up April 20; Upper Ardmore Path clean up May 25; All dates, 10am - Noon. Watch the Kensington Kalendar (*Page 11*) for dates and details. *Free cookies this month!* 

# Tin Hat Tunesters Perform March 30th at 3pm

The *Tin Hat Tunesters* have taken up practicing their instruments (*finally!*) at the Kensington Community Center, Thursdays, 10:30am - Noon. They'll be performing at Richmond's Rosie the Riveter Museum on 3/30/13 at 3pm. Musicians and music lovers are welcome to join this group...playing or singing!

# Animals in Disaster – Caring for Pets & Wildlife

The Kensington Public Safety Council presents Animals in Disaster, Thursday,

March 21, at 7pm at the Kensington Community Ctr. Noell Crosse, of the Contra Costa Animal Svcs. Dept., will discuss the role of Animal Control during a disaster, and the capabilities of our County Animal Response Team. Learn to safely evacuate pets they don't become victims during a disaster. Winnie Kelly, Animal Welfare & Wildlife Services Specialist, will discuss confining stray/wild injured animals safely. Kensington Vet Hospital's Dr. Beth Phimister will address first-aid, handling injured animals, supplies to have on hand, and



more. Free. More info at *peterliddell@yahoo.com* or 501-8165. Advance reservations requested to: *dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org*.

# KENSINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

# **KIDS AFTER SCHOOL**

Kensington Community Council's After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) winter session is in progress, ending Friday, March 22nd.

Save the Date!: Spring KASEP Registration - Tuesday, March 12th.

Kindergarten registration starts at 6:45pm and Grades 1-6 registration begins at 7:15pm at the Community Center. Lottery slips are due at the KCC office by Monday, March 11th at 11am.

KASEP Brochures went home in student's backpacks the last week in February. Extra copies are in the KCC office. Registration forms can also be downloaded from the website, WWW.About-Kensington.Com.

KASP Spring Session runs from Monday March 25th through May 31st.

NO KASEP during Spring break -Monday, April 1st- Friday, April 5th.

# **SUMMER DAY CAMP**

# Time to Stop, Think, and Plan!

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

#### SPECIAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE\*

Week 1: June 10-14

Carpentry with Sandy + Field Trip: *The Jungle* 

Week 2: June 17-21

Engineering with Lance

+ Field Trip: Oakland Zoo Week 3: June 24-28

Mask Making with Shelly – Spirit Week + Field Trip: *Adventure Playground* 

#### Week 4: July 1-5

Sports & Games with Kim Roots \$190 for the week/Closed on the 4th

#### **Week 5: July 8-12**

Fun with Drumming w/Scott + Field Trip: *Lake Anza* 

#### Week 6: July 15-19

Gymnastics with Judy Baker – Olympic Week + Field Trip: New Exploratorium

# Week 7: July 22-26

Gymnastics with Judy Baker + Miniature Golf at Scandia

# Week 8: July 29-Aug. 2

Jewelry & Leather Creation Spirit Week + *Indoor Soccer* 

# & Rock Climbing at Bladium Week 9: August 5-9

Circus Fun with Doug

+ Lake Temescal/Ice Cream Treats

# Week 10: August 12-16

Cooking with Vicky Brodt

+ Playland Not at the Beach

# **ADULT RECREATION CLASSES**



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

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

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

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



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

Every Jazzercise fitness class combines dance-based cardio with strength training and stretching to sculpt, tone, and lengthen muscles for maximum fat burn. Choreographed to today's hottest music, Jazzercise is a fusion of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, and kickbox-

Drop-ins, pay-as-you-go, and monthly electronic funds transfer plans are available. Join Kevin, bring water and your mat. Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728.



# **ONLINE REGISTRATION IS HERE!**

Pay by Credit Card!

KCC Summer Camp On-Line Registration will start on Monday, March 11th. Families who are computer-comfortable, go to www.AboutKensington.com and under Kids' Services, click "summer camp;" you will be directed to the KCC Summer Camp On-Line Registration page. Or, go to www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org and this, too, will take you to KCC Online Summer Camp Registration.

For families wanting a first-hand online registration lesson, or families paying by check or cash, KCC Summer Camp On-Line Registration Kick-Off will be held Monday, March 11th, from 7-8:30pm at the KCC Office and Recreation Building. The Recreation Building has Internet connection, so bring your laptop and credit card (or checkbook if paying by check). KCC staff will walk you through the process, and together, we will register your child for Summer Camp 2013.

For more information about the new online registration process, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions, go to www.AboutKensington.com.

#### **GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

Each year, *The Outlook* publishes a picture of Kensington students graduating from high school. This year, the photo will be taken on Sunday May 5th at 3pm.

Save the Date!

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

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

# REGISTRATION

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

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

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



# Thanks to Our Generous KASEP Scholarship Donors 2013!

Julio Barazzi & Lola Isern Adrienne Bentley & Kasper Mossman Sophia & Mark Boroditsky Emily Bruce & Justin McCrary Yvetteh Chun Ortiz & Peter Chun Carmen & Randall Cook Caroline Danielson & Raja Sengupta Marni & Paris Deshong Dawn Dukes & David Concepcion Parisa Farrid Fiona Grigg & John Connelly Liwen Huang & Chenglung Wu Tseten & Anam Hujie Julia Kocs & Ben Meyers Yuji & Yasue Kosugi

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Leigh Marc & Michael Ziegler

Ann McDermott

Chris & Brooke Phillips Anna & Ron Porter Barrie Quan & Noel Diaz Leslie Reckler & Mac Moore Kristel Rietesel & Rory Prendergast Patty & Jeff Robertson Jennifer Shonholtz & Andy Ramm Lea Skikuma & Graham Flanagan Isabelle Sodini & Stuart Bale Ann Sussman & Dan Rokhsar Karina & Matt Tindol Lisa Trottier & Scott Adler Agnes & Anatalio Ubalde Kristy & Andrew Van Herick Sonja & Jens Vogel Brenda & Matt Wallace Betty Webster Sarah Rowell & David Yarnell

<sup>\*</sup> Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances.

#### ...Letters, from Page 2

not accurate, then where is the rebuttal? *There has been none.)* 

Lastly, you say "the Outlook has elsewhere reported allegations of lack of transparency, mishandled procedures, and financial mismanagement by others..." While research by the Outlook has not borne out those allegations, would you have us not report them?

As stated previously, it is a tradition in this country that the job of the press is to serve as a "watchdog" of our elected officials. The Outlook does its best to uphold that tradition, and reports malfeasance, if and where it is found. -Ed.

#### **Racial Profiling**

I am offended by one of your comments in a footnote to the KPPCSD story from the February issue. You refer to the "mainstream ethnic homogeneity" of our town's residents and passers-through. Let's break this down: Mainstream = "regarded as normal;" Ethnic = "racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin;" Homogeneity = "similar in kind."

The comment was made in a footnote about racial profiling, so let's focus on racial demographics. 78% of our town (2010 census) self identified as white. Apparently you equate "mainstream" and "normal" with being white, and have just alienated 22% of our residents (1,114 to be precise) by telling them that are "not regarded as normal." This figure is in addition to the hundreds of non-white non-residents who drive through our town, use our parks, and shop in our stores annually.

The statement is eerily similar to Bill O'Reilly's election night comments lamenting the loss of a "traditional America." If "white = normal" is your own personal belief, you are certainly entitled to it as an individual. However, this does not give you the right to make this representation on behalf of our entire town.

My family does not share your sentiment that "white = normal" and I am embarrassed, disturbed, and shocked that this comment would appear in our local paper (a publication of the KCC) as though it were a belief held by all 5000+ residents.

I request – and the community deserves – an explanation.

Mark Lorenz Kensington Resident

*The Editor responds:* 

Your taking offense at my statement, as I understand it, emanates from my use of the term, "mainstream," which you define as "normal."

I wasn't thinking of it in that way, and did not use it with that meaning in mind – nor does any of four dictionaries I consulted include the word "normal" in its definition of "mainstream." You appear to be the only one defining the word in that manner. I find it a large leap for you to assume that what I meant was "normal = white;" that's not what I think, and that's not what I said. Associating my statement with a television commentator strikes me as an attempt to assign guilt by associa*tion* – *of which there is none.* 

You go from "If 'white = normal' is your own personal belief," (which it is not) to "My family does not share your sentiment that 'white = normal,' to feeling shocked that that would be the case (when it is not). It sounds as if you are saying you're shocked about something that doesn't

I do think, however, that use of the term, "mainstream," could imply that some are "in" the mainstream, and (unspecified) others are "out" of the mainstream, though I wasn't thinking in those terms. In retrospect, my choice of words could have been better. My point was that I expect racial profiling in Kensington to be rare, and the statistics quoted bear that out.

I am sorry, however, to have offended you with my choice of words – no offense was intended. -Ed.

# Kim Zvik: No 'Ayes,' No 'C'

Dear Editor,

I was surprised to learn that the (KPPCSD) Board failed to take a vote on Kim Zvik's candidacy for the seat left open by Mari Metcalf's resignation until she asked them to, and that she then received no votes at all. She was the only one of the three who'd actually run for that office (and she ran twice - she took out ads in the Outlook, and she went door to door). She received nearly as many votes as it took to win in years past (this year the turnout was greater).

I had expected her to have the backing of the Board on principle, since according to her website, Chuck Toombs had asked her not to run this last time, so as to not leach votes from him and Patricia Gillette, and he promised that 'quid pro quo' he'd back her in the next election. She defied him and ran anyway, but that must have meant he thought she was well qualified and would be the best.

I'd like Kim to know that many residents appreciated her putting herself forth to serve, and we liked her cheerful and upbeat campaign. We're sorry she was treated so shabbily, such that she had to ask the Board to give her the dignity of an up or down vote.

Anna Shane, Kensington Resident

#### **More on Bias and Profiling**

Dear Editor,

I have been attending KPPCSD meetings for more than a year. I know Ms. Metcalf and Ms. Kosel only from those meetings. I feel that your reporting of the two former board members have often been negatively slanted.

Some of your editorial comments in the February Outlook, about the January meeting, were snotty and inaccurate. You know that the length of a meeting depends on many factors and some may not have been present in January. To use one meeting as a sample against years of meetings is also invalid.

Finally, your comments about racial profiling was poorly done and inaccurate. If you are interested in what is happening in racial profiling in Kensington, you may ask about a Kensington PD Incident Report dated 8/29/12 at 3:18 PM. The place was the bus stop on Arlington/Highland. Our grandson had left our house a few minutes earlier to catch a bus. He was challenged by detective Stegman and officer Ramos to show an ID. His crime? He was waiting for a bus, talking on a cell phone. Would he have been challenged if he was not a black youngster? You may interview the two officers or the chief to get an answer. Also, the two brilliant officers managed to copy his date of birth and first name correctly from his driver license, but the last name in the report is fictional. Good

Karl Kruger, a 20+ - year resident

The Editor responds:

According to COP Greg Harman, officers were dispatched in response to an anony-

See Letters, Page 7...

Last month the Outlook misspelled Kim's last name as "Zvick." Kim asked us to correct it. *It is "Zvik." The* Outlook regrets the error. – Ed.

GM, Greg Harman Administered the Oath of

Office to new KPPCSD Director, Len Welsh

# ...KPPCSD, from Page 1

Directors, Chuck Toombs (who chaired the selection process), Linda Lipscomb, Pat Gillette, and President Tony Lloyd, complimented all three candidates, emphasizing what a tough choice it was to select one

of them over the other two, and encouraged the candidates who did not prevail to get involved at the committee level, and help the Board with the challenges ahead.

After the interviews, and before the vote, Director Toombs remarked that, as a Hilltop Elementary School parent, Becky Stephens would represent a constituency that is currently

underrepresented on the Board; as an IT professional, Kim Zvik would bring technology experience that the District needs; and that Len Welsh would bring governmental experience that the district has, but "could use another great mind."

Resident, Paul Dorroh expressed reservations about having four lawyers on a five-member board ("legal thinking" goodnaturedly described by Gayle Tapscott as "sludge"); Gayle also made the point that Becky specifically mentioned that she had the time available to devote to the position; John Stein noted that a younger demographic is another constituency that has been missing from the Board.

Director Lipscomb said she didn't have any fear of having additional lawyers -"That's what lawyers do - they legislate; they identify problems and they solve them."

Becky Stephens and Len Welsh tied on the first three ballots, with Chuck and Linda for Becky, and Tony and Pat for Len, and

no votes for Kim. In order to keep the selection process from "dragging on," Chuck reluctantly changed his vote from Becky to Len, on the fourth ballot. (Three of four votes were needed to elect.)

Len Welsh, the precandidate, has been an attorney since 1984, and has a science background in public health. He

was the head of CAL/OSHA from 2003-2011, supervising over 700 people. Len says he learned how to manage a budget, how to negotiate with unions, how to deal with legislators, and how to get regulations adopted and legislation passed. He's had experience dealing with diverse groups such as labor unions, industry organizations, and community groups, and says he's "able to work with those who're hostile and feel they're not getting a good

The three issues he mentioned as most important to him were fiscal management and planning, infrastructure, such as sidewalks and drainage, and getting a sense of the community, and what its vision is for the town and its buildings.

Len was installed for the twenty-two months remaining of Metcalf's term.



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#### ...Letters, from Page 6

mous telephone report of a "suspicious black male, pacing in front of a house," which turned out to be your grandson, waiting for the bus. Chief Harman said he explained that to you when you went into the station to discuss the matter; and, subsequent to that discussion, no racial profiling complaint was filed. Harman said, "We can't NOT respond to calls of 'suspicious behavior.' If we ignored a call like that and the person in question subsequently broke into someone's house, what

So, in answer to your question, it appears that, if there was any racial profiling involved, it was on the part of the original anonymous caller, and not on the part of the police department. According to the COP, your grandson would've been questioned, whatever his race.

Regarding the accuracy of the editorial comments, it's difficult to respond without specific examples. I can only say that, in almost four years of reporting, only two quite minor errors have been brought to my attention, which is a record of accuracy that surprises even me, and, for comparison, far exceeds that of such major media outlets as the San Francisco Chronicle.

As far as my comment on the length of the meetings, your statement ignores my published caveats, including, "the proof will be in the pudding..." – Ed.

#### Hilltop Principal's Take...

Editor,

Thank you for showcasing the Kensington Hilltop School's annual Garden Party on the front page of the February Outlook. The 29th annual Garden Party was indeed a hit, as your headline indicated; however, I believe you did a disservice to our school by using this article as an opportunity to mock the state of public education in California and the nation. Kensington Hilltop School greatly enriches the lives of everyone in our community, and the hard work and significant achievements of our staff, parents, and students should not be minimized.

Most of us would agree that education funding in California falls significantly short of that which is necessary, requiring parents to cover the shortfall year after year. Thanks to the Kensington Education Foundation's hard-working volunteers and the support of our entire community, we are assured of continued funding for the many enrichment and intervention programs aimed at meeting the broad educational needs of all of our students.

Events like the Garden Party ensure that our students continue to receive a high quality education, despite the ebb and flow of budgets and politics beyond our school site. Thanks to our experienced staff and the support of our school community, Kensington students continue to achieve at a level that rivals that of elementary students in Lamorinda, Marin County, and Palo Alto.

I do want to once again express my appreciation to Garden Party Chair Rochelle Clewer and her tireless team of volunteers for ensuring continued support for enrichment programs, as well as for programs that would have otherwise fallen victim to district budget cuts. Thanks to all for a job well done!

Judy Sanders Principal, Kensington Hilltop School

The Editor Responds:

My intention was not to minimize in any way "the hard work and significant achievements of ... staff, parents, and students." I'm surprised by that interpretation of my remarks.

Your point about education funding falling short of that which is needed was my point exactly - expressed perhaps more clearly in your capable hands. Thank you for making it. -Ed.

#### Sanity In Teapot Eddy?

Editor:

Whew! Thanks for maintaining some degree of sanity throughout the eddy of hysteria that swept through our little teapot. We all support fiscal responsibility, but not at the expense of self-righteous breast beating, public character assassinations and the disregard for minimal standards of civility and rational discourse. Democracy survives in Kensington.

Bill Tilden, Kensington Resident

# **Traffic Engineering Update**

At the February KPPCSD meeting, General Manager, Greg Harman, mentioned that the County expected to make a significant change to the intersection where Sunset Drive intersects Arlington Avenue – prohibiting left turns onto Sunset from Arlington by northbound traffic. Subsequent communication with the County indicates it is not as prepared to move forward with that change as Harman says he was led to believe.

KPPCSD Board President, Tony Lloyd said, "It was reported at the Thursday KPPCSD Board meeting that the County Traffic Safety Engineers has planned to modify traffic directions at the corner of Arlington and Sunset in Kensington. This was to address an identified traffic safety hazard at that intersection. After further checking and investigation, while it is true that a serious traffic safety issue has been identified, no proposed solution has yet been finalized.

"We have been assured by the County that citizens will be notified and given ample time to submit any comments that have to do with proposed traffic pattern modification at the intersection, before a final solution is agreed to. As this issue develops

all will be kept informed by the KPPCSD

According to Harman, Master Sergeant Hull contacted the County and received this message updating traffic engineering issues that Harman addressed at the February meeting:

"In response to the pedestrian collision on Colusa a few months ago our Traffic Engineer attended a meeting with the community and supervisor where several areas of concern were brought up. The crosswalk where the accident occurred is going to have some red curb installed to improve sight distance for drivers and pedestrians.

"Another part of that meeting revolved around concerns at the circle on Colusa. Pedestrians were concerned about the speed at which cars are crossing the crosswalks at the circle.

"After reviewing the traffic flows and roadway design in the area, we have noticed that motorists traveling through on Colusa have a nearly straight path through the intersection, which is much wider than a traditional one, and by the time cars are

see Traffic, Page 13...

# ...Park Bldgs., from Page 3

need of repair and does not live up to the basic safety standards and civic expectations of most Kensington residents.

A Master Plan for Park Buildings was completed in March 2012. Based on community input from two workshops and an online survey, the architects recommended addressing the basic health and safety problems, as well as making improvements that would better serve the entire community.

The focus of the design is to first provide a building that would be seismically and physically safer for our children, who are the biggest users of the facility. Additionally, the design provides greater separation and flexibility in how the rooms are used, so that multiple programs or meetings could take place at the same time. The design includes human comfort improvements, such as temperature controls and better sound and lighting, while concurrently reducing ongoing costs through energy efficient systems. The design also encourages more rental opportunities and festive celebrations at times when the facility is not currently being used

Lastly, the new Center would celebrate its beautiful park setting and the indoor-outdoor experience by providing more light along the west wall – a huge opportunity missed in the current structure.

Funding is needed to remodel the Community Center as recommended in the Master Plan. The cost of renovation is estimated at \$1.6 million dollars. Even with existing funding identified for this project (some of which are grants and donations) there is an estimated funding shortfall of \$1.1 million dollars. To fund the recommended improvements will require either a voterapproved bond or a tax, at some point.

The Committee is committed to making our park buildings and shared civic spaces as safe and enduring as possible – an asset for our enjoyment today, and for our families and friends for generations to come.

The Park Buildings Committee is reaching out to "K" groups and other interested neighborhood associations in March so it can educate the community about the Master Plan and the financing options, and bring input from the community back to the KPPCSD Board. Please plan on attending your "K" group meeting or call GM, Greg Harman at 526-4141 to schedule a discussion with your neighborhood group.

The Kensington Park Buildings Master Plan is available at *KensingtonCalifornia*. org under the tab, Parks and Recreation.

- Submitted by Bruce Morrow, Member, Parks Building Committee and Kensington Community Council

# **Arlington Street Lights**

General Manager, Greg Harman reported that he met with PG&E and County representatives in January, during their survey of the Arlington streetlights. According to the Harman, PG&E admitted that the lights are too bright. Harman said they've installed several LED lights which are supposedly not as bright, and cast more white light in the direction of the street, as part of an "assessment" to see if the residents prefer these lights to the ones that were recently installed – and about which there have been many complaints. PG&E is also measuring the distance of the old lights from the street to compare with the distance of the new lights to the street.

The next meeting regarding this issue is scheduled for Wed., March 20th at 6:30pm at the Kensington Community Center.



# Featured Properties



37 Ardmore Rd., Kensington Sunny and spacious Craftsman home 3++BR/ 2++BA. Lovely garden and just a block to coffee. Offered at \$1,189,000



33 Sunset Drive, Kensington Charming Tudor with Bay views. 3+BR/3BR. Close to Village shops. Offered at \$895,000

*Pending Sale* 57 Edgecroft Road, Kensington Rare tri-plex loaded with charm. City and Bay views. Offered at \$898,000

# Coming Soon



202 Princeton Ave., Kensington Two - one bedroom units - side by side. Excellent location! Offered at \$625,000



6210 Lagunitas Ave., El Cerrito Level-in to one-of-a-kind home. 3BR/2BA. Beautiful finishes and design. Big view! Offered at \$698,000

# Market Snapshot - January 1 - Feb 8th

•2 Available Listings •Average List Price: \$388 per sq. ft. •Average days on the market: 8 •3 Pending •Average List Price: \$406 per sq. ft. •Average days on the market: 9 •9 Sold •Average List Price: \$387 per sq. ft. •Average Sales Price: \$403 per sq. ft. •Average days on the market: 22

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9



Sara and Doug Diego; 2. Cara Marasco and husband;
 Vida Sarrafan and husband, Hassan; 4. KCC Administrator, Marty Westby and husband, Bob; 5. "The Food;"
 Mark Bell and wife, Cara; 7. Kimberly Wilkins, KCC Board member and Mechanics Bank Financial Services Manager; 8. Marvin Gardens Real Estate co-owner, and KCC Board member, Todd Hodson, and KCC Financial Secretary, Vida Dorroh; 9. Betty Anne Engel and *Outlook* editor, Joel Koosed; 10. Lynn Gardiner giving the dance lesson.

# **In Memory**



Gisken Elliott Oct. 21, 1932 - Dec. 21, 2012

Eighty years on this Great Green Earth seems too short when you think of how many dreams Gisken still had and how much beauty she still beheld in the world. Everyone celebrated at the house on her 80th birthday, two months before her passing. Friends old and new surrounded her with love.

People who knew Gisken don't need to be told what a vibrant, funny person she was, with an openness to people from all walks of life - charity in the truest sense.

Raised in Denmark during the German occupation of WWII,

Gisken eventually received a degree in early childhood education, and worked as an au pair near Cornwall, England. When she was 20, she sailed on a cargo ship to New York to help with her older sister's three children.

She and her sister and children moved to Oakland, where Gisken met her future husband. He and Gisken bought the house in Kensington in 1963, where she lived, raised her own two children, and worked as a pre-school teacher all of her adult

Her home in Kensington was always her "Secret Garden." She stayed close to home, and kept to herself, but her light-filled world offered a warm embrace to saints and sinners alike. She refused to lock her doors, because she did not want to believe the worst about people. Not a day went by that she did not say out loud how blessed she felt to have such a beautiful place to live.

Friends and family are invited to a gathering at Gisken's house on the first Sunday in spring, from noon,

# **Identity Theft Seminar**

Early this year, Officer Doug Wilson and the Kensington Police Department hosted an identity theft presentation by *LifeLock* – an identity theft protection firm.

As many know, identity theft continues to be a problem for just about every community within the country. Such crimes are often difficult to solve, due to limited resources of the investigating agencies and the fact that these crimes can span states, and even countries. Some of us have been unfortunate enough to have been the victim of identity theft and have learned how much time it takes to try and regain control of our identity. The best way to combat identity theft is to try and prevent it.

There are several ways that you can be proactive in combatting identity theft. These include:

- Check your credit report every year. You are entitled to a free credit report annually. Take advantage of the free credit report and verify that the information it contains is correct.
- · Opt out of direct marketing mail. By opting out of direct marketing mail, you should be able to greatly reduce the number of pre-approved credit offers that you receive.

An Identity Theft Prevention page has been created on the www.kensingtoncalifornia.org website, under the "Police Department" menu that lists these valuable resources.

One topic covered during the ID Theft presentation was RFID-enabled credit cards - cards that have a chip imbedded within that uses radio frequency electromagnetic fields to transfer information wirelessly. These cards look like regular credit cards, with the exception of one of a few different logos on the front or back of the card that indicate the presence of such a chip.

Stores that accept these cards typically have a "reader" over which you pass your card (instead of the conventional swipe terminals). Many fast food restaurants have these devices, where a reader is mounted on the exterior of the drive-thru window. Apparently, these RFID-enabled credit cards are always emitting your credit card information. Some experts opine that "electronic pickpockets" can use specialized equipment to "read" your RFID signal while parked across the parking lot (or possibly further). If you have an RFID-enabled credit card you can contact the issuing bank and have them re-issue a card that does not have an RFID chip.

– Submitted by Sgt. Kevin Hui

Additional information, photos of RFID logos, conflicting opinions, and other ways to protect vourself from possible "electronic pickpocketing" at www.snopes. com/fraud/identity/pickpocket.asp.

# **Kensington Veterinary Hospital**

Spring is allergy season for Pets Too





Your pet may have allergies that can easily be treated.

For a complete list of symptoms, go to www.kensingtonvethospital.com or call **510-528-0797** now to make an appointment.

# **Shop Locally all Winter long!**

• Every Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 🔆 Oak View Ave. at Colusa Circle •





Fill your Easter Basket with goodies from the Kensington Farmers' Market.

www.kensingtonfarmersmarket.org

# Neighborhood Pre-School

Serving the Kensington community since 1980

# **Pre-School Schedule**

Pre-School 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Two classrooms, licensed for 30 students Dedicated Classrooms and Play Yard

We offer music with a teacher from the Crowden School of Music

Tennis classes with the Kensington Tennis Pro Art Classes ~ Circle time ~ Kindergarten Prep Easy transition to kindergarten for our graduates



90 Highland Blvd., Kensington, CA 94708 Classroom Phone 510 526-5871 Office Phone 510 236-5901

email neighborhoodschool@comcast.net

We are located on the kindergarten yard at Kensington Elementary School

Neighborhood School also offers before and after school care for K-6 grades for students attending Kensington Elementary School

# From the Files of the KPD

# Excerpt From January 2013 —

2013-001 - On 1-1-2013, Officers Wilson and Wilkens responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. and arrested three juveniles for possession of alcohol.

2013-124 - On 1-8-2013, Officer Armanino responded to the 00 block of Sunset Dr. for a reported vandalism – a damaged sign.

2013-125 - On 1-8-2013, Officer Ramos responded to the 200 block of Stanford Ave. for a reported identity theft.

2013-229 - On 1-13-2013, Officer Ramos responded to the 00 block of Arlington Ave. for a reported vandalism - a damaged front door.

2013-242 - On 1-14-2013, Officer Ramos responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. for a reported non-injury traffic collision.

2013-245 - On 1-14-2013, Officer Ramos responded to the 00 block of Lawson Dr. for a reported residential burglary.

2013-276 - On 1-15-2013, Officers Wilson and Wilkens responded to the 1600 block of Oak View Ave. for a reported non-injury traffic collision.

2013-397 - On 1-23-2013, Officer Ramos responded to the 500 block of Coventry Rd. for a reported vandalism - property spray-painted.

2013-399 - On 1-23-2013, Officer Ramos responded to the 500 block of Coventry Rd. for a reported vandalism, - a roadway sign spray-painted.

2013-403 - On 1-23-2013, Officer Ramos responded to the 00 block of Edgecroft Dr. for a reported identity

2013-405 - On 1-23-2013, Sergeant Barrow and Detective Stegman responded to the area of Liberty St.

and Stockton Ave. in El Cerrito to assist EC Officers in the search for shooting suspects.

2013-529 - On 1-28-2013, Officer Ramos responded to the 1600 block of Oak View Ave. for a reported theft from an unlocked vehicle.

2013-0034 - On 01-03-2013, Officer Turner

responded to the unit block of Ardmore Rd. on a report of a residential burglary.

2013-0182 - On 01-11-2013, Officer Martinez responded to the unit block of Arlington Ct. on a report of an identity theft.

2013-0347 - On 01-18-2013, Officer Turner responded to the 400 block of Berkeley Park Blvd. on a report of a vehicle burglary.

2013-0457 - On 01-25-2013, Officer Martinez and Officer Wilkens responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. on a report of a fraud.

# Entire report available at:

www. Kensing ton California. org/police-department/police-monthly-reports

# March 1 Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography led by Rev. Jane Ramsey. Fridays, March 1 - April 19, 10 - 11:30am. Suggested fee \$80. To register, email *jane.rms@gmail.com* or call 499-5204. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, *nucb.org*.

March 1 & 3 Handel's Samson w/UC Alumni Chorus, Members of the UC Women's and Men's Chorales, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of SF Choir, and attendant soloists. Fri., 3/1 at 7:30pm at Hertz Hall, UCB; and Sun., 3/3 at 2pm at 1st Unitarian Universalist Church of SF, 1187 Franklin St., SF. Tickets: \$20/\$15/\$6 at tickets. berkeley.edu, or (510) 642-3880.

March 1-12 Paintings of Models in Victorian Dress. Curated by El Cerrito Art Association – an organization of East Bay artists. Payn's Stationery Store, 1791 Solano Ave., Berkeley. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5:30pm. Free. 526-6241

March 3 Soroptimist International of El Cerrito Presents the Fourth Annual Speaker Series 2013: Every Woman Has a Story...Women in the Media. Dr. Elayne Savage, PhD, an internationally recognized author known as "Queen of Rejection." Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Social 6:30pm; speaker at 7. \$20, includes refreshments. Tix: 527-8796.

"No one understands that you have given everything. You must give more."

- Antonio Porchia

# **Kensington Kalendar**

March 3 Personal Theology Seminar: Helene Knox, Ph.D. and M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry, specializing in UU history. "The Personal Theology of William Ellery Channing." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

March 4, 6, & 8 Jazzercise meets at the Community Center. Ongoing, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8:15-9:15am.

March 5 Dr. Seuss Story Time and birthday party to celebrate Dr. Seuss. Crafts, stories, and snacks for families. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 5 The kABC, The Kensington Afternoon Book Club for ages 11-14. Contact the library for the title of the book to read. 1st Tuesdays. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 1pm. Free.

March 5 Writing and Selling, by Ray Nelson. Tuesdays, 3/5 - 4/9, 7-9pm. \$20 per 2-hr session suggested. Registration at *RayFaradayNelson@aol. com*, 526-7378, or drop in. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302, *uucb.org*.

March 5 The Power of Myth at the Movies: The Year of Living Dangerously (1982) View this movie before class, then attend the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7:30-9pm. \$8. To register, email Martha Helming: marthahelming@earthlink.net. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

March 5 and 7 Body Sculpting. Ongoing, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10am at the Community Center.

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

March 6, 13, 20, 27 Potluck Community Dinner and Spirit and the Arts Program at Arlington Community Church. Potluck for everyone, families welcome at 5:30pm. Adult study from 6-7pm. Spirit and the Arts Program for children from 6-9pm. Children's choir with Shanti Moorjani, dancing and acting with Rev. Dr. Michael Mansfield. \$50/materials. Info: 526-9146.

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

March 8 Second Friday Concert Series at Arlington Community Church in partnership with Bay Area Classical Harmonies. Adler Scholarship Fellows from SF – aspiring young opera singers. Wine and cheese reception at 7pm; concert at 8. \$18 general/\$15 seniors/\$12 students. Tix available at the door, or at www.bayareabach.org.

March 9 Celebrate National Pig Day with a Mo Willem's "Elephant and Piggie" story and craft. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11:30am. Free. 524-3043.

March 9 'The Event' – A Night Out for a Good Cause. Fundraiser for a safe and sober grad night for the ECHS Class of 2013. See Neighborhood Notes, P. 4.







# PLEASE JOIN US:

~Easter Family Liturgy~ March 31, 2013 • 9:30 a.m.

~Madeleine Spring Auction~ April 20, 2013 Mass: 5:00 p.m. Auction: 6:00–11:00 p.m.

Visit: www.themadeleine.com for more information.



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

March 10 Personal Theology Seminar: Temple Beth Sholom's Rabbi Harry Manhoff, on "Meet Jesus' Jewish Friends." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302.

March 11 Art Talk with Michael Stehr. *Three Days in Rome: Caravaggio.* Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 11 El Cerrito Art Association meets. Watercolorist, Margaret W. Fago speaks about her work with watercolor and Plein Air painting. EC Community Ctr., 7007 Moeser Lane. Social time and a "mini art show" of members' work at 7pm; brief business meeting at 7:30, followed by the speaker. Free. www.elcerritoart.org or 526-6241.

March 12 Persian Festival – Jump over the bonfires to welcome spring. Persian food, music, & dancing. 6-10pm, 2029 Durant Ave., Berk. Rain or shine. Free. www.AnotherBullwinkelShow.com.

March 12th KASEP Spring Registration. 6:45 kinder and 7:15 grades 1-6. See page 5 for details.

# **Town Meetings**

Kensington Community Center 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KPOA

**Property Owners Association** Meets quarterly. 559-8232

KFM – Every Sunday Kensington Farmers' Market Sundays, 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle at Oak View Ave. 847-0801 or KensingtonFarmersMarket.org March 12 & 26 Stories & Songs. Songs, lullabies, and stories. Perfect for prebedtime family cuddling. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 13 - May 14 Exhibit of Watercolor Landscapes by local artist, Jack Anderson, at Payn's Stationery Store, 1791 Solano Ave., Berkeley. Mon.-Sat. 9am-5:30pm. Free. 526-6241

March 14 El Cerrito Garden Club meets. 9:30-Noon at the EC Community Ctr., 7007 Moeser Lane. Martha Berthelsen on "Preparing Soil for Planting and Making Bee Boxes." Guests \$3. Info: 233-9365.

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

March 14 Men's Fellowship at Arlington Community Church; 6:30pm. Info at 526-9146.

March 17 Personal Theology Seminar: UUCB Religious Education consultant, Sheri Prud'homme, on "Harmonies of Natural Beauty: Exploring Thomas Starr King's Nature Sermons." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, uucb.org.

March 17 'Sounds New' in Concert at 3pm. \$20/\$15. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302 or *uucb.org*.

March 18 Book Club. Discussion of *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

"If you think you are too small to be effective, you've never been in bed with a mosquito." – Betty Reese



# **Kensington Kalendar**

March 19 Music and **Stories** by Cascada De Flores. Α night of bilingual music, dance, and storytelling. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 19
Berkeley
Garden Club
lecture, "Way
of the Maple"
by Yuki
Nara, teacher
and expert
pruner. 2pm
at the Albany

at the Albany
Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave.,
Albany. Visitors welcome. Info at www.

March 19 College Admissions for the Alternative Student. College advisor, Martha Black, presents a broader vision of college, providing successful, concrete college planning tips for bright, creative students who don't fit the traditional academic mold. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., EC. 7pm. Free. 526-7512.

berkeleygardenclub.org.



Violet, 2-1/2, takes her turn at painting, a la Jackson Pollock, at the 4Cats Art Studio. See 'Bruce Lee Meets Van Gogh,' April 1.

March 20 Arlington Street Lights Meeting at the Community Center, 6:30pm.

March 20 The Kensington unit of the League of Women voters meets. 1:15pm at 44 Beverly Road. Guests are welcome. To confirm call 524-6071.

March 21 "Animals in Disaster," presented by the Kensington Public Safety Council. 7pm, Kensington Community Ctr. Free. See NNotes, P. 4.

March 21 Relay For Life of El Cerrito's Kick-Off Party. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 6-9pm. 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 232-4264 x30, or www. playland-not-at-the-beach.org.

**March 22 Bridge** at Arlington Community Church. Potluck, 6pm. 526-9146.

"I put a dollar in a change machine.

Nothing happened." – George Carlin

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March 22, 23, 24 Little Shop of Horrors, featuring theater & dance students, and the ECHS jazz band. Fri., 3/22 and Sat., 3/23 at 7:30pm; Sun., 3/24 at 2pm. \$10/\$5 students. 525-1539 or karenshebek@sbcglobal.net.

March 23 Stratford Path Cleanup, 10am-Noon, top of Stratford Path on Coventry Rd. Bring rakes, clippers, brooms, loppers, dust pans. Green waste bags – and cookies – provided.

March 24 Soroptimist International of El Cerrito Presents the Fourth Annual Speaker Series 2013: Every Woman Has a Story...Women in the Media. Andrea Torrice, public TV producer, and Paloma Pavel, President of Earth House Center. Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Social 6:30pm; speaker at 7pm. \$20. Tickets at 527-8796.

March 24 Personal Theology Seminar: The Rev. Cathleen Cox, UUCB Community Minister. "Jesus, Buddha, and the Nature of Enlightenment." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, *uucb.org*.

March 25 Spring KASEP Session Starts. See Page 5 for details.

March 27 Karaoke, with Officer Doug Wilson at The Arlington. 6pm. Free.

**April 1 Bruce Lee Meets Van Gogh** on Colusa Circle. Spring break classes begin for kids 5-12. *See Neighborhood Notes, Page 4.* 

**April 1-5 Spring Break.** No KASEP Classes. *See Page 5 for March classes.* 







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> "The sun shines and warms and lights us, and we have no curiosity to know why this is so; but we ask the reason of all evil, of pain, and hunger."

> > - Ralph Waldo Emerson

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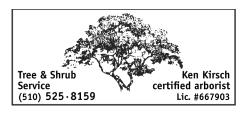


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**PAGE 13** 







#### ...Traffic, from Page 7

crossing the crosswalk on the far side of the circle they have already reached their cruising speed.

"In the coming weeks we plan to install roadway surface treatments which will make the island in the center of the circle more circular in shape. These treatments will potentially be temporary in nature and will include striping and the installation of bumps to widen the median area.

"Our experiments at the intersection lead us to believe that the traffic flows that pass along Colusa will proceed more slowly through the intersection, and that the speed with which cars cross the crosswalks will slow.

"The nature of the improvements should not have any adverse effects and should not impede emergency or other large vehicles getting through the intersection safely. If these improvements are successful there is the possibility of making more permanent design changes at some point in the future.

"As far as the intersection of Arlington and Sunset, we have been looking at a variety of options for that location but unfortunately none of them has developed any potential that will meet the community needs."

"We will continue to explore options for that location, and are open to suggestions from the community and from your department. Please let me know if you have any more questions."

"The world keeps ending, but new people too dumb to know it keep showing up as if the fun's just started."

– John Updike



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