



— Bringing The Community Together —

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

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MAY 2014

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 71 NUMBER 4

67th Hilltop Spring Carnival May 10

The 67th Annual Spring Carnival at Kensington Hilltop Elementary is Saturday, May 10th, from 11am-3pm.

There will be carnival activities for kids of all ages – including plasma car races, a crafts table, “Hair Feathers,” glitter tattoos, and more.

Check out the plant sale, enter your best pie in the Pie Baking Contest (fruit, nut, dairy, or “student”), then take home a keepsake from the carnival photo booth. Win a delicious cake from the ever-popular *Cake Walk*. (Thanks again to Ruth Frassetto for her generous sponsorship!)

The Dad’s Club Grill will serve



Clockwise, from top left: Plant sale, White Elephant Sale, Dad’s Club BBQ, the scene, the kids.

tri-tip sandwiches, hotdogs, burgers, and veggie burgers. Carnival proceeds fund PTA-sponsored school assemblies, and support the purchase of school supplies and emergency readiness kits for each Hilltop classroom.

The Carnival will feature the 32nd annual Quilt Raffle, benefiting Hilltop PTA – with a grand prize – a beautiful quilt, “Kensington Connections,” lovingly

see Carnival, Page 12...

Writ Now Before Court of Appeal

Decision on anti-SLAPP
Motion Expected by June 30

In October 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, Esq. on behalf of plaintiffs, Leonard Schwartzburd, Schwartzburd’s wife, Dairlyn Chelette, Mabry Benson, Catherine De Neergaard, Metcalf’s husband, Jeffrey Koehler, Celia Concus, former KPPCSD Director Cathie Kosel, Llewellyn Stanton, and Eyleen Nadolny (treasurer of Kosel’s and Jim Hansen’s 2012 KPPCSD campaign committee). (For unknown reasons, Koehler’s name was removed from the petition in November 2012, prior to its presentation to the KPPCSD Board in January 2013. Kosel said her name was removed along with Koehler’s because she “didn’t have time to participate.”) De Neergaard’s name was removed in October 2013 – no

see Writ, Page 3...



**START YOUR SUMMER OFF
IN HIGH GEAR!**

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE KCC
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT ON
SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH

KA-CHING!

Writ of Mandate Defense Through March:

\$200,000+

MARCH BILLING \$17,689
FEBRUARY BILLING \$36,313

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children climbing the pear tree
that's not yet planted

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• KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE •

	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	BR/BA
• Arlington	\$895,000	\$955,000	3/3
• Avon	\$749,000	\$775,000	2/1
• Windsor	\$545,000	\$653,000	2/2

• Current Pending Sales: 7
• Current Active Listings: 5

Source: EBRD-MLS Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

~~~~~

For each Kensington home I sell, I donate to the Kensington Education Foundation.

We were up  
against a deadline.  
The deal was  
brought in on  
time and at a  
good price. And,  
Amy donated \$500  
to the Kensington  
Education  
Foundation!

- Mac Moore/  
Leslie Reckler,  
Sellers

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 and the editor's discretion. 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

Think Global, Shop Local

Dear Editor:

I am writing to encourage my neighbors to shop in Kensington at every opportunity. Relieved and pleased as I am that Country Cheese has just opened in the upper Kensington village, the closure of the Arlington Pharmacy reminds me of how vital it is for all of us to support our local businesses.

This is the best place I have ever lived, and primary among its assets are the Kensington merchants that meet nearly all of my needs. It is easy to take them for granted but they will not be there if we do not make a concerted effort to give them our business.

Without the advantage of large scale, some prices may necessarily be a little higher than elsewhere, but to me they are worth every penny. I am happy to pay extra for proximity (even walkability), the efficiency with which I can get in and out of a small store, the satisfaction of putting money into the local economy, and especially for the personal, friendly service and advice provided (who else knows what kind of wine or chocolate I will like?). Finally, I doubt that our small local businesses will have their credit card transactions hacked.

Sincerely,  
Beverlee French

Police Board  
'Taken for Chumps'?

Dear Editor,

You reported the latest cost in the Police Board suit against homeowners is \$140,000, paid to their 'usual' law firm, Hanson-Bridgett.

Hanson-Bridgett was paid more than \$160,000 for the Bay View fiasco, which resulted in a much higher rate increase for us than had been requested, subsequent Board chagrin, and their expensive and potentially disastrous yet 'not-voted-on' decision to not renew Bay View's contract. It's also the same law firm that charged unusual expenses cited in the Contra Costa County Grand Jury report that concluded

our Kensington Police Board lacks adequate internal controls. And the same one that is expensively defending an employee with a history of complaints, accused of harassment by another employee.

For some reason the *Outlook* didn't report the ACLU filed a friend of the court brief on behalf of the Kensington homeowners, seeing the Board's decision to sue them and to appeal their 'first' loss rather than follow the law as an bald-faced attempt to intimidate homeowners.

So, it's Kensington Police Board, represented by Hanson-Bridgett (paid for by us) against some homeowners who don't want us all to lose our shirts and the ACLU (*sine pecuniae*) [*sic*].

Is it any wonder our home values aren't going up at nearly the same rates as our neighboring towns? Isn't it time the Police Board realized they're being taken for chumps and hire a law firm that represents our economic interests over their own bottom line?

Anna Shane

About That Pub, Bub

Dear Editor,

I want to support the author of the poor Pub review and you, the *Outlook* editor, for publishing it. Despite its proximity and my beer drinking proclivities, the Pub only merits last resort visits due to consistently poor service and an uninspired menu. We are missing an opportunity to have institution at that rotary. In a town as small as ours, the public house should be a topic of public conversation.

Gordon Becker

Shocked, Shocked!

Dear Editor:

At the risk of sounding like a paranoid obstructionist, I was shocked, shocked to read in the *Outlook* an interview with GM/Top Cop Greg Harmon, who revealed himself to be a decent, professional human being who cares about our town and has raised grants to support it. Obviously, there is an unspoken conspiracy between you and the big-government people who run the KPPCSD. I think we in Kensington would be better off without a jaundiced newspaper editor such as yourself who supports the democratic process and prints letters from all over the political spectrum.

Sincerely,  
Bill Tilden

Support for Measure L

Dear Editor,

I urge Kensington residents to support Measure L for very practical reasons. The building is in severe need of updating and maintenance. It makes good economic sense to do the work now, as interest rates have never been lower than they are today, and the rates won't stay this low.

Currently the Community Center's appearance reminds me of my Berkeley High cafeteria, back in the 60's. I was there when they announced President Kennedy's assassination over the loud speaker. I got a very good look as I stood still and turned slowly around. If we want that style, that's fine with me. But an updated building could compete with the Brazilian Room in Tilden Park and generate additional income as an attractive place to rent for special events. Seeing Kensington for

K E N S I N G T O N  
OUTLOOK

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June Advertising Deadline.....May 8  
June Editorial Deadline.....May 10

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see Letters, Page 4...



## Writ Defense Costs Reach \$100 per Household

...*Writ*, from Page 1

no reason given.)

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. (*Outlook*, March 2013, ‘*Since We’re Neighbors, Let’s Be Litigants*,’ Page 3.)

The action was brought against the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board, and three of the five sitting individual directors – Charles (Chuck) Toombs, Linda Lipscomb, and Richard (Tony) Lloyd, with Chief of Police and General Manager, Gregory Harman, named as a “party of interest.”

The petitioners allege that the vote on GM/COP Greg Harman’s raise and performance bonus at the July 2012 KPPCSD meeting was taken after the meeting had been extended in a manner incongruent with its Policy and Procedures Manual, and that the vote is therefore null and void.<sup>1</sup> Petitioners also allege that Harman’s merit and retention bonus may have been an illegal gift of public funds.<sup>2</sup>

(A comparison of other police chiefs in similar sized towns in the Bay Area suggested that the vote in question brought Harman’s pay from among the lowest to an amount equivalent to the mid-range of other Chiefs of Police.)

KPPCSD attorneys, acting on behalf of Lipscomb, Toombs, and Lloyd responded to the complaint by filing an anti-SLAPP motion, asserting that, other allegations contained in the suit aside, the complaint included a suit against public participation (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation), and that the individual directors should therefore be dismissed from the

case – based on their right to vote their consciences on board matters without fear of reprisal.

The trial court denied the anti-SLAPP motion, and KPPCSD appealed that decision. (Anti-SLAPP, and decisions on similar matters, can be appealed after the decision is handed down, before a lawsuit goes any further. Certain interim orders are appealable prior to the disposition of a case – meant to short-circuit cases that may not have merit, rather than allowing them to go through the entire case to judgment. In such cases, the original trial court proceedings are stayed until a decision has been rendered by the Court of Appeal.)

### Recent Developments

On April 1, 2014 a hearing was held before the California Court of Appeal, where oral arguments were presented on the propriety of listing the three named individuals in the writ of mandate, singling out Directors Chuck Toombs, Linda Lipscomb, and Tony Lloyd, and omitting then-Director, Cathie Kosel – one of the original plaintiffs in the suit, and then-Director, Mari Metcalf – the original attorney of record for the plaintiffs (now one of two, along with Timothy Rumberger).

A recent wrinkle in the case found the ACLU filing an amicus brief on behalf of the plaintiffs, though the ACLU did not appear at the April hearing to advocate for its position on the matter.

The Court of Appeal will render a decision on the *appeal* of the *denial* of the anti-SLAPP motion. Typically, the Court would issue a written decision that describes the situation, what principles are at stake, and on what the appeals court decision is based. A decision by the appeals court is expected by June 30th.

The Court can approve or deny the appeal and remand it to the trial court with instructions on how to proceed, or it can make a decision on its own account – a dispositive decision on the appeal, or on the entire case, at the Court of Appeal level.

*As the cost to the town of defending the suit has reached the \$200,000 mark (about \$100 per household through March 31st), the Outlook decided to check in with the plaintiffs in the suit and ask them why they feel the issues at stake are worth pursuing at such great expense to the town.*

*Comments on the writ were invited from all petitioners – original and current. Former petitioner, Cathie Kosel – the only one to respond to the invitation with a response unencumbered by unacceptable demands for editorial control over how the article would be written – had this to say about the writ:*

“It is my understanding that the writ was filed to encourage the board to do the people’s business in public.” Though she did not give any examples, Kosel alleged that, “(t)he board and the GM/COP have gotten into the habit of not following open meeting laws and not providing adequate time, opportunities, and processes to inform the public about how public monies are being spent.<sup>3</sup> There is also a concern that the Board may have made an illegal gift of public funds to Greg Harman in the guise of a retroactive pay raise.”<sup>4</sup>

“It seems a shame that the KPPCSD board refused to honor Open Meeting laws and has spent over \$100,000 in legal fees to preserve their (sic) own ability to circumvent the spirit of democracy. The culture surrounding KPPCSD encourages a sort of arrogant, secretive, and careless approach to governance.<sup>5</sup> Why so secretive? Because they are burning through

public money so fast that the smoke from their bonfire leaves democratic principles choking and gasping for air.

“Though their combined revenues are comparable to the Fire Department’s, KPPCSD has had to beg for money from WCCUSD to patrol Kensington School,<sup>6</sup> beg free rent from the Kensington Fire Department, and collect approximately \$650 in tax measures per year from each household to keep afloat.<sup>7</sup>

“I support democratic processes which are open and transparent.<sup>8</sup> And guess what? Openness costs less than secretive governance because the exercise of gathering input from many wise heads in our community encourages frugal, efficient, cooperative government. And it does not encourage the divisiveness that currently exists. So I am sympathetic to the petitioners and I admire their commitment to our community. The ACLU apparently agrees.

“All the board had to do was to carry out a proper open meeting process and inform the public in an inclusive way. They arrogantly refused. They chose to spend even more of the people’s money by suing the petitioners. Hard for some folks to admit they violated democratic principles. Even an ‘Oops! We didn’t know. We will table it, bring it back to the next meeting and provide accurate figures before the meeting and even publicize it in the *Outlook*,’ would have put this issue to rest. And it would not have cost a dime.”<sup>8</sup>

*Cathie Kosel was one of the original writ of mandate petitioners – while she was still a sitting Director on the KPPCSD Board. She served one term on the Board, from 2009 to 2012.*

see Writ, Page 8...

# ☒ YES on Measure L

LOCAL control over LOCAL funds for LOCAL needs

## IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF OUR Kensington Community Center

Measure L will:

- Increase earthquake safety
- Provide electrical and fire safety upgrades
- Rebuild a healthier and safer kitchen
- Create accessible bathrooms
- Add program capacity through a more flexible floor plan



### ENDORSED BY

Senator Loni Hancock, California State Senate, District 9  
Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, California State Assembly; District 15  
Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County; District 1  
Kensington Improvement Club

### AND BY FELLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS\*

Claudia Albano  
Amii and Michae Barnard-Bahn, Hilltop Parents  
Betty Barraza, Past President, Hilltop PTA  
Ray Barraza, Past Chair, KMAC  
Mark and Cara Bell, Hilltop Parents  
Rosie Blanckenburg  
Ted Blanckenburg, Past President and current Director, KCC  
Lisa Caronna, Director, KIC  
Arrietta Chakos  
Carolyn Day Flowers, Hilltop Parent  
Tom Dean  
Doug Diego, VP, Hilltop Dad’s Club

Janet Diehl, Hilltop Parent  
Paul and Vida Dorroh  
Betty Ann Engel  
Anne Forrest, Teacher, Hilltop School  
Dane Gillette  
Pat Gillette, Director, KPPCSD  
Gretchen Gillfillan, Past President, FKL; Director, KIC  
Walter Gillfillan, Member, KMAC  
Katie Gluck, Member, KPSC  
Jack Griffith  
Joan Haber  
Esther Hill, Past President, KEF; Former Administrator, KCC  
Melissa Holmes Snyder, President, KIC; Member, KMAC  
David Karp  
Anthony Knight and Elena Caruthers  
Michele Koo  
Linda Lipscomb, Vice President, KPPCSD  
Angela Meusel, Hilltop Parent  
Gloria Morrison, Former Director, KPFD; Former member KCC  
Bruce Morrow, Past President, KPPCSD; Past President, KCC

John Norcross  
Lorraine Osmundson, Director, KIC  
John Price, Past President, KEF  
Lynn Price  
John Ream, Past President, KPPCSD  
Renee Ream  
Andrew Reed  
Kay Reed, Former Member, KMAC  
Sarah Reynoso  
Rudolf Schmid  
Laurie Schumacher  
Tom Sherris-Watt, Scoutmaster Troop 100  
Chris Sorensen, Past President, KEF  
Nicki Spillane  
John Stein, Former Director, KPPCSD  
Kathy Stein, Past President, KCC  
Becky and Eric Stephens, Hilltop Parents  
Gayle Shortridge Tapscott  
Chuck Toombs, Past President, Current Director, KPPCSD  
Nancy Toombs  
Nathalie Van Linder, Co-Chair, KEF  
Betty Webster, Director, KIC  
Len Welsh, President, KPPCSD  
Marty Westby

*“Serving over 3,000 people a year, the Community Center is the heart of Kensington. It must be made safer.”*  
—GRETCHEN GILLFILLAN

*“This measure has our support. Our family has enjoyed the Kensington Community Center regularly for the last 13 years and we are happy to contribute towards its bright future and continued use in our community.”*  
—MARK AND CARA BELL

\*Partial list of endorsers

Use of titles is for identification only and does not reflect an endorsement of the organization.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK. (facebook.com/YESonL)



## Critical Vote on Doctors Medical Ctr Measure ‘C’ Votes Must be Received by May 6th

If you’re in an accident and/or hurt, you need immediate medical care. If you have a stroke or heart attack, you need to get to a hospital fast. In West Contra Costa County (which includes Kensington), an ambulance will take you to the Emergency Room at Doctors Medical Center (DMC) in San Pablo (even if you’re a Kaiser member).

40,000 patients visit DMC’s ER every year. According to Keep Our ER & Hospital Open (KOERHO), if *Measure C* fails, DMC will close, and the treatment hospital for those patients will be further away, and dramatically more crowded. (According to KOERHO, Kaiser’s ER only has 15 beds and may have to serve 100 additional patients a day, forcing wait times as long as 10 hours.) Seconds count in an emergency and extra travel time could mean the difference between full recovery, long-term disability, or even death.

DMC is the stroke and heart attack center for all West County. The hospital also provides free breast cancer screening for low-income women and free health screenings for seniors. KOERHO says the hospital has cut costs, reduced overhead, and eliminated management positions. According to its website, “Government reimbursements continue to decline, so while the cost of care is going up, the money DMC receives is going down.”

Measure C is a special tax placed on the ballot by the West Contra Costa Healthcare District to prevent the closure of DMC, the only full service emergency room serving all West County residents. If passed, it will enact a 14-cent per square foot tax on property owners within the district that will enable the district to maintain the hospital and emergency room. KOERHO assures voters that all funds raised by the tax would be used only to fund operating and capital costs to keep the hospital and its emergency room open. The funds would also be subject to annual audits by an independent oversight committee.

WCCC residents should have already received their ballots in the mail. To have one’s voice counted on this matter, ballots must be received by the County Clerk by May 6th. More information is available at [www.KeepOurEROpen.com](http://www.KeepOurEROpen.com) or 284-2461.

### ...Letters, from Page 2

the first time, a young visitor from Fresno described our town to me as “enchanted.” An improved building will keep our property values up, as outsiders learn about Kensington through renting this facility, in addition to generating more income.

Making the repairs and improvements now is good long range planning for several reasons. Bonds can be issued at a low interest rate, which probably won’t be true in the future. We can avoid expensive emergency repairs, such as a leaky roof, dangerous electrical problems, and seismic construction fixes, among others. Construction costs to repair and improve the building will only continue to go up. We all know what happens if we don’t tend to maintenance needs as they arise. If you don’t clear your gutters, eventually your roof will leak, and then instead of paying for a handyman, you will be paying for a new roof. Likewise, the community center has seismic and electrical, as well as plumbing problems. We fix it now, or we pay later at a higher cost with much more damage caused by neglect, impacting our slim police budget, and depleting reserves.

Let’s be financially smart and vote Yes on L.

Gayle Shortridge Tapscott

### Yes on Measure L

As Kensington voters decide whether to vote for Measure L for renovation of the Community Center (the “Youth Hut” as many of us call it), there are some important facts to consider.

The Community Center is 50 years old and aging. It was very modestly repaired about thirty years ago, but now needs extensive repairs and safety upgrades.

Essential repairs and seismic upgrades will help ensure that the Community Center can serve as an emergency site for Kensington in the event of an earthquake, fire, or other local disaster.

Throughout the building, electrical and fire safety systems must be updated, as must the bathrooms and Disability Access. A few simple layout modifications are planned that will make the building more functional for simultaneous uses.

If the Community Center is not repaired and maintained, both of which require more money than the KPPCSD building

fund affords, then within the next few years the Community Center could become problematic for public use. Doing nothing is really not an option.

The Park Building Committee has been meeting monthly for four years and held several public meetings at which the public was invited to share their opinions and ideas. It makes this recommendation after much due diligence and community support.

Measure L is a good investment in Kensington’s future.

Bruce Morrow and John Norcross  
Kensington residents for 25 years

### In Support of Measure L

Dear Editor,

We are writing in support of Measure L, the Kensington Community Center safety project. We in Kensington will be asked to vote on several bond measures this spring, and it’s all a bit confusing. In May there’s a special mail-in ballot election where the West Contra Costa Hospital District is floating the third bond measure within ten years to keep Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo open (Measure C).

Then on June 3rd, there’s a primary election with 3 more measures. The West Contra Costa Unified School District is asking us to approve another bond for school repairs and upgrades (Measure H); in addition, the Contra Costa Community College District is seeking more funding to upgrade educational facilities (Measure E).

- We will also have our own Kensington Community Center safety project bond on the June ballot (Measure L).
- Measure L is different from each of these other measures in very important ways:
- Measure L funds can only be spent in Kensington for our Community Center;
  - Measure L funds cover the full implementation of the project and will not require any additional bond measures;
  - Measure L will be audited by a citizen’s oversight committee composed of your neighbors;
  - Measure L will be funded at a rate of \$14 per \$100,000 of assessed value; this amounts to less than \$5 per month for the average home in Kensington; and
  - Measure L requires 67% voter approval – so your vote counts!
- We urge you to join us in voting YES on Measure L for Kensington.

Sincerely,  
Walter and Gretchen Gillfillan

### Measure L

This is a total waste of money, Kensington residents. Do not vote for this useless, unnecessary use of good money. Believe me, next year or the year after--your Board will come up with another and another way to bilk us. (It will be in the form of another building, another something.) Just take a look at the ugly entrance announcing Kensington. This is our Board and how much did that monstrosity cost?

We have contractors, civil engineers, plumbers, electricians, builders living in Kensington. Get a fund raiser and take the time to think this out before you levy an unnecessary tithe on us. I worry about the waste that will happen if we allow 2 million dollars into their hands. Do not tax us for this wreck of an idea. Vote No.

I am a Kensington resident since 1963.

Lillie Braudy

### High Horse of Legal Action

(Dear Editor:)

LOOKOUT: “kensington board wasted...”

please correct me if i am wrong, but it seems your broadsheet makes no specific mention of the suit against individual members, a subset of the board, that is challenged by the anti-SLAPP suit.

the triviality of the violation, a too-casual meeting overrun in a small local volunteer board, with the predictable voting outcome now unchallenged – you say – by you, comes nowhere close to justifying your own initiation of legal action.

triviality also damns your outrage at the *Outlook*: sure he’s editing in his own point of view — but would you deem us such fools as not to be able to notice, and compensate for that?

the SLAPP question (and yes, I am a member of the ACLU) does not obscure the truth that this whole brouhaha began with a clique that, having already discovered it would not get its way, leaped on the high horse of legal action, only to fall off the other side.

mike bloxham

(Published as submitted. The author appears to be referring to a discussion of the Writ of Mandate, apparently included in a recent copy of a local, independent newsletter, distributed to select Kensington residents – the “Lookout.” – Ed.)

### Leaf Blowers

On my block in Kensington there are leaf blowers most days of the work week. My husband & I work at home and are subject to their intrusive, whiny, noise sometimes 3x in one day. There is so much other necessary noise we tolerate (tree cutting, garbage trucks, construction...) why do we need to increase the aural loading? And the use of these machines has multiplied a little like fleas on a dog.

I don’t understand why people don’t rethink the use of these annoying machines; rakes work wonders and cause none of the following: Noise pollution, Air pollution, Allergen spreading (dust, mold, pollen and gas fumes), Dirt (blown on to cars, decks & windows), Unhappy neighbors.

It often seems as if much of the detritus is just blown down the street to point B until the next blower blows it back to point A.

Thanks for allowing me to blow (oops) off some steam!

Jennifer Kelly

More Letters, Page 12...

## Helping Middle Schoolers “Find their Voice”

GRADES 6 - 8 • ARCHWAYSCHOOL.ORG



Accepting Applications Now for 2014-2015

Please contact the Admissions Department to schedule a tour.

To schedule an appointment, call (510) 849-4747  
1940 Virginia Street Berkeley, CA 94709

## Kensington Fine Foods Great Grub Since 2004

Have you tried the hot, ready-to-eat pork spareribs yet, at Kensington Fine Foods? Fabulous! For lunch, we love their “Yesterday’s Meatloaf” sandwich (“Today’s Meatloaf” is also pretty darn good!) and the smoked turkey special – California cui-

sine comes to the turkey sandwich. Is this the Bay Area’s best sandwich, or what? Plus, they’ve got the best price we’ve found anywhere on Fra’Mani Mattinata Breakfast Sausage. Soups, house-made salads, and other vegetarian options, too! For those new to town, Kensington Fine Foods is located inside Young’s Market on the Arlington. *Check it out!*



# 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

### Kensington After-School Enrichment Program - Spring Session

Kensington After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) Spring Session is now in progress. KASEP classes end Friday, May 30th, one week before Hilltop’s academic school year comes to a close. Monday KASEP classes end May 19th, as KCC is closed Monday, May 26th to honor Memorial Day.

## KASEP SUMMER CAMP 2014

### Time to Stop, Think, and Plan

Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp – Don’t miss out on what’s happening this summer in your neighborhood! KCC Summer Day camp offers traditional camp activities like games, sports, arts and crafts. These activities run side-by-side with a variety exciting camp specialty classes like gymnastics, carpentry, cooking and circus arts. Each week enjoy a different experience.

Enroll by the week. Camp runs for 10 weeks, starting Monday, June 9th and ending Friday, August 15th. Unstructured time, self-directed, is part of the camp experience too, as it allows time for children to socialize, make personal choices, and have a voice in the activities they choose.

KCC Summer Day Camp is for children entering 1st through 6th grades in Fall 2014. Camp is a full, fun day – starting at 9am and ending at 5pm. Morning-care and after-care is available.

Cost is \$245.00 per camper, per week  
Register On-line: [www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org](http://www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org)  
Registration is ongoing throughout the summer

### KCC Summer Camp Activities & Schedule

- |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1: June 9 - June 13</b><br>Specialty: Carpentry<br>Field Trip: The Jungle – Indoor Playground/Concord           | <b>Week 6: July 14 - July 18</b><br>Specialty: Gymnastics <i>Olympic Week</i><br>Field Trip: Marine Mammal Rescue/ Marin |
| <b>Week 2: June 16 – June 20</b><br>Specialty: Soda Pop Tab Belts/Jewelry<br>Field Trip: Adventure Playground/ Berkeley | <b>Week 7: July 21 – July 25</b><br>Specialty: Circus Arts<br>Field Trip: Bladium-Alameda Rock Climbing/ Soccer          |
| <b>Week 3: June 23 – June 27</b><br>Specialty: Gymnastics <i>Spirit Week</i><br>Field Trip: Oakland Zoo                 | <b>Week 8: July 28 – August 1</b><br>Specialty: Cooking <i>Spirit Week</i><br>Field Trip: Lake Temescal                  |
| <b>Week 4: June 30 – July 3</b><br>Specialty: Ultimate Frisbee & Volleyball<br>Closed 4th of July                       | <b>Week 9: August 4– August 8</b><br>Specialty: Metal Art, Dog Tags<br>Field Trip: Scandia                               |
| <b>Week 5: July 7 – July 11</b><br>Specialty: Ceramic Clay Creations<br>Field Trip: Lake Anza                           | <b>Week 10: August 11 - August 15</b><br>Specialty: Ceramic Critters<br>Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool Party!               |

Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances.

## 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](mailto:kccrec@yahoo.com), or call 525-0292. M-F, 10am-4pm.

**Tennis Court Reservations:** For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am. Call the KCC office for info. Court Fees: 45-min. singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5.

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

## jazzercise



*Building Community with Food.* A special note of thanks goes out to the Jazzercisers who brought lunch to the Senior Serenaders. Toes were tapping, smiles were shared. Great music and food enjoyed by all.

**JAZZERCISE**  
Low Impact for Adults  
Monday-Wednesday-Friday,  
8:15-9:15am • Ongoing

**BODY SCULPTING**  
For Adults  
Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
9-10am • Ongoing

*Dancing Days!* **Jazzercise** group fitness class combines dance-based cardio with strength training and stretching to sculpt, tone, and lengthen muscles for maximum fat burn. **Body sculpting** is shaping your body to look leaner, more toned, and strengthened. Both Jazzercise and Body Sculpting are taught by Kevin Knickerbocker at the Community Center. Register at class. Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728.

**QI-GONG FOR ADULTS**  
Fridays, 9:30-10:30am  
Ongoing, at the Kensington Community Center  
Drop-ins welcome: \$18 per class. (No classes held June - August)

What is Qi-Gong? Qi-Gong is a practice of aligning body, breath, and mind for health, meditation, and martial arts training. With roots in Chinese medicine, philosophy, and martial arts, Qi-Gong is traditionally viewed as a practice to cultivate “life energy.” Meg McDowell, is a certified Qi-Gong therapist, as well as a licensed acupuncturist. Meg has a thriving practice in Kensington and specializes in women’s health. For more information or to reserve, call Meg at 229-9922 or email her at [NeedleSandQi@gmail.com](mailto:NeedleSandQi@gmail.com).

## High School Senior Photo

Let the tradition continue! Calling all high school seniors who live(d) in Kensington, or who attended Hilltop Elementary School in Kensington for all or part of their elementary school years – you’re invited to join other alumni for the Annual Kensington High School Senior Photo.



Last Year’s Graduating Seniors

The photo shoot is scheduled for Sunday, May 4th at 3:30pm. Meet up at the KCC Office – come early to catch-up with old friends! The photo will appear on the cover of the June *Outlook*.

★ **Graduating Seniors – Mark Your Calendars Now!**  
Sunday, May 4th at 3:30pm



Carpentry – Bay Bridge by Hand • KCC Camp Fun • Making BFFs at Summer Camp • KCC Summer Camp - Relay Concentration • Kitchen Kids...New Aprons – Ready for Duty!







# Neighborhood Notes

## Country Cheese Company Opens in Kensington

The charming Shirley Ng says she and her husband, Pete Raxakoul, run their own stores every day – which is an increasingly neat trick now that they’ve opened their third shop, on the corner of Arlington and Amherst, replacing the pharmacy as the anchor tenant on the corner. “I don’t like to see things sitting on the shelf,” Shirley told us the other day; “I prefer high quality and low prices – the more you buy, the more money I want to save you,” she said. Shirley and Pete are excited about their new store because it has enough room to offer everything they want – Pete is in charge of the coffee roasting and Shirley does the tea, the chocolate, and the cheese. Add your requests to the message board out front and don’t forget – the post office inside is open. *Welcome, Shirley and Pete!*

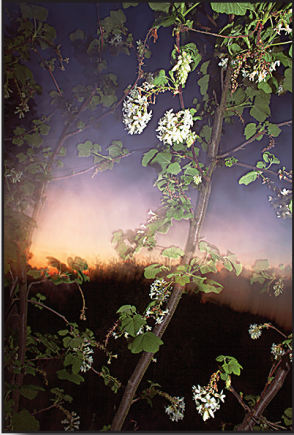


## Hillside Festival in El Cerrito - Saturday, May 17th

The first ever Hillside Festival in El Cerrito will feature hikes, native plant tours, a bike park demonstration, historical talks and tours, habitat restoration demonstrations, free garden club plants, kid’s events, and more, in a 90-acre wildness area in the middle of the city. Sponsored by El Cerrito’s Environmental Quality Committee, the free event takes place from 10am to 3pm at the Hillside Natural Area. Join Berkeley historian and author, Richard Schwartz at the trailhead on Schmidt Lane, near the Recycling Center, 7501 Schmidt Lane. Map and activity guides are available at the trailhead, and online at [www.ecTrailTrekking.org](http://www.ecTrailTrekking.org).

## ‘First Light, Last Light’ May 3

Photographer Lisa Toby’s show “First Light, Last Light” opens May 3rd at Nan Phelps Photography, 398 Colusa Avenue. Reception, open to the public from 5pm-7pm Saturday 5/3; Show runs May 3rd-31st, Thursday and Fridays, Noon-4pm and Saturdays, 10am-4pm...In Toby’s own words: “I shoot during the first and last light of the day. It is during these transitions – between day and night, when the light is low, that I see best the majesty and vulnerability of our fragile world.” See her work at <http://lisatoby.com>; exhibit details at [www.nanphelps.com](http://www.nanphelps.com).



## Jane Austen’s ‘Mansfield Park’ Ball – Sat., May 31st

Join the Bay Area English Regency Society in celebrating the bicentennial of Jane Austen’s novel “Mansfield Park.” The ball will be held at the Arlington Community Church in Kensington starting at 8pm. Regency era costumes are admired but not required. The set dances are easy and will be taught at the ball. You don’t need to bring a partner. The dance caller for the evening will be Alan Winston, and live music will be provided by the Divertimento Dance Orchestra. For more information, go to: <http://baers.org/MansfieldPark.pdf>. Advanced tickets may be purchased online or by mail through May 29th. For advance purchases by mail, write the checks out to “BAERS” and send them to: BAERS c/o GBACG, P.O. Box 6392, Alameda, CA 94501. Tickets will also be available at the door.

## Public Comments Solicited on Waste Mgmt RFP

The discussion of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process identifying the next service provider for solid waste refuse and recycling service, to begin in September 2015, continues at the May 8th KPPCSD meeting at 7:30pm at the Community Center. The discussion includes the types of service to be requested and costs associated with these services. Residents who cannot attend are invited to send comments to KPPCSD, 217 Arlington Ave., Kensington CA 94707.

## Colusa Circle Lot Sold?

Late last month the *Outlook* received a report that the long-vacant lot at 401 Colusa (on Colusa Circle) had been purchased by a local merchant. The merchant in question denied that report, though none too convincingly. At press time, review of the Contra Costa Tax Assessor’s website showed no recent transfer of the property. *Stay tuned!*



## KCC’s M.O.? Seeking TLC For the BBQ

It became obvious at the last Kensington Community Council Parade and Picnic in October that the community barbecue dedicated to John Andronico had seen better days. The ‘Q has been used for years at community functions to feed families, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and day camp participants – but now it needs some tender loving care. The KCC is looking for a local contractor who would like to take on this project, which is ready to be funded, but needs someone with construction background to help with planning and refurbishing. Interested parties should contact Marty Westby at 525-0292 at the KCC Office. Please pass the word around – don’t keep it on the QT!

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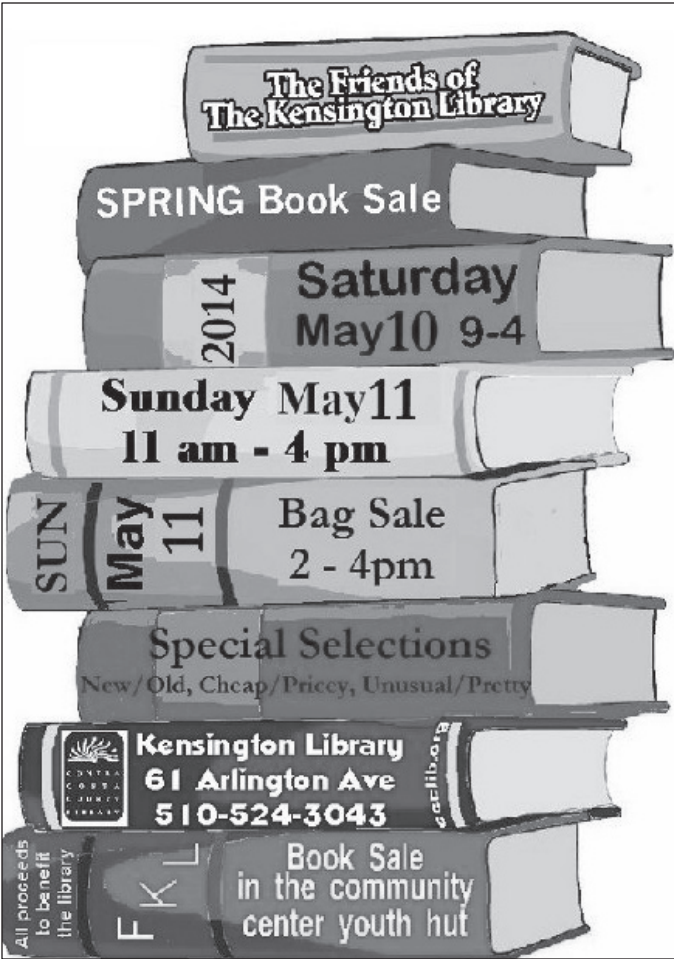
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The Friends of the Kensington Library Spring Book Sale will be held Saturday, May 10, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 11, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center (aka Youth Hut) at 59 Arlington Ave., in Kensington.

You will find well-stocked tables organized topically for easy viewing. Rare, first editions, signed books, and more can be found at the “Special Selections Table.”

Join us for the 'BAG SALE' on Sunday, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.! (510) 524-3043



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## Kosel Was For the Extension... ...Writ, from Page 3

<sup>1</sup> A review of the video of the July, 2012 KPPCSD meeting appeared to confirm an extension consistent with the procedure listed in the KPPCSD manual:

**Time Limit for Board Meeting.** All meetings of the Board of Directors must be adjourned by 10pm. Meetings can be extended by a 4/5 vote by the Board, or if less than 4/5 of the Directors are present, a unanimous vote of those Directors that are present. (*KPPCSD Policy & Procedures Manual, Sec. 5010.50*)

If a meeting is still in session at 9:45pm, the Board President...shall stop the progress of the meeting and suggest which of the remaining items on the agenda will be addressed in the remaining fifteen minutes of the meeting, or ask the Board to consider whether it will extend the meeting as described in Policy #501.50. (*KPPCSD Procedures Manual, Sec. 5010.51*)

<sup>2</sup> Regarding the assertion that the one-time merit and retention bonus of \$16,754 was a retroactive pay increase and therefore illegal, my contract had expired on June 30, 2012. According to the terms of that contract, had a new contract *not* been signed, the merit and retention bonus would not have been paid. – GM/COP Greg Harman.

<sup>3</sup> The KPPCSD meeting agenda gets posted to the Public Safety Building, the Cheese Shop kiosk, and the Colusa Market, with a full packet going to the library on the Friday or Saturday prior to each monthly meeting, at the latest – well before the Thursday Board meeting, and in full compliance with the Brown Act. The full packet also gets posted to the website at the same time. At 81 citizens’ requests, the agenda packet is also e-mailed directly to them.

The District’s website maintains past agenda packets, which include financial reports, such as the monthly Profit & Loss Budget Performance, Park Revenue & Expenses, Training & Reimbursement, the General Manager’s reports, and the minutes from the previous month’s meeting. The website also maintains the audio recordings of the Board meetings, and its current and past budgets and audits, as well as all of the officer’s salaries and contracts.

The public is welcomed at every KPPCSD Board, Finance Committee, Policy Committee, Park Building Committee, Park & Recreation Committee, and Solid Waste Coordinating Committee meeting, and is invited to make public comments and ask questions regarding any item of District business or finances. All of these meetings are posted in full compliance with the Brown Act.

The Board of Directors is so supportive of open meetings and transparency, that during the period of time when the Brown Act was suspended, it still posted all of its agendas in full compliance with the Act.

“On July 12, 2012...the Board publicly considered the Chief’s compensation. The meeting was lawfully posted and the agenda reflected Board action on compensation. The public was entitled to, and did, hear the discussion about the salary, and commented on

it...many members of the public were so ready to participate that they read prepared statements.” – Linda Lipscomb (*Outlook*, Nov. 2012, ‘*Election Beat*,’ FN 3, Page 9.)

<sup>4</sup> The Chief was entitled to annual performance and salary reviews, as per his contract. Due largely to investigations spearheaded by Director Kosel, he was not provided with those reviews for three years. His raise reflects CPI and performance-based increases he could have reasonably expected to have received had those reviews taken place as called for in his contract. (*Outlook*, Nov. 2012, ‘*The Election Beat*,’ FN 4, Page 9. See also original reference: Sept. 2012 *Outlook* – ‘2012 COP/GM Compensation Analysis,’ Page 7.)

<sup>5</sup> In considering the source of these allegations, it should be noted that Ms. Kosel has a well-documented record of her own regarding the themes she mentions – arrogance, secrecy, carelessness, ‘openness,’ ‘transparency,’ and “circumventing the spirit of democracy” – from her time on the KPPCSD Board of Directors.

“The Outlook has previously documented more than 30 incidents in which...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 GM/COP and other police officers (all of which were found to be without merit), and more.” (*See Outlook*, Feb. 2013, *Letters to the Editor*; ‘Footnotes: Fact Checking or Editorial Bias?’ – Page 2. See also: *Outlook*, Oct. 2012, ‘Online Annex/Candidate Interviews,’ Cathie Kosel, Page 3; and Nov. 2012, ‘Top Cop’s Name Cleared,’ Page 1, and ‘The Election Beat,’ Page 9.)

Her actions during her unsuccessful 2012 re-election campaign garnered a warning letter from the California Fair Political Practices Commission (CFPPC).

<sup>6</sup> As recently reported by the *Outlook*, for the last 20 years, KPPCSD has been picking up the cost of providing the crossing guard, and the Kensington Police Dept. has been providing additional patrols and services for Hilltop Elementary before, during, and after school, including security checks throughout the day and night, and extra traffic enforcement during school commute hours...(WCCUSD)...recently **invited** KPPCSD to apply to receive compensation for those services, going forward. (*See Outlook*, April 2014, ‘Lynn, Keith, and Tony Bring Home the Bacon,’ Page 9.)

<sup>7</sup> As recently reported by the Outlook, the percentage of the property taxes awarded to each district was based on their individual budgets at the time Proposition 13 was passed in 1978; the Police District was reportedly running “lean,” while the Fire District was running in the red, and, in the estimation of some, about to go bankrupt. In accordance with the law, the percentages of the 1% property tax were fixed at approximately 30% for the Fire District, to help it survive, and 13% of the 1% for the

see Writ, Page 9...

## 12 Questions for the Petitioners

1. This suit is on track to cost the town of Kensington a quarter of a million dollars or more if the entire matter is not settled preemptively by the Court of Appeal. What is it that you’re asking for that is important enough to cost the town such a significant sum?
2. The suit has been going on for over a year now. What do you think it would it take to settle the case?
3. At \$200,000 – the cost of the defense to-date, that’s about \$100 per household. What would you say to your neighbors about costing each of them this amount of money?
4. Whose idea was it to initiate this suit?
5. The ACLU filed an amicus brief on the side of the plaintiffs. Can you describe the position it has taken?
6. Apparently the ACLU did not appear to argue its position at the April 1st hearing in front of the California Court of Appeal, where oral arguments were presented on the propriety of listing three named individuals in the suit. That seems like a critical hearing for a supporting organization to have missed. Why didn’t the ACLU appear?

7. It’s rumored that the attorneys for the defendants made a settlement offer to avoid further litigation. What was the nature of that offer, and why was it rejected?
8. Why were Directors Chuck Toombs, Linda Lipscomb, and Tony Lloyd singled out for suit from the other two sitting KPPCSD Board directors (Cathie Kosel and Mari Metcalf)?
9. Do you think that KPPCSD directors should be subject to suit for the opinions they hold and votes they make in the course of their duties – for what is essentially a volunteer position?
10. Mari Metcalf sued the three respondents on behalf of the petitioners as a private attorney, while simultaneously serving on the District’s Board. Doesn’t that raise concerns over a potential conflict of interest and a breach of her duties to the District as a director?
11. The updated writ contains a request for attorney’s fees. What is the amount that the plaintiff’s attorneys are claiming, to-date? If awarded, how much of that would accrue to Mari Metcalf?
12. Some have speculated that this case is now just about bragging rights and about which party is going to pay attorneys’ fees. What is your response to that assessment?



## ...Before She Was Against It

...*Writ, from Page 8*

Police District. And, as per the statute, it has been that way ever since. The PD makes up the difference with additional assessments, approved by the voters. All taxes and assessments included, the FD (which also collects a small additional assessment in most years) grosses approximately \$2.5M annually, to the PD’s \$2.2M – a difference of about \$300,000 annually. The budgets of the two departments appear to show the FD having amassed reserves in the multiple hundreds of thousands of dollars, while the PD continues to struggle financially to fulfill its mandate. *(The Outlook, March 2014, ‘Should the FD Continue to Charge the PD Rent?’ Page 8.)*

\* According to GM/COP, Greg Harman, at the KPPCSD meeting of July 12, 2012, at approx. 9:45pm, Board President, Chuck Toombs called for a motion to extend the meeting past 10pm. The vote was 3 to 2 in favor of extending – not the 4/5 vote required to pass the motion.

After four members of the public spoke, then-Director, Kosel made a motion that was seconded by then-Director Metcalf, to table the discussion on the compensation until the next scheduled board meeting (in August). There was a short break at approx. 9:55pm, and the meeting was reconvened at 10pm.

On the return from the break, Kosel informed the Board that she had a motion and a second on the floor. President Toombs informed her that the vote to extend the meeting had not received the required 4/5 vote; **she then requested another vote to extend the meeting and all five directors voted to extend the meeting** without including a time limit.

Kosel again called for a vote on her motion to table the item. The motion to table the item was rejected by a 3 to 2 vote, and the meeting continued, with members of the public speaking, as well as Directors Kosel and Metcalf participating in the discussions.

At 10:45pm, a motion was made and seconded to offer the GM/COP a contract extension, increase the salary, and make a one time merit and retention bonus of \$16,754, which passed on a 3-2 vote, with Kosel and Metcalf in the minority.

In addition, as to the claim that proper notice was not made under the Brown Act, the California legislature had temporarily suspended the Brown Act during this period. However, the KPPCSD Board continued to follow the rules and provisions of the Brown Act and posted the agenda for the July 12, 2012 meeting well in advance of the 72-hour notice requirement.

The wording of the agenda made it clear what was to be discussed under this item:

“District - New Business...2. KPPCSD Board Vice President Tony Lloyd will present for Board discussion and possible action the salary compensation package for General Manager/ Chief of Police Greg Harman for the July 1, 2012-June 30, 2014 contract period. Board Action.”

*Agendas and recordings are available at <http://KensingtonCalifornia.org>; videos by request, from the KPD, for a nominal charge,*

## Free Francisco Street Faire - May 10th

### The Berkeley School Celebrates 50 Years

The Berkeley School (TBS) is throwing the ultimate birthday party: a street fair, open to the public and free to all, commemorating a half-century of progressive education in the heart of Berkeley.

Join TBS for family fun as we culminate our 50th anniversary celebration on Saturday, May 10, from 11am to 3pm, just outside the TBS Early Childhood Center at the edge of the Gourmet Ghetto (2030 Francisco Street between Shattuck and Milvia – where Alice Waters once taught preschool).

There will be food, a samba band, games, prizes, and arts and crafts. Highlights include perennial favorites such as a birthday-party bouncy house, an oldfashioned dunk tank, face painting, and of course, birthday cake – plus rocket building, a 30-foot climbing wall, and more.

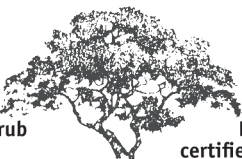
Special thanks to our sponsors Alta Wines, Stella Carakasi, and The Lederers Realtors.

The Berkeley School believes that innovating in response to the needs of children creates life-long learners. Every day for 50 years, teachers have created intentional environments where every child is known, and each is celebrated for who s/he is. At TBS, we believe when children know and have confidence in themselves, they will be empowered to engage a rapidly changing world.

Founded in 1963, TBS is the only progressive, pre-kindergarten through 8th grade program serving 280 students on two campuses in the greater Berkeley area.

TBS also believes that “What matters in education, matters in life.” Sometimes what matters most is appreciating the places and people who made us who we are. Join us in doing just that!

For more information, contact Araxi Gundelfinger at [agundelfinger@theberkeley-school.org](mailto:agundelfinger@theberkeley-school.org), or 665-8800 x108.




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### Analysis

It’s interesting to note that, at the July, 2012 meeting at which the vote regarding Harman’s raise and bonus was taken, when the directors came back from their break from 9:55-10pm, Director Kosel’s motion to table the discussion of the raise until the following meeting was not able to be voted on because, prior to the break, she and Director Metcalf had voted down the motion to extend the meeting.

After the break, when Kosel demanded a vote on her motion to table the vote on the raise, President Toombs reminded her that her motion could not be considered, as no agreement to extend the meeting was in place. **She then made a motion to extend the meeting, it was seconded by Metcalf,** and the motion was passed unanimously.

Once the meeting was extended, her motion to table the vote on Harman’s

raise was voted down 3-2. Discussion then continued on the raise and it was eventually passed, again on a 3-2 vote.

**Had Director Kosel NOT moved to extend the meeting so a vote could be taken on her motion to table the discussion of the raise, the meeting would have, for lack of an agreement to extend it, adjourned – automatically tabling the vote on the raise.**

In light of that scenario, the responsibility for the extension of the meeting and subsequent vote on the raise might reasonably be placed at Director Kosel’s doorstep. (Which may explain the hasty removal of her name from the writ, just a month after it was filed. How would it have looked to be suing the District for improper extension of a meeting when one of the plaintiffs in the suit was the Director who had moved to extend it?)

# Happy Mother’s Day!

*“Sorrow has its reward.  
It never leaves us  
where it found us.”*

– Mary Baker Eddy



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SUNDAY, MAY 11th

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## In Memory

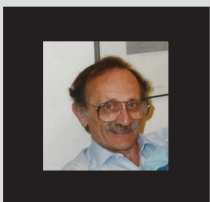
Dick Bersin was a kind and beloved husband, father, grandfather, scientist, inventor, and businessman. His sweet caring way, his intellect, and his passion to create and invent will all be forever missed.

Dick was born to Virginia and Maxwell Bersin in New York City. He received a BS in Physics from MIT in 1950 and an MS in Math and Physics from Northeastern University in 1962.

He enjoyed a career as a physicist and plasma process technologist, and was an inventor at heart. He began his career at Tracerlab in Boston, where he worked from 1950-1968.

In 1969 he founded International Plasma Corporation (IPC) in Richmond, California. IPC pioneered the use of plasma processing for the manufacture of semiconductors.

In 1974, he became Executive Vice President of Dionex Gas Plasma Systems. He



**Richard Lewis Bersin**  
*July 4, 1929 - Feb. 11, 2014*

continued his scientific development for Perkin Elmer Corporation in Wilton, Connecticut from 1979-1983.

In 1985, Dick founded Emergent Technology Corporation in New Haven, Connecticut, to focus on environmentally clean plasma processing, and later worked in this field for Ulvac Japan, Ltd.

Dick held more than 12 patents in plasma chemistry, many of which revolutionized the etching of computer chips.

He was a mentor to young scientists and engineers and inspired his children to be interested in all areas of science.

He loved to play the piano, was an expert ballroom dancer, and enjoyed music throughout his life.

Dick is survived by his wife, The Rev. Ruth H. Bersin, his sons: Joshua Morris Bersin (Heidi), Adam Samuel Bersin (Ana), and Jacob David Bersin (Emily); by his daughter Rebekah Bersin Funes (Jose Funes); and 9 grandchildren.

## Rest in Peace

## From the Files of the KPD

**Excerpt From March 2014**

3/1/14, Officer Turner responded to the unit block of Lenox Rd. for a report of a stolen vehicle. It was determined the vehicle had been stolen several days earlier and was not reported due to the victim being out of town. On 2/28 four suspects were arrested by Sacramento PO in connection with the vehicle and other crimes. This case is closed.

3/2/14, Officer Ramos took a report of a hit and run that occurred in a driveway in the 100 block of Purdue Ave. There are no witnesses and the damage reported was a crack in a brick retaining wall.

3/3/14, Officer Turner responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. for a report of an identity theft.

3/9/14, Corporal Stegman stopped a vehicle in the 200 block of Cambridge Ave. and arrested a severely intoxicated driver for DUI.

3/10/14, Officer Turner responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. for report of an identity theft.

3/13/14, Officer Turner responded to the 1600 block of Ocean View Ave. for a non-injury accident.

3/19/14, Corporal Stegman responded to the unit block of Arlington Ave. on a report of two juveniles in a physical altercation.

3/25/14, Officer Turner responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. for a report of an identity theft.





3/30/14, Officer Turner responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. for a report of a check fraud.

3/07/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the 200 block of Lake Dr. on a report of a petty theft.

3/14/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the unit block of Ardmore Rd. on a report of a petty theft.

3/20/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the 400 block of Colusa Ave. on a report of a commercial burglary.

3/20/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the unit block of Lam Ct. on a report of an identity theft.



**The Ring Time Report for March** identified 47 total 911 calls with 3 having ring times over 20 seconds. The average ring time for the month was 7 seconds.

**Website**  
The Board packets, monthly reports, minutes, recordings of the KPPCSD Board Meetings, and Bay View-County Solid Waste contracts are available for review at: [www.KensingtonCalifornia.org](http://www.KensingtonCalifornia.org)

**Complete Report at** [KensingtonCalifornia.org/KPPCSD-board/2014-agenda-packets-0](http://KensingtonCalifornia.org/KPPCSD-board/2014-agenda-packets-0)



**May 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 Baby & Toddler Storytime.** Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15 am & 11:15 am. Free. 524-3043.

**May 3 Legos in the Library.** *Bricks 4 Kidz* is bringing Lego bricks and blueprints to the library so we can get creative and build something amazing! Appropriate for ages 3 and up. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11:00 am. Free. 524-3043.

**May 3 Berkeley Garden Club Spring Plant Sale,** 9am-3pm. 131 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito. Proceeds support BGC’s conservation and education activities. [berkeleygardenclub.org](http://berkeleygardenclub.org).

**May 3 Photographer Lisa Toby’s show “First Light, Last Light”** opens at Nan Phelps Studio. Reception, open to the public, from 5pm-7pm, 398 Colusa Ave., Berkeley (on Colusa Circle). Show runs May 3rd-31st: Thursdays and Fridays 12-4 and Saturdays 10-4. See her work at <http://lisatoby.com>.

**May 3 Kathryn Roszak’s Danse Lumiere** presents Dance on Center recital with Hilltop kids at 4pm. Osher Studio, 2055 Center Street, Berkeley. *Dance on Center* Series at 8pm with Ballet San Jose guest artists. Information: 233-5550 or [www.dlkdance.com](http://www.dlkdance.com).

**May 4 High School Senior Picture** at Kensington Recreation Center, 3:30pm. Keep the tradition alive! Picture in Outlook’s June’s issue.

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center  
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington  
*(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)*

**KCC - May 5th**  
**Kensington Community Council**  
1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

**FKL - May 6th**  
**Friends of the Kensington Library,** 7pm (at the Library, 61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesdays

**KPPCSD - May 8th**  
**Police Protection and Community Services District**  
2nd Thursdays **7:30pm.** 526-4141

**KPSC - May 12th**  
**Kensington Public Safety Council**  
Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness  
2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

**KARO/ECHO - May 12th**  
**Amateur Radio Operators**  
2nd Mondays of odd months, 7:30pm. 524-9815

**KFPD - May 14th**  
**Fire Protection District**  
2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

**KIC - No May Meeting**  
**Kensington Improvement Club**  
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 527-3062

**KMAC (Tentative) - May 27th**  
**Municipal Advisory Council**  
Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s office to confirm: 231-8691)

Kensington Kalendar



Join the Bay Area English Regency Society in celebrating the bicentennial of Jane Austen’s novel “Mansfield Park,” at the Arlington Community Church. See May 31.  
Photo: Jean Martin

**May 4 Rev. Károly Vass, “A Transylvania Unitarian Minister Looks at UU Congregations in the Present.”** 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**May 4, 11, 18, 25 Kensington Farmers Market.** Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm. Free. Colusa Circle.

**May 5 Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs.”** All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. Support, encouragement, and help provided. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

**May 6 The Power of Myth at the Movies: Grand Canyon** (1992). View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7:30-9pm. \$7. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**May 10 67th Annual Spring Carnival** at Kensington Hilltop Elementary, 11am-3pm. See Page 1.

**May 10 & 11 Friends of the Kensington Library Annual Book Sale.** Saturday, May 10th (9am-4pm) and Sunday, May 11th (11am-4pm) at the Community Center. Bag sale Sunday, 2-4pm.

**May 11 Mothers’ Day Lunch,** 11am-2pm. Special lunch honoring Mother’s Day. Pizza, pasta, and other delicious treats. Benchmark Pizzeria, 1568 Oak View Avenue, Colusa Circle.

**May 12 Julie Cohn Demonstrates Painting Eyes in Watercolor.** El Cer-

rito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, EC, 7pm. Free. 277-6996 or [bdaniell1943@gmail.com](mailto:bdaniell1943@gmail.com).

**May 12 Author Talk.** Amy Block Joy discusses her newest book, *Retaliation* – a first-person account about the danger of speaking out in the workplace – a follow up to her previous book, *Whistleblower*. For adults. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

**May 13 Dine Out for Edible Education.** 20% of proceeds donated to the Cooking & Gardening program in Berkeley Public Schools. At Benchmark Pizzeria, Colusa Circle.

**May 13, 20 & 27 Family Storytime** Picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun. Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington, 6:30pm. Free.

**May 15 Design & Create Your Own Book Cover** for a favorite book and have it displayed in the library. For elementary school-aged kids. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 3pm. Free. 524-3043.

**May 16 and 18 Contra Costa Chorale Spring Concert** presents *New York, New York!* featuring choral music by 20th century composers who were born, or lived in, New York City. Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein; choral highlights from Porgy and Bess, popular tunes by Marvin Hamlisch, and others. Cara Bradbury and Skye Atman on piano. 5/16 at 8pm, St. Cornelius Catholic Church, 225-28th St., Richmond; and 5/18 at 5pm, UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. \$20 General, \$15 Students/Seniors/Disabled. Children under 12 – free. Info: [www.ccchorale.org](http://www.ccchorale.org), or 255-0703.

**May 17 El Cerrito Hillside Festival** features hikes, native plant tours, a bike park demonstration, historical talks and tours, habitat restoration dem-

onstrations, free garden club plants, kids’ events, and more, in a 90-acre wildness area in the middle of the city. 10am-3pm at the Hillside Natural Area. Gather at the trailhead, near the Recycling Center, 7501 Schmidt Lane, EC. [www.ecTrailTrekking.org](http://www.ecTrailTrekking.org).

**May 18 Community Family Orchestra** Potluck at the Kensington Community Center, 6-7:30pm. For children and those of all ages who play an orchestral instrument. CFO is creating a free, high quality, non-competitive, and educational orchestral collaboration with area residents. Info/expressions of interest: to [ckckirk@gmail.com](mailto:ckckirk@gmail.com), or call Deb at (650) 924-3145.

**May 19 Kensington Library Book Club.** Discussion of *Death in Venice* by Thomas Mann. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043. (Special holiday schedule.)

**May 20 Berkeley Garden Club Lecture Program,** 12:30-3pm, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue. Lecture: “Great Plants for our East Bay Gardens” by Tricia Christopher, Landscape Architect. Plant exchange, 12:30-1pm; general meeting, 1-2pm; lecture, 2-3pm. Public welcome. [www.berkeleygardenclub.org](http://www.berkeleygardenclub.org).

**May 22 Wine Dinner with Navarro Vineyards at Benchmark Pizza,** 6:30pm. 5-course dinner paired with some of Mendocino’s best wines. Navarro rep, Jim Greaves will discuss each wine, and attendees will receive a discount on future orders. \$90/person plus tax. Reservations req’d. 1568 Oak View Ave., Colusa Circle. [www.BenchmarkPizza.com](http://www.BenchmarkPizza.com)

**May 24 Path Clean-up.** The Gore Lot near the Chevron Station on Arlington Ave. 10am-noon. Bring rakes, gloves, brooms, dust pans, loppers, and clippers. Water and cookies provided.

**May 30 Last day for KASEP spring session classes.**

**May 30 Chocolate & Chalk Art Festival** 10am-5pm, Gourmet Ghetto, North Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Chalk Art Contest! Eat Chocolate! Free Admission. (Rain Date 6/7) Info: 548-5335

**May 31 Jane Austen’s “Mansfield Park” Ball** in Kensington. Join the Bay Area English Regency Society in celebrating the bicentennial of Jane Austen’s novel “Mansfield Park” at the Arlington Community Church. Costumes are encouraged and there will be dancing to live music starting at 8pm. Info at: <http://baers.org/MansfieldPark.pdf>.

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Cones and Floats and Hotdogs – Oh My!  
...Carnival, from Page 1

made by Hilltop moms. The quilt will be on display at the Kensington Library up until the day of the event. Raffle tickets are \$2 each and can be purchased from Hilltop School students, at The Arlington, and at the Farmer’s Market.

Donate gently used items to the popular White Elephant Sale – accepted weekdays from 8:30-9am at the south side entrance of Hilltop; or arrange a pick up via email: Romydouglass@gmail.com. Then stop by the White Elephant Sale and find other such treasures on carnival day!

Donated bikes for the Deals-on-Wheels Bike Sale can be dropped off through May 9th at Jason’s Chevron Station on the Arlington. Jason will provide bike donors 10% off labor for any service through the end of May. Bikes can also be dropped off at Hilltop on May 9th, behind the multi-purpose room. Got bikes but can’t drop ‘em off? E-mail rododu@gmail.com.

...Letters, from Page 4

Housing Challenging for Those in Public Service

Dear Editor -

I moved to Kensington a year ago, after having settled in to my position at Albany High School two years before. The longer I live and work in this community, the more I feel like a part of something truly rare and special; neighbors watch out for one another, people are active in the community and take care of the beautiful natural surroundings that everyone enjoys.

At the beginning of this year, two other teachers and I pooled our modest incomes and leased a home on Grizzly Peak Blvd; teaching is stressful and we knew that having a home in a quiet natural setting would help us to unwind and process the details of the day. This indeed proved to be the case and our house quickly became home.

Unfortunately, the recent housing market has proven to work against us; our landlord has opted not to renew our lease and we will be without a home in June.

I would like to bring attention to the difficulties of those who are invested in the very public service careers which nurture and sustain all levels of the community. While I am determined to fully participate in the community I serve, it is becoming harder and harder for public school teachers in this area to do so.

Thank you,  
Ginny Tremblay

KIC: ‘Yes’ on Measure L

To the Editor:

As President of the Kensington Improvement Club (KIC), I am delighted to report that at our meeting in March, the KIC Board voted unanimously to throw its support behind Measure L.

This revitalized Community Center will benefit every member of our unique hillside hamlet in many ways. Besides the importance of seismic and code upgrades, the increase in usefulness will be extraordinary. This renovation is sure to increase our property values, while providing our community with a beautifully enhanced building where our Boards can meet, opportunities for new income revenues with rentals for family celebrations, and a more comfortable gathering place for Kensington’s many community events.

The heating, lighting, and audio/visual systems will be upgraded, the bathrooms and the kitchen will be completely overhauled, and the main room will be opened up to the park with a wall of glass doors spanning the entire west-facing side of the building.

KIC is also putting its money where its mouth is, in that it has committed \$10,000 of its funds toward this important project.

A 2/3 vote is needed to pass Measure L. This bond will be issued at rates which are historically low; it will cost \$14 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not resale value). For the average homeowner, that will equate to less than \$5/month. Your vote on June 6 matters. Please join KIC in its support of Measure L.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to invite all interested KIC residents to attend our monthly meetings. They are held at 7:30pm at the Community Center on the 4th Monday of each month, with a couple of exceptions. The Outlook regularly prints KIC’s schedule in the Community Calendar section.

Respectfully yours,  
Melissa Holmes Snyder, President, KIC

More Support for Measure L

Outlook:

As members of the Kensington community and people who are dedicated to quality public space and the betterment of our civic facilities, we have been following and participating in the Community Center revitalization project for many years.

Over the past 4 years the KPPCSD worked to determine what should happen to our park buildings and how to raise the crucial public funding needed to make the Community Center safer, more functional, and

See Letters, Back Page...

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– James K. Feibleman

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...*Letters, from Page 12*

more usable for everyone. Much work has been accomplished including:

1. Development of a Master Plan for all the park buildings with design and safety recommendations led by an architect specializing in public projects. Members of the community gathered in two public workshops to share their views on what was most important today and into the future.
2. Creation of funding options for implementing the recommendations in the Master Plan, by a financial advisor specializing in public financing.

3. Public outreach to 10 Kensington groups who use the Community Center, to advise them of the recommendations for the park buildings and the financing options, and to hear about their concerns.

4. Implementation of a community survey to ask a wider group of citizens about their interests and priorities for the Kensington Community Center.

We appreciate the hard work of our District and the many volunteers who have spent so much time to put Measure L before the Kensington community. We also share with others a belief that public space and shared community assets such

as our park and our community center are the core of what makes communities strong and reflect their vibrancy, good health, and commitment to a larger public good. Everyone in Kensington should take pride in how those places are used, how they look, and how they feel.

Help create a safe, attractive, and useful Community Center for our children and for others in the Kensington community that will serve us well into the future!

Please join with us and vote YES on Measure L.

Lisa Caronna and Jack Griffith



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