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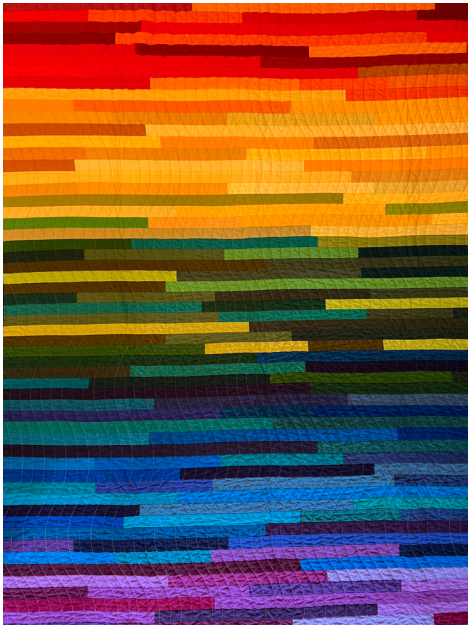
Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

MAY 2023 PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL VOLUME 81 NUMBER 4

A Massive “Celebration” at the Carnival



By Scott Burns

The Hilltop Elementary School Carnival returns May 13 for its Diamond Jubilee edition! Celebrating 75 years, the beloved event is scheduled to take place from 11am-3pm. Celebrate with us rain or shine under the Maypole.

You can expect all your favorite Carnival games, food, and prizes as well as a few 75th Celebration surprises! Deals on Wheels, the Plant Sale and the “Birthday” Cake Walk will be crowd pleasers, together with water balloon launching, face painting and fun for all ages. Commemorative 75th Carnival spirit-wear will be available for purchase.

The Dads’ Club will once again fire up the grill, serving a variety of meals, including a vegetarian option. The bake sale will ensure your sweet tooth is taken care of, along with plenty of popcorn, sno-cones and root beer floats to round out all the Carnival favorites.

The real highlight this year is the Quilt Raffle. This amazing piece of art, “Celebration,” was designed by Jennifer Ritter and Linda Cleary and sewn by Susan Morford. Seventy-five beautiful colors fill the field, each vibrantly celebrating a Spring Carnival year. Tickets to the raffle, which will include other gifts and prizes from your favorite local businesses, can be purchased through Kensington Hilltop students, at the Carnival or through Brenda Lee at Brenda.Lee.Lau@gmail.com.

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

Did you attend Kensington Hilltop at any point during elementary school? Come get your photo taken on May 7 up at Kensington Park, 3:30pm at the KCC Rec Building. If you're in touch with old classmates who might not see this, invite them to participate. High school seniors from out of town can send in a photo to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com with current high school and college plan.

David Spath New Board Director

By Linnea Due

At the April 13 meeting, the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District appointed a director to take Eileen Nottoli’s vacated seat. The three candidates answered questions when they applied and then fielded a second set of questions from the directors. Dave Spath, a familiar face around town from his many volunteer posts, gained a unanimous vote from the four directors and will join the board May 10.

Spath was the chair of 2016-17’s all-citizen ad hoc committee, which laid a foundation for policy decisions. The committee tackled separating the general manager and chief of police functions, consolidation, and options for delivering police services. Spath oversaw conflicting viewpoints ably; the three committees produced extensively researched reports that inform decisions today.

Answering a question about how to encourage civility, Spath said that it was important to demonstrate that you are willing to listen. “You have to take into account everybody’s point of view,” he said. “It’s important to be transparent...Then once a decision is made, you have to accept it.”

Before retiring, Spath was in charge of overseeing a state public health program that regulated public water systems to ensure drinking water quality. He serves on the fire board’s Emergency Prepared-



See Spath, page 6

Kensington and Beyond Update

March - April 2023



NEW LISTING | 505 Coventry Road Kensington | 4+ BR | 3 BA
Beautifully appointed and updated from top to bottom. This expansive residence is level in with an excellent flexible floor plan. Gorgeous views of the Bay on every level. Pretty garden perfect for play and entertaining.
OFFERED AT: \$2,498,000



SOLD | 55 Kingston Road Kensington | 5 BR | 4 BA
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SOLD AT: \$2,100,000

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Kensington | Market Update

April - May 2023



Detached
Single Family

3

New Listings

Median List Price
\$1,295,000

Median Sq. Ft.
2,463

DOM
38

8

Pending Sales

Median List Price
\$1,295,000

Median Sq. Ft.
1,769

DOM
13

16

Closed Sales

Median List Price
\$1,295,000

Median Sales Price
\$1,424,000

Median Sq. Ft.
1,771

DOM
16

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⚠️ PRETTY BUT DEADLY ⚠️

Embers are responsible for most damage during wildfires. They can accumulate on your home, deck, or porch to ignite plants, mulch, leaves, fencing, or furniture. They can also be forced into gaps in the home (attic, vents, or an open window) and burn the home from the inside. There may be minor damage to surrounding vegetation, leaving people puzzled about what caused the home to burn. Hardening your home increases the likelihood of survival. Look for what you can do around your home and community to prevent the ignition and spread of wildfire. Preparedness is not a once-a-year chore. Adapting to wildfire means we must constantly work to reduce the risk of destruction. Visit www.kensingtonfire.org/volunteer.

The Kensington Community Council is dedicated to the improvement, development, and education of the community, and to the promotion of social welfare in Kensington. It enriches the community by providing educational and recreational programs for all ages and by publishing the Outlook, a monthly newsletter that covers local events and issues. KCC also provides a forum for all Kensington community groups to meet and coordinate their respective efforts toward the common good of the community.

J U N E 2 0 2 3
DEADLINES
Advertising Deadline ❖ May 8
Editorial Deadline ❖ May 10

Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinion of the Outlook, its editor, or the Kensington Community Council. Letters must be signed and include the resident's phone number and address (which will not be printed). Letters 350 words or under will appear in the print edition (space permitting). Any letter over 350 words will be printed in the online edition only. Publication of letters and articles is subject to space and the editor's discretion. Obituaries of Kensington residents are printed without charge. All material must be received by the 10th of the month preceding issue date; submit by email to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com. No press releases or PDFs; Word documents or text in the body of an email are acceptable. Use one space, not two, after all periods.

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Letters to the Editor

We Can Do Better

Dear Editor:

In last issue's Citizen Forum, three former KPPCSD directors argued against public ownership of the paths that run through our hillside community. A dismissive reference to the paths' "charm" was buried under arguments why the paths should not be publicly owned, all centered around fears of liability, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and cost. Ironically, the parks for which the three former directors had responsibility contain non-ADA compliant steps, for which it doesn't appear that KPPCSD has yet been sued.

Most disappointingly, the article does not offer realistic suggestions for what to do with the paths, just sketchy what-if scenarios such as making the paths accessible to "members only" without any explanation of how that could be done, who would be "members" or why it would be a good solution to the current situation of neglect and decay.

Unfortunately, the article amounts to a call for inaction. The paths aren't going away, and they are a potentially valuable amenity for Kensington, as they are in Berkeley and other nearby communities. Kensington can do better.

Paul Dorroh

Exploring Public Ownership

Dear Editor:

In contrast to the April Citizen Forum article, I believe that we should continue to research public ownership of the Kensington paths. The paths are a wonderful and valuable feature of our neighborhoods; one of the features that makes Kensington special and distinct. It is in our interest, and the interest of future Kensington residents, to see that our paths are protected and maintained.

I had the opportunity to participate in the Paths Working Group, initiated by Supervisor John Gioia. The discussions, which included outreach to some property owners with homes adjacent to the paths, were productive and collaborative. I look forward to continuing those discussions. If we keep working collaboratively, we can develop a plan to keep the paths open and viable while addressing the outstanding questions around cost, liability and accessibility.

My family and I regularly use the paths for recreation and exercise. Our community should explore options now, like public ownership, to ensure that others have that same opportunity in the future.

Gabriel Rogin

Dividing Rather Than Building

Dear Editor:

As a Kensington resident for over 45 years and a professional trail planner for two decades, I was troubled to read April's Citizen Forum article from three past KPPCSD board members that includes misinformation and conjecture related to the cost and liability of protecting and maintaining the paths. It seems an irresponsible attempt to evoke fear and community divide where creativity and community building are an option.

These past board members suggest that maintaining the paths requires they be retrofitted to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and that this "potential ADA issue" is a reason not to gain ownership of the paths. What they fail to share is that the ADA has conditions for exceptions to the standards when an existing trail is constructed in a steeply sloped area and compliance may not be practicable due to terrain. The ADA recognizes that not all recreational facilities, including trails, can or should be one size fits all, which is why most trails in our region are not ADA-compliant.

Further, this shouldn't be a roads versus paths decision as suggested. The original purpose of the paths was to provide direct pedestrian access to the rail line on Arlington Avenue. The paths were never intended to be a duplicative resource to our roads. The writers suggest our roads benefit "all residents" while the paths are only for "able-bodied pedestrians" as if that is a small quantity of people. These rigid and car-centric values fail to recognize that taking ownership of the paths is an investment in our everyday quality of life, the character of our community, and the safety of our youth who use our paths to walk to/from school and keep them off the busy roads.

My heart is destroyed by the writers' suggested solutions to sell the paths or create a "membership" society where only certain privileged people can enjoy them. I encourage our present KPPCSD board to do proper due diligence to understand actual constraints and opportunities before deciding that it's best to sell part of our town's historic character, valuable community amenities, and recreational assets.storic character, valuable community amenities, and recreational assets.

Rachael Faye

A Delicate Balancing Act

Dear Editor:

I worked to help elect new majorities to both the fire and the police boards in Kensington because of the lack of logical thinking demonstrated in the decision to kick the police out of the Public Safety Building.

Our community has long been overdue in having "3-R" leaders: rational, reasonable, and responsible. We have that kind of leadership now! They have taken on a very complex and challenging situation.

It is time for us voters to step back and give them the opportunity to find the best solutions for housing our public safety departments. We need a solution that is affordable but still delivers strategic and safe headquarters for our firefighters and police officers.

That means a delicate balancing act that will involve strength and courage, sensible compromises, as well as making decisions expeditiously and taking bold action.

What is our role, the public? Let's allow our elected officials to make the tough decisions. That's what they were elected to do! We can pay attention, stay informed, and communicate our views, respectfully.

Laura N Chick

Playing Chicken

Dear Editor:

As we grapple with the aftermath of the damage throughout Kensington caused by the atmospheric rivers and windstorms, I am reminded of the importance of having public safety personnel located where they can reach any Kensingtonian in need in a matter of minutes.

Newly elected members of the KFPD and KPPCSD boards are negotiating to solve the problem that the prior fire board majority caused by rushing headlong to break ground before the election despite widespread calls for a pause, betting they could nail us and get their fire-only wish, basically playing chicken with taxpayers' money.

Since the election, some individuals feel it's their responsibility to be scaremongering

about a brief delay in the construction of the PSB running the risk of default. Looking closely at the financial projections, there's a big built-in margin for slippage of time between the construction contract and the financing contract, and there is a performance bond for timely completion.

I am proud to have campaigned for and supported the six elected directors to the KFPD and KPPCSD boards and publicly express my thanks to each one of them for tackling the tough challenges that prior board majorities ducked out on.

Laurie Schumacher

Hire a GM to Serve Both Boards

Dear Editor:

One headwind our community has been facing for a long time, due in large part to our two estranged boards not working together, is the continual hiring of temporary help to fill Kensington's police chief and general manager positions.

We used to have a permanent position for a single person to act as both police chief and general manager. That ended seven years ago when pressure mounted to separate the functions due to perceived conflicts in having one person serve in both roles.

Even without conflicts, that combination has always been a difficult straddle, so it made theoretical sense to separate the functions. However, we have never been able to come up with sufficient funding or the long-term vision needed to create separate full-time career-path positions for a police chief and general manager. While the funds were never quite sufficient, for way too long there was also an unfortunate controversy over whether to contract out our police functions. That made it difficult to attract candidates looking for permanent full-time work serving Kensington. Consequently, we've struggled over the past several years having to work with part-time, temporary positions to provide the crucial leadership we need.

It's odd to be going in reverse order, but the last election decided the two boards that started out with a divorce must now make their marriage vows to join together in one government. A resulting benefit that may not have been obvious from that decision is that with combined funding we can now more easily create those full-time, career-path, leadership positions for candidates who can think and plan for the long term.

We are fortunate now to have a full-time, career-track position for our Police Chief. We need the same for our General Manager. A smart move would be to create such a position for a GM who could serve both boards, which would help us to move toward the governmental unity our last election promised.

Karl Kruger, Len Welsh

This letter was sent to the board of directors of both special districts on April 11. It has been slightly edited for length.

We are alarmed that the KPPCSD board is failing to pursue reasonable permanent sites within Kensington to house our independent police department. The KPPCSD does not appear to be retaining professionals to explore alternate locations, as the recently elected slate promised to do. The district spent approximately \$130,000 to customize a modular building for administration and police. This modular building has brought the police into compliance with current Department of Justice requirements and is both efficient and functional and will serve the district for many years.

We ask that the KPPCSD evaluate the fire department's temporary site at the Unitarian Church. The KPPCSD should investigate placing the modular on the parking lot by the library or another location within Kensington. The fire district invested \$100,000 for utilities at its temporary location, and those expenditures could be leveraged.

It appears that the KFPD's PSB committee members want the KPPCSD to put the police department in the PSB to the exclusion of evaluating other locations. A recent analysis raised significant concerns for the potential major costs of altering the PSB's in-progress renovation. Costs would result from additional architectural construction drawings, bids for change orders, construction charges, increased loan payments and possible lawsuits. This could easily cost hundreds of thousands of dollars over and above what is currently budgeted. If we lose our construction contract and loans due to delays, costs could exceed \$1M, per former General Manager Hansell's report.

Both fire and police unions object to the plans to collocate in the building because neither department would have adequate space to operate effectively. Both fire and police chiefs have explained why a combined space will not allow either department to comply with certain legal standards.

We ask that the boards not authorize any additional funds for redesign or construction plans, or to pursue efforts to combine Fire and Police in one building. We ask the Boards to explore options to continue the use of the modular building for the Police Department and KPPCSD. We ask the KPPCSD board to consider alternate spaces and compare location costs, as the KPOA has formally requested.

Mabry and Bill Benson, David Bergen, Tom Dean, Gail Feldman, Beverlee French, John Gaccione, Andrew and Marina Gutierrez, Janice Kosel, Mike Logan, Eileen M. Nottoli, Dorit Oren, Craig Rice, Marilyn Stollon, Donna Stanton, Todd Grosvenor, Dorothy Kaplan, Connie Present, Bill Mack, Clint Howard, Hal Graboske, Shahin Edalati, Bill Johnston, Ron Wizelman, Ben Clow, Mary Korn, Mark Wegner, Susan Da Silva, Nancy McClure, Francis St. Amant, Nancy Kron, Claudia McIsaac, Frances McCosker, Diana Krampf, Robin Barrett, Phil Bruno, Lydia Dobyns, Cheney Hu, Linda Reeves, Charlotte Strem, Jody Zaitlin, Anna Martinez, Richard Lyon, Thomas Ayres, Lucy Rodriguez, Eleanor Geyen, Nicole Lepoutre-Baldocchi, Dennis Baldocchi, Josh Darnell, Debra Glass, Denise Mortenson, Rosary Matteson, Mina Taw Chin, Steve Chin, Peggy Judge

Market Help Needed

Dear Editor:

Chris Hall has been spearheading the Kensington Farmers Market for the past dozen years. Having the market available each Sunday, with its combination of organic foods, live music and community gathering, enhances the quality of living in this town. For this, Chris deserves a great deal of thanks.

In speaking with him it became apparent that he could use additional volunteer help with the ongoing set of tasks required to keep things going. Anyone who would like to contribute a small number of hours is encouraged to contact chris@kensingtonfarmersmarket.org.
Michael Baar



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Double Fun Plant Sale May 13

By Anna Frankfurt

You can never have enough plants! The El Cerrito Garden Club is holding a curbside plant sale at two locations, Saturday, May 13 from 10am-3pm. There will be edibles, ornamentals, California natives and succulents including centerpiece arrangements suitable for Mother's Day gifts. All plants are propagated by club members so will grow around here. Members at the sale will be happy to talk to you about the plants and provide care instructions. The two locations are 1519 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito and 1315 Santa Clara St., Richmond. Cash or check only, exact change and small bills much appreciated! Happy gardening!

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Considering Risk

By Eric Saylor, Chief, Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Department

Kensington is one of the few towns in the country that is high risk in all categories, including earthquakes, fire, landslide, and weather events. Kensington is high risk even though it has not experienced a significant event yet. This concept can confuse some because risk is typically defined as the probability of negative events. However, this concept of risk has evolved significantly since John Maynard Keynes published his seminal text, "A Treatise on Probability" in 1909. Keynes's model uses historical data to estimate the likeness of future events. Put another way, Keynes' concept of risk is grounded in how often events occur. Events with a high frequency of occurrence produce a high probability and, therefore, an increased risk. This definition of risk remains stable in domains such as economics and finance.

However, the limitations of risk based on the frequency of occurrence become evident when looking at historical catastrophes such as WWI, 9-11, and the 2008 financial crisis. Professor of finance and risk engineering Nasim Taleb coined these events "Black Swans." Black Swans are events destined to happen due to circumstances but have no historical data to validate their occurrence. Keynes' probabilistic definition of risk is blind to Talib's Black Swans because they are not part of the possible data set.

After 9-11, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) acknowledged the limitation of older definitions of risk. As a result, it adopted a framework for risk based on three elements: "threats, consequences, and vulnerabilities," or TCV. Designed to see the realities of our current environment, TCV let us respond to novel and emergent events. Due to its flexibility and application outside game theory, the fire service is slowly adapting the TCV frame to mitigate risk.

For example, the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) uses the three-part construct to decrease risk during wildfire season. When OES gets a forecast of hot, dry winds coming from Utah and Nevada, terminating into San Francisco Bay, OES categorizes the winds as a threat, or (T). As the hot winds accelerate over ridgelines, they threaten the lives and homes of residents. The lives and homes are categorized and quantified as consequences, or (C). OES cannot affect the threat (T) or consequences (C), but it can decrease the vulnerabilities (V) by making notifications and increasing local response capacity by staffing extra fire engines.

Decreasing vulnerabilities is what the fire service does in the risk framework. The fire service cannot move homes or change the wind, but it can create building codes, mandate defensible space, and respond with fire engines if a fire breaks out. The impending threat and devastating consequences of fire and earthquakes cause Kensington to rank among the highest-threat cities in the nation. Fortunately, Kensington also supports an ISO Class 1 fire department and multiple volunteer groups to reduce its vulnerabilities. Firefighters and the Emergency Preparedness Committee decrease the risk in Kensington. Like the white blood cells in an organism, the fire department and community groups constantly scan the environment and prepare for any novel event that history may miss.

When people tell me that something is "low risk" because it never happened, I remind them that the frequency of occurrence does not equal risk. Most people's house fire is their first, and risk is not about how often something happens but rather the state of the environment.

So if you see a volunteer group member such as the Emergency Preparedness Committee, CERT, or the Kensington Fire Protection Board, please thank them for keeping you safe. They volunteer to work closely with the fire department to ensure your safety and security by constantly thinking about threats, consequences, and vulnerabilities.

Community Shines at the 5K

By Rae Quigley

Zip Code East Bay's 5th annual Colusa Circle 5K was a resounding success, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of runners, volunteers, and sponsors. More than 150 runners participated in the event, and ZCEB matched every dollar raised for a total of \$7,500 for KIDS for the BAY, a local organization that has been connecting children with nature for 30 years. The funds raised will support the organization's environmental education programs for under-resourced elementary schools in the East Bay. The winners of the race were Jason Draut, Azure Grant, Mateo Claudio, and Lucille Pazdan.

These local businesses and organizations provided support: Babo's Kitchen, Benchmark Pizzeria, El Cerrito High School Key Club, Freshly Cut Florist, Fuse Fitness, Good Guest Kensington, Jenny K. Kaveri Coffee, Kensington Farmers' Market, Kensington Fire Department, Kensington Police Department, Lift + Sprint, Los Moles, Nation's, Nubo Spa, Orange Theory Solano, Semifreddi's, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Sports Basement, Swelter Coffee, and Well Grounded. On behalf of the entire Zip Code East Bay team, thank you to everyone who participated!

New Pastor at Shepherd of the Hills Shares Bold Vision

By Felicia Layser Robertson

Just across the border into Berkeley, nestled in the trees between the Summit Reservoir and the Grizzly Peak entrance to Tilden Park, resides Shepherd of the Hills or SOTH, a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may have noticed our green sign on the ivy hillside, whose messages quieted down over the pandemic. Now we have very big news to share—we have a new pastor!

Pastor Clare McElaney (she/they) grew up on the East Coast, and as a minister's daughter, she and her family moved around quite a bit as her father pursued his career in theology, from Connecticut to Pennsylvania to Virginia. The East Coast was her home until she graduated from college. Her upbringing instilled a travel bug, for upon her undergraduate work in International Studies, Political Science and Anthropology, Pastor McElaney continued on for language and cultural studies in Jordan and global service work in Israel and Palestine, until she landed in Berkeley, which has now become the spot she's lived the longest.

"Growing up with a parent who was a pastor, I never imagined pursuing a career in ministry myself," says Pastor McElaney. "However, through my social justice work in college and my global mission experiences, I began to receive the external call towards ministry, which then ignited an internal call, as I envisioned this work in my own voice, on my own terms."

Upon graduation in 2020, McElaney began her internship work, which included working in youth ministry (from children to young adults at Cal) at The Chapel on College Avenue, as well as working as a chaplain at UCSF. As she has accepted our call at SOTH as a part-time pastor, she continues as a part-time chaplain at UCSF Children's Benioff Hospital: "My faith informs my self-care in my chaplaincy work, which is acting as a caregiver for children, their families and medical professionals through trauma, end of life and inpatient surgeries."


Our SOTH congregation is at a crossroads. As Pastor McElaney notes, "with religion it's a changing time globally," and we have entered in a three-year call together to discern where we go from here. "As a proud queer woman, I am excited to be called to lead a welcoming congregation who are leaning into bravely listening to what God is calling us to. I want to see us shift our mindset from, as a smaller congregation, one of scarcity to one of abundance. We have so much to offer! I firmly believe God is always at work within us, transforming and changing, and where will these three years take us? Let's experiment. Take risks. Let's make mistakes. Let's grow."

Pastor McElaney will be ordained on May 7 at 3pm at the Chapel, and she will be installed with a special service at Shepherd of the Hills later this summer with a reception directly following (we Lutherans love a good potluck). Come! All are welcome!

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TK-8 SCHOOL



MAY 2023

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

PAGE 5

Passings

My friend and neighbor **Claudine Marquet** wouldn't want me to tell you that she passed away. She'd be happier if I simply reported that she died in her home enconced with her daughters and cats. I had many conversations with Claudine in which she talked very frankly about death, and she felt strongly that it's a normal part of every life that shouldn't be obscured by euphemisms.

Claudine did much to brighten our neighborhood, and I know a great many of my neighbors join me in mourning this loss. She moved to Oak View Ave. in 2012 and quickly established herself as someone eager to know her neighbors and share her thoughts on gardening, cats, movies and books.

She was born in France in 1938 and lived there under the German occupation. In the 1950s, Claudine served as a French tutor for William Marquet, who was working in France for an American company. They married, spent two years driving around Europe, and in the course of their adventures met a couple of scuba divers, who hired Claudine to work as their cook and William as a handyman on their boat. This led to William returning to the US to serve as an engineer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts and a love of the ocean they both enjoyed. After William's death in the 1990s, Claudine moved to the Bay Area.

Claudine was my role model for how to grow old. She was proudly independent but willing to accept help from me and others when it was needed. Toward the end of her life, she would visit the Colusa Market and Farmers' Market using her walker, eager to do as much as she could herself. She cherished her daughters, Stephanie and Cathy, and loved having her son-in-law Seth and three grandchildren nearby.

Claudine no doubt considered it an achievement to be able to finish her life living in her house under the care of hospice. I had the good fortune to be able to see her the day before she died and thank her for all our great times together as neighbors.—Rodney Paul

Fun at the Library

Take advantage of the free programs offered by the Kensington Library at 61 Arlington Avenue. Call 510-524-3043 for details.

May 2, 16, 23 & 30 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. 6:30pm.

May 5 only Baby and Toddler Storytime Miss Mary will be away from the library for the rest of May, but storytimes will resume June 2. Fun stories, songs, action rhymes, shaky eggs, and more! Increase early literacy skills and make friends. Two identical sessions: 10am & 11am.

May 6, 13, 20, & 27 Math Club for grades 3-6 Each meeting covers a different math topic using puzzles and fun problems. 11:30am.

May 6 Tissue Paper Mandalas Create a beautiful circle mandala using small tissue paper shapes, sequins, & stars. Simply stick the pieces to clear contact paper and display in your window. For kids of all ages. 3pm.

May 9 Outdoor Explorer Presents: The Accessible Outdoors Bonnie Lewkowicz of Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP) will present about improving the health, independence, and social integration of people with physical disabilities and visual impairments through outdoor activity. Online, 6:30pm. Contact the library or visit ccelib.org to join.

May 9 Children's performer Andy Z! Come see this multiple award-winning performer as he takes children on an imaginary tour of Andyland, engaging them with character voices, puppets, and music. 6:30pm.

May 11 Crafting with Comics Kids and teens can celebrate Free Comic Book Days by making custom buttons, collages, and other craft projects out of old comic books. 2:30pm.

May 21 Friends of the Kensington Library Spring Book Sale Find great deals on books in genres including nonfiction, general fiction, mysteries, cookbooks, art books, children's books, and more! Employee parking lot. 10am-4pm.

May 22 Kensington Library Book Club This month's selection for discussion is *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Contact library to join. 6:30pm.

May 22 Outdoor Explorer Presents: A Bird's Rainbow Award-winning photographer Bob Lewis will unravel some of the mysteries of bird feather colors with a little chemistry, a bit of physics, and a lot of brightly colored slides. Online, 6:30pm. Contact the library or visit ccelib.org to join.

Neilson Park Dedication a Heartfelt Affair

On Friday, April 14, about 30 residents gathered to dedicate the Elsie Neilson Park at the corner of Ardmore and Arlington avenues, across from the Arlington shopping area. Said Sarah Gough, who initiated the major renovation of what she termed "a sad, neglected area," about the transformation, "It fills me up every time I see it."

Pictured left to right cutting the ribbon are park designer Lisa Caronna, Cathie Kosel's son Andrew Kosel, Sarah Gough, and Elsie Neilson's daughter Cathie Kosel. Photo by Byron Kawaichi.

By Janice Kosel

Tom and Eliza Neilson, immigrants from Scotland, owned several homes in Berkeley before moving to Kensington in 1933. They started out at 735 Wellesley, then built and lived in 160 Arlington and were building 177 Arlington at the time of Tom's death. All three of their daughters, Elsie Kosel, Fern Brasfield, and Jessie White, made their homes in Kensington. Six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren were raised in Kensington. Two of their granddaughters continue to live here.

Tom was president of Berkeley Steel Construction Company. The company built many of the oil tanks at the Chevron refinery and the water tower on Alcatraz. Tom also founded the Neilson Aircraft Company at the foot of Gilman, which built a duplicate of Lindberg's plane, the *Spirit of St. Louis*.

After Tom's death, Eliza donated the triangular lot at the corner of Arlington and Coventry to the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District. Their grandchildren are thrilled that the lot has recently emerged as a delightful parklet.

March 2023 Patrol Log

On March 1 at 11:41am, KPD responded to a suspicious person walking in and out of traffic on Arlington Avenue. KPD contacted a person walking in the middle of Arlington Avenue near the intersection with Arlington Court. The person was confused, disoriented, and later determined to be Under the Influence of Drugs. The person was arrested for PC 647(F)-Under the Influence of Drugs and subsequently transferred to AMR, which in turn transported the person to a local hospital.

On March 3 KPD took a report of a catalytic converter stolen from the 100 block of Avon Road.

On March 5 KPD took a vandalism report at the Hilltop Elementary School. The top of the roof was tagged in orange spray paint graffiti, with the words "E10" and "HAHA."

On March 9 KPD took a report in the 100 block of Arlington Court where a homeowner's ID was stolen; the homeowner was fictitiously billed for several items using his Medicare information.

On March 13 at 4:55 pm, KPD was dispatched to a two-vehicle collision in front of Young's Market on Arlington Avenue. One person was injured.

On March 14 at 8:53pm, a KPD officer near Beverly Road and Lenox Drive noticed a vehicle appeared to have been abandoned and was illegally parked and blocking the road. Efforts to locate the owner were unsuccessful, which resulted in the vehicle being impounded at the owner's expense.

On March 16 KPD was dispatched to a burglary in the 100 block of Purdue Avenue, where approximately \$910.00 of construction equipment was stolen overnight.

On March 17 at about 2:25pm, KPD was dispatched to the Sunset Mausoleum on a report of vandalism. Security cameras captured an image of a person kicking and knocking over flowerpots located at the rear of the Mausoleum the night before.


On March 21 at 3:20am, KPD spotted a blue Ford pickup truck driving recklessly near Colusa Circle. A traffic enforcement stop was attempted, but the vehicle failed to stop and took off at a high rate of speed without being caught or identified.

On March 24 at 5:20pm, KPD was dispatched to a possible residential burglary in progress in the 100 block of Lawson Road. KPD responded Code-3, and detained four juveniles who were caught trying to flee the scene. At the conclusion of the investigation and after contacting the homeowner, who was not at the location at the time of occurrence and didn't desire prosecution, the juveniles were turned over to their parents and guardians.

On March 29 at 5:48pm, KPD was dispatched to a cold residential burglary in the 100 block of Arlmont Drive. An investigation was conducted and determined that the rear sliding glass door was smashed that allowed entrance into the house and \$1,200 worth of jewelry was stolen. The investigation is ongoing.


On March 30 at 11:47am, KPD officers attempted a traffic enforcement stop near Colusa Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue, on a white Toyota van for multiple violations. However, the vehicle failed to yield and took off without stopping. A short pursuit took place and was terminated a short distance later. The driver and vehicle were not identified.

On March 31 at 1:20pm, KPD was dispatched to a shoplift in the 300 block of Arlington Avenue. An unknown person wearing a mask and hoodie walked into the store and stole three cartons of Marlboro cigarettes valued at \$348.55 and took off running out the store and was not caught.



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Spath
...from front page

ness Committee and sat on the board of the Kensington Property Owners Association. He is a strong advocate of consolidating Kensington's two special districts. Listing one of his top priorities, he writes in his application that each potential location for the police "should undergo a cost-benefit analysis that evaluates financial impact as well as the impact on police operations."

The four board directors applauded the extensive resumes of candidates Candace Capogrossi and Lynn Wolter, and hoped that they and other residents would continue to be actively involved in the business of the board.

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to my favorite Mom! Hope you have a wonderful day with all of us. Hugs, Guess Who?

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Comb the Hills at the Hillside Festival May 6-7

By Linnea Due

People in Kensington and El Cerrito have the unique experience of living on a hill, in a canyon—or on flat land adjacent to hills and canyons. Each is a microclimate, with its own weather and fauna and flora. You can learn much more about the natural history of our hillsides at the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers' annual Hillside Festival, this year in its ninth incarnation. All events take place at El Cerrito's 100-acre Hillside Natural Area. There are five venues, so check the website at ectrailtrekkers.org to find out where in those 100 acres you need to be.

Take a not-so-early morning bird walk on Saturday at 8:30am with Golden Gate Audubon Society's Tara McIntire. At 10:15 leave the birds and join Eddie Dunbar for an insect hike. Kids will have fun throughout the day on the Nature Scavenger Hunt (kids collect sightings on an illustrated list). Also on Saturday: fun and amazing facts about oaks, an edible and medicinal plant walk, and much more.

It's not all for the kids. On Sunday from 10-11am is a senior stroll along the Ridge Trail with its spectacular views. Then drop down for a family-friendly art class in the trees. Friends of Five Creeks' Susan Schwartz demonstrates how to ID plants and animals on iNaturalist and other free apps you can load on your phone. From 5-7pm is an everyone-invited gathering. Join nature lovers for snacks and beverages and celebrate our luck landing in one of the most beautiful spots on earth. See the website for the full schedule, including the always popular haiku contest.

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KASEP has Awesome Teachers

Vicky Brodt grew up in the South Bay and has lived in the bay area all her life. She moved to Berkeley in the late 1980's and has been here ever since. She worked as a preschool teacher for over 20 years, during that time she started her work at KASEP. The first class she taught was a cooking class, as a sub for a semester and has taught classes at KASEP for close to 20 years now. She has a degree in early childhood development, which she finds very useful in her work at KASEP. Her past jobs have included: picture framing, retail management, catering, and landscape horticulture. She continues to garden and cook for a small clientele. Her most active hobby is sewing, and she occasionally sells what she creates. She has recently become a lay counselor through an organization called Active Listening Ministry, an activity that is close to her heart. Vicky loves working at KASEP and the kids she works with. We are lucky to have her.

Summer Camp
We are gearing up for another great year of KCC summer camp at the Kensington Park and Recreation area. Many of our camp counselors were KCC campers themselves and then became CITs (counselors in training) and now get paid to carry on the traditions of KCC summer camp. Our summer camp offers a fun and nurturing environment for children that are entering first grade through 6th grade in the fall 2023. We still have space available the week of July 3rd.
Scholarships are available. Application link is on our website.
Register Online: KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org/summer-camp

Important Dates- mark your calendars
No KASEP Classes Friday May 26th and Monday, May 29th
Last day of Spring KASEP June 2nd
Fall KASEP Registration August 29th, 2023 @ 7pm for kindergarten and 7:30 for grades 1-6
Summer camp begins Monday June 12th
First day of Fall KASEP Monday September 11th

vitalant.
Blood Donation

Blood Drive - Tuesday June 6th - Kensington Community Center - sign up at Vitalant.org

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR 2023 PHOTO
Let the tradition continue! Calling all high school seniors who live(d) in Kensington, or who attended Hilltop Elementary School for all or part of their elementary school years – you are invited to join other alumni for the annual Kensington High School Senior Photo. The photo is scheduled for Sunday, May 7th at 3:30pm. Location: KCC Office /Recreation Building. Come early to catch-up with old friends! The photo will appear on the cover of the June Outlook. Individual photos can also be emailed to Kccseniorphotos@gmail.com

Adult and Family Classes

Join Lori Hess with Way to Glow Kids Yoga for some family yoga time where parents and kids will playfully explore yoga poses, breathing exercises, and mindfulness activities together. Family Yoga will take place on Saturdays @ 10:00-10:45 (kids aged 2 to 5) and @ 11:00-11:45 (kids aged 5 to 10) on the grassy lawn outside the KCC Office/Recreation Building (past the tennis courts) or, if raining, class will be inside the Recreation Building. The next 4 week session will run on 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, and 6/3. If possible, please bring a waterproof blanket/tarp, two yoga mats (we will have extra mats available), warm layers, and a water bottle. Masks are optional. Suggested cost: \$100 for the 4 week session; discounted tuition and scholarships are available. Please complete a registration form at <https://bit.ly/38Sq91k> and contact waytoglowkidsyoga@gmail.com with questions about the class.

Adult Yoga Class at the Community Center
Strength & Balance Yoga -Tuesdays 8:30am
Gentle Yoga -Thursdays 11:30am
Teacher Anja Borgstrom
Cost is \$20 drop in or register online

Tai Chi with Nobuo Nishi
Fridays 9:30-11:00am - Wednesday classes will resume May 24th
Drop-in fee is \$15

Register at KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-and-family-classes

Keep checking our website for updated adult class schedules.
The Kensington Outlook can now be found at: KensingtonOutlook.com
Archive copies can also be found on our website dating back to 2003.
KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Recreation Building Kensington CA 94707
E-mail: Info@KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org, or call 510-525-0292. Our website is: www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.

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KENSINGTON EATS OUT

Dessert Comes First

By Ittai and Audrey Shiu

Since Kensington Eats started up in 2020, we promised our daughter Audrey that she could co-write a review featuring nothing but desserts. There’s been no better timing than the May issue when spring has sprung, and we’ve left this damp winter behind us.

A proper sampling requires ordering a restaurant’s most popular dishes but an all-dessert meal would test the resolve of even the most enthusiastic foodie family. For this assignment, we called in reinforcements via a cadre of Audrey’s school friends.

U: Dessert Story, on the corner of Shattuck and Hearst, pulls from Korean, Japanese, and Thai influences and takes Asian desserts to the next level. Visionary owner Tammy Boon-lieng believes that her creations should be a sensory experience and a treat for the eyes as well as the palette. Nowadays, a dish can be delicious while also being “Instagrammable,” a relevant and modern descriptor for how great a dish looks, how it makes us feel, and how much we want to share the experience on social media.

The restaurant typically attracts crowds of college students, creating an energetic and youthful buzz that bounces off walls adorned with classic Thai decorations and flowers. However, craning your neck to see what artistic creations arrive at each table is where the real scenery lies.



The Volcano Bingsu is a flagship dish for U: Dessert Story. Bingsu is a type of Korean shaved ice where a block of frozen milk or cream is grated to create a fluffy, snow-like dessert. It holds together better than water-based shaved ice and is not as heavy as ice cream, which makes a perfect canvas for the edible art being showcased.

Arriving in a large silver urn, the dry-ice-activated “eruption” is a real crowd-pleaser as cold steam spews from the top and spills across the surface of your table. The milky syrup melts and settles into the dish where diners are treated to various textures including the fluffy bingsu and layers of crushed Oreo cookie bits, cornflakes, and sliced almonds. The effect lasts a few minutes, which gives the table enough time to capture the delectable sight on camera and eat almost a quarter of it before the smoke

settles.

The highly recommended Hojicha Bingu is a more elegant vegan option. Hojicha is a distinctive Japanese tea made by roasting tea leaves over charcoal. When infused into the bingsu and served with boba pearls the experience is addictively herbal and bittersweet. Asian desserts sometimes described as “not too sweet” is a compliment that allows the diner to eat with more enthusiasm and enjoy some of the dessert’s subtleties. It is also why, in this case, the addition of crispy chocolate rice on top makes for a fun addition in terms of taste and texture.

Exploring some of their other specialties, we ordered the Mochi Ube Waffle. Anything mochi-related incorporates flour derived from mochigome, short-grain glutinous rice that creates a distinctive chewiness. Combined with ube, you get a satisfying texture and a light nutty flavor in a brilliant purple package. With its chocolate drizzle, powdered sugar, strawberries, and banana slices, everything comes together in a way that will cause you to never look at another waffle the same again.

So what’s for dessert in a dessert article? Luckily for us, U:Dessert Story also excels at some savory options including a Mochi Waffle Grilled Cheese, Spicy Thai Ramyeon, and their Millionaires Candied Bacon. We opted for their Fried Chicken, tossed in a sweet homemade glaze. It was a great share plate for the table, which ended this backward, unforgettable meal.



U: Dessert Story / 1849 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, CA 94709 / <https://udessertstory.com>

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