

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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NOVEMBER 2010

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 67 NUMBER 9

The Umbrellas of Kensington ...at...



Kensington's indomitable spirit was ubiquitous at last month's wet but wild KCC Fall Festival and Parade.

November's Garden Party – Live and Online!

This year's Kensington Education Foundation Garden Party is being held at the fabulous Mira Vista Country Club on November 13th. As always, it's a party not to be missed – everyone is welcome.

You're also invited to check out the Garden Party auction website. The entire catalogue for this year's Garden Party is there. Not only can you browse what's available, but also you can bid on items during the online auction occurring now, until November 11th. This is an opportunity to get some wonderful prizes. (<http://auctions.readysetauction.com/thegardenparty/home>)

More auction items are being added to the site every day. All the categories that you've come to expect from the Garden Party are there.

- Bidding in the online auction began on October 29th and goes until

see Garden Party, page 8...

last month's FALL FESTIVAL and Parade!

Saturday morning, October 16th, still early – couldn'ta even been noon yet. I'd slept in after the previous night's Parcheesi party. Must've been 10:37pm before I fell off to sleep – way past my usual bedtime. Shouldn'ta had that last lemonade.

Stumbled outa bed and down three stairs to get the paper. So bright I had to flip down my clip-on shades to make it back to the house. Checked the obits to make sure I wasn't in 'em and had breakfast – my usual a.m. ritual. Don't feel human 'til I've had my jolt of peppermint tea.

Removed my mechanical pencil from the ol' pocket protector and, before making the usual daily entry in my journal – it's quicker if I do it in the morning, first thing (sample entry: *June 10, 1974. Just got up. Nothing's happened yet.*) – checked this date last year to find that on 10/16/09 it was shorts (Bermuda), socks (black), and sandals (Birkenstock) weather – and today was shaping up to be no different. (Glad to have finally been able to ditch the garters; found some cotton socks with enough elastic

see Parade, page 13...



The Garden Party 2008



The Garden Party 2009

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Celia Concus 524.0800

55 Kenyon Avenue Kensington

Bay views, 3br/2ba, master w/ fireplace & private deck, remodeled kitchen, lush, landscaped yard, solar energy. Offered at \$735,000.

Amy Kurzer 527.5500

Please come see our new exhibit of paintings by Joanna Katz, and join us at a reception for the artist November 5th, 5-7pm. The exhibit will be available for viewing Mondays through Fridays from 9am-5pm, and Saturdays and Sundays 10am-1pm.

marvingardens.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cathie Kosel Endorses...

Dear Friends,

I write to express my hope that the residents of Kensington can move towards a vision of the future that solves the challenges of our current situation. Maintaining status quo is not enough to do this.

Currently, there is a traditional system of agreements that the KPPCSD Board of Directors uses to react to challenges that only maintains the status quo. It is a consensus reality built around a past glory of superb schools, excellent police services, and high property values. We need to recognize the truth of our current situation: we no longer have a middle school for our children; our highly paid police force is mediocre; our property values have plummeted; many families with children have moved out of Kensington, and more than 50 of our neighbors have suffered distress sales of their homes this year. I sincerely hope that the conversation that surrounds the upcoming election can push outside the traditional and meaningless power struggles surrounding the board and the small number of followers that have held it captive for years. There are lots of problems to solve here in Kensington. We really must stop the traditional bureaucratic thinking and move thoughtfully forward to our vision with choices that create vitally needed solutions to our challenges. Let's leave *Lala Land* behind.

I believe that Mari Metcalf and Eyleen Nadolny are the best candidates to take us into the future.

Respectfully,
Cathie Kosel

Cathie is a current Director of the Board of the KPPCSD – Ed.

and staff so long to make small changes? Well, as you can imagine, I've learned a lot. Four years and over a hundred public and closed meetings later, I have a stronger appreciation for the challenges of local municipalities. Our own local issues are minor in comparison to those facing some of our neighboring cities here in the East Bay. But nevertheless, we must continue to approach them with the energy, commitment and experience that has been the hallmark of the Kensington volunteer community for several generations.

It is with this in mind that I am wholeheartedly supporting the "Kensington First" slate of candidates on the November 2nd ballot: Linda Lipscomb, Paul Dorroh and Tony Lloyd. In my role as a Director and past President I have not always agreed with their positions, but I have come to know these three as tireless advocates for prudent town governance and honest debate. The "Kensington First" slate was part of the team that led the campaign for Measure G, the June measure ensuring the district's fiscal solvency.

If your readers have not already voted, I am asking them to please join me in supporting Linda Lipscomb, Paul Dorroh and Tony Lloyd.

Thank you.
Bill Wright
Board Director (retiring)
Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District

Chris Hall's Removal

It is with great sadness to say that I will no longer be waiting until Sundays to do my weekly shopping at the Kensington Farmer's Market; the market will be losing my fiancé and my \$50.00 –\$ 60.00 per week.

The marmalade woman, Eisler, was quite annoyed last week when we returned the clean jar to her and was told by us that we thought her price was outrageous. As far as I am concerned she can be the first to go.

Chris Hall did such a magnificent job in obtaining such wonderful growers and vendors and I for one, will not shop there again until he is reinstated and apologies made by the ingrates who made such a hasty decision. He made that little corner happy and familial –like.

Too bad Alexandra and Andrea – as far as I am concerned – you can enjoy your solitude at the stand. I hope you will be alone with no business – it is back to Monterey Market and Berkeley Bowl for us.

Lillie Braudy,
Kensington Resident

Bill Wright Endorses...

As my term ends on the Board of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, I am writing with one last message.

When I was elected four years ago, I was excited and honored. And I thought I pretty much knew how to get things done. Why did it take previous boards

Happy Thanksgiving!
Sydney continues to thank Dr. Gayle Vial and all of the staff at Kensington Veterinary for their loving kindness.

KENSINGTON
OUTLOOK

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K E N S I N G T O N

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

The fall session of the Kensington After School Enrichment Program began September 20 and will continue until December 17. Winter registration will take place on Wednesday, December 8. If you're interested in looking at our current classes, the fall brochure is posted at the www.aboutkensington.com website, under "Children's Services."



KASEP'S Serendipity class made these beautiful rings

RECREATIONAL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

WILD CRAFTED WREATHS

Join us on Friday December 3rd, 6-8 p.m., for a hands-on wild crafted wreath-making workshop at the Kensington Community Center!

We will be using a diverse array of evergreen cuttings, as well as eucalyptus and succulents to create the wreaths. We'll have everything you need to create a unique, festive and long-lasting wreath to complement a front door or any room of your house. Wreaths will be bound with raffia ties and will be completely compostable.

Please bring pruning shears (if you have them), as well as accents and ribbons to personalize your wreath (if you want).

Cost of \$30 includes all materials. You will be able to select evergreen boughs and boughs of contrasting foliage and accents from a diversity of those that we will provide.

Taught by two experienced floral and event designers, Catherine Johnson and Ondine Boulter. Please call or email Catherine at csings2faye@yahoo.com, or (510) 367-7977 with questions.

To register, please call the KCC office at 510-525-0292 or e-mail kccrec@yahoo.com, or mail a check to KCC, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707.

New Class!

HOOP POWER

Weekly Morning Hoop Dance Class

Monday Mornings, 8:30 – 9:30am
Eight-Week Session, Oct. 25 - Dec. 13
Kensington Community Center (Youth Hut) • \$110 for eight classes (minimum of 6 students enrolled); \$15 for drop-in

Fun and fitness, movement and meditation are all found in hoop-dance. We will start with basic waist hooping, moving on to more intermediate moves both on and off the body, all while discovering your own dance in a hoola-hoop and the soothing, meditative aspects of hooping.

No hoop experience necessary. This is a beginning class. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring water. Hoops provided for class and will be available for purchase.

About the teacher: Kaye Anderson is the founder and lead hooper of *Hoop Power*. She is also a clinical social worker who has been working with children, teens, and families for over 15 years. A lifetime student of music and yoga, and a lover of dance, Kaye discovered hoop-dance in 2007. A certified hoop-dance teacher through *HeroHoops*, Kaye teaches both children and adults in Berkeley and beyond.

To Register: Please call the KCC office at 525-0292 or e-mail kccrec@yahoo.com. For more information about the class, please call Kaye at 919-2783 or e-mail kayelcsw@hotmail.com.

New Class!

CLASSICAL GUITAR

Thursday evenings, 7-8:30pm

October 21 - December 16 (No class 11/25) • Ages: 16 to Adult • Kensington Recreation Building (Bldg. E), Room A. \$96 for 8-classes (\$97 for nonresidents)

Do you wish to read and play music for the guitar? Learn to play a melody, understand rhythm and where notes are on the guitar. Bring your guitar, preferably with nylon strings, and join in. The class is designed for all levels with an emphasis on introducing the guitar to non-players. We will break into small groups so that everyone is comfortable and has support at his/her own level. Text: *Classic Guitar Technique, Volume One* by Aaron Shearer (available from the instructor at a cost of \$18.50, or bring your own copy).

Instructor Claude Sprague has been teaching classical guitar through the Mt. Diablo Adult Education Program for 16 years and has also taught at the Albany Adult School and the Santa Rosa and Sonoma Community Centers. Claude studied with George Sakellariou at the SF Conservatory of Music, as well as privately for ten years. He has also performed in Master Classes taught by John Duarte.

For questions about the class, please contact Claude at claudes@theGuitarInstructor.net. To register, please come by the KCC office, or call 525-0292.

New Class!

ADULT YOGA

Kensington Community Center (Youth Hut) All Levels Welcome
Thursdays 9-10am • Mats provided
10-Week Session Began Sept. 9th
Drop-ins welcome - \$12/class

The class will incorporate a diversity of stretches, breathing exercises, meditations, and chants from the Kundalini and Iyengar Yoga traditions. The goal of the class is to provide inspiration and an understanding of yoga as the union with that which is divine within us. We'll explore: *How to recognize and move energy blocks along the spine • Intuition • Chakras: What are they and how can awareness of them assist us? • The breath as conduit for spirit in our lives • and Flexibility and the Spine – How does a flexible spine contribute to a flexible mind?*

Catherine 'Cricket' Johnson is a certified Kundalini Yoga instructor, who has been teaching yoga for almost 20 years.

Questions: csings2faye@yahoo.com, or 367-7977. Registration: 525-0292.

USER-FRIENDLY PILATES

Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt
Mixed Level class with Ernie Adams

Wednesdays, Nov. 3-Dec. 22 (no class Nov. 24), 7:30-8:30pm, 7-class series • Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington (next to KCC Office/south of soccer field) • \$92 residents/\$93 non-residents. *\$15 drop-in (1st class only)

User-Friendly Pilates engages your deepest core abdominal, lumbar, and pelvic floor muscles, and teaches you to stretch and strengthen in a safer way. Training with the proper awareness and mental focus can increase core strength, and also improve posture, balance and coordination. It can help you feel more powerful, age more gracefully, and move with more rhythm and flow.

This is a Mixed-level class (integrating Level I & Level II), appropriate for those with experience, and also for beginners. More advanced students will be given more challenging variations of exercises. A review DVD of the class will be offered to students at the end of the series for \$15 (normally \$25).

Ernie Adams is a Pilates Instructor and Feldenkrais® Movement Educator, with an extensive background as a professional dancer. He has over 17 years experience collaborating with physical therapists to treat orthopedic, neurological, dance and sports related injuries. Taking a class with Ernie can help you have more fun while getting fit! Private sessions are also available. For more information, or to make an appointment, please contact Ernie at 619-9223, adams@bodyinaction.com, or go to www.bodyinaction.com.

Maximum 18 students. Please sign-up early to guarantee a space. Call 525-0292, drop by KCC Office to register (M-F 10-4), or send checks payable to KCC, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington 94707.

Discount available for those taking the Monday, Level 2/Intermediate class (held at a different Kensington location and requires a separate registration). Call Ernie to qualify for the discount.

Class meets at the Kensington Recreation Building, (next to KCC Office, south of the playing field).

ACRYLIC PAINTING

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

Stan Cohen (533-3003) leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning adult artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting, with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited. Instructor approval required.



Ernie Adams and students – Getting stronger without getting hurt.

REGISTRATION

Class Registration: Please call the office at 525-0292. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they can't be accommodated.

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

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

Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Building E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. Email: kccrec@yahoo.com.

Many Thanks to Our Generous KCC Fall Fund Campaign Donors!*

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Neighborhood Notes

Disaster Preparedness Training - Thursday, Nov. 4th - Free!
Presented by Pam Grossman, volunteer trainer with the Berkeley Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services, and sponsored by the Kensington Public Safety Council and the Kensington Police Department; this one-night workshop will help prepare you for major disasters, such as earthquakes and exploding natural gas pipes running underneath your house. Thursday, November 4th at 7:30-9:30pm, at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Please call or email in advance to reserve, or for more information: Officer Doug Wilson at 526-4141, ext. 38, or dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org

Legend of Sleepy Hollow Puppetry at the Kensington Library
Kids were anything but sleepy at last month's spooky Halloween puppet show, based on Washington Irving's tale of ghosts and local superstitions, sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.

7th Annual Holiday Coat Drive
Local resident, Hannah Kessel, reminds us that the annual coat drive, in conjunction with local Brownie Troop #32222, with barrels at the police/fire station, EC Station #71, the school, and the library, continues through November 11th. *You know what to do!*

Geminus Guitar Duo Will String Us Along at Arlington Church
The Geminus Guitar duo from Portland, Oregon, will perform at the Arlington Community Church on Sunday evening, November 7 at 7:30pm. Guitarists Foti Lycouridis and Hideki Yamaya will perform a program rich in originality, rarely performed compositions and transcriptions by composers such as Haydn, Mertz, Cimarosa, Mompou and Kounadis, on a wide array of period stringed instruments. 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. Admission: \$15. Information: 526-9146.

KARW's Fashion Fling - Coming Tuesday, November 9th
The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club will be holding its annual Luncheon-Fashion Show fund raiser, *A Fashion Fling*, at 11:30 a.m. at the beautiful Mira Vista Country Club. Cold Water Creek of Walnut Creek will be providing the fashions. This event, held yearly for more than 40 years, raises funds to provide donations to food pantries, libraries and schools in our community. Be sure to have your friends and family mark their calendars for another lovely afternoon of food, fashion, and fun! Tickets: \$35. Reservations by Friday, November 5th; please call 237-4192.

Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries Sunday, November 7th
Daylight-saving time ends Sunday, Nov. 7, and marks the 23rd anniversary of the Change Your Clock/Change Your Battery® program, created by the Energizer company and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, which reminds people to check and change the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors during the fall time change. According to the National Fire Prevention Association, 40% of fatal fire injuries occur in homes without working smoke alarms, while 23% occur in homes in which at least one smoke alarm is present but fails to operate.

Arsonist Strikes Building 'E' Twice • Inn Kensington Burglarized
It's easy for us to get lulled into a perhaps false sense of security, here in our hillside enclave, far removed from the hustle-bustle, hurly-burly world. Apparently we are not as far removed as we may like to think. Last month, two fires were set outside the KASEP office, in the same spot, one day apart. While quick intervention kept damage from the first fire to a minimum, the second fire broke a window. In an apparently unrelated incident, a burglar smashed Inn Kensington's glass door and stole \$150. The restaurant's door has been replaced, Bldg. E security lighting and police patrols beefed up, and Kensington's Finest is investigating both incidents.

It All Adds Up: Math is Fun - We Had No Idea!
On October 5th, Kensington Hilltop School was the first school in the West Contra Costa Unified School District to host the California Math Council's Math Festival. This was a wonderful success made possible with enthusiastic parent and grandparent volunteers. Every class had the opportunity during the day to explore 14 separate math activities in the Multipurpose Room. In the evening the program was opened to the greater school community so that the students could return to show their families all the discoveries they had made during the day. In the words of one student, "Wow, math is so much fun. I had no idea!" It was a great opportunity to share the fun of math with the whole family and perhaps the beginning of an "addition tradition" at Kensington Hilltop.

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A K-8 SCHOOL IN EL CERRITO

Anton McGready exemplifies the Prospect Sierra physical education motto of "Fitness for Life." An avid fan of the outdoors, he kayaks, races cyclocross, cross country and alpine skis, rides his bike everywhere, and hikes year round.

"All students are encouraged to participate on our sports teams. I am most proud of our equal playing time philosophy and the learning opportunities that this provides"



Elementary School (K-4)

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Middle School (5-8)

Information Day
Sunday, November 7th
12:30-4:00pm
510-528-5800

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Neighborhood Notes

Atlases Hugged

Last month Kensington Chevron station mechanic and entrepreneur, Jason Simms, along with local corporate representative, Julie Goldstone, had the privilege of presenting to Ms. Nichols’ third grade class, 30 brand new atlases. Chevron had allotted one million dollars to Alameda and Contra Costa County stations to distribute through *DonorsChoose.org*. (For every 8-gallon+ fill up at a station in these counties \$1 was donated to the local school.) Jason’s station earned \$4,202 for Hilltop Elementary. October’s atlas distribution was the latest in a number of such donations that have taken place. The kids were pretty excited, which is a good sign in itself. Kids excited about atlases? What are they putting in the water up there at Hilltop? Let’s bottle it!...In a tangential note, Kensington resident and former US Poet Laureate, Robert Hass stopped by Jason’s station the other day to have his valves adjusted. Working on a book of haiku, it seems his valves kept tapping out iambic pentameter, and it was beginning/to interfere/with his/work. (What does he drive, you ask? A Catalexis!)



Berkeley Path Wanderers Invade Kensington

An all-day walk, sponsored by the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association in collaboration with Oakland Urban Paths, the Kensington Improvement Club, and the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers began at 9am on Oct. 10th at Rockridge BART with 64 eager participants. OAP’s Paul Rosenbloom handed the baton to Jen English of the BPWA at the Oakland/Berkeley border. Jen led the group to Live Oak Park, then continued on to the Kensington border, where the group was greeted at Arlington Blvd. by Lorraine Osmundson of the KIC, who showcased several of Kensington’s most prized paths. The group then continued to the El Cerrito border, where they were greeted by ECTT’s Joseph Nichols and Lisa Martinengo, who revealed some of El Cerrito’s hidden paths, and led the tired but buoyant group to end the 13-mile, 7.5-hour trip to Fat Apples, with 23 of the original hikers still standing (or staggering, as the case may have been). The Path Wanderers will be back in Kensington on Saturday, November 20, when Paul Grunland of BPWA and Berkeley Historical Society leads a walk of Kensington’s paths, leaving from the corner of Grizzly Peak and Kenyon Ave. at 10am. For more information, call 520-3876, or log onto www.berkeleypaths.org.



Kim 4 Kensington

KPPCSD candidate, Kim Zwick threw a get-to-know-you party, with hors d’oeuvres, wine, desserts, and all the live music you could hear last month at The Arlington. Supporters and those interested in finding out a little more about Kim the Candidate turned out for an enjoyable early evening, featuring the Berkeley High Jazz Band and some great food and wine. People couldn’t help but enjoy Kim’s “Party” platform! (There are a number of dedicated and highly qualified candidates running for the Board – though no one but the candidates knows why anyone would want the job!) At right, Kim shares an exchange of ideas with Joan Gallegos and an unidentified Kensington resident.



EDITORIAL

Unicorns in Kensington?

There have been repeated concerns voiced at recent KPPCSD meetings – both from one of the Board’s directors and by members of the public – about the “fact” that Kensington doesn’t have a female officer; speaking to the problem Kensington would have by not having an appropriate officer to frisk any female suspects that may need frisking (even though Officer Doug Wilson has gallantly volunteered to fill such a need should it arise), and also alluding to the inherent sexism in such a hiring decision (were it to actually exist).

First, it should be noted that it is illegal for the Police Department to discriminate by gender in its hiring practices, so even if it wanted specifically to go out and hire



a female officer, it is legally constrained from doing so. Second, there are actually two female reserve officers on the force, pictured above with Chief Greg Harman – Officer Suzanne Tyler and Officer Jill Chandler. Hopefully the revelation of these relatively rare and previously-believed-to-be mythical creatures will lay to rest such concerns. (And thanks again, anyway, Doug!)

• Experience Matters •



- Alexandra Crisafulli
- Vivian Fendel
- Linda Gerson
- Jennifer Jonak
- Estelle Kent
- Linda Lipscomb
- Stuart Marson
- Lorraine Osmundson
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The Garden Party 2010

Saturday, November 13th 5:00 p.m.

Mira Vista Golf & Country Club
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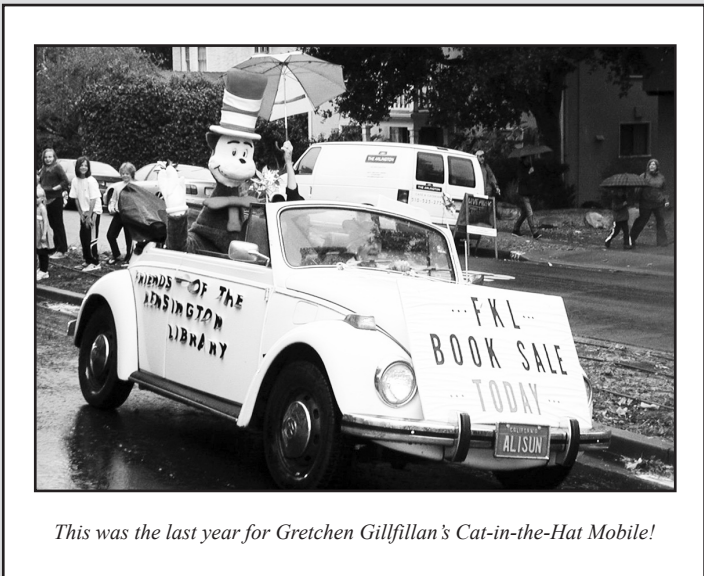
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at beth.thomsen@gmail.com

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This was the last year for Gretchen Gillfillan's Cat-in-the-Hat Mobile!



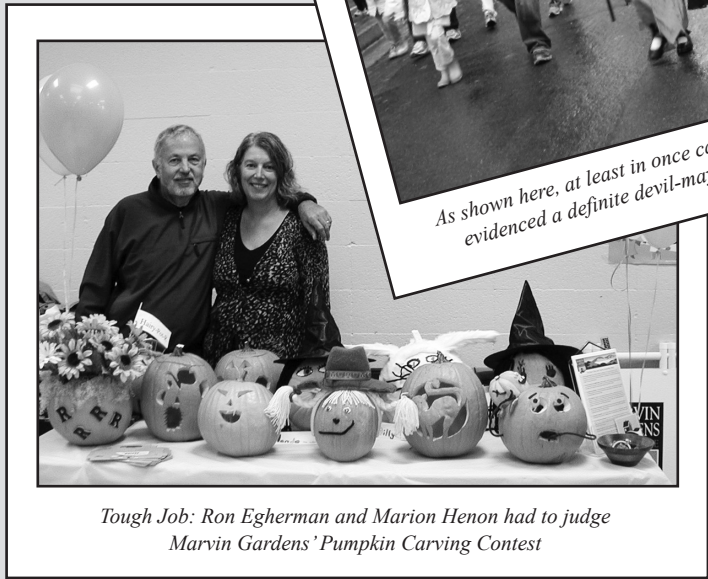
Fresh as a Daisy Troop



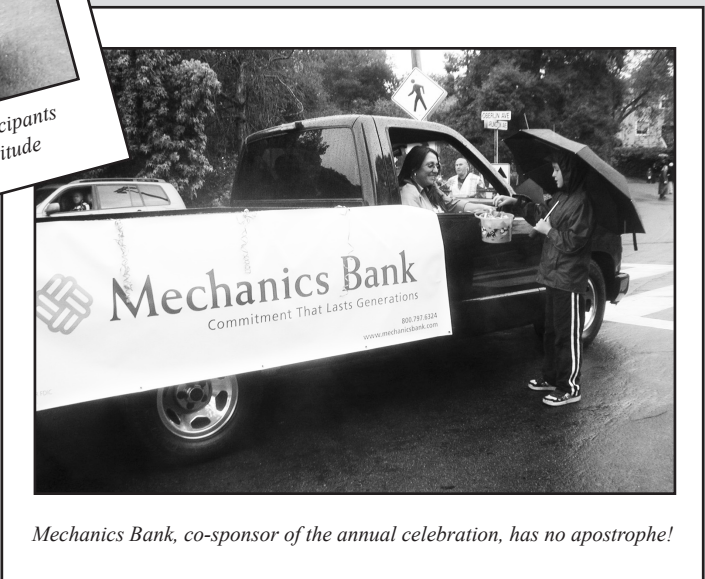
Grand Marshalls, Dee Andronico and Pat MacLaughlin ride with Ron Egherman, of festival co-sponsor, Marvin Gardens Real Estate



As shown here, at least in once case, participants evidenced a definite devil-may-care attitude



Tough Job: Ron Egherman and Marion Henon had to judge Marvin Gardens' Pumpkin Carving Contest




Mechanics Bank, co-sponsor of the annual celebration, has no apostrophe!




Why yes, now that you ask,

Kensington
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FALL FESTIVAL
and
Sunday, C



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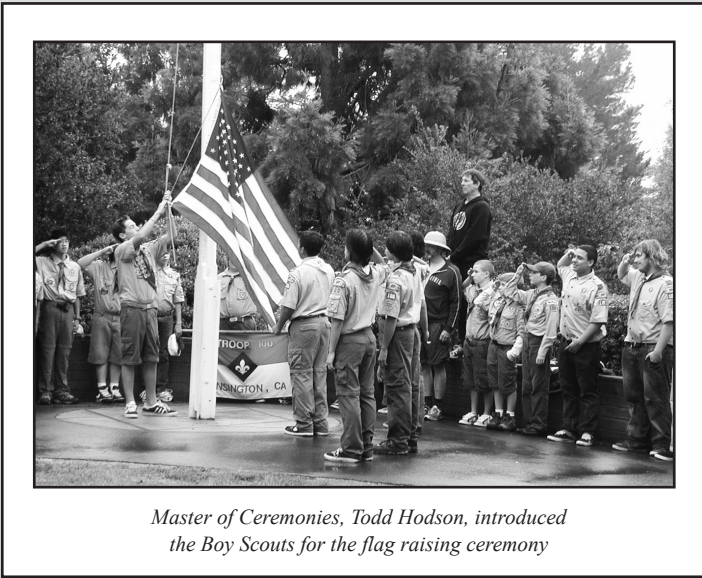
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p, in spite of the rain...



Master of Ceremonies, Todd Hodson, introduced the Boy Scouts for the flag raising ceremony

Kensington
City Council
FESTIVAL
Parade!
Oct. 17th, 2010



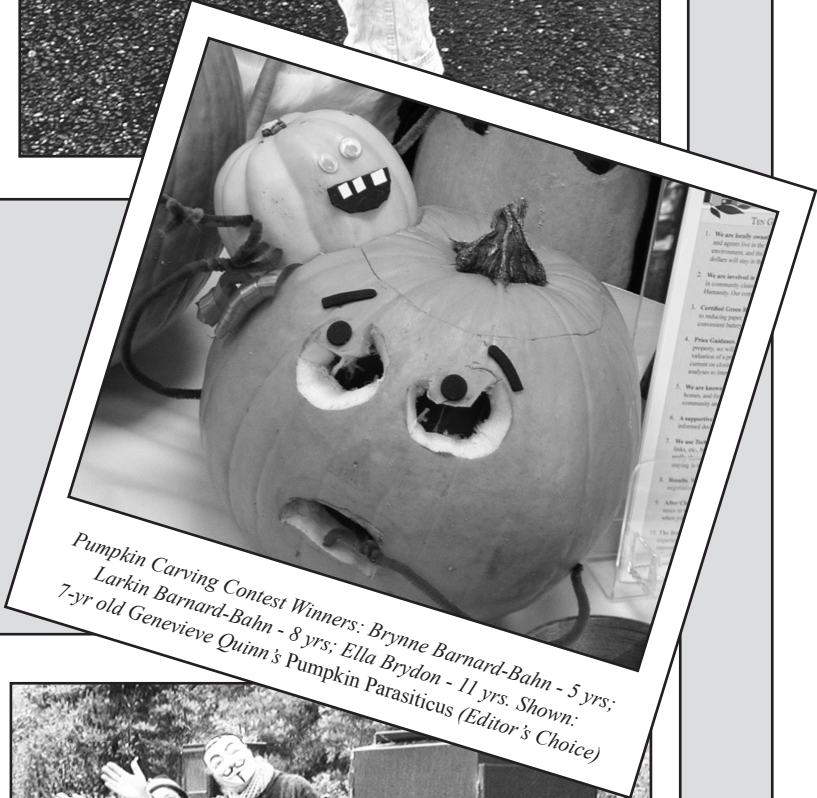
Mechanics Bank's Pumpkin Coloring Contest Winners, including two pictured here: Age 4-6: Lily Van Linder; 7-9: Roi Shimoni; 10-12: Reya Borbridge. Plus Office Favorite: Larkin Barnard-Bahn



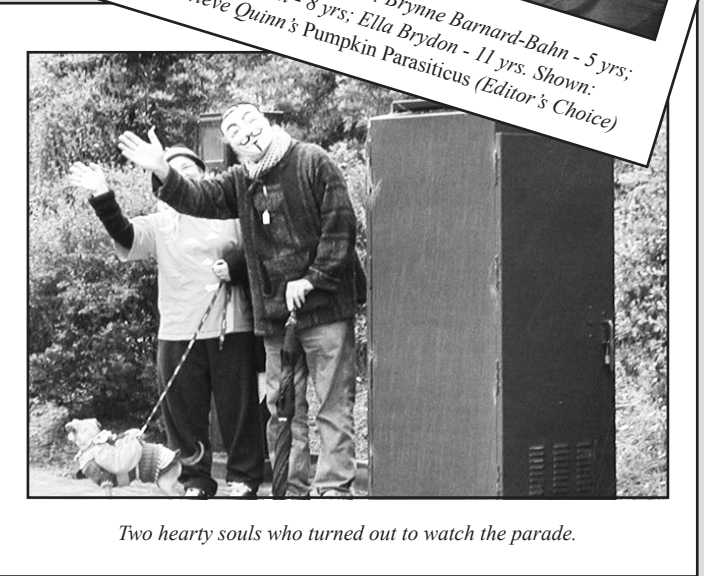
it WAS raining cats and dogs!



They lived up to the section of the Girl Scout Law that says "Scouts should be courageous and strong!"



Pumpkin Carving Contest Winners: Brynne Barnard-Bahn - 5 yrs; Larkin Barnard-Bahn - 8 yrs; Ella Brydon - 11 yrs. Shown: 7-yr old Genevieve Quinn's Pumpkin Parasiticus (Editor's Choice)



Two hearty souls who turned out to watch the parade.



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— or —
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1:00–3:30 pm

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From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From September 2010

• 2010-4440 - On 9/6/10 at 1641 hours, on the 200 block of Lake Dr., Officer Hui took a report of vandalism of a tree.

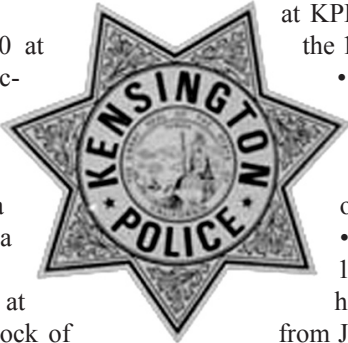
• 2010-4424 - On 9/7/10 at 2037 hours, on the 00 block of Windsor Ave., Officer Wilson took a report regarding theft of a political sign.

• 2010-4646 - On 9/14/10 at 1907 hours, on the 00 block of Windsor Ave., Officer Hui took a report of annoying phone calls. It turned the unknown caller was a friend playing a joke on another friend. *(With friends like these, who needs telemarketers?)*

• 2010-4740 - On 9/19/10 at 0153 hours, at the intersection of Coventry Rd. and Oakview Ave., Officer Hui responded to a solo vehicle accident where a vehicle failed to negotiate a turn safely.

• 2010-4780 - On 9/21/10 at 1122 hours, on the 200 block of Cambridge Ave, Officers Tyler and Stegman took a Coroners case. There were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death. *(And once the officers return the Coroner's case, the entire matter can be laid to rest.)*

• 2010-4800- On 9/21/10 at 1746 hours, on the 300 block of Berkeley Park Blvd, a resident spotted a mountain lion or similar animal, walking out of the East Bay MUD property. Officers Barrow, Hui, and Ramos responded and conducted an extensive search of the area. They were unable to locate the animal



• 2010-4920- On 9/27/10 at 1544 hours, on the 00 block of Anson Way, Officer Hui took a theft report.

• 2010-4396 – On 9-4-2010, Officer Martinez responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. to a civil dispute between neighbors. *(The officer asked them to call him when things become less civil.)*

• 2010-4408 – On 9-4-2010, FTO Medina and Reserve Trainee Lafitte arrested a Kensington resident who had a \$65,000 warrant for Health and Safety Code violations out of San Francisco.

• 2010-4528 – On 9-11-2010, Officer Martinez took a report of a vehicle collision at KPD. The collision occurred in the 100 block of Colusa Avenue.

• 2010-4838 – On 9-23-2010, Officer Martinez took a report of a missing person from the unit block of Kensington Road.

• 2010-4878 Fraud. On 09-25-10, a resident reported s/he had received a telephone call from Jamaica telling the resident s/he had won money from a sweepstakes and only needed to pay the tax on the winnings. The resident paid the money after receiving fraudulent checks in the mail. The officer who took the report is still investigating.

• 2010-4231 Residential Burglary. On 09-01-10, a resident reported s/he had been the victim of a residential burglary. Officers found no sign of forced entry, as the residence was unlocked. A checkbook was the only thing taken.

... Garden Party from Page 1

midnight, November 11th.

The online auction will be exclusively for services and certificates. These items range from gift certificates to your favorite restaurant, to a fun day at Great America, to tickets for a Cal basketball, and more.

(These items will not be available at the Garden Party event on November 13th. “3D” items, including Kids and Teacher Treasures, “Class Baskets,” jewelry, “Live Auction” items, and “Parties and Getaways” will be on the online site for viewing but are excluded from the online auction.)

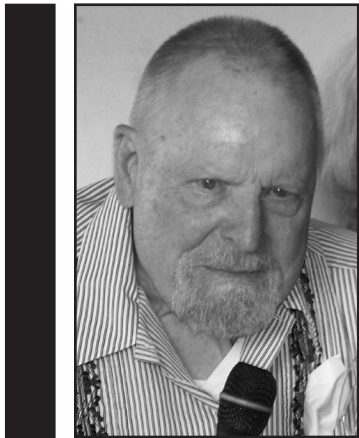
(Got that? Questions or info: contact Beth Thomsen at beth.thomsen@gmail.com.)

The online auction is going on right now (Oct. 29-Nov. 11). Check out the site, and be part of the action and fun!

Come and enjoy the festivities at the Garden Party on November 13th at the Mira Vista Country Club too. There’s going to fabulous food and great items for you to bid on there as well. You may purchase tickets and RSVP at the online site. (<http://auctions.readysetauction.com/thegardenparty/home>).

Submitted by Paul Tokmakian

Obituaries



Charles Kenneth Jackson (“Jack”) January 19, 1923- July 29, 2010

Our dear father “Jack” died July 29, 2010 from Parkinsons. A lifelong advocate for justice, tolerance, and cooperation, Jack was the “strong, silent type,” a quiet observer with a dry wit and strong convictions, who generously supported the causes he believed in and actively worked for a better world. He was an avid reader, chess player, puzzle-solver, self-taught musician, and birder.

A 50-year resident of Kensington, he was active in the Blakemont Property Owners Association, and was a one-time “den mother” for Troop 100. An active defender of human and civil rights, he was a strong supporter of PFLAG. His lifelong commitment to conservation, ecology, and preservation meant re-using and recycling everything, and led to an “anti-fossil fuel” campaign and owning a biodiesel-run car.

Jack grew up in Oakland and Turlock, worked in the Richmond Shipyards, and joined the Merchant Marines in 1943. He was Chief Radio Officer on board several ships from 1944-1946, and from 1949-1951, serving his country during both World War II and the Korean conflict. He was a Ham Radio Operator, call sign W6KNO, and a member of many local radio associations. He was the founder of the Red Oak Victory Amateur Radio Club. He attended UC Berkeley from 1946-1949, was a member of Delta Phi Epsilon, the Professional Foreign Service Fraternity (Epsilon Chapter, 1947), and married his Spanish teacher, Margaret Helen Claar (“Peggy”) to whom he was happily wed for 51 years until her death in 2002.

He was an early volunteer at KPFA radio, and a board member of the Berkeley Co-op. He worked for Stauffer Chemical Company in the 1950’s, and then became a Real Property appraiser with the Assessor’s Office for the County of Sonoma where he worked for 20 years.

Most of the last decade was devoted to the res-

toration project of the SS Red Oak Victory in Richmond. He invited everyone he met to the barbecues and pancake breakfasts on board the ship.

He is mourned by his family: daughter, Martha, of Richmond; son, David, his wife Becky, of Santa Rosa, and their sons, Daniel and Brian; son, Peter, and his partner Eric Raptosh, of Venice; son, Michael, and his wife Monique Lanoix, of Montreal; and many cousins, friends, and shipmates.

A celebration of his life was held on board the Red Oak Victory on October 10th. Contributions to the causes Jack believed in are welcome:

SS Red Oak Victory, P.O.Box 1267 Richmond, CA 94802; or PFLAG, 1828 L Street, NW, Suite 660 Washington, D.C. 20036



Marie C. Wiesner July 24, 1915 - September 20, 2010

Marie C. Wiesner, 95, a 1935 graduate of UC Berkeley, a retired teacher and administrator with the Richmond schools, and a resident of Kensington for over 60 years, died September 20th. Born July 24, 1915, in Oakland to Otho and Marie Zugg, she was preceded in death by her two husbands, Wilford A. Pope and Werner Wiesner; and two sisters, Maxine M. Zugg and Lorraine A. Slater. She is survived by her daughter, Judith M. Pope of Kensington; grandchildren Kristian P. Jarvis of El Cerrito and Mrs. Micah (Samantha) Sager of Oakland; sister-in-law Barbara F. Gay of Oakland; niece Victoria B. Gay of Oakland; and nephews Paul A. Slater of Berkeley and Geoffrey P. Gray of Modesto. Services were private with interment in Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army or the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund.

We can't count on the weather for our pleasure.
Whether our day will rain or shine is for us to say. – Paul Trawitzki




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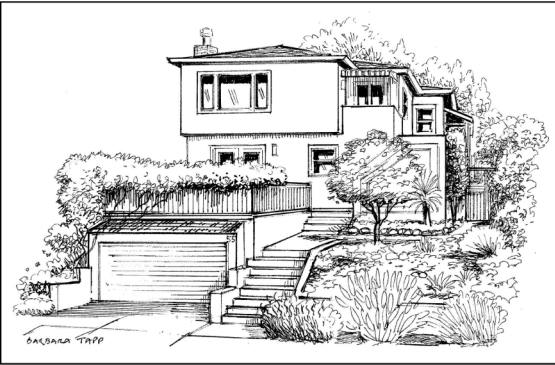
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October Town Hall Meeting

Last month, the Kensington Improvement Club (KIC) held its annual meeting, and, in conjunction with the Kensington Property Owners Association, presented a Candidates Forum, introduced by KIC’s Melissa Snyder and chaired by League of Women Voters’ Deborah Melback. Speaking were the current crop of candidates for three KPPCSD Board seats being vacated by retiring Directors, Bill Wright, Pat MacLaughlin, and John Stein.

KIC President, Linda Lipscomb, led the meeting in a vote, which approved Anthony Knight and Jaima Roberts as continuing Directors of KIC. She also reported that KIC has pledged \$10K to Kensington Community Council for the remodel of Community Center.

KPPCSD Board President, Chuck Toombs thanked the three retiring directors for their outstanding service, and reviewed some of the critical issues that the Board has recently faced – a new parcel tax, major traffic safety concerns, and the impending negotiation of a new contract with Kensington police officers. He noted that KPPCSD and the KPOA had agreed to contract for preparation of a total compensation salary survey, to compare our officers’ salaries and benefits against comparable cities, to be used as a tool to negotiate an equitable contract.

He noted that the District has adopted a zero tolerance policy for traffic violations, with significant improvements in traffic safety and control having been made along the Arlington, including a soon-to-be installed traffic speed safety sign. The District is also investigating improvements to control traffic on the Colusa Circle roundabout.

Construction of the new park restroom is expected to begin this spring, at a cost of \$150K-175K, paid for in part by East Bay Parks Measure WW bond funds.

The District also plans to arrange for a resource study to discuss future use of its buildings in the park and how public and private monies can best be spent for their improvement.

KPPCSD GM and Chief of Police, Greg Harman informed the crowd that KPPCSD has received \$100K of COPS grant money, which has been used to hire a tenth officer for the force. Additionally, the Chief thanked everyone for passing Measure G to provide sufficient funding for the Police Department to continue doing its job the way it should be done.

Greg reported that serious crimes were down in 2009 over 2008, and reported that, even though they’d recently hired a 10th officer, the force is again staffed with just 9 officers, due to Sgt. Khan’s being out on a workman’s compensation claim. Sgt. Khan is expected to retire, and will probably not return. Luckily, there are currently four reserve officers in the wings, from which an additional officer will be chosen, should Sgt. Khan’s retirement come to fruition.

In other news, new rates are being considered as per a request from Bay View Refuse. The District is planning to start a Senior Watch program soon; the Key and Vacation Watch programs are ongoing. Information about KPPCSD, the Police Department (including monthly reports), waste management, and more is available at www.kensingtoncalifornia.org.

Nina Harmon, Board President of the Kensington Fire District, reminded everyone that the District provides prevention and education to kids in schools and to residents, regarding vegetation management. She said that paramedics are now available on every engine that goes out, and that the District has recently purchased two state-of-the-art defibrillators – one for each engine. The District has been working with the Diablo Fire Council to clear brush along the Tilden interface.

The Fire District is supported by property tax assessments and a supplemental tax of approximately \$83 per parcel. It owns two fire engines valued at about \$500K each. Kensington’s engines need to be special ordered because of our (narrow) streets – and the need to fit in our firehouse.

Due to the contract with El Cerrito, the District has been able to act on some issues of deferred maintenance, including keeping the fire station and equipment up-to-date. It has recently been involved in bringing a ramp into ADA compliance, fixing the driveway, and shoring up the foundation of the Public Service Bldg.

Unfortunately, the contractor that had been chosen for the project declared bankruptcy last month, just before work on the project was slated to begin. A new contractor is expected to be chosen quickly to bring the project back on track.

Kensington Librarian, Liz Ruhland informed us that our library has the highest circulation per capita of any library in the County. The library remodel, however, has been on hold for the past year, due to the County waiting to see if there is any interest in fundraising coming from Kensington, itself. The library has an old furnace and its bathrooms are not ADA-compliant. The County is going to have new director in the next few months, so nothing is expected to happen with the remodel until the new director is in place.

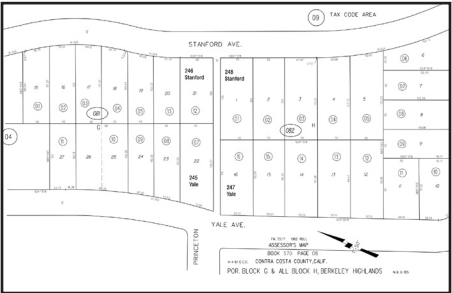


KIC Continues Paths Reclamation Project

The Kensington Improvement Club (KIC) has announced a major new effort to revitalize Kensington’s public pathways. The pathways were designated during the streetcar era, but have fallen on harder times in recent decades. “KIC has taken an interest in the paths for many years,” said Linda Lipscomb, KIC president, “Recently, we’ve made a commitment to preserve and improve as many paths as we can.”

This fall, KIC members and volunteers will construct 100 steps on the unimproved corridor that extends Princeton Ave. from Yale to Stanford. “We’re working closely with the neighbors, one of whom has already built steps on the lower section,” said KIC volunteer Bryce Nesbitt. Work parties will begin as additional funds are raised and materials are purchased.

KIC and the Kensington Property Owners Association have both pledged seed money for the project. Several local organizations are helping with advice or low cost supplies. Timbers for the project will be locally milled by the Green Waste Recycle Yard in Richmond; Kreiss Rebar in El Sobrante is supplying tiedowns. Charlie Bowen from the Berkeley Path Wanderers’ Association is providing technical advice. Construction costs are estimated at \$20 per step, and donations can be made by check to the Kensington Improvement Club, Box 8165, Berkeley, CA 94707. To help, please call Melissa at 526-3297.



KIC spent the better part of the past decade researching the history of the paths, and attempting without success to interest the County in taking over direct maintenance.

The legal status of the paths has always been complicated, according to Paul Grunland, a local historian and author. The paths were offered for dedication to the County when the subdivision maps were recorded in the early 1900’s. At that time, pedestrian shortcuts were commonly included in hillside developments. It appears that the County did not accept

the offer of dedication, and has generally avoided maintenance of the paths. Some paths were clearly designed to shorten walking distance to the #7 streetcar, which traveled up the Arlington. Some corridors also support power and sewer lines, and utility companies have periodically dug up and replaced those lines. It appears no one is paying taxes on the path acreage.

KIC wants to preserve these corridors. Some paths are passable now, but many need development, including building steps and clearing vegetation, to make them walkable. “The paths can provide wonderful and interesting walking routes, beautiful bay views, and potential escape or access routes in case of emergencies,” Linda said.

Submitted by resident, Bryce Nesbitt and KIC President, Linda Lipscomb.

KCC Administrator, Esther Hill, reminded everyone that 2011 will be Kensington’s 100th anniversary, and that this year is KCC’s 50th.

She reiterated that KCC also sponsors adult classes in addition to summer- and after-school programs for children – including yoga, Pilates, hooping, painting, and guitar. Esther also reported that, in a unique inter-agency cooperative venture, that she, KIC’s Jaima Roberts, Arlington Community Church’s Tony Lloyd, and librarian Liz Ruhland have been working together to promote *Race to Nowhere*, a documentary about the pressures faced by American schoolchildren and their teachers in a system and culture obsessed with achievement, competition and the pressure to perform, shown recently at Hilltop Elementary School.

In answer to some of the audience’s questions, it was revealed that 1) There’s no disaster evacuation route established for Kensington, due to the lack of knowledge of the direction from which a fire, for instance, may be coming; 2) There is, however, an alarm system in place. In the event of an emergency, Chief Harman or his representative will make a call to the County and then the County will call every land line in Kensington and tell residents

what they may need to know in relation to a potential evacuation, or other directions to help residents stay safe; 3) There is currently only one police officer on the Kensington force who lives locally. There is a state-wide policy in force that, in case of public emergency, directs those officers who can’t get to the districts in which they work, to report to the districts in which they live, instead; 4) The Fire District has free 72-hour emergency kits available to residents; 5) The Fire District provides a pharmaceutical drop off for residents twice a year; 6) As there is a stunning \$56 charge to KPPCSD for individual hazardous waste drop offs, GM Greg Harman encouraged residents to coordinate such visits with their neighbors instead of going to the hazardous waste disposal individually; 7) Fifty-six pounds of controlled substances were collected by the Police Department at the local controlled substance public drop off on September 25th; 8) There have been 21 internal police department investigations since Greg has been chief of police – some small, some big, all of which were investigated. There has been only one such incident this year.

The KPPCSD Board candidates restated their positions (see last month’s *Outlook* at www.KensingtonOutlook.com) and answered questions from the audience.



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Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 **Adult Bell Choir**, Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave. 7:45pm. 526-9146

Nov. 1 **“Castoffs” Knitting Group**. All levels welcome and some help provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 **Spirit and the Arts Young People’s Dance Theater Company**. Dance and theater training with values, Grades 3-8 (8-14 years), 6-7:30pm, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 673-5150.

Nov. 2 **Power of Myth at the Movies IV: “The Hours”** led by Richard Stromer. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 7:30-9pm. Suggested fee: \$7.50 per class. Please watch the film before class. Info: 682-6302; Reg: 528-3417.

Town Meetings

at the
Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington
(Unless Otherwise Noted)

KCC - November 1st
Kensington Community Council
7:30pm • 525-0292 • 1st Mondays

FKL - November 2nd
Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm at the Library, 61 Arlington Avenue. 1st Tuesdays.

KPSC - November 8th
Kensington Public Safety Council
EQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays 6:30pm. 501-8165

KARO/ECHO - November 8th
Amateur Radio Operators
Provides assistance to community emergency response teams in the case of natural disasters. Actively soliciting new members interested in operating amateur radios as a community service. 2nd Mondays of odd months. 7:30pm. 524-9815

KFPD - November 10th
Fire Protection District
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD - November 11th
Police Protection and Community Services District
2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

KIC - November 22nd
Kensington Improvement Club
4th Mondays 7:30pm. 527-3062

KMAC - November 30th
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tuesdays 7pm. 273-9926

KPOA
Property Owners Association
One annual general spring membership meeting; Board of Directors meets quarterly. 525-1709

Online Neighborhood Newsgroup
<http://groups.google.com/group/kensingtontips?hl=en>

Kensington Sign Board Coordinator: To reserve sign board space for your event, call Jaima at 525-8902.

Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24 **Youth Choir**. Ages 7 and up. 6-6:45pm at the Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Free. 526-9146

Nov. 4 **Disaster Preparedness Training** presented by Pam Grossman, volunteer trainer with the Berkeley Fire Department’s Office of Emergency Services. 7:30-9:30pm, at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Please call or email in advance to reserve, or for more information: Ofer Doug Wilson at dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org or 526-4141, ext. 38.

Nov. 4 **Baby & Toddler Storytime**. Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15 am. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 4 **Reading Garden Book Club** for grades 1-3 meets monthly on the 1st Thursday of the month. No registration required. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 4pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 6 **Historical Tour of the El Cerrito Recycling Center** by co-founder, Gregg Cook. Begins at 2pm at El Cerrito City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. and continues with a tour of the recycling center at the end of Schmidt Lane. 524-1737 or davidsweinstein@yahoo.com

Nov. 6 **Preschool Storytime & Craft**. Monthly – please check the schedule for specific dates. No registration required. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 10:30am. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 7 **Hallowe’en and Day of the Dead Intergenerational Service**. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 9am and 11am. Free. 525-0302.

Nov. 7 **The Geminus Guitar Duo** performs rarely heard classical compositions. Arlington Community Church, 7:30pm. Adm. \$15. Info: 526-9146.

Nov. 7 **Personal Theology Seminar:** Bill Garrett, Professor of Religion and Philosophy at John F. Kennedy University. “Evolution and its Anxieties”: Why evolutionary theory has, since 1859, seemed like the end of all values and decency. The basics of natural selection theory and its perceived affronts. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 10-11am. Free. 525-0302.

ELECTION DAY
IS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 **Youth Bell Choir**. Ages 8 and up, by permission of the director. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington, 11:30am. 526-9146

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 **The Kensington Farmers Market** 10am-2pm at Colusa Circle. kensingtoncafarmersmarket@gmail.com or 717-6918.

Nov. 7 **Local Author/First Responder/ Knitter, Rachael Herron** weaves her magic with a new book *How to Knit a Love Song: A Cypress Hollow Yarn*, a compelling story about land-grabbing, claim jumping, knitting and romancing. Enjoy a quiet, down-home afternoon of hot chocolate, reading, yarn and fiber spinning, and fun, 3-5pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC. 356-4233

Nov. 8 **Scrabble Club**. All levels welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 3 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 8 **Author Helen Betts** discusses her family’s flight from wartime Vienna to Shanghai and beyond. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 8 **El Cerrito Art Association Social and Art Show**. Includes mini art show of members’ work and a group critique led by Charlotte Britton. Garden Room, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, EC., 7:30pm. Free. Bring finger food for the buffet. Info: 234-5028 or www.elcerritoart.org.

Nov. 9 **Boswick the Clown** – Enjoy the antics of a former Ringling Brothers Circus Clown. The show is a fun way to introduce kids to the joy of reading. There will be magic and juggling packaged in comedy. The show begins with an explanation of how a circus clown gets ready—by putting on his make up in front of the children. The children then create “the reading circus,” with wild animals (the children), jugglers (the children), acrobats (the children) and magicians (the children). Lots of silly fun for ages 3 and up. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Nov. 9 The Kensington Area Republican Women’s Club annual luncheon/fashion show/fund raiser, “A Fashion Fling.” (*Details on Page 4.*)

Nov. 12 El Cerrito Garden Club Meeting and Fall Fundraiser. EC Community Center at 7007 Moeser Lane, EC. Refreshments, raffle, silent auction, drawings, and plants for sale. \$5. 233-9365.

Nov. 13 The Garden Party. Kensington Hilltop Fundraiser, 5pm, Mira Vista Golf & Country Club. (*Details Pg 1.*)

Nov. 13 Thanksgiving Small Critter Adoption Day. Toy and treat-making for old and young alike to show appreciation for all the small shelter critters. 2-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC. 356-4233

Nov. 14 Personal Theology Seminar: Professor Bill Garrett on “Evolution and its Anxieties” – Morality and religion. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 10-11am. Free. 525-0302.

Nov. 14 University of California Alumni Chorus performs favorite selections from 25 years of programming in its 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee Concert at 7:30pm in Hertz Hall, UCB Campus. \$20/\$15 seniors and disabled; \$6/student. <http://www.ucac.net>.

Nov. 16 Berkeley Garden Club meeting: “Building a Pond for Wildlife,” by Kathy Biggs, author of *Common Dragonflies of California*. 2pm, Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley. Free. More info at: www.BerkeleyGardenClub.org

Nov. 16 Free Career Counseling Workshop with coach and career counselor Eric Riess, and Mary Pueringer of Greenback Talent. For local residents who are either looking for a job, or trying to make a career change. The Arlington Cafe, 269 Arlington Ave. in Kensington, 6-9pm. <http://www.eric-riess.com/events>

Nov. 18 Craft Corner for grades 1-3. Come create a fun craft to take home with you. 3rd Thursdays of every month. No registration required. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 3pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 21 Personal Theology Seminar: Bill Garrett, Professor of Religion and Philosophy at John F. Kennedy University. “Evolution and its Anxieties”: Accelerating the processes of natural selection; rethinking self interest; integrating the human and the technological. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 10-11am. Free. 525-0302.

Nov. 22 Book Club. Discussion of Beowulf translated by Seamus Heaney. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 23 El Cerrito Democratic Club meets. Brian Leubitz of the progressive blog, *Calitics* will speak on “The Midyear Elections – What Happened and Why?” 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall, El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave. EC. More information: panterazero@gmail.com.

Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Worship and Potluck Dinner. Turkey and trimmings provided; bring a side dish to share. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Noon. Reservations req’d: 525-0302.

Nov. 28 Personal Theology Seminar: Ann Wiser Cornell, founder of the Focusing Institute, past president of the American Association of Humanist Psychology. “Making Calm, Clear, Decisions.” Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 10-11am. Free. 525-0302.

Live Music Fridays

Friday Nov 5:
Rock w/Randy Rood • 6:30-8:30pm

Saturday Nov. 6: *Karaoke*
with Officer Doug Wilson • 6-10:30pm

Friday Nov. 12:
Rock w/Brian Scott • 6:30-8:30pm

Friday Nov. 19: Folk/Rock with *Wolfe n LaRue* • 6:30-8:30pm

Ongoing Sundays (except 12/5):
Hawaiian Music • 11am-2pm

Friday Dec. 3:
Rock with *Room 13* • 6:30-8:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 5 • 12:30-2:30
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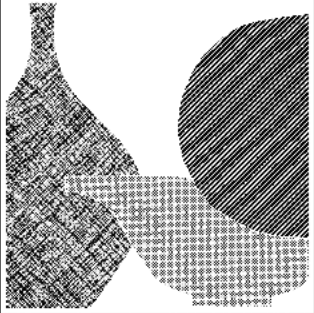


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... Parade from Page 1

in 'em to stay up by themselves. As they say, 'Clothes make the man!') Crossed my mind – don't know why – that at least we wouldn't have to worry about rain for Sunday's parade. Who knew? Shoulda checked the weather instead of the obits!

Sunday, October 17th – Parade Day. Uh-oh. Stashed my ride near the Community Center and ambled toward Amherst on foot, with camera and trusty bumper-shoot, only to bump into Paul Dorroh on his way to rendezvous with the lovely Vida, their two grandkids, and our two Grand Marshalls, Dee Andronico and Pat MacLaughlin, all dryly ensconced at a window table at The Arlington.

A quick hi, how are you, nice to meet you with D.A., then down to the corner to see whether there were enough groups to even *have* a parade.

The flashing red and blue lights from the black and whites reflected in the rain-slicked asphalt and made the intersection by the pharmacy look like a crime scene. "Don't they issue you a hat?" I interrogated a bareheaded Chief of Police,

who knows enough to come in out of the rain but on this day, for obvious reasons, didn't. (I'm sure his mother would be dismayed to hear that, on a day like that, he didn't even wear his hat. But don't worry, Chief – your secret is safe with me!)

A few soggy photo ops a la *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, and Parade Master, Ted Blanckenberg shakabookoo'd me to retrieve the two Grand Marshalls back at the cafe, for their (shower-) curtain call.

In the end, Kensingtonians showed the world what they're made of, with a parade down 'Main Street,' a flag-raising between the raindrops, and a rockin' party featuring live music by *The Blues Daddies* and *Fortune Smiles*, with KCC volunteers serving up burgers, dogs, salad, and desert inside the Community Center, as if they'd planned it that way all along. And you know, I think they just might have!

Thanks again to festival sponsors, Mechanics Bank and Marvin Gardens Real Estate – and to everyone who turned out for a wet and wild afternoon! – Ed.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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