

Librarian

...from front page

Mallenby had visited California only once before—she has a relative in San Jose: “I loved my time in Boston and thought it would be a good adventure to come out to the other coast.” The Kensington job was advertised on a librarians’ recruiting site. “I really liked that there was so much training, and that everyone gets the same training, no matter what job,” she says.

Once she started at Kensington mid-May, she realized how lucky she was. “I’m a big fan of the windows all across the walls and the great view.” And then there are the kids: “The number of requests for higher level reading materials that are still safe for kids are higher here than in other libraries. They’re largely excited about reading already.” And like Mallenby, the kids “have the feeling that this is their space, that they can hang out here and feel comfortable.”

Mallenby books the children's performers. "The previous manager had already booked a few performances for the summer. But I was in charge of talking to the performers and making sure things ran smoothly. You could tell the difference between performers who had been here before and those who hadn't, who had a much bigger space in mind. You had to kind of talk them down. I found the performers to be very professional. Our attendance numbers went up over the summer, and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves."

So who is Izzy, the dog who loves to hear children read? “Izzy is a licensed therapy dog,” Mallenby explains. “It’s a really great program for kids who like reading but are reluctant for some reason. Dogs and other animals are such good listeners. You don’t have to worry about what level of book you pick or if you stumble over words. Having a



Kids enjoy reading to Izzy.

theater aspect, an audience, makes reluctant readers think about the book in a different way.” A golden lab, Izzy lives in Kensington, handy to the library.

Mallenby has big plans. “Saturday, November 21 is International Library Game Day. We’re planning to have several different kinds of games that can be participated in at the library. And we’re looking at some Star Wars programming in December to link with the new movie coming out.” The holidays will change out the children’s writings that are mounted on the walls—“Right now it’s about fairy tale characters. That will change to a holiday theme.”

Mallenby says that living on the West Coast is a big adjustment. "I like both mountains and the sea, and we have neither in Nebraska. I've gotten to see more wildlife here. In Kensington, I've seen fawns actually frolicking. I have already begun to miss rain." Then there's the inaugural shaker: "I had my first real earthquake with the 4.0," she says. That come-hither ad didn't mention that the Hayward fault runs within a few yards of the library, but Mallenby doesn't care. She's happy with her new job, in a community that's lucky to have her.




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VOLUME 73 NUMBER 9



Whitney Mallenby holds kids—and a collection of stuffed animals—spellbound. Photo by Melanie McCallum

New Children's Librarian Loves her Job

By Linnea Due

“My first impression of the Kensington branch is that it’s so cozy,” says Kensington’s new children’s librarian, Nebraskan Whitney Mallenby. “I’ve been to so many large warehouse-style libraries. I’ve always preferred cozier spaces that feel a part of the community.”

And that perfectly describes Kensington's branch of the Contra Costa County library. Mallenby considers herself lucky to have

ended up here. Although she wanted to be a children's librarian, she took a general library degree at Simmons College in Boston. With an undergraduate degree in history, she qualified for Simmons' dual degree in history, archives, general collections, and library science. "Because of the uncertain economy," Mallenby explains, "I wanted to keep every option open."

See back page & related story, page 6

New KPD Scandal Erupts; Investigations Follow

By Linnea Due

On October 7, Officer Juan Ramos and Sergeant Keith Barrow, lights flashing, stopped Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District board member Vanessa Cordova in Berkeley, on Marin and Ensenada. According to Cordova, Ramos appeared not to recognize her, though she greeted him; instead he asked for her license and registration. Cordova asked why she was being stopped, then asked why Ramos was stopping her outside the jurisdiction. Ramos said, "I don't have to tell you that," and again asked for her paperwork. Cordova handed over a stack of paperwork from the DMV. Ramos retired to the police vehicle with the papers while Barrow, in jeans and a T-shirt, walked around her car. Cordova says that the two officers texted on their phones during the stop, as she heard Barrow say, "What about the license?" and Ramos answer, "It's temporary." Cordova is awaiting her permanent license in the mail.

When Ramos returned with a ticket for two violations, Cordova asked what she was being cited for. According to Cordova, he said, "Sign the ticket, or I'm taking you to jail." She finally signed the ticket, which was for a missing front license plate and another non-moving violation that Cordova says is baseless.

The board director then sat in her car for five minutes, waiting for the officers to leave. When they did not, Cordova waited for a homeowner to appear, backed into the driveway of an adjacent house, and turned off her engine. Five to seven minutes

see KPD, page 2

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November chorus.
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Haiku - Maggie Resnick

KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE



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New KPD Scandal

...from front page

passed, during which Barrow and Ramos “glared” at her, says Cordova. “I was afraid they were going to pull me over again,” Cordova says. “So I opened the door, took off my seat belt, and ran for the front door to ask for help. That’s when they left.”

Shortly thereafter, Kensington’s latest melee became the attention of the El Cerrito Police, the Richmond Police, the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s office, and the FBI, not to mention the subject of newspapers and lively conversations on NextDoor. Cordova declined to speculate about the motives of the officers, but called it the latest incident in “an escalating and inappropriate” pattern of surveillance of her automobile. She would not provide specifics due to the active investigations.

Within an hour of the initial stop, Cordova went to the public safety building, where she was greeted by Barrow, who told her that she could not see Chief of Police Kevin Hart because Hart was in a meeting. Cordova asked Barrow to phone Hart’s cell or reach him by dispatch, and Barrow refused. Apparently overhearing the tense exchange, district administrator Lynn Wolter offered to call Hart, and Cordova and Hart talked for close to an hour, during which Hart examined Cordova’s vehicle. Cordova wanted Hart to file a police report, but according to Cordova, Hart insisted that the issue had to go to Internal Affairs first. Cordova says that she pleaded with Hart to provide a police report based on her complaint, in which she was also asked to provide diagrams of the encounter. She waited for several days before she went to the El Cerrito police to get a case number. She also contacted the Contra Costa County DA’s office.

On October 15, FBI agents appeared at Cordova’s residence, but she was running an errand. They contacted her by phone and arranged to meet; the agents met Cordova at a public parking area and interviewed her for several hours.

Hart issued a press release October 16, writing that he was initiating an independent investigation by an outside agency (Richmond Police) and a separate investigation by the Contra Costa County DA’s office. “As your Chief of Police, I am committed to ascertaining all of the facts, assessing those facts, and then taking all appropriate actions based solely on those facts.

“I hold my police officers accountable for their actions based on high law enforcement and ethical standards and expectations. I will ensure that a thorough and comprehensive independent investigation into this incident is conducted in a timely and efficient manner. If officer misconduct is determined to have occurred, timely and appropriate action will be taken in accord with established procedures.”

Both Hart and KPPSCD board president Len Welsh, according to an interview October 16, expect that the investigations will be completed in 30-45 days. Of particular concern is why Barrow and Ramos stopped Cordova outside departmental jurisdiction. Welsh cautions that it’s important not to rush to judgment and important to get real results. “If there was wrongdoing, that wrongdoing will be punished,” Welsh said. He added that all the board members can do is hire and fire. “We’re actually told by our attorneys to keep arms’-length from disciplinary matters, as anything else compromises our ability to act.”

Cordova, meanwhile, plans to fight the “baseless” citation in court, and she also intends to continue her duties as board director, including coming to public meetings.

Next issue’s *Outlook* will offer a deeper look at concerns raised by this altercation and update the story with results of investigations, if available by press time.



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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.

The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Outlook, its editor, or the publisher, the Kensington Community Council. Residents are invited to submit letters on matters of interest to the community. Letters must be signed and include the author's address and phone number (address and phone will not be published). Publication is subject to space limitations and the editor's discretion. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. One letter per person, per issue. Obituaries for Kensington residents are published at no charge. E-mail preferred to Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

PLEASE NOTE: Modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after all periods.

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December Advertising Deadline Nov. 8
December Editorial Deadline Nov. 10

K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KASEP

KASEP classes are in full swing! If you are in the area, check out the new lacrosse class on Thursdays and the basketball class on Tuesdays. The coaches are doing a terrific job with skill building relays and empowering students with hands-on experience.

Capturing young student’s imagination is what our new KCC Puppetry and Storytelling class is all about. Students make various themed puppets, collaborate on creating joint stories, laugh, giggle and make magic happen. If your child, grade 1-3rd, is loving make-believe, come check out this class on Wednesday afternoons. The instructor, Risa Dye, brings materials and sets the stage for all students to feel engaged and successful.

Online Winter KASEP registration is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1st at 7:30pm. Be on the look-out for KASEP Winter Brochure coming home from Hilltop school in your child’s backpack the week of November 16th.

KCC Office will be closed and no KASEP classes held on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd Conference Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11th Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov. 26 and 27th.



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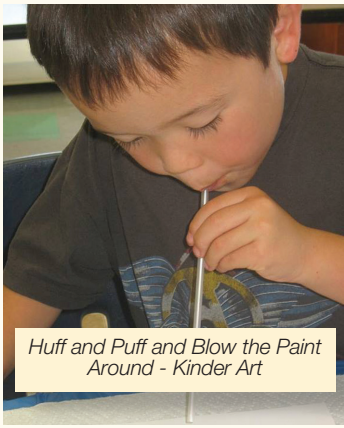
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Register at class. Come join the fun and get healthy. Just bring a mat and weights. Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728.

Location for both classes: Kensington Community Center.

Registration

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

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

Kensington Community Center Rental Info: Please call KPCCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.

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Market Update

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289 Grizzly Peak Rd. Kensington
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Neighborhood Notes

Dena Fredric: Great Voice, Great Heart
Dena Fredric, a longtime resident of Kensington, CA, died of natural causes on Sunday, September 6, 2015 at the age of 92. Dena was born on January 6, 1923 along with her beloved twin brother Harry in Boston, Massachusetts. Dena and her brother were the first set of twins born in Boston that year, and Dena’s noteworthy arrival set the stage for her unique and independent life.

As a young woman Dena moved to San Francisco to study opera. In 1948 she produced a recording of herself that included songs such as “Voi, Che Sapete” and “Vissi D’Arte, Vissi D’Amore.” Her lovely voice delighted audiences through her late years.

Dena’s additional careers included accounting and designing her own beautiful bead jewelry, which was sold by fine stores and museum shops nationally. Dena also enjoyed traveling, painting and writing poetry.

Dena settled in Kensington in 1968. She was a good friend to many of her neighbors, active in her community, and an avid gardener. She had a deep appreciation of nature and loved animals, great and small, and was devoted to her pet cats and known for her compassion toward the stray animals in her neighborhood. In 2013 Dena moved to the Salem Lutheran Home Care Center, where she spent her final days. Donations in Dena’s honor may be made to a favorite charity, Fix our Ferals, at fixourferals.org.



Andrew J. Ream
1964-2015, Kensington/Sacramento
Andrew Ream was born in Oakland and lived in Kensington with his parents John and Renee Ream and sister, Amy. He attended Kensington Hilltop, Portola Jr. High, and El Cerrito High before graduating with a degree in International Business from San Jose State.

Andrew lived three years in Seoul, Korea, working for LG Development, and worked 22 years for the Franchise Tax Board in Sacramento, where he supervised, mentored, and befriended many.

An avid reader, biker, runner, and traveler, he visited parts of Asia and traveled in Europe with his daughters. As a teenager he hiked back and forth across the Grand Canyon with his dad.

Andrew died of a sudden heart attack in September. He touched many lives. He was kind-hearted, quick-witted, and had all the qualities of a loving family man, son, brother, and friend. He leaves to grieve his loving daughters Allegra and Tina, his parents, sister, his wife, and many friends and family members.



Photos by Marty Westby

Movie Night a Success
Under unusually warm and clear skies, over 200 kids, parents, and grandparents enjoyed an evening in the open air watching *The Princess Bride* on the big lawn at Kensington Park. Neighbors brought blankets and chairs to lounge on while enjoying hot dogs and sausages before the film. The KCC wants to thank all the people and businesses that made such a fun night possible. Marvin Gardens Real Estate’s enthusiastic staff was ever-present as sponsors and participants. Thanks also to Nation’s for donations of pies and gift cards and to Arlington Wine and Spirits, which donated a case of wine for our raffle. We hope to see everyone again next year!

—Anne Forrest



Dara Royer Named to New Job
Kensington residents may remember Dara Royer, daughter of the late Ron Egberman. Recently Mercy Corps, a global humanitarian agency, appointed Royer to the position of Chief Development and Marketing Officer. Royer will lead Mercy Corps’ fundraising, marketing, and communications teams to advance the work of Mercy Corps in over 40 countries.

“By connecting the talents of a highly skilled team of dynamic professionals, Dara will deepen the impact of Mercy Corps programs worldwide,” says Neal Keny-Guyer, chief executive officer at Mercy Corps. “Dara brings invaluable experience that will help our teams work even better together to empower people to recover from crisis, build better lives and transform communities for good.”

Royer joined Mercy Corps in 2013 from ALSAC/St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, where she served as Vice President of Brand Marketing. Prior to St. Jude, Royer served on a number of marketing and fundraising leadership roles, including Senior Vice President of Corporate and Community Affairs at Cook Children’s Healthcare System. She started her career as a television journalist in several large U.S. markets and was recognized with both Emmy and Associated Press awards.

Rain or Shine, the Fiddler’s at the Circle

Weekends at Colusa Circle can be chaotic—but a sense of serene jubilee overlays the scurrying of busy shoppers and the Farmers’ Market setup. Two years ago, Mike Stanis, a longtime violin player, offered to play his fiddle in front of the Circus Pub from 8:30 to 9:30 on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Circus Pub proprietor Scott McFadin knew a good idea when he heard it, and he gratefully accepted.

“I had been in the habit of practicing violin in my garage at the time,” Stanis writes. “I was playing mostly Irish jigs, hornpipes, and airs. I added Scottish tunes and ‘The Great American Songbook’ to my repertory.” A selection of any or all of these might be heard on a given morning.

Stanis’ father, Paul Stanis, was Mike’s first musical influence, along with his grandfather, Ray Schooley, who sang Welsh and American Old Time songs. Stanis’ first instrument was the five-string banjo. As a teen, he began studying classical guitar, and studied with Karl Scheit at the Vienna State Academy. Stanis taught guitar at the San Francisco Conservatory and later was a partner in Paragon Music in Walnut Square. “My later career,” he writes, “was with the WCCUDSD, working first at Harding Elementary, then at El Cerrito High. I retired about five years ago and devoted my time to the fiddle.”

Stanis uses a violin with synthetic varnish when it’s foggy or rainy outside the Pub. “I particularly enjoy the waves and encouragement from passing residents,” he reports, “and of course the delicious breakfasts.” Stop by, say hi, and listen awhile.



Photo by Elisabeth Cornu

Police Options Committee to Hold January Forum

At the October 20 meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for Governance and Operations Structure, the ten members voted to hold an educational forum in January. This first forum (of at least two and likely more) will cover California’s regulatory requirements regarding policing, what services are currently provided, the financial sustainability of Kensington’s current model, and a stab at determining the wishes of the community. Members debated about how to assess what services the community values most—and how to give those who don’t usually show up at meetings a voice. Committee member Tim Snyder boiled down the committee’s charge to “What is the most efficient and effective way to accomplish the services the community wants?” Parse this out, and one can see that the task is daunting. The date for the forum will be announced in next month’s *Outlook*. —Linnea Due



Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers’ Trout in the Classroom Program

The Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers (GPFF) club meets in the Youth Hut on the second Wednesday of each month, as it has since the club was founded in 1982. Members share enthusiasms for fly fishing and for fishing-related charitable activities—and many volunteer for the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program, a nationwide effort of fishing clubs and state wildlife departments.

GPFF club members place aquaria in classrooms, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife provides fertilized rainbow trout eggs for the aquaria. When the trout reach the “fry” stage, students release the small fish into local bodies of water with approval of park systems.

The GPFF TIC program covers public, private, and religious elementary and middle school classrooms from Alameda through Hercules. Besides aquaria and eggs, the program supplies educational material and support for teachers. Students learn aquatic biology, riparian ecology, environmental subjects, and conservation. The experience can be very rewarding for club members as they help students learn about fish biology—not to mention witnessing the excitement of the students as they release their “pets” into the water.

For information about GPFF’s TIC program, see the club’s web site at gpff.org or contact Kensington resident David Garfin at degarfin@sonic.net. —David Garfin

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BENEFITING THE KENSINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Celebrate Fifty Years of the Kensington Library

By Jim Fisher

A half-century ago this fall, the doors opened at the new Kensington Library building at 61 Arlington Avenue. Due to a shipping strike, the library opened without furniture, except for a new loan desk. This proved no obstacle to the stream of delighted residents who borrowed 737 books on August 30, 1965, or to the town's youngest readers, who quickly selected books from the brightly arranged shelves and plopped happily on the carpeted floors.

To celebrate this milestone in the community life of Kensington, the Friends of the Kensington Library (past, present, and future) will host a 50th anniversary celebration on Saturday, November 14 from 2pm to 4pm, with live music, community recognition, children activities, and cake. Enjoy the jazz trio Charged Particles, which plays fun pieces built around swing, Afro-Cuban rhythms, and the occasional dose of funk.

"The Kensington Library does many valuable things for our community, and we should think of the library as a community asset that just happens to be a library," says Larry Sullivan, treasurer of the FKL and a guiding hand in the Book Shed operations for the annual book sales.

"No building in Kensington is more important to community life than the Kensington Library," says the KIC-authored book *Kensington, Past and Present*.

The new building's 5,094 square feet of floor area allowed for a considerable expansion of the library collection, then housed in just 860 square feet across the street in the basement of Arlington Community Church. Its spacious and attractive interior encouraged a tradition of exemplary programs. Today, the Kensington Library has the highest percentage of library card-holders per capita in the county library system.

The anniversary is also a reminder of the long-running volunteer efforts of the Friends, which was incorporated in 1959 with the express purpose of providing a suitable home for an expanding library.

Early in 1960 the Friends compiled a leaflet calling attention to the crowded library quarters and outlining the public library needs of the community. They embarked on a campaign of public education to acquaint residents of the community with the services that would be provided if an adequate building were constructed. Those efforts

spearheaded the drive to establish the Kensington County Library Service Area, whereby the community might tax itself for the construction of a new library building.

Designed by Kensington resident Ulysses Barbachano and his firm of Barbachano, Ivanitsky and Associates to fit into the natural topography of the hillside, the building sits on .61 acres of property deeded to Contra Costa County by the Richmond School District for just \$1.

Library history goes back to October, 1922 when the Kensington Park branch of the Contra Costa County library was established by Mrs. Alice G. Whitbeck, the first county librarian. Housing for the initial collection of 50 books was offered in the Caudron family home, and Ms. Catherine Caudron was named library custodian. At the end of the first fiscal year, 1922/23, the book collection numbered 117. Circulation for the year was 330. Today, the collection comprises over 28,000 items. The staff of six part-time employees is committed to providing excellent customer service and planning programs and collections that meet the needs and interests of the community.



Face-painting was popular at the KCC's annual parade, Oct. 18. Photo by Marty Westby



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Kensington Calendar

Ongoing Low Impact Jazzercise, 8:15-9:15am; Kensington Community Center. Monday through Friday. No meeting Nov. 26-27.

Ongoing Body Sculpting, 9:15-10:15am; Kensington Community Center. Tuesdays and Thursdays. No meeting Nov. 26.

Ongoing Acrylic Artist, open studio to paint, 9:45am-12:30pm, Kensington Community Center. Every Wednesday.

November 1 Lee Lawrence, leader of Humanist Connections group at UUCB; former psychologist and professor. “Humanism: Can It Help Save Unitarian Universalism?” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

November 5, 12, 19 Baby & Toddler Storytime. Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

November 7 Shredding Event at the Community Center/Library parking lot. 10am-2pm. All documents are shredded onsite.

November 7 Spanish Bilingual Storytime with Matilde Hollander. Stories, songs, and fun for children of all ages. 11am, El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Avenue. 526-7512.

November 8 Ron Shigeta co-founder, Berkeley BioLabs; professor at Baha Inst. for Higher Education. “Personal Paths to Truth,” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Univer-

November 17 Berkeley Garden Club Lecture Program, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue. “California Bees and Blooms: A Selective Love Affair,” by Sara Leon Guerrero, UC Berkeley & UC Davis.12:30-1 Plant Exchange, 1-2 General Meeting, 2-3 Lecture.

November 18 KFPD Board meeting rescheduled from 11/11/15. This meeting will be held at the Kensington Fire Station (due to scheduling conflicts at the Community Center) at 7pm.

November 20, 22 Contra Costa Chorale, directed by Cindy Beitmen, presents “Amazing Grace,” celebrating the rich musical heritage of African and African-American cultures. The concert will feature African drummers and Cara Bradbury on the piano. Friday, November 20 at 8pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington and Sunday, November 22 at 5pm, WayPointe Church, 770 Sonoma Street, Richmond. \$20, \$15 Students/Seniors/Disabled, under 12 free. Tickets at door. (510) 255-0703.

November 21 Paranormal Experiences “Can we talk about them in our religion?” 9:30am-1pm. 1:00 p.m. Led by Lonnie Moseley, M.Ed. Suggested donation: \$10. To register: Lonnie Moseley (510) 655-1444. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

November 21 International Library Game Day. It’s game day at the library! Come track down clues in a Scavenger Hunt! Try your luck at Human Candyland! Show off your skills and play the day away with a variety of fun activities. Ages 4-10. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Free. 524-3043.

November 22 Joel Ben-Izzy, award-winning, world travelling storyteller and author; TV and radio performer; co-founder of Wakingstar Storyworks. “Tales of Gratitude and Attitude,” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

November 23 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Narrow Road to the Deep North*, by Richard Flanagan. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

November 29 Kendra Smith, psychologist, trainer and coach; teacher of metta and vipassana meditation; longtime UUCB member. “The Philosophy of H.N. Wieman: Part of UU History and Problematic for Me”. 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

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Town Meetings

(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)

Kensington Community Center 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington
KCC-November 2, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

FKL-November 3, Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm (at the Library, 61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesdays

Ad Hoc Committee-November 5, 7pm, Community Center. 1st Thursdays

KPSC-November 9, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

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

KFPD-November 11, Fire Protection District 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD-November 12, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

KIC-November 23, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 527-3062

KMAC (Tent.)-November 24, Municipal Advisory Council Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s office to confirm: 231-8691)

KPOA Property Owners Association Meets quarterly. 559-8232

Kensington Farmers’ Market Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm, Colusa Circle.

Garden Party Celebrates the Bay Area—and Kensington Elementary

This year’s Kensington Education Foundation Garden Party features the wealth of opportunities in the Bay Area. The party at the Mira Vista Country Club on November 21 raises funds to ensure that art and music, computer and science lab, and reading and math intervention remain available to Kensington Elementary students.

The 32nd annual party theme is “Celebrating the Bay Area’s Bounty.” Three raffles will take place throughout the evening: prizes include four Park Hopper passes to Disneyland; more than two dozen bottles of wine; or a wheelbarrow packed with all the makings of a fully stocked home bar. The band, Coyotes Interrupt Us, will play throughout the evening, joined by a Hilltop teacher who will make a surprise guest appearance. The army of volunteers that work all summer and fall to pull off this event has thought of everything—but won’t let on about this year’s traditional mystery welcome cocktail. Food will feature scrumptious standbys like stuffed baby potatoes, spanakopita, and many vegetarian options.

The evening’s main events are the live and silent auctions. Hundreds of items appeal to all interests, budgets, and tastes. Up this year for bid during the live auction is a chance to tour the Sacramento Kings’ arena before its grand opening or to try your hand as a morning producer of Alice Radio, 97.3 KLLC. Keith McLane of KLM Auctions is this year’s event auctioneer. Bidding is already underway on many items through the online catalog. Garden party chair Kim Keller says it’s exciting to see healthy competition over items in the catalog, which has grown into a robust online sale during the past two years. “It’s great to see so many people log on in support of our school,” Keller says.

Tickets are available at kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty. Come at 5pm, stay ‘til 11! Donations are still being accepted. If you or your business would like to donate, email Kim Keller kellerkim19@gmail.com. —Christina Procopiou

November 1 Maybeck Historic Walk 3-5pm \$15. Call KCC to reserve 525-0292.

November 2 Kensington Library Knitting Club, “The Castoffs”, All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. Meets on the first Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

November 3 Best of Myth at the Movies: American Beauty. View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7-9:15 pm. First Tuesdays of the month through June 7, 2016. \$60 for all, \$8 each. Registration: Lonnie Moseley (510) 655-1444. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

November 3, 10, 17, 24 Family Storytime. Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

November 4, 11, 18 Fuel Reduction Join a small team in pruning, trimming, and removing vegetation that provides fuel for fires. Use our tools or bring your pruners, loppers, saws, and rakes. No power tools. Kensington Community Center and Park, 2- 4pm. Rain cancels.

salist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

November 12 El Cerrito Garden Club fundraiser. Jenny Barrett, El Cerrito Natural Grocery Store floral designer, will demonstrate techniques and philosophy. Events include raffle, tea table refreshments, plant sale, and a white elephant sale. 9:30am, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Floral arranging 10:30am. Members free; guests \$7.

November 14 Pasta Feed/Toy Drive at the Kensington Fire Station. 5:30-8pm.Pasta, bread, salad, and cake for a toy donation. Minimum of one toy per person or \$5 donation. All proceeds will go to the El Cerrito/Richmond Fire and Police Holiday Toy Program, which directly benefits children in west Contra Costa County.

November 15 Pat LaDouceur, MFT. trained in neurofeedback, hypnotherapy, alpha-synchrony; author. *Stress-Free Holidays: simple shifts you can make keep your spirits up when life gets crazy*. 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

November 16 Travel Lecture, Armchair Travel to Laos. Join Kensington resident and founder of Champaca Journeys, John Leupold, for the second in our three part series. Long off the radar of visitors, Laos, the “Kingdom of a Million Elephants,” is one of the most interesting and charming of all Southeast Asian nations. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.



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