

## Garden Party

...from page 1

by Hilltop’s beloved teachers, always see a competitive burst of bidding. And art lovers won’t want to miss the chance to nab a real masterpiece by Renoir, Miro, Magritte, Chagall, Braque, donated by Masterworks Fine Art. If you’d like to scope out the silent auction items in advance, you can preview them from October 25 till November 1 at [kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty](http://kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty), but you’ll need to be at the event to place a bid.

While you’re placing silent auction bids, be sure to also add your name to the guest list of parties hosted by Hilltop parents, like an Ayurvedic party, a wreath-making gathering, and a Pride and

Prejudice-themed dinner. It’s a great way to populate your social calendar for the year in one swoop.

All eyes will turn to the stage for the live auction, when paddles pop up for special events such as a private tour of Pixar HQ and “Principal for a Day,” when the child of the winning bidder gets to shadow Hilltop principal Judy Sanders for a behind-the-scenes day at school. Another hot item is the mighty Dads’ Club work party, when a team of handy Hilltop dads descends on the winner’s home to tackle a formidable home or yard project.

After the live auction, the chairs will be whisked away, and Korematsu Middle School Principal (and Hilltop dad) Matthew Burnham will take the mic to DJ a dance party till 11. Find

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# OUTLOOK

Bringing the Community Together

K E N S I N G T O N

Available Online at [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com)

NOVEMBER 2017

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 75 NUMBER 9

## Putting the Planet at the Top of the List

By Linnea Due

When members of the Arlington Community Church challenged each other to make meaningful actions, church music director Shanti Moorjani knew just what she wanted to do. “There had been something on my mind for a long time, but I wasn’t sure how to make it viable,” she says. “I wanted to do something for the planet that was individual. There

are so many organizations. I wanted something that would transcend an organization or a group.”

And so Moorjani came up with Person of the Planet: “I started looking around at my own life and asked, ‘How much of the earth’s resources do I personally require to feel fulfilled and sustained?’ Up to now I’ve been a pretty good consumer, and I’m thinking that I no longer need to be quite that person. My husband and I drive hybrid cars, we have solar panels, we plant some of our vegetables, we recycle. We do a lot of things. But I started asking, ‘Is this good for the planet?’”

Moorjani first floated her idea at a dinner party. “My guests all signed up,”



Person of the Planet’s Shanti Moorjani (left) and Ruth Robinson (right) head to the Kelly-Moore store on San Pablo to recycle cans of old paint. Kelly-Moore is the drop-off site for the PaintCare program. Photo by Anthony Knight.

she remembers with a smile. “We talked about how everything comes from the planet. The planet has been incredibly generous to us, and we haven’t always had its best interests in mind when we make decisions,” she says. “The earth can’t speak for itself. If many people start saying no to buying products or if we stop electing people who don’t care for the planet.... I just want the planet’s needs to be at the top of the list.”

When Moorjani said that she wanted to concentrate on the environment for her challenge, church members thought she meant recycling. “I said, ‘No, it’s bigger than that.’” Writes Person of the Planet member Anthony Knight: “Most environ-

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## Dust Off Your Dancing Shoes for Kensington Hilltop Funder

By Lisa Trottier

The Roaring ‘20s are roaring back in all their Charleston-dancing, rum-running glory for Kensington’s Garden Party on the evening of Saturday, November 11. This annual benefit for the Kensington Education Fund (KEF), which supports Kensington Hilltop Elementary, is the biggest party of the year, and the entire community is encouraged to come. Doors open at 5 pm at the Berkeley Country Club (formerly Mira Vista Country Club).

Coyotes Interrupt Us, a band of talented Hilltop parents (with a special appearance by sixth grade teacher Janet Tobin as guest vocalist) will set the mood with a mix of ‘20s standards and some modern surprises. In other good news, Prohibition has been suspended for the night! Kensington’s own Arlington Wines is generously providing the wines for the open bar. And, in a time-honored tradition, Hilltop’s newest alumni, now braving seventh grade, will work the room, passing hors d’oeuvres, selling raffle tickets, and finally getting a glimpse of this event their parents have been dressing up for since they started kindergarten.

As the evening progresses, bidding in the silent auction heats up, as people get serious about nabbing artwork created by each classroom of kids, vacation stays donated by parents, and unique experiences like a day sailing on the bay. Teacher Treasures, donated

See Garden Party, back page





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### Planet

...from page 1

mental organizations solicit membership dues and contributions and use these at the collective level to try to bring about change. Person of the Planet asks its members to take a pledge to do what they can personally to contribute to the well-being of the planet. There are no dues, petitions to sign, or specific agendas.” Knight says that the group asks members always to keep uppermost in their thoughts in their daily activities the question: “Is this good for the planet?”

“People have to change their way of thinking,” Moorjani says. “This is a movement of conscience.” That movement is extending beyond Arlington Avenue and its church base. Moorjani and ACC’s Jacob Day are booking monthly speakers, and Moorjani says that at the church’s Blessing of the Animals, 35 people signed up at Person of the Planet’s table, adding to a growing membership of about a hundred. Moorjani has also made contacts in Australia and Europe. “We feel it will spread as we connect people here,” she says. The group plans an ecological holiday bazaar in December, with sustainable gifts and ideas for giving.

To sign up, Google Person of the Planet and click on the page from the ACC’s website. Once there, you’ll find an invitation to join. (You do not have to be a member of ACC to join Person of the Planet, and Moorjani stresses that it is not a religious group.) Once you’ve joined, you’ll receive an invitation to POP’s site on Meetup.com. This gives information on speakers, the bazaar, upcoming movie nights, and articles that members post about their experiences as they ask, “Is this good for the planet?”

Writes Anthony Knight: “It’s a good question to ask oneself when pulling the morning newspaper out of its plastic bag. It’s a good question to ask when replacing a burned-out incandescent light bulb. It’s a good question to ask when buying South American grapes in January.... It’s a good question to ask when watering one’s lawn. Environmental issues, large and small, are with us everywhere. Person of the Planet believes that individual awareness at the grass-roots level can have a huge cumulative effect. It also believes that individual strategies will be leveraged as members share their successes with one another.”

To that end, calligrapher Elena Caruthers designed the POP logo, and church member Ruth Robinson utilizes organizational talents gained at Kennedy/Jenks Consultants. “She is super smart about organizational protocol,” says Moorjani. Moorjani can be reached at lshantiom@gmail.com (first letter, lower-case L).

## Letters to the Editor

### Spending to Save and Other Trumpisms

Dear Editor,

The KPPCSD appears to bear an uncanny resemblance to the Trump administration. Hiding behind the moniker “Make Kensington Boring Again,” the board appoints individuals that the good people of Kensington do not want. Is this a local take on draining the swamp?

In the name of saving money the board seems to be spending more money at every turn. The call for a second monthly meeting (not free) was supposed to be for agenda items that were not being covered when we had only one monthly meeting. We are apparently paying numerous people to come in and out and solve problems, offer advice, and avoid potential lawsuits (not that we would be told about any lawsuit). “Transparency, we don’t need no stinking Transparency.”

We also have board members with a Trump-like ability to shock and offend. Remember the comparison to the tragic fire In London? Recently, we are hearing rumors that the board wants to outsource our police services without actually asking the citizens to vote on it. Elections are for losers. Not since Trump wrote his thoughts down in *The Art of the Deal* have we seen such mad-dog negotiation skills such as the stunning rent negotiation on the public safety building. Hmmm, perhaps the fire board can take over since they’re doing such a bang-up job.

**Khoi Dang**

*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.*

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

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**KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
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Kensington, CA 94707-1307

Published ten times a year by the nonprofit Kensington Community Council. (Monthly, except for the combined July/August and December/January issues.) Available online at [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com), courtesy of AboutKensington.com.

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# K E N S I N G T O N

## Community Education

### KASEP Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

Welcome to Kinder families new to our program and a big thanks to returning families! Fall KASEP classes are flourishing with creativity and fun!

Circle the date: Tuesday, December 5th at 7:30pm for online Winter KASEP Registration. Be on the look-out for KASEP Winter Brochure coming home from Hilltop School in your child’s backpack the week of November 27th.

KCC Office will be closed and no KASEP classes held on Wednesday, Nov. 1st (Conference Day), Friday, Nov. 10th (Veteran’s Day), Thursday-Friday, Nov. 23rd-24th (Thanksgiving Holiday).

Minimum Days: Nov 2nd (Thur), Nov 3rd (Fri), Nov 6th (Mon), Nov 7th (Tue), and Dec 15th (Fri). KASEP does not alter the start of its classes on minimum day schedule. KASEP’s first class after school starts at 2:30pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday). Wednesday KASEP schedule starts at 1:50pm every Wednesday throughout the year. KASEP provides an optional service of providing supervision for your child. This optional service for your child costs \$20 per child for the academic year. You can pay online for this service.

Welcome 2 new faces at KASEP: Leah Forrest (Office Assistant) and Harleen Kaur (Office Coordinator). Leah is an alumna of Kensington Hilltop and the daughter of KCC’s Anne Forrest. She also works as an aide at Hilltop School. She graduated from Southern Oregon University with a degree in elementary education. Harleen is also from the area and attended Harding, Portola and El Cerrito public schools. She graduated from UC Davis with a degree in Anthropology and Communications. Let’s all wish them a fond hello!



*Carpentry with Sandy - Lessons using real tools properly and safely*



*Pastels with Jeanne - Lessons in composition and drawing using pencils and oil pastels*



*Muffin Madness with Vicky - Lessons in measuring and mixing ingredients to make tasty treats*



*Gymnastics with Bindy, Jean & Judy - Lessons in the importance of stretching before tumbling*

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**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, 11am-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 Andrea at the KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.

**Acrylic Artists**

Wednesdays, 9:45 - 12:30pm, Community Center  
Open Studio, lots of natural light. Come paint with other artists. Easels and tables are provided. Bring your canvas, paints, and creativity.  
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**Tai Chi Chuan**

Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10  
A gentle martial art, tai chi is a safe, rewarding activity for people of all ages and all levels of health. Tai chi incorporates both mind and body.  
Nobuo Nishi, instructor, has been teaching for 18 years.

**Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention - “NEW CLASS” class starting Nov. 14th**

Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10  
The tai chi class is based on Dr. Paul Lam’s Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention program, which has been taught to millions worldwide. In the United States, it has been recommended by the Arthritis Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for its effectiveness in bringing pain relief, improving balance, and significantly reducing falls. The class is suitable for all people, regardless of physical condition. It is however, especially helpful for people who may be experiencing some health difficulties. The exercises incorporate all the health enhancing benefits of regular tai chi, but focuses on movements that are safe and relatively simple to do.  
For further information, contact Nobuo at: nnishi50@gmail.com

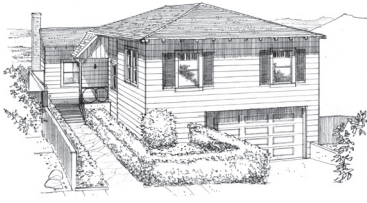





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*Kensington Market Update*



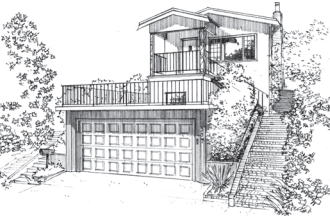
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Photo by Nan Phelps Photography

By Karen Yencich

The iconic oak at Colusa Circle in lower Kensington will be lit for the holidays Sunday evening, November 26, during a ceremony starting at 5pm. Music and free hot cocoa will be available in the little triangle garden next to Zip Code East Bay. Real Estate.

It sounded like an easy task: stringing some lights on a beloved tree. But there was the matter of getting power across the street and into the Circle. People had lots of good ideas and also some that turned out to be dangerous, not to mention the ideas that were outright illegal. Also, as it happened, the lights had to be professionally installed. Various permissions were required from the Kensington Improvement Club, along with a permit from Contra Costa County Public Works. From year to year the project sputtered to life, then subsided in the face of one obstacle or another.

Yet, success! This is the year when all of the issues were finally addressed, permissions granted, and logistics agreed upon. The Circle merchants, landlords, Kensington Farmers’ Market, and KIC came together to fund the event. All that remains is for neighbors to come by and enjoy some hot chocolate and marshmallows while the tree lighting takes place.

Maybe it’s just a coincidence that the tree will finally be lit on the 100th Anniversary of the town’s inception, but Kensington Farmers’ Market manager, Chris Hall, feels that there is a gathering energy around the Circle. And if their contributions are any measure, Circle merchants agree. Participants include: Dan Lynch Company, Semifreddi’s, Kensington Cleaners, Zip Code East Bay, Rice Financial, Hendrickson Clinic, the Fuse Fitness, Kensington Circle Pub, Benchmark Pizzeria, Kensington Optometry, Nan Phelps Photography, Kensington Vet Hospital, Circle Salon, Colusa Market, Hiersoux Pottery, White Magnolia Tai Chi, Daniel David, Ed Hammonds. In other words, a full house of supporters. Come light the tree!

**Technical Glitch No Match for Tradition**

By Vida Dorroh

Continuing a great tradition, Kensington Community Council’s Movie Night was blessed with a perfect, balmy evening for the screening of Pixar’s *Finding Dory*. Over 200 kids, parents and grandparents showed up to spread blankets and set up chairs on the big lawn at Kensington Park. As always, there was popcorn and movie candy for the kids (and some adults, too), and KCC volunteers dished up hotdog dinners.

There was a little glitch during the screening of the movie, but a resourceful parent saved the day, and the film continued after a short break, during which the kids “had a ball” playing with the beach balls.

KCC thanks all the residents and businesses that made this a special, fun night for our community. Mechanics Bank and Marvin Gardens Real Estate sponsored the event. Contributors included Inn Kensington, which donated a gift certificate, Arlington Wine & Spirits, which donated a case of wine, Kensington Circus Pub, which donated a gift certificate, and Nation’s Giant Hamburgers and Great Pies, which donated delicious pies. Our thanks to all, and we hope to see everyone at next year’s KCC Movie Night.

September Police Log

September 1

Forgery Oberlin Ave. Reporting party and mother at residence. Report taken.

September 10

Recovered Stolen Vehicle Grizzly Peak Blvd.

September 15

Fraudulent use of credit card, Highgate Rd.

September 21


Burglary Columbia Ave. Handle unscrewed from door and contractors’ lockbox removed from door. House staged for sale, artwork, basket, etc. taken.

September 21

Annoying Phone Calls, Kerr Ave. Harassing phone calls from workers.

September 27

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Passings

Beloved and Admired

Beloved Lake Drive neighbor and longtime Kensington resident, Janet Messman, died on September 29 from injuries sustained in a car accident earlier that week. She was born on April 5, 1923 to Clifford and Ruth Leach in Camden, New Jersey. Janet attended Bucknell University in Pennsylvania and was active in the YMCA, YWCA, and in many honors societies. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1944.



Janet forged her own way in a business world dominated by men, becoming the personnel manager for Edward Sterns and Company, a large printing company in Philadelphia. She moved to the Bay Area in 1958 to work on an MA in psychology at UC Berkeley, where she met her beloved husband of forty wonderful years, Bob Messman.

In 1964, Bob, Janet, and their daughter Anne moved to Kensington and simply never left. Janet’s insatiable intellectual curiosity meant she continued to work while raising Anne and along the way she managed to rewrite the Employee Relations Manual of Personnel Policies and Procedures for Kaiser, work at the Institute of Industrial Relations at UC Berkeley and the Carnegie Council on Policy Studies and Higher Education under Clark Kerr. She also directed the Tutor Richmond Youth (TRY) educational program for the Richmond Unified School District.

All these jobs gave her great satisfaction, but her greatest joy was always her family and friends. Janet’s easy charm meant that she effortlessly forged lifelong friendships around the world as she traveled extensively throughout Europe with her family, and in Japan as a goodwill ambassador for the Richmond Shimada Friendship program. When her daughter Anne married Jon Forrest and purchased the house next door, Bob and Janet’s one grandchild, Leah, grew up surrounded by the constant love and care of her grandparents. Janet’s sharp wit, incredible zeal for living, and deep compassion for others is the model of a life well lived. For details about the celebration of Janet’s life go to: <https://forrestls.wixsite.com/janetmessman>

Community Center in Design Phase

By Sylvia Hacaj

Riddle me this: Where can you find Daisies and Eagles; fly-fishing and martial arts; gymnastics and government; budding chefs and accomplished artists all under one roof? Answer: the Kensington Community Center.

While it appears to sit serenely off to the side in the park, the community center is a bustling hive of activity: morning adult classes, afterschool programming every afternoon, scouting home base, meetings of district boards, committees and civic groups. And let’s not forget fundraisers, school dances and private celebrations—weddings, birthdays and life remembrances.

It’s clear that we residents value our community center. However, it has long been in need of some TLC as well as a significant structural upgrade to protect occupants in the event of an earthquake. As with all public buildings undergoing a renovation of this size, it must also meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and state energy efficiency standards.

Starting in 2015, Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) Director Rachelle Sherris-Watt led an 18-month process to carefully scope the project and request proposals. That effort culminated in the unanimous recommendation of the architectural firm Glass Associates by the Park Committee to the board; the contract was awarded in February.

Lead architect, Kensington resident, and former Hilltop parent Farhat Daud is intimately familiar with the building. She and her team met with regular users of the space this spring and presented initial design concepts to the community and board in July. She also attended community events in August and October to get additional feedback.

More detailed designs and expected costs of required upgrades as well as functional amenities will be presented to the community and the KPPCSD board at its regular meeting on Thursday, November 16.



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To donate or for questions contact Amy:  
[gardenpartyauction@kensingtonhilltop.org](mailto:gardenpartyauction@kensingtonhilltop.org)

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← Glass Associates will present several design possibilities at the regular KPPCSD meeting November 16. This is one option for the southwest wall. Courtesy of Glass Associates, Inc.



# CITIZEN FORUM

## Will Residents Vote on the Police Department’s Future?

By Paul Dorroh

After an initial study by the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District’s ad hoc committee, the KPPCSD board and its general manager are examining the benefits of maintaining an independent police department versus the benefits of outsourcing police services to a neighboring agency. In 2009, an initiative ordinance, spearheaded by Kensington residents, was enacted to require that Kensington residents be required to vote on any such contract to outsource police services. This article provides context for the adoption of that ordinance and an explanation of how it works.

In 2008 and 2009, the district was facing financial and operational challenges. The 2008 financial crisis exacerbated long-brewing weaknesses in the district’s finances, causing it to draw down its reserves.

To address these challenges, the board retained a consultant to evaluate police department staffing and operations, and to investigate whether Kensington could solve these problems by outsourcing its police department to El Cerrito, much as Kensington’s Fire Protection District had done in 1996 with Kensington’s then-independent fire department.

In this environment, a group of concerned citizens recalled that the 1996 decision by the fire district to outsource fire services was a “done deal” before the vast majority of Kensington residents even knew it was being considered. There was a strong sense that outsourcing the police department was on the front burner with the KPPCSD board. These citizens felt that outsourcing was such an important and complex issue that residents needed to be made aware of the concerns and engaged in deciding on solutions to the problems, lest they wake up one morning to learn they no longer had their own police department.

Two goals were established: first, to ensure that any proposal to outsource Kensington’s police department would be thoroughly investigated, and any contract for that purpose carefully negotiated, with full transparency and the involvement and consent of the citizens. And second, to find a way to put KPPCSD’s finances on a sound footing.

Addressing the first goal, a petition to the KPPCSD board was circulated, requesting a special election to vote on a proposed ordinance requiring majority approval of the voters for any contract to outsource the police department. Over the course of that summer, over 930 signatures were collected (almost a third of Kensington’s total registered voters). The petition was presented to the board in August 2009. The County Elections Office certified sufficient valid signatures, thus forcing the board to make two choices.

Under California law, the board had only two permissible actions. It could call the election, submitting the ordinance to the voters—that is, let them vote on whether they should have the right to vote on outsourcing. Or the board could decide to adopt the ordinance exactly as written in the petition. The board decided to adopt the ordinance directly, to avoid the expense of an election. California law also mandates that whichever choice the board made, the adopted ordinance could only be amended or repealed by a vote of the people.

Turning to the financial challenge, analyses performed by KPPCSD board members showed that without additional revenue, the district would continue to eat into its reserves, eventually requiring drastic reductions in police services. Encouraged by the results of a telephone survey of community opinion, the board placed Measure G on the 2010 ballot, calling for a parcel tax of \$200 per residential parcel, indexed for inflation. Voters approved the measure.

Measure G has resulted in improved financial stability. In four of the six years since Measure G took effect, the district has had fiscal surpluses, with a cumulative surplus for the six-year period of \$213,000. Instead of drawing down reserves, the district is building them.

So what of the ordinance adopted in 2009? In a nutshell, the ordinance does not prohibit outsourcing the police department; it simply requires voter approval of any contract to outsource all or a substantial part of the department, or any resolution by the board for the district to give up its police protection and law enforcement powers. Absent the ordinance, a simple majority of the five-member board could take these actions.

In 2015, a legal opinion by the district’s then-lawyers cast doubt on the enforceability of the ordinance (the legality of its adoption was not questioned), concluding it was “likely” unenforceable. Other lawyers who have looked at the question disagree. Ultimately that question can only be resolved in court, should it become necessary.

In a practical sense the initiative ordinance already has accomplished part of what its proponents hoped to achieve—a better-informed electorate that is more aware that this important question is being actively considered. One hopes the community will continue to pay close attention.

## Wildfires. Earthquakes. Emergencies. Be Prepared.

By Maya Churi

Recent wildfires in the North Bay—where people had so little time to evacuate—offered an important lesson for Kensington residents. It’s up to each and every one of us to talk to our families and neighbors about what to do in the event of a wildfire, earthquake, or other emergency— especially if we have a child or elderly family member who stays home alone. Who will evacuate them if they are alone when an evacuation order is given? Where should they go?

Kensington is broken up into six coordinated Community Emergency Response Team areas. Each area has its own CERT coordinator and each block has its own block captain who can provide you with information on how to get prepared. If you don’t know who your block captain is, contact your area coordinator. If your block doesn’t have a captain, reach out to your coordinator and volunteer. Coordinator email addresses can be found here: <http://www.el-cerrito.org/579/Area-Coordination>

Below are a few tips Paul Moss and Ron Shiromoto put together for their block:

1. Have two lists, one to be used if given only a few minutes to evacuate vs. a one-hour-plus list. Know the locations of items on the lists.
2. Pick a friend or relative away from your home to evacuate to. Let immediate friends or relatives know this location. Phones may not work.
3. Each household should make an attempt to check on the neighbors on both sides to ensure they are aware of the situation.
4. Households with children or elderly home alone should make arrangements with several neighbors to ensure that they can be helped to safety.
5. Have an evacuation kit (e.g., water, first aid, personal meds, extra clothes, etc.) in your car or home packed and ready to go.
6. Consider that you may not be able to evacuate in your car and may have to walk to safety. Those with wheelchairs should carry a folding wheelchair in their cars.
7. List radio stations to obtain latest news: KCBS (740AM), KQED (88.5FM), KPFB (89.3 FM), KSOL (Spanish) (98.9FM), 1610 AM (emergency info only). Monitor your phone for reverse 911 calls.
8. During periods of high fire danger, consider parking your car with the front end pointing out to avoid extra maneuvering onto a potentially crowded street if ordered to evacuate.
9. Have an evacuation plan for your pets. Who will evacuate them if you are not home?
10. Sign up for emergency alerts for both the Alameda and Contra Costa County

Offices of Emergency Services disaster alerts.

<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/2269/Emergency-Information>

<https://www.cityofberkeley.info/EmergencyAlerting/>

<https://local.nixle.com/register/>



### Garden Party

...from back page

that old fedora, shake out your favorite fringe, or just put on your little black dress and join our community in a nightlong celebration.

Advance tickets are on sale now for \$60 at [kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty/](http://kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty/), or you can pick them up at the door for \$75.

While you wait for the big night, don’t forget to shop the online auction Nov. 1–8, when a whole list of goods and services donated by local businesses, such as beauty treatments, exercise classes, home services, movie passes, and restaurant and store gift certificates, will be open to bidding. You needn’t be present at the Garden Party to shop online, so if you can’t come dance the night away, be sure to shop the online auction at [kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty](http://kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty).



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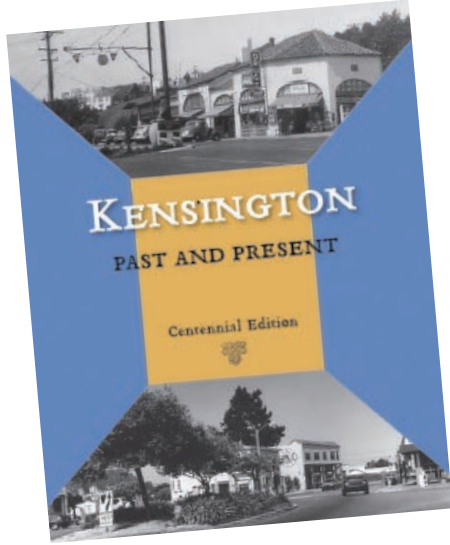
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# Kensington Calendar

**Locations:**

Arlington Community Church (ACC),  
52 Arlington Ave., 526-9146  
Kensington Community Center, 59  
Arlington Ave., 525-0292  
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington  
Ave., 524-3043  
Unitarian Universalist Church of  
Berkeley (UUCB), 1 Lawson Rd.,  
Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org)

**Ongoing:**

**M/W/F Jazzercise with Kevin Knickerbocker**, Monday Wednesday, Fridays, ACC, 8:15am. Come jazz it up with friends--move your body to the groove, have some fun and get stronger.

**Tues/Thurs Body Sculpting with Kevin Knickerbocker**, ACC, 8:45am. Want a more toned, stronger body? If so, come try body sculpting--it really works!

**Mindful Yoga** with Wendy Beckerman, Tuesdays, 9:15am, ACC. Feel more present, centered, and relaxed in your body and your life, just as they are. Guidance emphasizes moment-to-moment awareness through basic yoga postures, breathing practices, relaxation and meditation in a supportive environment. Bring a yoga mat. \$18 drop-in or discount for series.

**Acrylic Artists**, 9:45-12:30pm, Wednesday, Community Center. Self-directed artists come together in a beautiful building with good light to paint together. Easels provided. Friendly group.

**Tai Chi Chuan**, 9:30-10:30am Fridays, Community Center, \$10

**November 1 Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters** Are you interested in civilized conversation about current events? Join us at 1:15pm at 21 Camelot Court. 527-1332.

**November 2 Women’s Fellowship**, ACC, 6pm. Free to all who would like to join us. Monthly potluck supper and program for ACC women and guests. Open to all. More details for this month’s programming TBA. See website for more.

**November 2, 9, 16 & 30 Baby & Toddler Storytime** Stories, songs, puppets, egg-shakers and loads of fun! Kensington Library, Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free.

**November 4 CERT training** with Dave Gibson of the El Cerrito Fire Department. ACC, 8am-5pm. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) teaches neighbors to help themselves and help each other. Through CERT, you will receive hands-on training in Disaster First Aid, Disaster Preparedness, Basic Firefighting, Light Search and Rescue, Damage Assessment, and How to Turn Off Utilities. Those interested in learning more about CERT can do so by taking an online distant learning course through Citizen Corps. Please go to “Learn more about CERT.”

**November 5 Rabbi Harry Manhoff**, a superfan and collector of comic books, is a Congregational Rabbi at

Temple Beth Sholom in San Leandro, a lecturer at St. Mary’s College, and an author. He has a doctorate on the New Testament and Christian Origins. “Why I love Sukkot.” 9:30am. Free. UUCB.

**November 5 Free Screening: From a Silk Cocoon.** The Social Justice Council of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley invites you to join us for a free screening of *From a Silk Cocoon*, followed by Q&A with filmmaker Satsuki Ina, immigration lawyer Laura Craig, and Zahra Billoo, Executive Director of the Council of American-Islamic Relations. The film tells the story of Ina’s parents, a Japanese American couple incarcerated in Tule Lake internment camp. Their story connects DACA youth and the undocumented and the possibility of a Muslim registry. Filmmaker Ina is a psychotherapist, working with community trauma patients. Doors open at 2:30pm, film screens at 3. UUCB; free, tickets required for head count: <https://silkcocoonuucb.eventbrite.com>

**November 6 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. Normally meets on the 1st Monday of the month. 6:30 pm. Free.

**November 6 & 20 Kensington Library’s Digital Docent** will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1pm. This one-on-one 60-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up onsite at Info Desk. Please bring your device. This appointment is free.

**November 7, 14, 21 & 28 Family Storytime** Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

**November 9 El Cerrito Garden Club Fundraiser** Two Jeannes from the Shibui Arrangers Guild will present “Art with Flowers.” The floral designs demonstrated by Jeanne Walker and Jeanne O’Hair will be raffled off at the end of the program. In addition there will be bountiful tea table refreshments, a plant sale, a silent auction, and a white elephant sale. Meet at the El Cerrito Community Center (7007 Moeser Lane) at 9:30am for socializing, the plant sale, silent auction and refreshments. The floral arranging program at 11am. Members free; guests \$7.

**November 11 Garden Party** Fundraiser for enrichment programs at Kensington Hilltop. See story on page 4.

**November 12 Jeanne Foster**, UU minister, UUCB Worship Associate and Choir member. She is also Professor Emerita of English Literature and Creative Writing at Saint Mary’s College, co-editor of *Appetite: Food as Metaphor*, an anthology of poems by women (BOA), a poet and author of several books, the latest of which are *Goodbye*, *Silver Sister* and *The Living Theater: Selected Poems of Bianca Tarozzi*. “Doing What You

Love as a Pilgrimage.” 9:30am. Free. UUCB.

**November 18 Mystery writers Judith Newton and Amy Peele at AAUW WCC Meeting** Judith Newton, Professor Emeritus in Women and Gender Studies at UC Davis, will discuss her book, *OINK: A Food for Thought Mystery*. It involves women in academia, a poisoning at the campus hog yard, and recipes. Amy Peele, an RN with a 35-year career in organ transplantation at University of Chicago and Director of Transplant Clinical Operations at UCSF, will talk about her humorous book, *Cut: A Medical Murder Mystery*. Christ Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury St., El Cerrito. 10am, free. All welcome.

**November 19 Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt**, UUCB’s Senior Co-Minister, longtime UU member, mother, singer, and *Star Trek* enthusiast. A mother of two, Rev Kristin will share some of her thoughts and experiences in “Holy Chaos: Spirituality in Parenting.” 9:30am. Free. UUCB.

**November 20 Memoir Group** 10am, ACC. Free Monthly Memoir Group led by Ruth Robinson in the Fireside Room.

**November 24 Bridge Night** 6pm, ACC. Monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACCers and new guests.

**November 26 Dr. Richard Stromer**, longtime student of mythology as a pathway for psychological and spiritual development. He has a doctorate in Mythological Studies from Pacifica Graduate Institute, home of the Joseph Campbell Library and Archives. “Joseph Campbell and the Religious Function of Myth,” 9:30am. Free. UUCB.

**November 26 Tree Lighting at Colusa Circle** 5pm. See page 4.

**November 27 Kensington Library Book Club** Discussion of *Ship of Fools* by Katherine Anne Porter. Book Club meets on the 4th Monday of the month. 6:30pm. Free.

## Town Meetings

**Kensington Community Center**  
**59 Arlington Ave., Kensington**

**KCC-Nov 6**, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 6:30pm. 525-0292

**FKL-Nov 7, Friends of the Kensington Library**, 6:30pm (at the Library) 1st Tuesdays

**KPSC-Nov 13, 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-Nov 8**, Fire Protection District 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

**KPPCSD-Nov 16**, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

**KIC-Nov 27**, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 524-7514.

**KMAC (Tent.)-Nov 28, Municipal Advisory Council** Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s office to confirm: 231-8691)

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

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# Classified Ads

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It's a good idea to research the site before you sign up. Do an internet search on the site name with "reviews" and "scams" and see what comes up.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Report scams to local law enforcement. Contact the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork for more information on fraud prevention.