

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

October 2004

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Volume 61 Number 7

Elections cancelled as incumbents unchallenged

Absence of challengers leave seats uncontested and may point to a volunteer vacuum

Two directors of the Kensington Fire Protection District and two directors of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District will win new terms without an election because no one chose to run against them.

The county cancelled the election because of an insufficient number of candidates to hold an election. Fire protection board members Leslie Michael and Don Dommer and police protection board members Joan Gallegos and Paul Haxo will be assigned to new four-year terms because they were unopposed.

The situation is not unusual. The county

cancelled elections for a total of 51 board members for 34 special districts throughout Contra Costa. They will not appear on the ballot as candidates for those posts are unopposed.

While the uncontested races may reflect contentment with the candidates, some in Kensington believe it also may reflect a broader problem that community organizations are wrestling with throughout the community and elsewhere to attract volunteers to participate.

"It's hard to get people to volunteer when their lives are very full with kids and extracurricular activities and work," said Cathy Garza, president of the Kensington Hilltop Elementary Parent Teacher Association. "You can get people to volunteer for one or two events, but it's hard to get someone do something consistently

throughout the year."

With many dual working households and a hectic pace of life many people are unable or unwilling to take on the often time consuming demands of civic organizations. At the same time some organizations have seen an aging of the volunteers they relied on and some of these people have died or stepped down after many years of service without a new generation of participants smoothly filling the void.

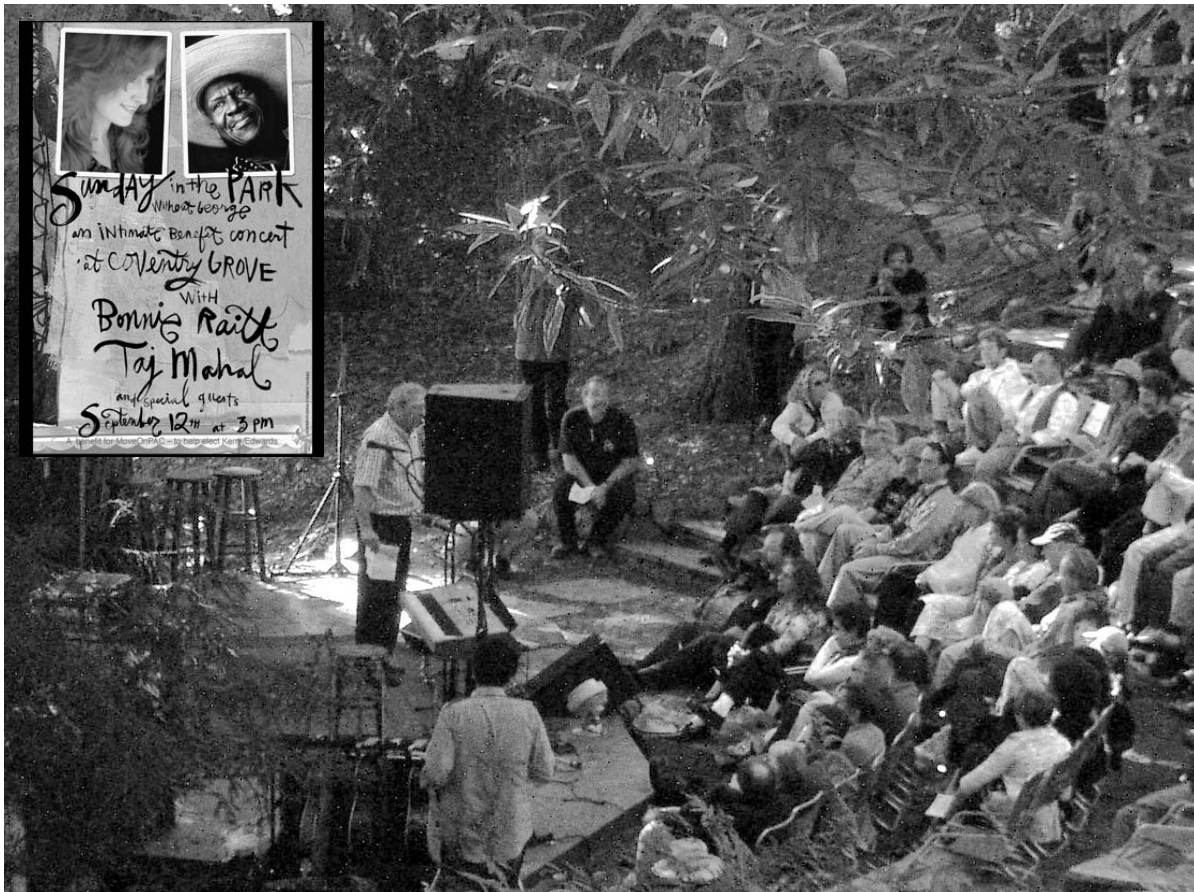
"It's hard. People do not seem to want to make that big a commitment," said Gail Feldman, president of the Kensington Property Owners Association, which is seeking to fill three vacancies on its seven member board. "A lot of people who are active have already served. We need new blood from new property owners."

Ted Blanckenburg, vice president of Kensington Community Council said five years ago the council board consisted of about a dozen people, but now it is down to just six.

In part he blames that on the demands in the personal lives of community members and the competition for volunteers with other groups.

But Blanckenburg also lays some of the blame on the organization itself for not doing a better job of outreach.

"We haven't put fourth an active, sustained recruiting effort," he said. "We have plenty of openings, but we haven't gone out there and politely pestered people until they cried for mercy. We haven't let them know we want them to join up and that it's not that big a burden."



Danny Scher welcomes attendees to **Sunday in the Park Without George**, a fundraiser at Coventry Grove, the amphitheater in the backyard of his Coventry Road home. Insert: An image of the poster for the event that featured Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal

Rock 'n' Roil

Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal concert raises \$150,000 for MoveOn.Pac and the ire of Scher neighbors and county agencies

Danny Scher took the occasion of a fundraising concert for the progressive political organization MoveOn.Pac held at the amphitheater at his Kensington home to do a little campaigning of his own.

The controversial concert promoter addressed the crowd of about 250 gathered in his backyard for an intimate concert featuring Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal prior to the performance. The event dubbed "Sunday in the Park without George" raised \$150,000 for MoveOn.Pac to help unseat president George Bush in November.

The event, the highest pro-

file of a series of controversial fundraising concerts held by Scher on his property follows Contra Costa County's issuing of a \$100 fine to Scher for his failure to obtain a land use permit prior to the previous concert.

"You are attending an illegal event," Scher told the audience, which responded with cheers and applause.

Scher has long contended his fundraisers represent a legitimate use of his home and does not require a permit, but neighbors have long lobbied the county to put a stop to the events, which are open to the

see "SCHER" page 4

Homeowners want county to fix drains and pay for damages

A Kensington man is seeking \$180,000 from Contra Costa County to repair damages to his home caused by what he called "long neglected" stormdrain problems that sends a river of water rushing through his property during heavy rains.

Masoud Vafaei, who lives on Conventry Rd. near Ocean View Ave. said in February during the heavy rain overflowing drains sent an eight-foot wide stream of water as much as a foot deep at times between his and his neighbor's home.

Though the county in the past has cleaned out a drain that backs up on his street, he said it is not enough to solve the recurring problems.

The flooding that results, he said, has damaged the foundation of his home, given rise to a significant mold problem and forced him to move with his wife and child to a rented home across the street from the house they own. Contractors have told him that fixing the problems at his home without addressing the drainage problems in the streets will just lead to fresh damage.

"This is a maintenance issue and the county is just too complacent on our street," said Vafaei. "We don't see anybody. Every year the rain comes, this backs up and we call the county's hotline. They usually come late after a number of

calls and all they do is clean up a little bit. The next rain comes and we have the same issue."

Other neighbors said they have suffered similar damages and expect to file claims with the county as well.

Vafaei sent a letter to the county with a petition signed by 22 neighbors calling on the county to take steps to address chronic drainage problems. This includes extending the drain intake openings, establishing a regular maintenance schedule, performing video inspection of drain lines and presenting the neighborhood with a clear plan

see "DRAIN" page 4

Town Hall Meeting Set



Sen. Tom Torlakson and Sup. John Gioia
State senator Tom Torlakson headline's this year's Kensington Improvement Club's Town Hall Meeting at 10 a.m Oct. 30 at the Kensington Community Center. Supervisor John Gioia also will be among the local leaders who will address community concerns and field questions.

see page 3



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KCC kicks off Annual fund drive



Dear Friends,

As many of you know, the Kensington Community Council provides important services to our community. It operates the KASEP and KCC Summer Day Camp for our children, provides adult education programs and brings the community together in our semi-annual events at the community center. It also publishes this newspaper.

Under the watchful eye of Helen Horowitz our youth programs continued to provide our children safe, fun and educational activities at an affordable price. Our Day Camp sold out for the entire summer and attracted families from neighboring communities as its reputation spread.

Our education program also continued its tradition of providing excellent after school classes and sports to our elementary school students.

While we look forward to another great year, KCC faces some significant challenges. KASEP enrollment is down because of the temporary relocation of the elementary school to the portables at Portola and our insurance premiums have risen by approximately 25 percent. KCC is trying to find a way to resurface the crumbling asphalt south of the tennis courts to provide the remaining KASEP students with an area suitable for sports.

To continue with all these important activities, we need your help. We appreciate any contribution you can spare so that

Kensington Outlook

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The Kensington Outlook is available online at www.kensingtonoutlook.com courtesy of www.aboutkensington.com

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The Kensington outlook is delivered free to residents. Non-resident subscriptions are available for \$10 a year by sending a check made payable to the KCC to the Kensington Outlook, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707

The Kensington Outlook is published ten times a year by the non-profit Kensington Community Council. It is published monthly except for combined December/January and July/August issues. For advertising rates, space, availability and size restrictions please call. The advertising and editorial deadline for the November issue is October 10. Send mail to: Kensington Outlook, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707. The Kensington Outlook welcomes letters to the editor and reserves the right to cut and edit those for clarity and length.

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Kensington Community Council

the KCC can continue to improve the quality of life in Kensington.

Please use the enclosed envelope in the middle of the paper to send us your donation today.

Sincerely,
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President
Kensington Community Council

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*Parade assembles at noon and starts at 12:30 p.m., Arlington & Amherst Avenues.
Festivities follow at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue.*



Stop by The Mechanics Bank Kensington office the week of October 11 to pick up an entry form. Have your child enter our Kids Coloring Contest for a chance to **win a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond!** (Details in our Kensington office.)



Purchase barbecue lunch tickets in advance, Monday thru Friday, October 11 to October 15, at The Mechanics Bank and receive **50¢ per ticket off** the regular Open House price.



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It's hail to the chief at KCC's parade and open house

Barry Garfield, chief of the Kensington Police and general manager of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, will serve as grand marshal for the annual Kensington Community Council Parade and Open House.

"We wanted to recognize his good work on behalf of the community," said Ted Blanckenburg, vice president of the Kensington Community Council.

The annual event, a Fall tradition in Kensington, will be held Sunday, October 17.

Participants in the parade should line up at noon in the parking lot of Ace Hardware. The parade begins at 12:30 p.m. and will wind its way down Arlington Ave. to the Kensington Community Center to the sounds of the El Cerrito High School Marching Band.

The festivities at the community center will feature the El Cerrito High School Jazz

Band and barbecue lunches will be served.

The event is once again sponsored by The Mechanics Bank, which will also hold a poster coloring contest for children with prizes. Posters will be available through Hilltop School or may be obtained directly from the bank.

Marvin Gardens Real Estate, which is providing additional financial support for the event, will be holding its annual pumpkin carving contest. Pick up a pumpkin from Marvin Gardens starting Oct. 1 and bring the finished masterpiece to the community center for judging. Marvin Gardens will award prizes in several age categories.

Volunteers are still needed. If you can help with the event please call KCC at 525-0292.



Barry Garfield

KIC to hold town hall meeting

State senator Tom Torlakson, who has represented Kensington since redistricting in 2000, will be the featured speaker at this year's Kensington Improvement Club's annual Town Hall meeting.



Tom Torlakson

The meeting, which will be held Oct. 30 at 10 a.m., gives residents a chance to meet with local, county and state officials.

Torlakson is a member of 11 Senatorial Standing and Select Committees. He currently chairs the Local Government Committee which has jurisdiction over bills relating to local government procedure and organization, as well as relating to land use. He also chairs the Select Committee on Bay Area Infrastructure.

Contra Costa County supervisor John Gioia will also speak at the town hall meeting. Supervisor Gioia has been actively engaged in several Kensington issues and is expected to provide updates. Chief of Police Barry Garfield, Fire Chief Mark Scott and local district representatives and members of their boards have also been invited to speak.

Steve Kowalewski, assistant director of the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, will discuss the possibility of undergrounding utilities to eliminate power poles and wires.

A short annual meeting of the membership of KIC will precede the invited speakers' portion of the program. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided and copies of KIC's book, "Kensington, Past and Present" will be available for purchase at the meeting.

KMAC seeks board applicants

The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council is seeking applicants for one expiring position and one expiring alternate position.

The advisory body is charged with making recommendations to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on land use, planning, zoning variance applications, code enforcement and code changes.

In addition, the council has a broad charge to advise the board on county services, to provide input to the board and county staff on issues of concern to the community and to serve as a liaison between the community and Supervisor John Gioia.

Its five members and two alternates serve staggered four-year terms. Councilmember Catherine Reed's and alternate Steve Farneth's terms expire at the end of this year. Neither has indicated whether they will seek reappointment.

Members are expected to review cases in advance, interact with the community and the County Community Development Department on issues that concern the council, perform other council functions outside of regular meetings and occasionally attend hearings in Martinez.

Applicants should be property owners and residents for at least three years and demonstrate knowledge of the community and its land use issues.

Applications are available at the Kensington Library, by calling the KMAC hot line at 273-9926, or from Kate Rauch of supervisor Gioia's office at 374-3231.

Completed applications should be received in the supervisor's office no later than Friday, October 29. Interviews will take place in November or early December and the supervisor will make appointments by the end of the year.

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Neighborhood Notes

KEF planting seeds for Garden Party fundraiser

KRON-TV movie critic Jan Wahl reprises her role as auctioneer for this year's Garden Party, an annual fundraisers for the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School.



This year's event will be held Saturday, November 13, at 5:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Kensington. The community is invited and encouraged to support the benefit, sponsored by the Kensington Education Foundation, the Dads Club, and the PTA.

Last year the Garden Party raised \$90,000 to help support science, computer, art and music programs, as well as provide necessary classroom materials and supplies. It accounts for about half of the annual budget for the Kensington Education Foundation.

The Garden Party has evolved into Kensington's big night out with guest chefs, live music and silent and live auctions offering bargains on everything from fine art to vacation getaways.

To make a donation for the live or silent auctions call Barbara Wansick at 528-2407 or Debbie Reed at 235-5249. If you're interested in being a guest chef or making a food donation, please contact Karen Shebek at 525-1539.

Tickets are \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door. For ticket information, call Laurie Ushigusa at 559-8825 or Patty Coluse at 527-8903.

More Garden Party information can be found on the Kensington School parent web site: www.kensingtonschool.org

Kensington Symphony Orchestra passes baton to Gallegos

The Kensington Symphony Orchestra named Geoffrey Gallegos as its new music director and conductor, the third to lead the symphony in its 27-year history.

The Symphony selected Gallegos after a year-long search. He takes his post with the start of the 2004-2005.

Gallegos opens the new season on October 23 with an 8 p.m. concert at Northminster Presbyterian Church in El Cerrito. Pianist Seth Montfort is the featured performer. A frequent soloist at the San Francisco's Victorian Englander House, Monfort will play Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor at the inaugural concert.

Gallegos began his music studies with the trumpet at the age of nine. An honors graduate of San Francisco State University, he received a Master of Arts degree in conducting from the University of Iowa School of Music. The principal conductor of the San Francisco Concerto Orchestra, Gallegos also serves as assistant conductor of the Peninsula Symphony of Northern California. In October 2003, he debuted with the Golden Gate Opera Company and will conduct several opera performances with the company this fall.

The Kensington Symphony Orchestra gives five concerts a year. Suggested donations for tickets to the October 23 concert are: \$10; seniors \$8; children free. Northminster Presbyterian Church is located at 545 Ashbury Ave., across from El Cerrito High School. For tickets or information, phone (510) 524-4335.



Geoffrey Gallegos

Pianist Seth Montfort is the featured performer. A frequent soloist at the San Francisco's Victorian Englander House, Monfort will play Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor at

Kensington Library invites college-bound students to get board

With a fresh season of standardized testing here, the Contra Costa County Library is ready to help students prepare.

In addition to checking out test preparation books, library users can access interactive test preparation materials through LearningExpressLibrary, available through the Research Center at <http://ccclib.org>.

This service allows anyone with a Contra Costa County Library card to login and take online practice exams for Advanced Placement Tests, college entrance exams including the ACT and SAT, and graduate school entrance exams such as the GMAT, GRE, LSAT, and MCAT.

There is also an SAT "Success Course," which teaches how to study and prepare for various aspects of both the verbal and the math sections. Once logged in, students can start and stop a timed test, have the test scored and view the answers and explanations once the test is completed.

Call the Kensington Library at 524-3043 with any questions, or to reserve a test preparation book.

--Liz Ruhland



DRAIN: County says money isn't there to fix problems

continued from page 1

and schedule for the implementation of the final redesign of the system and work schedule.

Maurice Shiu, director of public works for Contra Costa County said the county has videotaped the drainage line near Vafaei's home and identified blockage and are scheduling to clean it out.

But Shiu said while his department encounters problems in Kensington every year, the county does not have money for the kind of work that is needed to correct the problems systemically.

"We are always ready to talk about long-term, ongoing problems in the entire Kensington community," he said. "It must be 30 years ago that we were talking to the community regarding information about an assessment district to completely redo the drainage for the community. That was not well received. After 30 years we still have patchwork and incomplete drainage that we are still trying to get to work."

SCHER: County issues second fine as first appeal pends

continued from page 1

public and use amplified sound. Opponents contend these are commercial events and ill suited for the residential neighborhood.

In recapping the controversy for attendees, Scher said he expected to be fined for the event as he told about his appeal over the previous fine.

"It's only a \$100 fine," Scher told the crowd, "but it's a million dollar principal."

Since the event Contra Costa County has issued a second fine, this one for \$200. Scher has until September 4 to appeal it. A hearing on his first fine is still pending.

Both Scher and members of the Conventry Neighborhood Group, which has led the fight over the concerts, passed pamphlets to concertgoers to tell their side of the story.

"Mr. Scher is a professional concert producer and does not need to practice his profession in his backyard," said the group's pamphlet. "He has other venues for his benefit concerts, but we have only one place to live."

Kensington Community Education

Youth Classes

KCC

Kensington Community Council

Helen Horowitz, Administrator
Kensington Community Council
Building E, 59 Arlington Ave.
Kensington, CA 94707-1037
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KCC OFFICE
Building E is located across the grassy field from the Community Center Annex that houses The Neighborhood School.

NOTICES

To Register for Class
Call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits. Those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

Tennis Court Reservations
Reservations are taken for weekends and holidays only. The earliest reservation is for 9 a.m. Fees are \$2 per hour for Kensington residents, \$5 for others.

Community Center
Call Helen Horowitz for rental and reservation information.

Gymnastics

11:55 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Morning Kindergartners

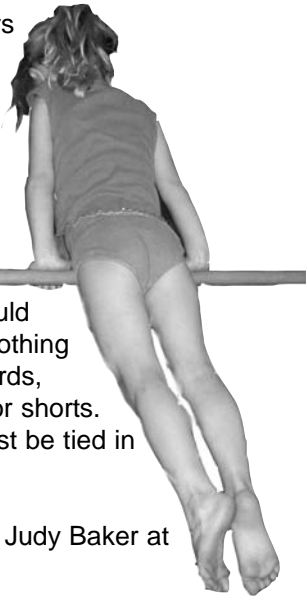
2:50 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Advanced-Beginners, Grades 1-6

Students should wear loose clothing such as leotards, sweatpants, or shorts. Long hair must be tied in a ponytail.

To enroll, call Judy Baker at 233-1833.

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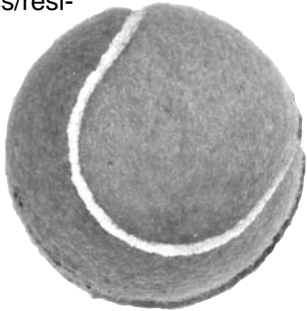
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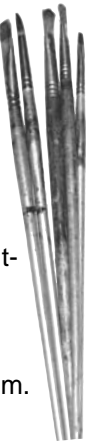
Sandy Thacker
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482-1258

Registration took place on Tuesday, September 7, 2004. For questions or to register, please call the KCC office, (510) 525-0292, Monday through Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Adult Classes

Acrylic Painting

Stan Cohen leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting, with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited. Instructor approval required. Instructor: Stan Cohen
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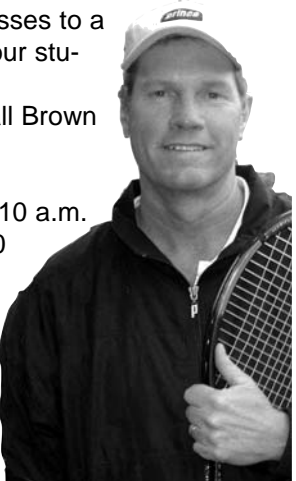
Beginning and advanced students will paint from live models using the Reiley Method, a process of painting which is broken down into steps. Students will learn how to do a "wash-in" under-painting and how to mix the "controlled palette," starting with a gray scale from black to white, with all other colors mixed and arranged in corresponding value scale. Students will learn to see color and shape in terms of the value pattern of the subject. Materials and paint application techniques will be discussed. Work of current and past great painters will be studied. Students will be encouraged to develop their own style and may use an open


palette if they prefer. For more information, call Barbara Ward at 528-2983. To sign up, call the KCC office. Instructor: Barbara Ward
Thursdays, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.
Session I: Sept 16 - Oct 28
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Kensington Calendar

An ounce of prevention



Arlington Pharmacy's Wing Gee and Emily

The Arlington Pharmacy offers flu vaccinations through Test-Med Services. The shots will be administered by a registered nurse on Monday, October 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Friday, October 22 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$20. There is no charge for Medicare patients who produce their card. So, you can see 'em now, or you can see 'em later.

Friday, October 1
Marcel Dronkers Trio performs the first in a series of three concerts at 8 p.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The trio performs songs from Bellini to Boogie Woogie; the best of Bel Canto to Can Belto.Tickets: \$15.00 at the door or \$30.00 for the series. Info: 843-7745

Sunday, October 3
Gunther Stent, Professor Emeritus of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California at Berkeley, author, Paradoxes of Free Will. Part 1: Moral Responsibility, the Mind-Body Problem, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Sunday, October 3
Dream Interpretation for Youth ages 7 to 12, the first of four sessions a 6 p.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

Monday, October 4
Computer Literacy: Introduction to the computer mouse at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Sign up for a seat. Info:524-3043.

Monday, October 4
The Kensington Community Council meets at the Kensington Community Center at 7:30 p.m.


Tuesday, October 5
Family storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info:524-3043.

Wednesday, October 6
The Kensington Study Group of the League of Women Voters, West Contra Costa County meets at 1:15 p.m. at the home of Betty Brown, 44 Beverly Rd., Kensington. Brown recently installed solar electricity panels in her home and will share information doing so. All welcome, but please RSVP to 524-6071.

Sunday October 10
Gunther Stent, Professor Emeritus of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California at Berkeley, author, Paradoxes of Free Will. Part 2: Evolutionary and Genetic Aspects. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302.

Sunday, October 10
The Board of Missions and Social Justice hosts a **Spectrum forum** issues of faith in an election year at 11:15 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

Monday, October 11
The Friends of the Kensington Library present **Jim Rosenau**, creator of functional art bookshelves made of old books. Rosenau will give a lecture and slide show on his work at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043.



Tuesday, October 12
Family storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info:524-3043

Thursday, October 13
The Grizzly Peak Flyfishers holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center featuring a preview of the McCloud River outing scheduled for the weekend of October 22-24. All welcome. Info: 547-8629.

Wednesday, October 13
Kensington Fire Protection District meets at 7:30 in the Kensington Community Center. Call to Confirm: 527-8395

Thursday, October 14
The Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 526-4141

Sunday, October 17:
Barbara Hamilton Holway, co-minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, author of Who Will Remember Me? a recent release, Spiritual Citizenship and the Healing of America. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Sunday, October 17
Rebecca Schroeder will facilitate a Spectrum forum on the theology of salvation at 11:15 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

Sunday, October 17
The KCC Parade and Open House begins at 12:30 p.m. at Arlington Ave. and Amherst Ave. Stroll to Kensington Park for barbecue and live music and mingle with neighbors. Info:525-0292

Sunday October 17
Build Your Own Ice Cream Sundae at the Arlington Community Church following the Kensington Parade at 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., 52 Arlington Ave. Entertainment and information on the efforts of the Greater Richmond Interfaith Project to provide housing and food services to the needy.

Monday, October 18
Computer Literacy: Basic online searching at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Sign up for a seat. Info: 524-3043.

Tuesday, October 19
Berkeley Garden Club presents "Gardens at Filoli," a talk by docent Grover Cleveland at 2 p.m. at the Epworth Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St. Berkeley. Club meeting begins at 1 p.m. Guests \$2 Info: 524-4374

Thursday, October 21
Senior Fair co-sponsored by the Kensington Police Department and the Kensington Senior Activity Center 10 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Hear about important issues affecting seniors.

Thursday October 21
American Rhododendron Society, Cal Chapter, meets at 7:30 p.m. at 666 Bellevue Ave., on Lake Merritt near Children's Fairyland in Oakland. Newcomers welcome. Info:223-0443

Saturday, October 23
The El Cerrito Democratic Club holds its annual dinner meeting at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and program at 8 p.m. Guest speakers will be: State Senator Tom Torlakson; Assembly member Loni Hancock; County Supervisor John Gioia; and George Harris III, Chair, Democratic Party of Contra Costa County. All welcome. Info: 527-2194.

Sunday, October 24
Bill Hamilton Holway, co-minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, Theology in the Making: Our Responsibility for Action. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Bang a gong

Stop by the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. and make some music.

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Kensington Calendar Continued

Sunday, October 24
Pianist Julian White performs at 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. The program features works of Ludwig van Beethoven, Aaron Copland, Robert Schumann, and more. Admission: \$20 General, \$15 Students/Seniors. Info:528-4959.

Monday October 25
Computer Literacy: Introduction to the library catalog. Learn how to find books, check your library record and request items from other branches at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Sign up for a seat. Info:524-3043.

Tuesday, October, 26
Maggie Hooper of the Bat Conservation Fund presents an education program with live bats at 6:30 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Free tickets will be available starting Monday, October 18. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Info:524-3043

Feed your soul and your stomach

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley's Core Curriculum is highly recommended for people interested in leadership positions in the church. These courses are open to everyone and support personal growth, relationships at home, work, and church. A potluck dinner at 6:00 pm (optional) followed by worship at 7p.m. and programs at 7:30 p.m. The Tuesday Evening Core Curriculum Programs include: Community Building: Skills for Successful Group Process: led by Jim Burneo and Rev. Cathleen Cox Burneo (8 sessions, Sep 14-Nov 2); The Changing Face of God: led by Craig Scott (6 sessions, Nov 9-Jan 4); and Powerful Non-Defensive Communication: led by Sterling Newberry (6 sessions, Jan 11-Feb 15).Contact the church at 525-0302.

Tuesday, October 26
Kensington Municipal Advisory Council meets at 7 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 273-9926

Tuesday, October 26
Family storytime at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info:524-3043

Friday, October 28
Celtic Music "Distant Oaks," the second of a three concert series, at the Arlington Community Church at 52 Arlington Ave. The concert will feature a Halloween and Day of the Dead theme. Children will enjoy. Tickets \$12 at the door.

Saturday, October 30
The Kensington Improvement Club holds its annual Town Hall meeting at 10 a.m. in the Kensington Community Center. State senator Tom Torlakson, supervisor John Gioia and other local leaders will address community concerns and field questions.

Sunday, October 31
Sixtieth Anniversary of the Arlington Community Church continues at 10 a.m. with worship led by youth of the congregation. Youth ministers from the past will participate at 52 Arlington Ave.

October 31: Celebrating Ram Dass: This session will give those who have benefited from teachings of Ram Dass a chance to share and view video footage prior to his lecture at the church Nov. 6. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Ray Darrah, a man of many seasons, dies at 83

Raymond Vermillion Darrah, a 21-year resident of Kensington, died August 16 after a brief illness.

Born October 2, 1921 in Byron, California, Darrah left the family home in Pasadena at 14 to strike out on his own. He headed for the Sierras and settled in Sierra City where he was able to obtain a job at the 16 to 1 gold mine in Allegheny. He later related that these experiences were among the happiest of his life.

Darrah joined the Navy during World War II and served as a math teacher, sheet metal worker and deep-sea salvage diver. Following his service, he attended the University of California at Berkeley, where he majored in Spanish and Central American Culture.

Although he planned to teach, he found satisfaction and thrived in sales for many years. For the past 20 years, he continued to work as a property manager for his family's business. His love of learning and

innate curiosity prompted him to take an H & R Block tax course at the age of 70.


He had numerous avocations, among which were four-part barbershop harmony, ranching, skiing, cruising, dancing, cards, games, and crossword puzzles. Darrah was a member of the Masonic Order, having joined the Camptonville Lodge in 1955.

He leaves behind his wife Linda Caruso Darrah; children, Sandra DeGarmo and Raymond H. Darrah; his daughter-in-law Audrey; step-son Larry Stover; son-in-law Rick Rogers; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Darrah was preceded in death by eight siblings and his step-daughter Deanna Lee Rogers. Donations to the American Diabetes Association may be made in his name.



Ray Darrah

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From the case files of the KPD

This report is based on the police logs of the Kensington Police Department. The Outlook is solely responsible for the writing and editing of this report.

Events in August

Police received a report of a shabbily dressed man going on to people's property and reading their water meters. A police located the man and determined he was a meter reader for the East Bay Municipal Utility District and advised the man to dress better.

A contractor working on Willamette Ave. reported the theft of a \$325 power saw from a driveway where he was working.

Police stopped an El Cerrito man for speeding on Colusa Ave and Fairmont and arrested him for driving under the influence. He had a blood alcohol level more than twice the legal limit.

A homeowner on Lake Drive interrupted a burglary at her home. The suspects fled without taking property.

A police officer noticed a suspicious vehicle and after checking the license plates discovered it was stolen. The driver from Santa Rosa and a passenger from San Francisco were arrested on Moeser Ln. and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of stolen property and possession of drug paraphernalia.

A registered sex offender reregistered with the Kensington Police Department to comply with annual requirements.

A Kingston Rd. resident reported the theft of a car stereo valued at \$500 from his unlocked 1994 Saturn.

A Vassar Ave. resident reported a shirtless male approximately 40-years-old who appeared to be on drugs and refused to leave from in front of her property. Police arrived, but the man had wandered off and was not located.

A Berkeley man who a resident described as appearing homeless continued to leave notes on his home and car. The handwritten notes invited the resident to make a tax deductible donation of his vehicle to a homeless shelter in Berkeley. Police contacted the man and he assured them he was not on - or off -- prescription medication.

A resident called to report his skunk trap had ensnared a baby raccoon. Police arrived to find larger raccoonsthat appeared noneto pleased by the situation surrounding the trap. animal control.

A woman called police after a man and woman in their twenties knocked on her door in the afternoon requesting entry to her home. They told her they grew up in the house and wanted to see it. The woman has lived in the house for more than 50 years.

A Los Altos Rd. resident reported the theft of jewelry, tools, DVDs and other property valued at around \$6,000 from his home. Police found evidence of a forced entry through a patio door.

A U.S. mail truck rolled off the road on Highland Blvd. and struck a fire hydrant and broke a water main sending water rushing out.

Vandals etched undisclosed words describe only as "foul" on the front wall of the community center.

A water main broke on Amherst Ave. and sent water rushing over the retaining wall at the public safety building and all the way down Kingston Road. East Bay Municipal Utility District workers were notified and fixed the problem.

Police responded to a call from an Ocean View resident trapped in an elevator on his home. Fire Department personnel freed the resident.

A police officer stopped to question a woman sitting in the passenger side of a vehicle in an illegally parked car at 4:30 a.m. on Grizzly Peak Blvd. That led to the arrest of the woman's male companion, who was hiding in the bushes. Police charged the 34-year-old Manteca man with possession of methamphetamine, possession of stolen property, possession of drug paraphernalia and violating parole.

Police took a report of deep gashes to the grass field at Kensington Park caused by a car driving on the field.

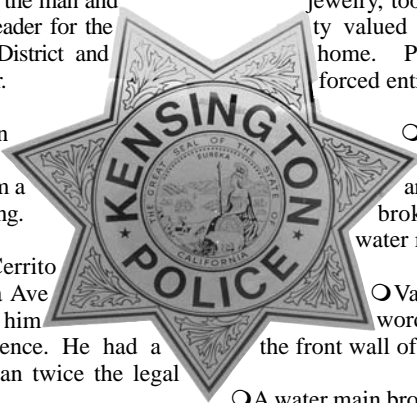
A Purdue Ave. resident reported that a four foot by four foot sign reading "ReDefeat Bush" was stolen from her front yard. It was the third "ReDefeat Bush" sign taken from her yard. Despite our suspicions, Karl Rove apparently has an airtight alibi.

Police Phones

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