

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

September 2003

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Volume 60 Number 7

County not jazzed about Scher concert

Event fuels cry for noise ordinance, but Scher warns county threatens property owners rights

Contra Costa County is investigating whether a fundraiser for Berkeley's JazzSchool, held at the Kensington home of concert promoter Danny Scher, violated zoning laws and what remedies to take if any.

In July, Carlos Beltodano, director of the Building Inspection Department sent a letter to Scher urging him to seek a land use permit to hold the concert for the JazzSchool.

“If the event is held on the property without a land use permit,” Beltodano wrote, the County may seek to enforce its Ordinance Code by any

remedy allowed by law, including infraction, prosecution or administrative fines.”

Scher, whose Coventry Road home features an outdoor amphitheater, tried unsuccessfully in 2001 to get the county to grandfather the property to allow the use of the amphitheater for fundraising concerts. A previous owner had built the amphitheater and stage and held dance recitals, weddings and other events.

Despite the ruling from the county, Scher continues to hold his events. The ongoing

battle over his use of his property is fueling a call from neighbors for a countywide noise ordinance that would set an objective standard for determining at what point the use of

someone's home extends beyond a right to become a public nuisance.

Scher said he didn't seek a permit for the afternoon JazzSchool event because he believes it his right to hold fundraisers on his property and that it

represents a normal use of his home.

“In the history of Contra Costa County, and as far as I know in the history of any

place in this state, no person has ever had to apply for a land use permit to hold a charitable fundraising event at their house,” he said. “Using your house for fund raising events is a normal use of a person's house.”

Neighbors, though, complain that the concert and similar fundraisers held in the past by Scher at his home used amplified sound and attracted more than 200 people. They call the events loud, disruptive and inappropriate for the residential neighborhood.

“The Coventry Neighborhood Group and the community really don't have anything against fundraisers,” said Toni Folger-Brown, co-chair of the Coventry Neighborhood Group, which has fought to

See **concert** page 8



The writing was on the wall for Five Star Video owner John Dey, who said new choices in home entertainment made it impossible for the small video store to remain viable. The store has served Kensington since 1984.

Show's Over

Five Star Video Closes After 19 years as entertainment alternatives grow

Five Star Video, Kensington's neighborhood video store for 19 years, pulled the plug on it's operations this summer.

John Dey, Five Star Video's co-owner said he liquidated the entire inventory and paid off the store's debt.

Five Star moved within Young's market in June 2002. Dey said that lowered the rent dramatically and he hoped it would give the store “second wind,” but he said all it did do was “put off the inevitable.”

“The whole dynamics of home entertainment is changing,” he said. “People aren't going down to the local video star anymore with TIVO, Netflix and Comcast Digital.”

Five Star originally opened in 1984 by Mark Koblick. Dey took over the store in 1993 along with Gary Roda and Marina

Roelink. Roelink withdrew from the business three years ago.

Dey said he plans to continue with his home delivery service, which offers deliveries to Kensington residents from any store on Arlington Avenue for \$7 per delivery. He also operates his Dey and Night house-sitting and dog walking business.

“When we moved to try to give ourselves new life, people in the neighborhood had a pretty good idea of the situation we were in. It's been kind of a bummer,” he said. “Everyone's been terrific supporting us through a change of ownership and a relocation. I just want to make sure everyone knows how we appreciated their business.”

District rescinds layoffs as teachers defer raises

The United Teachers of Richmond voted to defer a two percent pay increase for two years as part of an agreement that preserves reduced class sizes for lower grades and counseling programs for middle and high school for a year.

Members of the teachers union voted to defer their increases by a vote of 76 percent to 24 percent on July 29. Following the vote, the West Contra Costa County Unified School District Board of Trustees approved an agreement with the teachers union that initiated the recall of teachers laid-off because of the need to cut the district's budget.

The agreement with the teachers followed similar agreements with the district's other unions. It came after months of sometimes bitter public exchanges and heated school board meetings where parents and teachers lambasted board members and superintendent Gloria Johnston for their inability to find a way to preserve small class sizes and counseling for middle and high school students without balancing the budget on the backs of teachers.

Though the teacher's decision to defer their raises will provide the district with the savings needed to keep kindergarten to third

grade class sizes at 20 students for two years and counseling services for middle and high schools for one year, the district gave no assurances they will continue to hold those programs in place in the long term.

“Beyond those windows of time,” the school district said in a statement announcing the agreement, “the future of both programs will depend on the volatile trio of the state economy, state and local political support for public schools, and the ability of school community leaders to shepherd that support for an anticipated parcel tax in the spring of 2004.”



INSIDE
KCC names John and Lois Hoagland grand marshalls for Kensington's parade.

Gioia calls town hall meeting for planning ordinance

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Kensington Outlook
Editor
Daniel S. Levine
dslevine@best.com
Advertising Manager
Alma Key
almakey@aol.com

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The advertising and editorial deadline for the October issue of the Outlook is September 10.

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Meeting set for zoning ordinance

Gioia seeks candidates for KMAC alternate

Supervisor John Gioia will hold a town Hall meeting to seek community input on a proposed planning ordinance to regulate the impact of construction projects on neighbors.

During the first week of September all Kensington property owners will be mailed a survey about the ordinance. Gioia is asking that property owners return the survey by October 5.

The town hall meeting will be held on Saturday, September 13 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center to discuss the ordinance and the survey. The ordinance is available on Gioia's website at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us and at the Kensington Library.

Separately, Gioia said he is seeking a "qualified and motivated" candidate to fill an alternate seat on the Kensington

Community Municipal Advisory Council.

The volunteer council advises Gioia on land use and planning matters affecting

Kensington residents. The five-person council has two alternate seats, one of which is vacant. Alternates can sit and vote for any of the five members of the council. If

Supervisor John Gioia a vacancy occurs on the council, alternates will automatically assume the seat. The council meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m., in the Kensington Community Center. Terms are four years. Anyone interested in applying should contact Kate Rauch, district coordinator, or Kate Breslin, chief of staff at (510) 374-3231.



KPD undergoes certification to "professionalize" department

The Kensington Police Department is undergoing an accreditation process that it says will raise the professionalism of the department.

The voluntary accreditation by the independent Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The process touches on all aspects of the department's operations from the way it books suspects to how it handles and stores evidence.

"We looked at it just as a method of taking the department to the next level," said Barry Garfield, chief of the



Chief Barry Garfield

Kensington Police Department. "We wanted to professionalize."

The ten-person force is at the small end of the police forces that have undergone the accreditation. The KPD is undergoing a simplified version called the "recognition program," which requires compliance with 98 standards. That compares to the full accreditation process that includes nearly 450 standards.

The department budgeted for one-time costs of \$10,000 in its fiscal 2004 year that began July 1 to pay for improvements needed to bring it up to the standards of the commission.

This includes investment in such things as a new alarm system for the evidence room, a drop safe for guns, drugs and valuables and specialized refrigerated safe to store biological samples.

Hoaglands get their marching orders

Husband and wife duo named grand marshals for parade



Grand marshals Lois and John Hoagland

The Kensington Community Council named John and Lois Hoagland, longtime active members of the Kensington community, grand marshals for this year's annual parade.

The parade, which kicks off from the corner of Arlington and Amherst Avenues Sunday, October 19 at 12:30 p.m., winds its way to the Community Center where there will be food, music and a chance to meet neighbors.

Mechanics Bank is underwriting the event.

KCC thanks contributors to its annual fund

The Kensington Community Council gratefully acknowledges recent donations to its annual fund drive.

\$100 or more

Louis and Judith Alley

Paul and Vida Dorroh (in memory of Jessie Jones)

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Richard and Liz Bordow

Their generosity provides critical support for our community's recreation and education programs and the publication of the Kensington Outlook.

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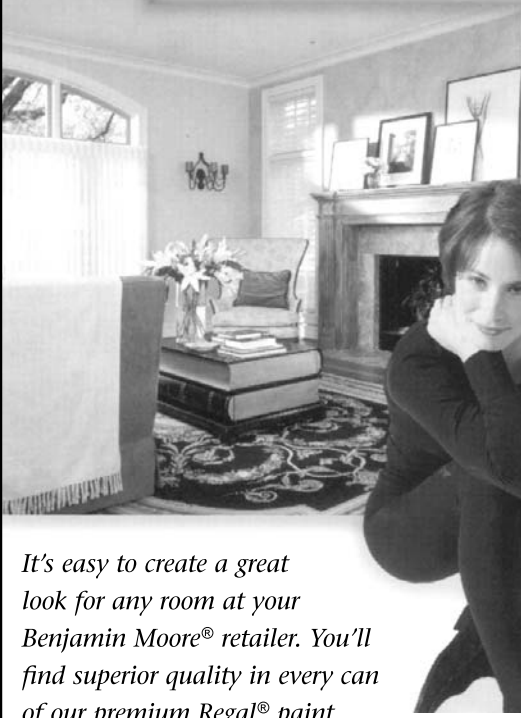
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Neighborhood Notes

Boy Scouts to hold open house



Troop 100's Steven Davenport milks a goat

Kensington Boy Scout Troop 100 travelled by train to the Sangre de Cristo mountains of New Mexico in August. The 12 scouts hiked about 70 miles in 10 days through the wilderness of Philmont Scout Ranch, one of the Boy Scouts' three national high adventure sites. The troop sends a crew to Philmont about every two years.

During the coming school year, the scouts plan about one outing per month, which will include a day at the Manteca Water Slides, an Oakland A's game, a campout and Sierra hike and a day at Iron Works rock climbing center. Other planned events include downhill skiing, a trip to Pinnacles National Monument and time at the Wolfboro summer camp on the Stanislaus River in the Sierra.

Boys and their parents can get a better idea of the program Scouting runs in the community by coming to the Kensington Fire House at 7 PM on Thursday, September 25, for a show and tell night. For further information, call co-Scoutmaster Phil Caruthers at 527-4595.

Police officers clarify new child passenger laws

A new California law that took effect July 1 requires children 12 years and younger to ride in the rear seats of vehicles, according to the Kensington Police Department.

The only exception to the law is a two-seat vehicle.

The police department also said it established a Child Passenger Safety Seat Inspection and Installation Program. Residents wishing to have their child's car seat inspected or have help with installation should contact officers Ed Lewandowski (510) 526-4141 ex.16 or Cesar Celada at ext. 18 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are made based on the availability of the officers.

Under California law, children who are less than 6 years old or who weigh less than 60 pounds must be in an approved child passenger safety seat.

KEF Readies Annual Telethon

The Kensington Education Foundation will begin its annual telethon at the end of September to call all Kensington Hilltop Elementary School families and ask for a donation to support programs at the school.

Last year the organization raised more than \$55,000 through the annual event that funds such programs as Periscope reading, music and science at the school.

"The telethon money contributes substantially to all of the KEF programs for the school," said Victoria Curtis, chair of the telethon.

Though KEF will only be making phone solicitation to families currently enrolled in the school, other members of the community who would like to support KEF's efforts can sign up with two programs that make donations to the school any time someone shops with an affiliated store. To do this, go to www.escrip.com and www.schoolpop.com.



Victoria Curtis

Church Names Youth Director

The Arlington Community Church said it named Cesar Cruz as its director of youth ministries.

Mr. Cruz comes to the Kensington-based church with a background in working with youth and children.

The youth group, which will be under his direction, will meet each Sunday evening beginning September 14 at 6:30 p.m.

This group provides middle school and high school students an opportunity to develop new friendships, participate in discussions and find new areas of service in the community.

Separately, the Women's Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck supper with a program following. The meetings are open and child care is provided if the request is made ahead of time.

The Men's Fellowship meets bi-monthly. Their September meeting will be on Thursday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. with a supper and program following.

The handbell choir and vocal choir will be resuming rehearsals on Wednesday night at 6:30 and 7:30, respectively. Newcomers to the choirs are welcome.

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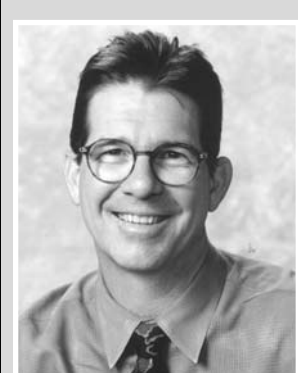
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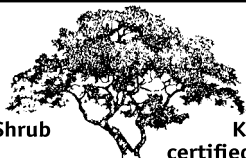


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Kensington People In The News

Shastri Gets CPS Award

College Preparatory School in Oakland awarded Kensington resident Anjali Shastri the Mary Harley Jenks Award.

The award is presented each year by the school to the graduating senior who best exemplifies the intellectual leadership Ms. Jenks gave to College Preparatory School in her years as founding director, teacher and trustee.

Shastri also received scholarships from the Bank of America, the Port of Oakland Asian Employees Association, and the Wa Sung Community Service Club, Oakland. Anjali will be attending the University of California at Berkeley this fall.



Anjali Shastri

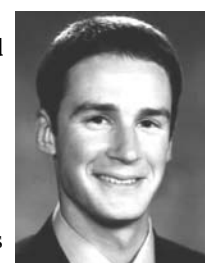
nary school, awarded Sarah Hantz the George and Helen Bailey Memorial Summer Externship Scholarship. Hantz is a member of the school's class of 2006.

The school also awarded the Ch. Forfox Liz Claiborn CDX Veterinary Scholarship to Madeline Yamate, a member of the class of 2005.

Hertzer Rows For Dartmouth In England

John Hertzer, who completed his junior year at Dartmouth College, travelled to England in July as a member of the school's lightweight men's varsity eight to compete at the Henley Royal Regatta.

Dartmouth lost in the quarter finals to Harvard in the Temple Challenge Cup, for which there were 48 entries. Harvard lost the next day to the Princeton lightweight eight. Hertzer plans to major in economics and minor in environmental studies.



John Hertzer

Hantz and Yamate Win Scholarships

The University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine awarded scholarships to two students from Kensington.

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Check your children's backpacks September 4 for registration packets. Additional registration packets will be available at the Kensington Community Council office and the Kensington Library beginning September 5

Registration for KASEP's Fall session will be on September 9, 2003.

Fall Session

The Fall session for KASEP runs from September 22 to December 18.

Registration:

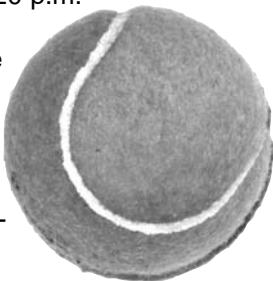
Registration will be held in the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. on Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. for Kindergartners, and 7:15pm for Grades 1st through 6th. Lottery slips for registration order are in the packet; slips must be in the mailbox located at Building E by 9:00am on September 9. The lottery will begin at 12:00 Noon on September 9 in the KCC office. Names, in the order drawn will be posted on the outside door of the Community Center Room 3 by 2:30pm on September 9.

TENNIS

In this class for students in Grades 6, 7 and 8, Alex Brown teaches the fundamentals of tennis, including strokes, tactics and sportsmanship. Classes consist of instruction, drills, and play and continue through the school year. Students must register by the month for one or two days a week.

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Session 2: September 8-12
Session 3: September 15-19

Clinic includes stroke instruction, play, ball-machine, refreshments and prizes. There will be a minimum of students in each session. For information about rackets, call Alex Brown (510) 524-5495.

Registration is on a first-come, first served basis at the KCC office. Emergency card, registration and waiver forms must be tendered prior to the beginning of each session. For more information or for an application packet, call the KCC office, (510) 525-0292.

Session 1:
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\$64/resident \$70/non-resident

Grades 4-6
\$56/resident \$62/non-resident

Session 2:
Grades 1-3
\$80/resident \$88/non-resident
\$72/resident \$80/non-resident

Session 3:
\$80/resident \$88/non-resident
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TENNIS COURTS

GYMNASTICS

Kindergartners
11:35am - 1:05 pm

Advanced
Beginners,
Grades 1-3
2:30pm - 3:20pm

Advanced
Beginners, grades
4-6 2:50pm - 3:40pm

Students should wear loose clothing such as leotards, sweatpants or shorts. Long hair must be in a ponytail. To enroll call Judy Baker at 233-1833.

Instructors: Judy Baker and Jean Jay

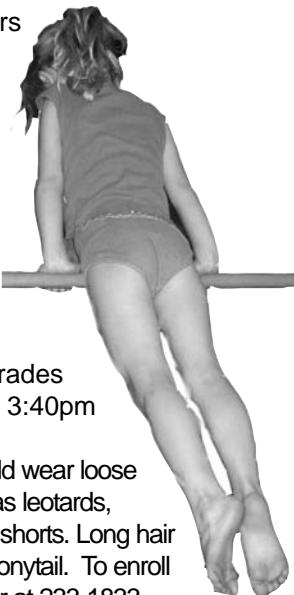
Tuesday, 12 weeks
September 23 to December 16
No class on Tuesday, November 11

Kindergartners:
\$140/ resident, \$155/non-resident

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When you pay your KASEP registration fee please consider adding a small contribution to help support KASEP scholarships for students who could not otherwise participate in the program.



Adult Classes

TENNIS

Alex Brown, USPTA tennis pro, offers classes to a minimum of four students.

To register

Call Alex Brown at (510) 524-5495.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-10am

5 classes/\$40 per resident
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TENNIS COURTS (WEST COURT)

DOG OBEDIENCE

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Instructor:

Stan Cohen

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Instructor:

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KCC

Kensington Community Council

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Kensington Community Council
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Kensington, CA 94707-1037
(510) 525-0292

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OFFICE CLOSED: Sept 1

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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.

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Community Center

Call the KCC office for rental and reservation information.

Kensington Calendar

Thursday, September 4
The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Angela Escobar on How to Prevent Falls, blood pressure by paramedics, German Conversation Group and Therapeutic Massage by Jessica (\$8, 15 min). At 12:15 p.m. potluck lunch. Bring food for 4-6 people, or pay \$3. Info: 526-9146

Sunday, September 7
Personal Theology Seminar: John Hughes, minister and psychologist on "What Constitutes Healing?" 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road. Info: 525-0302

Monday, September 8
The Kensington Community Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Building E at Kensington Park. Call 525-0292 to confirm.

Monday, September 8
Information Literacy: free series at the Kensington Library 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. that runs from using a mouse to conducting online business and investment research. To reserve a seat or for info: 524-3043

Tuesday, September 9
The League of Women Voters Kensington Study Group will meet at 1 p.m. at 112 Windsor Ave., Kensington. Local and regional issues discussed. Info: (510) 524-6071

Tuesday, September 9
Kensington After School Enrichment Program registration Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 7 p.m. Info: 525-0292

Wednesday, September 10
The Kensington Fire Protection District Board will meet at 7:30 at the Kensington Community Center. Call 527-8395 to confirm.

Thursday, September 11
Annie of Annie's Annuals speaks on "New and Unusual Perennials and Annuals" at the El Cerrito Garden Club, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007

Moeser Lane. Meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. Talk begins at 10:30 a.m. Info: 234-0135

Thursday, September 11
The Kensington Senior Activity Center meets 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church 52 Arlington Ave. Program TBA. German Conversation Group. September birthdays celebrated. Lunch at 12:15 p.m. \$3. Info: 526-9146

Thursday, September 11
Grizzly Peak Flyfishers 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Demonstration at 6:30 p.m. Fish Story Night: members share tales of summer adventures and misadventures. Info: 547-8629

Thursday, September 11
Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District meets at 7:30 p.m. in room 3 of the Kensington Community Center. Call 526-4141 to confirm.

Saturday, September 13
Town Hall Meeting with Supervisor John Gioia 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. to discuss a proposed ordinance designed to regulate the impact of construction projects on neighbors.

Saturday, September 13
Open House for Oakland Strokes - High School rowing program at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Jack London Aquatic Center, Oakland. Info: 527-4595

Sunday, September 14
Solano Stroll, a mile-long block party from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Features 75 entertainers, music, international food booths, crafts, bicycle stunt show, pony rides, antique cars, giant slides, petting zoo, games and silent auction. Info: 527-5358



Blues singer Reverend Rabia

Sunday, September 14
Personal Theology Seminar: sex therapist Victoria Lee on "Sacred Sexuality" 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road. Info: 525-0302

Sunday, September 14
Free Seminar for Women on "What Is the Best and the Least Expensive Estate Planning for You?" presented by Ivanka F. Ackbari, Esq. at 4:00 p.m. at Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa Ave. Info: 524-8308.

Monday, September 15
Information Literacy: free series at the Kensington Library continues 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. To reserve a seat or for info: 524-3043

Tuesday, September 16
Kristin Yanker-Hansen speaks on "Autumn Bloom in the Garden" at the Berkeley Garden Club, Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St. at 1 p.m. Info: 524-4374

Tuesday, September 16
Author Carol Adrienne talks about her latest book, "When Life Changes, Or You Wish It Would" at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Avenue. She will discuss encountering life changes. Info: 526-7512

Tuesday, September 16
The League of Women Voters general membership meeting at 7:30 P.M. at El Cerrito Royale, 6510 Gladys Ave. Attorney Catherine Daly on the "racial privacy" initiative. Info: 524-6071

Thursday, September 18
The Kensington Senior Activity Center meets 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Amy Aldrich on pain management. German Conversation Group. Lunch at 12:15 p.m. \$3. Info: 526-9146

Sunday, September 21
Personal Theology Seminar: Huston Smith and Phillip Novak co-authors of "Buddhism: A Concise Introduction" present "Buddhism Comes

to America" at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road. Info: 525-0302

Monday, September 22
Information Literacy: free series at the Kensington Library continues 6:55 p.m. To 7:30 p.m. to reserve a seat or for info: 524-3043

Wednesday, September 24
The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club meets at the Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd in El Cerrito at noon. Lunch (\$12) begins at 12:30 p.m. Reservations call Kay Weeks 524-5689 by Sept. 20.

Thursday, September 25
The Kensington Senior Activity Center meets 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Exercise: Movement for Seniors. German Conversation Group. Lunch at 12:15 p.m. \$3. Info: 526-9146

Thursday, September 25
Fire Up For Scouting: Learn about the Boy Scout program in Kensington at the Kensington Fire House 7 p.m. Info: 527-4595.

Sunday, September 28
Personal Theology Seminar: Alan Dundes, UC professor of anthropology and author of books on folklore speaks on "Humor in Religion" at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road. Info: 525-0302



Alan Dundes

Monday, September 29
Information Literacy: free series at the Kensington Library continues 6:55 p.m. To 7:30 p.m. to reserve a seat or for info: 524-3043

Tuesday, September 30
Kensington Municipal Advisory Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call 526-5546 to confirm.

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Obituaries

Evelyn Finkle, long-time therapist dies at 80

Evelyn Sophia Finkle, an active psychotherapist in the Berkeley community since 1957, died July 20 of a stroke. She was 80.

Born in Chicago, Finkle was the daughter of poor, immigrant parents. She received musical training at Jane Adam's Hull House where she performed with the Chicago Symphony at the age of 16. She switched her interest to a more academic path and put herself through night school while working during the day.

She received a B.S. from YMCA (Roosevelt) University in Chicago in 1944 and an M.S. in social work at the University of California at Berkeley in 1953.

Her professional career blossomed during the next 50 years, which included being founding the Little Village Nursery School in Los Angeles in 1954, working in child development in Salt Lake City, Utah from 1955 to 1957 and working as a practical social worker therapist from 1957 until her death.

Finkle co-founded the Berkeley Psychotherapy Institute and served as its president. She also served as a faculty consultant at the Pacific School of Religion and at the University of California in the clinical psychology department during the 1960s.

Her interests extended well beyond her profession. During the past ten years she sat on the board of Composers Inc., a non-profit arts organization that advocates for living composers. She also held the title of president of the organization.

She is survived by her husband Bernard Finkle and her children Wayne Finkle and Claudia Finkle.



Evelyn Finkle

Elise Wong Gee, career educator, dies at age 70

Elise Wong Gee, a career educator who worked as a teacher, researcher and administrator, died July 22. She was 70.

Born in Illinois in 1933, she was a resident of Kensington and Berkeley for 45 years.

Gee dedicated her 37-year career to the development of education for young children. Over the years, she worked for the Berkeley Unified School District, Sonoma Cal. State University, Pepperdine University, Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development, San Francisco State University, and California Association for the Education of Young Children.

She also served as president of the California Parent Participation Nursery Schools and the Children's Community Center and as a board member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Most recently, she was the principal of the Oakland International School and of the American International School in Hong Kong.

She is survived by her husband, Raymond; her son and daughter-in-law, David and Amy Gee of Torrance; her daughter and son-in-law, Carolann and David Hinkle of Oakland; her four grandchildren, Dylan, Austin, Devyn and Kasha; her brothers, Wilbur Wong and William Wong of Chicago, and John Wong of Milwaukee; and her sisters, Lora Smith of Rockford, Ill., and Rose Chong of San Francisco.

A memorial service celebrating Elsie's life will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2003, at 2 p.m. at Thousand Oaks Baptist Church, 1821 Catalina Avenue (at Colusa), Berkeley. Private inurnment will be held at Sunset Mausoleum in Berkeley.

Donations in her memory can be made to the American Heart Association, 11200 Golf Links Road, Oakland, CA 94605, (800) 242-8721 or www.americanheart.org.

Marianne Loring, former Kensington Improvement Club president, dies at 78

Marianne Loring, an active member of Kensington organizations who chronicled her experiences as a refugee from Hitler's Germany, died June 15. She was 78.

Born in Berlin, Germany, Loring and her family fled to Prague, Czechoslovakia at the start of World War II. When Germany invaded Czechoslovakia, the family moved to Paris, and again, when Germany invaded France, the family escaped to the Southern region of the country.

Loring chronicled her experiences during World War II in a diary she kept as a 16-year-old. In 1996 her memoir based on it was published in German as "Flucht Aus Frankreich 1940" ("Escape From France 1940").

Her family eventually came to America from Lisbon, Portugal. She moved to Kensington in 1959.

Loring served on the board of the Kensington Improvement Club and as its president for several years. She also served on the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council for more than ten years.

She is survived by her husband, Helmut Loring of Sonoma and her son, Roger Loring; daughter-in-law Deborah and grandson Matthew of Ithaca, New York. At her request, no service was held.



Loring's 1996 book

The Kensington Improvement Club is accepting donations toward a memorial for Loring to be placed in the Kensington Park area. Checks may be made out to Kensington Improvement Club Treasurer, Anthony Knight, and mailed to him at 234 Willamette Ave., Kensington, CA 94708.

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From the case files of the KPD

Editor's note: There were at least 26 reported thefts from vehicles in June and six in July. Many of these vehicles were unlocked. Be sure to lock your car and do not leave valuables in plain sight.

JUNE

○A merchant on Arlington Ave. reported receiving a counterfeit \$5 bill.

○Kensington Police assisted El Cerrito police responding to a fight involving 50 juveniles at the El Cerrito Del Norte BART.

○Police came to the aid of a young child locked in the bathroom of his Yale home. The father of the child knocked off the handle in an effort to free the child and police removed the rest of the mechanism. Yale locks are tough.

○Police woke a man sleeping in a vehicle on Norwood Ave. The man, a Kensington resident, explained he had been drinking and he and his wife agreed not be around their children when inebriated.

○A Berkeley Park Blvd. resident found the door to her home open and her dog outside. She discovered a blanket bag with tablecloths valued at \$100 missing.

○An Amherst resident reported two credit card companies contacted her about \$14,000 and \$19,000 balances for charges she said she did not make.

○An Arlington Ave. employer reported a fired employee had several of his tools. Police contacted the employee, who returned them. The employer later complained to police the tools were damaged. Police suggested he avail himself of the judicial system.

○A Kensington resident received a letter identifying itself as coming from El Gordo Spanish Sweepstakes Lottery in Madrid that informed him he won \$815,810 and needed to send money to collect his winnings. The prize remains unclaimed.

○An Amherst Ave. resident reported four men with a white truck knocked on his door offering to repair his roof. While the resident spoke to three of the men outside, the fourth tried to gain entry to the house.

JULY

○A Coventry Road resident got a call from his credit card company asking if he had trouble using his card in an ATM. He discovered his card was missing and so was \$200 from his account.

○A Highland Blvd. resident reported the theft of his '95 Chevy Tahoe valued at \$8,000. The vehicle was recovered by Pinole police.

○An Arlington Ave. resident reported the theft of a \$1,300 pair of skis from a construction trailer. The thief left behind thousands of dollars in other property.

○A Coventry Rd. resident got a call from Sears to confirm the delivery of a washing machine and vacuum charged to his credit card. The delivery was to made to an address in Richmond, but the resident made no such purchase.

○Police noticed a man with his legs sticking out from a car door at 4 a.m. on Anson Way. The man was arrested, along with his girlfriend, who was in a stolen car parked behind him. The couple had shaved keys and lock picks.

○A house-sitter on Lawson Rd. reported the theft of a '92 Subaru Legacy. The car was taken for a joyride by the adult son of the owners. The owners told the house-sitter he was not allowed to use the car.

○A resident turned in a container with an unidentified liquid in it. Her son found the container at Harding School a few days before she gave it to police.

○A Colusa Ave. resident got a call from a Safeway Store in San Francisco to verify that a woman trying to write a check was an authorized user on his account. She wasn't. The resident discovered other checks he did not write already cleared his account.

○An Arlington Ave. resident reported a call from a credit card company asking if she was enjoying her new card. Apparently someone else was. She requested no card and discovered \$233 purchase were made in her name.

○An Ocean View resident reported two juveniles knocked on her door to ask if she wanted them to wash her car. When she said, "No," one of them asked to use the bathroom while the other talked to her. She discovered credit cards and social security information stolen.

○A man on Arlington Ave. asked a resident where he could purchase a stamp to mail a letter. He was directed to the drug store, but he handed the resident \$1 and the envelope and asked the resident to mail it for him. It was addressed to Senator Diane Feinstein. Police examined the envelope, which contained only a business card. It was forwarded to the Department of Justice.

Concert: Gioia weighs noise ordinance

Continued from page 1

get the county to stop the events. "It's the scope and choice of a venue for these large events that Scher chooses to hold that is really a problem. The county has made the decision that this is a zoning violation." The county sent out a code enforcement officer and an acoustic engineer during the benefit concert July 13 to measure the sound impact in the surrounding neighborhood. A report is being written and the Building Department will determine what action if any to take. The report is expected by early September. In the meantime, supervisor John Gioia is

looking at the feasibility of a noise ordinance at the behest of neighborhood groups. "We are investigating the issue of a noise ordinance that wouldn't prevent someone from holding an event, but provide some objective sound standards," said Gioia. "We are looking if there is a need in other parts of the county to do that." Scher said if the county moves ahead with a noise ordinance it needs to apply it to everyone equally. "I think it may create a problem for anyone in the county wanting to use their house for a charitable fundraising event," he said.

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