

Bringing The Community Together

K E N S I N G T O N

OUTLOOK

SEPTEMBER 2010

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 67 NUMBER 7



Friends and Neighbors at Keiko Yamanaka and Gerry Berreman's National Night Out party on Willamette Avenue

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 3rd boasted the 27th Annual *National Night Out* program. NNO is an effort to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts. Last year there were 13 parties in Kensington. This year there were 17! NNO coordinator, Officer Doug Wilson, who has in the past been responsible for soliciting block party hosts, said that this year residents were calling *him* to volunteer to host NNO events at their homes.

Parties spanned the district, from Oak View Avenue

and Grizzly Peak Blvd. to Lake Drive and Highland Blvd. Officers gave a short presentation at each party, and the Fire Department showed up to greet the children and talk about CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). The great spirit of Kensington was at its best! You can find more information about *National Night Out* at www.nationalnightout.org. If you'd like to host a party next year, contact Officer Wilson at dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org.

Neighborhood Watch

While the *Kensington Improvement Club* and friends (see *Neighborhood Notes*) were busy with neighborhood *thatch*, Officer Doug Wilson was keeping busy with *Neighborhood Watch*. Doug is the *Neighborhood Watch* Coordinator at the Kensington Police Department, and every other week he sends out an e-mail in regard to Neighborhood Watch, crime updates, BOLO (*Be On The Lookout*) events, and Kensington Police Department-related (non-confidential) information. The purpose of this "Update" is to create a direct e-mail link between the community and the police department, and to share information regarding crime, safety information, Neighborhood Watch, and police work.

Officer Wilson said, "Many crimes are solved when residents keep an eye out and report suspicious activity to the police. Please don't hesitate to call, because an e-mail may be too late. That is part of why we are here for you. Let us check it out at the time you observe it. Dial 911 for an emergency or call the police non-emergency number, 236-0474. Either way, a Kensington police officer will come and check out your concern. We are here to respond to your calls and concerns; we often solve crimes

see Watch, page 9...

I N S I D E

- Community Center Remodel
- KPPCSD Board Candidates

Coming October 17th:
Annual KCC Fall Festival & Parade

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Select Listings

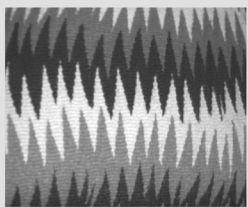
7100 Westmoorland Drive Berkeley
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Please come see our exhibit of weavings by members of the Golden Gate Weavers' Guild. The exhibit will be available for viewing Mondays through Fridays from 9am-5pm, and Saturdays and Sundays 10am-1pm. Reception September 23rd, 5-7pm.

marvingardens.com



KPPCSD

Board of Directors Candidates

To Fill Seats Vacated by Bill Wright, Pat McLaughlin, and John Stein • Election Day: November 2, 2010



Mari Metcalf

I want to keep Kensington clean, safe, and quiet. I believe in an independent police department. I believe in fiscal responsibility. I will help our community balance its budget, and make sure that all the dollars paid under *Measure G* are used wisely, to prevent crime in our community. I will support the police department in establishing an email group for residents who wish to be notified promptly of crimes occurring in our community. Utilizing this system to publicize crime sprees that are happening while they are happening will be much more effective than simply adding them to the *Outlook* crime blotter at the end of the month. I am an attorney, and a mother of two. I will bring a creative thought process, a keen eye for detail, and a natural inclination for problem solving to the table.

Nicki Kaiser (cont'd) I've created digital mapping systems for CERT and *Neighborhood Watch*, aiding coordination. My existing close working relationships with fire and police personnel enable clear dialogue with both agencies. As Communications Officer of the *Kensington Public Safety Council*, a regular attendee of KPPCSD/K-Group meetings, KARO/ECHO volunteer, a block captain, and an elections clerk, I support the dedication of our public servants and the community that guides them in these fiscally challenging times. Help me strengthen our community. <http://kensingtonia.blogspot.com>



Paul Dorroh, Linda Lipscomb, and Tony Lloyd We are running for election to the District Board as a team, dedicated to maintaining Kensington's status as an independent community, providing high quality services to its residents.



Eyleen Nadolny

I've been your neighbor in Kensington for over 31 years. I consider myself extremely fortunate to live in this beautiful community. It's past time for me to give something back. I want to help preserve the special character of Kensington – safe streets and homes, neighbors communicating and cooperating with each other, our little jewel of a park and the comfort of having a local police department that is overseen by and responsive to the people of Kensington. I look forward to the challenge.

Earlier this year, we worked together to engage the voters in helping to decide whether Kensington's Police Department should be contracted out to El Cerrito or the County Sheriff's office. We spearheaded the petition drive, which resulted in an ordinance requiring voter approval in advance of any contracting out of Kensington Police services. *Measure G* passed, giving us the financial stability needed to continue to support our own Police and Services District. We will bring the same level of hands-on commitment to maintaining Kensington's unique character as an independent community with a high quality of life. Our philosophy is "Kensington First." This is not just a slogan, but also a pledge to act in Kensington's best interests. As Directors, we will ensure that District funds are allocated responsibly to community priorities.



Kim M. Zvik, 45

IT Project Manager, I take safety seriously! I worked with the county over 3 years to install one-way controls during school hours on Highland and Kenyon Avenue. I've researched escape routes for earthquakes with the Red Cross. I'm aware of the community issues facing us, such as sharing the 911 call center with our neighboring cities, living in a wildlife zone, earthquake, traffic, parking, and crime. With my IT skills, I believe I can continue to maintain our small community within the context of our changing information age, especially as it relates to emergency message broadcasting and elderly support. I'm a California native and have lived Kensington for 10 years. I have 4 children, and have served on the KPOA and the boards of *Step One School* and *Orinda Horsemen's Association*. Thank you for your vote. www.kim4kensington.com

We bring combined decades of business and professional experience. All of us have been residents for over 30 years. Linda is a successful realtor, attorney, and KIC Board President. Tony is a management consultant with experience in corporate business operations, and regulatory and public policy. He is a KCC Board Member. Paul is a business executive of a national insurance brokerage firm, an attorney, and KCC volunteer for many years.

We decided to run as a team because we have worked well together in the past and share common goals for Kensington's future and a commitment to work constructively with other Board members. We hope voters will support all three of us, but we are each committed to serve if elected.

We welcome input that will help to direct our priorities if elected as Directors.

Nicki Kaiser I'm making Kensington a stronger, safer community. As a graduate of *Community Emergency Response Team* training, I've championed civic engagement in Kensington.

KENSINGTON
OUTLOOK

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Advertising
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Display and classified advertising mail to: *Kensington Outlook* 18 Kingston Rd. Kensington, CA 94707. Other mail to: 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707.

October Advertising Deadline.....Sept 8
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KENSINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Fall registration will be held on Wednesday, September 8, starting at 6:45pm for kindergarten students and 7:15pm for students in grades 1-6. The first day of the fall session of KASEP is Monday, September 20. The fall brochure is posted at the www.aboutkensington.com website, under "Children's Services."

NEW CLASS: DRAMA EXPLORATION ADVANCED WORKSHOP

Instructor: Kelly Donahue-Marley
Location: Kensington Recreation Building Room A • Saturdays, Noon – 1:30pm, September 25 - December 11 (no class on Nov. 27) • Grades: 4-7 • Class Size 7-14 • Cost: \$185, plus \$10 materials fee paid to instructor at the first class

This is an advanced drama class and is designed for older and more experienced acting students. The class is wildly creative, encouraging all students to participate and contribute with their ideas and imagination. The class includes: advanced theatre exercises and improvisation; character development; skit work, both classic and original; theatre history, styles and terminology; pantomiming; costuming, props, and more!

NEW CLASS: DRAMA EXPLORATION For Grades 1-3

Instructor: Kelly Donahue-Marley
Location: Kensington Recreation Building Room A • Saturdays, 1:30-3pm, September 25 - December 11 (no class on Nov. 27) • Grades: 1st-3rd • Class Size 7-12 • Cost: \$185, plus \$10 materials fee paid to instructor at the first class

In this exciting, creative, and super fun class, students learn to be comfortable with their own expression and develop acting skills. Using a wide variety of activities, Kelly helps children explore many aspects of the Theatre World. The class includes theatre games, pantomime, improvisation, theatre terms, story plays, both teacher- and student-directed skits, costuming, face painting, movement, and more. Creativity and individual ideas are strongly encouraged! First come, first served!

- Call Kelly directly at 253-9653, or
- Call the KASEP office at 525-0292, or
- Come to KASEP registration, Wednesday, Sept. 8, starting at 7:15pm

ADULT CLASSES

NEW CLASS: CLASSICAL GUITAR
Thursday evenings, 7-8:30pm
October 21 – December 16 (No class on Thanksgiving, Nov. 25) • Ages: 16 - Adult • Kensington Recreation Building (Bldg. E), Room A. Cost: \$96 for an 8-class series (\$97 for nonresidents)

Do you wish to read and play music for the guitar? Learn to play a melody, understand rhythm and where notes are on the guitar. Bring your guitar, preferably with nylon strings, and join in. The class is designed for all levels with an emphasis on introducing the guitar to non-players. We will break into small groups so that



everyone is comfortable and has support at his/her own level. Text: Classic Guitar Technique, Volume One by Aaron Shearer (available from the instructor at a cost of \$18.50, or bring your own copy).

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

For questions about the class, please contact Claude at claudes@theGuitarInstructor.net. To register, please come by the KCC office in the park, or call (510) 525-0292.

NEW ADULT YOGA CLASS Forming at the Kensington Community Ctr/ Youth Hut • All Levels Welcome Thursday Mornings 9-10 a.m., 10 Week Session 9/9/10-11/18/10 Cost: \$100 • Mats provided Drop-ins welcome – \$12 per class

The class will incorporate a diversity of stretches, breathing exercises, meditations, and chants from the Kundalini and Iyengar Yoga traditions. The goal of the class is to provide inspiration and an understanding of yoga as the union with that which is divine within us. Subjects that will be explored include:

- How to recognize and move energy blocks along the spine
- Intuition
- Chakras: What are they and how can awareness of them assist us?
- The breath as conduit for spirit in our lives
- Flexibility and the Spine – How does a flexible spine contribute to a flexible mind?

Catherine 'Cricket' Johnson is a certified Kundalini Yoga instructor, who has been practicing yoga for the past twenty years and has taught nearly as long. She will draw on her diverse experience as such, as well as her eclectic life experience as a dancer, singer, musician and body worker in conducting classes. Many breathing exercises, meditations, and chants from the Kundalini tradition will be explored.

Cricket is skilled at reading energy in groups and will be sensitive to the needs of the class in leading one that is physically challenging and yet not overwhelming. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves, but also to listen deeply to their bodies to know what is best for them. Kundalini Yoga is a unique and engaging practice. Much of the practice is done with eyes closed, and an emphasis is placed on internal experience rather than external form. Practitioners will be engaged and present.

Please feel free to contact Cricket with questions, at csings2faye@yahoo.com, or 367-7977. Register with the KCC office in the park, or call us at 525-0292.

ADULT CLASSES

USER-FRIENDLY PILATES Level 1 Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt With Ernie Adams

Wednesdays, Sept. 15-Oct.27, 7:30-8:30pm, 7-class series • Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington (next to KCC Office, near soccer field) • \$87* residents/\$88 non-residents. \$15 drop-in (1st class only)

User-Friendly Pilates engages your deepest core abdominal, lumbar, and pelvic floor muscles. Developing core strength gives you greater power and control of movement, and helps protect your body from injury.

LEVEL 1 is about learning how to stretch and strengthen in a way that reduces the chance of injury. It is a mixed-level class, appropriate for those with experience, and also for those who are just beginning.

Ernie is a Pilates Instructor and Feldenkrais® Movement Educator, with an extensive background as a professional dancer. He also has over 16-years experience collaborating with physical therapists to treat orthopedic, neurological, dance and sports related injuries. He presents a safer and less stressful way to learn Pilates. Private sessions also available. 619-9223, www.bodyinaction.com, or adams@bodyinaction.com

PRE-REGISTRATION STRONGLY ENCOURAGED: 510-525-0292 (Community Center). Drop by KCC Office to register, or send checks payable to KCC.

You can also come to the first class to pay; yet space is limited. Sign-up early to guarantee yourself a space. Send checks to the following address:

KCC (M-F 10am-4pm/510-525-0292)
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington CA 94707
Info (Ernie): www.bodyinaction.com, adams@bodyinaction.com, or 619-9223

*A discount is available if you also take Monday, Level 2/Intermediate class (held at a different location in Kensington), Sept. 13-Oct. 25, 7:30-8:30pm, seven sessions (requires a separate registration and separate check). You must call Ernie (510-619-9223) to qualify for this discount.

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

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



Ernie Adams and students – Getting stronger without getting hurt.

REGISTRATION

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

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

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

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

Mark Your Calendar!

KCC Fall Parade and Picnic: Noon, Sunday, October 17th.
Please let us know if your organization would like to march in the parade.
Call the KCC office at 525-0292.

Coming in November: Positive Parenting How to Discipline Your Kids and Bring Out the Best in Them

This fun, practical, effective workshop helps parents learn the highly successful principles of *Positive Discipline* developed by author Jane Nelson, Ed.D.

Marilyn Kentz, parent educator, comedienne/actor (*The Mommies*), author, and mother of four, has been teaching the principles of Positive Discipline for eight years. Marilyn will help you learn techniques to better support your children in developing self-discipline, problem solving capabilities, and a healthy self-esteem. Details to follow in the November *Outlook*!

KASEP Afternoon Office Coordinator Opening

Do you like working with children? Do you have good office skills (MS Word, Excel, QuickBooks)? KCC is hiring an afternoon office coordinator to work during the school year. Please contact Esther at 525-0292 or kccrec@yahoo.com.

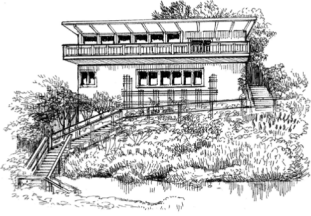
Thank you KCC Donors!

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Featured Properties



60 Highgate Rd. Kensington
Beautiful renovation of a classic contemporary.
Views of the Bay.
4+BR/3.5BA
New price: \$997,000



1079 Sterling Ave. Berkeley
Flawless Bay views from this Mid-Century.
Beamed ceilings and walls of glass.
3BR/2BA
Offered at \$849,000



832 Oxford St. Berkeley
Very special John Hudson Thomas home circa 1925. Beautifully updated. Premier location and views.
4BR/2 BA
Offered at \$1,265,000



20 Eaglehill Kensington
First time on market, Classic California ranch, features unobstructed panoramic views. Purchase includes separate adjacent lot.
4+BR/2BA
Price upon request.

28 Norwood Ave. Kensington

Exciting Mid-Century post and beam modern design. Sited for privacy and enjoyment of panoramic views. Beautiful garden.
3+BR/ 3BA
Price upon request

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– K.H., parent, class of '09



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510-236-5800



MIDDLE SCHOOL (5-8)
510-528-5800

Please call the school for more information.

WWW.PROSPECTSIERRA.ORG ~ EL CERRITO, CA

Neighborhood Notes

KIC and Friends Spruce up Kensington Paths

At the Kensington Improvement Club's initiation, local friends and neighbors had fun together one Saturday morning last month sprucing up the Ardmore Path. Pictured at right are KIC's Linda Lipscomb, Lorraine Osmundson, Melissa Holmes Snyder, and Jaima Robertson; Anthony Carlson (Boy Scout Troop 100), Tim Snyder, John Wind, Gretchen Gillfillan, Shiva Niazi, Caroline Blanckenberg, Emily Blanckenberg, Dore Brown, Paul Grunland, Anna Frankfurt, Geeta Bhatt, Bryce Nesbitt, Fred Wehking, Caroline Day, Ann Harlow, Kris Hafne – and two young friends. Call KIC at 527-3062 to join in on sprucing up other Kensington paths. Thanks, neighbors!



Danny Scher Wins!

As a result of a federal lawsuit filed by Danny Scher against Contra Costa County, the County agreed to amend the 2005-enacted Temporary Events Ordinance. Some of the amendments include reducing the number of people who must be notified of an event, specifying whom the event benefits, and whether a permit even has to be filed, based on the size of the property and the number of people attending a fundraising event. The agreement also effectively exempts Danny from having to obtain a Temporary Event Permit for fundraising at his home.

The agreement was made in mediation with Contra Costa County and Danny Scher, who brought suit against the County based on his loss of freedom of speech due to the 2005 Temporary Events Ordinance. While not admitting guilt, the County awarded Scher \$25,000 in fees. Scher says this brings to \$53,000 the amount he's been awarded in fees and damages by the County for infringing on his freedom of speech for political and non-profit fundraisers held at his Kensington home amphitheatre, Coventry Grove.



Danny Scher's Coventry Grove

Danny's lawsuit claimed that the Temporary Events Ordinance, which the county enacted as a result of his occasional fundraising activities, was merely a legal way to prevent him from hosting fundraisers for organizations he supported, while not applying the same standards to others in the County. As part of the mediation, Scher says he also agreed to every condition that he originally proposed prior to the enactment of the Temporary Events Ordinance, thus hopefully bringing to an end a long dispute between Scher and the County over the use of Coventry Grove for fundraising events. Coventry Grove is available at no cost to worthwhile non-profit organizations. Email Danny@Dansun.com.

Bus 7 to BART Now Runs 6am-10pm

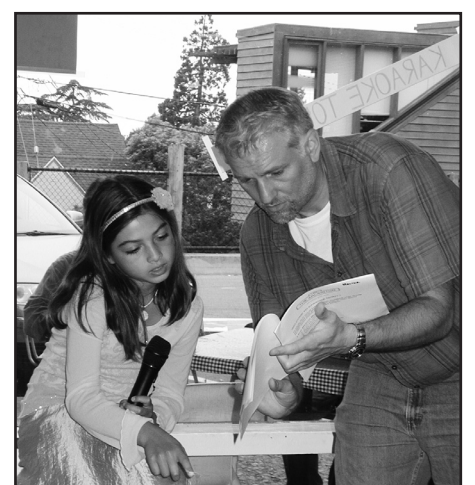
Based on community input, additional evening trips on the #7 line were added when the scheduled was recently adjusted. To help preserve the service long term, Kensington resident Bryce Nesbitt invites you to consider if you or someone you know could utilize this service...AC Transit Bus #7 now runs from downtown Berkeley BART, along Shattuck and through the tunnel to Solano, then up the Arlington, and on to El Cerrito Del Norte BART. Hours are 6am-10pm on weekdays and 8am-7pm on weekends. Complete trips may be planned at transit.511.org, and optional fare cards (which also work on BART) purchased at Clippercard.com. Commute hour riders may also flag any passing Transbay H bus, and ask the driver to honor the local fare. For weekday San Francisco bound riders, the H is the fastest and most scenic choice (often beating solo driving in travel time, because of the carpool lanes). But the old #7 will get you home if you tarry too late in the City. (And thanks Bryce, for keeping us all in the loop!) I



Busman's Holiday – AC Transit, Circa 1947



Adam Miller, author of A Ticket to Exile: a Memoir, read last month at the Kensington Library



Chanteuse, Sylvia Ortiz, previews her lyrics with M.C., Doug Wilson at The Arlington's Karaoke Night

Neighborhood Notes

Kathryn Roszak's Children's Dance Starts

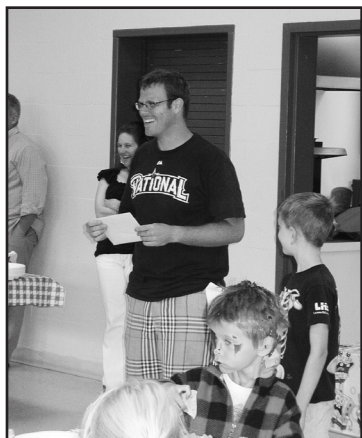
Kathryn Roszak's Children's Dance starts this month. This popular program provides children with quality dance training and performances, sponsored by Kensington Library and Hilltop School. There are classes in Creative Movement and Ballet (ages 3-10+) in Berkeley and workshops at the Kensington Library. Children participate in an annual holiday *Nutcracker* in December. Info at 233-5550 or dlkdance.com



Kathryn Roszak's Children's Dance Program starts September 1

Get Ready for the Kensington Hilltop Garden Party

Shine your shoes, press your collar, and fatten up your wallet! The *Kensington Hilltop Garden Party* will be here before you know it. This year's party is on Saturday, November 13th. (Circle that date!) Organizers assure us there are lots of exciting changes that will make this year's party the best ever – and, judging from last year's event, that's really saying something. (Join the revelry in November to find out what!) Enjoy the new venue (Mira Vista Country Club), added online bidding and catalog, streamlined check-out process, and the fabulous auction items and raffle prizes for which this annual event is famous. (We're still kicking ourselves for not snapping up that magnificent *Miro* offered at last year's auction!) Keep your eyes peeled for all of the exciting details, coming soon! To donate, please contact Beth Thomsen at Beth.Thomsen@gmail.com.



Camp Director Decamps

Josh Meurer, Camp Director for the past two years, and counselor for the three years before that, finished his time with KCC at the end of the summer. Josh has been a fantastic part of the KCC family, and you could see what he's meant to the camp – and the kids – in the way they crowded around him at his going away party last month. *Happy trails, Josh! You will be missed.*

Chevron Fundraiser for Hilltop Elementary

Jason at the Kensington Service Station wants to let everyone know that during the month of September, Chevron Corp. will donate \$1 to *Hilltop Elementary School* for every 8+ gallon fill-up at the Arlington Avenue station. So drop in, get some gas, grab a soda in the snack shop, and help out our local elementary school, why dontcha?

New RabbitEARS – Saving Bats, Bees, Birds, Bugs, and Bunnies!

The new RabbitEARS, located just east of *FatApples*, will concentrate on small animal rescues (rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and mice, hamsters, birds, a few cats and dogs), as previously, and, as a certified green business dedicated to sustainability and stewardship, owner, Judy Hardin's new store will offer a wider variety of organic, natural foods, treats and toys for pets and people that supports a greener lifestyle and sustains the earth at the same time. Judy says she tries to make every purchase count for 5 good things, such as: protect an animal habitat, nourish a family farmer, sustain a family business, protect the environment, and nourish a dog, cat, bunny or guardian (they sell organic chocolate and coffee too!). The current Colusa Circle location will be closed to the public in mid-September, but will remain a *Bunny Bed and Breakfast*, a boarding business that Judy has tended over the last 6 years. More information at www.RabbitEARS.org or 356-4233



Judy Hardin (center) with landlady, Marjorie ("Bunny") Steven and friends, at the opening of RabbitEars' new store at 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC.

New Foundation Provides Aid to Needy Bay Area Newborns

Disturbed by the overabundance of gifts for some newborns while so many others in the Bay Area lack even basics, a local couple recently established a non-profit foundation to distribute new baby clothing and basics to Bay Area newborns and new mothers of limited means. *Onesie Twosie*, founded by Kensington residents Laurie and Stuart Marson, buys new items requested by local non-profits that serve new babies and their mothers. "Our mission is to connect generosity with need in the shared spirit of welcoming every baby home," explains Laurie. "When someone receives a shower invitation or birth announcement, it's our hope that it's an opportunity to help less fortunate babies by making a donation to *Onesie Twosie*." Visit OnesieTwosie.org for a list of participating organizations, or to make a donation. *Keep up the good work, Laurie and Stuart!*



Choreographer, Michael Mansfield directs the cast in the Child World Peace Performance last month at the Arlington Community Church.



Bob Stenberg, Joan Bieder, Helen Rendon, and Linda Spath shmoozed and shnacked at Irene Wells' National Night Out gathering on Purdue Avenue

• Experience Matters •



- Alexandra Crisafulli
- Vivian Fendel
- Linda Gerson
- Jennifer Jonak
- Estelle Kent
- Linda Lipscomb
- Stuart Marson
- Lorraine Osmundson
- Gene Millstein

264 Arlington Avenue • Kensington, CA 94707
www.MillsteinAssociates.com
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OPEN HOUSE

for 8th graders and their parents

Sunday, October 24

– OR –

Sunday, December 5

1:00–3:30 pm

Program begins promptly at 1:00.



branson

39 Fernhill Avenue
 Ross, California 94957

For questions, please call
 The Admission Office
 415-454-3636

For directions to the campus,
 please visit www.branson.org

Thanks to Linda Schneider for this classic communique from the gov'mint:

Uncle Sam Expects You To Keep Hens and Raise Chickens



Two Hens in the Back Yard for Each Person in the House Will Keep a Family In Fresh Eggs

EVEN the smallest back yard has room for a flock large enough to supply the house with eggs. The cost of maintaining such a flock is small. Table and kitchen waste provide much of the feed for the hens. They require little attention—only a few minutes a day.

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Every back yard in the United States should contribute its share to a bumper crop of poultry and eggs in 1918.

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 Washington, D. C.**

This Space Donated by the Publisher

Community Ctr Remodel / Raising the Rent

Kensington residents should be hopping mad about the way KPPCSD is putting the squeeze on KCC.

As I see it, someone at KPPCSD, noting how efficiently KCC raised and conserved funds for the Youth Hut renovation, had the brainstorm to make a money grab on behalf of the chronically budget-challenged KPPCSD. By raising KCC's rent an outrageous several hundred percent, KPPCSD could improve its own balance sheet for a couple of years; never mind that this bold and cynical tactic would bleed dry KCC in no time.

Meanwhile, the Youth Hut renovations cannot proceed. This is a crying shame, given the Youth Hut's unrealized potential to the community.

In my twelve years as a Kensington resident I have spent many hours in the Youth Hut. What we have here is an ugly cinder block building with fluorescent lights and metal folding chairs. And in spite of a generous cleaning bill paid to a longtime vendor by the KPPCSD, the Youth Hut is always filthy.

What we could have instead is the lovely gathering place depicted in drawings I saw on display at the Library. A renovated Community Center would attract a far wider pool of renters than today's grungy Youth Hut. Local businesses that cater parties would benefit (as would all merchants on Arlington Ave., with more potential customers passing through town). Ironically, the biggest winner of all would be KPPCSD itself,

In response to the open letter from the KCC in the July/August issue of the Outlook, the editor, KCC Board President Bruce Morrow, and KPPCSD Board President, Chuck Toombs received many letters regarding the postponement of the Community Center remodel and the proposed rent increase to KCC. Here is a sampling of those letters, and one of the letters Chuck Toombs sent in response. — Ed.

collecting increased rent money on this attractive facility, in perpetuity.

So do the right thing, KPPCSD: let KCC continue to pay an affordable rent and to use the money they raised to renovate your property. This will best serve your own long-term interests, along with those of the community you exist to serve.

Sylvia Elsbury

Dear Mr. Toombs,

Please reconsider the KPPCSD decision to raise KCC's rent by 430%.

The calculation of "market rate" for the property is extremely flawed. Who would rent this facility if KCC were to vacate? The answer can be found at the other abandoned property at the Kensington Park.

Generous Kensington families donate to KCC with the expectation that their money will be used for community education.

This looks like a money grab to fund the police budget.

Please do not kill this jewel of the Kensington community.

Sincerely,
Michael Bahn
Saint Albans Road

Dear Mr. Toombs,

As the working parent of two young children, I extensively utilize KASEP and the KCC summer camp programs. I am extremely dismayed by the plan to charge KCC "market rate" for rental of community facilities. KASEP programs serve 40-45% of the student population at Kensington Hilltop School, some 220-248 children and the KCC summer camps host at least 200 children.

I was raised in Kensington and chose to move back here because of the community. Many of us have made the choice to raise our families here because of our wonderful "small town" feel and the excellent programs and facilities for our children. It is ridiculous to raise KCC's rent by over 430% (from \$12,000 to \$52,000 yearly) when KCC is a non-profit community service organization and a good steward of the facilities it uses. KCC, because of prudent spending, does have a surplus which it plans to entirely put back into the facilities it rents from KPPCSD.

I urge Kensington residents to contact Charles Toombs, President of KPPCSD to protest this rent increase.

Sincerely,
Marisa Gardella Hill,
Kensington Taxpayer

Chuck Toombs Replies

Dear Ms. Hill:

Thank you for your letter.

As you may know, KCC had volunteered to make renovations to the Youth Hut with the profits of over \$240,000 it had accumulated due to operation of its programs on behalf of our community.

The District greatly appreciated KCC's offer of assistance and consulted with District legal counsel who advised us that any construction by KCC triggered certain provisions of California's Public Contract Code. Among these requirements is that unless KCC paid a fair market rental to the District for rental of the property that KCC used for its programs, KCC would have to pay prevailing labor wages on any construction project it undertook. Unfortunately the obligation to pay prevailing wages would make the project unaffordable for KCC. It is this requirement that necessitated discussions between the KCC and the District over what constituted fair market rental, and nothing more.

Unfortunately after a series of discussions, KCC withdrew its offer to make the renovations, and as of now there are no future plans for such construction by either the KCC or the District. I do not know what KCC will do with its \$240,000 in profits earned from operation of its programs and summer camps over these many years.

Mr. Morrow and KCC have been aware of these requirements for some time now and I only wish that the community had been better informed of these requirements as well. Perhaps the *Outlook* will write a story about this to better inform the community on this very important issue. In any event, the District and the KCC have agreed to work together in an effort to sort out their relationship with each other and to reach a beneficial and fair resolution. I urge you to attend our District meetings and to watch how those discussions unfold.

Thank you for your interest.

Chuck Toombs,
District President

park that generated them, in a reasoned fashion that is fair to the Community that made such profits possible."

KCC Board President, Bruce Morrow said: "Once our current negotiations are resolved, the KCC Board will review the project and make a decision on how, and to what extent, to proceed."

Background

What is not spelled out in the agreement between KCC and KPPCSD (available for review at the Public Service Building, 214 Arlington Avenue), but, based on conversations with some KPPCSD and KCC Board members, is carried in the recollections of many of the parties privy to the original understanding between the two groups — which predates the agreement on file, is that KCC was created by the KPPCSD as an "arm" of the KPPCSD to carry out the education and recreation functions for which KPPCSD was, and is, ultimately responsible. As such, the concept of "fair market rent" is called into question, as an arm of KPPCSD is/would be essentially renting from itself. Some community members have wondered whether or not there would be any other company or organization that would even be interested in renting the facilities that

KCC now uses — especially in the current economy; and so wonder what then would a fair market rate be?

KPPC Board President, Chuck Toombs says, however, that "KPPCSD cannot provide parks and recreational activities because its insurance carrier will not insure it for such activities." It's his understanding that "KCC was formed specifically to provide such recreational activities which it, as a separate and distinct non-profit corporation could provide, and for which it could obtain its own insurance, quite separate and apart from the District." Chuck warns that, in the event of a future premises liability claim, KCC acting as an agent of KPPCSD could put the KPPCSD at a financial risk for which it is not insured.

Toombs added that, "One element of fair rental value is that the rent charged to a tenant come close to paying the actual costs of operation of the property the tenant is

renting." He maintains that "The District's costs to operate the park and adjoining area total between \$75-\$100K annually, yet KCC only pays \$12K rental to the District for usage of the Park for its recreational activities. KCC effectively controls the Park for 50 to 75% of the week, based on the season of operation, yet pays a very small contribution to the actual upkeep of the park properties. I do not know what the annual profit margin for KCC is but I do know that it has been able to accumulate \$250,000 over the last 10+ years to contribute to the renovations proposed for the Youth Hut; before that it accumulated over \$150,000 to renovate Building E in 1997. KCC does not pay anywhere near the actual cost incurred by the District for using this 8+ acre park and the District operates the park at a loss, which is effectively subsidized by the property taxpayers of Kensington." Toombs added that "(He) only hopes KCC decides to reinvest some of these large profits into the very

Excerpt of Current Agreement Between KPPCSD and KCC Recreation and Education Program Services and Facilities Maintenance Terms

To enable the residents of Kensington to benefit from recreational and educational activities, the Kensington Community Council and the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District entered into an agreement, endorsed by representatives of both parties on July 2, 2007, that called for, among other provisions:

- KPPCSD to maintain the Youth Hut and other Park and Recreation property, be entitled to set and retain all rental/use fees in connection with that property, and to provide property insurance on the improvements on such property.
- KCC to maintain a program of recreational and educational activities on the Park and Recreation property, and to retain all of the fees and income from its

recreation program.

- KCC to pay an annual fee of \$12,000 for use of the Community Center, tennis courts, and park grounds and facilities.
- KCC to pay \$1.00 per year for the use of Bldg. "E" for educational programs only.
- KCC to be responsible for all interior and exterior maintenance (excluding the roof), janitorial services, supplies, and utilities for Bldg. "E."

- KCC to maintain general liability insurance covering its activities occurring at the property.
- KCC to work with KPPCSD under its status as a 501 (c3) entity for the purposes of fund raising and grant application for facilities enhancements.

The agreement commenced on July 1, 2007, and continues thereafter for each 12-month period, unless either of the parties gives written notice of intent to terminate or alter the agreement at least 45 days prior to commencement of the next fiscal year.

Kensington Property Owners Association Seeks Board Members

The Kensington Property Owner's Association (KPOA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1972 to address needed community improvements. Almost 40 years old now, the broad mission of the organization is to disseminate information that affects Kensington property owners and to serve as the organizing structure for a number of community-related projects. Any Kensington property owner can be a member; the organization is overseen by a Board of Directors.

KPOA has taken lead responsibility on a number of projects in the community, and as issues and ideas come up in the future, we will continue to be proactive in addressing property owner interests. Some civic projects for which KPOA has had the lead responsibility include:

1. Initiating the 1991 bond for street reconstruction and road repair, and continued monitoring of road repair performed by the County;
2. Serving on the steering committee for developing the Zoning Ordinance modifications that required evaluation of view obstruction and other issues;
3. Funding the General Plan amendment for the zoning ordinance;
4. Providing technical assistance and funding for park facilities development;
5. Raising funds for park improvements,

Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC) operating needs, and other community related projects;

6. Providing public forums on issues in Kensington, including the LAFCO proceedings on consolidation of the Fire and Community Service Districts;
7. Civic engagement through the membership meetings and other forums.

KPOA is an important community organization that is sustained by individuals whose goal is to help maintain Kensington's high quality of life. There is no better way to become involved in a community than to actively volunteer for one of local "K" group organizations, such as KPOA.

KPOA is seeking to fill vacant seats on the board and, hopefully, to include representatives from all geographical areas of Kensington, as well as commercial property owners. The meeting schedule is limited to quarterly board meetings. Annual activities include developing the program for the spring members meeting, publication of the *Kensington Directory*, and other special projects.

We encourage you to talk to us about expanding your role with the organization. Please contact Gail Feldman, President, at 559-8232, or email KPOAssoc@gmail.com if you'd like to participate.

Submitted by KPOA's Gail Feldman.

KPPCSD Update

Last month, the 2011-2012 budget was approved by the Board, including a \$179 per parcel tax increase for *Measure G*. According to KPPCSD Police Chief and GM, Greg Harman, this will generate \$405,720.00 in additional revenue to be used to maintain the current level of police service. Chief Harman sends his thanks to the citizens of Kensington for their support...Incidentally, the Chief's contract has been renewed for two years at his current salary. Ever the optimist, Greg is quick to point out that he serves "at will," subject to termination at any time.

Specifications have been put together for the Kensington Park restroom and bidding documents are currently being prepared for second review by District counsel. Final Board approval is expected this month, after which the project will be put out to bid.

Kensington has received the solar speed radar sign that will be posted on the southbound lane of the Arlington Avenue in the area of 46 Arlington. The sign was purchased with funding from our 2008-09 COPS Grant. We are now waiting for the Contra Costa County Public Works Dept. to install the sign.

Traffic concerns in the areas of Arlington Court and Norwood Avenue will also be examined in a traffic survey requested by Chief Harman, and Oak Park/Colusa Circle traffic concerns will be addressed at a soon-to-be-scheduled meeting.

Street sweeping continues on the first Friday of every month, provided at no additional cost to the residents of Arlington, Coventry, Ardmore, Edgcroft, Lenox, Kingston, Stratford, Beverly, Berkeley Park, Ocean View, Oak View, and Colusa streets, by the Contra Costa County Public Works Dept. Residents are asked to help by moving their vehicles, garbage and recycling cans from the street, clearing large debris and obstructions from the gutters, trimming back

vegetation along the curb and sidewalk, and by not piling leaves or green waste in the roadway.

Bon voyage to District secretary, Stephanie Fries, who leaves for a full time job with the Alameda County Welfare Dept.

KPPCSD Board packets, monthly reports, and minutes and recording of the meetings are at www.KensingtonCalifornia.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ducking the Chicken Question

Dear Editor,

I read the two "anti-chicken" letters in the recent issue of Outlook with dismay. If noise is a criterion for what Kensington should allow within its borders, we would certainly have to ban dogs, not to mention children. As for the terror of bee swarms, any local beekeeper can quickly hive an errant swarm. Without bees, our gardens would be barren, and Mr. Baar's "Homo sapien-only Preserve" would quickly become a Homo sapien Graveyard.

Kensington is a wonderful community, one I chose with its diversity and large yards in mind. It's a perfect community for a small home flock of chickens, who in addition to clucking when they lay an egg, eat slugs, bugs, and garden insects. Home flocks directly counter massive industrial farming, which results in unhealthy food and a toxic environment. Do we have to banish all chickens to rural areas? Can't we learn to live with bees, chickens, vegetable and fruit gardens, and an integrated community that fosters life, not sterility? Neighbors should be able to manage interactions with each other, our hobbies, and our pets that include safety but foster a lively community. I hope we can allow bees, chickens, and even a duck or two.

Quack,
Meryl Rafferty

See Letters, Page 13...



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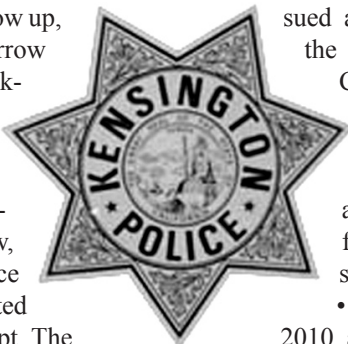
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It was my pleasure to represent the buyers of this light-filled, classic mid-century El Cerrito home which sold for over the asking price. If you have questions about this sale or would like information about your local market, please give me a call or email me.

From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From June/July 2010

- 10-2190- On 6/1/10 at 0833 hours, Officer Wilson and Tyler took a report of a petty theft where two political campaign signs had been stolen from a front yard. (Thankfully, an "I Like Ike" sign and a newspaper sporting the headline "Dewey Wins!" in the garage were left unmo- lested.)
- 10-2191- On 6/1/10 at 0945 hours, Officers Wilson and Tyler took a report of an auto burglary where a jacket was stolen.
- 10-2199- On 6/1/10 at 1032 hours, Officer Hui took a forgery report. On 6/20/10 after investigation and follow up, Officer Hui and Officer Barrow arrested the suspect in Oak- land. (Now the forgery is forajury.)
- 10-2252- On 6/2/10 at 2115 hours, Officers Steg- man, Hui, and Barrow, responded to a disturbance which was initially reported as a possible suicide attempt. The subject was angry at his bank over what he stated were excessive overdraft fees. The subject told the bank employee via phone that he was going shoot his child and himself if they did not reverse the fees. This potential threat to life elicited an emergency response from KPD officers. The subject was contacted at his house and detained at gunpoint by KPD officers. After interviewing the subject who made the threats, it was determined he did not own a gun and the threats he made were simply to exhibit his serious anger to the bank employee. It was determined he did not pose a danger to himself or others and was released at the scene. (Reports that the bank attempted to charge the officers for having overdrawn their guns remain unconfirmed.)
- 10-2222/10-2236- On 6/2/10, Officers Wilson and Hui each took one auto bur- glary report. Items stolen from the two vehicles included a car stereo speaker, a backpack, and 4 USB thumb drives. (The guy took one stereo speaker? What is he, deaf in one ear? That should narrow the suspects...let's see, there's the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson...Wilson was deaf- ened in one ear as the result of a beating by his father when he was young. Com- monly regarded as one of the geniuses of



rock music, he has never heard his songs in stereo.) But we digress...

- 10-2334/ 10-2235- On 6/6/10, Offi- cer Hui took two auto burglary reports. Items stolen from the vehicles included a laptop computer and a car stereo.
- 10-2399- On 6/8/10 at 1415 hours, Offi- cers Wilson and Tyler took a report of an identity theft. An unknown suspect tried unsuccessfully to open credit accounts in the victim's name. (Sadly, as the identity theft was unsuccessful, the suspect con- tinues to remain unknown.)
- 10-2376- On 6/8/10, Officer Stegman assisted El Cerrito PD officers who pur- sued a stolen vehicle right up to the Kensington border. The El Cerrito PD officers lost sight of the vehicle during the pursuit. Officer Stegman located the stolen vehicle abandoned, several blocks from where ECPD had lost sight of it.
- 10-2658- On 6-19- 2010, at approximately 1846 hours, Sgt. Hull took a report of disturbing the peace in the 100 block of Highland Boulevard. Complainants are willing to pursue civil remedies to resolve this issue if necessary. (Well, one would hope so!)
- 10-2612- On 6/20/10 at 1028 hours, Officer Stegman took a report of a resi- dential burglary. Entrance was gained forcefully by kicking in a side door of the residence. A flat screen television, two computers, and jewelry were taken.
- 10-2887- On 6/29/10 at 1826 hours, Officer Hui took a report of an identity theft.
- 10-3147- On 7/11/10 at 1903 hours, at Arlington Ave and Coventry Rd., Officer Hui arrested a subject for battery. The battery occurred as a result of a dispute between two friends. ("Kensington - where even friends come to blows!")
- 10-3172- On 7/13/10 at 1654 hours, on the 00 block of Avon Rd., Officer Hui responded to a report of a suspicious person who turned out to be canvassing the neighborhood for a political organi- zation. (That IS suspicious! Politics in Kensington? C'mon, now!)
- 10-3301- On 7/20/10 at 0906 hours, on the 200 block of Colusa Ave., Officer Stegman took a report of an automobile theft. The vehicle was taken during the course of the night. (What, they're giving courses in auto theft now? And a night class, to boot! Is there a lab with that?)
- 10-3506 - On 7-30-2010, Officer Marti- nez took a vehicle burglary report in the unit block of Arlington Avenue.
- 10-3507 - On 7-30-2010, Officer Marti- nez took a vehicle burglary report in the unit block of Ardmore Road.
- 10-3508 - On 7-30-2010, Officer Marti- nez took a vehicle burglary report in the unit block of Ardmore Road.
- 10-3509 - On 7-30-2010, Officer Marti- nez took a vehicle burglary report in the 1600 block of Ocean View Avenue.

Obituaries



Roberta Schlatter
May 22, 1914 - June 25, 2010

Roberta Mavis Schlatter passed away peacefully at her home on June 25, 2010 following a brief ill- ness. She and her husband of 69 years, Maurice, who survives her, have been Kensington residents for 57 years, where Roberta had been well known for her twenty years of service as a teacher at Ken- sington Elementary School.

Born May 22, 1914 to Ethel and George Atchley, Roberta was the eldest of five children. She moved with her family from Oklahoma to Arcadia, Cali- fornia as a child. She developed a love of learning at an early age, which continued throughout her lifetime. Following her dream to become a teacher, she graduated from Pasadena College and received her teaching credential from USC. Always a master of persuasion, she had secured the promise of a job from her elementary school principal years before. Upon graduation, she collected on that promise, and began her teaching career at El Monte Eleme- ntary School.

Roberta met Maurice, the love of her life, while car- oling at the First Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, where they later married on July 12, 1941. Their love and devotion to each other have been inspira- tions to their family, as well as many others through the years. They moved to El Cerrito in 1948 with daughters Janice and Susan, when Maury began work as a chemist with Chevron Research. They relocated to Kensington in 1953, where son Ron was born. Family was at the center of their life together, and Roberta was actively involved with all of her children's many activities, as well as with school, church, and community. She exuberantly took part in activities with the PTA and PTA Coun- cil, Mothersingers, and the Northminster Presby-

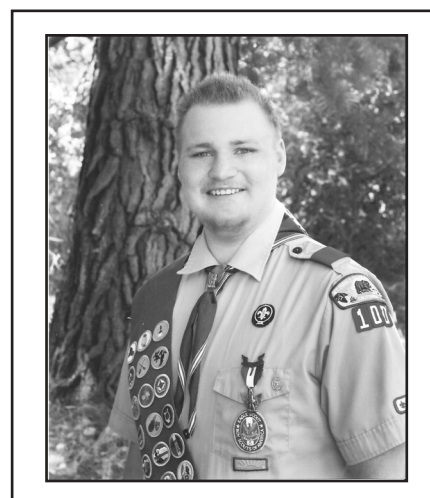
terian Church in El Cerrito, where she served as Sunday school teacher and superintendent, and was a member of the choir. She later enthusias- tically resumed her teaching career at Kensington Elementary School, where she enjoyed 20 won- derful years teaching 5th and 6th grades. She enjoyed many lifelong friendships with students, and always loved hearing how much history they had learned through the operettas and dramas pro- duced in her classroom.

After retirement, Roberta and Maury traveled extensively around the world, and frequently hosted international students and guests in their home. They cherished those memorable experi- ences and the people they met along the way, fully enjoying that time in their life.

Always a strong advocate for education, Roberta continued to support young students through her active contribution to groups like California Retired Teachers' Association, and the Ameri- can Association of University Women (AAUW). She was instrumental in the founding of the West Contra Costa Branch AAUW's Math-Science Fair which encourages girls' interest in these disci- plines. She also actively supported the science camp, TECH TREK, as well as scholarships for Contra Costa College, and study abroad programs provided through the Educational Foundation. She was an enthusiastic member of the Richmond- Shimada Commission, the Arlington Women's Club, and was on the Civic Music Association Board as well.

Family remained the center of her life, and she dearly loved times with her children, treasured grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Roberta is survived by Maurice and her children, Janice Snow, Susan Pucheu (John) and Ron Schlatter (Laura), "adopted" daughter Musarrat Khan, and honorary son Darryl Hess (Nora), as well as grandchildren David (Kim), Diana (Rick) Debo- rah (Shane), Jason (Jakki), Jeanette, Emma and Eli, and by great-grandchildren Kaylee, Mark, Jayden, Riana, Elizabeth, Margaux, and John. She is also survived by her sister, Jean Hedblom of Arcadia and predeceased by her sister, Ida Black, and brothers George Atchley and William Atch- ley.

Roberta lived her life to the fullest for 96 years. She never stopped learning, continually curious about the world around her. She never stopped teaching, sharing ideas freely. She never stopped loving, cherishing her true love, Maury, family and friends. Roberta loved people and loved nothing better than a party! She will be greatly missed by so many, and will remain in the hearts and lives of her family forever.



James Ernest Mangrum
May 1, 1988 - June 16, 2010

A resident of Pinole, CA, but deeply involved in Kensington for many of his short years, James attended Kensington Hilltop School, and contin- ued on to Portola Middle and El Cerrito High. Even as he began junior high, he felt strongly committed to Boy Scouts of America and began his trail to Eagle with Kensington Troop 100. As he continued through high school, he joined the Golden Gate Young Marines Program and began shaping himself for a career in the Marines, work- ing on his grades and physical fitness to put him- self in the running for Annapolis. Just at the height of his push to achieve that status, James was diag- nosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a rare and aggressive pediatric bone dis- ease. Although James had to discon- tinue his senior year at El Cerrito High due to very debilitating treat- ment, he had worked hard enough in prior years that he had ample grades and class credits to graduate with his class in 2006, falling just .1 grade point short of honors. He

also graduated from the Young Marine program in July 2006, despite his illness. During this time he continued working with Troop 100 and achieved Eagle Rank in December, 2006. Only two per- cent of those who enter the Boy Scout program achieves this rank, a task made much more daunt- ing by his raging battle with cancer. James tied these very important aspects of his life together by sending care packages to US Marines in Iraq for his Eagle Project.

God, country and family were of utmost impor- tance to James, he loved life, fought valiantly, and continued to live throughout his diagno- sis. He traveled extensively, spending time with family and friends to see as many new places as his health allowed, and developed a huge 'virtual' family via Xbox gaming when he was home. He took online courses at the college, and refocused his career to criminal justice, hoping someday to be able to work abroad. James had so much love to share with the world, he adopted two 'pound puppies' and one feral cat to keep him company at home.

James passed away from complications, sur- rounded by family and friends at UCSF Chil- dren's Hospital on June 16, 2010. Services were held at Chapel of the Chimes on June 25, where Chief of Police, Greg Harman posthumously awarded James 'Reserve Officer Badge 12,' stat- ing that James exhibited the qualities and person- ality becoming a KPD Reserve Officer, and that he would have liked for James to have had that opportunity.

James brought out the best traits in whomever he met, and will be sorely missed by his parents, Sandra Mangrum and James L. Mangrum, his older brother Joshua, his twin brother Jon and girlfriend Nastassia, his grandmothers Juanita White (of Kensington) and Roxanne Man- grum, and many aunts, uncles and cousins in California, Washington, and Alabama, and many friends.



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Obituaries



Louise K. Weamer
August 27th, 1917
to June 9, 2010

Louise K. Weamer, 92, was born in Toledo, Ohio on August 27, 1917 and passed away on June 9, 2010. Louise is survived by her husband Delmer Brown; her three sons, David Weamer, Howard Weamer, and Roger Weamer; and her two grandchildren, Carole Weamer Kincannon and Edward Weamer.

Lifelong resident of the East Bay, she graduated from Pomona College, and lived in Berkeley/ Kensington, for many years with her first husband, George Weamer. During their time in Kensing- ton, the Weamers were long-time members of the

Arlington Community Church. Louise moved to Rossmoor in 1978, and to Waterford, CA in 2002.

While at Rossmoor, Louise was very active in the United Methodist Church of Rossmoor, Trails Club, ballroom dance, Kiwanis, Camera Club, table tennis, bridge, and lawn bowling.

A world traveler, she always had a camera with her - and a sharp eye for the unusual. Through her slide shows she presented a unique view of her travels and the people and animals she met along the way. Louise will be missed by everyone that knew her - including her 100-year old second husband, Delmer, whom she married last winter; she was a very special person. Donations can be made to The United Meth- odist Church of Rossmoor.

Local Control – Our Only Stopgap For Lack of State Funding?

California's support for local public schools has reached rock bottom. While other states used the federal stimulus money to supplement programs, add staff and provide support for teachers, we, in California, have had to use those funds to maintain our already insufficient programs and services. 2010-11 is the last year for the federal funds, which we've used to replace state funding – and they aren't going to come back any time soon. So for 2011-12, we're facing the worst financial situation since the District went into state receivership in the early 1990's.

According to state statute, the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) should be receiving \$6,390 per pupil in base revenue for 2010-11. But state budget cuts to education have taken \$1,440 per pupil, leaving the district with only \$4,950 per pupil to educate our students – nearly the lowest in the nation. That 23% reduction in revenue means we've already had to cut \$39.2 million out of our budget. As a result of the cuts, we've lost many wonderful and talented teachers to retirement, who wanted to continue teaching. We've lost some of our best principals, too. All of our employees have taken pay and benefit cuts to help cover part of the deficit. We've had to increase class sizes, especially at our middle and high schools. Programs which served our students well have been dramatically reduced or eliminated. Services that have always been part of the core in our schools are just no longer available.

After making all of those difficult decisions this year, things will get much worse for 2011-12 without additional revenue.

We may lose some of the bright spots we've been able to hold on to. Four years ago, we added School Resource Officers – sworn police officers from the various cities and the county – and safety in our schools has been greatly improved. We've used the federal funds to keep some smaller classes. Despite the huge state cutbacks, we've been able to maintain a portion of our adult education program. Our high schools are now largely organized around career academies and a focus on going to college. Yet, without additional revenue all these programs and services are likely to be dramatically diminished or lost.

What's most clear is that we can't expect any help from the State Legislature that has missed the constitutional deadline for adopting a budget. Given the enormous deficit that the state faces, there's no possibility that the state will be able to restore any of the cuts to education.

What our Board has realized is that it's up to us, the citizens who live in the West Contra Costa School District, to provide a bridge between where we are and the end of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. What the Board is proposing is a parcel tax of 7.2 cents per square foot of building area for the next five years to get the district through this crisis and maintain our core programs and services. This measure, which provides an exemption for senior citizens and the disabled, will be on the November ballot and requires a 2/3 majority to pass.

This measure will provide local funding the state cannot take away, and preserve quality education by:

- Providing manageable class sizes to improve core academics like math, science, reading and writing,
- Restoring arts and music programs,
- Attracting and retaining quality teachers,
- Improving campus safety and cleanliness, and
- Preparing students for college and the workforce.

The spending of the funds generated by the measure will be monitored by an independent citizens group, the Community Budget Oversight Committee.

Additional information about the District's budget is available at www.wccusd.net/Budget%20Information/fiscal.aspx.

*Submitted by Dr. Bruce Harter, Superintendent West Contra Costa Unified School District
BHarter@wccusd.net*

"After making the call to report what you saw, drop me an email and tell me if possible. If I notice a connection in a series of crimes, and/or if I have good suspect info to share with the residents on the *Update* list, I will gather the info and send it to you ASAP. That is the #1 agenda of the *Kensington Neighborhood Watch Update*."

Additional information about police activity is available in the police department's monthly report, available at www.kensingtoncalifornia.org. To receive semi-monthly e-mail updates about suspicious activity around town, send an e-mail request to Doug at dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org, or sign up online at www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/police-department/neighborhood-watch.

Another Kensington Resident Publishes

Former Kensington resident, Steve Ongerth's book about labor, environmentalism, and recent local history, *The One Big Union: Judi Bari's Vision of Green-Worker Alliances in Redwood Country*, comes out this month. His book chronicles the early years of the struggles of environmentalists and timber workers, and how a divided community began to overlook its differences and fight against the real outside agitators: multinational corporations. Ongerth says the struggle is no less relevant today as multinational corporations continue to receive massive bailouts, working people struggle more and more just to make ends meet, and global warming threatens not only old growth forests, but civilization as we know it. For more information go to www.judibari.info.

... Watch from Page 1

when YOU call us and let us know what you saw or are observing.

"I can tell you that if you are in doubt but feel it is urgent, DIAL 911. I would rather you were safe and the on-duty Kensington Police Officer received your information in a timely manner, rather than later finding out that someone's car was broken into, or someone's house was vandalized, etc. (If you want an officer to be dispatched to investigate what you are seeing at the time you are observing it, DO NOT leave a message on the business line, 526-4141. That number is for business-related matters or messages for officers or other employees.)

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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 Mechanics Bank Kensington office the week of September 13 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, September 13 to October 15, at Mechanics Bank and receive **50¢ per ticket off** the regular Open House price.



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Town Meetings

at the
 Kensington Community Center
 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington
 (Except as Noted)

KCC - September 6th
Kensington Community Council
 7:30pm • 525-0292 • 1st Mondays

FKL - September 7th
Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm at the Library, 61 Arlington Avenue. 1st Tuesdays.

KFPD - September 8th
Fire Protection District
 2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395
 Sept. meeting at the Public Safety Bldg., 217 Arlington Blvd.

KPPCSD - September 9th
Police Protection and Community Services District
 2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

KARO/ECHO - September 13th
Amateur Radio Operators
 Provides assistance to community emergency response teams in the case of natural disasters. Actively soliciting new members interested in operating amateur radios as a community service. 2nd Mondays of odd months. 7:30pm. 524-9815

KPSC - September 13th
Kensington Public Safety Council
 EQ & Disaster Preparedness
 2nd Mondays 6:30pm. 501-8165

KIC - September 27th
Kensington Improvement Club
 4th Mondays 7:30pm. 527-3062

KMAC - September 28th
Municipal Advisory Council
 Last Tuesdays 7pm. 273-9926

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

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

Kensington Signboard Coordinator: To reserve signboard space for your event, call Jaima at 525-8902.

Sept. 1 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters meets at 1:15pm at 44 Beverly Road. Guests welcome. Call 524-6071 to confirm.

Sept. 2 Children's Book Club for kids in grades 1-3. No registration required. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 4pm. Free. 524-3043.

Sept. 3 Kensington First Friday Art Walk. Original art works, music, and crafts. With Nan Phelps Photography, White Magnolia Tai Chi Studio, Catherine Hiersoux Pottery Gallery, Post Meridian Restaurant, and RabbitEARS. 6-9pm Colusa Circle. 525-6155

Sept. 5 Personal Theology Seminar: Walter Truett Anderson, Ph.D., author and President Emeritus of the *World Academy of Art and Science*, on "Human Psychology and Global Climate Change." Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 10-11am. Free. 525-0302.

Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26 The Kensington Farmers Market 10am-2pm at Colusa Circle. kfmaboard@gmail.com

Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29 Adult Choir. All singers welcome. *Brahms' Requiem* - Special Project. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave., 7:30pm, 526-9146

Sept. 9 El Cerrito Garden Club meets, featuring speaker Charli Danielsen on "Gardening with Local Native Plants." El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, EC. 9:30am-Noon, Admission \$3. 233-9365

Sept. 11 Bunny Adoption Day. Meet Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes and more! 1-4pm, RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave, Kensington. 525-6155

Sept. 11 KFPD Provides a Community Shredding Truck in the community center/library parking lot, noon to 4pm. *SureShred Security* disposes of your confidential records. Free. Plus, free 24-hour emergency kits for residents.

Sept. 11 Preschool Storytime & Craft. No registration required. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 10:30am to Noon. Free. 524-3043

Sept. 12 Personal Theology Seminar: author, Sam Keen, on *Elemental Sacred Emotions*. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 10-11am. Free. 525-0302.

Sept. 12, 19, 26 Youth Bell Choir, by permission of the director, ages 8 and up. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave., 11:30am to noon. 526-9146

Sept. 13 - Oct. 25 User-Friendly Pilates (Level II/Intermediate), led by Ernie Adams. Seven classes, \$88 (or \$15 drop-in 1st class only.) Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 619-9223 or www.bodyinaction.com

Sept. 13 Scrabble Club. All levels welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 3 pm. Free. 524-3043

Sept. 13 "Castoffs" Knitting Group. All levels welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Sept. 14 Magician Donny Crandell, loves to inspire children to use their imaginations while reading. Magic tricks and live animals for ages 3 and up. Sponsored by the *Friends of the Kensington Library*. 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Sept. 15 - Oct. 20 Applied Unitarian Universalist Buddhism, led by Lynnette Delgado and Barbara Seabridge. 6 Wednesdays, 7-9pm. UUC of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. \$30 suggested. 525-0302.

Sept. 15, 22, 29 Youth Choir, ages 7 and up. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave. Free. 6:00-6:45pm. 526-9146

Live Music Fridays
 Brian Scott - Rock, Sept. 9/3
 Wolfe N LaRue - Folk/Rock, 9/10
 Vince Charming - Neo-Americana, 9/24
 Randy Rood - Guitar/Fiddle, 10/1
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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Sept. 15 - May 18, 2011 Study Group on Personal Myth and the Sacred, led by Richard Stromer. 3rd Wednesdays from 7-9pm. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Suggested fee: \$45. 525-0302.

Sept. 16, 23, & 30 Baby & Toddler Story Time. Stories, songs, & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions, 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

Sept. 18 Tri-City Safety Day. Safety information and demonstrations presented by the EC and Albany Fire Depts and the Kensington FPD, including special guest appearances by *McGruff the Crime Dog*, *Sparky the Fire Dog*, and *Smokey the Bear*. EC Plaza, 11am-3pm. Info: 215-4450

Sept. 19 Personal Theology Seminar: Huston Smith and Friends in Conversation. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 10-11am. Free. 525-0302.

Sept. 20 Author Ann Seymour will discuss her book *I've Always Loved You*, which describes a family at war during WWII. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Sept. 20 Adult Bell Choir, Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Avenue; 7:45PM. 526-9146

Sept. 21 Berkeley Garden Club. "A Celebration of Bats" by Maggie Hooper from the *CA Bat Conservation Fund*. 2pm at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berk. Info: berkeleygardenclub.org or 526-1083

Sept. 21 Spirit and the Arts Young People's Dance Theater Company. Dance and Theater Training with Values, 12 Tuesday nights, culminating in a mid-December performance. Grades 3-6 at 6:30pm; Grades 7-8 at 7:30. \$50. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington; More info: contact Michael at 673-5150.

Sept. 22 Kensington Republican Women's Club Lunch at the Mira vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., EC 12:30pm. \$25. Reservations at 524-5689. Subject: Ballot Measures.

Sept. 25 Guinea Pig Day at the Beehive Market. Meet adoptables and learn how to make your own Cubes & Coroplast Cage. Free piggy grooming. 11am-2pm, RabbitEARS at the Beehive Market, 1701 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 356-4233

Sept. 26 Mini Concert featuring David Cheng and a string quartet performing Bach. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave. \$10. 7:30pm. 526-9146

Sept. 26 Personal Theology Seminar: Co-Minister, Rev. Bill Hamilton-Holway, on "3-D Vision: Death, Darwin, and Deity." Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 10-11am. Free. 525-0302.

Sept. 27 Book Club. Discussion of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043

Sept. 28 The El Cerrito Democratic Club meets. *Meet Your Officials Before They're Official*, features presentations by local candidates and incumbents who will be running unopposed on November 2; followed by a work party to prepare materials for distribution on precinct walks. 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall, El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave., EC. Light refreshments will be available. Info at panterazero@gmail.com.

Sept. 30 Kensington Hilltop Elementary School PTA shows the documentary, Race to Nowhere at 7pm. Tix & info at 526-5670. www.racetonowhere.com

Free Beginning Internet Classes

Sept 4: Health & Medical Information
Sept 11: Useful Websites
Sept 18: Magazine & Newspaper Articles
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... Letters from Page 7

"The Long View"

Dear Editor:

The idea of chickens in Kensington provoked a lot of crowing in last month's Outlook, so let me toss in my own scratch.

When I was growing up in Kensington, there were several farms and two commercial stables; our neighbors kept chickens, goats, and horses. And I'm not even retirement age. The image of Kensington as a "sub-urban density residential town," as one writer described it, is a blip in time, an anomaly of forty years or so, during which we've managed to deceive ourselves that most people eat what a few farmers in a designated farming community produce. As corporations became those "few farmers," these illusions resulted in factory conditions for animals and poisoned landscapes.

Instead, how about managing your own yard so you can have fresh organic eggs? You would not believe the difference in taste and health – you can go back to using raw eggs in drinks and salad dressings. You'll have compost to add to your vegetable patches and flowerbeds, and

automatic slug, snail, and weed patrol.

Yes, chickens make noise. Hens like to announce when they've laid a lovely egg for you to eat. Would you rather hear your neighbors' leaf blowers or that dog barking next door? As I drive around town, I like to hear chickens laying eggs. It makes me feel that people are taking charge of their own lives. Food security doesn't just mean no salmonella in your Caesar salad, it means having enough to eat during emergencies, such as earthquakes and financial hardship. So let's keep some perspective about the big clucks.

Best,
Linnea Due, Kensington resident

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