

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

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District eyes Portola as temporary Hilltop home

Kids spared noise and hazards of construction, but questions about after school programs remain

Officials are considering a plan to relocate students from the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School to portable classrooms at Portola Middle School during Hilltop's \$15.5 million reconstruction.

Representatives of the West Contra Costa Unified School District said the plan is being contemplated because of space restriction at the Hilltop site that will make it difficult to set up temporary classrooms during the extensive construction.

The work is scheduled to begin in June and run through the entire 2004-2005 school year. The district is also concerned about the

disruption from noise and exposing children to the dangers of an adjacent construction site.

"We think this is a pretty good alternative," said Bill Savidge, engineering officer for the school district. "From the district's standpoint, it's a very cost effective approach because when Kensington is done we will add a few more portables and move Portola down because they are next."

Moving Hilltop's nearly 500 students to a temporary campus at the middle school at Moeser Lane and Avis Drive will avoid many of the problems of housing the school on an active construction site. But how parents will get children to after school programs such as the Kensington After School Enrichment Program or Neighborhood School, remains an unan-

swered question.

"It seems as if the disruption up at the school site would be very severe. There would be a lot of noise and dust," said Helen Bean, co-president of the Kensington Hilltop PTA, after a meeting with district representatives. "As long as the school district can take care of busing kids and getting them to after care programs adequately, I think the relocation is probably the better move. That was the consensus that came out of that meeting."

Savidge said one of the plans the district is looking at is establishing a shuttle service in the morning and afternoon between the Portola campus and the Kensington Community Center. This would allow children who walk to school to continue to do so and others who participate in after

school programs to get there without their parents driving them.

The district's plans call for establishing an entrance to the temporary campus on the north side of the middle school campus on Portola Drive to minimize children's exposure to traffic on Moeser Lane.

The plans would also seek to create some physical separation from the middle school to address concerns about elementary students mixing with the middle school students.

The Hilltop PTA will hold a meeting about the possible relocation March 8 at 7 p.m. at the Hilltop School multipurpose room. A community wide meeting about the reconstruction of the school will be held Monday, March 29 at 7 p.m. in the school's multipurpose room.

Jumpstarting the campaign

Kerry's lead in presidential primary could keep voters home and hurt chances for Parcel tax measure for schools

John Kerry's widening lead in the race for the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party may be bad news for proponents of Measure J.

Backers of the proposed parcel tax believe the bigger the turnout the better the prospects for the measure, which is expected to raise as much as \$7.5 million for the financially troubled West Contra Costa Unified School District. The measure must clear the high hurdle of winning a two-thirds majority to pass.

The vote comes as the school district faces a \$20 million deficit this year and must find new places to make cuts. The measure has won wide support from elected officials, labor unions and parent teacher associations, but both supporters and opponents expect it will pass or fail by a narrow margin.

Backers of the measure believed that the Democratic primary would draw a disproportionately high mix of voters to the poll sympathetic to the measure, but with Massachusetts senator John

see TAX on page 2



Roping votes: West Contra Costa School District Trustee George Harris, III during the district's "Jump for J" rally last month. Harris' brief exhibition may not have been the day's best, but he was easily the best dressed jumper.

Community groups draft Kensington noise ordinance

Effort driven by neighbors want to quiet fundraisers, but promoter may get last laugh.

A compromise plan brokered by supervisor John Gioia to end the controversy over fundraising concerts at the Kensington home of music promoter Danny Scher has Kensington community groups drafting a noise ordinance.

Scher, who has held several charitable fundraisers at his home for various causes, believes such use of his property is within his rights as a homeowner, but the county has told him he must get a land use permit

for each event.

Neighbors have complained about the use of amplified sound during the events and said despite what Scher says, the events are commercial in nature and inappropriate for the residential community.

State senator Don Perata, D-East Bay, had introduced legislation that would have stripped the county from its ability to regulate such events, but withdrew the bill at Gioia's urging with the understanding that a local solution to the problem was being pursued. Gioia's compromise is to pass a Kensington-only noise ordinance while also amending the county's ordinance code

to recognize charitable fundraisers as accessory uses of residential property. Though the law would not require a homeowner to seek a land use permit for a fundraiser, it would subject the event to nuisance, noise and public health and safety restrictions in any residential zone.

"The idea of holding fundraising events at your house is not the issue," said Gioia. "The issue is, 'What is the impact of any event you hold at your house on your neighbors.'"

At the request of Gioia, the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council and the Kensington Community Services District are drafting a noise

Continued on page 3

String Celebration



New Millennium Strings' Debra Bartling
The New Millennium Strings performs at this year's Spring Celebration, Saturday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Free childcare is available.

see page 3



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Fuming residents air their grievance over diesel buses

To the editor:

AC Transit's switch from gasoline-powered vans to full-sized diesel buses on the No. 67 line last June severely jeopardized the health and safety of Kensington residents.

Supervisor John Gioia has asked AC Transit to reduce the frequency of runs in Kensington. Gioia's request is supported by the results of AC Transit's own ridership study that found the bus has two or fewer passengers on 17 of its 28 daily runs in Kensington.

AC Transit's use of diesel buses threatens the health of all residents in upper Kensington, as the buses operating here are the oldest and most-polluting vehicles in its fleet.

To date, AC Transit has ignored Gioia's request, even though it could easily do so at no additional expense or sacrifice to bus service in the neighborhood.

We are especially disappointed in our elected representative to the AC Transit Board, Joe Wallace, who has refused to meet with his constituents in Kensington or return phone calls. We are not opposed to bus service in Kensington. We are opposed to the inappropriate, dangerous equipment now in use. We urge Kensington residents to stand up for their neighborhood and not let it be ruined by the irresponsible actions of AC Transit.

Cheryl Katz, Diane Egelston and Sylvia Elsbury
Kensington

Big box retail is no bargain when you consider social costs

To the editor:

While much local support is directed to Measure J, a parcel tax for schools that needs our 'yes' vote, we cannot forget Measure L.

Passage of Measure L will stop construction of big-box retail stores in our county. While big-box retail stores, like Wal-Mart, may appear to provide value by offering low prices, they cost us dearly by paying low wages, providing meager benefits to employees, eroding the local tax base and worsening traffic congestion.

Wal-Mart's workforce typically earns less than \$7 an hour, while its competitors typically pay a living wage between \$11 and \$13 an hour. These competitors provide health benefits to all employees, but Wal-Mart provides health benefits to less than half its workforce. In fact, Wal-Mart employees are paid so poorly that they qualify for Public Assistance (food stamps, Medi-Cal) increasing costs to us, the taxpayers.

The Wal-Mart "lowest price at any cost" philosophy is forcing other large stores to reduce employee benefits and wages. We must support jobs with living wages and good benefits.

The Wal-Mart infestation is spreading across our country, eating away at the middle class and slowly destroying our communities. We can stop them in Contra Costa County. (For more information, see www.na4lc.org).

Gail Bateson, Gail Berkowitz, Don Bonato,
Jane Kaplan and David Rempel
Kensington

TAX: Close vote expected on \$7.5 million measure for schools

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Kerry's commanding lead for his party's nomination, there is concern that turnout March 2 will be lower than first hoped.

"A bigger turnout is to our benefit because a bigger turnout means more people who are supportive of education are voting. What we find is people who are against taxes, people who are not generally supportive of education vote regularly," said George Harris, III, West Contra Costa School District trustee. "With the Democratic primary, at least in theory, you'd have a lot more Democrats energized to vote than Republicans. Democrats are generally more supportive of taxes as a way to solve problems."

Measure J calls for the funds to be used to maintain reduced class sizes in the lower grades, fund teaching materials and text books, enhance core subjects and retain and attract teachers, counselors and custodial staff.

To bolster its chances of passing, the Measure J campaign has focused its efforts on getting absentee ballots out to supporters and calling undecided voters in the hopes of convincing them to go to the polls and support the measure. It also operates the web site www.childrenofwestcounty.com.

An ad-hoc group of opponents to Measure J have relied on the website www.westcountyforum.com and letters to newspapers to get its message out to voters.

Tom Lynden, a certified public accountant from Hercules and vocal opponent of the measure, argues much of the financial wounds to the district are self inflicted and



HAVING A DREAM: Measure J supporters march during a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day rally

the result of mismanagement. He called Measure J little more than a Band Aid on a bleeding wound.

"By giving them more money all you are going to do is burden the taxpayers of the district and are not going to get any tangible results," he said.

The district's Harris said the measure includes an annual independent audit to ensure funds raised by the measure are spent as they are intended. He also notes the parcel tax has a five-year sunset clause.

Kensington Outlook

Editor
Daniel S. Levine
editor@kensingtonoutlook.com

Advertising Manager
Alma Key
advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com

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Gioia secures \$15,000 to amend general for Kensington property ordinance

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of \$15,000 to defer half of the cost associated with the adoption of Kensington's proposed planning ordinance.

The ordinance is designed to protect property owners' views, light and privacy from remodels and new construction on neighboring property.

Though supervisor John Gioia along with community groups over the last few years hammered out language for the ordinance, a final stumbling block that remained for Kensington was how the estimated \$30,000 needed to conduct a required environmental review and amend the county's general plan would be raised.

Gioia successfully convinced his fellow supervisors to use \$15,000 from the Dougherty Valley County Regional Enhancement Contribution Fund, a mitigation fund financed by developer fees that

Gioia said is to be used to promote "good development" within the county and used at the discretion of the board of supervisors.

Previously the Kensington Property Owners Association committed \$5,000 in matching funds if other groups stepped forward. Gioia said as soon as the community could identify a total of \$25,000 in funding, he would initiate the process of moving the ordinance forward. He expects the process will take nine months once it begins.

He said he has contacted various Kensington groups to invite them to raise the balance of funding needed.

"The goal here is to have the community match the county's share," said Gioia.



John Gioia

The New Millennium Strings adds a touch of class to KCC's Spring Celebration this year

The New Millennium Strings will provide music for this year's Spring Celebration, an annual fundraiser held by the Kensington Community Council.

This year's event moves to the evening and in addition to a silent auction and food and drink, it will feature free childcare with pizza and a movie for children of attendees. Marvin Gardens Real Estate and Andronico's Market are sponsoring the party.

The event offers neighbors a chance to meet neighbors, enjoy a night out without worrying about babysitting and support the Kensington Community Council's education and recreation programs as well as the publication of this newspaper. The organization is working to close a \$9,000 budget deficit this year caused in part by a sharp rise in workers' compensation insurance costs.

The festivities kick off March 13 at 6:30 p.m. Beer, wine and finger foods will be served. Tickets are \$25 per person and available at the door.

Auction items this year include artwork, a two-hour tug boat ride on the San



Hal Bosworth, founder of the New Millennium Strings

Francisco Bay and a Nation's pie a month for a full year.

Donations of art, books, jewelry and other goods and services are appreciated. To donate an item to the silent auction, please call Danielle Power at 524-6737. Anyone planning to attend who would like to make use of the childcare should call Helen Horowitz at 525-0292 to reserve a space.

NOISE: KPD will be responsible for enforcement

continued from page 1

ordinance that would be enforced by the Kensington Police Department. Gioia scrapped earlier plans for a county-wide noise ordinance because of concerns from the sheriff about his ability to enforce it and that it would drain resources. A draft of the ordinance was expected to be posted on the KMAC portion of the website www.aboutkensington.com.

A combined public meeting of KCSD and KMAC is scheduled for March 4 at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center and the public is invited to comment on the

proposed ordinance.

Toni Folger-Brown, co-chair of the Coventry Neighborhood Group, has led the fight for the county to take action to stop the Scher concerts and originally put forward the idea of a noise ordinance. She is concerned that rather than solving the problem, it is just an effort by the county to remove itself from the ongoing fight.

"The county is letting itself off the hook from having to enforce the land use violation," she said. "They are putting the onus on Kensington."

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Neighborhood Notes

Landscape architect honored

The Lafreniere Park Advisory Board named Kensington landscape architect Theodore Osmundson its “Person of the Year” for his master design of Lafreniere Park. It is the first time the board, which is responsible for an unincorporated suburb northwest of New Orleans, awarded the honor to a non-resident.

Osmundson, 82, and his firm Theodore Osmundson & Ted Osmundson Associates began designing the 155-acre Lafreniere Park beginning in 1973. The board said since then Osmundson has continued to offer ideas and advice to the board without charge or expectation of recognition.

In addition to running Theodore Osmundson & Associates, the senior Osmundson is a past president of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the International Federation of Landscape Architects. In 1999 he authored *Roof Gardens: History, Design and Construction*.



College honors volunteer

Contra Costa College will honor Kensington's Esther Hill for her contributions as a volunteer during its Women's History Month Celebration.

Hill is president of the Kensington Education Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises money for enrichment programs at the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School. The foundation supports science and computer labs, art and reading programs, and the school library, as well as helping pay for classroom supplies.

Hill is a former president of the Friends of the Kensington Library, a nonprofit that that supports the library through fundraising and other activities.

She works part-time for the Oakland Heritage Alliance, which works to preserve historic sites and natural resources.



District thanks Kensington man for maintaining fire break

The Kensington Fire Protection District honored resident Robert Shaner with a community service award for the years he spent maintaining a fuel break between Kensington and the East Bay Regional Parks District land.

Shaner said he hopes that the district and the community will continue to maintain the area that he has established as a fuel break zone. He estimated he has been mowing the area behind Purdue Ave. for

about 10 years. The East Bay Regional Parks District only works on the wildland interface once a year, which the Kensington Fire Protection District said is not enough. Fire chief Mark Scott said that the department is involved in ongoing discussion with the East Bay Regional Park District about mowing the area as much as four times a year. He credited Shaner's work with making the community safer.

Students argue pledge before Ninth District Court of Appeals



Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Will Fletcher with students Anne Hart (left) and Georgian Oram

Nearly 70 students from the El Cerrito independent school made the arguments before Judge Willie Fletcher to learn more about the federal court system as part of their study of the U.S. Constitution.

The trip to the court was the culmination of a unit on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

As is standard practice in federal appeals cases, Judge Fletcher regularly interrupted the students' remarks to question them on a particular point.

When one student argued that the pledge was unconstitutional because it mentioned God, the judge asked whether that meant the statement “In God We Trust” on currency also had to be changed. The student told him it did.

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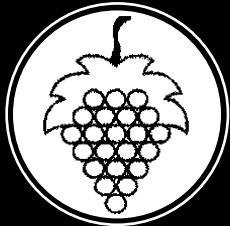
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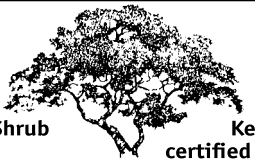


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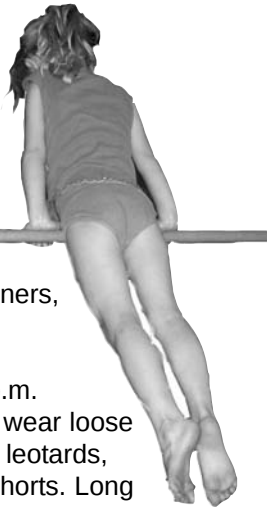
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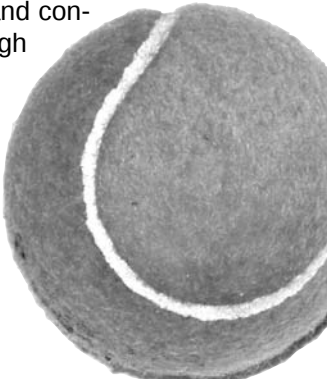


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Call Helen Horowitz for rental and reservation information.

KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS

Located in the Berkeley hills at 59 Arlington Ave. in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in the Fall 2004. The camp runs from June 14, 2004 through August 20, 2004, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Campers enroll on a weekly basis. To ensure the best experience for each child, our camp has a maximum of 60 children per week. We employ one director, eight counselors, and a “specialty consultant” each week to work with the campers. Drop-ins are not permitted.

Day Camp Staff Returns
Director Jessica Smith is returning for this year's camp along with head counselor Joe Starkey, Andrew Erdmann, Valeria Fike-Rosales, Teddy Firestone and Ryan Del La Rosa.

COST
The cost for the Kensington Summer Day Camp is \$170.00 per week. This fee covers all transportation costs, snacks, entrance fee, activities and a KCC Summer Camp T-shirt for field trips. A limited number of partial scholarships will be available. All fees must be paid by the stated due date and before the week begins. Children whose parents or guardians have not paid fees in full may not attend until fees have been paid to the KCC administrator. Registration, emergency cards and release forms must be tendered prior to the start of the week. A nonrefundable deposit of \$25 per child per week requested is required with the application. The \$25 deposit is deducted from the balance due of camp. If a week is full and space is not available, applicants will be notified immediately. We cannot refund fees if a child drops out after a week begins.

Brochures available
For further information or a brochure, please call KCC office at (510) 525-0292.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE*	
REGISTRATION	
Registration will take place as follows:	
Thursday, March 18th, 6:30 p.m. TO 8:00 p.m. Community Center Kensington residents & camp alumni	
Friday, March 19th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. KCC Office Kensington residents and camp alumni	
Monday, March 22nd, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open registration.	
Parents may register their children on a space available basis during KCC office hours.	
FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE	
June 16	The Jungle
June 23	Jelly Belly Factory & Bowling
June 30	Exploratorium
July 7	Scandia
July 14	San Francisco Zoo
July 21	The Jungle
July 28	A's Baseball Game
August 4	Waterworld
August 11	A's Baseball Game
August 18	Academy of Sciences

Carpentry with Sandy Thacker
Week 1 June 14 - June 18

Carpentry with Sandy Thacker
Week 2 June 21 - June 25

3D Painting, Clay & Paper Mache Work with Celeste Conner
Week 3 June 28 - July 2

3D Painting, Clay & Paper Mache Work with Celeste Conner
Week 4 July 5 - July 9

Gymnastics with Judy Baker
Week 5 July 12 - July 16

Gymnastics with Judy Baker
Week 6 July 19 - July 23

Drama with Kelly Donahue
Week 7 July 26 - July 30

Drama with Kelly Donahue
Week 8 August 2 - August 6

Treasure Box Jewel Books & Fimo Treasurers with Celeste Conner
Week 9 August 9 - August 13

Treasure Box Jewel Books & Fimo Treasurers with Celeste Conner
Week 10 August 16 - August 20

Tennis with Alex Brown, three days a week.

Kensington Calendar

Blanketing the East Bay



East Bay Heritage Quilters' bian-nual quilt show "Voices in Cloth 224 will be held at the Oakland Convention Center, 550 Tenth St. on March 13th and 14th. The show features two special exhibits to be shown in conjunction with the display of over 250 members' quilts, a children's quilt exhibit, wearable art, quilt auction and quilting demonstrations. The show also features, merchant's mall, silent auction, quilts and art, opportunity quilts and door prizes.

Mabry Benson (right) and Lynn Crook, co-chairs of Voices in Cloth Quilt Show hold work done by Benson.

The show is open Sat.10-5 and Sun.10-4. Advanced ticket purchase is \$6, at the door \$8. Among the quilts on display will be Gypsy Dream, which will be raffled later this year by the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School. For raffle tickets, call Amy Kurzer at 524-6314. For tick-ets to the show call 233-6771.

Tuesday, March 2

Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Wednesday, March 3

The Kensington Study Unit of the League of Women Voters meets at 1 p.m. at the home of Betty Brown, 44 Beverly Rd., Kensington. Call 524-6071 to confirm.

Thursday, March 4

The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Meet new director Judi Jung. Lunch \$3. Info: 526-9146

Thursday, March 4

A joint meeting of the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council and the Kensington Community Services District to discuss a proposed noise ordi-nance at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center.

Saturday, March 6

Introductory dream workshop led by Jeremy Taylor 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Limited enrollment. Suggested donation \$45 Info: 528-3417

Sunday, March 7

Personal Theology Seminar: Marion Pastor: Author of Anger and Forgiveness: an approach that Works, Psychotherapist, My Adventures in Non-traditional Psychospiritual Paths. at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Sunday, March 7

The Berkeley Youth Orchestra "First and Foremost: A Series of Firsts" at 4 p.m. at the Laney College Theatre, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland. Tickets \$5. Info: 663-3296

Monday, March 8

Kensington Hilltop Elementary School PTA meets at 7 p.m. at the school's multi-purpose room to discuss a possible relocation of students to a temporary campus on Portola Middle School while Hilltop is reconstructed.

Tuesday, March 9

Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, March 9

Frederik L. Schodt, author of Native American in

the Land of the Shogun: Rana!d MacDonald and the Opening of Japan, speaks at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library at 7 p.m. at 6510 Stockton Ave. Info: 526-7512

Tuesday, March 9

The writers' forum at Boadecia's Books takes a "field trip." For details call 559-9184 or check www.LoveMadeOfHeart.com/events

Wednesday, March 10

Kensington Fire Protection District meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 527-8395

Thursday, March 11

Kensington Community Services District meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 526-4141

Thursday, March 11

Dan Clark, P.E. Public Works Director/City Engineer, City of El Cerrito speaks on "City Landscape Master Plan Needs" at the El Cerrito Garden Club at 9:30 a.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. \$3 at door. Info 234-0135

Thursday, March 11

The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Learn How to Avoid Household Maintenance Scams from Officer Escobar. Lunch \$3. Info: 526-9146

hursday March 11

The Friends of the Kensington Library holds its annual poetry open mike night. Join poet Maggie Morley and her friends at at 7:30 p.m. the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. After the professional poets read the audience is invited to participate.

Saturday, March 13

The Kensington Community Council holds its 16th annual Spring Celebration at 6:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Council. The event will feature the music of the New Millennium Strings, a silent auction and food and drink. Free childcare is available. Tickets \$25. Info: 525-2930

Sunday, March 14

Personal Theology Seminar: March 14: Alicia Forde, ministerial intern at UUCB, Omnisexual God? If God were one of us, what would God's sexual orientation be? A conversation on gender, orientation and sexuality at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Monday, March 14

Spirituality in Art: Translate Your Spiritual Journey into a Unique Visual Document Using Water Media. Led by Allegra Printz on Mondays, March 14 – May 24 from 7 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. \$35 suggested donation plus art materials. Info: 528-3417

Tuesday, March 16

Berkeley Garden Club presents "Let's Talk Dirt" by Buzz Bertolero, E.V.P. of Navlet's Garden Centers and newspaper "Dirt Gardener" colum-nist at the Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley at 1 p.m. Free pro-gram begins at 2 p.m. Info 524-4374

Tuesday, March 16

Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, March 16

The Friends of the Kensington Library wel-come acclaimed magician Alex Gonzalex for his annual performance at the Kensington Library 7 p.m. Because of the popularity of this event, free tickets will be issued beginning Monday, March 8.

Tuesday, March 16

Developing Consciousness from Human to Divine: A Sufi Paradigm, Introductory Class led

WWWWhat?

Information Literacy: a free series of pro-grams at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue, teaches how to use a computer mouse, set up an e-mail account and do research online. The program runs Mondays from 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call to reserve a seat 524-3043



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Kensington Calendar Continued

by Marilee Baccich on Tuesdays through May 26 from 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. \$35 suggested donation. Info: 528-3417

Wednesday, March 17
Gandhi and Thich Nhat Hahn: Ahimsa (Absence of Harm) and Compassionate Mindfulness, Nonviolent Ways of Being. Led by Lynnette Delgado on Wednesdays through May 26 at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. \$35 suggested donation. Info: 528-3417

Thursday, March 18
The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Sing Along with Dorthelle Fites an Irish Tune or Two . Lunch \$3. Info: 526-9146

Friday, March 19
The Embodied Life: A Meditation Journey led by Alicia Forde, Intern Minister at UUCB on Fridays, through April 30 at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Saturday, March 20
The Fifth Act: Play all day with Theater Improv to find the next Act in your Life 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 528-3417

Saturday, March 20
Options at the End of Life: Advanced Directions and Medical Care led by Susan Bergmans, RN at 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. \$30 Suggested donation (includes supplies). Info: 741-9993

Saturday, March 20
The Kensington Nursery School holds its annual auction at 6:30 p.m. at the Arlington Community Church with the theme "Carnival Around the World." Wine and food pairing from various countries. Tickets \$20 or three for \$40. Info: 526-2484.

Sunday, March 21
Personal Theology Seminar: Marilyn McPherson, friend of the Church, *The Gifts of Christian Science to me and to Others* at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, March 23
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, March 23
The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council meets at meets at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 526-5546

Wednesday, March 24
Jim Hartman, regional vice president of the Bay



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Thursday evenings the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley at 1 Lawson Rd. holds Worship and Core Curriculum Programs. This mid-week gathering includes times for socializing (5:30-6 p.m.), sharing a meal (6-7 p.m.), worshipping (7-7:30 pm) and learning together in the Core Curriculum Programs (from 7:30-9 p.m.). Dinner reservations are required. The programs include a series of sessions on UU Heritage and Values, Powerful Non-Defensive Communication, Community Building: Skills for Successful Group Process, Opening Our Hearts: Developing Spiritual Practices, and Higher Purpose. Contact the church office at 525-0302 for more details.

Arlington Community Church
The Arlington Community Church invites everyone to join them in a Thursday evening Lenten series on centering prayer. The series will run from February 26 through April 1. It begins at 7 p.m. with nibbles and sharing and then a viewing of a 30-minute segment on centering prayer. Afterwards, there will be 20 minutes of centering prayer, ending at 8:30 p.m.

Area California GOP speaks on "Sacramento Politics" at the Kensington Area Republican Women's Club's meeting at Noon at Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito. Luncheon \$15. Deadline for reservations is Friday, March 19. Info: 524-5689

Thursday, March 25
The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Travel with Jackie Hetman to Northern Sweden Part One. Lunch \$3. Info: 526-9146 . Lunch \$3. Info: 526-9146

Sunday, March 28
Personal Theology Seminar: Joan Swift: long time Church member, How Emerson Speaks to me. at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Sunday, March 28
Sufi Dancing: Dances of Universal Peace 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. "Pass the basket" donation. Info 526-8944

Monday, March 29
A community wide meeting about the reconstruction of the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School at 7 p.m. in the Hilltop multi-purpose room.

Tuesday, March 30
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Wednesday, March 31
Sharing Books We Love led by Cindi Clymer at 12:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Suggested donation \$5. Info: 525-8033

Rachel Pelletier

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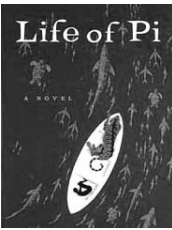
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Kensington Library Recommendations

Life of Pi

by Yan Martel
Life of Pi appears surreal, but the story of a boy stranded in the Pacific Ocean on a raft with a hyena, an orangutan and a seasick Bengal tiger works. The story involves adventure, humor and tension and keeps the reader on the edge of his seat, while giving insight into a serious young man's philosophical dilemma about the right religion for him -- whether Christianity, Judaism or Hinduism. This is an excellent book for group discussions and a riveting read on tape or CD.



—Louise O'Dea

Hornet's Nest

by Jimmy Carter
Jimmy Carter's first novel examines the effect of the American Revolution on the deep South. It unfolds as a grand saga of pioneer families caught up in the Revolutionary War. Although this novel is somewhat overblown and stilted at points, it includes fascinating details about British and American guerrilla fighters, revolutionary military and the harsh life of the frontier.

—Louise O'Dea

The Tale of Despereaux

by Kate Di Camillo
Four stories intertwine in this fanciful tale. Di Camillo's hero is an endearing, diminutive mouse. His life seems doomed, but he somehow survives only to fall desperately in love with unobtainable Princess Pea, a great beauty who appreciates him despite her father's prejudice against rodents. Di Camillo deftly weaves four narratives together adding suspense and witty humor in a delightful. This book is appropriate for strong third grade readers and higher.

—Alison McKee and Pamela McKay

The Man Who Walked Between The Towers

written and illustrated by Mordecai Gerstein
A spare but lyrical account of Philippe Petit's famed 1974 tight rope walk between Manhattan's two World Trade Center towers. The French aerialist is a street performer who defies authority to complete his feat and is later arrested and ordered to perform for the children of New York. It is a fitting tribute to these extraordinary buildings and the history they represent. It brings their memory alive with humor and finely drawn dramatic power.

—Alison McKee and Pamela McKay

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From the case files of the KPD

Editor's note: The police report is drawn from the logs of the Kensington Police Department. The Kensington Outlook is solely responsible for the selection and presentation of the material.

Events in February

○An Ocean View Ave. resident reported the theft of a 1990 Honda Accord valued at \$5,800.

○A Lawson Rd. resident reported the theft of a 1998 Honda Accord valued at \$5,000. Police in Pinole recovered the vehicle.

○Police arrested an illegal alien for assault with a deadly weapon and domestic violence after he attacked his girlfriend with a mason jar. Police obtained an emergency protective order for the woman, who suffered a laceration and bump to her head.

○A police officer responding to a report on Highgate of an electronic gate opening on its own discovered the house was missing. The officer didn't know the house had been razed.

○The daughter of a woman on Kerr Ave. requested that police check on her mother, who she had been unable to reach by phone for days because of a busy signal. The woman was fine, but the phone had been off the hook.

○An Ardmore resident reported the theft of several items from her front porch and automobile including a statue, clothing an a Sony Playstation with a total value of \$5,800.

○Kensington police detained a woman believed to have been involved in multiple hit and run accidents on Fairmont. El Cerrito police arrested the woman for driving under the influence, hit and run and driving with a suspended license.

○A Kensington resident complained that he was detained the day before on Solano Ave. by a Kensington police officer, who checked to see if there was an outstanding warrant for the man's arrest before letting him go. The officer explained the officer made a mistake by letting him go and placed him under arrest. Martinez police requested the man be arrested on probable cause for making threats.

○Police called the parents of three youths found in a parked car on Highgate Ct. drinking alcohol. Police released the three to their parents

without charges.

○Police arrested a man and a woman in a pick-up truck on Beloit for possession of methamphetamine. The man also had a Visa card in someone else's name and burglary tools.

○A run-away tire hit and damaged a 2003 Honda Accord on Arlmont. It is not known from where the tire ran away.

○Police responded to the report of a suspicious vehicle on Yale taking recyclables. Police explained he who steals our trash breaks the law and let them off with a warning.

○A thief apparently had the braun to pull a mailbox out of the ground on Kenyon Ave., but lacked the brains to unlock it.

○Police obtained an emergency protection order against a Trinity Ave. resident after he allegedly punched a visiting woman in the back of the head.

○A woman driving on Willamette Ave. complained of a rude and hostile driver of a recycling truck after he failed to yield to her forcing her into a gully. Police explained that the truck, which was heading uphill, had the right of way.

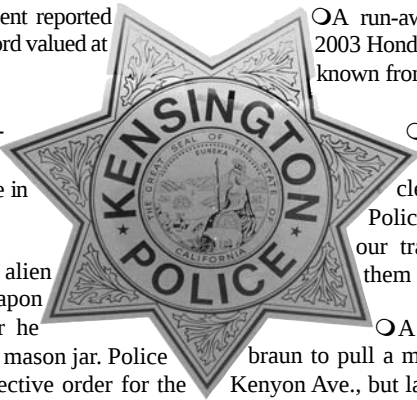
○An Ardmore Rd. resident reported the theft of a potted Japanese Black Pine Tree valued at \$500 from the porch of her home.

○Police arrested a man and impounded his vehicle on Rd. The man was in possession of crack pipe and an open container, had a suspended drivers license and was in violation of his probation.

○The owner of a pick-up reported the theft of \$2,150 in power tools from a tool box in his vehicle.

○An unknown subject called the Unitarian Church and identified himself as an employee of the church. He told the person on the phone that his car broke down and he needed money wired to Western Union to repair it, but told the person to wire it to a person with another name.

○A Kensington police officer on a break at the El Cerrito Plaza heard the report of a theft of shoes from Copeland's sporting good store. The officer identified and chased two suspects and held them for El Cerrito Police. Perhaps they should consider stealing faster shoes next time.



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There are 45 spaces per line. Count each letter, punctuation mark, and space between words. Enclose payment along with the classified ad form (payable to KCC) and mail to Outlook Classifieds, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1037. We reserve the right to reject any ad. To receive a copy of the Outlook in which your ad appears, please enclose a stamped envelope. Completed classified ads must be pre-paid and received in our office by tenth of the month prior to the issue. Forms are available at the KCC office and online at www.kensingtonoutlook.com. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

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