

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

DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 10

Garden Party Draws Hundreds

By SYLVIA ELSBURY
Contributing Writer

Under a moonlit Indian Summer sky, nearly 500 parents, teachers and other friends of Kensington Hill-top Elementary School gathered Saturday, November 15, at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Lawson Road for the 25th Annual Garden Party benefit.

Elegant silver-toned invitations and programs, printed courtesy of Ruth Frassetto and the Grubb Company, commemorated the 25th anniversary. Betty Ann Engels and Marcia Osborn, veterans of the first Garden Party, baked scores of cookies for the occasion. Champagne donated by Arlington Wine and Spirits (also donors of the wine) filled keepsake flutes.

Guests enjoyed live music and an al fresco buffet provided by Kensington Fine Foods, The Arlington, Inn Kensington, Kensington Marmalade Company and others. More than 500 silent auction items were sold, followed by a live auction including a Pixar Studios tour, a home improvement party by the Dads' Club, and fine wines from the collection of Narsai David, whose support dates back to the inaugural 1983 Garden Party.

A slide show reminded partygoers where the money goes – to the Kensington Education Foundation (KEF). Students were pictured in science, art, music, and physical education classes, as well as in supplemental reading and math programs, all funded by the KEF. Computer lab, school library, the annual "Oceans Week," field trip scholarships and extra teaching support in the classroom are also made possible by KEF.

For the 11th straight year, fine artworks donated by Garden Party benefactors Alex and Rob Adelman highlighted both silent and live auctions. Auctioneer Larry Polito led the crowd

[See Garden Party on Page 3]



Julia Herbst, KHS Alumna with father Jon Herbst on piano.



Larry Polito, auctioneer & emcee with Principal Judy Sanders.

'K' Groups and Others to Unite

For anyone interested in getting involved in governing Kensington – or those who simply wish to have their 2 cents counted – January 5 will be your night, at what is known as the "K Groups" meet at the community center.

The coalition is comprised of official bodies, such as the Kensington Community Council (KCC), the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD), the Kensington Improvement Council (KIC), the Kensington Fire Department (KFD), the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC), Kensington Property Owners Association (KPOA), Friends of the Kensington Library, and any and all organizations that don't begin with K.

"Anyone in Kensington in any group is welcome, and encouraged, to attend this meeting," said Esther Hill, administrator for the KCC.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center, and will encompass any group that wishes to share accomplishments from the past year and plans for 2009.

Scouts, the Dads' Club, Parent-Teacher Associations, or anyone interested in volunteering from any other group in Kensington is encouraged to attend.

Elections Shake Up KPPCSD Board

In a surprise upset, Kensington voters decided in November to elect Cathie Kosel and Chuck Toombs to the Police Protection and Community Services District, unseating incumbent Joan Gallegos. Kosel and Toombs will begin their four-year terms in January.

Two positions were open, because board member Paul Haxo decided not to run for re-election, and Gallegos' position was open for re-election. That left two seats on the five-member board to be decided by voters. Kosel and Toombs will now take those seats. Gallegos has a strong command of bylaws and possesses an institutional memory that has served the board for several years, and she is well known by her high profile in the community. Her loss was a surprise to many.

The board oversees the Kensington Police Department and general safety issues, as well as park maintenance and improvements.

For the Kensington Fire Protection District, Leslie Michael and Don Dommer were unopposed, and won re-election.

In other elections of note, an East Bay Regional Parks District initiative, Measure WW, passed and will subsequently net Kensington more than \$200,000 to use for upgrades and maintenance for its own park. Measure D, a tax for the West Contra County Unified School District, also passed.

The county saw an 83 percent turnout. Overall the county rejected Proposition 8, calling for the abolishment of same-sex marriages, but it passed statewide. That proposition is already before the California Supreme Court.

[See Elections on Page 3]

Merchants Unite for Needy Children

With a new spirit of hope and generosity sweeping through Kensington (and everywhere else in America) this holiday season, Colusa Circle merchants have banded together for a give and take: In exchange for items donated for needy families, they will give something back to each donor, from discount coupons to gift cards.

"Everyone is pulling together," said Nan Phelps, of Nan Phelps Photography on the Circle. "When someone brings in an item, they will get a return gift."

The benefit is for Brighter Beginnings, a non-profit organization that provides items for needy families in the East Bay, from toys to diapers. For every new, unwrapped donation of diapers, toys (developmental toys, books and bath toys are especially welcome), clothing for infants and toddlers, bedding, or anything else one might think a family with kids needs, the participating merchant will give the donor a small gift – a discount coupon, a gift card, a freebie, a cookie, or some other token of appreciation. The drive starts at Thanksgiving and lasts through Christmas Eve.

Participating businesses include the Alchemy, Kensington Circus Pub, Colusa Market, Circle Salon, Semifreddis, Kensington Cleaners, Al Caruso Insurance, Kensington Cobbler, Kensington Cleaners, Kensington Veterinary Hospital – enough to interest any shopper

[See Merchants on Page 3]

Police Nab Two Suspects In Grizzly Peak Burglaries

Working together, the Kensington Police Department and other area departments have arrested suspects in a series of home burglaries in the Grizzly Peak area, as well as homes in the Oakland and Berkeley hills.

"It was teamwork," said Chief Greg Harman. Oakland police arrested Chas Langley, 24, and Tyrone Simmons, 31, both of Oakland. They were identified using a photograph obtained by Kensington officers when one of the suspects attempted to use a stolen credit card.

According to Officer Rickey Hull of Kensington, homes had been targeted by thieves in a series of robberies that most likely were cased beforehand. The thieves tried to strike when no one was home, he said, although one burglary was under way when a homeowner came home. Eleven homes were burgled between August and October.

Harman credits Neighborhood Watch groups for providing tips that helped in the arrest of the suspects. The robberies took place from July through October 17.



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Seen and Heard Around Town

Election signs came down, with Barack Obama supporters celebrating and the No on Proposition 8 team shaking their heads. At the polling site at the community center at Kensington Park Nov. 4, one anti-Prop 8 volunteer was getting a lot of car horn toots and thumbs up signs. "I think I have the easiest polling place in California," she said into her cell phone to campaign headquarters. When a passer-by said, "If you don't get it this time, same-sex marriages will eventually happen. It's inevitable," another volunteer standing nearby said, "well, I just don't want to wait that long." So the wait continues, with the issue already before the California Supreme Court.

Graham Flanagan reports that a fast-acting neighbor acted heroically on Berkeley Park Boulevard Nov. 6, when an elderly gentleman lost his footing and fell beneath his car and was almost run over. The series of events was a loud crack and a car horn, bespeaking a low-speed accident, and the driver had wedged his car into a Winnebago. When he got out to inspect the damage, he lost his footing. Flanagan rushed to the scene to find a neighbor pulling him out before anything really terrible happened, and he abruptly put the car into "park." That first part of Berkeley Park is challenging for any driver. "My neighbor was truly the man of the hour," Flanagan wrote.

It actually got hot during November, with people on the tennis courts complaining of the sweat in their eyes. Meanwhile, a Kensington Community Council administrator got to leave her desk several times for her less-than-favorite part of the day: cleaning up the dog poop left behind by dog owners allowing their dogs off-leash and not paying attention when they go and do their business.

The Kensington police did stellar work being the lynchpin for an Oakland case against the two guys allegedly behind Kensington's 11 home burglaries, but Chief Greg Harman credits residents who have their eyes and ears open with helping to break the case. He would like to see even more Neighborhood Watch groups. For information on getting started, call the department at 526-4141.

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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Bound copies of the newspaper going back to the 1940s are available at the Kensington Library.

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Advertising

Classified ad rates are \$6 a line with a minimum of 2 lines at \$12. A line consists of 45 spaces or characters. An online ad form is available at: www.kensingtonoutlook.com at the bottom of the back issues listings. Send all display and classified advertising mail to:

Kensington Outlook
18 Kingston Rd.
Kensington, CA 94707

Deadlines

Advertising deadline January 8
Editorial deadline January 10

Submission Guidelines

Kensington, this is your newspaper. Feel free to submit story ideas, obituaries, calendar items, letters to the editor, and announcements of weddings and births. E-mail your submissions to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com, or if you're not computer savvy, drop off or mail a hard copy to the Kensington Community Center at the address above. The only restriction is that your submission must be directly relevant to the Kensington community. Include the particulars: the who, what, why and when. Call the editor, Chris Lavin, at 925-376-5592 if you have questions. Remember to include your contact information in case we need to get back to you.

We welcome any ideas for feature or news stories. Please call or e-mail with suggestions, criticisms, or photographs you deem newsworthy.

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Kensington Market Update

Address	Beds	Baths	Sold Price	Days on Market
Ocean View Avenue	2	1	\$539,000	34
York Avenue	3	2	\$879,650	13
Windsor Avenue	5	3	\$1,175,000	13

This information is taken from public records and deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

Happy Holidays to you all!

◆ GARDEN PARTY from page 1

in a hearty round of applause for the Adelmans' ongoing generosity.

The Garden Party team included parents Nannette Erdtmann and Beth Thomsen, who led a six-month drive to solicit auction items. Parent donations ranged from a week's stay in a New York apartment to a hand-built treehouse. Items and outings given by Kensington teachers and Principal Judy Sanders were among the most popular. Erdtmann stepped to the microphone and challenged the crowd to do their holiday bargain-hunting at the event, noting that "many wonderful items came from donor businesses willing to support our children in achieving the best all-around education they can possibly have."

Though a final tally of proceeds was unavailable at press time, Garden Party Chair Catherine Mercurio said receipts exceeded expectations, given the grim economy. The KEF's vital role in preparing students for the future is a community



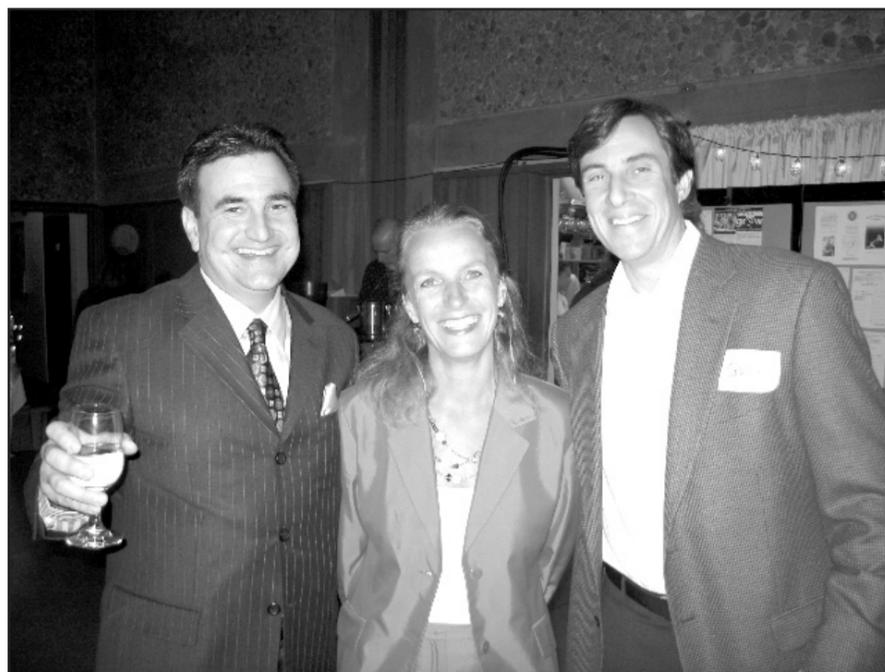
Nanette de Groot, donations co-chairperson.

priority, Mercurio noted. "It's all about the kids," she said.



Dancing with the jazz band.

All photos by Jim Thomsen



Larry Polito (from left), auctioneer & emcee, and Nanette de Groot, donations co-chairperson and parent Glenn Flinchbaugh.

◆ MERCHANTS from page 1

at any time of the year. Many of the merchants are new: Nan Phelps Photography, Post Meridian Restaurant, RabbitEARS Adoption Store, Kroll Realty, Living Tree, Faces Skin Spa, Alchemy Skin Spa, Hendrickson Method, Deep Color, and Kensington Farmers' Market. The Circle includes a small courtyard where you may watch the local dogs walk their guardians, a stand of trees and a picnic table for a quiet lunch, and bus connections to El Cerrito, Berkeley and San Francisco.

Most businesses plan to decorate their storefronts for the holidays, with lots of lights for a holiday atmosphere.

For more than two decades, Brighter Beginnings has nurtured the health of the East Bay's at-risk babies, children and young families. It reaches out to vulnerable, low-income families, providing home-based support and center-based services to promote healthy births and the development of babies and young children.

Look for the Brighter Beginnings poster in the windows of participating merchants. For more about the organization, visit www.brighter-beginnings.org.

◆ ELECTIONS from page 1

**Kensington Elections
WCCUSD Election Results**

Measure D
Yes: 79.21% / 50,392 votes
No: 20.79% / 13,226 votes

School Board (* denotes board member elect)

Candidate	% of vote	# of votes
* Antonio Medrano	30.74%	27,030
* Tony Thurmond	29.28%	25,748
Karen Pfeifer	27.17%	23,398
Robert Studdiford	12.46%	10,960
Write-in	.35%	308

These results are posted on the county elections web site: http://results.enr.clarityelections.com/CA/Contra_Costa/9041/13267/en/summary.html.

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5 pm Family Service
10 pm Late Service

**New Year's Eve Service
Prayers for Peace**
December 31 at 5 pm

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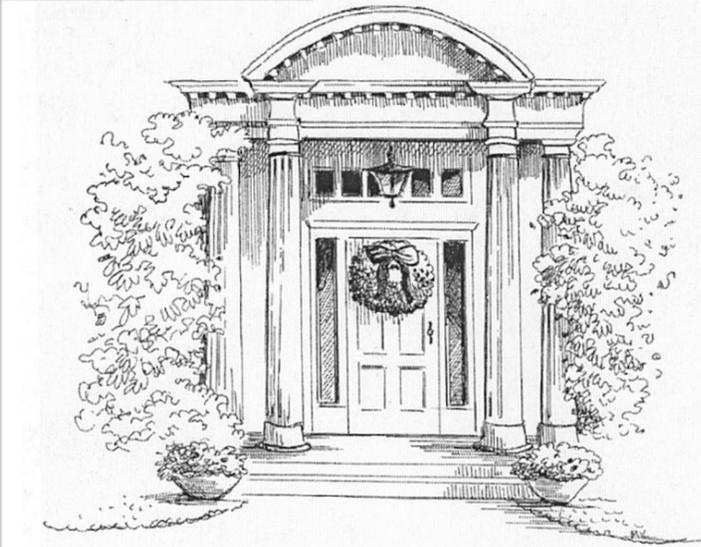
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to Review Sign

Dear Editor,

I have to respond, with all due respect, to Ms. Osmundson's letter (November 2008 Outlook) in defense of the atrocious sign that now defines our community.

While it is commendable that people volunteer their time to this community that does not give them the right to decide unilaterally what constitutes an "improvement" to Kensington.

The point being made by me and others who have written to express our anger and dismay at what we consider to be an eyesore at the entrance to our community is this: No one – not me and not a "volunteer

member of the Kensington Improvement Committee Board" – should be able to make this type of a change in isolation.

The elimination of the old sign, the design and placement of the new sign, the building and placement of a "fountain/planter" should have been the subject of a public discussion; these should not have been decisions made by a volunteer, especially someone who chose to brand Kensington with a "bright and colorful" design (read "gaudy") and then move out of our community.

I suggest that KIC hold an open meeting, that is well publicized, and see whether the community of Kensington wants this sign to be the first thing people see when they enter our town. If not, then KIC should pay to have it taken down and an appropriate sign (oh, just for example, the old sign that was fine with most of us) put in its place.

Pat Gillette

Participate Remotely with 'Kitchen Democracy'

While Kensington residents are highly interested in the governance of the town, often it's difficult to find time to attend the public meetings. But now anyone may participate through the Internet with a service called Kitchen Democracy, through www.kensingtoncalifornia.org.

Also, by going to the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board's web site at Peak Democracy, you may sign up for regular emails that will include that agenda and a direct link to putting in a comment on an agenda item. That address is www.peakdemocracy.com/208.

Issues about the traffic safety on Arlington Avenue near the library have been an active topic, and that issue will continue to be an agenda item for the KPPCSD. Also, the district is running into problems with expenses running higher than income, so

any Kensington resident may put in his or her 2 cents on that issue, as well.

To subscribe to a comprehensive list of Kitchen Democracy issues regarding Kensington, go to www.peakdemocracy.com/portals/1/subsription.

Republican Women to Hold Christmas Program

The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club will sponsor its Christmas program at noon Dec. 10 at the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club.

A \$35 ticket includes lunch, but reservations are due by Dec. 5.

The country club is located at 7900 Cutting Blvd. Call 524-5689 for more information or to reserve a spot.

Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ
52 Arlington Ave. • 526-9146
www.acc-ucc.org

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



Remember Church on Christmas Eve?

Arlington Community Church has a season of Advent and Christmas Celebrations. Come delight in God's many kindnesses! Become one of our visitors this season.

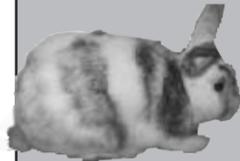
• HOPE IS BORN ANEW •

- November 30 10:00 a.m.** Advent 1: *Seeking God Anew*
- December 5 7:30 p.m.** Concert: Advent and Christmas Music of the Eastern Orthodox Traditions performed by *The Josquin Singers* of the Bay Area Classical Harmonies (B.A.C.H.) conducted by John Boyer.
- December 7 10:00 a.m.** Advent 2: *Messengers of Hope Anew*
- December 12 8:00 p.m.** Concert: *Bella Musica* Chorus and Orchestra performing *Ein Deutsches Requiem* by Johannes Brahms. Directed by Arlene Sagan.
- December 14 10:00 a.m.** Advent 3: *Shouts of Joy Anew*
- December 21 10:00 a.m.** Advent 4: *Birthing a Promise Anew*
- December 24 5:00 p.m.** Family Christmas Eve Service, *Christ is Born Anew*
- December 24 10:00 p.m.** Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

God is still speaking—at Arlington Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pet of the Month



Bubbles is a five-month old Harlequin bunny. She is uniquely beautiful and particularly fun-loving. She enjoys shopping in Kensington (Colusa Market's new Great Wall of Vegetables is her favorite hang-out!) and is looking forward to having a forever home for the holidays. She likes to re-arrange her room and play with her toys, listen to music and read Baby-sitters Club. She loves organic bunny treats and will give kisses when offered a pumpkin-banana bunny cookie. Bubbles is the kind of bunny that would inspire great artists, great cooks and home decorators to achieve fame and fortune. If Martha Stewart doesn't adopt Bubbles, please come visit her at RabbitEARS, open seven days a week, 377 Colusa Ave just off the Circle, 510-525-6155.

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Donations for Annual Fund Drive Continue

Lots of Kensington residents continue to send in their annual donation to the Kensington Community Council, which publishes this newspaper, sponsors the annual parade and barbecue, and runs the adult and child recreation programs, as well as summer camp. The KCC greatly appreciates the donations. Thank you this month to:

\$100
Anonymous
Michael Crompton
Janet and Frank Forsburg

\$75
Barbara and Henry Nelson

\$50
Arne John and Alice Cantwell Brock-Utne
H.J. and June Browne
Cherilyn Brunetti and Daniel Levine
T.C. and E.B. Clark
Frances Connick

Joanne Garvey
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Carolyn Holm Kouyoumdjian
David Large
Don Morrison
Yulia Motofuji
Lyle Ryan

KENSINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Fratello Marionettes, The North Pole Review!

Family Holiday Variety Show sponsored by Ruth Frassetto and the Grubb Company
Friday, December 12, 7-8 pm
Kensington Community Center
Free with canned food donation

Looking for a unique way to celebrate the holiday season? Join the fun with a puppet extravaganza, The North Pole Review! Showcasing the Fratello Marionettes' frosty juggling penguin, a Brazilian ice skating snowman, and featuring the Hawaiian singing sensation the Hi-Fi Sisters. The performance is followed by a question and answer session explaining the ancient art of marionettes.



Generously sponsored by 

KCC and K-Group Meeting

Monday, January 5, 7:30 p.m., Kensington Community Center

Representatives from all Kensington organizations are invited to the January KCC board meeting to share information about activities and plans for 2009.

KASEP

Winter Registration takes place on Wednesday, December 10, starting at 6:45 pm for kindergarten students and 7:15 pm for students in grades 1-6. Lottery slips will be due to the KCC office at 59

Arlington Avenue by Tuesday, December 9, at 9 a.m. Winter classes begin on Monday, January 5.

Fall session continues through Friday, December 19. The office will be closed during the winter break, December 22-January 3.

ADULT CLASSES

Thank you to all the Kensington residents who signed up for the Maybeck Estates Walking Tour and to Bob and Ollie Shaner and Paul Grunland, who generously led the tour and hosted the participants. We will offer the tour again this spring. Please let us know if you have ideas for other neighborhood walks and if you have historic photos or other background materials. Call our office at 525-0292 or e-mail us at kccrec@yahoo.com.

NEW CLASS!

User Friendly Pilates: Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt

When: Wed. evenings, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: KCC Recreation Bldg, Room A
Seven class series starting on Wednesday, January 14

Minimum of 7 students required for class; drop-in allowed only for first class on January 14

Cost: \$84 for seven classes for residents; \$93 for seven classes for nonresidents
Please register with KCC

This class is for anyone who wants an introduction to Pilates and for those who want to get stronger without getting hurt. Your core muscles protect your spine and prepare you for strenuous activities. Developing core strength involves engaging your deepest abdominal, lumbar, and pelvic floor muscles. The instructor, Ernie Adams, presents an intelligent, less stressful way of learning Pilates and has 16-years experience specializing in move-

ment education and injury prevention. He is a Certified Pilates Instructor and Feldenkrais® Practitioner with an extensive background as a professional dancer.

In addition to private practice Ernie Adams has many years clinical experience collaborating with physical therapists and chiropractors to treat orthopedic, neurological, and dance and sports injuries. These include improving walking, balance, posture, back care, scoliosis, MS, CP, Parkinson's, traumatic brain injury and stroke, repetitive strain and chronic pain and movement re-education. He offers individual sessions and classes at his offices in Albany and El Cerrito, CA.

For more information about the class, please contact Ernie at (510) 619-9223 or adams@bodyinaction.com. Website is www.bodyinaction.com.

YOGA FOR HEALTH, Tuesdays 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Harmonize your body, mind, and spirit. This class involves basic Yoga poses, correct body alignment, breathing techniques, and relaxation. Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck and back pain, and stress reduction will be addressed. No prior experience required – all ages welcome. Please bring a mat to the class.

Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered Yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information about the class, please contact Nicole at (510) 527-6443.

When: Classes are Tuesdays, 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Fees: For residents: \$15 for drop-in; \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add 10 percent (\$16.50 per class/\$82.50 for six classes). To register, call the KCC office at (510) 525-0292.

Where: Classes are held in the Community Center.

Thursday Hatha Yoga: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Classic yoga postures and breathing practices for revitalization. Learn to listen to your body and your breath; explore and enjoy. On the second and the final Thursdays of the month, relax in a blissful Restorative practice. First and third Thursdays are a more active practice. All levels of experience welcome.

Fees for residents: \$12 for drop-in
One-month pass: (4 classes) for \$40
Non-residents: please add 10% (\$13.20 for drop-in and \$44 for month pass).

For questions about the Hatha Yoga class content, please contact Instructor Claire Lavery at 681-3077.

For questions about registration or location, please call KCC at 525-0292.

Classes are held in Room A in the Recreation Building (Building E).

Acrylic Painting

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

When: Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Fees: \$32/month (\$36 for nonresidents)

Where: Community Center



TENNIS

Kim Roots offers classes for youth and adults.

To register, call Kim at 526-6730.

Adult classes: 5 classes/\$40 per resident; \$45 per non-resident
Youth classes: \$10 per class for Kensington residents; \$11 per class for nonresidents.

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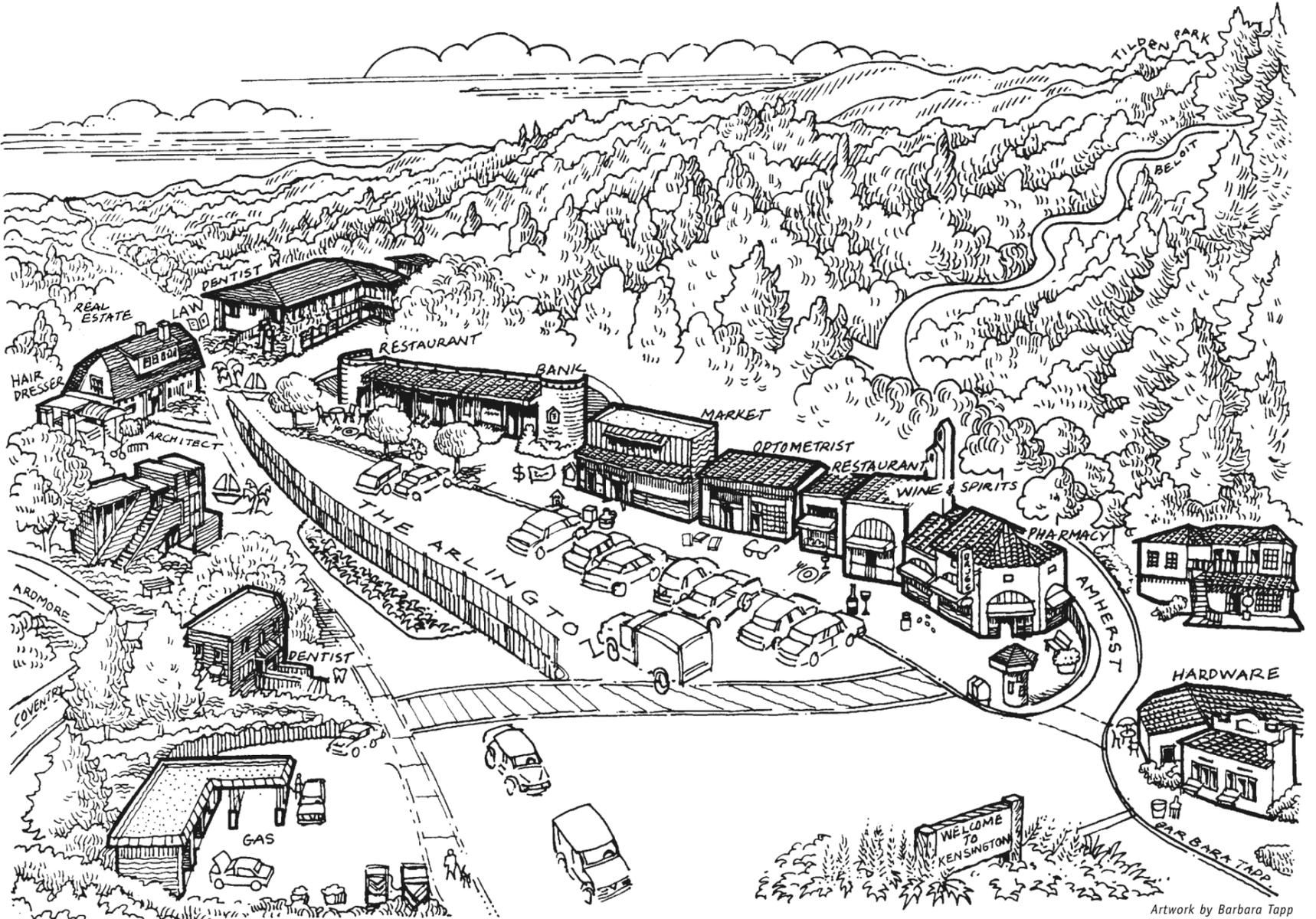
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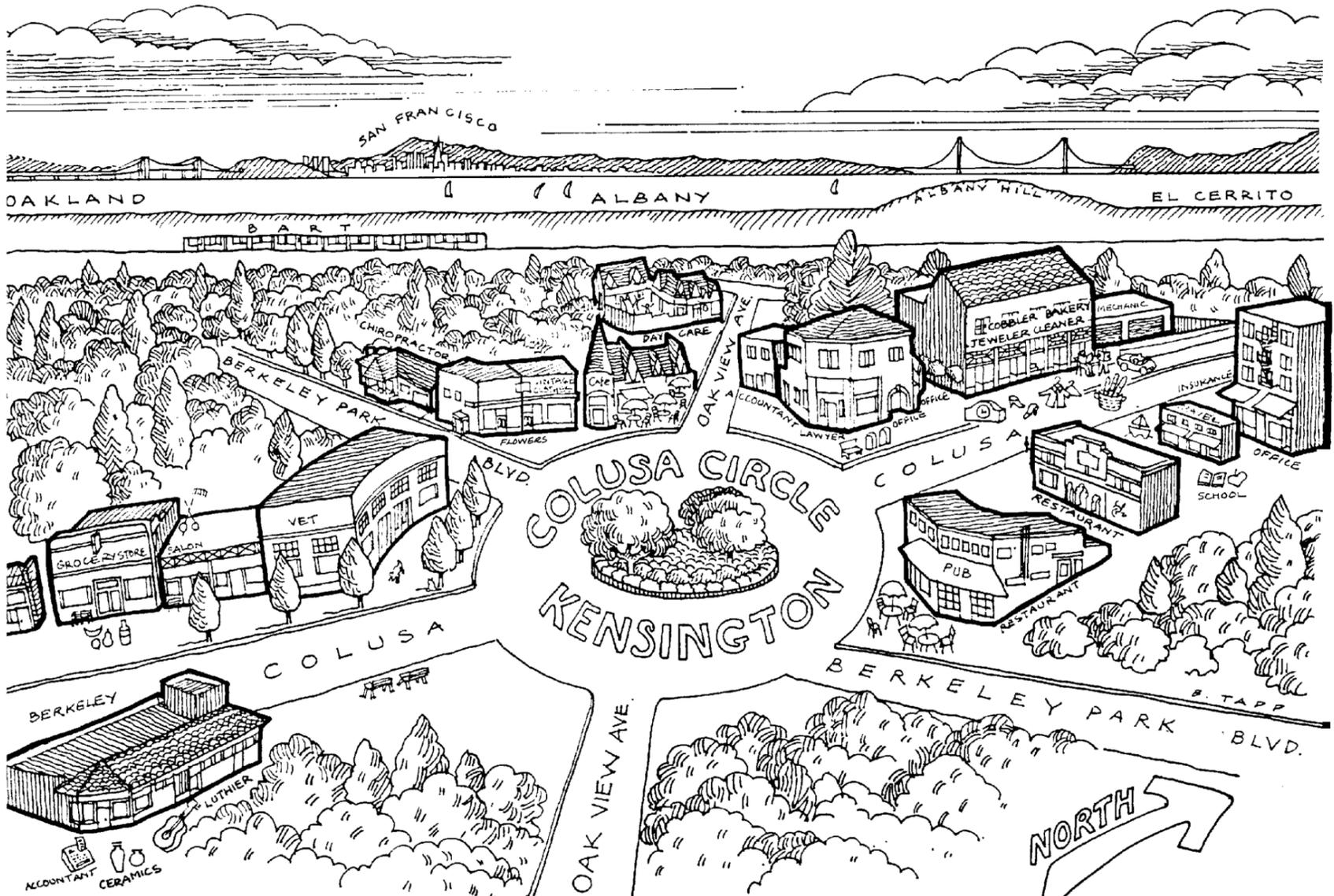
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OBITUARIES

Marjorie Mae Fineberg Abraham August 11, 1926 – November 9, 2008

Marjorie Mae Fineberg Abraham, a resident of Kensington for 54 years, was born in St. Paul Minn. Her parents emigrated to America from Eastern Europe in the early 1900s. After the death of her father, when Marjorie was 9 years old, she moved to Chicago. For a short period she lived in Hollywood.



Marjorie Mae Fineberg Abraham

She received her doctorate from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's in anthropology at University of California-Berkeley. Years later she continued her education at Holy Names College in Oakland, earning a master's in special education.

She married her husband Samuel Abraham in Berkeley in 1952. Together they built a Bauhaus style home in Kensington.

They brought in tons of rock to landscape the extensive Japanese-style garden. She was a life-long educator who taught first grade in Oakland schools, and in special education in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. She loved to read, and participated in the library's read-aloud program.

She also was an artist, mainly in ceramics, and her wares were sold through the Arts and Crafts Co-op in Berkeley.

Marjorie is survived by her husband of 56 years, her two daughters, Jan (Dixey) Faciane of New Orleans, and Martha (Marti) Hirsch, of Boulder, Colo., sons-in-law Anthony Faciane and Michael Hirsch, three grandchildren, Esther Faciane, and Rachel and Katya Hirsch, her brother Thomas Fineberg of Chicago, brothers-in-law Albert and Marvin Abraham and sisters-in-law Maxine Fineberg, Esther Sellinger, and Reeva Abraham, cousin Meryl Sacks, nieces Carol F. Metzger and Marjorie F. Winther, and nephew Daniel Fineberg, among others.

Gisella A. Larkins

August 5, 1928 – September 6, 2008

Gisella Larkins, a long-time Kensington resident, died Sept. 6 of a heart attack after a long battle with rheumatoid arthritis. She was 80.

Mrs. Larkins was a remarkable typist, clocking in at 125 words per minute back in the days of manual typewriters. When IBM produced its Selectric model, with the rotating ball, she broke it by going too fast.

She didn't like to fly, so always took the train. She was a graduate of Univer-

[See OBITUARIES on Page 11]

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Elected, Volunteer Boards Update Community

At an annual meeting to update residents on the progress of government and community projects, members of Kensington governmental and volunteer boards gave brief presentations in October, sponsored by the Kensington Improvement Council. Excerpts from those presentations follow.

KPPCSO

Bill Wright of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District board emphasized "a big event" that is on its way to Kensington: The likelihood of a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault that will shut down power and emergency services for an unknown amount of time. "This is not a matter of if, but when," Wright said. "Even if you're prepared, many of your neighbors probably are not." Fire Chief Lance Maples recommended going to www.kensingtonfire.org for lists of emergency supplies to keep on hand.

Regarding the budget, Wright said that for the first time expenses are beginning to outpace revenues. "In June, it will be the first time in recent years where that has flipped," Wright said. The police department uses 83 percent of the budget, and Kensington officers have been working without a contract since June. Park maintenance uses 5 percent of the budget, with 12 percent spend on general district expenses.

Therefore, an increase in the parcel tax for police is likely to go to voters sometime in 2009. Wright attributed the slow revenue growth to a slow growth in property taxes and higher pension fund contributions to PERS, a requirement of the

board to fund a \$2 million retiree medical plan. "Kensington deficits are likely to get larger unless we see cuts in expenses or an increase in police taxes," he said. "In the coming year there is going to be a lot of discussion about it."

KFD

Chief Maples gave an overview of the fire department, and said for the first time all Kensington fire trucks are now staffed with paramedics. "It's pretty much a radical feat," Maples said. Station 75 is also the first station in the district to get Type 2 wildfire interface equipment that will be useful if it becomes necessary to protect homes from a wildfire starting in the East Bay parks. "Now we have top-of-the-line equipment at both of the hills stations."

The upgrade started in 1998 of the water system has been completed, so all hydrants meet state standards. Now the department will begin a series of tests of those hydrants to make sure they meet or exceed the requirements that will be needed by firefighters. Maples said he is pleased with the cooperation he has received from East Bay Regional Parks, which has completed a 100-foot buffer zone between the parks and Kensington's boundary. "It goes the whole distance now," he said. The Wildcat Canyon corridor "is the best its ever been. It's remarkable work." He encouraged Kensington residents to take a trip to the area behind Beloit and Lake avenues to inspect the buffer zone themselves.

KPD

Chief Greg Harman said that the Kensington Police Department has continued to upgrade communications technology to bring it into the 21st century, improved

[See Updates on Page 11]



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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

December

Dec. 1 Castoffs Knitting Club, 7 p.m., Kensington Library. 524-3043.

Dec. 2 The Nutcracker: Children's Dance Program, 6:30 p.m., Kensington Library. Kathryn Roszak's Children's Dance Performance Group presents an abbreviated version of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Ballet*. Program appropriate for ages 3 and up. 524-3043.

Power of Myth in Movies II, 7:30-9 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church. Suggested fee \$40. Call Martha Helming, 528-3417. Richard Stromer will use eight contemporary films to explore mythic themes and archetypal characters.

Dec. 4 Family Story Times, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. identical sessions. Repeats December 11 and 18.

Dec. 5 Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m., Arlington Community Church. "Incarnation: Advent and Christmas Music of the Eastern Orthodox Traditions." Tickets \$28 general, \$21 seniors, \$15 students. 868-0695 or visit www.bayareabach.org to purchase tickets.

Dec. 6 Wreath Sale, Boy Scout Troop 100, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., outside Young's Market. Repeats Saturdays and Sundays until sold out. Also outside Kensington Farmers' Market on Oak View on Sundays. 685-0203.

Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m., with Contra Costa Chorale and Kensington Symphony Orchestra, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. "Tidings of Joy" includes Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata", R. Vaughn-Williams "Fantasia on Christmas Carols," "The Many Moods of Christmas," "arranged by Robert Shaw, and more.

527-2026 or www.ccchorale.org. Admission is free.

Breakfast with Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, 9-10:30 a.m., Maggie's Café, 11740 San Pablo Ave. 374-3231.

Dec. 7 Messiah-Sing in Baroque Style, 6 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. Bryan Baker conducts a sing-along concert with live orchestra of Handel's "Messiah." Suggested donation \$15. 525-0302.

Kensington Farmers' Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oak View at Colusa Circle. Continues each Sunday.

Dec. 8 Swedish Folk Music, 7 p.m., Kensington Library, with local musician Mark Walstrom. 524-3043.

Dec. 9 The Ring, a Mummer's Play for Yule, 7 p.m., Kensington Library. Festive play presented by the Starlight Circle Players. Ages 5 and up. 524-3043.

Dec. 10 Library Improvements and Community Forum, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Kensington Library. Hosted by County Supervisor John Gioia and County Librarian Anne Cain. This meeting will respond to the input from community members at the September meeting. Help shape the future of the Kensington Library. 524-3043.

Dec. 12 Concert, 8 p.m., Arlington Community Church. Bella Musica Chorus and Orchestra performing "Ein Deutsches Requiem" by Johannes Brahms. Directed by Arlene Sagan. Admission is by donation: \$15 general, \$12 for students and seniors. 525-5393 or visit www.bellamusica.org or email info@bellamusica.org.

Dec. 13 Hand-Crafted Gift Sale, one

day only, noon to 6 p.m., at St. John's Church in Berkeley, benefit for Palestinian craftspeople and Middle East Children's Alliance, 2727 College Avenue. 548-0542, or meca@mecaforpeace.org.

"Let's Talk About It," 2 p.m., part of a five-part Jewish Literature series, 2 p.m. Kensington Library. Led by Dr. Naomi Seidman of the Graduate Theological Union. Book discussion of *Satan in Goray*, by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Registration is recommended but not required at 524-3043.

Quick Draw Bunny Sketches and Book Talk, 2 to 5 p.m., RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. Bunnies welcome for a quick sketch. 525-6155

Straight2Screen Publishingt Group, 6 to 8 p.m., Circus Pub. Reception for author and artist Carolyn Crampton. Kensington Circus Pub, email straight2screen@yahoo.com for information.

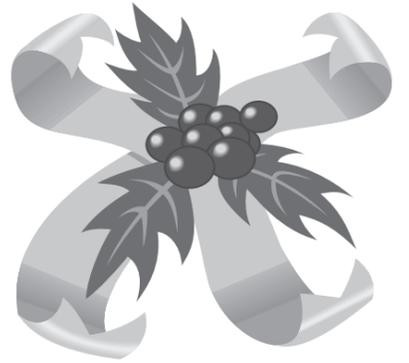
Young People's Chamber Orchestra Concert, 3 p.m., Kensington Library. 524-3043.

Dec. 15 Intergenerational Celebration of Native American and Latin American Spirituality and Art, 6:30 p.m., Arlington Community Church. Contact Michael at jeangarcon@aol.com.

Dec. 16 Bell Ringers Concert, 7 p.m., Kensington Library, featuring the Bell Ringers of Arlington Community Church, directed by Joe Pratt. Thirty-minute program. 524-3043.

Dec. 18 Holiday Crafts and Tree Trim, 3 to 5 p.m., Kensington Library. Make cards and crafts for ages 5 through teens. 524-3043.

[See Calendar on Page 10]





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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

◆ CALENDAR from page 9

Dec. 20 Amahl and the Night Visitors, and Christmas Oratorio, 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. Continues December 21 at 1 p.m. Musical drama and sing-along carols. Tickets \$20 and \$15, including dessert. 525-0302.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 5 p.m. family candlelight service, 10 p.m. late candlelight service, Unitarian Universalist Church. 525-0302.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services, 5 p.m. for family, 10 p.m. for candlelight service, Arlington Community Church. 526-9146.

Dec. 28 Film, A Short History of Islam, 10 a.m., Unitarian Universalist Church. 525-0302.

Dec. 29 Kensington Library Book Club, 7 p.m., The Reluctant Fundamentalist, by Mohsin Hamid. 524-3043,

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Worship, 5 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church. 525-0302.

Graduate Theological Union. Book discussion of *Satan in Goray*, by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Registration is recommended but not required at 524-3043.

Jan. 17 Coffee and Chocolate Reception, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with pet portrait artist Patricia Lesley, RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. 525-6155.

Jan. 20 Author Discussion, 7 p.m., Kensington Library, with graphic designer of Oliver Chin's new book, The Year of the Ox, about the Chinese zodiac. 524-3043.

Jan. 26 Kensington Library Book Club, 7 p.m., A Lesson Before Dying, by Ernest Gaines. 524-3043.

Jan. 27 The Short Attention Span Circus, 6:30 p.m., with circus performer Jean-Paul Valjean juggling, joking, and contorting. 524-3043

PUBLIC MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the community center.

Dec. 1 Kensington Community Council, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 3 Kensington Fire Department, 7:30 p.m. Note change of date from December 10.

Dec. 11 Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 30 Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, 7 p.m.

Jan. 5 "K" Groups meeting, 7:30 p.m., see details above.

Jan. 8 Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 27 Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, 7 p.m.

January

Jan. 5 Kensington Community Council and K-Group Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Kensington Community Center. Representatives from any and all Kensington organizations are invited to the January KCC board meeting to share information about activities and plans for 2009.

Jan. 6 Family Story Time, 7 p.m., Kensington Library. Repeats January 13. (No story times January 20 and 27.)

Jan. 10 "Let's Talk About It," 2 p.m., part of a five-part Jewish Literature series, 2 p.m. Kensington Library. Led by Dr. Naomi Seidman of the

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Neighborhood Notes

Library Renovation Talks Continue

County Supervisor John Gioia and Librarian Anne Cain return to the Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Dec. 10 to continue discussions over how architects and designers should spend \$1.4 million from the county to upgrade the systems, the bathrooms and the space at the library. Some expansion of the library is possible, but mainly architects will be renovating the current footprint of the building. Friends of the Kensington Library provided yummy snacks and coffee at the September meeting, so all comers can keep their fingers crossed.

Halloween for the Hungry a Success

Simone Hudson, a 14-year-old Kensington resident who decided to trick-or-treat for something other than candy, led a successful campaign on Halloween and needed enough for local food banks to feed 350 people. After seeing the article in October's Outlook, other Kensington residents organized a drive on their streets, as well. "People in Kensington were very generous," Hudson said.

County Study Provides Tips on Feeding Kids

First 5 California commissioned a study of 4- and 5-year-olds in Contra Costa County that demonstrates trying to hide healthy foods in unhealthy ones is unnecessary, and that children surveyed showed a great propensity to eat their vegetables, when provided, even though fewer than half of children between 2 and 11 eat the daily recommended amount. To help children eat healthier, the organization has produced a free cookbook with healthy and affordable recipes. Yummy for Your Tummy is available by calling 1-800-KIDS-025 or by visiting www.first5california.com.

Sing-Along Messiah Slated for Dec. 7

A Messiah-Sing in Baroque Style will be held at 6 p.m. Dec. 7 at Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. Bryan Baker will conduct Handel's "Messiah" with a live orchestra. Featured soloists will include Phyllis McCaughey, Rod Lowe, and Barry Zuckerman; with UUCB's Youth and Children Choir and Luminescence, the adult choir. Even some kazoo numbers won't be left out. The suggested donation is \$15.

◆ UPDATES from page 8

relationships with other Bay Area law enforcement agencies, established an investigations officer to oversee ongoing cases, and improved its record of getting cases to court once an arrest has been made for things like driving under the influence and petty theft. "The better job we do up front the less it costs us," Harman told the crowd. Eleven new portable radios have been purchased, along with a new patrol vehicle.

Regarding the parks, Harman said work toward renovating the annex so that it may again become a rental property is ongoing while the district works to identify the capital projects that should be a priority. With the passage of Measure WW for the East Bay parks, Kensington stands to gain more than \$200,000 to help in those improvements.

KCC

Kensington Community Council President Bruce Morrow reported that after-school programs sponsored by the KCC have enrolled 234 children this year, a

number that comprises 43 percent of the Hilltop School. "That's pretty good," he said. Also, a walking tour of the outside of the Maybeck estates was extremely popular, so the KCC is planning to repeat that tour.

He also said that the KCC is in the process of beginning to automate registration for after-school and adult programs through the Internet, so that the paper process of filing for classes can be reduced. Eventually, that system is likely to include payment over the Internet, as well.

KIC

Lorraine Osmudson and Larry Thall were re-elected to the Kensington Improvement Council. Linda Lipscomb emphasized that the KIC meets every fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the community center, and encouraged more participation.

Members of the KIC have received a fair amount of criticism regarding the new sign at Kensington's entrance. All meetings regarding the sign were open to the public, but very few members of the community participated in those discussions, Lipscomb said.

◆ OBITUARIES from page 8

sity of California-Berkeley. Mrs. Larkins is survived by her daughter, Lisa, of Kensington, and a son, Kirk, of El Cerrito.

Francis O. Mueller

July 26, 1931 – October 21, 2008

Francis Mueller died Oct. 21 at the age of 77. He and his wife, Joan, moved to Lenox Road in 1962, where they raised Steve, Wally (nee Cathy), and David.

Fran's career as a metallurgical engineer ranged from Caterpillar tractors to Atlas rockets; foundries to nuclear power plants; Alaska pipelines to nuclear submarines. While working for Bechtel, Sohio and British Petroleum he was often away on long assignments, but found time for the Dads' Club, Y Indian Guides, Cub Scout Troop 82 and Boy Scout Troop 100. Engineering was his passion.

He built a tractor and tamed the backyard jungle, with levels and retaining walls; dug out a complete basement for his workshop, then added a large deck. His design and craftsmanship is everywhere in his home. He was known for a twinkle in his eye and a rye sense of humor.

A celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. Dec. 27 at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins Street, Berkeley. Memorial donations may be sent to Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP), 165 22nd Street, Richmond, CA 94801

Janet S. Williams

February 24, 1954 - October 28, 2008

A native of Australia, Kensington resident Janet S. Williams died Oct. 28 peacefully, with her devoted family by her side. She was 54.

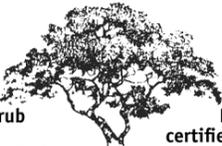
Donations may be made in her name to the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley.

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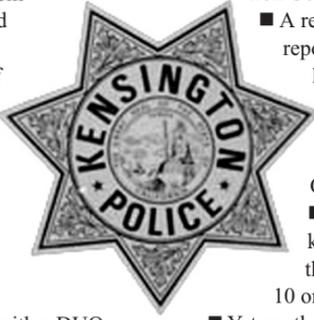
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From the case files of the KPD

- Police spoke with neighbors Oct. 1 on Ocean View Avenue in regards to vandalism.
- Someone tried to steal fuel from a vehicle on Highland Boulevard Oct. 2.
- Dead deer in the 200 block of Arlington Avenue, same day.
- Vehicle improperly parked on Highgate Road Oct. 2.
- An accident on Rincon Road caused some property damage.
- Officer Stegman closed someone's open door on Colusa Avenue.
- Officer Escobar hit someone with a DUO on Colusa and Fairmont Oct. 4.
- Resident on Sunset Drive wanted officers to keep a woman away from the property.
- Petty theft from unlocked vehicle on Coventry Road Oct. 4.
- A resident reported juveniles wandering the street on Ocean View Avenue.
- In a lucky find, the owner of a stolen vehicle from Coventry Road found it in Emeryville, and drove it home to Kensington.
- An alarm on Jessen Court prompted two calls to the police, but residence appeared secure.
- On Oct. 6, a person thought their doorbell had rung on Arlington Avenue.
- Also that day, a driver was cited and the vehicle towed on Franciscan Way at Eureka.
- An ongoing problem with parking was troubleshot on Amherst Ave.
- A car was stolen from the parking lot of the Unitarian Universalist Church Oct. 6.
- Two suspicious persons were detained and questioned Oct. 7 at Grizzly Peak and Beloit, ultimately resulting in the arrest of the same guys by the Oakland Police Department. Theory is that those home burglaries have come to an end.
- Police helped clean up broken shower-door glass on Stanford Avenue Oct. 7.
- Police were alerted to someone smoking pot in the 200 block of Arlington Avenue.
- Officers helped Berkeley police to find a

- missing juvenile Oct. 8.
- A vehicle was towed for expired registration Oct. 9.
- A resident of Stratford Road reported hearing voices inside her home Oct. 10.
- A bicycle was stolen on Jessen Court the same day.
- Residential burglary on Coventry Road Oct. 10.
- An occupied vehicle not known to the neighborhood had the police investigating on Oct. 10 on Los Altos Drive.
- Yet another residential burglary on Rincon Road Oct. 10.
- A squirrel got trapped in a house on Highgate Road Oct. 11.
- A lost dog was found on Highgate Road Oct. 11.
- A woman was found sleeping in her car on Rincon Road Oct. 11.
- A dog ran loose on Arlington Avenue Oct. 11.
- An outdoor concert on Coventry Road Oct. 11 did not violate any ordinance.
- A flashlight was seen on a property under construction on Highgate Road.
- Graffiti found on upper parking lot on Arlington Avenue.
- More spray paint damage the next day, Oct. 12.
- An injured deer could not be located at Highgate and Sunset.
- Up on Grizzly Peak Oct. 13, a resident had to be helped to unlock his home.
- A man who fell in his home on Kingston Road had to be taken to the hospital.
- And another resident on Ocean View had to be helped inside, sans key.
- Juveniles pulled a branch into onto Sunset Drive.
- An abandoned vehicle ended up on Purdue Ave. Oct. 14.
- Apples went missing from a tree on Berkeley Park Oct. 15.
- An unleashed dog in the park brought officers down Oct. 16.



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