

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

May 2005 A publication of the Kensington Community Council Volume 62 Number 4

## District to decide May 1 if Hilltop opens on time

West Contra County Unified School District staff are scheduled to decide by May 1 whether the reconstructed Hilltop Elementary School will be completed in time for the start of the 2005 - 2006 school year.

Construction crews ran into delays on the renovation of the main structure as a result of heavy rains during the winter. The district is considering postponing the return of students to the school by as much as three weeks.

Though three weeks is not a lot of time, such a delay would mean teachers will not have the summer to pack up their temporary classrooms at Portola.

Instead, they would need to leave their current classrooms in place for the start of the 2005-2006 school year and then have just a weekend to move their classrooms

and set them up in the renovated and expanded campus up the hill.

Bill Savidge, engineering officer with the school district, said the district must decide now about whether to delay the return to Hilltop so teachers won't have to stow away their classrooms at the end of the year only to have to unpack and set them up again in the portables if they determine later a delay is unavoidable.

"Right now we are not ready to make a decision," he said. "We are assessing the process. It could go either way."

Kensington principal Jon Stokes said he believes a delay is unnecessary based on his discussions with the construction manager on the project. He said he is pushing the district to keep the project on schedule and allow teachers to move in as planned for the beginning of the school year.

"That's not making the staff happy. We don't think that's a very good idea," he said. "It means we're going to have to pack everything up on a weekend and move. That's not smart."

The \$15 million reconstruction and expansion of Hilltop school began last summer and required temporarily moving students to a makeshift campus made up of portable classrooms on the Portola Middle School blacktop.

When completed, the project will provide a new 11,000 square foot building to house the library, music, science and art programs.

The project also includes the addition of 1,700 square feet of space to the main building, modernization of existing classrooms and renovation of the multipurpose room and kitchen.



SCHOOL DAZE: Workers renovating the main building at Hilltop faced delays because of heavy rains in recent weeks. The building, expected to be completed in time for the new 2005-2006 school year may not be ready until mid-September.



BUBBLE WRAP: An undated photo from the Kensington Nursery School shows two adults raising a soap bubble around a child during the school's annual science fair. The event is intended to give children an early and positive experience with science.

## Science as child's play

Nursery school science fair shows it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out how to get a four-year-old interested in rocket science.

There may be no demonstration of self-assembling nanocircuitry or chance to examine the molecular structure of Z-DNA binding proteins, but kids can be enclosed in a soap bubble, shoot vinegar and baking soda-propelled rockets and ride the galaxy in a simulated space shuttle.

On May 14, the Kensington Nursery School will hold its 15th annual science fair. It is believed to be the only nursery school in the area to hold an annual science fair.

The event, which draws about 200 people each year, is aimed at providing kids with an early and fun exposure to the world of science.

See "Science" page 3

## Scher and neighbors don't want a new ordinance

A proposed Contra Costa County ordinance that would allow, but limit, fundraising concerts at the home of concert promoter turned philanthropist Danny Scher has led to a rare moment of accord between Scher and his neighbors.

Following a special session of the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council where residents discussed the ordinance, Scher and Toni Folger Brown of the Coventry Neighborhood both said they would prefer to let existing law resolve the controversy.

However, the two disagreed about the problems with the latest effort by supervisor John Gioia to craft a law that would provide a peaceable solution to the controversy over the events.

The Coventry Neighborhood Group, which

has characterized the concerts as commercial in nature and inappropriate for a residential neighborhood, drafted a detailed critique of the ordinance. It recommended several changes including greater limits on the number and size of events allowed under the ordinance.

If passed, the law would permit up to four events a year with as many as 300 people at two events and up to 200 people at two others. It would also limit the number of events to two if a property owner held four the previous year.

Scher, though, called the ordinance "overly harsh and punitive" and said there is a system already in place within the county to address the problem.

The county fined Scher a total of \$800 for

three events it said he held without obtaining a necessary land use permit. Scher contends the events don't require a land use permit because they represent a reasonable use of a person's home. After unsuccessfully appealing the fines with the county, Scher has taken the county to Superior Court to challenge the fines.

Ray Barraza, chairman of the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, said the group will make recommendations to the county in May about how to improve on the draft ordinance.

"An ordinance, modified and improved, is an avenue to getting rid of the problem," he said. "The intent is not to put Danny out of business, but to work with the neighborhood find a solution."

### Chalk talk



An artist with his creation on Solano Ave.

Solano Ave. will turn its sidewalks over to artists and chocoholics for the 10th annual Chocolate & Chalk Art Festival on Saturday, May 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Draw a picture or just stroll around and indulge in a wide assortment of chocolate goodies.

See page 6

# marvin gardens



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## New Listings

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## Kensington Community Council continues annual fund drive



Kensington Park's Tot Lot is one example of what community donations to KCC do.

The Kensington Community Council thanks all of the contributors who made donations to its annual fund drive.

The generosity of community members provides critical support for Kensington's recreation and education programs and the Kensington Outlook.

If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution, please send it the Kensington Community Council, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington 94707.

The Kensington Community Council would like to acknowledge the recent donation of \$200 from Margaret and Gregory Shean.

## Graduation photo planned

Graduating high school students who live in Kensington will have a chance to reconnect with old friends, share memories and smile.

The annual photo of Kensington's graduating high school students is set for May 8 at 2 p.m. at Building E in Kensington Park.

To participate in the senior photo please call Irene Wells at 527-0717 or Chris Sorenson at 525-2131. Former and current Kensington residents are welcome.

## Kensington Outlook

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The Kensington Outlook is available online at [www.kensingtonoutlook.com](http://www.kensingtonoutlook.com) courtesy of [www.aboutkensington.com](http://www.aboutkensington.com)

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

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

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## KPD promotes Escobar, hires new officer

The Kensington Police Department promoted officer Angela Escobar to sergeant, filling the opening created by the departure of Sgt. Stephen Bray.

Separately, the department said it concluded an investigation into an incident involving Escobar when a suspect she was transporting November 16 to the Contra Costa County Jail in Martinez County Jail became ill and had to be taken by ambulance to the Contra Costa County Hospital. The department found no wrongdoing in the matter and closed its investigation.

The suspect, a 27-year-old male from New Mexico, was one of three arrested by Escobar at 3 a.m. that morning after she stopped the men and arrested them for narcotics violations and possession of a stolen vehicle. The suspect at the hospital was in a coma and was not expected to survive, but he recovered and later fled from the hospital. He is wanted on narcotics and other charges in both New Mexico and California.



Sgt. Angela Escobar

Escobar, who joined the force from the Davis Police Department in 1999, continues to head the department's seniors program.

The Kensington Police Department also hired Dan Borgfeldt to fill its last opening on the force. Borgfeldt, the son of Kensington reserve officer Paul Borgfeldt, joins the department from the San Francisco Police Department. Prior to that, he served as a member of the Albany Police Department.

Borgfeldt will now oversee the department's information technology, a responsibility previously handled by Sgt. Bray.

The promotion of Escobar and the hiring of Borgfeldt follows other recent hires at the department that fills the string of openings created by the retirement of Bray and the departure of two other officers.

## Science: a chance to make it fun for kids

*continued from page 1*

"Science isn't bound to any age. We're born doing science," said Lynn Hollingsworth, director of the Kensington Nursery School. "The early, play-based exposure shows kids that science isn't boring. It gives them a hands-on experience and a more fun-filled feeling about it."

The science fair will feature more than a dozen stations for children to explore the natural world, magnets, waterways and more. The event also features an Astro jump, face painting and a glow-in-the-dark pendulum. Grilled lunches are available.

The science fair will be held at the school at 52 Arlington Ave. There's a \$3 admission fee. Children 2 and under are free. For information, call 524-7963.

## KFPD finishes phase of water improvements

The Kensington Fire District completed the third phase of its water system improvements as it closed the distance between any home in the community and a fire hydrant to within 500 feet.

The fire hydrants installed in the latest phase of improvements reduced the distances some homes had been from the nearest fire hydrant from more than 900 feet.

The improvements are part of an overall plan, approved in 1999 by the Kensington Fire Protection Board, to upgrade the water system and increase the safety of the community.

Through June 2004, the district spent nearly \$1.3 million on improvements to the water system to improve both the rate of flow and access to water.

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**Lori Jensen**  
510-559-2901 Office  
lorij@marvingardens.com

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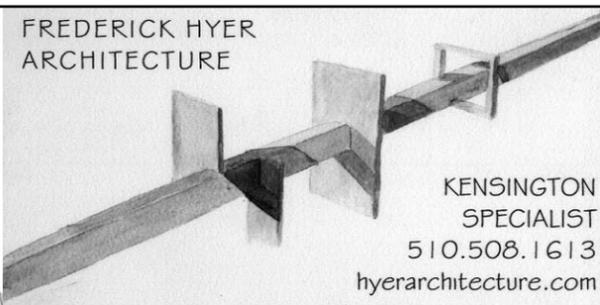
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# Neighborhood Notes

## Nursery school vet is Alabama bound after 21 years



Debbie Gano (middle), a part of the Kensington Nursery School since her children began attending the school 21 years ago, is stepping down as administrative director to move to Alabama. Gano is building a home in Lincoln, Ala. to be near her parents, who have suffered from health problems. Gano's three children all attended KNS. Her oldest, Justin, now lives in Chicago. Her son Dylan works at Young's Market and her son Jacob works at Arlington Pharmacy. "My heart is really at KNS. That's one of the hardest things about leaving," she said. "There's never a day I don't want to go to work. There's not another job. I'd rather have." She said she hopes to continue her work with children when she arrives in Alabama.

## GaUCHO's get last look

Alumni and community members will get a chance to bid farewell to the El Cerrito High School May 13 through May 15 before the wrecking ball brings down the building to make way for a new \$97 million campus.

The new campus is expected to be completed for the 2008-2009 school year.

A homecoming mixer will be held Friday, May 13 in the school's cafeteria, followed by a parade May 14 and ceremony. School tours, games, food and entertainment will be a part of the celebration, which will run to 6 p.m.

On the evening of Saturday, May 14, there will be a reunion dance from 7:30 to 11 p.m. That will be followed Sunday, May 15 with more tours and a chance for people to leave their mark on the inside of the gym in graffiti style.

For more information contact Susan Johnson at 233-3408 or email durangosue@aol.com. Former band members who would like to play with the current marching band during the parade are invited to contact gregg@glmco.com.

## SupE for breakfast

Contra Costa County supervisor John Gioia will sit down for breakfast with Kensington residents to have an informal discussion about community and county issues.

The breakfast, part of a series of meetings the supervisor holds with residents in his district, will be held Friday, May 20 from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Shai's at 269 Arlington Ave.

Complimentary coffee will be provided, however, guests are expected to pay for their own meal. There is no requirement to make a purchase to attend the breakfast.

For further information, contact supervisor Gioia's office at 374-3231.

## KEF plans celebration

The Kensington Education Foundation is beginning to plan a Fall 2005 "welcome back" party in celebration of the expected completion of the school's renovation. Tours of the campus, displays of school memorabilia, food, and music are envisioned for the event. Community members who would like to help with the event can contact Esther Hill at 524-3713.

## Library gets down to business with new web info



Contra Costa County Library has developed an exciting new business webpage which will be added to their website <http://ccclib.org/> in early May 2005. Watch the Library's homepage for the introduction of "The Business Connection."

The Business Connection will present information most helpful for small businesses and start-ups. Topics include first steps in starting a business, marketing, management, human resources, international trade, and much more.

Multiple resources will be offered for each topic, such as specific links to online information and full-text magazine articles,

highlighted books to take home or read online, and new resources at key library locations throughout the county.

A unique feature is the Business Connection, which offers a calendar of business training and special events, connecting businesses to each other and to the business community.

The webpage development project is part of a Small Business Services grant funded by a Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant through the California State Library.

For more information call the Kensington Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, at 524-3043.

-- Liz Ruhland

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# Kensington Community Education

## Youth Classes

### KCC

#### Kensington Community Council

Helen Horowitz, Administrator  
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Building E, 59 Arlington Ave.  
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525-0292

**OFFICE HOURS**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday  
**OFFICE CLOSED** May 30

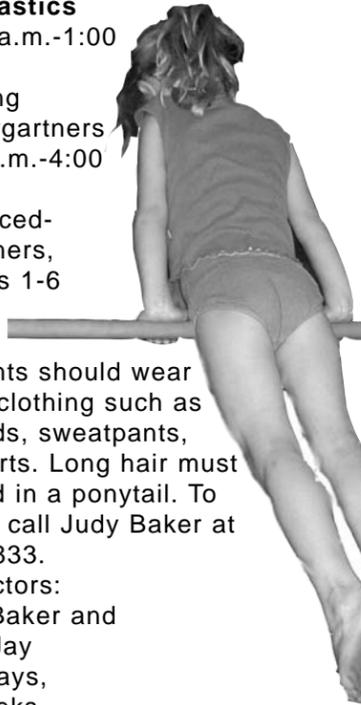
**KCC OFFICE**  
Building E is located across the grassy field from the Community Center Annex that houses The Neighborhood School.

**NOTICES**  
**To Register for Classes** call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits. Those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

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

**Community Center**  
Call Helen Horowitz for rental and reservation information.

**Gymnastics**  
11:55 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Morning Kindergartners 2:50 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Advanced-Beginners, Grades 1-6



Students should wear loose clothing such as leotards, sweatpants, or shorts. Long hair must be tied in a ponytail. To enroll, call Judy Baker at 233-1833.  
Instructors:  
Judy Baker and Jean Jay  
Tuesdays, 10 weeks  
April 4 - June 7

**COMMUNITY CENTER**

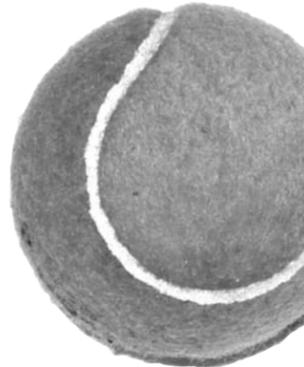
### Tennis

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

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Fees (payable monthly):  
\$10 per class/resident  
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**TENNIS COURTS**



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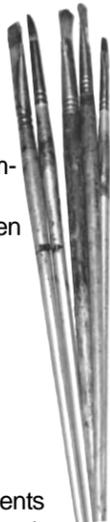
## Adult Classes

### Acrylic Painting

Stan Cohen leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting, with assistance available.

Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited. Instructor approval required. Instructor: Stan Cohen  
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Thursdays, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.  
**BUILDING E**

### Exercise to Music

Non-impact aerobics; ongoing.  
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\$40/1 x week, \$80/2 x week  
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Conformation: 8-8:45 p.m. \$4/class  
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Alex Brown, USPTA tennis pro, offers classes to a minimum of four students. To register, call Brown at 524-5495.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10 a.m.  
5 classes/ \$40 per resident; \$45 per non-resident  
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## Registration now open for KCC Summer Day Camp 2005 -- Join us!

The Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in the fall 2005. The camp runs from June 13, 2005 through August 19, 2005, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. To ensure the best experience for each child, our camp has a maximum of 63 children per week. We employ a director, a head counselor and eight counselors, and a "specialty consultant" for each two-week specialty session 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 counselors Valeria Fike-Rosales, Hayley Stranberg, Head Counselor Teddy Firestone, Lauren Aczon, Matt Houser and Andrew Erdmann. KCC is delighted that they have chosen to work again at its camp. Joining our staff is Ana Schumacher, Matt Robinson and Kevan Warren.

### Fees

The cost for the Kensington Summer Day Camp is \$185 per week with the cost prorated for July 4th week to \$148. This fee covers all transportation costs, snacks, entrance fee, activities and a KCC Summer Camp T-shirt for field trips. Fees must be paid 10 days before each week begins. Children whose fees have not been paid may not attend until fees have been paid to the KCC administrator. Registration, waiver and emergency forms must be submitted prior to the start of each week. Forms must accompany the appropriate fees. A non-refundable 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 session begins.

### Registration

Open registration. Parents may register their children on a space available basis during KCC office hours.  
Brochures available

For more information or a brochure, call the KCC office at (510) 525-0292.

### \*Special Activities Schedule:

- Carpentry with Sandy Thacker**  
Week 1 June 13 - June 17
- Carpentry with Sandy Thacker**  
Week 2 June 20 - June 24
- Golf with Alex Brown**  
Week 3 June 27 - July 1
- Golf with Alex Brown**  
Week 4 July 5, 6 & 8 (July 4th holiday)
- Gymnastics with Judy Baker**  
Week 5 July 11 - July 15
- Gymnastics with Judy Baker**  
Week 6 July 18 - July 22
- Carpentry with Sandy Thacker**  
Week 7 July 25 - July 29
- Carpentry with Sandy Thacker**  
Week 8 August 1 - August 5
- Sports & Chess with Kim Roots**  
Week 9 August 8 - August 12
- Sports & Chess with Kim Roots**  
Week 10 August 15 - August 19

\*Tennis with Alex Brown, three days a week

### \*FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE:

- June 15** The Jungle
- June 22** Exploratorium
- June 29** San Francisco Zoo
- July 6** Scandia
- July 13** Lawrence Hall of Science
- July 20** Jelly Belly Factory & Bo A's Baseball Game
- July 27** Waterworld
- August 3** The Jungle
- August 10** A's Baseball Game
- August 17** A's Baseball Game

\*Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances.



2004 campers on a field trip

# Kensington Calendar

## Draw a crowd with chocolate



Artist draws on the sidewalk of Solano Ave. during past Chocolate & Chalk

The sidewalks along the entire length of Solano Avenue in Berkeley and Albany will become the canvas for artists professional and otherwise during the 10th annual Chocolate & Chalk Art Festival on Saturday, May 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Areas of sidewalk will be assigned to participants to create their own fanciful chalk paintings. Registration takes place 10-5 in three locations on Solano: 1561 at Peralta Park; 1850 at Andronico's Market; and 1216 at YMCA Kid's Club. Artist's chalk and a Polaroid of their finished work are available for a fee. People interested in sampling chocolate can buy a packet of \$1 tickets for \$10 at any of the registration sites for Chocolate sampling. The menu features delectable brownies, yummy rich chocolate cake, and spicy chocolate mole burritos as well as the stranger chocolate fried wontons, chocolate raspberry body paint for adults, and chocolate covered ants. Street poets, music, pet adoptions and more. Info: 527-5358.

### Sunday, May 1

**Personal Theology Seminar: Stephen Ruppenthal**, author, poet, former professor of Chinese Studies at San Francisco State, meditation teacher at the Blue Mountain Meditation Center, speaks on Spirituality Through Nature: The Path of Direct Awakening 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info:525-0302 ext. 306

### Monday, May 2

**Computer Literacy:** How to set up a free e-mail account that is accessible from the library or any on-line computer at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Sign up for a seat. Info: 524-3043

### Tuesday, May 3

**Beverly Tracewell**, from the Foundation for Osteoporosis Research and Education, will talk about everything you need to know about osteoporosis - from general bone health, to prevention, and available treatments at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Info: 526-7512

### Sunday, May 1

**Celebrate the arts** from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Info:526-9146

### Monday, May 2

**Computer Literacy:** How to set up a free e-mail account that is accessible from the library or any on-line computer at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Sign up for a seat. Info: 524-3043

### Monday, May 2

**The Kensington Community Council** meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Info: 525-0292

### Tuesday, May 3

**The Kensington Study Group of the League of Women Voters**, West Contra Costa County meets at 1:15 p.m. at the home of Betty Brown, 44 Beverly Road, Kensington. Confirmations and info: 524-6071

### Tuesday, May 3

**Family Storytime** at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

### Friday, May 6

**A concert featuring B.A.C.H.**, Bay Area Classical Harmonies directed by Andrew Chung will be held at 8 p.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.,

### Saturday, May 7

**Berkeley Opera's** 26th season continues with Verdi's Macbeth at 8 p.m. at the Julia Morgan Theater in Berkeley. Berkeley Opera Artistic Director Jonathan Kuner conducts the production, which features the U.C. Alumni Chorus, Mark Sumner director. Repeat performances May 11 at 7:30 p.m., May 13 at 8 p.m. and May 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$40, seniors \$35 and Youth (17 and under) \$15. Info 925-798-1300.

### Sunday, May 8

**Personal Theology Seminar:** Hank "Waabeza" Adams: Native American spiritual advisor, theologian, life prosperity consultant, and natural healer speaks on Native American Spirituality and Healing Practice at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info:525-0302 ext. 306

### Monday, May 9

**Elderhostel** presentation with Ann White, who will discuss travel and learning programs for seniors at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

### Tuesday, May 10

**Berkeley Chamber Performances presents Pacific Brass Quintet.** Calvert, Brubeck, Gould, others. 8 p.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, \$50. Info: 525-5211.

### Tuesday, May 10

**Family Storytime** at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

### Wednesday, May 11

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

### Thursday, May 12

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

### Sunday, May 15

**Personal Theology Seminar:** Csaba Todor, Transylvania minister, Balazs Scholar attending Starr King School, hosted by UUCB, The Faith of a Transylvania Minister at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info:525-0302 ext. 306

### Sunday, May 15

**Ecumenical service to celebrate Pentecost Sunday** at 10:30 a.m. at the site of the Fairmont School in El Cerrito at the corner of Kearney and Eureka in El Cerrito. Congregations participating in the service include the Arlington Community Church, Mira Vista United Church of Christ, Northminster Presbyterian, Christ Lutheran and El Cerrito Methodist. A steel band, music from all the choirs and balloons will contribute to the celebration.

### Monday, May 16

**Kindermusik Around the World** with Michèle Voillequé from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Choir Room, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Music, movement and make-believe for 4-7 year-olds. Five-week session. Fee \$115 includes instrument, book, CD and more. Call (510) 552-8160 for more info or to register.

### Monday, May 16

**Computer Literacy:** How to do your own medical research at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Sign up for a seat. Info: 524-3043

### Tuesday, May 17

**Kindermusik Zoo Train!** with Michèle Voillequé from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Choir Room, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Music, movement and make-believe for children aged 1.5-4 years and their caregivers. 5-week session. Fee \$75 includes instrument, book, CD and more. To register and info: 552-8160.



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# Kensington Calendar Continued

## Gardens in your own backyard



One of the gardens featured on the Secret Gardens tour

Woodland creeks, tropical jungles, outdoor rooms and Mayan ruins are among the spectacular gardens featured in the 19th annual Secret Gardens of the East Bay tour. Known as the "Best of the Bay," the tour features ten "secret gardens," each unique -and inspiring-to gardeners of every level. Tucked in the hills around Berkeley, Oakland, Piedmont and Alameda, the gardens chosen this year include a Hawaiian paradise, a fairy tale woodland glen, a Mayan-themed hideaway and an outdoor modern art installation displayed among rare specimen plants. Tickets are \$45.00 per person and include a collectible catalog with detailed descriptions of each garden, a map, and directions for the self-guided tour. Ticketed visitors will also be admitted to lectures by garden design experts, held at lunch time on the beautifully landscaped grounds of Park Day School. Gourmet box lunches are available and must be pre-ordered for \$15 each. The school will also host a marketplace, offering rare plants, fine foods, garden-related wares and the opportunity, once again, to visit with professional garden designers. Proceeds from the tour and the marketplace are critical to the scholarship and academic programs of Park Day School, an independent K-6 school in Oakland. Info: 653-0317.

**Tuesday, May 17**

**Stories & Rope Tricks** with Larry Klunger as Lariat Larry at 6:30 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Lariat Larry will tell true tales, legends, and tall tales of the Wild West, and will perform rope tricks. This is a free event and all ages are welcome. Info: 524-3043.



**Tuesday, May 17**

**Join Mary Jane Ryan**, for a talk about her new book, "The Happiness Makeover: How to Teach Yourself to Be Happy and Enjoy Every Day" at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Ryan combines the latest in brain science, positive psychology, and insights from the wisdom traditions to offer proven strategies to find joy in everyday life. Info: 526-7512.

**Thursday, May 19**

**The American Rhododendron Society**, Cal Chapter, meets at 7:30 p.m. 666 Bellevue Ave., on Lake Merritt near Children's Fairyland in Oakland. This month's speaker is Sherla Bartelmann who will speak on Vireyas (Malaysian rhodies) in Hawaii. Info: Marilynne at 223-0443.

**Saturday, May 21**

**The Contra Costa Chorale**, conducted by John Montanero, presents an eclectic program with the New Millennium Strings Orchestra, under the direction of Laurien Domine, Mozart's Divertimento, and Gibbons' Hosanna at 2 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury, El Cerrito. Tickets \$15, students and seniors \$12, under 16 free.

**Sunday, May 22**

**Personal Theology Seminar: Mike Bukay**, Nature Photographer and Explorer, Insights Received while Producing a Multimedia Experience: Reflections on the Tao at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info: 525-0302 ext. 306

**Monday May 23**

**Computer Literacy:** Word processing basics using Microsoft at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Sign up for a seat. Info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, May 24**

**The annual luncheon meeting of the League of Women Voters - West Contra Costa County** will be held at noon at Denny's restaurant, 11344 San Pablo Ave. After a short business meeting, there will be a speaker on Urban Redevelopment. Info: 233-0199.

**Tuesday, May 24**

**Family Storytime** at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, May 24**

**The El Cerrito Democratic Club** meets at 7:30 p.m. in Makemie Hall at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. Mayor Sandi Potter will speak to us on: "The state of the city"; including the Redevelopment Agency, the status of Del Norte area development, city facilities, mixed-use projects and affordable housing. Info: 526-4874

**Tuesday, May 24**

**The Contra Costa Chorale**, conducted by John Montanero, presents an eclectic program with the New Millennium Strings Orchestra, under the direction of Laurien Domine, Mozart's Divertimento, and Gibbons' Hosanna at 8 p.m. at the Knox Performing Arts Center, Contra Costa College, 2600 Bell Drive, San Pablo. Tickets \$15, students and seniors \$12, under 16 free.

**Wednesday May 25**

**The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club** meets noon at the Mira Vista Golf & Country Club to hear William Tate speak about his 18 years as a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces. During those years he was active in the Persian Gulf of Kuwait. Reservation deadline Friday, May 20. Info: 525-5689 or 526-2221

**Sunday, May 29**

**Personal Theology Seminar: Group Discussion:** Evaluation and Planning Day. This is an important time to share what you want for the future at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Info: 525-0302 ext. 306

**Tuesday, May 31**

**Family Storytime** at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Info: 524-3043

**Tuesday, May 31**

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

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# From the case files of the KPD

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

## Events in March

○Police arrested a 58-year-old Kensington resident on York Dr. for driving under the influence after tests showed he had a blood alcohol level of .37, more than four times the legal limit of .08. The man rammed a parked vehicle, which also belonged to him.

○Police towed a car on York Ave. after it was pushed into the street from where it was parked when its owner, who had a blood alcohol level of .37, rammed it with another vehicle.

○Police arrested a 35-year-old El Cerrito man on Colusa Ave for driving under the influence after stopping him for speeding and driving in the opposing lane of traffic. He had a blood alcohol level of .18

○An Edwin Dr. resident who was having work done at his home reported the theft of storage boxes containing an estimated \$2,000 of rock and jazz albums.

○A resident reported the theft of \$630 of electronics from his 1996 Volvo parked on Franciscan Way. The owner of a nearby Jeep Cherokee also reported the theft of a \$50 cell phone charger from his vehicle.

○Police charged an El Cerrito male with driving under the influence after stopping him for driving 45 miles per hour in a 25 mile per hour zone. He was charged and released.

○A Kensington woman, who was shaken and upset, called police to say she believed her husband was dead. She met police outside her home and an officer entered to inspect the body, which was conscious and walking around the home. The husband was surprised to learn of his wife's call and said he was in good health. After further discussion the woman was taken for psychiatric help.

○A Beloit Ave. resident reported the theft of 16 gallons of gasoline from his 1992 Ford F250 parked in his driveway.

○A Lenox Ave. resident reported someone threw a rock into the rear window of his 1998 Mercedes 320.

○Police arrested a 32-year-old Brooklyn, N.Y. woman for driving under the influence on Arlington Ave. after she was stopped for speeding and driving in a reckless manner.

○A man who asked for a drink of water from Kensington Flower & Gift Shop on Colusa Ave. reached over the counter and stole a wallet from an employee.

○An Ocean View Ave. resident reported the theft of \$850 in computer and electronics equipment from his unlocked 1996 Jeep Cherokee.

○The Kensington Bistro on Colusa reported the theft of \$675 in cash and equipment after someone threw a rock through the window to gain entry.

○A Kingston Rd. resident reported an injured deer. Police contacted animal control, which shot the deer. As a result, the deer was no longer injured, just dead.

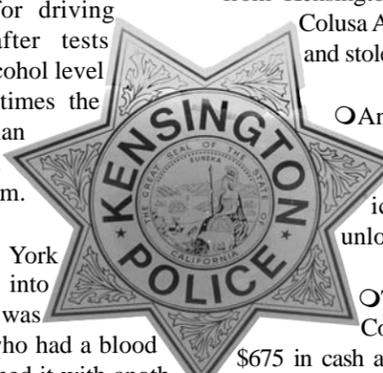
○Police arrested a 37-year-old male on a warrant for probation violations after they found him asleep in his car at the Kensington Chevron gas station.

○An Anson Way resident reported the theft of property valued at about \$9,700 including a 42-inch plasma television, computer and assorted electronics gear in a residential burglary.

○Police contacted an Arlington Ave. resident on behalf of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's department after a license plate trace identified the woman's vehicle as being involved in illegal dumping. She admitted to the offense.

○Police arrested a 39-year-old Oakland man for driving under the influence after he ran a stop sign on Arlington Ave. He had a blood alcohol level of .18.

○A Kingston Rd. man complained to police that he was in his backyard with his son when the two witnessed a man on a neighboring property drop his pants and fertilize his lawn in a biologically efficient, but decidedly uncouth manner.



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