

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

FEBRUARY 2008

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## Juveniles caught tagging

On January 15, at 10 minutes before midnight, Kensington Police Officer Keith Barrow arrested two 14-year-old males for spray painting graffiti on several buildings along Arlington Avenue in Berkeley and Kensington. One is a resident of Kensington and the other is from Berkeley. Both juveniles were taken to the Kensington police station, where they were interviewed and later released to their parents, pending prosecution.

Both of the youths are students at Berkeley High School. Officer Barrow is working with Berkeley Police Officer Phelps in completing the investigation. Kensington Detective Sergeant Angela Escobar will be following up the initial investigation to determine if these juveniles are responsible for other similar acts of vandalism that have occurred in the community.



## Attempted murder in the cemetery

In December a Vallejo man tried to kill himself and his female passenger by driving his car into a fountain at the Kensington cemetery, according to Police Chief Greg Harman.

David Duane Lewis, 45, intentionally crashed his BMW 7 Series sedan into the fountain at the entrance to the Sunset View Cemetery and Mortuary. The car was totally in the water when the police arrived. Apparently the driver drove into the fountain, thinking it was a wall, in order to kill his passenger and himself.

Chief Harman stated that both Lewis and the woman, whose name wasn't released, suffered moderate injuries from the crash. The man sustained broken bones in each leg, yet still managed to chase his passenger after the crash. They were taken to Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo, where the woman was treated and released.

Lewis was treated and booked into the Contra Costa County Jail in Martinez, where he is being held in lieu of \$1.5 million bail. He was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, kidnapping, driving under the influence, and causing injury.

El Cerrito police assisted in the ongoing investigation. It has been some years since Kensington police have dealt with attempted murder.

A police officer who visited the scene said it was a testament to German engineering that neither party died in the crash.

## Police audit presented Taylor publishes report

As part of the terms of his contract, Interim Police Chief Brown Taylor prepared an audit of the Kensington Police Department. Taylor presented it to the KPPCSD board and the community at the board meeting in January. The audit covered the structure and operations of the police department and the "process of change" that took place between the departure of ex-chief Garfield and the appointment of the new Chief Greg Harman in September of last year. Among the findings:

- A staff of nine officers be maintained, in the present configuration of three sergeants and six officers, structuring a work week of four 10-hour shifts
- Continue using Richmond for communications
- Retain the dual role of chief of police and general manager
- Develop an exit interview process for departing police officers
- Conduct regular employee and public interviews to assess attitude and satisfaction
- The board develop and maintain clear criteria for managing the chief of police/general manager

The 100+ page report is available at the Public Safety Building and the library. It can be obtained from the police department on a CD.

Although Taylor stated that this was the first general analysis of the district's police operation, he later told the *Outlook* that he had been mistaken, and that Kensington resident and retired Oakland police chief John Ream had previously made an "excellent evaluation of department operations."

## Police commendations



Chief Greg Harman and Sgt. Rickey Hull

Toward the end of last year, a young Kensington person was reported missing. The Kensington police went into action with a search, bringing in a canine tracking unit and appealing to the community for assistance. By the following morning, telephone alerts were sent out, illuminated signs were placed on Arlington Ave., and the major TV news stations set up in Kensington Park. Chief Greg Harman and Sgt. Rickey Hull organized the search. They called in the Contra Costa Sheriff's office, which managed the local search-and-rescue teams. Soon people showed up from all over the county, equipped to set out and search for the missing teen. By early afternoon of the second day, the teen was found by a hiker in the park who spotted her on a trail near the Lone Oak picnic site, about a half-mile north of the park's merry-go-round in Tilden Park. She had fallen and hurt herself and was unable to seek help. Kensington Sgt. Hussain Khan said she was "in and out of consciousness" as she was being transported to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek for treatment.

More than 50 police officers, county sheriffs, and search-and-rescue teams were involved in the search. More were en-route when she was found.

Chief Harman issued commendations to Sgt. Hull, who helped spearhead the Kensington effort, officers Keith Barrow and Eric Stegman, and reserve officer Paul Borgfeldt, who all worked assiduously on the search. The department sent letters of appreciation to the Chief of Police of Berkeley, the East Bay Regional Parks, and the Contra Costa Sheriff thanking them for their participation. The Salvation Army and Peet's Coffee sent food and beverages for the volunteers, many of whom worked through the night with Harman and Hull.

During the first annual Kensington Police Department dinner hosted by Chief Harman and his wife Yolla, commendations were also awarded to Sgt. Escobar for her work in getting the department into training compliance and organizing the ongoing training plans. District Manager Helen Horowitz was commended for her efforts during the difficult past year, perhaps the most troubling in the history of the department.

## Police reorganize Detective Sergeant Escobar to follow up on local crime

In a recent interview, Chief Greg Harman outlined a reorganization of the Kensington Police Department. Now one of the three sergeants will be assigned full time to investigation and follow-up. Starting out this task is Detective Sergeant Angela Escobar, who already is working on more than 20 cases. These include recent armed robberies, an attempted murder, the juveniles arrested for graffiti, and many smaller crimes whose investigations are either in process and need coordination with other agencies or are unsolved and need further investigation. While on this assignment, the sergeant will not be assigned to patrol, although he or she will have to step in to relieve other officers in case of special needs or during vacations and illness. Among the other cases Sgt. Escobar is investigating are two sexual assaults and several cases of identity theft and burglaries. As part of the restructuring, the department will now work in teams. The remaining sergeants, Kahn and Hull, will each supervise a team of three officers. In the future, both Khan and Hull will have the opportunity to become the person dealing with investigations.

None of these positions constitutes a promotion, and the individual officers will not change rank.

Chief Harman also said he hoped that the new reserve police officers would start work soon. These reserves would potentially become full-time police officers if the need were to arise. Although unpaid, reserves are expected to work about 20 hours a month. One potential reserve officer will soon be returning from a stint in Iraq, where he is currently training new recruits in the Iraqi police force. Another probable reserve is a very experienced woman police officer. Both of these people have expressed an interest in becoming permanent officers when a vacancy occurs.

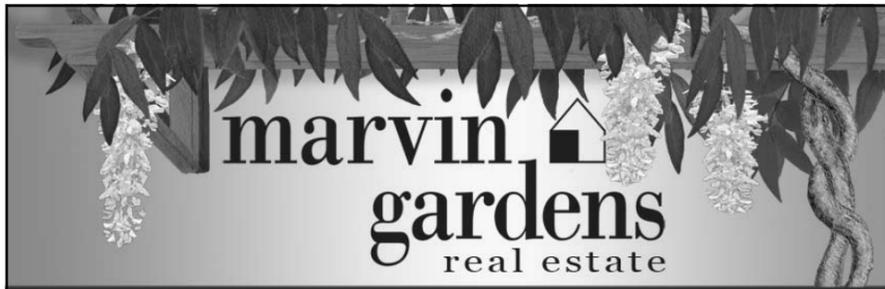
Chief Harman went on to state that there were 17 applicants for the new part-time positions. One position will be concerned with outreach and community training and involvement; the other will deal with internal police matters, taking care of evidence, compiling statistical analysis and other routine administrative work, now being done by officers who would otherwise be on patrol.

## March 15—Save the date for KCC fund drive

Preparations for the Kensington Community Council's Spring Celebration are under way. The annual Spring Celebration is one of the major social events of the year in Kensington—a place to meet neighbors and a chance for parents to have a night out, with childcare, featuring pizza and a movie. The event, sponsored by Marvin Gardens Real

Estate and Andronico's Market, is marking its 18th year. The celebration on Saturday, March 15th, at 6:30 p.m., will feature a fine selection of food and drink and a silent auction. Tickets are \$25, available at the door. Many organizations, companies, and individuals contribute to the event, either with items for the silent auction, food, or money. Included in the list of contributors so far are Arlington Pharmacy, Alex Brown, Barbara Fracchia, Dena Fredric, Laurie Freeman, Joseph Holmes, Helen Horowitz, Wendy Hurley,

Elizabeth Kavalier, Claire Lavery, Merrill Lynch, More Than a Carpenter, Nation's Great Pies, Ted and Lorraine Osmundson, Semifreddi's Bakery, Elsie Sinclair, Jan Stensland, Anne and Doug Stewart, Peter and Ann Tait, Barbara Tapp, Carla Van Slyke, and Jim and Dorothy Walker. KCC helps support the many education and recreation programs in Kensington. Kensington has many talented residents, and KCC welcomes all donations, which can be made by calling Danielle Power at 524-6737.



### Total Kensington Home Sales for 2007 (per East Bay Regional Data records)

27 Anson Way	93-99 Franciscan*	84 Norwood Ave.
67 Ardmore Rd.	273 Grizzly Peak	1605 Ocean View
43 Arlington Ave.	25 Highgate Ct.	111 Purdue Ave.
150 Arlington Ave.*	62 Highgate Rd.*	329 Rugby Ave.
213 Arlington Ave.*	16 Highland Blvd.	123 St. Albans*
435 Berkeley Park*	160 Highland Blvd.*	219 Stanford Ave.
11 Camelot Court*	11 Jessen Court*	41 Stratford Rd.
286 Colgate Ave.	31 Kenilworth Dr.	1 Sunset Drive*
205 Columbia Ave.	4 Kenyon Ave.	10 Sunset Drive
285 Colusa Ave.*	231 Kenyon Ave.	206 Willamette*
412 Colusa Ave.	227 Lenox Rd.*	215 Willamette
400 Coventry Rd.	281 Lexington Rd.*	27 Windsor Ave.
721 Coventry Rd.	296 Lexington Rd.*	29 Windsor Ave.
829 Coventry Rd.	268 Los Altos Dr.*	108 Windsor Ave.
12 Edwin Drive	298 Los Altos Dr.	207 Yale Ave.*
32 Edwin Drive	35 Marguerita Rd.	227 Yale Ave.
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The Kensington Community Council thanks the following people for their recent donations to its annual fund drive. The generosity of community members provides critical support for Kensington's many recreation and educational programs. It is never too late for you to make a tax deductible contribution. Please send donations to:

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### Deadlines

Advertising deadline February 8  
Editorial deadline February 10

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Trim those trellises

*Editor*—Like every Kensington parent who ever pushed a stroller through this village, I welcomed the recent news that the county was issuing orders to trim back green overgrowth. At last, I thought, I'll no longer have to steer the kids into the street where enormous hydrangeas swallow up the sidewalk (Westminster Avenue) and where lacerating raspberry canes have menaced us for nearly a decade (Amherst at Princeton Avenues).

And then I opened the letter addressed to us. A more ludicrous request is hard to imagine. "Trim back all growth from sidewalk," it said, and included a photo of three trellises that abut the fence around our Trinity Avenue home. Apparently a sidewalk four yards wide (yes, 12 linear feet of clearance) is insufficient to "allow the safe passage of pedestrians." Folks, even if the Solano Stroll were moved to Kensington, our sidewalk (trellises included) could accommodate the crowds safely and comfortably.

With all the truly hazardous spots in Kensington, where overgrown trees and bushes make us pull way out into intersections to view oncoming traffic, it is mind-numbing that we received such a letter. I did, however, appreciate the reminder to trim the jasmine on the trellises. Every gardener knows pruning is the best way to stimulate lush, healthy new growth.

*Sylvia Veh Elsbury*

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#### Pets of the month

**Monk and Matlock** are matching twin brother, fox-red rexes with investigative powers. They love to hide each other's toys so the other one must hunt for them. Both are friendly, but while Monk is a little shy and reserved, Matlock is outgoing and frisky. They are well-suited for a home with children because they spent their youth in a boy's camp. Please come by RabbitEARS to meet Monk and Matlock, 7 days a week, 303 Arlington Ave.; 525-6155.

## A notion to restore our fiscal balance

*Editor*—Surprising as it may be to some, the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District is facing a budget problem. We are now dipping into our “rainy day” reserves.

What’s at stake is not just a question of dollars and cents and fiscal health. Ultimately what’s at stake for Kensington is our independence as an unincorporated district. Reserves should be kept for unforeseen circumstances (aka “emergencies”), not for funding deficits. Continuing to operate the district in a deficit mode threatens what is considered one of the most important attributes of our town: the ability to manage our police, community services, and recycling/waste programs independent of county or other government agencies. The independence of our Kensington, an ideal for which generations of residents have lobbied hard, could be threatened by fiscal lethargy.

Now is the time for district leadership to be proactive and take corrective action.

Last year we approved (in a divided vote) a deficit budget for the current fiscal year. Long-range projections by the district’s accountant suggest that unless we find a way to generate additional revenues, or cut services, the district will continue to operate in an increasing deficit mode, squandering our reserves. Should we have an unforeseen situation where we need reserves that would have already been spent to fund deficits, our town’s fiscal health would be thrown into chaos.

A closer look at fiscal math illuminates the problem.

Approximately 90 percent of the district’s budget goes to maintain a well-staffed, Kensington-dedicated, round-the-clock police department. The remaining 10 percent of the budget supplements the costs of the buildings, structures, and land near the library: the Community Center (aka Youth Hut), the annex building, the tennis and basketball courts, and the park. The library itself is not funded by the Kensington district. In total, we’re expecting to spend \$2.3 million this year, with \$2.1 million allocated to the police department.

In terms of revenues, it’s a bit more complex:

It’s no secret that our general property tax revenues have for many years been limited by Prop. 13 and related legislation. In total, property owners pay approximately \$1.17 million in general property taxes that are allocated to the police and community services district.

To supplement the property tax revenue—and to make up for the fact that Kensington has no tax-generating industrial or retail base—the voters have from time to time approved various revenue measures. In 1980 and again in 1984 and 1993, we approved a special tax

to supplement our police department’s budget. This amounts to approximately \$708,000.

Also in 1993, the voters approved a special assessment to pay for maintenance of the land that was purchased from the school district. This now amounts to approximately \$29,000.

There are also other sources of income that include rents, grants, and interest income that total approximately \$205,000.

In total then, our revenues are approximately \$2.1 million. This leaves a budget gap of approximately \$200,000 in the coming year and over the next several years increasing to approximately \$300,000. Of course, we won’t get to year five as an independent district because, by June of this year, our unallocated reserves will be less than \$800,000.

This does not factor in any reserves we may be required to set aside to cover unfunded retiree medical costs for existing or prior police officers. And again, I would argue that it’s not prudent to dip into reserves to fund operating expenses.

If we want to maintain Kensington’s overall independence of its active police force, locally managed waste and recycling programs, and community-oriented structures and park facilities, then we need to ensure that our budget is balanced and that we move the district back to fiscal soundness. In order to balance the budget and avoid cutting services, the police and community district will need to raise revenues to bridge the gap. We’re talking about approximately \$100 per household in the coming fiscal year and rising to approximately \$150 per household five years from now. Nobody ever wants to talk about increasing “assessments.” But it’s time for blunt talk.

The alternatives are less appealing.

The first is to cut services, and, given the dominant allocation of costs, we’re probably talking about police services. The second is to outsource the management of our services to a neighboring city (as was done with the Kensington Fire Department a number of years ago) or to the county sheriff’s department, in hopes that the cost of outsourcing would be less than managing our own services.

I have confidence that, if informed of our financial position, the community will want to maintain the district’s level of service while at the same time preserving the district’s fiscal independence.

The budget process is beginning. I would encourage anyone who is interested in voicing their opinion regarding the budget and the deficit to come to the board meeting at the Annex building (across from the tennis courts) on Thursday, February 14, where, as always, members of the public will be encouraged to share their thoughts.

*Bill Wright*  
Director, Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District

## Access to KIC sign

*Editor*—The Arlington Community Church would like to congratulate the Kensington Improvement Club on the installation of the new gateway sign on the Arlington. The new sign is much more practical and attractive than its predecessor. We do, however, have a concern regarding community access to the letterboard. We understand that the KIC directed the signboard coordinator *not* to allow the church to post a message announcing the peace vigils the church is sponsoring during the Advent season. It is our understanding that the bylaws governing the use of the sign preclude the posting of political advocacy and that the KIC considers the announcement of the vigils by this church to be too political. We disagree.

1. Messages of political advocacy are easy to spot. We find them everywhere on bumper stickers. “Save the Whales,” “Bush/Cheney in 2004,” “Support Gay Rights.” Such slogans are designed to appeal directly to their audience and to influence opinion. We agree that these have no place on the signboard.

2. An announcement informing the public of a meeting, *even if the meeting has political content*, is different. The announcement is neutral, even though the sponsors may not be. It is a basic right of the public to have access to such information, particularly since the signboard was paid for with community funds.

3. This community often holds meetings that have political content. The KIC’s own Town Hall meetings come to mind, when elected officials with very strong political views have been asked to speak. Other

examples include meetings where increases in property taxes or controversial changes in the building codes are discussed. Surely the KIC does not suggest that notice of these cannot be posted because they have political content? What about notices of library events or movies or other meetings that might—for some people—have political overtones?

4. By denying Arlington Community Church the use of the sign to announce the vigils, the KIC assumes the role of censor. This is a political act in its own right and is not appropriate. The KIC is *custodian* of the letters, not *gatekeeper* for the messages.

Our Board of Missions and Social Justice held peace vigils every Friday from September through December 21 (the last Friday in Advent). A dozen or so people showed up faithfully, regardless of the weather or other challenges. We rang bells for the soldiers who have died, along with their friends and family. We said prayers for all those whose lives were torn by violence, both at home and abroad. Based on the supportive honks and waves, I am sure that there are others who would have joined us if they knew of the vigil in advance. Sadly, we were disallowed the opportunity for sharing via the community signboard.

As we know from the great leaders of all religious faiths, prayer is, *ipso facto*, a political act. So is education and the sharing (or not sharing) of information. On behalf of the church, I urge members of the Kensington community who support a more flexible policy regarding the use of the sign to contact members of the KIC and make their feelings known.

*Rev. Felicity Wright, Pastor*  
Arlington Community Church

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## KPPCSD board elects Kimball as president



The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District board has elected Cindy Kimball to be the board president for this year. Kimball, an airline pilot, has lived in Kensington since 2001. She is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and has a BS in Management and an MS in Engineering Systems Management. She was elected to the board in November 2006 and was nominated to the position of president by Joan Gallegos, who was elected as vice president.

In January the board confirmed the assignments of the members to the various standing committees and as administrative coordinators of different aspects of their jurisdiction. These include overseeing the Kensington police force, managing and maintaining Kensington Park, and overseeing the contract and workings of our garbage collection company. The assignments are:

**Standing Committees** Solid Waste and Recycling: Joan Gallegos and Cindy Kimball  
Finance and Administration: Pat McLaughlin  
**Coordinators** Finance and Administration: Pat McLaughlin  
Intergovernmental/External Issues: Joan Gallegos  
District Policies and Procedures: Cindy Kimball  
Public Safety Building: Paul Haxo  
Park and Recreation: Joan Gallegos  
Police Liaison: Cindy Kimball and Pat McLaughlin  
Community Outreach: Bill Wright

Wright declined to serve on the finance and administration committee, a position he held last year, and has decided to dedicate himself to working with the community to encourage citizen support and involvement in the aspects of Kensington governance covered by the board. Wright said that he would like to see more people attend meetings and get involved in the day-to-day life of the community. He intends to spearhead a campaign to bring awareness to the financial plight of the community and to work toward a solution, which he sees as calling for a modest increase in assessments and taxes to help finance the police and park. (See Wright's letter on page 3.) All other board assignments are the same as last year.

The board has approved the dates of meetings in 2008; they will be held on the second Thursday of every month, excepting perhaps August. They have taken place in the new Annex but in future will be held in the Community Center Conference Room. The budget is scheduled to be finalized in May and approved in June.

## Annex to become early learning center

The KPPCSD board has approved renting the Annex to Jullie Sautman, who intends to run the Kensington Early Learning Center (KELC) in the building. Sautman previously worked at the Kensington Nursery School and after that worked for the International Child Resource Center, a nonprofit based in Berkeley. While at ICRC she worked in Richmond and San Leandro. In her application to KPPCSD, she stated that her mission would be to maintain an untarnished reputation, provide high-quality preschool and child-care services,

and offer competitive pricing. The center would serve children from 33 months to 12 years of age.

The KELC application stated that although there are five preschools, one family day care center, and the KASEP after-school program in Kensington, there is still a need for more child care, with each of the existing facilities having waiting lists.

Contract negotiations are under way, and the school will be opening as soon as the KPPCSD board approves the contract and all arrangements have been made. There was one other application to run a similar facility, but Sautman was selected by an ad hoc committee made up of board members and others from the community.

## Big daddy needed

The Dads' Club is looking for a new president and other officers. If you have ever wanted to lead a group of men (admittedly, in the multipurpose room at the school) this may be the opportunity you have been waiting for. The previous presidents, Rodney Dunican and Stephen Godfrey, have both served for the past two years and are now ineligible for another term. They have guided the club through exciting events, and now it is time for someone else to step up.

The elections will not be until May, but if you want to experience the club for yourself, there is a meeting on February 12 at 7 p.m.

The meetings never take more than an hour and are always fun.

The Dads' Club has been around for 60 years. It exists to enrich our children's educational experience by sponsoring and promoting extracurricular activities. These include the Spring Carnival and supporting the KEF Garden Party in the fall. Additionally the dads provide support to the Hilltop staff, in the form of work parties that help enhance the classroom and the school as a whole. Despite its name, the Dads' Club is open to all parents and teachers. No experience or tools are necessary, but if you have them, they will probably get used. Participants receive a much-sought-after T-shirt.

## Caring for the Dying: the Art of Being Present



A new half-hour documentary film, *Caring for the Dying: the Art of Being Present*, will screen Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library. It is the second in a four-part series, *Secrets Of Life And Death*.

In the film, Dr. Michelle Peticolas, sociologist, teacher, and long-time student of Sufism, takes us on a search for people caring for the dying. It's a delicate balance of life, death, family, work, and love.

Michael Stephens, a Kaiser Hospice grief counselor and instructor at JFK University, calls the films "evocative, moving, inspirational." "[The film] serves as a powerful reminder of what truly is most important in life...nurturing relationships. I would have found the films of immeasurable benefit if I had seen them during my care-giving years."

Dr. Peticolas will be present following the film for questions and discussion. She has been working on this film series since 1999. She leads a bereavement support group at a local hospice and teaches classes on death and end-of-life at JFK University in Pleasant Hill. By day she works as a legal secretary manager and trainer at a San Francisco law firm. The screening event is free of charge.

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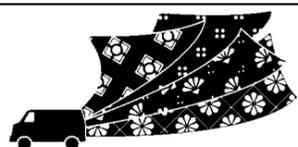
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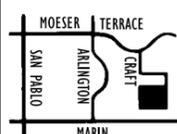
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# K E N S I N G T O N COMMUNITY EDUCATION

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### KCC SUMMER CAMP

Please save the date!

REGISTRATION for Kensington residents and camp alumnae will be

**Wednesday, March 12, 7 p.m.**

**Kensington Community Center**

SUMMER CAMP begins on

**Monday, June 16**

## YOUTH & ADULT CLASSES



### Tennis

Kim Roots offers classes for youth and adults. To register, call Kim at 526-6730.

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

**Where:** Tennis Courts (West Court)

## ADULT CLASSES

### 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



### Yoga for Health

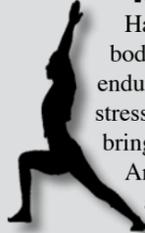
Harmonize your body, mind, and spirit. This class involves basic yoga poses, correct body alignment, breathing techniques, and relaxation. Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck and back pain, and stress reduction will be addressed. No prior experience required. All ages welcome. Please bring a mat to class. Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and qigong. 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 information about the class, contact Nicole at 527-6443. To register, call the KCC office at 525-0292.

**When:** Tuesday 9:15–10:15 a.m.

**Fees:** Residents– Drop-in, \$12; \$50 for five classes.

Nonresidents please add 10% (\$13.20/class; \$55 for five classes)

**Where:** Community Center



### Monday Night Hatha Yoga 6:30–7:30 PM

Join a three-week session; a new session begins each month. Begin or deepen your yoga practice with a supportive group. Please bring a mat to class. Instructor Claire Lavery is an experienced teacher who has been practicing and teaching yoga to all ages and abilities. Her studies have included Ashtanga, Iyengar, Integral, and Yin yoga; adaptive yoga; and yoga philosophy. She focuses on breathing, alignment, and adjustment to help students enjoy a deeper practice.

**When:** Class series meets Mondays 6:30–7:30 p.m.

**Fees:** For residents: one-month pass—3 classes for \$30. Nonresidents: please add 10% (\$33).

**Where:** Recreation Building, Room A (Building E).

### Thursday Hatha Yoga 5:30–6:30 PM

An ongoing class that will calm, restore, and revitalize you. Classic yoga postures and quiet attention to the nuance of movement help create a satisfying personal practice. Yoga postures, breathing techniques, and philosophy are covered. All levels of experience welcome. Please bring a mat to class. Instructor: Claire Lavery. (See Monday Night Hatha Yoga above)

**When:** Class series meets Thursdays 5:30–6:30 p.m.

**Fees:** Residents—Drop-in, \$12. One-month pass (4 classes) for \$40.

Nonresidents please add 10% (\$13.20 for drop-in and \$44 for month pass)

**Where:** Recreation Building, Room A (Building E).



A big thank you to Ruth Frassetto and the Grubb Company for sponsoring the KCC winter holiday performance, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*.

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR CLASSES AT THE KCC OFFICE • 59 ARLINGTON AVENUE • KENSINGTON • 525-0292**

### K C C KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Esther Hill, Administrator, 525-0292

**To register for class:** Please 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 for weekends and holidays only; the earliest is 9 a.m. Call Esther Hill (525-0292) for tennis court reservation information.

**Tennis court fees:** Kensington residents—\$2/45-minute reservation (singles); Non-residents—\$5.

**Community Center rental:** For information on renting the Community Center, call Helen Horowitz the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, 526-4141.

### K A S E P KENSINGTON AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Office hours:** Esther Hill, Director (525-0292), 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Elma Conley, On-Site Supervisor (525-0292) during class hours  
Sandy Thacker, Curriculum Coordinator (482-1258)

**Sessions:** Winter classes continue through Friday, March 21. Please visit [www.aboutkensington.org](http://www.aboutkensington.org) for more information on classes. Registration for spring classes will be held in the Community Center on Wednesday, March 5, starting at 6:45 for kindergarten students.

The KASEP office will be closed February 18–22.  
No classes will be held while the school is on winter break.

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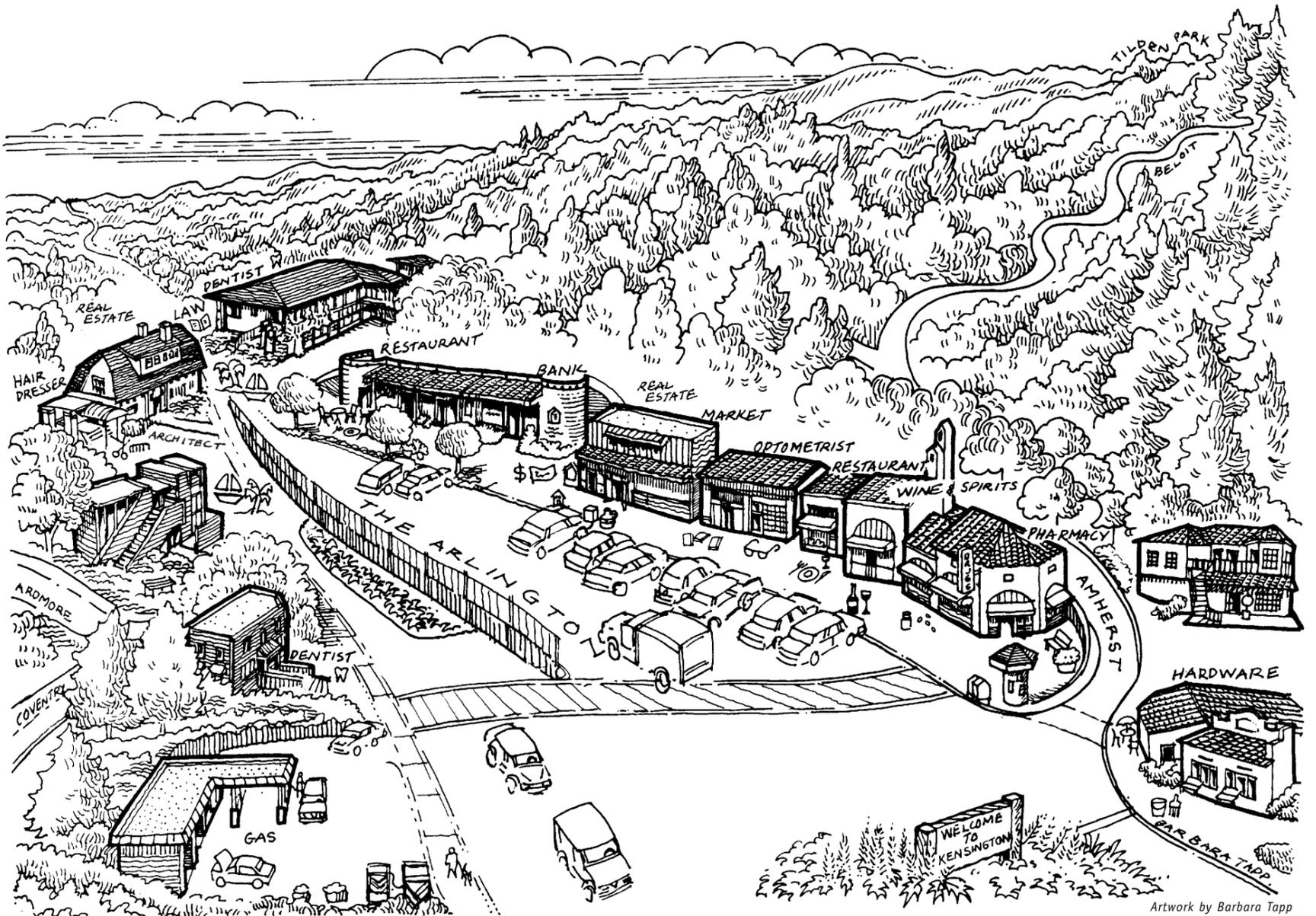
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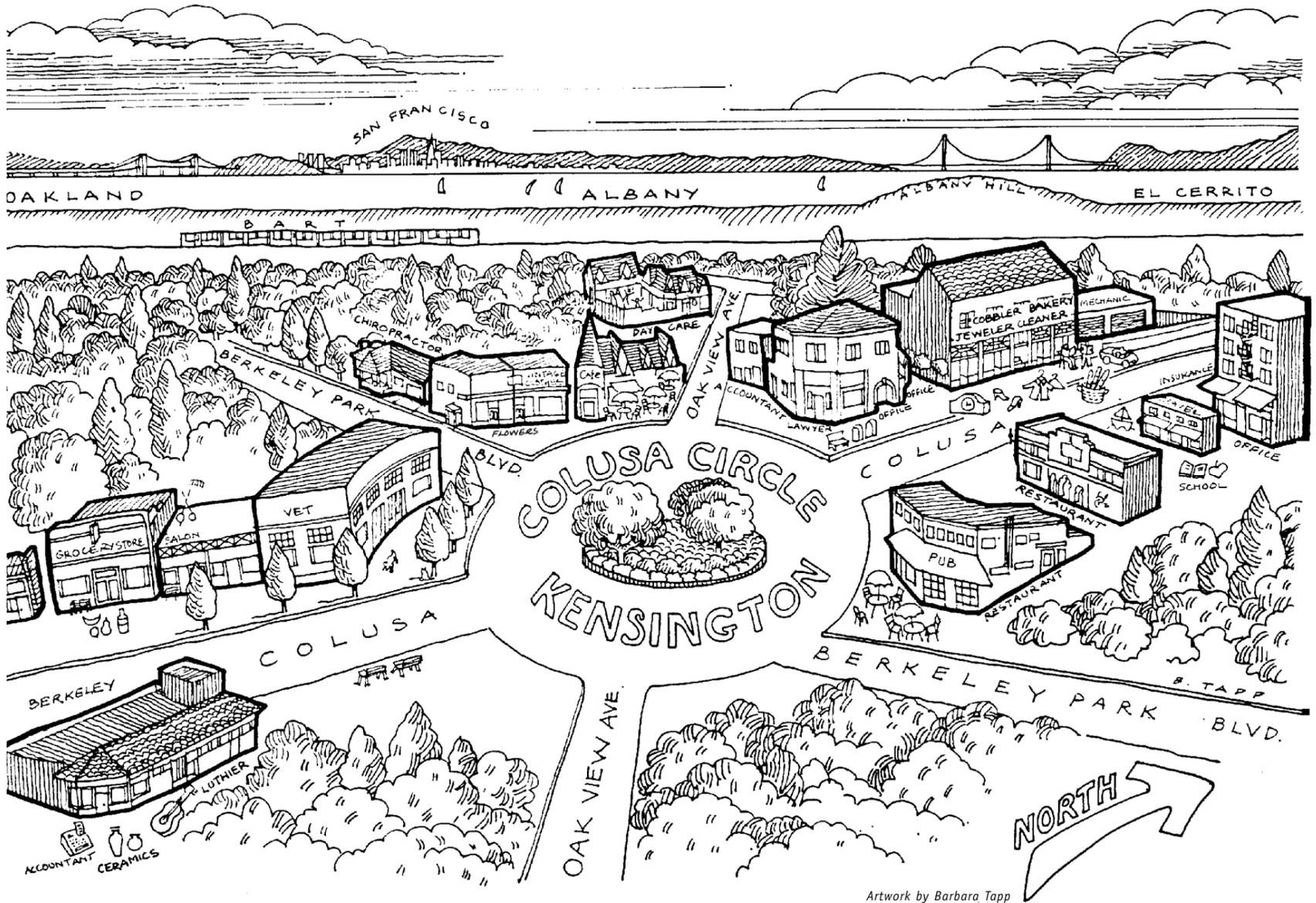
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## Neighborhood Notes

### Kensington crime stats

The 2008 police statistics report that there were two robberies, 3 aggravated assaults, 16 residence burglaries, 24 auto burglaries, 19 cases of auto petty theft, 11 of auto grand theft, and one nonresidence burglary. There were no homicides or rapes. This makes a total of 94 type-one offenses. Type-one offenses are the most serious crimes. Type-two crimes include fraud, minor assaults, drug offenses, prostitution, and vandalism. In all there were just over 1,000 incidents in total. Apart from the above list, they also included alarms, traffic, casualties, investigating noise complaints, and assisting other agencies. These numbers establish Kensington as one of the safest districts in the East Bay.

### KEF need help

Kensington Education Foundation is looking for assistance from active or retired CPAs in the community. KEF president Karen Shebek asked if "anyone knows of someone with a financial background, who is still interested in staying engaged in community affairs." KEF currently has several volunteer opportunities available. Their needs include preparation of the KEF tax return, performing a one-time audit or review of financial procedures, and some ongoing bookkeeping. If you know of anyone willing to take on any or all of these tasks for the Foundation, please contact Shebek at 525-1539, or [karenshebek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karenshebek@sbcglobal.net).

### Potential cuts to KPPCSD income

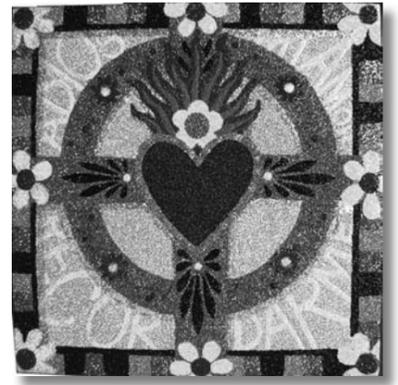
The federal and state budgets are both threatening cuts or elimination of the Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS) Program funds, which partially funds Kensington. If this funding is eliminated, it would have a negative \$100,000 impact on the community's financial situation.

### Cook in advance to fund rise

Dream Dinners, a company in El Cerrito Plaza that helps you prepare meals ahead of time, is holding a fund raiser for Hilltop School. Dream Dinners provides everything you need to assemble dinners that you take home and freeze, ready for when you want a nutritious, low-fat meal. They supply the fresh, prewashed and cut ingredients, recipes, and containers. You assemble the meals you want with the ingredients to suit your family's tastes. People participating in the event will all assemble their food at the same time in the spacious kitchens of Dream Dinners on February 10, from 3 to 6 p.m. This is sponsored by KEF, PTA, and the Dads' Club.

### KCC needs foosball and ping pong tables

The Kensington Community Council is looking for a ping pong table and foosball table to be used for the KCC Summer Camp. The foosball table, a game based on soccer, presently at Building E has been in service for many years and needs to be replaced. The same applies to the ping pong table. If you have either of these, in good condition and not being used, the KCC summer camp would very much appreciate them as a donation. Your tax-deductible donation will be enjoyed by many children. Please call the KCC office at 525-0292.



### Get art and supplies locally

The Eclectix Gallery is now stocking art supplies for professional and amateur artists. Now there is no need to make the journey down to Berkeley or Pinole to get oil paints, canvas, and much more. If they don't carry what you need, they will special-order it for you and will usually get extra stock to keep you supplied.

The Eclectix Gallery exhibition this month is called Heart Attack: The Yins and Yangs of Love. It features art from many local artists covering all aspects of love, from the good and the bad to the strange.

The gallery and store owner, Patricia Zemanek, has new shows every month. The store has many fun and unusual items, including dolls, furniture, lights, toys, and stationery. Eclectix is located at 7523 Fairmount Avenue, El Cerrito.

### Coffee card mix up

The Hilltop School sells cards for Peet's Coffee. In December some \$10 and \$20 cards got mixed up. If you paid \$10 and got a \$20 card mixed up. If you paid \$10 and got a \$20 card mixed up, write a check to KEF for the difference and note the Peet's card number on your check, or if you'd like to receive a \$10 card instead, please contact Amy Kurzer. If, on the other hand, you paid for a \$20 card and only received a card valued at \$10, please also contact Amy Kurzer. She can be reached by phone at 387-0723 or by e-mail at [amy.kurzer@prurealty.com](mailto:amy.kurzer@prurealty.com). KEF prepays for these cards and gets only a small percentage of the total costs.

### Portola fund raiser

The Portola Parent Teacher Student Association is sponsoring a book fair at Barnes and Noble on Saturday, February 9. A percentage of book sales on that day will be given to the PTSA. Volunteers will be available with flyers that can be presented at checkout to designate Portola as the recipient of the donation.

### Local dancer performs



Samuel Black, son of Kensingtonian Mollie Katzen, recently performed with the Mark Morris Dance Group at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. The production was "The Hard Nut," and it was the eighth time the Mark Morris group has performed it in Berkeley. Rachel Howard, writing for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, said the dance remains fresh and funny after many performances. This satire of the "Nutcracker" was again a huge success for the group. Black started dancing at age of 9 with Katie Maltsberger in Berkeley. After receiving a B.F.A. in dance from SUNY, he studied in Holland. He performed with three groups in New York before joining the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2005.

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OBITUARIES

**Bob and Bernice Macfie**

Bob Macfie passed away in November 2007 at his home in Point Richmond, where he lived after the death of his beloved wife. Bernice Macfie passed away in February 2005 at their home in "Upper K-town," as she affectionately called it.

Bernice was born and raised in Berkeley, and Bob grew up in southern California. They met at Cal, where they both graduated in the 1940s. They married in 1948 and raised their children, Jane, Andy, and Nora, on Beloit Avenue, where they lived for over 50 years. Bernice was a homemaker who volunteered at Hilltop School and the American Cancer Society. Bob had a long career as an executive in the West Coast lumber industry. He worked with Meals on Wheels after he retired. They were both involved in many of their children's extracurricular activities and the Arlington Community Church. During retirement they enjoyed traveling, reading, theatre, family beach vacations, and reunion gatherings. Bob also enjoyed sailing his boat with friends from the Richmond Yacht Club, where he was a longtime member.

This couple is dearly missed by their family and friends. Memorial donations may be made to Sutter VNA and Hospice, Emeryville.

**John Pierce, President of KPPCSD**

John Pierce, a former resident of Kensington, passed away at the end of 2007 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Carolyn; daughters Kathleen Woodard and Charlotte Pierce; son Donald and daughter-in-law Alexandra; and two grandsons. Pierce was born in Sacramento and spent his adult life residing in Kensington and Dutch Flat. He graduated in petroleum engineering from the UC Berkeley and earned an MBA from Stanford. He worked for Standard Oil of California for over 45 years. Upon his retirement in 1985, he became an active member of the community, as a director and president of the Kensington Community Service District, a member of the Friends of the Kensington Library, and chairman of Camp Herms District of the Boy Scouts of America. He also was a member of the Hillside Club, the Berkeley Rotary, Seniors in Retirement, and the Berkeley Breakfast Club. Pierce had a passion for California history and volunteered with the Dutch Flat Golden Drift Historical Society. He was described as sweet and caring and always a gentleman. He was devoted to his wife and family and he enjoyed watching his grandsons become young adults. Donations can be made in his honor to Alzheimer's research in care of the Stanford/VA Alzheimer's Research Center of California, 3801 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94304.

**Kaplan loved botany, music, and railways**

Donald Kaplan, professor emeritus of plant biology at UC Berkeley, and an influential expert on the development of the diverse forms and shapes of plants, died from complications of pneumonia at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center.

Fellow botanists credit Kaplan's detailed studies and analyses of leaf development for setting the standard in the field of plant morphology.

"Don's research and teaching opened our eyes to the tremendous diversity of plant forms, as well as how integrated all these forms are," said Ann Hirsch, biology professor at UCLA and a former graduate student of Kaplan.

Kaplan was born in Chicago in 1938. In 1960 he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in biology from Northwestern University. He earned his PhD at UC Berkeley. After teaching at UC Irvine, he returned to UC Berkeley and was promoted to full professor in 1976. He retired in 2004.

Kaplan earned many honors and awards, including the Alexander von Humboldt Distinguished Senior U.S. Scientist Award, the Botanical Society of America's Merit Award for Outstanding Contributions to Botanical Science, and the UC Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship and was a fellow of the California Academy of Sciences. Kaplan also held positions as a National Science Foundation postdoctoral research fellow and a Miller Research Professor.

Kaplan maintained an interest in classical music, opera, and railroads. He authored several articles and a book about railroads.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; two sons, Andrew of Las Vegas and Timothy of Pleasant Hill; and a sister, Barbara Goldstein, of Salt Lake City.

The family requests that donations in Kaplan's memory be made to the Evans Scholars Foundation, 1 Briar Road, Golf, IL 60029, or to the UC Botanical Garden.

**Phyllis Taper, Kensington writer**



Phyllis Arline Whetstone Taper passed peacefully in her Bozeman, Montana, home on December 31, at age 93. Taper was born in 1914 to Carl and Mary Whetstone. In 2004, at the age of 90, she published her first novel, *On Kelsey Creek*, to appreciative reviews. She conducted readings at the Kensington Library and Black Oak Books.

Taper spent her formative youth in Lake County near Kelseyville, where she found her great passions for music and writing. She went to UC Berkeley on a small Lake County scholarship, first majoring in music and then graduating with honors in English. She was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa national honor society for her undergraduate work.

While at Berkeley, she edited the campus literary magazine *The Occident* and met Bernard Taper, editor of *The Pelican*, the campus humor magazine. They married in 1939. After WWII her husband's work with the occupation government took them for several years to Berlin and Stuttgart, where their first son, Phillip, was born. Returning to the United States, they lived for about 5 years in San Francisco and Palo Alto and then for 15 years in New York City.

Taper's love of travel took her to Europe, Mexico, Venezuela, Canada, India, and Nepal. At age 50 she earned a master's degree from Columbia University. Subsequently she taught English at Drew University in New Jersey. In retirement Taper lived in Kensington for over 30 years, where she participated in San Francisco Bay area writing groups and was an active member of the David R. Brower-Ronald Dellums Institute for Sustainable Policy.

At the close of her life, she returned to Montana, near where her great-grandfather, John Culver, had homesteaded in 1863. She was preceded in death by her son, Philip Taper, and friend Rod Jordon. She is survived by her son Mark Taper, daughter-in-law Ann Thompson, and granddaughter Oona Alwynne Taper, all of Bozeman. Also surviving are her former husband, Bernard Taper; her nieces, Carol Spencer and Lois Abraham; six grandnieces and nephews; six great-grandnieces and nephews, and several cats. Taper was a great spirit who is said to have simply worn out her heart living and loving. She will be missed by many. Please send donations to Bozeman Deaconess Hospice, 931 Highland Blvd., Suite 3200, Bozeman, MT 59715.

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**Friday February 1**

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**Sunday February 3**

**Personal Theology:** Frank Ostaseski of the Zen Hospice Project and Metta Institute talks on spirituality and dying: Being a Compassionate Companion. 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Education Hour:** UU Bible Study, led by Rev. Lisa Sargent. 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Monday February 4**

**Castoffs** Kensington Library Knitting Group. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Family Story Time**, ages 3 and up and their families. 7 p.m. *Chinese New Year*. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

**Kensington Community Council (KCC)** monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m. Community Center 59 Arlington Ave. 525-0292.

**Tuesday February 5**

**California Primaries.**

**Elaine Chu**, designer of *The Year of the Rat*. Come celebrate the Chinese New Year. 7 p.m. Ages 3+. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.

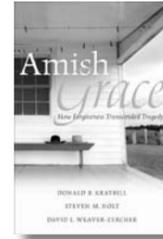
**Jeremy Taylor Dreamwork** Two workshops and a small group. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$45 ea. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**David Lance Goines** visual presentation showing his process of creating poster art and his latest poster. 7:30 p.m. \$5. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley.

**Wednesday February 6**

**T'ai Chi Chuan.** Norie Clarke. 7-8 p.m. \$36. 6 weeks. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 527-4054.

**KENSINGTON**



**Book Study**

*Amish Grace How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy.* 1:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church

**Ash Wednesday Service.** 7 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**Thursday February 7**

**T'ai Chi Chih.** Kensington Senior Center. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**Babies & Toddlers**

**Storytime.** Young children and parents/caregivers. 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**LapSit Storytime.** 10:15 and 11 a.m. For babies and toddlers up to age 3 and their caregivers. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 526-7512.

**Spirit and the Arts** Potluck supper. Islamic traditions, an interfaith arts and drama program for children 7-14, and **The Faith Club** discussion group for adults. 6:15 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**Friday February 8**

**Reiki I.** Ramona Young-Grindle, Usui and Karuna Reiki Master Teacher, and Melanie Clark, Usui Reiki Master. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$75 Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley at 1 Lawson Rd. (707) 426-4700.



**Mini Concert: Triskela,** Celtic harp trio 7:30 p.m. \$15. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

**Saturday February 9**

**Portola PTSA book fair.** Barnes and Noble. El Cerrito Plaza. All day.

**Bryan Baker and Friends: Love Songs & Chocolate.** Chorus, soloists, and orchestra conducted by Bryan Baker. \$15, includes desserts. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Congregational Singing and Listening.** Dr. Bryan Baker. 10 a.m. \$10. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. 1 Lawson Rd. 528-3417.

**Reiki I.** See Feb. 8.

**Billy Strayhorn Concert and Drama** by Junius Courtney Big Band with Denise Perrier for African American History Month. 8 p.m. \$17.50 advance, \$18.50 at the door. Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse, 1111 Addison, Berkeley. 548-1761

**Sunday February 10**

**Personal Theology:** Bela Jakabhazi, Transylvanian scholar. Does Transylvanian Unitarianism Work? Hope or Despair for Transylvanian Young People? 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Education Hour:** Walking our Talk: Dialogue to Live the Vision, Rev. Cathleen Diane Cox. 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Monday February 11**

**Maggie Morley and friends.** Annual Poetry from the Heart reading. 6:30 p.m. Open mic and refreshments. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.

**Family Story Time**, ages 3 and up and their families. 7 p.m. Valentine's Day Stories. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

**Tuesday February 12**

**Dads' Club monthly meeting.** 7 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Hilltop School.

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# CALENDAR

**Jeremy Taylor Dreamwork.** See Feb. 5.

**Family Storytime.** Preschool and up. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Wednesday February 13**

**T'ai Chi Chuan.** See Feb. 6.

**Book Study Amish Grace.** See Feb. 6.

**Feb Wed 13th**

**Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD)** monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m. Community Center 59 Arlington Ave. 527-8395.

**Thursday February 14**

**Movie: Millions.** Kensington Senior Center. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**LapSit storytime.** El Cerrito Library. See Feb. 7.

**Kensington Community Service District (KPPCSD)** monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m. Community Center 59 Arlington Ave. 526-4141.

**Sunday February 17**

**Personal Theology:** Mehrdad Fakaur, archeologist and ancient Near Eastern and Islamic Art historian: A Glance at the Islamic Civilization. 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Education Hour:** Queer Thea/ologies, led by Donna Sequeira—gay, straight, transgender, bisexual, lesbian, intersex, and queer thea-ologies. 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Tuesday February 19**

**Celebrate African American History Month:** The Unique Derique, a program of comedy, magic, and African American history. 6:30 p.m. Ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Jeremy Taylor Dreamwork.** See Feb. 5.

**Wednesday February 20**

**T'ai Chi Chuan.** See Feb. 6.

**Book Study Amish Grace.** See Feb. 6.

**Thursday February 21**

**CSI Kensington** with Sgt. Escobar. Kensington Senior Center. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**Babies & Toddlers Storytime.** See Feb. 7.

**LapSit storytime.** El Cerrito Library See Feb. 7.

**Saturday February 23**

**Cool the Earth Café.** Led by Barbara Chan. 1 p.m. \$20 students, \$30 adults, \$35 per family. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 799-0747.

**Sunday February 24**

**Personal Theology:** Prof. Norbert Bischof, My Quest for Meaning from the Hitler Youth to the Academic Center. 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Education Hour:** Unitarian Universalist Heritage and Tradition. 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Monday February 25**

**Kensington Book Club.** Anne Tyler's *Digging to America*. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Family Story Time Happy Unbirthday to Us!** See Feb. 11.

**Tuesday February 26**

**Evening Rook Club**  
*Black Swan Green*  
by David Mitchell.  
7 p.m.  
El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.



**El Cerrito Democratic Club** monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall, El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito.

**Family Storytime.** See Feb. 12.

**Wednesday February 27**

**Kensington Area Republican Women lunch** 12:30 p.m. Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd. El Cerrito. Tickets before Feb. 22 are \$16. RSVP 524-5689.

**T'ai Chi Chuan.** See Feb. 6.

**Book Study Amish Grace.** See Feb. 6.

**Thursday February 28**

**Travels with Jackie.** Kensington Senior Center. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**LapSit storytime.** El Cerrito Library See Feb. 7.

**Spirit and the Arts and The Faith Club** see Feb. 7.

**Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC)** monthly meeting. 7 p.m. Community Center 59 Arlington Ave. 273-9926.

**MARCH**

**Saturday March 1**

**Kensington Symphony.** Geoffrey Gallegos, Conductor. Lisa Houston, mezzo-soprano. 8 p.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. Donation: \$15/\$12 seniors; children free. 524-9912.

**Monday March 3**

**Family Story Time.** *Yummy in My Tummy* (Stories about Food). See Feb. 11.

**Caring for the Dying: the Art of Being Present** documentary film with film maker Dr. Michelle Peticolas. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Tuesday March 4**

**Jeremy Taylor Dreamwork.** See Feb. 5.

**Wednesday March 5**

**T'ai Chi Chuan.** See Feb. 6.

**Thursday March 6**

**LapSit storytime.** El Cerrito Library See Feb. 7.



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## From the case files of the KPD

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

### Events in November/December

- Kensington police made several arrests in other parts of the county while participating in a countywide patrol targeting drunk drivers.
- A large Ford pickup truck hit a fire hydrant on Lake Avenue. EBMUD came and fixed it. Another hydrant, this time close to the school, was also damaged.
- A local teenager stole a bicycle, and the police negotiated to get it returned to its original owner.
- Someone drove off from a gas pump at the gas station with the nozzle still attached to their car. The nozzle and the attached pipe became unattached at both ends.
- Police were called into an argument between a contractor and a local resident. They explained this was a civil matter, and a friend of both parties arrived to mediate.
- A local scooter driver crashed his Honda motor scooter negotiating a turn. He was watched by his wife, who was luckily a pedestrian at the time. No one was injured.
- An unlocked car on Franciscan Way was tampered with, but nothing was stolen. A car on Coventry, also unlocked, was entered, nothing was stolen, but the owner found a cigarette butt in the ashtray. \$470 worth of belongings including a GPS device were stolen from an unlocked Honda Accord on Windsor Ave. A day-planner was removed from an unlocked Ford pickup truck on Kingston Rd. A wallet containing a drivers license, credit cards, and Kaiser identification were stolen from an unlocked car on Ardmore Rd. Shoes and clothes including a robe were stolen from an unlocked Lexus on Kenyon Ave. \$15 in cash and a fanny-pack were stolen from an unlocked Accord on Sunset Dr. Someone tried unsuccessfully to steal an unlocked Chevy van on Colusa Ave. \$13 was stolen from an unlocked Toyota on Ocean View Ave. CDs worth \$550 and gloves valued at \$50 were removed from a Volvo on Arlington Ave. Gas was siphoned from the tank of an unlocked Chevy Blazer on Ocean View Ave. Someone opened the doors and trunk of an unlocked Prius on Kensington Ct. An unlocked house on Grizzly Peak Blvd. had a checkbook, jewelry, and boots stolen by a thief. A common thread in all these incidents: unlocked doors. Do not leave your car unlocked even for a few minutes. There were also two incidents of unlocked homes that resulted in the police being called.
- Someone has been targeting visitors to the cemetery. When they go to visit a grave, a woman in a variety of different cars has taken purses and other objects from the parked and unlocked cars. One purse contained credit cards, a drivers license, and credit cards; another purse contained a wallet with \$65 in cash, credit cards, store cards and a license. A third robbery was of yet another purse, this time with contents worth over \$750 and credit cards. The victims reported the thief as a blond woman who parked near their cars while they attended to graves.
- A cyclist, riding at night and stopped for not having a light, was found to have an outstanding warrant and was taken to jail. Later his mother called to report him missing.
- A realtor left a door open to a vacant house on Coventry Rd. A neighbor reported it.
- A woman partially severed her finger when a window dropped on her hand. She was taken to the hospital.
- Two cars traveling in opposite directions at the corner of Sunset Dr. and Arlington Ave. each refused to back up. The dispute was arbitrated by a Kensington police sergeant.
- Someone found a .38 bullet in the Hilltop School parking lot.
- A motorcyclist was stopped by a sergeant for running a stop sign at the corner of Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Plateau Dr. Five months before, a different sergeant stopped the same man on the same motorbike for running the same stop sign. The first time the driver's license was suspended. This time the bike was towed.
- A \$1200 shotgun was stolen from a home on Colusa Ave.
- Someone reported an open garage door at a house on Kenyon Ave. Police found the resident at home.
  - A Toyota pickup was stolen from Valley Rd.
  - A deer was hit by a car on Arlington Ave. When police arrived, they were unable to find it, until a homeowner reported the injured deer had taken refuge in their garage. It was euthanized. Oh dear.
- There was an altercation in the cemetery parking lot when unwanted family members turned up for a funeral.
- Someone on Highgate Rd. reported a suspicious package. They thought they could feel wires inside the package. It turned out to be candy wrapped with ribbon.
- A Toyota van was reported blocking a driveway on Rincon Rd. It turned out to have a citation and was towed. Later it was reported stolen by the owner.
- A Mazda received a dented fender from a hit-and-run driver on Coventry Rd. At almost the same time, a VW received a damaged bumper from a hit-and-run driver on Arlington Ave.
- A \$200 10-inch copper rain gutter was stolen from a home on Sunset Drive. Copper antlers were removed from a sculpture dedicated to the Elks in the cemetery. A few days later, police arrested a man with stolen copper in his truck. Since that time, copper thefts in Kensington have stopped.
- An inexperienced teenage driver misjudged a corner on Arlington Ave. and ended up stuck on the median. Her car was towed off the median.
- A bank called a resident on Purdue Ave. after the bank received a change of address form that the resident knew nothing of.
- A resident on Kingston Rd. received annoying calls from two phone numbers. The phone company is assisting police in finding the caller.
- A Subaru driver who ignored a stop sign on Kenyon Ave. was stopped and found to have a license that had expired more than a year previously. The car was towed.
- A woman involved in a divorce called the police because she was unable to contact, by phone, the father who had their children with him. The father and kids were at the movies. The call was made at 8:30 p.m.
- Someone, obviously not the parent of a teenager, reported a teen acting suspiciously. The kid had been seen talking on his cell phone for 30 minutes.
- A homeowner did not like the sound of a neighbor's gardener mowing the lawn. He asked the gardener to mow with less noise. When this did not happen, the resident started swearing at the gardener. Police had to explain that there is no law that says such noise is impermissible.
- A suspicious van was reported in Kensington Park. Police found that it contained a sleeping man who, when roused, said he was waiting for a friend. He was persuaded to wait elsewhere.
- Someone on Cowper Ave. was fooled by a "phishing" e-mail purportedly from PayPal asking for account and other personal information.
- A father and son had an argument about a grocery list, one that was loud enough to prompt a neighbor to call the police. The argument had ended by the time the police arrived. One of the arguers had gone shopping.
- Even locked cars get broken into. Thieves broke a window of an Acura parked on Purdue Ave. and stole a phone card, a fanny pack, a Palm Pilot, and cash, worth a total of \$70. On Beverly Dr. a Ford pickup had a window smashed to steal \$400 worth of two-way radio equipment. Another vehicle on Purdue Ave., also had a window broken, and here the thieves stole a backpack, laptop, drill, cell phone, and camera phone, with a total value over \$3500.



## Classified Advertising

**A HOME REPAIR EXPERT.** Fences, decks, carpentry, tile work, doors and locks, glass and windows, small electrical/plumbing jobs, odd jobs. Local references. Call Rick at 761-7168.

**AARON THE HANDYMAN** does fences, painting, leak repairs, light installations, and more. 672-1679.

**ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:** Trouble shooter for hire. New computer? Odd errors? Print problems? Upgrades, repair, training, wireless, iPods. We come to you. Ruth/Eugene: 510-526-1209.

**ASAP CLEANING SERVICE.** Weekly/Monthly - Move in/out - Residential and Commercial. Call 510-837-1265 or 925-705-2431

**AURORA PAINTING & DECORATING.** Interior, exterior, waterproof coatings, wood restoration, color consultation. License #721226. Kensington references. 655-9267 for free estimate.

**BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII.** Relax at Vacation Beach House on South Kohala Coast. Lovely 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, ocean/mountain views, owned by Kensington residents. 527-2009 [www.halelea.com](http://www.halelea.com)

**BRIDGE PAINTING** paints houses! Top quality, int/ext, A-1 prep. for lasting finish, Sr. discount, fully ins, Lic. 639300, free est., see display ad inside. 232-3340.

**CLARK KELLEY'S CALIFORNIA GARDENS.** All phases of landscape construction, plant design, irrigation and garden installation. Flagstone and brick patios. Local references License #534467. 869-2788.

**COMPUTER COURAGE,** based in Kensington, works with you in your home or office to help you: solve computer problems; speed up your PC; purchase/set up new computers and electronics; set up backup, security, antivirus, and more. PC and Mac supported. 10 years experience. Call (510) 525-2226 or e-mail [adam@computercourage.com](mailto:adam@computercourage.com)

**COMPUTER HELP** - Retired software engineer, a Kensington resident, is available to help you master your computer, its software and to solve problems. Your site or mine. Patience, expertise and very affordable rates. 527-3069

**CONCIERGE-HELP** with home, office, yard, pets. 20 years experience. Bonnie (510) 540-6686

**ENJOY A THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE**  
Massage eases muscle tension and relieves stress. I have lived and practiced massage in this area for 20 yrs. 24 yrs. Experience—Home massage available. Joan Provencher 525-2750.

**FINE FURNITURE REPAIR.** Sensible Refinishing. Design. Build. Retrofit. 3rd generation furniture-maker. Huttonio Brooks. Kensington Resident. 559-8549. [www.huttonio.com](http://www.huttonio.com)

**GUITAR LESSONS** for kids and adults. All levels — beginner to advanced. All styles: rock, blues, jazz, metal, and more. 25+ years experience. George @ 510-526-4283.

**HOUSE PAINTING EXPERT** Int/ext work. 20 yrs. of great Kensington references. Painted to last. Custom colors. Free est. Call Peter 575-3913.

**KENSINGTON PAINTING AND DECORATING** — Introducing a new level of luxury and custom interior painting. Lic#902635 510-558-6898

**KENSINGTON RESIDENT** seeks "fixer" house for my family and I to live in while we renovate. Prepared to buy your house "as is". Clay @ 527-5090.

**KENSINGTON TAX CLINIC.** Evan Appelman, Enrolled Agent. Authorized E-File Provider. Personalized service - reasonable rates. "We make house calls!" 526-8449

**MASTER CARPENTER.** 30 years experience in home remodeling and renovation: stairs, doors, windows, cabinets, bookcases, trim, drywall, decks, fencing. Framing through finish. Large or small jobs. Local resident George Spillsbury, 525-4051.

**MOBILE NOTARY & CERTIFIED SIGNING AGENT**  
\$10 travel fee for Kensington, E.C. & Berkeley. Member National Notary Association. Katherine Meurer 510-684-0021.

**MYRON OLSON PAINTING** - Interior/Exterior, Pressure Washing, Deck Refinishing/Treatment, Senior Discount, Free Estimates. Lic#706404/ Fully Insured. 510-521-3351

**THE PAINT COMPANY.** Highest quality work inside and out. Estimates and consultation are free. Many satisfied local references. Fully insured. License #515120. Call us today at 527-2673.

**PAULA'S PET CARE.** Vacation/daily pet care. Bonded, insured, reliable. Experienced. 558-9191

**PET SITS & DOG WALKS:** Safe Hands Pet Care - Kensington based & family owned. Experienced Insured, Licensed, Bonded. Vet recommended. We make pets (and their owners) smile!! (510) 528-7870.

**PIANO STUDY** for all levels. A sight reading approach. North Berkeley Piano School 524-1808, 524-7018

**PROFESSIONAL EDITOR.** Memoirs, family history, fiction, articles, dissertations, newsletters. Words Into Print. Kate Gilpin. 236-8544.

**SINGER NEEDS PIANIST** to play for retirement and convalescent homes. Play showtunes and oldies. Call Dena at 526-3771

**SUNSET WINDOWS & GUTTER CLEANING** and repairs. Jim (510) 393-8929.

**TILE - MARBLE - STONE - CUSTOM WOODWORK**  
30 yrs+ exp. Kitchen - bath - entry - patio - remodel - landscape - local - portfolio - refs. Roger L. 510-717-0970.

**TWO STRONG WOMEN HAUL AWAY SERVICE:** Will pick up, clean out, recycle, deliver most anything, anytime. Call Leslie 235-0122.

**VALENTINE FLOWERS, CARDS, CANDY, GIFTS,** and much, much more - Owned and managed by long time Kensington resident, D'Jour Floral & Antiques is located on Fairmount St. across from Fat Apples. Floral wire service available. Free local delivery. Call 525-7232

**WATERPROOFING PROFESSIONAL** for Decks—Doors—Windows. Installation—Repair—Remodel. 30 Year Resident. The Dan Lynch Company Inc. Lic.#867877, 524-4044.

**WINDOW CLEANING:** Homes or commercial. Free estimate. References available. Call Cathie at 510-524-9185.

### Kensington Outlook Classified

To place a classified ad, please see page 2.

## Highlights of home sales in Kensington—2007

Total number of homes sold—49  
Median price—\$800,000  
Price range—\$490,000-\$2,480,000  
Sales at or above asking price—23

Kensington continues to attract qualified buyers in search of a special place to live.

Celia Concus, CRS  
510.527.0211



289 Arlington Avenue ♦ Kensington

marvin gardens



Kensington Police Department	
Emergency	911
Police dispatch	236-0474
Non Emergency office (daytime)	526-4141
Kensington Fire Department	
Emergency	911
Non Emergency office (daytime)	527 8369