

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

June 2004

A publication of the Kensington Community Council

Volume 61 Number 5

KCSD plans development of park's southwest

District begins process of securing \$220,000 in state funds to develop neglected portion of park

The Kensington Community Services District is in the process of securing \$220,000 in state funding to develop the southwest portion of Kensington Park.

Barry Garfield, general manager of the Kensington Community Services District, said he is currently preparing a grant application to obtain financing from the state for the project. The funds are available to Kensington under Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002.

"It's terrific," said Ciara Wood, a director

of the district. "Right now when you look down from the field, it doesn't look like that's part of the park. It looks dilapidated."

Wood has been working with landscape architect and Kensington resident Jack Griffith to create plans for the asphalt covered section of the park. Griffith helped develop the original plans for Kensington Park and has been doing this work pro bono.

Though the plans are preliminary, the development of the lower portion of the park behind the tennis courts and along the bay side would transform an under-utilized portion of the park with the charm of a vacant lot into a tree-lined area with winding paths and elevated terrain.

The evolving plan, which conforms to the 1997 master plan for the park, includes a reconditioned basketball court and prac-

tice tennis area with a backboard. The plan would lay grass in the remaining area and run a footpath that would connect the southwest portion of the park grounds to the picnic area on the other side of the tennis courts. It would also add new swings, picnic tables and benches with bay views.

A separate footpath below the parking spaces at the end of the driveway would connect the upper field to the picnic area.

Also under consideration is the creation of two handicapped parking spaces at the southwest end of the park to improve accessibility to people who have difficulty walking. The district would need county approval to do that.

There is no intent to create additional parking on the park's south side because of concerns that creating traffic along Windsor Ave.

One other addition that could be included in the project is the construction of bathrooms. Though there are bathrooms in the Community Center, the Kensington Library, The Neighborhood School and Building E, they are only accessible when those structures are open.

Free-standing public bathrooms would be a welcome addition to the park, but would also add significant expense to the project, which currently is without an estimated cost. The district will likely launch a fundraising drive to make up the difference between the available state funds and the cost of the project.

In addition to construction cost for bathrooms, the district would also have to consider the cost and logistics of maintaining the facilities.



HITTING PLAY DIRT: (Left to right) Dad's Club president Larry Polito, student Jenna Rempel, WCCUSD superintendent Gloria Johnston, WCCUSD trustee Charles Ramsey, teacher Rob John, architect Marcus Hibser, principal Nancy Kawata and supervisor John Gioia's district coordinator Kate Rauch at Hilltop Elementary groundbreaking.

Cathy Garza

Ready for New Digs

The West Contra Costa Unified School District celebrated the beginning of the reconstruction and expansion of Kensington Hilltop Elementary School with a ceremonial groundbreaking in May.

"It symbolizes a new beginning for us," said Hilltop principal Nancy Kawata. "We're going to move down to Portola for a year and come back to this state-of-the-art-facility."

A day after the groundbreaking, the school board voted to pick up the tab for the school's new music and art room. There was concern within the school that the community would have to fund the construction of the room, a cost that was expected to be in excess of \$150,000. "We are ecstatic," said Esther Hill, president of the Kensington Education Foundation. "It's a wonderful vote supporting our program."

Students will be relocated to a temporary campus during the 2004-2005 school year. Details about the relocation, such as the start and end times for school, are being finalized and should be made public before the end of the current school year.

The district awarded the construction to contractor JW & Sons, one of three bidders for the project. The company's bid totalled \$11.2 million.

Settlement talks break down in AC transit 67 bus suit

Settlement talks brple down in a lawsuit against AC Transit that alleges the agency violated California law by failing to do an environmental study prior to making changes on the 67 line.

Paul Cohen, a member of 67 Neighbors Against Diesel Buses, a Kensington-Berkeley neighborhood group that filed the suit, said mandatory settlement talks had been proceeding with AC Transit and were close to resolution when an attorney for the agency pulled the plug on the them.

"Lawyers for AC Transit took everything off the table," said Cohen. "It looks like they are playing hardball and it looks like we are going to have to go before a

judge. So, we are going to play hardball and continue the lawusit."

AC Transit officials did not respond to a request from the Outlook for comment about developments in the lawsuit.

The suit came after months of meetings and lobbying from residents along the 67 bus line to get AC transit to replace the current 30-foot long diesel buses with smaller, gasoline powered-alternatives and reduce the frequency of service.

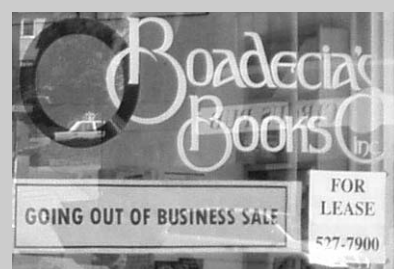
In June 2003, AC Transit replaced gas-powered vans with 30-foot long diesel buses along the route, which runs through winding residential streets in Kensington. Since then, residents have complained of noise, pollu-

tants and dangers of having the large buses barrel along the narrow streets.

The suit, filed in March in Superior Court in Alameda, wants the court to order the agency to stop running the diesel buses on the 67 line at increased frequency. It also wants the court to order the agency to create an environmental impact report before it puts in place the changes it made to the line.

In the settlement talks, the group was seeking an agreement from the agency to reduce the frequency of service on the 67 line during off-peak hours. The group also wanted AC Transit to commit to purchase new gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles and use them on the route.

Unhappy ending



Longtime Kensington bookstore Boadecia's Books, will close its doors next month after struggling for the past several years. The bookstore, which specialized in feminist and lesbian titles, joins a list of independent booksellers that have closed in recent years.

see page 4



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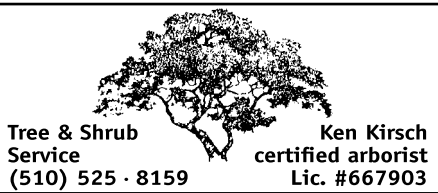
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Letters to the Editor

Say "yes" to schools' measure B

To the editor:

In March, more than 62 percent of voters in the West Contra Costa County Unified School District approved Measure J, a parcel tax to help fund school programs. But despite strong support in Kensington, the measure narrowly failed to muster the needed two-thirds majority to pass.

The community outcry over the drastic cuts in spending that were required due to Measure J's failure, such as closing school libraries, eliminating team sports and pink-slipping counselors, motivated parents, teachers, principals, and community leaders to try to save our schools again by placing Measure B on the ballot.

Measure B is a 7.2 cents per square foot of total building area or \$7.20 per vacant parcel tax that will be levied for five years beginning July 1, 2004. The funds will be used to maintain reduced class sizes, purchase textbooks and teaching materials, attract and retain qualified teachers, aides and counselors, enhance core subjects, restore library services and athletic programs, and improve custodial services.

Senior citizen property owners can be exempted from this tax with the completion of a form available on the school district's web site (www.wccusd.k12.ca.us).

Voting for Measure B is by mail-in ballot only. The county elections department must receive your ballot by June 8. Additionally, you must mark the ballot with a No. 2 pencil and sign the outside envelope and fill in your address before sending it off in its prepaid return envelope to be counted.

Kensington Hilltop school's excellent staff, program and environment continues to draw many new homeowners to our community and adds to the value of our homes. Help preserve this excellence by voting yes on Measure B and by encouraging every registered voter you know in the district to do the same.

Cathy Garza, Secretary, Kensington Education Foundation

Helen Bean, Co-President, PTA Kensington Hilltop School

Kensington Outlook

Editor

Daniel S. Levine
editor@kensingtonoutlook.com

Advertising Manager

Alma Key
advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com

The Kensington Outlook is available online at www.kensingtonoutlook.com courtesy of 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 the 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 advertising and editorial deadline for the June issue 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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Kensington Community Council

Community Council receives additional fund drive gifts

The Kensington Community Council gratefully acknowledges a \$150 donation from Elena Caruthers and \$100 from Jessie and David Woolley-Wilson.

The donations will be used to support the council's education and recreation programs, which includes the Kensington After School Enrichment program and the publication of this newspaper.

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Vote on parcel taxes for schools and hospital due June 8

Kensington voters have until June 8 to get their ballots into the hands of county officials on two parcel tax measures.

Measure B would raise an estimated \$8 million a year to fund schools in the West Contra Costa County School District. The funds would be used to maintain reduced class sizes; purchase textbooks and teaching materials; attract and retain qualified teachers, aides and counselors; enhance core subjects; restore library services and athletic programs; and improve custodial services.

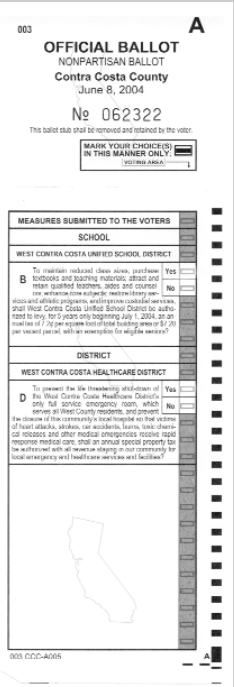
The tax would cost property owners 7.2 cents per square foot of total building area or \$7.20 per vacant parcel. Eligible seniors could apply for an exemption. The tax would sunset after five years.

Measure D, also on the ballot, would provide funding to the West Contra Costa Healthcare District to keep Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo open once Tenet Health Systems discontinues operations there at the end of July. The hospital treated 40,000 people in its emergency there last year.

The measure would cost single-family residential property owners \$52 per parcel. Small multi-unit residential owners would pay \$104 per parcel, while commercial property owners would pay between \$312 and \$1,040 per parcel.

Both measures require a two-thirds majority to pass.

Don't have a ballot?



If you didn't receive your ballot or lost it, you should contact the Contra Costa County Elections Office at (925) 646-4166. You can vote at the Elections Office, 524 Main Street, Martinez.

The Elections Office must receive a ballot by 8 p.m. June 8 to be counted. Ballots postmarked, but not received by the Elections Office by June 8 will not count.

Elections office:
524 Main St.
Martinez, Calif.
(925) 646-4166

Regular hours:
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sat. June 5 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tues. June 8 - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Owners to vote on \$175 million open space bond

Contra Costa County property owners next month will vote on a bond measure that would provide \$175 million to protect open space, improve trails and creeks and preserve wildlife habitat.

Ballots will be mailed to property owners in mid-June and will be due 45 days after they are sent. The measure will cost single family home owners in Kensington \$25 a year for 30 years. Only property owners will be permitted to vote and there is one vote per parcel with votes weighted in proportion to the cost the measure would impose on the owner. The measure needs a simple majority to pass.

Supervisor John Gioia has been working for several years with supervisor Donna Gerber to introduce the measure. It has won support from business, labor and environmental groups. Gioia said the funds could be leveraged by the county to secure state and federal funds to acquire open space.

Of the total raised by the measure, \$130 million would be used to acquire parks, creeks, watersheds, trails and shorelines. The funds would also be used for the preservation of wildlife habitat and the use of local parks and recreation.

The balance of the funds would provide maintenance to existing parks and open space.

The funds would likely be used to preserve the Richmond shoreline, expand the Bay Trail and expand Mt. Diablo State Park among other projects.

Funds in place to move property ordinance forward

Kensington community members successfully raised funds needed to move the village proposed property ordinance through the county process to making it law.

Supervisor John Gioia, who previously secured up to \$15,000 from a developers mitigation fund in the county, said the community has now raised the balance of the funds needed to cover an estimated \$30,000 in expenses to conduct an environmental impact report and amend the county's general plan.

The property ordinance is intended to provide homeowners a means to protect their views, sunlight and privacy when additions and new homes are built on neighboring property. The ordinance creates a review process that seeks to balance the impact projects have on neighboring properties with property owners' right to improve the value and enjoyment of their land.

The Contra Costa County Community Development Department has begun work on the environmental review and general plan amendment study to ensure the ordinance conforms with the county's general plan.

Gioia expects the ordinance to be adopted within six months.

The board of supervisors is expected to institute a moratorium on new building permits during the process to turn the proposed ordinance into law. At a minimum, that moratorium will pertain to all new construction on vacant lots. Gioia said he is trying to determine whether it would be appropriate to include any restrictions on home additions as part of the moratorium.

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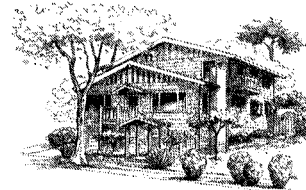
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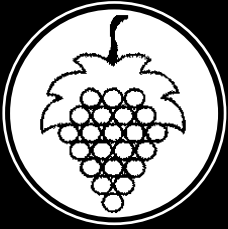
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Neighborhood Notes


Boadecia's Books set to close its doors June 13

Boadecia's Books, the Colusa Ave. bookstore that specialized in feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender titles, is penning its final chapter.

The struggling bookstore will close its doors after nearly 12 years in Kensington.

The store began a going-out-of-business sale May 15 and expects to continue through Sunday, June 13 with discounts on books increasing each week.

It joins a number of other independent bookstores in the East Bay that have closed recently including Shambhala, Avenue Books and M.C. Newburn. The store blamed a combination of economic and cultural factors that contributed to an "extremely challenging" environment for independent bookstores.



Boadecia's Books across the Colusa Circle

Education Foundation
prepares Hilltop reunion

The Kensington Education Foundation is planning a reunion of graduates of the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School.

The reunion celebration, which will take place Saturday, July 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., comes as the district is readies to begin reconstruction of the school. The reunion is intended to bring together old friends and classmates and give them a chance to visit the school before its planned transformation.

The foundation is inviting past students, parents, teachers and others connected with the school through the years. Class booths will be set up to help graduates of various years to reconnect with old friends and classmates.

Old school pictures and artifacts will be on hand. Long time school officials will speak on the great progress of the school over the years. Current school officials will also speak to outline the bold plans for the future.

Invitations will go out to the community later this spring. To assure that you receive an invitation, please contact Esther Hill at 524-3713 to provide her with your address and that of any other Kensington Hilltop alumni.

Jonathan Vlahos graduates
from UCSF Medical School

Jonathan Vlahos graduated from the University of California at San Francisco Medical School May 20.

Vlahos, the son of John and Martha Vlahos of Kensington, will begin an emergency medicine residency at Stanford Univeristy Medical Center in June.

Church moves into future while celebrating its past


The Arlington Community Church kicked off a year-long celebration of the 60th anniversary of its establishment.

The church, located across from the Kensington Library along Arlington Ave. is part of the Untied Church of Christ. It has served Kensington and the surrounding community since 1944.

On May 16, the church began its celebration with a special service in which former ministers reflected on their tenure at the church and life in the community.


It came a week before the church held a ceremony to mark the ordination

and installation of Rev. Felicity Wright as senior pastor.



Wright became a minister in the United Church of Christ following a successful career as a business consultant. A single mother of two grown children, Wright moved to the Bay Area from Maryland to finish her final year of seminary at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley.

Additional information about the church can be found online at www.acc-ucc.org.



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525-0292, during class hours

Sandy Thacker, Curriculum Coordinator
482-1258

SPRING SESSION
The spring session will end on June 10.

COME JOIN US AT KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP!

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

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

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



Brochures available
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REGISTRATION
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| FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
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| June 23 | Jelly Belly Factory & Bowling |
| June 30 | Exploratorium |
| July 7 | Scandia |
| July 14 | San Francisco Zoo |
| July 21 | The Jungle |
| July 28 | A's Baseball Game |
| August 4 | Waterworld |
| August 11 | A's Baseball Game |
| August 18 | Academy of Sciences |

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE*
Carpentry with Sandy Thacker
Week 1 June 14 - June 18

Carpentry with Sandy Thacker
Week 2 June 21 - June 25

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

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

Gymnastics with Judy Baker
Week 5 July 12 - July 16

Gymnastics with Judy Baker
Week 6 July 19 - July 23

Drama with Kelly Donahue
Week 7 July 26 - July 30

Drama with Kelly Donahue
Week 8 August 2 - August 6

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

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

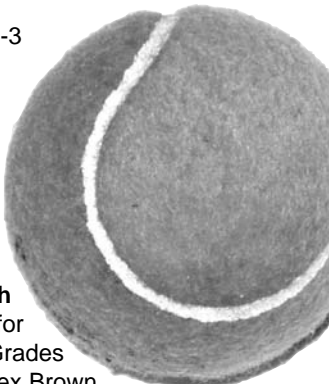
Tennis with Alex Brown, three days a week.

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1 p.m.. - 3 p.m.
Session 2: July 5 - July 9
1 p.m.. - 3 p.m.
Session 3: July 12 - July 16
1 p.m.. - 3 p.m.
Session 4: July 26 - July 30
1 p.m.. - 3 p.m.
Session 5: August 16 - August 20
1 p.m.. - 3 p.m.

Clinic includes stroke instruction, play, ball-machine practice, refreshments and prizes. For information about racquets, please call, Alex Brown, (510) 524-5495. There will be a minimum of four students in each session. Registration is on a first come first served basis in the KCC office, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Emergency card, registration and waiver forms must be tendered prior to the beginning of the session. For further information or to request an application, please call the KCC office at 525-0292.
Instructor: Alex Brown

524-5495
Weekdays: 1-3 p.m.
\$80.00 /session (resident)
\$88.00 /session (non-resident)



Tennis-Youth
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.
Instructor: Alex Brown 524-5495
Session: Tuesdays and/or Thursdays 3:40-5:00 p.m.
Fees (payable monthly):
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TENNIS COURTS

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TENNIS

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Helen Horowitz, Administrator
Kensington Community Council
Building E, 59 Arlington Ave.
Kensington, CA 94707-1037
525-0292

OFFICE HOURS
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Closed June 11

NOTICES

To Register for Class
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.

Kensington Calendar

Fair Game



The 34th Live Oak Park Fair will be held Saturday and Sunday June 12 and 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1301 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley. The fair will feature 120 distinctive arts and crafts booths, continuous live jazz present by Berkeley's Jazzschool and freshly made food. The Mimi Fox Duo headlines Saturday at 2 p.m. and John Calloway headlines Sunday at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, June 1
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, June 1
Jeff Lichtman, El Cerrito resident and author of Baseball for Rookies, will talk baseball to beginners and diehard fans at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Avenue. Info: 526-7512

Saturday, June 5
Kensington figurative sculptor **Traudel Prussin** will participate in this year's ProArts Open Studios 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 550 Second St. in Oakland. Exhibit open June 6, 12 and 13. Info:www.proarts-gallery.org.

Saturday, June 5
Kensington sculptor, draftsman, and furniture-maker, **Huttonio Brooks** hold an open

house at his 5 Westminster Ave. studio in Kensington on June 5, 6, 12 and 13, 2004, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The artist will be exhibiting and selling his figurative drawings, sculptures, prints, landscape photographs, and small furniture pieces.



Brooks' Persistence

Sunday, June 6
Summer Forum: The Patriot Act. Sanjeev Bery, of the American Civil Liberties Union 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302

Sunday, June 6
Did you meet your sweetie at **Boadecia's Books**? Join the Reunion Party and share the story of how you met and hear the stories of others at 3 p.m. at 398 Colusa Ave. Info: 559-9184

Sunday, June 6
Contra Costa Chorale and the New Millennium Strings perform Brahms Requiem at 8 p.m. at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd. in Kensington Tickets \$15 or \$12 for students, seniors and disabled. Children under 16 free. Info: 524-1861

Tuesday June 8
Fratello Marionettes perform a tribute to Vaudeville at the Kensington Library at 6:30 p.m. Required free tickets available starting June 1. The performance kicks off the summer reading program. The performance is

sponsored by the Friends of The Kensington Library.

Wednesday, June 9
Kensington Fire Protection District meets at 7:30 in the Kensington Community Center Info: 527-8395

Thursday, June 10
Grizzly Peak Flyfishers holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center at 59 Arlington Ave. Fly tying demonstration and slide show by renowned fly tier and fisherman Andy Burk. Non-members \$5. Info: 547-8629

Thursday, June 10
The Kensington Community Service District meets at 7:30 in the Kensington Community Center. Info: 526-4141

Saturday, June 12
Kensington Symphony Orchestra presents violin soloist **Robin Hansen** at 8 p.m. in the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito



Robin Hansen

Sunday, June 13
Summer Forum: Susan Ochner presents the work of Results, a Unitarian Universalist Association partner organization improving health care and income for the less-fortunate 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, June 15
The League of Women Voters - West Contra Costa County holds a picnic meeting at Noon, near the South Entrance of Miller-Knox Park in

Point Richmond. Speaker on the development of the Richmond Trails TBA. Info: 237-4039

Tuesday, June 15
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Sunday, June 20
Summer Forum: Criminal Justice and Prison Reform. Panel presentation of representatives from Books not Bars, Critical Resistance and Prison Activists Resource Center 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, June 22
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, June 22
The El Cerrito Democratic Club presents Markos Zuniga, web blogger for Daily Kos on The Future of the Democratic Party: Does It Even Have One? 7:30 p.m. in the downstairs conference room, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito.

Saturday, June 26
The Bay Area English Regency Society presents the Masters and Commanders Ball at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Waltzing, sea songs, cards and refreshment. Costumes welcome. Tickets

WWWWhat?

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

Monday June 7 - Intro to the computer mouse
Monday June 14 - Basic on-line searching
Monday June 21 - Intro to the library catalog: how to check your library record and request items from other branches
Monday June 28 - How to set up a free e-mail account that is accessible from the library or any on-line computer

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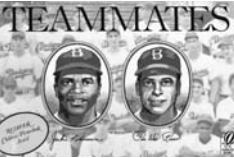
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Kensington Calendar Continued

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Kensington Library book recommendations

Teammates
by Peter Golenbock
Illustrated by Paul Bacon



A significant moment in baseball history - as well as a momentous event in the annals of civil rights - is carefully recreated in this nonfiction picture book delineated by Peter Golenbock's simple text and Paul Bacon's spare designs. Capturing not only the well documented story, but also the temper of the times, this book recounts an oft told tale of Jackie Robinson's first year in the major leagues and of the one man who took a public stand to welcome him onto his team. During the opening moments of a game in Cincinnati the racial insults from the stands were loud. Shortstop Pee Wee Reese put his arm around Robinson's shoulders, a public demonstration that shamed the stands into silence. Combining impressionist watercolors with actual photos, Bacon successfully evokes the era immediately after the war when baseball was truly the national pastime and African Americans were just

\$20 or \$15 in advance. Info: 650-365-2913

Sunday, June 27
Summer Forum: Venezuela. A film presentation 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, June 29
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, June 29
The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council meets at 7 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center. Info: 273-9926

beginning to emerge in equality. A beautiful depiction of a telling event.
—Pamela McKay

The Tennis Partner
By Dr. Abraham Verghese

Tennis serves as a metaphor in this moving and true story of a doctor, Abraham Verghese, and his intern, David, who look for order and stability in their rapidly degenerating and chaotic personal lives. Verghese and David have relocated to El Paso, Texas, to rebuild their lives. Verghese's marriage has fallen apart, and David is secretly trying (unsuccessfully as it turns out) to overcome his drug addiction. The two meet weekly for a game of tennis, at which David excels and becomes Verghese's teacher in contrast to his subordinate role in the hospital. Tennis is the life-line for these two alienated men and provides an occasion for male bonding and friendship, a subject of particular interest to this author.

-- Louise O'Dea

John Lakusta Osborn, active in Kensington, dies at 58

John Lakusta Osborn, an active member of Kensington community groups, died May 2. He was 58.

Osborn and his family have resided in Kensington for more than 18 years.

A native son of San Marino, Calif, he earned a degree in engineering from Princeton University and completed graduate courses at the University of California at Berkeley.

He worked for 21 years with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and was an avid enthusiast of outdoor sports, computers, photography, and most of all his family.

John was also a local community figure active as a member of the Kensington Property Owners Association, Assistant Boy Scout Leader and volunteer in local Boy Scout Troop 100. He was also active in the Dad's Club of Kensington Hilltop Elementary School.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years Marcia, his sons Martin, Cory, Nicholas, daughter-in-law Erika, and grandson

Jackson. He is also survived by his sister Carol Elaine Osborn, mother-in-law Bettie Pierce, brother and sister-in-law Mike and Vicki Grey, and a host of nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of John with the Leukemia / Lymphoma Society (www.leukemia-lymphoma.org).

Ralph Braudy dies at 81

Ralph Braudy, of Kensington, Los Angeles, London and Hyannis, died April 24. He was 81.

Ralph is survived by his sister Lillie Braudy (Lee Bersin) a Kensington resident of 40 years. He is also survived by his nephews Josh and Adam Bersin. He was interred in New Bedford Massachusetts on April 26.

Contributions honoring his life may be made to Colby College Alumni Fund, Waterville, Maine.

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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 April

○The Kensington Nursery School reported the theft of a \$100 radio.

○High winds knocked down a tree and telephone poll on Norwood Ave. blocking traffic. Pacific Gas & Electric crews cleared the street and erected a new pole.

○A woman reported that an aggressive solicitor came to her door while she was home sick from work. When she explained why she was home and tried to turn him away, he requested some of her pain medications and became verbally abusive when she refused.

○The personal vehicle of a Kensington police officer parked on Arlington Ave. was the victim of a hit-and-run that caused \$1,900 in damage. Police vow to bring the vermin responsible to justice.

○Police contacted the parents of a group of juveniles on Arlington and Westminster searching through trash and carrying a used floor buffer.

○A Yale Ave. resident reported the theft of a 1993 Honda Civic valued at \$3,000. Police recovered the vehicle undamaged about a block away.

○A Highgate Rd. resident reported the theft of a potted orchid valued at \$40.

○Police stopped a car for running a stop sign. The officer discovered three juveniles in the car with a trunk filled with barricades taken off the street. Police issued a ticket for running the stop sign, notified various agencies that their barricades were in possession of the youths and left parents to discipline them.

○A resident called police about her elderly neighbor yelling in her backyard at non-existent people. Police contacted the woman's psychiatrist.

○Police stopped a vehicle going 41 mph in a 25 mph zone on Colusa Ave. at 10 p.m. at night. Police arrested the driver, a Richmond man, who had a blood alcohol limit nearly twice the legal limit

○An Eldridge Ct. resident reported the theft of \$800 in property including a cell phone, wallet and a case of CDs and DVDs from an unlocked Honda Odyssey.

○A Colusa Ave. resident thought he heard footsteps on his roof and someone climbing a chain link fence. Police inspected the roof and found no one. ○A Trinity Ave. man reported a series of phone calls where the caller moaned and groaned. The resident provided a phone number obtained through caller ID. Police contacted the man by phone and he denied making the calls. The following day they visited him and he was evasive and said it was an accident. Police counseled the man on the suspicious nature of the calls.

○A Coventry Rd. resident reported the theft of two mountain bikes valued at \$800 from his driveway. A \$50 mountain bike was abandoned at the time of the theft.

○A Kenyon Ave. resident found two round holes in his living room window. They appeared to be caused by a BB gun.

○Two juveniles were subject to copus interruptus when a police officer disrupted their romantic interlude in a van parked outside the community center around 1:30 a.m.

○A resident on Edgecroft Rd reported that an exchange student who had by staying at his home made off with linens and wine after holding a party at the house without permission. The resident is trying to recover the loss from the student's parents in Pennsylvania.

○Claremont Day Care on Oak View reported the theft of a \$200 camera.

○A 12-year-old struck another 12-year-old in the head with a stick outside the Kensington Library.

○A Los Altos Rd. resident reported the theft of a Honda Accord valued at \$5,000. Police recovered the vehicle hours later on Beloit Ave.

○A 12-year-old boy ran from a German shepherd on Highgate Rd. The owner used an electronic collar that was supposed to shock the dog if it wandered off of the property. Police suggested the owner use rope in the future.

○A Kensington man and his wife were driving down hill on Beloit when they let a truck pass. The man chastised the truck driver for not yielding and told him his car had the right-of-way. The truck driver jumped out of his vehicle, pounded on the man's car, suggested he had been romantically involved with his own mother and slapped him in the face before driving away. Police later advised the man that the truck, which was heading up hill, had right-of-way and that it was unwise to engage in verbal disputes with other drivers during commute hours. The man did not file charges.

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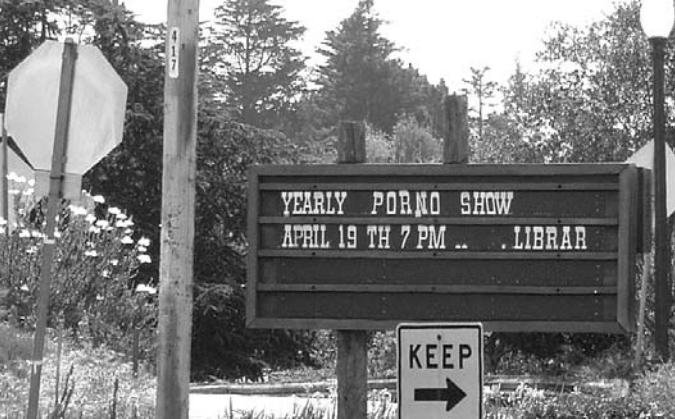
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Behind the green door lies Kensington



Kensington's community board at the top of Arlington Ave. promotes the town's "Yearly Porno Show." The posting was the apparent work of anagrammatic wags, who took down a few letters and rearranged the rest from a promotion for an exhibit of aerial photography at the Kensington Library. We don't know for sure, but we suspect the exhibit had an unusually strong turnout.

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Saturday & Sunday

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