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**Election Results**

# RCPC/FORL Election Results

Rockridge residents voted April 15 & 17 for candidates to the Rockridge Community Planning Council and to The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL). Congratulations to:

**RCPC:** Elected to two-year terms to the RCPC Board of Directors: Ehab Bandar, Camille Reed, Mike McDonald, Mike Taylor, and Deborah Weinstein. In addition, the proposal to expand the RCPC Board of Directors from 11 to 14 members was approved.

**FORL:** Elected to two-year terms to the Rockridge Library Board: Marilyn Citron, David Hatfield, Kevin Flynn, Jennifer Vetter, John Gussman, Jim Good, Abby Pollack, Ashley Hawn, Penelope Wong, Nancy Miller, and Kristine Carraway.

## agenda: RCPC General Meeting

**Thursday, May 20, 6:45 p.m.**
***(note time change)***
**Rockridge Branch Library**
**Community Room**
**5366 College Avenue at Manila**

- **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Town Hall Meeting** (See article this page.)

| | |
|---|---|
| **6:45 pm** | Light Refreshments |
| **7:00 pm** | NCPC Report & Elections |
| **7:10 pm** | Program: Truancy and Its True Impact |
| **8:00 pm** | Crime Trends: Police Service Area 2 Lt. Green and Police Service Officer Helene Schmitt. |

# Councilmember Brunner Leads Fight to Save Oakland Street Trees

**Counter-proposal to City ordinance planned**

*by Cy Gulassa*

A proposal by Oakland's Public Works Department to aggressively remove trees that damage sidewalks and utilities has generated fervent neighborhood opposition. Hundreds of tree lovers attended Councilmember Jane Bruner's April 5 meeting, and most of the speakers denounced the draft proposal. If approved by the City Council, the new ordinance would authorize removal of trees that are purportedly too close to telephone poles, sewer lines, and driveways; or that damage walks and curbs; or block street lights, traffic signs and vision at corners. According to Brunner, these draconian criteria would require removal of every tree on her block. Since that initial airing, Brunner's office has received nearly 1,500 cards and e-mails in opposition.


Jane Brunner

Brunner, who began her political career as a save-the-trees activist, met with a group of 25 volunteers at

THREAT TO TREES, PAGE 10

# NCPC Elections, Truancy Are Top Town Hall Meeting Topics

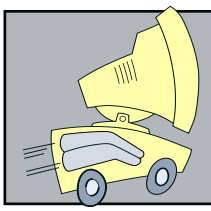
*by Susan Montauk*

Have you ever wondered why that young teenager you saw in your neighborhood shop or on the street one weekday morning was not in school? According to Oakland Unified School District attendance records, on a given school day almost 10% of Oakland youths are absent from school and many of their parents may not know it. Truancy is a major problem in Alameda County schools and it is the topic of the Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Town Hall meeting to be held Thursday, May 20, 6:45 pm in the Rockridge Library.

Attendees at the meeting will also elect new NCPC officers for the positions of chair, vice chair and secretary. Nominations will be taken from the floor. Please consider running for an office or becoming part of the NCPC Steering Committee, which meets the third Tuesday of each month at Station 8 Firehouse on 51st Street at Telegraph Avenue. No special background is required, just a desire to help with safety and crime issues in police beats 12Y and 13X, which cover much of Rockridge. (See "NCPC Priorities," page 12.)

The meeting will feature speakers Alameda County District Attorney Teresa Drenick, Woodrow Carter, Chief of Staff

NCPC TOWN HALL, PAGE 12



## Rockridge Web Site Redesigned

**Check out our recently redesigned website at www.rockridge.org. In addition to a great new look, it has links to important RCPC information, local events, and useful resources for the entire East Bay.**

# In My Opinion

# Are Archways Over College Avenue The Best Way to Identify Rockridge?

*by Hiroko Kurihara*

A year ago, the Rockridge merchants group (RDA) suggested to Councilmember Jane Brunner that visitors to College Avenue shops need a distinctive way to know when they are in Rockridge. One proposal discussed, according to "Rockridge gateways open for discussion," in the *Montclarion*, April 27, was an archway. But Louise Rothman-Riemer, RDA President, said that was definitely not RDA's first choice.

The idea was again discussed at the November RCPC General Meeting. Justin Horner, of Councilmember Brunner's staff, presented drawings of gateways designed for other Oakland districts and proposed similar structures for College Avenue, one spanning College near Alcatraz, the other at its intersection with Broadway. The overwhelming majority of the more than 30 residents and business owners at the meeting opposed archways, recommending that the $150,000 that the arches would cost be used to improve sidewalks and traffic safety, among other things. Minutes of the meeting were e-mailed to Brunner's office.

Recently, the councilmember's office pursued the archway concept with the City of Berkeley, proposing an archway in Berkeley at College and Alcatraz to identify simultaneously the transition zone between Oakland's Rockridge and Berkeley's Elmwood districts. At last word, Berkeley has demurred on the joint proposal, so the archway would have to be relocated within Oakland's borders. The College Avenue line between the two cities runs between Safeway and La Farine Bakery, an awkward location for an arch.

In my opinion, an archway is a gaudy and artificial way to mark an entrance to a unique neighborhood like Rockridge. We need to continue the dialogue and together develop a project(s) that builds on and enhances the district's existing character.

"If there's another idea that comes forward in the meantime, we'll definitely look into it," said Councilmember Brunner in the *Montclarion* article. Let's take her up on that promise. Following are some suggestions to consider:

- Install "Rockridge District" signs on Interstate 24 at the Claremont and Broadway exits;
- Install artist-designed, seasonal banners on street lamps along College;
- Install a "Welcome to Rockridge" sign on the existing BART archway spanning College Avenue and coordinate with the UnderBART improvements group on other related projects;
- Install large, colorful hand-tiled flower pots along College Avenue;
- Enhance pedestrian safety at critical crossings like College Point and along Claremont Avenue;
- Improve safety on Claremont Avenue and make it an attractive gateway to Rockridge.

How do *you* think the $150,000 should be spent? Send your suggestions and questions to:

City Councilmember Jane Brunner: 238-7001; jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

Rockridge Community Planning Council: danielferdelman@yahoo.com

Rockridge District Association: 604-3125

Editor, *The Rockridge News*: editor@rockridge.org

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| Friday | 12 – 5:30 p.m. |
| *Sunday, Monday* | CLOSED |

**Library details: See Calendar, page 15.**

The Rockridge News

*The Rockridge News*, founded in 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly in Oakland and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council, a non-profit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement, and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

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Theresa Nelson ..... Neighborhood Merchant
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- Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
- Would you like to volunteer to be a *Rockridge News* block captain?

Contact us at one of the following addresses or telephone numbers:

**Editor: editor@rockridge.org**
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***The Rockridge News***, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618
RCPC Voicemail: 644-4228

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**Publication date of the next issue is**
☛ **June 5, 2004**
☛ **June deadline is May 20**

**Advertising rates are $22/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. To advertise, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210, or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com.** ***(RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate.)***

## The Zoning Counter

*The Zoning Counter provides Rockridge residents with an opportunity to review construction project proposals to be undertaken in their neighborhoods. While it is a compilation of recent applications filed with the Oakland Planning Department, it is not necessarily a complete or up-to-date listing. Individuals may contact the Case Planner or the Planning Department for additional information.*

### 6443-6447 Benvenue Avenue

Proposal: To convert existing 3 units to condominiums

Owner/Applicant: Carolyn M. Doelling 510/653-1573

Planning Permits Required: Tentative Parcel Map to create three condominium units Historic Status: Potential Historic Property (PDHP); survey rating: C1+

Case Planner: Maurice Brenyah-Addow at 238-6342 or mbrenyah@oaklandnet.com

### 6398 Telegraph Avenue

Proposal: To establish a pet food store with self service pet wash facilities and construct new signs.

Applicant/Phone Number: Pet Food Express/ Jim Moore 510/655-6750

Owner: Givens & Zweben

Planning Permits Required: Minor CUP for animal care activity

Regular Design Review for new business signs, and Minor Variance to allow a freestanding sign to be 10' tall where the maximum allowed height is 6'.

Case Planner: Robert D. Merkamp at 238-6283 or rmerkamp@oaklandnet.com

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# Residential Design Review Guidelines Opened to Public Comment

*by Ted Radosevich, RCPC Land Use Committee*

At a meeting with Councilmember Jane Brunner on April 3, many community members said that the 10-day City posting period for variances, additions or new home construction is simply too short for true neighborhood and public input, and that without plans or drawings that show both the proposed construction and its relationship to neighboring homes, it is very difficult for the average person to evaluate potential negative impacts. It was also suggested that "story poles" be placed on the outlines of proposed home additions or new second stories to demonstrate the impact on views, light, privacy and solar access on neighboring homes.

In response to these concerns, according to Brunner, the City is proposing to expand the notice period to 15 days and is reviewing a notification process that would require adjoining neighbors to be given plans to review prior to applications being processed by the City. The City is also weighing the appropriateness of story poles and a refinement of the "mediation" process whereby the City will provide a forum for neighbors to meet and discuss areas of potential conflict before City staff processes applications.

The City has also proposed to expand the number of "exempt" projects for which no public review is allowed, but several speakers complained that the current process already "exempts" too many projects. One woman said that the view out her window was completely blocked by a neighbor's "exempt" addition.

Councilmember Brunner has been working with local neighbors, architects, builders and City staff to try to develop processes that are fair and easy to understand, but areas of dispute still remain. To obtain copies of the current draft residential design review guidelines contact Oakland City Planner Chris Buckley at 238-6983. The proposed regulations will start formally moving through the City planning process in May and input from concerned neighbors is needed.

## Free Workshop on Home and Family Emergency Preparedness

Are you prepared to protect yourself, your family and your home in the event of an earthquake, fire, flood, act of terrorism or other emergency situation? Do you realize that you and your neighbors may be on your own for 24 to 72 hours after an emergency? Are you ready to learn or enhance your emergency preparedness skills to help yourself and your neighbors? A FREE emergency preparedness training class is sponsored by the Oakland Fire Department Office of Emergency Services CORE (Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies) Program for Oakland residents. For more information contact Robert Wiles:wilesrc@sbcglobal.net or 925/768-2741.



# Allergies Are Nothing to Sneeze At!

*by Frances Dalton, MD*

Torrential winter rains followed by unseasonably hot days usually make for a high pollen count, which translates to a very strong upcoming allergy season. The acacias are in bloom and there's already an itchy something in the air! So, if you suffer from allergies, it's best to be prepared and know what treatment options are available to you.

The typical seasonal allergy symptoms of sneezing, runny nose, congestion, watery itchy eyes, post nasal drip and scratchy, itchy throat can make you feel so miserable that it's hard to tell whether you have allergies or a severe cold. One of the ways to tell the difference is that with allergies there is the absence of the following: 1) fever, 2) discolored mucous in shades of anywhere from ecru to chartreuse and 3) swollen lymph nodes.

There are a host of herbal treatments which are touted to be beneficial for allergies and I would defer to your favorite pharmacist or herbalist for the latest recommendations. Over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription medications can be used alone or in combination to effectively relieve symptoms. Treating allergies is not masking any serious underlying problem. Medications keep in check an immune system gone haywire — that is, one that is overreacting to harmless stimuli.

Many insurance companies aren't covering some of the old favorites like Allegra, Clarinex, and Zyrtec now that Claritin (also packaged as Alavert and generic loratadine) has gone OTC. A Prior Authorization is usually needed nowadays to get your favorite one. Any of these can be made into a customized "D" formula, such as Claritin-D, by using OTC Sudafed (pseudoephedrine) as (or less than) directed. However, the "D" can make a lot of people feel jittery, and worsen high blood pressure.

But insurance companies aren't hip enough to know that off-label uses for some expensive medications that are covered work great, too! Off-label means that the use is not FDA approved, but doctors can still prescribe them for other approved conditions. The asthma pills Accolate and Singulair are just a couple of examples that can be miraculously effective for allergies.

A selection of an oral pill can be coupled with a nasal corticosteroid spray and bring good relief. Very little steroid is absorbed via the nasal route. There are other prescription nasal spray options such as antihistamines and "mast cell stablizers." Occasionally, a patient will benefit from a long-acting steroid injection that covers a broad variety of allergies and this is okay, too, if used on an occasional basis. Classic "allergy shots" require multiple visits to the doctor's office as your immune system develops tolerance to the inciting irritants, but each specific allergy requires multiple injections.

These are just some ideas to help you "spring" into action when seeking medical attention for allergies.

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Frances Dalton, MD., Rockridge Family Practice, can be reached at FdaltonMD@earthlink.net

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## Wanted: Artist And Designers For FROG Park Art Project

Moving ahead with the second phase of FROG Park improvements, the City of Oakland and Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation have contracted with the design/build team of MIG and to design, develop and oversee the project. The Friends of Rockridge Greenbelt (FROG) have agreed to assist with developing art and interpretive signs in the park.

FROG is looking for artists or design teams to complete designs for park elements, including sculpture, kiosks, interpretive markers, and gateways to the greenbelt. We want our park to be unique, easy-to-find, and well-integrated into the neighborhood.

FROG is issuing a request for qualifications to artists, to be due on May 16. Local artists and designers are encouraged to participate. Please see the FROG website for more information (www.frogpark.org) or contact Jennifer Cooper, FROG Phase II Representative, 653-6581.




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# Earth Day Cleanup of Temescal Creek/Redondo Park



On Saturday, April 24, approximately 50 Temescal Creek Earth Day volunteers cleaned Temescal Creek between Clifton and Clarke Streets, an annual event sponsored by the DMV Neighbors Association and the City of Oakland. At noon, all volunteers were rewarded with a potluck and pasta feed held at Mike Bogart's home across from the DMV.
Many thanks to all who contributed and especially to Margaret Pinter, who organized the event, the hard workers, and the Colombo Club, which donated more pasta than 50 people could ever eat. Above, from left, volunteers Joanmarie Wood, Randy Molina, Josh Wojtkiewicz, Troye Mowrer, Paul Leimone and Adele Mendelson.

# Panelists Reveal Gardening Secrets at RCPC Meeting



RCPC thanks panelists for advising a full house of residents at the General Meeting April 15 on ideal ways to create a lovely Rockridge garden. Describing the steps to a pleasing outcome, the panelists pointed out that it takes a lot more than a shovel, a flat of flowers and determination to transform an old yard into a lovely garden. However, the outcome can be worth it. Among other suggestions, the panel advised: Don't let sentiment inhibit creativity; amend the soil thoroughly rather than rely on chemicals and fertilizers; and strive for serenity. Panelists pictured above, left to right, front, are: Anette Floystrup, Mimi Wiesenfeld, Nancy Sales.
At rear: Andrew Nash, Sam Bryant. PHOTO: *ROCKRIDGE NEWS*

# Angry Oaklanders Discover Two April Tax Deadlines

*by Susan Montauk*

There are a lot of angry freelancers in Oakland. As April 15 came and went, 11,000 home-based entrepreneurs faced another tax deadline on April 21, a surprise demand for payment of back taxes together with penalties to the year 2000. It turns out that a City ordinance requires all freelancers to register their "businesses." Along with the usual suspects, the ordinance states that "self-employed persons, independent contractors and businesses conducted within one's home, and non-profit organizations" are required to file as businesses. The tax is based on gross receipts and applies even to income made outside the city.

"This is the first year the City of Oakland has the ability to identify home businesses from filings of State income taxes," said a staffer at the Finance and Management Agency.

Many freelancers have refused to pay either the tax and/or the penalties. A Rockridge group has formed to lobby the City Council to forgive the penalties and perhaps even rescind the back taxes.

If you would like to join this group, contact lydiagans@juno.com. City Councilmember Danny Wan will hold a meeting of the Finance Committee on May 11, and this item should be on the agenda. The committee meets from 2 to 4 p.m. in the first floor hearing room in City Hall. An e-mail to Councilmembers Jane Brunner (jbrunner@oaklandnet.com) and Danny Wan (dwan@oaklandnet.com) will help put this issue on a front burner.

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# Rockridge Home... Sweet Home

## The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson



Photo: Don Kinkead



**Rockridge Home proprietors Jennifer Kaplan, Vermont, and Edward Wong.**

Photo : Lydia Gans

With large glass windows and a front door open to a College Avenue lined with blossoming trees, Rockridge Home is warm, welcoming and filled with beautiful and affordable home décor. At the door, you'll probably meet Vermont, a sweet cheerful dog that owner Jennifer Kaplan calls the "official greeter."

In March, Rockridge owners Jennifer and her partner Edward Wong were in the midst of remodeling and changing the name of the store. What opened as Red Feather Mercantile last fall is now Rockridge Home, a name more oriented to the neighborhood. The store, located in the former Boero clothing factory, not far from the Rockridge Library, still has the original brick walls, concrete floor and structural wood.

Sitting on a comfortable taupe sofa and surrounded by silk throw pillows in tan and dusty rose, Jennifer said she and Edward decided to focus on stylish but reasonably priced furnishings, accessories, and gifts for home and garden. They combine upholstered furniture and wooden items like chests, tables, and bookcases with attractive accessories in a home-like setting. "We want shoppers to see a home vignette, get ideas and buy anything from a single accessory to a complete room," she said.

While stocking many popular items, they can order hundreds of options in various woods and fabrics from more than 75 vendors. Featured are items from the local furniture maker Sitcom, including the mahogany Edo chair, inspired by Japanese period design, which fits with many styles of décor.

Rockridge Home offers a lovely selection of rugs. A series of US-made tone-on-tone area rugs with a subtle leaf design may be ordered in different colors. Wall art includes many works by neighborhood artists, such as pastels of Yosemite and gardens by Bunny Mager. Lamps and shades are manufactured by local and West Coast companies like Eternity Iron works in Oregon. The latter's handsome metal bases go well with hand-beaded shades in many colors. The copper and quartz "Guernica" lamp was inspired by the dramatic Picasso painting. Stacked in an armoire are Legend blankets, beautiful wool throws with designs based on native American Legends, such as "How Beaver Stole Fire."

Tabletop accessories include lots of small spheres made of unusual materials like wooden tubes and tinted botanicals, as well as apples and pears crafted of leaves. The new Lolita crystal is simply stunning: hand-painted martini glasses decorated with olives, holly, palm trees, stars, and many other designs. One-of-a-kind pillows feature embroidered maps highlighting popular California destinations. The small glass hearts (clear or in colors) by local artist Marty Appel are popular gift items and go perfectly with a handmade card by daughter Jennifer Appel.

Further back in the store, a kitchen area features bar and café accessories, wine buckets, serving pieces and an array of clear and colored glasses. The nearby children's area has stuffed animals from Gund and light-hearted books such as *How to Make a Pregnant Woman Happy.* Outside the store is a garden area, tiled in classic hopscotch design, that displays a variety of garden sculptures and copper watering cans.

Jennifer and Edward started searching for a store location last summer and leased this site before the conversion from factory was completed. Jennifer belongs to a fourth-generation furniture business family. After a career as a dot-com MBA, she wanted to open this store as a way to explore her creative passions. "We love this location," she said. "This part of College Avenue is very lively and the neighboring stores are great. We support each other and think of ourselves as a community." Indeed, while a stream of customers inquired about special orders or picked up a gift on the way to a birthday dinner, the owner of a nearby store popped in to say good night. Stop by Rockridge Home (they're open until 8 pm) for a gift, an idea, or even a whole new look for your home.

**Rockridge Home**

*Jennifer Kaplan and Edward Wong, Owners*

***5418 College Avenue 420-1928***

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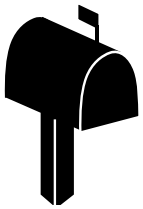
**April Sales Are Hot In Rockridge!**

| Address | List Pr | Selling Pr | Close date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 506 Forest | $646,000 | $740,000 | 4/2/04 |
| 5739 Ross | $739,000 | $828,000 | 4/2/04 |
| 5216 Miles | $650,000 | $625,000 | 4/3/04 |
| 5407 Bryant | $510,000 | $560,000 | 4/14/04 |
| 5405 Belgrave | $985,000 | $1,175,000 | 4/16/04 |
| 6315 Chabot | $869,000 | $1,210,000 | 4/16/04 |
| 5785 Country Club | $975,000 | $1,175,000 | 4/21/04 |
| 5455 Boyd | $759,000 | $870,000 | 4/26/04 |
| 6031 Acacia | $1,449,000 | $1,500,000 | 4/28/04 |
| 5830 Clover | $650,000 | $810,000 | 4/29/04 |
| 457 Hudson | $595,000 | $750,000 | 4/30/04 |

**Average overbid was over 17% higher than the asking price. In April, almost all the properties listed in Rockridge sold above the asking price.**

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## Letters to The Editor

*The Rockridge News*
5245 College Ave., PMB 311
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or e-mail:
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### The trees of Rockridge must be saved!

**Dear Editor,**

I read Perry Riani's article in *The Rockridge News* ("Residents Stumped by City's Tree-Removal Plans," April 3), and I am flabbergasted and broken-hearted about the city's plans to remove even one single tree from our incredible neighborhood. One thing your article did not mention is *who* is making the plans to remove the trees, *when* they are planning to do it, and *how* can we organize to stop it. Recently I had to move and my partner and I drove all over Oakland and Berkeley looking at rentals. No place had the peaceful leafy cover of the Rockridge (except the walker-unfriendly hills). Most were barren and glaring in the sunlight. (Fortunately we found another rental in the neighborhood.) We really must organize to stop any plan before it starts.

***Andy Couturier***
***63rd Street, Upper***

*(***Ed. Note:** See Brunner article, front page, this issue.)*

### Whither Oakland's Trees?

**Editor:**

What Disney World are Jane Brunner and other critics of Oakland's tree-cutting plan living in? It would be different if we indeed had "leafy canopies lining streets" as stated in the *Chronicle.* The city planted hackberry trees here some 20 years ago. They have NEVER trimmed them, the roots have torn up the sidewalks in front of near-million-dollar homes, AND soon they will once again be infested with hackberry woolly aphids, which secrete a black substance that has ruined many a car's finish. And all this is going to INCREASE property values? I'm fortunate not to have a tree in front of my house. Frankly, I'd rather have a poem!

***Pat Parker***
***Lawton Avenue***

# Peralta Elementary Spring Community Festival May 15

*by Susan Killebrew*

The Peralta Elementary School Parent/Teacher Group and the Lower Rockridge Parents Group invite you to join us this spring in celebrating our wonderful school and neighborhood community! The Annual Peralta Spring Community Festival will be held Saturday May 15, 2004, 12-4 p.m. at Peralta Elementary School, 460-63rd Street.

The Spring Community Festival will include something for everybody: Folks looking for good food can choose from mouth-watering barbecue, homemade baked goods, ice cream, and, of course, popcorn and cotton candy. For those who enjoy live entertainment, there will be a great R& B band, a dazzling magician, and inspiring performances by Peralta students. Families wanting a day of fun activities for kids will like the carnival games, free arts and crafts projects, the Oakland Zoo-mobile, a visit from an OFD fire truck, and much more.

**Folks looking for good food can choose from mouth-watering barbecue, homemade baked goods, ice cream, and, of course, popcorn and cotton candy.**

In addition, the festival is an opportunity for the community to enjoy Peralta's unique school site, with its many vibrant murals and delightful gardens. The day's schedule includes a groundbreaking ceremony for the school's large new Alcatraz Street garden and a dedication of the its newest mural created by Peralta students and artist-in-residence Jamie Morgan.

For this year's event, the school community is developing a printed program showcasing student writing and artwork reflecting the theme of community. Local businesses and organizations that are helping to sponsor the event will be prominently featured in this program. To find out more about making a tax-deductible donation, call Peralta parent Marguerite Young at 654-1446. Individuals who can volunteer to help serve food, blow up balloons, or hand out prizes for an hour or two during the festival should contact Susan Killebrew at 655-2737.

All proceeds from the Spring Community Festival will go directly to the Peralta Parent/Teacher Group, which finances art, gardening, music and physical education, and the school librarian, among other projects. Mark your calendars and join us for this celebration of one of Oakland's most successful, diverse and thriving public elementary schools. Peralta Elementary is part of what makes Rockridge such a special place to live.

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# Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

## Food Words

With this issue of *The Rockridge News*, I am happy to be celebrating my third anniversary of writing the Rockridge Cornucopia column. When I tell people I write the column, the usual response is: "It must be so great to be a restaurant critic." I respond, "No, I'm a food writer, not a restaurant critic." In the tradition of Calvin Trillin of the New Yorker, A.W. Apple of the *New York Times* and, of course, the grand dame of culinary letters, MFK Fisher, I try in my own way to create a sense of time, place and memory in the culinary world.

What is food writing? How does it differ from food critics? Food writers or essayists tend to write about what they are interested in. For example, while visiting his daughter and new grandchild in San Francisco, Calvin Trillin wrote a simple but defining essay on the difference between "carry out" in New York and "take out" in San Francisco. In San Francisco, for take out you call a restaurant, place an order and drive to the restaurant to pick it up. In New York, you call the restaurant, place an order and it is delivered to your apartment. A simple, but elegant study in culinary cultural relativism.

A food critic anonymously dines at restaurants over several days and writes a critical review of the restaurant based on the reviewer's subjective taste and sensibilities. Food writers on the other hand, write essays where the goal is to capture a moment in time, a sense of place or an inner experience. As an assignment in a food writing class, our instructor had us identify an herb and write a short first-person essay as if we were the herb. How would parsley, sage or rosemary speak? If they could speak, what would these herbs want to say to us?

As with armchair travel books, food writing is about creating for the reader a sense of the culinary experience. Anthony Bourdain, author of *Kitchen Confidential* and *Cook's Tour*, describes a tiny hole-in-the wall street food restaurant in the Vietnamese city of Hué with such detail and passion that when I finally found the place, it was exactly as I imagined. His ability to describe the two-table restaurant and the three generations of women lovingly making only two dishes was perfect. My reality matched Bourdain's printed word.

Over the past three years I have written columns about the unique culinary wonders of College Avenue, the perfect "gourmet" kitchen, our collective sadness of 9/11 and the need for comfort food, my personal culinary adventures in Paris and Vietnam, and the joys of becoming a grandparent. Although I have been cooking forever and graduated from the California Culinary Academy, I don't really consider myself a chef. My true love is the experience of the lust of good food, be it the perfect burger, hot dog, cup of coffee, or BLT. I can dine at the most high-end restaurant enjoying the most perfect meal, but if the end-of-the-meal coffee does not taste as good as Max's Blend from Royal Coffee or even Peet's, the meal ends on a sour note.

Forget the "in" cookbooks or TV food celebrities. So many readers of the Wednesday *Chronicle* food section or popular cooking magazines skip the feature articles and just jump to the recipes. Look for names like Coleman Andrews, Jason Epstein, Ed Levine, Peggy Knickerbocker, Dara Moskowitz, and Mimi Sheridan.

Barry Kaufman celebrates his third anniversary as The Rockridge News food writer. Drop him an e-mail and let him know what kinds of food, recipes and culinary adventures you'd like to see in his column.
kaufman42@earthlink.net

It has been a privilege to write the Rockridge Cornucopia. However over the past three years, I have received only one e-mail. Like any writer, I need to know my audience. Please let me know what you would like to see in the column.

This month's recipe is from my oldest food memory. My dad, a New York short-order cook, taught me at five years old how to make perfect poached eggs.

### Grandpa Joe's Poached Eggs

2 extra large eggs
warmed to room temperature
1 tablespoon white vinegar

Bring 1 quart of water and vinegar to a simmer in an 8-inch saucepan 3 inches deep. Have a slotted spoon on hand. Hold the egg as close to the surface as possible and crack into the water. Rapidly crack the 2nd egg. Maintain the water at a simmer and poach for exactly 3 minutes. Cover the pan, poach an additional 1 minute. With the slotted spoon, remove each of the eggs. The white will be softly set and the yolk liquid. Serve on a slice of buttered sour bread toast or a grilled tomato.

---

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. Barry is available for private cooking classes. His e-mail is kaufman42@earthlink.net.

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# Free Recycled Medical Equipment: Need a Wheelchair? Hospital Bed? Crutches? Contact Home C.A.R.E.S.

*by Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs*

In a dimly lit subterranean passageway, canes, crutches and commodes dangle from the low ceiling while wheelchairs clutter a cave-like closet. Lourdes in Oakland? Not exactly, but almost.

In this day of diminishing medical assistance, a small miracle takes place weekly in an undergound parking lot next door to the Presbyterian Church on 27th just west of Broadway. A little-known program called Home C.A.R.E.S. provides free durable medical equipment (known as DME) to anyone, regardless of income. With soaring prices for medical care, this program is a boon to anyone who needs such equipment, either temporarily or permanently.

Home C.A.R.E.S. sets up Thursday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. Just drive down the ramp and park. The office consists of a car tailgate and a couple of chairs. Storage is a former janitor's basement closet. From this unlikely space pour crutches, wheelchairs, hospital beds, and breathing apparatus, as well as continence and diabetic supplies, and more.

Home C.A.R.E.S. manages this miracle with one part-time staffer, lots of volunteers, dedication, resourcefulness, and a budget of about $60,000 annually for rent, salary, transportation, and liability. Clients are often people covered either inadequately or not at all by health insurance. Donors bring in equipment used by people who've recovered or died, stuff gathering dust in closets, or being thrown away during a house move. Many grateful recipients write checks.

Home C.A.R.E.S. is an outgrowth of C.A.R.E.S., the Collection and Distribution of Equipment and Supplies, started 12 years ago by Liisa Nenonen, an operating room nurse at Alta Bates. Unable to bear seeing perfectly good, unused surgical materials and tools thrown out, she and her volunteers today collect and recycle carloads of equipment to Central South America, Africa and Asia. The domestic Home C.A.R.E.S. program began when a man whose friend had died of AIDS asked Liisa how to donate leftover equipment locally. In response, she applied for a small startup grant from Alameda County's recycling program to address the local need.



**Steve Allen unloads donated medical supplies which will be distributed free at the Home C.A.R.E.S. distribution center in Oakland.**

PHOTO: CLAIRE WARHAFTIG-ISAACS

Typical of the 30 or 40 visitors each week, Gwendolyn Bowling of Oakland came for a wheelchair for her stroke-impaired mother, as referred by Social Services. Regular donor and muscular dystrophy patient Mark Hendrix arrived in a wheelchair with stuff he'd cleaned out of a friend's apartment. Three Vietnamese family members with limited English-language skills drove up from San Jose to get a wheelchair for a beloved uncle. Trudy Jackson picked up oxygen supplies for a friend with diabetes.

Many professionals visit on behalf of clients in senior centers, rehab units, and group homes. Ken Schwartz, an accredited therapist with the non-profit HMO Center for Elders Independence, stops by twice a month to supply his 130 low-income participants with equipment.

Visitors to C.A.R.E.S. are greeted joyously by staffer Steve Allen, a bouncy elf of a man who hugs each client when he finds the appropriate DME. If one isn't available, he'll take an "order" and scout for it around the Bay Area. He'll even cobble something together out of broken equipment. His heart and soul are in each DME exchange.

The real mystery behind this miracle program is that it is not better known. But that may change now. On March 18, Steve accepted the Community Service Organization Award for Home C.A.R.E.S. at the first annual Alameda County Community Heroes Breakfast sponsored by the Red Cross at the Airport Hilton. It was a red-letter day for Steve and company, unsung underground heroes in midtown Oakland. Phone 521-2273 for further information, or stop by to see this miracle in motion.

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## Alert: All Lovers of Children and Pets



**The foxtail: danger in the field.**

This is the season of the FOXTAIL, a weed dangerous to pets and children because when mature, its barbed hairs readily enter nostrils, mouth and ears and travel in one direction: inward. By pulling up foxtails while out on a walk, we can get ahead of them. They come out easily now, but will soon dry and spread.

*— Sari Kulberg*

# Threat to Trees

from page 1

a follow-up meeting in City Hall April 22 to consider the best way to respond to the draft ordinance.

The first order of business with the group was to challenge the primary reason for the Public Works proposal, which is to reduce the cost of claims for trip-and-fall accidents. Last year the claims cost the City over $619,000, a sum the agency projects to increase to $2.5M by 2007 if the sidewalk repair program is not in place. A review of historical fact by Brunner's office, however, reveals that the city averages a steady 10 to 12 suits per year, and that the cost for last fiscal year was actually $554,000, which included an aberrant $194,000 settlement. Most settlements range between $25-50,000.

**Rather than hack tree roots out to level ruptured walks, the [proposed] revised ordinance would require ramping over or meandering around them, and using flexible rubberized materials instead of cement in critical areas.**

Not only do the claims not warrant a drastic overhaul of Oakland's existing tree policy, said Brunner, it is unlikely that the new regulations would contain costs or significantly reduce the number of suits, especially considering that at current funding levels, it would take 50 years to repair existing sidewalk damage. Ironically, the City has no record of the trees it owns and only now is advancing a proposal to inventory walks and damage.

Acknowledging that the best defense is an offense, the Brunner volunteers unanimously voted to draft a new tree ordinance that would incorporate many of the tree-friendly provisions of a model program in Los Angeles, touted as one of the most enlightened in the state. The new counter-proposal would require a cost/benefit analysis including environmental, aesthetic and market values; as well as early notification, due consideration of alternatives, appeal rights, limiting annual removal of trees to 10 percent in a given area, and planting available tree sites in the neighborhood with suitable large-size trees. Rather than hack tree roots out to level ruptured walks, the revised ordinance would require ramping over or meandering around them, and using flexible rubberized materials instead of cement in critical areas.

Surprised by the public outrage over its proposed draft, Public Works has declared it will delay implementation to allow for feedback, and has provided the contact information shown at right, above. But opponents are taking no chances. In addition to the revised draft, they are considering launching a Greening of Oakland campaign in 2005 to fund their Los Angeles-inspired counter-proposal.

To offer suggestions or volunteer: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, or phone 238-7001.

## Public Works Seeks Input on Controversial Tree Ordinance

The Public Works Agency understands the concerns and comments expressed by Councilmember Brunner and other members of the Oakland City Council that there needs to be a balance between preserving street trees and keeping sidewalks free from tripping hazards and other obstructions which can be caused by street trees.

Our draft proposal is online at www.oaklandpw.com. Take a minute and review the proposal and attachments by clicking on the link that says "Draft Proposal Regarding Sidewalk Repair and Street Trees."

We are planning public forums, but nonetheless would like to hear your thoughts. The address is treesandsidewalks@oaklandnet.com.

*Raul Godinez II, PE,*
*Director of Oakland Public Works Agency*





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The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar



**Anderson Valley Barn.**
***Oil***
**— Peter Heelan**
pheel55@yahoo.com

# Fabulous Pro Arts Open Studios

## June 5-6 and 12-13

Each spring, artists all over the East Bay organize to bring you Pro Arts East Bay Open Studios. The format is a well-organized self-guided tour that offers a unique opportunity to visit artists in their work spaces and purchase their work.

Begin the tour at the beginning. Start at the fabulous, brand-new gallery and home of Pro Arts at 250 Second Street in Jack London Square. Do this either at the artist reception held on Thursday, June 3, from 7 to 9 p.m., or stop by in the morning of the designated days and then head out for studios, which are open from 11a.m.-6 p.m. Pro Arts is now open Wednesday through Sunday. This year you can also sign up for a special Art Bus Tour to select studios on Friday evening, June 4. Call 510/763-4361 for more details.

This year's program features 500 East Bay artists. There are many more, but not all open their studios every year. Many of the works on the gallery walls are for sale, but the fun begins when you explore further. Mark the map with notes on favorite artists before visiting their studios. If you try it once, you're bound to get hooked. Lunch somewhere on the Square or find complimentary food and drink offered at every studio.

The East Bay is rich with talented artists working in all kinds of media, price range and scale, so there should be something for everyone to fall in love with and consider a reasonable purchase.

Twenty neighborhood artists are listed in the map which we hope you will use for reference. Old favorites are showing plus newcomers who add new dimensions to the local scene. Muralist Alan Leon will be displaying large panoramic watercolor scenes of Oakland at the Temescal Café. Peter Heelan is showing his wonderful landscapes in his home. Lorna Moglia is exhibiting hand-flamed glass jewelry. And Margo Rivera-Weiss and Rae Louise Hayward (award-winning co-founder of The Art of Living Black) are celebrating the beauty and vitality of African, Latino and Hebrew culture in works shown at the Art Gallery at the Women's Cancer Resource Center at Telegraph and 57th Streets (www.wcrc.org). Look for more art at local maps and directories in cafes and store windows. The *East Bay Express* will carry the entire map as an insert during the two-week open studios period. Many artists will also have their work on line for preview at www.mesart.com and www.proartsgallery.org.

Ortrun Niesar can be reached at oniesar@aol.com or 510/652-6664.

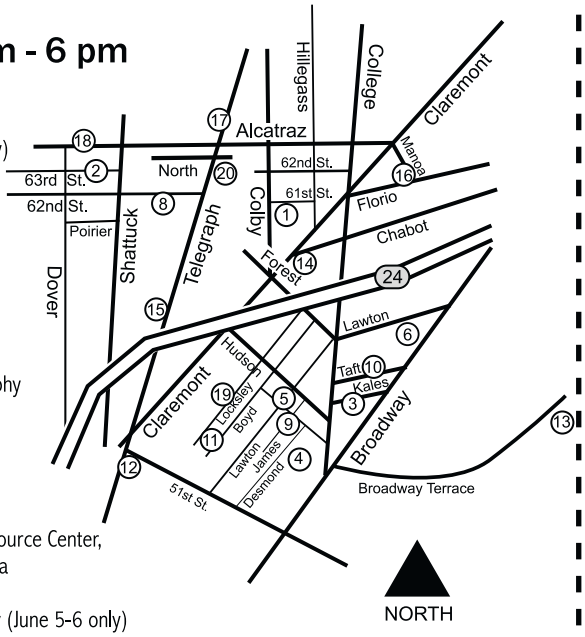
PRO ARTS East Bay Open Studios 2004

## Rockridge and North Oakland Area Artists

### June 5, 6, 12 & 13

### Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am - 6 pm

1. **J.P. Andrews**, 365 61st St. – Photography
2. **Carol Aust**, 655 63rd St.@Shattuck – Painting
3. **Marsha Balian**, 5495 Kales St. – Painting (June 5-6 only)
4. **B. Briones**, 5130 Desmond St. – Paintings
5. **Krislyn Brooks**, 5362 Lawton@Hudson – Jewelry
   **Amy Rosenfeld** – Art Furniture
6. **Ann Daniels**, 5599 Lawton – Jewelry
8. **Alissa Kaplan**, 568 #B 62nd St. – Printmaking, Fabric (June 12-13 only)
9. **Anne Gomes**, 5244 James Ave. – Photography
10. **Peter Heelan**, 5562 Taft Ave. – Painting (June 5-6 only)
11. **Imaginetrix Photography**, 5228 Boyd Ave. – Photography (June 12-13 only)
12. **Alan Leon at Temescal Cafe**, 4920 Telegraph Ave. – Watercolors, Painting
13. **Lorna Maglia**, 5891 Broadway Terrace – Glass, Jewelry
14. **Liz Maxwell**, 5808 Chabot Rd. – Painting
15. **Margo Mercedes Rivera-Weiss**, at Women's Cancer Resource Center, 5741 Telegraph Ave. – Watercolors, Recycled Art, Judaica
    **Rae Louise Hayward** – Acrylics, Oil Pastels, Cards
16. **Ortrun Niesar**, 6200 Manoa St. – Painting, Photography (June 5-6 only)
17. **Bruce Waterman**, 6436 Telegraph Ave. – Furniture, Jewelry
18. **Joanne Yeaton**, 2733 Alcatraz Ave. – Painting, Mixed Media
19. **Karen LeGault**, 5233 Locksley Ave. – Chinese Brush Painting
20. **Christina Bertea**, 477 North St. @Telegraph – Sculpture



## NCPC Town Hall

from page 1

to State Administrator Randy Ward, and David Chambliss, Claremont Middle School Principal.

Ms. Drenick heads up the Truancy Unit for the Alameda County D.A. and chairs the Oakland Unified School District Truancy Task Force. She works with elementary and middle school truants and their parents to correct the truancy problem before there are legal and social consequences. Her office arranges mediation sessions and works intensively with teens who don't respond to the first levels of support from the school district in order to avoid filing against them in juvenile court. She also prosecutes parents of elementary age students who refuse to comply with the school's orders to bring their kids in daily and on time.

Woodrow Carter will speak about the District's strategies of early intervention with families of truants and its programs of support. David Chambliss will speak to the problems created by truancy at Claremont Middle School.

The meeting will conclude with a report from Police Service Area 2 Lt. Lawrence Green and Police Service Officer Helene Schmitt on recent trends in crime in our community. Audience questions will follow.

## Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council

### Beat 12Y Priorities for May 2004

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Steering Committee meets monthly to set priorities for the Oakland Police Department in beats 12Y and 13X. Citizens with particular concerns are invited to attend these meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of most months at the Station 8 Firehouse, on 51st Street near Telegraph Avenue. Go to www.rockridge.org for further NCPC information.

The following priorities are set for May.
(**Note:** 13X was not represented at the April meeting.)

**Telegraph Avenue and 59th Street**

**Problem:** Possible drug activity: Williams Liquor Store, Washhouse Laundromat, the Mattress Store, next to OHA units on the 500 block of 59th St., 59th and Canning and McAuley.

**Action requested:** work with businesses to have them employ security guards for the late night hours when the store and laundromat are open.

**62nd between Colby and Hillegass**

**Problem:** Loitering and gaming at public housing.

**Action requested:** Ask OPD for extra patrols.

**Manor Crest**

**Problem:** Series of incidents in area over the past two weeks, including auto break-ins. Similar pattern to on-going incidents in the surrounding neighborhood, including Ross Street and Rockwell. In some cases a young man comes into private yards carrying a small yellow bucket and offers to wash your car. He has been known to walk into homes. Residents have reported money, cell phones, etc., missing from their home after he departs.

**Action requested:** To be discussed.

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# Changes on College

*New Store*

## Swallowtail Interiors

***Urban Chic Antiques and Accessories***
***5332 College Avenue 595-1240***
swallowtailhome.com
*Open 12 — 6 Wednesday — Sunday, and by appointment on Monday*

*New Restaurant*

## Bistro Viola

***French Cuisine***
***5299 College Avenue 655-2869***
*5pm — 10pm Monday — Saturday*

*New Name*

## Rockridge Home

**Furniture, Accessories & Gifts**
***formerly Red Feather Mercantile***
***5418 College Avenue 420-1928***

*Closing and Opening*

## Christensen Heller Gallery

*5831 College Avenue, closes the end of May.*

## Silverman Ludlow Gallery

***5831 College Avenue 655-5952***

*The Silverman Ludlow gallery, with new owners Eileen Ludlow and Barry Silverman, opens in the Christensen Heller location, June 1.*


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### Jazz and Classical Piano Lessons

Rockridge jazz pianist with UC Berkeley music B.A. offers lessons in jazz, blues, classical, music theory, ear-training, technique. Experienced, patient teacher, all ages/levels. Janet 653-6783.

### Home Repair Expert

Carpentry, remodeling. Doors and windows, glass and locks, small electrical, plumbing jobs, drywall, painting, fences, decks and other odd jobs. Good rates. Rick 510/464-5934.

### Work From Home

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### Housecleaning

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### Antique Refinishing & Repair

Expert antique and fine furniture restoration services. New finishes, stripping, repairs, glass/lock repairs. We specialize in in-home professional waxing and minor repairs. Pick-up/delivery available. Free estimates. Bruce 510/534-0603.

### Psychotherapy Can Help

Want more from life? Psychotherapy can help you discover priorities, remove roadblocks, find new solutions. Fast and focused, or gentle and exploratory—you choose the pace. Jan Graham, MFT. (MFC #35757). 510/207-5402; time4therapy.com

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Compiled by Jo Ellis

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**E-mail Rockridge News Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210, or mail to: Rockridge News Community Calendar, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.**

## Councilmember Jane Brunner's Community Advisory Meeting

First Saturday every other month, 10am to noon. **No meeting May and June.** For information about June picnic call 238-7001 or www.oaklandnet.com.

## Oakland City Council Meeting

Every Tues, 7pm, City Hall.

## Oakland Planning Commission

1st and 3rd Weds each month, 6:30 pm, City Hall. Agendas and details at www.oaklandnet.com.

## The Greater Rockridge N'hood Crime Prevention Council

Steering Committee meets 3rd Tues each month, 7 to 8:30pm. Fire Station #8 community room, 463 51st Street. Residents and business members of NCPC's 12Y and 13X areas are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety.

## Home/Family Preparedness Classes

**Free training classes** sponsored by Oakland's Office of Emergency Services to learn how to respond to emergency situations or major disasters. CORE (Citizens of Oakland Response to Emergencies) programs are conducted at neighborhood sites and require 10-20 participants. For more Information, contact Robert Wiles, wilesrc@sbglobal.net or 925-768-2741, to set up classes on your block.

## Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

**For Children:**

- Toddler Story Time: Sat, 10:30am: 5/8,6/5.
- Pre-School Story Hour: Weds, 10:30 & 11am: 5/5,5/19,6/2.
- Pajama Story Time: Tues, 7pm:5/11,5/25,6/8.

**Special Events:**

- Claudine Naganuma Dance Troupe: Sat, May 8, 2pm. Theater/dance performance in celebration of Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month. All ages welcome.

**For Adults:**

- Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice. First Tuesday of each month, 6 to 8pm,(6/1) Advance sign-up 5pm.
- "Nigeria and the Politics of Unreason." Panel discussion with Victor Dike and Michael Watts will focus on President Obasanjo's regime and the practice of "predatory democracy" in Nigeria. Presented by The World Affairs Council, Alameda Chapter. Monday, May 10, 6 to 7pm. Sign in for seating at 5:30pm. Call 597-5017 to register.

**Library Hours** ▸ See box, top of page 2.

## Peralta Annual Spring Community Festival

Saturday, May 15, 12 to 4pm, Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd Street. Proceeds to benefit Peralta Parent/Teacher group. Call Susan Killebrew at 655-2737 for more information, or to volunteer.

## Writer's Support/Critique Group

Rockridge Branch Library, Saturday, May 15, 1:30 to 5pm. ALL writers welcome. Bring 8 copies of up to 5 pages of your prose for on-site reading/discussion. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywritersclub.org/). For more information: 482-0265 or Writefox@aol.com.

## Diesel Book/Poetry Readings

5433 College Ave. All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Monday, 5/10, 7:30pm. Amnesty International Monthly meeting.
- Wednesday, 5/12, 11am. Lois Lowry: *Messenger.*
- Thursday, 5/13, 7:30pm. Tony Hunt and Gary Snyder: Genesis, Structure and Meaning in Gary Snyder's *Mountains and Rivers without End.*
- Sunday, 5/16, 2pm. James Kelman: *You Have to be Careful in the Land of the Free.*
- Thursday, 5/20, 7:30pm. Barry Gifford: *Do the Blind Dream?.*
- Sunday, 5/23, 2pm. Carol Snow: *The Seventy Preposition* (poetry).
- Wednesday. 5/26, 7:30pm. Jonathan Raymond: *The Half Life.*
- Thursday, 5/27, 7:30pm. Students from Renee Swindle's writing class at U.C. Berkeley Extension, Developing the Novel II, will read from their novels-in-progress.

For more inf. about readings, book/discussion groups and classes: 653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com.

## College Avenue Adult Center

College Ave. Presbyterian Church, 5955 College Ave. Every Wednesday, from 9:30am to 1:30pm.

Light exercise, socializing, travel programs and music. Hot lunch available at noon for $2. For details about upcoming field trips and special programs, call Kathy at 531-6724.

## North Oakland Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Center Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:45am to 4:45pm. Variety of computer classes, workshops, educational/social events, walking groups and field trips.

- Sign up for October trip to New York to see *The Lion King.*

The Newsletter, "North Oakland Senior Times" provides a schedule of classes and a lunch menu (suggested donation: seniors age 60 + $2; $4 for under age 60). Call 597-5085 for details about membership, newsletter, class or appointment times, and volunteeer opportunities.

## Elder Care Support Group

Alta Bates Medical Center, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. Free for family/friends caring for older adults. 3rd Wednesday, 4-5:30pm. For information on groups offered by Alta Bates/Sutter Health: call Monica, 869-4569 or e-mail Monicalcsw@alum.calberkeley.org.

## Benefit: Oakland's Elizabeth House

"Sweet Inspirations," Art Auction and Dessert Reception. Saturday, May 15, 7pm. Holy Redeemer Center, 8945 Golf Links Rd. Tickets, $25. Elizabeth house provides residential and support services for homeless and low-income women and children at 6423 Colby Street in Rockridge. Call 601-1213 for more information, or to donate art.

## Volunteers Needed

- Alameda County Community Food Bank. All welcome, including groups and kids 10 or older. Assist in the warehouse or office; staff the Hunger Hotline, the Food Bank's toll-free food referral service. Hotline shifts Mon-Fri, 9am-12pm and 1-4pm. Call Volunteer Mgr. Mary Schoen: 834-FOOD(3663) or www.accfb.org.
- Bambino Thrift Shop: All Volunteer Shop benefiting Oakland Children's Hospital. 5290 College Ave. Volunteers needed Tues through Sat. We will train you to help with pricing, selling and merchandise display. Call manager, Carol Maes: 654-9709.
- North Oakland Community Charter School (NOCCS): tutors to work with 1st to 4th graders, one-on-one or in small groups, on math skills, beginning reading and writing skills. Weekly time commitment of at least one hour. Located at College Avenue Presbyterian Church, (next to Dryers ice cream). Contact Jennifer Bloom, Director: 655-0540 or teachers@noccs.org.




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