THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 5245 College Ave. PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94618 • 869-4200

RCPC Election Reminder

All people who submitted their names as candidates for the RCPC board are required to submit a photo and a statement of up to 125 words describing their interest in running. Statements and photos are due by March 22, for publication in the April issue of *The Rockridge News*. Please include address, phone number and an e-mail address. Electronic copies may be sent to rcpcelections07@comcast.net. Mail hard copies to RCPC Elections, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618.

Remember: Two Opportunities in April to Vote for RCPC Board Candidates

Thursday, April 19: Candidates will speak, and voting will take place, at the April 19 Town Hall meeting in the Rockridge Library from 7 to 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 21: Voting will also take place April 21, in the lobby of the Rockridge Library, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Voter Eligibility

All persons age 18 and over who reside within RCPC boundaries are eligible to vote. Verification will be by driver's license or DMV ID card showing an address within RCPC boundaries, as shown on the RCPC website at rockridge.org.

■ **Other RCPC Organizational News, page 3:**
- **Land Use Committee Changes**
- **RCPC's Annual Financial Statement**



At Claremont and Telegraph Avenues: Creekside proposal on left, CIVIQ development on right. HAUSER ARCHITECTS

Community Hears Local Development Plans

Two high-density developments proposed for Claremont/Telegraph intersection

by Jeff Norman

Proposals for two high-density, mixed-use developments on the west end of Rockridge were rolled out to the community February 15, when developers presented their plans at a public meeting convened by Councilwoman Jane Brunner at Faith Presbyterian Church, in Temescal. Over 100 people heard details of proposals for a 33-unit cohousing project at the site of the Kingfish Pub on Claremont Avenue and properties adjacent to it on Claremont and behind it on Telegraph Avenue; and a 115-unit condominium project at the Global Video site, across the street from the Kingfish. As required by the city planning code, ground-floor street frontage of both developments would consist of commercial space.

"Craftsman-style" complex at pub site

The cohousing project, proposed by North Oakland Cohousing (NOCO), would be constructed on parcels now occupied by the Kingfish Pub, a duplex and garage next door, and two Victorian houses on Telegraph. (The smog inspection station at the corner of Telegraph and Claremont would be left standing.)

The five-story building would consist of 33 living units, ranging from studios to three- (or possibly four-) bedroom homes,

Plans, page 13

Rockridge Kitchen Tour: There's Still Time

The Kitchen Tour Committee has had the opportunity to visit several wonderful newly renovated kitchens in the neighborhood; it's not too late to submit your kitchen for the October 7 tour. The Kitchen Tour Committee is also looking for one or two volunteers for our publicity sub-committee. No experience is necessary. Join the fun as we visit some of our neighborhood's most interesting kitchens, and help put on a regionally renowned event.

If you have a recently renovated or remodeled kitchen you'd like to show off, or if you'd like more information about the Rockridge Kitchen Tour, please contact Jennifer Edmister at toejrb@earthlink.net, or call RCPC at 510/869-4200.



Janet Kirk's Chabot Court kitchen on the 2005 Kitchen Tour. KITCHEN TOUR FILE PHOTO

Op Ed Essays on matters of local interest are invited for consideration as Op-Ed pieces for *The Rockridge News*. Please limit length to 450 words and submit to editor@rockridge.org.

Bite the Bullet, Rockridge! Make it Official and Go for Landmarking

by Robert Brokl

One possible strategy for the Rockridge community – and RCPC as its representative group – to protect its unique character would be to organize for city landmark-district status.

Before condomania and the sacrifice of zoning rules by free dispensation of variances and conditional use permits took hold, an effort to make official what was so manifestly self-evident – namely, that Rockridge has architectural historical significance – seemed unnecessary. After all, one assumed that property owners, merchants, and the city were well aware of the cachet of Rockridge and its distinctive Craftsman homes and charming College Avenue streetscape.

But it seems that assumption was misplaced.

For years, I had been hearing about the the City of Pasadena's landmark district known as "Bungalow Heaven," an area of about 800 Craftsman bungalows (not to mention Spanish Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival houses) built between 1900 and the 1930s that draws some 60,000 visitors per year. But when I finally had a chance to go there, I realized that Rockridge, while lacking the hype and the official historic designation, was actually more generally intact, and its housing stock even more well-maintained and prized.

Who would have guessed these distinctive assets would now be so at risk? A quick glance at our neighbor Temescal should be clue enough how little respect some developers and city staff have for zoning regulations and neighborhood character. The six-story Temescal Place condo tower, with its miniscule retail street frontage and ground-level parking garage, is a prime advertisement for the "road not to be taken anywhere."

Projects already approved or in the pipeline will remove much of what's left of historic buildings on lower Shattuck and Telegraph in Temescal. Like reckless clear-cutters, all that will remain standing when the developers are done will be the "built environment" equivalent of vestigial old-growth redwoods.



An example of the Craftsman style housing which gives Rockridge its character. Op-Ed contributor Robert Brokl says making Rockridge a landmark district could ensure more thorough design review and send a message that Rockridge's character is important and must be protected.

Even people who live on sidestreets, away from the most at-risk commercial corridors, shouldn't feel safe and smug – not if they value views, sunlight, non-gridlocked streets, and street parking near their homes.

Planners and city officials have justified case-by-case rezoning by making "best fit" calls, using as justification vague General Plan language for increased density over existing zoning limits on commercial corridors with prescribed height limits and setbacks. Missing altogether from their decisions are the historic preservation element of the General Plan – the orphaned planning instrument locked in the closet and left to starve by Jerry Brown and the City Council.

Landmark districts help create zones that incorporate the most distinctive buildings with other, perhaps more modest structures, resulting in an aesthetically appealing, more seamless whole. Inappropriate, out-of-scale, jarring new construction is discouraged in these areas.

Pluses for making Rockridge a city landmark (S-20) district include more thorough design review and a closer look at projects. Currently, all we can do is attempt – with the commitment of much time and

Landmarking, page 12

ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY

5366 College Avenue
597-5017
HOURS:
Mon, Tues: 12:30 – 8 p.m.
Weds, Thurs, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: **CLOSED**
Library program 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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- Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in ***The Rockridge News***?
- Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
- Want to volunteer to be a ***Rockridge News*** block captain?
- Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?

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

Editor: editor@rockridge.org
www.rockridge.org
The Rockridge News, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618
RCPC Voicemail: 510/869-4200

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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING/DEADLINES

Publication date of the next issue is
☛ April 7, 2007
☛ April deadline is March 22.

Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com. *RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)*

RCPC 2006 Financial Statement

	P&L DATA (cash basis)
RCPC General Fund	
Income	
Rockridge News	$ 39,778
Interest Income	633
Total Income	40,411
Expenses	
Rockridge News	34,164
Grants	6,480
Accounting	7,224
Insurance, Permits and Sales Tax	2,041
Misc. Administrative Expenses	2,173
Total Expenses	52,082
Net	(11,671)
Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL)	
Income	
Donations	7,452
Merchandising (book sales)	3,178
Interest Income	303
Total Income	10,934
Expenses	
Gifts to the Library	7,263
Library Scholarship	2,700
Misc. Administrative Expenses	1,049
Total Expenses	11,012
Net	(79)
Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt (FROG)	
Income	
Donations	63,041
Merchandising (tee-shirts)	15
Interest Income	1,106
Total Income	64,161
Expenses	
Playground New Construction	64,162
Playground Maintenance & Bathroom	2,691
Misc. Administrative Expenses	1,509
Total Expenses	68,362
Net Receipts	(4,201)
Whistlestop Committee	
Income	
Merchandising (whistles)	188
Expenses	
Merchandising (whistles)	221
Net	(34)
Locksley Gardens	No activity in 2006[3]
BALANCE SHEET DATA	
Assets[1]	
Cash Accounts	
RCPC	24,167
FORL	11,236
FROG[2]	55,041
Whistlestop	671
Locksley Gardens	499[3]
Other Assets	
RCPC CDs	21,611
FORL CDs	30,642
Total Assets (1)	143,866
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	—
Equity	143,866
Total Liabilties & Equity	143,866

(1) Excludes remaining balance of the $100K pledge in 2006 by Councilmember Ignacio de la Fuente for capital improvements of FROGPARK

(2) A portion of these funds are restricted gifts towards specific items planned for frogpark development.

(3) Correcting entry made on 1/29/07 to adjust Locksley Gardens account balance to $499.06, after team review. The 12/31/06 balance sheet is shown pro forma for this correction.

RCPC tax records are on file at the Rockridge Library for public review.

Highlights: RCPC Board Retreat

Land-Use Committee Chairwoman Steps Down; RCPC to Solicit Community Input on Development

by Cy Gulassa, Editor, Rockridge News

Hiroko Kurihara has stepped down as chairwoman of the RCPC Land Use Committee, but will continue as a committee member and serve as mentor to her successor, Gloria Bruce. Bruce was elected at RCPC's annual February retreat at the Rockridge Library to be the interim chair until May. She has worked with local urban policy organizations and holds a Master's degree from UC Berkeley's Department of City and Regional Planning.

During the last few years, Kurihara and land use committee members revitalized community interest in Rockridge land use and development issues. Under her guidance, the land use committee utilized a variety of responses to development issues, ranging from responding to proposals when presented by developers to contacting developers who might be considering projects in Rockridge to give them a neighborhood perspective that might guide their efforts. (See Kurihara's statement below.)

Responding to Development

Debating the future role of land use, board members weighed the implications of opening advance discussions with property owners and developers rather than just continuing the strategy of responding to formally submitted proposals. Some board members argued that Rockridge residents, rather than RCPC board members, should be the ones to guide the ultimate strategy decision.

The debate was inconclusive, and the board decided to defer decisions until after the election of the new RCPC board, scheduled for April. Meanwhile, it will seek new ways to engage residents via *The Rockridge News*, the rockridge.org website, meetings and surveys. The board has received numerous e-mail suggestions from community members on the development issue and plans to incorporate them in its future discussions.

Issue: Plan vs Zoning Codes

A continuing problem with land use in Oakland is the inconsistency between the city's permissive General Plan, on the one hand, and local zoning codes, on the other. Although College Avenue's C-31 zone has not yet been directly affected by this problem, some are fearful that it may be endangered in the future. RCPC's historic commitment to preservation of the C-31 zoning is one of the main reasons for the character of College Avenue today. At its retreat, the board reiterated its commitment to ensuring that the C-31 zoning remains intact.

Board's 2007 Priorities

The board articulated its top five priorities for the year:

- Work closely with the City as it addresses the issue of reconciling Oakland's general plan with local zoning regulations
- Support the Rockridge Kitchen Tour as a way to promote Rockridge and raise funds for projects, as well as explore other means of fundraising for specific community projects
- Support capital improvements like pocket parks and bike racks
- Complete the redesign of the rockridge.org website as a comprehensive local resource and a portal to the greater community
- Codify and implement a process that assures community access and input to RCPC.

A Note from Hiroko Kurihara, RCPC Board Member

In early February, the RCPC board supported my request to turn over the Land Use Committee chairmanship to Gloria Bruce, fellow Land Use Committee member and RCPC board member. We'll be working extensively on a transition plan in the coming month. I'm grateful to Gloria for her offer to lead the committee and am confident that she will uphold the process of working with everyone in Rockridge to identify the best possible outcomes for projects and issues facing our community.

In the past three years, we've established a sizable e-mail list of residents interested in land use issues and a very active land use com-

Kurihara Note, page 7

NCPC Report | Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council

OPD Crime Stats Wrong; Rockridge Cedes 2nd Place For Crime Increase

by Susan Montauk, NCPC Chairwoman

A computer programming mistake catapulted Rockridge into second place for citywide crime increase in 2006. As reported in the February issue of *The Rockridge News*, the Oakland Police Department in January released a "Part I" (serious) crime table for all beats in 2006, and Rockridge's Beat 12Y appeared to have scored an uncomfortable 29% increase in these crimes over 2005. (Rockridge consists of Beats 12Y and 13X.) However, subsequent corrections to OPD statistics revealed that Rockridge actually had only a small increase in crime – closer to 6%. Second place now goes to the Allendale neighborhood in District 4, which, according to the corrected statistics, scored a 28.5% increase.

A mistake in the beat boundaries, which erroneously attributed many of Rockridge's Beat 12Y crimes to Temescal (Beat 12X), was discovered after the release of the OPD crime tables. This is both good news and bad for Rockridge. The good news is that the increase in crime here from 2005 to 2006 was not nearly as steep as first stated. On the other hand, the computer error resulted in an understatement of the actual number of crimes that occurred in Rockridge in both 2005 and 2006. (Because the computer-reporting error was fixed in April 2006, this understatement was greater in the year 2005 than in 2006, resulting in the overstatement in the percentage increase between those two years.) There were more serious crimes committed in Rockridge's 12Y in 2006 than were listed on the original table, approximately 583 rather than 548.

In his report to the City Council's Public Safety Committee on crime trends in 2006, OPD Chief Wayne Tucker stated: "Over the past year there was a 5.5% increase in Part I crimes in the city of Oakland, including a 68.2 % increase in homicides, 50.3% increase in firearm related assaults, and 23.4% increase in robberies. While violent crime increased, burglaries decreased by 7.3%."



Tucker reported that six of the city's seven Police Service Areas had an increase in crime. Although Rockridge suffered the 6% increase mentioned above, he reported that PSA 2, which includes Rockridge, was the only area with a slight overall decrease (.6%).

The report highlighted trends such as an increase in juvenile and young-adult offenders, an increase in violent crime, apparent targeting of non-English speaking victims, and an increase in robberies in affluent areas.

Rockridge was referred to in the crime analysis section of the report as one of those affluent areas. The report stated: "Over the last year the frequency of robberies in some of the City's more prosperous business districts has increased. These serial offenses, as well as copy-cat crimes, have been particularly noteworthy in the Rockridge, Piedmont Avenue, and Eastlake areas. Again, young offenders have been the primary suspects."

Piedmont Avenue's Beat 09X had more crimes (681 in 2006) than Rockridge but actually had a .3% decrease from 2005.

Regardless of the errors in statistics, Rockridge residents have felt the spread of crime in their neighborhood and have been organizing, block by block, and lobbying for increased protection from OPD. An NCPC/RCPC Town Hall meeting to be held on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Rockridge library will feature Deputy Police Chief Jeffrey Israel and will focus on current challenges to OPD and ways in which neighborhoods can help to prevent crime.

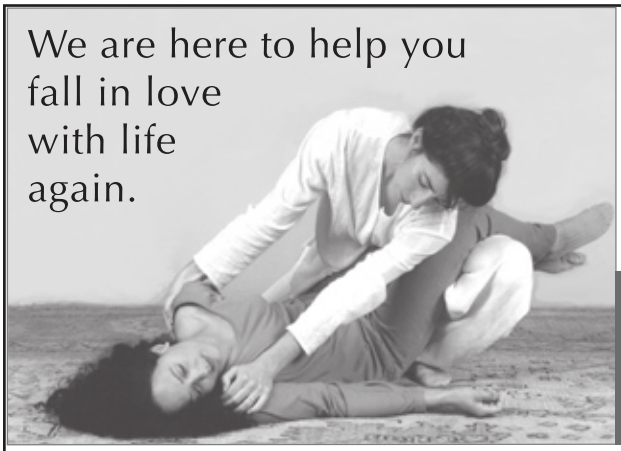
News Alert

Last week Councilwoman Jane Brunner sent an e-mail to community groups informing them that Chief Tucker is considering removing two Crime Reduction Team officers from North Oakland because of its slight drop in crime. The City Council will discuss the 89 vacant OPD officer positions at meetings on February 27 and March 6. For information, contact Jane Brunner's office at 238-7001 or jbrunner@oaklandnet.com.

NCPC Monthly Meeting
March 20, 7-8:30 p.m.

California College of the Arts
5212 Broadway, Ralls Building,2nd flr.
Visit www.rockridgencpc.com
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New Chabot School Wing to Replace Aging Facilities

Pre-design phase community meetings set for March 5 and 22

by Jennifer Vetter

In June 2006, Oakland voters overwhelmingly approved Measure B, a $435 million bond issue for school facility improvements. $13.5 million has been slated for Chabot Elementary School, to replace the 18 portable classrooms there – some of which date back to the 1930s – with a new, permanent facility that will meet the safety, health, and access standards mandated by law. The school will also get a new cafeteria and improvements to the play area.

The project is still in the pre-design phase, but things are moving fast. Chabot Principal Jonathan Mayer and the PTA's long-range planning committee recently hosted two meetings to introduce the design team to the community and solicit suggestions for the building and site design. At the first community meeting, in January, Beverly Prior Architects (BPA) and landscape design firm MIG presented overviews of their plans. In February, the design team gathered input from Chabot parents, teachers, and neighbors about specific features for the site and building. Students, staff, and parents also posted ideas on bulletin boards as part of the pre-design input process.



Chabot parents and community members discuss the school building process with project architects at a pre-planning community meeting.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2008, and the new building should be ready for occupancy by 2009 or 2010.

The schedule is ambitious. Prior said that because construction costs are increasing at a rate of around 1% per month, time is a critical element of the budget. "This construction schedule accounts for almost military precision," she said. "It's important that we put the funding into the site and building rather than into the rising cost of construction."

The team promises to address safety concerns and minimize the impact of the construction on students and neighbors. Oakland Unified School District project manager Donald Chew will serve as the day-to-day contact at Chabot during construction.

Shelly Fierston, the mother of kindergarten twins at Chabot, said she's excited by the project, which she says is "desperately needed."

To learn more, visit www.chabotelementary.org.

Chabot School Community Meetings

- Monday, 3/5, 7pm: Architects will show preliminary concepts for the design and placement of the new wing.
- Thursday, 3/22, 7pm: Discussion of the preferred master site plan.

Both meetings are in the Chabot School auditorium, 6686 Chabot Road. For more information call Jennifer Vetter at 595-1817.

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Letters to The Editor

The Rockridge News *welcomes letters to the editor. Include your name, address and a phone number for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity.*

High-Density Development Adds to Diversity

Editor:

I support the construction of buildings six stories or higher in our North Oakland neighborhood if they will be within two blocks of a transportation corridor. They should be well designed, and the buildings should be stepped back enough to allow some direct sunlight into neighbors' yards.

A four-story building on our block of 66th Street, built in the 1920s, provides housing for people who contribute to the diversity of our neighborhood. The larger complexes that were constructed on more than one or two lots tend to be better laid out both functionally and visually. Another four-story building on the next block, built in the '80s, also contributes to neighborhood diversity.

Both of these buildings have retail businesses occupying the ground floor.

Since yards and sunlight are lost with taller buildings, I think the developer of any building over 35 feet high should contribute money to a fund for the purchase and maintenance of mini-parks within two or three blocks of the development.

There is an additional reason I support higher density. Higher density can support better mass transit. The Telegraph bus has reduced its frequency to 12 minutes during most of the day. With the additional demand generated by new housing, the frequency of the buses on Telegraph lines can be increased, which will make taking the bus more attractive. It's fine to say, "Let's stop driving our automobiles!" – but let's provide a real alternative. I support restoring our mass transit systems to what they were before they were gutted in the 1950s.

I have been a resident homeowner in Oakland since 1972 and am interested in moving into a resident designed co-housing community within the next few years.

I have attended many of Jane Brunner's North Oakland community meetings. I have been one of the mainstays of our active, four-block, 140-household Fairview Park Neighbors group. I proposed a zoning regulation, adopted by the planning commission, that a commercial property adjacent to a residence not overshadow the residence's side yard. I also spoke at city planning commission meetings in support of secondary units in single-family-zoned districts in the 1990s.

— Spring Friedlander

EBMUD Doesn't Ignore Leaks

Editor:

I appreciate the comments of observant reader Ron Sipherd ("EBMUD Calls for Conservation, Ignores Leaks," *Rockridge News*, January 6,2007). With 4,000 miles of aging pipes in an area of regular ground movement, a constant challenge for EBMUD is preventing and repairing leaks. We do not, however, ignore them. Leak repairs are prioritized so that the largest ones are fixed first, often the day they are identified.

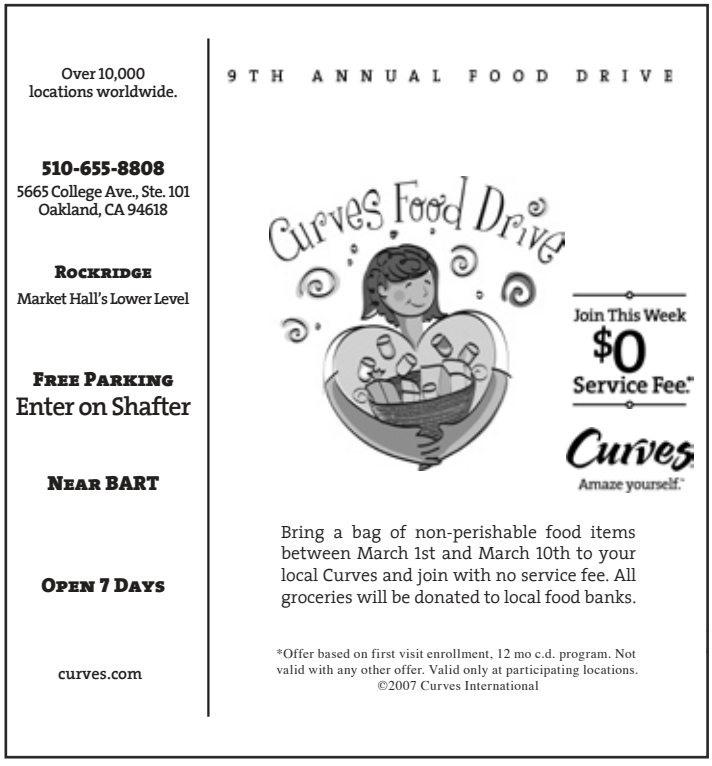
The Chabot and Golden Gate Avenue job site is the staging area for our seismic upgrade of the Claremont Tunnel, one of our most critical water pipelines. This three-year project is now complete, and repairs to the leak on this site will begin in April (temporary construction equipment to be removed in March currently does not allow safe access to conduct the repair).

Our wintertime request to customers to reduce water use was unusual but necessary to provide a margin of operating safety while we finished the tunnel's seismic upgrade. Thanks to our customers' actions, we were able to successfully complete the work without mandating water conservation. Now, with more than 10 years of seismic upgrades to our water system, the East Bay is better prepared to respond to the next big earthquake.

Following Mr. Sipherd's lead, I encourage our customers to report water leaks and neighborhood water waste by calling us (1-866/40-EBMUD) or visiting our website (www.ebmud.com, click "Contact Us" and select "Reporting Water Waste").

— Dennis M. Diemer, General Manager, East Bay Municipal Utility District





Studio One: Historic Renovation Continues on Schedule

by Patrick Daughton

Renovation of North Oakland's Studio One Art Center continues unabated through the winter, on schedule for expected mid-summer completion. The $12.5 million remodel, $10,000 of which is funded by Measure DD, will return dozens of popular art classes to a seismically upgraded, state-of-the-art facility this September.

Constructed in 1894 as the Ladies' Relief Society Children's Home, the building, located at 365 45th Street, was listed in the National Registry of Historic Places last July and should become a City of Oakland Landmark this year, after expected planning commission approval. With programming operated by the City of Oakland, Studio One has sheltered hundreds of classes in dozens of the arts since 1949.

Progress by the contractor, Oakland-based BBI Construction, is clearly visible to passerby. Thirty truckloads of concrete have created a new slab foundation. The basement and underground plumbing work is done, as is much of the structural steel installation.



View of Studio One renovation from the front facing 45th Street. The roof is tarped to prevent rain damage.

Courtesy of City of Oakland Public Works Agency

The new elevator is progressing and the roof and interior work will continue through the months ahead. Extensive landscaping and a public art installation are planned.

Through ongoing fundraising events and neighborhood house parties, Friends of Studio One has mounted an ambitious campaign to equip the renovated Art Center with new furnishings. Opportunities for donor support include the purchase of kilns, classroom tables and park benches for an outside performance space. Donors will be recognized with mounted plaques.

To support the Studio by hosting a house party, purchasing furniture or otherwise helping the campaign to reach its goal, call Beth Maher 510/420-5852. Learn more about the history of Studio One and its role in our community at www.friendsofstudioone.org.

To further its advocacy work, Friends of Studio One is seeking a local attorney and a local CPA or bookkeeper to join its board. If interested, please contact Patrick Daughton by phone at 510/652-1052 or by e-mail at pdaughton@earthlink.net.

Kurihara Note

from page 3

mittee. We helped shape and provide guidance for over 20 projects and, more importantly, we identified a course of action that will give all residents an opportunity to have a voice in helping to determine the future of our neighborhood. It's imperative that we continue to have a healthy debate about development and change in our community.

I plan to remain active in the committee and will remain a member of the board with a special focus this coming year on helping to implement RCPC's commitment of communicating and connecting with residents. I'm very encouraged that the board's commitment to good work will continue, with all our involvement and support.

Thank you to all the members who helped and retained a positive focus on getting the work done.

Library Friends Announce April Board Election

The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) will fill up to seven board seats in its annual election, to be held on April 19 at the Rockridge Library, concurrently with the RCPC election meeting.

No statements, photos, or speeches are required in order to stand for election to the FORL board. Everyone who loves libraries is welcome, including quiet bookworms. To place your name on the ballot, contact FORL Chair Jennifer Vetter by **April 10**, at jrvetter@comcast.net or 595-1817.

Serving on the FORL board is a rewarding way to become more involved with the Rockridge Library, and with the Rockridge community. During 2007-08, FORL expects to focus its efforts on collection enhancement (especially children's books and audio-books), and upgrades to the library's furnishings, equipment, and climate control system.

FORL's mission is "to champion the Rockridge library; to create and stimulate public enthusiasm for library programs, and interest in the needs, services, and facilities of the library; to serve as advocates for the library to the community and government bodies; to generate new ideas for the enhancement of Library facilities and programs; to encourage gifts and volunteers for the library; and in general, to foster the continued development of the library."

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• Sunny Yard
• Chabot Elementary

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Whatever Happened to Quiche?

In January, I spent three days at the annual Fancy Food Show at the San Francisco Moscone Convention Center. With some 2,000 exhibitors and over 18,000 people attending this year, the Fancy Food Show is the largest trade show of food importers, marketers, distributors, and producers catering to the specialty food market. Think Pasta Shop spread out over the entire North and South halls of the Convention Center.

This was my second year attending the show, and I was struck by what was "hot" and what was not: last year's "in" items were almost totally absent. On display were exhibit after exhibit of exotic salts, teas, vitamin fortified waters, and artisan salami. What happened to salsas, hot sauces and grilling rubs?

For that matter, whatever happened to quiche, that "in" food of the '70s?

Clearly, American tastes are in a constant state of flux.

The beginning of the American gourmet food revolution is generally traced to Julia Child's television series' first airing, in 1963. Before that, in 1961, *New York Times* food critic Craig Claiborne had written "The New York Times Cook Book." To this day my wife, Gail, and I still make Claiborne's mushroom pie every Thanksgiving. Other popular '60s dishes included fondue, chocolate mousse, and – of course – quiche.

By the 1970s, trends shifted from European classics to Asian cuisine. I bought my first wok around then and began to cook Chinese food at home. I will never forget the first time we made moo shu pancakes; our fingers burning, we probably were able to make a total of about six pancakes. Wok-cooked veggies and tofu became our "in" food for the '70s.

In California in 1980, trends began to change yet again. The Chez Panisse revolution was in full swing. Mark Miller opened the Fourth Street Grill, where he made the chilis, squash blossoms, and cilantro of southwestern cuisine all the fashion. In New Orleans, Paul Prudhomme opened his Louisiana Kitchen, and blackened everything began to appear on menus all over America. I was making shrimp jambalaya or gumbo every weekend. Pesto, polenta, and risotto also defined home cooking in the 80s; pasta was everywhere. Our daughter even bought us a pasta machine. (Maybe we used it twice. Why bother when we had the Pasta Shop?)

By the '90s, salsas, curries, and chutneys became the rage, and the controversial "fusion cuisine" came into being. Surrounded by a large multicultural population, San Francisco chefs began melding techniques and recipes from France, Italy, China, Japan, Mexico and the Caribbean. Previously hard-to-find ethnic items, like hoisin sauce and tomatillos, became standard staples at supermarkets.

And here we are in 2007, with our gourmet salts, teas, waters, and salamis. What's next? I predict 2008's Fancy Food Show will feature foods from our grandparents: specialty potatoes, artesian onions, and nouvelle tuna casserole. What goes around comes around.

This month's recipe is adapted from Craig Claiborne's classic Mushroom Pie, which appeared originally in the 1961 edition of "The New York Times Cook Book," published by Harper and Row.

Mushroom Pie

Pastry for a 2-crust, 8-inch pie
1/3 cup butter
1-2 onions, chopped
1 pound mushrooms, sliced
1 tablespoon flour
½ cup cream
1 tablespoon sherry
Salt and pepper to taste
Preheat oven to 450

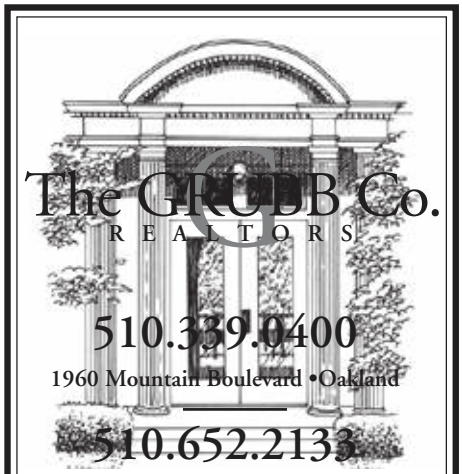
1. In a large skillet, heat butter, add onions and sauté until transparent.
2. Add mushroom and sauté for about 5 minutes. Stir in flour, add cream and bring to a boil, stirring.
3. Stir in sherry, salt and pepper.
4. Line a pie plate with 1 pastry crust. Cut 2nd pastry crust into ½-inch strips.
5. Pour mushroom mixture into pastry-lined pie plate. Arrange the strips over the top in a lattice.
6. Bake until crust is brown, about 20 minutes.

Barry is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy; he is available for cooking classes. Email Barry at kaufman42@earthlink.net

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RCPC Election

Meet the candidates: RCPC Town Hall Meeting, April 19. Vote April 19 or April 21 at the library. See page 1

Rockridge News Routes Available

The Rockridge News strives to deliver the newsletter to every house in Rockridge below Margarido – with your help, of course. Some residents stepped forward to take on the vacated routes announced in the February *Rockridge News*, and we thank them for that. Two routes that need block captains are still available. Please give us a call at 547-3855 or e-mail Susan at smontauk@gmail.com to volunteer. Be sure to mention the delivery route and to leave a call-back number.

- 21G Along the odd numbers of 6000 Claremont.
- 20A Up Claremont from 5900, even numbers, to Shell station.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 21: Frog Park Spring Clean-Up Party



Come on out on Earth Day weekend and join your neighbors and friends and help keep our beautiful park clean. This year's event is kid friendly, so bring the little ones. See next month's *Rockridge News* for details, and: save the date.










Photo: Don Kinkead

The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson

i-elle: A Trendy Look with a Cut that Flatters

Walking past the beautiful windows and through the door at i-elle, you are surrounded by a wonderful rainbow of colors and textures that you just have to touch. The women's clothing and accessories store – pronounced "eye-el" – has three sister stores in the Sonoma and Napa Valleys. All four stores are owned by Cathy Stephens, who for the past 30 years has brought beautiful clothing to women in the wine country and, since 2005, to Rockridge.

Retail is in Cathy's background, and since she was always passionate about fashion, opening her first store was a logical step. When Cathy opened the Rockridge store (she took over the site from Ovations), she knew the area would be a good match for her lines and approach to women's clothing.

i-elle is all about catering to the tastes of women in the neighborhood with personal service, so special orders and locating an item in another store are easy. The store focuses on moderate to higher-priced items, meeting a variety of custom needs and price ranges.

"My typical customer is 35 or older," Cathy said, "people with real figures and varied needs in their lives, and also younger women who come in for special occasion dresses." She also enjoys helping mothers and daughters together. "Whether 16 and 46, or 30 and 60, we know how to offer a look that is trendy and a cut that flatters a variety of shapes and sizes."

Now, during the mid-winter season, the store is bursting with cozy clothes for day and sparkly looks for evening. Clothing and accessories are grouped by colors: plum, green, copper and orange, brown, black and cream, gold and mustards, red and teal. Cathy carries several favored lines all the time, as they fit well with her customers' needs. For pants, she favors Fabrizio, David Kahn jeans, Margaret M, and Fibers. Separates, sportswear and dresses include Komarov, Babette, Shelli Segal's Laundry, ABS (perfect copies of recent red carpet looks), BCBG, and Sue Wong.

"If you come in looking for a pair of pants or dress, we'll have several styles and price levels for you that will fit your real-life needs," Cathy said.

The Babette line features clothing that is perfect for travel, with colors that vary by the seasons and classic styles like pleated pants, tank dresses, and tops that can double as jackets. Cathy says many of her customers enjoy the easy care of these clothes, as well as the fact that they are manufactured in Oakland.

i-elle
Women's clothing & accessories
3206 College Avenue, Berkeley
510/652-2533
Open Monday – Saturday
10:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.,
Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Inside i-elle. Photo: Lydia Gans

Komarov offers touchable pleated tops and dresses, right now featured in black as well as platinum and chocolate. i-elle carries a full line of Linda Bertozzi silks, known for their cropped jackets in nubby silk dupioni and smooth damask patterns in bright colors featuring flowers and dragonflies as well as in more muted tones.

A customer favorite is the Mycrapac raincoat, which comes in a myriad of colors and styles and folds up tiny for travel. Some of the coats feature a raised black pattern on a dark taupe background; others have bright blocks of color. All are reversible, for two different looks.

Redwood Court is another popular line, with sage green-patterned dusters and pants for transitional seasons.

A buttery-soft, plum-colored blazer by Neto hangs near a classic white shirt by Finley with French cuffs and flattering pleats at the waist. A Votre Nom black pantsuit looks classic yet has a wonderfully soft feel.

For evening, i-elle offers looks that range from short and sexy to longer and flowing, some of which are popular with women searching for the perfect second wedding dress, Cathy says. An olive satin sheath drapes beautifully, showing off vertical beading and embroidery running up the side. A dress with black lace over beige lining by Aftershock is a fun after-5 look, while the cranberry beaded dress by Sue Wong packs more impact. A long satin and tulle beaded dress flares out at the knee and is available in warm chocolate and flattering cream. The BCBG deep plum silk halter seems lighter than air. A black floor-length dress with imaginative twists in the front and back also has a lovely drape.

Accessories play an important role at i-elle, which stocks bags by Hobo and Biaisia ranging from small wallets and evening bags to larger multi-section bags for daytime. Cathy also carries a line of jewelry that complements the clothes, and specialty undergarments like the NuBra and the popular Hanky Panky panties. Gorgeous scarves abound, including a beaded peacock-themed wrap that could go with many different looks.

When you're looking for some classic wardrobe basics, a stylish raincoat or jacket, or an exciting dress for a special event, i-elle has a range of styles that can meet almost everyone's tastes. Stop in and enjoy the varied colors and textures of their careful selections today.

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Changes on College

by Theresa Nelson

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The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

Dancing Among the Stars

As someone who adores dancing, I have never understood why there are people in the world who simply don't care for it. It seems to me that moving one's body in harmony with music, the language of the universe, is truly a gift from the gods to mankind not to be scorned. Indeed, all across the world, dancing has become something of a phenomenon in recent years. Ballroom dance competitions have captured viewers of all ages worldwide. In Oakland, Sweet's Ballroom is back in action. Then there are the many local social clubs where dancing after dinner is the order of the day. Dance classes are being taught in studios and gyms. There is a whole list of adult education dance classes posted at the senior center (former Veterans' Building) on Grand Avenue. And what is a cruise without an orchestra to dance to?

Dance is a powerful expression of the human body-spirit. It is not just for the young. My 78-year-old cousin swears by the health benefits of a daily dance routine, despite failing eyesight. At a social gathering at Oakland's Ligure Club the other night, the band struck up right after dinner. It was just two musicians, just a few instruments including an accordion – but who cares? The music started, and soon everyone was out there on the dance floor, swinging their arms and hips in joyful abandonment. The older the dancers, the more they relished the opportunity to dance. How gracefully couples glided across the dance floor! How well they remembered the first time they danced to that tune (was it 1942?), and how disappointed they were when the music stopped!

Experience Nia

Recently I had an opportunity to attend a weekend retreat for Nia followers on Mt. Tamalpais. I knew little about Nia except that anyone who comes in contact with it is instantly enchanted by it and will continue to seek it out as if it were the elixir of life itself. What is it? I tried to get a one-sentence description and baffled the practitioners with my request. Nia, as best as I can make out, is a dance movement that promotes health and mental and emotional well-being through dance routines that incorporate meditation, dance and martial and healing arts developed over many centuries in both eastern and western cultures. It is a form of exercise that promotes self-healing through spirit-mind-body awareness. Come to a Nia class and you will be asked to wear whatever loose clothing that makes you feel free and beautiful, take off your shoes, touch the ground with your feet, and give yourself over to the music as it takes you on a journey from graceful twirls to sharp powerful tae kwon do kicks to cocky jazz movements and the meditation poses of yoga. All that in one short hour, and when you are done, you feel like you have been on a journey to the stars and back. Hours later you will still feel the Nia glow in your cheeks. Nia classes are being taught all around the Bay area, including the Berkeley YWCA, Studio Rasa and the East Bay Dance Center in Glenview. It can be practiced by anyone of any age and does not require any particular skills, as long as you can let go of fear of judgment by others. Visit www.sfbaynia.com for more information.

East Bay Open Studios

It's that time of the year again, when our artists are preparing for Open Studio events in June. This year, for the first time, Pro Arts will be publishing a definitive Directory of East Bay Arts, containing full color listings for all the artists it can locate, regardless of participation in Open Studio. This will be a great boon for our artists. Naturally, Pro Arts is also looking for advertisers and sponsors. So feel free to contact them and see how you can help. Go to www.proartsgallery.org. Volunteers are always greeted with open arms.

Poetry Slam

One more note. The grand slam finals for the 11th annual Youth Speaks teen poetry slam will take place at the Masonic Auditorium in San Francisco on March 17 at 7 p.m. It's your chance to really hear what kids have to say. Visit www.masonicauditorium.com for information.



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01/23/07	5400 Broadway Ter #204	2/2	$707,130	$707,130	?
01/23/07	5283 Broadway Ter	2/2	$695,000	$700,000	26
01/24/07	5400 Broadway Ter #303	2/2	$689,000	$658,630	44
01/29/07	407 Avon	2/1	$620,000	$450,000	157
01/31/07	2 Westminster	4/5	$4,200,000	$3,735,000	0
02/02/07	5348 Thomas	3/1	$780,000	$766,000	54
02/09/07	5400 Broadway Ter #207	2/2	$665,000	$665,000	?
02/20/07	5364 Belgrave	2/1	$695,000	$695,000	40

- Average Days on market: approx 60 days
- Average List/Sell; 92%
- 60% of the listings sold below the original list; only 10% sold over the original list price.
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Landmarking

from page 2

expense and often with little success – to modify projects after they're proposed, with heels-dug-into-the-ground developers loathe to reconsider plans. The city's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board would deal with big, unresolved problems; and a clear message would be sent that the character of Rockridge is important to the city and must be protected.

West Oakland's Oak Center, Sheffield Village and South Prescott-Oakland Point are some examples of local landmark districts.

The minus is that some property owners may object to having their hands tied in any way. In reality, though, landmarking is more of a policy statement – even an advertising tool – than an attempt to preserve the area in an amber time-warp. Only exteriors would be affected, and, yes, you probably still could paint your house purple. Planning staff would encourage consensus-building dialogue around the landmark initiative. RCPC would be the perfect vehicle to conduct the survey and analyze pros and cons.

Even a discussion about landmarking would be a means of seizing the initiative and proactively shaping projects in the area.

Technical questions about landmarking can be directed to Joann Pavlinec, the planner assigned to the city's Landmark Preservation Advisory Board, at 238-6344. Also, visit www.bungalowheaven.org.

(**Editor's Note:** The Oakland Planning Code states: "The S-20 zone is intended to preserve and enhance the cultural, educational, aesthetic, environmental, and economic value of structures, other physical facilities, sites, and areas of special importance due to historical association, basic architectural merit, the embodiment of a style or special type of construction, or other special character, interest, or value, and is typically appropriate to selected older locations in the city.")

Robert Brokl is an artist and community activist who lives in North Oakland. He was one of the founders of NOVA (North Oakland Voters Alliance), which helped prevent demolition of several historically important buildings including "old Merritt College" and the Temescal library. He is a former boardmember of the Oakland Heritage Alliance and is a member of STAND, Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development.

RCPC Election
Vote April 19 or April 21 at the library. See page 1

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Plans

from page 1

NOCO spokeswoman Joan Lichterman told meeting participants. The average price of the units is expected to be $392,000. Project architect Tom Dolan described the design of the 59-ft.-high structure as Craftsman-style.

A variance would be required for the addition of 19 feet of height above the 40-ft. maximum allowed by the zoning code. A variance would also be needed for the 30 parking spaces proposed—three fewer than mandated by zoning. The developer would be required to identify potential new locations for the two Victorians on Telegraph, which are classified by the city as historical resources. Plans also call for the façade, and possibly portions of the interior, of the Kingfish Pub (which has been at its location since the 1920s) to be salvaged and integrated into the project.

Nearly everyone who commented on the project at the meeting said they supported the cohousing concept, but many were critical of the development's height and density and their possible impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

Global Video Site – SOMA Comes to Oakland

The 115-unit, market-rate condo complex proposed for the Global Video property, located on the east side of Telegraph at the foot of Claremont, would be San Francisco-based Hauser Architects' first project in Oakland. The proposal calls for replacing the Global Video building with two six-story structures and a third at four-stories, designed in the same modernist style as the several live-work projects the design-construction firm has built south of Market Street in San Francisco. Studios, beginning at 305 sq. ft., and one-bedrooms would make up about 75% of the units, with the median price set at $385,000.



The "Craftsman-style" cohousing/retail complex proposed for construction on the present Kingfish Pub site would be built on parcels now occupied by the pub, a duplex and garage next door, and two Victorian houses on Telegraph. This view is of the Telegraph side of the proposed structure.

Thomas Dolan Architecture

A variance would be required for the project's proposed 65-ft. height, 25 feet above the zoning limit. Another variance would be needed for the proposed 100 on-site parking spaces, 15 fewer than required (zoning mandates at least one parking space per living unit).

In addition to the promise of outdoor plazas and arcades, public art, a water feature, and plenty of glass, the developer proposes slicing off 10 feet of width from the Global Video property and allocating the strip to increase the width of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt extension. (The Greenbelt extension is scheduled for construction between the Global site and the 67-unit Civiq condominium project, which was approved by the city last year.) On-site parking would be a combination of underground and ground-level, accessible from Clarke Street, across from Redondo Park.

The audience's response to the proposal, which was presented by architect and owner George Hauser and project manger Will Mollard, was critical. While a few people spoke favorably about it in general terms, many voiced concern about potentially reduced street parking in the area; the possible impact on traffic at what some said was an already hazardous intersection at Telegraph, Claremont, and 51st Street; the building's large scale and bulk; a design they said bears little relationship to the neighborhood; and a Greenbelt some feared would be rendered dark and uninviting, enclosed by multi-story buildings.

For more project information

To learn more about the cohousing proposal, visit www.northoaklandcohousing.org or contact city planner Pete Vollman at 238-6167, pvollman@oaklandnet.com. For information about the proposal for the Global site, visit www.baumeistercollective.com, or contact city planner Darin Ranelletti at 238-3663, dranelletti@oaklandnet.com. For a list of developments proposed for Rockridge and other North Oakland neighborhoods, or to be informed of when these projects are scheduled to go before the Planning Commission, contact Zac Wald in Councilwoman Jane Brunner's office, at 238-7013 or zwald@oaklandnet.com.

Jeff Norman is a community artist and Temescal resident. He is a member of STAND, Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Compiled by Jo Ellis

The Greater Rockridge N'hood Crime Prevention Council

Residents and business members of NCPC's 12Y and 13X areas are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety. Meets 3rd Tuesday each month, 7 to 8:30pm at California College of the Arts (CCA), 5212 B'way (at College Ave.), Ralls Bldg. room 203. Directions and more information: www.rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN:

- **Toddler Story Time:** 1st and 2nd Saturdays, 10:30am: 3/10, 4/7.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 3/7, 3/21, 4/4.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 3/13, 3/27.

FOR TEENS AGES 13 and up:

- **Anime Club:** Watch and talk about new anime (Japanese animation) with other teens. 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 5 to 6:30pm, upstairs meeting room. Film on 3/13 is *Naruto*. For questions about this or any other teen event, call Susy, the Teen Specialist Librarian, at 597-5017.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Writers Support/Critique Group.** ALL writers welcome. Bring at least 10 copies of 5 pages of your prose for on-site reading/discussion. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywritersclub.org/).Third Saturday of the month (3/17), from 1 to 5pm. For more information: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Knitting Classes for Seniors** (50+), in collaboration with the Pleasant Valley Adult School. Instructor: Teri Barr. All levels welcome. Beginners bring light color yarn and a pair of size 8 needles. If experienced, bring projects to work on. Tuesdays, from 12:30 to 2:30pm in the upstairs meeting room.
- **Help for Relocating: Nicole Reams,** realtor and co-owner of California Pacific Realty and Mortgage Group, will discuss organizing your move, researching your new community and making connections once you've moved. Refreshments served. Tuesday, 3/20, 7 to 8pm.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice.** First Tuesday of each month from 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm. For more information: 597-5017.

ART EXHIBITS:

Gallery: March: **Tomye**, a Studio One artist.
April: **Aparna Cleary:** Large Quilts.

Lobby Display Case: March: Creative Re-use: Recycled Art by Kids, presented by the Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA) from contest entries.
April: Photographs by students of **Dana Davis**, Berkeley City College.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Monday and Tuesday, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am to 5:30pm
Friday, 12 to 5:30pm
Sunday, Closed

Diesel Book/Poetry Events

All events are FREE and open to the public

- Monday, 3/12 and 4/9, 7:30pm: **Amnesty International** meeting. All welcome.
- Thursday, 3/15, 7:30pm: Local author **Ann Cummins:** *Yellowcake*, novel set in New Mexico.
- Thursday, 4/5, 7:30pm: writing instructor **Sarah Stone:** *The Longman Guide to Intermediate and Advanced Fiction Writing*, (co-written with **Ron Nyren**).
- Sunday, 4/8, 3pm: Bay Area poet **Joseph Lease:** *Broken World*.

5433 College Ave. For more information about other events, Book Discussion Groups and El Grupito, the Spanish discussion group: 510/653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com.

Rockridge Storynight

Storytelling for Grownups: Open mic personal stories, solo performance, folktales and more. 15 yrs and up welcome. Hosted by storyteller Annie Goglia. Tuesday, 3/13 from 7 to 9pm. (Future dates: 4/17 and 5/15). Starting in March, there will be a featured storyteller after the open mic. Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. For more information: Annie at 655-1433 or kalamari@juno.com.

ULTRA Meeting

Urbanists for a Livable Temescal Rockridge Area (ULTRA) neighborhood forum to discuss developing livable communities and defining urban growth. Sponsored by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and The Sierra Club. Keynote speaker: Ted Droettboom, representing MTC/ABAG/Air District Joint Policy Committee. Saturday, 3/17, 10am to 1pm (registration begins 9:30am). No. Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (58th St. entrance). For more information: www.ultraoakland.org.

Chabot Elementary Spring Auction

"**Midnight at the Oasis**" features fine food, drinks, live music and both a live and silent auction. Prizes donated by local merchants will include custom events such as dinners and parties. All proceeds support the school's enrichment programs, including music and art, an on-site garden and physical plant improvements. Saturday, 3/24, from 6 to 11pm at Pauley Ballroom on the UC Berkeley campus. For more information, or to make a donation or purchase advertising space in the catalog, contact Susie Poncelet: 985-1246 or sponcelet@earthlink.net. Also make donations or purchase tickets ($26), at www.chabotelementary.org.

Concerts at the Chimes

- **SOUL AT THE CHIMES:** Benefit concert fundraiser for the **Bay Area Repertory Theater**, featuring **Destiny – Harpist from the Hood**; jazz and classical music for vocals and harp, and **Sonata Pi,** a Bay Area vocal group. Show will be followed by a reception with the artists and members of the **Bay Area Repertory Theater,** a non-profit theater company dedicated to presenting top local talent celebrating the rich history of African Americans through dance, drama, singing and spoken word. Sunday, 3/11 at 2pm (doors open at 1:30pm). Tickets, $35, may be purchased at the door or in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com. For more information: 510/464-3086 or www.bayarearep.org. Sponsored by Lifemark Arts and focuses on local African American arts and culture.
- **JAZZ AT THE CHIMES:** Concert, followed by "meet-and-greet" reception, featuring Latin jazz artist **John Calloway and his band.** Sunday, 3/18, 2pm (doors open 1:30pm). Purchase tickets at the door ($10, **kids under 12 free**). Box office opens 12:30pm; cash or check only. Monthly series sponsored by Lifemark Group Arts that feature Bay Area talent.

Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Call 228-3218 or mdorazi@lifemarkgroup.com.

Wisteria Ways Concert Series

- **Any Old Time String Band:** 30th anniversary reunion of pioneer all-female string band quintet. Mix of bluegrass, cajun, blues and more. Friday, 3/9 at 8pm. More information at www.bluegrassintentions.com/suzy.html.
- **Small Potatoes:** Celtic to cowboy music. Sunday, 4/1 at 3pm, 383 61st Street, inside venue (not wheelchair accessible). $15 suggested donation for musicians. For reservations, RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Go Green Neighborhood Network

Meet with neighbors and learn what it means to live more sustainably in large and small ways. **The ABCs of Solar Panels:** Solar experts will explain how solar panels work, whether solar is right for you, and if so, how to get started. We will also explore the possibility of going solar as a neighborhood. Saturday, 3/24, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. For information on future meetings: Gina at 428-0349 or gina.blus@gmail.com.

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