THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC)

Agenda: November Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 7 p.m., Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room

- **Authors' Night: Extreme Weather & Poetic Watersheds**
  - **Christopher C. Burt**, author of *Extreme Weather*, and expert on heat bursts and other strange meteorological events, will describe how changing environment influences the weather.
  - **Pamela Michael**, Bay Area writer and radio producer, will discuss ways to inspire community engagement and awareness through exploration of local watersheds.
- **Open Forum including Planning and Project Review Committee updates**
- **Plus: FREE** Compact fluorescent light bulb giveaway at the meeting. Details, page 5.

Authors' Night: Extreme Weather and Poetic Watersheds

by Margaret Wahlberg

We often hear on the news that today was the hottest, coldest, wettest, or snowiest on record. Is the climate really becoming more extreme as a result of global warming and environmental change? Come to the RCPC Town Hall meeting November 15 at the Rockridge Library from, 7-9 p.m., to hear Christopher C. Burt, author of *Extreme Weather*, describe how changing environment influences the weather. He's an internationally recognized expert on heat bursts, electrified dust storms, snow rollers, pink snowstorms, luminous tornadoes, falls of fish and toads, ball lightning, super bolts, and other strange meteorological events.

Burt is co-founder of the acclaimed Compass American Guides series. His weather articles have appeared in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, and Condé Nast Traveler. He now resides in Oakland, "a city of unremitting weather dullness."

The November Town Hall will also feature Bay Area writer and radio producer Pamela Michael, who will discuss ways to inspire community engagement and awareness through sensitive exploration of local watersheds. She is executive director and co-founder with former U.S. Poet Laureate

Authors, page 12



Mayor Ron Dellums, center, listens as local real estate broker and developer Ron Kriss, right, opines that crime is driving people out of Oakland. Dellums discussed the state of the city at Councilwoman Jane Brunner's, left, bimonthly community meeting in October. Photo: Anna L. Marks

Dellums: Partnership, Collaboration, Philanthropy to Solve Oakland's Problems

by Anna L. Marks

Crime, development, schools and the expansion of Children's Hospital dominated the concerns of local residents who attended Councilwoman Jane Brunner's Town Hall meeting with Mayor Ron Dellums on Saturday, October 13, at Peralta Elementary School.

The standing-room-only event was, for many, the first time to see and hear the mayor speak about his vision for Oakland, and his opportunity to re-envision his plan for "the model city." As he stated, "the business

Dellums, page 10

Rockridge Welcomes Trader Joe's

Crowds throng opening: story and photos page 3



Affordable Housing 101

by Gloria Bruce, RCPC Secretary

With people at all income levels affected by rising foreclosure rates, housing costs – always a hot topic in the Bay Area – have been even more at the forefront of public debate. Groups on both sides of the development debate in Oakland claim to advocate for "affordable housing" – so just what does that mean and why should you care?

Whether you can afford one of the $800,000 homes advertised in this newsletter, or you are struggling just to make rent, high housing costs have effects that go far beyond Rockridge. We all lose when service workers, teachers, and public safety officers leave Oakland because housing is too expensive. Drivers suffer from congestion caused in part by people commuting long distances to lower-priced homes in the suburbs. Open land is eaten up by new housing designed for the rich or for those who want more space than they can afford in the urban core.

"an inclusionary ordinance... requires new residential developments of a certain size to include a percentage of affordably priced units."

What is affordable housing? According to the federal government, affordable housing costs no more than 30% of a household's income. Beyond that, affordable housing can take many forms, from small studios to 4-bedroom single-family homes. It can have avant-garde architecture, or can give a new life to a historic property, like the Hotel Oakland downtown.

While most affordable housing has government funding assistance, it is not synonymous with public housing – a type of subsidized apartments owned and operated by a housing authority.

Much affordable housing is rented or sold to families who are "low-income," or making less than 80% of the area's median income, which in the East Bay is $83,800. Some affordable housing is targeted at special-needs populations like formerly homeless young adults, seniors, or the disabled. Residents typically have jobs and pay taxes, and include families and people of all backgrounds.

Often, low-income housing is constructed by non-profit developers who limit occupancy to households below a certain income level and ensure resident costs stay below 30% of their income. Such housing is funded by city and state money, federal tax credits, foundation grants, and loans from banks fulfilling their community investment requirements.

Multiple studies have shown that affordable housing has no negative impacts on surrounding property values. What's more, occupants tend to own fewer cars and thus have less impact on traffic than those in high-end developments. Like any residential development, affordable housing can be a neighborhood asset if it is well-designed with both residents and neighbors in mind.

One way to provide affordable housing is through a local "inclusionary ordinance" that requires new residential developments of a certain size to include a percentage of lower-priced units. Usually, developers must set aside 10-20% of their units for lower- or moderate-income families or pay a substantial fee to the city to be used for affordable housing. Berkeley, San Francisco, and over 60 other Bay Area cities are using inclusionary housing as an effective tool for creating mixed-income neighborhoods. Oakland is

➧ **Affordable Housing, page 6**

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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 (RCPC), 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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- Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
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- Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?

Contact us at one of the following:
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Rockridge-Friendly Trader Joe's Open for Thanksgiving

by Jeff Small, RCPC Boardmember

For Oakland residents who have waited for Trader Joe's to open in Oakland, their wishes came true – twice. The store on College Avenue and the store on Lakeshore opened October 26 within 20 minutes of each other.

Since TJ's moved into a pre-existing structure on College, using the same conditional use permit (CUP) as the previous tenant (Albertson's), few City zoning approvals were needed. For mitigations of community impacts, RCPC relied on convincing arguments, research into City ordinances and a bit of salesmanship, as well as TJ's cooperation and good faith. Below is a partial list of project changes:

- **Landscaping in the Parking Lot:** RCPC convinced TJ's to replant the inner lot area and are in negotiations to persuade them to replant the College Avenue side.
- **Bike Parking:** RCPC met with Jason Patton, Oakland's Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager and designed a 24 bike parking lot schematic for TJ's that was accepted. The cement has been poured and the U-Racks are on order.
- **Signage:** RCPC has received complaints about the current signage and is investigating conformity with zoning.
- **Pedestrian Safety**: The City agreed to restripe and redo signage at the two College Avenue crosswalks in front of TJ's and the Oak Grove Avenue crosswalk at Zachary's Pizza. A request for zebra striping awaits confirmation. We are off to a good start. Our next goal will be to create safe pedestrian access from Miles Avenue.

My friends often ask what RCPC does. This is it. It isn't always exciting (like building FROG Park or a library) but it also helps make Rockridge even more livable. — J. Small

'What Brought You to Trader Joe's This Morning?'

by Theresa Nelson

About 8:30 on Friday morning, October 26, a crowd began to gather in front of the new Trader Joe's on College Avenue. Over the next half-hour, itgrew to more than 100 people waiting for the official opening. Many in the clutch of ready shoppers held their colorful Trader Joe's cloth shopping bags at the ready.

After a brief greeting from Store Captain (manager) George Yamashita, the doors opened at precisely 9 a.m. and the first wave of the throng entered between two lines of smiling, clapping employees who welcomed everyone to the new store.

The store is bright, cheery and open, and the new design opens up the windows on the front of the store, bringing in lots of natural light.

The happy shoppers were excited to be there and quickly filled the aisles. Here's what several had to say:



"We're so glad, and we've been waiting for this, especially the 'try table' (demo station), as we've been going to the Lafayette store for a long time."
Ellen (mom) and Marin Mattesi, Oakland residents



"This is much anticipated, and will change the way my family eats. The convenience of being able to walk here and the really healthy foods are wonderful."
Sarah and daughter Julia Larson, Rockridge residents



"We like having this Trader Joe's so close to where we live, it will be very popular; many of us will be coming here regularly."
Jim and Dorothy Jee, Oakland residents



PHOTOS: DON KINKEAD



"Their food is a very good quality. Lots of organics, even the peanut butter crackers are organic!"
Sara Jewell, Rockridge resident



"I've been curious to come here, it's very organized and attractive, easy to walk to, and I hope they can be competitive with Safeway and Albertson's."
Art Smith, Rockridge resident



"I have several kids and am interested in prepared dinner items. As a firefighter, I shop a lot for the fire station. I'm always looking for good food at good prices, and hope this will be a resource for our station."
Zac Unger, Oakland firefighter and Rockridge resident



"(Manager) **George Yamashita** has done a fantastic job working with the community. The Oakland Private Industry Council is pleased that we could partner with Trader Joe's to hire a number of Oakland residents."
Cynthia Dyson, Oakland Private Industry Council job developer and Oakland resident

Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes letters to the editor. Your name, address, phone number and e-mail address and city/neighborhood must be included for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity.

New Tunnel Will Speed Commute, Lessen Exhaust *And:* Safeway's Changes at Longs Site Are Moot

Editor:

Would someone please explain exactly *how* a fourth Caldecott Tunnel bore "will have a long-term impact on Rockridge?" Do those involved really prefer the rush-hour, bumper-to-bumper cars spewing forth their exhaust to having our neighbors to the east sail through the tunnel? But then you probably never use the present bores. Believe it or not, there are people on this side who venture to Contra Costa County and would like to be able to return to Rockridge at a better pace during the rush hour!

Now as for Safeway, would [safeway representative Todd] Paradis explain how they seem to have the idea that, were they to rebuild on the Longs site, the parking lot would be solely for their customers' use? What about the 10 other businesses adjacent to the lot? And the gas station, why not put it on the Emil Villa's site? Better yet, keep the present Safeway, replace "the obsolete equipment and furnishings," and move the deli and bakery to that site. I don't think that you need to put too much energy and money into the project, however, because most of us will be going to Trader Joe's!

— Pat Parker

RCPC Responds:

By removing constraints on tunnel traffic, a fourth Caldecott Tunnel bore will put more traffic onto the section of Highway 24 running through Rockridge, and on local streets, notably Broadway, that connect to it. More traffic will mean more noise and air pollution. In addition, there will be major construction impacts on those living near the tunnel, including literally thousands of truck trips off the eastbound Broadway exit. All this, if not properly mitigated, will impact Rockridge residents. The Fourth Bore Coalition is saying only that impacts need to be acknowledged and mitigated, something Caltrans has refused to do.

CBDs a Mistake Whether in Berkeley or Rockridge

Editor:

I have been a homeowner in Rockridge for 29 years. Recently *The Rockridge News* had an article about a Community Benefit District (CBD) being considered for our neighborhood. Coincidently, I attended a Berkeley Town Hall Meeting on this same issue. I am a small business owner with a leased business space in West Berkeley, an area on the brink of being overtaken by a CBD. While a CBD sounds promising as a way to improve the district, it uses a voting system weighted according to property ownership, which would put control into the hands of a few big property owners. As I understand it, they could ultimately have all the say on zoning issues with little regard for a democratic process, and all property owners within the boundaries, including residential, would have to pay extra taxes to fund the CBD. This is being orchestrated by an outside consulting company, New City America, run by Mr. Marco Li Mandri from San Diego. He has set up 41 CBDs in the country, the majority of which are in California. The West Berkeley Artisans and Industrial Companies (WEBAIC), spearheaded by Rick Auerbach, are fighting this proposal, while the West Berkeley Business Alliance (WBBA), made up of a handful of large commercial real estate owners, is promoting it. An important point to remember is that merchants who do not own property would be powerless to vote to dissolve the CBD. We should not allow this to happen in Rockridge.

— Nancy McKay



Baby Clothes for Underprivileged Newborns

Editor:

I live in Rockridge and have started a clothing drive in conjunction with several Oakland hospitals. Upon leaving the hospital, new mothers under special circumstances receive a box of clothes to make their transition a little easier. I am seeking donations of used baby clothes, blankets, small toys, etc., for newborns to 12-months-olds). (If you have time to snap the onesies, it would save our volunteers lots of time.) So far, over 600 pounds of baby clothes have been donated. Cool Tops Cuts For Kids has graciously placed donation bins at their three stores. The Rockridge store is located at 5697 College Avenue. For more information on how to help with this clothing drive, contact Lisa at: ClothesForBabies@yahoo.com.

— Lisa

Congratulations to Rockridge-Temescal merchants

Editor:

A recent issue of *Diablo* Magazine, based in Contra Costa County, named its "best of" for various categories. Five Rockridge and Temescal merchants were listed, showing that folks from the other side of the tunnel know how special our merchants truly are. We congratulate these stores and services: ■ *Best* Fashion Show: Serrahna ■ *Best* Place to Shop for an Oscar Gown: Chic ■ *Best* Deli: Genova's Delicatessen ■ *Best* Bike Shop: Hank & Frank Bicycles ■ *Best* Kids Haircuts: Cool Tops Cuts for Kids.

— Theresa Nelson

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PROJECT UPDATES

RCPC's Planning and Project Review Committee (PPRC)

by Danica Truchlikova, RCPC boardmember

■ **5175 Broadway —Mixed-Use Project:** The completed traffic study is being reviewed by the Oakland Public Works Department. Mitigation of the toxic contamination site and an environmental assessment are underway and will probably lead to a Mitigated Negative Declaration instead of a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A public hearing is unlikely before November.

■ **5132 Telegraph — Hauser Creekside (Global Video site):** Traffic will significantly impact the area according to a recent study. City planning staff is preparing an initial study that will lead to a Focused EIR assessing traffic and other neighborhood impacts. The Planning Commission will hold a public EIR scoping hearing in December.

■ **5401 College — Hudson Bay Café New Restaurant:** Hudson Bay Café owners will soon open a new restaurant next door to the café, seating 30-35 people and serving Iranian-Sicilian cuisine. The restaurant will feature low-key music by local performers (guitars, singing, and poetry reading), which requires a cabaret license issued by the City. The owners asked for RCPC input. After research, the RCPC board passed the following resolution: "The RCPC does not oppose granting of a cabaret license to Hudson Bay Café for evening performances of non-amplified background music by one or two people, with noise level not exceeding 60 decibels, and on the condition that the license is issued for this establishment and this owner only and any subsequent owner will have to apply for a new permit."

■ **5474 College — New Restaurant:** A new restaurant is planned for 5474 College that will replace the Madame Butterfly clothing store. It will seat 15-20 people and serve northern Italian cuisine. Application for a Conditional Use Permit for change of occupancy has been filed with the City. Construction is scheduled to start in January '08 when the clothing store lease expires.

■ **Safeway — College & Claremont:** PPRC met with Safeway architect Kirk Peterson. Design is in preliminary stages. The architect is working on plans but brought no drawings to review. Traffic study is complete. Safeway will hold another public meeting later this year. The earliest completion date is 2010.

For project updates or more information, e-mail: info@rockridge.org.

The Zoning Counter

The Zoning Counter is a compilation of recent applications filed with the Oakland Planning Department. Individuals may contact the case planner or the Planning Department for additional information by phone or on-line at **www.oaklandnet.com**.

5474 College Avenue

Proposal: To convert an existing 750 square foot clothing store into full service restaurant with beer and wine sales.

Contact Person/Phone Number: Joe Madison 510/333-5357

Owner: Norman & Margaret Madison

Planning Permits Required: Conditional Use Permit to establish General Food Sales Commercial Activity.

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property (PDHP)

Survey Rating: D2+

Case Planner: Jason Madani at 510/238-4790 or jsmadani@oaklandnet.com

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Giveaway at November Town Hall Meeting

RCPC is cooperating in a joint project of the California Public Utilities Commission, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., and the Sierra Club, to distribute compact fluorescent light bulbs. Each attendee at RCPC's November Town Hall Meeting can receive two free bulbs. If you'd like to receive bulbs but can't make it to the meeting, or to distribute more light bulbs on your block, contact Stu Flashman at 510/652-5373 or e-mail stuflash@aol.com to make arrangements.

4th Bore Update: Negotiations

by Ellen Peterson, Boardmember, RCPC

On October 12, Caltrans rescinded its Notice of Determination (NOD) for the Fourth Bore Project that it had posted on September 12. Caltrans then posted a new NOD on October 12. The effect of the new NOD is to extend for 30 days, to November 12, the time during which challengers to the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) may file suit. The City of Oakland, along with other groups, is negotiating with Caltrans over the project but may file suit.

Offer your comments and thoughts on the Caldecott Tunnel 4th Bore project. E-mail fourthbore@rockridge.org

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RCPC October Meeting: Rockridge & Temescal Zoning Update, Projects

by Ronnie Spitzer, RCPC Chairwoman

An attentive audience heard Councilwoman Jane Brunner, Oakland Strategic Planning Director Eric Angstadt, and Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) Boardmember Stu Flashman describe efforts to reconcile current zoning with the general plan and what this could mean for the city and for Rockridge, and discussed upcoming development projects with RCPC's Planning and Project Review Committee (PPRC) members at RCPC's October Town Hall meeting.

A key issue for the zoning update is the General Plan itself, which paints in broad, vague brushstrokes a "smart growth" vision for the city, concentrating growth along major transit corridors and in the downtown. After Oakland decided that the plan should override conflicting zoning, it adopted ambiguous "interim" guidelines intended to reconcile zoning with the plan until an anticipated zoning update, which, due to past mayoral priorities that decimated the planning staff, is only now occurring. The combination of a broadly worded general plan and "fuzzy" interim guidelines has led to peculiar Planning Commission interpretations and what amount to "spot rezonings." That happened with the recent Kingfish development proposal, when the commission overrode staff's recommended C-30 "best fit" zoning to approve a far denser C-45 zoning classification. RCPC's appeal to the City Council helped to reverse that ruling.

Reconciling outdated zoning with the more recent General Plan should be completed within two years. The City will prepare a city-wide Environmental Impact Report assessing impacts from the reconciliation, starting with traffic studies. The current "interim" reconciliation guidelines are proposed to be in effect until the new zoning is adopted.

Proposed merchant changes along College Avenue and development projects elsewhere in Rockridge occupied the remainder of the meeting. The RCPC board and PPRC members discussed more fully the projects noted each month in *The Rockridge News*, with active audience participation. Increased traffic caused by new development, the proliferation of restaurants along College Avenue and the 5175 Broadway project status were among the audience's concerns. RCPC plans to follow-up on these issues, and will continue to hold an open forum on these and other topics at its monthly Town Hall meeting.

RCPC Accepts Compromise in Kingfish Appeal

by Stu Flashman, Boardmember, RCPC

RCPC's appeal of the approval of the "Kingfish" project along Telegraph and Claremont avenues was resolved by the City Council, with RCPC accepting "half a loaf."

The Kingfish project is a five-story mixed-use project, where the current C-28 zoning would only allow a maximum of four stories. The developer argued that five stories were needed to accommodate the project's use by a co-housing residents' group. RCPC had sought to have the project reduced to four stories under existing zoning. While the Council approved the project with only minor changes to its physical appearance, under an agreement brokered by Councilwoman Jane Brunner on behalf of neighbors, the project was approved under C-30 "best fit" zoning, rather than the more intense C-45 zoning the Planning Commission had chosen. The City Council modified the legal findings accompanying the approval to make clear that the project's approval would not be a precedent in considering other projects along Claremont Avenue.

Return of Studio One Art Classes Postponed

by Patrick Daughton, Friends of Studio One

Due to construction delays, the long anticipated return of art classes to historic Studio One Art Center at 365 45th Street has been delayed, likely until January 2008. The gala reopening celebration, previously scheduled for this fall, has likewise been postponed until after the holiday season. When scheduled, the event will be an opportunity for neighbors and the arts community to look at the $12.5 million state-of-the-art North Oakland facility and to meet the staff, tour the studios, enjoy a bit of food and music and perhaps create some art. Contact the Office of Parks and Recreation, 510/597-5027 or www.oaklandnet.com/parks for class schedules this fall.

Affordable Housing

from page 2

one of only three major California cities lacking an inclusionary housing ordinance. Our City Council is currently studying the merits of such a policy and is expected to vote on the issue in November.

For more information, including the sources of the statistics in this article, please contact the author at gloriabruce00@gmail.com.

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Timeless Things in a Changing World

Every year about now, the holiday spirit will stir. Try as you may, it will knock on your door or heart with ever-growing urgency. Signs of the approaching holidays are everywhere: Suddenly your kids are acting mysteriously about the school projects they are working on; students come home after dark from music practice, toting their instruments; passing by an open window, you hear strains of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" played by a child's hand. And tonight someone will surely need a ride to choir practice.

Instead of mailed announcements, e-mails arrive telling us of festivities, both large and small, begging for our attendance... The events to choose from are mind-boggling; self-discipline is necessary as you fill your calendar:

The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

Music

Your musical neighbors want you to know that the **Berkeley Broadway Singers** will perform at St. Augustine's on Sunday, November 18, at 4 p.m. Their program will be composed of blues, jazz, Broadway tunes, swing and big band favorites. The concert is free. Feel like singing, yourself? Go to www.berkeleybroadwaysingers.org for information on how you can join this group of about 80 singers.

The **Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra** will perform Saturday, December 1, 8 p.m. (Sundays, December 2 and 16 at 4:30 p.m.) at St. Joseph The Worker Church, 1640 Addison in Berkeley. The program features the glorious *Messa di Gloria* by Giacomo Puccini and a selection of shorter works by Vivaldi, Verdi, and other Italian baroque and romantic composers. Go to www.bcco.org.

Bella Musica Chorus and Orchestra performs Sunday, December 9, 4 p.m., at St. Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman Street at Milvia in Berkeley, presenting *Mass in G Minor* by Vaughn Williams and Brahms' *Quartets for Choir and Piano*. The pianist is Nadia Blank.

Note: If you would like to join the ever-growing singing community in the Bay Area, you will find a complete chorus directory listed on www.choralarchive.org.

Art and Craft

Liz Maxwell is organizing the **North Oakland December Open Studios** again this year. To participate, contact her right away: there is little time left. lizmaxwell@prodigy.net or 510/654-5741. The event is a Rockridge institution, offering us all a chance to buy good art and artifacts, jewelry, pottery, sculpture, paper works and more right here. Hiroko Kurihara is offering beautifully designed and crafted blankets, pillows, throws and scarves. Call her at 510/384-3146.

The **Pro Arts Annual Box Art Benefit Auction** takes place with food and fanfare Saturday, November 17, 6-9 p.m. at 550 Second Street, Jack London Square. (Auction preview exhibition, November 13-17.) Beautiful works on paper will be up for auction. Tom Vacar of Channel 2 "KTVU" will host. Bidding and raffle items include unusual experiences, trips, and tickets to fun events. More information: 763-9425, or David@proartsgallery.org.

The **Pro Arts Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair** takes place November 23-25 at the Gallery. Artists should go to www.proartsgallery.org, or call 510/763-9425 to participate.

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

ORGAN MEATS

While traveling in Morocco this spring, we went to a traditional Berber market in the high Atlas Mountains where we saw a young lamb being butchered. As I approached, the butcher laughed and with his knife pointed to the testicles of the lamb. My guide told me that he was offering me a very special delicacy. Hoping not to insult the butcher, I declined.

As we continued on our drive, I reflected on my own experience with organ meats. Coming from an immigrant, Eastern European Jewish tradition, I grew up eating many organ meat delicacies: sweetbreads (thymus), brains, liver, tongue, and kishka or derma (stuffed cow intestines).

Several years ago my partner, who unlike me does not savor such delicacies, unknowingly ordered a dish at an upscale Seville restaurant that turned out to be pork kidneys. Although the food was beautifully presented, she sent it back, embarrassed. On another occasion in Mexico City, she mistakenly ordered a dish of pork knuckles. Some people have all the luck.

While many in America avoid organ meats, many ethnic groups often regard them as special delicacies to be served on Sundays or holidays. Menudo (tripe), a dish made from cow or pig stomach lining, and chitterlings, made from hog intestines or "guts," are two examples of such favored specialties.

Why is it we can eat cow, lamb, pig, or fowl meat, but shun the organs of these animals? Meat eaters will relish a good steak but balk at brains. Perhaps seeing these organs reminds us how close we are to our animal nature. We really don't personally identify with a roasted leg of lamb, but perhaps eating kidneys, hearts or tongue seems a bit too real.

As a child I loved going to Bar Mitzvahs and other family gatherings where I could eat sweet and sour tongue, sweetbreads or kishka. It was when I was a student at the Culinary Academy in San Francisco that I first learned that sweetbreads were prepared from the thymus gland or pancreas of a young calf or lamb, and gained new respect and appreciation for organ meats. Often at a traditional Mexican taqueria, I order a tongue taco with all the fixings. Since supermarkets don't carry organ meats, you'll need to go to an ethnic market to find them.

Here is a recipe for traditional sweet and sour tongue from my childhood. If you make it, please let me know how you liked it.

Sweet and Sour Tongue

Ingredients:

- 2.5 pound pickled tongue (Ver Brugge Market on College will order this)
- 1 onion, sliced
- 2 bay leaves
- 3 whole allspice
- 1 15-ounce can tomato sauce
- 15 ounces water
- juice of one lemon
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup dark raisins

Preparation:

1. Put tongue, onion, bay leaf and allspice in a pot. Cover with cold water and cook covered on medium heat for 2 hours.
2. Cool. When the tongue is lukewarm, peel. Then slice the tongue – tip to back – into medium width strips.
3. In a separate pot, combine tomato sauce, water, lemon juice and brown sugar. Add sliced tongue. Cook the tongue in this sauce on medium-low heat for another hour or until the tongue is tender. In the last half hour of cooking, add the raisins.

Barry is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. Barry is available for cooking classes. His email is kaufman42@earthlink.net

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FROG Park Corner

A monthly update on what's happening at the best community-built and maintained park in Oakland



FROG Park Needs YOU!

FROG (Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt) is a small, dedicated volunteer group maintaining and improving our community park. We are actively looking for new committee members. Do you enjoy the park and want to give back to your community in a hands-on way? We like to get things done! Come to our next meeting, Wednesday, November 14, 7 to 9 p.m. in the Rockridge Library, or call FROG Chair Jennifer Cooper at 510/653-6581 to find out how you can get involved.

Active projects include updating our web site, working with the City on a new bathroom at Hardy Park, getting the creek to flow year-round, maintaining the playgrounds, planting and landscaping, and extending the Greenbelt. We'd like your help.

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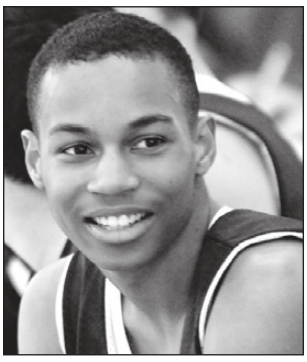
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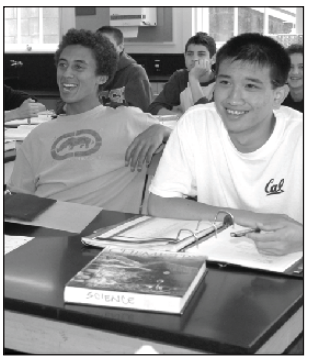
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Friends of the Rockridge Library Annual Appeal

Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) is a nonprofit neighborhood committee which works to enhance the Rockridge Branch Library by providing books, materials, equipment, furnishings, and amenities not covered by the City's library budget. Many members of the Rockridge community have joined FORL simply by making a donation. You, too, can join or renew your membership by completing the donation form on page 12.

During 2007 FORL has supported many library projects including contributions to our branch's book, DVD, and CD collections. We have purchased magazine subscriptions, new reference materials, and shelving and furniture upgrades. In addition, we have paid for refinishing existing furniture and a fifth annual summer internship for two

Library Friends, page 12

Peralta Holiday Auction Supports Class Enrichment

Peralta Elementary Parent Teacher Group (PPTG) invites you to join our annual Holiday Auction on Saturday, December 8, 2-6 p.m. at Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd Street at Dana, Oakland.

Running a school is no game but supporting our school can be fun, and this year's theme is all about the community aspect of game play. As many know, Peralta was the unfortunate victim of arson last March, but because of community support we were able to continue our enrichment programs, including art, music, library resources and Sports4Kids, which created a sense of stability for our student body.

To continue, these programs need your help. Please come to Peralta on December 8 and have fun supporting our wonderful school.

To donate an auction item, gift certificate, or cash, please contact Debbie French at deb@the-frenchs.com or call 510/682-6741. Donors will be listed in our auction program and on our website at http://www.peraltaschool.org/auction

Dellums

from page 1

of Oakland is the unfinished business of this country."

According to Dellums, the "model city" must include a vibrant economy along with a well-educated, healthy, and well-informed citizenry that is multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual. He believes this is possible only through collaboration and partnership at all levels of government and with the participation of the governed.

During his 45-minute talk, the mayor emphasized that public safety is fundamental and he sees a need for a national strategy to solve the local crime epidemic. He prefers to see a state/federal partnership, saying this is "a big problem requiring a big solution" specifically in the areas of prevention, intervention, enforcement and sustainability.

Public Safety

Although Oakland is ranked as the eighth most dangerous city nationwide, and the second most dangerous city in the state (2006 Morgan Quitno Crime Rankings), Dellums believes that simply having more police is not the answer. Clarifying recent conflicting news reports about his stand on increasing the size of the police force, he said that while he does see the need for more officers, the problem of recruiting complicates the process. He explained that although 119 or so new officers were hired last year, this yielded an increase of only 9 new officers due to retirement and attrition.

A 2004 ballot measure set the number of Oakland officers at 803, yet the current target number is still about 70 short. To help mitigate this shortfall, there is current arbitration for moving schedules to a 3-day work week with 12 hour shifts for officers, instead of the 4-day week with 10 hour shifts now in place.

Additionally, Dellums wants to institute an "outreach worker effort" to bring neighbors together to mitigate crime and violence, along with programs that offer training and employment opportunities to parolees prior to their release. The approximately 3,000 people who return to Oakland from San Quentin each year account for 40 to 50 percent of local crime. He suggested that Peralta Community College offer recruitment classes with coursework geared to qualify individuals for the Police Academy, as well as increased community involvement.

Zoning and Development

The mayor cautioned that zoning is currently based on projects, not on planning with vision and values, and offered a zoning plan that includes high-density development in downtown and along transit corridors. While vague about the plans for the Oakland Army Base, Dellums said he will present a plan to the City Council which includes a mixed-use of "maritime, shopping, flex offices and creative industry," resulting in a minimum of 10,000 new jobs. He is also planning to establish a World Trade Center in Oakland to encourage trade and investments and generate more employment.

Dellums said he would like to see a collaboration with the State (which will provide the monetary resources) to do a block-by-block revitalization similar to what was done to 70 blocks in the Crenshaw area of Los Angeles, adding that the full nature of this partnership will be announced in a few weeks.

Currently, the mayor is seeking $350,000 to $500,000 in seed money from The San Francisco Foundation and The East Bay Foundation to establish an office of public/private partnership to advance community concerns. He plans to go after additional philanthropic assistance and a much larger grant from the Atlantic Foundation (a $3 billion endowment) and others to figure out how to make a sustained commitment to Oakland of 7 to 10 years.

Among the many who expressed concern about crime was developer Ron Kriss, who summed up the overall feelings of the morning, saying, "People are moving out because of crime… if people don't stay in Oakland, don't stay invested in Oakland, we can't have a great city."

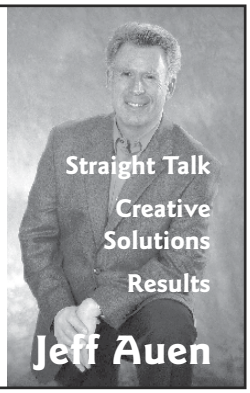
Anna Marks is a member of the Oakland Parks Coalition and has been a Rockridge resident since 1989.

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Seventh Biennial Kitchen Tour: A Success!

by Jennifer Edmister

More than a dozen years after its inception, the Rockridge Kitchen Tour continues to draw hundreds of guests from the Bay Area and beyond.

On October 7, tour guests enjoyed warm weather, good company and nine stunning kitchens, leading many to conclude that this year's event was the best yet.

The proceeds of the 2007 Rockridge Kitchen Tour benefit the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), a non-profit, 501(c)3 corporation which represents the Rockridge community in matters of land use and project planning, parks and open spaces, traffic and pedestrian safety and schools.

On the 2007 Kitchen Tour





Jo Ellis, left, and Architect Kathy Rogers in Merry Ross and Pat Zimski's kitchen. Kitchen Talk in Phil Tecau's kitchen.

PHOTOS: SUSAN MONTAUK

RCPC thanks all those who made this event possible:

HOMEOWNERS: Mary MacDonald, Merry Ross & Patrick Zimski, Debby Sommer & Ron Heckart, Nora & David Mitchell, Phil Tecau, Annette Chenevey & Andy Black, Andrea Shannon & Hope Broderick, Esther & Patrick Arnold and Elizabeth Durand

PLANNERS: Maureen Alano, Jo Ellis, Meredith Kaplan, Don Kinkead, Marilyn Mansfield, Diane Mayo, Nancy Sale, Susan Shawl, and the RCPC board members

DOCENTS: Adams, Shari; Alderman, Ann; Arakaki, Jahlee; Buresh, Trisha; Carolina, Carolyn; Critchfield, Pam; Crosby, Lynn; Davillier, Mary; Davis, Clay; Davis, Sherry; Del Simone, Ann; Emmons, Sue; Ewing, Aparna; Fenichel, Ellen; Friedland, Sandy; Galer, Robin; Garcia, Bill; Gomes, John; Hikida, Lyn; Hoffman, Anna; Jacobson, Diane; Kulberg, Sari; Kulka, Terry; Lappen, Sally; Levy, Melly; Littwin, Barbara; Lozier, Dee Dee; MacDonald, Mary; Mayo, Diane; McHugh, Cathy; Mitchell, Nora; Morton, Nancy; Omari, Folashade; Orr, Chris; Paquette, Judith; Phillips, Margaret; Reet, Claudia; Rinklieb, Kelda; Schwabe, Cathy; Spearman, Lisa; Tasch, Jacqueline; Taylor, Mike; Traum, Sheryl; Veza, Valerie; Villalobos, Rosa; Wikander, Sarah; Williams, Anne; and Williams, David

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Authors

from page 1

Robert Hass (1995-97), of the acclaimed River of Words organization which helps connect children around the world with their watersheds and their imaginations through poetry and art.

Each year, River of Words, along with the Library of Congress Center for the Book, conducts a free international poetry and art contest for youth on the theme of watersheds. The contest is designed to help young people explore their local natural and cultural history, and to express, through art and poetry, what they've found. Here's how 8-year old Avery Forsythe, of Crested Butte, Colorado, described her watershed discovery in her own river of words:

Love My Dog

The summer sun danced off the water
While I played in the S-shaped bend
In the East River.
I stomped in the water
With my puddle boots
And watched my dog Taylor flop down
Like a child flops down on her bed
She looked like a lump of angel rock
Protecting me as I
Plomped,
Plomped,
Plomped
In the shallow edge
Of the river.
I was always the happiest
Kid in the world
Playing with my dog
In the sun
At the S-shaped bend
In the East River.

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Information for this article was obtained from the authors and from their websites.

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Library Friends

from page 9

high school students. While the library is largely funded by the City, support by local residents and businesses has helped make our library one of the stars of the Oakland Public Library system. To continue to provide these supplemental and well-used materials and services, FORL invites you, the community, to continue your generous support of our neighborhood branch. Your tax-deductible donation benefits all who enjoy our wonderful library.

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Milk

Milk … the very word sounds calm, nourishing, and wholesome. And the store Milk on College is the kind of calm environment where you can find wonderful and inventive clothing and gifts for younger children. The pale grey floor, jute rug, blonde wood shelves and uncluttered displays make it easy to see what's available and how to put items together. The focus is on little ones, from newborns to age 8, with some special jewelry and intimate gifts for mothers as well.

When former owner Mona Yang was looking for someone to take over the store (she returned to her dentistry practice), a twist of fate brought in Baretta Van Dyke, who took ownership in October 2007. Last July, Baretta opened Oakland's first tennis show boutique, the store Verse in July, with a partner. Her experience in childcare and retail gives her insights into what parents want for kids and what kids will wear.

Milk's concept is to provide stylish, high-quality children's clothing, shoes and accessories, sustainably produced in places with fair working conditions. While there are certainly places which sell children's jeans for less, the jeans at Milk will last a long time – at least a year – with designs that grow with the child, and which can then be passed on to another young one. The clothes also *look* like children's clothing, perhaps like something your mother or grandmother might have made, rather than the mini-adult styles often seen in chain stores. Quality is evident in every item: the shoes, for example, offer good support, style and a good fit for a growing child. And once parents try this kind of clothing on their children, they come back again and again.

For little girls, Milk offers a range of basics and special items. A Makié plaid grey and rose poncho jacket matches with cords from Bon Bon, and a Makié jumper-dress coordinates with a range of subtle print tops. Tuss offers grey striped leggings in 100% cotton with a matching scarf, that might be paired with the Bonpoint fleece-lined rose jacket.



Photo: Don Kinkead

The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson



Milk
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Sunday 12:00-5:00pm
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Little boys have many options as well. Bon Bon's sweats and fleece vest in brown and grey pair with soft Ts. Flora & Henri brown cords have matching cardigans in various colors, and their brown plaid pants go with a grey fleece jacket.

For older girls ages 3-8 years, the choices are adorable and practical. Basics like the MorMorRita stretchy jeans, sweats and tops in pink, beige, and taupe go with special items like Dagmar Daley hand-knit sweaters in grey or mulberry. For dressier times, a lovely fuchsia velvet pant with sailor-button front and matching cropped or longer button jacket is not only stylish but has a hidden adjustment for longer wear.

For older boys ages 3-8 years, the focus is clothing that looks nice (but not too cutesy) and that boys can really play in. Choose from the Bellerose jeans that can change fit with a buckle in the back, the Bonpoint jeans with style and a flexible fit, Flora & Henri cords, or colored jeans by local designer Abe Jone. The Hildeco t-shirts have special neckbands that keep their shape and go easily over children's heads.

Babies have a special section, with basics like Flora & Henri extremely soft shirts and vests. Milk also offers some lovely traditional silver items, cups, rattles, spoons and forks. Baby jewelry by Dinh Van (formerly a designer at Cartier) includes a tiny bracelet with silver or gold links and heart. MHT jewelry, a well-known line from France for mothers, includes delicate gold and silver earrings with various colored stones, tiny charms and lockets made from vintage jewelry.

For all kids, there is a whimsical line of rainwear from Pluie Pluie (French for rain). It features matching raincoats lined with felt, rainboots, umbrellas, rainhats, and waterproof backpacks in a number of adorable prints ranging from multicolored frogs and blue trucks to pastel stripes and pink polka dots. Other outerwear includes wool hats, coats and scarves from Amelia, in a special non itchy wool that children will be comfortable wearing.

Do stop by Milk for something that offers style, quality and sustainability for the special child in your life.

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Rockridge Open Studio

Artist Liz Maxwell (www.lizmaxwell.com) will hold her Holiday Open Studio, December 8 and 9, noon to 5 pm at 5808 Chabot Road. Paintings, prints, and drawings. Call 654-5741 for updates about other Rockridge artists.

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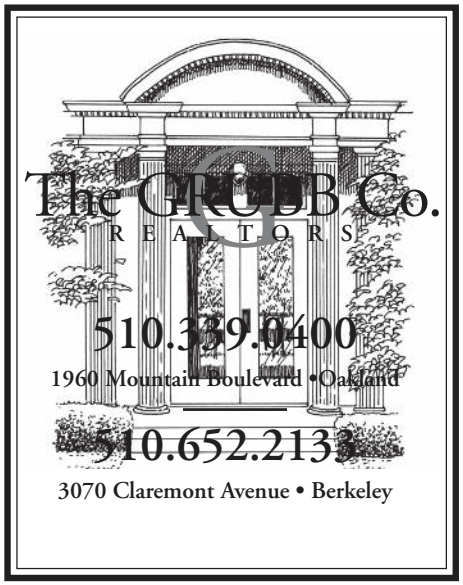
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Holiday Art Extravaganza!

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E-mail *Rockridge News* Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), 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.

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. 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: 11/3, 11/10, 12/1, 12/8.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 11/7, 11/21, 12/5.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 11/13 (see special events), 11/27, 12/11.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES:

Children's Book Week: Nov 12 to 18: There will be special events at all Oakland branch libraries.

- **T-Rex Thunderlizard Wild West Puppet Show:** Tuesday, 11/13, 7pm. All ages welcome.
- **Sewing Felt Craft Session:** Thursday 12/6, 4 to 5pm. Please come on time; this project takes the full hour. For kids 7 and older. Adults welcome.

FOR TEENS:

- **Anime Club: Teens 13 and up**, watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation) with other teens. 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 5 to 6:30pm, upstairs meeting room. Meet 11/13 to watch Full Metal Alchemist: Conqueror of Shamballa.
- **Special event at Oakland Main Library** (125 14th Street): Local author/illustrator Gene Yang will talk about creating his award winning graphic novel, *American Born Chinese*. Saturday, 11/17, 11am. All ages welcome.

More info: Susy, Teen Specialist Librarian, 597-5017.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Writers' Support /Critique Group:** ALL writers welcome. Third Saturday of each month (11/17) from 1 to 5pm. Bring 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 info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Knitting Classes for Seniors** (50+): with 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, 12:30-2:30pm, upstairs meeting room.
- **Oakland Out Loud! Poetry Reading:** PEN Oakland, a chapter of the International Organization of Poets, Essayists, and Novelists, in partnership with the Oakland Public Library, presents the Oakland Out Loud series. **Bob Levin, Maria Espinosa**, and **CB Follett (Lyn)** will read from their work, followed by an open mic. Copies of *Oakland Out Loud* will be available for purchase. Tuesday. 11/27, 6-7:30 pm.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice.** First Tuesday of each month, 6- 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm. **NOTE: no meetings on Nov. 6: the meeting room will be a polling place.**

ART EXHIBITS

Gallery: November: **M.E. Foster** and **Chris Rockwell**: etchings and paintings.

December: Photographs by **Chris Jennings,** Oakland library staff member.

Lobby Display Case: November: **Robert Draheim**: children's books.

LIBRARY HOURS:

Mon. and Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm. Closed Sundays.
CLOSED: 11/22 and 11/23 for Thanksgiving.

Diesel Readings and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Tuesday, 11/6, 7:30pm: **Ted Nordhaus** and **Michael Shellenberger**: *Break Through: From the Death of Environmentalism to the Politics of Possibility*.
- Monday, 11/12, 7:30pm: **Amnesty International Meeting:** exchange information and ideas on action. All welcome.
- Tuesday, 11/13, 7:30pm: **Bruce Watson**: *Sacco and Vanzetti*.
- Wednesday, 11/14, 7:30pm: **Fritjof Capra**: *The Science of Leonardo: Inside the Mind of the Great Genius of the Renaissance*.
- Sunday, 11/18, 3pm: Local author **Tom Downs**: *Walking San Francisco: 30 Savvy Tours Exploring Dive Bars, Grand Hotels, Steep Streets and Waterfront Parks.*
- Wednesday, 11/28, 7:30pm: Rockridge resident and artist **Elizabeth Opalenik**: *Poetic Grace: Photographs 1979 – 2007.*

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.

Book Signing at the Pasta Shop

Noted pastry chef **Alice Medrich** will be at the Pasta Shop to present her new cookbook, *Pure Dessert, True Flavors, Inspiring Ingredients, and Simple Recipes*. Taste recipes and ingredients. Saturday, 11/10, from 1 to 3pm. Market Hall, 5655 College Ave. 547-4005; www.pastashop.net.

Bambino Thrift Shop Holiday Season

Do your holiday shopping and benefit Children's Hospital. Nov. 6 through Dec. 21. Tuesday — Friday, 10am to 3pm; Saturday, 12 to 4pm. 5290 College Ave., 658-7473.

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring jazz vocalist **Madeline Eastman** and her trio. Sunday, 11/18, 2pm. Ticket sales at the door begin at 12:30pm: $15 (cash only) for concert and artist's reception and refreshments. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Wheelchair accessible. Sponsored by the Lifemark Group Arts program that features Bay Area talent. Info/Reservations: 228-3218. www.lifemarkgroup.com/oakland/special_events.asp.

Wisteria Ways Concert Series

Ellis Island: Old World Klezmer band. Sunday, 11/4, 3pm. Inside venue (not wheelchair accessible).

383 61st Street. $15 suggested donation for musicians. For more info or reservations, RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Amahl and the Night Visitors

One-act opera by Gian-Carlo Menotti. Friday, 12/7 at 8pm and Sunday, 12/9 at 3pm. St. Augustine Catholic Church, 400 Alcatraz Ave., between College and Telegraph. Free (donations welcomed). Wheelchair accessible; free parking in church parking lots. More info: Karen Miller, kmm8006@gmail.com.

Los Hilos De La Vida / Threads Of Life

Free exhibit of 49 Latina-themed folkloric story quilts by women and children of the Mendocino County co-operative. Show runs Nov. 2 through Dec.20 at The Women's Cancer Resource Center Gallery, 5741 Telegraph Ave. Gallery hours: Mon –Fri, 9am to 5pm. Wheelchair accessible. 420-7900; www.wcrc.org.

Art Exhibit

Paintings and drawings by 5 local women artists, "The Magpies": **Priscilla Birge, Barbara Hazard, Joanna Katz, Diane Rusnak** and **Sarah Whitecotton.** Nov. 3 through Dec 2. Opening reception on Sunday, Nov.4, from 2 to 5pm. Giorgi Gallery, 2911 Claremont Ave. (at Ashby near the Claremont Hotel). 848-1228; giorgigallery@yahoo.com.

North Oakland Senior Center

Program Highlights: Computer classes; Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP); trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's caregivers support group; AARP driver safety classes; .

- **Lavender Lunch Bunch**: Free lunch, entertainment, speakers and socializing for LGBT elders age 55+ and friends. Friday, 11/16, 12:30 to 3pm.
- farmers market, Wednesdays, 10:30am to 2:30pm

Hours: Mon. – Fri., 8:45am to 4:45pm. **Closed Mon., 11/11 for Veterans' Day**. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. The Newsletter, "North Oakland Senior Times," provides a full schedule of classes and a monthly lunch menu ($2.25 to $4.00). For details about events, membership, and opportunities to become a volunteer, call 597- 5085.

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