www.rockridge.org

THE Rockridge News

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

Agenda: RCPC September Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 7 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library,
5366 College Avenue at Manila,
Community Room (Upstairs)

- **7:00: Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) representatives** discuss the agency's seismic retrofit project planned for the Rockridge BART station, and will hear community suggestions for controlling project noise.
- **7:30 to 8:30: Speakers from the California Native Plant Society and California Invasive Plant Council** will discuss wildlife in Rockridge, removal of invasive plants, and the creation of more wildlife-friendly, water-wise gardens.
  - **Lech Naumovich**, Director of Goldenhour Restoration Institute, will speak on habitat restoration of the Caldecott Sports Field.
  - **Laura Baker**, on the Board of the East Bay Chapter of California Native Plants Society, will speak on wildlife in Rockridge and gardening with wildlife.
  - A representative from the California Invasive Plant Council will discuss weed suppression and wise gardening.

We Mean Green!

Are the plants in your garden eyeing you reproachfully? Are your roses being gobbled by foraging deer?

In the midst of a drought, and as cities eye open space for development while natural habitat and wildlife are shouldered aside, can a conscientious home gardener maintain attractive and durable plantings without compromising dwindling resources?

RCPC has invited a panel of experts on sustainable and native-plant gardening to discuss plants, wildlife, water-wise gardening, and more at the RCPC Town Hall meeting, Thursday, September 18, starting at 7 p.m. The panel will have answers to your questions. See details above.

How Will BART's Seismic Retrofit Plans Affect Rockridge Residents?

by Stuart Flashman, chair, RCPC

A few years back, Caltrans did extensive work on the elevated parts of Highway 24 that pass through Rockridge in order to protect the public when (not if) a major earthquake occurs on the nearby Hayward Fault. BART is now following suit for its elevated structures including the Rockridge BART station.

Nearby residents got an unpleasant first taste of the potential effects of the project work to come when, a few weeks ago, PG&E relocated some of its underground conduits running under the BART station preparatory to the full project. The night work in the parking lots and on College Avenue, including large floodlights and loud noises, went on into the early morning hours for more than a week.

BART says it will try to limit the night work, but that some will be necessary.

BART will present its plans for this important but annoying work to the Rockridge neighborhood at the RCPC September Town Hall meeting. Come hear about what will be involved and give your thoughts on how to minimize the community disruption.

The meeting will be held at the Rockridge Branch Library in the upstairs meeting room on Thursday, September 18, beginning at 7 p.m.

Boyd Avenue Enjoys National Night Out



PHOTO: SUSAN MONTAUK

Rockridge Residents Party in the Streets

by Susan Montauk

On August 5, Oakland joined the nation in the 25th anniversary celebration of National Night Out (NNO), an event celebrated across America by people sponsoring block parties to make their neighborhoods safer. The phenomenal growth of this event points to the increasing awareness of the importance of community involvement in safety. At the first NNO in 1985, 400 communities (an estimated 2.5 million people) in 23 states participated; by 2007, NNO

▸ Nat'l Night Out, page 12

In My Opinion

A Suburban Car Culture in Rockridge?

by Bill Kaufner

A typical street in Rockridge: sidewalks empty of people, cars in driveways or on the street, an occasional bicycle or jogger going by. In some ways an idyllic scene and yet something seems amiss.

Now that I am working at home, what has struck me is that most of my neighbors do not walk very much in our neighborhood. They exit their homes, get into their cars and drive away. One does see some people walking to bus or BART and young parents walking with their children but, seven days a week, most travel is by automobile.

One could posit the claim that the majority of residents are really exhibiting typical suburban behaviors when it comes to modes of travel.

If our goal as a community is to have a vibrant street life with our carefully nurtured mix of residential and commercial zones, then we need to encourage residents to take advantage of our very walkable cityscape. The health benefits of walking are extensively documented. In fact, there are numerous healthy city initiatives in current urban planning that speak to urban designs that encourage city dwellers to walk, bike, and use public transit. How to increase residential foot traffic?

One reason many people have to travel elsewhere to shop is the lack of certain types of retail on College Avenue. Boutiques rule, and hardware or reasonably priced clothing are not to be found. Greater residential density would bring more people but most new projects come with parking structures so the temptation to drive is built-in.

It could be argued that in urban settings with transit, sidewalks, and bike racks available, there is no need for the massive BART parking structures that dominate around the relatively small BART stations and bring even more cars into neighborhoods.

...issues work against our walkable environment: The possibility of street crime; inadequate lighting; uneven or broken sidewalks; insufficient pedestrian-safe crosswalks; not enough bicycle racks...

Some existing issues work against our walkable environment: the possibility of street crime; inadequate lighting; uneven or broken sidewalks; insufficient pedestrian-safe crosswalks; and not enough bicycle racks. Still, the advantages of walking outweigh these issues. In fact, many such issues would be resolved if more people walked for errands and exercise. Residents would become aware of the beautiful gardens cultivated by their neighbors and perhaps even meet our avid gardeners. They could reduce their carbon footprint and save some cash by leaving their cars at home while carrying canvas bags to use at their favorite stores. And they would develop a better sense of what needs to be done to maintain and improve their neighborhood.

So walk more, see more, learn more, and do more.

Bill Kaufner, is a retired Claremont Middle School administrator and recently appointed RCPC boardmember.

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

Articles submitted for publication may be e-mailed to the above address. Submissions are limited to 600 words; must include the author's name, phone number, e-mail address, and city or neighborhood of residence; and are subject to editing. To reprint a *Rockridge News* article, please contact the editor.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING/DEADLINES
Publication date of the next issue is
- **October 4, 2008**
- **October deadline is September 18.**

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.)*

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.

5871 Margarido Drive

Proposal: To construct a 2-story 272 square-foot rear addition to an existing single family home and to construct two new retaining walls and an approximately 1,400 square-foot terrace in the rear yard.

Applicant-Owner: Mario Assadi

Phone: 510/812-4430

Planning Permits Required: Regular Design Review for a new floor area and exterior alterations; Minor Variances for height (addition is 32 feet high where 30 feet is allowed) and building wall length (40 feet total length where 35 feet is allowed).

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property; Survey rating: C2+ (Secondary Importance; contributor to an Area of Secondary Importance).

Case Planner: Holly Pearson at 510/238-3079 or hpearson@oaklandnet.com

FROG Park Sets September Maintenance Day



Saturday, September 13: 8:30-4 p.m.

Join your friends to rake, replant, and paint at the FROG Park. Adults and kids over 13 are invited. Come by for just an hour or whatever time you can spare. Meet at the playground. FROG will provide cold drinks and snacks for all volunteers. Find more details at the FROG Park website: www.frogpark.org.

RCPC Land Use Committee

Land Use Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 24, 7 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ **College Ave. Safeway rebuild (6310 College Avenue at Claremont)**

In response to criticism from RCPC and others in the community, Safeway has withdrawn its plans for the rebuild of its College Avenue store. Instead, Safeway has proposed a series of meetings with stakeholder representatives (including RCPC, the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association, the store's Alcatraz Avenue residential neighbors, Neighbors Concerned about the College Avenue Safeway, and local merchants) to discuss appropriate criteria for a new store design. Six meetings are planned: September 10 and 22, October 1, 13, and 22, and November 3. The meetings will be open to the public, but a location has not yet been chosen. Check rockridge.org for further updates.

■ **Hauser/Creekside residential/ mixed-use project (Global Video Site – 5132 Telegraph Avenue)**

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for this large mixed-use project on the Rockridge/Temescal border has been released. Copies are available at the City's planning department (250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3315) and may be viewed online on the City's website (http://tinyurl.com/5evot7). RCPC has also placed a copy at the Rockridge Library for residents' reference. Written comments on the DEIR may be submitted to the City up until September 29. The Planning Commission held a public hearing to receive oral comments on the DEIR on September 3. RCPC reiterated its concerns about the project's impacts on Rockridge, and asked that the City consider adding analysis of the new project alternative (see below).

Responding to input from a group of stakeholder representatives that had been meeting to talk about the project, the developer has come up with an alternative project design to address some of the community's concerns. Project modifications include removing the project's density bonus units and reducing its height by one story, increasing step-backs from the neighboring Claremont Towers apartment building, and including a "faux creek" along the walkway between this project and the already-approved (but not-yet-built) Civiq project. Updated plans and drawings for this new alternative project will be posted on the rockridge.org website.

■ **BART Seismic Retrofit Project**

See article on page 1 about this month's Town Hall meeting.

■ **New Tenants in Dreyer's Building (5915 College Avenue)**

RCPC has been notified that Cotton & Company apparently intends to vacate its retail space in the College Avenue street frontage of the Dreyer's Building. Two potential tenants, Edward Jones Investments

Land Use Committee, page 13

Land Use Committee Meetings

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Rockridge Branch Library. Contact Stu Flashman at 652-5373 or stuflash@aol.com for copies of the agenda.

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Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes letters to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, 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.

I Favor Trader Joe's Solicitation Policy

Editor:

I strongly disagree with Lydia Gans' letter concerning Trader Joe's solicitation policy (Letters, The Rockridge News, July 2008). When I first saw the store's "distraction-free" sign, I was thrilled. I already have to run the gauntlet at Berkeley Bowl every week and would love to be able to shop there hassle-free. I also have to wonder about Lydia's description of TJ's as "upscale." I can see that adjective applied to Market Hall. But, Trader Joe's? Trader Joe's specializes in providing healthy food at lower prices than you find at most supermarkets. Regarding her statement that in the 20 years she's lived and shopped in the neighborhood she's never seen anyone distracted by solicitors, she obviously hasn't crossed paths with me or some of my neighbors. I don't like to shop at Yasai because of the solicitors who line the already crowded sidewalks.

— Jody Stevens

An Alert Neighbor Helped Recover My Stolen Car

Editor:

My locked '97 Subaru was stolen on July 17 from my driveway on Coronado Avenue near 51st Street in Rockridge. It was driven to a location near Mosswood Park (MacArthur Boulevard at Broadway) where the catalytic converter and stereo system were ripped out. The police reported that Subarus of this vintage are very easy to get into and to start. An alert neighbor where the car was taken observed a couple jack up and vandalize the car. He rescued my paperwork from the glove compartment and called me, enabling me to recover my car and make a police report. I do not know if the perpetrators were caught, but I hope so. I'm writing to let Rockridge neighbors know about the theft and to alert Subaru owners to use a "club" lock on their steering wheel; *I'm* going to! I'm also writing to say how much I appreciate the efforts of the man who called me. Let's hear it for thoughtful and alert neighbors!

— Leslie Correll





Library Photos: Don Kinkead

Survey and Celebration for Library Branches

Rockridge Branch Plans User Survey for 'Teen Zone'

by Gerry Garzon, Associate Director, Oakland Public Library

The Oakland Public Library has received city funding, requested in FY 2007-08 by Councilmember Jane Brunner, to develop a "Teen Zone" for the Rockridge Public Library. In anticipation of community meetings to plan this project, we would like to hear from you.

A survey – both paper copy and online – will be issued later this month asking you for feedback about your community, the Rockridge Public Library, how you use it, and how you feel about other users. Please help us plan properly for a new Rockridge "Teen Zone" by responding to our survey when it comes out.

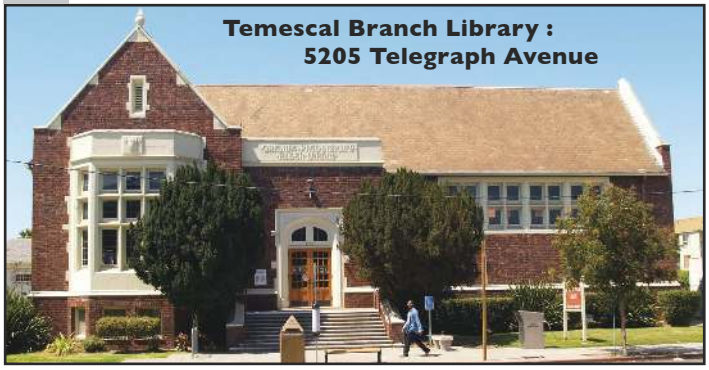
Temescal Branch Seeks Memories and Photos

by Martha Bergmann, event planning group member and former librarian

Staff and friends of the Temescal Branch Library are gathering photos and recollections for this North Oakland community fixture as it approaches its 90th birthday this December. In celebration, we invite library users of today and yesterday to forward memories of time spent in our library. Reading surprises, enjoyable programs, meaningful encounters – whatever you recall. Please complete a brief form at the branch or e-mail Sally Bean at sbean@oaklandlibrary.org. Your name, address and age are requested along with your memories.

Children are particularly encouraged to participate, as is anyone with an especially long association with the Temescal Branch. In December, we plan extra programs, an exhibit of the history of the branch since its opening in 1918, and a birthday bash on December 10.

We hope library users will send some good stories, then join in commemorating 90 years of the Temescal Library.



Flowers Flourish in Public Garden Next to Highway 24

by Gordon Piper, chair, North Hills Landscape Committee

Roses and lavenders are among the many new Rockridge residents to be found in the new two-acre public garden being developed on Caltrans property at the corner of Keith Avenue and Broadway.

Named the Broadway Garden, the project involves a creative partnership between Caltrans and the North Hills Landscape Committee, which adopted the property adjacent to Highway 24 several years ago. The North Hills group has since planted nearly 6,000 bulbs, 1,000 shrubs, and over 20 trees to help beautification efforts in Rockridge.

Caltrans approached the Keep Oakland Beautiful (KOB) board in 2006 and asked for KOB's help in restoring the large offramp site that had been covered with weeds and litter. The North Hills Landscape Committee agreed to work with KOB, Caltrans and community partners to help in efforts to beautify the site and convert it into a public garden. Working under the supervision of the Oakland's Department of Public Works, Keep Oakland Beautiful is dedicated to creating opportunities through education and community involvement for a beautiful, clean and green Oakland.

In the past year, more progress developing the Broadway Garden has been made with new plantings by student volunteers from the nearby College Preparatory High School and from Cal, aided by the North Hills Landscape Committee. The committee praised the College Prep students who provided nearly 50 volunteers who helped in weeding, pruning back invasive shrubs, and planting new lavender plants.

Students from The Berkeley Project at Cal planted nearly 100 groundcover and shrub roses in the Broadway Garden. The committee noted that the roses have been growing well and blooming profusely.

Several nurseries have also supported the garden by donating or discounting plant materials, thus aiding rapid development of the garden. A drip irrigation system added this year helps nurture plantings and minimize weed growth.



The work of the North Hills Landscape Committee in collaboration with Caltrans is evident in the profusion of blooming flowers at Keith Avenue and Broadway next to Highway 24 at the Broadway off-ramp. The group has been working on the two-acre site for about two years, and plans to add more plants.

Photo: Gordon Piper

Even so, more help is needed.

"We would like to involve more local residents and community organizations in helping to maintain, develop and enhance this public garden in the next couple of years," garden committee representatives noted. The Landscape Committee wants to add new plantings of shrubs and perennials to the garden, and expand the drip irrigation system to water the new plantings

Rockridge residents can also assist the garden by making tax-deductible donations of plants or dollars. "We need the help of local residents to make it a special and beautiful show garden illustrating the pride of Rockridge residents in their community," committee representatives said.

The North Hills Landscape Committee is a local nonprofit that helps maintain several public gardens in the Rockrige area, including the Broadway Garden, the Firestorm Memorial Garden, and the City of Oakland's Gateway Garden. The Landscape Committee also helps develop school gardens in Oakland, and has helped to restore Temescal Creek at the Caldecott North Oakland sports field near Lake Temescal. Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation serves as the fiscal agent for the North Hills Landscape Committee.

Gordon Piper, chair of the North Hills Landscape Committee, serves on the City of Oakland's Keep Oakland Beautiful (KOB) Advisory Board. More information about KOB is available from the Department of Public Works or via their website at: http://www.oaklandpw.com/page111.aspx

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Residents interested in assisting the North Hills Landscape Committee may contact Gordon Piper at 843-3828, by mail at 33 Hiller Drive, Oakland 94618, or by e-mail to Rgpiper@sbcglobal.net.

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

PETER PIPER PICKED A PECK OF PEPPERS

On a recent visit to a local farmer's market, I was delighted to see that chili peppers were beginning to come into season: Peppers of all colors – red, orange, green, purple, and deep chocolate brown; peppers of all sizes and shapes – the tiny Thai red dragon, long Anaheims, and the heart-shaped poblano; peppers of all degrees of heat – from the fiery Habanero or Scotch Bonnet to the ultra-sweet pimiento or Italian fry peppers.

I consider chili peppers Mesoamerica's greatest culinary gift to world cuisine. Imagine you've been projected back to Thailand, China, India, Italy, or Spain in the year 1490. What to eat? Hard to believe, but our entire palate of taste for spicy chili peppers would be missing from our daily fare. On the other hand, daily cuisine in 1490 Mesoamerica consisted of a mélange of foods prepared with all kinds of peppers.

Today, hundreds of chili varieties are used throughout the world to impart fiery flavor to foods. Archeological evidence suggests that wild chilies were gathered in Mexico as long ago as 7000 B.C. and were cultivated before 3500 B.C. Chilies have been found at Mayan and Inca burial sites. They were a mainstay of the diets of Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas.

The Spanish and Portuguese brought chilies to India and Southeast Asia. Chilies reached Europe by the mid-16th century, then China and the East Indies. Within a century, chilies had spread around the world from the Americas. By the end of the 16th century, chili peppers had become the defining culinary ingredient for most Asian, Indian and African cuisine.

The characteristic for which chilies are best known is the heat they produce in our mouths. This fiery sensation is caused by capsaicin, a potent chemical that survives high heat cooking. The amount of capsaicin present in a chili determines how hot it is. In 1912, Wilbur Scoville devised Scoville Units, a measure of the amount of capsaicin present in a particular pepper. Chili peppers range from the mild pimento with 0 Scoville Units to the ultra-fiery Habanero/Scotch Bonnet measured at 80,000 – 150,000 Scoville Units. A standard bell pepper comes in at about 500 Scoville Units. The best antidotes to the hotness of chilies are dairy products such as milk or yogurt. This is why Indian food is often served with a cold *lassi*, a chilled yogurt and buttermilk drink, sometimes flavored with mango.

The flavor of a chili pepper is greatly enhanced by roasting it and peeling the skin off. There are several methods of roasting. First, though, cut a small slit in the chili close to the stem so steam can escape. The chilies can then be placed on a baking sheet and put directly under the broiler, or placed on a hot grill (gas or charcoal). My favorite is simply to place them on a stove-top grill screen (available at Sur La Table). Whatever method you choose, what you're looking for is the skin to start blistering. Make sure the chilies are blistered all over, or they will not peel properly. Immediately place the chilies in a bowl, and cover with a kitchen towel. Let steam for about 15 minutes. Wearing latex gloves, remove the chilies and pull off the charred skin. Never peel or wash roasted chilies under running water. Once again wearing gloves, split the chilies open and scoop out the seeds and pith with the tip of a knife.

Too many chilies, too many recipes: which to choose? Let's go with a simple Caribbean salsa that goes well with grilled fish, shrimp or chicken. All of the ingredients are available at Rockridge produce markets.

Caribbean Salsa

(Makes about 2 cups)

- 2 tablespoons diced onion
- 2 cups tomatoes, cut into ¼-inch dice
- 1 fresh Habanero/Scotch Bonnet, seeded and finely minced (WARNING: wear latex gloves when cutting)
- 4 tablespoons basil, julienned
- 1 small red bell pepper, cut into ¼-inch dice
- Juice of 2 limes
- ½ cup diced mango, or papaya or pineapple
- ½ teaspoon salt

Put onion in colander, rinse with hot water and drain. Combine all ingredients and mix well. Let sit in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes before serving.

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

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Rockridge Mom Writes Mysteries

So you're having twins? Try writing.

THE Rockridge MUSE

by Ortrun Niesar

Rockridge women never cease to amaze me. As if having twins wasn't enough of a thrill, Rockridge resident Clare Langley-Hawthorne also managed to hammer out the first volume of what promises to be an engaging mystery series, featuring new heroine Ursula Marlow. Her first book, *Consequences of Sin,* published in 2007, earned her the #9 spot on the San Francisco Chronicle paperback best seller list and a nomination for a Macavity Award in 2008. Not bad for a new mom.

In fact, mom is on a roll. Clare's next installment, *The Serpent and the Scorpion,* comes out September 30. A third, tentatively entitled *Unlikely Traitors,* is in progress. They all star Ursula Marlow, intrepid sort-of suffragette, whose masses of unruly curls, inquisitive mind and stubborn unladylike behavior land her in all kinds of dangerous intrigue. Clare's stories are an easy, fast-paced read, a good page-turner for a quiet afternoon. There are enough dead bodies, exotic milieus, disappearing villains, elegant ladies and handsome men, cases of mistaken identity and foreign intrigues to last for a few more books, maybe even a television series.

Clare, an international health economics researcher and writer, hails from Australia and England. A few years ago when she and husband Tim settled into their cozy bungalow on Auburn Avenue, Clare thought she would pursue a law degree while starting their family. With the prospect of becoming the mother of twins, she decided to try writing instead. Clare joined a local writers group. That meant writing 500 words per day, but, only a few months later, the gamble paid off. "We think you've got a book here," was the excited verdict of her fellow writers. Toting three finished chapters and outlines of those to come, Clare attended the San Francisco Writers Conference in the fall of 2004. One thing led to another and she found herself under contract with Viking and Penguin Books.



Clare Langley-Hawthorne
PHOTO: THE AUTHOR

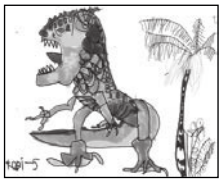
I met with Clare in her converted garage studio. Books lined the north wall. Some of her favorite authors were there: D.H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, and, of course, Dorothy L. Sayers, author of the Lord Peter Wimsey series. Diagrams, character descriptions, chapter outlines and deadline dates were tacked on the far wall, while the glass doors on the south side let her watch her twins, now aged 4, play in the backyard.

Clare brimmed with enthusiasm and energy as she described the intricacies of writing a mystery and of being a professional writer: Personal discipline, cooperation with the publisher and a willingness to help promote the work seem to be essential characteristics. Why did she choose to write mysteries rather than romances or fiction? A life-long love of who-done-it stories coupled with her talent for research made the choice easy.

Mysteries need to be fast-paced and compelling. They also have a readership that will not stand for inaccuracies. Make a mistake, you will hear from the fans. Clare's focus is the early post-Edwardian age, circa 1910-16, which encompasses a fading aristocracy, the suffragette movement and the rise of socialism. To bring this milieu to life, she makes clever use of minute period detail gleaned from a myriad of sources, among them the many BBC Masterpiece productions. Also, Clare lived in England for some years, and took time for direct observation of key locales. A trip to Venezuela a few years ago yielded striking new venues for her characters.

Mystery Writer, page 13

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Kobi, age 5

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RED OAK REALTY

Rockridge Sales Somewhat Scattered this August

Close Date	BR	Bth	Addr	Orig Price	DOM	LP	SP
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8/12/2008	3	2	518 Forest St	$750,000	7	$750,000	$735,000
8/12/2008	4	4.5	6015 Manchester Dr	$1,785,000	45	$1,785,000	$1,700,000
8/22/2008	4	2.5	6142 Harwood Ave	$1,495,000	17	$1,495,000	$1,500,000

- August of 2007 yielded four times as many closings as August of 2008
- 50% of properties Listed in Rockridge, Sold for OVER asking price, in comparison to 33% last year.
- In 2007 the average List to Sell price was 107% vs 99% in 2008
- Virtually the same market time in 2007 as 2008.
- There is currently a 1.7 month supply of inventory in Rockridge

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If you're thinking of buying or selling, give me a call for a free consultation.

Boychoir Quilt Selected for Show



Photo: Pacific Boychoir Academy

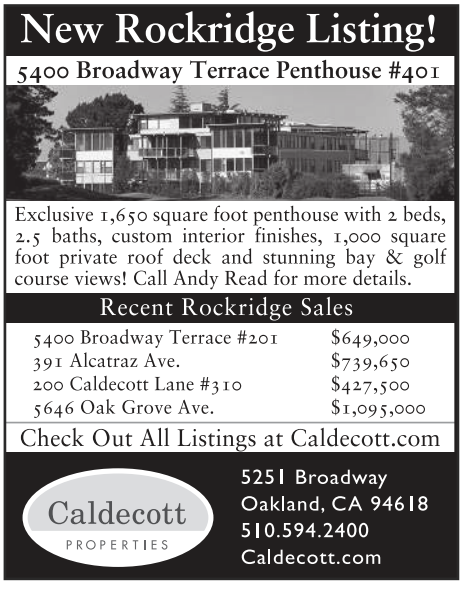
by Angie Lewandowski, Pacific Boychoir Academy

A handmade quilt crafted by students at the Pacific Boychoir Academy Middle School in Rockridge was selected for display at the 2008 Quilting in the Garden show at Livermore's Alden Lane Nursery. The annual quilt show features quilts by local and regional artists and community members, as well as food and drink and quilting supply vendors.

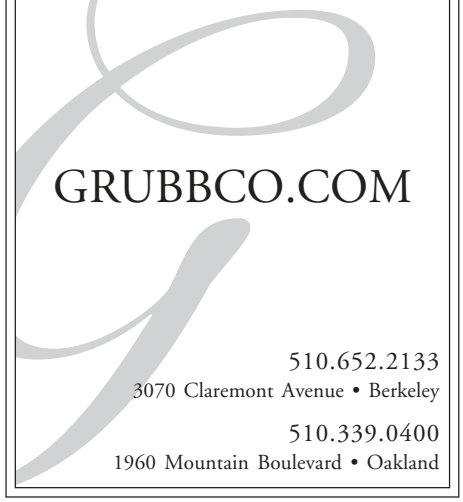
Pacific Boychoir Academy Middle School students in grades five through eight created their "family quilt" this past school year. In the process, the boys learned all about the color wheel, composition, and working with a sewing machine and power tools. The traditional Amish-inspired quilt represents the unique interests and aesthetics of the group and commemorates a specific time of their lives. The quilt will be auctioned to help raise funds to support the Pacific Boychoir Academy's mission. Contact Carolyn Lord at cmlord@lordanglin.com for bidding details.

Quilting in the Garden will be held September 27 and 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alden Lane Nursery is at 2033 Railroad Avenue, Livermore.

The Pacific Boychoir Academy, located at 410 Alcatraz Avenue at Colby, is dedicated to training in the tradition of the finest choirs in America and around the world. The Academy has performed with the San Francisco Symphony and Opera, the University of California Berkeley and Davis Symphonies, and the American Bach Soloists. The boychoir is a nonprofit community organization not affiliated with any church, ethnic group or specific geographic area, and welcomes boys of all backgrounds. Learn more about the Pacific Boychoir Academy and the middle school at www.pacificboychoiracademy.org.











Rockridge Resident Goes 'Green,' Finds Solace in Solar Energy

by Peter Hollingsworth, contributor

Are you ready to go solar? Rockridge resident Mitch Bolen made that leap and is glad about it: "Basically it was to save energy. I'm saving fossil fuels; I'm doing something green," he said.

Since installing his residential solar power system (on Earth Day, coincidentally), Bolen's electric bill has gone from $100 a month on his James Avenue bungalow to a surplus of $100 a month. He expects to use up the surplus this winter, with the goal of breaking even for the year. Breaking even is important; when you generate your electricity with your own solar power system, PG&E calculates your electric bill for the entire year, and won't give back any extra (or give credit on the gas bill, which remains on a regular monthly use cycle).

The solar panels on Bolen's house are invisible from the street and yard. Rising only a few inches above the surface of the roof, they have a low profile and cover a surprisingly small amount of the roof, about one-fourth of the south-facing pitch.

Installing the system, including panels, wiring and electrical boxes, took about three weeks including permits and inspections. Some bracing was needed in the attic to support the extra roof weight, typical for installations in an older Rockridge house. The solar contractor handled the engineering for the roof reinforcement, too. The cost? About $23,000 after rebates and tax credits.

The system has a 20-year warranty, and Bolen figures it will take about that long for the project to pay for itself at current electricity prices.

So is a project like this worthwhile? If you plan to stay in the house for awhile, yes. But what if you might sell? Conventional wisdom says, in that case, maybe. "I'd love to be able to justify more solar installations by saying the owners will get it back when they sell," says realtor Perry Riani of Lawton Associates, "but it will not get the same return as a good kitchen remodel, designer painting or landscaping."

On the other hand, Riani points out an article from an industry publication, the *Appraisal Journal*, noting that a $1,200 cut in annual cost of home ownership (which Bolen expects from his system) translates into about $24,000 worth of mortgage, just a bit more than what Bolen's system cost. In theory, then, a solar energy system could be a break-even proposition, even if you move tomorrow.

Ready or not, is it time for you to go solar? A good first step is to visit www.findsolar.com, which offers a list of local contractors and tools for estimating your costs and returns. Perhaps, as Mitch Bolen did, you'll find that the answer is "Yes."



▲ One of two banks of low-profile solar panels on Mitch Bolen's roof.

▼ On a residential solar power installation at another location, DC current generated by the solar panels is routed through an inverter (top of photo) that converts DC to AC current for household use. Each circuit has its own disconnect switch.

PHOTOS: DON KINKEAD



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Volunteers Needed to Survey Oakland's Parks

Oakland Parks Coalition invites you to join our survey teams at *Love Your Parks Day* on Saturday, September 27. The purpose of this annual survey event is to assess the state of maintenance at Oakland Parks and put park needs in the spotlight of City concerns.

Meet at the Lakeside Garden Center (666 Bellevue, at the Fairyland entrance to the park off Grand Avenue) Ebell Room at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and team assignments. After a short program, which includes a few words by Oakland Public Works gardener extraordinaire Christian Boyle, there will be a brief training in survey-taking. By 9:30, teams will be dispatched to survey 3-5 parks each and turn their surveys in by noon.

Please e-mail us at opclypd@gmail.com or call 510/287-2693 to let us know you can attend. We will reply with more information and a couple of important questions that will help us assign you to the best team.

Visit www.oaklandparkscoalition.org for event information.



Out and About in Rockridge: A Celebration of Community

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY with the merchants and residents of Rockridge at Out and About in Rockridge, September 28 from 11 AM to 6 PM on College Avenue.

The event centers around College Avenue, the hub of activity in Rockridge, and features hundreds of artisans, craft and community booths, live music and dance, alternative health exhibitors, fashion shows, green living expo, cooking demonstrations, food and drink vendors, Rockridge merchants, a kids' area and more! Admission is free.

Daily Bread Seeks Volunteer Drivers

Do you have an extra hour each week to help feed the Bay Area's less fortunate residents? Daily Bread can match you with a food source and needy organization, doing their best to find a convenient time and place for you. Your job will be to pick up donated food at donor sites for delivery to local storage. Some pick up sites are available in Rockridge. Got the time? Call Patrice Ignelgi, 526-3123, or e-mail her at patrice@pcsyes.com.

Daily Bread also operates the Milk for Kids program, which provides milk donated by the Berkeley Bowl and the Village Market to children in need. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Patrice Ignelgi.

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East Bay Shelters Help and Heal Animals for Adoption

Miracle Kittens Doing Well After Unusual Rescues

by Marta Edmonds, Berkeley East-Bay Humane Society

Animals arrive at shelters for all kinds of reasons. However, two groups of kittens recently made their way to the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society by rather unusual means. While one circumstance appears to have been accidental, the other highlights human disregard for living beings.

During the period of record temperatures in July, a worker at a nursery in Berkeley was startled at what she discovered in a shipment of plant containers. "The kittens were so small I thought they were mice," said Ellice Richmond.

Now named Mojave and Blizzard, these two tiny felines had been trucked in a sealed box all the way from San Bernardino. According to Richmond, "It was 97 degrees in Berkeley. It was totally a miracle they survived." The kittens were taken to the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society where staff speculated that the mother of Mojave and Blizzard may have left them in the box because she thought it was a safe place.

Later in July, three more kittens were carried into Berkeley's Humane Society offices in Ryan McGuire's baseball hat.

McGuire had been talking about cats at a Berkeley waste disposal facility. Someone nearby said that if he liked cats, maybe he could help out.

"The guy had stopped someone who put the kittens in a box and tried to leave them on the ground," said McGuire.

Those three kittens are now called Dart, Dash and Dodger. After receiving medical attention they are doing well. When ready for adoption, the kittens will be pictured online at berkeleyhumane.org. For people not able to adopt, there is an urgent need for volunteers to become temporary foster parents.

Other ways to help include administrative support or working with cats at the shelter.

Animal Welfare Resources

The kittens in the story were helped at Humane Society offices in Berkeley. The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to placing homeless animals with committed caretakers; to developing healthy relationships between pets and people through education, training and counseling; and to promoting the humane treatment of all animals. The Society is located at 2700 9th Street, Berkeley, phone 510/845-3633.

In Oakland, support and help for animals is provided by the East Bay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and by the Oakland Police Department.

The East Bay SPCA offers a wide variety of resources for the community, focusing primarily on Alameda County and surrounding cities. They offer referrals to other organizations, agencies and businesses. The East Bay SPCA – Oakland People Soft Adoption Center is located at 8323 Baldwin Street, Oakland, phone 510/569-0702.

Oakland Animal Shelter and Animal Control Field Services, a division of the Oakland Police Department, is responsible for the welfare of all animals in Oakland and for promoting the health and safety of animals and people in the community. Call Oakland Police non-emergency dispatch at 510/777-3333, 24 hours a day to report:

- A stray, vicious, injured or dead animal;
- Animal cruelty; or
- An animal-related nuisance, such as barking.

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THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
VOL. 23 ■ NO. 8 ■ ISSUE NO. 248 ■ September 6, 2008 ■
Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 5345 College Ave. PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94618 • 869-4200
Agenda: RCPC September Town Hall Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 7 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library,
5366 College Avenue in Manila, Community Room (Upstairs)
■ 7:00: Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) representatives discuss the agency's seismic retrofit project planned for the Rockridge BART station, and will hear community suggestions on controlling project noise.
■ 7:10 to 8:30: Speakers from the California Native Plant Society and California Invasive Plant Council will discuss wildlife in Rockridge, removal of invasive plants, and the creation of more wildlife-friendly water-wise gardens.
■ Lech Naumovich, Director of Goldenrour Restoration Practices, will speak on habitat restoration at the Colarado Sports Field.
■ Laura Baker, on the Board of the East Bay Chapter of California Native Plants Society, will speak on wildlife in Rockridge and gardening with wildlife.
■ A representatewre from the California Invasive Plant Council will discuss weed impression and wise gardening.
How Will BART's Seismic Retrofit Plans Affect Rockridge Residents?
by Stanot Flashman, chair, RCPC
A few years back, Caltrans did extensive work on the elevated parts of Highway 24 that pass through Rockridge in order to protect the public when (not if) a major earthquake occurs on the nearby Hayward Fault. BART is now following suit for its elevated structures including the Rockridge BART station.
Nearby residents got an unpleasant first taste of the potential effects of the project work to occur when a few weeks ago, PG&E relocated some of its underground conduits running under the BART station preparatory to the full project. The night work in the parking lots and on College Avenue, including large floodlights and loud spears, went on into the early morning hours for more than a week.
BART says it will try to limit the night work, but that some will be necessary.
BART will present its plans for this important but annoying work to the Rockridge neighborhood at the RCPC September Town Hall meeting. Come hear about what will be involved and give your thoughts on how to minimize the community disruption.
The meeting will be held at the Rockridge Branch Library in the upstairs meeting room on Thursday, September 18, beginning at 7 p.m.
Boyd Avenue Enjoys National Night Out
Rockridge Residents Party in the Streets
by Susan Montauk
On August 5, Oakland joined the nation in the 25th anniversary celebration of National Night Out (NNO), an event celebrated across America by people sponsoring block parties to make their neighborhoods safer. The phenomenal growth of this event points to the increasing awareness of the importance of community involvement in safety. At the first NNO in 1984, 400 communities (an estimated 2.5 million people) in 23 states participated; by 2007, NNO included 11,310 communities (an estimated 35.4 million people) in all 50 states.
■ Nat'l Night Out, page 12
We Mean Green!
Are the plants in your garden eyeing your reproductively? Are your roses being gobbled by foraging deer?
In the midst of a drought, and as cities are open space for development, white natural habitats and wildlife are shouldered aside, can a conscientious home gardener maintain attractive and durable plantings without compromising dwindling resources?
RCPC has invited a panel of experts on sustainable and native-plant gardening to discuss plants, wildlife, water-wise gardening, and more at the RCPC Town Hall meeting, Thursday, September 18, starting at 7 p.m. The panel will have answers to your questions. See details above.

Step Up and Step Out for The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News is back from vacation and we need block captains for two of our distribution routes. The job is fun and easy and provides an essential service to Rockridge residents. All you have to do is take about 15 minutes once a month (except August, when the paper is not published) to deliver the bundle of newsletters that will be delivered to your doorstep. Please contact us at smontauk@gmail.com or 547-3855 to help with one of the following routes.

- **Block Captain 07F:** Both sides of Mendocino from Margarido to Lawton, 15 papers
- **Block Captain 20A:** On Claremont from 5900 even numbers up Claremont to Shell station.

Thank you for your support of this important community resource.

Nat'l Night Out

from page 1

included 11,310 communities (an estimated 35.4 million people) in all 50 states.

Oakland's NNO reflected heightened citizen concerns for safety in the face of an all-time high murder rate and increased in-your-face criminal activity. In 2007, 317 block parties were held; this year saw 400 parties with an estimated 29,000 people attending.

Rockridge beats 12Y (below Broadway) and 13X (above Broadway) were lively with 18 parties. Neighbors socialized, got to know newcomers and discussed safety. Participants left the celebrations with the comforting feeling that neighbors could help each other be safe.



An NNO block party gets a visit from a Fire Station 8 ladder truck and firefighter Lt. Sean Gascie. Boyd Avenue residents Shilpak Mahadkar, Yoko Idate and their son get an inside look at the truck's cab.

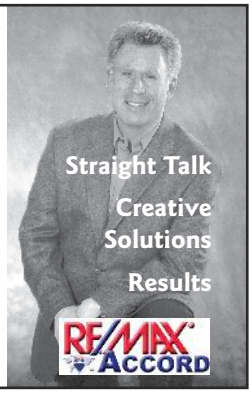
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Mystery Writer

from page 7

One sleuthing mission often leads to another. Clare discovered a little known fact of the Edwardian era that could yield some wonderful new stories. Apparently, women police personnel existed in England well before WWI, probably as a consequence of the suffragette movement. What these intriguing ladies were up to will be the theme of a new series entitled *Lady Coppers*.

Clare often meets up with Edwardian era buffs, fellow mystery writers and fans on the Internet. She has a site at www.edwardianstateofmind.blogspot.com. You will also find her on her own site, www.clarelangleyhawthorne.com, www.killzoneauthors.blogspot.com and numerous other sites authors frequent, such as www.mysteryreaders.org and www.sistersincrime.com.

Clare Langley-Hawthorne will be signing her new book, *The Serpent and the Scorpion*, out in paperback, at Diesel Books on Sunday October 19 at 3 p. m. She will also be at A Great Good Place for Books in Montclair on Thursday, October 23 at 7 p.m. The twins will be staying home.

Land Use Committee

from page 3

and Red Oak Realty, have asked RCPC about its position on their leasing all or part of the space. Under College Avenue's C-31 zoning, either use requires a conditional use permit from the City. RCPC's long-standing position has been to oppose such ground-level non-retail uses because they reduce College Avenue's value as a retail center.

The RCPC Land Use Committee recommended not to oppose Edward Jones, because of its small size, and took no position on Red Oak. The board of directors took up both proposals at its meeting on September 4, but results were not available at press time. The board's decisions will be posted on the rockridge.org website. Your comments on this important and recurrent issue are welcome. Please direct your comments to LUC Chair, RCPC, 5245 College Avenue PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618, or via e-mail to chair@rockridge.org.

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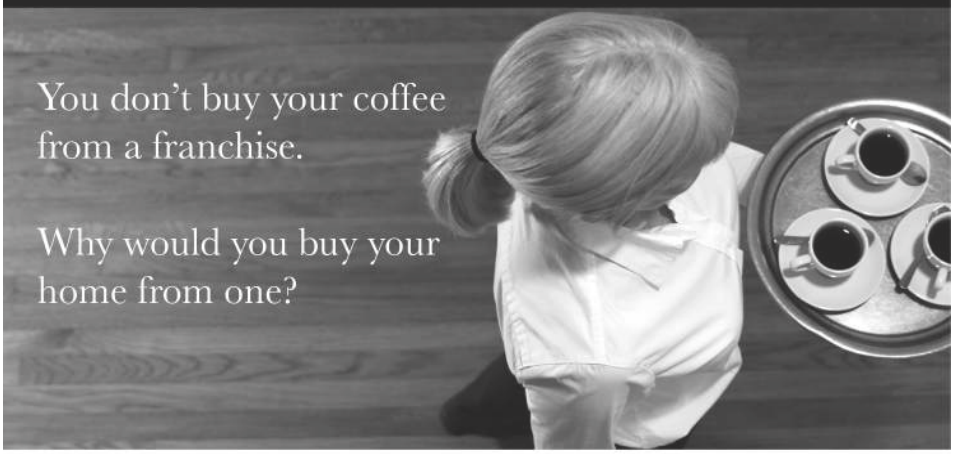
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How to make it all work: Experienced panel of mental health and legal and financial experts answer your questions about divorce, separation, transition. Piedmont Adult School, Sept.27,10 am-noon. 594-2655 to enroll.

The Ultimate Way to Go Green

Buy recycled clothes, jewelry, furniture, artwork, household goods, linens & more. Finding affordable treasures is the expectation of our customers. Bambino Thrift Shop, 5290 College Ave, 658 -7463, Tue-Fri., 10-3, Sat. 12-4.

Integrative Counseling

Experienced, supportive, nurturing space for change. Sessions incorporate hypnotherapy and other modalities to suit your needs. Welcoming to women of all ages, cultures & orientations. Free 20-min consultation. 510/464-1288. Valerie Veza, MSW-ACSW-CHT.

Relationship Astrology

From entire families, especially the kid nobody understands to the new baby; couples considering marriage or divorce. Hands-on and private. Julie Meredith, AFA. 510/547-3616.

Patios, Custom Artistic Tiling $22/hour

Lots of Rockridge references—have worked in Rockridge the past 2 years. Over 20 years experience. See our website at: www.Diegodesigns.com. Call Diego: 510/828-9473. "We listen to your dreams."

Seminar: Reduce Remodeling Stress

Winans Construction is offering tips and resources to homeowners to minimize the stress and frustration of home remodeling. Tuesday, September 30, 6-8pm at Rockridge Branch Library. Call to register: 510/653-7288.

Responsible, Honest Quiet Tenant

Works in Rockridge and hopes to continue living here. Seeking private apartment with bathroom, kitchen/kitchenette. Willing to negotiate work on unfinished spaces. Move-in 11/1 or 12/1. $750. Excellent references. Jen: 415/612-0231.

More Classified Ads, page 13

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

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Residents and business members of NCPC's 12Y and 13X areas are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety, **4th** Thursday each month, 7 to 8:30pm. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. info@rockridgencpc.com or infofordenise@yahoo.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN:

- **Toddler Story Time: Every Saturday**, 10:30am.
- **Pre-School Story Time**: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am.
- **Pajama Story Time**: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. 7pm: **Note: closed 9/9**.
- **Special Events for Kids and Families**:
  - **Making Day-of-the-Dead Altars**: workshop with **Rachel Palacios**. Monday, Oct. 6, from 7 to 8pm. Best for ages 5 and up but all welcome to participate. Bring photos/mementos of friends, family or pets you would like to honor. Items will remain on display from 10/6 to 11/11.

FOR TEENS:

- **Anime Club: Teens 13 and up**, watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation) with other teens. **NOTE: time change for Sept**. meeting on 3rd Tuesday, 9/16, 5 to 6:30pm in upstairs meeting rm. Info: Susy, 597-5017.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Raw/ Vegan Foods Demonstration Class** with **Reggie Bass**: Sat., 9/6, 2-4:30pm. Discussion and tasting samples of healthy Vegan, raw food dishes.
- **Writer's Support /Critique Group**: ALL writers welcome. Third Saturday each month, (9/20) 1 to 5pm. Bring 10 copies of up to 3 pages of your prose for on-site reading/discussion. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywritersclub.org.) Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Writing from the Soul Workshop:** Writing for creative expression and spiritual growth with **Susanne West**. Sat., 9/27, 2-4pm.
- **Knitting Classes for Seniors** (50+): 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. **Every Tuesday**, 12:30-2:30pm (closed 9/9).
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice**. First Tuesday each month from 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm. More information: 597-5017.

Rebecca Lueck, LCSW
Individual and Family Counseling
(415) 235-1071
Located at College and Alcatraz
Treating relationship issues, anxiety, depression, panic disorders, childhood trauma, grief, infertility and adoption, and addictions.
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ART EXHIBITS

Gallery: Sept.: **Oparna Ewing**, Quilt Group.
Oct.: Photos of Rockridge by community members.
Lobby Display Case: Sept.: **Barry Paul:** china-marker and pen drawings.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Mon. and Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm. **Closed Sundays also Tues., 9/9 (Admissions Day)**.

Rockridge Out & About Street Fair

Highlights: 4 stages featuring local musicians and performers, including a DJ dance stage and Rockridge Runway Fashion with attire selected by local boutiques, plus a Chef's Stage featuring the district's top chefs. Tots' Town with rides, games, prizes and more. Artisan and community booths and food booths presented by our great Rockridge restaurants. Sunday, Sept. 28, 11am to 6pm. Stroll along College Avenue from Alcatraz Ave. to B'way. Info: www.rockridgeoutandabout.com.

Park Day School Benefit

SF Chronicle columnist **Jon Carroll** will host an evening in conversation with author **Anne Lamott**. Monday, 9/15. Cheese and no-host wine reception at 6pm, followed by the conversation on the main stage at 7pm. All proceeds benefit the school's academic and financial assistance programs. Berkeley Repertory Theater, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley. Tickets, $25, can be purchased in advance at 653-0317 x103 or www.parkdayschool.org.

An Evening With the Peace Corps

Stories from the Republic of Georgia: Peace Corps Volunteers who lived in the Republic of Georgia will share their experiences. It's never too late to serve! Monday, 9/15, 6 to 7:30pm, Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. More info: Nick Bosustow, 452-8444, nbosustow@peacecorps.gov, or www.peacecorps.gov.

Forum on Ballot Proposition 4

Oakland East Bay NOW and Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health present their perspective on Proposition 4, (**The Waiting Period and Parental Notification Act of 2008**). Sat., 9/13, 2-4pm. Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave., Info: Carol, 251-0559 or Oakland East Bay NOW, cdnorberg@comcast.net.

Diesel Readings and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.
Sunday, 9/7, 3pm: **Robert Scheer**: *The Pornography of Power.*
Monday, 9/8, 7:30pm: **Amnesty International Meeting**. All welcome.
Saturday, 9/13, 7:30pm: **Hanif Kureishi**: *Something to Tell You.*
Sunday, 9/21, 3pm: **Irvine Welsh**: *Crime.*
DIESEL, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave. Info about other events, book discussion groups and El Grupito, the Spanish discussion group: 653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com.

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring **Vive Le Jazz!** in benefit concert for the American Heart Association. Sunday, 9/21, 2pm, followed by artist's reception and refreshments. Tickets: $10-$15 for concert and reception. **Kids under 12 free**. Cash only at the door starting at 12:30pm. Sponsored by the Lifemark Group Arts program that features Bay Area talent. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Wheelchair accessible. More info at 228-3218 or www.lifemarkgroup.com/oakland/special_events.asp or www.myspace.com/vivelejazzmusic.

Wisteria Ways Concert Series

Hillbillies from Mars: Appalachian, Celtic and European repertoire. Song, stories and a few surprises. Saturday, 9/20, 3pm; House opens at 2:30pm. Outside venue (wheelchair accessible). Bring a picnic and something to sit on. 383 61st Street. $15-20 suggested donation for musicians (cash only at the door). For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Christensen Heller Gallery

Botanical photographs by local artist **Bruce Schneider**. 9/3 through 10/2. Gallery hrs: Wed.-Sat., 11am to 6pm; Sun., noon to 5pm. 5829 College Ave., 655-5952.

Calif. College of the Arts (CCA)

- **Faculty Exhibition**: 9/3 – 19, Oliver Art Center. Hrs: Mon-Fri, 8:30am –noon and 1-4:30pm (closed Wed. morning). Info: 658-1224 or 594-3712
- **New Student Exhibition**: 9/9-12, North/South Galleries. **Reception**: Wed., 9/10, 5:30 to 7:30pm. Hrs: Tues – Thurs, 11am-6pm; Fri, 11am-4pm. Info: 658-1223
- **Constitution Day Exhibition**: Artworks related to the U.S. Constitution. 9/15 – 9/19, North/South Galleries (hrs: Tues –Fri, 11am – 6pm) and A2 Cafe (hrs: Mon – Fri, 7am – 7:30pm). Info: 594- 3773.
- **Textiles: Crossing the Line Exhibit**: 9/30 – 10/9, Oliver Art Center. Staff and students use concepts, materials and craft processes to expand traditional boundaries of the field. **Reception**: Wed, 10/8, 5:30 – 7:30pm. Hrs: Mon-Fri, 8:30am –noon and 1-4:30pm (closed Wed. morning). Info: 415-594-3747.

CCA Oakland, 5212 Broadway. www.cca.edu/.

North Oakland Senior Center

Program Highlights: computer classes; health insurance counseling and advocacy program; exercise classes; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's caregivers support groups and more. Special Events:
OPEN HOUSE FOR 10 YEAR CELEBRATION: Entertainment, speakers, showcasing of Sr. Center programs. Light refreshments. Wed., 9/17, 1-4pm.
Lavender Lunch Bunch: free lunch, entertainment, socializing for LGBT elders 55+ and friends. Meets 3rd Friday each month (9/19, 10/17).
BIG Flea Market: Saturday, Oct 4, 8am – 4:30pm. Clean out your closets and garage; vendor spaces now available; $10 (cash only). Sign up at reception desk in office.
Hours: Mon. – Fri., 8:45am to 4:45pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Subscribe to "The North Oakland Senior Times," for a full schedule of classes/events and a monthly lunch menu ($2.25 to $4.00). For details about events, membership, and opportunities to become a volunteer, call 597- 5085.

Give Blood and Get Gas

Support the **American Red Cross Blood Drives**. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or go to www.BeADonor.com to schedule a donation appointment. **Every week through September, there will be a drawing for a $100 Gas Gift Card. Grand Prize in September is a $1,000 Gas Gift Card**. More information from American Red Cross, No. Calif. Blood Services Region, 6230 Claremont Ave., 594-5205.

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