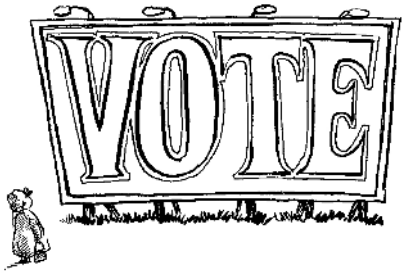
THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 26 ■ NO. 4 ■ ISSUE NO. 277 ■ April 2, 2011 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,500 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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RCPC Board Election

Six RCPC board members are running for re-election. What do they hope to achieve through their service? Following are edited excerpts from some of the candidates' statements:

...keeping Rockridge the thriving neighborhood it is today...

...I joined the RCPC board to give something back to the community...

...representing the community's interests in land use, transportation and schools...

...I support local businesses and favor buildings that are appropriately scaled...

Read more about all the RCPC candidates and voting details on page 4; attend the April 21 Town Hall meeting and cast your ballot. See other meeting details in the agenda box at right.

FORL to Hold Board Election at RCPC Meeting

The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) was formed when the Rockridge Branch Library built its new permanent location on College Avenue in 1996. In 1997, FORL became part of RCPC.

The organization's mission is "to foster the continued development of the library so that it can respond to the needs of our diverse population." Details about FORL, its mission and its activities may be found at http://www.friendsofrockridgelibrary.org.

FORL's board, the Steering Sub-Committee, is composed of 11 members with overlapping terms. Four incumbents are running in

▸ FORL Election, page 12

After Tussle, Council OKs Phase I Rezoning

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair

After a final tussle centered on areas bordering Rockridge, the City Council gave final approval to Phase I of the citywide zoning ordinance revision at its March 15 meeting.

The revision, pending since the updated general plan was adopted in 1998, replaces zoning that dates back, in some cases, to the 1950s.

Planning Department staff had conducted a two-year process with multiple rounds of community meetings to allow public input into the rezoning. Nevertheless, a group of property owners along the northern part of Broadway (from MacArthur Boulevard to 51st Street), who didn't get all the height and density they wanted, complained that they hadn't been notified of the process and had been denied their due process rights.

The battle over height and density on the northern sections of Broadway and Telegraph Avenue had been bouncing back and forth for months. Staff, after much discussion with the community, proposed a mixture of 45- and 60-foot maximum heights. The Planning Commission's Zoning Update Committee, still dominated by holdovers from Jerry Brown's mayoral reign, bumped

▸ Rezoning OK'd, page 13



Addressing the City Council, PANIL representative Valerie Winemiller speaks in support of planning staff's height recommendations for Telegraph and Broadway. PHOTO: D. KINKEAD

21 AGENDA: April RCPC Town Hall Meeting

- **BOARD ELECTIONS: RCPC and FORL hold elections for board candidates. Vote and show your support for the work of these groups.** Details below.
- **UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF BART PLAZA PROJECT: RCPC boardmember Ann Winterman chairs a presentation and discussion of the BART Plaza project.** Details below.

- **Organization Elections: RCPC Board Candidates' Forum**
  - **Candidates** for RCPC's election to the board of directors will explain their positions about Rockridge and Oakland issues and their interest in being on the board. Rockridge residents may vote at this meeting or on Saturday, April 23, at the Rockridge Branch library between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Residents will be asked to verify their address.
  - Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) will hold its election of board members during the Town Hall meeting.
- **Current Status, Elements of the BART Plaza Project**
  - For a number of years, improvements to the plaza next to the station at Keith and College have been pursued. BART, RCPC, RDA and the city have been working to bring the project to life. Now, plans are developed and contracts ready to be put out to bid. Join RCPC and project partners for a review of plans and progress.

Thursday, April 21 | 7:30-9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room (Upstairs)

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

Gang Injunctions Are Ineffective, Resulting Only in Mass Incarceration

My family and I have been the victims of many crimes in Rockridge and elsewhere in Oakland. I am as concerned about crime as anyone. Still, I oppose gang injunctions because they are not effective and because they are part of a race-based mass incarceration policy. Instead, I support programs that address the root causes of crime.

City Attorney John Russo defended his controversial gang injunction program at February's RCPC meeting. Russo admits that injunctions do not address root causes of crime, but argues it is "only one tool." Supporters say, "we have to do something" without asking whether this tool may do more harm than good. We do not have the resources to spend tax dollars on programs that are ineffective or worse.

Some crime-fighting strategies increase crime. Making it harder (or impossible) for someone with a criminal history to find lawful employment, obtain student loans to pursue higher education, or apply for food stamps increases recidivism. Yet all of these policies have been adopted in the name of fighting crime.

Likewise, gang injunctions have been found to be ineffective in reducing crime and can have unintended consequences of propelling people into gang activity. Many police chiefs do not support gang injunctions. Russo admitted that many studies show injunctions to be ineffective.

Russo claimed that the North Oakland injunction was "effective." His presentation was misleading. He read off a list of crimes committed by the 15 named defendants in the "safety zone" before the issuance of the injunction; then he stated that none of the 15 has been arrested in the zone since the injunction was issued. Sounds impressive, unless you know that his list of crimes goes back at least 10 years, while the injunction has been in effect for less than 8 months. Some of the 15 have been in jail or prison the entire time. Others had already decided not to be involved in crime any more. The injunction harms those young men who are trying to turn their lives around, which in turn harms the entire community.

Finally, issues of race are central to any discussion about gang suppression programs. Russo states that he opposes racial profiling and argues that, because the injunctions name specific individuals, they are not subject to this criticism. Be that as it may, gang injunctions target racial minorities. They are not used against white gangs, here or anywhere.

Police employ racial profiling to build gang databases. These databases are then used to add more names to the injunction list or to prosecute named individuals for violating the injunction. But gang databases are inaccurate and overly inclusive, causing great harm to individuals and communities of color. Injunctions are part of a gang suppression effort that contributes to the mass incarceration of people of color.

I urge John Russo and the Rockridge community to read Michelle Alexander's scholarly book, "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness," to understand the proper context of gang injunctions in our nation's sorry history of race relations.

These are complex issues that require critical thinking. Please, let's not allow emotional exhortations about "bullets and blood" — which we all abhor — to close our minds in this important debate.

— ***Carol Strickman***

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Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
***CLOSED**: Sundays and Mondays*
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:
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www.rockridge.org
The Rockridge News, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611
RCPC Voice-mail: 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
☛ **May 7, 2011**
☛ **May deadline is April 21, 2011.**
Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com. *RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)*

RCPC Land Use Committee

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Rockridge Branch Library, Upstairs Meeting Room, 7:30 p.m. Next meeting: April 27. *Subject to change. Check www.rockridge.org for meeting updates.*

Safeway Projects Updates

- **Rockridge Shopping Center Reconstruction Project:** (Corner of Broadway and Pleasant Valley)
- **College Avenue Safeway Shopping Center:** (Corner of College and Claremont avenues)

Each of these large and important projects is slowly moving forward toward release of draft environmental impact reports (DEIR) within the next month or two. According to Darin Ranelletti (238-3663, DRanelletti@oaklandnet.com), the planner assigned to the Rockridge Shopping Center Project, that project's DEIR will probably come out some time in May. Peterson Vollman, (pvollman@oaklandnet.com, 238-6167), the planner handling Safeway's College Avenue shopping center project, says that staff is reviewing and revising an administrative draft of that project's DEIR. He said to expect the DEIR to be released for a 45-day public review and comment period some time in April.

Both of these projects can be expected to have multiple impacts on Rockridge, ranging from traffic, to air and water quality, to overall quality of life. RCPC expects to be involved in commenting on both EIRs, and encourages Rockridge residents to participate in the public review process. Look for future updates on both projects on the RCPC website, http://rockridge.org.

■ **Land Use Meeting Agendas**

Contact Stuart Flashman at 652-5373 or chair@rockridge.org for a copy of the current Land Use Committee meeting agenda.

The Zoning Counter

A Zoning Counter item for a project proposal at 6107 Harwood was submitted but could not be printed for lack of space. To view the city's file on the application, go to http://tinyurl.com/4r6d5ne. — *Editor*

Kitchen Adaptations Meld Past and Present



Using the beautiful existing period details in her kitchen, Rockridge resident Jamie Kidson carefully incorporated modern conveniences within its existing layout, and selected period finishes such as marble counters and painted cabinets to complement the original design.

Photo: Natalie Mehta

by Natalie Mehta, chair, RCPCKitchen Tour

Long ago, when many Rockridge homes were first built, the kitchen was a room tucked behind a door and hidden from view. A utilitarian space, it housed an ice box, sink, and modest storage. In contrast, today's homeowners desire kitchens that are versatile enough to support a variety of activities including cooking, dining, homework, and entertaining. And, they need to be beautiful as well, since modern designs favor opening up the kitchen to adjoining spaces.

So how does a homeowner with a vintage kitchen approach the process of upgrading and modernizing? Jamie Kidson, co-owner of Atomic Garden, acquired a home that had been built in the mid-1930s and was well-maintained. The kitchen lacked modern conveniences, which Jamie wished to incorporate in a manner that preserved the original character of the kitchen. A piece of marble found in the basement served as inspiration for the new counters. When a malfunctioning vintage stove and refrigerator had to be replaced, Jamie found modern appliances with dimensions that fit the existing spaces.

New cabinets were designed with a combination of wood, glass, and open door fronts, and an island was added, making the kitchen feel as if it had evolved over time. Only half a wall was removed to open up the butler's pantry to the breakfast nook, and a craftsman was brought in to repair the original plaster walls.

Finally, Jamie researched and selected

Kitchen Adaptations, page 13

Save the Date: Kitchen Tour October 2

by Natalie Mehta, chair, RCPC Kitchen Tour

Mark your calendars — the Rockridge Kitchen Tour will be held Sunday, October 2.

The tour has been a Bay Area favorite since its inception in 1995 and much of its success is due to the enthusiasm of the community volunteers who make this event possible. How can you help?

■ **Recommend a kitchen:** The committee has toured a number of spectacular kitchens but we are still looking for more recommendations. If you know of a recently renovated or remodeled kitchen, please let us know so we can ensure the tour features kitchens in a variety of styles, sizes, and budgets that will inspire our guests.

■ **Spread the word:** Kitchen Tour ticket sales are the primary form of fundraising for RCPC. Each tour brings guests from all over the Bay Area. Help publicize the event by sharing the date with your networks, family, and friends.

■ **Volunteer:** If you have a few hours (or more) to contribute, join the team that makes the magic happen. We are looking for volunteers to add to the publicity, photography, food, and registration committees, as well as docents to show off our fabulous kitchens. All our volunteers are treated to a preview of the kitchens that appear on our tour.

To find out which job may suit you or to recommend a special kitchen for the tour, contact Natalie Mehta at 415/279-5148 or natalie.mehta@yahoo.com.

Candidates: RCPC Board Election

Cesar Angobaldo
Hudson/Lawton

I was appointed to the board a year and a half ago, and have served as Treasurer for the RCPC since May 2010.

I look forward to serving in this capacity over the next two years.

Andrew E. Charman
Lawton Avenue



I joined the RCPC board to give back to the community, and to help preserve and enhance Rockridge's unique character as an "urban oasis," a neighborhood deftly balancing residential and commercial uses, with well-preserved architecture and beautiful gardens, friendly to families, amenable to pedestrians and cyclists, and offering superb access to public transportation, excellent food and restaurants, and unique shops and small businesses.

I have served as vice-chair of the RCPC Board, liaison to the Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue (FANs), a neighborhood group concerned with Safeway's expansion plans, Fourth Bore Coalition representative, and chair of RCPC's Transportation Committee, which addresses issues concerning traffic, transit, and pedestrian and bicycle safety. I will soon begin neighborhood outreach and education about soundwalls along SR-24.

I hope to continue to serve in these capacities.

Michael R. Kan
Keith Avenue



For the past 16 months, I have served on the RCPC Board of Directors and as RCPC Secretary. I've experienced the many aspects of RCPC's involvement, providing the community the information, facts and projects that help shape and maintain our neighborhood.

I spent my youth growing up in Rockridge, attending our public schools, and working at various local businesses. Throughout the later years when I would visit Rockridge, I often marveled at the exceptional community where I grew up and the positive changes to the neighborhood.

When I returned to live here, I sought out the opportunity to serve the community and help preserve the neighborhood that had enriched my youth. RCPC is that opportunity.

I ask for your vote to enable my continued service with RCPC and keeping Rockridge the thriving neighborhood it is today.

Bill Kaufner
Taft Avenue



I would like to continue the work I am involved with on the Rockridge Community Planning Council in the areas of Rockridge schools and land use issues. The Council is in the midst of several exciting projects involving beautification of the area under BART, a DVD project for the Rockridge Library, the Safeway designs, and the Caltrans 4th Bore mitigations. These projects must continue and I am willing and able to see them through should I be granted a second term.

Ronnie Spitzer
Kales Avenue



I'm dedicated to representing the community's interests in the areas of land use, transportation and schools. Rockridge is a successful walkable community that can be even better. Preserving and enhancing the community by upholding all provisions of existing Rockridge planning codes is one element of our continued success. Making its streets and air quality safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and school children through better transportation planning is also important.

During my past two RCPC board terms, I interfaced with the city, the state Legislature, the community, and Caltrans on numerous Rockridge development projects and transportation improvements. My activities include: Fourth Bore Coalition representative and Vice Chair, 2010 Halloween Parade organizer, RCPC webmaster, and FROG liaison. If re-elected, I will continue working to better the community.

Ann Winterman
Ocean View Drive



I am running for a second term on the board in order to continue to work on the BART remodel at Rockridge station, the Safeway remodel, and the Caldecott settlement, in particular, as well as other general board duties and liaison appointments. I appreciate our active neighborhood community, and the many unique small businesses that are within easy reach of alternative transit. I grew up in Orange County, and moved north in search of a lifestyle that included walking, biking, and public transit. I attended law school at UC Berkeley and now serve as assistant regional counsel for FEMA Region IX in downtown Oakland. I am interested in supporting our local businesses and favor buildings that are appropriately scaled with greenery and open space.

RCPC Board Election Procedures

At the RCPC Town Hall meeting on Thursday, April 21, board candidates will introduce themselves and describe their ideas and proposals for Rockridge. There will then be two opportunities to vote for the candidates of your choice:

You may vote at the meeting on Thursday, April 21, or on Saturday, April 23, in the lobby of the Rockridge library, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Voter Eligibility

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

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What's in a Street Name? A Sign of the Times

by Chuck Afflerbach, Rockridge neighbor

Take a stroll along 51st Street, the border of lower Rockridge. The avenues you cross sound like characters from a Victorian romance novel: Miles, Shafter, Lawton… Manila? What's that doing there?

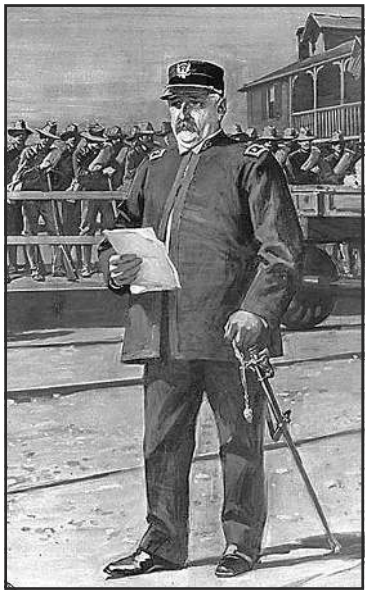
There is, in fact, a connection. Our street names of today were ripped from the headlines more than a century ago. These were our nation's military leaders—heroes of the day—who carried out the westward expansion that reached as far as the Philippines.

Like the parallel streets that honor them, Miles, Shafter, and Lawton followed similar paths throughout their military careers. All three enlisted in the Union Army at the outbreak of the Civil War and quickly rose through the ranks. As career officers, they rode out West to lead the troops that forced Native Americans onto the reservations. And in 1898, they were the generals who invaded Cuba and Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War. They were competitors as much as colleagues, each with his own colorful style and history.

Nelson Appleton Miles was driven by ambition and never shied from controversy. As the jailer of Jefferson Davis, he caused an uproar by shackling the former president of the Confederacy in leg irons. Following Custer's infamous last stand, Miles headed west to subdue the rebellious tribes. He took credit for the surrender of Chief Joseph and Geronimo, but the death of Sitting Bull and the Wounded Knee massacre he blamed on his subordinates.

By 1898, Miles was Commanding General of the entire U.S. Army. Again he took the field to capture Puerto Rico and place it under the Stars and Stripes. When the Philippines fell, Filipino partisans who fought the Spanish also took up arms against American rule. Years of brutal warfare led to public protest in the States. Miles traveled to Manila to investigate; in his report he denounced the army's use of torture—including the "water cure." Teddy Roosevelt called him "a brave peacock," likely because Miles had his eye on the president's job.

William Rufus Shafter was a contradictory mix of bravado and incompetence. He commanded "colored" troops during the Civil War and the "Indian Wars," yet he court-martialed the first black graduate of West Point on dubious charges. (Lieutenant Henry Flipper was pardoned posthumously by President Clinton more than a century later.) When the army finally transferred "Pecos Bill" Shafter from west Texas, he left behind his failed silver mine and a ghost town which still bears his name.



Major General William R. Shafter, commanding the Army V Corps, directing the embarkation of troops at Port Tampa preparatory to invading Cuba. – From p. 313 of Harper's Pictorial History of the War with Spain, Vol. II, published by Harper and Brothers in 1899. *(Public domain, Wikimedia Commons.)*

But General Shafter's finest hour came when he commanded the invasion of Cuba in 1898. During the siege of Santiago, he was preparing to retreat when the Spanish commander offered to surrender all his forces on the island. Shafter came to California a hero. From the Presidio of San Francisco he supplied the troops sent to suppress the Filipino insurgents. He told the New York Times, "It may be necessary to kill half the population of the islands that the remaining half may be lifted from their semi-barbarity to the civilization we are ready to give them." He died in 1906 and is buried in the San Francisco National Cemetery.

Henry Ware Lawton was a "soldier's soldier," respected even by his foes. It was Captain Lawton who pursued Geronimo into Mexico and brought him back for his official "surrender" to General Miles. In Cuba it was General Lawton who led the first troops ashore at Daiquiri. In later battles he pressed on, even when General Shafter was sending word to fall back.

Lawton led a warrior's life and met a warrior's death. On December 19, 1899, he was killed by a sniper near the city of Manila. As usual, he was leading his men into battle—against the troops of a Filipino general named Geronimo. Ten years later, the Apache chief Geronimo died a prisoner of war at Fort Sill, near the brand new town of Lawton, Oklahoma.

Of course Nelson Miles never succeeded Roosevelt; that honor fell to William Howard Taft in 1909. Two years later, President Taft laid the cornerstone for Oakland's brand new city hall. But Taft Avenue was named in 1905; he was still the Secretary of War and had just served as America's first civilian governor of the Philippines. And that's why there's an intersection of Taft and Manila in Rockridge today.

Want to know how your street got its name? Head down to the Oakland History Room at the Main Library and ask for "Quentin's Guide to the Streets of Northern Alameda County." It's an alphabetical catalog of street name origins compiled by Lawrence W. Rand.

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Masons, Dads and Merchants Host Joint Pancake Breakfast

Community Invited to Help Support Claremont Middle School Programs

The Oakland-Durant-Rockridge Masonic Lodge #188, Claremont Middle School PTA Dad's Club, and the Rockridge District Association (RDA) will jointly host the Second Annual Community Pancake Breakfast at the Rockridge Masonic Hall, 5449 College Avenue Saturday, April 30. Proceeds will support programs at Claremont Middle School, part of the College Avenue community since 1913.

The breakfast menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee and tea. Tickets for the event are just $10, and children under 5 eat free.

While the breakfast and the accompanying social experience are the main features of the morning, part of the attraction of this event is the rare opportunity to see the interior of the Hall, one of the most prominent buildings on lower College Avenue and an architectural treasure. Constructed in 1926, the building replaced a previous Masonic Hall which stood on the corner now occupied by Market Hall. Among the prominent local men who helped found Masonic Lodge #188 was Henry Durant, the founding president of the University of California and a mayor of Oakland. Later, Oakland Lodge #188 and Berkeley Lodge #288 merged with Rockridge Lodge #468, all three to become known as Lodge #188.



Rockridge Masonic Hall, site of the fund-raising pancake breakfast set for April 30. Photo: Kevin Keck

The Masonic Hall will be open to the public during the three breakfast sittings. Tickets will be limited and time-specific, so purchase yours early.

Because of the generous contributions of time and food from the Masons, all proceeds from the breakfast will be contributed to Claremont Middle School to help offset reduced state funding levels and support Claremont's renowned Music, Art and Computer Lab programs that attract and engage students from the community. The goal is to raise $5,000 for the school.

Come for breakfast, meet your neighbors, and tour one of our local architectural treasures while supporting Claremont Middle School.

For tickets, and additional information, visit www.claremontms.org for online links to the Pancake Breakfast. If you are unable to purchase tickets online, contact Patrick Zak at patrickzak@ymail.com and we will coordinate with you directly.

April 16: FROG Park Earth Day Cleanup, 9-12, & Family Fest, 12-2

Cleanup	FROG's Family-friendly Earth Day Cleanup: Big & Little FROG parks * 9AM-12 noon *Rain or shine*
Festival	Festival & Fun in the Park: Big FROG * 12 noon -2 PM *Rain cancels*



➡ Help at FROG Park, a City Featured Site

Hop on over to either recently reopened FROG Parks, Big FROG (Hardy Circle near Miles) or Little FROG (Redondo Avenue at Clarke), on April 16, 9 a.m. to noon, and join us for a fun, family-friendly Earth Day cleanup. Bring work gloves and gardening tools, or use ours. Activities include playground cleaning, weeding, planting, sweeping, sifting sand, and clearing the pond and creek bed. Contact Carol Behr at carol@urbehr.com with questions. Water and snacks will be provided for kids of all ages. Come for half an hour or the entire morning, rain or shine.

➡ Time to Celebrate! FROG Family Festival

Join your neighbors and friends for a festival to celebrate Earth Day, the recent Park reopening, and the start of the restroom construction. Bring your family, kids, and your picnic lunch and blanket to Big FROG (Hardy Circle near Miles) on April 16 between 12 noon and 2 p.m. Expect loads of fun playing games, making crafts, and enjoying the entertainment. Rain cancels.

See Other Earth Day Events, page 9



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It's a Cakewalk at the Peralta in Bloom Festival, Coming May 14

by Laura Counts, Peralta Parent Teacher Group

Drop by Peralta Elementary on May 14 between noon and 4 p.m. for our celebration of spring, gardens, and our connection to the community. Every year the school throws open its gates at 460 63rd Street for an afternoon of old-fashioned carnival fun, Peralta-style.

Along with games, a climbing wall, and the ever-popular cakewalk, this year's Peralta in Bloom focusses on the three R's: Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. Bring well-loved clothing for repair at the mending booth, or give new life to old t-shirts, pants or aprons at the silk-screening booth. Learn how to create a patchwork quilt from recycled fabrics at the quilt-in-a-day station. At our zero-waste center, Peralta trash monsters Compostina, Rerun and Lenny Landfill will help us beat our record from last year, when we sent just over one bin to the dump.

Many of the activities will center around our beloved gardens, which will be in full



bloom. New garden coordinator Scott McCandless, aka Mr. Mac, will lead kids in vegetable art projects with natural colors. Kids can re-pot and take home a seedling, then munch on a sweet treat: edible dirt. They'll also have a chance to get close to, and learn about, rabbits and chickens at a small petting zoo.

The liveliest part of the festival is the traditional Peralta cakewalk, which is as easy as it sounds. Emcee German Martinez will have you strutting your stuff to an eclectic sound track. Sit down when the music stops and you may win one of the dozens of beautiful cakes, including homemade creations and donations from local bakeries.

Win a Unique Peralta Quilt

One lucky winner will leave Peralta in Bloom with an original quilt, designed and sewn by over 200 Peralta children with artist-in-residence Ellen Oppenheimer.

Look for students selling quilt raffle tickets ($1 each, $5 for six) outside shops around Rockridge and at the Temescal Farmers Market this month. The winning raffle ticket for the quilt will be drawn at the festival. (Winner need not be present.)

The Peralta in Bloom festival is organized by the Peralta Parent Teacher Group. All proceeds go to support our music, art, gardens, library, and other enrichment programs. For more information, visit www.peraltaschool.org.



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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

SPRING LAMB

When it comes to food and dining, the opening line of T.S. Eliot's epic poem "The Wasteland," "April is the cruelest month," does not ring true. April is the month of hope and freedom.

From the Jewish Passover to the Christian Easter, no food is more symbolic to the season of hope and renewal than lamb. Jewish and Muslim dietary prohibitions keep them from eating pork, and the cow's sacred status keeps Hindus from eating beef. However, regardless of other dietary restrictions, lamb is enjoyed throughout the world.

Who can resist the spicy complex flavors of Mongolian lamb from China, Italian braised lamb shanks in a rich red wine sauce, grilled Greek lamb kabobs marinated in red wine, garlic and rosemary, curried lamb from Northern India, and, of course, grilled baby lamb chops with mint jelly? Lamb is truly a food for people who enjoy meat, especially in the spring.

In the time of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem, each family was expected to bring a young lamb for sacrifice during Passover. The sacrificed lamb was then brought home for the Passover Seder. For over 2,000 years, that tradition has continued in many Jewish homes. While in Morocco, I traveled to a Berber market in the Atlas Mountains. There, I saw newly butchered lambs being sold. One of the butchers offered me the lamb's testicles, considered a special delicacy. I respectfully declined.

Cuts of Lamb

As with beef and pork, different cuts of lamb require different cooking methods.

■ **Boneless lamb loin** is sweet and tender and is ideal for a deeply flavored roast.

■ **Lamb shanks** come, of course, from the legs, and are meaty and succulent when slowly braised. When buying lamb shanks, have the butcher crack the shanks on a band saw, which allows the delicious bone marrow to seep out during braising.

■ A lesser known and more affordable cut is **shoulder chops**. This is the type of chop my mom served. Shoulder chops can be broiled or grilled or even braised.

■ On special occasions, nothing beats a **crown lamb roast**. Essentially, a crown roast is two racks of lamb tied together with the meat on the bones cut back to create a crown-like shape. To enhance the effect, small foil crowns are placed on top of each bone. When you order a crown lamb roast from Ver Brugge Meat-Fish Poultry on College Avenue, they include the little crowns.

■ For a quick middle-Eastern dinner, try grilled spiced **ground lamb patties** (kefta) served in warm pita bread.

■ My all-time favorite is a **leg of lamb**. For me, nothing is better than a bone-in leg of lamb slowly cooked on a rotisserie grill. A simple paste of garlic, olive oil, rosemary, salt and pepper rubbed on the leg is all you need for a perfect rotisserie-grilled lamb; very Greek.

Shout-Outs

✔ I highly recommend "The Lazy Gourmet: Real Food – Real Easy," by Rockridge neighbor Marjorie Gelb and her daughter Josie Shapiro. You can pick it up at Ver Bruge market. It contains many simple and delicious easy-to-prepare recipes.

✔ Two new restaurants have recently opened and are worth community support:

■ **Southie** is another project from Rich and Rebecca Wood. It is next door to Wood Tavern. In an informal setting, Southie offers outstanding grilled sandwiches. Try the meatball and yummy soups.

■ Next to Á Côté is **Enoteca Molinari**. Enoteca Molinari is a very small (35 seat), beautiful setting that is a primarily a wine bar that serves unique Italian-style fare.

This month's recipe is for a simple kefta. Kefta is served throughout the Arab world. Spices used vary from country to country. This one is Turkish. The kefta patties can be grilled separately or formed on to flat skewers.

Kefta (lamb patties)

(4 servings)
1 pound of ground lamb
2 teaspoons ground cumin
¼ cup chopped Italian parsley
1 teaspoon of salt
½ teaspoon ground pepper
Pinch of cinnamon
Warm pita bread
Yogurt

Combine the lamb with cumin, parsley, salt, pepper and cinnamon. Mix well.

Form the meat mixture into 6-8 ½-thick oval patties. Or form the mixture around ½-inch flat skewers.

Grill the kefta, turning often until done.

Serve with warm pita bread and yogurt

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. Barry is available for cooking classes and tours of East-bay ethnic markets. His e-mail is kaufman42@earthlink.net.

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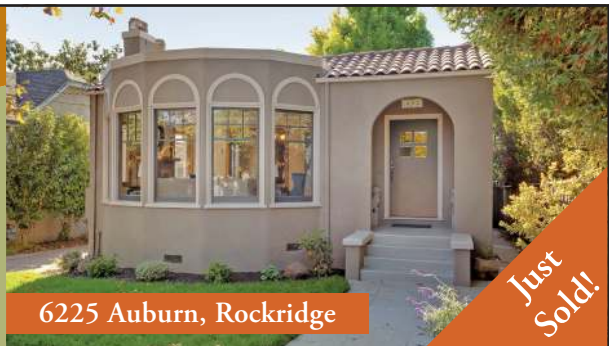
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RDA: "Come Join Us for Earth Day – Saturday, April 16"

by RDA staff

RDA (Rockridge District Association) is again hosting an Earth Day painting party. If you're feeling a little Tom Sawyer-ish, we have a fence for you. Dust off your painter's pants and plan to join us.

Where, you ask? We will gather on April 16, 9 a.m., at Subay Subay Thai Restaurant, 5231 College. The RDA will provide all the necessary supplies needed as well as refreshments for all our Picassos (young and old alike) who participate.

Rockridge Home Sponsors Library Grounds Cleaning

by Jennifer Kaplan, owner, Rockridge Home

Come join the Rockridge Home crew in a garden cleaning party at the Rockridge Library, 5366 College Avenue.

Rockridge Home has picked up the slack left by city budget cuts for the last few years by helping to maintain library grounds. Several times a year, we sponsor a clean-up to support the library and the community.

Meet us at the library on Earth Day, April 16, at 9 a.m. and be prepared to weed. And remember, lots of goodies for helpers.

The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

Hear the Children Sing

The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir Choral Singing for Children in the Bay Area

Young children have an amazing capacity for understanding and internalizing music, even under the worst of circumstances. Singing became an indelible part of my life when I was about four or five and living in postwar Europe. One of my greatest pleasures then – and always – was to hear my mother sing. When I asked her to teach me she promised to do it *if* I would help her with the dishes. Every night from then on she would wash the dishes and I would help dry them while she taught me lovely melodies and words. I was in heaven. This was different from just hearing others make music. It seemed to me that the sounds we were making together formed an invisible pathway right up to the sky. This was the two of us rising together above the hunger and deprivation. This was me being part of something greater out there in the universe. I have never forgotten that feeling. And I think every child has a right to that magic pathway.

The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir

Here in the Bay Area, we are fortunate to have a long-standing tradition of choral singing for children taken to the highest levels. It started in 1948 when San Francisco Opera director Kurt Adler was instrumental in founding the San Francisco Boys Chorus. Others followed in quick succession — alas, mostly in San Francisco.

In 1982, Suzie Rahl, a Piedmont mom tired of taking her young son to rehearsals across the Bay, took the bull by the horns and founded a small choir school in Piedmont with the help of Robert Geary, who had previously served as associate music director with the San Francisco Boys Chorus.

In that first year, 22 boys met for rehearsals right in her living room. Today the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, still under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Geary, consists of about 300 young singers and is making a joyful noise all around the globe. The students perform regularly on some the greatest stages in the Bay Area, and travel for competitions and festivals throughout America and many countries. In 2011, the destination is Denmark. In 2012, the Choir will host the Golden Gate International Choral Festival and competition here in the Bay Area. Under the leadership Mr. Geary, the Choir also is uniquely privileged to experience the leading edge of choral music, performing new works created by some of the best new choral composers in the world.

Training

The road to choral excellence is not easy, but the rewards are many. The children thrive intellectually and

Children Sing, page 10



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Children Sing

from page 9

emotionally as they acquire knowledge and skills not only in the discernment and execution of musical and vocal possibilities, but also in many other areas of personal development. In that sense, this musical program rivals the experiences a child might get by taking up a competitive sport or other artistic or intellectual pursuit: commitment, focus, self-confidence, interpersonal relationships, group dynamic, leadership skills, and pursuit of excellence.

The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir begins its training with participants as young as 4 years of age for both boys and girls, with programs continuing for singers to age 18. The teaching method, titled "Growing with Music," is comprehensive, offering not only a music education but also lessons in creative expression, poise and cultural history. Children learn to sing pretty much as demonstrated in "The Sound of Music." The program was developed by Zoltan Kodaly and uses the solfeggio system (do, re, mi, etc.) to develop aural ability, sight-singing, memorization, reading and writing music and good vocal habits. Rehearsals are generally twice a week in the afternoon, held at Piedmont High School and other facilities. Students come from all over the East Bay, primarily Piedmont, Oakland and Berkeley, but from as far away as El Cerrito and Walnut Creek. A summer camp session is held each August. Choir members also have wonderful memories of week-long music camp stays at Walker Creek Ranch in Marin County. And, should your child progress to the performing level, there will be local and international performances, festivals and competitions to prepare for and attend.

Performing

Lately, the Choir has been involved with the works of Benjamin Britten, which it has performed partly in collaboration with Cal Performances. The series, now concluded, featured performances at Oakland's First Presbyterian Church at Broadway and 27th Street and at Cal's Zellerbach Hall.

For information on scheduled performances and enrollment, go to www.piedmontchoirs.org or call the Choir office at 510/547-4441.



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Rockridge Teen Playwright Shines at Berkeley Rep Festival

by Ronnie Spitzer

"Oh God, why?" ask the characters throughout *Speak Like This: the Prayer Play,* being performed in Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre. Described as funny, sad, and often ironic, the play follows the lives of five characters from different walks of life over the course of a year through their non-denominational prayers. These strangers share their hopes, tragedies, and triumphs with us, the audience, in a powerful 35 minutes.

Written by 16-year-old Rockridge resident Naomi Zingman-Daniels, this original play is being performed as one of two winners for Berkeley Rep's annual Teen One-Act Festival, with remaining performances scheduled on April 2, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. It was directed, performed, designed and produced entirely by teens, with mentoring from Berkeley Rep's fellowship program.

Naomi, a junior at Oakland Technical High School's Performing Arts Program, spoke with us about how she came to win the Festival contest and about her life at Tech. Her first play was written last year as an assignment for her creative writing class, in honor of National Playwriting Month. "I just realized I loved writing plays and kept on writing," she said. Encouragement from her teacher, Performing Arts Director Jessica Berkner, and fellow students, helped her keep writing. *Speak Like This* started out as a 50-minute play before edits, its characters based loosely on people she knows. But the story is completely Naomi's.



Photo: Naomi Zingman-Daniels

Naomi's solid grounding in performing arts comes to her as a member of Tech's Performing Arts Program and from her middle school and freshman years at Athenian School. She performed as a cast member in this year's Tech production of *Dracula*, and participated in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. "That was an amazing experience. We sold out three of our four shows—usually six people came to the other shows!"

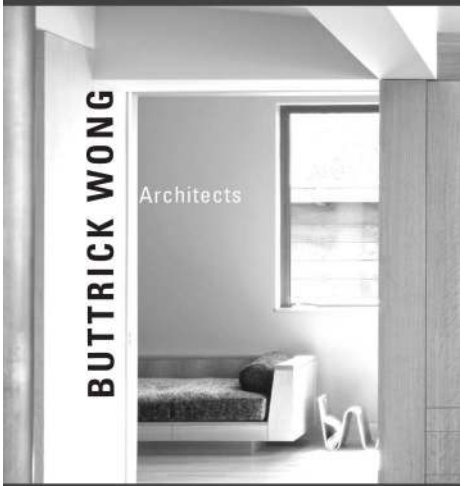
Her academic schedule includes an advanced drama class in acting techniques, a semi-regular two-hour after-school production class, and Paideia English and History classes; not to mention attending Poekoelen martial arts classes as a black belt practitioner. Her life goals? Attending college in a creative writing program and pursuing a career as a playwright.

Speak Like This is being performed at the ninth annual Teen One-Acts Festival — Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, 2071 Addison Street, Downtown Berkeley — on April 2, 7 and 8 at 8:00 p.m. Phone 510/647-2974. Tickets: $12 ($8 students), available at the door only.

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Green Short Takes Rockridge Local to the Red Carpet

by Erin Milnes

Rockridge resident Joel Bloom walked the red carpet for the first time at the recent Academy Awards ceremonies as co-producer of "Let's Pollute," an Oscar nominee for Best Animated Short. The sharp social satire with a green message didn't take the gold, but the nomination itself "was a big win for the film's environmental message," said Bloom.

"For a tiny independent film no one had heard of only a few weeks ago, the Oscar spotlight has brought tremendous exposure," said Bloom. "The next step is creating more opportunities for the film to be seen and delivering its message to an even larger audience."

A satire animated in the style of 1950s educational films, the six-minute "Let's Pollute" uses humor to address a serious subject: our heritage and potential legacy of toxic, irresponsible living. "It follows an average family who wants to do their part and pollute to their maximum capacity for a better, blighted tomorrow," explains the film's director, Geefwee Boedoe, tongue firmly in cheek.

"Let's Pollute" is available on iTunes. Full information about the film and crew can be found at www.letspollute.com.

Rockridge Resident's Film Plays at Oakland International Film Festival

Michael Bedar, a resident of Colby Street in Rockridge, proudly announces that a film he helped make is a featured selection in the 2011 Oakland International Film Festival. His documentary, "Simply Raw: Reversing Diabetes in 30 Days," follows the remarkable journeys of six diabetics (Types 1 and 2) for 30 days as they change their diet to reverse their disease naturally and without prescription drugs by eating only organic, live foods. Bedar is a nutrition and lifestyle instructor as well as an accomplished documentarian. He operates the East Bay Movement to Reverse Diabetes Naturally, which develops ways to inspire improved eating and natural health where it is most needed.

Bedar's film screens Tuesday, April 12, in the 6 p.m. time slot at the Art Deco Auditorium, 2700 Saratoga Street, Alameda.

— *Michael Bedar*



For information about the Oakland International Film Festival, visit http://www.oiff.org/about.html

FORL Election

from page 1

April for re-election:

- Jennifer Alper
- Kathy O'Neal
- Carol Bieri
- Sharareh Tavafrashti

Rockridge residents are encouraged to vote in the FORL election to be held concurrently with the RCPC board election Thursday, April 21, at the Rockridge Branch Library, 7:30-9 p.m.

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Changes on College

by Theresa Nelson

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Rezoning OK'd

from page 1

all the heights up to 60 feet. The full Planning Commission went along with that recommendation, but the council's Community and Economic Development (CED) Committee, at Councilmember Jane Brunner's request, revised the height limits to be more in line with the staff proposal, with some heights reset to 45 feet and a few raised to 75 feet. The council had previously accepted the CED committee's recommendation, although members of ULTRA-Oakland (Urbanists for a Livable Telegraph-Rockridge Area), an AC Transit representative, and other higher density proponents objected to what they termed"downzonings." (They were not, technically, downzonings because the underlying zoning was not made more restrictive. In fact, in most cases the zoning revisions provided more options and promoted increased density over the current property uses.)

The final public hearing became a face-off between the Broadway property owners and ULTRA supporters on one side, and other North Oakland community groups on the other, including RCPC, PANIL (Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League), and STAND (Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development), and residents along Broadway and Telegraph.

The council eventually voted to keep Brunner's compromise height map. The full zoning maps, including a separate height map, are available on the city's website at http://oaklandnet.com/zoningupdate.

The next phase of the zoning update will look at more specialized regulations, including parking requirements and the city's local density bonus ordinance, and more site-specific "overlay" districts to deal with special situations such as protecting College Avenue's retail character. Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan, who had led the charge for increased density, signaled that the battle was not yet over. She plans to propose options for density bonus incentives beyond the affordable housing bonuses mandated by state law. Newly-elected Councilmember Libby Schaaf supported Kaplan; Brunner indicated she would be open to providing more options for density bonuses. Crucial questions will be how much, where, and under what circumstances.

In addition to his role with RCPC, Stuart Flashman is a land use attorney in private practice.

Kitchen Adaptations

from page 3

vintage floor tiles and had them installed with a wide grout joint typical of the times. Together, these thoughtful and sensitive upgrades modernize the space without sacrificing the integrity of the home's original design.

Unfortunately, some homeowners are faced with situations in which many original period details have been stripped, and part of the challenge becomes successfully reincorporating them. Such was the case for Shelly Fierston, whose front rooms retained many of the original details of a Craftsman home, but whose kitchen had been turned into a bright white box. The large footprint of the existing kitchen was reconfigured, and a beautiful island was incorporated to provide versatility – seating for five, food prep by two cooks, and plenty of room for homework and entertaining. The warm earth tones so characteristic of Craftsman homes were returned to the space in the form of wood cabinets, soapstone counters, and quarter-sawn oak floors. Holophane glass light fixtures, a vintage map, and a salvaged school chalkboard provide the decorative elements that both personalize the space and reference earlier times.

In the end, the design and selected finishes have helped restore the Craftsman style that had been lost.

For more ideas on how to incorporate modern kitchen features while retaining architectural integrity, plan on attending the Rockridge Kitchen Tour on Sunday, October 2.

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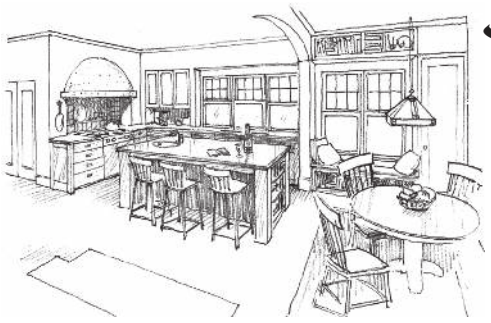
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Compiled by Jo Ellis

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Residents and business members of NCPC's 12Y and 13X areas can voice their concerns about crime and public safety. 2nd Thursday each month, 7pm. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. (at Manila). Info: chair@rockridgencpc.com.

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FOR CHILDREN

- **Toddler Story Time:** Every Saturday, 10:30am.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am.
- **Baby and Toddler Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am**, upstairs**.

Special Events:

- **MoChA Spring Afterschool Art Workshop**: craft event celebrating National Library Week. Tues, 4/12, 4pm. All ages.
- **Celebrate Children's Book Week** (5/3 – 5/7) - Children's Own Stories: Kids ages 3 - 9 dictate and illustrate your own story to be added to the library collection. Call or stop by to make a reservation for dictation time.

FOR TEENS

- **Rockridge Ninjas Anime Club**: Ages 13 and up, watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation). Second Tues. each month (4/12, 5/10), 5 to 6:30pm, upstairs meeting rm.
- **Teen Advisory Board** (ages 14-18): Help advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. Snacks provided. 1st Saturday each month, 4 to 5pm.
- **Free Comic Book Day**: Annual nationwide event on 1st Saturday of May (5/7). Get free comics and make a superhero or other comic pin. All day (while supplies last).

More info: Susy, 597-5017 or smoorhead@oaklandlibrary.org.

FOR ADULTS

- **Writers Support/Critique Group**: All writers welcome. Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced, MS margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (you're also welcome to come empty-handed). Third Saturday each month, 1 to 5pm. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywritersclub.org.) Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice and referrals.** First Tues. each month. 5 to 7pm (advance sign-up starts 4:45pm). Note: Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people are present.

ART EXHIBITS (call to confirm)

Gallery:

- Apr., **Anya Behn**: ceramic sculptures, wall hangings.
- May: Merritt College Portrait Class.

Lobby Display Case:

- Apr: **Oakland Public Library Staff** Art Display.
- May: **Diane Jacobson**: Glass works.

LIBRARY HOURS
Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sundays and Mondays

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings, Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Sun, 4/10, 3pm. **Susie Bright**: *Big Sex Little Death*.
- Mon., 4/11, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting** (2nd Monday each month): All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Tues, 4/12, 7pm. **Kate Levinson**: *Emotional Currency: A Woman's Guide to Building a Healthy Relationship with Money*.
- Thurs, 4/14, 7pm. **Noah Levine**; *The Heart of the Revolution*.
- Sun., 4/17, 3pm. **Poetry Flash: Donna de la Perriere** and **Joseph Lease**.
- Thurs, 4/21, 7pm. Local author and cartoonist **Daniel Clowes**: *Mister Wonderful*.
- Tues, 5/3, 7pm. **Geoff Dyer**: *Otherwise Known as the Human Condition*.
- Tues, 5/10, 7pm. **Sloane Crosley**: *How Did You Get This Number*.

DIESEL, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave. More info about these authors/ books (and other events and discussion groups): 653-9965 or events@dieselbookstore.com.

Woodminster Theater Auditions for Summer Musicals

Non-equity actors, singers and dancers (kids and adults) audition for "Oliver!", "My Fair Lady" and "Finian's Rainbow". Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10 only. For details and more info: www.woodminster.com or harriet@woodminster.com.

Treasures from the Attic

Sale of collectibles and unique reused items to benefit the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse's humanitarian aid program. Fri, May 6, 4-8pm. 4695 Telegraph Ave. Info: Cynthia, 387-9135 or cynthia@creativereuse.org.

10th Annual Lower Rockridge Parents Group (LRPG) Community Yard Sale

Benefit for Peralta Elementary and Claremont Middle schools. Household goods, stuff for kids and much more. Gourmet Burritos by Guerilla Grub and old fashioned bake sale. Sat., Apr. 9, 9am to 1pm. Peralta playground, Alcatraz Ave. (just east of Telegraph). Free parking at St. Augustine Church. Info: Nicole Aruda, 547-7976 or nicaruda@earthlink.net.

St. Augustine Spring Fling Fundraiser

Rummage sale: household goods, clothes, toys, books and more. Refreshments and games for kids. Sunday, 4/10, 11:30am to 3pm. 400 Alcatraz Ave (between College and Teleg.) Info: Josie Zimmermann, 415-248-6672 or josiezim@yahoo.com.

2nd Annual Claremont Middle School Pancake Breakfast

Fundraiser to support school programs and help offset reduced state funding. Saturday, 4/30; seatings at 9, 10 and 11am. Tickets: $10 (**kids under 5 free**). Rockridge Masonic Hall, 5449 College Ave. Get tickets now at www.claremontms.org. **See story p.6**.

Windows & Window Treatments to Save Energy

Free seminar on best solutions (new, replacements or retrofits) to lower utility bills. Tues, 4/25, 6:30pm. Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. Hosted by Greening Oakland Homes (a volunteer community group). Info: DeAnna, 595-1594.

Earth Day Cleanup and Picnic at Frog Park

April 16: **cleanup** from 9am to noon; **picnic** with entertainment, crafts and games from noon to 2pm. **See details: article p.6**.

North Oakland Senior Center

Programs include: Arts/crafts; health Insurance counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Groups and more.

- **Free AARP Tax Help**: every Wed., thru. Apr. 13. Make appt.in person or by phone.

Mon. – Fri., 8:30am to 4pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Subscribe to "The North Oakland Senior Times" for full schedule of classes/events, lunch menus, membership, and volunteer opportunities. Info: 597- 5085.

American Red Cross

- **Mobile Blood Drives:** During April, the Red Cross will hold a **drawing for one month's mortgage or rent payment – not to exceed $2,000** – paid by the Red Cross. (Not available at high school or college blood drives). Call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org to find a location near you.
- **Volunteer Orientations:** Tour the Oakland Blood Center. Learn to assist blood donors; deliver blood; help with special projects. Tues, 4/12 and Wed, 4/20 from 6pm – 8pm. 6230 Claremont Avenue (across from College Ave. Safeway). Learn more or sign up: Anne at 594-5165 or BlackstoneA@usa.redcross.org.

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