THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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19 April 2012 RCPC Town Hall Meeting

AGENDA

- **RCPC Board Election:** Candidates will discuss their candidacy and positions, and take questions from the community. Voting will then be open.
  ☞ See candidates' statements, page 3.
- **The Two Safeways & Other Rockridge Projects:** A look at what could be new: ☞ See page 6, top.

Vote RCPC Board: Seven Candidates, Six Slots


Bernie Baltaxe


Christopher Chin


Stuart Flashman


James Kachelmeyer


Alex Naughton

No Photo Submitted
Doug Oliver


Laura Schlichtmann

RCPC Board Election Procedures

At the RCPC Town Hall meeting Thursday, April 19, Rockridge residents may vote for RCPC board candidates. Twenty-five or more residents must vote at the meeting to establish a quorum. If the quorum is met, residents unable to attend the Town Hall may vote Saturday, April 21, in the lobby of the Rockridge library, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

☞ **Statements: Page 3**

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: rockridge.org.

RCPC Town Hall Meeting: Thursday, April 19 | 7:30-9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College at Manila

BART Plaza Construction Nears


D. Kinkead

BART board member Bob Franklin, who represents Rockridge, holds an image of the compass rose medallion to be embedded in the walkway near the BART Plaza to be built in the ivy area. The emblem symbolizes the myriad travel destinations available from the Rockridge BART station.

by Bob Franklin, BART boardmember

The renovation of Rockridge BART Plaza will finally begin construction around mid-April, nine years after being initially conceived as a community vision to improve the area under Highway 24 and the BART tracks on College Avenue.

BART, in partnership with the city of Oakland, the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), and the Rockridge District Association (RDA), awarded the contract for the project last winter to Golden Bay Construction.

New benches will be added

▸ BART Plaza, page 5

Join FROG's Earth Day and 10th Anniversary Celebration


Big Build volunteers celebrate their progress at Hardy Park.
Photo/Bill Caldwell

April 21 — A Look Back: The Frog Park Big Build A Look Ahead: Frog Park Anniversary

What: FROG Earth Day maintenance and family-friendly 10th Anniversary Celebration and Earth Day clean-up.
Where: "Big Frog" grassy area at the end of Hardy Street
When: Saturday, April 21; Clean-up: 9 a.m.–Noon; **Celebration:** 12 noon – 2 p.m.: Juggler, magician, face painting, games, crafts, food trucks and more.
Who: Everyone is invited. Big Build volunteers and other volunteers: plan to join us to celebrate this milestone. E-mail info@frogpark.org for more information or to offer help on the organizing committee. ☞ **More details and FROG News: Page 9**

Pastor Casts Bread Upon Parishioners



A few of the St. Augustine parishioners participating in a reverse collection to raise funds for a Kenyan orphanage gather on the steps of the church with Father Mark Wiesner, right rear. Fr. Mark reports the seed money for the project has already been reimbursed by parishioner fund-raising projects.

by Don Kinkead

When the collection baskets were passed at St. Augustine Church one recent Sunday, parishioners were surprised to hear Father Mark Wiesner invite them to take from the basket rather than add to it.

There for the taking were small, unlabeled envelopes containing from $15 to $100 each and a letter asking parishioners to "apply creativity, ingenuity and cleverness to multiply and return" the funds for construction of a dormitory for Kenyan orphans. Fr. Mark calls it a reverse collection.

It all began in September 2011, when Fr. Mark spent 18 days in Africa at the invitation of Father Gilbert, an African cleric visiting St. Augustine, located at Alcatraz and Colby.

In his visits to Kenyan leprosy clinics, missions, and hospitals, Fr. Mark saw many areas of great need. The Tonga Parish Mission, in an area hard-hit by the HIV-AIDS epidemic that has orphaned many children, presented a need that he thought St. Augustine could help meet.

The Tonga Parish maintains a children's care home with two dormitories housing 32 orphans, a fraction of the need. In a field nearby, Fr. Mark saw a foundation for another building that could house 50 more children. However, the Tonga Parish lacked the resources to build it: about $65,000.

Funding the project seemed like an achievable goal to Fr. Mark: "I realized that our parish, our community, could really make a difference in the lives of people by funding the dormitory."

But how to raise the money? The economy has been hard on many of St. Augustine's parishioners, who are also asked by the church and the Bishop's Appeal for additional giving, while living expenses in general continue to rise.

The answer came via a story on the radio about a Baptist church in Texas that had held a reverse collection, starting with $30,000 given to members who returned $150,000 in five weeks.

"I knew we had to build the building. That radio program told me how we actually could," said Fr. Mark.

He withdrew $12,100 from a church savings account to give to parishioners on the first Sunday of Lent. People will have

☛ **Funding an Orphanage, page 12**



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CLOSED: Sundays and Mondays. and Saturday, 4/14.
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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- 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?

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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.

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☛ **May 5, 2012**
☛ **May deadline is April 19, 2012.**
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 Election 2012: Statements of RCPC Board Candidates

Bernard Baltaxe
63rd Street



My name is Bernard Baltaxe and I am running for the Board because I am impressed with this organization and I want to help it shape the future of Rockridge and Oakland. I am a lawyer that represents employees in workers' compensation cases. I am a member of the Board of Governors of the California Applicant Attorneys' Association and spend significant time advocating for workers' rights to our State Assembly Members and Senators. I also feel strongly about keeping Rockridge and Oakland the great place that it is and even making it better.

My wife and I moved to Rockridge six years ago from San Francisco because we liked the family and progressive atmosphere. We heard about RCPC, but found out that our house was just outside the boundary. Fortunately for us, the boundary has been expanded to include us and we are eager to give back.

Christopher Chin
Incumbent



Christopher Chin has lived in Rockridge for the past twelve years, and in the East Bay for twenty-five years. While he has an engineering degree from U.C. Berkeley, he spent many years after graduation working for the University on its IT systems and infrastructure, including helping to set up the campus-wide wireless network.

Christopher's avid interest in SCUBA diving led him to underwater cinematography and ocean conservation, and he went on to found The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education (COARE), where he serves as its executive director. Christopher joined the RCPC Board because he wanted to give something back to his community, and is particularly interested in promoting better communication and participation within the Rockridge community.

Douglas Oliver
Broadway Terrace

Please vote for Douglas Oliver in the RCPC Board of Directors election.

He has degrees in anthropology and architecture, and is an associate at a local architecture and planning firm. Committed to environmental and social issues, he has earned a Leadership of Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accreditation and worked with Architecture for Humanity in the "Rebuilding Haiti" program.

His extensive professional experience designing communities around the Bay Area has enabled him to recognize characteristics that create better neighborhoods and to offer perceptive observations that provide unique points of view. He believes in facing and evaluating issues in a holistic manner with long term vision and an open mind.

His goals are to:

- Enhance and protect the small-grained character of our neighborhood,
- Protect the environment with sustainable planning,
- Represent and integrate Rockridge as a part of the community in the Bay Area.

With his relevant experience, integrated holistic perspectives, and the desire to contribute, he will be a valuable addition to the board.

Stuart Flashman
Ocean View
Incumbent



Much has changed since I moved to Rockridge in 1992, but it remains a good place to live. I'm now seeking my third term on the RCPC Board to continue working to protect and improve Rockridge.

As a land use attorney, I know that zoning has a lot to do with Rockridge's success. While development can bring benefits, College Avenue's limited traffic capacity means careless development can be disastrous. That's why I've opposed Safeway's oversized expansion plans for its College Avenue store. By contrast, the Rockridge Shopping Center could and should be made more of a center for the North Oakland community.

But RCPC is more than development issues. We support our schools, library, parks, and public safety. We work with local merchants to keep Rockridge a thriving commercial and residential community. Your vote in this election will keep Rockridge moving forward.

James Kachelmeyer
Claremont Avenue
Incumbent



James Kachelmeyer, a Claremont Avenue resident, has served on RCPC since July 2011. After moving to Rockridge in June 2010, he quickly grew to love the neighborhood and volunteered to be a block captain for The Rockridge News. Today he sees his role on the Board as an advocate for the younger residents of Rockridge, including the community's many U.C. Berkeley students, and if elected he plans to push for affordable shopping and dining alternatives, improved transit and bike connections, and stronger ties with the University. James holds a B.A. from the University of Texas and an M.A. in economics from Fordham University. He works for CCIG, an Oakland real estate development and brokerage firm, where he is involved with the Oakland Army Base redevelopment project. His wife is in her first year of a Ph.D. program at U.C. Berkeley, so he looks forward to calling Rockridge home for a while.

Alex Naughton
Taft Street
Incumbent



I would very much appreciate the opportunity to continue serving on the RCPC Board of Directors. This will be my second term, and I feel there

Board Candidates, page 4

RCPC Land Use Committee

The RCPC Land Use Committee generally meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Rockridge Branch Library, Upstairs Meeting Room, 7:30 p.m. *Change: Next meeting: April 26. *Subject to change. Check* rockridge.org *the preceding week for the full meeting agenda.*

Committee Notes: The next meeting of the RCPC Land Use Committee is April 26, the fourth Thursday of April (**note change of date**), 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library. Agenda topics include updates on the Rockridge Shopping Center and College Avenue Safeway projects. Contact Stu Flashman, 652-5373 or chair@rockridge.org, for a copy of the agenda. Land use committee meetings are generally open to the public. **Note:** there will be an executive session for committee members only at the end of this meeting.

Land Use Update as of March 28

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

- **College Avenue Safeway Shopping Center Project College & Claremont Avenues**

City staff and consultants continue to review and revise the roughly 2,000 page administrative draft of comment and response documents for this 62,000 sq. ft. proposed project, which would replace Safeway's current 22,500 sq. ft. store. Committee members noted there had been additional traffic measurements on College Avenue. The committee felt that neither traffic issues nor toxics problems had been adequately addressed in the draft EIR and that the proper course would be to recirculate the revised document for additional public comment. RCPC is retaining legal counsel to advise it.

- **Rockridge Shopping Center Rebuild Project Broadway & Pleasant Valley**

The release date for the Draft EIR on this 292,000 sq. ft rebuild/expansion proposal (put forward by Safeway, the master tenant at the site) has again been pushed back. The DEIR might now be released in late summer or fall. The lease for the shopping center's CVS store has been extended to the end of 2012. CVS's management says they will be restocking some areas, but it appears many of the most popular departments, including hardware, housewares, and fabrics, have been permanently eliminated or greatly scaled back.

Representatives of RCPC and other North Oakland neighborhood groups hope to meet soon with Safeway's management to discuss concerns and issues still needing to be addressed in Safeway's proposal.

- **Rockridge Montessori School Expansion Project 5610 Broadway, and**
- **College Preparatory School Expansion Project 6100 Broadway**

These two private school expansion projects along Broadway would each potentially add traffic, especially morning traffic at the already-congested Broadway/Keith/Patton intersection. Impacted now by the Chabot Elementary School expansion, that intersection will be affected even more by the Caldecott Improvement Project. While RCPC has not yet expressed an opinion on either project, it has submitted comments on both projects asking that cumulative traffic impacts along Broadway be addressed before either project is considered for approval.

The city planner for the Montessori project is Ulla-Britt Jonsson (ujonsson@oaklandnet.com, 238-3322); for the College Preparatory School, it is Aubrey Rose (arose@oaklandnet.com, 238-2071).

Land Use Committee, page 14

Board Candidates

from page 3

is important work to continue. I am looking forward to continuing as the Board's Liaison to the FROG committee, and contributing as the RCPC Board's alternate representative to the Fourth Bore Coalition. If elected, I will work to effectively represent the concerns of Rockridge with particular attention to my neighbors "above" Broadway. Thank you.

Laura Schlichtmann

Clifton Street

Incumbent



Appointed to an RCPC board vacancy early this year, I have time and commitment available to serve as a board member, and ask for your vote to let me continue working with the board on issues important to Rockridge.

A fuller statement of my interest and background appeared in February's Rockridge News. The gist: I moved back to Rockridge last year after a decade across the Bay, am now retired and eager to volunteer for Rockridge and Oakland, and see working on the RCPC board as reciprocity for the service of other board members in the past.

Besides my law background, I did graduate work in urban planning, worked in state government for ten years, and have varied experience in dispute resolution.

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3rd Annual Pancake Breakfast: Support Claremont Middle School

April 21, Rockridge Masonic Hall

The Oakland-Durant-Rockridge Masonic Lodge #188, Claremont Middle School PTA Dad's Club, and the Rockridge District Association (RDA) are jointly hosting the Third Annual Community Pancake Breakfast at the Rockridge Masonic Hall, 5449 College Avenue, Saturday, April 21. Proceeds from the breakfast support music and fine arts programs and the modern computer lab at Claremont Middle School, a part of the College Avenue community since 1913.

The menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee and tea. Event tickets are $10 (with a small transaction fee added when purchased online). Tickets are limited and time specific, so purchase yours early. There will be four seatings.

In addition to breakfast, the event opens the meticulously maintained 1926 interior of one of the most prominent buildings on lower College Avenue to diners.

Claremont School musicians will perform in the second floor lounge of the hall under the direction of music teacher Renae Briggs.



/Carroll Moore

College Avenue merchants Claudette Black of Agatha Rainford, left, and Lynne Bosko of Bosko's Picture Framing and Gallery dig into their generous pancake platters during the 2011 Pancake Breakfast. Behind them, neighborhood parents and children finish their breakfasts. Tickets can be purchased online or by check through the school.

Generous contributions of time and food from the Masons permit all breakfast proceeds to be contributed to Claremont programs. This event raised $5,000 for the school last year.

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

■ Get your tickets now for the Pancake Breakfast:

1) Purchase tickets online via www.claremontms.org. The Pancake Breakfast link (about the middle of the page) will take you to the website.

2) Pay by check payable to Claremont Middle School PTA. Note on the check that it is for the pancake breakfast and what seating – 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., or 11 a.m. – you would like to attend. Mail your check to – or drop it off at – Claremont Middle School, 5750 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618. Checks should be placed in an envelope labeled Claremont Middle School Breakfast. Your name will be placed on the guest list.

3) Contact Patrick Zak at patrickzak@ymail.com to purchase tickets directly.

■ Things to note

• The date (April 21); • choice of one of four seatings (8, 9, 10 and 11); • the cost ($10 if purchased in advance, $12 at the door); and, • the menu.

Claremont Middle School Art Exhibited on College



/Carroll Moore

by Carroll Moore, for the Claremont Dad's Club

Beautiful drawings by Claremont Middle School students are on display in storefront windows of the Rockridge Masonic Lodge, 5449 College Avenue, featuring work by Claremont students Anthony Beron, Eli Parker, Henry Moore, Julia Thao, Kayloni Killingsworth, Sylvie Rogers, Tess Falkner-Kenny and Unique Smith. All are in the school's art program led by teacher John Broussard and financially supported by the Claremont PTA.



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BART Plaza

from page 1

along the perimeter of a reconfigured planter, where the ivy is now. Additionally, an artistic cast iron compass rose, four feet in diameter, will be placed in the plaza, as well as Sierra Granite boulders, which will form a "rock ridge."

BART will also be repairing some tripping hazards in the concrete caused by the roots of the London Plane tree on College Avenue, just north of Keith Avenue.

I would like to extend a special thank you to volunteer Landscape Designer Greer Alley, who not only conceived most of the plans but has also been spending countless hours making sure all of the details of the project are being followed.

Bob Franklin, BART Board of Directors. Mail: BobFranklinBART@aol.com. Cell: 510/684-0026.



April RCPC Town Hall Forum: Safeway, and Other Projects

The Two Safeways and Other Rockridge Development Issues

The April Town Hall Meeting agenda includes updates from the RCPC Land Use Committee on the two Rockridge Safeway projects: the College/Claremont Safeway Shopping Center and the Rockridge Shopping Center rebuid/expansion project. There will be an update on the current status of the environmental review and approval processes for both projects, plus discussion of the 10 project issues put forward to Safeway by North Oakland community groups on how to improve plans for the Rockridge Shopping Center project. Other current Rockridge development issues will also be discussed.

Caldecott Settlement Projects Examined

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair

City staff and consultants joined City Council member Jane Brunner in a public meeting to discuss the first six projects included in Oakland's settlement agreement with Caltrans over the Caldecott Improvement Project, or Fourth Bore.

The goal of the meeting, held March 26 at Kaiser Elementary School, was for participants to tell the city their thoughts on these designs, before the city moves forward to the final pre-construction stage.

The settlement was reached in 2008 after Oakland had objected to the impacts a fourth bore added to the Caldecott Tunnel would have on

Caldecott, page 11

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Mystery Photo: Solved

Editor:

The photo that appears on page six of the March issue of The Rockridge News was taken at Joe Kaiser's barber shop (now the Rockridge Barber Shop) in 1947 by Fred McFeely, my father. [See photo below. – Ed.] That's Joe with the glasses and me (Jim McFeely) sitting in the barber chair, age 3. This was my first haircut.

— Jim McFeely



A young Jim McFeely sits in the Koken barber chair (fitted with a booster board) as barber Joe Kaiser gives him his first haircut. McFeely's father took the photo.

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Enduring Bonds of Rockridge

Editor:

The March edition of The Rockridge News had several smiling faces that I recognize, even though we moved from Rockridge 12 years ago. And Esther McFeely's bungalow, as pictured on the iconic Rockridge mug, faithfully appears beside our coffee pot every morning.

— Trish and Charlie West
Ashland, Oregon (formerly of Ocean View Drive)

Street Sweeper Had Finished; I Was Ticketed Anyway

Editor:

I was interested to read the article on the profitability of the "street sweeping program" in the March issue of The Rockridge News. This is in keeping with my view of it as a fund-raising program for the city, with a pleasant side effect of cleaner streets. You may view me as cynical, but I have received two tickets, parking on streets during the designated hours, but AFTER the sweeping had very obviously been done. I was stone-walled in my protest to the city. If it was truly a street sweeping program, I should never have gotten those tickets.

— Jimmy Pedersen

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Rockridge Library Friends Report

- **FORL Established as an Independent Non-Profit Organization**
- **Staffing Shifts at the Rockridge Branch**

It's been a busy few months for the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL). Along with our successful year-end fundraising effort, FORL also officially established itself as an independent, nonprofit entity. FORL formed in 1996 when the Rockridge Branch Library opened its new permanent location on College Avenue, and was soon adopted as a committee of the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC). Since then, FORL has served as advocate and supporter of the Rockridge branch.

The FORL board, through the generous donations from our community, has allocated funds to purchase needed books and periodicals; to support the summer intern and children's reading program; and has helped with maintenance and improvement of library furnishings. Over the years, with the support of our donors, FORL has filled many of the gaps created by city budget cuts.

FORL has appreciated working closely with RCPC on a variety of community projects, and has benefitted from its assistance and guidance, particularly in the early days of the organization. We feel that FORL is now prepared to operate as an independent, nonprofit entity dedicated to the needs of the Rockridge branch.

In the months ahead, we will work closely with library staff to determine immediate and longer-term needs for the branch in terms of materials and infrastructure, as well as opportunities to bring in additional programs and events of value to the Rockridge branch patrons and our community. If you have suggestions for FORL projects or are interested in volunteering in some of FORL's work, or if you have any feedback, please e-mail co-chair Kathy O'Neal at onealkathryn@gmail.com. Our meeting minutes are available at the Rockridge branch reference desk.

OPL Reorganizes

Our Rockridge branch has been busy as the Oakland Public Library (OPL) reorganizes to meet changing needs around the system, including the beautiful new branch at 1021 81st Avenue. Two of our librarians, Manager Pat Lichter and Children's Librarian Gay Ducey, have been temporarily assigned to other branches. Luckily, we have marvelous staff that continue to step up to lead our branch, including new acting Branch Manager Sandra Toscano, and our existing library staff who create a wonder-

Changes: FORL, page 9

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Peralta: a Feast of Spring Fun

Lower Rockridge Parents Group Holds 11th Annual Yard Sale Benefit: April 28



Bikes aplenty at the LRPG Yard Sale. Come see what else there might be.

The Lower Rockridge Parents Group (LRPG) will hold its annual Community Yard & Bake Sale, proceeds of which benefit Peralta Elementary and Claremont Middle Schools. The sale takes place on the Peralta School playground (Alcatraz Avenue between Telegraph Avenue and Dana Street) Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The LRPG Yard Sale has grown to become a great opportunity for friends and neighbors to do some spring cleaning, shop for great stuff, meet new friends, catch up with old friends, and/or have a coffee and brownie in one of Peralta's many gardens.

Unlike any other, this yard sale is one of the East Bay's largest and has raised over $33,000 to help support our neighborhood public schools. There is always an abundance of great stuff: baby clothes and equipment, toys, bikes galore, sports equipment, furniture, household goods, pet supplies, tools, art, music, books and more.

Donate, volunteer, shop and enjoy: We'll see you there!

If you have questions and/or want to donate or volunteer, contact lowerrockridgeparents@yahoo.com or call Nicole at 510/547-7976.

Coming to Peralta in May

Peralta in Bloom: Community Fair, May 12



Clara Brownstein and Abigail Zhen Lamoreaux enjoyed their new faces at Peralta in Bloom 2011. More fun at the 2012 annual spring fest, May 12.
/Daniel Brownstein

Eyes on Rockridge

Shaking Up a Neighborhood for Its Own Good

by Judith Doner Berne

'We've got to put together an emergency kit," I said to my daughter for the umpteenth time.

But it's been nine months since we moved to Rockridge and neither my daughter Deborah, who lives with her family a couple of miles away, nor her dad and I have done much about it.

Oh yes, we did the retrofit before we moved in.

And I have a flashlight, a set of keys and an extra pair of contact lenses (I just put those there) in my bedside table. I try to keep a six-pack of bottled water in the pantry.

Lame, I know.

That's why I'm hoping that Roberta Stern's enthusiasm and persistence in organizing and educating her Ocean View Drive block will have a domino effect.

"It just takes one person to get something started," says Stern, a Rockridge resident since 1985.

But even though she experienced the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake and the 1991 Berkeley and Oakland Hills fires up close and personal, it took viewing television footage of last year's Japanese earthquake to shake her into action. "I realized that I had to come out of denial and complacency," Stern says. And, "maybe it's that I'm older and also wanted to connect with the people around me."



Emma Haft, Roberta Stern and Matthew Duplessis feel better prepared for an emergency, partly because Haft and Duplessis have stratigically-filled backpacks and Stern keeps keys, whistle and flashlight at her bedside.

Obviously, she wasn't just thinking about making her own preparations to meet emergencies but also about rallying her neighbors.

It helped that "I saw my cousin organize her neighborhood." Also, that "I'm a social worker to begin with. I'm used to connecting people."

Still, "It was overwhelming," she says.

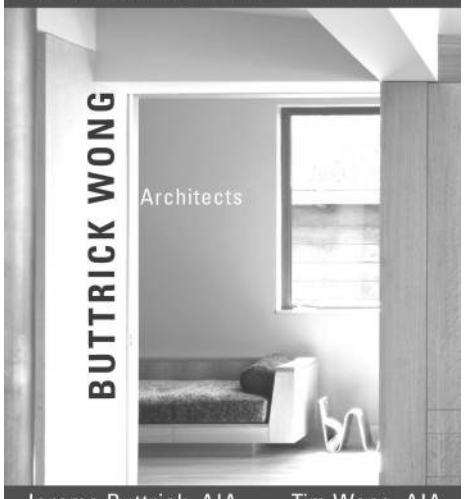
It was a happy discovery that the city offered free training sessions through its CORE (Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies) program, run by the Oakland Fire Department Office of Emergency Services. But, apparently what was happening in Japan prompted a surge of interest in the program, so it wasn't until October that CORE volunteer Ben Hamburg presented the first of his two two-hour-plus seminars to the requisite number of people.

According to Stern, "It was a bit of a process to schedule the training. But I found out that if you had 15 people, they'd come to you. I went door to door with flyers – and got some response. But there was also a certain amount of lethargy."

CORE sessions teach self-reliance skills and help neighborhoods establish response

Shake It Up, page 13

local sustainable residential architecture



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Changes: FORL

from page 7

ful environment for all our patrons. We will miss Pat and Gay, and hope they will be back at home in our branch soon.

FORL Seeks Board Members

FORL seeks to fill two board positions. We have a specific interest in bringing on board members with legal or accounting expertise – although we have outside, independent support for these functions as well, so you won't be asked to do our books or write a brief! The most important element our board members bring, however, is a passion for libraries and community.

Please e-mail Kathy O'Neal (onealkathryn@gmail.com) or Carol Bieri (cgbieri@gmail.com) of your interest.

— The FORL board

Celebrate FROG

In October 2001, more than 1,300 volunteers from Rockridge and nearby neighborhoods joined together to work for 10 days from dawn until after dark to build Frog Park's custom-designed play structures in what was called the Big Build.

Up to that time, the area had been a neglected, mostly fenced and heavily weeded patch of land with dilapidated basketball courts, all located under a heavily travelled freeway.

After years of planning and design, the time had come for the final push to bring to life a park in Rockridge. Community volunteers laid hands, hammers and heart on wood, tile, painted butterflies and fencing to complete a park that is now a central community feature.

Without the dedication of the Big Build volunteers and many other dedicated Rockridge and community volunteers, there would be no Frog Park to enjoy.

We will celebrate this gift on Earth Day. **Join us Saturday, April 21, for the combined annual Earth Day maintenance activities** and to celebrate and comemorate the people who made Frog Park and the play structures possible. ***— Carol Behr, FROG chair***

Next FROG Meeting: April 12

Rockridge Library, Thursday, April 12, 7:30 p.m. Join with neighbors who care about Frog Park. ***Plus:*** We are seeking volunteers for the Earth Day and FROG anniversary celebration. E-mail info@frogpark.org

Coming FROG Events and Opportunities



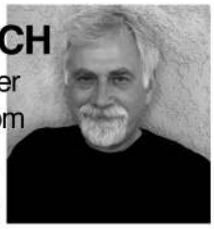
A number of FROG activities are in the 2012 pipeline, including volunteer-led park maintenance, a community survey to review and discuss park improvement priorities, and working with other community groups to implement related projects.

Also, FROG and many DMV-area neighbors continue work to respond to the unannounced tree cutting at the DMV area. Restoration plans are moving forward with the DMV; the agency has begun to plant replacements for the five trees removed from the parking lot near Miles and Cavour.

E-mail info@frogpark.org for more information and to get involved with projects that utilize your expertise or those that involve the whole family.

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Radishes Front and Center

Radishes are one of those vegetables that look so beautiful on the market shelf and yet are seldom used by home chefs. We are not immediately drawn to the sharp, peppery biting flavor of radishes. When I do use radishes, it is mainly to add color and texture to a salad.

On a recent stroll through our local farmer's market, I saw a number of lovely varieties of radishes in addition to the familiar red globes. In the U.S., radishes are usually eaten raw, but they can also be steamed, sautéed, and stir-fried. The green tops are edible and offer a peppery taste to salads. I began to wonder how, other than as a color splash, other varieties can be prepared to add a bit of zip to a dish.

Radish varieties are generally categorized by color and shape. Black radishes have a rough black skin with a hot-flavored white flesh and are found in both round and elongated forms. Often sold in Russian or Polish neighborhoods, black radishes are typically served in Russian and Polish dishes.

One upscale preparation that is sure to impress is to arrange black radishes in a small dish accompanied by a variety of coarse salts for dipping – such as smoked sea salt, Hawaiian pink salt, and French gray salt – very Russian. The combination of the peppery radish and salt makes a nice before-dinner appetizer.

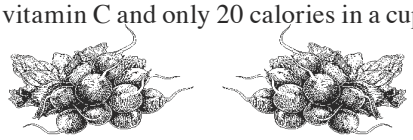
Daikon radishes are native to Asia and are cucumber shaped. Their white flesh is juicy and hotter than red globes but milder than black ones. Daikons are prepared for numerous Japanese salads and soups. They can be steamed with shredded carrots and dressed with Asian vinaigrette made with rice wine vinegar and sesame oil.

A somewhat new variety on the scene is the watermelon radish. Watermelon radishes are slightly larger than the traditional red globe with a green outer skin and pink to red flesh radiating out from the center – so beautiful. I like to cut them into thin rounds and then semi-circles to resemble tiny watermelons to garnish a green salad. The color contrast is wonderful.

Finally, there is the French breakfast or icicle radish. They are shaped like small carrots with a mild and juicy taste. French breakfast radishes spruce up any simple salad.

Most radishes are available year-round with peak season in the spring. Look for fresh, brightly colored radishes that are firm, tender, and have crisp unblemished skins. I always buy my radishes with the tops attached. Do not remove tops from radishes as they will rapidly spoil if you do. Red radishes and daikons will keep up to two weeks in the refrigerator. Black radishes can be stored for months.

The extra benefit of eating radishes is their nutritional value. They are very high in vitamin C and only 20 calories in a cup.



This month's recipe is one we enjoyed in Fez, Morocco. It is an excellent before-dinner appetizer.

Radishes with Harissa

Harissa is a North African spice blend and also found in a paste form.
It is available at the Pasta Shop.

Ingredients

4 tablespoons unsalted butter softened to room temperature
1 tablespoon harissa spice (dry preferred)
salt and pepper
2 cups of halved French breakfast radishes
1 tablespoon minced Italian flat parsley
Smoked sea salt (available at Trader Joe's)

Preparation

Combine butter and harissa in small bowl and mix until well combined. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Set aside

In a sauté pan over medium heat, sauté the radishes with a few tablespoons of water for about 3 minutes or until slightly soft. • Toss in the parsley; add salt and pepper to taste. • Add about 2 tablespoons of the harissa butter and a pinch of the smoked sea salt; cook until butter just melts. • Add additional harissa butter to taste.

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. Barry is available for cooking classes and East-bay ethnic market tours. His email is kaufman4f2@comcast.net.

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Easter Schedule

April 5, Holy Thursday 7:00p.m.
April 6, Good Friday, noon – 3:00 and 7:00p.m.
April 7, The Great Vigil, 8:30p.m.
April 8, 8:00a.m. and 10:30a.m., followed by Kenya Orphanage Fundraiser Artisan Faire and Easter egg hunt.

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BRT on Telegraph Meets Skeptical Audience

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair

When AC Transit held its meeting on March 6 to present its proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project for Telegraph Avenue, it played host to a feisty audience that called for more of a public exchange of information than meeting planners may have had in mind.

The already controversial project would convert one traffic lane in each direction of Telegraph to dedicated bus-only lanes. The lanes would close off through access on a number of residential streets that cross Telegraph, forcing drivers going in the east-west direction to the main streets still allowing through traffic.

Also, a large number of on-street parking spaces along Telegraph would be eliminated to make room for the bus lanes and boarding stations. This has particularly alarmed Temescal District merchants, and rumblings have been heard of a possible lawsuit against AC Transit and the city if the project is approved. RCPC has expressed concern about the spill-over of the increased congestion to residential streets east of Telegraph and ultimately College Avenue.

On the positive side, the project would provide more prominent and easier to use bus stations, instead of the current bus stops, AC Transit representatives said. It would speed bus travel with pre-boarding ticket purchase and signal override so busses would not be backed-up at red lights.

After a short PowerPoint presentation explaining major elements of the project, attendees were to have clustered around tables where detailed route maps had been arrayed. AC Transit staff members were distributed throughout the room to answer questions and respond to comments. This arrangement troubled a number of vocal audience members, who demanded AC Transit allow comments to be addressed to the meeting as a whole, so everyone could hear attendees' comments and the agency's responses. A compromise was reached and a small number of comments ("requests for clarifications") were aired prior to participants gathering in smaller groups around the tables.

Permeating the entire session was the knowledge that the project's just-released Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report (FEIS/R) included a new project alternative. Dubbed the Downtown Oakland to San Leandro (or DOSL – pronounced "docile") alternative, it would extend BRT from San Leandro along International Boulevard (E. 14th Street) north to 20th Street in Oakland, just south of Grand Avenue. The existing 1 and 1R service would continue from that point north to Berkeley.

While the DOSL alternative wouldn't bring major service improvements to North Oakland and Berkeley, neither would it bring the project's major impacts. Also, it would be cheaper than the full BRT project, and might actually fit within AC Transit's current budget. While there was no official confirmation, and a final decision will be made by the AC Transit board and Oakland City Council, transit staff candidly admitted that the approved project was much more likely to be DOSL than full BRT.

Watch for future AC Transit and City Council meetings, where the decisions will be made later this spring.

Caldecott

from page 6

the North Oakland community. Of the six projects, four are in the North Hills area north of Highway 24 along Tunnel Road and Caldecott Lane, while two involve the upper section of Broadway east of Brookside Road in Rockridge. The two Rockridge projects would improve the pedestrian path and add bicycle lanes along Broadway.

After the city's presentation and discussion of plans for the six projects, the meeting was opened to audience comments and questions.

Most concerns centered on the North Hills projects, especially their impacts on bicyclists. RCPC expressed concern about the loss of on-street parking spaces in the section of Broadway between Brookside and Golden Gate, which could put additional pressure on parking spaces on the residential streets.

Fact sheets on the 6 projects are available for review on the Fourth Bore Coalition's web site via: http://tinyurl.com/7yncyak.

Council Member Brunner's office also announced it would host a meeting later in the spring to begin the public process for considering whether soundwalls are warranted for some portions of Highway 24 in Rockridge. Consideration of soundwalls was another element of the settlement.

More information will be provided in the May issue of the Rockridge News.

Utilizing Law Enforcement Resources

Making it Tough on Crime: Hardening the Target

by NCPC board members

Officer Maureen Vergara, Problem Solving Officer (PSO) for Rockridge's Beat 12Y (below College Avenue), announced at the March 8 Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (GRNCPC) meeting that PSOs are able to do street security assessment and problem analysis.

Vergara said she and Jo Balaoro, Rockridge's PSO for Beat 13X (above College Avenue), and Patricia Rose, the assigned neighborhood services coordinator, could make appointments with residents to review their properties and point out areas vulnerable to thieves.

It is called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Its goal is to make the physical environment unattractive to criminals casing a neighborhood by designing or revising the design of a physical environment to decrease the ability of a criminal to commit a crime, to increase the chance that a crime would be seen by legitimate citizens, to reduce the fear of crime and to improve the quality of life.

Officer Vergara would like as many neighbors as possible to participate at the same appointment; an entire block may work together to keep thieves off its street.

Contact NSC Patricia Rose at prose@oaklandnet.com to see how you may benefit from OPD's expertise.If you do not have time to organize an appointment, the Greater Rockridge NCPC's website, rockridgencpc.com has a detailed document about CPTED. under the drop-down menu "Resources/OPD Security Brochures."

When a missing library door key almost derailed the March NCPC meeting, resourceful board members started looking for a restaurant near the library that might have a meeting room. hudson restaurant said they had a back room and would have provided it but it was already in use. Restaurant Chu, next door to the library, was able to make their upstairs area available on short notice, even serving a large tray of ice water and tea to the many meeting attendees. Frank Castro, NCPC chair, and boardmembers were pleased to note the ready generosity of hudson and of Restaurant Chu.

Funding an Orphanage

from page 2

until the Feast of Pentecost, May 25 and 26 – about 90 days overall – to develop their projects, multiply the seed money, and return the seed money and its gains to the church orphanage project.

"The excitement has been phenomenal," the pastor reported in mid-March, citing several examples:

- Four women held a garage sale on 64th Street, earning $864 without even using their seed money,
- A 10-year-old parishioner used her $25 to raise $184 with a lemonade stand. Congratulated by Fr. Mark, she said, "Oh, I'm not done yet!"
- A man bought $25 worth of candy to sell at work, raising $150, and
- Twenty parishioners are planning an artisan faire to be held on the church grounds.

Fr. Mark said, "A part of the project is to encourage the parish community to involve the wider Rockridge neighborhood," and expand the reach of the project.

It reached even further than that. A woman living back East saw the story on the church's Facebook page. Out of work, she could not contribute money, but she designed a logo for the program. People from New York, Ohio, Iowa and other states, through the PayPal portal on the church web site, contributed more than $500 toward the project in its first four days.

Excited by the response to the program — the resourcefulness participants have shown, the creativity they have unleashed, and the sense of capability they have developed — Fr. Mark is not worried about its ultimate outcome.

"Regardless of our success," the pastor said, "the good this project is already accomplishing makes it worth doing."

Visit http://www.staugustineoakland.com/index.html for more information about St. Augustine and its Kenyan orphanage project. St. Augustine also provides aid for local residents in need, offering food baskets for families and food bags for the homeless.

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3/15/12	2	1	400 Avon Street #2	$365,000	$365,000	112	$340,000
3/20/12	2	1.5	5163 Miles Avenue	$675,000	$675,000	16	$707,000
3/22/12	3	2.5	27 Clarewood Avenue	$525,000	$525,000	17	$520,000

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Shopping? Shop Oakland, First

Shake It Up

from page 8

teams until that help arrives.

"It was excellent, excellent training," Stern says. "He gave us the 'how to' on organizing the neighborhood."

Even more neighbors showed up for the second session, buoyed perhaps by the fact that "we had had a series of earthquakes," she says.

Meanwhile, Matthew Duplessis, Emma Haft, Jamie Pillers and Ken Wong signed on to be part of a neighborhood emergency preparedness committee. "Now I don't feel so alone," Stern says.

An early step was to get a roster of all the households, their e-mails and phone numbers. With approximately 50 dwellings involved, which include homeowners as well as tenants, "We are still in process," Stern says.

Another was to bring in a consultant to discuss earthquake retrofitting and automatic gas shutoff valves. "We're working on a gas safety plan for the neighborhood," Haft says. "One of the main fears is fire."

"If we can identify everyone's gas shutoff valve, we can help each other," Duplessis adds.

You could feel a definite momentum, Stern says. "It's very exciting. I have met so many people I didn't know and we also discovered a lot of people with skills in our neighborhood."

They included three doctors, a nurse, someone with firefighting training and another with construction experience. "You need to have a medical team," she says.

Another neighbor offered to store extra water and tools in his basement, for which they are collecting equipment. "It can be our control and medical center."

Haft acknowledges that having experts outline the area's vulnerability has led to some sleepless nights. But, "I feel better knowing more people on my street and that we will look out for each other."

Their communication list has already been important in publicizing some recent muggings, car thefts and a scam attempt on their street. "We have a little crime watch committee that has come out of this," Stern says. "We are also encouraging everyone to leave their porch lights on overnight."

Stern is happy to talk to anyone interested in getting an emergency preparedness program started in his or her neighborhood. You can e-mail her at rozydeco50@hotmail.com.

Getting the initial word out is hardest, Duplessis says. It might have been helpful if their neighborhood hadn't discontinued its annual block party – which there is talk of resuming. "You could have a table set up."

"The big message," Stern emphasizes, "is DON'T WAIT."

Coincidentally, CORE emergency training sessions are scheduled at the Rockridge Branch Library on the following dates in May:

- Wednesday, May 2, 6:30-9 p.m. (CORE 1),
- Wednesday, May 9, 6:30-9 p.m. (CORE 2), and
- Wednesdays, May 16, 23 and 30, 6-9 p.m. (CORE 3; A, B, and C).
- Note: A CORE 3 Hands-On class will be held Saturday, June 2, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at the OFD training facility, 250 Victory Court.

For specifics, and to enroll, call the CORE program at 510/238-6351, visit its website at www.oaklandcore.org or e-mail core@oaklandnet.com.

I just might see you there.

Judy Berne was a writer, columnist and editor for local newspapers in metro Detroit. Since moving here in 2011, she has been learning about Rockridge from its residents. Her e-mail is judyberne@att.net.









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Land Use Cmte.

from page 4

■ **21st Amendment Beer Emporium (name subject to change): 5330 College Avenue**

The owners of the 21st Amendment Brewery bar and restaurant in San Francisco, who already have their offices on the second floor at this Oakland address, propose a store to sell exotic and micro-brewed beers on the first floor. According to co-owner Shawn O'Sullivan (shaun@21st-Amendment.com) who attended the meeting, the operation would be similar to that of wine shops that allow tasting, rather than being a conventional bar. The business would feature a beer-tasting area where customers could open and drink some of the beer they had bought and sample unusual beers on tap and available in 6-ounce servings for tasting.

The business would need permits from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission and a minor conditional use permit from the city. No applications have been submitted. The Committee strongly suggested that the owners discuss the proposal with their College Avenue neighbors, and with Bryant Avenue residents, before moving forward. After discussion, the Committee voted to recommend that RCPC not oppose the proposal. The recommendation will be considered by the RCPC board at its April meeting.



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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. Confirm mtg. date at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN

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- **Family Story Time**: Stories/songs/rhymes (to age 5). Every Saturday, 10:30am.

SPECIAL EVENT:

- **Dia de los Ninos & Dia de los Libros**: Bilingual music concert by **Chiquy Boom** to celebrate children's reading. Saturday, 4/28. Festivities begin at 4:00, with a free book give-away, snacks, and doing a simple craft. Concert starts at 4:30.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Advisory Board:** (ages 14-18) Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. **Snacks provided.** 1st Saturday each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Rockridge Ninjas Anime Club**: Watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation). Second Tues. each month (4/10), 5 to 6:30pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **Writers Support/Critique Group**: All writers welcome. Bring 17 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced, MS margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (also welcome to come empty-handed). **Note day and time change for April: 4th Saturday, noon to 4pm**. 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 at the adult reference desk). **Note**: volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present.
- **East Bay Chronic Pain Group**: 1st and 3rd Tues. each month from 3pm to 5pm. **Free**. Susan Malley: 655-3278 or susanmalley@yahoo.com.
- **Jack Norris**: Discussion and book signing of *Vegan for Life*. Tues, 4/17, 6:30-8pm.

ART EXHIBITS (CALL TO CONFIRM)

Gallery:

Apr: **Rick Nelson**; Photography; Color photos of pottery and sculpture.

May: **Sherry Qwint-Cattoche**; Merritt College; figure drawing.

Lobby Display Case:

Apr: **Kim Anderson**; "Adornment;" originally crafted jewelry.

May: **Rob Anderson**; Atelier student work

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sundays and Mondays.
Also: All branch libraries **closed Sat, 4/14**.
Note: due to possible shut-downs, confirm all dates.

Diesel Book/Readings and Events

All events FREE and open to the public.

- Mon, 4/9, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting (2nd Mon. each month)**: All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Thurs, 4/12, 7pm. Publication Party for local author and KPFA radio host **Chana Wilson**: *Riding Fury Home: a Memoir.*
- Fri, 4/13, 7pm. Publication Party **Lisa Nola**: *Film Listography: Your Life in Movie Lists,* with **Jon Stich**, featured illustrator (and former Diesel manager).
- Wed, 4/18, 7pm. Local videogame critic and designer **Anna Anthropy**: *Rise of the Videogame Zinesters*.
- Thurs, 4/19, 7pm. Only Calif. appearance of all-time Jeopardy! Champion **Ken Jennings**: *Maphead*.
- Fri, 4/20, 7pm. Publication Party for local author **Diana McRae**: *Deerhaven Pines*.
- Thurs, 4/26, 7pm. Poetry reading with **Alice Jones** and **Stephen Motika**.
- Sun, 4/29, 3pm. Local author/poet and KPFA journalist **Dennis Bernstein**: *Special Ed: Voices from a Hidden Classroom*.

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

Rockridge Market Hall

Presents "**Closer to Home**," an afternoon of events dedicated to backyard farms and local food artisans. Food tastings; demos; honey harvesting; product making secrets and more; Nigerian goat petting zoo; panel discussion/ book signing with the authors of *The Essential Urban Farmer*. Sat., 4/21, noon to 4pm. 5655 College Ave. Info and events schedule: 510/250-6011 or www.rockridgemarkethall.com.

Calif. College of the Arts (CCA) Spring Fair

Shop for one-of-a-kind, affordable gifts made by students, alumni and staff: ceramics, blown glass, jewelry, clothing, photos, textiles, paintings and more. **Live jazz music and tasty treats**. Saturday, 4/21, 11am to 3pm. CCA campus, 5212 B'way (at College Ave), main walkway. Info: 415/703-9571, 594-3600 or glee@cca.edu.

Square Dance in North Oakland

Music by **The Squirrelly String Band**. Calling by J**ordan Ruyle** (with occasional guest performers). **1st and 3rd Fridays**, 8-10pm. All levels welcome; all dances taught on the spot. $5-10 sliding scale donation. The Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. Info: http://squirrellystringband.com.

Wisteria Ways House Concert

Janam ("My Soul"): a compelling mix of Balkan, Romani, Turkish, Sephardic and American roots music & originals. Sat., Apr 14, 8pm; doors open 7:30pm (inside venue; not wheelchair accessible). Artists' info at www.janamband.com. $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

11th Annual Community Yard and Bake Sale

Lower Rockridge Parents Group (LRPG) **benefit for Peralta Elementary and Claremont Middle Schools**. Saturday, 4/28, 9am to 1pm. Peralta school playground, 460 63rd St. (on Alcatraz, one-half block east of Teleg.). Donations are still welcome: email Heather at grillmeyer@sbcglobal.net. See article, page 7.

Temescal Farmers' Market

Open Sundays, 9am to 1pm (all year). Locally grown fruits and vegetables; fresh ranch eggs; home-made bakery items; fresh cut flowers; unique prepared foods, fresh locally caught fish, handcrafts and more. Sample the goods; meet the grower; learn about unique food varieties and cooking tips; and listen to live music. **Bring your own reusable bags. 5300 Claremont Ave**. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot. More info about Certified Farmers' Markets at www.urbanvillageonline.com.

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There continues to be even bigger crowds at our Rockridge listings in March. The market is currently underserved with actively available homes in Rockridge. Again if you are thinking about selling any time soon please call me for a free evaluation of your home 510-547-5970 e55 or ronkriss@JPS.Net.

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