THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 4123 Broadway, PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94611 • 869-4200

Rockridge Kitchen Tour: How You Can Help

by: Natalie Mehta

Mark your calendar now: the Rockridge Kitchen Tour will be held Sunday, September 29.

This RCPC biennial fundraiser 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 and is looking for more recommendations to ensure the tour features kitchens in a variety of styles, sizes, and budgets that will inspire our guests. If you know of a beautifully renovated or remodeled kitchen, please let us know soon. The committee makes its selections in May.

■ **Spread the Word:** Ticket sales are the primary source of the fundraising, and each tour brings guests from all over the Bay Area. Help us publicize the event by sharing the date with your networks, family, and friends.

■ **Become a Sponsor or Advertiser:** Is your prime business target an audience interested in homes and renovation? Advertising and sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Natalie; see below for information.

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

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

RCPC Town Hall: Meet Councilmember Dan Kalb

An Interview With Dan Kalb

by Stuart Flashman and Don Kinkead

"It's a lot of work, about what I expected, but I'm a workaholic generally," said Dan Kalb, characterizing his first months as the City Councilmember for Council District 1 which includes Rockridge.

Kalb met late in March with RCPC board members Stuart Flashman and Don Kinkead to discuss a range of Oakland and Rockridge issues in anticipation of his attendance at the RCPC April Town Hall meeting.

For one so recently elected to public office, Kalb was at ease with the range of questions prepared by the RCPC board, discussing city-wide and Rockridge-centric issues with equal comfort and depth. He was also comfortable not answering questions on subjects he felt he needed to know more about.



Councilmember Dan Kalb /D. Kinkead

Excerpts from the interview follow:

City Operations

It was an eye-opener in his early council experiences, Kalb said, to realize the extent of the influence wielded by the city administrator over city affairs.

"Oakland has a strong-mayor system in name only," he said, referring to the arrangement put in place during Jerry Brown's mayoral terms as a "convoluted kind of hybrid." The position of the mayor, separate from the person occupying it at any one

Dan Kalb, page 13

April Election: RCPC Board of Directors

RCPC's annual election for its board of directors will be held at the April town hall meeting Thursday, April 18. Voting will follow statements by incumbents seeking reelection and new candidates seeking a board position who will discuss their interest in board service. Voting will also be held the following Saturday for those residents unable to attend the town hall session. Residents will be asked to confirm a Rockridge address within RCPC boundaries, and should therefore bring a driver's license or DMV ID card showing their address. See bottom of page 3 for further details.

18 AGENDA: RCPC Town Hall Meeting, April 18

■ **Meet Dan Kalb**

• **New District 1 Councilmember Dan Kalb** is the featured speaker at the April RCPC Town Hall meeting. Come hear his views on Oakland and its future, and his thoughts about Rockridge and Council District 1. For a preview, see above for Kalb's interview with RCPC's Stuart Flashman and Rockridge News Editor Don Kinkead.

■ **RCPC Board Candidates' Forum and Elections**

• **Candidates** for RCPC's board of directors will discuss their positions on Rockridge and Oakland issues and their interest in being on the board. Rockridge residents may vote at this meeting or on Saturday, April 20, at the Rockridge Branch Library between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

See more details, page 3.

Thursday, April 18 | 7:30-9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College at Manila

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.
Views expressed in Op-Ed essays do not necessarily reflect those of The Rockridge News, its editor, or the board of directors of the Rockridge Community Planning Council.

Broadway Safeway Project Ignores Neighborhood

by Rachel Grossman

The Safeway rebuilding project at Pleasant Valley and Broadway presents an opportunity to revitalize the southern part of Rockridge, connect it with nearby walkable areas such as Piedmont Avenue and Temescal, and serve as a gateway to the Broadway corridor. A successful project would require a radically different approach to the one Safeway is currently taking and that Oakland is too eagerly embracing.

Safeway's design is disconnected from the fabric of the Rockridge neighborhood and completely automobile-oriented. It will substantially increase traffic and pollution without providing any significant civic asset. Is there a garden in the project? A dedicated pedestrian walkway? A real plaza? Benches? A single fountain? So far, the answers are no. Instead, Safeway has presented a design where delivery bays for big box stores invade a primary pedestrian pathway.

Inward-Facing Design

The proposed design (available on the city's website or by appointment with City Planner Darin Ranelletti, 238-3663, e-mail dranelletti@oaklandnet.com) is completely inward-facing, raising a line of opaque walls along Broadway and Pleasant Valley, with few actual store fronts and entry points.

Pedestrians or bicyclists attempting to access the shopping center from the College Avenue direction and only reach an entry by crossing a hazardous driveway/street that serves as the primary entrance to the three-story parking structure.

No Viable Public Transportation

In its current form, the project fails to offer viable public transportation options. A bus stop on Broadway has been relocated to be closer to the center's shopping street, but there are no integrated bus stops or shuttles to BART stations.

The Environmental Impact Report vastly underestimates the traffic challenges that will be caused by this significantly enlarged shopping center, claiming the problem can be solved by fine-tuning the timing of a few traffic lights. It's clearly not just about the inconvenience of well over double the traffic flooding into Rockridge and adjacent areas, but it's also about the serious health problems caused by the emissions generated by cars sitting in gridlock.

Alternative: Mixed Use

As an alternative, a mixed-use project involving not only retail but also residential would be a vast improvement. There would still be significant traffic, but it would be distributed over the course of the day as a function of varied land use.

A strong design concept would also accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and those who use public transportation. It would integrate public spaces where friends, families and neighbors could meet. Modern retail design employs those principles.

Safeway and City Must Listen

Let's be honest: Safeway wants profits; the city wants tax revenue. The citizens of Rockridge should also get something positive from the new shopping center.

There's a lot we can do to improve this proposed project if we can persuade Safeway and the city to listen and to enter into respectful dialogue with the public. The approval process has been accelerated so the final vote will come in June or July of this year. Then it goes to construction. Now is the time to get involved.

Getting What You Want

What do you want to see in this project?

- Collaborate with neighbors after setting up a username and password at: www.neighborland.com/pleasantvalleysafeway
- Share opinions and ask for the documentation and transparency you expect from city government at: http://safewayrockridgedialogue.blogspot.com
- Contact District 1 Councilmember Dan Kalb: dkalb@oaklandnet.com
- Contact Dan Pryor, Safeway's vice president of communications: dan.pryor@safeway.com
- Lobby the Planning Commission for the project you want to see: http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PBN/OurOrganization/PlanningZoning/o/Commissions/index.htm

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Friday:	12 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday and Monday:	**CLOSED**

Library program details: See Calendar, page 15.

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded in 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly in Oakland and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (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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Theresa Nelson.....Neighborhood Merchant
Susan Montauk.....Business Manager
Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout

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Contact the board: chair@rockridge.org
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To subscribe to ***The Rockridge News***, send your check for $20, payable to *Rockridge News* Subscriptions, to: *Rockridge News* Subscriptions at the address below.

Contacting *The Rockridge News*

- Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in ***The Rockridge News***?
- Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
- Want to volunteer to be a ***Rockridge News*** block captain?
- Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?

Contact us at one of the following:

Editor: editor@rockridge.org
www.rockridge.org
The Rockridge News, 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/Deadline
Publication date of the next issue is:
☛ **May 4, 2013**
☛ **May deadline is April 18, 2013**
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 Financial Report Posting Delayed

Due to technical problems, publication of the Rockridge Community Planning Council's annual financial report in the April issue of The Rockridge News has been delayed. It will be published in the May 2013 newsletter.

Copies of the report will be available to the community after April 25. Residents who wish to receive a copy of the report prior to the May newsletter publication should e-mail info@rockridge.org or write to RCPC, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611.

City Releases Soundwall Study Petitions

by Victoria Eisen, Oakland Caldecott outreach coordinator

Following the process presented at the September and January RCPC Town Hall meetings and in articles in the December 2012 and January 2013 issues of The Rockridge News, the city of Oakland has released petitions that eligible property owners can use to indicate their support of further study of two potential soundwalls along eastbound and westbound SR-24 in Rockridge (see January issue for map).

If at least two-thirds of these property owners sign the petition by March 26, 2014, the studies will be funded through Oakland's $8 million Caldecott Tunnel Settlement Agreement with Caltrans. If fewer than two-thirds sign, these funds will flow to pedestrian lighting and intersection improvement projects and other potential soundwall studies.

For more information, see www.fourthbore.org or contact Oakland Caldecott outreach coordinator Victoria Eisen at victoria@eisenletunic.com or 510/525-0220.



The paint chips flaking from the pillars in the BART parking lot recently revealed a possible cause of the blight lurking beneath the surface. /D. Kinkead

RCPC Board Candidates: 2013 Election

Andrew E. Charman
Lawton Avenue



I joined the RCPC board 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, and amenable to pedestrians and cyclists.

I have served as vice-chair and chair of the 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 hope to continue to serve in these capacities.

Michael R. Kan
Keith Avenue



My name is Michael R. Kan and I've had the great opportunity to serve on the RCPC board both in an appointed and elected capacity. Serving on the RCPC board has been a great experience, working to preserve the fabric of our community and bring the issues necessary to the enhancement and preservation of our community to our neighbors.

If re-elected, I would work to continue my efforts with the RCPC board to best serve our community. Thank you.

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 helped work through the Safeway designs, and the Caltrans 4th Bore mitigations, and has worked to bring exciting projects to fruition including the BART plaza, and a DVD project for the Rockridge Library. Should I be granted another term, I look forward to working for the gains from projects to come.

Lisa McNally
62nd Street



I've lived in Rockridge for nearly three years after having lived in Piedmont for four years. I live on 62nd Street in a rare rental unit on a street of predominantly single-family homes. Civic engagement is important to me, and being a part of an historic and dynamic neighborhood planning group such as RCPC allows me to stay informed while actively contributing to my community. I believe that space informs a sense of place, with our environment affecting how we interact with others and shaping our personal development.

Greg Pasquali
Lawton Avenue



I am running for the RCPC board because I am excited to help make this

Board Candidates, page 9

RCPC Board Election Procedures

At the RCPC Town Hall meeting Thursday, April 18, five candidates – three elected incumbents and two recent appointees to previously vacated seats – will introduce themselves and describe their interest in RCPC Board service. There will then be two opportunities to vote for the candidates of your choice. Balloting will be held at the meeting on Thursday, April 18, and on Saturday, April 20, in the entryway or 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.

Gateway to History for Centennial Bash



/D. Kinkead

Possible future Claremont Middle School students strolling past the original entry gate to the school. In careless storage since the school was rebuilt, the timeworn gate is now slated for restoration. The gate's position in the original school building, pictured lower right, was inside the arched portico.

by Lyn Hikida, Claremont/Chabot parent

As Claremont Middle School celebrates its 100th birthday this year, efforts are under way to restore the historic gate that may be the last remaining piece of the original school. Claremont, along with other beautiful Oakland public schools from the early 20th century, was deemed seismically unsafe in the 1970s, when it was torn down and rebuilt.

According to Claremont parent Kristofer Brekke, who is leading the restoration campaign, the gate was saved but placed in an interior courtyard, where it deteriorated from exposure to the elements. Today, the gate stands at the corner of College Avenue and Birch Court.

Brekke is researching multiple scenarios for gate restoration, ranging from cosmetic repair and protection from further deterioration to more extensive historic preservation. To donate to the gate restoration project, visit www.claremontms.org.

Join in the Claremont Centennial Celebration

Mark your calendar for the Claremont Centennial Celebration, Saturday, June 1, 3 to 5 p.m.

Reunion festivities will take place in the garden and on the school yard, with live music, special guest speakers, birthday cake and a display of memorabilia from the school's 100-year history.



One alumna who plans to attend is Charlotte Coomber, who attended Claremont in the early 1940s. She and her junior high friends have been meeting annually for lunch for more than 30 years. "My days at Claremont were full of learning and pleasure. Now we can look forward to the next 100 years!"

If you attended Claremont and have memories, photos or memorabilia to share, please contact Claremont 8th grade parent Michelle Bilensky at mdb.pta.oakland@gmail.com.

Spread the word to family, friends, neighbors, and Claremont alumni who have moved from Rockridge. Donate to the Claremont Fund in support of our cherished school. Visit the school website at www.claremontms.org to make a donation and/or find out more about the plans.

To help with the celebration outreach and planning, contact Michelle Bilensky.

Claremont Thanks Chabot for Support

A huge thank you from the Claremont Middle School community to the Chabot School community for the support and energy shared at the March auction. Chabot families stepped up in a big way and will be sending $6,000 to enhance the Claremont Middle School music program.

This kind of support makes a very big difference and is much appreciated. The Claremont Middle School PTA Music Committee will begin immediately to put the funds to use and report back on the progress made.

2013 Tech Auction a Smashing Success

by Tech Auction Committee

Thank you to the Oakland community for supporting the 2013 "This Is It" auction, our school's most significant fundraiser.

We are pleased to report that we grossed more than $85,000, a new record. The total includes 350 tickets sold, and income from online, silent and live auctions.

We appreciate the generous donations from Rockridge businesses and residents to our auction. Your special items, food, and generous gift certificates enabled us to offer a tantalizing array of dinners, clothing, food, vacations, wine and outings to the Tech community.

Funds raised at our annual auction touch all areas of the school, from classroom support to grounds beautification, from athletics to music, and from lab supplies to technology.

Thank you to these Rockridge merchants for their generous support of the school and the auction:

- À Côté
- Arellano Salon
- Atomic Garden
- Bella Vita
- Bellissimo
- Ben 'n Nick's Bar & Grill
- Bittersweet
- Body, Mind & Spirit Massage Therapy Center
- Bosko's Picture Framing
- Breema Clinic
- Brow Lounge
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- Collins Plumbing
- Diesel Bookstore
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- La Farine
- LOOT
- Maison D'Être
- Market Hall Foods
- Moderne Eye Optometry
- Mr. John's Dog Grooming
- Namaste Yoga in Rockridge
- Oliveto Cafe & Restaurant
- Pavé
- Pegasus New & Used Books
- Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy
- Pizza Rustica Cafe
- Prez, Inc. Hair
- Rockridge Barber Shop
- Rockridge Cafe
- Seven 7 Salon, Inc.
- Spasso Coffeehouse
- Stella Karakasi
- The Pasta Shop at Rockridge Market Hall
- Toast Wine Lounge
- Tootsies Rockridge
- Trader Joe's College Avenue
- Transports
- Uzen Japanese Cuisine
- Vero for Hair
- Vino!
- Zachary's Chicago Pizza

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: Wednesday, April 24. Topics will include updates on the College Avenue Safeway and Rockridge Shopping Center projects, as well as possible discussion of the zoning ordinance's off-street parking requirement and tightening up College Avenue zoning. (*Subject to change. Check www.rockridge.org for updates.)*

■ **Land Use Meeting Agendas:** Contact Stuart Flashman (652-5373 or e-mail stuflash@aol.com) for a copy of the current Land Use Committee meeting agenda.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ College Avenue Safeway Project: College & Claremont Avenues

This project was approved by the City Council last December, with the final project a result of a settlement negotiated between Safeway and neighborhood groups (including RCPC). Safeway is now in the midst of converting the pretty pictures presented to the City Council into the working drawings that will guide the actual construction. The settlement agreement calls for periodic meetings between Safeway and the community groups as construction preparations move forward to ensure that any last-minute changes in the project don't take the community by surprise. The first group of drawings have just been released, and, at first glance, don't appear to contain anything alarming. However, the architects in the groups will review them carefully.

Construction of the project will probably begin towards the end of 2013, and is expected to last about a year.

■ Rockridge Shopping Center: Rebuild and Expansion Project, Broadway & Pleasant Valley Avenue

This project would, in three phases, replace the current shopping center with an expanded center, enlarging the Safeway from 50,000 to 65,000 sq. ft. and adding 120,000 sq.ft. of retail and office space. The comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) closed last month, and the city and its consultants are now working on preparing responses to the many comments received.

Representatives of RCPC, Piedmont Avenue, and Temescal community groups met with our new council member, Dan Kalb, and with Darin Ranelletti (238-3663, dranelletti@oaklandnet.com), the planner handling the project, to discuss community concerns and how the Final EIR will address them. Two topics were uppermost – housing and traffic.

Safeway's master lease with the owner of the shopping center property prohibits any residential use on the site. All the community groups, and several planning commissioners, felt this was unfortunate, and that the community would be better served if the project included a residential component. Council member Kalb has promised to try to arrange a meeting with the property owner to discuss whether the prohibition against residences can be modified.

Of the many traffic concerns raised by the project, perhaps the most important has been the prospect of increased cut-through traffic on nearby residential streets. The Draft EIR dismissed ▸ *Land Use*, page 9

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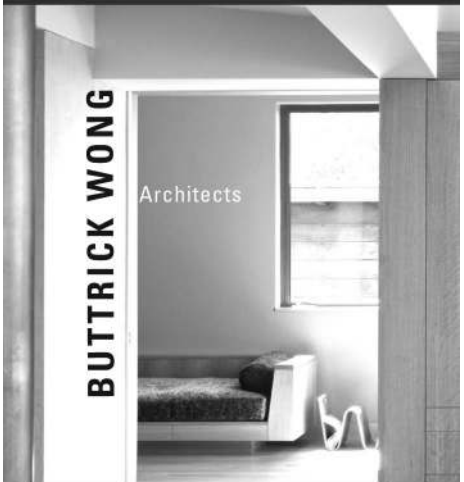
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Rendering of DaVita landscaping proposal/Courtesy Scenic Streets (File)

DaVita Edges Closer to Landscape Renovations

by Sean Riley, Local Resident

DaVita Dialyisis Corporation hopes to break ground on landscaping renovations to its Claremont Avenue facility this summer, according to Peter Lund, founder of Scenic Streets, a local volunteer group.

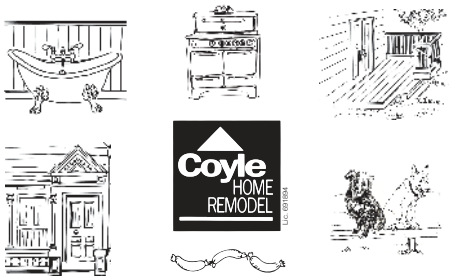
Scenic Streets has been negotiating improvements to the prominent property at the corner of Clifton Street and Claremont for nearly two years. The removal of blight and addition of greenery promised by DaVita last summer remain eagerly anticipated by local residents and businesses.

Lund reports that DaVita claims to have provided property owner Jim Falaschi of Transbay Holding with the necessary documentation several months ago. Falaschi's approval is the last significant hurdle before work can begin.

Falaschi did not return calls from The Rockridge News regarding the status of the paperwork.

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The Rockridge News welcomes letters to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and city/neighborhood must be included for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity at the editor's discretion. Views expressed in any letter are the writer's own, and may not necessarily be shared by the editor, or by RCPC.

Safeway Ad Banners Don't Fit
Editor:

I recently noticed the tall banners that have gone up around Safeway advertising their gas promotion with Chevron. I think they are totally hideous and out of synch with both the aesthetics and signage of our neighborhood.



I spoke with the store manager. She said there's nothing she can do about it, and the signs will be up for the next four months. If you are like me and think these should go away much sooner than that, here are some people to contact:

- **George Arias,** Safeway district manager (covering our Rockridge/ College Avenue store): 925/516-7137
- **Wendy Gutshall,** Safeway Public Affairs for Northern California: 925/467-3000, or e-mail: wendy.gutshall@safeway.com

I'm also going to be in touch with the Planning Department to see if Safeway has a permit for these signs. (And, if they do, why was there no request for neighborhood comment?)

Thanks so much for your help in keeping our neighborhood as lovely as it can be.

— Laura Mytels

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SOLD:
• 2BD, 2BA @ 5335 Lawton Ave, Chabot Dist. w/ FP, large bonus room, yard, garage. Sold @ $870,000.

COMING SOON:
• 2BD, 2BA in Peralta School Dist. w/ cute detached art/work studio.

NEEDED
• Any and all properties. There is a shortage of supply in all size homes and investment properties.



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Lower Rockridge Parents Group Sets 12th Annual Community Sale

The Lower Rockridge Parents Group (LRPG) holds its annual Community Yard & Bake Sale Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The sale, proceeds of which benefit Peralta Elementary and Claremont Middle schools, is held on the Peralta School playground on Alcatraz Avenue between Telegraph Avenue and Dana Street.

LRPG was founded in 2001 by three neighborhood moms who had two specific goals in mind: to build community support for Peralta, their neighborhood elementary public school, and to increase the general level of community within the Lower Rockridge neighborhood.

One LRPG event has become an annual rite of spring – the Annual Community Yard Sale Benefit. The event is 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 coffee and a brownie in one of Peralta's many gardens.

This Yard Sale is like no other – it's one of the East Bay's largest and has raised over $38,000 to help support our neighborhood

Peralta Yard Sale, page 9

Rockridge's New BART Rep Has Change in Mind for Trains and Board

by Rebecca Saltzman

My name is Rebecca Saltzman, and I am the recently elected BART Board Member for District 3, which includes Rockridge.

I'm excited to represent Rockridge on the board. For five years, I lived a short walk away from the Rockridge BART station and used it frequently.

I have advocated for transit, bicycle, and pedestrian issues in Oakland and the East Bay for many years. When I'm not at BART, I'm Government Affairs Manager for the California League of Conservation Voters, where I help pass state laws protecting our transit systems and environment.

It's an exciting but also a challenging time at BART. Ridership is rapidly growing, approaching 400,000 average weekday ridership. The system is more than 40 years old, and growing ridership is stressing BART infrastructure. To keep BART reliable, we need to reinvest in our aging system. BART has billions of dollars in capital replacement and improvement needs. Our biggest needs



District 3 BART rep Rebecca Saltzman wants to improve connections between BART and ACTransit.

/R. Saltzman

are purchasing new rail cars, replacing the train control system, and expanding the Hayward maintenance facility.

Reinvesting in our core system is my number one priority as a BART director. I am also working to increase access to the BART board and our decisions. I have proposed holding board meetings in the evenings, when working people can attend, and the board will address this proposal soon. I want to make it easier to access BART board materials online.

Another one of my priorities is improving access to BART stations, particularly by increasing transit, bike, and pedestrian connections. I will be working with AC Transit to improve connections between buses and BART.

I'm thrilled about the new Rockridge BART plaza, which connects the BART station to the surrounding neighborhood and adds inviting public open space. I greatly appreciate the hard work and the vision of the Rockridge community and my predecessor, Director Bob Franklin, in making this project happen.

I will work with the Rockridge community to further improve the BART station and BART service, and I'd love to hear your ideas. Please e-mail me at RebeccaForBART@gmail.com or leave a phone message for me at 510/464-6095.

The BART board meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. in downtown Oakland. The public is invited to attend and provide comment on agenda items or general comment. You can also watch BART meetings online live or archived. Learn more about the board and its meetings at www.bart.gov/board.





A Stellar Store for Women



The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson

Stella Carakasi
5410 College Avenue | 510/658-5410
Open 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily
http://www.stellacarakasi.com/#!signature-boutique/cee5
Yarra McClure, Store Manager

The open, clean lines of the Stella Carakasi store echo the smooth and wearable styles of the clothing and accessories. Every woman I saw who entered the store was drawn to the flowing lines and interesting cut of the varied separates in organic fabrics and luscious colors.

Bearing the name of the designer Stella Carakasi, who for 20 years has had the design studio and catalog Two Star Dog, this is the signature store for her new line of clothing that combines a casual California style with a European architectural sensibility. They offer eight seasonal collections each year, with each collection building on the previous ones, allowing customers to build a wardrobe of certain basics and adding new colors and styles over time.

The fabrics are almost all soft and drape beautifully, and for spring include organic cotton, linen jersey, printed georgette, twill, Tencel® cotton, and wool-silk blends. Winter fabrics include boiled wool, alpaca, hemp and cotton sateen, and the clothing is all made in the USA. Ranging from tops, cardigans and tunics to jackets, dresses, skirts and shrugs, all the pieces work together in a variety of interesting combinations, and almost all are wash and wear.

The early spring collection included colors like Bliss (taupe), Haze (pale grey), and Aloe, a lovely green, along with black and white. Up next is the spring collection, which includes Lemongrass, Havana (a warm brown) and Apricot, along with a beautiful new print. Each collection adds seasonal colors to the neutrals and basics to build a wardrobe.

The separates all have interesting names as well. You can try on the basic Sure Thing Tee, the floaty Cloud Cover Tunic, the Ready To Wear Leggings, the long-ish After All Tunic, the simple Front Page Pants, the lined Ever After Skirt, the Headliner Tunic layering a print tunic over a chiffon under tunic, the draped Made You Look Tunic, the Day Tripper pants with inverted pleat front, and the Second to None Tunic. Many of the styles feature gentle draping, unusual twists and asymmetrical cuts that flatter almost every shape and size. The website offers more info on the collections, and even has a video of store manager Yarra McClure showing three ways to wear their lovely Winning Ways cardigan.

The clothing comes in sizes from 4 to 18, is aimed at fitting many sizes and shapes of women. The store offers complimentary hemming so that the fit is perfect. And because their headquarters is in Berkeley, a different size or color can usually be easily gotten. Accessories include a wrap belt in Havana (brown) or Caviar (black) that fits over various tunics and dresses, and floaty scarves dipped in multiple coordinating colors or studded with small silver disks to complement many of the outfits.

In addition to the beautiful clothes, the store carries a variety of stunning jewelry, ranging from earrings at $18 and necklaces that start at $26 – perfect for a quick gift or to add something to an outfit. The Karine Sultan line from Paris includes wear-with-anything double and triple strands of small linked disks in rose gold or sterling silver with matching earrings, and a bold rose gold over pewter cuff. Lauren Wolf from Oakland shows ocean-inspired jewelry, some featuring a texture like the skin of a stingray. Zina Kao from Emeryville shows jewelry made of a series of delicate disks, simply and with a lot of style.



Store manager Yarra McClure models the store's clothing in its website videos. She enjoys the friendliness of the Rockridge area.
/D. Kinkead

Store manager Yarra McClure noted that she finds the neighborhood "awesome, really friendly, a great area for women to shop for

Stella Carakasi, page 9

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FROG Park & Creek: Earth Day Call to Action

by Howard Ferrier, volunteer coordinator, Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG) Park

Join your neighbors for a community work day on Earth Day, Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. to noon.

We will remove debris and trim the plants around the park. Even an hour of your time will make a difference. There will be kid-friendly jobs and families are welcome but childcare is not provided.

The DMV Neighbors Association is coordinating clearing the creek bed and cleaning up along the Greenbelt between Clifton and Redondo playgrounds to get ready for the creek to flow again. Also, the pond will be cleaned out in preparation for the creek flow.

We will weed, sweep, sift, seal, clean and, in general, do the things needed to keep the park up to snuff for our children and community members to enjoy.

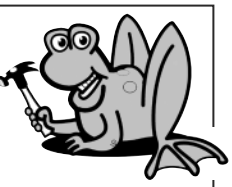
This is your chance to pitch in to show you care about FROG Park, and to make a difference in keeping it clean and fun for everyone as we work with the city to support our park.

There will be tasks for all ages. Bring gloves and hand pruners if you have them, marked with your name. Other tools will be provided on-site.

Sign in with FROG at Hardy Park at Claremont and Hudson for the park cleanup and with the DMV Neighbors Association at Redondo and Cavour parks for the creek site.

Questions? E-mail info@frogpark.org.

FROG Notes:



■ **Next Frog meeting: April 9**. Please e-mail info@frogpark.org for details.

■ **First Saturday Clean Up Reminder:** The next family-friendly **First Saturday cleanup** is May 4. Join Oakland Tech Community Club students to rake, plant and tackle family-friendly tasks.

Meet at Big Frog (Hardy Circle), 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Park remains open during the clean up. Rain cancels.

Carol Behr, FROG Chair
Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt

Board Candidates

from page 3

Greg Pasquali, cont'd

great neighborhood even better. Since my wife and I moved to Rockridge a year ago, we've been really happy with the strong sense of community, great events, and beautiful neighborhood.

I've worked for progressive urban planning and development organizations in Oakland that focus on making cities and neighborhoods more livable and sustainable by building buildings that positively impact their neighborhoods, making public spaces safer and more beautiful, and giving people new transportation options.

Peralta Yard Sale

from page 7

public schools. Through the years, LRPG Yard Sale proceeds help support music, art, physical and science education at both Peralta and Claremont. Collaboration among the schools' communities, neighbors and businesses has helped buoy Peralta and Claremont during difficult financial times.

Items not sold will be donated to other charities. Past charities receiving donated items include Clausen House, Elizabeth House, Bananas, Alta Bates Thrift Shop and The Salvation Army.

Donations still welcome.

If you have questions about the sale and/or want to donate or volunteer, please contact Chris Moraes at chris@ridebrazil.com.

Land Use

from page 5

the project's effects on this traffic as insignificant, but the neighborhood groups are united in insisting that a more thorough study is needed.

Presently, the only measure the city uses for traffic impacts is congestion, as measured by intersection level of service calculations. However, cut-through traffic can destroy a residential community's peace, quiet, and safety even if the traffic isn't slowing to a crawl.

The groups are pushing the city to find better ways to measure traffic impacts on residential streets. The groups also suggested that the city report back to the community on how it's dealing with this and other important issues before it finalizes and issues the final EIR and moves ahead on considering project approval.

At the moment, the city says it expects to publish the final EIR early this summer.

Stella Carakasi

from page 8

a variety of clothing, and the merchants are all very supportive and welcoming of each other." She noted that women who have bought Stella Carakasi clothing on the East Coast often visit this signature store when in the Bay Area, since it is only a short BART ride from San Francisco. So take a walk on College Avenue and stop by Stella Carakasi, a half-block from the Rockridge Library.



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3/21/13	4	2	5355 Broadway	$825,000	$825,000	16	$910,000

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THE ROCKRIDGE MUSE

by Ortrun Niesar

The Growing Need for Community Fundraising

Every year, as soon as the weather warms, local fundraising events spring up like daffodils all around our community.

Fundraising is something all of our schools and 501c(3) charitable institutions rely on these days to fulfill their missions. Most missions are designed to help fill a basic human need that has fallen between the cracks in our social system.

If it's parks and libraries we want, enriched education or restoration of that historic gate at Claremont Middle School, it's up to us as a community to raise the necessary funds.

Organizations large or small are getting better at it all the time. Your talent and time are needed. Volunteer, and you will find out just how involved and complex a good fundraiser can be... and how rewarding.

Putting the Fun Into Fundraising

To ask for money without making people feel they are being pressured is a lot easier if the objective is coated with activities that people enjoy and will be happy to pay for. But, as more fundraising events enter the field, competition for donation dollars rises, pushing event planners to offer ever-more exciting themes, competitive prices, convenient dates and enticing food and beverages.

Event location is critical. The winning location this year is the Uptown Body and Fender Building on 26th Street, a noisy, hip environment where you can dance and not worry if an hors d'oeuvre falls on the floor.

The April/May Line-Up

We admire the PTAs of Chabot Elementary School, Claremont Middle School, and Oakland Tech for their great successes in March. Now, three more events:

■ **The Ligure Club's "La Dolce Vita IV"** takes place April 20 at the Fratellanza Club, 1140 60th Street. This annual wine tasting event, raffle and silent auction raises funds for the Ligure Inc. Scholars Fund. If you like freewheeling, noisy events, go to this one. There will be food and music and fun and games galore. Buy a raffle ticket and you might win the grand prize, a week's stay in a beautiful beachfront villa in Mexico, complete with cook and chauffeur. For more information, see www.ligureclub.com.

■ **The Annual Luncheon Benefit for Oakland's Elizabeth House**, located in Rockridge, will be held at the Claremont Country Club April 25. This is a more reserved event. Be prepared to bid on some beautiful and substantial items, such as a one-week vacation on Galway Bay in the west of Ireland. The goal is to raise $50,000 to help sustain Elizabeth House's residential program for women and children. Visit oakehouse.org/events for more information.

■ **The Peralta in Bloom Spring Festival 2013**, open to the community, will be held May 18 from noon to 4 p.m on the Peralta School grounds, 460 63rd Street. The event, "Art Making," is built around school and children and is largely dependent for success on sponsorships. To help, contact Tara Horton at 510/333-2580 or tara.mcculoch@gmail.com.



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Eyes on Rockridge



Sara Robb, left, and Deborah Putnam, who started her block's monthly Soup Nights, display a T-shirt commemorating the fact that most of the houses of the Boyd Avenue Soup Night neighbors were built one hundred years ago.

/Judith Berne

When "Soup's On," a Neighborhood Gathers

by Judith Doner Berne

Every February, in the heart of our mostly cloudy, cold winters back in the suburbs of Detroit, I hosted a soup party for 10-12 (depending on who was not in Florida) of our good friends.

I would generally make one soup, someone would bring at least one other, and the rest would chime in with salad, bread and dessert.

On moving here, going on two years ago, I've thought about hosting something similar. But, truth to tell, it's taken us that long to acquire enough friends. And winter here is mostly sunny and warm, by Midwest standards.

Recently, however, I discovered that soup parties aren't necessarily subject to old friends and weather.

As we pulled up to Sara and Greg Robb's house on Boyd Avenue, we saw two groups walking, bowls and spoons in hand.

No, they weren't looking for a hand-out. They, like us, were headed to the block's monthly Soup Night, initiated by long-time resident Deborah Putnam, aided and abetted by her down-the-street friend, Sara Robb.

As we all filed into the Robbs' cozy home, we found a group already gathered around the dining room table, filled by a potpourri of side dishes – with desserts on a nearby buffet.

Putnam doesn't remember exactly how many years ago Soup Night began. Sara thinks it was seven or eight. "I saw an article in Sunset Magazine about how a woman new to her neighborhood came up with a soup party to meet her neighbors," Putnam says. "I copied her idea."

She started with two soups and 10 homes. It grew to encompass the rest of the block, occasionally taking in a stray from a neighboring street, house guests or visiting relatives.

"We're interlopers," acknowledges Jane Courant. She and husband Michael Gliksohn have been coming for a few months although they live a block away. "We've met so many nice people."

"It's wonderful, delicious and neat to know people in the neighborhood," Gliksohn says.

"I'm a Hudson address, but they let us in," says Annie Goglia. "It's really nice to have a sense of community."

"The organizing plan is two soups and bring stuff," Greg Robb offered. "Stuff" is salads, breads, side dishes, desserts, drinks. "Sometimes there's a theme – like Indian or Mexican."

"We never know how many are coming," Sara says. And since no foods are assigned, it can be heavy on one thing or another. "But no one ever goes home hungry."

This night, no theme. To sample the soups, we headed to the kitchen where two big pots simmered on the stove. Labels identified them as 'Pozole' (a Mexican pork and hominy stew) served with sour cream and chopped onion, and 'Curried Lentil.' One soup is always vegetarian.

Gary Sponholtz, a three-year resident, says he relishes both the home-cooking and interaction with his neighbors.

"By this kind of connection, we get to talk about issues like honey mushrooms (the Armillaria fungus that invades trees and shrubs), offer gardening tips and exchange seeds," Sponholtz says. "We bring embellishments and good California wines. We're foodies and wineys."

Margaret Garms signs up each month's host and e-mails everyone the information. "I lean on people a little bit if I need volunteers. Everyone has almost the same house, so no one's embarrassed."

(Indeed, last July a block party celebrating the 100th anniversary of many of the block's Craftsman bungalows took the place of the usual soup affair.)

"Our conversations range from talking about our families – kids and grandkids – to politics, to the neighborhood, to how we're renovating our homes, to vacations we're taking or have taken," Sara says. "And that's just a few of the topics."

"It's a real community builder," says Roger Howland, who attended with his wife Lisa, daughters, Emily, 20 .and Madeleine, 16, and Madeleine's boyfriend. "Whenever we can make it, we're here," he says.

But all the news exchanged at this month's event wasn't pleasant. Kevin Kuo, a senior at California College of the Arts, detailed how he had been mugged a couple of weeks ago, walking home from an evening class. He had already put out an e-mail so everyone would be extra -cautious. He now rides his bike to evening classes.

Soup's On, page 12

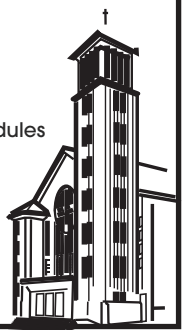
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We are looking for a replacement for Michelle Beaudoin who faithfully delivered The Rockridge News to residents along Claremont Avenue for many years. She has reluctantly moved out of her beloved neighborhood and hopes someone will volunteer to keep her Rockridge readers abreast of the news. Call 510/547-3855 or e-mail smontauk@gmail.com if you are ready, willing and available to spend about 20 minutes once a month delivering to:

Route 20A: On Claremont from 5900 even numbers up Claremont to former Shell station.

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Soup's On

from page 11

As the youngest person attending on his own, Kuo is grateful for the Soup Nights as "a place people can gather. We need more community," he says.

I counted 20 people this night. Sara says they vary between 20 and 40. Indeed, founder Putnam and husband Bob Hale were out of town. "We're missing an anthropologist, our geologist and our art professor," Howland tells me. "It's a cast of characters. It's a lot of fun."

"We've all gotten much closer through this," Sara says. "I just hate it when I miss. We all feel much more of a sense of community warmth, friendliness, safety and support. It's a way for neighbors to become friends."

Judy Berne welcomes your comments and column ideas. You can reach her at judyberne@att.net.

April Town Hall Agenda:

- **Councilmember Dan Kalb talks about his expectations for Oakland and Rockridge**
- **Election of RCPC board of directors members**

Details, Agenda box page 1.

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Dan Kalb

from page 1

time, he noted, "has no veto authority and can only break a council tie vote, but since council members are allowed to abstain, there are few ties to break."

Day-to-day operation of the city is left to the City Administrator, including the hiring and firing of department heads and staff. The mayor can appoint people to commissions, some of which have lots of authority, but "that may be the most significant thing the mayor has." In the end, the mayor gets either the credit or the blame for city policies.

Community Concerns: Crime

During his door-to-door campaigning, Kalb said he heard from Rockridge residents – and many others in the larger district – that they want more of a police presence. "Every part of Rockridge has gotten more crime in recent years than residents have been used to." Thus, he supported the hiring of the Strategic Policy Partnership consulting team headed by Robert Wasserman.

"I am hopeful that the strategies and recommendations that come out of the consulting team will be helpful," he said. He also said that he thought the reforms being required of the police department in the wake of the "Riders" scandal would, in the long run, be beneficial in restoring trust in the police, especially among the city's minorities. As to why those reforms have taken so long to implement, he said he wasn't sure, but it appeared to him that the current city administration was making them a top priority, an approach he approves.

Kalb added that whatever decisions are made in the redeployment of new police resources in the future, "I want to make sure District 1 gets its fair share."

Kalb believes that, in addition to structural changes in policing, such as expanding investigative capacity with well-trained civilian personnel, a multifaceted approach to reducing crime is important: "More police is one essential thing, and how they are deployed is another. How the department is structured is important, and working effectively with ex-offenders as well as youth before they get started in the criminal world also needs to be a part of the overall approach."

As to the result of crime reductions, Kalb said, "I hope that feeling safer and being safer end up being the same thing."

NCPC Role in Crime Reduction

As an existing crime reduction strategy, Kalb supports Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils as providing a good place to share crime tips and information, both at their regular meetings and on the various group listservs. Patterns can be recognized and communicated to the Problem Solving Officers (PSO) attending the meetings. Neighborhood Watch groups are also important, he believes.

Rockridge Zoning

Kalb said that he supports Rockridge's current CN-1 zoning, but he also said, "I am definitely open to considering more requirements on conditional use permits and variances," while also noting that not all District 1 neighborhoods have the same needs. He cited the interest that San Pablo Avenue area residents in the Golden Gate neighborhood have in more housing and retail development.

Local Schools

"The biggest factor of how well a student does in school is home life," Kalb believes. Suggesting a return to the view that the primary responsibility for student success lies with the family, rather than the school, he believes it would be beneficial for young students if parents throughout the city would take more responsibility for creating an environment more supportive of learning, both in the school and at home, as a part of the answer to public school children's performance. While recognizing the role that intra-district transfers play in promoting diversity, Kalb thinks that, ideally, children should attend schools near their homes. He said that he grew up being able to walk to his local school. He'd like to see Oakland's schools improve to the point where every neighborhood's schools would be schools a parent would be happy to send their kids to.

Acknowledging the limited role of the city in school affairs, Kalb has already met with District 1 School Board member Jody London and has committed to meeting with her on a monthly basis to learn how he, and the city, can better support the schools. "I intend to be an active partner with Jody."

Dan Kalb had more to say on these and other issues. Join him and your neighbors at RCPC's April 18 Town Hall meeting at the Rockridge Branch Library for a full discussion.

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Pilates at Home 4 U

Training in Pilates Mat (floor) exercises at your home, or at my live-work studio on Ocean View Drive at College Avenue. Sessions: Mon-Sat mornings or afternoons. Small group possible. Irving, 510/735-9479, iswirving@comcast.net.

Rental Wanted

House or flat, 2 bed/1 or 2 bath. Walk to Rockridge BART. Quiet, retired couple, no pets. $2,800/mo. 510/339-8409.

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Do You Need to Update Your Wardrobe?

Don't have time to shop? Stylist and personal shopper available to assist you. Flexible schedule, first 30 minutes discounted. Contact Shakira at simply.scott3@gmail.com.

Mr. Green Jeans Appliance Repair

Authorized for Miele, Asko, Lacanche, Aga/Marvel, Delonghi, & more. We service all major household appliances. Visit our website www.mrgrnjns.com or call 510/787-4900 (Lic#A45798).

Looking for Summer Housesit in Bay Area

Helen and Dean Madsen, 2216 Sawtooth Mtn. Drive, H. Las Vegas, Nevada, 89044. madsenjd@cox.net. Good references. Lived in Bay Area over 50 years. Like to garden.

There's a new broker in town.

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Shopping? Find it in Oakland!

E-mail *Rockridge News* Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: *Rockridge News* Community Calendar, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.

Compiled by Jo Ellis

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Residents and business members engage in discussions about crime and public safety with representatives of OPD. 2nd Thursday each month, 7pm. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. Confirm mtg. info at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

Find out how your library card allows you to get free or discounted passes to museums and cultural institutions with the **"Discover & GO"** program. Some participating partners are the Asian Art Museum, the Aquarium, Exploratorium, Oakland Museum, Cal Shakespeare Theater, and Yerba Buena Ctr. for the Arts.

FOR CHILDREN

- **Family Story Time:** Stories/songs/rhymes (to age 5); Saturdays, 10:30am.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** (ages 2 to 5); Thursdays, 10:30am.
- **Toddler Story Time:** (up to age 2); Thursdays, 10:30am, upstairs.
- All story times followed by Play Time; parents and caregivers invited.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros : *Day of Children, Day of Books*.** Tues., 4/30, 7pm. Celebrate children & reading with your family: We'll be acting out a few of our favorite bilingual stories. Each family will go home with a gift book.
- **Bananas Parenting Workshop: Sleep Issues.** New and expectant parents; **First of 4 classes: Helen Neville,** sleep expert and author of *What to Do About Sleep Problems in Young Children, 12 Months to 5 Years.* Sat., 4/13, 11:15am. Series will continue in May & June, with workshops on Yoga, Massage, and Language & Brain Development.

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 Sat. each month, 1-2 pm. Confirm: 597-5017.
- **Rockridge Ninjas:** watch Anime. 4/9 and 5/14 from 5-6:30 pm.
- **Teen 'Scape:** Play video and board games; make crafts; light snacks provided. Every Wed., 2 to 4pm.

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). Third Saturday each month; 1 to 5pm. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice and referrals.** First Tues. each month (2/5, 3/5), 5 to 7pm. (Advance sign-up starts 4:45pm at adult reference desk). Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present.

ART EXHIBITS (subject to change; call to confirm)

Gallery:

Apr: Oakland Art Association

May: Merritt College Figure Drawing Class

Lobby Display Case:

Apr: Carla Dole: Handmade books.

May: Merritt College Figure Drawing Class

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 Books/Readings/Events

All FREE and open to the public.

- Sun., 4/7, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Joseph Campana, Jane Mead**, and **Kerri Webster**.
- Mon, 4/8, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting** (**2nd Mon. each month**): All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Fri, 4/12, 7-9pm. **Live music** with local mandolinist, guitarist, and singer **Lucas Gonze**. Vintage Americana from the Civil War to the early recording era.
- Sun., 4/14, 3pm. **Gish Jen:** *Tiger Writing: Art, Culture, and the Independent Self.*
- Tues, 4/16, 6-7pm. **Everyone invited to a party with free pie and door prizes** one week in advance of **WORLD BOOK NIGHT** (on 4/23). (Designated "givers" who have signed up can pick up their boxes of books).
- Sun., 5/5, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Kazim Ali, Tony Barnstone,** and **Willis Barnstone**.

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

"Concert for a Cure" Benefit Show

One of the featured acts is Rockridge rock band **Dear Indugu** (hear them at **www.dearindugu.com**). This is the final concert in the series to raise funds for the **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.** This show will be filmed as part of a documentary on the Concert Series. Sat., April 13, 9pm-12:30am (doors open 8pm). $8-15 sliding scale (all proceeds donated); 21+ ;wheelchair accessible; kitchen open until 10pm. The Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave, 841-2082.

California College of the Arts (CCA) Spring Fair

The Oakland campus becomes a bustling arts bazaar for a day. The public is invited to shop for one-of-a-kind, handmade, affordable gifts created by the CCA staff and students: paintings, drawings, prints, cards, jewelry, ceramics, hand-blown glass, clothing, photography, textiles, and more while enjoying live jazz and tasty treats. Sat., Apr 27, 11am to 3pm. CCA campus, 5212 B'way. 594.3600 or www.cca.edu/.

Oakland Heritage Alliance Fundraiser

Great Estates In April: A House Tour of Claremont Pines & Upper Rockridge

Splendid examples of Tudor and Mediterranean revival style homes by distinguished architects.

Two different tours to fit your schedule and pocketbook on Saturday, Apr 20, 1 to 8pm.

- **Vintage Vistas,** 1-4 pm: View home interiors and enjoy light refreshments. Street map provided for self-guided walking tour to enjoy exterior views of additional homes, vistas, and landscaping. Tickets: **Advance:** $30/OHA members, $35/general. **On-site:** $35/OHA members, $40/general.
- **Sunset Over the City,** 5-8 pm: Tasting tour features music with libations and appetizer pairings at multi-venue reception.

Advance registration required: $75/OHA members, $95/general. **Includes access to "Vintage Vistas" tour from 1-4 pm.**

Advance tickets: http://oha-greatestates.eventbrite.com/. On-site and advance ticket check-in on April 20th begins 12:30pm at St. Peter's Anglican Church, 6013 Lawton Avenue. Un-metered street parking on B'way. Use Church parking lot **only after 3:30pm**. More info: 763-9218 or info@oaklandheritage.org

Square Dance in North Oakland

Music by **The Squirrelly String Band.** Calling by **Jordan Ruyle** (with occasional guest performers). **1st and 3rd Fridays each month**, 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.


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We Need More Rockridge Homes to Sell!
Every home that closed escrow in March, Sold for 12% above the asking price. An increase on average of $120K! 17 Homes went pending in March with an average days on market of 15 days. Currently there are 12 homes for sale in Rockridge versus a norm of 22-23 homes. The medium days on market for the active homes is 6.

FOR SALE ROCKRIDGE

30 Roanoke Rd, Claremont $699,000
2 Bed/ 1+ Bath
Fabulous European Feel to this 2 story home.
Loads of updating & newer systems.
Rockridge feel w/Berkeley Schools.
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PENDING

5373 Shafter Ave. Call for pricing*
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www.5373Shafter.com

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SOLD IN ROCKRIDGE

5815 Lawton Ave / $639,000
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Craftsman Bungalow on quiet tree lined street.
The perfect home for all of your remodeling ideas!
Award Winning Chabot Elementary School
www.5815Lawton.com

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OVER $635K

*NOTE: Because of Rockridge Newsletter lead time, all prices are not available at print deadline.

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