THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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April: RCPC Board Election and Bylaws Vote

17 April 2014 RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Come at 7 for pizza and friends

AGENDA

■ **RCPC Board Election:** Four incumbents and two new candidates will discuss their candidacy and positions, and take questions from the community. Voting will then be open. ☞ Candidates' statements, page 3.

■ **Town Hall Program:** Rockridge – How We Got to Where We Are Today

Rockridge has gone through many changes over the years: having trolley cars on College Avenue; its own movie theater and a bowling alley; looking somewhat like a war zone while Hwy 24 and BART were being built; battling over highrise construction and large parking structures.

RCPC is inviting Rockridge residents who lived through (and in some cases influenced) some of these changes to provide an oral presentation of Rockridge's changes over time. ☞ *Town Hall, page 7*

Board Election Procedures & Voting

At the RCPC Town Hall meeting Thursday, April 17, Rockridge residents may vote for RCPC board candidates. Twenty-five or more residents must vote or sign in at the meeting to establish a quorum. If the quorum is met, residents unable to attend the Town Hall may vote Saturday, April 19, in the lobby of the Rockridge library, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. ☞**Candidate statements begin on page 3.**

Residents will also be asked to vote on two **amendments to the RCPC bylaws**. See details on 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 17 | 7-9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College at Manila



/Courtesy Elisabeth Jewel

by Elisabeth Jewel

Construction of the new College Avenue Safeway store is well underway. Concrete trucks have poured the walls that will form the ramp from College Avenue to

Safeway on College, page 12

Safeway-Funded Residential Permit Parking Coming to Safeway/College Area

by Dennis Swanson, Rockridge resident

As part of the settlement negotiated with Safeway by three neighborhood groups, Safeway agreed to pay for the implementation and annual fees for up to two vehicles per qualifying residence for a Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program on certain Oakland streets near the new College Avenue Safeway building.

Those streets are 63rd from College to

Permit Parking, page 13

City: 'Soundwall Study Petition Falls Short'

by Victoria Eisen, consultant to the city

The city of Oakland's year-long petition process to determine the expenditure of $1.4 million of Caldecott Settlement Agreement funds has come to a close, and the results indicate there is not sufficient support to continue with the studies. The process

Not Enough Signatures, page 11

■ Land Use Committee ■

April Meeting Notice

Topic: A café proposed for Broadway just north of the College Avenue intersection.
Date: April 23, 7:30 p.m., Rockridge Library.

Note: Mayor's OPD Area 2 Safety Meeting Rescheduled

***New Date:* Saturday, June 14.**
Time and location unchanged:
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,
North Oakland Senior Center,
5714 Martin Luther King Jr Way

Mayor Jean Quan, Interim Police Chief Sean Whent, Area 2 Captain Toribio, OUSD Superintendent Gary Yee, and Councilmember Dan Kalb will gather community feedback on police-community collaboration. Details will be in the June issue of The Rockridge News.

Rockridge Memories

When Peter Pan Came to Town

by Edward Guthmann

If you pause in front of 5451 College Avenue, you'll see this signature inscribed in cement: "Mary Martin 1985." Look closer and you'll see the handprints, now faint from age, that the Broadway legend left in the sidewalk.



Mary Martin's signature in the concrete in front of Le Kube, once the studio of voice teacher Judy Davis who helped Martin. /Don Kinkead

You're at the threshold of Le Kube, a home-design shop. From 2001 to 2011, the storefront housed New Style Motherlode, a hip-hop dance studio. For 40 years before that, it was headquarters for Judy Davis, an influential voice teacher who coached Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Janis Joplin and – very late in her career – Mary Martin.

Davis created a series of vocal exercises that strengthen the vocal cords and help performers to enunciate and breathe properly. "I'm a vocal plumber," she liked to say. "I fix the pipes, that's all."

She was effervescent, larger than life. "She's a funny, charming lady who drives a long Cadillac," Gerald Nachman wrote in the San Francisco Chronicle in 1981. "Smokes like a foundry and has opinions on everything, her eyes snapping as she talks with a husky whoop of a laugh."

Davis was beloved by her students, who ranged from wannabes to major names. In the early '50s, Sinatra flew her to Las Vegas to give his pipes a workout. In 1963, when Streisand was singing at the hungry i nightclub in North Beach – a year before she played "Funny Girl" on Broadway – she had voice trouble and came to Davis.

"Barbra was a very frightened girl because she was being catapulted into a position that normally we grow into [gradually]," Davis said. "She needed a hand to hold and a pat on the back."

Davis's studio was a low-key presence on College Avenue: windows blocked by thick curtains, a discreet sign saying "Judy Davis Studio." Nachman described the interior as "dinky, dimly lit… like the office of a not overly successful chiropractor."

Three doors down was the eight-lane bowling alley that became Diesel Books.

Across the street was a Safeway that closed in 1963 and has housed Levant Rug Co. since 1965. "I'm always astonished that these great stars come to Oakland on College Avenue across from the Safeway," Davis told a reporter in the early '60s.

When Mary Martin came to study in 1984, she was 70 and hadn't sung in public in 11 years. Her glory days were the 1940s and '50s: she was the original Maria von Trapp in "The Sound of Music" on Broadway, the original Nellie Forbush in "South Pacific," and forever endeared herself to Baby Boomers with live-TV performances as "Peter Pan."

When she agreed to headline a gala concert at Davies Symphony Hall, Martin knew it was time to get her voice in shape again. The gala would benefit the Trauma Unit at San Francisco General Hospital, which saved her life following a 1982 car accident. She would not only sing that night, but wear her original "Peter Pan" costume and get in the harness that would fly her over the Davies stage.

I was a young arts reporter for the Chronicle, and in the weeks leading up to the concert I interviewed Mary Martin at the Telegraph Hill penthouse she rented. I always love it when a celebrity lives up to or exceeds my expectations, and Mary Martin was sweet and kind. She treated me like a favorite nephew.

She reminisced about her years on Broadway and raved about her son Larry Hagman, who was having a huge success on "Dallas" as J.R. Ewing. She mourned her close friend, actress Janet Gaynor, who was

▸ When Peter Pan Came to Town, page 12

ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY

5366 College Avenue

597-5017

Hours:

Tue: 12:30 – 8 p.m.
Wed, Thu, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Fri: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
CLOSED *Sun and Mon*

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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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 3, 2014**

☛ **May deadline is April 17, 2014**

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 2014: Statements of RCPC Board Candidates

Christopher Chin
Incumbent



Christopher Chin has lived in Rockridge for the past 14 years, and in the East Bay for 27 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.

Gabe Kleinman
Ayala Avenue



I grew up in Connecticut, the son of four public servants. All of them passed along an ethic of public service.

Professionally, I've worked across a number of industries including entertainment + sports marketing, business operations, and philanthropy. The last two years I worked at IDEO, a design consulting firm. In early February, I joined a new publishing platform called Medium as head of People Operations.

Ultimately, I aspire to look at the challenges we face in our community through a human-centered lens: how might we better understand and design action-oriented solutions for the needs/desires of everyone in the community?

My wife Molly Dickens and I moved to Ayala Avenue in June 2012, and welcomed our daughter Ripley Jane into the community in November 2013.

Laura Schlichtmann
Clifton Street



Incumbent

I have served on RCPC's board since early 2012, and as Secretary since May 2012. A retired litigator, I also have ten years' experience in state government and a Master's in urban planning. Being a retiree has let me commit time to work on most of RCPC's events, participate in the work of RCPC's Land Use Committee, and help distribute the Rockridge News. I also have worked on Scenic Streets' roadside planting projects in the Claremont/Clifton/Hudson area.

Rockridge is a wonderful place to live – without losing sight of its crime, traffic, and other problems – because of many area residents who volunteered their creativity, hard work, and cooperation in past years. My service with RCPC helps pay forward my debt for these predecessors' achievements, and is very rewarding; so I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve another term on the board.

Samantha Weaver
Monroe Avenue



I want to serve on the RCPC Board because community engagement and participation is important to me. Few neighborhoods have organizations like the RCPC, and even fewer maintain the RCPC's innovative approach to community involvement. I have been impressed with the RCPC's interactive town halls and would like to volunteer my time to support the RCPC's great work to improve our community.

As a renter in the Rockridge neighborhood, one of my goals would be to help increase the sense of community ownership among other renters, and to contribute to the RCPC's mission to provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

Professionally, I am interested in public policy, particularly in the context of environmental sustainability. I earned a graduate degree in Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning from Tufts University, where my interest in energy planning helped me begin a career in renewable energy research at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Virginia Hamilton
62nd Street



Incumbent

I have been privileged to serve on the RCPC board for the last year, and to contribute to some of our key efforts. I have loved my work in helping to create interactive and dynamic town hall meetings, and facilitating strategic planning for the board of directors. I am committed

Candidate Statements, page 12

Proposed Changes to the RCPC Bylaws

Rockridge residents will vote at the Town Hall meeting on April 17, 2014 (see box, top of page 1) on two proposed amendments to RCPC bylaws.

The proposals would:

1. Amend Section 7.1 (former Sec. 8.3(a)) to provide that directors elected at the annual meeting shall serve "until the election results have been certified for the election held at the annual meeting in the second calendar year following" (at present, such terms expire at the time of the annual meeting); and

2. Amend Section 8.6(b), relating to the right of RCPC members to "elect a director at any time to fill any vacancy not filled by the directors." The amendment would specify the threshold of approval in any such vote, including that the affirmative votes must constitute a majority of the required quorum (not only of members voting).

The full text of the current and proposed language of Sections 7.1 and 8.6(b) will be available, after April 6, 2014, on the RCPC website, www.rockridge.org, and at the April 17 Town Hall meeting. **Residents may also request an email copy of the full text; email requests to info@rockridge.org**.

FROG News: Park Improvements & Earth Day Celebration



$10,000 Match Grants for Final Frog Playground Buildout

Over the next six months, Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG) will be raising the final$50,000 needed to fund the last set of play structures planned for Frog Park and playground.

As a show of enthusiastic support for the drive, RCPC has committed a total of $10,000 to the playground build in the form of two matching grants. The deadline for the first $5,000 match is July 15. A match by that date activates the second $5,000 grant.

New equipment will include additional swings (toddler and big kid), a climbing web merry-go-round, pole spinners, and a seesaw.

The improvements – chosen after months of local community consultation and comment – are planned to extend the appeal of the park to a wider age-range of children.

FROG Park was built by over 1,300 Rockridge volunteers and community donors in 2001, is maintained by volunteers, and shows what can be done when we come together as a community.

Make your tax-deductible donation online at www.frogpark.org/swings or **mail your check to** FROG, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. (Tax ID: 94-3011284)

April 26 Earth Day and Frog Park Family Fest

Celebrate Earth Day at Frog Park and the Greenbelt, a city of Oakland featured volunteer site sponsored by FROG and the DMV Neighbors Association. Come to a family-friendly cleanup and stay for a special FROG Family Fest with great kid activities.

Let's get our park ready for summer fun, 9 a.m.-12 noon. Help replant the butterfly garden, sift sand, clean up, and prepare the pond and creek bed for the creek turn-on. Bring your own tools or use ours. Coffee and refreshments provided. Stay for half an hour or the entire morning, rain or shine.



Frog Park face painting. /FROG

Then, party at the FROG Family Fest. Bring your family, kids, and your picnic lunch and blanket to Big Frog Park between 12 noon and 2 p.m. for loads of entertaining games, bubble-making, face painting, and crafts.

Stop by and learn more about the proposed new toddler swings, regular swings, a merry-go-round climber, see-saw and pole spinners.

When: Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.-12 noon (Family Fest 12-2 p.m.)

Where: Big Frog (Hardy Circle near Miles) or Greenbelt (Redondo Avenue at Cavour)

Who: Community members and kids of all ages.

Contact info@frogpark.org with questions or to volunteer.

Update: 'Safer Rockridge' Advances

by Safer Rockridge organizers

As previously announced, Safer Rockridge, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation created to promote the public safety of the residents of Rockridge, has retained Premiere Protective Services (PPS) to provide unarmed safety patrols to the Lower Rockridge area. Patrols began in March using funds left over from the four-month pilot.

The first two weeks of patrol by officer Troy Matthews of PPS have been uneventful. PPS will be meeting regularly with Captain Toribio of OPD as part of Captain Toribio's efforts to coordinate and communicate with private security patrols in Area 2.

Safer Rockridge has now raised a total of $10,778 from 301 contributors, with 70 percent of this recurring monthly. That will enable us to increase coverage in April to two patrol officers at least 6 days a week,

Update: 'Safer Rockridge', page 13

NCPC to Host 'Safer Rockridge' Founders at April Meeting

by Karen Ivy, NCPC secretary

Crime in Rockridge was pretty bad last fall; everyone was worried. A few concerned citizens organized crowd-funding projects to pay for security patrols in most of Beat 12. The Greater Rockridge NCPC (Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council) watched with interest but didn't participate.

The temporary contracts expired, yet many who bought them still wanted security coverage.

The NCPC has invited representatives of Safer Rockridge, the nonprofit now managing the private security contract, to speak at our April 10 meeting. We've asked them to explain:

■ The transition from the previous household-focused model to the current neighborhood-focused model with the new

NCPC Hosts 'Safer Rockridge', page 5

a cross-cultural congregation striving to partner with the Rockridge community in lifestyle and service.
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5th Annual Claremont Middle School Pancake Breakfast

Save the Date - April 26 – 5th Annual Pancake Breakfast to Support Claremont Middle School

Once again, the Rockridge Masonic Lodge, Claremont Dads Club and Rockridge District Association (RDA) invite you to join us Saturday, April 26, at the historic Rockridge Masonic Hall for the 5th Annual Pancake Breakfast.

A hearty breakfast, including pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee and tea, is generously donated and prepared by members of the Masonic Lodge. Four seatings are offered: 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Proceeds from the breakfast support enrichment programs at Claremont Middle School. Last year's breakfast generated over $4,500 for Claremont's music, fine arts, and computer programs.

Get your tickets now: Advance tickets are $10 per person and slightly higher at the door. Children under 5 years old eat for free (and don't require a ticket). Because this event has sold out in the past, plan to purchase your tickets early in one of the following ways:

1. Online at the Claremont Middle School website – www.claremontms.org. Look for the Pancake Breakfast link towards the upper left side of the page. (A small convenience fee is added to online purchases.)



2. By check to "Claremont Middle School PTA." Include a note for "Pancake Breakfast," number of guests, your name and phone number, and preferred seating time (8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., or 11 a.m.). Checks should be placed in an envelope addressed to Claremont Middle School PTA, and mailed or delivered to 5750 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618. Your name will be on the guest list at the event.

3. Contact Paul Kagiwada (Kag) by phone at 510/658-8161 or email: paulgkag@yahoo.com to purchase tickets directly.

Ligure Scholars, Inc. (501c3)
Presents its 5th Annual Gala Wine Tasting

April 26, 2014 5:30-9:30 pm
Fratellanza Club , 1140 66th St. Oakland

LA DOLCE VITA V

Join us for an evening of wine tasting, silent auction, raffle, good food, good company, all for a good cause, the Ligure Scholars scholarship program, helping to send our kids to college. You can win a week's stay at the Casa del Sol y Luna, Manzanilla, Mexico, complete with cook and chauffeur!

visit www.ligureclub.com for ticket information

NCPC Hosts 'Safer Rockridge'

from page 4

nonprofit, Safer Rockridge

- How the system works for new people who want to sign up, and what happens when a subscriber decides to drop out
- How the patrols function
- How the patrols interact with OPD.

A representative from Premiere Protective Services (PPS), has been invited to attend and respond to questions.

Subscriber or not, this is your chance to learn the background and future of the patrols, and to ask questions.

We'll see you **Thursday, April 10, 7 to 8:30 p.m.** at the Rockridge Library Community Room, College at Manila.

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Eyes on Rockridge

Local Memoir Writer Adds Dimension to Book Club Discussion

by Judith Doner Berne

As a relatively new resident of Rockridge, I am definitely a Judy-come-lately to the 14-year-old book club on my street.

Every book club has a story behind its founding, but this one began and held its first meeting in a car. Four neighbors – Norma Bedford, Kathy Herman, Stephanie Lee and Christine Osborne – for a time carpooled each day to San Francisco.

"Because we spent those 45-60 minutes each day together, I suggested we read a book and then discuss it in the car," Stephanie recalled. "We did this once. Then Christine's job changed mid-book, so she invited us to her place to discuss the book at dinner."

The foursome decided to switch from the car to the dinner table so that Christine could stay involved, Stephanie said. "When Norma had it at her house, she invited several neighbors. We had such a great time together that we continued. That's how it became a neighborhood group."

And luckily for me, I joined in time to have the author of the book we read for our most recent session come to its discussion.

That would be Rockridge resident Chana Wilson, whose award-winning book, "Riding Fury Home: A Memoir," was published in 2012. The book chronicles 40 years of the complex relationship between Wilson and her mother – the trauma of their early years together, the transformation and joy they found when they both came out in the 1970s and the deep bond they formed that included choosing the same profession, psychotherapy.

In 1958, when Wilson was seven, her mother attempted suicide and was taken to a mental hospital. When she returned, her dad left and Wilson became her caretaker. Years later, and after discovering that she was a lesbian, she learned that her mother's agony stemmed from an affair with a woman and the subsequent psychiatric treatment aimed at curing her lesbianism.

Wilson, upbeat and charming, fit right in as we sat around Shirley Rae's dining room table. Married to Dana Bergen, a software engineer, Wilson formerly hosted the KPFA radio program A World Wind, interviewing poets, musicians, writers and activists. It was that experience that made her want to work with people on a deeper level.

"I've lived in Rockridge for 29 years," she said. Her psychotherapy practice is nearby, on the Oakland/Berkeley border. "You might find me walking around Lake Temescal, drinking tea (not coffee) at Peet's and eating up and down College Avenue – for instance, having tacos at Cactus or sushi at Takara."

The memoir "took 12 years to write," she told us, including some serious writing classes and secluded stints in California nature – where she often went over the years to help heal wounds and gather strength.

"I'm slow and I rewrote and rewrote and rewrote," Wilson said. "Without the classes, it wouldn't have been as good a book. I had a writing buddy and we would go to Sea Ranch and just hole up. We would put in a lot of hours."



Author Chana Wilson at Diesel Books holding her memoir next to a display of the 100 Diesel best-sellers.
/Courtesy of Chana Wilson

"Did you write chronologically?" Shirley asked. "I really didn't," she answered. Instead "I went with whatever had the juice." And writing is just the first stage, she cautioned. Then there's the publishing process – what stays in, what goes out, picking a title (the publisher picked hers), designing the cover – and then the public appearances.

"Any surprises, once it was published?" Stephanie asked. "I didn't know there would be such satisfaction; the feeling that I've given something to people that touched them," Wilson said.

"I read it in one day," Leslie Correll told her. "I was drawn right in because it began in Millstone, New Jersey, which was near where I grew up."

That led to Wilson telling us that her childhood home, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and situated on the banks of the Millstone River, has been threatened by floods. "It's going to be moved to a museum grounds in Bentonville, Arkansas." A few weeks later, I saw that the New Yorker magazine had a piece on the move. However, it only interviewed the current owners who bought it in 1988.

The backstory, which you can read about in Wilson's book, is that while her mother's brother was an apprentice at Taliesin, Wright's famous school of architecture, he was killed by a drunk driver. To assuage Wilson's mother's grief, her parents successfully "petitioned Frank Lloyd Wright to design them a house, asking for one of his scaled-down models adapted for the middle class."

"I thought the article captured the poignancy of having to lose your beloved home in order to save it," she emailed me. "It is quite an emotional bag for me as well." But living in a house by a famous architect was little comfort at the time.

Rockridge Author, page 7


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Town Hall

from page 1

If you're new to Rockridge, come learn about how this area got to be what it is (including RCPC's role in that evolution). If you've been around awhile, you're welcome to come and provide your thoughts on what's happened while you've been here.

Note: Please call Stu Flashman at 510/652-5373 or e-mail stuflash@aol.com if you'd like to be part of the panel for this program.

Rockridge Author

from page 6

"How many ways can you be different?" she said. "Have your parents build a modern house among colonials, be the only Jewish family, have your mother be a crazy person."

"When you publish something so personal, were you worried about people you know seeing it?" Stephanie asked. "Yes, I was," Wilson said. "But I am inspired by the response. It was very healing to write. And hopefully, people have kind hearts."

In the end, she not only reconciled with her mother, who left the East Coast to live down the street from her, but also her father who "believed in my writing and was willing to excavate the past, as he'd never been before."

"That's the wonderful thing about how the culture has changed," she said. "And my father changed too. He just loved Dana."

Over the years, I am told, book club discussion may or may not have focused on the book at hand, depending on its impact. But I'm pretty sure that, even without Wilson's presence, "Riding Fury Home" would have taken center stage.

In an extensive New York Times column published Sunday, March 23 and titled "Really? You're Not in a Book Club?," James Atlas writes that despite online options, "the most prevalent way of conducting a book club is still in someone's living room, over food and a glass of wine…."

"In the end," he says, "book clubs are about community."

I'll raise a glass to that.

Awards for "Riding Fury Home."

- Gold medal winner: Independent Publisher Book Awards
- Winner: National Indie Excellence Book Awards
- Winner: Association for Women in Psychology Jewish Women's Caucus; 2013 Award for Scholarship
- Finalist, Debut Author and Short Story/Collections: Golden Crown Literary Society 2013
- Over the Rainbow List of the American Library Association

Your comments and suggestions for other columns about Rockridge people and happenings are most welcome. Please email judyberne@att.net.

Telegraph Avenue Makeover Underway

The city of Oakland and other agencies are working to improve transportation safety and comfort on Telegraph Avenue between 20th Street and 57th Street for all modes of travel.

The Telegraph Avenue project website (www.oaklandnet.com/TelegraphAvenue) has results of an online survey of people who travel frequently on Telegraph. The summary report is at: http://www2.oaklandnet.com/n/OAK046218. Appendices are included under the "Project Materials" section of the website. Over 1,100 respondents provided a richer understanding of community concerns and desires for the area.

Now, the city will host three public open houses along the project corridor so community members can learn more about the design concepts and provide feedback:

- Thursday, April 24, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Beebe Memorial Cathedral, 3900 Telegraph
- Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Faith Presbyterian Church, 430 49th Street
- Thursday, May 1, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Humanist Hall, 390-27th Street (accessible entrance at 411-28th Street).

Content and materials for each of the three open houses will be the same. Confirm dates and times at: www.oaklandnet.com/TelegraphAvenue.

Report compiled with information from project web sites and Jamie Parks, AICP, Oakland Complete Streets Program Manager.

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THE ROCKRIDGE MUSE

A Garage Is a Garage Is a Garage. Or Is it?

by Ortrun Niesar

One of the most undervalued features of our beloved Rockridge bungalow homes is that outmoded, humble little adjunct out back we call a "garage." Why we still call it a garage is a mystery to me. Most of these structures haven't seen a car in them since the Model T went out of style.

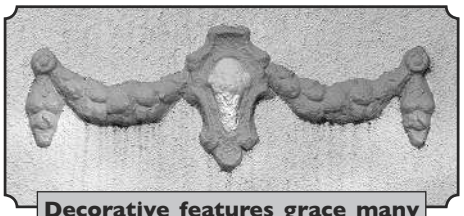
Demoted to storage sheds of sorts, they are often crammed full of old paint buckets, bicycles with flat tires, rusted tools and excess everything that could not fit into the house. In extreme cases, doors sporting peeling paint and broken glass may hang halfway off their hinges. Locks and chains fastened to the front hold it all together until, one day, the junkman arrives to cart it all away – including the shed – to eternal rest in the dump.

Actually, those little sheds deserve a second look. They may have become obsolete, but they have an honorable history and possibilities for the future.

A Long and Venerable History

While many of us consider a garage a natural part of a residence today, garages were not fully vetted in the early 1900s when many of our bungalows were built. At that time, cars were a novelty and a luxury. Few people could afford them. If they did own one, it was likely treated with respect, protected as a horse and buggy might have been in a kind of cute little shed near the home.

I suspect this became a popular addition



Decorative features grace many Rockridge garages. /Don Kinkead

even if no car was owned right then. After all, it was entirely possible that you would own one, someday. In the meantime, you could use the "garage" to store vegetables, smoke some prosciutto, and make a little vino.

The idea of a serious attached garage or the addition of a "carport" was actually the brainchild of Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1930s. This he did partly for aesthetic reasons and partly to allow for the utilitarian purpose of adding more rooms later on, not exactly for car storage. But cars caught on in a big way and bigger and better garages for bigger and better and more cars came with them. In Rockridge, it was too late to redraw our small plots to hold that gaping two-car garage. Some people moved through the Tunnel to Lafayette to build ever bigger garages. Consider this a stroke of luck: Rockridge escaped suburbanization. That is not to say that we didn't try to modernize, be "with it." Many of those little garages were in fact simply torn down to make room for that shiny barbecue or a corrugated aluminum garden shed ordered from Sears. Still, some of the original little garages have survived to take on iconic stature in our time and to add to the charm of our historic neighborhoods.

What's in Your Garage?

That ol' garage is likely to be the most creatively active spot in your entire house. Please don't tear it down. Once gone, replacing it with another structure could be expensive and problematic as building and zoning codes have changed dramatically. Check with your contractor or architect first. Emptied out, your lonely old garage can be converted to become a receptive space where mindful presence and limitless creative growth is possible.

The most famous garage event of our time is certainly that of Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak who changed the world with their work, not in a fancy lab, but in a suburban garage.

In Rockridge, many once-neglected garages now serve as mini-tech incubators, studios for artists and artisans, offices, recording studios, gyms, writers' lairs, guest rooms, independent businesses, neighborhood meeting places and earthquake emergency centers: Joe Scodella, retired engineer, fiddles with machinery and makes gorgeous fly fishing hooks for his friends: artist Peter Heelan and wife Sabra Daly invite their Irish fiddling friends and artists and neighbors to make poetry and music; Laurie Leiber teaches Pilates; Claire Langley Hawthorne wrote her first mystery novels in her writer's studio on Auburn.

The list goes on. It's great.

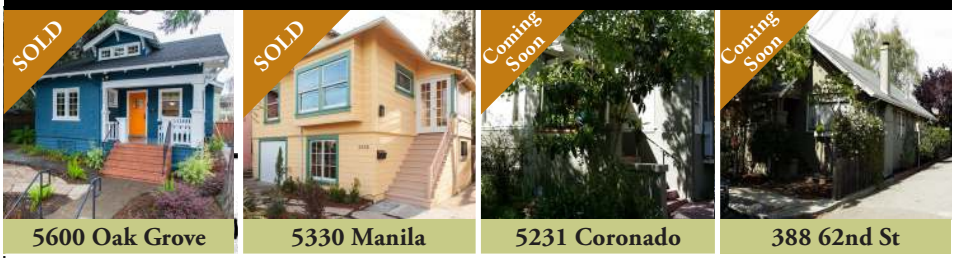
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Theatre Arts at Oakland Tech: A Collaborative Program

by Carol Delton, OakTechRep (OTR) parent, with input from OTR students and teachers

As Oakland Technical High School has become known for its academies and academic excellence, it has also developed an outstanding theater program that provides opportunities in every aspect of dramatic production. Students can take drama and dance classes during the school day, audition for OakTechRep productions, and learn additional skills through the afterschool acrobatics and Tech Techies programs. Students of other art forms such as instrumental music, graphics and fashion design may play important roles to introduce a show, design posters, or create costumes. And, all of this creativity finds a home in Tech's own auditorium, restored through the support, generosity and persistence of the Tech community.

Founded eight years ago, OakTechRep collaborates with CalShakes, American Conservatory Theatre, the Marin Theatre Company, and Berkeley Rep. Professional artists from these companies come in to Tech to teach and explore with students, and students go out to experience how productions are built by these local companies. OakTechRep has performed at Stanford, CalShakes, and the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Selected students recently performed and sat as panelists at the Alameda County Arts Advocacy Conference.

In May, OakTechRep performs "American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose," featuring over 75 characters who represent the dark not-quite-what-they-teach-in-school side of U.S. history, as they appear in Juan Jose's dreams the night before he takes his U.S. citizenship test. This is the work's first student production, by special permission of playwright Richard Montoya of Culture Clash. One student put it: "Reading the script, sometimes I didn't get why this person and that one were in the scene. But after you get into it, you realize why they're there. He [the playwright] … 'gets' everyone, every stereotype and every belief." Another commented: "Also, it's hysterical!"

"American Night" will be performed Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 1 through 3, three evening performances at 7 p.m. and one Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. in the Oakland Tech Auditorium, 310-42nd Street. Tickets are $10 at the door.

For more information, contact Jessa Moreno, jessabrie@gmail.com.

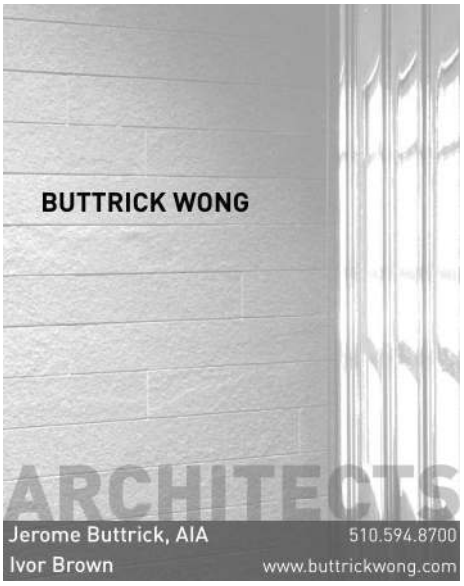
"99 Years: a verbatim history of Oakland Tech" is to be presented in excerpt form as part of 2015's Oakland Tech Centennial celebration.

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Wine Pairing: 'It's About the Spicing and the Sauces'

There are so many College Avenue restaurants with extensive wine lists, I've invited respected Bay Area wine journalist Alan Goldfarb to join me in this month's column to weigh in on how to approach wine pairings. Alan writes a wine pairing blog for Tablehopper and is a marketing and public relations consultant for several California wineries. I hope our Rockridge News readers will find Alan's comments helpful when selecting a wine to have with dinner.

Barry Kaufman: Let's start with some personal background. How long have you been a wine journalist? And what brought you to making wine journalism your career choice?

Alan Goldfarb: I've been writing about wine for 25 years. I've been a journalist since high school and started out as a sports writer in New York. When I came to California, I saw the number one "sport" in the Bay Area was food and wine. I started writing about food and then focused on wine.

BK: What are some of the challenges of your work?

AG: My biggest challenge has always been trying to educate the consumer. I try not to be academic or a turnoff to people as many wine journalists don't write for the general consumer. I find most people don't have the interest or time to get down into the complexity of understanding wine. I wish people would really want to go deeply into the subject.

BK: Do you have a personal preference for either California wines or imported wines from France or Italy?

AG: Yes. To make a bold statement, on balance Italian wines are my favorites. This goes back to my youth growing up in Brooklyn. My Aunt Esther who married an Italian man always had wine on the table. She became a great Italian cook. Italian wines are the most food-friendly wines. They're balanced wines – not over the top – not sexy. California wines tend to overpower food. They're not balanced and generally don't go well with food.

BK: What's your take on the oft-heard adage "white wine with fish and red wine with meat"?

AG: It is an adage – very general statement. Let's take fish. You would think oh, white wine. But my Aunt Esther would often put marinara sauce on the fish. The marinara sauce is so strong and spicy it would go better with red wine. A simple rule is that it's not necessarily about the protein (fish, beef, poultry), it's about the spicing and the sauces when making wine pairings. The protein may be the backbone of the dish, but it's the spices and sauces that create the flavor.

BK: What advice can you offer people who are casual wine drinkers with limited knowledge about wine when they dine at a fine restaurant and are presented with an extensive wine list?

AG: Well, if one truly is lost – and today's restaurants offer the diner many obscure wines – it's easiest to speak to someone on the floor. Unfortunately, many servers don't have the knowledge or expertise to assist a diner to make a selection. I usually go for wines of Southern Spain, France, and Italy. These are the best wines and the best value. It's hard to go wrong. For $35, you can get a very good wine from Europe while a California wine of similar quality would cost about $50.

BK: OK, let's go to the wine pairing for this month's recipe: Dukkah-Crusted Lamb Chops with Pomegranate Molasses. Dukkah is an Egyptian side dish, a mix of herbs, nuts (often hazelnuts), and spices, such as sesame, coriander and cumin. Pomegranate molasses is a sweet Middle Eastern condiment. Double-thick loin lamb chops are cooked to medium rare. The chops are dipped into the dukkah mixture and drizzled with the pomegranate molasses and some honey. The dish is clearly sweet and savory. Your thoughts?

AG: This is challenging to pair well. The lamb chops are the backbone of the dish. At first blush you would think red wine. But the dish is dominated by the spiciness of the dukkah and the sweetness of the pomegranate molasses. A red wine will kill the flavor. In this case you need a wine with a lot of acidity to cut through the sweet of the pomegranate molasses and honey. I would suggest a wine from Southern Italy. Perhaps a Grillo from Sicily. It's a wonderful white wine that would bring out the flavors of the dish. A Pinot Bianco or a Pigato would also go well. Both are full-bodied with great acidity. A good selection of Italian wines is available at Paul Marcus Wines in Market Hall.

BK: That sounds wonderful. Thanks for the recommendation.

Grilled Dukkah-Crusted Lamb Chops with Pomegranate Molasses

Ingredients

½-cup prepared Dukkah (available at Trader Joe's and Pasta Shop)

1 tablespoon pomegranate molasses (available at Pasta Shop or most Middle Eastern markets)

1 tablespoon honey

8 small thick lamb rib chops

Salt & pepper

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Preparation

• Season chops with salt & pepper. • Spread dukkah onto a large plate. • Whisk pomegranate molasses and honey in a small bowl. • Heat oil in heavy large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. • Add lamb chops to pan and cook to desired doneness, about 3 minutes per side for medium rare. • Transfer chops to platter. • Hold each chop by the bone-end, dip both sides of chop into dukkah to coat, then transfer to another plate. • Drizzle pomegranate molasses and honey over chops and serve.

Drink with one of the wines suggested by Alan.

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. He is available for cooking classes and tours of East Bay ethnic markets. His email is: kaufman42@comcast.net. Alan Goldfarb's email is wineflak@gmail.com.

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Not Enough Signatures

from page 1

was developed to ensure that studying two soundwall segments along State Route 24 between Broadway and Telegraph Avenue has strong and widespread community support in the affected area. At multiple RCPC Town Hall meetings and in Rockridge News articles and email communications beginning in fall 2012, the petition process was presented to the community, including the following key points:

- The process is modeled on other city processes, such as those used by neighborhoods requesting speed bumps and parking regulation changes.
- The city developed the petitions, including names and addresses of eligible property owners.
- Soundwall study proponents would collect signatures.
- Signature gatherers had one full year to collect signatures.
- If 2/3 of eligible property owners signed the petition, then the studies would move forward; if not, the funding allocated to the studies would be used for other priority projects on the Caldecott project list.

The city mailed a courtesy letter to all 481 identified eligible property owners on March 12, 2013, advising them of the petition process. The petition was subsequently posted on the Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC)website. In the intervening year, soundwall studies advocates wrote their own letters to property owners eligible to sign the petition, emailed and phoned them, and used old fashioned door-to-door neighborhood visits to collect the needed signatures. One year later, on March 12, 2014, the city received petitions containing 300 signatures or 62 percent, 21 short of the 321 needed to indicate 2/3 support. Because an insufficient number of signatures was submitted, no verification was performed.

After the petition process concluded and shortly before press time for The Rockridge News, some signature-gatherers raised questions about the process. The city is evaluating these comments. Once this evaluation is complete, the city will update the community email and postings on the FBC website (www.fourthbore.org).

For more information, contact Oakland Caldecott project coordinator, Victoria Eisen, at victoria@eisenletunic.com or phone 510/525-0220.

Soundwall Study Supporters Appeal City Decision

by Stuart Flashman and Theresa Nelson

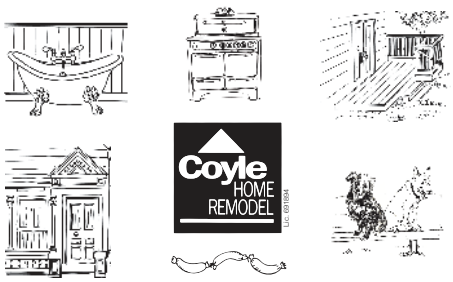
The Rockridge Ad-hoc Sound Wall Committee, which collected and submitted more than 300 signatures favoring sound wall studies, has appealed the rejection of the petitions by the city's Transportation Services Division. Among other concerns, the appeal points out that the petition process was not like those for permit parking or speed humps. Both of those require signatures of residents, not property owners. (More than 70 percent of resident owners signed the petition supporting the studies; getting signatures from absentee landlords was much harder!) The committee awaits the decision of Brooke Levin, Interim Public Works Director, on the appeal.

Many Rockridge residents complained that they never received the letter from the city, certain addresses were excluded from the petition for no apparent reason, and the petition even included addresses that don't exist. They believe city staff took responsibility for the petition process, setting the rules and requirements, but then was unresponsive to complaints about the process.

Ed. Note: Visit rockridge.org for developments.

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Candidate Statements

from page 3

both to preserving the unique character of Rockridge, and being open to new ideas and community input. I will continue to focus on engaging residents of Rockridge to participate in RCPC, connect with each other, and co-create a safe, beautiful and caring community.

At our Town Hall meeting on February 22, I co-facilitated a session about making Rockridge a safer place through innovative community design and engagement. The energy and commitment of Rockridge residents inspires me, and I plan to work on implementing many of the creative ideas we generated.

Zabrae Valentine
Benvenue Avenue

Incumbent



I have had the honor of serving on the RCPC board for the last year and as the board chair beginning in May 2013.

Since then, we have initiated several terrific projects that I'd like to see through to completion, to include: presenting a series of programs on public safety (complementing the great work of our NCPC); supporting FROG Park's fundraising drive to make major improvements to the park; analyzing and improving communication tools available to Rockridge residents that support decision-making and coordinated action (in addition to information-sharing); and engaging the neighborhood to describe the key characteristics defining Rockridge so we can proactively foster these qualities through strategic support for future retail and commercial development, management of public space, and community activities.

My professional background is in public policy, nonprofit management, and civic engagement. I live on Benvenue with my husband and two boys. Thanks for your consideration.

Having Fun? Do it in Oakland!

When Peter Pan Came to Town

from page 2

in the San Francisco car crash with Martin and who died two years later.

Martin's manager Ben Washer was killed in the crash and Martin suffered a fractured pelvis, broken rib and bruised kidney. She recovered rapidly, forcing herself to walk each day despite the pain. Without the Trauma Unit at S.F. General, she said, "I don't think any of us would be alive."

For two months Martin studied almost daily with Davis, gradually rebuilding her vocal chops. "I'm mad about this wonderful lady!" she told me. "She's a therapist, really. I wish I'd found her 11 years ago."

Time moved on. Martin died in 1990 – her 100th birthday was last December – and Davis died in 2001, two weeks after coaching her last student.

I missed Mary Martin's historic concert at Davies Symphony Hall in October 1984 – I had tickets to see Bruce Springsteen the same night – and I still regret it.

But each time I pass the old Judy Davis studio and see "Mary Martin" written in the sidewalk, I'm reminded of what a great entertainer she was. And I remember how lovely she was, many years ago, to a young reporter.

Edward Guthmann has lived in Rockridge since 1977. He was a staff film critic and arts reporter at the San Francisco Chronicle from 1984 to 2009. His email address is edward5430@comcast.net

Safeway on College

from page 1

the parking deck on top of the store. Once the ramp is done, the crew will start pouring the walls on the Claremont side of the site, then move on to constructing and pouring the footings that will support the store's height. The weather has been cooperating nicely so far, allowing the concrete to set.

Saturday Workdays

Workers may be present on some Saturdays. Safeway received permission from the city to work on several Saturdays, allowing the crews to stay on schedule for a mid-fall opening.

As always, please contact us with questions or concerns about the project: Elisabeth Jewel. Office: 510/849-4811; Cell, 510/914-5211. *Ed. note:* Elisabeth Jewel is a partner AJE Partners (Aroner, Jewel and Ellis), government and public affairs consultants.





Update: 'Safer Rockridge'

from page 4

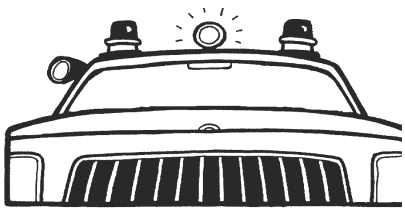
6 hours a day. This is a great start, but to get to our goal of 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, we will need $19,000 in recurring monthly contributions.

Please help meet the goal by contributing today at SaferRockridge.org. While $30 per month is the suggested contribution level (just click on the "recurring" box), one-time and recurring contributions of any amount are welcome. You can cancel your recurring payment at any time.

Patrol services are available to all persons in the patrol area, and anyone may contribute. The more funds we raise, the more patrol hours we can secure. Please spread the word by talking with your neighbors about the patrols and the fundraising effort.

More information about Safer Rockridge and the patrols, including flyers for outreach, can be found on our website at SaferRockridge.org. To get email updates, join our mailing list at SaferRockridge.org/mailing.

Questions or concerns? Email the organizers at saferrockridge@gmail.com.



Permit Parking

from page 1

Colby; 62nd from College to Colby; 61st from Hillegass to Colby; Hillegass from Alcatraz to Claremont; and Colby from Alcatraz to 61st.

Each block wanting to participate must "opt-in" by August 1, 2018. The opt-in process follows the standard city of Oakland process for establishing an RPP area. That process includes each block gathering signatures and submitting petitions to the city.

Safeway still hopes to open by the end of 2014. Once Safeway and the new retail are fully operating, parking in the area can only get worse. It could take from one to two years from the time petitions are submitted before the RPP will be effective, so we need to get started.

Details are not finalized, but we expect volunteers to commence gathering signatures within the next few weeks. Active members of the Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue (FANS), the local residents involved with the Safeway project (who live within the proposed RPP area) are coordinating this effort with help and support from RCPC.

Detailed information on the RPP for our area will be available from canvassing volunteers and via flyers. If you would like to help gather signatures on your block, please contact Dennis Swanson at dennisv1441@gmail.com.

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3/19/14	4	1	5600 Oak Grove Avenue	$895,000	$875,000	68	$875,000
3/19/14	2	2	5330 Manila Avenue	$849,000	$849,000	30	$925,000
3/21/14	3	1	452 Hudson Street	$898,000	$898,000	13	$1,150,000
3/21/14	2	1	5340 Broadway Terrace	$509,000	$509,000	13	$560,000

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Shopping? Find it in Rockridge!

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)

Discuss crime and public safety with representatives of OPD. 2nd Thurs. each month, 7 to 8:30pm. **Meet founders of Safer Rockridge. See story page 4**. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. Confirm mtg.at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

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:

- **Spring Break Creative Writing Workshop for Kids & Teens (Ages 8-15):** All styles: poetry, fiction, non-fiction. Led by Chapter 510 teaching artists. Edit, and publish your work (produce a collection in a book or zine). April 15-18 (Tues - Fri), 2 - 4pm. **Advance registration encouraged.**
- **Play Around with Shakespeare:** workshop with **Jane Courant**. Celebrate Shakespeare's 450th birthday. Play theater games. Experiment with his dramatic language: insults, compliments, spells, and charms. **All ages 9 and up**. Sat., 4/26, 2- 3:30pm.
- **Learn to Give Your Mom a Massage for Mothers' Day.** Sat., 5/3, 2pm. Child must bring an adult (... someone other than your mom so she'll be surprised).

FOR TEENS

- **World Book Night:** Get a **free book** to take home as part of the celebration happening at book stores and libraries across the country; after 1:30 pm on Wed., 4/23.
- **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:** watch Anime, 5-6:30 pm; 2nd Tues. each month.
- **Teen 'Scape:** Join other teens each Wed. after school, 1:30-3:30pm. Play video & board games, make crafts, enjoy **light snacks**.
- **Free Comic Book Day:** Get **free comic books** on Sat.,May 3

FOR ADULTS

- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** All writers welcome. Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced, MS margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (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, 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: Drawings & Photos by the **students of Oakland Tech High School Fashion, Art & Design Academy**.

May: **Aparna Ewing** and **Patricia Smith:** Exhibition of Quilts featuring abstract collages and hand-dyed fabrics and paper.

Lobby Display Case:

Apr: **David Peniston**; mixed media and small sculpture.

May: **Patty Garret**; blown glass.

LIBRARY HOURS

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

Diesel Book/Readings/Events

All FREE and open to the public.

- Sun., 4/6, 3pm. Poetry Flash with **Miriam Bird Greenberg** and **Dennis Schmitz**.
- Mon., 4/7, 7pm. **David Kroodsma**: *The Bicycle Diaries: My 21,000-Mile Ride for the Climate*.
- Thurs., 4/10, 7pm. local author **Robert K. Lewis**: *Critical Damage*.
- Sun., 4/13, 3pm. **Spooky Actions Books** Publication Party for **Steven Seidenberg:** *Null Set.* Joined by poet and visual artist **Cassandra Smith**.
- Thurs., 4/24, 7pm. Publication Party for anthology by the **Write On Mamas!:** *Mamas Write*.
- Fri., 5/2, 6pm. Launch Party with managing editor **Jennifer Williams and contributors** of *580 Split* literary magazine, (published by grad students of Mills College Eng. Dept.): *Issue No.16: Mischief*. **Live music and refreshments**.
- Wed., 5/7, 7pm. **Elizabeth Fishel:** *Getting to 30: A Parent's Guide to the 20-Something Years.*

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

Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) Big Spring Book Sale

April 10 - 13 (Thurs – Sunday). 10:30am - 5:30pm. Most books $3 to $6 with discounts up to 50%. The Bookmark Bookstore sales support reading and literacy programs, branch projects, collection development and more. 721 Washington Street, 444-0473. Details at www.fopl.org and www.thebookmarkbookstore.org.

26th Annual Heart of the Home Tour

Benefit for Children's Support League of the East Bay (CSL). Tour five beautiful homes in Oakland and Piedmont (including 2 in the Rockridge area on Harbord and Claremont Pines). Fri. and Sat, 4/25 and 26, 10am to 4pm. Includes pop-up boutique, raffle and gourmet lunch. **All proceeds benefit at-risk children in Alameda and Contra Costa counties**. Ticket sales and more info at www.ChildrensSupportLeague.org.

13th Annual Community Yard Sale

Lower Rockridge Parents Group (LRPG) benefit for Peralta Elementary and Claremont Middle Schools. Saturday, May 3, 9am to 1pm. Peralta school playground, 460 63rd St. (on Alcatraz, 1/2 block east of Teleg.). Donations accepted until day before sale. For donation guidelines or to arrange a donation time & place, email **Chris Moraes:** clm318@gmail.com.

Calif. College of the Arts (CCA) Spring Fair

Free and open to the public. CCA's Oakland campus becomes an arts bazaar for a day. Shop for one-of-a-kind, handmade, affordable gifts made by students, alumni and staff: ceramics, blown glass, jewelry, clothing/ textiles, paintings/photos and more. **Live jazz and tasty treats.** Saturday, 4/26, 11am to 3pm. CCA campus, 5212 B'way (at College Ave), main walkway. Info: glee@cca.edu.

Square Dance In North Oakland

Music by **The Squirrelly String Band**. Calling by **Jordan Ruyle** or **Evie Ladin** (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/.

North Oakland Senior Center

Programs include: Arts/crafts; health counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; support groups, classes/more.

- **UC CalFresh: 6 free nutrition classes** to help seniors stay healthy and active, live well and reduce the symptoms of chronic conditions. **Free giveaways, recipes and samples.** First Tuesdays: through June 3. 10:30am-12 noon. Pre-register at 597-5085.
- **Free Alzheimer's Forum:** Sat., 4/12, 8:30 am - 2pm register at http://forum.kintera.org/2014AfricanAmerican or 1-800/272-3900
- **BART Tickets on sale for $9** (a **$24 value**) for seniors 65 and over.

Annual $12 membership entitles seniors 55 + to discounts on activities and trips. Mon. – Fri., 9am to 4:30pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Info: 597- 5085.

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; **live music**. **Bring your own reusable bags.** 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot. More about Certified Farmers' Markets at urbanvillageonline.com.





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THINKING OF SELLING OR RENTING?

There is a severe shortage of homes to sell or lease in Rockridge (any size or condition). I estimate we are short by at least 16 homes = Read "Sellers Market." There are only 8 homes actively for sale right now at the beginning of the Spring market. Same for rentals - call or email me for more information! 510-612-2547 or RonKriss@JPS.net

COMING SOON - APRIL

Belgrave Place ***not priced yet**
4+BD/2+BA
Almost untouched since build. Part of a very upscale development of 7 mini mansions.
Grand rooms, amazing detailing, maids stairway - you get the picture. Cool old bathrooms - intact.
Award Winning Chabot Elementary School

FOR SALE IN ROCKRIDGE

5625 Broadway **$1,285,000 List**
3+ Beds/ 2+ Baths
Amazing New Home
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www.5625Broadway.com.

SOLD 3 OFFERS

FOR LEASE IN ROCKRIDGE

5521 Lawton Avenue **$3,850/mo**
$3,850
2BD/1BA Newer kitchen. So. facing yard.
Award Winning Chabot Elementary.

***NOTE! If you want to rent let me know ASAP. I had over 25 groups tour this property and leased it in a week.**

LEASED

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

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