Rockridge News

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More information, and how to help: page 5.

November Town Hall



November Town Hall speakers Carol Strickman, left, Jeff Morelli, Eileen Levin and Howard Cook. /D. Kinkead

by Don Kinkead, editor

None of the speakers at the RCPC November Town Hall mentioned ostriches, but all made it clear that living in the Bay Area and failing to prepare for earthquakes or other major disasters was nothing more than hiding one's head in the sand.

"The Hayward Fault is on a 140-year repeat cycle," said presenter Howard Cook of Bay Area Retrofit, "and it's been 146

November Town Hall: CORE, page 10

Cole Hardware Readies for Rockridge Opening

Contacted by The Rockridge News for details about the January Rockridge store opening, Cole Hardware owner Dave Karp reported the following: "On our first day, Friday, January 2, we'll open at 9 a.m."

After that, he said, the store will be open, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. The store will keep limited holiday hours, but, Karp said, "We are open every day of the year for neighborhood convenience. For example, on Thanksgiving our stores were open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We were very busy with grateful customers purchasing cooking supplies, and last minute fix-it items."

Karp said the January opening will be low-key. The family plans a grand opening in February on a date to be announced.



/Don Kinkead

Holiday Security, College Ave



by Chris Jackson, RDA

The Rockridge District Association is pleased to bring extra security to College Avenue for the holiday season.

The Rockridge District Association (RDA) has contracted with Intervention Group Inc. (IGI) Security Services, an Oakland company, helping to make for an enjoyable time on the Avenue. They will not only help keep us safe but will be able to provide assistance with directions and information to our neighbors and guests alike. We all will be working together: IGI Security Services, Oakland Police Department, Market Hall security personnel, Dreyer's, Trader Joe's and other security services on the Avenue to make this a happy holiday season. IGI will be with us seven days a week and into the evening hours during the month of December.

Robert Taylor, IGI Security Services, left, and Chad Carlin. /Chris Jackson

***Happy Holidays!* No RCPC Town Hall Meeting in December. Next meeting: February 19, 2015**

RCPC Celebrates Stuart Flashman

Plaque and public recognition for retiring long-time chair

The plaque honoring now-retired RCPC board chair Stuart Flashman and presented to him at the November RCPC Town Hall meeting could hardly do full justice to his seven years of service with RCPC.

Flashman did not come to the RCPC board as a novice in public service. He had been a planning commissioner and city councilmember in Emeryville; an East Bay MUD director and, later, president; and he founded the Emeryville Shoreline Committee and served as its co-chair for five years.

Flashman slowed down a bit after moving to Rockridge in 1992, only to get involved again when he accepted an appointment to a vacant seat on the RCPC board of directors in 2007. After being elected to the board in 2008, he was chosen to serve as chair for the next four years. He continued to serve on the board through the end of his third term last April, and while no longer on the board, he continues to serve as co-chair of the Land Use Committee with current board member Greg Pasquali.

Flashman has said he feels most proud of progress made during his tenure in raising RCPC's visibility in Rockridge and with the city. We are indebted to him for his work representing the interests of the community on a variety of local land use, planning and transit issues, including the two Safeway projects, the city's rezoning process (with Glen Jarvis), and generally strengthening the technical expertise of the land use committee and its commitment to maintaining the character and vitality of Rockridge.



Stuart Flashman, plaque in hand, and RCPC Chair Zabrae Valentine.

/D. Kinkead

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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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RCPC Land Use Committee

The December Land Use Committee meeting is Wednesday, December 17, 7:30 p.m. **NOTE: Change of date**. To be held in an upstairs meeting room of the Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue, the meeting will include a further update and discussion of revised zoning for College Avenue, and updates on the two Rockridge Safeway projects. Meetings are open to the public.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair

Committee Notes: Meeting location, date (changed), and agenda in box above.

■ College Avenue Safeway Project– College and Claremont Avenues

Construction of the Safeway building is nearing completion, but there have been more glitches. In response to merchant concerns about the lack of parking in the pre-Thanksgiving week, Safeway agreed to temporarily reopen on-street parking on the east side of College Avenue. However, as of November 30, Safeway has stated the parking will again disappear between December 1 and December 6. RCPC will ask the city to insist that Safeway leave the College Avenue on-street parking spaces available for the shopping public until after Christmas, and, if possible, open the College Avenue sidewalk area, too. Local merchants shouldn't have to suffer because of Safeway's construction delays. Meanwhile, the Safeway store's opening has again been delayed, and it is not expected to open until mid-January. Construction of the retail building lags even further, as does approval of its tenants. Don't expect that building to open before late January.

The oak tree to be planted next to the College and Claremont intersection is still in the plans. Judicious pruning may be needed in the future to ensure visibility of the newly installed traffic signal. Once the Safeway does open, expect some traffic disruption on both College and Claremont avenues.

Call RCPC at 869-4200 or e-mail info@rockridge.org to report problems regarding the construction area or problems such as significant increases in cut-through traffic on streets west of College.

■ Rockridge Shopping Center/ Merrill Gardens Senior Housing Project– Broadway and Pleasant Valley/51st St.

Demolition in preparation for both these large projects is expected to begin in December. Parking at the Rockridge Shopping Center will be reduced to allow space for construction "staging" – the storage of construction equipment and supplies. It may become more difficult to go between the remaining Safeway building and the AAA building to its south. Parking for construction workers will likely also be on-site. For the Merrill Gardens project on the other side of Broadway, construction parking will be on the southwest side of 51st Street (where the giant billboard is). Expect some additional congestion at the Broadway/ Pleasant Valley/51st Street intersections for quite a while to come. You may want to look for alternative routes, such as along Telegraph Avenue or MacArthur Boulevard.

■ College Ave Retail Zoning Study

RCPC representatives met with city staff members to discuss a possible study of College Avenue retail zoning. The wide-ranging discussion covered topics such as: the appropriate size threshold for requiring use permits; whether limits should be placed on the extension of use permits to businesses subsequent to the original permit grantee (presently there are none); and how to maintain an appropriate balance of uses on College in the face of the increasing shift of retail sales towards the Internet. A follow-up meeting is tentatively set for December. There may be a future RCPC Town Hall to open the discussion up to the broader Rockridge community. Provide your thoughts: phone (869-4200) or e-mail info@rockridge.org.



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RCPC Studies and Adjusts Town Hall Meeting Schedule

Have you been to an RCPC Town Hall meeting this year? If so, you may have noticed that the RCPC board has been experimenting with some new practices intended to make it easier for folks to attend: for example, opening at 7 p.m. and serving Jules Pizza to help tide folks over who come straight from work without grabbing dinner first. You may also have noticed RCPC has been more about publicizing the meetings to try to increase awareness of them among residents who may not see the announcements in The Rockridge News.

The results have been informative. Several of this year's Town Hall, page 9

College Avenue: Variety; Endurance; Excitement

Many Merchants Have Been on College for Decades

Years of Merchants' Service: Part 4

Following is the fourth in our series on businesses in business on College Avenue at least 25 years. We are nearing the end of our series and don't want to miss anyone. If you have been "on the Avenue" and haven't seen your name yet, drop us an email at editor@rockridge.org. We want readers of The Rockridge News to know about you and to stop in to see what you offer.

by Kevin Faughnan, RCPC boardmember

■ **Jarvis Architects**, 5278 College Avenue, began in Glen Jarvis' Benvenue home in 1971, just after he graduated from USC. That worked out for about 10 years, even though the kids made conferences with clients a little challenging. By that time, Glen had his first employee, Robin Pennell, and two kids; it was time for a more-removed office, the first of several. After time on Shattuck and Alcatraz avenues, Jarvis Architects settled in on College Avenue in the late 1990s, an easy commute from Benvenue Avenue. Glen's business is primarily from East Bay families who are remodeling, rebuilding or modifying properties. He has also been a pillar of the RCPC Land Use Committee since 1974, except for a few years spent on the Oakland Planning Commission. His early guidance and efforts were a big part of the then-new zoning designation Rockridge residents achieved during the early – and successful — efforts to prevent the neighborhood from becoming a major high-rise apartment transit hub when BART was in its early days. Jarvis Architect's signature designs can be viewed on the company web site: www.jarvisarchitects.com.

■ **Hudson Bay Café,** 5401 College Avenue, located where College and Hudson intersect, has sidewalk and indoor tables, a bright décor, friendly staff and darn good coffee to go with a breakfast sandwich or a lunchtime meal. Serving Rockridge residents and other customers since 1978 (when it operated under the name "The Dancing Goat") the business has a neon sign in the window offering "Coffees and Candies," so you can get those too, if needed. It has been owned since 2004 by Sadri Madjlessi and his wife Tanya Anderson, ex-manager of Peaberry's Coffee, located in Market Hall years ago. Sadri and Tanya recently opened Homespun Fare right next door, serving basic dinners at reasonable prices, which must leave them exhausted by the end of the day. (The owners of many – if not most – of College Avenue businesses work long hours to provide their services to us; let them know you appreciate that the next time you are in your favorite store(s)).

■ **Green Copy** is located at 5267 Broadway in the College Point building across from CCA. Opened under the name of **Crimson Duplicating Center** in 1981 by Frank Barzin and his partners, Frank, an engineer by education, changed the business name in 2000. A few years later, he brought his son, Behrang, into the business after he graduated from Cal State Chico (just like Dad) with a degree in cartography. If you have any questions about maps, Behrang is the man to see. Large posters and prints and copying services of all types brought to Green Copy are often handled immediately.

An offshoot of the original business, now separately owned, is **Green Graphics Design,** which handles more traditional offset printing jobs and graphic art designs such as logos, business cards, and letterhead printed in quantities greater than 500 copies. It is also located at College Point with an entry on the College Avenue side. When I mentioned the numerous other Persian merchants located on College (see Sadri at **Hudson Bay**, for example), Behrang reminded me that Persians are business people by culture. When they come to the United States, the first thing they do is open a business.

Years of Service, page 13

Art on the Avenue

Beyond the Shelves at the Rockridge Branch Library

by Carl Schmitz

After a hard-fought community campaign led by the RCPC, the Rockridge Branch of the Oakland Public Library opened on August 3, 1996, on the southeast corner of College Avenue and Manila.

Rockridge's first library was established 95 years ago on Shafter just off College and has since been housed at a handful of locations. The current site is where the Longo family lived and worked for the better part of the last century, making and selling decorative cement sculptures as part of their Art Stone business.

While the library has circulating collections focused on general subjects, it also provides opportunities for seeing art. On permanent display at the library are two colorful sets of quilts. Four quilts were made by children under the guidance of artist Ellen Oppenheimer and another pair, according to Children's Services Librarian Erica Siskind, were made with interactivity in mind: "We have two quilts made by organizers of the Bay Area Storytelling Festival which feature themes from both oral and written storytelling traditions, with sufficient detail in the stitches that they make a good guessing game for children visiting the library."

As part of an active exhibitions program, rotating displays at the library are held in both the upstairs gallery area and in a

Art on the Avenue, page 12

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In 1966, California State Assembly Speaker Jesse "Big Daddy" Unruh declared, "Money is the mother's milk of politics." Money is also the mother's milk of non-profit organizations like the Rockridge Community Planning Council, working to preserve the human scale and commercial and social diversity of our neighborhood. RCPC's primary source of revenue is the biennial Rockridge Kitchen Tour. We also rely on ad revenue from this paper in excess of production costs, and direct contributions from Rockridge residents. RCPC funds are used to host public forums, co-host the Halloween Parade with the Rockridge merchants (RDA), produce and distribute The Rockridge News, support FROG Park, Scenic Streets and other local programs, and work with the city and other parties to ensure land use and transit-related projects are designed and implemented in ways that serve and enhance the neighborhood.

Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to RCPC to support its work: Visit rockridge.org and use the PayPal button on the home page. Or, send a check to RCPC Donations, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. The RCPC Tax ID number is 94-3011284. Thank you for your help and support.

Support the Library, Support Your Community

by Sarah Washburn, FORL board member

I'm willing to guess you love your library. Or perhaps you remember fondly when you and your little ones loved visiting the library.

If you have supported the library in the past, thank you for expressing that love through a donation to the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL). Like you, we love our neighborhood library, and we work hard to ensure the programs, services, and facilities meet the needs of our diverse community.

Donations to the FORL bolstered many areas of the library in 2014. Donors helped fund drama workshops for children, laptops for checkout in the library, magazine holders, ergonomic computer stands, craft materials and video games for teens, outdoor benches, a New York Times subscription, and other accessories, materials, and programs. This

Library Support, page 12

Temescal Creek and the Greenbelt at Year's End

by Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors

Thinking back over the important achievements of the DMV Neighbors Association in 2014, the most vital accomplishment was to bring together residents to become neighbors, neighbors to become friends, and diverse people from multiple generations to care for and benefit from our portion of Temescal Creek.

A cooperative effort between the DMV association and FROG (Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt) led to Temescal Creek, FROG Park, and the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt earning Featured Site status for Earth Day 2014, inspiring more volunteers and attracting more resources to our neighborhood gem. Creek to Bay Day and the FROG Fall Maintenance are separate activities, but because they both happened on the same Saturday in 2014, the DMV Neighbors and

DMV Neighbors, page 11

Hardy Dog Park: New Look, New Group

by Chehie Songstad

Popular Hardy Dog Park is getting a makeover. Following a two-year donation campaign by Scenic Streets, enough money was raised to begin improvements to the park. The long awaited renovations are being reviewed by the city. Work will begin sometime this winter. The renovations will enhance and beautify the park, make better use of the space, and fix basic safety issues. Highlights include improved drainage, play surface and watering stations; a small dog play area; durable and comfortable seating; ADA compliant upgrades; and landscaping to add shade-loving plants and shrubs. See the proposed plan at ScenicStreets.org (click on the Hardy Dog Park tab).

With renovations comes a new Hardy Dog Park Group. The group's initial meeting was held late in October. The first order of business was to spruce up the existing

New Look, New Group, page 10



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Eyes on Rockridge

It Sometimes Takes a 'Village' to Keep Seniors in Their Homes

by Judith Doner Berne

If anyone has a handle on the ever-growing Village Movement, aimed at helping older adults to age in their homes and neighborhoods, it's my neighbor Janis Brewer.

Brewer, a management consultant specializing in non-profit agencies, has aided a slew of villages who hire her independently. These range from the Ashby and North Oakland Villages, which serve Rockridge, to locations in San Francisco, Silicon Valley, Petaluma, even two in Arizona. (See overview of the Village Movement on page 7.)

"I do love the Village Movement," Brewer says as we drink tea on her sunny front porch. "It's grassroots; it's consumer driven." Statistics, she says, show that 85 percent of this age group want to stay in their homes. "They don't want to only hang around with a bunch of old people."

It takes about three years and a lot of energy to start a village, Brewer says. Usually the founding members are in their 60s, and many were active in one or more of the movements of the Sixties and Seventies. "They say: 'I was in the first movement; now I want to be in the next.'"

Brewer was there from the start of Ashby Village, officially opened in 2010, and counting 38 Rockridge residents among its more than 300 members. As interim executive director, she set up the village's operations and helped the board hire full-time executive director Andy Gaines. Rockridge resident Gaines lives a bike ride away from the group's offices on Durant in Berkeley.

"I never knew my grandparents," Gaines says as we sit with Rockridge residents Alison Colgan, Charlotte Herzfeld and Ella Hirst at the Kales Avenue home of board member Roberta Pressman. "I've always loved older people."

Now Gaines' children, ages 5 and 2, who he brings to Ashby Village social gatherings, "have 300 grandparents," says Pressman, a psychologist by training, who coordinates the members' support team.

"I was looking to meet people and get involved," she says, echoing what I heard from the others. Herzfeld found the village "a good fit" that would let her utilize her social work background.

The four are part of Outlandish, one of Ashby Village's five neighborhood groups who regularly meet in each other's homes. "As we grew, there was less of a sense of intimacy," Gaines says. "So we initiated a neighborhood concept."

Outlandish tends toward monthly potluck lunches and dinners. Other groups meet over jigsaw puzzles or handiwork. They come together at Ashby Village Happy Hours and at holiday parties where rides are provided and the building is wheelchair accessible.

When each joined, she participated socially and volunteered, whether it was to introduce a new member to the organization, drive someone to an appointment or contact the family of a member in distress. "You change roles from time to time," Colgan, a retired administrative law judge, says, "like Ella."

"I was invited to a living room chat," Hirst, a retired librarian, explains. That's where Gaines and several board members introduce the Village concept to prospective members and/or volunteers, as they will from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, December 14, in the Rockridge area. (To register, call 510/204-9200 or go to www.ashbyvillage.org.)

Impressed, Hirst immediately decided: "I want to work with people like this. I started volunteering. I loved the nature walks," one of a full calendar of Ashby Village activities. But a year ago, she had a serious fall which required knee replacement. "I was homebound."

That's when the support side of the village movement kicked in. "Alison stayed overnight," Hirst says. Another volunteer, an early riser, brought her breakfast those first mornings. Someone was always available for a ride. "People were so responsive. I was stunned." Indeed, Ashby Village is bolstered by 250 volunteers, just 40 percent of whom are members.

Neighboring North Oakland Village (NOV), opened in 2011, functions without a paid executive director. Its 55 members include six from Rockridge. "I always said I want to stay in my house 'til they carry me out," says Judith Coates, a village founder. "It's pure selfishness on my part," board president Sandra Coleman adds. "I want this to be available when I need it."

Rockridge is where Ashby and NOV overlap. "Whenever someone calls from an area for which they would also be eligible for North Oakland, they are invited to join," Gaines says, "but also encouraged to check out NOV to determine what feels right to them."

"We are the only village located in Oakland," Coates says. Forced out of the Rockridge Shopping Center due to the upcoming renovation, they moved to less visible digs in the First Congregational Church on Harrison at 27th Street.

Now they are more dependent on word of mouth and notices in church and Rotary Club bulletins to attract members and

Urban Villagers, page 7



Urban Villagers

from page 6

volunteers. "Our members tell their friends. When the villages started, we focused on service. But it's really become community," Coates says.

Members can participate in a weekly walking group, Monday mending where Coleman offers her sewing skills to those who may be unable to sew on a button or take up a hem, and monthly potlucks and holiday parties.

"Our self-appointed task is to be in touch with our members to make sure they are getting what they need," Coleman says. "People often find it difficult to ask for help even though they are paying for it. It is so rewarding and people are so appreciative."

Giving members rides is a primary function. "Not only do we drive you to the doctor, but we go in when needed," Coleman says. On a lighter note, she reports: "Older women would rather die than not have their hair done."

New Rockridge resident Larry Hannah saw a piece on NOV on a blog. "I saw that one of the things they did was to drive people to the doctor," he says.

Although the retired Cal State teacher-educator moved here to be near family, "I want to be independent," he says. So he's "paying ahead" by volunteering now so that if he can't drive himself, this village will be there for him.

Your comments and ideas for columns are welcome by emailing judyberne@att.net.



"I've always loved older people," says Rockridge resident Andy Gaines, center front, Ashby Village executive director, surrounded by some of its members and volunteers. Immediately behind him are Rockridge residents Irene Marcos, 2nd from left, Rachel Kahn-Hut, 3rd from left, and Charlotte Herzfeld, far right.

An Overview of the Village Movement

WHAT: An innovative, consumer-driven, self-governing model designed to support older adults who want to age on their own terms in their own homes and communities.

WHERE: 140 operating villages in 41 states with 120 more in development, according to Village to Village Network (www.vtvnetwork.org).

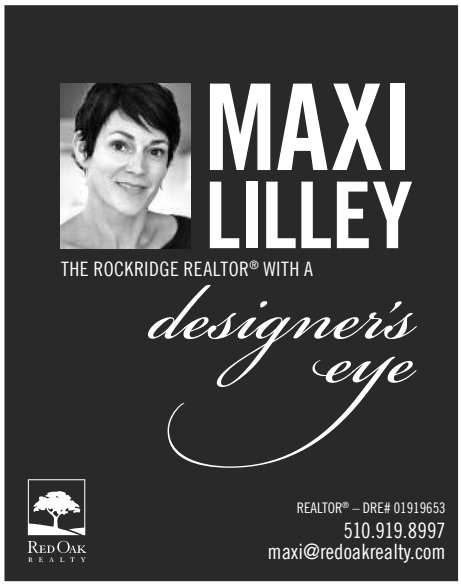
WHEN: Begun in 2001 by a group of seniors living in the Beacon Hill section of Boston to help one another stay in their neighborhood as long as possible.

SERVICES: Many use a tiered service delivery model to address the needs of their members, according to a report published by the Rutgers School of Social Work. This may include some services provided by paid staff, some through volunteers who may or may not be members, and some by external providers who are usually vetted by and sometimes discounted for village members.

SOCIAL: Since isolation is as much an issue as the need for transportation and household-based services, villages also focus on social engagement, community building, discussion groups and involving members in governance.

FUNDING: The largest funding source is membership fees aided by fundraising, individual gifts and grants from private foundations, corporations and government. Annual membership costs vary from $25 to $948 per individual and $50 to $1,285 per household, depending on the village, with some discounted memberships for those who have financial need.

LOCAL: • **Ashby Village** encompasses Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, Kensington, El Cerrito and Rockridge. Annual dues are $750 for an individual, $1,200 for a household. Its offices are at 2330 Durant Avenue, Berkeley. More information is available at 510/204-9200 or www.ashbyvillage.org. • **North Oakland Village** boundaries generally encompass north and central Oakland, including Rockridge. Annual dues are $600 for an individual, $750 for a household. Offices are in Oakland's First Congregational Church, 2501 Harrison at 27th Street. More information: 510/547-8500 or info@northoaklandvillage.org.









Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

My Vote for Local Loyalty

I consider myself fortunate to have grown up in a time and place where there were no large supermarkets.

Flash back to the 1950s to a working-class Brooklyn neighborhood populated mainly by Italian and Jewish immigrant families. We had two commercial streets filled with small family-owned shops. There were two of everything: bakery, fish store, butcher (kosher and non-kosher), live poultry market, green grocer, appetizer store (smoked fish and Jewish delicacies) and pizza by the slice. Believe it or not, we even had two horse-drawn carts that set up shop on the street selling vegetables and fresh fish.

The shop owners lived in our community and we played on the street with their children. On Fridays, my brother had an after-school job delivering on his bike freshly killed chickens to Jewish homemakers for the Sabbath chicken soup. As the shop owners' children grew older, they worked in their parents' stores.

My first family chore was to pick up a bread or challah at the bakery. As young child, I would always get a cookie before I left the shop. As I nibbled the cookie, someone would yell out: "Say hello to your mother and father."

By the late '50s, the first supermarket opened: Key Food, still a mainstay in New York. Neighborhood homemakers flocked to the store. Everyone wanted to be modern. Except for the kosher butcher, within a year every family-owned food store had closed. Before long, a Jewish style supermarket opened: Waldbaum's, also still around in New York. Goodbye kosher butcher! Overnight, it was the end of an era.

Older balabustas (a Jewish grandmother-type homemaker) were at a loss. They could never really accept the idea of a supermarket.

We in Rockridge are truly blessed to have many small, family-owned shops along College Avenue that have been in the community for years. Cole Coffee has been on the corner of College Avenue and 63rd Street for nearly 30 years. Max's blend coffee beans are named after the original owner's son, born soon after the shop's opening. Mike, the current owner, first worked at the shop and continues to brew the finest cup of coffee in the Bay Area. Sisters Bo and Lisa and their family have run Yasai Market for 22 years. In addition to top-rate produce, they have a wide selection of Asian products and spices not found in most supermarkets. No need to shop in Chinatown; Yasai has whatever I need to cook an Asian meal. Ver Brugge Meat Fish and Poultry has been on College Avenue forever. Jerry Ver Brugge and his crew make shopping a true family experience. Ver Brugge butchers know their trade and are happy to share their knowledge so you can have a great meal. They will custom order almost everything you will need. For years they have provided me the perfect ground fish to make my annual Passover gefilte fish. And finally, La Farine Bakery. What can I say? La Farine is perhaps the best French bakery in the Bay Area. Since 1977, customers have started their day with the legendary morning bun from La Farine French Bakery. La Farine offers the finest in French pastries, delicious fruit and nut tarts, classic cakes, cookies, and rustic breads.

These shops are directly across the street from the new Safeway. Whatever you choose to buy at that Safeway, or at out-of-the-area stores you may also visit, I hope you will keep Rockridge's local family-owned food and coffee shops in mind.

This extends, of course, to support for the incredible variety of food stores in Market Hall. These include the nationally recognized Pasta Shop, Marin Sun Farm Butcher and recent arrival Highwire Coffee Roasters. Market Hall Bakery, Hapuku Fish and Market Hall Produce all carry top-notch products. David, at Market Hall Produce (we call him the fruit whisperer), will always steer you to the best fruits and vegetables. More choices among smaller food businesses continue down College, with coffee shops and a chocolate shop among the offerings.

By the time you read this edition of The Rockridge News, the new Safeway may have opened. Folks will flock to the store to see what's new and interesting. College Avenue shopkeepers and neighbors worked to keep the store to a reasonable scale, but it looks pretty big to me. I'm not suggesting we shouldn't shop at the new Safeway, but we are the Rockridge family and we need to support the small family-owned and locally scaled shops that define our community. Grab a cappuccino at Cole Coffee; buy some

Local Loyalty, page 12

Garlic Steamed Clams

(ingredients can be purchased at Yasai, Ver Brugge, Vino, La Farine and Market Hall shops)

Ingredients

2 tbs olive oil
6 garlic cloves, chopped
2 small shallots
1 cup dry white wine
½ cup clam juice
3 tbs unsalted butter
salt and pepper to taste
2 pounds manila or little neck clams
2 tbs minced parsley
Crusty French bread

Preparation

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Cook garlic and shallots until golden brown. Add wine, clam juice, butter, salt and pepper; bring to a boil. Add clams, cover until shells open. Stir in parsley and serve with bread.

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. Barry is available for cooking classes and tours of East-Bay ethnic markets. Barry's email: kaufman42@comcast.net.

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Christmas Revels Celebrates Americana

by Anne Daniels, Rockridge resident, Revels participant

Revels is a family-friendly production to please all ages in a celebration of the long-ago winter traditions that bring us together to welcome the Yuletide.



Revels performers, clockwise from left: Tristan Cunningham, James Galileo, Rene Collins, Liam von Holder.

California Revels has brought its unique theatrical, participatory holiday celebration to Oakland's Scottish Rite Center since 1986, presenting the customs of different cultures through songs, dances, poems and plays as they respond to the Solstice and the turning of the year. Past Revels took us to Galicia, Renaissance Italy and Medieval England.

This year, the show is set in the United States during the Great Depression, with a musical exploration starting in Appalachia, then traveling westward through the bayous of Louisiana toward the Pacific Coast. Then, new technology – radio and the 78 RPM phonograph record – brought music and stories from remote areas of the country into many homes. The old, simple and traditional songs and dances – part of a world now gone by – gave a nuanced sense of what it meant to be a part of American culture. They may be familiar, some may feel modern, yet they are all part of our continually emerging tradition.

The Revels adult and children's choruses and their town band will be joined by talented storytellers and performances by accomplished guest artists. I invite my Rockridge neighbors to join me, whether your roots are in rural America in the 1930s or in another time, place or culture.

Ten performances: Friday through Sunday, December 12 – 14 and 19 – 21: Fridays at 8pm; Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 5pm. Parking for all performances will be available at ALCO Park garage, 1220 Jackson Street (three blocks from the Scottish Rite Center) for a flat rate of $5. Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive. For more information and ticket prices: 452-9334 or http://californiarevels.org/.

Ann Daniels has lived in Rockridge for over 20 years. This is her first year performing with the California Revels.

Oakland Tech Presents "The Living"

by Julie Parker, PTSA Communications

Save the date and come see a great show: OakTechRep, our award-winning student theatre company, presents Anthony Clarvoe's "The Living," in the Oakland Tech Auditorium. The playwright himself visited with the student actors in mid-November and wrote afterwards: "Here's a powerfully moving thing: talking with the cast of your play, none of whom had been born when you wrote the play, all of whom seem to be getting ready to own the hell out of the play. Thanks to Jessa Brie Moreno and the actors of Oakland Tech for a beautiful afternoon, and looking forward to their production of 'The Living.'"

Set during the Great Plague that tore through London in 1665, Anthony Clarvoe's play explores the motivations and behaviors of a group of Londoners who remained in the city after the majority of city officials fled. The play focuses on characters ranging from doctors to clergy to average citizens and city officials as they struggle to keep on living during a catastrophic epidemic.

Written during the AIDS crisis, the play remains relevant as communities around the world today encounter yet another epidemic.

OakTechRep's production features original puppets designed and fabricated by the Tech Techies and manipulated by the ensemble.

"The Living" will perform December 11-13, with three evening performances at 7 p.m. and one Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. in the Oakland Tech Auditorium, 310-42nd Street. General admission tickets are $10 at the door; $8 for OUSD staff and students. Due to the nature of the play's content, this event is recommended for middle-school ages and older. The production is directed by Jessa Moreno with technical direction by Casey Fern and choreography by Ena Dallas. For more information, contact jessica.moreno@ousd.k12.ca.us or 510/450-5400.

Town Hall from page 3

programs have had higher attendance than any in the previous year; a few programs filled the Library meeting room. However, we also cancelled at least one program for insufficient RSVPs, a practice instituted out of respect for the time of prospective panelists. The experimentations will continue in 2015. Instead of hosting Town Halls every month of the year (except August), we will organize five or six only (in February, April, June, September, November, and possibly December) and continue to improve the planning that goes into the meetings. If there are topics you would like to hear covered, please share them with us at info@rockridge.org.

SPECIALIZING IN ROCKRIDGE REAL ESTATE

After a very strong year and sunny outlook for next year in our local real estate market, we welcome the well needed rain and the joy the holidays can bring at the end of the year. We look forward to the completion of the Claremont Safeway project, the coming Cole Hardware store and the festive holiday decorations along College Ave. The inventory of homes are down and will continue to fall until after the new year. Sometimes that means opportunities if folks are busy with festivities this season, even if there are less homes to see. Feel free to contact me to see what is on the market or for a home evaluation. Experience the value from the knowledge gained on nearly 200 transactions.

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New Look, New Group

from page 5

park with a Cleanup Day on November 11.

The dog park was raked, swept, and cleaned of papers, old balls, litter and other debris inside and outside the park. Hardy Dog Park users donated stainless steel water bowls to replace old plastic bowls at water spigots, as well as a fresh supply of poop bags and new balls. The "hardy" workers, including HDPG members, their families and dogs, and volunteers, transformed the park in just an hour. Dog park users voiced their delight and appreciation for the clean park, and also left written messages: "Thank you so much to those who cleaned the park. It looks great."



Sadie, Mack and Cowboy at rest.

An HDPG meeting was held early in December. The next group meeting will be Tuesday, January 6, 7 p.m. at 5500 Vicente Way, Oakland (around the corner from the Colombo Club). A Cleanup Day is scheduled for Sunday, January 11 at 11 a.m.

Hardy Dog Park Group is seeking additional members. All are welcome at the meetings and Cleanup Days. Hardy Dog Park Group will continue to schedule cleanups at the park as renovation work is pending and after renovations are complete.

For meeting location, questions, additional information or to be added to the Hardy Dog Park Group email list, contact Lauralj24@gmail.com or Chehies@gmail.com. To make a year-end tax deductible donation to the Hardy Dog Park renovation project, visit ScenicStreets.org.

November Town Hall: CORE

from page 1

years since the last major quake on that fault. We are due." Cook's approach to disaster response is to harden the target, to make your home as resistant to destructive forces as possible. "It's a major inconvenience if you are prepared; a disaster if you are not," he suggested.

Earthquakes may dominate predictions of Bay Area disaster, but they are not the only sources of potential trouble. Consider, for example, the Oakland Firestorm of October, 1991. But, two years before that fire, it was after an earthquake – Loma Prieta, October 17, 1989 – when the Oakland Fire Department and other first responders realized that no city could mount an effective response to a full-scale disaster and that many citizens would be on their own for some time.

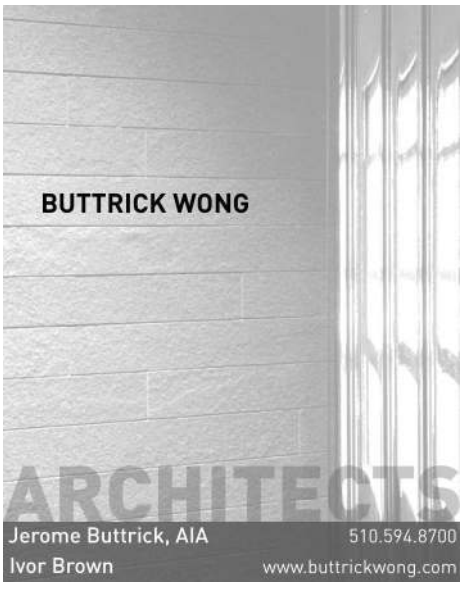
To fill that support gap, the Oakland Fire Department developed the CORE program, or Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies, to teach a community how to survive for seven to 10 days after a disaster, about the time expected for professional first responders to arrive.

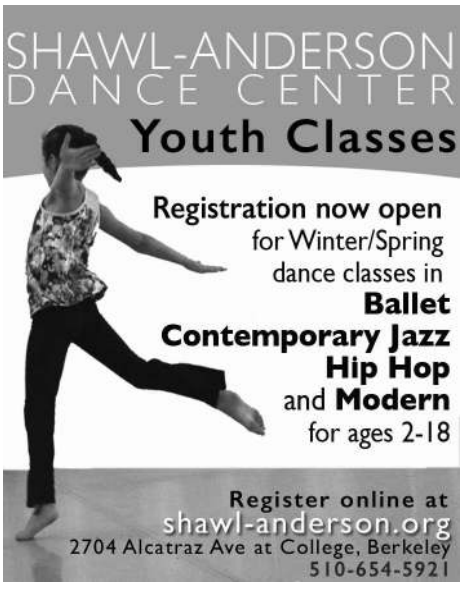
The CORE program, speakers explained, has three training modules – Core I, Core II and Core III – that begin with becoming aware of home hazards and safety needs, move on to building a neighborhood resource network and conclude with basic aspects of search and rescue, first aid and disaster response organization. There is, of course, much more information on the CORE web site at www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/OFD/s/CORE/index.htm.

RCPC thanks Howard Cook for his discussion of the intricacies of strengthening foundations; Jeff Morelli, Assistant CORE Coordinator; Rockridge resident Carol Strickman, a former CORE teacher and trainer; and Eileen Levin, CORE outreach co-chair, for their report on the skills and support available to those who enroll in and complete the free-of-charge training.



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Letters to the Editor

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

Danger for Cyclists at Night in Dark Clothes

Editor:

With the season of early darkness now upon us, I am disturbed by the high number of cyclists riding on College Avenue without adequate lighting on their bicycles. Do these riders, most in stylishly dark clothing, realize to how much risk of serious accident they are exposing themselves?

As a child, I received a citation for riding a bicycle without a headlamp. Where is OPD now? Where is the enforcement?

— Ray Perman

Parklets Needed on College Ave

Editor:

While I love Rockridge Market Hall, so do many others who block the sidewalk in front. I am finding this getting worse and it is aggravating trying to get through the crowd and animals.

Please encourage the management to think of putting a parklet or two on the street.

Oakland has ended applications for this year, so there is plenty of time to consider this for 2015. See www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PBN/OurOrganization/PlanningZoning/parklets/index.htm

— Donald Switlick

Appreciation for Ace Ellis Hardware Store

Editor:

In welcoming Cole Hardware to Rockridge, I am sorry that you chose to dismiss Ace on Grand and Ace Ellis on MLK. Both stores are wonderful resources for our community, and I have yet to find a store, hardware or otherwise, whose entire staff has the knowledge, good nature, and efficiency of those at Ace Ellis.

— Cathleen Schulte

Editor's Reply:

I am in total agreement with your assessment of the two stores, and did not mean to seem dismissive of them. It is just that the appeal of a hardware store on College Avenue in Rockridge after decades without one is noteworthy and merited a good-humored comment.

— Editor

DMV Neighbors

from page 5

FROG could share planning, tools, and volunteer efforts, with excellent results for both Big and Little Frog parks, and the creek.

Turnout for events is a decent proxy for interest and support, and lots of people came out in 2014. More important than numbers is who turns out: • Oakland Tech's Build On and Key clubs – high school students voluntarily rolling out of bed early in the morning every First Saturday event to care for Big FROG and the creek; • elementary school kids, and their teachers and parent chaperones, arriving on a September Saturday for Creek-to-Bay Day, during one of the busiest months of the school year; • Cub Scouts who came with parents on busy Saturdays for Earth and Creek-to-Bay Days; • neighbors who love the creek and new neighbors who hadn't learned about it yet, showing up to volunteer and connecting with each other.

Also to be included are the merchants who donate coffee, printing services, plants, snacks, drinks, ice, and window space for posters. There are the children who wade, toss pebbles, sail leaf boats, splash their siblings, and learn the pleasures of wild places and moving water that will stay with them forever. There are the friends who've moved away, but remain on neighborhood email lists to keep up with a place that will always be home. Temescal Creek and the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt can claim no finer achievements.

Moving forward into 2015, if you enjoy the creek, want to catch up with some of your neighbors, and stretch your weeding, raking, and pruning muscles, join the DMV Neighbors Association on January 24, 2015, from 9 a.m. to 11a.m. Meet at the corner of Redondo and Cavour by the big eucalyptus; hot coffee and snacks provided. Rain cancels.



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11/10/14	2	1	5130 Lawton	$899,000	$899,000	17	$1,015,000
11/19/14	3	2	482 Clifton Street	$769,000	$749,000	37	$769,000
11/21/14	3	2	5377 James Ave	$699,000	$699,000	13	$860,000
11/23/14	3	2	5857 Ocean View	$1,100,000	$1,100,000	25	$1,150,000

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Art on the Avenue

from page 4

display case downstairs. Over the years, the monthly shows have featured works of the Oakland Art Association, Rockridge Community Photography Group, grade-school or college classes, and Oakland Public Library employees. Artwork in a variety of media has been shown, from oil paintings, watercolors, and mixed media, to photographs and quilts. The exhibition program is booked for the next year, but community members can learn how to propose their own shows by asking at the reference desk.Through the Oakland Library's participation in the Discover & Go program (discover.oaklandlibrary.org), library cardholders can request complimentary family passes to an impressive variety of area museums and other cultural organizations. Participating visual arts institutions include the nearby Oakland Museum of California and the Berkeley Art Museum (closed from December 22 until early 2016 while it moves to a new location); San Francisco's Asian Art Museum; Cartoon Art Museum; Contemporary Jewish Museum; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; Bedford Art Gallery, Walnut Creek; San Jose Museum of Art; Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History; and Napa's di Rosa galleries.Since passes can be reserved online and printed at home, library patrons are just a few clicks away from a world of inspiration.

Carl Schmitz is Art Research Librarian at the Richard Diebenkorn Foundation. A card-carrying member of the Clyfford Still Museum and an expert on the pedestrian traffic light patterns at the intersection of College and Claremont, he can be reached at cschmitz@diebenkorn.org.

Library Support

from page 5

year also marked a new area of support: FORL funded and is providing oversight on the installation of air con-ditioning in the branch's Teen Zone and upstairs meeting areas. We also organized a program called "Seasoning to Taste: an interactive tasting experience," where local chef instructor Linda Carucci guided a packed house through tasting and seasoning, learning how different ingredients change a dish and your palate.

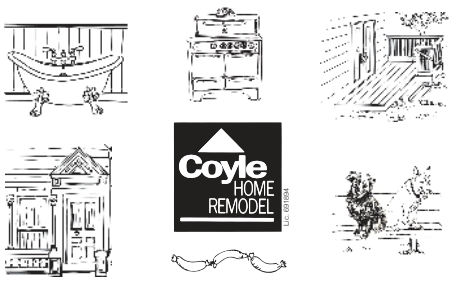
Please consider donating to the Friends of the Rockridge Library. A thriving library is the mark of a thriving community. Your support, your donation, and your love of the library helps make that happen. Visit www.RockridgeFriends.org, or send a check payable to Friends of the Rockridge Library, PO Box 3723, Oakland, 94609. The Tax ID no. is 45-3951826. Thank you.

Local Loyalty

from page 8

lemongrass from Yasai; order one of Ver Brugge's famous poached whole salmon; and get a loaf of olive bread from La Farine. Support and enjoy our local community.

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Frog 2014: Year of the Swings

by Annie Suttle, FROG volunteer

Based on a community survey and outreach at Frog Park throughout 2012 and 2013, in 2014 we embarked on a $50,000 community fundraising drive to add a bevy of new play features: bucket swings, more regular swings, a merry-go-round climber, pole spinners and a see-saw.

This fundraising effort has included:

■ Finalized park layout based on community feedback, tree mitigation and city and ADA requirements.

■ Secured $100K in funds as part of the 4th Bore Coalition/Caltrans settlement.

■ Raised for additional $50K to fill gaps for planning, contingency, permits and equipment.

■ Secured a grant from a local family foundation with matching funds from local business donations.

Meanwhile, there have been regular park maintenance events:

■ Earth Day Cleanup and Frog Fest with the help of the Rockridge Cub Scouts.

■ Fall Maintenance Day with the help of College Prep students.

■ Monthly cleanups with the assistance of Oakland Tech BuildOn and Key Club students, Berkeley Kiwanis Club and UCB Circle K.

■ Replanted the butterfly garden, newly designed by Rockridge resident Greer Alley, with plant donations from Ace Grand Avenue Hardware and Keep Oakland Beautiful grant funding.

■ Finalized tree replacement planting at the DMV in concert with DMV Neighbors Association.

■ Dedication plaques installed on park benches.

Worked with the city to resolve maintenance and safety issues, including:

■ New creek water safety signage;

■ Concerns about people sleeping in the park

■ Repairs and graffiti mitigation.

Built by more than 1,300 volunteers in 2001 and sustained over the years by volunteer maintenance and generous donations, Frog Park is a testament to the power of a community-driven vision. The outpouring of support in 2014 has been incredible.

Thank you to all of those who have helped us get within reach of our goal.



Kids hanging out on one of Frog park's large play structures. /Ken Rice

Please consider a year-end gift to Frog Park, especially businesses whose donations are eligible for matching funds through December 31. More information: www.frogpark.org/swings.

Update: Frog Park Enhancement Planning

We recently met with local neighbors who voiced concerns about more equipment in the park, and the potential impact on homes nearby of increased park usage. We take these concerns seriously and look forward to identifying how to balance them with community wishes. To share your opinion, please email chair@frogpark.org. You can see the latest park plans at www.frogpark.org/swings.

Years of Service

from page 4

■ **The Burrito Shop** opened its first location at 5359 College Avenue in 1978 and on a part of the Avenue then very sparsely populated. Empty storefronts were the norm at the time and people looked at you in wonder when you said you lived in Rockridge. But the Burrito Shop built up a loyal base and eventually opened other stores on Lakeshore Avenue and in Castro Valley. The College Avenue site expanded to add a few seating tables and the menu took on new items with fish tacos and vegetarian burritos, but the shop never abandoned its traditional specialty. The Burrito Grande easily feeds two people for a budget price. The Burrito Shop now offers catering, as well.

■ "Do you want to dance" is the refrain but **Shawl Anderson Dance Center** is where the action is. Frank Shawl and Victor Anderson were New York City dancers in the 1950s under the guidance of May O'Donnell, modern dance pioneer, but they wanted to return home and teach. They first located above College Avenue Liquors in 1958, stayed there 10 years until their current 1909 Craftsman home, directly across Alcatraz, became available. Frank and Victor are still active, with Frank dancing almost daily. They decided to change their business to a non-profit corporation so they could support upcoming artists and dance troupes – sometimes with money, sometimes just providing free practice space – in a field known for its fierce competitiveness. The studio retains that same spirit today, welcoming dancers and their families with over 100 classes each week taught by a staff of 40 professionals. Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop and Modern dance, as well as conditioning programs, are all available. Over 800 dancers practice there each week, making the entryway a little hectic at times. Managing Director Rebecca Johnson would like to find additional space along the Avenue. If you know of something that might support their needs, give her a call at 654-5921.

■ **Oliveto** (the olive grove), 5655 College Avenue, offering a café on the ground floor and a fine restaurant above, is the literal cornerstone of Market Hall. Opened in 1986 by Maggie Blyth Klein, who took a big chance since her restaurant was the only business in Market Hall at the time, Oliveto now enjoys a widespread reputation for quality and style. Offering a Northern Mediterranean Italian menu, with the freshest of California ingredients and a great atmosphere, this restaurant is a fine choice for special occasions. Maggie, a former food book editor at UC Berkeley, developed long-term relationships with many of the small farmers around the Bay Area; those personal connections now give Oliveto an advantage in purchasing quality items they can offer their guests. Not content to stand on past accomplishments, she is installing a Meyer Sound System, only the second to be installed in a restaurant. The system is designed to allow clear communication between diners at any table by dampening interfering noise from adjacent diners, allowing a great meal to be accompanied by an equally enjoyable conversation. Just in time for the holidays.

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New Art Gallery

Arte Verissima at 4432 Piedmont Avenue. Currently "The Founders Show," local artists Andrew Ameral, Kristen Brown, Sean Forrester, Scott Johnston, Jamie Morgan, Abigail Spector, Lauren Szabo and Bruce Wolfe. Friday – Sunday 12-6. www.arteverissima.com

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- Special needs trusts

Please contact me during regular business hours to schedule an appointment.

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.

Rockridge Library, upstairs mtg. room, 5366 College Ave. Confirm mtg. at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

****Computer Tutors Available:** Get help with basic computer skills; email; e-book & audiobook download; or social media. Drop-ins of all ages welcome. Info: Vicky Chen, 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:

- **Winter Bingo:** Any time in Dec pick up a BINGO card, either the Kindergarten-to-Fifth-Grade version, or the Preschool-Toddler version. Complete 5 of the bingo activities in a row to get a Free Book! Pick up prizes between Dec 18 & Jan 31.
- **Winter Sewing Session:** Sat, 12/20, 2:30 - 5pm. Make a gift for someone you love! Sew cloth pouches – the perfect holder for tissues, phone cords, pencils, or other tchotchkes inside a backpack or purse. Ages 5 to 12 (if under 8 must bring an adult).

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Movie Show** (PG): Dec 17, 2 – 3:30pm (Title TBD). Popcorn and lemonade provided.
- **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 to 2pm.
- **Rockridge Ninjas:** Watch Anime, 5 - 6:30 pm; 2nd Tues. each month.
- **Teen 'Scape:** Play video & board games, make crafts, enjoy light snacks. Every Wed, 1:30 to 3:30pm.

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 (11/15; call to confirm Dec. date), 1 to 5pm. Sponsored by the Calif. Writers Club, Berkeley branch. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyers in the Library:** Free legal advice and referrals. First Tues. each month (12/2), 5 to 7pm. (Advance sign-up starts 4:45pm at adult reference desk). Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present.

ART EXHIBIT (call to confirm)

Dec: **Patrick Ducey:** *As the Sixties Ended: 1967-72*, black and white photographs: environmental and anti-war posters.

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun., and Mon;
also Wed-Thurs 12/24 - 25, and Thurs, 1/1.

OakTechRep, Student Theater Co.

Anthony Clarvoe's *The Living*, Thurs thru Sat, (Dec11-13); three performances at 7pm and one Saturday matinee at 2pm in the Oakland Tech Auditorium, 310-42nd Street. Tickets: $10 at the door ($8 for OUSD staff and students). Best for middle-school ages and older. Info: 450-5400 or jessica.moreno@ousd.k12.ca.us. See story p.9.

Calif College of the Arts (CCA)

(Free and open to the public)

- **Launch of *Humble Pie* Volume 11**. Hear work by artists and writers included in the online edition of the journal and **partake of a variety of delicious pies**. Part of the HearSay Reading Series which features CCA students and established Bay Area writers. Wed, 12/10, 7:30–9:15 pm. CCA campus, Nahl Hall, 5212 B'way. Info: www.humblepiemag.com.
- **Interface Show: Art Using Technology Using Art:** An exhibition featuring interactive, kinetic, robotic, generative, responsive, and computer-based art and design. Presented by the Animation Program. Fri, 12/12, 7–10pm. Tecoah Bruce Gallery at the Oliver Art Center, 5212 B'way. Info: John Jenkins, 594-3648 or jjenkins@cca.edu.



Avonova House Concert

Free Dive: an improvisational, jazzish music collective led by **Keith Terry**. Body music, beat boxing and spontaneous musical invention. 12/ 21, 7pm (doors open 6:15). $20 admission (cash only) at the door; **complimentary snacks and drinks.** Avonova Studios, 417 Avon St. Info: 652-8440 or www.Avonovamusic.com.

Singers Wanted

The Distaff Singers, the Bay Area's longest-running women's choral group, is seeking new members. No auditions necessary, just ability to match pitch. Practice Tuesdays, 7:15-9pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 1700 Santa Clara Ave. in Alameda. Info: Carola Ingram 547-1191 or www.distaffsingers.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 Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. Info: squirrellystringband.com/.

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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