THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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Happy New Year: Welcome to 2015

Pin RCPC to Your Calendar for the Coming Year

Next RCPC Town Hall: Thursday, February 19

RCPC Studies Adjusted TH Meeting Schedule

by Zabrae Valentine, RCPC chair

Were you able to attend an RCPC Town Hall meeting last year? If so, you may have noticed that the RCPC board was experimenting with new practices 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.

You may also have noticed RCPC put more emphasis on broadly publicizing the meetings to increase awareness of them among residents who

Town Hall Schedules, page 8

RCPC Board Elections: April, 2015; Be a Part of Rockridge History

RCPC Sets Board Elections

The spirit of community support runs long and deep in Rockridge. The Vernon Rock-Ridge Hall, pictured below, can be seen as a first link in a direct line of community service persistent in Rockridge today. As described more fully below and on page 11, funding for the hall's construction came from the sale of shares among community members. Furthermore, "the

Board Elections, page 8



RCPC 2015 Kitchen Tour Planning Begins

Recipe: The 2015 Rockridge Kitchen Tour

Ingredients: Remodeled Rockridge Kitchens

Though the anticipated tour date of **Sunday, September 20, 2015,** may seem far away, any chef will tell you that success lies in planning ahead and assembling the best ingredients. To that end, the 2015 Rockridge Kitchen Tour planning committee is beginning its search for beautifully remodeled Rockridge kitchens. Kitchens can be classic, contemporary, modern or traditional.

This popular RCPC

RCPC Kitchen Tour 2015, page 8

Vernon Rock-Ridge Hall, 1913, known today as Ye Olde Hut

The photograph shows children in front of the Vernon Rock-Ridge Hall, a community clubhouse of the Vernon Rock-Ridge Improvement Club, designed by its president, architect Clarence A. Tantau and completed in 1913 as the first of its kind in Oakland. Financing for the structure came through a cooperative sale of shares with a final total of 85 shareholders among members of the community. The facility served as a clubhouse for community events and as a children's center. The structure has housed Ye Olde Hut, a familiar saloon along the College Avenue commercial strip, for many years. – SOURCE: Glass negative number in Oakland History Room's collection: G-33. – California Digital Library, http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/institutions/Oakland+Public+Library::Oakland+History+Room+and+Maps+Division. More, page 11.

Why Your December Rockridge News Was Late

A scheduling mishap at The Rockridge News' printer delayed delivery of the December issue to the volunteers who prepare the newsletter for distribution. Instead of the first Friday of the month, the newsletters were not available for distribution until the following Monday, delaying the distribution process.

— Editor

***Note:* NO RCPC Town Hall Meeting in January. Next meeting: Thursday, February 19.**

Meetings in alternate months thereafter. See story, top left panel.

The Private Security Patrols at Year One

by Paul Liu, a patrol organizer

We have now had patrols in Lower Rockridge for over a year, since November 2013. We take this opportunity for a year-end overview, including a recap of the service and recent changes, and a review of how well the patrols have worked.

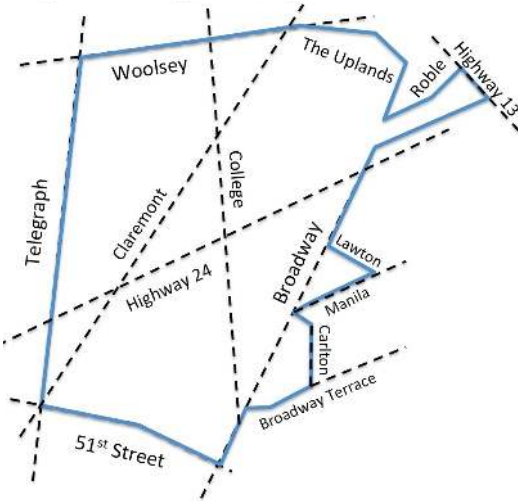
Initial Patrol Steps

Following the private security patrol pilot program funded by residents via CrowdTilt.com, the organizers created Safer Rockridge, a California non profit public benefit corporation. Safer Rockridge contracted with Premiere Protective Services ppsguards.com/ (PPS) to provide neighborhood-focused patrol services throughout Lower Rockridge. The officers are unarmed, do not follow or stop anyone, and do not use racial profiling. They are trained to observe and report suspicious or criminal activity, and mainly serve as an extra set of eyes and ears. Their first response to any criminal or safety concern is to contact Oakland Police, then observe, report, and, when safe to do so, assist anyone in need.

Feedback Brought Changes

We made several changes in response to community feedback: we retained firms with unarmed officers and a strict policy of no following or profiling; we formed a non-profit and made the service freely available to anyone in the patrol area; we shifted patrols to later hours on Friday and Saturday; we added unannounced "random" patrols in addition to the regularly scheduled patrol hours. For details, join our mailing list at SaferRockridge.org/mailing. To request assistance during patrol hours, call 510/717-0944.

Safer Rockridge Security Patrol Area



Aside from a few phone problems, members of the community have found the

Patrols: Safer Rockridge, page 12

Beating Crime: Useful Resource Links

Editor's Note: Between issues of The Rockridge News, RCPC often distributes the Rockridge E-News, an as-needed mailing to subscribers that might include town hall announcements, developing Rockridge news, and Oakland city news. The following article, distributed in mid-December 2014 in response to concerns about an evidently rising crime rate in Rockridge, is re-published here because of its timeliness and because not all Rockridge News readers subscribe to the E-News. To receive the E-News publication, e-mail your interest to info@rockridge.org. Subscriber information is not shared.

How is crime in Oakland these days? Going up or going down? Staying the same? A reading of some recent reports appearing on Next Door Rockridge (rockridgeca.nextdoor.com/news_feed/) could make it seem that crime is spreading. Here are abstracts of some Rockridge area postings:

• **Break-in on Manor Crest:** "So far it looks as though only small stuff is missing. He came in through the kitchen window (a second story window from the back of the house)," which he reached using outdoor furniture and a green recycle cart propped against the wall.

• **Telegraph near 55th Street:** "While visiting Oakland, our car was broken into and my viola and bag were stolen."

• **Oak Grove Avenue:** Mugging on Oak Grove near Forest intersection. Suitcase (with computer) stolen.

• **Fairview Park:** "I came back from work – my Black 1995 Audi four-door is no longer in the driveway."

• **Residents of Clifton Street** have reported to the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) that packages delivered to their homes have been taken from porches and the emptied boxes discarded nearby.

Reports are eye-catching – and can be worrisome – but

Beating Crime, page 12

ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY
5366 College Avenue
at Manila | 597-5017
Programs/Events/Hours: 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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Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the next issue is:
☛ **February 7, 2015**
☛ **February deadline is January 22, 2015**
Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com. RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)

RCPC Land Use Committee

The January Land Use Committee meeting date is Wednesday, January 28, 7:30 p.m. The meeting will include a further update and discussion of revised zoning for College Avenue, and updates on pending construction projects. The meeting will be held in an upstairs meeting room of the Rockridge Branch library, 5366 College Avenue. (Front door will be unlocked; pull doors apart to enter.) Meetings are open to the public.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair

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

Demolition and construction of these two projects have not started, but should begin shortly. Both projects now have Internet websites where you can check on construction status. The site URL addresses are:

• Safeway (Rockridge Center): www.theshopsattheridge.com/

• Merrill Gardens: www.srmdevelopment.com/rockridge

■ **College Avenue Retail Zoning Study**

City staff has given RCPC the go-ahead to open a public discussion on zoning issues affecting College Avenue, and other CN-1 commercial areas of the city, with the aim of eventually bringing forward zoning modifications. The Land Use Committee will take the lead in initiating the discussion, and will be inviting stakeholders from the various CN-1 areas (including residents, merchants, commercial property owners, brokers, and developers) to provide input.

The initial focus will be on discussing whether Oakland's use permit process should be modified to allow a use permit to expire if the use is abandoned. Other issues to be explored include whether the threshold for requiring a use permit (currently a uniform 5,000 sq. ft.) should be varied, depending on the use involved, and whether older large-space buildings should receive special treatment as nonconforming spaces.

RCPC will also hold at least one Town Hall Meeting to encourage community participation and involvement in the process..

College Ave Safeway Runs Afoul of City Rules – Opening Delayed

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair

Construction of the College Avenue Safeway project has recently slowed to a crawl due to several factors:

■ One, over which nobody had control, was the weather. This year's rainy December stalled much of Safeway's outside work – now focused on the plaza area.

■ A second factor was trying to coordinate scheduling with the utility providers – PG&E and East Bay MUD – who needed to install underground pipes and conduits before streets and sidewalks could be finished.

■ A third factor was that Safeway's late start of construction (due to changing the construction plans from those approved in 2012) meant that construction was not finished by November. However, Oakland has placed a moratorium on street and sidewalk work between Halloween and New Year's on major commercial streets, including College Avenue.

The moratorium is intended to protect the local merchants, who are especially dependent on easy access and available on-street parking during the hectic (and profitable) holiday shopping season. Safeway's delay brought it into conflict with the moratorium, even though the city had already given them an extra three weeks of work – through mid-November. Safeway asked for an extension through New Year's Day, and a permit was mistakenly issued – in violation of the moratorium.

When the mistake was uncovered, the city invalidated the permit and issued a "stop work" order against Safeway's work on College Avenue. The city allowed work on the Claremont Avenue side to continue. Since then, Safeway appears to have violated the city rules by continuing work on College – including stopping traffic for construction vehicles, much to the dismay of nearby merchants.

These incidents have been brought to the city's attention by merchants and others.

In any case, in January, College Avenue work will presumably resume at full tilt, although the store opening now looks to be delayed until at least February.





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College Avenue: Yesterday; Today; Tomorrow

College Avenue Commerce : Decades of Presence

Merchants' Years of Service: Part 5

Following is the fifth 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

■ **Duck Soup Family Playschool**, 5304 Bryant Avenue at the Broadway end of College, is visible as the rainbow-colored home on the corner and known as "the cuddlesome place for children." Operating the playschool since 1980, Becca Rae Calato has been the owner and primary teacher since 1986 and lives in the home. While I was speaking with Becca Rae, I was also watching the children – ages 18 months to 3 years – return their emptied snack dishes to the sink, gingerly holding plates that teetered and were ever so close to falling, but not a one did. Manners, social skills and conflict resolution are what they learn here. I was initially taken aback with "conflict resolution" but, as Becca Rae put it, "when is there a better time to begin learning?" The school is licensed for up to 12 children, has a staff of two and a school day from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Yes, there is a waiting list but it's always good to call and check. Phone 653-7430 to learn more about the playschool.

■ **Rockridge Rags**, 5711 College Avenue, is celebrating 37 years on the Avenue and the ownership of Ijeoma Thomas and Pauline Philexome, who both worked there for 20 years before purchasing the business. Rockridge Rags is one of the few consignment stores that offer consigners 50 percent of the sales price. Consigned items are thoroughly reviewed for both style and condition before being accepted. Even though our seasons are mild, we do have them. The owners recognize this and adjust their offerings accordingly. Both men's and women's clothing is accepted for consignment. Slow-moving inventory is marked down after six weeks for speedier sale. Now is their busiest time of the year; they have a great location and occupy two store fronts, allowing ample room for display and shopping. Stop in and save some money. (I saw some nice flannel shirts that could have come from my closet. I better check with my wife... perhaps they did!)

■ **Zachary's Pizza** has won over 170 awards for best pizza and 30 from East Bay Express alone. Started by Zack Zachowski (now you know) and Barbara Gabel in 1983, the location at College and Oak Grove avenues was their first. If you have driven by on almost any evening, you can see that this business must be doing a lot of things right. Even though the seating area has expanded into adjacent storefronts over time, it can still be difficult for customers to find seats. The business is now 100 percent owned by the employees, who bring the same passion Zack and Barbara did for great pizza, great service, and great attitude. Many employees have exceeded 20 years of service. The current CEO started as a dishwasher in the 1980s, so meritocracy is alive and well here. With. half-baked pizzas to go, $4 by the slice, or sitting down at a table, they make it easy for us to enjoy this American passion. As they say, follow your nose, or go to 5801 College Avenue to find them.

■ Shun Yang is the owner of **Itsy-Bitsy** at

Decades of Service, page 11

Art on the Avenue:

Thelma Harris Art Gallery

by Carl Schmitz

On the southeast corner of College and Harwood Avenues, up a short flight of exterior stairs bordering Barclay's pub, you will find the Thelma Harris Art Gallery, Rockridge's destination for master works by African American artists. In 2015 the gallery marks its 25th year in business and its 23rd year in Rockridge.

An inviting place with abundant light in the exhibition space brought in from plentiful windows, Thelma Harris' gallery shows a diverse mix of paintings, sculptures, mixed media works, and photography, all in either abstract or more traditional styles. The gallery has shown work by Harlem Renaissance artists Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Palmer Hayden, and Aaron Douglas; California modern artists such as Charles White, Artis Lane, and Claude Clark; and contemporary artists including Michael Singletary, Dana King, and William Tolliver. Interestingly, it has shown artists who have also been important art historians such as Samella Lewis and James A. Porter.

With an active exhibitions program, the gallery participates in Oakland Art Murmur's First Friday open houses and, in March, will launch its next curated show, "20th Century Modernism." Every August,

Thelma Harris Art Gallery, page 11



California Colonizers Left Their Mark: It's Time for Us to Fix It

by Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors

As I write this, it's mid-December, and everyone I know couldn't be happier about the series of storms that have helped lessen the effects of the drought.

Unfortunately, "everyone" includes the millions of invasive weed seeds waiting along the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt for just such rains so they can sprout and take over. And have they ever!

Many of these weeds are the descendants of plants that came to California in the fodder and digestive tracts of horses and cattle brought from Spain to Mexico in the 16th and 17th centuries, and from Mexico to California in the 18th century. They adapted to a climate similar to that in Spain, but with a very different strategy. Native California grasses are generally perennials that grow in a clump with deep roots; they're called bunch grasses. Bunch grasses stay green year 'round, and take advantage of deep soil moisture to carry them over the summers. The invaders are annuals that sprout with the arrival of winter rains, produce massive numbers of seeds in late spring, then die. The storied "golden hills of California" are due to these non-natives; the earlier landscape was a pale green all year.

These weeds, and the winds that accompanied the storms, have left the bed of Temescal Creek and the Greenbelt weedy and leaf-choked. The leaves are especially a problem at the grates and pipes that channel the creek since they can cause clogs and backups.

The DMV Neighbors Association is sponsoring a work party Saturday, January 24, 9 to 11 a.m., to rake up the leaves, clear out some of the invasive plants, and pick up trash.

Rain, rain, please *don't* go away. Come again and stay, and stay, and stay!

All ages are welcome. Come meet up with neighbors and have fun making the creek a pretty place for early spring. Sign in at the corner of Cavour Street and Redondo Avenue, by the big eucalyptus. Gloves and tools will be provided (or bring your own, well-marked). Hot coffee and morning snacks will be available at the sign-up table. Rain cancels.

New Developments for Greater Rockridge NCPC

We hope you'll be able to attend the January 8 meeting of the Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC). Captain Darren Allison, the Area 2 police commander, our scheduled speaker, will discuss local crime trends and police mitigation efforts.

Remember that our meetings **now begin at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month**.

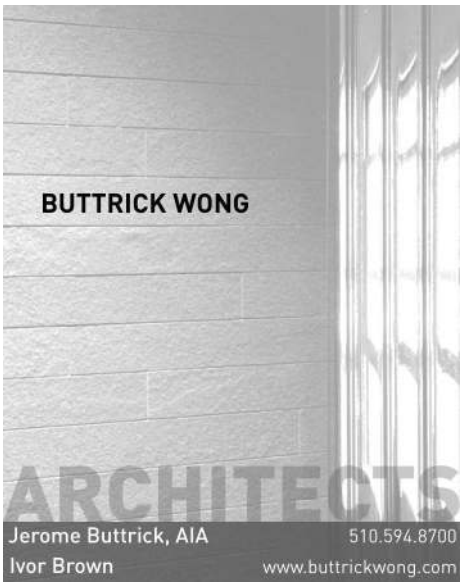
Our January meeting will not be held in the Rockridge Library. It will be in the Buttner Auditorium at The College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway. Our regular meeting dates will change for a while to accommodate remodeling at the Rockridge Library.

There will be no February meeting of the Greater Rockridge NCPC. Our meeting would fall on February 12, a city holiday, so neither Oakland Police representatives nor our Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC) could attend.

We will meet at the Rockridge Branch Library the second Thursday evenings from March through June. Watch the front page of http://rockridgencpc.com where we'll post any other changes in meeting location. We will also notify our Yahoo groups, and NextDoor.

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Eyes on Rockridge

Rockridge's Restaurant Row Broadens Its Footprint



Rockridge can claim a "Confectionery Corner" as both Sees Candy and Smitten Ice Cream opened next door to each other in 2014.
/D. Kinkead

by Judith Doner Berne

If 2013 was the banner year for the opening of new restaurants along College Avenue in Rockridge – 10, count them, 10 – 2014 might be characterized as the year of planned expansions, completed remodeling and increased hours.

New: Just one new restaurant, opened as **High Peaks Kitchen** at the southern end of College, moved seamlessly into the digs of what was Currylicious, improving the outdoor patio and serving up better Indian food, by way of Tibet. Tsultrim Dorjee told me that he and his fellow owners are Tibetan exiles who grew up in India.

And for those who like sweets, what could be called "Confectionery Corner" sprang up at College and Birch Court where **See's Candies**, founded in 1921 in Los Angeles, and **Smitten**, the high-tech ice cream shop founded in San Francisco, now reside. On a related note, **Bittersweet Café** has added meat and veggie pot pies as occasional items, and more salads to its lunch menu. A "chocolate curator" now selects its candies.

Expanding: It's pure luck if you can walk into tiny **Enoteca Molinari** without a reservation and be seated immediately. So owner Joe Madison will spread out into what was Bellisimo Salon, doubling the size of the Italian bistro he opened four years ago, from its current size of eight tables plus bar. "We're kind of making a mirror of our restaurant," Madison tells me. "I'm excited and a little nervous too." Construction is expected to take several months.

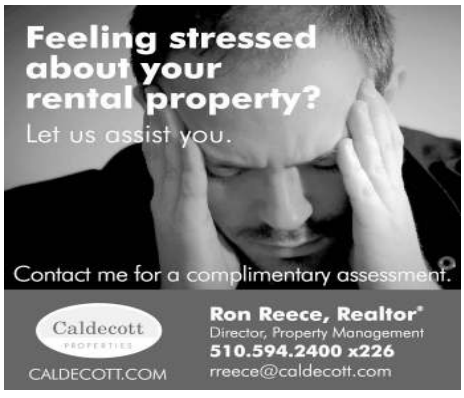
The **Ramen Shop** is also enlarging its footprint by taking over the space left empty when Rockridge Luggage moved to the Dimond District. "Next door will be a kind of waiting area with a cocktail bar and some snacks," says Sam White, one of the three Chez Panisse graduates who opened the eatery in early 2013. "We won't do ramen over there." Aiming to reduce the often hour-long wait for a table (reservations aren't accepted), they will open up 15-20 more seats for full dinner service in the current bar area once the new space is ready – likely in April. On a recent trip to Japan, "We also bought a new noodle machine that will accomplish in one hour what now takes us six," White told me.

Remodeled: Newcomer **Sukho Thai**, which opened just about a year ago, closed for six weeks and reopened November 8 "on my birthday," Ann Subsuvan, co-owner and manager, confided as we sat in a window seat and sipped a cup of delicious Thai tea. The renovation has resulted in a brighter, sleeker restaurant with added windows, sophisticated lighting and banquette seating. "Our strong point is an organic menu with gluten-free options," she says.

The owners of well-regarded **Oliveto** took to heart criticism from diners in the 2014 Zagat survey that the noise level in their upscale, upstairs restaurant was taking away from the dining experience, according to their website. A state-of-the-art acoustical system that relies on enhancing table conversation while muting external noise is the result. New sound absorption panels are disguised by the work of Bay Area photographer Deborah O'Grady, adding to the updated setting.

Extended hours: Last year, a criticism of the bevy of new restaurants was that several were dark during the day, discouraging pedestrian traffic. Indeed, **A16** in San Francisco opened its Rockridge spin-off in

Restaurant Row, page 7





Restaurant Row

from page 6

2013 as a dinner-only restaurant. But, as of last October, you can now have its distinctive appetizers, pizzas and desserts from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday for lunch. Sunday brunch offers a slightly different array that includes a frittata.

A16's pocket-sized neighbor across the street, **Pucquio**, has also added lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday though Friday. You might find a pulled pork sandwich with fries or salad or a pulled chicken stir fry on the abbreviated lunch menu of this intimate restaurant known for its high-end Peruvian street food – not an oxymoron.

Unfinished business: A year ago I confessed to failing to fulfill my resolution of eating at every restaurant along Rockridge's stretch of College Avenue. I didn't get to the long-established **Barclay's**, which as most readers already knew and I have since found out, has good pub food and a great vibe.

And because they opened very late in the year, I hadn't sampled **The Barrel Room** Oakland and Sukho Thai. My husband and I have now eaten at both a couple of times. The Barrel Room, unlike its San Francisco version, is a wine bar and restaurant. I love that the wine dictates the offerings, rather than the other way around, and that they change wine regions every couple of months so, *voilà!*, a whole new menu.

Meanwhile, Sukho Thai's food is so fresh-tasting that even my husband, who doesn't like spicy food, enjoys it.

2015 Michelin Bib Awards: Both the Ramen Shop and **Wood Tavern**, the California-style bistro that consistently lives up to its motto "Bold flavors, Welcoming vibe," repeated as Bib Award winners. That's the designation honoring the best restaurants offering two courses and a glass of wine or dessert for $40 or less, as determined by the Michelin judges. And since A16 in San Francisco was also a repeat Bib winner, that should rub off on A16 Rockridge, preferred by friends who have eaten at each location. It was sad that **Restaurant Chu** lost its ranking, but it has good company; so did the iconic Slanted Door in San Francisco. Both still ring my culinary bell.

I feel privileged to live within a walk of so many diverse and delicious restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, pubs and bars – both long-standing and relatively new to College Avenue. Here's a toast to them all and a wish for even more success in 2015.

Your comments and ideas for columns are welcome: e-mail judyberne@att.net.

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Oakland Tech Presents Two Centennial Events

by Julie Parker, PTSA communications

Oakland Technical High School presents two centennial year events to be held in our beautifully renovated auditorium at 42nd Street and Broadway.

■ **"100 Years...88 Keys: Invocation for a New Century at Oakland Tech,"** Saturday, January 17, 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Concert pianist Daniel Finnamore plays selections from Liszt, Debussy, Ravel, and Satie to showcase Oakland Tech's secret jewel, our fully restored 1917 Steinway Grand Piano. Purchased by Oakland Tech in 1917, the piano eventually fell into disrepair. During the auditorium renovation campaign, the class of 1961 sponsored a fundraiser led by Camille Reed that provided $25,000 to bring life back to the soundboard and strings.

Daniel Finnamore grew up in Oakland, and has taught hundreds of students to love the piano. He specializes in romantic expressions of the 19th and 20th centuries. The concert also features a ballet performance by senior Deon Oddone, of Nutcracker doll fame, and an original multimedia prose poem by local writer/artist and PTSA president Kristen Cavent.

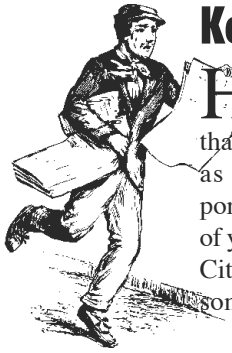
The PTSA offers this event in recognition of all the volunteer efforts supporting this historic school. The cost is $20. Purchase tickets online at www.eventbrite.com/e/100-years88-keys-invocation-for-a-new-century-tickets-14089731767?aff=es or at the door.

■ **"Technites Past and Present Talent Showcase,"** Sunday, February 8, 2 - 4 p.m., presented by the Oakland Tech Parent Emeritus Club.

Tech Centennial Events, page 13

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Keith Avenue Needs a New Block Captain

Happy New Year to all our readers and volunteers, and thanks to Robin Patfield for serving as block captain on the upper portion of Keith for the past couple of years. Robin moved to Salt Lake City in December and we need someone to step in to replace her.

If you live in the area please let us know if you would like to volunteer to deliver to her route. Email Susan at smontauk@gmail.com or call 510/547-3855. Thank you.

09H:	Up Keith from McMillan to 5925 Broadway

Board Elections

from page 1

facility served as a clubhouse for community events and as a children's center," according to web references. The hall was built in 1913. Current examples of such service include the Rockridge Branch Library, funded by an assessment district established by Rockridge residents, and the Frog Park and Greenbelt, which was conceived, designed and built by the community.

Since the 1970s, the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) has worked with the community to envision and plan such projects and bring them to life.

RCPC holds elections for its board of directors in April. If you are at least 18 years of age, live within the RCPC boundaries (http://www.rockridge.org/boundaries), and want to serve your community, you are invited to submit your interest in candidacy for election to the board. Write info@rockridge.org for more details.

RCPC Kitchen Tour 2015

from page 1

fundraiser provides visitors with access to Rockridge kitchens, each with a unique style and history. This year, the kitchen tour committee will be planning additional events on Saturday, September 19, for you to meet more contractors, architects and designers to help inspire and plan your own remodel.

In order to make this event both memorable and informative, planners are asking residents, builders and architects in the Rockridge community to recommend kitchens for the 2015 Tour.

If you have friends, family or neighbors with kitchens you feel should be toured, please contact kitchen@rockridge.org. Also, if you are interested in volunteering to help plan this event please contact volunteer@rockridge.org.

Town Hall Schedules

from page 1

may not see the announcements in The Rockridge News.

Results were informative: Several of last year's programs had higher attendance than any in the previous year; a few programs filled the Library meeting room. However, at least one program was cancelled for insufficient RSVPs, a practice instituted out of respect for the time of prospective panelists.

The experiments will continue in 2015. Now, 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 covered, please share them with us at info@rockridge.org. Please also forward your thoughts and suggestions about these experiments. **Note: the next RCPC Town Hall Meeting is Thursday, February 19.**









Frog Park News, Projects, and Support

by Carol Behr, FROG chair

Little Frog/Redondo Park and the Telegraph/51st Development:

Join us for an informal presentation about the project from the Nautilus developers. We are particularly interested in how the development will impact Little Frog Park at Redondo Avenue and Clarke Street, adjacent to the development.

Date: January 15

Location: TBD; E-mail info@rockridge.org for the location.

Calling for Frog Park Volunteers:

Please contact chair@frogpark.org if you have interest in volunteering in the following areas:

- **Website** content management and development
- **Community event planning and coordination**
- **Gardening and/or botanical expertise** (e.g., butterfly garden)
- **Volunteer Coordinator** (e.g., outreach to partner organizations, plan community events, recruitment)
- **Maintenance Coordinator** (coordinate with city, help manage events such as Earth Day)
- **Marketing and social media**
- **Fundraising**
- **Project management**

Swings & Play Equipment Donations – We Are Getting There

Thank you to all community members and businesses for your generous donations in 2014 to our community project to enhance Frog Park.

Increased Foundation Funding

Frog Park was notified in December 2014, that an anonymous private foundation grant would be increased to $10,000 and the match window extended into early or mid-2015. This is largely due to local business donations which counted towards the foundation match. We thank the foundation for its decision to support the park improvements.

Business List Coming Soon: We will list our business donors in a later article.

Contact us: Please contact info@frogpark.org for more information and to get involved with this project. To donate and see our plans, please visit www.frogpark.org.

BART Lot Landscaping Rescued by Weather, Repairs. Hopefully.



PHOTOS/D. KINKEAD

by Don Kinkead

If you happened to be heading up to College via Forest Street near Miles Avenue late last month, you might have seen EBMUD at work, connecting a water supply line for the irrigation system that should have been nourishing the landscaping at the Forest Street side of the BART parking lot.

BART had installed extensive plantings to restore greenery to areas at the Forest Street edge of the lot after the station's earthquake retrofitting project was completed late in December 2009.

The plants seemed to thrive for awhile, then got droopy and brown. Apparently no one had noticed the irrigation system had been hooked to a leaking pipe. When that was discovered, the system was shut down. The landscaping was watered only



sporadically when a technician was available to turn the system on and off, manually. The plants endured, but did not thrive.

According to BART administrators, repairs have been planned for some time, and needed extensive coordination between BART and EBMUD to install and connect the new piping. These things can take time. At least we had a rainy December.

Thank you, BART and EBMUD, for your good work.



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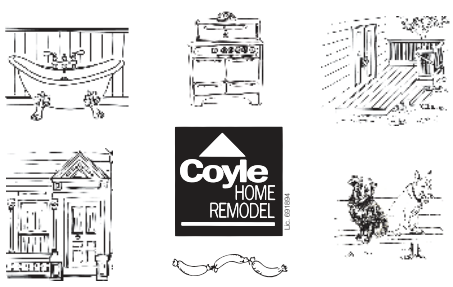
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2014 Inventory Drops and Prices Soar

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
12/12/14	2	2	5429 Belgrave Place	$985,000	$985,000	13	$1,400,000
12/17/14	3	2	5260 Locksley Ave	$795,000	$795,000	15	$1,100,000
12/19/14	1	1	5351 Belgrave Place	$399,000	$430,000	46	$424,000

72 total sales in 2014 v. 91 sales in 2013 · Average price per square foot this year was $654
Median sold price rose from $800,000 in 2013 to $925,000 this year
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Three Feet for Bicycle Safety

by Ronnie Spitzer, Transportation Committee co-chair

Following the lead of many other states, California has enacted a new law, which took effect last September, requiring that car drivers maintain a minimum three-foot buffer when passing a bicyclist, an important revision to a previous state law which required drivers to pass bicyclists at a "safe distance."

The new law requires motorists to slow down and wait to pass until it is safe to do so, including on narrow roads. Three feet is roughly equivalent to a fully open passenger-side door, or the length of an acoustic guitar.

This law will be particularly significant where a violation results in a collision that injures a bicyclist, because it establishes a basis for citing the driver for unsafe passing. For a non-injury violation, a car driver will effectively be charged $233, consisting of a $35 base fine plus court and administrative costs. For a violation that involves a collision injuring a bicyclist, the base fine is $220, which becomes a $959 fine with fees.

More information on the law can be found on-line at calbike.org/advocacy/giveme3/give-me-3-faq/ and in this video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_593NXwM-4

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#Black Lives Matter Marchers in Rockridge



Rockridge resident and photographer Michael Eastman recorded this group of peaceful protesters as it passed through Rockridge on Saturday, December 13. According to a report in the independent Berkeleyside newsite, about 300 marchers, organized by the Black Student Union, left Sproul Plaza to rendezvous with "the larger 'Millions March' demonstration that had gathered at Oakland City Hall." The group marched up Bancroft to College Avenue, then through Rockridge and down Broadway to City Hall. /Michael Eastman Photo



Specializing in Rockridge Real Estate

2014 was a very strong year for values in Rockridge real estate. Much of that was due to lower than usual inventory, higher than usual demand and low interest rates. While leveling off is anticipated, we expect 2015 to start out with similar supply and demand conditions experienced in 2014. January will likely see few homes on the market, with levels increasing through May. If selling, no time better than late winter/ early spring. If buying, it takes clever scouting. Feel free to contact me if you'd like to chat about your needs. A big thanks to my clients, vendors, brokers, friends, and most of all, my family for another fantastic year! Experience the value from the knowledge gained from ~200 transactions.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

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Decades of Service

from page 4

5520 College Avenue. Located on Piedmont Avenue before moving to Rockridge in 1989, the store celebrates its 25th anniversary here this year. It specializes in "the little things," as the name suggests. Its clientele ranges from young girls to older women, anyone from 8 to 100, as Shun says, who wants to have fun with jewelry and fashion accessories, with price points to match. Shun also supports local artists and companies such as Freeform Industries here in Oakland that use a 3D printer to make its jewelry, including Oakland's iconic shipping cranes seen on a recent cover of Oakland Magazine. Who would have thought earrings and necklaces could be made from a printer? Amazing stuff.

■ **Pavé Fine Jewelry Design,** 5496 College Avenue, is entering its 32nd year on College. Owner and designer Michael Endlich was trained as a diamond polisher and setter, did trade work for other jewelers, then went on his own in a small space on College Avenue. He recently opened a second store on Berkeley's Fourth Street and has 21 employees. As you stroll along browsing windows, you'll find it even more fun inside, where you can get a closer look at his design that won the 2015 Award for Platinum Honors, Bridal Wear. This award, given by the American Gem Trade Association, is considered the most prestigious award for U.S. designers. Custom work can also involve adapting older family heirlooms into a more modern fashion, if desired, or repairing them for continued use. My favorite example was the Tourmaline, a semi-precious gemstone from at least the 1500s, captured in a yellow gold necklace. You can try it on for free, but after that, you're on your own.

■ **Ye Olde Hut** (also called The Publik House, or just "The Hut) occupies the building originally known as **Vernon Rock-Ridge Hall**, which has been on College Avenue since its construction in 1913. It has seen some changes over time. Located at 5515 College Avenue, the front of the original building has been extended toward the sidewalk and its side windows removed as adjacent buildings closed in, but the inside is very much like the old photos, including a wonderful stone fireplace in the middle of the room, now bricked over but still operational. Built by the Vernon Rock-Ridge Improvement Club as a community center, the building is still hosting crowds 103 years later. You will not feel crowded here as there is ample room for the pool table in the back and a ping-pong table up front, with walking around room left over.

Google Vernon Rock-Ridge Hall to find photos of the outside and news reports of the day about the planning and construction of the building. (See photo and additional reference material, page 1.)

■ Shannon Dorsey is a dyed-in-the-wool entrepreneur, like so many other College Avenue business owners. After having a lemonade stand as a kid, then a fruit juice effort followed by natural foods, she saw the light and moved into body lotions and massage, opening **aboutface&body**. She started in Berkeley years earlier, then moved to 3190 College Avenue in 1989. Foot traffic was what she needed for her innovative new services including waxing, which wasn't done commercially in the East Bay then. Women had to drive to San Francisco, and spend a lot more money, to get this service. She added the Aveda product line, special facials, and body treatments because it's not just the products and services, but the experience as well. Shannon reports that many men are customers for waxing. Walk-ins are welcome.

Thelma Harris Art Gallery

from page 4

the gallery stages "White Linen Nights" as a showcase for works rarely available on the art market. The gallery is a full-service art operation that works with clients to acquire, curate, appraise, frame, conserve, and install collections.

Thelma Harris, co-founder of the gallery with her husband Terry, has a wonderful feel for the neighborhood and anticipates the future: "The Rockridge District is a 'destination location.' The proximity to restaurants, lounges, CCA, UC Berkeley, and BART makes this an ideal cultural haven. In addition, the new residential and commercial expansions slated for this area will bring fresh eyes and new opportunities."



Abundant light fills the Thelma Harris Art Gallery on College.

Carl Schmitz is Art Research Librarian at the Richard Diebenkorn Foundation, unofficial secretary general of the Flo Allen Fan Club and a Volunteer Archivist at the African American Museum & Library at Oakland in the historic Carnegie library downtown, 659 14th Street. He can be reached at cschmitz@diebenkorn.org.

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Patrols: Safer Rockridge

from page 2

officers to be professional, courteous, and responsive. We have heard no complaints or reports of harassment or profiling; those initial community concerns were apparently unfounded.

Analyzing Patrol Effectiveness

In my role as a professional economist, I have analyzed the effectiveness of private security patrols. Using sophisticated statistical modeling of Oakland crime reports back to 2007, I estimate that burglaries and robberies in Lower Rockridge are down by a statistically significant 30 percent relative to what would have been predicted absent the patrols. Moreover, I find no evidence of a statistically meaningful spillover effect in areas adjacent to Lower Rockridge. For the full report, see goo.gl/zY27Z4.

Community Contributions Fund Patrols

The security patrols only happen through the support and contributions of our community. As of late November, we have raised over $175,000 (including both Safer Rockridge and CrowdTilt) with a monthly recurring donation level of roughly $12,000. We prefer recurring donations ($30/month suggested) made via SaferRockridge.org, but are happy to accept any amount in one-time or check donations.

Beating Crime

from page 2

don't necessarily speak to crime trends or even crime in your own part of the neighborhood. Other resources can bring the fuller information you may be looking for.

Following is a list of selected web sites with more detailed crime information and tips you can use to minimize your likelihood of being a crime victim.

• CrimeMapping.com provides information about recent crime activity in your neighborhood. Crime types can be reviewed and compared for frequency over time and location.

• Oakland's Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils (NCPC) help with police contact, crime concerns and resolution, and local, non-crime issues. In Rockridge, the NCPC web site has crime information, 2014 statistics, safety tips, neighborhood issues, and more. See Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council at www.rockridgencpc.com/?start=15.

Below are two OPD web pages on the city of Oakland's site which share safety tips and specific protections:

• Safety Tips; Avoid Being a Robbery Victim (www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/police/documents/webcontent/oak022896.pdf)

• Contact numbers and resources: www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/OPD/s/cfaq/index.htm.

Are the police doing anything? Find arrest reports and solved crimes with "The Blotter" at Moments of Truth: www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/OPD/a/MomentsofTruth/index.htm

Oakland police patrol numbered beats in assigned areas. Rockridge is covered by parts of beats 12Y and 13X. Captain Darren Allison is the area commander for (Twitter address) #Oakland #Police Area 2, covering North Oakland, Rockridge, Temescal, Montclair, and Grand Lake neighborhoods. His specific Twitter address is @area2opd, or twitter.com/area2opd.

Note: RCPC offers the above information as a sampling of public safety/crime fighting information available on the Internet. Links have been checked for operability but RCPC cannot assure they will function at all times or that the information provided will always be comprehensive and accurate. Contact the link's source to report and/or resolve any problems.



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The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson

Changes on College

It's been a while since we've rounded up some of the shops and services on College Avenue. Here are a few, some new, some here for awhile...

Moved

Bella Vita
New home: 5511 College Avenue
http://www.bellavitahome.com/

Cotton Basics
Moved to 2907 College Avenue in Berkeley
http://www.shopcottonbasics.com/

Stores

I Do Bridal
5332 College Avenue
510/282-0730
idobb@icloud.com
By appointment only

Lesley Evers
5501 College Avenue
510/595-7600
http://www.lesleyevers.com/visit-us/
11-6 Mon-Sat; 11-5 Sun

Taro's Origami Studio
5322 College Avenue
510/596-9091
oakland.tarosorigami.com/ Tu-Sat, 11-6

Services and Restaurants

A16 Italian cuisine
5356 College Avenue
510/858-5283
M-Sat 11 a.m-2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m-10 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., bar 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
http://www.a16rockridge.com/

Bourbon and Beef
5634 College Avenue
http://www.bourbonbeef.com/
510/788-4821
M-Fri 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-10 p.m.;
Weekend brunch 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-10 p.m.

Hair Art Design
5517 College Avenue
510/334-0790

High Peaks Indian Cuisine
5299A College Avenue
510/450-0644
www.hipeaks.com/

I Bar Threading
5509 College Avenue
www.Ibarthreading.com
Wednesday – Saturday 11-7, Sunday 11-6
510/817-2800

Pucquio Contemporary Peruvian Cuisine
5337 College Avenue
Tu-Sat 12-10 p.m.
510/658-7378
www.pucquio.com/

Radiant Salon
5269 Broadway
510/530-1300
becomeradiant.com/wordpress1/
Tu-Sat 12-8, Sun 12-5, M closed

Rockridge Day Spa
5413 College Avenue
510/601-0366
www.rockridgedayspa.com/
Tu and Th 11-7; W and F 10-6; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4

Spruce Rockridge Salon and Spa
5327 College Avenue
510/450-0542
sprucesalonandspa.com/
W 11-5:3-, Th 10-7; F 10-6; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-5;
M 11-7; closed Tuesday

Sukho Thai and Organic
5490 College
510/420-8600
sukhothaioakland.com

SWEAT Health and Fitness
5410 College Avenue
510/985-3005
6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
sweathealthfitness.com/#/about-gym

Tech Centennial Events

from page 7

With its rich drama, dance, and music programs, Tech has provided generations of Technites a chance to explore their artistic side, and many have continued the passion they developed at Tech. The Showcase brings past and present Technites onto the stage to tip their hats to Tech, and to wish it well on its second 100 years.

Featured performers include big band era singer Marv Tripp (Class of 1943); Forbidden City (a famous night club in San Francisco's Chinatown) dancer Estelle Young Kelley (Class of 1948); tap dancer Michael Grbich (Class of 1950); poet Mai-Lou Gittelsohn (Class of 1951); Oakland Ballet dancer Omar Shabazz (Class of 1989); current Tech teacher and drummer Patrick Friedman; and current Tech student singers, dancers, and musicians.

There will be surprise performers and scenes from the play "99 Years," created two years ago by Tech students based on interviews with former Tech students and staff. The play is a lively tour through some key moments in Tech's history, with the actors speaking the exact words recorded in the interviews. The talent showcase is also a fundraiser for Boost, Tech's after-school peer tutoring program. Boost offers peer tutoring to provide extra academic support.

The price of admission for this event: $10 for adults and $5 for students. Purchase tickets at the door on the day of the event.

More Merchants, from left col.

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Your 36-word message is $22. (Phone number counts as one word.) Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. *February issue deadline is January 22.*

For information: smontauk@gmail.com

New Year's Special from Penelope's Aesthetics!

Bring in the New Year with relaxing, rejuvenating and restorative facial! See what one treatment can do! Custom facial with eyebrow wax only $54! A 40 percent savings!By appointment. 510 594-1552www.penelopecalef.com

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TAI CHI and QIGONG in Rockridge

Thursday, 9:30 am and Saturday. 9 am. Learn Tai Chi principles. Cultivate health through this ancient gentle exercise. New classes start January 3, 2015. Email harmonytaiji45@gmail.com phone 415/786-2469.

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Kitchen & bath remodel, tile, decks, dry rot, drainage, walls, termite damage, doors, windows. Professional work for affordable prices. Local References Available. Lic#458473. Don 510/812-0310.

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Two-Bedroom Rear Cottage in Lower Rockridge

Close to shopping BART and more. $1,999 first, $1,999 last $1,000 security and cleaning. Cats OK with references. Please call Parker at 415/527 7647 or email melissabparker@gmail.com

New Art Gallery – Arte Verissima

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

Rockridge Acupuncturist

5664 Broadway. Family owned since 1978. Gentle, relaxing treatments focusing on difficult pain (low back pain, sports injuries, etc.) and stress. For appointment or free consultation with Alex Chung, L.Ac, contact: 510/882-8900 or alexchunglac@gmail.com

Ashby Village Open House

Sunday January 25 2-4 pm at Highlands Country Club. Learn about our 'village' of members and volunteers over age 50 – a follow-up to December Rockridge News story. RSVP 510/204-9200.

Nursing/Personal Care in your Home

Are you looking for personal caregiver, companion, home maker or nursing services? ShepCare Healthcare provides nurses and caregivers. Call us for a Free Consultation. Office: 510/355-8925.

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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, 7:30pm. **NOTE: new location for January 8 mtg:** Buttner Auditorium, The College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway. Confirm mtg. at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com. **See story, page 5.**

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

****Computer Tutors Available. Ready, Set, Connect Program:** Get help with basic computer skills, email, portal device setup, 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:** Come by anytime in January to pick up your Winter BINGO prize book. Complete 5 of the bingo activities in a row to get a Free Book; offer good until January 31st.
- **90-Second Newbery Annual Video Contest:** Kid filmmakers create movies that tell the entire stories of Newbery-winning books in 90 seconds or less. **Deadline to submit entry is January 16.**
  - All welcome to join host **James Kennedy** for a **screening of the 4th Annual 90-Second Newbery Film Festival on Sat., Feb. 7, noon to 1pm** (kids under 9 must bring an adult).
- **Make Valentines:** Tues, 2/10, 4:30 - 6:00pm. Bring a list of your classmates –make a valentine for everyone. **All materials provided**. Ages 6 to 13. (Kids under 9 years old must bring an adult.)

Contact Children's Librarian Erica Siskind for more information.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Advisory Board (ages 14-18):** Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. Snacks provided. 1st Sat. each month, 1 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, 2 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; 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 (1/6, 2/3), 5 to 7pm. (Advance sign-up starts 4:45pm at adult reference desk). **Note:** Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present. Call to confirm.

Gallery Art Exhibit (Subject to change; call to confirm) January: **Patrick Ducey:** "As the Sixties Ended", photographs of life in the Berkeley area.

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun., and Mon; also Tues, 1/20.

Diesel Book/Readings and Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Thurs, 1/8. 6:30pm. Editor **Don George** with contributing authors, **Jeff Greenwald** and **Lavinia Spaulding:** *An Innocent Abroad: Life-Changing Trips from 35 Great Writers.*
- Sun., 1/11, 3pm. **Zack Rogow** and **Renée Morel**: translated collection of previously unpublished works by Colette, *Shipwrecked on a Traffic Island: And Other Previously Untranslated Gems*. Actor **Lorri Holt** will read selections.
- Thurs, 1/15, 6:30pm. Local journalist **Pete Crooks:** *The Setup: A True Story of Dirty Cops, Soccer Moms and Reality TV.*
- Fri, 1/16, 6:30 pm. **Tara Ison:** *Reeling Through Life: How I Learned to Live, Love, and Die at the Movies*.
- Sat., 1/17, 7:30pm. **Literary Karaoke Night:** Bring something from home or grab a book off one of our shelves (**not something you wrote**), read one or two pages from it, and perhaps just as important... listen to everybody else do the same. (There just might be a bottle of something strong and distilled, should you need some liquid courage.)
- Tues, 1/20, 6:30 pm. **Peter Richardson:** *No Simple Highway: A Cultural History of the Grateful Dead.*
- Fri, 1/23, 9pm (doors open 8:30). **Music performance** with bluegrass banjo and guitar impresario **Avram Siegel**, joined by **Molly Tuttle**, **John Mailander**, and **Paul Knight**. Note: $10 cover charge for this event; all proceeds go to the musicians.
- Sun., 1/25, 3pm. **Poetry Flash**, featuring contributing authors from the San Francisco literary magazine, *Ambush Review*: **David Beckman**, **Sharon Coleman**, **Charles Entrekin**, **Grace Marie Grafton**, **Katherine Hastings**, **Joseph Noble**, **Linda Norton**, and **Angelo Sakkis**.
- Mon, 2/9, 6:30pm. Local author **Patricia Bracewell**: *The Price of Blood*.

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

Wisteria Ways House Concert

Multi-instrumentalists **Meredith Axelrod** & **Craig Ventresco**: Ragtime, Early Jazz and pre-1930's American Roots Music. Sat., Jan 17, 8pm (house opens 7:30). Inside venue; not wheelchair accessible. Hear a sample at http://meredithaxelrod.com/listen/. $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. Reservations (highly recommended): RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org. or 655-2771.

Jazz at the Chimes

Trumpeter **Erik Jekabson** quintet, with **Kasey Knudsen** on saxophone, **Matt Clark** on piano, **John Wiitala** on acoustic bass and **Hamir Atwal** on drums. Sunday, 1/18, 2 pm. Tickets at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30pm (doors open 1:30): $15 general; $10 Srs. (60+) and students. Refreshments and reception follows to meet the performers. Info and music clips at http://www.erikjekabson.com. The concert series features Bay Area jazz musicians in a landmarked Julia Morgan venue: Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Wheelchair accessible. Free parking. Info: www.jazzatthechimes.com, chimesjazz@gmail.com or 654-0123.

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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