THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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16 April 2015 RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Town Hall and RCPC Board Election

Come at 7 for pizza and friends

AGENDA

I. RCPC Board Election: Two incumbents and one new candidate will discuss their candidacy and positions, and take questions from the community. Voting will then be open. ☞**Candidate statements, page 2**.

II. Presentation of a City Resolution honoring Rockridge News Editor Don Kinkead. Dan Kalb will recognize Don Kinkead for his years of service to the community. The RCPC board invites you to come share stories and appreciation.

III. Land Use Committee Overview of Major Development Projects in Rockridge: Topics will include the Merrill Gardens site on Broadway north of 51st; the Rockridge Shopping Center on Pleasant Valley; the Temescal Apartments on Broadway south of 51st; the Kingfish site on Claremont; and the Global Entertainment/Creekside site at 51st and Telegraph (story, page 1).

Election Procedures & Voting

As the first item on the Town Hall Agenda, Rockridge residents will hear candidate presentations, then vote on three RCPC board candidates. Twenty-five or more residents must vote or sign in at the meeting to establish a quorum. If the quorum is met, residents unable to attend the Town Hall may vote Saturday, April 18, in the lobby of the Rockridge library, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Voter Eligibility

Persons age 18 and over who live within RCPC boundaries are eligible to vote. Verification is by: driver's license; a DMV ID card; or your utility bill; any one with an address within RCPC boundaries as depicted on the RCPC website: rockridge.org.

Town Hall: Thursday, April 16 | 7-9 p.m. Rockridge Library, 5366 College at Manila | RSVP/pizza: rockridge.org

500 New Units Planned in Rockridge Area

by Greg Pasquali, RCPC boardmember

There is a lot of new development proposed and underway around Rockridge right now. Whether you noticed the demolition underway at the Merrill Gardens site on Broadway north of 51st in the last few weeks, are wondering when the vacant half of the Rockridge Shopping Center on Pleasant Valley might start redevelopment, have heard that Temescal Apartments on Broadway south of 51st was approved by the city last month, or are curious what's happening at the Kingfish site on Claremont or the Global

500 New Units, page 12

The Best Research Project Around

by Gabe Kleinman, RCPC board member

It was the spring of 2012. My wife and I had just fulfilled a dream of ours: to own a home, in Rockridge no less. Although our bank account was drained, our optimism was filled to the brim.

As new homeowners often do, we started out with grand visions for how we'd make this home our own. Redo the master bathroom! Redesign the dining room (but don't touch the built-ins)! And, of course, the big daddy of them all: the kitchen remodel.

Three years in, we're still talking the talk but, alas, have yet to walk the walk. We quickly learned that remodeling a kitchen takes quite a bit of cash, hundreds of decisions, and research.

The research, it turns out, is the most fun and inspiring, and the easiest to do. It's also best done in the wild - in people's homes, friends and strangers alike – rather than a studio or contrived environment. We've spent the last few years conducting our fair share of studies.

As far as "native viewing" opportunities go, the Rockridge Kitchen Tour is the best of what's around. So much to touch, see, and learn from! It also comes with a side benefit: proceeds

Best Research, page 7

New Features, More Benefits for RCPC Kitchen Tour

Event	Date
Free Kitchen Expo Meet and speak with architects, contractors and other kitchen specialists (registration required).	Thursday, Sept 17
Berkeley Mills Seminar View the kitchen makeover process from planning to installation, all built by one provider. Review natural woods and other materials available; learn elements of cost drivers, overall costs, scheduling, quality.	Saturday, September 19
Rockridge Kitchen Tour Meet up with friends and family: register and pick up your tour booklet; you're on your way.	Sunday, Sept 20

More Kitchen Tour Details and Tickets: rockridgekitchentour.org/about-the-rockridge-kitchen-tour/

RCPC Election 2015: Candidate Statements

Jennifer Daskal

Lawton Avenue



Incumbent

My husband, three year old daughter, 8 year old pug and I moved to Rockridge in 2012. Since then we have added two cats, a fish and will soon be welcoming our second daughter to this wonderful neighborhood and community. When we moved to Lawton Avenue, everyone told us how lucky we were and to be ready for of lots block parties, impromptu Friday night get-togethers and a wonderful neighborliness that rivals something out of the 1950s. They were right! To show my appreciation for this fantastic neighborhood, I decided to join the Rockridge Community Planning Council in January of 2014. In that time, I have served as Treasurer, Liaison with the Parks committee, Co-Chair of the 2015 Kitchen Tour, Co-Chair of the Halloween Parade and assisted in Town Hall events and Rockridge Out and About. It has been a whirlwind, but I have enjoyed every minute of being able to give back to such a welcoming community.

Greg Pasquali

Lawton Avenue



Incumbent

My wife and I moved to Rockridge over three years ago; I joined the RCPC board soon after. A stray copy of The Rockridge News helped convince us about this incredible neighborhood. After our move, I was excited to be part of ensuring Rockridge stays great through thoughtful attention to our streets, public places, businesses, and built environment and through community building events like town halls and festivals.

I am a member of the RCPC Transportation Committee, co-chair of the Land Use Committee, organize RCPC's Out and About booth, and help with town halls. It is important to ensure Rockridge continues to grow and evolve to stay healthy, and helps contribute to the growth and fiscal health of the city. That means making sure our business mix is diverse and reflective of the market, and that proposals for new housing are well designed and reflect the diversity of our community.

Noah Rosen

Lawton Avenue



Candidate

The son of a low-income housing consultant and an environmental planner, I was destined to care for people and places. I am interested in building more socially equitable and environmentally sustainable cities, regionally, and in my backyard. I believe individuals should be active in their community. RCPC is the perfect organization to exercise this belief.

A relatively new Rockridge resident, I will provide a fresh, young perspective to RCPC. I am excited to learn from folks who have lived in the neighborhood for years, and work together to make Rockridge even better for residents, businesses, and visitors.

As a board member, my purposes will be: Listen to community planning concerns and respond in a thoughtful, holistic way; increase the amount of public space in Rockridge (pocket parks, outdoor seating); gain a deeper understanding of my neighbors and neighborhood.

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ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY
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Library program details/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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Contact us at one of the following:
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Articles submitted for publication may be e-mailed or mailed to the above addresses. Submissions are limited to 600 words, must include the author's name, phone number, e-mail address, and city or neighborhood of residence, and are subject to editing. Views expressed in articles accepted for publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Rockridge News, its editor, or the board of directors of the Rockridge Community Planning Council. To reprint a Rockridge News article, please contact the editor.

Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the next issue is:
☛ **May 2, 2015**
☛ **May deadline is April 16, 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 April Land Use Committee meeting is Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m., at the Rockridge Branch library, 5366 College Avenue, upstairs meeting room. Confirm at rockridge.org. (Front door will be unlocked; auto-open will be off; pull doors apart to enter.) The agenda will be posted on rockridge.org by the preceding Sunday. Meetings are open to the public.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair

■ **College Avenue Safeway Project, College and Claremont Avenues**

RCPC and the community groups that reached a settlement with Safeway over this project submitted a punch list of issues to Safeway and Terramar, the new owner of the retail building, in February. The groups met with Todd Paradis, Safeway's regional real estate manager, and its attorney in mid-March. The meeting was far from harmonious, but RCPC expects Safeway to comply with its settlement obligations and the city's use permit. Some items are major: The electronic parking space availability display doesn't work. This means drivers can't tell if they have space to park on the parking deck, and it means Safeway can't tell how full its lot is, a requirement of the settlement. Another major item is that meters have been installed along Claremont Avenue, but there is no signage to protect the casual carpool area from filling up with parked cars. Of further concern: nobody from Terramar attended the meeting, but they are also bound by the settlement. If you have other concerns, e-mail landuse@rockridge.org.

■ **Merrill Gardens Senior Housing Project – West Side of Broadway, North of 51st Street**

Construction of this large senior housing/mixed use project is underway. There may be traffic disruptions on both Broadway and 51st Street as construction proceeds. Find construction schedule details at the SRM Development website: www.srmdevelopment.com/rockridge. If you have construction work concerns, find developer phone numbers on that website, or e-mail RCPC at landuse@rockridge.org.

■ **Temescal Condominium Project, Broadway (West Side) South of 51st Street**

SRM is also doing this large condominium project just south of 51st Street. These projects mark the first effects in Rockridge of the citywide rezoning approved in 2012, which in turn implements the General Plan adopted in 1999. We can expect more and larger development projects along both Broadway and Telegraph Avenue. This project was given final Planning Commission approval in March. Unless appealed, work leading up to demolition and construction will begin soon, and actual on-the-ground work is probably six months away.

■ **Rockridge Shopping Center – Broadway (East Side) North of Pleasant Valley**

Like the College Avenue Safeway retail building, this project was sold by Safeway to Terramar, a southern California shopping center development/management company. The management transition is apparently taking some time. As a consequence, the project's initiation has been slowed. Latest word: demolition of the CVS building and construction of the new Safeway store will not begin until late spring or summer of this year. There is a skeletal website for project information: www.theshopsattheridge.com/.

■ **Nautilus Mixed Use Project – East Side of Telegraph Avenue Between 51st Street and Claremont Avenue**

This is another proposed large project on the Rockridge border, and also part of the city's "densification" strategy on major transit corridors. It is the successor to two large projects, Civiq and Creekside, that were approved but never built. It proposes a fairly large rental housing component plus a retail component including a grocery store. The Nautilus Group, developer, will present an update on its proposal at RCPC's April Town Hall meeting. See the article beginning on the front page for more details.

■ **College Avenue Retail Zoning Working Group**

As previously reported, the city has agreed to have RCPC initiate a study of some potential changes to the city's CN-1 commercial zoning, which governs College Avenue and other neighborhood commercial areas such as Piedmont Avenue and Montclair Village. A main focus will be to look at whether the city should establish guidelines for "extinguishing" a use permit when a use terminates or is replaced by a different use. Other related use permit issues may also be considered. We will involve groups in affected parts of the city and expect to complete the study and make recommendations to the city by year's end. If you are interested in participating, e-mail to landuse@rockridge.org.



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FROG and DMV Neighbors Celebrate Earth Day: Saturday, April 18

FROG and Earth Day Tradition

by FROG Park Committee

FROG Park continues its tradition this year of honoring Earth Day with its annual Earth Day volunteer event. Pitch in and help clean up this neighborhood gem; bring your own tools, or use ours. Every year since 2002, Earth Day at Frog Park has been a way for neighbors to connect with one another and to renew and celebrate the work of the original 1,300 volunteers who built this park on a then-vacant lot in 2001.

This year, we plan to replant the butterfly garden and clean up the Frog Park pond. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

Frog Park Happenings

■ **A hearty thank you** to all who have generously contributed so far: FROG Park continues fundraising and planning for an improved playground area with new equipment. Please visit frogpark.org for updates, or to get involved.

■ **Frog Park was featured** in the February, 2014, issue of Landscape Architecture magazine as an exemplar of community bootstrapping for local parks. Frog Park was one of a handful of Bay Area parks built with grit, alternative funding, and volunteer labor. (We're glowing! Visit our website for the full article.)

■ **On April 14, Greater & Greener,** a biannual international conference on urban parks, will feature Frog Park in a mobile workshop and tour, led by FROG Park committee leaders. More information at:

- FROG Park website: frogpark.org
- Greater & Greener 2015: greatergreener.org

Save the Date:
April 18
When: 9 a.m. to noon
Where: Big Frog (Hardy Circle near Miles) or Little Frog (Redondo Avenue at Cavour)
Who: Community members and kids of all ages
Contact info@frogpark.org with questions or to volunteer.



Merchants: Should You Have Been Included?

After a seven-installment series on businesses in business on College Avenue for at least 25 years, we are down to three more to write about: they will be included in the May issue. If you have been on the Avenue all that time and haven't seen your business' name yet, write to editor@rockridge.org to ensure your business is included. – Kevin Faughnan

DMV: 'Get Ready for Spring'

by Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors

It's time to get ready for spring and summer at our local open-space gem, the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt and Frog Park. Come out for a community work day on Earth Day, Saturday April 18, 9 a.m. to noon, sponsored by FROG and the DMV Neighbors Association.

Tasks at Big and Little Frog will be to remove debris, turn fibar (the bark-like cushioning material under the play structures), sift and clean sand, care for plants in the butterfly garden and along the path, and rake out the pond so the creek can flow again.

The DMV Neighbors Association is coordinating clearing the creek bed, and raking, weeding, pruning, and trash collecting along the greenbelt between Clifton and Little Frog, also to ready the creek to flow again. Many cleanup activities are kid-friendly. Tools and gloves will be provided, or bring your own, if you prefer. (Please mark them well as yours.)

Sign in with FROG at Hardy Park for the park cleanup and with the DMV Neighbors Association at Redondo and Cavour for the creek. Snacks and morning coffee will be available courtesy of our neighborhood merchants. Let's make this a fun and successful Earth Day.







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And the Winner Is...

CMS Librarian Helps in Morris Awards Judging

by Jennifer Vetter

Claremont students and library volunteers wondered why Ms. Riemer went to Chicago at the end of January in the middle of back-to-back blizzards. Finishing off a year of work, she was taking part in the final deliberations and awards ceremony for the Morris Award, given by the American Library Association (ALA) to the year's best debut book written for teens.

Carla Riemer, the librarian at Claremont Middle School since 2012, served on the 2015 Morris committee with seven other librarians from Alabama, New York, Rhode Island, Minnesota, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Kansas. In this interview, she described her experience.

Jennifer Vetter: How did you get to be on the Morris committee?

Carla Riemer: I applied. There's a selection committee that evaluates the applications for all the different awards committees.

JV: Why the Morris?

CR: The reason I chose the Morris, and fortunately the Morris chose me, is that a couple of years ago, when I went to my first ALA Annual, I sat in on a panel of debut authors discussing their books: how cool is that! The idea of giving someone a boost at this point in their career, when they have just been published for the first time, really appealed to me.

JV: Is it just novels? And how did you get the books?

CR: Oh, no. We read fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels – anything that was a debut. If an author had been published before, even for a different audience, they're not eligible. Most of the books we got from publishers, but sometimes we had to go out and get them ourselves. We were scouring every source of information about new books – we looked for small presses, checked blogs and talked to people at conferences and with colleagues.

JV: What was the process like? Were there big arguments?

CR: I can't tell you which books we

CMS Librarian, page 13

Claremont Baseball Knights Take the Field After Many Years

by Thomas Kirchstetter

The Claremont Knights baseball team played their first game of the season at Bushrod Park on Wednesday, March 26. The event marked the first time Claremont Middle School has fielded a baseball team in a very long time. Under the leadership of new principal Jonathan Mayer, enthusiasm for this Oakland middle school is growing, and the revival of the baseball program by coaches Scott Windels and Rob Ades and the sixteen Claremont student athletes warrants special recognition. The baseball program provides students an opportunity to showcase their talents, builds school pride, and strengthens community.

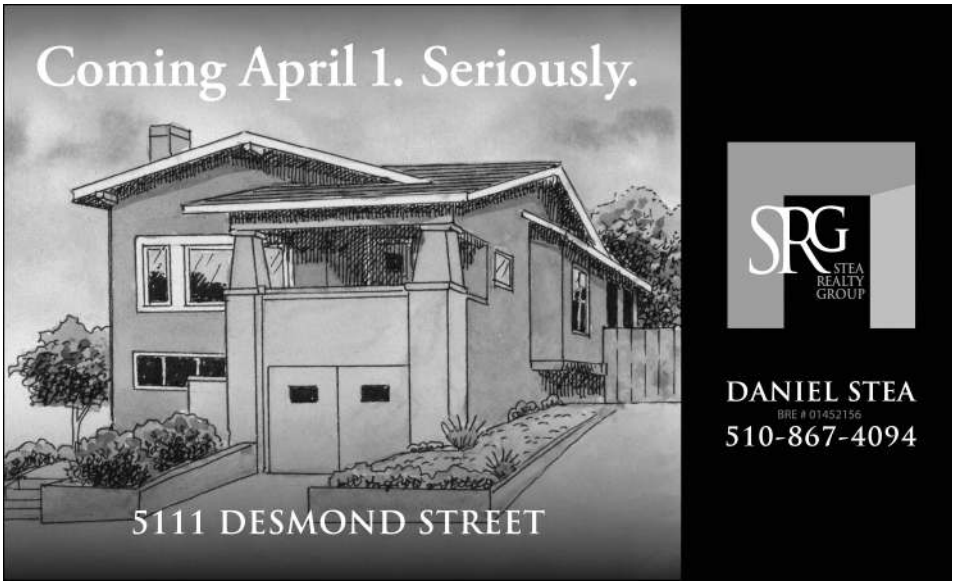


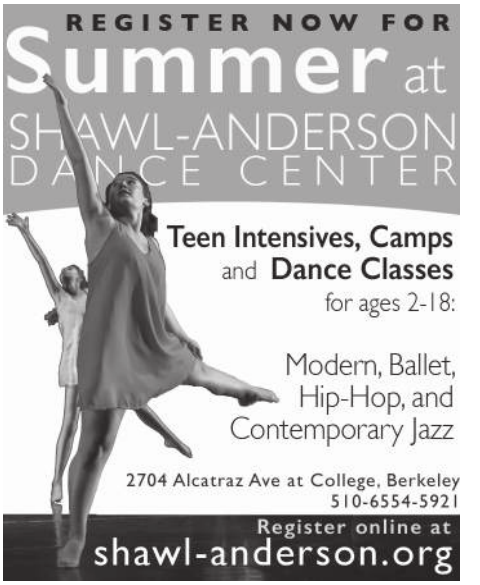
Zachary Kirchstetter delivers the season's first pitch for the Claremont Knights. /Courtesy of CMS Baseball Knights

While their Willard Middle School opponents prevailed in the season opener 14-2, the Knights showed their merits as a young and scrappy team. Zach Kirchstetter struck out six in two innings of work, Redding Traiger struck out two, and Cory Frost struck out three. Kalen Windels started a two-out rally that led to the Knights' two runs on the day.

Come out to cheer on the Knights as they continue to take the field for Claremont!

Ed. note: "We're a baseball family," says article writer Thomas Kirchstetter, parent of Claremont 8th grader Zach, pictured in the article. His wife is a Claremont Middle School PTA member. Their two other children, a son and a daughter, are in Chabot Elementary, and play baseball and softball.





Eyes on Rockridge

Longtime Resident Revisits 'The College Avenue of My Childhood'

by Judith Doner Berne

My guess is that it's rare when 100-year-old houses in Rockridge have belonged to only to one family. But that's the case for Claire Lomax's home.

Her grandfather, Richard Clifford Porter, a ship salvager, and his wife Jennie, a nurse, were the first occupants of the 1913 Craftsman bungalow on Harwood where Claire lives today.

Her mom, Mariam Porter Lomax, a Cal-Berkeley-educated hospital dietitian, grew up there, and moved back in after the death of Richard's second wife, Beatrice. Since Beatrice lived to be 104, Claire's mom was 75 before she took up residence again in her childhood home.

Meantime, Claire, now 69, was not far away, living at one point in the Lake Merritt area and at another in Walnut Creek. In 1989 she moved in with her mother, "mainly because we knew we'd be good housemates – and I knew that later on she'd probably need some help."

When that time came, Claire adjusted her work hours in payroll at Cal to care for her mother and later to visit her in a nursing home. When Mariam died four years ago "in her 100th year," the house became Claire's – including a chest and two pieces of glass that her grandfather had salvaged.

What she saw in the nursing home when she visited Mariam is why she now volunteers for California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform.

Still, "I spent life as an underachiever," this articulate, well-read woman with a wry sense of humor told me as we sat in her living room in view of a number of her own works of art and crafts.

"I went to four different universities and graduated in my 40s. I had a very interesting life – with all kinds of jobs," including being one of North Oakland's first female letter carriers.

Claire, who grew up on nearby Oak Grove, recalls walking to school: Chabot, Claremont Junior High (which her mother also attended), then Oakland Tech from which she graduated in 1962.

"When I grew up this was Oakland," she says. "No one referred to it as Rockridge. It was a lovely neighborhood but no one would have bragged about living down here in the flatlands. Montclair and Piedmont were 'The Places.'"

"Life as a kid here was great. We had hours of unsupervised play. We went through open homes (up for sale). We played in the street. I remember taking the train to San Francisco."



Claire Lomax rendered this "Our Town"-type art work depicting her concept of the perfect place to live. /Judith Berne

She recalls dinners and sleepovers at her grandparents' house. "We didn't come as often as Aunt Bea and Granddaddy would have liked because she was a dreadful cook – burned peas and carrots and mac and cheese."

Traffic noise obscures them now, but Claire says that as kids, "We stayed in bed awhile after waking to listen to the fog horns on the Bay. They made this wonderful deep, two-toned sound. We didn't think it at all remarkable that we could hear it so well so far away."

Claire compiled a detailed list of the places she frequented along "the College Avenue of my childhood." The list includes the Chimes Theater ("we ate Jujubes while we watched"); Woolworth's (right next door); Mount's Pharmacy (with a lunch counter); Paul's Grill (the after-school Tech hangout); Chimes Grocery (the Chinese owners kept it open on holidays like Christmas).

The Avenue and adjacent streets also hosted a couple of other groceries, a toy store, camera shop, florist, laundry, television repair shop, barbershop, bank, antique store, ice cream store, gas station and Safeway.

She also remembers, from more recent times, when The Pasta Shop first opened on the corner where Barclay's Restaurant and Pub is now, before moving to its current digs at Market Hall.

"It was our introduction to a whole new world of food, a new way of eating," she says. "And on occasion they served up the most amazing French apple pie, infused with just a touch of Calvados. The earth shifted on its axis when I ate that pie. Thank God it's no longer available."

All of this is what colors her thinking as she contemplates what Rockridge is today and might become.

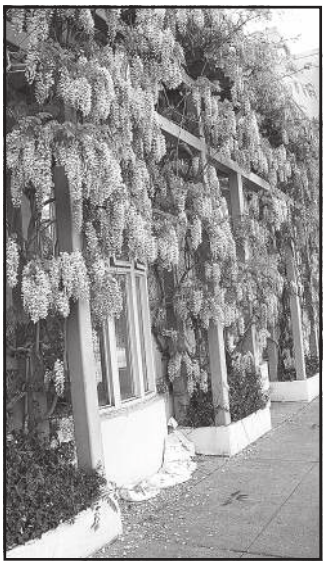
No, she isn't fond of the new Safeway although she didn't shop at the old one. "I'm pretty sure how you feel about the remodeling process and the size depends a lot on how long you have lived here and how close you live to that area," Claire says.

"It's not that the older people don't want change," she assures me. "But the Safeway looks to me like an aircraft carrier run aground on a miniature golf course – appropriate for suburban space and sensibilities, but not for this area.

"Rockridge seems to have morphed from a neighborhood into a destination," Claire says. "And really, how many fab restaurants does any area need? And, how many large groceries?" She thinks attracting more small businesses is in the area's best interests. "We lost out when the luggage store was forced to move."

Addressing some long-standing vacancies, she says, "It seems as if many commercial space owners would prefer to leave buildings empty and claim a loss on taxes than rent for more reasonable amounts to long-term tenants. That's their

Once Upon a Time on College, page 7



Rockridge Library Sprucing-Up Continues

by Patricia Lichter, Rockridge Library branch manager

Continuing a number of physical improvements to the Oakland Public Library's Rockridge Branch, the building will have a facelift when its exterior is painted late this spring. The library will remain open for business during the painting project.

Prior to painting, the wisteria landscaping, beloved by many in the community, will be carefully pruned and protected.

The Rockridge Branch Library, first opened in 1996 and located at 5366 College Avenue, has recently added air conditioning to the meeting room and the Teen Area. Later this year, new carpeting and interior paint will complete the renovation.

These improvements are funded in part by a generous donation from the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL), in partnership with the city of Oakland.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Jane Lopez, Supervising Librarian, 238-3511.



Before painting the exterior of the Rockridge Branch library later this spring – one of a number of building-wide improvements now underway – workers will protectively prune and shield the flourishing Wisteria that graces the front of the building. /D. Kinkead

Once Upon a Time on College

from page 6

prerogative, but it seems wrong."

Meantime, Claire is delighted by the opening of Cole Hardware. A great reader, she is particularly fond of the Avenue's two bookstores. "When I spend money, it's for used books – mysteries. I like my plots to be real simple because life is so complicated."

But her fantasy for College Avenue is a small movie theater that shows great foreign films. "It would never fly, but I'd sure like it!" A framed drawing on her wall conveys another fantasy.

"I was taking the training for docents at Camron-Stanford House in the late '70s, as they prepared to open (that historic residence) to the public," she says. "We were asked to draw our perfect house – and this image came to me: A sweet little apartment over a bookstore on a corner, with lots of windows and light. I wanted to be able to look out on the street scene and be close to the shops."

At the time, "the idea of a Rockridge shopping district was but a gleam in a few eyes," Claire says. "BART had opened but the neighborhood was still recovering from the hard years of BART and freeway construction."

Yet, it's surely an image that can be seen along College Avenue in Rockridge – at least for today.

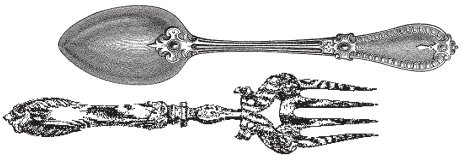
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Best Research

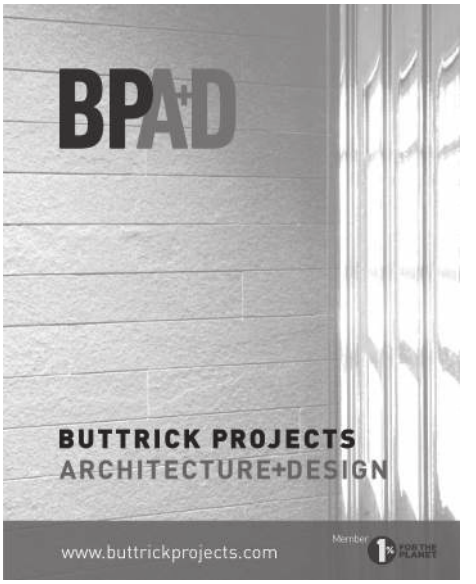
from page 1

from ticket sales go to the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), a group that looks out for the neighborhood year 'round, not just its kitchens on a biennial weekend.

So as my wife and I continue to fill up our coffers in anticipation of the kitchen-remodel-to-come someday, we'll be headed to the Kitchen Tour to see the best of what's around. Hope to see you there.







Rockridge Library Friends Laud Long-Serving Board Member

by Sarah Washburn, FORL member

Phil Fitzwater has lived in Rockridge since the late 1980s. When describing his life back then, he begins with a story about the library—a temporary trailer near Claremont Middle School that housed the library's books while plans for a new library building were in development.

For Phil, libraries have always been the heart of a neighborhood. He remembers fondly his time spent at Shenandoah Public Library, Iowa, a stately building built in 1905 with the generous support of $10,000 from Andrew Carnegie. Memories of card catalogs and stamped books put a wistful smile on his face that burst into a kid-like exuberance when he remembered checking out "Thus Spake Zarathustra" by Friedrich Nietzsche when he was 13 years old. Even though the content eluded him, Phil was enthralled by the title and thrilled to have it in his clutches. "Libraries are magic. They give a small-town kid like me a ticket to the world."

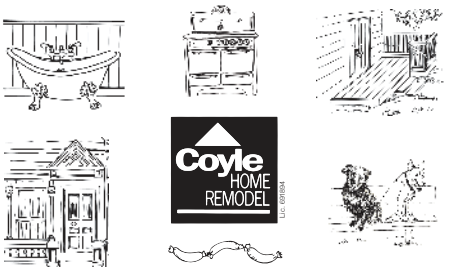
He's not so small town anymore—heading Iris Environmental, a successful environmental engineering firm serving cutting-edge high-tech clients—yet his strongly-held belief that the library is a vital core of the community, a safe place where anyone can "just be," has not changed as his world view has broadened.

Phil's interest in supporting his neighborhood library sparked when neighborhood visions of a proper building blossomed into plans — under the leadership of The Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) and a ten-year committee stewardship by community member Nancy Dutcher — for what would become the Rockridge Library in its current location. When you visit the library today, you'll find floor tiles in the library's foyer marking neighbors' investments in the library's future. Phil's tile has the words, "He soared to the sun, writing the man he might become." He wrote that aspirational passage back in 1996 believing "if you can write it, you can be it."

His interest turned into service when he joined the Friends of the Rockridge Library board as their treasurer. He wanted to "help the library have more resources, to give the library things they couldn't otherwise afford." He joked that he wanted to make sure his donations were well spent, adding, "I'm kind of a control freak." Jokes aside, his imprint on the library is far larger than the 12x12 tile gracing the library's entrance. His influence, his interest, and his inimitable conviction that libraries are vital and worthy of support are unmatched.

Over the past 20 years, Phil's contributions to the Rockridge Library have included the complete set of Metropolitan Opera DVDs, the Horatio Hornblower series, an entire set of classical CDs, the Patrick O'Brian series of historical novels, two sets of leather reading chairs, four laptops used in the checkout program, and a beloved Stickley rocking chair where moms, dads, and caregivers have spent countless days and years reading to their loved ones.

Thank you, Phil, for supporting a space where kids—and kids at heart—can enjoy a lifelong exploration with a ticket to the world they found at the library.



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3/20/15	3	2	5279 Locksley Ave	$849,000	$849,000	10	$1,304,000
3/25/15	2	2	5427 Claremont Ave	$799,000	$729,000	23	$765,000
3/31/15	7	6	5237 Miles	$1,599,000	$1,599,000	15	$1,900,000

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For Animal Lovers

This is the beginning of Foxtail Season, which means big problems for animals. You can help: watch for foxtails (see picture below) when out walking and yank them out by the roots. Then, put them in a plastic bag and then into the trash (not green bin). Questions: Sari Kulberg 510/653-6432



Climate Courage

by Jan Cecil

Want to help protect our children's climate, but aren't sure where to start? Do climate projects seem way too complex and hopeless? Come to an overview of the many positive climate activities in the East Bay. Meet with others to share your concerns, learn what's up, and clarify how you might want to use your skills and interests to contribute: Tuesday, April 21, 6:30-7:45 p.m., Berkeley Library South Branch, 1901 Russell Street at MLK Way, Berkeley. FREE. Questions, call 510/549-3509.

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Lower Rockridge Parents Group Hosts 14th Annual Community Yard Sale



The Lower Rockridge Parents Group (LRPG) holds its annual Community Yard and Bake Sale this month, the proceeds of which will benefit Peralta Elementary and Claremont Middle School. The sale takes place on the Peralta School playground on Alcatraz Avenue between Telegraph Avenue and Dana Street on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

One LRPG event has become a rite of spring: the annual Community Yard Sale. The Yard Sale is a great opportunity for friends and neighbors to do some spring cleaning, shop for great stuff, meet new friends, catch up with old friends, and have a coffee and brownie in one of Peralta's many gardens.

This Yard Sale is like no other. It's one of the East Bay's largest and has raised over $53,500 to help support our neighborhood public schools.

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

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

Donate, volunteer, shop and enjoy.

If you have questions about the sale and/or want to donate or volunteer, please contact LRPGYardSale@gmail.com.

Specializing in Rockridge Real Estate

Courtesy reminder: Don't forget to pay the second installment of your property taxes due now! They must be postmarked no later than April 10th.

Rockridge Market: Demand continues to far exceed supply. Values are at their highest ever and likely to peak soon. If you'd like to sell and don't know where to go or how to make it happen, let me help you strategize and valuate your home. With the low # of sales, the data pool is too small to look at averages or medians that won't translate specifically to your home.



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Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes posted mailings and e-mails to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and city/neighborhood must be included in either 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 appearing in The Rockridge News are the writer's own, and may not necessarily be shared by the editor, or by RCPC.

In Support of Safeway

Editor:

I've been reading with interest the comments about the new Safeway on College. I love shopping there and I'd like to offer a rebuttal to the naysayers.

1. There are many people – young families, seniors – who cannot afford the extra expense of shopping at the smaller stores. Shouldn't they be afforded the opportunity to shop locally in a store with pleasant surroundings and a good selection?

2. The shops on College will not necessarily lose customers to Safeway. I have never set foot in any of those stores so my shopping habits have not changed. People who do shop in places like Yasai and Ver Brugge will likely continue. Conversely, Safeway will bring in people from other areas who might venture into some of the small stores on College.

3. Safeway employs 200 people. These people pay taxes and spend money. Peet's Coffee has the right idea; invite Safeway employees to visit their store. Why wouldn't Safeway employees want to shop on College? If Safeway closed down tomorrow, would the small mom and pop shops be able to absorb these people? I think not.

4. I find Safeway employees very friendly and willing to help shoppers navigate the large store. I've had conversations with the butcher, deli people and cashier.

5. According to the Safeway Foundation's Web site, it donates "an average of $200 million a year in grants and product donations to charitable organizations."

6. Lastly, if you don't like large, publicly traded companies that pay dividends to their shareholders, better check your pension/retirement plans, 401Ks, and IRAs and divest yourself of all those big bad corporations.

Safeway is here to stay and serves the needs and tastes of many in the community. I think there are enough people who can support both types of businesses.

— Mary-Lynn Wilson

To the Unsung Heroes of Rockridge:

Editor:

As I traveled through our wonderful neighborhood this morning, I saw some amazing individuals:

- A father and his 3-year-old daughter removing graffiti from a wall.
- An older gentleman sweeping his street.
- A young woman removing outdated flyers from telephone poles.
- A woman trimming overgrown ivy under the highway.

I offer a personal "thank you" to these four individuals and to the others I didn't see today on my way to work. If each of us does one thing to make our community a nicer place, it truly adds up.

Way to go, Rockridge residents!

— F Gallagher



School District Financial Decisions Are Frustrating

Editor:

It was good to see Jody London's update on recent Oakland Unified School District developments (The Rockridge News, March 2015). However, I was frustrated by Ms. London's suggestion that OUSD could not meet Oakland's teachers' salary and class size requests because the District needed to be "mindful" of the General Fund.

Was the School Board being similarly mindful when it tapped the General Fund for the nearly $1M increase in cumulative base pay for OUSD senior managers in 2014/2015 (from $2.81M to $3.76M)? The increases include the creation of several new positions, such as:

Chief of Schools (Allen Smith) at $175K. This new position is in addition to OUSD's Superintendent of Schools.

Chief of Organizational Effectiveness and Culture (Yana Smith) at $155K.

Deputy Superintendent for Business (Vernon Hall) at $193K. This new position is in addition to OUSD's CFO.

Chief Talent Officer (Brigitte Marshall) at $160K.

Deputy Chief of Post Secondary Readiness (Bernard McCune) at $157.5K.

Paid for by the General Fund, each of these positions provides health benefits and

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Letters

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25 vacation/personal days, 12 sick days, and a three percent cost of living increase in July 2015. Additionally, the General Fund is paying for Mr. and Ms. Smith's combined $27.5K moving bonus, and Mr. McCune's $17K moving bonus.

I cannot see how these new positions and benefits are examples of mindful management, especially compared to the total raise of $3.3M that OUSD offered Oakland's combined 2,700 teachers and staff for 2014/2015.

— Alex Naughton

Board of Education Director Jody London Responds

Editor:

As a long-time resident of Oakland and OUSD parent, I understand frustrations over perceived wasteful spending in our schools. As a member of the Board of Education, it is my responsibility to ensure we use our scarce tax dollars wisely. I take all three roles seriously, which is why I support Supt. Wilson and feel it necessary to respond to this letter.

Since joining the School Board six years ago, I've worked with other directors to establish leadership and fiscal discipline. About a year ago, the board hired current superintendent Antwan Wilson to lead our work on these issues.

Supt. Wilson has cut central office spending by 20 percent. Proposed cuts in the 2015-16 budget would bring central spending down a total of 33 percent, all in just one year. We're taking these resources, plus funding we are finally recouping from the state (we've gone from 50th to 46th in the country in per pupil spending), and focusing them in support of our schools or directly in schools.

Supt. Wilson is building a leadership team with talent from Oakland and around the country, with particular focus on community schools, financial oversight, and employee retention and development. The Chief of Schools and the Deputy of Post-Secondary Readiness (critical for Measure N Linked Learning oversight) address school needs. The talent and organizational effectiveness positions are critical to our efforts to build a better organization. The financial oversight positions are long overdue and essential for getting our fiscal house in order.

These positions have been more than paid for by cuts elsewhere. Get the full breakdown here: www.ousd.k12.ca.us/Page/12710. This reorganization and budget reprioritization is also helping us offer the largest pay increase in more than a decade to our teachers.

— Jody London, Vice President, Oakland Board of Education, District 1 (North Oakland)

The New Safeway Is an Affront

Editor:

The new Safeway on College Avenue, huge and hideous, is an affront to the sensibilities of our community. I, like many others, opposed it strenuously during the negotiation process. Alas, our voices were not heard. I find the building(s?) viscerally upsetting, and I have chosen not to shop there. Fortunately, my decision to boycott this Safeway (and perhaps all the others in Oakland and Berkeley as a result) has been an easy one to make. There are so many other choices among lovely, small, independently owned shops: Yasai; Ver Brugge; La Farine; Southie; and, further on down College Avenue, there is Trader Joe's, which is part of a chain but whose management and employees behave locally. They strive to please us shoppers by providing the goods we want and by trying also to be neighborhood insiders. And then, there is Cole Hardware! I can hardly praise it enough. What a wonderful addition to our neighborhood it is. The employees there are friendly, intelligent, helpful and truly interested in the workings of the Rockridge community.

— Sharon Osmond

Solution Needed for Camps of Vagrants

Editor:

I wrote to Council Member Dan Kalb about the vagrant problem at the underpass on Presley, and want the community to be aware of it as well:

Recently, the vagrant who currently lives there came up to my house brandishing a brick and threatening to throw it through our window. Two of my neighbors witnessed this and called the police.

Officers responded while the vagrant took off running. For all this, the worst that will happen to him is a misdemeanor charge and ticket. Meanwhile, my 3-year-old son and 10-month-old daughter are now scared that this guy is going to return and harm them.

We need a permanent solution and I suggest these ideas:

1. Increase the criminal penalty for homeless encampments. Currently, police cannot arrest vagrants who set up these shelters in our city.

2. Construct something positive in the underpass. San Jose uses these underpass spaces for storage lockers that are rented out.

3. Create protective barriers to prevent easy access to these areas.

— Name withheld by request





Masons Host 6th Annual Pancake Breakfast to Benefit Claremont School

by Claremont Dad's Club members

On Saturday, February 7, the Rockridge Masonic Lodge hosted the Sixth Annual Pancake Breakfast to support Claremont Middle School. The Claremont Middle School Dad's Club organized ticket sales and publicity for the event, with generous support from the Rockridge District Association (RDA).

This year's breakfast raised more than $5,750 in raffle and breakfast ticket sales – a record amount for this festive annual event. The breakfast also continues to serve as an important community builder as people from the school, residential and business communities come together for a delicious meal.

Once again, the Masons put on a great spread and graciously opened their beautiful College Avenue facility to the community. Student musicians under the direction of Claremont's dynamic new music teacher, Vincent Tolliver, provided live entertainment, with a mix of jazz and string ensembles performing throughout the morning.

The Pancake Breakfast Raffle featured a long list of prizes, including a grand prize iPad Mini donated by local real estate broker Ron Kriss of Lawton Associates, as well as two box seat tickets to an Oakland A's game donated by District 1 City Council member Dan Kalb.

Funds raised through raffle ticket sales will be dedicated to a spring outdoor education program that will give students in all grades at Claremont an opportunity to go camping at the Gillespie Youth Camp facility in Tilden Regional Park.

Proceeds from ticket sales gave a welcome boost to the Claremont PTA's 2014-15 annual fund, which supports a broad range of educational initiatives at our neighborhood middle school, located on College and Miles avenues next to the Rockridge BART station. Programs and activities supported by the PTA include high-quality computer learning resources, after-school sports and one of the best library programs of any public middle school in Oakland.

This event would not have been possible if not for the efforts of so many who volunteered their time and energy to make it happen. Special thanks must go to Chris Nowell and all of the Rockridge Masonic Lodge members who hosted the event and cooked the meal, and to Chris Jackson and the RDA for their generous support.

Thanks as well to our local merchants, including Market Hall Foods, Cole Hardware, Becky's Chinese Restaurant, Smitten Ice Cream, Jules Thin Crust, Pegasus Bookstore, Tootsies, Powell's Sweet Shoppe, and all the teachers, students, families and members of our Claremont community who attended.

500 New Units

from page 1

Entertainment/Creekside site at 51st and Telegraph, you've probably seen or heard a little bit about all the activity.

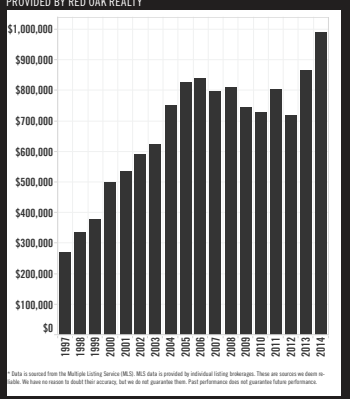
This month's Town Hall meeting will include (in addition to the annual RCPC Board election and a presentation by Dan Kalb in recognition of Rockridge News Editor Don Kinkead) a brief overview of the roughly 500 new residential units in development around the neighborhood, and a presentation by Nautilus Group on the mixed use proposal for the Global Video/ Creekside site at 51st and Telegraph, which has been updated over the last year in response to neighbor and city input.

We hope you will join us for our election, an informative discussion, and an opportunity to provide input into the 51st and Telegraph project. Come early for Jules Thin Crust Pizza. Doors open and pizza arrives at 7 p.m.

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CMS Librarian

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discussed or what we said about them, but I can say we had a great committee with a great chair and I feel very fortunate to have worked with these people. And I'm not just saying that.

JV: How did the committee meet?

CR: We used ALA Connect, which is text chat, but then we started using Google Hangouts so we could see and hear each other. We met face-to-face at the ALA Annual Conference last June in Las Vegas, and again in Chicago at the ALA Mid-winter Conference in January to choose the winner.

JV: Were there any books that were so bad that you didn't feel you had to read the whole thing?

CR: Even if we thought a book didn't meet the criteria, we had to write about it and explain why to the rest of the committee. Actually, we were all uniformly pleased at the quality of the books. There were so many really good books that we had a hard time narrowing it down. For those of us who are privileged enough to buy books for our libraries, we can still promote



good books that didn't make it to the final round [of five].

JV: How many books did you have to read in total?

CR: Without disclosing the number, I can tell you I had to get a new bookcase for my house and even that was overflowing. My family got used to the loud thud of boxes on our porch.

JV: What will happen to the books now?

CR: Some I'm keeping, some have made their way to the Claremont library, some went to the school district, and the rest I will give away.

JV: Did you have any time for pleasure reading on the side?

CR: At the very beginning of the year, I was still reading a little bit for fun, but I soon had to give that up, and all my TV shows. The last few months were the busiest: it was insane. So many books! But in the end it was fine; we got it all done. What really takes time is the write-ups about every single book, and keeping track of that. You have to evaluate each book against each criterion, and if it made it to the next level, you had to write even more.

JV: Did you get to meet the authors?

CR: The publishers of the five finalists threw a small restaurant dinner for us, the publicists, and the authors. We had already made the decision by the time we had the dinner, so it had no influence on us. All the authors were really nice people, fun to talk to. It was a nice thing to do.

JV: Were all the finalists there?

CR: E.K. Johnson, author of "The Story of Owen," couldn't make it in from Boston because of the snow. [Blizzards in the Midwest and all along the East Coast complicated travel to and from ALA Midwinter, which was in Chicago from January 30 to February 2.] All the authors who were there gave moving speeches at the award presentation ceremony. All in all, it was a great experience.

From the ALA website: The William C. Morris YA Debut Award, first awarded in 2009, honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens and celebrating impressive new voices in young adult literature. For more information about the award, the 2015 winner, runners-up, and past winners, go to http://www.ala.org/yalsa/morris-award. —JV



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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 (4/9) each month, 7:30pm. Rockridge Library, College and Manila. Confirm mtg. at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

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For All Ages: Ready, Set, Connect Program. Computer tutors help with basic skills, email, portable device setup, e-book & audiobook download, or social media. Tues, 4:30-6:30 pm and Sat, 2 – 4pm. Drop-ins welcomed. Info: Vicky Chen, 597-5017.

FOR CHILDREN

NOTE: no Story Times Apr 1 thru 12.

- **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:

- **Kamishibai Workshops and Performances:**
  - **Making Workshop Series with Erica:** For all fledgling (or experienced) artists & writers (ages 7 to 13). **Sign up now to register for 4 consecutive sessions on Tuesdays in April, 4:30 - 6pm.** Watch a Kamishibai presentation; brainstorm story ideas; story-board the action & illustrations; and create artwork on Kamishibai panels. The goal is for each participant to complete their own Kamishibai story by the end of the fourth session, and present it to a live audience in May.
  - **Kamishibai - Japanese Paper Theater.** Celebrate Asian & Pacific Islanders Heritage Month with Librarian Erica's presentation of this traditional form of storytelling popular in Japan during the 1920s to 1950s. Nibble on Japanese treats as you watch stories from a variety of countries performed in English on the back of a bicycle. Saturdays at 10:30am (5/2, 5/16, 5/30); Tuesdays at 7pm (5/5, 5/12, 5/19); plus a presentation at the Oakland Museum on Friday, 5/29, at 6:30 pm. More information & to register: call Erica: 5017.
- **Sing-along in English & Spanish** led by **Mariela Herrera** to celebrate Día de los niños/Día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) and DIA (Diversity In Action) Day: Thurs, 4/30,10:30am. Best for ages 2 to 5, but all ages welcome, and each child will receive a book.

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.
- **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, 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

April: **Sally Petru**: botanical paintings.
May: TBD

LIBRARY HOURS
Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun. and Mon.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings/ Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Mon, 4/6, 8pm. **Jeff Chang** and **Daniel Levin Becker** will discuss **Kendrick Lamar's** new hip-hop album, *To Pimp a Butterfly*.
- Tues, 4/7, 6pm. Publication party for local author **Gabrielle Blair:** *Design Mom: How to Live with Kids: A Room-By-Room Guide*.
- Tues, 4/14, 6:30pm. **Ryan Gattis**: *All Involved*.
- Fri, 4/17, 7:30pm. **"Friday Nights" conversation/ podcast series** with local authors **Scott Saul** and **Waldo Martin**. (Info about this series at www.dieselbookstore.com/event/oakland-friday-nights-conversation-podcast-series.)
- Tues, 4/21, 7pm. Publication party for Spring 2015 issue of **ZYZZYVA**. Readings by **Molly Giles, Robert Hass, Ruth Madievsky, Monique Wentzel**, and **Matthew Zapruder**. Hosted by editors **Laura Cogan** and **Oscar Villalon**. Come early for a good seat and some complimentary wine.
- Sun, 4/26, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **John Shoptaw** and **Daniel Wolff**.
- Thurs, 4/30, 6:30pm. **Marian Lindberg**: *The End of the Rainy Season: Discovering My Family's Hidden Past in Brazil.*
- Sun, 5/3, 3 pm. **Chris Scofield**: **The Shark Curtain**. Joined in conversation by **J.L. Powers.**

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

Bookmark Bookstore's Spring Sale

All sales benefit the Oakland Public Library. Thurs thru Sunday, April 9–12, 10:30am-5:30pm Thurs., Members' Preview: 50% off. And for all book lovers: 30% off Friday; 40% off Saturday; 50% off Sunday. The Bookmark Bookstore, 721 Washington Street (in Old Oakland). 444-0473 or bookmark_bookstore@yahoo.com. Friends of the Oakland Public Library: info@fopl.org.

Free Yoga Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9am and 6:30pm. All levels welcome. Bring your own mat. Classes begin May 5; call or come in to sign up. **All classes are free and open to the public** (but donations are appreciated). Body Options, 3212 College Ave. More info: Cory DeGregorio, 595-8101 or corydegregorio@icloud.com.

Children's Support League (CSL) Fundraiser

Five beautiful homes in Rockridge and Piedmont will be on tour Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25, from 10am to 4pm, as the Children's Support League of the East Bay presents the 27th Heart of the Home tour. CSL's popular boutique at the Piedmont Community Center will be open Fri.,10am – 6pm, and Sat., 10am – 4pm with home accessories, and gifts. CSL is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that raises money to fund local charities that help at-risk children residing in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. To become a volunteer, email DeAnna@CustomCreationsInteriors.com. Ticket sales and more information about VIP and other packages are available at www.ChildrensSupportLeague.org.

14th Annual Community Yard and Bake Sale

Sat., April 25, 9am – 1pm. Sponsored by Lower Rockridge Parents Group to benefit programs at Peralta Elementary and Claremont Middle Schools. Peralta School playground (Alcatraz Ave between Telegraph and Dana). For more info or to donate items: LRPGYardSale@gmail.com. **See story p.9**

Free AARP Sponsored Tax Assistance

For middle and low-income seniors. Thursdays through April 9. Bring all relevant documents for yourself and all dependents. Make appt. at reception desk. No. Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. More info: 597- 5085.

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.

Are You Ready for an Earthquake?

CORE 10th Annual Citywide Exercise

Saturday, April 25, 9am – 12pm in neighborhoods throughout the city. After a major earthquake or other disaster, this event is a functional emergency response exercise designed to support Oakland residents practicing emergency response activities within their neighborhoods. It serves to improve CORE member training and expands disaster preparedness awareness throughout the community. Individuals and neighborhood groups of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. To register already established CORE block groups to participate as a group, call CORE at 238-6351.

CORE Training In Rockridge

CORE (Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies) is a program of the Oakland Fire Department, Emergency Management Services Division. The training, (offered in 3 parts as CORE I, II, and III) teaches self-reliance skills that enable neighbors to establish response teams to take care of the neighborhood until professional help arrives. Take CORE I (Home and Family Preparedness), on Wed, 4/15 and CORE II (Neighborhood Preparedness and Response), on Wed, 4/22. Both classes are at 6- to 8:30pm at the Rockridge Library, 5366 College Avenue. (CORE III is given at wheelchair accessible OFD sites.) Advance registration is required for all classes. Register online at www.oaklandcore.org. More info about all CORE programs at www.oaklandcore.org. or core@oaklandnet.com.



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