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April: an RCPC Triple-Header Meeting

by Zabrae Valentine, RCPC chair

The April 16 annual RCPC members' meeting managed to be three great meetings rolled into one.

First, RCPC held its annual election of boardmembers which resulted in the reelection of Jennifer Daskal and Greg Pasquali as well as the election of new board member Noah Rosen. Jennifer is co-chair of the 2015 Rockridge Kitchen Tour and board vice chair. Greg is co-chair of the Land Use Committee. Noah is fairly new to Rockridge, and we welcome his willingness to join the rest of the board in volunteering time to provide representation to the broader neighborhood.

Second, Greg Pasquali shared a brief overview of some of the development projects currently underway in Rockridge. Then, 51st and Telegraph developer Nautilus Group presented an update of their plans for the mixed-use proposal of the Global Video/ Creekside site. There were a lot of questions,



Voting at the RCPC board election.

and a number of concerns – including the planned density of the building; the location of the commercial loading zone; and details related to the possibility of a new grocery store in the plan.

The developer still seems to be working out the answers to many of the questions the community has. Nautilus planners have established times for the public to meet and discuss the project and are making themselves available to respond to comments and/or questions. See http://www.51standtelegraph.com/events/ for details.

Between the election and the development report, Don Kinkead, Rockridge News founder and longtime editor, was presented with an Oakland City Council resolution recognizing his contributions to Rockridge and the city of Oakland. Councilmember Dan Kalb, whose office deftly coordinated this effort on behalf of the Council, personally presented the resolution to Don.

Highlights of the Resolution: "In 1986, one year after RCPC incorporated as a nonprofit public-benefit corporation, Don launched The Rockridge News to help inform the community of issues affecting the neighborhood and of ongoing activities of RCPC.

"Don has been The Rockridge News' editor for 15 of those years and responsible for graphics and paper layout since the first issue of the paper. Don's wife, Bobbie

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Refresh Your Kitchen While Preserving Your Budget

10 Ways to Refresh Your Kitchen on a Budget

by Jennifer Daskal, RCPC boardmember

In anticipation of the RCPC Kitchen Tour coming this September, let's explore ways to revitalize your kitchen on a budget.



One of the great benefits of the Kitchen Tour is all of the fantastic ideas you can borrow from other people's projects. A high-end kitchen remodel might be out of your reach or your desire, but the Kitchen Tour provides an abundance of ideas you can incorporate into a budget kitchen design.

■ **Paint:** Whether walls or cabinets, a fresh coat of paint can change the character of your kitchen. If your cupboards are dated, try a bold color that stands out over the design of the cabinets.

■ **Cabinets:** Consider refacing or refinishing your cabinets. Remove upper cabinet doors to open up a small, claustrophobic kitchen. Open shelving looks great, but remember: the dishes are now in the open. Keep all dishes of one type on your open shelving for a cleaner look.

■ **Countertops:** New countertops can be expensive depending on materials you choose. If you are flexible and work directly with a fabricator, you may be able to find remnants or discounted materials. New countertops out of your budget? Use a large bamboo cutting board to draw attention away from the countertops.

■ **Sink and Faucet:** If you choose to replace countertops, consider replacing your sink and faucet, too. The fabricator can cut the material to fit your new choices.

■ **Hardware:** Changing hardware can change the feel of your kitchen and is relatively inexpensive.

■ **Lighting:** Forgo recessed lighting and simply replace existing fixtures with something more pleasing.

■ **Appliances:** Look for sales or stores that carry appliances with minor scratches or dings for discounts.

■ **De-Clutter:** We all fill our kitchens with gadgets and countertop appliances. Decluttering, organizing and paring down to necessities can create a calm space where everything is within reach.

■ **Plants:** A bit of nature can balance hard surfaces in a kitchen and offset the gadgets.

■ **Accessories:** Mixing objects from your travels, artwork, and vintage furniture with modern conveniences can bring warmth and character to your kitchen and personalize the space.

Rockridge Librarian Pat Lichter Retires

by Erica Siskin, Children's Librarian

After 12 years as esteemed manager of the Rockridge Branch Library, and a total of 21 years of service to the Oakland Public Library system, Pat Lichter is retiring this month.

Just before taking the position of Head Librarian at the Rockridge Branch, Pat's proudest accomplishment was turning around the under-performing children's services program for the entire library system by focusing on outreach and creating an after-school homework assistance program.

While at the Rockridge Branch, she oversaw the development and construction of the new TeenZone. She also coordinated all the resources needed to fund and establish the DVD Project.

In her management overall, she calmly and skillfully coped with the challenges of budget cuts, new technologies and changing procedures. She has been thorough and detailed when managing the materials budget and employee schedules, and has been a patient and flexible supervisor of staff and volunteers.

Since Rockridge patrons (like most library users) have high expectations for service and access to materials, the branch manager has a lively and vital position. Pat embraced her role here the day she arrived, and rose to the challenge of guiding staff to provide excellent service, even during a recession that reduced hours of service.

Beloved by her staff at the branch, she is seen as a model of collaborative leadership who has kept the mission of the library as her highest priority, even under stress: to inform, inspire, and delight our diverse community as a resource for information, knowledge, and artistic and literary expression.

We invite all members of the public to drop by the library before May 7, Pat's official last day, to jot down a personal message to put into our comments box.

Thank you, Pat, for your service and support over the years.

Town Hall

from page 1

Kinkead, and supporting community members designed the enduring network of 150 volunteers who deliver the paper to every residence and business within RCPC's boundaries. Don has also worked with other Oakland neighborhood groups to set up and maintain local newsletters.

"From the original issue, printed on both sides of a single sheet and distributed to neighbors by volunteers, The Rockridge News has grown in size, quality, and volume of advertising by local businesses to today's 16-page monthly, delivered to some 6,000 residences and businesses."



Dan Kalb, left, presents the Council Resolution to Don Kinkead at the April Town Hall. /Joshua Morales

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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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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.

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Publication date of the next issue is:
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☛ **June deadline is May 21, 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 May Land Use Committee meeting is Wednesday, May 27, 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/Claremont

RCPC and the other North Oakland/Berkeley community groups that reached a settlement with Safeway over the new College Avenue center are still negotiating with Safeway – and with Terramar, new owner of the retail buildings – over project issues. Most important: the malfunctioning parking deck space monitor. The street level display should show how many spaces are available, but reports incorrect numbers. This is important: the settlement agreement triggers restrictions if parking demand exceeds available spaces for more than 15 hours in a three-month period.

Another RCPC concern is the Claremont Avenue casual carpool. That area now has meters, but no signs prohibit use of the meters in the carpool area during its hours of operation. RCPC would like to hear from casual carpool users whether cars (or delivery trucks) parked in the casual carpool area are interfering with its operation. Send e-mails to landuse@rockridge.org; leave a voicemail at 644-4228; or write RCPC, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland 94611. Photos would be helpful.

Other issues about Safeway and Terramar's compliance with the settlement agreement and use permit conditions will be discussed with the city and Safeway.

The new residential permit parking area around Safeway is soon to be approved by the City Council, after which permits should be available and signs placed.

■ Merrill Gardens Senior Housing Project – Broadway (West Side) North of 51st Street

Completion of this large senior housing/mixed-use project is projected for the early summer of 2016. For more details on the construction schedule, see http://www.srmdevelopment.com/rockridge. If you

Land Use, page 9

Meet Captain Darren Allison, OPD Area 2 Commander

by Don Kinkead

In "The Pirates of Penzance," Gilbert and Sullivan presented a view of law enforcement through the prism of doing one's duty, and turned duty into a burden:

"When constabulary duty's to be done,
"A policeman's lot is not a happy one."

Ask OPD Captain Darren Allison about that, and he has a ready answer: "I love my job!"

Captain Allison has spent his entire working career with the Oakland Police Department. "I started young as a police cadet – I was 19 – and decided I wanted to make a career of policing, and I wanted to do it in Oakland." He was not interested in other, smaller departments with fewer and more routine challenges "where I wouldn't be able to be helping as much." He found OPD's moderate size and availability of opportunities and challenges provided him the chance to have an impact.

Recently named commander of Police Area 2, consisting of a number of police beats including 12Y and 13X which, in turn, include Rockridge and Upper Rockridge, he hosted Rockridge News editor Don Kinkead and writer Judith Berne in his office for an interview following his assignment. Before starting, he asked for a moment to complete and send an e-mail he had needed to finish prior to the meeting. Two large monitors blinked and flashed above his computer as he typed. Responding to Kinkead's exclamation about having "a lot of real estate, there," Allison agreed and said, somewhat under his breath, "I have more databases than I know what to do with." It later became evident that he has many things to do with each of them.

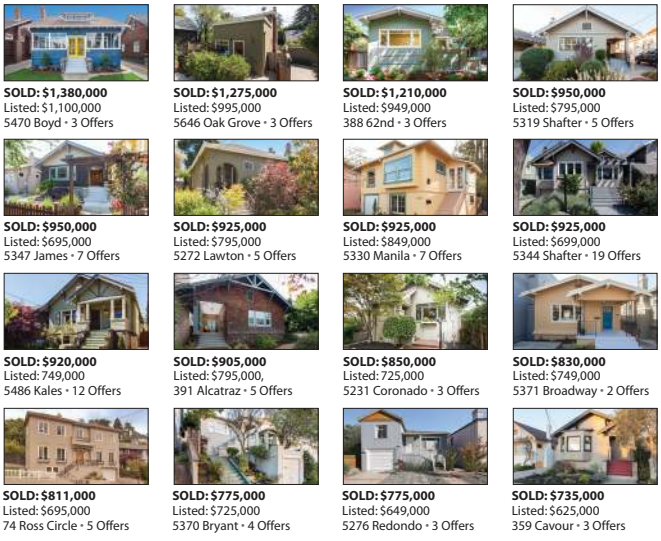
The e-mail complete, the Captain was asked about his early career plans. In his younger days, envisioning a future employment environment, Captain Allison had undefined career goals, but he knew he

Captain Allison, page 12

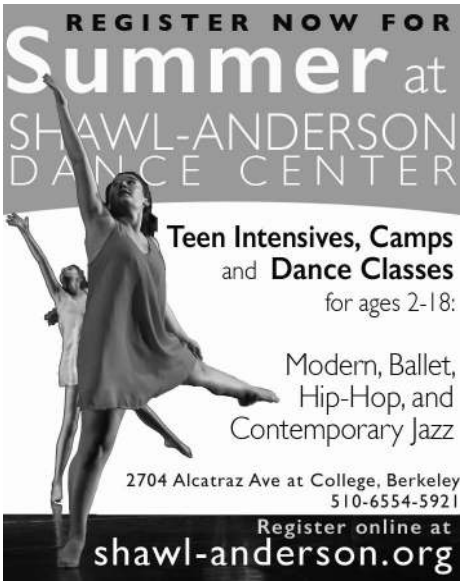
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College Avenue Commerce: Decades of Service

Merchants' Years of Service: a Final Look

Following is the last in our series on businesses in business on College Avenue at least 25 years. If you have been "on the Avenue" and didn't see your business' name, email editor@rockridge.org. We want readers of The Rockridge News to know about you.

by Kevin Faughnan, RCPC boardmember

The Breema Clinic at 6201 Florio (above 1st Federal Bank) and the **Breema Center** at 6076 Claremont Avenue were both opened in 1981 by Jon Schreiber. The center is where classes are held for practitioners who come from all over the U.S. and the world. The clinic is where clients go for classes, which are private and usually with an instructor. Breema's goal is to have you focus on yourself and experience the present to find balance and harmony. Novices achieve this state initially with the help of an instructor and some physical exercises, but eventually are able to find the focus on their own. Meditation, yoga, a little self-reflection all are components of the practice. Breema staff invite you to come learn how Breema can help with physical, mental and emotional well-being.

Maryanne Byars, owner of **Cuttin' Up on College**, is a very proud 6th generation Californian: her ancestors settled in Lake County and San Francisco in 1836. She was born at Berkeley's Alta Bates Hospital and remained in Oakland, later attending Don's Beauty School and graduating in 1977. Some of you may recall **Hairy Ways** located on Claremont Avenue and operated by her mom. Maryanne worked there earning her spurs until she realized it was time to manage her own business. She opened **Cuttin' Up on College** in 1983 at 5811 College Avenue and has been there ever since. She has passed on her skills to over 150 stylists, including her son Louie who now holds down one of the chairs. While in her salon, I noticed all the seats were occupied by young men. Maryanne says that's nothing new for her; she has been styling men's hair since she opened. Maryanne is one of the businesses supporting this year's Kitchen Tour. You can fill out a paper sign-up form there (rather than on-line), and if you mention this article, she'll give you a 10 percent discount on your haircut. That sounds like a winning proposition. Hope you see her soon.

Katrina Rozelle Topp, owner of **Katrina Rozelle Pastries and Desserts**, graduated from the California Culinary Academy in 1984, spent a short time at Narsai's restaurant in Kensington, then opened her own business in 1987 on College Avenue. Located at 5931 College Avenue, she is next door to Dreyer's Ice Cream, about as good a location as one could want. Best known for her wedding cakes, Katrina also offers cookies and cupcakes if you can't wait for the special order. However, her imagination and execution in wedding cakes is nearly boundless. When you are planning that wedding at the neighboring Julia Morgan-designed church (College Avenue Presbyterian), make a right as you come out the door and order your cake at the same time from **Katrina Rozelle**. If you aren't getting married, you can still stop by for a cake especially designed for that golfer, musician, executive or other favorite attraction in your life.

The **Bank of America** has been at the corner of College and Claremont avenues since the late 1960s when the business was moved from its previous location to make room for BART and Hwy 24 construction. The bank has always been generous about letting shoppers use the metered parking lot, especially while Safeway construction was underway. The branch now serves mostly local businesses and residents, and does no mortgage financing. Friendly tellers are a hallmark of the branch's service. (***Ed. Note:*** The stark appearance of today's bank building contrasts dramatically with the decorative flat-iron building the bank formerly occupied, which was

Merchants, page 12

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Art on the Avenue:

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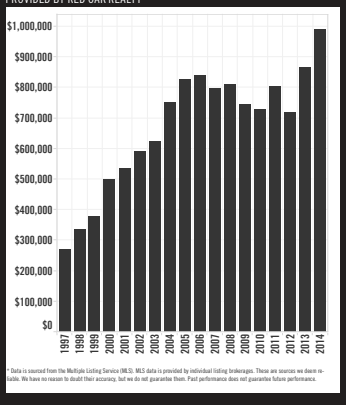
by Carl Schmitz

On College Avenue, just on the north side of the Berkeley-Oakland border, is the office of the Richard Diebenkorn Foundation. Richard Diebenkorn (1922–1993) was a painter and printmaker who was raised in the Bay Area and spent the majority of his life in California. From 1956 to 1966, the Diebenkorn family lived in the Berkeley Hills near Rockridge.

Diebenkorn made nearly 5,200 unique works of art in his lifetime, and the foundation that bears his name has been part of an effort initiated over 20 years ago to document each of those works. Jointly sponsored by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Diebenkorn catalogue *raisonné* will be published in a four volume edition by Yale University Press in 2016.

In addition to its own publication project, the foundation helps other institutions to organize publications and exhibitions. Recent shows have been as near as San Francisco's de Young Museum in 2013 and the Richmond Art Center last fall, and as far away as London, where the Royal Academy of Arts is currently hosting a retrospective

Diebenkorn, page 11

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RCPC Works With RDA on Tree Costs

by Chris Jackson, RDA operations manager

Thanks to a collaboration between the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) and the Rockridge District Association (RDA), we have been able to plant 14 new trees in our neighborhood. Just in time for the recent Earth Day.

You may have noticed a number of empty tree wells as you strolled the neighborhood on either College or adjoining side streets. With the generous donation of $5,000 from the RCPC as well as RDA funds, we were able to replace one tree that had died and fill 13 vacant tree wells, new saplings that join 15 trees planted in past years. This is part of this year's $30,000 budget set aside for maintenance and beautification of College Avenue. All of these improvements make Rockridge a more pleasant place to be.

The RDA has become steward of the trees here in our district not by choice but by necessity. Over the past years many limbs have come crashing down causing damage, fortunately only to vehicles. This is partly due to budget cuts in Oakland's tree trimming and maintenance department. The department has been restricted to emergency service only on a city-wide basis due to lower staffing. By maintaining the existing trees, we improve their health and viability, and by eliminating hazard limbs, we afford better safety for pedestrians. This work does not come cheap; this is our second go-round trimming and planting along with tree well enhancements. We've hit the $60,000 mark.

This work is made possible because Rockridge merchants and RDA members voted to form a Business Improvement District, known as a BID, in the year 2000. BID members are assessed a fee on a sliding scale based on sales tax revenue to the city of Oakland. These funds are then returned to the RDA, a 501(c)(3) organization, to help manage and improve the quality of the district. Unlike a tax, 100 percent of this assessment is returned to the district and is used for advertising to help bring folks to the Avenue; new banners; holiday decorations; and our special events, to name a few uses for the funds. We are committed and working to keep moving our neighborhood forward.

So, from the Rockridge District Association and the Rockridge Community Planning Council, enjoy a stroll around the neighborhood, enjoy the trees and all else College Avenue has to offer. Help support your local merchants in keeping Rockridge one of the most successful districts Oakland has to offer.



Sighting submitted by Theresa Nelson

He's Baaack...

Or is he? Are the mysterious telephone pole gnomes out and about again? If you spot one, send a photo and general location to editor@rockridge.org.



RCPC Past Chair Zabrae Valentine, left, RDA operations manager Chris Jackson and RDA chair Susan Strahan of Strahan Insurance Services celebrate the planting of 14 new trees to fill vacant tree wells on College Avenue and some adjoining streets. RCPC contributed to funding arranged earlier by RDA. /D. Kinkead





Eyes on Rockridge

Local businesswoman sets sights on new 'Facebook' for home buying

by Judith Doner Berne

"Tech rules real estate" blared the front page headline in the April 11 issue of the Oakland Tribune.

And Heather Sittig-Jackson, a Rockridge businesswoman and 13-year resident (who moved in March to the Oakland Hills), hopes to capitalize on it – going even beyond the new 3-D walk-through video tours that prospective buyers now use to get up close and personal with prospective homes.

She and business partner Kristen Policy are about to launch Relola, which Sittig-Jackson calls "the first socially fueled platform dedicated to real estate." Many of the details are still hush-hush, but Jackson explains it as "a more efficient and effective search engine for buyers that will allow real estate agents to stand out as experts."

According to its website, "Relola is determined to provide the most delightful, informative and useful environment for home hunting." It asks prospective clients to think: "Uber and Facebook and Angie's List = Relola."

Many readers know Sittig-Jackson, co-owner of Toast kitchen+bar restaurant and of Spruce Salon & Spa, both on College Avenue. But prior to those businesses, she founded the real estate company Maison Nouveau, also on College.

Though born in Southern California, "I grew up all over the country because my mother was an army captain," she told me, as we sat at an inside table at Toast. "I love houses. We moved a lot – every two years – which is maybe why I got into real estate."

A bit of a wunderkind, she entered real estate as a 16-year-old high school student, doing research and property management for a San Antonio Remax office. "I collected rents. It was Texas, you know. They get married at 16."

While earning a B.A. in English with minors in geology and architecture from the University of Washington, she worked at an architecture firm and decided "this wasn't the sexy architectural stuff I want to do."

After a year in Europe, her jobs included real estate development, mortgage loans for Pan American Bank and selling real estate in Berkeley. "I saw there is a better way to do this," she says, and opened Maison Nouveau, at the age of 26.

Her new agency promoted itself as a discount broker and used a team approach to sales. "Our goal was to create a client-centric model to replace the pervasive broker-centric model that is common in our market place," Sittig-Jackson says. Ten years later, she sold her business to McGuire Real Estate and headed in a different direction.

Along the way, she married Sam Jackson, a physician who is an executive director and department head at Dynavax Technologies Corporation in Berkeley. They adopted two daughters from Guatemala, Olivia, now 9, and Claudia, now 8, who attend Escuela Bilingüe Internacional (EBI) in Rockridge.

And as Sittig-Jackson and her friend Kristen Policy strolled College Avenue, with their young children, they looked for somewhere they could sit with a leisurely glass of wine and not have to order a meal. When they couldn't find what they wanted, Sittig-Jackson suggested: "Let's just open a wine bar in Rockridge."

The result is Toast, which opened four years ago at the corner of College and Chabot, where parents with kids in strollers are a regular sight mid-afternoon sipping wine on its patio under its bright, outdoor umbrellas. Two years later, they expanded into some of the space left vacant when Somerset restaurant closed, and added full-scale dining. "You'll notice in that list of things I've done, I never worked in a restaurant," Sittig-Jackson quipped.

About the same time, Sittig-Jackson enticed her sister, Hillary Spry, to move from Seattle to open and manage Spruce salon in the former Maison Nouveau office at 5327 College. "It was like, hey Hillary, don't you think this would make a great salon and spa?"

Now, as she prepares to launch Relola, Sittig-Jackson has stepped away from both Toast and Spruce to concentrate on creating a start-up aimed at a national audience. "We're starting small by just doing the

Businesswoman, page 7

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Businesswoman

from page 6

United States," she says. "We want it to be international in five years."

"The biggest satisfaction will be if it is transforming to the industry," Jackson says. "That would be my reward. I already have a great life."

Although Relola will be located in Emeryville and although she now lives in the Oakland Hills where she found a larger property than was available in Rockridge, Jackson is a huge Rockridge booster. "Oh, my gosh, I love Rockridge. I love the weather, the neighborhood, everybody knows everyone. It seems like a small town in a big town.

"Honestly, the nicest people are here. The business community looks out for one another. Everyone gets together." That was particularly evident, she says, as the new minimum wage law was about to take effect and they met to discuss ways of implementing it.

At Toast, "We came up with a hybrid 15 percent service charge that we can distribute to the kitchen," she said. "We invite customers to add a tip if they like that goes to the front of the house. Almost everyone adds the tip."

"Let's open a wine bar in Rockridge," Heather Sittig-Jackson, right, said to her friend Kristen Policy. Toast, at College and Chabot, is the result.

"Heather is probably the most tenacious, creative, enterprising, loyal and honest person I know," says Policy, about her best friend and two-time business partner. "She's the perfect person to partner with because she works harder than anyone, yet creates environments of collaboration and care around her.

"There's never a dull moment being friends with Heather," Policy says, "because you never know what she's going to dream up to do next. But whatever that thing is, I want to do it with her."

"She's amazing," real estate broker Ron Kriss of Lawton Associates told me of the former competitor. "She does such innovative things."

Indeed, when asked what she does for fun, Sittig-Jackson said, "I start businesses." Close on the heels of that came, "I hang out with my family and have fun with my kids."



You are invited to comment on this column and suggest subjects for others by e-mailing judyberne@att.net.

Pedal for Education, May 16

Support Ride for a Reason

The 2015 Ride for a Reason cycling rally is Saturday, May 16, when a large group of cyclists will ride to the State Capitol to raise money and awareness for quality public education. Proceeds from this annual event support six Oakland schools: Claremont, Edna Brewer, Emerson Elementary, Oakland International, Oakland Tech and Westlake.

If you don't plan to ride, please consider pledging financial support for the rider(s) of your choice, or make a general donation at http://rideforareason.dojiggy.com/ng/index.cfm/13973/regPages/pledge/generaldonation to help us reach our goal. Go to www.rideforareason.dojiggy.com and click the "Sponsor a Rider" link to find out which of your friends are riding.

100 Songs; 1 Afternoon; *You are Invited*

Claremont Middle School music students will perform 100 songs for this year's public Playathon on Friday, May 15, near the Rockridge BART station, from 3:30-6 p.m.

As the students play, they will serenade passersby and welcome folks home from Friday commute.

Please consider donating to our fundraising efforts. The monies raised will fund sheet music for further musical advancement, instrument purchase and repair, and costs associated with sending students to music competitions, recitals and camps. There will be buckets to receive your donations at the Play-a-thon, or donate online: www.claremontms.org



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Gathered under the sheltering canopy of redwood trees at Redondo Park (aka Little Frog), urban park planners and supporters learn of Frog Park's history of community construction and volunteer support from FROG committee members Barney Smits and Carol Behr (left foreground, facing away). D. Kinkead

Frog Park Achievements Attract Park Supporters and Planners to Tour

Alerted by a report on Frog Park in the February 2014 issue of Landscape Architecture, Greater & Greener designed a mobile workshop tour of Frog Park for attendees at its current biennial conference in San Francisco.

Forty workshop participants were guided through the park in mid-April as FROG chair Carol Behr and FROG committee member Barney Smits described the remarkable history of the park from its conception to its hands-on construction by more than 1,300 community volunteers, and the continuing volunteer support for its ever-growing features.

Greater & Greener, as described on its website, is the leading international conference for urban park leaders, city planning and design professionals, public officials, advocates, funders, and innovators to explore the issues, challenges, and opportunities facing today's urban parks. Learn more: www.greatergreener.org/about/greater-greener.

Specializing in Rockridge Real Estate

Tip of the month: Where were the April showers that bring May flowers? Sun can be fun, yet lack of water is concerning. When prepping homes for market we want them to look fantastic. Now we especially need to consider water use, both during the sale and for the new owner's long term ownership. The state and EBMUD have implemented long awaited restrictions you must know (16-20% locally). My daughter, an avid Environmental Science major, explained the potential for new long term shifts in weather patterns for our area, so we all need to be prepared for a changing 'landscape' in water management. Current EBMUD restrictions: 1. Water no more than 2 non consecutive days/week w/ no runoff! 2. Only water between 6pm-9am. 3. No watering within 2 days of rainfall. 4. No washing driveways/sidewalks. 5. Only recirculating fountains allowed. 6. No watering public medians.

Rockridge Market: We all know values are at an all time high with short supply. The few # of sales means the data pool is too small to look at averages or medians that won't translate specifically to your home. Feel free to contact me for an analysis of your home, whether it's deciding on best return remodeling choices or prepping your home for sale.



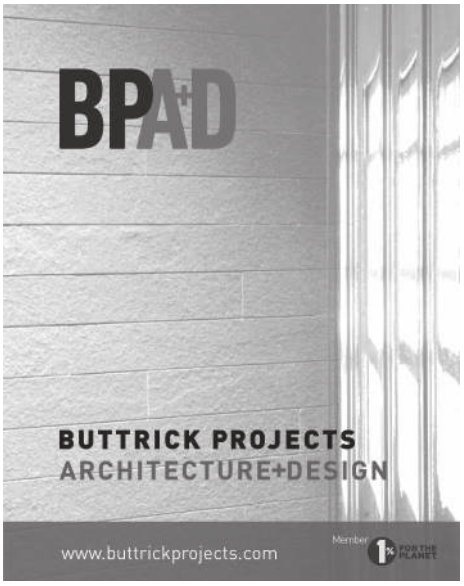
Very Happy Mother's Day to Moms everywhere!

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Amy Lemley formally reads and presents the Council's declaration of Robert Mohead Day to Robert Mohead. D. Kinkead

Scene In Rockridge

Rockridge resident and BART commuter Amy Lemley has bought her daily newspaper from vendor Robert Mohead at his BART lobby newsstand for the past nine years. "Over the years, we became friends," she says. Mohead, who worked on the City Council campaign of Carter Gilmore in 1976, reviewed Lemley's mailing pieces during her council candidacy in 2012.

To help celebrate Mohead's 87th birthday, she invited the community – via Next Door Rockridge – to gather at his newsstand for the presentation of a City Council resolution proclaiming April 11, 2015, as Robert Mohead Day in the city of Oakland; a gift certificate; a chocolate birthday cake; and balloons. Joining in, a lobby musician played Happy Birthday on his keyboard. /D. Kinkead

Land Use

from page 3

have concerns about the construction work, phone numbers for developer SRM are available on the website, or e-mail RCPC at landuse@rockridge.org.

■ **Temescal Apartments Project – Broadway (West Side) South of 51st Street**

This project will probably begin construction in the beginning of 2016. It is unlikely to be completed until fall of 2017.

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

Work on this large Terramar project was supposed to start this spring, but obviously hasn't yet. With three large construction projects surrounding the Broadway/Pleasant Valley/51st Street intersection this might be a good intersection to try to avoid come 2016.

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

The developers of this large mixed-use project (185-195 residential units, 50,000 sq. ft. retail) presented current plans at the RCPC April Town Hall meeting. (Story, page 1.) RCPC concerns include shadowing of the surrounding area; traffic impacts; and whether the extension of the FROG Greenbelt to Telegraph Avenue will occur as promised. The developers have painted a picture, but there are too few details to know whether it will be a masterpiece, or an optical illusion. The developers have promised to meet with neighbors of nearby Clarke and Redondo streets soon.



■ **New Tenant, Dreyer's Building**

The Dancewear store at this site moved to San Francisco and Dreyer's/Nestlé is looking for a new tenant. RCPC's strong preference is to keep the space in retail use. Suggested uses have included a kitchenware store, an office supply store, or a men's clothing store. If you have thoughts about what you would – or would not – like to see, or know someone who might be interested in renting the space, let us know. We will relay the info to the Dreyer's real estate agent.

■ **College Avenue Retail Zoning Working Group**

RCPC plans to start discussions for this study of College Avenue retail – specifically whether modifications to the current use permit regulations are warranted – during May. The first meeting will likely be held in conjunction with the May Land Use Committee meeting. Check rockridge.org in mid-May for details.





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, But Not Chain Coffee Shops

Editor:

I would like to add my voice in support of the new Safeway. We have a population that continues to grow and need services.

I have mixed feelings about all the chain coffee shops in that block, though, and will continue to support Cole Coffee, personally.

— Ben Riddell

There's Nowt So Queer As Folk (People Are Funny)

Editor:

This letter's title is what I thought when I read Mary-Lynn Wilson's letter in the April 2015 issue of The Rockridge News. Someone can be found who will defend anything! A point that stood out in her letter is that Ms. Wilson had "never set foot" in any of the locally owned stores on College Avenue. If she had, she would know that the food products offered at Yasai, Vino, Ver Brugge and the rest are generally better, fresher, often cheaper, and more likely to be locally produced than those offered at Safeway.

Ms. Wilson is right, the people at Safeway are generally lovely, hard working, and well trained. Ms Wilson might find, however, that shopping at stores owned and operated by people who live and are invested in the community is a different experience.

As to the contributions of the Safeway Foundation, I prefer to shop where my money is more likely to remain in the community, rather than going into the pockets and investment accounts of stock holders and over-paid executives far, far from Rockridge.

Finally, architectural merit is, often, in the eye of the beholder. Some people think a strip mall on I-99 is where they want to be; some might think the Safeway building is not gross, contemptible and hideous. They have only to look at the restrained and elegant Berkeley Bowl West to find what Safeway could have, and should have, been. Instead, we got a gross intrusion into an old, unique and fragile neighborhood, an occupying power.

Corporate money versus community interest; who wins?

— Jeff Gillman

Now Time for Gratitude and Appreciation for Our Neighborhood

Editor:

I am writing about gratitude. I love living in this neighborhood and am grateful that members of the Rockridge community care about the neighborhood, desire to improve it and work hard to do so by being actively involved in Rockridge issues. However, the level of entitlement and NIMBYism that I have witnessed in the last two years – particularly over the Safeway on College project – is not healthy for us as we move forward. I am so very grateful that the beautiful Safeway store has opened and that I can, for example, walk over and get milk for breakfast at 6 a.m. on a Saturday or Sunday. I am grateful for the diversity that is back in my neighborhood as Cal students and others are once again shopping in the store. And I am grateful for the other stores on College that offer meat, bread, wine, vegetables and the like, providing us with a number of choices for our patronage. I venture to say – and I do hope – that the nearby small, independent stores will continue to be a part of the College Avenue retail community.

Finally, I urge my Rockridge neighbors to move forward with gratitude and appreciation for our fine neighborhood which, like it or not, includes Safeway, which is here to stay.

Safeway used to have a motto which is appropriate now: Since we're neighbors, let's be friends.

— Leila Gough

Cole Display Hampers Passage

Editor:

Until recently I, as seemed to be the case with every Rockridge citizen, was all warm and fuzzy over the arrival of Cole Hardware. This was based on having seen the newcomer only at night when passing in the car. My feelings changed when I took an afternoon walk down College Avenue and saw what appeared to be the

Letters, page 11

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4/21/15	2	2	423 Cavour Street	$1,025,000	$1,025,000	14	$1,350,000

• *Properties are selling an average of 142% of list price at $768/sf*
• *Only two Rockridge sales in this hot April market*

Visit our website at www.motleyteam.com!
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Letters

from page 10

Rockridge Annex to Home Depot. Over half the sidewalk was packed with plants and garden supplies, including huge bags of either soil or fertilizer. I have a mobility problem made worse by having to navigate through this mess. Heaven help anyone in a wheelchair or a mother with side-by-side twins in a stroller.

— Pat Parker, Rockridge resident since 1973

Ed. Note: Below, Cole Hardware responds to concerns expressed in the above letter.

Cole: We Want to Offer a Complete Hardware Store

Editor:

We are doing our best to offer the neighborhood a full, complete and unique hardware store, that is a fun place to shop. This is a challenge within the confines of the physical space we have. Prior to opening, we polled the community on product categories we should stock. Folks made it resoundingly clear: they wanted us to offer a line of organic and locally sourced plants for their gardens. We've striven to do so, but we have no parking lot or usable backyard for display. Thus, the carts on the sidewalk. We have worked closely with the Rockridge Business Improvement District to make sure the limited space we use is in compliance with standards for College Avenue.

We are excited to be part of the Rockridge community and will continue to do whatever it takes to be a welcome addition to the neighborhood. I can be reached anytime to further discuss this or any other way I can be of service.

— Rick Karp, President of Cole Hardware

rick@colehardware.com

Cell: 415/846-2004

Ed. Note: Stuart Flashman, Co-Chair of the RCPC Land Use Committee, adds the following comment:

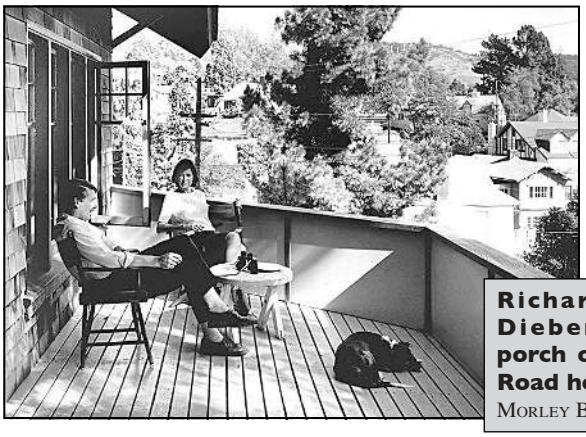
Editor:

The Oakland Municipal Code (OMC) has provisions on sidewalk encroachments. All encroachments require City permits. The Rockridge District Association (RDA) has gotten a "Master Encroachment Permit" covering all College Avenue merchants; this in spite of OMC Sect. 12.08.080, which requires a separate permit and site investigation for each encroachment. OMC Sect. 12.08.100 requires a minimum five and one-half feet clear space on the sidewalk for public use; encroachments can extend a maximum of two feet into the sidewalk area from the property line. Furthermore, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires a minimum three-foot wide clearance on public sidewalks. ADA Violations are subject to federal suit, including award of damages and attorneys fees. Rockridge merchants, and RDA, need to keep these requirements in mind.

Diebenkorn

from page 4

exhibition spanning five decades of the artist's work. Each of these shows has featured works made by the artist during the time he lived in the area; the de Young show was composed only of works made during Diebenkorn's Berkeley years.



Richard and Phyllis Diebenkorn on the porch of their Hillcrest Road home. Photograph by Morley Baer, 1966.

As noted by Richard Grant, the foundation's executive director, there are many connections between the foundation, the artist, and the neighborhood: "The Diebenkorn Foundation is fortunate to have found a home within a few blocks of where Diebenkorn created the works from the Berkeley period. He had several studios in the East Bay, and the last one was behind his house on Hillcrest Road just up from the Star Grocery. His children went to neighborhood public schools, and both continue to live here."

Diebenkorn also spent time later in life in the Elmwood District, where his colleague Elmer Bischoff grew up. (Bischoff's brother, John A. Bischoff, Jr., was featured in the April 1987 issue of The Rockridge News as part of an oral history compiled by Andrea Gabriel.)

Between projects, the staff of the Diebenkorn Foundation might be found around Rockridge, lunching at Wood Tavern or taking their dogs over to Barclay's Pub. Richard Grant, whose wife Gretchen is the daughter of the artist, also sees some of the benefits of living in the neighborhood by noting "the convenience of being able to walk to BART and do all of our shopping without getting into a car is great. And the one-half block commute to work is pretty good, too."

Carl Schmitz is Art Research Librarian at the Richard Diebenkorn Foundation. He also serves as Director of Communications for the Catalogue Raisonné Scholars Assocation, an international professional group, and can be reached at cschmitz@diebenkorn.org.



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Captain Allison

from page 3

wanted to be able to stay active and to work in a non-desk-bound job. He found that environment during his early years with the Department, but it began to slip away as he rose through the ranks.

Since his graduation from the Police Academy in 1996, Captain Allison has served in many of the Department's offices commensurate with his increasing rank. A partial list of his assignments includes: Patrol; Field Operations; Community Policing; Crime Reduction Team; Special Operations/Gang Unit; Internal Affairs; City-wide Incident Commander; and Inspector General's Office. Along the way, he finished his college degree, majoring in organizational studies, and attended the FBI Academy in Washington, D.C.

He now finds himself spending more time at his desk than his younger self might have planned, but he does get out for on-scene responses and meetings.

In the different assignments, especially community policing, he found a value in working with the community. "Law enforcement is a part of the community as much as residents and business entities. It's not just about arresting people. Working closely with the community and building a solid foundation of relationships that can advance the overall goal of violent crime reduction is a big part of the puzzle," It all comes under the heading of "hardening the target," he suggested. That means, for homes: enhanced lighting and alarms. For the street: being aware of surroundings. Still, he said, "The main engine for public safety is the patrol officer." With staffing approaching 700 officers, though, "we have to be smart and efficient with our resources." And this is where the databases play a role.

Declaring that "there is no typical workday," Captain Allison says his general practice is first to review crime statistics from the previous 24 hours for patterns of occurrence – past and present – and to determine if an apparent spike in a particular type of crime is supported by data over time or is simply a statistical blip. "A rise in a type of crime of 50 percent can be alarming, but if it is based on a change of two or three crimes, we will work to solve them, but added patrols may not be the best use of an officer's time. I place officers on focused assignment based on where the data show crime is occurring."

In closing, the Captain said he was pleased with progress on the Negotiated Settlement Agreement (NSA). "We are in compliance on the greatest number of tasks in the history of the decree. I am optimistic we will reach full compliance in 2015. Then there will be a period of sustainment followed by a transition out of the NSA."

Asked to sum up his feelings about his job, he said, "It's been a rewarding career. I am committed to the work and to the city. I chose to stay here."

And that is the difference between Gilbert and Sullivan's portrayal of duty as a burden and Captain Allison's commitment as a choice: *this* policeman's lot *is* a happy one.

Judith Berne contributed to this story.

Merchants

from page 4

located roughly where the BART station is today, according to long-time Rockridge resident Annette Floystrup. If you have more information or photos about that part of Rockridge, or others, email editor@rockridge.org.)

■ **Body Time** started life as The Body Shop, a store that many of us grew up with, that was on College Avenue in the Elmwood District beginning in 1980. The two sisters who started the business, which began in their garage, first opened the doors in 1970 on Telegraph Avenue, and that store is still there. In 1992, after opening the Rockridge branch store, the sisters sold to a British company called **Body Time**, the Rockridge store we now shop with. The owners of the store are Terra and Al Alberto, who actively work in the store and are busy with a new line of aromatherapy products. The culture, however, has remained the same: quality products and a reward for customer loyalty. Stop in and see how you can be pampered.

■ One of the first tenants in Market Hall when it opened in 1986, **Paul Marcus Wines** founder Paul Marcus had worked as a record buyer for Berkeley's Leopold's Records. That seemingly unlikely jump makes sense upon reading the background summary of staff displayed at the store and on **Paul Marcus Wine's** website, revealing how a love of wines can span many backgrounds. Whether it's wines from California or Catalonia you are after, Paul Marcus carries it or will work hard to get it, but they do like to try everything themselves first before they buy it. The store also hosts special evenings at local restaurants for meals paired with their wines. Visit the website for a list of interesting evenings. (paulmarcuswines.com/)

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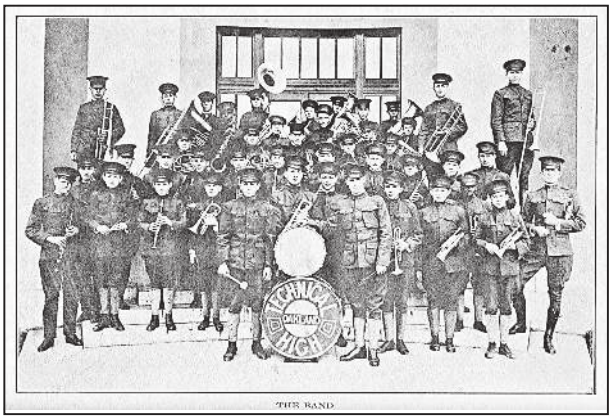
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Oakland Tech Centennial Celebration to End Memorial Day Weekend

If you missed any of Oakland Tech's centennial year kick-off, book launch, and Technites Past and Present Talent Showcase, you can still experience the celebration on Memorial Day Weekend – May 22-25 – by participating in one of the events listed below. For details and to register for any of the events, visit the centennial page of the school's website: http://oaklandtech.com/staff/centennial/event-calendar/



Oakland Technical High School Band, 1917.

1. History of Oakland Tech at Oakland Technical High School

Friday, May 22, 2-5 p.m. Artifacts, guided tours, displays of Oakland Tech memorabilia and photos, and sales of the Oakland Tech Centennial Book. Noted actor ("Love Boat") and Tech alumnus Ted Lange narrates a film of Tech history.

2. Mixer at Pro Arts

Friday, May 22, 7-10 p.m. Mix it up with fellow Bulldogs at the no-host Centennial Mixer at the Pro Arts Studio in Frank Ogawa Plaza. Admission to this no-host event is free, limited to the first 200 registrants.

3. Picnic at Middle Harbor Shoreline Park

Saturday, May 23, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit with Bulldogs from all generations at this scenic venue on the Oakland Estuary. Admission is $30 per person and includes food and drinks.

4. Wine Tasting at Jack London Square

Saturday, May 23, 2 - 5 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon sampling local wines. (Location TBD. Check the website.) Participation limited to the first 125 registrants: Price: $50.

5. Brunch at Pican Restaurant

Sunday, May 24, 10 a.m.-12 noon. The price for this event is $35.

6. Centennial Gala at the Fox Theater

Sunday, May 24, 6-11 p.m. The Gala is the culmination of the centennial weekend and includes many events. Tickets: $100 per person, available online.

7. Golf Tournament at Lake Chabot Golf Course

Monday, May 25, 9 a.m. Join us for a round at Lake Chabot Golf Course. Entry fee includes green fees and carts: $75.

Oakland Tech has been part of our community for 100 years. There is much to celebrate and be proud of. Join us.

Questions?: centennial@oaklandtech.com



Letter to the Editor

Stand: The Telegraph Avenue Bicycle/Traffic Plan is Unsafe

Editor:

In January, the Oakland City Council approved its traffic flow plan for Telegraph Avenue from 20th to 40th streets.

Going north, the design consists of curb, dedicated bicycle lane, parked car lane, all other regular traffic (e.g. transit and cars) lane, and emergency lane, respectively.

Going south, the order is reversed with north and south bound traffic sharing this center emergency lane.

STAND has the following concerns.

1. It may be difficult for motorists to see through the parked car lane to avoid accidents when making right hand turns. The same holds true for bicyclists making left hand turns across oncoming traffic. There continue to be concerns for cyclists trying to go straight when the lane changes to allow motorists to turn right.

2. The emergency lane does not take into account the fact that there may be concurrent accidents or emergencies to be dealt with. Also, by removing a lane on each side of the roadway, there is no place for delivery trucks to park without stopping traffic.

3. Occupants of parked cars have no way of getting safely from car to curb. They must cross the bicycle lane to get to the sidewalk.

STAND has asked the City Council to respond to our concerns. So far, it has not.

If you would like these issues addressed by the City Council, send your comments and concerns to: dkalb@oaklandnet.com.

— STAND Steering Committee

Learn more about the bicycle plan: http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/o/EC/s/BicycleandPedestrianProgram/OAK024597



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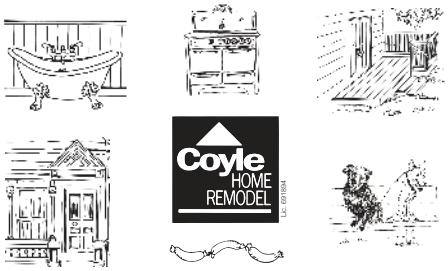
Short Term Rockridge Rental

8/12-mid-Dec. (some flexibility), $5,400/mth or $4,950/mth for entire time. 4 bed/2.5 bath home, formal liv/dining, gourmet kitchen, backyard w/deck & BBQ. Nr shops, restaurants & BART. Ron Kriss, Broker, Lawton Associates, 510.547.5970 ex. 55.



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Compiled by Jo Ellis

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Discuss crime and public safety with representatives of OPD. 2nd Thurs (5/14) 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

- **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:

- **Bike to Books: Resources for Family Riding with Bike East Bay**, Sat, 5/ 9, 1- 2pm. Riding bikes together as a family can be fun and rewarding – and everyone benefits from the exercise. Get the best of family cycling resources in Oakland from Bike East Bay staff in this one-hour workshop. Bring your bike if you want to add d.i.y. decorations.
- **Kamishibai - Japanese Paper Theater**. Celebrate Asian & Pacific Islanders Heritage Month with Librarian Erica's presentation of this traditional form of story-telling 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.

*****Volunteers Needed to help with Summer Programs: People ages 11 to 16** who would like to spend a few hours each week at the library, signing up participants in the reading program, giving out prizes, and helping with various library tasks like sorting and shelving books & movies, we'd love to have your help. Call Erica or stop by to sign up for an orientation & schedule some hours over the summer.

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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.
- **Self-Defense Workshop**: Learn basic verbal and physical self-defense techniques. For ages 12 to 18, with parent's permission. 5/13, 2- 3 pm.

FOR ADULTS

- Local author and yoga professional **Kimber Simpkins** will read from and sign copies of her new book, *Full: How I Learned to Satisfy My Insatiable Hunger and Feed My Soul*, and lead a discussion about the interconnectedness of body image, yoga, meditation, and mindfulness. Tues, 5/12, 6:30pm.
- **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 (5/16), 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 (May 5th, June 2nd), 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

May: The artist group **Islamic Art Exhibit** presents: "Arabic: Language of the Quran."

June: **Greg Welker**: photography

LIBRARY HOURS

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

Closed: Sun. and Mon. and Tues, 5/26 for Memorial Day.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings/ Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Fri, 5/8, 9pm (doors open 8:30). **Music Performance** with bluegrass banjo and guitar impresario **Avram Siegel**, joined by **Mike Witcher** and Grammy winner **Kathy Kallick**. Note: $10 cover charge for this event; all proceeds go to the musicians.
- Tue, 5/12, 6:30 pm. **Patrice Vecchione**: *Step into Nature: Nurturing Imagination and Spirit in Everyday Life*.
- Thurs, 5/14, 6:30pm. **Reid Mitenbuler**: *Bourbon Empire: The Past and Future of America's Whiskey*. **Note: Free Bourbon Tasting with advance purchase of book (a flight of bourbon to sample during the event**. Call for more information or to purchase your copy: 653-9965.
- Sun, 5/17, 3pm. Publication Party for ***580 Split Literary Magazine*** (an annual journal of arts and literature published by grad students of the English Department at Mills College), with managing editor **Rebecca Woolston** and contributors, **Rex Leonowicz, Nicole Trigg, Emily Kiernan, Ivy Johnson** and **Margaret Ann Miller**. Come early for snacks and drinks.
- Mon, 5/18, 6:30pm. Filmmaker **John Waters**: *Carsick: John Waters Hitchhikes Across America*. **Note**: one seat may be reserved for each purchased book. Call for more info.
- Thurs, 5/21, 6:30pm. **Stacy Wakefield**: *The Sunshine Crust Baking Factory*, and photographer **Ash Thayer:** *Kill City: Lower East Side Squatters 1992-2000*.
- Sun, 5/24, 3pm. **Poetry Flash**, with **Richard Newmark** (*All the Wasted Beauty of the World – Poems*) and **Lee Rossi** (*Wheelchair Samurai*).
- Thurs, 6/4, 6:30pm. **Ellen Meeropol**: *On Hurricane Island*.
- Tues, 6/9, 6:30 pm. Publication party for **Robert Roper**: *Nabokov in America: On the Road to Lolita*.

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

Book Signing at Market Hall

Meet **Alice Medrich**, noted baker and cookbook author of *FLAVOR FLOURS: A New Way to Bake with Teff, Buckwheat, Sorghum, Other Whole & Ancient Grains, Nuts & Non-Wheat Flours*. Discuss baking techniques and taste samples of desserts baked with various flours. Alternative flours available for sale. **Sat, May 9, 2- 4pm. Rockridge Market Hall, 5655 College Ave**. 250-6001 or www.rockridgemarkethall.com.

Rockridge Artist Open Studio

Liz Maxwell, participating in ProArts Open Studios, welcomes visitors to her studio to view her paintings prints and drawings: Sat. and Sun., June 6-7 and June 13-14, 11am to 6pm. 5808 Chabot Road (not wheelchair accessible). Simple refreshments. More info: 654-5741 or lizmaxwell@prodigy.net. Information about other local artists and ProArts East Bay Open Studios 2015 at www.proartsgallery.org.

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring vocalist **Nicolas Bearde** with **Glen Pearson** on piano, **Aaron Germain** on upright bass and **Leon Joyce, Jr.** on drums. Sunday, May17, 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 at www.nicolasbearde.com. The concert series honors the individual stories and unique artistry of Bay Area jazz musicians in a landmarked Julia Morgan venue: Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. **Wheelchair accessible. Free parking**. More info: www.jazzatthechimes.com, chimesjazz@gmail.com or 654-0123.

Berkeley Baroque Strings Concert

All Telemann program. Many members perform on replicas of period instruments and bows. Wed, May 20, 7:30pm. **Free**, but donations appreciated. St. Clement's Church, 2837 Claremont Blvd., Berkeley. Info: berkbaroquepr@aol.com.

Wisteria Ways House Concert

Janam: Quintet of multi-instrumentalists who sing and play American & Balkan Roots Fusion that explores a dizzying range of styles, from Appalachia and Asia Minor to Eastern Europe. Saturday, June 6, 3pm; doors open 2:15pm (outside venue; wheelchair accessible). Bring a hat, sunscreen and a picnic. Hear a sample at http://www.janamband.com/. $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Free Yoga Classes

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





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Market Update

Multiple offers are back! Buyers are scrambling for homes because of the lack of inventory. Call me if you would like to know how much your house could sell, or rent for.

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