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# THE Rockridge News

VOL. 32 ■ NO. 6 ■ ISSUE NO. 345 ■ June 3, 2017 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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# June 29: NCPC, RCPC Annual Joint Meeting

**AGENDA**

**Annual NCPC/RCPC Joint Town Hall Meeting**

**7 p.m. Thursday, June 29**
**Rockridge Branch Library**

**Speaker:**
**Venus Johnson,**
**Director of Public Safety**

The Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) and the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) meet **Thursday, June 29**, in the upstairs meeting room of the Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue, for their annual joint meeting. Meeting begins at 7 p.m., and ends at 9 p.m.

Ms. Venus Johnson, Mayor Libby Schaaf's new Director of Public Safety, is the featured speaker for the annual joint meeting of the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) and the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) to be held Thursday, June 29, from 7-9 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library upstairs meeting room. Ms. Johnson's position is intended to bring effective crime prevention coupled with principled policing to a department roiled recently by multiple leadership changes. Johnson, 37, born and raised in Oakland, began her career in the Alameda County district attorney's office prosecuting homicide and sexual assault cases, as related on city websites. Meeting planners are also working with the Police Department to schedule a senior police official who will discuss Chief Kirkpatrick's recent reorganization of the Police Department.

## Auto-Related Crimes in Rockridge; a Brief Review

*by Karen Ivy, NCPC secretary*

It seems like every time we turn around, someone is reporting a stolen or a burglarized car. In November 2014, California voters passed Proposition 47, which reduced certain nonviolent, non-serious crimes to misdemeanors when the stolen property value was less than $950, and permitted resentencing of inmates based on new

Auto-Related, page 13

# Kitchen Tour Planners Invite You to Pick a Way to Join in

**Be a Tour Volunteer**

### Tour Volunteers Able to Help In a Variety Of Roles

Preparations for the 2017 Rockridge Kitchen Tour are full steam ahead, and the Kitchen Tour committee is now calling for volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to get to know more about the neighborhood, and to give back to Rockridge.

The Tour isn't just about kitchens; it's the main fundraiser for the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC). Over the past two decades of the biennial Tour, proceeds have helped many local projects supported by RCPC including the creation and maintenance of the Rockridge Branch Library; supporting construction play structures and other amenities at Frog Park; and the Kevin Faughnan Memorial Community Grants Program, which supports local projects to benefit Rockridge.

Becoming a Tour volunteer may be ideal for someone who wants to help out in the community, but doesn't have the time for a long-term commitment to our neighborhood boards and associations. Volunteer opportunities include: helping with publicity; providing behind-the-

Tour Volunteers, pg 13

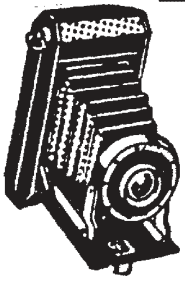
**Be a Docent Volunteer**

### Being a Tour docent "A Fun and Rewarding Experience"

Planning for the 2017 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, scheduled for Sunday, September 24, is in full swing. The Kitchen Tour committee has selected the kitchens to be featured on this year's Tour, and is now turning to the vital task of recruiting another great group of Tour docents. Whether you've been a docent in the past, or are new to the Rockridge Kitchen Tour, volunteering as docent is a fun and rewarding experience. But don't take it from us – read on for comments from 2015 Tour docents, But don't take it from us – read on for comments from 2015 Tour docents, many of whom return year after year. "I do know that I will be happy to encourage friends to sign up to be a docent at the 2017 Kitchen Tour!"

A week or two before the Tour, all docents attend a 2-1/2 to 3-hour pre-Tour training session, including visits to several of the houses. The behind-the-scenes look at the kitchens ahead of the Tour and the opportunity to hear about the kitchens directly from the homeowner and builders are

Docent Volunteers, pg 13



## Can You Picture It?

Calling all shutter bugs, photogs, and photobombers, from amateur to professional. The Rockridge News would like to see the photographic images — from the past or the present — of your favorite haunts, scenes, events or people unique to Rockridge. All images will be considered for printing in future issues of the newsletter. Forward digital images to: editor@rockridge.org; mail printed images to The Rockridge News, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611.

Include your name, email address, and short remarks about why the image appealed to you.

*Click.*

# Protected City Cycle Track Now Open



About two dozen people turned out Monday, May 8, to applaud city officials and their community partners as they cut the ribbon to mark the completion and opening of Oakland's first physically separated two-way protected bikeway, known as a cycle track. The facility, located on Broadway between Keith and Brookside Avenues, also makes crossing Broadway on foot safer.

Ribbon-cutters included District 1 Council Member Dan Kalb; Oakland's first Department of Transportation director Ryan Russo; Bike East Bay executive director Renee Rivera; and Fourth Bore Coalition chair Ann Smulka. The event kicked off Bike to Work Week in Oakland and marked Russo's first day on the job.

As noted in the May 2017 issue of the Rockridge News, work associated with the project, including signal adjustments, striping changes, a bio-swale to filter water runoff and cleanup, continues as does construction of improvements to Broadway south of Keith Avenue.

Please contact Oakland's Caldecott projects coordinator, Victoria Eisen: victoria@eisenletunic.com or 510/525-0220 with any questions.

***— Victoria Eisen, Caldecott projects coordinator***

### From School Board Director Jody London's Newsletter

## Please Take My Survey of North Oakland Schools

It has been a very busy couple of months, which is why I am only now discussing these issues with you. We have very important work coming up around our facilities master plan and overall educational needs in our city.

First, I want to hear directly from you to help understand the priorities for North Oakland families as I advocate for your students. I am looking for your input on the portfolio of schools in North Oakland, and ask that you please provide your feedback and ideas in the short survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/JZ2TDNH. Next, find more about our incoming Superintendent, the budget, our great Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) employees, honors for our schools, work on

▸ Jody London: Schools, page 10

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded March 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly (except in August) 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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Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in **The Rockridge News**? • Do you have questions about newsletter distribution? • Want to volunteer to be a **Rockridge News** block captain? • Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?

**Contact us at one of the following:**
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**Articles submitted for publication** may be emailed to the editor or mailed to the addresses above. Submissions are limited to 600 words, must include the author's name, phone number, email 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, contact the editor.

**Newsletter Advertising/Deadline**
**Publication date of the July issue is:**
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**Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or email 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 next Land Use Committee meeting will be Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library upstairs meeting room. Please check the rockridge.org website for updates on future meetings and agendas.

### Continued Discussion of Rockridge Housing Policy

The committee continued its discussion of housing in Rockridge, aimed at developing recommendations for an RCPC housing policy statement for Rockridge. Much of the discussion centered on what was needed to "flesh out" the alternative scenarios presented at the April RCPC Town Hall meeting, and whether additional alternatives should be developed. (The PowerPoint presentation from that Town Hall can be downloaded from: http://bit.ly/2pZu2sL.)

Rather than develop additional scenarios, the committee felt it would be more fruitful to provide more detail to each of the scenarios, and to give more information about what each scenario would mean for Rockridge, both in terms of how it would look and what the pluses and minuses would be.

It was also noted that while Oakland's current General Plan was approved in 1998, not until 2014 was the citywide zoning updated to reflect the direction given in the General Plan. Consequently, some of the changes made by that zoning update – for example: the increased height and density limits along Broadway and Telegraph Avenue – are only now being reflected in the large and taller buildings being constructed. Some of the members, therefore, questioned whether additional "upzoning" should even be considered until the effect of the last set of zoning changes, plus the liberalization of rules for secondary units and off-street

Land Use Committee, page 10

## Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt Summer Cleanup Party, June 17

Please join your neighbors and friends on Saturday, June 17 from 9 to 11 a.m. for the 2017 Summer Cleanup, sponsored by the DMV Neighbors Association. Once again, the focus will be on the section of the Greenbelt from the DMV parking lot to Clifton Street. There's plenty of trash to pick up and the usual invasive plants to pull out, such as nutsedge and Texas privet. If logs are available, we will erect a barrier to crossing the creek along a stretch where bicycles and shopping carts have caused erosion. Volunteers will be provided with tools and gloves (or bring your own, well marked as yours), snacks, and coffee. The creek is currently turned off but should be running by then, so plan to wear closed-toed shoes that can get wet if you want to work on weed and root removal in the creek channel. Families are welcome and there are plenty of kid-appropriate tasks. Meet at the picnic table near the DMV parking lot to sign in. To RSVP, or for more info, contact leonorasea@yahoo.com. **— Leonora Sea**

## Scenic Streets of Oakland Gardening Party, Saturday June 10

The bountiful winter rains have been wonderful; we're all pleased and so are the weeds! Please help Scenic Streets of Oakland clean up sidewalk plantings and the Claremont Highway 24 ramps. A gardening party is scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday June 10. As well as getting to know your neighbors, this Party will include a lot of weeding, raking, and mulch spreading.




In addition to enthusiasm, working on the ramps requires that volunteers be 16 or over, wear sturdy shoes with ankle support or boots and long pants. Hardhats, goggles, safety vests, and gloves will be supplied by Caltrans via Scenic Streets. Please join us. Scenic Streets will provide some gardening tools but please bring any tools, especially garden rakes and weeding tools, that you like using. The work may not be pure fun, but your effort is likely to be satisfying and will definitely be appreciated.

We will meet on Claremont Ave. near the south end of the Dog Park. **–Lee Patterson**






# Riders for Big Reasons: Fund Schools; Lobby Lawmakers



*by Ride for a Reason Staff and Organizer Paul Vetter*

On Saturday, May 20, more than 260 cyclists rode from the Oakland Technical High School staging area to the Capitol in Sacramento for the ninth annual Ride for a Reason. The event is a community-building, fundraising, political-action, endurance athletic event mashup.

It all began nine years ago with a handful of parents of children in public schools dismayed by deep budget cuts to public education during the recession. To protest on behalf of their kids, four riders cranked to Sacramento, bearing a petition for funds for schools. Although the era of deep budget cuts may be over, California remains well below the national average in spending on public schools, and ranks 41st among states in per-pupil funding. Ride for a Reason raises money for seven Oakland public schools, and advocates with elected representatives for better funding for all California schools.

Ride organizer and Claremont/Oakland Tech parent Paul Vetter says, "California needs to get back to a position of leadership

Ride for a Reason, page 14

# Hardy Dog Park Improvements Continue

As renovation plans move slower than a turtle with a snail on its back, we continue making improvements to Hardy Dog Park. We have fixed the flooding issues, built and installed new poop bag dispensers, built and installed leash racks, and solved the stinky trash problem.

How can you help?

■ We need plastic newspaper bags. If you have bags lying around, drop them off in the large green shopping bag at the Hudson entrance, or in the large black mailbox at the Frog Park entrance.

■ Do you have an old bench or old patio chairs you want to get rid of? We'd love to have you donate them to the park.

■ Please join us for build and clean-up days, the first Saturday of every month, 9-10:30 a.m. Meet other dog owners and join the community.

■ We need two to three more people to join our renovation committee. Committee members will take responsibility for the renovation, from managing fundraising to working with contractors and Caltrans, to finding a new 501(c)(3) umbrella organization. Come help make a difference in the neighborhood.

Questions? Email HardyDogPark@yahoo.com. Meanwhile, bring your dog(s) and catch up with the changes.



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3116 Ellis C - Sweet "Cape Cod Style" cottage, vaulted ceiling, updated kitchen, 1 bedroom, gated and quiet yard, near Ashby BART. Call for pricing.

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# Spate of New Businesses Belie Fears for the Avenue's Health

## GoldenBug Children's Shoes
## 5509 College Avenue
## Owner: Emily Goldenberg



Photos/Don Kinkead

**GoldenBug Children's Shoes**, a new College Avenue business that opened at the end of February with the slogan "nurturing soles," occupies what has lately become a niche market. "We specialize in actually measuring the child's feet when we fit them for shoes," says business owner Emily Goldenberg. So many children's shoe stores have closed, she said, that many parents now buy shoes online in multiple pairs in a buy-try-return cycle. "Parents can avoid the perils of this process and know that

GoldenBug Children's Shoes, page 14



## Open Mind Music
## 5517 College Avenue
## Owner: Henry Wimmer

"I pride myself on serving vinyl-heads good slabs of wax of all sorts of music from ABBA to Zappa," says Open Mind Music record store owner Henry Wimmer ("Rhymes with swimmer."). A long-time and dedicated collector of vinyl records, Wimmer has been in the music and record business in San Francisco since 1994 when he opened his first Open Mind Music store on Divisidero Street. Following a long and winding road since then, he moved the business to several other music-centric areas of San Francisco

Open Mind Music, page 12

## Wingman
## 5295 College Avenue
## Co-Owner: Joelle Kim



Photo/Judith Doner Berne

As I walked home along College Avenue, I saw five men, each carrying a white bowl-shaped carton.

It turns out that the far south end of College has traded Burgers for Bowls, as Wingman opened last week in the long-time home of Christopher's, 5295 College Avenue.

Co-owner Joelle Kim is behind the counter of the new Asian-fusion restaurant, which she says offers Korean and Japanese dishes created by a chef who is trained in French cuisine. The French influence, she says, shows up primarily in their house-made sauces.

The men, she told me, were from a local law firm and have been there almost every day for lunch. Some come back for tea in mid-afternoon. While I was there, several other customers came in, also from nearby businesses. I, also, couldn't resist a new restaurant, especially one that is oh so close to my house. So I took home their Korean fried chicken wings in a sweet-sour sauce. They came atop a simple cabbage salad with a side of pickled radish. I could easily become addicted.

But my choices were many. Four appears to be the magic number. With the wings were offered your choice of four sauces; four kinds of Bowls; four types of Ramen; and four flavors of milkshakes. There is also an assortment of side dishes ranging from sweet potato and French potato fries to fried dumplings to an Octopus hotdog, which she told me is a hotdog with four (not eight) legs.

Wingman, page 12

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## Eyes on Rockridge

# The Street Where He Lives Inspires Local Shirt Designer

*by Judith Doner Berne*

I'm pretty sure Randy Wells won't be getting a button-down shirt for Father's Day – at least not from his wife Marianne Peirce or his almost two-year-old son Quincy.

That's because the Rockridge resident designs men's shirts out of his home on Locksley Avenue. His all-cotton, American-made men's button-downs display touches such as an orange label and trim – a reference to the San Francisco's Giants 2014 World Series win.

And to celebrate where he lives, he named the company Rockridge Enterprises and his first shirt design, The Locksley.

"I liked naming it after the neighborhood I live in," the lanky, 38-year-old Wells told me. "It feels very American and this is very much an American-inspired shirt from the 1950-60s."

Wells actually owns the trademark for Rockridge, which he was surprised to find was available. "My concern is that a lot of businesses use Rockridge in their names and that's fine, as long as they say what that business is," he told me. (So Rockridge Café, Rockridge Cleaners and oh yes, Rockridge News, you're safe!)

I assumed that he had studied design. "Of all the degrees I have, none are in design," he said, with a smile. In fact, the Los Angeles-born Wells has a bachelor's in sociology from San Francisco State, a master's in political science from New York University's New School, an MBA from Golden Gate University – plus a year at Oxford studying modern British politics.

"And here I am making clothes."

That evolved because after graduate school, Wells pursued a career path that was more creative than academic. He became an art director for youth apparel brand Ecko Unlimited where he developed advertising campaigns. He went on to work as a designer creating the packaging for video game publisher Electronic Arts. He is currently the brand director for a national men's retailer headquartered in the Bay Area.

"I always knew I wanted to build a company. I wanted it to be a fashion company because I love fashion. I knew I wanted it based in Oakland," Wells said. His dream is to: "Ride my bike to work; be close enough to home that my kids can come to the office; and be a large contributor to the community."

The truth is, he was living in San Francisco and might never have landed in Oakland had he and Peirce not found each other. As a psychologist for the Piedmont Unified School District, she was already living in the Locksley Avenue house which she had moved to in 2012.



**It will be Father's Day Number 2 for Rockridge Enterprises founder Randy Wells and son Quincy.**

/Judith Doner Berne

Like so many of us, Peirce wanted to "live in a place that was walkable." She told me, "I really didn't know how great it was until after I moved here."

Once he joined her, Wells discovered that "I liked the story and history of Oakland. I wanted to be a part of that wave (of new businesses) that the city is attracting. As an African American, there is a sense of self awareness that your individual success will inspire or motivate others to chase their dream successfully. So there is pressure to

The Shirt on His Back, page 7




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# The Shirt on His Back

from page 6

succeed as an African American who has his own company and who can serve as an inspiration for local kids."

To that end, he donates 2 percent of his company's profits to classroom projects requested by individual teachers in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) through DonorsChoose.org, a national non-profit dedicated to education (See related story below). "We fund a project per month," Wells said.

Wells's home computer is where he comes up with his designs, and his garage is the distribution center. The Locksley shirt is available through his Rockridge Enterprises website and also at Asmbly Hall in San Francisco and Oakland Supply Co., recently moved to Jack London Square.




So far he has just the one model, which comes in three solid colors and two plaids. "I wanted to target entrepreneurs and tech people. For the Bay Area, that uniform is a button-down shirt." He is currently developing a light-weight sweatshirt made of French Terry cotton. He's calling it "The Hudson" – after another Rockridge street. It will be available in September in light grey with navy and orange cuffs.

Wells makes it a point to manufacture and source all of his clothing in the United States. The button-downs are made in Brooklyn, the sweatshirts in Emeryville. He wants both the brand and the social good component to reflect well on Rockridge.

"When you name your company after a neighborhood that you live in," Wells told me, "you feel a sense of responsibility to your neighbors and the community to protect its integrity and reputation. When it comes to building the brand and the company I'm well aware that every decision I make can potentially shape the perception of how people view Rockridge. I take that responsibility seriously."

After spending most of his life in Los Angeles and New York, "One thing that is really cool about this neighborhood is that people know one another," he said. "We shop regularly at Market Hall and eat frequently at Cactus, A16 and Wood Tavern. People at Hudson Bay Cafe have known Quincy since he was born."

"Fatherhood," Wells said, "is awesome. The most important thing I've learned is patience and to be more present because the time moves quickly."

So how will he celebrate his second Father's Day? "Quincy and I haven't established a Father's Day ritual," Wells said, "but we do have tea at the Hudson Bay Cafe every Saturday morning." That's where Peirce meets up with them after her workout at Sweat Oakland, across the street.

"Last year Quincy made me a card and baked some brownies and cookies with his mom as a Father's Day gift. I imagine we will do the same this year and go for a family bike ride that day."

To comment or to make suggestions for future columns on your Rockridge neighbors and neighborhoods, email judyberne@att.net.

# Contributing to the Community...

Following are excerpts from notes Randy Wells received from Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) teachers as a result of donations from his company, Rockridge Enterprises. Some were accompanied by photographs of students using the new equipment.

■ Mrs. Burke, Burbank Preschool Center: "We are delighted with our new light table and sensory table stations. The addition of these two stations has allowed our class to use materials in exploration of cause and effect with independence…."

■ Mrs. Kinsley, second grade, Fruitvale Elementary: "On behalf of my kindergarteners, thank you so much. We use the pocket chart stand throughout the day; being able to roll it around…has made it easier for my class to be more independent…."

■ Mr. Chin, second grade, Chabot Elementary: "Thanks to you, our classroom library is going to get a huge boost in the nonfiction section. I can't wait to see the faces of my students when I show them the new books...."

■ Mrs. Morales, ninth grade, Skyline High School: "With your donation, students were able to complete a calorimetry lab that is not easy and can be dangerous. Thank you for looking out for students in Oakland, California…."

(To fund individual projects requested by OUSD teachers, go to www.DonorsChoose.org. The national non-profit, which connects you to classrooms in need, has received 11 consecutive four-star (top) ratings from Charity Navigator.)



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*Homes sold in May closed 30% over the asking price on average.*

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# Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes posted letters and emails to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, email 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 are the writer's own, and may not necessarily be shared by the editor or by RCPC.

**Editor's Note:** The following letter, written May 5 and sent to Councilmember Dan Kalb, was copied to The Rockridge News for publication:

**Dear Councilmember Kalb:**

Re: Town Hall Meeting (Article in Rockridge News, May 6, 2017), and a May 2017 Article in the Oakland Magazine, Page 25: The Real Cause of Gentrification.

I've just finished reading the above-listed articles and have a few comments and observations regarding them.

1. Yes, there is a shortage of affordable housing in Oakland, but that is the result of a viable economy bringing people, young and not so young, to the Bay Area. This is a good thing and should be applauded.

2. Oakland, which for decades has had to fight a reputation as "a dangerous and undesirable place to live," has, in recent years, had a resurgence of interest from potential residents because San Francisco has developed the hell out of its neighborhoods to accommodate young, dot.com renters who have more disposable cash to spend and who are willing to pay whatever they need to in order to live and work in or around San Francisco. This has sent families and those hoping to someday start a family to Oakland.

Oakland is fortunate to be experiencing this uptick in interest, and Rockridge, in particular, is a neighborhood that has worked hard and long to create a quiet, safe place for families, older single people and yes, empty nesters to live.

Rockridge has easy access to San Francisco via BART, AC Transit or highway (as well as points further east and west, north and south via 580/680/highway 24 & 13), small family-owned restaurants and shops and larger businesses such as Trader Joe's and Safeway on either Claremont Avenue or at the Rockridge Center, Frog Park (where children and their nannies can play safely) and tree-lined streets where small starter homes exist side-by-side with homes that have been renovated and or remodeled so that families living here can stay and enjoy the area. These are some of the reasons Rockridge is a sought-after area.

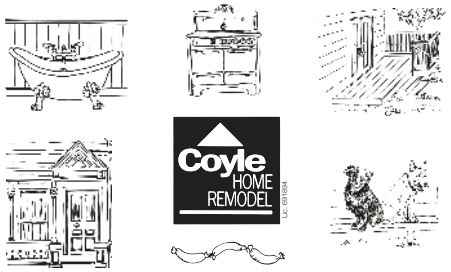
None of this happened overnight. When my husband and I bought our home here 38 years ago, it was an OK neighborhood, but through the years our neighbors worked hard to make it a great neighborhood. I know former residents of Rockridge who sold their homes to make space for BART and moved to Berkeley/Walnut Creek/Piedmont/Montclair. Now, they regret having done so. They miss the "Community" and regularly return to partake of all the wonderful things that exist here in Rockridge. Well-kept single family homes, quiet safe walkable streets, proximity to public transportation and locally owned cleaners, restaurants, hardware stores and more, are the reasons people live here and will pay for the area.

Gentrification is a word used by many to describe what happens when a neglected neighborhood is revitalized by people seeking a safe, local home in which to begin what they hope will be a long and happy family life. I have nothing against highrises, condos and renters – I was a renter when I first moved here to the Bay Area from Connecticut – but people who rent rarely have a feeling of community for their living space because that space is, for them, temporary. And highrises, once built, often become difficult to maintain, thereby changing

Share Housing Responsibility, page 12

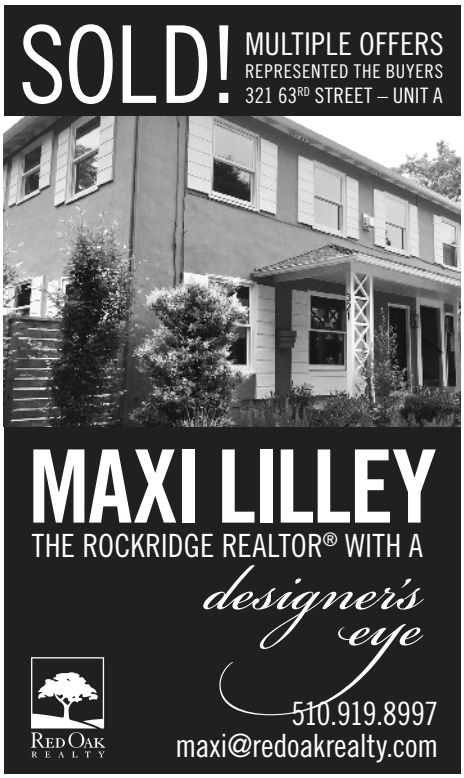












# More Letters to the Editor

## Condo Tower Wrong for Claremont Hotel Area

**Editor:**

The Housing Committee of the RCPC recently met about affordable housing in Rockridge. "Save our Claremont" is currently resisting developers (including international corporations) who want to build a luxury condominium tower adjacent to the Claremont Hotel. The Bay Area needs more housing but it should be affordable and near transit. The proposed condominium is neither. We don't need a tall, intrusive high-end condominium sited far from BART and blocking views of the Claremont Hotel, marring the historic "short cut" path, and increasing auto traffic on Ashby and Tunnel Road and adjoining arteries.

Claremont Condo Tower is Wrong, page 12

## Our Block Enjoys The Rockridge News and I Enjoy Delivering It

**Editor:**

I just prepared the May issue of The Rockridge News for Saturday morning delivery, and then read it cover-to-cover.

The Frog Park photos are really great!

The newsletter is a welcome monthly newspaper on Taft Avenue, and I enjoy delivering it, especially after having delivered newspapers by bicycle when I was in elementary and junior high school in Burbank. My younger brother and I shared three early morning routes for several years back in the 1950s. I'm glad to keep my "throwing arm" (left arm = throwing and batting arm, and right hand is writing and detail-oriented hand) in shape by "porching" rolled-up copies of The Rockridge News 11 times a year, and the residents of our block sure appreciate receiving it.

Thanks from all of us on the block for the continuing efforts that successfully produce this wonderful newspaper.

***— Gary Lippman and Catherine Gray***

# Chabot Road News Route Available

Many thanks to Block Captain Dina Weilhammer who is stepping down from her Chabot Road Rockridge News delivery route. We hope one of the readers near this route will step up to take the mantle from Dina and continue delivery of our 30-year old newsletter without a break.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Route 01B,D** | Chabot Road beginning across from the public tennis courts at 6885. Then deliver to 7037, 7045, 7101, 7117, 7211, to 4 houses on Marie Way and back to Chabot to 5 houses past Marie Way until dead end. |

The newsletter is published the first weekend of each month except August. Call 510/547-3855 or email Susan at smontauk@gmail.com to volunteer.


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# Land Use Committee

from page 3

parking could be determined and evaluated. Nevertheless, the committee will continue working on analyzing alternative scenarios so that Rockridge residents can have the benefit of the best available information before weighing in on what kind of housing future makes the most sense for Rockridge.

■ **Possible New Housing Developments on College Avenue**

The committee heard from local architect Kirk Peterson about plans he is preparing for a client for the redevelopment of 5353 College Avenue and its adjoining surface parking. His current plans call for either a three- or four-story building, with retail on the first floor and residential apartments above. The fourth floor would depend on either inclusion of guaranteed affordable units or moving the current bungalow occupying the site to the top of the building as a "penthouse" owner-occupied unit. The latter would apparently require a minor variance.

In addition, RCPC has been told that the small bungalow on the lot just south of McNally's Irish Pub has changed hands and may be replaced by a three-story commercial/residential building. Both these proposals, plus preliminary indications of a three-story commercial/residential project at the corner of College and Claremont Avenues suggest that the housing shortage may be sparking addition of new residential projects on College Avenue, even without any change in zoning.

# Jody London: Schools

from page 2

equity, and more. You may already receive my newsletters. If you're not already subscribed, you can sign up at: www.ousd.org/Page/467. Prior issues are posted online at the same web address.

■ **Help Shape How OUSD Invests in School Programs and Facilities**

This month, OUSD is launching the Blueprint for Quality, a plan to help shape Board decisions on school programs and facilities investment for the next 5 years. OUSD needs your input as we:

• Discuss the current state of our students' learning environments;

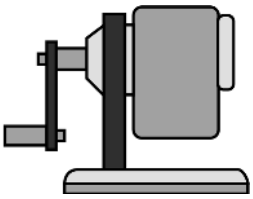
• Determine recommendations on school reconfiguration and rehabilitation;

• Develop a plan for creating better schools that provide equity, quality, and opportunity for ALL OUSD students.

■ **New Schools Superintendent**

In case you have not heard, on May 12 the School Board announced Kyla Johnson-Trammel as the finalist for next Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District. Dr. Johnson-Trammel is an Oakland native and career educator who has worked in Oakland for 18 years.

There were 35 applicants for the job, and the Board spent a lot of time reviewing applications and interviewing people. We also relied on a panel of students and a panel of community stakeholders, including teachers, principals, and central office staff, to spend time with the finalists and offer their observations.



The staff is very happy with the selection of Dr. Johnson-Trammel, even stopping me in stores to let me know how much they respect and enjoying working with our next Superintendent.

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# FROG Funded for Surfacing Project

I'm pleased to announce that the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) has awarded our Frog Park resurfacing project $85,800 for Poured-in-Place (PIP) rubber surfacing for our Swings and More+ project.

We thank the MCPD for their decision to adopt ADA staff's recommendation to fund the project. Christine Calabrese, ADA Programs division manager, supported FROG by regularly reviewing our evolving plans and making recommendations for this project, as she has done on earlier FROG projects. We also thank our designer, Adrienne Wong, who encouraged the application for funding.

This grant addresses PIP surfacing costs for the new play equipment area. However, if we want to do the entire playground (our preference) beyond just the new area, we will need additional funds.

More project details are to come as we continue to navigate city funding and project costs.

**— Carol Behr, FROG Chair**

Donations are tax-deductible. FROG projects include: new play features; repairs; gardening and clean-up supplies; events; future art murals; and more.

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## Share Housing Responsibility

from page 8

the character and look of a neighborhood; sometimes to a neighborhood's detriment.

Low-income property is needed, and I believe that a project such as the ones built in Fruitvale and West Oakland should be built around the MacArthur/Temescal area. I understand that one such project has been approved. I believe it will provide less intrusion on the character of the neighborhood and increase prosperity to its already bustling and thriving restaurants and shops.

I do not believe it is up to Rockridge to solve, single-handedly, the problem of low- and middle-income housing for the Bay Area.

***— Diana Mitchell-Chavez***

## Claremont Condo Tower is Wrong

from page 9

The 250-member increase sought for the Claremont Club will further exacerbate congestion. Hampered access during medical emergencies, earthquake or fire are of particular concern.

Find updates about the review process at saveourclaremont.org. Currently the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) is reviewing a Historic Resource Evaluation (HRE) submitted by Signature Properties, the developer. The LPAB approved landmark protections in 2002, but the partisan HRE undermines these. We hope Rockridge residents will acquaint themselves with this proposed development. We are grateful for your support. Attend the LPAB hearing June 12, 6 p.m. at Oakland City Hall, City Council Chamber, 3rd floor. Find hearing info at //www2.oaklandnet.com/government/o/PBN/OurOrganization/PlanningZoning/o/Commissions/index.htm.

And, write a letter. Our website has sample letters and addresses for messages: saveourclaremont.org. Thank you.

***— David Kessler & Wendy Markel***
SaveOurClaremont.org

# New East Bay Open Studios

The New East Bay Open Studios begins Friday, June 2, and features over 200 participating artists.

Pro Arts, the nonprofit art organization that founded the East Bay Open Studios and organized it for over four decades, has handed the baton to award-winning, internationally collected artist, Carolyn Quan, who also produces successful open studio events in Hawaii and Toronto. The tradition continues.

The East Bay Open Studios connect art collectors and art lovers in and around the Bay Area directly with artists in the East Bay and promote personal interaction between participating artists and their audience.

Artists will open studios and exhibition spaces to the public the weekends of June 10-11 and 17-18 in Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville, Kensington, and other East Bay cities from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

One hundred percent of the art sales benefit the artists directly. View artist directories online. Guidebook pick-up locations and more details will be listed on EastBayOpenStudios.com.

## Wingman

from page 5

They didn't have them in the kitchen yet, much to the disappointment of a young boy there with his parents. He appeared to settle for the dumplings.

They have a long list of Boba (bubble or pearl) teas, caffeinated and non-caffeinated, and sodas, beers and cocktails.

The interior, while still simple, has been redone. For Kim, who was a banker and did interior design in her past, it is her second restaurant. She briefly opened a tapas place in the South Bay. This time around she is teaming up with an experienced restaurant group that owns 12 other ethnic restaurants. "Our chicken is organic," Kim says. "Our meals are simple and healthy."

**— Judith Doner Berne**

## Open Mind Music

from page 5

such as Market Street and near Church and Sanchez Streets.

Although busy building record bins and hanging display copies of record covers on the walls as he readies for his early June opening, Wimmer has been out and about on College Avenue often enough to be pleased with the location and with the amount of foot traffic. He notes that he is next door – actually in the same building – to the Rockridge Improvement Club ("They gave me a warm welcome to the neighborhood.") and plans to explore the possibility of broadcasting from the club at a future date. In addition to his records business, Wimmer streams a weekly radio broadcast from sfcommunityradio.org Wednesdays from noon to 5 p.m.

**— Don Kinkead**

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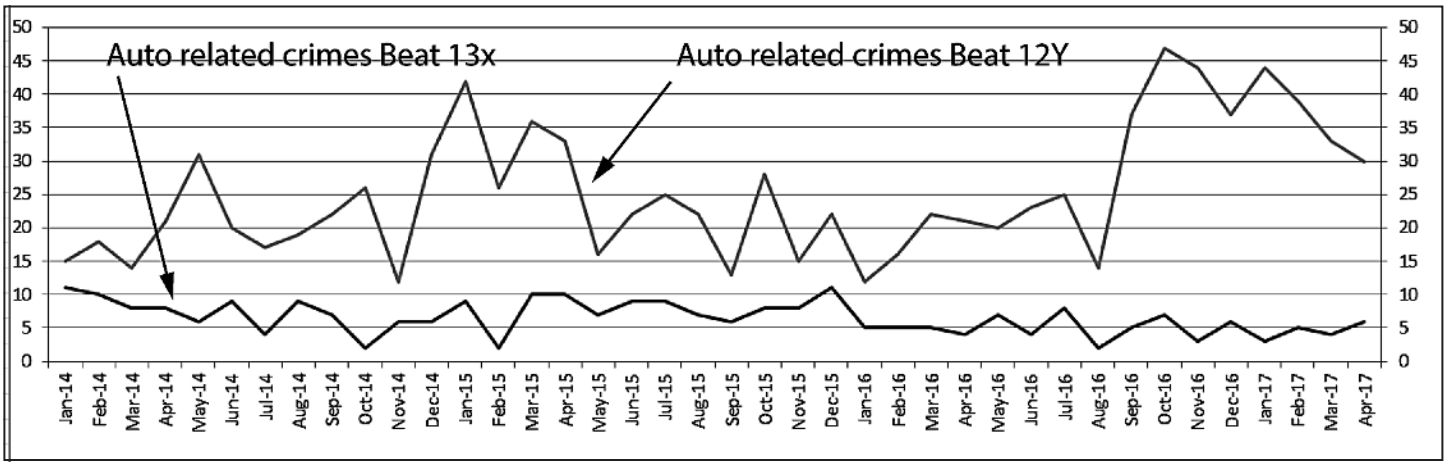
## Auto-Related

from page 1

sentencing guidelines. A review of criminal history and risk assessment of the individuals being re-sentenced was required to ensure that they do not pose a risk to the public. Subsequently, many attributed a seeming rise in auto break-ins to the new law (though the statutory treatment of auto burglary was unchanged by the law). Have these crimes increased that much? The Rockridge NCPC has maintained monthly crime statistics since 2014, and they show less increase than one might think. The chart below shows auto-related crimes in police beats 12Y and 13X (both include Rockridge) from January 2014 through April 2017.

12Y shows more fluctuation in auto-related crime than 13X, which shows no unusual increases after Prop. 47 passed. September 2016 to October 2016 showed a spike in auto theft, then trended steadily downward to April 2017.

These statistics, and other information, are on the NCPC website at rockridgencpc.com. See heading: "Recent Crime Statistics." ***Note:*** Find Oakland police beat descriptions at oaklandbeats.com.




## Tour Volunteers

from page 1

scenes support for the Tour events; and soliciting ads for the brochure. The reward is a chance to get acquainted with wonderful Rockridge homes, kitchens, and homeowners. (We are also recruiting Tour docents. See the article beginning page 1.)

The Tour is a fun and rewarding experience for guests and for volunteers. Contact Tour co-chairs Ronnie Spitzer and Leonora Sea at kitchentour@rockridge.org to sign up.

## Docent Volunteers

from page 1

among the best new experiences of being a docent. "I have been a house tour docent about five times in the past … and I was never given the opportunity to tour any of the homes before those tours – as we were able to do this year (2015) on the Rockridge Kitchen Tour."

Pre-Tour training for the 2017 tour is tentatively scheduled for the second and third weekends of September, subject to the homeowners' availability. Docents need only attend one session. At the pre-tours, docents visit three kitchens and hear from the homeowner, architect, and perhaps the contractor about the unique features and clever problem-solving in design and construction of each. The session will also familiarize you with the house layout so you'll be able to guide the walk-through traffic, educate our Tour guests about the house you will be assigned to, and answer the visitors' questions on the day of Tour. "I just would like to say that my Tour as a Docent … could not have gone more smoothly. I felt well-prepared to point out features of the home/kitchen, and the guests were, without exception, courteous and respectful."

On the day of the Tour, Sunday, September 24, docents will be assigned to one shift and will have the balance of the day to visit the other kitchens that they did not see in the pre-Tour. "I was able to explore three other kitchens that day and came away with a wealth of ideas and inspiration. Thank you for all your work; perhaps I can do this again next year."

If you are interested in being a docent on the 2017 Rockridge Kitchen Tour on September 24, please contact Laura Schlichtmann, Docent Coordinator, at laura.schlichtmann@gmail.com

Let's let one of the 2015 docents have the last word: "I thought the Tour was super-well organized in every way. It was a pleasure to be involved."



# RN classifieds

***Your Message Could Be Here***

Your 36-word message is $22. (Phone number counts as one word.) Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. ***July issue deadline*** *is June 22. July issue distribution begins July 8.*

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### Art Show and Sale-Darril Ann Tighe

Saturday, June 10, 10-5 pm in my home studio, 6441 Colby Street, bottom flat. Reasonable prices. Visual artist for 30 years, MFA and a show record. Visit www.darriltighe.com 510/599-6590.

### Prepare Your Child for the 2017-18 School Year

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## *Ride for a Reason*

**from page 4**

in school funding. When I consider the supplies students all over the state must do without because school districts' budgets don't stretch far enough, I feel motivated to do something."

The event raised more than $120,000, divided equally among seven schools: Emerson Elementary; Claremont, Edna Brewer, Roosevelt, and Westlake Middle Schools; Oakland International and Oakland Technical High Schools. The schools allocate the funds for library books, art and music education, computers, science equipment, projects for special education classes, psychological counseling services, or extra instruction hours for students reading below grade level. Over the nine years of Ride for a Reason, the event has contributed almost $750,000 to schools.

State Assemblymember Tony Thurmond addressed riders and volunteers in the morning, speaking about his initiatives to change the way public education is funded, and to encourage California to commit more resources to education and fewer resources to youth incarceration.

The ride attracted cyclists of all abilities, from speedy, spandex-clad gearheads to first-time distance riders. "We think this is a great event for people who have never done an endurance event like this before, and we have lots of training support for people in that circumstance. Some of our most dedicated riders each year are people who have never ridden this far, and get inspired," says Vetter.

Riders aged 4 to 80 banged out miles from Oakland (or Vacaville for a shorter version of the ride) to the Capitol. Cyclists chewed through hundreds of sandwiches, popsicles, and snacks to power through the hours of riding, burning through about 900,000 calories. Ride organizers reported no serious injuries beyond some skinned knees and a bee sting.

Ride for a Reason organizers (who include parents and staff members from all of the schools involved) are planning a bigger and celebratory 10th year ride in 2018, and could use more help. If you're into cycling, public education, political advocacy, or philanthropy, you can help. Contact Paul Vetter at p4vetter@gmail.com and look at http://r4rschools.com if you'd like to get involved. R4R depends on its volunteers.

## *GoldenBug Children's Shoes*

**from page 5**

they are getting a good fit when their child's feet are accurately measured. They won't have to guess anymore." Goldenberg and merchant assistant Christi Walter use a child-sized Brannock shoe sizer for their measurements.

GoldenBug grew out of Goldenberg's frustration that her children's feet were not being measured. "So few stores measure feet anymore. My husband and I are small business owners. We researched the situation for two years, then jumped." The couple's other business is Caffe 817 in Old Oakland, which they have owned for six years.

The family lives in the Glenview district. Goldenberg says, "We are Oakland people with Oakland kids."

**— Don Kinkead**

Email 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

## District 1 Councilman Dan Kalb

**Drop-in Community Office Hours:** Temescal Farmers' Market, 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Teleg.) at DMV parking lot. 3rd Sunday each month,10:30am-12:30pm. Times/locations of other office hrs. or more info: mmharris@oakland.net or www.dankalb.net/contactdan.

## Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

**FOR CHILDREN**

- **Family Story Time:** Stories/songs/rhymes (for all ages); Saturdays, 10:30am. **NOTE: on 6/24, instead of story time, Barnyard Pals will bring farm animals.**
- **Toddler Story Time:** Songs, active rhymes and stories (for 9 months to 2 years), Thursdays, 10:30am, **upstairs**.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** Read-alouds, songs, and rhymes (ages 2 to 5); Thursdays, 10:30am.

**All story times followed by Play Time;** parents and caregivers invited.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Summer Volunteers wanted, ages 11 to 16** to help with the Summer Reading Program and general library tasks. Contact Erica to reserve a spot: 597-5017 or esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org.

- **Summer Reading Program:** June 10 (begin sign-up) through August 5. Everyone to age 13 is invited to listen to others read aloud or to read independently to win prizes.
- **Tues. Evening Events at 7 pm:**
  - 6/13: **Alphabet Rockers** sing along.
  - 6/20: **Cascada de Flores** music & dance.
  - 6/27: **Red Panda Acrobats**.
  - 7/11: **East Bay Symphony Instrument "petting zoo."**
- **Wed. Workshops:** craft, science, & construction sessions at 3:30pm. Stop by for a schedule of activities.

**FOR TEENS**

- **Teen Summer Passport Program:** 6/10 thru 8/5. Explore Bay Area Hot Spots; connect with players online by submitting reviews and creating book lists; and receive prizes thru the summer. Sign up at 597-5017 or www.oaklandlibrary.org/summer.
- **Teen Advisory Board (ages 14-18):** Help advise the library how to better serve teens; **get community service credit for school**. 2nd Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Teen 'Scape Program:** Play video & board games; make crafts. Every Wed.: 2 – 4pm, all summer.
- **Get a henna tattoo** to kick off your summer, 6/24 at 2pm.

**FOR ADULTS**

**Summer Reading Program:** 6/10 thru 8/5: Write a mini review or complete three activities to enter a raffle for great gift cards to local businesses. Grand prize raffle is for an iPad Mini. Stop by the library or play online: https://playadult2017.oaklandlibrary.org/

- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced, MS margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (or come empty-handed). **Third Sat. each month,** 1 to 5pm; wheelchair-accessible. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com. Call to confirm.
- **Marty Nemko:** ***Odd Man Out:*** Career coach on KALW and KGO radio and with the San Francisco Chronicle, will perform a one-man autobiographical show that embeds life lessons for all. Includes stories, songs, poems, piano playing and coffee. Sat., 6/3, 10:30am.
- **Lawyers in the Library:** Free legal info and referral. 1st Tues each month; 6pm-8pm. Sign-up for lottery starting 5pm; lottery at 5:45 pm. Call day of program to confirm.

**Gallery Exhibits**

June: **Oakland Art Association;** Painters

July: **Oakland Art Association;** Photographers

**Lobby Display Case.**

June: **Pride Month.**

July: **Summer Travel.**

**LIBRARY HOURS**

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.

Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.

Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.

**Closed:** Sun and Mon: also Tues, July 4.

## Diesel Book/Poetry Readings and Events

**FREE and open to the public**.

- Sun, 6/4, 3pm. **Courtney Maum:** *Touch*.
- Wed, 6/7, 7pm. An evening of poetry with **Robert Hass:** *A Little Book on Form: An Exploration into the Formal Imagination of Poetry*; **Douglas Manuel:** *Testify*; and **Charles Hood:** *Partially Excited States*.
- Thurs, 6/8, 7pm. **Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi:** *Kintu*. In conversation with DIESEL bookseller **Aaron Bady,** who also wrote the introduction.
- Sun, 6/11, 3pm. **Edward Guthmann:** *Wild Seed: Searching for My Brother Dan*.
- Tues, 6/13, 7pm. Publication party for local author **Dr. Vanessa Grubbs:** *Hundreds of Interlaced Fingers: A Kidney Doctor's Search for the Perfect Match*.
- Thurs, 6/15, 7pm. **Lou Cove:** *Man of the Year: A Memoir*. Joined in conversation by the Man of the Year himself, **Howie Gordon.**
- Fri, 6/23, 6pm. **Pajama Party Story Time for Kids.** Come in PJs; bring teddy bear; have milk and cookies. Local author/ photographer **Elaine Miller Bond** reads bedtime stories from *Running Wild* and *Living Wild*.
- Sun, 6/25, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Andrena Zawinski:** *Landings* and **Cathleen Calbert:** *The Afflicted Girls*.
- Sun, 7/9, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Don Bogen:** *An Algebra* and **Joseph Di Prisco:** *Sight Lines from the Cheap Seats*.

DIESEL, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave. More info abt the authors, books and other events: 653-9965 or events@dieselbookstore.com.

## Rockridge Artists/East Bay Open Studios

Saturdays and Sundays, June 10 and 11 and June 17 and 18

- **Liz Maxwell:** paintings prints and monotypes: 11am to 6pm. 5808 Chabot Road (not wheelchair accessible). Light refreshments. More info: 654-5741 or lizmaxwell@prodigy.net.
- **Maryly Snow:** New work;11am to 6pm. Daily inking and printing demos at 1pm. Studio at 3016 Filbert St., #14 (2blks west of San Pablo @30th St.). Info: 697-1944 or maryly@snowstudios.com.

More info abt East Bay Open Studios 2017: www.EastBayOpenStudios.com. Story, pge 12.

## Wisteria Ways House Concert

**Double Trios:**

- **Bal du Kor** (African): A fusion of traditional and original West African melodies and rhythms with **Michael Smolens, ProfessorSlap (aka Ben Isaacs)**, and **Daniel Berkman**. Sample tunes at https://www.secondsightmusic.com/baldukorvideo.html.
- **Brisas do Brazil**: original arrangements of Bossa Nova and Samba with **Mary D'Orazi, Greg German** and **Michael Smolens**. Sample tunes at https://www.secondsightmusic.com/BRISAS.html.

Sun, June 25, 3pm; house opens at 2:15pm. **Outside venue; wheelchair accessible.** Bring something to sit on (cushions, chairs, blankets); also hat; sunscreen; picnic. **Light refreshments available.** $15-20 donation (sliding scale); all goes to musicians. Cash only at the door. 383 61st Street. For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

## Call for Volunteers at Chabot Space and Science Center

Do you love to create hands-on science demonstrations and develop building experiences? **RSVP now for Volunteer Orientation Saturday, June 24,10am to 2pm.** Astronomy and science come alive for children and families through new and fun interactive experiences and hands-on demonstrations. Design, build, and test your own inventions with other Chabot volunteers and staff. We ask volunteers to work 8 hours per month and for at least one year. For more information and to RSVP and register for orientation, visit http://www.chabotspace.org/adult-volunteers.htm or email the Volunteer Department volunteers@chabotspace.org

## 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. **Live music. Bring reusable bags**. 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot.

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