THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
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Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) • 4900 Shattuck Ave., PO Box 22504, Oakland 94609

Oakland Unified Honors Chabot Teacher

by Judith Doner Berne

Chabot Elementary School's **Phoebe Diamond**, just named an Oakland Unified School District Teacher of the Year, never wanted to be a teacher.

eyes on Rockridge

"No family member was a teacher," she said during a lively telephone interview. As a young teenager, "I wanted to be a clown in the circus." But after attending a summer camp where circus skills were taught,

Chabot Teacher, see page 14



Chabot Elementary's Phoebe Diamond (above) and Freemont High School science teacher Ji-Yun "Jane" Kim are OUSD's Teachers of the Year. Both are automatically nominated for Alameda County Teacher of the Year, and will be eligible for California Teacher of the Year.

RCPC Election Slated for April 15

by Leonora Sea, Chair, Rockridge Community Planning Council

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, is the deadline to declare your candidacy for the 2021 election of the Rockridge Community Planning Council's Board of Directors. The election will be held on the traditional date of the third Thursday in April — this year, **April 15** — with alternate polling on Saturday, **April 17**. Also, as usual, six Board seats will be up for election.

RCPC Election, see next page

Bosko's — A Snapshot of an Enduring College Avenue Business

by Skip Fogarty

Much has changed on College Avenue in the past few years. Many venerable businesses have closed or relocated. Rising rents are often a factor. In other cases, long-time proprietors have retired or have been undone by COVID disruption.

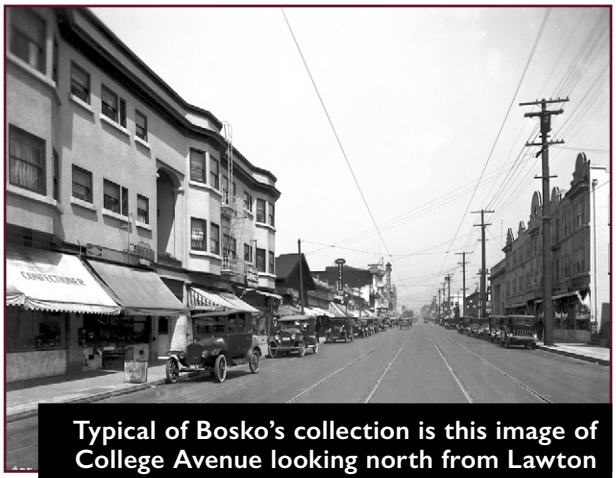
Yet, there remain some of the characteristic shops, pubs and eateries that lend Rockridge its special ambiance. One of the longest-standing shops on College is **Bosko's Gallery**, in business for nearly eight decades in the same location. Naturally, there's an intriguing history to this place.

In 1945, after Army service during World War II, a young local artist named **Peter Bosko** purchased the gallery space. Prominent and emerging artists were often featured there and some of Bosko's own work is still on display today. The current proprietors are two of Peter's children, **Lynne Bosko** and **John Bosko**.

"Our parents met at the California College of Arts & Crafts in the late 1930s," Bosko recounts. "My father's visual style is hard to describe. Some are landscapes, I guess you'd say, but a little far-out." In his desk drawer, he keeps newspaper clippings (from the *Claremont Press*, which served the Rockridge and Claremont neighborhoods in the mid-century period) with reviews from the 1950s and 1960s about several notable shows in his dad's gallery.

John Bosko attended Montera Junior High and Skyline High. As a young man, he developed a passion

Bosko's, see page 13



Typical of Bosko's collection is this image of College Avenue looking north from Lawton Avenue, taken by Eston Cheney in 1924. Notice the trolley tracks which ran from Broadway to the UC Berkeley campus.

RCPC Election, *from front page*

Any person 18 years or older, whose principal residence is within the RCPC boundaries, is eligible to stand for election. Candidates will be asked to provide documentation of eligibility (usually, a driver's license with a Rockridge address will suffice). Eligible candidates will then be invited to submit a photograph and a written statement of around 150 words to be published in the April issue of *The Rockridge News*. As in 2020, a Candidates Forum will be held via Zoom, at least one week before the election.

For more information about RCPC Board service, email election@rockridge.org. To declare your candidacy, send a statement of intent to run to chair@rockridge.org by 11:59pm on February 24, 2021. Late submissions will not be accepted. ■

Alameda County COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance

The current COVID-19 vaccine supply is limited, and Alameda County is following the State's vaccine prioritization guidance. Per State and Federal policy, the COVID-19 vaccine will be administered to specific populations in phases, with community locations opening in the final phase.

Any resident can fill out and submit the Alameda County Resident Vaccine Notification Form online to receive notifications about vaccine availability. Visit https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines#localplanning. ■



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The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News was founded March 1986 by Don Kinkead, and is published monthly (except August). It 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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Contacting The Rockridge News

Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in *The Rockridge News*? Have questions about newsletter distribution? Want to volunteer to be a *Rockridge News* block captain? Want to write a letter to the Editor?

Articles submitted for consideration should be emailed to the editor. All submissions are limited to 600 words max (300 words for letters), and must include the author's name, email address, and city or neighborhood of residence.

All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and brevity. To submit content, or for reprints of an article, contact: editor@rockridge.org.

Newsletter Subscriptions

To subscribe to *The Rockridge News*, send your check for $20, payable to *RCPC* with "Rockridge News" noted on the memo line.

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Display Advertising

Deadline for March 2021 issue: **February 18**

Advertising rates are $28/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 510-653-3210 (after noon), or email joellis1@hotmail.com. Email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com for information regarding classified ads.

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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.

RCPC

Rockridge Community Planning Council — Land Use Committee

The February Land Use Committee meeting will be held on **Monday, February 22, at 7:30pm**, via Zoom. Please check the RCPC Facebook page the week before for details. The meeting is open to the public. **Send an email to landuse@rockridge.org or call (510) 652-5373 to receive a link/phone number to attend.**

RCPC Land Use Committee Update — February 2021

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee Chair

The Land Use Committee held its January meeting on Jan 25, via Zoom, with a quorum of members present.

Rockridge Housing Study

The Committee continued its discussion of the Rockridge Housing Study Report, focusing on possible incentives that might make larger residential projects "pencil out." One strategy would be to allow a large (e.g., 60 percent) density bonus for projects providing a large percentage of permanent, moderate-income rental "workforce housing" at designated opportunity sites. The current State density bonus law gives short shrift to this category, and Oakland's abysmal performance in this category shows it. Another option would be to allow a developer to "mix and match" different categories of affordable housing to reach the State's maximum 50 percent density bonus. What's needed now is financial modeling for these incentives. The committee discussed where such modeling might be available. The hope remains to finish off the study and present the results to the community at a Town Hall later this year.

The Future of College Ave. Retail

Between Walmart and Costco, Amazon and eBay, it seems harder and harder for small College Avenue retail stores to keep their heads above water, and the pandemic has only made matters worse. More and more storefronts seem to be filled by either restaurants or personal service tenants. Some committee members have wondered whether the retail-favoring CN-1 zoning still makes sense. The Committee has therefore embarked on a study of what can be expected to happen to College Avenue retail when (hopefully) the current pandemic recedes into history. The Committee will be consulting with merchants along College and in other CN-1 zoned areas in Oakland, as well as looking at what other cities are doing to maintain neighborhood retail areas. We will be asking what kinds of retail might compete with the big-box and online alternatives, and what might replace retail if that turns out to no longer make sense. This study will probably take a while to complete, and input from the Rockridge community is welcome.

Call for Committee Member Applicants

While land use committee meetings are open to the public, only members appointed by the board of directors can vote on recommendations to the board. Committee members must also be Rockridge residents. We may have one or more openings to add members in the upcoming months. If you'd be interested in serving on the land use committee, please submit an application, including your name, full street address, contact information, and any background or qualifications that you feel the board should know about. Applications can be sent via email to landuse@rockridge.org, or may be mailed to the RCPC post office box. ■

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My opinion piece, titled "Stop SB50," expressed my opposition to the proposed upzoning to allow high-density, market-rate housing in Rockridge. It was published in the May 2019 issue of *The Rockridge News* and drew a strong response in subsequent issues of the *News*. This issue was key in the last RCPC Board election.

A considerable amount of information has come to light on this topic, far too much for another article, so, I have created a website, www.PreserveRockridge.com, in an effort to present my findings to the public.

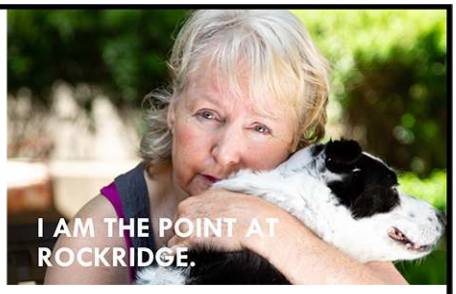
Your comments are invited, please email them to Info@PreserveRockridge.com (you can find this link on the website, too).

Jon Gabel
45-year Rockridge resident,
former RCPC Board Member

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RCPC Board News & Announcements

Town Hall On ADUs Scheduled for March

by David Garcia, RCPC Board Member

Interested in how you can do your part to take on the housing crisis? Have you thought about putting a home right in your backyard? Mark your calendars for **March 18, 7pm**, for a virtual Town Hall on Accessory Dwelling Units (also known as ADUs, in-law units, and granny flats).

Thanks to recent changes in State law, these types of residences have become a major tool for creating new homes and expanding multigenerational housing options.

Join us for a discussion with Rockridge homeowners who have successfully designed, permitted, and built their own backyard cottages, and learn how you can do the same.

Register by emailing info@rockridge.org, and stay tuned for more announcements. ■



Repaving College Avenue Begins

by Matt Levy, RCPC Transportation Chair

New year, new president, new roads? Oakland's Department of Transportation is gearing up to begin the work of repaving College Avenue, adding a bike lane, and more. Based on information from Naomi Weinstein, the project inspector, here is a summary of what to expect.

The work is taking place in two phases with all work scheduled to be completed during the daytime (8am to 5pm). While there's never a good time for such a project, the contractors will be completing the work on one portion of the street at a time, ensuring cars can still drive in both directions throughout the project.

As part of the work, restaurants' outdoor parklets will be taken down and reconstructed at the start and end of each phase at City expense and with City assistance. The loss of outdoor seating during construction makes it all the more important to frequent and support our businesses and restaurants during this time.

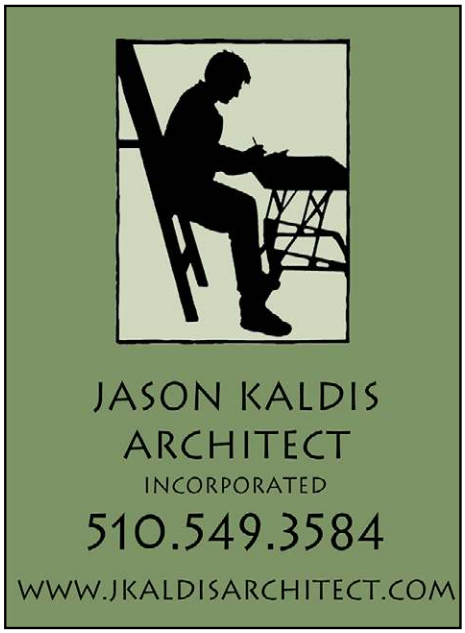
Phase One. The first part of work is slated to begin in the first or second week of February and should be complete, assuming minimal rain delays, by end of the month. Work teams must first grind down the existing pavement and repave it completely (they'll be sweeping every day to minimize rocks/dust build-up). They'll be adding bike lanes on both sides of the street as well.

Phase Two. This phase will involve a longer period of work once phase one is completed (or shortly thereafter) in March. In addition to upgrading the asphalt from Keith to Alcatraz (through the application of a slurry seal) and installing bike lanes for most of that section, they'll also upgrade the traffic lights around BART at College/Keith and College/Miles, and extend the curb at the corners of Keith, Shafter, and Miles.

At the latter location, they'll be renovating the traffic island and eliminating that extra lane when you turn right (from College Avenue) on Miles, and instead, filling the space with an extended curb sidewalk and some landscaping features.

The schedule is subject to delay due to weather and other factors. Blocks will receive 72-hour prior notice with "No Parking/Tow Away" signs and door-hanger notifications as construction days are confirmed.

Please reach out with any questions/concerns by email to mjmlevy@gmail.com, and they will be relayed appropriately. ■



Keith Avenue Block Captain Relocates

by Susan Montauk, Rockridge News Distribution Manager

Kelly Kao Smith is moving, and she hopes that someone on Keith Avenue, or nearby, will take her place as Block Captain to prevent any disruption to the delivery of The Rockridge News to her block. Block Captains deliver newsletters door-to-door, and we thank Kelly for her five years of service.

Description of Route 09H:

- Up Keith from McMillan to 5925 Broadway

While we are at it, thanks to **Sam Martin** for his two years of service as Block Captain for the 400 block of 62nd Street. The Martins are moving and they found a replacement to ensure that there will be no break in service. Thank you Martin family, and welcome new Block Captain **Stacy Kozakavich**, and her daughter.

Bundles are delivered to each Block Captain's doorstep on the first weekend of each month (except August). Call (510) 547-3855 or email Susan at smontauk@gmail.com to volunteer. ■

Residential Permit Parking Enforcement Resumes February

The City of Oakland Department of Transportation will resume the enforcement of residential permit parking (RPP) areas as of the 1st of this month. Several RPP areas are adjacent to commercial districts.

In resuming the enforcement, the City aims to promote the availability of on-street parking spaces for residents in areas with high parking demand. The City will provide no-penalty warning citations from now through February 28. Vehicle owners are entitled to one warning citation and are subject to penalties for all subsequent violations. ■

Adopt-A-Spot and Beautify the Community

by Eric Lombardo, RCPC Parks Committee Chair

Greetings neighbors and happy winter. In this month's report on RCPC's Parks Committee work, I'd like to dedicate space to a program run by the City of Oakland called "Adopt-A-Spot."

In the City's words: "Oakland's Adopt-A-Spot program supports volunteers in the upkeep of parks, creeks, shorelines, storm drains, streets, trails, and other public spaces." Do you have a public place like a sidewalk or a pocket park nearby to you that you'd like to help maintain?

With many of our pre-pandemic activities limited or unavailable, if you are looking for ways to pitch in, this program may be the perfect fit. My partner and I have recently taken up combining neighborhood walks with picking up litter, using trash picker-uppers we bought online. However, we quickly started depleting our stash of trash bags and found ourselves going back to the same location frequently as new litter (unfortunately) accumulated.

As applicants to the program, we — and you too — benefit from the City's support. If you wish to weed or prune invasive plants in public areas, you can apply to the program and request a tool loan. If you are picking up large amounts of trash that won't fit in your bin, you can request bags and pick-up by Public Works. The City will review your application to ensure it is on public property and compliant with the program rules, and then you are set to start.

During COVID, the City is limiting new applicants to individuals or household units. Tool and equipment rentals are done via pandemic-safe protocols and are available for approved Adopt-A-Spot program members. Once we emerge from the pandemic, the City can help to organize volunteer events at your spot for larger group efforts.

Interested? Read more and sign up here: www.oaklandca.gov/services/apply-for-adopt-a-spot-online. If you already participate in the program, please email me at eric@ericlombardo.com. I would love to feature a spot-adopter or two in a future issue to recognize your contributions to our communal environment. ■

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Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
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1/07/2021	3	2.5	6426 Benvenue Ave	$1,149,500	$1,149,500	15	$1,345,000
1/13/2021	4	2	5127 Lawton Ave	$1,495,000	$1,549,000	75	$1,549,000
1/14/2021	2	2	5405 Carlton St	$719,000	$719,000	35	$705,000

Homes sold in January closed 12% over the asking price on average.

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In Memoriam

Lauren Larson
(Jan 1948 – Dec 2020)

by Annette Floystrup

An African proverb tells us "It takes a village to raise a child," but **Lauren Larson**, a 43-year Rockridge resident, was that rare person who helped to raise a village. In her decades of volunteering and working with children, hundreds of families and thousands of children experienced her warmth, guidance, and kindness as they participated in the Rockridge Soccer Club or attended family daycare at Home Away From Home at Lauren's house on Birch Court.

Born and raised in San Francisco's Sunset District, the daughter of an American President Lines ship's captain, Lauren began her work with children by volunteering at age 16 with Episcopal Community Services' Canon Kip Community Center. She and **Ty Yurgelevic** married in 1972 and moved to Birch Court in 1978.

Lauren and Ty began Home Away From Home in 2001 as the successor to Joan Roemer's "Birch Tree House" which operated across the street for 26 years. Home Away From Home became a genuine family affair when Lauren's



Eric Londgren of Eric Londgren Photography.

adult children, Katy and Jacob, also joined the staff. Over the years, many of Lauren's "graduates" returned as summer interns. As previously planned, Home Away From Home will be closing at the end of June.

Many young families, often far removed from extended family, found in Lauren a beloved mentor. She helped countless young parents negotiate potty training, fussy eating, sibling rivalries, and many other important developmental milestones. As one father put it, "Lauren was extremely canny; she knew people and knew exactly what she wanted, and that was for her space to be relentlessly humane.

"She made an environment for children and their parents that was accepting of differences, understanding of stresses, and ultimately focused on real, mutual respect and the need to spread it. Kids in a bad moment were reassured, redirected, given space, and helped back to the group when they could do right by it. Children learned to behave with astonishing kindness towards each other seemingly effortlessly — but clearly, it was not effortless.

"It was because Lauren made sure her world supported our best selves and theirs, and gently guided everything toward this. All are likely to agree she was surely a better parent to our children than most of us can manage to be on our best day. But she did it every day."

Lauren was also associated with the Rockridge Soccer Club beginning in 1983 when her son Jacob began playing as a kindergartner, and Ty began coaching the "Under 8's." At that time there were only about 140 kids in all age groups. The club has since grown to 1,500 players. Lauren was the organization's Registrar from 1984 to 1990.

Lauren's sudden passing came at home on December 7 following a brief illness. Lauren's "parents" have established a private Facebook Group, the "Lauren Larson Memorial Page" where many members have posted pictures and memories. The annual Halloween Trick or Treating parade is prominently featured. Current and former parents and children are invited to join.

One of the comments by a parent sums it up: "The thing I will always remember about Lauren, aside from her amazing soul and wisdom, is that I never once worried about leaving my kids in her care. What a beautiful gift to give to a parent." ■

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Clifton Hall's New Residents Move In

by Myrna Walton, UBA Member

Clifton Hall at the corner of Clifton and Broadway is receiving new residents in its transitional family facility. By late January, 59 residents (including 31 children) had moved in, according to **Patricia Springer**, lead Case Manager.

Tracy Dominguez and her two children, ages 15 and 8, moved in a month ago. "The best thing about Clifton," she said, "is that I can bring my family back together again. We were all split up among my sister's and friends' homes from here to Sacramento. I saw my children only every other weekend. Clifton Hall does everything it can to keep a family together."

Now she has a job as a home health caregiver, and with the services Clifton Hall offers, hopes to find permanent housing soon. She has access to computers, assistance with forms, health counseling, and more.

One floor of the former CCA dormitory has been set-aside for 20 families while they seek homes. This facility differs from many others in that men in the family are allowed, not just women and kids — and residents can remain in the shelter during the day.

Two additional floors for permanent housing for senior residents will open later this spring after renovations.

A Rockridge community organization, Upper Broadway Advocates (UBA), is raising funds to give each resident welcome bags with gift cards and other small items. Twenty bags were distributed on January 26, and more will be supplied as new residents move in. UBA is also investigating whether a small play area outside can be constructed as the children have no outdoor play space. If you would like to help, please contact UBAOakland@gmail.com. ■



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Author Navigates Life In Rockridge — Skateboard Included

by Michelle Boyd

Conor Dougherty is an economics reporter for *The New York Times* who focuses on housing. Earlier this year he published *Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America*, which has quickly become the authoritative book about California's housing challenges.

Dougherty lives in Rockridge with his wife and two young children. I spoke with him on a recent Friday while he was on his way back from checking in on his father in San Francisco. We talked about his favorite skateboarding places, why he loves Rockridge, and the future of housing in California.

What was your first experience in Rockridge?

I grew up skateboarding, and have always been a fan of the curbs in the Rockridge BART parking lot. Skateboarders remember all these very micro things, including these curbs that were highlighted in skateboarding videos going back to the early 90s.

I also met an old friend, I think at Rockridge Café, who had graduated college a year ahead of me. He had a real job and lived in Rockridge above one of the storefronts. I remember thinking that was so cool, like "oh, that's where young cool people live."

When did you eventually move here?

My wife and I moved back to the Bay Area in 2013 from New York to help take care of my mom. We were both working in San Francisco and wanted to have our own place. I've always loved Rockridge, and with BART nearby, it worked out.

What's your favorite place in the neighborhood?

My absolute favorite place is the BART curbs — they're in the middle of everything. This is all pre-pandemic, but I often skate there, then grab some stuff at Market Hall, then walk to Frog Park to meet my wife and kids. I've taught my daughter, and hopefully soon my son, to skate and scooter there too.



Skateboarders practice regularly at the Rockridge BART station.

Photo Credit: Anna L. Marks

There is an LGBTQ skateboarding company, Unity, which does meetups there. It's now become this movement. I love how skateboarding leads to these spontaneous and unsanctioned gatherings that bring life to spaces that weren't necessarily designed for that purpose.

Conor Dougherty, see next page

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Conor Dougherty, from previous page

How do you interpret what is going on with Rockridge housing in relation to what you report on across California?

I think the debate in Rockridge, which is the debate in California, is what are the rights of self-governing for a city or a neighborhood? And, how do they balance those rights with their responsibilities to this larger region?

"What are the rights of self-governing for a city or a neighborhood? And, how do they balance those rights with their responsibilities to this larger region."



Photo Credit: Matt Quiggle

Rockridge would not be Rockridge, at least as currently constituted, without the BART station. What makes the neighborhood really pleasant is that it's semi-quiet, yet active, and you can commute to jobs in San Francisco easily. It's that proximity to the larger region, not just the neighborhood, that makes Rockridge what it is. But that comes with some responsibility to the larger region. I think that Rockridge and other neighborhoods like Rockridge should be adding to their housing supply in a way that maintains that balance and responsibility. However, it's so difficult to add the housing we need little by little. Instead, all this political capital gets poured into mega-projects, and I think that is unhealthy. At a very high level, there is a lot of mistrust. The giant urban redevelopment projects over the last 50 or more years, and the eminent domain imposed by the government, led to the freeways and destruction of many communities. I think that led to a general mistrust that is still with us today. People worry that if they make the rules for building easier, their worst nightmares will come true.

Where do you think we go from here?

We should have a big ferocious fight over what we think the new rules for building housing should be, and then make it relatively straightforward for how those rules are implemented. There may still be giant projects that require one-off consideration, but that long process shouldn't affect everything.

How do you feel about losing your favorite skateboarding spot should the Rockridge BART parking lot become housing?

There is impermanence to skateboarding, and that's one of the things I love about it. Sometimes a skateboard spot exists for decades, like a central plaza in a city. Sometimes a spot exists for an hour. So I would definitely be sad to see the BART curbs go away, but I know skateboarding will continue and skaters will keep gathering. There's nothing wrong with a space having a really robust life and then moving on to another life. That's a really healthy, great thing and a big part of what makes cities amazing. ■

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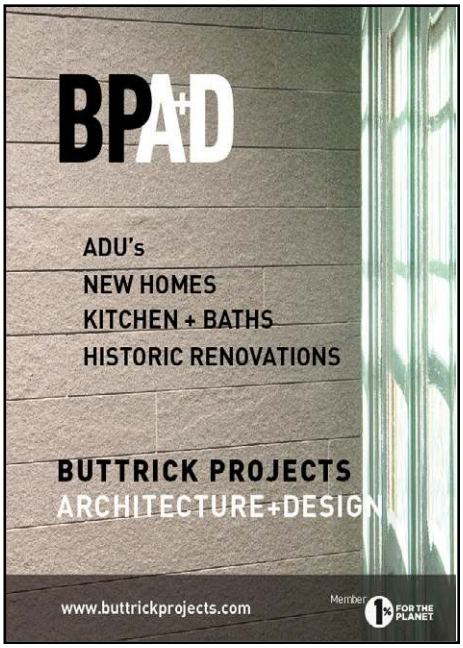
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PLA033-1 TX



The Dish On Takeout Food in Rockridge

by Terre Beynart
(a.k.a. "The Green Celiac")

The Green Celiac reviews Rockridge eateries that offer takeout with a focus on ease of ordering, clarity of the menu for those on special diets, and a critique of the sustainability of takeout packaging.



Pucquio offers Peruvian street food for a taste of South American cuisine.

If a plane flight to Lima is not in your immediate future consider a visit to tiny **Pucquio** (5337 College Ave) where the Peruvian street food offerings are deliciously fascinating.

We studied the menu at home for a few days and had a short list to discuss. My phone conversation with the chef made me realize that I was talking to an artist who fashions the options after looking over the day's shopping from the fishmonger, butcher, and greengrocer.

After an extended conversation, we settled on Ensalada de Quinoa ($15), Cebiche Mixto ($15), Tacu-Tacu de Mariscos ($25) and the Chupe de Camarones ($25).

The Ensalada featured quinoa, beets, avocado, fennel, and orange and was very refreshing. The cebiche contained a variety of fish and shellfish and was served on a bed of hominy and corn nuts with thinly sliced red onion and a dipping sauce. Delicious. The Tacu-Tacu de Mariscos features the shellfish of the day (camarones), beans, and roasted rice with green seafood butter.

By far the most entrancing dish was the Chupe de Camarones. The Chupe came in two parts, the bowl of ingredients and the chowder. In the bowl are shrimp, poached farm egg, potatoes, and rice poured over with warm chowder. The chowder exceeded expectations and we discovered hominy and green peas at the bottom of the bowl. What a treat.

Those on special diets will not find much help from the published menu, and the website, and the number of days and hours of service have been abbreviated during the pandemic. However, if you call when they are open, the staff are helpful and will not lead you astray.

The takeout came in plastic bags (boo), the Tacu-Tacu, Chupe, and Enselada were in cardboard clamshell boxes. The Cebiche was delivered in a plastic bowl with a lid. The chowder for the Chupe was delivered in a cardboard bowl with a plastic-lid, as was the green sauce for the Tacu-Tacu. No utensils or

The Dish, see next page





Outdoor Dining Resumes in Rockridge

Rockridge is blessed with restaurants offering delectable menus from various cuisines. Contact these local restaurants for outdoor dining hours or for pickup and delivery options.

A Coté
A16
Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers
Becky's Chinese Restaurant
Beer Baron
Belotti Ristorante
Cactus Taqueria
Cole Coffee
Crepevine
Enoteca Molinari
Filippo's
Flavors of India
Great Wall Chinese
High Peaks Kitchen
Holy Basil Pho
Hudson Bay Cafe
Ike's Love & Sandwiches
Khana Peena
Kitchen Story
La Farine
Marica
Millennium
Mitama
Momo Ramen
Namastey Patio
Noodle Theory
Oliveto Restaurant
Philz Coffee
Ramen Shop
RareTea
Redfield Cider Bar & Bottle Shop
Rikyu Japanese Restaurant
Rockridge Cafe
Smitten Ice Cream
Soi 4 Bangkok Eatery
Southie
Sukho Thai
The Burrito Shop
The Chocolate Dragon
The Golden Squirrel
Uzen
Wood Tavern
Yimm
Zachary's Chicago Pizza



Photo: Terre Beynart

Noodle Theory offers a limited rotating menu Wednesday through Sunday.

***The Dish,** from previous page*

napkins were automatically included. They get a point for that and for the cardboard clamshells and bowls.

Make your way to Pucquio for some fresh South American taste sensations.

Noodle Theory

If I had a nickel for every minute I have waited for the pedestrian walk signal at the corner of Claremont and College I would be a rich woman today. These moments afford the time to peer in the windows of **Noodle Theory** (6099 Claremont Ave) and consider the possibilities.

On a dreary day in early January, we ordered takeout to warm our hearts and bellies: Portobella Mushroom over Spinach Ramen in a Vegetarian Miso Broth with White Truffle Oil ($13), Grilled Salmon Ramen in Miso Broth ($16), and Chinese Five Spice Sweet Potato Fries with a Thai Green Curry Aioli ($8.50).

The salmon ramen came in a wonderful broth with a decent-sized piece of perfectly grilled fish. The sweet potato fries were a treat with the aioli, adding a nice finish to the five-spice coating. The mushroom ramen was both nourishing and flavorful.

The takeout came in paper bags. The ingredients for each ramen dish came in two parts: a cardboard box held the soup ingredients and cardboard soup containers held the broth. The fries were in a cardboard box. They get high green points for the packaging.

The menu taped to the front door is well annotated for those on special diets, with both the salmon ramen and the fries noted as gluten-free or optionally gluten-free. Unfortunately, the online menu does not capture this level of detail.

In conclusion, I must note that Noodle Theory is more than theory; it is in practice well done.

Happy Eating.

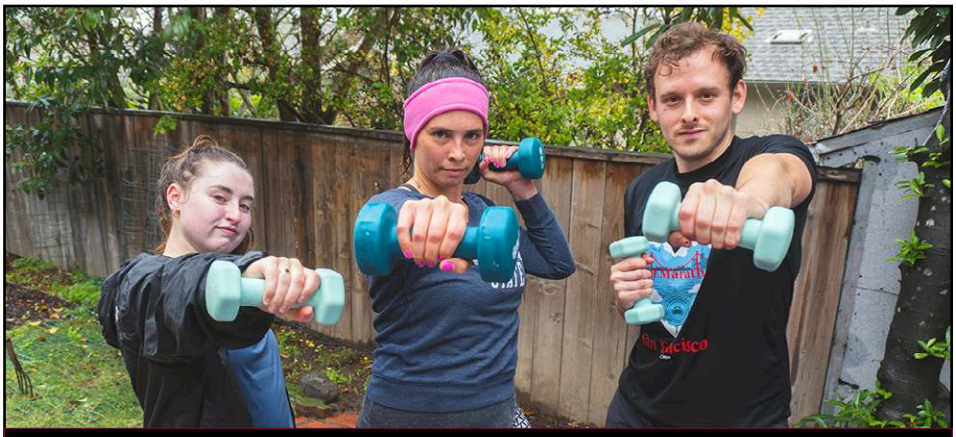
For more details on these reviews and info about accessibility and sustainable takeout packaging, point your browser to thegreenceliac.wordpress.com. ■



Rockridge Residents' Experiment with Every Day Holidays

by Jorja Siemons

When the pandemic forced Rockridge residents **Allie Carr** and **Jason Goldberg** to move their jobs and social lives online, they discovered that it was dangerously easy to fall into the same routine every day. The daily schedule became uneventful and repetitive. But after briefly celebrating Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas, the couple wondered if there were any other celebrations they could look forward to in the new year. "We took the time to see if there was a holiday every day to celebrate," Goldberg said.



Allie (left) and Jason (right) pose with their yoga sculpt instructor and downstairs neighbor, Catrina, for National Personal Trainer Awareness Day.

The couple quickly realized the incredible array of obscure holidays, and got excited. They went out and bought a gigantic whiteboard calendar, planning out what each day could look like, and "Every Day Holiday" was born. On every day this year, the couple will celebrate a different national holiday, documenting their experiences on their Instagram account (*@EveryDayHoliday.Official*) for family, friends, and whoever else wants to indulge in daily festivities.

There is also another benefit for Carr and Goldberg. Moving to Rockridge last November from San Francisco, they have been using the project as a way to meet local residents and get to know the local small businesses.

On National Bird Day, Carr and Goldberg met up with local birdwatcher **Ilana DeBare** to explore different Bay Area species only to find out that she lives in their neighborhood. "It might sound cheesy, but I really do feel like the real takeaway is there's a way to still have fun," Carr said. "There's a way to connect with people and make the days feel special."

Goldberg said that they both have been journaling about their adventures every night to preserve their memories and emotions in ways that Instagram can't. They also hope to make a coffee table book out of their celebrations to hold on to as the years go on.

Moving forward into the months ahead, full of well-known and obscure holidays alike, the couple said they look forward to exploring new parts of Rockridge and meeting the people who also call it home. "We're open to community support and want to meet our neighbors," Goldberg said. ■

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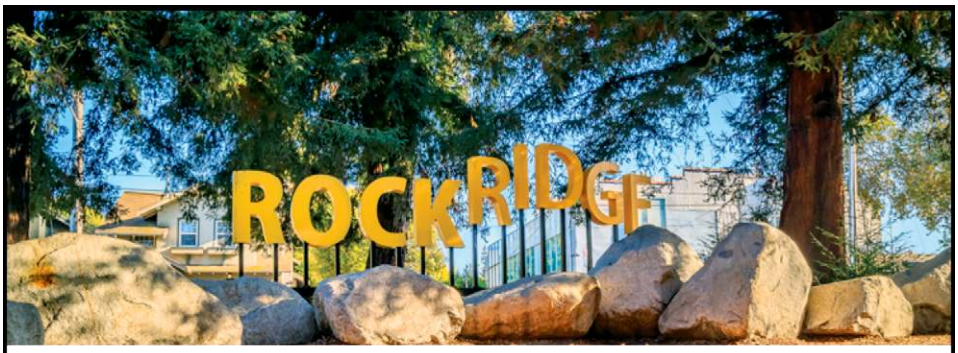
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-3BD 2BA major remodel, single level, det. garage, yard 1/2 block to College Ave. Price TBD
-2BD 2BA condo w/balcony, open plan, few blocks to College Ave - to be listed @ $650,000
-3BD 1BA home w/1BD1BA in-law + detached 3 income units Berkeley border @ $2,175,000
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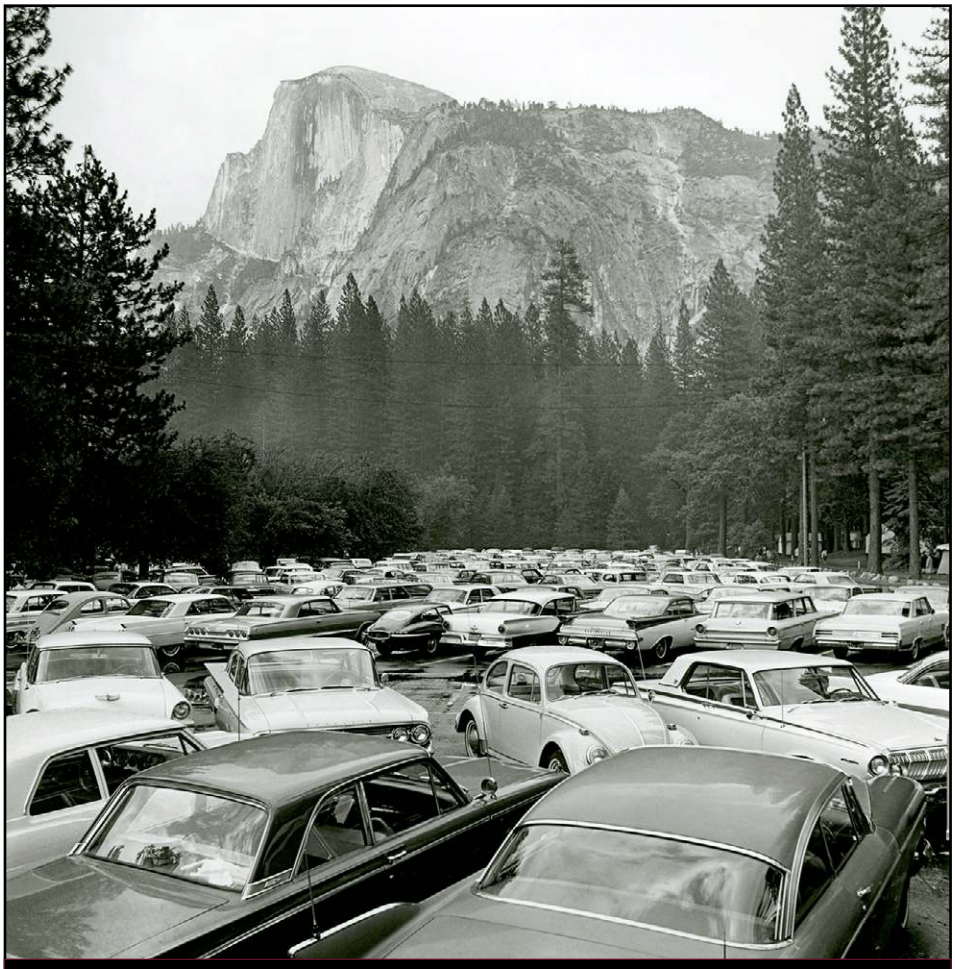
Bosko's, from front page

for black-and-white photography. He still covets cameras and photographic gear, "but I was never any good at it myself. So I got into collecting pictures. One of the first collections I bought was a set of glass-plate negatives of the 1906 earthquake," says Bosko.

Over the decades, Bosko guesses he has unearthed and preserved 15 or 20 thousand negatives from a variety of sources. He purchased portions of the photo morgues from the *Oakland Tribune* and the *Oakland Post Enquirer* after those papers were shut down. He obtained images from the artists themselves. He procured boxes full of eerie mug shots from police departments. He also scoured for material at "the swaps," as he refers to flea markets for camera buffs.

Along the way, Bosko befriended several prominent East Bay photographers including Peter Stackpole and Rondal Partridge. He spent a lot of time with these iconic artists over the years. "Rondal lived here in the neighborhood. He'd stop by the shop and we'd talk about his recent work, or we'd look at new stuff we'd found. Often, I'd run into him and Peter at the swaps." Partridge was connected to a remarkable array of artists and photographers. First off, his mother was Imogen Cunningham — one of the most celebrated women in California art photography. His father Roi was known for his etchings and as a teacher. At age 16, Partridge became an assistant to Dorothea Lange, renowned for her iconic images of the Dust Bowl migration during the Great Depression. He also apprenticed with Ansel Adams, the maestro of Yosemite imagery.

Partridge created some very memorable images of his own, including one displayed in Bosko's shop window for many years. In the foreground, it shows a disturbingly over-crowded parking lot in Yosemite Valley, circa mid-1960s. In the background rises a seemingly forlorn Half Dome. "Rondal titled that one *Pave It and Paint It Green*. He was a real environmentalist at heart," says Bosko.



Bosko befriended several prominent East Bay photographers including Rondal Partridge who composed this image as an environmental statement.

*Rondal Partridge, **Pave It and Paint It Green**, Yosemite National Park, mid-1960s. Gelatin silver print, 9 x 9 in. Collection of the Oakland Museum of California. Gift of the California Historical Society. © Rondal Partridge Archive*

Stackpole is another outstanding figure in the photo world. He is perhaps best known for his daring, high-wire photography of the Bay Bridge under construction. He was one of *Life Magazine's* first staff photographers, and he sold Bosko the batch of glass negatives depicting the aftermath of the great quake.

To call the Bosko collection eclectic would be an understatement. Browsing his bins of prints for sale, you'll encounter all manner of styles and subjects — circus performers, mid-century publicity photos, promotional real estate surveys, newspaper photography, famous sports figures, industrial perspectives, vintage views of Oakland people and streetscapes, the development of East Bay neighborhoods, and highways and bridges.

Bosko has contributed pictures to a variety of historical books and exhibits. These include former *Montclarion* columnist Erika Mailman's popular pictorials about Oakland neighborhoods (*Images of America*). Bosko has loaned images to the East Bay Hills Project, tracing the early days and growth of the region. You can also find some of his archives on Flickr and in the Oakland History Facebook group (search "John Bosko").

While these days Bosko's Gallery is mostly known for its framing service, do not overlook sister Lynne's decorative ceramic works for sale.

If you visit the shop, take time to appreciate the unique collection of images Bosko has curated.

Bosko's Gallery, 6038 College Avenue @ Armanino Court. Due to COVID restrictions, call for an appointment: (510) 655-3966. ■

Chabot Teacher, from front page

"I realized I didn't have the physical skills to do juggling."

Armed with Bachelor of Arts degrees in both art and psychology from UC Santa Cruz, she started out as a press assistant in a small, fine art etching and lithography studio in New York City. But after returning to California and moving through "a variety of blue and pink collar jobs," including night shift baker and residential childcare worker, she took stock.

"What of all the jobs I've had did I like best?' she asked herself. "It was when I taught people how to do things. That was what felt right." That was almost 30 years ago. After receiving her teaching certificate, she taught for 11 years at Allendale Elementary, also in the OUSD system, before joining the Chabot staff in fall 2001.

While at Allendale, which has a diverse, low-income student body, Diamond was first a classroom teacher, then spent seven years teaching science to "everybody in every grade." She worked to integrate hands-on science with literacy and social sciences, and to introduce her students to under-represented people in the sciences. At the same time, she helped create the broader OUSD's science curriculum.

"But I wanted to get back to the classroom," Diamond told me. "I can teach all subjects through seventh grade and art and science all the way through middle school." Fully acknowledging that "I'm my own worst critic," she wondered how teaching a more affluent, less diverse group of students would challenge her in different ways.

Since September, she has been teaching online from her Chabot classroom, where she has access to the teaching tools she relies on. Before that, she found teaching from her home office more difficult, partly because it is chock full of her paintings, letterpress printing, book-making, two and three-dimensional collages, sewing, wet felting, and paper cutting.

With such a keen interest and degree in art, why isn't she an art teacher? "If kids are doing a science experiment that doesn't work," she told me, "that's okay because they have no idea of the result. But when they draw something, they know what it should look like and can be devastated when they can't do it." Instead, art permeates her teaching. She might use prints of Andy Warhol's Campbell Soup Cans in a math lesson. A writing assignment might be inspired by works from several artists, asking students "Which one would you want in your house and why?"

"Ms. Diamond's expectations for her students are rivaled only by those she holds for herself," said Chabot Principal Jessica Cannon. "I can honestly say I don't think I have ever met a harder working, more dedicated, and more reflective teacher than Phoebe Diamond."

Still, I was surprised to hear Diamond explain that "although amazing," it felt strange to be awarded Teacher of the Year while teaching on-line during the Covid-19 pandemic. "It's been a huge learning curve for everyone. I can teach on Zoom and I have figured out how to make videos for my students to re-watch," but she says she would have felt more deserving "if it had come two or three years ago. It's a sense of an imposter syndrome." When one of her students told her, "I hate Zoom," she told him "I do too," and asked him to write a poem about it.

"Her balance of life, her dedication to the kids, her overall approach to teaching — it's magical," said fellow Chabot teacher Danielle Todaro. "If you know *The Magic School Bus* (the book and television series), she's like a real-life Ms. Frizzle."

Longtime Rockridge resident Ruth Simon said Diamond, who was at that time teaching fourth grade, transformed the life of her daughter Mia, now 25 years old. "She had a rough time in third grade. Diamond created an incredible learning and social environment. The assignments were interesting and challenging. Every year on her birthday she came to our house and sang to her. She gave my daughter, currently applying to medical school, a whole new sense of herself."

"Our kid was seen in a way I hadn't experienced before," said Sasha Khokha, the host of KQED's California Report Magazine, whose 10-year-old Amar was in Diamond's class last year. "She teaches the whole child," Khokha said. "She creates a

***Chabot Teacher,** see next page*



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Chabot Teacher, from previous page

world in her classroom. Every time it's someone's birthday," Amar told me, "we all take turns appreciating that person. We say what it is we like about them."

"She's a master at inspiring kids," said Karl Kaku, Amar's dad, a Berkeley High School teacher. "She's very honest and frank. They trust her. Her pedagogy is impeccable. I wish she were my teacher."

Diamond and her husband Jim Bates, whom she has known since he was her best friend in high school, live in the Diamond/Fruitvale area. She is an avid swimmer, seeking open pools during the pandemic as far away as Walnut Creek.

"There's no way to be a teacher of the year without all the students, co-workers, supervisors, and parents who have taught and mentored you," Diamond said. "It takes a village to produce a teacher of the year."

To comment on this column or to suggest a future subject, please email judyberne@att.net. ■

Crime and COVID

by Karen Ivy, Secretary, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

While violent crime in Oakland is close to all-time highs, we're fortunate that crime is usually lower in Rockridge, and during the pandemic, it's been even lower than usual. The chart below shows the numbers for December 2019 versus December 2020, for both local beats.

	12Y Dec 2019	12Y Dec 2020	13X Dec 2019	13X Dec 2020
Crimes Against The Person	14	5	3	0
Property Crimes	20	12	6	9
Property Crimes, Auto	42	8	5	11
Quality of Life	18	4	3	2
Totals	94	29	17	22

As you can see, there are generally fewer crimes in beat 13X, and that's normal. There are still crimes in both beats, though, especially property-related crimes, such as burglary, theft, auto burglary, and vehicle theft. The only December 2020 crimes in beat 13X, which exceeded the numbers in 12Y, were auto-related property crimes (11 versus 8).

The monthly average of reported crimes in both beats was 88 in 2019, and 83 in 2020, but that was because January and February 2020 had very high monthly totals, 141 and 136 respectively (mostly auto-related property crimes), before the shutdown in March. The average reported crimes in both beats for the rest of 2020 was 72.

We think auto-related crimes, which were very high in 2019, have dropped because people aren't dining out much anymore, which means they aren't parking for long periods in public areas like College Avenue, a known hot spot for auto burglary.

We still need to stay vigilant, lock cars and the doors, and keep the security cameras on if we have them. ■

NCPC MEETING

The Greater Rockridge NCPC meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11, at 7pm, via Zoom.

The link will be announced closer to the meeting date. See https://rockridgencpc.com for details.

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