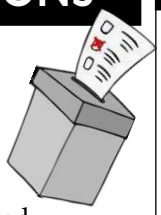
THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
VOL 39 • NO. 3 • ISSUE NO. 395 • MARCH 5, 2022 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
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Coming in April — RCPC BOARD ELECTIONS

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Board Member



The Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) will be holding its annual Board of Directors election next month. As usual, there are six seats up for election. The "Call for Candidates" closed as of March 2nd. **The election is scheduled for April 21 and April 23,** and the entire community is encouraged to come and vote.

As in the past two years, the organization may decide to hold the candidates' forum online, followed by outdoor voting. Alternatively, voting may return to the traditional Annual Meeting with an in-person Candidate Forum and voting at the Rockridge Library. Stay tuned.

RCPC Elections, see next page

Jewish Community Center of the East Bay Moving into Dreyer's Complex

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Board Member

Last week, the Jewish Community Center of the East Bay (JCCEB) announced via its email newsletter that it has started expanding some of its activities to the complex of buildings at 5929 College Avenue — formerly the headquarters for Dreyer's Ice Cream. The change was also noted in a recent *East Bay Times* article.

In late 2019, Nestlé/Dreyer's sold the complex to a local real estate concern (Libitzky Property Companies) after the company shifted many of its management offices to the East Coast. According to **Melissa Chapman**, Chief Executive of JCCEB, Nestlé/Dreyer's is still using the upper floors of the main building and has a lease to continue using that space, and the former Yoshi's performance space on Claremont.

The JCCEB has established some administrative offices in the former Dreyer's complex, but will also continue to use its current Berkeley site, although it is well over 100 years old and showing its age. She said that one building in the complex is already housing Moishe House — subsidized rental housing for post-college youth who wish to connect with and serve the surrounding community.



The JCCEB has just begun to plan for the future use of the site.

Chapman says that the JCCEB has just begun a planning process for its future use of the complex and is seeking input from the Rockridge and greater East Bay community. She says that the JCCEB hopes that the

JCCEB, see page 5

what's cooking?



ROCKRIDGE KITCHEN TOUR

October 2nd, 2022

by Kirk Peterson, RCPC Kitchen Tour Co-Chair

After plenty of time cooped up in our own homes, we now have an opportunity to visit other people's homes. It will be fun to visit neighbors' kitchens this year. The pandemic delayed the Kitchen Tour for a year, but RCPC is resuming this neighborhood tradition in October

The tour is a fundraiser that helps support various RCPC activities in the community. And the tour fits into RCPC's broad mission of sharing information and fostering community and communication here in our neighborhood. The tour also provides opportunities for people to get involved by undertaking volunteer tasks, large and small, with their neighbors.

Each kitchen remodel is an exercise in creating a space that functions well both as a place to prepare dishes and meals, from snacks to feasts, and also as a pleasant place to spend time and feel at home with friends or family, or solo with your morning coffee. New kitchens in existing houses must often be fitted into small or oddly shaped spaces. Some kitchens can accommodate cooking, dining and lounging, while others have room only for the cook. The classic "golden triangle" of kitchen planning, identified in the early 20th century, is formed by sink, refrigerator and stove. A contemporary kitchen can include multiple sinks,

Kitchen Tour, see next page

RCPC Elections, from front page

This year, the RCPC is asking that candidates' statements identify and discuss three important issues for Rockridge. The *Rockridge News* will print the candidates' statements, along with details about the election procedures and voting location(s) in the April issue.

The RCPC Board has adopted some new guidelines for candidates to encourage fairness and transparency. Candidates are asked not to seek or promote endorsements by elected officials or outside groups. Campaign materials should clearly state they were not written, produced, or published by RCPC, and should indicate that they come from one or more candidates (with their approval), or else identify the author/s by name, with a mailing address and/or website. Finally, if campaign material recommends a "slate" of candidates, all those listed on the slate should have agreed to be included. The Board expects candidates to forgo personal attacks and false or misleading statements about themselves or others.

For more information, contact RCPC at election@rockridge.org, or visit www.Rockridge.org. ■

Kitchen Tour, from front page



The Tour Committee is accepting kitchen submissions through May 15, 2022, at kitchentour@rockridge.org.

Works in progress are welcome, although expected completion should be no later than August 1, 2022.

If you are interested in volunteering with the RCPC Kitchen Tour, please come to the **meeting on March 14**.

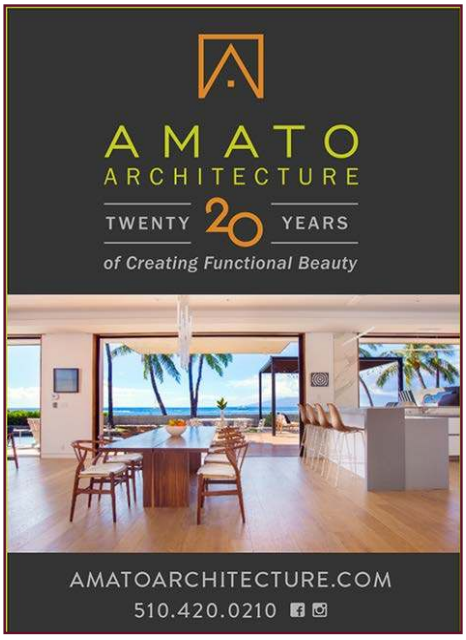
Email kitchentour@rockridge.org for more details.

warming drawers, ovens, cooktops, wine fridges, computers with screens, and an array of appliances that all have to "coexist" and serve the cook efficiently. It's interesting to see how these things all come together in a particular space, for particular people.

What about the "look and feel" of a kitchen? The potatoes on the stove don't care about the room's color palette, but we do. What sort of design works well with the architecture of a house, be it Spanish, English vernacular cottage or Mid-Century Modern? Should the new work look as if it's "cut from the same cloth" or does it contrast with the existing aesthetic? You will see how different designers approach questions of style.

Most of us are always imaging home improvement of some sort. If you are planning or dreaming of building a new kitchen, the RCPC Kitchen Tour is an enjoyable opportunity to see various ways kitchens are planned, and to see the types of materials used. Searching for the right designer and contractor for your project can be a challenge; the tour allows one to look at the work of some of these professionals.

It's easy to be overwhelmed by the choices available for components of a kitchen; appliances, cabinets, wood, tile, stone, lighting, storage, colors for walls floor and ceilings, hardware, and so on. It's best to see these things in a real setting, rather than a showroom or catalog. ■



THE RockridgeNews

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? We'd love to hear from you.

All letters must be limited to 350 words and are published at the discretion of the Editor. Send them to: editor@rockridge.org. Please be sure to include your name, email address, and city and street of residence. **All submissions accepted for publication are subject to editing for clarity and brevity.**

The Rockridge News reserves the right to refuse any articles, letters, display ads, or classified ads.

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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 April: March 17, 2022

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.

Views expressed in published articles do not necessarily reflect those of The Rockridge News, its editor, or the board of directors of the Rockridge Community Planning Council.

Oakland General Plan Update, Phase I: Housing Element

by Leonora Sea, RCPC Chair

The General Plan Update for Oakland's 2045 General Plan is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for all Oaklanders to work together to create a visionary blueprint for the future of our city. Once approved in 2025, the Oakland 2045 General Plan will guide the development of our City for the following two decades. Phase I is currently underway, beginning with the Housing Element, which must be completed by 2023 and be approved by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The Housing element analyzes Oakland's housing conditions and needs for all income levels, including lower-income households and households with special needs. It provides various programs to create a variety of housing to meet Oakland's housing needs. In Oakland (and most major cities), the Housing Element must be revised and submitted to State HCD for review on an eight-year cycle. The Housing Element must be completed and approved on time for the City to qualify for receiving State grants.

This important component of the General Plan outlines how the City will meet its housing goals for the next two decades. To meet the state's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), Oakland must plan for 26,000 new units that are affordable for extremely low- to above-moderate income households.

The City of Oakland kicked off its first two public workshops on the Housing Element for the General Plan Update on February 10 and 17, 2022. Workshop participants shared their ideas on major housing issues facing the city and opportunities to plan for new housing throughout Oakland. **The next public workshop is on March 12, 2022.**

To receive email updates, visit https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/general-plan-update#general-plan-e-mail-updates. ■

CALL TO ACTION

1) Sign up for updates at: https://oaklandca19202.activehosted.com/f/114.

2) **Identify development opportunity sites.** The Housing Element must identify adequate sites for housing and demonstrate the availability and realistic capacity for development on those sites. There is an interactive map for community members to input ideas for opportunity sites at https://new.maptionnaire.com/q/7iu2obr8j6yi.

3) Attend the next public workshop on March 12, 2022.



On Wednesday, February 23, the Oakland Redistricting Commission voted to adopt **Draft Map F5**, which keeps RCPC's boundary within the new District 1.

The map can be viewed here: **https://bit.ly/3HkIP5V**

LAND USE COMMITTEE Meeting

The next meeting of the RCPC Land Use Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 7:30pm, via Zoom.

Email landuse@rockridge.org, or call (510) 652-5373 to attend.

The meeting is open to the public. Check Rockridge.org for details.

The Land Use Committee currently has one vacancy for a member.

If interested, please send a brief response, including qualifications, to: landuse@rockridge.org, or to the RCPC P.O. box *(see page 2)*.

All members must be Rockridge residents and must be approved by the RCPC board.

The Rockridge Community Planning Council would like to correct an error in the February issue of the *Rockridge News*. On page 3 of that issue, the article, *RCPC Town Hall: A Smashing Success,* stated in its third paragraph that the current leaseholder shows no interest in developing housing of any kind at this time.

That statement is incorrect. In fact, the current master tenant for the site, TRC, Inc., has repeatedly tried to get the site's owner, a corporation located in San Francisco, to consider a mixed-use development that would include very substantial amounts of housing, including affordable housing. It is the owner, not the leaseholder, that has been an obstacle to placing housing on the site.

RCPC offers its sincere apologies to TRC, Inc. for this error.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Attention RPPP Residents

DEAR EDITOR: The Parking Citation Assistance Center (PCAC) handles the Residential Parking Permit Program (RPPP) and is implementing license plate reader technology that will make our area C and D residential and visitor parking permits digital, instead of physical items. Because of this new technology, PCAC has stopped selling scratch-off, hang tag visitor permits, which we've been able to buy in advance to have available when we need them. Instead, new visitor permits were to require our submitting visitor dates and license plate numbers at time of purchase, although the permits are still sold only by mail or in person.

It takes little thought or imagination to envision many different scenarios for which we RPPP residents may need visitor permits, and how ridiculous, inconvenient, unworkable, and even impossible this new visitor permit policy is.

Some of us have already protested it as unacceptable. We noted that Berkeley is also moving to license plate reader technology for its residential permit parking areas, but Berkeley — unlike Oakland — has an online visitor permit purchase option, and its digital visitor permits can be bought in advance of need without providing visitor dates and license plate numbers until activated online by residents when used.

PCAC has acknowledged our complaints as valid and made some improvements to its new policy. Now we can buy visitor permits well in advance and provide dates and license plate numbers by email or phone as close as one day in advance of actual use (see the latest at https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/apply-renew-residential-parking-permit).

But even one-day advance notice can still be a problem. This may be an interim policy, however, as PCAC is also working on a self-serve online customer portal option, projected to be available in late spring or early summer. We RPPP residents hope it will allow online activation of visitor permits on the same day we use them.

To add your own concerns or comments, please email Michael Ford at mford@oaklandca.gov; Etonde Faoa (PCAC supervisor) at efaoa@oaklandca.gov; and our District 1 Councilmember Dan Kalb at dkalb@oaklandca.gov.

Carole Howard
Regent St. ■

LOOK AROUND — Nature is Everywhere

by Kirk Peterson



Are plants our neighbors? Oakland (aka OAKtown) takes its name from the Coast Live Oak, *Quercus agrifolia* (Latin: oak-field/leaf). Roble (as in Roble Road) means "oak" in Spanish, and an evergreen oak is an "encino" (as in Encinitas).

The Coast Live Oak *(see photo on right)* grows in California's coastal mountains and down into Baja California. It is a many-branched variety of tree with a round shape reaching up to 80 feet in height. These trees can live to be 1,000 years or older.



In fields, on hillsides, and in City Hall Plaza, they can spread wide, but most here are trimmed narrow to fit urban spaces. Oak seedlings planted by squirrels and birds can be seen all over town; in gardens, by freeways, in cracked paving, and any open ground. If you find one in your garden consider allowing it to grow up. Or, better yet, plant one.

Let's GREEN Oakland! ■

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Help the Monarchs — Plant Native Milkweed

by Terry Smith

The Western Monarch migration miraculously rebounded from the brink this year, but that just bought us some time to preserve this amazing phenomenon. Rockridge gardeners can help the Monarchs locally by planting pesticide-free milkweed to feed the caterpillars and support this iconic species.

The Pollinator Posse (https://pollinatorposse.org/) is an Oakland based grassroots nonprofit and is currently distributing seed for narrowleaf milkweed, free of charge, through the Rockridge Library. Stop by, plant some seeds and help save the Monarchs.



A milkweed seed giveaway is taking place now at the Rockridge Library.



Monarchs love milkweed. Plant it in your garden and help the butterflies thrive.

Of course, donations (https://pollinatorposse.org/donate/) are always welcome to cover the cost of seed and to help fund this important work. For a list of all Oakland Seed Lending Libraries, visit https://oaklandlibrary.org/seed-lending/. ■

NCPC MEETING

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council

will not meet in March

The next virtual meeting will be held on

April 14, 2022, at 7pm,
(pending further notice).

For Zoom link, or to suggest meeting topics, send an email to:
chair@rockridgencpc.com



JCCEB, from front page

new complex will serve as a hub for local East Bay nonprofits, much in the way that the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco has done for the nonprofit community there.

JCCEB currently hosts many community activities and expects to move some of them to its new College Avenue center, as well as to initiate other new activities there. These could include childcare and preschool, after school care for K-5 students, summer and year-round day camp, a teen center, a health and wellness center, parenting classes, outdoor space uses including a community garden, and hosting inclusive holiday celebrations as well as other community events.

This new location is only a five-minute walk from the Rockridge BART and conveniently located on the AC Transit 51B line, so it is expected that many will reach the site by public transit. However, the site includes a large off-street parking area which will continue to be available to merchants in the ground floor retail spaces.

The site, situated on 2.98 acres of land, is comprised of multiple buildings. Chapman says that JCCEB expects to reuse most of the existing buildings in the complex, but that more details will have to wait as the planning process is still underway.

The JCCEB has a newly redesigned website at https://jcceastbay.org/ and will be posting an online survey within the next few weeks to gather thoughts and opinions from the community. Chapman also welcomes emails about the new center at Melissa.chapman@jcceastbay.org. ■

Broadway Storefront Evolves Into a Mixed-Use Community Center

by Skip Fogarty

Owned by the same family for over 70 years, the handsome brick building at 5776 Broadway has seen many different uses over the years. Situated on the east side of Broadway between Lawton and Taft Avenues, the building was once the popular M&M Market, which the family owned and operated for over three decades. Since the store closed in 1980, the building has been used as offices for a tech company and more recently as a school called the Musically Minded Academy.

Now the building is partially occupied by the Rockridge Little School (RLS), one of two affiliated campuses in the neighborhood. There is also a printing company located in the building called Fleming's Printed Affair.

RLS founder and owner **Holly Gold** also envisions a new use for the 6,000 square-foot facility. With approximately 28 preschoolers already enjoying a sunny space at the back of the building, she has outfitted the main, street-facing space as a community gathering spot. The room boasts comfy furniture, a fully equipped kitchen, and two private offices.



Holly Gold, founder of the Rockridge Little School.

In 2019, Gold obtained a permit to create the Rockridge Community Center, describing it as a "multi-purpose community education and personal instruction facility." Gold explains, "we were thinking about collaborative things like cooking classes, art lessons, exhibits, career support, and other events that bring together our neighbors."

"However, with Covid raging, we had to focus on keeping the schools running. So my concepts for the Center have gotten off to a slow start," says Gold. She reports, however, that friends and neighbors have been using and enjoying the bright and airy space on occasion.

To date, the Center has been used for parenting workshops, supper gatherings, jazz performances (they have a lovely piano), a support-group meeting for teens, and other casual get-togethers. Gold is also thinking about forming a neighborhood breakfast club. She says the idea is "to remind ourselves what it's like to leave the house each morning, meet our neighbors and socialize in person."

Gold is supported on a part-time basis by **Adrie Stevens,** who envisions

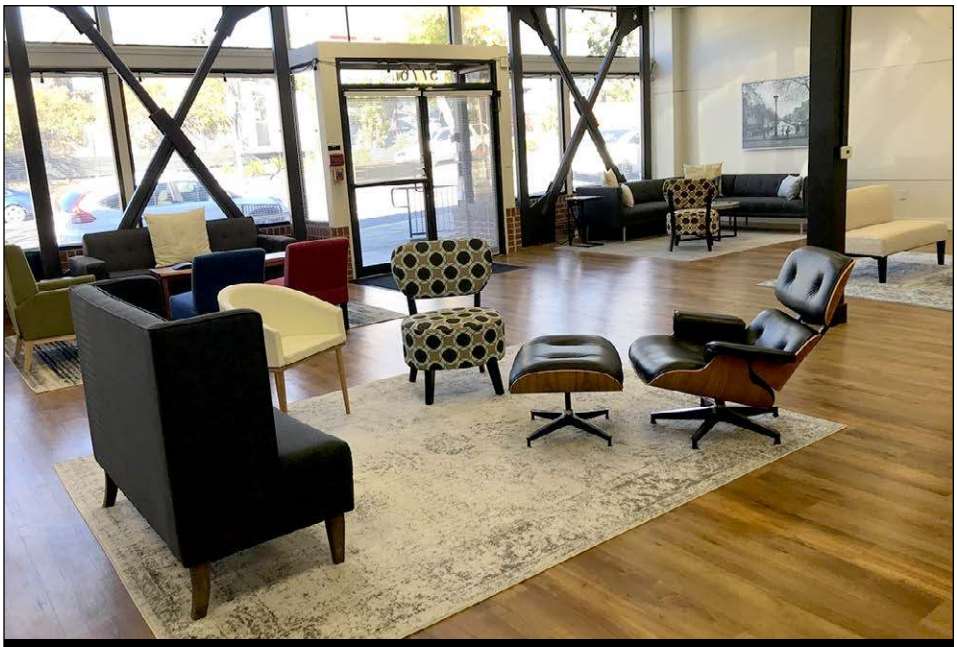
Gold, see next page

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The main interior space features lounge areas, hip furniture, a full kitchen — even a piano.

Gold, from previous page

the possibility of a co-working space. "Holly and I have discussed the idea of providing childcare to parents who drop in to work," explained Stevens. "But scheduling and staffing will be complicated and it's not an immediate plan."

In the fall of 2020, the preschool welcomed a cadre of about a dozen kindergartners who were displaced when their schools shut down. Gold dubbed the program the "K Club" and brought in two RLS pros to oversee the program. She found that families were delighted to return their kids to focused, in-person learning.

Then early last year, as people began to get vaccinated, poet **Noah Warren** approached Gold about hosting a book launch party at the Center. "There was a lot of uncertainty, but Holly was amazingly supportive and flexible. I was able to gather some of my closest friends to celebrate the book," says Warren. "It was a magical and rare evening."

In appreciation for all she brings to Rockridge Little School, teacher **Marisha Culler** also used the Center for two personal celebrations of her own. "Holly was so generous to let us use her beautiful place," she says.

Gold and Stevens see the mission of the Community Center evolving over time and are open to inquiries and ideas from neighbors. "After two years of unimaginable uncertainty and stress, it feels good to look forward and create something new," says Stevens.

If you're interested, you'll find more pictures and a contact form by googling "Rockridge Community Center." ■

Parents Hold Spring Fundraiser for Oakland Tech

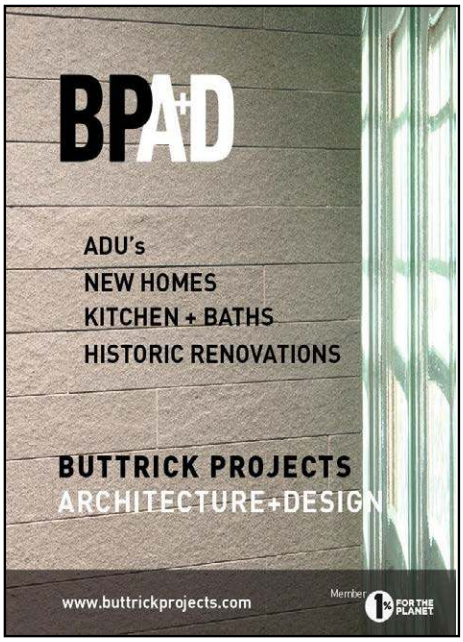
by Linda H. Tafur

The Oakland Tech Parent/Teacher/Student Association (PTSA) invites all Rockridge neighbors to its annual fundraising event.

The online auction, to be held **March 13-23**, will have more than 300 items available for bid, as well as raffle tickets for sale. An Instant Wine Cellar and a Public Bike are available immediately, and through the end of bidding. **The live-bidding event begins at 6pm on March 26** and will be held again as a virtual gala, online at https://oaklandtech.schoolauction.net/2022techauction.

Thank you to all of our generous donors and local sponsors. Every dollar raised will help students and staff by funding field trips, after-school tutoring, student organizations and clubs, sports, art and science supplies, books, and so much more.

Admission is free, but registration is required. If you have questions, or need more information, please email the auction chairs at auction@oaklandtech.com. All donations are tax deductible. ■





Native Kenyan Did Much More Than "Dream"

by Judith Doner Berne

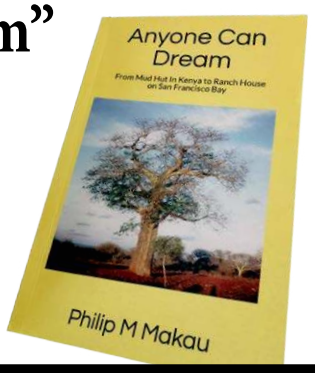
He grew up as the fourth child in a family of eight boys and four girls living in a mud hut in British colonial Kenya. At a young age, he endured hunger, disease, a three-mile walk through the African bush to and from primary school, and separation from his parents in order to continue his education. But, in early February, as we shared a bench in Rockridge's Colby Park, **Philip Makau**, who holds a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, was philosophical. "Early childhood is more or less a foundation of your experience," he said. "Having a tough early childhood prepares you to face almost anything."

Though not as poor as most of his neighbors, in his mostly autobiographical book, *Anyone Can Dream*, the 81-year-old Rockridge resident writes of his family, "Ours was subsistence farming; we did not grow any crop for cash, it was strictly for food. We had no source of income."

Later, his father, who taught himself to read and write in their tribal language, converted to Christianity and became a missionary. That helped ensure his son's intermediate school education at a boarding school. But, Makau writes, that the so-called dormitories were "two mud-walled, round-shaped, windowless huts with no running water, toilet or even an outhouse. Each student was expected to bring his own bed and bedding, food, cooking and eating utensils, and firewood."

Every two weeks he trekked the 30-mile round trip home and back, which he writes "was barely manageable during the dry seasons and downright dangerous during the rains." Since they couldn't leave school until late afternoon, it was dark well before he reached his house.

"I was frightened out of my wits," and once had to climb a tree to get away from a charging rhinoceros. On each return, he had to bring his food for the next two weeks, weighing 20 to 30 pounds. "It was painful for an underweight, 13-year-old to carry all that weight on his back."



Makau's book is mostly autobiographical.

Makau endured many more physical hardships — plus, nepotism, bigotry, and racism — as he made his way through Kenya's educational system, eventually winning scholarships to study in the United States.

He has earned an undergraduate degree in biology from Virginia Union University, a master's in animal sciences and genetics from Colorado State University, and a Cal Berkeley doctorate in higher education and higher education administration. He has taught at San Francisco State, the Peralta Community Colleges, and at Westlake and King Estates Middle Schools in Oakland. Before moving to the United States permanently, he was principal of a boarding high school in Kenya.

Eyes on Rockridge, see next page

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eyes on Rockridge

from previous page

Anyone Can Dream was a result of his two young daughters' persistent questions about his rural Kenyan upbringing and struggle to become a sophisticated, educated adult. "They kept bugging me, so I said, 'I'll put it down and when you're ready you can pick it up and read it.'"

That was back in the late 1970s. Some 30 years later, after Makau had retired from teaching and educational consulting, he decided to enrich and self-publish his story. He has gone on to write and self-publish more books with a Kenyan backdrop. These include: *The Activist Preacher,* a story about his father; *Midnight Begins a New Era*, about colonial Kenya; and *The Hyena Club*, a mystery which he said was "the most fun to write. The latter were better written," he said, "because redoing a book is like remodeling an old house."

Four years ago, Makau and his wife **Geri Erickson**, who also holds a Ph.D. from Cal, moved from Benicia to Rockridge, just down the street from his daughter **Ariana Makau** and her family. "We were getting on in age. We now see our grandchildren frequently. We like it a lot."

"My dad's had a storied life," said Ariana, whose Oakland-based stained glass conservation company won a 2020 California Preservation Award (see July 2021 *Rockridge News*).

"I think it's admirable that he's still so curious about the world, and active. He has a big dictionary on a stand in his living room and is constantly referring to it, just for fun. He's always willing to puzzle something out." She attributes that to his background in which "if you wanted something, you figured it out and made it yourself."

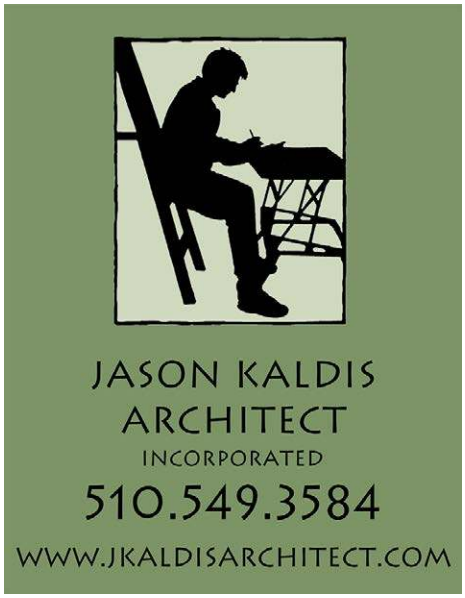
Living nearby "has changed the dynamics of how we relate to each other," she said. "Now we can just pop over for a few minutes to say hello, borrow some gardening tools, a spool of thread, or share a cup of tea. I don't think the kids (ages 11 and 13) understand what a luxury it is to have him so close. I had this with my maternal grandparents, and it was only in my adulthood that I realized what a gift that was."

Makau is currently writing and illustrating a book for young people, the ages of his grandchildren, tentatively titled *The Einstein Cat*. "It's about a talking cat and is based on our own cat, Paka" ("cat" in Swahili).



Colby Park is a far cry from the Kenyan bush where Philip Makau grew up.

Eyes on Rockridge, see next page



Eyes on Rockridge, from previous page

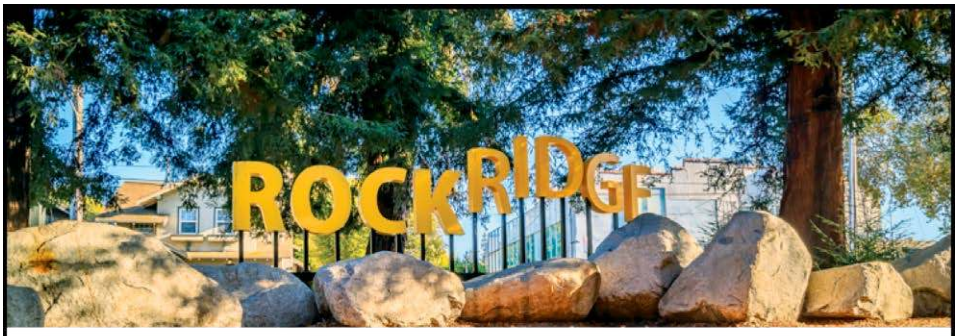
Paka is a stray Siamese mix they took in 19 years ago. No problem doing the illustrations, he said, because "If you major in biology, you'd better be good at drawing."

"I had no idea that he wrote a book which I look forward to reading," next-door neighbor **Kathy Shaw** emailed. "My husband, Dave, and I both agree that Philip and Geri are perfect neighbors, friendly and considerate. He takes our garbage cans out when we're out of town, tries to keep up with the constantly dropping leaves of the city's out-of-control elm trees, and always stops to say hello to our little dog."

"I've been remiss in marketing my books," Makau acknowledged. "I grew up with humility being a virtue," which accounts for his initial reluctance to be interviewed. "It's hard for me to say, 'Look at what I've done.' It just isn't me."

Philip Makau's books are available on Amazon and eBay. To comment on this column or recommend topics, please email judyberne@att.net. ■

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Oaklanders, Ditch Your Junk for Free

All Oakland residents can schedule appointments to drop off large items, at no charge, at Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC), and apartment tenants can now schedule curbside bulky pickup service directly with WMAC. Oakland Public Works (OPW) is reminding residents of the services available to them for disposing their unwanted bulky items the right way so they do not turn up dumped on neighboring streets or elsewhere around town.

Residents in single-family dwellings (buildings with up to four residential units) can schedule an appointment for bulky items collection at the curbside, increased from once per year to twice per year. Find the service terms and instructions at www.oaklandrecycles.com. Contact WMAC to schedule a bulky pickup by calling (888) WM-BULKY.

Residents in multi-family dwellings (buildings with more than four residential units) no longer need to schedule appointments through their landlords. Now they can schedule a curbside appointment once a year directly by calling (510) 613-8710.

All Oakland community members can learn more about trash, recycling, and compost services available in Oakland by going to www.oaklandrecycles.com and reduce illegal dumping at www.oaktownproud.com.

WMAC/Davis Street Recycling is at 2615 Davis Street, San Leandro. ■

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Oliveto on Our Minds

by Carol Kasparek

December 31, 2021, was to be the end of a Bay Area food destination. After 36 years, **Maggie and Bob Klein** decided the time had come to step back from the rigors of running a restaurant. Oliveto welcomed the surge of reservations from customers wanting that final meal. Then they closed. Then, the community received a new year's gift when the café reopened in mid-January. Market Hall ownership and the community did not want the bustling corner dark for the undetermined amount of time needed for new management to take over the space.

Maggie and Bob Klein are now maneuvering a situation they did not expect. Maggie recently discussed the present and past of the business that helped change Rockridge. Upstairs, the expanse of white tablecloths where we met was familiar, the stillness was not.

The present is a challenge for the Kleins. Lack of staffing is the issue. Beloved servers have stayed with the café, yet even their loyalty may have limits. Maggie continues to do a "bit of everything" as she has from the beginning.

Oliveto's beginning in 1986 came from a desire to bring the cuisine of the Mediterranean to Rockridge. Maggie was an editor at UC Berkeley and an author, Bob a producer at KRON. Their travels, combined with relationships with local growers, presented an opportunity to introduce a then fairly unique experience to the Bay Area. Farm-to-table and sustainable whole-animal use was just beginning to be featured on menus. A series of dinners led by partner Paul Bertolli focused on those principles. Maggie's ethereal pen and ink drawings graced every menu.

They went to exceptional lengths to bring the best to diners. Bob's white truffle hunting in Italy is a story unto itself. On opening night, wind whistled under the tables from interior walls still under construction. Downstairs



Maggie Klein (above) and her husband, Bob, decided to retire after 36 years.

was the tapas bar. Tapas apparently were too tiny for tastes at the time. They transitioned to "smallish plates" which have endured on the menu.

Oliveto opened in an environment different from Rockridge today. "I remember a less affluent area, with more blue-collar workers as residents," says Maggie. In the space now occupied by Cactus Taqueria was Chimes Grocery, a long-time familiar fixture, which eventually relinquished its space to a high-end clothing store. Oliveto began to attract a fairly affluent group. Berkeley professors mixed with a hip, young clientele and staff in the downstairs tapas bar.

Some weeks after opening, the *SF Chronicle* restaurant reviewer delivered a scathing review. Business plummeted. Full recovery did not come quickly. The Kleins and their devoted team continued to try to understand the "mystery of popularity," even offering the space free to the public for events. When **Paul Bertolli** became a partner in 1996, "everything changed." New staff and leadership transformed the business. Positive reviews helped bring in the clientele which remained



Situated above the popular cáfe, Oliveto restaurant has a beautifully designed interior.

devoted to the present day.

The destiny of the space now rests with the landlords. The owners of Market Hall, **the Wilson family**, will be negotiating who will take over the space, and on what date. Maggie gives recognition to a team of masters, in the kitchen and on the floor, who made the corner a destination and hopes the new management considers their contributions as they form their own team. Maggie and Bob have spoken with restaurateurs considering taking over the spot, and confirmed, "good people and good cooks" are being considered by the Wilsons.

Maggie and Bob brought devotion and delight to Rockridge. We are deeply grateful for their remarkable contribution to our community.

Mille grazie. ■

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Hermann Street Needs a New Block Captain

by Susan Montauk, Rockridge News Distribution Manager

Thanks to **Aparna Ewing** for delivering the newsletter for the last few years to Hermann Street. Aparna is ready to retire and we hope someone from her block, or nearby, will volunteer to take her place. Recently, younger readers, some still in elementary school, have been stepping up to be Block Captains.

There is no minimum age requirement for this job and it's an excellent way to introduce our school-age residents to community service. On the other hand, there is no maximum age limit either and this once-a-month job is a fun way to get some exercise and meet your neighbors as you make the rounds.

Block Captains deliver newsletters door-to-door.

The open route is:

- **Route 55A13: Both sides of Hermann Street**



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. ■

New Strategies for Oakland Slow Streets — Essential Places

If you've walked down Shafter recently, then you noticed that the barriers have been removed. The Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) has been transitioning the Slow Streets — Essential Places program in response to the ongoing and changing nature of the pandemic. Currently, staff efforts are being redirected toward longer-term improvements for pedestrian safety and neighbors' use of streets as community space.

This year, OakDOT will advance the three strategies described below in an ongoing pursuit of the joy and refuge that Slow Streets brought to many people and families in the early months of the pandemic, and the institutionalizing lessons learned as the program continues to innovate and adapt to meet the needs of the neighborhoods.

Slow Streets: Essential Places — Phase 3 Advances Three Strategies

1) Prioritize pedestrian safety improvements at essential services that our residents, particularly the most vulnerable, rely on.

2) Implement permanent Slow Streets through the City's Capital Improvement Program; the Five Year Paving Plan; and the planning-to-date for Neighborhood Bike Routes (also known as bike boulevards). Develop a network of Slow Streets that serves pedestrians, bicyclists, and micro-mobility users, and advances these streets as community resources.

3) Support neighborhood use of streets as community space by advancing opportunities for Pop-up Slow Streets. OakDOT envisions this as a way for residents to use their local streets as community space through temporary street closures.

The public may submit comments to the City of Oakland's seeclickfix.com, or visit https://www.oaklandca.gov/projects/oakland-slow-streets. ■

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March awareness month: Women's History, Optimism, MS Education, Humorists as Artists

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IN MEMORIAM

Peter Haberfeld
(1941–2021)



Peter Haberfeld, a lawyer for the people and community organizer, died of a heart attack at his home in Rockridge on December 1, 2021. He was 80 years old.

After earning a law degree at the University of California, Berkeley, Peter embarked on a life of activism as a lawyer and labor and political organizer. Between 1968 and 1975 Peter was an attorney and organizer in the California Central Valley, providing legal aid to Latino youth and farm workers. In 1975, he joined the United Farm Worker's (UFW) legal staff.

He was influenced by iconic leaders Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and his mentor, renowned community organizer Fred Ross, Sr. Peter helped win the landmark, Murguia v. Municipal Court, which successfully limited racially discriminatory prosecution of defendant UFW members.

Peter was the first staff person for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. He worked with the Oakland Education Association (OEA) and the Oakland Community Organization (OCO), organizing teachers and parents for school reform in Oakland. Peter fought his final court battles at the Oakland law firm of Siegel & Yee, including an epic case that ensured the survival of the National Union of Healthcare Workers.

Peter worked well into retirement, volunteering on Barack Obama's and Bernie Sanders' presidential campaigns in Rockridge. He also organized extensively around Safeway's rebuild of its College Avenue store (a few blocks from his home). He and his wife, Tory Griffith, worked with Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue and organized phone banks to bolster attendance at Planning Commission meetings; recruited volunteers to picket and leaflet in front of Safeway to raise public awareness; and participated in a vast neighborhood survey to gauge neighbors' preferences for the size of the Safeway.

Peter is survived by his wife, **Victoria (Tory) Griffith**, with whom he shared a passion for political organizing, his two daughters, Demi Rhine of Rockridge and Selena Rhine of New York, and two granddaughters, Marina and Alexa Escobar.

Donations may be made to The East Oakland Collective, an organization that Peter supported which addresses the needs of unhoused people in East Oakland, at https://www.eastoakland-collective.com/. ■

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Competition Drives Price in February

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
2/15/2022	2	1	401 Cavour	$1,295,000	$1,295,000	39	$1,415,000
2/16/2022	2	1	5724 Broadway	$1,198,000	$1,198,000	14	$1,650,000
2/16/2022	3	2.5	6410 Regent St	$1,795,000	$1,795,000	16	$3,508,888
2/22/2022	4	2.5	5420 Boyd Ave	$1,275,000	$1,275,000	16	$2,575,000

Homes sold in February closed 65% over the asking price on average.

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Registration for Community Emergency Response Team Training Opens in March

The Oakland Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services established Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) in April of 1990, immediately following the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. In late 2020, the program was revamped and expanded to include additional training opportunities with an intentional focus on reaching historically underrepresented and vulnerable communities.

Due to its geographic location, and the anticipated ongoing impact of rapidly accelerating climate change, Oakland is vulnerable to significant hazards in our future: earthquakes, wildfires, floods, and landslides, and sea level rise. The City of Oakland is committed to increasing the disaster resistance and resiliency of our infrastructure, health, housing, economy, government services, education, and environment — and the CORE program is a major component of that effort.

Registration for CORE's newest emergency training course, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), opens on **March 21, 2022**.

A major disaster can overwhelm first responders, leaving community members on their own for the first 72 hours or longer. CERT training teaches self-reliance skills and supports the development of localized response teams to take care of their neighborhoods — assisting their community until professional first responders arrive.

Upon completing this training, participants will be able to take the necessary steps to safely assess dangerous situations in their homes and neighborhood in the aftermath of a disaster and address immediate urgent needs through emergency first aid or incident triage.

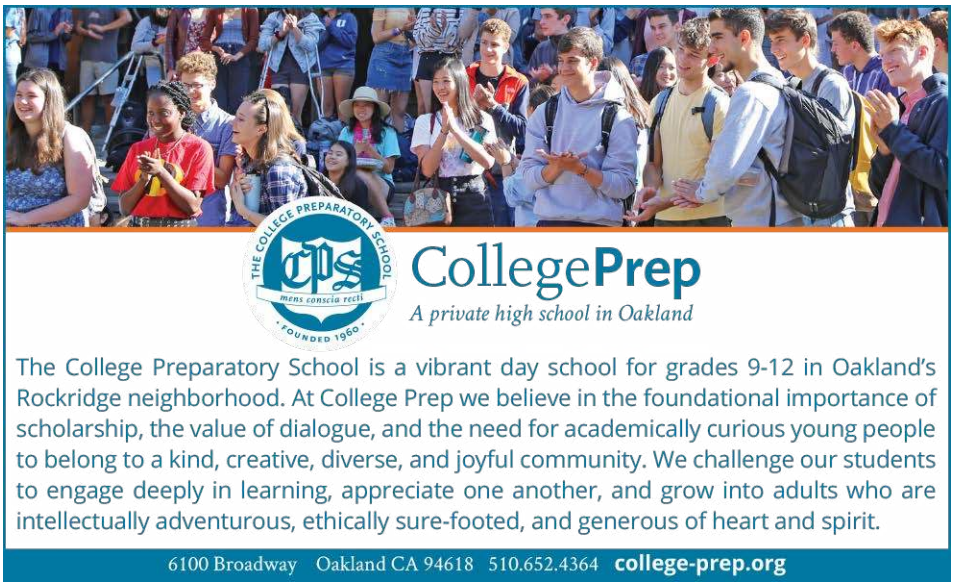
Additionally, participants will learn to identify and reduce potential hazards in their own homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods; manage disrupted utilities and put out small fires; provide basic medical aid by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating survivors for shock; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective until additional help arrives.

Oakland CERT training takes 33 hours to complete — the course for adults is currently being offered via a hybrid model where basic instruction takes place virtually and the hands-on Skills Training and Assessment provided in person. CERT Training is free of charge to all.

Ready, Oakland? ***On March 21, 2022 visit this page to register:*** ***https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/oaklandcert*** ■

CERT Training Course Graduates Skill Set:

- **Identify and anticipate hazards in the home and workplace.**
- **Understand what steps to take in order to increase personal and family readiness.**
- **Be familiar with the Incident Command System and basic functions.**
- **Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers in a disaster or emergency.**
- **Apply basic medical techniques/basic first aid.**
- **Set up medical treatment areas.**
- **Reduce survivor and volunteer stress.**
- **Safely extinguish small fires.**
- **Conduct light search and rescue activities.**
- **Assist emergency responders in mass casualty incidents.**
- **Understand the appropriate actions to take in an active shooter situation.**
- **Be able to promote CERT Training in Oakland.**



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The deadline for the April 2022 issue is March 17, 2022 (available April 2nd).

For more details, email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com.

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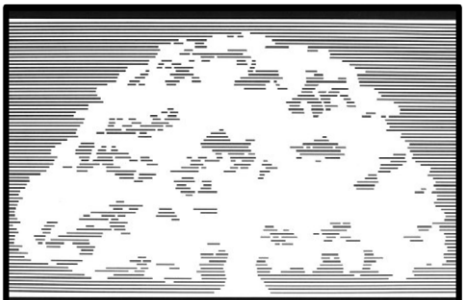
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