THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
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Treadwell Mansion was built in 1875 for John and James Treadwell, owners of the Tesla coal mine near Livermore. In 1922 the Treadwell estate was acquired by California College of Arts and Crafts. In 2017 they sold the property to a housing developer who plans to preserve the historic structure.

Rockridge Bids Final Farewell to California College of the Arts

by Annette Floystrup

In May, Rockridge said goodbye to one of its oldest neighbors, the California College of the Arts (CCA). The school began its life as the California Guild of Arts and Crafts in 1907 and soon thereafter was renamed the California College of Arts & Crafts (CCAC). It acquired its current location at College and Broadway in 1922.

When the college relocated from downtown Berkeley, the selection of Rockridge as a new home was not random. Rockridge was a lively commuter neighborhood of Arts & Crafts homes built largely between 1910 and 1920.

CCA Farewell, see page 10

For those I don't have the pleasure of knowing yet, I'll share a little about myself: I've lived in Rockridge with my husband since 2008 (minus a short stint in Old Oakland) — first, renting above Cole Coffee, surrounded by those lovely scents of java; then, buying our first home on sweet Hermann Street; and, last summer, moving into a larger home for our growing family on Carlton Street.

While living in these three pockets of Rockridge, I've witnessed how our residents make this neighborhood an

Chair Message, see page 2

Legislative Update with Buffy Wicks

by Anna L. Marks, Editor

A California native, **Buffy Wicks** grew up in the small town of Foresthill, near Auburn, in the foothills of the Sierras. She spent about six years working on Obama's 2008 political campaign, and, in 2016, served on Hillary Clinton's leadership team. After stints in D.C., Chicago, and Texas, Wicks told her then-boyfriend, "I need to move back to California: That's part of the deal if you want to marry me." They found a home in Rockridge in 2016 and, "have loved being in the neighborhood."



***Rockridge News* editor Anna L. Marks (left) talks with Buffy Wicks (below) via Zoom.**

In 2018, Wicks was elected to the State Assembly from the 15th District (Berkeley/Richmond/North Oakland), beating out Richmond City Councilwoman **Jovanka Beckles** in the general election (now the 14th District due to redistricting). Since then, she has authored and sponsored a number of bills currently winding their way through the legislative process. She was recently named Chair of the Assembly Committee on Housing, and has made this issue her top priority.

Buffy Wicks, see page 13

Chair Message, from front page

amazing place to live. Many streets hold annual block parties; dozens of neighbors have stepped up to "Adopt-a-Drain" to prevent flooding and abate litter; and countless residents share gardening tips or their abundance of fruit. Neighbors check in with each other when a garage or gate has been left open, and become lifelong friends. This sense of camaraderie is powerful and an incredible privilege to be part of.

After my reelection to the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) in April, I was also elected to serve as our new Chair (many thanks to our great previous chair, Leonora Sea, who just termed out after serving three terms). My goals as Chair are to listen to the concerns of all Rockridgers; to expand our communications so that we are reaching and hearing from more voices; and to activate more residents to make our neighborhood more inclusive.

As an organization, RCPC has advocated for many important neighborhood features we all can appreciate. Two of my favorite examples are the Rockridge Library (which required us to tax ourselves!), and the open courtyard and free parking at the College Avenue Safeway.

I am confident that residents will help carry on that spirit of community improvement by sharing their ideas as RCPC facilitates conversations about upcoming land-use projects — including 51st and Broadway, the JCC project at the old Dreyer's site, the BART parking lot, and the CCA campus. All of these "opportunity sites" are at varying stages of planning and I am committed to ensuring that RCPC convenes project leaders and advocates for the needs of our entire community regarding the impact of these projects.

I believe we have a moral and environmental imperative to build more housing in our neighborhood. The survey that RCPC conducted in late 2021 shows that, at least on the 51st and Broadway site, residents overwhelmingly support housing.

The current proposal for a Home Depot store does not align with the needs nor desires of the community. The RCPC Board has already sent a letter to the developer (see *Rockridge News*, May 2022) and to our elected representatives expressing this serious concern, and we will continue to oppose such poor use of this site.

I invite you to engage with us. Whether you want to share your feedback on a development site, apply for a community beautification project from our Kevin Faughnan Grants Fund, join one of our Committees, write an article for *The Rockridge News*, or attend our October 2nd Kitchen Tour event — I thank you for enhancing our neighborhood with your engagement.

Have ideas, questions, or want to join our email list? Please email me at chair@Rockridge.org. ■

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Visit rockridge.org and download a copy today, in color, with hotlinks to resources on the Internet.

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The Rockridge News was founded in 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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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.

Mail payment to: **RCPC,** 4900 Shattuck Avenue, PO Box 22504, Oakland, CA, 94609

Display Advertising Deadline for JULY: June 16, 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.

CITY COUNCIL CORNER

Oakland City Council Meeting: Updates Relevant to Rockridge

by Aly Bonde, RCPC Board Member

Permanent Parklet Program

On March 15, the City Council made permanent the "Flex Streets" program that allows restaurants and retail to extend out of doors and into the public right of way. City staff developed the emergency program early in the pandemic, and has since seen widespread adoption. The program was initially offered to merchants free of charge, but, as of July 2023, there will be a permit fee along with stricter design requirements for these parklets.

Proof of Vaccination Mandate

On May 17, the City Council eliminated the requirement for customers to show proof of vaccination in order to enter indoor food and beverage establishments, entertainment and recreational locations, gyms and fitness venues, public libraries, City Hall, the Oakland Convention Center, and large indoor events (the council added a requirement for masking at large indoor events). Proof of vaccination is still required for senior adult care facilities and senior centers.

Digital Wayfinding Kiosks

On April 17, the City Council instructed city staff to negotiate an agreement with Ike Smart Cities to install digital wayfinding kiosks in various commercial districts throughout Oakland. The double-sided kiosks are roughly eight feet tall with interactive digital screens that provide services like wayfinding and navigation, real-time transit info, a local business directory, and access to social services. Each kiosk also serves as a limited-speed WiFi hotspot. The program is supported by revenue from advertising that appears on the digital screens when they are not in active use.

Ike has deployed kiosks in Berkeley and seeks to expand into neighboring cities. Oakland commercial districts under consideration for kiosks include Rockridge, Koreatown Northgate, Downtown Oakland, Lake Merritt-Uptown District, Lakeshore, Chinatown, Jack London, Temescal, Montclair, and Fruitvale. Ike proposes to share 35 percent of net ad revenue from 50 kiosks with the City of Oakland, which Ike estimates would be between $700,000 and $1.6 million per year.

City staff urged the council to take a more holistic look at street furniture and advertising in the public right of way including bus shelters, "big belly" trash cans, and digital kiosks, to fully understand their associated maintenance and staffing costs. ■

What is Alameda County Doing for the Homeless?

by Karen Ivy, Secretary, Greater Rockridge NCPC

Alameda County has invested more than $340 million to assist the nearly 8,000 residents who need a place to call home. Despite the pandemic, the rate of increase in the county's homeless population from 2019 to 2022 was lower than in the preceding years — demonstrating that this investment is having a positive impact (https://homelessness.acgov.org).

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council's (NCPC) meeting on **June 9, at 7pm**, will cover the topic of homelessness. The meeting will be held on Zoom *(details in box below)*. Hear speakers Colleen Budenholzer (Coordinated Entry Program Director with Alameda County's Office of Homeless Care and Coordination) and Lucy Kasdin (Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Director) talk about how the county's programs provide solutions and services to homeless and unsheltered county residents. ■

NCPC MEETING

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council

will hold its next virtual meeting with **Colleen Budenholzer** and **Lucy Kasdin**, who will speak about homelessness and the unhoused.

June 9, 2022, at 7pm,
(pending further notice)

For Zoom link, visit:
https://rockridgencpc.com

To suggest meeting topics, send an email to: chair@rockridgencpc.com.

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Rockridge Artist At East Bay Open Studios



Rockridge local Rachel Perls (rachelperls.com) will be displaying her vibrant blossom paintings at the East Bay Open Studios self-guided tour at the Rockridge Community Center on **June 4, 5, and 12, from 11am-6pm, at 5776 Broadway**. Visit https://eastbayopenstudios.com/ for the map and a listing of all the talented participants. ■

Musicians Needed!

Help RCPC recognize the 140+ volunteers who support *The Rockridge News* by performing at their outdoor celebration.

Event to be held in late summer.

Email chair@rockridge.org for more detailed information.



LAND USE COMMITTEE Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the RCPC Land Use Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 7:30pm, via Zoom.

The meeting is open to the public. To attend, check rockridge.org for Zoom link, or email: landuse@rockridge.org.

Docents & Writers Needed for Rockridge Kitchen Tour

by Robin McDonnell, RCPC Kitchen Tour Co-Chair

Planning for the 2022 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, scheduled for **Sunday, October 2**, is in full swing. The RCPC Kitchen Tour Committee has selected the kitchens to be featured on this year's tour and is now turning to the vital task of recruiting another great group of docents. Whether you've been a docent in the past or are new to the tour, volunteering as a docent is a fun and rewarding experience.

A week or two before the tour, all docents attend a training session that includes visits to several houses. Docents get an early look behind-the-scenes and the opportunity to talk to the owners/architects/contractors. They will hear about the unique features and problem-solving in the design and construction process, and, in turn, educate guests and answer questions on the day of the tour.

The tour is also seeking individuals to help write press releases, ads, and kitchen descriptions. Like the docents, writers get early access to the kitchens and interview homeowners, architects, and contractors, so they can describe what was done, how it was done, and why. On the day of the tour, docents will be assigned to one shift and will have the balance of the day to visit the other kitchens that they didn't get to see during the pre-tour training.

The efforts of our volunteers help to fund RCPC and its programs. If you are interested in being a docent, please contact the Kitchen Tour Committee, at docents@rockridge.org. ■

The Rockridge News Needs Bundlers

by Susan Montauk, Rockridge News Business Manager



Photo by Anna Marks

Volunteer bundlers (pictured left to right), Susan Montauk, Mary Catherine Haug, Jean Circiello, and Alice Colgan.

The Rockridge News bundlers are looking for more assistance on the first Friday of each month — that's when we count/bundle the papers that are delivered to the Block Captains who then deliver the newsletter door-to-door.

Do you have a couple of hours monthly to devote to the newsletter? We meet at 2pm in lower Rockridge and are finished by 4pm. The first requirement is that you are able to count to ten, and next, that you wouldn't mind sharing local news with your fellow bundlers. Oh, and, if you are young and/or strong, you can help carry boxes the few yards to the pickup tables.

If interested, contact Susan at (510) 547-3855, or smontauk@gmail.com. ■

Rockridge Kitchen Tour Offers Inside Peek at Current Remodel Trends

SAVE THE DATE: October 2, 2022

by Robin McDonnell, RCPC Kitchen Tour Co-Chair

Whether you're looking for ideas and inspiration for your own kitchen, interested in seeing the latest trends in kitchen design, thinking of adding a small cottage to your property, or just curious about Rockridge kitchens, the **2022 Rockridge Kitchen Tour** has something for you. You won't want to miss the beautiful kitchens on the tour, or the full-house tour of a delightful secondary unit showcasing how small can be very, very beautiful.

The homeowners designed several of the kitchens on the tour; the rest are by local architects and designers who are experts in sensitive remodels of Craftsman and other older-style houses. One designer planned the entire kitchen using online tools for the remodel.



As on past tours, renovation budgets encompassed a wide range. One universal trend was to invest in durable surfaces, appliances, and fixtures to create kitchens intended to last for a long time. Many homeowners found ways to economize on some parts of the kitchen so that they could splurge elsewhere while staying on budget. Some did much of the work themselves, helped by family and friends. Others reused nearly new appliances that were still in good working order.

A new trend in Craftsman remodels is to rethink all of the house's interior space — moving walls, opening up dark central corridors, and expanding the kitchen to be the heart of the home. There will be a lot to see on the **2022 Kitchen Tour,** and architects, contractors, and designers will be on hand at many of the kitchens to answer your questions.

Docents with extensive knowledge of the remodels will also be available to answer questions about the goals and challenges each owner faced.

On the tour, guests will learn strategies for creating a seamless flow between the kitchen and the rest of the house, including the outdoors, and how to make the most of a small space without sacrificing amenities.

Advance tickets go on sale July 15th at rockridgekitchentour.org

Tickets will also be available on the day of the Kitchen Tour at the registration booth in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5915 College Avenue.

Guests will receive a copy of the comprehensive *Kitchen Tour Brochure*, describing each kitchen and listing resources for those contemplating a remodel of their own kitchens. The brochure is a treasure trove for both design enthusiasts and future renovators.

After viewing the marvelous kitchens, you're likely to be pretty hungry. Make a full day of it in Rockridge and, after the tour, enjoy the eclectic array of fine dining options along College Avenue. ■

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Dream, Play, Build Your Way to A Better Community

by Carol Kasparek and Gary Fine



Urban planners John Kamp and James Rojas display the model they are building for the U.S. Green Building Conference in LA.
Photo by Teresa Lucky

Picture a gathering where people use blocks, beads, and buttons to construct a landscape while sharing stories of their childhood. Participants welcome each other and create changes that make everyone feel better, encouraging new ideas. Impossible? Possible and proven, say Hudson Street residents **James Rojas** and **John Kamp**, two urban planners, in their new book, *Dream Play Build — Hands-On Community Engagement for Enduring Spaces and Places*.

Their collaboration began when Rojas spoke at one of Kamp's design classes. They both had experienced the challenge of working with groups to improve a shared space or contribute to a decision. Rojas knew his East LA community had great ideas but noticed they were uncomfortable contributing.

Rojas saw a solution in the "intersection of art and urban planning." After experiencing the streets of Europe without a car during his military and Peace Corps stints, he had a "transit epiphany" about how people could experience a city and their travels through it. As he began his job with LA Metro, he opened an art gallery with a friend that included a model building section where visitors could play with common objects to create a model for a new neighborhood.

Turning buttons and bottle caps into buildings and stacking blue beads to become a lake seemed to recall a pleasant time in childhood. In this childlike moment, Rojas observed how collaboration and problem solving resulted in "more play, less talk," and brought viable solutions to planning issues. The technique created a deep bond among the participants and magnified the results. "Every time…the magic happened," according to Kamp.

Rojas and Kamp came to Rockridge six years ago. Very different journeys led them to partner in their work and their lives. Rojas grew up in Los Angeles and Kamp grew up in what he called the "orderly" Midwest.

Early activism with the Sierra Club led Kamp to apply his landscape design training to irrigation-free experimentation. He wanted to use science as a way to support a terrain with no aesthetic compromises — they needed to look good.

Also critical to an improved process was the way the issue or problem was presented. Kamp and Rojas asked participants to design the "ideal shelter" instead of the "ideal house." The former could bring in elements of the environment and the way the space is used, as opposed to only looking at dimension limitations. Key steps in the process include building a model-building workshop, pop-ups, and site exploration, as detailed in their book.

Rojas's desire to bring the approach together in a book grew throughout the pandemic. Kamp helped structure the book proposal that eventually found a home with Island Press. *Dream, Play, Build* is full of references to Rojas's childhood and graced throughout with Kamp's line drawings.

When asked about how all this could apply to Rockridge, Kamp proposed thinking about the "ideal shared street," not simply the best traffic circle. "It would be so much fun to rethink what a street could be," offered Kamp. Trees planted off the curbs, plazas located on asphalt, re-designed storm-water catchments...it's time to dream, play, and build our future. ■

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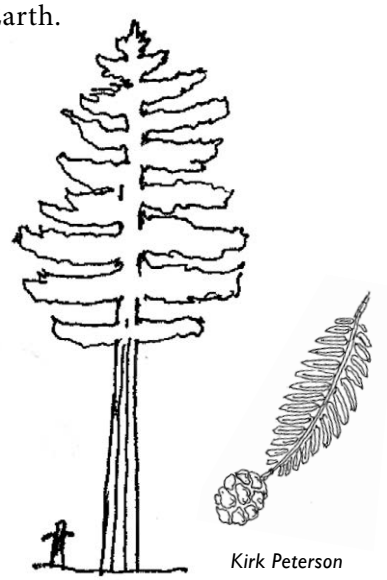
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LOOK AROUND

Sequoia sempervirens

by Kirk Peterson

Redwoods are the iconic trees of California. The Coast Redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, is native to Oakland and grows in California's Coastal Ranges from Big Sur to Oregon where Pacific fog extends inland. Coast redwoods can reach nearly 400 feet in height and can live more than 2,000 years — making them among the oldest living things on Earth.



Kirk Peterson

The trees' flat needles are arranged symmetrically on the twigs, which bear small cones. They are planted widely in parks and gardens throughout Oakland and many California cities. Majestic old redwoods are an integral part of the Rockridge "skyline."

Stanford University's logo features the Palo (stick) Alto (tall), a coast redwood. Our very own Redwood Regional Park is a second-growth forest. By the 1860s, the canyons were clear-cut — redwood lumber is excellent for construction.

Today, historic redwoods (and other trees) are threatened by development, including at the proposed California College of the Arts site in Rockridge.

If you have the space, consider planting a redwood tree — they are great carbon capturers and help make, and keep, Oakland beautiful. ■

Rock-N-Stroll Neighborhood Entertainment Continues on Saturday, June 11

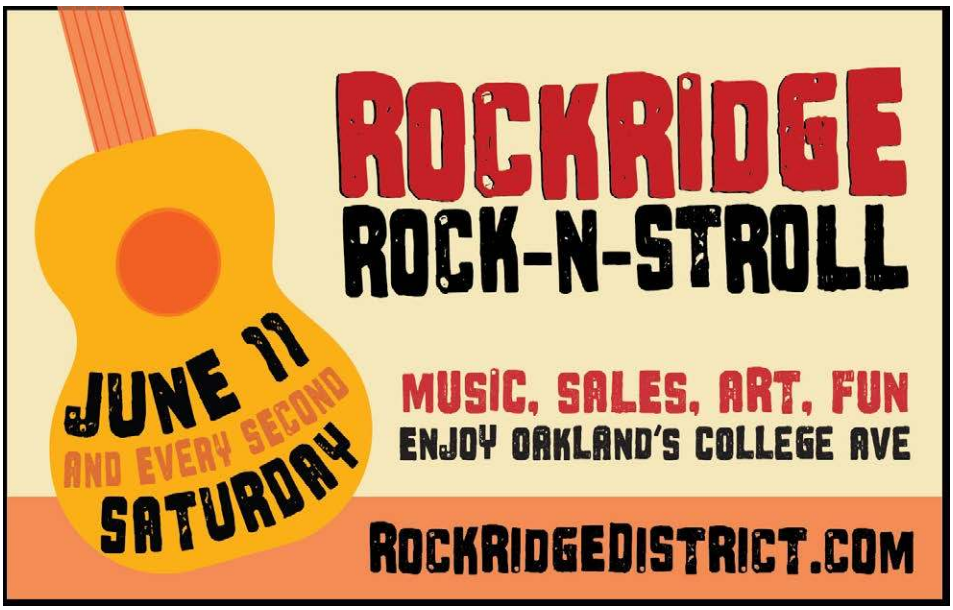
by Jody Colley, Rockridge District Association Marketing Manager

For the second time this season, Rockridge will host Rock-N-Stroll on **Saturday, June 11, from 11am to 6pm**, with more than a dozen performers, DJs, and live music along College Avenue — from Broadway to Alcatraz. Neighbors are invited to sip, sample, and save at this leisurely daytime event.

The retailers, restaurants, and service providers that make up the Rockridge district invite you to explore and experience big sales, giveaways, food and wine tastings, special menus, popup vendors, kids' crafts, and fun activities for the whole family — **every second Saturday of the month through December.** ■



Hope Hines of Hella Juiced displays refreshing samples and discounted drinks for thirsty Rock-N-Strollers. Follow them on Instagram @hellajuiced510.



A Lifetime of Scholarship, Friendships & Travel

by Judith Doner Berne

eyes on Rockridge

It was May 6, the day before **Ed Jay's** 91st birthday. "I was born a day after Willie Mays," he said, as we sat in his hillside, Tudor-style Rockridge home, filled with artifacts from a lifetime of scholarship, friendships, and travel. "Both of us were born in Brooklyn."

A life-long, though amateur, athlete himself, Jay still plays singles tennis, a sport he took up while getting his doctorate in social anthropology from the University of Chicago. In fact, he and his wife, Sharon, a former Oakland Unified School District teacher, bought the house they've lived in since 1973, in part because it's just down the road from both public and Chabot Canyon Racquet Club tennis courts. Prior to that, they rented an apartment on Claremont Avenue.

"I feel pretty healthy," he said. "I've always been athletic. I used to do bicycle racing and touring." As a 17-year-old, he cycled 1,800 miles from his home in Queens, N.Y., through the New England states, then to Quebec and Montreal, on his own. He still exercises on a stationary bike.

But, if the East Bay is home, India is home away from home. Jay, a professor who helped found the anthropology department at Cal State Hayward, has spent a total of seven years living in, and visiting, India. It all began with a year-and-a-half (1958-60) in a bamboo hut embedded in an Aboriginal tribe — the people of Orcha — who live a jungle existence in the Abujhmar Hills.

It all began with a year and a half (1958-60) in a bamboo hut embedded in an Aboriginal tribe.

His aim: "To achieve an understanding of a way of life by observing it and participating in it." The Orchas, he said, "accepted us [him and his former wife] into their society…they like to dance, drink, and sing, and I am thankful for the many evenings within the compound of some family, sitting around a warm fire, talking about animals in the forest, or the crops, or a future trip to market."

Fast forward to 1967-68 Jay, now single and teaching at Cal State Hayward, spent close to another year in India, this time focused on the lives of a rice-growing, multi-caste, peasant village. When he returned to the East Bay, students threw him a welcome home party at which he met Sharon, 16 years his junior. "She took to India very nicely," he said, in what turned out to be an understatement. They lived in India for a year in 1977-78 so he could study at a regional Hindu temple center, and again in 1989-90 to study Indian middle-class life. Sharon then went back on her own to teach for four years at the American Embassy School in Delhi. "They provided everything a teacher could humanly want," she said.

Jay retired from Cal State Hayward in 1992, serving the last 11 years as department chair. Since then, the two have returned to India many times to renew friendships, particularly with one man and his family.

"On my first trip to the tribal area, I met a young man who helped us get settled," Jay said. "He lived with us for two months. We became really good friends." On his second trip, Jay hired him as an interpreter — he spoke Hindi, Urdu, and English — and lived with his family. "They became our family."

The young man, Gulsher Khan, became a well-known author, writing under his nickname, Shaani. His works have been translated into Russian, Lithuanian, Czech, and English. One of his books, *An Island of Sal,* published in 1981, details the time he spent with Jay in the tribal village, chronicling the Orchas' social life and highlighting Jay's interaction with the tribe.

"Probably Ed had never expected as much cooperation, love, goodwill and warmth as were proffered him during his stay," Shaani wrote. "Indeed,

Ed Jay, see next page

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"Every single object in this house has a memory behind it," say Ed and Sharon Jay.

Photo by Judy Berne

Ed Jay, from previous page

before long the 'Eds' became inseparable members of the zealously guarded, close-knit community…they shared with him their joys and sorrows." Shaani died in 1995.

"We brought two of his daughters over here when they were in their early twenties," Jay said. "We drove them all over our state and out of state. We went to their weddings." The Jays returned from their most recent trip to India in early 2020. "The day we got back was the first day of 'shelter-in-place.'"

The Jays have long been active in the Rockridge community. Sharon helped organize the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), and both were involved in trying to lessen the impact of the new College Avenue Safeway store on neighborhood vendors. A recent *Rockridge News* survey revealed that Jay is the oldest volunteer deliverer of the newsletter.

"When I moved in just across from them in 1975, Ed and Sharon were the best at solving garden problems, neighborhood communication, and restaurant recommendations," said neighbor **Lynne Costain**.

"Although they are retired educators, neither has really stopped teaching. Through stories of their frequent, extended travels to India, I have a much better understanding of life there than from classes or books. They are the best neighbors ever."

"Ed and Sharon are our dear neighbors and, effectively, family members for more than 25 years," said **Brooke Elmgren**. "They've shared in our happiest moments and been there for us at times of loss. They have also proved to be exceptional role models, not just for our children, but for Todd and me.

"They're natural and passionate lifelong learners on a wide range of subjects — from politics to ethics, travel to music (jazz, in particular) — all of it tied nicely to their careers as educators, both here and in India. And while their intellectual energy is impressive, their physical energy keeps pace. They are, in brief, inspiring."

To celebrate Jay's birthday, the couple went to Safari West, a wildlife preserve in Sonoma County, followed by several days at the Calistoga hot springs. They planned their trip so as not to interfere with his regular newsletter delivery. "I love Rockridge," he said. "It's an ideal place to live."

To comment or suggest topics for future columns, please email judyberne@att.net. ■

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CCA Farewell, from front page

The California Arts & Crafts movement (1895-1930) produced a distinct regional blend of Japanese and Native American symbolism, and elements from the state's Spanish-Mexican heritage, all overlaid on aesthetic concepts from Britain and reflected in the design of homes and commercial buildings here. Additionally, Craftsman bungalows dominated Rockridge, the only architectural form to originate on the West Coast and spread east. Nationally, they are known as California bungalows.

Rockridge was a transportation hub equal or superior to today's BART and bus access. Electric trolleys ran along College Avenue — the Key System E-Line electric trains to San Francisco ran down Claremont; and the Sacramento Northern, a 183-mile electric interurban railway, ran down Shafter Avenue connecting Oakland to Chico via Sacramento. It was faster than it is now to get to Sacramento by train.

With CCA came an influx of new residents, both faculty and students, and many left their mark on Rockridge, Oakland, and, indeed, the world. At the local level, the vibrancy of the artistic hub created by the college attracted creatives from far and wide. Rockridge became home to artists, musicians, writers as well as many in the crafts. In later years, filmmakers were also drawn to CCA and the neighborhood. Rockridge is home to two Oscar-winning documentarians.

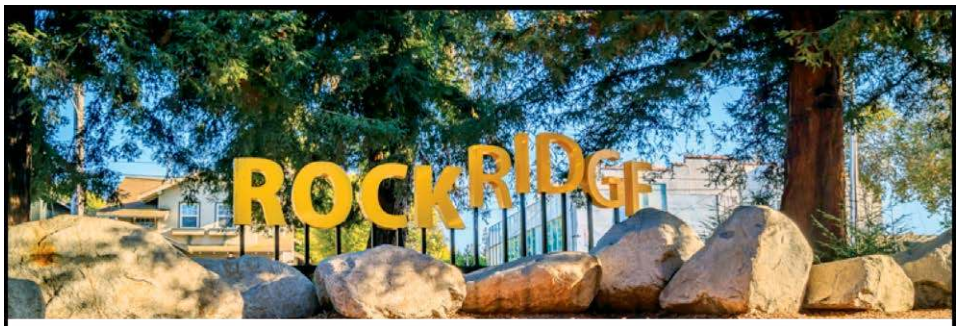
With CCA came an influx of new residents, both faculty and students, and many left their mark on Rockridge.

At the October 2009 RCPC Town Hall, Arts & Crafts author and lecturer **Jane Powell** noted that while a neighborhood of Pasadena on the National Historic Register has been dubbed "Bungalow Heaven," Rockridge has more and better bungalows in a coherent neighborhood setting. Powell called Rockridge "the finest Arts & Crafts neighborhood in America" due to the short building period within which most Rockridge homes were developed. Built in part to serve commuters to San Francisco following the 1906 earthquake, the location was perfect for attracting students from the wider region.

CCA Artists of Rockridge

Many distinguished alumni made Rockridge their permanent home. Two painters of the avant-garde "Society of Six," **Maurice Logan** and **Louis Siegrest**, settled here, and the

CCA Farewell, see next page



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CCA Farewell, from previous page

creek that ran from Lake Temescal to College Avenue (now culverted under Hwy 24) was a rich subject matter for them as well as many art students.

One of America's most celebrated and important ceramic artists, **Peter Voulkos**, took his graduate degree at CCAC and settled on 63rd Street at Hillegass in 1959. Voulkos was a key member of a group of ceramicists who raised the skill from craft to art. His work is very sculptural, often large, frequently deconstructed, and always aesthetically challenging and exciting.

In 1961, Voulkos was commissioned by Lytton Savings bank to make a sculpture for the plaza at the corner of 51st and Broadway. In 1965, his controversial sculpture "Lady Remington" was replaced by "The Money Tree," created by noted kinetic artist **Peter Selz**. The Lytton Savings building, an icon of modernist architecture by Swiss architect **Kurt Meyer**, has since been demolished. Voulkos was for many years on the faculty at UC Berkeley. "Mr. Ishi," one of Voulkos's heroic bronzes, can be seen in the garden at the Oakland Museum of California — they also have a collection of his ceramic works.



"Lady Remington" was commissioned by Lytton Savings in 1961. Voulkos created the sculpture in the foundry at UC Berkeley, established that same year.

Rockridge is also home to noted painter, collagist, and assemblage artist **Raymond Saunders**, artist and CCA faculty member since 1987. His work is in numerous museums, including the MOMA, Metropolitan Museum, Whitney Museum, and SFMOMA. His work has been exhibited worldwide. In his now-famous 1967 essay, "Black is a Color," Saunders stated that racial categories have no place in the creation, or viewing, of works of art. To make his art a vehicle for any specific agenda, including the kind of racial uplift that the work of Black artists has so often been made to be, would be a kind of vulgarization: a process by which "the artist makes himself a mere peddler."

RCPC has directly benefitted from the artistic input of faculty and students, with board members drawn from their ranks through the years, including noted painter and long-time CCA instructor **Jason Schoener**. Local artists contributed their time during the planning and design of the Rockridge Branch Library and advised on the required art elements that were included in its construction.

New Urbanists consider Rockridge a Natural Cultural District, defined as "a geographically-defined social network created by the presence of a density of cultural assets in a particular neighborhood. A Natural Cultural District simply identifies a neighborhood that has naturally, organically, spawned a density of unique cultural assets (organizations, businesses, participants, and artists) that sets it apart from other neighborhoods." This is the quintessential description of Oakland's Rockridge district, and CCA embodied this spirit for 100 years. They will be missed. ■

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Oakland Tech Seeks Support for New Student Center and Staff Lounge



The Oakland Tech Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), has collaborated with a group of administrators, parents, teachers, and students, to design a student center and staff lounge in the old library space. The PTSA has raised $80,000 to implement Phase One of the redesign. However, additional funds will be needed for the full vision of this project to be realized.

Phase One will begin this summer. The space will be cleared, painted, and have its flooring replaced. Additionally, a new staff lounge is planned to be partially in use by this fall.

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Phase Two and Phase Three will be implemented as funds are secured for completion.

This large undertaking will involve many volunteer opportunities, and success depends upon community participation and support. Local businesses are encouraged to be part of this exciting project. Donors and major volunteers will be recognized on a permanent donor recognition wall at the entrance of the center.

"After two years of disrupted schooling for so many at-risk Oakland kids, and the additional epidemic of underfunded and dilapidated facilities, this project could be transformational," said parent volunteer **Shelly Cox**. "This new space for the school will become the heart of Oakland Tech, and it will only be possible through the efforts of our Oakland Tech Community. Please help with this important addition to our school which will benefit Oakland Tech Students for years to come."

To donate, or for more information, visit the school's homepage at https://oaklandtech.com/. For questions, or to find out about volunteer opportunities, contact Shelly Cox at oaklandshellycox@icloud.com. ■

Buffy Wicks, from front page

We began our conversation on the topic of affordable housing.

Rockridge News: Housing is very tight and very expensive here in Rockridge. Private companies have been buying up key parcels of real estate and prices have soared. Currently, Home Depot is interested in the large empty lot at Broadway and 51st. There's been a strong desire to see affordable housing built there, but the landowners don't want any housing at all. You co-authored **AB 2011** which would override local regulations by authorizing certain multi-family housing projects to be implemented, with streamlined review, on sites zoned for office, retail, or parking. Will this bill impact this site?

Buffy Wicks: That empty lot is a perfect example of where we should be building housing. The reason for allowing development along commercially zoned areas is because that's where you tend to have more public transportation, and I think that nexus is very critical.

The bill would allow for commercial zoning on the ground floor and affordable and mixed-income housing above — with the idea of trying to increase that housing supply. To get that streamlined, developers must adhere to following labor protections. They must pay prevailing wages. They must provide affordable housing. We have a workforce shortage, so they must use apprentices because that's a critical way to continue to grow the workforce.

This bill ultimately is voluntary. The developers have to decide if they would adhere to the labor protections, but we think it'll spur that type of development. I don't know how it will impact that specific lot.

RN: You also authored **ACA 14, the Hope Act** (Housing Opportunities for Everyone) which would amend the State Constitution to require that five percent of the State general fund revenues be dedicated, every year for the next decade, to the State's affordable housing and homelessness crisis.

Wicks: That's my bill, and it would be a very big set aside for funding for affordable housing. Why do we have growing homelessness in our communities? It's due to the lack of ongoing funding for affordable housing. It needs a two-thirds vote to get out of each house — the Senate, and the Assembly. If it does, it would be on the ballot this year. If not, I'll keep pushing for more funding for affordable housing.

RN: Roe v. Wade is back in the news. **AB 2223**, authored by you, would protect a woman from civil and criminal liability for any "actions or omissions" affecting her pregnancy. Can you explain the goal of this bill?

It was kind of bizarre. You would hear, "Buffy Wicks is taking away our freedoms," to "Buffy is a baby killer."

Wicks: It's ensuring that women, including women who come to California because their state no longer allows for safe and legal abortions, know that here in California they cannot be criminally prosecuted. It's part of a suite of bills that the Women's Caucus is running to ensure that California remains a reproductive freedom state for all.

There was an example of a woman who got in a very bad car accident. She wasn't wearing a seatbelt and unfortunately lost the baby she was carrying. She was charged with manslaughter. Being criminally prosecuted, in my opinion, was not the right thing to do. My bill says you cannot be criminally prosecuted for suffering a pregnancy loss, whether it is sillbirth, miscarriage, abortion, or perinatal (in-utero or shortly after birth).

RN: The People's Convoy (thepeoplesconvoy.org/) came through Rockridge this past April. They paraded loudly past your house and down College Avenue to call for an end of the State of Emergency and to protest Covid vaccine mandates (specifically Assembly Bill 1993, authored by Wicks, that would have required all employees and all independent contractors who work in California to show proof of full vaccination). The event gained national attention in the *Washington Post* (https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/04/26/peoples-convoy-truckers-egged-kids-california/)

Wicks: They came by my house. They were in the capital earlier that week. I had pulled the bill (AB 1993) about a month before that, so they shifted gears and started protesting my abortion bill, **AB 2223**. It was a

Buffy Wicks, see next page



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Buffy Wicks, from previous page

little bit of mixed messages in terms of what transpired — a bit of anti-vax meets anti-abortion activists. It was kind of bizarre. You would hear, "Buffy Wicks is taking away our freedoms," to "Buffy is a baby killer."

RN: You co-authored **AB 2098** that says doctors who disseminate "misinformation or disinformation" to a patient about Covid or Covid injections are unprofessional and should be subject to disciplinary action. Critics say this bill will penalize physicians who talk about early treatment options with off-label drugs, for example, or who question vaccine safety. They say that requiring physicians to follow a pre-established protocol would impede consumers' access to medical care and interfere with the doctor/patient relationship. [*Ed note:* This bill was amended in April, limiting some of its impact.] There is no precedent for legislating this type of behavior. Why do you think it is important to do so?

Wicks: There's a suite of bills introduced by my colleagues and me, and this bill is supported by pediatricians, OBGYNS, emergency medical physicians, the California Medical Association, and our county health providers. The point of this bill is to combat the sort of disinformation and misinformation that we've been seeing online around Covid, and vaccines in particular. There's been a lot of misinformation, and this bill strikes at the heart of that.

RN: **SB 866** (Senators Wiener & Pan/authors, Wicks/principal co-author), commonly referred to as the "Teens Choose Vaccines Act," would allow minors as young as age 12 to decide if they want to get the Covid vaccine, without parental knowledge or consent. This assumes that a 12-year-old child can be fully informed about the consequences of their decision, including the more than 1,200 possible adverse reactions, including heart disease. If this passes, parents would be left in the dark and wouldn't even know to look for an adverse reaction.

Wicks: With that logic, we would then think that underage folks, teenagers, shouldn't be able to access reproductive care either, and that's something that I think teenagers should be able to access without parental consent. That bill says that teenagers should be able to make their own choice if they want to get the Covid vaccine, which they can right now with the HPV vaccine, and with reproductive care (birth control, abortion access). This would add the Covid vaccine to that list. I think it's similar.

RN: You are co-author of **SB 1479** regarding long-term Covid testing at schools, and the requirement to report the results to the California Department of Public Health. Schools haven't served as testing sites for respiratory illnesses since testing for tuberculosis in the '60s and '70s, which had limited success. Testing children, especially those who are not symptomatic, would have a financial burden on schools. Why do you think it's necessary to start doing this now, especially in light of the less harmful variants and the minimal risk of death and hospitalization the virus poses to children?

Wicks: A million people have died in the United States of America, and we've had a global pandemic shut our whole world down for a year plus. We've never had a pandemic like this before, so I think the crisis requires such a response. Transmission still happens, but the vaccines reduce some level of transmission. It's not 100 percent, but even if it's 50, I'll take it. We know that the vaccines reduce death. We know that there are breakthrough cases, obviously, and we're learning more every day, but we know that the vaccines save lives. ■

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The deadline for the July 2022 issue (available July 2) **is June 16, 2022.**

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5/16/2022	2	2	5290 Broadway Terrace	$899,000	$899,000	11	$1,180,000
5/16/2022	2	2	5208 Miles Ave	$1,049,000	$1,049,500	12	$1,225,000
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