

## BOOK SALE

**Come one, come ALL!**

The next FKL-sponsored  
Book Sale will be at the  
**Kensington Community  
Center**  
59 Arlington Avenue

Sat, May 7th - 9am to 4 pm  
Sun, May 8th - 11 am to 4 pm

### **Bag Sale**

(\$3/bag)

will take place  
Sunday, May 8th,  
3 pm to 4 pm

## WHY WE LOVE KENSINGTON LIBRARY

Esther Hill

Soon after moving to Kensington, I realized our location offered a huge advantage to a mother of young children. We were within blocks of the library, a haven on rainy afternoons where my toddler could look through a seemingly endless supply of picture books while my new baby slept or nursed. We brought home stacks of books and videos. I could sneak a few minutes to read a magazine or newspaper while Barney sang the ABC song on a video that (mercifully) could be returned to the library. My sons first saw bats at the vastly popular Halloween program, experienced birds of prey flying at a program on falconry, and were entertained by an assortment of jugglers, puppeteers, and storytellers in programs arranged by the Friends of the Kensington Library.

As my children have grown, I've been grateful that the library offers a safe place to go after school. They've been part of that often-noisy group of kids crowding the tables and computers in mid-afternoon, working on homework and checking out the latest cartoon books. The library's resources have helped us with geography reports, science fair projects, and costume ideas for school plays.

Recently, on the long drive to San Diego and back, I played books on CD checked out from the library. My sons initially protested my choice of books, but were soon engrossed in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*. (They flatly refused *Pride and Prejudice*!) The time passed quickly, and once again, I was grateful for the Kensington library.

## WHY WE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Vanessa N. Cordova and Felix Cisneros

Like the best libraries, the Kensington library reflects the diverse interests of our community. In addition, we also feel that it's important for our library to continue to provide universal access to information for all the people it serves. We also support the Kensington library for its outreach to the community and hope that it will continue programs to entertain and inform both young and old.

## INVENTORY

When the library was built in the 60's, it was designed to accommodate 20,000 volumes. Today, the building contains almost double that number plus a copier and eight computer consoles. Furthermore, the meeting room, a modest (10X14) antechamber to the left of the Library entrance, must do triple duty as a storage area for returned books prior to their shelv-

ing and as the Children's Story Room! The Grubb Realty Company recently funded the refurbishment of this space. A mural graces its freshly-painted walls; new rugs and wall coverings make this a cheery spot for children's activities, but the only time the children can enjoy the space is when the book trucks are taken out one evening a week for Story Hour!

## PLEASE TELL US

WHAT DOES THE LIBRARY MEAN TO YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IT BECOME? SHOULD WE UPGRADE? SHOULD WE TEAR DOWN AND REBUILD? WE HOPE YOU WILL GET INVOLVED WITH LIBRARY MATTERS. WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FKL AND TO JOIN IN THE COLLOQUY. TELL US. WE'RE LISTENING!



Simon Greenberg & Alex the Magician

## THE STATE OF THE LIBRARY

George Judy

On March 21st Kensingtonians attended a Town Hall Meeting at the Kensington Library to assess its present needs and problems and to generate ideas for possible solutions. Supervisor John Gioia, County Librarian Anne Cain, and Kensington's Head Librarian Liz Ruhland led the discussion. There was very good input, but more is needed. The meeting place itself provided a salutary example of a primary need. In order to clear enough space in the main room for the Town meeting, FKL navvies had to move tables to the sides and bring chairs to the center. They perform this same duty at all of the Library's monthly adult and children's programs. Furthermore they have had to limit attendance (by issuing tickets in advance) to some programs to ensure the number of attendees remains under the fire code limit.



## THE SIXTH YEAR OF SEUSS

George Judy

This was the sixth year that the FKL sponsored the Dr. Seuss children's party. This year we commemorated the 101st anniversary of the author's birthday. The party was made even more impressive by the presence of a seven-foot "Cat in Hat". Children were awed by the silent, authentic looking "Cat" greeting them at the Community Center door! The animus for the cat costume was provided by Julia Cotterall, an eighth grade student from Portola Middle School.

The costume was given to the FKL by Jennie Parks who also donated "Cat in the Hat" flash card packets, used as prizes to each child attending. Children could also win prizes of Dr. Seuss books, by scoring well on Seuss puzzles handed out by FKL volunteers. Library Assistant, Alison

McKee, read a spirited version of "Horton Lays an Egg" followed by local twins, Milena and Myles Schallor, in appropriate costumes, delivering their yearly interpretation of "Green Eggs and Ham". The Berkeley High sisters, vegetarians, did not partake of the six dozen scrambled and appropriately dyed eggs and seven pounds of diced ham, but over a hundred Seuss-satisfied guests certainly did!

SPRING 2005

## Library NEWS

**Celebration of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Library** Do you recall the Opening Day of the Kensington Library? Yes, it was almost 40 years ago on October 23, 1965! Forty years of service to the Kensington area should call for a Birthday Celebration!

**Did you know that FKL has 528 members and 47 business participants** in our community who have donated money to support Kensington Library, thus augmenting Contra Costa County Library Funds? Money donated by the community to FKL helped to purchase, in the *first quarter of 2005*, 697 new media items such as library books, books on tape, videos and CDs for use by children and adults and also made possible the varied FKL-sponsored adult and children's programs in the library. Community-donated used books are sold by FKL in the spring and fall book sales as Library fundraisers. Additionally, proceeds from sales of the ongoing "mini" book selection, near the library front door, also generate funds for FKL to use in assisting The Kensington Library to well-serve our community.



**FKL Meetings are Public and are held on the first Tuesday of each month, from 7 to 8 pm in the aforementioned Children's Story/ Book Storage/ Meeting Room.**

### FKL Information

Kensington Library.....524-3043

Book Line.....1-800-984-4636  
(for general information and reference)

Library Home Page

<http://cclib.org/>

(Renew and reserve books here)

<http://www.aboutkensington.com/fkl.html>  
(access to find out about latest FKL news)

Liz Ruhland, Kensington Branch Librarian,  
is now on maternity leave.

Amy Collen is Acting Branch Librarian  
Pamela McKay, Youth Services Librarian  
Louise O'Dea, Library Assistant  
Alison McKee, Library Assistant  
Melanie McCallum, Library Assistant  
Monica Tilley, Clerk  
Suzanne Vito, Clerk

**Library Story Room Refurbishing** Cheerful yellow paint, a new tell-time clock, story time floor pads, and a beautifully executed mural were generously donated by the Grubb Company and have transformed the Library Children's Story Room. The talented Muralist is Julie Goodson-Lowes. New carpet, soon to be installed in the Story Room, will be generously donated by Dick's Carpets. Many thanks for the transformed room should go to The Grubb Company, Dick's Carpets and to Julie Goodson-Lowes!



**Muralist Julie Goodson-Lawes, our Librarian Liz Ruhland and Ruth Frassetto from the Grubb Company**

### LIBRARY HOURS

MON: 12-8

TUE: 12-8

WED: CLOSED

THUR: 10-6

FRI: 1-5

SAT: 10-5