



**Friends of the
Kensington
Library**
61 Arlington Avenue
Kensington
California 94707

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**Friends of the
Kensington Library**

Serving the Kensington Community

NOTES

Spring 2009



Programs and Events

Children

Children's Special Programs:

- Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30pm: CHILDREN'S DELIGHT in "Runaway Cabosse," musical storytelling.
- Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30pm: SANDI & STEVIE, with Sealife stories and songs
- Thursday, May 14 at 3:00pm: BOOK BINGO, featuring characters from books. A Celebration for Children's Book Week.

Summer Reading Program

- Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30pm: FRATELLO MARIONETTES in "The Frog Prince"
- Saturday, June 20 at 3:30pm: DAFFY DAVE, the world's kookiest clown
- Saturday, July 18 at 3:30pm: KATHRYN ROSZAK, a dance presentation and workshop by a favorite local teacher
- Saturday, August 1 at 3:00pm: PETER APEL, a musical magic show featuring, "Dinosaur in my Head"
- Saturday, August 15 at 3:00pm: Program TBA
- Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30pm: MAD SCIENCE, a wild science show
- Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30m: NEVER CRY WOLF RESCUE ADOPTION, meet live wolves up close and personal

Baby/Toddler Storytime:

most *Thursdays* at 10:15am & 11:15am. Call library for dates

Family Storytime:

Tuesdays at 7pm (when a special program is not scheduled)

Tweens (grades 4-6)

- Manga Maniacs
Monthly (call library for schedule)
- Crafts:
Every other Monday at 3pm
- Games:
Every other Monday at 3pm

Adults

Knitting: every first Monday at 7pm

Adult Special Programs (see program descriptions on page 3):

- Monday, May 11 at 7:00pm: THE DROUGHT & COMMUNITY RESPONSE, with Andy Katz, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)
- Monday, June 8 at 7:00pm: Rafael Manriquez, Latin American musician



Celebrate Reading, the Library, and Your Community at the Contra Costa County Library Reading Festival

The Contra Costa County Library's Reading Festival is back...and this year it's better than ever! For an entire week, May 3 – 9, 2009, the libraries in our community will invite you to celebrate reading and writing with entertainment, insight, and authors – free, fun, and right in your own backyard!

For younger audiences, Children's Delight will appear at the Kensington Library on Tuesday, May 5th at 6:30 p.m. bringing their high energy theatrical performance combining storytelling, comedy, music and lots of audience participation for a unique experience sure to please the whole family.

On Saturday, May 9th at 3 p.m., Francisco Jimenez will appear at the Contra Costa College Library in San Pablo to give a talk, "From Migrant Farm Worker to Award-winning Author: An American Success Story" about the inspirational life of Professor Francisco Jimenez as he describes growing up in the migrant farm fields and his journey to become an award winning author and university professor in California. Limited seating will be available on a first come first serve basis.

Presented by Target and sponsored by the *Contra Costa Times*, the 2009 Reading Festival is a celebration of reading, libraries, and the community and all 25 community libraries in Contra Costa County will feature authors, events and performances – free and for the whole family – throughout the week of May 3 – 9, 2009. For a complete schedule of events visit the Contra Costa County Library Reading Festival's website at cclib.org.



Library volunteers Larry Sullivan, David Hampton, Lillian Fujimoto and Janet Seim take five at the October book sale.



Kensington Library Hours

Monday: 12noon-8pm
Tuesday: 12noon-8pm
Wednesday: CLOSED
Thursday: 10am-6pm
Friday: 1pm-5pm
Saturday: 10am-5pm
Sunday: CLOSED

Library phone: 510-524-3043
Book Line: 1-800-984-4636
(for general information and reference)

Website: ccclib.org

Library Staff

Community Library Manager
Liz Ruhland

Youth Services Librarian
Pamela McKay

Library Assistants
Mary French
Louise O'Dea
Chris Brown

Clerks
Monica Tilley
Eric Ralphs

Friends of the Kensington Library

2008 Officers

President	Nancy Okasaki
Vice President	John Gossard
Treasurer	Larry Sullivan
Secretary	Gretchen Gillfillan
Membership	Valerie Paola
Volunteers	Barbara Nelson

FKL meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Library Meeting Room. Members of the public are welcome to join us.

www.aboutkensington.com/fkl.html

Friends of the Kensington Library NOTES

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The Friends of the Kensington Library

Editor: Lisa Hotchkiss
Designer: Tim Moder
Mailing Coordinator: Valerie Paola

Message from the President

By Nancy Okasaki

Every year, the Friends of the Kensington Library provide supplemental funding to support the many special programs offered by the library. On page four of this newsletter, you'll see a long list of events planned by our Youth Services Librarian, Pamela McKay – all of which were made possible by financial support of the Friends. But it's the amazing dedication and creativity that Pamela has shared with all of her young patrons and their families that has helped to make the Kensington Library one of the most-used libraries in Contra Costa County. Every first Tuesday when the Friends meet in the story room, we see a wonderful parade of children and their parents anxious for the weekly story hour at 7pm. And shortly after 8pm, Pamela joins our meeting to report on some of the well-attended programs she's put together in the past month and announce the long list of events she has planned for the coming months. Everything from bats to magicians to musicians have entertained and enthralled the children of our community for years. Pamela will retire later this summer, and we wish her well in her retirement and know the children will miss her magical touch.

Special Adult Programs Quench Drought Concerns and Thirst for Music

The Drought and Community Response
Andy Katz, Director, (EBMUD)
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Monday, May 11, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Please join Andy Katz for an update on our current drought situation and discussion about water conservation measures and water quality. Mr. Katz has been our elected representative to the East Bay Municipal District since 2006. He represents Ward 4, which includes Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Kensington and North Oakland. He is active in environmental and public health organizations, including the Sierra Club and Breathe California. Prior to his election, he served for five years as a member of the city of Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of City Planning degree from U. C. Berkeley, and lives in Berkeley.

Rafael Manriquez
Latin American musician
Monday, June 8th, at 7 p.m.

Rafael Manriquez has been one of the leading exponents of Latin American music in the San Francisco Bay Area for over twenty years. Originally from Santiago, Chile, Rafael brings us the gift of both his exquisite voice and remarkable skill on Latin American string instruments, ranging from the guitar to the charango to the cuatro and tiple. Rafael is a passionate and well-loved composer and performer. Through his music, he reveals the richness of Latin folk rhythms influenced by the Spanish, Native American and African cultures. His lyrics reflect the struggles and hopes of the people of this continent. He has performed throughout the Americas and Europe. His music has been recorded on over ten albums. Rafael has been an active leader at La Pena Cultural Center in Berkeley, teaching classes in guitar and New Latin American Song, directing the La Pena Community Chorus, and organizing Latin American music festivals.

Join the Club!

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The Kensington Library Book Club reading list includes the classics and contemporary fiction. The club meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7pm in the Library Meeting Room. Books are available for check-out a month prior to the meeting. Call the library for titles after July.

May 18 (*Note Date Change*): Disgrace by J.M Coetzee

June 22: People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks

July 27: Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy



Gretchen Gillfillan and granddaughters, Victoria and Laura Ann Pacos, display their famous green jello eggs.

egg-cooking at home and hauling it over to feed the mini masses. But the popularity of the event grew quickly, and the Library was soon bursting at the seams. The Youth Hut is now the location of the annual birthday program, which allows more children to attend and the eggs to be cooked on-site. The famed green Jello eggs, however, are still made and very carefully transported by Gretchen and Walter.

And that tall fellow in his grey suit? He's none other than Kensington resident, Martin Cotteral. "When I was planning the first birthday party, I got a call from a woman in Kensington who asked if I was interested in a professional Cat in the Hat costume. How perfect was that! Martin has been our Cat for the annual parade as well as the birthday parties and is always a hit," says Gretchen. However, it may be time to pass the hat, so to speak, as Martin, all six feet and four inches of him, has outgrown the suit!

The time has also come for Gretchen to hand over the reins of her trademark event. "It's been great fun, but it's also a lot of work." For the next event coordinator, Gretchen has compiled a to-do list and has neatly packed all of her Seuss supplies. The Friends of the Kensington Library provides many able-bodied volunteers, but is looking for a new top cat. Anyone interested in becoming the next reigning coordinator of the Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash is encouraged to contact Liz Ruhland at the Kensington Library.

On and Off the Walls

On your next visit to the Kensington Library, before you check out your books, be sure to check out the glorious art adorning the walls. Artists are often local, and their works are available for sale.

Upcoming displays:

May/June: Student work from the
El Cerrito Canyon Trail Art Center

July/August: Kate Phillips
Sept/October: Donna Mendes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. SEUSS!

Every spring, an obviously tall fellow in a grey suit and red-and-white-striped hat reappears at the Kensington Library to celebrate the March 2 birthday of his creator, Theodore Seuss Geisel, aka the beloved Dr. Seuss. Dr. Seuss's timeless books line the shelves of many a children's library and continue to be favorites for young readers of all ages.

For the past nine years, children from the Kensington community have been enthralled by Sneetches, Lorax, and Who's and have feasted on, what else, green eggs and ham. These colorful, rhyme-filled celebrations have been coordinated under the loving care of Gretchen Gillfillan, a member of the Friends of the Kensington Library. A former elementary school teacher in Orinda, Gretchen got the idea almost a decade ago from a colleague and former mayor of Pinole. At a County-sponsored awards ceremony at which both were being honored, the two women somehow got on the topic of children's programs, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Working closely with Youth Services Librarian, Pamela McKay, the birthday events include Seuss-centered games and activities, readings, and the much-anticipated green-hued meal. "Pamela has been an incredible partner in these programs," notes Gretchen. "Every year she comes up with wonderful new games and surprises, and the kids just love it."

The first five birthday celebrations were held in the Kensington Library, with Gretchen and husband Walter doing all the green



Pamela McKay works her Seussical magic on her young audience.