

# Temescal News & Views

Published by Temescal Neighbors Together with the support of Temescal merchants



*Temescal News & Views* is published bimonthly and distributed to 3,000 households, schools and businesses.



## Our Mission

The mission of TNT is to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community through revitalization of our homes, businesses, schools and public services by providing an ongoing forum for community education, interaction and empowerment.



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Printed by KRW Printing  
3905 Broadway ♦ 420-1791

## Thank You!

THIS ISSUE OF  
*TEMESCAL NEWS & VIEWS*  
HAS BEEN GENEROUSLY  
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## ProArts Open Studios in Temescal Neighborhood

Twenty-eight artists in the Temescal neighborhood of North Oakland will open their studios to the public in conjunction with the 22nd Annual ProArts Open Studios event. The events take place over two weekends, June 5th and 6th and June 12th and 13th, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm each day. Neighborhood maps and schedules will be available at the Temescal Cafe, Women's Cancer Resource Center and at some of the studios. A few of the studios may only be open for one weekend so be sure to check the schedule before attending.

This self-guided studio tour offers the public a unique opportunity to visit neighborhood artists in their workspaces and purchase a wide variety of arts and crafts directly from the artists. These neighborhood artists will be featuring a diverse array of creations including paintings, sculpture, photography, cards, glasswork, jewelry, recycled art, mosaics, prints, and much more.

Work by each of these artists, along with the work of over 500 East Bay artists may be previewed at Pro Arts Gallery, located at 550 Second Street in Jack London Square. The exhibition opens April 28th with an artist's reception on Thursday, June 3 from 7 pm to 9 pm. The gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday Noon to 6 pm and Sunday Noon to 5 pm. Many artists also have their work available for preview at [www.mesart.com](http://www.mesart.com).

Come take advantage of this unparalleled opportunity to view a wide range of work by local artists in their own studios. The box on the next page lists participating studios in Temescal and North Oakland. For more information about this unique event, visit [www.proartsgallery.org](http://www.proartsgallery.org). We hope to see you in the studios!

— Margo Mercedes Rivera-Weiss



Margo Mercedes Rivera-Weiss' work traverses the globe from Latin-inspired sensuous tropical fruits rendered in saturated colors to mystical and complex Hebrew illuminations. Her work will be featured at the Women's Resource Center Art Gallery, 5741 Telegraph Avenue, during the ProArts East Bay Open Studio Event.

## Condo Conversion Ordinance Under Review

Do you want to help preserve stability in our neighborhoods and ensure that tenants have affordable places to live? Right now the city of Oakland, under pressure from speculators, is reviewing the condominium conversion ordinance, which has done an effective job of preserving rental housing in Oakland since 1981. Speculators want to gut the ordinance, which effectively blocks conversion of rentals to condos by requiring that rental units removed from the rental market be replaced by new rental units. (Buildings of four units and less are exempt from this provision.)

The Coalition to Preserve Rental Housing, which consists of tenant and community groups, has proposed to modify the ordinance to allow existing tenants who desire, and can afford, to purchase their units to do so. If the ordinance is loosened more broadly, the coalition believes that higher income people from outside of Oakland will be invited to displace

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Rae Louis Hayward will be showing her work at the Women's Cancer Resource Center (WCRC) Art Gallery during the ProArts Open Studio event (see below for other sites). Hayward's art celebrates the beauty of African culture in many mediums including acrylics, oil pastels, and pen and ink.

### A Guide to the 2004 ProArts East Bay Open Studio Event

*Exhibits in the Temescal neighborhood open both weekends*

Alan Leon, (Watercolors, Painting) Temescal Cafe, 4920 Telegraph Avenue\*

Keiko Nelson, 5002 Telegraph Avenue

Vincent Bendetto, 373 40th Street

Wendy Yoshimura, 474 43rd Street

Carrie Rehak, 4928 Telegraph Avenue #1

*Exhibits elsewhere in North Oakland open both weekends*

Carol Aust, Paintings, 655 63rd Street

Margo Mercedes Rivera-Weiss, Rae Louise Hayward, Women's Cancer Resource Center, 5741 Telegraph Avenue\*

Bruce Waterman, 6436 Telegraph Avenue

Christina Berteau, 477 North Street

Auguste Raffael, 629 Poirier Street

Kim Vanderheiden, Dennis Adida, Ted Grover, 730 29th Street

Alana Clearlake, Joolia Harper, 4219 MLK Jr. Way

Ross Peacock, 505 Alcatraz #4

Linda Vogel, 4225 MLK Jr. Way

Cybele Gerachi, 706 33rd Street

\* Maps and schedules are available at these locations.

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existing residents, creating economic refugees and destabilizing our neighborhoods.

Members and endorsers of the coalition include the Oakland Coalition of Congregations, Alameda County Central Labor Council, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, Alameda County Dept of Public Health, Oakland Tenants Union, Just Cause Oakland, East Bay Community Law Center, East Bay Housing Organizations, and Centro Legal de la Raza.

Contact Councilmember Jane Brunner's office (238-7001) if you are concerned about this.

– Ben Thompson

### Seeking Performers, Volunteers, Non-profits to Participate in Street Fair

A Temescal Street Fair is being planned for Saturday, August 21, on Telegraph Avenue between 48th and 51st Streets. The organizers are currently seeking neighborhood artists (musicians, children's performers, and makers of crafts), as well as nonprofit, community based organizations who are interested in participating. If you are interested, please contact Karen Hester at Karen@Hesternet.net, or send CD's or press kits to 320 45th Street, Oakland, CA 94609.

– Karen Hester

### TNT Committee Member Needed

Temescal Neighbors Together (TNT) is one of the Community Organizations that holds a position on the Broadway/MacArthur/San Pablo Redevelopment Project Area Committee (PAC). The PAC serves as an advisory group to the Redevelopment Agency that helps determine which projects are funded within the Redevelopment Area (which includes Tele-

graph from 27th to 42nd Street). When the Redevelopment Area is fully funded, the PAC will have an advisory role in the distribution of millions of dollars.

The current TNT representative to the PAC, Kenny Mostern, is looking for a volunteer who is interested in serving in his place. The PAC meets the first Thursday of the month, on a bimonthly basis from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Interested candidates should contact Kenny at 593-9831 to find out more about the position.

– Kathy Kleinbaum

## Temescal Place to Open Soon

Big changes are afoot on Telegraph Avenue. Vibrant new restaurants and stores have become a reality as the ‘Avenue’ continues to evolve. Much of this activity is centered on the Temescal Place development at Telegraph Avenue and 48th Street. Construction of the 25-unit condominium should be completed in June. Temescal Place represents the first new major residential construction in the historic Temescal District in more than 40 years.

When the Post Office was moved to its current location, some were concerned that the previous site would languish and become a lifeless corner in the emerging retail district. Ron Kriss, Roy Alper, and Pat Zimski, all long-term North Oakland neighbors, purchased the lot and proposed this ambitious development. The proposed development quickly won support from the City, merchants and neighbors, for the ambitious and much needed in-fill housing and retail development project.

The new building features 25 market-rate condos in the townhome and loft styles, and a retail store facing Telegraph Avenue. Parking is nicely screened from the street in a secure garage with its entrance off of 48th Street. A neighborhood resident, Tom Dolan, the principal of TDA

Architects, is responsible for providing the innovative architectural design, which will maintain the architectural integrity of the neighborhood.

Additional information about the project is available at [www.TemescalPlace.com](http://www.TemescalPlace.com), or from Ron Kriss at Lawton Associates. He can be reached at 547-5970 ext. 55, or at [ronkriss@jps.net](mailto:ronkriss@jps.net).

– Ron Kriss

## Thank you from the Temescal Library

If you’ve driven or walked by the library in recent weeks, you may have noticed the sign hanging below our front windows: “*Thank you Oakland Voters for supporting Measure Q!*” On March 2nd, Election Day and the 100th anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Seuss, voters approved Measure Q by 77.2%, giving the library a very stable source of funding for staffing, programs and materials. A special thanks to our neighborhood supporters from the staff at Temescal Branch!

There are a number of programs for both adults and children to attend during May and June. On Saturday, May 8th from Noon to 2 pm, the Red Cross will be presenting their last earthquake preparedness course. They will demonstrate how to install safety straps for water heaters and furniture, and latches for cabinet doors, all of which are contained in a free starter kit of hazard reduction devices that will be given out to participants. Call the Red Cross office at 595-4459 to sign up.

Also in May, artist/teacher Claudia Tennyson will lead a free four-session workshop for artists, writers, musicians and performing artists: “*Creating a Life Worth Living*,” based on the book by Carol Lloyd. The workshops will take place on May 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 6 to 8 pm and Claudia will guide participants in an exploration of career issues unique

to the creative life. If you are interested in this series, please call ahead to register at 597-5049. Space is limited.

In June, children can sign up for the annual Summer Reading Program. This year’s theme is “Go Wild with Books” and it will take place from June 12th to August 14th. We’ll keep a reading log for all kids who sign up at the library and check out books to read at home. Joy Shiohita, our children’s librarian, is planning some fun activities and programs for the summer. There will be a puppet show on June 3rd at 1 pm, a wild animal show on June 17th at 10:30 am, an art program (making animal masks) on June 22nd at 3:30 pm and on June 28th at 7 pm, a magician and juggler.

And finally, do not forget our very popular Tool Lending Library as you plan your summer gardening and home improvement projects.

– Sally Bean, Librarian

## NCPC News

Over 60 residents attended the March 27 Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council community meeting at Faith Presbyterian Church. The following individuals were elected to our Steering Committee:

Chairman - Donald Lowrey  
Vice Chairman - Luis Castillo-Munoz  
Treasurer - Buck King  
Secretary - Len Burkhart

At the discussion with Councilmember Jane Brunner and Oakland Police Lt. Lawrence Green, neighbors learned that overall crime is down in Temescal, but car break-ins and residential burglaries continue to plague residents.

Neighbors can be pleased with two victories this spring. After strong community pressure, and with the assistance of Councilmember Brunner’s office, the

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# Temescal Calendar

**Saturday, May 1, 9 AM.** Green Panthers planning meeting. Meet at Temescal Cafe. 658-2488.

**Monday, May 3, 6 PM.** First session for *Creating a Life Worth Living*, a workshop for artists, musicians, writers and performing artists exploring the career issues unique to living a creative life. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

**Tuesday, May 4, 6:30PM.** NCPC Crime Abatement Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 652-4507.

**Saturday, May 8, noon-2 PM.** *Earthquake Tips and Tools*, American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter earthquake preparedness course. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 595-4459.

**Monday, May 10, 6 PM.** Second session for *Creating a Life Worth Living*. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

**Wednesday, May 12, 6-7:30 PM.** Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

**Friday, May 14, 7:30 PM.** Poetry Saloon. Bring a poem that you have written and one by someone else to share, or just come to enjoy. 472 44th Street (between Telegraph and Webster). 594-2200.

**Monday, May 17, 6 PM.** Third session for *Creating a Life Worth Living*. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

**Wednesday, May 19, 7 PM.** Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

**Saturday, May 22, 9 AM.** Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at Temescal Cafe. 658-2488.

**Monday, May 24, 6 PM.** Fourth session for *Creating a Life Worth Living*. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

**Tuesday, June 1, 6:30 PM.** NCPC Crime Abatement Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 652-4507.

**Thursday, June 3, 1 PM.** Children's puppet show. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

**Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6, 11-6 PM.** ProArts East Bay Open Studios. Various locations, map available at Temescal Cafe. 763-4361.

**Saturday, June 5, 9 AM.** Green Panthers planning meeting. Meet at Temescal Cafe. 658-2488.

**Wednesday, June 9, 6-7:30 PM.** Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

**Friday, June 11, 7:30 PM.** Poetry Saloon. Bring a poem that you have written and one by someone else to share, or just come to enjoy. 472 44th Street (between Telegraph and Webster). 594-2200.

**Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13, 11-6 PM.** ProArts East Bay Open Studios. Various locations, map available at Temescal Cafe. 763-4361.

**Wednesday, June 16, 7 PM.** Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th St. and Webster. 420-6974.

**Thursday, June 17, 10:30 AM.** Children's wild animal show. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

**Tuesday, June 22, 3:30 PM.** Children's art program (making animal masks). Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

**Saturday, June 26, 9 AM.** Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at Temescal Cafe. 655-8855.

**Monday, June 28, 7 PM.** Children's show with a magician and juggler. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

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demolition of the abandoned building at 40th & Shafter began on April 9 and continues. Also, the NCPC helped block an entertainment permit for a new karaoke bar at 4301 Telegraph, site of the former Connolly's Bar.

We will have warmer days to come and residents will open windows and doors. You can prevent home break-ins with a few simple techniques. First, install window clips on your wooden window frames. They cost about \$3.00 per window and are easily installed in minutes with just a screwdriver. This allows you to keep a window raised about 5 inches, perfect for ventilation, while the thief can't raise it any higher. These locks would have prevented a March break-in on 45th Street. Second, front and back doors should have screen doors that you can lock. This would have prevented the theft of a personal computer last October on Manila Street.

— Don Lowrey, NCPC Chairman

# Temescal Spotlight

## JASMINE SONG

Morning splashes flowers against the door. I'm filled and more, the floor is rolling with the sea! I flow over, my bones are a smoldering fire. The ocean is steamy on me. I wash over the trees, bricks on buildings smile ocher and brown. I think nothing. Nothing! I wash down the street. Foam cakes in the drains, in gutters the rats' eyes glitter rubies.

I am overflowing. Give me more! Is this the soul's blood, is it jasmine dew? On the street tiny feet wrinkle faces. Honeydrops stick on lashes, hornets crawl around lips.

Sunbeams are pink over blue over white. The same colors rise through skin! Moon and sun, move around on ellipses and keep evolving. The sky sheds all lines and wipes its borders clean.

*CLIVE MATSON (MFA Columbia University) has published poetry since 1964, and recently won the 2003 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles National Literary Award for an anthology he co-edited with Allen Cohen called An Eye for an Eye Makes the Whole World Blind. Matson teaches writing workshops and lives in Temescal with his wife, poet Gail Ford, and their six-year-old son Ezra. Visit him at [www.matson-ford.com](http://www.matson-ford.com).*

*Help Support This Newsletter and TNT.* Volunteers are doing the work of getting out this newsletter (and occasional fliers)—but we still need to pay the printer! If you value our community efforts, please consider making a donation. Any amount will help. Make your check payable to TNT, and send it with this form to: TNT, c/o 519 43rd St., Oakland, CA 94609. — Thank You!

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Yes, I want to help.

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I'd like to volunteer. Please call me.