

Temescal News & Views

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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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Come One, Come All to the Second Annual Temescal Street Fair

The second annual Temescal Street Fair will take place on Saturday, June 18 from noon to 6 PM on Telegraph Avenue between 51st Street and 48th Street. The Street Fair will feature live bands, children's entertainment, art making for kids, food and craft booths, and displays by neighborhood community groups. This year's fair is sponsored by Temescal Merchant's Association, the Temescal Business Improvement District, the City of Oakland's Community and Economic Development Agency, Gate 48, and dozens of local businesses. The East Bay Bike Coalition will offer valet bike parking, so skip the search for a parking place and bike or walk to the Fair!

Fair Activities - New Children's Stage

A big addition to this year's Fair is a children's stage, made possible by Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream and Children's Hospital. There will be all-day entertainment for the little ones, including music, puppets, arts and crafts, and juggling. Caribbean music act Asheba, clown Derique, and the egg-cellent Madame Ovary will keep your children laughing, and Jeremy the Juggler will wow them with amazing feats. The Youth Performance Company from Temescal's new resident the Destiny Arts Center will also perform. Finally, a children's stage raffle will include prizes from It's Your Move Games and Hobbies and Baby World.

Headlining the main stage will be three local bands. The Stairwell Sisters are an all-gal, old-time string band playing rollicking dance tunes, contra, and bluegrass. La Familia plays Afro-Cuban music, fusing Cuban son and hip hop. Junglz Apart will add their own reggae, calypso, and salsa blends to the Fair main stage. Rounding out the performances will be The East Bay Church of Religious Science Gospel Choir, Korean drummers, bellydancing, and martial arts demonstrations from Capoeira Mandinga and the Aikido Institute of Martial Arts. Come prepared to dance and be amazed at the talent in Temescal!

At the center of the Street Fair are the multitude of booths and two seating areas that will line Telegraph Avenue, turning it for one day from a busy thoroughfare into a neighborhood gathering space.



Attendees at the 2004 Temescal Street Fair gather to watch martial arts demonstrations. This year's Fair will include music, food, crafts and fun!

A beer and wine garden will be at the south end of the Fair, underneath the trees that shade the street in front of Dollar Cleaners. Near this seating will be pizza by Lanesplitter, Moroccan food by Tanjia, Mexican food by La Calaca Loca Taqueria, and other food and drink concessions. Bakesale Bette and Hooper's Chocolates will add a sweet note to the day. North of the food booths will be crafts booths featuring some of the area's finest artists.

Finally, a number of community-based organizations, including the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Committee and Temescal Neighbors Together, will be staffing booths. We'll be looking for neighbors who want to meet up and discuss the issues in our community and how to resolve them. Community groups that want to participate can get space for free in exchange for a small volunteer commitment of four hours of time, either on the day of the fair or before.

Get Involved

The Street Fair needs volunteers, specifically, neighbors who can help with publicity – distributing posters and flyers to neighbors and businesses in the area. On the day of the Fair, neighbors will be needed to help set up and take down booths, as well as to staff the information booth, and to help ensure that everyone has a fun, safe time. To volunteer, or if you are interested in obtaining a booth, please contact the organizers at 593-9831 or go to www.temescalmerchants.com. We look forward to seeing you at the Fair!

– Viki Maxwell

Special Expanded Edition - Temescal and the Arts

Thank You to Our Donors

Recent donations have helped to stabilize the finances of the newsletter. The newsletter is an all volunteer effort but depends on your donations to pay for printing. If you have been meaning to make a contribution, please send in your donation with the form on the last page or come by the Temescal News and Views booth at the upcoming Temescal Street Fair and do it in person. A big thank you to our recent donors:

Alma Crestetto, Beatrice Baker, Mary Huston, Jackie Joepner-Freitas, Heather Hanly, Daniel Purcell, Peter Glover, Julie Ziegler, Susan Harris, Alice Hoffman Erb, Karen & Peter Fink, Jacqueline Keeles, Andrea Trach
 – Eric Gerber

Temescal Arts Center Hosts Improv Theater

The Un-scripted Theater Company will present *The Short and The Long of It* on Fridays and Saturdays, June 3-25 at the Temescal Arts Center. In the grand improv tradition of giving you the audience what you want, this show kicks off with a flurry of short scenes and games based on your suggestions. Then you decide which scene you'd like to see expanded and developed into a 40 minute long-form story, and we do it! Tickets are just \$10, so break out of your regular "dinner and a movie" routine and come see live theater instead! For more information, visit www.un-scripted.com.
 – Alan Goy

Stay Informed About Temescal

The Temescal News & Views newsletter comes out only once every two months, but you can stay current about what's happening in the neighborhood—and get your two cents in—every day by looking up these sites on the Internet.

On Yahoo, there are several Temescal groups; two are particularly active. Temescal Families (groups.yahoo.com/group/temescalfamilies) is a freewheeling discussion of the neighborhood. The moderator is pretty busy so sometimes it takes a day or two for new messages to get posted, but being moderated also weeds out the spam.

Meanwhile, the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council's group on Yahoo (groups.yahoo.com/group/Temescal_NCPC) sticks to crime-related issues, with reports on the organization's activities and proposals, and schedules for upcoming meetings and future topics. The NCPC also runs another Web site (www.temescal.us) that covers a wider range of neighborhood issues.

Away from Yahoo, the We Love Oakland site (www.weloveoakland.com) has information on the arts, the community, local government, and the city's neighborhoods, including Temescal. We Love Oakland also hosts back issues of this newsletter.

Our councilmember, Jane Brunner, runs a Web site on the city home page (www.oaklandnet.com/government/council/coun_mem/brunner/index.html) that discusses the issues she's most involved in and provides contacts for dozens of block-level neighborhood organizations.

Last but not least, the Temescal Merchants Association (www.temescalmerchants.com) provides the business community's perspective and a great page of links to the many Temescal-related Web sites that we can't cover in this article.
 – Dan Littman

Meet the Chief

On Saturday, April 9, the Oakland citizens' group Safety First organized a breakfast reception and question and answer session with Wayne Tucker, Oakland's new Chief of Police. Over 70 community leaders attended as Chief Tucker showed an impressive command of the community policing issues facing Oakland (sideshows, police staffing). Also attending were Councilmembers Ignacio De La Fuente and Larry Reid, whose districts suffer most from the sideshows. While I disagreed with Chief Tucker's claim that police staffing is adequate but needs more efficient management, I left the meeting hopeful that the new chief has some creative solutions to our thorniest crime problems.

You can meet both Chief Tucker and Mayor Brown at the Oakland Community Summit on Saturday, May 21, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at St. Martin de Porres School, Sacred Heart Campus, 675 41st Street. Call 238-7159 by May 13 to register. Oakland Postmaster Lawrence Barnes will discuss identity theft, and other workshop topics include Burglary & Self Protection, Nuisance Properties, and Neighborhood Beautification. The

meeting is free and open to the public. Breakfast and lunch will be served, and free child care will be available. Attend and make your voice heard!

– Donald Lowrey, Chairman, Temescal NCPC

Proposed Expansion to the North Oakland Redevelopment Area

All neighbors are invited to a town hall meeting to discuss a proposal to expand the existing North Oakland Redevelopment Area. The meeting will take place on May 9 from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the North Oakland Senior Center (37th Street between MLK and Dover). This meeting is hosted by CEDA and the Redevelopment Project Area Committee.

What is Redevelopment?

– Redevelopment allows the City to direct a portion of the money that is paid in property taxes back into the area from which it was paid for improvements in the area.

– The current redevelopment area in North Oakland is called the Broadway/MacArthur/San Pablo Redevelopment Area. It includes the area between 27th and 42nd Street from Telegraph to Broadway and San Pablo between 53rd and 67th Street.

– The proposed expansion includes the area between San Pablo and Telegraph from 42nd Street to the Berkeley border.

Is Redevelopment Good for Me?

– Programs and projects typically funded through redevelopment include streetscape improvements, street light upgrades, commercial façade grants, housing rehabilitation loans and grants, and infill development.

– Redevelopment is NOT a new tax nor is it an increase in property tax rates. The existing taxes that property owners pay are used for projects within your own community.

– In some Redevelopment Areas the City is allowed to purchase property whether or not the owner wants to sell (this is called "eminent domain"). For this Redevelopment Area, the City intends to restrict eminent domain on residential properties as a protection for existing residents.

Please plan to attend the meeting on May 9th. For more information, contact Kathy Kleinbaum at 637-0247.

– Kathy Kleinbaum, City of Oakland CEDA, Redevelopment Division


Temescal News and Views Expanded Edition – Temescal and the Arts


Sitting together one night, the TNV editors were talking about our neighborhood and all the wonderful things in it. We realized that a lot of what makes Temescal unique is the vibrant art culture. “We should put out a newsletter focusing on neighborhood art,” said one, and the idea took root. So here you have it - our first expanded edition, dedicated to Temescal art and artists. We hope you enjoy it!


Special thanks to Anita Becker, the Street Fair, and KRW Printing for making this edition possible!


Places to View and Make Art in Temescal

14th century Florence: the birth of the Italian Renaissance; 1924 Paris: Andre Breton begins the Surrealist movement; 1950s New York City: Abstract Expressionists run amok; 2005 Temescal: who knows what artistic and cultural movements are brewing? There does seem to be a large amount of artistic activity in a small geographical area. Here’s a list of places to see and make art in Temescal. If we missed anything, let us know and we’ll print it in future editions.


 = places to make art.

 = places to experience art.

 **Article Pract** - Take knitting classes in the back room of this “Best-of-the-Bay” yarn store; 5010 Telegraph Ave.; www.articlepract.com; 595-PURL.

 **The Atelier School of Classical Realism** - Founded by instructor David Hardy who teaches the fine art of classical realist painting; 4920 Telegraph Avenue; 465-1958.

 **Boontling Gallery** - California College of the Arts students Mike Simpson and Derek Weisberg have opened an informal salon/gallery space for established and up-and-coming artists with the goal of creating a stronger artistic and cultural community in Oakland. 4224 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5 pm, or by appointment; www.4leagueindustries.com; boontlinggallery@hotmail.com; (707) 980-1060.

 **CCA North/South Galleries** - The California College of the Arts Student gallery hosts shows and receptions throughout the school year. Not technically located in

Temescal, but close enough; 5241 College Ave.; www.cca.edu; 594-3600.



Destiny Arts Center -

Classes in dance, theater and martial arts for children and young adults. The Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company is a group of teens who perform hip-hop, modern and aerial dance, martial arts, song and rap; Beebe Memorial Cathedral, 3900 Telegraph Ave.; www.destinyarts.org; 597-1619.





iMusicast - This is probably

the world’s only live-music club to feature constant Internet broadcasting, a recording studio, and videotaping services. Immerse yourself in the latest punk, ska, and pop scene, right here in Temescal; 5429 Telegraph Ave.; www.imusicast.com; 601-1029.



Korean Youth Cultural Center (KYCC) - Teaches classes in traditional Korean cultural arts, including percussive music, folk singing and dance. The Hanmadang performing group performs throughout the Bay Area; 4216 Telegraph Ave.; www.kycc.net; 652-4964.

 **Lanesplitter Pizza & Pub** - Pizza, beer, and monthly art shows and openings; 4799 Telegraph Ave.; 653-5350.

 **Keiko Nelson Fine Art & Design** - Internationally shown artist Keiko Nelson

 **Poetry Saloon** - Hosted by Gail Ford; second Friday of the month, bring a poem you have written and one by another to share; 472 44th St.; 594-2200. gail@matson-ford.com.




Recent art installation at Lanesplitter’s.



Jackson enjoys the Postmark: Temescal installation.

creates sculptural works and organic installations using cast paper, branches, metal, feathers, and stone. Her studio is open by appointment. 5002 Telegraph Ave.; 653-8849; www.keikonelson.com.

 **Public Art** - Temescal resident, artist and historian, Jeff Norman and his organization, Shared Ground, has created several permanent projects celebrating the historical, cultural and geographical heritage of Temescal:

– *Fire Station 8* on 51st Street near Telegraph features a tile walkway with archival photos and text representing the development of the district and historical milestones.

– *Postmark: Temescal* resides at 49th St. & Shattuck, behind the post office on Telegraph Ave. and features a circular table with a map and photos that display notable Temescal sites as well as the path of the Temescal Creek. The artwork was co-created with Remi Rubel, Bruce Douglas and Sue Mark.


– *Ohlone/Peralta marker* on the northeast corner of Telegraph and 55th St. (under the tall Chevron sign), installed in 1999, commemorates the original Temescal residents.


– *Entrance to Temescal Place* at the new condo development on Telegraph at 48th St. describes the history of that site and its con-


text within the development of Temescal as a town, and later as a neighborhood.


– Shared Ground has also produced a video, *Where We Live: Stories from Temescal*, and the book, *Temescal Album*. Both are available at the Temescal Branch Library.


 **Rent-A-Relic Mural** - Look on the back of the dragon sign above the car rental company—there's a mural; 4444 Telegraph.


 **Sagrada Sacred Arts** - A store full of sacred art representing faiths from all over the world—excellent folk art and devotional images; 4926 Telegraph Ave.; 653-7196.


 **Studio One** (currently located at the Malonga Center, 1428 Alice St., during renovation) - Classes in ceramics, photography, drawing, painting, glass and jewelry-making, theater, and more, for children, young adults, and adults; 365 45th St.; 597-5027.


 **Tanjia** - Belly dancers perform at this Moroccan restaurant during your five-course meal; 4905 Telegraph Ave., 653-8691.


 **Tattoo 13 Oakland** - Walk in to see the floor-to-ceiling tattoo art, or check it out on the Web site; 4917 Telegraph Ave.; 655-1313; www.tattoo13oakland.com.

 **Temescal Amity Works** - Various art and performance projects highlighting local history and gardening; 482 D 49th St., www.amityworks.org; bigbackyard@amityworks.org.

 **Temescal Arts Center** - Classes, workshops, and performances in butoh, modern dance, theater, music, film, and more; 511 48th St. (at Telegraph); 923-1074; www.temescalartscenter.org.

 **Temescal Café** - Rotating painting and drawing shows, plus coffee and eats; 4920 Telegraph Ave.; 595-4102.

 **Temescal Street Fair 2005** - Music, crafts, food & drink, and a children's stage; Saturday, June 18; Telegraph Ave. between 51st & 48th.

 **Temescal Writers** - Writing workshops headed by Joan Marie Wood; www.temescalwriters.com or 653-4576.



Willis C. Kauffman Fine Art & Antiques and Gallery Savant - It's an antique store, but there's so much artwork in such a tiny space, you might as well be visiting several galleries in one. See everything from psychedelic Huichol-Indian yarn paintings, to the English countryside in oils; 486 B 49th St.; 654-3528.

– Lisa McElroy

Profiles of Temescal Artists

They draw, sculpt, write, or create from nothing more than the art of conversation. They are the Temescal artists and they live and work among us. We thought it would be fun and informative to check some of them out, and find out how, if at all, the neighborhood affects their work. We asked several questions about the impact Temescal has had on their creative lives, and their favorite spot or memory here. Then, because they're creative-types, it made sense to ask for suggestions for improvements in Temescal. There's always room for improvement. Without further ado...



Jeff Norman Shared Ground

I moved to Temescal from San Francisco 20 years ago in search of more affordable housing. In the years that followed, my work as an artist increasingly turned toward exploring the theme of "sense of place." By the mid-1990s I had turned that focus directly on Temescal, and have been committed to doing work about this neighborhood ever since. Learning more and more about how the Temescal has changed over time has deepened my interest in and appreciation of the neighborhood.

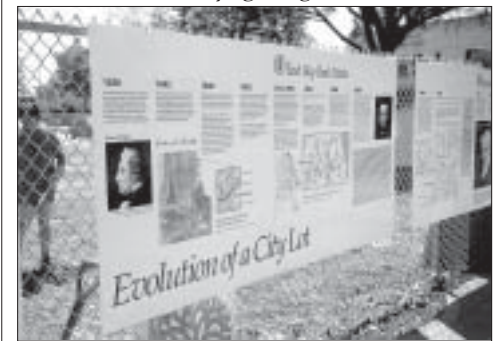
I refer to myself as a community artist, one whose work is about, for, and experienced in, the community. Under the name of Shared Ground, and working with others, including collaborators and community volunteers, I have organized a number of temporary and permanent projects here in Temescal that have explored one facet or another of our neighborhood's cultural and natural history.

The projects have taken many different forms, ranging from a Telegraph Avenue storefront exhibit, to an oral history video, to a tiled "history walkway" at the fire sta-

tion on 51st Street. Currently, I am working on a book that will feature five historic aspects of Temescal that have been instrumental in shaping the neighborhood's identity and physical development.

A few (among the uncountable) favorite spots in Temescal: the vacant lot at 40th St. and Shafter, on which once stood the station of the longest inter-urban railway line in the county; Temescal Creek, where it flows, unseen, in a culvert below the intersection of Telegraph and 51st St.; Studio One on 45th St., whose rather plain façade obscures its remarkable 110-year history, including its last 50+ years as the home of one of the city's most unique programs.

If logistics really didn't matter, my three top choices [to change Temescal] might be: remove the noise and pollution of Highway 24 and the 580 (which probably would mean removing the two freeways altogether); turn Carter, Emerson and Tech into highly successful, city- and community-supported public schools; and daylighting Temescal Creek.



Installation view of "The Pussycat's Nine Lives: Evolution of a City Lot," 2000; by Jeff Norman

Sue Mark

After I finished graduate school at CCAC, I decided to stay in the Bay Area. I realized that I wanted a working space that was located in a neighborhood house or apartment building, not isolated in an industrial gated live/work community. I fortunately found my studio here in Temescal, and a few months later, moved into an apartment right above my studio. I have stayed here (aside from my work overseas) for eleven years.

Temescal is at the root of my work because, after much moving about, I decided to call it my home. I don't make a distinction between my art and my life. One of the first projects I completed after graduate school was an informal and personal mapping of the boundaries of my neighborhood. Since I was new to the neighborhood, I wanted to under-

stand the various aspects of Temescal. So I spent a lot of time walking around and talking to people. I have always been impressed with how proactive Temescal is; how people come together to voice concerns and find ways to make beneficial change. I often compare the other places in which I work with my home, Temescal.

The majority of my projects do not result in permanent objects or gallery exhibits. I prefer to call myself a cultural researcher rather than artist: my primary tool is conversation. I usually work with urban communities to explore an issue or concern that affects their daily life. In my project-based work, I blend concepts from diverse fields such as anthropology, geography, linguistics and philosophy. The projects start with a simple question, such as “Where is the center of the city?” and from people’s responses to this one question, a whole network of questions and issues are revealed. The conversations I have with people are documented and preserved in small books, audio CDs or maps and are produced in mass quantity for free distribution.

In 2003, I hosted a series of community gatherings in my Temescal studio about the relationship between Temescal and Sofia, Bulgaria, where I had lived and worked from 1998–2003. I converted my studio into a Bulgarian-style flat; designing it to include a library, a sitting area and a dining area. As guests arrived, Bulgarian folk music gently played in the background and the room was filled with the aroma of thyme tea and roasted red peppers. Visitors were free to explore a wide array of materials including maps, contemporary and archival photos and souvenirs. Visitors asked a range of questions covering areas of Bulgarian history, politics, cuisine, culture, psychology, geography, and architecture and discussed similarities between Oakland and Sofia on issues such as urban auto congestion, loss of green space, and an overall sense of powerlessness in the face of political change. This project was funded by the Oakland Cultural Funding program.

In 2000, after I returned to Temescal from Bulgaria, I joined a team of local artists (Bruce Douglas, Jeff Norman, Remi Rubel and Beth Maher) to develop and complete, with the help of many neighbors, a permanent commemorative history park, “Postmark: Temescal”, which is located on Shattuck Avenue right beside the Post Office. Postmark: Temescal holds a very special

place in my heart: it was because of this project that I met my neighbor, Bruce Douglas, who I fell in love with and married!

Next year, neighbors can join our project (a collaboration with Bruce Douglas) “WE Riders”, an exploration of the geographic and cultural definitions of West and East Oakland. Bruce and I will tour around Oakland on our tandem bicycle, talking to people about their understanding of West and East Oakland. You will hear more about it in the Spring of 2006! This project is also funded by the Oakland Cultural Funding program.

I would be so happy to see Temescal become a more pedestrian friendly neighborhood. Both 51st Street and Telegraph Avenue feel like extensions of the freeway. One of my favorite Temescal activities is walking around with our dog and waving hello to neighbors and friends. Slower (or no) traffic would greatly enhance the walkability of our neighborhood.



Walking in Sofia, Bulgaria, “Spoken Memory Maps”, 1999; by Sue Mark

Leiko Yamamoto Pech

Doing community art grew out of both my being an artist and my faith journey as a Christian; I wondered about the challenge of Christ’s teaching to love my neighbor as myself. My community art is rooted in the desire to build community and develop involvement in and stewardship for this place we call home.

As a community artist I work in different mediums. My first event was a neighborhood block party my husband, Bob and I organized for our street (Webster & 43rd). One year we interviewed neighbors, many of whom had grown up and/ or lived here – some for

more than seventy years. We showed a video of those interviews to give people a sense of what the Temescal neighborhood was like before most of us moved here, and to honor this history.

One year I collaborated with several artists living nearby. We produced birds that were installed on telephone poles at the intersection of Webster & 43rd as the centerpiece of a block party. On the day of the party neighbors were invited to bring an item that symbolized life in Temescal, create a piece of art with a photo taken of their house, and add these to birds on the telephone poles. Working on the birds together helped us grow as a community and invited passers-by to stop and wonder.

Through my church, a group of us worked on a street art project with youth who live in our neighborhood. The youth worked on posters that depicted both what they love and appreciate about living here as well as what makes them sad or afraid. We installed the posters on telephone poles here in Temescal.

Another community art piece, a collaboration between my church and neighborhood, came out of seeing and musing over the puddles of broken car glass on sidewalks and streets left after car break-ins. It seemed ironic that something so destructive left such pools of brilliantly beautiful glass. I wondered, could there be something redemptive in this? We created an installation that simulated a car break-in and invited neighbors and church members to read poetry and share stories of broken-ness experienced, as we took scoops of the broken glass and then used that glass in a healing ceremony at the church.

Our decision to move and live here was rooted in my faith journey. We moved here with friends from Madison, Wisconsin nearly 20 years ago expressly to be in a community and church together. We shared a home together for all these years. We will be moving in few months to Pasadena, where these same friends moved four years ago. As you can imagine, we will miss this place, the neighbors and friends.

The first memories [of living and working in Temescal] that come to mind are the various merchants on Telegraph—G&G Hardware and the wonderful folks, Anne, Mike and Sharon who ran the place lovingly for so many years. It was a favorite spot because of the TLC they gave no matter how small the job or purchase. The same goes for Mary and

Carlo at Sagrada, and Temescal Cafe for their generosity in loaning their place for neighborhood events.

I also have great memories of working on community art with Jeff, Elizabeth, and other neighborhood artists.



Keiko Nelson

The courtyard of the restaurant Doña Tomas is like my front yard. My studio is located behind it. I have a wonderful memory of using this yard for a slide show for the Pacific Rim

Sculpture Group. One beautiful evening we discussed each member's art work by candlelight.

I work in mixed-media painting, bronze sculpture, clay sculpture, cast paper, and other materials. I feel safe working here. Also it is very convenient to shopping, and the post office is close by. I like it here because it is Bohemian, cosmopolitan, and culturally mixed. Also, my office is close to my home, only about 15 minutes away.

A few places you can see my work locally are: Takarasake Museum (Berkeley), Hotel Nikko (San Francisco), Kaiser Hospital (Oakland), "The Sequoias" Northern California Presbyterian Home and Services (San Francisco), Department of Health Services (Richmond) and museums, corporations and private collections, as well as my studio by appointment at 5002 Telegraph.



Water Columns by Keiko Nelson

In the last three years I've also had a solo exhibition at Oakland Museum of California in the Sculpture Court, and at the Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery in the State of California Building atrium (Oakland).

[If I could change one thing about Temescal] I'd change the street landscape. If I could do the design for it, I'd make it more interesting. Also, I'd like to see street festi-

vals similar to Berkeley's "Solano Stroll," where streets are blocked off during the festivities.

Joan Marie Wood – Temescal Writers

I am a poet and writer. I chose the name "Temescal Writers" for my small business because I live in Temescal, and because Temescal Creek has always exerted a powerful influence on me, even though it is buried as it passes through our little neighborhood.

I have lots of great memories about living here, but the ones that come to mind most strongly are around the creek and the greenbelt, and being involved in a number of community projects raising awareness of the creek's existence, helping organize and conducting water-quality monitoring events, and helping construct the greenbelt. [If I could change one thing about Temescal] I would "daylight" Temescal Creek (remove the culvert) and restore habitat around the creek.

Recently my first book of poetry, *Her Voice Is Blackberries*, was published by AWA Press. The first poem [in the book] is entitled "Invocation at Rockridge Cafe." I've been living, working and writing here for twenty-two years, and many of my poems have been born on long walks around this neighborhood, and the Temescal watershed as a whole. You can find it at Diesel – A Bookstore, or you can order it online from my Web site www.temescalwriters.com. On my Web site also you can find information about the creative writing workshops I facilitate in Temescal.



Christian Powell of Otis Goodnight www.otisgoodnight.com

I run Wintermusik! Productions, a music production and promotion company, at 43rd St. Studios. Our 12-piece band, Otis Goodnight, performed at the Temescal Street Fair in 2004.

My neighborhood has been ideal in every way: it is centrally located to most of the clubs and resources that we need as musicians, and our studio is in a safe, residential area, rather than a drug-dealer-infested warehouse district.

[Favorite Temescal memories include] Seeing Fungo Mungo, Limbomaniacs, and Primus at the Omni in the early 90's. Any

time I've eaten at Genova Deli, S & S Seafood, Pico Paco, or the Temescal Café.

[If I could change one thing about Temescal] I would re-open the Omni and bring back a music scene to the East Bay.

Artist Profiles compiled and edited by Dominick Tracy, Lisa McElroy, and Carla Koop.

iMusicast – Live Music for the Planet

If an up-and-coming power-pop band plays a show in Temescal, does anyone hear? Yes, not just in Temescal but all over the world, because at iMusicast, shows are broadcast over the Internet 24 hours a day. iMusicast is an all-encompassing music experience where bands play, are "webcast" live and on tape, and can discuss the shows with listeners in the club's chat room at iMusicast.com.

When founder and CEO Bryan Matheson started the club in 1999, it was mainly to host a video production house with Internet broadcasting capabilities. The iMusicast venue has now grown into a place where new and established bands can thrash away in an alcohol-free environment while building a fan base of enthusiastic kids from all over the Bay Area.

Inside the big brick building on Telegraph near 55th, iMusicast is a contrast between dark, cavernous theater (where bands play) and brightly lit computer-control center for webcasting. Additionally, a studio in back of the club allows bands to record their music using the latest digital technology in a thoroughly soundproofed room next to the freeway (impressive). iMusicast is currently showcasing a slew of punk, pop and ska bands right in the neighborhood. It's a safe and creative environment for the underage and the underage-at-heart. Check it out, live or online: 5429 Telegraph Ave., www.imusicast.com; 601-1029.

– Lisa McElroy

Explore Your Artistic Side in a CCA Summer Program

The California College of the Arts Summer Extended Education program offers more than 100 courses at our Oakland and San Francisco campuses. Courses range from Introduction to Painting, Black and White Photography, and Crafting the Poem from Scratch to unique opportunities such as Lighting Design Fundamentals, Mokume

Gane Workshop, and Behind the Scenes in Interior Design. From one-day workshops to comprehensive 23-session courses, classes are scheduled during the day, in the evenings, and on weekends throughout the summer to accommodate people's varied schedules. Both noncredit and credit courses are available. In addition, CCA's Extended Education program offers the Young Artist Studio Program (YASP) for middle school students, the 9th Grade Summer Atelier, and the Pre-College Program for high school students. We hope that you will take the opportunity to explore the traditional and/or the unexpected at California College of the Arts this summer.

For more information or to request a catalog, please call 594-3710 or visit us on the web at www.cca.edu/summer.

– *Christiana Ferroggiaro*

Temescal Library Offers New Spring Programs

As the rainy weather stops and the days get longer and warmer, many of you are probably planning projects for your apartments, homes and gardens. Remember to visit the library for books and videos on decorating, home repair and renovation, landscaping, and gardening. And then of course, you can borrow tools from the Tool Lending Library when you undertake your projects.

For those of you who want to learn a new skill, we have a Knitting Workshop on May 2 and May 9th from 6–8 PM. An experienced knitter will be here to teach beginners the basics: casting on, knitting and purling. Registration is required because space is limited. Call the library to sign up at 597-5049!

We don't have dates yet for our annual home improvement workshops, but stop by the library in June and we will have information about the three workshops. Topics will include organic gardening, plumbing and electricity.

There is a lot going on in the Children's Library in May and June! The children's Summer Reading Game will run June 18th through August 13th—you can win prizes for reading and enjoy free shows at the library. On Wednesday, May 11 at 10:30 AM, a staff member from the Oakland Zoo will present a special "Critter Tales" story time at the library. The first 40 children who attend the program will each receive a free pass to visit the Oakland Zoo. On Saturday, June 11 at 2:00 PM we will host an early literacy work-

shop for parents with young children. Please call the library to register or learn more details. At 10:30 AM on Tuesday, June 14, the Oakland Zoomobile will bring animals to visit the library. Finally, on Monday, June 27 at 7:00 PM, award-winning magician Norman Ng will delight young audiences with his funny and amazing tricks. And don't forget about our weekly preschool story time, every Wednesday at 10:30 AM for children ages three to five.

Other summer events at the Temescal Library will include performances by the Prescott Clowns, Fratello Marionettes, the Blue Fairy, and South African drummer Baba Shibambo. Give us a call for more details. We hope to see you soon!

– *Sally Bean, Temescal Branch Manager*

NCPC Update

The Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council held its Spring Community Meeting on March 12. It was well-attended by community members and beat officers. Neighbors were able to meet our new Problem Solving Officer, Debi Mack. Elections for NCPC committee members were held and positions were filled as follows: Don Lowrey, Chairman; Luis Castillo-Munoz, Vice-Chairman; Buck King, Treasurer; and Jennifer Oberholzer, Secretary.

A new program, Whistlestop, was introduced at the meeting. Whistlestop encourages victims of a crime to use a whistle to alert others and gain assistance from neighbors. In coming weeks, volunteers will be setting up tables in the neighborhood to hand out free whistles and flyers about the program. If you hear a whistle in your vicinity, immediately locate the trouble and respond in the best way possible—call Oakland Police at 911 (510-777-3211 from a cell phone) and blow your own whistle to attract more help and startle the attacker. Please use whistles only in an emergency. If you are interested in getting involved in this program, please contact us at 420-6974 or joberholzer@mindspring.com.

Two internet resources are now available to neighbors. One is temescal.us, which has information regarding the neighborhood and NCPC. The other is northoaklandpolice.com, which has information regarding crime and police action. It is updated daily. When looking at this site, it is helpful to know that Temescal's police beat number is 12X.

All are welcome at our regular NCPC meetings, held every second Thursday of the month from 7:00–9:00 PM at Faith Presbyterian Church (49th and Webster). We hope to see you there!

– *Jennifer Oberholzer, Secretary, NCPC*

UC Berkeley and Children's Hospital Seek Participants in Vitamin Study

Local researchers from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health have recently launched the UC Berkeley Vitamin Study, a 90 day clinical trial funded by the National Institutes of Health and conducted at Children's Hospital & Research Center. The Vitamin Study will investigate whether vitamins C and E can reduce measures of inflammation and oxidative stress in the body. Inflammation highly corresponds to diseases like heart disease and diabetes, while oxidative stress (damage from "free radicals") is associated with aging and some diseases. The study is seeking healthy, non-smoking volunteers who are 18 or older to participate.

Volunteers will be asked to complete three questionnaires about their recent medical history, diet and exercise, and visit Children's Hospital & Research Center on two weekday mornings, 60 days apart. The first visit will last approximately two hours. The second visit will last 30 minutes. A blood sample will be drawn on both visits. You will need to come in fasting for both visits, which means no food or beverages other than water, plain tea or coffee for 12 hours before each appointment. At your first visit your weight, height, blood pressure, and bone density will be measured. If you are a menstruating female, a urine pregnancy test will be taken.

For 60 consecutive days, you will take two study pills (capsule and tablet) per day, with food. Each is about the size of a multi-vitamin pill and will contain vitamin C, vitamin E or inactive ingredients (i.e., a placebo). At the end of your second visit, you will be given the results of your bone density scan, a nutritional analysis of your diet and exercise, and \$70 for your time and travel. You will also receive parking vouchers at the end of each of your visits.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact study staff at 643-0977 or visit groups.ucanr.org/vitaminstudy.

– *Sean Brennan, MPH*

Temescal Calendar

Monday, May 2, 6 PM. Knitting Workshop. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Saturday, May 7, 8 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at 51st and Broadway. 655-8855.

Monday, May 9, 6 PM. Knitting Workshop. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Monday, May 9, 7:30 PM. Community Town Hall meeting to discuss the proposed expansion of the North Oakland Redevelopment Area. North Oakland Senior Center (37th Street between MLK and Dover). 637-0247.

Wednesday, May 11, 10:30 AM. The Oakland Zoo presents a special "Critter Tales" story time for children. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Wednesday, May 11, 6 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

Thursday, May 12, 7 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

Friday, May 13, 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, May 21, 8 AM. Oakland Community Summit. This free event on community safety and crime will feature keynote speakers Mayor Jerry Brown and Oakland's new Chief of Police Wayne Tucker. St. Martin de Porres School, Sacred Heart Campus, 675 41st. 238-7159.

Saturday, May 28, 8 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at 51st and Broadway. 655-8855.

Fridays and Saturdays, June 3-25, 8 PM. The Un-scripted Theater Company presents *The Short and the Long of It*, an all-improv play. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th at Telegraph. 415-869-5384.

Saturday, June 4, 8 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. Meet at 51st and Broadway. 655-8855.

Wednesday, June 8, 6 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

Thursday, June 9, 7 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th St. and Webster. 420-6974.

Friday, June 10, 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, June 11, 2 PM. The library hosts an early literacy workshop for parents of young children. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Tuesday, June 14, 10:30 AM. The Oakland Zoomobile visits the library. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Saturday, June 18, 12-6 PM. Second Annual Temescal Street Fair! Telegraph Ave. between 48th and 51st. 593-9831 or www.temescalmerchants.com.

Wednesday, June 22, 5:30 PM. Councilmember Jane Brunner invites neighbors to celebrate the planting of 1,000 trees in Oakland. Details are still in the works. Contact Jane Brunner's office at 238-7001 for more information.

Saturday, June 25, 8 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at 51st and Broadway. 655-8855.

Monday, June 27, 7 PM. Magician Norman Ng will delight children with his tricks. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

Here are some upcoming local events not to be missed!

On Wednesday, June 22 City Council Member Jane Brunner invites you to celebrate the planting of 1,000 trees in Oakland. Details are still being planned—please contact her office at 238-7001 or jbrunner@oakland.net.com for more information.

Starting on Thursday, June 16 the East Bay Regional Park District will begin weekly Family Fun Nights from 5:30 -7 PM. These events are free (parking fees may apply) and include arts and crafts, ice-cold lemonade, naturalist programs and more! Family Fun Nights will take place every Thursday through August 25 at various East Bay Park locations (including Lake Temescal on August 11). Registration is not required. For more information, go to www.ebparke.org/camps/fam_fun.htm or call 636-1684.

On Saturday, July 17 from noon to 5 PM, Jane Brunner will host her annual North Oakland Picnic at Lake Temescal's North Picnic Area. This event will include a barbeque, games, and other fun activities. Bring a dish to share.
— Viki Maxwell

BACS – Helping Elders Stay Independent

Two Oakland Raiders had a senior moment this March. Nnamdia Somugha (#21, Cornerback) and Stuart Schweigert (#30, Safety) had lunch with Mr. Andrew Hatch, age 106 at the Center for Elder Independence. The wry centenarian claims there is no secret to his long life: "Man thinks he can affect longevity," he said a bit brusquely, "but it's written in the cards." Nnamdia and Stuart visited Mr. Hatch as part of Bay Area Community Services (BACS) celebration of the Older Americans Act (OAA). Signed into law by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965 (the same year as Medicare), the OAA established a method to organize and deliver community-based services through a coordinated system at the state level.

Bay Area Community Services is a major provider of these services, which help seniors remain independent. It was established in 1953 to provide alternatives to help adults with mental illness and the elderly avoid institutionalization and improve their quality of life. Two BACS programs found in our neighborhood are the Oakland Senior Shuttle—serving Glen Brook Terrace, Linda Glen, Piedmont Gardens and Sojourner Truth Manor—and the Day Care Program, which allows those with chronic health problems to stay in their homes and provides a much-needed respite for family or other caregivers.

BACS is currently seeking volunteer drivers. If you are interested in helping out or would like to learn more about their services, please contact them at 613-0330 or <http://bayareacs.org>.

— Shannon Lee Rutherford

Do you volunteer, work at or receive benefits from a local nonprofit you'd like to see highlighted? Let Shannon know—xanalia@yahoo.com or 834-3663 x 327.

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 469 Rich St., Oakland, CA 94609. — Thank You!*

Name _____

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Yes, I want to help.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 Other \$ _____

I'd like to volunteer. Please call me.

