Berkeley Residents Strongly Oppose BRT at Council Hearing

By Riya Bhattacharjee
Wed Apr 21 12:11:00 -0700 2010

A BRT opponent dressed as a rat gets up to speak during the public hearing as Berkeley resident Scott Tolmie looks on.

A BRT opponent dressed as a rat, Berkeley resident Alver H. Starkey holds up a "No BRT" sign with dozens of others at the City Council meeting Tuesday. "I am here to stop BRT," Starkey said, "We need cameras at bus stops, more care for A.C. Transit bus drivers as well as more trees."

Even as the Oakland City Council voted to support AC Transit’s Bus Rapid Transit plan Tuesday evening, Berkeley residents rallied vociferously against it at their council meeting, prompting Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates to say around 10:30 p.m. he would try to glue together the best parts of BRT to Berkeley to say around 10:30 p.m. he would try to glue together the best parts of BRT to Bates to say around 10:30 p.m. he would try to glue together the best parts of BRT to

Berkeley has been discussing some version of bus rapid transit for almost 20 years.

Part of a larger project that will link San Leandro, Oakland and Berkeley, the current BRT proposal promises to make transit faster and more reliable for its patrons than it has been on the busiest bus corridor in the East Bay.

Bonny Nelson from Nelson/Nygaard, the transportation consultants hired by AC Transit to study the Build alternative, said that BRT seeks to increase ridership by increasing efficiency with bus-only lanes, pre-paid tickets and boarding islands.

BRT would replace the current Rapid Bus service. Average BRT stops would be three to four bus stops apart. More than 100 existing parking spots are estimated to be lost in at least one segment of the proposed BRT.

Although the Berkeley Planning Commission recommended that the City Council study the Bus Rapid Transit Full Build option, along with another alternative called Rapid Bus Plus—which would not have dedicated lanes or involve extensive restructuring—along with a "No Build" option, Planning Department staff proposed their own set of recommendations which they feel will mitigate some of the concerns for Telegraph and downtown.

City staff is suggesting that both sets of recommendations be forwarded to AC Transit.

Just as in the past, and over the course of countless Planning Commission meetings, the most vocal opposition came from the street vendors on Telegraph, the tiny but venerable arts and craft community who sell everything from ballerinas from Russia to necklaces from Madagascar, who claim that two-way traffic would lead to more gridlock, eventually forcing them to move away.

"Parking fee increases and loss of parking have already led to businesses closing," said Astor Silverstein, a Telegraph vendor. "If BRT is implemented, many more businesses will be forced to close. Even without BRT parking is already affected. Tourists and shoppers don’t come to look at BRT—why would they come to a half-dead town and spend a fortune on parking when they can get free parking in a shopping mall?"

Michael Katz, a member of the city’s Rapid Bus Plus coalition, urged the council to work with him on the alternative plan.

Berkeley residents and business owners have opposed BRT. So have the Wil- lard, LeConte and the Claremont-Elmwood neighborhood associations.

A few people spoke in support of BRT, arguing that it would lead to more reliable bus service and improvements for the transportation consultants hired by AC Transit for the employers of every business on the corridor," he said. "If it connects to Amtrack or the ferry. After all these meet- ings, where is the corridor connection?"

"This basically feels like an invasion," said Twig, another Telegraph regular. "You can’t really mess with Telegraph. It’s very sensitive. Most people come to Telegraph because of the way it is. They like all the craziness."

Some called BRT a “subway on rubber wheels rather than steel wheels.”

Others were more harsh in their criticisms.

"How many mayors and millions of public tax dollars wasted by AC Transit on a senseless project, and paid consultants, and collusion between AC Transit and misguided city staff does it take to screw in a BRT?" asked Berkeley resident Scott Tolmie. "Where’s the humor? Sorry. There is none."

Councilmember Kriss Worthington, whose district includes Telegraph Avenue, said he was frustrated that two decades of discus- sion about BRT had resulted in this,

"BRT is a great idea if we provided free transit for the employers of every business on the corridor," he said. "If it connects to Amtrack or the ferry. After all these meet- ings, where is the corridor connection?"

Worthington called BRT something that looks good on paper but not in reality.

"Why would I study cutting off five of my fingers?" he said. "And these fingers are the street vendors, the businesses, the residents, the disabled people and the frail and the elderly."

After listening to more than two hours of commentary Mayor Tom Bates said that although a lot of people want to stop BRT "I don’t know if it makes sense.” Other councilmembers expressed some reserva- tions about the plan.
“I’ll be thinking about how I’d like to see things go,” Bates said. “We should not be afraid to look at alternatives.”

**Southside Lofts Residents Triumph Over Laundromat Once Again**

*By Riya Bhattacharjee*  
*Wed Apr 21 15:55:00 -0700 2010*

Southside Lofts Residents emerged victorious once again Tuesday when the City Council voted to uphold the Zoning Adjustment Board’s decision to deny a use permit for a laundromat in the building.

The battle between condo owners at 3095 Telegraph Ave. and the PWS laundry company has been ongoing since 2009, when one of the neighbors discovered that the city had issued an erroneous use permit to the corporation based on the existence of a previous laundromat at the site, which had burned down several years before.

The city issued a stop work order, but PWS threatened to sue, citing thousands of dollars already spent on construction work. As a result, a settlement was reached and the city agree to pay $42,000 to PWS to cover construction costs.

In exchange, PWS agreed to follow the proper zoning process, but reserved the right to file a lawsuit if the city denied their permit.

On Tuesday, property owner Sam Sorokin warned the council that the issue had not yet come to an end. He accused the council of being unfriendly to businesses.

“In this city homeowners clearly trump retailers,” he said. “You are not reasonable to businesses. We have a right to this space. Now what are we supposed to do? There is clearly going to be another part to this story.”

Sorokin was previously denied a use permit to open a Quizno’s restaurant in the same spot because neighbors were concerned about parking and quality of life.

The council based their decision to deny a use permit for a business the second time based on some of the same reasons. It took into account noise, vibration and health effects, as well the lack of sufficient parking and the absence of a full-time attendant to keep the place secure when it is open.

“To see a laundromat being unattended is a cause for concern for us,” said Scott Stoller, whose 4-year-old daughter Arunima often plays within their condo complex.

PWS’s lawyer argued that Berkeley does not have any blanket requirements for laundromats to provide an attendant all the time.

“To make it a requirement of this business without any evidence that it is necessary is making it an untenable situation,” the lawyer said. “The issue of security is self-regulating … Anybody who is investing thousands of dollars will make sure the place is safe.”

The need for an attendant received support from the majority of the council, including Susan Wengraf, who said she had been assaulted in a laundromat during the daytime in a very safe neighborhood.

“Laundromats are essentially magnets for people loitering around looking for bad things to do,” she said.

Wengraf suggested that the Berkeley Planning Commission look into whether it would be possible to stop laundromats from going into mixed-use buildings altogether.

Councilmember Laurie Capitelli reminded the council that a vacant property was also a detriment to a neighborhood.

Both Capitelli and Mayor Tom Bates stressed that it was essential the space not remain empty for a long time.

**NEWS ANALYSIS: Tibet Earthquake: The Deepening Divide of Identities**

*By Topden Tsering, Special to Berkeley Daily Planet*  
*Tue Apr 20 11:35:00 -0700 2010*

The 6.9 magnitude earthquake that ravaged eastern Tibet’s Kyegundo on April 14 has brought to sharp relief the region’s contentious place in China’s geopolitical fold, deepening the divide between the fractured township’s predominantly-Tibetan population and the Chinese government apparatuses.

Where government relief was slow in the coming, it was the Tibetan Buddhist monks from nearby regions who with bare hands dug out survivors from the rubble and provided comfort to those who had lost families and friends. By the second and third day when Chinese soldiers and state workers had arrived and taken over rescue operations, bowing out the monks lest their prominence in media spotlight was compromised, it was the monks who provided proper rites of passage for the thousands of dead, as would have befitted the Buddhist faith of their living incarnations. Xinhua, the government mouthpiece, puts the death toll at 1,400; local Tibetans contend it’s close to 10,000.

Kyegundo, which maps of China-controlled Tibet depicts as being in Qinghai, is traditionally in Kham province of Tibet. It was one of the three towns, besides Jhomda and Chamdo, through which in 1950 Chinese army invaded Tibet. Its inhabitants, like those from the larger province, famously reputed for their fierce warrior nature, engaged Chinese military in a protracted armed resistance that lasted into the early 1970s, more than a decade after China’s occupation of Tibet in 1959 which led to the exile of the Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama. Started first as isolated underground offences that flared across Kham, the unified guerriela resistance under “Chushi Gangdruk” of later years inflicted major losses on Chinese army; its
members were responsible for securing the Tibetan leader’s unharmed flight to India. The fighting continued in exile from Mustang in Nepal with support from CIA, which was abruptly suspended in early 1970s, after Henry Kissinger’s secret Beijing visit signaled a repairing of U.S.-China relations. The betrayed Tibetan fighters, many of whom had been trained in Colorado, were forced to lay down arms only after the Dalai Lama personally intervened; many subsequently committed suicide, some by drowning, some by slitting their throats.

In 1965, Kham, as well as Amdo, the province in which the Dalai Lama was born, were incorporated into Chinese provinces of Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu and Yunnan. The third Tibetan province of U-tsang was designated “Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR);” It is “TAR” which China refers to when they mention Tibet in present-day discourses.

Ninety percent of people who died in Kye-gundo were Tibetans, whose poorly-built houses had been the first to collapse. Many of these tenement-style mud-and-timber hovels had come up beginning late nineteenth during the Chinese government’s vehement drive to resettle the locals who, like most Kham and Amdo people, were nomads and herdsmen, sustaining on open grasslands with their livestock. The Chinese coercion was designed to enforce control over a free-roaming people whose propensity to revolt was notorious; in part it owed to the government’s extensive dam-building, mining and deforestation enterprises. Their traditional way of life disrupted, finding their rehabilitation prospects dimmed by Chinese migrant workers, these displaced Tibetans put up numerous protests, but were largely left with little resources with which to cope.

In March 2008 when pro-independence uprising erupted in Lhasa, it swiftly spread to areas in Kham and Amdo; one such revolt in Kyegundo involved hundreds of young herdsmen on horsebacks laying siege on a Chinese police station, before raising a Tibetan flag amid bursts of their traditional war cry, Kyi hi hi! In the ensuing crackdown, hundreds of Tibetans were executed and thousands taken into custody. There were signs of international outcry building up, until a massive earthquake rocked Sichuan in May, killing more than 70,000 people. Chinese government’s image as a bloody oppressor in Tibet was softened into a quick-acting, humanitarian front, which ostensibly impeded “Free Tibet” movement’s outrage over the Beijing Olympics.

After the April 14 earthquake in Kyegundo, for two full days, government rescue was absconding. It was the hundreds of monks from neighboring five or six unaffected monasteries who first rushed to aid, carrying blankets, tents and food supplies. Amid worries over bursting of a dam further up in the mountains, when soldiers and state workers finally arrived, they seemed to focus on government buildings, leading locals to believe they were being shortchanged for their ethnicity. Monks, who had by now in addition to their rescue efforts taken charge of caring for the dead, were discouraged. This shadow of Chinese insensitivity subsided when the government nervously afforded monks laxity: in the last couple of days, monks offered prayers as thousands of Tibetan corpses were thrown en-masse into raging funeral pyres. Traditionally, after their death, the bodies of Tibetans, particularly from this area, are cut up and fed to vultures, in what is known as “Sky Burial;’” this time around, as the locals found, there just weren’t enough birds to feed on the dead.

For those surviving, even on the fourth day, food and water was hard to come by. Malcolm Moore, a reporter for Telegraph, in his April 18 dispatch, quoted a Tibetan monk as remarking about the Chinese army, “They staged a show with the aid trucks, pretending to deliver food, but actually driving past us. Look around you, the Tibetan families here have no food, water or medicine.” In a system woefully captive to connections, the first to receive help were those belonging to state-owned enterprises or work units, the majority of which comprise Chinese immigrant workers; the erstwhile Tibetan herdsmen and nomads who could boast of no such associations were left to fend for themselves.

To the larger population in China’s mainland, government propaganda peddles to them two polarizing images of Tibetans. One: as ungrateful rioters, as evident from thestock footage of angry Tibetan protestors from the 2008 Lhasa uprising which was repeatedly run on state television (while leaving out the scores of peaceful protests elsewhere, not to mention the brutal crackdown that followed). The other: that of grateful subjects, who are perennially shown smiling feversishly while returning handshakes of government officials, their clothes as new as the housing appliances surrounding them. A third image is now being beamed out to them in the quake’s aftermath, its censorship made impossible by the temptation to glorify the army’s humanitarian avatar: one of impoverished Tibetans whose destitution is as stark on the dead as it is on the living, a far cry from the government’s development claims.

The Chinese President Hu Jintao was gracious enough to visit the disaster site. But judging by a letter the locals have written to the Chinese leader, available on few websites, it is the Dalai Lama they want in their midst. For the thousands of dead, their sole solace was the conferment of the customs of a religion which is otherwise banned in most parts of Tibet. As spoken by those who have survived, their souls nonetheless brutalized by losses, for them their best healing lies in their exiled leader who has not stepped foot in his country for more than last fifty years.

The Tibetan leader has expressed his desire to visit the disaster-stricken area to extend comfort. Most likely, the Chinese leadership will not make that happen. The problem however is that it will have further alienated a people who have little left to lose.

Topden Tsering is a Tibetan writer based in Berkeley.

Victim of Saturday’s Fatal Shooting Was a 20-Year-Old Berkeley Man
By Bay City News
Tue Apr 20 12:34:00 -0700 2010

A 20-year-old Berkeley man who was fatally shot in San Francisco’s Bayview District on Saturday night has been identified by the San Francisco medical examiner’s office as Stephen Powell.

The shooting was reported at about 7 p.m. in Garlington Court, San Francisco police Officer Boaz Mariles said. Arriving officers found Powell in the street suffering from a gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead there, Mariles said.

No arrests have been made.

Kyle Harty Strang Memorial
Tue Apr 20 13:22:00 -0700 2010

A Kyle Harty Strang Memorial will be held on Tuesday April 27, 2010 from 5-7pm in the BHS Little Theatre. The public is welcome.

A Reader’s Guide to the Housing Maze
By Helen Ripplar Wheeler
Tue Apr 20 12:51:00 -0700 2010

When Conservatives’ attempts to eliminate HUD failed, they focused on Section 8. The U.S. Housing and Urban Development’s
(HUD) Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program was established in 1974. It provides housing assistance to low-income persons who rent. It has been one of the best possible uses of federal funds because it countermands need for costly welfare-type expenditures associated with sheltering seniors with small incomes who are willing, able, and eager to live independently.

If you and your landlord qualify under Section 8, you pay one third of your income for rent, with the balance subsidized by HUD. In most communities there are 2 approaches to getting a rent-subsidized Section 8 unit: tenant-based and project-based.

In theory, it is possible for a low-income family to obtain a Section 8 voucher from the local housing authority, find a vacant apartment on the open market, a landlord who will accept both the tenant and a voucher/subsidized rent, within a deadline.

Senior citizens currently receiving Section 8 rent subsidies are at risk of losing their status and being evicted because landlords prefer other types of tenants and the open market. Market-rate rents are highest in the Bay Area. Many landlords prefer not to accept vouchered tenants and do not renew their Section 8 contracts with HUD because they can get larger rents and what they consider more “desirable tenants” on the open market.

Vouchers can be of little use because:
- Few vouchers may have been issued and voucher waiting lists are usually closed;
- At times there are few vacancies, and those that can be discovered are exorbitantly high rents;
- Seniors and disabled persons with small incomes, while able and wishing to live independently, may be unable to scour neighborhoods and deal with landlords;
- A landlord-fostered myth portrays Section 8 tenants as undesirable.

Another category of Section 8 beneficence is the project-based Section 8 building for senior citizens and disabled persons, typically owned and or managed by a non-profit developer-corporation (e.g. Affordable Housing Associates, Satellite Housing, Inc.). Waiting lists that open and close unpredictably, ruthless property managers, and an annual rent recertification can be part of project life. [Request “Senior Housing Guide 2010 edition” from Alameda County Area Agency on Aging Senior Information and Assistance, 1 800 510 2020.] Section 8 project-based buildings consist of mostly single-room apartments, e.g. Stuart Pratt, Shattuck Senior Homes, and Redwood Gardens.

Established in 1966, the Berkeley Housing Authority (BHA) administers approximately 1,939 subsidized rental-housing units through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher lottery program.

The BHA works with HUD to administer a tenant-based Section 8 program and periodically, a voucher lottery. At times the list of voucher category-priorities has varied so frequently that it was difficult to keep up—e.g. Berkeley residents, disabled, elderly, homeless, veterans, etc. etc. have been mentioned. Once a person obtains a voucher, s/he must locate a vacant apartment whose landlord will accept a Section 8 tenant and work with the BHA, whose website reads: “The Section 8 Wait List is CLOSED. For information on the status of your application to see if you were picked for the lottery, ... visit www.waitlistcheck.com... your application for this waitlist does not guarantee a spot on the waitlist. It is only after the random lottery selecting 1,500 names, that the official waitlist will be established...”

The reconstituted BHA’s seven-member Board of Commissioners consists of individuals appointed by Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates. There has been criticism of apparent conflict of interest; chair Carole Norris is identified as Vice President at ICF Consulting, San Francisco. The BHA receives a certain number of vouchers and has increasingly been sharing (transferring) those with developers and the City, i.e. some would say, giving them away.

In addition to dispensing Section 8 vouchers, the BHA also owns and administers 75 units of public housing scattered throughout the city. The BHA has recently been attempting to divest itself of these “town houses.” Representatives of the City of Berkeley and Wells Fargo Bank’s Community Lending Division were also present at discussions with representatives of Satellite Housing, Inc., Resources for Community Development, Affordable Housing Associates, and John Stewart Co.

The City of Berkeley created its Housing Trust Fund (HTF) in 1990. A housing trust fund is a program that pools funds for affordable housing construction from a variety of sources with different requirements, and makes them available through a single application process to local developers. Note: “Affordable housing” can differ radically from “low-income housing.”

The property at 3132-35 Harper Street has become known as the Prince Hall Arms and as the Masons. The independent corpora-

Laundromat, BRT, Recycling Fees Head Back to Council

By Riya Bhattacharjee
Tue Apr 20 12:32:00 -0700 2010

The Berkeley City Council will be holding an 8 p.m. time-specific presentation and discussion on the Bus Rapid Transit Build Option at its first meeting after its spring break tonight (Tuesday).

Before taking up Bus Rapid Transit, the council will hold a special 5:30 p.m. meeting to vote on whether to allow a laundromat in a ground floor retail space at Southside Lofts on Telegraph Avenue.

A group of neighbors oppose the development, which the city allowed to move forward through an erroneous use permit. Although BRT had originally been scheduled for March 23, it was pushed to...
the end of the meeting, and the council only had time to listen to a few public comments close to midnight.

A large crowd is expected for Tuesday’s meeting, so Councilmember Kriss Worthington requested a change of venue to a Berkeley public school auditorium, but his proposal was rejected.

The council is expected to decide on which “Build” alternative, if any, to forward to AC Transit for environmental review.

Bus Rapid Transit has been a hotly-contested topic in Berkeley ever since AC Transit announced its plans to create a 17-mile route which would link Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro with faster, more efficient bus services.

AC Transit has asked for a final Locally Preferred Alternative or Build option from the three cities by April.

A Feb. 10 Planning Commission recommendation had asked the Berkeley City Council to study the Bus Rapid Transit Full Build option, which includes making Telegraph two ways and creating dedicated downtown bus lanes, for possible endorsement, along with another alternative called Rapid Bus Plus and a “No Build” option.

The city’s Planning Department staff proposed their own new set of recommendations at a March 10 meeting in light of new information about the decision process and continued opposition to the plans for Telegraph and downtown.

The Downtown Berkeley Association has come out against dedicated bus lanes on the four blocks of the BRT route on Shattuck Avenue between Addison Street and Bancroft Way because of the loss of parking.

Both sets of recommendations will be presented to the City Council Tuesday.

Animal Shelter Project

The council will vote on whether to adopt a resolution authorizing the sale of $5.5 million in bond certificates to fund the Dona Spring Animal Shelter.

The city currently does not have funds to build the shelter and has decided to use certificates of participation to raise the required funding.

The city has decided to hire Broward Builders, Inc. for the construction of the animal shelter and East Touchdown Plaza Project.

Strategy to Deal with Berkeley’s Poacher Problem

Councilmember Darryl Moore will ask City Manager Phil Kamlarz to develop a strategy to significantly reduce the poaching of recyclables and seek the input of the Zero Waste Commission before reporting back to Council.

The City Manager is expected to return with recommendations before the June 1 council meeting to help the council implement a strategy to reduce lost recycling revenues before voting on a budget that may impose a recycling fee.

The city is currently facing a $4 million deficit in its refuse fund.

In the past, Berkeley residents have complained that poachers often steal recyclables from their garbage bins thus leading to a shortage of materials that can be recycled.

Allowing Veterans to Use Veterans Building

The City Council will vote on whether to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to carry out a license agreement with the Disabled American Veterans Chapter and American Legion Post for veterans’ meetings, gatherings and office space at 1931 Center Street.

In the past, the Disabled American Veterans organization has used parts of the Veteran’s Building for group activities and storage space.

The building has relics and mementos in the building that belong to various veterans’ organizations.

After the American Legion Post approached the city about a meeting space in the building, the city decided that the existing DAV office could be shared with other veteran groups.

Editor’s Back Fence

The Latest Plan

By Becky O’Malley
Tue Apr 20 18:08:00 -0700 2010

Herein another experiment in our never-ending quest to find the right model for reporting news of Berkeley and the rest of the urban East Bay on a shoestring in our spare time: This week we’re trying to do two shorter issues instead of one humongous one.

We’ll still put up news stories as they occur, usually daily, but the formal Tuesday and Friday issues will have all the columns and features in one place at one time as well as a roundup of all the news which has broken since the last issue.

What this particular one does not have is a proper editorial, partly because I was too preoccupied with getting everything else in place this first time and partly because my Firefox got into a death struggle with my Gmail (can anyone shed any light on this?).

Godwilling and the creeks don’t rise, there’ll be another issue on Friday (NOT Thursday as before) with an editorial and everything else.

This issue was written almost 100% by our all-volunteer army of contributors. As soon as things calm down, we’re going to prepare an honor roll of the many clever Berkeleyans who have stepped up to the plate to help out—especially the pros who have been accustomed to being paid who are working for free at the moment.

(Michael Morgan, the Oakland Symphony’s witty conductor, says that “when I say we, I mean I.” In our case, as the staff shrinks, when I say “we” I mean Becky and Mike.)

Riya Bhattacharjee has stayed around longer than anyone else, and has done the work of six lesser mortals. She’s a perfect mix of brains and energy, and Berkeley has benefited enormously from her talents.

Now, however, she’s decided to move to Seattle for personal reasons, and while we can’t argue with her decision we’ll miss her both personally and professionally. In true Berkeley Daily Planet tradition, she leaves to the accompaniment of a vicious unfounded attack on her work in the letters column, which only proves she must have been doing something right.

What her departure means, in practical terms, is that we really have to find someone else to tell the public what’s happening at the major governmental meetings. We’ve had excellent volunteers for the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the School Board, but we’d very much like to find someone to report on Berkeley’s City Council, Planning Commission and Zoning Adjustment board.

The good news is that we might finally have figured out a legal way to pay independent reporters. We’re hoping to re-establish the Fund for Local Reporting as a non-profit which will pay writers directly, bypassing the Berkeley Daily Planet LLC to avoid the IRS questions which have financially hobbled our recent operations.

Mike and I will go on working for free as always to put up the website, but writers can be paid for their work when there’s money in the till. We might even be able to start selling online ads—the ones we’ve been running lately have been donated to worthy...
organizations. But until it’s all set up, we’re going to need volunteers if the news is going to be reported.

If you’re interested in working for the Planet, either as a volunteer now or eventually as a paid independent journalist, write to me at news@berkeleydailyplanet.com.

And keep those letters coming—let us know how two shorter issues a week works for you.

If you send an email to subscribe@berkeleydailyplanet.com, you can be a free subscriber, which means that I’ll send you a personal reminder when there’s a new issue online. If you’re already on that list and don’t want to be, write to unsubscribe@berkeleydailyplanet.com and we’ll take you off.

Worth a Look

By Becky O’Malley
Tue Apr 20 13:07:00 -0700 2010

In this space in the next few days you’ll find links to websites and articles that you might not have seen.

Here’s an Indymedia article about proposals for selling Berkeley’s public housing—see Helen Rippl Wheeler’s Reader’s Guide in this

Reader Opinion

Rally for Education in Sacramento Tomorrow (Wednesday)

By Cathy Campbell
Tue Apr 20 17:14:00 -0700 2010

I’m writing to ask for your help in getting folks from Berkeley to a critical rally in Sacramento on April 21st. Below you will find specific details of the bus pickup times and locations. Everyone is welcome to come aboard one of these BFT/BCCE buses we just need to know who’s coming. If you can please spread this info far and wide we would be so appreciative.

Folks may be wondering if this trip will make a difference. The timing is, in fact, perfect. On May 15, 2010 the Governor will release a revised proposed budget and BUSD will have to use this, by law, to create their own budget. If the trend of increased state revenues continues and the Governor is pressured by folks like us to keep the promise of Prop 98, the $2.5 billion in cuts to education will go away (because Prop 98 mandates that 40% of the unexpected new revenue go to K-14 education). This would mean BUSD would NOT have to make $2.7 million in cuts next year. We can influence the Governor’s revised proposal.

Thanks very much for helping us get the word out about this important opportunity to defend our children and youth, and their educational futures.

Join thousands of teachers, classified school employees, community members, parents, students tomorrow as we rally in Sacramento to support adequate funding for education and human services in our state.

AFT President Randi Weingarten will address the rally, and we’ll join up with labor, business, faith-based, and community activists who are walking 365 miles from Bakersfield to Sacramento to galvanize a statewide effort to restore the promise of our state, especially for our children and youth.

How do you get to Sacramento? It’s easy! BFT and BCCE will have 5 buses leaving at various locations and times (see below). All you need to do is to call 549-2307 or bft-4tchr@iml.net to sign up for a spot.

Buses are leaving:
1:00 Adult School (for folks who want to march from 3pm to 4pm to the Capitol)
2:00 Adult School & Jefferson
2:15 Longfellow
2:45 King Middle School & Adult School

Cathy Campbell, Berkeley Federation of Teachers
Paula Phillips, Berkeley Council of Classified

Cell Phone Towers – Should We Fear Them?

By Raymond Barglow  www.berkeleytutors.net
Tue Apr 20 18:41:00 -0700 2010

Is your new iphone dangerous? California State Senator Mark Leno has proposed legislation requiring all cell phones sold in the state to carry information about their radiation levels on sales boxes, usage instructions, and advertising displays in stores. San Francisco is considering similar legislation for cell phones sold in the city.

In Berkeley, controversy about the safety of cell phones has been going on for years, centered not on the phones themselves but on the towers that broadcast to them. A year ago, Berkeley adopted an ordinance governing the installation of cell phone towers, and now the Planning Commission is about to modify zoning district regulations to conform to the ordinance’s provisions.

But Berkeley’s ordinance does not prevent installation of the towers, and so the issue has not gone away. In a recent Planet article, “Cell Phones and the Politics of Cancer,” Harry Brill warns anew of the dangers.

When Berkeley citizens request that cell phone towers not be installed in their neighborhoods, two different kinds of issues are raised. One is scientific: is radiation from the towers dangerous? The other is political: in what degree and manner should citizens be granted democratic control of their living environment?

In South Berkeley, the Le Conte Neighborhood Association, including my brother and sister-in-law, fought hard to prevent real estate mogul Patrick Kennedy from installing cell phone towers at UC Storage on Shattuck Ave. Whether or not their conjectures about the towers are correct, I believe they have the right not to be exposed to radiation that they deem possibly dangerous.

However, the evidence for the danger is weak. And I’m a little worried that someone reading about the alleged risk of living near a cell phone tower might feel frightened enough to move away from a neighborhood where one is located. The probability that someone will be harmed by exposure to radiation from one of these towers is, in my opinion, almost zero, and I’ll explain why below.

To be sure, as Harry Brill points out, we cannot rely upon government authority to protect the public from such a potential danger. After all, as he points out, exposures to asbestos and cigarettes were very belatedly judged to be harmful. I made a similar point in an article ““Cell Phones: Hazardous to Your Health?” published in the Berkeley Daily Planet back in January: I noted as well, however, that the mainstream view among researchers in the physical and biological sciences is that cell phone radiation is too weak, by a factor of at least a million, to do any damage to a human body. My own knowledge of radiation science is not strong – it’s been decades since my undergraduate studies in physics. But I’ve discussed this matter in the past year with four scientists: physicist Richard Muller at UC Berkeley, physicist Robert Cahn at LBL, physicist Michael Vollmer from Brandenburg Germany; and biophysics graduate student Jeff Moffitt at UC Berkeley. They disbelieve the statistical “evidence” showing cell phone use to be dangerous, partly because they can think of no scientifically plausible chain of events whereby radiation...
from a cell phone might disrupt a biological process. In my Daily Planet piece on this subject, I outlined some of the scientific reasoning that leads them to dismiss this worry.

Moreover, even those expert critics who warn us about the risks of cell phone technology concentrate their attention on the use of the phones themselves, not on the towers that broadcast to them. Louis Slesin, for example, a scientist who is perhaps the most well-known American doubter of cell phone safety, told me that he’s not very concerned about the towers, since even a small distance between a tower and a user greatly attenuates the signal strength. And ironically, if cell phone towers are more widely distributed in a community, then users of this technology will need phones emitting less powerful radiation to communicate with those towers, thereby reducing their risk.

Most of the scientific research over the past decade on the hazards of this technology use has studied the safety of cell phone receivers held to the ear. But there have also been a very few studies about the dangers of living near cell phone broadcasting installations. Several of these studies seem to have been written by reputable investigators and I’ve read them fairly carefully. In each case the research appears to be fundamentally flawed.

For instance, a scientific study that has received wide distribution via the Internet, and is often cited on websites warning us about cell phone tower radiation, was conducted by Israeli medical researchers Ronni Wolf MD and Danny Wolf MD. Their team compared cancer rates among 622 people living near a cell phone transmitter station in the town of Netanya to 1277 individuals, “with very closely matched, environment, workplace and occupational characteristics,” but not living in the vicinity of a transmitter station. In the period of one year, 8 cancer cases were diagnosed in the group of 622 experimental subjects. Only 2 cases of cancer were diagnosed in the group of 1277. The researches concluded that “The study indicates an association between increased incidence of cancer and living in proximity to a cell-phone transmitter station.”

Although the numbers of cases here is small, the result is a disturbing one. I wondered, though, about cell phone use among the reported 10 cancer cases. If cell phone antennas are dangerous, then the actual use of cell phones is much more so, since the receiver is held so much closer to the brain, whereas, in the Israeli study, the experimental subjects lived on average about 200 feet away from the antennas. So I assumed that the researchers would have inquired whether the experimental subjects – especially those who came down with cancer – were themselves cell phone users. Surprisingly, no information about this was presented in this study. When I spoke with one of the principal investigators on the phone, he said that he did not know whether or how much the subjects of their study used cell phones -- that cell phone use was simply not a variable in the study! I asked Dr. Wolf whether he was planning to follow up on his study, taking additional, seemingly crucial variables into account. He replied that No, he and his partner were done with this subject and were moving on.

This major design flaw casts doubt upon the Wolf & Wolf research findings. Taking an example from a related field, it’s as if a study inquiring into the effects of environmental pollution on the incidence of lung cancer neglected to ask experimental subjects whether or not they themselves smoked. That would not be an acceptable research design.

Harry Brill cites another study, done in the Southern German town of Naila, that found a correlation between incidence of cancer and proximity to cell phone towers. The study is of about the same size as the Israeli study discussed above, but once again, the investigators failed to ascertain cell phone use among the individuals who got cancer.

Such studies aren’t fraudulent, I don’t think – they’re just not done in a scientifically thoughtfull, careful manner. And as I mentioned in the Daily Planet article, “even when scientific research is done conscientiously, the results may reflect the prior convictions of the investigators and may turn out to be invalid.” It is possible to gather ‘empirical evidence’ for many mistaken conclusions. A quick search on the Internet reveals, for example, dozens of ‘scientific’ studies that ‘disprove’ the hypothesis that global warming exists and is due largely to human activities.

Although epidemiology is certainly a valid enterprise that has helped us locate the causes of many illnesses, it’s also true that statistics often serve to foster illusions rather than dispel them. Consider the following study indicating that cell phone radiation is actually beneficial! A University of South Florida press release at the beginning of 2010 reported that “A surprising new study in mice provides the first evidence that long-term exposure to electromagnetic waves associated with cell phone use may actually protect against, and even reverse, Alzheimer’s disease. The study, led by University of South Florida researchers at the Florida Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC), was published today in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.”

This study is probably no more valid than the ones discussed above.

There is a wider lesson here: Internet dissemination of risk information is by no means a reliable process. In the age of TV prior to the Web, a public health expert might get on the tube to warn or reassure Americans regarding an environmental hazard. With the Internet, information is no longer broadcast in the same way. Someone can post the result of a “scientific” study to the Web, and it can quickly go viral, reaching a worldwide audience with few or no validity checks.

My sense is that, overall, the public benefits from this information free-for-all. Some NGO websites, for example, are far more trustworthy than are official government sources. But Internet misinformation flourishes as well. It’s as easy these days for an invalid research finding as for a mistaken rumor to become a wildfire.

Raymond Barglow is the founder of Berkeley Tutors Network

**Cornell, TP and Yoo**

*From Matt Cornell*

**Tue Apr 20 13:15:00 -0700 2010**

According to a press release from Los Angeles artist Matt Cornell, students at UC Berkeley were surprised to discover a new brand of toilet paper in the stalls of the law school building this morning.

Cornell made a private donation of “Yoo Toilet Paper” protesting the tenure of controversial Bush lawyer, and author of the “torture memos,” Professor John Yoo.

Each roll of toilet paper contains text from the United Nations Convention Against Torture, just one of the many laws that critics say Yoo violated when authorizing the use of torture against detainees.

Cornell says that the irreverent prank is intended to remind Berkeley’s law students that Professor Yoo helped turned human rights laws into toilet paper. At the bottom of each roll is a reminder that “this toilet paper was made by possible by John Yoo, Professor of Law.”

Cornell also notes that his brand of toilet paper is softer and of higher quality than that provided by cash-strapped UC Berkeley and contains “valuable reading material” for law students.

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is recovering from an unfinished civil war between Islamists and the military. Over 150,000 were killed. In Sudan the Saudi and Chinese financed Islamic regime is responsible for an estimated 2 million deaths in the Christian and animist South and about 200,000 Muslims in Darfur. In Morocco the government forced thousands of people living in the Western Sahara into exile when it crushed the local independence movement. Yemen is a feudal society ruled by a corrupt dictatorship and tribal chieftains. In Saudi Arabia Christianity and Judaism are prohibited, conversion and homosexuality punished by death, women barred from driving and riding bicycles on public roads. There is no pretense of democracy and no demand by Ms O’Malley for disinvestment.

Arabs have more rights in the Occupied Territories than in many Arab countries. The Territories probably are safer than Richmond or West Oakland. Palestinians will get their state. It will be like other Arab states. There will be no Israeli Supreme Court to redress grievances.

Dan Brown

***

Trying to Find Ethiopian Relatives
My name is David Ellmrich and I live in Czech Republic Europe. Through your newspaper I found that my father is dead. He died in 2002:

"Man Mistakenly Flown to Mexico Identified "

OAKLAND — The body of a man mistakenly flown to Mexico for burial was that of an Ethiopian refugee.

Hagos Gebre-Amlak, 44, died Sept. 2. Family members in Oakland, who declined to reveal his cause of death, decided to send his body to be buried in his native country where his mother still lives. But the body arrived in Mexico to the dismay of the grieving family of Roberto Castaneda.

Castaneda’s body, which was supposed to be sent to his hometown in Mexico, ended up temporarily in Europe.

A preliminary investigation has revealed the error occurred in a cargo warehouse at San Francisco International Airport owned by Delta Airlines but operated in part by Continental.

The airlines have agreed to refund both families for the cost to fly the bodies.

This man met my mother in early eighties when he studied in CR. My name was given me from my stepfather, because my father immigrated to USA in 1982 I think. I was born 1981. I am still trying to reach someone from my real family. That could be that mentioned grandmother in Ethiopia or sons or daughters of Hagos Gebreamlak in Oakland California (that’s what’s written in that article-family). And I am looking for any contact I could have with them. Please, couldn’t you help me a bit somehow?

David Ellmrich, DiS.

***

Remembering Campbell Coe
Just finished reading a comment in a 2005 issue that contained corrections to an obituary about Campbell Coe. I found that article after googling Campbell Coe out of curiosity, because I had met him a couple of times in Berkeley back in the latter 50’s when I was a graduate student at Cal. I often wondered what had become of him. We were not friends, but I remembered enjoying conversing with him at those gatherings. Years later (1969-70) when I was living in Berlin, Germany, I was both startled and amused upon spotting a bumper sticker on a car in the center of town that read: “Campbell Coe is alive and well.” I remember thinking at the time: “Could that possibly be the same Campbell Coe that I knew in Berkeley way back then?” After reading both the obituary and the correcting article, about him in your publication, I’m sure it was indeed the same Campbell Coe.

Dr. Ray Pimentel
San Jose

***

Measure C Facts and Figures
From a flyer I got in the mail the numbers don’t add up. I did a quick run through of the numbers and found this:

Measure C wants average 70 dollars from each household over 30 years.

Berkeley has 45,000 households as of 2000 census. It’s probably more since 10 years ago, so you can add even more money to the receipts.

70x45,000 households x 30 years =~94,500,000 total receipts for the renovations.

Renovations to all pools =~24,000,000
94,500,000 total minus 24,000,000 =~70,000,000 left over to operate...
4 pools over 30 years
Measure C says it costs 980,000 a year to operate these pools each year, that=29,400,000 to operate these pools for 30 years according to government and Measure C.

But they get 70,000,000!
Where does that ~40,000,000(million!) go? BOND PAYMENTS??
They are asking for double of what they “need” which is dubious. So each household should only pay~30-40 dollars a year in TAXES. As a tax, not a bond. Why are we paying double to borrow the money when we should just tax it over the 30 years requested? In this day and age, the system should not add un-payable debt burden. Paying Goldman Sachs or whoever to float this bond 40,000,000 bucks for pools is absurd-the age of funny money/credit is over. We are paying way too much for this loan.

Then they market this thing as if we are depriving the kids of pools, when I would say about 10% of the population actually uses them.
But that’s OK, I’m not a scrooge. I’ll pay 30 bucks a year, as I should, in TAXES. Justin Lee

***

Haiku
HATE THE PEOPLE
WHO RULE THE WORLD
BUT I LOVE
ICELANDIC VOLCANO

C’MON MALCOLM,
YOU KNOW I LIVE IN FOREST TIMES.
C’MON MALCOLM YOU.

FOLKS WHO GROW WHEAT,
NOW KNOWN AS BAD FOR US
SHOULD HAVE
A NASTY NICKNAME.
Arnie Passman

***

True Conservatism
“A blind and ignorant resistance to every effort for the reform of abuses and for the readjustment of society ... represents not true conservatism, but an incitement to the wildest radicalism.” - Theodore Roosevelt, 1908. Fast forward to 2010 and enter the “Party of No”, Republicans who promise to vote against any Obama proposals to reform the government and economy.

Republicans continue to frame the debate even though their ideas are out of whack and far from the mainstream. Democrats need to step up and frame the debate, and stop playing second fiddle to GOP reactionaries, Sarah Palin, the Tea Party, and the new axis of evil, Glen Beck, Sean Hannity, and Rush Limbaugh.

Middle America will frame the debate in 2010 by saying “NO” to the poisonous and acrimonious rhetoric of the Republican Party.

Ron Lowe

***

Waste
The mounting messes of wastes along with the massive mess coming from the Iceland volcano are going to be taxing the world’s resources for humans to survive. The USA and the rest of the world have to stop wasting time looking at the stars and get humankind to take care of what their feet are standing on. Obama’s calling for man on Mars indicates lunacy or too much star gazing. I urge readers to contact the Whitehouse and their elected federal officials to wake them up to the waste messes that are engulfing us.

Dr. J. Singmaster, Fremont, CA Ph (510)797-3790

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More Anti-Semitism
Was Ms Bhattacharjee actually at the ASUC meeting on April 14? Because if she had been, she would know that at approximately 4 a.m. April 15, the ASUC Berkeley voted to uphold the veto of a measure urging divestment from two U.S. companies supplying war materials to Israel.

It is true that the final outcome is still somewhat undecided since about 90 minutes before the meeting adjourned at 5:37 a.m., proponents of the resolution kept the debate alive by calling for a motion to reconsider the vote on the veto. How disturbing that after such a difficult night, people still dragged the meeting on, filibustered and repeated points that made the meeting go longer, according to people in attendance, forcing the motion to be tabled for a future meeting.

Ms Bhattacharjee’s coverage of the meeting is also disturbing, yet not surprising, when she refers to the bill’s supporters as Nobel Prize winners and Cal professors and its opponents as staunch opponents and making mention of an Israeli supporter of the bill who wore a sticker stating, “An-

other Israeli for Human Rights”. Whatever that means.

Except for reporting that the singling out of Israel was also one of the main reasons why Smelko decided to veto the bill, Ms Bhattacharjee’s reporting was so clearly biased towards the Berkeley Planet’s well known anti Israel position as to make the article clearly opinion as opposed to stating the facts.

Am I surprised? No. Will the Planet post my letter? I hope so. Last time I wrote, the screener referred to my positions as “hate mail”. Such Berkeley bullshit. Agree with the “pc” Planet or other anti Israel elements. Otherwise, you’re wrong, racist, a war criminal, hateful, or God knows what.

Susan Sholin

Editor’s Note: God indeed knows, and god will judge us both.

***

Divestment is “Pro-Human Rights”
Overall a nice article about the UC Berkeley divestment decision, but this sentence alarmed me:
“Pro and anti-Israeli groups have been flooding the senators’ mailboxes ever since the bill was passed....”

I don’t see the appeals for the Student Senate to vote to divest as being “anti-Israeli”! I actually see it as “pro-Israeli” as well as “pro-Palestinian” and “pro-American.” In fact, overall, I see it as “pro human rights” and if it’s to considered “anti” anything, it would be anti war-profiteering and anti violence against civilians.

I agree with Israeli coordinator of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions Dr. Jeff Halper that there are two sides to this conflict, but they are NOT Israeli and Palestinian. They are all the Israelis, Palestinians, Americans and other who will accept only a “zero-sum” outcome to this conflict “vs” all the Israelis, Palestinians, Americans and others who believe in a win/win win/win outcome.

The call for divestment FROM ISRAEL’s OCCUPATION is pro-law, pro-human rights, pro-justice, pro-peace. I don’t see it as anti-Israeli!

Linda Frank,
Tacoma, WA

***

Classical Request
I’ve been a faithful reader of The Daily Planet since it started, and although sad
about the printed edition’s demise, I’m glad that it continues online. However, I can’t find, in the online edition, any listing for classical music performances. I and my friends used to rely on the Planet’s pages for this information – there’s no other source for the East Bay. The fault may be mine -- now in my ninth decade, I’m not adept at the computer. However, if you have dropped the classical music listings entirely, please reconsider and start them again.

John Spier

Editor’s Note: We found some for today, just for you.

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Eat Plants

This week marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. A day we pledge to conserve Earth’s natural resources for future generations.

We already know about recycling, changing light bulbs, adjusting the thermostat, and reducing our driving habits. This year, we can best observe Earth Day by switching to a plant-based diet.

A recent study in WorldWatch magazine found that production of meat and dairy products may account for fully half of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, such production contrib-utes more pollutants to our water supplies than all other human activities combined. It is causing global shortages of drinking water. It is the driving force in global deforestation and wildlife habitat destruction.

This Thursday, let’s celebrate Earth Day and every day by replacing meat and dairy products in our diet with healthful, eco-friendly foods like fresh fruits and vegetables, legumes, whole grains, and nuts. Those opting for a more gradual transition will find ample soy and grain-based meat and dairy analogs in your local supermarket. Additional information is available at www. greenyourdiet.org.

ff Garner

Take Trains

As a frequent train rider and railfan, I am obviously in full support of the California High Speed Rail system. With the population growing bigger and bigger by the day, California, the most populated state in the Union, will require more and more ways to transport this ever-growing population. This being said, high speed rail is the best way to go. Rail travel is already the most environmentally-friendly way to travel, and it will become even more so with a high speed rail system that is powered entirely on overhead electrical wires. High Speed Rail has been successfully implemented throughout Europe and Asia, and it’s high time that the United States catch up on the times. Our current system is no match for today’s rapidly-growing, fast-paced world. Let’s bring high speed rail to not just California, but the entire United States.

Miguel Gamalinda

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Eat at Ozzie’s

Much to the delight of long-time Berkeley residents, a new restaurant has recently opened at the site of Ozzie’s Soda Fountain -- the Elmwood Cafe, 2900 College Avenue. Ozzie himself, the famed drug store philosopher, alas, is no longer there, but his spirit lives on! The new Cafe, practically an extension of Mrs. Dalloway’s Book Store, is a light and airy place with ample seating, affording diners a view of the passing parade on College Avenue. A staff of attractive, enthusiastic and courteous young people take orders at the fountain and deliver to your table.

The Cafe, which opened three weeks ago, is owned by Kara Hammond, Michael Pearce and Rachel Ericson. It offers an imaginative and fairly elegant menu, with delectable items such as Savory Bread Pudding, Hot Five Grain Porridge, Ferb chevre and arugula on toasted walnut levain, with a Rhubarb Cobbler for dessert. Equally impressive is the long list of beverages, including several tempting drinks -- Double Espresso, Macchiato, Cappuccino, Latte, Cafe Au Lait and Double Mocha.

Clearly the Elmwood Cafe is not your everyday Burger King or Wendy’s. Indeed, it adds greatly to the Elmwood District which already boasts an amazing number of high quality fashion, art and jewelry shops. It’s to be hoped that this valuable new addition to College Avenue will attract new visitors, not just in Berkeley, but shoppers, perhaps even tourists, from outside.

Should you want to make a reservation at the Elmwood Cafe, their number is (510) 843-1300. Bon Appetit!

Dorothy Snodgrass

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Hooray for Health Reform

I know it is old news, but I am still happy that health reform is a reality. As a person who has faced unemployment, I have had periods without health insurance. But for me, the best part of the reform is that many millions more will be covered and that that unethical practices of insurance companies will now be illegal.

Clayton McClintock

Columnists

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDGE: Nuclear Treaty’s Pluses & Minuses

By Conn Hallinan

Sun Apr 18 18:32:00 -0700 2010

Amid celebrations around the signing of a new treaty between the U.S. and Russia on reducing the number of nuclear weapons, Hisham Badr, Egyptian ambassador to the United Nations conference on disarmament, played crow on the cradle: “We in the Middle East feel we have, short of a better word, been tricked into giving concessions for promises that never materialized.”

Badr was speaking about the May 3-28 conference to review the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but his remarks underlined some of the weaknesses in the new agreement between Washington and Moscow. Badr was expressing the growing impatience of the 189 countries that signed the NPT on the promise that it would lead to a nuclear weapons free world and eventual disarmament.

On one level, the NPT has generally stopped the proliferation of nuclear weapons. When it was first signed back in 1970, several countries were on the edge of developing nuclear weapons, including Brazil, Argentina, Iran, Turkey, Japan, South Korea, Egypt, Taiwan, and South Africa. The latter, in conjunction with Taiwan and Israel, actually produced and tested a nuclear weapon over the South Atlantic in 1979.

However, several countries have joined the former exclusive club of the U.S., Russia, China, France, and Great Britain. Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea — none current signers of the NPT — all have nuclear arsenals, although Korea’s is thought to consist of no more than five or six warheads.

What Badr is complaining about is that, while most of the world has kept up their end of the bargain, the great nuclear powers have abrogated their pledge to institute Article VI of the NPT: “Each of the parties to the treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to a cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and
on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international controls.”

The recent START agreement, signed in Prague on April 8, reduces warheads—not by as much as both sides claim—but, at best, it is a very modest step toward their elimination and says nothing about the issue of “general disarmament.”

Both abolition and general disarmament are at the heart of the NPT, because non-nuclear countries only signed on under the condition that the great powers agree to abolish their nuclear weapons and conventional arsenals. As the most recent round of wars—Iraq, Afghanistan, the 2006 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and the recent war in Gaza—illustrate, modern conventional weapons are capable of inflicting stupendous damage.

The Prague agreement does step back from the Bush Administration’s 2002 Nuclear Posture Review by reconfiguring the conditions under which the U.S. would use nuclear weapons. While the 2002 Review envisioned nuclear retaliation for chemical and biological attacks, the Obama Review moves away from that, although it does reserve the right to employ nuclear weapons against countries that have not signed or “fulfilled” their obligations under the NPT—read Iran and North Korea.

While the White House has been applauded for narrowing the conditions under which nuclear weapons can be used, the pledge is really just a restatement of a 1978 addendum to the NPT (reaffirmed in 1995) that nuclear nations cannot threaten non-nuclear nations with nuclear weapons unless those nations are an ally of a nuclear power. In short, this is plowing old ground.

The Obama Administration says that the new agreement will cut the number of warheads by 30 percent, but as Pavel Podvig at the Center for International Security and Cooperation told the New York Times, “It’s creative accounting.”

For example, a B-52 armed with 14 nuclear tipped cruise missiles, plus six nuclear gravity bombs, is counted as one warhead under the Prague agreement. “On paper, the White House has been saying it’s a 30 percent cut in warheads. Well, it is on paper,” Kingston Reif, Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation director told the Times.

According to Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists, if both sides used “creative accounting,” the U.S. would only have to cut 100 strategic warheads and the Russians 190. Both countries have 4,700 deployed strategic warheads between them, and many thousands of smaller, tactical warheads. The agreement does not address this latter category of weapons, or warheads held in storage.

The new START does set a limit of 700 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM), submarine launched missiles and strategic bombers. The limits on the first two are important because they are potential first-strike weapons.

In order to get a treaty through the Senate the administration will need 67 votes, a major reason the document is so watered down. For instance, while the White House did pledge not to modernize its nuclear force, it agreed to pump $5 billion into upgrading the U.S. nuclear weapon’s labs.

That decision might well return to haunt the Obama administration. The labs are fiercely protective of their nuclear weapons programs and successfully torpedoed U.S. Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Robert Scheer’s 1988 “Thinking Tuna Fish, Talking Death” is a profile of how the labs operate as one of nuclear weapons most powerful—and unscrupulous—lobbies. Funding the labs also sends a signal that these nuclear establishments will be around for a long time to come.

Rather than scaling back military spending, the White House has not only breached the $700 billion marker—the actual budget is $709 billion, but does not include almost $300 billion more in related military spending, including the cost of nuclear weapons—Obama agreed to pour extra money into “advanced conventional arms.” Some of these latter weapons replicate the destructive power of small tactical nuclear warheads that are likely to eventually be phased out.

One of these “advanced” weapons is the Prompt Global Strike program (PGS) that uses Peacemaker III ICBMs armed with conventional warheads to strike targets worldwide within an hour of launch. PGS has generated considerable controversy because of the possibility that a conventional missile might be mistaken for a nuclear attack.

“World states will hardly accept a situation in which nuclear weapons disappear, but weapons that are no less destabilizing emerge in the hands of certain members of the international community,” said Russian Foreign Minister Sergi Lavrol April 6.

The Russians gave in on their demand to withdraw an anti-missile system (ABM) from Europe, in part because at this point it doesn’t pose a threat to their missiles. But the parties may come to loggerheads in the future. Republicans in the Senate are pushing hard to build ABM systems, and the Russians made it clear that if those systems eventually pose a threat to its nuclear missile force, Moscow will withdraw from the treaty.

The new agreement also failed to take nuclear weapons off of “hair trigger” mode, although the U.S. said it would try to find a way to increase the presidents “time frame” for making a launch decision.

A number of arms control activists have hailed the agreement, which they see as creating momentum going into the May meetings on the NPT and a Washington conference on nuclear security. “This is a huge step forward in advancing the bipartisan nuclear security agenda that the President outlined in Prague in April 2009 to reduce the dangers posed by nuclear weapons,” said John Issacs, executive director of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.

“This treaty will send a powerful, unambiguous message to the rest of the world that the United States and Russia are serious about reducing the nuclear threat,” said Sean Meyers of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Others are not so certain. Meeting in Libya, a summit of the 22-member Arab League urged reviewing the NPT “in order to create a definitive plan for eliminating nuclear weapons development” and called for holding a UN conference on making the Middle East a “nuclear-weapons free zone.” All Arab states have signed the NPT.

The League also asked the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN’s nuclear watchdog, to “terminate its technical assistance programs in Israel if that country does not join the NPT and allow inspections to begin.” Israel is thought to have between 100 and 200 nuclear weapons.

The Egyptian, Badr, is also chair of the 118-member Non-Aligned Movement, and many of its members have expressed the same frustrations about what Badr calls “double standards and lack of political will.”

The fact that the May conference will focus on the non-proliferation part of the NBT has caused growing resentment. Badr said he found it “puzzling” that the conference will target the obligations of non-nuclear states, rather than the failure of nuclear armed states to fulfill their obligations under Article VI.

But the new agreement might create the momentum needed to tackle the hard issues of ridding the world of nuclear weapons and instituting general disarmament. The place to begin that process might be by reiterating
the NPT’s preamble: “...in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States must refrain in their international relations from threat or use of force against the territority integrity or political independence of any State.” Adherence to the preamble would not only make nuclear weapons superfluous, but also lay the groundwork for reducing military spending across the board, something the world spent about $2 trillion on this past year.

**SENIOR POWER: “Old People Don’t Read Books.”**

**By Helen Ripper Wheeler**

*Sun Apr 18 17:13:00 -0400 2010*

The Rippowam River rushed by at the foot of our dank street, or, depending on the season, gurgled its way to Long Island Sound. I would sit on the stone embankment overlooking the water, ignoring the garter snakes in the crevices. The Ferguson Public Library children’s room was another 1932 shelter. Story hour was held in a separate room with a large picture window. I played stamping books, using a piece of black crayon stuck on the end of a protractor. It slipped off, jamming crayon into my palm, still imbedded there in a tattoo effect.

Saturday mornings, a few years later, I headed for the story hour in a corner of the Freeport Memorial Library’s crowded basement workroom. I read all the twins books, written and illustrated by Lucy Fitch Perkins. Kit and Kat began as The Dutch Twins (1911), metamorphosed into Scotch, American, Belgian, Chinese, Colonial, Eskimo, Irish, Italian, and Japanese stories. Then came Helen Dore Boylston’s Sue Barton, Nurse series — senior nurse, staff nurse, visiting nurse. These books can be borrowed in your behalf from nearby libraries participating in the free Link system.


I first encountered Berkeley author Dorothy Bryant via her 1972 literary landmark, *Ella Price’s Journal* is a novel in diary form of a woman who returns to school after 15 years of marriage and begins to see her carefully-structured world in an unexpected and unwelcome light. I asked Bryant about her current reading. Kay Ryan’s *The Best of It, New and Selected Poems*. She prefers lesser known books recommended by friends, e.g. Judith Freeman’s *Red Water*. Old movies on DVD satisfy the ‘recreational urge.’ When she knows what she wants, she requests it online and it is brought to South Branch public library. For browsing, she stops regularly at Central.

Best-selling Berkeley author Theodore Roszak was turned down by 20 major publishers, reports Avis Worthington. When he proposed his *The Making of an Elder Culture; Reflections on the Future of America’s Most Audacious Generation*, they informed him, “Old people don’t read books.” It was published by New Society Publishers in 2009.

Ever noticed that the central character in many biographies and novels is influenced by a public library or library staff-member? -- *Goodbye, Columbus* --. The novel and motion picture of *A tree grows in Brooklyn*. -- Perhaps because children are central to *Dear Miss Breed: True stories of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II* …, it has generally been assigned to children’s collections, but it is a book for everyone. (See July 31, 2007 BDPlanet.)

The 1956 motion picture, *Storm Center* (1956, 85m, Columbia Pictures), is about a small-town library administrator who refuses to withdraw a controversial book from the shelves. She is labeled a Communist by local politicians (City Council members…), loses her job, and becomes an outcast in the community. Bette Davis plays the doomed librarian. Banned Books Week in 2010 will be September 25–October 2. The World Catalog lists a *Storm Center* dvd distributed by Sony Pictures Television…

The word “FREE” in many USA libraries’ names (Free Library of Philadelphia, Mono County Free Library, Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore, etc.) is not mere happenstance. They were founded for the public, not as “subscription” libraries.

The University of California, Berkeley used to grant library circulation privileges to senior citizens. No longer. Governor Palin’s dubious public library involvement is not surprising. Patrons’ taxes contribute largely to American public libraries’ budgets. A children’s room has long been part of a public library’s building and program, dating back to inception of the Carnegie libraries; YP (young people, teenagers) collections and activities were later introduced. Now, more than ever, elders are dependent on our free public libraries.

The Alameda County Library has created “Older Adult Services,” a brochure highlighting current programs. Special library materials that may interest older adults, caregivers and others include large-print books, audio books and videos (standard, close-captioned and descriptive). Trained volunteers bring library materials to home-bound persons. *Generations On Line* is an easy-to-use program designed to introduce seniors to the Internet and email with step-by-step directions, available at Alameda County Library locations.

It’s a good thing. Berkeley Public Library’s senior discount on overdue charges. So are the large-print collections of fiction (science fiction, mysteries,) nonfiction (biography, *The Weekly New York Times,* and reference books (books on money management). They can be accessed using subject heading LARGE TYPE BOOKS. The BPL Outreach person is Colleen Fawley (510) 981-6160. I know from experience that she has magical insights into what subjects and books, magazines and nonprint media will interest someone who is briefly or indefinitely unable to get to the Library. She selects, delivers, and subsequently picks them up. Specific titles and subjects can be requested, and she will bring them to you soonest. Alas, “budgetary constraints” will likely shorten her hours.

I am weary of the media’s representation of *shush* libraries, and of praise heaped on library architecture that has little to do with accessing books and information, and of bureaucrats’ appointment of acceptable personalities to serve on library boards and to liaison with them.

*For your consideration:*

Berkeley Repertory Theatre package options include special discounts on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday matinees for persons who are “at least 65”.

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**CALL TO CONFIRM:**

*When: Tuesday, April 20, 2010. 11 A.M.-noon*

*What: Director’s Roundtable Discussion*  
*Where: North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst@ MLK*

*Details: NBSC director Larry Taylor meets with seniors*  
*For more info: (510) 981-5190*

*When: Wednesday, April 21, 2010. 1:30 P.M.*  
*What: Berkeley Commission on Aging meeting*  
*Where: South Berkeley Senior Center,*
Chickens in the Mist

By Joe Eaton
Tue Apr 20 13:06:00 -0700 2010

Chickens were not high on the agenda when we went to Kaua’i. We hoped to see some of the endangered native forest birds, and the seabirds that nest on the North Shore. But chickens were inescapable. They greeted us at the airport in Lihue. They wandered around the hotel where we spent the first night. There were chickens on the beaches, chickens along the highway. (But relatively few road-killed chickens—far fewer than the dead armadillos you’d see in a comparable-sized chunk of Texas.)

Kaua’i has two classes of chicken. Most of the urban birds are descendants of fowl who were liberated by Hurricane Iniki in 1992. They’re variable in size, shape, and pattern. Some have the lean, mean look of gamecocks. Cockfighting, although illegal, is a popular pastime in the islands. During our stay a state legislator proposed recognizing it as a cultural institution; the bill didn’t get very far.

The island is so far, knock wood, moa goose-free. Apart from feral cats and possibly the native short-eared owl, feral chickens have no predators to keep their numbers in check. I don’t know if anyone has attempted a chicken census, but there are clearly a hell of a lot of them.

Then there are the elite—the ali’i of chickens. They’re supposed to be direct descendants of the red junglefowl, native to South and East Asia, that were transported through the South Pacific by the Polynesians and their precursors, the Lapita people. Chickens, along with dogs, pigs, taro, sugar cane, and paper mulberry, were part of these great navigators’ basic traveling package. They probably reached Hawai’i with voyagers from the Marquesas about 1800 years ago. The word for chicken in most Polynesian languages is moa, a name they applied to the giant, flightless, and presumably tasty birds they encountered in New Zealand. PreColumbian chicken remains of South Pacific origin have even been found in South America.

To see these ur-chickens, you have to drive the Waimea Canyon Road up to Kokee State Park. The junglefowl hang out around the restaurant—sometimes in the restaurant—and natural history museum at Kokee. You can buy bags of chickenfeed (”Feed the Wild Moa,” says the sign.) When we stopped there, a rooster tried to get into our rental PT Cruiser. He seemed to be low in the pecking order and may have been seeking asylum.

We stayed at a YWCA facility called Camp Sloggett, down a rutted dirt road from park headquarters—highly recommended, by the way. Sloggett has its own colony of chickens: we counted four roosters and three hens. They weren’t furtive, but you couldn’t get too close to them. The roosters all looked pretty much like the red junglefowl in our South Pacific field guide, with golden-red hackles, black bellies and tails, and white rumps. The hens were small, brown, and speckled.

Anyone interested in conducting a field study of the social behavior of the free-range chicken—and yes, I remember that Gary Larson cartoon—could do worse than spend time on Kaua’i. We watched which roosters deferred to which others, which hens spent time with which roosters. Wild junglefowl, according to one source, are sometimes monogamous, although we didn’t see any indication of that at Sloggett.

Kaua’i roosters, both the high-country elite and the urban masses, don’t just crow at dawn. They get started sometime in the predawn darkness and keep at it off and on all day. The same source that talks about junglefowl monogamy describes the call as “very reminiscent of the cock-a-doodle-do of [the] farmyard or village chicken, though usually more shrill and with strangulated finale.” Ron thought she was hearing that, and I will defer to her generally superior ear.

I’d like to point out that at no time did either of us personally strangulate a rooster, despite the temptation.

The locals seem to have made their peace with the noisy birds, though. They’ve become a kind of mascot. We saw T-shirts proclaiming the chicken the real state bird of Hawai’i (officially it’s the Hawaiian goose, or nene). The gift shop at the Kaua’i Museum in Lihue offers counter-rooster earplugs; we were told they’re selling briskly.
UC’s BareStage Does Sondheim Proud

By John A. McMullen II
Tue Apr 20 12:44:00 -0700 2010

Brandon Thomas

BB Wolf (Nicholas Weinbach) gives LRR Hood (Jaclyn Friedenthal) a pre-dinner squeeze in BareStage’s INTO THE WOODS playing thru this Sunday at UC Berkeley’s Cesar Chavez Student Union.

I went with jaundiced eye and requisite skepticism to a musical on the UC campus Friday night. The directors had no previous experience and the cast were largely not even theatre majors. Once into the Lower Level of the Cesar Chavez Student Union cati-corner to Zellerbach, I noticed the lobby was in need of a paint job and the acoustic ceiling tile were stained; short-budgeted community colleges I’ve taught at looked better than this. However, it was sold out. Friday night in April with little to do? Lots of friends and family of the cast attending?

But once the overture began, my vision clarified and the astonishment began. They were a true ensemble and let the play—this very special play—be the star, and brought it to life.

Imagine a world of your fairy-tale favorites in a cross-over play where Beanstalk Jack, Little Red Riding Hood, her Grandmother, the Wolf, Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, the Witch from next door, and even two Prince Charmings (who happen to be brothers) all interact. Add a Baker and his Wife, and the witty, poignant rhymes of the most excellent of lyricists. Have the characters sing grownup songs about their desires, ennui, dreams, dissatisfaction, the fleetingness of life, and all the existential fears imaginable including the penultimate one of the necessity to grow up. Draw freely from Bruno Bettelheim’s seminal psychoanalytic work “The Uses of Enchantment” about the function of fairy tales in our psychosocial growth. It is, of course, INTO THE WOODS, the most produced musical of Stephen Sondheim for which he wrote both music and lyrics, with book by James Lapine. It’s an intellectual’s musical and thus very appropriate for the University of California, Berkeley, but one whose words may resonate in your mind in the middle of the night like no other.

Presented by BareStage Productions, a student musical group at UC Berkeley, it’s co-directed by undergrads Nick Trengove and Chelsea Unzner. The musical director is Dr. Mark Sumner who also directs the UC Choral Ensembles. It plays in the Choral Ensemble Room in the basement of the Cesar Chavez Student Center.

This is the 23-song, non-Bowdlerized version that includes all the sexuality of the 1987 original production before producers realized that they could double attendance if they deemphasized the libidinal and cashed in on the family factor. The original brought Tony Awards for Best Actress to Joanna Gleason and for Best Score and Best Book beating out “Phantom of the Opera,” as well as the indelible performance of Bernadette Peters—that premier interpreter of Sondheim’s work—as the transformative witch. The 2002 production was purified and added Three Little Pigs and some songs that were in the original done at San Diego’s Old Globe, but none of that in this production.

By interweaving dialogue and song, Sondheim bypasses that contrived convention of the musical that goes: talk, talk, music swells, song, applause, more talk; that particular convention breaks the dramatic spell and thereby makes it difficult for some folks to endure musicals. But Sondheim keeps his works hopping seamlessly along.

There are two acts in the play: the quest and the consequences. The First Act seems a work in itself since it comes in at 90 minutes and resolves all conflicts happy, or so we think. The First Act is about wishing and dreaming and hoping and taking the chance of going you-know-where. The Second Act is what happens after you’ve got it. The First Act is fraught with peril and the questions that come along with the questing. Freudian wish-fulfillment is rife throughout. The Second Act is what happens when Things Fall Apart through loss, reversals, uprooting, death, infidelity, disaster, disillusionment, and reaping what one has sown with the seeds—or beans—of one’s own undoing. It’s about stooping and building them up with worn out tools, about new couplings out of necessity or need, replete with maternal recriminations (blaming Mom), depression, connubial disappointment, blame, maternal recriminations (Mom blaming you), and the spectrum of realistic responses to the vagaries of “the journey” replacing the happily ever after—“which may last for a week.” It’s about us.

It runs three hours but they pass like no time since every moment is filled with wit and story and depth. When I say run, it is probably very much like that for the actor/singers since it comes fast and furious. ‘t’s a marathon-like performance, and they never miss a beat.

Directors Nick Trengove and Chelsea Unzner made impeccable casting choices. The performers are close enough in talent and age to believably come from the same world, and each believably looks the part for which they are cast. The actors are impossibly fresh-faced and dauntingly talented for non-pros. The directing team employed a lot of Broadway staging choices which is not a bad way to go. They keep the traffic moving fluidly—and with 19 actors on and off and on again in a 20-odd foot wide semi-circle of a stage that wasn’t all that deep, this is no mean feat.

While the ensemble predominates, there are some performances that invite comment.

The Witch (Marisa Conroy) is the architect of the story, and sets things into motion like a malicious Prospero. The witch rules the play as the complicated Machiavel, getting most of the good lines and a lot of center-stage songs like the villain always gets. Ms. Conroy must have grown up listening to Sondheim because she understands the nuances, her alto—with some good high notes—is tempered perfectly to the part, and her gestures are expressively witch-like yet do not seem contrived. She makes her important transition most believable, and is an extraordinary talent.

For those of you who haven’t seen or heard it, or to remind and regale those of you who have, here is a little taste of Sondheim’s lyrics that can make you giddy but make you stifle the laugh lest you miss the next line. The following excerpt also gives you a taste of the slippery and ingenious facility with which Lapine interfolds the stories. But first, the necessary set-up: the Baker and his wife are childless. In fairy-tale fashion, the wherefore of the barrenness is revealed, and, as always, is connected to the sins of the father which, of course, leads into a quest which will, of course, lead the Baker into the woods.

[Spoken] “NARRATOR: The old enchantress told the couple she had placed a spell on their house.
Bring some bread to Granny who is sick in waiting on the journey? Into the woods to trees are just wood. And who can tell what's no one should. The woods are just trees, the self-bluffing pep-talk prep: "The way is the common touch; Princess Diana, but aance of irony and heartfelt emotion needed is well-trained, and she understands the balher young face she fits in fine. Her soprano life.

this form, as soon as we hear them we feel befits the child-like flavor of the premise but of the lyrics and immediacy of the rhymes always left behind?" Often, the simplicity being good if everyone is blind and you're said be good, father said be nice, that was psychology. Cinderella's character is "The Have-Nots even after they foreclose on me of the complaints of the Haves against them.)

"All right," but it wasn't, quite, 'cause I caught him in the autumn in my garden one night! He was robbing me, raping me, root- ing through my rutabaga, raiding my arugula and ripping up my rampion (my champion! my favorite!). I should have laid a spell on him right there, could have changed him into stone or a dog or a chair...but I let him have the rampion—I'd lots to spare. In return, however, I said, 'Fair is fair: you can let me have the baby that your wife will bear. And we'll call it square.'

BAKER: What spell?

WITCH: In the past, when your mother was with child, she developed an unusual appetite. She took one look at my beautiful garden and told your father that what she wanted more than anything in the world was [sung in a syncopated fashion:]'Greens, greens and nothing but greens...'. He said, 'All right,' but it wasn't, quite, 'cause I caught him in the autumn in my garden one night! He was robbing me, raping me, root- ing through my rutabaga, raiding my arugula and ripping up my rampion (my champion! my favorite!). I should have laid a spell on him right there, could have changed him into stone or a dog or a chair...but I let him have the rampion—I'd lots to spare. In return, however, I said, 'Fair is fair: you can let me have the baby that your wife will bear. And we'll call it square.'
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Neighborhood Playhouse; name schools like
an acting school like Lee Strasberg or The
in drama! However, most all studied at
eight actors that graduated only six majored
triculated, twelve dropped out, and of the
in the last forty years, eleven never ma
showed that of the Best Actor Oscar-winners
is no indicator of success: a little research
production skills.

The BareStage group seems to pick up
the slack and give a barebones venue to
those students who are studying something
else but still want to perform. Half the cast
studies something other than theatre, about
half the cast have a minor in it, and a couple
of actors and one of the directors are theatre
majors.

AND WHILE WE’RE ON THE SUB-
JECT: I’ve often worried whether going
to college to mainly study theatre as an
undergrad has the potential to limit one’s
education. Great actors often study other
things: Jack Lemmon has an MF A in directing
at the Hasty Pudding Club at Harvard but gradu-
ated with a degree in War Service Sciences;
Edward Norton graduated in History from
Yale where he acted with Paul Giamatti
who was studying English there. It’s good
to know history and literature if you are
an actor rather than trying to ingest all the
background information while you are
simultaneously trying to learn your lines.
At some conservatories within academia,
80% of the credits are singing, acting, and
dancing with only a smattering of liberal
arts. Note that the TDPS department at UCB
emphasizes scholarship and communication
skills viewed in particular through the
lens of race, ethnicity, and multicultural-
ism, along with foundational stagecraft and
production skills.

It could be that a baccalaureate in acting
is no indicator of success: a little research
showed that of the Best Actor Oscar-winners
in the last forty years, eleven never ma-
triculated, twelve dropped out, and of the
eight actors that graduated only six majored
in drama! However, most all studied at
an acting school like Lee Strasberg or The
Neighborhood Playhouse; name schools like
NYU’s Tisch and the grad schools of Yale and
Juilliard help disproportionately. Musi-
cal theatre Tony winners, on the other hand,
ofen graduate with a BA or BFA in that
major, probably because very specific and
diverse skills are required.

To find out more about BareStage Produc-
tions go to barestage.berkeley.edu. Once
there, click on the BareStage logo to hear a
spooky whispered intro and be admitted to
their labyrinthine website.

INTO THE WOODS plays this Friday &
Saturday evenings 4/23 & 4/24 at 8pm, with
final performance Sunday matinee 4/25 at
2 pm. Tickets at: tickets.berkeley.edu or
(510) 642-3880.

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim;
book by James Lapine; directed by Nick
Trentgrove and Chelsea Unzner; music direc-
tion by Mark Sumner; sets by Brian Bost-
wick; lighting by Nagisa Kodama; sound
design by Ryan Abrams and Jeff Samuelson;
costumes by Allison Fenner; executive
producer Iris Kokish; production photos by
Brandon Thomas. Produced by BareStage
(Sabrina Yessayan, managing director) under
the aegis of Student Musical Activities, Cal
Performances, University of California, Berkeley.

WITH: Andrew Cummings (Narrator/ Mysterious Man), Tinley Ireland (Cinderella),
Alex Lee (Jack), Emma Newman (Jack’s Mother), Dominique Brillon (Baker’s Wife),
Matt Stevens (Baker), Karen Scruggs (Cinderella’s Stepmother), Sabrina Wes-
ske (Florinda), Meghan Cleary (Lucinda), Jaclyn Freightdental (Little Red Riding Hood),
Marisa Conroy (Witch), Taylor Hickok (Cinderella’s Mother/Milky White/Giant), Nich-
olas Weinbach (Wolf/Rapunzel’s Prince), Michelle McDowell (Granny, Amy Henry
(Rapunzel), Patrick Stelmach (Cinderella’s Prince), Matthew Thomas (Steward). Alex
Bonte (Harp/Cinderella’s Father), Vahishta Vafadari (Snow White/Cow #2).

John McMullen has an MFA in directing
from Carnegie Mellon and has taught and
directed there and at local colleges and the-
tres in the Bay Area; it seems he is now a
free-lance theatre critic. Comments/contact
at EyeFromTheAisle@gmail.com

Events

Classical Music in the East Bay:

APRIL 23 THROUGH MAY 2

By Bay City News
Sun Apr 18 23:04:00 -0700 2010

BERKELEY CITY CLUB --
Sterm-Prior-Moore-Mok Quartet, April 28,
8 p.m. Piano quartet
performs works by Clara Schumann, Rob-
ert Schumann and Brahms. $10-$25.

2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. (510) 848-

CROWDEN MUSIC CENTER --
Kay Stern and Joan Nagano, May 2, 3 p.m.
Violinist Stern and
pianist Nagano perform works by Gemin-
ni, Enescu, Ravel and Monti. $25.
(510) 527-7500.
1475 Rose St., Berkeley. (510) 559-6910,
www.crowdenmusiccenter.org.<

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF BERKELEY --
Lauda Jerusalem, April 25, 5 p.m. Pro-
gram features works by Haydn,
Bach and others. $12-$25. (510) 547-
4441.

The Mythic Thread, April 26, 8 p.m. Pro-
gram features works by
Maryliz Smith, Samuel Barber and Tat-
jana Sergejeawa. $20. (415) 413-4733.

Concerto Koln, May 1, 8 p.m. Program
features works by Dauvergne,
Bach and Vivaldi. $52. www.calperfor-
manences.org.

“Bach St. John Passion,” May 2, 4 p.m.
California Bach Society
presents this beloved work in concert.
$10-$30. (415) 262-0272.

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. (510) 848-

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH --
“Friday Morning Concert,” April 30,
10:30 a.m. Program features
works by J.S. Bach, Samuel Barber and
Chopin. Free.

2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. <

HERTZ HALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY --
“57th Annual Noon Concert Series,”
ongoing. Noon. Apr. 28:
Midyanto conducts music from Indonesia.
Apr. 30: University Gospel Chorus pres-
tents “Hollywood be thy Name.”

Bach-Bachians, April 25, 3 p.m. Program
features works by Husa,
Ellerby, Wood, Grainger and Mackey.
$5-$15.

“A Symphony of Psalms,” May 1, 8 p.m.
Program features works by
Stravinsky, Brotnianky, Gretchaninoff,
Rachmaninoff and Part. $5-$15.
Bancroft Way and College Ave., Berkeley.
(510) 642-4864,

LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS --
Visions and Dreams, May 2 and May 4, 4 p.m. California Symphony
presents works by Mason Bates, Liszt, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven. $44-$64.
1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. (925) 943-7469,

LIVE OAK THEATRE --
"John Brown’s Truth, a 21st Century Opera,” April 25, 8 p.m.
Attend the Bay Area’s first full-length musically improvised opera.
1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 841-5580.<

MUSIC SOURCES --
Canconier, April 24, 7:30 p.m. Program features medieval German
works. $15-$20.
1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley.
(510) 528-1685,
http://www.musicsources.org./<

REGENTS’ THEATER --
“MasterGuild Concert,” April 25, 7 p.m.
Program features works by
Beethoven and Shostakovich. $5-$20.
Valley Center for the Performing Arts, Holy Names University, 3500

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH --
“Music for Lorenzo De’ Medici and Maximilian I: Isaac’s Missa “La Bassadanza,”” May 2, 5:30 p.m. Music
Sources presents a liturgical reconstruction of this work with organ alternatim and plain chant.
2005 Berryman St., Berkeley. <

TRINITY CHAMBER CONCERTS --
Les Nations et une Apotheose, April 24, 8 p.m. Program features
works by Lully, Corelli, Buxtehude, da Selma and more. $8-$12.
$12 general; $8 seniors, disabled persons and students. Trinity
Chapel, 2320 Dana St., Berkeley. (510) 549-3864,

Theater for the East Bay:
APRIL 23 THROUGH MAY 2

By Bay City News
Tue Apr 20 22:08:00 -0700 2010

AMADOR THEATER -- OPENING
-- “Treasure Island,” April 23 through May 2, Apr. 23,
24, 30, May 1, 7:30 p.m.; Apr. 24, 11 a.m.;
Apr. 25, May 1-2, 2 p.m. City of
Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. (925)

ASHBY STAGE --
CLOSING -- “A Seagull in the Hamp-
tons,” by Emily Mann, through April 25, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Thursday-
Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. Anton
Chekhov’s love letter to the theater is filled with suicide attempts, unrequited love, a crushing and disabling family structure and more. $15-$28.
1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. <

AURORA THEATRE COMPANY --
“John Gabriel Borkman,” by David Eldridge, through May 9, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Wednesday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 and 7 p.m. After serving eight years in prison for embezzle-
ment, Borkman plans a comeback. $15-$55.
Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berke-
ley. (510) 843-4822,

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE --
“Girlfriend,” by Todd Almond, through May 9, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 and 7 p.m. Boy meets boy in this dual-Romeo duet that’s innocent -- and sweet. $27-$71.
2025 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 647-
2949, (888) 4BR-Ttix,

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATORY THE-ATre OF SAN LEANDRO --
CLOSING -- “Complete Works of Wil-
liam Shakespeare (Abridged),” by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, Jess Winfield, through April 25, Friday, 8 p.m.;
Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. Three actors perform all of Shakespeare’s plays in less than two hours. $20-$22.
2025 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 647-
2949, (888) 4BR-Trix,
Theatre Company’s Teen Theatre presents a stage adaptation of the hit musical. $15-$27.
1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. (925) 943-7469.<

DIABLO ACTORS ENSEMBLE THEATRE --
OPENING -- “Same Time Next Year,” by Bernard Slade, April 30
through May 23, Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. An accountant and a
housewife meet at a Northern California inn once a year, despite the fact
that they are both married to other people. $10-$25.
1345 Locust Street, Walnut Creek. (925) 482-5110,

EAST BAY IMPROV --
“Tired of the Same Old Song and Dance?”
ongoing. 8 p.m. East Bay
Improv actors perform spontaneous, impulsive and hilarious comedy on the
first Saturday of every month. $8.
Pinole Community Playhouse, 601 Ten

LA VAL’S SUBTERRANEAN THEATRE --
CLOSING -- “A History of Human Stupidity,” by Andy Bayiates, through
April 25, Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. Examine world history
through the lens of helpful beliefs gone bad. $16-$20.
1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. (510) 464-4468.<

LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS --
CLOSING -- “Oklahoma!” by Rodgers and Hammerstein, through April
25, Thursday and Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.
Sparked by rivalry between cowhands and farmers this touching drama rides the
bumpy road to new life in a brand-new state. $40-$45.
1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. (925) 943-7469,

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE --
CLOSING -- “The Apple Tree,” through
May 1, Friday and Saturday,
8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. Play is based on
“The Diary of Adam and Eve” by Mark Twain, “The Lady or the Tiger?” by Frank R.
Stockton and “Passionella” by
Jules Feiffer. $20.

NEWARK MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL --
“Les Miserables,” April 23 through May 8, Friday and Saturday, 8
p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. This epic story re-
counts the struggle against adversity in 19th century France. $10-$13.
39375 Cedar Blvd, Newark. (510) 818-4451.<

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Folk,Jazz,Pop,Rock for the East Bay: April 23 through May 2

By Bay City News
Tue Apr 20 22:14:00 -0700 2010
924 GILMAN ST. -- All ages welcome.
Baader Brains, Spires, Rank Xerox, Al Quaeda, April 23, 7:30 p.m.
$7.
Nobunny, N/N, Younger Lovers, Dirty Marquee, Endemics, May 2, 5
p.m.m
$7.
$5 unless otherwise noted. Shows start
Friday and Saturday, 8
p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. (510)
ALBATROSS PUB --
Whiskey Brothers, ongoing. First and third Wednesdays, 9 p.m.
Free.
David Widelock Jazz Trio, May 1, 9:30 p.m. $3.
Free unless otherwise noted. Shows begin Wednesday, 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 843-2473, www.albatrosspub.com.<

ARMANDO’S --
George Cole Quintet, April 23, 7:30 p.m. $10.
Houston Jones, April 24, 8 p.m. $10.
Blues Jam, April 26, 7 p.m. $3.
Bluegrass Jam, April 28, 7 p.m. $3.
Joanne Weil Heald Trio, April 29, 8 p.m. $8.
Tia Carroll and Greg Richmond, April 30, 8 p.m. $10.
Ron Thompson, May 1, 8 p.m. $10.
Sazil, May 2, 3-6 p.m. $10.

ASHKENAZ --
Pellejo Seco, April 23, 9:30 p.m. $10-$13.
West African Highlife Band, April 24, 9:30 p.m. $10-$13.
Mark St. Mary Louisiana Blues & Zydeco Band, April 27, 8:30 p.m. $10.
Balkan Folkdance, April 28, 8 p.m. $7.
Eliyahu and the Qadim Ensemble, April 29, 8 p.m. $12-$15.
Brass Menazeri, Black Sea Surf, April 30, 9 p.m. $12.
Keith Porter of the Itals, Urbanfire, May 1, 9:30 p.m. $15.
“Cinco de Mayo Family Fiesta,” May 2, 3-4:30 p.m. Flamenco event also features a costume exhibit and flamenco items for sale.
Hipline, May 2, 7 p.m. $12.

BECKETT’S IRISH PUB --
Guns for San Sebastian, April 23.
Paul Manousos, April 24.
Simpler Times, April 25.
Trio of DooM, Amber-oh-Amber, April 28.
THE DEEP, April 29.
The P-PL, April 30.

BLAKE’S ON TELEGRAPH --
Los Del Kumbiaton, La Bands Skalavera, Jokes for Feelings, La Muneca Y Los Muertos, April 24, 9 p.m. $8-$10.
Spiralarms, Dirt Communion, Six Weeks Sober, Defy All Odds, May 1, 9 p.m. $10.
For ages 18 and older. Music begins at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. (510) 848-0886, www.blakesontelegraph.com.<

CHOUINARD VINEYARDS AND WINERY -- The winery features an exhibit of stone craft and baskets honoring the rich culture of the Ohlone Indians. Palomares Canyon was a summer home to the Ohlone Indians. The exhibit also includes historical photos and artifacts that document more recent colorful inhabitants to the canyon.
SPECIAL EVENTS --
“Music at Chouinard,” ongoing. 4:30-8:30 p.m. on select Sundays June-August. The rest of the year features live music in the tasting room on the second Sunday of each month. Enjoy the best of Bay Area artists at Chouinard. Bring your own gourmet picnic (no outside alcoholic beverages). Wines are available for tasting and sales. $40 per car.

FOX THEATER --
Sublime with Rome, Dirty Heads, Del Mar, April 23, 8 p.m. $25.
1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. (510) 452-0438.<

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE --
“Freight Open Mic,” ongoing. Tuesdays. $4.50-$5.50.

JAZZSCHOOL --
Coto Pincheira and the Sonido Moderno Project, April 23, 8 p.m. $15.
Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet, April 24, 8 p.m. $10.
Ali Akbar College of Music, April 25, 4:30 p.m.
New Tricks, April 30, 8 p.m. $12.
Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 845-5373, www.jazzschool.com.<

JUPITER --
“Americana Unplugged,” ongoing. Sundays, 5 p.m. A weekly bluegrass and Americana series.
“Jazzschool Tuesdays,” ongoing. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Featuring the ensembles from the Berkeley Jazzschool.
Loveseat, April 23, 8 p.m.
Raya Nova, April 24, 8 p.m.
Rebecca Griffin, April 28, 8 p.m.
DJ fflood, Audio Angel, April 29, 8 p.m.
Socket, April 30, 8 p.m.

KIMBALL’S CARNIVAL --


ROUND TABLE PIZZA -- East Bay Banjo Club, ongoing. Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. 1938 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. (925) 930-9004.<


STARRY PLOUGH PUB -- The Starry Irish Music Session led by Shay Black, ongoing. Sundays, 8 p.m. Sliding scale. For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 841-2082, www.starryploughpub.com.<

UPTOWN NIGHTCLUB -- Real Tom Thunder, April 23, 9 p.m. $10. The Real Tom Thunder, Pie Rats, Novelists, April 23, 9 p.m. $10. Or the Whale, Odawas, Ghost and the City, April 24, 9 p.m. $10. Tokyo Raid, April 28, 9 p.m. Free. Bunny Pistol, Miss Balla Fire, Honey Lawless, Juicy D. Light, Mynx d’Meanor, Casey Castille, Comrade Tang, Sideshow Daredevil, Matt Molotov, April 30, 9 p.m. $10. Big Dan, Los Rakas, Tragik Kiwi, Powerstruggle, May 1, 9 p.m. $10. 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. (510) 451-8100, www.uptownnightclub.com.<

YOSHI’S -- “In the Mood for Moody,” through April 25, Thursday-Saturday, 8 and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 and 7 p.m. Featuring Frank Wess, Joey DeFrancesco, Nnenna Freelon, Randy Brecker (April 22+23), Jon Faddis (24+25) and more. $16-$30. “A Tribute To Khalil Shaheed with an All-Star Line-up,” April 27, 8 p.m. $20. Ellen Robinson, April 28, 8 p.m. $15. Anat Cohen, April 29, 8 and 10 p.m. $12-$20. Hiroshima, April 30 through May 2, Friday and Saturday, 8 and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 and 7 p.m. $24-$28. Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 and 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. (510) 238-9200, www.yoshis.com.<


Museums and Exhibits in the East Bay: April 23 through May 2

By Bay City News

Tue Apr 20 22:27:00 -0700 2010

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY AT OAKLAND -- ongoing. The Oakland Public Library’s museum is designed to discover, preserve, interpret and share the cultural and historical experiences of African Americans in California and the West. In addition, a three-panel mural is on permanent display. Free. Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5:30 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland. (510) 637-0200, www.oaklandlibrary.org.<

ALAMEDA MUSEUM -- ongoing. The museum offers permanent displays of Alameda history, the only rotating gallery showcasing local Alameda artists and student artwork, as well as souvenirs, books and videos about the rich history of the Island City. Free. Wednesday-Friday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. (510) 521-1233, www.alamedamuseum.org.<

BADE MUSEUM AT THE PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION -- The museum’s collections include the Tell en-Nasbeh Collection, consisting of artifacts excavated from Tell en-Nasbeh in Palestine in 1926 and 1935 by William Badh, and the Howell Bible Collection, featuring approximately 300 rare books (primarily Bibles) dating from the 15th through the 18th centuries. “Tell en-Nasbeh,” ongoing. This exhibit is the “heart and soul” of the Bade Museum. It displays a wealth of finds from the excavations at Tell en-Nasbeh, Palestine whose objects span from the Early Bronze Age (3100-2200 BC) through the Iron Age.

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(1200-586 BC) and into the Roman and Hellenistic periods. Highlights of the exhibit include “Tools of the Trade” featuring real archaeological tools used by Badh and his team, an oil lamp typology, a Second Temple period (586 BC-70 AD) limestone ossuary, and a selection of painted Greek pottery. “William Frederic Bade: Theologian, Naturalist, and Archaeologist,” ongoing. This exhibit highlights one of PSR’s premier educators and innovative scholars. The collection of material on display was chosen with the hopes of representing the truly dynamic and multifaceted character of William F. Badh. He was a family man, a dedicated teacher, a loving friend, and an innovative and passionate archaeologist.


BERKELEY ART MUSEUM AND PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE --
“French Film Posters from the BAM/PFA Collection,” through May 31. Part of the Pacific Film Archive’s collection of over eight thousand international film posters, these rare prints were bequeathed to BAM/PFA by the late Mel Novikoff, founder of San Francisco’s first repertory cinema chain, Surf Theaters, which included the Surf, the Lumiere, and the Castro. Novikoff collected these posters during many trips to Europe, and for years they graced the lobbies of cinemas in the Surf chain. Now they can be enjoyed in the museum’s Theater Gallery, where admission is free.

“Thom Faulders: BAMscape,” through Nov. 30. This commissioned work, a hybrid of sculpture, furniture, and stage, is the new centerpiece of Gallery B, BAM’s expansive central atrium. It is part of a new vision of the gallery as a space for interaction, performance, and improvised experiences.

“Nature into Action: Hans Hofmann,” through June 30. This installation drawn from BAM’s extensive Hans Hofmann collection reveals the relationship between nature as source and action as method in the great abstract painter’s work.

CLOSING -- “James Castle: A Retrospective,” through April 25. Born deaf and raised in rural Idaho, James Castle was a self-taught artist of remarkable range, subtlety, and graphic skill. This retrospective is the first comprehensive museum exhibition of Castle’s drawings, books, and paper constructions.


“Assignment Shanghai: Photographs on the Eve of Revolution,” through May 9. In 1946, Life magazine assigned the young photographer Jack Birns to Shanghai with instructions to document the ongoing Chinese civil war. This selection of the resulting photographs, drawn from the BAM collection, vividly captures a cosmopolitan city in the midst of social and political change.

“Realm of Enlightenment: Masters and Teachers from the Land of Snows,” through May 16. A new installation of extraordinary objects from Tibet explores the role of the teacher and master in the transmission of the Buddhist canon.

“What’s It All Mean: William T. Wiley in Retrospect,” through July 18. This retrospective surveys the witty, idiosyncratic, and introspective work of William T. Wiley, a beloved Bay Area artist and “a national treasure” (Wall Street Journal). Layered with ambiguous ideas and allusions, autobiographical narrative and sociopolitical commentary, Wiley’s art is rich in self-deprecating humor and absurdist insight.

“Perpetual and furious refrain / MATRIX 232,” May 2 through Sept. 12. Exhibition features works by Brent Green.

2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.<

BLACKHAWK MUSEUM -- ongoing.
AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM -- The museum’s permanent exhibition of internationally renowned automobiles dated from 1897 to the 1980s. The cars are displayed as works of art with room to walk completely around each car to admire the workmanship. On long-term loan from the Smithsonian Institution is a Long Steam Tricycle; an 1893-94 Duryea, the first Duryea built by the Duryea brothers; and a 1948 Tucker, number 39 of the 51 Tuckers built, which is a Model 48 “Torpedo” four-door sedan.

ONGOING EXHIBITS --

“A Journey on Common Ground,” ongoing. An exhibit of moving photographs, video and art objects from around the world exploring the causes of disability and the efforts of the Wheelchair Foundation to provide a wheelchair for every person in need who cannot afford one.

ONGOING EVENT --
Free Public Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Docent-led guided tours of the museum’s exhibitions.

$5-$8; free for children ages 6 and under. Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. (925) 736-2280, (925) 736-2277, www.blackhawkmuseum.org.<

CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER -- State-of-the-art facility
unifying science education activities around astronomy. Enjoy interactive exhibits, hands-on activities, indoor stargazing, outdoor telescope viewing and films.

“Beyond Blastoff: Surviving in Space,” ongoing. An interactive exhibit that allows you to immerse yourself into the life of an astronaut to experience the mixture of exhilaration, adventure and confinement that is living and working in space.

“Chabot Observatories: A View to the Stars,” ongoing. Explore the history of the Chabot observatories and how its historic telescopes are used today. Daytime visitors can virtually operate a telescope, experiment with mirrors and lenses to understand how telescopes create images of distant objects and travel through more than a century of Chabot’s history via...
multimedia kiosks, historical images and artifact displays.

EVENTS -- ongoing. CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE: SEPT. 2-16.

“Daytime Telescope Viewing,” ongoing. Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. View the sun, the moon and the planets through the telescopes during the day. Free with general admission.

“Galaxy Explorers Hands-On Fun,” ongoing. Saturday, noon-4 p.m.

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The Galaxy Explorers lead a variety of fun, hands-on activities, such as examining real spacesuits, creating galaxy flipbooks, learning about telescopes, minerals and skulls and making your own comet. Free with general admission.

“Live Daytime Planetarium Show,” ongoing. Saturdays, 2:30 p.m.

Ride through real-time constellations, stars and planets with Chabot’s full-dome digital projection system.

Center Admission: $9-$13; free children under 3; Movies and evening planetarium shows: $6-$8. Telescope viewing only: free.

Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 336-7300, www.chabotspace.org.

HABITOT CHILDREN’S MUSEUM -- A museum especially for children ages 7 and under. Highlights include “Water-Works,” an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

ONGOING EXHIBITS --

“Waterworks.” A water play gallery with rivers, a pumping station and a water table, designed to teach about water.

“Little Town Grocery and Cafe.” Designed to create the ambience of shopping in a grocery store and eating in a restaurant.

“Infant-Toddler Garden.” A picket fence gated indoor area, which includes a carrot patch with wooden carrots to be harvested, a pretend pond and a butterfly mobile to introduce youngsters to the concept of food, gardening and agriculture.

“Dramatic Arts Stage.” Settings, backdrops and costumes coincide with seasonal events and holidays. Children can exercise their dramatic flair here.

“Wiggle Wall.” The floor-to-ceiling “underground” tunnels give children a worm’s eye view of the world. The tunnels are laced with net covered openings and giant optic lenses.

“Architects at Play,” ongoing. This hands-on, construction-based miniexhibit provides children with the opportunity to create free-form structures, from skyscrapers to bridges, using KEVA planks.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS -- ongoing.

“Good Nutrition,” ongoing. This exhibit includes models for calculating how calories are burned.

“Draw Your Own Insides,” ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies.

“Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention,” ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer.

Suggested $3 donation; free for children under age 3.

Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 549-1564, www.hallofhealth.org.

HAYWARD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM -- The museum is located in a former post office and displays memorabilia of early Hayward and southern Alameda County. Some of the features include a restored 1923 Seagrave fire engine and a hand pumper from the Hayward Fire Department, founded in 1865; a Hayward Police Department exhibit; information on city founder William Hayward; and pictures of the old Hayward Hotel. The museum also alternates three exhibits per year, including a Christmas Toys exhibit and a 1950s lifestyle exhibit.

EVENTS -- ongoing.

50 cents-$1. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 22701 Main St., Hayward. (510) 581-0223, www.haywardareahistory.org.

JUDAH L. MAGNES MUSEUM -- The museum’s permanent collection includes objects of Jewish importance including ceremonial art, film and video, folk art and fine art, paintings, sculptures and prints by contemporary and historical artists.

“Projections,” ongoing. Multimedia works from the museum’s extensive collections of archival, documentary and experimental films.

Located at 2911 Russell Street.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS -- ongoing.

S4-$6; free for children under age 12.

Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. CLOSED APRIL 3-4 AND 9-10; MAY 23-24 AND 28; JULY 4; SEPT. 3, 13 AND 27; OCT. 4; NOV. 22; DEC. 24-25 AND 31. 2911 Rus-
“Science on a Sphere,” ongoing. Catch an out-of-this-world experience with an animated globe. See hurricanes form, tsunamis sweep across the oceans and city lights glow around the planet.

EVENTS -- ongoing.
$5.50-$10; free children ages 2 and under. Daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

LINDSAY WILDLIFE MUSEUM -- This is the oldest and largest wildlife rehabilitation center in America, taking in 6,000 injured and orphaned animals yearly and returning 40 percent of them to the wild. The museum offers a wide range of educational programs using non-releasable wild animals to teach children and adults respect for the balance of nature. The museum includes a state-of-the-art wildlife hospital which features a permanent exhibit, titled “Living with Nature,” which houses 75 non-releasable wild animals in learning environments; a 5,000-square-foot Wildlife Hospital complete with treatment rooms, intensive care, quarantine and laboratory facilities; a 1-acre Nature Garden featuring the region’s native landscaping and wildlife; and an “Especially For Children” exhibit.

WILDLIFE HOSPITAL -- September-March: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The hospital is open daily including holidays to receive injured and orphaned animals. There is no charge for treatment of native wild animals and there are no public viewing areas in the hospital.

EXHIBITS -- ongoing.
SPECIAL EVENTS -- ongoing.
$5-$7; free children under age 2. Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. (925) 935-1978, www.wildlife-museum.org.<

MEYERS HOUSE AND GARDEN MUSEUM -- The Meyers House, erected in 1897, is an example of Colonial Revival, an architectural style popular around the turn of the century. Designed by Henry H. Meyers, the house was built by his father, Jacob Meyers, at a cost of $4000.00.

EXHIBITS -- ongoing.

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE VILLAGE -- ongoing.
A science museum with an African-American focus promoting science education and awareness for the underrepresented. The science village chronicles the technical achievements of people of African descent from ancient ties to present. There are computer classes at the Internet Cafi, science education activities and seminars. There is also a resource library with a collection of books, periodicals and videotapes. $4-$6. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, noon-6 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.-6 p.m. 630 20th St., Oakland. (510) 893-6426, www.ncalifblackengineers.org.<

MUSEUM OF CHILDREN’S ART -- A museum of art for and by children, with activities for children to participate in making their own art.

ART CAMPS -- Hands-on activities and engaging curriculum for children of different ages, led by professional artists and staff. $60 per day.

CLASSES -- A Sunday series of classes for children ages 8 to 12, led by Mocha artists. Sundays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

OPEN STUDIOS -- Drop-in art play activities with new themes each week.

“Big Studio.” Guided art projects for children age 6 and older with a Mocha artist. Tuesday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. $5.

“Little Studio.” A hands-on experience that lets young artists age 18 months to 5 years see, touch and manipulate a variety of media.

Children can get messy. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. $5.

“Family Weekend Studios.” Drop-in art activities for the whole family. All ages welcome. Saturday and
1510 Webster St., Alameda. www.pacificpinball.org.<

PARDEE HOME MUSEUM -- The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn. Reservations recommended.
EVENTS -- ongoing.
$5; free children ages 12 and under. House Tours: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays by appointment.

SAN LEANDRO HISTORY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY -- ongoing. The museum showcases local and regional history and serves as a centerpiece for community cultural activity. There are exhibits on Ohlone settlements, farms of early settlers, and contributions of Portuguese and other immigrants.
There will also be exhibits of the city’s agricultural past and the industrial development of the 19th century.
ONGOING EXHIBIT -- “Yema/Po Archeological Site at Lake Chabot,” ongoing. An exhibit highlighting artifacts uncovered from a work camp of Chinese laborers, featuring photomurals, cutouts and historical photographs.
Free. Thursday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

SHADELANDS RANCH HISTORICAL MUSEUM -- Built by Walnut Creek pioneer Hiram Penniman, this 1903 redwood-framed house is a showcase for numerous historical artifacts, many of which belonged to the Pennimans. It also houses a rich archive of Contra Costa and Walnut Creek history in its collections of old newspapers, photographs, and government records.
EXHIBITS -- ongoing.
$1-$3; free-children under age 6. Wednesday and Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.; Closed in January. 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. (925) 935-7871, www.ci.walnut-creek.ca.us.<

SMITH MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY.

HAYWARD -- The museum houses significant collections of archaeological and ethnographic specimens from Africa, Asia and North America and small collections from Central and South America. The museum offers opportunities and materials for student research and internships in archaeology and ethnology.
SPECIAL EXHIBITS -- ongoing.
Free. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Meiklejohn Hall, Fourth Floor,
25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. (510) 885-3104, (510) 885-7414,
www.isis.csuhayward.edu/cesmith/acesmith.html.<

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY HEARST MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY -- ongoing.
ONGOING EXHIBITS -- “Native California Cultures,” ongoing. This is an exhibit of some 500 artifacts from the museum’s California collections, the largest and most comprehensive collections in the world devoted to California Indian cultures.
The exhibit includes a section about Ishi, the famous Indian who lived and worked with the museum, Yana tribal baskets and a 17-foot Yurok canoe carved from a single redwood.
“Recent Acquisitions,” ongoing. The collection includes Yoruba masks and carvings from Africa, early-20th-century Taiwanese hand puppets, textiles from the Americas and 19th- and 20th-century Tibetan artifacts.
“From the Maker’s Hand: Selections from the Permanent Collection,” ongoing. This exhibit explores human ingenuity in the living
and historical cultures of China, Africa, Egypt, Peru, North America and the Mediterranean.
$1-$4; free for children ages 12 and under; free to all on Thursdays, Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. 103 Krooher Hall, Bancroft Way and College Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 643-7648, http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu.<

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY --
one day.
ONGOING EXHIBITS --
"Tyrannosaurus Rex," ongoing. A 20-foot-tall, 40-foot-long replica of the fearsome dinosaur. The replica is made from casts of bones of the most complete T. Rex skeleton yet excavated. When unearthed in Montana, the bones were all lying in place with only a small piece of the tailbone missing.
"Pteranodon," ongoing. A suspended skeleton of a flying reptile with a wingspan of 22 to 23 feet. The Pteranodon lived at the same time as the dinosaurs.
"California Fossils Exhibit," ongoing. An exhibit of some of the fossils that have been excavated in California.
"Berkeley Geology," ongoing. The museum offers permanent displays of University of California and the West. In addition, a three-panel mural is on permanent display.

African American Museum and Library at Oakland -- ongoing.
The Oakland Public Library’s museum is designed to discover, preserve, interpret and share the cultural and historical experiences of African Americans in California and the West. In addition, a three-panel mural is on permanent display.
Free. Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5:30 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland. (510) 637-0200, www.oaklandlibrary.org.<

Alameda Museum -- ongoing. The museum offers permanent displays of Alameda history, the only rotating gallery showcasing local Alameda artists and student artwork, as well as souvenirs, books and videos about the rich history of the Island City.
Free. Wednesday-Friday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. (510) 521-1233, www.alamedamuseum.org.<

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USS HORNET MUSEUM -- Come aboard this World War II aircraft carrier that has been converted into a floating museum. The Hornet, launched in 1943, is 899 feet long and 27 stories high. During World War II she was never hit by an enemy strike or plane and holds the Navy record for number of enemy planes shot down in a week. In 1969 the Hornet recovered the Apollo 11 space capsule containing the first men to walk on the moon, and later recovered Apollo 12. In 1991 the Hornet was designated a National Historic Landmark and is now docked at the same pier she sailed from in 1944. Today, visitors can tour the massive ship, view World War II-era warplanes and experience a simulated aircraft launch from the carrier’s deck. Exhibits are being added on an ongoing basis. Allow two to three hours for a visit. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to climb steep stairs or ladders. Dress in layers as the ship can be cold. Arrive no later than 2 p.m. to sign up for the engine room and other docent-led tours. Children under age 12 are not allowed in the Engine Room or the Combat Information Center.
ONGOING EVENTS --
"Limited Access Day," ongoing. Due to ship maintenance, tours of the navigation bridge and the engine room are not available. Tuesdays.
"Flight Deck Fun," ongoing. A former Landing Signal Officer will show children how to bring in a fighter plane for a landing on the deck then let them try the signals themselves. Times vary. Free with regular Museum admission.
Everyone is welcome and refreshments are served immediately following the service. Sundays, 11 a.m.
SPECIAL EVENTS -- ongoing. Closed on New Year’s Day.
"Family Day," ongoing. Discounted admission for families of four with a further discount for additional family members. Access to some of the areas may be limited due to ship maintenance. Every Tuesday, $20 for family of four; $5 for each additional family member.
"Living Ship Day," ongoing. Experience an aircraft carrier in action, with simulated flight operations as aircraft are lifted to the flight deck and placed in launch position. Some former crewmembers will be on hand.
"Flashlight Tour," ongoing. Receive a special tour of areas aboard the ship that have not yet been opened to the public or that have limited access during the day.
$6-$14; free children age 4 and under with a paying adult. Daily, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Pier 3 (enter on Atlantic Avenue), Alameda Point, Alameda. (510) 521-8448, www.uss-hornet.org.<
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AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM -- The museum’s permanent exhibition of internationally renowned automobiles dated from 1897 to the 1980s. The cars are displayed as works of art with room to walk completely around each car to admire the workmanship. On long-term loan from the Smithsonian Institution is a Long Steam Tricycle; an 1893-94 Duryea, the first Duryea built by the Duryea brothers; and a 1948 Tucker, number 39 of the 51 Tuckers built, which is a Model 48 “Torpedo” four-door sedan.


“A Journey on Common Ground,” ongoing. An exhibit of moving photographs, video and art objects from around the world exploring the causes of disability and the efforts of the Wheelchair Foundation to provide a wheelchair for every person in need who cannot afford one.

ONGOING EVENT -- Free Public Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Docent-led guided tours of the museum’s exhibitions. $5-$8; free for children ages 6 and under. Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. (925) 736-2280, (925) 736-2277, www.blackhawkmuseum.org.<

CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER -- State-of-the-art facility unifying science education activities around astronomy. Enjoy interactive exhibits, hands-on activities, indoor stargazing, outdoor telescope viewing and films.

“Beyond Blastoff: Surviving in Space,” ongoing. An interactive exhibit that allows you to immerse yourself into the life of an astronaut to experience the mixture of exhilaration, adventure and confinement that is living and working in space.

“Chabot Observatories: A View to the Stars,” ongoing. Explore the history of the Chabot observatories and how its historic telescopes are used today. Daytime visitors can virtually operate a telescope, experiment with mirrors and lenses to understand how telescopes create images of distant objects and travel through more than a century of Chabot’s history via...
multimedia kiosks, historical images and artifact displays.

EVENTS -- ongoing. CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE. SEPT. 2-16.

“Daytime Telescope Viewing,” ongoing. Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. View the sun, the moon and the planets through the telescopes during the day. Free with general admission.

“Galaxy Explorers Hands-On Fun,” ongoing. Saturday, noon-4 p.m.

The Ga day. Free with general admission.

“Galaxy Explorers Hands-On Fun,” ongoing. Saturday, noon-4 p.m.

The Galaxy Explorers lead a variety of fun, hands-on activities, such as examining real spacesuits, creating galaxy flipbooks, learning about telescopes, minerals and skulls and making your own comet. Free with general admission.

“Live Daytime Planetarium Show,” ongoing. Saturdays, 2:30 p.m.

Ride through real-time constellations, stars and planets with Chabot’s full-dome digital projection system.

Center Admission: $9-$13; free children under 3; Movies and evening planetarium shows: $6-$8. Telescope viewing only: free.

Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 336-7300, www.chabotspace.org.<

HABITOT CHILDREN’S MUSEUM -- A museum especially for children ages 7 and under. Highlights include “Water-Works,” an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

ONGOING EXHIBITS --

“Waterworks.” A water play gallery with rivers, a pumping station and a water table, designed to teach about water.

“Little Town Grocery and Cafe.” Designed to create the ambience of shopping in a grocery store and eating in a restaurant.

“Infant-Toddler Garden.” A picket fence gated indoor area, which includes a carrot patch with wooden carrots to be harvested, a pretend pond and a butterfly mobile to introduce youngsters to the concept of food, gardening and agriculture.

“Dramatic Arts Stage.” Settings, backdrops and costumes coincide with seasonal events and holidays. Children can exercise their dramatic flair here.

“Wiggle Wall.” The floor-to-ceiling “underground” tunnels give children a worm’s eye view of the world. The tunnels are laced with net covered openings and giant optic lenses.

“Architects at Play,” ongoing. This hands-on, construction-based minixhibit provides children with the opportunity to create free-form structures, from skyscrapers to bridges, using KEVA planks.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS -- ongoing.

$6-$7. Wednesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Closed Sunday-Tuesday. 2065 Kittridge St., Berkeley. (510) 647-1111, www.habitot.org.<

HALL OF HEALTH -- ongoing. A community health-education museum and science center promoting wellness and individual responsibility for health.

There are hands-on exhibits that teach about the workings of the human body, the value of a healthy diet and exercise, and the destructive effects of smoking and drug abuse. “Kids on the Block” puppet shows, which use puppets from diverse cultures to teach about and promote acceptance of conditions such as cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, leukemia, blindness, arthritis and spina bifida, are available by request for community events and groups visiting the Hall on Saturdays.

ONGOING EXHIBITS --

“This Is Your Heart!” ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health.

“Good Nutrition,” ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an Exercycle for calculating how calories are burned.

“Draw Your Own Insides.” ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies.

“Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention,” ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer.

Suggested $3 donation; free for children under age 3.

Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 549-1564, www.hallofhealth.org.<

HAYWARD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM -- The museum is located in a former post office and displays memorabilia of early Hayward and southern Alameda County. Some of the features include a restored 1923 Seagrave fire engine and a hand pumper from the Hayward Fire Department, founded in 1865; a Hayward Police Department exhibit; information on city founder William Hayward; and pictures of the old Hayward Hotel. The museum also alternates three exhibits per year, including a Christmas Toys exhibit and a 1950s lifestyle exhibit.

EVENTS -- ongoing.

50 cents-$1. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 22701 Main St., Hayward. (510) 581-0223, www.haywardareahistory.org.<

JUDAH L. MAGNES MUSEUM -- The museum’s permanent collection includes objects of Jewish importance including ceremonial art, film and video, folk art and fine art, paintings, sculptures and prints by contemporary and historical artists.

“Projections,” ongoing. Multimedia works from the museum’s extensive collections of archival, documentary and experimental films.

Located at 2911 Russell Street.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS -- ongoing.

$4-$6; free for children under age 12.

Sunday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. CLOSED APRIL 3-4 AND 9-10; MAY 23-24 AND 28;

JULY 4; SEPT. 3, 13 AND 27; OCT. 4; NOV. 22; DEC. 24-25 AND 31. 2911 Russ-
“Science on a Sphere,” ongoing. Catch an out-of-this-world experience with an animated globe. See hurricanes form, tsunamis sweep across the oceans and city lights glow around the planet.

EVENTS -- ongoing.
$5.50-$10; free children ages 2 and under.
Daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

LINDSAY WILDLIFE MUSEUM -- This is the oldest and largest wildlife rehabilitation center in America, taking in 6,000 injured and orphaned animals yearly and returning 40 percent of them to the wild. The museum offers a wide range of educational programs using non-releasable wild animals to teach children and adults respect for the balance of nature. The museum includes a state-of-the art wildlife hospital which features a permanent exhibit, titled “Living with Nature,” which houses 75 non-releasable wild animals in learning environments; a 5,000-square-foot Wildlife Hospital complete with treatment rooms, intensive care, quarantine and laboratory facilities; a 1-acre Nature Garden featuring the region’s native landscaping and wildlife; and an “Especially For Children” exhibit.

WILDLIFE HOSPITAL -- September-March: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The hospital is open daily including holidays to receive injured and orphaned animals. There is no charge for treatment of native wild animals and there are no public viewing areas in the hospital.

EXHIBITS -- ongoing.

SPECIAL EVENTS -- ongoing.
$5-$7; free children under age 2. Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. (925) 935-1978, www.wildlife-museum.org.<

MEYERS HOUSE AND GARDEN MUSEUM -- The Meyers House, erected in 1897, is an example of Colonial Revival, an architectural style popular around the turn of the century. Designed by Henry H. Meyers, the house was built by his father, Jacob Meyers, at a cost of $4000.00.

EXHIBITS -- ongoing.

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE VILLAGE -- ongoing.
A science museum with an African-American focus promoting science education and awareness for the underrepresented. The science village chronicles the technical achievements of people of African descent from ancient ties to present. There are computer classes at the Internet Café, science education activities and seminars. There is also a resource library with a collection of books, periodicals and videotapes.

$4-$6. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, noon-6 p.m.;
Sunday, 2 p.m.-6 p.m. 630 20th St., Oakland. (510) 893-6426, www.ncafilblackengineers.org.<

MUSEUM OF CHILDREN’S ART -- A museum of art for and by children, with activities for children to participate in making their own art.

ART CAMPS -- Hands-on activities and engaging curriculum for children of different ages, led by professional artists and staff. $60 per day.

CLASSES -- A Sunday series of classes for children ages 8 to 12, led by Mocha artists. Sundays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

OPEN STUDIOS -- Drop-in art play activities with new themes each week.

“Big Studio.” Guided art projects for children age 6 and older with a Mocha artist. Tuesday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. $5.

“Little Studio.” A hands-on experience that lets young artists age 18 months to 5 years see, touch and manipulate a variety of media.

Children can get messy. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. $5.

“Family Weekend Studios.” Drop-in art activities for the whole family. All ages welcome. Saturday and
Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. $5 per child.

FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZAS -- Special weekend workshops for the entire family.

“Sunday Workshops with Illustrators,” Sundays, 1 p.m. See the artwork and meet the artists who create children’s book illustrations. Free.

EVENTS -- ongoing.

“Saturday Stories,” ongoing. 1 p.m. For children ages 2-5. Free.

Free gallery admission. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. 538 Ninth St., Oakland. (510) 465-8770, http://www.museumonmain.org.<

MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY -- The museum features local artifacts, pictures, flags and drawings commemorating the valley’s history.

It also houses a historical narrative frieze. In addition to a permanent exhibit on the valley’s history, the museum sponsors revolving exhibits and several guided tours. The restored railroad depot that houses the museum was built on the San Ramon Branch Line of the Southern Pacific Railroad 108 years ago.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS -- ongoing.

Free. August: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Depot, West Prospect and Railroad avenues, Danville. (925) 837-3750, www.museumsrv.org.<

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET -- Located in a former town hall building, this museum is a piece of local history. It has a photo and document archive, collection of artifacts, local history publications for purchase, and a history library. It is supported by the Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Society.

EXHIBITS -- ongoing.

“The Horse, Of Course,” through Aug. 15. Exhibit examines how the horse has played an important role in the life of the Amador-Livermore Valley.

S2. Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.; CLOSED DEC. 23-JAN. 8. 603 Main St., Pleasanton. (925) 462-2766, www.museumonmain.org.<


1510 Webster St., Alameda. www.pacificpinball.org.<

PARDEE HOME MUSEUM -- The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn. Reservations recommended. EVENTS -- ongoing.

$5; free children ages 12 and under. House Tours: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays by appointment. 672 11th St., Oakland. (510) 444-2187, www.pardeehome.org.<

SAN LEANDRO HISTORY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY -- ongoing. The museum showcases local and regional history and serves as a centerpiece for community cultural activity. There are exhibits on Ohlone settlements, farms of early settlers, and contributions of Portuguese and other immigrants.

There will also be exhibits of the city’s agricultural past and the industrial development of the 19th century.

ONGOING EXHIBIT -- “Yema/Po Archeological Site at Lake Chabot,” ongoing. An exhibit highlighting artifacts uncovered from a work camp of Chinese laborers, featuring photomurals, cutouts and historical photographs.


SHADELANDS RANCH HISTORICAL MUSEUM -- Built by Walnut Creek pioneer Hiram Penniman, this 1903 redwood-framed house is a showcase for numerous historical artifacts, many of which belonged to the Pennimans. It also houses a rich archive of Contra Costa and Walnut Creek history in its collections of old newspapers, photographs and government records.

EVENTS -- ongoing.

$1-$3; free-children under age 6. Wednesday and Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.; Closed in January. 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. (925) 935-7871, www.ci.walnut-creek.ca.us.<

SMITH MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY.

HAYWARD -- The museum houses significant collections of archaeological and ethnographic specimens from Africa, Asia and North America and small collections from Central and South America. The museum offers opportunities and materials for student research and internships in archaeology and ethnology.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS -- ongoing.

Free. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Meiklejohn Hall, Fourth Floor, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. (510) 885-3104, (510) 885-7414, www.isis.csuhayward.edu/cesmith/ace-smith.html.<

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY HEARST MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY -- ongoing.

ONGOING EXHIBITS -- “Native California Cultures,” ongoing.

This is an exhibit of some 500 artifacts from the museum’s California collections, the largest and most comprehensive collections in the world devoted to California Indian cultures. The exhibit includes a section about Ishi, the famous Indian who lived and worked with the museum, Yana tribal baskets and a 17-foot Yurok canoe carved from a single redwood.

“Recent Acquisitions,” ongoing. The collection includes Yoruba masks and carvings from Africa, early-20th-century Taiwanese hand puppets, textiles from the Americas and 19th- and 20th-century Tibetan artifacts.

“From the Maker’s Hand: Selections from the Permanent Collection,” ongoing. This exhibit explores human ingenuity in the living
and historical cultures of China, Africa, Egypt, Peru, North America and the Mediterranean.

$1-$4; free for children ages 12 and under; free to all on

Thursdays, Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. 103 Kroeber Hall, Bancroft Way and College Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 643-7648, http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu.<

Something for everyone:

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY --
ongoing.

ONGOING EXHIBITS --
“Tyrannosaurus Rex,” ongoing. A 20-foot-tall, 40-foot-long replica of the fearsome dinosaur. The replica is made from casts of bones of the most complete T. Rex skeleton yet excavated. When unearthed in Montana, the bones were all lying in place with only a small piece of the tailbone missing.

“Pteranodon,” ongoing. A suspended skeleton of a flying reptile with a wingspan of 22 to 23 feet. The Pteranodon lived at the same time as the dinosaurs.

“California Fossils Exhibit,” ongoing. An exhibit of some of the fossils that have been excavated in California.

Free. During semester sessions, hours generally are:
Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-10 p.m. Hours vary during summer and holidays. Lobby, 1101 Valley Life Sciences Building, #4780, University of California, Berkeley. (510) 642-1821, www.ucmp.berkeley.edu.<

USS HORNET MUSEUM -- Come aboard this World War II aircraft carrier that has been converted into a floating museum. The Hornet, launched in 1943, is 899 feet long and 27 stories high. During World War II she was never hit by an enemy strike or plane and holds the Navy record for number of enemy planes shot down in a week. In 1969 the Hornet recovered Apollo 12. In 1991 the Hornet was designated a National Historic Landmark and is now docked at the same pier she sailed from in 1944. Today, visitors can tour the massive ship, view World War II-era warplanes and experience a simulated aircraft launch from the carrier’s deck. Exhibits are being added on an ongoing basis. Allow two to three hours for a visit. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to climb steep stairs or ladders. Dress in layers as the ship can be cold. Arrive no later than 2 p.m. to sign up for the engine room and other docent-led tours. Children under age 12 are not allowed in the Engine Room or the Combat Information Center.

ONGOING EVENTS --
“Limited Access Day,” ongoing. Due to ship maintenance, tours of the navigation bridge and the engine room are not available. Tuesdays.

“Flight Deck Fun,” ongoing. A former Landing Signal Officer will show children how to bring in a fighter plane for a landing on the deck then let them try the signals themselves. Times vary. Free with regular Museum admission.

“Protestant Divine Services,” ongoing. Hornet chaplain John Berger conducts church services aboard The Hornet in the Wardroom Lounge. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are served immediately following the service. Sundays, 11 a.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS -- ongoing. Closed on New Year’s Day.

“Family Day,” ongoing. Discounted admission for families of four with a further discount for additional family members. Access to some of the areas may be limited due to ship maintenance. Every Tuesday. $20 for family of four; $5 for each additional family member.

“Living Ship Day,” ongoing. Experience an aircraft carrier in action, with simulated flight operations as aircraft are lifted to the flight deck and placed in launch position. Some former crewmembers will be on hand.

“Flashlight Tour,” ongoing. Receive a special tour of areas aboard the ship that have not yet been opened to the public or that have limited access during the day. $6-$14; free children age 4 and under with a paying adult. Daily, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Pier 3 (enter on Atlantic Avenue), Alameda Point, Alameda. (510) 521-8448, www.uss-hornet.org.<

Arts In Berkeley

By the Berkeley Arts Festival
Wed Apr 21 11:07:00 -0700 2010

The Berkeley Arts Festival calendar tracks local performances of special interest:

For all kinds of arts events this week and in the future, check berkeleyartsfestival.com