

PANIL Notes

Volume 33

Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League - PO Box 20375, Oakland 94620

February 2008

ASKED ON THE AVENUE

Best Valentine's Day Gift?



Tisha Monson and son Ben Howe St.

As a new mom, the thing I'd appreciate most is a day of rest. I'd sleep and maybe get my nails done. Oh, and dinner with my husband!



**Nathan Waldon
Owner, Nathan + Co.
3820 Piedmont Ave.**

Of course, anything in my store would be a perfect gift! But for myself, I'm hoping for a romantic weekend in Mendocino with a view, a roaring fire, and my dogs.



**Kim Hwang
41st St.**

When I was little, my mom used to give me a cookie bouquet on Valentine's Day. Now I don't make a big deal about the day, but I do like to share dinner and drinks with friends.



**Julio Baptista
(with his Doberman "Sexy")
Richmond Blvd.**

I like old-fashioned gifts. I'd probably give two dozen roses. As for receiving, how about a four-pound box of Godiva chocolate?



**Sherri McMullen
Owner, McMullen
4395 Piedmont Ave.**

When you give jewelry, you don't have to worry about the size! My store has some beautiful designs, including a circle of life pendant by local designer Kathy Kamei in silver and gold—a very appropriate symbol of love.

Photos by
Joyce Benna

A Celebration of Music

**A Benefit for
Christopher Rodriguez
who was seriously injured in the
Jan. 10 shooting at Piedmont Ave. and
Pleasant Valley Blvd.**

**Organized by
The Music School at Piedmont Piano Co.**

**Performers will include the music school's
teachers and their colleagues**

**Great food from the neighborhood's
great restaurants**

**Ticket sales and silent auction will benefit the
Rodriguez Fund**

**For full information and ticket purchase, go to
www.PiedmontPianoCompnay.com**

**Sunday, Feb. 10, 2 to 7 p.m.
Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Avenue**

Rodriguez Fund: In addition to this benefit concert, a bank account has been established to help the Rodriguez family. To contribute, mail a check, payable to "Christopher Rodriguez" (Trust Account No. 7013202606) to: Wells Fargo Bank, 151 40th St., Oakland, CA 94611

February PANIL Meeting Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.

7:30-8 p.m.— **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council**
Audience participation and input: communicate your public safety concerns directly to our neighborhood police officers.

8-9 p.m. — **"Starting a Neighborhood Watch"**
Hear from a panel of neighborhood block captains who've done it, and get advice from OPD's Neighborhood Services Supervisor

**Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st Street
11th Floor Sky Room**

**Piedmont Avenue
Neighborhood
Improvement League**
PO Box 20375
Oakland CA 94620
www.panil.org

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fgysin@oaklandnet.com

Take Art to Heart

by ShopGirl

How better to celebrate Valentine's Day than by strolling with your sweetie down Piedmont Avenue gazing at original art in shops and cafés? A recent promenade turned up much to delight the eye. And there's more to come when the annual Tulip and Art Festival returns in March and April. Check back next month for details!

Lireille's co-owners, Steve Robinson and Yan Liu, are jewelry designers with an eye for art in all media. Their "gallery of contemporary jewelry and art" features rotating exhibits of works by local artists—"mostly contemporary abstract work," says Yan, "but really it's whatever pleases us." Through Feb. 24, view Sean P. Hogan's oil-on-wood abstractions. A new exhibit of John L. Goldberg's environmental photography opens Feb. 26. Lireille participates in Oakland Art Murmur, staying open till 10 p.m. the first Friday of each month. Sign up on the website for notices of upcoming exhibits and events.

DakotArt is gradually reinventing itself from gift store to gallery. The custom framing service will remain; the store's name will soon change. Owner Loren Partridge, granddaughter of celebrated photographer Imogen Cunningham, has begun displaying prints from the Cunningham archives, to which she has unrestricted access. Prices for the prints, which are on high-quality luster paper, range between \$100 and \$250. She's also selling unsigned originals. If you'd like to have your purchase matted and framed, Loren herself can do the honors. Other photographers will soon join Cunningham on the walls, and Loren plans to observe her grandmother's 125th birthday—April 12—with a celebration.

The art on the walls at **L'Amyx** enhances the serenity of the surroundings.

Co-owner Marcia Lam, a photographer herself (three of her photos of China adorn one wall), prefers to spotlight local artists in all media: oil, acrylic, collage, and photography. Through the end of February, enjoy Tina Hosseinzadeh's evocative photographs of "Invisible India" (or take one home for \$325). Check the store for an announcement of an artist's reception in February. In March, Oaklander Paul St. Amour brings his photographs of flowers.

Lisa Gartland, owner of **Inside Outside Fitness**, says adding art to the walls of the gym "gives our members something new to see and discuss. It's like adding a whole new dimension to our fitness center." She likes to encourage local artists and has displayed works in many media: oil, watercolor, textiles, portrait photography, "and even some raku sculpture." Exhibits change every eight to ten weeks; the current exhibit, up through mid-February, features self-portraits by Piedmont High School students. The public is invited to a reception for the artists on Sunday, Feb. 10, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

"The passage from our lobby to the tubs looks like a gallery," says **Piedmont Springs** co-owner Sulinda Pettigrew. "So about 15 years ago we came up with the idea of using the space as an actual gallery." The exhibits, which change quarterly, "give us a new look every few months while giving explore to local artists." Suzette Hibble's acrylic paintings are on display through March; past exhibits have included collages, photographs, copper sculptures, "bodyscapes," and a holiday display of "fairy wings."

There's no Rowan or Morrison at **Rowan Morrison**, a hip little space just west of Broadway. The gallery's name comes from

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a character in the 1973 cult film *The Wicker Man*, as does the rabbit logo. Owners (and spouses) Peter and Narangkar Glover, both CCA grads, put up about nine shows a year, usually featuring Bay Area artists. An exhibit by interpretive landscape painter Christopher Russell opens Feb. 6; the reception is Feb. 16, 6 to 10 p.m. Most months, the gallery also participates in Art Murmur, the first-Friday art stroll. Check the website for art books and prints, some for as little as \$10.

Just a short walk from Piedmont Avenue is an opportunity to see the work of some of the Bay Area's most promising young artists. Four galleries at **California College of the Arts**—the Irwin Student Center Gallery, the Isabelle Percy West Gallery, and the North and South galleries—present ongoing exhibitions of student work, usually changing on a weekly basis. Each Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. there's a reception for the student artists. Stop by and show your support!

If you already own a piece of art and need a way to display it, Kimo Danielson at **Yosemite Framing** can help. Although he's framed plenty of posters and paintings, he specializes in framing collectibles and memorabilia, everything from figurines to footballs, from baby shoes to a pair of great-grandpa's eye-glasses. "Just because it's not on paper doesn't mean you can't frame it," he advises. He also sells a small selection of prints and posters.

MEETING FEB. 7

MacArthur BART Transit Village

The vision of housing and retail on the site of the MacArthur BART parking lot is turning into reality! A meeting on Feb. 7 is the first chance to see drawings of what the actual buildings might look like, views of the interior streets, and illustrations of what the project will look like on Telegraph Avenue, 40th Street and in front of the BART Plaza. The project developers, McGrath Properties and Bridge Housing, in partnership with the City of Oakland and BART, are proposing a project that includes:

- 624 housing units, both market-rate and affordable, in 4-6 story buildings
- New streets and plazas dividing the existing parking lot into residential blocks
- 5,000 square feet of community space
- BART garage to park 300 cars
- 35,500 square feet of retail and commercial space

"This is an absolutely critical juncture in the development process for community participation," said Jane Brunner. "The environmental review process will soon come to a close, and the project developers will begin seeking approvals from the City."

The meeting will be at **Beebe Memorial Church Gymnasium, 3900 Telegraph Avenue, on Thursday evening, Feb. 7, from 7-9 p.m.**

Lireille

3980 Piedmont Ave.
547-3455
lireille.com

DakotArt

4299 Piedmont Ave.
428-9040

L'Amyx Tea Bar

4179 Piedmont Ave.
495-8322
lamyx.com

Inside Outside Fitness

4444 Piedmont Ave.
655-8308
insideoutsidefitness.com

Piedmont Springs

3939 Piedmont Ave.
652-9191
piedmontsprings.com

Rowan Morrison

330 40th St. (at Broadway)
384-5344
rowanmorrison.com

California College of the Arts

5212 Broadway
594-3600
cca.edu/students/undergraduate
exhibitions.php

Yosemite Framing

3972 Piedmont Ave.
655-9810
yosemiteframing.com

Calendar

(for more neighborhood events go to www.panil.org/calendar)

PANIL Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month
7:30 to 9 p.m.
Piedmont Gardens
110 41st Street
11th Floor Sky Room

PANIL Steering Committee

email contact@panil.org for time, date and place of monthly meeting

Glen Echo Creek Work Day

2nd Saturday of the month
Monte Vista Avenue, 9:30 a.m.
654-1930

Mt. View Cemetery Tour

Docent led tour
2nd Saturday of the month
10 a.m., FREE

Events at the Chapel of the Chimes

4499 Piedmont Avenue
654-0123

Historical and Botanical Tour

3rd Saturday of the month
10 a.m. to noon, FREE

Jazz at the Chimes

3rd Sunday of the month
\$20/children under 12 FREE
2 to 4 p.m.

Oakland Heritage Alliance Lecture Series

2nd Thursday of the month
7:30 p.m.

\$5 OHA members/\$10 non-members/\$5 low income
For more information contact:
www.oaklandheritage.org,
763-9218

Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

160 41st Street, 597-5011

Storytimes

Toddlers
Wednesday, 10:15 a.m.
Pre school
Wednesday, 11 a.m.

Saturday Knitting Club
Every Saturday 3 to 4 p.m.

To place an item on PANIL's calendars, send e-mail to: contact@panil.org

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Monte Vista Ave. Project Goes for More Study

By Valerie Winemiller

Neighbors and members of Plymouth Church (seller of the property) spoke at public hearings Jan. 14 before the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and Jan. 16 before the Planning Commission. The proposal for 40 condominiums at 412 Monte Vista Ave. will be studied for the next few months for potential environmental impacts. The next public hearings on this issue may not be until June.

Both hearings were "scoping sessions" to help determine the "scope" of potential environmental impacts that should be studied under California's environmental laws. Written comments were also accepted until Jan. 30. As the studies are conducted, zoning staff will determine whether the information submitted is adequate before releasing an Environment Impact Report and scheduling another public meeting on the project.

PANIL, Oakland Heritage Alliance and neighbors urged study of a smaller project (fewer units), reducing impact on the historic building by not adding a story, more detail on the history of the building and its architects, traffic and parking, storm drain capacity, and shadows.

Church minister Lois Mueller had stated that the church had 65 members; a number of them attended both meetings, urging the LPAB and the commission to "approve the project quickly." Many spoke of the church's need for the proceeds from the sale but did not address environmental issues.



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PIEDMONT AVE PHOTO GALLERY

A View of the Avenue

Our neighborhood is filled with characteristic sights. This handmade sign—this appeal—appeared on lamp posts on the corner of Piedmont Ave. and Pleasant Valley, the site of the robbery/shooting in which piano student Christopher Rodriguez was seriously injured by a stray bullet.

We invite photographers to send pictures taken on the Avenue or in the neighborhood to www.panil.org.



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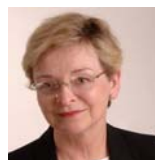
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Safe and Legal Battery Disposal Now Easy

By Valerie Winemiller

State law prohibits tossing old batteries in the trash. They contain heavy metals (like cadmium), corrosive chemicals, and other dangerous toxins that can leak from landfills, contaminating soil and water. Oaklanders now have a safe and easy way to dispose of theirs.

“Battery Recycler” containers are placed in Oakland libraries and parks and recreation centers. A black battery-shaped bin is on the counter at the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library and is emptied weekly by Public Works Agency staff.

Accepted batteries include alkaline, carbon zinc and zinc air batteries, including AA, AAA, C, D, 9V and button batteries; disposable lithium batteries, coin cell and photo batteries. These are the standard ones used in



your flashlight, clock, smoke alarm, (film) camera and portable radio or CD player. Place button (photo- and coin-cell) batteries in a plastic bag before drop-off.

These batteries are not accepted: rechargeable batteries of any kind. Common types are lithium ion (Li-ion), nickel metal hydride (NiMH), and nickel cadmium (NiCd). These batteries should be returned to the store where they were bought.

Every year, 600 million small, single-use batteries are sold statewide, and few are recycled appropriately. Consider reducing your household's use of batteries. Weigh the necessity of battery-powered toys and other non-essential devices, or switch to rechargeables. A fact sheet on rechargeable battery performance is available at Household-Hazwaste.org.

Batteries and other household hazardous waste can be dropped off at one of three Alameda County collection facilities. For drop-off site details or for a list of other household hazardous wastes, please call 800-660-6606 or visit www.Household-Hazwaste.org.

MEETING FEB 13

A Senior Village for Piedmont Ave. Neighbors

Judith Coates of Echo Avenue will hold a preliminary meeting for anyone interested in developing a program to help seniors stay in their own homes by providing services as needed. The concept was described in the SF Chronicle article (12/12/07) “It Takes A Village.”

The meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. Contact Coates by email (jdcoates13@yahoo.com) or call her at 653-1183 to get directions to the meeting.

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