

May 9, 2011

Vol 1, Issue 18



Take A Fresh Look at Oakland

News from
Mayor Jean Quan

Greetings!



Greetings from Beijing. I hope you had a Good Mother's Day. It is one day ahead here early Monday morning and am trying to finish this newsletter before heading over to the US Embassy here for a briefing on trade.

After presenting the budget Thursday night to the City Council, Friday morning, Council President Larry Reid and I headed for a six-day trade mission to Beijing, Shenzhen and Hong Kong with the Port of Oakland. We'll be meeting with American and Chinese business leaders as well as political leaders to encourage trade and investment with the Port and the City. I'll be periodically

posting updates on my [Facebook page](#). (Above) Mayor Quan and Council President Reid on Wangfujing, a main street lined with a wide range of Western and Chinese stores from Kentucky Fried to a historic Chinese silk shop that greets customers with a quote from Chairman Mao.

WHY CHINA NOW? [President Obama has called for the US to double exports by 2015.](#) If we reach that goal, that would mean about 5000 new jobs related to the Port of Oakland. That's why as reluctant as I am to be away for any amount of time during the next two months, I agreed to join the Port in this trip. It is also why I helped co-host the recent [Mega Region Conference on Exports](#) with the Chamber and have agreed to serve as the Chair of the International Affairs Committee of the [US Conference of Mayors](#). The Mayor appoints the Port Commissioners and I have been studying how the City and the Port (which is technically a department of the City) can work more effectively together.

I said at the budget presentation, we cannot cut our way out of the recession. We must also focus



This publication is not produced at public expense.

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the city on economic growth; increased trade and investment in the Port of Oakland is a strategic part of our future. We hope to:



increase imports and exports through our maritime and air services, increase tourism to and from Asia through Oakland, and increase Chinese/Asian investment a wide range of City developments from hotels to industrial opportunities. *(Above) Long lines at the US Embassy in Beijing for visas.*

Being the first Chinese American Mayor of a major American city has attracted some attention here, but in the long run Oakland's best assets are being the 5th busiest container port in the US, large areas available for growth and investment at the Army Base and Coliseum area, a large Asian community, and Asia's increased appetites for wines and other agricultural products. Our discussions here are part of building relations and eventual partnerships that will sustain our role in the global economy.

After meeting with companies in Beijing, we will go to [Shenzhen](#) the Special Economic Zone near Hong Kong and a major trading port. [We end up in Hong Kong](#) where we will work to promote East Bay wineries, especially the six located in Oakland.

WEIGH IN ON THE BUDGET: We have re-posted our proposed budget with some revised numbers in the Budget section of the City Website (see #3). The larger number of layoffs generally represents turning operations of the museum over to the Museum Foundation.

There are 3 versions depending on whether we go with an all cuts budget or whether employees and/or citizens contribute through a parcel tax. [For a short 1 page overview of the differences between the three budgets.](#)

PREPARING FOR THE BIG ONE: Thanks to about 1300 volunteers and staff who participated in last week's citywide major earthquake drill. At the start of this week I joined San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee at the Seismic Risk Management Leadership Forum where 300



scientists, public policy advisors, emergency preparedness directors and elected officials met to hear the lessons learned from the most recent earthquakes in Chile, New Zealand and Japan. Oakland is considered one of the leaders in emergency preparedness and pre-disaster mitigation

policy in Northern California. The forum provided the latest thinking on retrofiting, policy, serving the most vulnerable populations and how to motivate individuals to get prepared.

NEED ASSISTANCE ? Every month we receive hundreds of calls for

[Is Oakland ready for its next big earthquake?](#)

Dara Kerr, Oakland North
May 3

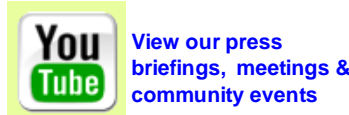
[San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee and Oakland Mayor Jean Quan Kick Off Forum on Earthquake Risk](#)

Money.msn.com, May 2, 2011

Follow the Mayor



Facebook subscribers can also [become "fans", hit the "like" button to receive daily updates.](#)



Discover Oakland

Wade Johnson Park (at former Cole School in West Oakland)



Children look through a fence at the newly constructed play structure at the former Cole Middle School. On Saturday, April 30, more than 600 volunteers showed up to help build a new play facility including the play structure, basketball courts, a kick ball court and an assortment of other playground related facilities over the course of the day. *(Photo by Justin Morrison)*

[See full story by Raychell Simmons-Rivas, Oakland Tribune...](#)

Change will not come if

help. For general assistance, we often refer them to these two services: **Alameda County's 211 service** is partially funded by the city, it provides information and referrals for housing, employment and health care. The toll free number is available in more than 150 languages. All calls are confidential and are handled by professionally-trained resource specialists who assess needs and then provide referrals. [Click here for Chris Metinko's Oakland Tribune May 4 story.](#)

For the City of Oakland services, contact the **Oaklander Assistance Center at 444-CITY** for information and referrals.

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH OUR 25% SOLUTION: We're asking our readers to weigh in on their favorite Oakland store to purchase gifts for graduates, marrying couples and Dad's for Father's Day. Provide us with the name of the store, contact information for the store and why you think it's a great place to find unique gifts. The store must be in Oakland. We'll run the list in early June. Go to our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/mayorjeanquan for the survey.

TOWN HALL MEETING FOR DISTRICT 4 THIS SATURDAY, MAY 14, 10 AM: Just a reminder to District 4 readers from my old Council District, **the District 4 Town Hall meeting will be next Saturday, May 14 from 10 am to 12:30 pm at Bret Harte Middle School.** As you've seen from the previous Town Halls, local residents have an opportunity to meet in small groups to recommend priorities. Our past experience shows that some of the issues can be tackled by residents, some by the city and some by the city and residents in partnership. Council Member Libby Schaaf and School Board President Gary Yee will join me and city leaders at this energetic event. I look forward to seeing many friends who I have not seen over the last 4 busy months.

Jet lagged but as always, honored to serve Oakland,



Mayor Jean Quan

1. Building Oakland: Toni Locke and MacArthur Metro

On Saturday, the City of Oakland honored **Toni Locke** as the 2011 Mother of the Year at the 58th Annual Mother of the Year Award ceremony in the Rose Garden. The title is apt for this 93-year-old dynamo.

For 15 years, Toni served as the volunteer managing editor of the [MacArthur Metro](#), a community newspaper serving neighborhoods between Fruitvale, Seminary, Foothill and the Warren Freeway. "I come from a family tradition of public service and I love working with people. I was retired and looking for a way to use my energy and skills, and I always worked in groups," she explained.

She got her start during a campaign launched by former Council

*we wait for some other person or for some other time.
We are the ones we have been waiting for.*

Barack Obama



Member Dick Spees in the late 1980s to end blight in the Laurel. He called it "MacArthur Returns." Under that slogan about 100 residents signed up to form a coalition to do something something to make a difference. "I said I would help out in the editorial management of the MacArthur Metro, a struggling local paper," Locke said.



Locke says she is inspired by ideas. "The concept of city and community working together, along with the idea of learning something new--all of that was music to my ears. That's why I dedicated myself for 15 years to the Metro--and of course, it meant that I was constantly participating personally in--all the things that make a strong community that we were writing about--and one thing led to another."

Over the years, stories in the MacArthur Metro, on line and freely distributed in monthly issues of 7,000, highlighted people in action to clean up MacArthur Boulevard, underground utilities, plant trees, improve parks, support schools and libraries, and establish community policing in Oakland.

"I never did it alone. I had organized residents with talent and energy helping to keep the paper alive as the voice of the neighborhoods. It was satisfying to my soul," she said.

Check out the MacArthur Metro at <http://www.macarthurmetro.org/>.

Photo by Nick Lostracco.

2. Discover Oakland This Week

Ceremony to Honor Oakland's Top African American Scholars, Monday, May 9, 6:30-8:30 pm, Acts Full Gospel Church, 1034 66th Avenue: More than 1,000 high-achieving Oakland students will gather under one roof when the African-American Education Task Force and the Oakland Unified School District host the 2011 African-American Honor Roll celebration. The annual event honors the city's top African-American public school students enrolled in Grades 8 through 12. To qualify, students had to earn at least a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) in the first semester of the school year. "At a time when the achievement gap between African-American and Latino students and their peers remains persistent, it's critical that we celebrate students who present a model of scholastic accomplishment," explained OUSD Superintendent Tony Smith. "Their academic success, while notable in its own right, can also serve as an inspiration for other students striving to succeed. More than that, it is a reminder of the potential inherent in all our students and our obligation as adults to help them fulfill it."

African-American Male Achievement (AAMA) Monthly Community Meeting, Tuesday, May 10, 5-7:30 pm, Oakland Technical High School, 4351 Broadway: The May meeting will acknowledge students, teachers and administrators and continue the discussion around reaching AAMA Task Force Goals (Achievement, Attendance, Graduation, Literacy, Suspension, incarceration and Middle school) for our students. Food will be provided. Contact [Christopher Chatmon](#) at 879-4663.

Wednesday, May 11 Day of the Teacher and School Nurse Day: Take a moment to share your appreciation for our teachers and school nurses, who make a difference in our children's lives every day of the school year.



Bike To Work Day, Thursday, May 12: This will be the first year that I will not be able to join riders from my home district on the annual ride to City Hall, as I will be returning from a trade mission to China. Each year more and more people take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and make a statement about reducing our carbon footprint by bicycling to work. For details, contact the [East Bay Bicycle Coalition](#).

WOBO To Launch Oakland Bikeways Campaign, Thursday, May 12, 8:30-9 am, Oakland City Hall: As a part of Oakland's 18th Annual Bike to Work Day, May 12, 2011, Walk Oakland-Bike Oakland (WOBO) is launching the Oakland Bikeways Campaign, their plan for implementing Oakland's Master

Bicycle Plan by 2020:

- 30 miles of new, safe bikeways by the end of 2011
- Continuous bikeways on five key corridors by 2015
- All 218 miles of Oakland's bicycle network complete by 2020

For additional information, contact WOBO at 269-4034 or visit their website at www.wobo.org

ASCEND Student Art Exhibit at Oakland's Museum of Children's Art, Friday, May 13, 5-9 pm, 538 9th Street: Arts integration has long been a hallmark at ASCEND. While students' art is always on display [on campus](#), stop by MOCHA for a true art experience. If you cannot make the event but would still like to support our young visual artists, you can make a tax-deductible donation online [here](#), or by mail to: "OSF/ASCEND," P.O. Box 20238, Oakland, CA 94620. All donations support ASCEND's Visual Arts Integration Program -- namely art supplies for kids and arts integration coaching for our teachers.

Oakland Indie Awards, Friday, May 13, 6 pm, Kaiser Center Theatre: Celebrate the social and environmental impact of Oakland's independent businesses and artists at the annual [Oakland Indie Awards](#). Party at the Kaiser Rooftop Garden, 300 Lakeside Drive following the awards (6:30 pm.) Sponsored by the One Pacific Coast Foundation and East Bay Express.

Oakland Greek Festival, May 13, 14 & 15, Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension, 4700 Lincoln Avenue: Here's the perfect "trip to Greece"

without ever leaving Oakland! Plan to stop by the annual Oakland Greek Festival, one of the largest Greek festivals in the state. Admission is \$6, Free Friday 11-4 pm and Sunday, 6 -9 pm. The festival from Friday & Saturday from 1 am-11 pm and Sunday, 11 am-9 pm. Receive a \$1 off coupon at OaklandGreekFestival.com

The food made by the congregation is better than anything you will find in a restaurant.



Koreatown-Northgate Culture Fest, Saturday, May 14, 11:30 am-5 pm: Celebrate the diverse and vibrant [KoreaTown-Northgate Community Benefit District \(KTO\)](#) neighborhood. This is a community that is overflowing with talented artists, musicians, great food and diverse cultures! Experience the many sights and sounds of a thriving, growing area located in between the revitalized and exciting Uptown and Temescal districts! Food, entertainment, and more!

Voices of Israel: Celebrating Israel @63, Sunday, May 15, 1:50-9 pm, Temple Sinai, 29th and Webster: Come for a session or attend the entire event. 2 Keynote speakers: Counter-terrorism expert Amos Guiora (Lt. Col. Ret. of the IDF), former Legal Advisor to the Gaza Strip (*Ethical Decision-making in Time of War*), and Avraham Infeld, Founder and Director of Melitz and former Director of the Shalom Hartman Institute (*Israel-Diaspora Relations: The New Paradigm*). 7 Workshops, including discussions on Israeli innovation, Advocacy 101, Israeli hip hop, and the US-Israel relationship. Workshop just for teens on Israeli humor! *Sing Israel* - Music that bridges the traditional and the modern starring Rifka Amado, Joel Siegel and Achi Ben-Shalom! To register and for the complete schedule: www.jfed.org/voicesofisrael or email riva@jfed.org.

District 4 Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, May 14, 10-12:30 pm, Bret Harte Middle School, 3700 Coolidge Avenue: Our ongoing series of Town Hall meetings continue, this time in District 4. Please join Council Member Libby Schaaf along with me, neighbors, friends and city staff in sharing your priorities and suggestions for improving the city. For details, contact [Office of the Mayor](#) for details.

Piedmont Avenue Elementary School Annual Spring Carnival and Silent Auction, Saturday, May 14, 11 am-3pm; 4314 Piedmont Avenue: Games & prizes; international food; bouncy house; rock wall;

free book exchange; community vendors; silent auction--enter to win a cruise for 2! Proceeds from the event fund enrichment programs such as music, pay for field trip transportation, and provide supplemental classroom materials. Visit their website at <http://tinyurl.com/paesauktion2011> for details.

Garden Party & Luncheon at the Camron-Stanford House, 1418 Lakeside Drive, Saturday, May 14, Noon-2 pm:

Tour the spring garden at Camron-Stanford House and enjoy a catered buffet on the veranda overlooking Lake Merritt. Hear Bobbi Feyerabend, of Feyerabend & Madden Landscape Design, present the history of 19th century gardens in Oakland, and introducing "The Victorian Garden Project" at Camron-Stanford House. Reservations are required. Members \$20, Non-members and guests, \$30. Call 847-7802 for details.



The First Ladies Tea Party, Free Women's and Girls' Health Conversation, s Saturday, May 14, 1 pm, Allen Temple Family Life Center, 8501 International Blvd.: The Diva Foundation and Kaiser Permanente sponsor this special health conversation for Oakland women and girls. Hats & gloves are encouraged! RSVP at 1-888-389-0331 ext 2 or at www.thedivafoundation.org.



Half Price Books and [East Bay Children's Book Project](#) Literacy Event, Saturday, May 14, 1-4 pm, FM Smith Park, 1969 Park Blvd.: Free books, entertainment and food. For details, call 408-READ. Bring your kids, they will be given a bag to fill with free books!

25th Anniversary of the Bay Area Black Comedy Competition and Festival, Saturday, May 14, 8 pm-Midnight, Paramount Theatre: See the final round of the world's largest, longest-running and most diverse showcase of urban stand-up comedians. This year's Competition began last February in Pleasanton, with 67 comedians chosen from a poll of hundreds of potential participants from diverse backgrounds from all across America. They're competing for over \$15,000 in cash and prizes, which include future bookings as well as potential television and film opportunities. Final Round show tickets are \$45, \$40 and \$25. \$55 for special pre-show VIP reception ticket for the Annual Inspired Artist Awards Reception and admission to the Final Competition. For more information call 421-9207 or log on to <http://www.BlackComedyCompetition.com>.



2011 Bay Friendly Garden Tour, Sunday, May 15, Alameda County: The 8th annual Bay Friendly Garden tour is expanding beyond Alameda County, Now it is in Napa and Santa Clara Counties, as well. The [Bay-Friendly Coalition](#) and its sponsors hope that by expanding into a regional event the tour will encourage more residents to make environmentally friendly gardening choices. In previous years, the tour had been organized by [StopWaste.Org](#) and was only offered in Alameda County. This year, the tour is being organized by the Bay-Friendly Coalition. [Registration](#) \$10.

3. City News: Budget Proposals Released: Parcel Tax or an ALL Cut Budget ?

I presented the three budgets to City Council on Thursday., There will be at least two more Council meetings before the City Council passes a balanced budget by June 30, 2011.

BUDGET PROPOSALS ARE NOW ON LINE: The Bad, the Really Bad & the Really Ugly

Because so much is still in the air, we present 3 budgets:

[Budget Facts](#)--a quick overview of the budget:

[1 page comparison](#) of the next 3 budgets

[The Bad](#)--Balancing the budget with cuts, employee contributions and the Parcel Tax

[The Really Bad](#)--Balancing the budget with cuts and employee contributions

[The Really Ugly](#)--Balancing the budget only through cuts

Currently, the Council has not scheduled a new vote on a mail ballot for a 25 cent a day emergency parcel tax for 5 years; I am asking them to let the voters decide. All of three budgets are painful but an ALL CUTS budget will mean major closings of libraries, fire stations, and recreation centers, reduction of days at senior centers, and reduction by attrition of the police force. **Council meetings on the budget are scheduled for May 12, and 19.** Historically, the Council holds its final budget hearings in June. **The charter requires a budget by June 30th.**

Council Delays Parcel Tax Vote: Several weeks ago the Council agreed to put an \$80 parcel tax on the special election ballot planned by Governor Brown. When it became apparent that Brown would not be able to get a special election, our office went to the Council to ask for an all mail vote. Disappointingly, three members of the Council did not support an "urgency" vote which needs 6 votes.

- **Does this Kill the Parcel Tax Vote?** This does not kill the initiative but does delay the vote until next months because of the Council recess.
- **Why is the delay important?** It means that if we get a special election by mail, we will not know the results until August two months into the fiscal year. Even if the parcel tax passes, **we will likely have to layoff and cut programs during July & August.** This is something I was hoping to avoid.
- **Is the Vote by Mail expensive?** Actually a vote by mail is about the same cost to the city as being part of a consolidated election, about \$800 K.
- **I believe the citizens of Oakland should be allowed to decide.** The parcel tax would raise about one fifth of the funds needed to close the gap, it would cost the average home owner about a quarter a day.
- **Without a parcel tax we will have an all cuts budget for the most part.** Ironically this parallels the struggles going on in Washington and Sacramento.

District 1 Budget Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, May 21, 10 am, Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd Street: Council Member Jane Brunner's monthly Town Hall meeting for May will focus on the Budget. For details, contact the District 1 Council office at 238-7001.

MacArthur Transit Village Groundbreaking, Monday, May 23, 1 pm: One of the tenets of smart growth policy is the idea of building mixed-use, mixed-income development adjacent to public transportation. The Fruitvale Village was our first Transit Village effort. Groundbreaking for another similar effort at the MacArthur BART station will be held on Monday, May 23 at 1 pm.

4. The 25% Solution

If all Oaklanders bought 25 percent more of their normal purchases from Oakland retailers, the sales tax increase would be about \$10 to \$15 million. This year that could eliminate up to one-quarter of this year's budget deficit.

Consider KoreaTown-Northgate

Coming up next weekend: CultureFest Saturday, May 14, 11:30 am-5 pm

Located on Telegraph Avenue between 20th and 35th Streets. the **KoreaTown-Northgate District** is

lively and diverse. It includes an important Korean-American commercial center, a creative arts community that participates in the monthly First Friday Art Murrur event, Alta Bates-Summit Medical Center and other healthcare services, new residential projects including the Telegraph (old Sears) Lofts and a growing variety of multi-ethnic restaurants, shops and services that are working to revitalize the neighborhood.

Several KoreaTown-Northgate businesses have earned "Best of the Bay" Awards from the *East Bay Express*:



Best Specialized Record Store

House of Soul
2819 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 645-9076

Best Place to buy Mystery Groceries

Koreana Plaza
2370 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 904612
(510) 986-0851
www.koreanaplaza.com



Best Middle Eastern Restaurant / Store

Oasis Food Market
3045 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA, 94609
(510) 655-5111
www.oasisfoodmarket.com

Best Fish Fry

Louisiana Fish & Chips
2817 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 451-4555
www.louisianafishandchips.com



Most Charming Bar Owner

Kim of Kim's Backyard
2424 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 834-8624



Best All-American Dessert

Phat Matt's BBQ
3415 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94605
(510) 879-7294



www.phatmattsbbq.com



Best Artsy Café

Mama Buzz
2318 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 465-4073
www.mamabuzzcafe.com

Best Purveyor of Local Crafts

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 238-9171
www.rpscollective.com





Check out one of our 40 unique neighborhood business districts. Each one has a different mix of restaurants and shops. The [Shop Oakland website](#) is a great place to start. There's a [wonderful map](#), as well.

Visit [Oakland Grown](#) for the latest on local independent merchants and their wares.

5. The Greening of Oakland: Garden Tours, Plant Sales, Free Solar

Free Home Weatherization Program: Renters or homeowners that meet income requirements can have their homes or apartments weatherized to improve energy efficiency for **FREE**. The County Community Development Agency received funds to weatherize homes in Alameda County. [Click here to read more.](#)

Free Solar Electric Installations, Energy Efficiency Services and Trainings for

Oaklanders: Through generous funding from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the City of Oakland's Redevelopment Agency and a number of foundation, corporate and individual donors we have been able to dramatically increase the number of families and workers served in Oakland and around the state of California. To qualify for the program, residents need only:



1. Reside in a single-family, owner-occupied home in an Oakland Redevelopment Area (or have a deed-restricted home)
2. Have a total household income below 80 percent AMI
3. Posses a solar-suitable roof in good shape (generally less than 12 years old) or be willing to work with the City of Oakland for a low-interest deferred loan
4. Provide basic documents (PGE bill, tax return, homeowners insurance declaration) to GA Staff in a timely way

Contact Jahahara Amen-RA Alkebulan-Ma at Grid Alternatives at 731-1320, jahahara@gridalternatives.org

East Bay Regional Parks Master Plan Survey: You can add your two cents on their online survey for the 2011 Master Plan at <http://www.ebparks.org/planning/mp/survey>.

Strawberry Creek Restoration Program Presentation at Friends of Sausal Creek Meeting, Wednesday, May 18, 7-9 pm, Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue: The Strawberry Creek Restoration Program at UC Berkeley is a success story of habitat renewal in resource-constrained times. Led by students in partnership with the UCB Office of Environment, Health and Safety and the Grounds Management Department, the mostly volunteer program is rolling back nearly 30 years of neglect and invasion by non-native vegetation within the campus natural areas. Join Environmental Protection Specialist Tim Pine and Lead Student Restoration Coordinator Tyler Grinberg for a presentation on the challenges overcome to restore biodiversity and habitat health in UC Berkeley's part of Strawberry Creek. This environmental education presentation takes place at the [bimonthly Friends of Sausal Creek member meeting](#). All are welcome! For more information, call 501-3672 or email coordinator@sausalcreek.org.

Children's Fairyland Garden Day, Saturday, May 28: Featuring Let Worms Eat Your Garbage, presented by [StopWaste.org](#). The Bay-friendly gardening program of Alameda County will provide a demonstration of worm composting, a hands-on activity for kids with educational handouts. Also, spend some time in our vegetable garden with Fairyland horticulturalist Robin North (noon to 3:00pm) while moms and dads get a special opportunity to buy Fairyland-grown plants at super special prices!

6. School and Youth

Ancestry Project Connects Youth to Family Heritage: Every week since February, staff from Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson's Office and volunteers from the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California have met with youth from McClymonds High School and Beyond Emancipation, a program for former foster care youth in Alameda County. Recently they introduced the program to a group of African American young men at the Berkeley Techonlogy Academy. [Read more about the program in Supervisor Carson's newsletter.](#)

Spring Book Fair at Glenview Elementary School, Wednesday, May 18 through Friday, May 20, 4215 La Cresta Avenue: The Book Fair will be open from 8 am to 6 pm on May 18, from 8 am to 8 pm on May 19, and from 8 am to 6 pm on May 20. Stop by and shop for books for your summer reading. All purchases support the school.



13th Annual May Arts Festival, AYPAL, Oakland Asian Cultural Center, Thursday, May 19, 5:30 pm, 388 9th Street, 2nd Floor: API Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership ([AYPAL](#)) hosts its 13th Annual May Arts Festival, featuring performance by AYPAL youth in cultural dance, guerilla theatre, spoken word and visual arts. Prizes raffles and silent auction. Donations appreciated.

7. Safe and Healthy Oakland

OPD Arrests Burglary Suspect in the Hills: On May 3 Oakland Patrol Officer Malcolm Miller responded to 6338 Valley View Road on a report of trespassers inside of an unoccupied home. He located a subject living in the residence illegally, and observed a large number of items that appeared to be stolen merchandise. The Problem Solving Officers, who had been working a Burglary Suppression Project in the Montclair Area responded and began assisting with the identification of the items.

The suspect was arrested and has been identified as 41 year old Lee Crago. Crago has prior convictions for Possession of Stolen Merchandise and Burglary. He was in possession of stolen property from over 10 burglaries. Officers on scene recovered two van loads of items believed to be taken from homes in Oakland, Piedmont, Orinda, Berkeley, and Kensington. The recovered items include personal documents, televisions, computers, tools, and jewelry. Oakland Police Investigators are working diligently to solve all cases that Crago is responsible for and returning the stolen possessions. Anyone with further information concerning this case is asked to call the Oakland Police Criminal Investigation Division at 238-3326.

This is yet another example of how important it is to report suspicious behavior in your neighborhood to your Problem Solving Officer and your Neighborhood Council. Check out the City's website for a [list of Problem Solving Officers](#) and to [locate your Neighborhood Council](#).

New OPD Email for Homicide Investigations: The Oakland Police Department Homicide Section has a new email address for citizens to provide information to investigators about any homicide that has occurred. **Tips can always be submitted by calling 238-3821, or Oaklandhomicide@oaklandnet.com**

Beware of Door to Door Solicitors: As the weather warms up, so do sightings of door-to-door-solicitors. Just this week, the list serv from Crocker Highlands was abuzz about "charming young men encouraging homeowners to purchase books for Children's Hospital as a fund raiser for their school orchestra to take a trip to play with the London Symphony. Note that the City of Oakland requires solicitors to have a permit from the Oakland Police Department. We recommend that you not even open your door to strangers, but if you do and they start their pitch, ask to see their permit and then let them know that it is illegal to solicit door to door without one and that you are going to call the police immediately. Then call the non-emergency number 777-3333 and report what you see. It is also a good idea to spread the word on your local list serv, as well.

Parent Class on Gang Prevention at Carmen Flores Recreation Center, Thursdays, 6-8:30 pm: Project Re-Connect in collaboration with Carmen Flores Recreation Center offers effective parenting classes. Call 482-1738 for details. 1637 Fruitvale Avenue.

May 12, 2011	Nutrition
May 19, 2011	A Safe Home
May 26, 2011	Putting it all Together
June 02, 2011	Celebration

Crime Down for Fourth Year: Even with the surge in homicides, violent crime rates are still going down overall for the city by about 4%; -14% for all crimes. OPD and community leaders in our neighborhood councils and in merchant groups such as the one in the Fruitvale are working together to address crime in our city.

8. Circle Your Calendar.

Seeking Items for Upcoming Friends of the Oakland Animal Shelter Yard Sale this Summer: Help support our pets in need by donating gently used household items for the upcoming fund raiser yard sale. Each item should have at least at \$10 value. All electrical & battery operated equipment should be in working condition. Include any manuals, and all pieces. Wash or dry clean clothing. Dust or clean any equipment. Contact [Amy Haddix](#) or [Jamin Hawks](#) for pick up.

LGBT Roundtable, Monday, May 16, 5:30 pm, Hearing Room 3: Chief Anthony Batts and members of the OPD LBGTQ Advisory Committee will discuss Hate Crimes, Hatzune Aguilar from our office will discuss planning for the San Francisco PRIDE parade, and PRIDE Board members will share plans for Oakland PRIDE's event on Labor Day. For details contact [Ada Chan](#) in Council Member-at-Large Rebecca Kaplan's Office.



National Asian Pacific Islander AIDS Awareness Day, Thursday, May 19:



This year's theme, "Saving Face Does Not Keep You Safe-Talk About HIV" seeks to encourage dialogue and conversation about HIV and the risks associated for HIV infection, especially for women. Did you know: One in three API's living with HIV does not know it. Over half of Pacific Islanders and two-thirds of Asians have never been tested. API women had the largest increase in rates of HIV infection, more than any other ethnic group, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Alameda County, HIV and AIDS in APIs is more prevalent in the 30-39 age group, with 20% in women and 80% in men and 67% were immigrants, born outside of the US. Begun as a social marketing campaign in 2005 by the Bay area based Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center, API AIDS Awareness Day seeks to raise awareness about HIV in API communities nationwide and encourage testing for HIV. Testing is available at Asian Health Services, API Wellness Center, Laney College, with cultural, linguistic and language services available. For additional information, contact [Marsha Martin](#).

Friends of Joaquin Miller Park 2nd Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 21, 10 am, Horseshoe Picnic Area off of Skyline near Sequoia Arena in Joaquin Miller Park: If you enjoy the delights of hiking, biking, horseback riding, or walking your dog along the miles of trails in Joaquin Miller Park, please consider joining the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park, who work together to keep the 500-acre park welcoming. After May 18, stop by the Abbey to see the new educational panels that will be installed as part of a FOJMP renovation project.

Final Spring 2001 Town Hall Meeting in District 7, Saturday, May 21, 1-3:30 pm, East Oakland School of the Arts @ Castlemont, 8901 MacArthur Blvd.: Residents of District 7 are invited to join me and Council President Larry Reid as we break out into groups to focus on issues of specific concern to District 7 residents. Translation will be available. Please contact [Office of the Mayor](#) for details.



6th Annual Walk to End Poverty, Saturday, May 21, 9 am, Oakland Lake Merritt Bandstand: Free community fair, children's activities, and live entertainment. Sponsored by the Oakland Community Action Partnership. For more information visit [OaklandCAP.org](#) or phone 238-2362.

Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association Concert and Fund Raiser for Japan, Sunday, May 29, 7 pm at Yoshi's Oakland, 510 Embarcadero West, Jack London Square: The [Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association](#) is hosting a concert fund-raiser at Yoshi's Oakland with the band Hiroshima. The net proceeds from ticket and CD sales will be donated to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern CA (JCCNC) for Northern Japan Earthquake Relief. Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased [online](#). For details, contact Liane Scott at 482-5896 or email her at lianescott@sbcglobal.net



East Bay Open Studios 2011, June 4-5 and June 11-12: During the first two weekends in June, and throughout the year by appointment, East Bay Open Studios connects the public with over 400 artists in 14 cities in the East Bay. Since 1979, this event remains the largest art event in the region and draws an annual audience over 50,000. This year, more than 400 artists will participate. For details and to get your copy of the Directory, go to www.proartsgallery.org.

Free Art & Music in the Gardens, Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5: "Art and Music in the Gardens" will showcase the East Bay's dynamic art community in a magical, seven-acre garden setting in the heart of Oakland adjacent to beautiful Lake Merritt. Selected artists and gardeners will lead hands-on workshops and performances. A selection of foods, from local sources, will be available for purchase. Botanical and landscape art will be given special consideration and emphasis. Special children's events, demonstrations and activities will be emphasized. The Gardens were recently named a "Top Five California Garden" by AAA's *via Magazine*. For details call Chair [Jerry Miller](#) at 547-8894 or visit [The Gardens at Lake Merritt website](#).

Art in Harmony, An Afternoon with Michael Morgan & Friends,



Saturday, June 4, 2-5 pm, Tessera Gallery, 1225A 7th Street:

Oakland East Bay Symphony's Third Annual Spring Celebration benefiting the Symphony's music, education and outreach programs. Celebrate **Art in Harmony** in a unique urban art space with the delicious food of Devoted Catering by Amiee Alan, the fabulous wines of our Season's Wine Sponsors, live entertainment, and a multitude of silent and live auction items. Individual tickets start at \$90. [For details...](#)



A leader in music education, Oakland East Bay Symphony has developed a comprehensive instrumental music program that serves over 3,000 students in grades 3-12 at eighteen Oakland public schools. Oakland East Bay Symphony's programs serve a student population that is primarily African American, Asian and Latino, in some of the city's most economically depressed neighborhoods. These include Music for Excellence (MUSE), Young People's Concerts, Young Arts Competition, and school visits and ensembles in the schools.

(Above, a past Young People's Concert.)

An Intimate Evening 2011, Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks, Friday, July 29,

2011, 8-10 pm: An elegant evening of music, food, silent auction and entertainment featuring Martin Luther, Tarika Lewis, Lava Band, Bay Area Blues Society, Leticia Theory, Kenny Cooper, Pulse Brasil, Blue Grass/Folk. Enjoy complimentary food and drink. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$35 after June 1. Suggested all white attire. For tickets and additional information, call 238-8791 or go to www.oaklandnet.com/parks.



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