



March 13, 2011

Vol 1, Issue 10



Take A Fresh Look at Oakland

News from Mayor Jean Quan

Greetings!



The devastation in Japan continues to weigh on our minds. It was one of the largest earthquakes in history--so powerful that it moved Japan's coast 8 feet and moved the earth's axis by 4 inches! While we were relieved to receive emails from the government officials in Fukuoka, our sister city in the south of Japan, the disaster has left more than 10,000 people dead, many thousands homeless and millions without water, power, heat or transportation. The death toll is expected to rise as rescue workers reach the northern coastal villages that have essentially vanished. Also, 80,000 have been evacuated because of damage including explosions at two nuclear plants.

- [Yahoo News](#) has a list of at least 8 ways you can help support survivors of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

This publication is not produced at public expense.

In This Issue

1. Building Oakland: Leslie Masler & the Fruitvale Presbyterian Senior Center
2. Discover Oakland This Week
3. City News You Can Use
4. The 25% Solution--Buy Oakland
5. The Greening of Oakland
6. Oakland Works
7. Circle Your Calendar

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Quick Links

- [Official Mayor's Website](#)
- [Official Oakland Website](#)
- [Mayor's YouTube Library](#)
- [Budget Suggestions](#)
- [Constituent Problem Solving](#)
- [Submit items for the newsletter](#)

In the News

- The [NY Times](#) also has a [list and information](#) on how to get information about friends and relatives.

The tragic events in Haiti and Japan serves as a reminder that we, too, need to be prepared:

- Put together an [emergency plan](#) and share with all your family members.
- Create an [earthquake kit](#), with sufficient water (1 gal per day per person) for at least a week.
- Share contact information with your neighbors--better yet, sign up for training with Oakland's [CORE program](#) (Communities Organized to Respond to Emergencies). You can now take the [class online!](#)
- Plan on participating or observing the [April 30 City-wide CORE exercise](#).
- **If your home is not seismically retrofitted, consider making this investment now.** Typical retrofits are \$5,000 to \$20,000 depending on where your home is located, size, and building materials--just a fraction of the cost of replacing or repairing your homes after a major earthquake. This week's special newsletter on Japan included [good resources on retrofitting your home](#).

More Useful Resources:

[72hours.org](#), [FEMA](#), [ABAG Earthquake & Hazards Program](#), [American Red Cross-Bay Area](#)

JOIN THE OAKLAND CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

Many residents have attended the [Citizens Police Academy](#) where they have learned about the people of OPD and how critical decisions are made. There's still room to enroll in the next 14-week session which runs from Monday, April 4 to Monday, July 18, 6-9 pm at the Eastmont Substation, 2651 73rd Avenue. The theme of this year's academy is "Understanding through Communication." The course is free, and a great introduction to OPD and how community and police can work together in strengthening community policing. **The deadline to apply is Friday, March 18.** Call 238-7769 or email Lrubio@oaklandnet.com for details.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Earlier this week, I joined hundreds of women in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of **International Women's Day at the Join WoMEN on the Bridge at the Golden Gate Bridge.** (Left) Bay Area astronaut Dr. Yvonne Cagle spoke to this year's theme of making science and technology accessible to the women of the world. Sponsored by Google, they told us that about 500 groups gathered on bridges around the

[Quan plans Asia trip to encourage Oakland's trade with China](#)

Laura Hautala, Oakland North
March 9, 2011

[Bay Area Women March on Golden Gate Bridge, 16th and Mission for International Women's Day](#)

Rachel Purdy, Bay City News
March 9, 2011

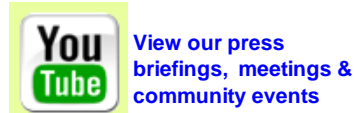
[Census 2010: Bay Area slower-growing, more diverse](#)

Matt O'Brian, Contra Costa Times
March 8, 2011

[Mayor Jean Quan hopes to unify Oakland's Two Cities](#)

Holly Kernan, KALW
March 7, 2011

Follow the Mayor



Discover Oakland

The Story of California.
The Story of You
at
the Oakland Museum of California



Check out the newly redesigned acclaimed museum located in downtown Oakland.

Current exhibits include:

- Contemporary Coda, illuminating current perspectives on the Spanish conquest of California
- Spendors of Faith/Scars of the Missions of Northern New Spain, 1600-1821
- Sneak Peek: Michael C,



world.

International Women's Day was proclaimed in honor of American working women who led major strikes and organizing campaign for safer working conditions, an end to child labor, garment and textile unions, and the right to vote. In this spirit, I enjoyed meeting today's working heroines at a hearing sponsored by the [Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance](#) at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center Saturday. (Below) Home Care workers face deep state cuts.



McMillen: Train of Thought

- Gallery of California Art
- Gallery of California History

*Change will not come
if we wait for some
other person or for
some other time.
We are the ones we
have been waiting for.*

Barack Obama

Other Women's Events:

- On Monday, I will be honored as the 16th **District Woman of the Year by Sandre Swanson**. I will join other honorees on the floor of the Assembly in Sacramento.



AN OAKLAND WOMEN'S HISTORY WALK

- Next **Saturday, March 19, Oakland Walking Tours Program & the Oakland Library History Room** will lead an **Oakland Women's History Walk** at 10 am, starting on the front steps of City Hall and ending at AAMLO, 650 14th Street.
- On **March 24**, I will be joining the [Women's Initiative](#) on a walk at noon to highlight their work with women

entrepreneurs in Oakland. Did you know that Oakland ranks 8th in the nation in the percentage of women-owned businesses? Or that women-owned businesses increasingly are driving the economic health of the top 50 metropolitan areas through job creation and generating revenue.



Mayor Jean Quan

1. Building Oakland: Leslie Masler and the Fruitvale Presbyterian Senior Center

Last year, when the school district was forced to discontinue its Older Adult Program due to state budget cuts, patrons and staff of the Fruitvale Presbyterian Senior Center struggled to keep going.

Then along came **Leslie Masler**, former president of the Montclair Lion's Club and an independent travel agent from Berkeley's Northside Travel. She had stopped by to consider a one-time donation, and ended up regularly volunteering at the Senior Center.

"I was inspired by Center Director Julie Jones' energy and determination to keep that center going. Her exuberance was contagious. I wanted some of that," said Leslie.



Leslie found a way to combine her love of cooking and her desire to give back. Every second Wednesday of each month, Leslie hosts a fund raising luncheon at the center. She purchases all of the food, which she then prepares, caters and serves. Everything is farm fresh and according to the Center patrons, delicious. For \$5, guests receive an entree, vegetable, salad, dessert and ice tea. Leslie donates all proceeds to the center.

She said that after hosting the first fundraiser, she was won over by the wisdom and kindness of the seniors.

"The thought of this Center not continuing broke my heart. It may seem like a gift I'm giving, but in actuality, it's a gift I'm receiving, where I can do my hobby and fill my heart."

Every second Wednesday of the month, 12:15pm, Fruitvale Presbyterian Senior Center, 2735 MacArthur.

*Contributed by Julie Jones
Photography by Tim Chapman*

2. Discover Oakland This Week

OUSD Parent Engagement Town Hall, Wednesday, March 16, 6-8 pm, United for Success Academy, 21010 35th Avenue: Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network (PLAN) is hosting a Town Hall event for Oakland parents, students, teachers and community members. Participants will learn about the results of the OUSD parent engagement survey and help craft policy priorities for OUSD's strategic plan. RSVP online at <http://oaklandfamilieslead.eventbrite.com>. Refreshments childcare and translation/interpretation provided! This event is part of PLAN's Oakland Families LEAD Campaign: Leadership Engagement Action & Democracy in Oakland Schools. Learn more at www.parentactionnet.org.

Birds of the Sausal Creek Watershed, Wednesday, March 16, 7-9 pm, Dimond Library, 3565

Fruitvale Avenue: [Friends of Sausal Creek's](#) next meeting hosts Glen Tepke and his presentation on the fantastic birds of the Sausal Creek Watershed. Glen will use his photos to explain how to identify the common--and no so common-species, describe their habits and habitats, and give tips on where and when to look for them in our own urban wildlife refuge.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Thursday, March 17, Noon- 1 pm, Oakland City Center Plaza: Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day! Join Oakland City Center honor this festive holiday with a special performance by **Driving with Fergus**.



BAUDL Great Debates: Young Leaders on Key Issues, Thursday, March 17, 6-8 pm, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 525 29th Street: Hear some of the Bay Area's most talented young orators, speaking out on the hardest and most pressing issues of our age before a live audience. The topics of the night will include the war in Afghanistan, the future of California Proposition 13, and the effects of international and state policy on local communities in the Bay Area. [BAUDL](#) is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower youth voice through debate in underserved Bay Area high schools. Representing 14 schools across the Bay Area, the young leaders of BAUDL have been hard at work all year honing their debating skills, representing the Bay Area at the nation's top debate tournaments, and developing the power of their words to make positive changes in their communities. For details, contact Tina Law, Bay Area Urban Debate League Program Director: (415) 722-8315 or tinalaw@baudl.org.

Dance Anywhere Event at the Oakland Museum of California, Friday, March 18, Noon-12:45 pm: Join dancers from around the world in this filmed event at OMCA. Put on your dancing shoes and get your groove as you dance your way from the Museum's Oak Street Plaza down to the Zen rock garden. Videographers will be sending images around the world!



National CARES Mentoring Movement offers A New Way Forward Workshop--"Healing What's Hurting Black America"-Friday, March 18 and

Saturday, March 19, Hilton Garden Inn/Oakland Bay Bridge, 1800 Powell Street, Emeryville: Hear how the [National CARES Mentoring Movement](#) is shattering the stereotype that caring for our youth is "women's work." Learn more about this national movement and how they are connecting with the Mayor's 2000 Volunteers project in Oakland. Call 863-4713. [Download the flyer here.](#)

Latino Education Summit, Saturday, March 19, 8 am - 1 pm, Chabot College, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward: The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce presents the 11th Annual Latino Education Summit where Latinos can learn more about pursuing a higher education. Parents and students are welcome to participate in workshops related to how to navigate the higher education system, including admissions, financial aid, scholarship and more. Contact Sandra Genera at sgenera@chabotcollege.edu.

Rockin' Robins Fun Programs for Families at the Library: The popular Rockin' Robins program resumes this month with programs for families with babies newborns to 12 months). This month brings three different programs--Spanish and Chinese translation available at selected branches:

Main Library-Children's Room, 238-3615
[Saturday March 19, 10:30 AM](#) - Yoga For You and Your Baby.

West Oakland Branch, 238-7352
[Saturday March 19, 1:30 PM](#) - Your Baby's Health.
[Saturday March 26, 1:30 PM](#) - Your Baby's Sleeping Issues

Maxwell Park Garden Swap, Sunday, March 20, 4:30-5:15 pm, Maxwell Park picnic tables: Bring your extra seeds, starter plants and garden-grown fruit and vegetables to share. Last year compost worms were a hit. There is a desire for local eggs and more. MP Garden Swaps are held the third Sunday of the month through October. For details, contact Brenda Hansen at myelin@ix.netcom.com.

3. City News: Free Tax Preparation, Deadline for Planning Commission

Surveyors Needed for Food Policy Council Survey in East & West Oakland: The Oakland Food Policy Council is helping several community groups including the HOPE Collaborative, in doing a short survey to find out what East and West Oakland residents want in a grocery store. If you are interested, please attend one of the following trainings:

Monday, March 14, 5:30-7 pm --Grocery Store Training East Oakland
Tassafaronga Recreation Center, 975 85th Avenue
RSVP by Thursday, March 10 to 444-4221 or Sabrina@hopecollective.net

Tuesday, March 22, 5:30-7 pm --Grocery Store Training West Oakland
Peoples Grocery, 909 7th Street
RSVP by Friday, March 18 to 444-4221 or Sabrina@hopecollective.net



Taxes Due April 15. Are you eligible for Earned Income Tax Credit? If you earn less than \$49,000 a year, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) sites are offering free income tax preparation for families making \$49,000 max (no one will be turned away if their income is slightly higher). Certified and confidential free tax preparation is available until April 15. Last year there was a 25% increase in refund returns which came to about \$9 million in Oakland. **Free Tax Help** is available at 17 VITA sites, 9 AARP sites and 1 Tax Aide Site. The AARP sites are at local libraries, including the Main Library, Cesar Chavez, Dimond, Eastmont, and Golden Gate. Click here [for library schedule](#). Contact Sayla at Peoples Federal Credit Union at 267-0450, x305 or sayla.eisner-mix@peoplesfederalcu.org.

Final Call for Planning Commission Candidates for this Cycle: The Planning Commission requires a major unpaid commitment. The Port Commissioners once appointed operate as an independent body without further review. A letter of interest and resume for all appointments should go to [Richard Cowan](#). **Planning Commissioners** make many decisions without further review; major projects must still be approved by the Council and some appeals also go to the Council. At this point I am looking for candidates with experience in planning, the construction industry or development.

Oakland has nearly 30 Boards and Commissions ranging from community policing to cultural affairs. This means that Boards and Commissions can provide over 400 opportunities for rewarding volunteer activity. Since I became Mayor a month ago, my staff has filled upwards of 30 vacancies in this aspect of Oakland civic life, and there are many more openings ready for you to participate. You can access a directory of Boards and Commissions at the [City website](#). Take a look and [let us know](#) where you would like to work.

OPR Accepting Nominations for 2011 Mother of the Year, February 1-March 30: Oakland's Mother of the Year program was initiated in 1954 to publicly honor an Oakland citizen whose contributions to the community symbolize the finest traditions of motherhood. Past honorees have included hard-working, dedicated community servants whose volunteerism has been exemplary. [For more information...](#)

4. The 25% Solution--Buy Locally

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 would eliminate up to one-third of our deficit.

Celebrating the Green in Oakland

Green beer, Guinness, corned beef and cabbage means only one thing - **St. Patrick's Day** is here. Local brew pubs such as **Beer Revolution** will be hot spots to celebrate the holiday, as well as **McNally's Irish Pub** and **Barclay's Pub** on College Ave. The green beer will be flowing at **Cato's Ale House** and sister restaurant **Ben & Nick's Bar and Grill** - a slew of Irish beers will be served all day long at both locations. **Pacific Coast Brewing Co.** in Old Oakland will include the full spectrum of Irish goods, including corned beef, Irish lamb stew, Harp and Guinness on draft, Luck of the Irish Stout and a special Emerald Ale. Put on your green and get ready for the festivities!



Barclay's Pub on College Avenue

5940 College Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618
(510) 654-1650
www.barclayspub.com



Beer Revolution

464 3rd Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 452-Beer
www.beer-revolution.com

Ben & Nick's Bar and Grill

5612 College Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618
(9510) 923-0327



Cato's Ale House

3891 Piedmont Avenue
Oakland, CA 94611
(510) 655-3349

www.mr.cato.com

Crogan's Montclair

6101 La Salle Avenue
Oakland, CA 94611
(510) 339-2098
www.crogansrestaurant.com

McNally's Irish Pub

5352 College Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618
(510) 655-3929

Pacific Coast Brewing Co.

906 Washington Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 836-2739
www.pacificcoastbrewing.com



submitted by Visit Oakland, Food and Drink-March 2011

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



Three important upcoming dates to calendar for Friends of Montclair RR Trail: Ever wonder about who keeps the pathway from Montclair Village to Shepherd Canyon looking so good? It's your neighbors and Friends of Montclair RR Trail. They have a **workday scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 9-11 am and again on Saturday, April 16, 9-11 am.** Volunteers meet the third Saturday of the month for regular work days. Their **annual meeting is set for Saturday, April 9, 1:30-3:30 at the Montclair Recreation Center.** Find out how much this one-year-old volunteer stewardship group has accomplished

during the past year, and join in the fun. Help elect officers. For details, check out their website at www.montclairtrail.org. <<Last year's Earth Day Clean Up at Montcalir RR Trail.

Rain Barrel Sale, Sunday, March 20, Temescal Farmers Market, 490 Cavour Street, 9 am-1 pm:

The Oakland Watershed & Stormwater Management rain Barrel Program is a 3-year initiative to provide rain barrels at a significantly reduced cost in an effort to reduce urban storm water impacts. Use rain barrels to capture roof runoff so that it can be released safely and slowly into the landscape to prevent high flows and erosion on Oakland's hills slopes and in creeks. [Order online](#) and either pay in advance or bring check or money order on March 20. Sorry, no cash.



[Lakeshore Neighborhood Plant Exchange,](#)

Saturday, March 26, Noon-4 pm, 3811 Lakeshore Avenue:

This free event is a great way to meet new neighbors and foster community spirit. Grand Lake Ace Garden Center donates plants, along with local residents' extra plants and cuttings. This spring, they expect 500 people! Donations and volunteers always appreciated. For more information, call 866-8482 or email plantexchange510@gmail.com.

Free Tax Clinic at Elev8 at Madison Middle School, Saturday, March 26, 9 am-Noon, 400

Capistrano Drive: If your 2010 household income was less than \$49,000, you can get free tax help.

Call for an appointment at 639-3336. Contact Andrea Bustamante at andrea.bustamante@ousd.k12.ca.us.

Cesar Chavez Day Farmers Market Festival in Sobrante Park, Thursday, March 31, 9

am-Noon: In celebrating the values and mission of Cesar E. Chavez, the Sobrante Park schools invite community members to a fresh Farmers' Market at James Madison Middle School on the morning of March 31. On this day, James Madison Middle School will also begin its new recycling program, collecting cans for cash, so guests are encouraged to contribute any available recyclables. Contact [Stephanie Gebhardt](mailto:Stephanie.Gebhardt@ousd.k12.ca.us) for details at (707) 332-6452.



Oakland EarthExpo, Wednesday, April 13, 10 am-2 pm, Frank Ogawa Plaza: Plan on stopping by the Plaza for free exhibits from 100 community and environmental groups, green businesses, environmental artists and government agencies. Pass on the news to your friends who work downtown--a great way to spend a lunch break!

Earth Day 2011, Saturday, April 16, 9 am-Noon, all over the city: There are 41 sites registered so far throughout the city, and you have until March 16 to register. You can also stop by one of these staging areas at 9 am:

- Redondo Park, Hardy Circle near Miles Avenue
- Morcom Rose Garden, 700 Jean Street (West of Grand Avenue)
- Raimondi Park (18th & Wood Street)
- Lake Merritt Boathouse (568 Bellevue Avenue)
- Sausal Creek at Dimond Recreation Center, 1860 Hanly Road
- Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465 34th Avenue
- Arroyo Viejo Park & Arroyo Viejo Creek, 7701 Krause Avenue
- Knowland Park at Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Road



For a complete list of sites citywide, visit www.oaklandearthday.com or call 238-76111.

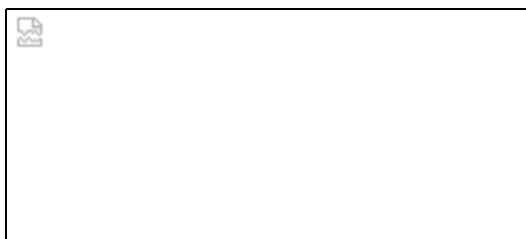
Tilden Botanic Garden Plant Sale, Saturday, April 16, 10 am-3 pm: The East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden is located at the intersection of Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive in Tilden Park, Berkeley. www.nativeplants.org.



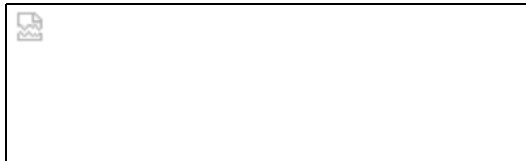
[Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour](#), Sunday, May 1: A free tour of showcase native plants throughout the East Bay. [Register here.](#)

Merritt College Horticulture Spring Community Plant Sale, Saturday, May 7, 9 am-3 -m, and Sunday, May 8, Noon-3 pm: Rare fruits, perennial and annual vegetables, grasses, California natives, food, music, permaculture tours and more. 12500 Campus Drive. www.merrittlandhort.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 Napa and Santa Clara Counties, as well. The [Bay-Friendly Coalition](http://www.bayfriendlycoalition.org) 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.



6. Oakland Works

BUSINESS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

- Request for Proposals:** The Summer Youth Employment Program is a component of the Youth Comprehensive Services Strategy of Measure Y. Employment directly supports the mission of Measure Y for the specific purpose of providing job placements for a minimum of 80 Measure Y eligible high risk youth, targeting court involved youth and juvenile probationers.
- East Bay Regional Park District** offers two training programs for student aides to work year round at the visitor centers or with the Public Safety Department. Call 544-2154 or go to www.ebparks.org.
- Office of Parks & Recreation Aquatic Summer Hiring Event, Saturday, March 19, 9:30 am -3:30 pm, Temescal Swimming Pool, 371 45th Street:** Must be 16 years or older to apply for water safety instructors and lifeguard positions. Bring a copy of your certification, a completed application, swimwear and towel. You can pick up an application at 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2nd floor or download one from www.oaklandnet.com. Call Montrice Goodman at 238-3112 if you have additional questions.
- Green Jobs Opportunities:** The Ella Baker Center has launched a [Green-Collar Jobs Campaign](#) to advocate for creating green pathways out of poverty and into the green economy for low-income people and people of color. Their website lists a number of free training programs designed for adults facing barriers to employment.



7. Circle Your Calendar.

Skyline Performing Arts' "The Wiz", March 23, 24, 25, 25 and April 2, 7:30 pm, March 26 and April 2, 2 pm, Farnsworth Theater, 12250 Skyline Blvd.

Preserving Affordable Housing and Preventing Displacement in the Current Budget Crisis, Friday, March 25, 9:30am-Noon, East Bay Communication Foundation, Frank Ogawa Plaza:

In January of this year, a small group of advocates, policy experts and decision-makers came together to form the [Bay Area Social Equity Caucus](#), to identify how to equitably implement transit-oriented development (TOD) projects throughout the region without displacing Bay Area low-income communities of color. However, with redevelopment agencies and federal funding for community development block grants (CDBG) targeted for budget cuts, many of the tools and resources Bay Area cities rely on to encourage construction of affordable housing and TOD are in jeopardy. Hear from a panel of experts on the latest. **RSVP to Frank@urbanhabitat.org.**

Social Media for Small Business, Friday, March 25, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Oakland City Hall: The City of Oakland is co-sponsoring a social media symposium presented by [Oakland Digital Arts & Literacy Center](#) (ODALC) that is geared to non-profits and community organizations. It is a great opportunity for your business or organization to learn how effective use of social media can help enhance your profile, broaden your customer base and increase sales. Register for free at www.oaklandsocialmedia.com.

Future Fridays at Chabot Space & Science Center, Friday, March 25,



6-7:30 pm: Join science and futurist thought leaders over four evenings during the course of 2011 in a community conversation. Series pass tickets are \$66 Chabot Members/\$78 Guests, or single tickets \$23 in advance/\$29 at the door, subject to availability. The series kicks off with **Dr. Michio Kaku**, just a few days after the release of his new book: *Future: How Science with Change Daily Life by 2100*. [Click here](#) here for details about the entire series.



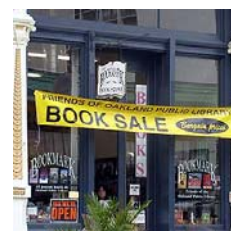
2nd Oakland Running Festival Marathon
[Registration is Open](#) for March 26 & 27:

About 6000 participants are expected in this year's run. They are still looking for sponsors and volunteers, too.



District 1 Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, April 2, 10 am-12:30 pm, North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, (enter through automatic gate on 58th Street): This will be the third of seven Town Hall meetings that I pledged to hold early in my administration. Thanks to volunteers from Block by Block Organizing Network who are planning the program and canvassing neighborhoods to reach out to local residents, I hope that we will continue to have a great turn out as we have had for the first two events. Council Member Jane Brunner is co-sponsoring the Town Hall, during which residents will break out into groups to generate a list of top three priorities in the areas of Public Works (blight, beautification, parks, street trees, sidewalks, potholes, etc.); Public Safety (crime prevention, community policing, NCPC's, Measure Y, gang injunctions, etc.); Economic Development & Zoning; Youth & Schools; Wildfire Prevention, vegetation management, ingress/egress; Traffic Engineering (transportation safety, bike/pedestrian, traffic lights, etc.); Emergency Preparedness (emergency response, earthquake CORE, etc.), Highway 24/Caldecott Tunnel 4th Bore. For additional information, please contact [Richard Cowan](#) in my office at 238-6514.

Bookmark Book Store Spring Book Sale, April 7-10: Mark your calendar for the semi-annual book sale at the Friends of the Oakland Public Library's Bookmark Book Store, located in Old Oakland at 721 Washington Street. Thursday is Member's Choice Day, where books will be sold at 50% off. To join, call 444-0473 or go to their website at <http://www.fopl.org>.



Party with the Castlewood Workers, Saturday, April 9, 7 pm, First Christian Church of Oakland, 111 Fairmount Avenue: One year into the Caslewood lockout, help raise funds to help workers pay their rent. Sponsored by UNITE HERE Local 2850. Individual tickets \$35; Discount tickets \$25. Preregister at www.endthelockout.org or call Sara at 502-5344.



[Purple Silk](#) Spring Concert, Saturday, April 9, 7:30-9:30 pm, Farnsworth Theater, Skyline High School, 12250 Skyline Blvd: A wonderful evening of music in support of music education for inner-city children of Oakland through traditional Chinese instruments. Hear the Great Wall Youth Orchestra and Chorus of Laney College and the Purple Bamboo Orchestra and



Chorus of Lincoln Elementary School. Tickets are \$35 (Section A) and \$25 (Section B). [Purchase and print tickets online](#) or email purplesilkevents@gmail.com.

Centro Legal de la Raza's 42nd Annual Gala, Wednesday, April 20, 6-10 pm, Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive: This year's theme is Keeping Immigrant Families Together. I will be the keynote speaker at the annual Gala and fund raiser that also honors outstanding community leaders:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award to Bill Ong Hing**, Professor of Law at the University of San Francisco, author and founder of the immigrant Legal Resource Center in San Francisco.
- **Community Justice Award to Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP**, that filed one of the first and principal challenges to the constitutionality of Arizona's new immigration law, SB1070.
- **2011 Youth Law Academy Graduating Seniors**

[Tickets](#) are \$120. For more information, call Jennifer Miller at 437-1554, ext. 127 or email her at jennifermiller@centrolegal.org.

