



March 20, 2011

Vol 1, Issue 11



# Take A Fresh Look at Oakland

News from Mayor Jean Quan

Greetings!

*This publication is not produced at public expense.*



Mayor Quan and new friends on the path to the Golden Gate on International Women's Day.

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**WOMEN'S MONTH BANNER2:** (l-r) Graduate of the Baby College parent education program at Havenscourt Middle School, expressing solidarity with Libyan women on International Women's Day, and Tomoko Roudebush and Tatiana Colon of [Start Strong](#) receive a proclamation for [Teen Dating Violence Week](#).

## Quick Links

- [Official Mayor's Website](#)
- [Official Oakland Website](#)
- [Mayor's YouTube Library](#)
- [Budget Suggestions](#)
- [Constituent Problem Solving](#)
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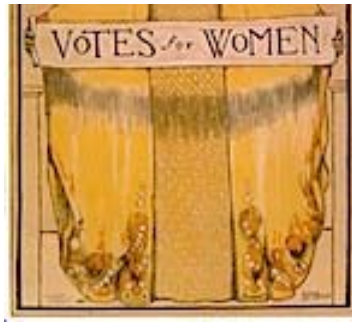
This year is the [100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote in California](#). Women's Month comes to a close this week:

- On Monday, **March 21, 10 am - Noon**, the State



## In the News

Assembly recognizes a person from each district as woman of the year. I am honored to be named by our Assembly member Sandre Swanson for this year.



- 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 revenues.
- **Isadora Duncan's Legacy, Saturday, March 26, 1-2 pm, Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave:** Join Lois Flood for an unforgettable performance of the lyric, dramatic, and heroic dances of legendary dance pioneer Isadora Duncan who was born in San Francisco (1877-1927). She was a powerful symbol of women's emancipation and created a revolution in aesthetics through modern dance. The performance will begin with a brief lecture about Isadora's life, including her influence on early twentieth century art and culture, the Russian Ballet, fashion and women's freedom.
- **Women's Poetry Salon, Saturday, March 26, 2-4 pm, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero:** Local Poets Christina Hutchins, Janell Moon, Lucille Lang Day, Lynne Knight, Jeanne Wagner and Eileen Malone read from their newest published books of poetry in this Salon Read-Around. Poet Andrena Zawinski is the M.C. Light refreshments served.



Mayor Quan and Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew at the White House.

[Parents share their nurturing skills at Oakland Baby Learning Communities](#)

Laura Hautala, Oakland North  
March 14, 2011

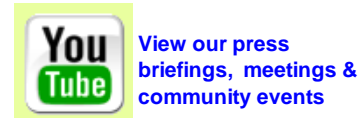
[Mayor Quan talks budget numbers; will ask city employees to give back](#)

Jennifer Ward, Oakland Local  
March 13, 2011

[Census: Not quite '10K,' but Bay Area sees population spurt in some downtown areas](#)

Cecily Burt and Matt O'Brien, Oakland Tribune,  
March 10, 2011

### Follow the Mayor



### Discover Oakland

#### Serene Lake Temescal



Whether you arrive at dawn for an early walk amidst the morning mist, or later in the day when families are picnicking and joggers and dog owners are circling the lake, a visit to North Oakland's Lake Temescal is always rejuvenating.

Part of the [East Bay Regional Parks System](#), the lake is open to dogs on leash. Swimming at the lake available in the summer and fishing during fishing season.

## ON THE ROAD AND BACK

Since last week's newsletter I have been on the road, meeting with White House and Administration officials while attending the [National League of Cities Congress](#). I also spent two days in New York City visiting government counterparts, foundations, learning about the 9-11 recovery in lower Manhattan, receiving a Civil Rights award and attending receptions in the Chinese community. I am writing this from Yosemite where I took over the gavel as the Chair of the [Local Government Commission](#), the premier non-profit helping government officials plan livable and sustainable cities. (See#4) I am looking forward to being home. See you soon!

*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*

Mayor Jean Quan

## 1. Building Oakland: Oakland Rotary's "Oakland Reads"



<<Oakland Rotarian Giovanna Tanzillo presents three books each to 22 third graders at Millsmont Elementary School.

This week, 100 volunteers from The Rotary Club of Oakland #3 donated 12,700 books to 75 public schools in Oakland and Emeryville in a three-day blitz.

"By delivering a free backpack containing three books to every third grader in Oakland and Emeryville, Oakland Reads is designed to provide children with enjoyable books to own and take home," said Travis Neal, co-chair of the clubs Youth & Education Committee. "Third grade is a crucial time to build reading proficiency or a child risks falling behind in school," added Ginni Ring,

the other co-chair.

The planning and logistics for the effort-- now in its fourth year-- begins in the fall. There are last year's books to be inventoried, new books to be vetted and ordered, books to be sorted and packed in boxes labeled with the correct number per classroom and the name of the teacher for each of the 228 traditional and charter classrooms receiving books.

Additional classroom book sets for K-2nd grade students are distributed to the neediest schools. Also included are book sets for patients at Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland and for youth in programs at Lincoln Child Center and the East Bay Agency for Children. Earlier this year, Oakland Rotary donated over 3,000 additional books to Oakland-based literacy groups through the Oakland Literacy Coalition.



For more information, visit [Oakland Rotary's website](#).

*Contributed by JoAnn Driscoll*

## 2. Discover Oakland This Week



**Skyline Performing Arts' "The Wiz", March 23, 24, 25, 26 and April 2, 7:30 pm, March 26 and April 2, 2 pm, Farnsworth Theater, 12250 Skyline Blvd:** Bring your family or other youth and support our students. Enjoy Skyline High School's adaptation of the Tony award winning musical, *The Wiz*, a soulful retelling of L Frank Baum's Book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, with songs such as "Ease on Down the Road." Produced by Skyline Performing Arts Academy Director Jan Hunter. Direction and choreography by LaTonya Watts, pit orchestra led by Vincent Toliver, vocal coaching by Aretha Cooper. Tickets are \$10 at the door, \$8 for children under 10 or seniors over 65. Advance tickets

available for \$8 at the school box office. Call 879-3060.

### **Preserving Affordable Housing and Preventing Displacement in the Current Budget Crisis, Friday, March 25, 9:30am-Noon, East Bay Community 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 state 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 build affordable housing are in jeopardy. Hear from a panel of experts on the latest developments. **RSVP to [Frank@urbanhabitat.org](mailto: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](http://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*. Michio is a family friend and has been outspoken on the dangers in Japan. [Click here](#) here for details about the entire series.

**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](mailto:andrea.bustamante@ousd.k12.ca.us). See #5 for more locations.

### **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.

### 3. Disaster Preparedness & More Ways to Help Japanese Families

#### Helping Japan

The news from Japan is hard to watch. Nearly half a million are in shelters, about 18,000 have been confirmed dead, and another 10,000 are missing. >>Family in shelter. NYT Photo



While Japan is more affluent than Haiti and may not need much more emergency aid, the recovery for these towns and families will require much more help for a long time. Right now contributions are running far behind other similar disasters. In the aftermath of the Loma Prieta Earthquake and the Hills Firestorm I was very moved by the help we received from Japanese cities and associations. Over the years we continue to communicate with Kobe and other earthquake preparation efforts in Japan.

- **Local donation centers:**

- **The Consulate in San Francisco** ([http://www.sf.us.emb-japan.go.jp/e\\_top.htm](http://www.sf.us.emb-japan.go.jp/e_top.htm)) has information pages up now about the disaster, and is also serving as a clearing house if you seek more information.
- **Buddhist Church of Oakland**--will be collecting donations through April 20. A relief agency has not yet been designated but they have received requests that the monies be donated to an agency that will use as much of the money to direct relief, and not to administrative overhead expenses of the relief agency. Please have contributions made to: Buddhist Church of Oakland with a memo note of "Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief". Either drop off in the church office, or mail to: 825 Jackson Street, Oakland, CA
- **Japan Society of Northern California** partnered with Give2Asia to establish a relief fund that will channel donations toward disaster relief and recovery: <http://give2asia.org/japansociety>
- **Japan Pacific Resource Network (JPRN)**- a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, JPRN serves as a "bridge" between America and Japan on social and community issues. Fundraising is co-sponsored with Eclipse Rising. Contributions are tax-deductible. Please make a note for "Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Fund" and sent to JPRN, 310 8th Street, Suite 305A, Oakland, CA 94607.
- **American Red Cross** [https://american.redcross.org/site/Donation2?5052.donation=form1&df\\_id=5052&idb=0](https://american.redcross.org/site/Donation2?5052.donation=form1&df_id=5052&idb=0)
- **World Vision** <http://www.worldvision.org/HelpJapan>
- **Save the Children** <http://www.savethechildren.org/JapanQuake>

- **Mercy Corps** <http://www.mercycorps.org/japan>

## Preparing Here at Home:

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 Citywide CORE exercise.** So far about 60 neighborhood groups are participating in our annual citywide preparation for an earthquake on the Hayward Fault. Neighbors rehearse a search for victims, establishing emergency first aid and communication centers, and communicating with the central citywide Emergency Operations Center for the city.  
>> *CORE volunteers rehearse a public service announcement at the Emergency Operations Center.*



## Calling all Thespians

the City seeks volunteer victims for the April 30 CORE exercise. You will act out the role of a person injured by the simulated quake, giving neighborhood volunteers an opportunity to practice their Disaster First Aid skills. No experience is required. You must be 18 years of age or older, Interest in improvisational acting is helpful. Oakland residency is not required, nor is prior participation in CORE. Prepare to give 4 hours on Saturday April 30. For details, call 238-6351 or to go\_ <http://www.core@oaklandnet.com>

- **If your home is not seismically retrofitted, consider making this investment now.** Typical retrofits are \$4,000 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](#). Thanks to Japan's much more strict building standards very few of the deaths were due to the seismic damage; most were victims of the tsunami.

[It is predicted that a major expected on the Hayward Fault \(which runs through Oakland\) could lead to up to 15,000 deaths.](#) WE CAN CHANGE THIS BY RETROFITTING OUR HOMES AND BUILDINGS. My staff and I have been working on seismic retrofit standards and increasing funding for retrofit assistance for many years. If you own a building, determine whether your building needs a seismic retrofit and get it done. The costs far outweigh the risk of losing your building or life.

## More Useful Resources:

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

## 4. On the Road & Back

In January I was honored to be invited to the White House to meet the President of China by President Obama and the trip raised the City's profile nationally and internationally. This week's travel was not high profile but the events demonstrate the many roles a mayor plays:

- After speaking at 3 community programs on Saturday, I caught a red-eye flight to Washington, DC just in time to join a meeting of **big city mayors at the League of Cities** where we discussed the possible shut down of the federal government and proposed budget cuts. We focused on the deep cuts to the Community Development Block Grants and transportation funds, but we also talked about the proposed cuts to schools -- Headstart and Title 1 funds for low income and immigrant kids (a big part of Oakland Schools budget). While most of us don't run schools, we know the effect on the economy, jobs and crime in our cities. We propose a bipartisan letter from big city mayors against the deep cuts in education programs including Headstart, Workforce Investment Job Training Programs, and Title 1 in hopes of capturing some attention. I also attended the [Asian Pacific American Municipal Officers](#) meeting where I serve on the board as immediate past chair and met with members of the President's Commission on Asian Pacific American Initiatives.



During the next two days we were addressed by many top administration officials and the First Lady who championed her campaign to provide students healthy choices to combat the growing epidemic of childhood obesity and juvenile diabetes, [Let's Move!](#) Oakland is already doing many of these things, but I'll try to launch an official city page next week.

Between sessions I also met with several administration officials on critical issues -- job training and employment coordination with the Department of Labor, the Oakland Port and upcoming trade missions with Commerce, regional coordination on homelessness, regional coordination on youth violence with reps of the Department of Justice programs, and specific Oakland initiatives with the White House.



- I spent two days in New York at my own expense to visit foundations and to receive an award from [Asian Americans for Equality \(AAFE\)](#), a civil rights and housing organization that my husband and I helped when he was attending medical school and I worked as a patient advocate for the NY City Hospitals. 35 years ago as young professionals we organized demonstrations to help Chinese construction workers get jobs building Confucius Plaza (*behind us left*) and AAFE was born. We recalled how contractors told us "Asians were too

small." We asked them who they thought built the Great Wall of China, the Transcontinental Railroad, or the levees of the California Central Valley?

I made a stop at NY City Hall where New York's first Asian American City Council woman Margaret Chin hosted a reception in my honor and I met members of the Women's, African American, and Latino caucuses of their 51 member City Council (*above right*). I visited several Chinatown organizations and was particularly interested in how the community has rebuilt after the 9-11 destruction. Below left, I met with Chinatown Partnership, a coalition of Chinatown business and community groups similar to our business improvement districts. Much of lower Manhattan has been disrupted by new security measures and street closures; local businesses are struggling to bring people back downtown.



I squeezed in a visit with Corey Booker, the mayor of Newark, whose election and passion for urban excellence are very similar to mine. My daughter brought home the documentary, "Street Fight" about his first failed race for mayor and I had hoped to meet. We agreed to get together again (*above right*).

- **Local Government Commission:** On Friday morning we left before dawn and landed in California in time to drive to Yosemite for the steering committee and 20th Annual gathering of elected officials working on livable communities. Several of the new Brown administration leaders attended including Heather Fargo, Executive Director, Strategic Growth Council; Panama Bartholomy, Deputy Director, California Energy Commission; and John Laird, Secretary of the California Resources Agency. Despite the fight to preserve Redevelopment funds, the group tried to focus on how to continue smart growth that can meet our green house goals and plan sustainable cities whatever the outcome.

The Local Government Commission has been a leader in what is called the "new Urbanism movement." These simple, plain English guidelines known as the [Ahwahnee Principles](#) are easy to understand and are thought provoking.

## 5. City News: Export Conference, Grocery Store Survey for West & East Oakland



**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 the following training:

**Tuesday, March 22, 5:30-7 pm --Grocery Store Training West Oakland**  
Peoples Grocery, 909 7th Street. RSVP to 444-4221 or



[Sabrina@hopecollective.net](mailto:Sabrina@hopecollective.net)  
Graphic from PolicyLink

**2011 Northern California MegaRegion Exports Summit,  
Friday, April 15, 7:30-2:30 p-m, Oakland Marriott-City**

**Center:** President Obama's goal is to increase jobs by doubling exports by 2015. Oakland is one of the few ports in the nation to export about the same as we import and can play a key role.

As Mayor I appoint Port Commissioners and plan at least one trade mission. To increase jobs, exports and imports I have been actively working on this annual regional summit sponsored by the Port, the City of Oakland and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. I am inviting public officials from across Northern California to join businesses for an in-depth look at the state of our regional economy. We hope to improve the organization of our export market which is increasingly selling foods, wines, small medical equipment and other exports to Asia. ["Competing Globally, Succeeding Locally"](#) will leverage expert opinions and unique access to public officials to address the implications of this new economic reality at home. To register, call 874-4800, ext. 319.



## FREE TAX HELP



**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](mailto:sayla.eisner-mix@peoplesfederalcu.org).

**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, my staff has filled many vacancies and there are many more openings ready for you to participate in. 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...](#)

## 6. The 25% Solution--Buy Oakland

*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-third of our deficit.*

## The Oakland Renaissance

"Oakland, once known for grit, crime and the Raiders, has changed. Trendy shops, nightclubs and restaurants have moved in, along with modern condos to go with Art Deco gems."

Click here for the [LA Times Travel Article by Irene Lechowitzky](#) that ran on March 20.

# MONTCLAIR VILLAGE RESTAURANT WALK



A WALKING TOUR FEATURING THE TASTES OF MONTCLAIR

**Tuesday, April 26, 6-8:30 pm**

Here's a great way to taste test the restaurants of **Montclair Village** while helping your local community. Started in 2009, the event is sponsored by the **Montclair Village Association** and the **Montclair Lions Club**. For \$25, you receive a Restaurant Walk book of tickets to a variety of restaurants in the village.

Expected participants include:

- Amba
- Colonial Donuts
- Crogan's Montclair
- El Agavero Mexican Cuisine & Bar
- Farmstead Cheeses and Wines
- Flavors of India Bistro
- Flippers
- Grille One Carvery
- Kakui Sushi
- Kotobuki
- Italian Colors Ristorante
- Metro Montclair
- Montclair Baking
- Montclair Bistro
- Montclair Malt Shop
- Paraung Thai Cuisine
- Silver Palace
- Taqueria Las Comadres 2
- The Full Plate
- Toshi Shshi
- Yogofina



Proceeds support Lions Club Charities. To purchase tickets (you must purchase tickets ahead of time!) visit **Viewpoint** (ask for Richard at 2069 Mountain Blvd, Oakland, CA 94611), **Wheels of Justice** (2042 Mountain Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94611), **The Book Tree** (6121 La Salle Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611), or **Safeway** (ask for Bill at 2096 Mountain Blvd, Oakland, CA 94611). For details, go to the [Montclair Village website](#)

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.



## 7. The Greening of Oakland



**Two 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, 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](http://www.montclairtrail.org). <<Last year's Earth Day Clean Up at Montclair RR Trail.

**Lakeshore Neighborhood Plant Exchange, Saturday, March 26,**

**Noon-4 pm, 3811 Lakeshore Avenue:** This free event organized by Odette Pollar and her neighbors is a great way to meet new neighbors and foster community spirit. Grand Lake Ace Garden Center donates plants also. Bring your extra plants and cuttings to participate; this spring, they expect 500 people! Donations and volunteers always appreciated. For more information, call 866-8482 or email [plantexchange510@gmail.com](mailto:plantexchange510@gmail.com). Photo by Ken Katz.



**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@schools.k12.sobrante.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

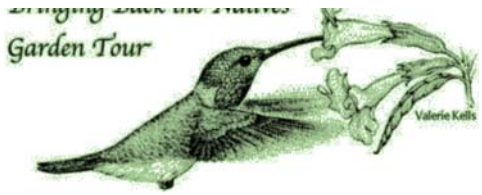


For a complete list of sites citywide, visit [www.oaklandearthday.com](http://www.oaklandearthday.com) or call 238-76111.

**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](http://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](http://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 is 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.



## 8. 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](http://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](http://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.



## 9. School & Youth Events

**Baby College for Parents:** Last week over 40 parents graduated from the Baby Learning Communities Collaborative or "Baby College," a program of 6 parenting classes designed to give kids and their families a great



start. Modeled after the Harlem Kids Zone, children in these programs are ready for school and are academically successful. The City, County and School District have joined to fund this program through our intergovernmental partnership, Safe Passages. We are now starting a new round; if you know of parents with children under 3 or pregnant mothers near Madison Middle School, please contact [aperez@oaklandnet.com](mailto:aperez@oaklandnet.com)



**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](mailto:purplesilkevents@gmail.com).

## Easter Activities for the Family

- **Great Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 23, Noon-3 pm, Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court:** Call 615-5555 for details.
- **Tap Dancing Easter Bunnies at Children's Fairyland, Saturday, April 23, 11:30 am:** Featuring Critters By The Bay walk-around bunny characters. The Tap Dancing Easter Bunnies dance their way into your holiday weekend celebrations. Children's Fairyland located at 699 Bellevue Ave., 452-2259.
- **Montclair Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 24, 9 am sharp:** Montclair Park.



## 10. Circle Your Calendar.

**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, NCP'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



**Greenbelt Alliance Broadway-Valdez Specific Plan Policy Platform,**



**Thursday, April 7, 5:30-7:30 pm**, at the former Connell Chrysler Jeep Dodge Dealership adjacent to Z Cafe and Bar at 27th and Broadway: The City of Oakland is pursuing a specific plan to guide new development along the nearly 1-mile stretch of Broadway between 23rd Street and Highway 580. The [Broadway-Valdez Retail Corridor Specific Plan](#) will create a framework for the construction of over 1 million square feet of new retail and more than 1,700 new homes. Hear [details of the policy platform](#) and then discuss in detail. RSVP to Marla Wilson at [mwilson@greenbelt.org](mailto:mwilson@greenbelt.org).

**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](http://www.endthelockout.org) or call Sara at 502-5344.

**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.
- **20011 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](mailto:jennifermiller@centrolegal.org).



**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](http://OaklandCAP.org) or phone 238-2362.



Try it FREE today.