

# Temescal News & Views

Published by Temescal Neighbors Together with the support of Temescal merchants



*Temescal News & Views* is published bimonthly and distributed to 3,000 households, schools and businesses.

## Our Mission

The mission of TNT is to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community through revitalization of our homes, businesses, schools and public services by providing an ongoing forum for community education, interaction and empowerment.

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*Thank You!*

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Changes for Temescal Amity Works

After 2 1/2 years, Temescal Amity Works will be closing its storefront this coming February. It has been an enriching and productive time, and we have thoroughly enjoyed the process of getting to know neighbors and the neighborhood itself through our fruit sharing project as well as the walks and public programs we have hosted. The project has developed and grown in ways we could never have expected through the effort and spirit of the many residents and supporters that have participated and attended our events.

Our hope is to continue the project in more nomadic ways; we hope to repeat last years' successful neighborhood marmalade and are thinking about more neighborhood walks this spring. Most importantly, however, we would like your input on this next phase! We would love to talk about ways to continue the Big Backyard neighborhood fruit sharing network and other possibilities for local micro-economies. On Saturday January 27th at 11 AM we are hosting a conversation at the Amity Works headquarters (482 D 49th Street, in the alley behind Bank of the West) and we would love to see you and hear from you. Locally gleaned snacks will be served.

Throughout these last weeks in the storefront, we will continue to be open on Saturdays from 1:00-5:00 PM or by appointment. As always, if you have more back-yard citrus or other winter produce that you don't have time to pick and can't use for yourself. We will come pick it or pick it up and distribute it free from our storefront! For information, appointments or fruit picking, please call us at 428-1210. If you are not on our email list send us an email at [bigbackyard@amityworks.org](mailto:bigbackyard@amityworks.org).

—Susanne Cockrell and Ted Purves, Amity Works

### Studio One Renovation Continues on Schedule

Renovation work on Temescal's National Historic Landmark Studio One Art Center continues unabated through the winter, on schedule for an expected completion this summer. The \$12 million



Every two months, TNV distributors hit the streets to deliver the newsletter to your doorstep. Chica, the Newsletter Delivery Dog, helps volunteer Sue Mark on her route.

remodel of the 1894 former Children's Home will result in returning dozens of popular art classes to a state-of-the-art facility later this year.

Although the 45th St. site remains off-limits to its thousands of friends and supporters, ongoing progress by local contractor BBI Construction is visible to neighbors and passerby. Much of the concrete slab work is now complete. A pour of some 340 cubic yards alone...roughly thirty truckloads...had earlier completed a new foundation. Most basement and underground plumbing work is done, as are much of the time consuming structural steel fabrications and installation. Progress continues on the new elevator, a modern addition to this 19<sup>th</sup> century building, and on the building's roof, with interior work to begin in the months ahead.

With an ongoing series of fund raising events and neighborhood house parties, the Friends of Studio One campaign for new furnishings is also on

### Temescal News and Views Editorial Policy

TNV publishes submissions from community members. We do not fact-check, although we correct inaccuracies if we know about them. We strive to achieve a neutral tone and may edit articles accordingly, but ultimately TNV reflects the point of view of the authors and not that of the editors.

### Thank You to Our Donors and Sponsors

The newsletter is an all volunteer effort but depends on donations and sponsorships to pay for printing. Many thanks to the following neighbors and merchants for their generous contributions in 2006!

**Reed Brothers Security**  
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**Sarah Welsh**  
**Carl Martin**  
**Chris Mahoney Pew**  
**John Schindel**  
**Thad Shaffer**  
**Lisa Gartland**  
**Mary Ann Maxwell**

track to reach its goal of \$330,000, its initial quarter million dollars having been secured with city funds by Councilperson Jane Brunner.

The Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities has awarded the Studio \$27,500 for a front-loading kiln and adjustable tables and easels, all designed to help insure that the renovated facility is fully accessible. Temescal developers Roy Kriss and Ron Alper have joined the campaign with a pledge of at least \$15,000. And local gallery operators Crystal Morey, Mike Simpson and Derek Weisberg of Boontling Gallery have pledged the proceeds of a well-attended December cartoon art sale.

To support the Studio by hosting a house party or to help the furnishings campaign otherwise reach its goal, or simply to learn more of the history of Studio One and its role

in our community, call Beth Maher at 420-5852 or visit [www.friendsofstudioone.org](http://www.friendsofstudioone.org).

To further its advocacy work, Friends of Studio One is actively seeking a local attorney and a local CPA or bookkeeper to join its board. If interested, please call Patrick Daughton at 652-1052 or [pdaughton@earthlink.net](mailto:pdaughton@earthlink.net).

—Patrick Daughton, Friends of Studio One

### Toastmasters in Temescal

Survey after survey shows that communication and leadership skills are crucial to success at work and in business. Toastmasters International, established in 1924, offers inexpensive yet proven and enjoyable ways to gain:

- Hands-on experience in communications and leadership
- Skills in giving effective presentations
- Confidence in speaking before groups
- Ability to think and respond quickly on your feet
- Sharper listening skills

The effectiveness of Toastmasters is evidenced by the thousands of corporations that sponsor in-house clubs that serve as training workshops for employees. Toastmasters can be found in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as in a variety of community organizations, prisons, universities, hospitals, military bases and churches.

In Oakland's Temescal, there is the East Bay Toastmasters Club located at 4130 Telegraph Avenue. Chartered in June 1997, East Bay Toastmasters was recognized as a distinguished club by international headquarters where its members went on to earn numerous public speaking and leadership awards. The club meets every Monday from 7- 8:30 PM.

For more information contact Bill Smith, Vice President of Education and Acting Area Governor at 652-5912 or [smithbi@sonic.net](mailto:smithbi@sonic.net).

— Bill Smith, Toastmasters

### BUSINESS NEWS

#### City Council Postpones Appeal of 4700 Telegraph Proposal

Following a well organized turnout of North Oakland neighbors opposed to the development proposed for 4700 Telegraph Ave., the City Council at its December 5th meeting voted to postpone for two weeks a decision

on the Appeal of the project brought by the North Oakland Alliance for a Sustainable Community.

Attending the City Council meeting were more than fifty neighbors from Temescal and North Oakland who oppose the project. The number of those speaking against the proposal, which was approved by the Planning Commission in July, was almost three times the number of those who spoke in support of it. Neighbors addressed a wide range of concerns, including the project's excessive density and height, absence of affordable housing, and lack of public process. Patrick Zimsky, one of the three partners who own and plan to develop the site, defended the project as proposed and urged the council to deny the Appeal, as did four others who spoke.

During the hearing, Councilmember Jane Brunner publicly underscored the validity of the community's objections to the development. She also pointed to the city's culpability in having perpetuated the inconsistencies between the General Plan and the city's Zoning Ordinance that have left neighborhoods without clear zoning regulations and its citizens little choice but to appeal each and every contested development that comes along.

In her attempt to strike a compromise with the developers, Councilmember Brunner offered a proposal that included removing the fifth (top) story from a third of the project and requiring five units of affordable housing to replace the eleven existing rental units that the developers want to remove from the site. However, her motion, which was rejected by the developers, garnered four ayes, two nays, and two abstentions, thus failing to achieve the necessary majority by one vote.

The council then agreed to table the Appeal for two weeks to allow Councilmember Brunner more time to negotiate a compromise. The issue is expected to come back to the City Council at its December 19th meeting (after this newsletter goes to press).

To check the status of the Appeal, or for information about how you can participate in the community planning process sponsored by Councilmember Brunner and now underway in Temescal, contact her office at 238-7001, [jbrunner@oaklandnet.com](mailto:jbrunner@oaklandnet.com).

—Jeff Norman, Temescal resident and member of the North Oakland Alliance for a Sustainable Community

## New Eatery Breaks Ground on Telegraph

Construction is well under way for Nulbom (English translation: new spring) a previously TN&V showcased Korean eatery soon to be located at 4869 Telegraph. This restaurant will fill the space that was left vacant for nearly two years by the post office and will certainly tempt walkers-by into sampling the mouth-watering fresh selections.

Nulbom is just another addition to what *Diablo* magazine called in 2004, “the next Gourmet Ghetto,” when it compared our neighborhood to Berkeley’s Shattuck Avenue District: a home to many popular restaurants.

Patrons of Nulbom will delight in the interactive experience of cooking a selection of fresh meats and vegetables on a tabletop grill all in an inviting, remodeled atmosphere complete with high ceilings and skylights. The new restaurant also boasts a large private banquet room perfect for group occasions.

For more information on restaurants in the neighborhood, go to: <http://www.sfgate.com/traveler/guide/eastbay/neighborhoods/temescal.shtml>.

– Perry Riani, Lawton Associates

## Happenings At Désa Arts

From January 31 through April 3, we present *Gong Designs - An Exhibition of Handcrafted Furniture*. Come see distinctive teak furniture and display pieces crafted from high quality reclaimed wood. Join us for a special pre-sale the weekend of January 27 from 12-5 PM.

Starting January 2 at 11 AM, renowned Balinese dancer, Kompiang Metri Davies will teach an 8 week traditional Balinese Dance class for girls ages 7-10. The class will run for 8 weeks. Please contact the gallery at 595-1669 for more info and to sign up. Class size is limited to 8 students. Dates/times are subject to change.

On February 10 from 11 AM - 6 PM, we offer a Valentine’s Gift Bazaar featuring Jewelry and Sensual Delights. Come browse for handmade gifts for your sweetie

Please check our website at [www.desaarts.com](http://www.desaarts.com) frequently for upcoming workshops and performances. Our winter/spring event calendar will include a Shadow Puppet Show, a Workshop on Traditional Ayurvedic Medicine, and an Exhibition of Southeast Asian Textiles. Don’t miss out!

– Lisa Tana, Désa Arts

## Tip Top Bike Shop Coming Soon

A month ago in a meeting of the Temescal Telegraph Business Improvement District (BIID) Committee on Economic Development someone mentioned an upcoming vacancy near 48<sup>th</sup> and Telegraph. After the meeting ended, the news spread. Within two weeks we had a great new tenant coming to the Avenue!

Located conveniently at 4800A Telegraph Avenue, right across from Lanesplitters Pizza, the new Tip Top Bike Shop will offer quality bicycles and service. At the shop, you will be able to find a range of adult bicycles from cruisers to downhill bruisers, as well as all sorts of cycling accoutrements.

The owners, Richard & Charlotte Oelerich, are enthusiastic about bicycling and their Temescal location, “We aim to be a fun, friendly bike shop that caters to all riders: women and men, coasters and hammerers, commuters and Sunday riders. We are here to help people enjoy a healthy, happy lifestyle in which bicycles are used everyday for transportation, recreation, exercise, and adventure. We know it works because we are everyday riders ourselves.”

Come and have a peek starting in the New Year and be ready for the grand opening in the early spring. Until then Tip Top Bike Shop encourages all neighborhood cyclists to ride early, ride often, ride late—just ride.

– Bill Lambert, Temescal/Telegraph BID, Economic Development Committee

## Signs of Life in Lower Shattuck—New Businesses Open

Life seems to be slowly returning to the lower Shattuck Ave. corridor. Though there is plenty of car traffic, the street seems less inviting for pedestrians. From 51st to 45th, Shattuck seems like a ghost town, while a block away on Telegraph Ave, we find our quaint section of downtown Temescal. Fortunately, new businesses are arriving in the 4900 block of Shattuck behind the Post Office and I am hopeful and eager for their success.

The other day, I stopped by Irv’s Shoe Repair, in need of his service and had a friendly chat while there. Irv explained how he was brought to this street after 50 years in the shoe repair business. After owning over 20 shops over these years, Irv went into retirement to spend more time with his family, but now has recently returned in order to keep

himself occupied. He also recently transferred from another location on College Ave. and he said that he’s glad to be here on Shattuck Ave. because of all the cross traffic that can bring in new customers. Having lived in Oakland for the past 35 years, Irv has a dedication to our city and a very easy-going attitude. When I realized that I didn’t have cash on hand for my shoe repair, he insisted that I could pay later. Irv seems confident that his store will do well here because he knows that people with good quality shoes will still be in need of his business for quality repairs. As I was turning to leave, I asked about the couple of chairs in the front of the room and he mentioned some repairs are quick enough that you can sit and comfortably wait there a few minutes. He also repairs luggage, shines shoes, and duplicates keys.

Next door to Irv’s Shoe Repair is Ruby’s Garden, which sells fresh cut flowers, gifts, and clothing for babies and young kids. I stopped in for some flowers and a sun hat for a baby gift. This cozy shop is owned by Mary and Mae, who live a few blocks from the shop. Mary was the first to notice the vacancies on this lonely block and she day-dreamed about a business that would liven up that section of Shattuck. She first considered opening a floral shop since she is an

## Editorial Changes for TNV

With this issue, editors Carla Koop and Ruth Fergus are leaving the Temescal News and Views editorial board. Carla has been involved with TNV since 2004 and has brought many improvements to the publication, including our new editorial policy. Many thanks for your thoughtful consideration to what the newsletter should bring to the community, as well as all the many hours you have spent gathering articles, sending reminders, editing, and proofreading! Ruth has been with us since the summer and we thank her for her editing and proofreading.

Three new editors have joined us as Carla and Ruth leave. TNV welcomes Liz Anders, Michealle Rogers, and Seana Tilton— thank you for volunteering!

– Viki Maxwell, TNV editor

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avid gardener and has experience in the business, but she soon brought Mae into the scheme by adding children's clothes. I agree that this was a perfect combination: Mae finds the perfect gifts and clothing for locals, while Mary goes to the flower markets in the

## Temescal Calendar

**Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6 PM.** Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

**Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7 PM.** Julia Morgan School for Girls hosts an Admissions Open House. Julia Morgan is the only all girls middle school (grades 6-8) in the East Bay. This event will introduce prospective students to the school and the admissions process. Julia Morgan School for Girls, Campus of Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., 632-6000.

**Thursday, Jan. 11, 7 PM.** Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

**Friday, Jan. 12, 7:30 PM.** Poetry Saloon. Bring a poem that you have written and one by someone else to share, or come to enjoy. 472 44th Street. 594-2200.

**Saturday, Jan. 20, 10 AM.** Help monitor water quality in Temescal Creek. Lake Temescal inlet near the Broadway Terrace park entrance. 459-3967 or temcrk@mountaincurrent.net.

**Saturday, Jan. 27, 11 AM.** Public conversation on the next phase of Temescal Amity Works. Let us know what you'd like to see! 482 D 49th St, behind Bank of the West. 428-1210.

**Saturday, Jan. 27, 11 AM.** The first session of an 8-week traditional Balinese Dance Class for girls, ages 7-10, at Desa Arts. 4810 Telegraph. 595-1669.

**Saturday, Jan. 27, 12 PM.** A pre-sale of handcrafted teak furniture at Desa Arts. 4810 Telegraph. 595-1669.

**Thursday, Feb. 8, 7 PM.** Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

**Friday, Feb. 9, 7:30 PM.** Poetry Saloon. Bring a poem that you have written and one by someone else to share, or come to enjoy. 472 44th Street. 594-2200.

**Saturday, Feb. 10, 11 AM.** Valentine's Gift Bazaar featuring jewelry and sensual delights. Desa Arts. 4810 Telegraph. 595-1669.

**Wednesday, Feb. 14, 6 PM.** Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

**Saturday, Feb. 17, 10 AM.** Help monitor water quality in Temescal Creek. Lake Temescal inlet near the Broadway Terrace park entrance. 459-3967 or temcrk@mountaincurrent.net.

morning selecting usual and unique flowers to sell in the shop. Both of them had the same vision of using the store as a tangible way to serve the neighborhood—to connect art, beauty, relationships and creativity. This shop has become more than a business venture to them. Mae feels that a retail store is about connecting the community, being here and having a sense of place. They have a small patio next to the shop where people who stop by can sit, chat, read a book, knit and take a break. I learned more about their ideas and plans while sipping hot tea and eating a scone from Bakesale Betty's, offered there on Thursdays. To encourage families getting out of the house on Saturdays, they host an art activity geared for dads and children. Other events have included a Pumpkin Patch Party, the Holiday Portrait Shoot, and the December Party, with crafts, snacks, and a free massage! Ruby's Garden emphasizes local designers, including a few from the immediate neighborhood, and also there's an invitation for local designers to bring in their work (clothes, kidstuff, general gifts) if they feel it would be appropriate to sell at the shop. Mae hopes that their shop will be thought of as a place to hang out and visit.

Mary Prince and Mae Chan Frey are my neighbors and friends and I wish them well with their store. Also, I hope that Irv Garelick, who is a very friendly small business owner, will be successful here in Temescal. These two stores might be taking a risk by opening up on a lonely street, but I hope that we will all find this a new, safe and friendly place to shop in our neighborhood.

Irv's Shoe Repair: 4927 Shattuck Ave., 653-1839.

Ruby's Garden: 4925 Shattuck Ave., 595-5325.

— Deborah Quay, Temescal/Telegraph BID, Economic Development Committee

## Oakland News

### Oakland Students March in Solidarity with World AIDS Day

The Julia Morgan School for Girls closed down for an hour on December 1st as its entire student and staff body marched around the Mills College campus in commemoration of AIDS Awareness Day.

The 178 students and the entire faculty and staff of the middle school were part of the International One March for Children, in which school children from around the world marched in solidarity with the millions of African children orphaned by AIDS. The girls of the Julia Morgan School contributed one dollar each to the Q Fund, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a sustainable means of support and education for orphaned children in sub-Saharan Africa.

In an effort to personally understand the number of children affected by AIDS in Africa, each Julia Morgan student and faculty member tied 15 knots in a string— each knot representing one of the approximately 3,000 children orphaned each day by AIDS. The knots helped everyone involved to grasp how many are affected by the disease, and to imagine each orphan as an individual rather than a number. A movie shown before the walk about the work of the Q Fund helped to further extend the understanding beyond the number 3,000.

All of the strands of yarn with the knots were tied to a tree in front of the school and remained there for two weeks to remind the community of the plight of the children orphaned by AIDS. Students also created three red ribbons, a symbol for solidarity with HIV and AIDS, to be shared with the larger community.

— Karly Zimmerman, Julia Morgan School for Girls

**Help Support This Newsletter and TNT.** *Volunteers are doing the work of getting out this newsletter (and occasional fliers)—but we still need to pay the printer! If you value our community efforts, please consider making a donation. Any amount will help. Make your check payable to TNT, and send it with this form to: TNT, c/o 469 Rich St., Oakland, CA 94609. — Thank You!*

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**Yes, I want to help.**

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

\$10  \$25  \$50  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I'd like to volunteer. Please call me.**