

*(continued)* At the end of the truce, the officers could not get the soldiers to resume killing those who were now their friends. To keep the war going, fresh troops had to be rotated in.

Then Elliot sang one of those songs -- "Silent Night." This was especially nostalgic because that famous carol was originally sung in German in a church, where it was accompanied by a guitar. Then there was some comic relief. Mrs T-Bill Banks told very funny satirical stories about money and power.

This was followed by Occupella – songs for the 99%. The performers were Halli Hammer and Nancy Schimmel, Berkeley's best singer songwriters.

The party celebrated the holiday season generically. Christmas was mentioned, but there were no religious overtones. One Occupella song referenced the Solstice and people being anxious for the return of the sun. It was done to the tune of "You are My Sunshine." Great!

*Steve Geller*



Don't forget to save the Library

## Gerrymander? In Berkeley? "Berkeley Referendum Coalition"

The City Council in Berkeley recently passed a gerrymander to undo the political redistricting plan voted for by citizens.

Supporters of the Referendum Coalition say: "The redistricting plan was deliberately designed to not only draw out progressive voters, but to also minimize progressive voices on the Council. Progressive voters on the Northside, and in Halcyon, and LeConte neighborhoods are kicked out while virtually all fraternity and sorority houses are added in. It's favoritism designed to help elect conservative candidates and kick progressives off the City Council."

Berkeley City Council Member Kriss Worthington writes:

Dear Friends, I need your help to SIGN or CIRCULATE a petition by **Monday Jan 20**, to stop the gross gerrymander of Berkeley City Council districts. . . . This gerrymander involved creating an 86% student district that includes most fraternities/sororities, but kicks out 7 co-ops, all of Northside, Halcyon, and Bateman, and much of LeConte neighborhoods. This process ignored requests by a coalition of dozens of neighborhood associations. Real alternatives were proposed FIVE MONTHS before the December vote. . . . Kriss Worthington [kriss@krissworthington.com](mailto:kriss@krissworthington.com)

Coalition Endorsers: Former Berkeley Mayors Gus Newport and Shirley Dean, SEIU Local 1021 East Bay COPE, Council of Neighborhood Associations (CNA), Green Party of Alameda County, Veterans for Peace, and the Cal Berkeley Democrats, and City Councilmembers Max Anderson, Jesse Arreguin and Kriss Worthington.:

Berkeley Referendum Coalition, 1534 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703

[berkeleyref@gmail.com](mailto:berkeleyref@gmail.com)

Let's support them and see if the petition signatures are enough to put the issue on the ballot and what happens next. We want democracy to win.