

1. Comments About Kingsley

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3. **Kevin Heffernan says:**

March 25, 2014 at 1:31 am

Dear Anonymous,

You are absolutely correct in that I omitted that Mr. Kingsley tried to develop his property as a performing arts center but was not successful. The article was intended to celebrate his life and his years in Oakland as a regular guy particularly in keeping with the thrust of his work, not relive some aspects that are still controversial to this day.

With that said, trust me when I say that I do not shy from historical controversy as will be revealed in future articles in The Oakland Journal starting on or about April 3, 2014. Thanks for your comment and stay tuned!

4. **Anonymous says:**

March 24, 2014 at 4:43 pm

Kevin wrote a great article but missed a very important aspect of Sidney's life. His ultimate goal was to build a performing arts center on his property as his legacy. He was blocked every which way he turned from accomplishing that goal. If it wasn't the bridge then it was the flood zone or the traffic it would generate. It would have brought Oakland in to the limelight like the PAC has done for Newark. The best part was Sidney was going to pay for it all personally or through donations. No cost to the Oakland taxpayer. Were the politicians to blame for it's demise? Probably.

5. **Charlie McCormick says:**

March 23, 2014 at 12:58 pm

A big thank you to Mr. Heffernan - I will be forwarding this link to local Board of Eds because Kingsley should be taught in our middle and high schools. While I grew up watching the Bowery Boys on Sunday mornings, I never knew the true impact of Sidney Kingsley until researching some of the plays noted in this article....Not only was he a famous author, but he really was a good man whose plays- especially- Dead End - had a real impact on the nation(FDR & the Senate both said the play inspired their legislation concerning slums in America)....And what I like most about this article, is that it makes Kingsley a real person, makes him accessible - and that's an inspiration for young and old alike.

6. **Sam says:**

March 22, 2014 at 10:41 pm

It was in the late seventies when I had the honor of meeting Sidney Kingsley. I was driving for Oakland's Smiley's Taxi when I got a call to go to his home. I was to drive a guest of his back to the airport. I entered his home to help with the luggage which gave me a glimpse of the interior. WOW It was like entering another era. That image is still implanted to this day in my memory for which I am so thankful for. R.I.P. Mr. Kingsley.

7. **Dawn Goodwin O'Keefe says:**

March 22, 2014 at 1:16 pm

I lived juxtaposed to Mr Kingsley growing up (bottom right on Brandywine Place). As a kid we would sneak across his bridge and hike up into the mountain. It was beautiful. We loved to drink from the cool clear crisp springs and ride down the rocks into a pool of water with waterfalls. Often times Mr. Kingsley would be out in his yard working or cutting the lawn when we came down from the mountain and he would wave his arms for us to get off his property. It made our days outside even more exciting.... I miss those simpler timesand the beautiful landscape of that mountain. I often wish my kids had the same opportunities.....Thanks for the memories.

8. **Maggie says:**

March 21, 2014 at 11:50 pm

I was thinking exactly that as I read this. I feel very sad about that. His home sat at the foot of my street. I passed this beautiful property several times a day. :(Although so many amazing people have joined our community as a result, i'm sorry that we lost his home and the breathtaking property in the process. Give something to gain something, I guess.

9. **Elaine says:**

March 20, 2014 at 3:33 pm

Sidney would roll over in his grave if he saw what they did to his mountain.