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# THE NEW FILLMORE

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE HEART AND SOUL OF SAN FRANCISCO

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## THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ DECEMBER 2011



Touched by an Angel

Off the beaten path in the jazz district, Fat Angel caters to locals

By James DeKoven

O N A RECENT moonlit night in the neighborhood, parkas having descended much earlier than only a few weeks before, some friends were at an after-party, sipping cocktails and examining life's most common sense, individuality versus conformity. "You know, the meaning of life. It was all rather ironic."  
 "When I find it, I'll light the moon by making whole bones."  
 — Marvin Gaye, One Brick in the Sky  
 — Monday Robinson — I kind of liked the energy of the conversation. So I changed

**Japantown Earthquake Relief Effort a Big Success**  
\$4 million raised, with all proceeds going to Japan

A series of events established in Japantown to help victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan earlier this year has raised more than \$4 million from 12,000 donors, including many local individuals and businesses.

Although the funds have been used to build new shelters and there are no centers in northern Japan and to help provide medical and mental health care.

"We are absolutely overwhelmed by the response to our fundraising campaign," said Paul Oshiki, executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California in Japantown, which organized the effort. He said that 100 percent of all donations are going to help the recovery in Japan.

Oshiki moved quickly to begin organizing a relief effort after the earthquake and tsunami struck on March 11.

"We really felt it was our responsibility as Japanese-Americans to do this," he said.

He had experience to draw on from 1991, when his organization helped raise \$600,000 to aid the victims of the Kobe earthquake, which killed more than 6,000 people.

"This disaster is even bigger," Oshiki said.

The death toll could reach 20,000, and more than 12,000 others were evacuated after the earthquake, tsunami and the nuclear meltdowns that followed. The Japanese government estimates to well over \$300 billion to repair and rebuild the area.

Oshiki plans to keep the relief fund operating at least through the anniversary of the earthquake in March. To learn more about the effort or to contribute, call 529-1122 or visit [www.jccncc.jp/japaning](http://www.jccncc.jp/japaning).

■ FUNDRAISER



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  - Japantown is one of three surviving in the United States.
  - Home to the city's finest shopping, dining and entertainment.

### THE NEW FILLMORE

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— Janet Moyer Landscaping

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