

*Temple braces  
for major repair*

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*New*

# FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ JANUARY 2007



## Hand in hand

Photograph ©  
RUTH BERNHARD  
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Hands were often an important subject for Ruth Bernhard, the world-renowned photographer who lived in the neighborhood for more than 50 years until her death in December. She took this photograph in 1956 after attending a Sunday service at the Fellowship Church on Larkin Street. "I noticed a black man and a white child standing together holding hands — she with an expression of complete trust," Bernhard said. "They were waiting for her mother to join them for lunch. I was profoundly moved by their friendship."

It seems a fitting image both to say farewell to a great artist and to welcome, with a sense of hopefulness, a new year. More on Ruth Bernhard, page 5.

## Schools Looking to Expand

Hamlin, Drew acquire  
adjoining property

By DON LANGLEY

**T**WO PRIVATE SCHOOLS are planning to expand their campuses in the neighborhood, already one of the most school-saturated areas in San Francisco.

Drew School, a college preparatory high school at California and Broderick streets, wants to demolish an adjoining three-flat residence at 1831-35 Broderick to add several classrooms and build a multi-purpose room large enough to accommodate its entire student body.

The Hamlin School, on Broadway near Webster, is beginning to consider its options for using two pieces of property it has acquired recently.

Drew currently uses the basement of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, across Broderick Street, for its large assemblies twice a month. The school and the church also share the use of parking spaces.

In a nod to neighborhood residents, Head of School Samuel Cuddeback III said the school would consider making the new space available as an emergency disaster shelter.

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KIT HASKELL

## A PORTRAIT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Architectural historian Anne Bloomfield's columns on the Great Old Houses of Pacific Heights have been turned into a new book, coming soon.

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EXCERPT: Three sisters lived long lives in their stately Victorian at 2000 Pacific Avenue.

PAGE 13





## Dusty

Dusty is a happy-go-lucky 2-year-old German Shepherd mix who really enjoys his walks outside and has already made a lot of new friends around the neighborhood. This bundle of joy is looking forward to training classes with his new guardians, receiving a lot of positive reinforcement, exercise, love and attention, and a true friendship that will last forever! His ideal home would be one with children 12 or older. Please stop in and meet this handsome boy today!



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## THE NEW YEAR

# Wishes and Warmth *for the* Neighborhood

Right off the bat, I'd love to see some wonderful use for the former Newcomer School site.

Lynne Newhouse Segal

We have been contented residents of this neighborhood for 20 years and think it is one of the best in the world.

However, it may be time to revisit the restriction prohibiting additional restaurants, which was arbitrarily imposed some years back and may have inadvertently resulted in an influx of skin care shops along Fillmore.

I am not suggesting a similar ban on skin care shops, but realistically how many can this small part of the world support? I would find a greater variety of restaurants of more value. They add traffic and liveliness to the street.

David Jewell

I am grateful for those few who have long wrestled with neighborhood problems and issues, such as architectural preservation, the impact of institutions on our neighborhood (schools, hospitals, etc.) and quality of life issues. Pacific Heights owes much to them.

And for a New Year wish: a district supervisor who cares about and is involved in our neighborhood.

Ian Berke

My wish for the New Year is for the Fillmore merchants to sweep their sidewalks and keep them free of garbage and recycling.

Rae Hagner

My best thoughts about our neighborhood: Every time I get depressed about the world situation, a short walk up or down Fillmore Street refreshes the spirit. We are truly lucky to live here.

Jan Bolaffi

Consider the impact of light trespass in our neighborhood. This is light that is misdirected above the 90-degree plane that goes into the windows of homes. It is supposed to create security but the fixture choices are usually unsuitable and do not focus the light downward. These lights are usually on all night and are obtrusive and unnecessary. I have had some luck convincing property managers in my neighborhood to change the lighting scheme, but it took significant effort and there is still one holdout. I'll bet there are lots of folks in our neighborhood who are trying to block this light out of their homes.

Celia Hamilton

We are so fortunate to have two world-class bakeries in this neighborhood. May they both continue to prosper!

Marvin Lambert

I enjoy the diversity — the eclectic melange of cultures, restaurants and shops. It is a veritable small town within a small town.

Melody Sams

The size of the stores and their charm is what makes this area unique. You can get practically anything you need, from clothing to beauty treatments. And not to forget the restaurants and the cafes that surround us. You have enough choices in one neighborhood without getting bored.

We can improve this neighborhood by increasing parking to encourage tourists and people from other neighborhood to come and enjoy what we have here.

Nellie Muganda

My wish is that while the Fillmore neighborhood looks to the future, it remembers its colorful past.

John Gaul

### Other wishes:

- D&M Liquors finally got a much-needed new sign. My wish is that the symphony's thrift shop will replace its faded awning this year, too.

- That Pine and Bush get repaved once and for all . . . and not again for at least 10 years.

- Keep up those great windows at Marc Jacobs.

- More cozy places to meet for a drink and a long chat — and more benches for sitting outside.

- That the jazz center be finished and off to a fabulous beginning.

- A good Chinese restaurant on Fillmore.

- Get rid of all those newspaper and real estate magazine boxes!

- I am so pleased to have you producing a wonderful neighborhood newspaper. Keep those front page photographs coming.

### What do you think?

What is it about the neighborhood that makes you happy to live or work here? What would make it better? Let us know: [editors@newfillmore.com](mailto:editors@newfillmore.com).

### THE NEW FILLMORE

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# Kintetsu Leaves a Legacy as It Departs From Japantown

**K**INTETSU ENTERPRISES of America, which last year sold its major holdings in Japantown and exited San Francisco after more than 40 years, has donated a half million dollars to establish the San Francisco Japantown Foundation.

The nonprofit foundation, with a cross-section of the community's leadership serving as directors, will provide financial support of cultural, charitable and educational activities in Japantown.

A Kintetsu representative said the foundation would put decisions about how best to appropriate the funds into the hands of the community.

Kintetsu's gift was followed almost immediately by two more.

Jack Hirose, an at-large director of the new foundation, donated stock worth more than \$100,000. Hats Aizawa, a long-time activist in Japantown, and his wife Amey donated \$20,000.

## Miyako Inn to Become the Hotel Tomo

Hotel Tomo is the new name for the former Miyako Inn, at the corner of Sutter and Buchanan streets in Japantown, which is being renovated to reflect contemporary Japanese culture.

The name was chosen from more than 600 entries submitted by the public. It happens to be the name of the man who suggested it, Tomo Kakegawa. In Japanese, Tomo means friend. Within the family, it also connotes adventure.

Kakegawa, who celebrated his 31st birthday in December, came to the U.S.

eight years ago to study for his master's degree. He said his great grandfather, Tomoyasu, left Japan to become a fisherman in Canada.

"His adventurous spirit lives on in his name and in me," Kakegawa said. "I believe this will translate well to the hotel, where people will visit on their own adventures. Not only will the name inspire friendliness, but I am hoping that, like my grandfather, the hotel's visitors will see a different aspect of Japanese culture that is edgy and adventurous."

Donald K. Tamaki, an attorney with Minami Tamaki LLP in San Francisco, is president of the new foundation's board.

Tamaki was involved in Kintetsu's sale of the Miyako Hotel, the Miyako Inn and two of the Japan Center's three major

commercial buildings. He also represented Kintetsu at public meetings held after the announcement of the sale caused concern about Japantown's future as a Japanese community.

Other members of the foundation board are Richard Hashimoto, president of the Japantown Merchants Association; Sandy Mori, president of the Japantown Task Force and development director of Kimochi; Allen Okamoto, long-time leader of the Cherry Blossom Festival and an executive of several Japantown businesses; and Hiroshi Tomita, of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California.

Japan's Deputy Consul General, Kazuyoshi Yamaguchi, will serve as an advisory member.

The foundation has no full-time staff. It will be managed by members of the board and other volunteers.

## Bid to Limit Change in Use of Newcomer

### City College outcry prompts legislation

**A** DECEMBER HEARING by the Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee on changes of use for school district property elicited near unanimity on one point: The school district has no adequate procedure for community outreach.

At issue was legislation that would require the school district to obtain a conditional use permit to convert any elementary, middle or high school to another use. The legislation has already been approved by the Planning Commission.

The legislation was prompted by the public outcry over the school district's plan to lease Newcomer High School at Jackson and Webster streets to San Francisco City College. The opposition was based on the amount of additional parking and traffic the college would bring to a residential neighborhood.

At the urging of Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, the school district was given until January 31 to come back to the committee with a plan.

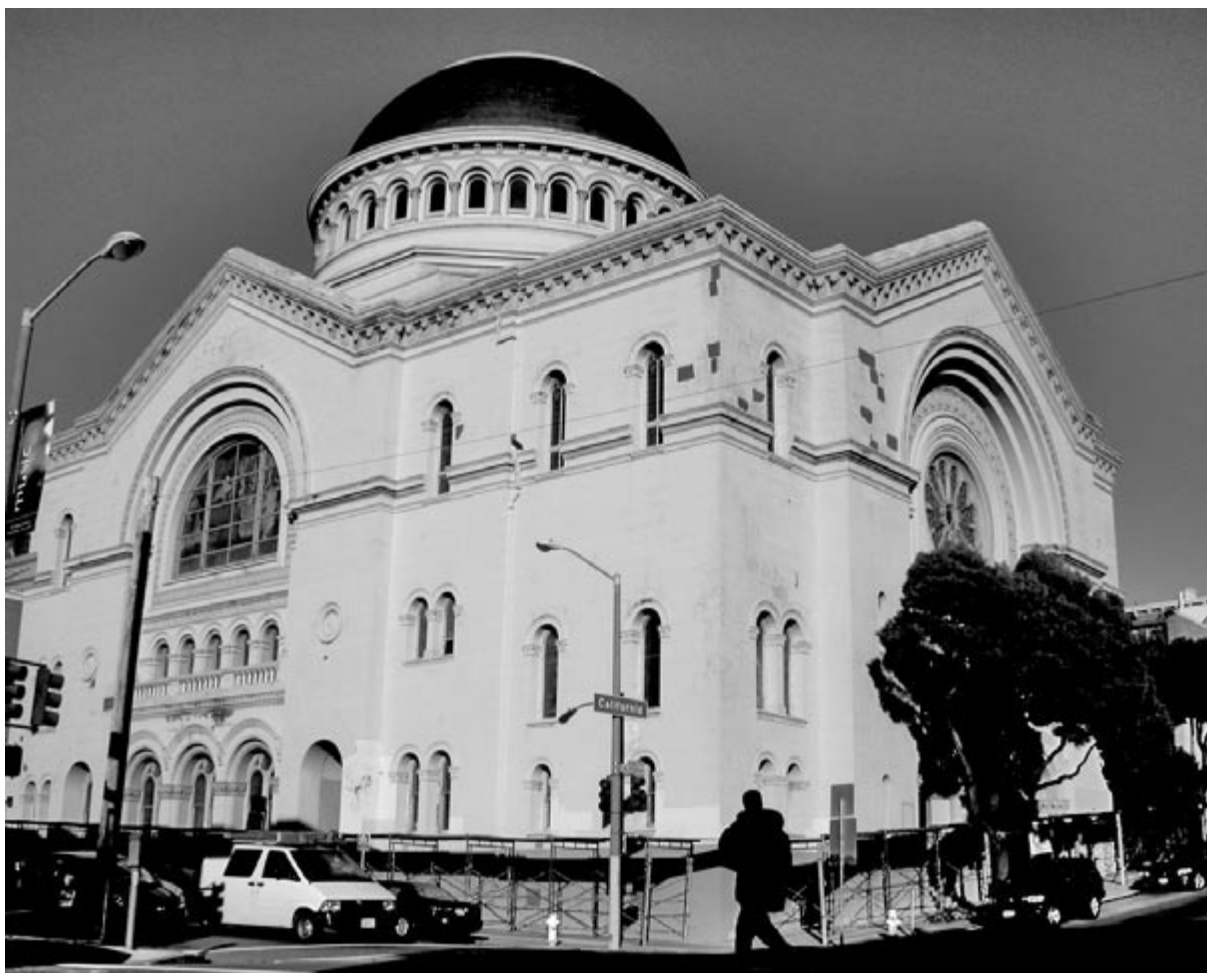
Matthew Kellerman, executive director for policy and external affairs for the school district, said school officials were surprised by the strong community reaction to the proposed lease because City College, like Newcomer, was "still educational."

Speaking on behalf of the Pacific Heights Residents Association, Anita Denz said Fillmore merchants and residents "were appalled" at the plan for Newcomer and were united in opposition to City College.

Prior to the Land Use Committee hearing, PHRA President Greg Scott and board member Lynne Newhouse Segal met with Gwen Chan, acting school superintendent and David Goldin, chief facilities officer. Scott described the meeting as "very cordial and positive in tone."

"They promised to work with us and not surprise us as was the case with the CCSF proposed lease," Scott said.

In the meantime, the Newcomer school sits empty. The school district wants to lease it so that the income can be used for current operations. If the building is sold, the proceeds can be used only for a capital expenditure.



Temple Sherith Israel, at California and Webster, faces major repairs.

## Temple Scaffolding Is Only the Beginning

**T**HE UNSIGHTLY SCAFFOLDING that surrounds Temple Sherith Israel at the corner of Webster and California streets is as repugnant to the synagogue's leadership as it is to neighbors and passersby, but it is not going away soon.

The scaffolding was erected months ago to protect pedestrians from shards of sandstone falling from the facade. David Newman, president of the congregation, said it is the nature of sandstone to flake over time as water gets into it.

The building's major problem, however, is not with the sandstone facade but with the unreinforced masonry it covers. The building dates from 1904 and survived the 1906 earthquake, but the city deems it insufficiently reinforced.

Newman said the working drawings necessary to apply

for a building permit are being prepared and will probably be ready midyear. The congregation is in the early phases of a major capital campaign to pay for the work.

The main project will consist of drilling vertical holes in the walls and filling them with steel and concrete, then tying them across the top. The repairs to the exterior sandstone walls will be carried out as part of the reinforcement project.

Temple Sherith Israel served as San Francisco Superior Court for a time after the 1906 earthquake. It was there that political boss Abe Ruef was tried and convicted of corruption and sentenced to San Quentin.

"It's a special building," Newman said. "It's more than our home. It's an architectural treasure."

## Bus-Only Lanes on Van Ness, Geary Moving Forward

A series of public workshops on proposed Bus Rapid Transit projects on Geary Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue has been completed and the Van Ness project is ready for its next phase, an environmental review, which will begin soon.

Bus Rapid Transit, or BRT, is a system in which a lane of traffic in each direction is dedicated solely to buses. It is designed to operate like a light rail system, but is faster and less expensive to implement. Buses

would make limited stops and, like cable cars, would preempt traffic signals.

BRT is intended to move people faster and more efficiently. But some fear the loss of a lane of vehicular traffic will add to congestion. Richmond district merchants are also concerned about potential loss of parking.

So far there are only conceptual designs for the projects. Parking and construction problems will get further study in the envi-

ronmental review. Other crucial decisions, such as whether to use center or side lanes, and how to connect Geary and Fillmore Street buses, will be made at the end of the environmental phase.

The Japantown Task Force has been supportive of BRT on Geary, according to Zabe Bent, a transportation planner, and "is eagerly awaiting more detail on the impact." The Western Addition Citizens Advisory Committee has also had input.

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### ■ DEPARTURES

#### A citizen of the world at home on Fillmore

Arthur Mejia, a retired history professor and a fixture on Fillmore Street for decades before his death last fall, will be remembered at a memorial service on January 16 at 4 p.m. at Grace Cathedral.

Mejia, 72, died November 16 of leukemia. He was a fourth-generation San Franciscan whose great-grandfather sailed around the horn in 1849 and eventually bought the Ross estate in Marin County. Many of the garden paths of the estate are now streets in the town of Ross.

Since 1968, Mejia lived in one of three identical Italianate Victorians in the Bush Street-Cottage Row Historic District.

His neighborhood ties go back to his school days. He was a graduate of the Town School for Boys at Jackson and Scott before he went on to earn his Ph.D. at Stanford.

When he was not in London, his second home, researching his books on the British monarchy or Edwardian conservatism, he was a daily presence on Fillmore Street, usually with a clutch of newspapers



Arthur Mejia at the British Museum.

and books tucked under his arm.

After his retirement in 1996 as a professor emeritus of history at San Francisco State University, he frequently had lunch or dinner — sometimes both — at one of Fillmore's restaurants, often in the company of his Norwich terrier Quincy and his longtime companion, Andre Matsuda.

KEITH MORRISON

### ■ CRIME WATCH

#### Drug Possession California Street and Van Ness Avenue November 26, 2:07 p.m.

Officers on patrol saw a man whose criminal history was well known injecting himself with a hypodermic syringe. When they approached him, he shouted, "What the fuck do you want?" Officers ordered him to drop the blood-filled syringe. The man refused, and attempted to eject the fluid from the syringe. During the scuffle that ensued, the officers dislodged the syringe from the man's hand, along with a plastic bag of methamphetamines. There was an outstanding warrant for the suspect, who was booked at Northern Station.

#### Auto Theft Fillmore and Eddy Streets November 27, 12:32 a.m.

An officer assigned to Northern Station's desk took a report from a woman who claimed her car had been stolen. When the officer returned to Fillmore Street to resume his patrol, he located the stolen vehicle parked one block away with two individuals sitting inside. The officer detained the occupants, and found rocks of crack cocaine on the dashboard. When asked who owned the car, one of the occupants replied, "We were asked by a guy to watch his car." Both men were arrested for vehicle theft.

#### Auto Burglary Sutter and Octavia Streets December 4, 4:12 a.m.

A woman who was sleeping in her residence was awakened by the sound of breaking glass. She looked out her window and saw a man removing items from a car through a broken window. She called police, who quickly found the suspect carrying numerous items away from the scene. The witness identified the man, and officers determined that the possessions he carried belonged to the car's owner. The suspect was arrested.

#### Attempted Kidnapping Jackson and Pierce Streets December 5, 3:25 p.m.

A man driving a car slowed alongside a boy who was walking home from school. He beckoned to the child, who quickly walked away. The man followed the boy for a time, then drove in front of him. Fright-

ened, the child dashed into Alta Plaza Park. There, the boy called his mother, who met him and called police. The child described the man as Hispanic, about 40 to 45 years old, with short dark hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans and drove a silvery blue car, possibly a Toyota. The incident is still under investigation.

#### Indecent Exposure Post and Fillmore Streets December 7, 4:54 p.m.

A woman taking her grandchildren out to Burger King was parking the car when a man approached them and exposed himself. The children screamed, and the grandmother called the police. The man then turned away and urinated on the side of the building. When officers arrived, they found the suspect loitering near the building. On probation for a similar offense, the suspect was arrested and booked at Northern Station.

#### Brandishing a Laser Van Ness Avenue and Larch Alley December 20, 9:32 p.m.

Officers were on foot patrol when one officer noticed a red laser dot focused on another officer's back. He alerted other officers, and they quickly determined that the red laser dot, which was similar to the laser sight for a handgun, was coming from a group of juveniles loitering nearby. They identified the juvenile with the laser, confiscated the weapon and detained him. Officers were familiar with the suspect, who had an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

#### Burglary Buchanan Street and Larch Alley December 25, 2:47 p.m.

A neighbor alerted a tenant that her apartment was being burglarized while she was not home. The woman said she had been robbed the day before, and had just had her door repaired. When officers arrived, they discovered that her door had been forced open a second time. The suspect was still inside the apartment. When officers entered, the suspect, a juvenile, bolted out the back door of the apartment building and into the hands of additional officers waiting in the back yard. The suspect was arrested and booked at the Youth Guidance Center.

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### How the model got in the box

In the early years in San Francisco, I rented a studio on Sacramento Street for teaching and I used my south-facing living room [at 2982 Clay Street] as a studio. The photograph *In the Box Horizontal* [above], which many claim as my best known, was made in 1962 in that space.

It is a compelling picture, though I really don't know why. It was so simple to create, the result of a moment's intuition.

I looked out of my bay window and saw a large oblong box on the curb. It was from a new enlarger that had just been delivered to a neighbor named Gibson, who was also a photographer. I turned to my model, Joyce, and said, "You are in that box!" We both laughed. Joyce and I ran down to the street, retrieved the box, and put it to work immediately as a prop. It was the perfect setting. I kept the box for years, until it sagged too much and I had to throw it away.

This picture has had a life of its own. Everyone gives it a different meaning.

— RUTH BERNHARD

## A LOCAL LEGEND, A NATIONAL TREASURE

*Photographer Ruth Bernhard dies at 101 at home on Clay Street*

ONE OF THE neighborhood's more extraordinary lives came to an end December 18 when the internationally acclaimed photographer Ruth Bernhard died, just a few weeks after her 101st birthday.

Bernhard died in her sleep of natural causes in the Victorian flat on Clay Street she had rented since she came to San Francisco in 1953.

She maintained her vitality and ability to inspire admirers almost to the very end.

On her 100th birthday, she celebrated with 100 friends and students and "was the life of the party," a friend remembered.

"When she entered a room, it was like the Red Sea parting," another said.

A neighbor recalled her impish sense of humor and how she improved the looks of a nearby building that had fallen into disrepair by projecting her photographs onto its peeling walls.

By her 101st birthday, she had suffered a stroke and her movement and her memory were limited. A small celebration was held at her flat with her brother Alexander and his wife, who came from London. Her longtime business manager, Mary Ann Helmholtz, a former student, cooked the birthday dinner on a new stove installed just days before.

"She was her same old sweet self," said Helmholtz.



Ruth Bernhard

A profile in the October 2006 *New Fillmore* traced Bernhard's remarkable journey from her birth in Berlin in 1905 to New York, where she learned photography, to her home near Alta Plaza Park. It was there that she made some of her most iconic images, many of the female nude.

For five decades, Bernhard was a constant presence in the neighborhood, sometimes strolling Fillmore Street hand in hand with Col. Price Rice, a former Tuskegee airman fighter pilot who also lived on Clay Street.

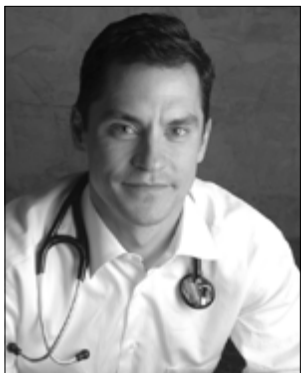
"In 1967, Price Rice came into my life in the guise of a student," she said. "I noticed a beautiful, bright-eyed black man in the group. He seemed to be hanging on every word I said."

He drove her home after class, and thus began an unlikely 32-year relationship for Bernhard, whose earlier romances had been with women.

"I adored being adored," she said. "Love invades life in so many surprising ways and takes command. Being in love keeps you young."

Rice died in 1999, but Bernhard — 10 years his senior — lived on, continuing to be an active and spirited presence in the neighborhood and in the world of photography.

A memorial will be held in the spring.



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The Hamlin School now owns the empty lot beside its main building on Broadway (right) and the Victorian twin (above center) next door on Vallejo Street.

## Private Schools Plan to Expand

► FROM PAGE 1

The classrooms that would be added at Drew would enable the school to raise enrollment from the present 250 to 280 or 290 students.

Drew has owned the residential building for two and a half years. Although the building is more than 100 years old, it has been modified over the years and has lost its claim to historic status, according to architectural historians the school hired as consultants.

Drew may run into opposition to its plan to demolish the building on the grounds that it would eliminate three affordable housing units.

The high school was founded in 1908 and has been on



its present site since 1911. Its modern main building is about five years old. Because of space constraints, Drew uses athletic facilities at the Booker T. Washington Center on Presidio Avenue. In exchange, Drew's students provide tutoring there as part of a community service program.

The Hamlin School, founded in 1863 for elementary and middle school girls, recently received as a gift an adjoining house at 2127 Vallejo Street, which was purchased for \$3.5 million and donated to the school by a family that wishes to remain anonymous. It is the largest donation the school has ever received. The family also added \$1 million to Hamlin's endowment.

In addition, Hamlin has now completed the purchase of a vacant lot at 2140 Broadway adjoining its campus. In a letter to Hamlin graduates, Cathryn Schember, president of the school's board of trustees, and Head of School Coreen Hester said the school had been interested in that parcel "for decades." It is currently used as a parking lot for the Schools of the Sacred Heart.

The letter said Hamlin "will launch a master planning process to examine all of our land assets and provide us with some strategic short and long-term goals."

The school is also raising funds to support the purchase of the adjacent lot on Broadway.

**T**HE DEMAND for housing is in competition with the need to educate children and keep families in the neighborhood, observed Mary Murphy, a San Francisco lawyer who is both a board member and a neighbor of Drew School.

Murphy's comments were directed at Drew School's desire to tear down a Victorian building, eliminating three units of housing, to enlarge the school. But the tension exists throughout Pacific Heights, which is home to a large number of schools.

The Schools of the Sacred Heart on Broadway regulate parents who drop off and pick up students at its three schools, which have a combined enrollment of 840 students. Nonetheless, for residents who live near the schools, the morning and afternoon traffic backup on neighboring streets is a constant irritation.

University High School, at 3065 Jackson Street, also regulates traffic

and prohibits students from driving to school. When it expanded to Sacramento Street several years ago, school officials agreed to keep all drop-offs and pickups at the main campus.

Although Drew representatives expressed concern about sending students across Broderick Street to the Seventh Day Adventist School, what seems to present an even more dangerous situation are the droves of students at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory School crossing the high traffic Gough-Ellis intersection.

St. Vincent de Paul School for grades K-8 is allowed by the city to close Green Street between Steiner and Pierce for a playground during some school hours.

## A NEIGHBORHOOD OF MANY SCHOOLS

Stuart Hall High School, at Octavia and Pine, one of the Schools of the Sacred Heart, was forced to build its gymnasium underground so the classrooms above wouldn't exceed the 40-foot height limit in the mostly residential area.

Megan Furth Academy, the new name of the merged Sacred Heart-St. Dominic's schools, teaches grades K-5 at the St. Dominic site, at 2445 Pine Street, and grades 6-8 at the Sacred Heart site, at 735 Fell St. Construction of a new school is to begin this year on the Fell Street site. The school enrolls about 170 children.

There are a number of other large schools in the area:

- Town School for Boys at Jackson and Scott streets has 400 students.
- Waldorf School at 2938 Washington Street has 295 students.
- St. Brigid's, 2250 Franklin Street at Broadway, has 325 students.
- Cobb Elementary School at 2725 California Street has 205 K-5 students.
- Sherman Elementary School at 1651 Union Street has 398 K-5 students.

Also nearby are the Marin Day School, at 2266 California Street, and Calvary Presbyterian Church Nursery School at 2515 Fillmore. There are about a dozen smaller nursery schools and special needs schools in the area.

In addition, there are about 500 students at the University of the Pacific's Dugoni School of Dentistry at 2155 Webster Street. The Academy of Art University has four residence halls in the neighborhood, along with an instruction site at the former St. Brigid's Church at Broadway and Van Ness.

— Don Langley

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# Go outside!



## 10 TIPS From a Local Fitness Guru

AS THE NEW YEAR rings in, most people make the selfsame resolution — the one about getting in shape. But after a few weeks, many slip back into their slothful ways. David McGuire (above), a certified personal trainer at the Pacific Heights Health Club, at 2356 Pine, and an outdoor trainer ([www.dmcguirefitness.com](http://www.dmcguirefitness.com)) offers some trainer-tested tips to help with your stick-to-it-ivity.

### 1. Set realistic expectations.

This is the most important thing in keeping a plan to get fit from devolving into frustration, then disappearing. “If you don’t go to a gym now, build one or two days a week into your life to do it,” McGuire says. “Nothing ever works if it’s unrealistic in the first place.”

For a current complete couch potato, he recommends working out an hour for one day a week for a month, then building up to two hours weekly, with an end goal of three hours a week.

McGuire says that achieving small, tangible goals that

make a noticeable difference can act as great and lasting motivators for staying with a fitness regime. “Tell yourself you want to be able to go up the stairs to your third floor flat or walk the dog up the hill in Alta Plaza Park without getting winded,” he says. “These are life accomplishments.”

### 2. Take in the outdoors.

“A huge breath of fresh air is freeing,” says McGuire, who adds that for many people, working out in the great outdoors helps people stop equating exercise with drudgery.

“We live in the most beautiful city in the country,” he says, “with plenty of outdoor spots that beckon us to get moving. Go up and down the Fillmore hill. Take a brisk walk along Crissy Field. Chug up and down the Lyon Street steps. Walk one of the trails in the Presidio. Hear your heart in your ears.”

### 3. Be consistent.

“Make your workout time unwavering,” he says. “Treat it as an appointment with yourself by writing it in your calendar.”

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#### SOLICITATION OF INTEREST IN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY WESTERN ADDITION APPROVED REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA A-2

The Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco (“Agency”) is issuing Solicitation of Interest for streetscape repairs on a portion of the sidewalk right-of-way along Fillmore Street between Post and McAllister Streets in the Western Addition Approved Redevelopment Project Area A-2. Responses to the Solicitation of Interest will be accepted until January 30, 2007, 5:00 p.m. Copies of the Solicitation of Interest packet are available at One South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor, or online at [www.sfgov.org/sfra](http://www.sfgov.org/sfra). If you have questions, please contact Patricia Maitland, Property Management Supervisor, Telephone: (415) 749-2505.

1/13/07  
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NEW FILLMORE



With a fitness regime, it's more important to be consistent than constant, according to McGuire, who says he sees more people fall off a well-intentioned fitness wagon by being overly strict with themselves. "Even the most fit people in the world don't work out seven days a week," he says. "And if you miss a workout or two, just know that it's human — and don't be wracked with guilt."

4. Do what you love.

"If you like running, then make that your primary fitness activity," he says. "If you like to swim, swim. If you're a biking fiend, then get out and ride. Or learn to do something you always wanted to try. You won't keep doing something you don't like to do in the first place."

5. Find your best time of day.

"I like mornings. Working out is a good way to start the day. You can begin by holding your head high and being proud of your accomplishment," says McGuire, who teaches outdoor fitness classes that kick off at 6 and 7 a.m. five days a week at varying spots around the city, from Baker Beach to Marina Green to the Legion of Honor. He acknowledges, however, that the crack of dawn is not the best fit for everyone — and that each person needs to find his or her own cadence.

6. Get a trainer.

All local gyms offer personal training services. McGuire says one of the biggest benefits of hiring a trainer for today's time-strapped types is that workouts will be more efficient. "You pay for an hour of time, and every minute of it will be designed to meet your fitness goals," he says. "That's what we do."

7. Reward yourself.

"Come up with a reward system for yourself when you consistently stick to your program: a massage, a pair of shoes, a nice dinner where you don't give a hoot about the calories — whatever drives you," he says. "You deserve it."

8. Fire up a DVD.

"For those who want to start a fitness program in private, it doesn't get any better than your own four walls," says McGuire, who notes that bookstores and libraries are brimming with fitness DVDs.

McGuire is particularly taken with fitness videos by Kari Anderson, who, like him, has roots as a professional ballet dancer, noting that she "gives great cuing" and offers an all-over workout that also includes lots of cardio and legwork.

9. Get a buddy.

Making a date to exercise with a friend keeps some people from throwing in the towel and spurs them to keep moving because of the sense of commitment — or guilt.

"Pick someone you're not afraid to feel vulnerable or out of shape in front of and make the pledge to help motivate one another," he says. "Given that we all have such crazy lives, it usually works best if you both pick a class or specific gym time to take part in together."

10. Take the long view.

While rippling abs and bulging biceps aren't built in a day, McGuire says many people feel immediate tangible benefits from sticking with their pledges to get fit: They sleep better, eat better, have better bloodflow and better moods.

But he cautions that most people who are new to exercise don't see real physical results for six to eight weeks. "In the meantime, don't obsess," he says. "Don't get on a scale. Just keep moving. And above all, be proud of yourself."

■ NEW YEAR SPECIALS

# A Look at Local Fitness Clubs

**Buchanan YMCA, 1530 Buchanan**  
**931-9622, [www.ymcasf.org/Buchanan](http://www.ymcasf.org/Buchanan)**

*Look and feel:* An exercise facility with a sense of history. It began in 1886 as the Japanese YMCA. After World War II, the rebuilt Buchanan YMCA began to serve the broader neighborhood. A basketball court now stands over what used to be a swimming pool. Fully appointed rooms for cardio, weight resistance, plus a spacious dance studio for Pilates and other instruction.

*Classes:* yoga, tai chi, aikido, karate, wu shu, body conditioning, piyo (Pilates/yoga combo), Pilates, senior fitness, flamenco dancing, mommy & me stroller.

*Cost of membership:* \$25 start-up fee, plus \$43 monthly charge for adults; \$33 monthly for those 62 and older; financial assistance available.

*January incentive:* Those who join by February 10 get \$100 of "Y Bucks," which can be applied to charges for monthly membership or to costs of personal training or seminars at the Y.

**Club One, 1455 Fillmore**  
**749-1010, [www.clubone.com](http://www.clubone.com)**

*Look and feel:* A sprawling, well-maintained spot with separate areas for stretching, free weights and weight resistance machines, plus a cardio room amply stocked with Stairmasters, stationary bikes and treadmills. Includes a racquetball court, lap pool and co-ed whirlpool; separate saunas and steam rooms for men and women.

*Classes:* Pilates, step, body conditioning, kickboxing, hip hop, Feldenkrais, spinning, aqua-fit and yoga.

*Cost of membership:* \$20 one-time processing fee and \$25 one-time registration fee, plus \$65 monthly charge.

*January incentive:* Registration fee waived.

**Fit-Lite, 2434 California**  
**929-2424, [www.24hourfitness.com](http://www.24hourfitness.com)**

*Look and feel:* A division of 24 Hour Fitness, Fit-Lite was originated to break through to those who find that gyms are "stressful places, with confusing machines and intimidating clientele." It provides a cardio and strength training circuit that requires rotating every minute or so to get a total body workout in 30 minutes. Open 24 hours to members, with fingerprint tracking access.

*Classes:* None.

*Cost of membership:* Wide range of fees and dues.

*January incentive:* Special \$99 initiation fee, plus first and last month dues ranging from \$20 to \$43, gives access to all 24 Hour Fitness clubs.

**Jewish Community Center, 3200 California**  
**292-1215, [www.jccsf.com](http://www.jccsf.com)**

*Look and feel:* Modern building crammed with state of the art equipment for cardio and weight training. Separate classrooms for toning, dance, yoga, Pilates and other activities. Includes a lap pool, teaching pool and whirlpool in addition to basketball and volleyball courts. Steam and sauna also available.

*Classes:* More than 100 group exercise classes offered weekly. In addition to the standard fare of yoga, Pilates and toning, there's also West African dance, qi gong, kickboxing and dance fusion.

*Cost of membership:* \$200 initiation fee, plus \$89 monthly charge.

*January incentive:* None, but membership may soon be capped.



Trainer David McGuire works with a client at Pacific Heights Health Club.

**Pacific Heights Health Club, 2356 Pine**  
**563-6694; [www.phhcsf.com](http://www.phhcsf.com)**

*Look and feel:* A small club with a comfy feel, reinforced by a friendly staff. One room is equipped with cardio machines, and another — with retractable ceiling — houses weight training and resistance machines. A third room upstairs is reserved for classes. The men's locker area contains a whirlpool.

*Classes:* tone & sculpt, Pilates, various types of yoga.

*Cost of membership:* One-time initiation fee of \$249, plus a \$99 monthly membership fee.

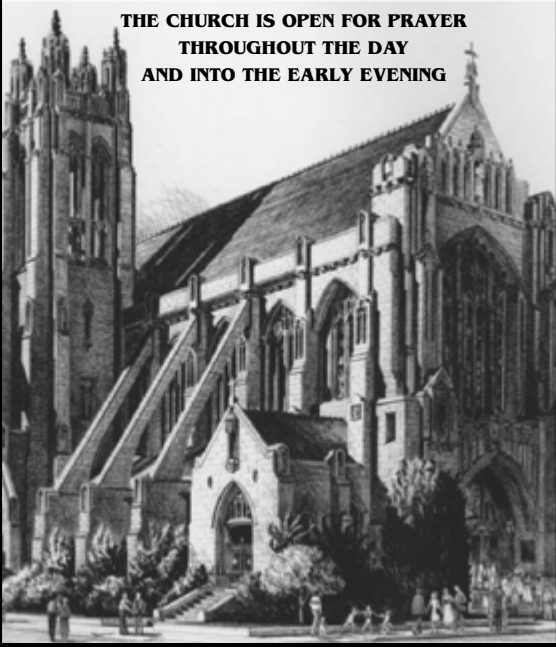
*January incentive:* The \$249 initiation fee will be waived for all those who sign up within three days of touring the facility. Those who join on their own get 50 percent off the initiation fee, or 75 percent off for those who join with a friend.

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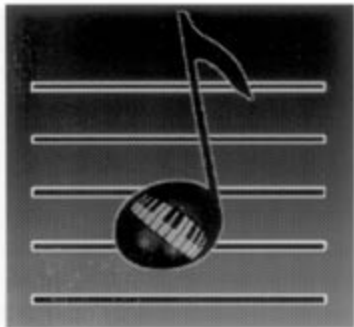
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## Now in the Presidio: La Terrasse

As the new year dawned, Fillmore restaurateur Antoine Alliaume slipped into the Presidio and opened a new restaurant, La Terrasse, in a new building at 215 Lincoln Avenue, next door to the post office.

The longtime proprietor of the Curbside Cafe on California and Bistro Too at the Presidio's Lombard Gate is partnering with Laurent Katgely, the highly regarded chef and owner of Chez Spencer, on 14th Street.

"He's a fantastic cook — one of the best in the city," says Alliaume. And while they're promising fixed-price menus of three, five and seven courses, Alliaume says the evolving menu will fit somewhere between the high-end

French fare of Chez Spencer and his neighborhood bistros. There will also be an a la carte menu and all-day service from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Warmer weather will bring full use of the namesake terrace, which offers views of the bay and the Golden Gate Bridge. Ultimately there will be more tables outside than inside.

The restaurant's marquee image (above) is from Alliaume's collection of 19th century French newspapers.

"It just seemed right for a former army base — French military guys drinking," he laughs.

More information is at [www.laterrassepresidio.com](http://www.laterrassepresidio.com), or call 922-3463 for reservations.

### ■ CHAMPAGNE 101

## A Few Things to Know

By MARK J. MITCHELL

Nothing says Happy New Year more definitively than champagne. To kick off the new year and keep it going, here are a few thoughts on champagne.

Most people ask for dry champagne, which basically means one that's not sweet. In fact, most champagne — the bubbly from the Champagne region in France, as opposed to sparkling wines from elsewhere — are dry.

Labeling can be confusing. The term "sec" or "dry" appears on many champagne labels. The problem is that bubbly with that designation are actually sweet. "Demi-sec," which means "half-dry," is actually quite sweet.

Even people who have learned the meaning of "sec" and "dry" are still sometimes taken in by the term "extra dry." These wines are also quite sweet. They are usually made from the leftover wine a large champagne producer has around, and a great deal of sugar is added during the secondary fermentation that produces the bubbly effect.

Most champagnes are labeled "brut," which means raw. All of these champagnes are quite dry, though some are drier than others. The world's most popular brut, Veuve Clicquot, is actually among the sweetest, which may account for its popularity. Still, if you see champagne labeled brut, you can pick it up and have confidence in its dryness.

People also seem to think it is hard to find champagne with small bubbles. This is just not true among the houses that produce bubbly in the Champagne region of France. It is true that some bubbles are smaller than others, but most range from tiny to microscopic. Again, grab any bottle of true champagne with confidence.

There are the large producers of champagne, known as grande marques, such as Veuve Clicquot, Piper Heidsieck, Laurent Perrier and Perrier Jouet. All of these houses produce fine champagnes. There are, however, many more smaller houses in



### Sip and sit

Design Within Reach is teaming up with Veuve Clicquot this year in a champagne chair contest. The trick is to create a chair design using only the foil, label, cage and cork from no more than two bottles of champagne. Or stop by DWR at 1913 Fillmore to pick up a kit — with everything except the champagne, alas. Better hurry: Entries are due by January 15. More info is at [www.dwr.com](http://www.dwr.com).

the area that produce handcrafted wonders that deserve your attention, and should be sought out — producers such as A. Soutiran, Serge Mathieu, Jean Noel Haton and Moutard Pere et Fils. Many of these houses are owned by the people who grew the grapes, and are a much more personal expression than the wines from the grande marques.

There are also sister houses that offer good value. For example, Salon also owns the house of Delamotte. A Delamotte non-vintage brut will cost about an eighth of what a bottle of Salon costs. It won't be as sublime an experience, perhaps, but it will be fine bubbly. Vicomte de Castellane is another smaller producer that is owned by the same family that produces Laurent Perrier.

Happy new year!

*Mark J. Mitchell manages D&M Wine and Liquor on Fillmore Street.*



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# ‘I Just Have This Thing About Bread’

By PASCAL RIGO

ONE MORNING not very long ago, I was eating breakfast with my family. We were sitting around the kitchen table in our apartment, which is above our bakery on Pine Street.

Like most days, I had taken a basket downstairs and pulled an assortment of freshly baked breakfast pastries off the racks. My wife Virginie and I were talking, and Oscar, the baby, was eating and playing with a spoon. But my two daughters, Juliette and Pauline, were just sitting there, staring at the pastries. I asked them, “What’s wrong?” They both looked up at me and said, “*Nous voulons du pain*” — “we want some bread.”

As I walked back downstairs to get them a baguette to chew on, I smiled and shook my head, thinking about how much my daughters reminded me of myself at their age. Of course, like all kids, I liked to eat desserts and pastries. But for as long as I can remember, what I loved even more was fresh bread. I just had this thing about it — the flavor, the smell, the texture. I can’t tell you why. It wasn’t as if I came from a long line of bakers. I was just fixated on bread. And not only bread. I was crazy about the bakery, too.

Every day, my mom would send me down to Monsieur Audouin’s boulangerie in our little village — Paillet, near Bordeaux — to pick up a couple of baguettes. I would inhale that smell of fermenting yeast and flour, breathe in that moist air, and peer past the counter into the bakehouse, where M. Audouin, who also happened to be the town’s mayor, would be working away. And for some reason I felt right at home.

I can’t quite remember exactly how those trips to the baker turned into an apprenticeship. It happened without any discussion or planning. It wasn’t something anyone told me to do, or something I had to do for money. It just happened, and then it gathered its own momentum, like dough rising in a warm place.

Eventually, I decided it was time to make a go of bread baking — but not in France. By the late 80s in France, the writing was on the wall. Bakers, like all

tradespeople there, were faced with really tough economic and political limitations, and I thought I’d test my wings in a place with more opportunities to work hard and succeed: the United States.

In January 1999, I took over an old Victorian building that was once a French laundry on Pine Street and turned it into a bakery. When it came time to put something on the signboard outside, I just had them put the word “Boulangerie.” I really didn’t think that little bakery would be much of a retail store. I was only planning to bake bread there and mostly sell it wholesale, and the storefront was basically the packing room for that

wholesale business. But we thought we might as well put some bread in the window to sell to customers off the street.

Within a few days, you couldn’t find a parking space on the whole block. Word spreads quickly in San Francisco, especially when the word is “food.” People had begun to line up for bread outside our shop all morning long. So I thought I would make some croissants just for fun. The first day I made them, they sold out in 20 minutes. The next day we made more — and we made almond and chocolate ones, too.

A few days later, we thought, “Why not try some miniature palmier cookies?” We put them in little bags and before we knew it we were selling 200 bags a day. Then

Pascal Rigo at work at his Boulangerie Bay Bread on Pine Street, the cornerstone of his growing empire of cafes and restaurants.

the *San Francisco Examiner* gave us a great review, and that was it. No turning back.

Bit by bit, we kept adding new breads and pastries, and people seem to love them. Today we have more than 70 items in the bakery. Along with the classic bread and pastry items, there are special things for every season and every big holiday, along with regional specialties from all over France.

I think what has made our bakery unique can be expressed in a single word that defines everything we do: authenticity. I don’t just mean that we make exact copies of the breads and pastries you would find in a boulangerie in France. I am talking about a respect for tradition that comes through as soon as you walk into the shop: you can see it, smell it, hear it, and of course taste it, and I wouldn’t want to have it any other way.

These days, I think we are all more hungry than ever for simple, honest authenticity, in every part of our lives, and it feels good to share that kind of approach through our bakery.

So here I am, living above the bakery with Virginie, Juliette, Pauline and Oscar. Our days begin with bread and pastry, and our lives are filled with the aroma of the bakery — the powerful, comforting smells of yeast and steam. My kids breathe in those smells. They see the importance of hard work, the value of respect for the customer, and most of all, the beautiful results that simplicity and authenticity can bring. Those are the gifts I want most to give to them.

Looking back at my life so far, it occurs to me that what I have really done is to end up right where I began. I have tried to re-create for my family, myself and everybody around us all the things I loved most about my own childhood.

And that is what I will keep trying to do. Because, like a great round loaf of country bread, the boulanger’s apprenticeship has no beginning and no end. It is a circle, and if you are very lucky, it lasts your whole life long.

*Pascal Rigo owns Boulangerie Bay Bread on Pine Street. This article is excerpted from his book, The American Boulangerie.*



*“What has made our bakery unique can be expressed in a single word that defines everything we do: authenticity.”*

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL MOORE

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# A Preservationist's Return

*Anne Bloomfield's columns on neighborhood architecture find new life as a book, thanks to her husband Arthur*

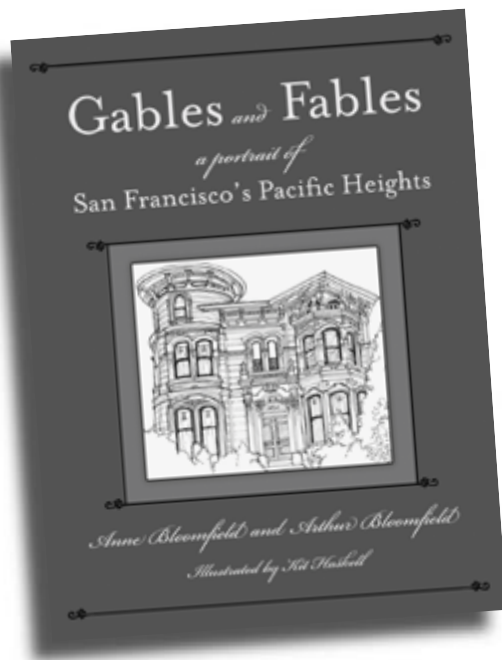
WHEN Volume 1, Number 1, of a new monthly neighborhood newspaper called the *New Fillmore* appeared in May 1986, one of its features was ambitiously labeled Great Old Houses #1.

It was just a picture and a paragraph about the Victorian at 2447 Washington Street written by Anne Bloomfield. "Untouched it is not," she noted archly.

For the next 14 years, until her death in 1999, she continued writing every month about a great old house in the neighborhood. Her articles got longer and more detailed, and they became one of the paper's most popular features.

Her writing burnished her growing reputation as a pre-eminent architectural historian and preservationist. She served as a member of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and played a leading role in creating many of the city's historic districts — including its first residential district, on Webster Street, where she lived.

She intended to collect, edit and revise her columns into a book, but time ran out.



"I couldn't escape the feeling that 'the Anne book' should be done," says Arthur Bloomfield, pictured with Anne in Paris on the Champs-Elysee in 1996. The result is a portrait of Pacific Heights, to be published this year.

"It was the one thing Anne left undone that mattered to her a lot," said her husband, Arthur Bloomfield, an author and critic of food and music. "I couldn't escape the feeling that 'the Anne book' should be done."

So he set about turning her columns into a manuscript that could be published between hard covers.

The result is *Gables and Fables: A Portrait of San Francisco's Pacific Heights*, a 400-page book with drawings and maps to be published in May by Heyday Books in Berkeley. The publisher presents it as a collaboration between Anne and Arthur that is "part historical detective work and part gossip column."

It is "a phantasmal composite, if you will, of her caber-

net and my merlot," Arthur says. "It was all her idea, and it's mostly Anne's material, but I wrote the book."

The drawings are by Kit Haskell, who has been doing pen and ink drawings for the Victorian Alliance of San Francisco since 1986.

*Gables and Fables* tells the stories of 110 houses and other buildings in the neighborhood — "an architectural and social history of one of the United States' most attractive neighborhoods," the publisher says, "along with the moguls, entrepreneurs, artists, mariners, recluses and charlatans who lived in them."

This month Anne Bloomfield's work returns to the *New Fillmore* — as selected and amended by Arthur Bloomfield — and will continue in anticipation of the arrival of the work in hard cover later this year.



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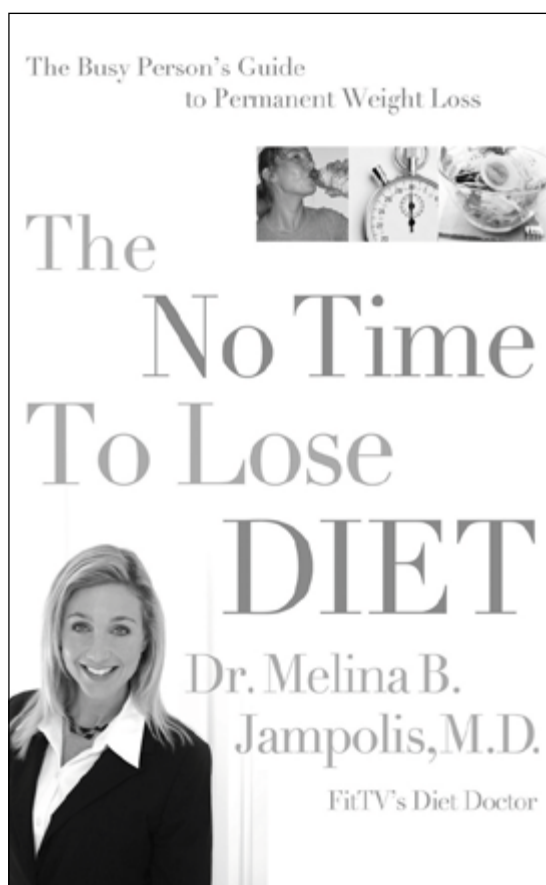
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To learn more about Dr. Jampolis and *The No Time to Lose Diet*, please visit: [www.drmelina.com](http://www.drmelina.com)

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# Three Sisters and Their Stately Victorian

Lottie, Dottie and Maud Woods lived long lives together at 2000 Pacific Avenue

BY ANNE BLOOMFIELD  
AND ARTHUR BLOOMFIELD

WHILE Victorian architecture was out of favor, the Queen Anne-Colonial Revival mansion at 2000 Pacific owed its preservation to the inaction of three aging maiden ladies, Lottie, Dottie and Maud, last name Woods, who died in their eighties and nineties, the last in 1974.

Across Octavia the large and rather ugly Queen Anne at 1998 Pacific, which had been the town quarters of the Sigmund Sterns — think Stern Grove, that verdant concert venue at 19th Avenue and Sloat Boulevard — was long gone by the time the last of the sisters was carried away.

Dottie, by the way, was technically Dorothy Woods, but even the Social Register accepted the somewhat informal moniker Lottie when listing her sister. Come to think of it, Lotte is a good German name, not a nickname.

Maud gave up maidenhood at the age of 61, but only for a few days. Her husband-in-passing was Frederick C. Hotaling of the old-time liquor wholesalers, about whom Charles K. Field wrote in 1906, in the wake of the great earthquake and fire:

*If, as some say, God spanked the town  
For being over frisky,  
Why did he burn the churches down  
And save Hotaling's whiskey?*

Evidently on the honeymoon either Hotaling was disturbed that the “chaperoning” other sisters were sleeping in the next cabin, or Maud was put off by her new mate’s drug addiction. A suing for divorce followed forthwith and Maud returned to her sisters, the Chinese “houseboy,” and her poetry. Which, one suspects, was a long way in tone from Chekhov’s *Three Sisters*.

Lottie’s hobby was genealogy, and

Dottie gardened. They all belonged to the Century Club at Sutter and Franklin (where that estimable chamber ensemble led by pianist Margaret Tilly gave interesting concerts five or six times a season), and the Colonial Dames associated with the Octagon House on Gough Street. Sounds like they had fun, “sublimation” of the baser instincts not troubling them too much.

Oh yes, each decorated her own tree at Christmas. It’s lucky there were several large rooms for the displays thereof. In fact, looking at the house from a kitty-corner position, you can see that it conveniently divides into south, central and northern sections, three

evidently commodious bedrooms lined up symmetrically on the second floor for our near-Siamese siblings.

The sisters did not grow up in 2000 Pacific. They bought it in 1921 after their parents died. Their father was Frederick N. Woods, nephew and junior partner of W. Frank Whittier who built 2090 Jackson, formerly the headquarters of the California Historical Society. Whittier made his money as a partner in Whittier, Fuller and Co., ancestor of Fuller O’Brien Paints. Woods had other businesses too, poultry and window glass — there’s diversification, all right.

The house’s original owners were

Charles York, who had a big ship chandlery business, and his wife, Emma. No children, but they lived at 2000 with a pair of servants, one German, one Danish. Think of the pastry! The Yorks had 2000 built in 1894–95 by a contractor named Thomas McLachlan, who charged them \$9,450. Plumbing cost an extra \$1,975, and they had bought the lot separately.

The designer of what surely stands as a beautifully proportioned house, with impressive south and east elevations — it’s helpful the house is on a corner — was one H. Burns. Perhaps this was the Henry Burns who did 3414 Washington in Presidio Heights, or was it Howard Burns, responsible for 1524 Bay Street in Alameda?

In 1911 the Yorks sold their pad to Curtis Holbrook Lindley, a respected mining attorney who lived across the street. He’d been eyeing 2000 with its great wheel of a rosette, toy soldier porch and paired chimneys, its not unsensuous corner bay. Lindley enjoyed several years at his new address, then his estate sold to Lottie Woods, evidently the business manager of the sisters, or the eldest.

When the Warren Wilsons, since departed, bought 2000 in 1974, they were only the fourth owners in 80 years. By that time the house had lost hardly any visible parts, but nothing worked, grime was everywhere and the golden oak paneling had darkened terribly.

One day an aged Chinese American turned up at the door, proudly announcing, “I take care Miss Lottie, Miss Dottie 50 year.” He’d been too busy cooking, serving and washing up to tend the house much. Meanwhile the Wilsons proceeded slowly, cautiously, fixing up one room at a time, encouraging the house to tell its secrets.

*Excerpted from Gables and Fables, to be published in May by Heyday Books.*



*Maud gave up maidenhood at the age of 61, but only for a few days. Her husband-in-passing was one of the old-time liquor wholesalers.*

DRAWING BY KIT HASKELL

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NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq Ft	Date	Asking \$	Sale \$
1534 Baker St	1	1	1	750	Nov 30	815,000	850,000
1 Cottage Row	3	2.5	0	1650	Dec 6	1,125,000	1,125,000
1689 Sutter St	4	2	2	2165	Dec 1	1,295,000	1,260,000
2825 Pine St	4	3	1	2280	Nov 30	1,650,000	1,377,000
1813 Greenwich St	3	2	3	1198	Nov 28	1,450,000	1,400,000

Condo / Coop / TIC / Lofts

2077 Jackson St #205	1	1	1	640	Dec 15	499,000	509,000
1730 Broderick St #1	1	1	0	828	Nov 28	539,000	540,000
2185 Bush St	1	1	0	830	Dec 20	565,000	540,000
112 Arguello Blvd #5	2	1	1		Dec 6	659,000	650,000
2139 Green St #A	1	1	1	640	Dec 6	699,000	699,000
3193 California St	2	1	1	783	Nov 28	689,000	700,000
3126 Laguna St #A	2	1	1		Dec 5	729,000	735,000
1970 Sutter St #119	1	2	1	830	Dec 15	750,000	750,000
2200 Sacramento St #104	1	1	1	1048	Nov 21	760,000	790,000
1324 Lyon St	3	1	1	1094	Dec 7	800,000	800,000
3295 Clay St #4	2	1	1	826	Dec 8	839,000	875,000
2147 Greenwich St	2	1	1	1250	Nov 22	899,000	885,000
130 Pixley St	1	2.5	1	1315	Nov 28	989,000	960,000
1402 Post St #D	3	2.5	1	1682	Dec 5	1,095,000	1,050,000
2839 Baker St	2	1.5	1		Dec 14	1,180,000	1,150,000
3414 California St	2	2.5	1		Dec 19	1,192,000	1,150,000
2865 Jackson St #3	3	2	1	1132	Dec 14	1,250,000	1,325,000
2718 Pine St	3	2	1	1686	Nov 28	1,095,000	1,360,000
2515 Sacramento St	3	2	2	1825	Nov 22	1,650,000	1,700,000
2172 Pacific Ave #1	3	2.5	2	2555	Dec 20	1,695,000	1,755,000
1913 Vallejo St	3	3.5	2	2320	Dec 5	2,300,000	2,675,000
2320 Broadway St	3	4	2	2442	Nov 28	9,250,000	9,250,000

No sign of a holiday slowdown

Although the period between Thanksgiving and year’s end is typically the slowest sales period of the year for real estate, our neighborhood showed no sign of a slowdown. The number of sales for both single family homes and condominiums remained relatively stable during the last month. Perhaps the strong stock market and continued prosperity is keeping the market relatively stable for our neighborhood — but not for the rest of the city, where sales continued to tail off and prices continued to fall.

The first quarter of 2007 will tell us much about San Francisco’s housing market. We should see the market throughout the city begin to rebound during the second quarter. Interest rates remain low and the economy continues to remain healthy. All told, the modest slowdown we have seen during 2006 has been good for the overall housing market. Prices have stabilized, even fallen somewhat, and the competition for housing has diminished.



All cash in 6 days

The past month saw the all-cash sale of a condominium at 2320 Broadway (left), which listed and sold in six days, apparently for its list price of \$9.25 million. Among the many features of this home on four levels were five fireplaces, two north terraces, drop-dead views and an elevator. This was highest price paid for a condominium or cooperative since 2000, when a unit at 2006 Washington Street sold for \$14 million.

— Data and commentary provided by KEN BOERI, a real estate broker with Pacific Union. Contact him at [ken.boeri@pacunion.com](mailto:ken.boeri@pacunion.com).



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# A TALE OF TWO KITTIES

By JOAN O'CONNOR

YESTERDAY I got a call at work from my husband. In a tone of voice I had never heard, he told me that our two cats had disappeared. Busy doing weekend chores, he said he hadn't paid much attention to the whereabouts of the cats. Usually they are content to pass the days lounging in a patch of sunshine or snuggled by a heater vent.

When we adopted the brother cats about two years ago from Pets Unlimited on Fillmore Street, we agreed to keep them as indoor kitties. Except for occasional forays onto our patio when one of us sweeps or empties trash, they seldom venture outside.

So yesterday's call was a mixture of panic and disbelief. Since he hadn't seen them go out, it was impossible to fathom how far they could have gone. I closed my shop and headed home, stopping at George, the neighborhood pet shop, for salmon treats that have always lured our kitties out of hiding places.

At home I hugged my husband, insisted we'd find the kitties and began re-checking all the indoor closets and cupboards. No cats. We called Pets Unlimited and Animal Care & Control, and received amazing support and compassion from their operators, as



Angus and Atticus, back at home and looking sheepish.

well as suggestions for searching the neighborhood.

By then it was getting dark and I began ringing neighbors' doorbells, stopping at the corner shops and asking every dog walker and stroller if anyone had seen our cats. No luck.

I shook a plastic container I had filled with salmon bits, called their names, made a kissing sound that usually lured them to dinner and paused periodically to listen for a meow. A little later, back at home, I called again from our patio and shook the salmon treats.

Then, as though it were an act of magic, one of the cats reappeared at the fence next to our neighbor's garden. Such relief swept over me! I called again, and the cat came inside and was greeted and snatched up into my husband's arms.

Still, his brother was missing. It wasn't until this morning around 9:30, as I called and coaxed again outside, that our second kitty showed up on our back patio. As I picked him up, I realized he felt warm, as though he had been inside. Maybe he was caught in a neighbor's garage, or perhaps someone heard him meowing and took him in for the night.

Whatever happened, we are profoundly grateful to have our kitties home again.

SO WHAT are the lessons? First, the obvious: Be vigilant when you open a door or window, especially when you are carrying anything that may obscure your vision.

Second, call for help. We are so fortunate to have Pets Unlimited right in our neighborhood. Animal Care and

Control is also staffed by considerate, wise pet people. Start with a call to both if your pet vanishes.

From AC&C we learned that if your cat disappears, go outside very early in the morning when the city is quiet. Call his or her name or make a familiar calling sound. Listen closely in case your pet is stuck in a shed or a garage.

Post a listing under Lost & Found on Craigslist. Make flyers and get them around the neighborhood, taking care to notice where you put them so that you can retrieve them as soon as the pets come home. Leave a copy at neighboring front doors. Be sure it includes a phone number.

We called back to Pets Unlimited and AC&C to let them know our cats were safe. We asked what we can do to show our appreciation for their guidance and support. At Pets Unlimited there is a constant need for towels and old blankets to use in the shelter and the adoption center. If you have clean cast-offs to donate, just bring them to 2343 Fillmore Street. Of course a cash donation makes it possible for them to help pets and their owners too.

Can I tell you how grateful we are this holiday weekend?

*Joan O'Connor is the proprietor of Timeless Treasures at 2176 Sutter Street.*

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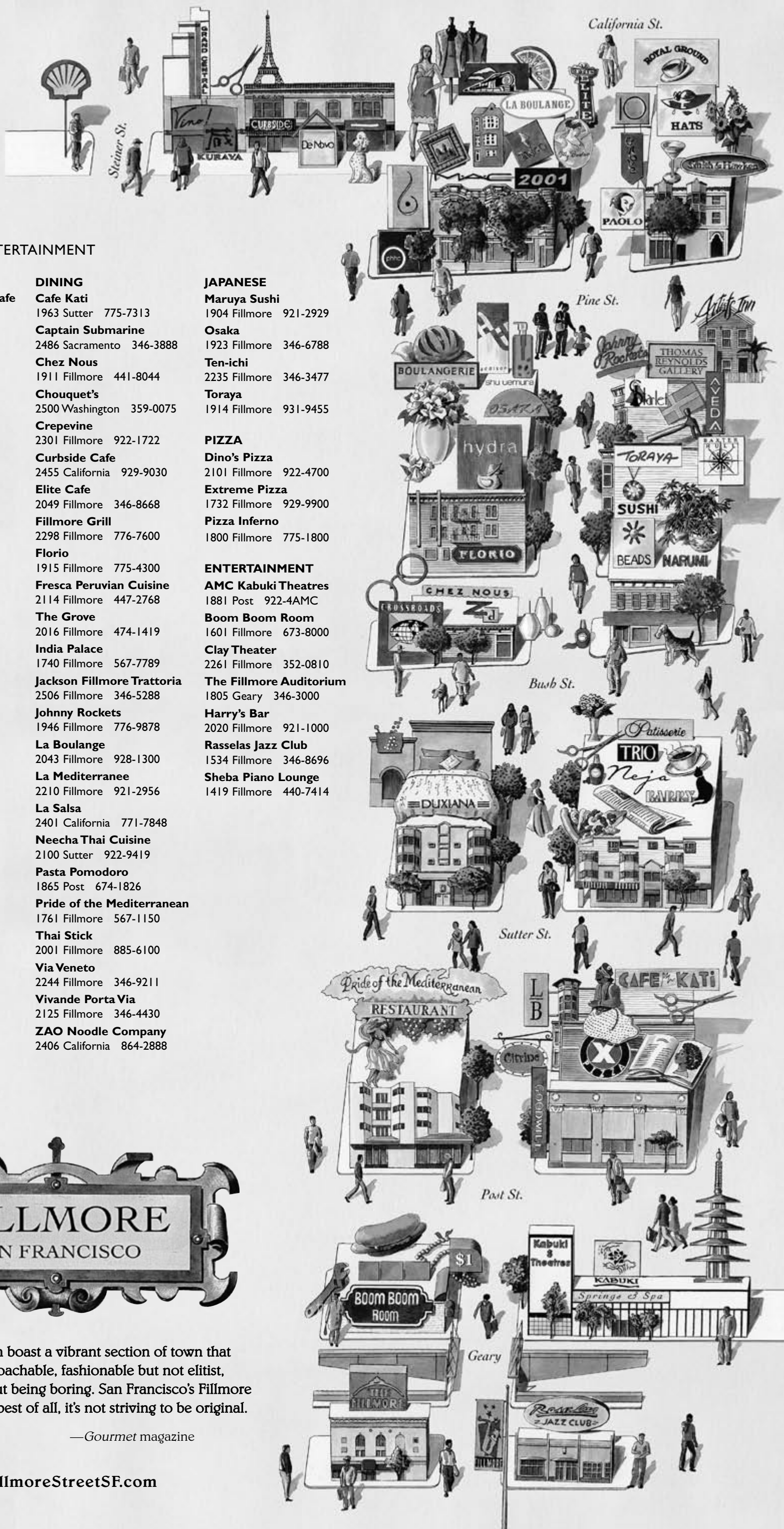
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