

*Miyako turns
into the Kabuki*

*Budding actors
lose their stages*



*For chocoholic,
life is bittersweet*

New FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ JULY 2007



FILLMORE JAZZ FESTIVAL

It's toe-tapping time on Fillmore

Poster design ©
CRAIG FRAZIER

The annual Fillmore Jazz Festival returns for the 23rd year and brings music out into the street on Saturday and Sunday, June 30 and July 1. Every year on the weekend closest to the Fourth of July, Fillmore's musical heritage comes alive, with three stages of free jazz both days. Headliners include two big bands — the Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra and the Contemporary Jazz Orchestra — along with the Mel Martin Quartet and two dozen others. Plus art, crafts, beer, wine, corn dogs and more. **FESTIVAL PROGRAM INSIDE**



MINNIE'S CAN-DO CLUB: Many clubs have come and gone in the Fillmore during the past century. Few are remembered more fondly by more people than the Can-Do Club, run for five years beginning in 1969 by Minnie Baker (left). She was back on Fillmore Street recently recalling the good times.

- "Minnie's was all about dancing." **PAGE 11**
- "There's no way I can get away from it." **PAGE 12**
- "I started the poetry readings." **PAGE 13**

Dog Mauling Case Is Still Making Law

When are owners liable for murder?

By BARBARA KATE REPA

A COURT CASE that began in the neighborhood in 2001 when two dogs mauled and killed a local resident continues more than six years later, with legal gyrations nearly as novel and complicated as the underlying facts.

The dog owners, Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller, were a married couple who practiced law out of a converted closet in their one-bedroom apartment at 2398 Pacific Avenue. They acquired two huge Presa Canario dogs — Bane, who weighed 150 pounds and Hera, who weighed 130 — through their ties to Paul John Schneider, a prison inmate known as "Cornfed."

The fatal mauling of their neighbor, Diane Whipple, occurred when Knoller took Bane and Hera, both unmuzzled, for a walk on their rooftop, then back through the hallway to their sixth floor apartment.

The California Supreme Court last month decided unanimously that the trial judge must reconsider whether Knoller can be found guilty of second-degree murder. It directed the judge to focus on a specific question: whether the defendant was aware of "engaging in conduct that endangers the life of another — no more, no less."

TO PAGE 3 ►



MINA PAHLEVAN


FARMERS MARKET IN FULL SWING

The Fillmore Farmers Market continues on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fillmore and O'Farrell, with fresh produce, cut flowers and live jazz.


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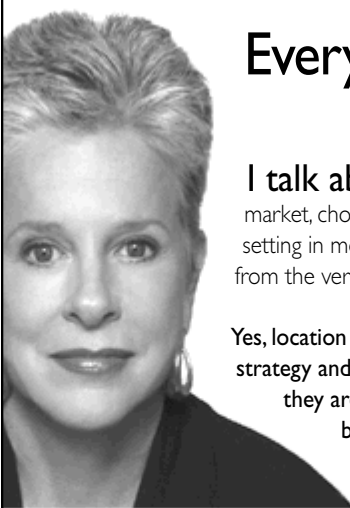


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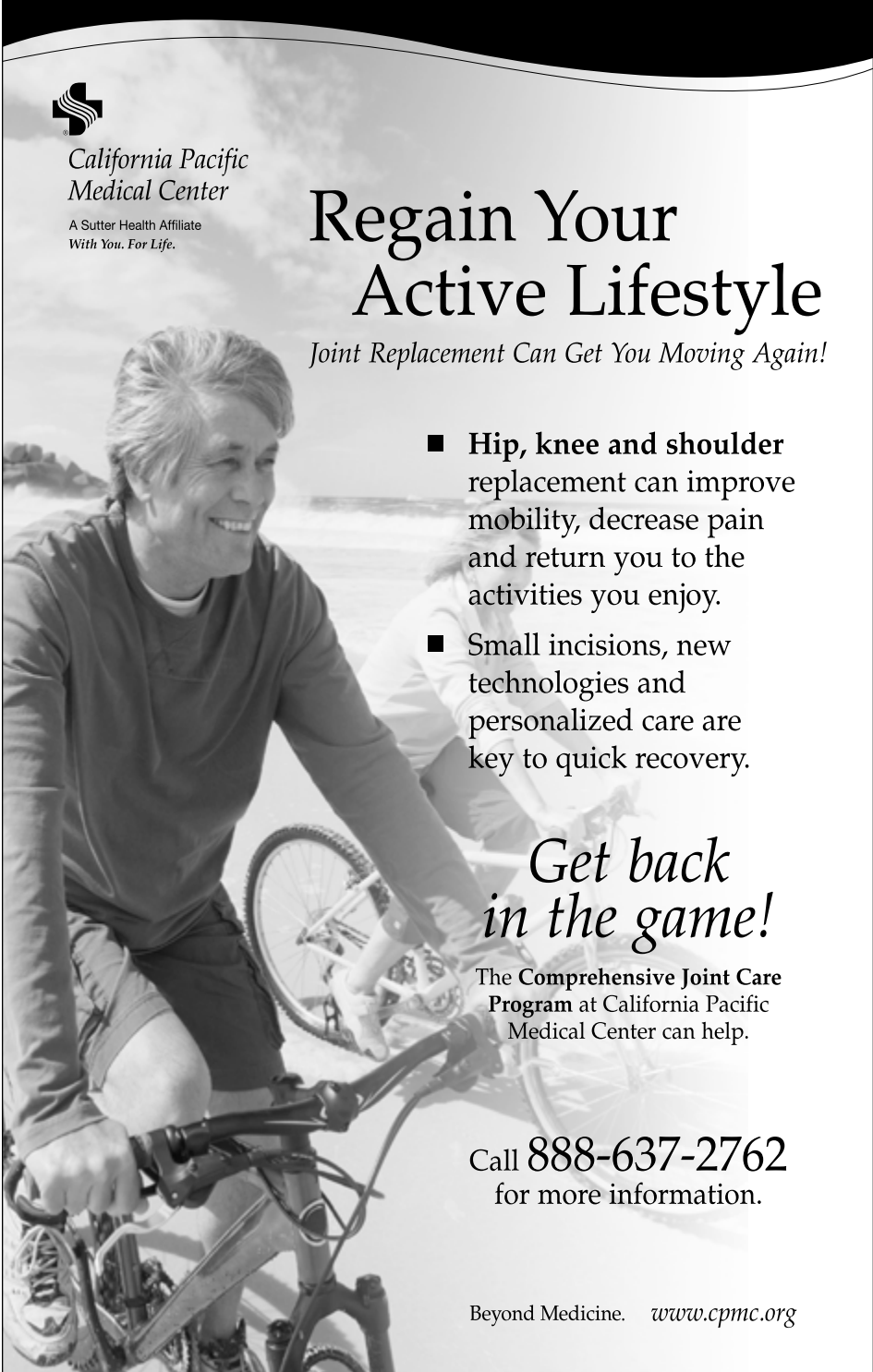
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This Month

IN & OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD



ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY

Aerial Photography of Robert Cameron

Presidio Officers' Club Exhibition Hall, 50 Moraga Avenue
Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
More information: 561-5500 or www.presidio.gov

Renowned aerial photographer Robert Cameron began photographing California in 1969. This exhibition includes 56 images from his large body of work over California, Nevada, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii.

■ FAVORITE SPOTS

I'm a Southern boy. Now and then I like to slip down to Popeye's at 1426 Fillmore for fried chicken. I usually get a three-piece combo and walk across the street to the Fillmore Center. In the middle of the complex is a courtyard and a beautiful garden with trees, a manicured green lawn and a cascading fountain — the perfect place for my private picnic.

— ROBERT EARL BROWN

GOT A favorite local spot?
editors@newfillmore.com



THE NEW FILLMORE

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Miyako Hotel Getting New Name, Look, Restaurant

JAPANTOWN's Miyako Hotel will be transformed into the Kabuki Hotel — and will get a new restaurant with a Japanese baseball theme — during the next phase of its rebuilding, which begins this month.

If all the necessary permits have been obtained, Dot Restaurant on Post Street will close July 2 and demolition will begin. One of the first things to go will be the floor-to-ceiling frosted glass wall that obscures the interior and, according to hotel general manager Jim Gerney, makes it uninviting to passersby.

The restaurant is expected to reopen in early September with a Japanese sports theme and the name O, for Sadaharu Oh, a Japanese baseball star. Gerney describes the concept as “historic Japanese baseball meets art.” TV screens surrounding the bar will show Japanese sumo and baseball as well as major American sports. What is now the mezzanine will become a private dining skybox.

Finalists Picked for Presidio Lodge

Plans for a lodge at the Main Post of the Presidio are advancing, with three hotel developers selected as finalists from an original group of 13.

Contenders are Joie de Vivre, whose 21 properties include the Hotel Drisco in Pacific Heights and the Tomo Inn and Miyako Hotel in Japantown; Larkspur Hospitality, with 24 hotels including the Cartwright, Monticello Inn and Villa Florence in San Francisco; and Benchmark Hospitality, whose 25 resorts and conference centers are spread

from Hawaii to Virginia, with the closest being Chaminade in Santa Cruz.

Whichever proposal is implemented, the lodge will have approximately 100 rooms and a maximum height of 45 feet. The Presidio Trust's guidelines require that the design of the lodge be “uniquely suited and appropriate to the Presidio,” that it include some moderately priced rooms and that it reuse some historic buildings, including Pershing Hall.

Presidio Trust leaders are expected to make the final selection this month.

The hotel's guest rooms are being re-styled with new wall coverings, carpeting, linens and furniture designed to evoke a “serene, worldly, relaxed” mood, Gerney said.

Japanese elements such as rice paper shoji screens, traditional art and a tokonoma — an alcove for art and flower arrangements — will be retained. Mini-bars will include sake and Japanese snacks as well as standard fare. Bathrooms on the upper floors are being gutted and renovated with deep soaking tubs.

Once the interior renovation is complete — now expected in the fall — the exterior will be resurfaced and painted.

The process has run almost six months behind schedule. Implementing the designers' original plan would have cost about \$15 million, but has been reduced to about half that amount.

The nearby Miyako Inn has already been renovated and rechristened the Tomo Inn, with a Japanese pop culture theme.

Court Rules for Neighbors on Housing Plan

A STATE appellate court on June 22 set aside the housing element of the city's general plan — much opposed by neighborhood groups — and ordered city officials to prepare an environmental impact report.

The decision was a victory for 14 neighborhood associations, collectively known as San Franciscans for Livable Neighborhoods, which has fought the housing element since it was approved in 2004.

State law requires the city to prepare a plan that preserves, improves and develops housing.

The group objects to the housing element's call for increased building densities, especially in areas well served by transit, the reduction or removal of minimum parking requirements in new construction, and the legalization of existing in-law units.

The Pacific Heights Residents Association has expressed concern that Fillmore and nearby streets would be built up, even though much of the area is zoned for single families.

The court noted that the housing element “encourages housing project sponsors to take full advantage of allowable building densities and advocates reducing or removing minimum parking requirements.”

It concluded that changes to the housing element could have a significant environmental impact, including “increased traffic congestion, air pollution and noise, as well as a change in the aesthetic quality of city neighborhoods.”

Come 2gether July 12

The public is invited to join in the formation of 2gether, a new coalition of neighborhood groups and activists in District 2. The inaugural meeting is on July 12 at 6 p.m. at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

The coalition seeks to bring various groups together to bring forces on city affairs relating to District 2. The meeting was set up independently of Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier, who represents District 2, although she plans to attend.

2gether is patterned after SF5Together, a coalition of neighborhood groups in District 5.



Scene of the crime: the apartment building at 2398 Pacific.

Dog Mauling Case Takes Another Twist

► FROM PAGE 1

In 2002, a jury convicted Knoller of involuntary manslaughter and second-degree murder. But months later, San Francisco Superior Court judge James Warren threw out the murder conviction and granted a new trial, ruling that Knoller could be found guilty of murder only if she knew there was a “high probability of death to another human being” when she took the dogs out.

In 2005, an appellate court reversed the ruling, holding that all that was required for the murder conviction to stick was that Knoller “consciously disregarded the risk of causing serious bodily injury” — a more lenient standard.

In its recent ruling, the California Supreme Court held that both of the lower courts got it wrong. It said “the trial court set the bar too high” and “the court of appeal set the bar too low.” It held that the second-degree murder conviction instead requires proof that a defendant “acted with conscious disregard of the danger to human life.”

Legal critics say the likely fallout is that dog mauling cases will now be

more difficult to prosecute, since it will be hard to prove unequivocally that a dog owner is aware of the risk of death.

Noel, who was out of town during the killing, was convicted of manslaughter, served his prison time and was released in 2003. Both were convicted of the separate charge of “owning a mischievous animal that caused the death of a human being.”

Knoller moved to Florida in 2004 after serving 33 months in prison for the manslaughter conviction. If convicted of second-degree murder, she faces the possibility of returning to prison to finish a possible sentence of 15 years to life.

Whipple, a 33-year-old college lacrosse coach, died on January 26, 2001, shortly after being attacked as she carried two bags of groceries into her apartment. She had suffered 77 injuries, including a crushed larynx.

Noel and Knoller stoked public outrage by claiming that Whipple provoked the dogs and denying any responsibility for her death.

Prison officials, however, said they

uncovered evidence — more than 100 letters the couple sent to and received from the prison under the guise of attorney-client correspondence — that Knoller and Noel had conspired to run a business training the dogs as attack animals with Cornfed Schneider and his cellmate.

Adding weirdness to wonder, Noel and Knoller legally adopted the 38-year-old Schneider two days after the fatal attack. During a related investigation of Schneider's jail cell, investigators discovered among his personal papers several photos of Knoller, his adoptive mother, some in provocative poses wearing scant lingerie, some nude and posed with photos of fighting dogs.

While the couple claimed Bane and Hera were well behaved, local residents who saw the dogs on walks throughout the neighborhood testified they were afraid of them. At the trial, evidence was introduced of about 30 incidents in which the two dogs were out of control or threatened people and other dogs.

No date has been set for rehearing the case.

Theatrical Troupes Lose Their Stages

New school, rec center
rehab force kids out

TWO CHILDREN's theater groups have been forced out of their spaces and will operate in temporary quarters for the summer while they search for new homes.

Musical Theatre Works, which operated for seven years at Newcomer High School, runs classes for a fee for students in grades kindergarten through 12, culminating each spring in a Broadway musical presented with sets, costumes and live musical accompaniment.

The theatre group has been forced out by the building's new tenant, the Metropolitan Arts and Technology High School.

Carolyn Miller, operator of Musical Theatre Works, said the San Francisco Unified School District allowed the theatre group to stay and lease Newcomer's auditorium month to month when the high school moved out a year ago. When Metro leased the building this spring, she scrambled to secure St. Luke's Church at Van Ness and Clay for summer sessions, which began June 18. She's still searching for rehearsal and performance space for the fall.

In addition, Handful Players, which has had only one 12-workshop series and one performance, is also losing its space to a re-



Budding thespians took the stage at the Hamilton Recreation Center on June 8 when Handful Players presented its first — and last — performance there.

modeling of Hamilton Recreation Center on Geary and Steiner Streets.

Participation in Handful Players is free. The group's name comes from the fact that the kids have a handful of talent — and that the kids themselves are sometimes a handful. In addition to giving kids, especially at-risk and underserved children, something to do after school, it aims to equip them with life skills and build their self-esteem.

The fledgling theatre group was caught in a vicious circle. The performance space at Hamilton had fallen into disrepair, so it wasn't often used for cultural activities.

When the Recreation and Park Department looked over the current uses of the facility while preparing for the building's renovation, it didn't see theatrical activities and so it did not plan for them.

Judith Cohen, founder of Handful Players, said she was offered gymnasium space for her workshops, and will use it during the summer before the renovation begins. But it's not suitable for performances, she said. Construction won't start until September, and Cohen says she's hoping to find a new spot by then.

— Don Langley

Metro High Takes Over Newcomer

By Don Langley

A RELATIVELY new charter school, Metropolitan Arts and Technology High, will take over the shuttered Newcomer High School at Jackson and Webster streets for at least the next year.

The school is funded in part by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which last year donated \$6.9 million to Envision, an educational nonprofit, on top of an earlier gift, to open seven more high schools with an arts and technology focus.

After opening its first school in Novato in 2003, Envision opened City Arts and Technology High School in the Ingleside district of San Francisco in 2004, Metro in 2005 and an Oakland school in 2006.

Metro has operated for two years on Treat Avenue in Bernal Heights. With another class of freshmen coming in next fall, it has outgrown that site. In addition, 150 students are slated to commute from Marin County, where the Marin School of Arts and Technology School in Novato closed earlier this year.

Mary Richards, director of charter schools for the San Francisco Unified School District, said in late June the school district was negotiating a lease with Metro that was to be presented to the School Board on June 26.

In May, Newcomer was declared surplus property, making it eligible for lease or sale. A charter school, such as Metro, is entitled to request the use of surplus property.



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Plan for the month:
more chocolate

Bittersweet’s Seneca Klassen is on the bill at this month’s **San Francisco International Chocolate Salon**, where he will give a presentation on chocolate drinks and serve on a tasting panel.

Open to the public, the two-day salon will include chocolate and wine pairings, chocolate painting, chef and author talks, a chocolate spa and a chocolate fashion show. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 14, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 15, at the Fort Mason Conference Center. Tickets are \$20.

TRY THIS AT HOME: “We haven’t tried this — except experimentally — at Bittersweet yet,” Klassen says, “so don’t expect to find it in our store.” But he urges chocoholics to play around with this idea.

Gulf Coast Mocha
6 tablespoons ground coffee
2 tablespoons roasted chicory
1/2 cup cocoa nibs
1 tablespoon dutched cocoa powder
2 tablespoons sweetened condensed milk
1 cup boiling water
1 cup (240 grams) steamed milk

Mix all the dry ingredients in a small bowl, then pour into a French press and top with sweetened condensed milk. Add boiling water and steamed milk and stir briskly with a spoon until well blended. Put the top on the press and allow the mixture to steep for 4 minutes. Slowly press until all the solids are collected at the bottom. Serve in a cappuccino mug and top with cinnamon, whipped cream or both.

A Chocoholic Among Us
At Bittersweet, a ‘chocolate nut’ is living his lifelong passion

By GARY CARR

SENECA KLASSEN is a chocolate nut. His shop, Bittersweet, the chocolate cafe at 2123 Fillmore Street, is the culmination of a lifelong passion for chocolate.

“I’m a home chocolate-maker from way back,” Klassen says.

For years, he’s collected recipes for chocolate drinks and confections, concocting goodies in his kitchen capable of driving a chocoholic to ecstasy.

“I have friends in the cacao-growing world who would ship me the raw materials,” he says. “I’d turn them into chocolate and send them back, just to show them what could be done with their beans.”

Bittersweet sells all sorts of chocolate bars and other chocolate treats, some of which are from the recipes Klassen has developed in his kitchen.

The shop owners — Klassen runs the company with partner Penny Finnie — search the world for uncommon brands dear to the chocolate aficionado’s heart: Chocolat Bonnat and Pralus from France, vegan Casa Don Puglisi bars from Sicily, and forastero bars from the Hawaiian Chocolate Co., the only U.S. company that grows its own beans.

In addition, Bittersweet offers hand-made bonbons, housemade croissants, and a bevy of chocolate drinks.

Among the drinking chocolates at Bittersweet are a chocolate Thai iced tea and a



“Where we stand out is in our wide range of drinking chocolates.”

spicy chocolate drink from Oaxaca made with rosewater, cinnamon and cayenne.

“We have a great mix of the familiar and the offbeat for chocolate lovers,” Klassen says. “But where we stand out is in our wide range of drinking chocolates.”

He points out that, until the mid-1800s, the only way people consumed chocolate was by drinking it. The Spaniards brought cocoa beans back from the New World, and Europe soon fell in love with chocolate — as a drink. The chocolate houses of 17th

century London rivaled the coffee houses, and served as chat rooms for such luminaries as Isaac Newton and Samuel Pepys.

The first solid “eating chocolates” didn’t appear until the 1840s, Klassen says, when J.S. Fry & Sons of Birmingham, England, produced them in molded form. Milk chocolate appeared in 1879, introduced in Switzerland by Henri Nestlé.

Klassen’s love of chocolate led him to trace the bean back to its roots. He concocted a drink that reflected the very first uses of cocoa beans more than 3,000 years ago by people living along the Amazon.

“It was basically ground cacao mixed with chilies and water and drunk cold — very bitter and nutty,” he says. “But for them, it was completely normal.”

Later, the Mayans enjoyed a drink made with cacao beans, water, chilies and cornmeal — all very grainy, porridgey and with a kick. Perfect for starting a day of pyramid building.

Klassen’s hobby outgrew his kitchen, and four years ago he started looking for a way to turn it into a commercial venture. In 2004, he and Finnie opened the first Bittersweet cafe in Oakland. A year later came the cafe on Fillmore Street, which Klassen describes as “an ideal location in the perfect neighborhood.”

“We have a great foodie community here, with tremendous interest and knowledge of wine, cheese and olive oil,” Klassen says. “Chocolate, with all its nuances, is certainly in the same league.”



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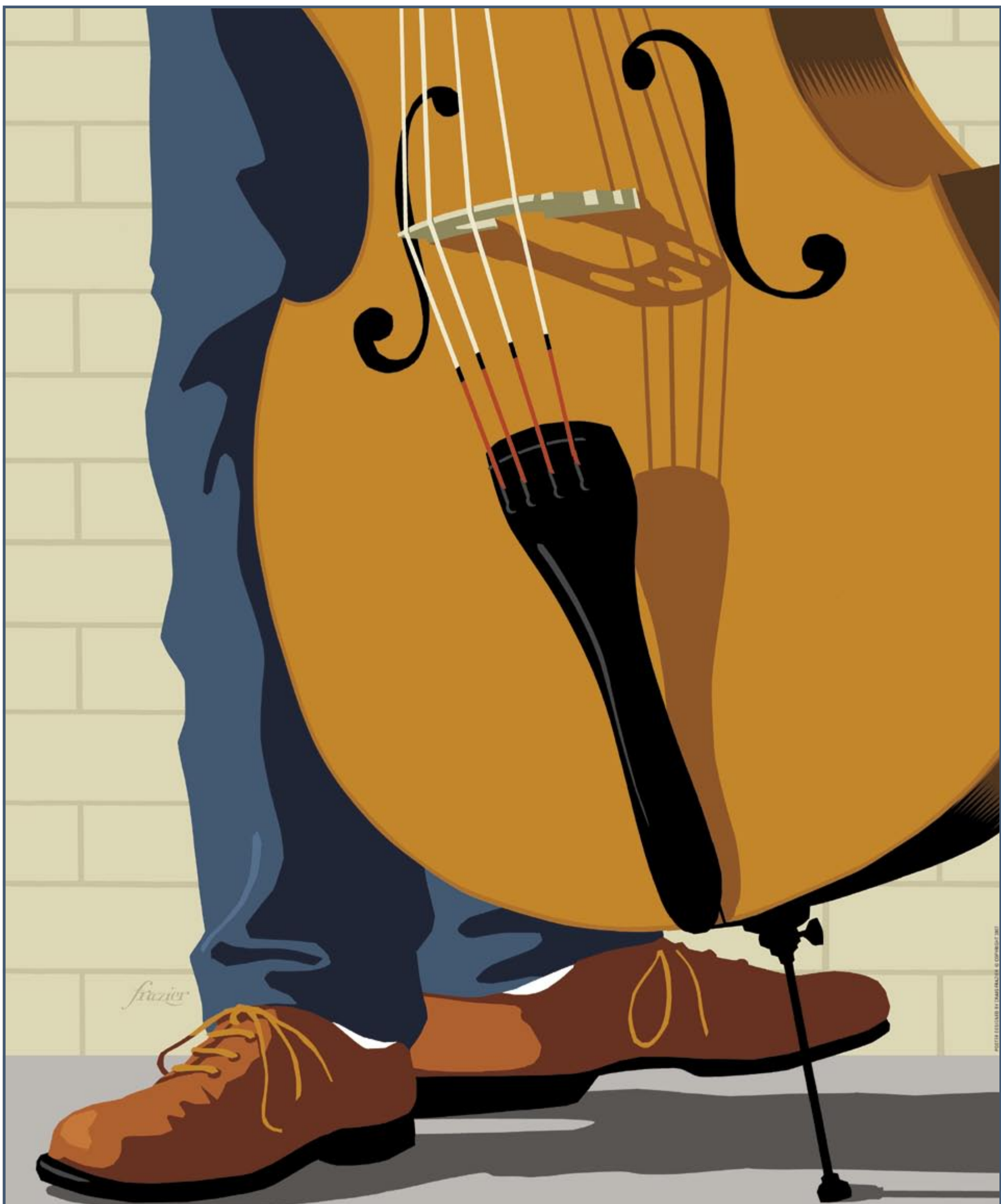
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JUNE 30 & JULY 1, 2007
FILLMORE JAZZ FESTIVAL



Fillmore Street from Jackson to Eddy 10 am ~ 6 pm

www.FillmoreJazzFestival.com 800.310.6563

Festival Program



The 23rd Annual

FILLMORE JAZZ FESTIVAL

Saturday & Sunday ~ June 30 & July 1, 2007

On Fillmore Street in San Francisco
between Jackson and Eddy Streets
10 am to 6 pm

Regarded as one of the premiere jazz festivals on the West Coast, the 23rd Annual Fillmore Jazz Festival is presented along historic Fillmore Street, spanning 12 blocks from Jackson to Eddy Street.

The two-day festival features three stages of live entertainment, outdoor bistro dining, and over 200 arts & crafts booths set amidst the architectural splendor of the thriving Fillmore District.

Admission is free to all performances.

Produced by Steven Restivo Event Services, LLC for The Fillmore Merchants Association and The Fillmore Jazz Preservation District Merchants Association.

www.FillmoreJazzFestival.com
800/310-6563

Acclaimed as one of the biggest jazz festivals in the nation, this spectacular two-day event, which attracts over 90,000 attendees, is set amidst renowned boutique retail shops, 200 booths of fine art, outdoor bistro dining, and the architectural splendor of the historic Fillmore District.

Staged along Fillmore Street and spanning 12 blocks from Jackson to Eddy, the Festival will present three stages of live jazz entertainment ranging from big bands to solo acts, offering up jazz standards, Latin jazz, Afro-Caribbean jazz, smooth jazz, flamenco jazz, blues, be-bop, R+B, and original jazz works. Influenced by the genius of such jazz giants as Ellington, Coltrane, Hancock, and Gillespie, as well as today's emerging composers, the Fillmore Jazz Festival artists represent a broad spectrum of musical styles and virtuoso talent.

In addition to the many fine restaurants and cafes located in the Fillmore District, festival attendees will be tempted by the savory delights of global fare, ranging from teriyaki, lumpia and Peking chicken wraps, to oysters, calamari, Cajun specialties, kabobs of all varieties, BBQ beef, garlic fries, and the ubiquitous corn dog.

San Francisco's Fillmore District is known worldwide for its strong jazz and musical roots. From the post-WW II days where nightclubs presented Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, and Billie Holiday, to later day artists such as John Coltrane, Janis Joplin, the Grateful Dead, and Isaac Stern, the Fillmore has remained at the center of the City's love affair for musical expression.

The organization and logistics of the 2007 Festival are in the hands of Steven Restivo Event Services, LLC, in cooperation with Hartmann Studios, a leading event, meeting and festival production company. The Festival is presented by the Fillmore Merchants Association and the Fillmore Jazz Preservation District Merchants Association.

ENJOY THE FESTIVAL!



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at the Festival

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- House of Lumpia and BBQ
- Lemonine Creperie
- Main Street Food Concessions
- New Orleans Catering
- Pedemonte
- Pure Food
- San Francisco Vegetarian Society
- Sonoma Teriyaki
- Tante’s
- Taylor’s Seafood
- Thai & Thai BBQ
- Thai Stick BBQ
- The Roasted Corn



ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 30

- CALIFORNIA STREET STAGE
- 10 am: Michael LaMacchia
 - 12 pm: Sanford Barnett Quartet
 - 2 pm: Contemporary Jazz Orchestra
 - 4 pm: Terese Genecco

SUTTER STREET STAGE

- 10 am: Erik Lindquist Trio
- 12 pm: Ben Wanicur Quartet
- 2 pm: Smith Dobson V Quartet
- 4 pm: Mitch Marcus Sextet

ELLIS STREET STAGE

- 10 am: Jaye and Friends
- 12 pm: Kimbrough & Company
- 2 pm: Everyday People
- 4:30 pm: Sila and the Afrofunk Experience

Sunday, July 1

- CALIFORNIA STREET STAGE
- 10 am: Fazz
 - 12 pm: Will Blades
 - 2 pm: Will Bernard
 - 4 pm: Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra

SUTTER STREET STAGE

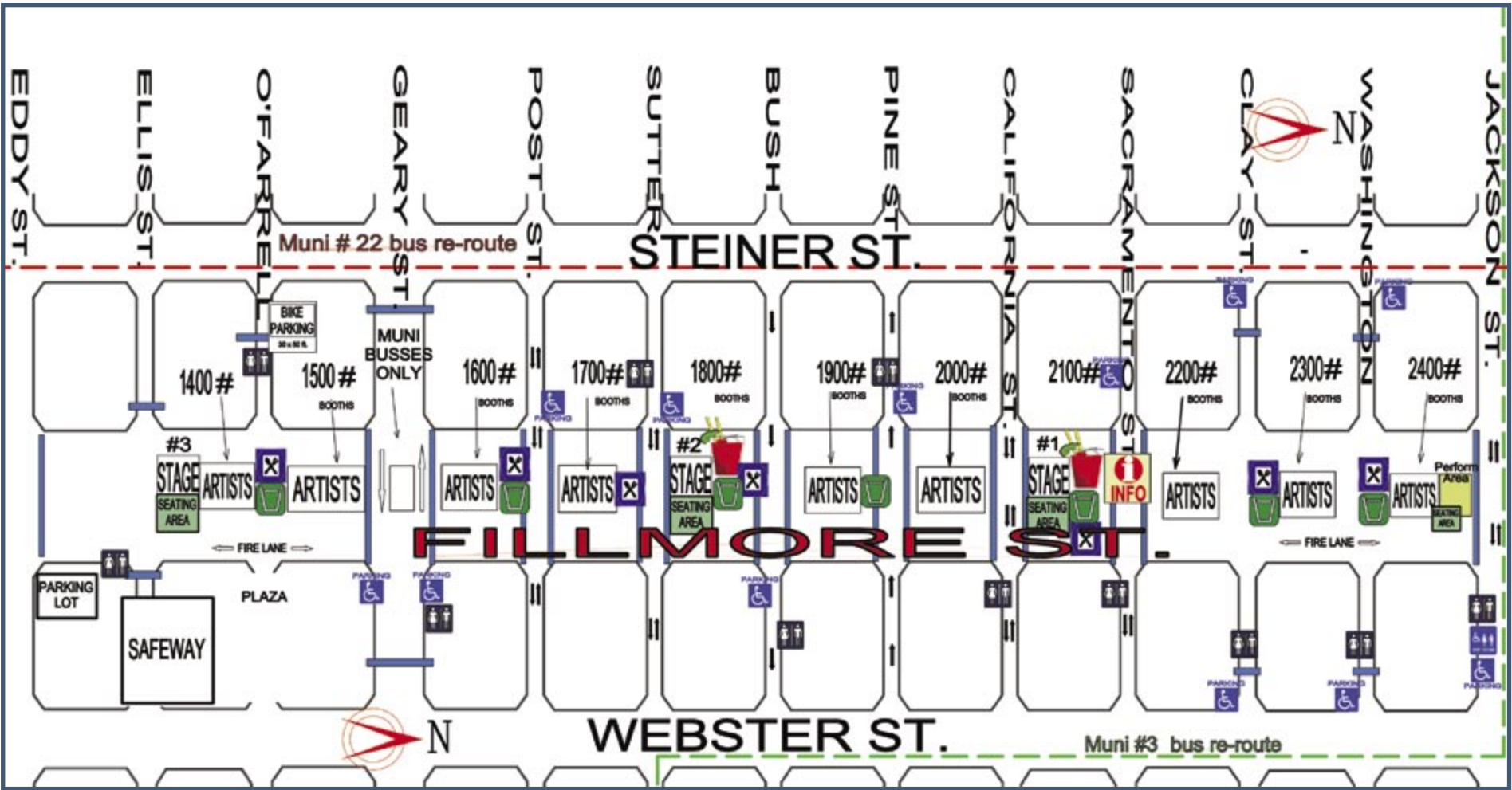
- 10 am: Rachel Lauren
- 12 pm: Brass Mafia
- 2 pm: Mel Martin Quartet
- 4 pm: Bautista

ELLIS STREET STAGE

- 10 am: Jazz Philosophy
- 12 pm: Lloyd Gregory
- 2 pm: Vinyl
- 4:30 pm: Mazacote



Fillmore Jazz Poster, design by Craig Frazier
Craig Frazier is an illustrator who has enjoyed a distinguished career as a graphic designer since 1978. In 1996, he shifted his career emphasis from graphic design to illustration. He has received numerous awards and has been recognized internationally for his design. His work is in the permanent collection of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



ARTIST LOCATIONS AT THE FESTIVAL

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1405	ASH Designs	1737	Gitas Crafts & Design	2022	Michael Sheridan World Photography	2317	The Real Insect Company
1406	Yesy's Imports	1736, 1738	Pretty Fancy	2023, 2025	Courtney Collection c/o Luxury Pillows	2318, 2320	Anthony Hansen
1416	Africana	1740, 2236	Slavic Gifts	2024	In Good Taste	2319	Natural Flower Designs
1501	Bazaar Marketing	1739	The Nutty Gourmet	2026	Aquamarine	2337	Capreese
1502	Voila Vintage Francofolie	1909	Arts Anvil	2027	A High Standard of Dyeing	2321	L. O'Neill Design
1503	Wine Impressions	1910	One Dream Design	2028, 2030	Nzalamba Art Works	2322	Earth Wear
1504	Mask	1911	Chrevan Art Glass	2029	Marcia & Co.	2323	Trager Photography
1505	Calabash Enterprises	1912	Kathe's Jewels	2031	Pia	2324	Nina of Palm Springs
1506	Universal Trading Company	1914	The Submarine Assemblage	2032	Eliza Designs	2325	Colleen Mauer Designs
1507	Anna Jewelry	1915	Adornments	2033	Njeri	2326	ZM Arts
1508	Galaviz Jewelry	1916	VYY Creations	2034	Kumari Universal	2327	Melting Visions
1509	Hudson River Inlay	1917	Serendipity Studio	2035	Joe & Joy Kick	2328	Zawia Inspired
1510	Virginia's Garden Art	1918	Head N Home Hats	2036	Gene Lee Emages	2329	Oliver's Almonds
1512	Halo Crown Hats	1919	Bamboo	2037	Tonaj	2330	Pineapple Seed
1512	Estilo Clothing	1920	Silverworks	2038	Teri art and design	2331	C.M.O. Designs
1513	Crown Fellowship	1921	Coloratura	2201, 2202	Chris Honeysett Photography	2332	Tikva
1514	Bentara Creations	1922	Yume Glass Art	2203	Poshaque	2333	Kayoko Designs
1515	Jeff Price Art Glass	1923	Hampton Creative Design	2204	Jeeba Jewelry	2334	The Killer Brownie Co
1516	Natural Mystic Trading Co.	1924	Large Leather	2205	Hartstring Jewelry	2335	Waka
1517	Tsering Youdon Jewelry Store	1925	Michael K Accessories	2206	Raw Art	2336	Sunset Pearls
1518	French Silk Company	1926	Seed Art	2207	La-Di-Da Handbags	2338	Anne Xu Photography
1520	Metalsouls	1927	Bamboo World	2208	O'Dorsay Inc.	2339	An Urban(e) Potter
1522	Dereks Co	1928	Bamboo Chic	2209	Moonlight Hairsticks	2340	Jedzebel
1524	Brenda Van Soi Ceramics & Jewelry	1929	Stefanie Wolf Designs	2210	Gryphon Jewelry Design	2401	Jendala
1525	Monkapaws	1930	Anne & Jane	2211	Terrell Imports	2402	Papillon Photographic
1528	Dreamworks Glass	1931	Like Minded People	2212	St. Raphael Collection	2403	Regine Pfanz Designs
1530, 1532	Mujghan Fashions	1932	M.D. Provence	2213	Leon Tantau-Smith	2404	Dilley Dalley Designs
1534	Quirk Designs	1933	Coco Loco	2214	Dowdle Folk Art	2405	Blueblood
1536	Eye Think Inc.	1934	African Trading Post	2215	Anett Schneider Fashions	2406	Lap Sack
1538	Natwal Fire	1935, 1937	Danski Beautiful Clothes	2216	Nishimura Designs	2407	Designs by Nanine
1540	Phyllis Emelda & Company	1936	TAG Enterprises	2217, 2218	Lisa Kristine Gallery	2408	Aqua Joe Soaps
1541	SF Hemp	1938	Ring Around the Toezees	2219	Mark Vantress Studios	2409	O Yikes
1542	Li's International Trading Co.	1939, 1941	Karim J	2220	Mabel Chong	2410	Santini The Leather Merchant
1707	Imagination Unlimited	1940	Dana Godfrey Copperwork	2221, 2223	Ladybug Crafts	2411	Exactmosaics
1709	Marble Designs	1942	Slainte Bags	2222	Lance Kuehne Photography	2412	Casa Loma Press
1710	Juliet Michele Accessories	1943	Kardon Trading Co.	2224	Marano Designs	2413	Selva Designs
1711	Kwytza Chopstick Art	1944	Artique Treasures	2225	Body Magic	2414	Bistro Blends
1712	Al's Tahoe Windchimes & Crystal	2001	Synergy Clothing	2226	Village Clayworks	2415	Emerald Art
1713	The Soi Company	2002	LeDoux Studio	2227	Cynthia Lee Darling	2416	Anything Found
1714	Wood art thai lao	2003	The Ringman	2228	R.A.D. Rags	2417	Go2Gift
1715	Sakovich Studios	2004	Hilside Bags	2229	Second City Arts	2418	Exclusive Designs
1716	Pedro and Carol Castro	2005	New Country Bonsai Garden	2230	Ashprey's	2420	Continental Art Center Inc.
1717	Dash Hemp Santa Cruz	2006	Wearable Phantasy	2231	Orihime Textiles	2421	Happiness Africa
1722, 1724	Photographs of Old America	2007	Tessa Kemp Jewelry	2232	Liza Gourds	2422	Fusion Jewels World
1718	Falbrecht Studios - Corkers	2008, 2010	Leroy W. Parker Artist	2233	Creative Designs Unlimited	2423	Silk Twist
1723	Shaya Fine Jewelry	2009	Bill Kasper Studio	2234	Curlew Crafts	2424	Zenvase
1725	Learn and Play	2011	Barbini	2235	Gallery Leu Inc.	2425	Michele Feder
1726	Bedezone	2012	Kitchen Candles	2307	Romantic Sax Music	2426	Bellure Designs
1727	Kindred of ShiEndra/Wyldseed	2013, 2014	Angelique	2308	Gunnar Erman Design	2427	Fernando Mosquera
1728	Big River Gems	2015	Mark Poulin	2309, 2311	Gabe Leonard	2428	Fonarow Photography
1730	Primo's Gourmet Food Company	2016	Hudson's Life Nostalgia	2310	Kathy Kamei Designs	1408	Bite Me Pet Products
1731	Fabrications	2017	Wooly Rascals	2312	Xavier Nuez Photography	1410	Dutch Duds Inc.
1732	Sun Moon Company	2018	Via Ripatti Designs	2313	ChadaGem	1526	Zen Space
1733	Mystery Fashions	2019	Pig's Fly	2314	M Clothing	TBD	Arc Typ Studios
1734	IMEX Trading Company	2020	Taber Studios	2315	Sunflower		

FILLMORE HISTORY



Fillmore Street, looking south from Pine Street toward the Can-Do Club, circa 1970.

The Can-Do Did Do

Back in the day, Minnie's Can-Do Club was the hippest place in town

By BARBARA WYETH

WHEN I MOVED to San Francisco in the early 70s, I got a job at the Gourmet Market in the Cannery. I had visited there previously as a tourist and was impressed with their imported chocolate selection. I decided it would be a cool place to work. This was before the Whole Foods era, and it was a popular and busy market.

I worked behind the candy counter and fine-tuned my sweet tooth. It was the main checkout in the store, so besides the salted licorice that sent Dutch visitors into fits of ecstasy, my co-workers and I also sold imported beer, soda pop, snacks, wine — and of course sourdough bread. Our customers were not only the tourists, but other people working in the complex and the many street



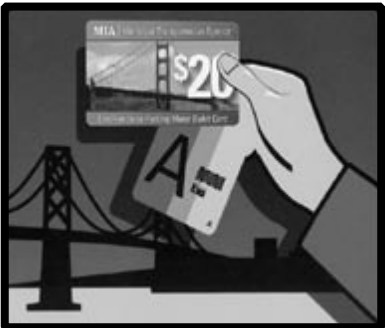
ED BROOKS

artists and musicians who worked nearby. Everyone I met wanted to turn me on to what was happening in my new city. One of my new friends was a street musician, a saxophone player. Jazz was his main thing,

Minnie Baker in 1972.

but he also played at the wharf and with various blues bands in town. He said he needed to take me to the hippest place in town for live music. I was game. So one night we hopped on Muni and headed over to Fillmore Street, to Minnie's Can-Do Club. That night we walked through the door into multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, jumpin' San Francisco. The place was smoky and crowded and sweaty and rockin' — no brooding, angry, angst-ridden music going on here. The good times were rolling, the beer was flowing, and absolutely everybody in the place seemed to be moving to some very funky blues coming from a small stage at the back of the room. From that night on, Minnie's became my club of choice.

TO PAGE 12 ▶



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The Can-Do Club was on Fillmore at Wilmot Alley, where Florio restaurant stands today.

The Can-Do Did Do

► FROM PAGE 11

Minnie herself presided over the bar. She ran a tight ship, but was kind, maternal and good-looking, too. It seemed impossible that the fully adult male bartender was in fact her son. She believed in supporting local writers. Poets like ruth weiss and devora major read there.

And the music. Minnie's was one of very few clubs that showcased local blues bands, keeping live music going at a time when deejays and disco were becoming the norm in many of the city's clubs. It could be a pretty rowdy place, but Minnie never let it get out of hand.

The stage was only a step above the dance floor and there was much flirting and carrying-on between the band members and the women in the crowd. The restrooms flanked the stage, men's on the left side, women's on the right. The women's always had a line, and you had to walk right up to the band, and sometimes stand practically on stage to wait your turn. During the evening, the musicians managed to get a pretty good look at all of the women in the bar, and we had a chance to gossip and laugh and size up the band as we waited.

Aside from all the socializing, the music was terrific: gritty, funky, homegrown Bay Area blues. Jazz was big in the city at that time — at Keystone corner and the Matador in North Beach, especially — but a lot of musicians like my saxophone-playing friend liked to get loose and have fun playing rhythm and blues — dance music. And Minnie's was all about dancing.

The minute the juke box went on people were up and shaking booty. Then the band would start up and it would just keep on going. When the exhausted musicians finally called it quits, the juke box was on again — the Ohio Players, the Commodores, Sly and the Family Stone, Marvin Gaye, War, Aretha.

One night I remember Minnie literally shoving a bunch of us out the door, delirious, more than a bit drunk, just plain unwilling to let the fun stop. "Hush up and go home now," she said. "I got a license to worry about." Out we went spilling onto the sidewalk. Directly across the street, the New Zion Baptist Church sat prim and scolding. A street light glowed softly in the fog as we dispersed into the cold summer San Francisco night.

The fun did stop when Minnie had to move her club to the Haight. I went there a few times and saw the opening production of Ntozake Shange's "For

Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow Is Enuf." Minnie was again supporting artists, giving them a place to perform. But for me the place never regained the fun and funk of her Fillmore Street joint.

Years later, I ate at the restaurant that Minnie's had become at the time. I was most curious about the restroom. It was still in the same place, or so it seemed, but it no longer had the aluminum anti-rust paint on the walls or the machine that dispensed tropical-colored condoms. And there was no cute drummer to flirt with while I waited.

*The music was terrific
— dance music.
Minnie's was all
about dancing.*

Minnie's Club Is Long Gone, But She's Still Sailing Along

IT WAS ALIVE — very alive — for only five years on Fillmore Street, but Minnie's Can-Do Club, the last of the old-time Fillmore joints, has become something of a legend.

The club itself is long gone. But Minnie Baker Thomas is still among us.

Until her recent move to Oakland, she lived at the Fillmore Center. At age 74 she's still working, as she has for more than 20 years, as a merchant marine. She's just back from China and four weeks at sea. And she says she plans to keep on shipping out.

"Why not? — there's no age limit," she says.

She was back on Fillmore recently with friends from the glory days of the Can-Do Club, and they marveled at the force Minnie's became almost from the day it opened.

"They all just came," she says. "I was just sittin' up there mindin' my own business. My intent was just to sell beer."

Minnie opened the club in 1969, and soon a group began to coalesce around her. Someone suggested music, so they got a piano. Someone else suggested poetry readings, and Tuesday became poetry night. They put a ping pong table in the back and had tournaments. One night the Chinese Olympic team stopped by to play.

"They busted me and said I needed an entertainment license," Minnie recalls. "Somebody was always trying to shut me down. But too many people liked my place. And besides, what were we gonna do — dance 'em to death?"

The Redevelopment Agency had wiped out just about everything on Fillmore south of Bush Street, and the Summer of Love was over.

"There wasn't too much going on back then," Minnie recalls. "There was nothing to do on the other end of the street. And North Beach had died and was coming to Fillmore."

"North Beach was, but Fillmore is," wrote one of the poets.

And there was a party at the Can-



ED BROOKS

"Somebody was always trying to shut me down. What were we gonna do — dance 'em to death?"

ABOVE: Minnie Baker Thomas in 2007.

Do Club every night.

Minnie's had "4,000 kinds of sanctified beer, and if you're feeling athletic, they've got ping pong in the rear," one singer sang.

"You know what? That place was something," Minnie says. "Every day there was something. Every day there was a story."

Back on Fillmore now, Minnie is warm and wise, her life an ongoing adventure. She laughs and tells stories about the Can-Do Club, but she does not pine for days gone by.

"I think of the good times," she says. "And I know this is another time. The Can-Do was part of my highlights, but not all of it."

Still, more than 30 years after it closed, the club is never far away.

"There's no way I can get away from it," she says. "There's always somebody somewhere. Even at sea, somebody comes up and says, 'Didn't you used to be on Fillmore?'"



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A Local Remembers Minnie's

By RONALD HOBBS

As I RECOLLECT, I arrived in San Francisco on September 1, 1970. I met Minnie Baker six months later. I walked into the Can-Do Club because there wasn't any acceptable bar on Fillmore. There was the Hillcrest, which wasn't acceptable. It was a good drinking bar, but I didn't meet the kind of people I enjoyed. The Hideaway was alright, but it was a little older and it was just "salt and pepper," which wasn't good enough somehow at the time. I walked into Minnie's and she asked my name and that was the beginning of a long and stormy romance. Romance in a generic sense, mind you.

This area from California to Sutter was sort of a DMZ. Blacks and whites mingled, but it was touch and go except at Minnie's.

And then, see, I was keeping shop and my shop wasn't really doing well and I ran up a bar bill I couldn't pay. I had a small coffee shop at Pine and Fillmore. I sold imported coffees and body lotions under my own label. The shop was way ahead of its time. And in order for Minnie to get her money back, she thought she had to hire me. I was the bartender. Everybody knew Sunshein, my street name. I started keeping the bar with Aaron, Minnie's son, and Felita, Minnie's daughter.

The ambiance made it special, but you can't use words like ambiance for a bar that was terrifying to look at in some respects. Silver all over the walls. It was a multi-cultural place in a very true sense. At that time we had 25 to 30 Japanese kids living in a commune up the street. They were artists and many of those artists established international reputations at galleries in London, Paris and Tokyo.

At that time, Mr. Takahashi was around. He was a Samurai and wore the traditional clothing and carried a sword. Mr. Takahashi spoke very little English, but he owned one of the most beautiful art galleries in the Japan Center. Occasionally Mr. Takahashi came in for a beer while I was bartending. On one particular



DAVID KELLER

It was a multi-cultural place in a very true sense. Straight, gay and upside-down people. Blacks and whites came in and we had some Apaches on occasion.

ABOVE: Longtime Fillmore denizen Ronald Hobbs, circa 1970.

occasion, a young, strapping man started making jibes at Mr. Takahashi and making fun of his "dress." In a couple of moments this young man became vociferous and challenging ... at which point Mr. Takahashi smiled and bowed and walked to the dance floor and removed his sword from its sheath. After about three minutes of expert swordsman's demonstration, Mr. Takahashi bowed and put the sword back in its sheath. He came back and sat down at the same bar stool. The young man left hastily.

Blacks and whites came in and we had some Apaches on occasion. It was a people's bar and exchange center. The music was great and Minnie was Minnie's Can-Do. There were straight people and gay people and upside down people. Richard Hongisto, who was the sheriff at

the time, was a regular there. Cops on the street were congenial.

About that time, 1972 or '73, there was local opposition to Minnie being granted a cabaret license, which would mean she could have live music. So 30 of us loaded up in cars and trucks to go to the permit board to get her license. I think a few locals were afraid of the loud music and rip-off that had to ensue. But the rip-off didn't ensue. Minnie got the license.

There was a ping pong table, so at lunch time a lot of the fellows from the telephone company would come. The bar attracted a lot of young French people from the local French newspaper.

I started the poetry readings, I think in '72. Minnie and I were talking one

particularly slow night and I said, "Let's have a poetry reading one night a week." "It'll never work," she replied.

We looked at each other and both of us said at the same time, "Fine, let's do it."

I remember the first two or three nights of the poetry readings. I was a little brassier then, and I would go to the bar and tell people to shut up. But then folks got into it in a big way. At Christmas we had poem trees where the poets would come from all over the city to hang their poems written on a piece of paper on the tree, and we would read them. Minnie's mother would read from the Bible.

After about nine months I turned the poetry over to ruth weiss, an important American poet. ruth and I worked hand in hand and then when ruth got tired of it, Max Schwartz and Charles Storey took it over. We had a three year anniversary party of the poetry readings. The anniversary party was typical of most of the readings. It was wall to wall people and you had to climb over them to get to the bathrooms.

SunDance magazine came on the scene and one day there were some people from the magazine in Minnie's. I was there, just sitting and listening to the jukebox. Minnie was excited and she called me over and said, "I have some people here that I want you to meet." And she said, "This is John and this is Yoko." And I said, "Hello, very nice to meet you." They replied in kind and I went back and sat down and continued to listen to the jukebox and drink my beer. That was the one and only time I met John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

One night Minnie and I were in our cups and she said, "Sunshein, get my piece and put it in my purse. Come with me. You're going to have a Black Studies program." When Minnie Baker goes out, nobody messes with her. So we went out that night to a lot of clubs in the Fillmore that were still very colorful and it wouldn't be good for a honky to go in alone. I got to see a different life than I'd seen before.



Excerpted from an oral history of Minnie's Can-Do Club published by Carol Ayers in 1991. A limited number of copies are still available. Send \$20 to the New Fillmore, 2130 Fillmore Street #202, San Francisco, 94115.

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2237 Steiner St	3	2.5	2	1973	29-May	2,200,000	2,375,000
2511 Steiner St	4	3	2		5-Jun	3,850,000	4,200,000
2430 Scott St	4	4.5	3		8-Jun	3,995,000	4,200,000
2219 Pacific Ave	4	3.5	2	4190	12-Jun	4,300,000	4,250,000
2214 Clay St	6	5	6	4989	22-May	4,998,000	5,320,000
2645 Baker St	6	5	3		21-May	5,495,000	5,325,000
3040 Pacific Ave	5	4	1		19-May	4,995,000	6,600,000
2863 Pacific Ave	6	5.5	4	7628	8-Jun	7,750,000	N/A

2211 California St #305	0	1		425	18-May	389,000	380,000
2999 California St #24	0	1		653	4-Jun	450,000	400,000
1624-26 California St #2	1	1	1	805	15-Jun	549,000	578,360
1998 Broadway #1602	1	1	1	700	7-Jun	649,500	675,000
1818 Broadway #301	1	1	1	700	23-May	699,000	685,000
1551 Filbert St #1	1	1	1	980	8-Jun	729,000	722,222
2200 Sacramento St #604	1	1.5	1	826	25-May	795,000	795,000
3117 Buchanan St	2	1	1		30-May	799,000	846,000
1701 Jackson St #209	2	2	1	1038	25-May	869,000	867,000
2400 Webster St #1	2	1.5	1		13-Jun	895,000	905,000
2114 Baker St #2	3	1.5		1221	6-Jun	899,000	970,000
2200 Sacramento St #108	2	2	1	947	31-May	929,000	975,000
1998 Pacific Ave #305	2	2	1	1020	30-May	949,000	1,008,000
1865 Clay St #1	3	2	1	1633	31-May	1,075,000	1,075,000
1865 Clay St #5	3	2	1	1633	15-May	1,195,000	1,150,000
2134 Green St #2	2	2		2040	31-May	1,200,000	1,200,000
2243 Franklin St	2	2	1		31-May	1,249,000	1,249,000
3328 California St #2	3	2	1	1393	5-Jun	1,189,000	1,265,000
2539 Clay St #5	2	2	1	1550	24-May	1,295,000	1,295,000
3124 Clay St	3	2	1		15-May	1,295,000	1,375,000
2632 Laguna St	2	2.5	1	2225	6-Jun	1,495,000	1,430,000
2226 Clay St	2	2	1	1935	29-May	1,425,000	1,450,000
2391 Filbert St	5	3	1	2180	1-Jun	1,499,000	1,450,000
3446 Clay St	3	3			15-May	1,499,000	1,499,000
2218 Washington St	2	2	1		8-Jun	1,395,000	1,502,500
3967 Clay St	3	2	1	1900	4-Jun	1,599,000	1,600,000
3320 California St #3	4	3	2	2583	31-May	1,695,000	1,830,000
1855 Broadway	3	3	1	2262	8-Jun	1,975,000	2,235,000
2041 Sacramento St Upper	3	3	2	2503	12-Jun	2,075,000	2,286,000
2312 Divisadero St	4	2	1	2841	13-Jun	2,150,000	2,350,000
146 Locust St	4	2.5	1	3200	5-Jun	2,250,000	2,400,000
3953 Washington St	4	3	1		22-May	2,495,000	2,525,000
2190 Broadway #3E	3	3.5	1	3200	15-Jun	3,195,000	3,295,000

There have been a large number of closings in recent weeks. The market has been quite active through May, but we began to see signs of a slowdown in June. While there are still multiple offers on well-priced properties, there is less activity than in recent months. This is probably the result of increases in interest rates, combined with the start of the traditional summer slowdown.

- As anticipated last month, the impressive Presidio Heights landmark, Le Petit Trianon at 3800 Washington, is now in contract. In addition to the main house, the smaller home next door at 3810 Washington is also in contract. Both properties are expected to close in July.

■ Some people think the only way to get into the entry level market is through the purchase of a building as a tenancy in common. But there are still affordable condominium options in the neighborhood. In the past month, there were two condos that closed for under \$400,000, both on California Street, with 2299 California closing \$50,000 under the initial asking price.

— Data and commentary provided by JOHN FITZGERALD, co-owner of Byzantium Brokerage and an agent at Pacific Union. Contact him at jfitzgerald@pacunion.com or 345-3034.

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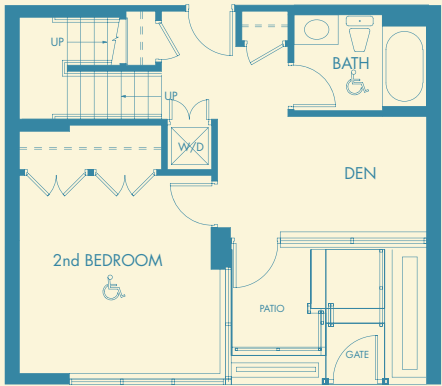
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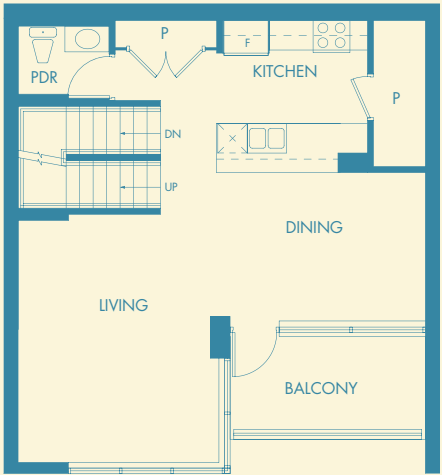


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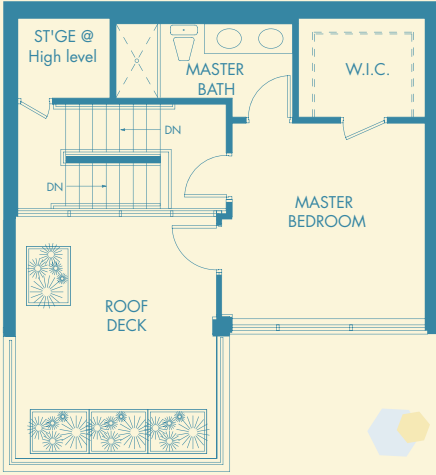


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Not many cities can boast a vibrant section of town that is upscale but approachable, fashionable but not elitist, comfortable without being boring. San Francisco's Fillmore is all these — and, best of all, it's not striving to be original. It just is. — *Gourmet* magazine

www.FillmoreStreetSF.com

FOOD, DRINK & ENTERTAINMENT

BAKERY & DESSERTS

- Bittersweet Chocolate Cafe**
2123 Fillmore 346-8715
- Boulangerie Bay Bread**
2325 Pine 440-0356
- Delanghe Patisserie**
1890 Fillmore 923-0711
- Tango Gelato**
2015 Fillmore 346-3692

COFFEE

- Cafe Murano**
1777 Steiner 771-0888
- Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf**
2201 Fillmore 447-9733
- Noah's New York Bagels**
2213 Fillmore 441-5396
- Peet's Coffee & Tea**
2197 Fillmore 563-9930
- Royal Ground Coffee**
2060 Fillmore 567-8822
- Starbucks Coffee**
2222 Fillmore 673-3171
- Trio Cafe**
1870 Fillmore 563-2248
- Tully's Coffee**
2455 Fillmore 929-8808

DINING

- Cafe Kati**
1963 Sutter 775-7313
- Captain Submarine**
2486 Sacramento 346-3888
- Cassis**
2101 Sutter 440-4500
- Chouquet's**
2500 Washington 359-0075
- Crepevine**
2301 Fillmore 922-1722
- Curbside Cafe**
2455 California 929-9030
- Elite Cafe**
2049 Fillmore 346-8668
- Florio**
1915 Fillmore 775-4300
- Fresca Peruvian Cuisine**
2114 Fillmore 447-2768
- The Grove**
2016 Fillmore 474-1419
- India Palace**
1740 Fillmore 567-7789
- Jackson Fillmore Trattoria**
2506 Fillmore 346-5288
- Johnny Rockets**
1946 Fillmore 776-9878
- La Boulange**
2043 Fillmore 928-1300
- La Mediterranee**
2210 Fillmore 921-2956
- La Salsa**
2401 California 771-7848
- Neecha Thai Cuisine**
2100 Sutter 922-9419

Pride of the Mediterranean

- 1761 Fillmore 567-1150
- Thai Stick**
2001 Fillmore 885-6100
- Via Veneto**
2244 Fillmore 346-9211
- Vivande Porta Via**
2125 Fillmore 346-4430
- ZAO Noodle Company**
2406 California 864-2888

JAPANESE

- Maruya Sushi**
1904 Fillmore 921-2929
- Osaka**
1923 Fillmore 346-6788
- Ten-ichi**
2235 Fillmore 346-3477
- Toraya**
1914 Fillmore 931-9455

MARKETS

- Fillmore Fine Foods**
1981 Sutter 563-0190
- Fillmore Market**
1669 Fillmore 921-5354
- Gino's Grocery**
2500 Fillmore 775-1908
- Mayflower Market**
2498 Fillmore 346-1700
- Mollie Stone's**
2435 California 567-4902
- Pacific Food Mart**
2199 Sutter 614-2385

PIZZA

- Dino's Pizza**
2101 Fillmore 922-4700
- Extreme Pizza**
1732 Fillmore 929-9900
- Pizza Inferno**
1800 Fillmore 775-1800

WINE & SPIRITS

- D&M Wine and Liquor**
2200 Fillmore 346-1325
- Vino**
2425 California 674-8466

ENTERTAINMENT

- Sundance Kabuki**
1881 Post 922-4AMC
- Boom Boom Room**
1601 Fillmore 673-8000
- Clay Theater**
2261 Fillmore 352-0810
- The Fillmore Auditorium**
1805 Geary 346-3000
- Harry's Bar**
2020 Fillmore 921-1000
- Rasselas Jazz Club**
1534 Fillmore 346-8696
- Sheba Piano Lounge**
1419 Fillmore 440-7414