

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

*Robert Redford
unveils Sundance*

PAGE 3



RETAIL REPORT

*Goodwill gets a
designer label*

PAGE 5



HOMES

*A family name
fades away*

PAGE 13

New FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ DECEMBER 2007



Photograph by MINA PAHL EVAN / 72audios.com

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET — The night the neighborhood has been waiting for arrived November 27 when the first horns blew at Yoshi's, the elegant new jazz club in the Fillmore Heritage Center at 1330 Fillmore Street. A grand opening celebration the next night featuring legendary drummer Roy Haynes and an all-star band officially opened the two-level 420-seat club. The adjacent restaurant seats 370 people, making it the largest Japanese restaurant in San Francisco.

How We Got From Jimbo's to Yoshi's

A musical journey through the decades on Fillmore Street

By ROCHELLE METCALFE

I ARRIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO in January 1959, married, took up residency on Steiner Street between McAllister and Golden Gate, a block off of famous Fillmore Street, then a lively center for African Americans. Black-owned businesses thrived, entertainment bustled — nightclubs, dance halls, theaters, a bowling alley, skating rink, you name it.

I always loved the nightlife — music and dance. I came to town during the waning days of an era, but experienced many hot spots, including Charles Sullivan's Fillmore Auditorium, where I saw soul man James Brown, Aretha Franklin and Lil' Willie "Grits Ain't Groceries" John.

Foot patti' to funky organ grinder Richard "Groove" Holmes at Jack's on Sutter Street, a block off Fillmore — the great late Saunders King performed there. Jack's was forced to move and ended up at the corner of Fillmore and Geary — now the Boom Boom Room — where I caught a few 6 a.m. breakfast jams.

TO PAGE 8 ►



ETTA COMES HOME

Etta James returns this month to the neighborhood, where she was discovered by R&B legend Johnny Otis, for a concert at the Fillmore auditorium. **PAGE 6**



Bradley & Sparkles

Hello. We're Bradley and Sparkles, residents at the Pets Unlimited Shelter and Adoption Center. We would like to wish you Happy Holidays from all of us in the shelter. And oh, yes, the staff and volunteers too. Come in for a visit soon. We would love to be in our new forever home to bring in the New Year. Will it be yours?



2343 Fillmore Street
Adoption Center: (415) 568-3058
Visit us at: www.petsunlimited.org

4th annual Christmas Tree Sale
benefiting Pets Unlimited

FRESH CUT NOBLE FIR TREES

3 feet to 8 feet, including many
small trees perfect for small places

CEDAR GARLANDS & WREATHS

all treated to extend freshness

Tree lot located at
PETS UNLIMITED
2343 Fillmore @ Washington

Open daily 9 to 6

For information
and special orders,
call 415 / 699-0780



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Longtime local resident Hayes Keeler got the holiday spirit at Marc by Marc Jacobs, where he took a picture perfect perch in a very large swan.

A Special Season on the Street

IT'S BEGINNING to look a lot like — well, like the best time of the year for those who like twinkling lights, holiday parties and beautifully wrapped gifts.

■ The season got off to a sparkling start just after Thanksgiving when Fillmore merchants flipped the switch on thousands of tiny lights brightening the street in the early evening. Gerri Nuval, owner of My Boudoir, spearheaded the lighting project, bringing back lights — energy-efficient LED lights, no less — to upper Fillmore for the first time in recent years. She got a big assist from Dino McCormick at Dino's Pizza, who persuaded every business on his block to contribute to the lighting campaign.

■ Music for the season started with a flourish: Yoshi's Jazz Club opened to nearly universal acclaim for its swank new home in the Fillmore Jazz District, and it will be joined soon by a sleek new Japanese restaurant next door. Already bustling on the corner is 1300 on Fillmore, open only a few weeks, but already drawing raves for its sensuous take on soul food and its candlelit, dark wood decor.

■ The Christmas tree lot has made its annual return to Pets Unlimited, offering the fresh green smells of the season — trees, wreaths and garlands — both for walking among and for taking home. But Herman Franck, the lifelong lover of trees who has been organizing the tree sales

that benefit Pets Unlimited, won't be there. He died on Christmas Eve last year, soon after he visited the lot for the last time. His longtime companion Dianne Rowe is back, still offering the freshest trees in town.



Herman Franck brought trees to the neighborhood.

THE NEW FILLMORE

2130 Fillmore Street #202 ■ San Francisco, CA 94115
415 / 441-6070
editors@newfillmore.com

Editors Barbara Kate Repa & Thomas R. Reynolds
Art Director Ginny Lindsay
News Editor Don Langley
Proofreader Donna Gillespie

Advertising inquiries ads@newfillmore.com or 441-6070
Published on the first weekend of each month. Deadline: 20th of prior month
Member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

Every month, 20,000 copies are delivered to homes and businesses in the Fillmore, Pacific Heights and Japantown. We thank you for your support and encouragement and we welcome your suggestions and story ideas.

Archive of recent issues: www.NewFillmore.com

Your comments and letters about the neighborhood are welcome there, too.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Sundance Opens Dec. 14

THE TRANSFORMED Sundance Cinemas Kabuki at Post and Fillmore will open to the public on December 14 following a series of community events.

Said Sundance founder Robert Redford: "I'm really happy to finally have this exhibition venture in San Francisco, a city with which I have a long history and a longstanding admiration."

The Sundance Kabuki will offer "a new and unique film-going experience," Redford said.

All eight theaters in the complex now have stadium seating and digital surround sound. All seats are reserved. Tickets can be purchased online, at kiosks or at a concierge desk in the wooden-walled lobby.

Sundance promises that it will show "the finest art, independent, world and documentary cinema." Instead of commercials, films will be preceded by shows produced by the Sundance Channel.

Bar Bistro and the Balcony Bar have been added on the second and third floors and are accessible without purchasing a movie ticket. The concession area and lounge spaces are new. Next door is the Kabuki Kitchen restaurant.

All of the spaces have a mixture of rustic and Japanese-inspired design, which Redford said "pays homage to a rich history and a vibrant community."

"Over 21 Screenings" — a combination of cocktails and a movie — will be featured in the Balcony Bar.



The revamped ticket area has bamboo and barn wood, plus two bars above.

ROW ON COTTAGE ROW

Neighbors cry foul
over a new fence

By DON LANGLEY

A BUSH STREET homeowner whose yard borders Cottage Row — the historic passage between Bush and Sutter Streets — has replaced the fence on the side of his property, outraging some of his neighbors.

The fence is almost two feet higher than the old one and required removing or pruning trees and greenery growing alongside. Neighbors contend the fence encroaches on city property along the Cottage Row walkway.

Because the area is part of the Bush Street-Cottage Row Historic District, neighbors maintain that the fence should not have been replaced without the approval of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board.

Cottage Row, a brick and concrete path half a block east of Fillmore Street, is only about six feet wide, but it is considered a city street.

According to Audrey Sherlock, a resident of Cottage Row, Planning Department staffers okayed the placement of the

new fence. But now the city has dispatched survey teams to determine whether the fence is on the owner's property or on city property. The results of their survey have not been announced.

Sherlock said the higher fence, in addition to being nonhistoric, raises other issues because it hides the view of a mid-block historic house and creates a safety problem. She cited an instance in which a mugging on Cottage Row was thwarted by a neighbor who saw the attack over the fence and called for help.

Neighbors have drawn lines on the new fence and written on it with chalk to mark

the height of the fence that was removed. Recently when a group of Cottage Row residents congregated to speak to a reporter, the fence builder, William Bridge Jr., jumped up on the fence, visibly trembling, and threatened to have them prosecuted for vandalizing the fence with chalk.

The Bush Street-Cottage Row Historic District includes the Victorians on the south side of Bush Street between Webster and Fillmore, plus several houses on Webster and Sutter Streets and Cottage Row itself.

Cottage Row was built in 1882. Other houses in the district were built between

1870 and 1885. At least one is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Typically, ordinances that create San Francisco historic districts decree that the facades of buildings and anything else that can be seen from the street cannot be modified without a certificate of appropriateness from the Landmarks Board.

Mark Luellen of the Planning Department said the fence does not appear in the Cottage Row Historic District ordinance as a significant feature. No building permit is required for a fence, he said, and without a building permit there is no trigger for review by the Landmarks Board.

■ JAPANTOWN

Remake Japan Center, Enhance Japanese Flavor, Neighbors Urge

THE PUBLIC may get an inkling of how its new owners intend to remake Japan Center during a neighborhood meeting December 1.

The meeting marks the end of the first phase of the Better Neighborhoods Plan undertaken by the Planning Department to set a vision for Japantown for the next 20 years. The meeting will include a report on the findings from a series of public surveys and workshops.

Many of those who attended an October 18 session said maintaining and enhancing the Japanese feeling of the neighborhood in scale, size and character was their top priority.

They wanted the Japan Center malls

and the Peace Plaza opened to Geary Boulevard and they clearly opposed the 407-foot height of a proposed condo tower at 1481 Post Street, which is within the project boundaries.

Directors of the Japantown Task Force voted not to be involved in opposing that project because the Task Force is under contract to the Planning Commission to develop public participation in the planning. However, other Japantown organizations are expected to oppose the 38-story tower.

The December 1 meeting will be held in the Japanese Cultural and Community Center at 1840 Sutter Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



J-pop site purified

A Shinto purification ceremony on November 16 was the first step toward demolition of the Hokubei Mainichi building at 1746 Post Street, which will be replaced by a new Japanese pop culture center on the site. Saying goodbye to the building — a rare survivor of the Redevelopment Agency's demolition of the neighborhood in the 1960s — involved chants, prayers and "giving a really good drink of sake" and some salt to each of its corners.



J-town gets a sensu

A sculpture of a giant sensu, or Japanese folding fan, will be unveiled this month on Webster Street in Japantown. The sculpture symbolizes the relationship between Japanese history and culture and marks the starting point of a self-guided Japantown walking tour, with bronze plaques marking nine cultural and historic landmarks in the 101-year-old community. A walk to celebrate the sculpture and the newly installed plaques will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 1.

to our neighbors & friends
from **pacific heights health club**

happy holidays

december 1st open house
at pacific heights health club, we're waiving the initiation fee* for all those who want to prevent those holiday pounds. that's right... *join for free!*

call 415.563.6694 to schedule your appointment today.

*offer expires 12/10/2007. cannot be combined with other discounts or promotions.

pacific heights health club | 2356 pine street • fillmore | www.phhcf.com

Neja
Cosmetics

Enhancing your natural beauty

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Make-up/Hair
- Weddings or Special Occasions
- Facials • Waxing
- Custom blended cosmetics

Facial and waxing appointments before 12 noon by appointment only.

NEJA • 1850 FILLMORE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115
TEL: 415.345.8301 • FAX: 415.345.8302

Great Gift Ideas!

Gift Card

Chevron gift cards in any amount

MTA | Municipal Transportation Agency

\$20

San Francisco Parking Meter Debit Card

Pre-paid parking meter debit cards

Both available from your friends at

Chevron

Pacific Heights Chevron • 2500 California St • (415) 567-1136

CRIME WATCH

Theft from Vehicle Post and Webster Streets November 3, 3:48 p.m.

Officers on the alert for auto burglars saw two suspicious looking males peering into an SUV. They then noticed that the SUV's side window had been broken. The suspects became aware of the officers and ran. After a brief chase on foot, one suspect was caught, but the other got away. The suspect who was arrested was 15 years old and was booked at the Youth Guidance Center.

Cocaine Arrest Van Ness Avenue and Sacramento Street November 6, 5:15 p.m.

Officers saw a man who was blocking the sidewalk in a manner that prevented pedestrians from walking by. They recognized the subject from prior contacts. He was on probation, which allowed officers to conduct a search. They asked the man if he had any narcotics on him and he reached into his pocket and pulled out crack cocaine. Officers discovered he was also carrying two crack pipes. He was booked at Northern Station.

Resisting Arrest Turk and Scott Streets November 6, 12:15 p.m.

Two officers in plainclothes saw a driver almost hit a pedestrian. They ran a computer check of the license plate and learned that the vehicle was stolen. They followed the stolen car until marked police cars arrived to assist. When they stopped the car, the driver refused to cooperate and would not exit the vehicle, resisting the officers when they pulled him out.

When they finally got him out of the car, he refused to put his hands behind his back,

attempting to push them into his pockets instead. Officers suspected he might have a concealed weapon. After a struggle, they finally handcuffed the suspect. He was arrested and booked at Northern Station.

Purse Snatching Fillmore and Washington Streets November 8, 1:15 p.m.

An officer was on patrol when several citizens flagged him down, claiming they had caught a burglary suspect. A woman had been teaching at a church when a student reported to her that a man had been seen removing something from her classroom. She then went to the classroom and surprised the suspect, who dropped her purse and threw a set of keys at her.

The suspect then ran off with the woman's wallet. She gave chase, shouting for help as she ran. Several citizens came to her aid. They overcame the suspect and detained him; he was still holding the victim's wallet. The suspect was booked at Northern Station.

Burglary of a Vehicle Geary Boulevard and Webster Street November 9, 7:02 a.m.

Officers on patrol observed a subject who was peering into parked cars. Because there had been many thefts from autos recently, one officer got out of the patrol car and followed the man. He saw the subject break into a car and steal a purse. The man then ran. The theft was broadcast over the radio and several officers pursued the suspect, who ran into Lafayette Park, where officers caught him. He had discarded the purse near the tennis courts, but the officers soon located it. The owner of the vehicle identified her purse and the suspect was booked at Northern Station.

BROWNIES
HARDWARE

Housewares • Paints • Tools • Vacuums
Building Maintenance Supplies
Lighting Fixtures • Window Shades • Plumbers Supplies
Cut & Thread Pipe • Keys Duplicated

1563 POLK • 673-8900
Open Seven Days a Week

Validated Parking Commercial Accounts Welcome Delivery Service

California Pacific Medical Center
A Sutter Health Affiliate

Victorian House Thrift Shop

The Victorian House Thrift Shop raises much-needed funds to benefit California Pacific Medical Center's programs.

We are especially in need of donations of quality merchandise, including furniture, jewelry and household items.

Free pickup service is available for furniture and other large-sized donations. Curbside service is also offered for drop-off at our Fillmore Street location. Please contact us at to arrange for these services.

BENEFITING THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA PACIFIC MEDICAL CENTER

2033 Fillmore Street • 567-3149

FOOD & WINE

Unusual Indian cuisine coming to Fillmore

The neighborhood will get a new restaurant next year featuring the flavors of southern India.

Emily and Anjan Mitra will open **Dosa**, a larger version of their critically acclaimed Valencia Street establishment, at 1700 Fillmore in the building most recently occupied by Goodwill Industries, which moved across the street last month.

Dosa's recipes come from the state of Tamil Nadu in southern India. Emily Mitra says they have never been presented in San Francisco before. The city's other Indian restaurants, she said, all serve northern Indian food, mostly Punjabi. She described the food of southern India as "incredibly complex."

The 110-seat restaurant — much larger than the Mission location — will also have a bigger menu of curries, salads and desserts and an extensive wine list. The operation will include a full bar seating 20 people for drinks and dinner.

The Mitras have lived in the neighborhood and promise the restaurant will be a neighborhood spot — "a place to dine in and hang out" — with contemporary design. The existing Dosa restaurant was included in the Chronicle's listing of the "Top 100 Bay Area Restaurants" earlier this year.

Trio turns to wine

The Trio Cafe, long a neighborhood meeting place at 1870 Fillmore, has been sold and will become a wine bar called **Lot 61**. The new owner, Kamran Shirazi, has filed for a permit that would allow beer and wine sales.

RETAIL REPORT

Putting More Good in Goodwill

New label launched at Fillmore store refashions donated items

A NEW BRAND of eco-friendly clothing, William Good, recently made its U.S. debut — at the Goodwill store at the corner of Fillmore and Post.

The line features one-of-a-kind clothing and accessories for men and women made from Goodwill donations that have been enhanced with embellishments such as silkscreened imprints and appliques.

The brand is the brainchild of Nick Graham, founder of the irreverent underwear label Joe Boxer, and now president of several enterprises including the 100 Minute Co., a branding and consulting firm.

When he called Debbie Alvarez-Rodriguez, executive director of Goodwill of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties, there was an instant meeting of the minds. They joined forces to create the William Good label.

"Together we hope to build a sustainable national brand name that helps the environment, creates employment and generates profit," says Graham.

They dispatched designers and seamstresses to area Goodwill stores to gather garments they singled out as having potential. They used them to create completely new women's and men's apparel — sometimes cutting apart the garments and reworking them, sometimes embellishing them with applique, silkscreen or embroidery.

The intent is to become a training program for underemployed designers and garment workers in the area.



Designer Cristina Barreto provides some sewing tips to Sonia Selvon, daughter of Goodwill Executive Director Debbie Alvarez-Rodriguez at a November 15 party celebrating the opening of Goodwill's William Good boutique.

"Not only will the William Good brand create a sense of value out of discard goods," says Alvarez-Rodriguez, "it will also provide a whole new level of design, marketing and sales training for our staff and our participants who have barriers to employment."

Cedric Yap, chief operating officer for Goodwill, said there are additional benefits to the program from a retail standpoint.

If, for example, a Burberry coat with a tear comes in, the rip can be covered with fabric from another garment — most likely one that didn't sell and was destined for salvage. Or perhaps a bit of the recognizable Burberry plaid applied to a stark jacket or sweater might make it more saleable. Either way, the unique, handfinished items command a higher price than the store's usual fare and also give the discerning shopper a unique item.

The William Good line is currently available only in the Fillmore store or online at www.shopwilliamgood.com.

Octavia SkinCare Spa

Specializing in...

- Acne & Anti-Aging SkinCare
- Brazilian Waxing
- Microdermabrasion
- Treatments for Men
- Lunch Hour Treatments
- Gift Certificates and more!

GRAND OPENING
20% Off* with ad

1801 Bush Street at Octavia
(415) 602-2123
www.octaviaskincare.com

CALIFORNIA SHELL
AUTO SERVICE & REPAIR

Brakes & Tires
Check Engine Lights
Computer Diagnostics
Factory Scheduled Maintenance
15K, 30K, 45K, 60K & 90K Services
Cooling System & Transmission Problems
Smog Tests & Repairs for Failure
Batteries & Starting Problems
Minor Repairs of All Types

EUROPEAN • JAPANESE • AMERICAN

Fast, Friendly & Guaranteed

2501 California at Steiner • (415) 567-6512
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fillmore Hardware

Come see our expanded selection of toys & stocking stuffers!

More than a hardware store

1930 Fillmore Street (between Pine & Bush) • 346-5240
Serving the neighborhood since 1961

Etta Comes Home to the Fillmore

Before Jamesetta Hawkins became Etta James, she ran the streets of the neighborhood

BY ETTA JAMES

UNCLE FRANK SHOWED UP in his car and whisked us up to San Francisco when I was 12. We dropped [my mother] Dorothy off in the Fillmore District, which looked like a hell-hole to me. L.A. was a vine-covered cottage compared to these slums. After the sunny skies of southern California, the Bay Area looked seedy and sad — the fog-covered sky, the bums on the street. Maybe it was my mood or just the neighborhood where Dorothy lived, but my first impression was grime and crime. I wound up in a couple of gangs — one in the Fillmore, where my mother lived, and one in the projects by Uncle Frank. We wore baggy jeans, just like today, with the legs dragging on the ground. A white shirt was also part of our uniform — an oversized man's shirt worn tails-out to cover your ass. Then you had your white socks rolled all the way down below your ankles and beat-up tennis shoes. I let my hair grow long and put it in a ponytail. I thought I was bad. I guess I was the classic case of a kid who, lacking a real family, was looking for a family feeling in gangs.

I started bouncing from school to school. I'd been going to Girls High School in the Fillmore, but they threw me out of there. I was a wiseguy and a clown, always cutting up, never minding no one. So they put me in Continuation School, which is your last stop before they kick you out of the system altogether.

This was when Dorothy had moved into a rooming house in the Fillmore owned by Reverend Wilson, a gay preacher. I liked the man. He was an animal lover, always feeding his cats — and me. He was especially kind and gave Dorothy the front apartment with lots of light. He reminded me of the "secret angels" I had known. Dorothy, on the other hand, hated him. She was convinced he was a child molester and warned me to stay away from him. My own instincts, though, told me the man was good-hearted and God-fearing, and I did as I pleased. When I got home from school he'd always have food waiting for me. He made me feel safe. In my crazy new world, Reverend Wilson was an island of sanity. Around the corner from Reverend



ANTHONY MONTEZ DE COCA

Etta at the Fillmore

Etta James and the Roots Band play the Fillmore auditorium, at 1805 Geary, on Saturday, December 8, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$49.50 and are available at www.LiveNation.com — or with no service charge at the Fillmore box office, open only on Sunday afternoons from noon to 4 p.m.

Wilson's rooming house in the Fillmore lived Sugar Pie DeSanto, whose real name was Umpeyfia Balinton. She was my age, a gorgeous four-foot-eleven dynamo with a Filipino father, a black Philadelphia mother with a Puerto Rican temper, and 10 brothers and sisters. This was one crazy family. I liked hanging around them. You never knew what would happen next. When the old man got mad at the kids, he'd put them in these big overalls and hang them on the door from a nail. Leave them hanging all day. Sugar Pie and I ran in a gang together — later we'd wind up recording together — and she was so fine that every dude in the neighborhood was looking to get next to her. Quite a few succeeded.

Our girl gang was bold — in the Fillmore, we called ourselves the Lucky

20's — and I pulled off some cold-blooded stunts. I'm not proud of what I did, but I did it all the same.

I'm thinking of those times when we'd chase after white girls. Sometimes we beat up on gals from foreign countries, anyone different from us. That's how I wound up in the school for juvenile delinquents. It was all about jealousy.

I NO LONGER WANTED ANYTHING TO DO with my mother, Uncle Frank, Aunt Mary, or any other family member. This is when I started getting close to the Mitchells — two sisters and their superlative brother. It's also the start of the musical story that led me away from home.

I met Jean Mitchell at the recreation center at Army and Third in the projects by Uncle Frank's apartment. That's where

we'd have dances. Jean stayed in another group of projects built by the navy up in South Basin. She, her sister Abyssinia, and their brother Alfonso all lived together. There was no mother or father. They came from New Orleans and were light-skinned Creole-looking people. Jean was my age; Alfonso — known as Fons — and Abyssinia — known as Abbye — were eight or nine years older.

Jean and I started singing together at the rec center. Soon Abbye joined in and, just like that, we became the Creolettes. We were project girls imitating the young rhythm and blues of the time, but we were also deep into jazz. West Coast jazz was all the rage, and we dug Gerry Mulligan and Dave Brubeck and Shorty Rogers. To me, Chet Baker looked like James Dean and was the coolest thing this side of Miles Davis. Naturally we knew about Miles and, being from Los Angeles, I had heard Dexter Gordon and Charles Mingus. Modern jazz was in my blood. Mainly, though, we were intrigued with vocal harmony. We developed a tight three-way blend, imitating groups like the Spaniels, the Swallows, the Chords, who had "Sh-Boom" before the Crew Cuts, and the Spiders, who had "Beside You." We studied the Moonglows, Sonny T and the Orioles, all the hippest doo-woppers. We also listened to the McGuire Sisters — white girls who copied black songs — and white boys like the Hi-Lo's and the Four Freshmen. The Freshmen were especially slick — they sang like instruments — and soon we learned to do the same, even down to the trumpet trills and shakes.

Me and the Mitchells had so much in common that I wound up moving in with them. It was during one of those times when Dorothy was in jail and I was on the outs with Aunt Mary. Beyond singing together, I also ran in their gang. The Lucky 20's from the Fillmore were considered a more civilized gang. Jean and her bunch were a bit tamer. But the Mitchell who interested me most was Fons. He was my main motive for moving there. I was dying to get next to him. The boy was extra cool. He controlled a gang called the Good Rockers that operated on the outskirts of town. He was also a piano player who fashioned himself after Horace Silver or Hampton Hawes.

He wanted to be like Thelonious Monk, an out-there-on-the-edge player, but he wasn't as good as he thought he was. When it came to looks, though, he was even better. He had these long eyelashes that laid down over almond-shaped eyes, sleek wavy hair, and a tall slim frame. He looked a little like Billy Dee Williams, only more rugged.

Meanwhile, music was still happening hot and heavy. The Creolettes were getting to be a pretty popular girl group around town. We were winning amateur shows and drawing good crowds. We'd tightened up our harmony, figured out a few stage moves, and put on a halfway-decent 20-minute set. Gaining confidence.

AROUND THAT TIME, HANK BALLARD and the Midnighters had a smash with "Work With Me, Annie." What Louis Jordan was to the 40s, Hank was to the 50s. He had the clever words and the funky grooves. Hank got you dancing. His "Work With Me, Annie" was a little lewd and a lot of fun. Work, of course, was a code word for screw. All the kids were crazy for that tune, a nasty jam for grinding. Some of the parents wouldn't even let us play the record at home, which naturally made us play it even more.

Well, one afternoon the Creolettes were singing at a record hop when who should show up but Hank and all his superlative Midnighters. We were thrilled. When they heard us sing, they said something encouraging and, man, that's all we needed to hear. When they sang "Work With Me, Annie," the place went wild.

Next day the song was still on my mind. Answer songs were big back then, and it occurred to me — why not answer Hank's hit? So I wrote "Roll With Me, Henry," a pushy little jiveass reply to Hank. The girls and I worked it up and put it in our repertoire. Didn't think nothing about it till the next week, when Hank and his Midnighters showed up at our sock hop for the second time. We couldn't wait to sing our spicy song right in their faces. "What do you think?" we wanted to know.

"Cool," said Hank.

ABYE WAS A GROUPIE, AND THE Midnighters were legendary ladies' men. So you can see how anxious she was to hook up with Hank's boys. Jean and I were wannabe groupies. At 23, Abbye was sure enough ready to rock while, at 14, we were girls wanting to look like ladies. Abbye was on the prowl. That's why she slipped into the Primuline Ballroom [at 1223 Fillmore] a few weeks later to catch the Johnny Otis show. Didn't know it then, but that was the night that changed my life.

Jean and I were back in the projects when the phone rang.



Jamesetta Hawkins and her girlfriends were the Creolettes when they played the neighborhood as teenagers. After they were discovered by R&B legend Johnny Otis, he turned them into the Peaches — and her into Etta James.

Abbye was all affluter. "Y'all got to come down here to the Primuline Ballroom and meet Johnny," she said.

"Johnny who?" I wanted to know. "Johnny Otis."

Johnny Otis was an L.A. bandleader who put together jazz and R&B revues. He played vibes and piano and featured different singers. He was also a songwriter and promoter.

"I've been telling Johnny all about us," Abbye went on. "He wants to hear the Creolettes."

I knew Abbye went to the dance because she wanted to meet Johnny Otis and his sexy stacked drummer, Kansas City Bell. But I didn't know she was going to promote us.

"They'll never let us in there," I said. "We're underage."

"I'll tell Johnny. He'll take care of it."

"Right," I said sarcastically as I hung up the phone and went to sleep.

An hour later the phone woke me up. Abbye again.

"What now?" I wanted to know. "I'm at the Manor Plaza Hotel. Johnny Otis wants you and Jean to come down here and sing for him. Abbye was insisting. 'If he wants us down at the hotel,' I

said, "it sure as hell isn't to hear us sing." I figured Johnny and the boys in his band were thinking, "Yeah, let's get a couple of young chicks."

Next thing I knew Johnny Otis was on the line. Now no one talks like Johnny Otis. He's got this deep molasses honey-dripping deejay voice. It's a jivetime jazzman's voice, but it's also sincere and filled with wisdom.

"I understand you girls can sing," he said. "I'd love to hear you."

"Man, it's two in the morning," I shot back. "How we supposed to get down there? The buses aren't even running."

"Catch a cab," suggested Johnny. "We don't have money for a cab."

"I'll meet you at the curb and pay for it myself."

That's what happened. I was leery, but I was also excited. When we arrived, Johnny Otis was right there, smiling.

Now Johnny Otis is a very tall handsome Greek man with black wavy hair, a big moustache, and trimmed beard. He looked like a slick cat, but he also exhibited good manners from the get-go.

From his phone voice, I had figured he was black. For years many people believed Johnny was black, not only because of his swarthy skin tone but because he talked,

walked, acted, played and pushed black music so hard. Plus, he married a black woman, moved into the black community, and eventually became a gospel preacher of his own black church. When I first met Johnny, though, he was still into his sporting days.

IN HIS HOTEL ROOM, THE VIBE WAS STILL nervous. Abbye was there with Kansas City Bell. Johnny had his manager with him, Bardu Ali, who looked to be 75. He made me feel a little bit better. One of the musicians, though, was running around in his boxer shorts. "Hey man," Johnny told him, "go put some pants on."

I don't like singing on demand, and this was no exception. I clammed up. I felt self-conscious and stupid. And maybe a little scared. Anyway, I wouldn't sing. "Come on, Jamesetta," said Abbye. "You're acting like a baby."

"Well, I just don't wanna sing," I said. After a lot more coaxing, I compromised. I said I'd sing, but only in the bathroom. I know that sounds stupid, but everyone sounds good singing in the bathroom. Tile makes for great acoustics.

So I went in there and sat on the edge of the tub while Abbye and Jean stayed in the bedroom, standing close to the bathroom door. We decided to do our jazz harmony numbers, the ones that really showed off our voices. We sang "How Deep Is the Ocean," "Street of Dreams," and "For All We Know." When we were through, total silence. Finally, Johnny Otis said, "Wow! Did you hear that little girl sing?"

I came out of the bathroom smiling. "That's terrific," he said. "I want you to ride back to L.A. with us tomorrow. I want to put you on my show and make some records with you."

Without a doubt, this was the most exciting thing Johnny had ever said to me in my life. But Johnny's next question nearly threw me.

"How old are you?"

I looked at the girls. Jean gave me the eye. "Eighteen," I lied.

Johnny knew damn well I was lying. "Can you get your mother to give you permission to travel with us?" he asked.

THE NEXT MORNING, JEAN, ABYE AND I arrived at 11 sharp. In my hand was a neatly written note from Dorothy giving me the okay. I had forged it. I was happy to quit school and say bye-bye to the ninth grade. Hell, school was about to quit me anyway. I was on my way back to L.A., heady with anticipation.

At 14, my childhood had ended.

Excerpted from *Rage to Survive*, © 1995 by Etta James and David Ritz, published by Villard Books, a division of Random House Inc.



VIA VENETO

since 1990

A genuine piece of Italy in the heart of Pacific Heights

Fresh Seafood • Veal & Chicken
Fresh Pasta • Home-made Desserts
Daily Specials

LUNCH

Mon-Fri: 11:30 - 2:30 • Sat: Noon - 3pm

DINNER

Sun-Thu: 5 - 10pm • Fri-Sat: 5 - 11pm

2444 FILLMORE/CLAY • 346-9211

RESTAURANT

Cassia

FRENCH BISTRO • CUISINE NICOISE

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT CASSIA
Special Prix Fixe Menus for Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve

Authentic Niçoise Cuisine and Italian-Inspired Specialties
from the South of France

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY RESERVATIONS TODAY!

CALL US OR VISIT WWW.RESTAURANTCASSIA.COM FOR MENUS & PRICING

2101 SUTTER STREET (AT STEINER) • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115 • (415) 440-4500

A Taste of the South of France



VIVANDE
& piccolo wine bar

HOLIDAYS
don't fuss, call US!

346 4430

ask for catering

2125 fillmore st

www.vivande.com



RESTAURANT

NEW WINE LIST

Now serving lunch and
dinner every day

Lunch daily: 11:30 - 3

Dinner nightly: 5:30 - 10

Weekend brunch: 10 - 3

2500 Washington St. at Fillmore
415.359.0075 • www.chouquets.com

Molliebus

We'll drive you home.

FREE WITH \$20 PURCHASE

MOLLIE STONE'S

AT GRAND CENTRAL 2435 California Street

Keep your visitors
in the neighborhood



Artists Inn
B & B

2231 Pine Street
Between Webster/Fillmore
415.346.1919 • www.artistsinn.com

A Journey From Jimbo's to Yoshi's

► FROM PAGE 1

I was mesmerized by lean Jimmy Ed, who could fire up the organ and run Jimmy Smith off the stage. Jack's was the last club of the Fillmore jazz era to close, in May 1988 due to tax problems.

The most famous nightery was Jimbo's Bop City — the hot after hours jazz spot at 1690 Post Street and Buchanan, now part of Japantown — owned by savvy Jimbo Edwards. It was noted for good soul food and music that featured top flight jazz musicians who played downtown, across Van Ness — the dividing line — in segregated clubs that barred blacks.

WHITES CAME UPTOWN to hang out in black joints — the likes of columnist Herb Caen and his white friends. Would you believe this lasted until the late 50s?

Literally it was jazz in the garage — a shoeshine stand Edwards converted into a small club. Artists like Charlie Parker, Lady Day, Dinah Washington climbed on the bandstand — and Miles, by then feeling the flow, enjoyed a pork chop sandwich and blew purer than he did for white audiences.

The place would be packed, folks having a good time in the small smoked-filled room — the boss himself, Jimbo Edwards, the mayor of Post Street, in derby hat, business suit and tie, moving



Opening night at Yoshi's brought more people — and a lot more jazz — to Fillmore.

about greeting after hour revelers. Bop City opened in the late 40s, and it was a sad day when the doors closed in 1965 to make way for demolition.

BUT THE BUILDING would be saved. Community activist Essie Collins petitioned the Redevelopment Agency to move the three-story building intact around the corner to 1712 Fillmore, where it became a branch of Marcus Books, established in Oakland in 1960 by noted scholars and community activists Drs. Ray and Julian Richardson.

THE BLUE MIRROR attracted my attention on Monday nights to hear pianist and vocalist Earl Grant — he'd fly or drive up from L.A. — and baaad organist Peter Rabbitt starred. The beautiful high yella fabulous Sepia Queen

Leola King — a smart businesswoman — owned the club with her handsome husband, shrewd Dewey Wilson, who looked like a white man. He has passed on, but the legendary lady is still with us. Nowadays she holds court at the coffee house on the corner of Fillmore and Eddy.

The Queen may have lost the most due to redevelopment in the Western Addition — the Blue Mirror gone and their barbecue business on Geary torn down to make way for Cathedral Hill apartments. Like others, she received a voucher — a promise of a return to the area to rebuild. Many could not afford to wait 10 years or more. A survivor, Leola King could. She had the fight and the money to hang on, but still did not get a piece of the action in the new Fillmore.

She dreamed of reopening the Blue Mirror. She was angry when she heard the name would be used for a restaurant in the new Jazz Heritage Center without her permission or consultation and threatened a lawsuit. The owners didn't want the controversy, and the restaurant is now called 1300 on Fillmore.

ACROSS THE STREET from the Blue Mirror was the Manor Plaza Hotel, at 930 Fillmore, featuring a nightclub downstairs operated by Willie McCoy, and where comedian Flip Wilson, after he was discharged from Hamilton Air Force base in Novato, gigged as a doorman before he got his start in Hollywood. Headliners included Dinah Washington and Ike and Tina Turner. Savvy businessman Warren Stewart, a part owner, lived to

see the changes in da'Mo. Warren had a soda fountain on Steiner within Rector's Chicken Shack.

There were many famous black-owned spots along Post Street — the Champagne Supper Club, operated by Curtis Mosley and the late Ernest Dewson long before he and the hat lady hooked up. Mrs. Ruth Garland Dewson of Paris, Texas, came to San Francisco in 1967 and has made herself famous selling hats on upper Fillmore.

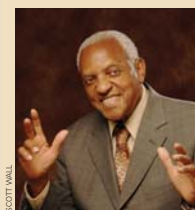
ONE OF THE FIRST SPOTS my ex and I would frequent was Wesley Johnson's Texas Playhouse, popular with regulars and military personnel. Johnson was a showman — always dressed sharp, with a Texas 10-gallon hat, dragging an overflowing cotton sack. The first club DJ would spin those down home blues — B. B. King, Bobbie "Blue" Bland, other soul touching personalities of the day. My eyes dazzled over the bar counter — it was laden with silver dollar coins.

The Booker T. Washington Hotel and cocktail lounge was hot, located on Ellis Street between Fillmore and Webster. Who's who in the entertainment field stayed there — singer O.C. Smith ("Lil' Green Apples"), Brook Benton performed.

THE GRAND OPENING of Yoshi's San Francisco begins an exciting new era. I look forward to hearing some great jazz but I know much of traditional jazz has passed and now mixes with world music.

But it's still sad, because I remember the bulldozers that destroyed a community and displaced black families, holding nothing but vouchers of promise to return. For most, the opportunity never came.

Rockelle Metcalfe wrote the "I Heard That" column for the Sun Reporter for 31 years, until earlier this year. Her column is now online at www.beyondchron.com.



Frank Jackson: Back on Fillmore

Frank Jackson, the celebrated jazz pianist and vocalist and a San Francisco resident since 1942, is the first musician from Fillmore's jazz heyday invited to perform at the new Yoshi's club. He will appear on Monday, December 3, at 8 and 10 p.m. with a group that includes Allen Smith — another Fillmore jazz pioneer — on trumpet, Al Obidinski on bass, Omar Clay on drums and Noel Jewkes on reeds.

Jackson started his career in the 1940s playing in Fillmore clubs. He was the house pianist for seven years at Jimbo's Bop City, the legendary after hours club. He was also a member of the Four Naturals and has performed through the years with and for many of the greatest names in jazz.

He was recognized as one of the pioneers of the Fillmore jazz scene at the groundbreaking ceremony for Yoshi's, and is featured on one of the panels on the outside of the building. He still maintains an active performing schedule, playing clubs, festivals and concerts — including, once again, a club on Fillmore.

Powell's Place Shut Down as a New Era Is Beginning

By DON LANGLEY

JUST WHEN it appears the Fillmore Jazz District is on the verge of booming again, it has suffered a casualty: Powell's Place, the soul food restaurant at Eddy and Fillmore, closed on November 13.

A group led by Rev. Amos Brown, president of the San Francisco chapter of the NAACP, formed a limited liability corporation to raise \$60,000 toward refurbishing the restaurant and \$129,000 toward the unpaid rent owed by owner Emmitt Powell, a gospel singer and longtime restaurateur.

But Brown said the management of the Fillmore Center refused to meet with the group. He alleged they are working instead with Larry Armstrong, Powell's accountant, and plan to set him up

It's "part of a master plan to exclude black people from the city."

— REV. AMOS BROWN

Brown called the closure and events leading up to it "part of a master plan to exclude black people from the city."

Powell's Place had a huge financial burden from the beginning. In addition to taking out massive loans to build a new kitchen and furnish the dining rooms, Powell paid full rent of almost \$10,000 per month while the restaurant was being built.

More recently, his business has been negatively affected by the two years of construction work half a block away at the Fillmore Heritage Center, Brown said.

Emmitt Powell originally opened his soul food restaurant on Hayes Street in 1972, but closed in April 2004 after a rent increase. He opened a new 150-seat restaurant on Eddy Street in February 2005.

Neither the food nor the service ever drew sufficient enthusiasm to attract a steady clientele.

Brown bemoaned the lack of black-owned businesses in the Fillmore, noting the number of places run by Asian and Ethiopian entrepreneurs. The area has become more gentrified, with a population now composed of about 15 percent black and 15 percent Asian and the rest white.

A staffer said last week the Redevelopment Agency will not aggressively pursue repayment of Powell's \$350,000 loan from the agency. He said the agency will use its influence to ensure that a new tenant fits in with the spirit of the Jazz District.

The Best Leather Shop on Fillmore Street is on Union Street.



Come to Fog City Leather

Hundreds of fine/soft leather jackets in stock.
Custom created leathers for men and women.

Pants, skirts, vests, belts, wallets, caps, bags and other accessories available.

Repairs and alterations.



2060 Union St. · San Francisco · 415 567 1996 · visit our website: www.fogcityleather.com
Open daily 11-6

SMALL

Treasures



WE'RE PLEASED to present our 14th annual holiday group exhibition of small original oil paintings — recognized artists at reasonable prices. This year we are especially pleased to introduce to our gallery the work of painter TOM HUGHES.

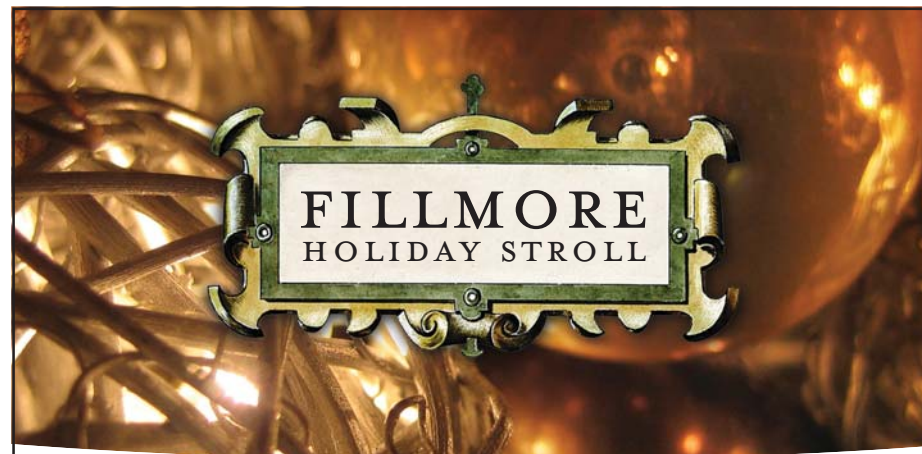
LOCATED JUST steps off Fillmore Street, our small gallery has quietly established a national reputation for excellence, while remaining firmly in and of the neighborhood.

OPENING during the FILLMORE HOLIDAY STROLL
Join us on Saturday afternoon, December 1

PLUS new paintings by old favorites
— many priced under \$1,000

THOMAS REYNOLDS GALLERY
WWW.THOMASREYNOLDS.COM

2291 Pine Street at Fillmore · San Francisco, CA 94115
HOURS: Thursday-Friday-Saturday from Noon to 6 PM
415/441-4093



FILLMORE STREET CELEBRATES WINTER IN STYLE

Saturday, December 1
12pm - 6 pm

Late-night shopping hours
on Friday, December 14

Listen to live jazz! Fillmore Street is transformed into a winter wonderland of bright lights!

See online listing of merchants offering late night hours and special treats.

For holiday shopping and discount information, go to www.FillmoreStreetSF.com

Become Part of SAN FRANCISCO

...by Joining

**San Francisco Federal
Credit Union**

All of San Francisco
can join and enjoy:

**Lower Loan Rates
Higher Savings Rates**

For more information, visit www.SanFranciscoFCU.com
or call 415.775.5377, option 4.



Individuals who live, work, worship or attend school in San Francisco or immediate relatives of current San Francisco Federal Credit Union members are eligible to join.

0711-0134 NPXX

NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking \$	Sale \$
3032 Laguna St	2	1	4		24-Oct	1,389,000	1,389,000
1820 Lyon St	4	2		2271	9-Nov	1,495,000	1,500,000
215 Moulton St	3	3.5	1	2163	6-Nov	1,850,000	1,800,000
2030 Scott St	3	1.5	2	1782	25-Oct	1,695,000	2,051,000
3809 Clay St	3	3	1		26-Oct	2,595,000	2,550,000
3352 Washington St	4	3.5	3	3727	19-Oct	3,850,000	3,580,000
2655 Broderick St	3	3.5	2	3577	19-Oct	3,995,000	4,248,485
2332 Washington St	3	4.5	3		12-Oct	4,570,000	Not Disclosed
2517 Pacific Ave	6	4.5	1		21-Oct	6,895,000	7,250,000
2266 Vallejo St	6	7.5	2		16-Oct	12,975,000	Not Disclosed

Condo / Coop / TIC / Lofts

2945 Baker St	1				26-Oct	299,000	260,000
2211 California St	1			430	31-Oct	399,000	385,000
2415 Van Ness Ave #504	1			631	16-Oct	469,000	478,000
2077 Jackson St #302	1	1	1	650	19-Oct	559,000	570,000
2121 Laguna St #33	1	1	1	680	24-Oct	595,000	610,000
3124 Washington St	2	1	1		31-Oct	559,000	630,000
1541 Filbert St #2	2	1	1		19-Oct	639,000	639,000
1541 Filbert St #4	2	1	1		19-Oct	649,000	649,000
3132 Washington St	2	1	1		16-Oct	599,000	649,000
3134 Washington St	2	1.5	1		12-Oct	629,000	679,000
1701 Jackson St #602	1	1	1	743	8-Nov	689,000	689,000
3126 Washington St	3	1	1		26-Oct	729,000	760,000
3045 Jackson St #601	1	1	1	1089	22-Oct	749,000	805,000
1990 Green St #407	1	1	1	830	16-Oct	825,000	805,000
1856 Franklin St #4	3	2	1		19-Oct	849,000	835,000
2040 Franklin St #1001	2	2	1		30-Oct	875,000	865,000
2200 Sacramento St #1404	1	2	1	830	8-Nov	950,000	950,000
3110 California St #3B	2	2	1		31-Oct	998,000	978,000
1619 Vallejo St	2	1.5	1	1106	6-Nov	995,000	985,000
440 Locust St	2	2.5	1	1400	1-Nov	1,195,000	1,155,000
341 Presidio Ave	2	1.5	1	1307	6-Nov	1,095,000	1,160,000
438 Locust St	2	2.5	1	1530	30-Oct	1,195,000	1,175,000
2735 Clay St #7	2	2	1	1474	7-Nov	1,278,000	1,200,000
2200 Pacific Ave #9A	2	2	1		18-Oct	1,450,000	1,400,000
1910 Broderick St	3	1.5	1	1525	16-Oct	1,450,000	1,400,000
2534 Franklin St	3	1.5	1	1550	19-Oct	1,295,000	1,450,000
2265 Broadway #10	3	2	1		30-Oct	1,395,000	1,450,000

There's still lots of activity at all levels

At this point, we have reached the end of the fall real estate market, and things typically slow down as we head into December.

The past month brought considerable activity, including a major high-end sale at **2266 Vallejo**, which closed after more than 150 days on the market. The sales price was not disclosed, but is rumored to be considerably less than the last listing price of \$12.975 million. Additionally, **2090 Vallejo** came back on the market with a slight price reduction to \$14.95 million, while **2820 Pacific** had a major reduction to \$16 million.

All the tenancy in common units at **2945 Baker** are now in contract or closed. With listing and sale prices between \$220,000 and \$320,000, there appears still to be strong demand at all price levels in the neighborhood. For those looking for more affordable homes, **2727 Jackson** #1 recently came on the market at \$379,000. It's a remodeled studio TIC less than a block from Alta Plaza Park.

If you are a first time buyer and make under \$72,600 a year (or a couple making no more than \$83,050), you may qualify for the Mayor's Office of Housing Condo Conversion Program. **2855 Jackson** #101 is a studio condo — yes, condo — listed at \$195,844, and is part of this program.

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

Tasteful. Elegant. Affordable.

Offering the Bay Area's best prices for
window treatments.

Cellular Shades	77% Off MSRP
Wood Blinds	75% Off MSRP
Plantation Shutters	40% Off MSRP
Solar Shades	60% Off MSRP

Limited time only.



Discover, MasterCard and Visa accepted.

www.windowwearwest.com



Now there are more openings for light — and for rain, and maybe for rats, too.

■ RENOVATING AN ATTIC | THIRD IN A SERIES

HOME ALONE

*With rats, leaks, smoke alarms, broken toilets
— and Brad Pitt's abs*

JUST AS OUR remodeling project was reaching full steam this month, my husband left on a weekend trip south to visit friends and family. While I'm always happy when he returns, I do relish time home alone — especially with a supply of chick flicks, facial masques and novels to read late into the night. Of course, I could read and watch movies in a masque when he is home. But it doesn't have the same deliciously naughty feel.

And this time, there is added anticipation: Now that the workers are hitting their stride, I look forward to seeing visible progress on the construction project that has become our home. A few days earlier, the builder had made a frightening find while cutting an opening for a new window: a rat's nest made of gnawed leaves, complete with plenty of droppings. I had convinced myself those nighttime skittering sounds were the neighbor's tree brushing against the side of the house. But apparently it really was a mischief of rats coming and going from their nest.

The holes in the walls and roof are covered with plastic while we await the skylights and windows on order. Meanwhile, I am working hard to avoid a frightening thought: If rats can chew a hole through the eaves, surely they'll look at a piece of plastic as a welcoming invitation.

HOME ALONE, DAY 1: The builder calls to say he has "a case of the sulfur burps" and won't be on the job today. While I am not familiar with this malady, his detailed report of the accompanying distress to his digestive tract quickly convinces me he should stay far away. I decide to work at home — and the peace and quiet is a welcome contrast to the noisy parade of men hammering and sawing and tromping about with large wooden beams and sheets of plywood. At night, the friendly Chicagoan at VINO sells me a bottle of old vine zinfandel he promises will perfectly complement a dinner of popcorn and a viewing of "A Very Long Engagement."

DAY 2: Something about the wires being jerked about apparently causes the smoke alarms downstairs to blare on at 2 a.m. — and stay on. I can't reach the 12-foot ceiling to extract their batteries, but spend a lot of time attempting to bat them quiet with a broom while hopping on a

chair, feeling like a scene in "I Love Lucy." After that, sleep is impossible.

DAY 3: Still no contractor. Apparently, the case of sulfur burps is enduring. Today, one of the downstairs toilets takes to flushing spontaneously, as if possessed. This may or may not be related to the pipes being replumbed upstairs. But there is no one here to ask.

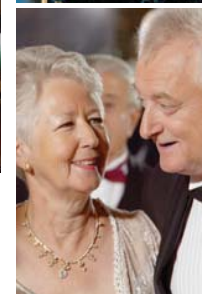
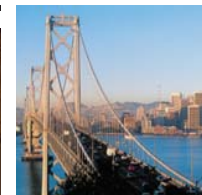
DAY 4: It rains hard. And the plastic covering the holes in the roof — the same plastic theoretically keeping out the displaced rats — doesn't keep out the rain. Water seeps through the second floor and downstairs into great pools on the main floor. I can think of no better solution than to imitate Lucy again and begin a dance placing and emptying a series of buckets to catch the overflow.

DAY 5: A welcome sighting: The plumber arrives. He agrees that "an amazing amount of water" has come in, but demurs about a solution. "People think because I'm a plumber I know about every kind of water problem. But I just deal with the stuff in the pipes," he says, presenting an invoice and making the now-familiar gesture of signing a check. On the way out, he promises to order a new flapper to stop the incessant toilet flushing, but warns it may take a while to arrive.

I am slow to play the gender card, but now I begin to wonder whether workers would actually show up to work if the man of the house were here.

DAY 6: The heater man shows up and looks around, but says he can't put in the ducts until the builder opens up the floor, or some such. There has been no heat on in the house since construction began three months ago — and it's now colder inside than out. Even the sight of a young and golden Brad Pitt's toned stomach in tonight's movie, "Thelma and Louise," doesn't chase the chill from the air. Just as Thelma and Louise plunge off the cliff to their brave deaths, the phone rings. It's What's His Name, weighing in to say he's having a relaxing time, and has left the door open to hear the waves.

DAY 7: As the day dawns, the solution suddenly seems clear. I get on the Internet to search for a plane ticket out of town — for one.



Your city. Your life. Your home.

Welcome to The Carlisle, your very own piece of San Francisco. Here, you'll find your choice of the finest retirement condominiums with all-new renovations currently underway. The Carlisle promises breathtaking views, stunning architecture, and superior services and amenities, including a fitness center, restaurant-style dining, round-the-clock concierge services, an on-site theater and more. And as health needs may change, you can receive assistance in the privacy of your own home. It's all here. It's all yours.

Now is the time to take advantage of pre-renovation pricing.

Call to learn about our upcoming events and informational seminars or to schedule a personalized tour.

The Carlisle
MANAGED BY SUNSHINE SENIOR LIVING

Independent Living • Continuing Care Retirement Community

1450 Post Street San Francisco, CA 94109
415-929-0200 www.thecarlisle.com
RCFE #385 600339 CCR# 216

GREEN IS

*fighting global warming
one strand of lights at a time.*

This year, PG&E is offering you the chance to exchange your old holiday lights for one of 10,000 strands of new, eco-friendly LED lights. To find out how you can help fight global warming this holiday season, visit letsgetgreenthiscity.com



PG&E refers to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation. ©2007 Pacific Gas and Electric Company. All rights reserved.

Zephyr Real Estate.
We're all about San Francisco.
www.zephyrfs.com



Pacific Heights • 415.674.6500
Upper Market • 415.552.9500
Upper Market/Castro • 415.552.9500
West of Twin Peaks • 415.731.5000
New Valley • 415.695.7707
Potrero Hill • 415.315.0105
South Beach/SOMA • 415.905.0250



Robert Deovlet demonstrates for a customer the latest in stoves in the early years of Deovlet and Sons, located from 1938 to November 2005 at 1660 Pine Street.

'THE FRIENDLY FURNITURE FOLKS'

A Family Name Fades Away

For 67 years, Pops Deovlet and Sons furnished the neighborhood

By JOE BEYER

IT WON'T BE LONG now before the fading neon sign proclaiming Deovlet and Sons Furniture on the shuttered storefront at 1660 Pine Street gives way to the wrecking ball and a pair of condominium towers begins to rise.

But for 67 years, Deovlet and Sons — known as "the Friendly Furniture Folks" — served thousands of neighborhood residents from its one and only location between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street.

Benjamin "Pops" Deovlet and his two sons, Philip and Robert, opened the furniture store in 1938. Pops died in 1972. But the sons continued to operate the business until they were well into their 80s. The cost of seismically strengthening the brick buildings finally forced them to close the store in November 2005.

According to Robert Deovlet's daughter, Roberta Wackler, the family bought the original building in 1929 for \$19,000 — not to sell furniture, but to sell dried fruit.

The fruit was shipped in from Fresno and dried in the building with the help of a furnace installed on the third floor. It was packed into wooden crates and shipped all over the country and abroad. As the rising cost of fruit made their business less profitable, the family decided to try something new.

Pops and his two sons opened the Yellow Pages to "fruit" and found that "furniture" was the next alphabetical listing. And so they decided to go into the furniture business.

Deovlet and Sons Furniture served generations of San Franciscans and others throughout the Bay Area. The Deovlets supplied appliances for many homes and apartment buildings in the neighborhood, with free



Robert (center) and Philip Deovlet show a new dishwasher in the 1970s. Appliances from their store are in many neighborhood homes and apartments.

delivery, negotiable prices and, as promised, friendly service. For all of the 67 years they ran the store, Phil and Bob Deovlet were the only salesmen. They also did the accounting and billing, all on handwritten records.

Phil said shortly before the store closed that Bob at one point had wanted to retire, but Phil talked him out of it by saying, "If you retire you will die."

Pops Deovlet immigrated from Armenia in 1908 and initially settled in Fresno's Armenian farming community. In 1914 he married Rose Mahdesian, who had immigrated from Armenia in 1904. Sons Philip and Robert were born in Fresno.

After moving to San Francisco, the family joined the Bethel Armenian Presbyterian Church, which met in the Victorian at 2409 Washington Street, now a Seventh Day Adventist Church. When that church closed in 1957, the entire Deovlet family joined Calvary Presbyterian Church, sometimes filling three pews in the balcony on Sunday mornings. Phil was ordained as a deacon in 1958, "Pops" Benjamin Deovlet was ordained as an elder in 1960, and Robert was ordained as a deacon in 1969 and as an elder in 1976.

The sons had attended nearby Redding Elementary School and Galileo High School, where they had many friends in the Japanese-American community. The association continued when they entered the business world. The Deovlets advertised solely in the *Nishi Bei Times*.

In 1942, when their Japanese-American neighbors were ordered to internment camps, some trusted the family so completely they asked them to store their personal belongings. The Deovlets agreed, keeping the items in locked compartments on the third floor of their building. After the war, when the Japanese-Americans returned, all items stored were safely retrieved.

This service to the Japanese-American community was recognized during a Day of Remembrance candle lighting ceremony in 2003. According to Hiroshi Shimizu, a master of ceremony at the service, Phil and Bob Deovlet were honored guests. Bob was invited to light one of the 11 giant candles that symbolized each of the internment camps.

Philip Deovlet died in July 2006 at age 91. Robert died earlier this month, also at 91. A memorial service will be held at Calvary Presbyterian Church on Saturday, November 8, at 1 p.m.



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.

Come celebrate Advent and Christmas at your neighborhood church, Christ Church, on the corner of Pierce and Clay.

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated Sundays at 10 a.m.
December 15 — Lessons and Carols followed by Eucharist followed by an egg nog coffee hour
Christmas Eve Carol Singing and Festal Eucharist at 7 p.m. followed by traditional Christmas cheer
The Reverend Penelope Duckworth, Vicar

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 10 A.M.
Advent Craft Workshops (all ages welcome)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 8 P.M.
"An English Christmas" presented by Calvary Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, Orchestra and Soloists
Music by V. Williams, Rutter, Purcell, Byrd plus audience carol sing
Free admission (offerings accepted)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 8:45 & 11 A.M.
Morning Worship with Children's Nativity Play: "A Celebration of Light"

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24
5 pm: Family Candlelight Service
11 pm: Traditional Candlelight Service
Carol singing on church steps after both services

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 11 A.M.
Christmas Day Worship

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6
5:30 pm: 12th Night Supper
7 pm: Epiphany Service

Access additional holiday serving opportunities, concerts and fellowship events at www.calvarypresbyterian.org

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
8:45am & 11:00am Worship Services
10:00am Church School & Adult Seminars
— childcare provided

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2815 Fillmore Street at Jackson
415-346-3832
www.calvarypresbyterian.org

St. Dominic's Catholic Church

St. Dominic's warmly invites you to celebrate the Advent & Christmas Seasons in our beautiful church...

Weekday Masses:
6:30 & 8:00 am; 5:30 pm
Morning Prayer: 7:15 am (weekdays); 8:00 am (Saturday)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Mondays & Wednesdays: 8:30 am & 6:00 pm • First Fridays: 9:00 pm (Sign-up required)

Sunday Masses:
Saturday evening: 5:30 pm (Vigil), 7:30 am (Quiet), 9:30 am (Family), 11:30 am (Solemn)
1:30 pm (St. Jude Pilgrim Mass in Spanish), 5:30 pm (Contemporary music)
9:00 pm (Taizé music by candlelight)



2390 Bush St. (at Steiner) • (415) 567-7824 • Free Parking • www.stdominics.org

Come Join Our Christmas Celebration!

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 8
Vigil Masses: Friday, December 7
5:30 & 7:30 pm (Contemporary)
Masses: Saturday, December 8
8:00 & 9:30 am (Family)

Advent Retreat with Sr. Pat Farrell, O.P.
Sunday, December 9
7:00 pm (Lady Chapel)

Bethlehem Down: A Romantic Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 18
7:30 pm (St. Dominic's Solemn Mass Choir and Orchestra)

Evening of Recollection to Prepare for Confession
Wednesday, December 19
7:30 pm (Lady Chapel)

Confessions

Thursday, December 20
12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm • 7:30 to 9:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24
Advent Masses: 6:30 & 8:00 am
Christmas Eve Masses:
5:30 pm (Christmas Family Mass)
11:15 pm (Christmas Carols followed by Mass at Midnight)

Christmas Day — The Nativity of Our Lord

Tuesday, December 25
7:30 am (Organ) • 9:30 am (Family)
11:30 am (Solemn) • 1:30 pm (En Español)
(No confessions and no 5:30 or 9:00 pm Masses today)

Solemnity of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 30
Regular Mass & Confession Schedule:
7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am • 1:30, 5:30 & 9:00 pm

New Year's Eve

Monday, December 31
Daily Masses: 6:30 & 8:00 am • 5:30 pm

New Year's Day — Mary, the Mother of God

Tuesday, January 1
Mass at 9:30 am (Only Mass of the Day)



For many years, Helen Jones walked Latte and Simon on Fillmore.

Farewell to My Friend Latte

I HAD TO SAY GOODBYE to my best friend Latte this month. He was diagnosed with congestive heart failure more than a year ago. For most of the year he maintained his loving spirit, shaking his big butt from side to side down Fillmore Street with his brontosaurus bone in his mouth, stopping to talk to anyone willing to acknowledge his good looks.

We got Latte from a neighbor when he was six weeks old. He would pick up coffee cups on Fillmore Street and dangle them as we walked down the street. People would stop to pet him — he was so cute and friendly — and say, "I see he had his morning latte." We decided to name him Latte because of his coffee cups, and also his coffee colored coat.

My mom had no problem when I moved out of her flat on Pine Street, but she refused to be separated from the dogs. We agreed she would do doggie day care. I dropped the dogs off on my way to work and picked them up at night. It was great for me because I often worked late hours, and it gave me a chance to see my mom every day.

During the day, Latte, his younger brother Simon, and my mom, Helen Jones, walked around the neighborhood as if they were ambassadors of the Fillmore, my mom stopping to talk to the neighbors and Latte walking with his chest out and tail wagging. Simon

was shy, and happy to walk in Latte's enormous shadow. They walked to Alta Plaza Park in the mornings, passing the Wash Palace to say hello to Barbara, often stopping to sit with Tan at the Royal Ground, then waving hello to Jeannine and Bean or Gary and Mia sitting outside Pete's.

For the evening walk, Latte and Simon would sit outside Dino's when mom stopped for a glass of wine. They would bark endlessly in the parking lot at Mollie Stone's when mom shopped for groceries — you could see them misbehaving on the security cameras while waiting in James's express line. The street people in the neighborhood knew Latte and Simon because they would stop to say hello, especially to Scottie and Kevin outside Mollie Stone's, who offered to entertain them while mom shopped.

The dogs kept my mom active in her 70s — mentally and physically. In between their walks, they kept her company while she wrote at home. Since my mom died last year, her friends have helped to keep her memory alive by approaching me and the dogs in the morning when they walk around the neighborhood. They always have a Helen story to share.

Wherever they are, I hope she and Latte have been reunited.

— Suzy Jones

He walked around like an ambassador of the Fillmore.

DEPARTURES

At Fillmore and California, a Familiar Face Is Missing

By JOYCE JUE

ON our morning walks up Fillmore, my Australian Shepherd Nikki always pulls me toward the Royal Ground coffee shop on the corner of California and Fillmore.

For years, Nikki was determined to get her daily pat on the head from Patti Reid — and maybe a bite of her bagel, too.

If we were earlier than usual, Nikki would haul me to the corner, plant her paws in front of "Patti's seat" and patiently stare south down Fillmore. When she saw Patti approaching, her stump of a tail waved, her tongue wagged and her breathing turned into pants. This happened every morning for many years.

Neighborhood fixture

Patti Reid died a few weeks ago, on September 27, after losing a long battle with lung cancer.

Patti had more going on than any dozen people in the city. When you sat down and had coffee with her, cigarette always in hand, she blocked out the rest of the world to enjoy your company. The priest at her memorial at St. Dominic's Church, where she was a congregant, put it perfectly when he referred to Patti as "genuine" and "authentic" — the ultimate compliment.

Every morning, neighborhood locals would stop and check in with Patti. It wasn't just a wave and a hello in passing. When you saw her, you were "Pattied." She had to catch up on the latest news and know how you and your family were doing — and she remembered every detail from previous conversations.

Dogs have radar for good and decent people. It was my Nikki who brought Patti into my life. In her own way, Nikki insisted I make the time to say good morning to Patti and become her friend.

It wasn't hard. Patti's warm and glowing nature could bring out a smile in everyone. I am definitely not a "morning person," but Patti managed to transform my morning scowl into a smile — even on cold and foggy mornings.

Apparently her smile worked the same magic on many others. It was only at her memorial that I came to know the entirety of the halo that radiated over Patti. A huge gathering of people attended, all lucky enough to have had Patti in their lives and to be touched by that certain something only a few people are blessed with. Patti had it. As someone in the audience said, "She was cool."

An astute person at California Pacific Medical Center, where she worked, was captivated by Patti's smile and had her photographed with her finger posed across



Patti Reid was a regular presence on Fillmore Street, and at California Pacific Medical Center.

her lips, gesturing "Shhh." Posters were made and posted throughout the hospital reminding visitors to be quiet.

During her illness, saint that she was, Patti constantly asked how I was and bought bagels for Nikki. It was a real effort to reverse the question and ask about her illness. She didn't tell her family she was sick for fear of worrying them. It was never about Patti.

In an urban environment like ours, it is neighborhood people who give the community its character. Each morning when Nikki and I pass Patti's empty seat at the Royal Ground, I feel her loss — and the neighborhood's loss.

FILLMORE HISTORY



"Fillmore Street was thronged by a multitude of sightseers celebrating the electric illumination of the thoroughfare," the Chronicle reported.

Electric Lights Arrived at Christmastime in 1896

"FILLMORE STREET Lights Its Lamps," the Chronicle reported on December 24, 1896.

"Crowds Throng the Walks," the headlines announced. "Brilliant lights and colors abound — a dazzling spectacle with an accompaniment of music."

The story reported: Never in the history of the Western Addition has Fillmore Street presented so animated an appearance as last night, when for the first time it was illuminated by electricity.

From Sutter Street northward to Washington the street was as brilliantly lighted almost as at midday. Rays from the arc lamps swinging in the center of the street intermingled with colored lights burned on rooftops. Long and graceful festoons of paper lanterns lined either side of the street, and the storefronts were gay with bunting, flags and lanterns.

Early in the evening, despite the prospect of rain, crowds thronged the street awaiting the signal by which the beginning of the festivities was announced. At 8 o'clock the signal was given, and immedi-

ately, at several points of vantage, fireworks were burned. A band of 20 musicians was drawn up and down the street, followed by 20 floats indicative of the industries of the locality.

The crowd, constantly augmented by new arrivals, by 9 o'clock became dense, and joining its applause to the noise of bursting fireworks and the music of the band, made the street resound.

Vari-colored lights were burned in profusion, rockets and Roman candles were fired, bombs and batteries threw showers of brilliant and dazzling rainbow-hued sparks into the air. Under the influence of this illumination the prosaic business street became a vision of splendor.

Nearly every store and building on Fillmore Street, taken with the infection, had dressed itself in gala attire also between Fillmore and Steiner Streets.

It was midnight when quiet was restored to the street, which during the preceding years has never known a crowd after 9 o'clock at night.

"It was midnight when quiet was restored to the street, which had never known a crowd after 9 o'clock at night."

You live it. We'll frame it.

Fine Custom Framing ♦ Photo Frames ♦ Decorative Mirrors



355 Presidio Ave...415-346-1860
2019 Fillmore St...415-922-6811

239 West Portal Ave...415-759-2002
1262 9th Ave...415-759-2000

WalterAdamsFraming.com



Action Jackson.

It's the smell of Tully's coffee at the corner of Fillmore. The secret delights of that tucked-away B&B around the block on Pacific. The jumble of kids near Lyon when University High lets out.

It's Jackson Street, where the homes have a solid beauty reflecting the upscale but friendly nature of their owners. It's no wonder you'll find the residences of more than a few foreign consulates in this neighborhood.

At Hill & Co., we've been helping people find the homes that help them realize their aspirations—in Pacific Heights, Presidio

Heights, and in all of San Francisco—for nearly 50 years. And we've helped them sell their homes too, when they've been ready to move on to new dreams. It's a half-century of trust between our agents and clients that only the values of a family-owned business can inspire.

If you'd like more information about Jackson Street—from The Embarcadero to the Arguello Gate—or about Pacific Heights, Presidio Heights, or any other neighborhood in the City, give us a call at 415-921-6000. Or visit our website at www.hill-co.com.

We'll show you where the action is.



Lombard Street Office
1880 Lombard Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
T: (415) 921-6000
F: (415) 931-0984

Union Street Office
2107 Union Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
T: (415) 921-6000
F: (415) 931-9148

Noe Valley Office
3899 24th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
T: (415) 824-1100
F: (415) 321-4350

Property Management / Rental Office

T: (415) 292-1777 F: (415) 292-1775



Swedenborgian Church

2107 Lyon St • (415) 346-6466 • www.sfswebnorgian.org

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, December 2
12:15 to 2:15 p.m.
Tour of Sanctuary 12:30

ADVENT
CONCERT
Sunday, December 9
5:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICES
7:30 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Calvary Presbyterian Church
Chancel Choir, Orchestra & Soloists
present

An English Christmas

Friday, December 14, 2007 - 8pm

Fantasia on Christmas Carols - Vaughan Williams

Gloria - John Rutter

A Christmas Anthem - Henry Purcell

performed by

Calvary Chancel Choir, Soloists & Orchestra

Also works by Byrd, Hadley, Taverner, Walton
Carol Singing with the orchestra & pipe organ

Free admission - offering received

Parking at Newcomer School
1/2 block east of the church on Jackson Street
MUNI Bus: #3 Jackson, #22 Fillmore, #24 Divisadero
Calvary Presbyterian Church
2515 Fillmore Street, San Francisco
(415) 346-3832
www.calvarypresbyterian.org





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

ART & ANTIQUES

Fillmore Estates
2450 Fillmore 567-1447
Kuraya Japanese Antiques
2425 California 885-3313
Mureta's Antiques
2418 Fillmore 922-5652
Narumi Japanese Antiques
1902 Fillmore 346-9629
Thomas Reynolds Gallery
2291 Pine 441-4093
Walter Adams Framing
2019 Fillmore 922-6811
Winterbranch Gallery
2119 Fillmore 673-2119

CLOTHING

Betsey Johnson
2121 Fillmore 776-0669
Blu
2259 Fillmore 776-0643
Cielo
2225 Fillmore 776-0641
Crosswalk Shoes
2122 Fillmore 921-0292
De Novo
2413 California 563-5937
Eileen Fisher
2216 Fillmore 346-2133
Elizabeth Charles
2056 Fillmore 440-2100
Erica Tanov
2408 Fillmore 674-1228
Flicka
1932 Fillmore 292-2315
Gimme Shoes
2358 Fillmore 441-3040
Heidi Says
2426 Fillmore 749-0655
Heidi Says Shoes
2105 Fillmore 409-6850
Her
2053 Fillmore 923-9628
Jigsaw
2121 Fillmore 931-5520
Limu
2237 Fillmore 567-9500
Marc by Marc Jacobs
2142 Fillmore 447-8940
Margaret O'Leary
2400 Fillmore 771-9982
Metro 200
2116 Fillmore 776-5652
Mio
2035 Fillmore 931-5620
My Boudoir
2029 Fillmore 346-1502
Mrs. Dewson's Hats
2052 Fillmore 346-1600
Muse Ten
1520 Fillmore 922-6873
Nomadic Outfitters
2426 California 345-8338
Paolo Shoes
2000 Fillmore 885-5701
Romi Boutique
2512 Sacramento 922-7664
sunhee moon
1833 Fillmore 928-1800
Toujours
2484 Sacramento 346-3988
Yountville
2416 Fillmore 922-5050

GIFTS & FLOWERS

Blooming Floral Design
2182 Sutter 749-1533
Cottage Industry
2328 Fillmore 885-0326
Fillmore Florist
1880 Fillmore 929-5200
In Water
2122 Fillmore 359-1232
Nest
2300 Fillmore 292-6199
Papyrus
2109 Fillmore 474-1171
Paper Source
1925 Fillmore 409-7710
HOME & GARDEN
Design Within Reach
1913 Fillmore 567-1236
Duxiana
1803 Fillmore 673-7134
Jonathan Adler
2133 Fillmore 563-9500
New Asian Style
1906 Fillmore 346-3378
Shabby Chic
2185 Fillmore 771-3881
Simon Pearce
2223 Fillmore 409-3700
Studio D
2184 Sutter 346-9694
Timeless Treasures
2176 Sutter 775-8366
Zinc Details
1905 Fillmore 776-2100

JEWELRY

Aumakua
2238 Fillmore 673-4200
Eric Trabert Goldsmith
2420 Fillmore 567-8887
Gallery of Jewels
2115 Fillmore 771-5099
Linco & Co.
1908 Fillmore 931-8228

NEWS & BOOKS

Browser Books
2195 Fillmore 567-8027
Juicy News
2453 Fillmore 441-3051
Marcus Books
1712 Fillmore 346-4222

PETS

Aqua Forest Aquarium
1718 Fillmore 929-8883
Barry for Pets
1840 Fillmore 346-8899
George
2411 California 441-0564
Pets Unlimited
2343 Fillmore 563-6700

RESALE

Crossroads Trading Co.
1901 Fillmore 775-8885
Goodwill Industries
1700 Fillmore 441-2159
Next-To-New Shop
2226 Fillmore 567-1627
Repeat Performance
2156 Fillmore 563-3123
Seconds to Go
2252 Fillmore 563-7806
Victorian House
2033 Fillmore 567-3478

SERVICES

Artists Inn
2231 Pine Street 346-1919
Bank of America
2310 Fillmore 650-615-4700
Copy.net
2404 California 567-5888
Invision Optometry
1907 Fillmore 563-9003
Jet Mail
2130 Fillmore 922-9402
Music Lovers Audio
2285 Bush 345-8111
R. Carrie Insurance
2140 Sutter 567-7660
S.F. Boot & Shoe Repair
2448 Fillmore 567-6176
Skyline Cellular
1920 Post 751-8282
UPS Store
2445 Fillmore 922-6245
Walgreens
1899 Fillmore 771-1568
Wells Fargo
2100 Fillmore 396-4453