Revamped library will soon re-open

New FILLMORE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

PAGE 3

SAN FRANCISCO ■ JANUARY 2008

Local Talent

This is a neighborhood rich in talent — some known internationally, some less visible. Starting on page 7, we spotlight the recent work of five local creative spirits:

- Photographer Jean Collier Hurley exhibits her “Dot-Com & Gone” series.
- Teacher Henry Neff launches a series of fantasy fiction.
- Songwriter Winston Montgomery releases his first CD.
- Author Julian Silva publishes a double novel.
- Jazzman Jesse Foster performs live.

The Brown Bag is pictured in one of Jean Collier Hurley’s photographs from the dot-com boom, when it seemed every Fillmore business was hiring.

Singer and songwriter Jesse Foster’s 30-year musical odyssey brings him to the Sheila Lounge this month.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SARAH LEWINGTON

RESALE SHOPS

Victorian House loses leading lady

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GOOD WORKS

Spreckels starter mansion for sale

PAGE 14
Group Seeks Partnership for School

A speaker or concerned neighbor is attempting to create a plan for the future of the vacant Pacific Heights School at Webster and Jackson streets, home for more than 85 years to Newcomer High School.

The group is promoting the idea that it could become an elementary school to serve the growing number of children in the neighborhood.

At a December meeting at Temple Sholom Israel, local YMCA program of four in education for the San Francisco-Fremont area, showed a video depicting the situation of the Daniel Weisberg School on Pacific-Hill-Thoro, partner of children created an on-site, first-hand tool in conjunction with the school district, promising enough future students to justify keeping the school open.

The school district has no further need for the building, the group says it could become a community center providing after-school classes in music and art; yoga and Pilates classes for adults; space for home school; community services, a pre-school; and so on.

The new school is currently being used under a short-term contract by Metropolitan Charter School.

Liquor License for Mansion in Pacific Heights?
Ristow Vineyard wants wholesale, retail permits

A new Napa Valley winery who is also a prominent plastic surgeon has applied to the California Alcohol Beverage Control for a license to open a sales outlet at his Pacific Heights home.

The applicant is Bruno Ristow, president of Ristow Vineyard, and his wife Urania Ristow. Two licenses have been requested, one for wholesaling beer and wine, the other for off-sale beer and wine sales.

Neighbors speculated that the wholesale license might simply mean the Ristows want to do paperwork in San Francisco. It is the off-sale license, which would allow people to buy wine at the residence, that sparked their concern. The mansion is located on the Sylvan Trail, just north of the Stags Leap district. The 18-acre vineyard is planted solely with Cabernet Sauvignon vines. Each year a small part of the crop is released for tasting under the Ristori Estate label, while the remainder is sold to neighboring wineries.

Ristow Vineyard is now posted more prominently in the front of the Pacific Avenue home after first being posted in a second-story window.

A notice that the owners are seeking a liquor license for the residence was posted across the street on December 29.

“This is not an original placement,” Duffy said that the sign be extended, but said that he had heard nothing about its request from state licensing officials.

None of the other neighbors on the block has called the winery to express concern about the request for the license.

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The new school is currently being used under a short-term contract by Metropolitan Charter School.

The third HeidiSays boutique will offer more casual clothing for women. A February opening is anticipated.

The Western Addition branch will now open seven days a week.

The opening will be celebrated on Saturday, February 2, starting at 1 p.m. by Mayor Gavin Newsom, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi and City Librarian Luis Herrera. They will be joined by lion dancers, Portuguese drummers and Steiner Streets will end February 1.

The temporary Western Addition Library near Fillmore Station on the Muni Metro was opened on March 1, 2002, serving park and ride commuters and other Muni riders. The $4.3 million renovation project made the building seismically sound, fully accessible and equipped with new restrooms and additional stacks.

The vaulted reading room has new lights and windows, making it brighter.

The temporary Western Addition Reading Center at 762 Fillmore Street has already closed. Store hours at Pacific Place in California Street will end on January 29. Bookshare service at Port and Geary Street will end on February 1.
Lafayette Park Friends Back Bonds

It's one of the parks to be renovated if Prop A passes

Lafayette Park is one of 12 city parks designated for a major makeover if Proposition A, a $185 million bond issue, is approved by the voters on February 5. Lafayette Park is campaigning for the measure, which requires a two-thirds majority. The group's leaders say the opportunity to repair and improve the park may not come again soon if the proposition fails.

The $8 to $10 million project will include renovation of the restrooms, built in 1936, and the children's play area, the picnic area and tennis courts; restoration of the roads and pathways; upgrades to the infrastructure, including lighting and irrigation; modifications to numerous barriers and improve accessibility; and overall reconfiguring of the landscape.

Art Perlino, an active member of the Friends of Lafayette Park, pointed out that missing rails around the park are broken and leaning. Within the park, he said, old trees are falling and some patches of grass have died because the irrigation system is broken.

Kinball Playground at Geary and Stanyan will also be upgraded with funds generated by Proposition A if the measure is approved.

Victoria water fountains like this one in Alamo Square are coming to Lafayette Park.

Victorian Alliance funds fountains

The project was modeled after a successful drive that put the fountains in Alamo Square.

No on C: Keep Alcatraz in the National Park System

Proposition C would make it city policy to urge the National Park Service to return Alcatraz Island to the city for a peace and mediation center. Alcatraz is a National Landmark, part of Golden Gate National Park and should remain that way.

Friends of Lafayette Park Back Bonds

It's one of the parks to be renovated if Prop A passes
RESALE SHOPS

AN ERA ENDS
Audrey Clock reigned over the Victorian House for three decades

By the early ’70s, the Victorian House had withstood many challenges and emerged as a pillar of the community. Audrey Clock, the indefatigable volunteer who had been its guiding light for nearly three decades, was ready to pass the torch to a new generation of dedicated volunteers.

Clock had begun volunteering at the Victorian House when it first opened its doors in 1958. She quickly became known for her exceptional skills in running a thrift shop, and her reputation spread far and wide. Her ability to attract the best volunteers and her tireless work ethic made her a natural leader.

Clock was not only a hard worker, but also a kind and caring person. She was known for her warm smile and her ability to make everyone feel welcome. Her love for the Victorian House was evident in the way she treated both the staff and the volunteers like family.

Clock believed in the power of the thrift shop to bring people together. She saw the Victorian House as a place where people could give back and feel good about it. She loved the community and the sense of belonging it provided.

Clock’s leadership was crucial to the success of the Victorian House. She was always looking for ways to improve the shop and make it more appealing to the community. She was always willing to try new things and take calculated risks.

Clock’s legacy is immeasurable. She left behind a legacy of kindness, generosity, and community involvement. The Victorian House will continue to thrive under the leadership of its current volunteers, who are all inspired by Clock’s dedication and spirit.

Clock will be remembered as a true visionary who had a profound impact on the Victorian House and the community it serves. She will be missed, but her legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew her and the Victorian House.

By Mark C. Walpole
He Writes Songs Inspired By the Sounds of Urban Life

INSPIRING SONGS

He writes songs inspired by the sounds of urban life.

A new work of influence

On his CD, Popes, Places and Songs, Foster features the influence of Marvin Gaye, John Coltrane and Miles Davis into a distinctive style. He blends the sacred vocal delivery of classic soul with the spiritual sensibilities of 1960s avant-garde jazz.

Popes, Places and Songs is very much a personal affair. "How Are You" tells the story of meeting his wife, Michelle; "Lost Love Returns" is about reuniting with an old friend; and "Orinola," the opening track, conveys his love for his mother.

In live performances, he fills the room with his ever-present smile and joyous energy while delivering his own original compositions, plus intimate versions of songs by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Luther Vandross, Chick Corea and Al Jarreau.

Inspiring others

When he’s not recording or performing, Foster is often teaching and encouraging other aspiring musicians. He teaches at the Community Music Center on Cayley Street and also offers private lessons on improvisation and vocal technique in jazz, soul and rhythm and blues. On Sunday afternoons, he hosts a workshop for his students before a live audience at Bistro Yoffi on Chestnut Street.

Foster says, "I teach students to improvise, often in response to the urban sounds that surround them. I teach my students to be open to influences." Foster says, "If you hear two cars honking, figure out the internal, the rhythm. Let the environment entertain you." Back on Fillmore at Peet’s, eating into his morning routine, he practices what he preaches — greets friends, rolls over several notes and even to gently drumming on the table to the rhythm of the passing train.

"When you clear the clutter and vow to live more simply, timeless treasures are the things that you keep." - Jesse Foster

Jesse Foster performs in the neighborhood this month with pianist John Groves on Thursdays, January 3 and 17, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Sheba Piano Lounge at 1419 Fillmore Street. Get his album at www.cdbaby.com (iTunes or from the man himself at his live performances. In addition to the Sheba Lounge, he performs regularly at Bistro Yoffi on Chestnut Street and at the Ontario Lounge on Monaco. The schedule and information about his workshops are available online at www.jessaefoster.com.

"Dot-Com & Beyond"

An exhibition of Jean Collier Hurley’s photographs opens with a reception for the artist on Friday, January 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Thomas Reynolds Gallery. It continues through February 2 at the gallery, located at 2386 Pine Street.

"Yes, we’re building the company to take it public. Everyone’s doing it." - Jesse Foster

"A record of influences," Foster says. "If you take a walk up to Peet’s to have a latte and think it through. As I strolled down Fillmore, I noticed that nearly every retail shop, coffee house and cafe had a help wanted sign in the window. My neighbor was right. Business was booming, yet everyone was leaving the shops and cafes in the city for dot-com employment South of Market and south of... unique point in time, and perhaps a bubble that would one day burst, I grabbed my latte and raced home to get my camera.

Many of the Fillmore businesses included in Jean Collier Hurley’s series of photographs from 2000 are now closed, including the vintage shop Departures from the Past, above, and Fillamento, at right.

GONE WITH THE BLOW — Many of the Fillmore businesses featured in Jean Collier Hurley’s series of photographs from 2000 are now closed, including the vintage stop Departures from the Past, above, and Fillamento, at right.
An Aging Rocker Lives the Dream

Why buy a sports car when you can record your own album

By Winston Montgomery

There have been many serious musicians in this neighborhood through the years, I’m one of the newer ones, though not one of the youngest.

Like many people, I was no doubt — I was in a rock band in college back in the 60s. So was my roommate, Brian Hopkins, who went on to win some renown at the base player in the 70s group based in Mill Valley called Eggs Over Easy.

In college Brian and I wrote songs together, including “Such a Good Day,” a la Loring Speedwell, which he later recorded. After college Brian successfully pursued a career in music, but focused on recording Victorian in the Western Addition.

Fast forward 35 years, and I felt the urge to write songs again. It was my college buddy Brian, retired in Mill Valley, who heard them first. He was encouraging, and after his bandmates Austin de Loe, a longtime fiddler on the Marin music scene, we recorded a few songs — not on bass, Austin on keyboards and guitar, with my vocals. This led me to write and record more songs.

Now I’ve put some of them on a CD and called it “Child at Father’s Feet.”

I write songs in the folk and country genres because they seem the least swayed by current musical fashions. But my 60s roots are pretty obvious. I’m not looking for commercial or financial success. Hearing someone else perform my songs would be a wonderful surprise.

My songs characteristically have a strong narrative with a comic edge. “The Scottish Selma Oates Was” was inspired by the apocryphal saint in Jamaica.

“My Daddy, Why Would You Have to Be So Hard?” is a lament about a cruel father. “Yolkah Skies” is a Beach Boys style song set in wartime Iraq.

Now I’m working on a full-length CD, produced by Austin de Loe, that should be out near year. Unfortunately, Brian Hopkins passed away a few months ago. My first CD is dedicated to him.

I enjoy writing songs, but not performing them. I do, however, play at open mikes as a way of getting exposure for the songs and seeing how they are received. Open mike nights are a singular culture that is so nicely welcoming and supportive, regardless of age or level of skill.

At one of my first open mike attempts at the Baner Cafe in the Richmond District, I jokingly told the audience that, having recently retired, I had narrowed my options to pursuing my longtime interest in music or buying a sports car. As I finished my nervous and halting performance, a woman in her 80s spoke up.

She was right, of course. But gas is so expensive nowadays, and I’d miss young wiseasses like her.

T

A Fantasy Is Born at The Grove

Stuart Hall instructor conceives his own world

By Heather H. Nary

For the past seven years I have marveled at the mural reach of Fillmore Street as a writer of children’s books, a teacher of U.S. history at nearby Stuart Hall High School and an adopted son of San Francisco. In my chosen haven, whether I’m grading papers, brainstorming the next novel of fantasy fiction, I’m hearing this echo in the groan of the buses, the clink of bottles and the laughter of crowds milling about the Boom Boom Room or The Fillmore auditorium.

I haven’t found the answers yet, but come say hello. I’ll be the guy with the red pen and a stack of exams stealing glances at his notebook. I can’t promise answers or entertaining conversation. But I might buy you a cookie.

Henry Neff wrote and illustrated the first book of a new series of fantasy fiction.

The coffee is a problem, however. The croissants, too. They’re enormous and irresistible and have caused my fiscal ruin. One teacher for love, not money, and I’ve advised to say that I spent a staggering percentage of my week’s earnings at The Grove. I can’t begrudge it, however. It’s been money well spent and has allowed me to lose money every time afterwards, snuffling watched writers, dirty hipsters and the door員p灰尘 that create past the windows.

My students are a part of that scene. They wander by and wave, but rarely interact. They see in Fillmore Street the slow river of humanity that courses past the windows.

It was at The Grove that my characters were born. I’ve been钱了through many iterations, and it’s only now that my characters have their own life.

I’m not on the charts just yet, but neighborhood resident Winston Montgomery’s new CD is now available. That’s him on his mom’s lap.

He wrote the songs — and made the CD.

You may wonder what would possess a man stepping gingerly into retirement to write and record a CD of original country/folk songs after a career in real estate and remodeling.

I can tell you what made it possible: dramatic changes in recording technology, thanks to computers and the internet, which allow individuals with computers to engineer, edit and master their own professional sound recordings. I recorded the majority of the songs on my new CD, Child at Father’s Feet. I’m the author, I play the music. I made my own album.

I’m not looking for commercial or financial success. Hearing someone else perform my songs would be a wonderful surprise.

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Instead, they hurry along, drinking Fillmore like peppers as they dart into Johnny Rockers or La Sucka or follow their noses up the street to France. If you see them, be sure to say hello — they are a brilliantly polite, and you might meet an aspiring filmmaker from Shanghai, a former musician from Oakland or a building entrepreneur from Daly City. Like the street itself, they are an eclectic bunch, as diverse in their backgrounds as each corner past the windows.

Keep your visitors in the neighborhood.

Keep your visitors in the neighborhood.

Keep your visitors in the neighborhood.

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346 9211

INSTON MONTGOMERY

The Hound of Tapestry

MUSIC

BOOKS

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I haven’t found the answers yet, but keep looking. Meanwhile, there are stalwarts to teach and books to write and the inquiring innocence of a city that can be great. If you see us at The Grove, come by and say hello, with the red pen and a stack of exams stealing glances at his notebook. I can promise answers or entertaining conversation. But I might buy you a cookie.
A TALE OF TWO NOVELS
This neighborhood novelist's story is too improbable to be true. But it is.

By Julian Silva

I have been writing for as long as I can remember — mostly, in fact, in secret. My first effort did not see the light of a professional magazine, for on the surface it seemed an immense amount of money, though he never managed to find a publisher. I was far from any sense of triumph that I first saw myself print. I had written a story called "A Scarf for Olaf." Gonzales published something called "A Virgin Bride." Th e Gunnysack Castle.

Three years ago, before I was about to leave that unpleasant task to my executors. I destroyed every trace of the last novel I had written without a qualm. Th ough

Seldom have I been suffi  ciently strong-willed to resist the blandishments of fulsome fl attery. And if there was one thing I had a surplus of, it was

I received a telephone call from the San Francisco Public Library asking if I was the author of The Gunnysack Castle.

members of the University of Colorado's Writers Forum have published seven of my stories, the fi rst of which was The Gunnysack Castle, in 1983.

I have published a number of stories since then, but no other novel, despite the many long hours I spent working on it — perhaps, because each manuscript novel depended in part on a knowledge of the previous one. Th e three novels were meant to form a single work dealing with three generations of a Portuguese-American family in the Bay Area, with an ever-narrowing focus, so that the third volume dealt with a single aspect of a single character.

Traces of my fi rst novel, and that impulsive act I do now regret. Ramos, the second of my three related novels, I could not bring myself to destroy it as well. It would have been tantamount to consigning my grandmother to anyone, but simply for my own satisfaction. After completing that, I went on to rewrite the third novel in the series, Before the Revolution.

Writing by then had become a passion, even necessary, purities that kept my imagination active and my intellect stimulated. I did not any longer even dream about the possibility of publication — until suddenly, and with scarcely any warning at all, everything changed. Th e wheels of academe move slowly.

Eventually I received not the rejection I had tried to prepare myself to expect, but an off er to publish. Th ere was, however, one possible problem: Since the second novel presumed some knowledge of the fi rst, would I consider allowing them to publish both novels together under a single title? At this point reality seemed to be fast overtaking fantasy.

Th e director had come to hear about the fi rst novel required a number of improbable coincidences. He had called someone at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley to inquire if anyone there knew of any novelists dealing with the local Portuguese and their descendants. Th e library did not have anything in it for the person who answered the telephone — by some strange and capricious ruse.
Single Family Homes  BR  BA  PK  Sq ft  Date  Asking $  Sale $  
1306 Baker St  2  2  1  29-Nov  899,000   955,000 
1615 Sacramento St  3  2.5  1  18-Nov  1,600,000   1,600,000 
1626 Valhalla St  4  6  2  11-Dec  5,198,000   5,198,000 
200 Clay St  3.5  2  15-Nov  4,650,000   5,200,000 
2701 Pacific Ave  6  2  16-Dec  4,650,000   4,650,000 
2808 Pacific Ave  3.5  2  20-Nov  4,650,000   4,650,000 

Good Work: Spring Semester begins January 14th. Credit courses are just $20 per unit. Noncredit courses are FREE. Select the course(s) you want, and go directly to class with an add form. See sampling below and/or visit www.ccsf.edu.

There is nothing average about the average price of a Hill & Co. Property. More than $2 million in sales this month — including at least five homes that sold for more than $2 million.

In that group, WESU was a property that stood out. Priced aggressively at just under $2 million, the home received much attention from the moment it hit the market. There were multiple offers, and it closed nearly 20 percent over the asking price.

While the number of new listings coming onto the market has slowed, there are a couple in the neighborhood worth watching in the new year. While the number of new listings coming onto the market has slowed, there are a couple in the neighborhood worth watching in the new year. Some are under $2 million, some in the $2 million to $4 million range, and one is in the $4 million plus category. One listing that stood out was the $2.9 million asking price for a home at 1536 A
d

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3128 Washington St 3 1 1 30-Nov  995,000   1,015,000 
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Dental Students, Faculty Check Up on the Homeless

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January 2009

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1625 Vallejo St 4 6 2 18-Nov  4,650,000   5,200,000 
2051 Clay St 3.5 2 15-Nov  4,650,000   5,2000
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**

**MARKETS**

- Fillmore Fine Foods
  - 1805 Geary St
  - 346-3000
- Friendly's
  - 346-3290
- Gino’s Grocery
  - 2500 Washington
  - 775-0950
- Playfair Market
  - 2435 California
  - 928-1300
- Mott Street’s
  - 2479 California
  - 864-4500
- Pacific Food Mart
  - 2479 California
  - 928-1300

**ENTERTAINMENT**

- Sundance Kabuki Theaters
  - 1881 Post St
  - 931-9800
- Boom Boom Room
  - 2363 Fillmore
  - 492-0030
- Clay Theater
  - 2261 Fillmore
  - 356-3030
- The Fillmore Auditorium
  - 1805 Geary St
  - 346-3000
- Harry’s Bar
  - 2911 Fillmore
  - 346-3888
- Roomie Jazz Club
  - 1905 Fillmore
  - 346-3888
- Stage 14 Lounge
  - 2150 Fillmore
  - 346-3888
- Yoshi’s Jazz Club
  - 1330 Fillmore
  - 655-5600

**BAKERY & DESSERTS**

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

**COFFEE**

- Cafe Murano
  - 1777 Steiner St
  - 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
  - 2330 Fillmore
  - 346-6202
- Tika’s Coffee
  - 2041 Fillmore
  - 346-6202
- Tully’s Coffee
  - 2041 Fillmore
  - 346-6202

**WINE & SPIRITS**

- D&M Wine and Liquor
  - 2200 Fillmore
  - 346-1325
- Lazo’s Wines
  - 2060 Fillmore
  - 567-8822
- Vino
  - 2425 California
  - 674-8466

**JAPANESE**

- Marukin Sushi
  - 2100 Fillmore
  - 567-5000
- Osaka
  - 2112 Fillmore
  - 567-5000
- The Sushi
  - 2080 Fillmore
  - 567-5000
- Vino Sushi
  - 2080 Fillmore
  - 567-5000

**PIZZA**

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

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  - 2330 Fillmore
  - 346-6202
- Tika’s Coffee
  - 2041 Fillmore
  - 346-6202
- Tully’s Coffee
  - 2041 Fillmore
  - 346-6202

**WINE & SPIRITS**

- D&M Wine and Liquor
  - 2200 Fillmore
  - 346-1325
- Lazo’s Wines
  - 2060 Fillmore
  - 567-8822
- Vino
  - 2425 California
  - 674-8466

**JAPANESE**

- Marukin Sushi
  - 2100 Fillmore
  - 567-5000
- Osaka
  - 2112 Fillmore
  - 567-5000
- The Sushi
  - 2080 Fillmore
  - 567-5000
- Vino Sushi
  - 2080 Fillmore
  - 567-5000

**PIZZA**

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

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