

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Polo getting its store on Fillmore

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FOOD & WINE

Farmers market going year-round

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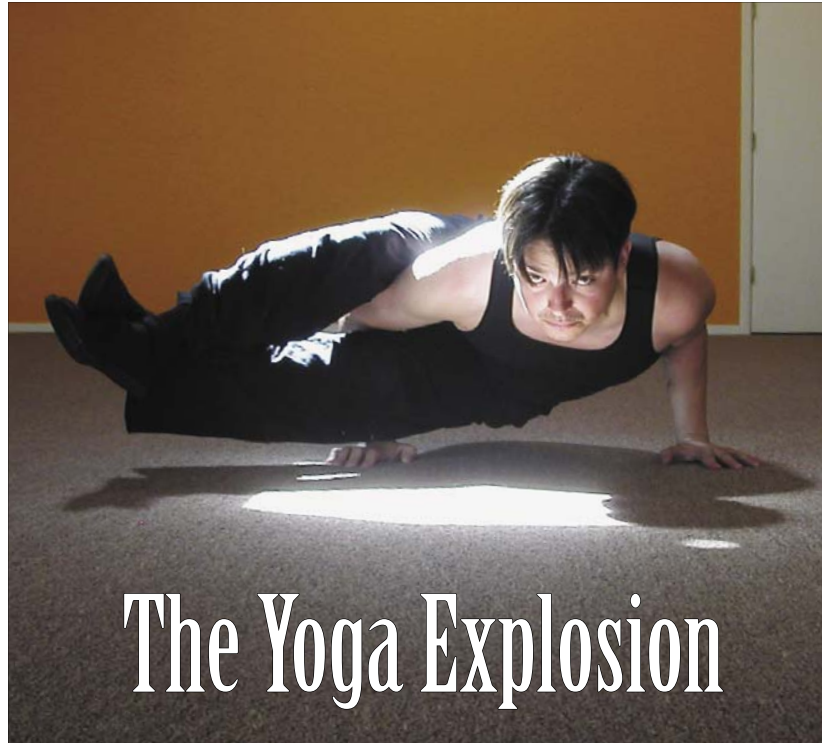
REAL ESTATE

Change on the Presidio Wall

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New FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ MAY 2008



The Yoga Explosion

New styles and philosophies come to the neighborhood

By BARBARA KATE REPA

YOGA SOUNDS GREAT IN THEORY — promising to do everything from quiet the mind to tone the body and open the heart.

But many struggling students are put off by its reality: sweat-filled rooms of competitive 20-somethings in trendy outfits posing mostly for one another in impossible pretzel twists.

Suddenly, though, a number of new yoga spots have burst into the neighborhood, offering different styles and philosophies for aspiring yogis of

every age and stage. And all of them buck the stereotype by promising small classes with a sense of community at affordable rates — and no scene.

■
Brian Monnier (above) started teaching yoga full-time eight years ago at various gyms around the city. In 2004 he opened a studio, Yogic Motion, on Russian Hill. Then synchronicity took over, aided by the Internet.

"I saw an ad on Craigslist for a space at California and Fillmore," he says.

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IN OUR April story, "Buchanan Y Still Bridging Local Cultures," we confused the location of the YMCA's original home on Sutter Street. It was at 1409 Sutter, just west of Franklin, in the magnificent turreted Victorian now hidden behind scaffolding as it undergoes a major renovation.

When that residence proved impractical, the YMCA moved to 1530 Buchanan, its current home just south of Geary Boulevard. After World War II, it was renamed the Buchanan YMCA and became home to the combined activities of the Japanese YMCA and the Japanese YWCA.

The YWCA began at 1830 Sutter, which has an interesting history of its own, told well on the interpretive sign recently posted out front as part of a self-guided Japantown walking tour.

THE EDITORS

TO DON LANGLEY:

Thank you for all of your community-oriented journalism at the *New Fillmore*, especially the stories about goings on in Lafayette Park. I've only lived in this neighborhood for four years or so, but during that short time, I've enjoyed seeing you in Lafayette Park when you were actively practicing your craft here, and I've enjoyed reading your articles and seeing your photos. Best wishes on your retirement and hope to see you back in the 'hood when you visit. Come see us at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday of any month for our "cleaning and greening" in Lafayette Park!

ART PERSYKO
FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE PARK

Retiring news editor Don Langley responds:

Leaving the *New Fillmore* was difficult. I enjoyed the work and the people I worked with, but the responsibility was more than I wanted to handle. As I explained to my editors, most people retire when they're 65. I retired when I had worked 65 years. (During World War II, all the kids in the South Bay had to go out and harvest crops, picking prunes, apricots, etc. I started when I was 8.)

As it turns out, I'm also leaving the neighborhood.



Ice Cream!

AND OTHER RECENT PAINTINGS

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Y and Y Not

And other issues of local interest



TO THE EDITORS:

Thank you so much for the amazing coverage of 1300 on Fillmore. Your article ["Feels Like Home," April] really embodies the mission and spirit of 1300. As *Tudo* magazine said, "It's Harlem Nights meets Pacific Heights."

Now 1300 is serving Sunday brunch. Come on down. You won't be disappointed.

AVE MONTAGUE

My wife Judy and I had planned to downsize and move into the retirement community that was to be built at Van Ness and Clay in about three years. But last month that project was abandoned. Yesterday our offer was accepted on a wonderful condo in Mission Bay, of all places. We expect to close in mid-June and move in late June or early July. So instead of two years to plan our downsize, we have two months. Amazing how things happen, isn't it?

TO THE EDITORS:

I'm inspired to write tonight after finding the latest edition of the *New Fillmore* on my doorstep when I arrived home. I've lived in the city for a year and am

always delighted to read your newspaper and learn more about my neighborhood.

I got my start in journalism working for community newspapers in Boston. And though I now work for a national magazine, the experience instilled in me a true respect for local news, and that sentiment has grown since I've lived in San Francisco.

I read the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner*, and occasionally pick up the two alternative weeklies, but I learn more about my neighborhood — the people, the history and the wonderful nuances — from neighborhood publications in ways that I don't get from those other sources. Tonight, for example, I'm thrilled to learn about the expanded farmers market starting later this month. And I'm definitely planning a visit to 1300 on Fillmore, a restaurant I've heard great things about but feel I know so much more about and am even more curious about after reading your terrific cover story. There's more to be sure; but I hadn't even made my way through the entire paper before I was inspired to write!

So I just wanted to say thank you. You do a great job and offer a terrific service to the community. And you've made me appreciate my neighborhood and all it has to offer in a very rich way. Thank you.

KELLE WALSH

TO THE PACIFIC HEIGHTS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION:

I appreciate your efforts in contesting the proposed Ralph Lauren chain store on Fillmore Street.

I was formerly a resident of Santa Monica, and over the years I witnessed the transformation of the Third Street Promenade from a shopping area with local businesses serving residents to a large, overcrowded outdoor mall with chain stores catering to tourists, not residents. In fact, the last independent bookstore in Santa Monica was located on the Promenade until rising retail rents forced it out of business. As a member of the neighborhood and a property owner, I do not want to see the same erosion of local and resident-focused businesses happen on Fillmore Street.

CARLOS A. GARCIA

THE NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM CONTINUES ON PAGE 15.

Lafayette Park Foxtail Hunt!
Saturday, May 3, 9 am - NoonHelp eradicate foxtail
grass which can be
dangerous to dogs9 AM: Join us for coffee and pastries
9:30 - 11:30 AM: Foxtail Hunt!
11:30 AM - Noon: Food & Prizes
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THE NEW FILLMORE

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Let us hear from you!

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 ideas and suggestions.

Archive of recent issues: www.NewFillmore.com

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

The quote
heard 'round
the country

Perhaps the last word to come to mind on the leafy outer blocks of Jackson Street is "bitter." Yet it was here, during an afternoon of fund raising in the neighborhood on April 6, that Democratic presidential front-runner Barack Obama offered his observations about embittered blue-collar workers, stoking political debate around the country — and giving the chattering classes fresh opportunity to rail against elitist San Franciscans.



Rival Groups Seek Control of Historic Fillmore Site

BY DONNA GILLESPIE

IN A ROUSING debate before the Western Addition Citizens Advisory Committee on April 10, two groups presented differing visions of how to bring new life to the historic Muni substation building at 1198 Fillmore Street.

Both groups propose to build communities devoted to jazz, but they disagreed sharply about how to do it.

The first presenters spoke for Leola

King, a longtime Fillmore resident and former owner of the Blue Mirror restaurant, whose organization hopes to convert the substation into a John Coltrane community. Her associate described it as "a university for the study of liberal arts and social justice" under the aegis of the St. John Coltrane African Orthodox Church, which is located in the next block.

King's group plans to offer classes in the theory and history of jazz, free vegetarian meals, clothing for the needy, classes for

young mothers and other community-oriented services. Supporters predicted the Coltrane community would become a popular tourist destination — even a place of pilgrimage for jazz devotees.

Archbishop Franzo King, the church's founder, spoke of the need to put jazz back into the black community. "It's appropriate that we're in the Jazz District, and that this is an organization owned and run by African Americans," he said.

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Agreement
Paves Way for
Ralph Lauren

AFTER BEING rejected by the Planning Commission at a hearing on Valentine's Day, Polo Ralph Lauren reached out to residents and merchants in the neighborhood to press its case for a store at 2040 Fillmore Street.

When the issue came back before the commission on April 10, Polo won a unanimous vote in favor of a Fillmore store — despite city policy disfavoring chain stores — and the support of its new neighbors.

"Ralph Lauren is very eager to become a part of this wonderful neighborhood on Fillmore Street," the general manager of the company's flagship store at Union Square, Cathy Post, told the commissioners. She pointed to a series of commitments Polo's top executives had made to become actively engaged in the community.

Paul Werner, a director of the Pacific Heights Residents Association, who had spearheaded opposition to additional chain stores on Fillmore, endorsed Polo's efforts.

Werner said his group "continues to be concerned about the increasing amounts of formula retail in the Upper Fillmore," but said talks had persuaded them: "Polo Ralph Lauren may well be the exception that will be a good commercial neighbor and bring additional benefits to the community."

Polo executives said the Fillmore store will offer clothing not only for women but also for men, filling a void on the street.



<p>WED/APR/30 - SUN/MAY/4 AN EVENING WITH EARL KLUGH</p> <p>MON/MAY/5 RICHARD HOWELL QUINTET</p> <p>TUE/MAY/6 CD RELEASE MARCO BENEVENTO TRIO Featuring Reed Morano & Matt Chamberlain</p> <p>WED/MAY/7 BIG MIX</p> <p>THU/MAY/8 - SUN/MAY/11 PONCHO SANCHEZ LATIN JAZZ BAND</p> <p>MON/MAY/12 JOE HENDERSON MEMORIAL BIG BAND Directed by Warren Gale</p> <p>TUE/MAY/13 - WED/MAY/14 STANTON MOORE TRIO</p> <p>THU/MAY/15 GENERATIONS Featuring George Coleman, Annie Mathews, Marcus Belgrave, Eric Alexander & Andrew Spight</p> <p>FRI/MAY/16 - SUN/MAY/18 YOSHIDA BROTHERS</p>	<p>MON/MAY/19 CD RELEASE THE TERRY DISLEY EXPERIENCE</p> <p>TUE/MAY/20 WILLIAM PARKER QUARTET</p> <p>WED/MAY/21 - THUR/MAY/22 CD RELEASE LALAH HATHAWAY</p> <p>FRI/MAY/23 ROY ROGERS & THE DELTA RHYTHM KINGS</p> <p>SAT/MAY/24 - SUN/MAY/25 HERB ALPERT & LANI HALL</p> <p>MON/MAY/26 OPEN DANCE FLOOR! ORQUESTA LA MODERNA TRADICION</p> <p>TUE/MAY/27 K.J. DENHERT</p> <p>WED/MAY/28 ROVA/NELS CLINE CELESTIAL SEPTET</p> <p>THU/MAY/29 CD RELEASE TAYLOR EIGSTI</p> <p>FRI/MAY/30 - SUN/JUN/1 KENNY BARRON TRIO</p>
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CRIME WATCH

Hammer Comes Down on Jogger in Lafayette Park

By DONNA GILLESPIE

GARY SCHREIBMAN, a well-known local dog walker, was on an early morning run in Lafayette Park on April 2. The sun hadn't come up yet, and much of the park still lay in deep darkness.

A man loomed behind a bench, garbed in a white blouse, black skirt and fishnet stockings. Schreiber recalls he had short hair and several missing bottom teeth. "I thought it was a woman," he says.

Before Schreiber realized what was happening, the man raised a hammer and struck him in the face. Schreiber managed to get his hand on the hammer, and as the two battled over it, they fell and rolled down a hill. It was during the tussle that Schreiber realized his assailant had to be a man.



Police meet with neighbors

The attack on Gary Schreiber (left) has intensified concern among residents living near Lafayette Park; many maintain the park is not safe after dark. In recent weeks there have also been several burglaries — one involving a gun — around the perimeter of the park. A meeting this month will give neighbors a forum to discuss their concerns with the police. The meeting will take place in Northern Station's community room, at 1125 Fillmore Street, on Monday, May 19, at 6 p.m.

"He was way too strong," Schreiber says.

He managed to get the hammer away from the man only because he had a grip on its iron head, while his assailant had the smooth wooden handle, which allowed his hand to slide off. When the attacker realized Schreiber had possession of the hammer, he sprang to his feet and fled into the park. Hammer in hand, Schreiber returned to his nearby home, not realizing how badly he was injured.

"My face was covered in blood," Schreiber says. His roommate insisted

he call the police and get immediate medical attention. He had several deep cuts around his mouth, one of which required five stitches, and many lacerations to his hands, as well as a broken bottom tooth. He says his dentist told him he is also in danger of losing three upper teeth. The police impounded the hammer and have shown him some mug shots, but so far no suspects have been identified.

Within a few days Schreiber was back at work, though battered and bruised, and he's once again a familiar sight walking dogs around the Fillmore.

under arrest. After fingerprinting him, officers discovered he had two outstanding warrants, one involving the theft of \$75,000.

Possession of a Loaded Firearm Eddy and Laguna Streets March 29, 11:45 a.m.

Officers were dispatched to the scene of a car break-in. The caller gave a thorough description of the suspect. Officers who drove around the area observed a young male subject jumping over a row of back yard fences. The youth crouched down on the ground, waited for a short time, then leaped over a fence that led to a gate.

Officers were waiting for him on the other side of the gate. When they searched the area where they first saw the suspect, they found a loaded gun lying in the grass, with the safety off, and took custody of the weapon. Marijuana was found on the suspect, who was placed under arrest and booked at the Youth Guidance Center.

Battery Van Ness Avenue and California Street April 16, 7:40 p.m.

A woman walking up California Street observed a man who was approaching pedestrians with a closed fist, miming hitting them in the face. The man threatened an elderly couple and two other parties. He then turned around to the woman, placed both hands on her shoulder and pushed her hard. He shouted at her, "Get out of my fucking tunnel!" — referring to a protected place beneath a scaffolding on the sidewalk that was part of a construction site.

The woman continued walking, but the suspect followed her. When he made a gesture indicating that he meant to slit her throat, she called 911. Responding officers drove around the area, found the suspect and placed him under arrest.

Homicide With a Gun Franklin and Turk Streets March 20, 7:55 p.m.

Officers received a report that shots had been fired. When they arrived, they found a man who had collapsed onto the ground being treated by medics. The man subsequently died of his wounds. The officers secured the crime scene and searched the area for evidence and for witnesses.

The homicide is still under investigation.

Vehicle Burglary Pine and Buchanan Streets March 26, 10 a.m.

Officers responded to a report of an auto burglary. They had been given a good description of the burglary suspect, and spotted him immediately not far from the scene. When they detained the suspect, he

gave officers a false name. While attempting to establish the suspect's identity, officers located a crack pipe on the suspect, along with several music CDs. The suspect was then transported to Northern Station for further investigation.

When officers spoke to the car owner, she reported that her CDs were missing and identified those in the suspect's possession as her own. The suspect was placed



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7:40 am Rosary, 8:00 am Mass

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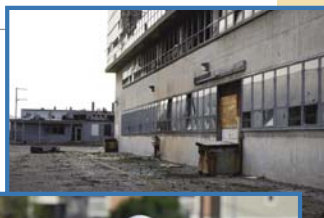
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— **Supervisor Sophie Maxwell**

This June you have the chance to help transform our neighborhood, the most neglected corner of our city. Since 1974 the Hunters Point Shipyard has been largely abandoned and the toxic clean up has been underfunded, moving at a snail's pace.

After ten years of planning and hundreds of community meetings there is a process in place to bring life to our neighborhood – at no new cost to taxpayers.

Proposition G will speed the long-awaited clean up of toxins at the Shipyard site. It will bring up to 10,000 homes, with as many as 25% being entry level, affordable homes and apartments; 300 acres of parks and open space; and over 8,000 new jobs to our neighborhood.



**On June 3rd, Help Us
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FIRST PERSON

A Street Shapes Our Memories, in Our Own Time

By BARBARA WYETH

THE FILLMORE is a part of town that looms large in my life. From my early days of dancing at Minnie's Can-Do Club to walks down Fillmore Street today to browse or run errands, it's a street — a neighborhood, really — with stories and changes that often coincide with my own.

The Fillmore of the 70s was much different. I would ride the 22-Fillmore bus from the Mission or the Haight, where I lived, past blocks and blocks of Victorian houses. Some were derelict, in need of attention, some painted garish hippie colors, others lovingly restored.

In the wasteland of redevelopment the old Princess Theatre stood, regal but all alone and waiting for the wrecking ball. I felt sorry for her, like an aging grandmother in the nursing home nobody came to visit, just calmly waiting for the end. When Jim Jones was building up the People's Temple and planning the fateful exodus to Guyana, I could see the Temple buses parked behind the church on Geary Boulevard, where the post office now stands. Pallets of supplies waited for

their momentous journey. Who knew the terrible history they foretold.

On a first date, a new guy I met took me to the Clay Theatre. We drank Coca Cola laced with rum he had brought in a flask. The original Brower Books was next door on the left and Millards, a small and narrow but

wonderful restaurant, was on the right.

Some years later I met a letterpress printer who had set up shop behind the bookstore in a huddle of rooms that was once a studio for Carlos Santana. The printer moved on as her business grew and Santana became a famous musician. The space was eventually leveled and rebuilt, and Brower moved down the street.



"The boyfriend who took me to the Clay sprang for dinner at the spot that now houses the Elite Cafe, then home of the New Asia Cafe. The Chinese food was so-so, but the Deco interior was worth it. The place seemed lifted wholly intact from the 1930s, complete with a vintage cast of characters."

The same boyfriend who took me to the Clay also sprang for dinner at the spot that now houses the Elite Cafe, then home of the New Asia Cafe. The Chinese food was so-so but the Deco architecture and interior was worth the bland tasting chow mein. The place seemed lifted wholly intact from the 1930s, complete with a vintage cast of characters.

In the mid-70s I met a neighborhood shopkeeper who would become a dear friend. She had a store and gallery on California near Fillmore, where Copynet is now located, called A Fine Hand. She liked my photographs and encouraged me to have some images made into postcards to sell at

her shop. I did, becoming more involved with postcards as a democratic and accessible art form — even opening for a while, with a fellow artist, my own store in North Beach.

Eventually her gallery became involved in the punk-new wave-postmodern movement happening in the city and

TO PAGE 9



On June 3 your vote will help shape the security of our public water system, the viability of city budgets, the quality of our public schools, the revitalization of our Bay View / Hunters Point neighborhoods and the possibility of a new 49er's stadium.

Don't sit on the sidelines. VOTE!

YES ON A

VOTE YES ON A to support our public schools: Join businesses throughout the city, labor, Mayor Newsom and the Board of Supervisors as we work together to build a public school system that we can all be proud of. **VOTE YES ON A** for our future, for our children, for our schools.

YES ON B

VOTE YES ON B, help ensure San Francisco's fiscal health and protect health care for retired city employees. Prop B was passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors and is strongly supported by Mayor Newsom, city employees, their unions, San Francisco taxpayers associations, business leaders and both the San Francisco Republican Party and the San Francisco Democratic Party.

YES ON G, NO ON F

YES ON G-

VOTE YES ON G to create thousands of new affordable and market rate homes for working families, thousands of jobs, green businesses, 400 acres of parks, and a site for a 49ers stadium. The Bayview/Hunters Point community has waited over a generation for this type of investment. **VOTE YES ON G AND NO ON F** for real economic development.

NO ON F

Don't be fooled by Chris Daly. Proposition F will kill the Hunters Point Shipyard rebuild and the stadium project. Don't make the residents of the Bay View wait another generation for real economic development. **VOTE YES ON G, NO ON F.**

NO ON E

VOTE NO ON E. Don't let the Board of Supervisor's politicize the Public Utilities Commission. San Francisco is in the middle of a multi-billion dollar Hetch Hetchy rebuild. Now is not the time to have the Supervisors meddling in the management of the PUC. Protect our water system. **VOTE NO ON PROPE.**



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AN URBAN TAIL

A coyote in Alta Plaza Park?

By MARIAN KEELER

MY MARIN friend Peter Coyle visited last month. When he came in from walking his dog late in the evening he asked, "What sort of wildlife do you have in your neighborhood?"

I listed the usual suspects: raccoons, possums, hawks and various birds — and I admitted, abashedly, we do have rats, rather robust ones, in fact.

"Think larger," Peter said. I was unable to decipher his deadpan expression.

"Large rats? Big dogs?" I guessed, lamely.

"No," he said calmly. "Try a coyote."

A coyote in Alta Plaza Park? At first I was skeptical. But Peter is, from the time of his Irish youth, an experienced outdoorsman. Here in California, he is an avid camper and rafter. He described the coyote's distinct profile and size, and I



Bucolic by day, Alta Plaza Park sometimes gives way to wildlife after dark.

SUSIE BEHLER / SUSIE BEHLER PHOTOGRAPHY.COM

or running away, at which point the other members of the pack circle back and take down the prey.

But how could a coyote survive in a four-block urban park? Alta Plaza does have something for everyone: tennis courts, promenades for late afternoon walks, gazillion-dollar views, lawns for sunning, benches for resting and a delightful little playground.

In spite of its many attributes, I wondered if the park is the sort of place a coyote would find sustainable. Was there a coyote den we didn't know about? Could it have been visiting from the Presidio? Would there be acceptable noshables here, aside from the occasional leftover latte or organic raspberry newton?

As Madra took off after the coyote, Peter said it ran a few paces and looked back. Fortunately Madra is a big dog, and fortunately she is on voice control. She wheeled at Peter's whistle.

Whether out of instinct or curiosity, the coyote held its ground and showed no discomfort with the scenario. Peter edged away and looked around to see if there was a second coyote, though the possibility was remote, and a coyote wasn't likely to attack anything as large as a 75 pound dog.

Satisfied he'd made a confirmed coyote sighting, Peter thought it best to head back. At close to 1 a.m., with Madra at his heel, he left the park using a different pathway down to Jackson Street and came back to report his encounter.

concluded he was probably right.

He spent about five minutes in the company of this creature, observing its interest in him and Madra, his dog, watching it watch them in a way that was clearly gustatory. Watching it assess

the size of its potential prey. Watching as the coyote circled to the side of them as if to draw them out into a chase.

Peter explained the coyote's hunting technique: Usually in pairs or packs, the animals will lure prey into chasing them

'I Miss the Chestnut Cafe, But I Love the Sloppy Joes at the Grove'

► FROM PAGE 7

showcased color Xerox art. For a while, A Fine Hand was jumping with Xerox art shows and artist receptions that flowed out onto the street, crowds as bright and garish and colorful as the art that hung on the walls.

When Elvis died, a simple memorial was placed in the window and the letters RIP painted on the marble storefront. Despite efforts to remove it, that reminder of the King remained, faded but still visible, long after A Fine Hand closed.

At some point two friends decided to open a candy store that carried the sweets they remembered from childhood. They were both designers with impeccable but funky taste. They found a storefront just around the corner from Fillmore on Sacramento Street, now home of Toudjous lingerie shop. It had been the workshop and apparently the home of an Armenian metal worker. The small workshop was still filled with clutter and debris and metal shavings that required a major cleanup. I later learned that the folks at La Mediterranee had helped the old craftsman in his waning years by bringing him the familiar food that he loved.

My friends opened Fletcher-McLean, a bright, pristine, shiny-white candy store, and filled it with treats from the past. The place was not only tempting but a real work of art. It was short-lived, though, as the partners moved on to more demanding jobs and bigger projects.

My friend formerly of the Fine Hand was working at the cheese shop across California Street and asked me to help out on Saturdays, her busiest day. We cut



"For a while, A Fine Hand was jumping with Xerox art shows and artist receptions that flowed out onto the street, crowds as bright and garish and colorful as the art that hung on the walls."

into giant chunks of Stilton and served samples of gorgeous soft-ripening Italian cheeses all day. It was wild and fun, and one Saturday I met one of the owners of the Brown Bag at Fillmore and Pine.

I needed more than part-time work, and my own small business was faltering, so she hired me. I spent three years working at the Bag. I was really getting to know the street — shopkeepers, business people and residents. I loved the variety store atmosphere of the Brown Bag, the scent of erasers and paper and cheap toys blending with the smell of frying bacon from the Chestnut Cafe next door.

The Brown Bag reminded me of an old 5 & Dime and everybody in the neighborhood came by — the girls from St. Rose's needing school and art supplies, the architects and accountants

buying office supplies, young mothers with kids looking for birthday party decorations or stickers and coloring books. We sold calendars, fountain pens, a million kinds of refills. I could never keep straight, legal forms, greeting cards, photocopies, you name it. A few generations of cats hung out in the store, lounging on piles of sketch pads, and there was a dog that tore up cardboard boxes on command.

I now live with a brown tabby cat that belonged to one of the Bag owners who died way too young and whose friendship I miss every day.

The printer who had moved from behind the bookstore hired me to run her letterpress business, which I did for a while, but now I am back in the neighborhood, working at Bloomers

florist, and Fillmore Street continues to be a part of my life.

I have my double espresso at Tully's at Fillmore and Jackson every morning and bank at the Wells Fargo down the street. The Clay Theatre shows great movies and survives despite DVDs and mega-complexes. Some evenings I treat myself to dinner at La Mediterranee and remember their kindness to the old Armenian metalsmith. My hairdresser owns Soaps, next door to the old metal shop and the glorious but short-lived Fletcher-McLean candy store. Brower Books flourishes, bigger and better than ever, and, fittingly, a copy shop is in the former home of A Fine Hand and its color Xerox exhibitions.

I miss the eclectic fun of the Brown Bag and the simple honesty of the food at the Chestnut Cafe, but I love the sloppy joes at the Grove. The Elite Cafe serves a mean dirty Martini with its Cajun food and, thank goodness, has retained most of its magnificent 30s look.

The Fillmore Auditorium on Geary is a living museum to popular music; just to view the walls papered with rock posters is a trip through time. Farther down at Eddy, near where the Princess Theatre once stood, is Yoshi's, which is bringing excitement back to that part of the neighborhood.

And so the Fillmore continues to pulse and change, to be home and solace both to us old-timers and to bright-eyed newcomers. The babies in strollers pushed by mom or dad — or maybe the nanny — will see a different street than I did, but a street that will shape their own memories, their own history, in their own time.

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Sat., April 19th at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
West Portal Elementary, 5 Lenox Way at Taraval St. Wheelchair access through Claremont St. school yard. *Nearby Muni routes:* 17, 48, K, L & M to West Portal Station

Thursday, April 24th at 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St. at Presidio Ave. *Nearby Muni routes:* 1, 18X, 2, 3, 4 & 43

Sat., April 26th at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Dianne Feinstein Elementary, 2550 25th Ave. at Vicente St. *Nearby Muni routes:* L, 28 & 66

Monday, April 28th at 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Southeast Community Facility, 1800 Oakdale Ave. at Phelps St. *Nearby Muni routes:* T, 23, 24, 44 & 54

Wed., April 30 at 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
City College Mission Campus, 1125 Valencia St. at 22nd St. *Nearby Muni routes:* 14, 26, 48, 49 & 67

Sat., May 3 at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Jean Parker Elementary, 840 Broadway St. at Powell St. *Nearby Muni routes:* 9X, 12, 30, 45, Powell & Mason Cable Car

Interpretation in Cantonese and Spanish will be provided. There will be a FastPass raffle at each meeting.

Monday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Visitation Valley Elementary, 55 Schwerin St. at Visitation Ave. *Nearby Muni routes:* 9X, 98X, & 56

Sat., May 10 at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. at Diamond St. *Nearby Muni routes:* F, K, L, M, 24, 33 & 35

Monday, May 12 at 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
West Bay Conference Center, 1290 Fillmore St. at Eddy St. *Nearby Muni routes:* 5, 22, 31 & 38

Wed., May 14 at 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Bessie Carmichael Elementary, 375 Seventh St. at Harrison St. *Nearby Muni routes:* 9X, 12, 14X, 19 & 47

Sat., May 17th at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Mission YMCA, 4080 Mission Street at Bosworth St. *Nearby Muni routes:* 14, 23 & 49

For more information, go online www.sftep.com or call 311

All sites are wheelchair accessible. Materials in large print will be available at the meeting. To request assistive listening devices, a sign language interpreter or other accommodations, please call 415.226.1313, TTY: 415.701.2323. Providing at least 72 hours advance notice will help to ensure availability.

A Family Affair

Ten-Ichi is a long-running local favorite

By DONNA DOMINO

30 years is a lifetime for many businesses — and an eternity for a restaurant in San Francisco.

Still, Ten-Ichi, the Japanese restaurant and sushi bar on Fillmore near Clay, has managed to pull off a culinary curiosity. It has kept its doors open — and thrived — for three decades in a business noted for its high failure rate.

The secret to the lasting success of owners Sachiko and Yoichi Amano: their devoted crowd of locals.

"We have a good clientele in the neighborhood," notes Sachiko, a well-groomed, dignified woman with a closely cropped haircut.

Yoichi agrees. "The neighbors supported us," he said. "They really helped us keep the business."

But it wasn't always easy, especially when the couple first opened the restaurant in 1978. "It was kind of a bad neighborhood back then," Sachiko recalls,

adding that there was a "scary bar" just next door.

A turning point came when Ten-Ichi became a favorite with the gay crowd. "They helped make us successful," Sachiko notes. "I always appreciated that."

As she talks on a recent Friday evening, the restaurant begins to fill with a lively yet relaxed flow of regulars.

The Amanos, both of whom are 65, still work in the restaurant most days. On this night, Yoichi oversees the kitchen — and buses tables when needed. Sachiko greets new arrivals, making a special point of chatting with the children.

Ten-Ichi's endurance and success is no doubt tied to their partnership, with Yoichi's eye on the food and Sachiko's hosting, but she says it's not a good idea for couples to live and work together.

"Oh, we fight all the time," she laughs. "I don't recommend it. But I have patience."

Nob Hill residents Jim and Jolene, decade-long fans of Ten-Ichi, have returned on an early April evening with eight visiting relatives in tow.

"I just love the ambience," Jim says. "The fish is always fresh, and the food is always exceptional."

Equally loyal is the staff — another rarity in a business teeming with demanding cooks and owners. Waiter Tom Huynh has worked for the Amanos



"All the good food that guests like when I cook at home, we serve here," says Sachiko Amano, who with her husband and daughter run Ten-Ichi on Fillmore.

for more than 15 years and says they're "good bosses."

Inside the long dining room, Japanese kimonos, prints, paintings and a bas-relief

Buddha enhance the mustard-colored walls, while fabric suspended parachute-like from the ceiling gives the room an embracing warmth.

A sushi bar was added 10 years ago

TIMOTHY THOMPSON

to meet the growing demand and now accounts for the majority of Ten-Ichi's business. "People like to have sushi as an appetizer — big time," says Sachiko.

House favorites include tuna carpaccio and Indian summer rolls, with green beans, eel and avocado.

Ten-Ichi's menu features a mix of Asian cuisines: traditional offerings including Chinese pot

stickers, teriyaki and tempura dishes, but also combinations of Chinese stir-fries with Japanese sauces.

Many dishes were developed in Sachiko's kitchen, reflecting her affinity for mixing Asian styles.

"We try to serve not traditional but homestyle Japanese food," she says. "I love to cook, and I imitate recipes like Chinese

sautes, but with Japanese styles," she says. "All the good food that guests like when I cook at home, we serve here."

Like many restaurants, Ten-Ichi is a family affair. When the restaurant struggled a bit in the early 1990s, daughter Saori came to the rescue, helping in the kitchen and the dining room. She now manages the restaurant for her parents.

After 30 years, Yoichi and Sachiko are

now thinking about retiring, but are torn because neither of their children want to continue running the restaurant.

"I wish some days they would take over, but they don't want to," Sachiko says wistfully. "They also don't want to close the restaurant, because they grew up with this business."

Yoichi presses the idea of retirement, tempting his wife with trips around the world or shopping sprees. But Sachiko is dubious. "If we retire, what will we do? Stay home and watch TV?" she asks.

Sachiko says greeting the neighborhood regulars and catching up on the lives of customers who have become friends gives her a satisfying sense of community — another reward for serving good food in a

comfortable atmosphere for 30 years.

"If we have a restaurant, people come up and say hi to me — customers and friends," she says, explaining her reluctance to walk away. "It's a little social."

But she's quick to add that she never presses to learn too much about her clientele's personal lives. "I don't have to know the details," she laughs.



Ten-Ichi, at 2235 Fillmore, has been serving home-style Japanese food for three decades.





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— Michael Bauer, San Francisco Chronicle (February 17, 2008)

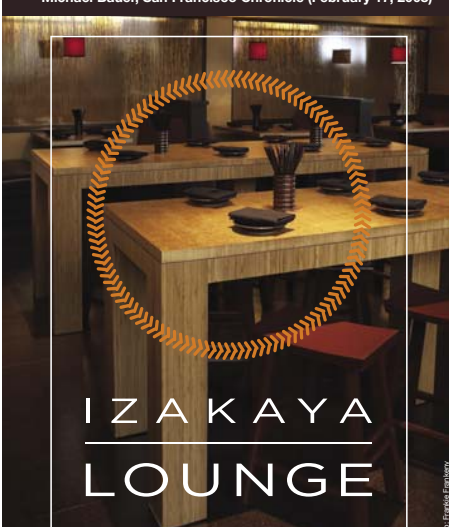


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Jean O'Donnell did.

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BITES

At long last, the Long Bar

This could be the month the lights come back on at Fillmore and Clay, site of the late Fillmore Grill, dark now for many months. It's being reborn as the Long Bar & Bistro.

Alan Walsh will still be the man behind the bar, but there's a lot more bar to be behind now. The space has been completely rebuilt, with the bar — a long one — up by the front windows.

Walsh says he had in mind the classic old hotel bars in New York and London, and he has created a clubby place, all dark wood and deep rich colors.

So when does it open? Probably May 15, Walsh says, when he wraps up the final details and takes care of a bit of pressing family business. It turns out the Long Bar is not his only new baby. He and his wife will have a new arrival at home, too.

LET'S DO LUNCH: The inventive team over at Bushi-tei in Japantown — offering "French-California classics with a Japanese touch" — is now serving lunch. They're offering a more casual menu Monday through Saturday from 11:30 to 2:30.

They've also added dinner on Monday night, meaning they're now serving every night from 5:30 to 10.

SPINNING OFF: San Francisco magazine says our neighborhood is about to become "spinoff central," with Pizzeria Delfina, Dosa and Out the Door due to join SPQR this year. "These new spots are the progeny of some of the city's most beloved restaurants," says SF. "And unlike, say, a Pasta P, these sister locations promise some surprises."

Absinthe Maketh the Heart Grow Fonder

By Mark J. MITCHELL

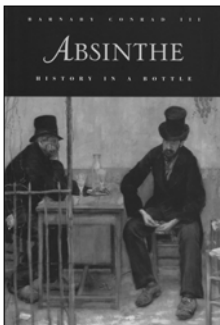
BACK in the very early years of the last century, a Franco-Swiss farmer was having a hard day. He'd worked in the damp fields all morning, then spent the afternoon at his local cafe. He drank one bottle of wine, then another. He had started on a third bottle when he realized it was time to go home. He ordered a glass of absinthe, and then a second.

When he arrived home, he found that his wife had not cleaned his boots, as he'd asked that morning. He took out his rifle and shot her and their child. This horrendous double murder shocked his placid Swiss canton and led, ultimately, to an almost global ban on absinthe, which was blamed for the killings.

Already there had been a movement to outlaw absinthe, particularly in France. People were elected to local councils and to the National Assembly on the anti-absinthe ticket. This was not really a new phenomenon. The English had earlier tried to ban gin. The primary motivation for these crusades was to keep intoxicants out of the hands of the lower orders, who were considered ill-equipped to handle them. The problem with absinthe, like gin, was that it was cheap.

That's not what was said publicly, of course. The crusade to outlaw absinthe was pitched as a battle against wormwood, one ingredient among many others in the beverage, which was said to lead to madness. Hemingway alludes to this delusion in *For Whom the Bell Tolls* as his hero nurses his precious bottle through the Spanish Civil War.

Since 1915, when absinthe was banned



LOCAL ANGLE

He wrote the book

Neighborhood author and bon vivant Barnaby Conrad III was way ahead of the pack on the subject of absinthe. Back in 1988, he published *Absinthe: History in a Bottle*. Since the absinthe revival began, his book has been more popular than ever, as has he, making frequent media appearances to talk about the spirit.

in the U.S. and most of Europe, a mystique has grown around it. It must be hallucinogenic, some say, and so it must be sought out. It was available in Thailand, so it had to be smuggled into the U.S. and Europe. It became available in Prague again, so

tourists had to bring some home. It was available in Spain — where it was never actually outlawed — and it became a prized souvenir.

With the rise of craft distilling, people have begun exploring the origins and the myth of absinthe. Samples more than 100 years old were procured and analyzed. People began to recreate the beverage, its anise flavor usually diluted with water. Eventually, some of them approached the Food and Drug Administration, which subjected absinthe to tests and found that it was no more harmful than any other form of alcohol. Recently the FDA has been approving various versions of absinthe for sale in the U.S.

So now, various versions of the Green Fairy, as it is sometimes known, are available for sale here. There's Lucid Absinthe from France and Kubler Absinthe, which ironically comes from Switzerland, where most of the wormwood used in the commercial production of 19th century absinthe was grown. St. George Spirits has just released the second edition of its version of absinthe.

This has caused a bit of a mania as people rush to get their hands on the precious green elixir before the government comes to its senses and bans it again. There are those who think that if they drink enough they'll be able to write like Verlaque or Rimbaud, or paint like Gauguin, Degas or Van Gogh.

There's no scientific evidence for that, either.

Mark Mitchell is the manager of D&M Wine and Liquor on Fillmore Street — which, alas, stocks no absinthe.

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FORUM

A Father-Daughter Chat About Chain Stores

TO NELL BLOCK, owner of *Nomadic Outfitters* at 2426 California Street:

First things first! You are coming to the close of your first year as Nomadic Outfitters and you deserve ovations as you celebrate your first anniversary. As you now realize, the first year in a new business is the most challenging; indeed the statistics show that 75 percent of all new businesses fold within the first year. You are now a survivor, and in a very difficult time of our economy to boot, and you deserve everyone's congratulations. The statistics also show that those who survive the first year are likely to be successful — so, you are on your way.

You shared with me your concern the Fillmore district is being infiltrated by big-name businesses likely to drive those, such as yourself, out of business. This would of course be a loss to those who enjoy patronizing the small, intimate, personal type of store, such as Nomadic Outfitters, which has made the Fillmore district so special.

I believe that your fears, and those of your business colleagues, are warranted. This is because I have witnessed what has happened to Bleeker Street in my West



Berry good news: market continuing year-round

Fillmore's own farmers market re-opened for the season on Saturday, April 26, with more farmers and some welcome news: By popular demand, it will continue to operate year-round. "We've got the permits," said manager Tom Nichols, who has overseen the market since it began seven years ago in the parking lot that's now home to Yoshi's jazz club and 13 floors of condominiums above. The market is held every Saturday from 9 to 1 at Fillmore and O'Farrell Streets, and Nichols says it will continue to grow as the season progresses.

Village neighborhood. This area was very similar to Fillmore in that it contained a number of beautiful specialty mom and pop stores; however, many of them were put out of business because of escalating rents, and the handful that remain are in the throes of closing down.

A poignant example is my favorite local men's store, which is planning on closing after many years because the landlord wants to raise the rent from \$8,000 per month to \$40,000 per month. The landlord believes he can demand this incredible

increase because the big guys have decided to take over the neighborhood. Within the last two years stores such as Ralph Lauren and Marc Jacobs have moved onto Bleeker Street. While it doesn't seem that they are doing great business, they apparently are willing to pay large rents so that they have a presence in this youth-oriented, upscale neighborhood. I think it's basically a form of advertising for their money-making stores uptown. Similar trends are happening in the Meatpacking District.

Hopefully, the Bleeker Street experience and what has happened in my neighborhood will serve as a powerful example of how vigilant you and your fellow small business colleagues must be to preserve the commercial character of your special community in the face of those who will surely destroy it by asserting their economic might.

Keep on fighting,
Love, Dad
FREDERIC BLOCK, NEW YORK

TO GUS HARPUT, president of the *Jazz District Merchants Association*:

I have enjoyed Fillmore's weekly farmers market since its inception and have promoted the market to many friends who were unaware of its existence. It is a great walk from Pacific Heights and Cathedral Hill.

I doubt that all of San Francisco would walk to "your" market. [Local Farmers Market Grows, April.] We all appreciate your efforts, Gus, and those of others to add more vendors and provide more than the basics.

Regarding expansion, if there were better marketing, you could draw more people and increase your vendor base. The jazz is an extra bonus and does help promote the new district.

However, your statement, "We're trying to give Safeway a little run for their money" is laughable. Safeway is the anchor tenant. It is the draw for adjacent neighbors who do not want to drive to the Marina Safeway. It provides parking for your market customers. And, if you don't have a product, Safeway will. You are fortunate to be in such close proximity. They are an asset to your market.

L. K. KLOUDA



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Aspiring Yogis of All Ages and Stages Get New Options

► FROM PAGE ONE

"I had seen the place four years ago and loved it then, but the rent was too high," he says. This time, he was charmed by the new landlord, Zinc Details owner Vasilios Kiriis, who was willing to give him a good deal along with a hearty welcome to the neighborhood.

Within three weeks, Monnier had converted the spot into a yoga studio and outfitted it with new carpet, changing rooms, storage spaces and radiant heating panels. He painted it tangerine and maroon — colors inspired by a sunset he saw years ago on a beach in Cabo. Monnier likens his style of yoga to Bikram, which involves a series of poses in a heated room. But he concentrates on form, alignment and weight distribution rather than a flow of postures and poses.

And he has a special penchant for beginners. "My favorite students are the stiffest of the stiff, the most beginning beginners," he says. "Most people come in with bad backs or hurt shoulders or stiff knees, and I say: Give me one good year, practicing three or four times a week, and you'll feel a huge change in your body. Not only that, you won't be as grumpy at work and you'll make better decisions, too."

Monnier says his classes, which range in size from about 6 to 15 students, can help imbue beginners with good habits and be a good kickstart for classes at other studios and gyms. "I'm not the type to say, 'You can only



"Yoga is like pizza: It's all good. You just have to pick the style you like."

BRIAN MONNIER | Yogic Motion

come here," he says. "Yoga is like pizza: It's all good. You just have to pick the style you like."

And Monnier, who lives in the neighborhood, likes the idea of building community through his new yoga studio. "Here you get to practice with the people you see drinking at Harry's or eating at the Elite," he says.

The studio's philosophy is no stress, no scene, simply yoga. "What drives me crazy about yoga these days are those rail-thin 22-year-old teachers who carry on about their great spiritual journeys. I want people to know that

yoga doesn't have to be an 'experience' where people are chanting and spouting Sanskrit," says Monnier. "I pride myself on being the un-yogic yoga studio. I say: Let's fix your body."

YOGIC MOTION 2410 California, Suite 3, will host a grand opening on May 17 featuring free classes. For more information, call 775-0570 or visit www.yogicmotion.com.

Flow Studios

"I don't teach poses. I teach yoga."

"MY KEY teachers are animals and nature," says Joy Ravelli, director of Purusha Yoga, which has recently begun operating the Flow Studio above Pacific Heights Health Club on Pine Street near Fillmore. "That's where I find the truth, where I get inspiration and knowledge of movement."

Ravelli describes her yoga instruction as holistic. "There are places in class to set personal intentions and bring them into life," she says. "It's not just a cookie cutter approach; there's lots of one-on-one attention. I like to say that I don't teach poses, I teach yoga."

As an example, she emphasizes the importance of simple breathing exercises. "Before you have a meeting or yell at your child, you might remember instead simply to breathe deeply," she says. "A true yoga practice is not just the time you spend on the mat."

She says her style of teaching classic Hatha is centered on eight yoga limbs, only one of which involves the actual physical exercise people commonly associate with yoga. The others involve guidelines for how you treat yourself, how you conduct yourself in the community, how you breathe, and your abilities to relate to and connect with the senses, to concentrate, to meditate and to become enlightened.

"A lot of people already have a strong physical practice," she says. "This type of yoga helps people fulfill whatever else they need in life."

Amy Lang, owner of Pacific Heights Health Club, says the more broadly defined practice is what made

Purusha Yoga an attractive addition for her health club's clientele. "My theory is that if you just want to get your heart rate up, I have better equipment for that," she says.

Ravelli says she's alarmed and alerted by the number of people who suffer yoga injuries these days. "Ideally there are no injuries in yoga because you're paying attention to your body," she says, while acknowledging the natural human tendency to sometimes compete with the student on the neighboring mat. "But you have to pay attention to your own body, your own needs," she says. "And there are things you naturally want to be careful of — like knees. Some would say they're not designed well."

Classes at Flow are capped at 12 students. "It's a balance," says Lang. "You need a critical mass to create energy. But once you get beyond a certain number, the teacher can't pay attention to them all."

To make her mark at Flow, Ravelli is instituting a number of new programs and classes this month, including Shakti Mamma, a yoga class for expectant mothers, and open meditation classes, which will begin Sunday, May 18, at 6:15 p.m.

FLOW STUDIOS 2358 Pine Street. For more information, call 563-6697 or visit www.flow-f.com.

Green Teen Yoga

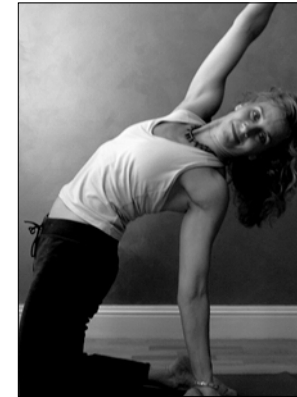
"A healthy place for kids."

JOY RAVELLI | Flow Studios

NEARLY a year after opening Nomadic Outfitters on California near Fillmore, owner Neil Block is proceeding with plans to turn his airy back room into a yoga studio — and eventually to create an indoor-outdoor practice space around a Zen garden heated by solar panels.

The first class Nomadic Outfitters is offering — on Saturday mornings at 11 — serves an overlooked population: high school kids age 12 and up. Classes, which cost \$10, are led by Janelle Spanier, a former teacher at Hamlin School.

"We want to build a sense of community — and have



"A true yoga practice is not just the time you spend on the mat."

a place for kids to hang out in a good and healthy way," says Block.

Soon the studio will also feature classes for all ages led by a group called Yoga to the People, currently operating in New York and Berkeley, which strives to make yoga accessible to all by suggesting that students donate \$10 per class rather than pay a fee or buy a series.

"I like the fact that it's a movement, being the little rebel that I am," says Block.

NOMADIC OUTFITTERS 2426 California Street. Call 445-8338 or visit www.frisonomad.com.

Yoga for Older Adults

"I want to do yoga forever."

MATTHEW SILVERBERG has taught yoga of many styles over the last 20 years. But in the class he now leads on Friday mornings at Calvary Presbyterian Church, at Fillmore and Jackson, he concentrates on integral yoga, coaxing students — who range in age from early 60s to late 80s — to focus on breathing, meditating and relaxing.

This "medical style" of yoga was made popular in the United States by Dean Ornish, who touted it as a way to reduce stress and help prevent heart disease.

Silverberg carefully orchestrates the 90-minute class to begin with a half-hour of warm-up and ends with an ample relaxation period. He says that in his eight years of teaching older students, none have reported injuries, despite the fact that many do poses involving touching their toes to their foreheads.

"I just love working with older people. I like their smarts," says Silverberg. "And they seem to appreciate that I'm not doctrinaire. We mutually love one another." A core group of about 10 students has stuck with him for nearly a decade.

"I love yoga and I want to do it forever," says Silverberg, who just turned 54. "But the harder poses, the athletic ones I strained to do in my 30s — they're not for me anymore."

MEDITATIVE YOGA FOR ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS is held on Fridays at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$10.

Other Neighborhood Yoga Studios

INTERNATIONAL ORANGE 2044 Fillmore Street, 894-8811, www.internationalorange.com
MINDFUL BODY 2876 California Street, 931-2689, www.themindfulbody.com
YOGA STUDIO 1823 Divisadero Street, 292-5600, www.yogastudiomillvalley.com

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(Friends name)

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(Verb)

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(Muscle group)

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(Adjective)

(Adjective)

and get ripped with me!

(Adjective)

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(Your name)

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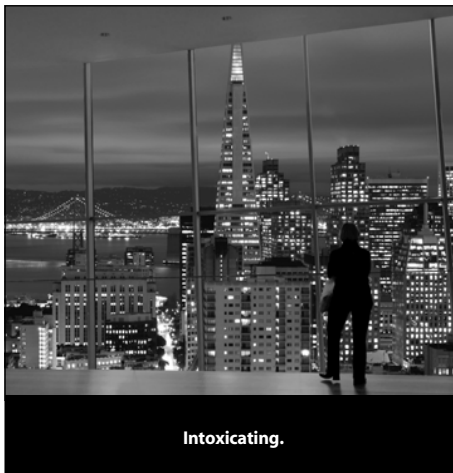
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Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking \$	Sale \$
3018 California St	4	2	1	2021	11-Apr	1,295,000	1,285,000
269 Moulton St	3	2	2		9-Apr	1,495,000	1,495,000
2679 California St	6	3.5	1		2-Apr	2,995,000	3,005,000
2848 Union St	4	3.5	2		11-Apr	5,000,000	5,000,000

Condos / Co-ops / TICs / Lofts

2831-33 Webster St	1	1	1		25-Mar	499,000	499,000
1501 Greenwich St #306	1	1	1	615	1-Apr	589,000	600,000
1800 Washington St #216	2	2	1	1108	19-Mar	769,000	769,000
256 Presidio Ave #3	2	1.5	1	964	31-Mar	739,000	785,000
2447 Vallejo St #2	1	1	1	1096	8-Apr	875,000	862,500
1800 Washington St #513	2	2	1	1109	14-Apr	880,000	880,000
1998 Broadway #1107	2	2	1		17-Mar	950,000	955,000
1880 Jackson St #302	1	1	1		28-Mar	995,000	990,000
1501 Greenwich St #401	2	2	1	1194	27-Mar	1,099,000	1,105,000
347 Maple St	2	2	1		11-Apr	1,195,000	1,120,000
2090 Pacific Ave #505	1	1	1	1563	21-Mar	1,095,000	1,200,000
1865 California St #6	3	2	1	1570	2-Apr	1,195,000	1,300,000
1808 Greenwich St	3	3	1	2200	10-Apr	1,195,000	1,350,000
3330 California St #2	3	2	1	1394	1-Apr	1,329,000	1,385,000
1810 Greenwich St	5	3	1	2594	10-Apr	1,349,000	1,450,000
1930 Jackson St	2	2	2	1480	27-Mar	1,495,000	1,925,000
2515 Sacramento St	3	2	2	2555	28-Mar	2,100,000	2,000,000
3539 Washington St	3	2	2	2761	28-Mar	2,000,000	2,075,000
2311 Scott St #1	3	2	1	1686	3-Apr	1,995,000	2,170,000
1896 Pacific Ave #502	3	3	1	2690	11-Apr	2,595,000	2,400,000



Merrily we roll along

We've had 24 closings in the last month — a third more than the previous month — which means our spring market is now in full swing. Observing the local market, you would never guess the national real estate market is in a much different state. We've recently had a large influx of properties on the high end, and many of them have gone into contract and sold quickly. A good example is 2848 Union. This contemporary home featured an unusual Zen garden with a single impressive magnolia tree surrounded by stones and "lines of fire." It sold in eight days with an all cash offer of \$5 million. Other properties that went into contract quickly, several with multiple offers, include 3474 Clay, 2944 Scott, 1900 Green, 2939 Divisadero, 3855 Jackson, 2221 Baker and 3647 Washington.

We are also seeing homes that are being quietly shown before going on to the multiple listing service, two of them on the Presidio Wall (above). The first, One Locust, is a contemporary 4 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath house that was extensively remodeled in 2005. It will be priced near \$6 million. The other is the 4 bedroom, 3 bath historically significant home of the artist Bruce Porter at 3234 Pacific, which was designed by Porter's friend, the esteemed architect Ernest Coxhead. It is largely in original condition and will be coming on the market at just above \$3 million. A third property, with 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths at 2511 Octavia, went into contract recently for somewhere above \$2 million without ever hitting the listings.

— 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 call 345-3034.

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The old Muni substation at Fillmore and Turk will be saved — but for what purpose?

Rival Groups Compete for Final Piece of Fillmore Pie

• FROM PAGE 3

In the John Coltrane group's plan, the lower floor of the substation would be devoted to shops, memorabilia displays and oral presentations of jazz history. To fund the operation and to maintain the building, the group proposes to rent out the upper floor auditorium for special events.

The other organization vying for the historic space is Our Conservatory, founded by Neil Trama. He described his organization as "a non-profit music library for at-risk youths."

Trama's vision for the building would also focus on the social history of jazz, but would approach it from what he called a broader perspective. He described "an exposure project"

that would introduce neighborhood children to all aspects of American jazz.

"Children get to check out the instrument of their choice," Trama explained. "They reserve a rehearsal time or take a lesson, and they receive a point every time they do this. When they accumulate 140 points, they get to keep the instrument."

Jam sessions will be scheduled daily, and the group would have its own jazz ensemble. The school would welcome neighborhood children from ages 8 to 18. Lessons in electric keyboard and guitar are already offered by Our Conservatory in its current location at 1410 Turk Street.

Trama insisted the former Muni substation is the right location for his project:

*John Coltrane vs.
musical instruments
for kids*

"There's a huge music history here," he said. "And we're giving free music lessons to kids." He said his organization had been planning to occupy the substation building for several months, adding, "We didn't know about this other group until four days ago."

King's advocates countered that the John Coltrane project would illuminate the long history of jazz in the black community. And they charged that neither Trama, who is white and a native of Los Angeles, nor

others in his organization have deep roots in the neighborhood.

"You're outsiders," shouted one person in the audience. "Where did you people come from?"

Trama noted he has lived in the Western Addition for 12 years.

He is also head of the Fillmore Community Benefits District, formed to spearhead improvements in the Jazz District.

The John Coltrane community's promoters pointed out that Leola King holds certificates of preference from the Redevelopment Agency — promises of a chance to return to the area that were given to residents and businesses displaced by redevelopment in the Western Addition. The Muni substation, they argued, is the last Western Addition structure available to holders of these certificates.

No vote was taken at the meeting, and the fate of the Muni substation building still hangs in the balance.

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