

LOCALS

This Bud's
for you

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Even jewelry
is going green

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FOOD & WINE

Shopping at the
winter market

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THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ MARCH 2009



KATHRYN AMMOTT

Bruno's back

Nearly 25 years after he arrived in the U.S. and found his first job at a pizzeria on Fillmore Street, Claudius "Bruno" Oliveira has

returned to the neighborhood as the chef and proprietor of his own place: Bruno's Cucina Pizzeria, at 1375 Fillmore, in the heart of the burgeoning Fillmore Jazz District. And more new restaurants are on the way. STORIES | PAGE 11

Death in Pacific Heights

Don't worry, it's fiction
— and the beginning
of a new series of
mystery novels by
RONALD TIERNEY

PACIFIC HEIGHTS is the place where many of San Francisco's old-money families live and die. Among its many mansions, Pacific Heights has two beautiful public parks. Alta Plaza, the more regal of the two, has formidable grand steps leading up to a windy hilltop park, where it occupies four square blocks of expensive real estate. Lafayette Park, smaller, friendlier, sits at the edge of Pacific Heights where home values begin to diminish little by little as the

neighborhood descends east to Van Ness Avenue.

On the rare occasions when the sun is out and the temperature is above 65 degrees, sunbathers occupy the western slope of Lafayette Park, as do dog walkers and children with their nannies. The eastern slope has more trees, more brush. There are places to hide in the night, as a few sleeping homeless would attest. This morning a dead body will be found there.

MORE EXCERPTS | PAGE 7

THE NEW FILLMORE Coffee Hour

Monday MARCH 9 7 p.m.

THIS MONTH

Mayberry Meets Pacific Heights

Strengthening Neighborhood Connections Online and in Person

Join us at PEET'S at 2197 Fillmore Street
More information: editors@newfillmore.com

The Fillmore Project

We're working to nurture greater connective tissue in the neighborhood by creating a robust and interactive website with news, event listings, bulletin boards, blogs and links to all things local. We invite you to be involved.

REPORTERS & WRITERS

Write articles for the *New Fillmore* and the website. We're especially fond of old-fashioned journalists who write clearly and simply, but with flair.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

We've been fortunate to showplace excellent photography and to upgrade our print quality. The website will offer still more creative opportunities.

WEBMASTERS

Help us create a community-oriented website that will connect our neighborhood and be a model for other neighborhoods around the country.

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING

Connect local merchants with local residents — consumers with a conscience who prefer to support neighborhood shops and restaurants.

SPONSORS

Contribute \$100 or \$1,000 to help create a website that can help keep us informed about local issues and bring us together to share mutual interests.

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Pay \$30 for a year's subscription, which will help us continue to bring the *New Fillmore* to your doorstep every month.

ADVISERS

Are you an executive who loves living here and wants to do something for the neighborhood? Or a tech investor who sees the possibilities of creating a model for bringing neighborhoods together? We welcome the advice and involvement of all who love this neighborhood and want to make it better.

THE NEW FILLMORE

editors@newfillmore.com
2130 Fillmore Street #202 • San Francisco, CA 94115

FURTHERMORE



34 Years and Many Miles Later

LAST MONTH I picked up a copy of the *New Fillmore* in the lobby of my apartment building. I was drawn to the cover story, "Library of Unpublished Manuscripts," which contained an excerpt from writer and poet Richard Brautigan.

When I attended university in the 1970s, I read several of Brautigan's books and short stories (didn't everybody?). In one of his books, Brautigan turns the real-life Presidio Branch Library on Sacramento Street into an imaginary place, where a 24-hour librarian receives unpublished manuscripts from writers.

As I followed the story to the mid-section of the paper, I caught sight of a photo of a postcard addressed to the library. The card simply asks, "Do you really exist?" and is signed J. Britton, with a return address in London, Ontario, Canada, postmarked 1975.

I went to high school with a John Britton and somehow I just knew this had to be the same guy. What are the chances that I would happen upon a note written 34 years ago, printed in a neighborhood newspaper many miles and many years away from that time and place?

Within 24 hours, I tracked down John in Lakefield, Ontario. Amid the laughter and nostalgia of our reconnecting, he recalled reading Brautigan's story and writing to the library. Later, I called the person who wrote the article, who offered to meet me at the library and show me the permanent Brautigan display, where my friend's memento is being kept.

There are many moments when life is strange, beautiful and random and we find ourselves connected through surprising and unlikely ways. In this case, I simply happened to have my eyes open.

MARY E. HADDAD

How About Some Righteous Jazz?

JAZZ is an endangered species, therefore I was sad to read a recent article about changes at Yoshi's. The Fillmore club, hit by the recession and credit freeze, is experiencing financial problems. Music and restaurant business has dropped over the past year. Understand the economy has affected many businesses, loss of jobs, therefore people do not have the money to spend beyond necessities.

This town has lost so many jazz spots since the 50s — Black Hawk,

Jazz Workshop, Milestone's, Jack's on Sutter, Bop City — *starved* to listen to live jazz. Disappointed to read newly hired booking agent stated jazz will not be the main focus.

Yoshi's will lose its flavor as a jazz club, and become aligned with The Fillmore and Boom Boom Room format. I have to realize times have changed — the in-crowd no longer come out and support the music we call jazz. *How about some righteous blues?*

ROCHELLE METCALFE

LOCALS



Bud Martinez still works three days a week, even though he "retired" in 1996.

This Bud's for You

Bud Martinez is on duty at the Shell station garage, as he has been for half a century

By SYED ALI

BUD MARTINEZ comes to work most Monday mornings at the garage at the Shell gas station at California and Steiner Streets, just as he has for more than 50 years — and more than a decade after he sold the station and vowed to retire.

The pathway for Martinez first appeared when he was a young reservist called up by the Marine Corps after the Korean War broke out. As the fighting quickly escalated, he was sent to San Diego and put to work servicing tanks. That paved the way for Martinez to return home with a skill and find work as a mechanic.

In 1952, he started working at the Shell station. Before long, he took up a former employer's offer of help and, for \$4,000, bought the station. Ever since, he's kept neighborhood drivers tuned up and on the road.

Martinez's honesty and charm have been a magnet not only for the locals, but for many of the city's notables as well. His customers have ranged from department store magnate Cyril Magnin to basketball Hall of Famer Nate Thurmond, with plenty of corporate chiefs and the occasional 49er and Raider.

In 1996, after decades of long hours and hard labor, Martinez decided to sell the station and retire. But just

when he thought he was done, the station pulled him back.

"The fellow I sold it to made some mistakes, so I came back to help him," says Martinez. "Things didn't work out, so Shell Oil Company took it over and hired a management company. I've been here ever since and there have been four new owners. I'm still here, but not as the boss."

"I enjoy working on cars and fixing problems, but it's mainly the people."

— BUD MARTINEZ, Shell Auto Repair

Both the gas station and its neighbors have gone through many changes. The four-story apartment complex next door was for many years the one-story home of the Podesta Baldocchi florist shop. The Chevron gas station across the street was once a deli. And Mollie Stone's was the Grand Central Market for years and years before it was remodeled and renamed.

As for the station, it was only a place to fill up the

gas tank when Martinez first got there. Over time it was rebuilt twice and the garage was added.

One of the most beloved of Martinez's high-profile customers was Herb Caen, the *Chronicle* columnist who would bring his Jaguar — he called it the White Rat — in for service.

"Herb was a prince," says Martinez. "He put me in his column four or five times, and every time he did that, this place would get stacked with cars. I got a lot of business from him — I couldn't put that kind of advertising. He was a wonderful man."

Martinez says one of the most unusual cars he came across was basketball legend Wilt Chamberlain's pink Mercedes convertible.

"He was so tall and his seat was so far back that I had to scoot all the way down just to reach his pedals," says Martinez, laughing at the memory. "I could barely see above the steering wheel."

Chamberlain and Raider Hall of Famer Gene Upshaw would leave their cars at the station and walk over to eat at Thurmond's barbecue joint on Fillmore Street.

Martinez recalls a time years ago when two women vacationing from Europe had car trouble and pulled into the garage.

TO PAGE 6 ▶

St. Dominic's Catholic Church



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7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am
1:30, 5:30 & 9:00 pm

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Evening Prayer 5:00 pm

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Mon & Wed 8:30 am & 6 pm

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The neighborhood connection

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

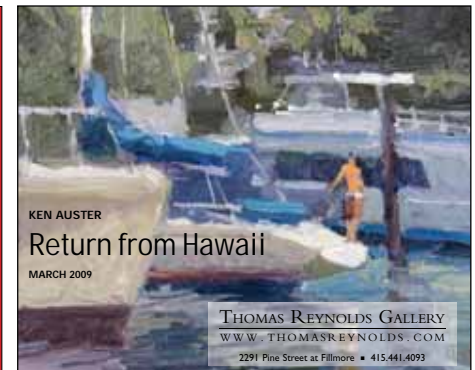
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CRIME WATCH

Battery and Warrant Arrest Franklin and Geary Streets February 6, 3 a.m.

Officers received a report of an assault. At the scene, they found a man being treated by medics for an injury to the forehead. The injured man told the officers that he had been coughing, which evidently irritated another man, who then punched him in the head. The man who had been struck pointed out the suspect to the police and signed a citizen's arrest warrant against him. The suspect was then taken into custody. A computer check showed the suspect had an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

Juvenile Warrant Arrest Laguna and Eddy Streets February 8, 5 p.m.

Officers on patrol heard a vehicle alarm go off. They then observed a juvenile who was walking down the sidewalk, peering into vehicles. The suspect, who was 15 years old, was detained. During an investigation, police discovered the suspect had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. He was taken into custody and booked at the Youth Guidance Center.

Burglary, Conspiracy and Possession of Burglary Tools Broadway and Scott Street February 10, 5:30 a.m.

Officers received a report concerning suspicious people sitting in a parked vehicle. The dispatcher added that there were other subjects in the area who seemed to be casing the nearby houses. When the officers made contact with the woman in the vehicle, they noticed wires hanging from the steering column. The officers believed the vehicle might have been stolen, so they detained the woman and searched

her, finding a meth pipe. The woman was placed under arrest. Inside the car, the officers also found keys that had been shaved and spark plugs — items commonly used to break into vehicles.

While the officers were conducting their investigation, another subject walked toward the car. He then turned and quickly walked away, but the officers pursued him and detained him for further investigation. When they searched him, they found a knife and keys. After investigating the area, officers came upon a second car, in which they found burglary tools and suspected stolen property registered to one of the men they had detained.

During the investigation, a man approached the officers and told them that someone had broken into his work site. He listed the items that had been taken, and the officers realized it was the property they had found on one of the suspects. The two suspects were placed under arrest.

Warrant Arrest Webster Street and Geary Boulevard February 19, 4 p.m.

Two officers responded to a report that a pregnant woman was being harassed by two males and one female. When officers located the woman, she was crying. She pointed out the three suspects, who were sitting in the back of a Muni bus. The officers detained the three. The woman told the officers she had gotten into an altercation with the suspects, who then started shouting at her and calling her names. A computer check of the female suspect revealed that she had an outstanding "no bail" warrant for identity theft. She was placed under arrest. The woman who claimed to be harassed asked that no police action be taken against the other two suspects.

STREET TALK

'Shopping local is like buying green'

Times are tough for stores on Fillmore, but the street is lively, the coffee shops are full and business is good at many restaurants. . . . Just check the full house at Dosa and the crowd milling outside Delfina.

Simon Pearce is the only shop so far to pack up its glassware and lock the doors, but there will probably be others. . . . Yet some merchants report a hopeful sign: more locals. "People are shopping with a purpose, whether it's environmental or social," says Vasilios Kiriis, owner of the two Zinc Details home and design stores. "Shopping local is like buying green," he says, even if there may be cheaper prices online or at a discount.

"People are recognizing the beauty and innovation and education that we and other retailers have provided to the neighborhood and the city — in our case it's almost 15 years," Kiriis says. "I think people are appreciating what they have and what makes life in the city special."

EATING LOCAL: Two promising restaurants are soon to open. At 2232 Bush, the pace has quickened for Charles Phan's neighborhood incarnation of the Slanted Door. He and his family will live upstairs.

Just around the corner, the Woodhouse Fish Co. is polishing its upturn home at 1914 Fillmore. Owner Dylan MacNiven says it's "the more evolved neighborhood-appropriate version" of his Market Street lobster and clam shack. He'll keep the bolly clams, lobster rolls and, on Tuesday, \$1 oysters, but focus mostly on local seafood and make it "a San Francisco place in the style of Sam's and Tadich."

NEW NEIGHBOR

Liberty! Egalite! Jewelry!

A petite new shop practices jewelrymaking with a conscience



"I'm fond of quirky things that have humor and beauty and greater meaning."

—HANNE LIS RASMUSSEN, Egalite Just Green Jewelry

NEIGHBORHOOD entrepreneur Hanne Lis Rasmussen has transformed part of the tiny space that is home to Surprise Party, the bead and seashell store, into a jewel box of finely crafted creations made from recycled jewelry.

Rasmussen worked in non-profit social services for 20 years while dabbling in her heart's desire: metalsmithing. Last year, she honored her passion by attending a "jewelry intensive" course with master goldsmith Alan Revere, emerging as a jeweler and goldsmith.

"It was one of the best experiences in my life," she says. "And it gave me an appreciation for the older arts such as hand engraving that simply aren't done anymore."

It also gave her the confidence to go public with Egalite Just Green Jewelry, her new business in the half-shop at 1900 1/2 Fillmore, offering "sustainable recycled jewelry" crafted from the antique and mid-modern pieces she has been collecting for the last three decades.

"Most jewelry shops are the same — all big diamonds and white metal," says Rasmussen. "I wanted to offer people pieces they don't see anywhere else."

The pieces adorning the display cases all have histories and stories: Scandinavian enamelware passed down through generations, earrings and pendants made from real leaves washed in gold,

can harm the environment and sometimes involves child labor.

Rasmussen also makes custom pieces for customers — particularly those who have inherited jewelry they don't like and don't wear.

"Someone will come to me and say, 'I hate these old pearls. Can't we do something interesting with them?' And I'll reuse the customer's piece along with things from my own collection to make something different and wonderful, something fitting to their taste. That's what jewelry should be — a reflection of your personality."

One Great Neighborhood : Two Delight-Full Stores



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"Their car was a total wreck," said Martinez. "I gave them an estimate, but it totaled more money than they had with them. All they wanted to do was get back to Washington, D.C., so I made the most important repairs — some brake work, an alternator and a battery. They had to go roughly 3,000 miles and it was enough to get them back."

Realizing their situation, he charged them only for parts, and not for his labor, which significantly lowered their bill.

"I went and got a rose from the florist shop next door and put it on the front seat, showed them the bill and they about died," says Martinez. "Herb Caen put it in the newspaper, and later on I got checks from two people back east who had read the article."

Martinez never cashed those checks, deciding instead to keep them as a reminder he'd had the opportunity to help some people along the way.

Martinez has been servicing the community for so long that he's seen several generations of customers. Many of his regulars eventually brought in their children, and many have brought their grandchildren.

"Customers come in all the time and say, 'You know my mom

'He'd Still Come Even if I Told Him Not to'



Bud Martinez at 78: still under the engine.

and dad!" he says. "It's unbelievable I've been here that long."

Douglas Fredell, the current owner of Shell Auto Repair, asked Martinez to stay on when he took over the garage.

"Many, many people who live around here know him," says Fredell. "People stop by several times a week just asking where he is, or if he's still working."

Fredell says Martinez, at 78, is an ideal employee. "He's got that old-fashioned sensibility about him of how to treat people and how he carries his work ethic. Then, of course, he wants to keep working. Even if I told him not to come in anymore, he'd still come in."

Martinez says it's the customers who keep him on the corner of California and Steiner.

"I enjoy working on cars and fixing problems, but it's mainly the people," he says. "It's been my life for 57 years and we've got the best customers in the world here."

Now Martinez works at the station only three days a week, Mondays through Wednesdays. "Right now, I'm going month to month," he says. "The only thing that's going to stop me is arthritis."

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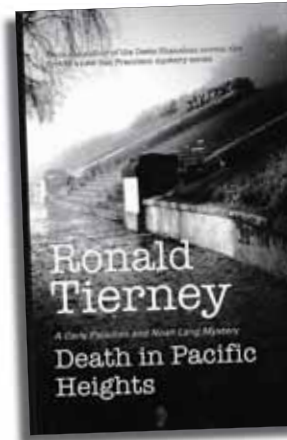
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BOOKS



It's a Mystery

A new series focuses on the neighborhoods

By RONALD TIERNEY

NOT SO LONG AGO, I worked with local artists who wanted to exhibit at Fort Mason Center. I ran across the work of Adam Moore, who specializes in night photography. His images of San Francisco after dark seemed to have at their core a mystery — a story waiting to be told. One, a photograph of the stairs leading up to Lafayette Park on a damp, lonely night, was particularly striking.

I had been thinking about creating a new mystery series set in San Francisco. I had already written nine mystery novels set in my hometown of Indianapolis. But now that I had lived here for nearly 15 years, I wanted to use what I was seeing and feeling every day in my writing. I wanted San Francisco to be a major character in the series, not just a backdrop for the action.

As I looked at Adam Moore's mysterious photograph, a story began to take root in my brain. The body of a young woman is found in the park. Another woman, bored with her life and her career as a professional investigator in a large firm, realizes she needs to face life more

directly. So she strikes out on her own. Her first case involves the Lafayette Park death.

As the idea began to grow, I realized that I could use San Francisco's diverse neighborhoods as themes for a series of books. It wasn't an entirely original idea; few are. San Francisco writer Cara Black has been doing the same thing extremely well with her popular mysteries set in the neighborhoods of Paris. I mentioned my idea to her during a meeting of mystery writers at John's Grill one day. She was encouraging.

The first book in my series takes place in Pacific Heights. Local readers will recognize not just Lafayette Park, but other places — the Magic Flute, Good Bys, the wonderfully understated Sacramento Street and the upscale, more lively upper Fillmore. People walk streets San Franciscans will know. And there are scenes inside some of the fabulous homes perched well above the rest of the city.

Making the neighborhoods the focus of the stories fits with my natural inclination to meander around the city and try to capture the mood and history of each distinctive neighborhood. I'm already at work on *Death in North Beach*.

EXCERPT

From *Death in Pacific Heights*

CARLY PALADINO watched the early-morning news as she sipped an orange juice and slipped into her running clothes. It was 6 a.m., and the hard news led. She sat on the edge of her bed, watching as the identity of the dead girl found in Lafayette Park was explained. It was the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hanover.

She stopped tying her running shoes and stared in shock at the screen. "The police," the anchor said, "have not indicated whether foul play was involved, however an official who did not wish to be identified said it was clearly a suspicious death."

Carly took a deep breath. It was early, too early, to return Pamela Hanover's call. She would think about this as she got in her morning run. She peeked through the window. Despite the fog, she could see that the sun had risen and the black was slipping slowly into an illuminated gray. She descended the stairs from her second-story flat and said hello to Mr. Nakamura, her downstairs neighbor. He was retrieving his newspaper. He smiled and nodded. They had known each other for years. Nakamura had to be in his 70s. He had known her parents and had known her since she was a teen growing up in the flat she'd inherited from them. A sweet man whose life was a mystery to her. Out on the sidewalk, she looked around. No matter which direction she went, she would confront hills. However, this morning, choosing a route wasn't difficult. She would run the few blocks up to Lafayette Park. She would run around

it, through it, get a sense of it as it might relate to the girl's death. She didn't really know what Mrs. Hanover wanted, but it was likely related to her daughter's death.

A damp morning wasn't a bad thing for a runner. The moisture in the air was a coolant and the coolness a motivator. She ran three mornings during the week and once at the weekend, usually in the afternoon. The morning runs were close to home. On the weekend she might drive out to Golden Gate Park for a serious run. Or she would go down to the Marina and run along the bay to Crissy Field — a stretch of reclaimed nature that served not only naturalists but runners and kite flyers.

She saw the yellow crime scene ribbon around the northeast corner of the park. A cop stood guard. She ran the perimeter, taking note of any place where one might have a view of that section of the park. Not many. At the west end of the park, she could look down steep Laguna and see the piers of Fort Mason Center out on the bay. On Washington, there were only a few homes — very big ones, including the imposing mansion of a world-famous, high-society, best-selling author. Further east was a tall, elegant building with formally dressed doormen. Perhaps someone could have seen something from the upper floors, but the tall old trees might obscure the view.

She was getting ahead of herself. No doubt the police knew a whole lot more than the news program revealed. She'd stop speculating, at least until she'd talked to Mrs. Hanover.

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FOOD & WINE

The Market in Winter

A Saturday morning at Fillmore Farmers Market delivers a hearty soup for supper

By MARY RISLEY

OKAY, OKAY, the farm-fresh tomatoes at the Fillmore Farmers Market are worth lining up for in August. But what about the beautiful potatoes, cabbages and root vegetables of winter?

With our newly raised conscientiousness about using less fossil fuel and buying local and sustainable produce, it is fantastic that our neighborhood farmers market is operating on Saturday mornings all year round now.

Even in the drizzle on a Saturday morning in mid-February, I found cheerful vendors selling the just-picked vegetables, fruits and flowers of winter. Granted, some of the fruit came out of cold storage, and some of the vegetables were grown in hotheouses. But, for the most part, the Fillmore Farmers Market offers a good variety of fresh food.

A leisurely wander through the market revealed wonderful potatoes and sweet potatoes; big, beautiful carrots and broccoli; fabulous walnuts and almonds, as well as dates and other dried fruits; glorious baked goods; a selection of Asian greens; colorful citrus; and my favorite: Afghani stuffed breads and dips.

Not only can you stock up for the week with healthy fruits and vegetables, but you can also mingle with friends and neighbors on Saturday mornings.

AFTER MANY YEARS as director of Tante Marie's Cooking School in North Beach, I have almost stopped cooking for others altogether at home in lower Pacific Heights. My little secret is that I love to have people over, but I hate to cook ahead of time by myself. I actually think guests have more fun if they help prepare the meal, so what I invariably do is lay out the ingredients on my kitchen counter in the order of courses and let people help cook, if they want.

Here's what we had for dinner Saturday evening.

First I transferred the three Afghani dips into bowls with spoons and heated up the flatbread stuffed with spinach and pumpkin in the oven on a pizza tile. People just love these breads. Tear the bread and help yourself to the dips. It's pretty easy to make a big pot



of winter vegetable soup, especially if you have a package of sausage in the freezer. To begin, we browned the sausages in some oil in a large pan and then removed them. Immediately we threw in a couple of chopped onions with a sprinkling of salt. When this was soft, we tossed in a couple of minced garlic cloves and cooked another minute. Then we added the chopped hard vegetables — in this case five large potatoes, three large carrots and a whole cabbage, coarsely chopped, with a quart of chicken stock — you could use vegetable stock — and a couple of quarts of water and a sprinkling of salt. This we cooked until the potatoes were just tender when pierced with a fork. Then we put in the browned sausage — about a pound cut in bite-size pieces — with a couple of handfuls

of shredded mustard greens and cooked it until the sausage was no longer pink.

At this point it was and is important to taste.

What you are looking for is a balance of flavors. The carrots and onions provide sweetness, the meat provides salt and the mustard greens give a peppery taste. A sprinkling of red pepper flakes also helps a lot.

This soup will keep refrigerated for five days, and if you don't eat it by then, just reheat it for 5 minutes before chilling it again for another five days.

For dessert, we served a bowl of Mandarin oranges with dates and walnuts — all fresh from the market — and we splurged by also serving a Mt. Tam cheese with a French baguette. I like to serve cheese at room temperature after the meal like the French. And now



Cooking instructor Mary Risley shopped at the Fillmore market on a recent Saturday — taking time to greet old friends and make new ones — and then turned her bounty into a comforting pot of soup.



there's often cheese at the market.

So there you have the very lazy cook's menu for a rainy winter evening with friends after a fun morning at the Fillmore Farmers Market. At this time of year, who misses the tomatoes of summer? I'd rather have a big, warm, comforting pot of soup.

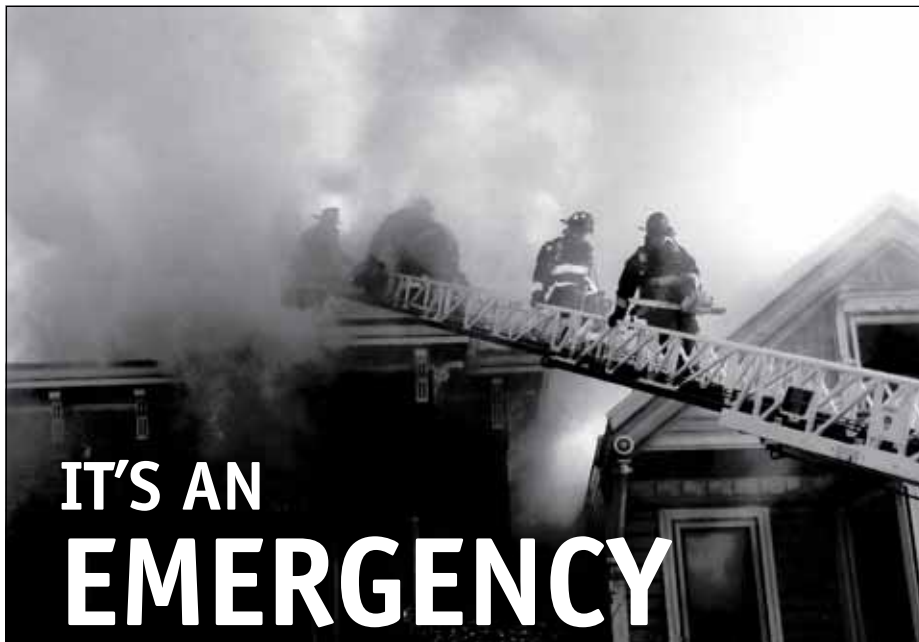
ONE MORE THING: As the director of Food Runners, a program that delivers excess food from restaurants and others to the needy, we are grateful to the vendors of the Fillmore Farmers Market who donate their leftover food every Saturday to be delivered to neighborhood food programs. Please call 929-1866 if you have food to donate or want to be a Food Runner volunteer.

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COMING UP



3 more restaurants may open in the Jazz District

Three more new restaurants may be opening within a block of the recently unveiled Bruno's Pizzeria Cucina (above) in the Fillmore Jazz District.

Gussie's Chicken and Waffles will open in the old Powell's Place around the corner from Fillmore and Eddy. Owner and chef Michele Wilson specializes in soul food. She helped start the Northern California franchise of Roscoe's Chicken and Waffles, which was discussed as a potential part of an earlier redevelopment plan. Both the interior and exterior of the space are being completely remodeled. The target opening date is May 1.

The two vacant spots on either side of Bruno's are also slated to become restaurants. Broker Sheldon Pont of GVA Kidder Mathews says there are "active discussions with a number of restaurateurs" whose interest in the location has been "heightened by Bruno's volume of repeat business."

Like Bruno's, the new restaurants are likely to be in the fast-casual category. The broker reports interest from a number of ethnic restaurants, including Mexican and Chinese.

— ROSE ROLL

Back on the 'Mo

A pizza maker returns, just a few blocks from where he started

By ROSE ROLL

AFTER launching his culinary career more than 25 years ago on Fillmore Street, chef Claudius "Bruno" Oliveira has returned to open a new restaurant and pizzeria in the Fillmore Jazz District.

"It's like coming back home," says Oliveira, owner and executive chef of the new Bruno's Pizzeria Cucina at 1375 Fillmore.

At age 15, Oliveira came from Italy to the U.S. and got his first job at Mozzarella di Bufala, a Brazilian pizzeria then at 2114 Fillmore, where the Peruvian restaurant Fresca now operates.

A few years later, he moved across the bay to open his own place. Over the next 20 years he started a handful of restaurants serving up casual Northern Italian fare in the East Bay, including Bruno's in Livermore, which is still going strong.

"I came back to the city last year and I've always liked Fillmore," Oliveira says. "This area has so much potential."

Bruno's on Fillmore, located between Eddy and Ellis Streets, opened on February 6. It's a more upscale version of its Livermore sibling, with red walls, intimate booths, tall mahogany cocktail tables by the windows and an impressive wine rack towering over the bar. There is seating for 60, plus 16 more choice spots outside



"I've always liked Fillmore. This area has so much potential."

— CLAUDIUS OLIVEIRA, chef and proprietor of Bruno's

at tables on the sidewalk terrace under bright red awnings.

But while Bruno's looks upscale, the prices are moderate. The menu offers more than a dozen Italian classics — pasta dishes and main courses — all priced under \$20. Sandwiches and nine different salads are all under \$10. Even the wine list is reasonable, with bottles for less than \$20.

"You can be out of here for \$12," says Oliveira.

TO PAGE 12 ▶

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The neighbors have welcomed Claudio Oliveira, right, and his new hot spot.

25 Years Later, Bruno's Back on Fillmore

FROM PAGE 11

Or stay home: There's free delivery. Their specialty pizzas have names like the Fillmore Center Special, with flank steak, bell peppers and sour cream. The Club One Special comes with eggplant and Portobello mushrooms. A large pie ranges from \$15 to \$20.

The Fillmore's colorful past was a big draw when Oliveira was deciding where to launch his new restaurant.

"There is so much history here," he says. "It has such a big tradition with all the jazz and blues concerts nearby."

Bruno's fits right into the jazz district. Saxophones hang on the walls and jazz plays in the background. "We jazz up pizza," T-shirts proclaim.

"What I like most is the jazz gives us a concept," Oliveira says.



Bruno's inviting atmosphere is already bringing in the locals — and moderate prices keep them coming back.

Located directly across the street from Yoshi's, Oliveira is thankful for the presence of the mammoth restaurant and club. "It's a great anchor," he says. He speaks glowingly of his neighbors at 1300 on Fillmore and the Fillmore Heritage Center.

The Laramar Group, the real estate company that owns the massive Fillmore Center complex, encouraged Oliveira to choose the area for his pizzeria. "There's 5,000 people right here," he says. And he's formed alliances with several of his neighbors, including Club One and Zipcar.

Laramar is planning to add a number

of new restaurants to the area. They share Oliveira's vision, he says, "to make Fillmore the place to be for restaurants" and bring more people to the area. Oliveira says the blocks of Fillmore south of Geary are the upcoming part of the neighborhood and that the new restaurants, including Bruno's, will "attract the north down here."

Oliveira has high hopes for newcomers. "I've raised the bar with Bruno's," he says proudly. "New restaurants will have to meet our higher standards."

In its first weeks in business, Bruno's is

attracting a mostly local crowd. Customers come to the pizzeria to watch the game on the big screen television over the bar or to grab a late-night bite.

"I get a lot of locals here," says Oliveira. "I'm really pleased with the neighbors — real nice people."

The neighbors seem to be pleased with him, too. Just weeks after opening his restaurant, Oliveira has already become something of a local fixture. On any night it's common to hear delighted cries of "Bruno!" as regulars walk in the door and are enthusiastically greeted.

MUSIC

By ANTHONY TORRES

THIS MONTH Yoshi's presents two shows a night for six nights featuring **JOHN ZORN**, the prolific avant-garde composer, arranger, record producer and multi-instrumentalist whose work incorporates and blends a range of musical styles.

His presence at Yoshi's in various combinations from March 10 to 15 speaks to the club's shift in format to a more eclectic booking policy — and to what constitutes the nature and character of jazz, its disparate sources of formation and its influence.

Here a thought by Zorn may be relevant. He has said he thinks the term jazz is meaningless because musicians don't think in terms of labels. Rather, he says: "I know what jazz music is. I studied it. I love it. But when I sit down and make music, a lot of things come together. And sometimes it falls a little bit toward the classical side, sometimes it falls a little bit toward the jazz, sometimes it falls toward rock, sometimes it doesn't fall anywhere, it's just floating in limbo. But no matter which way it falls, it's always a little bit of a freak. It doesn't really belong anywhere. It's something unique, it's something different, it's something out of my heart."

What comes out of John Zorn's mind can be at times free-floating and ethereally beautiful or scorchingly passionate and thunderously tormented.

Another artist coming to Yoshi's for what should be an all-out full-blown



The Lowriders bring the sound of classic soul radio to Yoshi's this month.

Eclectic Booking Policy Starts to Show at Yoshi's

Funk and soul on the bill alongside jazz

old-school funk-fest is the award-winning, Grammy nominated songwriter **RONKAT SPEARMAN**.

RonKat is a self-taught musician who has played guitar, bass, drums and keyboards — and sung — since the age of five. He is a songwriter and producer who has been a vocalist and musician with George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic since 2001. According to the

High Grand Master of Funk George Clinton himself, "RonKat is a crowd pleaser and he is truly funky."

No doubt this will be completely true when he comes into Yoshi's March 6. It's difficult to imagine just how completely haywire that party might get. While there has been no mention of an open dance floor, it's hard to conceive of a crowd being able to contain itself when that band

starts to bump its viciously hard funk. "It's all about the beats for me," Ronkat has said, "coupled with a cold melody and good lyrics. I like to keep my mind open to the pulse of the people — because it inspires me."

His music is some serious psychedelic funk that will definitely tear the roof off the house. Even if you are not particularly into old-school funk, or haven't been exposed to what that is, you might want to check this out just to hear and see its raw power.

Speaking of old-school hybrid soul music: The **LOWRIDER BAND** and its members, who were originally part of the South Central Los Angeles group WAR, are coming to Yoshi's from March 19 to 21. Reconstituted as the original Lowriders, this funky jam-band springs from a love of diverse musical styles, and is comprised of four of the five surviving original core group members of the multi-platinum selling band: Harold Brown on trap drums, B.B. Dickerson on bass, Howard Scott on guitar and Lee Oskar on harmonica, with new members Lance Ellis on sax, Telvis Ward on keyboards and Chuck Barber on percussion.

Having lost the legal right to use the name WAR in federal court in the mid-1990s, this group claims to be the rightful heirs of the sound that made that group famous. It should be interesting to see how what they do holds up and translates to a contemporary audience. If that sound moves you on classic soul radio, it should still sound right on time.

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PERFORMANCES

Trout Fishing at the JCC

The unlikely pop-folk duo who call themselves **Trout Fishing in America** (above) — after the Richard Brautigan novel — will appear this month in the neighborhood, near Brautigan's home for many years. Their performance is Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center at 3200 California. The JCC is also just around the corner from the Presidio Branch Library, which Brautigan incorporated into another novel, *The Abortion*.

"You're kidding me," said bassist Keith Grimwood, a big Brautigan fan, when he learned of the local connections. "People ask about our name and I tell them we picked it because we thought *The Abortion* would be in bad taste."

Salsa at Rasselas

Salsa dance classes start March 4 at Rasselas, the club at 1534 Fillmore, and continue every Wednesday night from 7 to 8:30. It costs \$15 per class. More information: www.DanceSF.com.



The public is invited to participate in the Calvary Presbyterian Church choir's performance of Bach's masterpiece.

Bach's *St. John Passion* to Be Performed at Calvary

By JOE BEYER

The chancel choir of Calvary Presbyterian Church, with orchestra and soloists, will present one of Bach's greatest masterpieces, the *Passion of Christ According to St. John*, on four consecutive Sundays beginning this month.

The musical scenes will be integrated into the 11 a.m. Lenten services each Sunday from March 15 through April 5. The public is invited to arrive early — at 10:45 — to rehearse with the choir and then sing the chorales during the service, as was done in Bach's time.

Seminars on the *St. John Passion* will begin at 10 a.m. on each of the four Sundays.

Two years ago, when the *St. Matthew Passion* was performed,

more than 200 people from the community came to learn Bach's chorales and then actively participate in performing the high drama of the events leading to the crucifixion.

Bach set the passion story from all four gospels to music, but Calvary music director Alden Gilchrist says this one is special.

"This is one of the most sweeping portrayals of the sacred experience ever accomplished," Gilchrist says. "Bach's vision for this one, his first, propelled him into a brand new art form which incorporates dance, operatic convention, physicality raised to a spiritual level, intense word-painting, burning faith and heavenly joy, all rising out of the abject grief of the crucifixion."

Calvary Presbyterian Church is located at Fillmore and Jackson Streets. For further information, call 346-3832 or visit www.calvarypresbyterian.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq Ft	Date	Asking \$	Sale \$
1951 Webster	4	3.5	1	2329	13-Feb	1,975,000	1,945,000
1911 Baker	3	3	2	3197	28-Jan	2,370,250	2,192,500
2405 Washington	4	3.5	2	2934	13-Feb	2,495,000	2,450,000

Condos/Co-ops/TICs/Lofts	BR	BA	PK	Sq Ft	Date	Asking \$	Sale \$
1817 California #104	2	1.5	1	716	6-Feb	549,000	517,000
2646 Post #4	1	1	1	845	23-Jan	619,000	605,000
2920 Buchanan #8	1	1	1		26-Jan	879,000	730,000
2470-B Bush	3	1.5	1	1196	12-Feb	799,000	750,000
2168 Pacific	2	2	1	1225	16-Jan	1,195,000	1,095,000
3041 Webster #B	3	2	1	1479	3-Feb	1,499,000	1,425,000



The entrance to 3355 Pacific, on the market — briefly — for the first time in more than 50 years.

It's slow, but activity seems to be picking up

Last month was another very slow period for home sales in the neighborhood. With the economy looking gloomier every day and the stock market reaching record lows, it would appear, at least at first glance, that our housing market is moving in a similar direction. However, the most recent activity in the local market suggests this may not be the case. Although only three homes and six condos closed during the last month, a total of 19 properties went into contract. By no means does that constitute an active market, but it certainly is a noticeable uptick. It remains to be seen if the activity will continue to increase through what is normally a busy spring market.

HIGH END ACTIVITY: Sales on the upper end, which have been virtually nonexistent since October, have picked up significantly. Several impressive properties have gone into contract, most of them within days of being listed or relisted. One example is 2580 Broadway, a quaint 1960s 3-bedroom corner home designed by acclaimed architect William Wurster. Priced at \$4.2 million, it's one of those properties that always sells quickly, and this time was no exception. It was pending within days after it was listed. 3388 Clay, an impressive 6-bedroom home priced at \$4.98 million, went into contract even before the first broker's tour. 2712 Broadway, a large 7-bedroom home with impressive Golden Gate views, came back on the market at the end of January at a reduced price of \$7.75 million and is now in contract. And 3355 Pacific Avenue was listed around the same time at \$8.9 million. This was the first time this property has been on the market in more than 50 years. It's a substantial 6-bedroom Presidio Heights home that, while not updated, contains impressive public rooms for entertaining. The property is now in contract after receiving several offers.

NEW LISTINGS: Several new high-end listings will be coming on the market in the next few weeks. One is a 4-bedroom house at 3352 Washington, which has undergone an extensive remodel since it was last listed more than a year ago. The price has not been set, but is expected to be close to \$4 million. Two other upcoming listings are on the 3500 block of Washington and the 3500 block of Pacific — both substantial Presidio Heights homes.

UNDER \$500,000: A significant number of more affordable tenancy-in-common projects are available in the neighborhood for first-time homebuyers. Among them are units at 2731 California, 2727 Jackson and 2477 Sutter. There is a new 2-bedroom unit at 2468-2472 Bush Street listed for \$599,000.

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



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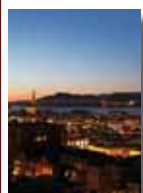
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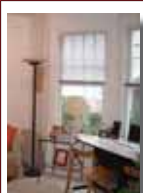
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Light Filled Condominium With City Views. First time on open market. Light-filled, quiet unit facing east with nice City views. Pristine condition. 2BD/2BA. Cabinet hardware tastefully upgraded with Australian crystal knobs. Priced to sell quickly. 1483Sutter-614.com
Dona Fuller (415) 321-4268



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Prime Studio on Broadway. Lovely, classic 1920's courtyard building in prime Pacific Heights. Hardwood floors, crown and picture molding, large walk-in closet, gas kitchen, bathroom, tub with shower. 1775Broadway-2.com
Paula Pagano (415) 321-4220



Presidio Heights
\$2,595,000
Wonderful 4BD/3.5BA home. This fully detached home offers lovely views from all levels and a modern, functional layout. Fabulous roof deck is perfect for entertaining or private enjoyment. 2 car side-by-side garage. 240Walnut.com
Caroline Kahn Werthoff (415) 321-4260



Pacific Heights
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Spacious 2BD/2BA Condominium. Located in one of San Francisco's most sought-after neighborhoods, this comfortable Pacific Heights condominium has sweeping views of the Bay & Alcatraz. 1-car parking & deeded storage. Great location! 1998pac205.com
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1902 Fillmore 346-8629

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Walter Adams Framing
2019B Fillmore 922-6811

Winterbranch Gallery
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2121 Fillmore 776-0669

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2259 Fillmore 776-0643

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2413 California 563-5937

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2216 Fillmore 346-2133

Elizabeth Charles
2056 Fillmore 440-2100

Erica Tanov
2408 Fillmore 674-1228

Gimme Shoes
2358 Fillmore 441-3040

Heidi Says
2426 Fillmore 749-0655

Heidi Says Casual
2416 Fillmore 749-1144

Heidi Says Shoes
2105 Fillmore 409-6850

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2053 Fillmore 923-9628

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2121 Fillmore 931-5520

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2237 Fillmore 567-9500

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2142 Fillmore 447-8940

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2029 Fillmore 346-1502

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2052 Fillmore 346-1600

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2132 Fillmore 359-1232

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2300 Fillmore 292-6199

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