

FOOD & DRINK

Who's hot in
the kitchen

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A local's new
take on tequila

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REAL ESTATE

Sales down 65%
but prices steady

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THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ APRIL 2009



The Return of *fillamento* *For a few weeks—under glass—* *a beloved store will be back*

■ A LOVE LETTER TO A STORE | PAGE 7

ALMOST AS SOON AS THE SIGNS WENT UP announcing that Shabby Chic was closing on Fillmore, the buzz began: "Why don't they bring Fillamento back to that space? I *loved* that store."

In a small way, that wish is being granted. This month, Fillamento's owner and mastermind, Iris Fuller, will return to the neighborhood to exhibit shadowboxes she has created from bits and pieces that came from the store, combined with other treasures she has saved during a lifetime of collecting. "A TASTE OF FILLAMENTO: THE ART OF DISPLAY" opens on Saturday, April 18, with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Thomas Reynolds Gallery, 2291 Pine Street, near Fillmore.

Fillamento, the internationally admired home and design emporium, had a two-decade run at 2185 Fillmore before closing in 2001. Through the years, Fuller stashed away things that caught her eye — buttons, ribbon, swatches of fabric, vintage jewelry, tiny souvenirs, matchbooks. She kept them on a baker's rack, each tray holding items of a different color, just as Fillamento was arranged by color. After closing, she knew she must be holding on to them for a reason.

"I kept waiting for the creative goblins to come and help me along," she says. "A few months ago they came."

Now she has two dozen shadowboxes of artfully arranged miniature monochromatic treasures. And this month, Fuller, now living the good life in Sonoma, returns to Fillmore Street with her memories of Fillamento. She says: "That's my 'hood."

THE NEW FILLMORE Coffee Hour

Monday APRIL 6 7 p.m.

THIS MONTH

New Businesses on Fillmore

As stores close, new possibilities arise. What do we need?

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



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PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5
Palm Sunday Worship:
8:45 and 11am in the Sanctuary

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9*
Service of Tenebrae and Communion:
7pm in the Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10
Service of the Seven Last Words of Christ
12noon-3pm in the Chapel (come and go at will)

*Good Friday Concert: *†*
J.S. Bach's "St. John Passion"
performed by Chancel Choir, soloists & orchestra
8pm in the Sanctuary (free will offering)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12*†
Sunrise Communion Service:
7am on the Rooftop
Traditional Easter Worship:
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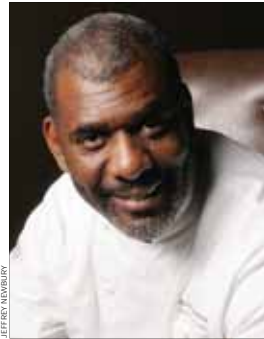
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† Childcare available

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NOTED



JEFFREY NEWBURY

Sexy chef

David Lawrence, executive chef and co-owner of 1300 on Fillmore, is featured in a new book, *Sexy Dishes: A Guide to Who's Hot in the Kitchen*. "David is tall, dark and handsome," the guide notes, with "a British accent, a great smile and dimples." Also tasty is his recipe for black skillet cornbread, which is included. His philosophy: "All food is soul food."



DOMINIC CASTY / SHAPATTO.COM

Truly free at last

Flozelle Woodmore, left, was paroled last year after more than 20 years in prison for killing an abusive boyfriend when she was 18. She was in the Fillmore on March 29 to say thank you to people who helped free her — chief among them Ruth Dewson, owner of Mrs. Dewson's Hats. It was Dewson's ceaseless efforts to rally public and political opinion that shined the spotlight on Woodmore and eventually led to her freedom. Yet this was the first time they had met. "I'm impressed," said Dewson. "I think she's going places."

■ BRING IT TO A BOIL

Please note that in the March article I wrote about shopping at the winter farmer's market, I said the soup I made will keep for five days, and if you don't eat it by then, just "reheat" it for five minutes before chilling. I meant to say "reboil" for five minutes.

MARY RISLEY

THE NEW FILLMORE

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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

Comments and letters about neighborhood issues are welcome there, too.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Sun May Set on Natural Grass at the New Kimbell Field

Renovation plans
are ready to go, but
opponents fight on

By SYED ALI

CHANGE is coming to Kimbell Field. But not without a fight. The green grass on the three acres of ball fields at Geary and Steiner is slated to be dug up in the coming weeks and replaced with synthetic turf made of artificial blades of grass covered with ground up pieces of old car tires.

But some neighbors are objecting to the \$4.7 million plan, claiming the synthetic turf presents environmental and health dangers.

According to Dan Mauer, project manager for the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, the project could start this spring and be ready for public use six months later. But if opponents have their way, the renovation will be once again delayed.

The Kimbell Field project — part of a larger drive to improve Bay Area parks and increase the number of soccer fields and baseball diamonds — was put on hold last year and a task force of local residents created to "identify what's wrong with synthetic turf and what isn't," said Mauer. "We told everyone who had a stake in this field to submit any and all information that they found so that we could filter out what's true, what's opinion

— what's a blog and what's a study."

The community Synthetic Fields Task Force concluded that the artificial turf fields increase health risks and the likelihood of injuries to athletes and limit what can be done on the fields. Children playing in the turf could swallow bits of the crumbly tire waste, the task force found, and because no fire of any kind is permitted on the synthetic turf fields, no smoking and no barbecues are allowed. Bikes, scooters and strollers would be banned from the fields and metal cleats cannot be worn because they can damage the synthetic grass. In addition, no dogs are allowed on the turf.

Kelley Watts, a resident of the Western Addition who served on the task force, said members were also concerned about the environmental effects of replacing grass with synthetic turf. "You take out an acre of grass and it's the equivalent of losing an acre of rain-forest," Watts said.

The task force issued a report to the City Fields Foundation, a public-private partnership created in 2005 that has already renovated seven city parks. The foundation countered that the health concerns had already been rejected by city, state and federal agencies and that the synthetic turf was



Plans call for more soccer games and less grass when Kimbell Field is renovated.

safe to install and play on. In fact, according to the foundation, fewer injuries occur on synthetic turf than on natural grass.

The artificial turf is only part of the plan for Kimbell Field, said Patrick Hannan, a representative of City Fields.

"There will be a whole new redesign of the park as well," Hannan said. "There will be two soccer fields, two softball diamonds and a removable backstop."

Plans also call for a batting cage and better lighting — allowing the park to be open later — as well as new drainage infrastructure. Hannan said the new field will save money in the long run because it is less expensive to maintain a synthetic turf field than a grass field.

Hannan said plans also include a better system for field reservations that will significantly increase the amount of playing time on the fields.

Some locals are skeptical about that, too.

"The privatization of the parks makes it hard for kids and families to drop in and play when there are leagues going on," said Watts. He said he fears that the leagues, because they generate money, would occupy the fields most of the time.

"No kid says to himself, 'It's 4 o'clock, I can finally play now,'" Watts said.

Opponents gained new ammunition recently when state officials decided to evaluate the health risks and the environmental impact of synthetic tire waste installations. The report is due in September 2010. Neighborhood critics are asking that the renovation plans be delayed at least until the new report is completed.

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



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HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 5

5:30 p.m. (Saturday Vigil Mass); 7:30 a.m. (Quiet Mass);
9:30 a.m. (Family Mass); 11:30 a.m. (Solemn Mass);
1:30 p.m. (St. Jude Pilgrim Mass in Spanish);
5:30 p.m. (Contemporary music);
9:00 p.m. (Taizé music by candlelight)

Seder Meal, Monday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.

A meal honoring our Jewish roots and explaining the Lord's Last Supper. Tickets at the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, Wednesday, April 8
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, April 9

7:30 a.m. – Tenebrae – followed by breakfast
7:30 p.m. – Mass of the Lord's Supper
(only Mass of the day)

Good Friday, April 10

7:30 a.m. – Tenebrae – followed by breakfast
12:15 – 12:45 p.m. – Stations of the Cross
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Seven Last Words
3:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Confessions
7:30 p.m. – Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, April 11

8:00 a.m. – Tenebrae – followed by breakfast
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Confessions
8:00 p.m. – Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 12

7:30 a.m. (Mass with Easter Hymns);
9:30 a.m. (Family Mass); 11:30 a.m. (Solemn Mass);
1:30 p.m. (St. Jude Pilgrim Mass in Spanish);
5:30 p.m. (Contemporary music);
9:00 p.m. (Taizé music by candlelight)
No confessions this day



COME SEE THE NATIVES

The Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society presents its 5th Annual

San Francisco Native Plant Garden Tour

Twenty Private and Public Gardens open for you to see how exciting the Natives can be.

Sunday, April 5th, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FREE and Self-Paced
Visit www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/gardentour for a list of the gardens and a map.

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CRIME WATCH

Possession of Stolen Property Fillmore and Sutter Streets February 2, 4 p.m.

A police sergeant on patrol spotted an altercation. He intervened and learned from a witness that a man was sexually harassing women in the area. The sergeant detained the suspect, who gave the officer permission to search his backpack.

The backpack was full of children's sweatshirts — all with store tags still on them. The man told the sergeant he found the sweatshirts on the street. The sergeant contacted a nearby children's store and learned the clothing items in the suspect's backpack had recently been stolen.

Police discovered that the suspect had also lied about his name. When the man was fingerprinted, officers learned there was an outstanding \$10,000 warrant for his arrest. The suspect was booked at Northern Station.

Petty Theft Geary Boulevard and Webster Street February 2, 7:15 p.m.

Officers received a call from Safeway; security guards there were in pursuit of a shoplifter. A security officer told police he had seen the suspect place a bottle of liquor in his handheld basket. The man then sneaked out through the back door of the store without paying. As he left, he set off an alarm, and a foot chase ensued. Officers cornered the suspect and apprehended him. Security officers signed a citizen's arrest and the suspect was taken into custody.

Narcotics Van Ness Avenue and Willow February 23, 10 p.m.

Officers observed an individual smoking crack while sitting in the doorway of a building. An officer who detained the man found he had a pipe and additional crack. A computer check revealed that the suspect also had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. He was booked at Northern Station.

Malicious Mischief/Vandalism Van Ness Avenue and California Street February 25, 9 p.m.

An officer on patrol was approached by a citizen. The man told the officer an individual was spray painting a garbage can in front of 1620 Van Ness Avenue. When the officer arrived, he saw a man crouched behind a garbage can with a spray paint can in his hands.

While the officer watched, the man sprayed the trash can with paint. When the man noticed the officer, he tried to hide the paint by stashing it in the garbage can. The suspect was detained. The officer observed

dry paint on the man's hands; he was also carrying colored markers and additional cans of spray paint. The suspect was placed under arrest and booked at Northern Station.

Stay Away Order Violation Eddy and Buchanan Streets February 26, 7:45 p.m.

Officers on patrol observed a man on the street with whom they had prior contact; the individual was on felony probation for a burglary and arrest escape that occurred last year. A computer check confirmed the officers' suspicions that the subject had a stay away order from the area. The officers approached the man and took him into custody; he was booked at Northern Station.

Bank Robbery Van Ness Avenue and Eddy Street February 28, 9 a.m.

Officers assigned to the street crimes unit working plainclothes were patrolling in the Northern District when news of a bank robbery in the Central District was broadcast over the radio. The dispatcher noted that a Rat-Pack, a miniature GPS receiver concealed in a bundle of bills enabling them to be tracked, had been taken during the robbery.

The officers returned to Northern Station to get a vehicle equipped with a Rat-Pack tracking device. Then they drove around searching for the suspect. At Van Ness and Eddy, their tracking device was activated. Soon they spotted a suspicious vehicle.

As the officers approached the car, they saw a gun lying on the back seat. The officers immediately ordered the driver out of the car and placed him in handcuffs. Inside the vehicle was the money that had been stolen from the bank, along with other evidence related to the robbery. The suspect was arrested and booked at Northern Station.

Narcotics California and Franklin Streets March 16, 7 p.m.

Officers received a call concerning a man who allegedly was selling drugs out of his vehicle. They located the vehicle and approached the individual, who was sitting in the driver's seat.

The man was startled by the officers' presence. He quickly grabbed a baggie filled with crack cocaine and attempted to sit on it. The officers took custody of the man. Officers found 123 rocks of crack cocaine in the car. The suspect was placed under arrest and booked at Northern Station.

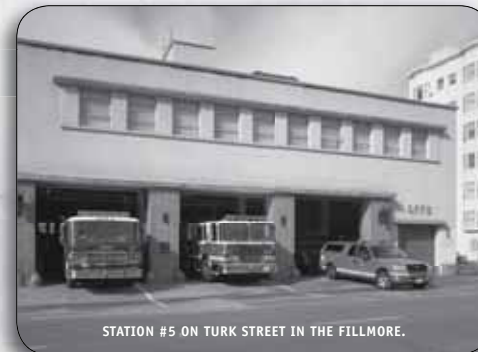
WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE.

There's something smoldering at City Hall — the politicians are talking about budget cuts that would shut down neighborhood firehouses throughout San Francisco on a daily basis.

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■ THIS MONTH

"A Taste of Fillamento: The Art of Display," featuring shadowboxes by Iris Fuller, opens April 18 at the Thomas Reynolds Gallery, 2291 Pine Street, near Fillmore. The exhibition continues on Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons through May 30. For more information, call 441-4093.



A Love Letter to a Store

Five years after Fillamento closed, owner Iris Fuller finally found a way to say goodbye

Sunday, October 15, 2006

Dear Fillamento,

I have wanted to write to you for more than five years. Now is the time.

First of all, I must tell you how very much I miss you. Some might think you were only a building, a location, a business — only a job or a career. But you and I knew it was much more than that. You were a creative extension of my soul. It took me all this time to go through your archives and to find a place that could not be sad for your closing.

You were an amazing place where people grew, loved, and died. Where couples met and fell in love and some got married. Where hidden talents were nurtured and careers were born, and so were a few babies. We sang and danced and laughed and partied with the parade of celebrities that so frequently appeared: Santa, Uncle Sam, the Easter Bunny, Cher.

But the most important people who visited you were the people who would walk in and spend so much time savoring each and every item. I would watch visitors stroke every napkin, touch every piece of flatware, smell every bar of soap. Oh those soaps and lotions and potions on the mezzanine! All those luscious towels and jammies and stuff for the bath.

I think we need all the celebrating we can muster, and no holiday went by that was not celebrated. I remember the day our dear rabbi friend walked in and blew the shofar for the high holidays. What a sound to resonate through your old wooden walls! I remember, on your 13th birthday, we had a huge bat mitzvah cake.

Whether it was a grand formal table setting with dishes so expensive people just looked at them in awe, or an amazing toothpick with a knot at the end, you were the ultimate eye candy. You were the inspiration for many a creative soul.

Sometimes I thought we could pay the rent by just charging admission at the door. Together we were able to reach out to our neighbors and neighborhood and help when we could. You had such a generous heart. And all the seeds we helped to plant! From small items that I would find, or tiny little orders we placed, companies grew and grew to become huge. We were blessed to have the freedom to try all sorts of wonderful products. It was the ultimate treasure hunt.

Buying for you was like going to an art store and buying tubes of paint for our paintings. Sometimes I would be inspired by some obscure item that would lead me into a whole new arena. I loved putting things together to please the eye. Monochromatic colors were — and are — like music to me.

But the best music came from the people

who touched both of us — some for a few hours, others for many years, a few for a lifetime. Whether it was a lovely older woman — one who was 96, to be exact — apologizing for not buying anything, or an eight-year-old boy telling his mom he wanted this special lamp for his room. We appealed to all with a sense of style.

Wherever I go, I run into people who miss you. It is amazing how far and wide we reached and how we are remembered. I loved going to you every day. Some mornings when I was there all by myself, I would play Barbra Streisand so loud the dishes would rattle.

I hope we showed my kids how hard work, passion and love can sustain a life. I wanted them to be proud of their mother. I hope they got that. I remember that when my father passed away at such a young age, I thought he had not had a chance to leave his footprints on the planet — and I wanted to make sure that I did. And I did. We gave the landlord back the keys on my husband Gil's 60th birthday, September 3, 2001. That was one week before 9/11. We definitely were blessed to be able to complete our task in such a timely manner. But then again, I always knew we were blessed.

Well, my dear, we had a great run. There wasn't a day that I didn't want to be there with you. Thank you, beautiful store. I loved you!

/iris

WRITTEN FOR THE "LOVE LETTERS LIVE" RADIO SHOW. MORE INFORMATION: WWW.LOVELETTERSQUAD.COM



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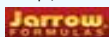
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By JAMES CARBERRY

“I was standing right here when it hit,” says Ed Nahigian, the veteran owner of San Francisco Boot & Shoe Repair, occupying his usual position behind the front counter where he greets customers. It’s the same place he was standing shortly after 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 1989, talking to a customer who had dropped by the shop at 2448 Fillmore Street to pick up his loafers.

A chandelier in his store window suddenly started to vibrate. He knew in a nanosecond what was happening.

“I think we’re having an earthquake,” he told his customer.

Nahigian turned to alert his 12-year-old son and an employee in the back of the shop. A wall was undulating as if invisible waves were coursing through it. Fearful that the building might collapse, he shouted for everyone to get out of the store.

Seconds after they were outside, the earthquake ended as suddenly as it had started. The building was still standing, and the store had not been damaged. Other buildings on Fillmore Street also seemed to be intact.

A woman who had parked in front of the shop turned up her radio, and people gathered around to listen to the news. There was a report of fires in the Marina.

NAHIGIAN hurried up Fillmore to Broadway to look down on the Marina. Sure enough, fires had broken out and some apartment buildings and a number of homes were severely damaged. Nahigian ran back down Fillmore to report what he had seen. By the time he got back to the shop, he was exhausted and feeling a little nauseous. It began to sink in that he had just lived through an earthquake.

As night came on, news reports made clear that there had been extensive earthquake damage in the Bay Area. Part of the Bay Bridge had collapsed, as had part of the Nimitz Freeway in Oakland. Earthquake damage had forced the closure of the Embarcadero Freeway, which would later be torn down. The earthquake struck just as third game of the World Series was about to begin, and the San Francisco Giants and Oakland Athletics would wait to play another day. Because the Series was broadcast globally, people all



Still Standing

Longtime Fillmore cobbler Ed Nahigian recalls the 1989 earthquake and its fallout

Classes offer training for the next one

A six-week series of Neighborhood Emergency Response Team classes will begin April 13 at St. Mary the Virgin Church, located at Union and Steiner Streets. Another six-week series will start April 30 in the Parish Hall at St. Dominic's Church at Bush and Steiner Streets. To learn more about the training and register online, visit www.sfgov.org/sfdnert, or call 970-2024.

over the world saw the earthquake live on television.

As he had done many times before, Nahigian locked up his store and went home for the night. On Wednesday morning he returned to the shop, although there was no business to be done. The power was out, and the phones were dead.

As the day progressed, the neighborhood filled with people. “Everybody wanted to be outside with other people,” Nahigian says. “We were all hugging one another — we realized how fortunate we were.”

Early Thursday morning the power came on, and phone service later was restored. Gradually life began to return to normal on Fillmore Street and elsewhere. But it would be a long time before the Bay Area fully recovered from the Loma Prieta earthquake, which originated in Santa Cruz County, lasted about 15 seconds and measured 6.9 on the Richter scale.

is offered periodically throughout the city. A new series of training programs will begin this month in the Fillmore and in Cow Hollow. (See sidebar.)

DESPITE THE memories of the 1989 earthquake and the constant threat of another one, Ed Nahigian remains glad he set up shop in the neighborhood.

Born and raised in the Central Valley, he learned the shoe repair business from his parents. He had always dreamed of living in San Francisco, so when his parents moved to Marin County, he started scouting out neighborhoods in San Francisco where he might open a business.

One day he was driving through the Marina and came to the foot of Fillmore Street.

“I turned right at a Colonel Sanders and drove up Fillmore, wondering whether my VW would make it up the hill,” he says. He found a shoe store on Fillmore Street, took over from a previous tenant, renovated the shop and opened for business. That was in 1980, and his store is now one of the oldest on Fillmore Street.

Nahigian has seen many changes in the neighborhood, where he both lives and works. “There used to be a lot of professional people in their 40s or older — they would pack the downtown buses every weekday morning,” he says. “While there are still a lot of professionals here, they are younger, and there are more families with young children living in the neighborhood.”

Nahigian says he has stayed in business for so long by providing superior customer service.

“I use the best materials, and I decline to do certain types of work, like leather bags,” he says. His business has changed over time. “My work used to be equally divided between men’s and women’s shoes,” he said. “Now it’s almost 90 percent women’s work.”

He says he has learned to accept life’s inevitable changes. “You don’t know what tomorrow will bring,” Nahigian says, “but you can appreciate and enjoy what you have.”

Early most mornings, Nahigian walks from home to his store, which is open every day except Sunday. He lives near St. Dominic’s Church, whose tower was severely damaged in the 1989 earthquake, and later repaired, shortened and strengthened.

Now, nearly 20 years after the earthquake, St. Dominic’s will be the location of a series of classes to train citizens how to be prepared for an earthquake or other emergency.

ART in a CUP

Baristas with an artistic flair work their magic at the Grove

By BARBARA KATE REPA

AT THE GROVE, at 2016 Fillmore, customers get more than latte in their cups. They get the sun and the moon. Or a flower. Or a fire-breathing dragon.

Manager Dave Harmon says the Grove always served a good cup of coffee, but he wanted a way to give customers more, to stand out from the crowd of coffee joints on the street. So a couple of years ago, he flew to Portland to attend a school offering special training in latte art — figures, flowers and fauna that baristas can pour and paint onto the foam.

Harmon found the training — in a large room lined with gleaming espresso machines — to be intimidating at first. But now that he’s mastered latte art, he requires all eight of the Grove’s baristas to be able to craft the artistic caffeine creations. “Every latte gets a piece of art,” he says. “Cappuccinos usually have a design, too.”

He favors the Italian style of latte art, which he says



Noted attorney — and photographer — Monte Travis discovered a masterpiece in his mocha one recent morning and made its portrait.

uses the perfect blend of steamed milk in the mix. “The milk is silky,” he says. “When you pour, the espresso goes through it. Not like the French way, where it’s just the more foam, the better.”

There’s a certain alchemy involved in getting the milk to just the right temperature, the coffee grind perfectly adjusted to the humidity in the air, the cup tilted just so. “You can’t do the design unless you do everything right,” Harmon says. “It’s kind of magical.”

Harmon says most latte artists begin by learning to make a heart by carefully pouring and dragging the foamy milk in the center of a cup. “Then inspiration takes over,” he says, revealing that he can do a very respectable fire-breathing dragon.

But he concedes the “total star” at the Grove is Antonio Lopez, who approaches each steaming cup with steely concentration, first pouring a perfect round of foam, then using the tip of a thermometer to embellish

the features on a face, dipping periodically into a cup of foam as a palette. “He can do the U.N. symbol, too,” says Harmon.

Enriquez Pacheco specializes in leaves. Angel Lopez, Antonio’s brother, does intricate florals.

Harmon says it wasn’t easy to get coffee quaffers to change their allegiances from other neighborhood purveyors at first, even with the promise of art in the cup. “People are habitual, especially in the morning,” he says. “But when we get them once, they come back.” Now regular customers request a particular barista.

It is kind of magical.

“Oh, that’s so cute,” says one delighted customer, eyeing the monkey in her cappuccino cup. “Next time, will you make a sun for me?”

Her friend peers into the cup and lets out a coo. “Oooh, I’m gonna need one of those, too,” she says. “I love monkeys.”

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Michael Bloom, SF Chronicle Food Critic

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One Tequila, Two Tequila, Three Tequila, Floor!

No more — now it's for hip sipping

By JOANNE WEIR

IT ALL STARTED several years ago when an invitation arrived in my mailbox on Pine Street beckoning me to the launch of a spiffy new tequila in a sexy square bottle. It was to take place at Tommy's, the well-known tequila bar out on Geary. Julio Bermejo, owner and ambassador of tequila, was behind the bar, pouring the most delicious 100 percent blue agave tequila.

At the event, it was mostly men who were sniffing and swirling their glasses of tequila. But the few women who were there were just as enthusiastic.

I discovered that night that women love tequila just as much as men. They go out with their girlfriends for margaritas, and they also savor tequila straight-up with meals, drink it slowly from a snifter and enjoy it mixed into new, innovative, seasonal cocktails. I was thrilled by the camaraderie among these women and pleased to learn that I wasn't the only one



Here's one of the drinks I invented in honor of Shirley Temple, the curly-haired dancer, and the drink I loved as a kid. It was a cool thing to order then because it made me feel more adult. Now that I am older, I want a more adult drink, so I thought up this one. It will make your hair curl.

Surly Temple
1 ½ ounces anejo tequila
¾ ounce freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 ½ ounces grenadine
4 ounces soda water
2 thin whole slices of lemon

Place the tequila, lemon juice, grenadine, soda water and ice in a shaker and stir 15 seconds. Fill a tall glass with ice. Press the lemon slices down into the glass. Strain the drink into the glass. Serve with a couple of tall straws.
Serves one.

out there who liked a beverage that had long been considered the domain of men.

Tequila has been transformed from "One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor!" to the preferred libation of the hip, urban professional who enjoys it for sipping. Who ever thought that we'd be doing out 20 bucks for a shot?

People are drinking tequila for more occasions and experimenting with new labels outside the established names. They're learning that 100 percent agave tequila is pretty special stuff. And that there's a tequila for everyone: blanco, reposado and anejo, extra anejo, highlands and lowlands.

It came to me that tequila had an alter ego, a more sophisticated, more complex side and I wasn't the only one who was curious about it. So I created a group

called Agave Girls to help women share their enthusiasm for fine tequila and to dispel the myth that a night of drinking it inevitably leads to a morning of regret and aspirin. We'd grown up — and just like tequila, we wanted to be taken seriously.

What started as a few women sitting around sipping anejo developed into a group of several hundred very enthusiastic women who not only like tequila, but appreciate its range and nuances. It didn't take much to get these women excited about tequila and Agave Girls. All I did was ask the simple question — "Do you like tequila?" — and the list of women kept growing.

Agave Girls now hosts a wide range of events from tequila seminars — I've even held one right here on Pine — to tequila-and-food-pairing events and excursions to

Mexico. All support the group's mission: bringing professional women together in a noncompetitive atmosphere to learn about this oft-misunderstood spirit.

Tequila, very simply put, is made from the blue agave plant. It takes eight to 12 years to mature. When the piña is ripe, it is picked, cut up and steamed for 48 hours in huge ovens called hornos. It is minced and washed, then strained to extract the aguame. This liquid, called mosto, is then ready to be fermented in large stainless steel or wooden vats. It is distilled twice; the first run is called blanco. This is the purest expression of what the tequila maker is trying to do.

If a distiller ages tequila in oak barrels between two months and 12 months, it is called reposado. Tequila aged between one year and three is called anejo. Extra anejo is any tequila aged longer than three years. These can set you back a few hundred dollars.

A few of my very favorites are sold right here at D&M Liquors on Fillmore Street. Try the 7 Leguas and El Tesoro. There's also a new tequila on the market called Ocho, the first to be produced during a single vintage and in a single field. Another favorite is Chinaco, available in blanco, reposado and anejo.

With such momentum and enthusiasm for the subject, I was inspired to write a tequila primer, *Tequila: A Guide to Types, Flights, Cocktails and Bites*, which has just been released. It includes 25 recipes for delicious food to pair with tequila and 35 cocktails from the best tequila bartenders in the country — several from right here in San Francisco, and a few by yours truly.

By ANNE PAPROCKI

INSPIRED BY the desire for a healthy choice among the hundreds of bottled beverages on the shelves, Pacific Heights resident Kara Goldin has started her own company, Hint Essence Water — purified water with "just a hint" of flavor from concentrated fruit and herbs.

"It's just water that tastes better," she says.

Goldin, who has four children between the ages of 3 and 10, was pregnant with her youngest when she hit upon the concept.

"I was looking through the cupboards at home," she says. "And I kept seeing trans fats and ingredients like sorbitates in my food. It's one thing for me to eat that way, but I decided it just wasn't fair to subject my children to that stuff."

While Goldin grew up in Arizona on a diet that included land, living here has completely changed her palate.

"Here in San Francisco, whether you go to a fancy restaurant or a dive joint, the quality of the food and the flavors are so pure," she says.

Goldin maintains that San Francisco residents are exposed to so much food with fresh ingredients that they make the best taste testers. "Wine, water, food — whatever it is — here, we understand it," she says.

While fresh local flavors inspire Goldin's water, she hopes the drinks will have wide appeal. Two of the company's new offerings, hibiscus vanilla and honeydew hibiscus, were created with the Latino consumer in mind.



Here's a Hint

If you're looking for bottled water with a San Francisco twist, a local company can help

"Growing up in Arizona, I was exposed to the Hispanic culture," she says. "Hibiscus is a flavor you can find in Miami and Arizona, but not as much in San Francisco or New York."

And while flavor and taste are important, Goldin also emphasizes that drinking Hint is a healthy habit.

"A lot of us have no idea what we're putting in our bodies," she says. "We want to change the way people view beverages. We're all about health." Goldin points to testimonials she has received from diabetics, Weight Watchers, athletes and concerned mothers telling how Hint has helped them and their children kick the soda habit.

This month, Goldin is launching Hint Kids, which will feature the same water with fluoride added. She hopes

the "grab and go" pack will replace sugary soda and juices as the drink of choice for children, and she would like to start partnerships with local schools.

The product got celebrity boosts when heartthrobs Colin Farrell and Rob Lowe were photographed swigging it. Hint has also appeared on television shows such as *Grey's Anatomy*, *Boston Legal* and *CSI*.

The company is also working with Disney, which chose to advertise its movie Santa Claus III on Hint bottles. Two new Disney releases coming out this year will also be marketed on bottles of Hint. Goldin says she is excited about the partnership, both because Disney chose Hint "as a product they could really stand behind" and because "they have a much louder voice than Hint, so it's great for us to get the publicity."

Lately, bottled water has received bad press, villainized as unhealthy for the environment because of its plastic packaging. Goldin claims that has not detracted from her Hint's success, both because they encourage the recycling of their bottles and because the clear plastic used for Hint's bottles is free of objectionable chemicals found in others.

Despite the economic downturn, Goldin says Hint's business is growing — especially close to home. She anticipates that San Francisco could overtake New York City as the biggest consumer of Hint products by this summer.

Whole Foods, Mollie Stone's and Real Foods are among the neighborhood stores that currently stock Hint.

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BODY & SOUL

Resource Center Offers a Path to Healthier Living

By ERIN TARICA

NEIGHBORHOOD resident Pura, 67, takes her usual seat in the back of the room when she attends health education classes at the Community Health Resource Center, located on the first floor of the medical building at Webster and Clay. "This is where I like to sit," she says, "This is where I can concentrate and take it all in."

The medical field intrigues Pura, so she regularly attends lectures on breast cancer, weight loss and caregiving. After the presentations, she joins other participants in asking questions about lowering her cholesterol level and the benefits of exercise and keeping her mind engaged.

"I want to absorb as much information as I can so that I can apply the practical facts to my life," she says.

For Mildred, now 81, the lectures on topics such as osteoarthritis and vascular disease help her manage the effects of her hip and knee replacement surgeries. Since her retirement more than 12 years ago, classes at the center have been a part of her routine — helping her keep up on the latest developments in pain management, coping with vision loss and preventing aortic aneurysms.



"With the health care system these days, the more you know about yourself, your body and your illnesses, the better off you are."

For more than 20 years, the resource center — a nonprofit affiliated with California Pacific Medical Center — has offered interested residents of all ages, but especially seniors such as Pura and Mildred, an array of health services and information. In addition to lectures on various topics offered throughout the year on a donation basis, the center offers nutrition counseling, short and long-term psychotherapy and other services on a sliding scale from free to \$80.

There are also several support groups, including groups for caregivers and stroke

survivors, plus health screenings for blood pressure, bone density and cholesterol.

The services are focused on preventing and managing diseases, getting good nutrition and managing weight by using emotional and informational resources.

"With the health care system these days," says Mildred, "the more you know about yourself, your body and your illnesses, the better off you are."

Pura agrees. "I see the center as an extension of my health care," she says. "If I hadn't attended the lectures for such a long time, I wouldn't be so updated on all the

things that I need to be aware of in order to maintain my health and my weight."

She says she now understands how to read food labels, stay away from hydrogenated fats and be aware of the amounts of sodium in packaged foods.

Both Pura and Mildred walk daily in the neighborhood and believe in the benefits of exercise in preventing and managing disease and aging well.

For many patients, brief office visits with doctors or nurses focus on only one element such as prognosis or treatment options. Rarely do they learn how to prevent chronic diseases such as diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

A lecture at the resource center on lung cancer or macular degeneration, for example, addresses a comprehensive overview of the diseases, including prevention, risk factors, signs, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment. Classes such as "Essentials of Senior Fitness" and "Weight Loss: What Does it Take?" focus on the importance of diet and exercise in maintaining good health. The classes include time for questions, allowing participants to be a part of their care.

For Pura, this is important. She wants to be "knowledgeable and up-to-date about everything that pertains to the medical profession because it affects my physical and mental health," she says. "As a senior, I don't want to be left behind."

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER is located at 2100 Webster Street, Suite 100. To find out more about its services and lectures, call 923-3155 or visit www.cpmc.org/chrc.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking \$	Sale \$
2674 Lombard St	2	1	1	1250	4-Mar	995,000	995,000
135 Locust St	4	3.5	2	2150	20-Feb	2,998,000	3,000,000
2580 Broadway	3	3	2		19-Feb	4,200,000	4,000,000
3388 Clay St	6	4.5	2	5184	6-Mar	4,980,000	4,980,000
3355 Pacific Ave	6	7.75	2		27-Feb	8,900,000	Not Disclosed

Condos/Co-ops/TICs/Lofts	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking \$	Sale \$
1945 Washington St #304	2	2	1	977	6-Mar	719,000	700,000
2155 Buchanan St #9	2	1	1		26-Feb	885,000	925,000
2046 Greenwich St #3	3	2	1		18-Feb	1,249,000	1,275,000
3328 California St #3	4	3	1	2130	18-Feb	1,475,000	1,450,000
1940 Broadway #1W	3	2	2	1924	19-Feb	1,995,000	1,850,000



The renovated Victorian at 2016 Buchanan, right, is now on the market. It and its sister property on the left were designed by the architect who designed St. Ignatius Church.

Local sales down 65% from last year

The number of sales during the past month increased just slightly, from nine to 10 properties. However, we are still well below the number of sales recorded during the same time last year, when 31 properties closed. This is more than a 65 percent decrease in volume. The change can largely be attributed to buyers' fears about the state of the economy. With so much uncertainty, there is little sense of urgency in the market and buyers are not coming forward with offers unless the properties are well priced and very much in line with what they are looking for. Housing supply continues to run well ahead of last year, with 172 current listings in the neighborhood, compared to 115 at this point last year.

Last month, 3355 Pacific — a truly grand 6-bedroom, 7.75-bath home on the Presidio wall — went into contract and has since sold. There were four offers and, while it sold at an undisclosed price, it reportedly closed above the asking price. A substantial but less grand 6-bedroom home at 3388 Clay Street came on the market in early February and immediately received an offer. It closed at the asking price of \$4.98 million. In fact, almost all the properties that closed during the past month were on the market for fewer than 30 days. The two exceptions were 2155 Buchanan #9, which sold after three and a half months on the market, and 1940 Broadway #1W, which came on the market in mid-September and finally sold more than five months later.

NEW LISTINGS: A couple of impressive homes have come onto the market in recent days: 3750 Washington is a substantial 6-bedroom Presidio Heights home that has been in the same family for several generations. The kitchen has been updated and there are impressive views from the upper levels of the home toward the Marin Headlands and the Golden Gate Bridge. It was just listed at \$5.6 million. An extensively remodeled 3-bedroom Victorian at 2016 Buchanan was just listed at \$2.495 million. Along with its sister property at 2018 Buchanan, it was designed by J.I. Devlin, who also designed St. Ignatius Church. It has a three-car garage and is detached on three sides, allowing for a light-filled home.

FOR SENIORS: For those age 62 and over, there are two units available at the Carlisle, the retirement home at 1450 Post Street. A junior 1-bedroom, #509, is listed at \$249,500, with a monthly fee of \$3,084. A 1-bedroom, 2-bath unit, #409, is listed at \$355,000, with a monthly fee of \$3,821.

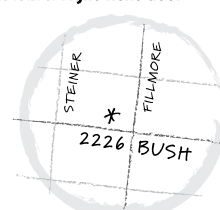
— Data and commentary provided by JOHN FITZGERALD, a partner in the Byzantium Brokerage and agent at Pacific Union. Contact him at jfitzgerald@pacunion.com or call 345-3034.

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May 12, 2009	Joseph Lee Recreation Center	11:00am-12:00pm	1308 Divisadero Ave	3	\$10.00
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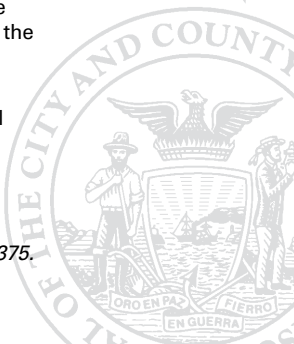
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This Year, a Georgian Showcase

By JAN LACKMAN

IN APRIL of 1910, the *San Francisco Chronicle* heralded a building revival in the city, proclaiming, "Twin magnificent brick residences are to be built at once in the most fashionable part of Pacific Heights. These houses are typical . . . of the more elegant homes now going up in San Francisco."

These Georgian brick twins were designed by a little-known architect, Nathaniel Blaisdell, who had begun his career in the office of Clinton Day before striking out on his own in 1897. The western twin, at 2830 Pacific Avenue — this year's Decorator Showcase — was commissioned by George Lingard Payne. Payne had already hired Blaisdell to design his manufacturing plant, Payne Bolt Works, the only source of carriage bolts on the Pacific coast.

Successful in business, the 51-year-old Payne could afford to spend an estimated \$42,500 for a stately mansion with Oregon pine floors and redwood walls. The house boasted modern conveniences, including one of the first Otis elevators, laundry and trash chutes and two substantial Herman safes — one in the basement, now a wine cellar, and another in the kitchen, convenient for storing silver. It also featured a ground floor ballroom, a landscaped garden terrace and an unusual side driveway, commodious enough for up to 10 vehicles, leading to a rear garage.

When George and Barbara Payne took up residence at 2830 Pacific, their household included five children, a chauffeur, a cook and four lodgers. Like most of San Fran-



DAVID JOHNSON/INVESTOR

The 2009 Decorator Showcase begins April 25 and continues through May 25 at 2830 Pacific Avenue. For more information, call 447-3115 or visit www.decoratorshowcase.org.

cisco society, they lived in the city only during the winter season. Summers found them across the bay in sunnier Mill Valley, where their eldest son, Lingard, manager of his father's company, met and proposed marriage to "one of the prettiest of a bevy of attractive Hamlin graduates," Ethel Ellery. Unfortunately, shortly after announcements of the betrothal had been mailed, George Jr. was forced to announce "with some display of feeling that he was not engaged to Miss Ellery." One year later, he drowned in the Russian river "in full view of his parents, who stood on shore, powerless to aid him."

Still, the family was able to rejoice the following year when daughter Marie married the son of the well-known Bliss family. The ceremony took place in the library of 2830 Pacific.

After her husband's death, Barbara Payne remained in

the house with her daughter's family until 1954, a total of 44 years. She sold the house to one of San Francisco's most colorful figures, 52-year-old interior designer Clarence "Clary" Slade, a partner in Regency House Imports and co-founder of historic Jackson Square. Slade transformed the somewhat staid domicile into a miniature palace, painting the main staircase, shutters and floors a startling black with life-sized black line drawings of Roman statues on the stark white dining room walls.

Slade's 1977 obituary paid tribute to his consummate skill as a party host. Many of his memorable affairs took place in his Pacific Avenue home, where he was known to literally roll out a small red carpet for guests and bedeck the house with candles in sparkling crystal chandeliers. He didn't need a compelling reason to throw a soiree; once he threw a fete "in honor of a new chandelier."

In 1964, Slade sold the home to Kenneth Sayre, a successful stockbroker and later CEO of Irving Lundborg and Co., which would become Paine Webber. Sayre had been living in Atherton until his second marriage to Shirley Zumwalt. With their boisterous blended family of six children, they occupied the house for only one year. When he was transferred to New York City, he sold the house to Hartley and Helen "Nellie" Cravens, themselves parents of five children under the age of eight. Hartley managed his family's insurance business. Nellie, who had grown up across the street, in 1985 became a professional actress, performing in stage, film and television productions.

Current owners Wilford and Anna Hoover had lived in Berkeley for many years when their daughter became a student at University High School. One day, after dropping Ali at school, Anna saw a "for sale" sign at 2830. She brought Will back and they purchased the place immediately. During their 15 years there, they have hosted concerts, poetry readings and political fundraisers, as well as Ali's wedding to a fellow University High graduate.

Continuing the tradition of theatricality on Pacific Avenue, actor Don Johnson filmed three episodes of *Nash Bridges* in the home. In one, a murdered boy is discovered in the elevator and George Hamilton is arrested in the dining room.

RESALE SHOPS

Will This Performance Be Repeated?

Quartet will appear at symphony store April 19

By KAREN SCHOENBERG

IN KEEPING with its new charge to re-connect retail and *raison d'être*, a quartet of chamber musicians from the San Francisco Symphony's acclaimed Youth Orchestra will play at its Repeat Performance resale boutique this month.

In its first-ever performance in a San Francisco neighborhood, the ensemble will present Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* in the store's music corner.

The store, at 2436 Fillmore, is usually closed on Sundays, but will open its doors on April 19 from 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for shopping — at a 15 percent discount — plus refreshments and the intimate concert from noon to 1 p.m. The price of entry is the donation of a music-related item.

Since its 2007 makeover under the direction of store manager Paul Delucchi, Repeat Performance has transformed itself into a creatively merchandised boutique with carefully screened and selected one-of-a-kind merchandise, including men's and women's fashion, jewelry and accessories, classic and modern home accessories, art, books, music and more.



"People check often to find something they didn't know they needed until they found it," Delucchi says.

Recent customers have found rare items including a fine bone china service for 12, Murano and Lalique glass sculpture, a pair of French table lamps, antique picture frames and a show-stopping chandelier. Others have found vintage sheet music and classic vinyl since the shop has begun strengthening its connections to the symphony and the music world.

The resale shop, which has been in business on Fillmore since 1972, has attracted a growing group of contributors whose flow of donations keeps the store well stocked.

All through the recent changes, its corps of dedicated volunteers has remained loyal. Some of the 35 volunteers have logged

more than three decades at the store — helping customers, displaying merchandise and organizing and preparing donations for sale.

Volunteers say they keep working because they feel appreciated and can contribute to the symphony by giving their time and energy. Some like the contact with customers, as well as the friendly environment and camaraderie with other volunteers. And a few are honest enough to acknowledge that the volunteer discount is an attractive element of their personal clothing and household budgets. Many also donate merchandise and find it rewarding to help find its new owner.

The diversity of the volunteers adds to the shop's eclectic vibe.

Elizabeth Bell, 89, has worked at the



Among the dedicated volunteers at the symphony's Repeat Performance resale shop are Joyce Frankenberg, left, and Elizabeth Bell, above, who manages the men's department.

store every Monday morning for nearly 37 years. She also swims laps daily and plays the violin and viola. Her father was a tailor who taught her about fabrics and sewing. She now manages the men's department — personally inspecting, sorting, pricing and overseeing the ever-changing inventory.

Peter Buck, another regular volunteer, enjoys the freedom of using his artistic skills in building displays. He knew the staff before he volunteered because his mother was a long-time volunteer and donor.

The store even has its own volunteer librarian, Marie Tilson, a bibliophile who was formerly a professional librarian. She evaluates and manages book donations.

"Changes happen," says Delucchi, "but it's the volunteers who really keep this place together."

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