

BODY & SOUL

Zen and the art  
of the public bath

PAGE 7



NEW NEIGHBOR

Java joint opens  
in jazz district

PAGE 10



REAL ESTATE

Local home sales  
bouncing back

PAGE 14

# THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ JUNE 2009



*"The express line is the spot that's just clicked for me. The truth is, I'm like an entertainer. When they get on stage, they get energized. When I get to work, I'm ready to go."*

— JAMES CALVIN MOORE SR.

## Life IN THE Express Line

When James Moore retires  
at the end of the month,  
the neighbors will notice

By BARBARA KATE REPA

SOME OF THE LIGHT will leave Mollie Stone's at the end of this month. On June 30, James Calvin Moore Sr. — just James to his many admirers — will retire from the neighborhood grocery after 31 years at the store.

"Your body tells you when to retire, not your mind," says James, who at 66 seems as spry and chipper as always, dispensing high-fives, fist-bumps and good humor along with receipts in the store's express line.

James — it seems impossible to call him anything else — says he's not sure what he'll do on July 1, his first day of retirement. "I haven't figured that out yet. I'm going to watch TV as late as I can the night before — and hope I don't wake up at 4 a.m.," he says. "I'm not a hobby person. Not a fix-it man. I'm an opinion man. I've got plenty of opinions."

His plan is to stay right here in the neighborhood. "I've got my place all picked out — a bench at Fillmore and O'Farrell," he says. "I'm just going to sit over there and give my opinions all day."

He'll still be a local fixture, he says.

"I go up to Fillmore and California, then turn the corner and go back down to Fillmore and McAllister. I call that my square," he says. "You can meet everyone you know in those blocks."

Most Saturday mornings, he makes it a point to pass through the Fillmore Farmers Market at the Fillmore Center on his way to work. "I always tell folks, 'Go over there to the Fillmore produce market if you haven't seen someone in a long time,'" he says. "You run into everybody there. And you can listen to some good music, too."

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHI O'LEARY

TO PAGE 3 ►

## Fillmore Hardware

Go green with style.



More than a hardware store

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



Who could resist the sweet furrowed brow of John-John, a one-year-old Chihuahua mix who loves to play. Quite the fancy-pants, John-John is looking for a mellow home and family, possibly with a feline friend or dog of a similar disposition — and maybe even an older kid or two. John-John would love guardians ready to go to doggie class, take strolls around the neighborhood, and understand the sweet, gentle boy he is. Sound like love? Meet John-John today!



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

## FURTHERMORE



"Jazz Land," a mural by Santie Huckaby, adorns the Fillmore Street Cafe.

## About That Mural — and Muralist

SANTIE HUCKABY lives in the Western Addition and has spent 50 years bringing art and music into the lives of people in this community and all of San Francisco.

As a fine artist, Santie specializes in mural-making, including the one in the Fillmore Street Cafe seen on the cover of the May issue of the *New Fillmore*. The omission of his name in the credits for the article about coffeehouses in the Fillmore prompted me to complain to the editors. I am happy to correct this wrong by writing about Santie and his public artworks.

The title of Santie's mural at the Fillmore Street Cafe is *Jazz Land*. It was painted in 1997 and has provided coffee drinkers and computer users — locals and visitors — a sense of Santie's powerful vision, which permeates the walls of this neighborhood.

Santie's mural at Post and Steiner on the Hamilton Recreation Center is titled *Evolution of the Blues*. Santie completed this monumental artwork in 2004. It depicts blues greats Fats Waller, Billie Holiday, Cab Calloway, T-Bone Walker, B.B. King, John Lee Hooker, Louie Jordan, Memphis Minnie, Dina Washington and many others, including living legend Jimmy McCracken.

At Rosa Parks Elementary School at O'Farrell and Webster, his mural, *The Life and Power of Rosa Parks*, celebrates her contributions as a civil rights leader, as well as family and

intergenerational interactions. At Golden Gate Elementary School, located at Turk and Pierce, you can see another large-scale mural by Santie and artists from Culture on the Corner, which included local muralist Eustine Smith. Titled *The Grandmother Mural*, this work portrays grandmothers and how they relate to youth as guides and mentors and how they serve as a bridge between generations — hence the large image of the Golden Gate Bridge in the mural.

Other murals outside the Fillmore created by Santie can be seen in several places in Bayview-Hunters Point.

Santie has worked with me in the children's mural program, mentoring hundreds of youth in this longstanding program that teaches art and environmental science — especially the cleanup and reuse of Hunters Point shipyard. Santie has a studio in Building 101, being renovated as part of the massive redevelopment project now under way after decades of planning and environmental remediation. Visit Santie's studio during the biannual open studios, or call him directly for commissioned murals and portraits at 775-3243.

Santie's life as a drummer is another story that must be told, but not today.

HEIDI HARDIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
THINK ROUND INC.

## THE NEW FILLMORE

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

Editors Barbara Kate Repa & Thomas R. Reynolds  
Production Ginny Lindsay Proofreader Donna Gillespie

Advertising inquiries [ads@newfillmore.com](mailto:ads@newfillmore.com) or 415 / 441-6070  
Published on the first weekend of each month. Deadline: 20th of prior month  
Subscriptions by mail are available for \$30 per year. Please send a check.

### 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](http://www.NewFillmore.com)  
Comments and letters about neighborhood issues are welcome there, too.

## He's Leaving the Fast Line at the End of the Month

► FROM PAGE ONE

James Moore came to San Francisco from Stephens, Arkansas, in 1962 looking for a job, drawn because his mother, Eunice, lived here. Now 83, she still lives in the neighborhood. Beyond that, he's private about his personal life, allowing only that he's had "a lot of wives and a lot of children."

He got his first job — cleaning meat counters at Westlake Shopping Center — through a friend of the family and has stayed in the grocery business ever since, doing some of everything — working stock, unloading trucks, sweeping out the back room — and, for most of the last three decades, working at the checkstand.

"I always worked for a small company — no Safeway for me," he says. "It's more like family that way."

After a stint with QFI, which was later acquired by Cala Foods, he came to the Grand Central Market on California near Fillmore in June 1978.

"I was just lucky to be in the right place at the right time," he says.

Rich Moresco, who owned the Grand Central before selling to Mollie Stone's a decade ago, hired James.

"It was the smartest thing I ever did," Moresco says. "Jimmy's always been a gentleman. He's never had a bad word about anyone."

His former boss says James still gives him a gift every year on Father's Day.

"Every time I come in there, he can't thank me enough for hiring him," says Moresco. "He's one in a million."

"The store is it for me," James says, "my customers, my family, my everything."

Spend a few minutes with him on the street and it's clear he knows everybody in the neighborhood. He keeps up a constant patter, calling out greetings to nearly every passerby.

"Good morning. You doing alright today?"

"You keeping busy this morning?"

"Good morning, sweetheart, how you feeling today?" he says to an elderly woman on a walker, who looks up from the sidewalk and beams back. "Never better, sugar."

"Wasn't that a great game last night?" he



### Put in a good word

Have a favorite story about James Moore and his special touch in the express line? Email editors@newfillmore.com — or drop us a note.

## How's Your Mother?

AFTER MY father died, my mother came out from Wisconsin for her first solo visit. We took in her favorite local spots — hunting for bargains in the thrift shops, lunching at Vivande, admiring the cats up for adoption at Pets Unlimited — then made a run through Mollie Stone's to pick up the makings for soup.

Of course we had to go through the express line to say hello to James. He somehow intuited the fragility of her fresh widowhood, even before she burst into tears and told him my father had died.

"Let's have coffee tomorrow morning," he suggested. The next morning, my mother was aflutter, worrying whether she had picked the right blouse and urging me to come along.

I stood firm: "No, mom, he asked you."  
And so she went.

asks a fellow wearing a Cubs cap, then confides that he's not much of a sports fan anymore. "The players these days, they're just out there to pose for the camera," he says. "I liked the old sports — the guys who came along when I came along."

But it's inside Mollie Stone's, in the express line — reserved at least theoretically for shoppers with fewer than a dozen items — where James has been a neighborhood fixture for as long as anyone can remember.

"That's the spot that's just clicked for me," he says. "You hear a lot. You learn a lot. A lot of people come through there. And I just like people."

"The truth is, I'm like an entertainer," he says. "When they get on stage, they get energized. When I get to work, I'm just ready to go."

He says he'll still be a familiar face

at Mollie Stone's, even after he retires. "I'll be going there the rest of my life," he says. "I have to mess with all those folk. I worked with for so long. That will be the fun part."

His longtime co-workers are not looking forward to his retirement, for several reasons. They all echo the sentiment that Lorain in the meat department expresses. "I'll miss him, that's for sure," she says. "He always takes time out to help everyone else here."

Also on the minds of his fellow cashiers is the concern that they might have to take over the express line.

"I hate it," says Nel, another longtime cashier. "People are supposed to be limited to 12 items or less, but they act like asses — loading up."

"Somehow," she says, "James is able to save the whole thing with his sense of

She and James talked for nearly an hour before his shift began — about their lives and their histories, the weather here vs. there, the difficulties of raising kids. When she came home, she was something she hadn't been in a while: almost happy again, with a spring back in her step.

To this day, many years later, when I come through the express line, James never fails to ask, "How's your mother doing? Tell her I said hello."

As for so many others, James's gentle kindness left a lasting impression on my mom. We talk on the phone nearly every day, and she often asks, "How is James?" In her book, the express line at Mollie Stone's holds more attraction than the Golden Gate Bridge.

Now 88, my mother sent a note when she learned that James is retiring. She wrote: "I will never forget that he bought me an early morning coffee one time — and I basked in his sunshine."

— BARBARA KATE REPA

humor. And he's just so kind. He bought me my first discount Muni pass on my birthday when I became a senior. Now we laugh because he's got one, too."

Allen, who has checked at the registers alongside James for many years, still marvels at his cheerful disposition.

"James always has a pleasant word for all the customers — even the grumpy ones," he says. "We could all learn a lesson from that."

"I don't want a party," James says as he enters his final month. "I'm too teary-eyed. I want to walk away quietly — just sort of ride into the sunset. It's been beautiful to me — Grand Central, Mollie Stone's. They were the best."

He has just one request: "Don't quit coming to Mollie Stone's. I need my retirement check."

### Congratulations, James!

45 years ago, when I was 19 years old and 9 1/2 months pregnant, I stepped into Mick's Supermarket on Clement Street to buy groceries. As I left, a friendly busboy with a heart of gold saw me struggling with my bags and offered to walk me home. I have loved James Moore ever since — long before he came to the express line at Mollie Stone's, even before Fillmore came and went. Enjoy your retirement!

Iris Fuller



ONE MORE TASTE OF

## Fillamento

From the Archives: Shadowboxes by Iris Fuller

CLOSING RECEPTION Sunday, May 31, from 3 to 5 pm

THOMAS REYNOLDS GALLERY  
[WWW.THOMASREYNOLDS.COM](http://WWW.THOMASREYNOLDS.COM)

2291 Pine Street at Fillmore ■ San Francisco, CA 94115 ■ 441-4093





## CALIFORNIA SHELL AUTO SERVICE & REPAIR

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

EUROPEAN • JAPANESE • AMERICAN

**Fast, Friendly & Guaranteed**

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



*Neja*  
Cosmetics

Enhancing your natural beauty

### SERVICES PROVIDED

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

Facial and waxing appointments  
before 12 noon by appointment only

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



MURETA'S ANTIQUES

We Buy & Sell Antique Jewelry

2418 Fillmore Street • 415.922.5652  
Between Washington & Jackson  
Tuesday through Sunday 12pm to 6pm

## St. Dominic's Catholic Church



### MASS

**SUNDAY**  
5:30 pm (Saturday Vigil)  
7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am  
1:30, 5:30 & 9:00 pm

**WEEKDAYS**  
6:30 & 8:00 am & 5:30 pm

**SATURDAY**  
7:40 am Rosary, 8:00 am Mass

**PRAYERS & SACRAMENTS**

The church is open for prayer all day  
and into the early evening.

**Liturgy of the Hours (Daily)**

Morning Prayer 7:15 am/Sat 8:00 am

Evening Prayer 5:00 pm

Reconciliation Sat 5:00 pm,

Sun 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon & Wed 8:30 am & 6 pm

Tue & Fri 8:30 pm

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

## CRIME WATCH

### Narcotics

Gough Street and Elm Alley

April 10, 12 a.m.

Officers on patrol observed a man urinating against the wall in an alley and detained him. When the officers searched the man, they found he was carrying crack pipes and crack cocaine. He was placed under arrest and booked at Northern Station.

### Possession of a Loaded Firearm

Eddy and Laguna Streets

April 12, 3:30 p.m.

Officers on patrol observed a man they knew was on court probation, which includes a search condition, and detained him. Several officers assisted in searching the subject's home and located a gun that had been hidden there. The suspect was placed under arrest and booked.

### Attempted Burglary, Parole Violation

Eddy and Franklin Streets

April 18, 1 a.m.

Three officers responded to a report of an auto burglary in progress. The officers discovered that the suspect was still inside the vehicle. The car's rear side passenger window had been broken. The officers detained the man, who was positively identified by a witness. The suspect was placed under arrest and booked at Northern Station.

### Burglary, Conspiracy

and Threats Against an Officer

Buchanan and Eddy Streets

April 19, 8 a.m.

Officers working in plainclothes responded to an anonymous caller's report of a burglary in progress. When they arrived, three men standing in front of the location started to quickly walk away. The officers observed the individuals, then entered the

apartment to see if anyone was inside. They found a pry bar on the floor of the apartment; nearby was an opened jewelry case, with jewelry still inside. The anonymous caller rang again, telling dispatch that the men who had broken in were now standing in front of the building. Officers who arrived for backup detained the men. A ring fell out of one man's pocket as police were searching him. The ring was similar in style to the jewelry located in the apartment. One of the men threatened to kill the officers. All three suspects were transported to Northern Station for further investigation. The officers then conducted a thorough search of the scene and were able to link all three suspects to the burglary. The men were booked on various charges, including threatening a police officer.

### Crime at a Glance in May

Gough & Eddy — Driving Without a License

Gough and O'Farrell Streets — Narcotics Arrest

Scott and Eddy Streets — Street Robbery with Force

Jackson and Divisadero Streets — Vandalism to a Vehicle

Ellis and Steiner Streets — Battery, Possession of Alcohol by a Minor

Divisadero and Eddy Streets — Found Person

Scott and Eddy Streets — Found Person

Scott and Eddy Streets — Hot Prowl Burglary

Ellis and Scott Streets — Domestic Violence, Battery

Geary and Divisadero Streets — Domestic Violence, False Imprisonment, Injuring Phone Line

Scott and Eddy Streets — Missing Juvenile



**VitaminExpress®**  
A trustworthy name since 1982

**L-Carnosine 500mg** Potent amino acid that aids all cells

**\$39.95**

Reg. \$49.99

(100 vegicaps)



- powerful anti-oxidant\*
- protects against cellular damage\*
- chelates out mercury\*
- helps increase muscle mass & endurance\*
- encourages repair of tissue\*



**Full range B Complex**  
that has no odor

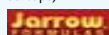
- full range of B vitamins\*
- pleasant to take\*
- effective formula\*
- choline bitartrate microencapsulated\*
- scientifically balanced formula\*

**B Right™**

**\$11.95**

Reg. \$14.95

(100 caps)



**Zyflamend**

**\$34.50**

Reg. \$58.95

(120 gels)



**Effective healthy**

**Inflammation response**

- number 1 COX-2 inhibitor\*
- promotes normal cell growth\*
- promotes healthy joint function\*
- aids healthy inflammation response\*
- potent super critical extracts\*

**NEWCHAPTER**

1428 Irving Street SF 564-8160  
2047 Fillmore Street SF 922-3311

\*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration.  
These products are not intended to diagnose, cure, or prevent any disease.

Mill Valley **VitaminExpress.com** Berkeley

# "Any time you eliminate a station it is going to have an impact. It could be considered Russian Roulette."

— SF DEPUTY CHIEF GARY MASSETANI



Station #5 on Turk Street in the Fillmore.  
Protect safety in your community by saving  
your neighborhood firehouse.

A 2005 study by the San Francisco Fire Department concluded that response times were slower in 22 of 24 areas of the city where fire stations were "browned out." Longer response times put our neighborhood safety at risk — the faster the response time to emergencies, the greater the chance of saving lives and preventing damage.

But the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is considering a new plan that would cut funding and "brown out" more of our neighborhood firehouses, our first line of defense in the event of fires, medical emergencies or any major disaster.

Visit [www.SaveOurFirehouses.com](http://www.SaveOurFirehouses.com) for instructions on how to call or email your local Supervisor to urge them to protect your neighborhood safety and Save Our Neighborhood Firehouses!



**SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
FIREHOUSES**

1. Join online at [www.SaveOurFirehouses.com](http://www.SaveOurFirehouses.com)
2. Join the Save Our Firehouses page on Facebook
3. Fill out and send this card to:  
1139 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Ridiculously  
FAST**



*click away...*

- **Faster Internet with McAfee™ Security Suite**—worth \$120—helps keep your computer safe
- **EasyChange™** automatically forwards your email and lets everyone know your new email address

**Unlimited  
TALK**



*talk it up...*

- **Unlimited Local Calling** plus 12 popular calling features like **Call Waiting** and **Caller ID**
- **Keep your current phone number** and use your existing phones

**Cheap  
THRILLS**



*turn it on...*

- **ON Demand** gives you thousands of shows and movies to watch, most for no additional charge. Play, pause, rewind them whenever.
- **The channels you want:** A&E, CNN, ESPN, MTV and lots more
- **Your easiest solution** to the Digital Transition

as low as **\$89<sup>99</sup>**  
a month

**Comcast Triple Play™**

**1.800.COMCAST**

**comcast**

Offer ends 6/30/09. Limited to residential customers in participating Comcast systems in wired and serviceable locations. Digital Starter Cable and Economy Internet limited to a single outlet. Service, features and pricing are subject to change. Equipment and installation charges, taxes, Regulatory Recovery Fee and other charges (e.g., toll and international calling) extra. After 12 months, regular monthly rates for each service apply. Service is subject to Comcast standard terms and conditions of service. Speed comparison for downloads only and compares Comcast 1 Mbps Internet service to 56 Kbps dial-up. Many factors affect speed. Actual speeds may vary and are not guaranteed. Not all features, including McAfee, are compatible with Macintosh computers. Comcast Digital Voice™ Local with More™ pricing applies to direct-dialed local calls from home. Additional charges apply for calls beyond coverage area. Separate long distance carrier connections and dial around calling not available. Activation fee may apply to Comcast Digital Voice® Comcast Digital Voice service (including 911/ emergency services) may no longer be available after an extended power outage. Certain customer premises equipment may not be compatible with Digital Voice services. EMTA required (\$3.00/month from Comcast). Call 1-800-Comcast for restrictions and complete details. Comcast ©2009. All rights reserved.

8029\_CCMR\_BAF

## BODY & SOUL

# ZEN and the art of the Public Bath

A trip to the Kabuki spa  
relieves fears and stress

By DONNA DOMINGO

**A**S A BAY AREA resident for 35 years, I had been to most of the well-known local spas save one: the Kabuki Springs & Spa, the famed bathhouse in Japantown.

So I approached my first visit with a mixture of curiosity and apprehension. Would I, a 60-year-old woman, feel comfortable walking around naked in front of women of all ages and sizes and shapes? Or on coed night, when bathing suits are required, would I feel self-conscious mingling with strange men in the sweaty confines of the sauna, steam room and communal hot tub? Would there be a semi-sexual, pick-up vibe — a watery Zen variation of a singles bar?

Enter the Kabuki baths from the urban cacophony of the Geary and Fillmore crossroads and you are immediately transported by the tranquil atmosphere. Soothing traditional Japanese music combines with the aroma of herbal oils to create healing smells and sounds that encourage harmony and relaxation.

Friendly staffers greet visitors, who can choose from a wide array of massages, facials and body treatments — even acupuncture.

On my first visit, on a busy coed Tuesday evening, I brought a male friend. After getting our locker keys at the front desk, we were escorted past an alcove adorned with a Buddhist shrine toward the Kabuki's dressing rooms. While discussing where to meet after changing clothes, we were gently reminded to lower our voices and turn off our cell phones to preserve the spa's serenity.

We then converged in the large room that features the hot soaking pool, the cold plunge, traditional Japanese seated bathing



### Kabuki Springs & Spa

1750 Geary Boulevard (near Fillmore)  
922-6000  
www.kabukisprings.com  
Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily  
Reservations available

**COMMUNAL BATHS**  
Men only: Monday, Thursday, Saturday  
Women only: Sunday, Wednesday, Friday  
Coed: Tuesday

Above: The communal baths.  
Left: Traditional Japanese seated bathing areas.

areas and standing western-style showers. Complimentary bath products, sea salts, chilled cucumber face cloths, teas, ice water and towels were provided. A nearby lounge offered toning and cleansing lotions.

A spacious sauna and a steam room open off the main communal bath area. After washing and rinsing off in the showers, we followed the recommended order: first the sauna, then the steam room. Although the cold plunge is suggested as the next stop, it seemed a little chilly for our warmed bodies, so we headed straight for the spacious hot pool.

There were a few couples, including a cute young duo holding hands, but it was

the tender attentiveness of a middle-aged couple that caught my attention. The woman was seated at one of the individual bathing areas along the wall while her partner gently washed her back, using the traditional Japanese basins provided at each station.

Most of the people there were young — in their 20s and 30s — and shapely. But there was no obvious flirting, which seemed to allow a relaxed atmosphere for everyone.

Two young women visiting the communal coed baths for the first time said they came after a friend recommended the Kabuki. So they included it as part of their day in the

city. One of them, a 22-year-old visiting from North Carolina, noted, "I'm typically a very shy person, but I feel very comfortable." They considered the price — \$22 on a weekday and \$25 on a weekend — reasonable, and both liked the selection of body lotions and skin toners provided.

When I returned on a women-only Friday night, the ambiance was definitely different. There's something freeing about being with a bunch of naked females — for most women, anyway — that allows us to be relaxed about our bodies, whatever their shapes.

TO PAGE 9 ▶

Keep your visitors  
in the neighborhood



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

"If I had but two loaves of bread,  
I'd sell one and buy hyacinths  
to feed my soul."



**JUDITH SKINNER**

Fine Gardening  
38 Years of Experience

sfskinner@aol.com  
415.776.8272



**Michael W. Perry  
& Company**

Fine Custom Framing  
Antique Prints & Maps

1837 Divisadero • 415-563-8853

**KAREN PALAMOS, M.F.T.**  
PSYCHOTHERAPY

Specializing in therapy with  
visual artists, writers, musicians  
and other creative people

(415) 835-2199  
BUSH @ OCTAVIA  
CA LICENSE MFC38971



# A Spa Veteran Nurtures Spirit of Baths, Clients

By DONNA DOMINO

"THERE'S a very special energy here," says Kathy Nelsen, long-time director of the Kabuki Springs & Spa, explaining why the cultural fixture has endured for nearly 40 years. "The communal baths are really what differentiates us. We have some of the only ones in California and the U.S."

Nelsen, who has carefully nurtured the Kabuki's distinctively spiritual environment for the last decade, says another thing that sets the Kabuki apart is a deep respect for the body.

She describes a recent women's night to make her point.

"I was in the baths, and there were a couple of really big gals, and I thought: This is so beautiful. This celebration of the body can take place for anybody," she said. "I find that so healing because I think that, as women, we all have issues with our bodies. So when you go back there and see all these women walking around with every different body type, you see there's not a perfect body."

Nelsen recalls another situation that underscores her mission.

"This young girl called me from Minnesota one day to describe her experience, saying, 'I came there with my aunt and I

Before managing the Kabuki spa, Kathy Nelsen ran Miracle Baths, located beside Fillmore Hardware.



went to massage school before affiliating with the Esalen Institute, the legendary retreat in Big Sur.

After attending beauty school and getting licensed as an aesthetician, she created a line of cosmetic products before going to Calistoga's Indian Springs spa.

Nelsen then moved back to the city and

*"Sometimes when men get their clothes off, they just don't know what to do with themselves. With women, we have the yakkers."*

— KATHY NELSEN  
manager of Kabuki Springs & Spa

opened Miracle Baths, just up the street at 1928 Fillmore, beside Fillmore Hardware. The building had previously housed the Little Zion Baptist Church, and she converted the church's baptismal pool into a room for yoga classes. She describes Miracle Baths as "this sweet, little community run by two women." It was among the first to offer a range of spa services for men and women: a communal sauna for women, four private saunas, massages, facials and body wraps. She called it quits after 10 years when the landlord raised the rent from \$1,000 to \$6,000.

Nelsen then opened the spa at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland before jumping at the chance to return to the neighborhood and run the Kabuki spa in 1998.

"I'd always kind of wanted to get my

hands on it because I had sat in that sauna and thought, 'Just a few thousand dollars and I could make such a difference here.' It just didn't have a good atmosphere," she recalled. "AMC is a Kansas City company — and they didn't know what they had here."

During the heyday of San Francisco's bathhouses, many were gay sex clubs, but Nelsen says the Kabuki was never a "full-on sex club."

But even now, she says, the printed policy prohibiting sexual activity handed to guests at check-in is necessary.

"Sometimes when men get their clothes off, they just don't know what to do with themselves," she observes dryly. "Sometimes we have to tell people they're getting too intimate. It's really one of the things we get to help men explore: how to be sensual without being sexual. I think that's not a natural thing for men. But once they get it, how liberating it can be."

Women, on the other hand, tend to be chatty, hence the gong of silence in the main room housing the public bathing pools.

"With women, we have the yakkers," Nelsen says. "A lot of time they come with their girlfriends, and we have to ring the gong."

Although the Kabuki offers a range of spa services, massage is requested most often.

"I think massage is always popular because people so need to be touched, and we so need a way to be touched in a therapeutic way," Nelsen observes. "One of the things I'm seeing in this economic downturn is that there are a lot of beauty treatments you can give up, but what we all still need is stress reduction and detoxification — you know, those basic things that will help us get through tough times."



The Kabuki's dressing rooms have the same tranquil atmosphere as the rest of the spa.

## 'It's the Perfect Antidote to Our Stressful Times'

FROM PAGE 7

One Kabuki regular listed her favorite things: "the sound of water and the feeling of a communal, silent, ritual." She explained, "We're here taking care of ourselves and each other. Where else can you find this in our culture? It's a place of refuge where the beauty of each individual is unique."

On this visit, after spending some time in the sauna and steam room, I even took a brief cold plunge before getting into the hot pool's warm embrace.

I also opted for one of Kabuki's signature services, choosing a Swedish

massage. Since I'm not a big fan of the more strenuous Shiatsu pressure point massage, I found the gentle touch of Swedish massage, applied with oil, more appealing. After 50 minutes under the expert touch of massage therapist Erica Hokett, I emerged feeling like a limp noodle, thoroughly relaxed.

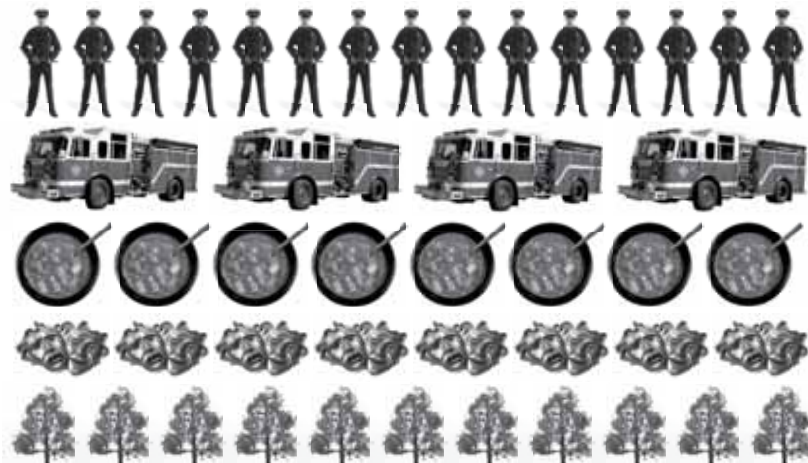
Among the Kabuki's other sybaritic indulgences are the exotic Javanese Lulur body treatment, originally done for Balinese royalty as part of a 40-day marriage preparation, which includes a stone massage with jasmine-frangipani oil, followed by exfoliation with turmeric and

rice powder. The body is then slathered with yogurt, ending with a soak in a flowered bath.

The bliss treatment includes being washed by an attendant while immersed in a deep Japanese ofuro tub, followed by a massage. The grounding treatment provides a foot massage while lying on a covered, warm mudpack.

One woman explained Kabuki's enduring appeal this way: "It's wonderfully relaxing, the perfect antidote to our stressful times. You come out relaxed and refreshed."

I heartily agree.



## Our Hotels Provide More Than Great Hospitality

Revenue generated by San Francisco's hospitality industry helps provide essential services to all San Francisco residents. From law enforcement to fire fighting and from parks and recreation to care for the less fortunate, the hospitality industry plays a critical role in keeping San Francisco moving. So whether you call San Francisco home, or you're just visiting, our hotel industry is on the front lines, making sure San Francisco will always be... Everybody's Favorite City.

To learn more from the Hotel Council of San Francisco, visit [www.hotelcouncilsf.org](http://www.hotelcouncilsf.org) or call 415.391.5197

**HOTEL COUNCIL OF SAN FRANCISCO**

## celebrating our 5th anniversary

personal training | fitness classes | yoga | pilates | physical therapy | massage | acupuncture



\$5 anniversary sale  
initiation  
save \$244\*

saturday, june 20th  
open house  
free access to club and classes all day

\*see our website,  
[www.pghhcsf.com](http://www.pghhcsf.com)  
for details. expires 5/31/09.

june 13: yoga foundations - a workshop with monique jenkinson, 2-4pm | class size limited | to register, call 415.563.6697

**pacific heights health club**  
2336 pine street @ fillmore | 415.563.6694 | [www.pghhcsf.com](http://www.pghhcsf.com)





"A new kind of friendliness comes to the neighborhood," says a patron of the cafe.

## ■ NEW NEIGHBOR

## 'Espress Yourself'

Fillmore gets another coffee shop, building community in the jazz district

By CHERYL LURIE

A FEW doors down from a karaoke bar and a sandwich shop, around the corner from the Safeway delivery dock and a talking dumpster ("You are being recorded by surveillance camera...") blooms an oasis: Espresso Yourself cafe, now open on Fillmore at the corner of Ellis.

The coffee shop, with its new-store smell, brings sparkle and cheer to an otherwise challenging time and location. The planter-lined outdoor patio provides morning sun for patrons reading the paper or using the free WiFi; inside, owner-baristas Agatha and Gene Marczak whip up fair trade, organic cappuccinos and lattes that warm the heart.

Originally from Poland, the Marczaks moved to the Bay Area more than 20 years ago after living in New York and Texas.

"We came to San Francisco to find a home," says Gene, "not because of the jobs." The couple decided to ditch their careers in a Silicon Valley semiconductor cube farm for a more passionate calling: a cafe that recalls their European roots while providing a personal connection to the neighborhood.

"We want it to be like you're coming over to our house to have coffee and conversation," says Agatha. "You can borrow a book from the shelf, or sit and use the Internet, just like family."

The borrow-a-book shelf — their son David's idea — contains an eclectic library, ranging from *Frankenstein* to the *Funk and Wagnall's Dictionary*. Patrons are welcome to add books.

The regulars are a cross-section of the ever-more-vital Fillmore Jazz District: commuters, hipsters, delivery guys from the Safeway and seniors from the nearby assisted-living residences.

"The people are like sunshine around here," says Agatha as she sets down a coffee for an older patron. "An enthusiastic customer chimes in, 'A new kind of friendliness comes to the neighborhood!'"

The cafe's hours extend into the evenings until 9 — and on Friday and Saturday until 10 — to catch the crowds coming and going from nearby performances. Yoshi's jazz club is nearly next door, and the Sheba Piano Lounge is across the street.

"People may want to socialize with a cup of coffee," says Gene. "And we like to accommodate the neighborhood."

Still a work in progress, Espresso Yourself's owners hope to add a local lunch menu to their current offerings from a South San Francisco bakery.

"That way, when we grow, all the money stays here and benefits the local businesses," says Gene.

"Some folks said you have to be stupid" to start a new business now, he says. "But good comes with hardship. We learn to problem-solve better, making a business more successful. We went through the dot-com bust here, and we believe there is no better system anywhere in the world than America. We have a passion for this business and want to give people variety. And there is plenty of room for everybody to succeed here."

Espresso Yourself is located at 1406 Fillmore Street.



CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT

## ■ FIRST PERSON

## Opening Night at Via Veneto

By ANDRE BOLAFFI

IT WAS A Friday night in January 1990. We had been in our new home on Bush Street for five years.

Janice, my wife, suggested we walk up Fillmore to the Clay Theatre to see a French film, *Claudine-Claudine*, about Rodin, his work and his mistress. We went to the 7 o'clock show with plans to have dinner afterward.

The movie was sold out, but we managed to *excuse* and *pardon* our way to the remaining two empty seats in the dead center of a front row. After half an hour, I said to Janice — quietly, I'm sure, despite the shushes from nearby theatergoers — "If something doesn't develop soon, I'm going to leave."

"You can't leave," she said.

An hour into the film, having endured enough, I decided to leave.

"You can't leave," said Janice, "you'll disturb all these people."

"Watch me," I responded, and I *excused* and *pardoned* my way down the row and out of the theater.

Across the street, a new restaurant called Via Veneto looked lively, full of people and all lit up. I decided to check it out while the movie dragged on.

As I opened the door and stepped inside, I was met with a celebratory crowd of fashionably dressed people in jackets and ties and dresses and heels. I noticed the restaurant had no chairs; its tables were pushed up against the walls and filled with delectable looking antipasta.

Before I could think much about it, a waiter offered a glass of red wine. Wow, what a great new restaurant. I began to enjoy myself, while keeping an eye on the Clay across the street.

The clientele was jovial and friendly. A smartly dressed man approached

me and asked, "And how do you know Salvatore?"

"Salvatore? Well, you know..."

Before I could embarrass myself, he saved me by asking, "From North Beach?"

"Yes, of course, from North Beach," I cheerfully agreed.

I was continuing to enjoy the wine, the food and the company when a statuesque brunette approached.

"Hi," she said, "and how do you know Massimo?"

Now I knew Salvatore was from North Beach, but who in the world was Massimo? Think fast.

"Well," I responded, "you know, Salvatore is..."

"But of course," she said, "Massimo and Salvatore both worked in..."

"... North Beach," I chimed in.

Again the conversation was interrupted by the jostling crowd. I noticed that *Claudine-Claudine* must have finally — mercifully — ended, since people were exiting the theatre.

I made my way toward the door to tell Janice about this wonderfully friendly new restaurant. Just as I opened the door and was about to step outside, a fellow grabbed my arm.

"Leaving so soon?" he asked warmly.

"No," I said, "I'm just going across the street to bring my wife back."

"Wonderful!" he said.

Filled with wine and bravado by now, I turned and asked him confidently, "And how do you know Massimo?"

He looked at me and responded: "I am Massimo!"

Later I found out: That was Via Veneto's opening night celebration, by invitation only. And we've been crashing this wonderful neighborhood restaurant ever since.

Come experience great wine from small production vineyards



winejar

The new neighborhood wine bar

**HAPPY HOUR**  
every day until 7 p.m.  
20% off all bottles • \$3 beer

1870 Fillmore Street near Bush 415-931-2924 www.winejar-sf.com



**Chouquet's**  
RESTAURANT

Celebrate summertime on our terrace!

Lunch daily: 11:30 - 3  
Dinner nightly: 5:30 - 10  
Weekend brunch: 10 - 3

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

**VIA VENETO**  
since 1990

A genuine piece of Italy  
in the heart of Pacific Heights!

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

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

**DINNER**  
Sun-Thurs: 5-10pm • Fri-Sat: 5-11pm

**2414 FILLMORE/CLAY • 346-9211**

**V**

"the pasta was phenomenal - light and delicate, perfect amount of sauce"  
—Yelp Reviewer

**VIVANDE**  
2125 fillmore st. 346-4430  
www.vivande.com  
restaurant • wine bar • catering

**la mediterranea** CAFÉ • RESTAURANT  
**CATERING**  
2210 Fillmore  
(at Sacramento)  
San Francisco  
**415.921.2956**

**CELEBRATING 30th ANNIVERSARY**  
FILLMORE LOCATION

**www.cafelamed.com**

**ELITE**

The Elite Cafe  
Established 1981

2049 Fillmore Street • 415.67.ELITE  
www.TheEliteCafe.com

**BRUNO'S**  
PIZZERIA CUCINA

Located in the heart of the Jazz District.  
Claudia Oliveira, Chef/Proprietor

**Dinner for two:**  
2 salads, 2 entrees, and 2 desserts for \$39.95

Delivers to financial district and homes (order online and receive a free appetizer) 3 hours parking validation

1825 Fillmore St. | San Francisco | 415.363.6100 | www.brunos.com

*Bar* *Cafe*

**FLORIO**

For our New Fillmore readers:  
VALLEVO CERASUOLO (ROSE) WINE  
\$5 glass  
while supplies last

Dry, bright & fresh on palate.  
Solid pink color, aroma & flavor of strawberry with mineral notes.

**www.floriosf.com**

**FILLMORE FARMERS' MARKET**

**SATURDAYS, 9AM-1PM**  
Fillmore St. & O'Farrell St.  
Year-Round

•LIVE JAZZ WEEKLY •TASTY APRICOTS  
•SWEET CHERRIES •JUICY PEACHES  
•CRISP VEGETABLES  
•ORGANIC PRODUCE  
•DELICIOUS BERRIES  
•LOCAL HONEY

**FILLMORE FARMERS' MARKET**

We Gladly Accept: **wic** **pcfma.com** 1.800.949.FARM



## This Month, Improvising at Yoshi's

New festivals, of a sort, and new collaborations

By JASON OLAINÉ

HELLO, neighbor. I'm the new artistic director at Yoshi's here on Fillmore.

I just came on board April 1, and I'm still learning my way around the club and the neighborhood. Right now I'm on a learning curve, and I've got summer on the brain.

We've been busy playing catch-up to get our June, July and August calendars filled with quality acts.

The problem with playing catch-up in the booking world is that it can be akin to shopping for bottled water after the earthquake has hit. It's slim pickins. Most acts are already booked. So we've been scrambling to put together a compelling June lineup. And we've had to get creative.

If you're not familiar with the folks we have on our June calendar — check it out at [www.yoshis.com](http://www.yoshis.com) — then you'll have to believe me when I tell you we've put together a lineup you won't find anywhere



### Ambassador for jazz

An ambitious new exhibition in the Yoshi's lobby documents the role of jazz musicians in American diplomatic efforts during the cold war. Louis Armstrong (at left outside a hospital in Egypt), Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington and many others appear in JAM SESSION: AMERICA'S JAZZ AMBASSADORS EMBRACE THE WORLD. Previously at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York, the exhibition is presented by the Fillmore Heritage Center and open daily at 1330 Fillmore through June 25. For more information, visit [www.jazzheritagecenter.org](http://www.jazzheritagecenter.org).

else. If you're wondering how these "Only at Yoshi's/One of a Kind/All-Star Collaborations" came to be, I offer three words: It wasn't easy. No one in his right mind would try to put so many first-time collaborations together in one month.

George Wein, who founded the Newport Jazz Festival and New Orleans Jazzfest, among many others, has had me book his Newport festival for the past two years. He tells me, "Knock yourself out, kid, but don't come to me when it all falls apart." Or words to that effect.

As in all fields, there are uncontrollable factors. Things — and people — can and often do change. Or ask for more money. Or realize they've committed themselves to a gig elsewhere. This must have happened a dozen times these past few weeks as we were setting this month's calendar.

Fortunately, we're a jazz club and we deal primarily with jazz musicians. They improvise for a living. Rock and roll or other musicians often won't create music together publicly on stage without lots

and lots of rehearsals. But for the best jazz musicians, this high-wire act is part of their collective DNA. Improvisation is at the very heart of jazz music. We love the element of surprise, of stepping out into the unknown and creating something new or meaningful or beautiful or strange in the process.

Back when this music was taking shape, you'd find jam sessions, or cutting sessions, where younger musicians would step onto the bandstand with their elders and show their stuff — and most likely be

taught a lesson while they were at it. You call a song and off you go. Improvising with a structure.

Well, this is what June is going to look like at Yoshi's. The best musicians available, when presented the opportunity to collaborate with other like-minded all-stars, said, "Let's do it." And so they'll rehearse a little bit prior to the gig and then off they'll go.

This month we're kicking off a new festival of sorts on June 22 and 23 and calling it the "GO LEFT FEST." These two days will feature creative improvisation by world-renowned artists and Bay Area icons, including celebrated author Ishmael Reed collaborating with his favorite musicians. In addition, 85-year-old saxophonist Marshall Allen, longtime leader of the Sun Ra Arkestra, will join pianist Matthew Shipp and bassist Joe Morris for the first time. And many others will do the same. It will be an avant garde jazz fan's smorgasbord.

I could go on and on about legendary Latin jazz pianist Eddie Palmieri looking up with an all-star cast that we're calling "THE PAN-CARIBBEAN SUMMIT." Or multi-Grammy winning bassist Charlie Haden playing in two different all-star groups. Or sax titan Pharoah Sanders teaming with tabla master Zakir Hussain. But come judge for yourself.

Thanks to those of you who've emailed and offered comments and ideas. As I learn what music we're programming here works and what doesn't work, I need and want you to be a part of the process and the conversation. You never know — your suggestions may show up on next month's calendar.

Let me hear from you: [jason@yoshis.com](mailto:jason@yoshis.com).

## Succulents Find a Place in the Urban Garden

By CONSTANCE BURNIKEL

SLOW DOWN and take a look when pressing the pavement in the neighborhood. The urban garden, often planted in the privacy of a back yard or on a deck, sometimes creeps out into public view in small front yards, in pots lining stairways or in raised sidewalk tree boxes.

More and more often, the urban garden includes drought resistant plants known as succulents. These plants provide delightful eye appeal with their variegated colors, textures and sizes. And they come in a variety of personalities, too. While a sedum, a ground cover plant, is delicate, an agave has "teeth" and can easily puncture the skin on your finger.

Most of these plants require little watering; they have adapted to dry desert conditions by developing plump leaves that store water. Though many succulents are native to far-flung areas of the globe, especially South Africa, Madagascar and the Canary Islands, other species such as sempervivum are native to Alpine countries.

As our latest Northern California drought heads into its third year, succulents have become more readily available in local garden centers. Sloat ([www.sloatgardens.com](http://www.sloatgardens.com)) offers a nice range of San Francisco-hardy succulents and Flora Grubb Gardens ([www.floragrubb.com](http://www.floragrubb.com)) is a wonderland of succulents and cacti.

One of the best opportunities to find a vast variety of succulents and cacti comes this month at the SAN FRANCISCO SUCULENT & CACTUS SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE on June 13 and 14. This event, from 9



A planter box of succulents on the 2900 block of Sacramento Street.

a.m. to 5 p.m. at the county fair building in Golden Gate Park at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, includes more than 20 specialty vendors and offers lots of seasoned advice.

Here are a few suggestions for a succulent walking tour of the neighborhood.

■ **THE 2600 BLOCK** of Sacramento Street, between Steiner and Pierce, includes some large, impressive bunches of echeveria contained by a small metal fence.


■ **ON THE 2900 BLOCK** of Sacramento, between Divisadero and Broderick, look for the house with the small front garden just above sidewalk level. In addition to a small succulent garden, a planter box next to the drive is filled with a number of specimens. Give special attention to the fantastic large

echeveria with glorious dark purple flower spikes.

■ **THE 400 BLOCK** of Locust Street, between California and Sacramento, offers a labor of love. For several years, the neighbors have been planting a nice variety of succulents surrounding many of the trees along the sidewalk. Note the aconiums punctuated with spiky groups of what appear to be senecio, or blue chalksticks.

■ **ON THE 1800 BLOCK** of Pierce Street, at Bush, the western garden at St. Dominic's Church has been filled with rows of echeveria.


■ **THE 2000 BLOCK** of Pierce Street, at Perine Place, has a couple of lovely displays of jelly bean sedum and aconiums accented with a pair of air plants.



**JAZZ HERITAGE CENTER**  
1320 Fillmore Street, San Francisco

*You are cordially invited to join us for...*


*An Evening with Randy Weston*




"Weston has the biggest sound of any jazz pianist since Ellington and Monk, as well as the richest most inventive beat, but his art is more than projection and time; it's the result of a studious and inspired intelligence... an intelligence that is creating a fresh synthesis of African elements with jazz technique."

- Stanley Crouch, Jazz Critic

with special guest  
saxophonist  
Dr. Billy Wong!



Thursday, June 4th - 5:30 p.m.



**Mollie Stone's**  
We'll drive you home.  
FREE WITH \$20 PURCHASE



AT GRAND CENTRAL 2435 California Street

*New Camera?*

*Travels Ahead?*

*New Parents?*

*Your kids love photography?*

**CLASSES IN PACIFIC HEIGHTS**

*Check our photo class schedule for adults and children. Composition, field trips, portrait tips, camera skills. Kids class during school breaks, summer and after school too!*

[www.kathleearry.com](http://www.kathleearry.com)  
Or call 415.359.1900



## Zephyr Real Estate...in your neighborhood.



**Russian Hill:**  
2BD/1 BA majestic full floor condo. Wood burning fireplace, chef's kitchen, private garage, shared garage and walking distance to all the neighborhood has to offer.  
**Listed at \$1,595,000**



**Inner Richmond:**  
2BD/1.5BA gorgeous top-floor condo near Golden Gate Park. Bright and airy floor plan highlights the elegant and original detailing. Garage parking and deeded storage.  
**Listed at \$749,000**



**Pacific Heights:**  
Elegantly remodeled 4BD/5.5BA single family home features 11' ceilings and 7 gas fireplaces throughout. Master suite boasts luxury bath and dressing room.  
**Listed at \$2,995,000**



**Marina:**  
2BD/2BA stylish top floor condo close to all the amenities of Chestnut, Union, and Polk Streets. Private deck and remodeled kitchen and baths make this a must-see!  
**Listed at \$1,079,000**

**Zephyr Real Estate.**  
**We're all about San Francisco. [www.zephyrsf.com](http://www.zephyrsf.com)**

NOE VALLEY • PACIFIC HEIGHTS • POTRERO HILL • SOUTH BEACH/SOMA • UPPER MARKET • UPPER MARKET/CASTRO • WEST OF TWIN PEAKS



**ZEPHYR**  
REAL ESTATE



Janet Moyer Landscaping is a full-service landscaping company specializing in sustainable landscapes

One of the "100 Fastest Growing Private Companies" in the Bay Area SF Business Times, October 24, 2008

Award winning design - "Outstanding Achievement" Award in the Bay Area Landscape Contractors Association, 2007

415-821-3760 • 1031 Valencia Street, San Francisco • jmoeyrlandscaping.com  
Landscape Contractor License 853919 • Pest Control License 36389



**Beautiful Wine Country Home**  
Perfect rental for families or singles

- 55 minutes from San Francisco in Sonoma County
- Great pre-season monthly rate for the summer
- Call 415.775.9696 or email subly@aol.com

## New Listing! www.2033Pine.com Home Sweet Home in Pacific Heights



A stand-out Edwardian classic meets modern chic. This full floor flat offers the best floor plan for entertaining! The living/dining room/kitchen open to warm southern light and Twin Peaks and city views. Designer kitchen with limestone counters, mosaic back splash, modern cabinetry and open island. Cherry hardwood floors, plantation shutters, limestone counters, and designer finishes throughout. Three full bedrooms and two full baths. Master bedroom suite has separate dressing room and two closets leading to master bath. Grand hallway offers access to laundry storage and rooftop access. Two additional bedrooms boast bright light and large built-out closets. One car garage parking. **Where else can you find this kind of beautiful and gracious space at this price point just 2 blocks from the heart of the Fillmore District!**

**3 BD/2 BA/1 PKG • MLS # 356389 • Offered at \$1,075,000**

**Also Announcing:**  
My new "Home Sweet Home" at Zephyr's Pacific Heights Office!  
Feel free to ask for advice and information for future planning now. I'm here for the long term! Easy as morning coffee at Peet's!

**Jeannine Barnard**  
2523 California Street  
415.203.1976  
jbarnard@zephyr.com



## NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking \$	Sale \$
1610 Lyon St	4	3	1	1392	28-Apr	792,900	785,000
3312 California St	2	2.5	2		30-Apr	1,395,000	1,350,000
1924 Pine St	3	2.5	1	2429	17-Apr	1,695,000	Not Disclosed
2203 Broderick St	3	2	1		12-May	1,975,000	1,750,000
1612 Vallejo St	4	2.75	2	2760	24-Apr	2,095,000	1,875,000
2604 Sacramento St	3	2.5	2		8-May	1,895,000	1,925,000
2646 Chestnut St	3	2.5	5	3640	1-May	2,550,000	2,300,000
3041 Divisadero St	5	3.5	2	4000	30-Apr	2,750,000	2,700,000
2647 Filbert St	3	3.5	1	3500	1-May	3,750,000	3,490,000
3352 Washington St	4	4.5	2		14-May	3,650,000	3,600,000
3041 Laguna St	5	4.5	2	3520	14-May	3,750,000	Not Disclosed
2838 Washington St	5	5.5	5	8000	1-May	4,200,000	Not Disclosed
2030 Lyon St	6	6	2		30-Apr	4,495,000	Not Disclosed
3570 Washington St	6	3.5	2		28-Apr	5,600,000	Not Disclosed
2712 Broadway	7	5	2	7000	17-Apr	7,750,000	Not Disclosed

### Condos/Co-ops/TICs/Lofts

3330A Clay St	1	1			7-May	359,000	345,000
1450 Post St #1009	1	1.5	1	883	24-Apr	439,734	439,734
2106B Scott St	1	1	1	525	1-May	499,000	515,000
1600 Webster St #311	1	1	1	986	7-May	599,000	595,000
2347 Union St #4	1	1	1	763	5-May	639,000	634,000
2200 Sacramento St #505	1	1	1	870	8-May	729,000	687,000
1945 Washington St #301	2	2	1		12-May	715,000	705,000
1800 Washington St #719	2	2	1	1042	28-Apr	839,000	799,000
345 Locust St #5	3	2.5	1		24-Apr	1,375,000	1,315,000
2111 Baker St	3	1	1		4-May	1,495,000	1,395,000
2768 Green St Upper	2	1	1		30-Apr	1,795,000	1,795,000
2115 Baker St	3	2	2		12-May	1,995,000	1,900,000

## At all levels, local home sales jump dramatically



The number of single family home sales in the neighborhood increased dramatically last month — from four to 14 — and recent sales included properties in all price ranges, which could be a sign the housing market is beginning to stabilize. Homes that show well and are well priced are now receiving immediate attention. Such was the case with 2604 Sacramento (left): It went into contract just a week after going on the market and, after several offers, sold over the asking price. Even properties that came on the market before or during the financial crisis are selling now, with appropriate price reductions. A good example is 2203 Broderick, which came on the market at \$2.395 million at the beginning of October and finally closed for \$1.75 million in mid-May. Recent sales also show signs of life at the upper end of the market: Four properties over \$4 million sold this month — including 2030 Lyon, the former home of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, which went into contract within days of coming on the market.

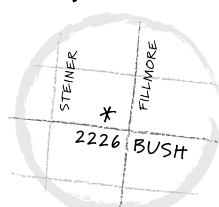
The condo market has also been active, although the number of closings is down from last month. We are seeing a similar trend: Properties that are well priced sell quickly. A good example is 3330A Clay. Even though the nicely updated TIC unit did not have parking, it sold quickly after being listed at \$359,000. With little inventory in the neighborhood priced below \$400,000, the unit was sure to garner attention.

**NEW LISTINGS:** A flurry of new listings have come on the market in recent weeks. There is likely to be considerable interest in two properties that have been significantly remodeled and show well: 3778 Clay is a 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath home priced at \$5.5 million, while 37 Presidio is a 7-bedroom, 5.5-bath home priced at \$5.395 million. In addition, 3712 Jackson — a grand Tudor that backs up to the Presidio — is a 6-bedroom, 5-bath home listed at just under \$8 million. For those looking for a fixer-upper, a 3-bedroom, 1-bath single family home was recently listed at 2621 Lombard for \$799,000. Bring along your hammer — or your contractor.

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

## Excited about the new Slanted Door restaurant that's coming to Pacific Heights?

Imagine being the retailer **right next door...**



■ 2100 square feet FOR LEASE

■ 2226 Bush (between Steiner & Fillmore)

■ Call 415.956.2508 for details

Brokers Welcome

## Stitching Locally, Pitching Globally

By ANNE PAPROCKI

**L**ONGTIME Pacific Heights artisan Carla Madrigal creates and sells delicately embroidered ties, baby clothes, personalized nametags and more. But you can't buy her colorful designs in a Fillmore Street boutique.

Instead, she is part of the growing movement that sells online through Etsy, an online marketplace for handmade goods featuring thousands of individual shops selling cards, clothes, shoes and jewelry. Madrigal's work is offered at [www.madrigalembroidery.etsy.com](http://www.madrigalembroidery.etsy.com).

Madrigal, a self-described hippie, has been making art of all kinds for years from her home on Clay Street near Alta Plaza Park. She paints on everything from eggs to shoes — once sculpting 36 birds for her daughter's 36th birthday.

"I've just always done things with my hands," she says. But it is her hand-embroidered clothing that has garnered Madrigal the most attention.

"I used to give my embroidered baby hoodies as presents to expectant mothers,"



*"For a certain creative type who has the confidence to wear whatever he wants, they could be perfect."*

CARLA MADRIGAL, on her embroidered ties

she says. "Everyone loved them and told me I should sell them."

When Madrigal left her job as an illustrator after 14 years last fall, she decided it was time to take the plunge and try selling her wares. She set up shop on Etsy after learning about the site from a local card maker.

Despite selling her art globally online, Madrigal is also intensely local. She has lived in the same Clay Street Victorian for 35 years. And in an effort to support another area business, Madrigal, a cat lover, donates 5 percent of her profits to the Pets

## LOCAL TALENT

Unlimited veterinary center on Fillmore.

With Etsy, Madrigal says she did not have to persuade a local store to sell her embroidered ties and hoodies, and that no one else's aesthetic dictates her designs. Etsy charges 20 cents to list an item, plus a 3.5 percent commission on every sale. The site also provides a built-in network of customers, which Madrigal especially appreciates.

"I'm shy," she says. "Marketing myself is the hardest part."

Her online shop currently holds 48 items, ranging from \$7 handpainted mag-

nets to \$20 embroidered chokers to \$60 ties for men and women. She uses high quality organic cotton and soy fabrics whenever possible, and is extremely detail oriented. For example, Madrigal covers the backs of her stitches with contrasting fabric in the interior of the baby hoodies.

On Etsy, viewers and other shop owners can select pieces as their favorites.

"I've noticed that a lot of the people who've made my work their favorites are jewelers," Madrigal says. "That makes sense to me, since my embroidery is very delicate — like jewelry." Indeed, the embroidery on Madrigal's ties for men, which are recycled, looks almost like jewels or stars against the fabric.

"I really think the ties could catch on," Madrigal says. "Obviously they're not for everyone. But for a certain creative type who has the confidence to wear whatever he wants, they could be perfect."

Madrigal will also create designs on commission, working with buyers to give them the colors and designs they want.

While handmade goods like Madrigal's can be expensive, she says customers are still buying gifts, despite the pinched economy, and recognize the value and uniqueness of handmade items.

"There's just something special about them," she says. "Spending money on art is just a different choice we can make."

While Madrigal is happy with Etsy and appreciates the site's focus on handmade goods, she does see a downside to selling online.

"My work is very tactile," she explains. "I don't know what it is exactly, but when people touch it, they want to have it."

The City's Best.



**Pacific Heights**  
\$1,550,000  
**Bright, Fresh, Classic Top Floor Flat in 2-unit Building.** Great Pacific Heights condo! 3BD/2BA. Spacious, remodeled kitchen with island, open living room, living room with fireplace and built-ins. Formal dining room. Bright and airy with a great layout. 2223Bliss.com  
**Caroline Kahn Webb**  
(415) 321-4260



**Presidio Heights**  
\$1,397,000  
**Arts & Crafts Edwardian** 4BD/2BA/1PKg condo includes a formal foyer, living room, and dining room, a stunning remodeled kitchen with breakfast nook. Arts and Crafts charm combines with modern craftsmanship. 2124guy.com  
**Kim Barnes**  
(415) 730-2593



**Pacific Heights**  
\$1,199,000  
**Spacious Condo, Great Location.** Enter this home-like grand Edwardian condo through a skylit foyer and look through multi-paneled pocket doors into the gracious south facing living room. This 3BD/2.5BA top-floor rear flat comes with pkg and storage. 659-469-4041  
**Soni Goodman**  
(415) 321-4261



**Lower Pacific Heights**  
\$949,000  
**Bright and Spacious.** This 2BD/2BA unit has it all. Great kitchen with granite counter tops, new hardware and a breakfast counter. The dining area and living room are open, elegant, perfect for entertaining. Wood floors throughout. Large private deck. 1725PierceSt.com  
**Trent Fashimaur**  
(415) 321-3112



**Pacific Heights**  
\$1,775,000  
**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! 1998Pacific205.com  
**Robert Vernon**  
(415) 321-4207



**Pacific Heights**  
\$149,000  
**Prestige & Prime Location.** Very large 1BD/1BA/1PKg condo with amazing views and private terrace. Double sink vanity and fabulous double shower of designer Italian tile and glass. Granite kitchen with island. Generous closets and storage. 2040randi504.com  
**Kim Barnes**  
(415) 730-2593



**Pacific Heights**  
\$599,000  
**Sun Drenched Corner Condo.** Enjoy picturesque east views of Lafayette Park from this 1BD/1BA/1PKg condo. Spacious living room/dining room with beautiful parquet wood floors, crown molding, floor-to-ceiling east-facing windows. 2121Laguna2.com  
**Stephanie Ahberg**  
(415) 321-4232



**Pacific Heights**  
\$560,000  
**Russian Hill & Water Views From Private Terrace.** Beautiful jewel box studio. Custom built-ins have queen bed, desk/dining table, electronic storage ++. Pretty hardwood floors, wall of windows. Large double closets, 1-car deeded parking. 2040Franklin506.com  
**Kim Barnes**  
(415) 730-2593



These are just a few of the homes you'll find for sale at Hill & Co. Stop by our offices to see more, or visit our web site at [www.hill-co.com](http://www.hill-co.com).

**HILL & CO.**  
REAL ESTATE  
(415) 921-6000 • [www.hill-co.com](http://www.hill-co.com)

Offices on Lombard Street, Union Street and 24th Street



