

NEWS

It's a new era
south of Geary

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THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ AUGUST 2009



"ON POINT" BY FRANCIS LIVINGSTON | THOMAS REYNOLDS GALLERY

Summertime ... and the licking is easy

As the final month of summer arrives, Fillmore Street offers a number of tasty options for a cone or a cup of ice cream or frozen yogurt. Take a tour of the wide-ranging possibilities in the neighborhood. **SWEET SCOOPS** | PAGE 10

Storefronts Empty, But Still in Demand

Now 7 shops have closed on Fillmore

BY DONNA DOMINO

THERE ARE now seven retail vacancies on upper Fillmore, but most have pending leases with new tenants, a sign that the area is doing better than other shopping streets that have seen many businesses shuttered in the continuing economic downturn.

Pam Mendelsohn, an agent with Johnson-Hoke who is handling several of the vacant properties, acknowledged that there have been more vacancies in the last six months but pointed out there are "lots of interested tenants."

Among the incoming businesses is a Brooks Brothers spinoff called Black Fleece, which will offer fash-

ion for men and women. Black Fleece will succeed glassware designer Simon Pearce at 2223 Fillmore. The first stand-alone Black Fleece boutique opened earlier this year in New York's Greenwich Village. A second will open soon in Tokyo, and the Fillmore location is expected to open in September.

Mendelsohn said the new tenant will pay "lower rent, but not much."

Several tenants, including salon owners, have expressed interest in the former Aveda salon at 1928 Fillmore, and a lease is pending, Mendelsohn said. She said the site cannot be leased until the terms of Aveda's bankruptcy are finalized. A hearing was scheduled at the end of July.

TO PAGE 5 ►

As the Paint Peels

For a fifth year, 2028 Fillmore sits empty
as brother, sister battle over father's estate

BY DONNA DOMINO

DESPITE repeated complaints that the building has become a neglected eyesore, the vacant storefront at 2028 Fillmore enters a fifth year with papered windows and peeling paint, the fall-out from a long-running family feud.

Neighborhood residents and merchants have complained for years about the building's deterioration to lawyers for the estate and to Sue Corey, the daughter of the late owner, John Adam Treutlen Sperry, who is said to control the vacant store.

"We are concerned that the property at 2028 Fillmore Street, which has been vacant for an extended period of time, is now visibly falling into disrepair," noted an August 2008 letter from the Pacific Heights



2028 Fillmore: eyesore

Residents Association. "This is damaging to the neighborhood and the shopping district as a whole."

In reply, Novato attorney Daryl Weinroth said his clients, Corey and her brother, John Treutlen Sperry, were "aware and mindful" of the property's condition, but that "they must beg your indulgence a bit longer."

"It was unknown to my clients when their father passed away that these properties could not be split as was intended by their father as they are technically one parcel of property on the city's property rolls," Weinroth wrote in September 2008.

Sperry, a longtime presence on Fillmore Street, died at age 81 in June 2004. He owned both 2028 Fillmore and the storefront next door at 2020 Fillmore, home of Harry's Bar.

TO PAGE 5 ►

California Pacific Medical Center Pacific Campus Neighborhood Meeting

California Pacific Medical Center is embarking on an ambitious plan to bring the next generation of health care to San Francisco. This plan is spurred by California law which requires all hospital inpatient facilities to meet stringent seismic standards by January 1, 2015. Plans include converting the Pacific campus into an outpatient facility and moving inpatient hospital activities to a new campus at Van Ness Avenue and Geary Boulevard.



Plans at other CPMC campuses include renovations at our Davies campus and a new hospital at St. Luke's. These projects total a \$2.5 billion investment in San Francisco's health care infrastructure.

Please attend this meeting to hear the ways we are currently working with the neighborhood to improve day-to-day operations around the campus, and to give your input on current or future issues.

To learn more about our projects visit our website:
www.rebuildcpmc.org

If you have issues or concerns you would like to bring forward prior to the meeting please contact Paula Lykins at 415-600-7482.



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Date: Wednesday, August 12
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Place: California Pacific Medical Center
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Enright Room
main lobby level between
the gift shop and the Kanbar Center

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FURTHERMORE



Neighborhood picklemaker Brad Koester delivers. Below, one of his offerings.

The Pickles Arrived on a Bike

MY WIFE AND I were intrigued by the article in the May issue of the *New Fillmore* ["Latest in a Long Line of Picklers"] describing a local enterprise which produces Boozely's



homemade pickles and preserves.

Always on the lookout for fresh-tasting crunchy pickles and never satisfied with those in the supermarket, we decided to pursue the products of this cottage industry. Being adventurous, we ordered a jar of each of the pickles: spears, string beans and bread-and-butter, plus a jar of the kumquat marmalade.

An online order at www.boozelys.com produced an e-mail in response, then a phone call regarding delivery. When would we be at home to receive the jars? A mutually convenient

time was agreed upon and the delivery was made by picklemaker Brad Koester himself on his bicycle.

We eagerly tried all of the products received, with unanimous approval. The pickles are fresh-tasting, crunchy and totally satisfying. The marmalade is tart and delicious, albeit a bit runny.

Having devoured all the pickles, we ordered more and added a jar of Meyer lemon marmalade. Again efficient delivery ensued, plus an enthusiastic acknowledgment of our return business.

We have yet to check out Brad's day (or evening) job as a waiter at Florio restaurant, but trust that the service rendered is as efficient as that of his other occupational pursuit.

LEE ZEIGLER

MANY GROUPS will benefit from the renovation of Kimball Field. ["Synthetic Turf: Better Than Grass," May.]

Adult leagues, comprised mostly of players who don't even live in the neighborhood, will be thrilled. Wealthy youth sports programs, like the JCC, which can charge their participants \$250 for a 10-session soccer program, will benefit.

And, of course, San Francisco Rec & Park will be only too happy to rake in the rental fees, which is really what this is all about.

What remains to be seen is if small volunteer sports programs in the neighborhood, like the one I am involved in, will ever get on the field — and if we will have to have fundraisers just to pay for the privilege.

JIM HARFMAN

PLEASE ACCEPT this quick note as a "Yea" for the clever, witty and informative review of the Fillmore-area coffee shops in the May edition.

Cheryl Lurie's article ["Brother, Can You Spare a Latte"] created mental images and an experience which could be rivaled only in person. Her piece went down easier than iced coffee at noon on a hot summer's day.

After reading her piece, I want to check out all the spots profiled in your fun, hip and cool neighborhood clarion.

RICK HUBBARD

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 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

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

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By DONNA GILLESPIE

Street Life Up, Crime Down

South of Geary, new businesses and community groups are bringing change

CRIME IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT		
	MAY 2008	MAY 2009
Robbery	37	27
Burglary	76	66
Larceny/theft	346	278
Motor vehicle theft	51	49
Vandalism	65	53
Weapons laws violations	16	10
Suspicious occurrences	29	20
Forgery/counterfeiting	21	13
Prostitution	15	9

Source: San Francisco Police Dept.

says. "They're creating a situation in which criminals can't operate."

Casciato cites a recent example. "We just had an auto boosting at Clay and Steiner Streets," he says. "Neighbors came out and followed the suspect. Officers got dozens of phone calls." He adds, "People are talking to their beat officers more."

"People who might be criminals aren't

going to commit a crime where people are looking," says Cindy Brandon, executive director of SAFE.

"This is something we hear all the time," she says. "Someone saw someone suspicious and they say, 'We weren't really sure what to do.' When you do call the police, then they will have a bigger presence in that area."

Monetta White is also enthusiastic about the accomplishments of the youth program Mo' Magic, a community organization founded in 2004 by the public defender's office to help combat violence in the Bayview-Hunter's Point district. Three years ago, Mo' Magic expanded into the Fillmore and the Western Addition.

Mo' Magic provides local youth with vocational training, educational resources, reentry programs and activities that promote literature and the arts.

SHERYL DAVIS, the program's director, explains the magic of Mo' Magic: "We do an event every Tuesday. We bring groups from all parts of the Western Addition together. Events like this break down turf issues."

Davis says a factor critical to the peace in the streets is a new-found cooperation between city service providers.

"Before, there was bickering between all the service providers," Davis says. "Ella Hill Hutch, African American Art and Culture, the Booker T. Center, the Family Resource Center — the adults were modeling bad behavior. People now put their issues aside. The mandate is: We work together."

The new order brings together a diverse group.

"The merchants, 1300, Rasselas, the school district and particularly the police department are a big part of this. Twice a week, we meet with the police," Davis says. "People feel empowered now. There's some accountability."

She adds that, these days, when residents of the old Fillmore see unacceptable behavior on the street, they speak up about it. "Their reaction is, 'We don't want that here,'" she says. "We've got this community engaged."

A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE FILLMORE CENTER

FILLMORE SUMMER CONCERT & FILM SERIES 2 0 0 9

Join the vibrant Fillmore community for alternating weeks of Friday concerts and Thursday flicks in the Plaza. Joining the line up are soul, salsa, blues, reggae and funk bands and a mixture of action and family films headlined with performances by local community groups. Concerts begin at 6pm each evening. Movie nights open with performances by local artists at 7pm, with film screenings at 8pm.

Fillmore Center Plaza is located at the intersection of Fillmore Street and O'Farrell Street. There's seating for 100, with plenty of premium open space to throw down a blanket and enjoy the show. The Plaza is wheelchair accessible.

For more information: 415/921-1969, or log onto www.fillmorejazzcbd.org/summerseries.html

The Fillmore Center is also home to the Fillmore Farmer's Market each Saturday from 9am until 1pm, which is accompanied by live music. The Fillmore Summer Concert and Film Series is made possible by Laramar Corporation and the Fillmore Center Apartments and a generous contribution by Bruno's restaurant, which will be donating the proceeds from concession sales to Mo' Magic, an educational, economic and social development programs of under-served youth and families in the San Francisco Bay Area.



FRIDAY EVENING CONCERTS

Concerts begin at 6pm and will end around 7:30pm

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(salsa)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14TH
SILA AND THE AFRO
FUNK EXPERIENCE (funk)

Carlito Del Sol
& America



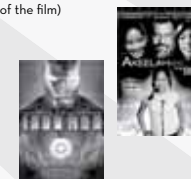
Sila and
the Afro Funk
Experience

THURSDAY EVENING FILMS

Community Group Performances begin at 7pm. Films begin @ 8pm/dusk until 9:30 or 10pm (depending on the length of the film)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH
7:00pm - Handful of Players
8:00pm: AKEELAH AND THE BEE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20TH
7:00pm - Infini8Sync: Independent Artists Group
BYOA
8:00pm: IRONMAN



Concerts, performances and films are subject to change. www.fillmorejazzcbd.org

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CRIME WATCH

Narcotics, Trespassing Sutter and Gough Streets June 13, 10 a.m.

A hotel manager called police regarding trespassers in the hotel. The manager said there was a hotel room in which no one was registered, but he could hear a dog barking inside.

The officers entered the room. One of the occupants had an outstanding warrant and was carrying narcotics and a crack pipe; he was booked at Northern Station. A second occupant was cited for trespassing and released.

Shoplifting Webster and Hollis Streets June 13, 12:15 p.m.

Officers received a call about a shoplifter who was being detained. When officers arrived, security guards told them a woman had stolen more than \$100 worth of meat, which she had hidden in her purse. When the woman left the store, a security guard pursued and held her, then signed a citizen's arrest warrant.

The woman was arrested for theft and for having an outstanding shoplifting warrant.

Stay-Away Order Buchanan and Eddy Streets June 13, 5 p.m.

Officers were patrolling the Plaza East housing projects when they observed two men running. The men then jumped into a vehicle with no license plates.

The officers, who recognized the two from numerous prior contacts, knew one man was on felony probation and had an order to stay away from the area. The officers stopped the vehicle and took the suspect into custody. He was booked at Northern Station.

Theft From an Automobile Van Ness Avenue and Post Street June 14, 1 a.m.

Officers responded to a call concerning an auto theft. They had a description of the suspect and set out to look for him. One officer located the man nearby; he was still holding the GPS device he had just taken out of the vehicle. A witness identified the suspect and he was placed under arrest.

During a search, officers located a crack pipe on the suspect. A computer check showed the man was on parole, and so a parole-hold was also placed on him.

Battery on a Police Officer, Resisting Arrest, Trespassing Gough and Ellis Streets June 15, 9 p.m.

Dispatch received a call about a fight in an apartment building. One man wanted

another man to leave the premises, but he refused.

Since the man who would not leave was not a resident there, the officers asked him to go. After several requests, the man still refused to leave. The officers attempted to place him under arrest, but the suspect struggled and pulled away. He fought with the officers, slightly injuring them in the scuffle.

With the help of additional units, the officers were able to take the suspect into custody. He was booked at Northern Station.

Parole and Weapon Violation Franklin and Fern Streets June 15, 10:30 p.m.

Officers received a call about a man wielding and waving a 12-inch knife. The officer approached the suspect, who told him he was on parole. He said the knife the officers were looking for was in his bag. The man was detained. The officer contacted the suspect's parole officer, who placed a parole-hold on him. The subject was arrested and booked at Northern Station.

Narcotics Pine and Franklin Streets June 16, 1:30 a.m.

Officers were patrolling the area when they observed a vehicle with an expired registration driven by an individual with four passengers. They stopped the vehicle; the driver, who had several previous narcotics arrests, agreed to let the officers search his vehicle. Inside it, the officers found crack cocaine. The driver and one of the passengers were arrested and booked at Northern Station.

Robbery With a Gun Washington Street and Van Ness Avenue June 16, 10 p.m.

A man who alleged he had been robbed told officers that another man had approached him and asked him for his laptop. The suspect then showed him a gun. The man carrying the laptop quickly walked away, but the suspect followed him.

The two struggled over a bag the suspect was trying to take from the man. When the man yelled for help, the suspect ran from the scene, but was quickly apprehended by the officers in the area and placed under arrest. The officers searched the area, but were unable to locate a gun.

Police contact numbers
Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: 553-0123
Anonymous tip line: 575-4444
Cell phone 911: 553-8090
Northern Station: 614-3400

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Perhaps you've worked at the top levels of corporate marketing, but come to realize the importance of local businesses. You love living in this special neighborhood and would find it satisfying to use your considerable skills to contribute directly to keeping it vital. Help us connect local businesses and residents in one of the world's great neighborhoods — home to discerning consumers and interesting shops and restaurants — through the pages of the *New Fillmore*.

Contact Thomas Reynolds
trr@newfillmore.com
415.441.6070

Despite Vacancies, 'Fillmore Continues to Be a Good Street'

FROM PAGE ONE

In the interim, in a flash from the past, building owner Rich Urbiztondo says he will sell items remaining from the Mainline Gifts store he operated there for 15 years before leasing to Aveda.

"This street is wonderful, with all the new restaurants," he said, noting the newly opened Woodhouse Fish Co. next door at 1914 Fillmore. Restaurants, said Urbiztondo, are carrying much of the street's ongoing business.

"It's coming back, and it's going to be a very trendy street," he said. He's had "no problem" leasing the store, he said, and expects the new tenant to pay higher rent.

ACROSS THE alley, what was previously Toraya Japanese restaurant has been divided into two spaces. At 1910 Fillmore, construction has begun on Fraiche, a fresh and frozen yogurt store. Fraiche already has two outlets in Palo Alto, and plans to open on Fillmore in the fall.

Jeremy Paul, who is working with Fraiche, and is also a permit consultant for several buildings in Cow Hollow, says Fillmore Street is faring better than nearby Union Street, which has many vacant storefronts.

"There's a lack of formula retail that makes it really pleasant on Fillmore," Paul said. "Fillmore just has a nice sprinkling of smaller businesses and greater diversity."

Paul notes a key indicator that business may finally be on the upswing: Wait times for applications are increasing at the city building department.

"Fillmore continues to be a good street," said Ted Plant of the Edward Plant Co., which leased the space to Fraiche. "Upper Fillmore has always had good quality tenants and customers, and it's a little more fashionable than other streets."

Plant said rents on Fillmore, which ranged as high as \$6 per square foot last fall, haven't really dropped, although Plant thinks they should go lower because of the

struggling economy. The owners of the divided Toraya space got their asking rate for Woodhouse Fish Co., Plant said.

"EVERYBODY is having a difficult time but Fillmore seems to be doing better," Plant said. "There's still a lot of interest in food uses; restaurants do well in that neighborhood."

Among other neighborhoods, Plant said Castro and Chestnut Streets are still doing well.

Two highly visible vacancies, at 2185 and 2028 Fillmore, remain off the market, despite expressions of interest from numerous potential tenants.

The ailing owner of the large, two-story building at 2185 Fillmore, formerly home of Shabby Chic and Filamentto, doesn't want to lease or sell it, said Mendelsohn, who recently spoke to the owner's attorney.

Then there is 2028 Fillmore, which has been vacant the past five years while the

children of the building's late owner, John Treuten Sperry, settle his estate.

Even among ongoing businesses, many store windows sport signs advertising summer sales, some at significant discounts.

"Business has been steady but not as busy as last year," said Josh Rodriguez, who works at the high-end L'Occitane body products store at Fillmore and Sacramento.

Juan Gomez, who has been working at the Grove restaurant for seven years and is now assistant manager, said business is "a little slow but not much."

At Fillmore Hardware, a neighborhood mainstay for nearly 50 years, business has slowed, but loyal customers are helping keep it afloat, says co-owner Terri Hayes, whose family opened the store in 1961.

"We'll tough it out," said Hayes while stocking shelves in the store recently. "The locals still come in, thank goodness. Thank God there's no Home Depot nearby; that would probably drive us out."

The vintage shop that long called 2028 Fillmore home moved out five years ago.

gances. "He'd take the rent checks to Wells Fargo, put the money in his sweatpants and ride Muni back home," he said.

In the early 1950s, Sperry, a native San Franciscan, opened the Mardi Gras bar and restaurant on Fillmore Street, which he operated for more than 20 years before it became Harry's Bar. The Mardi Gras was a favorite watering hole for sports teams like the 49ers football team and the Warriors basketball team. John F. Kennedy and Prince Charles also dropped in.

Three months before his lease expired in June 2004, the owner of the vintage shop got a letter from his landlord's daughter.

"It said, 'Our father is ill and we don't know what we're doing with the building,'" Spigolon recalled. Then, before the lease ended and with no further communication, a real estate agent came into the store and put up a for-lease sign, he said.

"They never called to me about renewing my lease," said Spigolon, who said he understood the family wanted \$10,000 a month in rent for the store in 2004.

WHATEVER the price, it apparently will be many more months before 2028 Fillmore comes alive again with a new retail business.

"It's sad and foolish to let it sit empty when people are interested in renting it," said Scott, head of the residents association. "They may as well be lighting \$100 bills with matches."

Store Sits Empty as the Paint Peels

FROM PAGE ONE

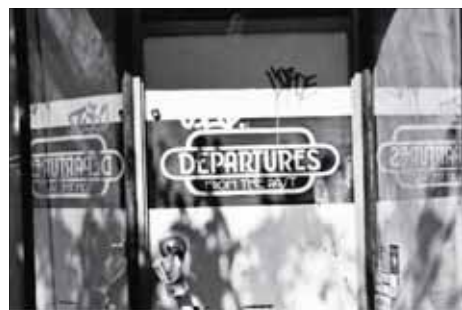
In November, Eric Miller, a San Francisco real estate attorney representing the Sperry Trust, said the process of splitting 2020 and 2028 Fillmore was being completed.

"The trust has now instructed me to go forward . . . to establish clear title so that each property can be distributed out of the trust. I will move this along as quickly as possible," Miller wrote. He said he had also conveyed concerns about the building's condition to the trustees.

SINCE THEN, nearly nothing has been done to maintain the property, said Paul Werner, a director of the residents association. "They replaced the water-streaked brown paper in the windows with fresh but crumpled paper," he said. "It's pretty horrendous. They seem to be having great fun fighting about it."

Neither Sue Corey nor either of the attorneys for the estate responded to repeated calls for comment about the status of the property.

"I've heard it's a battle," said Greg Scott, president of the residents association. "People will cut off their nose to spite their face," he said of the dispute between the son and daughter.



"It's in very bad and deteriorating shape," Scott said. "I think it's getting to the point where it's derelict and has become a blight and an eyesore in the neighborhood."

He said his organization has discussed urging the city to invoke a new ordinance that allows the city to clean up the property and bill the owners.

"PHRA can and will participate in trying to get the city to do something," Scott said, "but given the history, I'm not terribly hopeful."

Pam Mendelsohn, a leasing agent for Johnson-Hoke, the company whose sign has hung above the doorway of the empty building for five years, said recently the Sperry siblings are still trying to split the property. A final agreement is "getting closer to being completed," she said.

Mendelsohn said she gets calls nearly

every week from potential tenants inquiring about the property.

BEFORE IT WAS vacated in 2004, the storefront was home to a vintage clothing store, Departures from the Past, for 15 years. Owner Steven "Spig" Spigolon described Sperry as a "father-like" figure who was such a caring landlord that he lowered the rent during the recession of the early 1990s.

"I needed help on my lease, and he renewed it because he saw me as a good tenant," said Spigolon, who now operates the Costume Party store on Hyde Street. "He gave me a new 10-year lease with lower rent and better terms."

Spigolon remembers Sperry as a fragrant man who didn't like to spend money on what he considered unnecessary extra-

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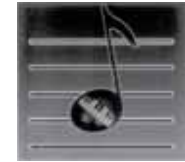


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True Grits

1300 on Fillmore
brings its food – and
its soul – to the market

By SYED ALI

LOCALS HAVE come to rely on the fresh-from-the-farm fruits and vegetables available on Saturday morning at the Fillmore Farmers Market. But many have lamented one missing ingredient: prepared food to have for breakfast or a snack while shopping, people-watching and listening to jazz.

Among the first to step into that void were Monetta White and David Lawrence, the community-minded owners of the elegant soul food restaurant 1300 on Fillmore, which opened a block south of the market at the end of 2007. With the restaurant already a neighborhood fixture drawing rave reviews, the couple decided to branch out to the farmers market.

This summer they've been onsite at the market stirring up individual portions of their savory grits with shrimp, wild mushrooms or bacon and eggs. Now the neighbors can sample 1300 on Fillmore's high-class soul food — and extend a hand to the youth of the Fillmore at the same time.

"David comes from very strong values of giving back, and I come from the same core foundation from my family," says White. "When you're coming to a commu-



ROSE PERCI



On Saturday mornings at the 1300 on Fillmore booth at the farmers market, you'll get your grits from Ishanque Ritner-Gill (left), Darrel York (top right) and Michael Bolden.

nity that's going through its revitalization, as a business owner it's your social responsibility to help people in your community. It's about giving back."

So they created two programs to help introduce neighborhood youth to the restaurant and hospitality business.

One is a summer cooking program enabling youth between the ages of 12 and 19 to shadow the chefs in 1300 on Fillmore and create some of the dishes from the restaurant's menu.

Participants meet at the restaurant once a week for two hours. During the first hour, they prep and cook the meal, which has varied from sweet pea ravioli to fish and chips to fried green tomato salad. During the second hour, the kids clean up after enjoying the meals they made.

"One of the things I like is that the kids are looking forward to it every summer,"

says White. "They go home learning how to cook healthier meals. Eventually, I want to take on more kids and possibly have it all year round to get kids interested in the hospitality business."

The second program is already year-round: It's the booth at the farmers market run by White, a chef from the restaurant and three teenagers who are a part of Mo' Magic, a neighborhood organization that encourages collaboration between service providers, city agencies and local youth.

"1300 on Fillmore approached us and talked about how they wanted more people in the community to be involved with the hospitality business," says Sheryl Davis, the program director of Mo' Magic who has been there since its inception in 2006. "The culinary group, I handpicked those. As far as the farmers market kids go, they went through an interview process."

Preparation is required to get the market

booth ready for Saturday morning, beginning the day before. On Fridays, the food, utensils, marketing materials and other necessities are prepared, packed and made ready to go. On market day, all the energy is devoted to the booth, beginning with a commitment to show up at 6:30 on Saturday morning.

"They're on time and they love it," says White. "It's like golf — one of those things where it starts early and takes all day. But once you're out there, you have a good time."

Michael Bolden, one of the youth from Mo' Magic who helps with the booth on Saturday mornings, is on the verge of graduating from high school and dreams of going to culinary school. He's a paid employee at 1300 on Fillmore three days a week, helping both in the restaurant and at the booth. But he often comes in on

his days off to shadow and assist the chefs. "I like to cook," says Bolden, "so I figured I might as well try to get a job here so I can work closely with the chefs — and just to experience how it is in the restaurant business."

Besides cooking, the youth also learn about the other aspects of the restaurant business, ranging from marketing to organizing and planning all the details that go into a day's work.

"I was really interested in a place that was a black-owned, black-based restaurant," says Ishanque Ritner-Gill, another youth from Mo' Magic.

Gill is an office assistant and works closely with White, where she assists in business and administrative tasks. She's interested in the behind-the-scenes work required to run a restaurant and hopes some day to open her own business.



DIKKE SHUTZ



Raj Dhillon (left) offers tastes of India at the Fillmore Farmers Market, along with naan warm from the oven. At SF Grill, Ryan Garcia (above left) and Seni Felic offer sausages and burgers hot from the grill.

Now You Can Eat While You Shop at the Market

By SYED ALI

ALONG WITH the restaurant 1300 on Fillmore, three more new arrivals have popped up at the farmers market in recent weeks with a wide range of offerings to eat on the spot on Saturdays while marketing, listening to jazz or greeting the neighbors.

One is **DONNA'S TAMALES**, which is owned and run by Marcelo Garbino, a native of Argentina. After working at farmers markets throughout the Bay Area over the last 10 years, Garbino figured he'd give the Fillmore market a shot, since it's a part of the city he's always liked. All of his tamales are organic and vegetarian. So far, his top seller at the Saturday market is a goat cheese tamale with sundried tomatoes.

Another newcomer is Raj Dhillon, owner of **INDIA GOURMET**, which specializes in both vegan and vegetarian food. He also offers chicken and lamb for the meat eaters, along with fresh naan prepared at the market in a portable clay oven.

"You have a diversity and a great mix of people here," said

Dhillon, who has been working at various farmers markets for 20 years. "And I found that there was a niche here and people would love vegan, vegetarian and organic food that supports a sustainable living."

Also now pitching a booth on the plaza at the Fillmore market is **SF GRILL**, a new grassroots business run by Ryan Garcia and Seni Felic that specializes in organic sausages, turkey burgers, sauces and dips.

"They chose the Fillmore market to set up a Saturday morning grill because of Felic's personal tie to the neighborhood: Originally from Croatia, he met his wife here."

"The process is having fun and engaging all the senses," said Garcia, who, along with Felic, seems to thrive on chatting with marketgoers, urging them to taste samples of their offerings and mugging for snapshots.

"We have the visual quality," said Garcia. "We have the beautiful aromas coming from our grill and our tastes are exquisite. We're cultivating community around what we're doing and building friendships."

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Heaven Can Wait

After dueling death, Kirk Webber is back in Cafe Kati's kitchen

By TESS MINSKY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KATHRYN AMNOTT

LIFE AND TIMES have presented Kirk Webber with plenty of opportunities to test his mettle — or to turn toque and run from Cafe Kati, the restaurant he founded nearly 20 years ago.

He got robbed eight times — twice at knifepoint and six times at gunpoint — got hit over the head with an Uzi, went through some tumultuous personal times and, most recently, survived a bout with an often fatal disease that kept him hospitalized and recuperating for nearly six months.



But now he's back in the kitchen, serving new takes on small — and large — plates of the fresh Asian fusion cuisine that originally inspired him, as an ambitious 24-year-old chef, to come up with the \$30,000 needed to open Cafe Kati's doors on a sketchy stretch of Sutter Street in 1990.

Back then, Webber says, many people tried to deter him. "Some said I was crazy," he recalls. "But I wasn't going to let anybody chase me out of my dream."

He says the moment he knew Cafe Kati and he would succeed was when a neighborhood African-American family's five kids devoured his fresh spring rolls. He

knew if these kids were willing to embrace his new and unusual combinations, many other diners would too.

SPRING ROLLS still grace Cafe Kati's menu — these days stuffed with mango, chopped mint, Thai basil, cilantro and mai fun noodles. Webber says he supports local farmers by finding many of his ingredients at the farmers market and using them as the basis for dishes that fuse flavors from around the world.

"French chefs give fusion cuisine a bad name," Webber said. "Nowadays, everything seems to be fusion."

But Webber was ahead of the surge, taking classics from various Asian cuisines and putting a modern twist on them befitting a "Star Chef of the Year" — an honor bestowed upon him by the California Culinary Academy Educational Foundation in 2003.

A taste in point is Kati's signature drag-on roll: prawns, avocado and cucumber wrapped with smoked salmon and served with wasabi vinaigrette, available in generous half or huge whole orders.

"It's not the job of the chef to copy or completely remake dishes, but to make minor adjustments," he says. "Who am I to



think I can make a better roast duck than the Chinese, who have been roasting ducks for ages?"

Instead, he adopts a certain technique or adds new ingredients, such as sticky rice or local mushrooms. Other ingredients that often flavor his dishes are Kiefer limes, lemongrass, ginger and soy sauce.

WEBBER SAYS it was his love of creative cooking and Cafe Kati that helped pull him through a recent battle with necrotizing fasciitis, a quick-spreading soft tissue infection that is often fatal.



Kirk Webber, far left, the owner and chef of Cafe Kati, and his artistic culinary creations still attract a loyal clientele to his colorful Sutter Street dining room after almost 20 years.



"It was an amazingly difficult time — devastating," Webber says. He endured 26 surgeries and six months of recovery, three of them in intensive care. He says he survived the uncertain months in intensive care by imagining himself still at the restaurant.

"I would order the nurses around, telling them to bring out the food because it was getting cold, and they would have to remind me I was in the hospital," he says. "It's different if you don't have a job you're passionate about. But food is my passion."

In addition to help from friends and family, there was strong support from

many loyal customers on Cafe Kati's mailing list. "I emailed them to let them know I wasn't just playing hooky, that I actually wasn't feeling well. There was so much love and support from the customers, it almost brought tears to my eyes."

NOW WEBBER is back in action at Cafe Kati. He says working at a smaller neighborhood restaurant allows him to be totally hands-on, rather than delegating tasks to a sous chef.

"I get to touch every plate and talk to every table," he says. In addition to getting immediate feed-

back, his personal involvement has also allowed him to match portions to today's palates.

"The biggest thing in the U.S. is the small plates movement," Webber says. At first people thought it was a fad or a way of making more money — "a less food for more money kind of deal," he says — but it has evolved as a way to enable adventurous diners to try new tastes.

"People want to try new flavors and are demanding these small plates," Webber says. "If you don't dramatically change your menu, people get tired of it. You have to keep evolving."

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MOLLIE STONE'S

AT GRAND CENTRAL 2435 California Street

By ANNE PAPROCKI
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KATHRYN AMNOTT

WITH A BIT of summer left to savor, there's still time for one of the season's simplest pleasures: taking a leisurely stroll on Fillmore while savoring a cone or a cup of ice cream or frozen yogurt. The neighborhood has many options — from the new craze for unsweetened frozen yogurt to Argentinean gelato to time-tested Filipino ice cream.

Jubili

1515 Fillmore Street

Jubili serves up the unsweetened frozen yogurt that's become popular all over town — nonfat and with fewer than 100 calories a half-cup serving, it's a treat as healthy as it is delicious. The atmosphere in the store is clean and modern, and there are stools and tables for those who wish to linger. The tart yogurt comes in original, peach and strawberry sorbet flavors. But it's the toppings that stand out: fresh fruit, mochi, candy — and cereals galore.

Yogurt is \$2.45 for a small, \$3.45 for a medium and \$5.90 for a large; toppings add \$1.25 for one, \$1.45 for two or \$1.75 for three.

Jubili caters to the morning crowd, too, serving cereal with milk as well as yogurt, fruit and granola parfaits. While \$3.65 for a bowl of cold cereal is pricey, it does come with fresh fruit.

Open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Miyako Ice Cream Parlor

1470 Fillmore Street

When owner and operator Tom Bennett opened this tiny shop 17 years ago, it was one of only two businesses on the block. While the teeming area is very different now, little inside the shop has changed. Bennett's warmth radiates; he is happy to reminisce about his years on Fillmore and will gladly serve up samples of old-fashioned ice cream.

While many of the flavors are simply Dryer's classics, he also serves several unusual Mitchell's varieties, including sweet 'n' salty peanut, ube (Filipino purple yam), halo halo (pineapple and sweet bean), Mexican chocolate and lucuma (a native fruit of Peru with a maple-like flavor and pumpkin-like pulp). Bennett says he picks his flavors to reflect the diversity of the neighborhood.

Prices are \$2.25 for a small and \$3.25



Sweet Scoops

A local's guide to ice cream and frozen yogurt



for a large, with Mitchell's flavors costing \$2.95 for a small and \$4.25 for a large.

In addition to serving scoops and sundaes, the shop is stocked with big glass jars displaying everything from Lemon Heads to Coconut Long Boys to giant pickles — also for sale.

Miyako also offers quite possibly the Fillmore's best meal deal: \$3.25 for a fresh-made deli sandwich and chips or potato salad. While there's no place to sit inside, just across the street is the Fillmore Center's snazzy new plaza.

Hours vary depending on Bennett's schedule, but the shop is generally open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Pizzeria Delfina

2406 California Street

Though this starchy newcomer to the neighborhood is most noted for its pizza, Delfina also serves rich gelato made in house every day.

Flavors change often to feature seasonal fruits and herbs. Recent options included Meyer lemon, Morello cherry, Albion strawberry, Scharffen Berger chocolate, vanilla bean and Amaretto.

It's the neighborhood's priciest frozen dessert, with one serving of two flavors of gelato running \$5. Those willing to pony up an extra dollar can get their gelato in brioche, which makes for a

decadent twist on the ice cream sandwich.

Though the wait for a table can be long, Pizzeria Delfina will do gelato orders for take out — if you order ahead, you can generally get gelato within 15 minutes or so.

Restaurant hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Tuesday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 440-1189 for take out.

Royal Ground

2060 Fillmore Street

Royal Ground is decidedly not a dedicated frozen yogurt joint, but where else can you do your laundry and cool off with a fro at the same time? At \$2.75 for a generous small and \$3.50 for a large, you can treat yourself without breaking the bank.

In addition to the adjoining laundromat, Wash 'n Royal, this corner coffee house boasts free wifi and a large seating area. Note that the frozen yogurt is the traditional, sweet kind. It's still fat free, though, and decently creamy. Chocolate and vanilla are the only flavors, making this a spot for those who love the classics.

Cafe hours are from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Tango Gelato

2015 Fillmore Street

With its two cozy window booths and a sophisticated flavor palate, Tango Gelato is the street's best date option when it comes to frozen treats. Stop by after a dinner out to see what creamy gelato and refreshing sorbet flavors are available. The gelato is priced at \$3.50 for a small, \$4.75 for a medium and \$5.50 for a large, but the rich flavors compensate for your lighter wallet.

With a variety of unique options including lemon ricotta, blackberry cabernet, passion fruit, olive oil and strawberry cream, a mix of flavors is recommended. Even customers ordering a small serving — a chico — are allowed to combine two different flavors. Pairing a gelato with a sorbet is a nice option to cut the rich creaminess of the first with the lighter iciness of the second.

In addition to shakes and coffee drinks, Tango Gelato also serves panini and even empanadas — a nod to the founder's Argentinean roots.

Open every day from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday until 11 p.m.

Big Band, Big Sound on Tuesdays at Rasselas

By ANTHONY TORRES

A GROUP of incredible musicians called the Contemporary Jazz Orchestra is now playing — with no cover charge — at Rasselas, at 1534 Fillmore, on Tuesday nights. For 13 years, CJO played every week at Jazz at Pearl's in North Beach. But Pearl's closed last summer, and the group now holds court on Fillmore Street.

The Contemporary Jazz Orchestra is a 16-piece big band whose comrady and depth of sound immediately commands attention as you step into the club. After you listen for a while, what stands out is the overriding big band sound, which creates a rich density through the arrangements for five saxophones up front, four trombones in the middle, four trumpets in the rear, and the piano, bass, and drums in the rhythm section.

The more time you spend in Rasselas, the more amazing it seems that a group of this size and dynamism can be heard in such a casual and intimate venue. The fact that it happens on Fillmore drives home the idea that the dream and promise of a



Five saxophones — including a big baritone sax — help give the 16-piece Contemporary Jazz Orchestra a deep, dense air-tight sound.

jazz renaissance is indeed being realized.

Being in the presence of a group of musicians who are deadly serious in their execution of intricately layered air-tight arrangements — of both swinging jazz standards and original compositions — brings to mind how utterly blessed we are to live in a neighborhood where you can walk down the block, come in off the street on a week night and partake of a musical experience that resonates with a high level of cultural attainment and sophistication.

On recent Tuesdays, musicians in the audience volunteered to sit in or were invited to play with the band. If you know this music, and the speed and complexity with which some of it is played, then you know how advanced it is musically and how accomplished the players from the audience have to be to handle the charts.

The last time I was there, the session was surprisingly open. Tenor sax player Melvin Bell got up from his table in front of the band and cut loose on a great tenor solo. Then Kurt Thompson was coaxed by

the bandleader away from dinner with his date to sit in on trumpet for a smoking version of a tune called "Cherry Juice." The previous week, Steve Lucky of the Rhumba Bums sat in on vocals with the group.


If people get hip to how great these sessions are, the small gathering of people lucky enough to fall into this huge big band universe now at Rasselas on Tuesday nights will grow. The gathering won't be small for long, because the music is too great to go unnoticed.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Before It Was Harlem, the Fillmore Was Jewish

New exhibition includes cellphone walking tour

LOST IN THE long-running battles over redevelopment, the displacement of its African-American population and the removal and incarceration of its Japanese-American community is the story of another era from Fillmore's past: For the first half of the 20th century, the neighborhood was home to a vibrant Jewish culture.

The story comes alive in a new exhibition, "Jews of the Fillmore," on view now in the lobby of the Jazz Heritage Center at 1330 Fillmore Street.

In addition to archival photographs and other documentary material presented in collaboration with the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley, the exhibition also includes a self-guided walking tour with commentary via cell phone.

"The Jewish contribution to the development of San Francisco is not well known," said Frances Dinkelspiel, president of the Magnes Museum. "Visitors to this exhibit will get a chance to peek back in time to the days when the Fillmore was the crossroads of many vibrant cultures and communities."

The exhibition is curated by Fred Rosenbaum, author of the forthcoming *Cosmopolitans: A Social and Cultural History of the Jews of the San Francisco Bay Area*.

"The Fillmore was artistically creative, politically assertive and keenly Jewish," said Rosenbaum.

The exhibition is open from noon to 10 p.m. daily. Admission is free. It continues through October 20. The walking tour may be taken at any time, and includes these five stops.

1. The Eagle Market 1312 Fillmore Street

In 1906, Jews from downtown and South of Market displaced by the earthquake streamed into the Fillmore. Jewish shops, markets and institutions moved with them.

Names like Shenson's, Diller's, Goldstein's, Green's, Goldenrath's, White's, Schindler's, Altman's, Waxman's, Langendorf's, Koblick's, the Webster Street Shul, the Golden Gate Avenue Shul, the Geary Street Temple, the Yiddish Cultural Center began to fill in the Fillmore landscape. At 1312 Fillmore Street, now the home of the Jazz Heritage Center, stood the Eagle Market, called the Jewish market by the locals.

The Jewish community planted roots in the Fillmore after the quake and remained in the area until after World War II.

Now walk south on Fillmore. Note the bricks in the sidewalk recalling the musicians who played the Fillmore in the 1940s, 50s and 60s, as well as some of the neighborhood's historic Jewish businesses and institutions from earlier in the century.

2. American Theater 1226 Fillmore Street

The American Theater opened in 1909 as part of the Fillmore Street Chutes, an amusement park that occupied the entire block bordered by Fillmore, Webster, Turk and Eddy. The park had rides, including the large water slide for which it was named, as well as dancing, movies, vaudeville acts, concessions — even a zoo.

Visitors to the park might have seen the great Jewish vaudevillian Sophie Tucker, who performed there a few times. The American Theater became one of seven movie theaters on an eight-block stretch of Fillmore.

More entertainment was available nearby, at the corner of Post and Steiner. Dreamland Auditorium — later called the Winterland Arena — offered ice skating, dancing, wrestling and boxing matches. Briefly, in the early 1930s, San Francisco's first professional hockey team played at the Iceland Pavilion on the corner of Sutter and Pierce.

Given its entertainment tradition, the Fillmore was a natural birthplace for the jazz scene when a sizable black population arrived in the neighborhood to work in the war industries during World War II.

3. Corner of Fillmore and McAllister Heart of the Jewish Fillmore

In the early 20th century the two blocks bordered by Fillmore, Buchanan, McAllister and Golden Gate were home to two synagogues, three kosher restaurants, four Jewish bakeries, five kosher meat markets, at least three Jewish delicatessens or groceries and one Jewish liquor merchant.

Keneseth Israel, known as the Webster Street Shul, was at 935 Webster. The other synagogue, Anshey Sfard, known as the Golden Gate Avenue Shul, stood at 1140 Golden Gate. The Central Hebrew School, attended by hundreds of the neighborhood's Jewish children over the years, was down the street at the corner of Grove and Buchanan.

The Jefferson Market, a few blocks away on Buchanan, was one of four places that sold kosher chickens, along with Sonnick's, Diller's and Shenson's. Customers would select their live chickens, which were taken into the back of the establishment to be butchered by a shochet — a kosher slaughterer — then wrapped in newspaper and passed back to the customers.

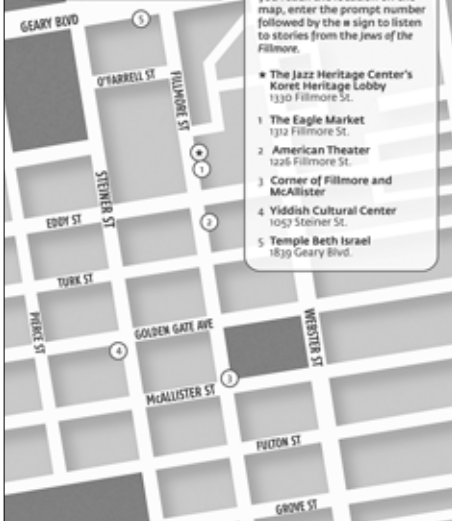
Among the nearby eateries, Diller's Strictly Kosher Restaurant, on Golden Gate between Webster and Fillmore, was the most popular.

JEWS OF THE FILLMORE Walking Tour

Take a twenty-minute Guide by Cell walking tour of the neighborhood to see the old Jewish sites.

While walking through the neighborhood, use your phone to call (415) 226-2583. When you reach the location on the map, enter the prompt number followed by the w sign to listen to stories from the Jews of the Fillmore.

- ★ The Jazz Heritage Center's Koret Heritage Lobby
1330 Fillmore St.
- 1 The Eagle Market
1312 Fillmore St.
- 2 American Theater
1226 Fillmore St.
- 3 Corner of Fillmore and McAllister
- 4 Yiddish Cultural Center
1057 Steiner St.
- 5 Temple Beth Israel
1839 Geary Blvd.



Inside Shenson's Kosher Meat Market

4. Yiddish Cultural Center 1057 Steiner Street

The colorful and beautifully restored Victorian Residence for Single Jewish Women, which encouraged the acculturation of recent East European Jewish immigrants to San Francisco. Later, as the Yiddish Cultural Center, it became a focal point for secular Jewish activities — including the study of Yiddish language, literature and culture. In addition to lectures by prominent Yiddish writers from around the world, it was also a center of radical politics.

In 1917 it became the Emanu-El Sisterhood's Residence for Single Jewish Women, which encouraged the acculturation of recent East European Jewish immigrants to San Francisco. Later, as the Yiddish Cultural Center, it became a focal point for secular Jewish activities — including the study of Yiddish language, literature and culture. In addition to lectures by prominent Yiddish writers from around the world, it was also a center of radical politics.

Just next to 1057 Steiner was once the home of Moshe Menuhin and his family. Menuhin was a Hebrew language teacher and, for a while, the principal of the Central Hebrew School at Grove and Buchanan. His son Yehudi, who spent his early years in the house, would become one of the great violinists of the 20th century.

5. Beth Israel 1839 Geary Boulevard

On the site now occupied by the post office once stood the architecturally imposing Geary Street Temple of Congregation Beth Israel. Founded in 1860, Beth Israel grew at the initiative of a handful of Jews who were interested in worshipping according to the Orthodox traditions of Polish Jewry.

At the time of the 1906 earthquake, Beth Israel had just completed construction of its new building at 1839 Geary. The temple was severely damaged but not completely destroyed. The 1500-seat building was finally dedicated in 1908 and the congregation remained in this grand building until 1969, when it merged with reform Temple Judea and moved out to Brotherhood Way, where it remains. The temple on Geary Street stood until 1989, when it was destroyed by a fire. In its final years it became the Duquette Pavilion, an homage to designer Tony Duquette.

To the left of Beth Israel, then as now, was the Fillmore Auditorium. To the right was the Albert Pike Memorial Scottish Rite temple. This temple too has been demolished, but achieved its own kind of renown in the 1970s when it became home to the People's Temple, led by Rev. Jim Jones.



Temple Beth Israel in ruins after the 1906 earthquake.

By 1969, when Beth Israel moved out of the Fillmore, most of the Jews in the neighborhood had moved to the Richmond, the Sunset and the suburbs. Their institutions and businesses went with them. Congregation Anshey Sfard is now located on Clement Street in the Richmond.

The Jewish era of the Fillmore is remembered now as a vital period in the rich, multi-layered history of this ever-changing neighborhood.



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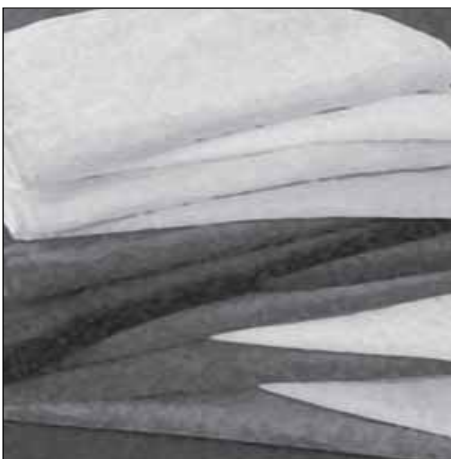


Bobby

This little lightning bug of a dog is Bobby, a delightfully eccentric two-year-old boy from Fremont Animal Shelter. Part Chihuahua, the other part remains a mystery — though a few of our staff suspect he's part squirrel due to his trademark bouncy run! Don't get us wrong — Bobby is just as snugly as he is animated. So if you are looking for a playful kind of love, stop in to meet bubbly Bobby!



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



Towels

Gently used towels and blankets are great bedding for shelter and hospital animals. Donating your towels and blankets will help the Adoption Center offset the cost of caring for our homeless animals—and right now they are in great demand and very much appreciated!



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

All of our shelter animals benefit from one or more of the donor-supported charitable funds: The Darby Tsujimoto Endowment, the Berrigan Fund, the Shelter Animal Medical Fund, the Foster Pet Medical Fund and from individual donations from animal lovers like you.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking \$	Sale \$
2703 Bush St	3	2	1	1705	30-Jun	1,150,000	1,140,000
213 Moulton St	2	2.5	1	2163	19-Jun	1,550,000	1,530,000
2675 Sacramento St	3	2.5	2		30-Jun	1,895,000	1,900,000
2880-2882 Greenwich St	4	3.5	2		1-Jul	1,949,000	1,949,000
3232 Pacific Ave	3	4		3400	17-Jun	2,500,000	2,500,000
2406-08 Washington St	4	3.5	1		12-Jun	2,750,000	2,750,000
3511 Jackson St	4	3.5	2	3419	30-Jun	3,295,000	3,295,000
2440 Filbert St	5	3	4	3285	17-Jun	3,495,000	3,495,000
2626 Green St	3	3.5	2		2-Jul	4,500,000	4,350,000
2332 Washington St	4	4.5	3	4790	18-Jun	4,495,000	4,400,000
2525 Webster St	7	6.5	5		24-Jun	6,750,000	5,600,000
2601 Lyon St	4	3.5	1	4146	25-Jun	6,399,500	6,399,500
200 Locust St	5	5.5	2	6500	8-Jul	7,195,000	7,195,000

Condos/Co-ops/TiCs/Lofts

1730 Broderick St #11			1	613	30-Jun	407,500	407,500
2727 Jackson St #4	1	1		812	3-Jul	499,000	460,000
1450 Post St #315	2	1.5	1	1067	3-Jul	544,703	490,000
2295 Vallejo St #105	1	1	1		26-Jun	599,000	587,250
2121 Laguna St #2	1	1	1	740	30-Jun	599,000	590,000
2357 Jackson St #6	1	1	1		19-Jun	599,000	599,000
2060 Union St #4	1	1	1	960	30-Jun	599,900	605,000
3295 Clay St #2	1	1	1	923	6-Jul	649,000	620,000
1724 Lyon St	1	1	1	811	16-Jun	695,000	655,000
2717 Sutter St	3	2	1	1000	19-Jun	729,900	699,000
1945 Washington St #204	2	2	1	937	18-Jun	715,000	715,000
2427-B Bush St	3	1.5	2	1200	18-Jun	729,000	715,000
3065 Clay St #302	1	1	1	1187	8-Jul	835,000	815,000
1725 Pierce St #1	2	2	1	2-Jul	949,000	910,000	
2717 Sacramento St	3	2	1	24-Jun	995,000	975,000	
3436 Clay St #2	2	2	1	1390	14-Jul	1,125,000	1,050,000
2001 Sacramento St #5	3	2	1	1912	10-Jul	1,195,000	1,095,000
3018 Sacramento St	3	1.5	1		16-Jun	1,199,000	1,120,000
2404 Washington St	2	2	1		19-Jun	1,275,000	1,275,000
2768 Green St	3	2	1	14-Jul	1,795,000	1,650,000	
3041A Webster St	3	2	1	1766	7-Jul	1,870,000	1,870,000

Sales up 20% over last month

These current sales signal the end of the spring market, given that most of the properties went into contract in May or early June. The last month showed a significant increase, with 13 single family homes and 21 condos and TiCs closing — a healthy 20 percent increase from last month, and right in line with the 35 closings recorded during the same period last year. The month's supply of inventory is also similar to a year ago (3.6 months vs. 3.4 months). But the average number of days on the market (81 days now vs. 21 days a year ago) continues to remain high as built up inventory finally sells. Buyers are still taking their time before making offers on properties that have been sitting on the market for a few weeks or more. However, those properties that show well and are well priced are receiving an early wave of interest and several of them have gone into contract quickly, including a number of the high-end estate properties. Such was the case with 2626 Green, 2332 Washington and 200 Locust, all of which went into contract within 15 days of being listed. But most of these quick sales closed at or below the asking price. This was not the case in the recent past, when homes went into contract quickly after receiving multiple offers and closed over the asking price.

Properties that took a while to sell included 2601 Lyon, the 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath "Princess Diaries" home, which finally closed at an undisclosed price after nearly a year on and off the market. The house, which backs onto the Presidio, was originally listed in July of last year at \$8.25 million. The middle unit at 2768 Green closed at \$1.65 million — \$845,000 below its original asking price in January. At a sale price of \$1.53 million, 213 Moulton closed \$19,000 below its selling price in June 2005.

The market typically slows down as we head into summer. But there is reason to expect that this year may be different.

— 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.

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

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FIRST PERSON

By SARALEE

I'VE CALLED this beautiful neighborhood home my entire life — more than two years now, although a proper lady never tells her age. And the truth is, no one knows for sure.

My mom left for parts unknown when I was very young. I went to live with a new friend who outfitted me with a fetching red collar and gave me free rein to come and go in and out the window just as I pleased.

It was fun while it lasted. But a moment of ardor with an attentive tabby left me with eight kittens to tend — and me just a kitten myself.

No sooner had the kids left the nest than I was out the window again. A small party with a cool gray long-haired tomatcat and I soon found myself with nine little ones this time.

They all found good homes, most of them in the neighborhood. The friend who took me in promised again to take me to the vet to be spayed. But it never happened, and one night a black and white calico appeared as if out of nowhere. He seemed sweet, but he left without so much as a name — and me in the family way yet again.

Just about then, the friend I was living with moved in with his sister, who is allergic to cats. Or so she claims.



Mother of 11

*Octomom has nothing on Saralee.
Now who has a home for a kitten or two?*

There I was, hugely pregnant and about to be surrendered to the people at Animal Care and Control. And word on the street is that they're not always that nice.

Just as I was shipping out, a neighborhood couple invited me to come live with them. Funny thing is, when I got to their house, who should be there looking all grown up so fast but two of my kids from the first litter. But they act like they don't even

know me at all and hiss at me when I just try to sip a little water out of the bowl they're ignoring away. How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.

On July 11 — 7/11, which seemed to have a lucky ring to it — my time arrived and this time I delivered up 11 kittens, none of them small things, if you catch my drift. Nine of them lived, which is still a basketful.

My new friends talk about me

when my head's buried in the food bowl, as it frequently is now, and they think I can't hear: "Eleven kittens! It has to be some kind of record. According to the Internet, cats are only supposed to have four or five."

They seem to dish out an endless supply of chow here, and they'll scratch my neck almost as long as I want. But they're stricter sorts. I'm absolutely not allowed outside, even to chase the stray fly. Not that I have much spare time, anyway. With a brood of nine little ones, it's a constant cycle: eat-nurse-sleep, eat-nurse-sleep, eat-nurse-sleep.

My new friends have made it clear this is going to be my last litter. But I have to say, this might be my most beautiful brood yet: five gray and white, four black and white. One of them has a little pencil-thin mustache and looks exactly like Walter Cronkite, who died just about the time they arrived. They're two weeks old, and it's hard to tell just yet who's a boy and who's a girl. But that one's got to be named Walter, no matter what.

It sure would be nice to keep my kids in the neighborhood. If you have room in your heart and your life for a perfect kitten, please contact my friends at editors@newfillmore.com, or call 441-6070. They promise that each one comes with a free knitted cat toy.

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