NEWS

Chase bank seeks a Fillmore home

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LOCALS

Turning letters

into treasures

PAGE 6



HOME & GARDEN

A series of outdoor rooms

PAGE 19

THENEWFILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ OCTOBER 2010



A Walking Tour of Pacific Heights

UTER BROADWAY — the Gold Coast — and nearby blocks are classic Pacific Heights: a quiet residential neighborhood with beautiful views and flowers in bloom all year round.

Some of the largest and most magnificent homes in the city are in this area — many designed by San Francisco's finest architects, with Willis Polk at the top of the list.

Pacific Heights covers 130 square blocks, from Van Ness Avenue on the east to Presidio Avenue on the west and from California Street on the south to Union Street on the north. It reaches its zenith at the crest of one of San Francisco's 42 hills, 370 feet above sea level.

Longtime neighborhood resident Marilyn Straka leads walking tours of Pacific Heights. Inside, she shares highlights. THE TOUR | PAGES 9-11 The Board of
The Pacific Heights Residents Association
Invites You to Join PHRA and
Attend Our Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 6 pm to 8 pm

Schools of the Sacred Heart 2222 Broadway at Webster Street



Wine Reception and Hors D'oeuvres Hear About Neighborhood and Local Issues

and

Special Guest Speaker
C. W. Nevius, Columnist, San Francisco Chronicle

Cost to attend is \$35 for members and \$70 for non-members which includes a one-year PHRA membership.

Please RSVP to info@ohra-sf.org or call (415) 922-3572 by October 8th.

Help Pets Unlimited Secure a \$100,000 Challenge Match!

If we raise \$100,000 by <u>December 31</u>, we will receive a \$100,000 anonymous gift in support of our shelter and charitable programs!



\$100,000 Donated from the Community





\$100,000 Challenge Match Donation



\$200,000 For cats and dogs in need!

Every dollar helps us reach our goal.
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'You Gotta Carry a Gun

O RUTH DEWSON (above) was told when she opened Mrs. Dewson's Hats on Fillmore S8 years ago. For decades she has been the unofficial mayor of Fillmore Street. But she has often been missing from the neighborhood in recent months, sidelined by ill health. We caught up with her at her shop and found her spirit strong and her health improving. In a video interview, she tells how she came to open a hat shop on Fillmore Street in a space left vacant when a congregant of the People's Temple left to follow Rev. Jim Jones to Guyana. See "The Hat Lady" at meelfillmore. Come



 Other videos on the website include "Return to Crissy Field" (left) about a group of friends who've been walking together on Saturday mornings for 25 years.

 The neighborhood website also includes Street Talk, updated throughout the month, and an archive of stories and photographs. We welcome your comments and links.

■ LETTERS

TO THE EDITORS

Enclosed is a check for \$30 to continue my subscription. I look forward to another year of your delightful news and increasingly handsome pages.

It is a relief to know from your August issue ["Walter Is a Girl,"] that Walter Cronkite, despite the moustache, is a mother of only four kittens.

MARION SEMMELT.

Regarding your article on the theaters in the Fillmore District ("Palaces for the People," September 2010), we also had the Ellis Theater on Ellis Street near Steiner. We had the American Theater on Fillmore Street near Turk. We had the Spanish Theater on Sutter Street between Fillmore and Steiner. That's just a few more of the theaters we had at one time in the Fillmore District.

VIA VOICE MAIL

THE NEWFILLMORE

newfillmore.com

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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.

Connecting the neighborhood

Every month, 20,000 copies of the New Fillmore are delivered to homes and businesses in the Fillmore, Pacific Heights and Japantown. We thank you for your support and encouragement and welcome your ideas and suggestions.



■ STREET TALK



Au revoir to Patisserie Delanghe

After 26 years of buttery croissants, Patisserie Delanghe closed with no fanfare on September 30. Dominique and Marie-Jeanne Delanghe said they will retire. Their corner of Fillmore and Bush will lose its French accent: The successor is the Fillmore Bake Shop.

SWEET NEWS: It won't be quiet for long at Sutter and Stelner, where the classy French restaurant Cassis and longtime local favorite Neecha Thai have both closed. Cassis will be replaced by Sweet Maple, which will forgo dinner and concentrate on breaffsat and lunch. . . Neecha will be replaced by a new Thai restaurant called Sweet Lime. . . And get this: The building listelf is owned by the Sweet family.

owned by the Sweet family.

MORE INDIAN: A new Indian
restaurant called Mehfill will open
any minute now at 2301 Fillmore,
former home of Crepevine and the
late and much-lamented Alta Plaza
The owners are already in busines
south of Market at 600 Folsom.

critzen CAKE: What the heck's taking so long? EaterSF reports: "Although construction is 90 percent finished at the new 2125 Fillmore Street incarnation of Citizen Cake, Elizabeth Falkner is still in a bit of a holding pattern with her contractor."

www.BoConcept.com

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Chase Bank Looking for a Local Home

Chase Manhattan
Bank and now the
consumer banking unit of JP
Morgan Chase — hopes to
open a new branch bank at
2429 California Street.

At a neighborhood meeting on September 27, representatives of the bank presented plans for a banking office fronted by a secure ATM lobby next door to Mollie Stone's in the long-time home of Esrik Cleaners. The cleaners closed last year and the building has since been expanded and renovated into two storefronts.

In the past, Chase was largely an East Coast bank.

In 2008, the company came to the West Coast after it acquired the banking operations of the failed Washington Mutual Bank. "In 2008 Chase had no branches here,"

said Greg Endom, real estate director for Chase in San Francisco. "Now we have 23 — but there are some very dramatic holes."

Endom said the bank will be opening new branches to fill those voids.

"Some will be downtown, some will be in the neighborhoods," he said.

Endom said Chase already has 2,500 customers in this neighborhood not being adequately served by its existing branches on Polk and Chestmut Streets.



Chase Bank hopes to take over the former cleaners at 2429 California.

"They hope in three or four years they'll have 50 branches in the city," Endom told neighborhood residents who attended its pre-application meeting, which was required before the bank can apply for a conditional use permit to occupy the space. "They're not going to not be a good neigh-

Neighbors questioned whether the bank was the right fit for the location.

"Tve heard a lot about why this is good for Chase," said Paul Wermer, a director of the Pacific Heighst Residents Association. "But not how it contributes to the neighborhood. It's not clear to me that having a bank here is the best use of this property."

Joan O'Connor, a director of the Fillmore

Merchants Association, said many local merchants had been pleased when the cleaners was rebuilt as two retail spaces. Their reaction when they heard Chase wanted the space, she said, was, "Oh no, it's another corporate place. The rents are gonna keep going up."

are gonna keep gonng up."

Chase architect Young
Wong presented plans for
combining the two retail
spaces in a \$1.75 million
project he said would be
"nicely and tastfully done."
He said it would be better
for the neighborhood to get
one long-term commercial
tenant than two retail tenants who might not survive.

"It actually makes more sense," he said, "not just for the tenant, but also for the neighborhood."

Wong and Endom both said they would work to revise their initial plans so that the bank, if approved, puts a friendlier face to the street, rather than merely a locked lobby of ATM machines.

"How do we do something different?" asked Endom. "That's our job. It's a challenge we have to try to figure out how to

Endom said Chase is aware it needs to find ways to contribute to the community, but offered no specifics.

"What can we do to be a part of the neighborhood?" he asked. "I don't have the answer yet."



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VOTE NO ON G It's not real Muni reform



Prop G says it's about fixing Muni. But the only thing it does is unfairly go after drivers - while doing nothing about bad management and real problems of Muni-

- X Management is the problem with Muni. The top manager at Muni made \$354,000 last year - the highest paid official in San Francisco - yet Muni management gets worse each year.
- x Prop G doesn't improve Muni management. Prop G does nothing to increase management accountability or efficiency. It gives the bureaucrats a free ride, while going after the drivers as if they are the problem
- X Muni drivers are part of the solution. Muni drivers are on the front lines, keeping passengers safe, driving our transit routes, helping disabled passengers. They work hard under tough, sometimes unsafe conditions. They're part of the solution, not the problem.
- X Demand comprehensive, fair reform. Prop G singles out Muni drivers with the most unfair collective bargaining standards of any city union. That's not fair - and it won't fix Muni.

Get the facts. Vote NO on G.

Transit Workers Union, Local 250-A, AFL-CIO Special Fund FPPC#744486

CRIME WATCH

Aggravated Assault With Knife Bush and Webster Streets August 20, 3:45 p.m.

Several units from Northern Station responded to a report of a stabbing. A man had been injured with a razor. Officers learned that the man knew the suspect, who was upset and had become confrontational. The suspect first pulled out a utility knife and threatened him, then produced the razor, cutting through the man's clothing and causing a laceration. At the suspect's home, the officers found the knife used in the attack. He was booked for assault.

Unlawful Entry Eddy and Laguna Streets August 22, 6 p.m.

Before their shift began, two officers were given a description of a man wanted for a residential burglary. They immediately recognized the man from his picture, and were aware of the places he frequented. Later, as they were patrolling Eddy Street, they spotted him. They took the man into custody for an outstanding parole warrant, and the inspector in charge of the burglary case questioned him at Northern Station

Felon Carrying a Concealed Weapon August 23, 11:30 p.m.

Officers working in plainclothes were sent to a residence in search of a man who was wanted in Ventura County, but the suspect was not there. The officers then noticed a man nearby who was fidgeting with a bike lock. They asked the man for identification, and learned this was the individual they were seeking. The man was taken into custody. During a search, they found a dagger in his pocket. The suspect was booked at Northern Station

Warrant Violation Van Ness Avenue and Fern Street August 25, 8:45 a.m.

An officer with Homeless Outreach responded to a complaint regarding a man who was sleeping in an alley. When the officer arrived he saw a man asleep, wrapped in blankets. After a computer check revealed there were four active warrants for his arrest the man was booked

Loitering for the Purpose of Prostitution Van Ness Avenue and Bush Street August 26, 2:30 a.m.

Officers on patrol observed a woman they had earlier advised to leave the area She was standing on the corner garbed in an outfit consistent with the clothing favored by prostitutes. A computer check showed she had an active warrant in the city of Turlock. The officers placed her under arrest and she was booked at the county jail.

Driving Under the Influence Sacramento and Gough Streets August 26, 9 p.m.

An officer in a patrol car noticed a driver at a stop sign grinding his gears and racing his engine. The driver appeared to be having difficulty focusing; he then slowly moved his car. Its headlights were not on so the officer used his PA system to tell the driver to turn on his lights. The driver looked around to see where the voice was coming from, while continuing to race his engine. The officer activated his lights and siren, but the driver paid no attention. He then pulled over the driver who stumbled onto the street. The officer could smell a strong odor of alcohol emanating from the man. A breathalyzer test showed his level was .20 percent, well above the legal limit. He was booked at county iail.

Theft from Vehicle, Conspiracy Eddy and Laguna Streets August 27, 3 p.m.

Reviewing a videotape of an auto burglary, two officers were able to positively identify three of the five individuals involved in the crime. On August 26, the officers observed one of the suspects walk-ing near Eddy and Buchanan. They took him into custody and found he was carrying a spark plug chip, commonly used to shatter car windows. The suspect was 16 years old, so the officer contacted his parents. The next day, the officers saw another of the participants in the same area. He was immediately detained. This suspect was 17 years old. Both were booked at the Juvenile Justice Center.

Loitering for the Purpose of Prostitution Van Ness Avenue and Washington Street August 28, 3 a.m.

Officers who were part of a plainclothes vice operation observed a woman standing on the corner who darted off and hid between parked cars as they drove by Earlier in their shift, the officers had told the woman to stop loitering on this corner. During the first contact, she told the officers she was going to a bar. When the officers pointed out that all bars in the area were closed, she said she was actually just going home. The officers approached her a second time and determined she had several prostitution-related arrests, but no active warrants. She was cited for loitering and released at the scene.

Aggravated Assault, Elder Abuse Fillmore and Post Streets August 30, 6:30 p.m.

Witnesses stated that a man had thrown a woman to the ground, then walked away. Callers gave dispatch a thorough description of the suspect: officers located

the individual and followed him. When they took him into custody, he admitted to pushing the woman to the ground. The victim, who was 63 years old, sustained injuries to her knee and hand. Medics responded to the scene and treated her.

Robbery Van Ness Avenue and Geary Boulevard September 2, 3:10 a.m.

A man was checking his cell phone messages when an assailant grabbed at his phone. The man twisted away from the attacker, but the assailant punched him in the face, causing him to drop his phone. The attacker picked up the phone and dashed off with it. The man sprinted after him, catching the attention of two nearby police officers. The officers joined the chase and caught the suspect. He was arrested and taken to Northern Station.

Loitering for the Purpose of Prostitution Van Ness Avenue and Ellis Street September 6, 1:45 a.m.

Officers on patrol observed that a young woman they'd warned about loitering 30 minutes earlier was still standing on the same street corner. The officers watched as the she walked up and down the street. trying to hide behind cars so they wouldn't see her. The officers continued to patrol the streets, then returned a few minutes later. They found her in conversation with a man. When she spotted the officers, the two quickly parted. The officers stopped both individuals. The woman was cited for maintaining a public nuisance and the man was advised to leave the area

Possession of Stolen Property Van Ness Avenue and Pine Street September 7, 2:20 a.m.

Officers patrolling the area spotted a motorcycle parked unattended at a gas

they discovered the cycle was stolen. Several minutes later, a man walked up to the motorcycle, ready to drive it away. The police took him into custody. The suspect, who had an outstanding warrant, was charged with possession of a stolen license

Van Ness Avenue and Jackson Street September 7, 11:00 a.m.

A man put his ATM card into a machine and tried to withdraw \$200. He received only \$180, so he put the card in a second time and attempted to withdraw \$20 more. When he received two receipts that showed he had withdrawn \$220, he lost his temper. He confronted the business owner, who gave him the number of the owner of the ATM machine. This man responded to the scene and attempted to settle the matter, but the ATM user started a heated argument with him, prompting him to take out his iPhone to call the police. A friend of the man who claimed to be short \$20 grabbed the owner's cell phone as payment, and the two friends went outside Fearing he might be attacked, the ATM owner staved inside, and asked the owner of the business to call the police. The two friends then got into a car and drove off. The arriving officers broadcast a description of the vehicle. An officer on patrol spotted it and detained the occupants, who were charged with a felony.

Van Ness Avenue and Pine Street September 9, 4 a.m.

An officer working prostitution abatement came across one of the regulars in the trade. She advised the woman to leave the area; the suspect refused. The officer then attempted to arrest the woman, but the sus-

station. When they ran the license plate, pect quickly walked away from the officer ignoring her and shouting profanity. When the officer attempted to take custody of the woman, she struggled and pulled away. then ran into the lobby of a hotel. When a second officer responded to the scene, they managed to detain the woman. She was advised to stay away from the area.

Resisting Arrest Geary Boulevard and Fillmore Street September 16, 12:15 a.m.

Officers received a call concerning a physical fight involving seven people When they arrived, two men were still fighting. The officers shouted at them to stop. A woman approached one of the officers, assumed a fighting stance, then rushed at him. The officer pushed past her toward the brawling men. More units responded to assist. As the officer was trying to separate the fighters, the woman ran at him again and struck him. He placed her in handcuffs and determined she was under the influence of alcohol. The fighting men were brothers, and did not wish to press charges against one other. The woman was booked for public drunkenness and resisting arrest.

Auto Burglary Laguna and California Streets September 22, 12:55 a.m.

An officer in a patrol car spotted a suspicious person sitting inside a car. When the officer turned his flashlight on the car, the man inside gave him a "deer in the headlights" look. Investigation revealed that the man was on parole, and therefore subject to search. The officer found burglary tools in his possession. He then located the owner of the vehicle, who told him she had parked and locked her car and hadn't given anyone permission to enter it. The suspect, who had numerous priors for the same offense was placed under arrest.

Supervisor Sophie Maxwell says:



"Prop B unfairly increases health care costs for working families. Join me in votina NO on B."



PROP B WILL DOUBLE CHILDREN'S **HEALTH CARE COSTS**

Prop B will double health care costs for thousands of children, spouses and domestic partners of San Francisco School, Community College, Superior Court and City workers-regardless of their ability to pay.

A SINGLE PARENT WILL PAY UP TO \$5.600 MORE PER YEAR

The real impact of Prop B on working families is staggering. Under Prop B, a single mother with one dependent could be forced to pay up to \$5.600 more per year for health carein addition to the \$8,154 she already pays. Many other employees will see their costs more than double

A CUSTODIAN WILL PAY AS MUCH **AS THE TOP BRASS**

Prop B forces the custodian making only \$40,000 per year to pay the same hike in health insurance premiums as the top brass, who could be making three times as much. Many of these workers are already struggling to afford health care, and this literally takes food off their table.

COULD COST SAN FRANCISCO \$100 MILLION IN FEDERAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Prop B was so poorly written, the Director of the San Francisco Health Care Service System has written it could make the City ineligible for more than \$23 million in federal funding for health care next year and up to \$100 million over the next four years.

United Against Prop B

California Nurses Association United Educators of San Francisco San Francisco Democratic Party

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi Mayor Gavin Newsom

State Senator Mark Leno State Senator Leland Yee

Assemblyman Tom Ammiano

Sheriff Michael Hennessey

Board President David Chiu

STANDING UP FOR WORKING FAMILIES. NO ON B. A COALITION OF TEACHERS. NURSES, FIREFIGHTERS, PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, AND HEALTH CARE ADVOCATES, MAJOR FUNDING BY SAN FRANCISCO FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 798 AND SEIU LOCAL 1021, 150 POST STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108, FPPC# 1329001

CONSOLIDATED GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2010

REGISTER AND VOTE!

- Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- Early voting at City Hall begins October 4
- Last day to register to vote is October 18 You must re-register if you have moved, changed your name or want to change your party affiliation
- Last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is October 26

Be a Pollworker on Election Day!

The Department is looking for pollworkers to help on Election Day.

Pollworkers can earn up to \$170!

To sign up, visit www.sfelections.org/pw or call (415) 554-4395.



RANKED-CHOICE VOTING

For the upcoming election, San Francisco voters who live in Supervisorial Districts 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 will use ranked-choice voting to elect their Member of the Board of Supervisors.

Citywide, voters will use ranked-choice voting to elect the Assessor-Recorder and Public Defender.

With ranked-choice voting, the names of all the candidates are listed in three repeating columns on the ballot. This allows voters to rank up to three different candidates for the same office.

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Learn More!

View an interactive demonstration of how rankedchoice voting works at www.sfelections.org/demo

October 2010 NEW FILLMORE 5



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4 NEW FILLMORE October 2010

By Tessa Williams

((C ERENDIPITY," reads an assemblage of vintage letters affixed to a wall at Timeless Treasures, Joan O'Connor's antiques store on Sutter near Pierce, "Bananas," reads another, "Slow down," a third.

An establishment that celebrates the relationship between words and objects. Timeless Treasures specializes in vintage letters, available in a vast range of sizes, types and materials. In addition to offering the groupings for sale, O'Connor prompts customers to create their own combinations that become personal works of art.

"Words are just so powerful," she says. "They can make us feel anything. And the color and variety of materials and sizes we put in the words add an extra dimension."

After a career in communications, O'Connor opened her store at 2176 Sut-ter Street in 1999, focusing at first on distinctive antiques she ferreted out in flea markets, auction houses and antique malls throughout Europe and the United States.

O'Connor, who honed an antiqueseeking technique comprised of equal parts patience, dedication and ingenuity, says, "You really just pay attention to what it is that makes you say, 'Wow, that is so cool."

Sometimes that calls for guerilla tactics, as in the time O'Connor arrived so early at Bermondsey Market in London that it was still dark outside. She had to shop by flashlight, but managed to leave with a perfect blue and white serving platter she

Her foray into collecting vintage letters began a decade ago with the closing of a nearby movie theater. After learning that



And Why Not?

Joan O'Connor turns vintage lettering into Timeless Treasures

Рнотодгарн ву Катні O'Leary



the Regency Theater on Van Ness was slated to close, O'Connor's first concern was the fate of the big red plastic letters used on the marquee. After placing a few phone calls, she was told the letters were hers to rescue. She brought them to her Sutter Street shop, where they quickly became popular items - some letters of the alphabet more in demand than others.

encourage people to

'Words are just so

powerful."

The City | Veerakeat Tongpaiboon

MEET THE ARTIST DURING TASTE OF FILLMORI

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spell out a word or phrase, I would have to have options." So she began specifically searching for vintage sign letters, alerting antiques dealers and flea market vendors of

letters of high quality and interesting design were often at risk of being thrown out by businesses that didn't value them.

In bringing vintage sign letters into her store, O'Connor found a way to pair her love of language and antique objects. Working with letters also helped O'Connor realize an artistic aptitude she didn't know she had — one that had gone unappreciated in the art classes she took growing up.

"I wasn't especially dexterous, but it doesn't mean I'm not creative," she says. "When I hit a combination like that - between the word I created and the materials and the colors - it made me feel like I created something."

In addition to the vintage sign letters, Timeless Treasures sells furniture, home decorations, greeting cards, candles and jewelry, plus a number of other word-

related gifts such as vintage rubber stamps, flashcards and postcards.

The most distinctive draw remains the letters, however - a specialty offering that brings in customers from throughout San Francisco, as well as more far-flung loca-

There was the British couple who bought a giant letter "A" they hauled back "I was selling out of B, K, M and W," to London in their carry-on luggage, and O'Connor said. "I knew if I was going to the woman searching for a rustic letter combination to spell

"cucina" in her kitchen in Georgia. There was the Australian woman who found letters to hang the words "cozy up" in her living room. One San Francisco

customer searched for her interest. She found that many antique just the right letters to spell her daughter's name, Diana, in the girl's bedroom to surprise her when she returned from summer camp. And the Haves Valley restaurant Bar Jules boasts a unique sign made from Timeless Treasures letters.

> Those who search far and wide for just the right letter to make just the right word usually have interesting reasons. Five years ago, O'Connor began a blog at timelesstreasuressf.com to record the stories behind her customers' creations and to provide an online community for those intrigued by the possibilities of communicating words through objects.

> "People are amazingly creative and spontaneous and take tremendous joy in creating something personal - in creating what is in fact a piece of art," she says. "They arrange a group of letters to spell a word and it takes on new meaning.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

taste

1 pm to 6 pm on Fillmore between Post & Jackson

FOOD & WINE FASHION HOME DESIGN

ENIOY food and wine tastings at various boutiques and restaurants

WATCH in-store fashion shows

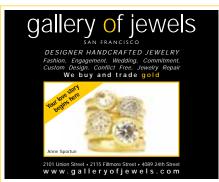
EXPERIENCE home decor scenes along Fillmore Street

ENTER to win raffle prizes of gift certificates from local merchants

PICK UP your wristband and program at ZINC Details, 1905 Fillmore

Suggested donation to participate in raffle, wine and food samplings:







6 NEW FILLMORE October 2010

St. Jude Shrine Celebrating Its 75th Anniversary

In troubled times. business is booming for 'saint of desperate cases'

By Stedman F. Matthew

ORE THAN 60,000 people visit the St. Jude Shrine at St. Domi-LV Inic's Church every year to light a candle, pray and seek solace or relief from their suffering.

The shrine was founded by the Dominican friars in 1935 in the middle of the Great Depression to bring hope to a world that desperately needed it. As the 75th anniversary of the shrine arrives this month on October 28, its mission continues unchanged — and gains new potency as we find ourselves once again in the midst of a financial crisis.

Two years ago Lioined the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus as chief administrative officer after 13 years as parish administrator of St. Dominic's. In these two years, I have been impressed by the intensity of devotion people feel for St. Jude. For them, he truly is "the saint for desperate and difficult cases" and "the saint of the impossible."

And there has been a resurgence of War," in which it describes how thousands devotion as the economy has cratered over of Mexico City gang youth have begun



Visitors pray and light candles at the St. Jude Shrine inside St. Dominic's Church.

the last couple of years. Judging by the tone making monthly pilgrimages carrying canand content of letters we receive - and dles, rosaries and effigies of St. Jude as the the growth in the number of pilgrims who unofficial local patron saint of addicts. visit the shrine - the increased intensity Unfortunately, public confusion over reflects the desperation caused by loss of this and other reports has spawned disqui-

homes, jobs and general dislocation. eting phone calls and letters to us from true Unfortunately, the rise in devotion to devotees of St. Jude who are upset that the St. Jude has led some to liken it to a cult. local shrine might be somehow associated Some even associate him with Mexico's with narco-gangs — however far-fetched cultish Saint of Death, which has of late the connection - or that faithful Catholics seen a surge in popularity. The New York are regarded in some quarters as cultists. Times recently posted a video on its web-In fact, we remain what we have always been: a ministry of hope in a world woesite, "Streetwise Saint Joins Mexico Drug

fully in need of it. There are shrines to St. Jude in New York, Baltimore, Chicago, New Orleans and Turkey following the trail of Jude.

The theme of the 75th anniversary will be stjude-shrine.org.

St. Dominic's Shrine of St. Jude sponsors an annual pilgrimage that draws thousands of people from across California and

clergy from the Bay Area, will bring the celebration to a close by presiding at a special mass at St. Dominic's on October 28 a

other places around the world. The story is told with brio in the book Jude: A Pilgrimage to the Saint of Last Resort, by the television journalist Liz Trotta, who will come from New York this month to participate in our 75th anniversary celebration. On October 27 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Dominic's, she will give a lecture on her pilgrimage through

By Marilyn Straka

2901 Pacific. The Hotel Drisco was

the hotel, and one of the suites where

overflow guests or black sheep relatives.

2889 Pacific. This home is distinctive

entryway. Built in 1890, it was the first in

the area to use this Baroque device. It was

originally the home of Ernest Folger, who

2849 Pacific. This home was built in

made his fortune in the coffee business

1910 by Joseph Peltier, a conductor on

often took local residents downtown to

late in the evening stopping the car to

let them out in front of their homes.

Peltier became wealthy based on a tip

from one of his passengers about a real

the interior of his house after the Palace

Hotel: beaded chandeliers, crystal door

knobs, wood paneling, silk covered walls

- even baths with faucet controls outside

estate investment in Nevada. He patterned

the Palace Hotel and then retrieved them

the streetcar line that ran by here. He

because of the arched transom over the

Today the hotel has been beautifully

of either the bay or the city skyline.

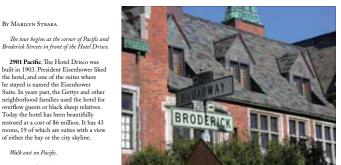
Walk east on Pacific

he stayed is named the Eisenhower

pilgrimage — the age-old devotional exercise that has gained new currency in our time Last April, Father Martin Walsh, director of the shrine, made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, the place where St James is buried, walking the 700 miles from southern France to northern Spain. He will give two talks about his experiences at St. Dominic's, one in English on October 15 at 7:30 p.m.; another in Spanish on Octobe 17 at 3 p.m. For more information, go to

parts of Central and South America. They walk for miles through the streets of San Francisco to the Shrine of St. Jude, for mass and a celebration. This year's pilorimage of approximately seven miles will be on Saturday, October 23. It starts at St. Finn Barr's Church at 415 Edna Street in San San Francisco archbishon George

Niederauer, joined by other hishons and



Rooms With a View

A local leads a tour at the top of Pacific Heights

2820 Pacific. Set well back from the street, this house was designed by celebrated architect Willis Polk and occupied for more than 40 years by Alice Griffith, a wealthy San Franciscan who was served by at least four servants at all times: a houseman to do the laundry and tend the fires, a cook to prepare meals and do the marketing and two maids who cleaned upstairs.

2800 Pacific. This classic Georgian revival mansion uses brickwork

throughout as trim, retaining walls, walkways and steps. Notice the initials set in the sidewalk by the front entryway and in the beveled-glass front door. The "G" stands for Gruen, the owner, who married a Herbst. The penthouse is a recent

Turn left on Divisadero.

2500 Divisadero. This lot has had several homes on it since 1889. The current home and the matching home next door were designed in 1933 by an associate of Willis Polk. From 1974 to 1994, it was the Canadian Consulate

Broadway and Divisadero. Note the remarkable view of the downtown skyline visible from this corner. You can see both the Transamerica Pyramid and the dark carnelian granite Bank of America building, the two tallest structures in

Turn left on Broadway

A hidden crooked street. At Broderick serpentine driveway plummets down the hill toward the bay. This "street" is actually a private driveway serving 2800 and 2808 Broadway. Although Lombard Street between Hyde and Leavenworth is the city's best known crooked street, there are actually several in San Francisco Vermont Street between 20th and 22nd has more turns for its length than Lombard. And nearby is another crooked street, on Octavia between Jackson and Washington beside the Spreckels Mansion, now novelist Danielle Steel's home.

2800 and 2808 Broadway (pictured above and on the front page). These two English Tudor houses with Gothic-arched windows and entryways are twin homes. They were designed by Willis Polk's firm and built together in 1927 by the widow of I. W. Hellman Jr. for her and her daughter and son-in-law. The homes were renovated in 1980 and sold for \$2 million. Today, they are valued at far more and are owned by the Haas family.





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► FROM PAGE 9

2801 Broadway (above). This Southern Colonial mansion with four Corinthian columns was designed in 1900 by Willis Polk for a real estate agent. It is dramatically approached by twin flights of curved steps behind artistic gates created by San Francisco sculptor Ruth Asawa. In 1967, this was dubbed the "House of Mystery" when a huge arsenal of weapons was found there. The mystery was never solved

2820 Broadway. Notice the white, blue and red flag at the doorway of this brick structure marking it as the home of the Russian consul general. The Russian Consulate is a large brick building just down the hill at the corner of Green and

Look across the street

Grant School. U.S. Grant School was built on this site in 1889. It was rebuilt in 1921 and operated as a public school until 1972, then bulldozed after it failed seismic safety exams. The lot stood empty for 25 years until 1997, when it sold at auction for \$13.5 million. Now four new homes have been built on the site, including two modern mega-homes facing Broadway that have separate guest houses in the rear facing Pacific Avenue.

2850 Broadway. This starkly modern home is unlike most of its neighbors. Originally designed by William Wurster, it was renovated a few years ago by current owner Larry Ellison, CEO of Oracle, who installed a sleek contemporary facade of steel and glass. In the rear, a wall of windows opens onto exquisite bay views. The front yard features a fountain incorporating a suspended boulder.



2898 Broadway (above). When completed in 1899, this house cost less than \$20,000. The Bliss family were the first owners. Duane Bliss came to San Francisco seeking gold but instead made his fortune in banking, lumber and railroads. He is known for building the first railroad from Truckee to Lake Tahoe and also built the Tahoe Tavern in 1901 at its terminal overlooking the lake. His son Walter designed this home and soon entered into partnership with William Faville. This association produced such architectural achievements as the St. Francis Hotel, the Geary Theater and the Flood mansion at 2222 Broadway The three houses on the right are owned by the Gettys.

Baker Street steps. Looking down these precipitous steps, it is clear why this block couldn't be made into a street. There

are 650 stairways in San Francisco that fal into this category.

2901 Broadway (above right). Built in 1927, this neo-classical Renaissance mansion was designed by architect Henry C Smith for industrialist Milton Ray The foundation had to be chained to the rocks for stability. When the house was partially built, Golden Gate Bridge engineer Joseph Strauss was called in to give advice about adding another floor. He advised against the addition due to the danger of earthquakes. It is for sale for \$45 million, down from its original asking price of

2950 Broadway (above far right). This house was owned for 20 years by flamboyant San Francisco lawyer Melvin Belli and his politically active wife, Lia Belli, Built around 1915, the outside has



remained virtually unchanged. Inside, the formal rooms for entertaining are on the main floor, while upstairs there are three bedrooms and a guestroom. Every room has a breathtaking view of the bay or the garden. The Bellis added a swimming pool overlooking the bay at the foot of the north garden.

2960 Broadway. When it was built in 1912, this was the only home on the entire block. It was like a country home with the Presidio forest at its doorsten. Today four palm trees grace the entrance, which has been compared to an Italian villa. The architect, Willis Polk, was best known at that time as the chairman of the Architects' Commission for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition

Lyon Street steps. These steps, dating from 1906, were designed by Louis M.

Upton. He was also the architect for the large home at the bottom of the steps at 2460 Lyon Street, today occupied by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. There are 130 steps between Broadway and Vallejo. The staircase continues, narrow and steep, through a forested area to Green Street

Presidio entrance, Broadway gate. Since 1776 a military installation, the Presidio is now a national park. Try stopping here for a few minutes. Be quiet and notice how much life you can find. Walk into the Presidio to see the replanting efforts; many of the trees planted in the 1880s by the U.S. Army

are being replaced.

Turn left on Lyon for one block, then left

3030 Pacific. Owned by a tennis pro,

features, including the recycled plastic garage door, the wind turbine that powers the home and hydrononic plantings. Note the waterfall and oversize goldfish bowl.

3001 Pacific This stately home which predates the 1906 earthquake, was the Arab Republic of Egypt Consulate since 1945 — the year the United Nations was established - until it recently moved. Many of the foreign consulates in San Francisco are located in Pacific Heights. some serving as both a consular office and home to the consul general.

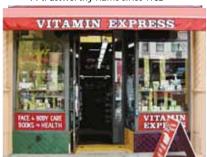
2950 Pacific. This house has its address on Pacific, at street level, but is more visible from Broadway. It is a Cape Cod colonial shingle house built for Edwin Newhall and his wife Virginia in 1907. The design was Mrs. Newhall's idea.

patterned after New England homes she liked. The story goes that she eagerly watched the progress of the house, closely overseeing the architect. One day the architect announced, "You don't need me anymore," abruptly left and never returned, Mr. Newhall, who was in the shipping and commerce business, enjoyed boats and made the third floor of the home like the interior of a ship's cabin. The large picture windows, seen from Broadway, are original and were unusual at the time.

Marilyn Straka has lived in Pacific Heights for 40 years. She started On The Level tours that assoid hills and steps to follow her passion of working with seniors and the disabled. Added tours now challenge those who want to experience some of San Francisco's 650 stairways, For more information, go to OnTheLevelSF.com.



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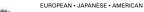
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10 NEW FILLMORE October 2010 October 2010 NEW FILLMORE 11

FOOD & DRINK

At Spruce, a Sleek and Sexy Saloon

By Chris Barnett

AST TIME 3640 Sacramento Street was a popular address was ⊿in the late 1930s when elegant automobiles such as Packards, Cadillacs and probably a collector's Dusenberg were parked and pampered by skilled mechanics

The onetime garage has seen countless restaurants and businesses come and go. But the current occupant. Spruce, has no shortage of people clamoring to be tended to in style. Since opening in August 2007, the sleek restaurant has amassed a strong following of neighbors who stop by regularly for exceptional food and attentive service.

But for me, it's the bar off to the right that is of special interest - and among the best in our 'hood. Example: While countless saloons trumpet their list of 50 different martinis, Spruce bar manager Brandon Clements scoffs that's cheap pandering to trends. He maintains that only one cocktail commands the mantle of martini - gin and dry vermouth.

He concedes the same drink, made with a flavorless vodka, is an acceptable



'We have a different philosophy here.

- BRANDON CLEMENTS, bar manager of Spruce

really open their eves?""

second cousin if the customer can't abide the potency of gin.

"We have a different philosophy here," says the 31-year-old Clements, who signed on at Spruce three years ago as a bartender and was promoted to bar boss a year later. He is also in charge of the bar at the new and white-hot Cafe des Amis on Union Street, which is also owned by Spruce's parent company, the Bacchus

Management Group.
"If someone orders an apple martini, and a hint of sugar. The mixture is shaken. double strained into a martini glass and which is basically gin and apple schnapps, garnished with a thin slice of apple skin. we say. Why not create a cocktail that will

"What we've done is create a new cocktail experience for the guest who The eye-opener? Clements and his is used to drinking vodka and some colleagues behind the Spruce bar start by terrible, saccharin, artificially flavored apple liqueur," he contends. "Now you're muddling a fresh apple, then add a dash of lemon juice, two ounces of the premium Russian Standard vodka, Calvados, Tuaca introducing people to something they may not have tried — Calvados, a French apple

(at Sacramento)

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brandy - or considered as an ingredient

At \$12, Spruce's price for this laborintense libation is a deal.

And Spruce is full of other pleasant surprises. Among them is the interior, designed by Stephen Brady, who's also credited with designing Ralph Lauren retail stores. The high ceilings are untouched from the garage's original construction, and the beams and rafters are painted black to virtually and visually disappear. The walls are upholstered in dark chocolate mohair.

The space is imaginatively accessorized A half dozen silver shakers are clustered in a corner waiting for their next assignment. The bar is anchored at each end by contemporary white lamps you might find in a tastefully decorated living room, perfectly scaled and not overwhelming. Even the art is unexpected and original. And instead of the basic barstool,

14 tall chairs covered in deep gold faux ostrich line a long, L-shaped thick slab of Carrera marble Behind the bar, a pair of gold-leaf

framed mirrors with glass shelving hold a 300-bottle "library" of popular, premium and rare liquors. Clements, who can regularly be found behind the bar. describes it this way: "For me, it's like a kid in a candy shop. We have everything a bartender or a discriminating guest could possibly want at our fingertips." Take, for example, the Iim McEwan Celtic Hartland single malt Scotch, barrel aged for 42 years, served in glassware designed by a Scottish company, Glencairn, expressly for single malt Scotch. Price: a mere \$76.

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Clements, a partner in Bacchus along with founder Tim Stannard and wine and spirits director Andrew Green, have just ordered their third cask of Scotch from Glenfarcos, one of Scotland's last remaining family-owned distilleries. They also buy a barrel of premium Pappy Van Winkel bourbon, which is privately bottled for them. The 15-year-old straight bourbon is rich and sweet and has tastes of vanilla, cinnamon and cardamom.

"We charge \$16 a pour and recommend it should only be mixed with ice and water, if you have to mix it at all." Clements says. "When you get whiskies of a certain level, it's better to appreciate them on their own."

In the end, though, it's Spruce's cocktail list that sets it apart from other area saloons. In addition to classics such as a Whiskey Smash, Sazarac, Pimm's Cup and a Dark and Stormy, Clements has 10 of his own creations as house specialties.

One that caught my eye and tongue is the Spruce Goose. It's a blend of Grey Goose vodka, Douglas Fir brandy, Calvados, pure maple syrup, lemon and lemon bitters, sold for \$13. Cocktail list drinks range from \$11 to \$14.

Now, the biggest and most pleasant surprise of all. Despite the masculine decor, the bar at Spruce — open from noon until late at night — often has more women guests than guys, shattering any notion that this is a male preserve. It isn't Maybe it's because you can order anything off the dinner menu and eat at the bar. or maybe it's because women simply feel comfortable here. But it's a welcoming hangout, and not least for those who live nearby in the neighborhood.



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12 NEW FILLMORE October 2010

It's the 16th year he has shown at the gallery. But this time he won't be shuttling between his art and his day job at his family's restaurant. Neecha, the admired and affordable Thai spot at the corner of Steiner and Sutter, closed at the beginning of August.

"I'm a full-time painter now," he says. "It's about time."

He first came from Thailand to San Francisco in 1988, determined to make his mark as an artist. He had been painting since he was 10 years old. As a teenager, he won high praise for his art and the top prize in three international painting competitions. But his family frowned on his desire to be an artist and pressed him to follow a more practical path. A degree in design gave him opportunities with his brother, a Banokok architect. But he wanted something more.

He persuaded his mother to let him come to San Francisco to live and work with her younger sister, who had just opened Neecha, and to further his education.

Almost immediately he enrolled in the master's program at the Academy of Art, pursuing his artistic dreams while waitfound his muse in the streets of San Fran-

"The streets, the hills, the light - candydown," he says, "That's what I wanted to weeks to exhibit Veerakeat's paintings



to paint now that his family's restaurant has closed

Back in the Studio

'I'm a full-time painter now. It's about time.'

capture. In Thailand nobody would paint a house pink."

At his graduate exhibition in 1994 he met Thomas Revnolds, a lawver-journalist ing tables at the family restaurant. And he with an interest in art - and in the Fillmore neighborhood. When Reynolds learned the young artist also lived in the colored houses and everything upside his paintings, he rented a small space for six more when his aunt was injured in an auto

That six-week experiment has turned into a successful 16-year partnership

between artist and gallery owner.

All the while. Veerakeat continued to work in the family restaurant. His involvement increased after they opened a second neighborhood and featured it in many of location in Oakland. And it increased still

"It's a family business," he says. "You can't get away. If they call, you have to be

When the decision was made to close Neecha, he was excited by the prospect of having more time to paint.

"In the past I had to do something fast," he says, "But now I have more time, Now I don't have to run to the restaurant anymore I have all the time I want to paint - every single minute. I have more focus."

His new exhibition, like most of his earlier ones, concentrates almost entirely on San Francisco. Yet there is more detail in many of these paintings. And there are more figures, too.

"I've come a long way," he says, "maybe more than half way. But I haven't really gotten to that point I want to go. Now I have to do something that satisfies me the way I want "

One thing seems certain: San Francisco will continue to be his primary subject.

"I love San Francisco," he says. "I feel comfortable here. It's not only about the landscape or the buildings - it's about the culture too." He has traveled to other parts of the country and liked them, but less so.

"No matter where I go, I don't love it like San Francisco," he says. "In other places, they look at me differently. It seems like everybody's the same here - that's what's special about San Francisco. People live together like one nation — not like other cities "

The exhibition of Veerakeat Tongpaiboon's recent paintings continues at the Thomas Reynolds Gallery, at 2291 Pine Street, through October 23. It is online at



Filipino iazz fest returns

The third annual San Francisco FILIPINO AMERICAN JAZZ FESTIVAL comes to Yoshi's on Sunday, October 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. Among the headliners are composer-planist vocalist Primo Kim, appearing with quest vocalist Jo Canion (above): Tokyo's premier jazz diva Charito and, from Manila, the powerful singer Sandra Lim Viray.

The roots of Filipino jazz in San Francisco can be traced to early Filipino immigrants who settled in and around the Fillmore District and other areas. Jazz pioneers such as Flip Nunez. Jo Canion and Rudy Tenio created a legacy that many artists have since followed. Today, Filipino jazz is gaining including Primo Kim, Charito and Sandra Viray — are recording and performing worldwide. Events leading up to the

festival are planned at Sheba Piano Lounge on October 6 and at the Jazz Heritage Center on October 7. Tickets for the festival are \$40 in advance, or \$45 at the door. For more information, go to sfpinoyjazzfest.com.

It's a Big Month for Latin Sound at Yoshi's

Toshi's is featuring some wellknown musical wizards this month who traverse a range of musical territories — including J Geils Band front man Peter Wolf. acoustic guitar virtuoso Leo Kottke and Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Dave Mason, founding member of the classic rock group Traffic.

In addition to these artists of great renown, there are a couple of acts featuring players of great repute in their areas of musical discourse who promise to bring a few nights of musical fun: Grupo Fantasma and The Latin Kings All-Stars.

Coming out of Austin, Texas, GRUPO FANTASMA is known as a funky hard-working Latin orchestra that has routinely backed Prince and played with the likes of the legendary salsa pianist Larry Harlow, who recently appeared at Yoshi's with Mazel Tov

Mis Amigos. The group presents a heavily inflected cumbia-based blend of salsa, son, montuno, Afro-funk, bolero, jazz and folkloric psychedelia.

Grupo Fantasma's contemporary Latin sound, while familiar, is unique, with its pulsating, driving beat that sets the tone for engaging a range of social issues through lyrical commentary Grupo Fantasma has a reputation for being a good-time party band. When seen live, they have more than enough rhythm and energy for the

Grupo Fantasma is coming to Yoshi's this month.

will bring to Yoshi's on October 7 and 8.

The LATIN KINGS ALL-STARS are also coming in October with 8 and 10 p.m. shows on October 15. This group speaks directly to San Francisco as a seedbed of Latin rock. The show celebrates the influence of Latin music in the Bay Area over the last 30 years, snawning Latin rock, Latin R&B and impacted funk.

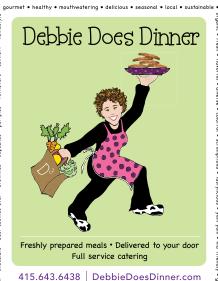
The music indirectly alludes to a range of forgotten Latino artists and musical two nights of dancing and festivity they histories that include wide-ranging styles that hark back to saxophonist Danny Flores' 1958 hit "Tequila," rock pioneer Richie Valens, East L.A.'s Thee Midniters — among the first to integrate horns, timbales, congas keyboards and electric guitars - and other groups like Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs ("Wooly Bully"), Question Mark and The Mysterians ("96 Tears") and Rosie and the Originals ("Angel Baby").

The music of these artists is based in a blend of R&B and rock with undercurrents of distant Latin musical motifs; what was unique to the Bay Area was the diverse blend of people from the Caribbean, Central America and South America, intermingling with Mexicans and Chicanos.

It was here that Carlos Santana in the 1960s began combining electrified blues guitar with Afro-Cuban rhythms, which brought blues, rock salsa, and percussion instruments and modalities together.

The Latin Kings All-Stars will honor this history with a musical tribute to Bobby Espinoza, formerly of the group El Chicano, and an original Latin King

The Latin Kings are bringing a 22-piece band that will include multiple musical veterans from all around California who participated in this musical history. This should be an incredible night of celebrating the history of Latin music in the San Francisco Bay Area. Hold on to your hats, because there's no telling who the other special quests may be.





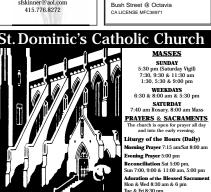


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'Howl' Premiered Here — and Now It's Back on Screen

HE legendary poem Howl — which had its premiere on Fillmore Street in 1955 — was 29-year-old Allen Ginsberg's first published work. But it instantly established him as a vital new voice for rapidly changing times.

Gritty and tender, rife with references to sex and drugs, driven by equal parts alienation and ecstasy, haunted by memories of childhood, oppression and boyish love and erupting in a rush of language with the rhythmic urgency of a jazz riff, the poem was a shock to the system in the midst of the grey flannel, Eisenhower '50s. In an instant, Howl forecast the hear and fury of the '60s and helped to usher in cultural shifts that are still reverberating.

It all began on what Jack Kerouac would come to call the "mad night" of October 7, 1955. That's when Ginsberg read Howl for the first time at the soon-to-be-legendary Six Gallery - a former auto-body shop turned Bohemian hangout at 3119 Fillmore Street - and left the crowd of hinsters in tears.

Among those in the audience was City Lights publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who was so exhilarated he sent a telegram to Ginsberg the next day offering to publish it. "Howl knocked the sides out of things," Ferlinghetti said later. That game-changing literary sensation, but also dom of speech case, opening the door to an incendiary court battle.

On March 25, 1957, U.S. Customs



A plaque at 3119 Fillmore Street commemorates the first reading of 'Howl' on what Jack Kerouac called a 'mad night.'

later, local police arrested Ferlinghetti, charging him with selling obscene material. Thus began the summer-long prosecution of The People v. Ferlinghetti. The high-profile trial that ensued — one that involved as many literature professors as greater creative freedom.

Ginsberg went on to become one of the seized all the copies of Howl en route to most highly regarded writers of the late America from England, where the second 20th century as well as an untiring cham-

edition had just been printed. Two months pion of sexual and spiritual liberation, of human and civil rights, perennially battling with his trademark mischievousness to create a more open and engaged society.

Howl, however, took on a life of its own. More than a poem, it became many other things: a manifesto, a call to arms, turned out to be true in more ways than lawyers and put the power of words itself a generational catharsis, a declaration one: Howl would soon become not just a on trial - would become a watershed free- of gay pride, a flashlight into the soul of post-industrial humanity, a love song and a lasting symbol of fearless creative

Could Howl also be a movie? That ques- and Post.

tion was put to filmmakers Rob Enstein and Jeffrey Friedman on the 50th anniversary of the poem's publication by Bob Rosenthal, the secretary of Allen Gins-

What began as a conventional documentary soon evolved into a hybrid of drama, imagination and reality - much like Ginsberg's writing.

"We'd been given this treasure, but now we were faced with, 'How in the world do we actually do this?" recalls Rob Epstein. "We set out to find a way to bring together all these different elements - the text of the poem, Ginsberg's life and ideas, this landmark trial — to create a multi-faceted nicture of the creation of Howl and the world's response. The thrilling part was that we were inventing the form as we went along."

"As a film, Howl is a lot of things," says Jeffrey Friedman, "but I hope audiences will relate to it as the story of a man finding a way to be true to himself. Allen Ginsberg was searching for a way to express fully who he was - and, in doing so, he changed himself and the culture.'

Adds Epstein: "Authenticity is something as human beings we're always attracted to - we're attracted to it in our leaders, in our partners and yearn for it in our own lives - and I think the search for that kind of total honesty is what makes Ginsberg and Howl continually relevant."

On September 24, Howl the movie premiered - like the poem itself - on Fillmore. It continues during October at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas at Fillmon



the Reve series were shot in the

It's Off to Spain for a Local Filmmaker's Grand Debut

By Susan Lien Whigham

'M A San Francisco-based artist and storyteller. Last year I began experimenting with film editing and, through this process of discovery, became passionately excited about the prospect of making films. Suddenly a world of possibilities opened. And that's how I began working on a narrative fiction short film series I called Reve.

I hammered out a script for a short film and envisioned it as the first chapter in a series of shorts. Starring a cast of local friends, and using the neighborhood as the setting, we filmed the first episode, "Lost and Found," over the course of a month.

We began filming episode two, "Leaving Styx," in July 2009. An apartment at the corner of Broadway and Fillmore is where two of the main characters first meet.

Post-production wrapped in March of this year. I felt confident the second episode was solid enough to be considered for screening anywhere and submitted it to various festivals around the world.

I was thrilled to receive word in June that "Leaving Styx" was accepted as a selection at the Marbella International Film Festival in Marbella, Spain, and will be screening there this month. Described by a Spanish friend as "Spain's answer to Cannes "the festival draws an extensive international selection of short films more than 500 were submitted this year - in addition to feature films and other works of independent film.

I'm looking forward to the trip along the scenic southern coast of Spain to Puerto Banus, a once-quiet fishing village that has evolved into one of Spain's top travel desinations

I chose the Fillmore neighborhood as

a backdrop for this series because this is home for me. I moved to Pacific Heights seven years ago and have loved it here so much that it simply seems natural to set the series here. We've already begun production on episodes three, four and five and Fillmore — this time between Jackson and Washington — gets a cameo in the opening sequence of episode three.

In addition to being a love story, Reve is also a personal exploration of another of my passions; dream interpretation. The main character, Walker, while coping with grief following the death of his young son, finds guidance and self-empowerment through a series of waking dreams. These dreams lead him to Reve, his love interest.

You can learn more about the films at revetheseries.com. And if you're in Spain this month, join us at the Marbella

Presidio Heiahts

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3 BD/2BA, 1-car garag parking, hardwood

oors, 10 foot ceilings.

ck, opens to shared

dining area, state-ofe-art kitchen, built-in anquette, south facing



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■ FIRST PERSON Fillmore poet wins

chapbook competition I have been writing poetry since I was a teenager. Finally, after almost 40 years, a book of my

Capability Press international

writing, every now and again

own choosing, and then left.

The book is called Three Visitors

The first visitor is a data entry clerk

from San Francisco in the early part

of this century. She is haunted by

the possibility she may have been

Guinevere in a previous life and she

tends to speak in French and Welsh

forms. The second is a young Asian

American woman, also from San

the heyday of the punk scene. For

reasons I can't fathom, she chose

the Italian Nobel Laureate, Eugenio Montale. Last there is a man from around the time of the Buddha, who

worked, probably as a gravedigger

The book is available through

negativecapabilitypress.square

space.com

somewhere on the Gangetic plain He speaks in eight line chunks of

When you spend a lifetime

characters just

case of these

characters

poems, these

showed up at

different times

my head and said what they

wanted to say, in forms of thei

chapbook competition

Prime Presidio mily room and direct

> Diana Kaus Kol (415) 321-4208 Malcolm Post



Spectacular House nd steps from Laurel filage shopping. This BD/3.5BA home bler

Pacific Heights



rd, deeded storage n. Extensively odeled in 2003. Jordan Park

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narming TIC. This

eet Built in 1914 thi

ar with pendant lightin



Prime Location / Complete Remode This south facing TIC is bright and airy and ludes a formal dinir



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The November General Election Ballot contains critical initiatives that will impact San Francisco residents and businesses for years to come. Join your neighbors, local merchants and SF Forward in voting for jobs and a better economic future on November 2, 2010!

VOTE YES

Earthquake Retroft Bond

Prop G Fix Muni Now

Prop H Prohibit Dual Office Holding Prop K Hotel Tax Clarification

Prop L Civil Sidewalks

VOTE NO

Prop C Force Mayor to Appear at Board Hearings

Prop J Job Killing Hotel Tax Increase

Board of Supervisors Managing Police Department Prop M

Prop N Job Killing Property Transfer Tax

Prop 23 Protect Landmark Clean Energy Law (AB 32)

Prop 24

Learn more at: www.sfchamber.com/votingguide





NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	ВА	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking	Sale
2105 Pine St	6	2.5	2		8/16/10	2,290,000	2,109,400
2781 Union St	3	2.5	1		9/3/10	2,195,000	2,200,000
2231 Franklin St	5	4	2	3471	9/9/10	2,300,000	2,219,000
2515 Gough St	5	3.5	2	3780	8/17/10	2,995,000	2,800,000
2846 Fillmore St	4	3.5	2	3765	9/2/10	3,249,000	2,975,000
315 Laurel St	6	4.5	2		9/9/10	3,395,000	3,150,000
2760 Broderick St	5	5.5	2	4600	9/8/10	3,400,000	3,410,000
37 Walnut St	5	4.5	2	3999	8/19/10	3,950,000	3,675,000
3740 Clay St	5	4.5	1		8/18/10	3,950,000	3,700,000
2460 Green St	4	3.5	2	5233	9/10/10	3,950,000	3,800,000
2725 Jackson St	5	5.5	2		8/25/10	4,350,000	3,900,000
2755 Fillmore St	5	4.5	2	4064	8/17/10	4,995,000	4,970,000
Condos/Co-ops/TICs/Loft	s						
1450 Post St #205	0	1	1	519	8/16/10	129,000	125,000
2040 Franklin St #808	1	1	1		9/14/10	475,900	460,000
2731-B California St	2	1	1		8/26/10	595,000	595,000
3010 Sacramento St #1	2	1	1		9/3/10	599,000	599,000
1835 Franklin St #603	2	2	1	1400	8/25/10	644,000	600,000
2420 Geary Blvd #C	2	2	1	1484	8/18/10	615,000	600,000
1914 Pine St #2	1	1.5	1	1190	9/10/10	619,000	605,000
1450 Post St #1115	2	1.5	1	1067	8/25/10	675,000	610,000
1966 Pacific Ave #203	2	2	1	1115	9/14/10	719,000	719,000
1914 Pine St #3	2	1	1	1180	8/31/10	749,000	725,000
1880 Steiner St #408	2	2	1	949	8/19/10	749,000	736,500
1824 Bush St	2	1.75	1	1370	8/31/10	825,000	780,000
2299 Sacramento St #18	2	1	1	1250	8/24/10	799,000	800,000
1740 Franklin St #10	3	1.25	1	1688	8/20/10	935,000	890,000
1640 Broderick St	5	2.5	2	4133	8/31/10	995,000	1,015,000
1988 Greenwich St	3	2	2	1605	9/9/10	879,000	1,097,500
2870 Washington St	3	2	1	2455	9/8/10	1,189,000	1,165,000
2200 Pacific Ave #9C	2	2	1	1850	8/20/10	1,175,000	1,185,000
2747 Greenwich St	2	1	2		9/10/10	1,195,000	1,185,000
3284 Jackson St	5	2.5	0		9/1/10	1,675,000	1,600,000

Average home price up to \$3.2 million



2686 Union St

The average sales price of single family homes during the past month rose from \$2.7 million to \$3.2 million, suggesting growing confidence in the higher-end market. The increase can partially be attributed to continued low interest rates for jumbo loans and also to a wider inventory. Highlights of the properties sold during the month include two Fillmore Street beauties: 2755 Fillmore (left), a contemporary three-level home with sweeping Golden Gate views, which sold in less than three weeks; and 2846 Fillmore, which sold after two

3 2.5 1 2204 8/20/10 1.995.000 1.975.000

months on the market. Both sold for about 90 percent of their listing prices. Although the number of condo sales decreased during the last month, one listing proved there is no lack of qualified buyers waiting for the right property to come along. A 3-bedroom, 2-bath condo — 1988 Greenwich, offered at \$879,000 — garnered 20 offers and ultimately sold for almost \$1.1 million. On the other en d of the spectrum, apartment 808 at Jackson Towers at 2040 Franklin Street — a 1-bedroom, 1-bath unit — sold for \$460,000, only a slight increase from its 2001 sales price of \$438 000

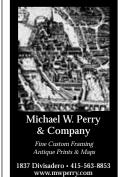
NEW LISTINGS: Notable new listings since Labor Day include the home of recently retired Williams-Sonoma CEO Howard Lester at 2939 Valleio Street. The French Normandy-style 4-bedroom, 5.5-bath home is on the market for \$8.5 million, with an adjoining lot at 2921 Vallejo Street offered at \$2.25 million. Also new on the market is 2698 Pacific, a grand classic revival mansion designed in 1904 by Samuel Newsom and offered for \$14 million. A two-unit Tudor-style Mayta & Jensen renovation at 2149-51 Jackson Street belonging to one of the four Cahill brothers was recently relisted at just under \$4 million. On the Pacific Heights block affectionately referred to as William F. Lewis Country, after the 19th century San Francisco architect, is a beautifully renovated Victorian at 2112 Baker Street listed at just under \$2.4 million.

 Data and commentary provided by Victoria Stewart Davis at Pacific Union. Contact her at vdavis@pacunion.com or call 345-3760



MENTION THE NEW FILLMORE FOR

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■ GARDENS



Festival of Flowers coming to St. Mary's

The fourth annual Festival of Flowers will once again bring a bevy of blossoms to the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption at 1111 Gough Street, on Cathedral Hill, during the first weekend of

Because it is also the 40th anniversary of the cathedral, floral designers and arrangers from throughout the Bay Area and beyond are coming together to create a special feast of color and scent in the soaring 19-story modern space. Workshops will explore flowers in art and the history of the cathedral. Music and food will also be presented.

For more information about the festival and a full schedule of events from September 30 through October 3, call 567-2020 or visit



takes advantage of the various levels of the lot to create separate spaces for

Renovated Backyard Has Rooms for Outdoor Living

HRISTINE GEMUEND, who lives lot to create separate spaces for different — all easily accessible from the house. with her husband Markus only a activities. couple of blocks from Fillmore Street, decided last year that their garden needed a total revamp.

The terraced backyard was filled with overgrown and unattractive plants, the concrete retaining walls were deteriorating and the wooden deck was rotting. So she enlisted Janet Moyer Landscaping to transform the unsightly mess into a useable space where the couple could read and entertain.

"We wanted to enjoy our garden - not only for our viewing pleasure, but also for actually living in it," says Gemuend.

The Gemuends' new garden design takes advantage of the various levels of the

The top terrace in the back features a pergola that supports a climbing rose and wisteria, underneath which the Gemuends enjoy reading and relaxing. The middle level features a serene reflecting pool sur- and other decorative plants. To minimize rounded by travertine tiles, a bit of lawn and a line of purple-tinged dodenaea saplings that will eventually fill in and provide some separation from neighboring yards. This area is the prominent visual accent, and while there are no fish in the pool, Gemuend happily reports that the water lilies bloomed this year. The deck level closest to the house is accented with our home and garden as a place of serenity outdoor tables, chairs, a heater and a grill and comfort.

For the most part, the new landscape features a formal and symmetrical design Plant selection was based on a color palette of white, pink and lavender, so there are plenty of roses, agapanthus, fuchsias watering, the landscapers installed an irrigation system that has significantly reduced

"The levels make the garden interesting and inviting," says Gemuend. "We love the urban scene, so having our home near Fillmore where we have easy access to that upbeat lifestyle suits us. Yet we can enjoy

According to the Controller's Office Proposition N & J will cost jobs and hurt our economy.



PROPOSITION J - HOTEL TAX INCREASE

The City Controller writes that the tax will be responsible for "lowering occupancy, tourism spending, and tourism industry employment." This significantly higher tax will:

- ➤ Make San Francisco's Hotel Tax the highest highest in the nation
- ▶ Put us at a disadvantage when competing with other cities for conventions and events
- > Damage our most important local industry

PROPOSITION N - REAL ESTATE SALES TAX HIKE

The City Controller writes that Proposition N will make San Francisco "less competitive and reduce job growth." The higher tax will:

- > Raise commercial and housing rents > Depress property tax values

 - > Threaten jobs and livelihood



You'll pay for these taxes with less economic growth and fewer jobs.

Vote No on Proposition

To join our coalition or for more information, visit www.economicrecoverysf.com

Paid by Economic Recovery San Francisco, No on J & N, sponsored by business associations, with major funding by Building Owners and Managers Association of San Francisco political action committee -independent expenditures and San Francisco Hotel Council

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