NEW NEIGHBOR

Hi-Ho Silver

— and bugs, too

PAGE 7

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Making a Final List

at Fillmore Hardware's farewell

PAGES 8 & 9

THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ DECEMBER 2010

Sweet!

CITIZEN CAKE ARRIVES

Photographs by Daniel Bahmani

Since the doors to Elizabeth Falkner's new Citizen Cake finally opened on November 13, a constant stream of people pours in from the street — each one welcomed with the same cheery query: "Are you just browsing the desserts?"

Some indeed are looky loos — to be forgiven for ogling the butterscotch miso verrine, macaroons and cupcakes in artful arrangements.

"I'm having fun here," says Citizen Cake owner Elizabeth Falkner, above. Below, chef de cuisine Amy Glaze.

"I love this location," says Falkner. "Wow, we're really in a neighborhood. People are always looking in and coming in. It's been amazing."

She first opened Citizen Cake South of Market in 1997 as a pastry shop, later moving to Hayes Valley with lunch and dinner menus for the Civic Center crowd.

"I think of this as Citizen Cake 3.0," she says. "I'm having fun here."

Falkner made her fame wearing a pile of hats: owner of Citizen Cake and Orson restaurants, author of *Demolition Desserts*, consulting pastry chef at Epic Roasthouse, teacher and mentor to budding chefs.

The red brick wall remains at 2125 Fillmore, long the home of Vivande and its beloved chef Carlo Middione. But the rest of the interior has a sleeker vibe.

Amy Glaze, whose resume boasts kitchen time alongside Guy Savoy in Paris and Eric Ripert at New York's Le Bernardin, is chef de cuisine.

"We're taking some of the heavier winter dishes like stroganoff and making them lighter, more feminine," says Glaze. "We just decided on a new dish — duck a la tangerine. It's a pretty sexy dish."

There's attention to the liquid fare, too, with still and sparkling water from Citizen Cake's own filtration system. It can be mixed with Falkner's handmade syrups to produce a variety of sodas in such unusual concoctions as patchouli cola, wood and rosebud.

And the liquid nitrogen ice cream is still to come, in chocolate, vanilla and grilled sourdough flavors.

"I'm not a mad scientist," Falkner insists. "I'm really well grounded in fine dining. But why can't it be fun?"

Citizen Cake is open daily from 10 to 10, serving morning pastries, lunch, afternoon snacks and dinner.

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RETROSPECTIVE

A drawing by Bill Shields of his wife Denise at a street market while they lived in Paris.

A LOVE STORY

She was 19 when they met in New York. He was a much-in-demand illustrator twice her age.

Denise Ackle and Bill Shields became good friends, but both went on to marry other people. After she moved to California and then back to New York, they met again. This time it was different.

"When I re-met Bill, that was it," she says. "It was like falling in love with a very dear friend."

Thus began a 40-year marriage, a loving family and a lifetime of adventurous and artistic explorations, many of which took place a few steps from Fillmore Street.

▪

One of his early projects required a trip to San Francisco. As they looked out the window of their room at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, Bill asked, "How'd you like to live in San Francisco?" "I'd love to," Denise replied, and they went home to New York, packed up their Volkswagen bus and their two little boys and moved across the country.

A few years later they were up at Tahoe for the summer. Bill met a French visitor one afternoon and came home to ask, "How'd you like to live in Paris?" "I'd love to," Denise replied, and they packed up the boys and moved to France for two years.

"He was always game to go anywhere," she says. "We didn't have much money, but we lived very well. We had such a good life."

She bought and remodeled Victorians, becoming one of the first to increase their allure by staging them with nice furnishings and Bill's paintings. His career flourished.

"He was one of those lucky people who did what he loved all his life," she says. "And he loved this neighborhood. He loved being able to walk down Fillmore Street."

▪

Bill died in April, a week before his 85th birthday. He was buried on October 26 in Arlington National Cemetery with the honors due a distinguished Navy pilot.

This month the honors come closer to home, in the neighborhood they loved and lived in for most of the years they were married. **"WILLIAM SHIELDS: AN EXHIBITION OF HIS ART,"** including paintings, drawings and sculpture, is on view at Calvary Presbyterian Church at Fillmore and Jackson. In addition to the major abstract oil paintings and his pastel landscapes of the French countryside, the exhibition also includes more personal mementoes from their life together — cards and notes and wooden assemblages he created for birthdays, anniversaries and holidays.

"Happy Birthday and oh my Lordy, you're the most beautiful lady who ever turned 40," says one, featuring a rapturous drawing of Denise's red hair.

"Lovely Denise," begins another. "How come you get bolder (just cause you're more older?)"

▪

A reception honoring the Shields will be held in Calvary's lounge at 2515 Fillmore on Sunday, December 12, at 11:30 a.m. The exhibition continues through January 2.

THE NEW FILLMORE
newfillmore.com

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Editors | Barbara Kate Repa & Thomas R. Reynolds
Production | Ginny Lindsay **Proofreader** | Donna Gillespie
Marketing Director | Jay Singh

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.

newfillmore.com | updated all month, plus video and an archive of back issues

■ STREET TALK

Fillmore's new meters accept credit cards

New parking meters have been installed in the neighborhood as part of the city's ongoing SFpark experiment, which promises to make it easier to find and pay for available parking spaces, and to park there longer.

The new meters — powered by solar panels on the sun-facing side — accept credit cards and debit cards, in addition to coins and parking cards issued by the city. Time limits have been extended from one or two hours to four hours on most meters.

Fillmore is one of seven neighborhoods being outfitted with new meters and sensors that transmit parking data. If the first-of-its-kind project works as envisioned, city masterminds will be able to adjust pricing to reflect demand during peak times and ultimately lead drivers to available spots — at least one on every block, they say.

More information about the project is available at sfpark.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Kiehl's Plans a Move Down the Street

Kiehl's has been in business at the corner of Fillmore and Washington for a decade.

In a certain sign that the center of gravity on Fillmore continues to shift southward, Kiehl's plans to move its body products store from 2360 Fillmore to 1971 Fillmore, at the intersection with Pine Street.

"Our lease is up and we're looking for a new home," said store manager Cris Thorngate. "It's time for us to be more exposed. This is a quieter end of the street."

Kiehl's will replace the Shu Uemura cosmetics boutique — owned, as is Kiehl's, by L'Oreal. Shu Uemura closed last spring and the space has sat empty since. Kiehl's will move some of its furnishings and company memorabilia and restore the Victorian character of the building on the corner of Pine and Fillmore, Thorngate said.

When Kiehl's opened a decade ago at Fillmore and Washington, it meticulously restored the longtime home of Belmont Florist, including its distinctive neon sign.

"We'd take that sign with us if we could," said Thorngate. "A lot of our fixtures will move to the new location, and it will have wooden floors and custom cabinets. We're basically replicating what this store looks like."

The Fillmore store was the first after the original Kiehl's in New York, which opened in 1851. In the last decade, the company has opened 34 more. That makes it a formula retail store under San Francisco's chain store ordinance, and required a public neighborhood meeting, which was held November 29 at Kiehl's.

"This was the first store," said Kiehl's vice president Robert Imig, who flew out from New York with the company's director of retail sales. "This is our West Coast flagship."

Leaders of the residents and merchants associations voiced no objection to the move and praised Kiehl's as an asset to the street and a good neighbor actively involved in the neighborhood.

They urged the company to do more.

"We need your expertise," said Joan O'Connor, a board member of the Fillmore Merchants Association. "We need a better model of how larger corporate stores coming to the street can participate and help strengthen the neighborhood."

She emphasized the unique character of the neighborhood.

"People love this community because of the bookstore and the hardware store and the movie theater," she said. "Yet every year it gets chipped away."

"We want Fillmore Street to be vibrant and profitable," said Greg Scott, president of the Pacific Heights Residents Association. "We also want a diversity of services and we don't want the neighborhood-serving businesses to be priced out."

Thorngate, Kiehl's manager for the past three years, pointed out that she both lives and works in the neighborhood.

"I live across the street," she said. "I'm 47 steps from this store. I'm passionate about this end of the street. Now I'm gonna be passionate from Pine down."

Kiehl's hopes to move by March.

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CRIME WATCH

Felony Narcotics, Fraud, Burglary
Van Ness Avenue and Sutter Street
October 22, 9:19 p.m.

Officers received a call from restaurant employees concerning a patron refusing to pay for his meal. The officers learned the man was on parole, which meant he could be searched without probable cause. They seized his checkbook and discovered the name on it was not his. When the man signed the check with the name of the account holder, he was arrested for fraud. He also possessed methamphetamine — another felony. When the suspect was taken to Northern Station for booking, one of the arresting officers realized he was also responsible for a burglary being investigated, and that crime was added to the list of charges.

Robbery
Webster and O'Farrell Streets
October 24, 10:29 a.m.

Loss prevention officers at Safeway saw a man walking down the aisles stuffing merchandise into his shirt. They followed the man as he left the store without paying, then stopped him outside. The suspect initially cooperated and walked back into the store with them. Halfway down one of the aisles, he shrugged off the guards' grip and made a dash for the front doors. Security guards ran after him and wrestled him to the ground as he continued to struggle. Eventually they handcuffed him and called the police.

Auto Burglary
Post and Buchanan Streets
October 28, 3:40 a.m.

Officers who had received a call about a car break-in spotted two men who matched the dispatchers' description. The officers ordered them to stop, but the two broke into a run. The officers gave chase and caught one suspect; the other man got away. The man who was caught was brought to Northern Station. The officers returned to the scene, and while conducting their investigation, the second suspect approached, told them "I want to be responsible" — and turned himself in.

Fraud
Fillmore and Clay Streets
October 30, 3:15 p.m.

Witnesses said a man who took a long time at an ATM was "behaving strangely" and appeared nervous. He repeatedly withdrew money while pausing several times to use his cell phone. After complaints from those behind him in line, he left the ATM, walked across the street and sat down. The people observing this called 911. An officer arrived. He learned that the suspect had been walking past the ATM when he saw a card sticking out of the slot, then started pulling money out of the machine. The officer contacted the card owner, who stated that she had just used that ATM and had forgotten to retrieve her card. The suspect, who was on felony probation, was sent back to jail.

Malicious Mischief, Concealed Weapon
Van Ness Avenue and Broadway
November 4, 8 p.m.

Officers received a report that three individuals were slashing tires of parked cars with a large knife. A witness saw the male member of the group cut a truck's tires. When officers arrived, one spoke to the witness while the others went out to find and detain the three suspects. The witness identified the male suspect, and the officers placed him under arrest. In his backpack, they found a long knife. The two women were taken to Northern Station for further investigation. The owner of one of the vehicles told officers he had taken the two women to the hot tubs with him. He said he'd felt sorry for them and had given them each $80. The officers discovered the young women were both under 18 and had been reported missing. The young women were sent home with their parents; the male suspect was sent to county jail.

Hit and Run
Van Ness Avenue and Broadway
November 10, 8:05 a.m.

A driver was stopped at an intersection when a car slammed into the rear of his vehicle. The driver who had struck him drove up alongside his car and explained that, because of all of the traffic, he would pull over a block away. Then he sped off at high speed. There were two witnesses, one an off-duty officer who took off after the suspect. The officer lost sight of the car at Marina Boulevard and Fillmore, where a second officer joined the chase and caught up with the runaway driver. The officer pulled the car over and the witnesses identified the driver. The driver who had been struck was transported to a hospital. The driver who sped away was arrested for a felony hit-and-run and for driving with a suspended license.

Burglary
Webster and O'Farrell Streets
November 10, 3:50 p.m.

A woman walked into Safeway with a large empty bag and headed for the personal products aisle. There she filled the bag with a large assortment of hair products. Next she went to the meat department and selected a steak, then headed to the liquor aisle for a couple of beers. Her selections totaled $138.99. Security officers followed her as she bypassed the registers with the full sack, then detained her outside the store. Because she had entered the store with an empty bag and possessed no means of paying, she was charged with burglary.

Felony Theft
Franklin Street and Geary Boulevard
November 16, 12:10 a.m.

A man who was waiting for a bus inside a Muni shelter placed his laptop bag on the ground behind him. Another man approached and asked him the time, then grabbed the bag from the ground. The thief dashed off, with the man who had been robbed right behind him. At Geary and Franklin, the suspect got into a waiting car. Officers arrived and broadcast his description. Two hours later, officers from another district encountered the suspect's car. The man who had been robbed was brought to the scene, where he identified the suspect, the car and his laptop computer in the back seat. The suspect was charged with possession of stolen property.

Stolen Auto
Van Ness Avenue and Broadway
November 18, 9:50 a.m.

Officers were stopped in traffic when their car's computer alerted them to a stolen car in the area. They spotted the vehicle, which took off at high speed, then crashed into four vehicles stopped for a red light several blocks away. The officers heard the crash and arrived in time to see two passengers running from the car. The driver took more time getting out, then she too attempted to run from the scene. The officers caught her and took her into custody. Inside the stolen car they found a number of items of stolen property. The woman, who had an outstanding warrant for car theft, was taken to Northern Station and booked.

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UCSF invites you to two upcoming meetings on the UCSF Mt. Zion Garage at 2420 Sutter Street:

EIR Scoping meeting for the UCSF Mount Zion Garage @ 2420 Sutter Street

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 @ 7 p.m.

UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion
Herbst Hall Auditorium
1600 Divisadero Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94115

The EIR scoping meeting provides an opportunity for the community to discuss the scope and content of the environmental information they expect to see included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This allows UCSF to learn about potential concerns early, as well as further define the issues, feasible alternatives, and potential mitigation measures that may warrant in-depth analysis in the environmental review process. This meeting is not required by law.

The Initial Study includes a project description, and discusses potential environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures for any significant effects. It also identifies the scope and content of the environmental information that will be included in the Draft EIR. The Initial Study will be available online at http://campusplanning.ucsf.edu by November 22, 2010. You can obtain a paper or CD copy by calling 415/476-2911. To give written feedback on the Initial Study, please write to Diane Wong, UCSF Campus Planning, Box 0286, San Francisco, CA 94143 or email her at MZEIR@planning.ucsf.edu by December 21, 2010.

If you would like to be placed on UCSF's notification list for this or other projects, please email community@cgr.ucsf.edu or call 415-476-3206 and indicate which campus locations interest you: Parnassus, Mount Zion, Mission Bay, Laurel Heights.

*** UCSF fully ascribes to the Americans with Disabilities Act. If at any time you feel you have a need for accommodation, please contact UCSF Community & Governmental Relations at 415-476-3206 with your suggested accommodation.***

Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the UCSF Mount Zion Garage @ 2420 Sutter Street

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 @ 7 p.m.

UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion
Herbst Hall Auditorium
1600 Divisadero Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94115

The purpose of this hearing is to solicit public comments on the adequacy and accuracy of information presented in the Draft EIR. The project analyzed in the Draft EIR is the proposed parking structure at 2420 Sutter Street.

The Draft EIR will be available online at http://campusplanning.ucsf.edu beginning January 3, 2011. To obtain a paper or CD copy or to view reference materials, email UCSF Environmental Coordinator Diane Wong at MZEIR@planning.ucsf.edu or call (415) 476-2911. Copies of the Draft EIR will also be available for viewing at the following libraries: Western Addition Branch Library, 1550 Scott Street, and the UCSF Kalmanovitz Library, 530 Parnassus Avenue.

To give written feedback on the Draft EIR, please write Ms. Wong at UCSF Campus Planning, Box 0286, San Francisco, CA 94143-0286, or email her at MZEIR@planning.ucsf.edu. All comments must be submitted during the public review period from January 3, 2011 to February 16, 2011 at 5 p.m.

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Come Join Our Advent Celebrations!

Advent Lessons & Carols, Sunday, November 28, 7:30 pm, Church Nave

Holy Choices Discernment Retreat, Saturday, December 4, 9:30 am, Parish Hall. *Explore how to discern God's call for your life.*

Angel Tour of the Church, Saturday, December 4, 10:00 am, Vestibule

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception *(A Holy Day of Obligation)*
Wednesday, December 8, Masses: 6:30 am, 8:00 am
5:30 pm *(traditional music)*, 7:30 pm *(contemporary music)*
Vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 7, 5:30 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, Sunday, December 12
1:30 pm Mass *(en español)*, Church Nave;
Reception follows in the Parish Hall

Parish Advent Party & Caroling, Thursday, December 16, 6:00 pm
Parish Hall

"An American Christmas" Concert, Monday, December 20, 7:30 pm, Church Nave. *St. Dominic's Solemn Mass Choir and Festival Brass*

Advent Twilight Retreat, Tuesday, December 21, 7:30 pm, Lady Chapel *(Preparation for Confession)*

Confessions, Wednesday, December 22
12:00 Noon – 1:00 pm & 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Church Nave

Come Join Our Christmas Celebrations!

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24
Advent Masses: 6:30 am & 8:00 am
Christmas Eve Masses: 5:30 pm, *Family Mass:* 11:15 pm
Carol service followed by Mass at Midnight (*solemn*)
(No confessions today)

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25
Masses at 7:30 am (*with carols*), 9:30 am (*family*),
11:30 am (*solemn*), 1:30 pm (*en español*)
(No confessions today and no Masses at 5:30 pm or 9:00 pm)

Solemnity of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 26
Masses at 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 5:30 pm & 9:00 pm

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, Saturday, January 1, 2011
Parish Mass at 9:30 am; Vigil Mass on Friday, December 31, 5:30 pm

Solemnity of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 2, 2011
Masses at 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 5:30 pm & 9:00 pm
Vigil Mass on Saturday, January 1, 2011, 5:30 pm

Family Service Activity, Sunday, January 2, 2011, 10:30 am, Parish Hall

Solemnity of the Baptism of The Lord, Sunday, January 9, 2011
Masses at 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 5:30 pm & 9:00 pm
Vigil Mass on Saturday, January 8, 2011, 5:30 pm
This marks the end of the Christmas Season

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Rethink Possible℠

Hi-Ho Silver — and Away She Goes

New shop will offer jewelry from Mexico, plus weaving, sculpture, bugs

NO MORE SUSHI — After feeding generations of neighbors for 45 years, Maruya Sushi served its final saba sushi on October 29. Yoshimi and Kats Oune retired and closed their take-out sushi shop, which was started by her mother.

newfillmore.com | "The Final Customer," a video from Maruya's last day

Victoria Dunham has been importing sterling silver jewelry from Mexico for 18 years, working out of her Victorian flat on Bush Street and presenting her discoveries at a series of trunk shows, primarily at Fort Mason.

Earlier in the year when the tiny space at 1907 Fillmore became available, a girlfriend encouraged her to open a shop — and she was tempted, eager to be a greater part of the neighborhood. The notion was dashed when she learned that artist Cassandria Blackmore had rented the space and would open a gallery.

"I thought, 'Damn, that's the one that got away,'" Dunham says.

In mid-October she was taking a walk with a friend who mentioned with dismay that she was losing her favorite local sushi source. Maruya Sushi, the little take-out shop that had been operating quietly for 45 years at 1904 Fillmore, was closing — next door to the space of Dunham's earlier fantasies, and even a few steps closer to home.

"It was like that," she says, snapping her fingers. "I got lucky. I love the neighborhood and I live a block away. It just seemed right."

So she set to work — and also enlisted her son and ex-husband — determined to be open in time for the holidays. And on December 1, Hi-Ho Silver opened its doors in a space that had been totally transformed.

"It was pretty funky in here," Dunham laughs. "After all, it was a kitchen for 45 years."

But she found the thick pine planks that served as counters in the sushi shop would work for her, too — at least temporarily. And with several fresh coats of paint and a couple of circular silk-shaded chandeliers, she was on the way to having her own shop in the neighborhood.

"Pretty nice, huh?" she said a few days before opening, her face streaked with dust and her sweatshirt splattered with paint. "I've had a blast. It's all smoke and mirrors, but the idea was to open December 1st to 24th, then close after Christmas and reopen more permanently in February."

Dunham will concentrate on what she knows and loves: silver from Mexico.

"I bring in really spectacular stuff," she says. "I can say that. I don't make it. I just pick it out."

But silver is only part of what she's got in mind. She'll also offer a line of stainless steel vases from sculptor Michael Szabo and silk scarves designed by Catherine Theron that are handwoven in Cambodia by a family of 25 weavers using ancient techniques.

Then there's Agelio Batle's graphite objects — "sculpture you can write and draw with," Dunham says — and a series of "museum quality insect displays" from Kevin Clarke, mastermind of a workshop he calls Bug Under Glass.

"If you want a bug, I've got a great bug collection," Dunham says. "I like odd things. This will be a little odd shop for the neighborhood."

Hi-Ho Silver, at 1904 Fillmore Street, is open through Christmas on Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, call 771-4446 or visit hihosilver.com.

COMING & GOING: In addition to Hi-Ho Silver, more jewelry is arriving and departing in the block of Fillmore Street between Pine and Bush.

The fine jewelers at 1908 Fillmore, **Linco & Co.**, will be closing after the first of the year. Brothers Linco and Edward Kwuan have worked together in creating the jewelry and running their elegant showroom for the past 13 years. Blame the closure not on a rent hike but on declining eyesight. They own the building and will offer the space for lease in the new year.

A few doors north at 1940 Fillmore, behind a matte black facade, noted New York costume jeweler **Alexis Bittar** is moving west. He's opening on Fillmore Street and in two L.A. locations. Says Bittar: "We're designing for a 20-year-old and an 80-year-old. There's a general feeling that the line's artistic, but that you also have to have balls to wear it."

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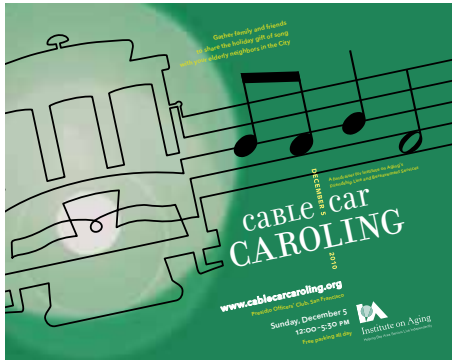

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One ’Mo Time

A Final Shop for Fun Gifts at Fillmore Hardware

ROSE HOUGES

Fillmore Hardware is closing at the end of the month after a 49-year run.

Photo Illustration by Virginia Lindsay

Local shoppers looking for gifts for both the quirky and the practical souls on their lists will find a treasure trove of possibilities at Fillmore Hardware. And this is your last chance — the venerable and much-loved emporium is closing its doors for the final time at the end of the month after 49 years of serving the neighborhood.

Fillmore Hardware’s shelves are still stuffed with its trademark combination of useful and unusual offerings. For the cheeky giftees, there’s a big selection of offbeat office essentials — notepads with and without magnets, mousepads, file folders, shot glasses — many embellished with vintage photos and smarty-pants but so-true sayings. There’s plenty of kids’ stuff, including a large selection of bandaids with designs sure to be the envy of the playground. You can gift gardeners with everything from pots, soil and seeds to watering cans in improbable animal shapes. And housewares with a whimsical twist make it fun for the homebodies. There’s even some regular hardware such as wingnuts and nails and hammers to keep the handy men and women humming.

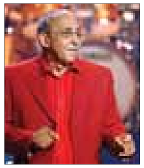
Think outside the box and stash their stuff in one of the store’s many reusable totes woven from recycled material. The prices at Fillmore Hardware always were reasonable, and as the inventory thins, the markdowns will get bigger.

Fillmore Hardware, 1930 Fillmore, now through December 31.

■ SONGO

Los Van Van: direct from Cuba to Yoshi's

Juan Formell is bringing Los Van Van (the Go Gos in Spanish), a band he formed in 1969, to Yoshi's this month from December 9 to 12. Over the past 35 years, Formell (left) has become probably the most important figure in contemporary Latin music and Los Van Van is easily one of the most recognized post-revolution bands out of Cuba.



Los Van Van has consistently managed to innovate and change its style with the times, and is considered Cuba's most popular dance band. Juan Formell is a master of the double-entendre and his music addresses a range of issues in its social commentary.

The band has been called the "Rolling Stones of Latin Music." It's a 14-piece orchestra that plays a fierce and irresistible brand of dance music it originated called "songo," an invigorating fusion of Cuban and Caribbean rhythms that blends traditional and contemporary Cuban sounds. It consists of six independent sections — three vocalists, two violinists, three percussionists, three trombonists, two keyboardists and a bassist. The band is a charanga (flutes and violins), a salsa orchestra (edgy trumpets and trombones) and a premier rock band (electric bass and drums) all in one.

Know this: Los Van Van is considered the innovator of the songo Cuban style of salsa. The band is committed to driving its fans frantic by producing music that is constantly breaking new ground. Its unique combination of Afro-Cuban, rock, hip-hop and funk creates a hard-edged demanding sound that is rougher and more full bodied than almost any other form of Latin salsa. This is sure to be four nights of incredible fun and excitement, and a show not to be missed.

— ANTHONY TORRES

MARK AKAMINE

Maestro Stan Shaff in the performance space at Audium, which he and a partner imagined and created.

A One-of-a-Kind Experience

Nearby, Audium takes surround sound to an entirely new level

By Erica Reder

Abstract sculpture and dim lights adorn the foyer at 1616 Bush Street, where curious concertgoers gathered on a recent Saturday evening. Speakers pipe assorted sounds into the room, adding bird chirps and the splashing of water to the quiet chatter of those anticipating the show.

At 8:30, composer Stan Shaff opens the performance space, inviting people to take seats in a concentric circle of chairs. A blackout ensues — and "Audium 9" begins.

"The experience is unique," says Shaff, founder of Audium. "We're the only theatre in the world that does what we do."

Twice a week, Shaff performs his latest "sound sculpture" — a taped mix of electronic, natural and musical sounds. The audience listens in complete darkness as he directs the recording through 174 speakers around the room. Saturday's show lasted an hour and incorporated sounds running the gamut from children's voices to waves to trumpet solos.

■

Sound has always been important to Shaff, who played trumpet professionally and taught music in the San Francisco public schools. In the late 1950s, he experimented with a new form, tape composition, which involved recording and manipulating a variety of sounds. Through these experiments, Shaff came to believe that space was an underexplored dimension of music.

"Space is another layer, just like melody and harmony," he says, "but it hasn't been dealt with enough."

In 1958, Shaff met Doug McEachern, who was also a music teacher, and who shared Shaff's interest in spatial investigation. McEachern constructed an audio system that suited Shaff's tape compositions, inaugurating a collaboration that continues today. "We were discussing ways of moving sound," says McEachern, "so I built a box that was able to do it."

Two years later, the duo accompanied noted dancer and choreographer Anna Halprin at a series of performances.

What began as a modest project grew throughout the '60s. "We started in a very small way," recalls McEachern, "and it just developed and kind of kept going."

In their early years together, Shaff and McEachern performed around the city at San Francisco State University, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and other forums, their technical and conceptual sophistication evolving with each show. Eventually they outgrew their portable equipment and began to look for a permanent venue. The first Audium Theatre opened in 1967 at Fourth Avenue and Clement Street in a refurbished dance hall featuring 44 speakers, more than five times the number they had used at first.

By the time the theatre closed, in 1970, Audium had received considerable attention. That recognition helped Shaff and McEachern develop a new venue. Funded partially by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, they built the current Audium.

"When we found this space, we built it from scratch," recalls McEachern. He and Shaff planned every detail with its artistic purpose in mind. "The lighting, the artwork — everything is a part of the metaphor that the sounds reveal," says Shaff.

Shaff finds the Audium experience affects everyone differently.

"It is what it is," he says. "You take away what you can." He seems to care little for popular hype. "I don't look at this as entertainment per se," he says. "I'm interested in the ideas."

■

In keeping with this philosophy, Audium does not promote itself, but draws its audience through word of mouth. Shaff estimates that 20 to 30 people attend each show. Children under 12 are not admitted.

"I think maybe they're a bit younger now than they were in the past," says McEachern of those who continue to arrive week after week. "During the summer, we have a lot of people from other countries, and that's somewhat a change from the past."

Diverse audiences may be drawn to Audium's universality. "Water, birds, children's voices — there are certain sounds that are a part of every being," says Shaff.

Performances are held at the Audium, at 1616 Bush, on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30. Admission is $15. The theater will be closed the last two weeks of December. For more information, visit audium.org.

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Into the '50s, the neighborhood's remaining cable car line crossed Fillmore on Jackson Street heading west.

The Washington-Jackson Line

Cable cars brought riders to Pacific Heights until 1956

By Carina Woudenberg | photographs by John Payne

Today the three remaining cable car lines are icons of San Francisco, beloved by visitors to the city and protected by city charter. But until the 1950s, cable cars were still viewed as a viable means of transportation among commuters.

The Washington-Jackson line carried riders to and from Pacific Heights. Created in 1888, the line originally ran out Jackson Street to Presidio Avenue. But the 1906 earthquake and fire caused extensive damage to the cable lines and cars. The Washington-Jackson line, which restarted in 1907, was cut back to Steiner — the route longtime locals still recall fondly.

▪

"To me, the Washington-Jackson line was unique because it didn't serve tourists, it served residents," says Phil Hoffman, who joined the battle against the line's demise. "People don't realize what a wonderful line it was."

Hoffman, now 80, was a young man when he fought to keep the line running. He met his wife, another cable car fan, while they were petitioning to preserve the line — and rode the Washington-Jackson line to visit her when they were dating.

He knew he would have to leave by 1:10 a.m. to catch the last car at 1:20. If he missed it, he would have to walk the 14 blocks from her place at Divisadero and Washington to his place at Washington and Hyde.

Hoffman became accustomed to waking to the cable car's rumble when the cars started up at 6 a.m. It was his natural alarm clock — and when the system was broken and didn't make a sound until 10 one morning, he overslept.

Having grown up in the Fillmore district, aspiring historian and former Muni employee Emiliano Echeverria remembers riding the Washington-Jackson line as a child. For him, it was a convenient way to get around town, with special benefits for regular riders.

"If you knew the gripmen and conductors and they knew you," he says, "you could get away with things like hopping on the cable car in full motion — which I did all the time."

Bond Cleaners owner Phil Kaplan remembers the cable car regularly making its way out Jackson and back on Washington in the early 1950s when he first took over his dry cleaning business at 2442 Fillmore.

The cable car employees would frequent Joe's Smoke Shop, just down the block from his shop at the corner of Fillmore and Washington, where Chouquet's restaurant is now located. It was the end — and the beginning — of the Washington-Jackson line.

"That's where they would eat," Kaplan says, "where they would hang out."

Kaplan remembers when the tracks were torn up and removed after the cable cars stopped running in 1956 and were replaced by buses.

The cars turned south one block on Steiner and then headed back downtown on Washington.

"The longtime residents were very upset to lose their cable car line," says Don Holmgren, secretary of the Cable Car Museum on Mason Street. "Their link to downtown San Francisco was severed."

For Phil Hoffman and many others, this meant working all night to gather 20,000 signatures in support of Proposition J, which proposed to maintain the line just as it was.

"We finally got Proposition J on the ballot," Hoffman says, "but didn't have enough money to make it pass."

Instead, Proposition E, a competing measure to consolidate cable car lines, was narrowly approved in the 1954 election.

But by then, the cable cars had become a relic of an earlier era. Californians were in love with their cars. Victorian homes were being lifted to make room for garages.

"San Francisco the rough-and-tumble boomtown very much wanted to mature into a real city," Echeverria says. "It wanted to be seen as a town that had arrived — a modern, majestic metropolis. And cable cars just didn't fit into that image."

▪

On September 2, 1956, cable car number 524 made the final trip on the Washington-Jackson line.

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Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking	Sale
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2946 Bush St	3	3.5	3	2800	10/28/10	1,549,000	1,505,000
1719 Broderick St	3	2.5	2		10/28/10	1,575,000	1,590,000
2439 Buchanan St	3	2.5	0	2556	10/26/10	2,100,000	1,950,000
1821-1823 Lyon St	5	3.5	2	3420	10/29/10	2,100,000	2,100,000
2543 Vallejo St	3	3.5	1	2788	10/15/10	2,349,900	2,250,000
1813 Greenwich St	4	3	3		11/15/10	3,650,000	3,650,000
2651 Green St	4	3.5	1		11/5/10	4,450,000	4,400,000
Condos / Co-ops / TICs / Lofts							
1450 Post St #1005	1	1	1	519	11/4/10	178,000	160,000
1450 Post St #616	1	2	1	718	11/12/10	355,240	335,000
1879 Greenwich St	2	1	1		11/10/10	499,000	490,419
3876 California St #1	2	2	1		10/15/10	499,000	530,000
3876 California St #2	2	2	1		10/29/10	529,000	543,200
2579 Post St	3	3	1		10/15/10	599,000	600,000
2185 Bush St #206	0	0	1		11/9/10	595,000	600,000
3045 Jackson St #103	1	1	1	1089	10/29/10	695,000	690,000
2571 Post St	2	2	1	1360	11/10/10	750,000	733,000
2950 Clay St #302	3	2	1	1300	10/19/10	740,000	740,000
1940 Buchanan St	2	1	1	1480	10/29/10	759,000	759,000
1800 Washington St #110B	2	2.5	1	1083	10/26/10	775,000	760,000
2185 Bush St #308	3	2	1	1290	11/9/10	799,900	799,900
1568 Union St #301	2	2	1	1183	11/9/10	879,000	865,000
1600 Webster St #102	2	2	2	1265	10/22/10	895,000	875,000
2200 Pacific Ave #2C	2	2	1		10/22/10	949,000	975,000
2300 Divisadero St	5	1.75	1	2410	10/29/10	1,050,000	1,050,000
3497 Sacramento St	3	2	1	1729	10/15/10	1,150,000	1,055,000
2380 Union St	2	2.5	1	1325	11/9/10	999,000	1,060,000
538 Presidio Ave	3	3	1		11/12/10	1,175,000	1,165,000
3002 Clay St	3	2	2	2000	10/28/10	1,350,000	1,315,000
2266 Jackson St	3	2.5	1	1944	10/19/10	1,399,000	1,350,000
1870 Jackson St #504	3	2.5	1		11/4/10	1,595,000	1,537,500
2039 Sacramento St	3	3	1	2255	10/27/10	1,595,000	1,600,000
1844 Greenwich St	3	3	2	2251	11/1/10	1,795,000	1,800,000

Prices slip, but condo sales more than double

Sales of single family homes increased slightly during the past month, but sales of condos and TICs almost doubled over the month before. Although the average sales price for both homes and condos declined, the number of condo and TIC sales is encouraging for a sector of the market that has been relatively stagnant in recent months.

Sellers continue to meet the current market environment with more attractive — some would say more realistic — pricing. And buyers are responding, encouraged by favorable interest rates.

CLOSINGS: Notable condo sales during the past month include 2039 Sacramento Street, a 3-bedroom, 3-bath home in a two-unit building overlooking Lafayette Park, which sold after just 12 days on the market for slightly more than the asking price. At 3497 Sacramento Street, a 3-bedroom, 2-bath remodeled Queen Anne flat originally listed at $1.225 million, then reduced to $1.150 million, finally sold for just over $1 million after 134 days on the market.

Single family home sales include 2946 Bush Street, which has been on and off the market since September of last year. Initially offered at $2.2 million, this modern 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath home finally sold after three different listing agents and at least four price reductions. Conversely, 1813 Greenwich Street, a modern offering by a certified green builder that was well priced at $3.65 million, garnered two offers and sold for its asking price within 15 days.

NEW LISTINGS: Bank owned and priced to move at $1,564,900, 1806 Laguna Street is a 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath Italianate Victorian on a lovely tree-lined block between Bush and Pine. For quintessential Presidio Heights, check out 3851 Clay Street, a grand 7-bedroom, 4.5-bath home with an elevator to all floors, listed at $5,795,000. For a smaller slice of city life, take a look at 2999 California Street #404, a 653-square-foot junior one-bedroom offered at $399,000.

— Data and commentary provided by VICTORIA STEWART DAVIS at Pacific Union. Contact her at vdavis@pacunion.com or call 345-3760.

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GOOD WORKS

■ PAIRINGS

When Rick Met Elena, a Friendship Was Born

When Meals on Wheels paired Rick, a volunteer, with Elena, 94 and housebound, it put a spring in the steps of both neighborhood residents.

Elena and Rick like to walk. Whenever they spend time together, it's usually on foot — unless they're driving to another neighborhood in search of a new walking adventure.

Elena used to walk everywhere with her late husband. He died more than 50 years ago, but she kept on walking. A few years ago, she was mugged and stopped getting out as much. But then she met Rick. For more than two years now, he has been her Friendly Visitor through the Meals on Wheels volunteer program.

While San Francisco isn't well known for its flatlands, that doesn't bother Elena. "I don't mind the hills," she says. "I just take it easy."

Says Rick: "She may be 94 years old, but I can barely keep up with her."

The pair have also come to realize they have other things in common. Rick's father and Elena's husband both worked for Chevron in Richmond. Elena, the daughter of an Orthodox priest, was born in the rectory of a Russian Orthodox Church on Geary Street; when she married, she moved across the street from the church and has lived there most of her life. Rick's father was also Russian Orthodox.

Fueled by their walks and talks about Chevron, religion and other shared interests, the two have formed their own mutual admiration society.

"Rick's so polite and cooperative," says Elena.

"Elena is such an interesting person. I really enjoy talking with her," says Rick. "And beyond that, it's just the right thing to do."

"She may be 94 years old, but I can barely keep up with her."

— RICK, Meals on Wheels volunteer, describing Elena (above)

"Their story is remarkable," says Leslie Nipps, who oversees Meals on Wheels' volunteers. "We always say that Friendly Visitors contribute to the health and well-being of our clients, but in this case we could see it happening. Elena wasn't going out. Having company has made it possible for her to get out now — and a senior who gets out and walks is a healthy person. We could have easily given her five more years in her home just by giving her Rick."

More Than Meals Come on Wheels

Meals on Wheels' name leads most people to pigeonhole it as simply a food delivery service, and that much is true. With an administrative staff of 25 drivers and the help of 400 volunteers, the organization delivered almost a million meals to 1,700 elderly residents throughout the city last year. Most clients get two meals every day of the week.

But volunteers with the organization also lend their time and talents in a number of other ways to enable San Francisco's seniors to live at home independently.

Among them is serving as a Friendly Visitor: making regular visits to homebound residents 60 and older to help with grocery shopping, play cards, watch movies, help write letters, read or just talk. Other volunteers who are handy with home repairs help with simple fixes. Still others ride along to help staffers deliver meals.

Volunteers — who commit to a minimum of two hours of service each month for at least six months — are screened, then paired with a client whose needs match their interests and abilities.

"It's quite an astonishing thing we manage to pull off here," says Leslie Nipps, director of the volunteer program. "Having someone who notices if things aren't going so well becomes essential for many older people."

Nipps tries to match volunteers with clients in the same neighborhood, since the relationship seems to last longer when it's convenient.

"There are two kinds of matches that work beautifully: those in which the client and volunteer have a lot in common, and those in which they have nothing in common," she says. "Volunteers and clients rarely come from the same racial or economic background, and they can often fall in love over the differences."

For more information about Meals on Wheels, contact volunteer director Leslie Nipps at 343-1325, or visit mowsf.org.

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