

NEWS

*Key spot gets
a new life*

PAGE 3



FOOD & DRINK

*Yoshi's has a
classy bar, too*

PAGE 8



JAZZ & MORE

*A big month for
music on the 'Mo*

PAGES 10 & 11

THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ APRIL 2011



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANIEL BAHAMANI

Denise Tran (right), the creative force behind Bun Mee, gets plenty of advice from Momma Tran. Below, a banh mi sampler.

Mom & Mi

Vietnamese street food scooters into the neighborhood

WITH A vibrant design, smart graphics and an inventive menu almost entirely under \$10, the Vietnamese sandwich eatery Bun Mee is ready for its April 1 grand opening at 2015 Fillmore near Pine.

The former ice cream shop has been transformed into a petite restaurant that promises a modern take on Vietnamese banh mi sandwiches (pronounced "bun mee") — daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. either for take-out or served in the cozy 16-seat space.

"Banh mi is basically street food in Vietnam — a pedestrian type food you pick up at a street corner," says founder Denise Tran. "You pull up on your scooter, get a banh mi — and you're good to go."

TO PAGE 6 ►



New Clinic Is Bringing Help, Hope to Fillmore

Offers free medical care
for women by women —
plus career opportunities

By BARBARA KATE REPA

"AMAZING" is the word clients use most frequently to describe their experiences at the Women's Community Clinic, which is settling into a refurbished space at 1833 Fillmore. That's followed by a sea of compliments rarely enthused by those experiencing gynecological exams: "compassionate," "efficient," "informative," "respectful."

In addition to rave reviews, what makes the clinic unusual is its focus on delivering medical care of high quality at no charge to women in need.

"We offer care for women by women — with an all female staff — to those in the community who are uninsured, under-insured or simply don't feel safe or understood by many medical care providers," says

Carlina Hansen, the clinic's executive director, who first came to the clinic as a volunteer in 1999.

"I adored the work the clinic did, but especially the focus on helping those with inadequate insurance," says Hansen, who had witnessed

her father's battle to navigate the medical system without insurance during a serious illness.

The Women's Community Clinic's mid-March arrival in the neighborhood also affords local residents the opportunity to volunteer — and allows a few of them to take on paid fellowships to test a career in health care.

A growing group of clients recently had insurance and jobs, but lost one or the other as economic setbacks took their toll.

TO PAGE 12 ►



The women's clinic is on Fillmore near Bush Street.

20th Annual San Francisco
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ECO-ATHLETICS



Judy Jiang leads fifth graders in environmental exercises.

A BRIDGE TO NATURE

By SAMANTHA STALEY

"SORMING" shouts instructor Judy Jiang as 33 students at Redding Elementary School on Pine Street race across the playground on a cloudy afternoon. She encourages them to think of themselves as trees capable of absorbing storm water and limiting runoff. "Trees, trap the runoff!" she instructs.

This is not an ordinary game of tag, nor is Jiang an ordinary instructor.

The 15-year-old is a high school sophomore. Today she's leading Ms. Rees's fifth grade class at Redding in eco-athletics, environmentally inspired games that combine physical education and short lessons about nature. Jiang is an intern for NatureBridge, an environmental education nonprofit, and has been leading activities for younger students every Tuesday afternoon this school year in the Marin Headlands.

Her final project for the year-long Teen Environmental Education Mentorship program required her to bring her skills to a school.

Picking a school was easy for Jiang, who's an alum of Redding Elementary. And the teacher was happy to welcome her since the class had recently returned from a two-day NatureBridge program in the Headlands.

"Many of my students had never traveled across the Golden Gate Bridge, let alone been in a national park," says Rees. "Now, with class activities like this, we can keep connecting our urban environment to the natural one."

Soft-spoken by nature, Jiang was looking for an opportunity to find her voice and develop leadership skills. Her parents' Chinese garden had piqued her interest in plants and nature. So when she found NatureBridge, it felt like a perfect fit.

Founded in 1971 and based in San Francisco, NatureBridge is an educational partner of the National Park Service that aims to inspire personal connections to the natural world. Among its four campuses is one in the Marin Headlands that works with the Golden Gate National Parks.

"I love the beautiful scenes and the fresh air in the Headlands," says Jiang. "You can forget about your busy life when you look out over the ocean. You can relax."

Jiang is intent on going to college some day. But for now, she enjoys connecting students — many living amid the concrete and clamor of the city — with nature.

"What happens to the rain that falls in the city?" she asks.

Someone yells out, "It goes down the drainpipe."

"And then where?" Jiang prods.

"To the bay!" they reply.

"Speaking of rain," says Rees, gesturing to the heavy sky above. Jiang quickly finishes her lesson and the students scamper inside for lunch just as the first raindrops start to fall on the playground.

For more information about the program, visit naturebridge.org.

THE NEW FILLMORE

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Connecting the neighborhood

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Kids Taking Over a Long-Vacant Store

Mudpie moving up from Union Street to former home of Fillamento, Shabby Chic

WITH A projected mid-month move-in date, a minimum of fanfare and only a few changes to its well-worn new home, Mudpie — the upscale children's store in Cow Hollow — will claim the space at 2185 Fillmore that has been sitting empty since Shabby Chic went bankrupt two years ago.

Run by mother and daughter Cheryl and Sarah Perliss, Mudpie has operated since 1976 on Union Street at Gough.

The mother-daughter team was able to pull off something that had eluded many who coveted the space — including Restoration Hardware, Chase Bank, Athleta, Ralph Lauren and Marc Jacobs. They convinced the landlord they were a good fit.

"I really appreciate where the landlord is coming from," says Sarah Perliss. "There's respect for the street. He didn't want a chain. And he didn't want another women's store. He wanted a family-run business. When his whole family came to our store to meet our family, that was acceptance day for us."

Perliss says changes on Union Street prompted Mudpie to move after 35 years.

"Union Street has just kind of taken a turn, with lots of vacancies," she says. "It's a younger crowd there now — and they don't really get us."

Perliss lives only a few blocks from her new location — and recalls the two decades it was home to the revered home and gift shop Fillamento. She has kept a close eye on the neighborhood.

"I've seen the growth and development



Fillmore's most visible vacancy has been leased to a family-run children's store.

on Fillmore in the last couple years, and it's really exciting," she says. "There's more foot traffic, and many of our customers live nearby, so our move will be good for them, too."

Preparatory work, mostly confined to sanding the floors and painting the walls, is proceeding quickly.

"We're leaving the integrity of the place because it's so beautiful — especially the balcony," Perliss says. In the new store, antique fixtures will fill the mezzanine.

Mudpie will still offer shoppers cloth-

ing, costumes and games for babies and children. They plan to add more toys and books, along with an expanded selection of furniture for nurseries and children's bedrooms.

"And we'll also be including shoes. Right now there's no place in the neighborhood to buy kids' shoes," says Perliss. "We really want to cater to the needs of the neighborhood."

Mudpie signed a long-term lease that will allow the store to do just that for a long time to come.

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Mondays & Wednesdays: 8:30 am & 6:00 pm • First Fridays: 9:00 pm

Sunday Masses

Saturday Evening: 5:30 pm (Vigil), 7:30 am (Quiet), 9:30 am (Family), 11:30 am (Solemn)

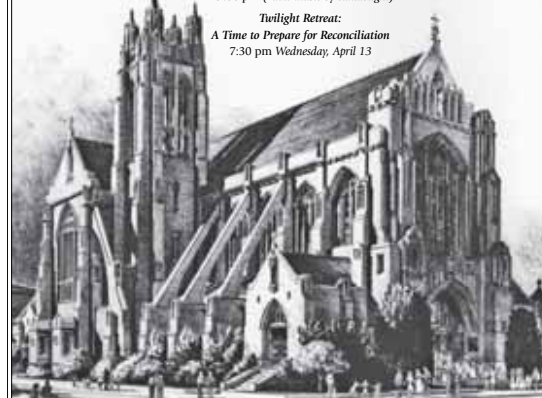
1:30 pm (St. Jude Pilgrim Mass in Spanish), 5:30 pm (Contemporary music)

9:00 pm (Taizé music by candlelight)

Twilight Retreat:

A Time to Prepare for Reconciliation

7:30 pm Wednesday, April 13



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HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 17

5:30 pm (Saturday Vigil Mass); 7:30 am (Quiet Mass)

9:30 am (Family Mass); 11:30 am (Solemn Mass)

1:30 pm (St. Jude Pilgrim Mass in Spanish)

5:30 pm (Contemporary Choir)

9:00 pm (Taizé music by candlelight)

Sacrament of Reconciliation, Wednesday, April 20

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm & 7:00 - 9:00 pm

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, April 21

7:30 am - Tenebrae - followed by breakfast

7:30 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 22

7:30 am - Tenebrae - followed by breakfast

12:15 - 12:45 pm - Stations of the Cross

1:00 - 3:00 pm - Seven Last Words

3:00 - 4:00 pm - Confessions

7:30 pm - Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday, April 23

8:00 am - Tenebrae - followed by breakfast

5:30 - 6:30 pm Confessions

8:30 pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 24

7:30 am (Mass with Easter Hymns);

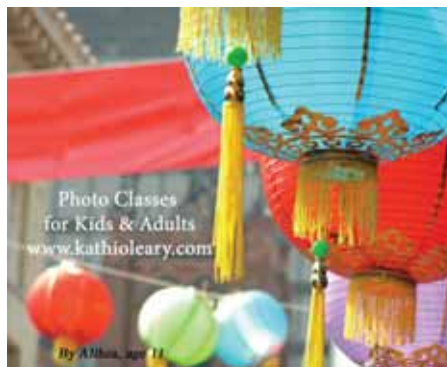
9:30 am (Family Mass); 11:30 am (Solemn Mass);

1:30 pm (St. Jude Pilgrim Mass in Spanish);

5:30 pm (Contemporary Choir);

9:00 pm (Taizé music by candlelight)

No confessions this day



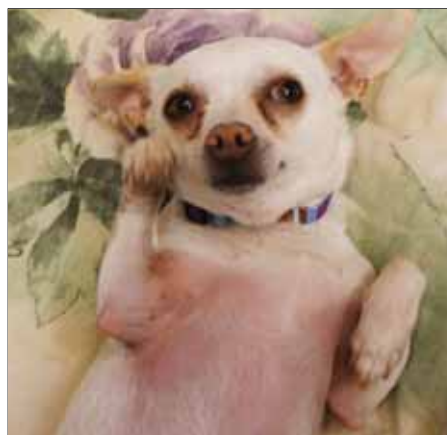


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CRIME WATCH

Auto Burglary Van Ness Avenue and Fern Street February 28, 6:14 p.m.

A man phoned 911 after he saw an individual break the window of a car and remove several items from it. The witness provided the dispatcher with updated locations as he chased the man through the streets so that arriving officers would know the suspect's precise whereabouts. The suspect was arrested and the property stolen from the car was recovered.

Vandalism Van Ness Avenue and Sutter Street March 2, 12:05 a.m.

A cab driver was waiting at the curb for a fare when a man walking by struck his windshield with his fist. The blow shattered the glass. A second cab driver who witnessed the attack followed the suspect and flagged down an officer who was driving past. The officer coordinated a search with other units, found the suspect and placed him under arrest.

Fraud Franklin and Eddy Streets March 3, 11:07 p.m.

An officer on patrol observed an SUV with no license plates parked in the parking lot of a hotel. Plumes of smoke were billowing from the partially opened windows. When she approached the car to investigate, she immediately recognized the odor of marijuana emanating from the SUV. She checked the identity of the four passengers; three of the four were on felony probation. She called for back-up and detained all four. Then she searched the SUV and found a file containing hotel guest registration cards in the back seat. These revealed guests' personal information, such as driver's license numbers. The officer then received a call from dispatch concerning registration cards that had been stolen at the adjacent hotel. The officer determined her detainees were responsible, and placed them under arrest. Just prior to the crime, they had checked into the hotel using stolen credit cards. They were booked for fraud and theft.

Narcotics Van Ness Avenue and Sacramento Street March 6, 2:50 a.m.

Officers on patrol were stopped behind a car. Since the light was green and the car wasn't moving, the officers got out of their vehicle to investigate. The driver reached into his wallet to produce his ID and accidentally pulled out a small, clear bag filled with white powder. He then spontaneously stated: "I'm screwed. Just take me to jail." The individual was arrested and the officers

drove his vehicle, a Zipcar, to the nearest Zipcar lot.

Shoplifting California and Franklin Streets March 14, 8:30 p.m.

A man entered Whole Foods with a messenger bag and placed some hummus, smoked gouda and havarti cheese inside, then added several packages of pepperoni and salami. He then walked to the wine aisle and selected a \$25 bottle of pinot noir, which he also placed in the bag. When he walked past the registers without paying, security guards stopped him outside the store and the police cited him for petty theft.

Robbery Van Ness Avenue and Eddy Street March 18, 8:00 a.m.

Walgreens employees watched a shopper as he loaded up a cart, then took it to a back aisle and transferred the contents into a shopping bag he had brought with him. Security guards were waiting for him as he attempted to leave with the items. The man struck out at them and a physical struggle ensued as he attempted to hold on to the stolen goods. When police arrived, they found the store in complete disarray, with two employees lying on top of the struggling suspect. The suspect was charged with possession of burglary tools and with robbery, rather than shoplifting, because he fought to retain the items. No one was seriously injured in the altercation.

Prostitution Sacramento Street and Van Ness Avenue March 21, 3:40 a.m.

Officers on patrol spotted a woman walking around in her underwear. They detained her and inquired about her intentions. She told them she was "just hanging out having a good time." They learned she was 19-year-old Oakland resident. She was arrested for loitering for the purpose of prostitution.

Parole Violation Geary Boulevard and Gough Street March 19, 2:15 a.m.

Officers saw a Chevy run a red light. When they ran the license plate through their computer, they found it belonged to a GMC truck. As they pursued the Chevy, a passenger leaped out of the moving vehicle and ran away. Officers turned their attention to the passenger and gave chase. They found him hiding in some bushes near the place they had first seen the car and took him into custody. The license plate for the GMC truck proved to be stolen; the Chevy was not located.

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"All sandwiches are served with slices of hot jalapeno pepper — unless you're a sissy," warns one of the graphics in Bun Mee.

Scooter Street Food Comes to Fillmore

► FROM PAGE ONE

In homage, Bun Mee's logo is a stylized scooter that manages to look both modern and somehow endearing. "Who doesn't love a scooter? They're like puppy dogs," Tran says.

Tran had been practicing law for four and a half years in Seattle, focusing on business transactions, when a couple of major life-changing events converged: She got engaged, and her father was diagnosed with terminal cancer. An only child, she took a leave from the law to nurse him through his final months, then went on a solo trip to Vietnam — from which she and her mother fled as refugees when Tran was just three.

"It was a great trip for me to reconnect with my country," she says. "And one of my dad's wishes was to have his ashes brought back to his home country, so I was there for that meaningful reason, too."

It was then and there that the idea of opening her own restaurant first began to take shape. "I love Vietnamese cuisine," Tran says. "The food there is phenomenal — and banh mi, especially, was comfort food for me."

While growing up she got plenty of it from her mother, who she calls Momma Tran and describes as "a self-taught cook who can whip up anything by taste and

smell." Mother and daughter have long cooked side by side. They tweaked favorite recipes and narrowed possible menu offerings in a kitchen Tran plastered with blown-up pictures of banh mi that served as both guidance and inspiration.

When Tran moved to New York to be with her fiancé and to decompress after her

"I have the feeling if you can make people on Fillmore happy, you can make anyone happy."

— DENISE TRAN
owner of Bun Mee

father's death, she decided against taking another law job and another bar exam. She concentrated instead on her dream of running her own business. When the couple moved to the Bay Area about 18 months ago, she spent the better part of a year combing neighborhoods for the right location — and found it here.

"Fillmore is Fillmore. It's one of the best neighborhoods with the best foot traffic," Tran says. She thought she could never get

a place here because of the ban on additional restaurants — just lifted last month — and high rents on the street. "We were fortunate to find out about the space opening before anyone else — and came in and worked with the seller."

Despite good luck, good timing and the encouragement of a mother who's also a good cook, Tran, an M.B.A. in addition to a J.D., was smart enough to know what she didn't know.

"I wanted to run a good operation and I knew I didn't have the experience and background," she acknowledges. "You might make the most amazing food, but you have to understand food costs, inventory, spoilage — the actual business of running a restaurant — to make it work. For me, that's just as important as making good food." She turned to consultants and chefs at the Culinary Edge and credits them with giving Bun Mee "back of the house strength."

Calling in the consultants, however, doesn't mean Tran is casting aside help nearer to her heart.

"Momma Tran will still be involved," she says. "She's so very proud. And she's close to retiring and wants to move here from Portland to be at the shop."

Tran adds: "She's very old school. She keeps saying, 'You've hired too many peo-

ple. I've done this all my life. It's easy for me.'"

Tran aims to create a neighborhood spot targeted to local needs and tastebuds. "There are a lot of foodies here who will understand our food," she says. "And sometimes you need to get a quick meal and not spend a ton of money."

Bun Mee fits that bill. The sandwiches and appetizers range from \$5 to \$7; starters and sides including Momma Tran's Crispy Egg Rolls with ground pork, crab meat, wood ear mushrooms and glass noodles go for \$3 to \$5. Larger salads and entrees such as Saigon Peanut Rice Bowl range from \$9 to \$12.

After extensive remodeling, the interior now leaves little to recall the previous occupant, Tango Gelato. "The space didn't have a cooking hood, plumbing, code bathroom, dishwashing area — or really anything we needed," says Tran. "We basically gutted the place."

She says the zinc countertops, corrugated metal finishes, bicycle wheel chandeliers and Vietnamese photos that grace the spot were chosen in homage to the scooter street food experience. And the pendants glowing in warm hues remind Tran of sitting outside in Ho Chi Minh City.

Bun Mee has hired a staff of 23. "They're a hodgepodge of people from established Vietnamese restaurants — Slanted Door and the former Bong Su — and some who are knowledgeable about other things," she says. "And I taste everything every day to make sure it's the way it's supposed to taste."

While Tran has a tough time picking a favorite among the nine banh mi on the menu, she cops to a special weakness for the turmeric catfish version inspired by a Hanoi dish, and for the pork belly with egg inspired by her mom's cooking. The sweet and salty pork, braised for several hours, is a common dish in Vietnam.

"When I eat it, I think of home and mom," she says.

Other offerings include a Sloppy Bun of curry ground pork, shaved onion and basil — a nod to the Sloppy Joes she loved as a child. And there's a vegetarian option featuring eggplant instead of the usual tofu.

Delivery and catering will soon be offered at Bun Mee, and a beer and wine license is in the works. But for now, Tran says she has no plans to expand beyond the Fillmore location, at least until she's convinced that the food and service are consistently done right.

"We want to make sure we make people happy on Fillmore," she says. "I have the feeling if you can make people on Fillmore happy, you can make anyone happy."



Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund

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The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCNC) was established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in California in 1973. The JCCNC serves over 185,000 individuals a year and conducts numerous exchange programs between the United States and Japan. In spring of 2009, the JCCNC led a tour to Sendai, Japan.

In 1995, the JCCNC raised over \$600,000 towards citizen relief efforts for the Great Hanshin Awaji (Kobe) Earthquake that killed over 6,000 people and left over 300,000 people homeless. The donations received helped organize volunteer efforts to get food and water directly to the victims, citizen search efforts, clothing for those who lost their homes, essential supplies for women, children, especially seniors, and we helped to feed and rebuild orphanages in Kobe. The JCCNC continued to visit and donate to the orphanage every year since 1995.

Supporting Organizations: Asian American Bar Association, Sushi-Tai Restaurant, Chibi Chan Preschool, Churendon BBP Elementary School, Eib-Nob-Ten, Cassini.com, Florin (JACL), Hyphen Magazine, Japanese Merchants Association, Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC), Japanese Task Force, Kinochi Inc., Kokoro Assisted Living, Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Foundation, Marysville (JACL), Missouri Donaki LLP, Miss Yang (Recruiter for Japan), NBC Bay Area, New People, Nichi Bei Foundation/Nichi Bei Weekly, Nihonmachi Little Friends, Nihonmachi Street Fair, Nikko Student Union g3DSG, Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival, Pika Pika, Rona Parks Elementary School (BBP), San Francisco Giants, San Francisco Giants Community Fund, San Francisco (JACL), San Jose/Japan Foundation, Santa Cruz Japanese Cultural Fair, Saint Hill High School, The Hanoi and Tonkin Takahashi Charitable Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, Union Bank, National Association of Asian American Professionals and Watsonville-Santa Cruz (JACL) (but as of March 17, 2011)

For more information or for volunteer opportunities, please email jccncearthquake@jccnc.org or call (415) 529-1322.



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At Yoshi's, There's More Than Music



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JESSIE BEHLER

MUSIC IS ONLY ONE REASON TO GO TO YOSHI'S. There are five or six other "performances" most nights in the sweeping two-story showplace at 1330 Fillmore in the redeveloped jazz district.

On the main floor facing the street is a 160-seat Japanese restaurant that made the *Chronicle's* Top 100 list soon after it opened. Next to it is a massive exhibition kitchen with a dozen or so knife-wielding sushi chefs slicing and plating at top speed.

In between the restaurant and the jazz club is a long, curved, sit-down bar and a tented alcove with semicircular banquet seating for two, four or as many as you can pack in.

And pack in they do. When the 8 o'clock show empties out around 9:30 and the 10 o'clock show is queuing up, it can be bodlam. "We're often making 400 drinks," says Sean McNeal, the smooth and easy bar manager who has eminent credentials for his post: a masters in theology from Cal Berkeley.

Unfortunately, the uninitiated can easily miss the action. Yoshi's tall front windows have drawn drapes so passersby can't see the people inside the stylish dining room feasting on fare ranging from flash-roasted hamachi to cowboy T-bones. Plus, the spartan lobby has framed photos of jazz greats and exhibitions such as the current

one saluting members of the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, but no indication the double doors on the left are the gateway to highly rated food and creative cocktails. Kaz Kajimura and Yoshie Akiba, the owners of the original Yoshi's in Oakland — which has no dedicated bar — have redeemed themselves with their Fillmore locale. They've poured plenty into the bar on the main floor and an even swankier lounge on the second level that handles the spillover on busy nights. The backbars, with sexy mood lighting that changes colors, have hundreds of brands of premium liquor — plenty to handle nearly any drink request and allow McNeal and his crew to create new signature libations for the club.



The color changes behind the serpentine bar at Yoshi's, which faces an alcove with cocktail seating. Sean McNeal, right, is the mastermind behind the bar program.



"At Yoshi's, people expect finely crafted cocktails," says McNeal. But he likes to keep them simple, without the increasingly common gumbo of high-octane liquors, mixers, fruits and juice. "The world's best cocktails have no more than three, maybe four ingredients," he says. "It's all about the bartender's delivery and repartee."

Allison Bryant, who works in telecommunications in San Francisco, agrees. Greeted with a sincere "Have you been taken care of?" she ordered a Ketel One and soda tall with dash of Angostura bitters. Bryant, sitting solo at the bar waiting for a friend, says she prefers Yoshi's as a meeting place because she likes "the lighting, the tall upholstered chairs and the bartenders — who are all friendly." There's even a garage in the building.

Yoshi's house cocktails are imaginative and priced from \$8 to \$11, a bargain on the boulevard considering what's in the glass. Abraham Simmons, senior counsel in the local U.S. Attorney's office, favors the classic martini, but the Drop Thelonious caught his eye. A colorful concoction of Ketel One Oranje vodka, Cointreau and fresh orange and lemon juice, it's served straight up.

"Aahh, excellent," proclaimed Simmons after his first

sip. Then he launched into a spirited conversation about favorite spots in Washington, D.C., with bartender Annemarie Roberts, who once worked there.

Yoshi's libational alchemists salute the jazz legends with their creations. The Blueberi Brubeck is a simple mixture of Stolli Blueberi vodka, Sprite and soda in a highball glass. And Billie's Holiday is a tart blend of Ketel One Citron, St. Germain's Elderflower and freshly squeezed lemon juice in a stemmed glass rimmed with sugar and Campari.

Here's a secret for Scotch lovers: Famous Grouse is in the well for \$8. At most bars, that's a call at around \$10 a glass.

Beer drinkers can choose from a half dozen Japanese bottled imports, a few U.S. brands ranging from basic Budweiser to the rare and no doubt exotic craft beer, Moose's Drool, brewed in Missoula, Montana, and priced at \$5 a bottle. Eight other beers are on draught including Blue Moon Garden Wheat Ale and Northern California's popular Lagunitas IPA. Tap beers are all \$6 a pint except Guinness, which fetches \$8.

Yoshi's also pours an amazing 24 wines by the glass (\$8 to \$12) plus an array of sakis, teas and housemade

sodas such as cherry limeade and citrus mint for \$5.

Yoshi's sounds like pure paradise for the cocktail set, but it ain't necessarily so. Russ George, a marine scientist whose life work is saving the oceans, also likes to save money — or at least not to waste it. When he recently ordered a vodka tonic for \$8 in the restaurant, the server suggested a double, and he took the bait. When the tab arrived, his basic highball was suddenly \$16.

Indeed, the rules of the house can be a little confusing. A bartender acknowledges some seem to assume you have to go to the show before you can come into the bar or the restaurant. Not true. You can eat and drink starting at 5:30 nightly — and if you do, you can reserve seats for the show. Unlike many clubs, there is no two-drink minimum for show-goers. It's a "one item" minimum and that can come from the bar or the kitchen. However, you have to buy it from a waiter inside the spectacular 450-seat club. It doesn't count if you buy a drink before the show and take it inside.

And don't even consider bringing in a flask, as they used to do in the old jazz joints on Fillmore. The scene has gone uptown.

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My Last Gig With Fillmore Jazz Legend Allen Smith

IT HAD BEEN months since I had played with trumpeter Allen Smith regularly. A while back, some jerk had parked in the white zone at Jazz at Pearl's; that white zone was Allen's parking space. Allen went to park someplace else and didn't come back for hours.

Now, anyone who knows Allen Smith knows he was the paragon of punctuality. He was never late. Something was wrong.

Fortunately, saxophonist Jules Broussard found Allen wandering on Grant near Broadway and brought him back to Pearl's. Allen had gotten lost only a few hundred yards from Jazz at Pearl's, where he had played at least once a week hundreds of times. Not to mention we were only a block from Enrico's, where Allen often played with Chris Seibert and Lavay Smith.

Given the proliferation of jazz clubs like the Keystone and the Blackhawk that used to be in the neighborhood, I figured Allen — like most jazz musicians — knew North Beach like the back of his hand. I mentioned it to his family right away so they knew to keep an eye on him.

It was the beginning of the end.



'Musician's Tribute to Allen Smith'

San Francisco trumpeter Allen Smith died February 3 following a long illness. He will be remembered and celebrated by many of the top jazz musicians in the Bay Area at a tribute at Yoshi's on Fillmore on Sunday, April 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. There is no admission fee, but contributions will benefit the Fillmore Jazz Heritage Center, which is directed by his son Peter Fitzsimmons.

Even though it had been a while since our last gig together, I wanted him for one more. I was playing Gerald Wilson's "90th Birthday Tribute" and I knew Gerald and Allen were old buddies. I asked Allen if he would do it and he said no. The show was part of Monterey Jazz and was being held at Clint Eastwood's place in Carmel, and that was too far away. Besides, he mentioned, he didn't know "how he would be doing" months from now. So I waited until a month before the concert and asked him again, but received the same reply. I asked again two weeks before,

then one last time the week of the show.

He responded with astonishment, "Kim! Haven't you found a trumpet player yet?" I replied, "I don't want a trumpet player. I want you!"

He agreed to do the show and we made arrangements to pick him up at the bottom of the hill and to make sure he would not have to walk a bunch of steps at the venue and had a bed to lie down on during the hurry-up-and-wait period that occurs between set-up and downbeat.

Our usual pianist, Dave Mathews, happened to be on tour with Etta James,

so Kent Strand was playing piano on the show and driving us down. Even though Allen had played with Kent several times, he didn't remember him. But Kent re-introduced himself and we all made small talk on the two and a half hour drive down to Carmel.

When it finally came time to play, Allen slayed it as usual. Even though we played together less frequently as his health declined, he always both sounded and looked like a million bucks. Once we played our show, I brought Allen over to sit with Gerald, and it was like a 1,000 watt light bulb instantly switched on in both of their eyes.

"Hey man, how have you been? Are you still at (212) 555-1515?"

"Yeah! That's still my phone number. You still living at 555 Such and Such Drive?"

"Yes, I haven't moved."

These guys chit-chatted with a relish that made my eyes water. They remembered everything from as far back as WW II in amazing detail — old addresses, old numbers and all the old familiar places. I was so happy I had managed to get Allen to that gig.

When it came time to go, Kent brought the car around and as Allen got into the car he looked over at Kent in surprise and asked in a startled tone, "Who are you?"

Kent replied, "I just played the gig with you," and drove us back home to San Francisco.

Jazz vocalist Kim Nalley was formerly the proprietor of Jazz at Pearl's in North Beach.

SCOTT CHERNIN

■ EARLY MUSIC

Renaissance vocalists will appear at Calvary

An unusual vocal concert comes to the neighborhood this month when STILE ANTICO, a group of young British vocalists who perform Renaissance music, makes its only Bay Area appearance at Calvary Presbyterian Church on April 6 at 8 p.m.

"The group is recognized as one of the most original and exciting voices in the Early Music repertoire," says Alden Gilchrist, the longtime music director at Calvary. "The ensemble is in great demand and performs regularly throughout Europe and North America." It has received several Grammy nominations. Its album "Song of Songs" won the 2009 Gramophone Award for Early Music and reached the top of the classical charts in the U.S.

The vocalists in Stile Antico perform without a conductor and rehearse as chamber musicians. The group's repertoire encompasses works from the legacy of the English Tudor composers, from the Spanish schools and from the early Baroque.

Recent performances include debuts in New York, at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and in the Early Music Festivals of Boston, Bruges, Barcelona and Utrecht. The group toured in Europe, Australia and Asia as part of Stile's Dowland lute song project, Songs from the Labyrinth.

Tickets are \$20, or \$10 for seniors and students, and will be available at the door. The performance is part of Calvary's Concert Connect series Gilchrist founded in 2007. Revenue generated by the concerts is shared with charitable organizations in the city.

MUSIC

'Golden Voice of Africa' Coming to Yoshi's

By ANTHONY TORRES

THIS MONTH a lot of great music is coming to Yoshi's on Fillmore, including funk master LARRY GRAHAM, Sly Stone's original bass player and one of the people most responsible for developing the funk sound, who is fresh from opening for Prince in the Bay Area. He appears on April 8 and 9.

Appearing on April 12 is ROY OBIDIO, who may not be a familiar name, but is a great Latin jazz guitarist who plays some incredibly smooth and tasty music.

Then on April 15 and 16 there is

MACEO PARKER, another cornerstone of soul and funk, who was James Brown's saxophone mainstay for years. A cappella

greats SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK are coming from April 22 to 24 for a tribute concert that should be a thrilling blend of gospel, soul and African music.

■

But I want to focus on SALIF KEITA, one of the high masters of modern Malian Afro-pop slated to appear April 4 and 5. For more than 40 years he has been an internationally recognized superstar.

He is unique not only because of his unmistakable voice — referred to as the "golden voice of Africa" — but also because he is albino, which in his culture is considered a sign of bad luck, and for which he was cast out by his family and community.

"In Africa, being born an albino is dramatic," he was recently quoted as saying. This is no doubt particularly true when you are a descendant of the



Audiences at Yoshi's are in for a lot of great music this month.

illustrious emperor Sundiata Keita, whose 13th century empire stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Sahara. As an albino, Salif Keita had to endure many hardships on his way to becoming the vocal goldsmith of Afro-pop.

He has never put aside his roots and culture, and in fact as a pioneering singer and composer he extended its musical possibilities by combining traditional West African musical styles with influences from Europe, the Americas and the music of Islam.

It is his voice, however, that sets him apart and makes him capable of approaching a global level of poetic brilliance that transcends and blends cultural differences.

■ I saw Salif at Bimbo's about a year

ago. As fate would have it, I got caught up in some other activity and wound up getting to the concert late. As I rushed into the club, I was shocked. It was utterly packed — completely mobbed, with bodies flailing everywhere in synopated unity with the music.

The full range of people present were standing on chairs, hanging over banisters, pressed against each other in an African mosh pit of musical and dancing delirium. The band was large, with horns, singers, strings and of course drums. Salif and his band completely tore it up that night, as I expect they will at Yoshi's.

Although Salif may not be a widely known artist, those in the know recognize his greatness and are sure to show up in full force to honor one of the reigning kings of Afro-pop.

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New Clinic: Health Care for Women by Women

► FROM PAGE ONE

Unlike other embattled clinics, which have cut back or closed, the Women's Community Clinic has flourished. It recently added mental and behavioral health services — and soon will expand to offer prenatal care.

When Hansen began working at the clinic a dozen years ago, there were two staff members and about 25 volunteers. Now those ranks have swelled to 26 staff members and 100 volunteers. Of those volunteers, 25 are medical practitioners; the others keep more than busy doing outreach, mailings, accounting and public relations. No willing hands and hearts are turned away.

The clinic's volunteer model may save as much as \$500,000 in yearly costs compared to a conventional medical clinic operating entirely with paid staff.

Outreach efforts aimed to "meet women where they are" include a weekly Ladies' Night in the Mission District in which trained volunteers dole out information on health and well being along with condoms, toothbrushes and clean hypodermic needles. The clinic also trains and sponsors Condom Ladies, who volunteer twice



Staffer Signy Toquinto and volunteer Beshia Grey in one of the clinic's new exam rooms.

weekly to distribute information and safer sex materials on the streets and in single-room occupancy hotels.

The Women's Community Clinic is unique in the Bay Area in providing medi-

cal services by volunteers working as clinicians, client service coordinators, health educators and outreach managers.

Volunteer positions — which come with targeted training and offer a taste of a career in health care — are coveted. More

than 150 hopeful applicants recently put in their bids for 30 unpaid spots. Volunteers are asked to commit to a four-hour shift every week for six months.

"We would really love to have volunteers from the neighborhood," says Hansen, who adds that the current need is for more doctors and nurse practitioners, who are asked to make a commitment of two four-hour shifts monthly.

"Volunteering here allows them to practice the way they want to practice, without having to rush through appointments in an allotted time," says Hansen, who adds the arrangement is especially attractive for medical professionals who are mothers or who might be cutting back on their work hours but want to keep their skills fresh.

Dr. Rhoda Nussbaum, an OB/GYN who founded Women's Health for Kaiser in Northern California, began volunteering at the Women's Community Clinic a few years before she retired in 2007.

"What attracted me at first is that it's truly a service organization — providing a service to those who would not otherwise have access to medical care, and providing it to them free," she says. "From my perspective, it's a privilege to serve people. But when it's done for no rewards, it's sweeter."

Another pull is the camaraderie. "Because it's a volunteer clinic, it's an organization of people who are there because they choose to be," she says. "People are always smiling. It's really a place of love."

And Nussbaum says the move to Fillmore has energized many who work there. "I'm excited about being on Fillmore," she says. "And I think the clinic will be good for the neighborhood, because some of the good feelings and warm positive energy will just pour out into the street."

The clinic originally opened at 2166 Hayes in July 1999, just five months after the Women's Needs Center, an adjunct of the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, closed its women-only services in the same spot due to a lack of funding.

Resolute staff and volunteers went to work twisting arms of people they found in their Rolodexes and raised more than \$100,000 from a local foundation, plus a city contract and individual donations — enough money needed to get the operation up and running.

Within six months, tragedy struck. Thieves broke in and made away with essential office equipment, clothes designated for clients — and, oddly, several limited edition prints of women and contraceptive devices. History repeated itself last December when burglars again broke into the Hayes Street office, making off with computers and other office equipment and jeopardizing the group's year-end fundraising efforts.

"We've known for years we were outgrowing the space," says Hansen. Leaks, floods and two burglaries provided added impetus to make the move. "Also, the new quarters on Fillmore offer clients a nicer and more welcoming environment." It's a return home of sorts for Hansen, who attended the Convent High School on Broadway years ago.

"When we knew we were moving, we started talking with people in the community about the needs here — particularly the needs of young African American girls in the Western Addition," Hansen says. "And we found the two things they needed most were access to health care and career opportunities."

The new quarters, with three times the



Clinic manager Maureen Boland fields a call in the waiting room at 1833 Fillmore Street.

"I think the clinic will be good for the neighborhood, because some of the good feelings and warm positive energy will just pour out into the street."

— DR. RHODA NUSSBAUM
volunteer at the Women's Community Clinic

space of the Hayes location, will significantly increase access to the clinic, which now serves about 5,000 clients each year in about 450 visits per month. Most clients seek information on gynecological health, family planning and birth control, pregnancy testing and treatment of infections and menopause symptoms.

And as for career opportunities, the clinic offers several paid two-year Western Addition Health Training fellowships. Participants learn basic office functions such as charting and scheduling, are intensively monitored by staff and then are trained

to do patient outreach and other clinical work.

"We hear a lot about the impact the Women's Community Clinic has on career paths," Hansen says, noting that 65 percent of the fellows move into health care jobs. "We provide medical services to our clients — but our volunteers are our clients, too."

The new digs on Fillmore afford double the number of exam rooms, several health education rooms in which clients meet with trained volunteers to discuss their concerns before they see a practitioner, plus

a large conference room for training and group meetings. Administrative staff, who were crammed three to a small room that doubled as a kitchen, also have more space and privacy.

The site formerly housed another women's clinic, the Bayspring Medical Group, which moved to 1199 Bush a few years ago. Before the Women's Community Clinic could move in, it needed to remodel the space to bring it up to code. Hansen says the work took the lion's share of the total \$2 million budget. "And that wasn't the sexy part of the renovation," she says. That came later, with the walls outfitted in shades of cream and grassy green — the paint donated by new neighbor Ralph Lauren. All fixtures and furniture are new or "gently used." Fresh carpet was installed throughout and the waiting room is equipped with a kids' play area and a computer workstation for clients.

About \$750,000 is still needed to complete the work on the new space, which will need to come from donations. Hansen says the clinic follows a strict dictate not to borrow money.

Hansen acknowledges that health care reform may mean the Women's Community Clinic will soon need to reassess its operations, and has just secured a grant for that planning process.

"Our focus may change if everyone's insured. The irony is that our volume would likely increase because more women would have access to medical care," she says. "We'll need to make still more changes to stay relevant. But right now it's a little like throwing a dart at a moving dashboard."

For more information on volunteering and donating, visit womenscommunityclinic.org.

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2240 Broderick St	4	3.5	1	3600	3/3/11	2,500,000	2,655,000
2605 California St	4	5.5	3	4013	3/2/11	2,795,000	2,665,000
2552 Baker St	3	3.5	1		2/24/11	2,995,000	2,725,000
3953 Sacramento St	4	4.5	2	3400	3/2/11	3,200,000	3,200,000
3659 Washington St	5	4.5	2	6163	3/9/11	7,000,000	6,650,000

Condos / Co-ops / TICs / Lofts	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking	Sale
2185 Bush St #213	2	1	1	934	3/10/11	525,000	510,000
3923 Sacramento St #A	2	1	0		2/24/11	535,000	520,000
1521 Sutter St #401	1	1	1		2/16/11	529,000	529,000
3124 Washington St #3124	2	1	1		3/1/11	599,000	575,000
27 Orben Pl	1	1	1		3/10/11	595,000	590,000
112 Arguello St #3	2	1	1		3/15/11	599,000	590,000
2634 Octavia St #2	2	1	0	949	2/22/11	699,000	650,000
2740 Sacramento St #5	1	1	0	1220	3/4/11	679,000	667,500
2185 Bush St #208	2	2	1	897	3/9/11	699,990	677,000
1980 Sutter St #317	2	2	1	1255	3/8/11	775,000	780,000
2488 Sutter St #3	2	2	1	1615	2/16/11	899,000	860,000
3190 Scott St #307	2	2	1		3/4/11	899,000	865,000
2919 Pacific Ave #7	2	2	0		2/25/11	989,000	999,000
2745 Greenwich St	2	1	1	1472	3/10/11	1,085,000	1,020,000
3030 Baker St	2	2	1	1790	2/28/11	1,150,000	1,075,000
1749 Broadway	3	1.5	1	2008	2/25/11	1,250,000	1,162,500
2785 Jackson St #2	3	1	1	901	3/4/11	1,645,000	1,612,500
2098 Pine St	4	3.5	0	3801	2/22/11	1,575,000	1,675,000
1940 Broadway #6	3	4	2		3/9/11	4,350,000	4,200,000
2000 Washington St #5	3	4.5	3		3/7/11	6,800,000	5,850,000

Full-floor co-ops with a view are in demand

Once the price is right, buyers will pounce. In many of this past month's sales, price reductions attracted spring buyers, many of whom have been sitting on the sidelines waiting patiently for sellers to reduce prices to meet their expectations. Notable examples include 2552 Baker Street, which sold for 84 percent of its first list price after 214 days on the market. After 193 days on the market, 2416 Gough Street finally sold for 75 percent of its first list price. 2112 Baker Street finally sold for 88 percent of its first list price after 148 days on the market. Bucking the trend was 3659 Washington Street, a remodeled Presidio Heights "green" home, which garnered two offers and sold for 95 percent of its asking price after just 27 days on the market.

Notable condo sales include two high-end full-floor cooperative apartments with views of the bay. Unit #5 in the C.A. Muessdorffer-designed co-op building at 2000 Washington Street was on the market for 76 days and ultimately sold for 86 percent of its list price. In another landmark co-op building at 1940 Broadway, the Park Avenue-style unit #6 sold for 96 percent of its list price to an all-cash buyer after only 13 days on the market.

NEW LISTINGS: Among the new listings offered this month is the Willis Polk-designed home at 2808 Broadway, a Gold Coast beauty from 1927 that features an arched portico entry, centralized walkout courtyard, a 2-bedroom, 1-bath staff apartment, six wood-burning fireplaces, two kitchens and a solarium with sundeck and hot tub. The 4-bedroom, 7 1/2-bath mansion, currently owned by the Klingbeil family, is on the market for \$25 million.

A remarkable 30 new condo listings hit the market during the past month, including: 44 Orben Place #42, a 2-bedroom, 1-bath Victorian tenancy-in-common unit listed at \$489,000; 2795 Clay Street, a 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath condo in a corner Victorian building at Scott listed at just under \$1.2 million; 1991 Broadway #51, a 3-bedroom, 3-bath view condo in a 1927 building on the corner of Laguna; and 2200 Sacramento Street #507, a 1-bedroom, 2-bath southeast corner unit listed just over \$1 million, which went into contract after only two days on the market.

— 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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LOCAL HISTORY



Lettering on Franklin Hall, the four-story building (left) at 1881 Fillmore in this circa 1906 photograph, proclaims it the home of the Bothwell Browne School of Dancing, Grace, Culture and Stage and

the Hoover University of Culture, presided over by John D. Hoover, M.D. The signs and banners announce various temporary city offices and three sign companies, whose business appears to be brisk.

Franklin Hall Fillmore & Bush

On this corner, now occupied by Walgreen's pharmacy, once stood Franklin Hall, a four-story wooden building that served as an auditorium and Gay Nineties dance hall. The leading attraction of its early years was "Professor" Bothwell Browne, who billed himself as "California's Greatest Female Impersonator."

When the 1906 earthquake struck and the city's leaders were forced from the Fairmont Hotel, where they had taken temporary refuge after City Hall had largely been destroyed, they moved into Franklin Hall. Out went "California's Greatest Female Impersonator" and in came the mayor, the police chief and other top officials. They stayed here for a year and a half before moving to the Whitcomb Hotel on Market Street, where they remained until 1916 when the new City Hall was completed.

Franklin Hall was used in later years as a meeting hall for various groups and for political rallies, but by the 1930s it was derelict. It was torn down in 1941 to make way for a gas station.

— Excerpted from *Historic Walks in San Francisco* by Rand Richards (Heritage House Publishers, San Francisco).

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 2418 Fillmore 922-5652
 Narumi Japanese Antiques
 1902 Fillmore 346-8629
 Thomas Reynolds Gallery
 2291 Pine 441-4093
 Walter Adams Framing
 2019B Fillmore 922-6811
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 Athleta
 2226 Fillmore 877-328-4538
 Betsey Johnson
 2121 Fillmore 776-0669
 Black Fleece
 2223 Fillmore 931-2203
 Blu
 2259 Fillmore 776-0643
 Cielo
 2225 Fillmore 776-0641
 Clary Sage Organics
 2241 Fillmore 673-7300
 Crosswalk Shoes
 2122 Fillmore 921-0292
 De Novo
 2413 California 563-5937
 Eileen Fisher
 2216 Fillmore 346-2133
 Elizabeth Charles
 2056 Fillmore 440-2100
 Erica Tanov
 2408 Fillmore 674-1228
 Gimme Shoes
 2358 Fillmore 441-3040
 Heidi Says
 2426 Fillmore 749-0655
 Heidi Says Casual
 2416 Fillmore 749-1144
 Heidi Says Shoes
 2105 Fillmore 409-6850
 Hello
 2226 Bush 888-601-0117
 Her
 2053 Fillmore 923-9628
 Alaska
 2033 Fillmore 440-1999
 James Perse
 2028 Fillmore 885-0300
 Jigsaw
 2121 Fillmore 931-5520
 Lilith
 2029 Fillmore 913-7600
 Limu
 2237 Fillmore 567-9500
 Marc by Marc Jacobs
 2142 Fillmore 447-8940
 Margaret O'Leary
 2400 Fillmore 771-9982
 Metro 200
 2116 Fillmore 776-5652
 Mio
 2035 Fillmore 931-5620
 Mrs. Dewson's Hats
 2052 Fillmore 346-1600
 Muse Ten
 1820 Fillmore 922-6873
 Paolo Shoes
 2000 Fillmore 885-5701
 Ralph Lauren
 2040 Fillmore 440-6536
 sunhee moon
 1833 Fillmore 928-1800
 Toudours
 2404 Sacramento 346-3988
- GIFTS & FLOWERS**
 Blooming Floral Design
 2120 Sutter 749-1533
 Cottage Industry
 2328 Fillmore 885-0326
 Fillmore Florist
 1880 Fillmore 929-5200
 In Water
 2153 Fillmore 359-1232
 L'Occitane
 2207 Fillmore 563-6600
 Nest
 2300 Fillmore 292-6199
 Paper Source
 1925 Fillmore 409-7710
 Papyrus
 2109 Fillmore 474-1171
- HOME & GARDEN**
 BoConcept
 1928 Fillmore 625-2800
 Design Within Reach
 1913 Fillmore 567-1236
 Duxiana
 1803 Fillmore 673-7134
 Jonathan Adler
 2133 Fillmore 563-9500
 Ruby Living Design
 1919 Fillmore 922-1212
 Studio D
 2184 Sutter 346-9694
 Timeless Treasures
 2176 Sutter 775-8366
 Zinc Details
 2410 California 776-9002
 Zinc Details
 1905 Fillmore 776-2100
- JEWELRY**
 Alexis Bittar
 1942 Fillmore 567-5113
 Eric Trabert Goldsmith
 2420 Fillmore 567-8887
 Gallery of Jewels
 2115 Fillmore 771-5099
 Hi Ho Silver
 1904 Fillmore 771-4446
 Jewelrism
 2512 Sacramento 896-5669
- NEWS & BOOKS**
 Browser Books
 2195 Fillmore 567-8027
 Juicy News
 2453 Fillmore 441-3051
 Marcus Books
 1712 Fillmore 346-4222
- PETS**
 Aqua Forest Aquarium
 1718 Fillmore 929-8883
 Barry for Pets
 1840 Fillmore 346-8899
 George
 2411 California 441-0564
 Pets Unlimited
 2343 Fillmore 563-6700
- RESALE**
 Crossroads Trading Co.
 1901 Fillmore 775-9885
 Goodwill Industries
 1699 Fillmore 441-2159
 Repeat Performance
 2436 Fillmore 563-3123
 Seconds to Go
 2252 Fillmore 563-7806
- SERVICES**
 Artists Inn
 2231 Pine 346-1919
 Bank of America
 2310 Fillmore 650-615-4700
 Copy.net
 2404 California 567-5888
 Invision Optometry
 1907 Fillmore 563-9003
 Jet Mail
 2130 Fillmore 922-9402
 Music Lovers Audio
 2285 Bush 345-8111
 R. Carrie Insurance
 2140 Sutter 567-7660
 S.F. Boot & Shoe Repair
 2448 Fillmore 567-6176
 Skyline Cellular
 1920 Post 751-8282
 UPS Store
 2443 Fillmore 922-6245
 Walgreens
 1899 Fillmore 771-1568
 Wells Fargo
 2100 Fillmore 396-4453