

RETAIL REPORT

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coming for women*

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keeps it real*

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a storied space*

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THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ MAY 2011



Yoga at the Fillmore

The idea was too perfect to resist

By BARBARA KATE REPA

*Yoga.
Trance dancing.
Nurturing food from the earth.
Music by the Grateful Dead's Mickey Hart.
A crowd of true believers at the Fillmore.*

It sounds like the '60s all over again. But this time, in a wholly wholesome good way, it's a unique happening called Wanderlust coming to the historic Fillmore Auditorium on May 21.

The idea for the event came from a New York couple with California roots whose lives took some serendipitous turns.

Jeff Krasno was already managing, producing and recording musicians when his wife Schuyler Grant decided to open a yoga studio.

"At the same time my music business was taking off, I also saw the growth of the yoga industry and became very close to its value and cultures," Krasno says. "I thought perhaps we could marry the music with that progressive, social, environmental community to create a large-scale event."

TO PAGE 10 ►

Park as Long as You Like on Fillmore

New meters eliminate
time limits, take cards

PARKING METERS on Fillmore Street and in Japantown no longer have a one-hour time limit.

As part of the rollout of the city's new high-tech parking program, the shiny new silver meters along Fillmore were reprogrammed on April 25 to have no time limits at all. Drivers may park as long as they wish, and they can now feed the meters with their credit and debit cards.

The result is promised to be a kind of parking magic that eases the city's perpetual parking woes.

With real-time data gathered from new sensors on the street and new meters on the curb, SFpark

will know which spaces are open and which meters are expired. Beginning this summer, rates will be adjusted each month to motivate driver behavior.

"Longer time limits lead to more convenience, but not longer parking times," according to information from SFpark. "Demand-responsive pricing rather than short time limits will achieve parking availability goals."

Removing the one-hour limit on meters was welcomed by many Fillmore business owners as word of the change began to circulate.

"It's a plus," said Vasilos Kiniris, owner of Zinc Details. "The longer they stay, the more they buy."

Restaurant owners were especially pleased. "That's great," said Via Veneto owner Massimo Lavino of the reprogrammed meters. "We thought they were broken."


SFpark is a federally funded project experimenting with new technology and approaches in pilot projects around the city. In some neighborhoods, including the Marina, meters now have a four-hour limit. Time limits have not changed for yellow and green meters.

More information is at sfpark.org.



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"The Tower" and "Alta Plaza" (below) by Michael Reardon

Paint-out at Alta Plaza

A GROUP OF ARCHITECTS AND ARTISTS who paint together on location once a month in various places around the Bay Area congregated at Alta Plaza Park on Sunday afternoon, April 10.



The group — who call themselves, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, the Sunday Afternoon Watercolor Society — started painting together 30 years ago, led by architect John Kriken and former San Francisco planning director Allan Jacobs.

Master watercolorist Michael Reardon — who has been a part of the group for most of its history — brought the group to Alta Plaza, a favorite neighborhood park at the top of Pacific Heights with magnificent views and notable architecture.

Reardon's work has been honored by the California and American watercolor societies and the California Art Club. He exhibits his work nearby at the Thomas Reynolds Gallery at Fillmore and Pine. The group gathered there after the paint-out for a critique.



newfillmore.com | video: "Paint-out in the park"

THE NEW FILLMORE

newfillmore.com

2130 Fillmore Street #202 ■ San Francisco, CA 94115 ■ 415.441.6070
editors@newfillmore.com

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

Advertising inquiries ads@newfillmore.com or 415.441.6070
Published on the first weekend of each month. Deadline: 20th of prior month
Subscriptions by mail are available for \$30 per year. Please send a check.

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.



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CRIME WATCH

Driving While Intoxicated California and Fillmore Streets March 24, 4:10 a.m.

Officers were dispatched to check on the well-being of a cab driver who had passed out behind the wheel of his cab. They found him asleep on the steering wheel while the car's engine was running; they could see it was in drive. The car doors were locked, so they awakened the driver with difficulty. They ordered him to put the cab in park, but he was unable to do it. So they asked him to step out of the car and perform a field sobriety test. He failed, and after a breath test revealed a score twice the legal limit, he was arrested for drunk driving.

Narcotics Violations O'Farrell Street and Van Ness Avenue March 25, 8:40 p.m.

Officers stopped a car with a broken headlight. The driver, who had no license or identification, was arrested. As neither of the passengers had a license, the officers prepared the car to be towed. While taking inventory of the contents, they found a baggie in the center console concealed beneath the broken gearshift. They brought in a narcotics dog. Immediately the dog expressed interest in the center console, where the officers found 26 rocks of crack cocaine. All three suspects were booked for narcotics possession.

Trespassing Post and Steiner Streets March 29, 7:11 a.m.

Northern Station's homeless outreach officer received a call concerning several homeless men sleeping on church property. There is an ongoing problem with garbage and bodily waste left on the property, so church staffers asked that the men be arrested. The men, who admitted they didn't have permission to be on church property, were cited, released and admonished not to return.

Prostitution Sacramento Street and Van Ness Avenue March 30, 3:30 a.m.

An officer observed a known prostitute as she flagged down a car. The driver stopped and she got inside. When the officer pulled the car over, the driver claimed he and the woman were friends. He wasn't able to give the officers any personal information about her, however. The officer advised the driver of the laws against prostitution and arrested the woman.

Outstanding Warrant California Street and Van Ness Avenue April 1, 12:10 a.m.

Officers in a patrol car spotted a scantily clad woman. When they asked her what she was doing in the area, she replied, "Isn't

it obvious?" A computer check revealed she was a 20-year-old Hayward resident and had a warrant out of Oakland for loitering for the purposes of prostitution.

Auto Burglary Sacramento and Octavia Streets April 2, 1:35 p.m.

Witnesses saw a woman leaning through a broken car window and called police. The responding officers located the woman near the scene. They towed the car because there were a number of valuable items inside and the owner could not be located. The car's owner later came to the station, where he identified the cell phone the woman was carrying as his, and stated that he had left it inside his locked car.

Animal Cruelty California Street and Van Ness Avenue April 6, 2:45 p.m.

Officers received a report that a man was killing pigeons with his crutches. When officers made contact with a man matching dispatch's description, they noted that he had pigeon feathers on his crutches. Witnesses pointed out dead pigeons to the officers and assured them they had detained the right suspect. The man told police that he had every right to kill the pigeons because they were stealing his money. He was arrested for felony animal cruelty.

Narcotics Violations Geary Boulevard and Webster Street April 8, 9:05 p.m.

Officers patrolling in plainclothes spotted a vehicle swerving recklessly through traffic. In their unmarked police vehicle they closed in on the suspect, who was talking on a cell phone. They called for a marked car and stopped the driver, who had no ID and gave a false name. The officers searched the suspect's vehicle for ID, but found marijuana. When they arrested him, he revealed his true identity: He was on felony probation for selling narcotics and driving with a suspended license.

Officers searched the car again and found more cocaine under the center console. A dispatcher then notified them that Bayview Station had just taken a report that the suspect's vehicle was stolen. Officers booked the man on multiple charges.

Prostitution Van Ness Avenue and Clay Street April 11, 1:24 a.m.

An officer on patrol observed a known prostitute walking slowly down the street, looking backward at passing cars. The officer stopped the young woman, who used the expression "come out," meaning that she had just come to work. The officer arrested and booked her for loitering for the purpose of prostitution.

STREET TALK

Fashion forecast: still more for the ladies

In a remarkable turnaround, all of the retail spaces on the prime stretch of Fillmore Street are now claimed. A number of new stores and restaurants have recently opened or soon will. And much of the action continues to be about fashion — mostly for women.

HLASKA: NOT FOR MEN ONLY AGAIN: Just a few fashion seasons ago, the clothing and accessories store Hlaska at 2033 Fillmore hand lettered a cheeky kiss-off to women's clothing on its front window that read: "Dear Women: It's been fun but we're designing strictly for the guys now. It's not you, it's us. No hard feelings. Best, Hlaska."

Now the store is embracing women again, with a newly launched line of bags and clothing including hoodies, sweaters and outerwear — much of it in colorful hues, as opposed to San Francisco black. A company rep says the time away from women's clothing has allowed Hlaska to "focus and refine its aesthetic to produce a few new really well-made pieces." The company is also phasing out manufacturing abroad, so that local designers and producers can work together more closely to tweak the products more quickly and easily. That model infuses the fashion world with the tech mentality, courtesy of Hlaska co-founder Chad Hurley, a founder of YouTube.

CURVE REPLACING KIEHL'S: When Kiehl's leaves the corner of Fillmore and Washington and moves four blocks south to the corner of Pine, a women's clothing boutique is waiting to take its place. Curve — named for its motto, "stay ahead of the curve" — is expected to open this summer. Three Curve boutiques are already open in Los Angeles, Miami and New York.

FROM HARDWARE TO READY-TO-WEAR: The French boutique Cotecol — which specializes in women's fashions that are "slightly offbeat, with a dash of the bohemian spirit" — has dibs on the space Fillmore Hardware left vacant at 1930 Fillmore. The brand is well known in Europe and Asia; Fillmore will be its fourth boutique in the U.S., with others in New York, Chicago and Boston. Cotecol does a menswear line, too — less bohemian, more tight-fitting sportswear with an attitude.

MIO TURNS 25: And let's hear it for the pioneers who've made Fillmore such a desirable location for the newcomers. Mio, the classy women's clothing boutique at 2035 Fillmore, turns 25 this month.

RETAIL REPORT



Ruti has transformed 2119 Fillmore into a light and airy boutique outfitted with natural furnishings and fixtures.

A Passion for Fashion From Israel

Ruti, a new women's boutique on Fillmore, showcases Israeli designers

"I'VE BEEN IN LOVE with clothing for a long time," confesses Ruti Zisser, owner of the new boutique featuring women's clothing and accessories from Israeli designers at 2119 Fillmore. "Even as a little girl, I always loved playing with clothes."

When Zisser moved from Israel to the United States eight years ago, her love affair continued. She hosted trunk shows for friends featuring clothing and accessories from her native land. As her list of clients grew, she decided to take the leap and open a store called Ruti in a Palo Alto shopping center. Then 18 months later came the Fillmore shop, which opened in mid-April.

Zisser travels to Tel Aviv several times a year as the exclusive buyer for her stores. She says she chooses clothing for its clean design, good tailoring and fabric feel. There's also another tough litmus test: "I am looking for clothing that you won't find anywhere else," she says. "I want unique clothing that a woman puts on and at least once a day, someone will ask, 'Oh — where did you get that?'"

Accessories are another of Zisser's passions. She has stocked the shop with jewelry from a number of Tel Aviv designers,



Most of the clothing is black and white or understated tones of taupe and soft colors.

along with purses and shoes with funky architectural twists by United Nude. She stresses the importance of clothing that mixes and matches, and that can easily be transformed from day to evening with a change of shoes or the addition of jewelry.

And she openly shares her passion for fashion with customers who come in to browse or preen.

"Ah — here's a perfect example. This will make it more dressy," says Zisser, snaking a wide leather belt around the waist of a woman who's tentatively trying on a little black dress in front of the shop's full-length mirror.

The space for the new Fillmore boutique was transformed by interior designer Nicole Hollis, a neighborhood resident who also designed Ruti's Palo Alto store.

"The stores look like sisters — not twins," says Zisser.

The new Fillmore store, formerly home to the Winterbranch Gallery, was completely gutted and outfitted with natural furnishings and fixtures, including a chandelier of antlers, white distressed floors with fur scatter rugs, walls in unfinished reclaimed siding. It all makes for a muted backdrop for the clothing, most of which is black and white or understated tones of taupe, soft blues and periwinkles.

"You won't find strong pink or yellow here," says Zisser. "I just prefer good fabrics with natural color." The fabrics she chooses are easy to care for, too, with most pieces washable by hand or machine.

The clothing is priced from \$70 to about \$300. "And that's a good surprise," says Zisser, "to find such good quality and unique clothing at such affordable prices."

Zisser hints at future plans to open another boutique — perhaps in Los Angeles or New York. "But for now, Fillmore is the perfect place for my clothes," she says.

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FOOD & DRINK

Keeping It Real
An old-fashioned ice cream parlor maintains a steady presence in the jazz district

By CHRIS BARNETT

FOR 20 YEARS, Thomas Bennett, the mustachioed, soft-spoken owner of the Miyako Ice Cream Parlor, has stubbornly resisted change. As the neighborhood has morphed from empty storefronts into San Francisco's cool new jazz district, the Miyako, at 1470 Fillmore, has remained an oasis of timeless nostalgia.

Neighborhood kids come in for candy and cones, just as their parents did two decades ago. Nicotine fans come in for cigarettes that start at \$3.61 a pack — possibly the lowest price in town. And hungry patrons of all ages come in for the fresh, hand-made sandwiches with nacho chips and a choice of coleslaw, macaroni or potato salad, all for a mere \$3.25.

Mr. Bennett — everyone calls him Mr. Bennett out of respect and he returns the courtesy out of politeness — has recreated the ice cream parlors of his childhood. He has devoted nearly every square inch of the Tom Thumb-sized shop to goodies of many kinds.

The selection of ice cream alone is daunting. Miyako stocks 75 different flavors supplied by Dreyer's and Mitchell's aimed to save every taste, with vintage signs hawking Filipino ice cream, Jamaican Rum Raisin and Asian Green Tea Kona.

Prices are reasonable by today's standards. A single scoop from Mitchell's, a local creamery, is \$2.95; grasshopper pie and avocado are current customer favorites. A mocha fudge milk shake fetches \$3.50. Dreyer's ice cream starts at \$2.25 a scoop or \$3.25 for a double scoop, with a choice of four types of cones.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LISA FARRIS

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Deciding can be difficult at the Miyako Ice Cream Parlor, which offers a daunting selection.

A Small Shop Devoted to Treats of Many Kinds

FROM PAGE 7

The shop also stocks moon pies, Mrs. Field's giant cookies and at least 100 different types of candy in plastic canisters. In fact, virtually every inch of wall space is plastered with some sign or poster touting something tasty or different. Hungry for a huge dill pickle? Mr. Bennett has them, plus all-beef hot dogs with chips, a side and a can of soda for \$4.85 or a Polish sausage for \$3.25.

Elexus and Mohammad, both 17 and high school juniors, recently came in looking for an after-school snack.

"The store is very eye-catching, it's popular and very calm," says Elexus, who plans to be a CEO someday. "There's no violence here. It's a good environment for a kid and they have good prices." Adds Mohammad: "Basically, Mr. Bennett has everything in here."

Willie, a shipyard welder who's lived in the neighborhood for most of his life, says he comes in "because Mr. Bennett and his family are handsome, beautiful people and they are always sweet." Willie confesses to being an "ice cream addict" and likes the "buy two cones and get the third one free" policy.

Miyako Ice Cream Parlor is clearly a family business. The patriarch has four sons and four daughters. His daughter Theresa works with her dad. On a recent afternoon another daughter, Bonita, is in the shop with Mr. Bennett's granddaughter, Jenny, age 2½.

The owner is a man of few words but deep thoughts. Yellowed news clippings are on the wall, but they are not the expected accolades for Miyako. One is headlined, "No Future Exists for Black Children Who Cannot Read."

Mr. Bennett explains matter of factly: "I have it there so kids can read it — so anybody can read it."

While slicing tomatoes for sandwiches, he says: "Fill more was a tough area when I opened. There were only two businesses on this block — me and a Pizza Hut. On the next block up, there was just a Subway sandwich store. All the storefronts were vacant." Today, they're almost all rented.

Mr. Bennett doesn't seem to be impressed by fame, but he recalls a couple of familiar faces that have crossed the threshold of his little store. "James Brown was in," he says. "You know James Brown, the singer? And that actress, that blond actress who crossed her legs in that movie — Sharon Stone."

But one local notable has been a no-show: Former mayor Willie Brown, who spearheaded the revitalization of the jazz district, and who regularly pops in to 1300 Fillmore and Yoshi's just down the street.

"That's the one thing I hold against him," says Mr. Bennett. "He was mayor of this city for eight years and he has never been in here once."

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JAZZ

'I Look at Music as a Catalyst for Bringing People Together'

By ANTHONY TORRES

I FIRST HEARD Charles Unger play when I stepped into the Sheba Piano Lounge on the way home from Yoshi's one night. As I walked in, I was immediately struck by the intonation of the tenor sax and the ease with which Unger and his band, The Experience, moved through Carlos Santana's "Europa."

Since then I have seen them at both Sheba and Rasselas. Every time, it's been a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

With jazz, they say it don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing. These guys swing, and they do it in a way that incorporates a range of influences. The music moves and is inflected with a Latin groove and a Middle East undercurrent that creates a melancholy feel so sensuous a person can't help but be moved.

Unger is a great player. He's also a great guy who loves what he's doing and does it with all the seriousness in the world. Music for him is a spiritual mission and a quest for a kind of secular redemption that he has pursued since he was a child — one that sustains him and has brought him a wealth of knowledge and experience. We recently had a chance to chat.

YOU WERE BORN WHERE?

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HOW DID YOU WIND UP IN CALIFORNIA?

The great migration out of the south. My family migrated north to Chicago. Most of my family is still in Chicago. My immediate family was one of the few branches that wound up coming west. My family moved to Riverside, California, in around 1957, when I was like 10 or 11. I was an Air Force brat. My father was career military. He's still living; he's 86. He always wanted to be in a lot of bands, so he was a songwriter and singer. He sang in big bands. He was a crooner. He liked all the old cats — Nat King Cole, those guys.

SO YOU GREW UP WITH MUSIC?

Yeah, I was always involved in music, since grade school. The schools in those days had music classes and offered lessons. I played clarinet since fourth grade. And then I heard my first tenor and it was love at first sound. The thing about Riverside is that they had a lot of street festivals, so they had all these bands in the streets, and you had exposure to a lot of different kinds of music. They had R&B honking tenor saxes and I said, "Oh man, this is the bomb."



Music for Charles Unger is a spiritual mission and a quest for a kind of secular redemption he has pursued since he was a child.

I started playing tenor sax in the seventh grade with Lloyd Mummert, one of the premier music teachers in Southern California. Then I played in the high school marching band, and then I started playing blues right after that — straight-up blues, Muddy Waters, Albert King and Howling Wolf.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE BAY AREA?

I had some family up here: Bayview, Hunters Point. The first time I came up here was the Summer of Love. I was 17. I was spoiled, man. I came back in 1969,

and as soon as I graduated from high school in 1970, I moved here. I had to come back. I moved to Lakeview, by City College, where I got some more formal training, and joined David Hardeman's big band. Later I formed my own band, playing R&B and funk. We were a party band called Pizzazz. Back in the day, "Bad for a Mother's Ass" was our slogan. It was a straight-up party.

SO HOW DID YOU WIND UP IN THE FILLMORE?

I met the love of my life. She lived over here. That was 1986. So I have been

living around here for years.

WHO ARE SOME OF THE CATS YOU'VE PLAYED WITH?

One of the first people was Maxine Howard and the Down Home Blues Band. I met her at a festival in Marin and she asked me to join her band. And through her, I met Bobbie Webb. Bobbie really helped me musically with the different genres of R&B and the blues. I learned a lot, performance-wise, hanging out with him.

HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE YOUR OWN MUSIC?

My last name, Unger, means to be from Hungary. On my father's side, we're an Afro-German mixture of people, Afro-Jewish mixture. So all these influences come into play. My first influence was my father. He played all kinds of music. He played with all kinds of people. He always recognized his European heritage. I've never wanted to be pigeon-holed in any one thing.

WHO HAVE BEEN YOUR INFLUENCES?

All the masters — Dizzy Bird, Miles, Coltrane, Lester Young. I love Lester.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SCENE IN THE FILLMORE JAZZ DISTRICT?

I think if people give it a chance and go out and support it, it will happen. It takes time for people to get exposure and knowledge. If they do, it will take off, as evidenced by the Fillmore Jazz Festival. And now it's even better because younger people are coming and different people are coming. That's one of the things the jazz and R&B thing does: It captures people with the grooves. It's a learning curve. It takes a while for people to get hip to it.

IF THERE WERE SOMETHING YOU'D WANT TO RELATE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I look at music as a catalyst for bringing different people together and breaking down barriers that separate us from our oneness and our humanity. I try to put that into my music as a way of relating that we all share this beautiful planet together. That we are all on the same road. That we are all the same people. That we are all family. If I can break down barriers through music, then I will have fulfilled my destiny.

Charles Unger plays Monday nights from 8:30 to midnight at Rasselas, 1470 Fillmore.

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WANDERLUST FESTIVAL

Music, Yoga Worlds Converge —Where Else?— at the Fillmore

► FROM PAGE ONE

Grant's yoga studio was a success, even though she says she was a reluctant yogi.

"I grew up in Sebastopol," she says. "My parents were of the old school yoga variety — really truer to more classical yoga practice than what we do these days, jumping around on our mats."

She adds: "A big component of their yoga involved belching, which I really hated. There was definitely some cleansing going on. I just didn't want to have to hear it."

But Grant became a devotee around age 20 when a friend encouraged her to take up yoga emphasizing movement to help overcome back pain from a childhood injury. It worked, she says, and transformed her views on pain and wellness — and yoga.

"I still have yet to become a convert to the belching yoga, much to my parents' chagrin," Grant says. "But they're the best examples of a lifelong yoga practice. They still do stretching, breathing and meditating — and don't make it super-precious. They wouldn't know it, but they're a big inspiration to me."

Krasno and Grant moved into an old brownstone in Tribeca just after 9/11, hoping to calm their nerves and find a place to allow his new business, Velour Music Group, to flourish.

"Everyone was scrambling to do something positive then," Grant recalls. "So I decided to start a side business, a yoga studio, in our new building. Ten years later, we've taken over three of the building's four

floors. Now we're going for world domination," she laughs.

Krasno and his business partner Sean Hoess now produce and coordinate the Wanderlust events. But the idea of creating a yoga and music event arrived as something of a thunderbolt. Krasno was reluctantly accompanying Grant on a yoga retreat — and he found that the participants were not the granola-eating airy-fairy types he feared they would be.

Grant remembers: "He kept saying, 'These people are so cool. They're like normal people — not like yoga people at all. They're funny and cultured and interesting and fun-loving. It would be amazing to get these people together, add a music festival and blow it up 50 times the regular size.'"

The first Wanderlust event was held at Lake Tahoe in 2009. It combined music, yoga, organic food and nature.

"There's a growing community of people who are interested in living what we call the mindful life. They're not hippies anymore, but mainstream," says Krasno. "We also love to have fun and book great bands and DJs. There are fun underpinnings to a serious message."

The success of the initial event primed the pump for additional festivals in 2010, including the first event at the Fillmore.

San Francisco seemed like a perfect place to spread the word, says Krasno, who was friends and fraternity brothers with Bill Graham's son in college. Krasno says he'd been to the Fillmore maybe 100 times



Of the first Wanderlust festival at the Fillmore last year, organizers say, "We knew we could put something on that had a good cross-over vibe. It worked. It just felt right."



and had formed a business relationship with Michael Bailey, who has been booking concerts at the Fillmore since 1988.

"One day I called up Michael and said, 'What do you think about 250 people doing yoga on the floor of the Fillmore?'" Krasno says.

The idea was too perfect to resist.

But there are challenges to the forum — not the least of which is the logistical difficulty of cramming hundreds of yoga mats into the Fillmore's auditorium. To make that work, the yoga portion of the event is limited to 250 people. Once the mats are rolled up, there's room for 800 or more to attend the music festival later that night.

Krasno says the biggest challenge at the first event at the Fillmore last year was the unknown. "The Fillmore never had an event like this. It's a music venue, known for beer," he says. "We were concerned folks would get drunk by osmosis."

Fillmore management calmed those

fears by bringing in an ecological clean-up crew and burning incense to help create the right atmosphere in the auditorium.

Another surprise was the novel scene outside. "I've been to the Fillmore so many times for rock shows," says Krasno. "I'm used to seeing the long line that goes down Geary, with people smoking cigarettes, dressed in rock and roll clothes."

But what he saw before last year's Wanderlust was different: "Geary was crammed with 250 people dressed in yoga gear all lined up the same way," he says. Those near the doors stood on a 40-foot yoga mat unfurled like a red carpet.

Inside, it became a yoga rave.

"Legendary yogi Shiva Rea did amazing things with movement, weaving in the music," says Krasno. "And this year we've got a lot of great music planned. We reached out to Mickey Hart, who's best known as the Grateful Dead drummer, but he's also a spiritual guy and has been involved lately in a lot

of interesting world drumming projects."

Hart will play drums with a DJ and improvised music along with the yoga. Then, after the yoga ends, Krasno predicts: "People will rock it out and start dancing."

Organic food will be served in the Fillmore's poster room upstairs.

This year, local resident Stephanie Snyder, a longtime teacher at Yoga Tree studios, will kick off the yoga practice. "Fillmore is the place where legendary, legendary musicians have performed. The fact that they're willing to welcome yoga into this venue is supercool," Snyder says. "And for me personally, it's ironic because I've spent a lot of time there doing things far less savory than yoga."

Snyder is also jazzed by doing yoga to the beat of live music. "Music is uplifting in general. When it's live, even more so," she says. "And practicing with live music is like the difference between doing yoga to a DVD and in person. The musicians are

sensitive to what's happening in the room and they can guide us. It becomes a co-effort, with a much higher energy."

Grant led the yoga class at the Fillmore last year. She says she found it a bit strange at first to be leading a yoga class from a stage as opposed to her usual hands-on approach, but that quickly passed. "It's a cool space, with cool pictures, and a place we knew we could put something on that had a good cross-over vibe," she says. "And it worked. It just felt right."

While the iconic auditorium is not a traditional venue for yoga, it turned out to be a good fit. "The Fillmore is so emblematic of so many of the things that Wanderlust comes from: good soulful music and progressive culture," says Grant. "The music that had gone on there had the same kind of cultural roots for the explosion of the counterculture that included yoga in the '60s."

More information and tickets are available at fillmore.wanderlustfestival.com.

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SFMTA

Her Initials Are Carved Here, Too

A painter returns art to a storied building

By JEROME TARSHIS

IT IS NEVER EASY for young artists to find places to show their work, but economic downturns have always made things worse. During the austere 1950s, art-operated galleries on upper Fillmore Street were important party scenes as well as art venues in the absence of blogs and websites, those gallery parties became a major medium for discussing San Francisco art.

With that precedent in mind, I was galvanized early last year to read an article ("An Artist Finds a Muse and a Legend," *New Fillmore*, February 2010) by a young painter, Kristen van Diggelen, who had her studio in a vacant commercial space at 2326 Fillmore Street directly below the apartment where Jay DeFeo had created, over a period of eight years, her legendary painting *The Rose*.

In honor of San Francisco's beat-era art world, and in particular Fillmore Street in the 1950s and 1960s, van Diggelen proposed to revive the art-show-as-party. She would open her studio one evening a month, and invite the public to see her



A monthly salon has brought a circle of artists back to 2326 Fillmore.

own work and that of other local artists. She would charge no commission on sales. Referring to the shop in the building's other commercial space, the events would be called the Cottage Industry Painting Salons.

A brief program note about the building: Beginning in the latter 1950s, it was home to a small pantheon of artistic San Franciscans. In addition to DeFeo and her then-husband Wally Hedrick, there were painters Joan and Bill Brown,

Sonia Gechtoff, James Weeks, the future L.A. artist Craig Kauffman, collector and gallery operator James Newman and poet Michael McClure and his wife, Joanna. Bruce Conner and his wife, Jean, lived briefly in the building when they first arrived in San Francisco.

To make up for the lack of established galleries willing to show their work, these and other artists created their own galleries. But it was hard to find volunteers willing to keep regular business hours. In the end, the celebratory evening when a show opened could become the entire public life of an artwork.

Many years later, van Diggelen finds herself in a similar situation. Her salons address the question of what to do when the money and the institutions exist for only the most fortunate young artists. Van Diggelen, like her long-ago predecessors, wants to be a painter, not a gallery worker. She sells some of her art and has a teaching job to help pay the bills. One party a month seemed possible, whereas a regular gallery keeping regular hours did not.

The salons have included a little abstract painting and quite a lot of the dreamlike or surreal. Van Diggelen's own work ranges from a series of large paintings based on the biblical parable of the wise and foolish virgins to intimate still lifes, with her series of silver vessels and candlesticks. In honor of the building, she has done paintings of the back yard in which she found Jay DeFeo's initials cut into a brick wall and added her own.

The salons had some excellent wine and at times catering that approached the level of art. What surprised me most was

that the guests were conversable. If they weren't trying to say "I am not a suburban dullard" by their choice of clothing, they were on the whole quick to leap from idea to idea. People knew and cared about the art they were looking at, and it seemed to be almost a sport to use one's head a little. Possibly suburban; not dullards.

After a while I had the courage to ask van Diggelen if I was imagining it. Not at all. When she was an undergraduate student at UCLA she had been a sorority girl. She had also meant to become an artist. For the most part, her sorority sisters looked upon the art world as totally separated from their concerns, and she resolved to form a social circle of people who didn't feel limited in that way.

"I move in several different worlds, and I think ideas of identity, as an artist or anything else, are pretty superficial," she said. "Not everyone would agree. But the people you see here are mostly able to see themselves as not confined to one world or another."

Van Diggelen began the monthly salons in February 2010. Later last year, she moved into an apartment in the building—not into DeFeo's, which would make the story too perfect, but into the unit formerly occupied by Joan Brown, another distinguished San Francisco artist.

The salons began at a time when San Francisco had all too many vacant commercial spaces, and it may be a hopeful sign that the space has now been rented. The final salon was held in April.

Plans are now being completed for a new tenant to take over the commercial space. But van Diggelen hopes to resume the salons in a space above street level.



"Bay Area Bird Encounters" is a new interactive art piece at the airport created by longtime neighborhood resident Walter Kitundu.

Alta Plaza Birds Take Flight in New SFO Mural

LOCAL TRAVELERS through the swank new terminal two at San Francisco International Airport will find friends from the neighborhood to bid them hail and farewell. Birds from Alta Plaza Park are part of an ingenious new piece of interactive musical art created by longtime neighborhood resident Walter Kitundu for a children's play area.

It's intended for children of all ages. "If you don't feel like playing the benches, you can always sit on them," says Kitundu of the two wing-shaped wooden seats that are also xylophones tuned to play the song of the golden-crowned sparrow.

The benches are part of a project he calls "Bay Area Bird Encounters." They sit in front of a 28-foot-long mural of birds

Kitundu photographed, then printed on sheets of veneered plywood and hand-carved into a wooden mosaic of 147 separate pieces. There's a third sparrow in the mural, also a xylophone.

A few years ago, Kitundu spent months in Alta Plaza photographing a red-tailed hawk he named Patch, who grew up in the park. Patch was in the initial drafts of the mural, but didn't make the final cut because the photo graphs weren't of sufficient high resolution. But the mural includes three young red-tails, along with an Anna's hummingbird Kitundu photographed in Alta Plaza with a new, more advanced camera.

"That added a whole new dimension," he says. "I had to go back out into the field and have the birds cooperate."

For several years he lived in the neighborhood and worked at the Exploratorium. But after he was named a MacArthur Fellow and received what is often called a "genius grant"—including \$500,000 over five years with no strings attached—he moved to West Oakland, where he has more room to make photographs, build instruments and compose music, among many other creative pursuits.

"I shy away from genius talk," he says. "I've been trying not to believe the hype, but to take advantage of such a generous gift."

Kitundu says he still haunts the Fillmore, but not as much as he would like. "I never go through the area without taking a detour to Alta Plaza," he says. "The minute I see a bird, I'm a local again."

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51076	EMT I Clinical*	ThF	9:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	16-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
51338	Internship/Certification*	M-F	9:00 a.m.	4:30 p.m.	6-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
51795	Medical Terminology I*	MW	9:00 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	13-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	135
51401	Paramedic Theory-Cardiac*	WFR	9:00 a.m.	4:30 p.m.	8-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	GTIM
51751	Phlebotomy Technician*	M-F	9:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	20-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
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CN	Course Title	Days	Reg Time	End Time	Start Date	Location	Room
61840	ABE/Pre-GED Preparation	Th	9:00 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	31-May	31 Gough St.	48
61888	ABE/Pre-GED Preparation	MW	9:00 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	31-May	31 Gough St.	30
60823	Arts/Crafts For The Disabled	T	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	3245 16th St.	TBA
61848	Arts/Crafts For The Disabled	W	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	3245 16th St.	TBA
62455	Child Dev Lab School	M-F	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	13-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	56A
62456	Child Dev Lab School	M-F	12:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	13-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	56A
62459	Child Dev Lab School	M-F	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	13-Jun	1551 Newcomb	TBA
62460	Child Dev Lab School	M-F	12:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	13-Jun	1551 Newcomb	TBA
61470	Comm. For The Blind	MW	1300	3:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1500 Howard St.	TBA
61852	Community Living Skills	Th	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1500 Howard St.	TBA
60172	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	W	9:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1-Jun	737 Folsom St.	TBA
60173	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	W	12:30 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	1-Jun	2700 Geary Blvd.	TBA
60174	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	Th	9:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1-Jun	1390 Turk St.	TBA
60175	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	F	9:30 a.m.	12:45 p.m.	1-Jun	100 Diamond	TBA
60176	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	Th	9:30 a.m.	12:45 p.m.	1-Jun	225 30th St.	TBA
60177	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	T	8:30 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	1-Jun	333 Turk St.	TBA
60178	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	T	9:00 a.m.	12:45 p.m.	1-Jun	65 Beverly St.	TBA
60360	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	F	9:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1-Jun	801 Howard St.	TBA
60773	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	F	12:30 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	1-Jun	55 Mabini St.	TBA
60781	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	M	9:30 a.m.	12:45 p.m.	1-Jun	6221 Geary Blvd.	TBA
60783	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	Th	12:30 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	1-Jun	930 4th St.	TBA
60785	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	M	9:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1-Jun	240 Turk St.	TBA
60786	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	F	9:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1-Jun	500 Raymond St.	TBA
60788	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	T	10:00 a.m.	1:15 p.m.	1-Jun	4080 Mission St.	TBA
60789	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	Th	8:45 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1550 Steiner St.	TBA
60790	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	T	12:00 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	1-Jun	350 Golden Gate	TBA
60792	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	F	9:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1-Jun	515 Cortland St.	TBA

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60794	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	M	9:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1-Jun	1290 5th Ave.	TBA
60795	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	T	9:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1-Jun	953 De Haro St.	TBA
60796	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	F	8:45 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1441 Powell St.	TBA
60798	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	F	12:30 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	1-Jun	1333 Bush St.	TBA
60799	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	W	9:30 a.m.	12:45 p.m.	1-Jun	3575 Geary Blvd.	TBA
60800	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	Th	9:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1-Jun	3416 19th St.	TBA
61983	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	W	10:15 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1-Jun	660 Lombard St.	TBA
61985	Consumer Ed./Hlth. Nutrition	F	9:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1-Jun	1426 Fillmore St.	TBA
62406	Doc. Format/Production	M-Th	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	201
62407	Doc. Format/Production	M-Th	12:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	201
61849	Drama For The Disabled	Th	10:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	207 Skyline Blvd.	TBA
62007	Drama For The Disabled	F	10:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	207 Skyline Blvd.	TBA
60077	ESL Beginning High 3	M-Th	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
61569	ESL Beginning High 4	M-Th	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
61694	ESL Beginning High 4	M-Th	11:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
61695	ESL Beginning High 4	M-Th	11:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
60037	ESL Beginning Low 1	M-Th	11:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
60061	ESL Beginning Low 2	M-Th	11:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
61570	ESL Beginning Low 2	M-Th	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
62300	ESL Beginning Low 2	M-Th	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
61568	ESL Intermediate High 8	M-Th	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
61397	ESL Intermediate High 8	M-Th	11:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
61696	ESL Intermediate Low 5	M-Th	11:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
60111	ESL Intermediate Low 6	M-Th	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
61697	ESL Intermediate Low 6	M-Th	11:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	TBA
62252	GED Preparation	M-Th	10:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	31-May	1860 Hayes St.	218
62471	Grammar and Writing	M	5:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	31-May	1860 Hayes St.	222
62008	High Tech Comp. Assoc. Disabled	MW	9:00 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	104
62435	HS Algebra 1A	Th	9:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	31-May	1860 Hayes St.	225
62394	HS Level Learning Strategies	TWTh	8:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	7-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	105
62130	Internet & E-mail	M	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	22-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	234
60342	Intro/Windows for MS Office	Th	12:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	234
62393	Job Search Skills/Disabled Lab	TTh	1:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	1-Jun	TBA	TBA
62404	Keyboarding: Skill Develop.	M-Th	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	201
62405	Keyboarding: Skill Develop.	M-Th	12:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	201
62188	Literature and Composition	Th	9:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	31-May	1860 Hayes St.	226
62431	Literature and Composition	M-Th	5:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	31-May	1860 Hayes St.	212
62186	Math Skills Development 2	M	9:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	31-May	1860 Hayes St.	221
62430	Math Skills Development 2	M	5:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	31-May	1860 Hayes St.	221
62442	Microcomputer Lab	M-Th	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	234
62443	Microcomputer Lab	M-Th	12:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	234
60190	MS Excel for Business I	M	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	228
62292	Microsoft Word for Bus I	M	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	231
62417	Outlook/Office Support/Lvl I	M-Th	12:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	231
62437	QuickBooks: Level 1	M-Th	12:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	238
62408	Windows Essen/MS Office	M-Th	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1-Jun	1860 Hayes St.	224

Lake Street
\$1,299,000
4BD/3.5BA Edwardian Home. Located close to Mountain Lake Park and the Presidio, this charming home has been renovated to accommodate a contemporary lifestyle. Large, light-filled family room of kitchen overlooks lovely south patio and garden. Two car tandem garage.
1425Lake.com
M.J. Thomas
(415) 321-4251

Lone Mountain
\$1,299,000
Chic 3BD/2BA Home. With stylishly remodeled kitchen and baths this home synthesizes contemporary updates with traditional architecture to make for a modern lifestyle of convenience and ease. Includes a living room with corner wood burning fireplace & a spacious formal dining room.
135EwingTerrace.com
M.J. Thomas
(415) 321-4251

Richmond
\$1,285,000
Beautifully Remodeled 4BD/3BA Home. Remodeled in 2008, this home includes a spacious formal living room with fireplace, formal dining area, remodeled kitchen with stainless appliances, granite countertops and cherry wood cabinets, rear yard and 1-car attached garage.
3222Caballo.com
Stephanie Ahlberg
(415) 321-4232

Alamo Square
\$1,129,000
House-like, Two-level Condo. The 4802 Alamo home combines yesterday's charm with modern amenities. The unit boasts wonderful Victorian details, including 14-foot ceilings, period molding, hardwood floors throughout the unit and a very flexible floor plan. Parking for two cars.
1480GoldenGate.com
Grace Shohet
(415) 321-4248

Pacific Heights
\$829,000
Light-filled 2BD/2BA Condominium. Exceptionally bright southward corner unit with floor-to-ceiling windows, lovely City outlooks and partial bay views. Spacious living/dining room, updated kitchen with new stainless steel appliances, and 2 private patios.
1998Broadway907.com
Donna Cooper
(415) 375-0028

Inner Richmond
\$499,000
Beautiful And Bright 1BD/1BA Condo. Located in a 5-unit elevator building. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout, updated kitchen, remodeled tile bathroom, in-unit washer/dryer, gas fireplace for cozy warm nights and 1-car decided parking. Across from Rossi Park.
621Aguello-101.com
Eli Ghandi
(415) 321-4287

Pacific Heights
\$399,000
Location! Location! Location! This lovely 1BD/1BA unit in an established TIC building is in the perfect spot, close to everything! Laurel Village, the Presidio, the JCC and great Sacramento Street shops and restaurants. Recently remodeled kitchen and bath.
3720Sacramento.com
Mary DeVries
(415) 321-3106

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Saturday, May 14th 9:30am–11:30am
Saturday, June 18th 9:30am–11:30am

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*This project is part of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Limited Equity Program. All Buyers must be qualified between 70-100% of Area Medium Income. DRE01245200

NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking	Sale
1844 Laguna St	3	1	1		3/31/11	850,000	1,161,000
1810 Lyon St	3	2.5	2		4/12/11	1,395,000	1,257,500
3047 Divisadero St	3	2	2	2736	3/17/11	2,180,000	1,900,000
2312 Gough St	4	3.5	2	3968	3/31/11	2,142,000	2,210,000
2781 Clay St	3	2.5	2	3409	3/18/11	2,895,000	2,865,000
2967 Pine St	4	3.5	2	3975	4/13/11	3,025,000	3,025,000
2623 Divisadero St	4.5	2	3	900	4/6/11	3,095,000	3,095,000
135 Locust St	4	3.5	1	2800	4/12/11	3,000,000	3,430,000
20 Walnut St	4	4.5	1	3975	3/24/11	3,900,000	4,000,000
2737 Divisadero St	4	4.5	1		3/16/11	5,395,000	5,332,000
60 Normandie Ter	5	6	3		4/1/11	9,500,000	8,800,000

Condos / Co-ops / TICs / Lofts

Condos / Co-ops / TICs / Lofts	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking	Sale
1950 Gough St #503	0	1	0	600	3/22/11	399,000	412,500
1818 Broadway #403	1	1	1	675	3/18/11	550,000	553,000
135 Pixley St #1	1	1	1		4/15/11	619,000	609,500
2072 Vallejo St	1	1	1	1079	3/31/11	729,000	650,000
1855 Sacramento St #1	1	1	1	1164	3/17/11	629,000	652,000
2040 Sutter St #401	2	2	1	1231	4/7/11	775,000	775,000
2900 Pierce St #1	2	2	0	1135	3/18/11	799,000	795,000
129 Pixley St	2	1	2		3/18/11	899,000	835,000
1770 Pacific Ave #401	2	1	1	500	3/31/11	899,000	855,000
2200 Sacramento St #108	2	2	1	950	4/15/11	1,015,000	1,015,000
2200 Sacramento St #507	1	2	1	1000	3/29/11	1,050,000	1,050,000
2201 Sacramento St #601	2	2	1	1498	3/23/11	1,195,000	1,195,000
1970 Green St	3	2.5	1	2052	4/1/11	1,499,000	1,449,000
325 Cherry St	3.5	2	3	342	4/1/11	2,195,000	2,095,000
2617 Pacific Ave	4	4.5	1	3135	3/31/11	2,998,000	2,730,000
2967 Pacific Ave	2	2	1		3/31/11	2,995,000	2,775,000
2623 Pacific Ave	4	3.5	1	3653	3/31/11	3,498,000	3,185,303

Homes are selling more quickly

On average, homes are selling more quickly in this spring market than they have since the beginning of the recession — a good sign for local real estate, and much more positive than the national average. The average time on the market for single family homes in the neighborhood dropped by a third during the last month. Condos and TICs also saw a slight decrease from 66 to 60 days on the market.

Six single family homes sold within 21 days of coming on the market, all at least for the asking price. Two examples are in the hot Presidio Heights market: 135 Locust, a well-appointed traditional home near Julius Kahn Park with a lovely back garden, sold for 14 percent over asking; and 20 Walnut, a 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath home sold in only two days for 2.5 percent over the asking price. On the prime Victorian block between Pine and Bush, the fixer-upper at 1844 Laguna garnered dozens of offers and ultimately sold a third over its list price to an all-cash buyer. This was the fourth sale on this block within the last two years. And 60 Normandie Terrace, the stunning four-level home with magnificent views on the cul-de-sac off Broadway, sold for almost double its list price within a month.

NEW LISTINGS: During the past month, 15 single family homes and 53 condos hit the market — and 10 of the condos went into contract within the month. But the pace of ratified offers has slowed a bit. The exceptional luxury offerings continue with the listing of 2950 Broadway, the spectacular Gold Coast grand Tudor Revival mansion that once belonged to late celebrity attorney Melvin Belli. With show-stopping views, 6 bedrooms and 6 baths on four levels, all accessible by elevator, and a deep lot with a heated pool and spa, the home is now offered at \$33.9 million. Offered at \$10 million is 3362 Jackson, a 6-bedroom, 7-bath modernized grand English Tudor with a movie theater and wine cellar. Luxury condo offerings include 2999 Pacific, a 4,285 sq. ft. two-level condo in a 1930s era building listed at \$4.25 million; and the 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath two-level penthouse co-op at 1800 Gough Street, with more than 5,200 square feet, now on the market for \$5.25 million. Also new on the market is a spacious 3-bedroom, 3-bath flat at 1935 California Street listed for just under \$1.4 million — although it has already gone into contract after only a week on the market. In the more affordable range, 14 new 1-bedroom, 1-bath neighborhood condos/TICs hit the market with prices ranging from \$325,000 to \$799,000.

— 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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FIRST PERSON

Coming Home via Chicago to the Fillmore

By JEANNINE BARNARD

FOR 20 YEARS, I'd roll out of bed in the morning, walk to Peet's, then on to Alta Plaza Park where my dog Bean could play while I drank my coffee. And then I'd get ready for work. For years I worked in publishing. Eventually I ended up in real estate, and in recent years going to work meant a short walk to Zephyr Real Estate on California near Steiner.

Perhaps it was the predictability of it all, but I'd begun to feel irritable and restless. Maybe it was because of separation and impending divorce. Whatever the reason, I felt I needed to shake things up. I decided to leave the neighborhood and move back to Chicago to be closer to my family.

One of the hardest things about moving is deciding what to take and what not to take. I thought that maybe I should just get rid of everything and start fresh. But I couldn't part with my side chairs from Gary Mureta's antiques shop on Fillmore. Or my dining table made of wood from the old Pier 39. Or my painting of the city by Veeerakeet. Or items from every house I've ever sold. Maybe that should have been a clue.

Naperville, a suburb of Chicago, is where my mother, my brothers, my sister and her family all live. The plan was to stay with my sister while I got settled. But that never happened, in part because I never stopped working on real estate deals in San Francisco. Or maybe because, deep down, I knew within the first month it might have been a mistake to leave.



Jeannine Barnard and the Bean on their cross-country road trip back to the neighborhood.

The truth is that Naperville seemed wrong to me. There was no Peet's — only Starbucks. No Browser Books, no Mrs. Dewson's Hats, no La Med. There were only chain stores. And there seemed to be rules about everything — where Bean could do his business, for example. I've been a city kid all my life and I didn't know the suburban rules, so I got yelled at three times in the first month. Poor Bean had a hard time figuring out how to walk and pee in the snow. And I just couldn't adjust to what seemed like Bikram yoga for the Bedford wives.

A call came from Fillmore neighbors who needed to sell their house quickly. I knew I could do the deal. I knew their condo, knew the building, knew the

neighborhood — and it would be a good excuse to visit friends in San Francisco. So the Bean and I got back in my car and headed west. The minute I hit Tahoe, I knew I couldn't go back to Chicago.

My belongings are still in storage in Naperville, but I'm back in the Fillmore. I'm selling houses again. I'm going to Peet's, Mollie Stone's and Alta Plaza. And now that I've been to Chicago and back, nothing seems too far away. I drive to Berkeley and even to Vallejo these days.

I love being back in the neighborhood. I can walk around and say I sold that house and that one. I know the stories — the legends and the lore behind a lot of the houses and the colorful, cheerful characters who live in them.

That's where the great jazz singer Mary Stallings lived before I sold her family home, just around the corner from the always fun cooking teacher Mary Risley, aka Tante Marie. Here lives Steve Lovi, the fabulously eccentric photographer who was friends with Twiggy when he lived in London. And there's the home of Sharron Long, whose black poodle is my goddog, and who once became a Playboy bunny so she could get out of Kansas. I missed these colorful, cheerful characters. I like building an extra 10 minutes into my schedule because I know I'm going to run into somebody I know.

A friend told me the other day she's tried to leave San Francisco four times and never succeeded. I only needed to try once to realize this is home. This is where I belong. I missed the city's visual delights, its beauty, its quirks, its characters — many of whom have become my friends, and some have even become family. It took leaving to help me realize I had begun to take it all for granted.

So I'm back, and I'm happy. The Bean is happy. I know this city — and now I also know that no other place can compare. And I know the Fillmore neighborhood — and why those of us lucky enough to live here never want to leave.

Jeannine Barnard is — still — an agent at Zephyr Real Estate's office on California Street.

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2197 Fillmore 563-9930

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2222 Fillmore 673-3171

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2500 Fillmore 775-1908

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2496 Fillmore 346-1700

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2435 California 567-4902

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2199 Sutter 614-2385

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2261 Fillmore 352-0810

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1805 Geary 346-3000

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1534 Fillmore 346-8696

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1419 Fillmore 440-7414

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1330 Fillmore 655-5600



Not many cities can boast a vibrant section of town that is upscale but approachable, fashionable but not elitist, comfortable without being boring. San Francisco's Fillmore is all these — and, best of all, it's not striving to be original. It just is. — *Gourmet magazine*

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