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but condos up*

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THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ JUNE 2011



PABLO PICASSO | FROM "THE STEINS COLLECTION"

The Stein Connection

One of the world's great art collections — now reunited
at SFMOMA — has close ties to the neighborhood

ART PATRONS Michael and Sarah Stein lived in the neighborhood before they joined his sister Gertrude and brother Leo in Paris in the early 1900s. So did Gertrude Stein's longtime companion, Alice B. Toklas.

The Stein family owned and operated some of San Francisco's many cable car lines, which Michael consolidated and sold. He also built the first rental flats in the city at the corner of Washington and Lyon Streets. It was the income from these investments that enabled the family to collect

art and live abroad for many decades. Together they created a legendary collection of modern art and helped establish Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso as two of the most important artists of the 20th century.

The Stein collection has since been dispersed to museums around the world. But it is reunited in "The Steins Collect," an exhibition now on view at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, which highlights their local connections.

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Crackdown on Hookers on Van Ness

88 arrests in May
result from enhanced
enforcement campaign

BY BARBARA KATE REPA

Battling what appears to be an upsurge in prostitution, officers at Northern Station have stepped up enforcement efforts in recent months, making a growing number of arrests on Van Ness Avenue.

In April, 88 people were arrested or cited on charges related to prostitution in the district — up from the usual monthly tally of 10 to 20, according to Captain Ann Mannix of Northern Station on Fillmore Street. Charges included prostitution, soliciting prostitution and related offenses such as warrant arrests and traffic violations.

Among those charged were two pimps, who are notoriously elusive, police say.

The crackdown came in response to renewed complaints by area residents that the community risks being overtaken by problems related to sex for sale.

Among them is Dawn Trennert, who founded the Middle Polk Neighborhood Association five years ago after eight pimp shootings occurred in a short time. She rallied other neighbors in the area between California Street and Broadway to stage a night watch from 1 to 5 a.m. to gather empirical evidence.

They got an eyeful.

"We saw a pimp pull into the middle of the street at Sacramento and Larkin at 3 in the morning," says Trennert. "He drove in a circle, screaming at a woman who had just come onto her shift: 'You're wearing too many clothes, you crack whore bitch! This is San Francisco and you have to be naked to make money.'"

Captain Mannix says she and other law enforcement officers met about a year ago with residents to discuss the issue. In response, police undertook a one-month program to clamp down on prostitution in the neighborhood, largely led by plainclothes officers posing as johns or prostitutes. During the first two weeks of 2010, more than three dozen suspected prostitutes and 15 would-be customers were arrested.

Mannix says community complaints boiled up again this February — and again, Northern officers responded with a stepped-up abatement effort.

TO PAGE 5 ►



DISPATCH



The Schools of the Sacred Heart are in the Flood Mansion at 2222 Broadway.

Facebook Revolt at Sacred Heart Students, parents protest dismissal of a favorite teacher

TO THE EDITORS:

Last year, you reported on the reversal of the decision to close Stuart Hall High School in San Francisco in your July 2010 article, "Elite Private School Will Live On." Just short of a year later, there is another tremendous example of the same community coming together, this time to celebrate a Schools of the Sacred Heart educator, who after 38 years of service to the community has had her contract terminated, apparently without cause. Like last year's decision regarding the closing of Stuart Hall, this decision was made without input from the community, and it has attracted a similar outcry.

At the same time that young people are using social media to instigate social movements in the Middle East, young people at 2222 Broadway (and beyond) are using social media to instigate a social movement at home. This is a story about a little school with a big, big heart.

On May 20 the Schools of the Sacred Heart community became aware of the termination of the contract of Mrs. Celine Curran. The termination, for which no cause has been announced or evinced, has sparked a nationwide outpouring of responses from the Schools of the Sacred Heart community. Students, parents, and alumni alike, as well as people from outside the schools' community, have risen to celebrate a woman whom they have termed "the heart and soul" of the schools. A Facebook group begun by a current CSH junior reached nearly

1,000 members in a week. A blog hosted by tumblr, created by two recent CSH alumnae, offers page after page of letters and testimonials attesting to Mrs. Curran's impact on the community. Daily and sometimes hourly, a student, parent or alum posts a message in the Facebook group.

The worldwide network of Sacred Heart schools rests on five goals and criteria, which all students are taught. Goal Three is "A social awareness that impels to action." We students are living out this goal. We are taking the skills we learned in school and using them to take action and come together as a community, and our efforts to respond to this apparent injustice have been facilitated by the internet and social media.

As the schools approach their 125th anniversary, students are acting upon the goals and values that have formed an integral part of the Sacred Heart education since the beginning of the schools' existence. They are also acting upon an idea that is instilled in all students at Schools of the Sacred Heart: that a Sacred Heart education is not just an education of the mind, but of the heart. Mrs. Curran is "the heart and soul" of these schools, and the community has acted to celebrate her accordingly.

The tumblr blog with letters and testimonials of Mrs. Curran's impact on the community can be accessed at teamcurran.tumblr.com.

ELIZABETH MOORE
CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART '07

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Juneteenth Festival Coming Back to Fillmore

BY KELLIE ELL

WITH THE theme "Back on the Block," the annual Juneteenth celebration is coming home to the Fillmore this year and adding a focus on health and wellness.

This will be the 61st annual San Francisco Juneteenth Festival, which commemorates the end of slavery. The celebration will begin in the Civic Center — where the festival has been held in recent years — with a kick-off party on June 9 in the rotunda of City Hall. The main events will take place on June 18 and 19 on Fillmore Street between Geary and Fulton.

More than 10,000 people are expected to attend each day. And neighborhood leaders are hoping the return will bring more business to the Fillmore Jazz District.

"We're coming back with a different angle," said Floyd Trammel, president of the Fillmore Community Benefit District. "We'll have a more focused approach on health and wholeness," he said, unlike previous years when entertainment has been the main attraction.

As part of the new wellness theme, the event will include free health screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose and HIV, as well as nutrition information, cooking seminars and a variety of physical activities.



Wesley Johnson, owner of the Texas Playhouse, began Fillmore's Juneteenth celebration.

In addition, there will be more than 100 vendors setting up booths for food and arts, a car show and two music stages, plus a tribute to Michael Jackson by a local dance troupe.

Juneteenth was uprooted from the Fillmore three years ago after safety issues prompted a move to the Civic Center, according to Trammel.

He said Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi "thought it was imperative" to bring the San Francisco celebration back to the Fillmore, where it began in the early 1950s.

Wesley Johnson, a Texas native who owned the Texas Playhouse on Fillmore Street, started the festivities by inviting African Americans in the Bay Area to

his popular cocktail lounge to mark June 19, the day slaves in Texas got word of the Emancipation Proclamation declaring slavery illegal. The date is celebrated in Texas and most other states. Organizers say the San Francisco affair is the oldest and largest outside of Texas, where the event began in 1865.

"Juneteenth used to be in the Fillmore, one of the biggest African American communities in the city, until redevelopment completely sliced through it and almost destroyed it," said Vallie Brown, a legislative aide to Mirkarimi.

"Juneteenth always brings people back to the community from other neighborhoods and outside the city who have been forced to move."

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Omelette

The lovely lady you see before you is Omelette, a 7-month-old mini pinscher mix found as a stray in Oakland. When she first came to us, Omelette was overwhelmed with the sights and sounds of the city. Now that she's gained her confidence, Omelette has blossomed into a city-savvy canine and would like to continue learning the ropes in her forever-home! Although we don't see cats in her future, Omelette has proved to be a lively player with her shelter friends and would love a puppy-friendly dog to live with and learn from. If you are ready for leggy love and spunky playtimes, look no further than Omelette!



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CRIME WATCH

Battery Fillmore and Sacramento Streets April 25, 3:15 p.m.

A woman who had set up a display of political pamphlets was approached by a man who strongly disagreed with her opinions. He yelled obscenities at her, then attempted to tear down her display. When she fought to set it up again, he pushed her. She called the police and aimed her camera phone at him, but he walked toward her in a menacing manner. She quickly turned her head, thinking he meant to hit her. He then grasped her by the neck and squeezed hard, then suddenly released her. Officers arrived and detained the suspect. The woman signed a citizen's arrest for battery; the man was cited and released.

Prostitution Van Ness Avenue and Clay Street April 29, 12:05 a.m.

An officer participating in a plain-clothes prostitution abatement operation spotted a woman who was dressed for the beach. Since it was after midnight on a cold night, he suspected she might be a prostitute looking for customers. She saw the officer watching her from his car and approached him. The officer asked her how much, and she climbed into his unmarked car. He then told her he was a policeman and placed her under arrest.

Hot Prowl Burglary Van Ness Avenue and Eddy Street May 2, 9 p.m.

A man entered a home to commit a burglary while the resident was home; this is known as a hot prowling burglary. The home owner was terrified to see a man inside his residence; his screams frightened the burglar away. The suspect did take several items from the home, however, and left evidence behind, which enabled officers to identify him. He lives in the Western Addition and is well known by several officers. While on patrol a week later, two officers spotted the suspect walking down Eddy Street and placed him under arrest.

Narcotics Webster and O'Farrell Streets May 5, 10:20 p.m.

Officers were driving through the Safe-way parking lot when they saw a man they knew to be on probation sitting inside a car. Two other men were with him; the officers engaged them in conversation. One of the occupants told the officers his birth date, but it didn't match the age the man claimed to be. The suspect admitted to the officers that he was on parole and provided correct information. In his backpack, the officers found two baggies containing a large amount of methamphetamine. They also found an ID that bore the suspect's picture

and someone else's name. He was arrested for possession of drugs for sale.

Felony Assault Sacramento and Buchanan Streets May 8, 7:15 a.m.

An elderly woman was out walking her two dogs when a young man, with no provocation, ran up to her and forcefully pushed her to the ground. A security officer from California Pacific Medical Center witnessed the attack and rushed forward to aid her. He placed the suspect in custody and called the police. Officers responded and arrested the man. The woman was not seriously injured.

Theft Fillmore and O'Farrell Streets May 12, 10 p.m.

Officers from a citywide undercover team had information that two men involved in a bicycle theft were in the area attempting to sell an expensive stolen bike. The team located the men; one officer approached them as though intending to buy the bike. Then the rest of the team moved in and placed the suspects under arrest for possession of stolen property and theft. When the two were searched, officers found they were carrying false IDs as well as methamphetamine. Both were booked and sent to jail.

Auto Burglary Fillmore Street and Geary Boulevard May 20, 12:05 p.m.

Officers responded to a report of an auto break-in. When they arrived, the suspect had already fled with a laptop belonging to the owner of the vehicle. A witness advised the officers he had captured the suspect's image on his video camera; on viewing it, the officers recognized him from numerous prior contacts. They found the man a few blocks from the crime scene. He had managed to sell the computer by that time, and was arrested and charged with several felonies; his probation was revoked.

Robbery Washington Street and Van Ness Avenue May 25, 4:50 p.m.

A 16-year-old boy was riding a Muni bus when he noticed three individuals closely watching him. The boy got off the bus, intending to catch another bus. The three men got off with him. They then surrounded him and demanded his iPhone. Fearing for his safety, the boy handed it over. The three suspects then fled the scene. Responding officers detained several men who matched the victim's description. The boy who had been robbed identified two of them. The two suspects were charged with robbery, but the iPhone was never recovered.

KAREN PALAMOS, M.F.T.

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Local Residents Push for Crackdown on Prostitution

► FROM PAGE ONE

One of the highest concentrations of prostitution in the city is in an area near the neighborhood identified by police as "the track," bounded by Van Ness, Larkin, Clay and Ellis.

"The basic principle of supply and demand is heavy in that area," says Mannix. It is a logistically opportune spot, she says, since drivers have easy access, many businesses in the area stay open late and there are inexpensive hotels and motels nearby.

SOME LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE SURPRISED by both the big uptick in the number charged and the area being targeted, believing the Tenderloin neighborhood to be more of a hotbed for prostitution. But investigators say the two areas attract distinctly different crowds — the Tenderloin trending to local transvestite prostitutes who generally work alone, and the Van Ness strip drawing more out-of-town straight prostitutes working for violence-prone pimps.

"Prostitution is very competitive," Mannix says. "It begins at about 1 in the morning and continues until nearly dawn." During intensified prostitution crackdowns, records show as many as six or seven arrests in a targeted zone between midnight and 6 a.m.

Most of those arrested for prostitution during the recent sweep were women and most are from the East Bay, although some have been from Orange County and as far away as Las Vegas and Washington state; only a few are San Francisco residents.

Mannix says that prostitution seems to go "hand in hand" with a number of other crimes including drug sales, robberies, assaults and shootings. She also cited a pimp-on-pimp shooting at Bob's Donuts on Polk between Sacramento and Clay Streets in February.

There are also some more pragmatic concerns. "It's just not healthy for a neighborhood to have to go out and sweep up condoms every morning before the kids see them," says Tremont, of the Middle Polk association. "They say prostitution is a victimless crime, but it's anything but victimless. The neighborhoods are the serious victims here — serious victims."

DESPITE THE CRACKDOWN, some residents say police efforts to stop prostitution are sporadic and mostly ineffectual.

Mannix says it's a matter of priorities.

"We could do 88 every month," she says. "But in the scale of crime on Friday and Saturday nights, we have lots of other things to respond to — and they often must take precedence."

According to California law, anyone



"We could do 88 [prostitution arrests] every month. But we have lots of other things to respond to — and they often must take precedence."

— CAPTAIN ANN MANNIX
Northern Station, San Francisco Police Department

found guilty of prostitution or soliciting prostitution may be jailed up to six months, fined \$1,000, or both. Both prostitutes and their customers, often called johns, can face the same sentence. Repeat offenders face stiffer penalties, including up to six years of jail time. Another possible charge, "agreeing to engage in prostitution," illegal since 1986, makes it more difficult for all engaged in prostitution to claim they were entrapped or ensnared; that charge, however, does not lead to an increased sentence for repeat offenders.

Because of a lack of specific evidence and other legal complexities, many prostitution-related charges are reduced to lesser offenses such as disturbing the peace, trespassing or committing lewd conduct; all carry more lenient punishment and less personal stigma for those convicted.

State laws also specify that intent to engage in prostitution may be inferred from actions, such as beckoning to or stopping and talking with passersby or beckoning to drivers — especially in areas known for prostitution activity. Once investigating officers stop a suspected prostitute, evidence such as possessing a number of condoms, a large amount of cash or cell-

phone records tracking customers may also be considered as strengthening the charge.

"To get a john is more labor-intensive and time-intensive," says Mannix.

Says Sgt. Michael Andraychak, an officer who has worked such arrests: "When there are female undercover decoy officers working the streets, they want the john to approach them and start talking, to make some offer or agreement that there will be sex for money."

WITHOUT EVIDENCE of the conversation, it can be challenging to prove that a john solicited an illegal act. For charges of prostitution, it can be hard to prove another required element: that money or something else of value such as drugs changed hands. And if investigating officers conclude that a person will not likely reoffend — as is often the case with johns — they are cited and released.

The most serious offenses — pimping and pandering — are felonies punishable by three to six years in prison. "We really like to arrest pimps because they're the most violence-prone," Mannix says.

But that presents the biggest chal-

lenge of all: tracking individuals who often have enough street smarts to stay off the street, then linking them to the specific acts charged. To make the charges stick, a prostitute usually must be willing to testify against a pimp, which is rare.

In spotting those who may be soliciting prostitution, officers look most obviously at those wearing clothing that seems jarring or out of place, especially in the city's generally cool climates.

"You just can't believe it," says Mannix. "Sometimes they wear almost nothing at all."

Officers stop scantily clad women who seem to be loitering, often on corners, along curbs or at bus stops, and ask to see their identification. Computer checks often show a prior charge such as "loitering" or "commercialized sex." Most of these are deemed warrant arrests, where a suspect has already been arrested on the charge but did not show up as required for an arraignment. Those suspects are required to return to the jurisdiction where the warrant is pending.

BUT MODE OF DRESS and demeanor aren't always dependable indicators. One neighborhood regular, age 88, says he was propositioned while waiting for a bus at the corner of Van Ness and Union.

"A woman approached and asked what time the bus was coming," he says. "Then she asked a more personal question — whether I was going to lunch — and asked whether she could come along." That was followed by a more overt suggestion involving sex.

"I would have never, ever in a hundred years picked her as a hooker," he says. "She was dressed conservatively. Looked like she was 35 or 40 years old — an ordinary, attractive lady."

Mannix says that while prostitution in the track area is no longer being pursued as vigorously as during the April crackdown, there is still a persistent police presence in the area. "We continue steady enforcement," she says. "Now we're doing heavy traffic enforcement — motorcycle cops pulling people over who are impeding the flow of traffic."

But Tremont says this leaves her and other neighbors concerned.

"As soon as the patrols are done and the heat is off, they're back," she says. "We want to see arrests really matter. Currently a prostitute is arrested and barely even taken out of a business cycle. We need to interrupt their business cycles in a more serious way — and make johns realize they're taking risks, not only with their own health, but with the safety of the whole neighborhood."

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Travel Pros Discover Charms of the Fillmore

By CHRIS BARNETT

LUIZA SANTOS, who works for the Department of Commerce and is posted in the U.S. Embassy in South Africa, had not been to San Francisco in a decade — and never to the Fillmore.

"It's a very, very interesting neighborhood — the contrast between the architecture, the buildings, the ambiance of the street," she said, "it evokes a feeling of real charm."

Santos loves music, and on Sunday, May 22, she hit the trifecta: gospel brunch at 1300 on Fillmore, a tour of Yoshi's jazz club and a visit to the Fillmore Auditorium, the hallowed temple of rock and roll.

Santos wasn't just sightseeing.

She was on a mission to "promote U.S. destinations to seven African countries," she said. Santos was one of 5,500 delegates attending the International Pow Wow, where more than 1,100 U.S. and overseas tour operators from 70 countries visited with some 3,500 travel industry exhibitors on the floor of Moscone Center. About 450 travel writers from around the globe chronicled the wheeling and dealing and drank in the charms of San Francisco, with promoters spending \$5 million to woo them. Organizers estimate the event, which

Pow Wow delegates took in the gospel brunch at 1300 on Fillmore.



Chicago," he said. Like Santos, Klok cited Fillmore's "neighborhood character" as one of San Francisco's major assets.

Another attendee, Jim Allen, knows a thing or two about distinctive assets as a magnet for travelers. He's the marketing director for the 38-bedroom, 42-bathroom 68,000-square-foot castle built by William Randolph Hearst, the founder, editor and publisher of the original *San Francisco Examiner*, which he immodestly titled the "Monarch of the Dailies."

Allen, too, was a Fillmore Street first-timer. "I'm impressed," he said. "I wasn't expecting the upscale retail, the architecture — and all these young people."

Pow Wow delegate Debbie Wilson, director of the Florence, Alabama, Convention and Visitors Bureau and the state's Department of Tourism, is deep into jazz and blues. No surprise, then, that on her first visit to the neighborhood she was especially interested in its musical connections and offerings.

"To me, the Fillmore Auditorium is this living, breathing thing — a symbol of the way music was and what it is now," she said. Yoshi's, which presents jazz and all sorts of other musical styles, struck her as exceptionally eclectic.

Wilson also marveled at the city's shameless beauty: "Los Angeles is not that pretty unless you're on the coast," she said. "San Francisco is pretty everywhere. Plus, I really like the Fillmore's theme: the Heart and Soul of the City."

The Alabama native was at first a bit dubious about the menu at 1300 on Fillmore. "They're gonna tell me about grits?" she asked. But she left convinced. "They're really good," she said.

lasted five days, will generate an extra \$350 million in tourism dollars in the city over the next three years.

Some of the visitors got a chance to see San Francisco's neighborhoods, including about 30 who took the "Music, Mansions and Merchants" tour of the Fillmore.

"What's interesting to me," mused Santos, "is that Fillmore was a ghetto and all of

a sudden — almost overnight, I've heard — it became a trendy, arty, musical venue."

Another Pow Wow delegate, Tony Klok, vice chairman of Best Western Hotels' Global Group of Chicago, hadn't been to San Francisco in 20 years. But he sized up the neighborhood as the city's hot shopping street. "It looks like a cross between Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills and Oak Street in

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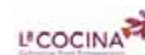
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COMMUNITY-GENERATED PROGRAMS
FROM THE FILLMORE ECONOMIC
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Snowballs in the Fillmore? Coming Soon

Training program will empower cooks, artists

By AUDREY MOLINA

MYANKA LEWIS-MIMS is no stranger to starting from scratch. She and her family moved to the Fillmore from New Orleans in 2005, just after Hurricane Katrina.

Lewis-Mims was actually born in San Francisco, but grew up in New Orleans. While many friends and family members returned to New Orleans after the disaster, she, her husband and their four children decided to settle here.

"I love the diversity in San Francisco," she says. "I never would have met the different people I've met here in New Orleans."

A business training program launching this month in the neighborhood aims to make it easier for entrepreneurs such as Lewis-Mims to start new ventures. Initiated as part of the Fillmore Economic Development Action Plan and funded by the city and Wells Fargo Bank, the Fillmore Mobile Food and Artisan Marketplace programs target cooks, caterers, artists, musicians and target people and aim to teach them the business skills they need to start businesses in the Fillmore Jazz District.



she decided to re-create her business here. She initially considered a storefront, but opted instead for the mobility of a trailer.

After qualifying for a grant through the Fillmore Community Benefits Fund in 2009, Lewis-Mims was able to cover the startup costs and get a trailer for her business, which she calls L&M New Orleans Style Snowballs. Bought new from Mississippi, it's equipped with an ice shaver and 40 different flavors of syrup. She also got her own ice machine, which makes 12 pound blocks of ice.

"A snowcone is like beer," she says. "A snowball is like champagne."

She says that clear ice, when shaved, provides the fluffy consistency that allows the snowball to mix with the syrup flavors. And while snowcones are made from pre-crushed ice, she says, snowballs are made from ice freshly shaved to order.

Lewis-Mims likens the snowball to Hawaiian shave ice. When she learned of the Mexican version, called the raspado, she expanded her menu to include classic Mexican flavors such as guava and mango. But her favorite flavor is wedding cake, which includes sweetened condensed milk.

So far Lewis-Mims has not yet operated out of her trailer, relying instead on catering parties. But she hopes the new Fillmore Mobile Food program will be what she needs to advance the city's revised permitting process so that she can introduce San Francisco to New Orleans style snowballs. "I'm ready to get out there," she says.

For more information about the Fillmore Mobile Food and Fillmore Artisan Marketplace programs, visit urbansolutions.org or call 553-4433, extension 101.

"I'm ready to get out there."

—MYANKA LEWIS-MIMS, owner of L&M New Orleans Style Snowballs

Urban Solutions, a nonprofit community and economic development organization with an office at 1290 Fillmore, will be leading business development training sessions with La Cocina, another nonprofit specializing in culinary entrepreneurship for low-income communities. Twelve sessions held from June to September will provide free consulting in business planning, financial management, marketing and the business permitting process.

"Our goal is to help neighborhood resi-

dents become entrepreneurs so they can be economically self-sufficient," says Jenny McNulty, executive director of Urban Solutions. "When they can earn enough income, they will be in good positions to create jobs for others."

A former nurse's assistant, Lewis-Mims ran her own snowball stand in New Orleans selling scoops of flavored shaved ice for extra income. When she saw that no one was making snowballs in San Francisco,



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A NUMBER of neighborhood establishments were highlighted by SF Weekly in its annual "Best of San Francisco" survey in May. Atop the Music Readers' poll as Best Jazz Club: Yoshi's; Best Live Music Venue: the Fillmore Auditorium; and Best Massage: Kabuki Springs and Spa. Here's what the editors had to say about "the ideal bookstore," "froyo even Alice Waters could love," "some of this city's most forward-thinking food," "best flaming sushi," "a shop that's put a stranglehold on cuteness" and the "best place to buy barefoot shoes."

Best Tiny (Non-Used) Bookstore Browser Books

2195 Fillmore (at Sacramento)

Considering its cozy dimensions, it's remarkable how much highly browsable reading matter is packed into this venerable (35-year-old) Pacific Heights hangout. Although the selection isn't elephantine, you're more likely to come upon some hard-to-find treasure among Browser's narrow aisles than at one of those three-story global-consortium pulp retailers. The well-organized inventory features an especially impressive array of books on food, philosophy, travel, poetry and history, as well as towering shelf after towering shelf of classic and contemporary literature. There's a nook with kids' books in back plus a table for reading, classical music on the stereo, knowledgeable staff and little handwritten recommendations here and there. The ideal bookstore.

Best Frozen Yogurt Fraise

1910 Fillmore (at Wilcox)

Patama Roj and Jessica Gilmartin started their from-scratch frozen yogurt business back when the Korean froyo bubble was still expanding, all in imitation of L.A. cult chain Pinkberry. But Fraise is froyo even Alice Waters could love. Made from organic Clover milk, it has a nipping acidity and lax sweetness. The consistency: faintly grainy, with the odd ice slider that can make it all seem supremely refreshing. Of course, toppings are the glitter makeup of frozen yogurt — you can turn your

Best OF THE Best

Survey finds some
of the city's top spots
in the neighborhood

peaked drift of slushy whiteness into something that's the style equivalent of K&S, if you want to, all mangoes, crumbled brownies and graham-cracker bits. But if you're craving textural counterpoint and your voice has dropped, go for cubes of housemade mochi — elastic and semi-opaque — and one of the fruit purses.

Best Restaurant Re-invention SPQR

1911 Fillmore (at Wilcox)

It's rare for a restaurant to survive a big transition without a name change and significant rebranding. But when Nate Appelman left SPQR to move to New York, his replacement, Matthew Accarrino, took the food in a radically different direction. Of course, the focus stayed nominally Italian, but Appelman's rustic Roman cuisine gave way to some of this city's most forward-thinking food — Wagyu beef tartare with smoked egg dressing, quail with burnt orange sauce, whole wheat bigoli with white Bolognese and fennel pollen. (The relentlessly creative chef shakes it up constantly; by the time you read this, none of those dishes will be on the menu, though a rolled, roasted rabbit with dried fruit and mustard seems to linger, and thank god.) Accarrino takes whole-animal

cooking even farther than his predecessor does, and it's not rare to see fried pig's ear, pheasant neck and lamb belly show up on dishes. Buoyed by Shelley Lindren's amazing wine list and a polished front-of-house staff, the extreme makeover has been a total success.

Best Flaming Sushi Extinguisher Roll at Tatakai

2815 California (at Divisadero)

Spicy rolls aren't a revelation in the landscape of city sushi bars, but Tatakai found a way to exclaim that its version is one of the fiercest in town. The Extinguisher Roll arrives at the table literally on fire, the corner of the plate torched for dramatic flair. The roll itself layers spicy amebiachi tuna with avocado, habanero-infused masago (fish roe) and hot sauce. This combination is enough to make you reach for a glass of water in no time.

Best Gift Shop for Japanese Wares New People

1746 Post (at Webster)


New People will persuade you that you need a necklace with an ice cream sundae on it, a smiley-faced toothpick holder and a round, puffy speaker to plug into your iPod and dangle out of your pocket — all in the same shopping trip. The retail cornerstone of the two-year-old complex in Japantown that also features an anime movie theater has managed to put a stranglehold on cuteness for an area already dripping with kawaii.

Best Place to Buy Barefoot Shoes Nomadic Outfitters

412 Presidio (at Sacramento)

If you live in San Francisco and want a pair of the outlandish-looking Vibram running slippers, Nomadic Outfitters is your store. Owner Nancy Block is a patient and knowledgeable vendor in a business whose patrons are often annoyingly obsessive about the specifications of their running gear. If you're looking to cast off your clunky, cushioned sneakers, she and Nomadic will help you make the transition with grace.


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Kathy O'Leary, age 11

By FRED ROSENBAUM

GROWING UP in Oakland in the 1880s, Gertrude Stein and her older brother Leo went to French plays, saw Millet's *Man with a Hoe* on display in San Francisco and often attended light opera with their father.

Bavarian-born immigrant Daniel Stein cared deeply about the education of his five children. Even before moving to the West Coast (he had first settled in Maryland and Pennsylvania), he had lived with his family in Vienna and Paris for two years, largely to broaden the horizons of his offspring. Thus the Steins were trilingual and often played classical music in their rustic East Oakland home.

There was much tension between the generations — Daniel was rigid and demanding, not least of all regarding Jewish observance — but the children were grateful for having been raised with a keen appreciation of nature and the arts.

After the early deaths of both parents, Michael, the oldest child and the only one with any business sense, became the head of the family. He augmented his father's estate by improving upon Daniel's plans to consolidate the San Francisco streetcar lines and selling the concept to railroad magnate Collis Huntington. Owning some real estate as well, the young Steins now had an independent source of income for life.

By far the most intellectually inclined of the Stein children, Gertrude and Leo were inseparable. Leo entered Harvard in 1892, and Gertrude joined him there a year later. They plunged into a stimulating world of ideas, studying under George Santayana and William James. The Steins considered

themselves advantaged as Californians, because for them the West meant "freedom, imagination and unconventionality." While Gertrude and Leo were intensely proud of being Jewish, as adults they never observed their faith; rather, they worshipped art and literature. Leo left college to travel for a year, broadening his sense of beauty in exotic locales such as Kyoto, Hong Kong and Cairo. He would eventually finish his formal education at Johns Hopkins, but then went abroad again, to Florence, where he spent two years studying Renaissance painting and initiated a lifelong friendship

with Bernhard Berenson, later a renowned art critic and historian. Gertrude also enrolled in Johns Hopkins, completing nearly all the coursework for a medical degree but never graduating. Feeling snubbed there as a Jew and even more as a female, and depressed because of the breakup of her relationship with a young Jewish woman she had met at Harvard, she turned increasingly to writing. In 1903 she decided to join her brother yet again, now as an expatriate. Leo had moved from Florence to Paris, and Gertrude would share his apartment near the Luxembourg Gardens.

Within the year, Leo and Gertrude were joined by their brother Michael and his wife, Sarah, the strong-willed daughter of a San Francisco Jewish lawyer. The Michael Steins, with their young son, set up house only a few blocks from Gertrude and Leo. During the next decade the four Steins — "the Stein Corporation," as they were jokingly known — would be instrumental in transforming Western art.

Paul Cezanne had worked almost in obscurity until the Steins began buying his paintings. When Michael purchased



The centerpiece of the Stein family fortune still stands at the corner of Washington and Lyon.

Before Paris, the Steins Were Locals

Property in Pacific Heights helped fund their world-changing art collection

Portrait of the Artist's Son, Paul for \$200, the French press noted the transaction and referred to him as a "crazy American."

But it was the young and impoverished Henri Matisse whose career was truly propelled by the Steins. In 1905 Leo bought *Woman with a Hat*, a widely ridiculed work that exemplified the fauves, or "wild beasts," as Matisse and his circle were known. Viewing the portrait's furious brushstrokes of vivid greens, reds and purples, "people were roaring with laughter at the picture and scratching at it," as Gertrude remembered. Leo paid 500 francs, barely enough to buy winter clothing for Matisse's daughter.

Sarah Stein did much more for the struggling artist, virtually sustaining him for the three decades she and Michael lived in Paris. Lacking her brother-in-law's background in art history, she judged paintings by instinct and, as Matisse's biographer has written, "delighted in the side of his work that struck others as the wildest and most barbaric." In one 18-month period Sarah or Leo bought virtually all of Matisse's output, and she came to own 40 of his paintings, displaying about a dozen in her apartment. She also bought his bronze sculptures and ceramic vases.


Sarah pleaded Matisse's case with art critics, including Bernhard Berenson, whom she "hypnotized" into buying a picture himself. She introduced Matisse to countless collectors, including the famous Cone sisters, whom Gertrude knew from Baltimore, and a host of wealthy San Francisco buyers passing through Paris. A century later Bay Area museums boast strong holdings of every phase of the master's work.

Soon after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, Michael and Sarah returned home



SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Matisse's *Woman with a Hat* established the Steins as avant-garde collectors soon after they arrived in Paris. The painting and other highlights of their collection would later come to hang for many years in the Pacific Heights home of family friend Elise Haas.

 newfillmore.com | video: "The Stein Connection"

to assess the damage to the centerpiece of the family fortune, a block of houses on Lyon Street that fortunately — not least of all for Matisse — suffered little damage. She brought along three of his works, including the bold *Portrait with a Green*

Stripe. Sarah exhibited the paintings for her many friends; it was the first time Matisse's work was shown in North America. As she wrote Gertrude, "Since the startling news that there was such stuff in town . . . I have been a very popular lady."

Like Sarah, many of the upper-middle-class Jewish women who came to view the paintings had studied art at the staid Mark Hopkins Institute and were astonished by a style resembling nothing they had ever seen. The young Annette Rosenshine, later a sculptor and psychoanalyst, was left "speechless and nonplussed, [believing] that these paintings were the accepted French art of the day."

Fascinated not only by the art but also by Sarah's tales of Left Bank salons, Annette accepted the Steins' invitation to work for the family in Paris. Her two-year stay would bring her into daily contact with Gertrude and remake Rosenshine's life.

Two other young women were also awed by the window on the Seine that Sarah had opened during her visit home: Harriet Levy, then a budding writer; and her intimate companion, the alluring Alice B. Toklas, an aspiring pianist who had lived with her pioneer Jewish grandparents on O'Farrell Street, next door to the Levys. Harriet and Alice eventually sailed for France, too. Like Rosenshine, Levy returned to California with Matisses (including the captivating *Girl with Green Eyes*) and other outstanding paintings, and continued her life of letters.

Toklas, as is well known, put aside her own ambitions and in effect married Gertrude, remaining dutifully at her side until Stein's death in Paris in 1946. There was the best-known lesbian relationship of the 20th century, and by writing of its sexual delights, Gertrude broke new ground in modern Western literature.

Excerpted from Cosmopolitans: A Social and Cultural History of the Jews of the San Francisco Bay Area © 2009. Published by the University of California Press.

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FILM

Black Film Fest a Family Affair

THIS YEAR'S San Francisco Black Film Festival, which runs from June 16 to 19, encompassing both Juneteenth and Father's Day, offers a convergence of events and sentiments.

The event features films and programs at venues throughout the neighborhood and the city. With the theme, "The Trajectory of the Black Family Through Film," the festival is the second to be directed by Kali Ray, who took over when his mother Ave Montague, the founding director of the festival, died two years ago.

The festival was founded in 1998 by Montague — an arts impresario, publicist and neighborhood resident — with the vision of providing black filmmakers, screenwriters and actors with a platform to present their art. Under her direction, the festival grew from a fledgling one-day event with \$3,000 in funding to an annual cultural festival spanning several days and including film screenings, panel discussions and the Urban Kidz component — a day of films and workshops for those age 3 to 12.

After Montague died in January 2009 at age 64, Ray stepped in to take over the festival with his partner Katera Crossley. The 2011 festival gets under way June 17

with the latest from local filmmaker Kevin Epps. His new film, *Straight Outta Hunter's Point 2*, is a follow-up to his first documentary, released in 2003, titled *Straight Outta Hunter's Point*. That film was a gritty examination of the area's culture, including crime, drugs and poverty. In the sequel, Epps revisits the neighborhood he grew up in and looks at the current state of the community.

In keeping with the family theme, the festival includes a video and essay contest.

"My Dad is My Hero." Entrants are asked to send in videos of two minutes or less, or essays of 500 words or fewer, honoring their fathers or their father figures. Entries should be sent in no later than June 10 to the San Francisco Black Film Festival, Box 15490, San Francisco, 94115. Winning entries will be honored on Father's Day, June 19.

Opening night events on June 17 will conclude with a Wind Down at the Lush Life Gallery at 1320 Fillmore. Saturday's events will include a Juneteenth Parade and an after party at the Boom Boom Room at 1601 Fillmore.

For more information and a complete schedule, visit the San Francisco Black Film Festival website at sbff.org.

A new film from local filmmaker Kevin Epps will screen at the Clay Theater on June 17 at 7:20 p.m.

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NOTES

Colette headlines earthquake benefit

Japantown's own Colette Ikemi-Osaki (above) will return to Yoshi's June 19 to perform a 3 p.m. benefit concert dedicated to the music of the second, or nisei, generation of Japanese-Americans — performing mostly jazz standards from the Great American Songbook.

Ikemi-Osaki has been performing since the age of 16 and attributes her earliest musical influences to her father, Shoji, who is celebrated in the Ukulele Hall of Fame, and her mother, Lellani, a noted hula dancer.

Tickets are \$25. All of the artists' proceeds from the concert will go to the Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund.

Fillmore legends return

Fillmore's John Handy and his saxophone take the stage at Yoshi's on June 28 in the second installment of a new series focusing on the Legends of Fillmore. Vocalist Sugar Pie DeSanto kicked off the series — and brought down the house — on May 24. Another legendary Fillmore vocalist, Faye Carol, will appear on July 26.

MUSIC

Soul Meets Salsa This Month at Yoshi's

By ANTHONY TORRES

THIS MONTH Yoshi's on Fillmore will feature an incredibly varied roster of musical offerings that includes folk singer-songwriter-social activist Bruce Cockburn, virtuoso child prodigy pianist turned jazz fusion wizard Hiroshi, Jamaican ska legends the Skatalites, the airtight Yellowjackets with guest Robben Ford, the smoking sounds of Maraca's Salsa & Latin Jazz Band, the all time blues great Bobby Blue Bland and Joe Bataan, aka the King of Latin Soul.

In his youth, Bataan was an Afro-Filipino bad boy who ran with the Dragons, a Puerto Rican gang in Spanish Harlem. At the age of 15, he got busted for stealing a car and was sentenced to five years in Cossack Correctional Facility. Already a doo-woop singer on street corners, in prison he taught himself to play music. When he got out, Bataan formed a band and helped develop what became a qualitatively new sound that blended the blues and soul into an urban Latin groove the likes of which had not been heard before. It was a kind of street music filled with lyrics about the everyday struggles of ghetto life. He infused soul with salsa and coined it "salsoul."

"What I realized was that no one was doing the Latin sound with English lyrics," he told the *Los Angeles Times* last year. "When I found out that I had this unique gift to write and infuse the Latin sound with the English lyrics, the rest was like history because it was virgin territory.... Had I been forced to go up against Smokey Robinson and the rest of the greats, I might have been lost in the shuffle. Because my style was unique, it allowed me to have my place in history — of course, you never know what history will say about you until many years later."

The music he created was so distinct that I can still remember the first time I heard it growing up in Los Angeles.

I came home one day, walked into my mother's house and saw my sister sitting on the floor in front of the stereo listening to an album. The music immediately caught my attention. It was Joe Bataan.

I started paying attention to the music and listening carefully to the lyrics, which are heartfelt and poignant narratives that speak to the social realities of race and class. For example, in "Ordinary Guy," a song addressed to an ex-lover, Bataan laments, "Exclusive night clubs are out of style with me, 'cause I don't associate with high society. I don't have thousands to spend, or a seaside cottage for the weekend. I'm just an ordinary, ordinary guy, Afro-Filipino, average sort of guy... that's what I am, ordinary man, you left behind."

After his 1981 album, *Bataan II*, he dropped out of the music scene. He spent more time with his family and also visited many correctional facilities, counseling youngsters and sharing his past experiences with crime and conviction and how he turned it all around for the better.

In 2005, Bataan broke his long hiatus with the release of *Cal/My Name*, a well-received work that began his re-emergence as the true originator of salsoul music.

Joe Bataan will be at Yoshi's, at 1330 Fillmore, on Saturday, June 25, for shows at 8 and 10 p.m. For information and tickets, visit yoshis.com.

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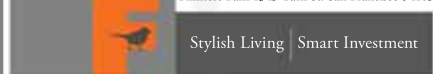
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82 Garden St	2	2	1	1179	4/21/11	599,000	599,000
2729 Bush St	2	2	1		4/27/11	599,000	600,000
2360 Union St #3	2	1	1		5/4/11	649,000	632,000
2060 Sutter St #509	2	2	1	1052	5/3/11	725,000	717,000
1998 Pacific Ave #105	2	2	1		4/28/11	725,000	725,000
3190 Scott St #305S	2	2	1		4/28/11	859,000	856,000
1600 Webster St #210	2	2	2	1327	5/5/11	895,000	860,000
1501 Greenwich St #403	2	2	1	1223	4/29/11	899,900	899,900
2205 Sacramento St #303	2	1.5	1	1582	5/11/11	949,000	938,000
2795 Clay St	3	2.5	0	1562	5/10/11	1,095,000	1,095,000
2754 Baker St	2	1.5	1		5/12/11	1,100,000	1,100,000
1880 Jackson St #201	2	2	1	1752	5/6/11	1,339,000	1,315,000
1935 California St	3	3	2	2240	5/6/11	1,389,000	1,400,000
2795 Laguna St	3	2	1	2421	4/27/11	1,450,000	1,465,000
2721 Sacramento St #8	2	2	1		4/29/11	1,450,000	1,505,000
3439 Sacramento St #202	3	2	2	2050	5/3/11	1,549,000	1,515,000
3042 Jackson St #1	3	2.5	1	2283	4/29/11	1,598,000	1,575,000
2114 Baker St #3	3	3	2		5/11/11	1,475,000	1,605,000
3110 California St #5	4	3	2	2319	5/10/11	1,950,000	1,860,000
1745 Vallejo St	3	2.5	1	2831	4/19/11	1,998,000	2,135,000
1998 Vallejo St #7	3	1	1	856	4/26/11	2,250,000	2,250,000
2999 Pacific Ave #4	4	4.5	3	4285	5/12/11	4,250,000	4,000,000

Homes are down, but condos are up

Sales of single family homes in the neighborhood have taken a hit during the past month, but there are signs of hope for the condo market. The average sale price of single family homes is down 38 percent from last month, partly because of a few lower and short sales. The volume of single family home sales fell nearly the same amount — but so did the time homes spent on the market. On the other hand, condo sales have fared better, with the volume of sales increasing by 35 percent, time spent on the market decreasing by 33 percent and average sale price increasing by 3 percent. The neighborhood trends are consistent with all sales in greater San Francisco.

RECENT SALES: Significant single family home sales during the last month included three Victorians in lower Pacific Heights, each renovated or remodeled to varying degrees. At 2611 Post Street, near Lyon, a 1-bedroom, 2-bath cottage with basic upgrades sold as a short sale for \$505,000, a rare price point for a home in the neighborhood. At 3044 Pine Street, near Presidio, a 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath Victorian with period details, an updated kitchen and a large decked backyard was originally listed at \$1,425,000 and sold within two weeks of a price reduction to an all-cash buyer. At 1855 Laguna Street, a renovated Victorian with a garden patio sold in just two weeks — although for 27 percent less than its previous sale price in 2006 — making it the fifth home sold since 2009 on the block between Pine and Bush.

NEW LISTINGS: A sample of notable new neighborhood listings this month includes: 3 Cottage Row, a remodeled 1,450 square foot, 3-level, 2-bedroom, 2-bath home on the historically significant foot path between Bush and Pine, which hit the market for \$1,195 million (with leased parking); 2523 Steiner Street, the renovated Pacific Heights urban townhome near Pacific, which was on the market in 2006 for \$3.3 million and is now listed as a foreclosure at \$1.45 million. At this price the house went into contract fairly quickly. It will be interesting to see the final sale price. More than 50 new condo listings hit the market during the past month, and six went into contract quickly. A top pick among them is 2322 Pine Street, a 4-bedroom, 3-bath, 2-level condominium just off Fillmore Street, listed at \$1,775 million.

— 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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