LANDMARKS

A walking tour of Pacific Heights

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GOOD WORKS

He's helping B+ kids go to college



LOCALS

Alice B. Toklas lived nearby

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# THENEWFILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ AUGUST 2011



# Boom Boom Room

Historic music club has been serving up good times since 1933

By Chris Barnett

A T THE Boom Boom Room, the divey-looking 78-year-old live music club on Fillmore at Geary, the best seat in the house is off limits to customers. The tufted red leather booth, with its perfect view of the band and dance floor, is permanently reserved for legendary blues guitarist John Lee Hooker, who some claim once owned the joint. Yet it's unfikely he'll show up these days for even the hottest act. John Lee died in 2002.

"Well, maybe to you he's dead. But not to me," insists Hooker's longtime business partner and the Boom Boom Room's current owner, Alexander Andreas.

Andreas claims clubgoers have offered as much as \$600 for Hooker's booth—instead of the red vinyl bar stools or the 35-foot leather banquette that runs along the south wall. But the bids all fall on deaf ears. "It's not for sale," he says.

John Lee may now be strumming at the Big Bad Blues Bar in the Sky, but his Boom Boom Room on Fillmore is very much alive and kicking it every night except Monday.

Öpened in 1933 as Jack's Tavern at 1931 Sutter Street, across from Cottage Row, it was the first live music club that welcomed blacks in what would become, during World War II, the Fillmore jazz district. The music has since strayed far and wide from the original wailings of Chicago and New Orleans style jazz and blues. Soloists, duos, trios and full blown bands today belt out everything from R&B, funk, soul, boogie, salsa, rock, hip-hop and boogaloo to booty-shaking sounds that defy classification.

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"It's not for sale." John Lee Hooker's red leather booth at the Boom Boom Room is still reserved only for him.

# Was It Really John Lee Hooker's Joint?



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUSIE BIEHLER

O DID swashbuckling blues guitarist John Lee Hooker really own the Boom Boom Room as a side gig? If you believe the sign above the door, he did. And if you listen to the current owner, Alexander Andreas, he did.

But don't bet your booty on it. Fillmore jazz genealogists Elizabeth Pepin and Lewis Watts, authors of Harlem of the West, say the bar opened in 1933 as Jack's Tavern and was originally located at 1931 Sutter Street. It was one of the first nightcubs in the neighborhood to cater to African Americans. It was also called Jack's of Sutter and the New Jack's Lounge in days

gone by.

In 1988, Jack's Tavern moved to its current spot at 1601 Fillmore, hard by the Geary bridge. A year later, Alexander Andreas — born and raised just off Fillmore and a wannabe filmmaker — landed a bartending job there.

A Marquette University grad, he used to trek during college from Milwaukee to Chicago to hang out at the city's blues bars and jazz clubs. But his bartending gig at Jack's quickly proved he would rather be an owner than sling pints and shots. "I was also doing production coordination for TV commercials," he says, "but if I asked my boss at Jack's for a day off, he'd give me a permanent vacation."

Andreas met the legendary John Lee Hooker in 1990.

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#### DEPARTURES

# As Colorful as His Photos

and a noted photographer who died on June 28. He had lived a full and passionate life filled with friends, flowers, art and a childlike love of primary colors, critters and people.

Many locals knew him from his daily romps through the neighborhood, usually in Paris and Rome for a time - and for

dressed in flip-flops and a cashmere turtleneck sweater he had one in every color imaginable and always with his dog, Rufus. Where

went, Rufus went. He ate nowhere without outside seating, or at least a nearby window. He would always say how much loved evervone Rufus over at Nest, or Zinc Details, or Woodhouse Fish Co. But I have a feeling it was Steve they adored.

Steve was a cel- Steve Lovi (1939-2011) and his dog Rufus

ebrated and widely published photographer. But while he had many passions, he loved people most. He Harrods Magazine. loved to chat it up with the locals and the shop owners in the neighborhood. Nest dent in his life and his work. and Blooming Floral have dedications to him on display.

He was truly a one-of-a-kind person, as colorful as his photographs. When I called, he would answer, "Hi cutie." Or he might just say, "You again. What do you want?" with a wink in his voice. Dave Parrisher, the manager at Mollie Stone's, can't forget the day Steve came in and demanded, "Where the #\*@\*! did you put the Krispy Kremes?"

Steve was extremely close to his twin sister, Sue Cohn, who lives in Arizona with her husband, Paul, They talked on the phone every day around 5 p.m. When he died unexpectedly of complications resulting from an aortic dissection, his neighbors at 1880 Steiner sent beautiful notes to Sue. Rufus before he went to live with a longtime friend of Steve's in Stinson Beach who owns a nursery there.

You can view Steve's photographs and the many accolades by searching his name online. Just a few examples: "an accomplished floral photographer," "interna

TEVE LOVI used to say that he "lucked tionally known for his incredible still life nto a fascinating life." imagery," "has a passion for perfection in He was a neighborhood free spirit composition and colors." "When Steve photographs a floral arrangement, you can almost smell the sweet fragrances wafting through the air."

But what isn't published is his incredible body of photographs of friends and people from his travels all over the world. He lived

> many years in London, before moving to San Francisco in 1989 He worked for

> Vogue in London and told me he got the job when an editor saw his photos at a mutual friend's Vogue called him for a photo shoot with its team of stylist and editors. He was naive enough at the time to say, "I'm sorry, but I work alone." And that set the standard for his work with other publishers and magazines such as Interiors, Tatler House and Garden

Brides, Cosmopolitan, Country Living and

He was fiercely independent and confi-

He came to San Francisco when Pau Hawken asked him to shoot the Smith and Hawken catalogs. He loved the assignment traveling up and down the California coast shooting real people in their gardens and workshops using Smith and Hawken tools.

He had met and befriended many in London's high society when he lived there and was on assignment for a beautiful book The Art of Giving.

But mostly he loved and had a deep

respect for those he called "real people."

And he loved his home here in the Fillmore. Cheerful brightly colored walls were filled with his treasures from a fascinating life. Art, books, cabinets of English and French pottery predating the 18th century, And many banded together to take care of ancient Japanese Buddhas — and the fun stuff: stuffed parrots, a bowl of eveballs monkey heads and a loin cloth of bark made especially for him by a native tribe in Indonesia

He was a one-of-a-kind local, and he will be missed

— JEANNINE BARNARD

### THE NEWFILLMORE

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### ■ STREET TALK

#### **Dumplings & Buns** coming this month

An enthusiastic crew has been hired, construction is almost complete and the doors will be opening soon at DUMPLINGS & BUNS the new Asian eatery and pantry coming in August just off Fillmore at 2411 California Street

It's a dream come true for May Lee, who's using family recipes and stocking unusual and hard-to-find ingredients. She'll be offering shrimp, pork, chicken and vegetarian pea shoot dumplings. And she promises buns baked fresh throughout the day - traditional barbecue pork and chicken buns, plus her "secret recipe" sweet dough buns filled with vanilla. chocolate and coconut cream

A BETTER CITIZEN: Citizen Cake is upping its game this month with an updated concept and a new name: ICE CREAM PARLOR & EATS. "We have liquid nitrogen ice cream starting in two weeks and a great menu — and I am psyched about all of it," says the ever-inventive Falkner

COMING & GOING: Meanwhile there's a summer lull up the block at longtime local favorite VIA VENETO. Owner Massimo Lavino is back home in Italy on vacation until August 2. "After 13 years of serving you and not having a day off, we are finally taking a whole week off, he writes in a note to his customers.
"Try not to eat if you can." . . . A
number of new clothing shops are under construction and soon to open. . . . And there is one available storefront on the prime stretch of Fillmore Street: the NATURAL SENSE ORGANIC MATTRESS store at 1850 Fillmore has closed its doors.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

# Local Gold Rush Bourbon Revived

Haas Brothers brings back a storied brand absent from the scene for many years

toric roots that is experiencing a renaissance — that was the cause for celebration in mid-July at the Elite

It was a 30th anniversary party for the Elite - held more than 80 years after its well-preserved Art Deco home first opened in 1928 as the Lincoln Grill.

But the rejuvenated Elite and its renovated building are youngsters compared to another local institution sharing the spotlight at the July 14 bash. The evening also marked the return of Cyrus Noble bourbon, first served up 140 years ago by the Haas Brothers and now available again for the first time in decades

"It's our neighborhood," says Steven Burrows, the chief operating officer of Haas Brothers and a descendent of the Haas family who grew up on Clay Street. "Of course we wanted a good start at home."

The Haas family came from Germany to San Francisco soon after gold was discovered and by 1851 was providing groceries and spirits to miners in California, Nevada and Alaska. Their relative Levi Strauss began making jeans.

Things didn't go so well for an unlucky miner named Cyrus Noble, who gave up his search for gold and returned to Ohio to work in a distillery, where he perfected his talent for tasting and blending. Legend says he became so intoxicated by his work that he fell into a vat of whiskey, which was promptly named for him.



Cvrus Noble bourbon was christened in 1871 and soon brought to California by Ohio lawyer Ernest Reuben Lilienthal. who entered the wholesale liquor business and joined forces with the Haas family.

The Haas-Lilienthal house on Franklin Street stands as one of many monuments to the families Cyrus Noble whiskey became

and in the parlors of the city's finest homes Vintage Cyrus Noble bottles can still be found in the pantry of the Haas-Lilienthal

"This was their drink of choice," says

But hourbon fell out of favor in the mid-20th century and the old-fashioned brand disappeared.

A new century and a new appreciation for cocktails prompted Haas Brothers to reconsider its historic brand, and on June 28 the firm announced it was bringing back Cyrus Noble bourbon - just in time for it to be offered up for tasting at the Elite's birthday party.

Burrows says Cyrus Noble will be offi-cially launched in the fall with a series of tastings at some of the city's establishments that "have been around as long as we have." Cyrus Noble is already available at some historic locales: Tadich Grill, Sam's, the Gold Dust Lounge and the House of Shields. Locally it's stocked at Cal-Mart in Laurel Village and Beverages & More.

It is still a local brand. Many members

of successive generations of the Haas family continue to live in the neighborhood, including the president of Haas Brothers Cyrus Noble's parent company: nearly 90-year-old Jane Burrows. She is the mother of Steven and his two sisters, who are all involved in the company, as are her seven granddaughters - and surely her three great-granddaughters won't be far a favored spirit both among gold miners behind





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#### CRIME WATCH

#### Assaults, Threats Van Ness Avenue and Pine Street June 25, 10:25 a.m.

Officers received a call concerning a violently aggressive panhandler at a gas station. The man was assaulting customers who refused to allow him to clean their windows. He then attacked the responding officer with his squeegee. The officer took the man to the ground, put him in handcuffs and placed him under arrest. While in custody, the suspect threatened to shoot the officer after he was released. He was the burglary. One had an outstanding warbooked for the assaults and the threat.

#### Gunshot Victim **Buchanan and Sacramento Streets** Iuly 2. 6:20 p.m.

Officers responded to a call concern ing a man who walked into California Pacific Medical Center with a gunshot wound. When they arrived, the patient was extremely uncooperative. He told the officers that he had been walking by the McDonald's on Fillmore Street when he heard what he thought were fireworks. He continued on to Webster Street, where he girlfriend, changed his clothes and they both got into a cab and went to the hos pital. He changed his story several times while talking to the police; officers never were able to locate a crime scene. The man July 12, 3:30 a.m. had an outstanding felony warrant and was placed under arrest.

#### Burelary Van Ness Avenue and Geary Boulevard July 5, 4:40 a.m.

Security guards at an abandoned building called the police about a break-in, directing responding officers to the area where they believed the suspects had gained entry. The intruders had cut a lock used to secure the outside of the building, then replaced it on the inside to make it appear as though the doors were still locked. Officers entered and immediately located the first of the two suspects. He was carrying a sledge hammer and other burglary tools, and was extremely sweaty from working to gain access to other parts of the building. Officers found the second suspect one floor down; in his backpack were hammers, saws, bolt cutters, screwdrivers, vise orins and gloves. The intruders were carrying stolen property, including an iPhone taken in an earlier street robbery. Officers also recovered a high-end stolen bike from them. Both suspects had extensive criminal records, and were charged with felonies.

### Eddy and Laguna Streets July 10, 3:20 p.m.

On July 8, a man who was asleep in his a felony.

living room was awakened by a loud crash He went upstairs to investigate and found four individuals prowling around in the three bedrooms. The intruders spotted the resident and ran out of the apartment. The man could see that all three bedrooms had been ransacked, but could not determine if anything was missing. Officers viewed footage from the crime cameras that cover the area and identified three of the four suspects. Two days later, they spotted two of them on the street and arrested them for rant, also for burglary.

#### Auto Burglary Webster and Sutter Streets July 10, 9:40 p.m.

Officers received a report of an auto burglary. The witness told the officers he'd heard the sound of glass breaking while walking down the street. On investigating ing around in the interior. En route to the scene, officers detained a suspect matching the description broadcast by dispatch and found common auto burglary tools in his realized he had been shot. He called his pockets. He was arrested and charged with

### Felony Drug Offense Bush Street and Van Ness Avenue

Officers driving in the area spotted two men they knew to be on probation talking to the driver of a car pulled over to the curb. When the two realized the police were watching, the car sped off and recklessly merged into traffic. Given the time of night and the location, the officers suspected criminal activity was taking place. They pursued the car stopped it and immediately saw meth on the front seat. The driver was on probation for drug sales Inside the suspect's wallet officers found counterfeit money fake credit cards and checks with false IDs to match. The suspect was charged with several felonies.

### Shoplifting Webster and Ellis Streets July 16, 3:50 p.m.

Officers were called to the Safeway store, where security personnel were holding a suspected shoplifter. The man entered the store and went straight to the beauty section. He then produced a brown paper Safeway bag and proceeded to load it with 11 bottles of Oil of Olay items worth \$136. Then he exited the store without paying. Officers believe the items had been "ordered" by individuals who meant to sell them on the street. Because the suspect had committed this sort of theft multiple times, he was charged with

"If I had but two loaves of bread I'd sell one and buy hyacinths



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### FOOD & WINE

By Louise Thompson

THEN the new Thai restsaurant Sweet Lime opened a few months ago at 2100 Sutter, near Steiner, it had much-loved shoes to fill: It moved into the spot Neecha Thai had held for many years.

But new owner Thassanee Ruthaiwat - or Nee, as she's known to friends and customers - and her business partner, Raungratana "Jamie" Disyamonthon, have met the challenge by combining tradition and creativity - and hard work

Their vision is to make Sweet Lime a Thai restaurant where fresh flavors star, with a modern spin on the classics. Everything at the restaurant is made from scratch, using organic sources where nossible, and no MSG. They even toast their own coconut and roast their own peanuts for the variety of sauces they offer

"It's extra work, but for us, it's worth it," says Nee.

As a daily ritual, Nee and Jamie whip up recipe ideas together, challenging one another to come up with new takes on seasonal produce. They say great Thai cuisine combines different flavor elements - the interplay of sweet, salty, sour and bitter in every bite. Family heritage is also impor-

"In Thai cuisine, there are endless variations on recipes and ingredients, and every family has their own style," says Jamie.

Some of the most popular dishes at Sweet Lime are ones that are very familiar. such as pad thai and chicken satay. However, Sweet Lime offers a fresh twist on these classics

"We make our own fresh noodles for



Sweet Lime owner Thassanee Ruthalwat welcomes diners at Sutter and Steiner Streets

# **Showcase for Fresh Flavors**

Sweet Lime serves up the tastes of Thailand

the pad thai, when many others use dried and also reasonably priced. Starters, salads versions," says Nee. "We get a lot of cus- and soups range from \$5 to \$10. Main tomer feedback that our version is the best pad thai they've ever eaten. And one of my fried rice, wok selections and chef's favoremployees will only eat chicken satay at ites feature vegetables, lamb and fish, all Sweet Lime - nowhere else."

The menu is varied and ambitious -

dishes offering barbecue, curries, noodles, \$13 and under.

A popular appetizer, miang kham,

encourages diners to combine seven different ingredients — including ginger, lime, jalapeno, toasted peanuts, toasted coconut and onion - onto a fresh spinach leaf, then drizzle it with a tamarind peanut sauce. It's a fun way to eat, and one that wakes up the

With a family that owns both a restaurant and a curry paste factory in her native Bangkok, it was perhaps inevitable that Nee would follow in their footsteps. Just over a decade ago, after realizing that her law studies weren't providing the inspiration she was looking for, Nee was working at various Bay Area restaurants, including Sausalito's acclaimed Sushi Ran, and also San Rafael's Royal Thai, where she met Iamie

The two immediately hit it off and stayed in touch over the years. When Nee was ready to strike out on her own, she called Jamie, and the idea for Sweet Lime was horn

While Nee was eager to realize her vision, she was also keen to honor the legacy of the corner spot at Sutter and Steiner, In fact, it seemed like fate: Jamie had tried to buy the premises years earlier when it was a Chinese restaurant whose owners were looking to sell. So the two of them knew and loved the area and when the owners of Neecha were ready to retire, they found eager buyers in Nee and Jamie.

"Jamie is a mentor for me, and I gain such a lot from her," Nee says, "And of course, it's wonderful to be able to work with your friends."

Sweet Lime is open for lunch Monday through Saturday and for dinner every night. It also offers catering for special











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# **Boom Boom** Room Keeps **Music Alive**

Andreas distills it down to "soul-centric on-your-feet roots music."

One thing is certain: The Boom Boom Room has the best happy hour - make that happy hours - on the street. At 4 p.m., 10 draught beers start flowing at \$3 a pint. No taps for boring Bud or puny Miller Light here; they're mainly Northern California microbrews sporting names like Arrogant Bastard, Downtown Brown, Dead Guy Ale and White Lightning. The same three bucks will get you a bottle of Pabst, Heineken, Corona, Negro Modello, Amstel Light and non-alcoholic O'Doul. Well drinks and wine are also priced at \$3, but don't look for Far Niente or Iordan; the wines here are a step up from the stuff that comes in a box. Happy hour ends at 8 p.m. and prices revert back to about \$5 to \$7.

The Boom Boom Room isn't really a cocktail bar, although it does mix the classic martinis, sazaracs and manhattans.

But the stand up and shake it clientele here is a beer and whiskey crowd, anyway. When they opt for something stronger, it's usually bourbon, scotch, vodka or rum straight or with a mixer. Barkeens have no time to tinker with six or seven ingredients and customers don't have the patience to wait for it. The creativity is on stage, not in the glass

The best time to drop in to the Boom Boom Room is around 6 p.m. when the band performing for the night will be tuning up and riffing the crowd has not yet gathered, happy hour prices are in effect and no one is collecting admission. The cover charge, ranging from \$5 to \$20 depending on the day of the week and the performers starts at 9 p.m. along with the show. There's no cover on Sundays and Tuesdays.

Three hours before showtime is a lot like dress rehearsal; you see the room in all its naked glory. Beer boxes are strewn around. The house lights are tested, sound checks are taken, the mood of the place keeps changing. The band itself seems to often does. Andreas says musicians playing snapped at a recording studio that once the Fillmore Auditorium and other clubs will frequently swing by and sit in with the band, often unexpectedly, for a song, a set or for the night.

Before the first downbeat is also a good



The stand up and shake it clientele at the Boom Boom Room is a beer and whiskey crowd, and the decor is mostly red and black



whites of greats from another era, recent Hooker himself and a potpourri of photos of national treasures and local heroes, randomly hung. Among them are Buddy Miles, Fillmore's own Etta James and stood on the corner of Pierce and Bush. Andreas himself took some of the photos, and others are by the great San Francisco delic.

time to check out the art: faded black and Boom Room roars to life. Candles flicker in squatty red hurricane lamps on every color photos, some paintings of John Lee table and along the bar. The overhead spots bathe the rich velvet stage drape in blood red and give the musicians a soft amber glow. The powerhouse sound system sounds like Dolby on steroids. The spinning disco shrink and expand before your very eyes. It Muddy Waters and his band, who were ball throws off a kaleidoscope of mirrored images. Two Sputnik light fixtures over the bar radiate an odd but soothing turquoise. The sensation is just this side of psyche-

On a recent Saturday night, Andreas,

43, sporting a black T-shirt, was drinking in the scene along with a Maker's Mark or the rocks, clearly pleased.

"You'll notice everything's curved here - the bar, banquettes, the leather uphol-stered automobile bumpers over the backbar," he notes. Amazingly, the car bumpers fit right into the decor. So do the two dozer small brass plaques affixed to the bar in front of every stool - tiny tributes saluting some of Fillmore's colorful characters by their street names: Chili Joe, Trumpet, the Lawman, Cable Car Joe, Nash, Mashed Potato George and Big Earl.

"Trumpet carried a trumpet case but he never played the trumpet." Andreas recalls "He was a bartender when this was Jack's Bar on Sutter." He also recalls the case was packed with loaded dice for the pick-up games he always had going in an alley near ack's — that is, until one of the perennia losers examined the "bones."

The brass plaques, the framed photos the tales of vestervear the DI station ius inside the front door and the juke box that hangs on the wall at the east end of the backbar are all ways the Boom Boom Room is doing its part to make sure the giants and the unknowns of jazz and blues and their music will never be forgotten.

Andreas puts it his way: "This place is dedicated to the pioneers, originators and legends, both old and new - the famous musicians and the up-and-coming artists.



"It was cool," says Boom Boom Room owner Alexander Andreas of working with John Lee Hooker. "I was part of his entourage."

# 'Want to Have Your Own Club, John Lee?'

"It was just after he cut a single with Bonnie Raitt and he walked in the front door with his small entourage — a couple of young girls and his driver. John Lee was enjoying himself and I told the doorman to make sure no one bothered him," he says.

The Jackie Ivory Ouartet - which had opened for Junior Walker and the All-Stars

and his ladies came in every weekend to guitarist spotted him. watch them perform. Andreas saw that the quickly served. "He always dressed in sharkskin suits and wore a Homburg hat,"

becoming a groupie, Andreas went to Fos-

was Jack's Tavern's house band. Hooker ter City to catch a Hooker show and the

"You want to come to my shows?" group got the best seats and strong drinks Hooker asked. "Fine, you can carry my

He did, carrying the case to every Hooker performance at many venues in An unabashed fan who was quickly the Bay Área. "It was cool. I was part of his Lee Hooker died. entourage," Andreas says now

Meantime, Andreas says, the owner of Jack's Tavern was gutting the club, getting rid of the dance floor, extending the bar "He was trying to make it a beer bar with 50 taps and an Irish balladeer standing on a soap box. It was just gaudy and tacky, with lots of neon signs from Budweiser and Coors," he says. "Plus, he was kicking out all the old-timers like Mashed Potato George, Big Earl and Trumpet."

Disgusted, Andreas quit and looked around for a place of his own. After 18 months of searching the city, he heard Jack's Tavern's owner owed back rent and couldn't get his lease renewed.

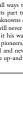
Andreas rustled up the money, went around his old boss to the landlord and won the lease. But Jack's Tavern was by then a tired and tainted name. The new proprietor remembered that Hooker had recorded a song called "Boom, Boom," Suddenly Andreas had a name — the Boom Boon

But he needed a partner, preferably one with visibility "I went to John Lee and said 'Wouldn't you like to have your own club-And his answer was, 'Hell, yes, I would.' But his business manager shot me down, saying, 'Suppose someone slips, falls and sues. Hooker would be liable and it could besmirch his name."

Andreas, whose father is a lawyer, came up with a canny solution. They would use John Lee Hooker's name and likeness, but he wouldn't actually invest a dime.

The celebrated guitarist was thrilled. He had his own club with all the perks of ownership - a private booth, fine bourbons but none of the perils and problems of running a club. Andreas in turn netted plenty of promotional capital that's still paying dividends today, nearly a decade after John

- CHRIS BARNETT







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### WALKING TOUR



# Starting Point: Fillmore & Broadway

A walk around the neighborhood at the heart of Pacific Heights

By Madiivn Straka

ACIFIC HEIGHTS became the neighorhood of choice for San Francisco's elite in the late 1800s when people began moving west from the crowded city center. Growth intensified along the crest of the hill overlooking the bay after the 1906 earthquake and fire.

The architecture in this area is widely varied, from monumental mansions and luxury cooperative apartment towers to the earliest house in the neighborhood, built as a dairy farmhouse in the mid-1800s. You will see many of the city's hallmark Victorians - stately Italianates with their tall narrow windows and doors, ornate Sticks and whimsical Queen Anne towers.

Begin at the corner of Broadway and Fillmore Street

FIRST TAKE IN THE VIEW (TOP). Looking north, Pacific Heights blends into Cow Hollow and then the flats of the Marina district. The Marina homes are built on landfill created for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. The Marina was significantly damaged in the 1989 earthquake; Pacific Heights, built on solid rock, was virtually unaffected.

Walk east on Broadway toward Webster past the four buildings that make up the Schools of the Sacred Heart.

2252 BROADWAY (ABOVE LEFT). Now Stuart through 8th grade, and recently renovated and made "green," this house was built in

and railroad magnate. The individual classrooms were formerly bedrooms, dressing rooms or sitting rooms, and many still have fireplaces. Imagine trying to concentrate on schoolwork with a panoramic bay view

2222 BROADWAY (ABOVE RIGHT). After the 1906 earthquake, James L. Flood assured marble on a hill of granite." This mansion is the result. Designed by architects Bliss Hall School for Boys, housing kindergarten & Faville in 1912 for Flood, the son of a flowers. The huge glass doors lead to the mansion is now part of the Schools of the

iust out the window.

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1905 for Andrew B. Hammond, a lumber Sacred Heart. The building is often rented out on weekends for weddings, receptions and formal parties. Inside, guests enjoy sweeping bay views and the ambiance of a grand home. Highlights include handcarved oak naneling and acres of Tennessee marble, which is also used for the exterior.

A SECRET GARDEN. Just east of the Flood Mansion, look for a decorative black iron his wife, Maud: "I will build you a house of gate that leads through the Campbell play yard to a hidden courtyard and garden. Notice the tile work, fountain and seasonal silver baron, this Italian Renaissance style recention hall: small decorative windows

RPOADWAY AND WERSTED (AROVE DIGHT) Stop at the corner and look down the hill which is helpfully pointed out by a street sign. Webster between Broadway and Vallejo is the sixth steepest street in San Francisco, with a grade of 26 percent. (The steepest is on Filbert Street on Russian Hill, which has a 31.5 percent grade.)

Cross Broadway heading south on Webster.

2201 BROADWAY. The Herbst House is the latest addition to the Schools of the Sacred Heart complex, dedicated to the memory of Maurice and Herman Herbst, who started the garbage collection business in Sar Francisco. It currently houses the school's science labs and art classrooms. The architect was G. Albert Lansburgh, designer of the interior of the Opera House, who created this house for original owner John Grant. The Grant family — San Francisco's premier dry goods merchants - also owned the house across the street at 2200 BROADWAY (ABOVE RIGHT), now another par of the Sacred Heart schools

2590 WEBSTER. Many consulates in Pacific Heights serve a dual purpose: They are the consulate office as well as a home to the consul general. This building, housing the Italian consulate, dates from the 1920s and was built originally for the Harry Hill family. It was sold to the Italian government

2550 WEBSTER. This imposing structure now under renovation after being ignored and in decline for many years - was built

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ited his father's gold mine and was the head of the Spring Valley Water Company and what became PG&E. Much-lauded architect Willis Polk designed this house for Bourn as well as Filoli, his garden estate in Woodside, which is open to the public.

WEBSTER STREET AND PACIFIC AVENUE Eight sycamore trees at the southwest corner have all grown together. The process of pruning and training branches to weave together is called pleaching. Don't miss the ornate Parisian style apartment building just south on Webster

Turn left on Pacific and walk east toward

2227 PACIFIC. All Victorians were originally painted gray, white or earth tones. The multi-colored schemes, such as this specimen, started in the Haight in the late 1960s and 1970s as designers and painters did a blockbuster business, selecting the most unusual color combinations for the

2209 PACIFIC. This structure, with its ornate doors and windows, was built in 1915 and formerly housed the consul general of Monaco. It is now for sale for \$9.5 million. Note the former carriage

Turn right on Buchanan and walk one block

2198 JACKSON. This inviting brownstone mansion, built in 1900 as a duplex for the son and daughter of the Callahan fam-

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ilv. is now a bed and breakfast. The twin homes are joined by a shared courtyard. Step inside to see the common area with its wood-paneled parlor and game room. There are 10 unique rooms here, each offering a different combination of antique and contemporary furnishings.

Go right on Jackson one block to Webster.



2209 JACKSON (ABOVE). Look for the "cottage" behind the white picket fence where Danielle Steele wrote many of her books. Nearby are ornate Queen Anne Victorians, which often have a corner tower with a turret or witch's cap and lots of gingerbread. Other common features: triangular gables at the top, overlapping shingles called scales and stained glass.

Turn left on Webster Street and walk south two blocks to see rows of Italianate Victorians

WEBSTER STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT. These homes were built in the 1870s and could have been purchased for less than \$5,000. They were occupied by middle class families, including a secretary, a bank teller and a mining engineer, Today, some would sell for \$2 million or more.

Return to Jackson Street, turn left and walk one block west to Fillmore

2515 FILLMORE. Parts of Calvary Presbyterian Church date to 1854 and were moved to this site brick by brick and pew by new in 1901 from Union Square, where the St. Francis Hotel stands today. This church has had several additions through the years, including the chapel and education building. The sanctuary retains a 19th century feel, with its ornate stained glas and cast iron pillars.

Continue west on Jackson for one block to Steiner. Note the variety of Victorian architecture on this block

2500 STEINER (ABOVE RIGHT). When you see this building distinctively jutting out of the San Francisco skyline, it looks tall and narrow, like a pencil with an eraser on top. Each of its 12 floors is a full-floor cooperative apartment affording excellent views on all sides. Its politically active residents have regularly hosted public figures, including Barack Obama and Bill and Hillary Clin-

ALTA PLAZA PARK. Just across the street is a former quarry now home to one of San Francisco's most magnificent parks. Its four square city blocks have tennis courts, a basketball court, a children's play area and recent addition - a dog run area.

on Pacific and walk to Pierce and back. Note the row of Queen Anne Victorians

2516 PACIFIC. This French Gothic mansion, for many years the residence of the British consul general, was designed in 1923 by Lewis Hobart, who is well known for his buildings in the Financial District and as the architect of Grace Cathedral.



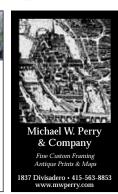
2475 PACIFIC (ABOVE). The tour concludes at the oldest house in Pacific Heights. The original structure was an early farmhouse once surrounded by a 25-acre dairy, which may date back to the 1850s. The entrance porch and false front were added later, the garage more recently. This home was owned by a ferry boat captain in 1906. He didn't realize there was an earthquake; he thought it was the rocking of his boat.

Marilyn Straka has lived in Pacific Heights for more than 40 years. She started On the Level tours, which avoid hills and steps, to follow her passion of working with seniors and people with disabilities. For more information, visit onthelevel com or call



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8 NEW FILLMORE August 2011 August 2011 NEW FILLMORE 9 GOOD WORKS

By Carol McLaughlin

F ANYONE knows what it means to keep going in the face of adversity, it's Olu-shade Unger.

She grew up shuttling between her mother's home in the Fillmore district and her father's place in Hunters Point, where violence and gang activities were commonplace. Unger was in high school, planning on attending college, when her musician father became ill with cancer and couldn't work. Life became an emotional and financial roller coaster.

Her high school grades suffered during the year of her father's illness. But she worked hard to catch up, graduated with good grades and was accepted at UC San Diego, where the annual bill is nearly \$28,000. She got Pell and Cal grants that covered some of the costs, but not nearly enough. And her B average grades weren't high enough to qualify for the merit scholarships available to top students.

So she applied for a Meritus College Fund scholarship, awarded to students whose GPA is 3.0 to 3.7.

Meritus College Fund, which began 15 years ago, is the brainchild of Dr. Henry Safrit, who retired a few years ago from his endocrinology practice at California Pacific Medical Center in the neighborhood.

Safrit developed the idea of providing college scholarships to underprivileged an organization that provides services to their families to attend college. homeless youth. During his tenure, he saw the uphill battle young people face when they lack the education or resources to extricate themselves from their situations



Meritus scholar Olushade Unger (center) in Honduras on a public health project.

# A Doctor's B+ Brainchild

Henry Safrit's unusual college scholarship fund

JEFF BELLEROSE • RECENT PAINTINGS

low-income San Francisco high school members were signing on to fund a stugrade point average and are determined to donation goes directly to the student. go to college. Many grow up in neighbor-hoods plagued by drugs and violence, some students into their home in Pacific Heights children while serving on the board of foster homes — and most are the first in it's not just the money that's a huge benefit,

along with a few friends, pooled their

College Fund to provide scholarships to was infectious. Soon other community graduates who, in spite of significant chal- dent, either individually or in groups. A lenges in their lives, maintain at least a B draw is that 100 percent of the scholarship

are from single parent families or live in for dinner and talks. Meritus scholars say but also the personal guidance each student That first year, Safrit and his wife Karin, gets and the friendships that develop.

Many student-donor relationships have resources to provide a single scholarship flourished beyond college years. That first and mentoring to a low-income student. student, Diana Wang-Louie, stayed in In 1996. Safrit founded the Meritus Safrit's passion for the Meritus program touch with Safrit and the Meritus staff

since her college graduation in 2000. Now a successful businesswoman, she has given back to Meritus by becoming a donor her-

Unger, who has now completed the Meritus program, intends to stay in touch with her donors, who were also mentors.

"I couldn't have made it throughout my college career without your insight and motivation because these two characteristics are definitely what have given me the strength to continue all of these years," she wrote. Unger is finishing up at UC San Diego, majoring in human biology, and making plans to go on to graduate school.

Since its founding, Meritus has awarded 485 scholarships totaling more \$5 million. And 87 percent of its scholars graduate from college. The program guarantees \$12,000 scholarships to qualifying applicants, and all a Meritus scholar has to do is attend a four-year college, maintain a passing grade and correspond with his or her donor twice a year.

In June, \$552,000 was given to the 46 new Meritus scholars, who were recognized at an awards ceremony and will begin their college careers in the fall. The fund is already recruiting students and donors for

Safrit stepped down in 2008 from the Meritus board to launch the San Francisco Achievers program. His aim is to shepherd African American boys whose GPAs are between 2.0 and 2.9 through high school and college. The program, modeled after Meritus, has awarded 30 \$12,000 scholarships since its beginning, and 90 percent of the students are still in college.

For more information on the Meritus College Fund, visit meritusfund.org.

# Before Paris, Alice B. Toklas Lived Nearby

Her family home was at 822 O'Farrell Street

By Wanda M. Corn

LICE BABETTE TOKLAS met Gertrude Stein in the fall of 1907. She had come to Paris from San Francisco with her next-door neighbor, Harriet Levy, and had enough money to last her a year, although she hoped an inheritance from her grandfather's estate would allow her to stay longer. Little did she know that she would remain in Paris for the rest of her life and see San Francisco briefly only one more time, 28 years later.

Toklas had reason to seek adventure abroad. She had enjoyed a comfortable childhood - a trip abroad when she was eight, a few years in Seattle - but when her mother was diagnosed with cancer and then died in 1897, her personal life atro-

At 20, unmarried, Toklas was deemed by her father mature enough to raise her 10-year-old brother and take over her mother's job of managing the household. duties she had already undertaken because of her mother's illness. The threesome moved into [822 O'Farrell Street, near Van Ness Avenue] the home of her grandfather



ART

Alice B. Toklas (right) went to Paris with her next-door neighbor, Harriet Levy. When Levy returned to San Francisco, she moved in with Gertrude Stein (left).

men, with relatives dropping by for meals.

Harriet Levy, a friend from the house next door, was appalled to see how hard Alice worked and how little she was appre-

owed, and Toklas ran a household of three them only as a housekeeper," she recalled, a "provider of food and of general comfort. Any opinion that she might venture at table was ignored or sponged out by a laugh. . . . Each night she sat at the long table, upno

ticed among the repetition of relatives. . . Alice was odd, they said, and forgot her."

In 10 years, the "odd" Toklas acquired the consummate skills in housekeeping, meal planning and managing servants that she brought with her to Paris and to the homes she shared with Stein.

Toklas and Levy looked up the Steins, with whom they both had connections, when they visited Paris, as did several other young Jewish women from the San Francisco Bay Area. Harriet Levy had studied art with Sarah Stein at the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art, and Toklas's cousin Annette Rosenshine had accompanied Michael and Sarah Stein when they returned to France after a quick trip to San Francisco in 1906 to assess earthquake damage [to rental flats they owned at Washington and Lyon Streets in Pacific Heights].

When Toklas arrived, she found her cousin closely attached to Gertrude, who had volunteered to be Annette's psychological counselor. In exchange, Annette was typing Stein's manuscripts and joining her on afternoon walks. Annette had already shown Stein some letters to her from her cousin Alice; these were Stein's first introductions to the woman who would change her life

Struck by her appearance, Picasso painted a small gouache study of Alice's head within the first months of her arrival Levinson, her mother's father, now wid-ciated, "In spite of her youth she existed to in Paris, The Steins had introduced Picasso and his circle to Toklas and Harriet Levy, who then hired his lover, Fernande Olivier to tutor them in French conversation three mornings a week.

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### LIGHT SUMMER

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# Michael and Sarah Stein: From Pierce Street to Paris

By Jerome Tarshis

HE STEINS COLLECT," the excellent exhibition now at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, focuses on Gertrude Stein for understandable reasons: She was one of the most celebrated writers of the 20th century and, together with Alice B. Toklas, was also the dominant half of the most famous lesbian couple in history. Hers is the most recognizable name in the family.

Her brother Leo, a gifted explainer of the art he and his sister collected, and himself an occasional painter, was in his own way equally pyrotechnic until he almost willfully burned himself out and broke with Gertrude in 1913.

Their brother Michael and his wife. Sarah, presented themselves less brilliantly Unlike Gertrude and Leo, birds of passage who left the Bay Area at an early age for Harvard, Johns Hopkins and then Paris. Michael and Sarah were deeply established in the city's commercial and social life.

Sarah's father was the chief operating officer of The City of Paris, a major department store. After graduating first in her class from high school, she took lessons at the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art, a predecessor of today's San Francisco Art Institute. It was an appropriate thing for a young woman in her position to do, and she continued as a serious amateur painter for years to come.

Michael, though never a practicing artist, had been walked through the museums of Vienna and Paris in his childhood, and tutored in foreign languages. That reflected the cultural aspirations of his father, a German-Jewish





Michael and Sarah Stein were deeply established in San Francisco's commercial and social life.

ABOVE: Portraits of Michael and Sarah Stein by Henri Matisse

immigrant, who upon moving to the Bay Area invested in streetcar stock and dreamed of uniting all of San Francisco's streetcar lines in one company. Michael eventually put together the Market Street Railway, where his father had failed, and built what is described as San Francisco's first rental flats in a building that still stands at the corner of Washington and Lyon Streets. He moved in with his young wife not far away at 707 Pierce Street, near Fillmore, in the heart of the city's lewish district.

Michael and Sarah Stein collected art in a fairly conventional way: paintings by early California's great landscape painter, William Keith, and quintessential

establishment painter Arthur Mathews; plus the Chinese and Japanese art that offered a Bay Area alternative to oreat European art, which could seem culturally or economically out of reach.

In 1901 the San Francisco Chronicle reported: "Mrs. Michael Stein, a very modest collector, has some of the best bits of pottery in the city, among them a piece of very old and genuine Satsuma unequaled in color and shape."

Soon after Leo and then Gertrude settled in Paris, Michael sold his interest in the streetcar company and, with Sarah and their young son, Allan, left San Francisco, found an apartment in Paris in 1904, and continued acquiring art

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The first truly radical purchase in "The Steins Collect" was Gertrude and Leo's acquisition of Matisse's Woman With a Hat. They did not immediately fall in love with the painting, which was disliked by nearly everyone, conservative or avantgarde, who saw it exhibited at the 1905 Salon d'Automne. Leo described it as "a thing brilliant and powerful, but the nastiest smear of paint I had ever seen.

Matisse afterward contended that it was Sarah who persuaded Leo to buy it; she and Michael couldn't afford it at the time Therese Ehrman, who came with them from San Francisco as their au pair, later wrote: "I still can see Frenchmen doubled up with laughter before it, and Sarah saying 'it's superb' and Mike couldn't tear himself away."

The Steins didn't buy art on the scale of the truly rich, but they did exhibit their own prescient collections and offer hospitality and conversation. On Saturday evenings they opened their apartments to visitors, Gertrude and Leo (and later Alice B. Toklas) at 27 rue de Fleurus, and Michael and Sarah at 58 rue Madame. Saturdays with the Steins attracted a shifting group of artists, writers, public figures and potential collectors; the two salons quickly took on major importance in the cultural life of Paris. By the end of World War I, Michael

and Sarah found their interests gradually shifting, Sarah was attracted to Christian Science and eventually qualified as a Christian Science practitioner Together with a friend they made through Christian Science, Gabrielle Colaco-Ossorio, also originally Jewish, they commissioned Le Corbusier to design and build a

suburban villa; in 1928 they moved in Although Michael and Sarah could

no longer afford to be major patrons of Matisse, the two families went on as great friends. Matisse showed Sarah new work and valued her opinions. Their face-toface relationship ended in 1935, when in response to the deteriorating situation in Europe, threatening to Jews and almost equally to non-Jews, Michael and Sarah moved back to the United States, settling with Gabrielle and her family in Palo Alto Matisse proclaimed himself desolated by her leaving, and the two continued to correspond almost until the end of their lives. She died in 1953, he in 1954.

Although Sarah had some thought of giving her collection to San Francisco's new modern art museum, she instead began selling off paintings to finance her grandson, Daniel, as a breeder and trainer of race horses. She may have been imprudent, but it was not wholly unmotivated: Daniel had been outstandingly supportive in the dark time after Michael's death in 1938

To avoid the irretrievable dispersal of the collection, Sarah's friend Elise Stern Haas joined with a group of friends, many of them like her residents of Pacific Heights, in buying Sarah's paintings one at a time with a view to their eventual acquisition by the new museum. "Of course, I should have bought the whole collection," she later reflected; unlike many, she could have. Her piecemeal efforts succeeded, however: Many of Michael and Sarah's paintings did go to SFMOMA, and Woman With a Hat. which began it all, is today one of the crown jewels of the museum's collection

It is reunited with many other works of art once owned by the family in "The Steins Collect "which continues at the museum through September 6.

# Before Alice Met Gertrude, She Lived Nearby



After she moved to Paris in 1907, Alice B. Toklas returned to San Francisco only once, in 1934, during Gertrude Stein's speaking tour

Gertrude was not taken with Alice at first, but by the summer of 1908 they were in love. When the Steins made their summer sojourn to Fiesole, Levy and Toklas went with them, renting and setting up their own housekeeping unit in a nearby villa. Stein was 33 and Toklas 30 years old. Toklas was the first woman who fully returned Stein's love; for Alice, it was a greater love than she had ever experienced, including the one she seemed to have then been sharing with Harriet Levy. Alice began to replace her cousin Annette on Gertrude's daily walks, to type Stein's manuscripts and to prepare American dinners for her on Sundays, the cook's night

At first there was the three-way love entanolement between Alice. Harriet and Gertrude that had to be resolved. Toklas and Levy shared quarters in Paris for two and a half years, and only when Levy returned to San Francisco with Michael and Sarah Stein, in July 1910, was Alice free to move into 27 rue de Fleurus.

When Gertrude and Alice got the surprise news that Harriet was returning to San Francisco, they made a special trip to Venice to celebrate their union, posing in their summer hats for a tourist photographer in Saint Mark's Square, their first formal portrait together. Stein and Toklas's gendered poses are those they would perform for the rest of their lives: Gertrude, as the dominant figure in the relationship, in the foreground, and Alice modestly behind her.

 Excepted from Seeing Gertrude Stein. published by the University of California Press, the catalog for the exhibition of the same title at the Contemporary Jewish Museum at 736 Mission Street through September 6.





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2828 Green St	6	4.5	2	4,141	07/01/11	4,100,000	3,850,000
2719 Pacific Ave	6	5.5	0		06/17/11	4,995,000	5,200,000
2732 Vallejo St	6	7.5	4	7,920	07/01/11	9,350,000	8,500,000
3362 Jackson St	6	7	3	5,800	06/21/11	10,000,000	9,250,000
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1450 Post St #212	1	1	1	715	06/20/11	247.500	168.000
1450 Post St #217	1	15	1	1.067	06/20/11	455.000	430.000
1556 Green St #F	1	1.5	1	589	07/12/11	479,000	445,000
3876 California St #3	2	2	1	307	06/28/11	499.000	490.000
2361 Jackson St #2	1	1	0		06/28/11	499,000	490,000
1800 Washington St #917	1	1	1	745	06/22/11	599.000	575.000
2999 California St #72	1	1	2	989	06/16/11	589,000	589.000
2315 Divisadero St #M	2	15	1	1,115	07/12/11	795.000	628.000
2360 Union St #4	2	1.5	1	1,113	07/01/11	649.000	638.000
2295 Vallejo St #506	1	1	1		06/24/11	745.000	660.000
3234 Washington St #1	2	2	1	1.136	06/21/11	699.000	665.000
2609 Sutter St #3	3	1	1	1,690	07/06/11	799.000	675.000
2149 Lyon St #4	2	1.5	1	1,070	07/01/11	699.000	699,000
2360 Union St #5	2	1	1		07/13/11	749.000	732.000
1880 Steiner St #108	2	2	1	1.102	06/24/11	788.000	797,000
1880 Steiner St #406	2	2.5	1	1.434	07/07/11	875.000	835.000
3126 Scott St #1	2	2	1	1.367	06/20/11	899,000	872,000
2155 Buchanan St #7	2	1	1		06/17/11	899,000	875,000
3097 California St	3	2.5	2	1.797	06/30/11	1.295.000	1.168.500
2516 Greenwich St	2	2	2	1.390	06/24/11	1.295.000	1.285.000
2846 Sacramento St	2	2	1	1,625	07/14/11	1,295,000	1,290,000
3445 Clay St	3	2	1	2,102	07/15/11	1,450,000	1,395,000
2865 Jackson St #1	3	2	1	1,681	07/14/11	1,575,000	1,450,000
1896 Pacific Ave #204	3	3.5	1	2,631	06/24/11	2,100,000	2,100,000
2641 Union St	3	2.5	2		06/29/11	2,750,000	2,538,000
2460 Broadway	4	4.5	0	3,676	06/22/11	3,450,000	3,450,000
1960 Broadway #3	3	3	1		06/17/11	3 800 000	3 800 000

#### Luxury condos, co-ops in demand

The number of single family homes that sold in the neighborhood dropped more than 50 percent this month — from 131 of 6 — but the average price skyrockted as a result of three noteworthy sales: 3362 Jackson, an exquisitely remodeled grant English Tudor. 2722 Vallejo, an elegantly private and stunning home designed by architect Stanley Saltowitz: and 2719 Pacific, an updated classic: San Francisco Victoriato.

The condo market remained steady this month with 22 units sold, compared to 29 last month, and the average sale price continued to creep upward. One of the most noteworthy sales was the stately full floor co-op, 1960 Broadway #3, which closed for \$3.8 million after only seven days on the market. A few blocks west, the whimsical Edwardian condominium at 2460 Broadway designed by Frederick Boses sold for \$3.4 million after 27 days on the market. Luxuy condos and co-op sales have exploded, with 11 active contingent and five pending properties following the 27 closinos last month.

NEW LISTINGS. Of the 11 single family homes that came on the market in the past 3d days, more than half are high-end luxury properties ranging from \$5 to \$10 million. Most notable is 2209 Pacific, listed for \$9.5 million. It's a 1915 Beaux Arts home, formerly the Monaco consulate, designed by Arthur Brown Jr., who also designed City Hall. Colt Tower and the Opera House. On the opposite end of the spectrum, 2605 Scaremento is an appealing 2-bedrom 2-bath Victorian listed for \$999,000. During the past month, 21 new condos, co-ops, TICs and lofts came on the market ranging from \$339,000 to \$2.9 million. At \$799,000, 2298 Green #1 offers great value in a spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bath TIC with a private deck and exquisite views, including St. Vincent de Paul's stained glass windows. Even as we have moved into the summer seasonal slowdown, market activity remains surprisingly robust.

— Data and commentary provided by MARIA MARCHETTI at Pacific Union. Contact her at mariamarchetti@me.com or call 699-8008.



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The Quality of Life

In MANY WAYS San Francisco is a small town. Better said, it is a stitchery of villages defined by hills and united by a sort of provencial "we-ness." Today it weeps distantly from the tumble of Barbary Coast times, it shambles in a weak-sisterism of political correctness; a bull here is a bovine of the male persuasion.

So curiously, I watched a roust last week of some down-and-outers in a local park. They were drinking. They were a seedy bunch wearing found clothing. The kind of people who snapped up extra napkins in fast food joints to be used later as toilet paper.

Some yards away on a quilt reclined a young Caucasian couple with their toddler daughter watching their golden retriever play. They sipped from stemware a youthful Chardonnay.

The cops asked the bummy ones for ID. I overheard the curious words, "quality of life violation." The officers poured out their liquor to the grass. But there was another kind of grass involved — one for which the trash had cards sanctioned by the city and county and the state. The cops did not want to get into all of that. Smoking a cigarette in a city park is a slam-dunk infraction; you just write it up. The ragged ones were ordered to move on — and they did by a few blocks, where they restocked their stashes of half-pints and waited for the police shift change before returning to the park.

The retriever had come slobbering back and dropped the Frisbee on the quilt of the nice young couple and their daughter.

I kept hearing "quality of life, quality of life." I wondered, whose quality, whose life?

I took a Smirnoff miniature from my pocket and lit a cigarette.









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