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# THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ OCTOBER 2011



SUSIE BEHLER

## A Love Affair with Lingerie

Beverly Weinkauff's dream shop, *Toujours*, turns 25

BY BARBARA KATE REPA

OWNING her own lingerie shop was quite literally a dream for Beverly Weinkauff.

"I actually had a dream about a candy store with large black and white diamonds on the floor," she says, "and shelves of apothecary jars full of panties."

Then, driving home from the airport one night, she saw

a "for lease" sign at 2484 Sacramento. It had a hauntingly familiar black and white floor — and the former occupants had operated a vintage candy store.

"That gave me the confidence to know that this was my time — and that was my space," she says as she prepares to celebrate the 25th anniversary of *Toujours*, her elegant jewel box of a lingerie shop, on October 26.

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## New Clinic Now Offers Prenatal Care

Pregnant women 21 and under are targeted by a new free program

ONLY SIX MONTHS after opening on Fillmore to deliver free medical care to uninsured and underinsured women, the Women's Community Clinic has expanded to offer prenatal services to young women in need.

The clinic relocated from Hayes Valley in March to expansive and refurbished facilities at 1833 Fillmore Street, the former home of the Bayspring Medical Group. It expanded its staff while keeping some of its signature whimsical touches, including the oven mitts adorning the foot stirrups on the examination tables. The clinic — in operation since 1999 — is unique in the Bay Area in providing medical services by volunteer doctors, client service coordinators, health educators and outreach managers.

The new program for pregnant women 21 and under is a collaboration between the clinic and the UCSF School of Nursing, which previously offered these services at Mt. Zion Hospital.

"Pregnant teens need high quality, accessible prenatal services," says Carina Hansen, executive director of the clinic. "We are proud to partner with UCSF to offer these services and to help young women and families in our community."

Working alongside UCSF faculty, nursing students will get intensive training in prenatal care, which will in turn increase their future employment opportunities. And the hope is that students and volunteers working in the project will be inspired to become health care professionals working with underserved communities.

While the clinic does not turn away women who need care, the new project focuses on teenage mothers, particularly African Americans in the Western Addition. Needs assessments conducted with area community leaders indicate access to health care resources and information in the area is poor and teen pregnancy rates are higher than average. Citywide, African Americans have the highest teen birth rate of all demographic groups and an infant mortality rate 2.5 times higher than whites and Hispanics.

A high percentage of Western Addition teens also have low incomes.

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## FAREWELL

### 50 YEARS AT 50 PERRINE

HE WOKE UP the last Saturday morning in September for a final time in the neighborhood. Then Baldomero Galvan packed his Chevy pickup truck and, after 50 years in the tight-knit little community within a community on the one-block Perrine Place, headed back to Texas.

He was just an ordinary person, like so many others who live in the Fillmore. And like many others, he found himself being pulled back toward his family as the years accumulated.

"It's sad," he said, wiping his moist red eyes as he ran the vacuum over the carpet in his modest wood-shingled home one last time. "I've made a good life here. San Francisco has treated me very well."

He was Baldo to his friends and neighbors on Perrine Place, the plant-lined alleyway just north of California Street between Steiner and Pierce. He had shipped out of Texas in 1949 to join the Air Force, then was discharged to San Francisco in 1953. "I came here to see if I could find work," he recalled. "They accepted me, so I stayed."

Later he ventured back briefly to Texas to go to college on the GI bill. "Then it got too hot for me," he said, so he came back to San Francisco and went to work for PG&E for 27 years. In 1961 he bought the tiny 30-by-30-foot shingled house at 50 Perrine for \$7,000.

"It was pretty run down," he remembered of the house and the street. "It's built up since I've lived here. Every place has been sold two or three times, always for the better. Now it's pretty nice — and still improving."

He had a hand in the improvements, helping many nearby neighbors as a handyman over the decades. "I've kept the street neat and clean," he said. "And I've worked in a lot of these houses."

All his life he could fix things. He became a skilled carpenter and outfitted a woodworking shop downstairs. "It built up where I could live on that," he said, so he took early retirement from PG&E when he turned 55.

Inside the door of his kitchen pantry were 39 nails, which for years held the keys of neighborhood homes he helped maintain. If you asked at Fillmore Hardware whether there was a good carpenter in the neighborhood, longtime manager Phil



Baldomero Galvan: leaving home and going home.

Dean was likely to give you Baldo's name and telephone number.

"I miss the hardware store," he said. And he called the roll of other favorite local spots — especially Lee's Coffee Shop around the corner on California Street, where he had breakfast for years, long before it became the home of Delfina Pizzeria.

"All those places have changed," he said matter of factly.

A few months ago, on his way home from a Giants game, Baldo fell and broke his shoulder. It's better now, but it made him realize he might not forever be as self-reliant as he'd always been.

"At 82, you gotta be near your family," he said. So he set about finishing up his affairs in San Francisco and prepared to sell his house, which he had upgraded considerably, and for which he had built much of the furniture.

His \$7,000 investment in 1961 had been wise. Almost as soon as he listed his house he got an offer from a young couple expecting their first child. He's taking his \$720,000 back to Texas, where he's buying a 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with a 2-car garage on a corner lot in Austin for \$125,000. His niece lives next door, and two sisters and their families live nearby.

His truck was packed. He said goodbye and prepared to drive away, thinking he might make it to Bakersfield by dark.

"Been nice knowing you," he said.

## STREET TALK

### Peruvian Connection opening on Fillmore

The storefront at 2326 Fillmore that has been in limbo for several years will soon be occupied by **PERUVIAN CONNECTION**, known for its alpaca sweaters made by artisan weavers in the Andes. The brand, previously sold only online and through its catalog, now has a handful of retail stores around the country.

Started in 1976 by a mother-daughter team from Kansas, Peruvian Connection was inspired by anthropology research the daughter conducted on women in the Andean marketplaces of Peru. Its offerings include pima cotton and alpaca wool creations and unique handknit designs.

**A STUDIO FOR KIDS:** A new business that bills itself as "a fun place for parents to mingle and hang out while their children play and take classes" is opening October 1 at 2001 Pine Street. **JAMAROO KIDS** will offer classes in dance, music, yoga and art to children seven and under.

**IN OTHER NEWS:** The transformation of Fillmore Hardware at 1930 Fillmore into **COTELAC**, a clothing line from France, is nearing completion. . . . The second location of **Zinc Details** at 2410 California Street is being converted into medical offices — not Barney's, despite the posters on the plywood.

. . . A new perfume line is in the works at 2238 Fillmore, the former home of Aumakua Jewelry. . . . And **CHASE BANK** finally goes before the Planning Commission this month seeking permission to open on the other side of California Street in the former dry cleaning shop. No opposition has surfaced.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



### You're invited this month

The Haas-Lillenthal House at 2007 Franklin Street (above) is celebrating its 125th birthday by inviting neighbors to come by for a **FREE COMMUNITY DAY TOUR** on Sunday, October 23, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of San Francisco Architectural Heritage, the preservation group that makes its home in the Queen Anne Victorian, which was built in 1886. Heritage docents will lead guests on hour-long tours covering Victorian architecture and life, early San Francisco history and the Haas and Lillenthal families. Those families and many other members of the German-Jewish community in San Francisco came from the same small German town, Reckendorf, Bavaria. For more information, visit [sheritage.org](http://sheritage.org).

Other neighborhood anniversaries and events this month:

- ◆ Led by neighborhood resident Michael Tilson Thomas, the San Francisco Symphony is celebrating its 100th season and the 40th anniversary of Repeat Performance, its resale shop at 2436 Fillmore. On October 12, from 5 to 7 p.m., Repeat Performance will kick off a year-long celebration of **40 YEARS ON FILLMORE** with jazz and an open house.
- ◆ On Monday, October 24, from 6 to 8 p.m., the Pacific Heights Residents Association will hold its **ANNUAL MEETING** at the Flood Mansion at 2222 Broadway. The speaker is supervisor Mark Farrell. Admission for nonmembers is \$45 in advance, or \$55 at the door. For more information, visit [phra-sf.org](http://phra-sf.org).



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Every month, 20,000 copies of the New Fillmore are delivered to homes and businesses in the Fillmore, Pacific Heights and Japantown. We thank you for your support and encouragement and welcome your ideas and suggestions.

 [newfillmore.com](http://newfillmore.com) | updated all month, plus video and an archive of back issues







Cecilia Montoya serves up Medina Farm berries with a smile on Saturday mornings at the Fillmore Farmers Market — a basket, a three-pack mix-and-match special or a flat.



## Berry, Berry Good and Fresh From the Farm

The Medina family has a weekly presence at the Fillmore market

By KATHY LASSEN-HAHNE

THE MEDINA family's roots were first planted in Guadalajara, Mexico, and have now blossomed into full flower and fruit at the Medina Berry Farms in Watsonville, where three generations of Medinas grow three types of berries on three 25-acre farms.

Their berries are available fresh from the fields every Saturday morning at the Fillmore Farmers Market at Fillmore and O'Farrell Streets.

The patriarch of the first generation of Medinas began as a berry picker. Then he became a broker, eventually learning how to grow berries himself. He bought land and started his own farm and still works there today.

The business began more than 30 years



ago and now produces certified organic strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. With plentiful sun and cooling ocean breezes, the farms boast the perfect climate for growing berries. A simple water drip process with fertilizer aids the growth of the fruit, with fabric tunnels protecting them from rain. Ten family members and

ten other helpers pick and pack the berries each day from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Medina family members sell the produce exclusively at farmers markets.

Pedro Medina Jr. presides over the family's booth at the Fillmore market on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The secret of Medina Farms' success, he says simply, is "love."

Medina says he loves working outside and watching things grow. And he takes pride in a business he hopes can be passed on to a fourth generation of growers.

Sister-in-law Cecilia Montoya, a student at San Jose State, happily assists shoppers at the market. Medina says he prefers his berries in their pure state or with yogurt, but Montoya says she likes them for dessert with Nutella. She also highly recommends strawberry lemonade.

■ SALOONS | CHRIS BARNETT

## A New Bar With a Split Personality

Coffee or cocktails, plus rooms next door

A BAR WITH a walkway to a motel might raise eyebrows. But Swank, on the corner of California and Presidio Avenue and connected to the 49-room Laurel Inn, is no dreary dive. That was its predecessor, G Bar, which tried to gussy itself up to snag the young and the restless. But it fell flat owing to its cheap decor and rookie barkeeps.

Swank is its polar opposite: a throwback to the early '60s, a time of presumed innocence when everyone liked Ike, worked for The Man, wore white shirts, thin ties and suits or bouffant hairdos, tight pastel sweaters and skirts.

Swank's mid-century modern decor captures the era perfectly. It's a welcoming living room with comfy, cozy leather sofas, low-slung seating, sleek Scandinavian-style lamps, chairs and tables au deux, plus nooks and crannies for soft conversing or discreet cuddling. Three televisions download mostly old movies from the satellite during the week and pro football on Sunday, when it becomes Harry's Bar West — but only for a day.

A mosaic-tiled fireplace with a gas-



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUSIE BELLE

fueled fire warms up the evening chill. The 12-stool, brushed aluminum bar is a refuge for solo elbow-benders and has generous pours and great happy hour prices. A massive Sputnik light fixture radiates a soft glow in all directions.

And the bathrooms are sleek designer creations.

Swank may sound like an apres-work,

pre-canoodling pit stop for trysters who wouldn't want to risk it at the Ritz or bump into a buddy in an airport hotel. But with prodding by visionary hotel lord Chip Conley, whose Joie de Vivre Hospitality firm also manages the tasteful El Drisco hotel in Pacific Heights and the Kabuki in Japantown, Swank seems more of a destination than a curiosity.



Patrons of Swank have the option of staying over. A sign in the men's room offers a late-night special on rooms.

Consider, too, the back story: Literary lions of a certain age will quickly grasp the genealogy of the bar's name. *Swank* was a *Playboy* wannabe men's magazine that debuted in the 50s but never quite measured up to Hugh Hefner's brainstorm. Original *Swank* covers are framed and hung in the men and women's exceptionally roomy WCs. Painted turquoise, with one wall paneled in the same stainless steel that tops the bar, they are apparently seductive venues for customers who succumb to the libidinal stirrings of the spirits poured.

Says Emily Smith, Swank's chatty, congenial coffee master: "Every morning, the stainless steel walls in the bathrooms are covered with palm prints and butt prints that have to be wiped off."

TO PAGE 8 ►

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Swank, the new incarnation of the bar at the Laurel Inn at California and Presidio, is now a coffee bar during daytime hours and a stylish and romantic cocktail bar in the evenings.

► FROM PAGE 7

Smith smiles and points to an enlarged, framed *Swank* cover in the men's loo that sports an eye-catching coverline pitching special rates next door from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The tariff is \$159 weekdays to \$189 on weekends.

In fact, Swank is a saloon with a split personality. From 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. weekdays, it is Laurel Inn's coffee shop, pouring chicory-laced Blue Bottle coffee straight from New Orleans and priced at \$2.75 a cup. Other coffee drinks plus a naked OJ fetch up to \$4.50. Pastries and scones go from \$3 to \$4.75. It's a comfortable place to hang out in the morning, with gratis WiFi and no crowd.

Joie de Vivre pitches Swank as a "cocktail and coffee club." That's stretching it. You don't need a membership card, a secret handshake or a password to get in. The crowd on the weekend is a mix of 20- to 40-somethings, many from the neighbor-

## Swank, by Day or by Night

hood. Weekdays, it attracts Laurel Inn guests who are mostly budget-minded business travelers and families visiting their kids.

The 5 to 7 p.m. happy hour during the week and bartender Kaifin Kushner's outgoing, attitude-free personality are twin draws, according to some regulars. Bottled Budweiser, Bud Light and Scrimshaw pilser on tap are \$3, down from \$5 and \$6 respectively; the house wine is \$4 a glass and well drinks are \$5. A bar menu has small, medium and large plates. Tasty and reasonably priced are the bacon-wrapped



Swank barista Emily Smith

dates stuffed with pecorino and goat cheese for \$6 and mushrooms filled with chorizo, garlic and fresh herbs, \$5. Those who crave something more can try the chorizo, shallot and olive pizzetta for \$14.

If you miss happy hour, brace yourself for some steep wine prices by the glass. Napa's Sycamore Lane cabernet and chardonnay are \$7, but all the other reds and whites are \$8 to \$15. A little swanky.

Where Swank shines is its cocktail list, a heady collection of classics, variations of respected recipes and some new creations,

along with a line about the origins of some. The revered daiquiri goes far afield with Don Q Cristal rum, sweet Chambord, fresh mint, lime juice and strawberries, a fair deal at \$8. A bourbon sidecar, said to have been invented in Paris during World War II, mixes smooth Bulleit bourbon with Cointreau, fresh lemon and a touch of maple, strained into a snifter with a sugared rim, \$9. The house martini is fashioned out of Bombay Sapphire gin and Martini & Rossi dry vermouth, \$9.

Harken back to the '40s with a champagne cocktail, rarely seen on bar menus anymore but a standard in the repertoire of the wise and worldly. Start with apricot brandy, add a couple dashes of Angostura bitters, drop in a sugar cube and top it off with champagne. Swank substitutes a non-French lower-priced sparkling brut for \$9. In these volatile economic times and yo-yo markets, we must learn to live with bargain bubbles.



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## JAZZ

## Filipino Jazz Fest Returns to Yoshi's and the Fillmore



Vocalists Lena Sunday (above) and Annie Brazil (below) will perform at the 2011 Filipino American Jazz Festival.



THE SAN FRANCISCO Filipino American Jazz Festival returns to the Fillmore for its fourth annual concert on Sunday, October 9, at 6 p.m. at Yoshi's.

Featured artists include pianist Winston Raval and vocalists Annie Brazil, Lena Sunday and Ann Marie Santos. Musical accompaniment will be provided by the SF Pinoy Jazz Quartet, led by pianist and composer Rey Cristobal.

Like last year's concert, also held at Yoshi's, this is a homecoming of Filipino jazz artists to the Fillmore, which once had a large Filipino population. Filipinos began settling in the Fillmore in the 1920s, some as war brides of African American Buffalo Soldiers returning from the Philippine-American War. Filipino men also settled in the Fillmore, owning businesses and raising families.

During the time the Fillmore was called the "Harlem of the West," a number of Filipino American jazz artists performed regularly in the Fillmore, most notably Joseph "Flip" Nunez, who was one of the house pianists at the legendary Jimbo's Bop City. A brick marker on Fillmore Street near Yoshi's honors Flip Nunez. Another brick marker honors Filipino jazz poet Al Robles, an activist who was part of a large Fillmore family. Sugar Pie DeSanto — the internationally known blues singer and songwriter — also grew up in the Fillmore on Buchanan Street in a large Afro-Filipino family.

Tickets for the festival are \$35 in advance, or \$40 at the door. More information is available at [yoshis.com](http://yoshis.com) or by calling 655-5600. Yoshi's is located at 1330 Fillmore Street.

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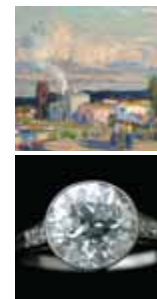
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# 60 Years of Making Music

Alden Gilchrist has lived a musical life at Fillmore and Jackson

By FRAN JOHNS

IN THE EARLY 1950s, Calvary Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Fillmore and Jackson, was looking for someone to play the organ. Young Alden Gilchrist, fresh from the Army and a productive stay in France studying and composing music, was looking for a job. "I had been assistant organist at First Presbyterian in Portland, so I wrote to all the Presbyterian churches in the Bay Area asking if they needed an organist," Gilchrist remembers. "The best offer came from Menlo Park Presbyterian — at the salary of \$35 a month. But Mr. Jacobson at Calvary came back from vacation, found the letter of application I'd sent them earlier, and called to ask if I wanted to audition."

He went to the Menlo Park pastor and asked: "Would I be ruining my life after three weeks on this job if I auditioned at Calvary?" The pastor told Gilchrist: "The fact that you're asking, and interested, means you're not going to be happy here." But he warned Gilchrist he had inside information that Calvary was failing and would be taken over by the Presbyterian hierarchy.

Still, the big money Calvary was offering — \$55 a month — and the chance to skip the commute from San Francisco to Menlo Park were sufficiently attractive. And the rest is 60 years of musical history.

Gilchrist became the church organist on September 23, 1951, and was named director of music in 1965. In the decades since, he has been acclaimed for his commitment to enlightened and enduring music. He initiated a community concert series, which brings professional musicians to perform at the church and benefits local charities. He led the church choir on three European tours, includ-



Alden Gilchrist: "such an inspiration to so many."

ing performances at Notre Dame in Paris and at the historic cathedral in Chartres. More recently he pioneered a popular Sunday evening jazz service at Calvary.

Members, friends and neighbors of the church are invited to join in a celebration of Gilchrist's 60 years at Calvary, during which the church has grown and thrived, contrary to the preacher's prediction. A program called "JUBILATE! — 60 YEARS OF MUSIC" will take place the final weekend of October, beginning with a concert on Friday, October 28, at 6 p.m. featuring Grammy winner

Kent Nagano conducting the San Francisco Academy Orchestra in works by Gilchrist and his favorite composers. Nagano and the orchestra, choir and soloists will be joined by the Dave Scott Quartet — which plays at the church's jazz services — and the Santa Rosa Children's Chorus. On Sunday, October 30, Gilchrist will conduct an all-music worship service at 11 a.m.

Nagano, an internationally acclaimed conductor well known to Bay Area audiences as the former music director of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, is currently music director of the Bavarian State Opera in Munich and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. The Calvary concert is his only West Coast appearance this season. He attended Calvary as a college student and sang in the choir one summer under Gilchrist's direction.

"I had the chance to make music under a brilliant music director," says Nagano, who calls Gilchrist "such an inspiration to so many of us musicians who came up in San Francisco."

When Gilchrist was growing up in Riverside, California — where legendary conductor Robert Shaw was then student director of the Pomona College glee club and a student in his father's biology class — he was recruited at age 10 to sing in the adult choir, appropriately enough, of Calvary Presbyterian Church of Riverside. "I was probably an alto," he laughs. The family moved to Portland when his father was named head of the biology department at Lewis and Clark College. Gilchrist got his undergraduate degree in music there before heading to Berkeley for graduate school at the University of California.

When he's not making music on Fillmore Street, Gilchrist is a gentleman farmer. Years ago he purchased 17 acres in Sonoma County; 15 acres are left to nature, but



Alden Gilchrist (front) with principal soloists (from left) tenor Brian Thorsett, mezzo soprano Janet Campbell, organist Charles Worth, soprano Pam Sebastian and baritone Jeff Fields.

two acres are under cultivation. "Cabbage, lettuce, leeks, broccoli, chard — there are always vegetables," he says. "Citrus is my best crop. Cherries and plums and peaches don't get enough winter chill." His approach to pesticide-free farming: "You just plant plenty of stuff. The bugs don't eat that much."

"I was brought up to worship nature," Gilchrist says. "As a child, when all the other kids were out playing football, I would be in the fields identifying plants by their botanical names," thanks to his father the biology professor. Appreciation of a scholarly parent was lost on a teenage son. "I hated it," Gilchrist says. "But now I can ID wildflowers everywhere — so I guess I love it."

It was not love alone that led him to the country life. In the late 1960s, Gilchrist was working on Sundays at Calvary and spending the other six days of the week

teaching and often accompanying his students for recitals and performances. Then the flu slowed him down.

"The doctor asked about my schedule, and wondered if I knew that other people took a day off," Gilchrist says. So he started spending time at a friend's place on the Russian River, eventually building an adjacent cabin and learning he could enjoy swimming and taking life easier. When he decided to buy property, "I couldn't afford the prices on the river, so I went a few miles inland," he says.

He is still in San Francisco, at Calvary, on the weekends. His weekdays in the country will be cut short this month by preparations for the concert. But he says the performance of an aria from his 1950s opera, "Salaam ar Fol" — Celtic for "Solomon the Fool" — and many other favorite choral, jazz and orchestral works during the celebration will be well worth it. Most special of all, Gilchrist says: "Having Kent Nagano here to conduct."

## Then There Was His Grandfather

ALDEN GILCHRIST has been making music at Calvary Presbyterian Church for 60 years — but his roots in the neighborhood go back much further.

"Grandfather Hugh Gilchrist," he says, "was pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church at the corner of Webster and Page." His grandfather went on to become a professor of Greek at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and at some point Westminster Presbyterian disappeared — but not before future mayor Willie Brown got his first job there, as a janitor.

Grandson remembers grandfather as a force to reckon with. "Harry Bridges [the formidable union leader] was coerced into attending Westminster," Gilchrist says.

The young woman who would become Gilchrist's mother was a worker at the church. She met and married the preacher's son in a ceremony with John McLaren, the creator of Golden Gate Park, supplying the greenery and serving as an usher.

"Grandfather founded a college on Bush near Fillmore with the purpose of converting the city," Gilchrist says. "He needed to change the world. He died of a broken heart because he couldn't change the world."

He did, however, likely change many lives by founding Mt. Hermon, a spiritual retreat in the Santa Cruz mountains that still links urbanites of all ages to the peace and serenity of nature at conferences and retreats held year round. Hugh Gilchrist was on his way from San Anselmo to Santa Cruz to sign the deed for the retreat when he stopped at a downtown San Francisco hotel on the night of April 16, 1906. Awakened by the earthquake, he proceeded on his journey out of town.

— FRAN JOHNS

## care part·ner

\ˈker\ \ ˈpärt-nər\ *noun* 1. A person who supports residents and families in their journey through care. 2. A person who accepts people for who they are.



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A lucky group: from left, breast cancer survivors Joanna Horsfall, Sarah Morse, Eileen Long, Carrie Sherriff, Barrie Grenell, Leigh Blicher, Jean Hurley and Margo Perin.

## At an Annual Gathering, Good News Again

All these years later, no one in the group has had a recurrence of breast cancer

By MARGO PERIN

A GROUP of women gathered a few weeks ago for our annual get-together, this year at the home of Fillmore photographer Jean Hurley. We all love to eat and everybody brought something for the potluck, which was, as usual, plentiful and delicious.

As we sat around the exquisitely appointed table, we caught up with each other's news. The first question, spoken directly or not, was whether anyone had a recurrence of breast cancer. Each of us breathed a sigh of relief: No.

The walls of our hostess's home were hung with zen-like images of stones and shells in the sand on the beach she had photographed during and after her father's death, now arranged to reflect a calm and peaceful environment, "like the calm after the storm of breast cancer," she says.

Jean had just completed a master's degree — her third — in liberal arts at Stanford. I — a writer and teacher at the county jail and the most anxious of the lot — had arrived first to bag the only guaranteed parking spot in front of Jean's house. Sarah, an author and comic savant who keeps us laughing, was next, followed by Barrie and Carrie. Barrie, whose literary presence carries an aura

reminiscent of the Bloomsbury era, is a grant writer with a Veterans organization. Carrie, a real estate agent, is all strength and experience, with a no-flies-on-Frank nature that keeps people on their toes. Joanne is a delight — a healthcare professional and an affectionate Brit with a wry sense of humor.

Bringing up the rear were Leigh, rushing with her new haircut from the video business she and her husband own, and Eileen, who was giggling and breathless at leaving her two kids and her restaurant in the Haight.

OUR GROUP has been meeting for nearly 13 years. It includes every one of the original members who came together in the long winter of 1999 when we were randomly selected to attend a 12-week breast cancer trial run by UCSF and California Pacific Medical Center called the Breast Cancer Personal Support and Lifestyle Intervention Trial. It consisted of two programs comparing how group participation affects women's experiences with breast cancer.

We were selected for the program incorporating alternative and complementary techniques such as guided imagery, meditation, dance and yoga, while other applicants attended a more

traditional support group. We all had the option of attending individual and group art therapy at UCSF's Art for Recovery program founded and run by Cindy Perlis, which works with adults and children who experience cancer.

Art therapy was our group's favorite and most meaningful activity. We created squares for a communal breast cancer quilt, drew and painted and made masks and plaster casts. With encouragement to express ourselves freely, we were able to talk and create art about things we couldn't communicate to our nearest and dearest family and friends, let alone colleagues or strangers. In these sessions, we confronted our fear, our pain and our grief at what could have been our imminent death.

And we discovered hope.

SARAH COMPARES the first time we met to going on a blind date. "We didn't know what to expect, but we fell in love," she says. For 12 weeks, we met biweekly for two hours or more. We talked, laughed, cried and made plaster busts of our newly disfigured chests. All of us had been diagnosed with breast cancer only a few months earlier.

All these years later, none of us has had a recurrence.

Jean says it's most likely due to early diagnosis, good treatment and determination. Eileen puts it down to divine providence. Carrie stresses the mix of good allopathic and alternative medical treatment. And Barrie believes it's a combination of diet and exercise and mood.

But Leigh speaks for the entire group when she says that much of it is due to plain good luck. "I'd like to think it's because we take great care of ourselves or because we deserve it," she says. "But honestly, I believe it is very much a matter of good fortune."

Joanna adds: "I think we are a lucky group. If you believe that your immune system can be strengthened by dealing with stress — and I guess I do — then our program provided us with a process to deal with the deep-seated stress and grief associated with the disease and the losses it created."

Sarah is typically irreverent: "While I'd love to think our good fortune is a result of our learning stress-relief and relaxation techniques, especially prancing around the room imagining we were horses, it's most likely a combination of first-rate medical treatment, good genes, healthy lifestyles and a magnum of good luck," she says, drawing laughs.

IN THE PRIVACY of my own home, it is different. On my refrigerator I tacked a photo of a husky linebacker glaring out from his helmet and face mask, with streaks of black marked across his face. He was my breast cancer poster boy and he was going to pound the thug who had invaded my body. I fought with all of the ammunition I could muster. I attended two different support groups, did art therapy and created three squares for a breast cancer quilt. I wore a wig that looked so good that other women wanted to know where I had my hair done. I packed my favorite snacks when I went for chemotherapy and wrote a poem titled "I Don't Like Chemotherapy" based on Dr. Seuss's diatribe against green eggs and ham.

Several women who attended the trial program were not so lucky. In the follow-up support group, we watched in fear and grief as this frightening and painful disease took our "cancer sisters" from us.

But we are the lucky ones. With our ever-increasing love and closeness, we continue to support one another — and celebrate our good fortune.

## Just Off Fillmore, an Intimate Shop for Intimate Wear

► FROM PAGE ONE

"I'm ready to celebrate," says Weinkauff. But 25 years ago, she was teaching at an elementary school and working part time at a lingerie store in Marin County. "After two years in that store, I knew I could do it all — windows to merchandising," she says. "Because I loved it all."

Her parents, now deceased, were lukewarm about her business proposition at first. "They said: 'We sent you to college to sell underwear?'" she recalls. But they came around when they realized how much she wanted to follow her dream, even putting up the \$20,000 seed money, which was all it took to start a business back then.

They had, perhaps unwittingly, nurtured what she calls her inner "compulsive intuitive shopper" from an early age. She recalls that when she was 16, her father insisted she go with him to Robertson's department store in South Bend, Indiana, where they lived, to ask about getting a job. She was hired, and there and then began honing her appreciation of working with beautiful things.

She credits her mother, a seamstress, for instilling in her a sense of well-being, for paying attention to how she looked when leaving the house — and for buying her a bra-slip in high school.

"So this business is in my DNA," Weinkauff says.

She also says she was beckoned by the location near Fillmore Street and the energy of the city that fills the air as she crosses the bridge driving in from Marin.

"I consider Fillmore to be the best neighborhood," she says. "It doesn't go out of its way to get a 'big this' or a 'tacky that' — and it's not crawling with bars." She adds: "A large number of our customers are right here. We do their special orders. We watch them change over the years. They're like family."

The neighborhood has also changed over the years since she opened her shop. Weinkauff recalls nostalgically when Peet's was Sugar's Broiler, the greasy spoon rarely open for business at the corner of Fillmore and Sacramento. Across the street, the Coffee Bean & Tea was the Hillcrest, the coffee eatery that felt like a living room. A few doors south, Mudpie was still Fillmore, the street's gift emporium, which sold everything from quirky salt and pepper shakers to high-end bedsheets.

The economy felt more hopeful back then, too, but Weinkauff says the current quavery climate has taught her valuable lessons in buying more frugally from the 40 or so vendors who help keep the tiny



SIUE BRUNER

*"A large number of our customers are right here. We watch them change. They're like family."*

— BEVERLY WEINKAUFF, proprietor of Toujours

shop stocked with bras, panties, bustiers, garter belts, gloves, slips, robes, stockings, scarves, gloves, jewelry and scents.

And her customers have remained loyal, even though the city is now home to 11 lingerie shops, compared to five when she first opened.

Toujours' customers range in age from 16 to 84 — mostly women, with some men shopping for the women in their lives. Their shopping styles tend to differ, with women taking 30 to 45 minutes to make a purchase, and men getting the deed done in 5 to 10 — some requesting plain brown bags to discreetly hide their goods.

Weinkauff says the shop's cozy space and locale — a couple of doors up Sacramento,

a bit removed from Fillmore Street's bustle — is also a boon in that way. "Being around the corner is good for something as intimate as what I sell," she says.

In fact, there's something quaint and quiet about the way she does business — maintaining a Toujours website since 1997, for example, although shoppers can't purchase online. "People can call and order, but we urge them to come in," she says. "We prefer customers who have shopped in our store before. When we know what lines they prefer, we call or e-blast those who like them."

The lines she carries tend to be classic, French and romantic: Lou, Huit, Chantelle, Lise Charnel. But she also makes room for

others including Pluto from Belgium and handpainted silk kimonos made by local designer Lisa Lagevin of Nightlife.

"We cover basics as well as the more playful items," she says. "We have serious bras with serious details in sizes ranging from 32A to 38G."

The collection is carefully curated. "We spend a lot of time on the texture and feel of merchandise," she says. "We try on everything and test drive it before we buy."

Her co-pilot in test driving is often Brooke Welch, a longtime sales associate. "She can start a sentence and I can finish it," says Weinkauff. "We have similar visions for Toujours and its merchandise."

Welch seconds that emotion, adding that she's learned a lot about the lingerie industry by working elbow to elbow with Weinkauff on and off for about a decade.

"Bev has an understanding of quality goods and has honed her eye for that," Welch says. "She knows what women want and what doesn't work for them."

But Welch says the biggest lesson she's learned has nothing to do with lace or lingerie. "One of the things I love most about Toujours is that while we have many loyal male customers, by and large, it's a women's shop," she says. "On any given day, four or five women will stop by just to say hi, or show off a new haircut, or let us know they love their new robe. That 'town market atmosphere' is unique — a community stop where people feel comfortable sharing their lives. And Bev has cultivated that."

Weinkauff is also a stickler for a good fit, urging women to take the steps that most skip: being measured and trying on different sizes in different brands. She confesses she recently had dinner with a few women friends and noticed that one seemed a little droopy. "I took her into the bathroom and adjusted her bra straps," she says. "She came out of there with a whole new attitude — looking like she was in her 20s again."

The tagline for Toujours is "Begin a Love Affair." Weinkauff was inspired to coin it because it sounds "come hither" and romantic. "Lingerie invites people to linger. Its energy is not rushed," she says.

And neither is hers anymore. "By the time you get to middle age, you know what makes you peaceful," she says. "I walk in the store and it's an atmosphere of warmth, joy and pure peacefulness."

Toujours, at 2484 Sacramento, is kicking off its week-long 25th anniversary celebration week on October 15 with champagne and a breast-shaped "boob cake."

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## BENEFIT

### Gala raises funds to help local seniors

On October 20, Northern California Presbyterian Homes & Services will host its ninth annual gala featuring dinner, dancing and silent live auctions.

The nonprofit group owns and operates a number of senior housing facilities in the Bay Area, including the Sequoias at 1600 Geary Boulevard and Western Park Apartments at 1280 Laguna Street. All items for the auction are donated by residents, and last year's gala raised \$145,000. All funds raised this year will go to support services for local seniors, including:

- **THE LIVING AT HOME PROGRAM**, which places social workers in residential communities to help about 2,500 elderly and disabled residents live at home.

- **WELLSIDER**, which provides services that enable 600 low-income seniors, including residents in the Western Park Apartments, to remain independent for as long as possible.

- **COMING OF AGE BAY AREA**, which provides programs and training to 4,000 people over 50 to help them attain employment and positions in community service.

- **EXPERIENCE CORPS MARIN**, a mentorship and education program, which connects older adult volunteers with 450 elementary school students from low-income neighborhoods in Marin.

- **PENINSULA VOLUNTEERS**, which provides a social worker for 250 participants in the Meals on Wheels program to assist needed health and social services.

For more information about the gala, contact Paul Gormsen at 202.7819 or pgormsen@ncphs.org.

## GOOD WORKS

### A Designer Sets Off Fireworks of Appreciation

AMONG THE ITEMS hitting the auction block this month is an original work by internationally recognized fashion designer Mary Boyer, now a resident at the Sequoias home for seniors on Geary Boulevard.

It's a black cashmere wrap coat lined with sumptuous satin in a bright fireworks pattern, featuring cuffed sleeves and an optional belt and scarf. Boyer says she considered adding a hood, but dismissed it as "too casual," opting instead for a convertible asymmetrical collar.

A stickler for design details, she lined the center of the coat with silk to strengthen it against wear. She also spent time and effort designing a coat that would compliment the highest bidder—whether slight or a woman in the grand manner.

Boyer says contributing the coat to the annual fundraising gala sponsored by Northern California Presbyterian Homes & Services — the group that operates the Sequoias and other facilities in the Bay Area — is one way to show how much she appreciates the new home she's found during the last three years.

"I think the Sequoias is just excellent — and not because I live here," says Boyer. "No one can beat the care. And there are so many activities — art class, sewing class, even laughing class. And sometimes they take us on outings to unbelievable places.



Seanda Roberson (left) models designer Mary Boyer's creation.

which she worked sent her to Europe to do "design research," which she says was basically snatching designs from fashion houses in places as far flung as Rome, Paris, New York and Tokyo. She recalls Boyer as a complete gentleman who courted her with roses and respect.

"And what I liked most of all: He wore cufflinks," she says. "We were opposites. He didn't talk. I talk a lot."

Her husband died of Parkinson's disease 11 years ago, after spending the last five years of his life in a wheelchair.

"I'm proud of myself," says the diminutive Boyer. "I picked him up when he fell."

Her first love was fashion. Boyer got the fashion bug when she was about 22 years old and living in Japan.

"After Japan lost the war, I said I wanted to make a little fashion show to cheer people up — especially women," she says. Her first show, featuring colorful pieces of Japanese and Chinese clothes intermixed, gained Boyer recognition and her own line of clothing.

Her life after that was a flurry of fashion and other work. She lived in Japan, where she owned a restaurant, a jewelry shop and a dress shop. At times she put down roots in China, Japan, New York and Florida.

"But if I knew then what I know now, I would have come here first," she says.

I've been able to jump right in. I have no time to be lonely. I'm extremely happy."

Boyer, 87, has an indomitable spirit, which she credits to being optimistic and keeping busy.

"Wherever you go, look at the beauty," she says. "And keep moving. If I was homeless, I would clean the streets."

She met her husband, Barney Boyer, when the Japanese department store for

## NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking	Sale
1825 Webster St	2	1	0		8/25/11	940,000	835,000
133 Richardson St	3	3	1	2323	9/21/11	1,295,000	1,100,000
3980 Clay St	4	1.5	1		9/2/11	2,395,000	2,250,000
1608 Valjejo St	4	3.5	2	4112	9/16/11	2,450,000	2,450,000
2728 Union St	2	2.5	2		8/31/11	2,695,000	2,535,000
68 Presidio Ave	4	3.5	1	4382	8/25/11	3,495,000	3,300,000
2434 Broadway	5	5.5	2	4959	9/15/11	4,950,000	4,950,000
2440 Valjejo St	5	3.5	2		8/16/11	4,750,000	5,250,000

Condos/Co-ops/TICs/Lofts	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Date	Asking	Sale
1914 Pine St #5	1	1	0	1180	9/2/11	168,770	168,770
1450 Post St #416	1	2	1	718	9/9/11	265,000	240,000
1701 Jackson St 204	0	1	1	476	9/16/11	264,238	264,238
3065 Clay St A	1	1	0		8/16/11	280,000	301,500
1885 Jackson St #403	2	2	1	865	9/2/11	425,000	425,000
1700 Gough St #503	1	2	1	791	9/16/11	539,000	460,000
2121 Laguna St #220	1	1	1		8/26/11	599,000	560,000
112 Arguello Blvd #5	2	1	1		9/12/11	615,000	610,000
3101 Jackson St	2	1	1		8/30/11	679,000	679,000
2200 Sacramento St	2	2	1		9/16/11	895,000	900,000
1673 Bush St	4	2	1	2020	9/9/11	949,000	1,015,000
119 Wilmet St	3	2	1	1818	8/19/11	1,350,000	1,275,000
2682 Union St	3	2.5	1		9/20/11	1,398,000	1,298,000
3139 Jackson St	3	2	0	2005	9/9/11	1,549,000	1,538,000
1998 Valjejo St #4	3	2	1		8/18/11	2,199,000	2,050,000

### Single family homes are selling quickly



Among the single family homes that closed escrow this month in the neighborhood, the most notable statistic is the days on the market: Five of the eight sales closed in less than three weeks. This is a positive trend for home sales, indicating well-priced homes and ready buyers. Single family home sales increased in what is typically a slow season — good news for would-be sellers waiting for a stronger market to list their homes. It appears the fall market will continue this trajectory, but time will tell.

Condo sales were more reflective of the typical August market, dropping from 21 to 15, and remaining on the market longer. This is an important factor in setting realistic expectations when listing a condo or TIC. With 24 properties listed as contingent sales and seven as pending, there are positive signs for sales during the coming month.

NEW LISTINGS: During the last month, 15 new single family homes came on the market, ranging from \$1.1 million to \$38.5 million, with the price per square foot ranging from \$626 to \$1,759. The sophisticated remodel at 3 Cottage Row (above left) is a great little house on a lush, serene, peaceful pathway. At 3300 Washington, elegant Italianate-style grandeur is offered at just under \$4 million — a good value at \$1,051 per square foot. The Heller mansion at 2020 Jackson Street — designed by architect Julius Kraft for one of the daughters of banker Isaias Hellman — is now on the market for \$20 million. It's a true mansion, impeccably renovated and respectfully modernized.

Amazingly, there have been 40 new listings for condos in recent weeks. They range from the dramatic penthouse at 2009 Divisadero, for \$799,000, to 1940 Broadway #6, a full floor co-op apartment flooded with light and offering expansive bay views, plus parking for two cars, for \$4.35 million. Good inventory and good weather kick off the fall real estate market.

— Data and commentary provided by MARIA MARCHETTI at Sotheby's International Realty. Contact her at mariamarchetti@me.com or call 415/699-8008.

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**Pacific Heights**  
\$8,500,000  
**Magnificent Contemporary Residence.** This 4800's SBA home was built in 1970 by prominent San Francisco architect, Jorge de Quesada. Beautifully situated on a double-size lot, it's a spectacular view home that's perfect for entertaining. South garden. Elevator. 2655Broadway.com  
Dianne Weaver  
(415) 321-3118



**Pacific Heights**  
\$4,995,000  
**Architectural Gem With Views.** With windows taking in breathtaking views and an intimate private garden, and with spaces that can serve a variety of uses, this SBD's SBA William Wurster designed home embodies simplicity, elegance and function. 2646Broadway.com  
Caroline Kahn Werloff  
(415) 321-4260  
Meagan Levitan  
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**Pacific Heights**  
\$3,995,000  
**Sophisticated Full-floor Panoramic View Penthouse in 6-Unit Coop Building.** Traditional elegance with up-to-date amenities. Views of North Bay, Pacific Heights, Russian Hill and Golden Gate Bridge. 3803 SBA, view living room and formal dining room, gourmet kitchen, library, laundry, 2-car pkg. 2127BroadwayH6.com  
Philip Browning  
(415) 571-7053



**Pacific Heights**  
\$1,895,000  
**Ante-bellum Ambiance in Grand 2 Level Condo.** Talk about scale! The classic 3802 SBA Queen Anne has huge rounded bay windows in the front, flooding the large public rooms in sunshine. Art lighting, deep moldings, hardwood floors, 2 car tandem + parking pad. 2172Pacific1.com  
Soni Goodman  
(415) 624-3630



**Pacific Heights**  
\$1,125,000  
**Stunning Contemporary 3BD/2 SBA Condo.** This spectacular urban oasis has it all! The first floor of this chic modern condo serves you with an expansive light filled living/dining area, wood-burning fireplace, bamboo floors and cozy balcony. Private roof deck with city views. 1 car parking in garage. 2261bush.com  
Cindi Kass  
(415) 515-5026



**Presidio Heights**  
\$1,088,000  
**Lovely Flat On An Exceptional Block.** Come home to the many great qualities of this splendid condominium in an upgraded 4-unit building, 1st floor unit. 2 large bedrooms + study/2nd bedroom, 2 bath. Beautiful wood floors. Double-paned windows. 1 car garage parking with interior access. 356SacramentoSt.com  
Candi Kass  
(415) 321-4260



**Pacific Heights**  
\$799,000  
**Stunning View Co-op.** Located at the top of the stairs of Jackson Terrace, this beautiful Arts and Crafts 2BD/1BA co-op designed by famed architect, Arthur Lalo, has panoramic views of the southern hills and of the City. This top floor unit is rich in period details. 2888Jackson.com  
Yola Haddad Ozturk  
(415) 516-7138  
Jane Ivory  
(415) 564-7001



**Lower Pacific Heights**  
\$799,000  
**Architecturally Renowned 2BD/2BA Penthouse.** Dramatic architectural design by Fred Reiber. Open floor plan, 9' ceilings, lots of natural light and private entrance from elevator. Professional chef's kitchen. Large common roof deck and decked garage. Walk Score 95 - "A Walker's Paradise". 2009Divisadero.com  
Paula Pagnano  
(415) 860-4209

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# THIRD ANNUAL *taste* of FILLMORE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**

**JOIN IN 3-6PM; \$20 PER PERSON**

**WINE TASTING, FOOD SAMPLING & LIVE JAZZ**

**TICKETS at 3TasteofFillmore.Eventbrite.com**

## WIN HUNDREDS IN RAFFLE PRIZES

- \$200 @ Jurlique**
- \$100 @ Gallery of Jewels**
- \$75 @ Eileen Fisher**
- \$75 @ Heidi Says**
- \$100 @ Hi Ho Silver**
- \$500 @ The Shade Store**
- \$800 @ Benefit Cosmetics**
- \$75 @ Toujours Lingerie**
- \$25 @ Crossroads**
- \$300 @ Black Fleece**
- \$150 @ Kiehl's**

**Sponsored by the  
Fillmore Merchants Association**

### CLAY

**LIMU:** Gloria Ferrer champagne tasting, canapés and Peter Cohen trunk show.

**BLACK FLEECE:** Hosting a raffle for a Grey Leather and Felt Tote Bag designed by Thom Browne worth \$300.

**RENAISSANCE SALON:** Hosting complimentary "Product Styling and Product Demos"

### SACRAMENTO

**GALLERY OF JEWELS:** Serving wine and hosting \$100 jewelry raffle.

**BENEFIT COSMETICS:** Hosting raffle for private party (beauty bash) for 10 women worth \$800.

**HEIDI SAYS SHOES:** Serving pizza and wine from Dino's and raffling a \$75 gift certificate.

**SALON YUNI:** Serving snacks and giving \$10 gift certificates.

### CALIFORNIA

**BETSEY JOHNSON:** Offering 10% off and serving champagne.

### PINE

**KIEHL'S:** Raffling a gift box worth \$150, offering samples and skin consultations and serving hors d'oeuvres by La Mediterranee.

**DESIGN WITHIN REACH:** Creating Outdoor Home Living Vignette and with wine tastings from KOKOMO Winery.

**ZINC DETAILS:** Creating Outdoor Home Living Vignette, hosting multiple raffles and wine tasting by Verge Syrah.  
**Pick up your wristband and program**

**START  
HERE**

**CROSSROADS TRADING:** Hosting a raffle for a \$25 gift certificate.

### BUSH

### SUTTER

**TIMELESS TREASURES:** Offering 10% discount.

**EILEEN FISHER:** Serving refreshments and a hosting a raffle worth \$75.

**TOUJOURS LINGERIE:** Raffling a \$75 gift certificate, serving refreshments, and hosting fashion show celebrating 25 years!

**JURLIQUE:** Raffling a \$200 gift basket and giving complimentary samples while supplies last.

**PAOLO SHOES:** Serving wine and champagne.

**THE SHADE STORE:** Serving light refreshments and wine, hosting a \$500 raffle and giving free samples, catalogs and tote bags.

**BOCONCEPT:** Creating Outdoor Home Living Vignette, Terra Savia Organic Wines tasting and hors d'oeuvres.

**FRAICHE:** Offering samples of homemade frozen yogurt.

**CASSANDRIA BLACKMORE:** Art Opening and champagne reception.

**HI HO SILVER:** Serving wine and hosting \$100 gift certificate raffle.



TERRA SAVIA



VERGE

