

■ INSIDE

Letters 2  
Crime Watch 4  
Retail Report 6  
First Person 9  
Art 12  
Home Sales 14



■ FOOD & DRINK

## Change at the Coffee Shop

A whiff of concern as Royal Ground spiffs up

PAGE 7



■ DESIGN

## New Parklet: Pro and Con

PAGE 15

# THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ AUGUST 2012



## A Local Olympian

### Like Father, Like Son for a Family of Fencers

By JULIA IRWIN



Alexander Massialas (above and top left) is the youngest member of the U.S. fencing team.

**N**EIGHBORHOOD resident and fencing champion Alexander Massialas is realizing a dream — and continuing a family legacy — by competing in the summer Olympics in London.

His father and coach, Greg Massialas, also fenced in the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games and qualified for the 1980 games in Moscow, which the U.S. boycotted.

"It's a really special bond we have, so having my dad here at the Olympic village is kind of incredible, because this is something he's gone through himself as an athlete," Alex said in an interview from London shortly before the games began. "Walking through the opening ceremonies, it's going to be something I probably won't even have words for."

Two days later, there he was — right at the front when Team USA marched in during the opening ceremonies.

Alex, who turned 18 in April, won his first round, but was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the individual men's foil on July 31. He will compete again in the men's team foil event on August 5.

TO PAGE 10 ►



Alamo Square Neighborhood Association

## 29th ANNUAL ALAMO SQUARE FLEA MARKET

**Saturday, August 18, 2012**  
9 am - 3 pm  
Scott, Hayes and Fulton

Join us for our 29th Annual Flea Market!

[www.alamosq.org](http://www.alamosq.org)

Antiques • Estate • Vintage • Handmade • Local



**Curated Shopping for Modern Living**

**ZINC details**

1905 Fillmore St • San Francisco  
415.776.2100  
info@zincdetails.com  
facebook.com/ZincDetailsSF  
[WWW.ZINCDETAILS.COM](http://WWW.ZINCDETAILS.COM)

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Fallout From the Jazz Fest

**TO THE EDITORS:**  
WE ARE GRATEFUL to have the *New Fillmore* as a resource for neighborhood news and events. In reading about the controversy over creating beer gardens at the Fillmore Jazz Festival, ["Crackdown on Booze at Jazz Fest This Year," July] we have to add our voices to those who are upset by this change. We live a couple of blocks from Fillmore Street and have enjoyed the festival for many years; however, that changed dramatically this year.

We observed that the beer gardens seemed to attract people who were more interested in drinking in public rather than the festival itself. At the California Stage, the beer garden was located mid-way between California and Sacramento Street. This eliminated significant space where people could have stood to enjoy the music. The noise from the beer garden during Kim Nalley's performance made it impossible for us to enjoy or even hear the music. Our group of six simply left.

The police have been a presence at the festival in past years and always appeared ready to address any issue related to alcohol use, though it seems a problem has occurred rarely, if ever. Creating the beer gardens is a solution in search of a problem. The Fillmore Jazz Festival has been an example of how a street festival can bring the community together and celebrate its heritage. Let's not sacrifice that.

CARLOS A. GARCIA & LEA ROSS

walking up and down the street buying on impulse. I am sure that I am not alone. I would guess that the mer chants selling the same stuff that is at every other fair will be adversely affected by the ban on walking around with a glass of wine or beer. These are impulse buys and if people are sitting listening to jazz and then stuck in "gardens" the sales will be way down.

Nobody benefits by this other than the wine vendors sanctioned by the fair.

BETH WELLS

INTERESTING ARTICLE, but in this case I side with [Captain Ann] Mannix. *C'est la vie.*

ANDRÉ BOLAFFI

THE FILLMORE Jazz Festival has been my favorite city festival for years. This festival held out on the beer gardens, and that really made it enjoyable. Well, this year the beer gardens made an appearance, and simply destroyed the Fillmore Jazz Festival experience for me. The beer gardens were overcrowded to a point where my friends and I could not find space to have a drink and enjoy the music.

I recommend you lose the beer gardens next year, or potentially try to turn the whole street into a "beer garden." If not, I think this may be my last year at any of the San Francisco street festivals. It's a real shame the powers that be can destroy an incredible event like this.

CHAD MOSLEY

BEFORE EVEN commenting on the alcohol policy at this year's fair, I would like to comment on your dreadful headline. Booze. Booze is a derogatory word — why not liquor, alcohol or wine and beer? You are showing your prejudice here.

However, booze might not be a wrong word considering that the quality of the wine that was served at last year's fair was swill. I did not have any beer so I cannot judge the quality of the beer. Years ago the wine was probably not up to the quality that Mike Politz sells at D&M Liquors, but it was drinkable. Also, the first glass was sold for a dollar more in a souvenir Fillmore fair glass. Last year I took an old glass to the fair because drinking wine out of a plastic cup has no ambience. But the swill they served last year tasted like swill despite the Fillmore glass.

I often go to the fair alone and enjoy

I JUST WANT to weigh in and say I hope 2013 is better than this year. We come up from Southern California and, if this had been the first time, we'd not come back. There was very little music playing as we walked up and down the street. (The guys on the sidewalk had the best consistent sound.) Speaking of sidewalks, the foot traffic around the California stage at 5 p.m. bordered on dangerous, with people being pushed, shoved and trampled as they tried to move up the street.

Finally, the beer corrals are a terrible idea. Did the city mandate this? They simply added to the logjam, made so much noise as to drown out the music and forced people to sling down huge beers to get out of the pack.

I certainly hope you can address some of these issues and make the festival fun again.

ED SCHUMANN

### THE NEW FILLMORE

[newfillmore.com](http://newfillmore.com)


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

**Editors** | Barbara Kate Repa & Thomas R. Reynolds  
**Production** | Ginny Lindsay **Proofreader** | Donna Gillespie  
**Marketing Manager** | Alison Short

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

#### Connecting the neighborhood

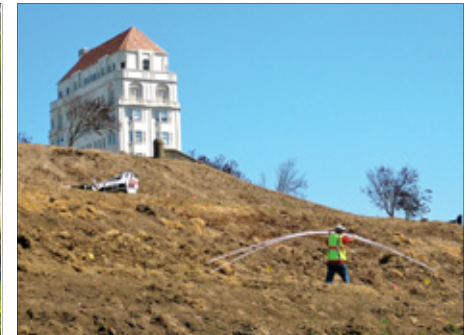
Every month, 20,000 copies of the New Fillmore are delivered to homes and businesses in the Fillmore, Pacific Heights and Japantown. We thank you for your support and encouragement and welcome your ideas and suggestions.

 [newfillmore.com](http://newfillmore.com) | updates, videos and an archive of back issues

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



At Lafayette Park (left), dogs are now welcome only in a small area on the north side of the park. At Alta Plaza, a new irrigation system is being installed on the south side terraces.



### Local Parks Dug Up; Complaint Stalls Work at Lafayette

IT'S SUMMERTIME, and the living is not so easy for those in the neighborhood who take their dogs — or themselves — for a walk in the park.

Both of the neighborhood's four-block hilltop greens — Lafayette Park and Alta Plaza Park — are mostly brown this summer. Both are undergoing renovation.

At Alta Plaza, what's billed as a "water conservation project" includes a new irrigation system on the south side terraces, which are dug up and fenced off, except for the grand staircase at Pierce Street. The northern half of the park remains open, including the playground and tennis courts. The project is on track to be completed in September.

Lafayette Park is getting a full-blown makeover, thanks to \$10 million from a bond measure passed in 2008 and additional funds raised by Friends of Lafayette Park for a

deluxe new playground. About three-quarters of the park was fenced off when construction began in June. But then a neighbor's complaint brought the work to a halt.

Shannon Gallagher, who lives across from Lafayette Park, appealed one of the permits for the project. Her detailed written objections are due by August 9 and will be heard by the Board of Appeals on August 22.

Gallagher was pilloried as a prime example of the "tyranny of the few" by *Chronicle* columnist C.W. Nevius, too common in what he called "the city that can't say yes."

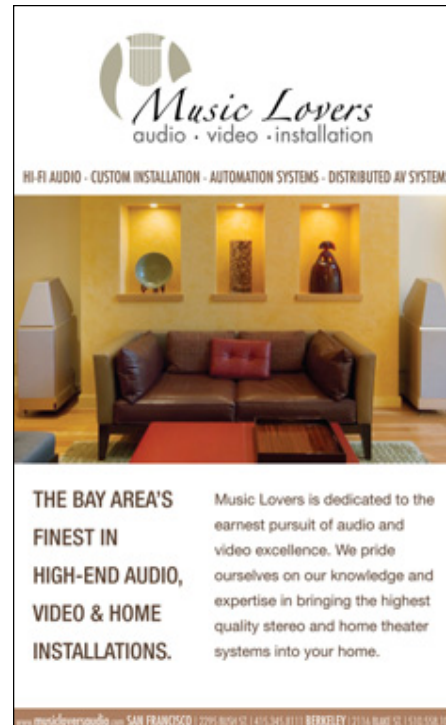
Gallagher was a no-show at an August 1 community meeting on the Lafayette Park renovation. At the meeting, project manager Mary Hobson said work had resumed under permits that were not appealed. Hobson and other staffers from the city's Recreation &

Parks Department said they were confident the appeal was without merit and would be rejected, and that the project could be completed in 10 months as planned.

Some in the audience of approximately 100 residents questioned why Gallagher had not raised her objections during public planning sessions for the project, and why she wasn't at the meeting.

"She had to go out of town because people were threatening her," responded Pat Lovelock, who described herself as a friend of Gallagher's and said she shared her concerns about proper permitting, dust and disabled access.

Others at the meeting questioned the removal of trees, and whether trees, plants and birds are being properly cared for during construction. Revised plans call for the removal of 44 trees, with 58 new trees to be planted.



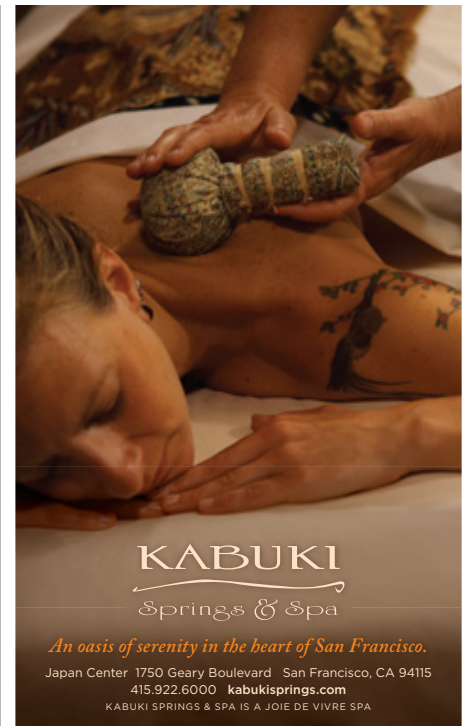
**Music Lovers**  
audio • video • installation

HI-FI AUDIO • CUSTOM INSTALLATION • AUTOMATION SYSTEMS • DISTRIBUTED AV SYSTEMS

**THE BAY AREA'S FINEST IN HIGH-END AUDIO, VIDEO & HOME INSTALLATIONS.**

Music Lovers is dedicated to the earnest pursuit of audio and video excellence. We pride ourselves on our knowledge and expertise in bringing the highest quality stereo and home theater systems into your home.

[www.musicloversaudio.com](http://www.musicloversaudio.com) SAN FRANCISCO | 2295 BUSH ST. | 415.345.8111 | BERKELEY | 2215 BLAKE ST. | 415.345.1000



**KABUKI**  
springs & spa

*An oasis of serenity in the heart of San Francisco.*

Japan Center 1750 Geary Boulevard • San Francisco, CA 94115  
415.922.6000 [kabukisprings.com](http://kabukisprings.com)  
KABUKI SPRINGS & SPA IS A JOIE DE VIVRE SPA





## Amaretto

Amaretto is a handsome orange tabby with a large personality to match! He loves to socialize and is quite the athlete when it comes to playtime. Amaretto is looking for an active home that will have time to give him as much attention as he can return. Amaretto is strong and sweet like his namesake, and will make a happy addition to just about any environment. Please let me know if you have any questions! <http://www.petsunlimited.org/amaretto/>



2543 Fillmore Street  
Adoption Center: (415) 568-3058  
Visit us at: [www.petsunlimited.org](http://www.petsunlimited.org)

## GUY KORBLUM & ASSOCIATES ATTORNEYS

Experience counts and we offer our clients and colleagues a level of expertise and dedication that's hard to find. Specializing in:

Over 31 years of service and results.



Guy O. Kornblum

Our specialty is in representing our clients in mediations, trials, arbitrations, and appeals. The initial consultation is without charge; we work on a contingency or fee-based structure. There are many alternatives so that our services are available to you.

- Wrongful Death
- Medical Malpractice
- Serious Personal Injury
- Disability Insurance
- Insurance Bad Faith
- Insurance Coverage
- Tax Shelter Fraud (IRC 419)
- Life Insurance Sales Fraud
- Elder Abuse
- Legal Malpractice
- Real Estate Litigation
- Business Disputes

### Estate Planning Services at Reasonable Costs

If you are a young family unit, newly married, or are just getting started with a partner, or have nieces and nephews to whom you want to give your estate, we can help you design an estate plan. Most of us put this aside as we think we can get to it later. But life has its way. And the best plan is to have a plan — you need a Will, perhaps a Living Trust and a Power of Attorney (over your affairs if you are incapacitated) and a Health Care Directive so someone can make health care decisions for you if you cannot.

If you have a young family, you may need to consider life insurance. You also need to look at what insurance you have. Do you have adequate auto coverage for you and your family. What if you or a family member is injured by a motorist with NO insurance. Who pays the bills then?

We can help you with the Basic GKA Family Plan. We have fixed rates to go over your affairs and make sure you have the protection you need. Avoid Probate, provide for a succession plan, and make sure you have taken care of your personal desires so that your family is spared the burdens of doing that for you.

We can help. Call us for a quote on the Basic GKA Family Plan. Reasonable prices for legal assistance to give you peace of mind.

Visit [kornblumlaw.com](http://kornblumlaw.com) for more information.

1388 Sutter Street, Suite 820, San Francisco, CA 94109 415.440.7800 [kornblumlaw.com](http://kornblumlaw.com)

## CRIME WATCH

### Outstanding Warrant Jackson Street and Van Ness Avenue July 5, 8:42 a.m.

A man reported to police that an individual was sleeping in his driveway. When officers arrived, they noted the sleeping man was preventing anyone from entering or leaving the house's garage. They contacted the individual and discovered he had outstanding warrants for driving without a license, driving while drunk and vandalism. The man was booked at Northern Station.

### Forcible Entry Geary Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue July 10, 3:47 p.m.

Officers received a call concerning a burglary in progress at a boarded-up business. When the officers arrived, they saw three men dragging a garbage can filled with copper pipes and various metal objects away from the scene. The police saw that the lock to the front gate of the business had been cut and found a bent metal gate with an opening large enough for a person to squeeze through. They entered the building through this opening and found holes punched into the wall, along with places where copper pipes appeared to have been removed. Officers arrested the men, one of whom was carrying burglary tools. All had committed similar crimes in the past. They were booked at county jail.

### Terrorist Threats Van Ness Avenue and Pine Street July 13, 9:50 a.m.

Officers received a call concerning an assault and were told a citizen was detaining the assailant. The man who had been assaulted was a gas station employee who was working the counter when he saw a man he knew from prior incidents harassing customers. This individual panhandles at the gas station even though management has asked him to stop numerous times. The employee asked him to leave, but the panhandler responded, "I'm gonna wait for you to get off and stab you." Moments later, a cab driver approached the employee at the cash register and complained there was a man outside aggressively asking for money. When the employee walked outside, the panhandler swung a piece of wood at him, striking him several times on the head. Several bystanders rushed to his aid; they seized the suspect and held him down until police arrived. He was then booked at Northern Station.

### Vehicle Burglary Geary Boulevard and Laguna Street July 15, 5:05 p.m.

Plainclothes officers received a call from a man who said that an individual

had just broken into his car. When police arrived, he pointed out the suspect to them. Officers followed the man, who fled. They chased him through several back yards, and when they finally caught him he wrestled with them, resisting arrest. Eventually they managed to handcuff him. The man who had called police gave them a video he'd taken on his cell phone camera; it showed the suspect moving about inside his car. A computer check revealed the suspect was on probation for auto burglary.

### Aggravated Assault Sacramento and Buchanan Streets July 18, 10:30 a.m.

Officers responded to a call about a fight on a Muni bus that involved five people. The woman who had instigated the disturbance jumped off the bus after hitting several people, then ran into a nearby building. The officers tracked her down and detained her. She had assaulted several people and one person was injured. While the officers were doing a booking search of the woman at Northern Station, she kicked one officer in the leg. He was not injured.

### Obstructing a Peace Officer in the Line of Duty Van Ness Avenue and Pine Street July 18, 7:04 p.m.

Officers approached an individual panhandling on the median strip and asked him to step to the sidewalk so they could issue him a citation. He quickly walked away while cursing at them. They stopped him a second time and one officer used a control hold to escort him from the median. The man turned around and attempted to pull away from the police; officers wrestled him to the ground, while he kicked wildly. He would not give up his hands to be handcuffed, but eventually officers subdued him and transported him to Northern Station.

### Petty Theft Van Ness Avenue and Eddy Street July 19, 11 a.m.

Officers received a call from security guards at Walgreen's concerning a man they were holding for shoplifting. The guards had seen the man walk into the store and place multiple bottles of shampoo and conditioner inside a gift bag. Security followed him and watched as he exited, making no attempt to pay for the merchandise. The man is well known by security; they have held him in the past for shoplifting. The shoplifter told the security guards he intended to sell the shampoo and conditioner on the street to make money to buy cocaine. The officers took custody of the man and transported him to Northern Station.



## RETAIL REPORT

# Mimi's Great Sorority

For 26 years, Mimi Lawrence has presided over her Union Street boutique. But change is brewing.

By MARJORIE LEET FORD



M. CHRISTINE THORNTON

MIMI LAWRENCE always wanted to have her own store.

"I started in retail when I was six," she says, recalling her childhood in New Jersey. "I loaded an ice chest of soda pop into a little rowboat with a one-and-a-half-horsepower motor, like an eggbeater, and rode around the harbor selling pop to people in sailboats."

Years later, she worked for Lord & Taylor in New York, then for Joseph Magnin in San Francisco. She especially loved J. Magnin because it bravely broke the rules.

"At that time the only lingerie you could get was black, white or cream," Lawrence says. "Suddenly a runway show had shortie nightgowns in orange, green, and purple. People were shocked!"

Twenty-six years ago, she opened her dream store — Mimi's, on Union Street near Fillmore. To stock it, she says, she searched far and wide to find fashions that were comfortable and practical, great for travel — and "a little adventurous."

Realizing the dream has brought with it some unexpected satisfaction.

"You're in business, doing your thing, and you don't realize how much it means to people," Lawrence says. "After the earthquake in 1989, people came in here just to tell their stories — and to find out if others were okay. When Anita Hill's testimony came up, this place became a clearinghouse. People just opened up. It was like a great sorority."

Most stores are places you go just to buy something. In this brave new world, a lot of towns and neighborhoods have only those: Walmart, Safeway, Home Depot.

But in San Francisco we still have shops you can step into just for the fun of it — like Mimi's. It's a feminine version of an English pub. There's no beer, only clothes that are "wearable art"; no men, only women who may not know each other when they walk in, but get locked in talk about everything from kids and jobs to jewelry and jeans.

One day recently a woman walked in to the shop. "I'm here so often, people will think I work here," she says. "Well you do!" responds Lawrence.

"You're my model. The other day you walked down Union Street wearing that black jacket and a pencil skirt, and you were such a knockout that three people stopped you to ask where you got it. I know, because all three came in and bought it."

Another customer, who lives in Boston, comes in and says, "I don't buy anything in Boston. I shop here." Another, going through hand-painted silk tops by an artist shown at the Smithsonian, says, "Every time you come in here, you're coming home."

During the many years she's owned the store, Lawrence has added just three employees, careful to choose personalities that "people feel comfortable with," she says. All three are still there. In 1992, Joan Diamond joined the staff; five years later, Elaine Aguilar came on the scene. And a year and a half ago, Trish Blaire left Macy's, where she was a buyer, to join the crew at Mimi's. All three know the customers and remember what they bought, so they have a sense of each woman's style.

But change is brewing. As of August 1, Mimi Lawrence will leave the store. She is off to a new adventure: retirement. But her name will remain on the store, and shoppers will still see a familiar face: Trish Blaire is the new proprietor.

Lawrence says she doesn't intend to slow down much in her retirement. For one thing, she'll continue to play the ukulele — not the usual twangs, but Bach and Beethoven. Every Saturday afternoon for years, she's been playing classical music on ukulele with a group of ambitious ukeleleists.

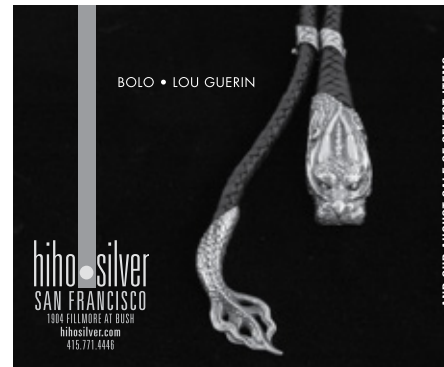
She also has a bunch of nieces she's already taken to Spain and the South of France. She'll keep on being Auntie Mame, showing them the rest of the world. She plans a trip to China and another to India. She'll keep up her Saturday morning walks at Crissy Field, going to Berkeley Rep, ACT, Word for Word and the Freight and Salvage.

And as ever, she'll go to the opera. "I haven't missed an opening night in 40 years," she says, which allows her to combine her two great passions: operatic music and dressing up in fabulous clothes.

She'll probably see her shopping at Mimi's.

*"You're in business, doing your thing, and you don't realize how much it means to people."*

— MIMI LAWRENCE  
proprietor of Mimi's on Union Street

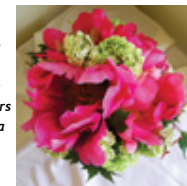


...AND OUR AUGUST SALE OF SELECT ITEMS

## BLOOMING

Floral Design

Award Winning  
Designs  
Wedding flowers  
Fresh & Silk flowers  
Japanese Ikebana



Modern Luxury  
Wedding at  
Ritz-Carlton  
Sunday, August 12  
[modernluxuryweddings.com](http://modernluxuryweddings.com)

Place Orders

Phone: (415) 749-1533 Online: [bloomingfloraldesign.com](http://bloomingfloraldesign.com)  
[info@bloomingfloraldesign.com](mailto:info@bloomingfloraldesign.com)

THE WEEKLY *Bay Guardian* published its annual Best of the Bay issue on July 25, and the list included a number of neighborhood establishments.

#### BEST LA CART

STATE BIRD PROVISIONS opened in late 2011, honoring Lower Fillmore's jazz spirit with inventive plates (a bargain at \$5 to \$18 a dish) flowing from the kitchen like high-flying jazz riffs — with one major innovative twist. Most are presented dim sum-style, rolled through the pegboard-walled dining room on carts or offered on trays for your pick-and-choose pleasure. Dynamic husband-wife chef duo Stuart Brizoa and Nicole Krasinski, formerly of Rubicon, change the menu constantly, transcending now-typical seasonality restraints to take flight with visionary flavor combinations and presentations. A helpful map of the nation's state birds adorns the restroom, but there's only one on the menu: the California quail, of course. Fried and crusted with pumpkin seeds; sided with a couple of cart picks like eggplant "fries" with pimenton and charred wax beans with pickled-egg salad; and chased down with dreamy shots of peanut muscovado milk; it's a real plate-licker.

1529 Fillmore Street, 795-1273  
statebirdsf.com

#### BEST PEANUT BUTTER CLOUDS

Despite our American love for all things soft, saccharine and somehow edible, vegans and equinophiles alike are saddened by the innocuous-seeming marshmallow, which often includes gelatin derived from horse hooves and other



Ron and Tricia Benitez, husband-wife owners of Asmbly Hall, offer Ivy League-ish style.

## BEST of the BAY

A number of local favorites make this year's list

slaughterhouse scraps. But worry not, sweet things, **BENKYODO COMPANY** has treats that top the standby campfire comfort. Namely, mochi, a Japanese delight made of glutinous rice that is pounded and molded into sweet submission. Soft clouds of heaven — and they come in a variety of flavors like strawberry, green tea, mugwort, adzuki, and wow, peanut butter. Benkyodo's mochi has the texture of your favorite childhood sweet, with the flavors — and food justice acumen — of a grown-up gourmand.

1747 Buchanan, 922-1244  
benkyodocompany.com

#### BEST FRESH PREP

Holy Vampire Weekend, Kanye — no need to waste your time drooling over the archives of Street Etiquette, the sharpest neo-preppy style blog of our time. Fulfill your up-to-the-minute Ivy League-ish yearnings (with a dash of street-level snazzy) at **ASMBLY HALL**, the Fillmore men's and women's clothing shop for the sophisticated prepster. The natty clothes aren't priced too outrageously (button-down shirts are around \$80), and family classics are tweaked with unique elements like scalloped collars and striped in-seams. Husband-wife owners Ron and Tricia

Benitez have reworked an old mattress store into an absolutely lovely space with brick walls and blond wood floors. Here's where you'll score that funky two-tone cardigan, irreplaceable Macarthur shirt or dreamy summer beach dress. You'll have to supply your own air of undergrad gravitas.

1850 Fillmore Street, 567-5953  
asmblyhall.com

#### BEST FADES WITH FLAIR

Guys, it's that time again: the moment your friends have ceased to be fooled by that hat you wear to cover up the fact that you desperately need a touch-up on your fade. Never fear, the **NEW CHICAGO BARBERSHOP #3** is a time-tested solution to your lackluster attention to your grooming. Plus, the place has flair: step in the shop, and feel like you've stepped back into an early-1970s Fillmore District business. With pictures of Dizzy Gillespie and Muhammad Ali on the walls, a shoeshine station and never-ending barbershop banter, this is as authentic as it gets. For 45 years, the longest-standing shop on the block has cut local stars, visiting celebrities and everyday neighborhood residents. Just don't let the old-school vibe fool you — New Chicago's haircuts will make you feel like a new man.

1551 Fillmore Street, 563-9793  
newchicagobarbershop.net

Topping the *Bay Guardian* Readers Poll were these local businesses:

- Best Day Spa: Kabuki Springs and Spa, 1750 Geary
- Best Middle Eastern: La Meditterraence, 2210 Fillmore
- Best Indian: Dosa, 1700 Fillmore
- Best Jazz Club: Yoshi's, 1330 Fillmore

**la Méditerranée**  
CAFÉ • RESTAURANT  
**CATERING**  
2210 Fillmore  
(at Sacramento)  
San Francisco  
**415.921.2956**  
CELEBRATING 30th ANNIVERSARY  
FILLMORE LOCATION  
www.cafelamed.com

OPEN seven days  
WHERE the fillmore district, 1300 fillmore at eddy  
PARKING public garage and weekend valet parking  
RESERVATIONS 415.771.7100 1300fillmore.com  
"Some restaurants simply fuel the body, while others, such as 1300 on Fillmore, ignite the imagination."  
— Michael Bauer, SF Chronicle Food Critic  
**1300** ON FILLMORE

**tacobar**  
MEXICAN CLASSICS made with local organic ingredients, line-caught fresh fish, free-range chicken breast, all-natural pork and black angus beef.  
We love catering your fiestas. Please call Jack at 786-9406.  
2401 California Street at Fillmore  
415tacobar.com

**ELITE**  
The Elite Cafe  
Established 1981  
2049 Fillmore Street • 415.677.ELITE  
www.TheEliteCafe.com

Bar **FLORIO** Cafe  
Become a Facebook fan. Search "Florio Cafe & Bar"  
Tweet us! twitter.com/floriosf  
1915 Fillmore Street • (415) 775-4300 • floriosf.com



Change comes slowly at the southeast corner of Fillmore and California, which Royal Ground took over in 1987.  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANIEL BAHMANI

## Spiffing Up & Stirring Concern

An old-school coffeehouse is adding beer and wine, but promises not to lose its familial feeling

By CHRIS BARNETT

FILLMORE STREET's oldest coffeehouse is gussying itself up, and there's a whiff of concern in the air. Royal Ground, a funky haunt for neighborhood caffeine addicts for 25 years, last month rearranged its milk and sugar stand and its refrigerated juice display. Hardly a full facelift, but some customers were flummoxed. Loyalists who pay for their coffee or lattes at the front counter piled high with seductive sweets habitually step over to the scarred, wooden milk bar for a sweetener or a stir stick. But it's been moved — from the left to the right of the counter.

A few weeks earlier, a legal notice had been taped inside the front window announcing that Royal Ground had applied for a license to pour wine and serve beer. Plus, the lighting at night seems darker and moodier, giving rise to fears that the humble storefront with its prime location at 2060 Fillmore will be transformed from a vintage coffee shop into a rambunctious pub.

Not to worry. Ibrahim Alhijat, Royal Ground's genial owner for the last 10 years, insists the minor changes will neither destroy nor disturb the coffee shop's successful ecology, where a small cuppa joe still sells for just \$1.50, less than nearly all of the street's other coffee shops.

Royal Ground's planned new limited offerings of wine (four whites and four reds) and beer (five bottles, no draughts) will be aimed at patrons who prefer something more than a Macchiato or an Americano. Alhijat says he'll



probably sell the wine for \$4 to \$5 a glass, considerably below most neighborhood saloons. He's been waiting for a liquor license for a year and feels confident he'll be popping his first cork in the fall.

Change comes slowly at the southeast corner of Fillmore and California, which Royal Ground took over in 1987. The space, brightened by sunlight streaming in two walls of windows, was previously home for decades to Bi-Rite Liquors. Alhijat also owns the laundromat next door, the Wash 'n' Royal, where you can do it yourself or have Sylvia Hernandez wash, fluff and fold your sheets, shirts, socks and skivvies, with reliable one-day service, for \$8 a pound.

At one time there were 24 Royal Ground coffee shops dotting the Bay Area. While that number has been shrinking, the cozy coffeehouse on Fillmore feels more

like a family enterprise than just another link in a corporate chain. Alhijat, who was an electrician and a cab driver in his native Palestine and owned a liquor store at 15th and Church before setting up shop in the neighborhood, has amassed a lovely, lively family there.

A soft-spoken gentleman named Ray Bagheh, deemed one of the city's most creative cookie makers when he ran his own Market Street shop, came out of retirement six years ago at Alhijat's urging. Bagheh works the morning shift at Royal Ground now — cooking breakfast, making sandwiches and salads, toasting bagels and slathering them with cream cheese and concocting everything else that's listed on the back wall menu above the industrial-sized coffee makers.

"Ray is the best," says Alhijat, breaking into one of his wide grins. "He's like a brother to me, like a dad. He's cooking here as a hobby, not for the money."

Adds Bagheh: "Actually, I'm working here for the fun of it. I don't want to lose my brain."

Alhijat's son, Anthony, age 8, also sometimes pitches in part-time — taking orders, drawing the coffee and making sure all transactions are rung up on the register. He works seriously and silently until you coax a conversation out of him; then his stiff upper lip melts into his dad's signature smile.

Royal Ground serves coffee roasted by the McLaughlin Coffee Co. in the East Bay. And there is also no shortage of food — cakes, muffins, fruit, energy bars, homemade

Keep your visitors in the neighborhood  
**Artists Inn** B & B  
2231 Pine Street  
Between Webster/Fillmore  
415.346.1919 • www.artistsinn.com

**CALIFORNIA SHELL AUTO SERVICE & REPAIR**  
Brakes & Tires  
Check Engine Lights  
Computer Diagnostics  
Factory Scheduled Maintenance  
15K, 30K, 45K, 60K & 90K Services  
Cooling System & Transmission Problems  
Smog Tests & Repairs for Failure  
Batteries & Starting Problems  
Minor Repairs of all Types  
EUROPEAN • JAPANESE • AMERICAN  
**Fast, Friendly & Guaranteed**  
2501 California at Steiner • (415) 567-6512  
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuning • Restoration • Music  
**Pianos at their best!**  
Buy • Sell • Rent  
**the Piano-Care co.**  
2011 Divisadero Street at Sacramento  
415 / 567-1800



## 'We're a Coffee Shop for Locals'

► FROM PAGE 7

falafel, chicken kabobs, hummus and other salads. Just about everything on the menu is \$6 to \$7 except the breakfast bagels, which run from \$2.50 to \$5.75. There's also a basket of day-old muffins, scones, pastries, and sticky buns for a mere buck apiece.

But it seems that at least some of Royal Ground's customers come in for the smiles, schmooze and genuine greetings as much as for the food or the coffee.

The baristas, three young Russian women who swap shifts and run the shop from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day, all oblige.

Siberian-born Tyatiana Shifruk has high energy, a dramatic flair and a gift for remembering many of her customers' names and what's going on in their lives. A geography and economy major taking a break from studies at St. Petersburg State University, she says she loves her work.

"It's great for a foreigner like me because you're always improving your English, learning the culture, making friends," she says. "I'm a communicative person and I like to get opinions on all the different things going on in the city and in the world. And when I don't know how to say something in English, I talk with my hands. People understand."

Shifruk, who moved to the neighbor-



At Royal Ground, you'll likely be greeted by one of three Russian baristas: from left, Tyatiana Shifruk, Tina Kuznetsova and Natasha Lysova.

hood recently, says one of her biggest surprises about the U.S. is seeing people order coffee and lattes to go. "In Russia, you never take food out on the street and eat it or drink. It's rude," she says. "In fact, in my Siberian town of 100,000 — Ust-Ilimsk — they don't have coffee shops."

Natasha Lysova, a St. Petersburg native, prefers the night shift because she's studying psychology at UC-Berkeley. She has a following of regular guests running the gamut from University of the Pacific dental students — who fill the place to eat, drink and bone up for exams — to San Francisco police officers, who gather around 10 p.m. for coffee and an informal update on the night's happenings in the neighborhood.

"I like having the cops here," says Lysova. "They protect us."

Not that ducking into Royal Ground is all that risky. One recent night, eight members of a book club gathered to dissect and discuss the tome of the month. "They all drink decaf," says Lysova, who, like her sister baristas sharing the late shift, finds herself preparing food right up to 10 p.m. for customers who also work or study late, or who party and get the munchies. At the stroke of 10, the kitchen closes.

Tina Kuznetsova, who works morning and night shifts, studied finance in Russia and is taking accounting classes here, but is also a drummer for Royal Ground. "We're a coffee shop for locals and we have the lowest prices on the street except for Burger King," she says. "But their coffee is no comparison to ours."

Kuznetsova, who lives nearby, is a big

fan of the neighborhood. "Fillmore is different than any other place I've been to in San Francisco. It has a different attitude. Not too slow, but no one is in a rush," she says. "People on this street smile and you see the same people every day. That's what a real neighborhood is." Her local favorite: "The soups across the street at Tacobar. Best soup ever except for my mother's Russian borscht."

With a little luck, Royal Ground will remain an island of funk and friendliness in the neighborhood's sea of stylish storefronts. The well-worn chairs and tables just fit the place. The Wi-Fi, free for those who buy something, works with minimal hassle and there are enough AC outlets for laptops.

All that — and soon, wine and beer, too.



## Living LARGER

Write your next, best chapter right here at San Francisco Towers, the remarkable senior living community ideally located in the heart of the city.

To learn more, or for your personal tour, please call 415.447.5527 or visit [sanfranciscotowers-esc.org](http://sanfranciscotowers-esc.org).

1661 Pine Street San Francisco, CA 94109



San Francisco Towers  
The life you want, in the city you love.

Service is our 2nd language  
A fully accredited, non-denominational, not-for-profit community owned and operated by Episcopal Senior Communities License No. 380540292 CDA #177 EPSC642-01PF 070112

By BARBARA KATE REPA

MY FRIEND Johanna and I honor a tradition of embarking on an adventure together to celebrate our birthdays, loosely based on Eleanor Roosevelt's exhortation that doing scary things makes you stronger.

So when my big day neared this year, I urged an outing to the Imperial Spa at 1875 Geary. It's an unlikely spot for a spa, next door to the post office, on the former site of the People's Temple presided over by the Rev. Jim Jones, who infamously led more than 900 of his followers from the Fillmore to a mass suicide in Guyana. Now the site is a short strip mall where the smell of Kentucky Fried Chicken hangs heavy in the air.

Two other friends who know skin and muscle — one an aesthetician, the other a masseuse — had separately sung the praises of the spa. But since neither Johanna nor I had experienced a Korean massage and scrub, the proposed outing held some of the requisite fear factors.

Johanna made reservations — and off we went, showing up early to partake of the communal facilities as the experienced spa-goers had suggested.

On arrival, we admit to the woman at the desk that we are newbies, but she offers no advice or direction — merely handing us two pink terrylock robes, each wrapped around towels, and waving vaguely to a doorway.

"How will they find us when it's time for our treatments?" Johanna asks.

"Don't worry — they'll find you. They've got your number," assures another woman in a pink robe who seems to be at home in the place, pointing to the numbers on the locker keys.

Left to our own wanderings, we don the robes and some pink plastic sandals we discover near the dressing room, then clack as quietly as possible around the women's area. We discover a bevy of spalike offerings, including a cold tub, hot tub, sauna, steam room, several basins for washing, something we dare not enter that resembles an operating room with a gurney in it, and the most beckoning place of all: the Oxygen Room.

The wood-paneled room is warm but not hot, with walls imbued with yellow clay, thought to rid the body of impurities, and jade, said to be good for skin and blood circulation. Fragrant herbs hang in cloth bags on the walls. There are bamboo mats on the floor — and since



The Imperial Spa at 1875 Geary shares a parking lot with KFC and Meaders Cleaners.

## Not for the Delicate

Mrs. Roosevelt and a visit to the Korean bath

no one is on them, we claim a couple. After a relaxing half hour of gossiping while prone on the mats, Johanna poses the empirical question: "Do you feel like you have more oxygen in you?"

"I think so," I say. Much therapeutic giggling follows. Possibly oxygenated and willing to be true believers, we are then beckoned upstairs to the women's treatment room to receive what is described as a "Purification Body Scrub & Oil Massage, 80 minutes." Some words of warning: This treatment

is not for the modest, prudish, delicate — or those who can't appreciate the true adventure of being ministered to by women clad only in black underwear while lying back naked on a plastic-wrapped massage table alongside several other women who are similarly played and displayed.

No questions are asked. The first order is to lie on your stomach.

After that, the attendant speaks little and for long stretches not at all, making

each step in the treatment unexpected — and sometimes a little shocking.

To begin, she douses you with pans of lukewarm water, then scrubs the bejealous out of your skin with a rough sort of loofah mitt. The scrubbing is hard and brisk. Arms are thrown overhead with some force and vigor while armpits are scrubbed. And not a square inch of skin gets missed as your body is manipulated, legs and arms arched akimbo. Other spa-goers say they were wowed by the mounds of dead skin that are sloughed off during this drubbing, but I am not adventurous enough to peek out from under the towel they've thrown over my head.

Next comes the massage featuring surprises of its own, including being smacked by a very hot towel before the masseuse jumps on the table to do a death grip on my back muscles with her elbows. I indulge in regular trigger point massages in my less adventuresome life, so I am no stranger to painful manipulations. And a Midwesterner by birth, I am pridefully stoic. But this is real, prolonged pain. I focus my mind and search for a mantra to lend some hope: "Others have had this treatment — and have survived." Johanna later confesses she had the same mantra.

Other surprises include having my face slathered with a cucumber and yogurt mince, then being urged to wash it away with some warmish white liquid in a pan. The attendant breaks her silence to explain: "It's milk." Then she yanks the scrunchie off my head and gives my hair and head a rough wash with some undisclosed agent.

When our treatments are over, I seek out Johanna, two soggy massage tables over. I'm thinking she looks scared; Mrs. Roosevelt would be proud. Released back to the dressing room, we are shaken and stirred, reshaping ourselves for dinner and a detox after the detox.

But we are uncharacteristically silent. We have clearly received "treatments"; our skin is polished and nary a muscle knot could have survived that energetic pummeling. But we are both still gauging whether the gain is worth the pain.

Back out into the parking lot where the area is perfumed with fried chicken, I take a brief break from fondling the skin on my newly soft elbows and arms to pose a question to my co-adventurer: "Would you go back?"

"Oh sure," Johanna says. "But I think I might take someone with me who I really don't like."

Chart your path to a fulfilled future through **Coming of Age** programs, workshops & volunteer opportunities for people 50+!

What's next in YOUR life? "Explore Your Future" workshops begin September 13 in San Francisco. Enroll today!



Visit [www.ComingofAge.org/BayArea](http://www.ComingofAge.org/BayArea) or call (888) 308-1767 for more info.



Body, Bard, Buildings, Brains  
This Fall we've got it All at OLLI  
Seasoned adults age 50 and up — Jump into learning with stimulating courses and exciting activities. Classes start Sept. 10.

Just a Few of Many  
■ Political Behavior in the 2012 Election ■ Opera History ■ Artistic Couples: Creativity and Intimate Partnership ■ Walking San Francisco ■ American Political Thought ■ How the Brain Works and Learns ■ Writing Non-Fiction and Memoir ■ Investment Analysis/Checklist ■ Digital Photography ■ Shakespeare's Hamlet ■ Documentary Film ■ Baroque Rocco Women Artists ■ Improving Balance and Reducing Falls ■ Theatre Imagination

Info Session/Aug 28  
Noon-1pm, Main Campus, Creative Arts Building  
OLLISFSU.EDU  
Fall Session I Preview/Aug 30  
1:30-4pm, Downtown Campus, Sixth Floor  
415/817-4243

THE OLLI LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE BERNARD OSHKOSH FOUNDATION.

► FROM PAGE ONE

As a child, Alex often watched his father give lessons at the fencing academy he owns, Massialas Foundation at Halberstadt, located in the Mission District.

"I loved it right from the get-go — even before I started fencing," Alex said. "Some days I'd be ecstatic because I got to see the sport I wanted to do so badly. And other days I'd be crying on the sidelines because he wouldn't let me join in."

He still remembers his first introductory class, which he took when he was 7 years old.

"It really just hit me then that was the sport I'm going to follow for the rest of my life," he said. "I love playing all sports, but I think fencing combines the best of athletic ability and mental capability. You have to be able to out-think your opponent and keep cool under high-pressure situations. Yet you have to be really athletic as well, just to keep up with the other fencer."

Greg Massialas found that his son had the talent, drive and attitude to match his love for the sport.

"I saw that he had a passion; he worked really hard from the ages of 9, 10, 11 years old — and he didn't fear anything," Greg said. "He just believed. He's a great athlete and a rather smart kid, and all those elements came together."

Under his dad's coaching, Alex began to succeed in competitions against older and more experienced opponents. Greg, who began fencing at 11, described Alex's early success as a "completely different" pathway than his own.

"When I was 14 years old, I got my first electric foil for Christmas," Greg said. "At 14 years old, Alex had already won a Division I national tournament."



Drew School graduate Alexander Massialas will enter Stanford University in the fall.

## 'I Loved It From the Get-Go — Even Before I Started Fencing'

Among his many record-breaking achievements, at 16 Alex became the youngest fencer ever to win a men's foil Division I national championship. At 17, he became the youngest to win a medal at the Seoul World Cup, earning a bronze. In this year's Olympics, Alex is among the younger athletes at the Olympics, but both father and son see that as an advantage.

"There's so much pressure," Greg said. "It's some people's last games. Some have families, mortgages and kids."

Alex wants to deliver at this year's games, but said his youth gives him freedom.

"We're out there trying to prove ourselves, and we have nothing to lose because we have so much longer to go," he said. "As for the old guys, they don't want to lose to the new guys, so the pressure's on them, not me."

It would be easy to attribute Alex's success to genetics — his younger sister Sabrina is also an up-and-coming fencer well positioned for the 2016 Olympics — or to Greg's unique dual role as father and coach.

"The fact that my father's my coach, it's a good bonus, but when I'm on the strip

I'm just another kid and he's just my coach," Alex said. "He's a coach on the strip and a father at home. Otherwise, I have a pretty decent body for fencing. I'm tall and long. I'm quick. But it's really just a lot of hard work and dedication."

Training for Alex meant four to five hours of training on an average school day, a portion of which might be devoted to other sports, or to cross-training in the pool or at the gym. After graduating from the neighborhood's Drew School on May 31, he ramped it up even more, focusing full time on fencing.

He will enter Stanford in the fall, with a four-year fencing scholarship.

"I want to achieve the goals I set for myself," Alex said. "I want to be an Olympic champion one day. I want to achieve the goal I've been thinking of since way before I even started fencing. So I think that's really what drives me — just the love of what I do. I do this because I love it, not because I'm good at it."

Both father and son are optimistic about this year's Olympics.

"Alex has intensity, passion, athleticism and he thinks very quickly on his feet," Greg said. "He actually has very legitimate opportunities. Once you get to the top eight, it's anybody's game."

Shortly after he arrived in London, Alex was feeling confident.

"I think realistically I do have a shot at a medal this Olympics, because I've medaled at a couple senior world cups in the past few seasons," he said. "It's been pretty hard in the past year just to get to this moment. This is your time to shine, this is do or die, go out there, give it 100 percent, and hopefully I'm going to come back with some hardware for the U.S."

## TAKE MUNI TO THE STORE.



## WE'LL TAKE YOU HOME.

Urban grocery shopping couldn't be easier.

Instead of wrestling an armload of bags across the city, just take a pleasant ride back to your front door. A Molliebus waits in the Castro and at the Grand Central parking lot, ready to whisk you home.

Granted, you may have to take a seat and wait a few minutes for a ride. We're sorry to have to admit that other people might be using it at the moment.

But we also have to point out that if you want something like it from another store, you might have to wait years.

**MOLLIE STONE'S**

18th & Collingwood in the Castro California & Steiner in the Fillmore



## The Friendship Line

A MULTI-LINGUAL TELEPHONE LINE FOR ADULTS 55 & OVER

Institute on Aging's Friendship Line reaches out to older adults, offering a wealth of emotional and well-being resources. In the comfort and privacy of their home, callers receive emotional support, reassurance, counseling, crisis intervention, abuse prevention help, medication reminders, well-being checks, and information and referral for additional care.

**415.752.3778**

Volunteer Opportunities: 415.750.4111x124

The Multi-Lingual Friendship Line is not an emergency phone service. It is a community support project by Institute on Aging and Department of Adult and Aging Services of the City and County of San Francisco, partially funded through the Mental Health Services Act.

**Institute on Aging**  
Helping Bay Area Seniors Live Independently

One of the longest running community Fairs in San Francisco!

August 4 & 5 • San Francisco Japantown



Celebrating our diverse Asian/Pacific communities!

Featuring 2 stages of live entertainment & cultural performances,  
Asian Artisans, Food Fest, Children's & Doggie World, Fun & Furry Pooch Contest,  
Pet Parade, Nonprofit Information & Corporate Information Booths

For more information, please visit our website: [www.nihonmachistreetfair.org](http://www.nihonmachistreetfair.org)

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/nihonmachistreetfair](https://facebook.com/nihonmachistreetfair)

PROUD SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS OF THE 39TH ANNUAL NIHONMACHI STREET FAIR



Funded in part by **grants to Arts**  
Assisted by SOMM Cultural Center's Technical Services Program, which is supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission.



## From Debris, He Creates Sculpture

Jerry Barrish — an artist and a bail bondsman — has musical tales to tell

By PETER SELZ

JERRY BARRISH LIVES in Pacifica in a house that is directly on the ocean. One winter's day, looking out at the beach, he noticed the debris strewn on the sand and decided to collect it to make his Christmas tree.

Barrish was 50 years old when he began his career as an assemblage sculptor. Born in 1939 in San Francisco, he recalls being "overwhelmed" when at about age seven he was taken to the de Young Museum and saw painting and sculpture, an experience that affected his life. As soon as he was able to drive, he went to museums and early on he studied with a stonecutter. During his service in the Army, he went to museums in Germany and France. When he returned to San Francisco he opened an office as a bail bondsman — certainly an unusual occupation for a budding artist.

Jerry's father, who was a professional boxer and contender in major fights, met such movie stars as Frank Sinatra and Edward G. Robinson and the notorious



gangster Mickey Cohen. When Cohen was convicted of tax evasion and sent to Alcatraz, he managed to post bail while waiting to appeal. So when Barrish met Cohen's bail bondsman at a party, the bondsman suggested to the young veteran that he might go into the bail business. As a bondsman Barrish had to work 24 hours a day seven days a week, sleeping in the fine arts, but he could. During the crucial controversies at the University of California over civil

rights and free speech and the Vietnam war, Barrish was the man who posted bail for the demonstrators and rebels, keeping them out of jail.

All along he managed to collect minor art pieces, and in 1971 he decided to enroll at the San Francisco Art Institute. While there he took classes in the fine arts, but specialized in film and graduated from their film program in 1975. He began

making feature films including *Dan's Motel*, *Recent Sorrows* and *Shuttlecock*, which were shown at the Berlin Film Festival, in the New Directors series at Lincoln Center in New York, in festivals in Holland, Belgium and China, as well as at the Museum of Modern Art's film series in New York and the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley. In 2004 Barrish was honored with a film retrospective in Hof, Germany.

Seeing the extensive exhibition, "Forty



**Playing at the jazz center**

An exhibition of Jerry Barrish's sculptures of musicians created from found materials, "RHYTHM SPIRIT MOTION," will be on view this month at the Lush Life Gallery in the Fillmore Jazz Heritage Center at 1320 Fillmore Street. The exhibition opens on August 5 with a reception from 2 to 5 p.m. and continues through September 30. For more information, call 255-7745 or visit [jazzheritagecenter.org](http://jazzheritagecenter.org).

Years of California Assemblage" at the San Jose Museum of Art in 1989 affirmed his own project. Here was the work of more than 50 artists, working with a great variety of materials from small verifiers by Wallace Berman to large multimedia assemblages by Bruce Conner and the absurdly inventive pieces of William T. Wiley. Wiley was a key luminary of Funk art, which, with its ribald humor, visual puns and innovative use of materials as well as its sense of

whimsy, finds an echo in Barrish's sculpture. Looking at the work on exhibit in San Jose, he realized that none of these assemblage artists made use of plastic and, furthermore, that almost none of them told stories with their work. He, a former filmmaker, found a personal niche in the making of narrative pieces that were assembled from throwaway plastic.

Jerry Barrish is a *bricoleur* (the English "putterer" doesn't quite do it). He haunts

all the junkyards, the beaches, the streets, dumps, auto graveyards and recycling centers and collects the debris that suits his fancy. Then the fabulist makes it into figurative sculptures that tell their own tales.

For Barrish, it is the process of collecting stuff that dictates the appearance of the final sculptures. At certain times, to be sure, he will search for material to complete an image in his head. There is no formula. Perhaps this is the reason that he feels special affinity to Dada and Surrealism.

In 2005, after hearing Michael Tilson Thomas conduct the San Francisco Symphony, he made a tableau, "Orchestra," in which the numbered heads of the musicians were once a part of a child's billiard set. Sitting in the audience, Barrish spent more time and attention looking at the gestures and the body language of the conductor and musicians than listening to what they were playing. In the humorous "Street-Aires" (2004) we see them playing Klezmer music. Or there is the "Yellow Tuba Player" (2004) whose instrument was once a funnel and keys were golf tees.

The viewer is captivated by the way the figures look and how and from what they were made. The head in "Big Trumpet" derives from a child's bowling ball and the torso from a car bumper.

Barrish made many pieces dealing with music — mostly jazz. There is the large "Trio: Trombone, Sax, Bass" (1994) made of all manner of found materials, still recalling their earlier function, but now in an imaginative new combination the detritus is elevated to this jazz trio.

The artist says that he would be looking at the musicians rather than hearing them, but the viewers of this trio can almost hear

the syncopated rhythm of the combo, or the sounds coming from the strings of the "Street Harp" (1997) being played by a legless beggar who sits on the street with a sorrowful expression.

Many viewers see mostly humor in Barrish's work, but there are a good many pieces that are sad and painful. Not so "Dizzy" (1996), who plays his trumpet with concentration. His head was once part of a sprinkler system and there are auto and plumbing parts and a toy truck. Dizzy Gillespie, made up of all these parts, plays his trumpet standing on a piece of wood from the beach.

It all reminds us of Picasso's bronzes in which he cast found objects, such as the toy car that became the monkey's face in "Baboon and Young" (1951). He would have enjoyed seeing the progeny of the work he did in Vallauris in the early 1950s when a water pitcher became the belly of a goat. Referring to Picasso's earlier Cubist period Barrish has made the amazing "Braque Playing Picasso's Guitar" (1993) in which an odometer serves as Braque's head, perhaps to measure the time of the collaboration between the two artists.

The tragic pieces by the artist include the poignant "Strange Fruit" (2002), inspired by Billie Holiday's painful song about lynching, and "Grim Reaper" (1995). His scythe was a hockey stick and its blade is borrowed from automobile parts. It reminds us, as Freud has taught us and the Surrealists have demonstrated, that repressed feelings of the tragic often find release through humor and wit.

— Excerpted from *Skulpturen*, the catalog for a 2007 exhibition of Jerry Barrish's work curated by Peter Selz.

## JAZZ WORSHIP AT CALVARY

SUNDAYS AT 6PM JUNE 17 - AUGUST 26

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & THE DAVE SCOTT QUARTET  
PRESENT JAZZ INSPIRED WORSHIP

JUNE 17  
JUKE JOINTS AND JIM CROW  
Life in the Mississippi Delta  
Featuring the vocal blues of Faye Carol

JULY 1  
THE LADY GOT CHOPS  
Women in Jazz  
Featuring jazz pianist Dee Spencer

JULY 8  
BREAKDOWN  
A Jazz/Bluegrass Mash Up  
Featuring bluegrass violinist Alisa Rose

JULY 15  
DJANGOISMS  
The Gypsy Jazz of Django Reinhardt  
Featuring guitarist Scott Foster

JULY 22  
RHYTHM OF THE SAINTS, TAKE 2  
Featuring drummer Surya Pati

JULY 29  
SOME REAL NICE SONGS  
Featuring the vocal artistry of Joshua Hollister

AUGUST 5  
WHO SPEAKS FOR?  
Jazz and Religion  
Featuring bassist Marcus Shelby

AUGUST 12  
STRAIGHT TO JAZZ  
Shameless Borrowing from Everything

AUGUST 19  
COLLECTIVE EXUBERANCE  
How Jazz Creates Community

AUGUST 26  
JEWISH JAZZ  
An Incredible History of Collaboration  
Featuring the vocal artistry of Kim Kulley

DISCOVER THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF JAZZ

Calvary Presbyterian Church  
2515 Fillmore Street, at Jackson  
(415) 346-3832  
[www.calvarypresbyterian.org](http://www.calvarypresbyterian.org)



**VitaminExpress**  
Here for You since 1982

**Your health is your wealth**

Incredible Selection  
Personalized Service  
Knowledgeable Staff  
Super Savings

1428 Irving Street- SF  
(415) 564-8160 10-6 M-Sat  
2047 Fillmore Street- SF  
922-3811 10-6 M-Sat, 11-5 Sun

(24/7) 1-800-500-0733 [VitaminExpress.com](http://VitaminExpress.com)

**ST. DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

MASSSES	PRAYERS & SACRAMENTS
5:30 pm (Saturday Vigil) 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am 1:30, 5:30 & 9:00 pm	The church is open for prayer all day and into the early evening.
<b>WEEKDAYS</b> 6:30 & 8:00 am & 5:30 pm	<b>Liturgy of the Hours (Daily)</b> Morning Prayer 7:15 am/Sat 8:00 am Evening Prayer 5:00 pm
<b>SATURDAY</b> 7:40 am Rosary, 8:00 am Mass	<b>Reconciliation</b> Sat 5:00 pm, Sun 7:00, 8:00 & 11:00 am, 5:00 pm <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b> Mon & Wed 8:30 am & 6 pm Tue & Fri 8:30 pm

2390 Bush St. (at Steiner) • (415) 567-7824 • Free Parking

**I want to make sure he learns a second language.**

Find the perfect school for your little one with our searchable database of 200+ schools. Search by language program, specialty, proximity and more.

**zephyrsf.com**

**ZEPHYR REAL ESTATE**

CASTRO NOE VALLEY PACIFIC HEIGHTS  
POTRERO HILL UPPER MARKET WEST PORTAL



**268 Searift Road** One of the most distinguished properties in the gated community of Searift is the magnificent ocean pavilion of 268 Searift Road. Masterfully designed by architect Joseph Escherick, this inspired home reflects the refined and elegant taste of the McGuire family of San Francisco, the original owners. This is a most sophisticated and elegant property. Offered at \$6,895,000. View online at [www.268searift.com](http://www.268searift.com)

Katie Beacock 415.868.1791 [katie@searift.com](mailto:katie@searift.com)

For a complete listing of our Real Estate and Premium Vacation Rental properties, visit [www.searift.com](http://www.searift.com)



## Specialists in Residential Urban Landscaping

Janet Moyer Landscaping specializes in the creation of custom residential landscapes that address the unique challenges posed by San Francisco's climate, terrain and architectural constraints.

415-821-3760 • 1031 Valencia St., San Francisco • [jnmoyerlandscaping.com](http://jnmoyerlandscaping.com)  
Landscape Contractor License 953919 • Pest Control License 36389

### Affordable Family Housing Opportunity

Mary Helen Rogers Senior Community—Located at 701 Golden Gate Ave in San Francisco  
Accepting application for 28 studios and 72 one-bedroom

Applications will be given out at the following San Francisco locations from August 6<sup>th</sup> through August 24<sup>th</sup>:

- Richmond Village Beacon Center—600 32nd Ave., T3, 94121
- Booker T. Washington Community Services Center—800 Presidio Ave., 94115
- Chinatown Community Development Center—1525 Grant Ave., 94133
- Chinese Newcomers Service Center—777 Stockton St., #104, 94108
- Arab Cultural Center—2 Plaza Ave., 94116
- Western Addition Senior Center—1390 Turk Street, 94115
- Bethel AME Church—916 Laguna St, 94115
- GLIDE Community Housing—333 Taylor St, 94102
- IT Bookman Community Center—446 Randolph Street, 94132
- Castro Senior Center—110 Diamond St, 94114
- Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center—515 Cortland Ave., 94110
- Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Center—1706 Yosemite Ave., 94124
- San Francisco Christian Center—5845 Mission St, 94112

Applications may also be obtained on our website at [www.chinatowncdc.org](http://www.chinatowncdc.org) from August 6<sup>th</sup> through August 24<sup>th</sup>.

First priority will be given to certificate preference holder. If you believe you are entitled to a SFRA Certificate of Preference or if you are a SFRA certificate Holder, please call the Certificate of Preference Hotline at (415)701-5613.

Applications must be returned by mail to P.O. Box 423120, SF, CA 94142-3120 and postmarked no later than **midnight August 31, 2012**.

Reasonable Accommodations upon request.  
Equal Housing Opportunity



### NEIGHBORHOOD HOME SALES

Single Family Homes	BR	BA	PK	Sq ft	Days	Date	Asking	Sale
1864 Greenwich St	2	1	2	1510	16	6/19/12	1,350,000	1,510,000
2810 Laguna St	2	2	1	1670	56	6/26/12	1,659,000	1,590,000
2846 Baker St	3	3	2	2250	33	6/19/12	1,649,000	1,680,000
2816 Broderick St	3	3	2		43	6/26/12	2,100,000	2,050,000
2422 Clay St	3	2.5	2		21	7/3/12	2,395,000	2,526,750
2148 Pine St	4	3.5	2		32	7/11/12	3,200,000	3,388,833
3871 Jackson St	4	3.5	2	3480	13	7/6/12	3,495,000	4,250,000
2980 Vallejo St	5	4.5	1		87	6/20/12	6,850,000	6,550,000

#### Condos/Co-ops/TICs/Lofts

3720 Sacramento St #1	1	1	1		28	7/11/12	449,000	425,000
1805 Pine St #25	1	1	1	661	77	6/22/12	439,000	439,000
1700 Gough St #209	1	1	1		43	6/29/12	489,000	493,000
2170 Vallejo St #102	1	1	1	879	83	7/13/12	550,000	528,500
1817 California St #204	2	1.5	1	716	45	7/13/12	570,000	552,000
1820 Vallejo St #202	1	1	1		64	6/26/12	649,000	645,000
1769 Broadway #11 S	1	1	1	922	36	7/3/12	685,000	675,000
2341 Franklin St #3	1	1	0	1306	23	6/29/12	729,000	690,000
2064 Pine St	2	1	0	1093	0	7/6/12	743,750	743,750
1840 Washington St #301 2	2	1	874		0	6/26/12	838,000	838,000
2075 Sutter St #231	2	2	1	1120	25	7/6/12	779,000	841,000
2101 Baker St #10	2	2	1	1300	118	7/9/12	925,000	870,000
2800 California St #303	2	2.5	1	1288	43	6/26/12	869,000	895,000
1840 Washington St #302 2	2	1	985		0	6/26/12	935,000	935,000
1840 Washington St #402 2	2	1	985		33	6/21/12	965,000	965,000
1840 Washington St #502 2	2	1	985		0	6/26/12	979,110	979,110
2062 Pine St	2	2.5	2	1809	27	7/6/12	1,249,000	1,243,750
2388 Union St	2	2	1	1422	25	7/3/12	1,149,000	1,262,000
1751 Lyon St	3	1.5	1	1650	16	6/26/12	1,295,000	1,271,500
2370 Union St	3	2	2	1800	23	7/3/12	1,349,000	1,405,000
1846 Greenwich St	3	2	2	1890	27	6/29/12	1,575,000	1,650,000
1840 Washington St #802 3	2.5	1	1467		46	6/19/12	2,095,000	1,995,000



The view from 2295 Vallejo #401, now on the market.

### Summer, when it sizzles

As much of the rest of the nation sweats through the hottest summer on record, the weather in San Francisco is cool, but the real estate market continues to sizzle.

The fiercely competitive market that emerged this spring has held its own long after the typical seasonal downturn. There are some signs of the summer doldrums emerging, with less and less inventory each week. But given the consistent flow of multiple offers, there are still a lot of buyers chasing the opportunity to own their piece of San Francisco. It's a great time for sellers to capitalize on this market — and there doesn't seem to be an end in sight to the new wealthy buyers.

**NEW LISTINGS:** Not much new to the market in the form of grandeur, but some interesting opportunities include a single family residence on the equivalent of four lots — over 11,000 square feet — at 2908 Bush Street, offered at \$2.5 million. A delightful renovation at 2094 Bush is offered for \$2 million, and the sweet fixer-upper at 1930 Pine, listed for \$869,000, holds promise for someone looking for a project.

New condo listings are also seasonally scant, but 2295 Vallejo #401 is getting considerable attention. Listed for \$985,000, it boasts a contemporary top floor northwest corner unit with phenomenal views, an expansive outdoor terrace and a great location. For a more traditional Victorian, 3004 Sacramento with its deeded brick patio is listed at \$1.1 million.

— Data and commentary provided by MARIA MARCHETTI at Sotheby's International Realty. Contact her at [maria@mariamarchetti.com](mailto:maria@mariamarchetti.com) or call 699-9008.

"If I had but two loaves of bread,  
I'd sell one and buy hyacinths  
to feed my soul."



### Michael W. Perry & Company

Fine Custom Framing  
Antique Prints & Maps

1837 Divisadero • 415-563-8853  
[www.mwperry.com](http://www.mwperry.com)

### JUDITH SKINNER

Fine Gardening  
40 Years of Experience

[sfskinner@aol.com](mailto:sfskinner@aol.com) 415.776.8272

### FURTHERMORE



The Fillmore Stoop is a parklet recently constructed on California Street near Fillmore.

## Fillmore Stoop: Pro and Con

It was that flat, south facing and in alignment with the city parklet codes. It was certainly a reductive exercise that left us with just a couple of potential sites. Delfina did step up as they were willing to pay the insurance and take care of maintenance on a daily basis.

That said, the Stoop is a public venue and was designed so that only a third of its length could possibly be taken up with table seating. You may have also noticed that the parklet is used by the adjacent yoga studio, child care facility and health clinic.

2. Patience is indeed a virtue. As with the evolution of community, the organic sensibilities of design do not happen overnight. If you were so aware

of such an affront to California Street you would have noticed a cable system being installed. We look forward to having glorious vines nesting themselves around our Stoop. However, nature, and human nature at that, will work at its own pace, despite a society that yearns for things to be completed. To rephrase the words of John Wheatman, our local legendary designer, "A good house [or parklet] is never done."

— KEVIN HACKETT, Siol Studios

YOU BEAT ME to updating my original post. After returning from a week-plus vacation, I did indeed see the new cable system and

am thrilled to hear about the incoming vines. This plus the removal of the orange traffic cones — what a game changer. Thank you and forgive me for my initial condemnation. I could have indeed more kindly solicited an improvement as opposed to slamming the effort.

Regarding my other point: I didn't consider that the entire project was pro bono and instead assumed that Chase had paid for the project entirely (inferred from their \$25,000), but now realize that wouldn't begin to cover all the costs. And I concede that navigating the parklet codes and stakeholder requirements must have been "challenging," to say the least, and required compromise and sacrifice. So, thank you on those counts.

Inevitably, parklets disproportionately benefit the businesses in the immediate proximity, but that is certainly no reason not to have them, as the hope is that they add to the overall flavor of the neighborhood. And I do think that is the case in this scenario, particularly with the street-facing design improvements. I can't say that I've noticed anyone but Delfina customers benefitting, so I'll take your word for it. And since they are covering the maintenance and insurance, it seems fair for them to disproportionately benefit. I suppose. You can't make everyone happy.

I am now better informed as to the what/how/why's around this parklet and appreciate the complexities, your efforts and the time you took to correct my impressions. I'll do my part and spread the word. And I'll try to be more constructive in my future criticisms before assuming that all is lost.

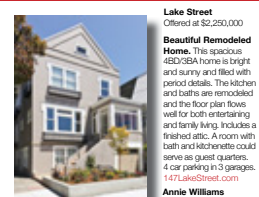
— CLAYTON CHRISMAN



**Pacific Heights**  
Offered at \$4,600,000  
**Spacious Edwardian Home.** This 5BD/4.5BA home has been extensively and tastefully remodeled. It includes a large office, living room, dining room, eat-in kitchen that opens to the family room, playroom and a landscaped garden. Bright, full of period details and charm, it is a rare find! [www.2120lyon.com](http://www.2120lyon.com)  
**Annie Williams**  
(415) 819-2953



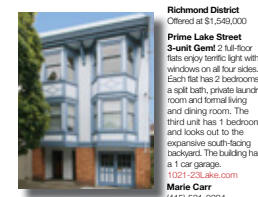
**Pacific Heights**  
Offered at \$3,295,000  
**Elegant Full Floor 2BD/2.5BA Co-op in a Small Exclusive 6 Unit Building.** Fabulous views of the North Bay from living room and dining room. Exquisitely remodeled with well proportioned rooms, wide hallways, parquet floors, moldings, high ceilings and wood burning fireplace. 2 car parking. [www.2127Broadway.com](http://www.2127Broadway.com)  
**Dianne Weaver**  
(415) 321-3118



**Lake Street**  
Offered at \$2,250,000  
**Beautiful Remodeled 4BD/2.5BA home** is bright and sunny and filled with period details. The kitchen and baths are remodeled and the floor plan flows well for both entertaining and family living. Includes a finished attic. A room with bath and kitchenette could serve as guest quarters. 4 car parking in 3 garages. [www.147LakeStreet.com](http://www.147LakeStreet.com)  
**Annie Williams**  
(415) 819-2953



**Sea Cliff**  
Offered at \$1,695,000  
**Beautiful View Home in Coveted Location.** This spacious 3BD/2.5BA home has everything you would hope to find in this exclusive neighborhood. Breathtaking views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the Marin Headlands, plus a serene and exceptionally deep garden. Complete with 2 car parking and generous storage. [www.2356CaminoDelMar.com](http://www.2356CaminoDelMar.com)  
**Lowrie MacLean**  
(415) 305-3028



**Richmond District**  
Offered at \$1,540,000  
**Prime Lake Street 3-unit Gem!** 2 full-floor flats enjoy terrific light with windows on all four sides. Each flat has 2 bedrooms, a split bath, private laundry room and formal living and dining room. The third unit has 1 bedroom, and looks out to the expansive south-facing backyard. The building has a 1 car garage. [www.1021-23Lakes.com](http://www.1021-23Lakes.com)  
**Marie Carr**  
(415) 331-0324



**Pacific Heights**  
Offered at \$1,445,000  
**Elegant New York Style Condominium.** Beautiful condominium in 25-unit elevator building. 2 bedrooms + den, 2.5 bathroom, updated kitchen, living room, formal dining room, interior laundry, 1 car parking and additional storage. Common roof deck. Fantastic location. [www.1870Jackson203.com](http://www.1870Jackson203.com)  
**Caroline Kahn Werhoff**  
(415) 321-4280



**Lower Pacific Heights**  
Offered at \$858,000  
**Tranquil First Floor Condominium.** This unit is very spacious with a terrific floor plan featuring 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, living room with gas fireplace, kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances - including gas range, dishwasher, trash compactor & refrigerator. 2 car tandem parking. [www.1650Webster102.com](http://www.1650Webster102.com)  
**Stephanie Alberg**  
(415) 321-4280



**Pacific Heights**  
Offered at \$725,000  
**Charming Edwardian Condominium.** Enjoy lots of original details plus refinished hardwood floors, new light fixtures and fresh paint throughout! 2 bedrooms, 1.25 baths, formal entry, spacious sun-drenched living room, formal dining room with decorative fireplace, large eat-in kitchen and much more. [www.1770Pacific101.com](http://www.1770Pacific101.com)  
**Stephanie Alberg**  
(415) 321-4280

## The City's Best

To see homes for sale in your neighborhood, make your smartphone smarter using our new App. Text: HILLCO To: 87778

Hill & Co. is a proud member of the Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate international network.

**HILL & CO.**  
REAL ESTATE  
(415) 921-6000 • [www.hill-co.com](http://www.hill-co.com)



1300 on Fillmore	
300 Fillmore	771-7100
<b>BayBos &amp; Delli</b>	
2455 Fillmore	364-3888
<b>Bun Bee</b>	
2015 Fillmore	800-7696
<b>Chouquet's</b>	
2455 Fillmore	359-0705
<b>Curbside Cafe</b>	
2455 California	929-9300
<b>Dosa</b>	
2015 Fillmore	441-3430
<b>Elite Cafe</b>	
2049 Fillmore	364-8668
<b>Fat Angel</b>	
1760 Fillmore	525-3013
<b>Florio</b>	
1915 Fillmore	775-3400
<b>Fresca Peruvian Cuisine</b>	
2455 Fillmore	441-2768
<b>The Grove</b>	
2016 Fillmore	474-4149
<b>India Palace</b>	
2455 Fillmore	567-7789
<b>Jackie's Fillmore</b>	
2455 Fillmore	364-2888
<b>Johnson Rockets</b>	
2455 Fillmore	776-9878
<b>La Boulange</b>	
2043 Fillmore	928-1300
<b>La Mediterranean</b>	
2455 Fillmore	921-2956
<b>Mehfil Indian Cuisine</b>	
2301 Fillmore	614-0100
<b>OTD</b>	
2015 Bush	922-9375
<b>Prime of the Mediterranean</b>	
1761 Fillmore	567-1510
<b>Roostertail</b>	
1529 Fillmore	776-6783
<b>State Bird Provisions</b>	
1529 Fillmore	795-1273
<b>Sweet Lime</b>	
2100 Street	674-7515
<b>The Maple</b>	
2101 Street	851-6169
<b>Tacobar</b>	
2041 California	674-7745
<b>Ten-Ten</b>	
2235 Fillmore	364-3477
<b>Thai Stick</b>	
2001 Fillmore	885-6100
<b>Troya</b>	
2455 Fillmore	563-1000
<b>Vino Veneto</b>	
2244 Fillmore	364-9221
<b>Woodhouse Fish Co.</b>	
2455 Fillmore	474-2722
<b>Yosh's Japanese Restaurant</b>	
1330 Fillmore	655-5680

<b>Bruno's</b>	1375 Fillmore	563-6300
<b>Delfina Pizzeria</b>	2406 California	440-1189
<b>Dino's Pizza</b>	2101 Fillmore	922-4700
<b>Extreme Pizza</b>	1732 Fillmore	929-9900
<b>Pizza Inferno</b>	1800 Fillmore	775-1800

**Boulangerie Bay Bread**  
2325 Pine 440-0356

**Fillmore Bakeshop**  
1890 Fillmore 923-0711

**Noah's New York Bagels**  
2213 Fillmore 441-5396

**Cafe Murano**  
1777 Steiner 771-0888

**Peet's Coffee & Tea**  
2197 Fillmore 563-9930

**Royal Ground Coffee**  
2060 Fillmore 567-8822

**Starbucks Coffee**  
2222 Fillmore 673-3171

**Tully's Coffee**  
2455 Fillmore 929-8808

**D&M Wine and Liquor**  
2200 Fillmore 346-1325

**Vino**  
2425 California 674-8466

**Wine Jar**  
1870 Fillmore 931-2924

**Friends**  
1758 Fillmore 346-3226

**Gino's Grocery**  
2500 Fillmore 775-1908

**Mayflower Market**  
2498 Fillmore 346-1700

**Mollie Stone's**  
2435 California 567-4902

**Pacific Food Mart**  
2199 Sutter 614-2385

<b>Boom Boom Room</b>	1601 Fillmore	673-8000
<b>Clay Theater</b>	2261 Fillmore	352-0810
<b>The Fillmore Auditorium</b>	1805 Geary	346-3000
<b>Harry's Bar</b>	2020 Fillmore	921-1000
<b>Rassel's Jazz Club</b>	1534 Fillmore	346-8696
<b>Sheba Piano Lounge</b>	1419 Fillmore	440-7414
<b>Sundance Kabuki Theater</b>	1881 Post	931-9800
<b>Yoshi's Jazz Club</b>	1330 Fillmore	655-5600



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

FillmoreStreetSF.com  
Find us on Facebook

